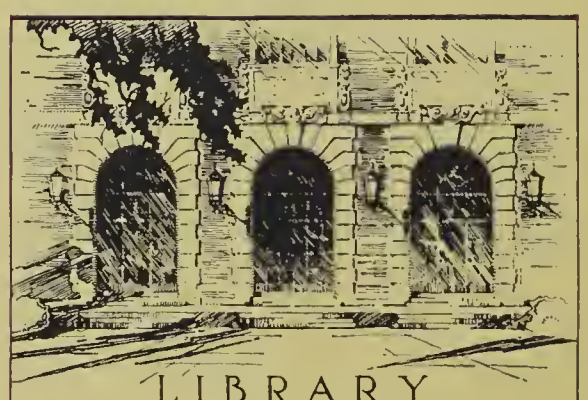

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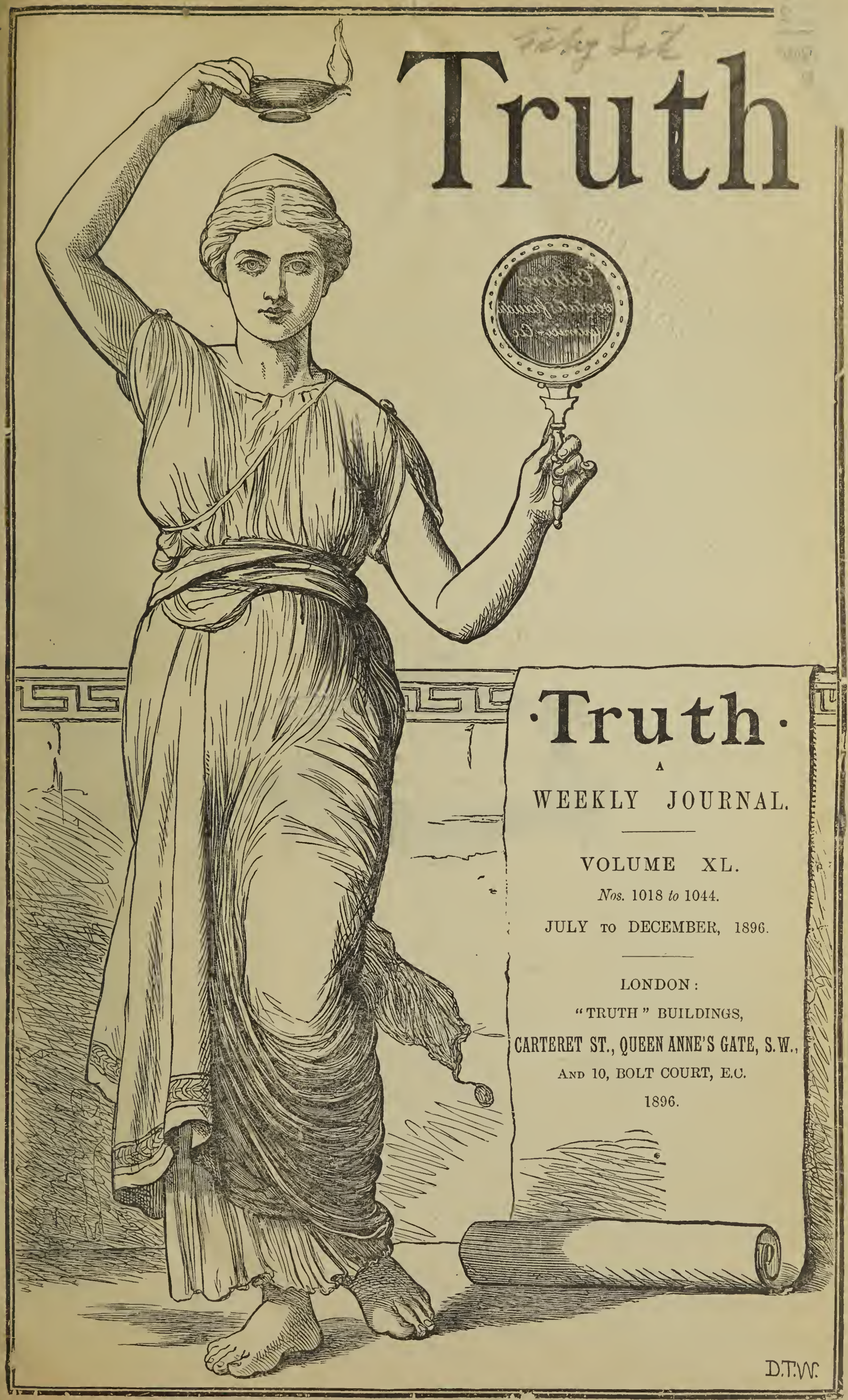

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A

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LIHUNGISMS, being the 20th Christmas Number of TRUTH

TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which have reached me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

SEVERAL complaints have reached me with reference to the abstraction of the Supplement to Truth of the 18th ult., dealing with the Kilburn Sisterhood. Every purchaser of Truth ought to have received the Supplement, and if in any case it was not delivered, I can only suggest to the purchasers that they should insist on having it from their newsagents. As to complaints about the disappearance of the Supplement from public libraries and reading-rooms, that is a matter which the authorities of those institutions must see to. I have done my best to meet the demand for extra copies, and I will continue to do so. For the rest, I can only say that, up to the present moment, I have no further developments of any kind to report in connection with my remarks upon the Church Extension Association. And I hardly think that the time has yet come for me to say more on the subject.

The Queen is to come up to Buckingham Palace from Windsor on Tuesday, the 21st, arriving in town in time for luncheon. The Royal wedding takes place next day, and on Thursday, the 23rd, her Majesty will leave town for Osborne, travelling by special train from Victoria to Portsmouth Station, and crossing the Solent in the Royal yacht *Alberta*, which has just undergone an extensive refit. There will be a "family" dinner-party at Buckingham Palace on the 21st and also on the 22nd, and possibly a concert may be given there during the week.

An imaginative "London Correspondent" has informed a number of provincial journals that the Queen "has failed to derive benefit from her visits to the Riviera and to Scotland, and much anxiety is felt by her *entourage*." This is a pure and simple fabrication. Many years have elapsed since the Queen has been in such good health as she has enjoyed during the last three months, while her Majesty has been remarkably free from the rheumatism from which she constantly suffers, and which, although in no respect serious, is often troublesome and painful.

The State Concert at Buckingham Palace was a very crowded function, and the ball-room was crammed for some time before the Royalties entered in procession. As the time went on, the room became terribly hot. There were some very smart dresses to be seen, and a wonderful display of jewels. There was a terrible crush in the supper-room for some time. The display of fruit from Frogmore was remarkably fine, and there was a splendid show of gold plate. The floral decorations were, as usual, beautiful, particularly the arrangement on the staircase.

The Prince of Wales is to leave town for the season on Monday, the 27th. It is not yet definitely settled whether the Prince will be the guest of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon at Goodwood during the race week, or if he is to stay on board the *Osborne* in Portsmouth Harbour, proceeding each day of the meeting to Chichester by special train. In any case, the Prince and Princess of Wales are to arrive at Cowes in the *Osborne* on the evening of Friday, the 31st, and they will stay in the Solent for about a fortnight. The Prince is afterwards going to Homburg, while the Princess will be conveyed in the *Osborne* to Copenhagen, accompanied by Princess Victoria, Prince Charles of Denmark, and Princess Maud. The Princess will stay in Denmark until the end of October, and she is not going to Scotland this year.

I learn that the Duke and Duchess of Coburg will not be present at the Royal wedding on the 22nd. The Duke is to leave Clarence House next week for Coburg, whence he will proceed to Kissingen for three weeks, after which he is going for the shooting season to Rheinhardsbrunn, his beautiful seat in the Thuringian Forest, where he is to be joined by the Duchess and Princess Beatrice of Coburg, who are now at St. Petersburg.

The Queen is likely to receive a large number of applications for Bushey Park, a very charming Royal residence which had been occupied by the late Duc de Nemours for more than forty-six years. Bushey was long the abode of William IV. and Queen Adelaide, when Duke and Duchess of Clarence, and her late Majesty resided there between 1837 and 1849, when she died. It is rumoured that Bushey is likely to become the residence of the Duchess of Albany, and that the

Queen intends to give Claremont (which is her own private property) to Princess Beatrice. Whoever may get Bushey, the place will require extensive and costly repairs; and it is to be hoped that the beneficiary will pay for them instead of the expenses being saddled upon the country.

Her Majesty has placed Abergeldie Castle at the disposal of the Empress Eugénie for the autumn, and she will reside there during the month of September.

Albert Cottage, one of the Royal residences in Osborne Park, is to be inhabited for some weeks during the summer by Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, to whom the place has been lent by the Queen. Osborne Cottage, where Sir Henry Ponsonby lived during the last year of his life, is to be placed at the disposal of the Duke and Duchess of York and their "nursery" during the Cowes season.

In connection with the question of Park management, which is now so much to the fore, I am asked to ventilate a grievance of the children who frequent the north side of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Up to a year or so ago there was a lodge at the Bayswater end of the Broad-walk, where milk, ginger-beer, buns, jumbles, and other refreshments suitable to the juvenile population were on sale. The Park authorities, with that well-known regard for the convenience of all sections, &c., &c., which I have referred to above, pulled down this lodge, and the milk, ginger-beer, jumbles, and other delicacies can now only be obtained at the kiosk on the other side of the Serpentine. I have had a very indignant communication on the subject from a young lady who patronises the north side of the Park daily, with her nurse. She has a weakness for jumbles, but objects to having to walk nearly a mile every time she wishes to invest a farthing or a halfpenny in these luxuries. Now that the authorities are gradually opening their eyes to the requirements of the adults on the south side of the Park, perhaps they will also give their attention to the children on the north. As a matter of fact, children are the principal patrons of Kensington Gardens, and when they are playing about at this time of the year, they ought to be able to get a glass of milk or water, if not a ha'porth of jumbles.

A friend who has been staying at Bournemouth, and writes to me in praise of the beauties of that town in the early summer, suggests that I should impress upon the inhabitants the desirability of improving the sea frontage. I have done my best in this direction from time to time for years past, but with so little effect that I have gradually come to the conclusion that the Bournemouth people are deaf to argument on the subject. Excellent plans have been put forward for constructing a marine under-cliff drive, and liberal subscriptions from the Railway Company, ground landlords, and others have been promised; but the Town Council or the influential ratepayers, which ever it may be, fail to see how much the interest of the town is bound up with the improvement. The first thing people wa when they come to stay at the seaside is a go opportunity of walking, sitting, and driving by t sea, and in this respect, more especially as regar driving, Bournemouth is far inferior to almost any oth watering-place in the kingdom. Of course cheap trippe swarm there, as they do to every other town to whi railway companies run cheap trips, but I take it th cheap trippers do not promote the permanent prosperi of any holiday resort.

I believe the great hindrance to Bournemouth as fashionable watering-place is the presence of a larg resident population of half-pay Service men, and othe people whose ideas are as limited as their means, an whose ruling principle in municipal politics is to avoi being called upon to pay a few shillings extra per annun to the public purse in the form of rates. These people however, are short-sighted as well as selfish, for whatever tends to enlarge the attractions of the town to the better class of visitors tends equally to increase the value of property, and the letting value of houses, furnished or unfurnished. I am told that at Bournemouth residents find more and more difficulty in letting their houses furnished for the season. Serve them right!

Visitors to Folkestone this summer will get the benefit of a greatly improved train service. The South Eastern Company have just started a fast morning up-train, which leaves Folkestone at 8·55 and arrives at Cannon-street at 10.30—a very good run. The chief afternoon down train has also been accelerated.

It may be hoped that this waking-up on the part of the South Eastern will have some effect upon other southern lines, more particularly the Brighton. The train service between London and Brighton stands urgently in need of improvement. One of the great faults of it is that the Company seem to think that when people travel to or from Victoria, time is of no consequence to them. The fast morning and evening trains to and from London Bridge are fairly good, but the unpunctuality of the Victoria service is simply disgraceful. The Company make a great mistake in their assumption that time is of no consequence at Victoria. Plenty of people have business at the West End, and to all those whose business engagements lie as far east as, say, Holborn Circus and Fleet-street (which includes the greater number of London lawyers), Victoria would be a more convenient station than London Bridge, if the train service were equally good.

Owing, I suppose, to what took place at the General Election, Commissionary-General Hamley appears to think that there are no Liberals left in Derby, and he is, therefore, inviting the whole population indiscriminately to become members of the so-called Junior

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 54 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 56.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 53.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 69.

Conservative Club in Albemarle-street. This idea is a mistake. I am in a position to state that there are still a great many Liberals in Derby, and they authorise me to say that they have no desire whatever to enrol themselves among the Junior Conservatives.

Last week the annual sale was held at the Royal School of Art Needlework, and some curious efforts were made to stimulate business. I take the following from a circular issued to some of the Associates :—

> H.R.H. the President has most graciously signified her intention of being present, and herself taking the arduous post of having charge of the chief stall.
>
> I would suggest in passing that if any Associate or her friends would like to buy any special article, it can (by notice being given to me) be placed on H.R.H.'s stall. . . . .
>
> Cards with H.R.H.'s monogram giving notice of the sale on the two following days, the 26th and 27th, can be had from Miss Ffenell, at the school. . . . .

I wonder how many individuals were induced to buy goods by the opportunity thus afforded of having any article they chose placed on H.R.H.'s stall. The Royal School of Art Needlework must be in a bad way if only this sort of snobbishness will keep it going.

"What is the difference," asks a correspondent, apropos of Li Hung Chang's journey to Europe, "between a yellow jacket, a button, or a peacock's feather on the one hand, and a thistle, a bath, or a garter on the other? Why do we lavish so much ridicule on the importance attached to the first set of emblems by the Chinese when we ourselves set just as much store by the second set?" There is much force in these questions, and I commend them to the attention of the wags in the Press who are always poking fun at Li Hung Chang's yellow jacket and peacock's feathers. Looking at the matter impartially, it seems to me that a yellow jacket, or a glass button, or a peacock's feather, is more suitable for decorative purposes than either a bath or a garter—I do not say a thistle, because no doubt that is an object highly appropriate to many of those on whom it has been conferred.

It would be impossible to fix any limit to the benefits likely to accrue from the recent discovery of the Röntgen rays, and every day demonstrates more fully how great a boon has been placed in this direction at the disposal of surgical science. This may not, perhaps, represent exactly the sentiments of the great Li Hung Chang, although, as a result of his compliance, the Professors at the Charlottenburg Polytechnic, Berlin, were enabled to fix the exact position of the bullet he received from the would-be assassin at Shimonoseki last year, and which is still lodged in his left cheek. If those rays could only have unfolded the manifold schemes lying dormant in the brain of the wily old Chinese Envoy, it might in the long run have been better for the people of both hemispheres.

I have intercepted—I trust I may be forgiven—a letter intended for my correspondent, "Madge," which ought to be very comforting to men who wear stays, or those who would like to wear them if they dared. There is a popular idea that women laugh at the corset-wearing male, much as men laugh at the trouser-wearing female. But some women, it seems, have more liberal ideas. The writer of this letter is one of them. She has two brothers—"both rather distinguished cavalry officers"—who have "worn stays pretty constantly ever since they joined," and so far from ridiculing her brothers, this exemplary young lady is full of admiration for the increased grace thereby afforded to the fraternal figures.

But there is discrimination in this lady's taste—which only makes her opinion the more valuable. That anxiety about the smart fit of a uniform, which is "quite consistent with manly behaviour in the field," she finds to be a very different thing from the vanity of an effeminate youth of her acquaintance, who "is laced every morning by his sister until his waist is the same size as hers—namely, 17 inches." Perhaps I am a little lacking in discrimination myself, but for the life of me I cannot see where the difference comes in. Are stays only becoming to soldiers? Or is a scarlet coat more in need of the support afforded by a corset than the suit of solemn black customary in civil life? If stays are lawful wear for any male, I should have thought that they would be more excusable in a humble individual—say a journalist—who spends his days in a stuffy office poring over a desk, than in a stalwart hero whose life is spent in martial exercises. Anyhow, whenever I see in future a "rather distinguished cavalry officer," with a remarkably neat figure, I shall be wondering whether he is a brother of my fair correspondent.

One of my readers thinks that in my remarks on the subject last week, I have overlooked one of the uses of mourning hatbands. This is his point :—

> I remember, after returning from seven years' service abroad, meeting a friend and inquiring after his wife's health—a most awkward question, as she had, unknown to me, been dead only a few weeks. My friend wore no hatband on his black hat; but had he assumed one, I should have hesitated before making the usual complimentary inquiry.

Am I, then, to take it that the only use of a mourning band is to prevent "awkward questions"? If so, I would suggest that the intimation should be conveyed in a more definite form; for, unless it be in the case of a widower, there is nothing in the mourning band which indicates the precise relationship of its wearer to the deceased. If it be "awkward" to inquire after a person in ignorance of his death, I shall always hesitate in future about inquiring after the relatives of any friend whom I meet with his hat thus embellished. I confess I do not quite understand this awkwardness. In the case above mentioned, the widower evidently preferred to communicate the sad intelligence by word of mouth rather than by his hat; he ought, therefore, to feel no awkwardness in so communicating it. The friend had no means of knowing of the bereavement, and, therefore, ought to feel no awkwardness at showing his ignorance of it. The truth is that to the awkward all things are awkward.

The verses in last week's TRUTH on the Cricket Match Parasol have had, I am glad to say, one practical result. A lady writes that she will cheerfully forego her parasol and wear only the tiniest of bonnets at cricket matches

if all the gentlemen round her will cease to blow tobacco smoke into her face. This seems a very fair and reasonable proposal, and I would suggest that an agreement on the subject should be entered into between ladies and gentlemen who find themselves neighbours at cricket matches.

I need not say that the lady just referred to is extremely sensitive to the fumes of tobacco, and she makes a variety of proposals for the benefit of all those who suffer like herself from the consumption of the weed by others. As I fear that I am somewhat of an offender in this respect, it is a little difficult for me to take an impartial view of the subject. After making the best effort I can in this direction, however, I hardly think that public opinion is ripe for one reform advocated by my correspondent, namely, that a separate enclosure—she even goes the length of proposing a set of "kennels"—should be marked off in the Park, somewhere near the Achilles statue, for the exclusive use of smokers. But the lady is on firmer ground when she goes on to complain of the annoyance caused to others by indiscriminate smoking in hotel bedrooms. Now that it seems to be the fashion for every hotel bedroom to have a door communicating with the next room, it is, no doubt, a nuisance to those who object to tobacco smoke to have a man (or even a woman) smoking in the next room at night. My correspondent is residing at a first-class hotel in the West End. She states that she has frequently complained to the manager of smoking in the next bedroom to her own, and the manager blandly replies that it shall not occur again. But it always does. There is the simplest possible way out of this difficulty—namely, to have smoking bedrooms in hotels, like smoking carriages on railways, and to separate them from the other rooms. Nobody could object to this—except, possibly, those ladies who, I am told, are sometimes given to enjoying a cigarette on the sly in their bedrooms, and who might possibly feel some diffidence about asking for a smoking apartment.

The hints given in TRUTH two or three weeks back to the Committee of the M.C.C. gain fresh point from the disgraceful scene at Lord's on the first day of the Australian match last week. It is computed that on this occasion about 25,000 people paid for admission at the gate, of whom not one half had any chance of seeing the play, while probably not more than one in five could see it either properly or in comfort. The result was the encroachment of the would-be spectators on the ground, to the serious embarrassment of the players, which has already been described in the daily papers. As I said the other day in regard to the Oxford and Cambridge match, for the M.C.C. to take the money of the public long after all chance of seeing the game has come to an end, is no better than a fraud. The stand accommodation open to the public should be greatly increased, and even then some indication of the number of people on the ground should be given at the gate, from which the public could judge for themselves before they paid their money what chance they had of seeing anything in return. The truth is that the M.C.C. have enclosed so much space at Lord's for the use of themselves and their friends that the ground has practically become a private one on the occasion of all the great matches, and if the Committee do not take some steps to improve the public accommodation, this state of affairs ought to be taken into account when the fixtures are arranged. It is absurd to hold great matches, like England *v.* Australia, Gentlemen *v.* Players, Oxford *v.* Cambridge, on a ground which only offers proper accommodation for two or three thousand of the general public.

I have received the following verses from an invalid who dates from a part of London which is, I know, specially subject to the nuisance of which my correspondent complains. His stanzas do not, I think, require any comment from me, as they so clearly tell their own tale. I am, however, very pleased to publish them :—

THE DEMON OF NOISE.

With an interest great I've perused what you've said
Of "The Matinée Hat" and "The Opera Head;"
And only last week I had cause to extol
Your most pertinent lines on "The Match Parasol;"
But though these small nuisances doubtless are rife,
They affect, bear in mind, but the *pleasures* of life;
Whereas *I* complain, laid up here on the shelf,
Of a pest that embitters existence itself.

How gladly would I, were the chance only mine,
Dodge the "Matinée Hat" and yet never repine;
The "Opera Head," whatsoever its size,
Would ruffle me not, though it tickled my eyes;
Nay, even the "Match Parasol," I avow,
My view to eclipse I would meekly allow;
For I, you must know—for my sins be it said—
Have for more than four months been confined to my bed.

Need I say what this means? When you see my address
I fancy, dear TRUTH, you'll be able to guess.
As a Londoner, you'll understand, I am sure,
What it is, hour by hour, that I have to endure.
You will know what "alarums," what shocks, and what frights
Are the bane of my days and the curse of my nights;
You will guess what it is that my comfort destroys—
That most dreadful of demons—the Demon of Noise!

Of course, in a City like this, I'm aware
To expect perfect quiet would hardly be fair.
I admit certain noises, perforce, must be rife
As a part and a portion of work-a-day life;
In the street there, of course, must be traffic, I know,
The "growlers" must rumble, the 'buses must go;
But what I complain of, in gloom and despair,
Is the *unneeded* noise that I'm fated to hear!

I complain of the sounds which the tradesmen emit,
For these, I contend, are not needed one bit.
I complain of the milkman's cacophonous cry,
I complain of the butcher's reiterant "Buy!"
I complain of the coster's vociferous yell,
I complain of the muffin-man's irritant bell;
And the howl of the man who purveys for my cat,
In the strongest of ways, I complain, TRUTH, of that!

And what of the organs, that come in relays,
And grind out their tunes till my senses they craze?
And what of the Teutons, who, three times a week,
With discord make all this doomed neighbourhood reek?

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

And what, let me ask, of the merciless set
With the throaty trombone and the cracked flageolet ?
And the Scotchmen with bagpipes, who cruelly dare
Drone something remotely resembling an air ?

So the days pass away; but I cease not to groan,
For I know that the night brings more noise of its own ;
For it's then the church bell at the corner "cling-clangs,"
And the clock seems to strike with more resonant "tangs."
It is then that the revellers pass in a row,
And hiccough obscene comic songs as they go ;
Whilst worse than all else, like some virulent stab,
Comes the sound of the whistle that calls for a cab!

Ah, yes! when the night but for this would be still,
It is then that this whistle is blown with a will.
Shrill, fitful, and strident, it pierces the air
Like the shriek of a banshee, consigned to despair.
So surely as worn by long vigils I doze,
So surely some neighbour his torture-tube blows ;
So surely as I with insomnia fight,
That damnable whistle sounds out through the night!

If the people who selfishly blow it but knew
How it pierces the ear of the invalid through ;
Could they only conceive how it's able to keep
The sick and the weary from health-giving sleep ;
Could they hear how they sigh, could they see how they start,
Could they know how despair find its way to their heart ;
Then methinks a kind impulse at once they'd obey,
And would call cabs at night in some less noisy way.

This much, then, dear Truth, I would ask at your hands,
Please publish my not too-outrageous demands ;
And do what you can to increase London's joys
By trying to lessen its terrible noise ;
Or at least, for the sake of the sick—who, like me,
Are doomed to the victims of selfishness be,
With all your resources unceasingly fight
Those people who whistle for cabs late at night!

I notice a letter in the *Globe* suggesting that the Victoria Cross Gallery, painted by Chevalier Desanges, should be bought by the nation, and find a home in the National Portrait Gallery. That gallery already has too many portraits of persons who are not—whatever they once might have been—famous, and to add to it all who have obtained the Victoria Cross would be absurd.

Gradually the country houses of our nobility are giving up their art treasures in the shape of Old Masters. The famous Rembrandt, "The Standard Bearer," the gem of the gallery at Warwick Castle, has now been acquired by private purchase from the Earl of Warwick by Mr. Charles Wertheimer, and I understand that the picture, which had previously been believed unsigned, has been found to be signed in full with the date 1654, the best period of the Great Master, and that Mr. Wertheimer again paid a record price.

Sir Henry Stewart Cunningham has written a delightful monograph on Lord Bowen, which has been printed for private circulation, but it is earnestly to be hoped that the book will be published, for it literally swarms with good stories and brilliant *mots*, while much of the material has been supplied by Bowen's friends and judicial colleagues. Here is a choice sample of Bowen's ready wit. Some one spoke of a work entitled, "A Defence of the Church of England, by a Beneficed Clergyman," whereupon said Bowen, "In other words, a defence of the Thirty-nine Articles, by a *bonâ-fide* holder for value!" Lord Davey (a most competent authority) described Bowen as a judge combining "the breadth of Lord Mansfield with the accuracy of Lord Wensleydale."

The late Lord Lilford has not lived to complete his monumental work on British birds, on which he has been engaged for eleven years. He did not commence it until after a quarter of a century of preparation. It is, however, satisfactory to learn that the materials for the remainder of the work (three parts out of thirty-five) are in such good order that it will be easy to finish it.

The following lines have been sent to me by an occasional contributor:—

A rabid race, fanatically bold,
And steeled to cruelty by lust of gold,
Traversed the waves, the unknown world explored ;
The cross their standard, but their faith the sword ;
Their steps were graves ; o'er prostrate realms they trod ;
They worshipped Mammon, while they vowed to God.

To prevent misapprehension, I hasten to add that this is not a description of the nineteenth-century English in their pursuit of gold in South Africa, or elsewhere, but the poet Montgomery's picture of the sixteenth-century Spaniards in South America.

Arthur Bourchier intends to revive Foote's old comedy, "The Liar," at the Royalty Theatre. It has been erroneously stated that since the death of Charles Mathews, William Farren has been the only actor to represent young Wilding. But Charles Collette has played the famous part for hundreds of nights in the provinces, and produced it for a series of matinées at the Prince's (now the Prince of Wales's) Theatre in London in April, 1884. On this last occasion Mr. Sydney Brough, Miss Rose Murray, and Miss E. Romer were in the cast. The Aquarium cast of 1878 contained James Fawn, William Farren, Norman Forbes, Charles Collette, Emily Miller, and Marie Litton.

I am asked to call attention to the Grand Bazaar in aid of the Actors' Orphanage Fund, which is being held to-day and to-morrow (July 1 and 2) at Queen's Hall. The object of this bazaar will commend itself to all, and "the profession" are working at it with that enthusiasm which they always show when any charitable object is to be served—nearly all the best known actresses in London being on view at the stalls. The last fact alone ought to be sufficient to secure a huge attendance of the outside public.

The Ford Professorship of English History has just been converted into the Ford Lectureship at a cost of £323. This piece of preferment is worth only £40 a year, and it would be interesting to learn how it comes about that eight years' stipend has been fuddled away in preliminary expenses. Such a monstrous waste of money is peculiarly unseasonable at a time when the University

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

is constantly complaining of inadequate means owing to the falling off in the income. Where on earth did all the money go to, and for so simple a transaction why were such expensive forms necessary ?

The proposal of the Financial Board of Cambridge University to expend £12,000 in purchasing land adjoining the museum was unexpectedly carried at the last Congregation by a very large majority. The opposition was strong, as the scheme had been severely criticised, but there had been a vigorous whip by the supporters of the purchase, so the grace was carried by 149 to 62. The price is regarded as exorbitant, and it is thought that the claims of certain departments (notably geology) are being unjustifiably overlooked. There was no opposition to the purchase of two acres of land from Downing College for £15,000.

Bishop Earle's incumbency at St. Botolph's has not opened auspiciously, for at a largely-attended vestry meeting his appointment was formally censured. Bishop Temple's job is the more flagrant and discreditable, inasmuch as it was originally intended to take away two-thirds of the rector's stipend for poor parishes in the diocese of London, but when the Bishop decided to pitchfork one of his assistant Bishops into the living this project was abandoned. Bishop Earle is to receive the full tithe, and also the rent (£2,000 a year) from Dashwood House, which is the rector's glebe. Bishop Temple's name will occupy a high place in the list of jobbing prelates, for this last achievement of his is quite worthy of such scandalous ecclesiastics as Manners, Sutton, Sparke, North, and Pretyman.

Canon Gore, who will to-day replace Canon Duckworth as the Canon in residence at Westminster Abbey, is to preach on Sunday afternoons during this month, except next Sunday, when Archdeacon Farrar is to be in the pulpit at that service. The special evening services in the nave will be discontinued after the 26th. The Bishop of Rochester is to preach in the evening next Sunday, the Bishop of Ripon on the 19th, and the Master of Trinity on the 26th.

The Bishop of Exeter has invited the Nonconformist ministers of Devonshire to a garden party at his Episcopal Palace. Bishop Bickersteth's indiscretion in composing a special prayer of thanksgiving for the Tory triumph at last year's election has not been forgotten by the Dissenters, and he was roughly criticised at a Bible Christian meeting which was held at Torquay on Thursday. The Diocesan was described as "a very weak man," "a very silly old man," and even in stronger terms. Bishop Bickersteth means well, no doubt, by his present invitation, but it seems to me utterly chimerical to suppose that a more friendly feeling between the Anglican clergy and the Dissenting ministers will be the result of his entertainment.

THE RESTAURANT BURLINGTON, 169, Regent-street, is NOW OPEN. The exquisite cooking and artistic surroundings, combined with the ever-changing panoramic view of Regent-street, make it the most charming *salle à manger* in London. One is at once reminded of a *dîner* or *déjeuner* overlooking the Parisian boulevards.

I would respectfully call the attention of the Curates' Union to a poster of which the following is the substance :—

A TEA
FETE & GALA
In aid of the Llanstadwell Curate's Stipend Fund,
will be given
IN THE SPORTS' FIELD
On WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1896.

AUNT SALLY !
SHOOTING GALLERIES !
LAWN TENNIS !
ARCHERY !
COCOANUT SHIES !
ETC., ETC.

It is bad enough to be expected to live upon a curate's stipend, but to be dependent for this exiguous dole upon the proceeds of Aunt Sallies and Cocoanut Shies, and to have the fact advertised all over the countryside in large capitals, is adding insult to injury. If these things are done in the Established Church, what will be done after Disestablishment ?

An incident calculated to excite derision in the profane is reported from Rochester. At a recent Sunday morning service in the Cathedral, Canon Cheyne, in reading the first lesson, omitted certain passages, which he, apparently, considered as not tending to edification. It fell to the Dean to read the second lesson, but before commencing he gravely read out the passages omitted from the first lesson by the Canon. Dean Hole is a bit of a humourist, I believe, and doubtless he remembers the passage in "Don Juan" which records the advantages of furnishing an expurgated work with an appendix.

I have received the following letter from Canon MacColl. When I asked why the Canon is silent about British outrages in Africa, I was not thinking merely of the incident reported from Firket. There have been other outrages of which the Canon might, I think, have obtained "indisputable evidence" had he desired it. The Turk, I know well, is an unspeakable scoundrel; but I never can forget the parable of the beam and the mote, and I often wish that those among us who show such officious anxiety to operate on the eyes of foreign nations were a little more solicitous about our own British optics :—

The Residence, Ripon, June 27, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I see but a limited number of papers down here, and my time is too much occupied to do more than skim even these. "Canon MacColl," you say, "was right in protesting against Armenian outrages in Asia; but why is he silent about British outrages in Africa?" I answer that my first and only knowledge of such outrages is this paragraph in TRUTH. Christian outrages on Mussulmans are, in my judgment, much worse than Mussulman outrages on Christians, for it is an article of religious faith with the Mussulman to regard non-Mussulman subjects as outlaws, who have practically no rights as against the Mussulman. The system is atrocious, but does not violate the consciences of those who sincerely believe in it. This fact diminishes the guilt of the perpetrators of Turkish outrages on Christians. On the other hand, Christians who commit outrages violate the spirit and the letter of the religion which they profess, and this aggravates their faith.

You ask, "What should we have said if Armenian women had been divided up amongst Turkish troops?" Armenian women *have* been divided among Turkish troops, and Christian Europe has looked on supinely. As a matter of fact, the women of the Christian subjects of the Sultan are always at the mercy of the Mussulmans, for they have no sort of protectors. Even in the cases of the thousands of forced conversions to Islâm during the last twelvemonths, the women of the Christians were distributed among the Mohammedans, and the bereaved husbands were forced to take fresh wives.

If there was any forced distribution of women at Firket, or

course it was infamous; but I happen to know most of the principal officers there, and I believe them to be incapable of such infamy. It would not surprise me to learn that the captured women preferred to be distributed among the troops to restoration to their former masters. It is impossible to apply our ideas as to marriage to a social system in which marriage has practically no existence. I think, at all events, that it would be wrong for me to protest against an outrage of which I have as yet no indisputable evidence. I have never done so in the case of Turkish outrages.—I remain, &c.,

MALCOLM MACCOLL.

A Roman Catholic correspondent tells me that we misuse the term "Suffragan" in England. I believe we do. Every bishop is by rights a suffragan when considered in relation to his metropolitan. This is laid down by Dr. Johnson, with good authority. But if we call an ordinary bishop a suffragan, what are we to call the present Suffragan Bishop? My correspondent suggests that "auxiliary" or "coadjutor-bishop" would be the correct term. I have no objection. But has not the title "suffragan bishop," as we now use it, somehow got settled by Act of Parliament?

Archdeacon Bardsley was one of the most influential and most popular of the Evangelical leaders, and he will be widely missed, for he was a most sensible and broad-minded man. He did much good and sound work both in London and at Bradford, and Archbishop Tait (an excellent judge of men) had a very high opinion of him. He was always most tactful and genial, and was a universal peacemaker. Archdeacon Bardsley was a wonderful organiser and administrator, besides being an admirable preacher and a most powerful platform speaker. The great living of Bradford is in the gift of the Simeon Trustees, while to Bishop Boyd Carpenter falls the Archdeaconry of Craven and a Canonry of Ripon, which together are worth £700 a year.

In the current issue of the *Orsett Deanery Magazine* the Rev. Canon Whittington refers, as an evidence of "the almost virulent hatred of the Church which marks the minds of some men," to the recent agitation respecting the disposal of a parochial charity at Orsett. From the point of view of the Church, the Canon could scarcely have selected a more unfortunate illustration. What are the facts? It was discovered, as I mentioned at the time, that certain funds intended for the poor had been for many years misappropriated to the maintenance of the services in the parish church. The Charity Commissioners at first suggested that the Church should be left in possession of one-half the income, and that the other half should be given to the poor, but this scheme was strongly opposed and another adopted by which the Church was to retain one-third of the money, a third to go to the poor, and a third to general parochial purposes. The fact that the Nonconformists favoured the second scheme rather than the first is now brought forward by the Canon as a proof of "the spirit of envy, malice, and jealousy" which was displayed towards the Church. I rather fancy that most people will, on the contrary, regard the case as a proof of the unscrupulous rapacity which the Church shows even when she has been detected in the robbery of the poor. The scandalous part of the business is, not that she should have been denied half, but that she should have been granted a third of these charity funds.

It is wonderful how many rare gems of Christian thought—how much of the spirit of charity and tolerance and brotherly love—the diligent reader finds enshrined in the pages of the parish magazines. There is such a magazine for the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Ashton-on-Mersey, and in the June number the editor—presumably the vicar or his curate—discourses on the question "Ought Churchmen to go or to give to Chapel?" The answer is a decided negative—not, the writer says, because Church people are better than chapel people, or because chapels have done no good, but "because we cannot think it right for any man to leave God's Church for man's," and "because to set up or support new 'bodies' of Christians is really, however little people may intend it, to act against God." Only the Anglican Church, it is implied, is God's Church. It so happens that this effusion, remarkable equally for its smug self-complacency and its bitter bigotry, has been published just at a time when St. Mary's is indebted to Nonconformists for liberal contributions towards the cost of new Sunday schools. Apparently there is no scruple about accepting the money of those who "act against God" for the purposes of "God's Church."

The following is taken from a characteristic letter which has been addressed to the *Burton-on-Trent Evening Gazette* by that eccentric cleric, the Vicar of Rosliston, whose scandalous conduct in regard to the parish churchyard I have so often noticed. Mr. Vallancey grossly misrepresents the claim of the parishioners. What they claim is simply the right to keep the graves of their dead relatives and friends in a decent and orderly condition. This successor of the Apostles, on the other hand, insists upon treating God's Acre as in the fullest sense of the word the parson's freehold, and if anybody ventures to trim a grave or cut the grass which grows above it, he promptly sues the "trespasser" for damages. It is a pretty commentary upon the government of the Church of England that, after all his outrageous performances, such a man as the Rev. Vallancey should be allowed to retain a cure of souls:—

DEAR SIR,—It has just occurred to me that one of the little items at work here may not generally be known, namely: Firstly, that the people claim the churchyard as *civil* parish property; secondly, that they say that the huge amount of one shilling paid to me is not for the breaking up of the grass, but bonâ-fide purchase. "High diddle diddle, the cat in the fiddle!" . . . . I am a Radical Conservative, and a Democratic Tory, and a High-Low-Broad Churchman. I can respect every man who acts clearly according to his conscience, but at the same time, remember that conscience is not a safe guide. We are all more or less right, and more or less wrong; generally more so. Anyhow, I want to be "kind and loving unto every man," except d——d rascals, and the country abounds in them.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN VALLANCEY.

Some rather fine points in Sabbath observance have been perplexing the minds of the unco' guid in Stornoway. It seems that a number of fishing boats returned to the harbour in the early hours of a Sunday morning, and some of the salesmen were disposing of the fish by auction up

Catalogue of Decorative Objets d'Art, with Chart of Marks on China, Illustrations of Old Furniture, and prices, post free.—F. LITCHFIELD, The Sinclair Galleries, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

till five or six o'clock a.m. All the Sabbatarians were agreed that this was a wicked desecration of the day; but on the question as to what should have been done with the fish there were acute differences of opinion. One party were unable to see any objection on conscientious grounds to the herrings being "roused with salt into barrels," and left on the quay till the Monday. Another party were equally convinced that a proper respect for the Sabbath required that the herrings should be merely sprinkled with salt and left in the boats. To avoid the possibility of sin, one crew threw their catch overboard, while another crew would not sell their fish, but gave them away to some strangers. The less scrupulous strangers made about £16 out of the gift. Sabbatarianism in Stornoway has indeed run mad.

Ought an Irish landlord to be compelled to pay tithe rent-charge on land from which he has not received the rent? I am not, I trust, actuated by any spirit of undue partiality for Irish landlords, but it seems to me that the answer to the question should be in the negative. The Irish Land Commissioners, however, think otherwise. On May 28, a Waterford landlord received a peremptory summons from solicitors to pay, within one week, one year and a half tithe rent-charge, due May 1, "together with 3s. 6d., our charges," failing which, the worst was to follow. At the time this notice was received the landlord had not been able to collect the 1895 rent, to say nothing of the rent for the current year. To call on him under these circumstances to pay the tithe rent-charge to date under threat of legal proceedings, and to fine him the price of a solicitor's letter, seems rather sharp practice. But I am told that the practices of the Irish Land Commissioners are often of that character.

A little incident which has recently occurred in the Strangers' Hospital in Rio de Janeiro is worth the notice of young ladies who contemplate taking nurses' engagements abroad. The nurses of this hospital, which is conducted by a committee of English and American gentlemen, decided to decline to nurse cases outside the hospital. On the strength of this decision one of the nurses declined to go to an outside case. The committee summarily dismissed her, and two or three other nurses resigned out of sympathy for her. There was no express undertaking in the nurses' agreements that they should do work outside the hospital, although the agreements were very full and definite upon a great many points (one clause precluding the young ladies from getting engaged to be married). But it seems from the correspondence that the committee took their stand upon its being a general custom for hospital nurses to take outside engagements when required to do so.

Possibly this is the general rule, but it is easy to see that in tropical climates, where, during the fever season, the work in the hospital is very hard, the nurses may feel a reasonable objection to being employed outside in the season when the hospital work is slack. If they do, I can only say, in view of what has happened at Rio de Janeiro, that they must be careful to see that this is properly provided for in their agreements. Seeing the great inconvenience and loss to which a nurse is exposed by being summarily dismissed in a foreign or colonial town, without a right to compensation even to the extent of a passage home, it would seem reasonable to suggest to the managers of such hospitals that their agreements should clearly specify all the duties which the nurses will be expected to perform.

Correspondents in all parts of England continue to send me letters received in connection with the Snowball collection for Guy's Hospital started by a Miss Weston, of "Heather Lea," West Dulwich. This snowball is now actually in its forty-seventh series, and as every one who has contributed has given sixpence, and repeated the letter three times, it would seem that, even making allowance for numerous breakages of the chain, Miss Weston must have received a very considerable sum of money. It will require a very considerable sum, however, to compensate the hospital for the discredit brought upon it by recourse to this means of raising cash, and it is surprising that the hospital authorities should ever have countenanced such a proceeding.

Besides their many other faults, the Charity Commissioners appear to be a disgracefully dilatory body. I have heard of a case in which a scheme was sent down in draft for the signatures of the Trustees, and returned to the Commissioners duly signed, in December last; but although what remained to be done was apparently a mere matter of form, the scheme has not yet been passed, and nothing more has been heard of it by the parties concerned. Another scheme was returned to the Commissioners in December last, and has never since been heard of. I am told that in the latter case a clerk conversant with the work could have done all that remained to be done in one hour; but six months do not suffice for it in the office of the Charity Commissioners. I believe this Commission to be one of the rottenest public bodies in existence, and I trust I may live to see it radically reformed.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Country Holiday Fund for Poor Children:—Mrs. E. B., £2; C. T., 5s.; Gladys and Karin, £2. 2s.; A. B., 10s.; T. H., 2s. 6d.; C. Capel Smith, 10s. 6d.; and A. E., £1.

THE PRINCES' RESTAURANT, Piccadilly, W., now open, is the most elegant and best appointed establishment of the kind in London, where Society can meet to enjoy Luncheons, Dinners, and Suppers of the most recherché description. Signor Bocchi's celebrated orchestra performs daily and Sunday during dinner and supper.

MR. JOHN GEORGE MORTLOCK, having heard that many of his customers are under the impression that he is retiring from business, begs emphatically to contradict the rumour. Mr. Mortlock (in conjunction with six of his nearest relatives) continues to conduct the business established by his great-great grandfather, John Mortlock, in 1746.—The Old Pottery Galleries, 466, 468, 470, Oxford-street; 31 & 32, Orchard-street; and 2b, Granville-place, Portman-square, London, W.

It is not a pleasant thing to be always carping at the military authorities, but this disagreeable duty, which too often falls to my lot, is greatly mitigated when I find that the hints which I scatter by the wayside fall upon good ground and bring forth fruit. An instance of this has just occurred at Sheerness in the disappearance from a certain Company of Royal Artillery of an officer whose conduct had attracted a good deal of unfavourable notice. I only hope, for the sake of all parties, that the officer in question may get on better in the post to which he has been transferred.

Is there no definite rule with regard to the right of Medical Officers in the Army to charge fees for attendance on the families of other officers? It is a subject on which I am frequently hearing complaints, from the point of view of both parties concerned, and I have just heard from an officer who evidently thinks it an unwarrantable thing that a certain Medical Officer has made a charge under such circumstances. No doubt Army doctors frequently do attend the families of officers without charge; but this may easily be because they have no desire to create unpleasantness. I do not myself see on what principle an officer can expect to have his wife and children doctored free of charge by a Medical Officer; but if he has such a right, it ought to be clearly laid down, for the sake of all parties concerned.

The extravagant expenditure on the Army Medical Staff is a subject which cries aloud for the intervention of an economical reformer. The net cost of the Department is now £557,000, even after deducting the Indian contribution. Twenty years ago the outlay on the Army Medical Staff was £373,000, and it would be interesting to learn how so prodigious an increase has been occasioned.

There seems to be need for some closer attention to the apportioning of the duties of warrant officers in the Medical Staff Corps. I hear that it is a common thing for such officers to shirk their duties where, as occasionally happens, there is a medical officer in charge who, from having spent a great part of his time in India, or for any other reason, is not fully conversant with the regulations on the subject. A case in point may be seen at one of the Colonial stations, where there is a warrant officer who has so successfully shunted his duties on to his juniors, that he is now attending to nothing but the pay and clothing of the detachment, which is only twenty strong. In other words, the warrant officer is letting himself off with about three hours' work per week.

The first complaint that I have received against No. 18, Victoria-street, since the advent of the new Director-General, comes apropos of the issue of the amended regulations for the Army Medical Service. The critic of these regulations remarks that there are several points on which the Service would be glad to see amendments, and which could at once be ascertained, if the headquarters would make some attempt to get at the ideas and wishes of the Staff at large. From this point of view, it seems to me a pity that when the late vacancy occurred the opportunity was not taken of appointing the new Director-General from outside the office, rather than from within, and thus bringing the Headquarters Staff more into touch with the requirements of the Department. However, the new Director-General has one great advantage in the transfer from Victoria-street of the civilian clerk, whose presence there has been so much objected to. The duties of this clerk are now, I understand, to be chiefly performed by the new professional assistant of the Director-General, Surgeon-Major-General Taylor—a change which ought to do much to allay the dissatisfaction which has hitherto been felt.

In contrast to the shabby and discreditable treatment many military veterans now receive, a correspondent recalls the fact that one of the earliest acts of Mr. Disraeli's first Administration was the publication of a Royal Warrant stating that it had come to her Majesty's knowledge that a number of old soldiers who had served in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo were in a state of destitution, and inviting such men to make themselves known to the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital, when they would be granted pensions of 1s. 6d. a day. This resulted in over 400 much-needed pensions being granted, and as an evidence of concern for the welfare of old soldiers it gave a considerable impetus to recruiting. It is high time some similar measure was adopted on behalf of the Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans who, to the disgrace of the nation, are being gradually killed off by starvation.

An officer who has a son at Sandhurst tells me that the custom is in vogue at the riding-school there of making the cadets practise jumping without reins or stirrups. That is a practice which has been condemned before now in cavalry riding-schools, and experts tell me that it is a frequent cause of serious injury. I question whether it is ever of any use, and I believe it is opposed to the Cavalry Regulations; and to impose such an exercise on youngsters, many of whom are only beginning to ride, and may not even be going into cavalry regiments, seems most unjustifiable.

Can any of my military readers tell me whether there is any rule in the Army Act, or the Queen's Regulations, or anywhere else, which forbids soldiers to belong to secret societies? A Service correspondent in India gravely suggests that not only is there a rule of this kind, but that Freemasons come within the scope of the rule. Seeing the extent to which Masonry flourishes in the Army, I can hardly suppose that there is any ground for this opinion, but judging by some of the stories which occasionally reach me respecting the results of Freemasonry among military men, it would be no bad thing if such a Regulation did exist.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

In response to numerous requests, I make this week the experiment of starting a Military Pillory on somewhat similar lines to the TRUTH Legal Pillory. It has occurred to me that in this way I may be able to deal with some few of the cases of individual injustice or local grievances which are brought under my notice in such numbers, not only with better effect, and with more convenience to my readers, but eventually with a reduced expenditure of my space; though I cannot undertake to make the Military Pillory a regular weekly institution.

Very appropriately, the first place in the new Pillory is accorded to the 2nd Berkshire, a regiment which has of late been the scene of a very large number of undesirable incidents that have been noticed in local and Service papers as well as in TRUTH. Sergeant Sayers, whose case is here dealt with, is a man of nearly ten years' service, possessing a Field Work Certificate, a First-class Education Certificate, and other distinctions, and having no serious mark upon his record. It is clear upon the facts that he did not have justice, because there is the greatest doubt whether he did not leave his post under a *bonâ-fide* belief that he had permission to do so; and by every principle of justice he ought to have had the benefit of this doubt. Not only is he convicted on inconclusive evidence, but he is punished with most exceptional severity. The explanation apparently is that in several recent Courts-martial he has acted as "prisoner's friend," and in one or two cases has secured an acquittal. Whatever may be thought of the prudence of a man who thus assumes the post of *advocatus diaboli* in opposition to the military authorities, there can be no question that if a soldier is allowed to assume this duty, and by reason of his education and ability performs the duty successfully, it is a paltry and despicable act to persecute him upon the strength of it. All the circumstances of this case point to a determination in certain quarters to bowl Sayers out, and I am in a position to say that his conviction and sentence have done much to aggravate the undesirable spirit which recent occurrences have created in the battalion. As regards the other cases summarised below, I cite the one from the Guards' Depot as an example of the unreasonable treatment which subjects a man, shown by the result to have a legitimate grievance, to the stigma of a "severe reprimand" merely for a technical error in attempting to get his grievance redressed. The facts in regard to the Medical Staff Corps at Shorncliffe point to very serious overwork, which calls for some immediate alteration in the arrangements; and the case from Lichfield seems to be a flagrant breach of the Regulations:—

2nd Royal Berkshire Regiment, Devonport.—Sergeant Sayers, charged before a District Court-martial with leaving his post without leave while acting as sergeant on gate duty. The prisoner, who had been acting as "prisoner's friend" for another N.C.O. under remand for Court-martial, obtained leave from Colour-Sergeant Firth, acting as Sergeant-Major, to exchange duty with another N.C.O. and go into Plymouth, where he had an appointment with a solicitor who was preparing the defence. Firth gave evidence that he subsequently informed prisoner personally that this permission was cancelled. The prisoner alleged that he did not understand this, but supposed that Firth merely withdrew the permission to leave barracks. He did not leave barracks, but got the solicitor to come up and see him, and exchanged duty with a corporal when the solicitor arrived. This was the offence alleged. In cross-examination, Firth admitted that on a previous occasion he had himself been reported by prisoner for absence from duty. Firth had also sent a message by a lance-corporal to tell the prisoner that he had cancelled "that order." The lance-corporal, however, when called, admitted that he himself did not know what order was referred to, and that he did not think the prisoner knew. A witness was called for the defence, who stated that he overheard the conversation between Firth and the prisoner, and that what Firth said was, "You are not to leave barracks, and mind that you don't." On this evidence Sayers was convicted and sentenced to be reduced to the ranks.

Guards' Depot, Caterham.—A sergeant, while drilling a squad, drops his pace sticks, which are trodden on and broken by one of the men. He goes before his company officer with a requisition for new ones, there being a fund for the purpose, and is told that he must have broken the sticks by tapping the men's rifles with them, and must pay for new ones himself. He subsequently asks the sergeant-major in the orderly room if he can see the C.O. Next day, the C.O. being away, he is brought before the senior Major, and told that he has been guilty of very improper conduct in applying to see the C.O. without the permission of his company officer. The C.O., on his return, tells him that if he had not a clean defaulter-sheet he would have been tried by a District Court-martial, and that in consideration of his good character he would be let off with being "severely reprimanded." The question of the sticks is then gone into on its merits, and the C.O. excuses the man from paying for them.

Station Hospital, Shorncliffe.—There is here a detachment of nineteen men of the M.S.C., of whom sixteen are, or were up to a recent date, actually employed at the Station Hospital, the others being at the camp Auxiliary Hospital. The daily duties of the men in the hospital extend from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For the night duty, *i.e.*, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., there are fifteen men available, of whom six come on duty each night in reliefs of two hours on and four hours off, with the exception of one who only comes on night duty at 2 a.m. It follows that the men are occasionally on night duty on alternate nights, and that they can never get more than two nights in bed for one night on duty. When on night duty they are practically at work for twenty-four hours in succession, save for the two broken rests of four hours each which they get during the night.

38th Regimental District, Lichfield.—A vacancy having occurred for a Sergeant-Instructor of Volunteers, an N.C.O. of the South Staffordshire Regiment has been appointed to it, whose name was not on the C.O.'s list of candidates, kept in pursuance of Sect. xviii., para. 45, Queen's Regulations. There were three names on this list, one of them that of a man who has been highly recommended by his C.O., and by para. 46 of the same Section, the senior on the list ought clearly to be posted to the vacancy.

When there are so many things in and about our military service loudly calling for alteration or reform, it is somewhat startling to hear of contemplated changes in a direction where things would be much better left as they are. It would appear that Lord Wolseley has conceived the idea of moving the Duke of York's Military School from Chelsea to make room for a central military hospital. If the present hospital accommodation for the troops stationed in London is insufficient, a statement which (if made) I take leave to doubt, there should be means of increasing the capacity of the Guards' hospitals in Vincent-square and Rochester-row without incurring the expenditure which would necessarily attend such a scheme as the one referred to.

I am curious to know how many soldiers get the benefit of the paragraph in the Queen's Regulations which makes provision for soldiers of five years' service and upwards being transferred to the Army Reserve before the expiration of their periods of Army Service. Soldiers frequently complain that when they have registered their names for the Reserve under this paragraph, no practical result ever follows. I had a growl on the subject quite recently from a man of ten years' service, who registered his name with the full approval of his C.O. nine months ago, but has not yet been transferred, and sees no prospect of that result, although the list is sent up from month to month in the

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regimental returns. The paragraph itself only provides for the transfer of men "when the exigencies of the Service permit," and I expect that the exigencies of the Service permit it very seldom, if ever.

The question then arises, Why do the authorities trouble themselves to draw up and publish such a regulation? It is suggested that it is done purely with an eye to recruiting. When a recruit manifests reluctance to engage himself for so long a period of Service as seven or twelve years, the recruiting-sergeant points to this Regulation, and says, "You see you can always apply after five years for transfer to the Reserve under this section." This seems a very plausible explanation of the section, and quite in keeping with the spirit in which literature is compiled at the War Office for the consumption of recruits.

The life of Thomas Atkins in India seems to be perpetually clouded by trouble of one kind or another in regard to his beer. A Battalion Order of the 2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers recently announced that the price of beer would in future be five annas per quart. I understand that this is local beer, that the brewery is only five miles from the barracks, and that four annas per quart is an outside price for country beer. Further, it is stated that three miles away there is a convalescent depot where the very same beer is sold at four annas. What is the meaning of the extra anna? One would think that it would not be a difficult thing to make some practical arrangement for supplying a certain quality of beer at a certain price to the whole of the British Army, whether at home or abroad; and there is at least one well-known firm of brewers who have signified their readiness to undertake such a contract. Only the jobbery and corruption connected with the canteen beer supply stands in the way of such an arrangement.

Here is a letter which is worthy of notice, as illustrating some of the small annoyances which make our friend Tommy discontented with his lot:—

I should like to tell you a few incidents which happened on the march of a certain regiment from Meerut to Lucknow.

1. On arrival at Alligah there was a three days' horse-fair going on, but orders were issued that no man was to leave the camp in the direction of the city because small-pox was very bad there. Strange to say, this did not prevent officers, warrant officers, and even native cooks and camp-followers, from going in and out as they pleased, and attending the fireworks in the evening. Can you explain why officers, &c., are less likely to catch small-pox than common soldiers?

2. Before arrival at Cawnpore the C.O. asked if the battalion would like to stay a day in the town and have a look round. They all said "Yes," but it turned out that there was small-pox at Cawnpore also. An order was therefore issued that those who wished to see the Well would fall in and be marched there, and that those who did not would have to do an hour's squad drill. A good many chose the squad drill rather than be treated like a lot of children, although they knew that by so doing they risked incurring the C.O.'s displeasure.

3. On arrival at Lucknow all the bazaars were placed "out of bounds," and civil lines are out of bounds as a matter of course; a soldier not being considered fit to come into the same street as an Anglo-Indian civilian. Even places of worship are considered too sacred to be polluted by a soldier, and the only places not out of bounds are the Residency and the Museum. The result is that a soldier can hardly take a walk in Lucknow in the evening without being met by the garrison police and marched off to the garrison guard-room for being out of bounds. But it ought to be mentioned that in this respect officers, warrant officers, and sergeants are not classed as soldiers.

I should much like to know on what principle a C.O., when he gets up a pleasure excursion for the regiment to pay a visit to a place of historical interest like the Well at Cawnpore, orders squad drill for all the men who do not care for the treat.

A district court-martial recently passed a sentence of six months' hard labour upon a man who, while drunk, had aimed a blow at a sergeant, but had not actually struck him. In a general way, I am no advocate for absolving offenders whose only defence is drunkenness; but in a case where the whole gist of the offence lies in the spirit in which the act was done, then the plea of drunkenness ought to have some weight. If, as seems to have been the case here, the man was so drunk as not to know the difference between a sergeant and a private, he clearly meant no more in attempting to strike the sergeant than he would have done had he struck a private; and there could hardly be a serious offence against discipline under such circumstances.

Can anybody connected with the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers inform me what has been done with the sum of money which was collected in the summer of 1894 to place a stone over the grave of a colour-sergeant? The question is of some importance, not only as a matter of principle, but because another man in the regiment has died recently, and, the last tombstone never having been erected, there is a natural reluctance among the deceased man's comrades to subscribe for a tombstone, until they know what has become of the money collected in the former case.

May I suggest to those in command of the Channel Fleet, whether now or on future occasions, that they might show a little more consideration for the natural desire of their men to have a closer look than can be obtained from aboard ship at those parts of the British Isles which the Fleet periodically visits. "For two months," writes a naval correspondent, "the Fleet has been cruising among some of the grandest scenery in our Islands; and the men have only had the privilege of a run on shore one watch one night, and the other watch two nights. Yet directly the anchor is dropped the officers swarm on shore, equipped with tennis-bats, golf-sticks, walking-shoes, and every means of enjoying themselves." It seems to me that a little more consideration for the natural wishes of the crews in this respect might, among other things, do much to popularise the Service and stimulate recruiting.

Moreover, there is a great deal of grumbling among Naval petty officers and men in consequence of the attempts which have lately been made to prevent them from wearing plain clothes when they are on shore. It is grossly unfair to refuse them this privilege, considering that officers may wear plain clothes whenever they please. Such a vexatious restriction is the more to be

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deprecated because it is wholly unnecessary, and can be due only to mere "cussedness" on the part of some official pedant.

There is also a growing sense of dissatisfaction among junior Accountant Officers in the Navy at the small and gradually diminishing allowance of home as compared with foreign service. It was always small, but it is growing beautifully less, and at present the utmost time that an officer of this class can expect to serve in England after a commission of from three to three and a half years abroad, is four to six months—with a prospect of even less in future. This result is due to the policy of the Admiralty in reducing the complement of juniors to ships at home—there is now one where there used to be three—and appointing officers in excess of the complement to ships abroad. So far from this course being justified by the requirements of the Service—as the Admiralty seem to think—I am told by experts that the work to be done is immensely greater at home than it is abroad. Requests have been frequently made from ships on home stations for extra help, but without effect, though there are plenty of officers for the purpose if they were properly distributed. There is the more need for "My Lords" to give their attention to this subject, in view of the inequitable treatment of the same officers in regard to home and foreign service when they rise to the rank of Paymasters.

I read in a Jersey paper the following :—

> A French torpedo boat entered St. Helier's harbour yesterday, and, at about 6.30 last evening, an officer and two men were to be observed deliberately taking soundings at various spots just outside the fort.

No one entertains a more friendly feeling towards France than I do. But is not this somewhat contrary to usage between the best of friends ?

Lord Charles Beresford has described the Director of Transports as an officer who has practically no duties to perform, and he doubtless knows very well what he is talking about. Under these circumstances, it is scandalous that the said Director should receive nearly £2,500 a year with a furnished official residence. The post is about to be vacated, and it certainly ought not to be filled up.

The troopship *Malabar* has been paid off, and she will be dismantled after nearly thirty years of constant service. She is to be converted into a coal hulk at Bermuda.

A contemporary reports, with much complacency, that the *Renown* is being so "splendidly" fitted out that by the time she is ready for the Admiral's flag she will be "a floating palace." Dear me! I should think it is time for some one to interfere decisively in order to prevent such fatuous and fantastical extravagance. The floating boudoirs in which some Sybarites boldly encounter the perils of the Solent are bad enough, but it is really too much if we are to have flagships of the same description.

"LIBERTY" SUMMER SALE (this day and daily during July) of Dress and Furnishing Fabrics at greatly reduced prices.—LIBERTY & Co., Regent-street, London.

In a letter from Perim a correspondent indignantly denounces the callous and needless way in which the crews of many of the inferior class of ocean "tramps," colliers, traders, and so on, are exposed to sickness and death from the terrific heat of the sun in the Red Sea. "Many of these vessels that pass Perim daily are," he writes, "almost without a vestige of awning to shield the crew from the sun, which, I need hardly tell you, is fearfully strong during the summer in the Red Sea—more so even than in the Indian Ocean or the Bay of Bengal." The result of this want of proper protection is that many of the men are struck down with sunstroke or heat apoplexy. On the better class of vessels the crews are protected as far as possible from the effects of the heat, and one would think that, apart from any considerations of humanity, it would in the long run pay the owners of all craft to similarly safeguard the health of their men.

In reference to my last week's article on the Trooping Service, I am told that the *Canning* is not a hired transport, but a troopship belonging to the Indian Marine, and therefore a sister ship to the *Clive*. By all accounts the two sisters are a very pretty pair. I would take this opportunity of pointing out to the compilers of the most popular books of reference that the existence of the Indian Marine seems to have escaped their notice. I was in some doubt about the *Canning* last week just before going to press, and endeavoured to satisfy my doubts by reference to the ordinary channels of information, but unsuccessfully. The *Navy List* does not recognise the Indian Marine, although it gives the names of certain Indian Coast Defence vessels and of the last of the old Admiralty troopships. The Indian Marine belongs technically, I suppose, to the Queen-Empress as much as to the Royal Navy, and these ships ought surely to be included in the *Navy List*. But what surprises me most of all is that the Indian Marine is entirely omitted from that mine of universal information—*Whitaker's Almanack*. It is the first time that I ever referred to that source of knowledge in vain.

I am not sorry to find that the *Canning* is a Government ship, because it shows that the *Clive*, of which so horrible a picture was recently given in these columns, is not an exceptional example of the defects of the Indian Government troopships. The gentleman who sends me the correction mentioned above thinks that I have been unjust to the hired transports, and says that he has heard officers of the Indian Army speak very highly of the improvement of the service under the hired transport system. But he need not have told me this, for only a few weeks back I published extracts from a letter from a medical officer, who wrote strongly in praise of the hired-transports as compared with the old troopers. When publishing that letter, however, I expressed a doubt as to whether the improvement might be as distinctly visible to Tommy Atkins as it is to his superior officers; and

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this doubt was more than justified by the evidence, which I gave last week respecting hired transports. On reference to my article, it will be seen that three hired transports were there mentioned, besides the Government troopships *Clive* and *Canning*.

An extraordinary amount of correspondence continues to reach me respecting the shortcomings of the P. & O. service to India. Practically, all complaints are summed up in a letter from one officer lately commanding a cavalry regiment in India, who writes :—

The points to which attention should be called are these :—(1) Excessive crowding of the ships on many occasions ; (2) the indifferent fare provided on many of the ships ; (3) the exorbitant prices charged for extras, in the way of wines, spirits, and especially mineral waters. No soda or other water can be procured either in first or second class for less than 6d. per bottle, which is practically a prohibitive price to the humbler class of passengers. When touring in India I have heard complaints on all these heads, as well as against the excessive fares to which you have already alluded.

It also appears, from numerous letters that I have received, that the chief consideration which induces Anglo-Indians to give a preference to the P. and O. is the weekly service and the punctuality of the boats. Now that this is so clear, it will be strange if no attempt is made to break down the P. and O. monopoly.

The recent reference to the subject in TRUTH has brought me several further examples of the extortion which is practised by some shipping and forwarding agents. One correspondent had about a dozen boxes of goods transhipped in London and forwarded to a port in the Adriatic. The amount actually paid for freight was £5 ; but by a series of most excessive charges—the charge for warehousing the boxes for two or three days exceeding, for instance, a week's rent of a fashionable first-floor apartment in Mayfair—the agents employed in the business managed to pile up a bill for £32 odd, and this had to be paid before the goods could be got from the Customs at the Adriatic port. Other correspondents tell similar stories, and the moral seems to be, as I suggested last week, that persons having to despatch goods abroad should not employ forwarding agents, but deal directly with the railway or shipping companies. The latter will charge only the bare freight, and in the vast majority of cases there is no need whatever of any intermediate agents.

At different times reference has been made in TRUTH to the grievances of Departmental warrant officers in the service of the Indian Government. From a statement lately circulated, I gather that an organised effort is now being made to bring this matter before the attention of the Government, and I wish it every success. These Indian warrant officers complain that the great majority of them have not the remotest chance of promotion, and that they are paid less than any men of corresponding rank in the Home Service ; and as they are in precisely the same position now as they were twenty-eight years ago, in which period nearly every section of the Army has received valuable concessions of one kind or another, while the conditions of life in India have undergone a complete change, it seems high time that their case should be looked into.

A lamentable picture is drawn in the *Pioneer* of the treatment of third-class passengers on the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway, more especially in regard to overcrowding. An Indian correspondent tells me that in Madras things are every bit as bad as in Northern India. I suppose that, as in England, third-class traffic has been growing, and the railway officials decline to take cognizance of the fact. The Indian Government can practically do what it likes with the railways, and it ought to look after the interest of the third-class passenger.

Intending candidates for the Civil Service might do well to note the following case. After two years' preparation a candidate living at Belfast succeeded in passing the examination for a clerkship of the second division, and by order of the Commissioners he submitted himself for medical examination by a local doctor. Never having had a week's illness, and being of strong constitution, he was startled to hear from the Commissioners that "they were unable to ascertain that he was free from defect or disease likely to interfere with the proper discharge of his duties." The nature of the "defect or disease" was not specified, and two other local doctors whom he consulted certified that he was in perfect health. He then applied to the Commissioners for a further examination, and they requested him to attend a medical Board in London. He did so, paying six guineas in fees and his travelling expenses, and the Board agreed that he was in excellent health. Nevertheless he was informed that the Commissioners could not recommend him for acceptance in the service on account of his family history. It was the first time this reason had been assigned, and the facts were that his mother died of consumption consequent upon pleurisy at the age of forty-seven, and one of his brothers also died of the same complaint, but that his surviving relatives had been uniformly healthy.

In the regulations as to the requisite standard of health for the Civil Service many causes for rejection are specified, but bad family history is not one of them. If it is to be treated as one, the fact should be made known, so that candidates may not waste time and money in passing examinations only to be rejected on such grounds. The sense of grievance in this instance is accentuated also by the knowledge that the Commissioners have not been equally exacting with all candidates.

A case is reported of a clerk in the Savings' Bank Department of less than twelve months' standing who has recently gone out of his mind, and it is suggested that this calamity is the result of the over-work and worry to which the young fellow has been subjected in the office. This occurrence is the more significant in view of the evidence afforded by the case above cited as to the stringency of the Civil Service medical examination. Seeing the importance attached in the Belfast case to family antecedents, it must be taken that the

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, HARROGATE.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

family history of the Savings' Bank clerk was satisfactory, and that he had no taint of insanity about him at the time he was passed.

The protests continually made against sweating in the Savings' Bank Department have not up to the present produced any visible results; on the contrary, matters are said to be going from bad to worse, and complaints are specially strong about the bullying and terrorism exercised over the junior members of the staff.

That the public suffer by the sweating of postmen, sorters, and telegraph clerks there is no room for doubt, and I should very much like to know whether any similar result follows from the present system of management in the Savings' Bank Department. The chief matter of complaint is the system of "piecework," that is to say, the apportionment of a specified task to a specified time. For instance, a Savings' Bank clerk is expected to examine and write up so many depositors' books in an hour. Twenty years ago the number of books was fixed at twenty. During these twenty years the average amount of deposits has enormously increased, involving a corresponding addition to the clerk's hour's work, and I am told that it often happens now that to check and calculate the interest due on twenty accounts in the hour allowed for the purpose is all but impossible. To say nothing of the effect upon the clerk himself, the work constantly done in this way at the highest pressure must necessarily be often inaccurate. To what extent the inaccuracies are allowed to pass I have no means of saying, but in view of the above fact I should strongly advise every depositor in the Savings' Bank to check for himself the interest periodically credited to him.

A telegram was despatched the other day from Croydon at 11.28 a.m. and delivered at Woking at 1.3 p.m. A cyclist tells me that he would undertake to do the whole distance in an hour. If this is so, it seems about time that the Post Office employed bicycles in the place of telegraph wires for short distances. The particular telegram referred to above reached Woking at 12.27, having, therefore, been just one hour in transmission over the wires, which points to the most inexcusable dilatoriness somewhere.

One of the circulars of a Paris garbage-monger, who has lately flooded the British Empire with his advertisements, has just been returned to me from the Island of St. Vincent. The thing is more offensive than anything of this class that I have hitherto seen sent through the post unsolicited, and the gentleman who forwards it tells me that it happened to fall into the hands of one of the ladies of his family. It is really an intolerable thing that the Post Office should persist in subjecting the public in any part of the world to this form of annoyance; and the remedy being so easy, if the Postmaster-General persists in his attitude on this question, it will really become necessary to treat him as *particeps criminis*.

Gratis and post free, very elaborately-illustrated Price Lists, showing exact sizes of Havana Cigars issued by the HAVANA Trading Association, 177, Piccadilly.—C. A. Carlin, Gen. Manager.

My sympathies have been awakened by a complaint on behalf of a lady who, being the principal creditor in her son's bankruptcy, has received from the Official Receiver a statement of affairs, posted at the halfpenny rate in an open envelope, for the edification of anybody who chose to pry into it. Considering the handsome share of every estate which falls to the lot of the lawyers and officials concerned in the liquidation, a few halfpence for postage stamps really ought not to be grudged where third parties are concerned.

I mention this matter because such abuses of the halfpenny post are far too common. In my private capacity I receive every week shoals of circulars in open envelopes, mostly Company prospectuses. The mining prospectuses alone seem to have come lately at the rate of two or three per diem. I shoot these things into the waste-paper basket almost without looking at them, and probably most people do the same. But every now and then some printed document of importance comes in the same way, and runs every chance of being overlooked. Now that circulars are delivered in such numbers that no one can attempt to read them, it ought to be the rule to send all private letters and documents requiring personal attention in closed envelopes.

I have been much interested by a letter the writer of which is a gentleman who begins by telling me that he does not agree with me in politics, and then goes on to denounce in vigorous terms the abuses connected with the office of High Sheriff. As he very justly observes, the practice of imposing this office upon a man compulsorily, and thereby subjecting him to an enormous expense regardless of his capacity to bear it, and all for no other purpose than to gratify the vanity of her Majesty's Judges when they go on circuit, is on a level with the worst abuses of arbitrary taxation in the time of the Tudors and Stuarts. The following remark specially strikes me:—

> In days long past this office of High Sheriff may have been a useful one, but by legislation, custom, and the march of events, it has been eviscerated—in plain English, gutted—of all use and true honour, and only the shell remains.

The process here described is one which is constantly going on in regard to all our institutions, social and political. By "legislation, custom, and the march of events," the institutions of one age become unsuited to the conditions of the next. Those who desire to bring our institutions into harmony with the circumstances and requirements of the present age are called Radicals. Those who desire to preserve the old institutions which have been "eviscerated—in plain English, gutted—of all use and true honour," are called Conservatives. It is because there are so many gentlemen like my correspondent who do not agree with me in politics that such antiquities, devoid of all use and honour, remain in existence to afflict later generations. The moral of my correspondent's complaint seems to me to be that those who have abuses to complain of should cease to disagree with me in politics, and devote themselves to remedying all such abuses.

I often notice that people who disagree with me in politics write very earnestly to ventilate little social or political grievances of their own. But if men want their own grievances redressed, they must cease to think about them exclusively, and cultivate an equal amount of sympathy for the grievances of all classes. As long as they offer a general resistance to all efforts to bring our institutions up to date, they must accept with the best grace they can any little inconvenience to themselves which results from the perpetuation of anachronisms My friend who is suffering so heavily under the office of High Sheriff mentions that a Bill removing the grievance was brought into the House of Lords, but the House of Lords declined to look at it. If you *will* have a House of Lords, what else can you expect?

At the Colwyn Urban District Council, the Reverend Mr. Venables Williams moved "That we do not make fools of ourselves;" this having been seconded, the chairman was asked whether the resolution was Parliamentary? He replied that it was, and put the motion. I trust that the chairman is right in his ruling; for, if so, large possibilities are opened out for the drafting of amendments in the House of Commons.

In the Irish Constabulary there is, I hear, actually rule in force which forbids the wife of a constable to carry on business as a dressmaker while her husband is in the force. Whether the rule extends to other trades than dressmaking I do not know; but it is a monstrous thing that such a rule should exist at all. To save any misapprehension, I may mention that I have not had any complaint on this subject from the Irish Constabulary itself, but the fact has been brought under my notice by a gentleman in London, who knows a case in which a woman has thus been prevented from helping to support her family, she being a woman who is capable of earning fully a pound a week. The Irish Members, as a rule, have no cause to love the Constabulary; but I really think that this is a matter which they ought to ventilate in Parliament.

At Birkdale the other day the justices granted a licence to allow the waywardens of the Southport District Highway Board to contract with the Board for the cartage of materials for the roads. This licensing of waywardens for such a purpose reveals a very curious and anomalous state of things. In the case of all other local governing authorities it is illegal for the members to enter into contracts or trade in any way with the body to which they belong; but it seems that under section 20 of the Highway Act of 1864 this wholesome restriction does not apply to Highway Boards, provided they can obtain a licence from the justices. The Southport Board, with the concurrence of the magistrates, has taken full advantage of this provision of the Act. During nine months of last year, for instance, the sum of £513 was spent by the Board for cartages in the township of Formby; and of this amount no less than £470 went into the pocket of the Chairman of the Board. Even if it were proved that the chairman did the carting more satisfactorily and economically than any other contractor could have done it, that would not remove the objections to such a system of dealing with public work, and it is surprising that the justices should be ready to grant the necessary licence. There might be some excuse for employing a member of a Board in some out-of-the-way district where nobody else could be found to accept the contract; but it is ridiculous to suppose that there can be any difficulty of that nature in a township of the size and population of Formby.

Some time ago a young man named George McCabe was found guilty of a grave offence at Chester Assizes, and sentenced by Mr. Justice Day to twenty years' penal servitude. In reply to a memorial on the prisoner's behalf, the Home Secretary has just intimated that he cannot interfere with the sentence at present, but that the case will not be lost sight of; and in announcing this decision a local paper makes a curious statement concerning the trial. It seems that as McCabe was without money some friends raised a fund and handed it over to a Liverpool solicitor, who undertook to conduct the defence. It is asserted, however, that the solicitor neither attended at the trial himself nor briefed counsel. Be this as it may, however, it is certain that McCabe was undefended, and the witnesses who should have been called on his behalf were not examined. There appears to be an impression that but for this the result of the trial might have been different; and the conduct of the solicitor in question is deserving, if the facts are correctly stated, of the fullest exposure and severest censure.

Far be it from me to say a word in deprecation of any legitimate action for maintaining rights of way for the public; but there seems to have been no excuse whatever for the course which was taken a few days since in prosecuting a farmer named Thurman at Essex Assizes for obstructing a footpath at Tendring. The allegation of the prosecution was that the defendant had reduced the path in width by ploughing away part of it; but witnesses for the defence showed that the path was really as wide as it had always been, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. It is a singular thing that such a trumpery dispute should ever have been made the subject of an indictment in a criminal court; and still more singular is it to observe that the Rector took a leading part on the side of the prosecution. One would have thought that a clergyman would have exerted his influence to prevent a frivolous prosecution which has only resulted in saddling both the defendant and the ratepayers with a heavy bill of costs.

The Oldham Bench continue their reprehensible practice of dealing summarily with cases of outrages on female children which ought to be sent for trial at the Quarter Sessions or Assizes. There was an instance the other day when a father—a widower—was charged with disgraceful assaults on his daughter, a girl of fourteen, and also with attempted assaults on three other little children in a public park. Notwithstanding the seriousness of the case no depositions were taken, and the magistrates had apparently decided before hearing the evidence not to commit the accused for trial, but to

reduce the charge to one of aggavated assault and dispose of it themselves. This they did, the prisoner being allowed to escape with the utterly inadequate sentence of two months' imprisonment. The conduct of the Oldham Shallows in matters of this kind is a gross scandal, and I am not surprised to hear that it has aroused a strong feeling of indignation among the local public.

A point of some interest, more especially to married women with their own banking accounts, and to their bankers, was raised at West London Police-court last week. There was a charge against a gentleman of forging his wife's name to a number of cheques drawn on a bank where she had an account; but the prosecution had to be abandoned owing to the fact that as the couple were living together at the time of the alleged forgery the evidence of the wife against her husband was not admissible. As the magistrate remarked, "it amounted to something like a miscarriage of justice;" but such is the law, and however asinine it may be, it has to be followed. If, therefore, a man desires to appropriate his wife's money he can, so long as he is living with her at the time, forge her name to a cheque without fear of the consequences.

To anybody who is dissatisfied with his or her tailor's or dressmaker's work a judgment just given in the Cupar Sheriff Court may afford a useful lesson. An Edinburgh firm sued a gentleman and his wife for the price of two costumes which they had made for the lady. The garments did not fit, and, after being sent backwards and forwards for alterations no fewer than nine times, they were finally, at the end of nearly three months, rejected as unsuitable. Without entering at all into the question of fit, Sheriff-Substitute Henderson held that the defenders were liable for the amount claimed, on the ground that when the garments were originally supplied they did not reject, or express any intention of rejecting, them. According to this decision, if you are supplied with misfitting clothes, the wisest thing to do is to refuse them at once, for if, out of consideration for the tailor, you give him a chance of altering his work, it will be judicially construed—in Cupar, at any rate—into an acceptance of the goods. The decision does not seem to me quite fair to the customer, nor do I think that in the long run it would, if held good, be of much advantage to the tradesmen.

Last week Mr. Alderman Truscott committed a man named Izzard to gaol for seven days in default of paying a fine of 20s. for furiously riding a bicycle up Cornhill. It appeared that the defendant was employed in delivering evening papers. A City correspondent sends me the report with the suggestion that the sentence is worthy of a place in my Legal Pillory; but whether he considers it too severe or too lenient he does not explain. For my own part, I see nothing in it to which exception can be taken. Certainly, I have no sympathy with the cyclist. The scorcher is a big enough nuisance on any road, but it is especially desirable that his appearance in busy thoroughfares in town, whether he is on business or pleasure bent, should be checked with a firm hand.

With reference to a note in a recent issue respecting a County Court case in which a man was sued for throwing a stone and so killing a dog which had attacked his child, a solicitor at Yeovil writes that Judge Philbrick did not say that "it was right for the father to protect his child, but that it must not be done to excess." To this I can only reply that the remark was so given in a newspaper report of the case. The solicitor further states that the dog had gone some distance away when the father threw at it, and that he, therefore, acted vindictively and not in order to protect his child. On this point, however, there was a direct conflict of evidence between the parties, and the balance of testimony seemed to me in favour of the defendant.

So surely as the Assizes come round, so surely do the judges have to lecture the magistracy upon the question of bail. In Glamorganshire last week, Mr. Justice Wright drew attention to three scandalous instances in which men who were found to be innocent had been kept in gaol for considerable periods on trumpery charges of theft through the failure of the committing justices to allow bail. One man against whom, as it turned out, there was not a shadow of evidence, had been kept in custody for two months; and another, whose case was disposed of by the grand jury, for three months. But however often the judges may advise and admonish them, it seems impossible to get some thick-headed members of the Great Unpaid to act with any sense or discretion in such matters.

Referring to a paragraph in last week's TRUTH a correspondent writes:—

> You seem to consider Mr. Justice Grantham a severe judge. What about this case?
>
> "At Bedford yesterday a straw-hat worker from Luton, named Robinson, was sentenced by Mr. Justice Grantham to fifteen months' imprisonment for placing a sleeper on the Great Northern Railway, whereby the train was nearly wrecked. Robinson is twenty-three years of age and this is his twentieth conviction."
>
> This does not strike me as an excessive sentence for such a crime; on the contrary, it was a long way too merciful.

Just so. But it is in regard to his sentences on previously-convicted prisoners for ordinary offences against property that complaint is made of Mr. Justice Grantham's severity. This man Robinson appears to have been only guilty of a diabolical attempt at wholesale murder, and so in spite of his nineteen previous convictions he escapes with fifteen months' hard labour. If, now, he had been convicted on some charge of shoplifting or housebreaking his past record would almost certainly have ensured his committal to penal servitude for five or seven years.

The Hernia Institute, 489, Oxford-st., London, W., absolutely cures rupture in from three to six weeks. Highest testimonials. Pamphlets and consultations free.

The Decorative Needlework Society, Limited, 17, Sloane-street, will hold a Sale, at reduced prices, of all the Embroideries at present in stock, from July 6th to the 11th (inclusive).

Among the cases in my Legal Pillory this week, the very different measures of justice which were meted out at Dublin to a party of rowdy young undergraduates on the one hand and a couple of negligent telegraph messengers on the other, appear to have been admirably designed to encourage the unfortunate idea that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. Certainly Mr. Swifte's sentences on the two telegraph messengers were monstrously harsh, especially in view of the merciful recommendation of the prosecuting solicitor, and I hope that ere this the Lord-Lieutenant has ordered the liberation of the lads. The other contrasts in the list are of a more familiar type. At Quarter Sessions the man who steals a pair of trousers is awarded five years' penal servitude, but the miscreant who outrages an old woman gets off with a month's imprisonment; and in the minor courts mere pecuniary penalties are deemed sufficient for brutal assaults or shocking cruelty—note the tender treatment of the "well-to-do farmer" at Denbigh—while terms of hard labour are freely imposed for such crimes as the theft of two eggs, or sleeping out under a hedge or in an outhouse. The Grimsby Bench, it will be observed, still continue the scandalous system of imprisoning fishing apprentices for "disobedience":—

Dublin Northern Division Police-court. Before Mr. Keys. Richard Hutchins, a student at Trinity College, charged with maliciously damaging two railway carriages to the amount of £20; also with assaulting a stationmaster by striking him with a strap which had been taken from one of the carriages. Four other students were similarly charged with wilfully damaging the carriages, and with obstructing officials of the company in the performance of their duty. Fined 1s. each, and ordered to pay £2 each compensation to the company.

Grimsby Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. Jackson. C. Morton, A. Bannister, S. Oates, J. M. Dennis, and A. Connell. John William Cottingham, charged with assaulting a lad named Markham. Defendant took a knife out of Markham's pocket, and when asked for it struck the lad in the face, knocked him down, and kicked him. Fined 1s. and 12s. costs.

West Sussex Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. R. H. Hurst. John Novell pleaded guilty to unlawfully and indecently assaulting Mary Wellcome, an old woman. One month.

Dundee Police-court. David Dickson, convicted of assaulting Alexander Robb. He knocked Robb down and kicked him, cutting his head and face, and rendering him insensible. Fined £2.

Sheffield Police-court. Before Dr. Hunt and Mr. C. Hobson. Albert Lingley charged with assaulting Margaret Adams. He struck her on each side of the head, causing her to fall, and while she was on the ground hit and kicked her. She was rendered unconscious, and was obliged to keep her bed for three weeks. Ordered to pay £1 15s. costs, and bound over.

Dublin Police-court. Before Mr. Swifte. Two telegraph messengers pleaded guilty to a charge of having neglected to deliver telegrams with which they had been entrusted. The solicitor to the Post Office stated that the boys would lose their employment, and he asked that they should be discharged under the First Offenders Act to come up for judgment when called upon. Mr. Swifte, however, committed one defendant for a month, and the other for six weeks hard labour.

Grimsby Police-court. Before the same magistrates, William Cutler, fishing apprentice from the Romford Union, charged with disobedience by neglecting to go to sea. He said he ran away because the skipper had threatened to throw him overboard when they got to sea. Fourteen days.

Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. R. J. Kerr. George Taylor, convicted of breaking into a house and stealing a pair of trousers. Five years.

Pershore Police-court. Before Messrs. H. R. M. Porter and C. Whitaker. George Watkins, convicted of stealing two hens' eggs. Fourteen days.

Penrith Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Longrigg, W. L. Brooksbank, W. Seatree, and T. Altham. Barbara Kirk charged with sleeping out under a hedge in Wethericks Fields. Fourteen days.

Wisbech Police-court. Before Alderman Groom, Alderman Goward, and Mr. W. M. Rust. Thomas Bamber charged with absconding from the workhouse. Twenty-one days.

Denbigh County Police-court. Before Mr. W. D. Griffiths and other magistrates. John Hughes, charged with cruelty to a cow. Defendant, a well-to-do farmer, left the animal at a farm which he vacated, and it was found there in a shocking condition of emaciation, the bones nearly protruding through the skin. The cow had been suffering for months from ulcers and cancer of the tongue. On being remonstrated with, defendant said he knew the cow would not recover, and he did not see the use of bothering about a dying animal, so he left it to take its chance. The cow had been in calf, and a veterinary surgeon suggested that defendant had kept it alive for the sake of the calf. Having secured the calf, he had left the cow to die of starvation. Fined 20s. and £2. 2s. costs.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Tait. Robert Reekie and Catherine Cheyne, charged with creating a breach of the peace, and also with assaulting Mary Baird. The man seized Baird by the throat and threw her to the ground, and both the accused then kicked her about the body. Reekie, who had been twice previously convicted, was fined 15s.; Cheyne 5s.

Falkirk Sheriff Court. Alexander Hall pleaded guilty to having assaulted his wife by knocking her down, kicking, and beating her, subsequently dragging her out of bed, and striking her with a belt, and finally knocking her down with a clothes prop and breaking her arm. Fined £5.

Shrewsbury Police-court. Before Messrs. W. M. How, J. E. Jones, T. P. Deakin, and G. J. Holt. Mary Ann Edwards, an elderly woman, convicted of stealing a cotton shirt, a counterpane, and a pair of sheets. The Chief Constable said he believed this was the woman's first offence. One month.

Newbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs E. Harris, S. Hemsted, J. Absalom, H. J. Midwinter, and J. Hopson. Richard Condon, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Amersham Police-court. Before Messrs. J. W. Garrett Pegg and G. Weller. James Hawes and Joseph Hawes, charged with taking three partridges' eggs. Fined £1 each.

Newark Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. R. Challerton) and other magistrates. John Holland, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Ipswich Police-court. Before Colonel J. H. Jossclyn, Messrs. H. M. Jackaman, S. R. Anness, and R. D. Fraser. Ellen Harvey, married woman, charged with stealing some corn value 1s., which she took from the place where her husband was employed. Fourteen days.

Last week one Barnes was summoned at Southport for assaulting his wife. The evidence was to the effect that the defendant had on different occasions pushed his wife down, hurting her spine, struck her on the temple, hit her with a broom-handle, taken a running kick at her and caught her in the side, chased her out of the house and struck and knocked her down. It transpired that this amiable character was a total abstainer, and (when not engaged in beating his wife) a preacher in a local mission-hall. I should not myself have regarded these facts as any palliation of his offence—rather the reverse. The Southport Shallows appear to have thought differently, however, for all they did was to order Mr. Barnes to be bound over to keep the peace for three months. Or possibly they consider that a wife-beater is sufficiently punished if he is put under a penalty to abstain from his favourite diversion for a short period. Whatever idea may have been present in the muddy minds of the magistrates, the result of the case is admirably calculated to encourage the gentle art of wife-beating in Southport.

The parish schoolmaster at Marown, near Douglas, seems to be a nice, kind, considerate, reasonable sort of individual to be entrusted with the education of little children. Recently a little girl of six arrived at the school in a perspiring condition, which she could scarcely help, seeing that the day was extremely hot, and that to get there she had to climb one of the highest hills in the Isle of Man. But this exacting pedagogue

insists that his pupils shall come cool, however warm the weather may be, and so he proceeded to give the little girl a taste of the tawse for disobedience to his orders. It is satisfactory to record that he has been convicted and fined for this assault; though, to my mind, the most fitting penalty for a man who is ready to strike a child on such a preposterous pretext would be an application of the tawse to his own hide.

Here is another useful ray of light on Messrs. "T. Smith & Co.," the rubber-stamp people of St. Helen's-gardens, W. It may be remembered that this firm persisted for a long time in printing on their circulars a garbled extract from TRUTH, conveying a totally false impression of what I had said about them, and that they were only induced to discontinue the publication by a threat of legal proceedings on my behalf. They have now got on their circulars a sheet of testimonials headed thus:—

PROOF.—As the genuineness of our offer has on different occasions been called in question by prejudiced persons, with a view of proving, by independent testimony, the bona-fides of our employment, we reprint the following testimonials and Press notices, originals of which may be seen at our office.

T. SMITH & Co.

Smith's testimonials seem to be worth about as much as his extracts from TRUTH. A gentleman picked out one of these the other day, and wrote to the address given ("Joseph Little, Derrybane Saw-mills, near Rathdrum, co. Wicklow"). The letter was in due course returned through the post with the endorsement "Not known." Doubtless the rest of the testimonials are of much the same character.

That irrepressible swindler, Ernest Day, of 439, Old Kent-road, is now sending out his impudent circulars with a deep mourning border. This is to bear out his story that he has recently come into possession of the prints of which he endeavours to dispose "through the death of a relative," and he still sticks to the old fiction that "the portrait was highly treasured by my relative, and I would not part with it but that necessity compels." This man, as every reader of TRUTH is probably aware, is only a dealer in worthless old prints and similar rubbish, and it is a pity that those on whom he seeks to impose do not prosecute him for endeavouring to obtain money by false pretences.

I am sorry to find that I was mistaken in stating that the publication of the TRUTH article on "The Reappearance of Henry Holmes" had been followed by the disappearance of that individual's advertisements. The advertisements, it seems, are still running in the *Musical Standard*. A musical paper can hardly plead ignorance as an excuse for this proceeding, for though the public have been kept in the dark about them, Holmes's misdeeds have been an open secret in the profession for two years past. I should like to know whether the editor and proprietor of the *Musical Standard* regard Holmes as a fit person to exercise any educational authority over young people. If they have any doubt on the subject, I shall be pleased to submit to them a selection from Holmes's writings now in my possession, which ought to considerably facilitate their decision.

Why do we forbid beggars to solicit alms in the street and leave them free to pester people at will through the post? Surely the latter form of mendicity is quite as much of a nuisance as the former, and it is a nuisance "which has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished." A whole batch of such appeals has come under my notice during the last few days. Here is the first:—

Abberton Rectory, Colchester, June, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—Two of my sisters and I are trying to get a pony, and some sort of conveyance, for our mother, who suffers so very much with rheumatism; we live five miles from the nearest town where it is possible to do any shopping at all, and she finds it impossible to walk there as she used to do. Will you help us with our plan by sending us just *one shilling* towards it, we shall be so glad if you will. Please forgive me for writing to you in this way, but we are so poor, and I saw your name in the list of the "Friends of the Clergy," and so I ventured to write to you. Would you kindly return this letter, so that I may use it again. —I remain, yours truly, A. BEATRIX GUNTER.

For thorough-going impudence this would be hard to beat. "Mamma is getting too infirm to walk five miles to do her shopping, so please help us to buy a pony and trap." The other day the daughter of a Dorsetshire parson was advertising in the *Times* for a bicycle, which she suggested her doctor had recommended her to ride for her health. I took special pains to inquire into this case, and have no doubt that the tale about the doctor was a freak of feminine imagination. Mother's rheumatism in the above case is an equally flimsy pretext, for even granting the rheumatism, the three Misses Gunter ought to be able to do the shopping for their mother. If the truth is that these young ladies don't like the five miles' walk, it is clear that they want the pony and trap quite as much on their own account as on their mother's. The crowning impudence of the thing is the request for the return of the letter. Apparently these damsels even shirk the trouble of writing their own begging-letters. I would ask any other "friends of the clergy," who may be favoured with similar appeals, not to send them back, but to forward them to the Editor of TRUTH.

In view of the foregoing, special interest attaches to the next begging-letter on my list. It is dated from "The Rectory, Little Oakley, Harwich," and is written in a childish hand by Miss Winnie Allen. Miss Winnie states that "Father wants to build a new church," and that she, being only eight years old, is trying to help by collecting £100. This young lady also asks that her letter may be returned, "as they take me so long to write"—a very artful way of putting it. I dare say that "Father" is quite right in trying to rebuild his church, and I hope he may find the money; but I would point out to him, by reference to the Misses Gunter, the evil results of putting children to cadge for money from strangers at so early an age. Perhaps when the Misses Gunter were only eight

Old Marqueterie, Boule, and Carvings restored by art workmen, Regilding of old mounts and of old carvings by the original processes. —F. LITCHFIELD, The Sinclair Galleries, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Pure & wholesome, assists digestion.
BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Guaranteed to be free from alum.
BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. It has the largest sale in the world.

years old they were taught to beg for church, and schools, and similar objects, and the evil habit has grown until here they are to-day begging for a pony and trap for the convenience of their mother—not to mention themselves—when going out shopping.

Here, however, is the gem of the collection. It has been sent during the last week to several ladies whose names have appeared in the first column of the *Times* :—

COPY No. 1.
Chapel-square,
Stanhope,
Durham.

MADAM,—Please excuse the liberty I take in asking your kind consideration. I was betrayed some time since by a man who was married. I did not know at the time that he was married. I thought he was single. He has left me now. Will you help me to raise a little money to start a shop to keep my child and me? Will you send me one shilling, and send a copy of this letter to two of your friends?—Yours,

(Signed) MARY CARRUTHERS.

Here we have the begging letter combined with the fashionable snowball. The document is type-written, and appears to have been sent out in all directions, so that Miss Mary evidently hopes to set a few dozen snowballs rolling for the benefit of herself and baby, with a shilling coming in at every turn. Should this meet the eye of any neighbour in Durham who happens to know Miss Carruthers, I shall feel grateful for further information about the lady.

I am indebted to a gentleman who has been studying some of my remarks on the extortion practised by money-lenders, for a very useful suggestion on the subject of limitation of interest. This gentleman tells me that it is a rule of law in the East, a rule still upheld in the Indian Native States, that the interest is not to be calculated until the principal has been discharged. This is a most excellent rule, and gets rid at once of all complications connected with the repayment of loans by instalments, as well as depriving the lender of any right to interest upon interest. The same gentleman also suggests that, where a loan on a promissory note or other personal security has been paid off by instalments, the security should be considered as cancelled, so that after this point any provision in the document respecting the rate of interest should cease to be operative, and the lender be merely entitled to a statutory rate of interest, say 5 per cent. Is there any reason why some provision of this kind should not be incorporated in the Bills of Exchange, and Bills of Sale Acts?

A year or two ago, when the subject of dentistry was under discussion in TRUTH, special reference was made, at the instance of a well-known London dentist, to the urgent need of a more systematic attention to teeth in schools under public control. This point is again very clearly brought out in a little pamphlet entitled "What the Dentist can do for the State," by Mr. G. Cunningham, L.D.S., dental surgeon to the London Hospital, the pamphlet being a reprint of a paper read at last year's meeting of the British Dental Association. A cobbler thinks that there is nothing like leather, and a dentist naturally thinks that there is nothing like dentistry; but when one has made allowance for professional sentiment, I have no doubt that systematic attention to the teeth of children has a most important bearing upon their happiness in after life. I suppose, too, that unsound teeth are one of the consequences of civilisation in its present shape, and that if we recognise that the public health is a question of first public importance, we ought to look after the teeth as well as the rest of the anatomy.

Mr. Cunningham gives some striking statistics showing the prevalence of bad teeth among children in English and Scotch schools, and in one instance at least, that of the training-ship *Exmouth*, he shows the good results which have followed from the appointment of a properly qualified dental attendant. The Metropolitan Poor Law authorities have lately shown a proper appreciation of their duties in this respect towards the children in their schools; and I see no reason why the subject should not be taken up by School Boards, and all public authorities who have children under their care. It is also, as has been already pointed out in TRUTH, a matter which demands attention in the Army and Navy, where ordinary medical treatment is already provided by Government, but where dentistry is strangely overlooked.

I wonder whether all my readers know the value of old artificial teeth when they contain gold in any quantity. If they do not, I should advise them to get good advice on the subject before selling, for there is an enormous demand for such articles in the advertisement columns of the papers, and I suspect that a good deal of swindling is done in the trade. There is one advertisement in which those who have teeth for sale are recommended to apply to a manufacturing dentist rather than to a wardrobe buyer. A lady responded to this advertisement the other day, and got an offer of £1 for her set, but, being dissatisfied with the offer, she took the goods to a pawnbroker, who at once offered her £2. 14s. for them. If, therefore, a manufacturing dentist is a better purchaser than an old clothes merchant, a pawnbroker would seem to have the advantage of both.

Here is a curious example of preferential railway rates in favour of the foreigner. The Great Eastern Railway Company advertises a cheap circular tour from Brussels to Glasgow and Edinburgh for £2. 14s. A Scotchman inquired whether he could go the same tour at the same price, but starting from Edinburgh instead of Brussels. The answer was that in that case the fare would be £3. 19s., so that for carrying a Scotchman £1. 5s. more is charged than for carrying a Belgian. It may be that this difference is prompted by the reluctance of the railway concerned to tempt Scotchmen to spend their money elsewhere than at home. If so, it is really an

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MORTLOCK'S China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

indirect compliment to the free and easy way in which Scotchmen spend their money. But I fear Scotchmen will be the last to appreciate the compliment.

There was a discussion at the meeting of the Swansea Corporation, the other day, which throws an interesting light upon their notions of the functions of such a body. A plan for some new houses had been thrice rejected by the Sanitary Committee, on the ground that it did not comply with the building by-laws, but on a fourth application, when the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee were absent, the plan was passed. Those who defended the final action of the committee in the Council did not deny that the plan violated the bye-laws. What they argued was that such a thing had been done before, and that they were entitled to do it again—in fact, two worthy councillors, named Freeman and Skidmore, actually contended that the object and business of the committee was not so much to see that the bye-laws were enforced as to exercise their "discretion" in permitting them to be relaxed. Everybody can imagine what is meant by the "discretion" of a Corporation committee in such matters, and after this surprisingly frank avowal the ratepayers of Swansea will doubtless be curious to ascertain in whose interests the bye-laws are occasionally waived.

Considering that paupers who simply abscond from the workhouse, and so rid the ratepayers of the burden of their maintenance, are liable to three months' imprisonment, it seems well-nigh incredible that a fine of £20 is the maximum penalty prescribed by the Legislature for the Poor-law officer who embezzles hundreds of pounds of the ratepayers' money. I am not surprised, therefore, at the receipt of several letters drawing attention to the case, at Chatham, of one Passby, a relieving officer under the Medway Guardians. As relieving officer and collector, Passby had purloined sums amounting to £146. 11s. 8d. There were two charges, and the Stipendiary Magistrate ordered him to pay a penalty of £20, with costs in respect of each, together with the amount he had embezzled—altogether £191. 13s. This was, indeed, a ludicrously inadequate penalty, but, in accordance with the Act 4 & 5 William IV., c. 76, it is all that can be imposed upon any officer employed by or under a Board of Guardians, no matter what the extent of his defalcations may be. So tender is the law towards such offenders that in default of payment a distress warrant has to be issued, and it is only when there are no—or insufficient—effects to satisfy the warrant that the offender has to go to prison, and then only for three months for each offence, without hard labour. The only exception that can be taken to the action of the Chatham Stipendiary in this case is that he made the two sentences on Passby in default of payment concurrent, instead of consecutive, so reducing his punishment for embezzling £146 to three months' imprisonment.

BRANDAUER'S CIRCULAR-POINTED PENS. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

Periodically some enthusiastic Semite puts forwards a plan for a Jewish State in Palestine, and if Jews like to go there and can induce the Sultan to guarantee to them the autonomy for which they profess to be anxious, by all means let the bargain be struck. But what would the Jews do there? They are a practical race; their main business is to act as intermediaries in the commercial and monetary transactions of the world. They are neither manufacturers nor agriculturists. Even if they were, a worse country for either of these industries cannot well be conceived. The proposal is about as reasonable as it would be to send a colony of sheep-shearers to a land where there are no sheep to shear.

I do not believe that the British Empire Zollverein is within the area of practical politics, because I doubt whether the inhabitants of these isles would agree to a duty of 1s. per quarter on foreign food supplies, and I am certain that for this *quid pro quo* the Colonies would not consent to let in all our manufactured goods duty free. This objection is far more fatal to the proposal than its denunciation by the Cobden Club as contrary to Free Trade; neither Protection nor Free Trade being, to my thinking, a dogma which precludes a consideration of each special case on its merits. Where I am with Mr. Chamberlain is that, instead of dealing in vague generalities respecting a closer union with our colonies, he pointed to the sacrifices that we and they would have to make in order to make this closer union anything beyond a pious opinion.

Apropos of Mr. Chamberlain's Zollverein scheme, an anonymous correspondent writes:—

> The principal product that Australia exports is wool, and some £20,000,000 worth of that article comes yearly to London for sale. Buyers from the Continent and America take two-thirds, or nearly so, of the whole—say, to the value of £13,000,000. If therefore Australia agreed to a preferential tariff in favour of Britons, Frenchmen and Germans would put their backs up at once, and would doubtless retaliate by placing an import duty on Australian wool. Where the benefit would come in Australians do not quite see.

I never accept facts on anonymous authority, but if the above figures are correct (which those "in the know" can decide for themselves in a moment) the argument is sound enough, and well illustrates the sort of mischief which the proposed Imperial Customs Union would bring about.

The humble efforts of the House of Commons to recognise woman's rights by substituting waitresses for waiters on the Terrace have come in for castigation. Now there is an outcry against ladies being allowed to come on the Terrace and be served by our waitresses. But why should not ladies be permitted a cup of tea and a strawberry on the Terrace? What harm does it do any one? In the Palace of the People female visitors are given refreshments, and are allowed to attire themselves as they please; in the Palace of the Sovereign they get no refreshments, and have to put feathers on their heads and drag behind them a lengthy train. Surely our way

TYPEWRITERS AND CYCLES FOR SALE OR HIRE. Great bargains in Standard Machines.—N. TAYLOR, Manager, 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

of showing respect to the fair sex is the more reasonable. Votes I am against giving to ladies; but tea and strawberries they ought to have.

But if I may venture a hint to the ladies, I would suggest to them that they should not hang about on the stairs leading from the lobbies to the Terrace. Here they are very much in the way, and they render it difficult for the ardent senator to fulfil his senatorial duties. Whenever a bell rings for a division, ladies should take it as a signal to clear the course. Last week I was on the Terrace. The division bell rang. On the staircase were two ladies. They were blessed with such opulent charms that they blocked the staircase, and they stood and talked. "Well," said one, "did you look through the window into the House of Commons?" "Oh, yes," replied the other, "but you need not trouble to go, I only saw a quantity of old frumps." On this I waxed bold, and said, "Ladies, behind you is an old frump who will be late for the division if you do not let him go by." The opulent ladies kindly made a narrow passage between them to let me by, and through this I managed to squeeze, blushing deeply. But I was late for the division. If this sort of thing is to go on, we shall have to oppose sex to sex, and a Member will have to get one of the Terrace waitresses personally to conduct him from the Terrace to the door of the House.

FROM THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

Picked up at the House of Commons on Tuesday near the seat of the Honourable and Gallant Member for West Ham.

THE BURIAL OF THE EDUCATION BILL.

Not a sigh was heard, not a tear-drop fell,
From the seats where our men sat serried,
There only arose a joyful yell
As the Bill that we loathed was buried.

We buried it gladly at half-past four,
The ground of amendments clearing,
Whilst over the Table there came a roar
Of the Radicals loudly cheering.

It bore no marks of deserved defeat,
No laurels of victory crowned it;
But it lay collapsed in its foolscap sheet,
With a yard of red-tape around it.

Short but strong were the words that we said,
And we showed not a sign of sorrow,
But we bitterly thought, with a pang of dread,
What the papers would say on the morrow.

We knew they would censure it, now it had gone,
And o'er it's dead clauses upbraid it:
But little care we, if it only sleeps on
In the grave where a Balfour has laid it!

That "independent thinking is dying out," as Lord Rosebery opines, is a somewhat doubtful proposition, because independent thinking has been the exception rather than the rule from all time. In the Garden of Eden, Eve let the Serpent think for her, and then used her influence over Adam to force on him what that Serpent had impressed on her mind. Men have always been sheepishly inclined, and this characteristic applies even more to their minds than to their bodies. The aim of Party politics just now is to crush out independent thought and to convert the many into the pawns of the few. It is the party machine rather than the newspapers that strikes at independent thought.

Lord Rosebery, however, ascribes this decadence of independent thought to the vast number of magazines and newspapers. This might be correct if all these publications were themselves of the same way of thinking. But they are not, and consequently a man who takes his opinions from them would have no opinion. I never have believed in the influence of the Press on public opinion. What newspapers do is to furnish each phase of thought with phrases wherewith to defend in conversation opinions already formed. The London daily Press is in the hands of some dozen individuals. Like Majesty, each newspaper assumes the grandiose "we," and postures as an oracle. But the fact that "we" is a vague and anonymous entity is fatal to all influence. I should say that a provincial newspaper, whose proprietor or editor is a known man in the locality through which the newspaper circulates, exercises far more influence over public opinion in that locality than all the London dailies combined. Provincial newspapers are read in the localities they serve; metropolitan daily articles are seldom read, even in London, the purchasers of London papers being fonder of news than of articles.

What is a newspaper? It is a commercial undertaking for making money by means of advertisements. To obtain advertisements, circulation is needed, and circulation is only secured by publishing the news of the day. But the proprietor likes to air his own views, for what they are worth. Those who agree with him regard him as a wise man; those who disagree with him, as an ass. But I never yet knew any one whose own views were ever changed by an argumentative article, although they may perhaps sometimes be by evidence of fact. Whence then do individuals derive their opinions, if they neither think themselves, nor allow others to think for them? This is a difficult question to answer. In politics, some seem to come into the world with a bias one way or the other, and this bias is confirmed, but only in the rarest cases modified, by communication with their fellow men.

The Government still bravely endeavour to keep up a virtuous pretence that the Agricultural Rating Bill is not a measure for the benefit of the landowners, but some of the latter are already beginning to give away the show. Here is an instructive passage from a circular which Mr. Price, the owner of the Rhiwlas Estate, near Bala, has addressed to his tenants. It is as clear a confession as could be desired that this gentleman regards the Bill as expressly designed to save him from the necessity of reducing his rents, or, in other words, to maintain his income at its present level at the expense of the national Exchequer. Mr. Price, who is under the impression that

CYCLING SUITS are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

the Bill has already been "actually passed into law," says he wishes to draw attention to the following facts:—

That the Conservative Government have this session passed a measure by which it is arranged that exactly one-half of all the rates payable by you shall be paid out of the Imperial Exchequer, so that where before you were paying £1 in rates, you will now only pay 10s. And, also, you will have to pay only 1s. out of every 4s. land-tax; the other 3s. will be paid by the Government. This I calculate amounts to very closely upon a reduction of 8 per cent. upon the rents of each tenant on the Rhiwlas Estate, and amounts to exactly the same thing as if I were to send Mr. Watkins round to you, and say, that I decided to reduce your rent £8 in each £100, and the same in lesser proportions.

Whether there is to be a Commission or a Parliamentary Committee to inquire into all and everything connected with the Chartered Company is unimportant, provided that the inquiry be a thorough one. On the face of it, probably a Committee would be the better; but against this is the fact that, owing to the Jameson trial, the Committee could not sit until next year. If it is to be a Commission, this, it has been suggested, should consist of a Judge and of two ex-Governors of Colonies absolutely independent of all connection either with South Africa or with South African finance. But the difficulty seems to me to be to decide how evidence against the Company is to be submitted. We have to deal with wealthy, astute, and unscrupulous persons, who will do their best to whitewash themselves and their Company. Some machinery must therefore be called into existence to present the other side of the case. The Government, I believe, are not prepared to allow the Treasury Solicitors to act as prosecutors. The difficulty might to a certain extent be got over were there a Committee; for there are precedents for M.P.s being put on a Committee without votes, practically to act as prosecutors.

Mr. Rochfort Maguire registers, as the personal representative of Mr. Rhodes on the Board of the Company, a protest against the action of his colleagues, which, he thinks, will be injurious to the Company, and is cruel to the Europeans in Rhodesia in their hour of trial. These Europeans, however, are well aware that their hour of trial is due to Mr. Rhodes's Transvaal gamble, and that he is not likely to be of the slightest use in the suppression of the outbreak. Indeed, his having taken away most of the valid men from Mashonaland in order to protect him in his cautious advance into Matabeleland seems to be the cause why the Mashonas have joined the Matabele.

There is no nonsense about these Rhodesians. Most of them have gone there to make money by bringing out as Companies mining claims more or less problematic, and thus obtaining some of the savings of the British investor. As a Company-promoter Mr. Rhodes is a past-master. So long, therefore, as he was at the head of the Chartered Company, the Rhodesians hoped to continue under his auspices the game of "flotation." They cling to him as drowning men cling to straws. I can very well imagine that they had no sort of objection to have with them Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit. In their position, and with their aims, so should I. But that either South Africa or even Rhodesia would really benefit by a fresh boom in all the rotten Companies which might be hatched with the aid of these two worthies is more than doubtful. Of paying gold there seems none in Rhodesia. The Naboth-vineyard attempts to rob territory rich in gold from neighbours cannot well be renewed. I do not believe that for many a year the country will pay its costs. If the Rhodesians like to turn to honest farming instead of Company-promoting, they may possibly make a livelihood—but little more than a livelihood. I do not think that they quite realise that there is little probability of even the most sanguine of asses enabling them to grow rich by taking shares in Companies of magnificent promises. Let them remember the "once bit" proverb.

So the "resignation" of Mr. Rhodes, as it is termed, has been "accepted;" or, in other words, the Directors of the Company have been brought, under the gentle but firm pressure of Mr. Chamberlain, to see the necessity for dismissing him, notwithstanding the protests of his representative over here, Mr. Maguire. This is well alike for South Africa and the good name of the Empire. Of course, after the investigation of all connected with this ill-omened Chartered Company, Mr. Rhodes will be put on his trial. If the ciphered telegrams are correct, he has been guilty not only of a wicked conspiracy, but of the basest conduct, to Sir Hercules Robinson, to Mr. Chamberlain, and to Dr. Jameson.

Mr. Rhodes applied the ethics of Company-promoting to politics, and he lowered the standard that it has been the pride of British Statesmen to maintain. He has made, it is said, a large private fortune by his Company speculations, and he used his position as a trusted Statesman to make it. Since Lobengula was—as he stated—cheated out of a concession, I have protested against the doings of the Rhodes gang, and of our official connection with them. Every word that I have said has been proved correct, only "more so." Bad faith, rapacity, and cruelty have dogged the steps of this Chartered Company. It is now ruined. The iniquitous raid in order to bolster up its finances has culminated in an outbreak in the territories administered by it, caused—as the *Times* correspondent tells us—by the looting of the cattle of the natives, and by the attempt to make them work in the mines as a condition of their getting back what was their own.

In accepting the resignation of Mr. Rhodes, the Directors of the Company inform Mr. Rhodes that he has rendered great services to the Empire. They are welcome to the opinion; for, with all respect to the Dukes of Abercorn and Fife, Lord Gifford, and Sir Horace Farquhar, no one cares one button what their opinion may be in this matter. If they had no cognisance of the occurrences in the Transvaal in December and January last, they are not fit for their posts. The least that they can do is to return their salaries and all moneys made by them through trafficking in their Companies' shares.

I regret the lives that have been taken by the natives of Rhodesia. But I am not surprised at it. They are savages, but nothing that they can do can exceed in cruelty the mode in which they have been treated by civilized men. The record of the doings of the Company towards the natives has been a black page in the history of our country. As was once said of the Turkish Empire, the Company has been a negation of God on earth.

SCRUTATOR.

PARLIAMENT ON THE DOWN GRADE.

CARRYING back my mind to those long past days before I had the honour to be a Member of the House of Commons, I realise how little any one who is not a Member either knows or wants to know about its rules of procedure. And yet nothing probably has a larger share in the destinies of the country. This is why I recur this week to the subject.

Look into the pages of Wraxall's Memoirs, a book somewhat wearisome owing to repetitions, but which gives a fair idea of the inner life of the House of Commons at the end of the last and at the commencement of the present century. The people had then very little to do with the selection of Members. The House of Commons was a popular assembly only in name. But, nevertheless, it was far more powerful than it is now. Nothing of importance was undertaken by the Executive without its opinion being asked for. When anything was undertaken every successive step was again and again discussed. A Ministerial majority was not the mechanical thing then that it is now. Lord North and Mr. Fox were both deserted by their majorities, and in the very first Session that Mr. Pitt, with a vast majority at his back, confronted Parliament as Prime Minister he had to give up several measures that he had brought forward, in deference to the disapproval of his own supporters.

Much the same was the state of things thirty years ago. When I first entered Parliament closure was unknown, and there was no attempt to prevent any important Bill passing during a Session by means of much talking. And yet full control was maintained over the Executive. There were many hours expended on the Estimates, and any one might, each time that the House went into Committee on them, raise whatever question seemed good to him; whilst if he did not find these opportunities sufficient, he could always provoke a debate on any evening by bringing forward a subject, and stating that he would "conclude with a motion," *i.e.*, the adjournment of the House.

Now, how was this all done? By having no time limit for the conclusion of the sitting. Generally speaking, the House sat until well into the small hours of the night, and any one who suggested that it ought to rise at one or two o'clock because it was getting late, would have been deemed a poor sleepy creature. The time limit, I therefore contend, is the cause of the paralysis of the House, not only as a legislative machine, but as a controlling body over the Executive. It will be said that the Session may be continued well into the autumn without adjournment, or that, after an adjournment, it may be continued in November. Theoretically, this is true; practically, it is not. Occasionally recourse (although even this causes much grumbling) may be had to one of these expedients, but public opinion amongst members is so strongly against both, that either must always be the exception, not the rule. Again and again I have heard Ministers declare that, until their programme is carried out, the House will sit on. This is mere *brutum fulmen*, because they cannot count on their own supporters to aid them to carry into effect the threat. The great majority of the members are as determined not to be overworked, as are the most ardent of trade unionists. A certain period of the year they are ready to devote to the affairs of the nation, but a very substantial period they insist upon devoting to their own avocations, whether these avocations be of business or of pleasure.

There is no probability of any proposal being adopted to put an end to the time limit of midnight for the sittings. Why members should be so desirous to go to bed at midnight I do not know. But they are. Nor, with the necessity of sitting on Committees in the morning, could the sittings well commence before three o'clock. We must dismiss any attempt to get over the time limit as regards the hours during which the House sits on each working day. If anything, therefore, is to be effected, it must be to do away with the sessional time limit. Will any one show me how this can be done in any other way than by putting an end to the present system of dividing the lifetime of a Parliament into Sessions? I know of none, and I know of no advantage that is gained by these sessional divisions of time. Of late years we have frequently tinkered at the rules of procedure. The only result of our tinkering has been to make confusion worse confounded. Under our present rules, the House of Commons, with ever-increasing business thrust upon it, is the very worst machine to transact business that can be conceived by the mind of man. Very little business can be got through. What is done is accomplished in a perfunctory and unsatisfactory manner; whilst, owing to the impossibility of exercising control, the centre of political power has been shifted from the direct representatives of the people to the Executive. Mr. Balfour has admitted that the rules need changing. Let him, then, explain how he would have them changed. As it is, there is a conspiracy to do nothing, between those who are avowedly desirous of reducing representative government to ridicule and contempt and those who secretly desire this. If Mr. Balfour can show any better means than that which I suggest, to make the House of Commons an efficient legislative and controlling machine, then let him submit it to the House of Commons; if not, let him adopt my plan. The actual state of things is a disgrace to the country, and it is sapping all respect for Parliamentary rule, greatly to the

A Fair Beautiful Skin.—By washing with Sulpholine Soap the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion is ensured.

delight of those who would reduce that rule to a minimum, and strengthen the power of the Crown, of the Lords, and of the Executive. What our Executive is may be estimated by the fact, that one-half of the present Cabinet consists of Peers, and most of the other half is made up of men who are Peers' relatives. The selection of a Premier is becoming more and more dependent on the Crown, and less and less on the people. This may suit the Conservatives, but it is fatal to the advance of Democracy, for the Crown will, whenever there is a Liberal majority in the Commons, select as Premier some nobleman whose mission is, under the guise of Liberal professions, to take care that there is no Radical performance.

MORE CAVALRY RUFFIANISM.

The experience of Lieutenants Hodge and Bruce in the 4th Hussars, as I have pointed out in my remarks on those cases, has an interest far beyond that of the two individuals primarily concerned. The cases are of public importance as examples of a form of misconduct which there is every reason to believe is chronic in certain cavalry regiments. Since the first reference to the Bruce case in TRUTH a dozen stories of the bullying of unpopular subs. or the boycotting of men of limited means have come to hand. One of them occurred in India only a few weeks ago, and for this reason, as well as for the disgraceful character of the facts, it calls for special notice.

The regiment this time is the 20th Hussars, now stationed at Mhow. Only about two months ago a subaltern joined this regiment, who, for some reason or other, was not acceptable to one or more of his brother officers. The story current in Service circles in India is that another subaltern who had known him previously had a grudge against him. At any rate, it seems to have been decided almost before the lad joined to make things uncomfortable for him. A few days after he joined, a party of his brother officers took him down to the riding school. They took off his overalls, put him on a horse barebacked, and made him gallop round the school. They seem to have armed themselves with whips to keep up the fun, and instead of whipping the horse, they laid on freely across the back and body of the unfortunate subaltern, until he was half flayed. When the torture was over, his tormentors told him that if he went to hospital it would be the worse for him. The poor wretch was so frightened that he did his best to obey this injunction, but his injuries were so serious that he was obliged at last to go to hospital, when, of course, the facts became known. Some attempt seems to have been made to hush them up, but they are now the common talk of the district. I may add that, in this instance, I have had no communication either from the regiment or from any friend of the victim of this outrage. The facts were privately narrated by an officer in another regiment to an officer in London, who thought the case of so much public importance that he mentioned it to me. It therefore comes quite independently of the 4th Hussars case, of which the officer who sent the facts to London appears to be entirely ignorant.

Now here is a case fresh and up to date. The War Office have no excuse for saying here, as in the case of Mr. Hodge, that it all occurred so long ago as to make investigation impossible. The exact truth can be elicited without the slightest difficulty, and some inquiry ought to be held at once in order to elicit it. For the reason that I have just mentioned, I do not profess to give this story on the personal evidence of any one who has been immediately connected with the occurrence. It may be that in course of transmission mistakes or exaggerations have occurred. But—and this is an additional reason for giving prominence to it—the story as reproduced above is freely told and believed in Service circles in Bombay, and if the facts were not as described, it is highly necessary, if only in the interest of the regiment concerned, that the allegations should be disproved. On the other hand, if the statements are accurate, this is a case in which there can be no excuse whatever for not administering that lesson which seems to be so badly needed in certain cavalry regiments. I would therefore strongly urge upon both the Commander-in-Chief, as well as the Parliamentary representatives of the War Office, the necessity of a prompt and searching inquiry into this case. There can be no question that this evil of bullying has existed for years more or less unchecked, and, as might be expected under these circumstances, it appears to be a growing evil. For the credit of the whole Army, not less than in the interest of every youngster who joins, it behoves the authorities to put it down with a strong hand whenever an opportunity presents itself; and if after the outcry that there has been over the recent cases in the 4th Hussars, the Commander-in-Chief and his advisers show any disposition to wink at these detestable practices, to let the facts be hushed up, or to screen the offenders from the punishment they so richly deserve, it will necessarily follow that these abominations will continue to grow, until no gentleman will wish to join a cavalry regiment, and no father will take the risk of putting his son into one.

It will be convenient here to refer to the facts in connection with the race for the 4th Hussars' Subalterns' Cup at the Aldershot Cavalry Meeting in 1895, with which I promised last week to deal. There are certain points in regard to this case which are clear, others which require further elucidation. What is certain seems to be this: a horse named Lady Margaret, which had won a race on the previous day, started a hot favourite for the Subalterns' Cup at odds on. Five horses ran, among them being a horse described as Surefoot, against whom about 6 to 1 was laid at starting. To the astonishment of everybody, and more especially the backers of Lady Margaret, Surefoot won easily, Lady Margaret running second to him. Nevertheless, the names of Lady Margaret and her owner were subsequently engraved upon the Cup as having won the race. Some months afterwards certain allegations in regard to the running were laid before the War Office, and

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were referred by the War Office to the Stewards of the National Hunt. After investigating the charges, the Stewards pronounced a decision by which all the horses which ran in the race were disqualified for any future races under National Hunt rules. This decision was presumably communicated to the War Office. Whether the officers concerned were called upon to furnish the War Office with any explanation is not known, but no further action of any kind has been taken in regard to the race. So much is certain. What the precise irregularity in connection with the running of Surefoot and Lady Margaret really was it is impossible to say for certain, but the story generally current, and which has already been put forward in Truth, is that the so-called Surefoot was not that animal at all, but another horse started under his name. I feel entitled to assume that this was really the case, because in March last the question was pointedly asked in Truth whether there was any ground for the current allegation that another horse had been run under the name of Surefoot, and although I invited any of the officers of the regiment to explain what the real truth of the matter was, nothing in the shape of a denial or explanation has been put forward. It seems to me incredible that if the facts as then stated had been open to correction, the regiment would not have thought it incumbent upon them to correct them. That some serious irregularity did take place is clear from the decision of the Stewards of the National Hunt, and if the irregularity consisted in running a horse not entered for the race under an assumed name, and thereby defeating a favourite on which considerable sums of money had been laid, the irregularity undoubtedly justifies up to the hilt the course which the Stewards took. The question then arises, on what ground have the War Office decided that it is unnecessary to take any official notice of these facts. By one of the apologists of the regiment it has been stated to me that the War Office came to the conclusion that the five gentlemen concerned merely erred through ignorance of the laws of racing, and not with any dishonourable intention. A statement has also reached me that on the day before the race some consultation had taken place as to the permissibility of running another horse in the place of Surefoot, either because Surefoot was out of sorts, or for some similar reason; that it was then agreed among the officers that this should be done; and that it was generally known, at any rate among the officers, that the horse run as Surefoot was really a different animal.

I cannot say that these arguments strike me as very convincing. If there was any arrangement among the officers that another horse, and, as it turned out, a horse of much superior class, should be substituted for Surefoot, who was generally regarded as not having a chance in the race, the question at once arises, How many persons were aware of this, and what steps were taken to inform those who seem to have been freely backing Lady Margaret up to the moment when the race was started that they had to reckon with another unknown horse whose name was not on the card? Clearly everybody who was backing Lady Margaret ought to have been informed of the whole circumstances. It also seems to me that all bets previously made on Lady Margaret ought to have been off. If precautions of this kind for the protection of those who were not "in the know" were not taken, I am afraid that the plea of ignorance will not weigh as much with the general public as it seems to have done with the authorities at the War Office. To ask one to believe that five gentlemen so intimately associated with the Turf as seems to be required of subalterns in crack cavalry regiments, regularly attending race meetings, and owning, running, and backing their own horses, could be such mere babes in Turf usage as not to see the impropriety of running in this way a horse not known to be entered for the race, is a very large order on one's credulity. But even if the subalterns of the 4th Hussars are to be credited with this infantile simplicity, the rule on which justice is administered outside the Army—and, so far as I know, inside the Army also—is that *ignorantia legis neminem excusat.* It would seem that this principle was adopted by the Stewards of the National Hunt, and they would certainly have been opening the door to some very strange occurrences had they taken a different course. Why the War Office should adopt a different standard of ethics I do not precisely see.

However, all this is more or less conjecture. Nobody knows for certain what took place in regard to this race; nobody knows for certain what action the War Office really have taken. Seeing that such facts as are known have been widely circulated in the Press, and that very unfavourable inferences may reasonably be drawn from them, I think that for the credit of the Army at large, to say nothing of this particular regiment, the exact state of the case ought to be made known. The matter, as I said last week, has a special bearing upon the cases of Lieutenants Hodge and Bruce, from the fact that the five subalterns whose horses were entered for this race at Aldershot were the moving spirits in the dinner given a few weeks after at the Nimrod Club for the purpose of informing Mr. Bruce that this distinguished regiment was not disposed to receive him as an officer. That the gentlemen who thus took upon themselves to veto a War Office appointment should themselves have been concerned in a transaction which has incurred the censure of the National Hunt Stewards is, to say the least, highly interesting. Again, two of these same officers were also personally concerned in the brutal ill-treatment of Mr. Hodge a few months previously. In the case more particularly of Mr. Hodge certain officers of the 4th Hussars have forfeited all right to be looked upon as gentlemen, and if men are guilty of blackguardly conduct in one direction, they may be in another. Moreover, if the Commander-in-Chief and his advisers are capable of winking at what the Stewards of the National Hunt consider irregular conduct, merely out of consideration

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for the youth and innocence of the individuals concerned, they also may be equally capable of winking at the brutal outrages upon Mr. Hodge, or the avowed conspiracy to get rid of Mr. Bruce, from similar considerations. The public, and the Service at large, have a right to know two things: (1) the precise degree of misconduct which is considered compatible with the position of an "officer and gentleman" in the 4th Hussars; (2) the precise attitude of the Commander-in-Chief and the War Office towards the various allegations against these particular "officers and gentlemen." After the personal investigation by Lord Wolseley and Sir Redvers Buller, which has now been promised, it is to be hoped that full enlightenment on these points will speedily be forthcoming.

THE GREAT GAS-METER SWINDLE.

Mr. Lough last week asked a timely question of the President of the Board of Trade on the gas-meter question, and Mr. Ritchie's answer should bring home to the inhabitants of London how they stand in this matter. For reasons which have been pretty clearly indicated in Truth during the last month, the chronic grievance of the London householder against his gas-meter—or rather the gas company's meter—has lately become acute. The first quarter of 1895 was an exceptional one in the consumption of gas. At the end of January a hard frost set in, and lasted with unabated severity till the early part of March. With the frost came the usual proportion of London fog and dark weather. For five or six weeks every man who owns a gas-fire had that fire pretty constantly burning at full pressure, and many who have no gas-fires burned an extra allowance of gas for the sake of warmth, to say nothing of the extra consumption for lighting purposes. The corresponding quarter of the current year was in every respect a complete contrast. In place of the frost we had exceptionally mild weather from Christmas to Lady Day, and less than the usual allowance of foggy and dark days. The consumption of gas during the quarter must be presumed, therefore, to have been below the average. Yet when the bills came in at the end of the quarter the vast majority of householders found to their astonishment that they were charged for a far higher consumption than in the first quarter of 1895. In some cases the increase amounted to 25 per cent. or more, the man who paid £5 in 1895 having to pay £6 or £7 in 1896.

This seems to have led to a general loss of confidence in the honesty of gas-meters, and large numbers of householders have set the usual machinery in motion for having these contrivances tested. From such evidence as reaches me, I should say that in a large proportion of cases the meters when weighed in the County Council balance were found wanting. But in the end the victim gains little by their victory. What provision the law may have made for his benefit in such a case I do not know, nor does it much matter. Even if the law is not, as (by the wisdom of our ancestors) it is in nearly all these cases, on the side of the monopolist and against the public, it is of little use for a private individual to enter on a legal contest with a wealthy corporation over a question of a few shillings. Whatever the law may say, the practical result of the condemnation of a gas-meter is generally that the gas company offers a trifling rebate in the bill for the last quarter, and declines to disgorge a half-penny of the proceeds of its gas-meter's frauds during the previous quarters. All that the householder gains is a new meter, and he is lucky if he does not find that he has only exchanged King Log for King Stork.

The extent to which the London public must be plundered every year by the fraudulent conduct of gas-meters is appalling to calculate. I have heard during the last month of some twenty or thirty instances in which meters have been tested and found defective, and in every case the error has been in favour of the Company. I never heard of a case in which a meter was found on trial to be correct, or to be making mistakes in favour of the consumer. From this it would seem to be a legitimate inference that most London gas-meters are inaccurate, and that the error is always on the side of the Company. The Company take good care that the error is not the other way. Has it never occurred to any of my readers to have a new meter fixed by the Company without warning or reason given? It is a thing constantly done, and what does it mean? It means that the Company are dissatisfied with their little representative in the basement. He is too honest for them. Perhaps they suspect that he is making the consumer a present of a few farthings' worth of gas per quarter without putting it down. So out he comes, and in goes a new marker, warranted to put down every foot consumed, and a trifle over. Under this head a gentleman in the North of London gives me an experience which will be very amusing reading to a gas shareholder. The Company condemned his old meter (with which the householder himself was none too pleased), and put in a new machine. Up went the gas bill in the most gratifying way. The householder struck, the meter was tested, and the verdict was "2·28 per cent. too fast." A third meter was put in, and in the next eight weeks the consumption registered was little less than one-third of what it had been during the preceding eight weeks. Allowing for the difference in daylight, it would seem from the practical result that the second of the three meters was nearer 288 per cent. than 2·88 per cent. too fast. This is the sort of galloper that the Company start when they are dissatisfied with the pace of an old meter. I suspect that they have other resources besides the speed of their meters. Even granted that half the meters in London are "too fast," it has still to be explained what made them all go so much faster in the first three months of 1896 than in the first three months of 1895. Is the man who takes the figures sometimes even faster than the meter? I fancy so. And is there any ingenious arrangement by which gas (or air) can be forced through the meter so that the nominal consumption may be substantially increased without the consumer being aware of the fact? I have heard whispers to that effect.

Well, what are we to do? Mr. Ritchie tells us that

the Board of Trade have no jurisdiction over gas-meters. He can only refer vaguely to "the local authorities—in this case the London County Council;" and what the powers of the County Council are (or are not) the householder knows to his cost already. The moral of it all to my mind is that we must deal with the gas monopolist as we are going, before long I trust, to deal with the water monopolist. We must take these public services out of the hands of private corporations whose first object is to earn dividends for themselves, and vest them in public authority, which will have no object except to administer them in the public interest all round. As long as the gas company retains its present rights and duties every householder must be more or less at its mercy, and the vast majority will tamely submit to any amount of extortion from the feeling that resistance is hopeless. But substitute for this Company a public body like the County Council, which has to be reconstituted by public election every three years, and every householder will have a remedy for his grievance ready to his hand if he chooses to use it—to say nothing of the comforting knowledge that whatever profits are made out of him will go in reduction of his rates. Is this a dangerous and revolutionary policy to propound? I have heard it said so. If Londoners at large are such fools as to believe it, all I can say is that they must make the best of things as they are.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A "PRINCE ALMOST."

THE Duc de Nemours was a "Prince Almost." He just missed filling many grand situations. He *almost* received the baptism of fire at the siege of Antwerp; was *almost* the accepted suitor of Queen Victoria; and he had a very narrow miss of being Regent of France in the Comte de Paris' minority. Nothing seemed more likely than that he would fill that office a few days before the Revolution of 1848 sent his whole family into exile. An Act of Parliament secured him the Regency. Worshippers of the rising sun had flocked for three or four years to his soirées at the Palais Royal. They were far more aristocratic assemblies than those at the Tuileries. It was whispered that the Duc was *almost* a Legitimist. He had a lovely wife, who from bashfulness used to blush like the break of day whenever she found she called forth admiration. The Duc was as shy as she was, but not in the same interesting way. His reluctance to come out of his shell was set down to hauteur and want of sympathy with the non-aristocratic. His pose, acquired from dancing and fencing masters, and the habit of appearing on the steps of the Throne, gave him an air of style. His figure was tall and elegant, it had adapted itself early to trousers with under-sole straps, military buckram, a whalebone corset, and to the last it remained erect. His profile had a look of Henry IV., but the front face betrayed weakness. It was said of the Duc that he was *almost* an *imbécile*—a too strong word to fit his mental capacities or incapacities. In his old age he was *almost* a man of large fortune, and would have been so, were it not for the obligation to make heavy allowances to married children and grand-children. The break up of the Imperial throne of Brazil obliged him to add £5,000 a year to the Comte d'Eu's annuity. His fondness for money kept him in the *almost* stage to saintship. Had it not been for this trait of character, his natural piety might have ripened into perfect saintliness. Where he ceased to be "Prince Almost," was in his devotion to his mother, wife, and daughters. The old Queen of the French and the Duc used to tell their beads together at Claremont. The son became her reader when her sight failed. To win the patronage of St. Joseph—the saint who helps mortals to die easy and in an edifying frame of mind—he subjected himself to mortifications and pious exercises.

Though a neat, methodic person, one hardly is surprised at the Duc de Nemours' will not being found. Possibly he made no will. He had little head, unless for financial matters. On the death of his eldest brother, it was arranged that he should be practically the head of the French Army. To this end, a docile War Minister disposed to take his orders was named. The meddling and nervous fussing of the Duc disorganised the whole machine. Hence the rapid success of the Revolution of '48. On the eve of the outbreak all the cavalry of Paris was ordered at his bidding, to put itself in battle array in the Champs Elysées, then hardly in Paris. They took up position at eleven at night, and remained motionless for twelve hours, the men all the time in their saddles. The Revolution roared round the Tuileries and Chamber of Deputies, but the dragoons of "Prince Almost" remained like equestrian statues until the Revolutionists were triumphant. They were then ordered to return to barracks. The Duc forgot all about them in the decisive hour and a half that it took to upset the dynasty. He behaved well in going with the Duchesse d'Orléans and her sons to the Chamber of Deputies. But he lost his head when the mob invaded the Houses, and got separated from the Duchesse and young Princes. Poor De Nemours found himself like a mouse in a trap. He was very unpopular, knew it, and fell in with the proposal to disguise himself in the uniform of a National Guard. Thus accoutred, he marched as one of a sergeant's company, with musket on shoulder and fixed bayonet, to the Invalides, where the Duchesse d'Orléans had taken refuge. For two days he went about Paris in this uniform, trying to organise resistance to the party that had just dethroned his father. The Duchesse d'Orléans showed a higher spirit. She was advised to cut the lace flounces off her dress, but scorned to do so. If she must die, she would perish as became a Princess and the young King's mother.

The Duc de Nemours, on taking refuge in England, was given Bushey House. He kept it all the years that intervened between his return to France twenty-five years ago and his death. The Woods and Forests paid for the repairs and the gardeners; the flowers and vegetables belonged to the Duc. He was extremely tenacious of his "rights." Strollers were not suffered to intrude on his

Kinahan's LL Whisky.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

grounds. He had lost his amiable and beautiful wife at Bushey. This was pleaded as a sentimental excuse for wishing to keep on the house. He really had *la religion de ses souvenirs*, but he was fond of money, and, in the event of a third exile, liked to have a delectable haven for nothing. He lived there like a monk during his short sojourns since 1871. He had become a member of the tierce order of St. Francis. His eldest daughter went into it also, and proposed for her model Saint Clara, the foundress of the Poor Clarisses. The youngest daughter, the Princess Blanche, devoted herself to religious painting. She sent a pictorial offering of her own work to the Pope on the occasion of some great anniversary. It is said that he slyly looked the gift horse in the mouth. The Duc de Nemours did a splendid stroke of business in buying the villa of a defunct soap-boiler in the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne. He sold it to M. Ephrussi, the son-in-law of Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, at a profit of about £70,000. The other residence in the Avenue Kléber was kept for winter use. To economise, he often, with his still unmarried daughter, went to stay for long sojourns at the Hôtel des Réservoirs, at Versailles, and sometimes remained there for four or five months. The sojourns, as he aged, grew regular and longer, and at last almost permanent. This hotel life released him from the care of looking to household expenses and a large domesticity. A valet, a femme de chambre, a lady to go about with the Princess, and a gentleman, Comte de Riancy, formed the suite at the Réservoirs. The Duc, who was proud in a quiet way, felt at Versailles what a grand thing it was to be a Bourbon. He used to haunt the Trianon and those pictorial galleries illustrative of the conquest of Algeria. To the last he kept the pose acquired in the thirties, and had the air of the beau or dandy of high family of that period. The hair and whiskers were carefully brushed; the bearing, though extremely conventional, was distingué. One almost fancied that he still, as when a young cavalry officer, wore under-straps to hold down his trousers, and a corset to give a smart air to his figure. The illusion of the trousers was due to his legs moving, when he walked, as they did when the knee was kept from bending by the tightly-buckled under-straps. He threw out the leg from the hip, without bringing the knee-joint into play. In riding he kept to the very long stirrup which cavalry officers in his youth affected. The Duc de Nemours seldom went to Chantilly. He and the Duc d'Aumale were not in touch. The Duc remained a "liberal," De Nemours became more and more Legitimist; but never to the degree of accepting the Spanish Bourbons. He was deeply concerned to learn that Prince Henri d'Orléans was to be the heir of the Chantilly uncle. The most charming member of the whole kindred was the Duc d'Alençon. He has his mother's beauty, with open-hearted, friendly manners, and a fine spirit that shows itself in his countenance. D'Alençon is the only really affable member of the Orléans family, save his aunt, the Princess Clémentine. His daughter's marriage to a Bavarian Prince was the cause of a deep yearly drain on the Duc de Nemours's purse.

The Duc de Nemours had a high sense of his personal dignity. His gentleman, Comte de Riancy, a Legitimist, reflected it. The Comte and Comtesse de Riancy's habitation was a poky, dingy flat at Versailles. But their reflected lustre was so great that the Rothschilds were glad to be invited to their aristocratic receptions. There was no setting up to give smart parties. Refreshments were scant and inexpensive. The flat could not hold half the guests, who flowed out on to the stairs, where they remained until the Duc and Princess withdrew. The late Emperor and Empress of Brazil and Crown Princess were sometimes the lions of the De Riancy crushes, about which the papers were silent. But the names of guests were circulated in the *monde chic*. To go to these crushes was like being in former times presented at Versailles. The company was so carefully chosen that no introduction was needed. This made conversation easy. Guests chatted informally in the old-fashioned French way. The Austrian Embassy used to attend Mme. de Riancy's soirées.

It has been remarked that the Queen addressed condolences to the Duc d'Alençon, passing over the Comte d'Eu, his eldest brother. The Comte d'Alençon, perhaps, was better known to her. He wants to have the birthright of empty ducal titles. His excuse is that D'Eu, in getting naturalised a Brazilian, ceased to be a French Prince. This view is generally adopted by the family. The late Prince Consort was in love with the Duchess de Nemours when he and she were in their teens at Coburg, and ever after he felt an interest in her, arising from *son premier amour*.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

We are all famous now, dear Lady Betty, especially the infamous. This is the Age of Advertisement. Fix your name upon the minds of the multitude, and the manner by which you do it will quickly be forgotten. You can attain fame through the Divorce Court, through the Criminal Court, through eccentric dressing, through erratic or erotic writing, through singularities and oddities of every kind—through anything, indeed, except through good work contributed steadily and unobtrusively.

Newspaper-made men and women abound on every side, and the number of these great-little people increases so rapidly that attention must be directed to a matter which threatens to develop into a serious evil. The world now knows immeasurably more of its second-rate authors, artists, actors, and petty Colonial officials than it does of the men who rule over it, or of the men and women whose work will make our generation famous in the next.

An entertaining article could be written describing the "Rise of a Reputation." We first hear of Mrs. Oscar Jones through paragraphs which appear in some obscure journal, informing us that her novel, "The Love that Does Not Last," has rendered her famous. Thenceforth her name continually appears in various newspapers either as having been ailing, as having removed to a house by the river, as having attended a public entertainment, as having instituted proceedings for divorce, or as having

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

been present at the funeral of some celebrity. As time wears on her name becomes familiar to us, and though no one can precisely explain how Mrs. Oscar Jones earned fame, we all acknowledge that she is famous. Mrs. Jones is neither more nor less than a newspaper-made woman. The public of to-day requires personalities; the average journalist is only acquainted with mediocrities. He writes, therefore, of the people he knows, and it follows that the mediocrities are thus elevated into celebrities.

Those who have been present at many fights say that each battle is won by some one particular soldier. They say that the puffs of smoke from his gun can be seen advancing from point to point, whilst the other men, who follow, close up in his rear. When the battle is won distinctions and decorations are freely distributed, but seldom are the services rewarded of the particular soldier who gained the victory. So those who are able to read between the lines of newspapers observe the "puffs" of some obscure journalist advancing through the Press, and his followers progressing steadily towards success; yet when the latter have achieved celebrity which of these remembers the writer who won the victory for them?

* * * * *

Though the death of Sir Augustus Harris came as a surprise to the public, he had for some considerable time been a doomed man. One Christmas, a few days before the production of the pantomime, Sir Augustus telegraphed to a well-known doctor to come to him immediately to Drury Lane. Sir Augustus was then told that unless he at once discontinued work his life could not be saved. He found himself unable to obey this order, and immediately after the production of the pantomime he became so seriously ill that his life was with difficulty saved upon that occasion. Since then there has been but little hope entertained that it could be prolonged for any considerable period. A little rest a year or two ago might have spared him from the "long, long sleep" which he is said to have asked for with his last words, and which has unfortunately been granted to him.

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A correspondent writes as follows:—

"In South Africa the British settlers treat the native servants, or 'boys,' as they call them, with gross brutality. It is a common occurrence to see the former hitting and beating the latter, but the British always declare that the natives would never either obey them or respect them unless they did this. For obvious reasons I will mention no names here, but I was present when a white man kicked a native so savagely for a comparatively small fault that he killed him. An inquest was held, and though the facts of the case were generally known, the verdict returned was 'Death through natural causes.' Is it to be wondered at, therefore, that the natives should seize the first opportunity to revolt, and that, notwithstanding the serious reverses they have suffered, they prefer to fight to the end rather than face the possibilities of a surrender? I am sure that our fellow-countrymen at home do not suspect how brutally the 'boys' are frequently treated. Such treatment would not be tolerated were the Colony under Government control; but under the control of a Chartered Company many evils are possible which could not otherwise exist. "RHODESIAN."

We English are a good, easy-going people who are horrified at the terrible conduct of our neighbours, but we have so much confidence in the spirit of fairness of our fellow-countrymen that we feel sure that they would never commit brutalities unless they were compelled to. All the same it must not be overlooked that, whatever brilliant destiny may be in store for South Africa, the early settlers there have mostly been those who have failed, or have earned bad reputations, in their own country. They require more looking after than others would, when in a land where the police supervision is not so strict as it is in England. This is the greatest argument against colonisation by Chartered Company.

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For several years it has been periodically urged in these columns that railway tickets should be sold by the mile without being restricted to any fixed destination. By this means clerks and others of limited means might gradually acquire the power to travel to a considerable distance during their holidays, and, besides, it would give them greater freedom in their travelling. At last the North-Eastern Railway Company has decided to sell first-class tickets more or less upon this principle. Those who travel first-class need this less than those who travel second or third. Many poor people would save a shilling or two a week to purchase the power of travelling who now spend the money in spirits or tobacco, and by the time that the holidays came round these would possess passes for a sufficient number of miles to enable them and their families to visit the country. The railway companies have a fresh and an important source of income in this direction; but the tickets should be issued for all classes upon every line, and should be available at any time. This, of course, is an improvement which we are bound to obtain; but here again prejudice restricts us. The reason why America has bounded forward so much in advance of Europe is that the Americans have no prejudices—and some of them have few principles.

* * * * *

Those Members who questioned Mr. Akers-Douglas in the House last week about the "Summer Club" in Kensington Gardens, and Mr. Akers-Douglas himself, in his answers, showed little knowledge of the subject. For many years there has been a small refreshment kiosk in Kensington Gardens, and the proprietor of this has always been allowed to place a few chairs and tables around it. Mr. Algernon Bourke obtained permission of the proprietor to share in the use of the kitchen attached to the kiosk; and, presumably, he also secured the sanction of the authorities to encroach upon more of the neighbouring lawn for the purpose of placing seats and tables there. This is to be taken for granted, as he has placed several of these upon a large plot of lawn at some distance from the kiosk, has set up a large tent there, and has even erected a small house. All these conveniences he intended to restrict to the use of the members of the "Summer Club," but now Mr. Akers-Douglas has given orders that any one may use them who wishes, may order the Club waiters to serve him, and may even partake of the dinners cooked by Mr. Algernon Bourke's French cook. This was inevitable. Upon the other hand, Mr. Akers-Douglas will be asked to explain how the encroachment upon public ground came about. Obviously, the proprietor of the kiosk could not give permission for ground to be used over which he had no control, and if Mr. Akers-Douglas, with a full knowledge of the purposes for which it was intended, gave his sanction, why did he give the preference to the "Summer Club," and why has he now practically withdrawn the concession?

It may be convenient here to call the attention of the authorities to another subject connected with Kensington Gardens. The Rotten Row ride used to extend as far as where the Albert Memorial now stands before the Exhibition of 1851. For the purposes of that Exhibition the Ride was cut down to where it now closes, and the buildings were erected along that strip, which formerly was part of Hyde Park. Since the Exhibition this strip has been incorporated into Kensington Gardens, which the Crown claims to be more or less Crown property. By whose authority was a large strip of a public park confiscated to the Crown? That the Crown does virtually claim a kind of possession in Kensington Gardens is proved by the fact that these Gardens are closed at altogether different times from those of the other Parks.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPRATT'S PATENT various Dog Foods and Medicines can be obtained of all Corn Dealers, Grocers, and Chemists in the United Kingdom and in all important Continental cities. They are also stocked at 14, Rue des Mathurins, Paris; Rummelsburg, Berlin; and 239, East 56th-street, New York. Your own tradesman or stores will supply you.

SPORTING NOTES.

AFTER the Docker had won the Manchester Cup it was announced that he had run his last race, as it would not be possible to train him again. It was, therefore, a considerable surprise to hear of Mr. Buchanan's steed running a good second for the Northumberland Plate. Son o' Mine was a tremendous favourite for this handicap, but he ran very badly indeed, and Lord Durham had better throw this horse up for the season, and let him in future confine his attention to hurdle-racing. The victory of Dare Devil (who won the Chester Cup in 1892 and in 1893) was very satisfactory, as Mr. Perkins is one of the most liberal supporters of the turf in the North, and his colours have been very unlucky on the whole. Palmerston ran a perfect wretch. Nouveau Riche won the North Derby in a canter, and he is a very useful colt, and will probably carry off the Liverpool Summer Cup if he is started for that event. Ortolo, who was regarded early in the spring as likely to turn out a good Derby outsider, is evidently very moderate indeed, as he ran here quite 21 lb. below the winner. I predicted that Fiorini would win the Seaton Delaval Plate for Lord Durham, and he carried off that race, but only after a most desperate finish with Glencally. Fiorini is a beautiful racing-like colt, and capable of much improvement, so it is greatly to be regretted that he has no good engagement. A grievous error was committed when Glencally was allowed to win a trumpery race at Chester, for the penalty which he there incurred has lost him both the Stanley Stakes at Epsom, and the Seaton Delaval Plate.

There must have been some egregious blundering in the recent trial of the Duke of Portland's two-year-olds. Smean, a heavily-engaged daughter of St. Simon and Muirninn, did so well in the gallop that the Duke declared to win the Clarence and Avondale Stakes with her, and she started a great favourite; so there was heavy plunging on her. The result of the race was a crash, for Smean finished last, and her despised stable companion, Lady Frivoles, was the winner. Smean's next appearance in public will be awaited with interest, for two-year-olds often disappoint expectations in their first race. The filly is in the Stud Produce Stakes at Newmarket this afternoon, and she has an engagement at Stockbridge next week.

It is probable that there will be nine or ten starters to-morrow for the Princess of Wales's stakes of £10,000. Troon, who has undergone a special preparation for this race, was galloped last week in the presence of the Duke of Portland over the B.M., and he went very well indeed. Laveno, who runs untried, has also pleased the touts, but his chances of victory do not appear to be bright, considering that he has incurred a 9 lb. penalty, nor is it possible to fancy Kirkconnel. Sir Visto will run on the off chance, and he meets Persimmon at weight for age. The conditions of the race are exceedingly ridiculous. The winner of the Newmarket Stakes, value £3,500, has to carry 12 lb. extra, that event being placed on an equality with the Derby and Leger, but the winner of the Two Thousand or of any of the £10,000 races escapes with 9 lb. Persimmon was sent several fast gallops over this distance last week, and he is evidently in the best possible form, but I do not believe that the Prince of Wales's colt can give 3 lb. to St. Frusquin, and shall expect M. de Rothschild's horse to win this race, if he can beat Regret, to whom he has to give 9 lb.

Raconteur, who has not been seen in public since his defeat in the Derby last year, will probably run to-morrow (Thursday). This horse is looking well, and he goes well, but it is generally thought that he is an arrant rogue. He might, however, astonish the public some day by winning a good T.Y.C. handicap.

Mr. D. Baird has a smart two-year-old in Briseis, a filly by Galopin out of Briar-root, and I learn that she will make her début either in the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park or in the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood. Briseis went very well indeed the other day in a trial over the July course, in which Champfleurie also distinguished herself.

Count Schomberg will win the Ellesmere Stakes on Friday if he runs, and the Duke of Devonshire ought to carry off the Fulbourne Stakes with Minstrel.

I see it has been stated that Ascot discovered a promising Leger outsider in Shaddock. It happens, however, that this colt is not engaged in the Doncaster event, although the Duke of Westminster has seven entries. Shaddock's engagements include the Zetland Plate at the Newmarket Second July meeting, the Knowsley Dinner Stakes at Liverpool, the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood, the Scarborough Stakes at Doncaster, and a couple of races at the Newmarket October Meetings. Shaddock can stay well, and he ought to win several good races before the season is over. The Duke of Westminster's colours, indeed, will be worth following now that the tide has turned, and it will not surprise me if he heads the list of winning owners at the close of the season, for he has some grand two-year-olds in reserve.

One of the papers published the other day some croaking twaddle about the alleged decadence of Goodwood, the writer expressing the opinion that the added money ought to be increased if the meeting is to hold its place. It is a pity that people who are inclined to criticise such matters should not take the very slightest pains to investigate the facts before they commit themselves to print. If the writer of the carping nonsense to which I refer had consulted the last volume of the *Racing Calendar*, he would doubtless have been surprised to find that at the Goodwood meeting of 1895 there were 188 starters during the four days, whereas at Ascot there were only 183! The idea that increased added money is an infallible specific is utterly chimerical, and can still be entertained only by persons who have been entirely unobservant of the recent course of events on the turf. At Ascot last year there were only twenty-eight starters in seven of the principal races, to which events £9,000 was added! It seems to me that the time has arrived when the Ascot programme ought to be thoroughly revised. There are too many events on precisely the same lines, so that races for which large fields might reasonably be expected get "cut up." The programme requires a rich two-year-old race, and an adequate stake for three-year-olds and upwards. There is a race of £5,000 for two-year-olds at Sandown Park next month, but the value of the New Stakes, the richest event of the kind in the Ascot programme, did not exceed £2,000. The Hardwicke Stakes, with £2,000 added, was all very well when it was started in 1879, but the establishment of the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000 at Newmarket, and of the Eclipse Stakes of £10,000 at Sandown Park, have quite taken the wind out of its sails.

That added money is not everything in attracting owners to subscribe to races is proved by the fact that there are eighty entries for the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood (£300 added), whereas the Royal Hunt Cup, with £2,000 added, obtained only sixty-five, and there were sixty-nine for the Wokingham Handicap, with £500 added. The Stewards' Cup entry is a very good one from every point of view, including as it does all the most speedy horses in training. The Rothschild stable has seven representatives, including Amandier, Mountain Chief, and Grig. Burgonet, a filly belonging to the Duke of Devonshire, is a great tip at Newmarket for this handicap. Several of the late Colonel North's horses (including Red Heart and Hebron) have been nominated by his son, which will increase their sale value. The mysterious Sir Michael's chance will not have been improved by his prominent running at Ascot. Omladina is entered, and the Kingsclere stable is also represented by Attainment, who is nominated by J. Porter. Sir Blundell Maple's lot of four includes Gangway (who won in 1894) and Palaverer. Mr. Basset has Wise Virgin (who won last year) and Clorane. Keelson, who palpably cut it at Ascot, just in the same disgusting fashion as at Epsom and at Doncaster, is exactly the sort of beast to win a race like this by twenty lengths if he takes it into his head to try, in

which case the bookmakers would have a fine turn-up. Keelson is sure to distinguish himself in some such fashion whenever he gets well away and makes all the running without ever being fairly tackled. Teufel is the best three-year-old in the list. Raconteur is entered, and so is Troon, the four-year-old, own brother to Ayrshire. There are thirty-five entries for the Chesterfield Cup, including many animals which are also in the short race. Rampion, La Sagesse, and The Lombard are in Friday's event only.

Considering that there are neither penalties nor allowances in the Jockey Club Cup, it is odd that Persimmon should not have been entered, but still more remarkable is the absence of Love Wisely, and certainly the horses of Mr. Bass do not seem to be managed cleverly. This is the most important event still to come in which the winner of the Ascot Cup escapes a heavy penalty, and why Love Wisely was not entered it is impossible to understand. Canterbury Pilgrim, St. Frusquin, Pride, Nouveau Riche, and Jolly Boat are the most notable names in the list. Laodamia, who has been unexpectedly entered for this event, has been one of the public fancies for the Cambridgeshire. I am told that Jolly Boat will be a good thing for the Nassau Stakes at Goodwood if she is then all right.

There will be racing next week at Stockbridge, Carlisle, Pontefract, Nottingham, and Lingfield. The Hampshire meeting is to be attended by the Prince of Wales, so it is tolerably sure to be well patronised; and good sport may be expected at Lingfield. The Hampshire Stakes of £500 for three-year-olds on Tuesday has thirty left in, and the Duke of Westminster may win with Rampion or Conroy. The Champagne Stakes looks well for Eager, and in his absence Pooley Bridge might win. Specific may carry off the Bibury Club Stakes.

The Stockbridge Foal Stakes may be left to Monterey, and the Cup looks well for Omladina or Grig. The entry includes Clorane, Whittier, Wise Virgin, Laodamia, and Canterbury Pilgrim. Mr. Fulton's mare could, no doubt, win this race if fit and well, but she is more likely to be slipped for some big handicap in the autumn. The Duke of Devonshire should win the Hurstbourne Stakes with Minstrel.

I will deal next week with the £1,000 two-year-old race at Lingfield, as between breeding allowances, penalties, and maiden allowances, this event will assume the appearance of a handicap by the time that the weights have been adjusted.

Recent cricket has been extraordinary in many respects. In the test match at Lord's between England and Australia the authorities had made absolutely no attempt to cope with the crowd. This is the second instance of incompetency this season. Twenty-five thousand spectators are all very well at a University match when the majority are contented to wander about and see nothing. But when every man, woman, and child means to see the game, the accommodation is utterly inadequate, and a handful of half-starved police are quite unable to tackle an angry crowd, who, having paid their money, are determined to see the game at all cost. One can quite understand the impotency of the police when one of them said, late in the day, referring to the encroaching crowd, "Well, sir, you would not care about this job if you hadn't had anything to eat since breakfast." It would have been much wiser to have closed the gates. This was done in one of the last matches of the final for the Association Cup which was played at the Oval. That example should have been followed on this occasion. But then at Lord's they seem utterly unable to realise that the crowd wants to see cricket. The match itself is ancient history; but I must say a word about the bowling of Jones. It is certainly, when he is at his fastest, more like throwing than bowling. He started off by literally going for the batsmen's heads, and if he had been playing for Sussex against the M.C.C. no one would have expressed the least pity for him if he had been no-balled; indeed, it would not in the least surprise me if this happened to him before the tour is over unless he materially modifies his style.

The University Cricket Match begins to-day (Thursday) and, as a last request to the ladies, I would ask them to remember that a lot of men want to see the match, and, therefore, if they will take care of their parasols, and not bob up and down in their seats every minute of the day, they will be conferring an inestimable boon on innumerable miserable males. And why does not the M.C.C. start a band right at the nursery end of the ground? It would attract numerous people who do not care one jot or tittle who is in or out. As to the teams, if the Sussex match affords a test, the victory of Cambridge is assured. Of course Mitchell will not have the assistance of Mr. Perkins, the Secretary of the M.C.C., in regulating the Oxford bowling, as he did against the M.C.C. For that gentleman, when a ball from Trott struck Marriott and made him retire, came on the ground, and had Trott taken off, Marriott resumed his innings against all bowlers next day; nevertheless, it was a magnificent achievement, under any circumstances, for a team to go in and score over five hundred and win. Earlier in the week they made a similar total against Sussex, and now that both Druce and Mitchell have made big scores they will no doubt play with more confidence.

Oxford, on the other hand, beat a weak team of Surrey, but after declaring their second innings closed against Sussex, they found the county at the close of time with only ten runs wanted and four wickets to fall. This was due to a magnificent display of batting by Ranjitsinhji, who was well backed by Bean and Killick, who last week did very well with bat and ball, and promises to be a most useful member of the Sussex team. For the University, Leveson-Gower batted excellently, and Bardswell is one of the best slips in the country. His great reach enables him to cover a lot of ground, and he is very quick. In county cricket Surrey failed miserably on a tricky wicket against Hearne and Rawlin, and it seemed impossible that four of that team were in the England Eleven earlier in the week. O'Brien's century was well timed and fine hitting, and he was helped by Lucas when the game was critical. Bromley-Davenport is a much improved bat, and he might be put in earlier. It is sad to see Grace's best efforts wasted for Gloucester. He made a century and carried his bat right through the second innings, but Lancashire won by an innings owing to a huge score by Sugg, who was badly missed more than once. Derby deserve every credit for the brilliant draw they made against Yorkshire. Storer has followed in the footsteps of Grace, Stoddart, and Bean, and scored two centuries in one match. He was only once out, and made exactly a hundred. Brown, the Yorkshire bat, suddenly developed as a bowler. He did the hat trick.

Eton had not as many old choices for their eleven as Winchester, who won the match with great ease. Their fielding was excellent, and Noel is a promising bat, but Rowe, who hits freely all round the wicket, was the pick of the elevens. For Eton, Lubbock batted well, and Bosanquet is likely to be useful. His bowling might have been made more use of. The wicket-keeping of Browning for Eton was perhaps better than that of Reynolds, but both were above the average.

With the *Meteor* away the other big yachts have been doing some fine sailing. *Britannia* started on the Clyde by beating *Ailsa* somewhat easily. But the Imperial yacht will soon stop her list of winning flags. There is no doubt she is the finest yacht ever built in this country.

"The next thing they will be doing will be to get Lehmann to coach them," was the comment of a Cambridge oarsman at Henley, as he and others were discussing the radical changes that Yale have made in their style. They are quite a different crew to what they were ten days ago. After seeing the Hall boat out they at once set to work to alter their style, and ordered a set of English-made oars. Hence the remark of the oarsman aforesaid. They have done one good course. But times are poor tests, and one can scarcely believe that they will be able to shake off their old methods

at once, and fall into their new style in the heat and excitement of the race. They have come, they have seen, but I scarcely think they will conquer. If they do there will be no victory more enthusiastically received. It is a very sportsmanlike proceeding on their part to see the fault of their methods, and most plucky to try to remedy them in the short time at their disposal. Of the other crews for the Grand there is none that has come on so well as Leander. Holland is fit, and he is backing up Gold at stroke. New is also very good but Whitworth is inclined to clip the finish. They will run one another very close, and I shall expect Leander to win, if they meet, by a few feet. First Trinity are practically no good, while Hall do not seem to steady down; however, they may come on a good deal. For the Diamonds V. Nickalls is going splendidly. Both the Guinness's have been doing a lot of work, and the younger brother is most promising.

Michael, the Welsh cyclist, has been suspended by the National Cyclist Union. He is a professional, and lives by his riding. It is said he is to be hauled over the coals for his performance in the great chain matches. If the N. C. U. imagines it is to be the Jockey Club of professional bicycling it is grievously mistaken. It is utterly unfit for such a position. It cannot manage amateur cycling, and it has permitted that sport to become almost effete. It now proceeds to mess about with professionalism, which is bound up with trade interests, and so is the N. C. U. Justice is sure to go to the wall when an interested party officiates, and this is the case with this precious Union. It is ridiculous for it to pose as the authority to give and take away a licence on which a man's livelihood depends. A man cannot pull a bicycle as he does a horse, and he is not likely to be engaged if he does not ride up to form. It is marvellous that the professionals should not agree to ignore that body. A proper governing association is required for professionalism, but it has yet to be formed.

It was hinted the other week that the A. A. A. might inquire into the cases of Bradley and Downer, the sprinters, and Bacon, the miler. This has been done, and they are all suspended. They will not appear in the championships at the L. A. C. meeting. Woodyatt ran very well in the sprints, and Davie did good time from scratch in the mile. The Ravensbourne sports were well attended and well managed. The five miles invitation, bicycling, was won by Boston, after a really interesting race. Bredin cannot get fit, and he will not run in the championships. At the Queen's Club the other day there was a sporting match between two members. One man ran a hundred yards while the other walked fifty. Needless to say, the walker won easily.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Business was impeded during the past week by the work connected with the settlement, at which heavy rates were a feature, more especially in Home Rails and in some of the mining sections. Once the carry-over completed, however, prices hardened all round; and at the last the announcement that the Board of the Chartered Company have accepted the resignations of Messrs. Cecil Rhodes, Alfred Beit, and Dr. Rutherfood Harris, had also an invigorating influence upon the Kaffir Circus.

The Position on the Stock Exchange.

There were clear indications at the settlement that speculative purchases of the stocks of the Heavy lines had been overdone, rates going as high as from ½ to 1 per cent. Speculators, however, soon got over the little scare, and there has been a moderate rally, which extended to the other departments, and was assisted by a fresh advance in Consols. In American Rails there has been the old-fashioned sea-saw in quotations, according to the news with regard to the coming Presidential election, followed by a sharp decline owing to the growing probability of the silver men giving further serious trouble. Rumours that the Argentine Senate had passed some kind of unification scheme tended to strengthen Argentine Government stocks, but it remains to be seen what the actual provisions are, and how the Bill will fare in the Chamber of Deputies. Foreigners were temporarily depressed by the approach of the Paris settlement, but the general opinion is that there will be a fresh outburst of activity on the Continental Bourses once this has been got over. The chief interest, however, still centres in the mining market, and it is satisfactory to find that the Transvaal clouds are again lifting to some extent. Not only has President Kruger tried to explain away the interpretation of hostility which had been put upon his cable insisting upon the official inquiry into the Jameson raid, and the trial of Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Beit, which the Boers desire so much, but their actual resignation from the Chartered Board is calculated to smooth matters between the British and Transvaal Governments. We have, therefore, the curious development that this announcement has favourably affected the Kaffir Circus, with the exception chiefly of Chartered shares. This is not surprising however, as the mining industry in the Transvaal is making good progress, and labour is reported plentiful; while on the other hand the troubles besetting the Chartered Company are thickening, as the upheaval in Mashonaland is assuming large proportions, so much so that the Chartered forces are altogether insufficient, and more British troops will be required to quell it. Under the circumstances the very existence of the Company is threatened, and I do not see how a further fall in the shares can be avoided. The West Australian market has displayed a somewhat subdued tendency, high rates of continuation having caused a shake-out of weak holders. That, however is really a blessing in disguise, and will serve to steady the market in future. In fact, in view of the important crushings which will shortly be announced, I look for a distinct rally in this department. New Zealand mining shares are also active and look promising; although there is the danger of promoters overdoing the flotation of new Companies. More industrial Companies are being pushed forward, and it is more than ever necessary to discriminate in view of the very doubtful character of some of these. In the Cycle section there has been a sharp advance in Dunlop Deferred, which has been attributed to "Bear" closing; but is probably the preliminary canter for the flotation of the new French Dunlop Company. With the turn of the half year, money will become cheaper and more plentiful than ever, and the payment of interest and dividends will, no doubt, lead to renewed investment purchases, more especially in Home Rails. By the way, the resignation of Mr. Levien as Secretary of the Stock Exchange should furnish an opportunity for appointing a thoroughly competent and capable man to this important post. He need not necessarily be a member of the Stock Exchange; in fact, new blood is badly wanted. If the Committee could secure the services of one of the heads of the Railway Clearing House for instance, with great experience and organising power, this would appear a very promising choice. The best man ought clearly to be got, and there should be no favouritism. In fact, under the circumstances, members of the Stock Exchange Committee might as well abstain from offering themselves as candidates.

Home Rails Irregular.

As already mentioned, rates in the Home Railway market were heavy, more particularly in the stocks of the Heavy division, and the unusual circumstance has to be reported that the rate on North-Eastern approached 1 per cent., while contangoes of ½ or thereabouts on Midlands, Great Western, and North-Western were also a feature. After a temporary set back, however, prices have hardened again, and with the continuation of satisfactory traffics, and the approach of dividend announcements, this section

will probably become more active. Brighton "A" have not altogether maintained the sharp advance which took place when stock was found to be scarce at the settlement. The announcement of the retirement of the respected Chairman of the Company, Mr. Samuel Laing, had no adverse effect, as it had been anticipated for some time. The appointment of Lord Cottesloe as Chairman, and of Sir Arthur Otway as Deputy-Chairman, had also been a foregone conclusion. The accession of Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild on the Board is, moreover, a favourable feature. The great New Court firm has for some time exercised an important influence upon the management of the Brighton Company, and now that one of the firm has become a Director, it may be assumed that the benevolent interest taken by them will continue; while it is a matter of common knowledge that a very considerable amount of stock reposes in their coffers. Dover "A" are distinctly firmer, after the recent shake out, and I should not be surprised to see a sharp improvement as we are getting nearer the dividend period, the South-Eastern doing very well now. Chathams have had a sharp, if exaggerated, set back. The House of Lords' decision is severely criticised by all parties, and must in time give way to a different measure. In the meantime the line is benefiting by its closer association with the South-Eastern, and holders should not throw away their stocks. I have already given in TRUTH of the 11th ultimo my various estimates of the dividends, which will on the whole be such as to encourage further purchases in some of the Heavies, in Brighton "A," and more particularly in Dover "A." Whether the further rise in Metropolitans which has taken place is due merely to improved dividend prospects remains to be seen. The Scotch section has hardened again, and the Deferred stocks of both the leading lines, viz., North British Deferred at 51⅜, and Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) at 62½, are amongst the best speculative purchases, more especially the former. A good deal of business has been transacted in Central of London Railway shares, and the price of the partly-paid shares has advanced to 2½. It is probable that these shares will become quite popular in time.

THE YANKEE MARKET.

The rally in American Rails has not been maintained, and although there have been considerable fluctuations, quotations are considerably lower for the week. The fact is that politics are still troubling operators, and even the outlook with regard to the Presidential election has become more obscured, as it is discovered that the silver men amongst the Democratic Party are still possessed of considerable influence. It would, therefore, not be surprising if, at the Democratic Convention in Chicago, the gold "plank" were to be severely opposed. The optimists go so far as to suggest that a contest between the Republican Party and the gold "plank" against the Democratic Party with a silver "plank" would prove beneficial, as bringing the direct issue prominently before the country; but I cannot see my way to adopt this view. For the sake of our American cousins themselves I trust, however, that the gold "plank" will prove triumphant in the Presidential struggle, so as to bring the reform of the currency system on a sound basis within sight. We have now mail advices with reference to the utterances of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan on the currency question. He was interviewed by several American contemporaries on his return to New York, and the following is one of the statements attributed to him:—

> The dominating question is the currency problem. If that is settled satisfactorily Europe will buy our securities. If it is not she won't. That is all that there is to be said. By a satisfactory settlement of the currency I mean a decision that this country will maintain the single gold standard. Unless European capitalists know in what money we will pay our debts they will not invest in our securities, and there can be no sound money that is not based on the single gold standard. As I have already said, I have nothing to do with politics, but it is my opinion that if the Republican Party adopts a sound money platform at St. Louis, a platform in which there is no straddle, but which is unmistakably in favour of the single gold standard, and the nominee accepts and stands on that platform, the result will be satisfactory alike to the capitalists of Europe and to the majority of the people of this country who have the country's real and best interests at heart. There should be no straddle, no compromise, but an unmistakable single gold standard money plank in the platform.

It is evident that in Mr. Pierpont Morgan the Americans have a thoroughly sound adviser, and if his counsel should prevail, matters in the United States would greatly improve. In the meantime I must object to the argument indulged in by the *Wall Street Daily News*, that there is already complete confidence in London as regards the political situation in the States. My contemporary argues that the list of securities taken by Europe during the past month through private negotiations, since Mr. McKinley's nomination had been talked of, proves the falsity of the assertion that Europe is liquidating through fear of McKinley and free silver. The following is the list of bonds which my contemporary has made up, as having been placed abroad during the last month:—

	Dols.
New York City 3½s.	4,000,000
Massachusetts 3s.	4,000,000
P. C. C. & St. Louis R. R. 4s	3,000,000
Northern Pacific 1st 4s	6,500,000
Baltimore & Ohio Receivers Certificates ...	4,000,000
New York State 3s	3,000,000
Anaconda stock	7,000,000
Milwaukee Railway bonds	5,000,000
	36,500,000

While I do not deny that some of these stocks have been negotiated on this side, it would appear that only a certain proportion has found its way into the coffers of the British public, and with some of the stocks the introducing houses are still loaded up. An encouraging feature is the prompt release of Mr. Harrison, the British official who had been captured by the Venezuelans. That looks certainly as if the Venezuelan question, of which so much was made for political purposes by President Cleveland and his clique of office-seekers, were approaching a satisfactory settlement. In the meantime, there is little doubt that the market for active American Railroad stocks will fluctuate to a considerable extent. Purchases on distinct reactions and sales on improvements would probably leave a small profit; but I am not sure that the game would be worth the candle. There is, however, no reason for bonâ-fide holders to part with their stocks at present prices. Canadian-Pacifics have declined to 62½, in sympathy with the American market, the victory of the Liberal Party in Canada also being considered as boding no good to the Company; but Grand Trunks have displayed steadiness, and a material improvement is quite on the cards, the Perpetual Debenture stock more especially deserving attention.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

The Paris Bourse is passing through a state of nervousness in connection with the settlement, but there are indications of a revival during the next account, as shown by a fresh rally in Spanish and Italians. I should not like to buy either stock at present prices, but there are always a number of gamblers in these, and the "Bulls" of Spanish are boasting that Spain will get all the money she wants, while a few victories in Cuba are also again reported. Unfortunately most of these victories eventually turn out virtual defeats. Turks have declined and recovered, and Ottoman Banks have again shown a better tone on recent developments in the Kaffir Circus, this institution being, as my readers are aware, largely interested in Transvaal stocks. The news from Buenos Ayres is conflicting. Dr. Romero's scheme for the unification of the debt was to have been modified, and now it is reported that some kind of scheme has been passed by the Senate and forwarded to the Deputies. The exact provisions of the measure are not et known, and it may be taken for granted that they Senate scheme will require further amendment to make it palatable to the European holders of the bonds. It has been suggested that the conversion should be optional, but

CHAMPAGNE.—PÉRINET & FILS' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

that would be an unsatisfactory way of dealing with the question, and it would be better in that case to have no unification of the debt at all. In the meantime, a further decline in the gold premium in Buenos Ayres to 192 is a satisfactory feature. The issue of a new Uruguayan loan has been favourably received by the public. The new bonds bear 5 per cent. interest, and have been issued at 71½ per cent., so that they yield about the same return as the existing bonds. The security is a first charge on 5½ per cent. of the gross receipts of the Custom Houses of the Republic, being part of the 55 per cent. of these receipts which have not been charged for the purpose of the existing consolidated debt. The Customs receipts have been going up by leaps and bounds, and are ample for the purpose. It should also be understood, as explained by Messrs. Bircham & Co., the solicitors to the issue, that both the existing loan and the new loan rank equally, as they are secured on separate and distinct percentages of the Customs, so that neither has any priority over the other, as each is a first charge on its separate per centage. The issue is made under the auspices of leading financial houses, and of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., who are the agents of the Republic in Europe. Its proceeds are intended for the establishment of a National Bank in Monte Video, and this institution will doubtless benefit the country. Under the circumstances, the new bonds are a promising investment, yielding nearly 7 per cent. per annum. Brazilians and Mexicans have maintained a steady tone, and there is hardly any change in the stocks of other South and Central American Republics. Costa Rica has not so far made any signs with reference to a settlement of the debt. Guatemala bonds are steady at 35, and in Peruvian Corporation stocks there is very little business. Honduras have dropped back to 5¼, which is not surprising considering the hopeless outlook with reference to any effort being made by this dishonest republic to purge itself of default.

A Kaffir Revival in Sight.

Great have been the anxieties and troubles which have beset the Kaffir Circus ever since the 1895 boom came to an untimely end through the preliminary unloading by the financial warriors who subsequently initiated the Jameson raid. Even last week matters again assumed a doubtful aspect through the very strong appeal made by President Kruger to the British Government for the trial of the chief initiators of the invasion of the Transvaal. The form of this communication was not exactly diplomatic, and Oom Paul has since been trying to explain away its unpleasant aspect. This in itself had a favourable effect upon the minds of those who looked for more Boer aggression. But even more promising is the further development which was presumably brought about by the Boer communication. The acceptance by the British Chartered Board of the resignation of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and of his associates from their official connection with the Company, should have a calming effect upon the Boer mind, and help to promote good feeling between the burghers and the Uitlanders. Mr. Chamberlain's reply to the interpellation in the House of Commons concerning the official inquiry also showed that the British Government is acting up to its promises. But is it not time to ask now, also, when the Executive of the Transvaal will initiate the reforms which are so urgently needed in the interest of the further progress of the country and of the mining industry? It is true that native labour is becoming more abundant, and that work is being prosecuted with renewed zeal on the Witwatersrand mines; but the mining industry is still suffering from intolerable duties and monopolies, and no reconciliation between the Dutch and British elements can be complete without reasonable concessions being made in this direction. As regards the June crushings, I should not like to prophesy, but any output below 200,000 oz. would be distinctly discouraging now that the released prisoners are hard at work, and presumably trying to make money for the thousands of shareholders who have been victimised through the ill-fated Jameson raid. The market position is still somewhat involved. Rates were pretty heavy at the settlement, but the chief troubles are those of persons who have most unwisely put their money into Chartered shares and into the countless Rhodesian ventures which have been floated to purchase concessions from the Chartered Company. The outlook in Rhodesia is extremely gloomy. Hardly had matters in Matabeleland assumed a more favourable aspect than Mashonaland is found in a blaze; and the expense of crushing both upheavals must prove a serious burden for the Company. Again, mining operations are altogether suspended, and the country must be thrown back for years. It looks almost like a judgment, that the withdrawal of the men who invaded the Transvaal should have enabled this native rising to assume such large proportions. I do not presume to say whether the Charter will eventually be withdrawn or not, or whether the British Government will take over the territory; but I may claim that by warning my readers to keep aloof from Chartered shares, which have descended from £8 to £3, I have saved them large sums of money. Nearly all other Rhodesian ventures have, of course, fallen to vanishing point, and here I again claim that I have for the last six months impressed upon my readers the desirability of buying sound Transvaal gold mining shares, while leaving Rhodesian ventures alone. The revival in Transvaal shares may not come to-day or to-morrow, but when matters have been adjusted between the two Governments, and the reforms are introduced, as they will be, we shall have a sustained improvement and a sharp upward movement. I, therefore, give to all my readers who are holders of such shares the advice to stick tight to their holdings, and to increase the same in sound undertakings if they can afford to take the shares up. On no account should they allow their speculative account to grow to any extent, as the past history of the Kaffir Circus has shown that those who can hold their shares during troublous times finally not only retrieve their losses, but also reap substantial profits. With reference to gold mining shares to buy, I keep to my old recommendations, in the Barnato group, for instance, of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Banks, New Primrose, Glencairn, Buffelsdoorn, Barnato Consols, and Rietfontein; but I do not mean to imply that other Barnato stocks not mentioned in this little list should be sold. On the contrary, it may be assumed that Mr. B. I. Barnato has made good use of his stay in South Africa to look after the various Barnato interests. He has not been very communicative on this side, even to his partners; but it is the general impression that he is coming home with a pocketful of good things, which should especially benefit his pet children, Johnnies, Barnato Banks, and Barnato Consols. In the Robinson group, too, the outlook is distinctly promising; and although dividends have fallen off temporarily in view of the troubles of the last six months, they are certain to improve again during the second half of the year. This applies more especially to the Langlaagte Estate. A dividend of 15 per cent. on the latter is now announced for the six months. No better distribution could have been anticipated for this period, owing to labour and other troubles; but the former dividends will, no doubt, again be paid during the second half year. The Randfontein bonus in Porges Randfontein shares has been assessed at 5s. per Randfontein share, being at the rate of 25s. for a Porges Randfontein share, presented as a bonus on every five Randfonteins. I maintain my favourable opinion of the Randfontein and of its Sub-Companies. Their need is labour, which is now forthcoming; and as the various mines on this large property are increasing their production, or falling into line as producers, so the Randfontein will increase in value. This also applies to the Langlaagte Star, which will yield better returns when more fully developed. Henderson's Estates and Lydenburg Estates are likely to come to the front again, and so are Modderfontein "B," which should be picked up. One of the most important Witwatersrand mines is

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Knights, which, as I stated the other day, will be crushing with 120 stamps in July, so that the present price of 7¼ is very moderate. No statement has as yet been made with reference to certain important developments respecting the Mozambique Company; but it is well known that, as giving access to Rhodesia, this Company's territory is of the greatest importance, altogether apart from the merits of the many highly auriferous tracts of the country. African Estates have eased off again. The great deal which it had been hoped to conclude with the Ephrussi group has not come off, owing to the adverse turn which affairs in the Kaffir Circus have taken. There is, moreover, a good deal of weakness in Paris as far as South Africans are concerned, and heavy realisations have been forced, so that Paris is rather a broken reed for Mr. Woolan to lean on. In order to look after the interests of the African Gold Properties, two of its Directors have joined the Board of a powerful French Company, the shares of which are well held and command a free market, and are at a handsome premium in Paris. Mr. F. J. Cook, the local representative of the African Gold Properties in Johannesburg, will arrive in England next week, and it is expected that he will be able to give the London Board a highly satisfactory account of the Company's position. I told you last week that Rand Reefs would have an active market in the new account. The price has now advanced to 13s. 9d., but I anticipate a further improvement in view of the issue of the mine manager's report, which is expected during the next week, and which, it is anticipated, will disclose a very prosperous state of things. Mr. F. C. Bell, one of the Directors of the local Board in Johannesburg of the Africander Gold Mining Company, furnishes in a letter to the Press some interesting particulars concerning the mine, which have, strangely enough, so far been kept in the background by the London Board. He says that the Africander Reef has now been developed 2,500 ft. on the strike along four levels, definitely proving that, according to the assays, the reef improves in value at a greater depth. Another reef which is payable and being worked is Green's Reef, and Mr. Bell calculates that the average recovery will be fully equal to 10 dwt. per ton of ore treated. His further calculations show that, barring accidents, a profit of 12s. 6d. per ton may be anticipated, making the total monthly profit £7,500, which would work out to 45 per cent. on the capital of £200,000. If Mr. Bell's estimates are correct, the present price of 1⅞ for Africanders must be very moderate, especially as the life of the mine is estimated at thirty-four years. Woodstock (Transvaal) shares are firmer again at 1¾, and should be picked up. It is likely to prove a very rich mine, and one of the best in the district. Niekerk shares have been steadily dealt in at 1¼, and the report which has just been issued by the secretary, giving extracts from the monthly statement of the manager in South Africa, Mr. Joseph Hassell, M.E., is very favourable. Mr. Hassell cables that the improvement in the mine is most marked, that it has become a very valuable property, and that he believes it will develop into a good steady dividend-payer. The width of the lode in A 1 winze is given by Mr. Hassell as 2 ft., and the assays as 1 oz. 2 dwt. per ton. Development is steadily proceeding, and it will not apparently be long before the mine enters the list of producing properties. Sheba Hill shares have been largely dealt in at about 3s., and I understand that as soon as a further block has been cleared off, the price will be advanced to a considerable extent; so that here is a low-priced mining share which may easily yield a considerable profit on a small gamble. The accounts of the New African Company, showing a large profit, fully bear out the statements which I have at various times made with regard to the promising position of this Company. A new operation, viz., the purchase of the property of the Apex Syndicate, of about 182 claims to the south of the Farm Benoni, by the Anglo-French Exploration Company is announced. I am not quite sure that this is not merely a change from one hand to the other, but no doubt a new Company will be formed at no distant date with a very much higher capital than the purchase price, which is stated at £60,000. Rand Roodepoort shares, which it is attempted to unload, should be avoided; although low-priced, I do not think that this will prove a cheap share. The announcement by the Selukwe Consolidated that they have discharged the miners who were sent out a few months ago, as no mining operations will be possible in Matabeleland for at least another year, is a sign of the times. The Directors add that they have formally notified the Chartered Company that it will be held responsible for all loss and damage caused to the property. With reference to the flotation of the Bantjes Deep, to which I referred last week, I am told that the new Company will hold 448 claims, apparently taking up practically the whole of the southern portion of the Farm Vogelstruisfontein No. 338, which is not already held by the Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep and the Bantjes Consolidated Mines. It is stated that the Freeman Cohen's Consolidated, which has sold most of these claims, will benefit largely by this transaction. The shares in the Goldfields of Lydenburg have come into strong demand up to 3⅞. It will be remembered that this Company was formed a considerable time ago, and the shares ran up to 7½ in the autumn of last year. The Company has expended a large amount on development work, amounting to £200,000, and the results have been satisfactory in every respect, the Sherwell's Main Reef, which is 13 in. wide, having been proved to be worth over 3 oz. to the ton. The prudent policy followed by the Company is illustrated by the fact that they have £200,000 in hand, so that there will be no lack of working capital; while the timber on the estate is estimated to cover the whole of the share capital of £325,000. By the way, a correspondent writes to point out that the prospects of the Klerksdorp Proprietary are really bright, and fully justify the present price, and from the particulars he sends I feel inclined to agree with him. The reason of the recent purchases of De Beers Diamond shares is now evident, as a very satisfactory dividend and bonus have been declared, the shares standing at 31. The New Jagersfontein is also promising, and the shares are quoted at 11⅞. New Bultfontein have recovered to 2⅛-¼, at which they look a good purchase, and there have again been active dealings in Leicester Diamond shares at 3¾-⅞. If, as is generally anticipated, this proves another Jagersfontein mine, the shares will rise to a much higher level. I am told that another new Company has been formed to take up the adjoining claims to the Leicester Diamond Company, in fact all the claims in that district. It is proposed to amalgamate the two Companies into one large Company, which will have a cash working capital of £100,000. This, no doubt, means that Leicester Diamond shares will go considerably higher. Kamfersdam Diamond shares have been steady at ¼ premium, and look like going better. An instance of unblushing impudence is the prospectus of the Rooderand Main Reef Gold Mining Company, the shares in which are being puffed at 30s. The property in question is not on the main reef, yet the vendors—the Kruger Syndicate—have the audacity to quote Mr. C. S. Goldman's remarks on the main reef, and to utilise the reports of several other experts on *other* properties.

Golden West Australia.

This has been a week of West Australian dinners, and the man who had the courage to attend all the three West Australian functions with the Queensland dinner thrown in is to be admired but not to be envied. I suppose that the various men who were fêted on these occasions are so honoured either as a reward for having made money for the hosts, or as an incentive to make money for them. There was first of all the dinner given to Mr. Zebina Lane by the British Westralia Directors. In this case gratitude for profits made with this well-known engineer's valuable assistance was probably the motive. In the case of the dinners given to Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., and to Mr. N. H. Howitt, M.E., the latter in connection with the Golden Arrow Mine, the benefits have yet to be conferred upon the admirers of these two gentlemen. Three more West Australian dinners, by the way, are coming off this week. The

West Australian market unfortunately has not benefited by this outbreak of dinners, although matters West Australian were discussed on these occasions with becoming eloquence. The settlement was, of course, chiefly responsible for the pause in dealings—and for a number of realisations by such holders who were frightened out of heavy contangoes. The account was by no means unwieldy, and the position has become all the sounder. I should think, therefore, that as soon as some of the pending big crushings come to hand a sharp rally and active business will ensue. Thoughout the fit of realisations, however, the group of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust has remained strong. As I anticipated, the Directors have declared a second interim quarterly dividend upon the Ordinary shares of the Trust at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum. The Directors also report very satisfactory progress, and announce the issue of a full interim report at an early date. Such have been the profits of the Trust, that after making provision for a large reserve fund and providing for the claims of the Founders' shares the Directors foreshadow a continuance of these quarterly dividends. No wonder that the Ordinary shares stand at 3½ premium, and the Founders' shares at £60. Amongst other shares of this group Associated Gold Mines have advanced to 3⅝, reacting to 3⅜. Associated Southern to 2, and Nil Desperandum to 1¾. The remarkable success of the Lake View Extended, the latest sub-Company of the Trust, is another feature, this issue having been most favourably received both here and in Adelaide. There has been a lull in the Whitaker Wright group; but the receipt of the Mainland Consols crushing may any day enliven these shares, while the Lake View Company is about to be launched, and will lead to very active movements. In the meantime West Australian Exploring and Finance shares are quoted 3⅞; London and Globe Finance, 3⅞; Austin Friars Syndicate, 2; Mainland Consols, 4; Lake View (old shares), 7¾; Paddington Consols, at 2; Hannan's Golden Group and Hannan's Golden Treasure at 1½. From the latter two mines the news is most favourable, a cablegram stating that large bodies of ore are available for crushing. The Venture Group has been very firm, and the news from several of the sub-Companies is most encouraging, especially that from the Joker, where the lode is described as 50 ft. wide at the 80 ft. level in the south drive, and extremely rich, and from the 90-Mile Proprietary the shares of which stand at ⅜ premium. From the latter mine a cablegram states that fifteen heads of stamps are running on low-grade ore, to be increased to twenty stamps. The first crushing of 90 tons has just been announced, yielding 180 oz., exclusive of tailings, and Mr. Macklin, the Venture Syndicate's representative in Western Australia, is so greatly impressed with the prospects of the mine that he suggests the ordering of thirty more stamps. An important statement cabled is also that the Mount Sir Samuel properties are opening up well and improving at depth, especially the proprietary leases belonging to the West Australian Venture Syndicate. With reference to the Menzies properties referred to by me last week the fact that the Menzies Gold Reefs have just declared their first dividend of 2s. per share is encouraging, as this is the first Menzies Company to enter the dividend list. As already stated, I have a favourable opinion of Menzies Crusoe now at 1½, Menzies Consols at 1 1/16 and Menzies Alpha Leases at 1½. In the Stoneham group West Australian Goldfields are somewhat easier at 10, and Hampton Plains after touching 4⅞ have improved to 5 1/16. This temporary increase must be due to mere temporary market influences as the position of this Company is better than ever. This is also the case with Block 50. Hampton Plains, which are a good purchase at 1 7/16. Hannan's Napier at about par, Miner's Dream at 1⅜, Consuello at 1, Armadale at 1⅛, and Victoria Reefs at ¼ premium are promising shares still at comparatively low prices. Great Boulders are quiet at 7⅜, and Great Boulder South stand at 1⅝, the latter being likely to take a sudden jump one of these days. Challenge at 1⅝, Kurnalpi Development at 1 9/16, and Great Boulder East Extended at 1 7/16, may be expected to have a rise soon. The "Bears" have been badly caught in Royal Sovereign shares, which touched 4¼, and still stick at 4. According to the *West Australian Goldfields Courier* there are several reefs assaying from 1½ oz. to 2 oz., but portions of the mine are very rich, a parcel of stone from the outcrop sent to Southern Cross yielding 8 oz. per ton, while the quartz *in situ* near the surface pans out to the tune of 5 or 6 oz. per ton. The Anglo-French Colonial Trust has a considerable interest in Royal Sovereigns, and the shares have advanced to 2. Bradbury World's Drill, also floated by this Trust, are steady at 1⅝. Bird-in-Hand shares are firm at 1 1/16. This mine is on the same line of reef, and favourable developments on the Royal Sovereign would also benefit this mine. Hannan's Mount Ferrum, on the favourable news from the mine, are firm at 2¼. With reference to the Cassidy Hill, I have received a communication from Messrs. J. A. Campbell & Co., of 17, South-street, London, E.C., who propose to bring the shareholders together for the purpose of inquiring into the management. It is quite time that something of the kind should be done, and shareholders should therefore communicate with this firm. New Explorers' Syndicate shares are firm at ⅜-½ premium. The Syndicate has some very lucrative business in hand, such as its De Beers property in the Gibraltar district, where a remarkable formation over 100 ft. in width has been discovered carrying free gold from 10 dwt. at the surface to 2½ oz. at a depth of 73 ft. The Syndicate also owns some cement claims at the 25-Mile, McPhee's Reward at Marble Bar in the Pilbarra fields, a share in the Bradbury Drill rights for Western Australia and the U.S.A., and 108 claims in South Africa picked up cheaply during the depression. Of course, it also benefits greatly by the rise in Burbank's Birthday Gift to 1⅞, of which it has a large holding. Hannan's King (Brownhill) Gold Mining shares have advanced to 1¼-½. The news by mail is to the effect that the quartz leader recently discovered has widened considerably carrying good gold. Princess Royal shares have improved to 7s. 6d. to 8s., and the consulting engineer cables from Coolgardie that 10,000 tons of ore are in sight, mostly high-grade ore, and that prospects are undoubtedly good. Respecting the Yalgoo Battery property, a cablegram has been received from the Manager, Mr. Matthew Wynn, stating that a large body of ore has been opened up, showing gold freely. The Company has also acquired an additional property of about 18 acres, known as the Glad Tidings Seam, and adjoining the mine. I have received several inquiries concerning the Mining Finance Syndicate, which seems to be a small concern started to swell the large number of West Australian Exploring Companies, and that is really all that can be said of it. Some more favourable advices have been received with respect to the King of the West Gold Mining Company. A cablegram has come to hand stating that the average width of the reef was 3 ft. 6 in., and that the estimated value of the stone at grass was from 1 to 2 oz. of gold per ton. The Company has the very small capital of £50,000, and not only has the present working capital of £15,000 been subscribed in cash, but there are a further 10,000 shares in reserve for working capital. The reports of the experts point to this mine proving a very rich property. Mr. Walter Burrell estimates the value of the ore in the reef at from 4 to 5 oz. of gold per ton; and the cablegram above referred to seems to lead to the conclusion that the stone will be much richer at depth. Mr. J. J. East, F.G.S., expresses a similar opinion; and it is probable that the shares, which now stand at 2⅛, will rise to a much higher value. The Company is, moreover, backed up by strong people. From the Bass and Flinders Mine advices are to the effect that the property is opening up very satisfactorily, and that a good flow of water has been struck at 133 ft.; the engineer also reporting that a yield of from 2½ oz. to 3 oz. of gold per ton may be expected when the machinery is got at work. Gladiators are being actively dealt in at from 1⅛

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to 1¼. These shares were quoted as high as 2¼ at the end of last year, while the position is in every respect improved. Professor Nicholas cables that eleven shafts have been sunk, varying in depth from 30 ft. to 87 ft., and that there are two reefs on the property which have been proved to a length of 1,000 ft. A large amount of ore is reported to be in sight, and Professor Nicholas adds that it is one of the richest gold mines in the Coolgardie district. With these credentials the shares should rise to a much higher level.

INDIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND OTHER MINES.

Indian Gold Mines have been temporarily relegated to the background, through no fault of theirs, however, as the news continues very favourable. Fluctuations have, moreover, been slight, and advances are marked in Mysore Gold to 7½, and in Ooregum Prefs. to 4, while slight declines have occurred in Champion Reef, Mysore Wynaad, and Balaghat. Coromandel at 2, and Goldfields of Mysore at 26s., are still the most tempting purchases apart from Kadur Mysore, which are quoted from 7s. to 7s. 6d. In New South Wales mines Aladdin's Lamp have attracted most attention, having advanced to 2 on the declaration of the dividend of 2s., which I had foreshadowed. This brings the dividend declared during the existence of the Company (June, 1892) to 27s., equal to 30 per cent. per annum. With the new machinery just being put up, capable of treating double the quantity of ore hitherto crushed, the dividend should increase even beyond this figure. Another return from the Aladdin's Mine has just come to hand, which states that the yield was 1,537 oz., valued at £5,747. This is a further reason why the shares in this Company should improve. A new Tasmanian mine, the Curtin Davis Proprietary Company, is coming into notice. This is an amalgamation of two Companies, which are working copper and silver lodes, somewhat on the same lines as the Mount Lyell. The capital is £200,000 in £1 shares, but only 50,000 shares have been issued. It may be pointed out that the copper is, as is usual with Tasmanian mines, all above ground. The quality of the ore appears to be very satisfactory, and Mr. H. H. Schlaap, one of the leading mining experts in Melbourne, is of opinion that at depth the permanent ore in the lode may be expected to approximate to an average of 36 oz. of silver and 20 per cent. of copper. The £1 shares have come into demand at 2½, and are likely to go to a higher level. Wentworth Proprietary are dull at 1. From the Croydon goldfields most satisfactory reports are to hand concerning the Croydon Consols. A clean up of 2,094 oz. of gold from 560 tons has been followed by an interim partial clean up of 438 oz. from 180 tons, and the 10 head of stamps are being kept going. It is curious that these shares should not have risen yet beyond 5s. New Zealand Mines have been rather dull, which is not surprising considering the sharp — and in some cases altogether excessive—advances which have taken place. Taitapu have receded to 3½, Waitekauri to 5½, Waihi to 7, Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand to 4¼. This is the penalty paid by this section for the exaggerated rush of new enterprises. United New Zealand Exploration shares have not been affected by the surrounding weakness, and stand at 2½. Komata Reefs are quoted 12s. 6d, and Komata Queens at 4s. 6d. are likely to follow in their wake, also Maoriland Gold Mines now at 3s. 6d. and Preece's Pont at 4s. Anglo-Continental Gold Syndicate shares have come into demand at from 2 5/16 to 2 7/16. This Company has been instrumental in forming the United New Zealand Exploration Company, which has already been so successful, and the shares in which have, as already stated, come into strong demand at a large premium. In the general foreign section Rio Tinto have again braced up, Anaconda following more slowly; Burma Ruby, Montana, and Golden Feather are firmer, and Holcomb are again improving. I am more than ever convinced that my view as to Mines Contract shares being very much under price is correct. Those who buy at the present level should make a very good investment, and it is said that they may look forward to a substantial dividend within the next few weeks. The Mines and Banking Corporation is quietly forging ahead and doing good business. These shares will suit those who want a sound investment, and one which yields a satisfactory rate of interest. I hear that developments on the Malacate Mine are satisfactory, and that the smelting now in progress will initiate large bullion shipments. This property covers an area of over nine square miles, and about £70,000 has been expended in opening up the mine. The Company has, I hear by cable, entered into a favourable contract with neighbouring smelters, who undertake to treat 100 tons per day for the next three years. This will be in addition to the Company's own smelting operations. The ore runs from 60 to 200 oz. of silver per ton, and contains from ¼ to 2 oz. of gold. The Company is presided over by a thoroughly competent Board, the Chairman of which is Mr. F. Muir, who is also Chairman of the De Lamar Mining Company. The shares are quoted 22s. 6d., and are a good mining investment. Holcomb Valley Prefs. are again in the ascendant, being quoted from 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 7½d. I hear that the Company has completed two remunerative transactions in West Australian mines, out of which it will reap considerable profits. In fact, the Holcomb Valley Directors are laying themselves out specially for this exploring and finance business, in addition to the development of its own property. According to latest advices from the latter, they are driving on the reef under the advice of a very competent mining engineer, and hope to get substantial results.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Leamington Cycle Company, Limited.—This Company is formed to take over three established Cycle Companies as going concerns and extensive freehold works at Leamington. The capital is £70,000 in shares of £1 each.

The properties acquired by this Company are situated in various parts of London, and are doing a good ready money trade. The property at Leamington is large, well situated, and capable of turning out 20,000 machines in the year. The capital is moderate considering future possibilities. I notice that Mr. H. L. Tangy and Mr. John Fell, ex-Mayor of Leamington, are on the Board.

Pearks, Gunston, & Tee, Limited.—This Company has been formed with a capital of £200,000 to acquire and amalgamate the businesses carried on by those who give the name to the Company.

This is another amalgamation of several businesses situate in various parts of London, all of which are said to be successful. If so, why should the various owners combine to sell when it could be done individually? The promoters and proprietors will, I think, receive the chief benefit from this venture.

The Endurance Tube and Engineering Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the business established in 1892 by the Endurance Seamless Tube and Vial Company, Limited, at King's Norton. The capital is £190,000 in £1 shares.

This prospectus candidly admits that an attempt was made in May last to float a Company for the same purpose, but that it did not meet with success. The promoters are now trying again without the extensions named in the previous prospectus and with the capital greatly reduced; but whether the fates will be more propitious is doubtful.

The Hampton Cycle and Foundry Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the business of Messrs. J. Hampton & Sons, ironfounders, &c., of West Bromwich, Birmingham. Capital £90,000 in £1 shares.

The valuable patent rights which are alluded to in this prospectus are those of Signor Grelli for an apparatus transforming an ordinary bicycle into one with two seats, in fact, "a bicycle made for two." This invention was recently floated on its own account, but apparently met

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

with no success; and I fail to see where the "valuable" comes in, or that £90,000 should be asked for such a venture.

Furness, Withy, & Company.—This is an issue of £450,000 4½ per cent. debentures at £100 each at 105, repayable by annual drawings at £110, or by purchase out of a sum of £20,000 per annum to be set apart for that purpose. The capital of the Company is £1,000,000.

New Coolgardie Gold Exploration and Finance Association (W.A.) Limited.—This Company has been formed with the object of entering into the business of gold, land, town-site, water-right, and other concessions in Western Australia. The capital is fixed at £150,000, divided into 300,000 shares of 10s. each.

The Mount Malcolm Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited.—The mining properties to be acquired by this Company comprise an area of about 144 acres in the North Coolgardie goldfields, Western Australia. The capital is £250,000 in £1 shares.

The Southern Cross Gold Mines Development Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to carry on the usual business of an exploration and development Company in connection with mining properties, &c. The capital is £100,000 in £1 shares.

This is a very "enticing" prospectus for the unguarded. One paragraph is underlined throughout to impress upon investors the fact that the directors have secured an "offer" of gold-bearing properties, and that further negotiations are in progress for acquiring other valuable properties upon terms which will enable a large profit to be made. I think it will be as well to await the completion of the first, and to see the result of the second, of these transactions. By the way, why should the application form be marked "special" and underlined?

The Gloucester Gold Mining Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring two gold-mining properties situate in the Thames District, Hauraki Goldfield, New Zealand. The capital is £120,000, in shares of 2s. 6d.

This property is about 87 acres in extent, and contains several old claims, amongst which is the "Adelaide" and "Last Chance." There are several known lodes upon the property, and well-known mining experts have reported favourably upon the prospects. This appears to be a fair mining venture.

The Simmer and Jack Proprietary Mines, Limited.—The African Banking Company is authorised to receive subscriptions for £500,000 First Debentures of the above Company. The Debentures are of £100 each, and are issued at par, and bear interest of 5½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly.

The Simmer and Jack is a most prosperous mine, and this is a welcome opportunity for investors seeking a good return for their money with security.

The New Premier Cycle Company, Limited.—Share capital, £600,000. The Company is formed to acquire, as a going concern, the business of the Premier Cycle Company.

The Joker Proprietary Gold Mines.—Capital £250,000. Issue of 55,000 shares of £1 each. This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working a group of mining leases in the Yalgoo district, Western Australia.

Hearl & Tonks' Cycle and Components Manufacturing Company, Limited.—Capital £160,000 in £1 shares. The Company is formed to acquire the business of manufacturers of Cycles and Cycle Components now carried on by Messrs. Hearl & Tonks.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

H. N.—Yes, Uruguay Government bonds are a fair investment. There is a pause in Argentines, which is justified owing to the uncertainity with regard to the proposed unification scheme. *R. P.*—Yes, the new Uruguayan loan is a good investment, yielding nearly 7 per cent. per annum.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Chippendale.—I have so frequently warned people not to have anything to do with the Provident Association of London, or with its offshoot, the Provident Free Home Association of London, that I cannot really assist you in the matter. Why do you not read your Truth more carefully? *Avalon.*—I am glad to hear that the outside broker in question has settled the account without the pressure of a solicitor; I have not generally had any complaints about him. *Agnostic.*—On the full share. Yes, a good investment if you do not object to the liability. *P.A., Stockwell.*—I am afraid that you have not much chance of recovering so large an amount from such a shady outside broker; but I forwarded the name of the solicitors in your envelope as requested. *R. N., Bognor.*—What you require cannot be had, unless you invest in a somewhat speculative security. *W. H. D.*—Be careful. *Rex.*—I do not see how I can help you in recovering the money which you put in the Atlas Contracting Syndicate, Limited, of 31, Lombard-street, E.C. I have never heard of its existence before, and why did you invest in it? *Matabele.*—1. Yes, respectable. 2. Be careful. *Enniskillen.*—You should have nothing whatever to do with the circulars of syndicate touts, such as the Guarantee Stock and Share Corporation, late of 25, Broad-street House, E.C., and now Frank Tarrant & Company, 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.: *P. A., Clapham* (Second communication).—I cannot reply by letter. The firm in question is very doubtful, and does not belong to the better class of outside brokers. You will have to look very sharp, or else you will lose your money. *Tarts.*—You should not be tempted by the glowing circulars of J. Edwards & Co., syndicate touts, Talbot House, Arundel-street, London, E.C. *W. E. P.*—These German lotteries are bona-fide enough, but the intermediaries are shady, and the money generally sticks to their fingers. *Fiorini.*—The bonds are genuine enough, but Cunliffe, Russell & Co. generally charge far above the market price, and if you want to buy these bonds you should do so through a respectable foreign banker in London. *Executor.*—At present it is impossible to give you an investment yielding from 2½ to 3 per cent., on which there is no reason to fear any depreciation in capital value. There is a regular famine of high-class investment stocks just now, and prices are unduly inflated.

Home Rails.

Chester Road.—Hold North British Deferred, and buy more to average.

American and Foreign Rails.

Clementina.—No reason to sell the Uruguay stocks Nos. 1 and 2 at present, and there is a fair prospect of both improving. Of course, they are not gilt-edged. *Income Bond.*—The maximum interest is 6 per cent. per annum. *Ubique.*—1. In sympathy with other American stocks, but these bonds should be held. 2. Yes. *Pink.*—These Argentine Railway bonds will doubtless go ahead again, the line has had a bad year.

Mining Shares.

Tyke.—1. You should hold for the present, and send the proxy. 2. I am glad you are doing so well in Mainland Consols on my advice, and you should hold for a further rise. *Lex.*—1. No, I do not advise purchase of London and New Zealand Exploration Company at present price; but you can find various promising Exploration Companies mentioned in my letter. 2. No, you can do better in other New Zealand mines also mentioned in my letter. 3. Impossible to tell yet with reference to the next Johnnies dividend; the amalgamation will no doubt precede any further distributions. 4. Caratals are more promising now. 5. Komata Queens are a good purchase. *Castra.*—1. Yes, Porges Randfontein are a fair mining risk. 2. At once, now that labour is getting more abundant. 3. Only on account of labour trouble. 4. They are a good purchase. 5. The distribution of Porges Randfontein shares to Randfontein shareholders has now been made. 5. You ought not to sell unless you get a good profit. I do not advise purchase of No. 7 (Golden Plums), No. 8 (Campana Gold), or No. 9 at present prices. *Foulard.*—Certainly hold No. 1 (Africana), No. 2 (Oceana Lands), No. 3 (Hannan's Props.), and No. 4 (Randfontein) for an advance. I know nothing of the Cycle Company in question, and I do not approve of a purchase of East Rand Extensions; but Rand Reefs are a good speculative purchase. *W. J. Y. H.*—1. Certainly not; it is S. who is respectable, not the other man. You can find what you require in the way of mines and exploration shares in my letter. *Albert Edward.*—A. A fair mining risk. B. Do not sell now, they should recover. C. No option but to hold for the present. *Maurice Kaminiski.*—These low-priced shares are likely to recover again. *G. G. G.*—1. I am sorry I cannot oblige you. 2. No, a doubtful outside broker. 3. A fair mining risk. *Cynicht.*—Hold Wealth of Nations for an improvement, I do not recommend the exchange now. *E. L.*—I think there is a prospect of all your South African mines recovering, and you should hold now. *Ibex.*—Nos. 1 to 4 are fair mining risks; No. 2 are doubtful; Hannan's Golden Treasure (3) is a first-rate purchase, and likely to go higher. *Tarasenesca.*—1. A fair mining risk; do not sell now. 2. These are all promising. 3. I do not care for these; you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. 4. Yes, good prospects. *Tin Tag.*—I have not of late recommended purchase of Broken Hill, Montana, or Wentworths, and you have made these purchases entirely on your own responsibility. Neither am I in favour of Sheba Queens. The only fair purchase amongst the lot is No 2. Why do you not read your Truth carefully before making such selections? *Gold Reefs.*—I do not think well of the shares mentioned by you, and agree with my contemporary. The document is returned. *K. B. W.*—You are entitled to your opinion, and I to mine. *Knock.*—Do not sell now, as they are likely to recover. *Sapphire.*—As you did not say that you sold the Randfonteins without the rights, you are bound to deliver the Porges Randfontein shares. Randfontein were quoted ex rights on June 17. 1. I do not care for Great Fingall Reefs, but you had better hold now. Also keep Nos. 2 to 7 for the present, as a recovery is probable. *L. C. G.*—Yes, Niekerk are a good purchase, as you will see from the favourable news which has been received with regard to this property. *Shahjehan.*—Amongst the mining shares mentioned by you I like Nos. 1 and 2 (Thames Hauraki) best. No. 3 is a fair mining risk, and Nos. 4 and 5 are also fair purchases; but I do not care for No. 6 (Dorics). *Observer.*—1. A fair investment. 2. No catch, but

you had better hold for the present. 3. Promising. I do not advise purchase of Sheba Queens, but of Sheba Hills, which are more promising; and instead of the other West Australian shares, you will do better by making your selection from my letter under "Golden West Australia." *F. G., Glasgow.*—Great Boulder East (1) and Great Boulder Perseverance (2) are promising mines. *A., Birmingham.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 and 2, but do not buy any more. Lisbon-Berlyn (3) should be sold on an improvement. I do not advise purchase of Rand Explorations, you can do better by making your selection from my letter. *James.*—City of London Gold Mines are a good purchase. I do not like the Indian gold mines mentioned by you, and prefer Goldfields of Mysore and Coromandel. *Tune.*—Do not buy any more Ejndina, but Golden Cement should be bought to average. *Swansea.*—This New Zealand mine is a fair purchase, but you can do better in those mentioned in my letter, more especially in West Australians. Too many mines playing on the name of Hauraki are coming out now; be careful. *Spes.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 to 5 for an improvement, which is probable. United Australian Exploration (6) is a promising Company. *O. S.*—The Lake View Mine is the important mine which is now being converted into an English Company. *Airdrie.*—I can only repeat that I do not like Sam's Wealth of Nations. Amongst the shares mentioned by you I like Hannan's Golden Group (3) and Hannan's Golden Treasure (4) best. *Brown, Forfar.*—I do not care for any of the shares mentioned by you, Nos. 1 to 4, and should certainly not advise you to buy more. Sell when you can get out without a loss. *Rob Roy.*—As far as I can learn there is nothing seriously the matter with the mine, and the shares are likely to recover. *Pangbourne.*—Your shares, Nos. 1 to 4, are well selected, and you should certainly average No. 1 (Buffelsdoorn). *Kerry.*—I do not recommend purchase of these Charters Towers mines, they are out of fashion; you had better stick to West Australians or South Africans. *Correspondent, Rome.*—Nothing is known here about the syndicate mentioned at present; it seems to be a silent one. *Sierra Leone.*—1. Recent events in South Africa have depressed this mine, but it should go ahead again. 2. I prefer Knights to the Deep Level shares. *Taffy.*—I should certainly advise you to hold the various Hannan's properties mentioned. *B. Boss.*—1. For no particular reason. 2. They should recover. 3. Impossible to tell yet. 4. Trees do not grow into the skies, and I should not advise you to hold Aladdins until they reach 6. With reference to the Loyal Gold Mining Company, capital 1,300,000 francs, which has been puffed in the French provincial press, I know nothing of this concern, and should certainly not advise any one to put money into it. Please adopt another *nom de plume. Thitz.*—Amongst low-priced New Zealand shares, Maoriland Gold shares are a good purchase, and should be held. The same applies to Irene (Hauraki), on which you already have a profit. *J. M.*—With reference to the "Gold Consols," I cannot give you the information you require; but the secretary ought to supply it. As the list closed on March 6, and presumably the allotment followed soon after, a meeting should soon be held, more especially as the money is being called up so rapidly. On the face of it I do not like this concern. *St. Briac.*—1. I do not like Rooderand Main Reefs, if that is what you mean. Porges Randfontein (2) and Waterfall Estates (3) should be held. *W. H. T.*—I must again mention that I cannot reply by letter, but I have returned the document in your envelope. I do not recommend Hannan's Pride. *Florence.*—Certainly hold Central Boulder (1). The Langlaagte Estate and Building Company has been affected by the disturbed state of the Transvaal; but matters are improving, and prospects, I am told, are very good. *Alexander.*—I cannot trace any documents with reference to the New Australian Goldfields; at all events I do not like it. *D. A.*—You are quite right, Croydon Consols (2) are most promising; but I do not care for No. 1, and should advise you to rather buy some other West Australian mine, such as 90-Mile Proprietary or Joker Proprietary. *Edzell.*—The news from the property is favourable, and you had better write to the Secretary for further information. *Kauri.*—1. I do not like Rand Roodepoort. The recommendation was doubtless inspired. 2. In due time these should go ahead again. 3. No option but to hold; do not average yet. 4. I do not like Kauri Freehold. *Sawbones.*—1. No, it is a different mine. 2. This is quite correct, and the shares should be held for an improvement. *W. E. T., Ebbw Vale.*—1. No, I do not like Campana. 2. Randfontein will go much better in the course of this year, but I cannot tell what price they will reach. 3. Yes, hold Buffelsdoorn Estates. *Springfield.*—No option but to hold the South African shares Nos 1 to 4, all of which should recover again. *Thurlow.*—A fair New Zealand mine, but no catch at present price. *L. E. W.*—1. You might put the money into Langlaagte Estate, Randfontein, or Barnato Consols, in the matter of South Africans; and into 90-Mile Proprietary and Associated Southern as regards West Australians. 2. Fair mines on the Rand. *Q. E. D.*—The prospects of the West Australian mine in question are fair, but you got in too high. I daresay that Orions will go ahead again, but you also got too high into these. *Ottery.*—I cannot myself understand the weakness of these shares; some large blocks seem to have been unloaded. *Chrysanthemum.*—You ought to join the other shareholders who are now agitating with reference to the African Gold Concessions, and in the meantime refuse to pay the call. Take a fair profit in De Beers. *West End.*—With regard to the African Gold Concessions, see preceding reply. *Cornered.*—No option but to hold all your shares, Nos. 1 to 7, although I do not like the last-mentioned; the others should improve again. *P. C. L.*—No reason that I can discover at present. *Freights.*—Nigels should be held. *H. J. A.*—You cannot call the mining concern in question a perfectly safe investment. Why not buy Langlaagte Estate, which will yield you good and steady dividends? *Plen.*—1. No, they will not be distributed so. 2. Claim the rights from your broker, if there should be any. 3. The Porges Randfontein shares, as a bonus to the Randfontein shareholders, will probably be distributed within a month or so. 4. I do not advise purchase at present. 5. Possibly, but still doubtful. 6. Yes, a fair mining risk. *W. S. W.*—No catch. *Manager.*—1. I certainly would not advise you to deal with these outside brokers; you had better obtain the address of a member of the London Stock Exchange through your bankers. 2. You will find what you require in my letter under "Golden West Australia." 3. I certainly do not advise a purchase of Chartered. I cannot reply by letter. *Verniew.*—I do not recommend purchase of Rand Roodepoort. No option but to hold the low-priced West Australian shares; and Associated Gold Mines are likely to go still higher. The other shares are not at all promising. *Lancastrian.*—I have no favourable opinion of Nos. 1 and 2; but No. 3 is a fair mining risk. Yet you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Cantab, Manchester.*—Yes, I still hold a favourable opinion of Golden Cement Claims. With reference to the General Development Syndicate (which has been formed to obtain money for the purpose of acquiring the "Hannan's Pride," and forming same into a Company with a capital of £150,000), and which is being pushed by private circulars, I advise you to be extremely careful. *Yeomanry.*—Hold Knights for a further rise. It is a very promising Witwatersrand mine. *E. H.*—A very fair Company, which is sure to go ahead again. The address of the Caratal Company is 57, Moorgate-street, E.C. *Rock House.*—1. No option but to hold; they should recover again. 2. I should prefer Croydon Consols. *Spero.*—No option but to hold all your shares A to R for an improvement, which is probable in many of them. *Nil Desperandum.*—The position has apparently changed; but you have no option than to hold.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

E. F. G.—I do not like the Great Horseless Carriage Company recently floated, but I do not see how you can get out of the payment of the calls once having subscribed. *John Thomas.*—This is a local brewery concern, about which no information is available here. *J. A. S.*—Sell when you can get out without a loss. Do not place implicit confidence in brokers' advice, which is very often bad. *Osborn.*—Have nothing to do with these Stores. As regards the new process, I will refer to it when the Company is issued. *Box, Leeds.*—I do not advise purchase of Van den Bergh's Margarine shares. *Vorwarts.*—No; I do not advise purchase of Simpson's Lever Chains, and am surprised that you should ask this question, as I have repeatedly expressed an unfavourable opinion of same. You do not appear to read your TRUTH carefully enough. *Beeston.*—No, I do not consider such a purchase advisable. *Investor.*—I quite agree with you that it is not correct that Field-Marshal Lord Roberts should be on the Board of public Companies such as the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company; but, on the other hand, I think you are correct that there is no authority for the rumour that the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Wolseley, not to be outdone, has become a Director of the Mazzawattee Tea Company. That would be altogether out of the question. *Stutters.*—I have repeatedly stated that I do not like New Beeston Cycles as an investment. *Anxious.*—I have already stated that I do not like the Great Horseless Carriage Company as being far too speculative. *J. R., Newry.*—I do not like the Artificial Silk Company at all. *Oleum.*—The publication in question is of no importance whatever, and you should pay no heed to its remarks. *Garge.*—1. I have already stated that this Company is over-capitalised. 2. A fair investment. 3. I do not know enough of this concern to be able to advise you. *A. C. W. R.*—Cycle Manufacturers' Tube shares should be held for an improvement. The statutory meeting took place on June 30. *H. A. B.*—No option but to hold these American Brewery shares for a recovery. *C. H. ST.*—I cannot trace this Company, but it seems to have been born privately, and has apparently blushed unseen.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Dolphin.—1. Yes, hold New Crœsus and buy more to average. 2. I do not think much of the Tramway Stock. 3. No particular temptation to buy just yet. *Tipperary.*—1. These should recover again. 2. Do not sell in a panic, although I do not think well of this concern. 3. London and Globe Finance are likely to go higher. Why not take your splendid profit in Paddington Consols, no one was ever ruined by taking profits; all the same I fancy they will go better. 4. I do not recommend a purchase of either Achilles or Lisbon-Berlyn, you will find much better shares recommended in my letter. 6. Yes. *Shan Van Vocht.*—It would be advisable in future to number your inquiries, as this simplifies matters very much. You had better keep your present investments in the hope of a further improvement. I do not think much of any of the shares mentioned, and should think that for a small investment Chester Lion Brewery Four-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Debentures at about 105 would be preferable. No reason to sell Buenos Ayres Great Southern at present. Your broker's advice does not seem satisfactory at all. *W. H. D.*—1. Dunlop Ordi-

nary are likely to improve. 2. Ditto Deferred have already risen to $\frac{7}{8}$ premium, but you must take your own course. I do not think much of No. 3. Nos. 4 and 5 are fair mining risks. 6. I have not a favourable opinion of the Claremont Cycle Manufacturing Company. *Ophir.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, you should certainly hold Hampton Plains, Menzies Crusoe, and Hannan's Main Reef for a further advance. The other stocks are fair investments, but no catch. *Mandlins.*—1. You ought not to take any notice of such trash. I should advise you to hold Johnnies and Barnato Banks for an improvement. 2. Do not average, but hold for a recovery, and then sell. 3. Keep them for the present; but Hampton Plains and Randfontein are distinctly more promising. *Scarecrow.*—A. You must tell me in what class of stocks you would invest the £5,000 so as to obtain an average yield of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent. Would American Railroad bonds do? B. Very fair investments, especially Nos. 2 and 3. C. If you answer my question as regards A in the affirmative, I will give you a list of American Railroad Gold bonds. *Junior Carlton.*—1. Sell whenever you can realise a fair profit. 2. Yes, when African Estates reach that price you should sell. *H. L.*—1. Sell on a rise. I do not like Raleigh Cycles (2), and the investments Nos. 3 to 7 are more or less speculative. *Strathairlie.*—The Company was, in my opinion, over-capitalised, and this I stated at the time. If you can get out without a loss, you might as well do so. Hold the West Australian shares for an improvement. *H. H.*—1. After the important advance I think it would be advisable to await further developments. 2. I do not recommend a purchase of Richmond Mines; there are many others mentioned in my letter which are more promising. *Colliery.*—This Transvaal Colliery Company should in time yield good results; in the present dulness of the market the shares should be held. Ontario are a fair purchase, and Chathams should be held. *Harlesden.*—Some of the shares Nos. 1 to 3 leave you a good profit, why not take it? Sunlight Incandescent (4) are likely to further improve. You might take your profit on No. 5 (Hotel Cecil). I do not think much of No. 6 (Mazzawattee). No. 7 is a fair mining risk. No. 8 is high enough. You can find the gold mining shares you require mentioned in my letter. *S. J.*—You ought to obtain the information from the London agency of the West Rand Mine at 15, George-street, Mansion House, and should insist upon obtaining the same. The Preference shares mentioned by you are a fair investment, but by no means gilt-edged. *Cantab., Salisbury.*—1. All your West Australian shares should be held; but you should take a good profit when you can get it. 2. A fair purchase, but no catch. *Seaside.*—1. I do not like the United Alkali Company. 2. Neither do I like these. 3. Of these I have repeatedly spoken unfavourably. 4. You must tell me what kind of investment you seek, and what yield you require. *Heather.* — All your American bonds should be held; their time will come again. Urugnay bonds, and especially the new Loan, are a good purchase, and preferable to some of the Industrial shares mentioned by you. Sooner or later the Langlaagte Estate will, no doubt, distribute a bonus. *Barima.* — Hold your shares Nos. 1 to 7 for an improvement. *Ignorant, Co. Down.* — 1. Hainaults are high enough. 2. No catch. 3. They are now at 15s. premium. 4. Cycle Manufacturers' Tube shares should certainly be held. The statutory meeting was held on June 30. *D. Fell.*—1. The document is returned, I have not much of an opinion of this West Australian mine. 2. A fair mining risk. 3. I have already referred to this Company; but take a moderate profit. 4. I do not like this new Assurance Corporation. *Goatherd.*—1. I understand that the prospects of this mine are favourable. 2. Do not buy yet, although there is no doubt that eventually they will see higher prices. 3. A fair speculative industrial investment. 4. Yes. 5. An improvement is probable when the new Lake View Company comes out. *Medicus, Dublin.*—1. The Debentures of this Brewery Company are a fair speculation; but I do not care for the shares. *Nux Vom.*—Hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 5 for an improvement, which is probable. I do not think much of Nos. 6 and 7, your broker should, however, be able to dispose of these shares.

Various Investments.

Consols have braced up again, and as purchases for the Government cannot be indefinitely put off, it is not improbable that there will be a further, if only temporary, advance on the present quotation of $113\frac{1}{4}$, more especially as surplus funds, available in the Money Market, will be again increased this month. Silver is $\frac{1}{8}$ better at $31\frac{1}{2}$d., the silver party in the States having taken fresh courage, while the tenders invited by the French Government for a supply of the white metal this week also are calculated to help the quotation. Rupee Paper, after advancing to $64\frac{7}{8}$, has dropped to $64\frac{5}{8}$, but the Chinese silver loan remains at $119\frac{1}{2}$. In Home Brewery shares Allsopp are firmer at about 180 for the Ordinary, while Guinness's are quoted 670. Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust shares are finding ready buyers at 6, at which they yield upwards of 5 per cent., with every prospect of an increase in capital value. Chester Lion Brewery Debentures at 105 return $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and are amongst the cheapest and best secured of this class of investment. In American Breweries St. Louis Ordinary are firmer at $5\frac{7}{8}$ x.d., the Preference at $10\frac{5}{8}$; but I consider the Milwaukee & Chicago Brewing Prefs. at $8\frac{1}{4}$-$\frac{1}{2}$ (ex. 8s. on account of arrears), and especially the Ordinary at $3\frac{1}{2}$, more promising in view of the progress which this Company has been making since the close of the beer war. In Nitrate Rails dealings have been restricted, and the price has relapsed to $7\frac{1}{2}$, while Nitrate Producing shares have been altogether stagnant. In Cycle shares a firmer tendency has prevailed, Dunlop Deferred more especially advancing to $\frac{7}{8}$ premium. There has also been some recovery in Components to $4\frac{3}{4}$. Preparations are being made for the issue of the French Dunlop conversion under the same auspices as the Dunlop Pneumatic. The Coventry Machinists' Company will also be a claimant for public favour, but I have not yet been able to form a judgment of its merits. So much, of course, will depend upon the capitalisation. The purchase of the Trafford Park Estate near Manchester has also been much discussed of late. I also hear that amalgamation of the well-known firms of decorators and furnishers, Laverton & Co., of Bristol, and Lewis & Lewis, of Cardiff and Newport, is one of the coming new Companies. J. Edwards & Co., Stock and Share Dealers, of Talbot House, Arundel-street, W.C., are again to the front with a circular headed "Still more Profits," in which they boast of having closed an operation in Metropolitans at a net profit of $75\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and they now are inviting participation in a syndicate in New York Central. I need hardly say that, notwithstanding the splendid profits which Edwards & Co. are mentioning in their circular, I advise my readers to keep their money in their pockets. The same advice I give to recipients of circulars from Mr. Claude Audain, an outside broker, of 107, London-wall, who is hawking about First Mortgage Debentures in the Isle of Wight Brewery Company, Limited, at £195 for ten debentures of £20 each, and twenty-five Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £10 each in the Kentish Fruit Preserving Company at £240. These are not gilt-edged, and not even silver-edged, investments. On the contrary, there is too much brass about them. By the way, we are living in strange times when Field-Marshals become tea dealers—I beg pardon, Directors. But is it right that Field-Marshal Lord Roberts should accept a post on the Board of the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company? What next? I have received the "Mining Manual" for 1896, by Walter R. Skinner. It is a huge volume, the increased size of which illustrates the enormous number of new mining companies which have come into existence during the past year. The present issue contains 1,356 pages, and gives particulars relating to 2,712 companies, no less than 655 of which were brought out during the past twelve months. The great increase of new matter has caused an addition of 600 pages to the book, which is as carefully edited as it has always been. "Kindell's African Market Manual," published by F. C. Mathieson & Sons, 16, Copthall-avenue, E.C., is a neat little volume, giving much valuable information concerning Transvaal and Rhodesian Companies in a pithy form.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY;

LOVE AT LORD'S.

I CONSIGNED my sister, Minnie, to Jericho. I cursed the evil day when I had persuaded the mater to bring her up for the Eights. If only I could have foreseen! But how was that possible? It was not as if Minnie was an attractive girl. Quite the reverse. I do not like crying down my own family; but candour compels me to admit that Minnie was very plain indeed. And not merely that. Some plain girls are awfully bewitching in their conversation, don't you know, and awfully beguiling in their manner, and you find their company so jolly pleasant that you forget all about their

looks. But Minnie was not that sort. She could hardly be said to have any conversation. I don't mean to say that she was a silent girl. She was infernally talkative. Often she would jabber by the hour together, and never give me the chance of interposing a remark. It made me quite sad to hear a rational being monopolising the conversation with such utter twaddle as she frequently did. She reminded me of a bad bowler, at the nets, who, when he gets the ball, will stick to it all the afternoon. You know the fellow, what a nuisance he is; and how obtuse to any hints on the subject of relinquishing his ball. Minnie, in her way, was just the same.

Well, to come back to the point, how was it possible, I say, for me to foresee that Freddy Perkins would fall in love with Minnie? Freddy had never shown any signs of being a spoony chap. In fact, he had always struck me as being particularly free from that kind of nonsense. Hitherto, his heart and soul, as well as his body, had been entirely devoted to cricket, at which game he was a notable performer. He was one of the few men I have known who always and under all circumstances played with a straight bat. His wicket was as difficult a one to get as any in England. He was a steady and consistent scorer, and the man on whom we always relied to make runs for us when others failed. "We" were the Oxford 'Varsity Eleven, of whom I was captain in that year, and Perkins was the shining light. I was proud of captaining a team that contained Freddy Perkins. You don't get a man like Perkins in a 'Varsity team once in a decade.

All the early part of that season Perkins' performances with the bat had been phenomenal. He had left his mark on the bowling of three first-class counties; he had treated the trundlers of a strong M.C.C. Eleven with simple contempt. But after that M.C.C. match came the change. In our ensuing encounter with the Gentlemen, Perkins actually bagged a brace. It seemed almost incredible; but so it was. And what seemed still more incredible was that he did not care. He treated his disgraceful failure with the utmost indifference. That was a very grave symptom. I had much rather see a man throw his bat across the pavilion, damn cricket for a rotten game, and vow that he'll take up golf to-morrow. Childish as such an exhibition is, it nevertheless leaves ground for hopes about that cricketer. But indifference points to a desperate state of affairs; and only some desperate ailment can satisfactorily explain it.

Freddy Perkins' ailment *was* desperate. There are many things that play the deuce with a man's cricket. Late hours; the wine-cup; over-smoking; liver. But one thing plays a more deuced deuce with it than all these put together; and that one thing is—love. I am bound to say that I have no patience with a fellow who falls in love in the cricket season. To my mind it is dishonourable and unsportsmanlike; as much so, as to smoke in training, or to shoot a pheasant in September. I should have given Perkins a very strong piece of my mind on the subject, only, you see, I was placed in a rather awkward position. In a certain indirect sense the fault lay with me. If I had not persuaded the Mater to bring up Minnie for the Eights, the contretemps would never have occurred. I could not, therefore, pitch it very strong into Perkins. But there was one person whom I had every right to rebuke severely—Minnie herself. I pointed out to her, in plain terms, the disastrous consequences which she had occasioned. Here was I, her brother, captain of the Oxford Eleven, my whole happiness, to say nothing of my honour, involved in the success of the team; and she, my own sister (having no regard for anything except the gratification of a girlish vanity), had literally ruined my best batsman; that, too, with the Cambridge match just coming on—at a time when, even if she must needs disregard her obligations as a sister, she might, at least, have regulated her conduct by the elementary principles of "form."

The question was—had she a spark of proper feeling in her? Would she do the one thing that, even now, might repair the consequences of her misbehaviour. Well, what was that one thing? What was it? Why, to give Perkins his congé, of course; to put a summary end to this silly spooning! I am afraid that Minnie is even more selfish than I had thought. She declined, half indignant (which was foolish), half laughing (which was outrageous). She actually said that while Mr. Perkins had hopes of winning her, he would be stimulated thereby to fresh exertions on the cricket field. Whereas, if she were to chuck him over, he would be so miserable that all the heart would be taken out of him for cricket or anything else. Pretty cheeky thing for a girl like Minnie to say—wasn't it? I told her so, candidly. I explained that, as for being miserable, it wasn't the least likely; that if he had his congé, he might, perhaps, be a trifle mopish for a day or two; but that the first four he hit in the ensuing match would put him all right. Would she really refuse me this trifling service? You might hardly believe it; but she did. She refused point-blank. Then it was that I consigned her to Jericho, and cursed the evil day on which I had persuaded the Mater to bring her up for the Eights.

The worst of it was that the Mater wouldn't help me in this affair either. I suppose you can't expect patriotism from women. At least, you never get it. Their ideas are all taken up with small, selfish, personal aims. The Mater had found out that Perkins was the eldest son of a rich old Manchester juggins; and I believe her one thought was to secure him for Minnie. How strangely trivial, in face of the far weightier matters at stake! I expostulated with her; but she turned a deaf ear. I urged the obligations which she, as a mother, owed to me, as her first-born. She remained perfectly obdurate. At last, I gave up pleading, with a heavy heart. The conclusion was forced on me that a fellow in my position ought to be an only orphan; that, however desirable from other standpoints, from that of a 'Varsity captain, mothers and sisters were a mistake.

Thus baffled in my patriotic endeavours by the Mater and Minnie, I went back to Perkins, and gave him a good talking to. I told him not to be an ass. I impressed on him that, by his silly, lackadaisical state, and his lovelorn demeanour, he was making himself a laughing-stock to the whole 'Varsity. I said that Minnie was a very good sort of girl (of course, a fellow can't give his own sister away, however selfish she may be); but that she was distinctly not worth losing the Cambridge match for. No girl was. Perkins groaned out something to this effect: "What was the Cambridge match compared with a life's happiness?" I could hardly refrain from laughing aloud at that. A life's happiness—*with Minnie!* Poor deluded idiot! If the little affair ever came off, how jolly well mistaken he would find himself! But, of course, I could not tell him that. She was my own sister; and if she *had* forgotten her obligations to me, I would not forget mine to her. No one can say that I have not always done my duty by Minnie.

It was useless to appeal any further to Perkins' patriotism. I therefore took another line. I knew that Perkins had not yet declared himself; at least, not in so many words. I suddenly put down my foot as Minnie's natural protector. This sort of thing musn't be. By hanging about all this time and yet never proposing, he not only compromised that confiding angel (Heaven forgive my applying such a term to Minnie!) but he proved himself altogether unworthy of the inestimable treasure of her affections. After such base conduct, I absolutely refused to recognise him as a prospective brother-in-law. No, no! It was useless his arguing. I was umpire in this matter, and I unhesitatingly gave him "out." It was only a forlorn hope—a desperate endeavour, like the donkey-drop which one tosses up to a stonewaller, on the chance of tempting him to hit. Eight times out of nine your transparent little dodge fails ignominiously, but on the ninth occasion you succeed in getting him caught. Then your surprise is great and your joy holy. So with me now. My donkey-drop succeeded beyond all expectation. I was fairly astounded at the effect which my feeble little dodge produced upon Perkins. He covered his face with his hands. He groaned aloud. He said I was right; that in—in—the circumstances he *had* no right to linger even on the threshold of the paradise in which that serene and lovely

angel dwelt. He would not sully her further with his ignoble presence. He would away to the outer darkness, which was now his destined—perhaps his deserved—portion. My hard words were, after all, the truest kindness. God bless Minnie! He would not see her again until—until——

Then, without completing his sentence, he wrung my hand and hurried from the room.

As I have said, I was fairly astounded at the success of my forlorn hope, and at first I congratulated myself upon it not a little. But soon I had reason to modify my opinion about it. In the first place—though this was a minor matter—I had a regular bad time of it with the Mater and Minnie. Minnie took the injured, resigned, martyred line. You know how odious a sister can make herself when she goes upon that tack. She gave up eating, got hollow under the eyes, started an irritating cough, and generally behaved in the most obnoxious manner. The Mater, on the other hand, did not go in for resigned martyrdom. She put herself in a frightful rage. She said that I had wrecked Minnie's happiness, and marred her life by my abominable interference. She called me all sorts of hard names, and levelled against me every kind of exasperating accusation. I bore it patiently. I never think it worth while to put myself out over trifles. And this, as I have said, was only a minor matter.

But in the second place—and this was where the shoe really pinched—the effect upon Freddy Perkins was only to make his play worse than before. If you recollect, I had told my sister Minnie that he might be made mopish for a day or two; but the first four he hit would put him all right. I have no reason to suppose that my prophecy was incorrect, but it never had a chance of fulfilment. *Perkins never hit that four!* He never even got a three but once, and that was by a mistake. That one three, too, represented his entire score for five innings. Freddy Perkins with an average of three-fifths of a run! And then he missed catches, threw overthrows, and ran me out twice. It was really heartrending. Our committee "sat" upon Freddy Perkins, and debated the question of turning him out. Yet we could not quite make up our minds to that. Freddy Perkins was still a name to conjure with. Besides, we felt awfully sorry for him. He looked so dejected and melancholy. I half thought myself that the question of playing him against Cambridge would be settled for us by the doctors, and that, instead of coming up to Lord's, poor Perkins would be conveyed, before then, to the lunatic asylum at Littlemore. I was really at my wit's end. At last I decided to consult some of Freddy Perkins' relations.

I ought to explain that he had an aunt and cousins living a few miles from Oxford, with whom I had some slight acquaintance; for when Perkins went over there he had sometimes taken me with him. His case was now so serious that I decided to confide the exact state of it to them. Not to all of them, of course. In fact, only to one of them. Freddy's eldest cousin, Maud Minniver, was a most sensible and discreet girl. She also, I knew, had great influence with my friend. I would tell everything to her, and ask her advice and assistance. With that end in view, I rode over there one afternoon, and having found the ladies at home, took the opportunity of a stroll round the garden with Mau—Miss Minniver to broach to her the momentous subject.

She heard all that I had to say in silence. She never interrupted me once—so different from my sister Minnie, who, in a like case, would simply have maddened me with irrelevant interpolations. I put the case strongly. I painted Freddy's condition in the blackest colours. I dwelt upon the almost certain prospect of our losing the Cambridge match at Lord's. It was a queer thing. I had expected her to be awfully gloomy over it, as I was; but she was nothing of the kind. As I went on talking, her face kept growing brighter and brighter. At the end it was quite beaming. She had an awfully taking smile. She—however, it was only the end of June then. Cricket didn't shut up till September. (I played for my county, you know, after the 'Varsity season.) It struck me, therefore, that I had better leave beaming smiles and that sort of thing for the shooting season. So I looked away, and tried to think of hitting a four to leg.

"Oh, Mr. Trotter," she exclaimed, clasping her hands, "I am *so* glad that you have come to me about this."

"I felt it my duty," I said. "And, besides, I was so confident of your influence over Freddy."

"Were you indeed, now?" she said, smiling again (upon my word that smile of hers was uncommonly arch; even the thought of hitting a four to leg could not quite make me impervious to it). "Well, I should not wonder if you will find your confidence justified. I think I *shall* be able to reason Freddy out of his foolishly morbid state. You leave him to me, Mr. Trotter."

"Miss Minniver," I replied, warmly, "if you can reason Freddy into such a frame of mind that he will be able to do himself justice on Thursday week and the two following days, you will earn not only my gratitude, but that of the whole University of Oxford."

She smiled again, more brightly than before. Those eyes of hers did sparkle in the most brilliant manner when she smiled. I increased my four into a six, and imagined it pitching right out of Lord's into the St. John's Wood-road. This proved something of an antidote. Still I could not help realising what a far cry it was to September and the partridges.

"I know I am safe in leaving the matter in your hands," I told her, after we had conversed together a little longer.

"I am only human," she replied (nothing but the thought of that six into the St. John's Wood-road prevented my making an immediate allusion to "divinity" and "angels.") "But I will do my best, and I think I shall succeed."

She gave me her hand with the most engaging simplicity, as a ratification of her promise. She had the softest and pleasantest hand to shake of any I had ever felt. Certainly, September and the partridges were a very, *very* long way off.

* * * * *

I shall not in a hurry forget that 'Varsity match at Lord's. The Minnivers were there, of course. So were the Mater and Minnie; though I did my best to persuade them, under the circumstances, not to come. However, they would. And if women will, why there's an end of it. Any fellow who has a Mater or sisters will quite understand *that*.

We had a two days' match with the M.C.C. on the Monday and Tuesday. Freddy Perkins again failed to score, and was more gloomy and lackadaisical than ever. I was afraid that Maud Minniver's efforts had failed; and I looked forward to the Cambridge match with the gravest forebodings. But when I ran up against Freddy in the pavilion at Lord's on the morning of the eventful Thursday, I was at once struck by the extraordinary change in his demeanour. His erstwhile long face had suddenly become as round as a baby's; his melancholy stare had given place to a jovial, smiling look; and he was humming a popular air with all the blitheness of a skylark.

"By the piper, old chap," he greeted me. "Won't we give them beans!" And then, after executing an irregular but energetic hornpipe, he inquired of me, casually—

"Are your people here, old man?"

"Yes," I told him. "I have just left them in their seats."

"They are here in good time," he said, looking at the clock. "It still wants forty minutes to the start. Heigh-ho! Beastly dull place this pavilion. I think I'll take a stroll round!"

I was lucky that year. I won the spin. The wicket was in grand condition. Of course, we took first knock. I sent in Freddy and our stone-waller to open the innings. By Jove! That *was* a grand experience. I sat in the pavilion and felt really happy. To see Freddy walking into the Cambridge bowling was a treat. The stone-waller kept up his end and Freddy hit. Change after change was tried. All the bowlers came alike to him. He despatched their deliveries, one after another, to the boundary with perfect impartiality. I need not describe

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it farther. The innings is historic. If you just look at the statistics which the evening papers publish on the first day of the 'Varsity match you will find the following score against Freddy Perkins' name—235*. A glance at the footnotes will tell you that the * implies "not out."

In the interval after luncheon—Freddy had already completed his first century—I took Maud Minniver for a stroll over the turf, and after thanking her warmly for the wonderful change she had effected in Freddy, made bold to ask how she had accomplished such a miracle.

"Well, you see," she explained, "when Freddy and I were little more than children, and neither of us really knew our own minds, we were foolish enough to become secretly engaged. He was too honourable to let me see that—that—he had changed his mind, and I—well, supposing that he was still in love with me—I—I did not like to tell him that—that—I had changed mine. But yesterday—I waited, purposely, till then—I gave him his freedom, and—and—the impression I have formed from a conversation which I had an hour ago with your sister—(by the way, what a lovely girl she is! I don't wonder at Freddy preferring her to me)—is that he has already taken advantage of it."

I saw it all. My heart throbbed with gratitude. I—I—before I knew where I was I was telling her that *I* did wonder at Freddy preferring any one to *her;* and then, realising what a *very* long way off September was, and that, after all, county cricket was only a minor matter, I did not even try to conjure up the vision of a four to leg, but let my feelings overpower me without resistance. Before I went in to bat, I was an engaged man.

MUSIC.

HARRIS AND AFTER AT THE OPERA.

WHEN last week, writing, I may be allowed to confess, only two hours after the death of Sir Augustus Harris, I remarked that Opera in London had received a stunning blow, it is obvious that I did not exaggerate. From all sides have come warnings that the very existence of Opera is threatened. It is perfectly certain that Lady Harris will not risk her modest fortune upon such a speculation, upon which also (apart from any express orders in the will) no executor would be rash enough to embark. The will, by the way, I believe, appoints Lady Harris, Mr. Rendle, and Mr. Hoile executors, with power to continue enterprises or to realise for Lady Harris and her only child, who, under certain ordinary restrictions, inherit all the deceased manager was worth. I agree that an estate of this character will not be an easy one to wind up. But apart from express directions, the first obvious duty will be to lighten the ship. "The Little Genius" will probably be the earliest to go. The last time I saw him I told "Druriolanus" the perfectly patent fact that he must have been infatuated to attempt to bring out an expensively-mounted and cast comic opera (or musical drama) in early July, and he freely admitted he regretted it was not four months earlier. But Harris never was wise in comic opera; as "La Fille de Madame Angot," in 1880, and "Frivoli," some years later, will testify. The executors can, nevertheless, not be expected to share Sir Augustus's views, and the production will, therefore, either be postponed till September, or will be handed over to other members of the syndicate. The autumn drama is well cared for, and despite absurd reports that other managers have been "approached"—by whom, in all conscience?—Lady Harris will probably direct Drury Lane, of which the executors hold a five and half years' lease. As to Covent Garden, the present season is quite provided for; while in the autumn the house will probably be let, either for English Opera or Promenade Concerts, and in the winter there are the Fancy Dress Balls which Mr. Forsyth will look after.

It is the future of Covent Garden after Easter which is the special point. On the first news of Harris's death there was some talk of giving the old managers another chance. But Mr. Faber, who has succeeded Mr. Montagu as ground landlord, has more than one card up his sleeve. Doubtless, he would like to retain Covent Garden as the premier opera house of the world. But Lady Harris certainly will not take it on her own account, and Mr. Faber is far too wise to let it to any man who cannot give Society the opera it demands, or who has not personal capital, the Harris copyright repertory, and the confidence of the subscribers. Rather than imperil the glory of Covent Garden, Mr. Faber has always the alternative of relinquishing the lease at a fair price to the Duke of Bedford, who could profitably use the Opera House, as he has already utilised the Floral Hall, as a market for potatoes and oranges. Personally, I expect during the next few months to read a half a hundred "exclusive" statements that this or that manager has taken the Opera House. If, however, I may venture to prophesy, I should say that nothing at all will take place until the end of the autumn; and that then a good deal will depend upon the views of Mr. Faber, Mr. Higgins, and Lady de Grey. And I further venture to predict that unless the new direction is satisfactory to Harris's artists and his splendid list of subscribers, Covent Garden may within the twelvemonth be given up to neglected agriculture, and the wealthiest city in the universe will be without an opera house at all.

There were several unrecorded incidents connected with Sir Augustus Harris's death. Mr. Collins, who was temporarily in charge last Monday week at Covent Garden, after good-naturedly sending me the latest bulletin at half-past nine, found himself played out by overwork, and, taking a sleeping draught which his physician had given him, went to bed. Some simpleton, without warning, woke him from his narcotic rest at 4 a.m. with the laconic telegram, "Meet the body at Charing Cross at 8.46." This was the first intimation he had received of the death of his chief. The Folkestone Post Office closes at 10 p.m., but Mr. Forsyth, the acting manager, who, by the way, under very trying circumstances, has developed an old head on young shoulders, took the precaution to keep the wires open. It is Mr. Forsyth, in association with Mr. Higgins and Signor Mancinelli, who is responsible for the very vigorous operatic management since Harris's decease. Mr. Higgins' position is a curious repetition of operatic history. He is understood to be a lawyer in large practice. So, also, was Mr. Benjamin Lumley, when, exactly sixty years ago—then, oddly enough, a pupil in the law of Mr. Basil Montagu—he was called upon to assist Laporte (the successor of Ebers, himself the predecessor, as a librarian, of the well-known house of Lacon & Ollier) in operatic management. Before very long, Lumley, the solicitor, was, owing to the sudden death of his client, compelled, with many promises of aristocratic and financial support, to direct the opera himself. It is not quite impossible that Mr. Higgins, before many months are over, may be subjected to a similar temptation.

The principal operatic event last week was the performance in German of "Tristan und Isolde" with the De Reszkes, who for the first time sang this music here. To say that Wagner's most advanced tragic opera would delight an after-dinner audience would imply that there must be a Wagnerian public for the Alhambra or Olympia. The late Sir Augustus Harris, in point of fact, catered for many kinds of audiences, and the truth that Covent Garden, despite increased prices, was crammed from half-past seven o'clock on Friday, and that the gallery at long past midnight refrained, contrary to their custom, from singing "We wont go home till morning," undoubtedly indicated that the devotees of Wagner are willing to spend their time and money in worship of their deity. I am also bound to say that the music of the love duet has never been sung more beautifully than by M. Jean de Reszke and Madame Albani. Of course, we had to make believe a little. To suppose that a comfortable couple like this were of the kind which threw wisdom

and fears of rheumatism to the winds, is to suppose a great deal. And when brother Edouard appeared and gently chided the swain, whose outspread coat-skirt barely concealed half of Mme. Albani's head-dress, there was an inevitable suggestion of amused surprise that "people of your age," and so forth. Both, however, sang well, and if only the stand-off tenor and the skittish soprano had been a quarter of a century younger, we should probably have had a perfect performance. As to Mme. Melba, she has drawn certain audiences for the hackneyed repertory. She has sung Marguerite very well, and I hope she will sing Desdemona before the season is over.

There was a splendid performance of "Elijah" at the Crystal Palace on Saturday before an audience of 23,000 people. Madame Albani and Mr. Lloyd were here at their best, while Miss Clara Butt, who on the Continent seems to have developed the wobble, was the contralto, Mr. Santley was in very fine form, but the chief feature of the performance was, of course, the choir, who sang the Baal and other choruses grandly. Among them was a veteran, Mr. Pountney, who came from and returned to Birmingham the same day, and who sang as bass in the choir at the first performance under Mendelssohn in 1846.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

My dear Mr. Wyndham,—I am delighted to see an old favourite of my youth, "Johnson's Lives" (1), re-appearing in a handsome edition under competent editorship. Johnson seems to me to be as little out of date to-day as a breath of fresh air is out of date in a chamber sickly with incense. I take up, for instance, Mr. Richard Le Gallienne's "Retrospective Reviews, A Literary Log" (2), and come upon a set of epigrams formally ranged, spaced and numbered as a kind of staccato overture to suggest the idea of the character of the work it opens, and the first of these in place and also in importance is:—"Criticism is the art of praise." A little farther on I find this expanded into the illogical and confused dictum:—"Praise is more important than judgment. It is only at agricultural societies that men dare sit in judgment upon the rose." As though there were not roses and roses, and as though the ideal judge at a flower-show was the gushing girl who exclaims unceasingly and unvaryingly "Oh, how awfully sweet!" The competitors themselves and floriculture itself would be the worst losers by such ungraduated and indiscriminate eulogy. Having struck the key-note in these epigrams, Mr. Le Gallienne reprints five years' critical contributions to the newspapers, without weeding out the hasty, crude, and perfunctory notices from those written considerately and *con amore*. At the same time, I must admit that some of these criticisms are admirable of their kind, and confess that it is to the kind chiefly that I object. For they are cloyingly sweet—too sweet to be wholesome, too sweet to escape the obvious cynical play upon their title, "A Literary Log-roller." What a change to Johnson's breezy and robust criticism! No doubt Johnson's sight was as short mentally as physically; but as short-sighted men see with singular clearness what is within the range of their vision, so Johnson was sound and shrewd in such judgments as lay within the purview of his mind. Certainly he would sometimes weigh ethereal essences in grocer's scales, and sometimes would let his personal or political prejudice against a man colour his judgment of his poetry. He hated Gray, and the effect of his hatred is seen in such fatuous Tupperian stuff as this:—"He that forsakes the probable, may always find the marvellous"; or such ineptitudes as this:—"The ode might have been concluded with an action of better example; but suicide is always to be had without expense of thought. I do not see that the 'Bard' promotes any truth moral or political." As though a primrose by a river's brim was to be valued only, as Disraeli only valued it, for flavouring a salad. Apropos of Gray and of Johnson, I find in a book which is a thing of beauty, and also a treasury of wit and humour, "The Quarto" (3) a happy parallel between the "Elegy" and Fitzgerald's heart-shaking "Omar Khayyam," and a criticism of Professor Cowell's—characteristically professorial—which recalls old Sam at his worst. Every one knows that Fitzgerald in all his translations, and most of all in his "Omar," followed the rule which is best expressed by Sir John Denham:—

> It is a translator's business not alone to translate language into language, but poesie into poesie; and poesie is of so subtle a spirit that in pouring out of one language into another it will all evaporate if a new spirit be not added in the translation.

This every one knew, and none better than Professor Cowell, who had opened to "Old Fitz" the Persian mine. Yet hear the Professor's comment on the grandest verse—the "Prometheus Vinctus" verse—in "Omar":—

> O Thou, who man of baser Earth didst make,
> And even with Paradise devise the snake;
> For all the Sin wherewith the Face of Man
> Is blackened, Man's forgiveness give—and take!

On this last Titanic line Cowell comments thus:—"Fitzgerald mistook the meaning of *giving* and *accepting* as used here, and so invented his last line *out of his own mistake.*" When you see professors mounted—and it is their favourite mount—on Don Quixote's wooden horse, Clavileno, you always feel inclined to play the Duke's trick, and blow the steed sky-high with squibs. Mr. Edmund Gosse in his suggestive "Critical Kit-Kats" (4) gives you the original opening verse of "Omar," which all the contemporary critics objected to as too literally and fantastically Persian, whereas every word of it was "Old Fitz's" own! Nevertheless the critics were substantially right, in my judgment, as the imagery seems to me almost grotesquely far-fetched:—

> "Awake! for morning in the bowl of night,
> Has flung the stone that puts the stars to flight;
> And lo! the hunter of the East has caught
> The Sultan's turret in a noose of light."

Mr. Gosse, however, prefers it to the present opening. The weakest of these "Kit-Kat" papers is the most ambitious — the address delivered on the occasion of the unveiling of the American monument at Hampstead to Keats. Surely the orator hardly rose to the level of the occasion in his references to "the brisk and shapely lady whose fascination was to make the cup of Keats' sorrow to overflow;" or in such commonplaces as this:—"Keats' fame rests upon no privilege of birth, no 'stake in the country,' as we say; it is fostered by no alliance of powerful friends, or wide circle of personal influences." Oratory of this cheap kind recalls Mr. Chadband on poor little Jo: "I say this brother present here among us is devoid of parents, devoid of relations, devoid of flocks and herds, devoid of gold, of silver, and of precious stones." Mr. Chadband was as indisputably right about poor Jo as is Mr. Gosse about Keats, but in both cases to tell you "why day is day, night night, and time is time, is nothing but to waste night, day, and time." By the way, both Mr. Gosse and Mr. Le Gallienne hold Keats to be one of the very greatest poets that the

(1) "Johnson's Lives of the Poets." With Notes and Introduction by Arthur Waugh. In 6 volumes. Vol. I. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co.) Price 6s.
(2) "Retrospective Reviews." A Literary Log. By Richard Le Gallienne. 2 vols. 1891-1895. (London: John Lane.) Price 9s. net.
(3) "The Quarto." An Artistic, Literary, and Musical Quarterly for 1896. (London: J. S. Virtue & Co.) Price 5s.
(4) "Critical Kit-Kats." By Edmund Gosse. (London: William Heinemann. Price 7s. 6d.
(5) "Poems of John Keats." Edited by G. Thorn Drury. With an Introduction by Robert Bridges. (Muses' Library.) 2 vols. (London: Lawrence & Bullen.)
(6) "The Paget Papers." Diplomatic and other Correspondence of the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Paget, G.C.B. 1794-1807 with Notes by Mrs. J. R. Green. 2 vols. (London: William Heinemann.) Price 32s. net.
(7) "The Vanished Emperor." By Percy Andreae. (London: Ward, Lock and Bowden, Limited.) Price 6s.
(8) "Her Ladyship's Income." By Lorin Kaye. (London: John Macqueen.) Price 6s.
(9) "A Cornish Maid." By L. Higgin. 3 vols. (London: Hurst & Blackett, Limited.) Price 31s. 6d.
(10) "Doris and I," &c. By John Stafford. (London: Chatto & Windus.) Price 3s. 6d.
(11) "Dictionary of Quotations (English)." By Lieut.-Colonel P. H. Dalbiac, M.P. With authors and subjects Indexes. (London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.)

modern world has seen; while Tennyson was often heard to assert that had the boy bard's life been prolonged he "would have been our greatest poet since Milton." This true and growing estimation of the poet is consistent with Mr. Bridges' judgment in his introduction to the exquisite "Muses' Library" edition of Keats (5): "the best of Keats' work is of the highest excellence, but the mass of it is disappointing"—which is only to say, that Keats died in boyhood. Mr. Bridges' criticism of Keats in this introduction is the sanest and soundest I have yet met; though I find it hard to forgive him the perverse order in which he ranks the immortal odes.

What comes from the lips of princes, whether words or cherry-stones, are so precious to their worshippers as to be preserved as heirlooms. In "The Paget Papers" (6), for instance, you come upon startling specimens of English as she was spoke in those days, and wonder, as at flies in amber, "how the devil they got there," until you reach the signature of the First Gentleman in Europe. We should like to have asked his Royal Highness, or, better still, the obsequious Archbishop of Canterbury of that day, to parse the following sentence from the Prince's letter to Sir Arthur:—

> Since that day the old girl has never ceased being tipsy twice a day—first at dinner and on—but after supper—for she always makes a regular supper first—and a couple of bottles of iced champagne, after a couple of quarts of small beer, which she calls, you know, a swig of beer, has completed about six in the morning the old gentlewoman since she has been with us here.

The Prince's affectionate letters to his "dearest Arthur," are, however, creditable to his heart, if not to his head, and are much taken up with a vain attempt to bring about a marriage between his young friend and the Dowager Duchess of Rutland. Sir Arthur, on his part, made an effort, no less vain, to save the Prince from his disastrous marriage to Caroline of Brunswick, "for she wor a bad 'un, she" notoriously even in those days. As Sir Arthur was usually transferred to the post to which the centre of political interest had shifted in the breathless days of Napoleon's triumphs, his despatches and letters are naturally and intensely interesting. Apropos of Napoleon, I took up a novel with the taking title, "The Vanished Emperor" (7), in the expectation of finding this Titanic figure, who pervades at present the literature of two continents, but was surprised, not altogether agreeably, to recognise in its hero the very last Prince who would be likely to efface himself for a moment, the Emperor William II. of Germany. Nevertheless, the very clever author of this *tour de force* represents the insuppressible young man disappearing voluntarily into space for a month, without the inevitable result of the dissolution of the universe—which is absurd. Even more absurd is the assumption that the Emperor himself had not the faintest suspicion of the effect of the disappearance of the political sun from its system. He descends, like Jove, from his throne to make love in a seclusion so absolute that not a murmur of the political convulsion caused by his evanescence reaches him. He is discovered and brought back at last by a wily English diplomatist, but only just in time. In another day—

> Lo! thy dread Empire, Chaos, is restored,
> Thy hand, great Anarch, lets the curtain fall,
> And universal darkness buries all!

So at least thinks the author, who believes in the Emperor—to whom he dedicates the novel—as implicitly as his Majesty believes in himself. Here is a daring venture—to persuade us that a living Emperor, who is always and obtrusively in evidence, disappeared for a month into space, to bring back from his Utopia an unknown girl as his Empress! That we should read such a story to the end with the deepest interest is a triumph of cleverness. Yet more clever, even brilliant, is "Her Ladyship's Income" (8), a novel by a new writer, but certainly not by a young hand. It must have taken some years and much experience to draw such characters as its Mayor, its Duke, his son, the Mayor's daughter, Lady Jingle, Neal, the mill manager, and the labour champion, Goodale. The story, too, moves easily and swiftly without dragging or wandering, while the conversations are at once natural and bright—not a usual combination. Here, for instance, is an admirable exposition by the labour champion of what women can and cannot do:—

> Woman, with her infinite tenderness and sympathy, may help a suffering man or woman; but she fails when she tries to devise a plan which shall prevent others from falling into the same suffering. Woman can deal with individual cases, but when she comes to systems, she lacks the patience, the capacity for compromise, the ability to give and take. Woman should be to man what equity is to law. She should be content to relieve the individual sufferers from the hardships of a system.

If I told you of a novel in which a foundling is fortuitously given a Christian and a surname—"Dorothy Maitland"—which turn out in the end to be her real names, you would, after your manner, calculate the mathematical chances against such a coincidence, and decline even to open a story that asked you to admit such impossibilities. Yet "A Cornish Maid" (9) has but to be opened to be read with eager interest from the first page to the last. The maid herself is a charming creation, brought up by the sea and on the sea, among simple, and kindly, and devout Cornish fisher folk—an Undine with a soul. The plot is most ingenious, if somewhat old-fashioned in its coincidences; and old-fashioned also, and fortunately, are the personages, not one of whom leave a bitter, decadent taste in your mouth. Old-fashioned, too, in the best sense, is an exquisitely written volume of short stories, "Doris and I" (10), which it is a delight to read for the style alone. The style, indeed, is so tender, and the tales so pathetic, that the effect is like that of moonlight upon ruins, or of moonlight shining through the painted windows described in one of these idylls. "The saintly figures in the windows seemed to awake and to listen in quaint attitudes to the old organ; the Virgin gazed more tenderly on her child; the centurion's visage softened as he looked on the kneeling woman; a benigner peace was in the face of the dead Christ. It was but the moon, slow-rising and shining softly through the many-hued figures."—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, very sincerely yours,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

P.S.—In literature, no less than in politics, it is always a wise rule to "verify your references," and a good dictionary of quotations (derided though such compilations are by some) is often useful in correcting the tricks and lapses of a fallible memory. The latest and most up-to-date work of this sort has been compiled by Lieut.-Colonel Dalbiac, M.P. Of course, some things are omitted from this "Dictionary of Quotations" (11) that one would have included, and some included that one would have omitted; that is inevitable in such a volume. On the whole, however, the quotations have been selected with excellent judgment; and, so far as I have observed, they are given with remarkable accuracy—indeed, in all respects the book is the best of the kind that I have seen.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London has had a remarkably lively week. There were scores of fashionable functions every afternoon—dinners, balls, and dances by the dozen every evening. I should fancy that there must have been quite a scarcity of awnings on one or two days in particular.

The Society of Women Journalists had a very brilliant birthday party at Stafford House on Wednesday evening. It was very sweet of the Duchess to lend the magnificent reception-rooms to her humble and hard-working sisters. It was a pleasure merely to be in such wonderful rooms. Buckingham Palace has nothing like them. The great hall, with its wide marble staircase, is of grand dimensions, and one feels like a midge or a minnow when ascending. The Long Gallery, however, is the apartment

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that arouses the imagination. It runs the whole width of the mansion, and is lighted by about a dozen high windows. The walls are hung with fine pictures, lighted in such a way as to bring their best points into prominence. Many of them illustrate Scriptural incidents. There are several immense chandeliers, on which the electric light runs up the centre of dozens of simulated candles. Opaque white shades give it a soft effect.

The decorations are white and gold, and the ceiling, like that of all the other reception-rooms, is white and gold—handsome without being heavy, as is the case when the gold is insufficiently relieved with white. On a daïs in the centre of the room were given the entertainments, several clever and popular people having kindly given their services to the Sisters of the Pen. The attendance was enormous. The Duchess herself looked in for a while, accompanied by Princess Henry of Pless and Mr. Arthur Balfour. Both ladies were looking lovely. The Duchess was in a bright rose-pink silk ball dress with chiffon sleeves of the same colour, and wore a very light and graceful ornament of diamonds in her fair hair. We had the opportunity of comparing her as she lived and moved with her portrait by Mr. Ellis Roberts. I fancy it was exhibited in the New Gallery about a year ago. It is an excellent likeness, and conveys almost the sweetness of her beautiful eyes and the smiling look that covers their lurking sadness. Princess Henry of Pless was pretty as ever in a white silk sewn in wavy lines with bright green sequins laid half over each other. In her hair were bright pink roses and green leaves, fastened in with pins made of large pearls set in diamonds.

The pre-eminent youth, grace, and beauty of these ladies were made the more conspicuous by their tall stature. The Duchess is only 28, having been married on her seventeenth birthday. The Princess Henry of Pless is just 23. Among the gentlemen who accompanied them was Earl Crewe; and Lord Rosebery came in later in the evening. Lady Angela Forbes joined her sister for a few moments, and I fancy I saw Lady Westmorland in white, with a long green sash fastened rather to the left at the back. Mrs. Asquith mounted a chair, steadying herself by a light touch on her husband's shoulder, in order to be able to have a good view of Miss Rosina Brandram and Mr. Passmore in a scene from "The Mikado." Mrs. Asquith was in white, with a glitter of sequins about the waist, and a long green sash. She wore a diamond tiara. Sir John Robinson, Sir Wemyss Reid, Mr. Oswald Crawford, Sir William Marriott, M.P., with Lady Marriott and Mrs. Eliot James, Lord Ronald Gower, Mr. Oscar Browning, Miss Mathilde Blind, Mme. Sarah Grand, Mr. William Black, Mr. David Murray, A.R.A., Mr. Marcus Stone, R.A., Mr. J. Sant, R.A., and Mr. Zangwill were among those whom we recognised.

It was interesting to look down from the top of the great staircase and watch the arrivals. Mrs. Craigie (John Oliver Hobbes), President of the Society, received the guests, assisted by several ladies of the Council, among whom I noticed Mrs. Arthur a'Beckett, and Mrs. Jack Johnson, the Hon. Sec. It fell to the lot of these ladies to "receive" the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland in their own house—an amusing involution of circumstance.

The entertainments were interesting, and attracted a great crowd round the daïs. M. Johannes Wolff made his violin sing to us most sweetly in a "Romance" of his own composition. He looks so romantic himself, with his picturesque and abundant black hair thrown back from a broad white brow, under which shine a velvety pair of great black eyes, that his aspect intensifies the effect of his music. Mr. Arthur Roberts made everybody laugh with his droll facial gymnastics in "A sort of a kind of a" song. Miss Letty Lind, looking charming in a white or very pale-tinted gown, with pink roses for shoulder-straps, sang the Something Parrot—was it the Perplexed or the Pettish? I cannot remember. The memory of her graceful movements as she danced after each verse has just recalled to me that her dress was white satin sewn with silver sequins.

The sisters of the pen who were members of the Society had been requested to wear a white quill pen and a black bow on their dress. One or two had introduced these insignia successfully into their coiffures. Others wore it on the shoulders, and others at the waist.

The Rose Show at Queen's Hall was a delight to eye and nose. But hardly any one looked at the glorious roses. They were shown in the first gallery, exquisite specimens in every colour, from the greenish-white Niphetos down to the almost black of the deep crimson rose. Some magnificent pink ones, as large as an afternoon tea-saucer, were called "Her Majesty," and deserved the distinction. The new rose, a cultivated briar, did not very highly appeal to me. It is like a single dahlia. The petals are very large and of a beautiful deep pink; but I prefer the wild rose in its natural state. Its delicious pink, when it first awakes, is, to my thinking, unrivalled for delicacy, softness, and blushing brilliancy. All too soon the sun kisses the petals into pallor, but even then they are prettier than the latest effort of the horticulturist can make them.

There was a seething crowd downstairs among the stalls where kindly folk were selling for the benefit of the North Eastern Hospital for Children. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught opened the bazaar on the first day. Lord Frederick Fitzroy made a statement about the needs of the hospital, and the Duke of Connaught replied in a neat speech. He speaks without any of the German accent of his elder brothers, and enunciates very deliberately and carefully. He laughed heartily at some of the small children, who presented purses to the Duchess, and who forgot to give them up, so flurried were they by the business. The hat of one little girl fell off just as she reached the Duchess, so she sped along, clutching at it as it hung down her back by the elastic, and had to be headed back by the Duke to give up her purse of money.

The next day we went on purpose to see the Duchess of Marlborough open the Show. It was our first glimpse of her American Grace, whom we found to be very girlish, simple, and ingenuous-looking. Her great height is very well carried off, and she will have a very fine figure when she is a few years older. It is rather a trying thing, you know, to stand on a platform and see hundreds of eyes fixed on you wherever you look, but the young Duchess stood it remarkably well, received her bouquet with a pretty smile and a few words of thanks, and every now and then referred to her husband, the Duke, who stood next her, in a gentle, submissive, questioning way. She is quite Spanish in style, with olive complexion, deepening to a pretty rose-pink on the cheeks, and magnificent dark eyes with very marked eyebrows. Her dark hair is very abundant. She wore a shot red and brown silk and a large hat with a much too tall plume of black feathers. A piece of green velvet round her neck looked irrelevant to the rest of her toilette, but it suited her colouring, and was, therefore, forgivable. Her voice is very soft and musical, a great charm always, but more especially when one so often hears the strident tones adopted by smart women and girls who seem to think it the correct thing to speak as loud as possible and occasionally very much through the nose.

The Duke of Teck's garden party at the Botanic was a very pretty one. There had been heavy rain on the previous day and on that morning, but the afternoon was bright and sunny, and the grounds were looking their loveliest. The Duke appeared at about four o'clock with the Duchess and their daughter, accompanied by a large party of ladies and gentlemen, who all took their seats on a daïs facing the grand walk, the Duchess of York occupy-

MADAM HAYWARD begs to announce her Summer Sale. The most extensive and select stock of Paris Models in London. Morning, Promenade, Racing, Garden Party, Dinner, and Evening Gowns, Evening Cloaks, Capes, Jackets, Millinery, Tea Gowns, Lingerie, at prices below half cost.—64, New Bond-street.

OBESITY.—The happy knack of forming a symmetrical contour and a perfect foundation for a well-setting gown is the especial art of Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, London, W.

ing a central position. She was looking extremely well, and her figure looked its best in a very sweet frock. It was white silk chiné with cornflowers strewn over it. A belt of cornflower-blue velvet rose very high at the back, where it was set into a yoke of cream-coloured guipure. Lines of white silk muslin began in the centre of the collar at the back, and were drawn straight down to the waist under the arms, leaving the blue velvet visible between. The front was of the draped silk with a narrower band of the blue velvet, a lovely shade. Her bonnet was a delicious mixture of blush roses and white feathers. She looked very nice indeed. The Duchess of Teck was in one of her favourite shot silks, and she, too, looked remarkably well. Many of the guests were presented to the Duchess of York by her father, and we noticed that she always rose to greet those who were elderly, remaining seated while the younger ones passed, and giving them a pleasant little bow. A very shy young man, with whom H.R.H. shook hands, blushed rosily, and dropped her hand as if it had stung him. The Duchess smiled, and her mother looked intensely amused.

In sending me the following cutting, Ginevra very aptly remarks:—

Don't you think that the Maltese ladies are making a mistake in mounting the lovely lace on a *blue* parasol? What a pity they are not aware that the yellow rays of the sun through a blue parasol give a *green* hue to the complexion, which, I am sure the charming Duchess who is to be the recipient will not appreciate. Have you remarked how seldom one sees a blue parasol carried?

"The Ladies Union of the Maltese Nobility are about to present to her Royal Highness the Duchess of York a magnificent parasol. The cover is of pure white thread lace in the style of the old Maltese point, and mounted on blue silk, which effectively shows up the tasteful design in which the Royal Crown and Maltese Cross are introduced, interspersed with the rose, shamrock, and mayblossom. This fine piece of workmanship was carried out entirely by two sisters, and took nearly nine months to complete. The stick is of ivory and gold, the handle being of repoussé gold with monograms and other appropriate designs."

The Summer Show of Needlework in connection with the Ladies' Work Society at 185, High-street, Kensington, W., takes place in a week or two. The varieties of work executed include high-class art needlework, ecclesiastical embroidery, Mountmellick, point lace, Limerick lace, smocking, drawn linen, Clare embroidery, Shetland goods, leather work, samplers, marking, and plain work. Sales of work are held during the year in various parts of England. The society is self-supporting, and the annual subscription is 10s.

Princess Christian was looking a little tired at the Summer Sale at the Royal School of Art Needlework. Small wonder. She had only come from Balmoral on the previous day. The Princess worked really hard at the sale, and took in a lot of money. She is not nearly so stout as she used to be, and looked very nice in her well-made black frock. The Countess of Yarborough was most energetic in selling, and looked very pretty in a white and pink silk. Mrs. Alfred Morrison wore one of her characteristic skirts and capes, this time in pale green, the cape embroidered round the edge with very small, fine silk flowers in soft tones of rose and pink. Some lovely old lace bordered the cape. You know, Mrs. Morrison's collection of lace is exceptionally fine. The Duchess of Devonshire bought some things of the Princess, and I saw, among others, Viscountess Galway and Lady William Cecil. There was a great crowd. The tea-room was beautifully cool, and seemed the more so for the white calico that covered the walls, hung with sprays of ivy.

The Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund has benefited by an order in connection with Princess Maud's trousseau. The ladies are embroidering and marking for her some very fine cambric handkerchiefs, and making a large and beautiful lace collar.

Cowes Regatta.—A Redfern Gown being essentially a part of the wardrobe of every yachtswoman, Messrs. Redfern invite inspection of their 1896 display.—Now on view at 26, Conduit-street, London, W.

All the "clearance" sales are on. They grow earlier every season, and if they go on like this they will very soon defeat their own end, for people will wait to make their purchases until the prospect of bargains begins. The sales used to begin about the third week in July, but they have been backing steadily until now, when the first of them takes place at Midsummer. The fact is, each house is so anxious to be first in the field that they will end by over-reaching themselves. It would be much fairer if all were to start on the same day—say July 12 or so. That would give the country cousins a chance.

With hats and bonnets it is different. They are supplied with a view to the season, and when it is over are apt to hang on hand. But we want table linen, house linen, gloves, umbrellas, cretonnes, blankets, carpets, shoes, and chair-backs all the year round—do we not? They could well wait till mid-July.

Rex, of Sloane-street, is selling off his smart toques and hats at very low prices. You should come up and secure a couple, for his millinery is so well up-to-date and so *chic* that you need have no fear of its going out of fashion, as the man had who ran all the way home with the new bonnet he had bought his wife, for fear the fashion should change before he could give it her.

I have just seen an ingenious invention for stowing away a bicycle or two in the hall or morning-room. It is the invention of a quite young girl, and consists of a piece of furniture combining a home for the bike, with a hat-rail and umbrella-stand, also a place for golf implements and tennis rackets.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—In the height of your "season," whilst hurrying along in the rush of town life, which feeling animates you—pity or envy for those who are buried in the quiet depths of the country? From the loftier levels of a superior humanity do you look on them as entities, partly belonging to the vegetable kingdom—just more than cabbages but decidedly less than human? Or do you, perhaps, in your heart of hearts, think that they have chosen—or been thrust into, as the case may be—the better part? With the thermometer at nearly ninety in the shade—a locality just now discoverable only by the thermometer—one cannot but think that there is a good deal to be said on the country mouse's side of the old controversy. Clothes functions are so particularly unsuitable to a temperature where comfort would seem alone possible through carrying out Sydney Smith's (is it not his?) suggestion of sitting in one's bones. When even one's own clothes and flesh and blood are too much, still more ought the crowds and the clothing of others to be superfluous for us. How can one be interested in the frills, furbelows, and all the extras of full dress, when the mere thought of them is heating, and toilets are transformed from the condition of being the glory and joy of life into mere necessary evils! And then what an irritating effect great heat has on nerves—on those of others, of course, more than on one's own. Friction is so easy, and the slightest contact draws forth such an abnormal amount of electric sparks from humanity. Believe me, there are "points" about ruralising in a hot June. It cannot have been in such a month that Jaques got the imprint of melancholy under the greenwood trees in the forest of Ardennes.

Lord Cadogan at the meeting for promoting touring in Ireland took somewhat the part of the sign-post, pointing out the way, but not going it himself. A Lord Lieutenant could do a great deal to lead the tide of fashion to sea-side or picturesque resorts in Ireland, by leading the way and showing a practical example worth columns of precept and floods of oratorical advocacy. It is customary to say that Sir Walter Scott made Scotland, but I fancy that the living Queen had a great deal more to do with its making than the dead literary lion. Her neglect of Ireland has been far more suppressive of the Irish tourist industry than the want of a Sir Walter Scott. And her Viceroys have never made up for it by taking any personal interest in the natural beauty of the country. Apropos of an Irish Sir Walter Scott, what a fallacy to think him possible. An Irishman, with equal gifts to the great Scotchman's, writing of his own country and people with the same truth and national feeling, would probably never find a publisher, and certainly never reach a second edition in England. An old Tory does not read the Liberal papers, and the average Englishman will accept none but the stage Irishman, who was long ago created for the English market. The real Ireland and the real Irishman are too unlike what the Englishman thinks they ought to be ever to be popular with him. Sickly sentimentality in treating of it is also the bane of the country. Because of its supposed poetry every one treats it poetically; apparently on the principle that "who drives fat oxen should himself be fat." Even Cook advertises tours to the "Emerald Isle," or "Erin," and travellers are assured that they will receive a hearty welcome from the "natives." One wonders where and why the natives come in. The ordinary tourist in Switzerland, Scotland, &c., expects no Swiss or Scotch reception

but a comfortable one at his hotel. Let the traveller look for that in Ireland, and the Irish see that he gets it; let common-sense and prose prevail over poetry, and the tourist industry will have its best chance. Above all, self-help is the secret of success all over the world, a fact which our people here recognise more fully in any other country than their own. If only you had seen Killarney, Wicklow, or any picturesque part of the country during the last two months, you would wonder why every one who could do so does not take a look round the Island!—Yours, ever,

CLARE.

Here are a couple of nice little recipes for you. Chaudfroid de Poulet:—

Cut a nice plump chicken into joints. Put them into a stew-pan with an onion stuck with two cloves, six whole peppercorns, a blade of mace, a bouquet of herbs, and a slice of lean bacon. Cover with light-coloured bone stock, and simmer them for an hour. Remove them to get partially cold in the liquor, then drain the pieces of chicken on a cloth, strain the stock, and reduce it by boiling to half its original quantity. Use this to make about half a pint of white sauce, adding half a gill of thick cream and half a gill of aspic jelly. Work the sauce with a wooden spoon on the ice until on the point of setting; then coat the pieces of chicken smoothly with it, and decorate them tastefully with tarragon leaves and thin pieces of cut truffle. Dish them in a pyramid, place circular pieces of red tongue in the crevices, crown with a few sprigs of chervil, and garnish the base with chopped jelly and tufts of parsley.

This is another nice way of using cold chicken:—

Line some cutlet-shaped moulds with jelly, allow it to set, and nearly fill them with pounded chicken passed through a wire sieve, seasoned with salt and pepper and mixed with a third part of cold liquid aspic; fill up the moulds with dissolved aspic, and place them aside to get firm. Dish them alternately, with cutlet-shaped pieces of cold ox tongue on a border of aspic; put a border of chopped jelly around, and garnish the centre with tomato salad.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—The wedding of Lady Sophie Cadogan with Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., on Monday, was a very brilliant one. The church of Holy Trinity, Sloane-street, was crowded with the friends of the young couple. The Prince and Princess of Wales, with their unmarried daughters, and the Duke and Duchess of York were present. The Primate of Ireland married them, and the music was delicious, a boy who sang "O Perfect Life" possessing an enchanting voice. I counted six Duchesses from where I sat, and had a glimpse of the Marchioness of Londonderry, looking beautiful in a most becoming toque, the Marchioness of Ormonde and her lovely daughter, Lady Beatrice Butler, Princess Henry of Pless, Lady Algernon Gordon Lennox, Countess Howe, Lady Féo Sturt, Lady Magdalen Bulkeley, Lady Angela Forbes, the Duchess of Manchester's lovely young daughter, Lady Chelsea, Lady Lurgan, and many other high-born dames, whose garments were of the most festive description. I only wish I had space to tell you more about them.

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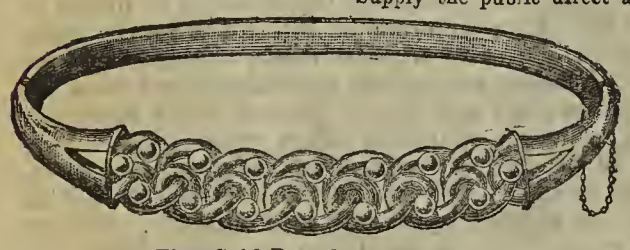

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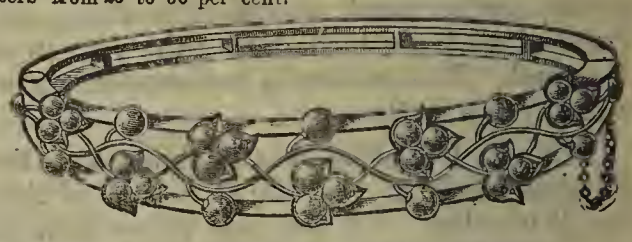

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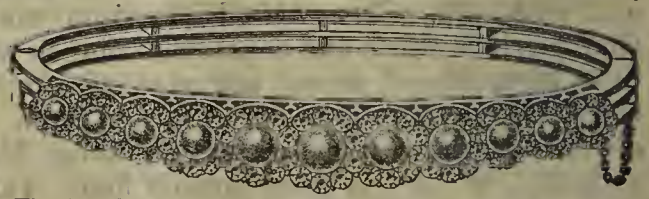

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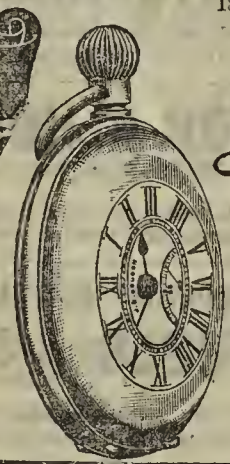

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HAYMARKET THEATRE.—MR. TREE, Sole Lessee and Manager.
HENRY IV. { TO-NIGHT, at 8.30. And Every THURSDAY and FRIDAY Evenings, at 8.30 and MATINEE, SATURDAYS, at 2.15.
TRILBY (Last Weeks) { Every MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY Evenings, at 8.30, and MATINEE, WEDNESDAYS, at 2.30.
Box-office (Mr. Leverton) 10 to 10. HAYMARKET.

LYCEUM.—Under the Management of Mr. Forbes Robertson and Mr. Frederick Harrison (Lessee, Henry Irving).
TO-NIGHT, and EVERY EVENING, at 8,
THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.
Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON.
Mr. WILLIAM FARREN | Mr. EDWARD RIGHTON
Mr. FRED TERRY.
Mr. CYRIL MAUDE | Miss ROSE LECLERCQ
Mrs. PATRICK CAMPBELL.
Doors open 7.30. LYCEUM.

SAVOY.—EVERY EVENING, at 8.20, THE GRAND DUKE, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. At 7.40, AFTER ALL. Saturday Afternoon next (July 4), and following Saturdays, at 2.30, THE MIKADO.—R. D'OYLY CARTE, Proprietor and Manager.

GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. JOHN HARE.
(By arrangement with Mr. E. S. Willard).
Mr. and Mrs. KENDAL.
EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, an Original Play, in Four Acts, entitled
THE GREATEST OF THESE ——
By Sydney Grundy.
Box-office open 10 to 5 daily. Telephone No. 3,933.

ST. JAMES'S.—THE PRISONER OF ZENDA.—
EVERY EVENING, at 8.30. Doors open at 8,
LAST THREE WEEKS.
THE PRESENT SEASON will CLOSE on SATURDAY, July 18.
LAST MATINEES, WEDNESDAYS, July 8 and 15, and SATURDAY, July 18, at 2 p.m. Doors open 1.30.
Box-office open daily, 10 to 10.
Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER. ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

VAUDEVILLE.—A. & S. GATTI, Sole Lessees and Managers.
EVERY EVENING, at 9, a Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières, entitled A NIGHT OUT. Preceded, at 8.15, by PAPA'S WIFE, by Seymour Hicks and F. C. Phillips. Music by Ellaline Terriss. MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 3. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10.

COURT THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.—MISS MAY YOHE'S SEASON.—EVERY EVENING, at 9, MAMZELLE NITOUCHE. Preceded, at 8.15, by UNCLE THATCHER. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 5. Telephone No. 3,031.

DALY'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. AUGUSTIN DALY.—EVERY EVENING, and SATURDAY MATINEE, Mr. George Edwardes's Company in THE GEISHA. The book by Owen Hall. Lyrics by Harry Greenbank. Music by Sydney Jones.

ROYALTY.—Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, Lessee and Manager.
EVERY EVENING, at 9, a Comedy, in Three Acts, by Herman Merivale, entitled THE QUEEN'S PROCTOR. Mr. Bourchier, Messrs. Elliot, Hendrie, Kinghorne, &c., and Miss Violet Vanbrugh. At 8, DEAREST MAMMA. Mr. W. Blakeley. Box-office 10 to 10. (Proprietress, Miss Kate Santley.) MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 3.
SPECIAL MATINEE of THE LIAR, THURSDAY NEXT, July 9. Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER as Young Wilding.

ALHAMBRA.—TO-NIGHT, Two New Grand Ballets, BLUE BEARD and DONNYBROOK. Grand VARIETIES. Prices, 6d. to £3. 3s. Open 7.45. ALFRED MOUL, General Manager.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—EVERY EVENING, Two Grand Ballets, FAUST and LA DANSE. Great success. GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Doors open at 7.45.

PALACE, Shaftesbury-avenue. — The HANDSOMEST THEATRE in EUROPE. The finest Variety Entertainment in London, including the NEW SERIES OF TABLEAUX VIVANTS. Full Licence. Prices from 6d. Doors open 7.40.—Manager, Mr. CHARLES MORTON.

TIVOLI, Strand, London.—Cool and Well Ventilated.—Open EVERY EVENING, at 7.45, and SATURDAY MATINÉE, at 2.30, with a STAR PROGRAMME, embracing every Artiste of note now in London.—Manager, Mr. VERNON DOWSETT.

LONDON PAVILION.—TREMENDOUS PROGRAMME.
TO-NIGHT, Dan Leno, G. H. Chirgwin, T. E. Dunville, Sisters Preston, Ethel Earle, Maggie Duggan, Herbert Campbell, Lilian Alexander, Sybil Arundale, The M'Naughtons, Marie Elsie, Sisters Hawthorne, Arthur Lennard, Marguerite, G. Robey, D'Auban and Blythe, Fred Earle; Ara, Zebra, and Vora; Brothers Griffiths, Alice Maydue, Tom Brantford. The Zanettos, Lottie Walton, Tom Leamore; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, and Binns and Binns. The Sliding Roof off every evening. Prices from 1s. to £3. 3s. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open from 11 to 5.

"TRUTH" HOTEL LIST.

BATH.—LANSDOWN GROVE HOTEL.—Desirable residence, in beautifully wooded grounds, 400 feet above sea level, facing south, and protected from north and east. Air dry and bracing. Assembly and Pump Rooms within easy distance. Omnibus free to and from Hot Mineral Baths. Billiards, Tennis Lawn.

BONCHURCH HOTEL, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, one mile from Ventnor Station.
A comfortable, quiet, and most beautifully-situated Hotel. Pretty garden. Good sea view.
H. RIBBANDS, Proprietor.

BOURNEMOUTH.—HOTEL MONT DORE.—South aspect, 150 rooms, electric light throughout, passenger lift, first-class cuisine, winter garden and lounge, covered tennis court. Turkish, sea-water, and medicated Baths. The Hotel is within two minutes' walk of the Golf Links.—For tariff, address W. KNEESE, Manager.

BOURNEMOUTH.—The HIGH CLIFFE HOTEL.—Of world-wide reputation for comfort.
Full south. Magnificent sea views. Table d'hôte. Electric light.
Supplies from own Alderney Dairy Farm.
JOHN KILNER, Proprietor.

BRIGHTON.—GRAND HOTEL.
Centre of Sea Front. Magnificent view.
Hot and Cold Sea Water Baths. Electric Light throughout.
Inclusive terms if desired.
For tariff and particulars apply to A. D. HOOK, Manager.

BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms.
GEO. HECKFORD, Manager.

CARBIS BAY HOTEL, CORNWALL. The very spot to obtain rest and quietude. Overlooking the finest bay in England. Mild yet bracing climate. Within easy distance of London by G.W.R. Splendid Golf Links. "A more beautiful spot for residence could hardly be imagined."—*Truth.*

FOLKESTONE.—BATES' HOTEL, West Cliff Gardens, and LONGFORD PRIVATE HOTEL, The Lees. Oldest established and most select Family Hotels in Folkestone. Reduced terms during Winter and Spring months. Pension (new Coffee-room) at Bates' Hotel.—G. L. HART, Proprietor. Sanitation Certified.

FOLKESTONE.—ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL, facing Sea. 200 Apartments. Near landing-stage for Continent. Large winter garden. Table d'hôte at 7 p.m.
G. SPURGEN, Proprietor.

FOLKESTONE.—WEST CLIFF HOTEL (180 Apartments). Stands in own private grounds of 2½ acres, facing the sea. All latest sanitary improvements. Excellent cuisine and wines. Table d'hôte at 7 p.m., separate tables.—For tariff please address The PROPRIETOR.

GRAND CANARY.—THE METROPOLE.
Newest and best Hotel.
Delightful position, fronting the sea.
Terms most moderate.

JERSEY.—The GRAND HOTEL is charmingly situated, facing the sea, with full south aspect, and sheltered from the north and easterly winds. Every home comfort and liberal management.—For terms apply to D. DE LEIDI, Manager.

MALVERN—One of the most charming places for the Easter Holidays.—The IMPERIAL HOTEL occupies the best position, and receives visitors *en pension.* The golf-links (18 holes) are one of the best in England. Capital stabling for hunters. Droitwich Brine, Turkish and large Swimming Bath in separate buildings. For tariff, apply to the Proprietor and Manager. F. MOERSCHELL.

MATLOCK BATH.—ROYAL HOTEL.—Hydropathic Baths of every description, Medical Man. Healthful situation; extensive grounds, greatly admired. Large swimming bath. Billiards. Dairy farm. Splendid fishing.—Also NEW BATH HOTEL, with extensive grounds, fishing, &c., &c. Terms very moderate. Bus meets all trains—T. TYACK, Proprietor.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate.
F. FISCHER, Manager.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—WELLINGTON HOTEL, Mount Ephraim. Under the distinguished patronage of his Grace the late Duke of Wellington, K.G., the leading nobility and gentry, &c. 422 ft. above sea level, south aspect; elegantly furnished; piano in every sitting-room. Cuisine, English and French. Electric light throughout.—BRABY, Proprietor.

THE GROSVENOR HOTEL,
BELGRAVIA, LONDON, S.W.
Well known for Wedding Breakfasts and Dinner Parties.
TABLE D'HÔTE OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS.
Covered Communication to three Railway Stations.
The only Terminus Hotel of the Brighton Railway Company in London.
Pure Water from an Artesian Well on the premises.
Electric Light throughout. Address, MANAGER.

HOTEL BELGRAVIA,
VICTORIA STREET, S.W.
(Quite close to Victoria Station.)
This is an Hotel in name only. In reality it is a REFINED HOME, replete with every convenience, every comfort, every luxury. Large and small Suites by the day, week, month or year. Also single Bedrooms.
TABLE D'HOTE, at separate tables, open to non-residents.
FIRST-CLASS CUISINE. CHOICE WINES.
For tariff and all particulars apply to MANAGER.

INNS OF COURT HOTEL, Holborn.—A first-class Family Hotel, with 200 bedrooms, all modern conveniences. Electric lights, lifts, &c. Banquets arranged. The Central Hall is the finest and the Dining-room the pleasantest in London. Masonic lodge, public meeting rooms, &c. Table d'hôte, 6 to 8, 3s. 6d.—FRANK BLACKLEY, Manager. Inclusive terms from 10s. 6d. per day.

LOWESTOFT
GRAND HOTEL.
The finest Situation on the East Coast; 300 ft. sea frontage, facing the German Ocean. Stands in its own beautifully wooded grounds, within easy distance of Oulton Broad.
Special Terms for Families during June and July.

Connected with the ROYAL HOTEL, LOWESTOFT; also RIDLER'S HOTEL, HOLBORN, where Tariff may also be obtained.

BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE PALACE HOTEL.
Large and high-class Hotel. Upwards of 200 rooms. Finest position in Buxton. Surrounded by own grounds of six acres. Ground-floor sitting-rooms and bed-rooms. Magnificent public rooms. American elevator. Table d'hôte at separate tables. Tariff, with plan of rooms and sketch map of Buxton, on application. A. CROSS, Manager.

ILFRACOMBE.
ILFRACOMBE HOTEL,
The PRINCIPAL and ONLY HOTEL facing the Sea.
Unrivalled sea frontage and open surroundings. Grounds five acres Lawn Tennis Courts. Croquet Lawn. Large Swimming Bath. Elegant Lounge hall. 250 rooms.
H. R. GROVER, Manager.

THE LONDON HOUSE, Restaurant Dieudonne, Ryder-street, St. James's. Most charming and luxuriously decorated in the real Louis XV. style. For recherché dinners, luncheons, and suppers, at fixed price and à la Carte. Dining Salons for parties. Electric Light throughout. Telegraphic address—"Guffanti, London." Telephone No. 35,265. The Grand Salon on the first floor is now open.

HASTINGS. Due South, Facing Sea.
QUEEN'S HOTEL,
LARGEST AND BEST APPOINTED.
Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
ELECTRIC LIGHT. PASSENGER ELEVATOR.
Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
WILLIAM GLADE, Manager.

RAMSGATE.—The GRANVILLE HOTEL.
FIRST-CLASS FAMILY HOTEL.
TURKISH AND OZONE BATHS IN THE BUILDING.
Commanding unique views of the World's Highway for shipping. Charming and invigorating ocean air. Fishing, yachting, coaching. Special Granville Express daily. Under entirely New Management.
CARL G. GRÜNHOLD, Manager.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—"The healthiest, most bracing watering-place in the world."—*Vide* report, *Lancet.* The GRAND ATLANTIC is the principal and leading Hotel, facing the sea. 130 sumptuously appointed rooms, delightful public rooms, hydraulic lift, every modern comfort. Nearest to Golf Links and Railway Station. "Own model farm."—Apply, Manager. Telegraphic address, "Atlantic." Telephone No. 11.

PITLOCHRY.
THE ATHOLL HYDROPATHIC (MACDONALD'S).
The ORIGINAL and very much the LARGEST. Every window commands a view of the MOST MAGNIFICENT SCENERY in SCOTLAND. 500 feet above sea level. Pure, dry, bracing air. Extensive Pleasure Grounds.
TENNIS—CROQUET—GOLF—ARCHERY—FISHING.
To prevent disappointment, address all communications—
"THE ATHOLL, PITLOCHRY." Telegraphic Address, "ATHOLL."

OSTEND, BELGIUM.—The Largest and Most Beautiful Seaside Resort in Europe, within easy reach of England.
The Town offers numerous attractions to visitors, Concerts, Soirées, Dansants take place daily in the Magnificent Kursaal.
There are all kinds of sports.
Magnificent Casino, Cercle privé, Trente et Quarante, Roulette as at Monte Carlo.
Excellent Sea Front and Bathing.
Hotels most elegant and comfortable.

THE ALBION S.S. COMPANY, LIMITED.
FORTNIGHTLY CRUISES from NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE to NORWAY.
The Finest YACHTING STEAMER afloat. No Upper Berths.
"MIDNIGHT SUN," 3,178 Tons, 3,500 H.P.
Capt. CABORNE, R.N.R., F.R.G.S.
Sailings:—July 4, 18; August 1 and 15.
Fares from 12 Guineas, including first-class table.
For itinerary, &c., apply to "MIDNIGHT SUN" PASSENGER SUPERINTENDENT, 4, Lombard-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

LONDON & NORTH WESTERN AND CALEDONIAN RAILWAYS.

WEST COAST ROYAL MAIL ROUTE TO AND FROM SCOTLAND.

TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER, 1896.

The Day Express leaving London (Euston) at 10.0 a.m. will convey Passengers for Edinburgh (Princes-st.), Glasgow (Central), Greenock, Gourock, and Wemyss Bay, and other Watering Places on the Firth of Clyde, Stirling, Callander, Crieff, Perth, Blair Athol, Dundee, and Aberdeen. This Train is restricted to the conveyance of Passengers holding Tickets from England to Carlisle and Scotch Stations. Twenty minutes are allowed at Preston, and hot luncheons are provided at 2s. 6d. each.

The 11.30 a.m. from Birmingham will be extended to Carlisle, Edinburgh (Princes-street), and Glasgow (Central), in advance of the 10.0 a.m. from Euston. A New Express will leave Bristol at 9.0 a.m., *via* Severn Tunnel, for Crewe, with Through Carriages for Edinburgh (Princes-street), and Glasgow (Central), which will be attached to the 11.30 a.m. from Birmingham at Crewe. The Mid-day Trains from Liverpool and Manchester to join the 11.30 a.m. from Birmingham at Preston for Edinburgh and Glasgow will be:—Liverpool (L. & Y.), Exchange, depart 1.15 p.m.; Manchester (L. & Y.), Victoria depart 1.10 p.m.

11.30 a.m. Corridor and Luncheon Car Express, Euston to Edinburgh and Glasgow.—A New Scotch Express, composed of Corridor Carriages, will leave London (Euston) at 11.30 a.m., arriving at Edinburgh (Princes-street) at 7.55 p.m., and Glasgow (Central) at 8.0 p.m. Attendants will accompany the Corridor Carriages and serve Luncheons, Tea, and other Refreshments *en route*, as per daily bill of fare.

2.0 p.m. Corridor Train with Refreshment and Dining Cars for 1st and 3rd Class Passengers to Scotland.—This Train, leaving Euston at 2.0 p.m., conveys Passengers for Edinburgh (Princes-street), Glasgow (Central), Greenock, Gourock, Larbert, Stirling, Dunblane, Callander, Oban, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Aberdeen, Inverness, and the Great North of Scotland and Highland Lines, and is due to arrive Glasgow (Central) at 10.30 p.m., and Edinburgh (Princes-street) at 10.30 p.m.

Trains in connection with the Corridor Train at Crewe leave Birmingham (New-street) at 3.40 p.m., Bristol at 12.30 noon, and Cardiff at 12.30 noon.

A Corridor Express Train, with Refreshment and Dining Car for Glasgow, also leaves Liverpool (Lime-street) at 5.35 p.m. Corridor Vehicles leave Manchester (Exchange) at 5.45 p.m. to join the Liverpool Train at Preston, and the united Train is due to arrive Edinburgh (Princes-street) 10.45 p.m., and Glasgow (Central) at 10.50 p.m.

Horse and Carriage Train, Euston to Scotland.—A Special Train will leave Euston, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, at 6.20 p.m., and will run from Monday, July 6th, until Monday, August 10th, for the conveyance of Horses and Private Carriages to all parts of Scotland. A Special Carriage for the conveyance of Dogs will be attached.

8.0 p.m. Highland Express from Euston.—This Train will run every night including Sunday night, but excepting Saturday nights, conveying Passengers for Stranraer, Stirling, Callander, Oban, Fort William, Crieff, Comrie, Perth, Forfar, Arbroath, Brechin, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, and the Highland and Great North of Scotland Lines. A direct connection will also be given by this Train to Ballachulish and Fort William by Steamer from Oban.

Ballater and Braemar.—The 8.0 p.m. Highland Express from Euston, arriving at Aberdeen at 6.25 a.m., will connect with the Great North of Scotland Train leaving at 6.45 a.m., for Elgin, and with the Deeside Train leaving Aberdeen for Ballater at 7.10 a.m., giving ample time for breakfast at the Refreshment Rooms, or at the Great North of Scotland Railway Company's Palace Hotel (adjoining the Station), before proceeding by the second Train at 9.30 a.m. for Elgin and the Deeside. Coaches leave Ballater for Braemar in connection with the 7.10 a.m., 9.30 a.m., and 12.25 noon Trains from Aberdeen during the Summer.

8.50 p.m. from Euston to Scotland.—This Train conveys Passengers for Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Gourock, Stirling, Perth, Callander, Oban, Crieff, and Dundee.

10.15 p.m. Special Night Express, Euston to Aberdeen.—A Special Express for Passengers from London only will leave Euston at 10.15 p.m. from Monday, July 13th, until Tuesday, August 11th (Saturdays and Sundays excepted), reaching Perth 6.55 a.m., and Aberdeen at 8.50 a.m. The only stoppages made by this Train will be at Crewe, Carlisle, and Perth, and Passengers will thus be enabled to obtain an undisturbed night journey, reaching Aberdeen in time to connect with the Great North of Scotland Trains at 9.25 and 9.30 a.m. for the Deeside, Elgin, &c. A Sleeping Saloon will be run from Euston to Aberdeen by this Train.

11.50 p.m. Sleeping Saloon Express from Euston to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen.—This Train is due to arrive Glasgow (Central) 7.50 a.m., Edinburgh (Princes-st.) 7.50 a.m., Perth 9.10 a.m., and Aberdeen 11.25 a.m. The only stoppages made by the Train between London (Euston) and Glasgow are at Crewe and Carlisle, the object being to ensure an uninterrupted and comfortable night journey at a uniform rate of speed.

Passengers for Stations on the Highland Line at which the 8.0 p.m. from Euston does not call, will find this the most convenient night Train from London.

The Up Day Express leaving Edinburgh (Princes-street) at 10.15 a.m., and Glasgow (Central) at 10.0 a.m., arriving London (Euston) at 6.45 p.m., will cease calling at Crewe. Passengers for Crewe, West of England, South Wales, and Birmingham, will leave Preston by a separate Train at 2.30 p.m., following the London Express; this Train will be due at Birmingham at 5.0 p.m.

The Night Express, with Sleeping Saloons attached, leaving Glasgow (Central) at 10.45 p.m., and Edinburgh (Princes-street) at 10.50 p.m. will be due to reach London (Euston) at 7.10 a.m. The only stoppages made by this Train are at Carstairs, Carlisle, Crewe, and Willesden Junction.

The 7.30 p.m. Express from Aberdeen, with Sleeping Saloons attached, will leave at 8.0 p.m. instead, and arrive London (Euston) at 8.0 a.m. as now. The Train will afford a connection at Stirling from Fort William and Oban.

FACILITIES FOR BREAK OF JOURNEY TO AND FROM SCOTLAND.

Passengers with Through Tickets to and from Stations in Scotland can break their journey at Carlisle, Dumfries, Moffat, or any intermediate Station on the direct line of route between Carlisle and their destination in Scotland.

Passengers from London to Scotland can also break their journey at Bletchley (for Oxford and Cambridge), Blisworth (for Stratford-on-Avon), Northampton, Rugby, Leamington, Kenilworth, Birmingham, Lichfield, Crewe, Warrington, Wigan, Preston, Lancaster (for Morecambe), Carnforth, Oxenholme (for Windermere), Shap, and Penrith (for Keswick).

Passengers from Stations in England to Glasgow (Central Station) and Stations west and north thereof, may travel viâ Edinburgh (Princes-street) and break the journey there, either going or returning, in addition to breaking it at any Station on the direct route north of Carlisle.

FRED. HARRISON, General Manager, L. and N. W. Railway.
JAMES THOMPSON, General Manager, Caledonian Railway.

July, 1896.

NORWAY.—Fourteen Days' CRUISE to the NORWEGIAN FJORDS, by the magnificent Ocean Steamer "NORSE KING," 3,212 tons register, 4,500 horse power, leaving Liverpool July 8, returning to London. Fares from Twelve Guineas.—Apply to

PIRRIE & CO., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
JAS. J. BALLANTINE, 134, St. Vincent-street, Glasgow.
Or H. GAZE & SONS, Strand, London.

GREAT NORTHERN, NORTH EASTERN, and NORTH BRITISH RAILWAYS.

EAST COAST ROUTE TO SCOTLAND.

ADDITIONAL AND ACCELERATED TRAINS FROM

LONDON (KING'S CROSS),

JULY, 1896, SERVICE.

	C a.m	C a.m	C a.m	C p.m	A p.m	B p.m	DE p.m	H p.m	F p.m	G p.m
London (King's Cross) dep.	5 15	10 0	11 20	2 20	7 45	8 15	8 45	10 0	11 30	11 30
Edinburgh arr.	3* 5	6 30	7 45	10 45	3 20	3 40	6 0	5 30	7 0	7 0
Glasgow ,,	5 15	8 0	10 25	Corridor Dining Car Saloons (1st & 3rd cl.)	...	5 50	7 18	7 18	8 25	10 43
Craigendoran ,,	5 34	...	...		...	7 32	8 44	8 44	10 11	...
Callander .. ,,	5* 11	8 45	12 20		...	...	8 52	...	10 55	...
Oban .. ,,	8 45	...	4 45		...	...	11 55	11 55	2 5	...
Fort William ,,	9 46	...	...		...	...	11 51	11 51	6 31	...
Perth .. ,,	5 37	7 52	10 32		4 30	5 0	...	...	8 50	8 23
Dunkeld .. ,,	8 55	8 55	1§17		...	6 57	10 5	...	10 5	9 18
Dundee .. ,,	6 10	8 10	10 47		...	4 57	8 33	6 47	8 40	9 0
Aberdeen .. ,,	8 40	10 5	12 45		...	6 35	...	8 30	10 30	11 10
Ballater .. ,,	...	...	8§55		...	8 55	2 0	11 10	2 0	...
Inverness .. ,,	...	...	6§10		...	9 40	2 40	...	2 40	1 30

A. From July 20th to August 7th inclusive, Saturdays and Sundays excepted.
B. Week-days (Saturdays excepted) and Sundays. Will run specially on Saturday, August 8th.
From morning of July 21st to August 8th, will be in connection at Perth with a Special Express in advance of the Mail, conveying Passengers for stations north of Inverness.
C. On week-days only. D. Week-days and Sundays.
E. Not run to Craigendoran Pier, Callander, Oban, Fort William, or Ballater on Sunday mornings, and arrives Glasgow 7.30 a.m., Perth 8.23, Dunkeld 9.18, Inverness 1.30 on Sundays. F. Week-days (Saturdays excepted) and Sundays. G. Saturday nights. H. Will run from July 13th to August 11th, Saturdays and Sundays excepted. * These times apply from July 6th to August 31st only; from July 1st to 5th inclusive will arrive in Edinburgh 3.40 p.m. and Callander 5.53 p.m. § Saturdays excepted.

Corridor Dining Car Saloons (First and Third Class) are attached to 2.20 p.m. Express from London (King's Cross).

Sleeping Carriages are attached to all night trains.

June, 1896. By Order.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

COMMENCING JULY 1st, 1896.
FIRST AND THIRD CLASS LUNCHEON AND DINING CARS will run between

LEEDS AND LONDON

as under:—

	a.m.		p.m.
Leeds (Central) ..... dep.	10 0	London (King's Cross) .. dep.	5 45
Wakefield (Westgate) .... ,,	10 21	Wakefield (Westgate) .. arr.	9 37
	p.m.	Leeds (Central) ..... ,,	10 0
London (King's Cross) .. arr.	2 0		

These trains have connections from and to Keighley, Bradford, Shipley, Morley, Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett, &c., &c.,

IMPROVED SERVICE BETWEEN

LONDON AND HUDDERSFIELD

(Via WAKEFIELD).

New trains will run on Week Days as under:—

	A a.m.	B p.m.		C a.m.	D p.m.
London (King's Cross) dep.	9 45	5 30	Huddersfield ..... dep.	9 30	5 5
	p.m.			p.m.	
Huddersfield ..... arr.	2 0	9 45	London (King's Cross) arr.	2 0	9 20

A. First Class Luncheon Car, King's Cross to Wakefield. B. First Class Dining Car, King's Cross to Retford. C. First and Third Class Luncheon Car, Wakefield to King's Cross. D. First Class Dining Car, Wakefield to King's Cross.

HENRY OAKLEY, General Manager.

June, 1896.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

PARIS.—SHORTEST & CHEAPEST ROUTE, through the charming scenery of Normandy, to the Paris terminus near the Madeleine.
VIA NEWHAVEN, DIEPPE AND ROUEN.
Two Special Express Services (Week-days and Sundays).

London to Paris (1 & 2)	(1, 2, 3)	(1, 2, 3)	Paris to London (1 & 2)	(1, 2, 3)	
	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Victoria .. dep.	10.0	8.50	*9.45	Paris .. .. .. dep. 10.0	9.0
London Bridge ,,	10.0	9.0	*9.55	p.m.	a.m.
	p.m.	a.m.	a.m.	London Bridge .. arr. 7.0	7.40
Paris .. .. arr.	7.0	7.45	*7.45	Victoria .. .. ,, 7.0	7.50

* Commencing Wednesday, July 1st, the Night Express Service leaves London later, and is accelerated as shown above.

Fares—Single: First, 34s. 7d; Second, 25s. 7d.; Third, 18s. 7d. Return: First, 58s. 3d.; Second, 42s. 3d.; Third, 33s. 3d.

A Pullman Drawing Room Car runs in the First and Second Class Train between Victoria and Newhaven.

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For NORWAY FIORDS and NORTH CAPE (for Midnight Sun) 10th June, for 28 days.

For the NORWAY FIORDS.
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For NORWAY FIORDS, VADSO (for Solar Eclipse), and SPITZBERGEN, 22nd July, for 27 days.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

On MONDAY, 6th JULY, the 5.40 p.m. Train from WATERLOO will convey Passengers to Stockbridge.

On TUESDAY, 7th (Bibury Club Races), WEDNESDAY 8th, and THURSDAY 9th JULY.

SPECIAL DIRECT TRAINS will leave WATERLOO for STOCKBRIDGE as under:—

	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Class	Fast 1st Class only	Express 1st Class only
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Waterloo ..... dep.	9.17	10.0	10.35
Kensington (Addison-road) ..... ,,	9.12	..	..
Clapham Junction ..... ,,	9.27	..	..
Surbiton ..... ,,	9.42	10.22	..
Woking ..... ,,	10.3	10.40	..
Farnborough ..... ,,	10.18	10.54	..
Basingstoke ..... ,,	10.41	11.20	..
Stockbridge ..... arr.	11.32	12.6	12.20

SPECIAL FAST RETURN TRAINS will run as follows:—

	On Tuesday, 7th, and Wednesday, 8th July.		On Thursday, 9th July.	
	Express 1st Class only.	Fast 1st Class only.	Express 1st Class only.	Fast 1st Class only.
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Stockbridge ..... dep.	6.0	6.15	5.30	5.50
Basingstoke ..... arr.	..	6.56	..	6.33
Farnborough ..... ,,	..	7.21	..	6.58
Woking ..... ,,	..	7.37	..	7.12
Surbiton ..... ,,	..	7.59	..	7.30
Clapham Junction ..... ,,	..	8.13	..	7.44
Vauxhall ..... ,,	7.34	8.21	7. 4	7.51
Waterloo ..... ,,	7.41	8.28	7.11	7.58

EACH DAY a SPECIAL RETURN TRAIN (1st, 2nd, and 3rd class) will leave STOCKBRIDGE at 6.35 p.m., reaching Basingstoke 7.36, Winchfield 7.53, Farnborough 8.4, Woking 8.17, Surbiton 8.37, Clapham Junction 8.52, Vauxhall 8.58, and Waterloo 9.5 p.m.

SPECIAL CHEAP FIRST CLASS RETURN FARE, WATERLOO to STOCKBRIDGE by the 10.0 and 10.35 a.m. SPECIAL TRAINS, 20s., available to return on day of issue only.

ORDINARY FARES will be charged by all Trains, except the 10.0 and 10.35 a.m. Specials.

Trains (1st, 2nd, and 3rd class) will also leave WATERLOO for STOCKBRIDGE and ANDOVER at 5.50 a.m. (Andover only), 6.50, 7.55 (Andover only), 9.15, 11.5 (express), 11.45 a.m., 1.0, 2.25 (express, Andover only), and 3.45 p.m.

THE LAST TRAIN for LONDON, each race day, leaves STOCKBRIDGE at 8.59, and ANDOVER JUNCTION at 9.35 p.m.

CHAS. SCOTTER, General Manager.

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Sales on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS.

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The RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR will preside.

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During last year 1,018 patients received the benefit of a month's stay at the Institution.

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154 sufferers, nearly all with scarlet fever, were refused admission for want of room last year.

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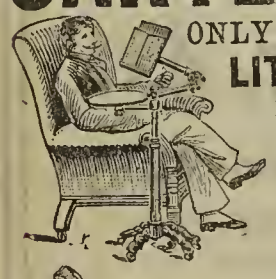

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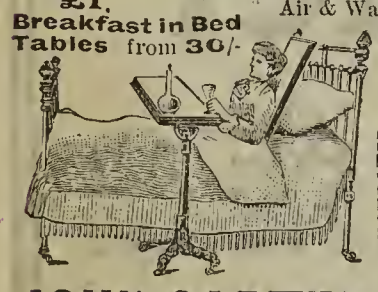

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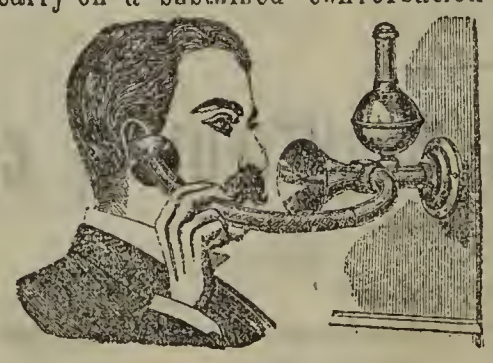

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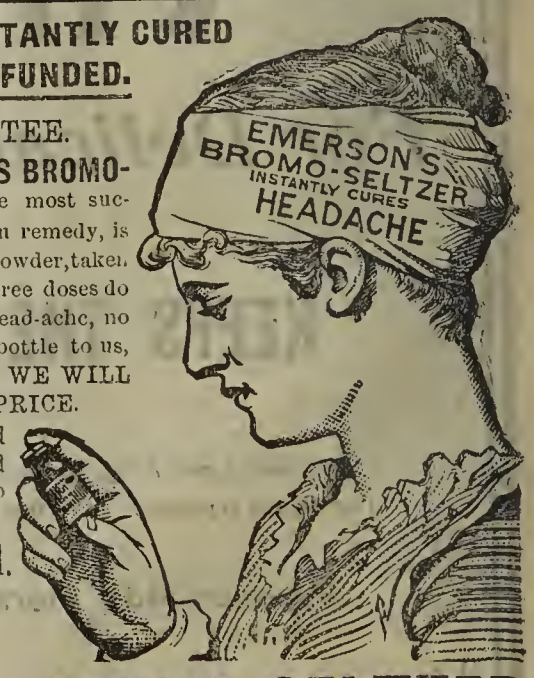

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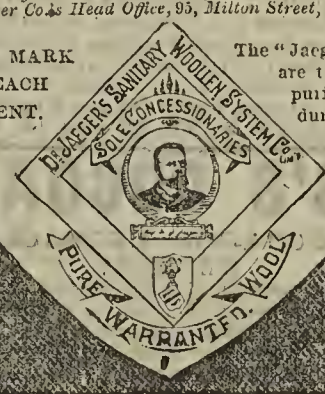

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WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the Blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £23,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

NORFOLK and WESTERN RAILROAD REORGANISATION.
TO THE HOLDERS OF NORFOLK AND WESTERN, ROANOKE AND SOUTHERN, AND LYNCHBURG AND DURHAM SECURITIES.

Over 97¾ per cent. of the disturbed Bonds of all Classes and over 87 per cent. of the Stocks of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company having been deposited under the Plan, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to those Security Holders who have not already deposited, that further deposits of Bonds and Stocks after 15th June, 1896, will not be received except in the discretion of the Committee, and on such terms as it may impose.
NEW YORK EXECUTIVE REORGANISATION COMMITTEE.
New York, 6th June, 1896.

London depositories (acting as agents of the Mercantile Trust Company of New York), Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co., Founders'-court, London, E.C.

The second Instalment of $3 per Share (payable on all Stocks deposited) was due on 1st June, the 3rd of $3 will be due on 6th July, and the final Instalment of $2.50 on 6th August, 1896.

Any further information as to the reorganisation may be obtained on application to Mr. Howland Roberts, Secretary to the London Committee, care of Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co.
London, 15th June, 1896.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The List for Applications Opened on Tuesday, the 30th June, 1896, and will Close on or before Thursday, the 2nd July, 1896, at Ten a.m.

The Mount Malcolm Proprietary

GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

MENZIES DISTRICT, NORTH COOLGARDIE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.)

CAPITAL - - £250,000, in 250,000 Shares of £1 each,

Of which 75,000 are appropriated for Working Capital.

Now ISSUED for PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION, 90,000 SHARES, payable 2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 2s. 6d. per Share on Allotment, 5s. per Share one month after Allotment, 5s per Share two months after Allotment, 5s. per Share four months after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

The Hon. F. S. A. HANBURY-TRACY, 116, Queen's-gate, S.W., Chairman of the London Board Palatine Insurance Corporation.

WILLIAM GEORGE ELDER (A. L. Elder & Co., Australian Merchants), 7, St. Helen's-place, E.C., Director of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company.

Colonel LEWIS VIVIAN LOYD, 8, Rutland-gate, S.W.

Colonel ALAN GARDNER, 2, Cromwell Houses, S.W., Director of the Brewery and Commercial Trust, Limited.

JAMES ORCHARD OXLEY, 71 and 72, King William-street, E.C., Director of the Hit or Miss Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited.

ALEXANDER CREIGHTON ARTHUR (late Member of the New Zealand House of Representatives), 7. St. Helen's-place, E.C.

Bankers.

THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., 209, Piccadilly, W., and other Branches.
Coolgardie—NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

Solicitors.

LUMLEY & LUMLEY, 37, Conduit-street, W., and 15, Old Jewry-chambers, Bank, E C. (for the Company).
GOODCHILD & HAMMOND, 1, Queen Victoria-street, E.C. (for the Vendors).

Brokers.

London: LEVI COHEN & CO., 15, Angel-court, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
Glasgow: J. KIRKWOOD & SON.

Auditors.—H. LESCHER & CO., 6, 7, & 8, Clement's-lane, E.C.

Secretary and Offices.—G. T. BROADBRIDGE, 71 & 72, King William-street, E.C.

75,000 Shares appropriated for providing Working Capital, and of this £50,000 has been guaranteed.

Area of Property, 144 Acres.

OPINIONS OF EXPERTS.

C. CHEWINGS, Ph.D., F.G.S., F.R.G.S.
G. R. FEARBY, M.E.
J. WILSON ARCHIBALD, M.A.I.M.E.

"Will prove a highly payable and permanent mine."—C. CHEWINGS.
"A fine property" and "a safe investment."—G. R. FEARBY.
"Thoroughly good property." "Strongly recommend." "Can confirm statements by Fearby and Chewings."—ARCHIBALD.
The full Reports accompany the Prospectus.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Mining Pro perties to be acquired by the Company comprise an area of about 144 acres in the North Coolgardie Goldfields (known as the Menzies District), Western Australia, being situate near Mount Malcolm, and within 1½ mile from "The Princess Alix," and it is stated that "they must lie on or near to the main road or rail line that will eventually connect Coolgardie with Cue."

The properties, which are held under lease from the Government of Western Australia, comprise the following:—"The Juliet North Extended," 3 788, 24; "The Juliet," 984E, 24; "The Juliet No. 1," 3,310, 24; "The Juliet No. 2," 3,311, 24; "The Little Man Friday," 3,320, 10; "The Little Man Friday Extended,"—, 14; "The Eureka," 3,097, 12; "The Eureka Extended," 3,684, 12. Total area in acres, about 144.

DEVELOPMENTS.—Shaft No. 1 is down 60 ft. on the main Juliet reef, which is from 3 ft. to 10 ft. wide. An average sample taken at 60 ft. returned 4 oz. 15 dwt. per ton.

Shaft No. 2 is down 50 ft. on another (the western) reef, which is there 4 ft. wide. A large sample taken from all parts of this shaft and from the dump returned 11 oz. 12 dwt. 21 gr. per ton.

Shaft No. 3 is down 70 ft. on another (the eastern) reef, a general sample of which is stated to have returned 4 oz. 15 dwt. per ton.

Shaft No. 4 is down 90 ft. on the eastern reef all the way. The reef is stated to be strong and well defined, and a bulk sample of 6 cwt. taken from all parts, and roughly dollied, gave a return of 6 oz. or 20 oz. to the ton, the stone being stated to resemble very much that of Charters Towers.

Besides the above there are various small shafts and costeens.

The gold is represented in the reports as being well and evenly distributed throughout, and "does not occur in the Juliet line of reef in lump, or what is known as 'specimens,' but is rather fine as a rule. The stone carries gold right through and dollies well," it being considered "right good battery stone," and "that the mine will prove highly payable and permanent."

It will be seen from the reports that there is a considerable amount of stone at grass, and a very large amount in sight. It is also stated that there is no doubt about the reefs "living" as depth is attained.

There is a fairly good supply of timber for mining purposes in the neighbourhood, and plenty of water to be obtained, it being stated that "on the adjoining holding to the southward a fair supply of water is met with at 110 ft."

The properties have been examined on behalf of the original owners by
C. Chewings, Ph.D., F.G.S., F.R.G.S.,
G. R. P. Fearby, M.E.

The special attention of intending subscribers is directed to their Reports, which are particularly exhaustive; and, in order that the fullest information in the possession of the Directors may be afforded, the complete Reports, together with the sketch plan prepared by Dr. Chewings, accompany the Prospectus.

The following independent Reports on the properties (obtained at the instance of the British and Colonial Agency, Limited) have also been received by cable, dated Coolgardie, 23rd April, 1896, from
J. WILSON ARCHIBALD, M.A.I.M.E.

"JULIET LEASES.—The property comprises 120 acres, Mount Malcolm. 3,788 ('Juliet North Extended'); the reefs on the property amount in number to two; the outcrop is strong, assaying 13 oz. per ton. 984 ('Juliet') adjacent location S.E. Reef outcrops through claims in width 5 ft., 2 costeens; main shaft is down 60 ft. North costeen: an average sample assaying 8 oz. per ton; an average sample 60 ft. assaying 4 oz. 15 dwt. per ton; very strong reef. West reef opened by shaft; ore in sight averages about 3 oz. 15 dwt. per ton, other reef outcrops through claims, unopened. 3,310 ('Juliet No. 1.') east and west; reef outcrops through claims. The gold-bearing vein can be traced for a long distance. 3,311 ('Juliet No. 2.') east; reef proved to a depth of 70 ft., 5 ft.; average assay value of ore in the mine is 3 oz. 5 dwt. per ton, free gold. The ore contains arsenical pyrites, very rich in gold. West reef not visible at surface. 3,320 ('Little Man Friday') is about 2 miles from the mine N.E. Juliet. Several small reefs opened by costeens showing high-grade ore. Plenty of water to be obtained. Thoroughly good property. I strongly recommend the investment. I can confirm statements by Fearby and Chewings; full report is sent by mail; also plans."

"EUREKA.—Near Malcolm, adjoining 'Juliet,' south side. The property covers an area of 24 acres—3,684 ('Eureka Extended') reef—continuation east reef 'Juliet.' Reef outcrops through claims. Incline shaft sunk on the vein 80 ft. Drive south 40 ft., dip S.E. The width of reef is 3 ft., encasing rocks soft greenstone—an average sample 7 oz. per ton free gold. An average sample from the 80 ft. level 10 oz. per ton free gold—2 per cent. arsenical pyrites, estimated value 150 to 160 oz. per ton. Several small reefs on property unopened. 3,097 ('Eureka') covers southern extension of reef. The gold occurs in outcrop. The property is a good one. I strongly recommend. Can confirm Fearby's report. Have sent full particulars by letter."

The statements made in the Prospectus are based on the reports of the above-named experts.

For contracts see full Prospectus.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus or the form given below, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers or Brokers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, Brokers, and Secretary of the Company.

This form can be cut out and sent with 2s. 6d. per Share applied for, to the Secretary of the Company, 71 and 72, King William-street, London, E.C.; or to the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., 209, Piccadilly, W., or other branches.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

(To be retained by the Bankers.)

THE MOUNT MALCOLM PROPRIETARY GOLD MINES, LIM.

Capital 250,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, payable 2s. 6d. per Share on application, 2s. 6d. on allotment, 5s. one month after allotment, 5s. two months after allotment, and 5s. four months after allotment.

To the Directors of The MOUNT MALCOLM PROPRIETARY GOLD MINES, LIM.

Gentlemen,—I hereby request you to allot me ..... Shares in the above Company, upon the terms of the Prospectus, dated the 23rd day of June, 1896, and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I agree to accept the same, or any less number you may allot to me, and to pay the further instalments thereon when due.

I enclose a cheque for £ , being 2s. 6d. per Share, payable on application.

Signature .....
Full Name .....
Description .....
Address .....
Date ..... 1896.

Every Subscriber to this Issue will have the option for seven clear days from date of notice (which will attach to and be transferable with the Shares allotted to him) of subscribing for and receiving allotment at par of one Share in respect of every two Shares allotted to him in the present issue, at such time as the Directors may deem it most desirable in the interest of the Company to make such issue.

THE

New Coolgardie Gold Exploration & Finance Association (W.A.)

LIMITED.

CAPITAL - £150,000

DIVIDED INTO 300,000 SHARES OF 10/- EACH.

ISSUE OF 100,000 SHARES,

PAYABLE—

2s. 6d. per Share on Application,

2s. 6d. per Share on Allotment,

And the Balance when required in Calls of 2s. 6d. each as and when required.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN LOUDON STRAIN (*Chairman*), Chairman Challenge Gold Estates Proprietary Company (W.A.), Limited.
HAROLD GILMORE CAMPION, Chairman Occidental Syndicate, Limited.
ARTHUR JOHN DAVIS, Chairman Alliance Mining Company, Limited.
FRANCIS GRAHAM LLOYD, Director Mount Reid Mining Company, Limited.

COLONIAL MANAGING DIRECTOR.

WILLIAM MOFFLIN, Adelaide, late Colonial Director of The Coolgardie Gold Mining and Prospecting Company. No liability.

COLONIAL DIRECTOR.

CHARLES ANGELL, Adelaide.

BANKERS.

BANK OF ADELAIDE, 11, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C., and its branches in Australia.
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK, Perth (W.A.), and branches.

SOLICITOR.

J. B. PURCHASE, 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.

GANE, JACKSON, & JEFFREYS, 53, Coleman-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES *(pro tem.)*.

W. H. RABSON, 23, Old Broad-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The above Company has been formed with the object of engaging in the business of gold, land, town site, and water-right exploration and acquisition, financing and mining, and the provision of both salt and fresh water, and also the establishment of ice depots and manufactories, and establishment of cold storage, and also the acquisition of mining timber, and any other rights, concessions, and options in Western Australia which may and can be acquired on terms likely to prove beneficial and remunerative to this Company.

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The entire issue having been subscribed the Directors have proceeded to allotment, and this announcement is made for public information only.

Subscriptions for Debentures and Shares have already been guaranteed for sums more than sufficient to pay so much of the purchase-money as is payable in cash and provide the working capital. The Directors will therefore proceed to Allotment on or before Thursday Next. All applications coming in will receive a pro rata Allotment, after reserving £20,000 for the Vendor and Managers.

THE LEAMINGTON CYCLE COMPANY,

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890. **LIMITED.**

SHARE CAPITAL, £70,000, Divided into 70,000 Shares of £1 each; 60,000 Shares now offered for Subscription. Payable—1s. per Share on Application, 5s. on Allotment, 5s. in one month, 5s. in two months, 4s. in three months after Allotment.

In addition to the above Shares, there are offered for Subscription £15,000 SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES (part of an Issue of £20,000), issued at 5 per cent. Premium in £10, or any multiples of £10, which will be secured by a first charge on the Freehold Property and the general assets of the Company. The Debentures will be redeemable at Par on June 24, 1915, or earlier at the option of the Company, at 15 per cent. premium. Payable—5 per cent. on Application, 45 per cent. on allotment, and the balance September 1.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

JOHN FELL, Esq., J.P. (ex-Mayor of Leamington), Hollyhurst, Leamington.
S. H. WALPOLE HERON-MAXWELL, Esq., 50, St. George's-square, S.W.
R. G. WEBSTER, Esq., J.P., M.P., 15, Palace Chambers, Westminster.
RUSSELL DOWSE, Esq., Director of The Grappler Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited; Director Dublin and Glasgow Steam Packet Company.
H. LINCOLN TANGYE, Esq., Smethwick Hall, near Birmingham.

BANKERS.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED. Lombard-street, London; Leamington, and all Branches.

BROKER.

DAVID RUSSELL, Esq., 4, Tokenhouse Buildings, and Stock Exchange, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. W. H. MARTIN & Co., 15, King-street, Cheapside, E.C.
Messrs. PEPPER & TANGYE, 34, Waterloo-street, Birmingham.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. FRANK DAVIES & MEREDITH, Chartered Accountants, 95 and 97, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C., and Corporation-street, Birmingham.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

Mr. W. H. BRACKETT, Bedford-street, Leamington.

PROSPECTUS:

THIS COMPANY is formed to take over the following Cycle Businesses as going concerns, namely, the business carried on by:

(1) Messrs. Shave & Lawman, at their depot and works, New Kent-road London:
(2) The Freehold Cycle Works and Business carried on by Clarke Brothers Cycle Company, Limited, Forest Gate, London;
(3) The business of the Cycle Fittings Company, carried on by Mr. G. Baker, of 9, Farringdon-road, London, E.C.;

Also the extensive Freehold Works, situated at Bedford-street, Leamington.

The Leamington works have been secured to manufacture cycles and cycle fittings to meet the demand which the above firms have for their goods but are unable to supply.

These extensive freehold premises are situated in the centre of Leamington, and in the very heart of the cycle industry, where labour is cheap and abundant. The factory is about the same size as some of the largest at Coventry, such as Humber's, the workshops are well lighted and airy. There is an unusually large open paved yard, with a crane, also engine and boiler of the best class. From this factory over 20,000 machines can be turned out per year.

Two of the before-mentioned firms have large shops or depots, and do a good ready-money trade over the counter in cycle fittings supplied to cycle makers, and this is a trade built up over the past five or six years, and with the Leamington works to supply these fittings, the business can be greatly extended.

The Cycle businesses and large manufactories have been created by practical men from small beginnings, almost without an exception. The businesses taken over by this Company have good connections and unusually good cash trade in the London Depôts, and all that is needed is a large works and cheap labour to turn out the volume of business to meet the urgent demand of their customers, and the Capital asked for by this issue will provide this.

The "Winner" Bicycle is a popular machine, and special efforts will be made to turn out a large number from the Leamington Works; the London Works are unable to meet the demand for them.

WHAT THE "WINNER" HAS DONE IN GAINING PRIZES.

One good man, well trained, riding one machine, can do great things. But "Winners" are ridden by Club men with success on Road and Path in every corner of England.

Goole.....	FIRST at Swinefleet in mile, Mr. Day.
,, ...	FIRST at Goole in ½-mile, Mr. Day.
Aberdare....	FIRST in 20-mile Road Race, C.C., Mr. Geo. Burge.
Pembroke ..	FIRST in 20-mile Road Race, Mr. Maple.
Barrow.....	FIRST at Dalton C.C. sports, 1 mile, Mr. Strong,
,, ...	FIRST in ½-mile, Mr. Woodend.
Manchester..	FIRST in 10 miles, West Salford C.C., Mr. Tims.
,, ..	FIRST in 4 miles, Weaste C.C., Mr. Dore. (Both at Belle Vue Track.)
Barrow.....	FIRST in 20-mile Barrow C.C. (Grass Track), Mr. Nicholson.
London.....	TWO FIRSTS at Bishop Stortford, Mr. Wilkins.
,, ...	FIRST at Leyton.
,, ...	TWO FIRSTS South West Ham Rovers' C.C.
,, ...	TWO FIRSTS Glendale C.C., Mr. Taylor.
,, ...	FIRST Crown C.C. (High Beech Track), Mr. Simpson.
Doncaster ..	NINE FIRSTS by Mr. Holmes in South Yorkshire. Mr. Holmes secured no less than 17 prizes in two months at various meetings.

Over 100 SECONDS and THIRDS Prizes.

The customers of the firms are numerous and cover a wide area. A list of names can be seen at the offices.

In addition to the home trade one of the firms has a shipping trade for the cheaper grade machine, and when the pressure of the home trade will admit of these machines being made, they can be shipped to foreign parts to an extent almost without a limit.

BENEFIT TO THE TOWN OF LEAMINGTON.

Leamington will benefit by having this industry introduced on a large scale, and the Company will gain by at once obtaining good class labour at a reasonable rate, and the local trade, as there is an important visiting and floating population of the better class.

The Company will receive substantial support by many in Leamington in the interest of the town. Mr. John Fell, J.P., ex-Mayor of Leamington, joins the Board of Directors. His knowledge of managing a large staff of men and his interest in the well-being of the town will be an important factor in the successful working of the Company, particularly as to output from the works at Leamington. Mr. Fell has given the Directors a letter as to the Labour Market in Leamington, from which the following is an extract: "From my knowledge of the working men, and the Labour Market in Leamington, I can safely state that an abundant number of smiths and workers at the lathe and vice, and other workmen, suitable for your business, can be readily obtained. House rent, too, for the working classes is lower in Leamington than in Coventry or Birmingham." The value of shares should be equal to any shares in the trade, which now stand so high, as the same number of machines will be turned out as are turned out by the firms whose capitals are vastly in excess of this Company's issue, and the Shareholders will have the advantage in securing the shares at par.

A valuation of the freehold properties, and the businesses, stock, and goodwill, as going concerns has been made by Messrs. Tilley & Ward, and their report is given herewith.

36, Finsbury-pavement, E.C., June 1, 1896.

To the Directors of
THE LEAMINGTON CYCLE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—

We have made a careful survey and inspection of the following Properties and Businesses:—

(1) Freehold Factory, Bedford-street, Leamington;
(2) Freehold Cycle Works, Goodwill and Stock of Messrs. Clark Bros. Cycle Company, Limited, Dames-road, Forest Gate, London, E.;
(3) The Leasehold Cycle Works, Depot, Goodwill, and Stock of Messrs. Shave & Lawman, 141 and 143, New Kent-road, London, S.E.;
(4) The Cycle Business and Depot of Mr. J. Baker, of 9, Farringdon-road, London, E.C.

And dealing first with the London businesses, we find that the works are overcrowded, every available space being utilised; and having been built up from small beginnings into sound trades, the premises and works in each instance not being large enough to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing trade.

We have also been over the whole of the Leamington Works which you are taking over with the object of manufacturing cycles and cycle parts, the latter for which you have a special sale at your London depots.

We consider that as a whole the union of these depots and factories with the large manufactory at Leamington is a wise one, and must lead to an important, sound, and prosperous business.

We speak from personal knowledge of this class of business, having valued several of the most prosperous cycle businesses at Coventry.

We have read your Prospectus, which is signed by us, and note the terms of purchase, and we are of opinion that the purchase price, £65,000, as mentioned therein is a reasonable one and most favourable to the Company.

We are, Gentlemen, your obedient servants,
TILLEY & WARD.

Taking the net profits at only 30s. per machine on 12,500 machines, which is much less than the capacity of the works, and a low estimate of profit, will yield £18,750, and taking this amount as being divisible for dividend purposes, the result is as follows:—

Profits		£18,750
Deduct Interest on £15,000, Debentures, 6 per cent. ..	£900	
Dividend on £60,000 shares at 15 per cent.	£9,000	
		9,900
Leaving the large surplus of..		£8,850

The purchase price is fixed by the Vendor as follows: £20,000 payable in Cash and £45,000 payable in Shares. The last sum may be payable partly in Cash and Shares, but the Vendor stipulates that he shall have at least £20,000 in Shares, as he desires an interest in the Company, and part of this amount is required by the managers and late owners of the works, as they sold on condition that they should have an interest in the business. The Vendor undertakes to accept Debentures in lieu of Shares if called upon, but receives any bonus raised on this issue.

The Directors reserve, out of this issue, £20,000 for working capital, £10,000 in cash, £10,000 Shares, to be issued if wanted at a premium or at a par, and £5,000 Debentures are reserved, which they deem ample for the purpose, as much of the business is cash trade.

The Company has arranged with the Vendor to fit up, at his own expense, the Leamington Works with all machinery, including shafting, lathes, and vices sufficient to turn out 250 cycles per week, as per specification. The machinery is ordered, and will be delivered in fourteen days. The Vendor has also to do all alterations required to the building, as per specification. All this is in addition to the above valuation. The Company will therefore start with working capital intact, and will not have the usual heavy expenditure on plant and buildings and the consequent delay.

It is hoped that there will be a good dividend the first half-year, as the Company starts with all the works equipped, and with a demand for their goods.

The Directors by the contract with the Vendor have only engaged to pay cash to the amount of £20,000, the rest of the purchase-money may be payable in shares, though the freehold properties and businesses taken over are valued at £65,000.

The following contracts have been entered into, namely: (1) Contract for sale, dated 25th of June, 1896, Commendador Brady of the one part, and the Company of the other part; (2), (3), (4), and (5) Contracts dated respectively the 27th of May, 1896; 2nd of June, 1896, 3rd of June, 1896, and 3rd of June, 1896, the last four being the contracts under which the said Commendador Brady agreed to purchase the four cycle businesses referred to on page 1 hereof, from the then owners thereof.

All costs, charges, and expenses, incidental to the formation of the Company up to the first allotment of shares will be borne by the Vendors.

There are also subsisting trade engagements incident to the business which this Company will take over, as well as arrangements made by the Vendor with reference to certain premiums to be paid to the Underwriters of some of the Shares, and for securing the subscription of the Company's Share Capital. Applicants for Shares shall be deemed to have notice of all such Contracts and arrangements, and to have agreed with the Company to waive the specification in the Prospectus of the dates and the names of the parties thereto, as required by Section 38 of the Companies' Act, 1867, add all claims under that Section or otherwise, and applications for Shares will only be received upon this understanding.

The Contract for Sale, the Valuer's Report and the Memorandum of Association can be inspected at the Office of the Company's Solicitors, Messrs. Martin & Co.

Applications for Shares and Debentures should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and sent with the deposit direct to the Company's Bankers, if by cheque, then to the order of the Bankers. In any case where no Allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on Allotment.

Copies of the Prospectus and Forms of Applications for Shares and Debentures may be had from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, June 26, 1896.

THE LEAMINGTON CYCLE COMPANY, LIMITED.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

(To be retained by the Bankers.)

To the Directors of

THE LEAMINGTON CYCLE COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,

Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £.....being a deposit of 1s. per Share on.....Shares of £1 each of the above Company, I request you to allot me such number of Shares upon the terms of the Prospectus dated the 26th day of June, 1896; and I hereby agree to accept such Shares, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and I request you to place my name on the Register of Shareholders in respect of the Shares so allotted.

Usual Signature .....
Name in full .....
Residence .....
Profession or Occupation .....
Date.....1896.

The Subscription List will be Opened at the City Bank, Limited, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C., the Head Office, and Branches, on Thursday, the 2nd July, 1896, and will be closed on Saturday, the 4th July, 1896, for both Town and Country applications.

The whole of the Present Issue having been guaranteed by the Mining Transport and General Finance Company, Limited, and other responsible parties, the Directors will proceed to Allotment on Saturday, the 4th July, 1896.

CAPTAIN ARGALL, the Manager of the well-known Kapanga and other Mines, says:—"The property itself can be economically worked, and with a Working Capital of, say, about £20,000, there is every reason to believe that if worked in a miner-like manner. and under efficient management, would turn out to be very remunerative to the Shareholders.

THE

Gloucester Gold Mining Co. Lim.

(THAMES DISTRICT, HAURAKI, NEW ZEALAND).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - - £120,000,

Divided into 960,000 Shares of 2s. 6d. each. 320,000 Shares (equal to £40,000) are reserved to provide Working Capital.

THE MINING TRANSPORT and GENERAL FINANCE COMPANY, Limited, OFFERS for SUBSCRIPTION 160,000 SHARES at Par. Payable—1s. on Application, and 1s. 6d. on Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

Major-General de la Fosse, C.B. (Director Prospectors' Association, Limited), 52, Hogarth-road, S.W.
Major J. G. Morris (Director Lydenburg Estates and Mount Magnet Gold Mining Company, Limited, W.A.), 88, Queen's-gate, S.W.
Daniel King, Esq. (Messrs. Bullard, King, & Co., shipowners), 14, St. Mary Axe, E.C.
*Ernest Grant Govan, Esq. (Chairman Mining Transport and General Finance Company, Limited), The Grange, Pinner, Middlesex.

* Will join Board after Allotment and Transfer of Property.

BANKERS.

The City Bank, Limited, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C., Chief Office, and other Branches.
The National Bank of New Zealand, Auckland, New Zealand.

SOLICITOR.—H. Stanley Sugden, Esq., 10, Ironmonger-lane, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS AND AGENTS IN NEW ZEALAND.—Messrs. Hesketh & Richmond, Auckland, New Zealand.

BROKERS.

London—Messrs. Dean Swift & Co., 18 and 19, Old Broad-street, and Stock Exchange.
Liverpool—Marmaduke Theakstone, Esq., 3, York-buildings, Sweeting-street and Stock Exchange.
Bristol—Messrs. Betton, Sayce, Vaughan, & Co., 10, Clare-street, and Stock Exchange.
Glasgow—Afred Muir, Esq , 104, West George-street, and Stock Exchange.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Woodthorpe, Bevan, & Co., Leadenhall-buildings, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES (*pro tem.*).—John Richardson, Esq., Throgmorton House, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The GLOUCESTER GOLD MINING COMPANY, Limited, has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and further developing two Gold Mining properties, situate in the Thames District, Hauraki Goldfield, New Zealand, formerly known as the Auckland and Enterprise Mines, but more recently as The Gloucester.

The property comprises about eighty-seven acres, and contains, either wholly or in part, the following old claims (vide Mr. Bowler's Report), viz.:—Lucky Hit; Conqueror: Star of Fermanagh; Mary Ellen; Adelaide; Greenstone; Hong-Kong; Excelsior; Enterprise; and it also includes the Last Chance claim, which has been acquired and added to the property by the present vendors.

The properties have been worked at various periods, and are stated by Mr. Adams, in his cable report, to contain ten reefs, varying in width from six inches to three feet, from which very rich ore was obtained when the mines were previously in active operation.

The properties were reported on in September last year by Mr. John Bowler, a well-known mining manager for twenty years at the Thames, and in April of the present year by Captain Argall and Mr. T. H. Dalby, Mining Engineer, whose reports, printed in full, are enclosed with prospectus. A cable report on the property made by Mr. E. F. Adams, Government Surveyor, under date April 20, 1896, has also been obtained. The following is a copy of such cable report:—

"13th day of April, 1896, Gloucester Gold Mining property, located two miles from the Thames at a level of 250 to 500 yards above sea level. The property covers 87 acres. The acquisition of the Little Willie and Last Chance properties very desirable. There are ten known lodes which vary in width from 6 inches to 3 feet; very rich ore was obtained in the old workings. There is a great extent of country rock most favourable for gold. The workings are of a very limited extent, and very much scattered; the Mine is practically undeveloped. With acquisition as already suggested I consider it a valuable property, and very desirable acquisition."

The following are extracts from the MS. reports:—

CAPTAIN ARGALL says:—

"Apparently there are two systems of reefs prevailing, viz., the main ones, having a bearing of N.E. and S.W., whilst others are running almost at right angles.

"These reefs vary in width from a few inches to 3½ ft. in many instances, carrying well-defined walls.

"The property itself can be economically worked, and, with a working capital of, say, about £20,000, there is every reason to believe that, if worked in a miner-like manner and under efficient management, would turn out to be very remunerative to the shareholders."

Mr. John Bowler, Mining Manager, says:—

"I have been connected with the district ever since 1867. The position of your ground is excellent, and it is indisputably on the strike of one of the best gold-bearing belts of strata ever opened on the Thames Goldfields.

"Your property is surrounded on all sides by notable mining properties. I have no hesitation in stating that if sufficient capital is subscribed, this, together with judicious expenditure in the right channel of country, there is no better investment at the present time under offer to the public than this."

The Wardens Report for 1895 on the New Zealand Goldfields also contains valuable evidence as to the richness of this district, as will be seen by a perusal of the following extracts, showing work done on properties to be acquired by this Company and on adjacent properties:—

"ADELAIDE."—This mine has again been worked on tribute; 102 tons were crushed for 106 oz. 10 dwt. of gold.

"CAMBRIA."—490 tons of quartz yielded 788 oz. 6 dwt.

"FAME AND FORTUNE."—570 tons of quartz yielded 239 oz. 3 dwt., and tributers crushed 67 tons for 109 oz. 2 dwt.

The intention of the present Company is to carry out the developments necessary for working the mines upon a much larger scale and in a far more efficient manner than has hitherto been attempted. It is proposed to erect a suitable battery of the most modern type, together with the latest gold-saving appliances, as there is every reason to believe that so soon as the existing drives are cleared and re-timbered the Company can at once set to work and obtain large quantities of ore, which, judging from the reports, should be of a highly payable character.

The Vendor to the Company, who pays all expenses attending the formation of the Company up to allotment, has fixed the price to be paid for the property at eighty thousand pounds (£80,000) payable, as to ten thousand pounds in cash, and the balance in fully-paid Shares, thus leaving forty thousand pounds (£40,000) available for working capital.

Contracts have been entered into between William Philip Gutheridge, by his attorney, Allan Schofield Caine, and the Mining Transport and General Finance Company, Limited, dated the 14th day of May, 1896, and between the Mining Transport and General Finance Company, Limited, and John Richardson, dated the 25th June, 1896. Copies of such contracts, as well as the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the original written and cabled reports above quoted, may be seen at the offices of the Solicitor of the Company until the first allotment of Shares.

Agreements and other arrangements have been or may be entered into relating to the property sold, or the purchase thereof, and for the payment of the charges and expenses attending the formation and registration of the Company, and also underwriting, brokerage, commission, and other expenses attending the issue of the Company's Capital, to none of which Agreements or arrangements is the Company a party, though they may technically be Contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Shares shall be deemed to have notice thereof, and to waive their rights (if any) to any further particulars as to the dates and names of the parties thereto or otherwise, and shall accept this as a sufficient compliance with the said Section, and to have agreed with the Company (as Trustees for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive all claims (if any) against them for not more fully complying with the requirements of the said Section, and Allotments will only be made on this express condition.

Applications for Shares must be made on the Form accompanying Prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. In cases where no allotment is made, the amount deposited on application will be returned in full. If the number of Shares allotted be less than applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount due on allotment, so far as necessary, and any balance will be returned.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, June, 1896.

This form may be cut out and sent entire with the Deposit to the Bankers of the Company, THE CITY BANK, Ludgate Hill Branch, London, E.C.

THE GLOUCESTER GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of The Gloucester Gold Mining Company, Limited.

Gentlemen.—Having paid to the Company's Bankers, the City Bank, Limited, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C., the sum of £....., being 1s. per Share on the undermentioned Shares in the above-named Company, viz..... Ordinary Shares of 2s. 6d. each, which I request you to allot to me upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Shares. And I agree with the Company, as Trustees for the Directors and others, to waive any claim I may have against them for non-compliance in the said Prospectus with Section 38 of "The Companies Act, 1867."

Name (in full).....
Address (in full).....
Profession or Occupation .....
Usual Signature .....
Date 189

ISSUE of £450,000 Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures of £100 each at £105, repayable by Annual Drawings at 110, or by purchase out of a sum of £20,000 per annum to be set apart for that purpose. The whole of the existing Debentures, amounting to £170,700, will be paid off at £5 per cent. premium, viz., £105, and cancelled in accordance with the Trust Deed; but holders of these Debentures will be given a Preferential Allotment to the extent of their holdings.

FURNESS, WITHY, & COMPANY, Ld.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL £1,000,000, in 7,000 Ordinary Shares of £100 each, which have been issued, and 30,000 Five per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each, which have been created since the formation of the Company, but which are held in reserve for future issue. The whole of the Ordinary Shares are fully paid up, and are held by the Chairman, Directors, and their friends.

ISSUE of £450,000 First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each at 105 (of which £170,700 are appropriated for the Conversion and Redemption of the existing Five per Cent. Debentures). Bearing Interest at Four and a-Half per Cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on the 30th April and 31st October in each year, and repayable on the 31st October, 1923, unless redeemed before that date by the operation of a Redemption Fund of £20,000 per annum, by annual drawings commencing 31st October, 1898, at £110, or by purchase, the Company reserving the right to repay at any time, by increasing the Redemption Fund or otherwise, the whole or any portion of the Debentures then outstanding at £110 after six months' notice. The first interest cheque will be issued on the 31st October, and will be for the amount of interest accrued from the dates on which the several instalments fall due. Issue Price, £105. Payable—On application, £15 per cent.; on allotment (of which £5 is premium), £15 per cent.; three months after allotment, £25 per cent.; six months after allotment, £50 per cent. = £105. Payment may be made in full on allotment under discount at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.
Henry Fell Pease, Esq., M.P., Darlington.
Walter Glynn, Esq., Liverpool.
Sir Christopher Furness, J.P., West Hartlepool.

DIRECTORS.
Sir Christopher Furness, J.P. (Chairman).
Henry Withy, Esq., J.P. (Shipbuilding Department).
R. W. Vick, Esq., J.P. (Shipbuilding Department).
Stephen W. Furness, Esq. (Shipping Department).
Robert Burdon Stoker, Esq. (Shipping Department).
G. L. Woolley, Esq. (Shipping Department).

BANKERS.
Messrs. J. Backhouse & Co., West Hartlepool, and Branches, and their London Agents
Messrs. Barclay, Bevan & Co., 54, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
The York City & County Banking Co., Limited, West Hartlepool, and Branches.

BROKERS.
Messrs. Coates, Son & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.
Messrs. F. W. Bentley & Co., Estate-buildings, Huddersfield.

SOLICITORS.
Messrs. Turnbull & Tilly, West Hartlepool.
Messrs. William A. Crump & Son, 10, Philpot-lane, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.
Messrs. Monkhouse, Goddard & Co., West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough. And Newcastle-on-Tyne, Chartered Accountants.

SECRETARY.
Mr. J. J. C. Warwick.

REGISTERED OFFICE.
Baltic Chambers, West Hartlepool.

LONDON OFFICES.
5 and 6, Billiter-avenue, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company was incorporated on the 16th of September, 1891, for the purpose of amalgamating the business of Sir Christopher Furness including the well-known "Furness Line" of Steamers, and the business of Edward Withy & Co., Iron and Steel Shipbuilders and Repairers. The Share Capital of £700,000 was not offered for public subscription, it being allotted as fully-paid to the partners in the respective firms as the purchase money of their businesses as going concerns, or since taken up by them. Since the incorporation of the Company £300,000 of 5 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each have been created, but are reserved for future issue. The Ordinary Shares are held by the Chairman and Directors and their friends, which affords assurance that the control and management of the business will continue as hitherto in the hands of Sir Christopher Furness and his Co-Directors.

This Company has now the opportunity of acquiring a controlling interest in the important Marine Engine Works at Middlesbrough which are now being formed into a Limited Liability Company, and which will take over the business of the well-known firm of Westgarth, English & Co., and the Marine Engine Department of the Tees Side Engine Works, Company. The addition of the manufacture of Marine Engines was originally contemplated by the Directors of Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd., and the proposed investment will give the Company control of the manufacture of the marine engines which it requires, and thus afford an important and valuable adjunct to the Shipbuilding and Repairing Department.

The Debentures now offered will form a first charge, by way of floating security only, over the whole of the Ships, Assets, Property, and undertaking of the Company, which is not at liberty to create any Mortgage or Charge upon any part of its property in priority to these Debentures.

In order to further increase and develop the shipbuilding and repairing business, the Company has recently constructed and completed a spacious dry dock, equipped with all the latest appliances for docking and undocking vessels of large tonnage, and is extending the shipyard by erecting additional machinery, including a complete installation of lighting and driving by electricity, which will enable the Company to construct and deal with steamers of the largest tonnage. The cost of carrying out these extensions and improvements are estimated at about £60,000.

During the past nine years the number and tonnage of steamers built at the ship yard were as follows, viz.:—

1887	9 Steamers	19,877 tons.		1892	7 Steamers	18,143 tons.	
1888	9 ,,	20,146 ,,		1893	7 ,,	19,199 ,,	
1889	9 ,,	21,082 ,,		1894	9 ,,	23,259 ,,	
1890	10 ,,	23,063 ,,		1895	9 ,,	25,206 ,,	
1891	10 ,,	25,481 ,,					

It is anticipated that, when the above-mentioned extensions and improvements are completed, the Company, in addition to dealing with a large amount of docking and repairing work, will be in a position to construct new tonnage of about 40,000 tons per annum. The Ship Yard is at present well occupied both with building and repairing work.

The number of steamers owned and partly owned by the Company is 62, the Company's ownership in the steamers representing a gross register tonnage of 89,891 tons, and a cargo-carrying capacity of 127,300 tons.

The "Furness Line" consists of the following services:—London and Boston, weekly each way (jointly with the Leyland Line); London, Halifax (Nova Scotia), and St. John (New Brunswick) fortnightly, under Subsidy Contract with Canadian Government; West Hartlepool and London, weekly; London and Antwerp, weekly; Tyne and New York, fortnightly; Montreal to United Kingdom or Continent during the season.

In addition to the above large fleet, the Company is a considerable Shareholder in the following Companies:—

The Chesapeake and Ohio Steamship Company, Limited;
Frederick Leyland & Company, Limited;
The Atlantic and Eastern Steamship Company, Limited.

Owing to the increase of the various trades of the "Furness Line," the Company has contracted for and is building two large steamers of a combined measurement cargo capacity of about 18,350 tons, which vessels will be fitted up with all the latest improvements for the conveyance of live stock across the Atlantic, and will add materially to the earning power of the Line.

It is confidently believed that, with the addition of the new Steamers, Graving Dock, and the acquisition of the interest in the Marine Engineering Works, the profits of the Company will be very largely augmented.

The Company possesses an extensive and remunerative business as Steamship Managers, Charterers, Ship and Insurance Brokers, and Commission and Forwarding Agents, carried on at West Hartlepool, London, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, with Branch Offices at New York, Boston, Baltimore, Newport News, and Chicago, U.S.A., and at Halifax (Nova Scotia), and St. John (New Brunswick), to which last-named ports the Company runs a regular line of steamers, carrying the mails from London under subsidy from the Dominion Government as above mentioned.

The Assets of the Company stood in the books at the 30th April last as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
Freehold and Leasehold Land and Buildings, Shipyard, Machinery, and Plant (exclusive of expenditure on the New Dry Dock and Ship Yard Extensions)		34,122	11	9
Steam Ships (exclusive of two Steamers now being built for the Company)		320,283	5	11
Stocks and Works in Progress		37,726	1	4
Sundry Debit Balances		227,505	18	5
Sundry Investments		265,326	10	2
Cash at Bankers and in Hand, and Bills Receivable		231,745	16	5
		1,116,710	4	0
Less:—				
Reserve for Depreciation	£135,000 0 0			
Provision for contingent loss on bad and doubtful debts	25,000 0			
		160,000	0	0
Total Assets at 30th April, 1896		956,710	4	0
To the above should be added—				
Two large Steamers now being built		153,500	0	0
Proposed Investment in Marine Engineering Works, as above		75,000	0	0
Expenditure on new Dry Dock and Ship Yard Extension		60,000	0	0
Total		£1,245,210	4	0

The following Certificate of profits has been given by the Company's Auditors:—

West Hartlepool,
22nd June, 1896.

To the Directors of Messrs. FURNESS, WITHY, & CO., Ltd.

Gentlemen,

Having been Auditors of your Company since its incorporation, we certify that the result of the trading has been as follows:—

For the year ended 30th April, 1894, a profit of	£85,959	12	8
,, ,, 1895, ,,	85,476	4	2
,, ,, 1896, ,,	99,949	15	1
	£271,385	11	11

Out of these profits the Company has paid:—Debenture Interest and Expenses, Directors' Fees, Income Tax, and an Annual Dividend of 5 per cent. upon the Ordinary Share Capital of £700,000; and has set aside a further sum of £90,000 to Reserve for Depreciation Fund, which at the 30th April last stood at £135,000, and a further sum of £15,000 as provision for Contingent Loss on bad and doubtful debts, thus raising such provision to £25,000, leaving at 30th April last an unappropriated balance of £8,046 7s. 3d. standing to the credit of Profit and Loss.

We are, yours faithfully,
MONKHOUSE, GODDARD, & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

From the above Certificate it will be seen that with its present fleet and shipyard the Company has earned an average of upwards of £90,000 per annum. It is confidently anticipated by the Directors that, with the addition of the dry dock, the two large steamers, and the investment in the marine engine works, an annual profit of at least £125,000 may be relied upon.

The amount required for the annual interest on the Debentures is £20,250, which will be reduced each year as the Debentures are redeemed by the operation of the Redemption Fund.

It is not proposed to pay a higher dividend than 5 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary Share Capital of £700,000 until the amount of the reserve fund has reached the amount of the outstanding Debentures.

The existing 5 per cent. Debentures were issued in 1893, and it is proposed to exercise the right of purchasing at £105 such as are not exchanged for Debentures of the present issue. As will be seen from the Auditors' Certificate, since those Debentures were issued the Company has paid annual dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary Shares of £700,000, and there stands to the credit of Reserve for Depreciation the sum of £135,000, and to the credit of Provision for bad and doubtful debts £25,000.

The Debentures will be registered in the names of the holders at the Registered Offices of the Company. The half-yearly payments of interest will be remitted by the Company to the holders of the Debentures, the first payment being on the 31st day of October next, and the second on the 30th day of April next, for interest on the amount paid up.

Applications in the form issued with the Prospectus must be accompanied by a deposit of £15 per cent. on the amount of Debentures applied for, and be forwarded to the Bankers of the Company.

If the full amount applied for by any applicant be not allotted, the surplus amount due on deposit will be appropriated to the sum due on allotment.

Application for the new Debentures in exchange for existing 5 per cent. Debentures at £105 will be received on any day up to and including the 3rd of July, upon the following conditions:—

Such applications must be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus and will receive allotment in full.

The Debentures must be deposited with the Form of Application.

Cheques for the difference of interest up to the 30th April, 1897, will, upon allotment, be forwarded to the applicants.

Application for a settlement and quotation will be made in due course to the London Stock Exchange.

Copy of the Subsidy Contract with the Canadian Government, Form of the Proposed Trust Deed and Debenture, a print of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the original or duplicate Certificate of the Auditors may be inspected at the offices of the respective Solicitors.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and of the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers.

West Hartlepool, June 30th, 1896.

The whole of this Issue having been privately subscribed, this Prospectus is advertised for Public Information only.

THE JOKER PROPRIETARY GOLD MINES,

LIMITED

(YALGOO DISTRICT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA).

INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 TO 1890.

CAPITAL - - - - - £250,000,

Of which £50,000 is available for Working Capital.

The Capital is divided into 250,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 195,000 Shares will be issued as fully paid to the Vendors in part payment for the property.

ISSUE OF 55,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

Payable—2s. 6d. per Share on application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, 5s. on August 1, 5s. on October 1, and 5s. on December 1. **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE WHOLE OF THE ABOVE ISSUE ARE GUARANTEED.**

DIRECTORS.

HENRY W. LOWE (Chairman Joker (Yalgoo) Gold Mines, Limited), Chairman.
Dr. J. LAGERWALL (Director Anglo-Scandinavian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited).
W. G. BRODIE (Director Joker (Yalgoo) Gold Mines, Limited).
BENJAMIN SCHOFIELD, 64, Gresham-street, E.C.
N. L. JACKSON (Director 90-Mile Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited).

BANKERS.—Union Bank of Scotland, 62, Cornhill, E. C.
BROKERS.—Wilson, Ellis and Schofield, 64, Gresham-street, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.—Jenkins, Baker, and Co., 134, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS FOR THE VENDORS.—Romer and Haslam, 4, Copthall-chambers, London, E.C.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS.—Bainbridge, Seymour and Co., St. Helens-place, London, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Monkhouse, Stoneham, and Co., 28 and 29, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—H. Parson Smith, 5, St. Mildred's-court, Poultry, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working a Group of Mining Leases or Blocks, situated in the district of Yalgoo, Western Australia, comprising an area of about 165 acres, and known as the Joker Group of Leases, the property of the West Australian Venture Syndicate, Limited, and the Exploration Companies with which it is connected.

The property comprises the following Leases or Blocks, namely:—

Joker Block	Lease No.	111,	about 12	acres.
The Ace	,,	142,	,, 15	,,
Left Bower	,,	141,	,, 24	,,
Right Bower	,,	112,	,, 12	,,
Lady Elgron	,,	113,	,, 12	,,
Australian United	,,	121,	,, 12	,,
Star of Bilhertha	,,	188,	,, 24	,,
King of Diamonds	,,	169,	,, 12	,,
Queen of Diamonds (not yet registered)			,, 18	,,
Full Hand	,,	,,	,, 12	,,
Royal Flush	,,	,,	,, 12	,,

The above leases or blocks adjoin the property of the Joker (Yalgoo) Gold Mines, Limited, as shown in the sketch plan accompanying this Prospectus.

Mr. FOWLER, M.E., in his Report to the West Australian Venture Syndicate, Limited, dated April 25, 1896, states as follows:—

"The Joker lode passes right through and beyond the Right Bower, No. 112, Lady Elgron, No. 113, Australian United, No. 121, Star of Bilbertha, and two other leases, the last of which is No. 188, and may easily be traced for a considerable distance northward of these properties. To the south the lode does not appear in the low ground of plain, and, so far as I know, no ground has been taken up in that direction.

"The Joker Reef appears to be the main reef, but there is another very powerful one running through the Queen of Hearts, No. 143, Joker Block, No. 111, and the Ace, No. 142. Very little work has been done on this lode, which, at the narrowest point, was 18 ft. in width in the Ace, and in the Joker Block was at least 60 ft., which was exposed in a costeen.

"The adjacent country rock on the footwall side appears to be a felsitic porphyry, but the main or principal geological rock in this district is a micaceous slate.

"The lode that runs through the Miner's Right, No. 75, which belongs to the Joker Company, is also of great size. A sample taken across the lode formation, which is a decomposed talcose schist, exposed by a costeen for at least 15 ft. without either wall appearing, gave a good show on panning.

"I think that most of the gold is carried by the thin iron veins (very numerous) which run through the formation. The lode here appears to be the same as that in the Left Bower, and the same characteristics occur, and the direction corresponds to the ground in the King of Diamonds, where the lode is of very great size, and where a shaft is being sunk to cut it.

"There is also a lode coming into the Lady Elgron, from the north-east, on which, however, no work has been done.

"In view of the extraordinary find on the Joker Mine, the lode of which is traceable through the first-mentioned properties, I can strongly recommend them as a most promising speculation, and would also suggest that you secure all the properties above-mentioned, and work them, if possible, under one management, as there are several points along the reefs from which they could be attacked simultaneously from the sides of the hill without the expenditure of either much money or time, and I think there is every likelihood of good gold shoots being found at several points.

"The developments going on at the Joker will be a most valuable guide in mining operations on these properties, and as I learn that the works on the Joker are going to be proceeded with in an energetic manner, both as to mining and water supply, you have a distinct advantage.

"I do not think there will be any doubt as to water being met with sufficient for battery and other purposes."

A copy only of the above report is in the possession of the Directors, the original having been retained by the Agent of the West Australian Venture Syndicate, Limited, at Perth.

On June 8, 1896, the following telegram was received by the Directors of the Joker (Yalgoo) Gold Mines, Limited (whose property adjoins the properties to be acquired as shown in the plan), from Mr. Bowes Scott, M.E., and Mr. Pridham, M.E. The telegram refers to the property of the Joker (Yalgoo) Gold Mines, Limited.

"Joker—We are of opinion that the mine is phenomenal, and if it continues to open as in past, it will prove one of the greatest in the country. The indications clearly point to such continuations. Sufficient water can be procured to run 500 head of stamps, which should be required."

The plan accompanying prospectus is a copy of a sketch plan forwarded to London by the Managing Director of the West Australian Venture Syndicate, Limited, it shows the position of the several properties to be acquired by the Company, and their position as regards the run of the Joker and other lodes traversing the property.

The West Australian Venture Syndicate, Limited, and the other Exploration Companies allied with it, who are the Vendors, have undertaken to pay all the expenses of forming and floating the Company up to allotment, except fees and duties on registration and transfer, and have fixed the price to be paid for the properties at £200,000, payable as to £195,000 in fully-paid Shares and as to £5,000 in cash.

The whole of the present issue having been privately subscribed, no further applications for Shares will be received, this Prospectus being published for public information only.

The following contract has been entered into in regard to the property, viz.:—

An agreement, dated June 29, 1896, and made between the West Australian Venture Syndicate, Limited, on behalf of itself and the Exploration Companies with which it is connected, of the one part and the Company of the other part.

Certain other contracts and arrangements have been entered into by or on behalf of the Vendors as to the acquisition of the properties, the promotion of the Company, the subscription of its Capital and otherwise, to none of which the Company is a party, and applicants for Shares will be deemed to have had notice of the contents of same, and to have waived their right, if any, to particulars thereof, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

Some of the Directors are Directors of or Shareholders in the West Australian Venture Syndicate, and the Exploration Companies with which it is connected, namely:—The West Australian Mines Development Syndicate, Limited; the Anglo German Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited; the Anglo-French Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited; the Anglo-American Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited; the Anglo-Netherland Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited; the Anglo-Scandinavian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited; the Anglo-Belgian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited; the Anglo-Austrian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.

London, June 29, 1896.

The Subscription List will OPEN on Thursday, the 2nd July, 1896, and CLOSE on or before Saturday, the 4th July, 1896, for Town, and on or before Monday, the 6th July, 1896, for the Country.

The New Premier Cycle Company, Ltd.

The "PREMIER CYCLE."—Established 1876.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL - - - - £600,000,

Divided into 300,000 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (Preferential as to Capital as well as Dividend), and 300,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

The Preference Shares confer the right to a Cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of Six per cent. per annum, and the right of repayment of Capital in priority to all other Shares.

£100,000 4½ per cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each, redeemable only after 1906 at the option of the Directors at £110, on giving six months' notice.

One-third of the Ordinary Shares (being the maximum allowed by the Rules of the Stock Exchange), will be taken by the Premier Cycle Company, Limited, as part of the purchase consideration. Besides this, the Directors and the Shareholders of the Premier Cycle Company, Limited, have applied, before the issue of the Prospectus, for £100,000 of the Preference Shares, and £33,300 of the Debentures.

The Debentures and Shares are payable as follows:—

THE DEBENTURES.

£10	per Debenture on application.
40	,, ,, allotment.
50	,, ,, 1st August.
£100	

THE SHARES.

2s. 6d.	per Share on application.
7s. 6d.	,, ,, allotment.
10s. 0d.	,, ,, 1st August.
£1	

Interest on the Debentures and Dividends on the Preference Shares will begin to accrue as from July 1st, 1896, and will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July in each year.

DIRECTORS.

Warington Baden-Powell, Esq., 3, Paper Buildings, Temple, London, E.C.
Colonel C. E. Macdonald, Director of the London Tramways Company, Limited.
Alexander Rotherham, Esq., J.P., Coundon Hall, near Coventry.
George Francis Twist, Esq., Moat House, Keresley, near Coventry.
William Henry Herbert, Esq. (President of the Cycle Manufacturers' Association), Premier Cycle Works, Coventry, Managing Director.
} Directors of the Premier Cycle Company, Ltd.

Bankers.—Lloyd's Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, London; Coventry; and Branches.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.
Messrs. Woodcock & Co., Coventry.

Brokers.—Messrs. Panmure Gordon, Hill & Co., Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
Messrs. G. & W. Beech, 37, Temple-street, Birmingham.

Auditors.—Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop & Clarke, 41, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
Messrs. Thomas Wilshere & Sons, Leicester.

Secretary.—S. H. Norton, Esq.

Registered Offices.—Premier Cycle Works, Coventry.

Temporary Offices in London.—36, Throgmorton-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire as a going concern the business of the Premier Cycle Company, Limited (virtually a private Company), carrying on its business at the Premier Works, Coventry, Nuremberg (Germany), and Eger (Austria), with the depots at 19 and 20, Holborn Viaduct, 32 and 34, Shaftesbury Avenue, and 133, Hammersmith Road, London, at 23, Boulevard Poissonnière, and Levallois Perret, Paris, and at Alexanderstrasse, Berlin, together with the fixed plant, machinery, tools, stock in trade, book debts, patents, patent rights, registered designs and trade marks, freehold and leasehold land and buildings, goodwill, and the benefit of all existing contracts.

The business was established by Messrs. Hillman & Herbert in the year 1876, and has been developed very considerably until it is now one of the largest, best equipped, and most successful in the cycle trade, turning out upwards of 1,000 cycles a week. The Premier Cycle Company are the owners of a number of valuable patents, including the "Helical Tube," which has great practical advantages over the weldless tube, both of which are used in the manufacture.

The Works at Coventry are freehold, and cover an area of nearly two and a-half acres. They were erected in 1877, and have since been enlarged from time to time to meet the requirements of increasing trade. The plant and machinery, including valuable labour-saving and automatic appliances, are in excellent condition.

The Works not only produce complete Bicycles, but manufacture the helical tubing, and nearly all the component parts, thus standing in a unique position in the trade.

Owing to the protective duty and transport charges on machines entering Germany and Austria, extensive factories were established some years since at Nuremberg, in Germany, and more recently at Eger, in Austria. Up to the present time, the demand has far exceeded the output of the factories. The Freeholds on which these two Works are situate are about six acres in extent. The Helical Tube, which constitutes the most important item in the construction of Premier Cycles, is made at the works at Coventry for all three Factories.

The "Premier" machines are of the highest class, as testified by the following honours gained at home and abroad:—

Gold Medal (Highest), International Inventions Exhibition, London, 1885.
Silver Medal, Highest Award, Nuremberg Exhibition, 1885.
Highest Award, Calcutta Exhibition, 1884.
Highest Award, Ontario, Canada, 1884.
Diploma of Merit, Royal Military Exhibition, London, 1890.
Diploma and Silver Medal, International Exhibition, Edinburgh, 1890.
Diploma and Gold Medal, International Sports Exhibition, Scheveningen, Holland, 1892.
Diploma of Merit, Milan, 1894;

while at the World's Fair, Chicago, 1893, they gained the highest awards, the Premier Company being the only firm of English Cycle Manufacturers who obtained three distinct awards—Bicycles, Tricycles, and Helical Tubes. The Premier machines have been for many years entirely independent of the support of the racing element, an item of considerable expense to many other companies.

Considerable alterations and additions have been made to both the Coventry and the Nuremberg Works during the past few months, which has enabled the output to be raised from 800 to 1,000 machines per week, and on the completion of the additions, which are now nearly finished, the capacity will be brought up to an output of 1,200 Cycles per week.

Mr. Wm. Henry Herbert, one of the original founders of the business, has agreed to act as Managing Director for a period of at least three years, while Mr. Alexander Rotherham and Mr. G. F. Twist, who have also been associated as Directors with the management for many years, join the Board as Directors.

The Company proposes to take over the services of the Works Superintendents and others of the chief employés at Coventry, and to retain the services of the Sales Managers at the London and Paris Depots, also the Managers of the Works at Nuremberg and Eger, thus ensuring a continuance of the successful management by which the business has attained its present position. The firm employs over 1,100 workpeople in the different works and depots.

The books of the Premier Cycle Company have been audited for many years by Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, Bishop, & Clarke, and Messrs. Thomas Wilshere & Sons, who have given the following Certificate of Profits:—

To the Directors of THE NEW PREMIER CYCLE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having acted as Auditors of the Premier Cycle Company, Limited, for some years past, we beg to report that we have examined the books in Coventry and London, and certified accounts supplied by the German, Austrian, and French branches.

The profits shown for the undermentioned periods, before charging interest on debentures, Managing Directors' salaries, or income tax, but after making, in our opinion, ample allowance for depreciation of plant, are as under:—

For the eleven months ending 31st August, 1894	£35,187	5	0
For the year ending 31st August, 1895	41,253	18	0

We are, Gentlemen, your obedient servants,

TURQUAND, YOUNGS, BISHOP, & CLARKE.
THOS. WILSHERE & SONS.

26th June, 1896.

While the following Certificate by Messrs. Thomas Wilshere & Sons deals with the profits made since the 31st August, 1895:—

To the Directors of the New Premier Cycle Company, Ltd.

Gentlemen,—It is impossible to give a Certificate for the trading for the nine months ending 31st May, 1896, owing to the difficulty of taking stock before the 31st August. We have, however, examined the English Books, and the Statement of Sales, &c., from Germany and Austria, and we find that the business done shows a marked advance over previous years, whilst the profits have proportionately increased.

At some of the establishments we have been able to ascertain the actual results, but where this has not been possible we have assumed the profit to be maintained at the same percentage as last year, and have not taken into account any increased rate of profit.

We are of opinion that it will be safe to estimate that net profit of over £45,000 have been made during the nine months under review, or at the rate of £60,000 per annum.

The Directors of The Premier Cycle Company are sanguine that the profit for the year will largely exceed this figure, and we have no reason to doubt that from their practical knowledge their estimate will prove correct. Yours faithfully,

THOS. WILSHERE & SONS,
1, Welford Road, Leicester, 23rd June, 1896.

Attention is drawn to the value of the Six per cent. Preference Shares as an investment, as for the past two and three-quarter years the profits, after payment of Debenture interest, have been nearly sufficient to pay the Preference dividend twice over in each year, while the profits of the present year are also sufficient to pay substantial dividends on the Ordinary Shares and to form reserve funds.

The Company will take over the business from 31st August, 1895, with the profits accrued from that date (which the Directors of the Premier Cycle Company, Limited, estimate will have amounted to at least £55,000), less the sum of £19,140 already drawn out on account of profits.

As the Company will acquire the undertaking with the stock, book debts, reserves, &c., as they stood at 31st August last, after payment of current accounts and dividends, together with the benefit of the trading since that date (less £19,140 profits divided previous to the 31st May last), the new Company will start with cash assets consisting of stock, book debts and cash, amounting to over £100,000, which is sufficient not only for present requirements, but also for a considerable extension of the business, either in Cycles or Motor Cars, should it hereafter be advisable to undertake that branch of the trade.

The purchase price to be paid by the Company for the freebold works and business premises at Coventry, Nuremberg, and Eger, and for the leasehold depots at Holborn Viaduct, Shaftesbury Avenue, and Hammersmith Road, London, Paris, and Berlin, together with all the plant, machinery, tools, stock, book debts, and other assets, and including the valuable patents already referred to, has been fixed by the vendors, who are the promoters of the Company at £700,000, of which £100,000 will be paid by the allotment of one-third of the Ordinary Share Capital and the balance in cash, but the shareholders of the Premier Cycle Company have applied at par, on the terms of this prospectus, for one-third of the Debentures, and one-third of the Preference shares.

The following Contracts have been entered into:—Contract dated 27th June, 1896, and made between the Premier Cycle Company, Limited (Hillman, Herbert, & Cooper), of the one part, and the City of London Contract Corporation, Limited, of the other part, being a Contract for the purchase of the above property by the Corporation. Contract dated 29th June, 1896, between the City of London Contract Corporation, Limited, of the one part, and this Company of the other part, for the re-sale to this Company, at a profit, out of which the Corporation has undertaken to pay the costs, charges, and expenses in connection with the incorporation of this Company, and the issuing and guaranteeing the subscription of the Debentures and Shares offered for subscription.

In relation to this Contract the said Corporation has entered into various arrangements which may constitute contracts within the meaning of the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867. There are also various Trade Contracts. Applicants must be deemed to waive the insertion of dates and names of the parties to any such arrangements or contracts, and in order to prevent any question must accept the foregoing as a sufficient compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the Accountants' Certificates, and the above-mentioned Agreements, can be inspected by intending investors at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

Applications for Debentures and Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and should be forwarded to the Company's Bankers, accompanied by a remittance for the amount of the deposit, and if paid by cheque then payable to the order of such Bank. If the whole amount applied for by the applicant be not allotted, the surplus amount paid on deposit will be appropriated towards the sum due on allotment. When no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and forms of Application can be obtained at the offices of the Company, or at the offices of its Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors, or at 19 and 20, Holborn Viaduct, 32 and 34, Shaftesbury-avenue, and 133, Hammersmith road, London.

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

Why Rack Your Brains

to discover the most suitable materials for Ladies' wear when by sending a post card to our Mills, a **Box of Patterns**, containing a most varied assortment, can be promptly obtained on approval *Post Free*. Further, by dealing direct with the GREENOCK MILLS, customers are supplied with goods at wholesale prices, so that while the choice of designs is unequalled, and it may almost be said unlimited, thorough economy is also ensured. In short, our postal system is found in practice to be in all respects more convenient and satisfactory than shop visiting. Our principal lines are—

Knitting Wools and Worsteds
Knitted Hosiery & Underwear
"Shawswater" Serges . .
Dress Fabrics, &c. . . . .

All these goods are made from specially-selected wools SPUN TO WEAR, and not merely to compete with unreliable low-priced qualities, now so extensively offered. Write us TO-DAY for a Box of Patterns. You will be delighted with the contents. Kindly note the address—

FLEMING, REID & CO. *Worsted Mills,*
GREENOCK, N.B.

A valuable knitting instruction book free on application.

The Best is The Cheapest

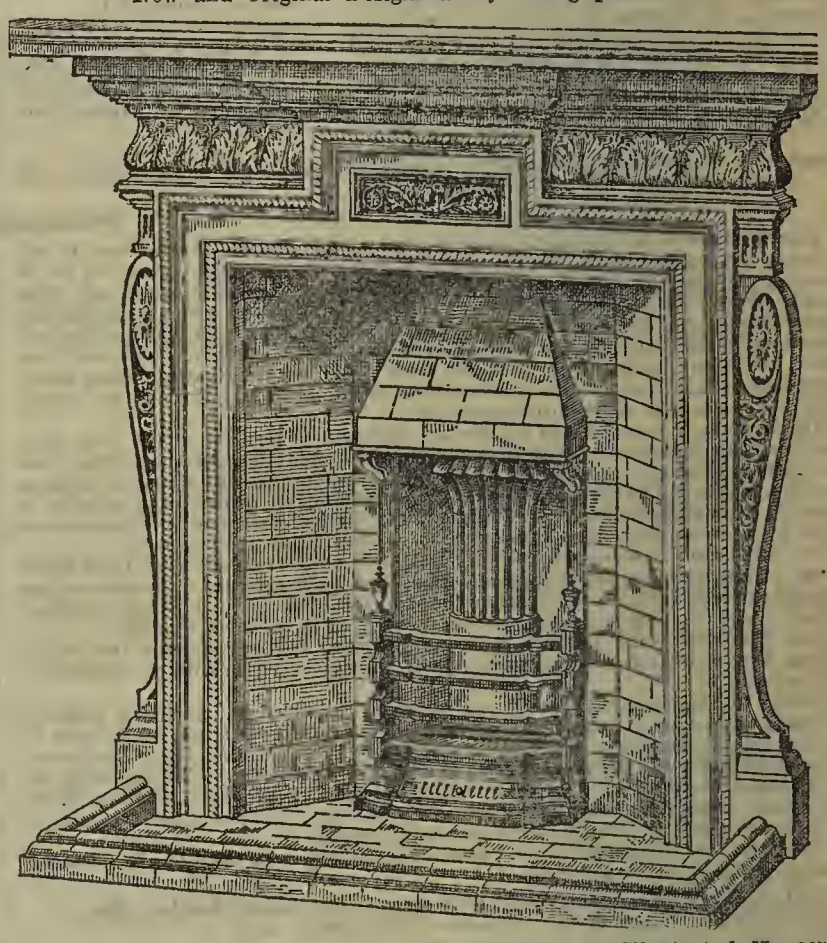
BARNARD, BISHOP, & BARNARDS

LIMITED.

ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED

SLOW COMBUSTION, OR, COUNTRY PARSON'S STOVES.

New and Original Designs always being produced.



Latest Novelty—**ALL-TILED CANOPY STOVE**, as Illustrated, No. 667,

"THE IDEAL." (*Design Registered.*) Fitted with our well-known Patent Norfolk Fire Basket, Brass Vases to Bar Frame, Ventilating Ash Pan, &c.

This Stove, when made up in 6 in. × 2 in. brickettes as shown, in whole colour, as Teapot Brown, &c., has an exceedingly quaint and attractive appearance.

PRICES—

34" wide × 36" high, 13" fire...	£4 12 6	39" wide × 36" high, 18" fire...	£4 17 6
36" " × 36" " 15" " ...	4 15 0	42" " × 36" " 21" " ...	5 0 0

Mantel, Hearth, &c., extra.

93, QUEEN VICTORIA ST., LONDON, E.C.,
And NORFOLK IRONWORKS, NORWICH.

In Bottles, 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. Sold Everywhere. Over 4,000 Testimonials received from Medical Men.

Sole Manufacturers **COLEMAN & CO. Lim.** Norwich & London.

London: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

Paris, Boston, U.S.A., &c.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 902.—SUGGESTIONS OF TITLES FOR A NEW HALFPENNY PAPER.

HAROLDWYN (real name and address will be published in due course)	£1 1 0
COALHEAVER " " "	1 1 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 905.

I am not yet in a position to announce the result of this Competition, but hope to be able to do so next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 906.

The Prize in this Competition has been awarded to NURSE for the following contribution.—

PRIZE LINES OF BLANK VERSE WITH RHYMED ENDINGS A LA HOOD.

AT THE HAYMARKET.

Dinner is o'er. Let's to the play away,
To see dear Trilby of the neat, sweet feet;
To hear her most delightful cry, "Maïe aïe!"
Or that first sound of "Milk below," so slow.
Let's see Svengali, who with leer, jeer, sneer,
Will wreck poor little Billee's joy (coy boy);
He, who with power to hypnotise wise eyes,
Casts on his victim all the while vile smile.
And Taffy, "man of blood," who wrought, thought, fought,
And did in friendship all he could, would, should.
Let's see the Laird, with generous hand, stand bland,
When he, by Madame Vinard caught, bought aught
That good old times to him recalls—balls! walls!
With his aside so droll, "Je prong," long, strong.
Poor, faithful Gecko, Dodor, Zouzou, too,
We'll see them all, and then to deep sleep creep. Nurse.

It may be interesting to add that the following competitors sent contributions which are considered worthy of special commendation:—Rex, Logic, Bob Ridley, Malignant, Marplot, Almaviva, Rewop, La Plata, Bel Demonio, Testudo Fidelis, Esperanza, J. McGrigor Allan, Toucan, Janet, and Sclanidge.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

The time of the Yearling Sales having come round again, it is proposed to repeat a Competition that has for several years in succession proved exceptionally popular. That is to say, the usual prize of Two Guineas is offered to that competitor who best succeeds in

SUGGESTING NAMES FOR THE FOLLOWING COLTS AND FILLIES WHICH HAVE LATELY BEEN ADVERTISED FOR SALE.

Yearling to be named.	Name of Sire.	Name of Dam.
1. A Bay Filly	Sheen	Rosewood
2. A Chestnut Colt	Surefoot	Geology
3. A Bay Filly	Pioneer	Zig-zag
4. A Brown Colt	Macheath	Wedding Ring
5. A Bay Colt	Friar's Balsam	Mother Superior
6. A Bay Colt	Galopin	Quickwit
7. A Chestnut Colt	Buccaneer	Stiletto
8. A Bay Colt	Saraband	Vivandière
9. A Chestnut Colt	Goldfinch	Oak Apple
10. A Chestnut Colt	Bend Or	Pink Pearl
11. A Black Filly	Endurance	Play Away
12. A Chestnut Filly	Retreat	New Magdalen

Competitors should not suggest more than one name for each yearling. They must be careful, also, not to include in their suggestions any name already borne by horses now in training. All answers must reach me at the latest by the morning of Monday, July 13.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name with the address of "THE OLD MOLE" is Reginald Pearse, Esq., Marigola, San Terenzo, Gulf of Spezia, Italy.

SNIBOR.—Thanks for your letter.

REX.—I had already noted this misprint of "notes" for "note" in your lines.

ESPERANZA.—And so, too, the word printed "real" in your second line should have been "great."

DROMEDERY.—I am sorry that you interpreted my stipulation so literally. I did not mean that the words "Tsar" and "Coronation" need actually be introduced.

TREENE.—Thanks for your card. The omission was duly noted before the award was made.

LA PLATA AND DAMI.—In each case I looked up the original "copy" of your lines, and read them as there written.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 907.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL SUGGESTIONS OF NOVEL FEATURES FOR BAZAARS OR FANCY FAIRS.

Sell articles which are of some use.—Zetæta.

A decorated bicycle competition, an entrance fee being charged for competitors and admission fee for others. Prizes of cycle accessories could be obtained free or at reduced prices from various firms as advertisements. Space permitting, tests of skilful riding might be added.—Gold Vase.

I suggest fruit competitions: A small entrance fee, say 1d. each, and a prize given to the one who shells a pint of peas or nibs a pint of gooseberries in the shortest time. This to be repeated at intervals during the bazaar, and the fruit afterwards sold.—Chee.

A beauty competition, consisting of a certificate given to the handsomest lady present at a specified hour, entitling her to choose an article of the value of, say, a guinea from any of the stalls.—Almaviva.

All the ladies who will assist at the stalls, at the bazaar, to be clad in Quakeress (old-time) costumes; in the grey satin dresses, net kerchiefs, and caps of soft tulle. These latter put on, even with the hair done as it is in these times.—Sphinx.

1. A bachelor's needlework stall, each gentleman to sew on a button, threading his own needle; small prize for the neatest and best. 2. Cinderella competition—a very smart pair of shoes to be offered as prize to the lady who is able to wear them, each lady to pay an entrance fee.—Tiger Jess.

The "Cinématographe" or "Theatrograph" for exhibiting kinetoscope pictures on a screen. The show is decidedly attractive and very remunerative, a charge being made for each scene represented. The latter apparatus can be fitted to any lime-light or electric lantern, and takes any kinetoscope film. —Tea-pot.

Arrange with the Electrophone Company, Gerrard-street, to supply the bazaar with an occasional morceau from the opera, drama, concert-room, or other attraction within its scope.—Baritone.

A maze to be made. In the middle a stall. Sixpence or a shilling to be paid on entering the maze, any one successful in reaching the stall to choose an article from it. The maze can be made of calico stretched on poles stuck in the ground or of sheep-hurdles placed on end. If there is not room for a really good maze, there must be a fixed time for people to reach the stall.—Bonus.

1. That each stall should represent a colour and all the articles on it be of that colour; the lady, of course, dressed in a dress of her colour. 2. That each stall should represent a country, that the articles should be the make, or pretend to be the make, of that country; the lady, of course, would wear the costume of the country. 3. That each stall should be superintended by ladies wearing the uniform of a regiment.—Tony.

1. Costermongers' barrows and street. 2. A Russian fair.—Bo-peep.

I would suggest an astronomical bazaar, consisting in all of twelve stalls, draped in pale blue muslin, on which should be pasted golden or silver suns, moons, stars, constellations, &c. Each stall should be dedicated to one of the signs of the Zodiac, and over each should be placed its own sign, such as a large crab (Cancer), a cradle containing two wax dolls (Gemini), a couple of fish (Pisces). I would further suggest that the objects for sale should be arranged as follows:—On the Ram, the Bull, the Crab, the Lion, the Scorpion stalls, fancy articles; on the Twins, children's clothes; on the Virgin, flowers; at the Balance, fortune-telling; on the Archer, toys; on the Goat, dairy produce; on the Waterbearer, refreshments; on the Fishes, art productions. Those serving at the stalls should all be in Greek dresses, braided with gold or silver round the hem in the design of the stall at which they serve. If space and expense permit, a pretty finishing touch would be to have the ceiling lightly festooned in pale blue, with a large golden sun in the centre, surrounded by silver moons and stars.—Chum.

As our modern fancy fairs are so hackneyed and cost so much for decorations and attractions, don't you think it would be an excellent innovation if one could, for the good of the cause, prevail upon eligible young men to be stall-holders? What a saving of expense it would prove. No decorations, &c., would be needful then, and what crowds of enlightened females would push their mites into the coffers of these pious young men. If it were only practicable, I am certain the bazaar would pay.—Beginner.

A room or place should be set aside for a light supper, with an entertainment consisting of music, singing, and recitations, with programmes, charging so much per head. The time should be arranged so as to give about an hour after supper to again look round the bazaar. People generally after such an event are more inclined to be generous and dig deeper in the pocket.—Snibor.

Cooking lessons are fashionable now. Let three or four young ladies—well known in the neighbourhood—show their skill in the art by the making and baking of various cakes and patisserie. A charge should be made to see the process, and the girls must be attired in becoming white cooking aprons and caps. It might be arranged that the cakes could be sold at 1d. or 2d. each, and they might also be tasted and tea made at the same place. It need not interfere with the usual refreshment stall. A gas-stove for baking would probably be lent by any manufacturer for the sake of advertisement, and a man must be sent to manage it.—Dove.

1. *Cycling Competition.*—A very novel feature in connection with a fancy fair or bazaar would be cycling races for ladies. An entrance-fee would be charged to the competitors, and also admission fees to the field or ground in which the races were held; all of which, after a certain amount for prizes had been deducted, would be added to the funds of the bazaar. 2. *Art Competition.*—A Competition Committee should be appointed, who would offer prizes for such things as hand-painted menu cards, paintings, drawings, or pen-and-ink sketches. 3. *Cooking Competition.* — Competition Committee should offer prizes for the best cakes, sweets, &c., all made by the competitors themselves, and which could be sold for the benefit of the refreshment stall. 4. *Photographic Competition.*—Competition Committee should offer prizes for photography (amateur), to be sold for the benefit of the bazaar. 5. *Doll Competition.* — Competition Committee should offer prizes for the best dressed dolls, all of which would be sold for the benefit of the bazaar. 6. *Needlework Competition.* — Competition Committee should offer prizes for fancy and plain needlework, to be sold for the benefit of the bazaar. —Austell.

The stall-holders at the bazaar to impersonate the Butterflies' Ball and the Grasshoppers' Feast; wearing costumes to represent in some measure the most gorgeous insects—fireflies, butterflies, glow-worms, dragon-flies, &c. The stalls to be banked with ferns and flowers. A reprint of the book was lately published by Griffith, Farran, & Co. for a few pence.—Alastor.

I do not know if any one has tried competitions. Being so much to the front just now, I should say they would be a great success, and bring in plenty of grist to the mill and plenty of impromptu talent out. To give an example, I would announce a competition for the best pencil sketch of a wheelwoman, a racehorse, or a caricature of some well-known public character. Time allowed, ten minutes; entrance-fee, 1s. each; number limited to ten persons. Cards and pencils provided, and when handed in the judge to award a card prettily decorated, with name and date filled in, and the prize sketch to be sold by auction. Of course, every lady should first press into her especial service those who excel in such-like art. A flower competition might be started on similar lines of the floral stall, the making of miniature butterfly and shower bouquets; and at the cigar stall one for the quickest and neatest way of rolling up cigarettes. A very cute hand at bazaars told me only very lately that the real success of a bazaar is achieved before it is opened, and I quite believe it. So many persons load their stalls with shoals of plain and fancy work, begging contributions for wares—and that is all. The real secret is to enlist as many persons as possible to come and buy, and amuse the public, and each person invited should, "snowball-like," hand on the invitations to other friends. Any novelty, even at a high price, sells well, and half the stall's contents should be actually sold before displayed. People will canvass the length and breadth of the land to get a child into an orphan asylum, or an adult into the Incurable Hospital—were half the zeal bestowed on a bazaar, and the public given real worth for their money instead of much trash, the trade would be a far better one. Were I starting one I would sentence all my best friends to "three months' hard labour."—Arten.

Answers have also been received from:—Cockrane-field, East Anglia, Ajedee, Edina, Cartleau, Pansy, Nitram, Ging, Cortex, Antelope, Phœnix, Georgina, Oroya, Faetcur, Toucan, and Sphinx.

The London and Midland Bank, Limited, London, Birmingham, Coventry, and Branches, are authorised to receive Subscriptions for the undermentioned issue.
List of Applications will open on Thursday, the 2nd July, 1896, and will be closed on or before Saturday, the 4th July, 1896.
On the day before and during the opening of the subscription list the works will be open for the inspection of intending subscribers.

HEARL & TONKS CYCLE & COMPONENTS MANUFACTURING CO., LIM.

BIRMINGHAM. *Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.*

Works—Imperial Works, Upper Trinity-street, Bordersley, Birmingham. Victoria and Albert Works, Sampson-road North, Birmingham.
Depot—Cromford-court, Market-street, Manchester.

CAPITAL, £160,000, in 160,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each. Issue of 130,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, payable 2s. 6d. on Application; 7s. 6d. on Allotment; 10s. one Month after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

Walter S. B. McLaren (Director of Bolckow, Vaughan, & Co., Limited), London, Chairman.
Joseph Hinks, J.P. (Director of James Hinks & Son, Limited, London and Birmingham), Leamington.
Samuel Sanders (Chairman John Wright & Co., Limited, Birmingham), Birmingham.
*Edward Henry Hearl, *William Walter Tonks, *Henry James Tonks } Victoria and Albert Works, Sampson-road North, Birmingham.
* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.—The London and Midland Bank, Limited, London, Birmingham, Coventry, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

Minchin & Co., 2, Metal Exchange Buildings, London, E.C.
Francis Redfern, Whitehall Chambers, Colmore-row, Birmingham.

BROKERS.

London.—J. Gibbs, Son & Co., 29, Cornhill, and Stock Exchange, E.C.
Birmingham.—Edwards & Burbidge, 88, Colmore-row, and Stock Exchange.
Dublin.—Daniel E. Bulger, Esq., 16, College-green, and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.—Abbott, Deeley, Hill, & Co., London and Birmingham.

SECRETARY.—William Thomas Taylor.

REGISTERED OFFICES.—Victoria and Albert Works, Sampson-road North, Birmingham.

OFFICES *(pro tem.)*, in London.—31, Lombard-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern, and to extend the business of Manufacturers of Cycles and Cycle Components now carried on by Messrs. Hearl and Tonks, at the Imperial Works, in Upper Trinity-street, Bordesley, Birmingham, and at the Victoria and Albert Works, Sampson-road North, Birmingham, and also at their wholesale depot, Cromford-court, Market-street, Manchester.

The business was commenced in 1891 on a very small scale, without capital, but the mechanical skill, energy and perseverance of the partners have been such that the output in 1896 has been the large average number of 523 completed machines per week, apart from an extensive weekly output of Cycle Components. The business has grown continuously until it has attained its present position as the largest Cycle Manufacturing Business in Birmingham, employing about 500 hands, and it is believed to be only in its infancy, altogether apart from the additional work which may be reasonably expected from the development of Motor Cycles, Cars, and other Vehicles.

The two Factories have been working overtime for months past, and if they could have turned out 1,000 machines per week the demand was such that they could have been readily sold. As a fact during this period large orders have had to be declined by Messrs. Hearl & Tonks. This in itself is a proof of the quality of the articles made by them. Messrs. Hearl & Tonks have received offers from regular customers for their entire output at the existing rate for the next two years, but in view of the growing demand for Cycles it has been deemed wise to only accept contracts for such a quantity as will keep the works fully employed for a considerable period.

Another feature which distinguishes Messrs. Hearl & Tonks favourably is that they not only build Cycles, but are also extensive manufacturers of Cycle Components. It is intended to enlarge this branch of the business to a considerable extent, and the profit to accrue from this source may be inferred from the market prices of the Shares on the 17th instant in the following Companies:—

	Paid Up.	Present Quotation.
Birmingham Small Arms...	£5	£22 10 0
Perry & Co., Limited	£10	£35 0 0
Cycle Components Co.	£1	£4 4 6

In addition to the Home markets Messrs. Hearl and Tonks have a considerable export trade. The orders from the Continent and the British Colonies are large and constantly increasing.

The books and accounts of the business have been examined on behalf of the Directors by Messrs. Abbot, Deeley, Hill & Co., Chartered Accountants of London and Birmingham, who certify as follows:

Sun Chambers,
9, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

To the Directors of
HEARL AND TONKS CYCLE AND COMPONENTS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,

As requested we have attended at the office of Messrs. Hearl and Tonks, Cycle and Components Manufacturers, of Sampson-road North, and Upper Trinity-street, Birmingham, and have compiled a Profit and Loss Account for the eight months ended 31st May, 1896.

During the earlier part of this period, the trading was practically at a standstill owing to arrangements for extending the business and fitting up the new premises at Sampson Road North.

In our Profit and Loss Account, we have charged the Stock at the 30th September, 1895, as then ascertained by the firm and have adopted the firm's guaranteed estimate of Eighteen thousand pounds as the value of the Stock at the 31st May, 1896.

During the past six months a great many tools have been made for the new factory in Sampson-road North and paid for through the wages. We have credited the Profit and Loss Account with £3,000 for this outlay.

We certify that the profits for the eight months ended May 31st, 1896, ascertained on the basis detailed above, after provision has been made for bad debts, but without charging interest on capital, depreciation (if any), and partners' salaries for management, amount to £13,798 12s. 4d., and the profits for the last five months of this period, during which time the works were in full swing, calculated on the basis of the turnover, amount to £13,410.

Yours faithfully,
June 15th, 1896. (Signed) ABBOTT, DEELEY, HILL, & CO.

It will be seen from the above certificate that the profits on the above basis for the five months ending May 31st last amounted to £13,410. Assuming the output to be the same for the remaining months of the year, the profits would be at the rate of £32,184 per annum.

With the additional working capital provided for in this issue the Directors are advised by Messrs. Hearl and Tonks that the capacity of the business can be made equal to an output of 1,000 machines per week, and the profits proportionately increased.

The machinery and plant have been valued and reported upon by Messrs. Frank Smith and Wilson, of Birmingham, Valuers, in conjunction with Mr. Charles Fletcher Wilkes, of Birmingham, Machinist, who report as follows:

37, Cannon-street, Birmingham,
23rd May, 1896.

To the Directors of
HEARL AND TONKS CYCLE AND COMPONENTS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with instructions received we have attended at the Cycle Manufactories of Messrs. Hearl & Tonks, situate in Sampson-road, North, and Upper Trinity-street, Birmingham, and (in conjunction with Mr. Charles Fletcher Wilkes, Machinist, of Aston-street) we have inspected and valued the Fixed Machinery, Gas Engines, Loose Tools, Fixtures, Fittings and Effects, at the Victoria and Albert Works, Sampson-road North, and the Imperial Works, Upper Trinity-street.

The Plant is modern and in excellent order, and has been laid down throughout with a view to economise labour. We have seldom inspected works where greater care and judgment have been shewn in the general arrangement and fixing of machinery.

In our opinion the same is worth, for the purposes of the trade as a going concern, the sum of Twenty-three Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-two Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Sixpence (£23,652. 15s. 6d.).

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) FRANK SMITH & WILSON.

The Imperial Works, Upper Trinity-street, are held for an unexpired period of 93 years at a ground rent of £25 per annum, and have been valued by Messrs. Frank Smith and Wilson, at the sum of £2,950. The Victoria and Albert Works, Sampson-road North, are held for a term of seven years from 29th September, 1890, at a rental of £250 per annum, with an option to the Lessees to renew for 7, 14, or 21 years at the same rent.

The business, including the properties, machinery, plant, tools, stock-in-trade, patents and contracts will be taken over by the Company as a going concern as from 6th June, 1896, and the Company will have the benefit of all profits from that date. Messrs. Hearl and Tonks will discharge all the liabilities of the business up to that date.

It is proposed to continue the business upon the lines which have proved so successful in the past. Mr. Edward Henry Hearl, Mr. William Walter Tonks, and Mr. Henry James Tonks, the present partners, have agreed to act as Managing Directors and Managers for a period of seven years, and they have a large holding in the Capital of the Company. They have contracted to give the whole of their time to the practical management and development of the business.

The machinery is of the most modern type, and has been specially selected by Messrs. Hearl & Tonks with a view to the saving of labour in every department, and economy of production. The Company will therefore, be in a position to carry on the business under the most advantageous conditions.

The working Capital of the Company will be as follows:—

Stock-in-Trade (guaranteed by Messrs. Hearl & Tonks) ...	£18,000
Present issue of 25,000 Shares for Working Capital	25,000
(of which the Subscription of £10,000 is guaranteed by the Vendor)	£43,000

The working Capital of the Company as above shown should, in the opinion of the Directors, be adequate for all purposes, including extensions of several departments which are now in contemplation. Plans for the new buildings for the purposes of these extensions have already been prepared.

The purchase price of the property has been fixed by the Vendor at £135,000, payable as to £80,000 in cash and £30,000 in fully paid Shares of the Company, and as to the balance either in cash or fully paid Shares, or partly in cash and partly in fully paid Shares, as provided by the contract for sale to the Company.

The Promoter has agreed to pay all the expenses of the promotion and formation of the Company up to and inclusive of the first general allotment of shares, including the legal expenses and fees of and incidental to the registration of the Company.

The following Contracts have been entered into, viz.:—(1) An Agreement dated 9th June, 1896, made between Edward Henry Hearl, William Walter Tonks, and Henry James Tonks (trading as Hearl & Tonks), of the one part, and Peter Coulson Bunn, of the other part. (2) An Agreement dated 9th June, 1896, made between Edward Henry Hearl, William Walter Tonks, and Henry James Tonks, of the one part, and Peter Coulson Bunn as Trustee for the Company, of the other part. (3) An Agreement dated 23rd June, 1896, between Peter Coulson Bunn of the one part, and the Company of the other part, being an agreement for resale at a profit to the Company by the said Peter Coulson Bunn, who is the Vendor to, and the promoter of, the Company.

These Agreements, and the Reports of the Accountants and Valuers, and prints of the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be inspected at the offices of the Company's London Solicitors.

The business will be taken over by the Company as a going concern, subject to all existing contracts. These are necessary for the working of the concern, and include numerous contracts with employés, customers, manufacturers and others, and consequently are not specified. There are also other contracts and arrangements entered into by the Vendor and promoter with reference to the formation of the Company and of obtaining its capital, to none of which the Company is a party. Applicants for Shares shall be deemed to have notice of these existence of these contracts, agreements, and arrangements, and to have agreed with the Company as Trustee for the Directors and others to waive their right, if any, to particulars thereof, or to any further compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than is contained in this Prospectus.

Applications for Shares must be made on the Form accompanying the Prospectus and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company with the amount payable on application. In every case where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned to the applicant in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for the surplus will be credited in reduction of the subsequent instalments. Any balance will be returned to the applicant.

Stock Exchange quotations in London and Provincial Centres will be applied for in due course.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, Brokers, Auditors, and Secretary of the Company and at the Company's offices in London and Birmingham.

June 23rd, 1896.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Alfred Webb Miles & Co.

12, 10, and 8, Brook-street, Hanover Square, London,

Respectfully solicit inspection of their choice assortment of New Goods suitable for the present season, comprising fashionable materials for Dress, Frock, and Morning Suits, the latest designs in fine Cashmeres and Angolas for Trousers, also a unique and immense variety of the newest styles in Angola, Cheviot, and Homespun Suitings.

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now have on view a particularly CHOICE ASSORTMENT of the NEWEST and MOST FASHIONABLE STYLES in SUMMER CASHMERE TROUSERINGS at 16s. and 21s. per pair, or two pairs, if ordered together, for 30s. and 40s. respectively.

These goods are of a superior quality, the productions of the best known English manufacturers, who have infused an artistic spirit into the preparation of fabrics designed to please a cultivated taste, and must not be confounded with the spurious imitations which are now flooding the market. A. W. M. & Co. confidently recommend them to their customers as the best value they have ever offered.

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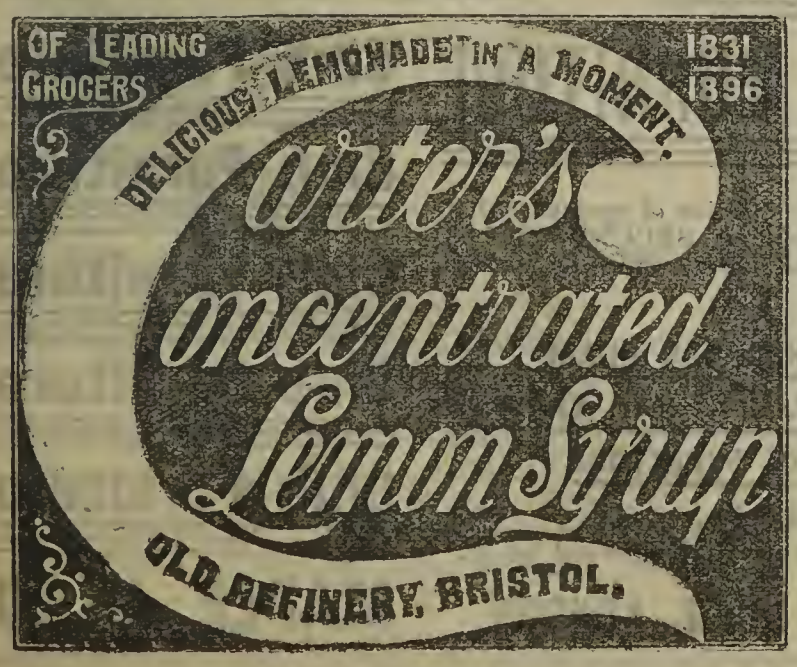

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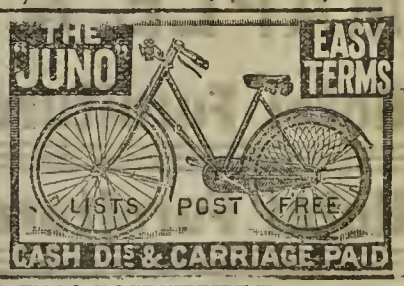

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,, ST. STEPHEN'S CLUB Westminster
,, GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL King's Cross
,, EUSTON AND VICTORIA HOTELS Euston Square
,, TURF CLUB Piccadilly
,, BRIGHTON NEW CLUB Brighton
,, STIRLING COUNTY CLUB Stirling
,, ROYAL HOTEL South Shields
,, HOTEL CAP MARTIN Mentone
,, RIVIERA PALACE HOTEL Cimiez
,, BOSPHORUS SUMMER PALACE HOTEL AND CLUB Therapia
,, FIRST AVENUE HOTEL London
,, BURLINGTON HOTEL Old Burlington Street
,, GRAND HOTEL Jersey

THE HOTEL BURLINGTON Sunny Boscombe
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,, LIMMER'S HOTEL Hanover Square
,, PLOUGH HOTEL Northampton
,, GRAND HOTEL Lowestoft
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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1019. Vol. XL. Thursday, July 9, 1896. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

In response to various communications which have reached me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to reside at Windsor Castle until the day before the Royal wedding, when she will come up to Buckingham Palace for two nights, after which her Majesty is to proceed to Osborne. The Court will return to Balmoral for the autumn on Wednesday, August 26, and in September the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their children are to be her Majesty's guests there, as well as Princess Louis of Battenberg and the Countess Erbach-Schönberg. Princess Beatrice and her children will accompany the Queen from Osborne to Balmoral.

I see that with solemn state those on whom it has been decided to bestow the new Victorian Order have received its insignia. The Order has apparently been instituted in order to reward the upper domesticity of the Court. The wonder is that any one should feel a glow of pride in being permitted to wear it. It reminds me of what I once read about an Eastern Court—if I remember rightly it was in Persia. A Shah confided the government of the country to certain of the Palace officials, on which they published a decree that there should be no capons in Persia, in order to safeguard their own dignity.

The Royal Victorian Order is, I hear, to be lavishly distributed in all its five classes on the occasion of the Royal wedding.

Some of the papers are printing a great deal of most idiotic rubbish about the future pecuniary position of Princess Maud and Prince Charles of Denmark. There is not the slightest foundation for the statement of an evening journal that "the Queen will see her granddaughter is provided for in a separate estate," and a weekly contemporary is equally incorrect in announcing that Prince Charles and Princess Maud "will have to rely upon the allowance made to them by the Prince of Wales." The Prince and Princess of Wales have, of course, stipulated for adequate settlements, which are now being drawn up, and, considering the vast wealth which the Crown Prince of Denmark possesses, it is impossible that there could be any serious pecuniary hitch.

As a matter of fact, Princess Maud is to have £4,000 a year out of the allowance which was granted by Parliament in 1889 for the family of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Crown Princess of Denmark is to make an allowance of either £10,000 or £12,000 a year to her second son. The couple are to occupy a suite of apartments in the palace of the King of the Hellenes at Copenhagen, and one of the Royal villas near Bernstorff Castle will be their country residence in Denmark, while in England they will live at Appleton, a small place near Sandringham, which belongs to the Prince of Wales. It is well known that the Crown Princess does not like the marriage, as she had quite made up her mind that Prince Charles would become the husband of her relative the Queen of the Netherlands, who is, of course, the greatest match in Europe.

Only a very limited number of invitations will be issued for the Royal wedding and the subsequent déjeuner at Buckingham Palace. It is, however, the intention of the Prince and Princess of Wales to hold a reception in the grounds of Marlborough House on the afternoon of the wedding, from three o'clock till six. After the wedding breakfasts (there will be one for the Royals and a separate one for the suites and guests) there will be an assembly of all the people who have been at the marriage, in the Picture Gallery, after which the Queen is to take leave of the bride and bridegroom, who will drive in procession, accompanied by the Royal Family and the Royal guests, to Marlborough House by way of Constitution Hill, Piccadilly, and St. James's-street. The bride and bridegroom are to go to Sandringham for their honeymoon, and they will travel by special train from St. Pancras (or possibly from Liverpool-street) to Wolferton.

The papers persist in stating that several hymns and anthems are to be sung at the wedding by the combined choirs of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and of the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace. As a matter of fact there will only be one short anthem, which is to be sung before the Primate delivers the final address. Dr.

Creser, organist of the Chapel Royal, is to preside at the organ, and the choir of that chapel will sing the anthem. A march will be played on the organ as each of the three processions enters the chapel (one of Handel's, one of Beethoven's, and one of Wagner's), while Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" is to be played after the service. The Queen's State Trumpeters are to be stationed outside the chapel, and they will announce the arrival of each procession by a flourish of trumpets.

Lady Downe, who has been the Lady-in-Waiting on the Queen during the last fortnight, will be succeeded by Lady Lytton, after whom comes Lady Antrim, and then either the Dowager Lady Southampton or the Dowager Duchess of Athole, each staying at the Court for a fortnight.

Though Ireland, like other islands, is liable to be swept by great winds, it has suffered far less by them than from "airs." Royalty has shown the way in treating the country with contemptuous neglect. The present Prime Minister has followed suit by expending on it his best oratorical sarcasms, including the historical "Hottentot" sneer. Under the circumstances, it is hardly strange that the exaggerated outpourings of the prophets on Lord Cadogan's appointment to the Irish Viceroyalty have proved very far from prophetic. Lord Cadogan has been Viceroy for nearly a year; during all that time expectation has been standing on tiptoe, awaiting the predicted social brilliancy of the Viceregal Court. It has never come, and even the prophets are beginning to grow somewhat uneasy at the long delay. Meanwhile, Lord Cadogan has publicly let it be known that he is in favour of the abolition of the Irish Viceroyalty. It is more curious, under these conditions, that he should have accepted the place, than that he should have failed to fill it brilliantly.

The Horse Show in the Royal Dublin Society's premises at Ball's Bridge will be held as usual this year at the end of August. Already rooms are being engaged in the hotels in Dublin and the neighbourhood for this great horse festival. Lord and Lady Cadogan are expected to be at the Viceregal Lodge at the time, and to entertain a large party of visitors. Next year it is under consideration to change the date of the Horse Show, so that there may be no rivalry of attraction between the partridges and the horses.

The present Lord Clonmell, in coming into the title, came into a very barren honour. His predecessor left the family residence in Kildare and the property away from his successor and his family. Society in Kildare is much exercised on the subject, and there is a rumour of the will being disputed.

As a sequel to recent meritorious attempts to direct the attention of tourists to the many charms of scenery and greenery existing in "the distressful country," comes the rumour that the astute owner of that portion of the coast embellished by the well-known Giant's Causeway is busily at work upon a ring fence which will effectually place this natural phenomenon on the footing of a paying exhibition. This policy is scarcely likely to increase the confidence of hesitating visitors who, at the present time, can with difficulty be persuaded to put aside prejudice and undertake that most delightful experience — an investigation of the many points of interest to be found in Ireland. Some local effort should be made to stop this contemplated "novelty" — at least if the Emerald Isle is ever to take its place as a show country with Scotland and Wales.

Lady Stair, who died last week, at Lochinch Castle, Wigtownshire, after a long illness, was the eldest daughter of the Duc de Coigny, while her mother was a Scotch heiress, Miss Hamilton, of Bargany, from whom she inherited a large estate in Ayrshire, which passes to her second son, Major North Dalrymple. She rarely appeared in public, but her charities were most munificent, and she was a kind and watchful friend to the tenants and cottars on the various family estates. Lady Stair was keenly interested in many ecclesiastical and educational projects, and her efforts were not confined to the Church of Scotland (of which she was a member), but she also generously assisted the schemes of the Free and the "U.P." Churches.

It was said of the late Lord Fitzhardinge, by Mr. George Payne, that "no man ever paid more for his friends, nor paid with a better grace." Lord Fitzhardinge will be much missed in many circles of society, and to Gloucestershire his death is an irreparable loss. He lived for about two-thirds of every year at Berkeley Castle, and personally supervised the management of his large estates, and he was a most generous and considerate landlord. He earned the reputation of being one of the most successful Shorthorn breeders in England, and was unsurpassed as a judge of all kinds of stock. Lord Fitzhardinge was a great favourite with his county neighbours, and particularly among his own tenantry, and it was a source of just pride to him that there never was a vacant farm on the Berkeley estates. He was an ardent Liberal until the Home Rule split, and he had since become an equally zealous Unionist. He was very hospitable and a keen sportsman, being a fine shot, an expert angler, a splendid rider, and an excellent billiard player. He was a man of most genial and kindly nature, and many were his private acts of beneficence. He was said to be the smallest man who ever belonged to the Blues, and at that period of his life he was familiarly known as "The Giant."

The first function in connection with the visit of the Honourable Artillery Company of Massachusetts to England is to take place to-day (July 8), at the Hotel Cecil, when the members will be entertained at luncheon

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 122 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 120.
For Amusements, see page 121.
For Our Puzzles, see page 133.

by Mrs. Collings, wife of the United States' Consul-General. The Boston men are making the Hotel Cecil their headquarters during their stay in London.

A gentleman who lays claim to an extensive knowledge of Bournemouth, and especially of the local trade, writes a long letter disputing the proposition that the ratepayers at large will benefit from a permanent improvement such as a marine drive. His contention comes to this, that the sole benefit from such improvements must be reaped by the ground landlords. I trust that my views on the land question are fairly sound and up to date, but this contention I must absolutely decline to accept. That ground landlords benefit by all permanent local improvements is obvious. But as regards land which they have already leased they cannot reap a halfpenny of benefit until the leases fall in, and as regards their other land, the lessees will take it with full knowledge of all the circumstances, and must judge for themselves whether it is or is not worth the price asked. If it is worth that price, the lessee has nothing to complain of.

To say that all those who occupy land already leased —*i.e.*, the whole of the present ratepayers—can derive no benefit from public improvements, seems to me too childish for serious argument. Everything which attracts to a town visitors with money in their pockets, and causes them to spend that money in the town, must be for the general benefit of the town. The evidence of this is to be seen at every pleasure resort in the world. The owners of the soil will of course benefit with the rest, but the way to meet that is to make them pay their fair share of the cost of all improvements. In the case of Bournemouth, the principal ground-landlord offered a substantial contribution towards the particular improvement in question. It may not have been enough—on that point I offer no opinion. But if it was not enough, that merely means that the Corporation should try and make a better bargain with the landlord for its constituents.

I have been asked to give publicity to the following statement in the hope that it may meet the eye of the proprietor of a well-known hotel in New York whose conduct is complained of. Last January a gentleman, who had just come from the West Indies, put up at the hotel referred to—for the moment I refrain from mentioning its name, but I believe it is one of the leading establishments in New York—and having occasion to go away for three weeks, deposited some of his luggage in the hotel baggage-room to be kept in safe custody. On his return he found that a Gladstone bag and a suit case had been cut open and everything of value abstracted. The proprietor of the hotel asked for an estimate of the value of the things lost, and promised to "fix" the matter next morning before the gentleman sailed for England. Next morning the proprietor could not be seen, but the hotel clerk gave an assurance that the amount claimed—sixty dollars—would be remitted to England by the next mail. It was not remitted, however, and so far all applications to the proprietor have been ignored. In these circumstances it has been suggested that I should try to persuade him to keep his word. My own view is that he must in some way have accidentally overlooked the matter, and that on his memory being thus jogged he will at once forward the sixty dollars. It may interest him to know that, if he does so, the money is to be given to the Truth Toy Fund, so that he will be not only discharging a just debt, but at the same time benefiting a charitable work.

A correspondent sends me the following verses :—

AT LORD'S—FRIDAY, JULY 3.

Wrong? Was it wrong? Well, surely,
To judge from the angry shout
Of the crowd at Lord's assembled;
Of *that* there can be no doubt.
It was not, it is true, illegal
By the "written" laws of the game;
But a kind of instinct tells us
It was shabby, all the same.

'Twas a tricky piece of dodging
That was tried last week and failed,
And 'twas well that, despite such tactics,
'Twas the better side prevailed.
It was well that the captain stooping
In a way so indiscreet,
Should find that his stoop for triumph
Had ended in sore defeat!

In vain do the beaten Cantabs
Whom the public censure smites,
Protest that their captain's action
Was "well within his rights."
In vain is such special pleading
In face of the feeling strong
That a right which is strained unduly
Full often becomes a wrong!

Of the laws in the text-books written,
There rarely has yet been one
That included every item
Which should, or should not, be done;
However diffuse the words are,
There *must* be inherent flaws,
Unless our honour can furnish
An interpretation clause.

Judging by what I hear, the misunderstanding that has arisen over the sale of La Flêche is in a fair way to be adjusted, Sir Tatton Sykes having decided to keep all the animals bought in his name at the Hirsch sale.

It would seem that a play has been performed at the Aston Theatre called "The Raid in the Transvaal," at which the troops of the Chartered Company were represented by soldiers of the 6th Dragoon Guards from the Birmingham barracks, and under the charge of a sergeant. This seems to me monstrous, and it is all the more absurd, as the troops of the Chartered Company—apart from the illegality of their raid—in no way distinguished themselves. What should we say if the battle of Krugersdorp were put on the stage at Pretoria, with the police of that town playing the part of the Boers

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

and shooting down Dr. Jameson's "heroes"? Would this be likely to promote good feeling between the British and the Dutch races in South Africa?

Let there be a memorial to the late Sir Augustus Harris by all means. I cordially agree with the very widespread wish that has been already expressed to mark in some way the public appreciation of a very enterprising manager and remarkable man. But against the proposal that a statue should be erected in his honour I emphatically protest; and I do so the more strongly, as I feel sure that the late impresario himself would have been the first to object to such a form of memorial. Sir Augustus was nothing if not practical, and he would have laughed to scorn this notion of a statue. A bust, or, better still, a tablet, in the vestibule of Covent Garden would not perhaps be out of place, but the main portion of any fund that may be raised should certainly be devoted to some project of assured and lasting utility.

By the way, I notice that, according to a statement published in one of the evening papers, "the value of the countless floral emblems which lay strewn about the graveside of Sir Augustus Harris amounted to over £2,500." This only shows to what lengths a silly and pretentious custom can be carried. We are always congratulating ourselves on the disestablishment of Mr. Mould and his myrmidons, but it is but a nominal reform which delivers us from the tyranny of the undertaker only to hand us over into the clutches of the fashionable florist. Two thousand five hundred pounds absolutely wasted! How much better would it have been to add this sum to the Harris Memorial Fund that is about to be raised.

Mrs. Stowe had not visited Europe since 1859, and very little had been heard of her since her attack upon Lord Byron in 1869, which irreparably damaged her reputation. Mrs. Stowe made one of the greatest of literary successes with "Uncle Tom's Cabin," but she profited but little by the achievement. Her visit to England in 1853 was a blaze of triumph, but she offended many of her European friends by the revelations and comments in her "Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands" (published in 1854), which Macaulay abused as "a mighty foolish and impertinent book." It is, however, a work which can still be looked through with considerable entertainment. Mrs. Stowe paid a second visit to England in 1856, but the trip was a disappointment, and most of her quondam friends in London utterly ignored her existence, regarding her as obsolete and played out. Her melancholy and mortifying experiences during the visit caused Macaulay to indite some weighty remarks in his diary upon the subject of "lions":—

There is nothing more pitiable than an ex-lion or lioness. London, I have often thought, is like the sorceress in the "Arabian Nights," who, by some mysterious law, can love the same object only forty days. During forty days she is all fondness. As soon as they are over, she not only discards the poor favourite, but turns him into some wretched shape—a mangy dog or spavined horse. How many hundreds of victims have undergone this fate (in London) since I was born! The strongest instances, I think, have been Betty, who was called the Young Roscius, Edward Irving, and Mrs. Beecher Stowe."

The other day I was reading a novel that a friend of mine sent me from America, entitled "A Faithful Traitor," which seemed to me a capital story and very well told, and I was surprised to find that it had been originally published in our *Family Herald*, because I had so often seen deprecatory allusions to the stories in that organ of novel readers. "A Faithful Traitor" is far superior to many of the puffed three-volume novels, and certainly, if the stories in the *Family Herald* are up to its standard of excellence, the subscribers of that journal have no reason to complain.

I was asked recently by an assistant-master in a large public school to raise my voice against the system of reserving headmasterships exclusively for the clergy. Remembering the heated controversy which raged over this question on the last vacancy in the headmastership of Rugby, I can only refer to it in fear and trembling; but my friend the assistant-master makes one point which really seems worth the attention of the public. The strongest argument, so far as I know, in favour of clerical headmasters is that the British parent feels that his son's religious and moral training is safer in the hands of a clergyman than in those of a layman, however learned. But the assistant-master is of opinion—and he is a man who ought to know something about it—that clerical schoolmasters are absolutely harmful to the cause of religion. He asserts—probably few will feel disposed to contradict him—that the services in school chapels are "a miserable farce, as a rule," and that this is due to their being conducted by schoolmasters, and being consequently regarded by the boys as part of the educational curriculum. I would commend this view to the consideration of all those who are in such a state of morbid excitement about the importance of religious education in Board Schools and elementary schools in general. In connection with the elementary education question, it has always been my view that religion taught by schoolmasters is worth very little; and I am, therefore, glad to find the same thing asserted by a master in a middle-class school.

Of this, at any rate, I am certain, that if the exclusion of laymen from headmasterships is of no service to religion, it must be prejudicial to the secular side of education. The gentleman to whom I have just been referring tells me that out of the assistant masters of public schools at present nine-tenths are laymen, and that among these nine-tenths are to be found all the most distinguished scholars and teachers. It is grossly unfair to these men that they should be excluded from the highest prizes of the profession; and such a state of

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

things must tend in the long run to drive out of the profession the men who are best qualified for it. One of the ablest schoolmasters in England at the present time—a man who has raised his school to the very foremost place among public schools from the educational point of view—is a layman. Of the educational advantages which have accrued thereby to the boys in the school there cannot be the slightest question; and it will take a great deal to convince me that the boys who have been educated under this gentleman are less devout Christians than those who have come during the same period from any of the other public schools presided over by clergymen of the Church of England. Clergymen are bywords for their failure in the religious and moral training of their own children, and I really do not see on what ground they should be expected to be more successful with those of other people.

For the Latin Prize Essay at Harrow this year the following is the subject propounded:—

Puerorum educatio Græcorum et Romanorum cum nostris comparata.

I learned Latin at Eton, and it may be that for this reason I do not appreciate the niceties of the language as written at Harrow. But why "cum nostris"? Is the essayist expected to compare ancient education with "our boys," which is much like comparing chalk with cheese; or if not that, why is education singular in reference to the Greeks and Romans, two distinct nations, and plural in reference to ourselves? A friend whose classics are a little fresher than mine tells me that the "cum" is redundant and ugly, that "puerorum educatio" does not mean the education imparted to boys, and that "educatio apud Græcos et Romanos" is the mode of expressing himself which an ancient Roman would have adopted. But this may perhaps be due to the defective "educatio Græcorum et Romanorum cum nostris comparata." "Apud Græcos et Romanos," as the prize essayist will no doubt point out, there was no "publicarum scholarum educatio.' It may be, therefore, that the ancient Roman did not learn Latin with the same elegance and correctness as a Harrow boy.

The *Guardian* is of opinion that the time has arrived when some definite arrangement should be made as to the source from which "Suffragan" Bishops are to derive their stipends. I quite agree in this view, but differ most decisively from the *Guardian's* idea that valuable City livings may very properly be held by the Bishop of London's "Suffragan." The fact is that if a Bishop is assisted by a "Suffragan" he should most assuredly be required to pay his "episcopal curate" out of his own stipend. If Bishop Temple requires two "Suffragans" he ought to pay them £2,500 a year, which would leave him a stipend of £7,700 a year, which is surely a sufficient income for any descendant of the Apostles. The Archbishops and Bishops ought all to be compelled to pay their "Suffragans" out of their own stipends, instead of quartering them upon capitular and parochial funds in the manner which is now so scandalously common among these rapacious dignitaries. I am informed that the Bishops of Winchester and Rochester are honourably distinguished among their brethren in that they pay their "Suffragans" out of their own pockets, but in every other case the assistant prelate has been jobbed into either a good living or a residentiary stall.

It is announced that the Archbishop of York has licensed the Rev. W. D. D. Maclagan to the perpetual curacy of Grosmont, of which his Grace is patron. Crockford gives the gross value of the living as £335, net £285, and the population of the parish is 776. Mr. W. D. D. Maclagan was ordained priest in 1889, and he came into the parish as a curate less than three years ago. There are plenty of deserving curates who have been labouring in the same diocese for almost as many years as this young gentleman has lived, and who are left to toil and moil for the Church on beggarly pittances, while he drops in for this fairly comfortable piece of preferment. But what of that? Is not Mr. W. D. D. Maclagan a son of the Archbishop? And does not his Grace make it one of his first duties in the dispensation of his official patronage (as he has shown before) to provide for those of his own family and household?

The case of Canon Scott Holland is peculiar. A letter which was incidentally produced from him to a young man was read at the South Western Police-court, and the magistrate observed that it was one which no gentleman would write to another. The Canon, on being interviewed, says that he repudiates the allegations contained in the statement made in the Police-court, and that there is not a semblance of a particle of truth in the insinuations. The Canon appears to me to be an aggrieved person, for he has had no opportunity to meet the allegations of the magistrate, except by a bare denial to a Press interviewer. Under these circumstances, he ought, in common fairness, to be allowed to submit the whole matter to some tribunal, either ecclesiastical or civil, in whose decision the public would have confidence.

The *Westminster Gazette* has, I see, commented on the prolonged absence of the Bishop of Mashonaland from his diocese, and the Bishop has written a letter to that paper explaining his position. I am glad of this, as I was about to comment on the same subject myself. It seems that the prelate's return is purely a question of cash. £15,000 is required, and £8,000 has been obtained. £7,000 more and back goes the Bishop. "You kindly compare me to a general," says his lordship. "Would a general be sent out with insufficient arms and ammunition?" Certainly not, but it is highly edifying to have it on the authority of a Missionary Bishop that the arms and ammunition required for the conversion of the heathen are primarily pounds, shillings, and pence. "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses," was a prominent instruction in the original plan of campaign; and I strongly think that this plan might still be adopted with good effect. However, it is some comfort to know that the Bishop does not rely on worse arms and ammunition than £. s. d. When his Lordship first went to introduce Christianity to the Matabele, it was, if I remember rightly, behind the rifles and Maxims of the Chartered Company.

A correspondent sends me the following verses apropos of the discussion now going on in some of the papers as to the influence exerted on Church-going by Sunday cycling:—

A NEW VIEW OF SUNDAY CYCLING.

They're complaining from the pulpit, with an energy undue,
That the craze for Sunday cycling now is emptying the pew;
But we think these hasty parsons are mistaken when they throw
On the wheel so much in fashion all the burden of their woe.

As it seems to us, the cycle, on which now so many perch,
Does not lure away each Sunday those who ride it from *the Church*,
It is from the club it takes them, from the pot-house, from the street,
As it bears them off rejoicing to the country fresh and sweet.

White-faced office boys it carries to the woods where throstles sing,
To the fields, where whirring coveys from the waving wheat-stalks spring;
Care-worn city clerks it hurries off to Nature's fairest scenes—
Flower-decked meads and trellised hop-grounds; babbling brooks and village-greens.

Round-backed artisans it bears, too, from the small and stuffy room,
To the lanes where trailing roses all the summer air perfume;
And it makes them grow forgetful of the stifling, man-made town,
As they climb the breezy roadway o'er the swelling, God-made down.

Can a change like this be vicious? Can the exercise do harm,
That thus adds to lives so weary once a week a healthful charm?
No, it seems by far more likely that the cyclists thus may learn
From the fairest sights of Nature to that Nature's God to turn.

Moved to thought and to reflection by the wonders that they see,
They may long in grateful homage once again to bend the knee;
And the parsons may discover that their pews are filled anew,
Not because their flocks *don't* cycle, but, forsooth, because they do!

Archdeacon Watkins, of Durham, is to be the special preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral next Sunday at the evening service, while on the 19th the pulpit will be occupied by the Dean of Windsor, and on the 26th by the Dean of Gloucester, for whom, I hear, the new See of Bristol is intended.

The "appointed" preachers at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, during the remainder of this season are:—July 12, Rev. A. L. B. Peile, Master of St. Katherine's Hospital; July 19, Prebendary Harry Jones; July 26, Rev. Clement Smith, Rector of Whippingham; August 2, the Sub-Dean; August 9, Rev. J. Llewelyn Davies, Vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale; August 16, Bishop Selwyn. The chapel will be closed after August 16 until the beginning of November.

There is a touting financial establishment in Finsbury-pavement, styled the "Carlton Bank, Limited," which trades specially on the necessities of poor parsons and other needy professional men. This concern has just issued broadcast among the clergy a particularly impudent circular to the following effect:—

We have decided to increase our working capital, and knowing as we do the influential position that clergymen naturally occupy, we venture to suggest that, as opportunity offers from time to time, you might privately recommend our £1 Six per Cent. First Preference shares to investors whom you may personally know who desire a fixed, substantial, and secure quarterly income from a non-speculative, old-established Company.

These £1 shares are now being issued by the Bank at 22s. each, and we are prepared to place to your credit an honorarium of 5 per cent. on all investors who purchase shares from us through your private introduction, so that on an investment of £1,000 you would be entitled to £50, and proportionately on higher or lower sums; or, if you prefer it, we would instead subscribe that proportion to your schools or church fund, or any charity you nominate.

I am glad to find that the clergy generally warmly resent this attempt to employ them as touts on commission, and several dozen of these circulars have been sent by the recipients to TRUTH office. As I know that the money-lending fraternity are fond of circulating testimonials from their clients, the "Carlton Bank, Limited," may like to have for future use a few of the opinions of the clergy on this circular. I append, therefore, a few extracts taken from letters that I have received on the subject. The Bank have my full permission to reproduce them:—

A touting circular which for unblushing effrontery may be fairly said to "take the cake." . . . . Combines impudence, meanness, and an appeal to the lowest feelings in an unprecedented degree. . . . . (*A Suburban Curate*).

I cannot think it anything else than an attempt to gull a peculiarly gullible and unsuspecting class of people. . . . . (*The Vicar of a Welsh town*).

It appears to be an artful and rascally attempt to obtain money by playing upon the "greenness" or impecuniosity of the clergy (*A Curate in the Midlands*).

There isn't an honest man in England who wouldn't spurn with contempt a clergyman who prostituted his profession by constituting himself the tout suggested by the circular. . . . (*A Yorkshire Rector*).

A particularly glaring example of the impudence of money lenders. . . . . (*A Parson in Hampshire*).

I hope you will deal with this (as I think) insolent attempt to enlist the clergy as touts for a commercial speculation on commission at 5 per cent. . . . . (*A City Clergyman*), &c., &c.

By the way, it will be seen on reference to the concluding paragraph of my friend Moses Moss's letter this week, that one Clarkson, of Walsall, is offering a block of 1,000 of these same Six per Cent. First Preference shares at par. Mr. Moses Moss does not recommend the investment even at that price. Yet the Carlton Bank itself is endeavouring to retail the same shares at 22s., and offering a commission of 5 per cent. to any clergyman who will assist in placing them at that figure.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor and Sickly London Children:—Mouse, £10; Gerald, 10s.; H. H. B., £5; W., £2; Ellen Mott, £1. I have also had forwarded to me from "A Reader" a five-dollar note for Father Wehinger's Leper Mission.

ALFRED B. PEARCE, 39, Ludgate Hill, London. China and Glass for Home and Colonial use. The oldest Glass House in London. Established 1760.

The Duke of Cambridge told the Patriotic Fund Committee the other day that it was necessary for the Fund to have a large capital, or they would not be able to grant annuities with any confidence. H.R.H. here overlooks entirely the alternative arrangement which has been at every opportunity pressed upon the consideration of the Commissioners in these columns—namely, that they should expend their funds in buying annuities through sound insurance companies. Not only could annuities be granted with perfect confidence in this manner, but the beneficiaries would get larger annuities than the Fund can give them out of the mere interest on its investments. They would, in fact, get the benefit of the capital as well as the interest, which is what the donors intend when they give the money.

When a person gives a pound to a relief fund, or any similar object, it is not his intention that the trustees of the fund shall invest the pound in Consols at 113, and allow interest on it at the rate of about sixpence per annum for life to some one in distress, and then transfer the sixpence to some one else, which is the way the Patriotic Commissioners dispose of the money. He intends that the whole of his pound shall be applied to the specified object. If the present arrangement is to hold, benefactors should be allowed to give their sixpences a year and keep their pounds for their own use. I trust that the House of Commons Committee will keep these considerations in view when dealing with this important question.

The receipts at the Royal Military Tournament amounted to upwards of £20,000, and it is hoped that about £4,000 will remain over for distribution among the military charities. Lord Methuen and his Committee deserve hearty congratulations on their success, considering the storm of invectives with which the new arrangements were saluted. This year's Tournament has been very properly managed on purely military lines, and the Committee has succeeded in earning general confidence.

Lord Roberts has been granted £6,000 for the purposes of the military manœuvres in Ireland, and he has drawn up an excellent and thoroughly practical programme of operations.

Some time ago I called attention to the hard case of Colonel Stockwell, who was scandalously treated in being passed over and retired, in spite of his exceptionally strong claim and his weighty recommendations. The whole affair was a disgraceful piece of jobbery, and it excited such general disapproval that the case has been reconsidered, with the result that Colonel Stockwell has been granted the honorary rank of Major-General. This is a truly miserable compensation for the discreditable favouritism of which he has been the victim, and which has blighted a highly creditable career.

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Mr. Brodrick's answer to Mr. Morton's question on the order forbidding N.C.O.s of the 2nd Berkshire Regiment to subscribe to funds for the defence of their comrades before courts-martial is a curious piece of official straw-splitting. It comes to this—that though every man may give money individually to help a comrade in his defence, yet no two or more men may contribute collectively for the same purpose, and (apparently) no one man, except the prisoner, may receive the subscription of another man. It is astonishing, even after all that one knows about the War Office, that grown men should condescend to such puerilities. If A, B, C, D . . . Z may each give money for a common purpose, what is the use of attempting to hamper the collection and application of their money by the farce of forbidding an organised collection? The authorities would do better to employ their subtle intellects in looking into the state of things in the 2nd Berks which has caused this question to be raised.

I have to thank several Army readers for enlightenment on the question of the obligations of Medical Officers in regard to attending the wives and families of their brother officers. The matter, it seems, is provided for in the Medical Service Regulations which entitle officers to free medical attendance for their wives, their children under fourteen years of age, and their servants, within the number allowed by the Regulations, always provided that the officer resides within a mile of the hospital or other point fixed by the G.O.C. for the purpose. As mentioned in last week's TRUTH, a case has recently occurred in which a Medical Officer sent in a bill for attendance on an officer's family. Unless the case came within the exceptions above-mentioned, this seems a very shabby and unprofessional proceeding, and I should hope that the officer to whom the bill was sent, stood on his rights and refused to pay.

From a cutting sent to me, I gather that the *Broad Arrow* has been bringing its acute intellect to bear on this question. The result is all that might be expected:—

> But under no conditions whatever would any Medical Officer be justified in charging for his services to the family of another officer, under circumstances entitling the latter to medical attendance.

That is to say, where an officer is entitled to medical attendance free, a Medical Officer is not entitled to charge for attending him. What a sublime discovery! And yet there are many people in the Services who question the wisdom and capacity of writers in Service journals.

In connection with the latest ugly incident in the Royal Engineers—the suicide of Quartermaster-Sergeant "Knight" (really a discharged soldier from the German Army)—Mr. J. C. Linay was last week sentenced at Maidstone Quarter Sessions to twelve months' hard labour. Linay was a contractor to the R.E. Committee at Chatham, and the offence of which he was convicted was that of obtaining, in collusion with "Knight," public money to the amount of £311. 8s. 6d. by means of forged receipts. The case is another proof of the irregularities and frauds that are freely

practised in connection with the execution of public works by the Royal Engineers, and I strongly suggest that the time has come when the War Office ought to undertake a searching inquiry into this subject. In support of that view, let it be remembered that the public has been robbed to the extent of some £40,000, or more, over the reconstruction of the Royal Barracks, Dublin, and that up to the present time all that the War Office has done is to exert itself vigorously to hush up the scandal and screen the parties officially responsible.

The men of the M.S.C. at the Station Hospital, Gosport, have a substantial grievance in the fact that they and their families every time they go to the town have to cross a bridge on which there is a toll of one halfpenny for soldiers not on duty. There are only one or two small shops close to the hospital, and the children of the married men have to be sent into the town to school. One man tells me that he has had to disburse as much as 2s. in a week for tolls at the bridge—a very serious tax upon a soldier's pay. I understand that all the staff and employees at the Naval Hospital close at hand are allowed to use the bridge free of charge, and the War Office ought to make some similar arrangement for the benefit of their men at the Station Hospital.

Will the official who edits the monthly *Army List* kindly explain why he gives in his table of contents a reference to the "Provisional Cavalry Depot"—an establishment which ceased to exist several years ago? In the June *Army List* the table of contents refers the reader for this Depot to page 106a, but of course nothing of the sort appears there. I would suggest to the Editor that while taking out this entry he should insert in his table of contents a reference to the Discharge Depot, which is not given there at present. The Discharge Depot appears in the June *List* on page 9; but how anybody looking for it in the book is to find it, the Editor alone knows. I agree with an Army man who characterises the *Army List* in its present shape as "a most vexatious work for reference." It would probably be simplified if the Regular and Auxiliary Forces were separated into two distinct sections of the volume.

One of the perennial grievances on which Tommy Atkins is always complaining to me is the periodical appropriation of his library or recreation room for the entertainment of N.C.Os. The last growl on the subject comes from Cairo, where the men are constantly being turned out of the garrison library in order that it may be used for dances by the corporals of the different corps quartered in the town. I should not wish to say anything in deprecation of corporals' dances, or any other reasonable recreation, and it is obvious that there must be a little give and take in matters of this kind; but it strikes me that at present it is nearly all take and very little give. If the privates occasionally had the exclusive use of the regimental rooms for a dance on their own account, they would probably be less disposed to grudge the use of it to others for the same purpose.

After reading my recent remarks on education certificates for soldiers, one or two N.C.O.s have sent me samples of examination-papers set for first-class certificates. With one exception, I cannot say that these papers represent an unreasonably high standard; but, looking at the questions all round, I am fully confirmed in my opinion, that there can be no good ground for submitting grown men to a school-work examination of this kind. No employer in civil life would dream of putting a man in his service through an examination of such a nature, and making it a condition precedent to raising the man's salary; and why such a thing should be done in the Army I fail to see.

The one exception to which I have just referred is an exercise in deciphering a piece of half illegible and much corrected MS. When or where this exercise was set I do not know, but I am certain that it would puzzle the most experienced compositor to make a fair copy of the MS. in half-an-hour, the time allowed; and I question whether any one but the ingenious individual who amused himself by compiling the thing would transcribe it correctly at the first shot. There can be no sort of sense in setting a soldier down to crack such a hard nut as this.

The claims of the Civil Assistants in the Ordnance Survey to superannuation have been frequently ventilated in these columns, but I have just heard, for the first time, of a similar grievance among soldiers and sailors in the same Service. These men, it appears, are discharged at the age of sixty without any superannuation allowance, after, it may be, fifteen or twenty years' service in the Department. One of them asks how the present Government can acquiesce in this state of things, after the talk on the subject of old age pensions which Tory speakers and writers have so freely indulged in. He also suggests that as Lord Salisbury is allowed to be Prime Minister at the age of 67, an old soldier or sailor might, at least, be allowed to stick to his work till the same age, if the State is not disposed to pension him off. The Prime Minister will be the first to appreciate the force of this reasoning.

Surely the time has come when Volunteers who join the regular Army ought to be released from the tax which they at present incur by so doing. A man who recently transferred from the 2nd South Middlesex to a Line battalion has just been called upon to pay to his old corps £3. 10s. for non-efficiency, which is really a most monstrous and iniquitous charge—monstrous, because a man is presumably of more use to the State in the Army than as a Volunteer, and ought not to have to

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pay for making the change; iniquitous, because no man at the time he transfers himself to the regular Army has the faintest conception of the fine he is incurring by so doing. If the consequences were known, no Volunteer would ever join the Army, but the sergeant-instructors, or recruiting sergeants, who induce them to transfer, take good care, of course, not to mention this little inconvenience when they are enumerating the "advantages of the Army." The War Office ought to attend to this matter without further delay, and it is astonishing that they have not done so long since.

On the question of the transfer to the Reserve of men before the completion of their colour-service, a Commanding Officer tells me that he has in his time transferred a great many men qualified under the Regulation, and has never refused a request for transfer where a man could show a bonâ-fide offer of good employment. He tells me that the matter is entirely in the hands of the Commanding Officer, provided that the man really has an offer of employment; but I am under the impression that a soldier serving in an extended engagement, who recently complained on the subject, had been several times recommended by his Commanding Officer, and still did not get his transfer. However, it is satisfactory to know that the paragraph in the Regulations is not a dead letter; and now that attention has been called to the subject I hope that more Commanding Officers may be led to follow the example of the one referred to above. I may remark, however, that there is nothing in the Regulation which makes the transfer of such men dependent on their being able to produce promises of civil employment.

Here is a further instalment of my Pillory of Military Grievances. I place first the treatment of the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment, because the decision in this case seems a most iniquitous one, and I am in a position to say that it is strongly resented by all the officers, N.C.O.s, and men of the battalion, with the exception of the C.O. and one or two married officers, who have comfortable quarters in the neighbourhood. It is to be feared that the decision has merely been arrived at to suit the convenience of these officers, which is the more wrong inasmuch as the present C.O. did not serve with the battalion abroad. The battalion ought never to have gone to the Portsdown Forts at all, and it is to be hoped that, after the true state of the case has been pointed out, they will be saved from another winter there, more especially as their conduct has been excellent in all respects. The other little matters noted below speak for themselves:—

2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.—It has just been announced that this battalion is to spend another year in the Portsdown Forts, where it was quartered (in defiance of protests from all quarters) on its return from Burma last November. The rule has hitherto been that the last regiment to arrive at the station goes to these forts, and it was in compliance with this rule that the Wiltshires were quartered there. The forts are a most undesirable station for many reasons, apart from the danger of putting troops to winter there on their return from the tropics. For instance: (1), the splitting up of a battalion into five detachments involves a great deal of extra work, and is prejudicial to *esprit de corps*; (2), the nearest recreation ground is at Portsmouth, distant a 6d. railway fare; (3), many of the married men are quartered in one fort and have to do duty in another—a most trying arrangement, especially in winter; (4), the frequent parades on Southsea Common involve on each occasion a march of ten miles for the men from the nearest fort, and nineteen miles from the furthest.

4th Battalion South Wales Borderers.—This battalion finished its training on Saturday, June 27. On Sunday, 28th, by order of the quartermaster, the staff, including the colour-sergeants, were set to work in the stores, cleaning equipments, &c., and were engaged on this job from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. No reason of any kind is known why this work should be performed on Sunday.

Military Police, Aldershot.—Up to the end of June the money due to the wives of the married men of this corps, for washing done during May, had not been paid. By rights the money should be paid up monthly, but delays are stated to be frequent, though the present instance seems to be unprecedented.

Depot Lancaster Regiment.—A custom is in force in this Depot that every sergeant bringing in a recruit who is passed as fit for the Army shall pay to the orderly-room-sergeant the sum of sixpence for making out the attestation paper. There is no provision in the Regulations for such a payment, and it does not appear to be the rule in other Depots. Any sergeant ought to be capable of filling up the attestation paper for himself; and as long as he is, there is clearly no reason why he should be made to pay another man for doing it.

I have it on the best possible authority that a custom has lately grown up in many battalions of keeping unofficial defaulter sheets, the entries in which are not transferred to the company defaulter sheet. This practice is, of course, quite irregular and unauthorised, and ought to be stopped. By means of it a great deal of "crime," including such offences as drunkenness and insubordination, is hushed up, and a battalion is enabled to cut a figure at inspections and in official returns to which it has no right whatever. Apparently some inkling of its prevalence has reached the General Commanding the Cork District, for an order forbidding the use of such sheets has lately been issued in that District. It would be well for other G.O.C.s to make inquiries on the subject in their respective commands.

There is another method in use, I am told, for concealing the delinquencies of a regiment from the eye of the higher authorities. This is simply the exclusion from the annual returns of all crimes committed by "casuals," or men discharged, transferred to the Reserve, or sent to foreign battalions. All such practices are obviously no better than frauds on the War Office, and, through the War Office, on the public, as the party ultimately concerned with the state of the Army.

One of my military correspondents in India is much exercised respecting the practice of the civil police saluting the Army, and *vice versâ*. From what he says, I gather that it is a very general thing for the police to salute the military, and that officers thereby get to look for salutes as a matter of right, and make complaints when they are disappointed, thereby getting the police into trouble. It would be better all round that the practice should be stopped. There is quite enough silly vanity and self-assertion over saluting in the Army itself, without drawing civilians into the question.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Some interesting hints on the question of rifle stealing on the Indian frontier have reached me from an officer commanding one of the British battalions in that region. He tells me that a rifle will fetch as much Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 over the border, a price which must obviously throw a very serious temptation in the way of any soldier whose honesty is not absolutely invincible. It appears that the Commander-in-Chief's orders are peremptory that every man who loses his rifle shall pay the price of it, and shall also be tried by a District Court-martial, unless the General Officer Commanding the District thinks fit to let him off. I fully see the necessity of doing something to counteract the temptation which the weaker vessels of a regiment are under to make away with their rifles. At the same time it is quite clear, from what one hears of the diabolical ingenuity of the native thieves, that merely punishing the soldiers will not put a stop to the thefts. Moreover, it would also appear that, if a rifle can be disposed of for the price above-mentioned, there is still room for a dishonest man to get rid of his weapon, pay Rs. 100 for a new one, and still pocket a handsome profit on the transaction. It seems to me difficult to believe that it is impossible to invent a better system than this for checking either theft by natives or fraudulent traffic by British soldiers, if the military authorities seriously gave their attention to the matter.

I am told that at a recent sergeants' mess meeting in an infantry battalion in India, it came out in the course of conversation that the sergeant-major, in giving an order for furniture to the amount of about Rs. 200 to a native dealer, had instructed that man that he was in future to give discounts to him (the sergeant-major) and to no one else connected with the mess. This seems a very good instance of the irregularities in mess management to which I devoted a good deal of space a year or two ago. Clearly any discount given ought to be given to the mess generally, and to be credited to the treasurer in the official account. There are many complaints that the mess in question is "bossed" by the sergeant-major, and that this functionary always uses his influence with the C.O. to ensure that any proposal carried by the mess, of which he does not himself approve, shall be vetoed. It seems the height of unwisdom for a Commanding Officer to allow himself to be influenced to this extent, but I fear there are many who do so.

Apropos of a recent reference in TRUTH to the practice of giving credit to soldiers at regimental shops in India, an N.C.O. tells me that he has frequently known unthrifty men in his battalion to have spent as much as Rs. 15 of their month's money before they received it, partly at the coffee-shop and partly at the tailor's. The regimental tailor's shop in question is run by a native, and one of the objectionable practices connected with it is that the unthrifty raise cash by buying shirts and other articles of clothing there on credit, and then selling them at a reduced figure for ready money to their more prudent comrades. This sort of thing seems to be done wherever soldiers are able to get clothing on credit, and it would be a good thing for all parties if some general rule were passed to prevent credit being obtained at all.

It is very discreditable to the Indian Government that no steps have yet been taken to redress the injustice caused by the distinction between domiciled and non-domiciled Anglo-Indians in the Exchange Compensation Regulations. The last case of which I have heard is that of a man in the Ordnance Department, the son of Irish parents, who himself has resided both in England and Ireland, and has left his eldest son to be brought up in the latter country. This man has to remit money regularly for the support and education of his child. He is refused Exchange Compensation because Government has decided that he has acquired an Indian domicile; while there are many of his comrades in the Indian Military Service, who have joined on precisely the same terms, and remit money home under precisely similar circumstances, but are yet in receipt of the allowance. The Indian Government long ago promised to redress all these anomalies, and there can be no excuse for its not having been done months ago.

In reference to a paragraph in TRUTH of May 28 concerning the doings of Mr. C. A. Radice, British Political Agent in Tipperah, I have had a somewhat singular communication from Signor A. M. Radice, of Naples, the father of the Political Agent in question. Signor Radice puts to me a number of interrogatories which, but for the allowance which must be made for a foreigner, I should be disposed to call impertinent. He demands, among other things, the name of the correspondent who supplied me with information about his son's doings, which information, he suggests, was prompted by personal malice; and, after presuming that I have verified my statement, he leaves me to the judgment of my own conscience if I have not done so. The statement about Mr. C. A. Radice has appeared in print in India, and came to me from two sources, one of them being a gentleman whose integrity and veracity I am bound to take for granted. Signor Radice himself admits that he has no knowledge whatever of the facts, and, while he questions the accuracy of my statement, he tells me that he has written to his son for information. It seems to me that when he has received his son's answer it will be quite time enough for him to dispute my accuracy, and to make imputations against the *bona fides* of my informants.

Complaints have been rife in the Chief Constructor's Department at Chatham Dockyard about certain recent promotions to the list of draughtsmen. The staff of this Department are divided into draughtsmen and ship-

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BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.—MAJOR HOWE & CO., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

wrights, and for some years past, as vacancies have occurred for draughtsmen, it has been the rule to promote the next man on the list. But a recent vacancy was filled by the appointment of a man who stood forty-seventh on the list, and who has jumped over the heads of about sixteen men, who, according to the usual rule, had a prior claim. Since this was done, a further vacancy has occurred, and another man has been recommended who has no visible claim, but who, it is significant to note, is a relative of the man previously favoured; and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that some form of family influence or favouritism is at work. It is not even clear why men in this Department should be promoted purely in order of seniority. An Admiralty Order, dating from some years ago, provides that a triennial examination for draughtsmen shall be held, but I understand that no examination under this order has taken place since 1884, and that the men promoted since that date have merely ranked as acting, not established, draughtsmen. The organisation of this office would seem to need a little attention from headquarters.

An announcement recently appeared in the Press that a relief crew for H.M.S. *Hawke* was being sent out to the Mediterranean in the *Nelson*, and the crew of the *Hawke*, which has completed her three years' commission, were making every preparation for returning home. On the arrival of the *Nelson*, however, it appeared, to the disgust and disappointment of the *Hawke's* men, that she had only about 20 men for their ship, and they were sent out as supernumeraries. The announcement that the *Hawke's* crew were to be relieved appeared in the *Times* among other papers, and I hear that on seeing it the men telegraphed to the *Times* office to make sure that it was correct, and received a reply in the affirmative. The *Times* presumably had its information from an official source, so that there must have been inexcusable blundering somewhere.

One hour and thirty-five minutes for the despatch of a telegram from Croydon to Woking turns out to be only an ordinary performance on the part of the G.P.O. A gentleman living within ten minutes of Bray Post Office, having missed his train at Paddington, wired from that point at 6.55 that he should be home at 8.15. He duly reached home at that time, and the telegram from Paddington arrived about ten minutes later, having been just one hour and a half on the journey. He states that it is always necessary to allow that time for a telegram from London to Bray. This is a disgraceful state of things, and the best remedy for it, and for all such irregularities, would be for Parliament to give the public the right to the return of their money when a telegram takes more than a certain time in transmission.

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

Certainly they manage some matters better in France. A Paris publisher has just been prosecuted by the fathers of two boys to whom he had sent catalogues of obscene literature; and although the magistrate before whom the case came in the first instance declined to convict, the superior court to which the prosecutors appealed was of a different opinion, and the purveyor of filth has been fined 5 francs for each circular. The only matter for regret is that a few hundreds of the recipients of the circulars did not join in the prosecution. Unless I am mistaken, the rascal thus brought to justice is the same one who has for months past (by the kind assistance of the Duke of Norfolk and his staff at St. Martin's-le-Grand) been flooding the United Kingdom, and even the Colonies, with his filth. Why have we no law as effective as the French for dealing with such vermin?

I have to thank innumerable correspondents who have again written to me from all parts of London on the great gas-meter question. At present, however, I do not think that any good purpose is to be gained by devoting any further space to the subject in Truth. I have given my readers my advice. It is to take every opportunity of assisting the Progressive policy in municipal affairs, which aims at transferring all these great monopolies into the hands of the public through their elected representatives on the County Council or elsewhere. I may mention, however, that I seem to have been below the mark in estimating the average increase of gas bills for the quarter ending March, 1896, at 25 per cent. above that for the corresponding quarter in 1895. Several readers of Truth give me figures going far beyond this estimate, and in one instance, where the householder is confident that he burned less gas than in the previous March quarter, the increase is as much as 60 per cent.

There is, however, one hint which I should like to give those gas consumers who have wisely decided to introduce the electric light into their houses. It is on no account to give up their gas-fittings and meters, but to keep the two side by side, and use from quarter to quarter whichever light they find the cheaper—giving both companies notice of their intention. A correspondent tells me that he has tried this plan with good results. Although the electric light has many advantages, it is a mistake, I think, to cut your gas off altogether. You then only transfer yourself from the hands of one monopolist into those of another, and it may be out of the frying-pan into the fire. A little wholesome competition is what is needed in these matters.

It cannot be too generally made public that the District Messengers' Service and News Company have recently placed at each of their numerous establishments, Merryweather's hand fire-pumps, and arrangements have been

Mediterranean and Baltic Cruises for Eighteen Guineas, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars, Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

made by which one of these portable engines can be "rung up" in case of small fires, pending the arrival of the fire brigade on the scene. It is easily conceivable that in private houses outbreaks of fire may frequently occur, which can be overcome with little difficulty, if only taken in time, and the provision now made by the Company in question is intended to meet emergencies of this description, and therefore ought not to be lost sight of.

For some time past I have refrained from any allusion to the affairs of Holloway Sanatorium, in the belief that the Lunacy Commissioners would in due course take some decisive action upon the report presented by the two Commissioners who investigated the TRUTH allegations. In the absence of any such action, the time seems to be arriving for again opening up this matter, and I trust that before the present Session closes, some opportunity will be found of challenging the conduct of the Lunacy Commissioners in Parliament. As has been fully pointed out in these columns, the so-called inquiry into the TRUTH allegations was an utterly one-sided and incomplete proceeding; but so far as it went, the report was in all material particulars a complete vindication of the accuracy of my statements, and contained a most scathing censure of Dr. Philipps, the Superintendent of the Sanatorium. It is impossible that the matter can be allowed to rest at this point.

Some time back the Town Council of Folkestone commissioned Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, & Co. to investigate and report upon the system of keeping the Corporation accounts; and so far back as April 24, Messrs. Turquand presented a report, in which the bookkeeping came in for some very severe criticism. Among other things, it was shown that in the collection of the coal dues the Borough Treasurer kept no proper ledger accounts with the various debtors to the Corporation; that the monthly return of dues had never been properly checked with the cash-book, and was inaccurate in one month to the extent of over £600; and that in the case of one coal consignee who had failed, and who was shown in the return in March last to be a debtor to the amount of £40. 17s. 10d., the arrears actually due amounted to £1,119. 16s. 6d. There is a very natural anxiety on the part of the inhabitants and ratepayers of Folkestone to know what steps it is proposed to take in view of this report. The report was adopted at a meeting of the Town Council on May 6, and to all appearance nothing has been done in the matter since that date. I would suggest to the Town Council that they should enlighten the public as to their intentions in this respect.

Here is a story of sweating in a public institution which beats anything I have heard of in that line. An advertisement was lately published from the City of Dublin Hospital for a messenger and general assistant who could read and write. Applicants were directed to the hall-porter for further particulars, and from this functionary it was learned that "amongst the duties were scrubbing, sweeping, dusting, carrying coals, emptying slops—in fact, they wanted a man to do anything and everything he was told; to be at the beck and call of the staff from the secretary down to the porter himself; work to commence at seven o'clock in the morning and not to end till past ten o'clock at night, Sunday and holiday, week in week out." The pay offered for all this was the sum of six shillings per week, being at the rate of about three-farthings per hour! It is possible that this starvation wage was fixed by some underling without the sanction of the Governors of the Hospital, but now that their attention has been drawn to the matter, I hope they will see that a decent living wage is given.

Sir Peter Edlin has agreed with his adversaries on the County Council, and is to retire on a pension. As he could only have got this by something in the nature of a deal, he has thereby shown his prudence. I hear that sundry very desirable changes are to be introduced in connection with the vacancy, one of them being that the paid deputies will no longer be appointed, as heretofore, by the chairman—a most pernicious arrangement, which under Sir Peter Edlin has led to more scandals than the public has any idea of.

Now that Sir Peter, who has always been a sore subject, is out of the way, I would respectfully suggest to our County Councillors, notwithstanding their well-known solicitude for keeping down our rates, that they should reconsider the question of salary in a more liberal spirit than has hitherto been manifested. No doubt eminent lawyers (and eminent journalists too, if you like) are paid extravagant salaries. But as long as things are as they are, if you want a good article you must pay the market price of such an article. This applies to the wages of labour equally with the price of commodities. If you are a business man with an important establishment to run, you cannot afford to bother your head with recondite theories about what a fair wage ought to be. You want a good man, and you must bid for him as much as other employers are prepared to pay him. If you don't, you won't get your good man.

The duties of the Chairman of the County of London Sessions are quite as onerous as those of the Recorder and Common Serjeant of the City of London, and far more complicated. They include not only a far larger number of criminal trials than those at the Old Bailey (where her Majesty's Judges also assist), but appeals from all the Metropolitan Magistrates and from all the Licensing Justices, as well as the ultimate jurisdiction over the rating assessments for the whole Metropolitan area. It is not an exaggeration to say that there is not a more important judicial post in the kingdom. It ought by rights to be far more highly paid than the comparatively useless office of Lord Chancellor, and it is absurd to expect that a thoroughly competent lawyer can be found to fill it at the salary of a Police Magistrate or a County Court Judge.

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, HARROGATE.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

I do not know who Sir John Godfrey, Bart., may be, but, judging from an incident that occurred at the Quarter Sessions at Tralee the other day, he must be a great man in those parts. Sir John was the plaintiff in an ejectment case. In the ordinary course it would not have been heard until the equity business had been disposed of, but on being told that the Baronet "wanted to get away," Judge Shaw said he would take the case at once, though it was then his Honour's usual time for adjourning for lunch. Mr. Broderick, the defendant's solicitor, explained that he had not been told the case would be taken out of its proper order, and that he was not ready to go on with it at a moment's notice, but that he would be after the adjournment. "Well," said the Judge, "I must oblige Sir John Godfrey, and the case must go on now." Mr. Broderick thereupon returned his instructions, and the defendant was not legally represented in the action, which was decided in favour of Sir John Godfrey. The point that excites my wonder is this. If Judge Shaw is so exceedingly deferential in altering the arrangements of the court to suit the convenience of a baronet, regardless of the inconvenience or injustice to any humbler mortal, what would he not be willing to do to oblige a full-blown peer?

The evidence given at an inquest at Durham Gaol the other day again recalls attention to the cruel and indiscriminate way in which people are committed to prison for debt from the Darlington County Court and the other Courts of the same circuit. The deceased, a man named James Walker, had been committed by Judge Turner in default of paying £4. 0s. 5d. on a judgment summons He was ill when he arrived at the prison, and, after passing a very bad night in the prison hospital, he died on the following morning from acute pneumonia. "One would have thought," said the coroner, "that something like a wise and humane discretion would have been exercised in the execution of the warrant." One would think so; but in this district no discretion whatever is shown either in granting or executing such warrants. Only a few weeks since a painful account appeared in a Darlington paper of another case in which an old man of seventy, actually a pauper in receipt of outdoor relief, had been dragged from a sick bed to prison for default in paying 5s. 8d. on a judgment summons. Of this amount 11d. was the unpaid balance of an original debt of 2s. 11d., and 4s. 9d. for costs. Judge Turner's courts have long been notorious for scandals of this kind, and some time back representations on the subject were made to the Lord Chancellor by the Hartlepool Guardians, who found that many families were being pauperised through unjustifiable commitments for debt. Is it not time the Lord Chancellor took some action in this matter?

Some further information has been sent to me concerning the footpath dispute at Tendring, and the recent trial at Essex Assizes, on which I commented last week. I do not think it is necessary to go into the matter at length, but in fairness to the Rector, it should be explained, first, that the prosecution was instituted by the District Council, and secondly that an effort was made to settle the matter in a friendly way, but that the defendant preferred to fight it out. That so paltry a question should have had to be fought out on a criminal indictment, shows a most unfortunate state of feeling between the parties.

Two peculiarly monstrous sentences for the heinous crime of wandering abroad and lodging in the open air were passed by the County Justices at Lancaster the other day. It appears that since the Corporation carried out some improvement schemes in the borough there has been a great deficiency of common lodging house accommodation—"so much so," says the report, "that the police have allowed men to use the police-station as a shelter," while the Chief Constable has frequently brought the difficulty to the notice of the Watch Committee and the magistrates. In the case referred to, John Wells and John Johnson, two men who had been working in the district, were found sleeping out; they explained that they did so because they were unable to obtain lodgings. Notwithstanding this explanation, and the further fact that both prisoners were first offenders, the county justices sent them to gaol, Johnson for a week and Wells for fourteen days. I have never myself been able to see any reason or justice in punishing people at all for sleeping out; and I should have imagined that the most remorseless Draco would have been ready to overlook this so-called offence in such circumstances as the foregoing. It is now too late to appeal to the Home Secretary for the release of these poor fellows; but now that I have brought the facts under his notice, I have little doubt that he will administer a sharp reprimand to the wooden-heads who committed them to gaol.

With reference to a case at Northwich County Petty Sessions which was mentioned in my Legal Pillory of the 25th ult., the Clerk to the Justices informs me that the defendant Taylor was not "fined" £2, but ordered to pay that amount as compensation to the complainant, together with the costs. This course was adopted solely in the interest of the complainant, a poor deaf and dumb man, and in the circumstances I do not think exception can be taken to it. It is true Taylor was thereby enabled to get off very cheaply for a brutal assault; but, on the other hand, £2 was the maximum amount the Justices could award the complainant, and if they had subjected the defendant to a fine or imprisonment, his unfortunate victim would have received no compensation whatever for his injuries. It is noteworthy, by the way, that if Taylor had been charged with breaking windows or other damage, the Bench would have been able not only to order him to pay full compensation, without limiting the amount to £2, but to impose a heavy fine in addition—another beautiful instance of the importance that the law attaches to the protection of property and the protection of the person respectively.

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

Fashionable Stationery.—The New Seal Monogram. Invitation Cards, Ball Programmes, Menus, Visiting Cards, &c.—Parkins & Gotto, Court Stationers, Oxford-street, London. Patterns free.

If magistrates will persist in following the irrational and discredited system of cumulative sentences for old offenders, they might at least display some amount of discrimination and some regard for consistency in applying it. How far the amateur dispensers of justice at Quarter Sessions are from doing this is effectively shown by the cases from the West Riding Court which head my Legal Pillory this week. A young woman is adjudged an incorrigible rogue and vagabond because she has been sleeping out, after eleven previous convictions for the same so-called offence. A man is found guilty of a robbery and of a dastardly assault on a girl, and he has a really black record of previous convictions, one of his sentences having been a term of twenty years' penal servitude. Yet the sapient magistrates visit both these prisoners—the woman who does nothing worse than lead a vagrant life, and the ruffian who commits robberies and makes himself a terror of the neighbourhood—with precisely the same punishment of nine months' imprisonment. Could there be a more grotesque exhibition of judicial incompetence? In connection with the sentence of six weeks' hard labour for an assault on a child at Dorset Quarter Sessions, it is interesting to note that the Chairman had previously, in his charge to the grand jury, deplored the frequency of outrages of this kind. How, in the name of common sense, can he expect them to diminish so long as offenders are treated with such ridiculous lenity? Other instances of the sort of justice meted out at Quarter Sessions are also given in the list below, together with the usual cases from the minor Courts:—

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Sheffield. Before Mr. Samuel Roberts and other magistrates. John Frederick Ward, convicted of stealing several articles from a lodging-house at Doncaster, and also of assaulting Myra Wood, a girl of 17, at Bradfield. A second charge of theft was not proceeded with. There were a number of previous convictions against Ward, including a sentence of twenty years' penal servitude, and he was described as "the terror of the neighbourhood," children and young girls being very much frightened by him. Three months for the theft and six months for the assault.

Surrey Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. George Cave and other magistrates. Walter Mitchell, indicted for maliciously wounding Job Stevens with a knife. He pleaded guilty to a common assault. One month.

North Riding Quarter Sessions, Northallerton. David Noonan, convicted of maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm upon his wife. The woman was thrown down, kicked and jumped upon, receiving such serious injuries that she had to be sent to the infirmary, where she was an inmate for a fortnight. Three months.

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Sheffield. Before the same magistrates. Mary Ann Dyson, aged 27, charged with being an incorrigible rogue and vagabond and sleeping out in an outhouse. She had been eleven times convicted of sleeping out, and it was explained that "the magistrates in the court below could only send her to gaol for three months, and they thought this altogether insufficient." Nine months.

Surrey Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. George Cave and other magistrates. Daniel Daley pleaded guilty to attempting to commit suicide. Three months.

North Riding Quarter Sessions, Northallerton. Michael Carrol, convicted of stealing watches, value £3. 15s. Previous convictions were recorded against him. Seven years' penal servitude.

Dorset Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. H. B. Middleton and other magistrates. Geo. Holt pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting a little girl, aged eight years. Six weeks.

Grantham Borough Police-court. Before Dr. J. W. Jeans, Dr. R. Wilson, and Mr. W. Scoffield. Charles Walker, milk-dealer, charged with cruelty to a mare. Defendant thrashed the animal on the head, neck, and ribs with a thick stick until she fell to the ground, and he then yoked another horse to the mare's neck to pull her up. The mare was pulled along the ground two or three yards and eventually was got up, when defendant struck her again until she fell on the other side. Fined 10s. and 15s. costs.

Halifax Borough Police-court. Joe Arnold, a well-known football player, convicted of assaulting William Henry Whitaker. Defendant ran at the complainant in the street, knocked him down, and kicked him several times. Fined 10s. and costs.

Witham Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Salter, J. Moss, and A. Motion. James Gaskin, a pea-picker, charged with cruelty to a child, aged 3 years. After striking the child defendant threw her up in the air, and as she fell to the ground he kicked her. One month.

Stoke Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Leason and W. Kirkham. James Potter, convicted of assaulting Mary Jane Mullock. Without any provocation he struck her a violent blow on the eye, "knocking her senseless." Fined 20s. and costs.

Dysart Police-court. Before Bailie Harrow. Robert Cameron pleaded guilty to committing an unprovoked assault upon an old man. The assault was of a most brutal character. Fined £3.

Barnsley West Riding Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Pigott, W. Batty, A. B. Southall, and F. Dransfield. Alfred Hallam, convicted of assaulting William Layt and William Brooke. Defendant attacked Layt as he was going home, knocking him down, and kicking him violently and repeating the assault after he got up. Brooke was still more brutally attacked, being so badly hurt that two men had to assist him home. Fined 5s. and costs for the first and 10s. for the second assault.

Lancaster Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. John Fell and other magistrates. Thos. Barrett, charged with stealing a shirt. Twelve months.

Grantham Borough Police-court. Before the same magistrates. John Smith pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of spectacles value 1s. 6d. Twenty-one days.

Spittlegate (Grantham) Petty Sessions. Before Lieut.-Col. C. J. B. Parker. Samuel Parsons, Alfred Hill, Elijah Huskinson, and Edward Smith, charged with sleeping out on the road side. Seven days each.

Hythe Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Du Boulay, A. S. Jones, B. Horton, W. Wightwick, W. E. Thompson, and Commander A. B. Mansell. Harry Waller and Frank Waller, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined, with costs, £2. 13s. each.

Castle Eden Police-court. Frank Caffery and Thomas Caffery, charged with poaching. Six weeks each, and a further month in default of finding sureties.

Yeovil Police-court. Before Messrs. Cox and Curtis. Joseph Hooper, charged with sleeping out. Two months.

Winchester County Police-court. Before Mr. W. B. Simonds and other justices. William Rogers and James Winkworth, charged with trespassing in search of conies. Twenty-eight days each in default of paying £2. 6s. each.

Fareham Police-court. Before Messrs. J. C. Garnier, W. H. Deane, C. E. Radclyffe, Colonel Hunt, and Captain R. Turner-Irton. John Smith, charged with sleeping out on the road-side. Fourteen days.

York City Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder, Mr. E. P. Price. Mary Brown, charwoman, charged with stealing a slipper, the property of a clergyman, from the vestry of a church. There were a number of previous convictions. Three years' penal servitude and three years' police supervision.

I scarcely think the Ramsgate Bench took a just or reasonable course in the sad case in which Mrs. Ruby Spalding was charged with cruelty to her son. No doubt the evidence for the prosecution showed that the child had been ill-treated; but, on the other hand, the evidence for the defence went a long way to prove that the

Sufferers from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and Ingram & Royle, Ltd., 52, Farringdon-street.

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

defendant was not at times altogether responsible for her actions. A medical man stated that he had for four years attended her for blood poisoning and hysteria, and the magistrates themselves saw during the progress of the case an example of the uncontrollable violence of the hysterical fits to which she is subject. To those who know the nature of the malady it will seem that this lady was more to be pitied than punished; and it was explained on behalf of the prosecution that the only object of the N.S.P.C.C. was to ensure the protection of the child. If, in spite of these considerations, the Bench had still deemed it necessary that some punishment should be inflicted, it was obviously their duty to send the defendant to prison. What they did, however, was to impose a fine of £25, with the result that the penalty fell not upon the offender but upon her husband. Surely, if it was not thought a wise or humane proceeding to commit the defendant to gaol, the ends of justice would have been served quite as effectively by binding her over, as by subjecting this doubly unfortunate gentleman to a heavy pecuniary penalty. Their worships expressed "great sympathy" with him in his troubles, but this was a decidedly novel way of giving expression to their feelings.

The Pembroke Magistrates seem to be among those who, as Sam Weller put it, commit themselves far more frequently than they commit anybody else. During the police-superintendent's cross-examination of a witness in a case of drunkenness the other day the Mayor peremptorily stopped a question with the remark, "I won't have that."—The clerk having expressed the opinion that the question was in perfect order, the Mayor apologised for his "mistake." Then Mr. Tombs, J.P., requested that Dr. Reynolds, J.P., should also apologise for having applauded the remark which the Mayor had withdrawn. Dr. Reynolds declared that he would not do anything of the kind. "You are the one," he observed to Mr. Tombs, "that reports your brother Magistrates to the Lord Chancellor. You can report me again if you wish it. A fine fist you made of it last time." Mr. Tombs retorted that if he had cause he would report him; and so the altercation proceeded, to the great edification of the spectators. Seeing how the Great Unpaid of Pembroke comport themselves on the Bench, I am surprised the inhabitants do not report the lot of them to the Lord Chancellor and demand the appointment of a Stipendiary.

"John James Jones is at it again," writes a correspondent, in forwarding a batch of the London Samaritan Society's circulars. John James Jones, so far as my experience goes, is always at it. I have never heard of his having stopped, and I doubt that he will do so as long as people can be found who are so foolish as to give support to a charity with such a history as the London Samaritan Society.

Here is a new version of an old trick of turf sharpers. The circular appears to have been produced by some multiple or copying process, and doubtless the dodge is to get a number of men by this means to back different horses, leaving the tipster to win in any event. Does any one at Newmarket know anything of Mr. Fred Wilson, of 4, Heath Villas?

4, Heath Villas, Rous-road, Newmarket.

DEAR SIR,—I know a good winner. The horse will start 4 or 5 to 1. Will you back it? and what amount will you put on for me? Please wire me, and pay 6d. reply, and say the amount you will invest for me; the race is for to-morrow. When you telegraph, kindly put your name and address on wire. I am living in the stable where this horse is trained, therefore you can rely on the information.—Yours very truly,

FRED WILSON.

At last the impudent swindle which has so long been run by a man named Mason, calling himself "Mason & Co.," of Oswestry, has received the attention of the police. My readers may remember that Mason publishes an advertisement offering "home employment" to those who send him one shilling; and that all they get in return is a trumpery little book of domestic recipes, with an invitation to become his "agents" in working the fraud by publishing a similar advertisement on their own account. With the loss of their shillings the vast majority of Mason's victims let the matter drop; but a military pensioner named M'Donnell at Dublin lately carried out Mason's instructions for the further propagation of the swindle, with the result that he was speedily haled before a magistrate on a number of charges of obtaining money by false pretences. It was shown that "Mason & Co." were to pocket sevenpence out of every shilling that was netted by their "agent," and the magistrate, taking the view that M'Donnell was himself only a dupe, discharged him with a caution, on his undertaking not to continue the business. To have punished M'Donnell while Mason remains at large would have been manifestly unjust. Now that this lead has been given by the Dublin authorities, however, I hope the police here will no longer hesitate to prosecute the prime offender. Mason has defrauded hundreds of people in all parts of the kingdom.

A great deal of trouble and annoyance were occasioned in Leeds the other day by the wholesale delivery of the following post-card. The card was in each case addressed to the master of the house, and was timed to be delivered when the addressees were away from home on their duties, obviously with the idea of its falling into the

ST. RAPHAEL TANNIN WINE.—Formula of Drs. Pasteur and Bouchardat. The best tonic for women, children, convalescents (consumption and indigestion). A restorative during the hot summer weather. No bottle without a label round the neck bearing the name and address of E. GALLAIS & Co., 90, Piccadilly, London, Sole Consignees for the United Kingdom.

SIMPSON LEVER CHAIN. Great CYCLING invention, increasing ease, lessening exertion, and giving lady riders grace of action. Used by seven Royal Princes & Princesses. On view at 16, King-st., St. James

hands of their wives, and thus creating the maximum amount of domestic unpleasantness:—

Fairlawn View, Sherwood Rise,
June 27.

My Dear Friend,—Why did you not keep your promise? I waited over an hour for you. Why did you not come? Marshall has persuaded the *Express* people to print the whole story about Miss Gray. It will make a stir, and will be the talk of the town. Madame Rose will be delighted, especially if she knows your wife has seen the *Express*. I will try and meet you on Monday,—Yours ever, Edith.

They print a sketch of the lady, so Madame says.

Of course this is only the latest notion in smart advertising. But obvious as this may appear after what has been said, it, of course, did not at once strike every lady who got hold of it, and in more than one case the results were anything but laughable. The advertisement appears to have emanated from the *Leeds Evening Express*, and to have reference to a serial starting in that paper. The impudence of the trick is decidedly aggravated by an article published in the *Express* the same afternoon, drawing a facetious picture of the consternation excited in various households by the post-card. The commentary is in this strain:—

As soon as the matter was brought to the Editor's notice, our reporters, with characteristic zeal, ferreted out the secret, and it is with the greatest pleasure that we are enabled to undo the damage done by the inconsiderate perpetrator of this huge practical joke. If all the ladies concerned will read Bourton Marshall's new story, "Warning Shadows," and Madame Rose's article for "Mothers and Daughters," their minds will be set at rest, and they will thank the industrious and painstaking joker for his ingenious method of calling attention to the brightest, best, and biggest evening paper published on Saturday evening. We are unable to say how far the wicked work has gone. We strongly advise every husband to take home a copy of the *Express*, and ask his wife to read the many bright features it contains, not forgetting the new story and the fashion article.

A provincial editor may regard this sort of thing as a joke, but it seems to have struck most of those affected by it as beyond a joke altogether. The *Express* has since issued an apology, signed by the manager, to all those who received the card, making a somewhat feeble attempt to excuse the offence on the ground that its objectionable character was overlooked "during severe pressure of other business," which is absurd in view of the article published the same evening. However, I am glad to see the apology, for its appearance implies that this novelty in advertising has created an effect quite opposite to that anticipated. Journalism has enough sins to answer for without such attempts as this to make it a public nuisance.

Almost every week I am asked to utter a protest against the publication of newspaper advertisements of obscene and offensive books and pamphlets and of a certain class of quack "remedies" which can only be used for dangerous and illegal purposes. A year or two back I did my best to rid journalism of this disgrace, but while I had the satisfaction of bringing about some improvement in one or two instances, the general result was to show that so long as the law allows them to do so, some newspaper proprietors will be ready to admit any sort of filth to their advertisement columns, provided it is sufficiently well paid for. In the case of some of the local papers, however, I would suggest that the correspondents who write to me would do better to first remonstrate directly with the proprietors. Then if the latter have any excuse to offer for this pollution of their pages, I shall be glad to hear of it and to deal with it.

Two letters have reached me from the office of the *Musical Standard*, with reference to the advertisement of Mr. Henry Holmes in that paper. The first is from Mr. William Reeves, the publisher, who, after sundry observations which have nothing to do with the case, states that neither he nor his advertisement manager knew anything of "the gentleman advertising," and that it is not intended to take any further advertisements from the same source when the present contract ends. The second is from Mr. E. A. Baughan, the editor of the paper, who writes:—

Will you kindly permit me, as the Editor, to state publicly that I have no control whatever over the advertisements and business arrangement of the paper (the *Musical Standard*). I have come to the conclusion, however, that such a position is untenable, and, therefore, I am about to tender my proprietor notice of resignation as Editor.

In this, I think, Mr. Baughan is wise. The advertising and editorial departments of a newspaper must, of course, be kept distinct, but an editor who has "no control whatever over the advertisements" is apt to find himself in a false position.

With regard to the Holmes advertisement, after what Mr. Reeves states, it is unnecessary to say more; but as Mr. Reeves also informs me in his letter that he is "not in the habit of searching for scandals," and that he has "seen it stated that there are few families without one, if we knew all," it may be of use to him to know, if he intends to continue publishing newspapers, that it is essentially his duty to search for scandals in the advertisements he publishes, and to see that nothing scandalous appears among them. The Holmes scandal, as I have already said, was an open secret in the musical profession for a year or two before it became necessary to make it public property in Truth. No very elaborate search was, therefore, necessary on the part of the publisher of a musical journal in order to discover it. It may or may not be true, as Mr. Reeves suggests, that there are scandals in every family; but I can assure Mr. Reeves that if he is so unfortunate as to have any scandals of this or any other kind in his own family, I shall be happy to put the public on their guard against the offenders.

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

Spratt's Patent various Dog Foods and Medicines can be obtained of all Corn Dealers, Grocers, and Chemists in the United Kingdom and in all important Continental cities. They are also stocked at 14, Rue des Mathurins, Paris; Rummelsburg, Berlin; and 239, East 56th-street, New York. Your own tradesman or stores will supply you.

Apropos of the new departure of the North Eastern Railway Company in selling first-class tickets available for a specified distance on any part of their line, a friend calls my attention to the arrangements in this direction which have been adopted on the Belgian State Railways. Their tickets are issued at all times for a period of fifteen days, during which the holder may travel any distance on nearly any part of the State lines. The prices of these tickets are, in effect, £2, first-class; £1. 10s. 5d., second; and £1, third. By way of preventing fraudulent transfer of such tickets, an unmounted photograph of the holder is required to be attached to them, which seems a very simple and sensible arrangement. If this system can be worked successfully in Belgium, why not in England?

I have to apologise to several readers and correspondents in Manchester and the neighbourhood for deferring consideration of communications received from them respecting the Lifeboat Saturday Fund—a matter in which Manchester is deeply and properly interested. The fact is that I have myself had under consideration another important question concerning the National Lifeboat Institution, which I had intended to discuss this week. But at the last moment pressure on my space, coupled with the necessity for further inquiry on one or two points, compels me to postpone what I had intended to say. I have, therefore, thought it better to hold over the whole question until the next issue of TRUTH.

Two correspondents have this week communicated with me anonymously on matters of importance. Both of them, I think, are ladies. One of them says that if she (or he) was sure that her (or his) name would never appear, she (or he) could enlighten me further. My correspondent can send me anything she pleases, and may rest quite assured that her name will never appear. She may also take it that unless she sends her name her information will never appear. This applies equally to all communications, whatever the source or the subject. I would specially ask the lady who writes to me respecting the fate of her child, to give me an opportunity of communicating with her.

The Home Secretary is aware, he says, "that collections for objects of charity are made to a considerable extent in the public streets; but the police control over them," he states, "only extends to seeing that no obstruction takes place, and that no annoyance takes place to passers-by." Well, is not that enough? Does the Home Secretary suppose that no obstruction (in the police sense of the word) is caused by these collections, and no annoyance caused to passers-by? I can show him one busy West-End thoroughfare where every Saturday he may find in the space of half-a-mile half-a-dozen tables and chairs placed on the pavement, with a dozen box-rattling females in attendance. If an old woman with an apple-stall planted herself on the pavement in the same way, would not the police make short work of her? Of course they would. These young women are no more engaged in charity than the apple-woman. Those to whom I specially refer are simply collecting money on commission for an enterprising individual who runs a "Fund." I want to know why there is one law, or one police rule, for old women with apple-stalls and another for young women who rattle money-boxes on commission.

As for "annoyance to the passers-by," it has grown and grown until annoyance is hardly the name for it. A beggar who stands in the gutter and whines out his sing-song as you go by, is a very trifling inconvenience by the side of the young woman who plants herself before you, money-box in hand, and, if you push by, pursues you down the street, rattling the thing in your ear. If it is not considered annoying to the passer-by to be accosted in this way half-a-dozen times in a quarter of an hour's walk, the police might just as well give up regulating the streets altogether. Certainly, they ought not to interfere with the ordinary beggars.

As President of the Increased Armaments Protest Committee, Mr. Spence Watson denounces the increased armaments which Mr. Gladstone declares in his letter to that gentleman to be "wild, wanton, and most perilous." As President of the National Liberal Federation, Mr. Watson supports, as leader of the Liberal Party, a nobleman who is a far more convinced Jingo than Lord Salisbury. It is this sort of dual allegiance which makes most Radicals regard Liberals as humbugs. Either we are for increased armaments, and for the aggressive policy that renders them necessary, or we are not; and it would be well that Mr. Watson and the National Liberal Federation should decide for which we are. In these matters I am a Gladstonian. I mean to remain one, and without fear or favour to oppose all those who do not agree with me. Their views may be sound, and those of Mr. Gladstone may be unsound. But nothing is more certain than that our huge armaments and the Jingo policy that now prevails, are due to the Liberal Party having repudiated the opinions of Mr. Gladstone on these matters.

Such bad taste, we are told, it was in Mr. Lloyd George to refer to the amounts which would be secured to landlords in the Cabinet by the Tory Rating Bill; and such bad, such execrable taste, it was in Sir William Harcourt to hint that, although there was not even the pretence of agricultural distress at Hatfield, Lord Salisbury would come in for his share in the dole. Bad taste it certainly is for any one to taunt a person with gifts that he has bestowed on him. But we Radicals have not given anything to landlords of our own free will. The money that they are to get from us has been wrung from us. With all respect to Lord Salisbury, in my wildest dreams of lavish generosity it never occurred to me to

make him the recipient of my charity. We protest, and we have protested, against relieving agriculture by relieving landlords. They are the drones in the hive. They exact, and they are legally entitled to exact, the pound of flesh that the law allows them to obtain for letting their land; but between this and making up to them out of public funds whatever they may have lost by the fall in the value of land there is a very wide difference. If anything can arouse Radicals from their apathy this Rating Bill ought to; for in the worst days of landlord supremacy in the Legislature a more outrageous robbery never was perpetrated.

Crete is a portion of the Turkish Empire, and the Turkish Empire is the Eastern Question. So long as that Empire exists so long will Christians be misgoverned by Turks. We are the great supporters of this Empire. Our Statesmen hold that on its integrity depends the security of our Empire. On the other hand, the great majority of the inhabitants of these Isles hold that we should be quite as safe if the Turkish Empire were to cease to exist, and that, even if this were not so, we have no right to maintain this hell upon earth on political grounds. So far as we are concerned with Turkey, the quarrel is between our politicians and all those who would subordinate fancied political advantages to that moral law which ought to be the basis of all international policy. This ought to be clearly understood. Either we must accept the barbarities practised by Turks on Christians as the direct outcome of our political creed, or we must give up our political creed in regard to the maintenance of the rule of the Sultan.

The decision of Mr. Chamberlain to agree to the appointment of a Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into all and everything connected with the Chartered Company of South Africa meets the requirements of the case. The Committee will, I presume, collect evidence of facts, leaving it to the House of Commons to take what course it deems best when put into possession of them. It is to be regretted that the Committee should not be able to commence its investigations at once, but the delay is inevitable, owing to the Jameson case being still *sub judice*.

Mr. Chamberlain has, it must be admitted, acted both wisely and fairly in the difficult position in which he found himself. He at once "damped down" the raid, and, so soon as it became clear that Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit were connected with it, notwithstanding the denials of the former, he made it clear to the Directors of the Company that the connection of these gentlemen with it ought to be severed. And now he has consented to a Parliamentary inquiry, notwithstanding the influences that have been brought to bear in order to prevent it. Sir F. Carrington is at the head of the armed force in Rhodesia, and the only criticism that I have to offer on the action of the Colonial Secretary is, that it might perhaps be well, in the interests of South Africa generally, and in those of Rhodesia in particular, that the civil administration of the latter should, for a time at least, be placed in the hands of Sir F. Carrington, the Company, as a *quid pro quo* for its commercial rights in the country, paying all costs.

In the meantime, I sincerely hope that some means will be found to establish a *modus vivendi* between the natives of Rhodesia and the sparse Europeans dotted about in it. It is horrible to read of these poor creatures —whose crime is what we should call patriotism were they white instead of black—being shot down like game at a battue, with apparently as little danger to the shooters as to those killing hares and rabbits.

Of course, we may anticipate a plentiful crop of stories respecting Mr. Rhodes from the Cape, launched in order to rally public opinion over here to him. The following, I see, is going the round of the Press:—When Mr. Rhodes arrived at Beira, the contractor for the Rhodesian railroads informed him that he intended to buy material in Germany owing to its cheapness. "Never mind that," said Mr. Rhodes, "whatever you do, get all material from Great Britain, and I will refund the difference." Mr. Rhodes' friends on the Press of South Africa must regard us as singularly credulous. I would suggest to them, as their next imaginative effort in this direction, to describe their paymaster as fully determined to devote his surplus cash to building and endowing a number of churches in Rhodesia.

Some people may wonder at the persistence with which a number of the country papers continue week after week printing articles which extravagantly eulogise Mr. Rhodes and all his works and grossly vilify President Kruger and the Transvaal Government. It may help to lessen this wonder if I explain that there is a body calling itself the South African Association, and having Lord Lorne and Mr. G. Wyndham, M.P., among its members, which is good enough to supply the Press with articles on these lines free, gratis, and for nothing. Every week the Association sends out a printed paper containing ready-made leaders and leaderettes on South African questions "for the use of editors." Self-respecting journalists, of course, consign such stuff to the waste-paper basket or forward it to Truth; but not a few are found willing to reproduce it in their columns as expressions of their own editorial views. This is one of the methods by which newspaper opinion is manufactured in favour of Mr. Rhodes—and a pretty commentary it is upon the intelligence and independence of the Press.

The question as to who is to pay for the Soudan campaign is simple enough. If it is an Imperial war, the British Empire should pay; if it is an Egyptian war,

Egypt should pay. But the Government has got itself into this mess. It is, they say, an Imperial war so far as India is concerned: it is an Egyptian war so far as Great Britain is concerned. The cost of the Indian troops is roughly estimated at £175,000. We pay £140,000, and get it back from Egypt. India pays £35,000 and does not get it back. The reason for this is that the war is unpopular. Were we to pay, the Government would suffer in electoral opinion; as India does not return Members to Parliament, public opinion in India need not be considered. On Monday last, after defeating an amendment by a majority of eighty-five only, the Government carried their resolution by 146. But this majority was secured by the free use of the whip, for nine out of ten of the Unionists bitterly deplored their Leaders having brought forward the resolution.

THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UGANDA RAILWAY COMPANY.

(A FORECAST.)

"In making this, their First Report, the Board are grieved to state
That 'tis at best a chequered tale they must therein relate.
All the employees who survive are working with a will,
But, up to date, the net receipts continue to be nil.

"The line is still intact in parts, though, in a fit of pique,
The friendly tribe of Shiftas stole ten miles of it last week.
The 'Mjaro section (thrice renewed) has been abstracted too,
But this the Board do *not* intend at present to renew.

"Amongst a somewhat lengthy list of similar disasters,
The Board report the total loss of sixteen station-masters,
All of them, there is cause to fear from their successors' notes,
Killed by the natives for the lace upon their caps and coats.

"The rolling-stock renewal needs, and that without delay,
The Board's last locomotive went three weeks ago to-day,
And now is in King Khaka's kraal, where by a fate most odd,
It's tended by the medicine-man and worshipped as a god!

"The traffic figures might have caused well-founded jubilation,
But, sad to say, no luggage train has reached its destination.
The 'Cheap Excursions,' too, have failed since, by a well-plann'd plot,
The Bhuggs two hundred 'trippers' caught, and cooked and ate the lot!

"The Board is still determined, though, that it will not say 'die,'
So to the British Parliament it will once more apply,
And with another generous vote, three millions p'r'aps may do—
Undaunted, undiscouraged still, its course it will pursue!"

If you wish a good purgative drink the "Franz Josef" Aperient Water, the only PALATABLE NATURAL APERIENT, and the most popular of all Aperients.

SCRUTATOR.

WILD CATS IN UGANDA.

THE peculiarity of the English people, or rather of that section of the English people who are what is called Jingoes, is, that every now and then they come to the conclusion that the entire future of the Empire depends upon our getting possession of some particular tract of land. The priests of the Jingo creed then beat the big drum, and curse every one as a traitor who is not prepared to spend blood and treasure in the particular annexation which, for the nonce, attracts their attention. A few years later, some new scheme of annexation crops up, and little is heard of the territory for the possession of which they were ready to fight the world in arms.

The East Africa Chartered Company was not, like the South Africa Chartered Company, a Stock Exchange speculation. Its promoters would not probably have been averse to making money, but in the main they were influenced by a perverted idea of patriotism. They obtained a strip of coast land, and they made treaties with African Kings in the Hinterland. Amongst these monarchs was the King of Uganda. This State is, for an African monarchy, civilised. It is situated about six hundred miles from the coast, from which it is separated by a desert sparsely peopled by fierce savages, whose hands are against all who traverse it. Having made a treaty with the King, which practically handed over the country to them, the Company sent up some soldiers with a couple of Maxim guns. There were two parties in the country, one of which called itself indifferently French and Catholics, and the other English and Protestants. Of the theological difference between the Catholic and the Protestant creed neither knew anything, their sole idea of the outcome of the difference being that a Catholic ought to kill a Protestant, and a Protestant a Catholic, whenever he got a chance. The Company allied itself with the Protestants, and earned their respect by slaying numerous Catholics. But having spent a good deal of money in this "civilising" enterprise, it finally came to the conclusion that the speculation was commercially a bad one, and announced its intention to withdraw from the country. On this we took the territory over, and annexed it. Since then we have been waging war with all the neighbours of the Ugandese, and particularly with the kingdom of Unyoro. The monarch of Unyoro was not a commendable person, but any Government is better than no Government in the estimation of all who are not Anarchists. Thanks to us, there is now no Government in Unyoro. We had found in Uganda several hundred Soudanese, who had formed a portion of the troops of Emin Pasha, and who had rebelled against him. They were a band of unmitigated ruffians. We took them over with the territory, and we have used

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them in order to extend the area of civilisation. In Unyoro there is no villainy that they have not committed against the natives, but we pay them in order to use them, and for fear that if we did not they would turn against us. The latest news is that we have annexed Unyoro.

Having thus established our rule in Uganda, and put an end to all rule in Unyoro, we came to the conclusion that the next step would be to make a railroad connecting these territories with the sea. A sort of vague survey was made by Major Macdonald, at a cost, if I remember rightly, of about £20,000. A Blue Book was published giving the result of this survey. The railroad, it was officially declared, could be made at a maximum outlay, including plant, &c., of £2,240,000. Last year Parliament was asked to approve of this railway, and it was informed that the cost had been over-estimated, and that it would not exceed £1,750,000. Now we are told that the cost will be £3,000,000, and we are asked to authorise this outlay. But in the debate that took place on the subject last Thursday we were informed that the route had not really been surveyed, and, in fact, that it had not yet been decided what the route was to be. This £3,000,000, therefore, is a mere guess, and, taking the cost of railroads in South Africa as a basis for calculation, there is nothing more certain than that the minimum outlay will be £5,000,000.

Major Macdonald estimated that three trains per week was a sanguine estimate for all requirements; he calculated that the annual working expenses would be £67,000, and that provided a number of "ifs" became anything beyond "ifs," the gross receipts might be £61,000 per annum. That a railroad of 657 miles can be worked and maintained in the tropics at a cost of £67,000 is obviously outside the area of probability. We may take it, therefore, that not only shall we have to pay £150,000 per annum as interest on the cost of construction, but that we shall also have to pay £50,000 per annum to make up the difference between receipts and expenditure; total, £200,000. To this, it is replied that the railroad itself will create traffic. Uganda will produce crops of cereals and other products. These the natives will exchange for our manufactured goods, and thus the railroad will prove a most remunerative speculation, benefiting us and the Ugandese. All this is nonsense. The country is unfit for Europeans, owing to the climate. Africans do not work whenever they can help it, and the Ugandese are not in the least likely to produce crops in excess of their own requirements, in order to exchange them for our manufactured goods.

Commercially, therefore, the railroad is an absurdity. Those who advocate its construction are well aware of this, and they have to fall back, in order to defend the outlay, upon vague statements respecting the use that it will be, when made, in suppressing the slave trade. Now, the slaves that are sent down from the interior of Africa to Zanzibar and the adjacent coast, are sold either to Arabs in Zanzibar, or to the slave masters in the Island of Pemba, where the mortality amongst these unfortunate creatures amounts to 10 per cent. each year. As Pemba is under our protectorate, the utter hypocrisy of this plea for a railroad is manifest. We provide the market for slaves, and then we spend millions to prevent, or to endeavour to prevent, supply reaching this market. The real truth is that the railroad is to be made in order to gratify the Jingoist mania of men who would have us first grab all that we can in Central Africa, although absolutely useless to us, and then make a railroad to the new acquisition. I am not a Jingo, but if I were, I should exercise a certain discrimination in giving effect to my predatory instincts; just as, were I a burglar, I should only break into houses where I thought that there was property worth the stealing. If, too, I were for laying out millions on making a railroad abroad, in order to increase the area of the market for our manufactured goods, I should advocate its construction to some place where these goods would be likely to be sold.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE CONSULATE SCANDAL.

Over three months have elapsed since reference was made in these columns to certain serious charges against the personal honour and integrity of certain officials of the British Consulate at Constantinople, which have been put forward in the local Press, and by an ex-official of the Consulate. I have refrained from referring further to the matter in the interval for various reasons, one of them being that litigation was in progress at Constantinople which was likely to elucidate the facts, and another that at the conclusion of one of the cases under trial the Vice-Consul and the Judge of the Consular Court were summoned to London. This last event, however, happened some five or six weeks ago. There has been ample time since for Lord Salisbury to ascertain the nature of the facts, and to come to a decision upon them; and the public have a right to know whether any definite action is to be taken in the matter, or whether the attempt to hush up the scandal, which had been pursued up to the time of the last article in Truth on the subject, is still to be persevered in.

To show how matters stand, I will briefly recapitulate the facts to which I called attention on April 2. In consequence of disputes among the officials of the Consulate, Mr. Henry Silley, the chief clerk, an official of twenty-eight years' standing, was in January last retired. So far as I can see, Mr. Silley's attitude in his disputes with his colleagues, and in his relations with his official superiors, had been in all respects proper and becoming. He left the Service without any imputation upon his character or ability, and he has since received a superannuation allowance. The step, therefore, of retiring this gentleman while leaving those against whom most serious

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China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

allegations were made in undisturbed possession of their offices, has a very ugly look to start with. After his retirement, Mr. Silley formally laid before the Ambassador a memorandum specifying various gross irregularities which had been committed in the Consulate. The most serious of them referred to the fraudulent use of the seal of the Consulate for the purpose of deceiving the Turkish authorities as to the title to certain property, in which the gentleman thus alleged to have misused the seal was interested. The official against whom this serious allegation was made, was Mr. P. Sarell, the Vice-Consul, a gentleman recently promoted to that post from a clerkship in the Consular office. No direct answer was given by Sir Philip Currie to Mr. Silley's memorandum, but, on calling attention to it again, Mr. Silley was informed that it had been transmitted to the Foreign Office. It thus appears that Lord Salisbury was in possession of the details of the allegations against the Vice-Consul some time in January last. Failing to make any impression on the Embassy, Mr. Silley embodied his allegations in a communication to Mr. W. H. Wrench, the British Consul. In this document he reiterated his charges in the most unreserved terms, pointing out that they were of a criminal nature, and calling upon the Consulate to bring the matter to an issue, either by the prosecution of the Vice-Consul, or by ordering that official to vindicate himself by an action for libel against the writer, Mr. Silley. To this letter no answer was vouchsafed. Mr. Silley then came to London and went personally to the Foreign Office to obtain an answer to his original letter to Sir Philip Currie. The only satisfaction he got there was that he was referred back to Constantinople. These were the facts to which I called attention on April 2. I may add to them now that Mr. Silley went back to Constantinople and addressed a further inquiry to Sir Philip Currie respecting his previous communication. He was informed, in reply, that the Ambassador saw no ground for inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Tarring, the Judge of the Consular Court (which had also been impugned by Mr. Silley), and that, as regards Mr. Sarell, his Excellency proposed to await the result of legal proceedings then pending by the Constantinople Building Society against that gentleman. Mr. Silley, in reply, begged his Excellency to reconsider his opinion in regard to Mr. Tarring, and, as regards Mr. Sarell, pointed out that the specific charge which he made (that of misuse of the seal of the Consulate) had no relation to the issue raised in the Building Society's action. This produced a request from the Ambassador for particulars of the charge against Mr. Sarell, which Mr. Silley met by referring his Excellency back to his original memorandum of January 14, and there the correspondence ended.

Everything that has happened since lends colour to Mr. Silley's allegations against the Vice-Consul, as well as those against Mr. Tarring, the Judge of the Consular Court. In order to explain what has happened, it is necessary to give some particulars of the disputes among the Consular officials which led to Mr. Silley's retirement. At the bottom of the quarrel seems to have been a company, called the Société Vinicole de Constantinople, which was promoted by four British officials to take over a vineyard owned by Mr. Silley. The officials concerned were Mr. Silley himself, Mr. Sarell, the Vice-Consul, Mr. Thomson (Harbour-master, Gaoler, and Inspector of the Consular Police), and a clerk in the Consulate calling himself Hamson, whose true patronymic is, I believe, Hamsi-oglou, a name which hardly points to British origin, and is, I fancy, indicative of Syrian extraction. These our gentlemen became directors of the Société Vinicole. The company does not seem to have been a success, and the absence of dividends may have led to friction among the directors. At any rate, during the absence of Mr. Silley, Messrs. Sarell, Thomson, and Hamsi-oglou-Hamson called a meeting for the purpose of winding-up the company. Mr. Silley's friends took steps to resist this proceeding, and this seems to have been the beginning of the litigation. I believe in the first instance Sir Philip Currie endeavoured to smooth over the dispute by ordering all four officials to withdraw from the Société Vinicole. Mr. Silley certainly did withdraw, and transferred his interest to a trustee in favour of his wife and children; but the others stuck to the company, attended the meeting which had been called, and passed a resolution for the compulsory winding-up of the company. To show the character of these proceedings it may be stated that only Messrs. Sarell, Hamson, and Thomson were present at the meeting. These three directors are stated to have held between them about one-tenth of the capital. Sarell himself, who had not then attained the dignity of Vice-Consul, held one £10 share. He took the chair at the meeting mentioned above. A written protest was handed in by a solicitor representing shareholders holding about two-thirds of the capital. Nevertheless, the three directors passed their resolution. The opposing shareholders thereupon commenced an action to set aside the winding-up resolution. In consequence, I believe, of further intervention by Sir Philip Currie, Mr. Silley's family and the other shareholders submitted the dispute to the arbitration of Mr. Tarring, the Judge of the Consular Court. Mr. Tarring's decision was in favour of the Sarell-Thomson-Hamsi-oglou-Hamson faction; but on an action being commenced to set aside the winding-up resolution, judgment was ultimately given against the three directors. This judgment was delivered on April 21. Not only does there seem to have been no shadow of justification for the attempt of Mr. Sarell and his colleagues to throw the company into liquidation, but the hearing of the action discloses irregularities of the most astounding description on the part of the directors. It appears that the company, which had a brass-plate on a door in London as its registered office, had no seal, issued no share certificates, and absolutely had no register of shares or transfers; and it was stated, I believe by Mr. Sarell himself, that the liabilities incurred in the shape of

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fines for violation of the Companies' Acts would have swallowed up the whole of the assets. So much for the case of the Société Vinicole de Constantinople.

This action is only one of a whole batch which have been commenced in connection with the transactions between the officials of the Consulate. One of the most important of these is the case of the Constantinople Building Society *v.* Sarell already referred to. The Building Society sued Mr. Vice-Consul Sarell to recover an advance of £1,800 made to him on the security of property the title to which was defective, and which the plaintiffs allege he knew to be defective. This case being *sub judice*, it would be unfair to comment on its merits, but it may be mentioned that Mr. Sarell was at the time of the loan in question a director of the Building Society, and that this loan was obtained in order to pay off a mortgage on the same property, given by Mr. Sarell's father to another director of the Building Society. So that the transaction, which is now alleged to have been tainted with fraud, was virtually the substitution of the Building Society for one of the directors as the mortgagee of a property belonging to another director, the title to which was defective. I understand also that the Turkish Government are taking proceedings against the trustee of the said property for the recovery of the share which should, by Turkish law, have reverted to the Turkish "Evkaf" through the death of three brothers and sisters of Mr. Sarell, the Vice-Consul. It is, I believe, in connection with the furnishing of evidence to the Turkish Government respecting the deaths of these brothers and sisters that Mr. Sarell is charged by Mr. Silley with having made fraudulent use of the seal of the Consulate. Whatever truth there may be in the allegation that the Turkish Government was wilfully deceived, there seems to be no doubt, from certain correspondence of which I have particulars, that every difficulty was thrown in the way of the Government in obtaining the information to which it was entitled respecting the deaths of the parties whose property was in question.

Another action, which has already been tried, was brought by Thomson, the Harbour Master and Police Inspector, against Mr. Silley for the delivery of certain shares in the Société Vinicole. This action is of great importance on account of the part played in it by Mr. Tarring, the Judge of the Consular Court. What the part played was may be seen by the following extract from the *Oriental Advertiser*:—

> The scenes witnessed in Court on Thursday last and the following day are unparalleled, when counsel for the defendant, after a series of the most exasperating interruptions, was finally compelled to tell the Judge that he was "the instigator of the suit." The sudden adjournment of the Court by the Judge, with a threat of committal for "contempt," and, on the reassembling of the Court on Friday, the counsel for the defence refusing to withdraw his statement, are facts yet fresh in the memory of those who were present on both occasions. But the scene on Friday, when the Court-room was crowded to excess, let us hope, will never be witnessed again in any Court of Justice. It will be remembered that on Dr. Mizzi refusing to retract his statement he felt it incumbent upon himself to retire from the case. The defendant, Mr. Silley, then continued the case without the aid of counsel, and being in the witness-box, proceeded to give his evidence; this proved the most crushing part of the whole case, or it mainly concerned the connection of the Judge with the matter. The witness, for fully three-quarters of an hour, with consummate coolness and a firm grasp of facts, dates, and documents, delivered evidence showing how and in what manner the Judge was connected with the subject-matter of the suit. Mr. Pears, who happened to be in Court, here intervened as *amicus curiæ*, and, after expressing his regret at the monstrously cruel position in which the Judge found himself, suggested an adjournment by which counsel, on both sides, might be able to bring about an arrangement for the continuance of the case in order to bring it to a speedy termination.

The adjournment led to no result, and the trial was resumed. The Judge, notwithstanding what had occurred, then delivered a summing-up, marked by strong expressions of opinion in favour of the plaintiff, but the jury, consisting of five members of the British colony, returned a verdict in favour of the defendant on all the issues, and the verdict was received with uproarious applause by the public in Court. It should be added that this case unexpectedly got into the list for trial while Mr. Silley was in England in March last, endeavouring to bring to a head his charges against Mr. Sarell. Notwithstanding the absence of the defendant, the Judge refused to grant an application for the postponement of the trial, and, in consequence of this, Mr. Silley was compelled to leave London and hurry back to Constantinople. The *Advertiser* appends the following remarks on the case:—

> This remarkable lawsuit and the circumstances which led up to it, together with Mr. Judge Tarring's connection with the matter, and his insistence upon presiding as Judge, in face of official advice to the contrary, may be the subject of future comment, as they are matters which concern the general interests of the British colony.

With regard to other actions pending it is not necessary to say much. In two cases Mr. Silley is the plaintiff. In one of them he sues Mr. Sarell for £480 money lent; and in the other he sues Sarell and Hamsi-oglou-Hamson for libel and slander.

Such is a general outline of the scandals connected with the Consulate. The questions which arise on the facts are chiefly these:—(1) On what ground and on whose recommendation was Mr. Sarell in the autumn of last year, when all these disputes and disclosures were pending, promoted from the rank of clerk to that of Vice-Consul? (2) On what ground and at whose instigation was Mr. Henry Silley about the same time removed from the Service? (3) Did Mr. Tarring, as I understand is the case, make any representations to the Foreign Office respecting the desirability of Mr. Silley's removal? (4) Why have the Ambassador and the Foreign Office in London abstained from any action whatever upon the facts, or alleged facts, officially laid before them by Mr. Silley in January last? (5) What action does Lord Salisbury now intend to take in regard to the facts proved as regards Messrs. Sarell and Tarring in the case of the Société Vinicole and that of Thomson *v.* Silley, and the further allegations still pending against Mr. Sarell and his colleagues? Although some of the facts are still in obscurity, enough is known to show clearly that there has been conduct of a most unbecoming character on the part of certain of the Consulate officials, while the history of the case up to the present time suggests in the strongest way a disposition on the part of some higher authority behind to hush the scandal up. If that course is persisted in, after what has come to light in the two cases that have been tried,

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the universal opinion will be that the worst that has been alleged is true. Already its truth is assumed in the newspapers of all nationalities at Constantinople, and, for the most part, by the British colony there. A scandal of such a nature would be bad enough anywhere. But in a city like Constantinople, where so much depends upon the credit of British diplomacy, and where this country poses as the exponent of all that is noble and chivalrous, its consequences must be especially deplorable. It is a matter of national importance that the Foreign Office should delay no longer in threshing out the whole of the facts, and, when that has been done, taking such further steps as the interests of justice may demand.

THE COVENT GARDEN THEATRICAL FUND.

For many years past the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund, which is generally supposed to be enormously wealthy, with a formidable accumulation of unused capital, has been shrouded in mystery. Since Covent Garden ceased to be a patent theatre, and devoted itself to operatic instead of dramatic performances, it has been impossible for any one to get on to the Fund at all. The consequence was that existing annuitants fattened on the proceeds of the Charity, and the obvious inference is that the member who longest survives the existing annuitants will become the possessor, on the Tontine system, of the funds that have accumulated by compound interest for over 130 years.

The Covent Garden Fund was instituted on December 23, 1765, and confirmed by Act of Parliament. But, from that time to this, the rules, regulations, amount of capital, and names of annuitants have been carefully concealed from the public gaze. Whisperings of a scandal have been heard in dramatic circles for many years past, but no one has dreamed of taking action in the matter. The attention of the Charity Commissioners has been called to this wealthy Fund without success. And so the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund has gone on piling on interest upon interest until, as is generally supposed, the invested capital has assumed prodigious proportions.

Since the Pyne and Harrison opera companies and others ceased to exist, and since pantomime at Christmas time died for ever on the Covent Garden boards, it has been impossible to elect any fresh annuitants; so the regular incomes are regularly paid, and the unused capital is increasing every year, to fall in time to the longest life. I am given to understand that the oldest living member of the Fund is Mr. Walter Lacy, now considerably over ninety years of age, and the youngest is Mr. Wilford Morgan, the well-known singer and vocal instructor.

How strange is the irony of Fate! Whilst making some purchases at the Bazaar recently held in aid of an Actors' Orphanage, I came across a most remarkable play-bill dated Tuesday, March 27, 1832, which lets in a little light upon the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund. Was it not wonderful that, on the very day that these energetic ladies were working hard, and appealing to the generous and charitable to help the fatherless children of actors, it should be discovered that one of the main principles of the Fund was to assist not only the aged, indigent, and infirm actors and actresses of the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, but also the widows and *children?* I am given to understand that the clause about the children may be very liberally interpreted, and, if I mistake not, extended to the orphan children of the whole dramatic profession. If this be so, the attention of the Charity Commissioners should at once be called to the secret Fund, in order, if possible, to secure some of the revenue for the Actors' Orphanage, which, through the vigour of the ladies of the dramatic profession, and the energy of the various speakers and patrons, has had a brilliant start with over £2,000.

The Covent Garden playbill to which I allude is safe in my possession, and I now give a copy of it for the benefit of not only those who desire, and have desired for years, that the books, minutes, regulations, the past and the prospects, of the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund should be thoroughly overhauled, but that some important grant should be made out of the Fund to supplement the £2,000 already gained by such heroic effort in aid of an Actors' Orphanage. Were this done, certain privileges at some Infants' Orphan Asylum now in existence could be at once secured for several fatherless actors' infants already on the list of candidates; and the fully-furnished house at the London Orphan Asylum at Watford could be immediately endowed and dedicated to the dramatic profession.

A close perusal of the old playbill will show the names of Kemble, Bennett, Warde, Abbot, Keeley, Payne, Addison, Romer, Hughes, and many more, all of whom have descendants on the modern stage. It is interesting to note also the names of the patrons of the theatre who supported the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund at the anniversary dinner on March 28, 1832, all of whom were doubtless capable of drawing a very handsome cheque on this occasion. At any rate, here is a copy of the playbill; and if the dramatic profession is wise, it will lose no time in demanding a public investigation into the Fund, with a view of benefiting the excellent scheme which has been generously devised to assist the helpless and fatherless little children of actors:—

COVENT GARDEN THEATRICAL FUND,
FOR SUPPORTING
AGED, INDIGENT, AND INFIRM ACTORS AND ACTRESSES
of the
THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN,
AND RELIEVING THEIR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.
Instituted December 23, 1765, and Confirmed by Act of Parliament.

PATRON:
THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

SIXTEENTH
PUBLIC ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL,
TO-MORROW, WEDNESDAY, *March 28, 1832, in the*
FREEMASONS' HALL.
President,
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the DUKE OF SUSSEX.
Who has graciously signified his POSITIVE intention of taking the Chair.
Vice-Presidents:

His Grace the Duke of St. Albans
His Grace the Duke of Bedford, K.G.
His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G.
His Grace the Duke of Rutland, K.G.
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K G.
His Grace the Duke of Gordon, G.C.B.
Most Noble the Marquis of Stafford, K.G.
Most Noble the Marquis of Westminster
Most Noble the Marquis of Worcester, M.P.
Right Hon. the Earl of Essex
Right Hon. the Earl of Tankerville
Right Hon. the Earl of Waldegrave
Right Hon. the Earl Grosvenor, M.P.

Right Hon. the Earl of Wilton
Right Hon. the Earl of Rosslyn
Right Hon. the Earl Amherst
Right Hon. the Earl of Fife, K.T.
Right Hon. the Earl of Lonsdale, K.G.
Right Hon. the Earl of Mulgrave
Right Hon the Earl of Belfast, M.P.
Right Hon. the Earl Spencer, K.G.
Right Hon. Viscount Goderich
Right Hon. Lord Auckland
Right Hon. Lord Durham
Right Hon. Lord Seagrave
Right Hon. Lord Tullamore
Right Hon. Lord Dunboyne
Right Hon. Lord Arthur Hill, M.P.
Right Hon. Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.
Right Hon. Lord Francis Leveson Gower, M.P.
Right Hon. Lord Wm. Lennox, M.P.
Right Hon. Lord Ernest Bruce
Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P.
Right Hon. Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Byng, G.C.B., M.P.
Right Hon. George Ponsonby, M.P.
Hon. Edmund Byng
Hon. Charles Pelham
Hon. Charles B. Phipps
General Hon. Edmund Phipps, M.P.
General Sir Ronald Ferguson, K.C.B., M.P.
Major-General Sir Andrew Barnard, Bart., K.C.B.
Major-General Palmer, M.P.
Major Fancourt
Sir Edmund Antrobus, Bart.
Sir Richard Williams Bulkeley, Bart. M.P.
Sir William Curtis, Bart.
Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, G.C.B.
Sir Thomas Denman, M.P. (*Att. Gen.*)
Sir John Milley Doyle, M.P.
Sir Francis Freeling, Bart.
Sir Thomas Harvie Farquhar, Bart.
Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart., M.P.
Sir John Hamilton
Sir Charles Ibbetson, Bart.
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STEWARDS:

Messrs. Abbott—Baker—Bellamy—B. P. Bellamy—G. Bennett—Broadhurst—Diddear—Duruset—Egerton—Evans—Farley—Fawcett—Jones—Irwin—Keeley—Liston—Mathews—F. Matthews—Meadows—Morley—Power—Raymond—Rayner—J. Reeve—G. Stansbury—C. Taylor—Wilson—Yates—and Young.

Mr. BRAHAM,

Mr. WILSON, Mr. BELLAMY, Mr. T. WELSH, Mr. I. REEVE, Mr. MATHEWS,

Mr. G. STANSBURY, Mr. DURURSET, Mr. MORLEY, Miss SHIRREFF,

Miss E. ROMER,

And other eminent Vocalists have already tendered the aid of their valuable services; and also

Master HUGHES,

(the Infant Prodigy) who will, in the course of the Evening, perform on the Pedal Harp.

SIR GEORGE SMART

has kindly consented to conduct the Musical Department.

TICKETS ONE GUINEA each (Wine included), to be had of the Stewards, *Fund Office, Stage Door, Covent Garden Theatre*; at SAM'S, Bookseller to the King, St. James's-street; and at the Freemasons' Tavern.

The Hall Doors will be opened at Five o'clock—DINNER on Table at Six, immediately on the arrival of His Royal Highness.

Printed by W. REYNOLDS, 9, Exeter-street, Strand.

EIGHTH TIME.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.

This present Tuesday, March 27, 1832,

Will be acted (8th time) A NEW TRAGEDY (in Five acts) called

FRANCIS THE FIRST.

With new appropriate Scenery, Dresses, and Decorations.

The Scenery painted by Mr. GRIEVE, Mr. T. GRIEVE, Mr. W. GRIEVE, Mr. FINLEY and assistants.

The Decorations by Mr. W. BRADWELL.

The Dresses by Mr. HEAD, Miss RAYNER, and Mrs. MURRAY.

Francis the First, *King of France.* Mr. J. MASON,
Charles, Duke of Bourbon, Mr. C. KEMBLE,
Charles, Duke of Alençon, Mr. DIDDEAR,
Vendôme, Chabannes } *Old Generals* { Mr. EVANS, Mr. EGERTON,
Bonnivet, Mr. DURUSET,
Lantree, Mr. BAKER,
Laval, Mr. G. BENNETT,
Gonzales (*a Spanish Monk, Confessor to the King's Mother*), Mr. WARDE,
Clement Marôt (*a Poet*), Mr. ABBOTT,
Triboulet (*the Court Jester*), Mr. KEELEY,
Marlon, Mr. PAYNE,
Louisa of Savoy (*the King of France's Mother*), Miss FANNY KEMBLE.
Margaret of Valois (*Sister to the King of France*), Miss TAYLOR,
Francoise de Foix (*Sister to Lautrec*), Miss E. TREE,
Florise (*her Attendant*), Miss LEE.

Previous to the Tragedy

BEETHOVEN'S OVERTURE TO CORIOLAN.

After which (6th time) a Drama with Music, altered from an Opera, called

BORN TO GOOD LUCK;

OR,

AN IRISHMAN'S FORTUNE.

With new and appropriate Scenery, Decorations, &c.

The Music composed by Mr. G. STANSBURY.

Count Malfi, Mr. F. MATTHEWS,
Count Manfredi, Mr. DIDDEAR, Coradino, Mr. DURUSET,
Rufo, Mr. PAYNE, Carlo, Mr. SHEGOG,
Paudeen O'Rafferty, Mr. POWER.
Chairman, Mr. ADDISON, Pedro, Mr. IRWIN,
Countess Molinga, Mrs. TAYLEURE,
Margaretta, Miss CAWSE, Nina, Miss H. CAWSE.

The Public is respectfully informed that the new Tragedy of

FRANCIS THE FIRST,

continuing to be honoured with the rapturous applause of crowded audiences,

will be acted To-night, Thursday, Saturday, and Monday next.

The New Farce called

BORN TO GOOD LUCK; *or an* IRISHMAN'S FORTUNE,

continuing to be received throughout with shouts of laughter, will be repeated TO-NIGHT.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

will be repeated on Thursday next, and once a week until further notice.

The new Grand Romantic Opera of

THE FIEND-FATHER;

or, ROBERT OF NORMANDY,

will be performed for the 16th time next week.

To-morrow, NO PERFORMANCE.

On Thursday (9th time) the new Tragedy of FRANCIS THE FIRST.

After which, MOZART'S Opera of THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.

Cherubino, Miss TAYLOR; Countess Almaviva, Miss INVERARITY; Susanna, Miss SHIRREFF.

On Friday, NO PERFORMANCE.

On Saturday (10th time) the new Tragedy of FRANCIS THE FIRST.

To which will be added (*first time these four years*), the musical Entertainment of ROSINA.

Belville, Mr. WILSON; Capt. Belville, Mr. DURUSET; William, Mrs. KEELEY; Rustie, Mr. EVANS;

Rosina, Miss E. ROMER (*her first appearance in that character*);

Phœbe, Miss CAWSE; Dorcas, Mrs. TAYLEURE.

Vivant Rex et Regina! No Money to be returned.

Printed by W. REYNOLDS, 9, Exeter-street, Strand.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

ENGLISH GOVERNESSES IN PARIS.

THE subject of English girls in Paris has long been on my mind. I mean those who come to teach English in exchange for board, lodgings, and what French they can pick up. The directing spirits of "Homes" and "Missions" here have within the last quarter of a century been so hard at work to provide France with such teachers as to make them even more than a drug here. English girls once upon a time could obtain fairly good salaries as governesses in Paris. They can no longer, save in rare cases, expect anything of the kind. "Homes" supply them gratis to the French at the expense of rich English philanthropists. English girls read in the papers of Paris as the gay, the brilliant capital; the radiant centre of civilisation. Poor moths! they do not understand how this brilliancy comes of the toiling, moiling, and the severe economy of the many. They get infected with the Paris fever, and think how nice it would be if they could secure situations in Paris, to exchange English lessons for board, lodging, and the opportunity to hear French spoken. They have no idea what expense and inconvenience an ordinary Parisian family is at in taking in an additional inmate. As ignorant are they of the clause of the Code that allows employers to turn them adrift at a moment's notice. Nor if they knew, would they mind. The "Homes" are supposed to be of easy access. Texts and tracts they put in circulation speak of them as refuges in times of trouble. It is not hard, certainly, to enter them when they are not full; but when many are called but few can be chosen. English chaplains, doctors, and managers of the British Charitable Fund can tell sad tales of girls who have failed—and worse—in their attempts to make their way as English teachers. One hardly ever hears of them going to laundresses to learn dainty ironing, or to pastrycooks to master the secrets of the culinary art. To be governesses or shop-girls is what they mostly try for. The "Home" does not, so far as I can learn, encourage useful handicrafts.

The following letter may give an idea of the reckless way in which English girls are shot, with parental agreement, into Paris. I forward you the original; you will see from it that the address given is in a fairly genteel neighbourhood of West London:—

My introduction to you is from a gentleman named Hardy [I never knew a Mr. Hardy, and neither card nor note from him was enclosed], whom you assisted in a similar manner to mine so far back as '67, and from what he told me, I feel assured that I need no apology in asking your kind interest for my daughters who are in Paris and seem to be very badly treated. If you will give them an interview and assist them by the benefit of your advice, you will be doing a most charitable action. The situations they are now fulfilling were obtained for them through agencies, and are both most unsatisfactory. In the case of one at the Avenue ——, the family received an invitation to leave next morning, and there was no room for her. Practically turning her out, as far as they knew, without a home to go to, and but for the generosity of a lady whom I have never seen or known she would have been without shelter or money. This man, Monsieur ——, occupies, I believe, a good position in Paris, and is well off [could he be confederated with the generous lady?] This is the first time the children have been to Paris, and they seem quite unprepared for the unkind treatment they have received. Naturally I feel anxious about them, as they write in such bad spirits. By the generosity of your character I feel sure you will help them, and believe me, very gratefully yours,

ADA ——."

The address in Paris is Avenue ——. The other is staying at —— (a suburb a good way out), with the lady who has taken her in.

My having helped Mr. Hardy in a similar case in '67 was a pure myth. The letter was in substance one of many I have at different times had. It was false perhaps in one respect, but true otherwise. Unskilled writers never know how to begin, and the fiction of Hardy might have been a device for making a start. The introduction, perhaps, was meant to show a knowledge of social etiquette. I own that the story of the girl being turned out by Monsieur —— at a moment's notice, and falling into the hands of the generous lady, made my blood run cold for a moment; but what a business it would be to have a pair of girls, recklessly sent through agencies, coming to one's door. After weighing pros and cons, I felt that something should be done, and called on different persons who try to keep English girls from coming to teach English in exchange for French in Paris, and, when they are here, to keep them straight. They advised caution when told of Hardy, the agencies, and the generous lady. The "Homes" had shot out a continuous stream of damsels only fit to go to the wall. These girls wrote back to other girls about Paris. What with their letters and sparkling newspaper chit-chat about the gay city, the Paris fever was raging in England. It was heartrending to know what victims it had made. The successful few got nothing worth speaking of. Many failed—and worse than failed—through being flirty, and some through wanting to learn more than French. Frenchmen look on flirtation as a serious challenge to be audacious. They detest the girl who throws down the glove, and when it is taken up shows herself offended. Her conduct is thoroughly un-French. A play of wit or cheerfulness, with modest conduct, is enjoyed and respected. But playing with the eyes and the *mine provocatrice* are not. Sentiment that does not grow out of circumstances is hated. A man might think himself bound for life to a woman who attached herself to him in evil fortune, or who proved her love by attending him in small-pox. But he would look on talk borrowed from pianoforte songs as betraying a wish to throw out grappling-irons. Damages for breach of promise have no place in the Code. But an ill-used French damsel can give a man an *ungalant* name, or she may throw vitriol. An English girl cannot do the former, and would not do the latter. She has no redress for wounded feelings or more serious grievances. These truths cannot be too often dinned into the ears of those who suffer in England from the Paris fever.

One lady, of whom I asked counsel as one having experience, did not like Mr. Hardy and his introduction. She was for acting with caution, and told me how she was the victim of a few "plants." She was on one occasion appealed to for help by a parent writing from London. She found the daughter in fearful hands, and wrote to say so. A solicitor's letter ensued. Another lady, who with her husband goes much into "rescue" work, spoke in a similar strain. She recommended me to inform the anxious mother that there was a Girls' Friendly Union at 44, Rue de Provence. Girls of the right sort would be sure to reap advantage by going there. It might ease my

THE SANITARY ENGINEERING CO. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

mind (for I really was moved by the letter in spite of the Hardy myth) to call on Mrs. Washington and state the case to her. She is the wife of the Chaplain of the Jubilee Church here, and busies herself in seeing after English girls who have come to Paris to look for situations.

To that lady I went. She spoke warmly against the Homes, a good deal on the ground that they overcrowd the market. "Let there be *no homes*," she emphatically said; "let the supply be *natural*, and means be taken to foster friendly societies *deriving strength chiefly from the efforts of the girls themselves*." Mrs. Washington then read the letter, remarking, as she did so, that its author did not say whether her daughters were governesses, nursery governesses, saleswomen, or what. No information seemed to have been asked about the families the girls were sent to by the agency. When she came to the signature, she said, "Why, you must have crossed on the stairs the girl whom —— turned out suddenly. She left as you came in." "What sort of a girl is she?" "Well, I fancy one who can stand up for herself. She looked self-possessed. I shall send her to the Comtesse de ——, who was also here when you entered."

Mrs. Washington is a *maîtresse femme* and a magnetic woman. She is prompt, sensible, quick to read character, ready to admit extenuating circumstances when an unhappy being is sent to the wall, and agreeably chatty. She has a comely presence, a fine flush of health, gleaming teeth, and looks motherly. Her abode is a mediæval flat adjoining the Jubilee Church, and furnished in the English style. We had some further talk about English girls and their employers. French ladies, as a rule, treated their English governesses harshly. They do not show more kindness to one well qualified to teach than to an incompetent raw creature. The Comtesse to whom she proposed to send the daughter of Mrs. Ada —— was as hard and exacting as she could be. But her house was respectable, and would be a refuge while something better was being sought for. "What," I asked, "if the generous lady who took in Miss —— should turn out to be something else?" "Let the Comtesse look to that," she said. "Trust her to find out! Should the generous lady not be all right, means will be taken to give a hint to the mother, and to let her know what steps to take. But can you understand any woman in her senses sending, as the letter describes, two girls to Paris?"

Mrs. Washington said, what I already knew, that well-educated English girls are expected to eat with the servants, or to eat alone. If they do eat with the servants and do menial work, they may get good wages. Otherwise, they eat alone, and their employers contrive to get servants' work out of them. The most highly-educated is not better used than the girl who is hardly educated, or who may not possess an "h," but sets up, nevertheless, to teach. Thus the Comtesse above mentioned obtained through her a most accomplished and competent girl. She makes her eat by herself, serve as a housemaid in the bedrooms, and bathe and dress a boy of twelve every morning. Her agreement was to teach and stay with a little girl. Nothing was said of making beds, &c.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

LORD MEATH, dear Lady Betty, has contributed to the present number of the *Nineteenth Century* an article entitled, "Are Manners Disappearing from Great Britain?" The article has attracted much attention, and therefore it may be well to consider the subject.

The man is the raw material, the gentleman and the gentlewoman are this material polished. Or, in other words, the man is the rough stone, and the gentleman is the gem after it has been cut. Unfortunately our generation only sets store by the setting. It judges by the expensive dressing, the expensive living, the fine houses, the conspicuous equipages, the servants, the display, and the obtrusiveness of manner. Contrast this attitude with that of our fathers, who required of gentlemen and ladies that they should be unobtrusive in their behaviour, considerate for others, quiet, dignified, and gentle.

A quarter of a century ago the West End associated itself with the City, and it is no injustice to either to say that since then the West End has acquired the worst failings of the City without adopting its good qualities, whilst the City has imitated that which is worst in the West End without acquiring that which is best. In the City, in consequence of the continual and eager struggle to make money, it has become almost necessary to be truculent and selfish—to push, to bluster, and to always attempt to obtain the best of a bargain. Those members of the West End who have associated with City men have adopted these not altogether amiable customs, whilst they have not acquired the generous instincts which so many City men have. On the other hand, the City men have adopted the love for title and position which were such undesirable qualities in the West End, and they now ape and exaggerate the many silly affectations so common in this quarter of the town. All these circumstances have done much to destroy the good manners of our generation, for it must not be overlooked that the West End is and always has been the guide in the matter of manners.

Another point requires to be considered. There is an odious word that is much used now, to wit, the word "Smart." "Smart" people are merely obtrusive people. They are those whose vanity is so great, or whose social position is so small, that they feel compelled to advertise themselves continually. Their carriages are picked out with the liveliest colours, the liveries of their servants are startling, the outsides of their houses are decorated most gaily; they themselves are always dressed in the newest of clothes, their voices are loud, and in their talk they always aim to produce effect. These people play for the gallery, and therefore it is not to be wondered at that their performances are not in the best of taste. Unfortunately in these days when the newspapers give so much publicity to the doings of the obtrusive, there are many who imagine that such people set the manners, and in their ignorance they follow them. The really powerful men and women of our times are, as they have always been, simple, dignified, unobtrusive, and gentle; and if a conspicuous instance of this is required to support the assertion, the example of the Queen herself may be quoted.

The fact is, we have heard too much of "High Life Below Stairs." There is another side to the subject: to wit, "Low Life Above Stairs."

* * * * *

In March, 1895, it was stated in these columns that Sir Hercules Robinson would be elevated to the Peerage. The prediction has now been verified. Sir Hercules accepted the appointment of Governor of Cape Colony with much reluctance, and only upon being pressed by the Government to do so. It has been his misfortune that his second term of office at the Cape has been a period of much disturbance in the Colony, but this has been through no fault of Sir Hercules Robinson, who during the recent troubles has acted firmly and judi-

ciously. His promotion to the Peerage will be welcomed by all as a just reward of long and admirable services to the State.

* * * * *

The results of the recent sale of the pictures and other works of art collected by the late Sir Julian Goldsmid, show that whatever the state of the money markets may be, the prices for good old pictures are steadily increasing. In most instances each article which was genuine fetched at Christie's more than Sir Julian paid for it, and this was the more remarkable, as before the sale many experts predicted that the reverse would occur. The total amount of good old pictures and works of art is limited, whilst vast markets for the sale of these have been opened in America, in Australia, and in other quarters of the globe. No better investment can be devised at the present moment than the intelligent buying of such works, for obviously, as the margin of prosperity widens throughout the world, the competition to obtain them, and therefore the prices paid for them, must increase enormously. There are several old Catholic houses in England that are filled with art treasures which have never been disturbed, and in many instances have never even been seen by the dealers. Two or three of these houses are, it is said, to be ransacked next season.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE result of the Newmarket race between the three-year-olds makes the Leger appear to be merely a question of health for St. Frusquin or Persimmon, and my own opinion is that Mr. de Rothschild's horse will be the winner at Doncaster. It is now clear that Regret is a long way from being a flyer, although the Duke of Westminster's colt is still capable of being considerably improved, but his Leger chance seems exceedingly forlorn, inasmuch as St. Frusquin and Persimmon gave him 9 lb. and 12 lb. respectively, and beat him easily. It will not surprise me if Helm ultimately turns out to be the best of the Kingsclere lot at Doncaster. Regret would probably do better over a longer distance, and I understand that he ran very "green" on Wednesday, especially in the early part of the race, but he made up his ground well when ascending the hill, and he was decidedly running on at the finish. There is, however, no reason whatever to believe that either St. Frusquin or Persimmon is deficient in stamina, although there are some *quand-même* admirers of Regret who vow that he will outstay his conquerors of last week at Doncaster. There is a strong notion at Newmarket that Persimmon is touched in his wind, but it must be remembered that his brother, Florizel II., has always made an odd sort of whistling noise. Wise people will leave the Leger alone for some time to come, as it may be found difficult to prepare some of the principal candidates if the ground becomes very hard, of which there is at present every prospect.

There was a direful collapse in the July Stakes, which was reduced to a match, although there were fifty-five entries, on each of which a forfeit of £30 had to be paid. Monterey considerably disappointed his friends, who had quite expected that he would make a much better fight with Velasquez than he did at Ascot. Minstrel, who won the Fulbourne Stakes for the Duke of Devonshire (as I had predicted would be the case), is a very nice colt indeed, and he ought to secure the Hurstbourne Stakes at Stockbridge to-morrow. He would have been reserved for the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park, but for the unfortunate fact that he was struck out of that race when a foal, an error of judgment on the part of somebody or other which his owner now has substantial reasons for regretting.

The Newmarket sales were only remarkable for the outrageously extravagant prices which were paid in many cases. Last year Sir Tatton Sykes could have bought La Flêche for £10,000, but at Newmarket she fetched 12,600 gs., and her filly foal by Morion was run up to 3,100 gs. If Sir Tatton had purchased the mare last year he would have got the foal as well, which she was then carrying. The price paid for La Flêche was preposterous, for not only is she likely to prove a "shy" breeder, but her own sister Memoir has so far proved a complete failure at the stud, like so many other mares which have eminently distinguished themselves on the turf—notably Wheel of Fortune, Jannette, Marie Stuart, Gamos, Brigantine, Formosa, and Corisande.

Of the late Baron's two-year-olds the best sold animal was Ste. Adresse, the own sister of Raconteur and Childwick, who cost 2,300 gs. as a yearling, but now fetched 2,800 gs., being purchased for Mr. Barnato, whose agent would have done better to have secured Chantilly (sister to Kirkconnel), who was very much cheaper at 1,900 gs., as she is a most promising and racing-like filly. The bargain of the lot was Altesse, by Amphion, who cost 2,700 gs. at Doncaster last September, but now Jewitt secured her for only 530 gs. She wants time.

By the way, Raconteur ran so fast for three-quarters of a mile in the Princess of Wales's Stakes that he certainly ought to win a T.Y.C. handicap before long, and he may be a dangerous candidate for the Stewards' Cup.

The programme of the Second July Meeting (which takes up three days next week) is not very interesting; and the Chesterfield Stakes seems to be such a certainty for Goletta that this race may collapse like the July Stakes, although there are forty-nine entries. Goletta had no difficulty in defeating Eager and Chelandry in the Coventry Stakes at Ascot, so she must beat them again here. As all meet at even weights, Bay Ronald, having all the allowances, ought to win the Midsummer Plate of £1,000, unless Roquebrune is in form, and she was going well enough the other day. Gulistan may win the Zetland Plate, unless Shaddock is sent to Newmarket. There are fifty-four entries for the Soltykoff Stakes of £300, the best of the lot being Stewarton.

The late M. Lefevre had a comet-like career on the English turf, and he has left his monument at Newmarket in the shape of Sefton Lodge, as he built that house and laid out the grounds in 1872, the place being sold three years later to Mr. Stirling Craufurd, who is buried there, just outside the memorial chapel which was erected by the late Dowager Duchess of Montrose as a sepulchre for her second husband and for herself. M. Lefevre had a hundred horses in training at Newmarket at one time, and his colours were very successful in all kinds of races, the combination of T. Jennings and Fordham, on a basis of unlimited expenditure, being highly felicitous. If M. Lefevre had flourished in these days of £10,000 stakes, his winnings would have been enormous. He bought all the best of Count Lagrange's horses when the war of 1870 broke out, and in 1871 he made his début on the English turf racing under the name of "Mr. T. Lombard." In his very first season M. Lefevre won the Ascot Cup with Mortemer, and several important stakes with Vulcan. His large stud, the reputation of unbounded wealth, lavish hospitality both at his Newmarket house and on the Heath, and a Monte Cristo-like habit of making valuable presents to persons whom it was worth his while to conciliate, admitted M. Lefevre very speedily into the upper region of turf society. At the close of the first racing season he expressed a wish to acknowledge the kindness of the sporting press, and a distribution of cases of wine and of banknotes took place. M. Lefevre, however, was not so much delighted with the sporting papers eighteen months later, when the *Sportsman* so vigorously attacked T. Jennings after the defeat of Flageolet in the Two Thousand, that the trainer commenced an action for libel, which at the last moment ended in a hugger-mugger sort of compromise, to the infinite disappointment of the turf world, which had anticipated some remarkable revelations if the case had come on for trial, and they would not have been disappointed. M. Lefevre left England abruptly in 1875, in consequence of the proceedings of the Foreign Loans Committee, and for some years his horses ran in the name of Count Lagrange; but he afterwards returned to this

country, and his colours were again seen, Tristan being his best horse in the later days of his career. M. Lefevre had made a huge fortune out of the Honduras Loan, but he could not leave well alone, and his connection with the Panama undertakings cost him the bulk of his wealth, so that some eight years ago his stud was dispersed, and the splendid domain of Chamant was sold to M. Menier, the chocolate manufacturer. At one time M. Lefevre owned the finest lot of brood mares that ever were collected in a single stud. Chamant was the best horse he bred, and this animal would have walked in for the Derby and St. Leger of 1877 but for his breaking down after he had won the Two Thousand in a canter. Lord Falmouth, who then won the Derby and Leger with Silvio, considered that his own horse was nearly a stone behind Chamant, who was afterwards sold to the German Government. M. Lefevre was exceedingly fortunate in his horse-dealing transactions, for he over and over again sold both sires and mares at an immense profit. One of his most remunerative deals was his purchase of Tristan as a yearling from the late Lord Rosslyn. Tristan won the Ascot Cup and many other rich races, his career on the turf being both very profitable and unusually prolonged, and he was finally sold to the late Dowager Duchess of Montrose for 20,000 gs. Whatever may have been M. Lefevre's commercial irregularities, he was as "straight" as the late Lord Falmouth himself on the turf, and he never betted, but raced for stakes only.

Twenty-six horses are left in for the Eclipse Stakes of £10,000, which event will be the principal race of next week. It is unlucky that Persimmon is not engaged in the race, in which he would have met St. Frusquin at even weights, each having 10 lb. extra to carry. On last week's running Mr. de Rothschild's colt holds everything in the list quite safe, the possible starters including Kirkconnel and Laveno (each 10 lb. extra), Troon, Galeazzo, and Raconteur (each 7 lb. extra), Bay Ronald (there are no maiden allowances in this race), and Regret. M. E. Blanc is represented by Rêveur, by Clover out of Rêveuse, a colt that might be dangerous if he appeared at the post, and he is also engaged in the St. Leger. St. Frusquin gave Regret 9 lb. and a very easy beating at Newmarket, so that he should find no difficulty next week in defeating the Duke of Westminster's colt at 10 lb., the distance being practically the same.

The National Breeders' Produce Stakes at Sandown Park is worth £5,000, and it is the most valuable two-year-old race of the season. The Kempton Park events have been cut down to £3,000 each, and next to them comes the Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes at Goodwood, which will be worth £2,800. This last race will be one of the most important and interesting two-year-old races of the season if it brings out Velasquez and Goletta, who would meet at weight for sex.

Velasquez will have to carry 9 lb. extra if he runs at Sandown Park, whereas her stable companion, Chelandry, has 4 lb. only of extra weight, her penalty being thus reduced by a breeding allowance of 5 lb. The entries include Mr. R. Walker's Galata and the Duke of Portland's Smean (who failed so grievously at Sandown Park the other day), as the best known of the public lot. I expect, however, that the winner of the race will come from the dark division, which includes several animals of high reputation, such as the Duke of Westminster's Simoon, by St. Simon out of Shotover; Mr. D. Baird's Briseis, by Galopin out of Briar-root; Lord Cadogan's Lowly, by Common out of Lonely; and Mr. Houldsworth's Rapallo, own brother to Laveno and Orvieto. Captain Machell's colt Alfar (nominated by Mr. Blake), has been reserved for this event since his defeat in the New Stakes at Ascot. Alfar met Velasquez in that race at even weights, but now he will have an advantage of 7 lb. Captain Machell's colt has earned a penalty of 9 lb., but this is reduced to 2 lb. through his being entitled to a double breeding allowance of 7 lb. My own idea as to this race is that the most dangerous opponent of Velasquez will be Simoon, as a very high opinion is entertained at Kingsclere of this grandly-bred filly, and Lord Rosebery's colt may not be able to give her 9 lb.

It is quite possible that Velasquez may not run at Sandown Park, having much the worst of the weight in the race there. Considering how heavily he is engaged it would be better policy for Lord Rosebery to keep his colt for the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Goodwood and for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, there being neither penalties nor allowances in those races. Chelandry, who was suffering from the effects of her two races on the hard ground at Epsom when she reached Ascot, might be able to win the Sandown Stakes with only 4 lb. extra to carry; but I shall have something more to say next week about the race. There were originally 259 subscriptions, and the entry fills nine pages of the "Book Calendar."

There ought to be some capital sport at Lingfield on Friday and Saturday, as there are good entries for the principal events in the programme. There are sixty-four acceptances for the Great Foal Plate of £1,000, and Brigg ought to win, as he is favoured with a breeding allowance of 13 lb. The Prince of Wales's Cup of £1,000 (one mile) has twenty-two left in, and Faversham is nicely weighted.

Lord Lonsdale's racing and breeding stud is to be sold off at Newmarket next Monday. There are forty-seven lots in the catalogue, including all the mares, foals, yearlings, and stallions which Lord Lonsdale recently purchased from General Owen Williams.

There was practically only one cricket match last week, and that was between the two Universities. So far as Oxford is concerned it was Barnes Bridge and the boat race over again. They played a great up-hill game and they won a great match against an undeniably great batting team. And the irony of fate was well illustrated. Up to the very last minute Smith's place was in jeopardy, and yet it was he who won the match. In a long innings he only made one mistake, and that a hard cut right to Druce in the slips. If that catch had been caught, or if Raikes had been chosen, there might have been a different story to tell. Mitchell can scarcely be congratulated on his captaincy. Everybody was laughing about the incident of Trott's bowling, and yet there was Jessop knocking batsmen and wicket-keeper to pieces with bumping balls, which Pilkington and Smith in the second innings carefully sent round to leg. It was wretched stuff to call bowling. Cobbold, the last choice, gave the batsmen more bother than any other bowler. Not one of the Cambridge bowlers was a patch on either Cunliffe or Hartley, whose slow, high, hanging balls it was perfectly ridiculous for Jessop to run and smite at. It is curious to note how well the Association footballers played. Burnup was as certain and confident as a professional, and he saved a rot in the first innings; while Bray, although a lot knocked about, played two excellent innings; and of Smith I have already spoken. Druce also batted well, but he missed two catches badly. As for the Dark Blues, their display in the second innings was past all praise. Warner twice foolishly ran himself out, and of the others Leveson-Gower, Pilkington, and Bardswell played exactly the right game. They took no liberties with the bowling. But there was no mistake about their hitting when they got the chance.

The conduct of the general public and of the members in the pavilion was perfectly scandalous when Mitchell prevented Oxford following on. It would have been a disgrace at a football league match, and it cannot be too strongly condemned in the case of members of the M.C.C. Strangers are not introduced to the pavilion on the days of the match, and therefore the members must bear the brunt of their ungentlemanly conduct. If it was the right policy not to let Oxford follow on, Mitchell was perfectly justified in what he did. There is the authority of Mr.

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A. J. Webbe for this proposition. The rules of the game are simple, and they were not violated. He did no more than a billiard player does in giving a miss in baulk, or than Mordaunt did in letting a ball go to the boundary for four, when, if he had fielded it, the batsman would have run five. Mitchell was clearly mistaken in his tactics. A follow-on is a demoralising procedure, and the wicket improved as the game went on. Perhaps the *Daily Graphic* young lady had misled him, and he took a wrong view of what the weather would be.

As to the other matches, Somerset played miserably against Gloucester, who have to thank Grace and Townsend for an easy win. The champion bowled and batted brilliantly, and the younger player, besides batting well, showed some of his old form with the ball. The fact that Stoddart was in form was the chief cause of a hard-won victory by Middlesex over Lancashire, while a very good innings by Mason was wasted against Notts, for none of the other Kent bats gave him any help. A most satisfactory feature of the Australian play has been the fact that both Iredale and McKibbin have been in form for practically the first time during the tour. By again beating Yorkshire, the Colonials showed they are a really strong team. Haigh's bowling should get him a permanent place in the county team. Derby played a good uphill game against Yorkshire, and Storer was again responsible for a big score. Those who expect Essex to be well up the county list seem to have some justification for their hopes, for Warwick were easily beaten, Perrin and Carpenter batting well.

The suspension of Downer, Bradley, Bacon, and others, coupled with the amateur athletic championships which were held at Northampton last Saturday, affords an excellent opportunity for considering the present position of amateur athletics. This consideration is all the more necessary because last year, after the visit to America, a certain number of our leading athletes waxed exceeding wroth over the system that was pursued in that country. Others remembered the proverb about glass houses, and saw that the Americans had in the light of day worked to perfection a system of practices which in this country are indulged in secretly. They openly took athletes and housed and trained them at the public expense. Here well-known runners take good sums for expenses, and make a good thing out of it. So long as they run in good enough form to draw a paying crowd, the club that holds the sports is quite prepared to give the fee that is asked for expenses. A gate is necessary to clear expenses, and with this end in view those who organise meetings lure the promising athlete from the paths of virtue. The athlete's position is a difficult one. Too often he is a man of small means. The expenses of journeying about to different meetings, of going to training grounds, and of entrance fees, makes a big hole in his pocket if he is going in for running as a recreation. It is, therefore, well-nigh impossible to expect that the majority of the runners will not make a little by betting; if they are good enough, by having their expenses paid; and if they are a bit better, it is ridiculous to suppose they will refuse a nice round fee for out-of-pockets. Now, if runners are suspended for these practices, it is perfectly clear that the clubs that have paid them must be known. These clubs and the persons who made the payments should also be hauled over the coals. It would indeed be interesting to see where the inquiry would end. The Universities and a few Metropolitan and Provincial clubs would alone be left. The A.A.A. has shown that it is not afraid to strike in high quarters, but it is to be feared that its action will have little effect. The question is how far can steps be taken to prevent such evils recurring. That they are bound to crop up from time to time is apparent to any one who knows anything about athletics, and it is equally obvious that it is impossible to find a final solution of the amateur question. No system of laws ever compelled every one in a State to be good. If all were good there would be no need for laws. The same principle applies to amateur athletics. All that one can hope to do is to find some methods of improving the existing conditions. A correspondent has suggested what appears to be a very practical and far-reaching remedy. He proposes that the value of prizes should be considerably reduced, and then the costs of holding athletic meetings would be materially lessened, and the necessity of a big gate and the temptation to pay fees to pseudo amateurs would be diminished. These considerations are certainly of some value. What policy the A.A.A. intend to pursue remains to be seen.

The high wind spoiled the times for the championships. It is absurd to suppose that Meredith of Dublin University is really better than Fitzherbert. Great credit is due to the Irishman for winning, but it is a pity both for the sake of his University and for amateur sport in this country, that the Light Blue had not trained properly. It is a pity also that Jordan was not running. Godfrey Shaw, with a gale behind him, cut all records for the hurdles. Leggatt (St. Mary's Hospital) did an excellent long jump. Horgan, an Irishman, won the weight for the fourth year, and Morgan, from the same country, won the final of the 100 yards against representatives from England, Wales, and Scotland. King, of the Royal Engineers, got the half after a splendid race with Cullum, while the mile, though slow in time, was only won by Lawford from Wellin in the last fifty yards. Sturgess walked with scrupulous fairness, and won the race in record time. There was a pleasant little meeting at Erith, and the sprint, being run down hill, was won in very fast time by Cape. At Beckenham there was a large attendance, and some good racing. It is a pity there are not a few more meetings like these round London.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The half year is now turned, and supplies in the Money Market are so excessive that rates are again becoming quite nominal. The surplus funds must find an outlet somehow or other, and I am confirmed in the view which I have taken for some time, that we may shortly expect a fresh outburst of speculation in the various Mining markets, while the other departments must necessarily benefit.

Holidays and Business.

The one influence which is retarding the revival is that of the holiday season. Ascot Races have done their share to keep the markets in check, and this week Henley Regatta will be a weakening influence; while, later on, both members of the Stock Exchange and the public will take more protracted holidays. Yet I am not at all sure that these vacations will to any extent interfere with the greater activity which appears to be justified by general conditions. Last year we had a regular boom, during what generally is called the dead season, and there appears to be more reason this year why the holidays should be to some extent disregarded. I hear, in fact, that some of the big men in the House are making special arrangements, so as not to be left out of the movement when it takes place. Already we have a sharp advance in the Home Railway market, especially in the stocks of the Heavy division, chiefly owing to the announcement of the proposed splitting of Midland stock; and with the declarations of dividends the increased animation is likely to spread over the whole of this department. The American market must unfortunately for some time be ruled by the conflicting reports concerning the Presidential election and the currency question; but even in this case some support has been forthcoming; and there has been more business in the London market than for some time past, although the buying appears to have been of American origin. Contangoes in Paris ruled much lighter at the settlement than had been anticipated, and it is probable therefore that at a given moment French operators will also join the buying movement. I do not see how they can find much

to tempt them in interbourse securities at present prices; but in South Americans there is still a margin for further improvement, and recent "Bear" sales of Uruguay bonds in connection with the new loan have apparently paved the way to a "Bear" squeeze, which may at a given moment enliven the whole of this section. Prospects of the Industrial market are also favourable; although the flotation of new Companies, especially in the cycle section, is excessive, and likely to lead to deplorable results in the end. I have already expressed the opinion that promoters and vendors are piling up monstrously high capitals on a number of these concerns. All these various considerations point to the strong probability that South African, West Australian, New Zealand, and other mines will in the near future receive greater attention, and that these will attract a large portion of the capital which cannot be profitably employed through other channels. There is, moreover, every justification for such a movement. We are no longer confined to the inferior or wild-cat American mining companies, which alone seemed to constitute the mining department some ten or fifteen years ago, but there is a choice of investments in high class South African mines, the yield of which can be calculated to a nicety, while in Western Australia, in New Zealand, and in India, goldfields of exceptional merit are being developed, and offer every prospect of large profits and good dividends. The position in South Africa is improving as far as the Transvaal is concerned, and labour on the Rand is becoming abundant. If half the energy which is being devoted to market operations in Chartered shares were to be applied to substantial Transvaal shares, we should already have a fresh upward movement in such properties, and there is no reason why these should not in the near future shake themselves free from the weakening influence which the troubles in Rhodesia have exerted. Even now, efforts are evidently being made by insiders to rig the Chartered market, in anticipation of some new issue which becomes imperative, in order to keep the Chartered Company going, as the expenses entailed by the war in Matabeleland and Mashonaland are estimated at from £200,000 to £300,000 a month. A further advance in Chartered is, therefore, quite on the cards, and although I cannot, under any circumstances, advise their purchase, I think that "Bear" sales would, at the present juncture, be very imprudent. In West Australian mines a very extensive shake-out has taken place, and there are now indications of a revival, not only in the group of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust, which has shown a strong front throughout, but also in the Whitaker-Wright group, in which the flotation of the new Lake View Company has been attended with signal success. That the Stoneham group will soon follow suit is also probable, in view of the splendid West Australian Goldfields' report just issued. In New Zealand mines there has been excessive promotion of more or less doubtful Companies; but there are also prizes in this section, and, by careful selection, promising purchases can also be made amongst Indian mines, and amongst properties situate in several of the other Australian colonies.

HOME RAILS BUOYANT.

I expressed the opinion last week that, with the continuation of satisfactory traffics, and the approach of dividend announcements, Home Railway stocks would brace up; and so it has happened. It is true that exaggerated rumours with reference to the difficulties between the colliery owners and the Midland and Great Northern Companies caused temporary dulness; but I am not at all sure that these troubles were not purposely represented as far more serious than they are, in order to enable insiders with privileged information concerning the splitting of Midlands, to pick up cheap stock. There was some significant buying several days before the announcement, which distinctly points in this direction, and is not very creditable to those who held the key of the secret. It is understood that the proposed sub-division of Midland stock will be compulsory. Under this scheme, the present Four per Cent. Rent Charge Guaranteed and Preference stock will be exchanged for Two and Half per Cent. Preferred stock, in ratio of £160 of new for £100 of existing stocks, and the Consolidated Ordinary stock will be converted into Preferred and Deferred Ordinary stocks, each £100 of present Ordinary stock receiving £100 of Two and a Half per Cent. Preferred, and £100 of Deferred. Midlands, on the announcement, rose to 173, and are but little lower now; and there has also been an advance of several points in North-Western, Great Western, and North-Eastern, the view being taken that the Boards of these Companies will be encouraged to the splitting of their own stocks through the Midland taking the lead. There will probably be a further rise in all these stocks; but it must not be forgotten that the operation cannot be carried out for some time, and that in the meantime adverse circumstances might arise in the railway position, which would thus come on a top-heavy market. Some degree of caution would, therefore, appear advisable, the more so as quotations are already very high. Brighton "A" have been steady, and will doubtless go better in anticipation of the dividend announcement. The South-Eastern revenue statement was satisfactory, and showed that up to June 13 there was a gain in net earnings of £41,889. This no doubt means that the dividend for the first half of the current year will be at the rate of 3 per cent., or ¾ per cent. more than last year, with a proportionate increase in the amount standing to the credit of the Deferred (Dover "A"). The latter should, under the circumstances, have every prospect of a further advance on the present quotation of 102¼. Another rise in Metropolitans has also been a feature. The Scotch section has at times been very strong, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) being up at 63¼, reacting, however, to 62⅜ on unconfirmed rumours of coming trouble in the coal trade. I look forward to an advance in North British Deferred, which have not moved up to the same extent, being quoted 51. Dividend anticipations as regards the Great Eastern appear to be somewhat less favourable, hence the decline; but upon the whole I see no reason for departing from my estimates of the 11th ult.

YANKEE MACHINATIONS.

The American Market has continued in an unsettled state, and although a portion of the decline which set in early in the week has been recovered, the outlook is still very much involved, and the see-saw must necessarily continue until it is possible to judge more accurately of the probable result of the Presidential campaign. It is now pretty certain that the Republican platform at the Chicago Convention will hold out certain hopes to the Silverites; but the latter appear by no means content with half a loaf, and there will be a severe fight over the gold "plank." Object lessons are, of course, being administered to the American people by the sharp fluctuations in prices of Yankee Rails, and some of the sharp falls which recently followed news in favour of silver were evidently engineered by the big American financiers. It does not suit the latter, however, to let prices drop too low; and there were strong indications that during the last few days American buying orders came into the market on this side, with the object, no doubt, partly to produce the impression in the States that the public were buying in London. This is, however, quite a mistake. Public interest in Yankee Rails in this country is for the present as dead as door-nails, and will not revive until a gold basis has been decided upon by the American people. Should that desirable event come about, we may see a strong revival. In the meantime, such information as is supplied by some of my Wall-street contemporaries, as pointing to the re-establisment of confidence in American Rails on this side, is quite fallacious. The following extract from the *Wall-street Daily News*, which is credited to the London correspondent of Messrs. Charles Barney & Co., the well-known Philadelphia bankers, however, fairly represents the position here:—

> Things have been booming here in English rails for some time past, and people who have had their capital tied up for so many years since the Baring failure in Argentine stocks, are beginning to see their money back. Consequently confidence is returning, and if only there was confidence in the currency question in the States, I feel sure we would have the boom extending to

American rails. Money is a glut here, and if the political atmosphere will keep moderately clear I think there will be an enormous boom in stocks. It would be a great thing if the currency question was settled, so that we could participate.

The mere adoption of a gold "plank" by the St. Louis Convention is, however, not likely to set the Britishers tumbling over one another to buy Yankee Rails. A very satisfactory Milwaukee traffic has acted as a support of this stock, which, with Louisville, has fairly held its own. Canadian Pacifics have improved to 63⅛, chiefly on the announcement that this Road has come to an agreement with the Joint Traffic Association, although this merely appears to be tentative, and for six months only. Grand Trunks have at last had a satisfactory weekly traffic increase, and the impression is growing that this Road is turning the corner.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

Interbourse securities have been fairly steady, and the predictions of a general collapse on the Paris Bourse on heavy contangoes at the end of June settlement have been falsified. On the contrary, rates have been light, no doubt because this suited the *haute finance* for the purpose of the copper speculation, and of the carrying-out of other projects which they have on the board. Even the carry-over in Mining shares was much easier than had been anticipated, in view of the report that such facilities would be altogether withdrawn in Paris. I stated at the time that this must be unreliable news, as, for instance, the Robinson Bank and several other institutions have continued to lend large sums. Turks have been weak, and a sharp decline has taken place in Ottoman Banks, the Directors' Report being very discouraging. Spanish and Italians have been well maintained. As regards Argentine stocks, there is no doubt that the recent rise has been somewhat overdone; but a satisfactory feature is undoubtedly the fall in the gold premium in Buenos Ayres to 182½. In the meantime particulars of the modified form of the unification scheme are still wanted, although it is rumoured that a prompt decision is to be come to by Congress. A strong effort has been made by the ursine party to depress Uruguay bonds, in connection with the issue of the new loan, and large sales were effected by somebody or other of the old loan down to 49¾, and of the new loan down to 2½ discount; from which there has been a recovery to 51 and 1¼ discount respectively. This ursine selling was a dangerous proceeding, and I have little doubt but that the "Bears" will be severely punished. It is well known that the new loan was influentially underwritten; and it may well be that the experience of the last Mexican loan will be repeated, which at the time of issue fell to a considerable discount, and now stands some twenty-five points higher. The security of the new Uruguay Loan is ample, and the service of the debt has already commenced, as Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co. have received advice from the London and River Plate Bank at Monte Video that the Government have deposited with them 38,000 dols. on account of the service of the new Five per Cent. Loan during June, and that future contributions will be received from the Customs day by day. The Government have also remitted £33,900 for the service of the old Loan. Under the circumstances, the new Five per Cent. Uruguayan Loan, yielding as it does over 7 per cent. per annum, is a very promising purchase, and is particularly suitable for investors, who will gradually have funds becoming available, as £25 was payable on application and allotment, while £25 per cent. is due only on August 15, and £21. 10s. per cent. on September 30. Another new issue which is now being made is that of a new Chilian Five per Cent. Loan of four millions sterling, at 95½. This is issued by Messrs. Rothschild, the agents of the Chilian Government, and two millions will merely be utilised for taking up Treasury Bills now in circulation. Brazilians have been rather dull, and there has been hardly any business in Peruvian Corporation stocks. Mexicans have been firm. I see, by the way, from the mail news, that on the re-nomination of President Diaz for a fifth term of his important position, great demonstrations were made in the City of Mexico in honour of the popular President. This is not surprising, especially as General Diaz has inculcated the principles of national honesty into the Mexicans, and thus rendered his country an inestimable service. If only the Presidents of such disreputable Spanish-American Republics as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Columbia and Honduras, would take a leaf out of the book of this honest and honourable man!

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS GATHERING STRENGTH.

The chief feature in the Kaffir Circus has been the semi-official announcement that some new issue will be made in the immediate future by the Chartered Company, and, strange to relate, these reports coincided with a sharp upward movement in Chartered shares to 3 7/16, while prophecies are being indulged in of a rise to 4. This apparent contradiction may, however, be explained by the necessity in which those connected with the Chartered Company find themselves of raising the price of the shares in order to engineer such an issue successfully. If Chartered were flat at 2⅞ the public could certainly not be got in. With Chartered at 4, and a firm front shown in the face of all the difficulties surrounding the Company, there might be a possibility of unloading down to 3, so that the underwriters of the issue at 2½ would still reap a large profit. Latest reports are to the effect that a Debenture issue of £1,250,000, carrying 5 per cent. interest, and repayable in 1920, or at the option of the Company at 105, subject to six months' notice, is about to be made. I do not pretend to be in the secrets of the Chartered Company, or of the active spirits who manipulate these shares, and who appear to be ever able to do anything they like with them. The one thing is certain, that the Company wants money for the purpose of both paying indemnities to the settlers and of defraying the very heavy war expenses, which are, as I have already stated, estimated at from £200,000 to £300,000 per month. The indemnity to the Transvaal Government is also looming in the distance, and thus a very heavy bill has to be paid. But if some of the reports which are current are correct, the insiders are equal to the occasion. According to one rumour, Mr. Alfred Beit is prepared to guarantee a million at 2½. According to other reports a Debenture issue will be made; and with it all, the report is spread that there is a big "Bear" account, and that a man prominently connected with the Company is a "Bear" of 40,000 shares. I should not be one wit surprised if, when Chartered shares were last rigged up to 4, some of the insiders had sold "Bears" against their holdings in anticipation of those further requirements of capital which they knew at the time would very soon come upon the Company. However this may be, more Chartered capital has to be found, and the insiders have sufficiently enriched themselves, and are wily enough to obtain the money somehow from the public. I do not advise any one to sell "Bears" of Chartered shares, and still less would I encourage my readers to invest in them. My only interest in Chartered is from the point of view of the effect of their manipulation upon the South African market generally. It is a pity that some of the big financiers connected with the Transvaal do not concentrate that same energy upon their own groups which Chartered manipulators are directing to their Company. If the Chartered wirepullers succeed in facing their troubles successfully, how much more would not a substantial rally in sound Transvaal gold mining shares be justified? It is true that a few dividend disappointments, with regard to the results of the first half of 1896, have to be put up with, but the exceptional nature of the difficulties under which the mines on the Witwatersrand laboured during that period is obvious, and there is every reason for disregarding these now and looking to the future. Some of the announcements are not, moreover, by any means unfavourable. The Ferreira pays a dividend at the rate of 125 per cent. for the half year, which is in excess of estimates.

CHEQUE BANK SHARES.—We have special business in these and other Miscellaneous Securities for safe investment. Buyers now of CHEQUE BANK SHARES are entitled to the 10 per cent. dividend just declared.—FREDK. PERTWEE & Co., 69, Lombard-st., E.C.

On the other hand, the Robinson shareholders have to be satisfied with a 5s. dividend, against 8s. for the second half of 1895; and the Jubilee pays 10 per cent. for the three months, instead of 20 per cent. for the previous quarter; while the various Barnato dividends are still pending, with the exception of that of the Johannesburg Waterworks, which is again at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum. But, as I have said, it is of no use looking back upon the disasters of the half-year, which were entirely created by the unfortunate and fateful Jameson raid. Labour conditions are greatly improved, and there is even a chance of the Transvaal Government making some of those concessions, with reference to monopolies and excessive duties, which are so urgently wanted by the mining industry. At all events, Mr. Chamberlain appears to have replied to President Kruger's last reminder in a very conciliatory manner, and thus the Boers have no longer any excuse for withholding reasonable concessions. As regards holdings which my readers may have in Witwatersrand and other sound Transvaal properties, I repeat my advice to them to stick tight to all their shares, and, if possible, to average the same, if they can take the shares up. As regards further purchases, I uphold my previous recommendations. In the first instance, among the Barnato group, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Banks, New Primrose, Glencairn, Buffelsdoorn, Barnato Consols, and Rietfontein should be bought, while all the other Barnato stocks should distinctly be held. I have received this week several inquiries from correspondents who wish to know whether I think that Johnnies will improve. I say distinctly they will, and I am rather surprised that they should ask this question, as I have already expressed this opinion. In Buffelsdoorn, by the way, there has already been a recovery, due, I am told, to private cables stating that the reef has been struck in the main shaft at a depth of 900 ft. It is stated to have been proved for 30 ft. going down further, that its average width is 4½ ft., and the average assay value is 1½ oz. to the ton, which is distinctly encouraging. Temporary dulness of the Robinson group has been followed by a firmer tone. I need hardly repeat that I anticipate a very considerable improvement in all these shares under the lead of Randfontein; and the other shares of this group, which should in time command a much higher price, are Langlaagte Estate, Block "B," Langlaage Star, Block "A" Randfontein, Langlaagte Building and Exploration, Randfontein Mynpacht, and last, but not least, Robinson Banks. A very important announcement has been made with reference to an amalgamation by which the Oceana Company will join forces with the Africana and Austral-African Companies, a new Company being formed under the name of the Oceana Consolidated. The strong point of this amalgamation is that no further capital is required or raised, but that by a combination of the three concerns a powerful corporation is created, disposing of large cash assets, and thoroughly able to undertake some of the big operations connected with South Africa which will present themselves in the near future. The Oceana, with its large holding of land and mineral interests in the Transvaal, in Portuguese East Africa, and in Central Africa, has, according to the official statement, also £90,000 of cash and liquid assets to bring into the combination, and will receive one Oceana Consolidated for each of the present shares. The Austral-African will receive similar treatment, and the fact that it contributes to the amalgamation, in addition to important financial interests, about £240,000 in cash and liquid assets, fully justifies the position of equality upon which it is put with the old Oceana. The Africana brings in its Johannesburg assets and business, and £180,000 in cash and liquid assets, the shareholders receiving one Oceana Consolidated share for two Africanas. The two latter Companies have a very powerful Paris and London backing, and transact finance business, which has in the past yielded good returns; while, on the other hand, the Oceana Company's large landed properties have to be nursed, and will in the next few years attain a very much higher value, especially in view of the various lines of railway projected in the Transvaal, amongst which the Pretoria-Pietersburg Railway will pass very close to a number of Oceana farms. The Oceana Company has also a controlling voice in the Mozambique Company, which should come prominently to the front. Two or three Directors of each of the three Companies will constitute the new Board, and energetic and skilful management may, therefore, be anticipated. Africana shares stand at ¾, Austral-African at 1½, Oceana at 1$\frac{11}{16}$, and my readers can therefore easily calculate what these will be worth on the completion of the new arrangement. Mr. F. C. Bell's letter concerning the Africander Company appears to have been a bombshell amongst the London Directors of this hitherto very silent Company. They have burst out into comments in the Press, asserting that Mr. Bell's statements are incorrect; but why do they not correct these, instead of continuing to keep the shareholders in the dark? I am told that only last September the Johannesburg Local Board requested Mr. Bell to proceed to Klerksdorp to report on the mine. He handed in the report which was sent to the London Board, who in their discretion withheld its contents from the shareholders. Why do not the London Directors speak out? Nickerk shares have been actively dealt in at from 1¼ to 1$\frac{5}{16}$, and look like going better. Sheba Hill have been firm up to 3s. 3d., and there is every prospect of an improvement. The African Gold Properties appear to have got hold of a first-class thing in Landau's Collieries, the possibilities of which are considerable. Another of its ventures, the Randt Gold Mining Company, is turning out well, and the shares are being quietly bought on Johannesburg account. French investors are well inclined to African Gold Properties shares, and in times of activity this may prove a lever in taking up the price. The Violet Consolidated has been a very disappointing mine. It was brought out at a time when the slump in South Africans was already imminent, and it is greatly to be hoped that the sanguine statements contained in the interim report will be borne out by results. Some independent report on the property would be desirable. Doornkops are in the dumps, as the favourable forecasts indulged in on the introduction of the shares in the London market have been altogether falsified. The issue of Simmer and Jack debentures, to which I referred last week as very promising, has been a great success, the amount being applied for ten times over, and they are now quoted at a premium. Rand Reefs have been firm at 13s. 6d. on the issue of a report by Mr. J. G. Bowles, M.E., the engineer and manager, who has just arrived in London to consult the Board on the future development of the mine, in which he confirms his previous statement that there are five gold-bearing parallel reefs on the claims, which, he now says, carry payable ore. The Chairman of the Geldenhuis Main Reef Company has been trying to put a good face upon the mine at the annual meeting on May 28, and calculates its life at nearer fifteen years than ten. This assuredly is a mistake, and I maintain the unfavourable view of the mine which I expressed a few weeks ago, when the shares were quoted much higher. The *African Review* asks the question why the New Midas Estate Company, which started crushing on March 26, has not yet declared any output? That is what all the shareholders would like to be informed upon. Some of my readers wish to know what Mr. Woolan will do now with regard to African Estates, as Messrs. Ephrussi have not exercised their option. Perhaps Mr. Woolan will oblige with the information? The Rooderand Main Reef Directors appear to have gone to allotment, which is all the worse for the shareholders. How, in all conscience, any promoter could be foolhardy enough to form a Company with a capital of half a million for working Rhodesian claims in the present state of things, passes all comprehension; yet that appears to be the case of the White's Consolidated Company, which acquires the assets of various syndicates, with which Lord Henry Paulet and Captain the Hon. C. J. White are connected. Another flotation, which appears to be very *mal à propos*, is that of the Matabele Sheba Claims, capital

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hôtel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

£100,000. Diamond shares have been strong, the satisfactory results of the working of the De Beers and Jagersfontein mines encouraging purchases of other diamond shares which are coming on, such as the New Bulfontein and Leicester Diamond Companies, both of which are likely to prove very successful. Some of my readers would like to hear a little more about Kamfersdam Diamond shares, now quoted about ¼ premium. Perhaps the authorities will oblige?

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

Although business in the West Australian market during the past week has again been comparatively small, and prices have for the most part given way, there are indications that a change is coming over the scene. It is the policy adopted by a good many experienced men who have to take care of market movements to allow quotations to slide away for a time so as to shake out the weak holders, and to be able to bring about a sharp upward movement without having to take with them the small punters who cling to the fringe of the market. This seems to apply more especially to the Whitaker-Wright group, in which, after temporary inactivity, a period of animation will probably be ushered in by the appearance of the shares in the new Lake View Consols on the market. The Company has been formed under the auspices of the London and Globe Finance and the West Australian Exploring and Finance Companies and the shares were introduced on the market on Thursday, opening at £3 and rising with very few shares changing hands to 4⅜. In an interview which I had with the Managing Director the latter expressed the view that this is only the prelude to a fresh advance, which will eventually put the price up to £8 or £9. The property of the Company, the Lake View and Boulder East, is the first and largest of West Australian dividend payers, and Mr. Charles Kaufman, the consulting engineer, who has thoroughly examined the mine, reports that there is £3,000,000 of ore exposed in the lowest level, so that on this statement alone the shares would be worth from £10 to £12 each. It is, so far, the richest mine in Western Australia, and a cablegram has been received that, in seven days with ten stamps 185 tons have been crushed for 693 oz. of gold, so that a monthly output of £12,000 worth of gold is anticipated. Amongst other mines of this group the Mainland Consols is now crushing, and any day the first return may be expected. With reference to the Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure, I learn that while the shares have been inactive of late the news from the mines is most favourable, and that in the Golden Treasure more especially large quantities of rich ore are ready for crushing. A sharp advance in these shares is therefore also predicted. Almost the only other group in which there has been an active market is that of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust. The "Bears" have made several attacks on the shares of the Trust, but the latter have always come up smiling again, and are quoted 3¼ premium, while the Founders' shares stand at from £55 to £60. Associated Gold Mines, of the same group, are firm at 3⅜, Associated Southern at 1⅞, Nil Desperandum at 1 5/16. I have already referred to the great Northern Territory scheme of South Australia, which has been initiated by the West Australian Joint Stock Trust, in which, however, some fifteen other West Australian Finance Companies are also interested. Experienced engineers have carefully inspected all the gold-bearing properties, and have come to the conclusion that this district is similar to the rich gold-bearing belt at Hannan's. A large group of mines is now in a forward state of development, and the syndicate is about to hand over six groups of mining properties to a Proprietary Company. Amongst the Venture Syndicate group Joker (Yalgoo) shares have risen to 2 premium, and full details of the Joker Proprietary Gold Mines, which has been formed to acquire an area of about 165 acres adjoining the famous Joker have been published. This will evidently be a second Joker, and the shares are expected to rise to a high premium. The 90-Mile Proprietary of the Venture group has also been in evidence, and the shares have risen to ⅜ premium on the very favourable statements made at the statutory meeting by the Chairman, which fully confirmed previous reports by the experts. The third crushing of the Menzies' Crusoe has been announced by the following cablegram:—"177 hours run; 135 tons crushed; yield, 430 oz. retorted gold; restart crushing to-day, June 29." The mine is evidently doing well, and whenever the West Australian market braces up, the shares will, no doubt, advance upon the present price of 1 7/16. Reports from the Menzies Consolidated are also favourable. The shares of the Stoneham Group have been quiet, but this is not likely to last long, as the Directors' report of the West Australian Goldfields has now been issued, and shows remarkable results. The net profit for the second year of the Company's existence was £231,849, or 230 per cent. on its capital of £100,000. The Directors take the conservative course of paying a dividend of 30 per cent. only, which, with the interim dividend of 20 per cent. already paid, makes 50 per cent. for the year, while £100,000 is added to the reserve, and £25,000 brings up the fund for the equalisation of dividends to £50,000, besides other appropriations. I repeat that Hampton Plains at 4⅞ to 5, and Block 50 Hampton Plains at 1 7/16 appear to me the cheapest shares in this group. Hannan's Napier at par and Bird-in-Hand at ⅛ premium look promising. Royal Sovereigns have been very strong, rising to 5, and reacting to 4½, notwithstanding repeated "Bear" raids, and the shares of the Anglo-French Colonial Trust, which holds a large interest in this mine, have fluctuated between 1⅞ and 2. In New Explorers Syndicate business is reported at ⅜ to ½ premium, and Explorers Finance Founders' shares are firm at £20 to £25. In Princess Royal further business is reported at 7s. 6d. to 8s., with an advancing tendency, while Yalgoo Battery stand at 9s. As the *Australian Mail* very correctly remarks, the affairs of the North Queensland Mines Agency are still enveloped in mystery, and it is high time that the shareholders should insist upon full information being supplied. The secretary of the Cassidy Hill has at last sent out a circular, which does not, however, give much information. Some of the shareholders in the Golden Link Mining Company complain of lack of news, and of the inactivity of the Board. What have the Directors to say to this? A very satisfactory statement has been issued by the West Australian Mining Company, and I hear rumours of an important announcement likely ere long to be made to the proprietors. It should be remembered that this was the pioneer of West Australian mining undertakings. West Australian Gold Concessions are likely to come to the front again. I hear that the accounts to December 31, 1895, will show a profit of £91,000. The Company has paid dividends for 1894 of 20 per cent.; for 1895, 25 per cent. is to be paid; and it is anticipated that for the year 1896, 30 per cent. will be distributed. Amongst the interests of the Company is one in the Brownhill district, reports from which are to the effect that at a depth of 120 ft. in the shafts they have come upon a reef similar in formation to that of the Brownhill Reward, about 18 ft. wide. According to Mr. Brookman's map the mine is traversed by the Brownhill lode. Properties recently acquired are four in the Black Flag district, one in the Murchison, and three in Hannan's, all of which work is in progress. I hear that the annual report and balance-sheet will be published in a week or two. The shares, in which there is a considerable "Bear" account, are hardening at 1¾. In Gladiator shares, to which I referred last week, active dealings are taking place at 1 to 1⅛, and an important advance is expected. Amongst new Companies which will deal with West Australian exploration and finance generally is the New Coolgardie Gold Exploration and Finance Association, Limited, which has been formed with a capital of £150,000 in 10s. shares. The Company is acquiring gold mining rights, land, and town sites, and is started under favourable auspices.

THE PRINCES' RESTAURANT, Piccadilly, W., now open, is the most elegant and best appointed establishment of the kind in London, where Society can meet to enjoy Luncheons, Dinners, and Suppers of the most recherché description. Signor Bocchi's celebrated orchestra performs daily and Sunday during dinner and supper.

INDIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND OTHER MINES.

There has been a partial set-back in Indian Gold Mines on the outbreak of cholera on the goldfield, to which a falling off in the production for June of the Ooregum, for instance (to 5,332 oz.) is attributed. The Mysore West and Wynaad mill produced 422 oz. from 1,000 tons, but the mill was also shut down for eleven days for the same reason. The Mysore Mine still looks excellent but the price is down to $7\frac{7}{16}$. I notice that the *Statist* endorses my favourable view of the Coromandel Mine, and I consider the shares at $2\frac{1}{8}$ one of the best purchases in this section. The milling ore in reserve on September 30, was stated to be 24,000 tons, or enough to keep the mill supplied with 1,000 tons a month for two years. 3,150 tons passed the 20-stamp mill from March to May, yielding 1,652 oz. of gold, and the manager reports that the new shoot discovered at Prospect shaft is of fair milling value throughout, and at times very rich. In addition to Coromandel Goldfields of Mysore at 26s. are a good purchase, and Mysore-Kadur at 6s. 9d. to 7s. Amongst New South Wales mines, Aladdin's Lamp are steady at $1\frac{7}{8}$, and there is every prospect of a fresh rise. Wentworth Proprietary remain at 1. Mount Morgan have improved, but Broken Hill Proprietary are easier. In the shares of the Curtin Davis Proprietary, the new Tasmanian mine, to which I referred last week, active dealings have taken place at a slight advance. Croydon Consols are firm and tending upwards. In New Zealand Mines, Taitapu are firm at $3\frac{7}{8}$, but Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand Waitekauri, Hauraki, and Waihi are lower. United New Zealand Exploration, on the other hand, have been firm at $2\frac{1}{2}$. Amongst low-priced issues Komata Queen at 4s., Maoriland Gold Mines at 3s. 3d., and Preece's Point at 4s., deserve attention. From the last mentioned mine a cablegram has been received stating that the erection of the machinery has been commenced. The shares of the recently formed Irene (Hauraki) Gold Mine of 5s., fully paid, have come into demand at 5s. to 5s. 6d., and look like going better. It will be remembered that this mine was taken over as a going concern, and that, according to the reports of the experts, it has a permanent payable reef, which should give a good account of itself by means of the 10-stamp mill and a small cyanide plant. From the Invicta Gold Mines (British Columbia) a report is to hand giving full particulars of the operations at the mine, which are being carried on actively, and it is expected that this will be the first of the British Columbian Companies floated in England to produce gold, while the working will be carried on at the lowest possible cost. The shares, now quoted at $\frac{7}{8}$-1, are likely to go considerably better. I hear that another British Columbian mine is about to be placed before the public, viz., the Golden River Quesnelle, Limited. It will take over an alluvial gold mining property on Quesnelle River, over nine miles in length, acquired by Special Acts of Parliament from the Legislature of British Columbia, and situated in the same district as the celebrated "Williams Creek," from $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of which upwards of £4,000,000 in gold has already been taken. The reports of six different experts of standing are to the effect that the auriferous deposits are very rich, and that excellent results may be expected from the working of the same, which are situated on the entire length of the south fork of Quesnelle River and a portion of the main Quesnelle River. The capital consists of £350,000, divided into 103,000 Ten per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each (of which 80,000 are reserved for working capital) and 247,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The Ten per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares will be issued on this market. In the general foreign section Burma Ruby, St. John del Rey, and Banner Gold are lower, but Jay Hawk have improved. My recent remarks have brought me a number of letters *re* the Malacate Mining and Smelting Company, and the following are some of the particulars asked for:—£100,000 is set aside for working capital. The property extends over nine acres, with abundant water and fuel. The ore gives a *minimum* of 60 oz. of silver to the ton, but it runs up to as much as 2,000 oz. to the ton. It is asserted that no silver mine in the world can be worked cheaper than the Malacate. The property is developed and thoroughly equipped, and silver can be produced at a cost of 6d. per ounce, or even less. Those who want further information should write to the secretary at Palmerston-buildings, E.C. I think, however, I have told you enough to show I know what I am talking about, when I tell you the shares are worth serious attention. I am told that the Mines and Banking Corporation is doing a solid, steady, and profitable business. Recently it has secured the reconstruction of two well-known mining undertakings, which should give good results. Its banking business is quietly extending, so also is its loan business to Stock Exchange brokers and dealers. The shares are fully paid, and at present carry a dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. My information *re* Mines Contract is more than confirmed by the character of the buying quietly going on this week. It is expected that holders will, within a short time, receive a substantial interim dividend. Last year's distribution amounted to $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

CHARLES HEIDSIECK CHAMPAGNE.—ORIGINAL BRAND.—Extra dry or brut. Vintage 1889. *One quality only shipped.* To be obtained of all Wine Merchants and Stores.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

James Eadie, Limited.—This Company is a reconstruction of James Eadie, Limited, of Cross-street Brewery, Burton-on-Trent. The share capital consists of 25,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £10 each, and 25,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each. The present issue is that of the Preference shares and of £500,000 Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture stock.

The Debenture stock will be applied in paying off £250,000 Four and a Half per Cent. stock, the holders of which have the option of exchanging into this issue at par, which I have no doubt they will do, as the remaining portion is issued at £107 per cent., and now stands, I believe, at £115. The Preference shares are issued at a premium of £1 per share. This appears to be a sound Industrial Debenture. Owing to the large number of applications, the subscription list was closed on Monday.

The Norman Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire three mining leases in the Waitekauri (Upper Thames) Mining District, New Zealand, of about 90 acres in extent. The capital is £75,000 in shares of £1 each. Twenty thousand is reserved for working capital.

The Fairbairn Pastoral Company of Australia, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the Station properties of Messrs. Geo. Fairbairn & Sons, situated in the Mitchell and Leichardt Districts, Queensland, Australia. The share capital is £250,000 in £10 shares, and £350,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each.

Notwithstanding the large area of the property and the amount of cattle, &c., thereon, I consider the capital far too excessive to advise any of my readers to have anything to do with this concern.

The Universal Brazing Hearth Company, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring the rights for the United Kingdom of Elkington & Co., Limited, and Mr. Henry Thomas Fellows for an invention of a new or improved brazing hearth or soldering table. The capital is fixed at £50,000, divided into Ordinary shares of £1 each.

This may be a very clever and useful invention, and do all that is claimed for it, but I fail to see any inducement for investors to place their money in a concern that has yet to undergo the severe test of practical use. Moreover, according to the prospectus, only a provisional protection has as yet been obtained.

The British Arsenic Mines, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire the leases and mining rights for a period of twenty-one years of three arsenic mines, situated at Plympton St. Mary, two miles from Plympton Station, Devon. The capital is £50,000.

This issue had better be left to those who know more about arsenic than most of my readers do. There is nothing enticing about it.

The London and Coventry Cycle Company, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire four manufacturing cycle businesses situate in London, Walsall, Coventry, and Birming-

ham, and to incorporate with them 30 retail businesses situated in various places. The capital is £200,000.

This appears to be an amalgamation of not very well-known concerns, and the prospects do not, to my mind, look at all bright. It would have been better had the expert's opinion of the various businesses been given separately instead of collectively. The capital appears very large for the property acquired, and this concern had better be left to the promoters and their friends.

Elijah Eyre's Brewery, Limited.—This Company proposes to acquire, work, and extend the brewery business of Messrs. Elijah Eyre & Co., King's Lynn, Norfolk. The capital is £53,280 in Ordinary and Preference shares of £1 each, and £75,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each, issued at £102.

These debentures are far from gilt-edged, the difference between the amount of share capital and the debenture issue being too great for absolute safety of the latter.

The River Plate Electric Light and Traction Company, Limited.—Issue of £125,000 Five per Cent. (part of a total authorised issue of £150,000) First Debenture Stock at 97½.

Chilian Five per Cent. Loan.—Messrs. N. M. Rothschild have been authorised by the Chilian Government to receive subscriptions at their offices for £4,000,000 nominal capital of this loan in bonds payable to bearer in sums of £1,000, £500, and £100 each, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The price of issue is £95. 10s. 0d. per cent.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Sekwah.—This is a very difficult question to advise upon. All the securities in which you are authorised to invest under the Marriage Settlement Acts are at a very high price, quite as high in comparison as Consols; and I fancy it would be wiser to await developments before taking the step you propose. *Medico, Highgate.*—1. It appears to be advisable to hold these Argentine stocks for a further rise. 2. Hold. 3. Yes. *Archipelago.*—1. Brazilians are a fair investment at present quotations. 2. No reason to sell out now, but I do not advise further purchases either. *Sinecure.*—Why not put the money into the new Uruguay loan, which is well secured and yields good interest? *Perthshire.*—Amongst the stocks mentioned by you, I should give the preference to the new Uruguay loan, in addition to which you might buy Argentine Funding bonds, as proposed. *Peruvian.*—Hold for a recovery.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Betty S.—I cannot advise you under the circumstances in which you are placed to speculate with the small sum in question. The best thing you can do is to leave the money in the P.O. Savings Bank. *J. H. M.*—You might invest the money in Chester Lion Brewery Four and a Quarter per Cent. debentures. *N. D. G.*—It is certainly a further development that advertisements should appear in the *Standard* in which it is stated that "A young man, of good appearance and address, is wanted to represent a first-class Company," the Company turning out to be the Provident Association of London, a bundle of whose prospectuses are forwarded. I can only give you *Punch's* advice to those about to marry—Don't. *John McK.*—I quite agree with you about these outside dealers' advertisements; but this is no new matter, as the firm in question has been commented upon dozens of times in TRUTH. *P. J.*—I have repeatedly stated that the lottery bonds hawked about by Cunliffe, Russell & Co., of Paris, are genuine enough; but they yield a very small return, and this firm charges very much higher than the market quotations. *A. R.*—I cannot tell you if these two Trust Companies are the same; I do not think so, and I do not advise investment in them. *Cousin.*—No, I do not advise insurance in this Canadian concern. *R. A. I. S.*—Outside dealers, have nothing to do with them. You should deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *E. C., Eastbourne.*—The broker in question is very respectable, and the loss of the transfer is very unfortunate. I return the documents, and do not see what you can do in the matter. *P. A.*—I cannot under any circumstances reply by letter. 1. Shady outside brokers will do anything to raise a quibble. 2. No, not yet. *Regret.*—I think your view is quite right. The State should be entitled to all the time of officials, and especially of officers, and the Field-Marshal has undoubtedly made a great mistake.

HOME RAILS.

D. F.—You will see now that the more favourable view which I took of Home Rails was justified, and you would have done much better in holding your stocks. The advance in Midlands will probably affect the rest of the market.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Naval.—It is impossible to tell at present. *D. W. C.*—This Railway Company is promising, but at present matters in South Africa are in a disturbed condition, and it is therefore difficult to advise upon the subject. *Dieppe.*—1. Yes, distinctly in favour of the bondholders. 2. You should hold these bonds for a marked advance. *X. Y.*—1. No reason to sell now. 2. Yes.

MINING SHARES.

S. W.—No reason to sell at once. Await an improvement in the West Australian market, which is about due. *W.I.R.*—A fair risk, but you can do better in the mines mentioned in my letter. *Cluny.*—Hold, but do not buy any more. The Directors do not inspire confidence. *Studio.*—You are quite right. The Directors of the Northern Wealth of Nations ought to be made to give fuller information. The assay of a specimen of the ore is not sufficient. *Torve.*—1. Hannan's Excelsior are a fair mining risk, and recent reports are favourable. 2. Lake View Extended is a good mine. 3. Yes. *West Cliff.*—Certainly hold African Estates; amongst the shares mentioned, No. 1 to 10, I like Komata Queen (2), Sheba Hill (3) and Bird-in-Hand (10) best. *Manecs-trian.*—1. No reason to sell now. All South African shares should be held for an improvement. 2. Yes, W. A. Joint Stock Trust Founders' shares are good for a further advance. *Facile Princeps.*—No reason to sell any of the shares A, B, C, least of all Randfontein (A). The future of D is still doubtful. So much depends upon the success of the new process. *Novice, Haulbowline.*—1. No temptation to buy Rand Roodepoort. 2. No. 3. No regular market for them. 4. No. *L.*—I have never been strongly in favour of this West Australian mine, but it seems to be a fair mining risk. Hold. *C. G. L.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I should prefer Randfontein and Barnato Consols, and, instead of the others, 90-Mile Proprietary and the new Lake View Consols. *B.*—1. No catch. 2. No temptation to buy more Scottish Corporation shares. No. 4. Leave Sam's Wealth of Nations alone. *Hartlepool.*—1. You should refuse to pay the call on African Gold Concessions, and join the other shareholders who are now moving in the matter. 2. No option but to pay up and sell after. *Caterham.*—Yes, Aladdin's Lamp are a good investment, paying large dividends; but Woodstock (Transvaal) are equally promising. *Bonn.*—1. Hold New Primrose for a rise. 2. No option but to hold at present. 3. Hold. *Peter.*—Mere trash, and attempt to blackmail. *Pygmec.*—1. These shares should come to the front again on the revival of the Kaffir Circus. 2. You should also give your attention to West Australians. *Gwalia.*—Hold all your shares Nos. 1-7, and average Woodstock Transvaal (3). Particulars of the Kamfersdam Diamond Mine were published in a former issue of TRUTH, but you might write to the London agents at 190-1, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, E.C. *Clerical.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I should prefer a purchase of Croydon Consols (2), Holcomb Valley Prefs. (3), and Waterfall Estates (4). *Bertie.*—The only shares I like amongst those mentioned by you are Hannan's Main Reef. Instead of buying the others you should make your selection from my letter. *Coal.*—1 and 2. Not just yet. 3. Doubtful, leave them alone. 4. I do not like St. Augustine diamonds. *Swansea.* — You can buy the shares mentioned through any respectable stockbroker. Sheba Hill are quoted about 3s. 3d. You have done quite right to go into Irene (Hauraki). *Ego Sum.*—You should address your complaint to the London agents. *G. W., Clifton.*—You ought to number your inquiries. The firm mentioned is respectable, and Hawk's View is a promising mine. Amongst the other shares mentioned I like Hannan's Proprietary and Gold Estates of Australia best. *Alexis.*—I am glad you did so well on my advice. If you are a holder of Nos. 1-4 keep them, but do not buy more now. *Explorer, Maidenhead.*—1. The full name is the Explorers' Finance Corporation (also nicknamed Spensleys), and the Founders' shares are quoted £20 to £25. 2. I cannot understand the low price of Croydon Consols. *Edinburgh Castle.*—1. Not yet. 2. Yes, Kudar Mysore are a promising low-priced mining share. 3. Yes. *A. J. M.*—I am no admirer of West Australian Pioneers, and do not know the reason of the decline. *T. T.*—You should write to the secretary of the Hetty Gold Mining Company for fuller information. *Rollo.*—Although I do not think much of the publication in question, the Company referred to is very doubtful. I cannot reply by letter. *Spinster.* — You must tell me what kind of investment you want and what interest. *J. R. H., Lincoln.* — 1. Hold Burbank's Birthday Gift. 2. A fair mining risk. 3. Not just yet. 4. A fair risk. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. *S. H., Waterloo-terrace.*—There is nothing amiss with the transfer, and nothing in the point you raise. I do not, however, know anything as regards the standing of the brokers. *Edinburgensis.*—A. No option but to hold. B. Yes. C. Impossible to tell. D. No. E. Buffelsdoorn and Sheba Hill. *R. S. K.*—1. Nothing that I know of. 2. No. 3. I do not like Omnium Gold Mining Association. *Perth.*—I am glad you did so well. Yes, Nos. 1, 3, and 4 are promising. *Persimmon.*—1. Hold Transvaal Gold, and more especially Austral African (2) in view of the amalgamation referred to under "Revival in the Kaffir Circus." *Golf.*—This is not the time to sell any of your twenty-four South African and West Australian Mining shares. Hold all for a rise. No. 24 is promising. *Brayne.*—Write to the Secretary of the London and Paris Finance Corporation for the information in question. *John.* — Hold your shares, Nos. 1 - 12, for an improvement. *Berger.*—Hold Johnnies for a rise. You do not appear to read my letter carefully. *Pendennis.*—You can find what you want in my letter. Pospects of Nos. 1 to 3 are somewhat doubtful. *Stanway.* — Await the meeting and then decide. *Carrington.*—Await further developments. This mine has been very disappointing. Hold the other shares. *Lamps.*—1—3. I do not advise these. 4.

Aladdin's Lamp are a good purchase. *W. W. B.*—Taitapu Estates are promising, but why not take so handsome a profit? *P. B. N.*—The mine is believed to be a good one, and when the Australian market braces up again the shares will doubtless recover. I do not like Bayley's Reward, but the other two mines are likely to go ahead again. *Puzzled.*—I must leave you to make your selection of South African and West Australian mines from my letter, the present is a good opportunity for buying. *Walter.*—1. Yes, hold Langlaagte Block "B" for an improvement. I cannot tell you about the distribution. 2. Yes. 3. Randfontein should be held for a rise. *Airdrie.*—1. You can do better in other West Australian mines mentioned in my letter than in Golden Arrows at the present price. 2. Respectable. *Wakefield.*—1. A fair mining risk. No reason to sell Mainland Consols yet, as a good crushing may come any day. *Gamma.*—I do not think much of this concern. *Old Bird, Banbury.*—All your South African and West Australian shares are well selected, and should be held for a rise. *Pan.*—Your brokers must be mugs. If you act on their advice you will lose your money. They are evidently very old-fashioned people. 2. I think you could safely give the indemnity letter; still it is a matter for your own consideration. *D. D. D.*—Hold your West Australian shares for a rise: they are promising. *Planter.*—This is not the time to sell your South African and West Australian shares, Nos. 1 to 11, which are well selected, and they should be held for an advance. *Canbury.*—1. These should brace up again some day. 2. You ought to have sold when much higher; it is a good mine, but mismanaged. *Anthrax.*—1. Yes, Anglo-French Colonial Trust is a good purchase. 2. You should hold Waterfall Estates. *Tarna.*—1. In such cases it is always advisable to join the reconstruction and sell afterwards. 2. No reason to sell Jumpers, although I should prefer Woodstock (Transvaal) at present price. *Jim.*—1. The distribution of Porges Randfontein shares will not take place for a month or two. 2. A fair investment, but no catch; you can do better in the shares recommended in my letter. 3. You should keep them now. *C. M.*—I am afraid it is correct that you will have to wait a couple of months before the distribution of Porges Randfontein shares is made. *Jones.*—I am sorry you bought Chartered at 5¾; sell on a further improvement. No reason to sell Nos. 2 to 4 for the present, as these West Australian shares will probably recover; but Nos. 2 and 3 are not my choice. *Guildhall.*—Fair West Australian mines. *Nouveau Riche.*—I do not care for the West Australian mine in question *Regular Subscriber, Alnwick.*—You should hold your mines for an improvement. *Deanish.*—Nos. 1 to 6 are not a very bright lot, but they should be held for the present. As regards African Consolidated (5), you should join the movement amongst the other shareholders. *Querist.*—Yes, I still think that the mining shares mentioned should be held. *Medicus, Dublin.*—If you are a holder do not sell; but there is no temptation to buy just now. *Senex.*—I do not like Nation's Treasure. The talk about another slump in West Australians is absurd; there are good mines which will improve, and there are bad ones which will fall in price. *Sierra Leone.*—Yes, the shares are worth holding. *D. W. C.*—Take a good profit when you can get it. *Titch.*—No option but to hold for the present. *A. Z.*—I am informed that you will see another dividend on Croydon Consols soon, but you had better communicate with the agents. *Pym.*—1. Yes. 2. A fair mining risk.

Industrial Shares.

Blue Nile.—Yes, you should certainly hold these shares. I am glad to hear that you are doing so well in Harrod's Stores on my advice; the Founders' shares are also promising. *Nemo, Willenhall.*—What is the good of your buying first and then asking my advice. Dunlop Deferred are promising, but you ought to have bought long ago when they were lower. I do not think much of Cycle Components, Cycle Tube shares are more promising. *S. W.*—The Debentures are fair value; but Van den Bergh Prefs. are not tempting. *Agricola.*—I have already stated that I do not like the Great Horseless Carriage Company, and it is probable that, as you say, very few shares were applied for by the public. Whether the Company will ever pay is a doubtful point. *Seniab.*—Take a good profit when you can get it. *Chess.*—Your broker is quite right. You can only obtain your money back when the settlement in Dunlops takes place. I do not think there will be any dividend before the settlement, but the dividend would go to your buyer, and you cannot repudiate the sale. I do not like the issue referred to, neither do I like the Cycle Company. *Venturer.*—You should repudiate the shares, and join other shareholders in the Dunlop-Truffault Bicycle Manufacturing Company, who are raising the question of the legality of change of name. *Jorg.*—I do not recommend you to follow this adviser. I do not care for the Cycle shares Nos. 1 and 2, and the others are also indifferent, more particularly Great Horseless Carriage (5); but, having once received an allotment, you cannot now repudiate the shares (except in the case of No. 2, the name having been changed). *H. R. H.*—Very fair investments; no reason to change. *Boon.*—Have nothing to do with the Army and Navy Co-operative Breweries. *T. H. W.*—No; a further improvement is probable.

Mixed Investments.

Questions.—1. Yes, a fair mining risk. 2. Possibly. I am glad you recognise the value of my advice to hold St. Louis Brewery Prefs. when in the dumps some years ago. *Erie.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 and 2. As regards No. 3, you must have a good profit, and should sell on the next advance. *East Anglia.*—1. No, I do not like Maynard's. No option but to hold the mining shares Nos. 2 to 5 for a recovery. *Apex.*—I do not like Arrow Brownhill (1). No option but to hold Atchison "B" bonds for a further recovery. *Constant Reader, Bandon.*—1. Yes, a fair purchase. 2. Not known yet. 3. Impossible to tell yet. 4. No. Read remarks in last week's issue. 5 and 6. 5s. par value, 4s. 6d. paid. *J. J. C.*—There is every prospect of the Argentine Railway bonds in question reviving again. Hold. This is not the time to sell South African or West Australian mining shares; keep all yours, Nos. 1 to 18, for a rise. *Kett.*—The Hicks Gold Mine is a promising property, and you should hold. I do not think much of the Typewriter Company. *Abaute.*—Yes, hold your West Australian shares Nos. 1 to 5 for an improvement. I do not think much of the Electric Lamp Company (6). You bought Nos. 2 and 3 against my advice, yet I would not throw them away now. *Peggy Bawn.*—With reference to the Dunlop-Truffault Cycle Company, see reply "Venturer" under "Industrial Shares." The Springdale is a good mine, but is under bad management. Hold Wealth of Nations. *D. M.*—Amongst Home Rails you might invest in Brighton "A" and Dover "A." Very little is known here as regards the Glasgow Murchison and the United Exploration Companies' affairs. *D. M. B.*—1. Yes. 2. I do not like it. 3. Be careful. *W. S. J.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1 to 6, 8, 11 to 13, or 16. No. 7 seems to be a fair Industrial investment, but you should sell No. 9 on a further improvement. Randfontein (10) should be held for an important advance. I do not think much of No. 14, and no news is available in the market about No. 15. I am glad to hear that you did so well in Mainland Consols and in Grand Trunk debentures on my advice. I think it advisable to hold the Grand Trunk stocks. *Capital-less.*—1. It would be advisable to sell the Mazawattee Tea shares at the premium now obtainable. 2. A fair mining risk. 3. I do not think much of this concern, especially in view of the heavy liability. *Juggins.*—1. I am glad you are doing so well in Woodstock (Transvaal) on my advice. Hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 5 for an improvement. I do not like Nos. 6 and 8, and No. 9 are not very promising; but Dunlop Deferred are likely to improve. With regard to the rest of your letter, I must refer you to my remarks under "Golden West Australia." *F. C.*—1. Has been very correct of late. 2. Buffelsdoorn are likely to improve. *J. A. P.*—1. Yes, hold for an improvement. 2. One of these days, when the currency question in the States is settled. *Macbeth.*—1. Langlaagte Star should recover again. 2. I have no further information. 3. Fair investment, but speculative. *Scarecrow.*—Amongst Home Rails you might buy Brighton "A" and Dover "A" at 182¾ and 102½ respectively; Amongst American Rails, New York Central Four per Cent. Gold debentures at 106; amongst Home Breweries, Chester Lion Four, and a Quarter per Cent. debentures at 105. *Albarade.*—1. Take a good profit. 2. Do not sell now. 3. Very doubtful; why not put the further amount into high-class South African mines, such as Langlaagte Estate, which will pay you better interest. *Donegal.*—I do not advise purchase of Hannan's Brownhill shares, the problem of the machinery has not yet been solved. 2. A fair investment, but no catch at the premium. 3. A fair investment. *Unicorn.*—1. A good investment 2. Too speculative. 3. Somewhat too speculative at the present price. Have nothing to do with the "system" referred to, but deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Nemo Black.*—It is quite impossible to answer questions as to how much profit can be made within a certain time; but No. 9 are already up, and there is every prospect of Nos. 12 and 13 improving. I do not care for Lisbon-Berlyn (14). Your holdings in Home Rails (Nos. 1 to 7) are going the right way. You should not sell your South African shares before a further rise has taken place. *Veritas, Leamington.*—1. I do not care for the Finance Corporation of Western Australia. 2. Why do you not instruct your broker to take your handsome profit on the Ordinary shares? The Founders' shares are now high enough. 3. I would not buy them now. 4. No hurry to sell. *Musical.*—1. What is the good of a guarantee when the country is not quite safe? Nos. 2 and 4 are fair mining risks. No. 3 is a good mine, and No. 5 is a fair investment. *Faint Yet Pursuing.*—1. Under present circumstances, although you will have to face fresh fluctuations, I think you should hold these American stocks. There is no reason for selling any of your South African or West Australian shares Nos. 8 to 25, which are likely to improve further. Nor is there any reason for selling Nos. 2, 4, or 5. You know yourself how the Grosvenor Hotel (3) is mismanaged. No. 6 is a speculative Industrial investment, and I do not like Beeston Cycles (7). *Tout.*—1. Hold the Aluminium shares. 2. Perhaps in the dim and distant future. *Cid, Huddersfield.*—All your Mining shares, A to G, should be held for an improvement. No. 3 is a promising Industrial Company. I do not care for Nos. 1 and 2.

Various Investments.

It is evident that first-class investments will for some time retain their popularity and high range of prices. The large amount of surplus funds and purchases of the Government broker, for instance, are sustaining Consols, which at one time touched 113¾, and are still fractionally

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

higher for the week at $113\frac{7}{16}$. Silver has declined $\frac{1}{8}$ to $31\frac{7}{16}$d. The tenders invited by the French Government for the metal were accepted on the part of Messrs. Allard, but apparently the necessary quantity had already been secured in the States, and thus the general market here was not helped. Rupee Paper is easier at $64\frac{1}{2}$, and amongst the Chinese loans the only change was a decline in the Five per Cent. gold loan to 100. Brewery shares have remained firm, and Allsopps Ordinary are still quoted 180, although nothing has so far transpired with regard to the dividend. Guinness, however, are lower at 660. Nitrate Rails have been dull, but the slightly better tone prevailing during the last few days has improved the quotation to $7\frac{5}{8}$. The traffic during the second week of June showed an increase of £1,981. A fair amount of business has been passing in Cycle shares, but the excessive number of new flotations is seriously prejudicing this market. Dunlop Deferred are slightly firmer at $\frac{13}{16}$ premium, while the Ordinary shares are better at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. Components have fluctuated to a considerable extent, but are now easier at $4\frac{3}{8}$. Beestons have hardened to $5\frac{3}{8}$, but Humbers have been quiet, and the Extensions alone are firm at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. I have always thought that sooner or later some improvement would be introduced for preparing and preserving meat, and I am not therefore surprised to see that a process has been taken up for accomplishing this purpose by the London Canning Company, of 20, Bucklersbury, London, E.C. If the patents really are as valuable as they are represented in the prospectus, this invention would inaugurate an important new departure. A circular has been widely distributed by Mr. J. Carter Hart, the secretary *pro tem.* of Chili Coal, Limited, in which that temporary secretary touts for underwriting of this concern. He promises that on filling up the underwriting letter, those who accede to his request will receive in any event on allotment £5 per cent. in cash, and £6 per cent. in fully paid-up shares, on the amount of their underwriting accepted by the Directors. Upon the closing of the underwriting list, adds Mr. J. Carter Hart, the prospectus will be fully advertised, and the bonds offered to the public. I need hardly say that this system of circularising strangers for underwriting is altogether irregular, and not likely to inspire confidence in the undertaking. Mr. W. Owen Clarkson, of 142, Lichfield-street, Walsall, is on the warpath with an invitation to investors to buy 1,000 £1 Six per Cent. First Preference shares in the Carlton Bank, Limited, which he calls an "institution sixteen years old." Mr. Clarkson is in the happy position to offer these shares through having "acquired an interest in the shares recently belonging to the late Miss Moore's estate." This so-called Carlton "Bank," of 38, Finsbury-pavement, appears according to the balance-sheet for 1895 enclosed, to have cash in hand £1,543, and bills discounted, loans, and advances figure at £29,821. It is a money-lending concern, and the recipients of the circulars will do well to leave it severely alone.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY;

HALF-AN-HOUR AT HENLEY.

"DON'T look so disconsolate, you little goose. You'll see him to-day, you know."

"Yes, I shall see him. But that only makes it the more cruel and tantalising; for I shan't get a chance of t-talking to him, I feel sure."

"Oh, yes, you will. After he has rowed in his race, he will come and join us. He told you so himself."

"Y-yes, he'll join us; but Aunt Ida will be there all the time; and you know how she—she objects to B-Bertie. She'll never let me stir from her side the whole day."

"Don't you think she will?"

"I'm sure she won't. And—and to-day is the last chance I shall have of—of talking to Bertie. He has to join his r-regiment to-morrow at Portsmouth, and next week they sail for South Africa, where he'll very likely be k-k-illed by those dreadful savages, and I shall never see him again. Oh, it's too cruel!"

And Jessie began to sob.

"Now, my dear child," said her cousin Helen, putting her arm round her waist, "I can't allow you to take on like this, and to make up your mind to horrors which are never going to happen. Probably by the time Captain Anstruther's regiment reaches South Africa the fighting will all be over. And in any case——"

"Well, even if it is," sobbed Jessie, "Bertie will be kept out there for a wh-whole y-year; and I shan't even get the chance of saying g-good bye to him before he starts."

"Now, really, silly little puss, you must dry those tears, else your eyelids will be swollen and red all day. I can't think why you are in such a fright of Aunt. If I were you I should stand up to her, and tell her to be—— I mean to mind her own business."

"Ah! It's all very well for *you* to say that Helen; *you* only come and stay here occasionally. If Aunt Ida were your guardian, and you had to live with her always, and to put up with weeks of misery every time you offended her, you would speak in a different tone. I tell you, Aunt Ida is a jealous, spiteful, ill-tempered tyrant."

"But the more you give in to tyrants, the more tyrannical they are," replied Helen. "However, I'll see—Hilloa! There, she is calling us. Bother this bonnet-pin! There! The thing has gone in, at last. Do I look passable, Jess? You look awfully sweet, dear. I don't wonder at Captain——"

"Ida! Helen!" sounded a shrill voice from the foot of the stairs. "Unless you come down at once, we shall be late for the train."

"All right, Aunt! Coming! Coming!"

And the two girls hurried down from Jessie's room, where they had been putting the finishing touches to their toilets, to join Aunt Ida in the hall below.

Aunt Ida was a thin and upright lady, with angular features and a somewhat vinegary expression. She was very sprucely attired in an elegant and modish gown, which, however, gave the impression of being too juvenile to harmonise properly with her face. She regarded her nieces with a critical, and not particularly affectionate stare, then said sharply:

"Now, then, girls, what a time you've been! I thought you were never coming down. Admiring yourselves in the glass, I suppose. Ha! ha! ha!"

The last words were spoken in a half-jocular tone, but the laugh was hard and ill-natured. Both girls thought it wiser to take no notice; though within themselves they felt that the imputation came rather strangely from Aunt Ida, who had two cheval glasses in her own bedroom, before one or other of which she was eternally posing and simpering.

"The cab has been at the door ten minutes," said the elder lady. "So come along quick, or we shall miss the train. . . . And mind," she impressed upon them, as they drove away to the station, "keep close to my side when we get out at Paddington. There is sure to be a great crowd there, and I won't have either of you getting separated from me.

There was a big crowd at Paddington, as was, indeed, inevitable on the morning of the last day of Henley. But Aunt Ida managed to pilot her two nieces to the train without being separated from them, and they secured three seats in the same first-class compartment. Aunt Ida was not in an amiable humour to-day, but that was nothing unusual. It was rather her normal state, but it was now distinctly aggravated by the consciousness of a reddish tinge about the tip of her nose, which glycerine and cucumber and other toilet lotions, applied over-night, had failed to remedy. Aunt Ida was fifty if she was a day, but she liked to look attractive; and with a red nose, who could look attractive? Jessie's and Helen's complexions were as fresh as pinks. Their noses showed no signs of rubicundity. Aunt Ida surveyed them with an angry and a jealous glare. Yes, she was jealous of them, absurd as it may appear in a faded spinster of fifty. Of course she would not have

admitted it. Had such a thing been suggested to her, she would have scoffed, with contemptuous hilarity, at the bare idea. "Jealous of them? Jealous of those children? How ridiculous!"

She often spoke of them, slightingly, as "children." Ladies of fifty not infrequently do apply this term, in fine contempt, to girls of nineteen. They were not, in her opinion, old enough to know anything about, or to have anything to do with, love. And when Captain Anstruther, a handsome young officer of Dragoons, had appeared upon the tapis as Jessie's lover, Aunt Ida had promptly put down her foot. Love? Psha! What could a child, a mere baby like Jessie, know about love? These silly chits of girls made the absurd error of mistaking their own half-formed fancies for the divine fulness of love. Ah! It needed a *woman* to love! That heavenly sentiment only found its resting-place in mature bosoms. And Jessie of all girls! Only a brainless noodle, a walking tailor's dummy, like Captain Anstruther, could possibly see anything in that little wax-doll, Jessie. The whole thing was nonsensical, preposterous. It must be at once nipped in the bud.

Now the World is very uncharitable. It could not, by all Christian canons, be the World at all unless it were so. And Aunt Ida's small World said some very sneering things upon this subject. It—the said small World—averred that Captain Anstruther, when he made himself agreeable to the aunt for the sake of the niece, by no means realised what he was letting himself in for. It was hardly likely that he should. A dashing young soldier might, ordinarily, make himself agreeable to the elderly lady guardian of a pretty girl, without any risk of having his attentions misunderstood and misappropriated. But when Miss Ida Frampton was that lady guardian the case assumed an altogether different complexion. Unable to realise the fact of her own faded charms, she actually imagined that the Captain's attentions were directed towards herself; and when she discovered her error, she was furious indeed. It was then that the dashing young dragoon became a brainless noodle, and a walking tailor's dummy. It was then that Jessie was degraded into a little wax-doll. That, at least, was the view which the World took of the situation.

Whether this view was correct or not, it was indisputably true that, after first treating him with the warmest favour, Aunt Ida now regarded Captain Anstruther with the coldest disdain. She avoided him on all occasions, as far as possible, and took good care that Jessie should avoid him too. This resulted in the poor girl's life being rendered unhappy and miserable, for she hardly ever had the chance of even speaking to Bertie Anstruther, whom she loved with all the warmth of her pure and tender little heart. Now her misery was aggravated by the circumstance that her lover's regiment was under orders for the Cape; and so close a watch was kept upon her by Aunt Ida, that she saw no chance of even wishing him good-bye. The Captain, indeed, had expressed his intention of working this matter somehow at Henley, where he had ascertained that Jessie would be present, and where he himself was engaged in the London R.C. Eight. But on the previous day he had been foiled by Aunt Ida, in spite of his endeavours, and poor little Jessie saw no chance of his succeeding better to-day—which was his last chance.

Perhaps, under the circumstances, Aunt Ida would not have gone to Henley at all; but she had been particularly pressed by a Duchess to take tickets for the Lawn of the Kettledrum Club. The Kettledrum Club was a new institution. This was the first time that it had occupied a Lawn at Henley, and the promoters were very anxious to make it a success, financial and otherwise. The said Duchess, a lady always "on" for acquiring a little money, was understood to be interested in the Kettledrum Club to the tune of some hundreds of shares. She, therefore, used every effort to induce her friends to take tickets for their lawn upon this, the occasion of the Club's début. Of course, she did not put it in this way when canvassing her acquaintances. It was a purely personal matter "to oblige an old friend, you know." Aunt Ida, like many others, was flattered to be claimed as an old friend by a Duchess. She looked forward to hobbing and nobbing with her Grace upon the lawn of the Kettledrum Club. Then, besides, she had an especially smart gown to "show off"; and there were many good-looking men to be met at Henley—not mere tailors' dummies and admirers of the wax-doll type, like Captain Anstruther—but men who knew what was what; men of character, individuality, brain. These were the men whose admiration was a real compliment. Only boys, dotards, and tailors' dummies were attracted to the dollish faces of insipid misses.

It cannot be said that the two girls found the journey down to Henley particularly pleasant, or that matters were much improved for them after arriving on the lawn of the Kettledrum Club. Aunt Ida, all the while conscious of her red nose, remained in a most unpleasant temper, and jumped down the throats of poor Jessie and Helen every time they spoke. When Aunt Ida was in this state, she was abominably rude to everyone—unless it were, perchance, a duchess, or a man of brains who knew what was what—and now she behaved so curtly to all their acquaintances who came up to speak to them, that the two girls quite blushed for her, and for themselves that they were associated with her. Jessie particularly was in a condition of dire discomfort. If her Aunt was so uncivil to their ordinary acquaintances, against whom she had no animus, what would she be to Bertie Anstruther when he turned up? Poor little Jessie, much as she longed for a few minutes of her lover's presence on this their last possible day of meeting, found herself almost wishing now that he would not join them, as he had promised her, after his race had been rowed.

The London Rowing Club and Leander were the two crews left in for the Grand Challenge. After a good race, Leander won. Jessie looked very nervous and agitated. This was not because her lover's boat had been beaten. She was not thinking about oars and oarsmen; but she knew that now, in a very short time, Bertie Anstruther would appear, and she dreaded nearly as much as she longed for that momentous event.

And sure enough he soon did make his appearance. Jessie caught sight of his tall, manly form coming towards them in the distance through the crowd. She began to tremble and quiver—foolish little thing—and looked timidly at Aunt Ida. But Aunt Ida happened, just then, to be engaged in a whispered conversation with Helen upon some evidently urgent matter.

"What did you say was showing, Helen?" whispered the elderly spinster, in sudden agitation.

"A stay-lace, Aunt."

"For goodness sake, don't talk so loud. Somebody will hear," ejaculated Aunt Ida, looking nervously round. "W—where is it showing, Helen?

"Between your bodice and the band of your skirt, Aunt. It has come untied and is hanging down!"

"Good gracious! I hope it has not been showing long. J—j—ust tie it up and poke it in, Helen. There's a good girl; but—but—p—pray don't let anybody see what you're doing. Jessie" (in an impressive whisper) "just move round to the other side of me, please, dear. There's Sir Horace Knibster looking this way, and I wouldn't have him see for anything. What can Wainwright have been thinking about?" (Wainwright was Aunt Ida's maid). "I shall give her a piece of my mind when we get home."

"Bother the stay-lace!" exclaimed Helen, in the course of her hurried manipulations at the back of Aunt Ida's skirt. "The tiresome——"

"For Heaven's sake, Helen, hold your tongue. There's no need to mention it at all. Especially in such a loud voice. Fancy if Sir Horace Knibster were to hear!"

"I don't suppose he would be shocked. No doubt he is tolerably familiar with stays. You know they say that he wears them himself."

"Silence, Helen! You immodest girl. I blush for you. There! Don't be all night over it, or somebody *must* see. Is the—is it all right, now?"

"Yes, I've tucked it in safely, at last," replied Helen, as she arranged her aunt's skirt again in its proper folds. "I don't think it can come out again."

"Are you quite sure?"

"Quite."

At that minute Captain Anstruther came up. He raised his hat and saluted the ladies politely. As soon as Aunt Ida realised who he was (for the little affair of the stay-lace had put her in such a fluster that she had, momentarily, almost lost possession of her wits), she instantly froze. She treated the tailor's dummy to a very distant bow. Then, turning away, and saying to her nieces in a very marked manner, "Come along, girls; the Duchess will be expecting us at tea," she moved a few paces in the direction of the refreshment-tent.

The Captain flushed, and a dangerous light shone in his usually good-tempered eyes. He had been treated rudely by Miss Frampton before; but never so rudely as this. Poor Jessie dared not look off the ground. She was overcome with shame and mortification at her lover being treated with such outrageous incivility. Helen, however, fixed her eyes full upon the Captain, and gave him an unmistakably meaning glance. It evidently implied that he was not to let himself be choked off from remaining in Jessie's company by anything that Aunt Ida might say or do.

That elderly spinster had not walked more than a few yards before she suddenly stopped, and looked round, with a quick, agitated glance. Captain Anstruther, taking his cue from Helen, advanced again to her side.

"I trust, Miss Frampton," he said, in his blandest and most courteous manner, as though he had never noticed her rudeness, "that you will permit me to escort yourself and your nieces to the tea-tent, and to see that you have all you want."

"Oh—er—thank you—er—Captain Anstruther. But—er—I—er—I have changed my mind. I—I—shall not go to tea just at present. There seems to—er—be—rather—a—a—crowd in the tent."

The excuse was surprisingly lame on the part of a lady who ten seconds before had been in such a desperate hurry to reach the tea-tent. But the Captain was not to be offended.

"I think you are quite right," he said. "Awful crowd there just now. Deuced hot and uncomfortable! Much better to wait out here for a bit, and enjoy this lovely air."

"But pray don't let me keep *you* from going to tea, Captain Anstruther."

"Oh, not at all—not at all," replied that warrior, cheerfully. "I'd rather wait, don't you know."

Aunt Ida bit her lip and looked very much annoyed. The tailor's dummy, however, even if he had been compact of actual wax, could not have preserved a more unintelligent, imperturbable demeanour. He appeared utterly impervious to her hints—utterly ignorant of the fact that he was not wanted. He wore his blandest smile, and talked in his most self-satisfied manner. Although Aunt Ida hardly answered him, he discoursed away quite unabashed.

And yet he was really watching her all the while with the utmost keenness. There was something new in her manner to-day—something that he could not understand. She had often been rude to him before; often given him the broadest hints that his presence was undesirable. But now there was an uneasy agitation in her rudeness—an evidently desperate hurry to get rid of him, which (in his opinion) could only be accounted for by the fact that she was expecting somebody else, whom she did not wish him (the Captain) to meet. Lovers are proverbially suspicious. Bertie Anstruther at once jumped to the conclusion that Miss Frampton had some other man in view for Jessie, whom she was expecting to join them now at any minute. This, no doubt, accounted for Helen's peculiar look. He instantly registered a vow that wild horses should not move him away until he had seen the thing out.

His suspicions were shortly corroborated by a proposal which Miss Frampton made suddenly, and with the most palpable eagerness.

"Captain Anstruther," she said, forcing herself to speak more politely than she had yet done, "I—I—my head is aching rather, and I do not think that I could stand the heat of that crowded tent. But there is no reason why everybody should be kept waiting on my account. W—won't you t—take Helen and give her some tea?"

The Captain felt himself unexpectedly cornered. It would be altogether too rude to refuse to take Helen; and yet if he did take her, that other chap might come in his absence, and——

He was helped out of his difficulty by Helen herself.

"Oh, not me, Auntie, dear," she exclaimed, sweetly. "I don't want my tea a bit. But poor Jessie here is simply dying for hers. You had better take Jessie, Captain Anstruther."

"Delighted," said the warrior, smiling gratefully at Helen, and offering Jessie his arm with extreme alacrity.

Aunt Ida turned upon Helen a look of unutterable wrath. She was evidently about to interpose. She moved a step towards Jessie; then stopped with surprising suddenness, turned a quick, uneasy glance on the grass at her feet, and actually suffered the Captain to lead Jessie away without let or hindrance. It was a most surprising thing. Quite a miracle. Not until she had actually reached the tent, and seen that her aunt was not following, could poor little Jessie believe that her good fortune was real.

"Helen," began Aunt Ida, in an awful voice, as soon as the Captain was out of earshot, "Helen!"

But Helen was not listening. She had her face turned towards two well-dressed young men, who had been hovering near for some time, trying to catch her eye, and who now came hurrying forward, as she greeted them with a bow and a smile.

"How do you do, Mr. Greenstock? How do you do, Mr. Halliwell? Auntie, dear, pray let me introduce—Mr. Greenstock, Miss Frampton; Mr. Halliwell, Miss Frampton."

"Delighted, I'm sure," murmured the first young gentleman.

"Charmed, indeed," simpered the second.

Aunt Ida did not say that she was either charmed or delighted. Perhaps it would not have been much use if she had. Her looks would utterly have belied her words. Rage, uneasiness, and a most unaccountable agitation—an agitation which caused her to keep looking with fearful anxiety at the toes of her patent shoes—made themselves apparent in every line of her face. But the two young men seemed just as obtuse as Captain Anstruther, for they remained chattering with Helen and her aunt for nearly half an hour, never in the least perceiving that their presence was irksome and obnoxious to the elder lady.

At length Captain Anstruther and Jessie came back; and Messrs. Halliwell and Greenstock raised their hats and departed. The Captain appeared to be in the highest feather. Little Jessie looked blushing and timid, but was evidently radiant with happiness. They had spent a blissful half-hour together. They had said their good-bye—a true lovers' good-bye—uninterrupted. Fortified by that sweet, entrancing interview, and by the vows of eternal constancy which each had made and ratified by—well, by the lovers' usual process—they now felt ready to face anything. Their parting could not fail to be bitter; but this last interview had made it at least tolerable. And Helen had managed it all for them; but how?

* * * * *

"You—you—wicked, cruel, immodest girls! you did this on purpose," stormed Aunt Ida, perfectly pale with fury, when at length Captain Anstruther had gone away and left aunt and nieces alone together.

"Oh, Auntie!" protested Jessie. "How can you say so? You know——"

"It is all right!" struck in Helen, cheerfully. "Jess is perfectly innocent of the whole affair, Aunt. I am the culprit."

"You—you—little Jezebel! You h—h—have the f—f—face to confess your sh—shameless, im—improper conduct?"

"Oh, dear, no! Nothing improper. Nobody saw it, you know, Aunt. At least, I don't think so—though I

did see Mr. Greenstock looking rather hard at your feet once or twice. I admit it *was* a trifle cruel, perhaps, to keep you standing for an hour in the same position, when you were dying to join the Duchess at tea. However, instead of wasting time in abusing me, I would recommend you, Auntie dear, to make use of these precious moments of solitude to extricate yourself from your embarrassment. You stand on that side, Jess, I'll stand on this; and then Aunt will be quite screened from observation."

Miss Frampton gasped with wrath. But she saw the urgent necessity of carrying out Helen's suggestion. With unwonted agility, she skipped out of something lying about her ankles, something in natural wool, which she snatched up and hastily rolled in her waterproof.

Jessie could not repress a quick little cry of surprise, as she realised that she owed that day's happiness to Helen and a Jaeger under-garment.

MUSIC.

END OF THE CONCERT SEASON.

THE concert season which has now ended has developed some curious features. It lasted, as usual, from the autumn till early in July, the greatest rush being in November and early December, and from March till June. Two or three new comers, to the chagrin of some of the concert managers who cannot get off the beaten track, started at the end of September, and thereby gained for themselves a degree of attention which they certainly would not have secured later on. In the autumn complaints were made of short attendance at some of the orchestral concerts, but these were due to faulty programmes rather than to any falling off in the popularity of such entertainments. Mr. Henschel, particularly, is not at all likely to repeat the experiment of devoting an entire season to the music of any single composer, even though that composer be Beethoven. Some of the Ballad Concerts had to be bolstered up by operatic vocalists and dramatic reciters. The severe competition, however, proved a perfect mine of wealth to the artists.

London is still the only city in the kingdom which suffers from a paucity of oratorio choirs. The Albert Hall was never intended to be confined to three Patti and ten annual oratorio performances, of the latter, half being devoted either to the "Messiah," or to Messrs. Novello's new and other copyrights. An impression has got abroad that the Royal Choral Society, of which that popular musician, Dr. "Westminster" Bridge has now been appointed conductor, have a monopoly of the Albert Hall. But this is not the case, and although the Council will not, for their own sake, let their magnificent building to an indifferent choir, yet the Leslie and Bach choirs have given performances there, and the hall is open to any manager with pluck and real artistic aims. The Queen's Hall choir has improved, but with room for much more improvement, while big audiences have been drawn to oratorios by numerous choirs in the East End, and on Sunday nights by the Sunday League at Queen's Hall.

It is being drilled into the heads of pianists (and, which is of more importance, into those of their agents) that the pianoforte recital is not altogether the want of the age. The guinea recital stall is, with the exception of the solitary recital expected each season from M. Paderewski, a self-evident absurdity. A few personal admirers and friends may pay such prices, but the general public are not so foolish, and when the same executants, with practically the same programmes, give recitals in Germany to three or five shilling audiences, the nonsense is the more strongly marked. This year also to a greater extent than ever, the practice has grown of expecting the pianoforte maker to contribute towards the pianist's fee, and hence the name of the manufacturer on the concert pianoforte is becoming bigger and bigger. The advertisement is paid for and must be taken out somehow. The unexpected absence of M. Paderewski and Herr Rosenthal (who would do well to abandon his "Historical Recitals," as nobody here needs this educational process) has been a great thing for the smaller fry, though not for the Philharmonic. Executants, both pianists and violinists, are however gradually replacing recitals by chamber music concert programmes, and they are wise. As to quartet concerts the ensemble of the Kneisel Quartet has been as great an eye-opener in this branch as the advent of Dr. Richter sixteen years ago was to orchestral music. The ordinary Popular Concert Quartet party can claim an average experience of half a century apiece, and it is well that they should occasionally make way for younger men.

The most successful of the season's orchestral concerts have again been those devoted to Wagner's music and directed by German conductors of the Richter and Mottl stamp. M. Lamoureux's orchestra, too, gained such artistic success as practically to frighten away M. Colonne. The Sunday Concerts will have a better chance when a proper payment of the bandsmen may secure adequate rehearsals. As to the Philharmonic, the non-arrival of the three stars, Paderewski, Sembrich, and Rosenthal was a piece of ill-luck. The amateur bands are gradually creeping up. The Stock Exchange orchestra give performances which would be a credit to many a professional organisation; and I do not desire to hear better playing than that last Wednesday by a party of ladies of the aristocracy under the bâton of the Countess of Radnor; who, in the old Henry Leslie days, many of us recollect as that gifted musician and conductor, the Viscountess Folkestone. This party, who, among a string band and chorus of about 180, boast over fifty ladies of title, blithely took the guineas at St. James's Hall on Wednesday, and on the following night went down to the East End, where they found a working-class audience, at threepence a head, just as critical and even more appreciative.

My surmise that before the autumn was out the names of many people would be mentioned in print as possible entrepreneurs of Covent Garden has already come true. A dozen names have, quite without authority, cropped up this week. Three of them are, of course, obviously hopeless, for Mr. D'Oyly Carte, Mr. George Edwardes, and Messrs. Gatti are the last people in the world to embark on such a speculation. I have also been confidently informed that no fewer than four gentlemen have "got the lease," which is, it seems, news to Mr. Faber, the ground lessee. Meanwhile, the lease of Covent Garden is still for sale, and any one willing to pay the price may make his deposit to-morrow morning. At the present moment it seems possible that the American and London enterprises may be merged, under the general direction of Mr. Maurice Grau and under a committee of subscribers represented by Mr. Higgins. But there are obvious difficulties in the way of such an arrangement; and also between now and March many things may happen.

Meanwhile the memorial to Sir A. Harris unaccountably hangs fire. The correspondence, supported chiefly by dramatic and musical artists and theatrical tradesmen, seems to have been stopped by the *Daily Telegraph*, a paper which, whatever its faults, has its finger on the pulse of the middle-class public. I believe, however, the matter is not to be dropped. This week a committee will probably be appointed to collect the money, and the proceeds of the gala night at the Opera on the 27th will doubtless go to the fund. What shall be done with the cash can be decided after the collection is complete. The public evidently do not think much of the statue idea, and, indeed, to place it in Drury-lane, the lease of which expires in five and a-half years, or in Covent Garden,

Mason & Hamlin Organs have been supplied to H.M. the Queen, H.I.M. the Empress Frederick of Germany, H.R.H. the Duchess of York, and H.I.M. the Empress Eugenie, &c., &c.—METZLER, 40 to 43, Great Marlborough-street, London, W.

which any year may become a potato market, would be manifestly absurd.

"Mefistofele," which has been waiting for Mme. Calvé, was given at Covent Garden last week with a—for the most part—familiar cast. Miss McIntyre was, at any rate, an excellent Margaret, and although no successor has yet appeared to Signor Nanetti, yet M. Edouard de Reszke sang very finely the music allotted by Boito to the emissary of Satan. "Carmen," which also had waited for Mme. Calvé, was sung last week by Mme. de Lussan, of the Carl Rosa troupe. This week we are to have Massenet's "Manon," with Mme. Melba, and perhaps "Les Huguenots."

Mr. Hedmondt will probably hire Covent Garden for a short season in the autumn, chiefly for Wagner's operas in English. Wagner's advanced works are, I am told, the property for stage use here for some years of Harris's executors, and although there may be some doubts whether "Faust" and "Carmen" are strictly copyright as against managers who have mounted them before, yet practically the whole of the Jean de Reszke repertory is in the executors' hands. These sole rights ought certainly to be extinguished (or surrendered for a consideration) on death, or relinquishment of management. If Lady Harris liked (which, happily, she is not at all likely to do) to refuse to grant licenses to perform, it would be an awkward fix not only for our leading operatic tenor, but also for Wagner lovers generally.

Mr. Daniel Mayer's concert agency, which has been for some time in the market, has now passed into other hands. Down to the time of the actual transfer on Friday week, it was supposed that the new man would be Mr. Görlitz, M. Paderewski's secretary. But Mr. Görlitz left on Saturday to organise a tour for his wife, Mme. Sherwin, in South Africa, and the purchaser of the Mayer business is Mr. Adlington, of the firm of Muir, Wood, & Co., Glasgow. This means that the agency will be carried on exactly the same as before, with Mr. J. D. Maclaren as manager, and with the indefatigable Miss Josephs and the old staff. Otherwise, we believe, Mr. Maclaren would have started on his own account, and most of the leading artists, with whom he is very popular, would probably have followed him. Mr. Daniel Mayer meanwhile will not be idle, for he is looking after his Erard pianos and his Resonator.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Two interesting books on Persia I have lately read, Dr. Treacher Collins' "In the Kingdom of the Shah" (1) and the "Persia Revisited" (2) of General Sir T. E. Gordon, give a favourable picture of the late Shah, though neither was written under the influence of the shock of horror produced by his assassination. His assassination was itself indirectly due to his Majesty's magnanimity, since he had spared Jemal-ed-Din, its instigator, who, by the way, had taken refuge in the very shrine where his instrument afterwards murdered the Shah. It is true that the Shah made a false start at the beginning of his long reign by having his brother-in-law and Grand Vizier — the ablest and honestest Minister modern Persia has had—bled to death. No sooner was the crime committed, however, than it was repented of, and the repentance took the characteristically Eastern form of marrying the murdered Minister's infant daughters to the two sons of his remorseful master. Henceforward the Shah seems to have shown himself a singularly sagacious and beneficent despot, with the result of an advance in the civilisation of Persia which surprised Sir Thomas E. Gordon on his second visit. The improvement, however, has not yet extended to medical science, which, according to Dr. Treacher Collins, is in an infantile condition. The doctor was hurried off on the very day of his marriage to attend the Shah's eldest son for an affection of the eyes, and his account of the state of medical science in Persia reminds one of Voltaire's exhaustive classification of physicians—"those who kill you, and those who let you die." "The art of prescribing," says Dr. Collins, "consists of giving a hot remedy for a cold disease, and a cold remedy for a hot one. . . . . A favourite method of treating inflammatory affections of the eye is by fumigating them with the smoke from burning asses' dung." And he sums up their system in the verse wherein the famous Dr. Lettsom expressed his whole art:—

> When patients come to I,
> I physics, bleeds, and sweats 'em;
> Then, if they choose to die,
> What's that to I? I lets 'em.

The author of "The Best Tour in Norway"—now in its third edition—has been encouraged by its success to take us "to fresh woods and pastures new" in that country. Woods and pastures seem to be the distinctive features of this "New Ground in Norway" (3), *i.e.*, Southern Norway, which "is essentially a green land, richly fertile in timber and foliage; possessing, so to speak, a clothed wildness in striking contrast to the more naked savagery of the north." It will certainly not be Mr. Goodman's fault if there should be no partial diversion of the stream of tourists—flowing now to the Western Fjords and to the North Cape—towards Rinerike, Telemarken, and Sæterdalen; for nothing can be more tempting than his descriptions of the places and of the people of the South. One of the most interesting chapters of the book is that entitled, "Ibsen at Home," though Mr. Goodman's portrait of the self-conscious poet is a little disillusioning. "If Dr. Henrik Ibsen is regarded by a certain class of tourists as a sort of show, he really has only himself to thank for it; for he makes himself very much *en évidence*. Everybody who visits Christiania asks every one else, 'Have you seen Ibsen?' and, indeed, it is difficult to avoid seeing him. At a certain hour, shortly after the usual time for *aftensmad*, there is to be observed slowly sauntering down the Carl Johans Gade a somewhat solidly-built man, a little below the middle height, dressed in a suit of black broad-cloth, with coat buttoned across the chest, wearing the neatest of gloves, walking with one hand behind his back, and carrying an umbrella in the other, who, with keen, watchful eyes surveys the passers-by, and now and then salutes some acquaintance, or one of the many strangers who greet him, by lifting his glossy silk hat. And in that hat he keeps a small mirror which he produces occasionally, together with a little comb, in order to touch up his bushy grey hair and spreading whiskers. Dr. Ibsen's hair and whiskers are, in fact, characteristic of his remarkable physiognomy, of which a hawk-like nose and firmly-compressed lips are peculiar features." If not more interesting, more varied at least in its interest is Major A. F. Mockler-Ferryman's "In the Northman's Land" (4), a most pleasant chronicle of travel, sport, and folk-lore in the Hardinger Fjord and Fjeld. In his modest preface the Major says that his book is meant principally for the newcomer who knows nothing of Norway, and even to him he apologises for the elementary guidance occasionally given. For my own part, however, I would not wish a word away of this interesting mélange, while the chapters on the reindeer and the stalking thereof are particularly enjoyable. "In all kinds of sport," says the Major, "and especially in big-game shooting, the real enjoyment depends on the amount of difficulty and labour required for success;" and he would be an exacting

(1) "In the Kingdom of the Shah." By E. Treacher Collins, F.R.G.S. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.) Price 12s.
(2) "Persia Revisited" (1895). By General Sir Thomas Edward Gordon, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.S.I. Illustrated. (London: Edward Arnold.) Price 10s. 6d.
(3) "New Ground in Norway." By E. J. Goodman. With Fifty-six Illustrations from Original Photographs by Paul Lange. (London: George Newnes, Limited.) Price 10s. 6d.
(4) "In the Northman's Land." By Major A. F. Mockler-Ferryman, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S. With Map, Illustrations, and Appendix. (London: Sampson Low & Co.) Price 7s. 6d.
(5) "Sport in the Alps in the Past and in the Present." By W. A. Baillie-Grohman. With Numerous Illustrations and Photographs from Life. (London: Adam & Charles Black.) Price 21s.
(6) "Sartor Resartus." With an Introduction by Edward Dowden. XIXth Century Classics Series. Edited by Clement K. Shorter. (London: Ward, Lock, and Bowden, Limited.) Price 2s. 6d.

voluptuary who craved more of these essentials of "real enjoyment" than reindeer stalking supplies. "Multa tulit fecitque, sudavit et alsit." Apropos of sport of this kind, Mr. W. A. Baillie-Grohman, whose "Camps in the Rockies" gave you such pleasure years ago, has just published, under the title of "Sport in the Alps" (5), an account of the chase of the chamois, red-deer, bouquetin, roe-deer, capercaille, and black cock, with personal adventures and historical notes, and some sporting reminiscences of H.R.H. the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. This delightful book helps you in some measure to understand the fascination the sport it describes had for the Duke, who a couple of hours before he was struck down himself had slain two royals, and whose ruling passion was so strong in death that his last unconscious words were, "Let the drive commence!" For fifty-six years H.R.H. had shot his forests, and the incredible number of deer driven up to his rifle which he slaughtered in that time would provoke a cynic to pronounce upon him the epitaph Teufelsdröckh composed for Count Zachdarm, surnamed "The Great." "Qui dum sub lunâ agebat, quinque mille perdrices plumbo confecit." Talking of Teufelsdröckh, I see "Sartor Resartus" (6) has appeared in the "Nineteenth Century Classics Series," which Mr. Clement K. Shorter has been selected to edit—an admirable choice. This cheap and handsome edition of "Sartor Resartus" has for its frontispiece a very fine portrait of Carlyle, while it is prefaced by an introduction from the pen of Professor Dowden, and by the letter John Sterling addressed to Carlyle on the first publication of the work in 1835.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I am sure you will envy me immensely when I tell you that I have seen—actually seen with these very eyes—the sweetly pretty wedding frock in which Princess Maud of Wales is to become Princess Charles of Denmark. It has been made by Mesdames Berthé & Yeo, and consists of white satin, woven at Spitalfields, and does that centre of industry great credit, not only by reason of its delightful texture, but on account of the beautiful tone of white, with nothing chilly or wan about it. As befits a young and happy bride, it is in a warm and blithe tone of ivory white, and where the folds overlap each other the under ones show this lovely ivory tint to perfection. The skirt spreads out in a Court train four and a half yards long at the back. In front and at the sides it is bordered with a double ruche of white chiffon with sprays of white jasmine, orange blossom and myrtle laid in between. The bodice is in folds of satin most becomingly disposed about the figure and caught in closely to the waist by a silver belt sewn with brilliants. Round the shoulders are folds of chiffon with sprays of the bridal flowers, and at the back there is a bow of the chiffon with a spray of flowers drooping carelessly over it. The sleeves are puffings of white chiffon, and between these a spray of the flowers is embroidered. It is a sweet dress, and pretty Princess Maud-Charlotte-Mary-Victoria will look delicious in it.

I must tell you about some other gowns of her trousseau, selecting those that are quite the sweetest. One is a white satin evening dress, with a lovely little bodice covered with white silk muslin, embroidered in a design resembling cobwebs. These are worked in cream-coloured silk outlined with silver sequins, and in the centre of each web is a large pearl, sewn round with sequins. Over the top of the bodice, front and back, is turned down a single fold of black net, embroidered in diamonds in outward-tending lines like the veinings of a leaf. The sleeves are white silk muslin, and there is a most becoming little belt of black satin sewn thickly over with brilliants.

The bride-to-be is very fond of a light tone of pinkish mauve, which suits her softly-brilliant complexion extremely well. Another favourite colour of hers is citron. A dress also made by Mesdames Berthé & Yeo is black broché silk with a bodice of Irish poplin in citron. There is a wide pleat in front with three jet buttons, and epaulettes and boléro of fine black lace. And another gown is mauve glacé silk of the pinkish shade I have referred to, striped with satin of the same tone. High to the neck, there is a berthé-shaped trimming of fine needle-run point d'Alençon sewn with topaz, amethysts, and brilliants. Folds of similar jewelled lace cover the collar.

I believe I have already mentioned that high dresses are now always worn at the play by the smartest sets, and when full-dress is necessary, on account of going on somewhere afterwards, the evening cape or fichu is retained. A sweet little theatre gown has been made for the Princess in a rose-petal shade of pink Roman satin, the high bodice crossed with lines of fine black lace insertion, as well as the sleeves, which are long enough to reach the wrists and fall over the hands in points. The collar is folded pink chiffon with another collar of one fold of the same turned down over it and edged with narrow black lace. This is a particularly pretty arrangement, which I know you would admire and immediately copy.

Besides these, the same firm, who have made for Princess Maud for many years, as well as for her sister and mother, have provided morning gowns in sprigged muslin and fine flannel, gracefully trimmed and beautifully finished, besides a quantity of delicate lingerie, much of which is marked with a double "M," interlaced, and a Royal crown. The Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund has also embroidered some very fine handkerchiefs of Irish lawn for Princess Maud in the same way, and they have made for her a lovely lace collar as well.

Madame Duboc, of Clifford-street, Bond-street, is contributing two most charming tea-gowns to the trousseau. One is in yellow moire velours made with an embroidery of silver sequins on the shoulders and down the centre of the back in a tapering line fitting closely to the figure, the moire flowing out from the yoke on either side of it. The full sleeves have a cascade of deep cream-coloured lace falling over them. A white satin belt surrounds the waist, left visible by the outward flow of the pleats. The other tea-gown is pink flowered silk crêpe made over cream-coloured glacé silk, with yellowish lace arranged in rippling cascades about the neck and shoulders. The back is en Watteau, and there is a deep collar of the cream-coloured silk bordered with the yellowish lace and a ruff of the same. Of several ruffles one is in écru Valenciennes, another in mauve chiffon with laburnum flowers, and a third is cream-colour with mauve poppies. Yet another is black with mauve roses.

A very pretty ruffle in pale pink silk poppy petals is provided by Graham & Son, Mount-street, who also have made morning gowns in pale tones of silk in a texture that recalls the crinkling of cream on a deep milk pan. One of these, in pale blue, is bordered all round with a ruche of blue marabout feather. A wide-shaped belt of blue moire finishes it at the waist. This firm is supplying very dainty jackets in a mixture of silk and wool of English make. One or two are white, others in pale tints, and all are trimmed with lace in varied ways, the full sleeves drawn in at the wrists with ribbons to match the silk. Silk petticoats in cream, pink, or blue are flounced and trimmed with torchon or Valenciennes.

Busvine has made the riding-habits, which are of the length now customary, just covering the stirrup foot. The skirts are plain, of course, and the jackets for the most part fit tightly to the pretty little figure, the well-

Cowes Regatta.—A Redfern Gown being essentially a part of the wardrobe of every yachtswoman, Messrs. Redfern invite inspection of their 1896 display.—Now on view at 26, Conduit-street, London, W.

Ladies' Shirts, Cycling Blouses, Gloves, Ties, Fans, Hosiery, and Leather Articles. After-season Sale. This day and following days. At greatly reduced prices.—T. L. Mumford, 152, Regent-st., W.

known skill of this king of cloth appearing in their perfect cut. The waistcoats are chiefly made of fancy drill, one with a small, neat pattern in blue, another in pink, and so on. A covert coat has strapped seams, and, though tight at the back, is straight in front, and has a velvet collar.

We noticed, in looking at the riding-boots supplied to the trousseau by Atloff & Norman, of Bond-street, that a plug is introduced in front of the heel to prevent the stirrup from slipping. Blocks at the ankle and above it prevent the stirrup leather from galling the flesh. Very high, strong boots are provided for shooting and climbing. For cycling the goloshes are patent leather with blue cloth tops, or brown goloshes with stockinette tops made very high, and resembling gaiters. For evening wear are the daintiest possible shoes of gold or silver kid bronze, embroidered with iridescent sequins, blue satin worked in steel, white satin embroiderd in silver, or in pearls and gold sequins, and satin shoes to match all the evening gowns.

Redfern has made a number of very sweet gowns for the trousseau. A greyish-blue canvas, lined with pink and blue shot chené silk has revers and a wide, folded belt of black satin, the former being edged with cream-coloured lace. There is a vest of pale blue and white striped chené silk flowered over with small pink blossoms. Another very chic dress is in green shot glacé with a pin-spot in black. A vest of rich gold brocade is introduced, and the tight sleeves are rucked black chiffon over green. Three tabs of the silk fall over each shoulder, edged with green crystal trimming, and a similar trimming finishes the sides of the bodice where they touch the vest. A deep, black satin belt finishes this smart gown at the waist.

A navy serge coat and skirt are made with a pale pink lawn fancy shirt trimmed on the collar and down the front with Valenciennes. The navy blue Eton coat is made with white cloth revers, and is such a lovely cut, clinging closely in to the figure.

We admired very much another of the trousseau gowns in a summer tweed, light of texture and very cool in colouring, being a mixture of faint blue and white. It was made up in skirt and open coat, with a full basque at the back; and to be worn with it were several shirts and blouses. A cape of fawn cloth, lined with shot blue and green and rose striped silk, had round the edge at regular intervals ornamental tabs of blue velvet, over which the fawn cloth was cut away. Similar tabs trimmed the front and the collar, which was high, but cut in one with the cape itself. Another cape was in black cloth trimmed with lines of gimp down the front and on the seams, and made with a very high collar, spreading out in a point at either side of the chin.

If you want something peculiarly smart and dainty, and yet workmanlike, in yachting gowns, so as to be in readiness for Cowes, come up to town and go to look in at Redfern's in Conduit-street and see the frocks he has made for a new play. They are all composed on the same theme, the details being infinitely varied. Some have blue serge zouaves over white skirts, while others are chiefly blue with relief of white braid, and all look so smart and neat as to be most tempting.

Sir John Hutton's handsome daughter, Winifred, had a sweetly-pretty wedding on Monday afternoon at the parish church of St. Marylebone, which was beautifully decorated with palms, flowers, and tropical plants. The bridegroom was Dr. Alexander Carson-Smyth, and the bride's brother was best man. There were four groomsmen besides, an old and sensible fashion revived, and one that should be dear to the heart of bridesmaids, so often did it lead to other marriages in the days when it was practised, to judge from the novels of the period. Two small train-bearers were picturesque in white satin sacques and Dutch bonnets to match.

The cheap sales *are* cheap this year. I have never seen anything like it. Redmayne has some wonderful brocades, suèdes, coloured silks, glacés, brocaded satins, chiné silks and satins, foulards, taffetas, and black silks at very low prices, and among them some perfectly lovely "Chameleon" peau de soie, a delicious material shot in three colours, which ought to be reserved for the wear of youth and beauty. Their grass lawns, plain and otherwise, are being offered at very low prices. Cloaks, capes, coats, and pelisses are being sold at half price. They are this season's models, so that they are perfectly fresh and up-to-date, a point in which Redmayne's particularly excel, notwithstanding their "popular prices." I admired their coloured batiste dressing-gowns, pale mauve, blue, or pink, trimmed with black embroidery, and only 25s. each. In the costume department there are abundant bargains, light glacé silk costume skirts being very much reduced, and black satin dress skirts being sold at a little over half their ordinary price.

You should have seen the crowd round the blouse department, like flies on one of those dreadful "catch-'em-alive-ohs." Shirts and fronts, contiguous, were also surrounded, and sunshades, marked down, shared in the boom. With our usual prudence and foresight we had sent for a catalogue of the sale beforehand, had carefully studied it, and marked what we wanted; and, armed with it, found our way to the various departments without loss of time. We secured some dress-lengths of shot alpaca and fancy grenadines on highly advantageous terms, and came away well pleased with ourselves.

So your friend wants to know where he can have corsets made. I can't tell him, I am sorry to say. Surely he knows some man who wears them and from whom he can procure the necessary information. But perhaps he would not like to ask questions on the subject. Perhaps his corset-wearing acquaintance would deny the soft impeachment. Shall I ask Esmeralda for an address for him? Is he very anxious? If so, wire me, and I will write "haste, post-haste" to relieve his mind on so important a subject.

The Theatrical Bazaar at Queen's Hall was great fun. There were so many pretty faces, lovely figures, and sweet voices that a high charge ought to have been made for mere admission. The object is to found an orphanage for the children of actors. Mrs. C. L. Carson, of whose good works in the cause of charity I have often written you in connection with the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, is one of the founders, and Mrs. Clement Scott is the other. The stalls were really pretty, and were free from the hackneyed sameness of which one is so tired at ordinary bazaars. At a pale pink tent in the centre stood Mrs. Bancroft, looking charming in black moire with creamy lace about the shoulders, and a bonnet with shaded roses in it. Mr. Lionel Brough was most energetic in the sale of some small articles in a basket. I could not see, or have forgotten, what they were. He looked immensely serious over it. Miss Fanny Brough, in a blue satin skirt, a green chené silk blouse, and a blue and green hat, was blithe and brisk, as is her wont. Mrs. Carson wore a very becoming arrangement of white and black. Blue-eyed Miss Boucicault complained that some of the people she asked to have a dip in her lucky bag were cross with her. I can't think how they could have been. Everybody wanted to stare at Trilby, who looked most charming in a white muslin, spotted with blue, and a hat with roses in it. A sort of chiton in fawn cloth fell over the shoulders. Mrs. Bernard Beere, fragile of aspect after her long illness, was picturesque in a Worth gown of black satin or moire, with a graceful arrangement of lace about the bodice, and a hat with many snowy plumes. Miss Violet Vanbrugh wore white, her hat garlanded with green poppies, and trimmed with white feathers. Miss Esmé and Miss Vere Beringer made a very striking duet as they went about together, one in

Only seven days now remain of Madame KATE REILY'S Sale, 11 & 12, Dover-street. All the remaining Gowns and Mantles have been still further reduced, and are all this season's models.

SKATING. RIDING. CYCLING.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is produced by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Stays built by Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, London, W.

white, the other in yellow. How much prettier are pretty women off the stage than on!

Miss Olga Nethersole was most sumptuously attired in a dinner-gown of pleated yellow crêpe and white satin, cut square at the neck, and revealing pearls and diamonds. Her immense hat was crowned with many ostrich plumes. Mrs. Charles Compton, her soft dark eyes animated by the light of active benevolence, had a most amusing arrangement, consisting of a plank, down which dolls turned head over heels. Their faces were made to represent Mr. Irving and Mr. Toole.

There was a feeling of hilarity in the air. Every one looked blithe and gay; and with it all there was plenty of work done for the orphanage.

And now to turn to matters culinary. If you try these "Croustades à la Marinière," I am sure you will agree that they are a charming little entrée. First make the croustade cases in this way:—

Mix 2 oz. of flour with the yolk of an egg, a pinch of salt, and sufficient cold water to make a smooth, elastic paste, roll it out very thin, cut it into rounds with a round cutter, and with them line a dozen small Madéline moulds, using a wedge of the trimmings of paste to press them into shape, fill the cups with fine tapioca that is mixed with a little lard, and bake them a nice golden colour. Turn out the moulds very carefully, and free the cases from the filling. Now blanch the soft roes of four or five mackerel by boiling them for ten minutes in salted boiling water, drain them carefully on a cloth, cut them in even dice-shaped pieces and put them into a little good white sauce that is mixed with a little cream, the yolk of an egg, a dessertspoonful of chopped parsley, a little lemon juice, and a little salt and pepper. Fill the croustades with the prepared roes, put hard-boiled yolk of egg that is passed through a wire sieve on the top, dish them on a napkin, and garnish with fried parsley.

If you have an "ice bombe" mould, try this recipe:—

Pack the bottom of the mould in well mixed ice and salt, then line both halves of the mould with vanilla ice cream and fill the centre with frozen bananas. Put a strip of buttered paper round the join, and imbed the mould in ice and salt for two hours. For the vanilla ice, put the yolks of 4 eggs into a basin, pour on half a pint of boiling milk, in which has been dissolved 4 oz. of sugar, stir on the stove in a stewpan until thick, then whisk until cold; strain into a basin, flavour with essence of vanilla, and mix it with a gill of whipped cream. For the banana mixture, make a syrup with 8 oz. of loaf sugar and half a pint of water; when it is sufficiently boiled, strain, add the juice of an orange and 6 ripe bananas; cut into slices with a silver knife, put them into the freezing machine and turn slowly until nearly frozen, then stir in a gill and a half of whipped cream and a dessertspoonful of maraschino or curaçao, turn the machine again until the fruit is frozen to a creamy consistency, but not a solid mass.

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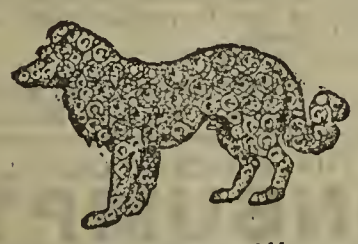

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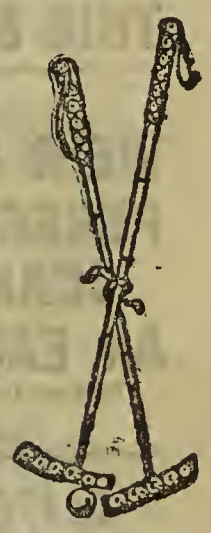

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From *The Lancet*, May 23rd, 1896.

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Sanitation Certified.

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Delightful position, fronting the sea.
Terms most moderate.

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F. MOERSCHELL.

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BELGRAVIA, LONDON, S.W.
Well known for Wedding Breakfasts and Dinner Parties.
TABLE D'HÔTE OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS.
Covered Communication to three Railway Stations.
The only Terminus Hotel of the Brighton Railway Company in London.
Pure Water from an Artesian Well on the premises.
Electric Light throughout. Address, MANAGER.

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THE
LANGHAM HOTEL,
PORTLAND-PLACE, LONDON, W.
Situated in the most fashionable, convenient, and healthy locality. Artesian Well Water. Electric Light throughout. Moderate Tariff.
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VICTORIA STREET, S.W.
(Quite close to Victoria Station.)
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FIRST-CLASS CUISINE. CHOICE WINES.
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Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
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THE "DIRECT" ROUTE.
TO EAST COAST WATERING PLACES.
ACCELERATED TRAIN SERVICE, JULY, 1896.
From LONDON (KING'S CROSS).

WEEK-DAYS.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
London (King's Cross) .....dep.	5 15	7 15	8 45	9 45	10 0	10 15	A 10 25	10 35	11 20	11 45
Sheringham .....arr.	10 11	1 0	...	...	...	2 27	Scarboro' Express.	...	...	...
Cromer (Beach) ... ,,	10 20	1 10	...	...	...	2 35		...	...	...
Skegness ..... ,,	9 29	11 21	1 15	...	...	...		...	...	...
Ilkley ..... ,,	10 22	12 42	...	2 8	...	...		3 43	...	...
Harrogate ..... ,,	10 54	1 0	...	2 22	...	3 33		4 28	...	...
Scarboro' ..... ,,	11 20	...	...	...	2 55	...	3 45	4 50	4 50	6 0
Whitby ..... ,,	12 17	...	...	...	4 35	†	4 35	6 4	6 4	...
Filey ..... ,,	11 38	3 11	3 30	3 54	...		3 54	5 0	5 4	6 23
Bridlington ..... ,,	11 2	2 28	2 54	3 11	...	...	3 28	4 22	5 20	5 53
Saltburn ..... ,,	12 22	...	...	...	4 5	...	A	5 30	5 20	8 7

WEEK-DAYS.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
London (King's Cross)...dep.	12 30	12 40	1 30	2 20	3 0	3 20	4 15	5 45	11 30	
Sheringham .....arr.	...	4 52	...	...	7 9	...	...	...	...	
Cromer (Beach) ..... ,,	...	5 0	...	...	7 15	...	...	...	...	
Skegness ..... ,,	4 13	†	...	...	†	...	7 25	9 40	a.m.	
Ilkley ..... ,,	...		6 3	...		8 57	...	11 5	8 48	
Harrogate ..... ,,	...		6 20	7 32		8 40	...	10 53	5 50	
Scarboro'..... ,,	...	Cromer Express.	6 55	7 10	Cromer Express.	9 45	...	11 40	5 35	
Whitby ..... ,,	...		...	8 54		10 24	...	...	6 20	
Filey..... ,,	...		7 31	8 25		10 25	...	...	6B42	
Bridlington ..... ,,	...		6 44	8 53		9 14	...	...	7B19	
Saltburn ..... ,,	...	...	...	8 58		11 7	...	...	6C48	

† Through carriages to Sheringham and Cromer by these trains.
A Will run from July 11th to September 26th.
B Not to Filey and Bridlington on Saturday nights.
C Arrives Saltburn 8.6 a.m. Sundays.

Illustrated tourist guides and farmhouse and country lodging lists can be had on application at Great Northern Stations and Receiving Offices, or to the Superintendent of the Line, King's Cross Station.
July 1896. HENRY OAKLEY, General Manager.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—HENLEY REGATTA.

REDUCED FARES. On JULY 8 and 9 the Ordinary Train Service between PADDINGTON STATION and HENLEY will be SUSPENDED, and the following will be the Service:—

From PADDINGTON to HENLEY at 6.30 a.m., 7.40, 8.45, 9.5, 9.17, 9.53, 10.5, 10.15, 10.22, 10.34, 10.50, 11.10, 11.28, 11.50 a.m., 12.40, 1.43, 2.30, 6.30, and 8.20 p.m.

From HENLEY to PADDINGTON at 7.0 a.m., 8.5, 8.45, 9.35 a.m., 2.15, 3.40, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.5, 6.30, 6.40, 6.55, 7.15, 7.50, 8.15, 8.30, 9.5, 10.0, *10.10, 10.30, and *10.40 p.m. *On July 9 only.

On July 10 and 13 THROUGH SPECIAL TRAINS will leave Henley at 8.45 a.m. and 3.0 p.m. for Paddington, and at 10.33 a.m. and 12.10 p.m. for Maidenhead, Slough, Windsor, and Paddington.

RETURN FARES.—First Class, 10s. 6d.; Second Class, 6s. 6d.; Third Class, by all trains up to the 9.17 a.m. ex Paddington, 3s. 6d.; after 9.17 a.m., 5s.
HY. LAMBERT, General Manager.

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Fares from 12 Guineas, including first-class table.
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For the NORWAY FIORDS.
11th July, for 15 days.
For NORWAY FIORDS, VADSO (for Solar Eclipse), and SPITZBERGEN,
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At the most northerly point of this Cruise the sun will be above the horizon at midnight.
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6 ,,	6	18	6
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3 ,,	4	4	0
4 ,,	5	10	0
6 ,,	9	9	0
8 ,,	12	12	0

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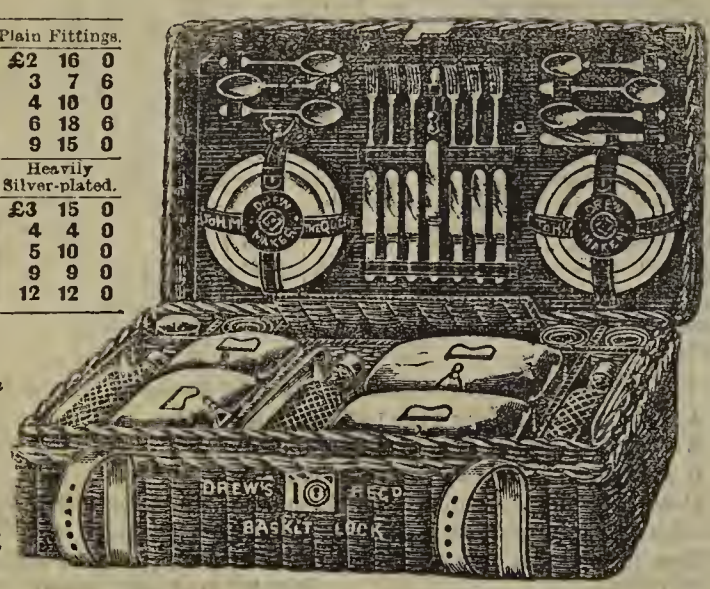

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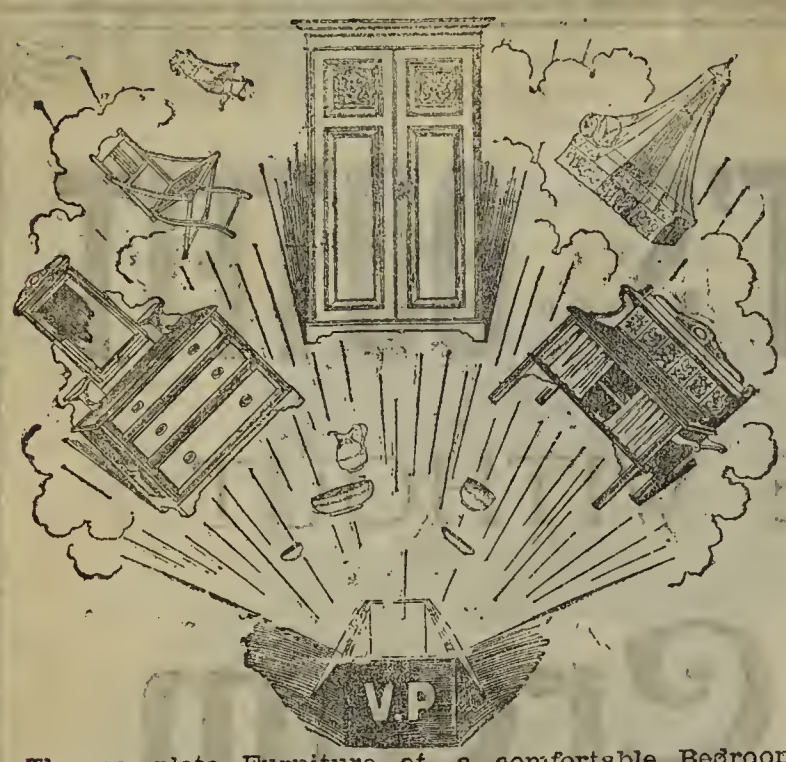

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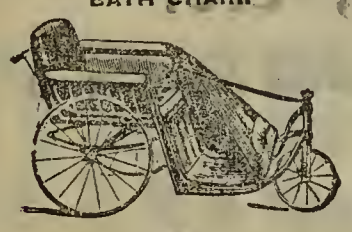

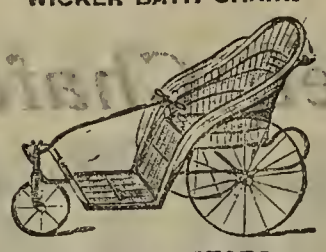

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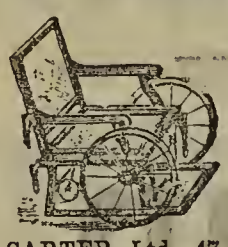

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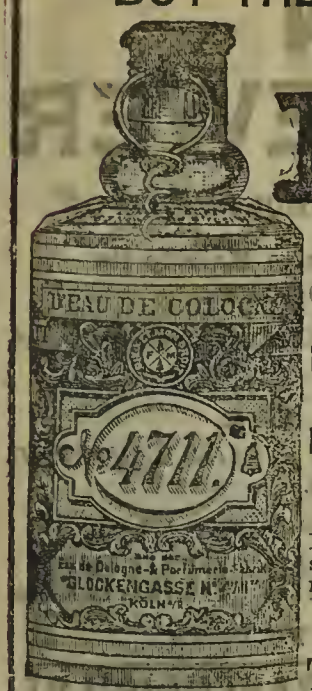

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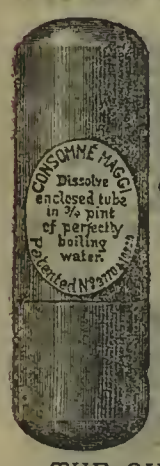

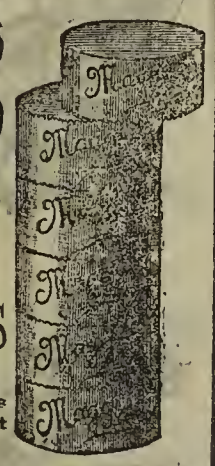

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OUR corpulent readers will be glad to learn how to positively lose two stone in about a month with the greatest possible benefit in health, strength, and muscle by a comparatively new system. It is a singular paradox that the patient, returning quickly to healthy state, with increased activity of brain, digestive, and other organs, naturally requires more food than hitherto, yet, notwithstanding this, he absolutely loses in weight one or two pounds daily, as the weighing machine will prove. Thus there is no suggestion of starvation. It is an absolute success, and the author, who has devoted years of study to the subject, absolutely guarantees a noticable reduction within twenty-four hours of commencing the treatment. This is different with other diseases, for the patient in some cases may go for weeks without being able to test whether the Physician has rightly treated him, and may have derived no real or apparent improvement in health. Here, we repeat, the author guarantees it in twenty-four hours, the scale to be the unerring judge. The treatment aims at the actual rout of the disease, so that the superfluous fat does not return when discontinuing the treatment. It is perfectly harmless. We advise our readers to call the attention of stout friends to this, because, sincerely, we think they ought to know. For this information, we may say that on sending three penny stamps, a book, "Corpulency and the Cure," 256 pages, containing a reprint of press notices from some hundreds of Medical and other journals (British and Foreign), and other interesting particulars, including the "recipe," can be had from a Mr. F. C. Russell, Woburn House, Store-street, Bedford-square, London, W.C.—Extract from *The Belfast News Letter.*

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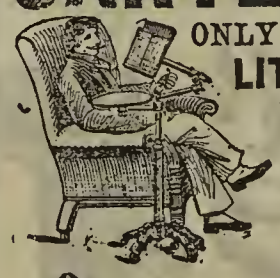

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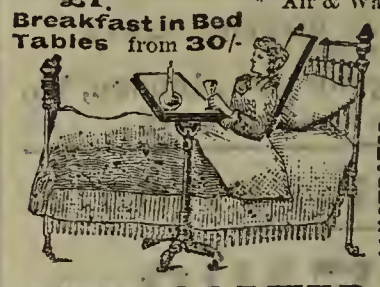

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" " 1896 .. 120,000 "

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CRIPPLE CREEK QUOTED STOCKS.
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" Dec. 28th, " " " $10,153,625
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The List of Subscriptions will be opened on Thursday, 9th July, and close at or before 4 o'clock on Friday, 10th July, 1896.

THE RIVER PLATE ELECTRIC LIGHT & TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Authorised Share Capital, £150,000, in 30,000 6 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, and entitled to priority in Capital; and £150,000, in 30,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each.

Issue of £125,000 5 per Cent. (part of a total authorised issue of £150,000) First Debenture Stock at 97½, redeemable by the Company at Six Months' Notice at 107½.

Issue price £97 10s. payable as follows:—

£ 5	per Cent.	on Application.
£20	,,	,, Allotment.
£40	,,	,, 30th September, 1896.
£32 10/-	,,	,, 31st December, 1896.
£97 10/-		

Prepayments will be accepted on Allotment under discount at the rate of Two per Cent. per annum.

PROSPECTUS.

The River Plate Trust, Loan and Agency Company, Limited, 52, Moorgate-street, E.C., are authorised by the Company to offer the above-mentioned Debenture Stock for subscription.

The interest will be payable half-yearly, on 1st January and 1st July in each year. Scrip Certificates to bearer will be issued against Bankers' Receipts and Allotment Letters, to be exchanged on completion of all payments for the Certificates of the Debenture Stock.

The Debenture Stock will form a first charge on the whole of the Company's Stations and property, and will be secured by a Trust Deed to be executed by the Company in favour of the River Plate Trust, Loan and Agency Company, Limited, as Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders.

Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full, and if a smaller amount of Debenture Stock than that applied for is allotted, the balance of the deposit will go towards the amount payable on allotment.

Default in payment of any instalment will render the allotment liable to cancellation, and previous payments to forfeiture.

The Company's Electric Lighting Stations, already in operation, are in the cities of La Plata (the Capital of the Province of Buenos Aires), and Rosario, the principal commercial port of the Province of Santa Fé. A well-equipped station is in course of construction by the Company in the City of Tucuman, the Capital of the Province of that name, and the centre of the great sugar industry of the country. This Station is now nearly completed.

Each of these three stations undertakes the supply both for the public service and the house-to-house lighting.

The further Capital raised by the present issue is chiefly for the purpose of carrying out the erection of a Station in Buenos Aires, for which the requisite authorisation has been obtained. The population of Buenos Aires is over 600,000, and by reason of its importance and of its climate it is a city peculiarly suitable for the Electric Light.

The present Company is the successor of a pioneer Company, the River Plate Electricity Company, Ltd., whose expenditure up to 31st December last in establishing the business was £205,284. 11s. 2d., which includes preliminary expenditure and interest, less profits earned; but the greater part of this outlay represents the land, buildings, mains, and apparatus of the existing Stations.

The Lighting Receipts of the two Stations already at work have increased from £14,816 11s. in 1892 to £23,911 14s. 7d. in 1895, and the gross profit thereon from £3,928 16s. 2d. to £11,124 8s. 11d., notwithstanding the fact that these years have been perhaps the most trying ever experienced in the River Plate for the classes who constitute the customers for Electric Light.

The net revenue of the pioneer Company last year—after providing for all general expenses, which bear heavily upon a business in its first development—was £10,050 17s. 2d. Since the close of these accounts, further important Contracts have been obtained, which will, it is estimated, bring the net Revenue of the present Company up to £15,000 or £16,000 (including that from the Tucuman Station) so soon as the plant now in course of shipment and erection is in operation. These figures do not include provision for depreciation, which is estimated at £3,000.

The present revenues acquired and arranged for may, therefore, be put at £12,000 net, and that of the Buenos Aires Station at not less than the same amount. The net results of the four Stations would thus not fall short of £24,000, without counting on anything from Tramway Traction, for which there is a large field in Buenos Aires alone.

The interest of the Debenture Stock being £6,250, it follows that there will be ample margin of security.

The price to which the Securities (especially the Debentures) of Electric Supply Companies in English cities has now advanced, indicates that these have become a favourite investment with the British public.

The foregoing particulars are furnished by the Company, and certified by the Company's Officials.

Copies of the following documents can be seen on application at the Office of Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C., namely:—1. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company. 2. The form of Trust Deed in favour of the River Plate Trust, Loan and Agency Company, Limited, as Trustee for the Debenture Stockholders.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the River Plate Trust, Loan and Agency Company, Limited, 52, Moorgate-street, E.C.; the Brokers, Messrs. Snell & Swaffield, 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C.; and the Solicitors, Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.

London, 7th July, 1896.

The following are the particulars of the Company's Board and Officials:—

DIRECTORS.

J. H. Duncan, Esq., Director Monte Video Water Works Company, Limited.
Thos. Farrell, Esq., Director River Plate Trust Loan and Agency Company, Limited.
C. J. Gunther, Esq., Chairman of Liebig's Extract of Meat Co., Limited.
E. J. Halsey, Esq., J.P., Director of The City of Santos Improvements Co.
Francis Ince, Esq., of Messrs. Ince, Colt & Ince, Solicitors, London.
W. R. Cassels, Esq., Managing Director in the River Plate.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

Messrs. Kincaid, Waller & Manville, 29, Great George-street, Westminster.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Snell & Swaffield, 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., Lombard-street, E.C.; and
The London and River Plate Bank, London and Buenos Aires.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—T. S. Hamilton, Esq., 78, Coleman-street, E.C.

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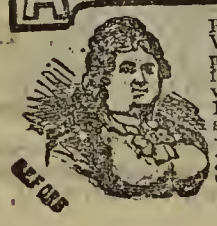

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CHILIAN FIVE PER CENT. LOAN
OF
£4,000,000 NOMINAL CAPITAL.

Issued in accordance with the Laws promulgated on the 20th of December, 1895, and on the 8th of June, 1896, for the completion and equipment of the Railways authorised by the law of the 20th of January, 1888, also for the works at the port of Talcahuano, for the cable to Punta Arenas, and for such other Public Works as may be sanctioned by Special Laws. The Treasury Bills for £2,000,000 issued in February, 1896, in anticipation of the present operation, are to be repaid out of the proceeds of the said Loan.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILI having authorised the issue of the above Loan, Messrs. N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS will receive subscriptions at their Office.

The Bonds will be to bearer in sums of £1,000, £500, and £100 each, with coupons for interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, on the 1st of January and on the 1st of July, in London in pounds sterling; and in Santiago, Paris, Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, and Brussels, at the Exchange of the day.

Scrip will be issued, with a coupon due on the 1st of January, 1897, for £2. 10s. per cent. representing the first dividend.

The price of issue is £95. 10s. for every £100 nominal capital, payable as follows:—

£5	on Application.	
£20	,, Allotment.	
£25	,, the 18th of August, 1896.	
£25	,, the 15th of September, 1896.	
£20. 10s.	,, the 16th of October, 1896.	
£95. 10s.		

Payment in full may be made under discount at the rate of Two per cent. per annum, on any Tuesday or Friday after the Scrip has been issued.

Allottees will have the option of paying the Instalments or of paying in full, either in Cash, or in Chilian Government Treasury Bills of the Issue of February, 1896, subject to discount at the rate of Two per cent. per annum.

The Loan will be redeemed by an accumulative Sinking Fund of one-half per cent. per annum, to be applied annually by purchase of Bonds when the price is under par, and when at or above par by drawings. The redemption of the Bonds, by means of the Sinking Fund, will commence in July, 1897, but the Government reserves to itself the right to redeem the whole or any portion of the Loan at any time, on giving six months' notice.

Subscription Lists will be opened on WEDNESDAY, the 8th of JULY, and closed at or before Four o'clock on the same day.

Application must be made in the annexed form, and accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent. on the amount applied for. If the allotment should not require the whole deposit, the surplus will be returned; and if the deposit be insufficient for the first Instalment on the amount allotted the balance required must be paid forthwith.

In case of no allotment being made, the deposit of the applicant will be returned.

Failure to pay any of the instalments, when due, will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

The Script, after payment of the last instalment, will be exchanged for the Bonds as soon as they are ready for delivery.

Subscription Lists will also be opened in Hamburg, Amsterdam, Brussels, and Antwerp.

New Court, July 6th, 1896.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

CHILIAN FIVE PER CENT. LOAN
OF
£4,000,000 NOMINAL CAPITAL.

To Messrs. N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS,

GENTLEMEN,

.....request that you will allot to.....£..... say.....Pounds Nominal Capital of the above Loan, on which.....enclose the required deposit of 5 per cent. or £.....and.....agree to accept that amount or any less sum that may be allotted to.....and to pay the further sums due in respect of such allotment, according to the conditions of your Prospectus of the 6th of July, 1896.

.....remain,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

Name (at length).....

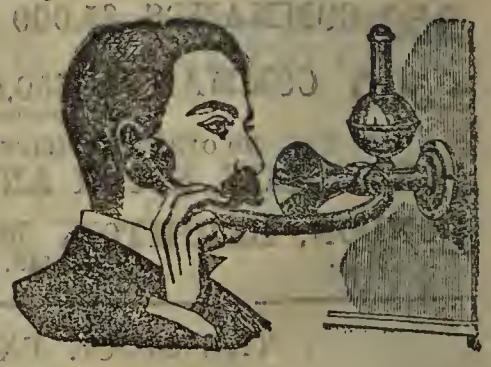
Address .....

.....

July, 1896.

WHAT IS IT?

Why, an ATTACHMENT TO A SPEAKING-TUBE by means of which you can carry on a sustained conversation and need only have one instrument for 6 or 8 Tubes.



Of all Speaking Tube Fitters or THE HOMACOUSTIC SPEAKING TUBE CO. Show Rooms:—6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W

THE

Homacoustic Speaking Tube Co.'s

Show Rooms:

6, BRUTON ST., NEW BOND ST., W.

The Subscription List will close this day (Thursday) for both Town and Country.

The Norman Proprietary Gold Mines

WAITEKAURI (UPPER THAMES) DISTRICT, NEW ZEALAND. LIMITED.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL — — £75,000,

In 75,000 Shares of £1 each, of which

50,000 Shares are now offered for Subscription at par,

20,000 being Reserved for Working Capital.

Payable 2s. 6d. on application, 7s. 6d. on allotment, and the balance in calls of 5s. each at intervals of one month.

Upwards of 10,000 Shares of the present issue having already been subscribed by the Directors and their friends, allotment will therefore take place immediately on the closing of the List.

DIRECTORS.

Sir Edward Lee, 14, Waterloo-place, St. James', London, W.
Robert Wight, Esq., J.P., Merchant, Leith, N.B.
George A. Harrison, Esq., Mayor of Berwick-upon-Tweed.
A. Cotterell Tupp, Esq., I.C.S., F.S.S., 17, Devonshire-terrace, Hyde Park, W.
*William Brunton, Esq., Merchant, Leith, N.B.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

ADVISORY BOARD IN NEW ZEALAND.

W. H. Churton, Esq., William Coleman, Esq., } of Auckland, New Zealand.

BANKERS.

The National Bank of New Zealand, 15, Moorgate-street, London, E.C., and their Agents in Scotland; The National Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Sutton, Ommanney & Rendall, 3 and 4, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Laing & Cruickshank, 3, Drapers'-gardens, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Carnaby Harrower & Co., Chartered Accountants, College Hill Chambers, Cannon-street, E.C.

SECRETARY and OFFICES (*pro tem.*).

Mr. Arthur Hebden, Blomfield House, London Wall, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire three special Mining Leases in the Waitekauri (Upper Thames) Mining District, New Zealand. The Leases are known respectively as the Edwin Norman (30 acres), the Edwin Norman No. 2 (30 acres), and the Edwin Norman Extended (29 acres 0 roods 26 poles). The total area of the united leases is 89 acres 0 roods 26 poles, and they are situated on the central portion of the well-known auriferous belt extending between Waitekauri and Karangahake. The property is about 40 miles from the capital, Auckland, and a few miles from a Railway Station.

The Leases are located almost midway between the well-known Golden Cross Mines, belonging to the Waitekauri Gold Mining Company, and the equally rich Crown and Woodstock United Leases, near Karangahake. There is little doubt that the wide and rich reefs which have been opened up in the tunnels of various properties North and South, also extend throughout the Edwin Norman Leases.

Mr. J. McCombie, M.E., Mining Manager of the Woodstock United Gold Mining Company (one of the original prospectors of the well-known Waitekauri Mine), has reported favourably on this and the adjacent properties. The Report of Mr. W. J. Hollis, a First Class Certificated Mine Manager and Manager of the Sovereign Gold Mines, who has been acquainted with the properties for eighteen years, is also appended. Both these experts are thoroughly practical men, giving an opinion upon a district with which they have been associated for a long period.

The hilly and precipitous character of the country is favourable for economic mining. The area of the properties is extensive enough to furnish occupation for a very large crushing plant, or, if sub-divided, for several mining companies. The Directors have decided to give this proposal of sub-division early consideration, and thus afford shareholders in the present Company prospects of obtaining the very large profits which always accrue to a parent company.

The report of Mr. Hollis proves that a number of strong lodes traverse the Leases in a north-west and south-east direction, having a westerly dip, and probably extending throughout the entire length of the properties. These Lodes vary in thickness from eighteen inches to fifteen feet. Mr. Hollis refers to one as being upwards of 26 feet wide, which is paralleled by another running 20 feet in width some 10 chains distant. Four other reefs running 1½ feet, 2½ feet, 2½ feet, and 4 feet in width, have been traced by the outcrops, so that these six ore bodies alone will give lode matter upwards of 56½ feet in width and about 700 feet of "backs" as soon as a tunnel is completed.

The valley which partially bounds the Edwin Norman leases, furnishes unusually advantageous facilities for ensuring a cheap and rapid development of the property as soon as the first tunnel has exactly located the position of the various lodes. It is estimated that taking only the lodes which have already been discovered and will then be "in sight" above the tunnel, the total ore reserves of the mines will be sufficient to keep a 50-stamp battery employed for many years.

In the Golden Cross the average value approximates very closely £6 per ton, and several parcels of ore obtained from tunnels run on the extension of these lodes, only some 60 chains north from the Edwin Norman boundary, yielded from £4 to £10 per ton. The practically undisturbed character of the district is fair ground for the inference that the ore on these mines will prove equally rich. The 10 stamps at work on the Waitekauri crushed 136 tons during March for 676 ounces of bullion, or an average of 4 oz. 18 dwt. 4 gr. of bullion per ton. It is believed that the value of the reefs on the Edwin Norman leases will prove as rich as other mines in this district.

Dr. August Scheidel, Ph.D., General Agent and Consulting Engineer to the New Zealand Mines Trust, thus refers to the physical and economic features of the Waitekauri and Karangahake Gold Belt on which the Edwin Norman is situated:—"The properties are located on the spurs branching from the main chain of mountains which runs from north to south on the middle line of the Coromandel Peninsula. These ranges are covered with a dense forest, and offer many facilities for mining; they give large backs on the reefs at short driving distance, and provide excellent timber for mining and construction work, as well as firewood and water power for mining and milling.

"The geological formation is that of the Hauraki Goldfields generally, and consists of solid andesites, and of andesites in a more or less advanced state of decomposition, in which are embedded quartz lodes of strong compact formation. The solidity and the undisturbed character of these distinguishes them favourably from the reefs of the more northern part of the Peninsula, and promises well for their continuance and permanency. The quartz, as far as known, is free, or almost free, from base admixtures; the gold is free but mostly exceedingly fine, and chemical methods, such as the cyanide process, have to be applied to save a high percentage."

"Stewart R. Stewart, Esq., the well-known mining agent at Waihi, writing from Auckland on the 22nd February, 1896, refers in a private letter to the mine in the following very satisfactory terms:—"Knowing the Waitekauri district so well as I do, I can vouch for the *bona fides* of the Edwin Norman, and am quite certain of its turning out a very valuable property. In the face of the complete *data* regarding the mine in your possession, it is not necessary that I should say anything further, except that as a sound investment, I know few I should prefer before it."

W. Hutchinson, Esq., the Mining Engineer of the New Zealand Crown Mines, thus refers to the Edwin Norman leases, under date of September 4th, 1895:—"I am pleased to say you have every facility both for water power and battery close to the mine, and no difficulty for a tramway. I was also speaking to one or two friends of mine who know the mine well, and they think a lot of it, as you have the same run of gold as in the Golden Cross. Since you left here there has been another big rush on the goldfields, every available piece of ground between Karangahake, Owarahai, Waitekauri, and Waihi, and away over past Teawah has been pegged out, and the Government has extended the goldfields boundary to nearly double the size."

From the foregoing statements it will be seen that the working facilities at the Edwin Norman are exceedingly good and will enable machinery and mining plant to be easily transported to the claims. A large supply of timber exists on the property for mining and other purposes, and will afford an ample supply of fuel. Another economic factor of great value for the development of this property is the large amount of water which is obtainable quite close to the claims, and a special water claim has been secured on Mangakari Creek, which skirts the boundaries of the leases.

It is proposed to reserve 20,000 shares for working capital, although the Directors are advised, in view of the favourable mining conditions existing on the property, as well as the ample power available, that a lower sum will be quite sufficient to put the mine in a high state of development. The requirements for the working capital include:—

A low level tunnel and air shaft,
Tramway,
Trucks and equipment,
Mining tools,
30 stamp mill, cyanide and assay plant,
Water race and turbines,
Manager's house and smithy,

and it is estimated that the cost of these will not exceed £12,000.

With a plant of this character, working only 300 days in the year, the total crushings would amount to 36,000 tons per annum. On this basis, the estimated value of the ore, after deducting working expenses, depreciation and management charges, should leave a handsome profit for the shareholders.

The purchase price has been fixed at £55,000, payable as to £25,000 in fully-paid Shares, and the balance in cash or fully-paid Shares at the option of the Directors. Mr. Brunton will also pay all expenses up to the first allotment of Shares, including the transfer of the property, with the exception of transfer duty and fees.

The following contract has been entered into, namely, an agreement dated the Second day of July, 1896, between A. B. Millar, E. C. Martin, C. J. Saunderson and W. Campbell, by their attorney of the one part, and W. Brunton of the other part, and the Company will on its incorporation enter into an agreement between the said A. B. Millar, E. C. Martin, C. J. Saunderson, and W. Campbell, by their attorney of the first part, the said W. Brunton of the second part, and the Norman Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited, of the third part. Besides the above-mentioned, there are other contracts to which the Company is not a party, which may be contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants can have further information as to these contracts, but in any case will be considered to have had, for all purposes, full notice of such contracts, and to have waived any fuller compliance with the said Section in reference thereto.

Mr. Brunton, being one of the Vendors, is interested in the above contract, and will not join the Board until after allotment.

The reports, plan, and contract, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, may be seen at the office of the Company's Solicitors.

Application for shares should be made on the form accompanying prospectus, and sent, with amount payable on application, to the Company's Bankers.

It is intended to apply for a Stock Exchange Settlement in due course.

If no allotment be made, the deposit will be returned in full, and if the Shares allotted be less than the number applied for, the surplus of the deposit will be appropriated towards the amount due on allotment, and the balance (if any) returned.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the offices of the Company and from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers.

London, July, 1896.

BUY FROM THE GROWER.

TEA MERCHANT
BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

TO HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN.

LIPTON'S DELICIOUS TEAS

HAVE THE LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD.

NO HIGHER PRICE. PER 1/7 LB. NO HIGHER PRICE.

APPRECIATED EVERYWHERE FOR THEIR DELICATE FLAVOUR AND EXQUISITE AROMA.

THIS IS THE FINEST TEA THE WORLD PRODUCES.

PER 1/4 LB. RICH, PURE, AND FRAGRANT. PER 1/- LB.

LIPTON, Tea Planter, Ceylon.

Chief Offices, CITY ROAD, LONDON. Branches Everywhere. Agencies Throughout the World.

10/6 **THE "PELICAN" SELF-FEEDING PEN** 10/6
(PATENTED)

WRITES INSTANTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY.

Has Extra Large Reservoir of Ink. Secure against Leakage in any position. Flow of Ink regulated with the Greatest Nicety.

POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, FITTED WITH SPECIAL BARREL PEN in 14-ct. GOLD, IRIDIUM-POINTED. Also

THE "NOTA BENE" STYLOGRAPH OR FLUID PENCIL
(PATENTED)

5/- 5/-

IS READY FOR INSTANT USE, WITHOUT ANY ADJUSTMENT. MAY BE CARRIED IN ANY POSITION, WITHOUT FEAR OF LEAKAGE.

POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, WITH NEEDLE, SPRING, & NOZZLE, MADE OF THE PRECIOUS METALS.

Sold by all Stationers. Wholesale only by the Sole Manufacturers, THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. Ltd., Bunhill Row, London, E.C.

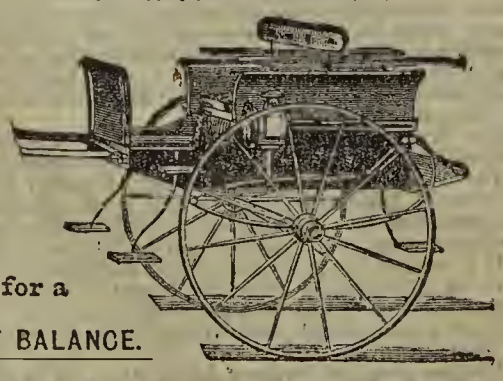
MORGAN & CO., Ld.

Under Royal and the Most Distinguished Patronage.

45 FIRST CLASS PRIZE MEDALS

And 9 HIGHEST AWARDS CHICAGO EXHIBITION.

THE **"MORVI" CAR,**



As supplied to H.I.M. Empress Frederick of Germany.

Most Perfect 2-wheeler for a Lady's Driving.

EASY ACCESS. PERFECT BALANCE.

LONG ACRE, & 10, OLD BOND-ST.

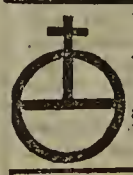
JUNO CYCLES ARE THE VERY BEST.

Easy Terms of Twelve Monthly Payments.

JUNO Racers, 22 lb.; Roadsters, 28 lb. JUNO Ladies' and Youths' Safeties and Tricycles. *Write for large New Season's* JUNO *Illustd. List sent post free. It will interest you & everyone should have a copy.*

METROPOLITAN MACHINISTS CO., LTD., 75, 76, Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C.

MENTION THIS PAPER.



LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.

Sole Consignee, W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS Spring

Sold by all Chemists, Druggists, and Grocers throughout the Kingdom.

Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., 52, Farringdon Street, LONDON, E.C.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 906.—BLANK VERSE À LA HOOD.

NURSE (real name and address will be given in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 911.

Seeing that Parliament will probably be up in about a month, I think the time has come when the following competition may be held with advantage. The usual Prize of Two Guineas is therefore offered for

THE BEST ORIGINAL SUGGESTION OF A TOPIC CALCULATED TO SERVE WELL AS A SUBJECT FOR "SILLY SEASON" CORRESPONDENCE IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

Competitors may send in more than one suggestion, and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, July 20.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 907.

The prize in this competition has been divided between BEGINNER and OROYA for the following suggestions:—

As our modern fancy fairs are so hackneyed and cost so much for decorations and attractions, don't you think it would be an excellent innovation if one could, for the good of the cause, prevail upon eligible young men to be stall-holders? What a saving of expense it would prove. No decorations, &c., would be needful then, and what crowds of enlightened females would push their mites into the coffers of these pious young men. If it were only practicable, I am certain the bazaar would pay.—Beginner.

Apportion off at one end of the room or marquee a space as large as you can afford, with an exit at the farther end, so that those who enter may not return the same way. Drape the entrance, and fix over it in large white letters upon a red ground the words, "To the Swimming Match." Get a pretty and fascinating young lady attired in a nautical dress to station herself at the entrance to draw the fee for admission to view the performance, which is produced as follows:—Have in the centre of the room a table, and upon this place a large bowl of water, and in the bowl a lucifer match, and there you have at once "the swimming match." This would, I think, cause endless fun, even to those who have unwittingly parted with their half-crowns in the aid of charity.—Oroya.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of HAROLDWYN, winner of a half of Prize No. 902, is Harold Wynn, Esq., Wilcove, Granard-road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

*** The real name, with the address, of COALHEAVER, winner of a half of Prize No. 902, is Miss Boult, Sunnylands, Middle-road, Bournemouth West.

RONTGEN X RAY and ANTELOPE.—Your alphabets arrived too late to be printed with the others.

A WARREN.—Your answer to Puzzle No. 907 arrived two days too late.

CALEDON.—I will do what you ask with pleasure.

DEMOSTROPY.—Thanks for your card. I have made the corrections.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 908.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

RHYMED ALPHABETS DESCRIPTIVE OF THE PRESENT LONDON SEASON.

A's the Academy running its course;
B is the Bicycle ousting the horse.
C is the "Cecil," a noble hotel;
D was the Derby the Prince won so well.
E's the Expectance the motor supplies;
F is the Fund that they're raising for Guy's.
G is the "Geisha," a musical play;
H were three Hangings in Newgate one day.
I is for Irving returned from the States;
J's Lady Jeune and the joy she creates.
K are the Kendals with efforts to please;
L is their Latest, "The Greatest of These——."
M is Millais for whose presence we sigh;
N Royal Nuptials arranged for July.
O is the Opera making its mark;
P's the Parade, after church, in the Park.
Q is the Question that's answered below;
R's the Regatta at Henley, you know.
S is the Session; but, jaded M.P.,
T is the Terrace where Hebe serves tea!
U is the Undersigned, fast giving way!
V were clothed Visions at Ascot, so gay.
W's the big Wheel that refused to go round;
X are the Rays that great Röntgen has found.
Y is *her* "Yes!" labial *his* salute;
Z the Zeal shown in his Season's pursuit.

Oom Paul.

A the Academy, average, I think;
B is for Bike, the mere name makes one shrink;
C are the Concerts, almost overdone;
D is the Derby, by Prince of Wales won;
E is Earl's Court, with its Indians and Wheel;
F is the Fashion, its folly we feel;
G the Gymkhana, at Ranelagh held;
H is for Harris, so suddenly felled;
I is the Institute, with its grand band;
J is for Jameson, Dr. Jim of the Rand;
K is for Kitson, a trial of note;
L are the Ladies, all wanting a vote;
M is Princess Maud, the season's fair bride;
N are the Novels, Corelli's great pride;
O is the Ormonde, the best cycle found;
P is Persimmon, for ever renowned;
Q are the Queries anent summer tours;
R the Replies about mountains and moors;
S "Satan's Sorrows," the much-talked of book;
T is for "Trilby," a play which soon took;
U the Uprisings, the cause of affrights;
V for the Verses the new Laureate writes;
W for Royal Weddings, at home and abroad;
X the Xcitement these weddings afford;
Y is for Ysaye, on violin grand;
Z is the Zeal for each pleasure in hand.

Qu'Appelle.

A is for Ascot without a procession;
B is the Bike which has taken possession;
C is the Cricket, so bravely begun;
D is the Derby the Prince of Wales won;
E is Earl's Court, with its India again;
F Fête Botanical, marred by the rain;
G the Gymkhana at Hurlingham given;
H Horseless-carriages, noiselessly driven;
I the Imperial Institute bubble;
J Dr. Jameson and others in trouble;
K the Kiosks which they put in the Park;
L for the Liner gone down in the dark;
M is the Ministry in a bad way;
N is the New Woman, passing away;
O is the Opera, whose sun sets with Harris;
P is the Puzzle of who's going to Paris;*
Q the Queen, sixtieth year of her reign;
R is for Rosebery, travelling in Spain;
S is for Sarah, who gave us a call;
T is the Tourney at Islington Hall;
U the U.S. pilgrims, come to adore;
V Venezuela—becoming a bore;
W the Waitresses—also their woes;
X the X ray photos every one knows;
Y is the Yale crew, at Henley to strive;
Z is the Zebra team Rothschild doth drive.

Sabrina.

* The Paris Embassy vacated by Lord Dufferin.

A is the Autocar, swift, self-propelled;
B is for Balfour, with courage unquelled;
C Coronation of Nicholas Czar;
D the Disaster, his pleasure to mar;
E Education Bill, happily dead;
F is for Firket, where Dervishes fled;
G is for Gladstone, coquetting with Rome;
H for Prince Henry, who died far from home;
I is for Italy's Afric defeat;
J is for Jameson, so rash, indiscreet;
K is for Kruger, a match for them all;
L for new Ladies, in Westminster Hall;
M is for Maud, cousin Karl's future bride;
N Nasr-ed-Din, shot down in his pride;
O for Olympia, with grand varied rôle;
P for Persimmon, that first reached the goal;
Q is for Questions, which Curzon evades;
R the Regatta, 'mid Henley's green shades;
S the long Sitting, two rounds of the clock;
T the Tornado, town wrecked by the shock;

U for Ushant's cruel rock 'neath the wave;
V is for Van, the Armenians' sad grave;
W the Wheel, that once stuck by the way;
X the X rays, hidden things which display;
Y is for Yachting, when town life is o'er;
Z is the Zest for moor, mountain, and shore.
Excelsior.

SOCIETY ALPHABET.

A for Ashanti, year sadly begun;
B Battenberg lost, meek victory won;
C for Cycling attempted by all;
D for the Danes of Appleton Hall;
E for the Eastbourne "Battle of Flowers;"
F for the "Fourth," accompanied by showers;
G for the Gold Cup Ascot day:
H will be Henley's watery way;
I for "India," Kiralfy's show,
J for Jameson, the raider, you know;
K for Kruger, wise though he be slow;
L osses? Yes, Leighton and others laid low;
M for the nameless Motor-cars:
N for Nicholas, newest of Czars;
O h's for Olympia and cycling girls;
P for Persimmon, the envy of earls;
Q for Quietest Drawing Rooms seen;
R eason? says R., in Retirement's the Queen;
S for the Sandringham wedding anon;
T ournament Royal is past and gone;
U shant's shore sad tales unfold;
V for the Vanderbilt-Marlborough gold;
W the Wheel—some were "skied," so they say;
X for the Röntgen 'Xtraordinary ray;
Y for Yachting when the season is past;
Z "The Prisoner of Zenda" gains freedom at last.
Nina.

A is for Autocar, cutting out Ascot;
B is for Bicycle, making the lass hot;
C is for Cricket, Colonials, too;
D Derby, won by P. o. W.;
E for the Earl's Court Exhibits will stand;
F for the Fashions that rule in the land;
G for our Grace—before wicket, not meat!
H represents the remarkable Heat;
I 's to Imperial Institute fall;
J to St. James's, Palace and Hall;
K for the Kaiser, whose yacht one applauds;
L for the Ladies, and also for "Lords";
M for the Men, hot Martyrs in frock-coats;
N for the Navies (at Henley) of cock-boats;
O hear the Opera Overtures rise!
P for Persimmon and Princes and Prize.
Q? the Queen—best of the Hanover crew!
R, Royal Academy, Ranelagh, too;
S for Society, tyrant and slave;
T is for TRUTH, and "long may it wave":
U Umpire, pray say that this poem's the best;
V will in that case your Virtue attest;
W Wickets that quake before Jones;
X for the X rays that show you your bones;
Y for the Yachts that will muster at Cowes;
Z for the Zero who now to you bows.
Zero.

A stands for Royal Ascot, of dress brilliant scene;
B for Bisley, with Queen's Prize on which "shots" are keen;
C's for Cricket, the 'Varsity match chief at Lords;
D for Persimmon's Derby, the Prince winning hoards;
E, Eclipse Day at Sandown, with gigantic prize;
F for Four-in-hand meets, with nags well matched in size;
G Goodwood, old meeting, most select of the year;
H for Henley's fine fête, to Society dear;
I for Ind's show at Earl's Court, with Great Wheel thrown in;
J's for Dr. Jim's trial, which shortly will "rin."
K for Kempton Park, charming with Jubilee Stakes;
L Li Hung Chang, whose visit of *éclat* partakes;
M the Royal Marriage, all best wishes attend;
N the late Colonel North, missed by many a friend;
O Opera Grand, with the De Reszkes in form;
P for Patti, sweet diva, who takes hearts by storm;
Q's for the Quality seen *ad lib.* in Hyde Park;
R for the Row famous, thronged by people of mark;
S the St. Leger, with the colts often erring;
T Trooping the Colour, with strains bright and stirring;
U's for Unionist functions, and all in that way;
V View private of paintings preceding May Day;
W Wheeling, a pastime on which swells "go nap";
X great 'Xpectations, sometimes not worth a rap;
Y for Yachting off Cowes, a week full of delight;
Z the season's gay Zenith, with pleasure at height.
A. E. L.

A stands for Ascot, to which there's migration;
B is for Barney, pet of *élite* and nation;
C stands for Châtelaines, in town just at present;
D is for Dames, of Cigarette's genus "Pheasant;"*
E stands for Empire, patronised by the males;
F is for Fashion, with which "the sex" sails;
G stands for "Geisha," the piece of the day;
H is for Hurlingham, where's polo to play;
I stands for India—go to Earl's Court for that;
J is for Jackson, a Society bat;
K stands for "Kino's," at which "toffs" are clad;
L is for Lingerie—fine display may be had;
M stands for Marlborough House, duchess or duke;
N is for Nature—that comes in by a fluke;
O that's Olympia; Society goes there;
P is the Prince, who's seen everywhere;
Q stands for the Question, for which mothers scheme;
R is the Row, at which beauties beam;
S stands for Strawberries, with cream in abundance;
T is for Tyres, used by *le ton* to redundance;
U stands for Universe, which they think they comprise;
V is for Vicky, why now *perdu* she lies?
W stands for Worth, the costumier of Paris;
X is for—oh "X" equals, say, "Mrs. Harris";
Y stands for the Youngsters, *la crême* ne'er bring to town;
Z is the Zany who fears Society's frown.
Arch. Gibbs.

* Cigarette, in Oulda's "Under Two Flags," constantly alludes to a Society lady as a "Silver Pheasant."

A stands for Ascot, and the Grand Stand was used;
B for Bike comes next—a machine much abused;
C the Chartered Company, troubling us now;
D for the Drawing Rooms, most dowdy I vow;
E for Epsom, the scene of Edward's race;
F the Favourite, who didn't have first place;
G for the Gold mines, whose profits we'd all share;
H Horseless-carriages, with none to compare;
I for Italy, we're friendly with its King;
J for Jameson, whose praises we can't sing;
K must be Kruger, whose clemency was great;
L those Leaders whose aims we deprecate;
M Matabeleland, where we have to fight;
N for the Natives, who won't allow our right;
O for the Oaks, where a sharper money makes;
P for the Prince, who did not win the stakes;
Q for the Queen, who's not been seen this season;
R the Repose which is the alleged reason;
S the Season, about which we have to write;
T Transvaal, in a very sorry plight;
U Uitlanders, so dangerous in their might;
V Venezuela, on their "Boundary right";
W the Wedding of our Princess's daughter;
X the X-rays which give disease no quarter;
Y the Yap of dogs by the muzzling order stopped;
Z Zeal of police, who quickly on them dropped.
Viva.

A 's the Ascot pageant, with all our girls drest up;
B is Bass's Bitter, made sweet by the Gold Cup;
C 's the Hyde Park Kiosk Club, happy thought of caste!
D 's Dunraven's Marriage Bill, through the Lords at last;
E 's the Education ghost, grinning in the Hall;
F is Frome and Wick Burg's handwriting on the wall;
G 's our Grand old Pervert, kotooing to the Pope;
H is His Holiness, a laying on soft soap;
I 's Imre Kiralfy's Ceylon and India show;
J 's Doctor Jim's levées in Queer-street, alias "Bow;"
K 's Kruger the bear, when Joe piped who would not dance;
L 's Lord Salisbury's hunt for the next man for France;
M is the Motor-car, as yet but in abeyance;
N 's the Name that TRUTH demands for the new conveyance;
O 's Olympia's pleasure grounds, scenes for fairy tales;
P 's Persimmon's Derby (God bless the Prince of Wales!)
Q 's the Queen (God save the Queen!) resting in Balmoral;
R is the Royal Hunt Cup, won by Rosebery's Quarrel;
S the Sad Sea news of the *Drummond Castle's* fate;
T 's it's Tale of broken hearts, hearths made desolate;
U 's the Usual chit-chat on Maud's "happy dispatch;"
V is Vanity Fair, on tiptoe for the match;
W 's the Weather, just right for Terrace teas;
X Xantippe's girding at the flirting M. P.s
Y 's the Yankee brass band, in full numbers and tune;
Z is Zeus eclipsed, cheek by jowl with the moon.
Dandelion.

"Ah! Mon Dieu!" cried Monsieur, as he strolled through Hyde Park,
"Bicycling has driven John Bull tout mad stark;
Croquet? Where is dat? By the priests so adored,
Delicieux, said old maids—though "de jeunesse" were bored;
England—It loves noting dat's new—so 'twas said;
France! Dat is the contrie by novelties led;
Golf! Dat seems to be dead—voted tedieux and slow,
Having none of (de swells said) de right sort of go;
It's biking dey'll have—cost just what it will,
Joints broken or smashed—dey'll race down de hill!
Killed? What do dey care? 'Tis part of de fun,
Let's bike on for ever—till judgment-day come!
Money's wanted abroad (so say Cecil Rhodes),
None of ours shall he get for his blessed railroads!
Oh! Bother de Kaiser! Dis fuss about shares;
Plague take all de hospitals, ruines and scares;
Quite callous dese English to all but dese bikes,
Royal functions, fêtes, dinners—what tout le monde likes;
Say dese John Bulls—dere vinegar—biking's champagne,
Tastes sweeter dan absinthe—cures each single pain;
Utopia, dey call it. 'Tis heaven! 'Tis bliss!
Vanity? No! King Solomon never meant dis;
What he meant, you Frenchman, was women or drink;
Xcessive devotion to cards—or de rink!
You're not such a muff as to think he meant bikes,
Zounds! Ciel! Mon Dieu! There's a bike gone to spikes!"
E. N. S.

A is the Auto-car just now on show;
B are the Bicycles where'er you go;
C are the Coaches so smart in the Park;
D was the Derby-day—Prince made his mark;
E is the Exhibition down at Earl's Court;
F are the Flower Shows each of its sort;
G are the Galleries filled with fine art;
H is gay Henley with Yale taking part;
I is the Institute Imperial called;
J are the Journalists rarely forestalled;
K are the Knighthoods the Queen's birthday brings;
L the new Laureate—Gods! how he sings!
M is the Mining scare, Kaffirs on slump;
N are the Nobodies waiting the jump;
O are the Orders each Levée brings forth;
P is this Parliament from west, south, and north;
Q is the Queen very rarely in town;
R is the Row where some ride up and down;
S is Society now in full swing;
T the new Tenors the Operas bring;
U is the University match up at Lord's;
V are the Victors whom honour rewards;
W is Wales our own Prince everywhere;
X—unknown quantity—time he can spare;
Y is the Yearly Show, Kiralfy's sight;
Z is the Zealous few on wheel all right.—Inca.

A are the Apes we meet when we dine;
B are the Beauties around us who shine;
C are the Cabmen who ne'er can be puzzled;
D are the Dogs we have cruelly muzzled;
E is the Enterprise tradesmen display;
F is the Folly which leads us to pay;
G is the Gambling where asses cash spend!
H are the Horses we use for that end;
I are the Idiots, so smart yet so flat;
J is for Jameson who isn't quite that;
K is for Kruger, whose fame we all know!
L are the Letters he posted to "Joe";
M is the Matter for talk this all makes;
N the Nonsenical form which it takes;
O is for Oom—I have mentioned the same;
P is for Paul, which makes up the whole name;
Q the Queer people one meets everywhere;
R the sad Ruffians who make up their share;
S is Society, silly and smart;
T the Tomfoolery, dear to its heart;
U the Uncommon great heat of the time;
V the Vision of country and pleasanter clime;
W the Wisdom which strengthens and cheers;
X the Xceeding small stock which appears;
Y the Young men who think all things they know;
Z are the Zanies who also think so.
House of Commons.

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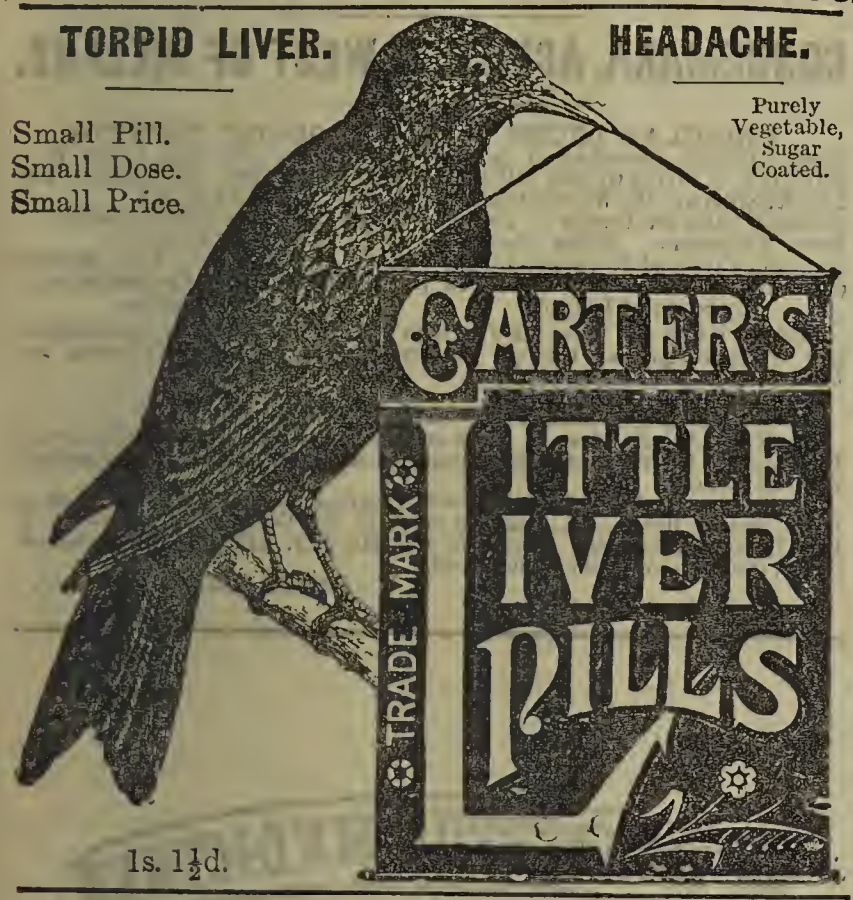

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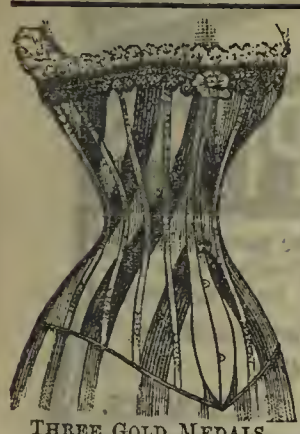

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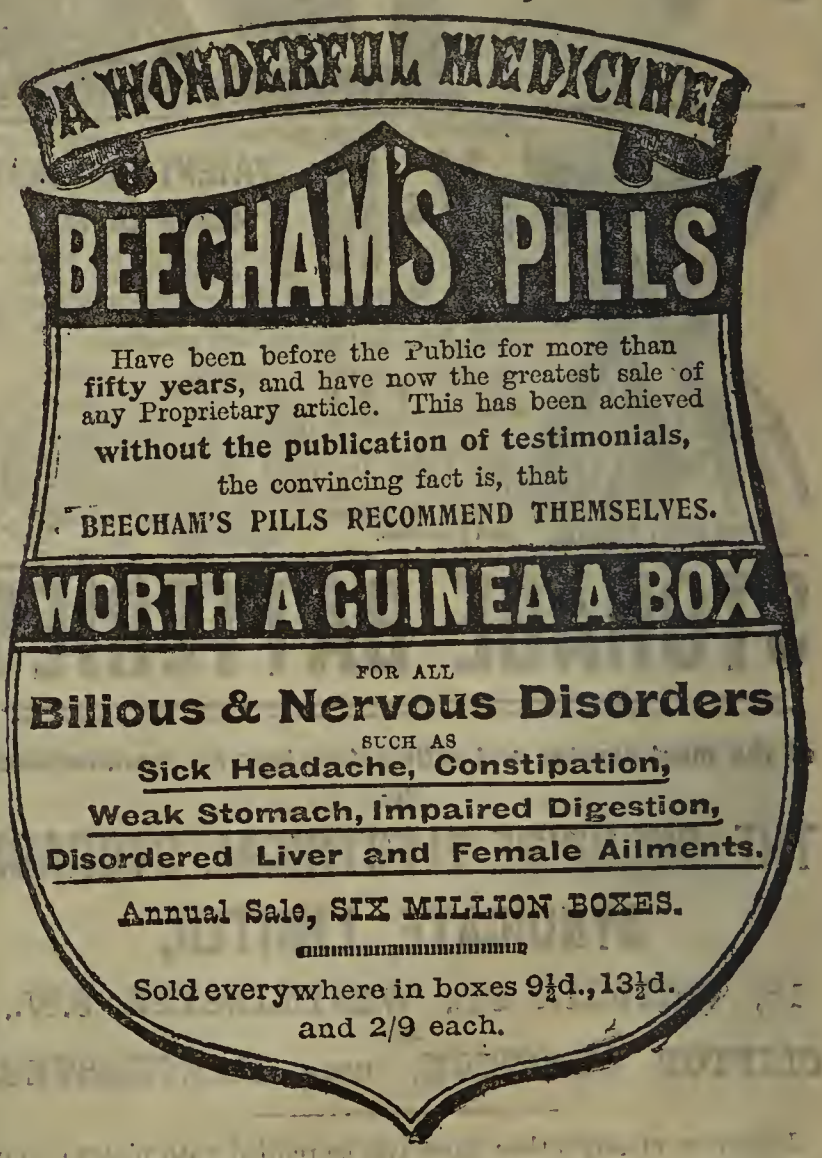

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICES.

An Index *to the* Thirty-Ninth Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office,* 10, *Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price* 25*s.*

In response to various communications which have reached me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen has cut down her visit to London (her only one during the present year) to one night. Her Majesty will come up to Buckingham Palace on Tuesday in time for luncheon, and she is to return to Windsor on Wednesday, as soon as the wedding-party and guests have been got rid of. All the people (including the Royalties) who have been at the marriage will drive off to Marlborough House about three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. The Queen goes to Osborne, with Princess Beatrice, on Friday, the 24th, and on Monday, August 24, her Majesty will proceed to Balmoral.

There will be only a small attendance of Foreign Royalties at the wedding next week, as several personages who had been quite expected to attend are not coming over for various reasons.

An imaginative evening journal informs its readers that "the real labour" in connection with the arrangements of the Royal wedding is undertaken by Sir Fleetwood Edwards, Lord Edward Pelham Clinton, and Sir Dighton Probyn, which is quite untrue. As a matter of fact, nearly the whole of the work is being done by Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane and his subordinates. Everything connected with the ceremony and the procession is in the hands of the Lord Chamberlain, while the Lord Steward is responsible for the luncheon, and the Master of the Horse for the carriage arrangements. The same journal describes Sir Henry Ewart as "the Grand Equerry," an official altogether unknown at our Court.

It was Sir Augustus Paget who arranged the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, for which he was entirely responsible, the preliminary steps for their betrothal having been taken solely in consequence of his representation. Sir Augustus received much assistance in the last stages of the affair from the late Duchess of Cambridge, who was an aunt of the Queen of Denmark, and intimately acquainted with the whole family, whom she had often met at Rumpenheim, the château of the Landgrave of Hesse, near Frankfort.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria and the Duke and Duchess of York are to be the guests of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon at Goodwood House during the race week, and the Duke and Duchess of Teck will probably be included in the party of Mr. and Mrs. James, at West Dean Park.

A family party will be entertained by the Duke and Duchess of Westminster at Halnaker, and there are to be full houses at Petworth, Eartham, Drove, Burton Park, West Stoke, Dale Park, Walberton, Cowdray Park, Leigh Park, and other country places in the neighbourhood.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife are going to Scotland next week for the season, and they will spend a month at Duff House, Banffshire, before proceeding to their new residence in Upper Deeside for the autumn.

Last week's Levée was a small one, and lasted for only fifty minutes, which was lucky, inasmuch as the heat in the State apartments of St. James's Palace was stifling, and the atmosphere of the Throne Room soon became quite dangerously offensive. A number of persons had forgotten the Court mourning for the Duc de Nemours, and they were turned back, except some individuals whose attendance in the Throne Room was indispensable, and whose irregularity in coming to the Levée improperly attired excited the wrath of the Prince of Wales and of the Duke of Coburg. The Levée was anything but "smart."

Lord Lawrence and Captain Malcolm Drummond are to be the Lord and Groom in Waiting on the Queen from next Tuesday until her Majesty goes to Osborne, and they will be in attendance at the Royal wedding.

I am glad to hear that the lowering of the subscription, especially as regards country members, has already produced good results at the Junior Army and Navy Club. The new rules have only been in force since June 1, and during the last three weeks more than 100 candidates have been put on the list. One very promising feature is that several old country members who, owing to infrequent visits to town, did not think it worth their while to continue their membership at the old rate of subscription, have signified their intention of rejoining.

The advocates for altering the exclusiveness so long attaching to the Royal Botanic Society are to be congratulated on the success which has rewarded their persistency. The Saturday musical promenades having proved a success, it is now suggested that they should be continued after the period originally named. This proposal has been supported by Sir J. Blundell Maple, M.P., who warned the Council that the renewal of their lease in about six years' time would largely depend upon the steps taken to render the gardens available to the general public. He was of opinion that in addition to the Saturday musical promenades the gardens should be open to the public every day of the week, no pains being spared to make them a popular pleasure resort. This is sound advice which the Council will do well to ponder. Their neighbour the "Zoo" makes no attempt to exclude the public in order to secure for the sons and daughters of its Fellows a private lawn-tennis and croquet ground.

Returning from Henley last week, I read in an evening paper an opinion to the effect that if the popularity of the Regatta ever declines, it will be the fault of the natives of Henley, the argument being that these good people are in danger of killing the goose for the sake of its golden eggs. In this view I heartily concur. On arrival at Henley I was desirous of proceeding to that delightful spot, the enclosure of the Isthmian Club. A friend advised me not to drive, as the flymen were charging 10s. for the journey—something under a mile. By the advice of another friend I walked down the tow-path to a point immediately opposite the Isthmian Club, and asked a waterman to row me across. He said that the charge would be 5s. I demurred, and applied to another, with whom I eventually compromised for 3s.—being 1s. for each member of my party. Later in the day I endeavoured to charter a boat to row me from the Isthmian lawn to the Island and back. He demanded 10s. a head, *i.e.*, 30s. for my party. He subsequently reduced his terms to one sovereign, but he did not come down to any figure within the reach of my modest means.

Assuming that the rent of houses and apartments, and the price of the necessaries of life are on the same scale as the above charges, it is evident that Henley Regatta will before long become a function for millionaires only. With regard to watermen and flymen, the matter is one which the local authorities ought to take under their control by means of a fixed tariff, and such an arrangement would add immensely to the comfort and pleasure of visitors. No reasonable being minds paying extra prices on race-days, regattas, and other such occasions. If the ordinary rates were even doubled, no one would complain. But no one likes to be robbed and blackmailed, even though he be out for a day's pleasure.

Another point in connection with Henley Regatta in which there seems to me room for improvement is the railway arrangements. A scrimmage at the railway station on the return journey is more or less unavoidable at a small country station like Henley; but it need not take place at Paddington on the way down Between 10 and 10.30 last Thursday morning there was a wild scramble for places as the Henley trains were backed into the station, and it was with a feeling of thankfulness that one secured standing room without serious damage to person or clothing. I met one lady who had had her dress irreparably damaged in the scrimmage, and it is astonishing that no serious accident occurred from the crowd boarding the trains while in motion. This sort of thing is preventable. It arose at Paddington from despatching all the trains from opposite sides of one narrow platform, on to which were packed at one time enough people to have filled three trains. Another objectionable practice is that of reserving nearly all the first-class compartments in one train for private individuals and clubs, which causes the unprivileged public to rush wildly to and fro in search of carriages, and greatly aggravates the confusion. It would add to the comfort of all parties if all these reserved carriages were made up into one train, and despatched from a separate platform. Henley Regatta is, perhaps, the most delightful and enjoyable of all our national open-air festivities, and everything ought to be done that forethought and experience can suggest to make it a joy for ever.

The Leicester Show of the Royal Agricultural Society has proved a great success. There were 146,277 paying visitors, against 100,310 at Darlington last year, and 111,658 at Cambridge in 1894. The takings at the gates were about £10,620, which is by far the largest amount since the show at Windsor in 1889.

Fox-hunting is all very well, but in a case between allotments for working men and coverts for foxes the latter should go to the wall. Such, however, does not seem to be the opinion of Lord Harrington. An inquiry has been taking place before the Derbyshire County Council respecting certain lands belonging to Lord Harrington which the Eaton District Council want to obtain for allotments. The representative of Lord Harrington said that his Lordship was very anxious to meet the wishes of the working men of Long Eaton, but that he had made a fox-covert over five acres not far from the land wanted, and he was averse to giving it for allotments. On this Mr. Butler, J.P., a member of the

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 182 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 184.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 183.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 197.

District Council, made the following observations, in which, I should fancy, most people will concur:—

He much regretted that Lord Harrington had thought fit to consider the fox-cover in preference to the convenience of giving working men land for allotments. And he was perfectly surprised so much had been made of the objection—instead of mentioning it with bated breath. At the close of this century he trusted notice would be taken of the fact that working men were refused land for allotments because of a fox-cover having been put in the vicinity.

The residents in and about Mildenhall, Suffolk, have a very legitimate grievance, which ought to be abated. All the land belongs either to Lord Bristol or to Sir Henry Bunbury, who let it for shooting purposes. These tenants, or rather their keepers, are in the habit of laying down poisoned meat in all directions, in order to kill any dogs that may wander in or near the plantations, most of which are open to the public. Amongst those who have lost dogs in this way are Mr. George Ord, M.P., Mr. Parker, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Selous, and Mr. Walter Godfrey. It is possible that the shooting tenants are not aware of what is being done by their keepers; if not, they would do well to make inquiries on the subject, and put an end to this monstrous abuse. If continued, the only way to stop it would be to form an Anti-Poison League, and, in any case where a dog is poisoned, at once to commence proceedings.

How grateful ought to be the Landed Gentry for the Government that has been vouchsafed to them! They are to be charged half rates on their land; the land tax is to be reduced; if they have pictures and suchlike objects, no death due is to be charged on them; and next year their subscriptions to the schools of the Church of England are to be reduced, as the community is to take upon itself the duty of inculcating the tenets of this Church upon the young rural population. Why are they to receive all these favours? Because the community has returned a Parliament the majority of which holds to the creed that the more the land is held by a number of favoured individuals, the better it will be for the nation. Other property may fluctuate, but the incomes of landowners are sacred: if they go down owing to economic causes, the reduction is to be made up for them from the public purse. They are the Brahmins and we are the Pariahs. It is for us to work, and for them to be secured an existence of wealthy repose, hunting and shooting, eating and drinking, racing and gambling. It must sweeten our toil to think to what a noble purpose the result of our toil is devoted.

It is proposed to erect a monument to Sir Walter Scott in Westminster Abbey, and many people are wondering how it is that he has remained so long without a monument in a place which is crammed with statues and busts of very much less eminent or worthy men. It is not generally known that some years ago an attempt was made to place a memorial to Scott in the Abbey. A large sum was raised, and a very beautiful marble medallion of Scott was executed by Sir John Steel, but the work did not commend itself to the over-fastidious taste of the Dean and Chapter, who stupidly rejected it, and it would be interesting to learn what has become of it. If it is decided to place a bust in the Abbey, let it be a copy of Chantrey's admirable representation of Scott, which is in the library at Abbotsford.

HEAT, HORSES, AND HATS.

Whilst melting Londoners perspired
And icebergs hailed in yearning sonnets,
Two horses—this is *fact*, pray mark!—
Were seen on Tuesday in the Park
Sheltered by large straw bonnets!
Defiant of the tropic heat,
They gaily did their task allotted,
As down to Albert Gate, and then
Without an effort back again,
Right cheerily they trotted.

Oh, prithee, what d'you think of *that*,
My brother, vested and cravatted?
What do *you* think, long-suffering man,
Who go about 'neath Fashion's ban,
Black-coated and top-hatted?
You than a horse, it would appear,
Are stronger deemed to be, and tougher;
For Fashion's unrelentless law
Denies to you the hat of straw,
And cares not how you suffer.

And what think you, O Soldier bold,
As at each royal palace entry,
You face the sun's solstitial glare,
In coat of red and skin of bear,
And duty do as sentry?
What think you of the martinets
Who, though the air grows daily hotter,
Oblige you, spite of your disgust,
Like one who is in blankets truss'd,
Half comatose to potter?

And constable upon your beat,
Say, prithee, what are your opinions
About the way that Scotland Yard
Continues still to disregard
The feelings of its minions?
Think you 'tis fitting you should still
In your tight-buttoned tunic swelter?
How like you still to fume and fret
Whilst even beasts of burden get
A large straw bonnet's shelter?

The following colossal piece of impudence, lately addressed to a well-known lady, is of interest for several reasons. From his account of himself, the writer appears to be the same Graham whose performances were lately noticed in Truth, and whose address was so badly wanted by the printers and staff of the *Twentieth Century*, to whom he was and is indebted. I fear, however, that it would be idle for these creditors to seek him at Long's Hotel. From inquiries that I have had made at that establishment, it appears that he has never stayed in the house, and is only known as an individual who occasionally drops into the smoking-room and takes refreshment. Doubtless, on one of these casual visits he has made use of the hotel stationery in order to obtain a presentable address for the prosecution of his further designs upon rich simpletons. I trust that no millionaire has yet been entrapped; though, had this happened, it might have eventually proved to the benefit

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

of the many persons who have judgment debts and other unsatisfied claims against Graham :—

June 27, 1896. Long's Hotel,
New Bond-street,
London, W.

As the matter upon which I am addressing your ladyship is merely one of business, I trust I need not apologise for the want of an introduction, more particularly as it is more or less a literary affair, and if you interest yourself in that line you doubtless know my name as the writer of the series of articles in the *Nineteenth Century*, entitled, "Chats with Jane Clermont," spoken of at the time in the *Times* as "the leading literary event of the season;" "Side-lights on the Second Empire," in the *Fortnightly*, "Guy de Maupassant," &c., &c., some of which are shortly appearing in book form. Pray excuse this palaver, but I must introduce myself somehow, and let me get to the point. I want to start a monthly review on a very ambitious scale, called the *Twentieth Century*. I should rather say *re*-start it, as I brought it out last year, but owing to the failure of the publishers it had to be suspended. I wish to cut out the *Nineteenth Century*, and have already announced the title that the proprietor thereof was so serenely counting on, and make this review the equal of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, or more so, for I intend to include among the contributors the most distinguished people in every branch throughout the world, including the royalties of the respective countries. To do this fancy cheques are required. To provide the fancy cheques—or rather to provide the means to meet them—a millionaire is required, and the millionaires—Astor, Beit, &c.—seem nowadays to have a fancy for financing reviews. Rightly or wrongly, I have been told that (without mentioning names) your ladyship can exercise influence in that respect, and that is the *raison d'être* of this letter. If I am wrong, or you do not care about the matter, you have merely to tear up this and cast it into the waste-paper basket. If, on the other hand, you entertain the proposal, I should be glad to hear at your earliest convenience, fixing an appointment for me to call, and, if you wish, bearer would take me your note (if you are in when he calls). Finally, I need scarcely say that this would prove an extremely lucrative business for any one who worked the oracle for me. A letter to above address will always find me; but the season is far spent, and if anything is to be done it should be done at once, and, of course, all particulars would have to be given in an interview.—I am, your ladyship, yours faithfully, WM. GRAHAM.

I was surprised on Monday morning to see in that enterprising and excellently edited paper, the *Daily Mail*, a virtual reproduction of a paragraph published in the previous Wednesday's TRUTH. To show the state of the case, I give the two paragraphs side by side :—

Daily Mail, July 13.	TRUTH, July 9
Princess Maud is to get £4,000 a year out of the allowance which was granted by Parliament for the family of the Prince of Wales. The Crown Princess of Denmark is to make an allowance of £10,000 a year to her son. It is well known that the Crown Princess very much objected to the marriage at first, both because, very naturally, she greatly disapproves of first cousins marrying, and because she had quite made up her mind that in time Prince Charles would become the husband of the Queen of the Netherlands, who so far is, of course, the greatest match in Europe.	As a matter of fact, Princess Maud is to have £4,000 a year out of the allowance which was granted by Parliament in 1889 for the family of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Crown Princess of Denmark is to make an allowance of either £10,000 or £12,000 a year to her second son. . . . It is well known that the Crown Princess does not like the marriage, as she had quite made up her mind that Prince Charles would become the husband of her relative the Queen of the Netherlands, who is, of course, the greatest match in Europe.

Had the Editor of the *Daily Mail* desired to "lift" information from TRUTH without acknowledgment, which I do not suppose is likely, he would not have waited till Monday to use something that he might have had the previous Thursday. The conclusion, therefore, is that some unprincipled person has been trading in second-hand goods.

English papers are shabby enough in quoting from one another without acknowledgment, but they are mild offenders in this respect by comparison with our Colonial contemporaries. There is at least one paper at the Cape which in every issue seems to give facts or remarks from TRUTH as its own original productions. Possibly the Editor thinks that his readers will never notice it. But I can assure him that he is mistaken.

I am aware that poets claim a licence, though why they are unable to retail draughts from the Pierian spring without one I have never quite understood. But even a poetic licence must have its limits, and I certainly think these limits have been exceeded by Poet Ball, who, in addition to being an "Honourable Artilleryman" of Massachusetts, is a bard not without honour in his own country. At a recent banquet given to himself and his comrades at Finsbury Pavement, Poet Ball recited an ode of his own composition, in which he remarked that

> The thunder from our cannon
> *Reverbes* along our shore.

Now, I can assure Poet Ball that thunder from the cannon, even of an "Honourable Artillery Company," never "reverbes," at least, not on this side of the Atlantic. We should as soon expect a deliberator to "delibe," or an enumerator to "enume." For my own part, I sincerely hope that this Boston bard will in future "repude" all such inexcusable mutilation of good old English words. All I can say is that if he does not, I shall, on evidence of his next offence, "objurge" him much more severely than I have this time.

Mr. Arthur Roberts, assisted by Miss Decima Moore, Mr. Eric Thorne, and a few others, is trying a kind of German Reed entertainment in the provinces. It is a move in the right direction. The people want to see and hear as much as possible of Arthur Roberts in a limited space of time. But he has not severed his connection with the Prince of Wales' Theatre, and will be back there after the summer holidays.

The beautiful dolls representing various actresses in popular characters, and dressed by them, which were so attractive at the Actors' Orphanage Fund Bazaar, may be seen all this week in the vestibule of the Empire Theatre, by the kind permission of the management. The show is well worth the attention of charitable mothers and intelligent children, and when I have said that on each afternoon a popular actress will lecture on the Doll Show, and that the proceeds go to the Actors' Orphanage, I need add no more. On the last day of the Doll Show (Saturday) the dolls unsold will be disposed of by auction.

At the City of London School, on one of the sultriest days of last week, two small boys were arraigned by their form-master for the heinous crime of appearing in school without waistcoats. One of them is said to have mitigated the indelicate exhibition by wearing a sash, but the other revealed the full indecency of his shirt-front and braces. Consequently the pair were sent before the head master for punishment in the approved form. I trust that no pedagogue from the City of London School will pay me a visit during the present hot season, for I fear

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms. Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

that his modesty would receive a severe shock. It is my frequent practice to sit not only waistcoatless, but coatless, and I have, at times, so far disregarded all propriety as to turn up my shirt sleeves at the same time. So lacking, indeed, am I in natural modesty, that I feel in no way aggrieved when one of my clerks enters my presence with his shirt-front unconcealed by a waistcoat. By rights I should, I suppose, hand such a reprobate over to the police.

The Campbell College at Belfast, which was founded by the munificence of the late Mr. Henry Campbell, has not begun its career very auspiciously. It is less than two years since the school was opened, and already grave troubles have arisen. Within the first twelve months one of the two co-principals relinquished his post, and the sole control of the College passed into the hands of his colleague, Mr. J. A. M'Neill. A few months later there were serious manifestations of discontent and resentment among the boys, and the differences of opinion which occurred between the Principal and the chief members of his staff as to the causes of this unfortunate state of things and the means by which it should be remedied culminated in the resignation of the three Senior House Masters. This has been followed within the past few days by the resignation of four more masters, making a total of seven who have taken that step in about two months. In a statement by the three Senior Masters, which has been circulated in pamphlet form, they attribute the unsatisfactory condition of the school to the Principal's want of organising power and tact and sympathy in dealing with boys, and above all to his lack of experience and training in a public school.

Before the pamphlet was issued, the trustees of the College—or rather two out of the three—refused a hearing to the masters, and since its appearance neither they nor the Principal have vouchsafed any reply. But it is quite certain that unless some satisfactory reply is forthcoming to the charges which are made, public confidence in the management of this public school—the best endowed in Ireland—must be greatly shaken. In many quarters there is, I understand, a strong feeling that a general inquiry should be held by the proper authorities in Ireland with a view to ascertaining whether the wishes of the founder of the College are being, or are likely to be, properly carried out under the present constitution of the Governing Body.

A few more hints for the headmaster of Harrow. A gentleman who has been studying my remarks on the Harrow Prize Essay, writes that the lack of idiom and the faulty grammar, however bad, are less deserving points for criticism than the subject matter of the theme." Roman education, he points out, may mean that of any period from the time of Numa Pompilius to that of Justinian, and "Greek education" that of any of the peoples known to us under that name at any period of their existence, including educational systems as diverse as those of Athens and Sparta. There seems a good deal in this, and when I see boys at public schools set to puzzle their brains with discourses in a dead language on such vast and ill-defined subjects I cease to wonder that I learned so little when I was at school.

English Churchmen as a body will hardly, I imagine, approve of the conduct of Dean Farrar, under whose rule at Canterbury, Roman Catholic pilgrims to the tomb of St. Thomas have been deprived of the privileges of worshipping in the cathedral hitherto allowed them. The Canterbury pilgrim under the Farrar régime is mulcted in 3d. a head, and is hurried past the spots sacred to the memory of the saint in charge of a verger, to the accompaniment of a monotoned descriptive recital, like any other tripper who comes to see the show. At Westminster Abbey, Catholic devotions at the shrine of Edward the Confessor are permitted, as they have hitherto been at Canterbury, without offence to any right-minded English Churchman, and with advantage to the mutual respect and goodwill of Anglicans and Romanists. But Dean Farrar apparently does not approve of such kindly tolerance. Perhaps it is his way of discountenancing anything savouring of "Reunion." At any rate, it is a signal repudiation of the doctrine of the continuity of the life between the English Church and that of the Church of whose endowments, buildings, and holy places it has come into possession.

The Rev. Montague James Taylor, who died the other day at the age of ninety, was for more than half a century a most familiar figure at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, and he was long the highly efficient and very popular chairman of the committee, to which office he was many times re-elected. A portrait of Mr. Taylor, by Mr. Ouless, now hangs in the dining-room of the club.

The name of the Rev. William Hamilton Turner will be honourably remembered in Somersetshire, for the deceased gentleman was a staunch Free Trader and Liberal in days when a clergyman, who openly professed such principles in a Tory neighbourhood, was regarded as little better than an Atheist, while an Atheist was then looked upon as being many degrees worse than a murderer. Mr. Turner, who held the living of Banwell for fifty-eight years, was a most genial and charitable man, and an Evangelical of the old school. He was esteemed and liked by all classes, but his political views in times when party spirit ran high were very obnoxious to his parishioners, nearly all of whom were Tories. He was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Bristol in 1838 to the Vicarage of Banwell, which is one of the best livings in the diocese (about £600 a year, with residence), and he held it under no fewer than five Bishops of Bath and Wells.

In 1798 certain inhabitants of Westminster formed themselves into a Volunteer Corps to resist Napoleon should he invade the country. With all respect for these heroes, it is perhaps fortunate that their ability to vanquish the French Emperor was not put to the test. It would seem that the Countess Grosvenor gave the corps a flag, and in 1887 this flag was, at the request of the

Westminster Volunteer Regiment, solemnly hung up in St. Margaret's Church. It is to my mind absurd that a battle flag that has received the "baptism of victory" should be exhibited as a trophy in the temple of a Church that preaches peace on earth; but it is one shade more absurd, that a flag which has never seen a battle, should be hung up in a church. That eminent legislator, Mr. Tomlinson, parishioner and warrior, has gone to law with the Rector of St. Margaret's to prevent him from removing this Volunteer flag from before a painted window in the church, the light of which the Rector considers that it obscures. Well I, like Mr. Tomlinson, am a parishioner, and I object to the flag being exhibited at all in my parish church: first, because I do not think a church a fit place for battle flags; secondly, because—admitting that such flags should be exhibited in churches—this is not a battle flag. As a parishioner, I tender my thanks to the Rector for having taken it down.

CHARITY À LA MODE.

Vide Lord Salisbury's speech at St. James's Hall on Thursday last.

'Tis not unpleasant, we admit, to find the Premier preaching,
And echoing the very truths that we've for years been teaching:
Betwixt Lord Salisbury's views and ours whatever the disparity,
At least we both assess alike the worth of Modern Charity.

For years we have been pointing out what now the Marquis mentions,
For years we've felt, and have expressed, his lively apprehensions;
So now his help we gladly hail, as one prepared to venture
Society's besetting sin in scathing terms to censure.

There was a time when Charity's own impulse was omniscient,
When doing good for good's own sake was deemed to be sufficient;
But nowadays it's ceased to be a pure and pious passion,
Charity up-to-date is but a freak—a fad—of fashion.

'Tis not enough to plead the cause of poverty and sorrow,
Charity now the motley suit and showman's drum must borrow;
'Tis Charity's set purpose now not to make tear-drops trickle,
But our self-love to titillate, our vanity to tickle!

'Tis not enough to try and move men's hearts with tales of anguish,
'Tis not enough to tell them how the sick unsuccoured languish;
If you would have them give that aid which to salve mortals' hurt is meant,
You first must promise them a chance of lavish self-advertisement.

Do good by stealth, forsooth! Not they. No! to attract the gapers,
They take good care their every gift is published in the papers;
Not only does their right hand know what 'tis their left is doing,
But they to all the world shout out the course they are pursuing.

Of every dole they grant they make a showy demonstration,
Their charity means self-display, their alms spell ostentation;
Upon themselves, at any cost, the public's eye they 'd rivet,
And if it pays to give a cheque, effusively they give it!

And even those not vain like these will only yield their treasure
To those who gratify their whims and feed their love of pleasure;
Vainly you tell them of the poor who paler grow and thinner—
They will not feed the hungry till they've had a guinea dinner.

If you would orphans aid, don't try Society to harrow
By bare recitals of the truth, *that* course were far too narrow;
Statistics will small purpose serve, and no one will deplore them,
Until a Royal chairman at a banquet 's bungled o'er them.

A hospital may be in debt that perils its existence,
But think you making known that fact will bring it prompt assistance?
No! if you'd make the public give support both wide and hearty,
You must get up a Fancy Fair, or run a Garden Party.

Before the needed funds can reach the treasury depleted,
The public to a Carnival of Nonsense must be treated.
Folly must reign unchecked awhile 'midst scenes too oft degrading,
Whilst Charity, be-patched, be-rouged, goes wildly masquerading.

Before the hands of Help can soothe the pillow of the dying,
The duchess must in style and talk the barmaid be outvying;
Ere Pity can its heaven-born rôle of succour be fulfilling,
The actress must ripe strawberries kiss and sell them at a shilling!

The widow must unhelped remain, though want her efforts baffles,
Whilst ladies in the smartest gowns arrange illegal raffles;
The sick must sadly suffer on, left to their own devices,
Whilst sirens sell most worthless things at quite preposterous prices.

Not that we would too hotly chide such ways of money getting,
For often ill-considered means good ends may be abetting;
And 'twould be rash the present mode 'neath censure harsh to smother
Till we are sure 'twould be replaced, and promptly, by another.

Yet, surely something should be done, directly and sincerely,
To prove our "Charity" is not a light amusement merely;
Something to show that when our alms we merrily are chinking,
It is not of ourselves alone we selfishly are thinking!

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Fund for sending poor and sickly London children into the country for a holiday:—G. W. B., £2; J. K. T., 10s. 6d.; E. C. M., £10.

Mr. E. J. C. Morton, M.P., asked a timely question in the House of Commons last week on the case of Sergeant Sayers, of the 2nd Berks Regiment, dealt with in TRUTH of the 2nd inst.; but, unless the reporters have done Mr. Morton an injustice, his question overlooked the most material point in the case, and Mr. Brodrick (or those who prompted him) adroitly took advantage of this in framing the reply. "It is perfectly well known," said Mr. Brodrick, "to every sergeant in the Army that no man detailed for a duty can exchange it with another man without permission." But the whole point of Sayers's defence was that he believed he had permission, and there was ample evidence that he had good ground for so believing. This is simply a question, not of military discipline or of the usual practice in the Army, but of the value of evidence, and no impartial judge could say that on the evidence there was not a doubt in this case of which Sayers was entitled to the benefit, by every principle of law and justice. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Lord Lansdowne will yet be better advised than to refuse to look into this case on its merits, more especially in view of the many deplorable occurrences recently reported from this particular battalion.

With reference to the decision to keep the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment in the Portsdown Forts through another winter, statements are made to me which call for the notice both of the General Officer Commanding the District and the Officer Commanding the battalion. It appears that, the Colonel having approached the General on the subject of staying in the forts, the General requested him to take the opinion of his officers on the point, with an intimation that the decision should follow the wishes of the majority; that the Colonel reported that he had done so, and that the officers voted for moving by a majority of one, but that one of those in favour of moving was so junior that the Colonel did not think his vote should count; and that upon this the General decided that the battalion should remain in the forts. Now, I would suggest that Colonel Hayne should be asked whether he consulted any of the Subalterns, and whether he consulted the whole of the captains. On what I take to be good authority, I am told that he did not, and that, had he done so, the preponderance of opinion in favour of leaving the forts would have been decisive. In military circles these will, I think, be regarded as very serious allegations, and, having been publicly made, they ought to be decisively answered.

Some of my friends in the 2nd Wiltshire seem to be exercised about something that the *Broad Arrow* has said on the retention of the battalion in the forts. I really do not care what the *Broad Arrow* has said, and I never met with anybody in the Army who does. The *Broad Arrow* exists, as I understand it, for the purpose of proving that our military administrators are above criticism, and that if a civilian has the temerity to think otherwise, the Service must go to the dogs. For this reason whenever TRUTH says that so-and-so is black, the *Broad Arrow* at once pronounces that it is white. This is a simple and harmless form of journalism. It does not hurt anybody, certainly not me, and if a struggling Service journal can provide itself with a column of "copy" in this way every week, and so prolong its existence, I am the last to object. When, however, a military reader asks me to expend sixpence in order to see what such a journal is saying about TRUTH, I must ask to be excused. Having assisted my contemporary to the extent of a column of copy, I think that I have done enough.

From one or two letters received in response to a query in reference to secret societies in the Army, I gather that the only official regulation on this subject that has ever been issued had reference to Orange Lodges, which were tabooed for a time about forty years ago. An officer writing on the subject remarks that it is not the policy of the War Office to issue definite instructions on matters which are better left to the individual good sense and right feeling of officers and men. This sounds very well, but one has to look at the way it works in practice. There can be no doubt that Freemasonry in the Army is credited with a great deal of the favouritism and injustice of which soldiers complain, and looking at the nature of this particular society, it seems almost inevitable that it should have this undesirable result.

A bitter complaint on this subject is penned by a sergeant in a Line regiment now in Ireland. "Up to the beginning of 1895," writes this warrior, "we were the happiest of happy families. Then Freemasonry was introduced, and what a change! Every one who has not joined is made to feel that he is not wanted in the regiment." I quote these remarks because the writer says that he has always been an admirer of Freemasonry, and that were he in civil life he should get himself initiated into the mysteries without delay. But he thinks that Freemasonry is incompatible with the due and impartial maintenance of military discipline; and I am inclined to think so too.

A statement reaches me that a naval officer, hitherto standing well in the Service, has been suddenly sent to an unimportant ship on the Australian station for no ostensible reason, and that the true cause at the bottom of what is evidently a mark of official disfavour is that he is credited in official circles with being the author of the articles in TRUTH upon the case of Surgeon Lea. Low as is my estimate of the intelligence of the Lords of the Admiralty as a body, I can hardly believe them to be so supremely foolish as this statement would imply—though I doubt not, after what has already passed, their capability of any act of malignant spitefulness against an officer suspected of such an offence. If, however, there prevails at Whitehall any such impression respecting the authorship of the articles on Surgeon Lea's case, I shall be happy to publish a few more articles on the same subject, which will convince any competent observer that the writer is still at large and unmuzzled.

Every requirement for Furnishing tastefully at least expense is amply illustrated in the Galleries and Catalogues of HAMPTON & SONS, Furnishers & Decorators, Pall Mall East, S.W.

THE HERNIA INSTITUTE, 489, Oxford-st., London, W., absolutely CURES RUPTURE in from three to six weeks. Highest testimonials. Pamphlets and consultations free.

I had been in hopes that the M.P. who terested himself on Mr. Lea's behalf last year would ere this have brought this atrocious case before Parliament. Should this not be done, it will be a matter for regret to the whole Service. Apart altogether from the individual wrong done to Mr. Lea by the sentence of the court-martial which tried him, the tactics subsequently adopted for the purpose of defeating inquiry, and the outrageous misrepresentation of the facts placed before Parliament through Mr. Goschen, and reiterated through the mouthpiece of official slander in the Service Press, combine to make the case a monument of the unscrupulous methods to which officialdom resorts to escape the admission that a wrong has been officially committed. The House of Commons exists primarily as a check upon administrative abuses of this character, and there never was a Service scandal in which its functions more urgently required to be exercised than in Surgeon Lea's case.

The instances lately given in TRUTH of unreasonable delay in the transmission of telegrams pale before a case reported from Cirencester. A firm in that town despatched to London a telegram on an important matter of business at 12.54 p.m. on May 23, and the telegram was not received until 6.10 p.m. on May 26. No explanation of the delay has been offered, and the money paid for it has not been refunded. Such an occurrence is disgraceful in the highest degree to the Post Office, and more especially to the higher functionaries, who refuse to make even the small reparation of refunding the money. The blame for such occurrences rests not upon the clerk, probably overworked, by whose error the telegram has been mislaid in transmission, but upon the vile system of sweating and slave-driving in force in the Department; and it is time there was some searching Parliamentary inquiry into the whole administration of the Telegraph and Postal service.

A further illustration of the official attitude in the case of delayed telegrams is afforded by a recent case in which a telegram sent from Glastonbury to an address in Australia took *fourteen days* in transmission. In reply to a complaint, the following letter was received :—

General Post Office, London, July 8, 1896.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 17th ultimo, I beg leave to inform you that the telegram in question was not delayed by this Department.

Before further inquiry can be made on the subject of your complaint, it is necessary that the Department should be furnished with the message form which was delivered to the addressee.—I am Sir, your obedient servant, J. H. BISCOE.

The addressee, as I have said, is in Australia, and the chances are that the message form delivered to him has long since been destroyed. But, whether it is or is not, what can be more monstrous than to make the production of this form a condition precedent into any further official inquiry into the cause of the delay?

Yet another example of the same sort of thing, On June 8 an officer living at Edinburgh sent a reply-paid telegram to the office of the P. & O. Company in London, asking for information respecting the arrival of a certain ship. He received no reply, and on inquiry of the Company, was informed that they had no trace of the telegram being received. On June 12 the officer wrote to the G.P.O. stating the facts, and asking for an explanation and a refund of his payment. 1s. 5½d. He received the usual printed acknowledgment of his letter, and having heard nothing more at the end of a fortnight, he wrote again, calling attention to his first letter. This letter remained absolutely unanswered. On July 2 he wrote a third time, asking this time how many more reminders it would be necessary for him to send before receiving the explanation and refund which he had asked for on June 12, and the reply that was dispatched to him on July 4 was nothing more or less than a replica of the original formal acknowledgment sent on June 15. Unless the whole administrative system of the G.P.O. is rotten to the core, it cannot be possible to take from June 12 till July 4 to discover whether a particular telegram has or has not been sent from Edinburgh to London. The truth seems to be that the official form No. 7, "I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the — inst., which shall receive attention," is a mere official impertinence which "Your obedient servant, S. Walpole, Secretary," uses for the purpose of choking off the public when they are unduly inquisitive about the blunders of the Department.

Several communications have reached me with reference to the case of a junior clerk in the Savings Bank Department who has recently gone out of his mind, as mentioned in TRUTH of the 2nd inst. As to the fact, there seems now no room for doubt; and among other clerks in the department there is equally little doubt that this young man's sad fate is the result of the merciless slave driving which goes on in this office. It would be well if his relatives were to make further inquiry into the subject, with a view to bringing the matter before higher authority. Among other things, I hear that for several days before he was finally removed, the unfortunate clerk's condition was perfectly obvious to his fellow clerks, but the officials of the Department do not seem to have felt any responsibility in the matter, and the young fellow was allowed to continue attending the office, until one evening he got into trouble on the way home, and was taken to a Police Station on a charge of assault. This certainly does not point to any considerable degree of solicitude for the welfare of their subordinates among the senior officials of the department.

An application is now before the Sheffield authorities, I am told, for the issue of a licence as a marine passenger broker to the man Henry Howden of that town, whose name will be familiar to my regular readers. The application is presumably the outcome of a recent Board of Trade prosecution, in which Howden was charged with a breach of the Merchant Shipping Acts by acting as a passage broker without a licence. The matter is of considerable public interest from the fact that Howden is the local agent, or catspaw, of the notorious Canadian Farm-Pupil Association, of which James Aspdin, of Pendock, Tewkesbury, is the presiding genius; and,

SUFFERERS from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and INGRAM & ROYLE, LTD., 52, Farringdon-street.

unless I am mistaken, the Board of Trade prosecution was prompted by the desire of the Canadian Government to put a stop to the swindling traffic in "farm pupils" carried on by Aspdin & Co. and others of the same class. It is highly desirable that the Sheffield authorities should be fully informed of all these facts before any official licence to carry on this iniquitous traffic is granted to Howden. Ample information for the purpose will be found in the various articles on the Canadian Farm-Pupil Association which have appeared in TRUTH during the last two or three years, and I shall be pleased to place the articles at the disposal of any Sheffield Town Councillors, or other officials, who may desire to see them. I hope to supplement my recent article, "James Aspdin Unmasked," with some further particulars of this individual's farm-pupil operations, as soon as other demands on my space allow me the opportunity of doing so.

If a man dies in Aberdeen and his family are too poor to buy a coffin and bury him, the corpse must remain above ground until it has reached such a stage of putrefaction as to become a nuisance and danger to health, and then—and not until then—the interment will be carried out by the public authorities. This is the pleasant state of things revealed in a story published by a local evening paper last week. A man named Carr died, and his widow, being without any means to provide for the funeral, applied to the poor law officials. They said that as the deceased had not been in receipt of parochial relief, it was no case for them, and referred her to the sanitary authority. At the Sanitary Department she was told that "they did not bury people until they were stinking." This condition was fulfilled after the body had been lying uncoffined for two days, during sultry weather, in the small room occupied by the widow and her children, and then the sanitary authorities provided a coffin—which was so small that the decomposing corpse had to be squeezed into it—and the funeral took place. It is stated that this scandalous affair is to be brought under the notice of the Town Council, and it will be interesting to see what that body has to say on the subject.

The performers on the beach at Eastbourne pay, I understand, a regular weekly sum to the town authorities for the right to occupy their respective positions. One troupe of six performers, who have been regularly paying £1 a week in advance, have been ordered off the beach by the Chief Constable. Why? The reason given to me is that the troupe recently dismissed one of their number at a week's notice on what they considered sufficient grounds, and that on this the Chief Constable took his action. The incident requires the attention of the authorities, and unless some more satisfactory explanation can be given, the Chief Constable has clearly exceeded his authority. He has no concern with the domestic affairs of any company of performers, and even if one of the company alleged that he had been wrongfully dismissed, the aggrieved individual has his remedy in a civil court.

Scott Abie, 115, Regent-street, London, for Shooting Gowns, Cawdor Capes, Travelling Ulsters, Jackets, Racing Coats, Carriage Rugs, Mauds, Shawls, and Scotch Tweeds. Patterns post free.

A recent prosecution of a fisherman at Newcastle has served to direct attention to the extraordinary claim to exclusive fishery rights in the tidal waters of the Tyne which is made by Earl Percy. It would seem that this claim is based on a charter granted by Edward III.; but the validity of the charter is questioned; and a writer in the Newcastle *Daily Leader* cites a passage from "Stephen's Commentaries" to show that in the time of Edward III. such grants of fishery rights could "no longer be made by the Crown, being prohibited by King John's Great Charter, and the second and third confirmation of it in the reign of his successor." A local correspondent tells me that the measures which have been taken on behalf of Earl Percy have excited a great amount of feeling in the district, and it is to be hoped that some authoritative decision will be obtained as to his title to the fishing in the Tyne.

By the way, a curious point is raised in the article in the *Leader*. How does it happen that Earl Percy, and not his father, the Duke of Northumberland, appears as the claimant of these fishery rights? It is suggested that there has been a transference of the ducal properties; and if this is true, it would be interesting to know when such transfer took place, and what effect it will have in regard to the payment of succession duty.

At Portsmouth Quarter Sessions, on Friday, before the Recorder (Mr. G. D. Warry, Q.C.), four cases were tried. In each one Mr. G. Taylor Warry, the Recorder's son, appeared as counsel either for the prosecution or for the defence. Mr. G. T. Warry was also briefed for the prosecution in another case in which the prisoner pleaded guilty, and he was furthermore retained to make an application in connection with a poor-law appeal. The objections to sons practising at the Bar before their fathers have been so frequently stated in these columns that it is hardly necessary to add anything to the foregoing statement. It will, I hope, help to convince the Bar Committee of the desirability of extending to the sons of Recorders and Chairmen of Courts of Quarter Sessions the salutary rule which was some time since adopted with regard to the sons of Judges.

While it is some satisfaction to see that Mr. H. C. Burdett's recent account in the *Times* of the horrible scene he witnessed at Colchester Station has impelled the R.S.P.C.A. to take up the question of the treatment of cattle in course of transit by rail, I must say that the prosecution at Colchester last week appears to have been conducted in a curiously half-hearted and unconvincing way. Surely, if ever there was a system of cruelty to dumb beasts which the Society ought to rigorously combat, it is that revealed in the evidence in this case. The defendants' counsel contended that there could be no conviction unless it was shown that wanton cruelty was inflicted on the animals without any good or necessary purpose being served. Is it, then, a good and necessary purpose within the meaning of the Act to save railway companies the expense of fitting up their cattle trucks with partitions to partly isolate each animal, which would almost entirely prevent the cruelty com-

plained of? The Bench apparently held that it is, for though they agreed that the method of transit was "a most grossly cruel one," they dismissed the summonses. However, as the result of the prosecution, the President of the Board of Trade is giving his attention to the subject, and I trust that he will be able to persuade the railway companies to improve their arrangements. If they will not do so voluntarily, there will have to be legislation to compel them.

The S.P.C.A. officials might also turn their attention with advantage to the treatment of poultry in transport between Ireland and London viâ Waterford and Milford. A passenger by this route deposes to having seen several hundred fowls and ducks taken on board by this route landed at Milford next morning, and transferred to the train, without having received a drop of water on the journey. Presumably they would get none from the time they were packed in their crates until they reached London (if then), which would be a period of at least thirty-six hours and possibly longer. This means much needless and preventable suffering, which ought to be stopped.

The latest craze has received a thrust below the belt from a most unexpected quarter. At a first glance it would appear rather out of place for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to fall foul of the modern cycle—the human animal being generally capable of taking pretty good care of himself. But Mr. Colam contends that in too many cases the cyclist is unable to enjoy his novel amusement unless his favourite dog is in attendance, the consequence being that many of the latter die rather than stop when following their masters, whilst the less faithful are lost "in hundreds" all over the country through their inability either to go the pace or follow more leisurely by scent. This is a sweeping charge against the humanity of the man on wheels; but Mr. Colam has forgotten to explain why, if he is certain of his facts, he failed to use the powers entrusted to his Society for punishing the cruelty of the offenders.

No one will find fault with the sentence passed upon George and Susan Wheatley at the Clerkenwell Sessions, for the wilful neglect and ill-treatment of their two children, aged fourteen and fifteen respectively. The female prisoner was, it is true, only their step-mother, but it is difficult to conceive how the common instincts of humanity could have allowed the most perfect stranger to watch such cruelty being perpetrated, day by day, without interference. Neither the boy nor the girl enjoyed the best of characters; but, whatever their offences, the punishment inflicted by the male prisoner was perfectly horrible, and would, in the opinion of the medical man who examined them, have proved fatal if much longer persevered in. Under such circumstances, the penalty of eighteen months' hard labour in each case can scarcely be called excessive.

The Princes' Restaurant, Piccadilly, W., now open, is the most elegant and best appointed establishment of the kind in London, where Society can meet to enjoy Luncheons, Dinners, and Suppers of the most recherché description. Signor Bocchi's celebrated orchestra performs daily and Sunday during dinner and supper.

The truth of what I have frequently said as to the magistracy treating the protection of property as of more importance than the protection of the person is neatly illustrated by two little cases which are contributed to my Legal Pillory this week from Ipswich. A man who goes home drunk, and, in accordance with his amiable custom, beats his wife and knocks down both her and her baby, is let off by the Ipswich Solons with a penalty, including costs, of 19s., while immediately afterwards they impose a penalty of £1. 5s. 6d. on a drunken woman for doing eighteenpenny worth of damage to a public-house door. At Ipswich, therefore, it is cheaper by six and sixpence to assault a woman than to damage a door. As usual during a spell of hot weather, sentences for sleeping out have been exceedingly numerous in the country districts, and those given below are only a tithe of the cases brought under my notice. In such weather, many poor homeless outcasts sensibly deem it more wholesome and agreeable to lodge in the open air than in a stuffy and malodorous casual ward; but chuckle-headed justices have somehow come to regard this as a heinous offence, and they almost invariably punish it with a term of hard labour:—

Ipswich Police-court. Before Colonel J. H. Josselyn and Mr. R. D. Fraser. Frederick Wisbey, charged with assaulting his wife. Defendant went home under the influence of drink and struck his wife about the face; she ran into the street with her baby in her arms and he followed her and threw them both to the ground. He had ill-treated her for years. Fined 10s. and 9s. costs.

Monmouthshire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. S. C. Bosanquet and other magistrates. William Townsend, convicted of stabbing Ann Anderson. One month.

West Derby District Police-court. Before Messrs. J. B. Morgan and J. Hignett. Thomas Bracken, charged with assaulting Sarah Cannel. Defendant flung a piece of brick at the woman, striking her on the ear, and inflicting severe injuries. The Bench said the defendant had had a narrow escape; had the missile struck the woman an inch or so higher on the temple she would have been killed. Fined 20s. and costs, or fourteen days.

Airdrie Sheriff-court. Before Hon. Sheriff Watt. John Brannigan and Patrick Brannigan, convicted of assaulting a married woman, named McKnight, by knocking her down and kicking her. Fined £1 each.

Sheffield City Police-court. Before Messrs. W. G. Blake and J. E. Bingham. George Whitely, charged with ill-treating his son, aged 9 years. Defendant beat the lad severely about the head and the upper part of the body with the buckle end of a collier's belt, inflicting a number of cuts and bruises. Ordered to pay the costs and bound over.

Ipswich Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Jane Catchpole, charged with damage to a public-house door to the extent of 1s. 6d. She was under the influence of drink. Ordered to pay the damage, 1s. 6d., and fined 10s., and 14s. costs—altogether £1. 5s. 6d., or fourteen days.

Norfolk Adjourned Quarter Sessions, Lynn. Before Lord Walsingham and other Justices. William Hubbard (73), charged with lodging in the open air and being an incorrigible rogue and vagabond. Two months.

Louth (Lindsey) Police-court. Before Messrs. J. G. Sewell, T. C. Garfit, Dr. Fawssett, and the Mayor (Mr. Sampson). George Taylor and Hubbard Reeson, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being in unlawful possession of game and nets. Fined £5 each, and 15s. costs.

St. Columb Police-court. Before Mr. Arthur Williams. Edwin Trebilcock, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Ashford Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Sayer, E. Cock, J. Jones, and W. G. Handcock. Walter Friend, charged with trespassing in pursuit of rabbits. Fined £1, and 18s. 6d. costs.

Spittlegate (Grantham) Police-court. Before Sir Hugh Cholmeley, Bart., Lieut.-Colonel Parker, and Mr. J. G. Thorold. William Spurr, John William Kitson, and John W. Leach, charged with sleeping out. Spurr, fourteen days; the others seven days each.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

Halesowen Police-court. Joseph Hipkiss and Adelaide Hipkiss convicted of assaulting Elizabeth Brookes. The female defendant struck Brookes and knocked her down, and the man then kicked her. She sustained injuries which necessitated medical attendance. Fined 12s. 9d., including costs.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Fisher. Patrick Duffy, charged with assaulting Thomas Porter by striking him with a hammer, knocking him down and kicking him on the head and face, whereby he was cut and wounded to the effusion of blood, two of his teeth were loosened, and he was otherwise injured, causing him to be confined to the infirmary for several days. The defence was that the accused mistook Porter for another man. Fined 21s.

Aberdeen Sheriff Court. William Dickson, convicted of assaulting William Thain by beating him with his fists, felling him to the ground, knocking him into a ditch, kneeling upon him, and again beating him. Fined 15s.

Kettering Police-court. Before Mr. J. J. Roughton and other magistrates. John Mabbutt, charged with poaching. Three months, and a further three months in default of finding sureties.

Burton Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Parker, F. A. J. Coxon, and T. Turner. Annie Keys & George Ellis, charged with stealing a quart jug, value 10d., from a public-house. The woman one month, the man two months.

Totnes Borough Police-court. Before Mr. B. W. Hayman and Dr. Haines. George Tapper, charged with sleeping out in the open air. Fourteen days.

Wymondham Police-court. Before the Rev. J. E. P. Bartlett. James Lock, charged with sleeping out in the open air. Seven days.

Lambeth Police Court. Before Mr. Hopkins. William Johnson, aged 61, charged, under the Prevention of Crimes Act, with being found on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose. Prisoner, who was an old offender, was found in a back garden. Twelve months.

Suppose that a poacher, armed with a revolver, had a struggle with a gamekeeper, armed only with a stick, and that in the struggle the gamekeeper was shot and killed. What would be the fate of the poacher? Would it be of any avail for him to say that he did not know how his weapon went off? I do not think so. He would either be hanged for murder, or sentenced to a long term of penal servitude for manslaughter. Now consider the case that lately occurred at Warwick, where the positions of the parties were reversed. The poacher carried a stick, the gamekeeper a revolver, and the poacher was shot dead. At the inquest, which was held the same day, evidence was given by the gamekeeper, William Barnes, and his son, who was also present at the affray. William Barnes deposed that he was attacked by the poacher, that he called to his son for assistance, and that all three got entangled in a net and fell down. "While I was on the top of him" (the poacher), continued Barnes, senior, "I was struggling hard to keep him down. I had the revolver in my right hand. I felt something give the net a pull, and then the revolver went off." The son said that after they fell he made haste to get up and pull the net clear of their feet; "directly he pulled the net he heard the sound of a pistol." On this evidence the coroner's jury found that the death of the poacher was "purely accidental;" and next day the magistrates expressed the same opinion, and discharged Barnes, senior, from custody.

A solicitor at Warwick informs me that the facts have been brought under the notice of the Home Secretary—presumably with a view to a further investigation. I do not myself see how the case can possibly be re-opened after the verdict of the jury and the decision of the magistrates. At the same time I fancy most people will be of my opinion, that what has been treated as an accident on the part of the gamekeeper would undoubtedly have been held to be manslaughter on the part of the poacher.

By way of contrast to the foregoing case, I may mention that I have had a letter complaining of the hard treatment a gamekeeper on an estate near Perth has received at the hands of the Sheriff at Perth. According to my informant, this gamekeeper found four men taking young rooks from a rookery in his employer's grounds, and "in defending himself he knocked one of them down." For this the keeper, being summoned for assault, was fined £1, while a charge against the men under the Wild Birds' Protection Act was dismissed, apparently on the ground that though they were removing the young rooks from their nests they had not actually got the birds into their control or possession when detected. But the aggrieved gamekeeper has overlooked one most important consideration. It was not a Game Law case. If he will confine himself to looking after "the sacred birds" he will probably never have any reason to complain of a lack of support from the dispensers of justice.

I have received the following letter from the Editor of the *Leeds Express*. All I have to say about it is that a little more *rapport* between the "literary" and managerial departments would be a decided advantage to the paper. I have heard before now of a newspaper being edited by its advertisement manager, but I never heard of this arrangement being permanently profitable to the proprietor; and I doubt whether any greater success is likely to follow where an advertisement manager is responsible for the insertion, without the Editor's knowledge, of half a column or so of "pretended" editorial matter, tending to seriously compromise the paper. Where the distinction between the "literary" and "advertisement" departments of the *Leeds Express* begins and ends will, after the following letter, be left in doubt, and I would suggest that, in order to let the reader know where he is, all matter emanating from the latter department should in future be distinguished by the mark "Advt."—a practice which has much to recommend it:—

Leeds Express Office, July 10, 1896.

Literary Department.

To the Editor of TRUTH.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me a few words of correction concerning your reference to the "post-card advertisement" at Leeds. The "advertisement" was, as the apology subsequently issued stated, absolutely and solely the work of the Advertisement Department of the paper. The Editor had no cognisance of it whatever.

The same holds true of the pretended editorial "commentary" which, as you say, "decidedly aggravated" the offence.

That was inserted without the Editor's knowledge, and in his absence; and the following issue of the paper contained a paragraph (appended) disclaiming the matter.

Your remark therefore that "A Provincial Editor" (why the cheap sneer at "A Provincial Editor?") "may regard this sort

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"NORSE KING," 3,212 tons register, 4,500 horse-power, will sail from London (Tilbury), August 27, for a twenty-five days' Cruise to the CAPITALS OF THE BALTIC, calling at Leith, Copenhagen, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Kiel, returning viâ the New Baltic Canal and Heligoland. Fares from EIGHTEEN GUINEAS. Passengers are allowed to take bicycles free of cost.—PIRRIE & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne; JAS. J. BALLANTINE, 134, Vincent-street, Glasgow; HY. GAZE & SONS, LTD., 142, Strand, London, W.C.

of thing as a joke," is a mistaken assumption so far as I am concerned.—Yours faithfully,

Thos. H. Hardman, Editor.

The following is the paragraph referred to in Mr. Hardman's letter. Apparently the "mistaken assumption" that the *Express* is edited by its editor has been widely prevalent in Leeds. But, no doubt, after this lucid "disclaimer," the position of affairs is now better understood:—

Shakspere enjoined us to "speak by the eard." Many Leeds people have now altered it to speak "of" the eard. As Miss Reeve used to sing, "You know the sort of eard I mean." Some of them write about it, too. Those who have addressed their remarks to me have made a mistake. I would politely request them to address themselves to the Commercial department, which is the department concerned. For the same reason I must decline the invitations I have received to personal interviews.

The following statement is startling, if true:—

Nineteen thousand purses were left in cabs last year. Four thousand were stolen in omnibuses between December and March. Sixty per day (average) are snatched from the hand, and thousands are lost—left in shops and trains—daily.

In view of these statements the Hon. Mrs. Pery, of Kinvarra, Co. Galway, sends me a purse which she has patented under the name of the "Safe" purse. It is attached to the wrist by means of a strap, with a loop to go over one of the fingers, so that it cannot be either dropped, laid down, or stolen, and yet the fingers are left free for any other purpose. I do not know what authority Mrs. Pery has for her statistics, but whether they are accurate or not, some of my lady readers may like to know of her purse. I must say that the feminine practice of always carrying the purse about in the hand is a reprehensible one from every point of view, and a specially expensive one from the point of view of those who have to keep it filled.

Apropos of my remarks the other day on the importance of dentistry in schools under public management, I have received a very instructive "Handbook on the Teeth," by Mr. Walter Whitehouse, L.D.S., of Victoria-street. I can recommend this little book to all my readers, for they will find in it in compact form a great deal of information about teeth and dentistry which every one ought to possess, though I fear few do.

In an unguarded moment I remarked the other day that, though I would not give ladies votes, I would certainly let them have tea and strawberries. This has brought me many protests and denunciations from advanced representatives of the other sex. When I spoke it was in a *bonâ-fide* belief that tea and strawberries are more beneficial and desirable than votes; and I am grieved if it should turn out that the majority of women are of a different opinion. That some of them are I know only too well, and it was quite unnecessary for them to write and inform me of the fact; but I am confident that they will always be a minority, and I yet hope that many of them will live to realise their mistake.

One of the strangest arguments for enfranchising the unmarried female householder that I have yet heard is put forward by a lady who writes to me on the above subject, and writes, I am bound to say, very politely, and with a spirit of toleration towards the benighted male which not all of her disfranchised sisters manifest. She tells me that married women influence their husbands to a great extent, and thus are able to vote through them. How little the unmarried know of the relations of the sexes in the married state!

I have received a long letter from Captain Philip H. B. F. Salusbury, in reference to Lord Salisbury's statement in the House of Lords last week concerning the serious allegations of outrages on British subjects which that officer has made against the authorities of the Congo Free State. The letter complains of various misrepresentations on the part of the Prime Minister, and particularly that, while he was unable altogether to deny the truth of the charges, in his efforts to whitewash the Congo State, he did not scruple to cast a reflection upon Captain Salusbury by alluding to "statements" to his prejudice which he said had been "published in Belgium." Lord Salisbury has since been asked for details of the statements to which he referred, and challenged to produce any evidence of blameworthy conduct by Captain Salusbury during his service under the Congo State. To this no reply has been vouchsafed. But there is nothing extraordinary in his lordship attacking a man without being able to justify his attack. It is a way he has.

Mr. John Skelton will shortly resign his office as Vice-President of the Local Government Board for Scotland, and I hear that he is to be succeeded by Mr. Anstruther, M.P. The St. Andrews Burghs Liberals will do well to be prepared for a contest. The appointment for which Mr. Anstruther is to quit the House of Commons is worth £1,200 a year.

For the benefit of my Welsh readers I am asked to mention that a Welsh National Testimonial to Mr. Thomas Gee, of Denbigh, is now in course of promotion in recognition of the many public services of that veteran Radical. Mr. Samuel Moss, J.P., of Chester, is the hon. secretary of the Committee. Although it is nominally a Welsh testimonial, I doubt not that there are many Anglo-Saxon Radicals who will be glad to contribute, and I should think it not unlikely that their contributions will be as gladly received.

Arbitration means a decision of arbitrators within reasonable time. The Delagoa Bay Railroad arbitrators have been sitting in Switzerland for seven years. It would seem that they have just recognised the necessity

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of expert evidence. Therefore, two gentlemen who were connected with the piercing of the St. Gothard Tunnel have been appointed experts, on condition that they are not required to make a local investigation; consequently, a third expert is to be appointed, who is to proceed to South Africa. I trust that this will expedite matters, for it is really full time that the Arbitration Tribunal should pronounce its decision.

I hope that the proceedings at the Chicago Convention will bring home to Mr. Balfour and other Conservative bimetallists their mistake in aiding and abetting tampering with the standard of money. It signifies little what that standard may be, provided that it be invariable. In the United States the Western States are producers of silver, therefore they want the free coinage of silver, which would give them a market for all that they produce. The "Populists" want to repudiate all monetary obligations, and, with this end in view, they propose at once to oblige all to receive payment in a depreciated currency, which practically would enable all who have borrowed a dollar worth 100 cents, to pay it back in one worth sixty cents. Silverites and Populists have, therefore, made common cause in a scheme which would entirely ruin the credit of their country, for who would trust another with a dollar if this other might by law pay it back in little more than half a dollar? Credit being thus at one fell swoop destroyed, no one would be the gainer. Lenders would demand a higher interest on loans to cover the risk of further repudiations, whilst what now costs one dollar would cost very nearly two. My only wonder is that these strange political economists do not see that it is as well to be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb, and that they do not propose a ratio between gold and silver of one to one.

Well indeed may the well-informed American correspondent of the *Times* in America talk of a "silver craze," but we shall always be subjected to these crazes so long as people will not realise that currency is only a measure by which the relative value of one object to another is estimated, and thus the transactions between man and man are simplified. A farmer in one of the Western States of America finds that the sale price of his produce is lowered owing to a hundred causes. He imagines that he can meet this by reducing the value of the currency. Never was there a more absurd illusion. If he got more currency for his produce, he would have to pay more for all that he buys. His monetary position would, therefore, not be changed, except that from the fact of substituting silver for gold, the value of the currency would be perpetually falling, because the supply of silver is practically unlimited, and the law would insist on all produce being purchased by the Government, and converted into coin. When Mr. Bryan, the nominee of the Chicago Convention for the Presidency, says that the people are being crucified on a golden cross, he might as well say that they are being crucified on a barometer, and that if it be enacted that storm is henceforward to be fair weather on the dial of the barometer, every farmer would be secured fair weather.

I can understand a person holding that one generation is crushed by the volume of debt incurred by preceding generations, and that, consequently, this volume should be arbitrarily reduced. But then he ought to frankly demand the reduction. To reduce it by halving the value of legal tender, on the ground that this is a mere question of currency, is the grossest of hypocrisy.

My idea of a sound system of taxation is this. Every one ought to be allowed to accumulate during his lifetime what he pleases, but when he dies there ought to be a maximum that he may leave to relations or friends, all in excess of this maximum going to the State. Take, for instance, Mr. Astor. It is said that he possesses about fifty million pounds. Evidently he cannot spend the interest of this amount. In a given number of years, therefore, if this money from generation to generation remains in the hands of one single individual, it will become five hundred millions. Neither the individual nor the community will benefit by this. Therefore, I would meet it by handing into the public treasury most of Mr. Astor's fifty millions on his death. How would this harm him? He would have ceased to exist. If the State took 99 per cent. of his money on his death, he would still have five hundred thousand pounds to dispose of, and on this sum his heirs or heir might rub on very comfortably.

I am glad to see that an amnesty has been offered to the natives of Rhodesia; but I would have the Colonial Office go a step further and invite a conference at which the natives may have an opportunity to state the grievances under which they consider that they have suffered, and at which a *modus vivendi* between them and the settlers may be arranged. Rhodesia is as large as Spain and France. There are three or four thousand "European" settlers, most of whom are gold prospectors and dealers in very mythical mining claims. These people want the Matabele to be "wiped out," in order that prospecting may go on without danger. The other natives, they hope, having less backbone than the Matabele, may be forced to work for the whites. This scheme is a barbarous one, and ought never to be permitted. The offer of amnesty has, it is stated, caused great indignation amongst the "settlers," and they clamour for a policy of vengeance and "wiping out." For my part, I cannot forget that the Matabele are the native inhabitants of Matabeleland; that they obviously have been treated—to use the mildest term—hardly, and that a native race

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ought not to be destroyed in order to furnish a crew of speculators with an opportunity to roam at leisure over a huge district, for the purpose of finding some traces of gold which may be floated in London as a company. Surely the country is large enough to give to the Matabele a reserve, in which they may live and thrive according to their lights.

The dual control of Earl Grey acting as a subordinate to the dethroned king, Mr. Rhodes, and Sir Frederick Carrington acting as the representative of the Imperial authority, does not work well. All military and civil power should be concentrated in the hands of the latter, the Company, of course, providing the means. A huge issue of debentures has been decreed by the Directors. These, I presume, will be taken up by the financial ring that ran the shares up to 800 per cent. premium. To this I have no sort of objection, provided that they retain these debentures in their own hands, and do not fool innocent investors into taking them. So long as the Company has money, or can get money, it must pay for everything; when its resources are exhausted, it will have to surrender its Charter, for it will be unable to fulfil the conditions under which it holds it. This will occur as soon as it can borrow no more; for, to suppose that it can pay all claims on it owing to the war and the raid, its heavy annual administrative charges, and interest on this issue of debentures, out of a non-existent revenue, is obviously absurd.

I see it stated that the Radicals are protesting against Mr. Chamberlain being the Chairman of the investigating Committee. Far from this, the Radicals would have him Chairman of the Committee. One of the statements put forward by the friends of the Company is that Mr. Chamberlain knew of the raid before it occurred, and tacitly encouraged it. For this I have not seen the shadow of a shade of evidence. I believe it to be absolutely untrue, and that the charge has been made is additional ground for investigation. The aim of those who have urged the inquiry is that the exact facts in regard to the Company and its doings may be known, and that Parliament, with a full knowledge of these facts, may take the whole situation into consideration.

The report of the Land Commission of Matabeleland, with accompanying correspondence, which has been just presented to Parliament, shows that, when the Chartered Company conquered Matabeleland, it assumed the proprietorship of all the cattle. Some of these cattle were the personal property of individuals, and others belonged to the nation. These latter were called King's cattle, and they were distributed amongst the kraals, the inhabitants of which were allowed to milk them, but might not kill them without the permission of the King. In December last it was decided that a portion of them should be returned to the Matabele; and it was explained to them that the Company would retain 32,000 and return 40,930. So far, however, as I can gather from a telegram of Earl Grey, dated June 23, this alleged distribution only took place in February last. Earl Grey states that when the arrangement was explained to the Matabele they expressed "themselves well satisfied." This satisfaction seems to have been doubtful in view of the fact of the outbreak that occurred. Then came the rinderpest, when large numbers of the cattle were ordered to be killed.

To confiscate the entire cattle of a nation on the plea of conquest never has been dreamt of in any previous case of conquest. The troops of the Chartered Company were collected by means of engagements promising "loot" to all who enlisted, and the cattle seem to have been the "loot." I wonder what would have been thought if, after France had ceased to resist the Germans, the German Emperor had issued a decree declaring all French cattle to belong to him, had a year later given the French back a portion of them, and had then announced that all Frenchmen were satisfied with this equitable arrangement.

I have been greatly bewildered by the various accounts in the papers of Mr. Rhodes's share in the battle (or battue) at Thabas Imamba. What did this gallant warrior really do towards the slaughter of the Matabele? At first I thought he must have been chiefly occupied in the congenial business of looting the natives' cattle. This was when, on Wednesday, I read the statement of the special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* that "Mr. Cecil Rhodes, under heavy fire for fifteen minutes, captured one herd of cattle himself"—himself, mind you. Then I learned from the Central News telegram that "Mr. Rhodes saw a great deal of the fighting." That was puzzling, because it might mean either that he took an active part in shooting down the Matabele, or merely that he looked on at the sport from a safe distance. On turning to Dalziel's message, however, I read that "*Mr. Rhodes fought well in Sunday's battle.*" This seemed to settle the question; but not for long. On Saturday I came across the following passage in a further telegram from the correspondent of the Central News:—

> During the fight at Thabas Imamba, Mr. Rhodes, refusing arms, simply carried a switch. The officers throughout the hostilities had fears for his safety, as his daring led him into very exposed positions. Once the ex-Cape Minister got into an exceedingly hot corner, and sang out, "Jove, they are close." Assistance, however, promptly arrived.

Finally, on Monday, Reuter informed a wondering world that

> in the action at Thabas Imamba Mr. Cecil Rhodes was fired at by a Matabele from a distance of only eight paces, but was not hit.

We are to understand from these veracious correspondents, then, that the valiant Rhodes went into battle, captured a herd of cattle all by himself, and fought well armed only with a switch! Was there ever such a hero?

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SCRUTATOR.

TORY CODLINS AND RADICAL SHORTS.

THE warmest friend of the present Administration would hardly assert that it has done well during the current Session. It began with a programme which its members must have known could only pass if the Session lasted above a year, and at the same time it announced that a prorogation in time to shoot grouse was a principle so sacred that, no matter what occurred, the Session must end in the middle of August. The programme was an exhaustive scheme of spoliation of the many for the few. The Education Bill, which was designed to hand over the education of the rural districts to the Church of England at the cost of the community, was so outrageous that it had to be withdrawn, for it could not stand in the light of discussion. The Rating Bill has been passed. On the plea of relieving agriculture, the Bill has made a present to the landlords of half of their rates, and it has included in the favoured landlords, not only those who own land the value of which had fallen, but land whose value had risen. Not satisfied with this, the Tory Finance Bill exempts rich men from the operation of the Death Duties in respect to many millions owned by them, and reduces the Land Tax to a vanishing amount. Abroad the Government has drifted into a Soudan Expedition against the advice of Lord Cromer, and, with a meanness almost incredible, has saddled India with a portion of the cost, although a Hindoo has as little to do with the valley of the Nile as an Egyptian fellah with the plains of the Ganges. The Session will close with a Government possessed of a huge majority in Parliament utterly discredited as business men. The Unionists may pull themselves together before the General Election, for that is far off. But if an election were to take place now, their majority would, to say the least, be considerably reduced. To what did they owe their victory of last July? In part to a Conservative reaction, but mainly to their predecessors having so muddled everything that the electors thought that the fire was better than the frying-pan.

But whilst the Unionists are doing all that they can to lose popular favour, we are doing nothing to gain it, beyond a vague endeavour to suggest that if the Liberals muddled, so do the Unionists. "Short is the man, not Codlin" will hardly put Short in the place of Codlin. The Liberal Party just now is very much in the position of the Democratic Party in America, as revealed at the Chicago Convention. The Silverites there, having captured the Convention, and having got hold of the "machine," seek to impose on all Democrats the silver heresy. So here, a clique has captured the Liberal machine, and would impose on the Party views in regard to foreign and domestic policy, which are in direct contradiction to all its traditions. Jingoism, with its corollary of huge armaments, may be to the advantage of the country. But this is not the tradition of Liberals. A scheme of government which practically converts Party rule into a choice between two rival bands of aristocrats may also be to the advantage of the country; but here, again, this is not the creed of Liberals. Radicals require something more than a see-saw between Short and Codlin. Let us suppose that there were a General Election to-morrow. The Unionists might get a majority, when things would remain as they are. But if the Liberals were to win, in all probability the Queen would send for Lord Rosebery. We should therefore be confronted with much the same Government as brought the Liberal Party into discredit last year—a Government more Jingo in foreign politics than Lord Salisbury and his friends, and powerless in domestic politics owing to the House of Lords. The doctrine of the Liberal wirepullers is that the Party ought to subordinate every principle to getting in, and, when in, to subordinate every principle to staying in. My objection to the doctrine is, that a majority cannot be obtained under such conditions, and that, if it could, no one would profit except those who may secure to themselves salaries for a year or two.

If one thing is more certain than another, it is that, whether the Liberals are in a majority or in a minority in the House of Commons, they are equally powerless so long as the Unionists can fall back on their permanent majority in the House of Lords. This is why I always have been, and always shall be, for a concentration of effort on the part of Democrats to sweep away that branch of the Legislature. But is the Liberal Party prepared to do this? The Party is, but its wirepullers are not. Our Brahmins, it is true, deal in vague generalities about a reform of the Lords. During the last Parliament we were told that we were, after a weary sand-ploughing, ultimately to go to the country on a resolution embodying such a reform as would render the Lords innocuous. But our Brahmins never agreed amongst themselves as to what this resolution was to be, because most of them would not accept any resolution that would have proved acceptable to Radical opinion outside the Cabinet. To abolish the House of Lords is a revolution. Its consequences would go far beyond a mere change in the composition of Parliament, for it would make the people masters, not only in the Legislature, but in the Executive. The House of Lords is the fortress of privilege, and all those who either personally profit by privilege, or who dread Democracy, naturally object to this fortress being levelled to the ground. Some of them, like Lord Lansdowne in his speech to the London County Council last week, openly demand that it should be strengthened; others try to curry favour with the Radicals by pretending to be with them, but are determined, under a pretence of doing something in the way of reform, to see that nothing really is done which would weaken the lordly barrier against popular rule. Never was a revolution effected by officialdom. Therefore, if it is to be effected, it must come from the people imposing their will on those who pretend to speak for them. I would have the next General Election fought on these issues: That the House of Lords be abolished; that no Liberal Government henceforward take office without a distinct understanding with the Crown that, if the Lords prove recalcitrant, they are to be coerced into obedience

by the creation of a sufficient number of Peers to swamp their opposition; and that all future Liberal Governments are to be composed exclusively of the elected representatives of the people. Surely the Irish might assent to this programme. It was the Lords, not the Commons, that threw out the Home Rule Bill, and so long as the Lords can constitutionally throw out a Home Rule Bill, such a Bill never will become law.

Radicals have the future of Democracy in their own hands. If they deem that the electoral struggle is to be, whether this or that gang is to be in office, because one may be ready to throw a few more Democratic crumbs to them than the other, by all means let us humbly and submissively bow the knee to officialdom. Let us accept with gratitude any Peer whom the Queen may select as our Leader. Let us turn our backs upon the policy of Mr. Gladstone in regard to armaments and our foreign relations at the bidding of the Leader whom her Majesty vouchsafes to us, because from the Court view he is a "safe man." Let us with reverence and respect contemplate the barrier which breaks the Democratic wave. If, on the other hand, we are not prepared to be led like a blind man by any dog, and if we really are desirous to bring to an end a system of aristocratic rule, in which a Tory Government with power alternates with a Liberal Government without power, we must realise that the first step towards putting an end to this is to knock down the stone wall within which we are confined, instead of prancing about in our prison and braying like a jackass in a pound, and knocking our heads against the wall as a protest to the wall's existence. He who wills the end must use the means to attain it. The means to attain our end are not mere rhetorical claptrap and pious opinions, but a perception that those who are not with us are against us, and a determination to sweep away everything that bars our advance. Whether we have one Chamber or two Chambers is a mere detail. The essential is that no man shall henceforth be a Legislator who is not elected thereto by the votes of his fellow-citizens.

THE POSITION OF THE KILBURN SISTERS.

Four weeks have now elapsed since the publication of the result of the TRUTH inquiry into the work of the Church Extension Association and the Kilburn Sisters. So far as I am aware, no answer of any kind to the TRUTH article has been put forward in any quarter, nor has any intimation appeared that such an answer is in contemplation. On the contrary, the Sisters have issued in the interval a large quantity of circulars, renewing their appeals for cash without any allusion whatever to the subject, and the Church paper which has hitherto made itself their mouthpiece has, alone among Church papers, refrained from the slightest allusion to the TRUTH article. To all appearance, therefore, it is the intention of the Sisters to allow this formidable indictment to pass in silence, and to go on their way, if they are allowed to do so, as if nothing had happened. The question then arises, Are they to be allowed to do so? That question it will be for the subscribers to the Church Extension Association to answer, and I trust there will be little difference of opinion among them as to what the answer should be.

The position of the Kilburn Sisterhood at the present moment is this: Various allegations against their work having been published in the Press and elsewhere, and having been commented upon in TRUTH, the Sisters came to me, after having consulted competent advisers, representing that I had been misinformed, and offering to satisfy me that this was so. They must be presumed, therefore, to have had the fullest confidence in my desire to do them strict justice. A course of inquiry was agreed upon between them and me. The inquiry was pursued accordingly up to a certain point, when a demand, unjustifiable in itself, and inconsistent with all that had gone before, was put forward by the Mother Superior, failing my compliance with which the investigation was to stop. As a consequence, it did virtually stop, and I was referred to a lawyer, who, after having reversed the whole relation of the parties by calling upon me to prove to him and his clients that the allegations made against them were true, closed the negotiations by informing me that if any further criticism of the Sisterhood appeared in TRUTH, he should commence proceedings for libel upon the observations which had appeared in TRUTH before the Sisters invited me to investigate their work. Disregarding this threat, I published the article which formed the Supplement to TRUTH of June 18. In that article, after describing all that had passed, I discussed in detail the whole of the allegations against the work of the Sisters, and gave, with full reasons for the conclusions arrived at, my opinion that in all material particulars the allegations were well-founded, and that the Sisters were practically unable to furnish a reply under any single head. At the same time I made public for the first time a great deal of evidence as to the treatment of children, and even grown-up girls, in the orphanages, which, unless disproved, must destroy all confidence in the management of these institutions, and the competence of the Sisters for the work they have undertaken. All this I published, I think I may confidently say, without hostility of any kind towards the Sisterhood, and with every possible endeavour to give full weight to everything that they had said in their own defence during my negotiations with them, and to every argument that could be used on their behalf. It cannot be contended by any but the most bigoted partisan that I have shown the slightest animus towards them, or in any way departed from the position of an impartial investigator of the case which they themselves desired me to assume.

This, then, is the indictment which the Sisters seem to think is best met on their side by absolute silence. It is not for me to estimate the significance of my own conclusions; but if any reader of TRUTH feels any difficulty in arriving at that point, it should be sufficient to refer him to the practically unanimous opinion of the Press, of all shades of opinion, in London and the Provinces upon

IRROY'S Champagne. VINTAGE 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
IRROY'S Champagne. VINTAGE 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
ERNEST IRROY & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

the effect of the TRUTH disclosures. For the guidance of Church people, I think it only right to cite specially the opinions expressed by the most authoritative Church paper, the *Guardian*, and by the most influential organ of the more advanced High Church Party, the *Church Times*. It would not have surprised me had these journals attempted to extenuate the effect of the TRUTH report. Instead of that they have both pronounced upon the Mother Superior and her advisers a condemnation which seems to me, coming as it does from such a quarter, far more severe than anything I have myself ventured to say. I will ask my readers to study more especially the observations of the *Guardian*, which appeared on June 24:—

If it promised to be of the slightest avail we should appeal to the Mother Superior on the ground of the grave trouble and disgrace which her action is bringing upon other Sisterhoods and upon the Church at large, as well as upon her own community. But the experience of the Editor of TRUTH does not encourage us to do this. When the head of a great organisation first invites an inquiry, then throws difficulties in the way of its prosecution, and finally threatens with the penalties of libel those whom she has asked to conduct it, and the witnesses whose evidence they have taken, there can be no room for remonstrance or argument. All that we can do is to ask those of our readers who are contributors to the works carried on by the Kilburn Sisters to read the extracts given to-day, or, better still, the supplement to TRUTH of last Thursday, and the Charity Organisation pamphlet. They may reply, no doubt, that these are only *ex parte* statements, which leave their confidence in the Sisterhood quite unshaken. But though an *ex parte* statement cannot be final and conclusive, it constitutes—when it relates to a matter of public concern—a case which those against whom it is directed are bound to meet. If these charges are true, money sent to Kilburn had very much better be thrown into the nearest pond. The sum affected by this unpleasant doubt is said to be some £35,000 a year. Those out of whose pockets it comes may, of course, be wholly indifferent to the use to which it is put. In that case they will not be made uneasy by the charges brought by TRUTH and by the Charity Organisation Society; but if they have even the slightest desire that their money should do good to others they will decline to send any more until the Superior has submitted the whole history and management of the Sisterhood, and the works carried on in connection with it, to the test of an impartial investigation by the ecclesiastical authorities to whom she professes—at least we suppose so—to owe religious obedience. There is no reason to doubt that the Bishop of London would institute such an investigation if he were asked, though he might now demand some adequate assurance that those to whom he entrusts it shall not be prosecuted for libel if the Superior is not satisfied with their conclusions. So long as the Sisterhood decline to make this request they must not wonder if their unwillingness to do so exposes them to grave suspicion, and leaves us no choice but to warn those who have hitherto maintained their work of the responsibility they will incur by maintaining it any longer.

The *Church Times* is a paper from which, if from any, some apology for the Sisters might have been expected, and it is certainly not a journal which will be credited with any undue partiality for TRUTH or its editor. It guards itself, indeed, against accepting the TRUTH statements unreservedly, and "hopes that some of them have been exaggerated," but for the rest it speaks to precisely the same effect as the *Guardian*,—indeed, the agreement between the opinions of the two writers is very remarkable:—

Sisterhoods, like Cæsar's wife, ought to be above suspicion, considering the implicit faith we are inclined to repose in the integrity of the Sisters, and the absolute correctness of their administration of public gifts. After a careful consideration of the painful controversy aroused by the charges brought against the Kilburn Sisters, we feel bound to reiterate the opinion that these ladies have pursued a course damaging not only to themselves, but to all similar communities . . . . . If the confidence of Churchmen is to be restored, the Sisters should at once, before it is too late, unreservedly place their case in the hands of the ecclesiastical authorities, giving them absolute permission, without fear of pains or penalties, to look into the whole of the management of their institution from the beginning, as regards the works in which it has engaged, religious, philanthropic, and commercial and the methods it has employed. It is simply childish, if not worse, to ask for an inquiry, then to put obstacles in the way of those conducting it, and then to threaten them with prosecution for libel.

The above observations were penned within a few days of the publication of the TRUTH article, and when there was still ground for expecting that if the Sisters did not adopt the advice tendered them by the *Church Times* and the *Guardian*, they would at least make some show of an attempt to rebut the imputations upon their past conduct. That expectation must, apparently, now be abandoned. The Sisters have neither signified their intention of traversing the conclusions of TRUTH, nor of placing their case in the hands of the ecclesiastical authorities. Nor is this in any way surprising. To those who remember that when the Archbishop of Canterbury himself undertook to conduct an inquiry into certain phases of the Kilburn work, it was only to find himself thwarted by transparent artifices culminating in his summary removal from his position of patron of the organisation, it will be no matter for wonder to find that the Mother Superior and her advisers should prove as indifferent to the appeals and remonstrances of representative organs of Church opinion, as they had previously shown themselves to the voice of the Church itself, uttered officially through its chief prelate. To me, at any rate, this is only what was to be expected. I am one of the few, be it remembered, who have had the privilege of personally discussing their position with the Mother Superior and her most trusted advisers. Taking advantage of the position they had given me, as an investigator in whose independence and friendliness they had confidence, I urged again and again upon the two Sisters whom I interviewed, as well as upon the Mother Superior herself, the desirability of submitting themselves—not necessarily in their religious life, but at any rate in their charitable undertakings—to the surveillance or inspection of some outside personage or authority in whom the public at large would feel confidence. The suggestion, as I have already recorded, was received with scant favour, and the impression conveyed to me was that the Mother and the governing Sisters were supremely satisfied with themselves and everything they have done, and would brook nothing whatever in the shape of outside interference with their work, whether from cleric or layman. In that attitude, I take it, they are now confirmed. In a weak moment these amiable ladies thought that the Editor of TRUTH might be trusted to conduct a superficial and perfunctory investigation of their work, and to whitewash them as soon as he found that they were raising and spending a vast amount of money in some sort of charity. But they found that he wanted to know too much, and that he declined to say that statements, *primâ facie* authentic, were false, until he had evidence to that effect before him. So they threw over the Editor of TRUTH as they had previously thrown over the Archbishop of Canterbury, and tried to frighten him into holding his tongue. That having failed, they mean to show now that they despise the Editor of TRUTH, and care nothing for his opinion nor anybody else's. They will go their own way, and trust to time, which is stronger than journalists or archbishops, to help them out of their present troubles. That, so far

as I can gather, is the present frame of mind of the Mother Superior and her colleagues.

It remains for the public to say whether this policy shall or shall not succeed. The public, giving some £35,000 per annum in cash, and an unknown amount beyond in kind, to the work of the Church Extension Association, hold the key of the situation, and I have far too much confidence in the general good sense of the public to doubt what the result will be when the situation is clearly understood. The advice, therefore, which I would give to all who have hitherto subscribed to the Church Extension Association, or in any way supported the work of the Kilburn Sisters, is that given so clearly and wisely in the above extract from the *Guardian*. No further support of any kind should be accorded to the work of the Sisters until two conditions have been fulfilled: (1) that the whole of the allegations placed on record in TRUTH of June 18 shall be refuted to the satisfaction of a competent and independent tribunal; (2) that a constitution shall be adopted which shall have the approval of the ecclesiastical authorities, and which will afford to the subscribing public the security that the whole of the work, including the financial administration, is under the supervision and approval of some outside inspector or "visitor" in whose good sense and sound judgment confidence can be felt. These conditions are indispensable, because by their own conduct and attitude in the face of the charges against them, quite as much as by the weight of evidence and argument on the various points at issue, these ladies have forfeited all title to the confidence of the public as administrators of the alms of benevolent Church people. The observation of the *Guardian* that "if these charges are true, money sent to Kilburn had very much better be thrown into the nearest pond," is well within the mark. Money given in support of a charitable institution standing in such a position as the Church Extension Association now occupies is worse than wasted. The successful maintenance of such a charity is an encouragement to all ill-managed charitable institutions to persevere in their evil courses, and in the present instance it means the maintenance of what has become, as both the Church papers which I have quoted declare, a scandal in the Church and a danger to other Sisterhoods.

Let me repeat once more what I have said over again, that in making these remarks, and in giving this advice to Church people, I am actuated by no spirit of animosity to the Sisters of the Church, any more than is the *Guardian* in giving the same advice. There is a great organisation at Kilburn, possessed of vast resources, and capable when properly controlled and directed of achieving infinite good. The Sisters as a body are not, to the best of my belief, responsible for the errors, and worse, that have been committed, for the responsible management of the affairs of the community is not, directly or indirectly, under the control or inspiration of the whole body; indeed, I believe that a great number of the Sisters know little of the truth upon any points that are in dispute. It is to the advantage, therefore, of the Order, equally with all those who should reap the benefit of its vast power for good, that its constitution and administration shall be radically reformed. There are those whose sectarian prepossessions may lead them to distrust all Sisterhoods. I am not one of them. Nothing would please me better than that the time and trouble I have devoted to this matter should result in the Kilburn Sisterhood being remodelled, and entering upon a new and long career of usefulness. But it is now clear that such a result can only be arrived at by the prompt withdrawal of all public countenance and support from the Sisterhood as it now is. For that reason before all others, I ask the public to withhold their support.

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LEIGH SAMPSON—HIS ALIASES AND HIS GHOSTS.

The name of this individual will be familiar to many readers of TRUTH. Some years ago he attracted attention in these columns by the numerous circulars he issued in the character of a distressed artist in search of patronage for the support of a mother and sister dependent upon him. Not only did he issue these appeals, which might have been excusable had the facts alleged in them been true, but he adopted the plan of sending pictures "on appro." with his circulars, which pictures the recipient was expected to pack up and return, if he was not disposed to become a patron. Sampson protested strongly against my criticism; so strongly, indeed, that he went the length of calling on me late one night, and challenging me to fight a duel with him. Finding this method ineffectual, he appealed to my benevolence, pathetically beseeching me not to deprive him and his relatives of the means of earning a livelihood. As the result of this appeal, I sent a representative down to talk the matter over with him, and Sampson so worked upon the tender feelings of my representative that we arrived at an understanding that, if he would abandon the features in his circulars which were objected to, I would say nothing more about him.

It is a melancholy thing to have to admit that one has been humbugged, but I am bound to say that I am afraid this man Leigh Sampson has got at the blind side of me. It is so often my duty to warn my readers against allowing their benevolence to get the better of their judgment, that I feel a peculiar pain in confessing that I have myself fallen a victim to a too susceptible nature, and an undue confidence in the truthfulness of a fellow-creature. If it is not so, a great weight will be lifted off my mind; but at present I fear the worst. The case stands thus. I have been in communication with several artists and one or two picture dealers, who tell me that they have known this man Sampson for years, not as a painter, but as a picture dealer in a fairly good way of business. The artists have, in fact, all been in the habit of selling their work to him as a dealer. They tell me that his real name is not "Leigh," but Levi Sampson—a much more suggestive name. In one instance, at least, he also seems to have posed as the representative of a firm styling itself Sampson & Son.

All these artists have, I think, sold their pictures to him unsigned. One, at any rate, has sold to him large numbers of unsigned pictures, and has afterwards seen these pictures with the signature "Leigh Sampson" upon them. I am also told that Sampson himself is absolutely incapable of painting anything which could be called a picture.

Now, these are allegations very easily brought to the test. There are two questions to be decided. First, whether Sampson is, in the ordinary sense of the term, an artist at all; secondly, whether, in the appeal issued by him in the character of a struggling artist, he has really been offering for sale his own work, or those pictures which he had bought in the manner above described. If either of these questions is decided against him, Sampson is a fraud and a humbug. There is already considerable reason for doubting his honesty. A year or two ago he made special appeals to people to buy his pictures, on the ground that he had received an appointment as art teacher at the Cape, and was unable to take it up for want of the means to pay his fare. Quite recently he has been trading in the same way upon a representation that he had received an appointment as art teacher at Adelaide. He has declined to be interviewed by a representative of a South Australian paper, in connection with this alleged appointment; and in a private letter to me he has declined, on absurdly insufficient grounds, to satisfy me that the statement is genuine, by informing me of the name of the institution from which he has received his appointment. Only the most credulous will under these circumstances believe that the appointment is anything else but an invention. Further, he has recently assumed the name of "Donald Sampson," for the purpose, apparently, of recommending himself to Scotchmen, to whom he has been offering his pictures, and on the same principle he has been adopting the name of "Lloyd Sampson" when appealing to Welshmen. That is obviously the act of a thoroughly unscrupulous humbug, and lends colour to the allegation that his name of Leigh Sampson is itself a fictitious one, assumed for the purpose of hiding a Hebraic origin. The man who can resort to tricks of this kind is presumably capable of doing the same thing on a larger scale.

Now Mr. Sampson has no ground for suggesting that I am not ready to do full justice to him. To all appearance I have hitherto dealt with him only too tenderly. I therefore now offer him an opportunity of clearing up, if he can, these imputations upon his honesty. I offer to place at his disposal a room in this office, and invite him to come here and paint a certain picture under my eye. I say a "certain picture," because there is one particular picture which I am specially anxious to see Mr. Sampson reproduce, and which he can have no difficulty in reproducing, if he is an honest man, for the simple reason that about forty or fifty replicas of this particular picture signed by him, and purporting to be his work, have recently been sold. For Sampson, therefore, to come here and paint me yet another replica of this picture ought to be the simplest thing in life, and the work of only a few hours, and it will have the effect of entirely setting at rest the doubts which I feel respecting Sampson's qualification as an artist. Mr. Sampson has of late been extremely anxious to win my good opinion. He has called at this office; he has requested me to insert a statement from him as a paid advertisement; he has even pursued me with long, whining letters at my private address. He can therefore have no excuse for refusing to avail himself of the perfectly simple and reasonable offer which I make. If he does refuse to avail himself of it, he will convict himself of being the swindling impostor which it is alleged that for years past he has been.

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LIFEBOATS AND L. S. D.

In consequence of the paragraph in last week's Truth intimating my intention to discuss this week the controversy over the removal of the Lifeboat Saturday Fund headquarters from Manchester to London, I received from Mr. Hinde, the Organising Secretary of the Fund, an offer to give me any information I might desire, which offer I, of course, at once accepted. As the result of this, I have heard pretty fully the official side of the question, and I have been enabled to see an advance proof of a pamphlet about to be issued setting forth that side of the case. The conclusion at which I arrive is that, in its present stage, the matter is not one calling for any lengthy notice in Truth. Briefly, the facts are these. Mr. Charles Macara, of Manchester, the founder and manager for many years of the Lifeboat Saturday movement, which has lately been bringing in over £20,000 per annum, has resigned his position as head of the organisation. Prior to his doing so, the headquarters of the movement were last year transferred to London, where they are now directly under the control of the National Lifeboat Institution. It has been lately alleged in Manchester, in public meetings and in the Press, that the result, as shown by the figures, has been an enormous increase in the working expenses, without any material addition to the gross returns—in other words, a large diminution of the net results; and at the same time it was suggested that Mr. Macara had been shabbily treated, and that the move to London was made in opposition to his wishes. The other side replied that Mr. Macara remained at his post till the end of 1895, and was responsible for everything done in that year, and, therefore, for the diminution of the net receipts. To this Mr. Macara retorted that he had desired to retire earlier, that he remained against his will, and that, though officially responsible for what was done, he exercised no real control or authority over the administration.

Now this question, so far as it relates to Mr. Macara's personal responsibility for the working of the Fund in 1895, is a purely personal one, which has no interest for me; nor, I imagine, for any one else, unless in Manchester, where Mr. Macara is well known. The question with which alone the public are concerned is whether the removal of the head-quarters to London has been prejudicial or otherwise to the interest of the Fund. This point is but lightly touched in the document that I have

received from the Lifeboat Institution. I find there, however, an allegation that the figures put forward at Manchester by the critics of the new *régime* are garbled, and that a false impression has been created by bringing into the expenditure account for 1895 the whole outlay by the local committees, amounting to about £6,000. If it can be shown that this item was at the same time omitted from the corresponding account for 1894, with which comparison was made, then clearly the critics of the present management have mis-stated their case. Whether this can be shown, I am not at present aware. On the other hand, I have received from a Manchester correspondent the following comparison (in round figures) of the returns for the two years, which are given to me as compiled from the reports of the National Lifeboat Institution :—

	1892.		1895.
Gross collection	£25,300	.....	£23,800
Expenses (*local and paid by Institution*)	7,000	.....	13,000
Net.....	£18,300	.....	£10,800

The words which I have italicised, "local and paid by Institution," imply that the expenditure of the local committees is included in both accounts. If so, the results of the change of administration have been startling and deplorable. It cannot be a matter of any difficulty for those who have the figures in their possession to show exactly and conclusively which way the truth lies; and I would suggest to the Lifeboat Institution that if they desire to convince the public, their simplest and wisest course is to set out a complete statement of the total receipts and expenditure, local and central, for the two years. Anything short of this will leave the most important issue in utter obscurity.

I turn now to the other matter affecting the Lifeboat Institution, which, as mentioned last week, I have lately had under consideration. It has reference to the charges made by the crews of the National Lifeboat Institution for services rendered in saving property at sea. A statement on this subject has recently been prepared at Lloyd's, which shows the payments made under this head in a very striking light, and which, unless refuted, is calculated to influence very considerably the attitude of the benevolent public towards the lifeboat service as at present conducted. The document gives particulars of a large number of cases of salvage of property by lifeboats during the year 1895. Here are some samples :—

1. A steamer goes ashore near Cullercoats. The sea is smooth and the wind light. A tug and the Cullercoats lifeboat come to her assistance. The lifeboat puts out a kedge and eighty fathoms of wire-rope. The vessel is got off in one hour. The lifeboat crew—apparently before they go to work at all—demand £50 for the kedge and £300 if they float the ship. To prevent legal proceedings and the arrest of the vessel, the steamer's agent gives a bond to the salvors, and settles for payment of £230 to the lifeboat and £400 to the tug. Lloyds pronounce that "under the circumstances of this case, £230 would certainly be enormous for such service as the lifeboat men rendered." Yet £350 was at first demanded.

2. A steamer is blown ashore during a snow squall on a level sandy beach on the Norfolk coast. The Winterton lifeboat comes off, and the coxswain endeavours to make an agreement with the Captain for £2,000 to get the ship afloat. The Captain demurs, but gets the lifeboat men to run out a kedge anchor to hold the ship in position. The coxswain talks in an alarming way about the ship being on a dangerous coast, and says that if the wind comes on badly from the N.E. he will not be able to come alongside; but, in point of fact, the wind dies away three hours after the ship runs aground, and there is no danger of any kind. The same night the lifeboat coxswain, on his own responsibility, sends a message to Yarmouth for tugs to come and help. Two tug-boats arrive next morning, and two others later on, and later in the day a second and larger lifeboat puts out. An hour before high tide an attempt is made by the two tugs to tow the ship off, but she is not moved. She is eventually towed off by four tugs, after three minutes' towing, about an hour before the next high tide. It is suggested that the first attempt was not a genuine one, one of the tugs insisting on towing at right angles to the other, and thereby breaking the hawser. The coxswain of the lifeboat had previously brought his men on board to discharge the coal from the bunkers, but the captain forbade them to do so. When the ship is got off, the lifeboat men insist that she shall proceed to Yarmouth, in order that they may make their claim and put a writ on the ship, and on the captain refusing, they become insolent, and only leave the ship on the captain threatening to carry them away to the Tyne, whither he is bound. When the ship starts, they contrive to surreptitiously leave one of their number on board "as a bailiff." A claim for salvage is made and settled out of Court for £2,050 to all the salvors, of which the lifeboats get £1,020. On behalf of the owners the suggestion made all through this case is that the lifeboat men were simply making work for themselves in order to bolster up a claim for salvage.

3. A sailing-ship strikes very slightly on Puffin Island. She floats off when the tide flows. The lifeboat comes off, and the crew stand by until she is floated, and give the captain some assistance in getting her into a place of safety. For this they demand £50. The owner offers them £6, or 10s. per head. They place the matter in the hands of their solicitors, and the owner eventually settles for £16.

4. A steamer grounds in Cardigan Bay. Two lifeboats come and render her assistance. She is got off without damage, and proceeds on her voyage. The lifeboat men demand £1,000 and place themselves in the hands of their solicitor. The owners consider £250 to be handsome payment, but, on an action being commenced, they pay £350 into court. The lifeboat men accept this on its being increased by a further £10 towards their costs.

5. A steamer carrying cargo and passengers gets ashore on the Goodwins. "Weather moderate." The Ramsgate and North Deal lifeboats come to her assistance, accompanied by three tugs. The passengers are landed, and the Ramsgate lifeboat subsequently makes a claim for £250, and the Deal lifeboat for £300. On the owners refusing to pay, writs are issued, the lifeboats withdraw their claims for life salvage, and the court awards each of them £80. It is alleged that the men of one of the lifeboats, after the passengers had been landed, gave the captain a lot of trouble; that when ordered off the ship on one side, they rowed round and boarded her again on the other, and that the captain had to threaten to throw them all into the sea before they left.

6. A steamer goes ashore on the Goodwins in a fog, and floats off at high water. Two lifeboats come off, and one of them puts out an anchor at the request of the captain. On floating, the steamer is seized for salvage services, and a claim made for £250. The owner states that "the underwriters paid £250 for absolutely nothing, to avoid litigation."

7. A sailing ship with a cargo valued at £280 strands on the Goodwins. The crew leave in their own boat. The Walmer lifeboat picks up the vessel and brings her into Ramsgate. The crew make a claim for £130 for salvage,

MEDITERRANEAN and BALTIC CRUISES for EIGHTEEN GUINEAS, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars, Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

which is settled for £100 and costs, taxed at £8. 8s. The owner states :—

The solicitor for the lifeboat crew would not say any amount that the lifeboat crew expected. I called on him myself, and could not get him to name a sum ; but the first thing he did was to issue a writ for salvage services rendered for ship and cargo. I then wrote a strong letter to the Secretary of the Lifeboat Institution complaining of the way they allowed the crews of their boats to fleece a poor unfortunate shipowner when he got into trouble. It was only then that they named a sum, namely, £130.

8. A sailing vessel comes to anchor in St. Tudwall's Roads during a gale, and, having lost her sails, puts up a signal for a tug. A lifeboat comes out and takes the crew off. Next morning, the gale having subsided, the same lifeboat puts the crew back again. The Captain remains ashore trying to make arrangements for towage. On returning to his ship he finds that one of the lifeboat men has remained on board under pretence of being ill, and that this man has been advising the mate to get up the anchors and put up signals of distress. On behalf of the lifeboat crew this man then makes a claim for salvage to the amount of £70. The owner refuses to give more than half, and tells them that he will let the law take its course. They eventually accept £35. This, it will be seen, is simply for taking the crew off a ship at anchor and putting them aboard again next morning.

9. A German ship gets ashore on the Knock in "tempestuous" weather. A Margate lifeboat comes off, and her crew give assistance in pumping and jettisoning the cargo. The vessel remains aground for four days, tugs not being able to get her off, and during this period the Walton lifeboat also comes up and gives some assistance in jettisoning and pumping for one day. Another Margate lifeboat also puts off and renders assistance in pumping, &c. After the ship is floated, the lifeboats make a claim for £3,000, the owners eventually settling with them for £2,200.

From facts such as the above—and, as I have said, they are only samples—one conclusion may be drawn with absolute certainty. It is that salvage money is a most important consideration to lifeboat crews, and that in making claims the lifeboat men are generally greedy, and occasionally not over-scrupulous. In nearly every one out of twenty-seven cases referred to in the Lloyd's statement the claims made by the lifeboat men are alleged to have been excessive; in many they are shown by the result to have been unjustifiable; and in several of the cases there are allegations of the men having resorted to improper practices in order to manufacture or magnify their claims, or to enforce such rights to pecuniary reward as they may legally have. The general effect of the evidence is to totally upset the popular conception of lifeboat men and their duty. Instead of bands of devoted heroes ready at every moment to risk their own lives for the good of their fellow-creatures in danger, we see here simply parties of enterprising mariners "on the make," who, whatever the risks of their calling, always keep an eye on the main chance. We all admit that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and when the calling is an exceptionally dangerous one the hire must be in proportion. Moreover, when the law clearly recognises the right of compensation for salvage services at sea, these services must be paid for on the legal scale, by whomsoever they are rendered. But if the chief aim, or one of the chief aims, of the lifeboat service is to earn salvage money, the disinterested heroism with which lifeboat men have hitherto been credited disappears altogether, and with it disappears the chief ground on which public sympathy and public support have hitherto been solicited. The risks which a lifeboat crew run become little more than the risks of a business in which the prizes are sometimes very big. On some portions of the coast, notably along the Downs and around the mouth of the Thames, a lifeboat man's calling ought to be, if one may judge by the scale of remuneration indicated in some of the above cases, an uncommonly profitable one; and to ask the public to subsidise it in the name of charity is more than unreasonable. When the public see a lifeboat crew making their claims to the amount of hundreds and thousands of pounds for attendance on a single ship in difficulties; at once placing themselves in the hands of a lawyer when their claims are questioned; and sometimes pocketing a sum of this magnitude in cases where there has never been a life in danger, either on the lifeboat or on the ship assisted—I question whether the public will open its purse in the lavish manner it hitherto has done for the support of the National Lifeboat Institution.

This is so certain that I am reluctant to lay over much stress upon the point. The Lifeboat Institution, whatever its faults, is undoubtedly a very valuable one, and no single lifeboat on our coasts could be withdrawn, without grave risk to human life in the neighbourhood. One is reluctant, therefore, to say anything that may tend to stop the flow of public contributions by which the lifeboats are at present maintained. But this consideration—a consideration, by the way, which the present managers have made the most of whenever they have incurred hostile criticism—cannot be allowed to permanently stand in the way of the reform of serious abuses. The above facts *do* point to very serious abuses, and if the Lifeboat Institution is not prepared to reform them, it will become the duty of the public, as represented by the Government, to reform the Lifeboat Institution. As a first step to such reform I would submit with confidence that lifeboat crews should be excluded from all direct interest in salvage money. The interest which they have at present places a most dangerous temptation in the way of men in needy circumstances. To a fisherman or a sailor in a little coast town, with his precarious livelihood, the prospect of earning a substantial share of £500 or £1,000 must necessarily be a great temptation. It may tempt him to chaffer and bargain at a time when prompt action is of vital importance. It may tempt him to take an unfair advantage of a ship in difficulties which is hardly distinguishable from blackmailing, or to resort to misrepresentation and other tricks such as are indicated in the facts cited above. We are not so far from the days when wreckers deliberately decoyed ships to their destruction that we can afford to take for granted that every sailor along the coast is an unselfish hero, or that the uglier phases of human nature are not to be found among the seafaring population, even those of them whose physical courage is beyond question. That bein

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Desigr solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-exte South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excell all their productions, and invite a comparison of their pri those of any co-operative stores.

so, the crews of lifeboats ought to be removed from all temptations to abuse their position. They should clearly understand that it is their duty to go off at any risk to themselves whenever a ship in distress requires their help, and they should be paid accordingly. Any salvage claims which may arise in respect of the services they render should be made by their employers, the National Lifeboat Institution, and the Institution alone should receive the money. The money so paid should go to the general funds of the Institution, and not into the pockets of the men engaged. It may be right and proper that the crews should receive special rewards when they have rendered specially valuable services, either in saving life or property; but these rewards should be given (as many are at present) by the Institution itself, and should be a matter of grace, not of right. Services precisely analogous to those rendered by lifeboat men at sea are rendered almost every day by firemen on shore, but I never yet heard of firemen being employed on such terms as seem to have commended themselves to the wisdom of the National Lifeboat Institution. What would be thought of a fire brigade, in which the men received no regular wages, but were sent out with a fire-engine and left to make what they could for themselves by means of a salvage claim out of any citizen whose house happened to be on fire? The mere suggestion of such an arrangement is preposterous, yet it practically describes the system at present in force in regard to the saving of life and property on our coasts. I am prepared to hear and give full publicity to anything which the Lifeboat Institution may have to say in answer to the facts stated by Lloyds; but I have a very strong opinion that, whatever answer may be given in regard to any specific allegation of extortion or misbehaviour, the public, when it understands what the system is, will peremptorily require that it shall be reformed.

THE RETURN OF ADA REHAN.

Ada Rehan, an artist incomparable in her line, is with us once more. She is to our stage the modern Peg Woffington, the up-to-date Mrs. Jordan. Nominally, of course, the delightful Ada Rehan is what is called an American actress; racially, of course, she is Irish, and with a full store of the delightful humour of her mother-country. She received on her reappearance the heartiest of welcomes, and she both looks and acts better than ever. English audiences show a very sincere admiration and regard for this charming comedy actress. She never fails to please. There is no nonsense about her. She does not indulge in the affectations of the popular actress. She always does her best. She never disappoints her audience. And she works as hard as Sarah Bernhardt, which is saying a good deal.

I have been at the trouble to obtain a few statistics on the subject of the touring capacity of a star actress, and no one who has not visited America and taken one of these sensation trips can conceive the fatigue and boredom that they involve. It is sometimes said that travelling in America is the best travelling in the world. I regret to say that is not my experience. The discomfort of American journeys, say from Chicago to San Francisco, is obvious. Even in what they call "a drawing-room" car, life is a sorry burden. In what they call "a section," it is intolerable, mainly from the difficulty of properly ventilating the cars and sections. Across the Alkali plains, if a window were opened the dust would blind the passengers or send them mad, so the consequences are obvious.

Theatrical touring on the great continent of America is on a stupendous scale in respect of the distances that have to be covered. Miss Ada Rehan who arrived in England in the very best of health, after the smoothest Atlantic passage she has ever experienced, has been away from London since September 14 last. In the ten months that have elapsed she has travelled 20,941 miles. As nearly six months out of the ten were spent in New York, while the towns visited on tour were in nearly every case big enough for at least a week's engagement the distance seems almost incredible. But this last tour of the Daly Company through the American provinces has been the widest which that organisation has ever undertaken. It has covered the ground from New York to San Francisco, from Montreal to New Orleans. One straight journey from New York to St. Louis was a run of 1,172 miles. After the company had finished in Omaha they had to travel 1,876 miles to get to San Francisco, where they next appeared. From Oakland, California, at the conclusion of one engagement they had a journey of 2,357 miles to fulfil their next one at Chicago. Altogether thirty-nine towns were visited, and of the journeys from one to another only five were of less than 100 miles, whilst trips of 400 to 500 miles were less the exception than the rule. But all this travel, diversified only by hard work, has stimulated rather than exhausted Ada Rehan's energies, and she has come back in better and more vigorous health than ever.

The penalty of Ada Rehan's success is that she has to play for everlasting the clever and fascinating widow eternally hoodwinking and checkmating the pursuing man. The Countess of Gucki is merely another version of the old pitched battle between a clever woman and an irrepressible man. The only difference between this play and countless others which were acted to perfection by Ada Rehan and John Drew is that Ada Rehan is dressed in the costume of the early nineteenth century, that she is not an American girl but a German countess, and that, alas! there is no John Drew by her side. Mr. Charles Richman is all very well as what the ladies call a "fine figure of a man;" but as yet he is rather a wooden actor. He makes the pie-crust of comedy with a heavy hand. What our grandmothers called "short crust" cannot as yet come out of his oven. The consequence is that whenever Ada Rehan plumes her feathers and wants to soar she is pulled back. Some one is always clinging to the "guide ropes" of this captivating balloon. In the one pathetic scene in the play a Mr. Edwin Stevens pulls her back; in the one strong comedy scene Mr. Charles Richman reins her up. But for all that it is a delightful performance, and if we cannot be treated this time to Shakespeare or

Sheridan we must put up with the Countess of Gucki and Love on Crutches, and such like gentle and inoffensive alterations from, and improvements on, the German text. The great thing is that we have secured Ada Rehan for a few weeks, and when she is in England the sun shines on the theatre she elects to honour. This time it is the Comedy. She brings back with her those kindly souls of comedy, James Lewis and Mrs. Gilbert, ever content to take bad parts and play them uncommonly well. There are no airs and graces in Mr. Daly's company. They are all a happy family, and have a sincere respect for "the governor," as they call him, a governor who is one of the very best stage managers and stage instructors of his time. Being successful, he is necessarily a target for the jealous and envious. This is the way of the world. They twit and taunt him with knowing nothing about Shakespeare, and with vandalism and heaven knows what, when, as all the world knows, he is an accomplished Shakespearean scholar and the possessor of one of the most valuable Shakespearean and dramatic libraries in existence.

Mr. Augustin Daly has done for the stage in America the same kind of good and true work that Sir Henry Irving has done for the stage in England. He has elevated its tone whenever possible, and been responsible for no unworthy work at all. If occasionally the American public demands a Countess Gucki instead of a Katharine, and a Railroad of Love instead of a Viola, it is not more surprising that a Lyceum audience should occasionally ask for a Duboscque instead of a King Lear, or a Jeremy Diddler or Jingle or Robert Macaire instead of a Becket or King Arthur. No great harm is done any way.

At this time of the year London is full of visitors from America. Every bed has been taken at the hotels around Charing Cross, the summer coaches are well patronised, and silent little Stratford-on-Avon echoes to the tramp of many enthusiastic pilgrims. This being the case, it is natural that the most gifted of American artists, or the most ambitious, should desire to try their luck at the English theatres. The Yale crew was seen at Henley, so why should not a pretty and intelligent little actress invite her friends, English and American, to an "At Home" at the Comedy Theatre? The new candidate for histrionic honours is Miss Elizabeth Tyree, a pretty, sweet-voiced and clever young actress. She has been a member of Mr. Frohman's company in New York for some time, and has made her mark in light comedy parts, notably as one of the girls in "The Amazons." But she had ambitions to do something better than girl-boys in clever farces. So she said to herself she would try the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet," and the great love scene from "La Tosca," and the letter-writing scene from "The Country Girl," thus giving a kind of *tutti frutti* of passion, tragedy, and comedy. She was well advised to do so, for she has talent considerably above the average. It is no easy thing suddenly to plunge into the whirlpool of such a play as "La Tosca;" but Miss Elizabeth Tyree did it. I always know when the accent of passion is true, because I feel a cold shiver down the back. Certain actresses I could mention would never give me the cold shiver if they acted for a thousand years. But Miss Tyree "did it in once" as the slang phrase has it. All that she has to do now is to forget that she has ever been taught. Her method is all right, but now she must act and think for herself. She is out of leading strings, the master has gone and she must boldly swim to the shore. This charming lady was ably assisted in all her scenes by Mr. Will Dennis, a versatile young actor. Parts of his Loris Ipanoff, notably a pathetic touch in it of an unnerved and despairing man, were admirable.

That too many cooks do not always spoil the broth is shown in "On the March." It has taken no less than six clever men, three authors and poets, and three musicians to make this appetising soup, and I assure you it is not at all bad. The story is fairly amusing, the music is gay, the girls are pretty and attractive, and taken altogether a very pleasant evening can be spent at the Prince of Wales's Theatre now that it has been temporarily taken in hand by that clever woman of business, Miss Cissy Grahame. But there is one very special attraction in this play, and that is a new and most amusing actor, Mr. Thomas E. Murray. Those who do not at once make the acquaintance of Mr. Fitzallerton Scroggs, the theatrical manager, wilfully miss a great treat. He is not one of your roaring, ranting, bouncing, and blatant low comedians, who make your head ache and your ears split. The essence of Mr. Murray's fun is extreme quietude. In manner he is modest and deprecating, and he has a trick of laughing at his own admirable jokes, literally laughing in his sleeve like a modest and coy maiden blushing behind her fan. I am told that all Mr. Murray's "business," as it is called in the profession, is his own, and I can well believe it, for the man in face and style is a born humourist. He has one bit of business with an excited siphon which is the funniest thing conceivable. The actor pretends to be a man who has seen a soda-water siphon for the first time, and is examining it curiously as a monkey would a loaded revolver. The fun extracted from this little joke is immense. I am told that it has been done before. Very likely, what do I care? I for one have never seen it before, and why should I be cheated out of my honest laugh, I should like to know? Things done before should often be done again—if they are good. But Mr. Thomas Murray is an original humourist, and that is a very rare thing. Among the other attractions in this bright and merry entertainment are Miss Alice Atherton, Mr. Templar Saxe, and Mr. Charles Brookfield, who, in an intense love scene, causes roars of laughter. When the children hear a story that delights them, before the last words are out of the reciter's mouth they say in chorus, "Tell it us all over again." And there are some plays of which we say when we rise from our seats, "I should like to see this again to-morrow." I think "On the March" is one of these plays.

Kinahan's LL Whisky.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE BONAPARTE LIBRARY.

I SEE that a number of necessarily ignorant persons are making a fuss about the Basque MSS. of the late Prince Lucien Bonaparte. Prince Lucien was not the philologist they imagine. Few persons who are not born Basques know the Basque language, which has no affinity, beyond that of human origin, with any other. Prince Bonaparte, a Basque tells me, learned it from his washer-woman near St. Jean de Luz, and never went much deeper than what she could teach him. He was fortunate enough to get a heavy Civil List pension from the Queen for translating his experiences into the Basque tongue, giving it the name of the "Song of Solomon," and keeping as close as he could to the text of that poem. The Prince had a taste for book-collecting, and went in for those written in "dialects." He was not much deeper—or perhaps so deep—in Italian, Spanish, and English dialects as he was in the Basque. An English laundress would not probably teach as clearly as a Biscayen. The Basque from whom I derive some of my facts says that the Prince was in England and France as the blind leading the blind, when he got upon the Basque tongue and anthology. His Florentine wife, the once beautiful Marianna Ceccaldi, with whom he did not live, would have known more of Corsican dialects. His visits to Corsica were few and far between. She lived there from the uprise of the Second Empire to the date of her death, a few years ago, at the age of eighty-three. The Emperor made her guardian of the house at Ajaccio where Napoleon was born, and of the Napoleonic Museum there. As this house was family property, the Empress was able to confirm her tenure of office. Since 1870 Princess Lucien entirely lived on fees paid by visitors, the husband declining to let her share his fat Civil List allowance. I forget the exact figure of his pension, but it was certainly a substantial sum. What Prime Minister granted it I know not, but I do not hesitate to say that it reflected no credit on him. The Prince was a *faux savant*, and a mere smatterer. Those who are interested in getting off his library well speak of the Corporation of the City of London as having promised, should a large enough fund to buy it be raised, to accept it as a gift, and add it to the Guildhall Library. I dare say that the promoters of the fund, who still require £2,500, and the Corporation are actuated by the best motives. But what do Aldermen and Common Councilmen know of dialects, and especially of the Basque dialect? I should as soon think of asking them to shed light on cuneiform inscriptions as to give an opinion on the merits or otherwise the Bonaparte Library. Should the Corporation wish for a Basque *expertise*, I might enable them to secure a reliable one. In the event of the fund that is being collected falling short of the £2,500 still wanted, I learn that the Bonaparte Library is to be sold and dispersed. This seems to me like the *carte forcée*. Should a sale take place, it must be, we are told, in mid-August—when every one is out of town. Why then? The promoters of the subscription want all the money before mid-July. I do not question the assertion that the books catalogued in a hand list that fills 718 quarto pages are bound sumptuously and are the best editions. But I should like to know what authorities vouch for the value of the MSS. and works in dialects. It does not surprise me that Prince Bonaparte did not in his life-time bring this marvellous collection to the hammer to enable himself to abandon to distressed British authors or their widows, daughters, and sisters the fat slice given him of the Civil List fund. While he was collecting sumptuously bound volumes, William Carleton's daughters were in utter poverty. The late William Bonaparte Wyse was far more learned in dialects than Prince Lucien Bonaparte. But he was unassuming, thoroughly honourable, and died almost unknown to the British public.

The Auto-Mobile Club has fixed its local habitation in the flat in the Place de l'Opéra, where the Washington Club earned the name of Monaco Junior. But there is no gambling at the Auto-Mobile, though I hear that some members wish *le petit jeu* to be authorised as a pastime. It is hard to think how a Parisian club can get on without it and keep a first-rate chef. The Washington Club paid a rent of £3,000 for the same flat. Baron van Zuylin, husband of the greatest of the Rothschild heiresses, is President of the Committee. Comte de Dion got up the Club. Attractions are offered to men of fortune, in or out of business, who are also men of scientific attainments. The sons of the late M. Emile Menier, of Noisiel and the Parc Monceau, may be regarded as typical members. They go in for trade on a vast scale, as their father did, and for science and sport of a no ordinary kind. Henri, the eldest, has purchased an island, larger than the Isle of Wight, in the mouth of the St. Lawrence, which he intends to develop as a preserving ground for the beaver and all sorts of game which Americans and Canadians are clearing off. In the term "game" he includes the buffalo. The fisheries, coast, and river are splendidly stocked. The owner of this happy hunting ground hopes to introduce European and Californian trout and salmon trout. He will have motor carriages for winter use, there being as yet no hard roads unless on the ice. M. Gaston Menier, who has become a gutta-percha as well as a chocolate king, seems bent on aiding the development of motor carriages and tricycles. He takes an active interest in the Club. A committee rule suggestive of Parisian *discrétion* should be mentioned. All letters to members are placed, the moment they are delivered, in club envelopes and re-directed. They are then set in the letter-rack. No tell-tale handwriting can then lead to a Comedy of Errors. Theatrephones enable members to listen to theatrical performances. One who often uses them assures me that they are not wholly satisfactory. The eye is filled at the Opera House while the ear is charmed. An imaginative person would easily fill in what passes on the stage. But the effect of business habits is to make one unimaginative. My friend has hit on a plan for keeping the brain busy while the ear listens. It is to

read the score while listening. He is surprised to find what progress his musical education has made in consequence. The summer chalet of the Club is in the Bois de Boulogne, where formerly the Pré Catelan was. There are three tennis courts in beautifully-kept grounds, reading-rooms, a skilled chef and dining arrangements that might restore appetite to a surfeited alderman. The Auto-Mobile is not a cock-and-hen club, but members can take their wives and mothers to lunch, dine, and play lawn-tennis at the chalet. These ladies can personally conduct other ladies. The grounds are thus often the scene of informal garden-party gatherings.

The Duc Pomar has lately had eighteen offers of marriage from mothers and grandmothers on behalf of daughters and grand-daughters. A nineteenth offer came from an accomplished widow on her own behalf. It has been accepted, as the Duc Pomar only wants a guardian angel to replace his mother, the late Countess of Caithness.

Some time ago a lady living in South Wales wrote to me about a cycling costume that might be turned at will from an ordinary skirt into zouave trousers. The head of the tailoring department at the Bon Marché did not recommend it. But since I spoke to him on the subject I find that this convertible dress has been a good deal taken up by La Belle Jardinière, La Samaritaine, and La Place de Clichy. They advertise it under the name of La Mexicaine, the price varying from 35 fr. to 50 fr. I inquired the price of one of those costumes of a lady's tailor in the Boulevard Malesherbes. He set it down at £10, but called attention to the high finish, elegant waist, band-linings, and so on. I do not suppose that it can really matter whether these linings are satin, unmixed with cotton, or satin with a cotton wrong side. The garments at the Universal Providers I speak of are really well finished, and, it seems to me, well contrived. At the same time, I should, were I a cyclist, prefer knickerbockers such as are made by ladies' tailors here. They are now sometimes worn in the streets without the cycle, to explain their use. Nobody notices them. I have seen them in omnibuses. I dare say the British Mrs. Grundy would declare them "disgusting." She took that course when ladies used first to climb to the tops of omnibuses. What is really decent on the cycle is what conduces to speed and safety. I have just returned here from a few days' visit to England. I thought the jogging skirts of lady cyclists horrid. The idea of sex was thrust on one's notice by the awkwardness the skirts induced, and the accentuation they gave to points that showed deference for Mrs. Grundy. The French girl, who, to do her justice, is not always thrusting forward the idea of sex, and is not a bit self-conscious on her cycle, wears the knickerbockers with a jaunty grace that is charming. We shall soon have motor tricycles in common use. I expect that they will bring about a general change in ladies' costumes. The motor tricycle subject to this change will be for the elderly as much as for the youthful. It will have the advantage over the cycle of not slipping on "greasy" asphalte or wood paving. By the way, the liability of the cycle to "slip" makes the skirt in use in England most dangerous. The one course by which one can escape from a bad fall when one feels the bike slipping is to get off at once. This is quite easy with the knickers, but not so with the skirt.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE following paragraph, dear Lady Betty, recently appeared in a provincial paper :—

"It is reported in official and well-informed circles that Lord Salisbury has spoken with much severity to Mr. Arthur Balfour with regard to the mismanagement of business in the House of Commons. That the latter is to blame in the matter is generally admitted."

. . . . .

Fortunately, by means of a concealed phonograph, I have been able to secure one of these Cabinet Caudle Lectures :—

"Perhaps, Mr. Balfour, you'll tell me where this is to end? Though, goodness knows, I needn't ask that. The end is plain enough: out—out—out! And I'm not talking of what's impossible. I know it will all happen—every bit of it. You don't see what's wrong? No—I dare say not, but I see it; I see a great many things you don't. What do you say? Only lost a trumpery vote or two? Ha! I hope you'll never come to want the votes you talk so lightly of now. I'm sure I don't know who'd be a Premier! What am I grumbling about now? It's very well for you to ask that! It isn't often I open my mouth, Heaven knows! But you like to hear nobody talk but yourself. Do you know what it costs to obtain majorities; or do you think they fly in at the window? Majorities, indeed! Do you suppose I'm made of majorities?

"Pray, Mr. Balfour—no, it's no use your saying fine words to me to let you alone; I shan't!—pray, do you know the price of votes just now? There's scarcely a vote to be had in the House for less than a Peerage. You wish you were out of office? Oh, yes, that's all very well. I'm sure I might wish it, too. Don't swing your leg about in that way. That will do no good. That won't bring back the lost votes, the lost time, the lost Bills, and the lost popularity. Everybody but you can see how the Party is breaking up. If the Government is upset the failure will be upon *your* head. But then, sir, then you'll be happy. Oh, don't tell me! I know you will. I've made up my mind to be turned out of office.

"What are you going to do? *Going to resign?* Don't make yourself ridiculous, Balfour! I can't say a word to you like any other Premier, but you threaten to resign. That's so like you; you'd trample everybody under foot, if you could—you know you would, Balfour, so don't deny it. But you *are* so hasty. I wish people knew you as I do, that's all. You like to be called strong—and your Party pays for it. But what's that to you? I'm sure I do nothing but scheme and think how to make the most of everything; and this is how I'm rewarded."

. . . . .

The phonograph being necessarily a very small one, the conclusion of the Cabinet Caudle Lecture is not recorded upon the instrument.

* * * * *

The following telegrams from Rhodesia appear to have been suppressed :—

"Encountered the enemy yesterday; killed several hundred natives. Our own loss severe. Rhodes behaved splendidly, rode about with a switch."

"Desperate engagement with the Matabele. Rhodes could with difficulty restrain his ardour. He had sandwiches for luncheon."

"Matabele routed with great loss. Several of our men killed. Rhodes wore a straw hat. Massacred a whole impi. Terrible slaughter. Rhodes remarked that bullets were more effective at 300 yards than assegais."

But why so much about Mr. Cecil Rhodes? Can there be a purpose in pushing his name forward whenever an opportunity occurs for doing so, and who is responsible for the wording of the telegraph messages?

* * * * *

Lord Salisbury has decided to appoint Sir Edmund Monson, at present British Ambassador at Vienna, to succeed Lord Dufferin as British Ambassador in Paris. This decision is a very proper one, for the appointment is not handed over to some individual outside the Service who has had no experience of diplomacy. Moreover, it does not interfere with the promotion of the members of the Diplomatic Service.

Sir Edmund Monson is not a rich man, and he is not a Peer, two circumstances which must militate against him in Paris. All the British Ambassadors in Paris for a period extending considerably over a quarter of a century have been Peers, to wit, mentioning only a few of them, Lord Normanby, Lord Cowley, Lord Lyons, Lord Lytton, and Lord Dufferin. Sir Charles Stuart, the father of Lady Waterford and of Lady Canning, was the last British Ambassador in Paris who held that position without possessing a Peerage. The matter of fortune is, however, a more serious one, for the entertainments to be given and the magnificence to be maintained require the expenditure of large sums of money. Sir Edmund, however, will enter upon his new duties at the head of the most important Embassy in the Service with the good wishes of all his colleagues, and with the knowledge that all of them rejoice that the appointment has been conferred upon him instead of its having, to their general prejudice, been handed over to a political supporter of the Government.

. . . .

Sir Augustus Paget, who died last week when upon a visit to Lord Salisbury at Hatfield, was a fine example of the diplomatist of the old school, a man much after the style of Lord Blomfield. He belonged to the type of English gentleman which is almost extinct, and it is needless to say that he was popular at every post to which he was appointed, and with every one who served under him. Brilliant diplomatists are very dangerous people. It is their duty to win victories unnoticed. They are polished pickpockets who, for the good of their country, unobtrusively extract whatever valuables they can from the country to which they are accredited.

. . . .

Both in Arlington-street and at Foot's Cray the late Sir John Pender had brought together a number of fine pictures, and these are to be sold. The sale will take place next spring, and will probably be held at Christie & Manson's.

* * * * *

The following letter has been addressed to me:—

"You frequently allude in your columns to the advantages London has, which if properly cultivated should enable the authorities to make it one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. May I call your attention, therefore, to the scandalously hideous wall which separates Devonshire House from Piccadilly? The general impression produced by this upon visitors who are not well acquainted with London is that Devonshire House is a gaol. The Duke of Devonshire is an immensely rich man, and it is certain that he could well afford to erect a handsome iron railing to replace the hideous wall which disfigures so considerable a portion of Piccadilly. Without mentioning my name to the public you will, upon looking at my card which I enclose, support my statement that I have spent a considerable sum in improving the appearance of the property which I have in London. If I can afford to do this, so can the Duke of Devonshire. I looked upon it more or less as a duty to do what I could in this direction, and it appears to me that it is the duty of the Duke to remove the wall which so seriously disfigures the appearance of the principal thoroughfare of London, and, indeed, of the world. Of course, your contention that flower beds should be made in the Green Park along Piccadilly is correct, and this improvement will probably be carried out next spring.

"A Large London Landlord."

* * * *

The following incident is typical of West-end life to-day:—

Overheard at a recent ball:

Lady A. to Lady B.: "My dear, how could you go down to supper with *that* man?"

"*That* man" was their host!

He sends me the story!—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A MEETING of the Jockey Club is to be held at Newmarket this afternoon, at which the question of the £10,000 stakes will probably be discussed. The Stewards have the choice of "three courses," as Sir Robert Peel would have put it. They can continue the Stakes as they are, or reduce their value, or give them up altogether. The Princess of Wales's Stakes was first run in 1894, when the owners' subscription was so large that there was a surplus for the winner of £1,916, so the race cost the fund nothing. Last year, however, there was a deficit of £1,662, and this season the fund has been obliged to contribute £1,994, which makes the Princess of Wales's Stakes far and away the most expensive event in all the Newmarket programmes. The Jockey Club Stakes commenced well in 1894 with a surplus of £2,312, but last year £1,277 had to be made up out of the fund, and this season's race will probably be even more costly. It seems to me that the Stewards might continue the Princess of Wales's Stakes, but that the Jockey Club Stakes might be advantageously converted into a two-year-old race of £5,000, on the same lines as the National Breeders' Produce Stakes at Sandown Park. The fact is that the interest of any weight-for-age race for three-year-olds and upwards, which is run in October, must have been thoroughly discounted at Doncaster, and in 1894 the Jockey Club Stakes was manifestly a mere question of health for Isinglass, while last year it appeared to be an equally good thing for Laveno, and this season the Leger running is tolerably certain to indicate the winner at Newmarket.

Very little of the racing at Stockbridge was of any general interest. That Laodamia *could* win the Cup, if well, was, of course, perfectly apparent, but few people expected to see her "slipped" for an event of this kind, it being generally expected that one of the autumn handicaps would be her "journey," and the eager public had already backed her freely for the Cambridgeshire. The meeting of Omladina and Laodamia would have been a good test of their respective speed, but the Duke of Westminster's filly has been doing no work since Ascot. The defeat of Minstrel in the Hurstbourne Stakes was the sensation of the week, and I fear that the Duke of Devonshire's colt will prove a disappointing beast to his owner, and although excuses were made for his somewhat slovenly finish when he won at Newmarket, there were none for him last week, when he appeared to be quite resolved not to exert himself to any undue extent. I fancy that Minstrel is a colt that will require to have it all his own way when he wins a race, for he evidently has no appetite for a ding-dong finish, and he seemed to collapse in an instant at Stockbridge directly he felt the weight tell at the ascent to the winning-post. I hear that he is now to be reserved for the Astley Stakes at Lewes. Galtee More, the winner of the Hurstbourne Stakes, is an Irish-bred colt, and he is a great credit to Kendal. He ought to be worth following at Goodwood, where he is engaged in

the Halnaker Stakes, the Findon Stakes, and the Holcomb Stakes. The colt represents through his dam one of the late Mr. Merry's best strains of blood. Monterey appears to be one of the failures of the summer, to judge from his running last week. There was a prodigious trumpeting about the colt a couple of months ago. After the Hurstbourne it is probable that the best two-year-old which ran at Stockbridge was Brooch, who won the Troy Stakes for the Duke of Westminster, whose colours will be well worth following during the remainder of the season. Brooch is a charming filly, by Blue Green out of Ornament, and her next race will be at Lewes.

Excellent entries have been obtained for the various events at Goodwood, which closed last week. Rampion is in two of the handicaps. Thirty-seven two-year-olds have been entered for the Halnaker Stakes, a race which is limited to maidens at the time of naming. It will take a smart one to stop Galtee More, who has only 7 lb. extra to carry for winning the Hurstbourne Stakes. On Tuesday next entries close for next year's Richmond Stakes and for the Sussex Stakes in 1898, £500 being added to each race, and an owner can "get out" for £3 by declaring forfeit in March, 1897.

Sixty-two animals are left in for the £5,000 race at Sandown Park on Saturday, and I shall plump for the Duke of Westminster's dark filly, Simoon, by St. Simon out of Shotover, whose great promise was notified in Truth several months ago.

As to the Eclipse Stakes, there seems to be a considerable disposition to fancy Regret, but I do not see how the Kingsclere colt can be confidently expected to defeat St. Frusquin after the Newmarket running, as Mr. de Rothschild's steed meets him on only 1 lb. worse terms than in the Princess of Wales's Stakes, when he beat him by a length. It is, however, no "certainty" for St. Frusquin, as Regret may very likely have been benefited by his race at Newmarket, in which case he would have "come on" during the intervening fortnight. Troon also will be more forward in condition than when he ran at Newmarket.

I see it is stated that the Duke of Westminster's colt Orelio (own brother of Ormonde) will be tried next week, as he is to meet "his Goodwood engagement." Orelio will not be tried until the beginning of October, as the Duke intends the colt to make his début in the Middle Park Plate. Orelio has no engagement either at Goodwood or at Doncaster.

The Duke of Westminster's filly, Blue Water, who was the principal two-year-old run at Hurst Park, will have a good chance of carrying off the Great Kingston Plate of £500 at Sandown Park on Friday, as she has made considerable improvement since her début last month, when Canonbury gave her 15 lb. and a beating. Blue Water is the first of the stock of Blue Green, and is half-sister to Rampion, who is a son of Amphion. The yearling relative at Eaton is a colt by St. Serf, which has been named Lomond, and Rydal's foal is by Amphion, and therefore own brother to Rampion, who will be seen winning a good handicap over six furlongs or a mile before many weeks have passed. Rampion will probably carry off the £1,000 three-year-old stake at the Derby September Meeting.

I hear that Florizel II. ran his last race at Ascot, and he will probably be sold to go abroad. The price mentioned at Ascot as having been refused for him was wildly extravagant, being at least three times the intrinsic value of the horse, as would have been generally pointed out if he belonged to a Mr. Smith or a Mr. Jones. Florizel II. won several important races last year, but he was remarkably well in for all the handicaps which he carried off, and in the weight-for-age events he really had nothing to beat.

Tuesday next is one of the great nomination days of the year, on which will close the Derby and Oaks for 1898. It is to be regretted that the Stewards of the Jockey Club do not insist upon the Epsom authorities postponing the entries for these stakes until the Tuesday after Doncaster, when the St. Leger and the Grand Prix close and name. It would be far more convenient and satisfactory to owners for all these events to close at the same time, and there would be a great and obvious advantage in putting off the nomination-day for the Derby and the Oaks until the yearling sales of the season have concluded. The Coronation Stakes at Ascot, and the St. James's Palace Stakes (1898), close on Tuesday. The conditions of both events ought to be revised and in each case the added money should have been increased from £300 to £500. It is preposterous to give only £300 to a stake in which the sweepstakes is £100 each, half forfeit. No fewer than thirteen events at Newmarket close on Tuesday, including next year's July Stakes and Chesterfield Stakes. The continued success of these two races is really a miracle, for not a copper is even nominally added. The owners race for their own sweepstakes alone, and the liability on each entry is £30 in the July and £20 in the Chesterfield. The Hastings Plate of £500 closes on Tuesday, and I shall be surprised if this event obtains the forty entries which are required in order to fill it, for the conditions are idiotic. Why not make this event a stake of £500, entrance £5, the only forfeit if declared by the last Tuesday in October, 1897, and a sweepstakes of £25 each for every horse left in after that date?

It is refreshing to turn to the far more attractive conditions of the great races at Sandown Park (1899) which close on Tuesday, the 28th. These are the Eclipse Stakes of £10,000, for now foals and yearlings; and the National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000, for mares now in foal.

Mr. Brassey is having Pride prepared to run for the Goodwood Cup, and this much-improved horse must have an excellent chance of winning that event if he can beat Count Schomberg, who will have a considerable advantage in the weights. The conditions, so far as the penalties and allowances are concerned, require careful revision, for at present they are most foolish, absurd, and unfair.

There will be a real plethora of racing next week, what with the Liverpool, Gatwick, Leicester, Huntingdon, and Newton meetings all being crammed into six days.

Lord Derby intends to run Canterbury Pilgrim for the Liverpool Cup, and whatever beats her will win. I shall have another opportunity of referring to this race next week. Contract would win this handicap on her best form, but it is doubtful whether Mr. Barnato's horse will get through a thorough preparation. The St. George's Stakes of £2,500 looks well for Regret or Labrador, in the certain absence of St. Frusquin. The Great Lancashire Breeders' Produce Stakes of £2,500 should be won by that unlucky colt, Glencally, if he can beat Alfar, who runs at Sandown Park on Saturday. Shaddock cannot well lose the Knowsley Dinner Stakes of £600.

Never was there a more successful Henley, and it must candidly be confessed that those who have been opposed to foreigners rowing there have been in the wrong on this occasion. The regatta passed off without any unpleasantness whatever, and my rowing correspondent is ready to admit that his old antagonist, "The Tideway Veteran," was quite right in the optimistic views he took as to what this year's Henley would be. This result was in a great measure due to the conduct of Yale. When their coxswain was ill in practice a First Trinity man steered them. They had dusts up with College crews. They kept their boats with the other club boats. In fact, before the regatta began they were no longer strangers but friends. They had no chance of winning the Grand. This they recognised before they started, and they had bad luck in drawing Leander in the first heat. As to the race itself, after half way they were a beaten crew, but they rowed a much longer stroke than they had been used to, and they did not get bustled and lose their form. They are the first American crew that has ever finished a course in this country. The wild scenes of excitement at the finish are certainly overdrawn. There was nothing like the cheering that greeted Eton when they beat Jesus. The fact was, people had learned

to respect the visitors, and did not feel it decent to indulge in wild ecstasies of delight because a certainty had come off. No doubt the Yale men have learned a lesson from English rowing, and the next crew Yale sends will really need beating. Sensible Americans do not come here with their eyes shut, and, in the meantime, Harvard will not have a pleasant time if they row Yale again. The Yale visit has done a lot of good. The better side of American sport has been shown to us, and a hearty welcome will greet the next genuine University crew that visits these shores.

If the Americans had only won a heat they would, no doubt, have received the same enthusiastic greeting that the French crew did over their successes in the Thames Cup. They had a good style, but they needed more practice and training. But what a sorry display the Trinity College (Dublin) crew made! It is immaterial whether they belonged to the Rowing Club or the Boat Club. They did not pull their weight, they were short and bucketed. They would have disgraced a second division in the Lents or Mays, and as such they could only discredit their University. Swann, who last rowed at Henley for the Hall in the winning Grand crew in 1886, after six years as a missionary in Japan, sculled splendidly against Vivian Nickalls, and hunted the latter right to the finish in most plucky style. It was the best race of the day, except the good fight of the Caius four, who were the only ones to give London any trouble in the Stewards. Caius well deserved their win in the Visitors' Cup. They showed their victory in the University fours was no fluke, and after the wretched display of the Hall men with five blues against New in the Grand, it is a greater mystery than ever why only one Caius man rowed at Putney this year. The Magdalen four, too, was above the average. During the last two days the wind favoured the Bucks station, and New had decidedly bad luck. To lose the Grand two years running by only half a length, with the worst station each time, is a misfortune in which any college may take an honest pride. It was a great race, and those who thought that Whitworth ought not to have started at the pace he did have to meet the fact that at the finish his men were gaining again. The Ladies' Plate was very interesting owing to the good form the schools showed against the colleges. Bedford hunted Balliol the whole way, and Radley were a heavy, powerful lot, but lacked the reach and length of Eton, a strong and pretty crew without any very heavy men. Their victory was very popular. Ward backed up his stroke, who never got flurried, admirably, and he will be an invaluable help to Cambridge. He is going to "Third," and he looks like being the best seven since Maugham rowed. Emmanuel were rather lucky in winning the Thames Cup; but what they wanted in style they had in strength. The result of the Wyfolds was rather a surprise, and probably London would have won had the conditions of station been anything like equal; as it was, Trinity (Oxford) just got home. In the sculls, Vivian Nickalls was fairly beaten by the holder, who seemed to row as easily as ever; but Guinness had even a greater struggle in the final with Beaumont, a very much improved sculler with a pretty style. He had previously beaten McDowell easily. The American beat young Guinness, but a fair American did not think much of his performance, for she said of the loser, "He is but a child." This is true; but with a little more stamina he will be a very hard child to tackle. Rumour has it that one or both brothers are going to Cambridge. They will be successors to the Nickalls, who had practically a walk-over for the Goblets.

Although the Gentlemen had a comparatively weak team at the Oval, they thoroughly deserved their narrow victory over the Players. The Champion, who carried his bat all through the second innings, looked as pleased as a baby when Lewis made the winning hit. Bull's bowling would have given him a place in the Lord's team, but Essex needed him. Young Townsend, with his long reach, got over the Players' bowling well, and he followed this up by some useful bowling for his county against Warwick, who scored a rather easy victory owing to some free and lucky batting by Quaife and Bainbridge. In both these matches Board, the Gloucestershire wicket-keeper, distinguished himself. At the Oval he stood up to Richardson's fastest balls, and made several catches at the wicket, and in the county match he scored a century. The most extraordinary cricket was at the Oval between Surrey and Sussex. On a good wicket both teams failed, Hartley's slows bothering the Surrey men, who, however, found the Sussex bowling so weak that they had to lose five wickets "run out." Killick, the Horsham colt, batted admirably, and Brockwell, Read, and Lohmann saved Surrey from a bad beating, miserable fielding helping the score as well. Yorkshire's victorious career was stopped by Notts in spite of some plucky batting by Jackson and Brown.

Both the Australians and Somerset had a very merry time against Hampshire, Palairet especially making a huge score. The Hants men are certainly down on their luck. They need good bowlers badly. The Colonials have not done anything more brilliant than their victory over the Players at Leyton. Iredale, since he was left out of the test match at Lord's, has been showing excellent form with the bat, even if his play is rather slow. Having regard to the big scores he has been making lately, and his good batting in this match when nearly all the others failed miserably, Storer, the Derby wicket-keeper, has very great claims on the Selection Committee for the English team.

Eton and Harrow saw the usual crowd. At the present time one does not go to the match to pick the majority of 'Varsity players for future years. Other schools, even the country grammar school, under the present system may turn out its Blues. At the same time a few of the players in this great society game are bound to come on. After their failure against Winchester, Eton showed great improvement. Bosanquet quite justified the opinion I then formed of his batting. He is not pretty, but he can make runs. Pilkington is much more stylish, and Mitchell's lobs bothered the Harrow boys, who did not show up well at first. Dowson, the phenomenal slow bowler of last year, has grown a good deal, and he has lost none of the chances of success he then showed. I hear that he has not been allowed to over-bowl himself; a very wise precaution in the case of a youngster who also shows promise with the bat. Good batting by Vibart, Wyld, Rattigan, and Studd made the game a draw.

It is a pity there are not a few more county athletic championships like those of Essex, which took place before a large crowd at Chelmsford. The sport was not of a high class, but then local interest is excited, which is a great thing. The Association of Conservative Clubs met at Stamford Bridge, but the spectators were not present in numbers. Amongst the competitors were Ovenden and Wilkins. The mixing of politics and sport is not very desirable. But if this meeting is to be held again, I would suggest a bicycle race for Tory M.P.s. It would be interesting and instructive, and might draw a few opposition spectators. Tyers has again the swimming record for the mile in the championship at Walsall.

In an interesting professional golf tournament at Neasden Taylor was easily first, although the greens were fast. Vardon, the champion, was only fifth. Taylor is playing a great game now, and it looks as though he had done too much just about the time of the championship.

The weather was not steady for last week's racing on the Clyde. For the Queen's Cup at Rothesay there was very still weather, and *Britannia* and *Ailsa* despite the improved form they have been showing, were not in it with the *Meteor*, which left the others standing as the breeze freshened. By the way, there is as much growling over the new rating rule as over the old. This one unduly favours large canvas spreads.

It was a great disappointment to see little Harding beaten by Stanbury in the sculling championship; but 3 st. is a lot to give away over such a course as that between Putney and Mortlake. At the same time, while it would have been pleasant if an Englishman had won, the Australian well deserves his victory. His efforts to get into condition were very severe.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Great lassitude has again characterised the Stock Markets during the past week. Apart from the holiday influences in connection with the Henley Regatta, there has been an uneasy feeling with reference to the unfortunate position in Rhodesia; while the triumph of the silver party at the Chicago Convention, and the rumours, exaggerated though they were, of the possibility of another coal strike, were unfavourable factors.

The Position on the Stock Exchange.

The proverbially unlucky nineteen-day account thus came to an end without even a partial rally, but it is not improbable that in the new account we shall see a little more activity, especially if some of the adverse reports were to give way to more favourable developments. I cannot bring myself to believe that the coal miners, after their previous sad experience, will lightly enter upon a strike or lock-out; and the reports which have been current are distinctly exaggerated. Satisfactory dividend announcements, moreover, are already putting a better face upon the state of affairs in the Home Railway market. There is no doubt, on the other hand, that the trouble in Mashonaland has been made too light of by those in authority in South Africa, and the tardy acceptance by Earl Grey of aid from the Cape Government, is significant. The comparative fiasco of the Chartered debenture issue was another discouraging point; but after all it has no bearing upon the outlook in the Transvaal, which is distinctly improving, especially if we accept the introduction by the Volksraad of some much-needed reforms as an earnest of further progressive measures. There are, moreover, distinct indications that the speculative account in the Kaffir Circus has been considerably reduced, even though, in view of the inactivity of the market, the jobbers were able to exact rates nearly as heavy as last account. I feel sure, however, that the longer the present dulness in the South African department lasts, the sharper will eventually be the revival. Notwithstanding some bumper crushings of West Australian mines which have joined the list of producers, this section of the mining market has continued inactive, and the sagging movement has not yet ceased. But all the news from the goldfields is so encouraging, that I look forward to a smart rally as soon as ever other surroundings improve. American rails have been depressed by the disastrous decision come to by the Democratic party at the Chicago Convention. The triumph of the silverites has been unexpectedly complete, and the only argument of those who still believe in the future of the United States is, that the policy adopted by the majority is so egregiously foolish and disastrous that it will lead to the easy victory of the Republican gold "plank." But America is the country of surprises, and it would be prudent to await the course of events. The value of money has hardened slightly in view of various loans and issues, which are in progress or in sight; but dividend payments are at hand, and upon the whole cheap money may be expected for some time to come, provided the adverse features above referred to do not develop further. I, therefore, anticipate, eventually a more general improvement, although, perhaps, a short period of dulness may still have to be faced, and it will probably require a rally only in one of the departments, such as is now in progress in Home Rails, to set the whole of the markets going again.

Home Rails.

If it were not for the adverse view taken of the relations between the coal miners and the owners, the signal for a revival would probably be given sooner by the bracing-up of Home Rails. Traffics continue very satisfactory, showing as they do again an increase of £65,000 for the week, which is all the more satisfactory as the comparison is now with good traffics last year. The Board of Trade returns for June, moreover, were distinctly favourable, especially in view of the large increase in exports; and finally the present week ushers in the dividend announcements, some of which cannot fail to prove very favourable. The market has undoubtedly been in a very sensitive condition of late, as the stock-splitting announcement of the Midland had raised prices of the Heavies too suddenly. A few realisations therefore sufficed to produce declines all round. Why the Scotch stocks should have participated in these to any extent it is difficult to understand, especially as both the leading lines are doing extremely well, and the North British had a gain of not less than £6,200 for the week. Under the circumstances I must consider that North British Deferred, at anything like the present quotation is a very promising purchase; while Caledonian Deferred (Coras) are not dear either. Amongst the Southern Passenger stocks Brighton "A" temporarily reacted, while Dover "A" have displayed comparative strength, apparently on inside purchases in anticipaion of a satisfactory South Eastern dividend announcement. Chathams have been dull, although there is nothing in the position to warrant the decline in the prices. The fall in Midlands at one time extended to 3½ points, and there was a slight easing-off in Great Western and North Western, and a fall of nearly two points in North Eastern, chiefly on the rumours in connection with the coal dispute. Dividend influences will, however, also be prominent in this section in the immediate future, and I think that holders will be wise to refrain from pressing sales. As I am writing, in fact, a strong recovery is already going on owing to the very favourable dividend announcement of the Brighton Railway Company at the rate of 4¾ per cent. against 3¾ per cent. last year, while the balance carried forward is also much larger. This distribution, although in accordance with my anticipations, was better than the market estimate, and caused an advance of 3¼ in Brighton "A." Chatham Second Prefs. sympathised with a rise of 3, Dover "A" gaining 1½, and the Heavies from 1 to 3.

The Yankee Silver Nonsense.

The spouting which has been going on at the Chicago Convention exhibits our Yankee cousins in a most undesirable light, and flavours of the madness which the gods bring upon those whom they wish to destroy. Unless the American people have forgotten all the lessons of the past, and taken leave of their senses, the Democratic party will be disrupted in the coming Presidential contest. At all events there will be a perfectly clear issue between the Republican party in favour of a gold basis, and the Democrats afflicted by the silver nonsense; and although the length to which the silverites went at Chicago shows them still to be in great strength, I cannot bring myself to believe that they will succeed. Considering the vast interests at stake, American Railroad stocks have maintained themselves remarkably well. The dulness of the market proves that liquidation is still confined to the professional element; in fact, a number of operators both in Wall-street and here have evened up their position, preferring to do nothing for some time to come until they can see their way clear. The feeling is of course very conservative amongst the brokers on both sides of the Atlantic, and there is no doubt that they are carrying fewer stocks than they have carried for years past. As to the continued talk in Wall-street papers that London is the only buyer of American Rails, I maintain the view that the much-talked-of purchases must here be made for American account, as a far more serious view is taken of the silver craze in London than in New York. In the meantime, even the splendid traffics of the Milwaukee have failed to produce any improvement. Canadian Pacifics temporarily

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declined in sympathy with American Rails, although traffics are satisfactory. Grand Trunks have been fairly steady, but business is on the smallest possible scale.

Foreigners and South Americans.

We have again one of those little surprises which come periodically upon speculators in Foreign stocks. The Italian Ministry has resigned, and a Cabinet crisis is in full swing. Of course, the chief trouble is the huge War Budget which the country is ill able to support. Under the circumstances, Italians at 87¼ are distinctly too high, and this also applies to Spanish at 64¼, considering the hopeless nature of the struggle in Cuba. After a feeble rally, Ottoman Banks have again eased off, and Turks are flat, as the position in Crete is still very unsatisfactory. I dare say that even when the Cretan question is temporarily patched up, there will soon be trouble in another part of the effete Ottoman Empire. Who would, under these circumstances, embark in Turks? Argentine Government stocks have been fairly steady, but there has been no disposition to raise prices. Some particulars of the unification scheme passed by the Senate have oozed out, according to which authority is to be given to the Provinces to arrange their external debts on the basis of the Four and a Half per Cent. Internal National Gold bonds held by them, while they will receive the same nominal amount in New Four per Cent. Unified. The Province of Buenos Ayres is to receive 34,000,000 pesas of these bonds. The unification is to be carried out by the Argentine Government on a 4 per cent. national basis. But even if the Deputies vote the Bill, the issuing houses in Europe will have to be settled with, and these will certainly not give up the security of the Customs revenue possessed by some of the loans; so that the outlook is not by any means clear yet. A favourable circumstance is, however, the further decline in the gold premium in Buenos Ayres to 181½. Uruguay bonds are distinctly firmer, the old loan at 51, and the new loan at 1¼ discount. I shall not be surprised to see the latter rise to a premium in the near future, as the unplaced portion is in the hands of the underwriters, who are very powerful, and may any day put the price up. The Chilian Loan has been merely *un succès d'estime*, the market taking no interest in the issue. Chili has been somewhat extravagant in purchases of war material; but the good sense and thrift of the nation will doubtless suffice to pull the financial situation round again. Brazilians have been fairly steady, and Mexicans have shown a firm front. Peruvian Corporation stocks have been altogether neglected, and no one appears to take any interest, speculatively at least, in South and Central American Republics, amongst which, in addition to Honduras, Columbia, Paraguay, and Ecuador, we must still reckon Costa Rica.

The Kaffir Circus Expectant.

I wonder whether any of the shareholders in the Chartered Company of South Africa really were disappointed when they heard that the debenture issue of £1,250,000 at 97½ had been placed elsewhere. I doubt it, and I also much doubt whether many of them will avail themselves of the offer that has now been made to them to acquire a share in this issue, loudly as they howled. The money has, however, undoubtedly been found, and so for the moment the Chartered Company is in funds once again, but how long these will last must, of course, depend upon how soon the Company can settle up its various little troubles in Matabeleland and Mashonaland. But it is high time that the market for other South African securities, and especially for the shares in sound Transvaal gold and land companies, should shake itself free from the influence of the Chartered collapse. It is of good augury that the Volksraad in Pretoria should at last have initiated measures of reform, not very important it is true, but still in the right direction. The fact, for instance, that the First Raad has rescinded an old resolution disqualifying Roman Catholics as officials of the Republic, shows the growth of liberal principles. If the Second Raad were to pass the amended liquor law, prohibiting the sale of liquor to natives on the Witwatersrand gold mines, that would also be a step in the right direction; and cablegrams are to the effect that the whole mining industry supports the Government in the matter. Why should not the Volksraad also initiate some of those important reforms which are so urgently needed for the development of the mining industry in the Transvaal, regarding the duties on articles of food and other imports connected with the mines, and the reduction of freights on coal, &c., not to forget the obnoxious dynamite and other monopolies. By-the-way, I was only discussing a few days ago with an eminent member of the bar, the son of a judge, the question of the march of civilisation in South Africa, and he indicated its course by saying, "first missionaries and guns, then telegraphs, and railways after," referring as regards the latter circumstance more especially to the construction of the Pretoria-Pietersburg Railway, which will add another branch to the railway system of the Transvaal. My suggestion that to missionaries, should be added "intoxicating liquors," he readily endorsed; and it would indeed be a blessing if, in the course of future missionary and colonising expeditions, the introduction of fire-water to the natives were to be prohibited. In the present case, the prohibition is only dictated by selfish motives, as the mining industry suffers from the drunkenness amongst the natives; but why should not at the same time as measures are being taken by missionaries to save the souls of the natives, steps also be taken to protect bodies from the destructive liquors which march side by side in the van with the saviours of souls. By the way, I hear that the Pretoria-Pietersburg Railway Company has been registered in London and in Pretoria, and that the Transvaal Government has subscribed £300,000 out of the whole of the share capital of £500,000. Of course the rest is already placed, and Four per Cent. Guaranteed bonds will later on be issued to the tune of £1,250,000, and there is little doubt about the success of this line. The Kaffir Circus is, as I said in the heading of these remarks, in an expectant attitude. According to cable advices, politics will not interfere to any extent with the future of the Transvaal, and the very fact that Sir Hercules Robinson, promoted to a peerage, will return to his post, promises a conciliatory policy and an adjustment of all outstanding disputes. The arrival of a batch of "reformed" Reform prisoners by the *Norham Castle* should furnish an opportunity for a thorough discussion of the present position, and I trust that the utterances of the "reformed" will bear out the more peaceful anticipations which have been created by the recent events above referred to. There will be a few of the millionaires and semi-millionaires to speak their mind, such as Mr. Lionel Phillips, of Messrs. Eckstein, in connection with Wernher, Beit, & Co.; Messrs. Percy and Sidney Farrar; Mr. S. B. Joel, or, as he is known to his friends, "Solly" Joel; and Mr. John Hays Hammond. The least thing these gentlemen could do, after their abortive exploit, would be to give us a candid view of the present position, and to do their best to pull matters right again. I except Mr. "Solly" Joel from the list of mischief-makers, as he joined the movement only at the last moment, and practically under compulsion. Mr. B. I. Barnato will return early in August; but I hope that the advent of his nephew, "Solly" Joel, will already foreshadow that rally in Barnato stocks, which the supporters and followers of Barney are looking for. I expressed last week a very favourable opinion of the amalgamation of the Oceana Company with the Africana and Austral-African Companies, under the title of the Oceana Consols, and I see

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

that the shareholders of the three Companies take the same view, and duly authorised the scheme at the different meetings held on Monday. The new Board will probably consist of Mr. Pasteur, the present Chairman of the Oceana Company; Mr. F. R. Bullock, one of the Oceana Directors; Mr. Charles Rose, and Mr. A. Ochs, present Directors of the Austral-African, and Mr. Boyle, Managing Director of the Africana, who will probably be kept in countenance by another Director of this Company representing the French interests. I also hear that during the recent visit of Mr. Ochs and Mr. Secretan to Johannesburg, these gentlemen were able to secure valuable options on most advantageous terms, which should prove of great advantage to the new Oceana Consolidated Company. With reference to the development of the mining industry on the Witwatersrand, there is every reason for entertaining a very favourable view. The crushings have not yet reached 200,000 oz., but those for June do not fall far short, amounting as they do to 193,640 oz., against 195,008 oz. for May. Amongst these crushings the New Primrose shows well with an increase of 782 oz. against May (9,786 oz. against 9,004 oz. in May). The Geldenhuis Estate has an increase of 992 oz., the Wolhuter 841, the Henry Nourse 351, the Ferreira 303 oz. On the other hand, the Sheba has yielded 1,435 oz. less, and decreases are shown of 920 oz. by the George Goch, 858 by the Jumpers, 550 by the Salisbury, 517 by the Wemmer. The Sheba decrease is distinctly disappointing; the others are probably only temporary. The Glencairn yielded 3,468 oz. in June, against 3,230 oz. in May, and the Rietfontein, too, had an increase of 33 oz. (2,150 oz. in June, against 2,117 oz. in May). Under the circumstances, I see no reason for departing from my recommendation of the various Barnato stocks mentioned last week, viz., Barnato Banks, Barnato Consols, New Primrose, Glencairn, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Buffelsdoorn, and Rietfontein. Mail advices bring particulars of the great Barnato banquet in Johannesburg, at which the proceedings were most enthusiastic. With reference to the Barnato amalgamation, the Johannesburg *Star* contains the following announcement:—

> Besides the shares receivable *pro rata* in the consolidated scheme, shareholders in the Consolidated Investment will have the right to take up 125,000 further £1 shares therein at 80s. Shareholders in the Barnato Bank will, in the same way, have the right to subscribe for 125,000 shares at 50s.; this issue of 250,000 shares being guaranteed at 80s. The premiums derived from this issue will represent a cash reserve of £562,500. Mr. Barnato says that the rent-roll accruing to the new Company from landed estate alone will be £250,000 per annum.

A heavy seller of Rand Reefs, and the closing of some weak "Bull" accounts, came on a dull market, and knocked down the price of these shares to 7s. on Friday. The shares, however, were subsequently taken, and quickly recovered to 10s. bid, at which price they remain very firm. Somebody has apparently "ratted;" but the market will probably be all the better for the shake out. The various mines of the Robinson group at present at work compare somewhat irregularly with the May yield. The Langlaagte Estate recovered, for instance, 9,131 oz. of gold, against 9,428 oz., this result still being due to the scarcity of labour, which is, however, now passing away. The Block B output was 2,511 oz., against 2,854 oz. in May. On the other hand, the Langlaagte Star produced 1,491 oz., against 1,207 oz. in May, and I hear that the July output will show a considerable increase. I maintain the view already expressed that Langlaagte Estate, Block B, Langlaagte Star, Randfontein, and Robinson Banks are all a good purchase. The various mines on the Randfontein have suffered a good deal from the labour troubles, but as these are now being surmounted, we may look for a strong rally. Advices from the Nickerk mine are exceedingly favourable, and whenever the Kaffir Circus generally revives, these shares, now quoted $1\frac{1}{8}$, will be well to the front. Sheba Hill shares have been active at from 3s. to 3s. 6d. Some operators had overloaded themselves with African Gold Properties' shares and had to sell, but the market should now have got rid of a weak element and be in a healthy condition for any revival of activity. The Woodstock (Transvaal) is, according to latest advices, opening up splendidly, and the price is firm at from $1\frac{5}{8}$ to $1\frac{7}{8}$. I should like, however, to specially warn my readers that the Woodstock South mine, which is being puffed in some quarters, has absolutely nothing to do with the Woodstock (Transvaal), and is apparently a doubtful property, and engineered on the strength of the similarity in name. I have not yet heard from Mr. Woolan with reference to the African Estate option in connection with Messrs. Ephrussi. The Mozambique Company had its general meeting at Lisbon on June 27, when the statement was made that unless new and unforeseen expenditure were necessitated, the Company would shortly distribute a first dividend. The revenue in 1895 was £56,942, against £44,500 in 1894. I mentioned some time ago that an amalgamation was on the board, and my anticipation is now confirmed by the statement that the Mozambique Company is about to absorb the Campañhia da Zambesia. With reference to the Kimberley-Roodepoort it is now reported that the mine is looking better, and that the June return of 1,214 oz. will be followed by an improved July yield. A fresh juggle is foreshadowed with reference to the Roodepoort Deep Level Company, and it is anticipated that the outcrop block will be amalgamated with the Roodepoort United. The meeting of the African Gold Concessions and Development Company, to be held on July 21, is looked for with all the more interest, as three of the Directors, Messrs. J. M. Coward, Robert Shackell, and W. H. Thompson, have resigned. This resignation has not come one day too soon, but it remains to be seen what case the remaining Directors will be able to make out for themselves. In the meantime, shareholders should refrain from paying the call made, and this is also the advice which I give to the shareholders in the sub-Companies, viz., Abercorn Reefs and Umtoli. In their case the action of the Directors is altogether questionable, and the shareholders will do well to at once take steps for their own protection. A new Rhodesian amalgamation is that of the Rhodesian Mineral Properties, Limited, with the Rhodesian Claims, Limited; but it matters very little if they go on singly or in company. At all events they have not, so far, proved successful. I have received several inquiries as to what has been done with reference to the proposed reconstruction of Kaffirs, Limited, a concern upon which I have had something to say on previous occasions. I should like to know how this matter stands now. Transvaal Exploring shares are likely to come into demand again, and have, in fact, been firmer at $\frac{7}{8}$. It will be remembered that during the time of the boom these shares reached nearly 3. In addition to the large profit made by the Company on its flotation last year, it appears to have acquired various valuable options and investments during the recent period of depression, which have been sold to the Company at cost price against a comparatively small issue of shares, while the payment of the balance has been arranged out of future profits. The first of the flotations which are made by the Company is that of the Cataract Barberton Gold Mining Company, in which the shareholders of the Transvaal Exploring Company have a prior right of allotment. This prospectus will be issued to the shareholders of the Transvaal Exploring Company on the 18th inst., and to the public in the following week. I am told that, amongst the other properties acquired by the Companies, there are some in the Vaal River, Waterburg, Lydenburg, Barberton, and Potchefstroom districts of the Transvaal. A cablegram from the New Modderfontein reports a larger yield for June, viz., 2,778 oz., against 2,172 oz. in May. Diamond shares have been fairly steady, and look like bracing up again. At all events De Beers are above the lowest at $31\frac{3}{8}$, New Jagersfontein at $11\frac{1}{2}$. I confirm the view which I have already expressed, that some of the most promising mines in this section are New Bultfontein, now quoted $2\frac{1}{16}$; Leicester Diamonds, now

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

at $3\frac{5}{8}$; and Kamfersdam, at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. The Leicester Consolidated Diamond Mines, Limited, which has been registered in Kimberley, with a nominal capital of £500,000, of which, however, only £240,000 has at present been issued (£69,000 being available as cash working capital), is also a very promising Company. The Company acquires 451 claims in the Leicester mine, adjoining those of the Leicester Diamond Mining Company, the shares in which stand at $3\frac{5}{8}$. The diamonds found in this mine are of excellent quality, and it is not surprising that the shares have come into demand at $1\frac{13}{16}$-$1\frac{15}{16}$.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

Although the market for West Australian Gold Mining shares has continued very inactive, and prices have fallen away in a good many instances, advances are also marked in several others, and it is probable that we shall see a more general rally after the settlement. The news from the goldfields, at all events, is very satisfactory, and it is surprising that the favourable crushings have not had more effect upon business. The First Mainland Consols crushing, consisting, for instance, of 275 tons of ore for 1,276 oz. of gold exclusive of tailings, of which the average assay is stated to be 18 dwt. to the ton, was all that could be wished, and so was, apart from the small quantity of ore crushed, the return of the Lady Shenton of 269 oz. from 55 tons. As, according to the cablegram, stamps are, however, now running sixteen hours daily, it is assumed that the next crushing will be much larger. If these favourable developments and the brilliant annual report of the West Australian Goldfields had come a few months ago, they would probably have caused a veritable boom. At present they have been counteracted by the general lassitude which has come over the markets; but there can be no doubt that such actual results will in the end weigh with investors and attract yet further support. Amongst the movements which have taken place during the past account, I notice advances of $\frac{5}{16}$ in Black Flag Consolidated, and of $\frac{1}{4}$ in Gladiators and in West Australian Joint Stock Trust, while Joker (Yalgoo) have advanced to $1\frac{3}{4}$ premium. On the other hand, there has been a more or less considerable shrinkage in Associated Gold Mines, Brookman's Gold, Colonial Finance, Crœsus South United, Hampton Plains, Lady Loch, Hannan's Reward, London and West Australian Exploration, Paddington Consols, and more especially in Hannan's Brownhill (which made up at $5\frac{1}{2}$, against $6\frac{1}{2}$ at the end of June), while smaller declines have occurred in a number of others. Yet, with the exception chiefly of Hannan's Brownhill, which have naturally reacted on the diminutive crushing, I can see no tangible reason for most of these movements. Take, for instance, Hampton Plains. The news from this property is as satisfactory as can be desired, and there can be no doubt of the great future of the Company's extensive auriferous properties. Yet the price is down to $4\frac{7}{8}$. The Mainland Consols' crushing caused a temporary rise to 4, but the shares have since reacted to $3\frac{3}{4}$. A continuance of crushings on the basis of the first one should, however, result in a fresh advance. The shares in the Lake View Consols, the new English Company which has taken over the Lake View Mine, have been strong at $4\frac{1}{2}$, and I anticipate a fresh advance in the near future. In the meantime West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe shares, of the same group, have remained in the neighbourhood of $3\frac{3}{4}$. Most satisfactory advices have come to hand by the mail concerning the big lode struck some time ago at a depth of 100 ft. in the Hannan's Golden Treasure Mine. It is described as so important that the shaft is being stripped to enable the winding plant to be used, while a 20-head battery is now on the road for the mine. Winding plant is on the ground, and a start has been made to erect it. It is expected that within two months crushing will be started. The lode at the 100 ft. level is 17 ft. to 18 ft. wide, and averages 2 oz. gold per ton all through. It lies altogether west of all the known reefs in the district. Mr. C. Kaufman's French manager, M. Carlier, sank a shaft in a big ironstone blow similar to those on the Great Boulder and Lake View mines, with the result that the shaft broke into a splendidly defined reef at the 100 ft. level. There is thus every prospect of Hannan's Golden Treasure shares going to a higher level, and this should also be the case with the shares of the sister Company, the Hannan's Golden Group. The shares in West Australian Joint Stock Trust have again shown a firm front, and a rise is marked to $3\frac{11}{16}$ premium. The prospectus of the Northern Territory Goldfields of Australia, Limited, in which the Trust is so largely interested (some dozen other Finance Companies also supporting the scheme), will, I hear, shortly be issued, and is likely to create a sensation, more especially by the very large actual results already obtained. Crushings of 5,000 and 6,000 tons are given, the last returns giving from 6 to 7 oz. to the ton, while one consisting of ten tons was at the rate of 300 oz. to the ton. That, of course, would be an exceptional result, but the reports of Colonial Governors and engineers, including Government inspectors of mines, all tend to show that this is a wonderfully rich territory. I understand that the whole capital is already subscribed privately, and a great scramble is expected in the market for the shares. Associated Southern at $1\frac{15}{16}$, and Nil Desperandum at $1\frac{3}{8}$, have been steady. In the Venture Syndicate group the tone has been firm, and 90-Mile Proprietary, Joker, and Joker Proprietary have been more particularly in favour. With reference to the 90-Mile Proprietary, a cablegram has been received stating that on the Caledonian Lease, the property of this Company, a crushing of 90 tons yielded 180 oz. of gold. Fifteen stamps are at work, and a further five heads will be started as soon as the boiler arrives, so that regular and growing returns may now be looked for. The Sugar Loaf Cement leases are also coming to the front now, a cablegram stating that the reef has been cut at the 150-ft. level, 3 ft. 6 in. thick, and that they are still driving. The ore is stated to contain visible fine and coarse gold. Another piece of valuable news is that contained in a cablegram to the effect that at the Ivanhoe Mine a crushing of 240 tons yielded 1,000 oz. From the Hannan's Britannia a cable is to hand announcing favourable developments, and the discovery of a body of payable ore, a rough assay showing 4 oz. to the ton. I understand that a circular has been issued over a signature of five shareholders in the Cassidy Hill (Coolgardie) Gold Mines, Limited, amongst whom figures Mr. Wm. Hardman, J.P., as a holder of 600 shares. In this circular the history of the Company is recapitulated, and a form, agreeing to co-operate in the investigation of the Company's position and calling a meeting, is enclosed for signature by the shareholders. This form is to be returned to the five shareholders at the office of Messrs. J. A. Campbell & Co., Chartered Accountants, 17, South-street, Finsbury, E.C., whose appeal, as mentioned by me a fortnight ago, has been very liberally responded to. There is good news from the Gladiator Mine, which, as I explained the other day, is situate forty miles, slightly to the north-west of Coolgardie. A short sample of stone blown out from a rich part of the reef is stated by Mr. David Welch, the late mining engineer of Burbank's Birthday Gift, to have yielded at the rate of nearly 500 oz. to the ton. Large reserves are ready for the mill, and the mine is expected to fully bear out the report of Professor Nicolas, the well-known mining engineer, who expressed himself as follows concerning the Gladiators:—"During my examination of this grand outcrop of a quartz reef I was deeply impressed with its great probable future value as a gold-producer. For some 500 ft. in length this massive outcrop of mineralised quartz averages just 12 ft. in width, and, moreover, in the only place where it has been partly cross trenched, it has been found to carry gold equal to at least 3 oz. to the ton." The shares have been actively dealt in at $1\frac{1}{8}$, and look like going considerably higher. There is a temporary lull in Royal Sovereigns, now quoted $3\frac{3}{4}$, but I do not think that the "Bear" squeeze is by any means over yet. The shares in the Anglo-French Colonial Trust, which has a considerable interest in Royal Sovereigns, are steady at $1\frac{7}{8}$. Explorers

Syndicate shares are being actively dealt in at $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ premium, and have not been affected by the general dulness, which is not surprising, as the Company is known to be largely interested in such successful mines as the Burbank's Birthday Gift. Princess Royal shares at 7s. 6d. to 8s. have also shown a firm front. Hannan's Napier are well supported in the neighbourhood of 1. West Australian Gold Concessions are very strong in anticipation of the issue of the Directors' report, and the price has advanced to $1\frac{3}{4}$. I shall not be surprised to see a fair upward movement in the West Australian Mining Company's shares, which have usually been in favour with small capitalists. This was the pioneer of West Australian mining enterprises, and it owns and controls a number of well-developed properties. At Sherlaw's Gold crushings have recommenced, and the news as to the progress of the work at the Great Reef is favourable. The shares of the parent Company, the Coolgardie Gold Syndicate, are neglected. Why, it is difficult to say. The session of the West Australian Legislature was opened by the Governor, Sir Gerard Smith, on the 7th inst., with very encouraging statements. The colony is going in for a very large water-supply scheme, the cost of which is estimated at £2,500,000; and the very fact that the Government is prepared to spend so large a sum for supplying the goldfields with water is an eloquent proof of the belief which is entertained in the colony of the permanence of the gold deposits. The revenue has amounted to £1,858,695 against £1,125,940 in the previous year. Extensions of Fremantle Harbour, and of the railway from Cue to Nanine, are also foreshadowed; and the Governor states that the line to Kalgoorlie will shortly be opened, while the Mullewa-Cue Railway had almost reached Yalgoo. These new lines of railway will doubtless stimulate mining operations. By the way, the Perth correspondent of the *Citizen* mentions that Mr. C. De Rose, the Kalgoorlie millionaire, who left the fields in May to enjoy the enormous wealth he is supposed to have accumulated, was arrested at Albany on the eve of his departure from the Colony, owing to a claim of £2,000 which had been, rightly or wrongly, brought against him. The West Australians still appear to have a Draconic law, according to which any one claiming to be the creditor of a departing guest can have their debtor arrested at any of the ports. It is fortunate for millionaires and others that these provisions are not in force in this country. Hannan's King (Brownhill) Gold Mining shares have been active at $1\frac{3}{8}$ on a cablegram from the mine stating that the lode is improving and is undoubtedly the Richmond lode. Mr. Joseph Foster, of 4, Broad-street Buildings, E.C., is sending out circulars puffing a new gold mine, the Nation's Treasure (Coolgardie), Limited, which he states is the latest and most valuable addition to the celebrated group of the Wealth of Nations gold mines. He adds that the mine has never been issued to the public, but offers a block of the vendors' shares of £1 each at 14s. and calls this proposal "one of the much-coveted opportunities of getting in on the ground-floor." I do not know Mr. J. Foster, who styles himself M.A., Oxon, neither do I know the Nation's Treasure (Coolgardie); but in view of the system adopted to off-load the shares, I should advise my readers to have nothing to do with them. A number of gentlemen connected with the West Australian mining industry assembled on Friday night at Charing Cross Station to speed Mr. Zebina Lane on his return to Western Australia. Mr. Lane has been remarkably successful in connection with the Great Boulder and other mines connected with this group, and I hope that when he returns in January next he may be able to confer further benefits upon those whom he has hitherto served so well. I may mention that the Great Boulder South, upon which he reported, has just had its special settlement, when a large number of shares were found to have passed into investors' hands. At $1\frac{3}{4}$ these shares are still a good purchase. By the way, I am much gratified in noticing that my Western Australian contemporaries are quoting very largely from my remarks concerning "Golden West Australia," and I also acknowledge that they do so while fully quoting TRUTH. This is especially the case with the *Western Mail*, of Perth, an excellent colonial contemporary, which has done me the honour of reproducing several of my articles in full.

INDIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND OTHER MINES.

After a temporary reaction, Indian gold mines have braced up again, Mysore, Mysore Reefs, and Nine Reefs showing the greatest strength. Mysore Gold stand at $7\frac{1}{2}$, Nundydroog at $3\frac{5}{8}$, the favourable June crushings of these two mines having acted as a support. Champion Reefs have been quiet, but the news from the Kadur Mysore is favourable, and it is stated that arrangements had been made for the flotation of sub-Companies to work the property effectively. Goldfields of Mysore are quoted at 26s., and with Coromandel at $2\frac{1}{8}$, are amongst the most promising low-priced Indian mines. Amongst New South Wales mines, Aladdins have been steady at $1\frac{15}{16}$; the dividend of 2s. has been paid. Wentworth Proprietary are rather dull at $\frac{15}{16}$. Australian Broken Hill are firm. In the Croydon goldfield, Croydon Consols are still 4s. 6d. to 5s., and another dividend appears to be in sight. A coming mine hailing from Tasmania is the Mount Reid Mining Company, Limited, which has been privately formed and subscribed with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares, of which £50,000 has been reserved for working capital. The Company acquires an important gold, silver, and copper mining property at Mount Reid, in the Dundas district of north-west Tasmania, covering about 80 acres, within a comparatively short distance of the Mount Lyell Mine, the Mount Bischoff Mine, the North Dundas tin fields, and the Zeehan Silver fields, all of which are being successfully worked. According to the report of the expert, this is a mine very similar to the Mount Lyell, and promises to prove equally successful. Working assays of fourteen different samples of ore taken from the property gave an average, according to Mr. McMurray, of 1 oz. 5 dwt. of gold, and 21 oz. of silver per ton of ore. This is altogether apart from the large amount of copper pyrites also testified to. The shares are not offered for public subscription, and are already quoted at a considerable premium. Amongst New Zealand mines, Taitapu Estates have reacted to $3\frac{7}{16}$, and Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, after a brief reaction, are slightly firmer at $4\frac{3}{4}$. Hauraki are slightly better, but Kapanga are easier. In this department I still have the best opinion of United New Zealand Exploration at about $2\frac{1}{2}$, and amongst the low-priced shares of Komata Queen at 4s., Preece's Point at 4s. 3d., and Maoriland Gold Mines at 3s. to 3s. 3d. A cablegram from the manager of the Preece's Point Proprietary states that good progress is being made with the machinery. Again the Irene (Hauraki) Gold Mining shares, 5s. fully paid, have improved to 5s. 6d., and there is every prospect of a further improvement. During the present account there has been a moderate set-back in some of the New Zealand mines which had gone up to a high figure. Thus Waihi made up $\frac{1}{8}$ lower at $6\frac{7}{8}$, Waihi Silverton $\frac{3}{8}$ lower at $3\frac{1}{8}$, Waitekauri $\frac{5}{16}$ lower at $5\frac{3}{8}$, and Waitekauri Cross dropped $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. The successful flotation of the Gloucester Gold Mining Company, Limited, by the Mining, Transport, and Finance Company, Limited, has caused a rise in the shares of the latter Company, the Ordinary having advanced to $1\frac{1}{4}$, and the Prefs. to $1\frac{7}{16}$. The total capital is £151,500, in Ordinary shares of £1 each, of which there are 130,000; and there are, in addition, Preference and Founders' shares. Besides the finance business acquired by the Company, it holds considerable interests in the Golden Horseshoe and Champion Reef (Nannine), both West Australian Companies, the shares in which stand at a premium; while valuable options have also been secured, which it is intended to float into new Companies in the near future. A cablegram from the Aroha Mine states that the value of the ore developed is 19s. per ton, and that a large body of ore has been proved. Considering that the Mines Contract Company is known to be in such a healthy position, it would be a commendable act of the Board if it issued to the shareholders a circular showing clearly the position of the Company, whose list of

proprietors would probably be extended thereby. It is said that its gold property in Russia will bring in a handsome profit, while its Lydenburg possessions are turning out first class. The price is still at 30s. to 32s. 6d. The confirmatory meeting of the Mines and Banking Corporation *re* the alteration of the articles of association has been held, and the interim dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum has been officially announced. The shares look a promising investment, and, what is more, give a good rate of interest. A recovery in Invicta Gold Mines (British Columbia) on the present price of ⅞ to 1 is also expected. The Golden River Quesnelle, another British Columbian mine to which I drew attention last week, is now being placed before the public, and should meet with a very favourable reception. In the general foreign section business has been very quiet, and dealings have been greatly restricted. Rio Tinto eased off temporarily, and other copper shares also suffered, but a recovery is now in progress. Golden Feather, Central Chili, Jay Hawk, and Dickens Custer are all lower.

NEW ENTERPRISES AND ISSUES.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week :—

Cowell, Craft & Co., Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring four businesses situate in the south-western part of London, which have been established for over forty years. The capital is fixed at £150,000 in shares of £1 each.

The Alliance Exploring and Finance Corporation, Limited.—This Corporation has been formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of a Parent Financial and Exploration business in the British Colonies. It also proposes to acquire options in mining properties with a view to re-sale. The capital is fixed at £200,000.

Hannan's Development and Finance Corporation, Limited.—This Corporation has been formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of a Development and Finance Corporation, and principally for the purpose of acquiring options, &c. The capital is £150,000 in shares of £1 each.

The Grand Theatre (Islington, Limited).—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on as a going concern the Grand Theatre, Islington, with the scenery, furniture, &c. The share capital is £50,000 in £1 shares, and £15,000 in Five per Cent. Mortgage Debentures.

I cannot see anything tempting in this prospectus. Theatres at best are a very speculative investment, and the one under notice especially so, and I think that my readers will do better elsewhere.

The Ivanhoe Consols Proprietary Company, Limited. — This Company is formed to acquire and further develop four mining leases of 54 acres in extent, situate in the Hannan's district, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. The capital is £125,000 in £1 shares.

The developments on this property appear to be insufficient, and the outlook for dividends on this amount of capital—which I think excessive—is very much in the future. Investors had better wait for further information from the mine.

Paul Stolte, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire, work, and further develop a manufacturing business carried on by Paul Stolte, Architect and Manufacturer, of Geuthin, Saxony. The capital is £50,000 in £1 shares.

This is a foreign invasion with a vengeance. The whole of the Directorate, with one exception, however, stay at home, and I should strongly advise my readers to keep their money at home, as I can see nothing in this venture to warrant the capital asked for it.

Golden River, Quesnelle, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire the rights and powers conferred by Acts of the Legislature of British Columbia in the Quesnelle Lake Dam Company, and the amended Acts of 1883 and 1895, granting exclusive right to extract gold and precious metals for about nine and a half miles on the South Fork, and a portion of the Main Quesnelle River, Cariboo, British Columbia. The capital is fixed at £350,000 in shares of £1 each.

The rights acquired by this Company are large, and the prospects very promising. The expert reports are favourable, but the most satisfactory point is that the Chairman is the Agent-General for British Columbia. It may be taken for granted that the Executive of that country must be pretty well assured of the future success of the Company, to allow his name to appear on the prospectus.

Tower Tea, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the businesses of Wholesale Tea and Coffee Dealers carried on by Messrs. Lough Brothers & Co., as the Great Tower-street Tea Company, also the Silverbrook Tea Company, and the Whole Berry Coffee Company of Jewry-street, London. The capital is £200,000.

The whole of these four businesses were founded by Lough Bros. in the course of twenty years' trading, and the returns for the past three years are given collectively. Why not singly? The profits are expected to increase from additional capital and anticipated economies; but in these days of competition—more especially in this trade—the Company will be fortunate if it can manage to keep up the average. The capitalisation is far too high for me to advise my readers to venture into it.

The Standard Oil Company of Galicia.—Particulars are published of this Company, which is shortly to be issued simultaneously in London and Amsterdam.

The Dunallan Gold Mines, Limited.—Capital £85,000 in £1 shares. This Company is formed to acquire, further develop, and work the Dunallan Gold Mines, Coolgardie, Western Australia.

The Mines Corporation of New Zealand, Limited.—Capital £505,000. Issue of 250,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each and 5,000 Deferred shares of £1 each. This Company has been formed for the purpose of undertaking the business of a Mining, Prospecting, and Finance Company in the Colonies of New Zealand, Australia, Tasmania, and elsewhere.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

GOVERNMENT, &c., BONDS.

Rover.—Yes, the new Uruguay loan, which was issued at 71½, can be bought at a discount of 1¼. It therefore yields upwards of 7 per cent. on the investment, and is a good purchase. *H. D. W.*—I see no reason for selling Chilian bonds, more particularly as the finances of the country are on a sound basis, and the new loan will doubtless be taken care of by Messrs. Rothschild. *Martin.* — 1. Take a good profit on Cedulas "P" in the near future. 2. No option but to hold for the present, and you might average to a moderate extent.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Thespian.—No. I do not advise dealing on this system, you should operate through a member of the Stock Exchange only. *Ross.*—It is difficult to find gilt-edged debentures to yield a fair return nowadays. Chester Lion Brewery Four and a Half per Cent. Debentures at about 105, and the shares of the Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust, Limited, at about 6, should suit you. *Hughes.*—This Eastern Bank is a well-established concern; but I do not like deposits of this kind. It would be preferable to buy gilt-edged securities. *G. H. C.*—I cannot reply by letter. A movement took place in Bristol a year or two back, through which those who then combined obtained the return of a large portion of their money. You should try and co-operate with others to obtain the same result. *A Poor Widow.*—The address of a smart City solicitor, which you require in your dealings with an outside broker, is forwarded to you in your envelope.

HOME RAILS.

Excellent.—Furness stock is fair value at present price; but no particular catch. *Juggins.*—I do not know anything about the persons in question, and the rise in the Heavy division has been overdone. *O. G.*—Take your handsome profit in North-Westerns on the next advance. *R. V.*—The reason of the rise in Dover "A" is the anticipation of a good dividend. Should this prediction be realised, we may see a further considerable advance.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

W.B.C.—I do not think it would be advisable to put the whole thousand pounds in Central Argentine stock. You might put a portion of the money in Buenos Ayres Great Southern and Buenos Ayres Western stocks, and some of it into the new Uruguay Five per Cent. Loan, which can be now obtained at a discount of 1¼ on the issue price of 71½. *T. L. T.*—No option but to hold the bonds in question; but it might be preferable to wait before averaging, until matters in American politics are more clear.

SPRATT'S PATENT various Dog Foods and Medicines can be obtained of all Corn Dealers, Grocers, and Chemists in the United Kingdom and in all important Continental cities. They are also stocked at 14, Rue des Mathurins, Paris; Rummelsburg, Berlin; and 239, East 56th-street, New York. Your own tradesman or stores will supply you.

MINING SHARES.

Mackay, Aberdeen.—I am afraid that the mine is in bad hands, and that is the reason why I am unfavourable to it; you should take an opportunity of an improvement to get out without a loss. Barnato Banks should be held for an important advance. *Dingle.*—You must know that I have always been unfavourable to Chartered shares; why did you disregard my advice? Hold Porges Randfontein. *Cigarette.*—1. Which South Australian mine do you refer to? 2. These should recover again. 3. Yes. 4. These should also come along again. 5. It is of no use to say much about this until the market generally braces up. *Crystal.*—No option but to hold your shares Nos. 1 to 4 for an improvement, which is probable. *Reading.*—Hold Waterfall Estates, and disregard this kind of talk. *Kangaroo.* — You had better obtain the information from the Secretary of these Companies with regard to the dividends paid. You must know my view of Chartered (A). I do not like B; but C should be held. 3. Yes. 4. Barnato Banks are likely to improve. *Medicus, Cobham.*—Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 9, you may safely buy more Randfontein and hold the others. *Blackburn.*—I do not advise purchase of Klerksdorps. *Swindled.*—This is a very doubtful concern, against which I have for some time warned my readers. *Great Scott.*—No special reason, with the exception of the troubles in South Africa. When these are removed the shares should improve again. *Colonel, Eastbourne.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, Nos. 3, 5, 6, 8 to 12 are promising, and should be held for an improvement. The others should be sold on an advance. *Hopeful, Glasgow.*—1. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange, and not with outside brokers. 2. Buffelsdoorn should be held for an improvement. *Rhine.*—Yes, it is a promising mine, and eventually, no doubt, will become active. *A. G. L.*—In wishing to buy South African shares, you are quite right to purchase Langlaagte Estate, Randfontein, Barnato Banks, and Barnato Consols. *Cyanus.*—1. Nothing has happened to change my opinion. 2. You had better hold these West Australian shares. *Ulathorpe.*—No reason to sell New Crœsus. *Pax.*—I do not think much of this silver mine. *Lombard.*—1. I cannot express a favourable opinion with reference to the West Australian Minerals and Finance Company. 2. Ditto. 3. Hold. 4. No option but to join the reconstruction and sell afterwards. 5. You ought to have sold La Yesca long ago. No option but to hold the others. *J. H. C.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 to 5 for an improvement. *Maize.*—I suppose it will be best to join the reconstruction and sell after. *A Constant Reader (L. M.).*—The Hicks' Mine is a promising Company, and you should hold the shares. *Wanderer.*—1. Burbank's Birthday Gift is a rich mine, and the shares should be held. 2. Hold Wealth of Nations. There are no dealings in the W.A. mine, "Hands Across the Sea," on this side. Amongst the South African shares which you propose to buy, Nos. 1 to 5, I do not approve of any but Nos. 1 and 2. The others are too speculative, and you can do better by consulting my letter. *West Cliff.*—1. Hold African Estates. Graskop Exploring, Sheba Hill, Maoriland, and Komata Queens are fair purchases amongst low-priced shares. All the mines mentioned are promising. *Chicks.*—In the case of so small an amount, I think it would be advisable to leave it in the Post Office Savings' Bank. Amongst the shares mentioned, I like Barnato Banks and Hampton Plains best. 2. Impossible to tell. *Scotsman.*—You might keep these West Australian shares for a further advance. The daily financial papers will give you the information you require. You should number your inquiries in future. *H. S., Hull.*—1. I see no reason for averaging yet. 2. No option but to hold New Crœsus. *C. B.*—1. Hold Balkis Land. 2. Certainly hold Hampton Plains, and buy more to average. *Scoty.*—1. No option but to keep them a little longer. 2. Hold these also. *Dummy.*—1. You have a splendid profit on these Diamond shares, why not take it? Hold Block 50 Hampton Plains (2) for a rise. 3. Hold. 4. No. *Herbert.*—Hold the West Australian shares in question. *Constant Reader.*—Please understand in future I cannot answer two letters in one week. Associated Southern are a good investment at the present quotation of 1⅞. *M. K. E. K.*—Croydon Consols is a promising mine, and the shares should improve. *Balgonie.*—A fair mining risk. *Wargrave.*—Croydon Consols are a promising investment. They paid 3d. per 5s. share for one quarter, and are in future expected to pay 6d. per quarter. *Mayfield.*—You should not take any notice of such trash. *L. A. C.*—Do not expect too large jumps in mining shares at present, and be content with a moderate profit. A. Impossible to tell. B. Take a fair profit. C. and D. I cannot tell. E. Yes. F. Shortly. *J. P., St. Martin's-lane.*—The position of Croydon Consols, according to all advices, appears to be exceptionally good, and I cannot understand myself why the price does not rise. If it were a West Australian mine it would be double the present quotation. You have done quite right in joining the opposition with regard to the African Gold Concessions, and should not be in a hurry to pay the call. *South Hants.*—My opinion of the Highland Chief Gold Mine is favourable. *Cornubia.*—I have never recommended Carn Breas, Dalcoaths, or other mines of that ilk, and have not a favourable opinion of Cornish mines. In West Australian mines there are many more promising than these, and you can gather all information from the remarks in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Johnnie.*—Certainly hold, there is every prospect of a recovery. *Tipperary.*—The Victoria Reef Mine is a promising one, and the shares should eventually go much higher. *Major, Manchester.*—This West Australian Mine is strangely neglected, but I still say hold. *Heinrich.*—No option but to hold for the present. *T. P.*—I will make further inquiries with regard to this matter. *Vinegar Hill.*—Hold the shares, but do not buy any more yet. *West York.*—It was a pity you did not hold the South African shares in question; but the West Australians are promising. As regards the investment of a further sum of £3,000, you must let me know whether you desire to invest in mining shares, or what class of stocks you require. *Plen.*—1. Yes, Gladiators are a good purchase at from 1 to 1⅛. 2. London and Continental Investment are very promising; hold for a rise. 3. You have done very well in African Estates, and the time is not far off when you might make another purchase. 4. Mainland Consols ought to be bought on the present reaction. 5. Yes. 6. Certainly, always take a good profit. *A. Z.*—Nearly all your mining shares are well selected, and you should hold for a recovery. *Ferndale.*—Most of your mining shares are likely to recover again, and you should hold for the present. A good many, however, were not bought on my advice. *Kaffirs, Ld.*—I note that you not only endorse my remarks about the Directors, which were to the effect that "they were a peculiar clique," but that you have reason to use very strong expressions about them; I cannot tell you anything about the meeting held on June 3. 2. The Maritana Mine is likely to see the light of day in the near future, and it is a very promising undertaking. 3. The name is Hannan's Crœsus. 4. Do not sell now. 5. No option but to hold for the present. 6. Your wife should not attach any importance to this absurd and interested attack. *Borax.*—1. Yes. 2. Hold. *Novice, B.*—If you buy low-priced mining shares and expect immediately to make a profit, you must be a very ignorant speculator. If you want to make money in mining shares, patience is necessary. *Wags.*—1. Why do you not write to the Secretary of Westralia, Limited, and obtain the information you require! 2. Yes, West Australian Gold Concessions are a good purchase at the present price of 1⅞. 3. I maintain my favourable opinion of Hannan's Golden Treasure and Hannan's Golden Group; but when the whole market is dull you cannot expect some particular share to go better. 4. A fair purchase, but no catch. *Traveller.*—You should hold your South Africans for a rise. 1. I do not think much of it. 3. Yes, certainly hold. 3. Not as far as I know. 4. Yes. *Xtopher.*—1. I do not think favourably of these. 2. Hampton Plains are a good purchase at present price. 3. Pounds higher. *Cunctator.*—No reason to sell the shares, but you can do better in some of those mentioned in my letter. *L. Z. E. Hy.*—No particular temptation to buy just now.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Trams.—Take your profit on the Cycle shares. *White Hussar.*—I do not like the Elswick Cycle Company. *Dunleary.*—I would not advise purchase of these American Brewery shares yet. *N. de G., Nat.*—No catch. *R. N., Southsea.*—As far as I can see, even if you forfeit the shares, you will have to pay up the calls. Without knowing the name of the concern, I cannot of course say much; but why do you not combine with the other shareholders to force the sale of the steamer, which seems to be the best course? *M. J. G.*—Write to the secretary of the Company. *Pater.*—1. I do not think much of these as an investment. 2. I do not care for A. C. Pearson, Limited, and do not advise the investment. 3. No. 4. Cumulative means in this case that the Ordinary shares will not receive any dividend until the arrears of Preference dividend, if any, have been paid. *Capsule.*—1. Apparently so. 2. No, I am not partial to this kind of investment. *J. P., King's Co.*—I cannot reply by letter. It is not possible as yet to speak positively, but there seems to be every prospect of the arrangement being carried out. *J. G. R.*—The London Canning Company seems to be a promising undertaking; I gave some particulars last week under "Various Investments." *Felix.*—Hold Eastmans for a further recovery. All the same Associated Gold Mines are a good purchase. *Bahadur.*—Take a good profit when you can get it. *X.*—1. It is impossible to express an opinion until I have the prospectus of the Standard Oil Company of Galicia before me; I shall then give my views under "New Enterprises and Issues." 2. This new Cycle Company is likely to do well; but here also particulars must be awaited. 3. I cannot express an opinion. 4. Ditto. 5. You must take your own course. *C. H. N.*—You should write to the Secretary of the London Canning Company, at 20, Bucklersbury, E.C. It seems a promising concern. *J. D.*—1. No great hurry to buy these Brewery Prefs., although they are a good investment if put away. 2. Not yet. *Jerné.*—A good Brewery investment, and there is no reason to sell the stock. *Spec.*—1. You have done quite right to clear your profit in Mazzawattee Tea shares. 2. The rumour is frequently put about that Lipton's is coming out as a limited Company; but I cannot advise you with regard to applying for shares, when this event does happen, until I know what the capitalisation will be. 3. No particular temptation to buy just now. *Tea.*—I cannot possibly express an opinion on Tower Tea, Limited, which you say is soon coming out, until I know what the capitalisation will be, and what statements will be made in the prospectus. *Magdalen.*—I do not consider International Tea Stores Prefs. (1), C. A. Pearson, Ltd., Prefs. (2), or Maynard Ordinary (3) "good and safe industrial investments." They are highly speculative, and there is no market for No. 3. *Lansdowne.*—As far as I can judge from the prospectus, this is a bonâ-fide Company, and if the invention is what it is represented to be, it is likely to cause a revolution in the preserved-meat market.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Au Revoir.—1. Quite high enough. 2. No. *Betty S.*—A portion of your letter was answered last week under "Banks, Trusts and Financial." With regard to your sister's holdings, Nos. 1 to 5, they should be sold when prices recover. *Robin.*—1. The line did badly last year, but better times are now in store. 2. Yes. 3. This mine is likely to recover itself. 4. West Australian shares generally are dull just now; you must await a recovery. 5. There are better prospects for this mine now. 6. Yes. *C. M. K.*—Amongst your shares, Nos. 1 to 11, I do not think much of No. 4, and you ought to have sold No. 8 long ago when much higher. I do not like Dories (11), but the others should be held. *Parrhesia.*—1. Not yet. 2. I do not generally recommend "Bear" sales and in this case it would be rather risky, as the *haute finance* are supporting Tintos. 3. The time should come very soon toe close this "Bear." 4. You were quite right to realise your profit on Midlands, and ought to have done so for the whole amount, as they have relapsed since. *Oswald.*—Amongst your investments, Nos. 1 to 11, all the South Africans should be held for a recovery, and there is no reason for selling No. 9 now. The West Australians, Nos. 10 and 11, are promising. *Doubtful Yankee.*—1. The rumours of trouble amongst the coal miners is keeping Home Rails back, but I should not be surprised to see a further distinct rally. 2. No option but to hold. In all probability the interest on No. 3 will be paid. *Hen.*—1. I have always warned my readers against Colon Gold Mines. 2 and 4. A recovery is probable. 3. These should be held. 5. Take a good profit. 6. This is a promising gold mine. 7. I know nothing of Woodstock South; it has nothing to do with Woodstock (Transvaal). *Kyrle.*—1. I do not advise purchase of Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum shares. 2. Take a fair profit on your Cedulas, whenever you can get it. 3. Do not sell now. *Fathead.*—1. I think you may expect the Argentine Railway bonds to go considerably higher; but I cannot possibly tell you what price they will touch. 2. The re-constructed shares should be sold as soon as you can get out at a fair price. 3. Join this re-construction and sell after. *G. H.*—1. No option but to hold these Nitrate shares, they should recover again. 2. Hold Wealth of Nations for an improvement. *Flete.*—In your first list, No. 2 (Nobel-Dynamite Trust) is rather speculative. No. 3 is a fair industrial investment; but it is impossible to tell how the market will move. 4. No. As regards your second list of investments, Nos. 1 to 5, you should sell your Spanish on a further advance and hold the others. *T. H.*—1. No; I do not advise purchase of Gwelo at present, in view of the troubles in Rhodesia. 2. They will be worth buying presently. 3. No, I do not advise further purchase of Chartered; sell whenever an opportunity offers. 4. You might as well take your handsome profit. 5. No; I do not like the Enfield Cycle Company. 6. I do not care for Rudge-Whitworth. 7. Probably, but I cannot tell until the prospectus is issued. *Rob Roy.*—You do not send your name and address in token of good faith! I do not see how you can improve your investments. *Buddha.*—1. Hold Wealth of Natious for a recovery. 2. Buy more North British Deferred to average, the price is now 51. *Viola.*—1. I do not think much of the stock in question. 2. They do not appear to be quoted. 3. I think you might as well keep your Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds. 4. There is every prospect of these shares coming right again, whenever the Kaffir Circus braces up again. *Gonora.*—1. Yes, I think you would do well to put the £600 in the new Uruguay Five per Cent. Loan. 2. Ditto. 3. Amongst West Australians you might buy the new Lake View Consols. 4. Croydon Consols and Langlaagte Estate are both very promising, and you might distribute the amount over these. *Civis.*—1. There is no objection to the proposed investments Nos. 1 and 3; but I do not care for No. 2. As regards No. 4, I think the new Uruguay Government issue is best worth buying. *Clare.*—1. Yes. 2. No option but to hold for the present, but do not average yet. 3. Yes, just now. 4. I do not like Gold Consols, Limited, and never have; write to the Secretary as regards the statutory meeting. *Red Leaf.*—There is no option but to hold most of your mining shares Nos. 1 to 25, and even those which are not well selected should now be held. Your best holdings are Nos. 1, 9, 11, 12 and 13. The others, however, will, no doubt, also recover again. *Percy.*—1. Yes, you might as well take your very handsome profit of 15 per cent.; but I cannot exactly recommend another South American Railway stock in which you could make the same profit, as prices have risen very considerably of late. Why not buy the new Uruguay Loan? 2. Yes, a very fair opportunity still. 3. Yes. 4. Yes. 5. No reason to sell now; on the contrary, it would be preferable to hold for a recovery. 6. I do not like the Gold Exploration of West Australia at all. 7. The only course is to join the re-construction and sell after. 8. Mainland Consols are distinctly promising; and so are the other shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Mug.*—1. I am not aware of this circumstance. 2. I do not believe in Simpson's Lever Chains. 3. Mainland Consols should be bought on a reaction. *Torc.*—No one was ever ruined by taking profits, and you might as well clear yours in the stocks mentioned. As regards New Enfield Cycles, I do not like the concern.

TYPE-WRITERS and CYCLES! TYPE-WRITERS and CYCLES!! TYPE-WRITERS and CYCLES!!! TYPE-WRITERS and CYCLES!!!! Summer Clearance Sale for this week only. Remingtons, No. 2, £9 9s., No. 5, Remingtons, £12 12s., Yosts, £9 9s., Hammonds, £8 8s., Barlocks, £8 8s., Caligraphs, £7 7s., New Victors, £2 10s., Merrits, 30s. All complete with covers and boards and sundries, and kept in order for one year. Cycles, ladies and gents from £9 9s.—N. TAYLOR, Manager, National Type-Writer Exchange Co., 74, Chancery-lane, W.C. Established 1884.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

Although the banks are trying to maintain rates for money, there appears to be little prospect of their succeeding for any length of time. It is true that the Russian loan is in sight, but that will no doubt be chiefly issued in France and Germany, and should not disturb our market to any extent. In fact, with a considerable amount of gold on the way to this country, rates in the money market will ease off further. Consols are lower at 113⅜. Silver is slightly better for the week at 31½d., and Rupee paper has again eased off to 64¼. The Chinese Seven per Cent. Silver loan is quoted 119½. Brewery shares have been weak, and Allsopps declined sharply to 176, recovering to 179, while Guinness are lower at 640. In Nitrate Rails very little business has transpired, and the shares are again easier at 7⅜. There has been no improvement in the shares of Nitrate-producing Companies, and the publication of the contents of a circular issued by the Lagunas Nitrate Company, stating that the statements made by the vendors, the Lagunas Syndicate, Limited, in the original prospectus of the Lagunas Nitrate Company, were not correct, and that an action had thereupon been entered against the Syndicate for a rescission of the contract, has created a disagreeable impression. In Cycle shares a rise to ⅞ premium in Dunlop Deferred has been followed by a reaction to $\frac{11}{16}$ premium, and Dunlop Ordinary are also easier at ¼ premium. Beeston are lower at 5, Cycle Components have been dull, and Cycle Tubes have also eased off to $1\frac{1}{16}$. The French Dunlop Company will, I hear, be shortly placed before the public, and, as far as I can learn, the terms upon which it will be issued will ensure a very successful flotation. I learn that the Distilling and Yeast Company is doing a rapidly-extending business, more especially in yeast, as it compares most favourably with other older makers. Under these circumstances, the Five per Cent. debentures, which can still be picked up at from 104½ to 105½, will probably come into strong demand. Outside stockbrokers are much interested in a recent decision, according to which the gambling laws can be successfully pleaded by clients who have lost money in speculative dealings. A Mr. William Anderson, of 112, Bath-street, Glasgow, is sending out circulars in which he recommends "a guaranteed deposit system," under which he agrees to accept deposits from £5 upwards. He proposes to pay monthly interest at the rate of 16s. 8d. per £5, which would work out to 200 per cent. per annum. This is specially offered to applicants who wish to receive a "stated and positive return, and are unwilling to participate in stock and share transactions." On the face of it, this is an impossible proposition, and as the guarantee appears to be that of the philanthropist himself only, I should think that people would be very ill-advised to deposit their money with Mr. William Anderson. I again ask, who are the people running the Mercantile Bank of Scotland, who figure in the circular as bankers of the enterprising Anderson? Who are Thomas & Co. of 61 and 62, Chancery-lane, and 7 and 8, Southampton-buildings? They send out circulars stating that they are likely to bring out several Companies, in which the receivers of the circulars might feel a special interest, and ask them to enter their names in their (Thomas's) list. Thomas & Co.'s letter-paper bears the following notices:—

If Limited Liability Methods are good for Large Trades they are good for Small Ones too.

*** If things are going worse and worse, form a Company and retrieve your position!!

*** *In the last extremity don't FAIL, but turn your business into a Company!!!*

After that I should be very chary of any Companies with which Thomas & Co. may have anything to do. "The Put-and-Call" is the title of a booklet which has been compiled by Mr. Leonard R. Higgins, of the well-known firm of Messrs. Derenberg & Co., and the publishers of which are Messrs. Effingham, Wilson, & Co., Royal

Exchange. He supplies in a readable form the answer to the question which has often been put by the uninitiated, What is an option? and places the theory of the value of the put-and-call in a new light before those who have mastered the intricacies of option-dealing.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY;

A DEBT OF HONOUR.

"WHO is the young fellow with the yellow hair, Duff?" whispered Captain Loraine, as he and his friend stood on the outer edge of the small circle gathered round a couple of écarté players at the Nebulus Club.

"Archie Lidyard——"

"Never heard of him; he's got the card-fever pretty strongly, eh?" he added, as they moved away to the other end of the room.

"Young fool!" ejaculated Duff, as he flung himself into a seat and ordered his whisky and soda, "he's just going the pace as fast as he can. I've known him since he was so high, all legs and Eton collar! His mother is a charming woman, but a great deal too weak to deal with a fellow like that."

"Ah!" remarked Loraine, without any great interest, "and who's the man he's playing with?"

"A friend of Val Travers; a colonial, I fancy, Mr. James Ruthven by name. Why will youngsters like Lidyard always choose such opponents?"

"You don't think——"

"Oh, no!" interposed Duff, hastily. "Everything is all square, I've no doubt, only Archie Lidyard 's about as fit to hold a card against a cool-headed, experienced man, as I am to discuss the Apocalypse with the Archbishop of Canterbury. I say, waiter, can't that window be made to shut behind there?" he remarked, testily, to the man who set his glass down beside him. "There's a most abominable draught."

"Yes, sir. I'll see, sir," replied the waiter quickly, as he jumped on to the window-sill behind the couch on which the two friends sat, and began to tussle with the window.

"Is this young friend of yours rich?" asked Loraine, noticing that his companion was still watching the party at the card-table.

"Archie Lidyard? I'm not sure that I should call him a friend of mine. I like his mother, but I've small patience with the young jackanapes. Rich? No, not at present, at any rate; the father was a big ironmaster who made a colossal fortune, and, unluckily for young Hopeful over there, died half a dozen years ago; the man was tolerably clear-sighted, though, and left the bulk of his money to his wife, stipulating that Archie's minority should not terminate till he reached his twenty-fifth year, and that, until that time, his allowance should not exceed a certain figure. He has to get through a couple of years before he attains his majority, and, in consequence, poor Mrs. Lidyard lives in a chronic state of pulling her son out of the mire, paying his debts, and sending him on his way to sin no more! It's terribly hard on the poor woman. He's an only child, and, of course, there's nothing she wouldn't do for him."

"Very sad. But, I say, Duff," broke off Captain Loraine, "it does seem to me that the Nebulus Club is about the coldest place in London."

As he spoke, a window went up with a sharp bang, and the waiter leapt down from behind them.

"You won't feel anything more of the draught now, I think, sir," he said, addressing Duff.

"Oh, is it shut now? You were a precious long time about it."

Some one near the card-table called to the waiter, and he hurried there; at the same moment Archie Lidyard rose.

"No, I won't take my revenge to-night," he said, with an attempt at a laugh; "what's the amount of my debt, Mr. Ruthven?"

"Let me see, five hundred—yes, five hundred and fifty pounds. But there's no hurry if you haven't your cheque-book with you. You can send it round to my hotel any time to-morrow. I don't leave for Paris till the night mail."

"Thank you," said young Lidyard. "I'd sworn off cards or I should have had it with me. You are putting up at the Savoy, I think?"

"Yes, No. 49," replied Ruthven. "You may as well come and lunch with me?"

"I will if I possibly can," said young Lidyard; "but if not, I'll send a cheque round. Stay, though," he exclaimed, suddenly, "I can discharge a portion of my debt at once." The flush deepened on his cheeks as he fumbled in his pocket-book and drew out a cheque; he glanced at it, and his hand shook a little as he held it towards Ruthven. "That is for three hundred," he explained; "you shall have the rest to-morrow."

Ruthven in his turn glanced at the cheque.

"To Eva Lidyard!" he read, half aloud, in a tone of some surprise.

"My mother," replied young Lidyard, a little sharply. "I think you will find the endorsement all right. I will give you an I O U for the balance."

He was about to call for the waiter, when the man, who had been standing at his side throughout the transaction, handed him the writing materials.

Archie Lidyard wrote the acknowledgment, spoke a few words to those round him, and then left the room; it was evident, in spite of the young man's efforts at calmness and unconcern, that the loss was a serious one and the evening's work no laughing matter.

But James Ruthven was naturally in a more cheerful mood. He was not a poor man, but he was far enough from being a millionaire to feel no slight satisfaction at the respectable sum of his winnings. Five hundred and fifty-five pounds was a total worthy of consideration, and it must be confessed that he looked at the slip of paper bearing the pretty signature of "Eva Lidyard" on the back with a certain amount of complacency before retiring to rest.

He was aroused next morning by a loud knocking at his door.

"Eh? Come in—what's the matter; what do you want?" he inquired, starting up.

"A lady to see you, sir?"

"What?"

Ruthven admitted the servant, glancing at his watch as he passed; it was just half-past nine; who could wish to see him so soon.

"A lady to see me, did you say?"

"Yes, sir."

"What sort of a lady?" inquired Ruthven, dubiously.

"I can't rightly say, sir; she's got a thick veil on, and she's all in black."

"Did she give you no card?"

"No, sir."

"Most extraordinary; go down and ask her if she can tell you her business."

In a few minutes he returned.

"It's a Mrs. Lidyard, sir, and she says her business is very private."

"Mrs. Lidyard!" Like a flash the pretty signature at the back of the cheque came back to him. "Ask her into the sitting-room," he said, quickly. "Say I will be with her directly."

He dressed hurriedly; what could she want with him?

"You wish to see me, madam?" he asked, as five minutes later he closed the door of his private sitting-room behind him.

A tall, black-robed figure advanced to him.

"You are very good to come to me," she said, in a broken voice.

Ruthven glanced at her quickly; she looked particularly graceful and elegant in her sable draperies, and the voice was soft and pleasant, in spite of the evident distress and nervousness of the speaker.

"Pray sit down," said Ruthven, drawing forward a chair; but Mrs. Lidyard sank down in one nearer her, her back to the light.

"Will you tell me what I can do for you?" asked Ruthven, gently.

The small, black-gloved hands twisted a handkerchief desperately. Mrs. Lidyard made one or two ineffectual attempts to speak, and at last said,

"You won a large sum last night from my son at cards, Mr. Ruthven?"

"A considerable sum—yes."

"And he—he gave you a cheque for it?"

"For part of it, certainly."

Mrs. Lidyard uttered a groan. Ruthven's astonishment grew. What did it all mean? With what was evidently a great effort his visitor continued—

"A cheque drawn in my favour, purporting to be endorsed by me?"

"Yes."

"I—he—oh!" she broke down sobbing, "the wretched, wretched boy!"

The veil she wore was thick, but not so thick as to disguise her, and Ruthven could see that Mrs. Lidyard was still possessed of very great charms, and the glimpse he caught of snowy hair only made the rest of her face appear more youthful. Grief, under such circumstances, cannot fail to be touching.

"Pray calm yourself, Mrs. Lidyard," he said, soothingly. "You have not yet told me how I can serve you."

Mrs. Lidyard suppressed her agitation and continued—

"I must tell you everything; I can do nothing but throw myself upon your mercy. Yesterday, on going through my accounts, I missed a cheque that had been sent me only the day before. I searched everywhere for it, and not finding it, I finally telegraphed to the bankers stopping payment. I did not at first suspect that——" she hesitated. "I am very unfortunately placed. My son has extravagant tastes, and an income quite insufficient to indulge them." She looked at Ruthven piteously.

"I think I understand," he said, gravely.

"I waited for my son, spoke to him of what I dreaded, implored him to tell me all! And—oh, Mr. Ruthven, have pity on him and on me, and give me back that wretched cheque."

Ruthven rose immediately, and a second later returned.

"You can count on my discretion," he said, pityingly, as he placed the cheque in her hand.

"Oh! how can I thank you?—how can I ever thank you?" she exclaimed, almost hysterically. Then, seeing a small writing-table, she sat down hurriedly.

"May I write you a cheque here——"

He smiled, and she drew a cheque book from the bag she carried.

"Mr. James Ruthven, is it not?"

She began to write, and then turned to him quickly.

"But £300 is not the whole amount. Will you tell it me?"

Ruthven replied shortly, "Five hundred and fifty pounds." It was one thing winning money at the Nebulus from Archie Lidyard, a bit of a coxcomb and a great deal of a fool, quite another thing taking it here in the cold morning light from his mother, still quivering from the anguish she had undergone.

"Here it is," she said, rising. "You see the endorsement was not even a clever forgery," she added, with a little sob.

Ruthven glanced at it; there was a certain similarity in the signatures, no doubt, but the one he had seen last night was firmer, with a touch of masculinity, wanting in this.

No, as she said, it was not even a clever forgery.

"I don't think you know what you have done for me, Mr. Ruthven," she said, offering him her hand. "No, please" — she continued, as he made a movement to accompany her—"I would rather go alone; thank you again, and God bless you!"

James Ruthven was not a sentimental man, but he was rather pleased with Mrs. Lidyard's parting words, though it was perfectly clear to him that he had done little to deserve them, for, after all, it was a clear gain to him to exchange a worthless bit of paper for a cheque for £550.

His complacency remained undisturbed for at least two hours. He breakfasted well, and read his paper with absolute serenity. Then he took a cab to the St. James's-square branch of the Westminster Bank.

The cashier took the slip of paper, and after looking at the signature, honoured Ruthven with a keen glance before disappearing.

"Will you step this way?"

Ruthven looked up astonished, but obeyed, conscious that the clerks were watching him curiously as he was ushered into the manager's sanctum.

"I shall be glad if you will explain how this cheque came into your possession," said the manager, as Ruthven came into the room, while the cashier stood with his hand on the door.

"I really don't understand——" began Ruthven.

"No one," replied the manager, "of the name of Eva Lidyard has an account with this bank?"

"No account!" exclaimed Ruthven. "No account! Why, she wrote this cheque for me not two hours ago."

There was a smile about the manager's eyes as he renewed his request for an explanation of the circumstances by which the cheque had come into Ruthven's possession, and as he unfolded the story of the white-haired, tearful mother imploring his mercy for her wretched son, it deepened there.

"I think it's a matter for the police, Simpkins," he said to the cashier, and turning to Ruthven he remarked, "I expect the cheque you parted with has been cashed by now. Do you remember the name and the bank upon which it was drawn?"

Ruthven's memory was not at fault, and driving thither he found that the manager had guessed correctly. The cheque he had parted with had been presented a couple of hours previously and paid.

Thus it happened that an hour later Ruthven was returning to the Savoy, though in a very different frame of mind from that in which he left it. In fact, he was in a very black humour indeed as he entered his sitting-room, where, to complete his perplexity, Archie Lidyard was seated, with his heels on the mantel and a serene smile on his lips.

"Halloo," said Lidyard, "I've accepted your lunch, but if I'd known I should have had to wait so long for it, I'm d——d if I would not have gone elsewhere."

Ruthven was too excited to take any notice of the remark. He strode up to the young man and looked at him savagely.

"Where's your mother?" he demanded.

It was Lidyard's turn to look astonished. "Where's—my—mother. Why?" It suddenly occurred to him that his host had gone mad, and he grasped a chair as the only weapon of defence handy.

Ruthven saw the look of fear in Lidyard's face. "I beg your pardon, Lidyard, a most extraordinary thing has happened. Your mother called on me this morning——"

"My mother is in Wales," said Lidyard, quietly.

"Then I've been swindled as neatly as ever man was," declared Ruthven. "There's only one thing to do."

"Lunch," remarked Lidyard, sententiously.

When lunch was finished Ruthven had recovered some portion of his serenity. "Nevertheless," he said, as he leaned back in his chair, "I think we'll try Scotland Yard."

* * * * *

And while Scotland Yard busied itself discussing the problem thus presented, a couple of passengers to Nice were comfortably seated in a reserved carriage of the night express.

"Not a bad morning's work, eh?" remarked one of them to his pretty golden-haired companion.

The girl laughed.

"If you don't break the bank at Monte Carlo, Bob, I

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think I shall go on the stage and play old ladies; that white wig was awfully becoming."

"You managed it beautifully, Nell. There's no knowing what we mayn't be able to do, with my wits and your looks; but any way, this is better than shutting windows for crusty gents at the Nebulus, isn't it?" he added, slipping his arm round her waist.

MUSIC.

LITTLE OR NO GENIUS.

"A LITTLE GENIUS" is more than a little dull. Sir Augustus Harris believed in it, but, as many of us know, "Druriolanus," though an excellent judge of melodrama and pantomime, was more than once a failure in comic opera. One of his earliest productions, backed by an M.P. who must have been Liberal in more senses of the term than one, was a new version of "La Fille de Madame Angot," with a ballet based on the Revolutionary tune "Ça ira." It failed; and even worse was the fiasco at Drury Lane of that awful warning "Frivoli," which was forthwith dubbed "Drivoli," and deserved the title. Nor are we likely to forget the lugubrious efforts at Teutonic fun essayed in German comic opera by the Saxe-Coburg troupe at Drury Lane last summer. To the elder Augustus Harris (who first gave us "The Grand Duchess" in English), to Henderson, Farnie D'Oyly Carte, and George Edwardes, comic opera appeared to come naturally enough. But "Druriolanus" was not in it. Yet it never seemed to strike him that comic opera is, even at best, a poor bargain, while at its worst, thanks to expensive mounting and cast, it is the surest way to lose money. So that when last Easter he went over to Vienna to buy Goldmark's "Cricket on the Hearth," he instead purchased "Der Wunderknabe." He was continually talking about it. If you spoke about the glories of Italian opera he would ask you to wait till you saw "The Little Genius." If you mentioned the certain popularity of the situation "behind the curtain" in the forthcoming Drury Lane melodrama, he would declare it was nothing like the "prodigy" scene in "The Little Genius." If you pointed out to him that he had already altered the title, the plot, and the music of "Der Wunderknabe," and asked him what on earth he had really bought, he shrugged his shoulders in apparent wonder that a writer of experience should not be a better judge. It is possible that Frau Dirkens Drew was a hypnotist. Her ruddy cheeks, aglow with youth and health, her sprightly acting, and her bright smile certainly on Thursday fascinated old stagers, and I can well understand that in a better piece she would arouse very young (or very elderly) men to enthusiasm. Lady Harris, however, necessarily looked at the matter with different eyes. She read the piece, and forthwith sold it. She was wise, and I trust the purchaser is satisfied with his bargain.

Very little in the way of plot seems to satisfy the Viennese, though I have no doubt that in the process of filtration into English the adapters of "Die Wunderknabe" have greatly altered the German original. At the Shaftesbury it is our old friend "The Bohemian Girl" over again. A Scottish nobleman, who married a ballet-dancer, is searching for his long-lost chee-ild. The mother is dead, but the chee-ild has been brought up by an impresario who is the counterfeit presentment of Mr. Hugh Jay Didcott. In the daytime the chee-ild is a girl called Paola, while at night she dons the velvet knickerbockers of the boy violinist, and is styled Paolo. The difference in pronunciation is small, but it perplexes the Shaftesbury artists, most of whom compromise matters by calling the wonder-child "Parlour." Although a prodigy, she is obviously quite innocent of the elements of fiddling, and her style of bowing makes every one glad that she is performing with a soaped bow, the real violin being played behind the scenes. Her papa eventually recognises her—"by the dates," he declares—the Scottish peer who once believed she was a boy owns she is his long-lost cousin; while the daughter of the house, whose father has become a millionaire by discovering coal—or is it gold?—near Edinburgh, marries the accompanist, a gentleman made up after Herr Sauer the pianist, and who has fascinated the lassie by falling in love with her while he is disgracefully tipsy. The music might have carried this sort of thing through if it had not been so obviously a watery imitation of Johann Strauss. The "hit" of the evening was indeed made by Mr. Brockbank's singing of a spirited ditty, "Love and War," from the pen of Mr. J. M. Glover. "Botching," as poor Edward Solomon called it, is in fact the only thing for "The Little Genius," and its best chance of success will lie in giving Miss Dirkens, Mr. Arthur Williams, and Mr. Lonnen an opportunity by again rewriting most of the music and the whole of the libretto.

The question of the next opera season was settled on Friday—somewhat sooner than was generally expected. Lady de Grey, who has taken so great (though not sufficiently acknowledged) a part in the revival of opera, set herself to the task of organising a guarantee fund. Several people had promised, when a certain wealthy subscriber, declaring that her ladyship had done enough for the cause, avoided any further trouble by generously putting down the balance. Mr. Faber, it is understood, is willing to let the theatre for next year, and the Harris trustees will make no difficulty concerning the copyrights. A rival scheme, under which M. Gunsbourg, of Monte Carlo, would have assumed control, has therefore been abandoned, and next season, at any rate, will be at the risk of the subscribers. It will be under the direction of Lord de Grey and Mr. Higgins, who have ample power to appoint any general manager, so that English and American interests are likely to be amalgamated under Mr. Maurice Grau, Mr. Forsyth, of course, continuing the duties which he so ably carried out during Harris's lifetime. Although some of the contracts may not yet be signed, it is understood that the De Reszkes, Mme. Melba, M. Alvarez, M. Plançon, and other leading members of the company will return next season. What will happen afterwards belongs to the future. The lease, at any rate, is still for sale to any one possessing a spare £120,000 or so.

A good story is going round about the late Sir Augustus Harris and Madame Bellincioni, a prima donna who sang here one or two seasons ago. She returned her contract approved, but with a condition that the manager should personally wait upon her first thing in the morning, after every performance, to tender her night's salary. It is only fair to say that when the lady discovered that Harris was almost the only Anglo-Italian operatic manager of recent years who paid twenty shillings in the pound, she at once waived her rights. Another prima donna in Harris's early days was engaged for certain performances, and made a great fuss about receiving the money day by day in advance, for it seems that in previous engagements on the Continent she had been victimised. Harris suggested that he should pay the whole amount down in advance, subject to a little discount of 25 per cent, which, to his surprise and delight, was at once accepted.

An exhibition of musical instruments is now being held at the Agricultural Hall. There are about a thousand pianos, organs, or other instruments on show, but comparatively few decorated pianos or new inventions. In point of fact this exhibition is for trade purposes, and dealers in the country are coming up in large numbers to select their winter stock. The competitions which are going forward are perhaps of less value. No first-rate singer or player was ever introduced to public notice in this competitive fashion.

M. Colonne has exercised the privilege of the other sex, and has again changed his mind. It will be recollected that he announced some concerts with an English orchestra last spring, but became frightened owing to the succes of M. Lamoureux's Paris band. He, therefore, postpor

his visit until the autumn, and finally abandoned it altogether. He now has decided to come on October 12, in the thick of the musical festivals, and to bring his Paris orchestra with him. The suggestion to bring his chorus from Paris, for Berlioz' "Faust," is, of course, a self-evident absurdity, though if he likes to postpone his visit for a few weeks, we can promise him a performance at the Albert Hall which will show him how "Faust" should be sung. M. Colonne is at the head of a band of ninety-five performers, each of whom has a pecuniary as well as an artistic interest in the affair.

Sir William Parratt, as "Master of the Musicke," will be responsible for the music at the Royal wedding. A "Chorale" by Dr. Creser, the Chapel Royal, will form a portion of the service. This piece, set to lines, beginning "Source of all Light and Life Divine," is in the usual chorale form, and it will be sung unaccompanied.

Professor Stanford has resigned the direction of the proposed Dublin "Feis," or Musical Festival. The point upon which the Professor split with the authorities seems to have been the engagement of the Manchester Orchestra. No doubt this would have improved the Festival performances, but the local musicians preferred the employment of local players, altogether apart from the fact that the Manchester band would, it appears, have cost £1,500.

London was invaded on Saturday by about 2,000 singers from North and South Wales, who, under the direction of Mr. David Jenkins, of Aberystwyth, gave a special concert at the Crystal Palace in association with the Tonic-Solfa Festival. These choristers were drawn both from farms and collieries, and were reinforced by Welsh vocalists from Liverpool, and 220 London Welshmen. They gave a remarkably fine rendering of Mr. Jenkins' "Psalm of Life," and likewise sang Welsh choruses and hymns, in which a large number of Welsh among the audience joined

The "Grand Duke" was on Saturday replaced at the Savoy by "The Mikado," which had been withdrawn in the height of its success. Whether the "Grand Duke" will be revived when Mme. Palmay returns from her holidays in Hungary remains to be seen. Meanwhile there are fresh rumours that Mr. D'Oyly Carte is thinking of converting the Savoy into a limited liability company, with himself and Sir Arthur Sullivan as co-directors.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The bridesmaids' dresses for Princess Maud's wedding will be extremely pretty. The material is to be white satin, the seams embroidered in silver in a design of lily of the valley and leaves. Some very light and pretty lace in yellowish cream colour is to be disposed in graceful folds about the low bodices, and will fall in a double frill over the sleeves, which are to consist of a double puff of the satin. These sleeves will reach almost to the elbows. On the left side of the bodices will be fastened a cluster of velvet-petalled geraniums in the deepest shade of pink seen in a poppy—I mean, of course, a pink poppy, not a red one. Another bunch of the flowers is to be worn in the hair at the left side, with a white aigrette, and the adult bridesmaids will carry shower bouquets, also of red geraniums. This union of white and red is in compliment to the bridegroom, being the Danish colours.

The younger bridesmaids, of whom Princess Margaret of Connaught is eldest, being fourteen, and Lady Alexandra Duff, aged five, youngest, are to be very sweetly dressed in satin, the low bodices trimmed with the yellowish creamy lace and a few touches of silver. They will have wreaths of the red geraniums in their flowing hair, and will carry baskets of the flowers on the left arm. It will be a pretty group, all snowy, except the touches of soft, bright red.

The Honiton lace ordered for the trousseau is in a design of roses, shamrock and rose foliage encircling small clusters of flowers, arranged on a groundwork of finest Brussels net. The border consists of a garland of rosebuds.

A black dress has two bodices. The skirt is covered with a single veil of tulle embroidered with jet sequins with a few loops of black satin ribbons. The low bodice is trimmed with beautiful lace, and the demi-toilette one with embroidery in which jet sequins are introduced. A dress of white silk muslin has the waist sewn thickly with steel beads and finished with a knot of pale green ribbon.

A very pretty dress is of barège in the soft and pleasing tone of heliotrope known as "Ophelia," the skirt and sleeves being made of this. The bodice is in ecru guipure over white, with a deep gathered belt of black satin and a white satin collar.

A costume of cream-coloured gauze is trimmed with lace in small frills at the edge of the skirt. The bodice is high and the sleeves rather tight, with puffs only at the top. The skirts of both dresses are flat in front but very full at the back.

Mrs. Sims, of Dawson-street, Dublin, has just made for the Duchess of York a white and silver brocade, with front of rich satin embroidered in silver in a design of roses, acorns, and lilies. The bodice is trimmed with similar embroidery, and the sleeves are white tulle sewn with silver sequins. Perhaps the Duchess will wear this on her sister-in-law's wedding day.

The Duchess of Fife has had a charming dress prepared to wear at her sister's wedding. It is white brocade in a design of roses, buds and leaves, enriched with silver. Appliqués of real lace, on white silk muslin, and outlined with silver sequins, cover the front of the bodice, and the chiffon sleeves have insertions of lace edged with sequins. The Duchess is to wear a bunch of Malmaison carnations, in the Danish tone of red.

Every one is talking of the wonderful dresses in "The Little Genius." Lilla went to see the piece on the second night of its production, and she says that the dresses are so lovely and so numerous that she knows she could never describe them properly. "First," she says, "you fall in love with one that is all a flush of pink, lighted up with silver. Then you see a pale green one trimmed with what looks the finest Brussels showered over with diamonds, and on the green a whole cascade of blue flower petals. Then comes a yellow and pink, with rose leaves whirled over it, and sprays of shaded roses and brown leaves catching folds of pink tulle here and there.

"As to the gowns on the Plage scene at Ostend, they are most skilfully varied in blue and white. Redfern has managed to turn out the whole chorus with not two gowns made alike, and yet the whole of them constructed on the same lines. There is a blue serge with five rows of white braid round the skirt, a white zouave and sleeves, and a blue collar almost hidden with white braid set on in rows close together like that on the skirt. The zouave buttons down in a diagonal direction with small, blue Inverness buttons. Another is also blue serge, made over a front breadth of white satin embroidered in diagonal lines of gold picot braid. Broad white satin ribbons are disposed from waist to hem on either side of this front upon the blue. The bodice is double-breasted with five bullion buttons at each side. The wide white satin revers have crossed anchors embroidered on them in white and gold. The vest, showing above and below the tightly-fitting jacket-bodice, is in satin and gold braid, matching the front of the skirt. The collar consists of folded white satin.

"I am having that gown exactly copied for myself," adds Lilla, and then goes on to describe a wonderful white satin with revers of white moire edged with

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turquoise velvet. The pretty sleeves button like gloves to the elbows. Also a green and blue silk edged with white lace, the bodice in white satin embroidered with forget-me-nots over chiffon in the two colours. The sleeves are in this, and the hat worn with it is in white fancy rice straw, trimmed with green chiffon and blue, pink roses, and white feathers.

A blue and white striped silk is vandyked with white satin ribbon on the skirt, rosettes marking the points of the vandykes. White chiffon is gathered into the yoke and drawn down under a belt of blue. The accompanying hat is blue and white.

"Then there is," says Lilla, "a dress of green moire flounced with vandyked white chiffon and trimmed with bands of écru lace. Peacock-blue ribbons trim it at shoulder and waist, and a grey silk, with panels piped in white, opens low over white lace. The revers are lined with lace. The sleeves have lace slashes on the outer side. The white hat trimmed with wings and tulle has touches of blue in it."

"And," adds Lilla, as a crowning descriptive touch, "each dress has its own sunshade to match."

Poor Sir Augustus! This "Little Genius" is the very last instance of his large and liberal ideas in dressing a play.

Henley was chiefly remarkable for its heat this year. I shall never forget it. The railway journey was hot and dusty. The river was hot and dingy with innumerable floating particles, refuse from house-boats and lawns. The grass was more brown than green from want of water. On the first day, when we went down, it was, for a few hours, more American than English. Until the Yale race was decided, cornflower blue, with the letter Y magnified enormously, was to be seen on every hand. After Yale had lost, much of this mysteriously disappeared. Ribbons with "Yale" embroidered on them vanished from dresses, and small flags with Stars and Stripes were ignominiously hustled out of sight. In one boat, at least, and, perhaps, in many, the cushions performed a "quick change" immediately the result of the race was known. They had been clothed in Stars and Stripes, but a few dexterous touches detached the American signs and tokens from them, and lo! they showed the Union Jack. These surprising metamorphoses amused us immensely.

The toilettes of many of the American ladies were most patriotic. The Yale colour is cornflower blue, and, hot though the day was, it was largely worn. But other dresses were white, light, cool, and festive, in accordance with the character of the scene and the season, while the word "Yale" appeared in embroidery upon the bodices, the sashes, and, in one instance, on the sleeves. Several blue sunshades had a huge "Y" embroidered in brilliants, and one or two had a small device of Stars and Stripes.

The American gentlemen wore black coats and white waistcoats, what our tailors call Park costume, but some of them had low brown hats. Most of them took boat, the ladies in the most festive of attire, and wearing wonderful hats. For us English it was almost too hot to venture on the river. The clouds seemed to act like grey blankets, and actually increase the heat. No energy was left for action of any kind. It was a day for apathetic endurance of an unusual experience in the matter of caloric. As for us, we took our ease at Clubland, listened vaguely to their band, and from a canopied seat enjoyed the panoramic sight as it unfolded itself before our eyes upon the water.

The French accuse us of taking our pleasures sadly. I always think we take them with far too much exertion. My ideal holiday is to have nothing to think of or keep in mind, and to feel and be as idle as possible. The very active and energetic people who are always proposing to do this, that, and the other, are a horrid nuisance. Just as one gets settled down in the cosiest of basket chairs, or a houseboat, or on a lawn, someone is sure to suggest a drive, or a walk, or a row, or a sail. I like to "stay put" when I am conscious of being supremely comfortable. Do not you? Some people seem to fear that if they do not keep for ever moving about they will lose the use of their limbs. I always avoid most carefully these over-active persons.

All this applies to Wednesday. But on Thursday we went down again to see some of the final heats, and a fresh breeze made the riverside delightful, while brilliant sunshine brought out all the beauties of the scene ashore and afloat. We enjoyed this time the hospitalities of the Isthmian Club—as usual, the best managed of all the Henley enclosures. At luncheon—the most delightful luncheon, Amy!—we found ourselves next to a table full of distinguished foreigners, who turned out to be Prince Colonna, with Donna Isabella and Donna Vittoria Colonna, the Duc de Fraquito and Princess Leguila. The British aristocracy were represented on the Isthmian lawn by the Marchioness Conyngham, Lord Ormathwaite, Lord and Lady Walsingham, and I know not who beside.

Five-dollar gold pieces are not well known in England, and on that day they puzzled the Henleyites considerably.

I never saw anything like the "bargains" this year at the clearance sales. I am really obliged to put, metaphorically, cotton in my ears, and keep saying words of distrust and "sour-grapes"-suggestion in my inmost mind, or I should ruin myself with expenditure, so tempting are the cheaperies and so dulcet is the voice of the charmer. Mme. Oliver Holmes has the very daintiest lingerie at such prices as astonish and delight the purchaser who appreciates "fine linen" as much as "purple." Mme. Nicolle, now removed next door to her old abode, is selling lovely clothes for the price of unlovely, and will continue to do so for another fortnight.

Bluette is having a sale of her hats with great reductions, at 41, Green-street, beginning on the 20th and lasting for a week, after which the establishment will be closed, except for written orders, until October 1, when Mme. Bluette is to bring models of all the autumn fashions in headgear from Paris.

Yet another tea-room has been opened by a courageous lady. It is at 25, Old Bond-street, and is called "The Ladies' Syndicate Tea-Rooms." The room is very tastefully and prettily got up, and the tea is delicious—rather an important point. Dainty decorations are all very well, but they do not go beyond a certain point in reviving fainting spirits after some hours' shopping.

We were not able to find time until Saturday to go to the Exhibition and Sale of Indian Arts and Industries at the Albert Hall. The Marchioness of Lansdowne had opened it on the previous Monday, and Lady Harris performed the same good office on Saturday. At four o'clock her ladyship entered the hall, where she was met by Mrs. D. Carmichael and other ladies, some Indian natives, and five pretty little girls, dressed in cream-coloured frocks, and crowned with wreaths of small pink and white roses, by whom she was presented with a large bouquet of lovely roses. Lady Harris gave an interesting address on her own knowledge of India and its people. During a long residence in that country she had observed the extreme cleverness of the natives in manual works of art. Much that they produced was of such fine texture that, at times, she had been tempted to think it should be discouraged instead of encouraged, because it very often caused blindness. But, through its being the staple commodity of that country she had, when there, withheld her opinion, and was now ready to offer any assistance in her power for the cause in hand. The pottery, which resembles Wedgwood's, was offered at low prices; the ivory and wood-carving were very finely wrought, as were also the

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gold and silver embroideries. The Incorporated Society for the Encouragement and Preservation of Indian Art is under the patronage of T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke and Duchess of York, and H.R.H. the Princess Mary Adelaide of Teck. Refreshments were served in the Café Chantant, in which room the Æolian Ladies' Orchestra played charmingly on each day. Much interest is felt by those who have knowledge of India in the object of the exhibition, which is an endeavour to spread abroad the fact that the natives of that once rich country are now in poverty, owing largely to the introduction of machinery, constructed to send forth articles so closely resembling handwork that the old manual labour is no longer in demand. Regret was expressed that the exhibition took place during the week of the Henley Regatta and Harrow and Eton cricket match at Lord's, as otherwise the attendance might have been larger.

At luncheon the other day we had a shoulder of lamb boned and stuffed in this way. It is an excellent dish for a lunch party :—

Take a nice plump shoulder of lamb, cut it all round the edge, and with a small sharp knife take out all the bones, except the knuckle, without damaging the skin of the meat; now cut away the meat from inside the shoulder and pass it through the mincing machine with 8 oz. of raw lean veal. Now season the shoulder with pepper, salt, a suspicion of chopped shallot, and a sprinkling of chopped parsley. Put a layer of slices of bacon on this, then spread it with a layer of the forcemeat, season in the same way as before, and garnish with a layer of slices of truffle and sliced hard-boiled yolks of eggs. Cover with remainder of the forcemeat, on which put some slices of bacon, now fold the meat over, sew it around the edge, and fix the knuckle into an upright position with a skewer. Place the shoulder in a braising pan, cover with a greased paper, add an onion, a carrot, 6 peppercorns, a blade of mace, a bouquet of herbs, and sufficient stock to nearly cover the meat. Bring the pan to the boil on the stove, then put it in the oven to simmer for two hours, remove to cool in the liquor. Now drain the meat on a cloth, take out the skewer and string and brush it over with some warm glaze, place it on a dish, and decorate it tastefully with triangular-shaped pieces of aspic jelly and sprigs of parsley.

Now that tomatoes are plentiful, try this tomato and fish chowder :—

Put a tablespoonful of chopped onion into a stewpan and fry it with 1 oz. of butter until on the point of turning brown; mix with a tablespoonful of flour and ½ pint of stock or water; stir until boiling, then strain into a basin. Dissolve a small piece of butter in the stewpan and put in a layer of sliced potato, then a layer of fish, which may be whiting or haddock, cut in large dice-shaped pieces, sprinkle the fish with chopped parsley, thyme, and onion, dust with salt and pepper, then put a layer of sliced tomatoes, from which the skins and pips have been removed; now repeat the layers of fish, potatoes, seasoning, and tomatoes until all the ingredients are used, making potatoes the last layer, pour in the sauce and stew the whole gently on the side of the stove for three-quarters of an hour. Turn the chowder on to a dish, sprinkle the top with browned bread crumbs, and garnish the base with triangular-shaped pieces of fried bread.

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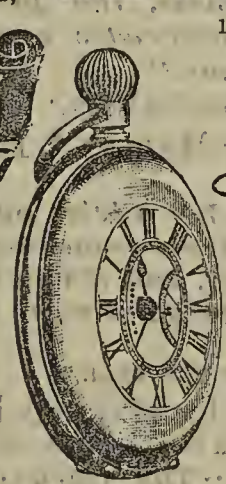

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Special Trains (for Members only) will leave Waterloo Station from No. 9 platform at 12.20 p.m. each day.
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Prepared from the purified fat of lamb's wool, is SIMILAR to the FAT of the HUMAN SKIN and HAIR. It is their natural nutrient.
Toilet 'Lanoline'
A soothing emollient for health and beauty of the skin. For the complexion. PREVENTS WRINKLES, SUNBURN, & CHAPPING.
Price 6d. & 1s.
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NOURISHES, INVIGORATES, and BEAUTIFIES the hair. Prevents dandruff by its cleansing properties. *Price 1/6.*
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(No caustic free alkali.) RENDERS the most SENSITIVE SKIN Healthy, Clear, and Elastic.
6d. & 1s., from all Chemists. Wholesale Depot, 67, Holborn Viaduct, London.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—Sir AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Sole Lessee.
GRAND OPERA SEASON.
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TO-NIGHT, and EVERY EVENING, at 8.15,
THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.
Mr. William Farren, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. Edward Righton, Mr. Cyril Maude. Mr. Jack Robertson, and Mr. Forbes Robertson; Miss Rose Leclercq, and Mrs. Patrick Campbell. LYCEUM.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDES.—EVERY EVENING, a New and Musical Play, in Two Acts, by James T. Tanner, Music by Osmond Carr, Lyrics by Adrian Ross, entitled MY GIRL, in which the following Artistes will appear: Mr. Charles Ryley, Mr. W. H. Rawlins, Mr. Laurence D'Orsay, Mr. Colin Coop, Mr. Willie Ward, Mr. Fred Kaye, Mr. Paul Arthur, Mr. Leslie Holland, Mr. W. Downes, and Mr. John Le Hay; Miss Katie Seymour, Miss Ethel Haydon, Miss Marie Montrose, Miss Connie Ediss, Miss Maria Davis, Miss Ethel Sydney, Miss Florence Lloyd, Miss Grace Palotta, Miss Kate Adams, and Miss Ellaline Terriss. Box-office daily 10 to 6.

SAVOY.—Every Evening, at 8.30, and Every Saturday Afternoon, at 2.30, THE MIKADO, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. At 7.30, AFTER ALL. Box-office 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.—R. D'OYLY CARTE, Proprietor and Manager.

VAUDEVILLE.—A. & S. GATTI, Sole Lessees and Managers. EVERY EVENING, at 9, a Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières, entitled A NIGHT OUT. Preceded, at 8.15, by PAPA'S WIFE, by Seymour Hicks and F. C. Phillips. Music by Ellaline Terriss. MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 3. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10.

COURT THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH. —MISS MAY YOHE'S SEASON.—EVERY EVENING, at 9, MAMZELLE NITOUCHE. Preceded, at 8.15, by UNCLE THATCHER. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 5. Telephone No. 3,031.

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ST. JAMES'S.—THE PRISONER OF ZENDA.—
EVERY EVENING, at 8.30. Doors open at 8,
LAST THREE NIGHTS.
THE PRESENT SEASON will CLOSE on SATURDAY NEXT, July 18.
LAST MATINEE, SATURDAY NEXT, July 18,
at 2 p.m. Doors open 1.30.
Box-office open daily, 10 to 10.
Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER. ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

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	A.M.	A.M.	Ex. A.M.	Fast A.M.	New Ex. P.M.	Ex. P.M.	P.M.
WATERLOO ..... dep.	5 50	9 15	11 0	11 5	1 0	3 0	5 40
Bridport (by Coach from Crewkerne) ..... arr.	..	3 10	..	5*b*10	..	..	..
Lyme Regis .. (By Coach from Axminster) Charmouth .... ,,	11 40	2 25	..	4 0	..	..	..
			..	4 5	..	..	..
SEATON ..... ,,	10 40	2 20	..	3 15	6 5	7 15	10 0
SIDMOUTH ..... ,,	11 44	1 59	..	3 40	6 17	7 50	10 32
EXETER (Queen-street) ..... ,,	10 43	1 39	3 2	3 30	5 9	6 46	9 43
EXMOUTH ..... ,,	11 54	2 54	3 42	4 48	5 59	7 33	10 15
Budleigh Salterton (by 'Bus from Exmouth) ..... ,,	..	4 10	5 50	5 50	..	8 40	..
Chagford (by 'Bus from Yeoford) .. ,,	..	..	..	..	8 5	..	..
OKEHAMPTON (for Dartmoor) .... ,,	11 39	2 44	3 51	5 42	6 1	8 18	10 41
Chagford ..... (By Coach from Okehampton) ,,	..	..	6*a*20	..	..	..	..
Hatherleigh .. ,,	..	..	5*c*55	..	7*d*55	..	..
HOLSWORTHY ..... ,,	1 2	3 50	4 53	..	6 57	9 24	..
Bude (by Coach from Holsworthy) ,,	..	5 30	6 50	..	..	..	..
Launceston ..... ,,	1 8	4 3	4 56	..	7 17	9 35	..
CAMELFORD ..... ,,	1 44	4 42	5 28	..	7 55	..	..
Tintagel ..... (By 'Bus from Camelford) ,,	2 45	5*b*35	6 20	..	..	..	..
Boscastle ..... ,,	2 45	5*b*35	6 20	..	8 45	..	..
WADEBRIDGE ..... ,,	2 18	5 16	5 57	..	8 25	..	..
Bodmin ..... ,,	2 49	..	6 18	..	8 45	..	..
Bodmin-road ..... ,,	4 10	..	6 57	..	..	..	..
,, ,, ... dep.	4 51	..	7 4	..	..	..	..
New Quay ..... arr.	6 20	..	8 32	..	..	..	..
Truro ..... ,,	5 48	..	8 0	..	..	..	..
Falmouth ..... ,,	6 35	..	8 43	..	..	..	..
Redruth ..... ,,	6 15	..	8 28	..	..	..	..
St. Ives ..... ,,	7 5	..	9 15	..	..	..	..
Penzance ..... ,,	6 58	..	9 9	..	..	..	..
St. Columb .... (By Coach from Wadebridge) ,,	..	..	7 30	..	..	..	..
New Quay ..... ,,	..	..	8 30	..	..	..	..
Padstow (by 'Bus from Wadeb'dge) ,,	..	..	7 35	..	..	..	..
TAVISTOCK ..... ,,	12 6	3 15	4 19	..	6 37	8 2	11 8
Gunnislake .. (By Coach from Tavistock) ,,	..	4 20	..	..	..	..	..
Callington .. ,,	..	5 20	..	..	..	..	..
Liskeard .... ,,	..	6 55	..	..	..	..	..
DEVONPORT ..... ,,	12 29	3 39	4 42	..	7 0	8 25	11 31
PLYMOUTH ..... ,,	12 35	3 44	4 48	..	7 7	8 31	11 37
BARNSTAPLE ..... ,,	1 16	3 25	4 30	..	6 59	8 10	..
Lynton (by Coach from Barnstaple) ,,	..	6 30	7 30	..	..	..	..
ILFRACOMBE ..... ,,	2 23	4 18	5 18	..	7 51	8 56	..
BIDEFORD ..... ,,	1 56	3 52	5 1	..	7 26	8 35	..
Torrington ..... ,,	2 8	4 4	5 13	..	7 38	8 47	..
Clovelly ..... (By Coach from Bideford) ,,	..	5 25	..	..	..	..	..
Bude ..... ,,	..	8 0	..	..	..	..	..
Westward Ho (by 'Bus from B'def'd ,,	..	Meets all Trains					

a Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays only. *b* Saturdays only. *c* Not on Fridays. *d* Fridays only.

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COAST OF DORSET.

To BOURNEMOUTH, WEYMOUTH, SWANAGE, and DORCHESTER.

	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Waterloo ..... dep.	5 50	9 30	12 30	2 15	2 25	3 0	3 10	4 55	5 50	9 45
Bournemouth (East) ar.	9 3	12 34	3 4	4 38	...	...	7 0	7 35	9 3	...
,, (West) ,,	9 13	12 44	3 13	4 50	...	6 46	7 9	7 45	9 13	...
Swanage ..... ,,	11 59	1 55	4 10		6 23	...	...	8 32	11 12	...
Dorchester ..... ,,	10 6	1 35	3 58	...	6 15	6 57	7 46	8 24	10 44	2 40
Weymouth ..... ,,	10 25	1 52	4 15	...	6 32	7 15	8 5	8 40	11 3	...

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EXCURSION TRAINS for certain periods every Saturday.

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CHAS. SCOTTER, General Manager.

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Every week-day.

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At the most northerly point of this Cruise the sun will be above the horizon at midnight.

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154 sufferers, nearly all with scarlet fever, were refused admission for want of room last year.

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SPECIAL CHEAP RETURN TICKETS including Tramway and Admission to the Camp, will be issued by all Trains from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Queen's-road, Clapham Junction, Kensington (Addison-road), West Brompton, Chelsea, Wimbledon, and Raynes Park, Return Fares, First Class, 5s., and Third Class, 3s., available to return on the day of issue only.

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THROUGH TRAINS TO AND FROM THE CAMP will leave WATERLOO at 11.35 a.m., 12.35, and 2.17 p.m. and from BISLEY CAMP at 6.40, 8.0, and 8.25 p.m.

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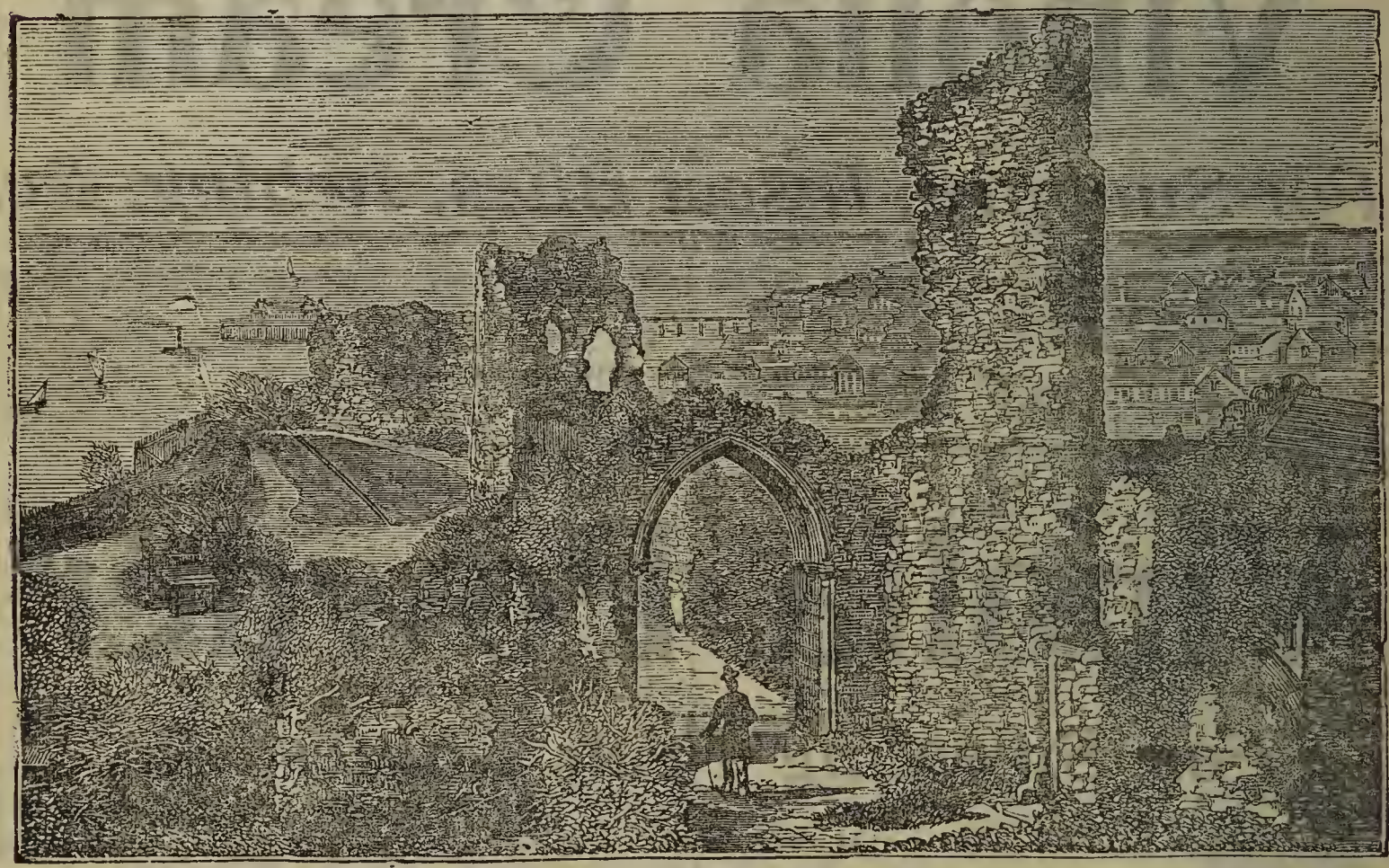

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EVENING FETE IN ALEXANDRA PARK.

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GRAND FANCY DRESS CYCLE PROCESSION, AND BATTLE OF CONFETTI.
Followed by EVENING FETE IN THE PARK.

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GRAND BATTLE OF FLOWERS AND PROCESSION OF DECORATED VEHICLES AND CARS.

Aug. 27th—EVENING FETE IN PARK.

Aug. 28th—GRAND MILITARY TOURNAMENT.

GRAND CRICKET WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

*SEPT. 3rd, 4th and 5th—**SOUTH OF ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIANS.***
*SEPT. 7th, 8th and 9th—**NORTH v. SOUTH.***

DURING THE SEASON :—

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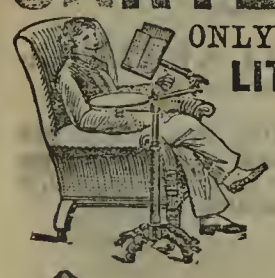

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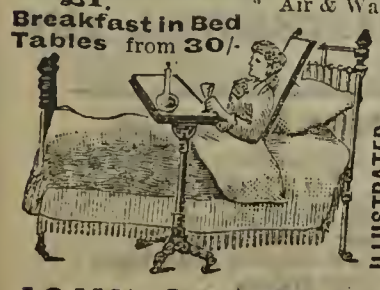

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Scrip Certificates must be lodged, either personally or through an agent, with the London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, and left three clear days in order that the payment may be noted thereon. Scrip cannot be received by post.

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The Commissioners of the above Township having adopted the provisions of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, enabling Urban Sanitary Authorities to exercise their borrowing powers by the creation and issue of Stock, are about to CREATE and ISSUE £20,000 REDEEMABLE STOCK, £13,000 of which will be issued forthwith and the remainder as required.

The Stock will be issued under the sanction of the Local Government Board for Ireland in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act, and provision will be made for the redemption, purchase, and extinction of the Stock as required by the regulations of the said Board.

The Stock and the interest thereon will be charged on all the revenues of the Township and secured by mortgage on the Township property.

The Commissioners invite TENDERS from persons willing to take over all the Stock at par and stating the rate of interest they would take the Stock at.

Tenders will be received at the Town Hall, Athlone, up to and including the 19th day of AUGUST, 1896.

For further particulars apply to

P. V. C. MURTAGH,
Town Clerk,
Athlone.

Dated this 9th day of July, 1896.

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
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THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
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SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

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DELICIOUS. WHOLESOME. REFRESHING.

Prepared in silver-lined pans. Highly prized by all. Flavoured with Ripe Fruit Juices.

Dr. GORDON STABLES, R.N. says:—'Jellies that really add to our health and luxury.'

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½-PINTS, 2½d. PINTS, 4½d. QUARTS, 8d.

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CHIVERS' PATENT CUSTARDS and BLANC MANGES —**2d.** and **3d.** packets and **6d.** boxes — two more delicious and digestible additions to the dinner and supper table. Made by simply adding milk and boiling.

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(TEA-LIKE.)

The choicest roasted nibs (broken-up beans) of the natural Cocoa on being subjected to powerful hydraulic pressure, give forth their excess of oil, leaving for use a finely-flavoured powder—"Cocoaine," a product which, when prepared with boiling water, has the consistence of tea, of which it is now, with many, beneficially taking the place. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

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FOR THE PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.

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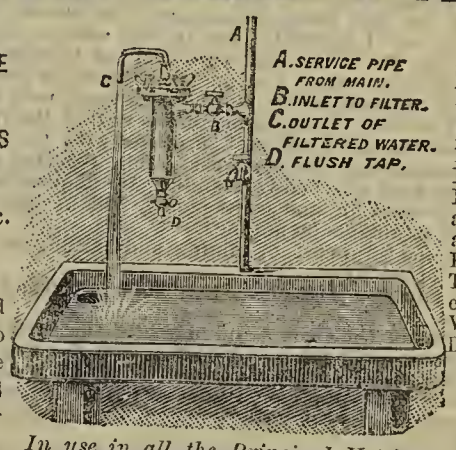

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NOTE.—Write for Copy of the Special Report to the "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL," Nov. 10, 1894, in which the BERKEFELD FILTER is specially demonstrated as affording COMPLETE PROTECTION against the communication of WATERBORNE DISEASES.

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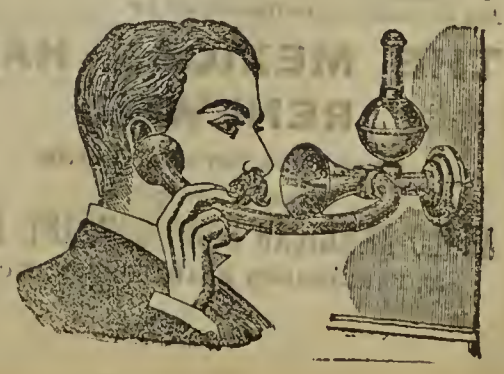

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A PROVED MINE. ESTIMATED VALUE OF ORE IN SIGHT, £63,000. SMALL CAPITAL.

The Subscription List will Open to-day (Wednesday), and Close on or before Friday, the 17th July, for Town, and the following morning for the Country.
The Directors will proceed to Allotment on the closing of the Subscription List.

THE DUNALLAN GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Coolgardie, Western Australia. Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL, £85,000, in 85,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 20,000 Shares are reserved for Working Capital. 56,667 Shares are now offered for Subscription at par, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 5s. per Share on Allotment, 5s. per Share 21 days after Allotment, 7s. 6d. per Share 42 days after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

Col. A. Burton-Brown, R.A., F.G.S., Director, Hannan's Find Gold Reefs, Limited, 13, Talbot-square, London, W.
ames de Lara Cohen, Esq., Friars Place Estate, Acton, W.
H. Colquhoun Hamilton, Esq. (Messrs. Hamilton & Baird), 11, Princes-gardens, Glasgow.
G. Sutton, Esq., 5, Lancaster-place, Strand, London, W.C.
*G. Rawlins Martyn, Esq., J.P., Newport, Mon., Director Dunallan Mine Syndicate, Limited.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

MINING MANAGER.

Mr. Brian Hooker, M.E., Coolgardie, Western Australia.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

Glasgow.—Douglas Cairney, Esq., 45, West Nile-street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow.
Swansea.—Stephen P. Wills, Esq., 30, Wind-street, Swansea.
Cardiff.—Messrs. Godfrey & Laws, 11, Mount Stuart-square, Cardiff.

SOLICITORS.

London.—Messrs. Spencer Cridland & Co., 215, Piccadilly, London, W.
Glasgow.—Messrs. Hamilton & Baird, 28, Renfield-street, Glasgow.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Ford, Rhodes, & Ford, 81, Cannon-street, London, E.C.
Messrs. Ford, Rhodes, Ford, & Co., Perth and Coolgardie, Western Australia.

SECRETARY (*pro tem.*) and OFFICES.

Mr. J. Flack, 34, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire, further develop, and work the Dunallan Gold Mines, situate about two miles north of the township of Coolgardie, Western Australia.

The property consists of two gold-mining leases known as "The Dunallan No. 1" (Lease No. 1,555), comprising 12 acres, and "The Dunallan North" (Lease No. 2,169), comprising 24 acres, making together an area of 36 acres. The leases are granted direct from the Government of Western Australia on the usual conditions.

The Dunallan Mine Syndicate, Limited, who are the Owners and Vendors, have spent several thousand pounds on the acquisition and vigorous development of the Mines during the last twelve months. Four reefs have been discovered on the property, and four shafts have been sunk. The results obtained are most satisfactory, and the further expenditure of capital in development should yield quick returns. The railway to Coolgardie having been completed is an important factor in the economical working of the Mines.

The great value of the properties can be gauged from the reports of the well-known mining engineers, A. Octavius Watkins, A.R.S.M., F.G.S., and G. R. Fearby, M.E., extracts from which are set out below.

It will be observed that Mr. Fearby, who has the reputation of being a very careful and cautious mining engineer, says that £63,000 worth of ore is in sight.

Mr. A. Octavius Watkins, in the course of a long and detailed report, set out at great length in the full prospectus, says:—

"The principal reef on this property is the main reef, known as the Dunallan, and up to the present most of the work done has been confined to this reef, although there are three other distinct reefs on the property. It can be traced by its outcrop and numerous costeens and trenches exposing it to the extent of the full length of the two leases, a distance of 34 chains. Its width varies from 80 ft. to 4 ft., but I estimate that it will average for the full length between 10 ft. and 15 ft. The country rock on the hanging wall is a decomposed micaceous, chloritic schist, and on the foot wall a decomposed diorite. The hanging wall of the reef, especially where exposed near the mouth of the main shaft, is well scored. This scoring of the wall of the reef was produced by the relative movements of the reef, probably with the foot-wall country rocks, and the hanging-wall country rocks. This, together with the fact of the country rocks on each side being dissimilar, are unquestionable proofs that the reef is a true fissure vein, and consequently will be found to continue to the greatest depths attainable by mining.

"My estimate of the total cost of mining and milling is that it will not exceed 8 dwt. of gold per ton.

"There is a very suitable position for the battery on rising ground near the main shaft.

"The configuration of the ground and nature of the surface is such that a small outlay on a dam would catch a large quantity of water in time of rain. But apart from this source, a shaft sunk to a depth of from 150 to 200 feet would obtain a fairly good supply of water for battery purposes, as has been proved to be the case almost everywhere in this district where a similar depth has been attained.

"There is plenty of timber in the neighbourhood suitable for all ordinary mining purposes and fuel.

"Considering the highly payable character of such a great width of stone, viz., 10 ft., I have no hesitation in saying that this Mine should pay dividends from the starting of the battery. And, on being further developed, more especially at the junction of the main reef with the eastern branch, richer stone will be found. I have every confidence in recommending it as a remunerative and sound investment."

Mr. Fearby, in a report detailing in great detail the very large amount of development work done on the properties, and set out in the full prospectus, says:—

"The country rock is of a soft, decomposed micaceous slate, very nicely laminated; this country occurs on both sides of the reefs. This class of country is such that a reef can easily live in depth in and in almost every case the gold-bearing reefs are found to have the gold evenly distributed through the ore as depth is reached.

"This class of country is identical to that of the well-known 'Hill End' Mine at the 'Broad Arrow,' which is now producing such splendid results; in many cases I have found the gold in this Mine to be five (5) and even six (6) feet in the slate away from the reef.

"At the present I estimate it that there are 36,000 tons of ore in sight in the different parts of the Dunallan Lease, and this is putting down at a very low estimate, and, taking the assays all through at 10 dwt., there is a big thing in it, putting the gold down as low as £3 10s. per oz., and all of the West Australian gold goes from £3 15s. to £4 per oz. At £3 10s. there is a total of £63,000 worth of ore ready to be worked immediately a battery could be started."

In many parts of Western Australia want of water has proved a serious obstacle to mining operations, but in the locality of the Dunallan Gold Mines, this difficulty fortunately does not appear to exist, experience having shown that, in sinking, water is met with at a reasonable depth.

Colonel Burton-Brown, who is about to return to England from Coolgardie after visiting Western Australia as a mining expert, was cabled to, on behalf of the Directors, as to whether he would accept a seat on the Board of Directors. After inspecting the property, in company with an expert selected by himself, he cabled accepting. His presence on the Board will obviously be of great value.

A sketch map accompanies the prospectus, showing the position and development of the mines.

The well-known mining engineer, Mr. Brian Hooker, is the manager of the Dunallan Gold Mines.

The treatment of two samples of quartz from the 12-acre lease by Messrs. Johnson, Matthey, & Co., Assayers to the Bank of England, gives 3 ozs. 1 dwt. 12 grs. and 23 ozs. 9 dwts. 12 grs. respectively per ton, according to their certificate, which may be inspected at the offices of the Company.

The statements in the Prospectus are based upon the reports quoted, full copies of which can be seen by intending applicants for shares at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

The purchase consideration has been fixed by the Vendors, who are the promotors, at £65,000, payable as to £7,000 in cash, £28,333 in fully paid-up shares, and the balance in cash or shares; or partly in cash and partly in fully paid-up shares, at the option of the Directors, thus leaving £20,000 available for working capital as required.

The only contract to which the Company is a party is that for the purchase of the property, and made between the Dunallan Mine Syndicate, Limited, of the one part, and Charles Frederick Flack, as Trustee on behalf of the Company, of the other part, dated the 9th May, 1896.

The above contract, the original reports of Mr. Watkins and Mr. Fearby, and a print of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be seen by intending subscribers at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company in London, and copies at the offices of the Solicitors in Glasgow.

Applications for shares must be made on the form below, or on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers or Secretary, with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

The Directors will be prepared in due course to issue Share Warrants to Bearer, and any subscriber can have same on notifying the Directors and paying the necessary stamp duty.

A Stock Exchange quotation of the Company's shares will be applied for as soon as possible.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Auditors, Solicitors, and at the offices of the Company.

London, July 15th, 1896.

THIS APPLICATION FORM MAY BE USED.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE DUNALLAN GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—I request you to allot me Ordinary Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, upon which I have paid to your Bankers the sum of £ , being the required deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share; and I hereby agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Prospectus dated the 15th day of July, 1896, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company; and authorise you to register me as the holder of the Shares so allotted to me, and engage to pay the further instalments as the same shall become due; and I agree to waive the specification of the dates and names of the parties to any contracts other than those specified in the Prospectus. In the event of my receiving no allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

Write distinctly.
Name (in full).....
Address (in full).....
Profession or Occupation .....
Date .....1896.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye; and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

THE FULL PROSPECTUS WILL BE ADVERTISED IN THE LEADING LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PAPERS DURING THE COURSE OF THE PRESENT WEEK.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

GOLDEN RIVER QUESNELLE

(LIMITED).

INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 to 1893.

An Alluvial Gold Mining Property on Quesnelle River, in Cariboo, British Columbia, over nine miles in length, acquired by Special Acts of Parliament from the Legislature of British Columbia, and in the same district as the celebrated "Williams Creek," from 2¾ miles of which upwards of £4,000,000 in gold has already been taken.

CAPITAL - - - - - - £350,000,

Divided into 103,000 Ten per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each
(OF WHICH 80,000 ARE RESERVED FOR WORKING CAPITAL)
and 247,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

After payment of the Dividend on Preference Shares the Ordinary Shares are to receive 10 per cent., and both Preference and Ordinary Shares are to rank rateably for Surplus Profits.

When 100 per cent. in Dividends has been paid on the Preference Shares issued they are to be converted into Ordinary Shares.

Issue of 103,000 Ten per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares,

Payable 2s. 6d. (Two Shillings and Sixpence) on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in Calls not exceeding 5s. each at intervals of not less than two months.

DIRECTORS IN ENGLAND.

THE HON. FORBES GEORGE VERNON (*Chairman*), Agent-General for British Columbia, 39, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.
ALFRED BALDWIN, Esq., M.P. (Messrs. E. P. & W. BALDWIN), Wilden Works, Stourport.
MAJOR F. I. RICARDE-SEAVER, F.R.S., Edin., F.G.S., 16, Grafton-street, Bond-street, W., Director United Australian Exploration Company, Limited.
ROSS ROBINSON, Esq., Leadenhall-buildings, E.C., Director Mill's Day Dawn United Gold Mines, Limited.
THOMAS SOPWITH, Esq. (THOMAS SOPWITH & Co., LIMITED), 16, Great George-street, S.W.
T. ELEY SYKES, Esq., 17, Trinity-gardens, Folkstone, Director Day Dawn Block and Wyndham Gold Mining Company, Limited.
G. BLAKE WALKER, Esq., J.P., F.G.S., C.E., Tankersley-grange, near Barnsley (Messrs. WALKER & HARDWICK, Suffolk-house, E.C., and Sheffield).

RESIDENT MANAGING DIRECTOR.

MAJOR C. T. DUPONT, President Island Mountain Quartz Mining Company, Limited, and Vice-President of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway, B.C.

ADVISORY BOARD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SIR HENRY PERRING PELLEW CREASE, late Senior Judge Supreme Court of British Columbia.
THE HONBLE. CHAS. E. POOLEY, Q.C., President of Executive Council of British Columbia.
JOSEPH HUNTER, Esq., C.E., Manager Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, Victoria, B.C.
F. B PEMBERTON, Esq., C.E., of Messrs. Pemberton & Sons, Victoria, British Columbia.

BANKERS.

THE CLYDESDALE BANK, LIMITED, 30, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Branches.
LONDON AND YORKSHIRE BANK, LIMITED, 7, Drapers' Gardens, London, E.C.

BANKERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

BROKERS.

Messrs. MAY & HART, Warnford-court, London, E.C.
Messrs. PATERSON, NEWLANDS & CO., Glasgow.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

Messrs. BAINBRIDGE, SEYMOUR & CO., 13, St. Helen's-place, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. MILWARD & CO., 188, Fleet-street, London, E.C., and Birmingham.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. FRANK DAVIES, MEREDITH & CO., Chartered Accountants, London and Birmingham.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

JASPER FOSTER, Esq., 6, Great St. Helen's, E.C.

The whole of this Issue having been Privately Subscribed, the Prospectus is Advertised for Public Information only.

THE

Mines Corporation of New Zealand,

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - £505,000.

ISSUE OF

250,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, and 5,000 Deferred Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORS.

W. F. ORRISS, Chairman of THE WEST AUSTRALIAN VENTURE SYNDICATE, LIMITED (*Chairman*).
G. H. COLLINS, Director of THE ANGLO-FRENCH EXPLORATION COMPANY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.
W. CLAUDE JOHNSON, M. INST. C.E., M.I.E.E., Director of THE KAURI FREEHOLD GOLD ESTATES, LIMITED.
J. MILNER LENNARD, Director of THE ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN EXPLORATION COMPANY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.
HENRY W. LOWE, Director of THE ANGLO-AMERICAN EXPLORATION COMPANY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.
E. SPIEGEL, Director of THE LONDON AND CONTINENTAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

BANKERS.—LLOYD'S BANK, LIMITED, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS.—JENKINS, BAKER, & Co., 134, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS.—BAINBRIDGE, SEYMOUR, & Co., 14, St. Helen's-place, London, E.C.
BROKERS.—WM. R. HARTRIDGE & Co., 5, Drapers'-gardens, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.
SECRETARY (*pro tem.*).—G. ABERCROMBY.
OFFICES.—LONDON: 3, Princes-street, E.C. BERLIN: Behrenstrasse, 16.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of undertaking the business of a Mining, Prospecting, and Finance Company in the Colonies of New Zealand, Australia, Tasmania, and elsewhere.

The Company has already in hand a considerable amount of business, which will be dealt with immediately.

The Company has made arrangements to secure the services of Mr. H. S. Herbert Cox (of Messrs. Bainbridge, Seymour & Co.), who acted for many years as Mining Engineer to the New Zealand Government, and who will appoint competent Mining Managers to the Company's properties.

A settlement and quotation on the London Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course.

A HOME INDUSTRY, showing a net profit of over 12 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary Shares, after providing the 5½ per cent. Cumulative Dividend payable on the Preference Shares.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS for SHARES will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, the 16th day of JULY, and the following morning for the Country.

COWELL, CRAFT, & CO.

LIMITED.

Comprising :—

COWELL & DREW, Wholesale and Retail Butchers, 38, St. George's-place, S.W.
JOHN CRAFT, Provision Merchant, 47, St. George's-place, S.W.
GRIMMOND & CO., Fruiterers, 17, Motcomb-street, S.W.
RUSH & CO., Steam Laundry and Dye Works, Steyne Mills, Acton, London, W.

The above are carried on under one Proprietorship, and are practically worked as one business. All have been established for upwards of forty years.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

SHARE CAPITAL - - - £150,000,

Divided into—75,000 Cumulative Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Preference Shares of £1 each £75,000
75,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each £75,000

The whole of the above is now OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION.

The Preference Shares are entitled to a cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, and will rank both for capital and dividend preferentially before the Ordinary Shares of the Company. The interest will be paid half-yearly, on the 1st January and the 1st July. The first payments will be made on the 1st January, 1897, and calculated from the due dates of the instalments. The Preference and Ordinary Shares are to be paid for as follows :—

	Preference and Ordinary Shares.
On Application	£0 2 6 per Share.
On Allotment	0 7 6 ,,
One Month after Allotment	0 10 0 ,,
	£1 0 0

DIRECTORS.

*T. Ernest Polden, Chairman of the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, W. (Chairman).
A. T. Hailey (Hailey & Co.), Pavilion-road, Sloane-street, S.W.
M. Saunderson (Manager of Cowell, Craft, & Co.), 17, Motcomb-street, S.W.
*R. C. Drew (Cowell & Drew), 38, St. George's-place, S.W. (Managing Director).

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.—London and County Banking Company, Limited, Albert Gate, Knightsbridge, S.W.

BROKERS.—R. B. Smith & Co., 10, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

SOLICITORS.

For the Vendors.—Howard C. Morris, 2, Walbrook, E.C.
For the Company.—Mossop & Rolfe, 46, Cannon-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 4, Lothbury, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Sidney B. White, 47, St. George's-place, S.W.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring, as going concerns, the business of Cowell & Drew, also the prosperous and progressive wholesale and retail businesses of Grimmond & Co., John Craft, and Rush & Co., together with the freehold factories at Acton, covering an area of about 5 acres, and extending and developing the same.

The businesses are all very old-established, occupy excellent positions in suitable neighbourhoods, and have for many years past been under the sole control and management of Mr. R. C. Drew.

The present circle of customers is very numerous, and includes members of the Royal Family, together with many of the principal City and West End Hotels and Clubs.

The Laundry and Dye Works of Rush & Co. at Acton is one of the largest in the Kingdom, and has recently been rebuilt and fitted with engines and machinery of the very latest type; it covers a large extent of freehold land with several acres of outside drying ground, stables, offices, workshops, and hot-air drying-rooms of the most approved kind.

The number of Employées and Assistants is large, and with a view of their having a direct interest in the success of the Company, it is proposed as far as possible to make a judicious allotment in full of the Shares to such of them as may apply, so that they will have a personal interest in the increased prosperity of the businesses.

The accounts of the businesses for three years ending 31st December, 1895, have been examined by the well-known Chartered Accountants, Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co., 4, Lothbury, London, E.C., whose certificate is as follows :—

4, Lothbury, London, 8th July, 1896.

To the Directors of Cowell, Craft & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the accounts of the following businesses for the three years ending 31st December, 1895 :—

Messrs Cowell & Drew, butchers, 38, St. George's-place, Knightsbridge.
Messrs. Craft & Co., provision merchants, 47, St. George's-place, Knightsbridge.
Messrs. Grimmond & Co., greengrocers and fruiterers, 17, Motcomb-street, S.W.
Messrs. Rush & Co., Steam Laundry and Dye Works, Steyne Mills, Acton.

After charging all working expenses and setting aside a sum which, in our opinion, is sufficient to meet the losses through bad debts and depreciation of leases, but making no provision for the management of Mr. R. C. Drew, the net profits were :—

For the year ending 31st December,	1893	... £15,250 16 0
,, ,,	1894	... 13,968 3 2
,, ,,	1895	... 15,837 3 10
Total		... £45,056 3 0

or an annual average of £15,018 14s. 4d.

Yours faithfully,

DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS & CO.

Taking the above-mentioned average net annual profit of £15,018 14s. 4d. as a basis of calculation, apart from the increase which is shown in the 1895 figures		£15,018 14 4
Less 5½ per cent. dividend on 75,000 Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	£4,125 0 0	
Less 12 per cent. dividend on 75,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	9,000 0 0	
		13,125 0 0
Available for reserve and management fees		£1,893 14 4

It will be seen that the present net income covers the amount required for the payment on the Preference Shares nearly four times over.

The Directors hope to earn additional profits by opening new departments at the various shops, the premises being in many cases sufficiently extensive for this purpose, the aim of the Directors being to make each shop a General Store as far as may be practicable.

The Directorate includes men of many years' business experience, and Mr. R. C. Drew, having signed an agreement to act as Managing Director for a period of five years, the Company will have the benefit of a continuation of the direction and management which have hitherto made the businesses so successful.

The former proprietor of the businesses has entered into a covenant restraining him from trading for ten years within ten miles of any of the above premises. The Company takes over the businesses as going concerns from the date of completion of the several purchases, and they will be carried on without interruption by the present staff. All the book debts are to be collected by the Company and handed over to the vendor, he discharging all liabilities up to the date of completion.

The success which has attended the conversion into Joint Stock Companies of large retail trading establishments is evidenced by the following approximate present market quotations :—

Names of Company.	Par value of Ordinary Share.	Market value on July 9, 1896
Harrod's Stores, Limited	£1	£6⅞ to £7⅛
John Barker & Company Limited.....	£1	£2⅞ ,, £3⅛
D. H. Evans & Company, Limited.....	£1	£2 7/16 ,, £2 9/16

The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendors for the above-mentioned businesses, freehold, leasehold premises, machinery, plant, horses, carts, and effects at £130,000, payable in cash or Shares, or partly in each, at the option of the Company.

£20,000 of the present issue will be provided for working Capital, the consumable stocks being taken over at cost price.

The following agreements, providing for the purchase of the businesses, have been entered into, viz.:—An Agreement dated 6th July, 1896, between Richard Collins Drew and John Jervis, and an Agreement dated 9th July, 1896, between John Jervis, one of the Vendors, who pays all expenses of formation and flotation of the Company up to allotment, including brokerage, and Sidney Butler White, as Trustee for the Company.

The businesses will be taken over subject to and with the benefit of the leases and agreements under which the properties are held, and to all existing contracts of the ordinary trade character, but including, as they do, numerous contracts with manufacturers, agents, and others, they cannot be specified. There are also contracts in connection with the subscription of part of the capital and the promotion of the Company, to none of which the Company is a party. As all or some of these contracts may fall within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, applicants for Shares will be deemed to have had notice thereof, and to have waived all rights to be supplied with particulars of such contracts, and to have agreed with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, not to make any claim whatsoever, nor to take any proceedings under the said Section in respect of any non-compliance therewith or otherwise.

Applications for Preference and Ordinary Shares should be made on the forms accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, London, E.C., or any of its branches, with a remittance for the amount of deposit.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and if a less amount be allotted than is applied for, the surplus of the deposit will be applied to the amount payable on the Shares.

The Purchase Agreements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Report above referred to, can be seen at the Office of the Company's Solicitors.

Application for a quotation and settlement on the Stock Exchange will be made in due course.

Prospectuses and Application Forms may be obtained from the Bank and its branches, from the Brokers and other officials, and at the Company's Offices.

July 9th, 1896.

This Form, when filled up, to be sent entire with the deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share to the Bankers, the London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, London, E.C., or any of their Branches.

To be retained by the Bankers.

COWELL, CRAFT & CO., LIMITED.

Application for Shares.

To be forwarded to the London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, London, E.C., or any of their Branches.

To the Directors of Cowell, Craft & Co., Limited.

GENTLEMEN,

I request you to allot to me.....Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, upon which I have paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being the required deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus dated the 9th day of July, 1896, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and authorise you to register me as the holder of the Shares so allotted to me, and engage to pay the further instalments as the same shall become due, and I agree to waive the specification of the dates and names of the parties to any contracts other than those specified in the Prospectus.

Ordinary Signature.....
Name (in full) .....
Address (in full).....
Profession or Occupation.....
Date .....July, 1896.

Cheques should be made payable to bearer, and crossed "London and County Banking Company, Limited.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on THURSDAY NEXT, the 16th July, for Town, and on FRIDAY, the 17th July, at Noon, for Country.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, and BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A Parent Corporation working in unison with leading Companies engaged in British Colonial Mining.

NO WAIVER CLAUSE. NO PROMOTION MONEY OR SHARES PAYABLE TO ANYONE.

AN ABSOLUTELY PRO RATA ALLOTMENT WILL BE MADE.

All capital subscribed available solely for the objects of the Corporation.

The Directors receive no remuneration until a Cash Dividend of 20 per cent. has been paid to the holders of the Ordinary Shares.

All Profits available for Dividend will be distributed between the Shareholders in proportion to their holdings of Ordinary and Founders' Shares.

The Corporation has already secured several very valuable options on proved Mining Properties in the best Gold Mining Districts of Western Australia, New Zealand, and British Columbia. Particulars of some of these are set out in the Prospectus, and there can be little doubt that a re-sale of any one, or more of them, to subsidiary Companies would result in very considerable profits to the Corporation.

The ALLIANCE EXPLORING AND FINANCE CORPORATION,

LIMITED.

Registered under the Companies' Acts, 1862 to 1892, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

Capital, £200,000, divided into 192,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, and 8,000 Founders' Shares of £1 each.

The Founders' Shares take no profits in any year until after the Ordinary Shares have received a dividend or dividends aggregating 20 per cent. per annum, the surplus profits being equally divided between the holders of the Ordinary and Founders' Shares. All subscribers for 24 Ordinary Shares and upwards will be entitled to apply for Founders' Shares at par, in the ratio of one Founders' Share for every 24 Ordinary Shares applied for.

PRESENT ISSUE: 96,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, and 4,000 Founders' Shares of £1 each.

Payable 2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment, and the balance in calls not exceeding 5s. per Share, at intervals of not less than one month.

DIRECTORS.

HUGH STANTON, Esq., Director Bamboo Consolidated Gold Mines (Limited), 23, Queen Anne's-gate, Westminster, London, W.

S. W. COXON, Esq., Director Towranna Gold Mines of Western Australia (Limited), 7, Leonard-place, Kensington, London, W.

H. E. SPARKS, Esq., Director British Colonial Mining Corporation (Limited), 86, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

G. B. PUMFRETT, Esq., Director Hannan's Queen Gold Mines (Limited), Derwent House, Wimbledon, Surrey.

H. M'DOWELL, Esq., Director Universal Corporation of Western Australia, (Limited), 31, Aldford-street, Park-lane, London, W., and Oatlands Park, Weybridge.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messieurs Birchell, 85, Gracechurch-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Sidney Wilkins & Co., 3 and 4, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C.; and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. J. Sadler, Wood & Co., Chartered Accountants, 80, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

H. M. Deakin, Esq., M.E., 20, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.

T. F. De Courcey Browne, Esq., M.E., (late Chairman Government Mining Board of New South Wales), Coolgardie, W.A.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro tem.).—H. Shynn, 85, Gracechurch-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Corporation has been formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of a Parent Financial Mining and Exploration Corporation, more particularly in connection with the British Colonies of Western Australia, New Zealand, and British Columbia; it will also act as Founders and Agents for the purposes of acquiring options upon proved mining properties in the goldfields of these Colonies, with the view to their re-sale to subsidiary Companies formed by the Corporation to acquire the same.

The Corporation has already secured several options on mining properties in the before-mentioned Colonies of the greatest value, and although the same have been obtained free of any charge, the Directors have a perfectly free hand to accept or reject all or any of them, so that the Corporation will be in a position to commence operations, not only unfettered, and with plenty of the best business in hand, but with the whole of the subscribed capital available simply and solely for the objects of the Corporation.

The Directors, however, consider that by exercising the right to acquire any of the following properties on which options have been secured, profits of a very handsome character will be quickly obtained for the Shareholders, thereby enabling them to shortly declare an exceedingly substantial dividend.

The property has been most favourably reported upon by Mr. Geo. A. Koch, M.E., Mr. William Craib, M.E., Mr. C. F. Marsh, M.E., and Mr. W. Pellew-Harvey, M.E.

The great success achieved by similar undertakings is a practical proof of the exceedingly profitable character of the business which this Corporation will undertake, and although it may be suggested that the same measure of success cannot be obtained by every one, it is, however, only right to state that there has hardly been an institution of a similar character formed within the past two years that has not made remarkable profits, and whose shares do not at the present time command very considerable premiums.

Application for Shares should be made on the form enclosed with the Prospectus, and forwarded, with the required deposit, to the Bankers of the Corporation. If the number of shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment; where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Corporation.

July 10, 1896.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS for SHARES will CLOSE for both town and country on THURSDAY, the 16th day of July, 1896.

An interim dividend for the last three months has been declared on the ordinary shares at the full rate of 15 per cent. (For further particulars see report of meeting of the 7th July.)

HANNAN'S DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION,

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

CAPITAL - - - £150,000,

In 147,000 Ordinary Shares and 3,000 Deferred Shares of £1 each.

Further issue of 50,000 ORDINARY SHARES at 5s. premium, payable as follows:—2s. on application, 5s. on allotment, 5s. on the 1st day of August, and the balance on the 29th day of September.

The ordinary shares are entitled to a preferential dividend of 15 per cent., and an equal division of the remaining profits with the deferred shares.

Each subscriber to this issue for every £200 ordinary share capital will have the right to one deferred share at £10.

Applicants can pay up in full on allotment, and shares will then rank for dividend on the amount actually paid.

DIRECTORS.

Major-General Bates (Chairman of the Finance Corporation of Western Australia, Limited), Richmond House, Acton, W.

G. G. Elrington, Esq. (Director of the Colonial Explorations, Limited), Grena Lodge, Richmond, Surrey.

A. G. Shoolbred, Esq., 38, Lancaster-gate, London, W.

Albert King, Esq., 60, Aldermanbury, London, E.C., Colonial Merchant.

ADVISORY BOARD IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

H. E. Keep, Esq., M.L.A., Perth.

R. F. Sholl, Esq., M.L.A., Perth.

BANKERS.

London.—Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

West Australia.—Union Bank of Australia, Limited, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Taunton & Dade, 21, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C.

Messrs. Parker & Parker, Perth, Western Australia.

BROKER.—H. W. Walmisley, Esq., 18, Austin-friars, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Attree, Wilson, & Attree, 41, Coleman-street, London, E.C., Chartered Accountants.

SECRETARY.—Mr. H. Herwin.

OFFICES.—5, Moorgate-street-buildings, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Corporation was registered on the 5th day of March, 1896, for the purpose of organising and carrying on the business of a Development and Finance Corporation on similar lines to other Exploring and Development Companies, and principally for the purpose of acquiring options on mining and other properties, and dealing in shares of mining companies; as well as engaging in the formation and issue of mining companies, the principal field of the Company's operations being the Western Australian goldfields.

The business of the Corporation also comprises that of a financial and general agency business, the underwriting of new issues of proved undertakings, and the investment of capital in companies, the success of which is practically assured.

No public issue has yet been advertised, the necessary capital to commence operations having been subscribed privately, which has enabled the business to be completely organised, and afforded an opportunity of establishing the undertaking on a sound basis, and proving the satisfactory and profitable nature of the operations of the Corporation.

Although the Corporation has been at work for such a short period, the directors have been able to secure many important and valuable mining interests in the Hannan's District, which is now generally believed in the best-informed quarters to contain by far the richest auriferous deposit in the whole of Western Australia; also subsidiary Companies have been formed, and valuable options and contracts secured, from which profits have resulted and a dividend distributed, leaving a considerable margin for the payment of additional dividends. Quite recently the Hannan's North Crœsus Gold Mining Company, Limited, has been formed, from which a large return in the shape of dividend in cash and bonus in shares will accrue to the shareholders of the Corporation.

Several other leases owned by the Corporation are in a sufficiently advanced state of development to justify their re-sale to subsidiary companies.

A large quantity of business is in progress, and from contracts already concluded, very large profits are assured. The Corporation has also at the present time under offer several valuable leases, as well as options and contracts, which afford exceptional opportunities for a large extension of the business and the profitable employment of an additional amount of capital.

In order that the Corporation may be placed in a position to secure additional leases, and to complete the formation of subsidiary companies, the directors have decided to make a further issue of shares and to invite public subscriptions to the same.

The increased strength in the resources of the Corporation afforded by the funds arising from this issue will assure success to its operations, and almost entirely eliminate any speculative element from the transactions, at the same time enabling the Corporation to secure the additional profits.

The £1 deferred shares of the Corporation are now being dealt in on the London Stock Exchange at between £9. 15s. and £10. 5s., and the £1 ordinary shares at between £1. 7s. 6d. and £1. 12s. 6d.

As will be seen from the foregoing, the Corporation has already made handsome profits, and from the business in hand these will be largely augmented.

In view of the exceptionally strong position in which the Corporation now stands, the present issue of the ordinary shares will be made at the price of £1. 5s. per share, and subscribers for 200 ordinary shares will have the privilege of securing one deferred share at £10.

Particulars of the properties owned by this Corporation and full prospectuses can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, and the Offices of the Corporation.

THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF GALICIA.

Three Petroleum Companies recently issued in Amsterdam have been gigantic successes, and the Shares already stand at premiums varying from 300 to 800 per cent. The fourth and last issue has been subscribed for in a phenomenal manner. According to the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* of 3rd July, 1896, I find that, although the amount of capital asked for amounted to 600,000 florins only, the applications reached the immense sum of 20,209,500 florins. The Company I refer to is the Netherlands Petroleum Company of Galicia.

This heavy demand, or I think I might rightly say boom, foreshadows an immense future to the Standard Oil Company of Galicia, which, I understand, will shortly be issued simultaneously in London and Amsterdam, for people will follow the tide which caught but at the flood leads on to fortune. Perhaps it is an opportune moment to enquire into the claims of the Standard Oil Company of Galicia, which, as I have already said, is on the eve of flotation.

With reference to the field itself, there can be little doubt but that it is one of the richest in existence, and furnishes an almost unlimitable supply of petroleum of an excellent quality. But there is another and equally important item in its favour. It is situated in the very centre of the largest petroleum-consuming district in the world.

Under those conditions it follows, as a matter of fact, that an enormous revenue is to hand in the saving of carriage or freightage, for until recently half the oil has come from America or Russia. And the old adage that money saved is money gained is once more demonstrated and amplified. The property contains a superficial area of 218 English acres, and there are already 44 wells in full production, whilst 10 more are in course of being sunk, and in most of these the oil level will shortly be reached.

The wells once sunk, the petroleum industry in all probability shows a larger income to hand than any other. Where, for example, in an ordinary commercial enterprise it would necessitate the employment of two or three thousand hands—in, say, mining operations—to produce a certain amount of money, in the case of petroleum 30, or at most 50, could employ the same capital and produce equal results in the way of profit. Nature is prolific, and once her secrets are discovered the rest is easy. Let us see what the experts say with reference to the possibilities of the Standard Oil Company's properties.

According to the report of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Company, Chartered Accountants, of London, this year's yield is represented by the following table:

Yield.	Barrels of 150 kilogrammes.
January 1896	36,068
February, ,, ...	41,937
March, ,, ...	36,558
April, ,, ...	39,418

During the first 18 days in May the books show that the output was 24,681 barrels, but our representative had not an opportunity of substantiating a portion of this yield by comparison with the sales and with the stock.

Our representative found that there were 17 new wells being sunk on the above-mentioned properties, including a new boring in the Caecilie district belonging to the Messrs. Gartenberg, which reached the oil strata while he was present. The rush of oil from this well was so large that it could not at first be controlled. On 20th May the workmen were able to fix the piping, and the yield of oil for the following three days, as shown by the capacity of the tanks filled, was as follows:—

21 May, 1896	2,660 barrels
22 ,, ...	2,800 ,,
23 ,, ...	2,765 ,,

Dr. Rudolf Zuber, Professor of Geology, Lemberg University, states in his report:—"That the two oil-bearing properties proposed to be acquired by the Company are situated in the most productive part of the oil zone," and also that "The oilfields of Schodnica are the richest and best known in Galicia, and the oil wells there are remarkable, not only for their large production, but also for their steadiness and regularity of flow."

This opinion was backed to the hilt by Mr. C. J. Van Schelle, Director of the Royal Netherlands Indian Petroleum Company, and Mr. L. Poock, of the Hanover Petroleum Wells Company, Hanover, who estimates that the net profit, without contemplating any increase of output, but making allowance for royalties averaging 10 per cent., will be equal to at least 2,740,000 marks, say £137,000 per annum.

This is evidence sufficient as to possibilities.

We have still to consider that the petroleum industry in Austria is protected by an import duty on foreign petroleum of two florins gold per 100 kilos. (about 6s. per barrel of 150 kilos.) on crude, and ten florins (about 30s. per barrel of 150 kilos.) on refined oil.

I am especially glad to see that the eminent services of Mr. Boverton Redwood have been retained as consulting adviser to the Company.

GILBERT D. SUTHERLAND.

The following is a telegram which appeared in the *Daily News* of the 30th of April, 1896:—

New Petroleum Well in Galicia.—Our Vienna correspondent telegraphs:—"A telegram from Drohobycz, in Galicia, states that near Schodnica, a few hundred yards from the famous Jacob's Pit, a petroleum well has been discovered, which it is supposed yields at least forty cisterns of oil per day. The surrounding fields are flooded with oil and approach to the well is impossible." (40 cisterns equal 2,800 barrels of 150 kilos each.)

The above refers to the Cecilie Well, one of the new wells on the property of this Company.

The estate and oilfields acquired by the Anglo-Austrian Bank in Vienna about two years ago are also in the Schodnica district, and quite close to the two properties secured by this Company.

The Bank worked their fields very successfully up to the end of 1895, and in the beginning of the present year floated a Company—"The Petroleum Industrie Gesellschaft Schodnica" (the Schodnica Petroleum Industry Company). The Shares of 250 florins (about £21) were introduced on the Vienna Bourse on the 8th of March last at a high premium, and are quoted to-day 740 to 780 florins (about £61).

One of the most curious things one discovers is that the Shares of the great oil companies of America are retained entirely by our cousins on the other side of the water.

Everybody knows, who knows anything at all, that the Standard Oil Company of America has realised fortune after fortune for those who have been lucky enough to be in it from its initiation. No wonder, therefore, that these oil shares have never arrived as a security in the metropolis of the world, and that, both scarce and precious, they continue to rest peacefully in the hands of those who esteem their value.

Petroleum may be said to have a small past, a big present, and a magnificent future. In the ordinary way the Cockney only understands its use as a flambeau to illuminate the surrounding neighbourhood of the itinerant stall. To the world in general, petroleum means light, but to those who take time to go into details and think of the future petroleum means infinitely more than this. We have here both light and fuel, and the possibilities of the utilisation of petroleum in the time to come are enormous.

We have had booms in water shares, gas shares, railway shares, and any amount of other home shares. We have had keen competition to obtain even a small interest in any big going concern such as our provision stores in London and provincial towns. We have recently been astounded and surprised at the phenomenal prices which anything connected with bicycles has fetched; and we have been paralysed with the conjuring of the Diamond, Gold, and other South African Kings, to say nothing of the probabilities (or is it possibilities?) of Australia and many other countries beyond the geography of an ordinary dweller in cities. Home industries have for the moment came to the front, and very rightly so.

American securities have long been at a discount, but the greatest and best security that America ever had to give or to offer, and which has never been either given or offered, is the security of her petroleum wells.

Messrs. Rothschilds, with their magnitude of wealth, with their portfolio of everything that may be desirable, have yet lacked the opportunity of placing petroleum oil wells before the English public.

With all due respect to America, and with every possible word of compliment or, if you will, praise (for the brotherhood between Old England and the land of Stars and Stripes is immense, as witness the dinner the other night by the Ancients to the Prince of Wales and the Honourable Artillery Company at the Holborn Restaurant), it is neccesaary that I should place on record a fact, and the fact is this, that we have in Europe an oilfield far more prolific than has ever been discovered on the Yankee Continent. In Galicia, a country which is absolutely in the centre of the oil-consuming districts, there are numerous wells, recently discovered, which pour out a volume of oil day by day not excelled by the American disgorgements even at the time when all the world was wondering at the enormity of the output.

Within the last month it was necessary in the districts of Schodnica, to which I make particular mention, absolutely to shut down the vomit.

Even with a storage of 186,000 barrels the owners of the Galician wells had no option.

By shutting down, I mean actually fastening back the output of products from nature's laboratory; and I very much question whether it will be possible within our life-time for these Schodnica oilfields to be worked to their full extent, since the supply is practically unlimited, and delivers itself without any labour.

It is perfectly true that the future utilisation of oil will be infinitely larger than the demand of the past, but it must double, treble, and quadruple itself to consume anything like the volume produced here.

The motors, which are booming in the immediate future, will rely for their speed and power upon petroleum; our trams will run and our ships steam by means of the same medium; but apart from all the future possibilities in the coming years, or it may be centuries, the Schodnica oil, like that in the widow's cruse, will not be exhausted.

The Galician properties have one great commercial advantage—whereas in England the price of paraffin may be something like a pound per barrel, in Galicia the protecting duty alone is no less than 30s. Hence the Galician Oil Companies must necessarily show an extravagant profit over any other oil investment in the world.

We have never had a petroleum oilfield, as I have already suggested, placed upon the English market, and, from what I can see, it seems that such an industry is absolutely unique.

It is an open secret that a very large Company will be shortly introduced to the public notice.

I am assured by those who ought to know, that, in spite of the enormous premiums at present existing in all shares connected with the oil industry in America, yet the wells are giving out. Years ago the number of gallons obtained from each well was something astonishing. Now I believe 40 to 50 barrels per day to be a fair average, and in order to obtain this fair average it is necessary to utilise pumping machinery. This must demonstrate that either the wells require deeper sinking, or that the present strata supply is being exhausted. American oil has spelt enormous fortunes, and those who have been lucky enough to "strike ile" have been the favoured of the land, kings in their own way, and they have been deified, and the world has bowed down and worshipped at their feet. History repeats itself, and in all probability the manufacture of oil kings will no longer be peculiar to America.

The name of the coming Company is an open secret, and I feel great interest in the immediate future of the Standard Oil Company of Galicia, for a little bird whispers in my ear that the output will be far greater than even suggested by the engineers; for, according to the latest accounts, the experts have again succeeded in "striking ile."

GILBERT D. SUTHERLAND.

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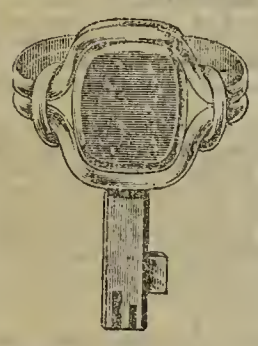

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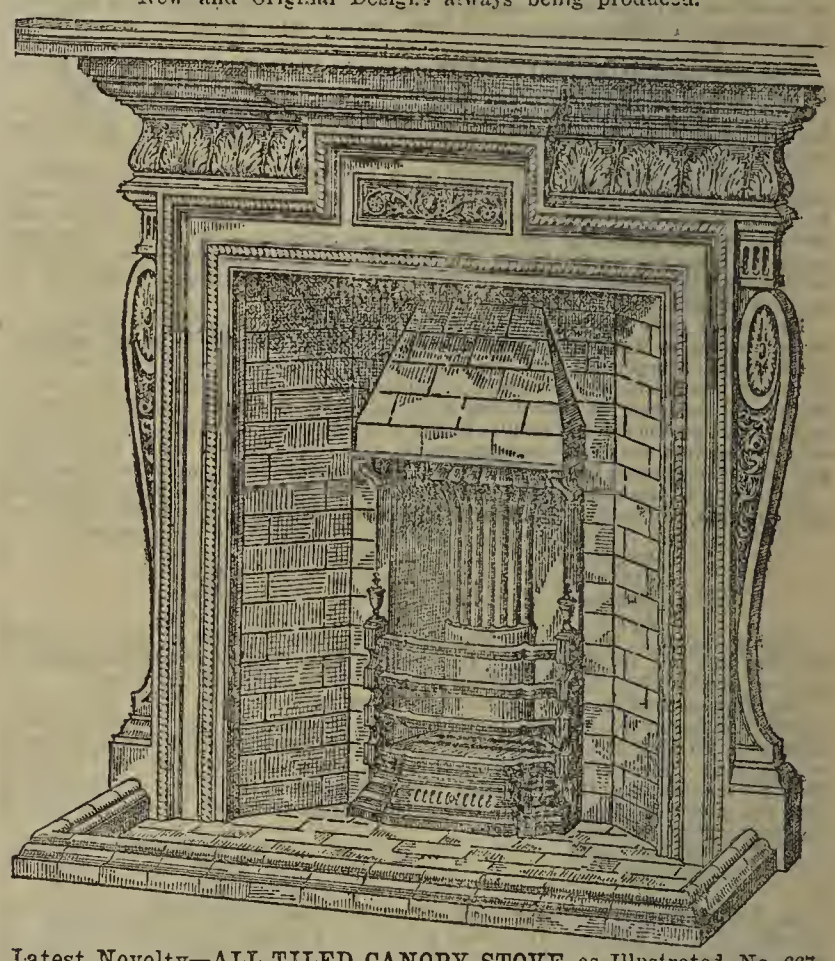

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Mr. LABOUCHERE, M.P., said in "TRUTH":—

"The man who discovers a perfect cure for sea-sickness will be one "of the greatest benefactors of the human race. At different times "many such discoveries have been announced, but somehow they "have not stood the test of practice. Being one of the worst of "sailors, I have tried most of the remedies as they have appeared, "and I can therefore make the last statement confidently. But at "last hope has dawned upon me. On two recent occasions when "crossing the Channel I have tried the remedy advertised under the "name of **'Yanatas.'** On both occasions—and they were the first "on record—I got across without serious qualms. As the weather "was thoroughly bad on both passages, I feel justified on this, in "recommending fellow-sufferers to try **'Yanatas.'** I cannot "answer for its effect on a long voyage, and it may not be equally "efficacious on all constitutions; but if it only enables the average "'bad sailor' to cross in peace from Dover to Calais, it will be to "many a priceless boon."

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OUR PUZZLES

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 907.—SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDING TO THE POPULARITY OF A BAZAAR.

BEGINNER (real name and address will be published in due course)	£1 1 0
OROYA " " " " "	£1 1 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 905.

I purpose to make a statement with regard to this competition next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 908.

The prize in this competition will be divided between OOM PAUL and SABRINA. I should have awarded the whole prize to one of these competitors but for the fact that the Alphabet sent by each of them includes a faulty line:—

PRIZE RHYMED ALPHABETS ON THE PRESENT LONDON SEASON.

A's the Academy running its course;
B is the Bicycle ousting the horse.
C is the "Cecil," a noble hotel;
D was the Derby the Prince won so well.
E's the Expectance the motor supplies;
F is the Fund that they're raising for Guy's.
G is the "Geisha," a musical play;
H were three Hangings in Newgate one day.
I is for Irving returned from the States;
J's Lady Jeune and the joy she creates.
K are the Kendals with efforts to please;
L is their Latest, "The Greatest of These——."*
M is Millais for whose presence we sigh;
N Royal Nuptials arranged for July.
O is the Opera making its mark;
P's the Parade, after church, in the Park.
Q is the Question that's answered below;
R's the Regatta at Henley, you know.
S is the Session; but, jaded M.P.,
T is the Terrace where Hebe serves tea!
U is the Undersigned, fast giving way!
V were clothed Visions at Ascot, so gay.
W's the big Wheel that refused to go round;
X are the Rays that great Röntgen has found.
Y is *her* "Yes!" labial *his* salute;
Z the Zeal shown in his Season's pursuit. Oom Paul.

A is for Ascot without a procession;
B is the Bike which has taken possession;
C is the Cricket, so bravely begun;
D is the Derby the Prince of Wales won;
E is Earl's Court, with its India again;
F Fête Botanical, marred by the rain;
G the Gymkhana at Hurlingham given;
H Horseless-carriages, noiselessly driven;
I the Imperial Institute bubble;
J Dr. Jameson and others in trouble,
K the Kiosks which they put in the Park;
L for the Liner gone down in the dark;
M is the Ministry in a bad way;
N is the New Woman, passing away;
O is the Opera, whose sun sets with Harris;
P is the Puzzle of who's going to Paris;*
Q the Queen, sixtieth year of her reign;
R is for Rosebery, travelling in Spain;
S is for Sarah, who gave us a call;
T is the Tourney at Islington Hall;
U the U.S. pilgrims, come to adore;
V Venezuela—becoming a bore;
W the Waitresses—also their woes;
X the X ray photos every one knows;
Y is the Yale crew, at Henley to strive;
Z is the Zebra team Rothschild doth drive. Sabrina.

* The Paris Embassy vacated by Lord Dufferin.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 912.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST DESCRIPTION IN TWENTY-FOUR LINES OF RHYMED VERSE OF A CYCLING TOUR.

The lines may be of a commendatory or depreciatory character, and may be written in any metre which is in common use. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, July 27, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of NURSE, winner of Prize No. 906, is Mrs. Charles Wright, Fairmead, Worcester-road, Sutton, Surrey.

REX, LA PLATA, PIGTAIL.—Thanks for your letters, which have had my attention.

WOBBLER.—I hope to settle the matter next week.

ARCH. GIBBS.—I duly received your note.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 909.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

EPIGRAMMATIC DEFINITIONS OF—1, LONDON; 2, EDINBURGH; 3, DUBLIN.

1. The city of cults. 2. The city of kilts. 3. The city of Celts (pronounce kelts).—Selah.

1. The capital which Englishmen like to live in. 2. The capital which Scotchmen like to talk about. 3. The capital which Irishmen like to leave.—Almaviva.

1. Fog. 2. Log. 3. Bog.—Mrs. Cuppage.

1. Reekie. 2. Auld Reekie. 3. Bally Reekie. 1. Great. 2. Greet. 3. Grattan. 1. Size. 2. Wise. 3. Tries.—Dryasdust.

1. Season. 2. Reason. 3. Treason.—Knarf.

1. Dandies, and risky!* 2. Sandies, and whiskey! 3. Brandies, and frisky!—La Plata.

* Bogus companies, &c.

1. Universe and caste. 2. University and castle. 3. Castle and caste. 1. Prodigious! 2. Ridges. 3. Bridges. 1. Rocks hidden. 2. Rocks apparent. 3. Rocks sham. 1. The Wreckery. 2. The Rockery. 3. The Rookery.* 1. Music (the hum of the traffic). 2. Sculpture (considering its site) 3. Painting (in green or yellow, as the case may be).—Caledon.

* Dark-haired populace generally.

1. The city of stagnation (Conservative representation). 2. The city of progression (Liberal representation). 3. The city of retrogression (self representation), Grattan Parliament.—Dorset.

1. The pulse of the world. 2. The thought of the world. 3. The sentiment of the world.—Bucks.

1. A city of cities. (The city of London is within the City). 2. A city of famous sites. (The "sights of the city" have made Edinburgh famous.) 3. The capital of Ireland. (Ireland's "capital" is in the hands of Englishmen.)—Edina.

1. In commerce, wealth, and energy
It always plays "first fiddle;"
We cannot call it "he" or "she"
Because its sex is middle.

2. A learned city, wondrous sage,
Its folks are full of knowledge;
The greatest wonder of the age
Is where they put their porridge.

3. "The finest town for double stout,"
Quoth Pat, "is on the Liffey;
In Dub-l-in you 'double out,'
And get it in a jiffy." Thanatopsis.

Edinburgh, where things Athenian strike,
While London shows the Women New that bike,
And Dublin boasts the jaunting car of Mike.
Mona.

1. A strange medley of wealth and greatness with squalid poverty and vice. 2. Where the threepenny bit is first put into circulation. 3. Where the blackthorn grows and the whisky flows, by japers!—Pigtail.

1. The stronghold of clericals. 2. The stronghold of medicals. 3. The stronghold of Radicals. 1. A regal city noted for cads. 2. A once regal city noted for grads. 3. A vice-regal city noted for Rads.—Georgina.

1. Gay city, where all that is best can be had,
All that is pleasant, all that is bad!
2. Birthplace of many a poet, novelist, and divine,
Devoted to their country, and to their country's wine!
3. Home Rule's the question always throublin'
Dear delightful, dhirty Dublin. Krakatoa.

1. The capital of Fogland. 2. The capital of Grogland. 3. The capital of Bogland. 1. The city of brick. 2. The city of no "breeks." 3. The city of bricks.—Rose Island.

1. An overgrown capital. 2. An increasing capital. 3. A decreasing capital.—Leaf Rule.

London is like a glass of brisk bottled beer when just poured out. Dublin is like the same when it has stood for a minute. Edinbro' is like it when it has stood two minutes.—Jeff.

1. Parliamentary chatter. 2. Academical patter.* 3. Home-rule matter.—Zulu.

* Edinburgh is the most conversational lecture-room University anywhere (late Professor Blackie, &c.).

1. The lodestar of commerce. 2. The beacon-light of Caledonia. 3. The search-tower of the west.—Jap.

1. Correct any fashion society seals,
The feature of London this season is wheels.
2. Hills any number, flats without end;
But the view (for the Scot) is the home of the "blend."
3. Court independent—vice-regal—unique!
(So vastly superior to thistle and leek.)
Nina.

1. The city of art-posters and smart im-postors. 2. A place where men show their legs, but never their alms. 3. The oven which warms the "Irish stew" for the Government.—Das Ding.

1. The city of the plain and coloured. 2. The prow of Caledonia stern. 3. The Dublin (doublin') capital of a country aspiring to be single.—Arch. Gibbs.

Edinburgh is the prettiest, Dublin the witticst, but London is the one I love best.—Carfax.

1. A huge noise. 2. A stately beauty. 3. Dirty weather.—Atra Cura.

1. The city of a free and great people. 2. The city of a studious, cautious, and puritanical people. 3. The city of a bigoted, vain, and narrow-minded people.—Hugo.

1. A fair face with a foul heart. 2. A cool head with a canny mind. 3. A smooth tongue between lying lips.—Bel Demonio.

1. Rakes. 2. Cakes. 3. Wakes.—Tiger Jess.

1. Frisky. 2. Whiskey. 3. Shifty.—Tiger Jess.

1. Princes, dukes, stockbrokers, health and unrest. 2. Knights, lawyers, doctors, competence and calm. 3. Priests, policemen, paupers, poverty and discontent.—Dilaram.

1. Famed for its reputation through the world. Unconquered since the Cæsars. 2. The modern Athens to strangers, and Auld Reekie to its friends. 3. A city blessed by the Pope, instructed by the Trinity, and guarded by the Phœnix.—Alastor.

1. An enormous capital with floating securities, but never invested. 2. A handsome capital in part well laid out, but mainly idle. 3. A city of shams, sham royalty, sham loyalty, and shamrocks. 1. The peerless city of a peer-ridden nation. 2. A handsome capital, well laid out, bearing never-failing interest. 3. A castle-hated (castellated) city.—Dandelion.

TRIA JUNCTA IN DUO.

Number one on my list is the star of the East,
Number two of the North is the jewel,
Number three, 'tis confessed, is the gem of the West,
And my whole's a "triangular dual."*

Another answer.—1. Swell-ville. 2. Belle-ville. 3. Smell-ville.—Kottabos.

* Two islands with three capitals.

1. Heaven to those who can't live in it; hell to those who can't get out of it; purgatory to those whose business is in it, but whose homes are out of it. 2. A mock Athens. 3. A city of "bulls" and "balls," of blunders and blarney.—E. N. S.

1. England's swollen capital, which, while yielding abundant interest, can neither be adequately consolidated nor liquidated (unification, water). 2. The city which, having parted with its kings, consoles itself with a Prince's-street. 3. The centre where mock royalty is offered to dwindling loyalty.—Nitram

1. The heart of the world; but its beat is the beat
Of "Rule Britannia"—Home is sweet.
2. Disinfected, whitewashed Athens,
With a "verra" modern "Deil,"
And a sage but rosy splendour,
And a conceit true as steel.
3. A stout city, and endued with spirit;
Erratic and bold, full of verdant merit;
Famous for bulls, and little goats that worrit.

1. Power and pelf. 2. Pride and prejudice. 3. Spirit and pretence.—Job.

1. Stolid and solid. 2. Clanny and Canny. 3. Charming and alarming.—Ombra.

1. London, in spite of slums and dens of vice,
Where the unwary may be led astray,
Thou art the wonder of our time, and thrice
What Roman greatness was in proudest day;
For commerce, trade, and men of worth
Have crowned thee king and marvel of the earth.
2. See modern Athens, city of the North,
Where polish, arts, and sciences preside,
And all that generous enterprise calls forth
To spread her fame and learning far and wide,
Sit, like a bride, in native charms arrayed,
And to the Muses shelter gives—and shade.
3. But freeborn Dublin, in her cherished clime,
Has yet cathedrals, schools, and generous hearts,
And fond traditions not effaced by time,
And daughters fair and sons of sterling parts,
And still a queen she is, or ought to be,
With sceptre stretching over land and sea.
Rex.

1. City of smuts, riches, proverty, underground railways, and Houses of Parliament. 2. The modern Athens, home of the canny Scot—who loves good whiskey. 3. The land of the—witty, amusing—Fenian, who is fond of the ladies, and not averse to Dublin stout.—Ye Hermit.

1. The largest commercial city in the world, noted, in the City, for its Guinea-Pig Company Promoters, also for its two Houses of Parliament, the greatest anomaly being the House of Lords, which overrides the House of Commons. The working-classes have no voice in the government of the country, being sat upon by the Lords. 2. The principal town in Scotland, also the city of the cute and canny Scot, being the town where, some years ago, the Jew money-lender discovered the lost tribes of Israel, also noted for its granite manufactories, &c. 3. The capital of Ireland, the seat of the Government, noted for its fine linen manufactories, also for its LL whiskey, and stout, and a good place for a scrimmage and broken heads.—Theology.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SUGGESTED NAMES FOR TWELVE YEARLINGS.

*** The answers in this Competition are coming in so plentifully that it is thought well to publish a first selection this week.—THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

The following are the names of the sires and dams of the yearlings which have to be named:—

Yearling.	Sire.	Dam.
1. A Bay Filly	Sheen	Rosewood
2. A Chestnut Colt	Surefoot	Geology
3. A Bay Filly	Pioneer	Zig-zag
4. A Brown Colt..	Macheath....	Wedding Ring
5. A Bay Colt	Friar's Balsam	Mother Superi'r
6. A Bay Colt	Galopin	Quickwit
7. A Chestnut Colt	Buccaneer....	Stiletto
8. A Bay Colt	Saraband	Vivandière
9. A Chestnut Colt	Goldfinch	Oak Apple
10. A Chestnut Colt	Bend Or.	Pink Pearl
11. A Black Filly..	Endurance ..	Play Away
12. A Chestnut Filly	Retreat	New Magdalen

1. Pink Satin. 2. Fossilfoot. 3. Zag-a-Zig. 4. Good Luck. 5. Ball Supper. 6. Clever. 7. Murder. 8. Sing Song. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Yellow Pearl. 11. Pluck. 12. Magda.—Tulip.

1. Veneer. 2. Bed Rock. 3. Miss Rhodes. 4. Mock Marriage. 5. Pious Fraud. 6. Too Sharp. 7. Sudden Death. 8. Dainty Dance. 9. Dicky-bird. 10 Humbug. 11. Lottie Dodd. 12. Rest at Last.—Xit.

1. French Polish. 2. Run to Earth. 3. Tangle-foot. 4. Ringleader. 5. Le Curé. 6. Repartee. 7. Dirk. 8. War Dance. 9. Pomme d'Or. 10. Oriental. 11. Grace. 12. Nunnery.—The McC.

1. French Polish. 2. Geologist. 3. New Woman. 4. Reprieve. 5. Benedictine. 6. Quick Time. 7. Pirate. 8. Tonio. 9. Golden Apple. 10. Pearl Ring. 11. Encore. 12. Merry Merrick. — Leaf Rule.

1. Linseed. 2. Stepper. 3. Clear the Way. 4. Gay. 5. Carmelite. 6. Lightning. 7. Thug. 8. Swiss. 9. Charley. 10. Saltire. 11. Pluck. 12. Solitude.—Libræ.

1. Polish. 2. Mountain Climb. 3. Zag-a-zig. 4. Macbinder. 5. Homocca. 6. Light Heels. 7. Assassin. 8. Minstrel Boy. 9. Bough Sitter. 10. Pink of Politeness. 11. Not Out. 12.—Played Out.—Canis.

1. Satinwood. 2. Fossilist. 3. Lady Guide. 4. Scotch Marriage. 5. Monkshood. 6. Snapshot. 7. Gore. 8. War Dance. 9. Woodbird. 10. Pearl Ring. 11. Street Music. 12. Fair Peuitent.—Rewop.

1. Vencer. 2. Climber. 3. Arrived. 4. Scotch Bride. 5. Mother Siegel. 6. Eu riant. 7. Queer Blade. 8. Quickstep. 9. Pomme d'Or. 10. Valuable. 11. Ibsen. 12. Give Away.—Tout à Vous.

1. Polish. 2. Stanley. 3. Compass. 4. Scotch Reel. 5. Absolution. 6. Repartee. 7. Don José. 8. Fandango. 9. Autumn. 10. Jeweller 11. Grace. 12. Penitence.—Romola.

1. Richmond Woods. 2. Footprint. 3. Rambler. 4. Reproachless. 5. Holy Orders. 6. Gay Flash. 7. Assassin. 8. We Two. 9. Golden Apple. 10. Set in Gold. 11. Lady Football. 12. Red Penitent.—Wanderer.

1. Rose-bloom. 2. Rockwork. 3. Pisgah. 4. Scotch Marriage. 5. Monkshood. 6. Repartee. 7. Swashbuckler. 8. Vivacity. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Pearl Purl. 11. Punter. 12. Penitent.—Carfax.

1. Scintillate. 2. Aluminium. 3. Firstfoot. 4. Heatherbound. 5. Monkshood. 6. Speedwell. 7. Bandit. 8. Scelerat (Rogue). 9. Sapling. 10. Dewdrop. 11. Cleanheel. 12. Rusticate.—Brayton.

1. Sheroot. 2. Safestone. 3. Lost Track. 4. Macbride. 5. Father Superior. 6. Quip modest. 7. Cutlass. 8. Bandboy. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Red oyster. 11. Tomboy. 12. Repentance.—Godfather.

1. Peerless Gloss. 2. Gold Shoot. 3. Straitforward. 4. Brown Study. 5. Monkshood. 6. Nimble-knit. 7. Red Corsair. 8. Stirrup-cup. 9. Golden Core. 10. Orient Gold. 11. Stay-and-Play. 12. Repentance.—Nitram.

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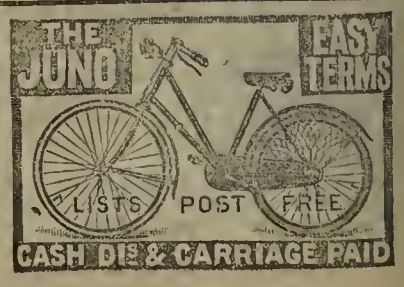

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TRUTH.

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICES.

An Index *to the* Thirty-Ninth Volume *of* Truth *will be forwarded, post-free, to any address on application to the Publishing Office,* 10, *Bolt-court, Fleet-street, E.C. The half-yearly Volume can be obtained at the same address, price* 25*s.*

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

PRINCESS MAUD and Prince Charles will make their first public appearance after their marriage at Sandringham next Wednesday, when the annual show of the Royal Estate Cottage Horticultural Society is to be held in the Prince of Wales's grounds. The bride and bridegroom are to leave Sandringham either on August 1st or 4th for Cowes, and they will spend about ten days on board the *Osborne* with the Prince and Princess of Wales before going to Denmark.

My humble petition to the Throne is that when next it gives a Garden-Party at Buckingham Palace it will not invite five thousand guests. If one person, then a hundred persons since that Garden-Party have asked me, "Were you at the Queen's Garden-Party?" When I reply that Her Majesty and I do not visit, they assume an air of superiority to me, and observe that it was very hot there. All this is to let me know that they are of the upper five thousand and that I am not. The nuisance of it is that, if I meet them again the next day, they again convey to me that they were at this party.

The question has been asked of me by more than one reader of Truth whether the Mr. Philip Sarrell presented at the last Levée upon his appointment as Vice-Consul at Constantinople is the same Mr. Sarrell the imputations upon whose official conduct have several times been referred to in Truth; and whether it is to be taken from this that Mr. Sarrell has answered the allegations against him? There is, I believe, only one Mr. Philip Sarrell connected with the Constantinople Consulate, and, so far as I know, this gentleman has made no attempt of any kind to answer any of the charges against him. Certainly he has not communicated with Truth, although, as I need hardly say, my columns were quite at his service if he had anything to say in his own defence; and he seems to have been in London at the time of the appearance of my last article on the Consulate scandals. The presentation of Mr. Sarrell, however, is a mere official formality, which means nothing; though under these circumstances many will probably think that the rule would have been more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

A tremendous programme has been arranged for the Duke and Duchess of York during their Yorkshire progress. They are to travel on Thursday morning from London to York, when there will be three hours of work in the afternoon at the agricultural show on the Knavesmire, followed by a thirty-five miles' journey to Helmsley, where they are to be the guests of Lord and Lady Feversham at Duncombe Park. On Friday a journey to York in the morning, four hours of functions, and then back to Duncombe. On Saturday morning a two hours' run to Halifax, then four hours' of hard labour, including address-receiving, presentations, and the opening of two buildings, besides a huge luncheon with speeches. All this over, the journey back to London.

The Duke and Duchess of Sparta, who are staying at Buckingham Palace, are going on Monday to Osborne on a visit to the Queen, and the Duke will probably be at Goodwood on the Cup Day.

The Prince of Wales will not go to Denmark this year, nor does H.R.H. intend to visit the Duke of Coburg in Thuringen after his stay at Homburg. The Prince is to arrive at Homburg from Cowes about August 14, and he will return direct to England when his twenty-one days' "cure" has been accomplished, as on Monday, September 7, H.R.H. is to arrive at Fryston Hall, near Pontefract, where he will be the guest of Lord Crewe during Doncaster races.

The Duke of Cambridge is to spend most of next month at Homburg, and during his stay in Germany he will pay a visit to the Empress Frederick at Friedrichshof, her place on the Taunus Hills.

Princess Christian is going to Germany early next month to spend a few weeks at Bad Nauheim and she will pay several family visits abroad after her stay at that watering-place. Princess Christian is to join the Queen at Balmoral later in the autumn. Prince Christian will be in Germany from the beginning of August until the middle of October. He is going to take a course of waters at Kissingen.

The Empress Eugénie, who has just returned to Farnborough from the south of Europe, after an absence of five months, is going next week to Cowes to join the *Thistle*, the late Duke of Hamilton's yacht, in which she is going for a cruise along the south-west coast, including a visit to the Channel Islands, and she will probably be accompanied by Princess Beatrice.

Colonel Byng and Major Legge are to be the Equerries in Waiting on the Queen at Osborne during August, and Lady Antrim, the Dowager Duchess of Athole, and the Dowager Lady Southampton will be the Ladies of the Bedchamber on duty while her Majesty is in the Isle of Wight.

I continually receive from the other side of the Atlantic little communications like the following:—

Mrs. ——, with her daughters, Miss Corisande —— and Miss Hildegarde ——, of —— Avenue, New York City, sailed in the *Servia* on the —— inst., on a visit to England.

Unfortunately, I am a married man, and so are all the members of my staff, and owing to this circumstance I am quite unable to run down to Liverpool to meet the Misses Corisande and Hildegarde on their arrival, or even to send a representative for this purpose. It is a matter of keen regret to me that little friendly intimations of this kind are constantly being thrown away, so I mention the matter to prevent any further disappointments among young American ladies visiting England. No doubt many of my contemporaries have on their staffs young and prepossessing journalists, who would only be too glad if a similar chance were offered to them, and who have no wives to take exception to their being so employed.

Now that everybody is making his plans for leaving town, the following facts may be studied with advantage. A gentleman who had often been reproached with spending all his holidays abroad, decided that he would give his native land a turn, and wrote for terms to a leading hotel at a seaside watering-place. He required only a bedroom for two. The following was the inclusive tariff per week *en pension*:—For a room on the third floor, £7. 7s.; for one on the second, £9. 9s.; and on the first, £11. 11s. Somewhat checked by these figures in his enthusiasm for his native land, he then applied to an hotel at Scheveningen. He was told that he could have one of the best bedrooms in the house, furnished (as usual) as bed and sitting-room, for a sum equivalent to £5. 16s. 8d. per week—£1. 10s. per week less than the worst class of bedroom at an English watering-place. The Scheveningen hotel in question is one of the largest and best on the Continent, and Scheveningen has the reputation of being a dear place. The value of a thing is, of course, what it will fetch, and if English hotel proprietors can fill their houses during the season at such prices as the above, they have every right to charge them. But it is not wonderful, under these circumstances, that so many English people go abroad for their holidays—especially when it is remembered that to most English people change of life and surroundings is in itself a valuable consideration.

Casual reference in TRUTH the other day to communicating doors between bedrooms in hotels has brought me many complaints on the subject. It is a matter which has often been referred to in these columns, and I am surprised that hotel proprietors and managers are not more alive to the widespread objections to the system, which prevail among travellers and those who reside in hotels. The objections are manifold, and, so far as I can see, the arrangement is designed exclusively for the convenience of hotel proprietors in catering for those customers who occasionally require suites of communicating rooms. Such customers are quite in a minority, and it is certainly unreasonable that the convenience and comfort of an overwhelming majority should be sacrificed to them. It would pay an hotel to have a certain number of bedrooms without communicating doors, for many would submit to an extra charge for this comfort.

Sir Edward Lawson had a most brilliant and successful gathering at the *Daily Telegraph* office on Monday night. "Music and Machinery" was the order of the day—I say "day," for the function lasted till 3.30 a.m.—and for once machinery, particularly the wonders of the Linotype process, seemed to afford more attractions than music. The production of an imposing number of the *Telegraph* was witnessed by Prince Charles and Prince Christian of Denmark, and by more distinguished people than I can find room to mention.

I hear that at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, which opens at Carlisle on the 28th inst., there is to be a discussion on the burning question of professional advertising, which is likely to be both acrimonious and exciting. The public will no doubt await the result with interest, and I wish the assembled medicos a plentiful stock of common-sense to guide them in their deliberations. Among all our social conventionalities there is not one in which there is a greater amount of unmitigated and pernicious humbug than in regard to advertising by lawyers and doctors.

A gentleman residing in Gloucestershire found himself favoured the other day with a circular from Messrs.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 250 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 248.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 249.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 265.

Roozen & Sons, of Overeen, near Haarlem, containing the following significant passages :—

> We make no charge for packing or packages, and allow 5 per cent. discount to gardeners *only*. . . .
> Should any gardener change his residence, we should be glad if he would inform us of it, so that our catalogue may be regularly sent to him.

This circular was evidently intended for the gardener, and came into the hands of the master of the house by mistake. The latter remarks that he will take care that his gardener does not get that 5 per cent. in future, and as other employers may be of the same opinion, I give them the hint to look into the dealings of their gardeners with Dutch bulb-growers.

It is a small compensation for being the Editor of a paper like Truth to find that your observations on little matters requiring amendment have fallen upon good ground. This consolation has been vouchsafed to me in regard to my remarks upon the shortcomings of the Henley Regatta traffic at Paddington. Mr. J. L. Wilkinson, the energetic acting manager of the Great Western Company, writes me a letter "admitting the correctness of every word" in my paragraph, and pleading only sundry extenuating circumstances. These circumstances are (1) that the Henley traffic this year greatly exceeded all precedent, and, consequently, the calculations of the Company; (2) that, owing to the Twyford and Henley branch being only a single line, it is impossible to despatch more than a certain number of trains in a certain time; (3) that, in the interest of the general public, the Company endeavour to carry on their main-line traffic with as little interruption as possible; and (4) that, owing to improvements that have been carried out at Henley during the last year, the return traffic—notwithstanding the increased number carried—was despatched more expeditiously than ever before. Only one thing is needed to make these pleas acceptable to the public—namely, that the Company will double the line between Henley and Twyford, and this, Mr. Wilkinson tells me, is under the consideration of the Directors; besides which, improvements are in contemplation at Paddington, which will considerably increase the accommodation there. It comes, therefore, to this: that the thing has never happened before, and is not likely to happen again; and those who know Mr. Wilkinson will feel every confidence in this assurance.

Why are the public refused facilities for booking from the Wimbledon extension of the District line to the stations of the Metropolitan Railway Company? A traveller who complains to me somewhat strongly on the subject attributes the inconvenience thus caused to the squabbles between the District and the Metropolitan Companies. I can hardly believe that this is the true explanation, because tickets are issued between other points situated respectively on the two lines, and if the Companies can so far overcome their mutual animosities as to book through in one case, they can presumably do so in all. But whatever the reason, there can be no question as to the inconvenience caused to the traveller between, say, Wimbledon and Paddington, who has not only to change trains at High-street or Gloucester-road, but to go upstairs and provide himself with a fresh ticket; and such inconvenience must in the long run be opposed to the interest of both lines. It is from this point of view that I would commend this matter to the attention of the two Companies.

The centenary of the death of Burns is being celebrated this week, and Lord Lorne has been moved to supply the Scotch newspapers with some excruciating productions of his muse. Since Lord Lorne's ghastly experiments on the Psalms of David one might have supposed that he would have spared the world any more of his adventures in verse. After publishing such bathos as the following lines, it is clear that Lord Lorne's claims to the office of Poet Laureate, whenever that post may again become vacant, are very strong indeed:—

> Thy name's wherever Scots are met,
> For Scotland's ne'er been conquered yet;
> Nor shall her hardy speech be set
> To nobler tune
> Than where the Bruce scorned England's threat
> One glorious June!

Mr. M. H. Spielmann's incisive article, in the *Contemporary Review*, on the administration of the South Kensington Museum, makes out a very strong case for inquiry, as it seems clear that this hot-bed of jobbery and extravagance stands in great need of that "amending hand" which Lord Coke declared would always be "blessed." It will scarcely be credited that 200 volumes of the *Builder*, *Gardener*, *Architect*, and other "trade" journals, were recently bound up at the public expense, in half morocco with gilt edges, all the advertisements being carefully preserved! A sum of £350 was paid by the country for some water-colour drawings of Old London, engravings of which were already in the Library, and the price was estimated by experts to be three times their auction value. No less a sum than £900 has been paid to the compiler of a "Catalogue of National Engraved Portraits," which Mr. Spielmann describes as "the worst book of its kind I ever saw," and its sale price is 5s. 3d. Money seems to be squandered recklessly in every department of the Museum, but the extravagance and mismanagement in the Library are really astounding. The Duke of Devonshire, who is a practical man, with no fiddle-faddle prejudices or sentimentalities, ought to take the Museum entirely out of the hands of the egregious Science and Art Department, the Royal Engineers, and other muddling bodies, and place it under the control of a body of responsible, competent, and independent trustees.

The annual report of the British Museum contains much information of special interest. The houses and

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

gardens adjoining the Museum have been purchased privately from the Duke of Bedford for £200,000; Lord Bridport has sold Lord Nelson's papers and correspondence to the Museum for £3,000, and the Trustees paid £25,000 for the late Mr. Malcolm's rare and splendid collection of drawings by Old Masters, and early German and Italian engravings. This was a good bargain, the auction value of the collection being at least £40,000. The late Mr. Waterton's collection of editions of the "Imitation of Christ" has been purchased, no fewer than 1,014 copies having been added to the library. A number of the late Mr. Blew's Service Books and liturgical works were bought, several of them being unique; and another important purchase was the only copy known to exist of the first edition of Bunyan's very rare book, "Christian Behaviour, or the Fruits of True Christianity; by John Bunyan, a Prisoner of Hope. London: 1663."

One of the latest dodges for advertising a newspaper is shown by the following post-card:—

London, July 10, 1896.
A reference is made to you in to-morrow's issue of this paper. Page 130.—Yours faithfully, THE PUBLISHER.

I have been favoured with one or two communications of this kind, but I have not felt sufficient curiosity to invest sixpence for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the promised reference to myself. The little interest I ever felt in reading what other people were saying about me disappeared many years ago. I do not know how many people besides myself have been favoured with similar post-cards, but I would suggest to the publisher that these notices seem to indicate a consciousness that his circulation is very limited. Why assume in this way that people do not read your paper unless their attention is specially called to it?

The last honour conferred upon the veteran Statesman Prince Bismarck is a somewhat singular one. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the Imperial Office of Health, the Medical Faculty of the University of Jena conferred upon the Prince the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. The sole apparent reason for the recent presentation would appear to be that it enables the ex-Chancellor to boast the possession of all the Doctors' degrees that the German Universities can bestow. In addition to the foregoing, he is a Doctor of Philosophy (Halle, 1867), Doctor of Law (Göttingen, 1885, and Erlangen, 1885), Doctor of Political Science (Tübingen, 1885), and Doctor of Theology (Giessen, 1888).

Daly's Theatre was on Monday evening the scene of an interesting little ceremony in connection with the Royal Wedding. The performance of "The Geisha" was attended by the happy pair and a Royal party of fourteen, and during the entr'acte Miss Letty Lind, on behalf of the artists engaged in "The Geisha," presented Princess Maud with a beautiful silver tea-service, made in Tokio, for which the Prince of Wales thanked the company with his usual geniality on such occasions.

A correspondent sends me the following verses, which I willingly print, as I am sure they deal with what is a very prevalent and most irritating nuisance:—

PESTS OF THE PLAYHOUSE.

In your search for those nuisances, painfully rife,
Which add to the stress and the friction of life,
I think, my dear TRUTH, 'twould be well if you went
Once again to the play, still on scrutiny bent,
And there made a note of the nerve-fretting things
Which a night at the theatre usually brings;
For then, I am sure, you'd have much more to say
Of the many discomforts endured at the play.

Of course, 'tis too much to anticipate ease,
To hope for a stall that gives room for your knees;
Too much to expect that late-comers in rows
Will not all too heavily tread on your toes;
Too much to expect, as to pass you they strain,
That from kicking your hat they can ever abstain;
'Gainst such trifles as these it were vain to inveigh—
They are part of the price that we pay for the play.

But when, much enduring, you've stuck to your stall
Through perils that even might heroes appal;
When the latest arrival has barked both your shins
As his hazardous way to his *fauteuil* he wins;
When the man just behind—inconsiderate brute!—
On the tail of your coat 's wiped the sole of his boot—
You then might suppose they'd allow you to pay
At least due attention henceforth to the play.

Too vain supposition! 'Tis then that you find
That a still sorer nuisance is lurking behind;
For just as you settle, as well as you can,
With all due attention the actors to scan;
When you try to arrive at the gist of the scene,
And attempt to make out what the author can mean;
'Tis at that very moment you hear with dismay,
The merciless fiends who converse at the play!

Yes, just as the heroine, rudely belied,
Appeals to the pit with important aside;
Or just as the hero, magnanimous youth!
In a thick, throaty voice is explaining the truth;
Or as sure as the villain, most properly shot,
Sits up, ere he dies, to unravel the plot;
So surely the words they in turn may essay
Are drowned by the fiends who converse at the play.

Devoid of compunction, of taste, and of tact,
They prattle and laugh through the course of each act.
If you want to attend your intention they baulk
With the very small drivel they tirelessly talk;
The tide of their chatter now flows, now declines,
But it swamps without fail all the author's best lines;
Till, maddened at length, for a judgment you pray,
On the pestilent people who talk at the play.

Then, TRUTH, in your strength to my prayer give effect
And these pests of the play house arraign and dissect!
Hold up to derision their ignorance vast,
Their impudence never in coolness surpass'd;
This significant hint at the same time conveying—
That they only should talk when they've something worth saying;
For if they'd do this it would end straight away
The insuff'rable chatter of folks at the play.

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms. Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

I have read with amusement a letter addressed to me by a worthy lady who seems to have rather missed the drift of my remarks upon clerical headmasters. For instance :—

> Many of our boys have now to make their living abroad, and the love which men bear to the Church in South Africa and elsewhere seems to me a testimony that, amid all the temptations and hardships they have to encounter in after life, the religion, and love of truth, and honesty they have learned at home and at school have done more to help them to lead good, true lives than, &c., &c.

Concerning the love which is borne to the Church in South Africa I am not in a position to speak, but if this is to go down on one side of the account to the credit of clerical headmasters, the other characteristics displayed of late by Englishmen in that region must go down on the other; and by the time all the doings of the Chartered Company, the Jameson raiders, and the operations of mining speculators have been debited against him, I fear the poor clerical headmaster will have a good deal to answer for. Again :—

> When "nine-tenths of the assistant-masters are laymen," it does not appear to me that the latter "are being driven out of the profession." [Nor does it to me. What appeared to me was that if the highest prizes of the profession are closed to laymen, the best laymen will not enter it.—Editor, TRUTH.] A headmaster cannot teach the whole school himself, is it not, therefore, a fair distribution that the head should be a clergyman, and the others men learned in their different branches? . . . .

I confess the fairness of this arrangement would not have struck me, had I not had the assistance of a lady in discovering it. I will remember in future that if a profession contains 900 laymen and 100 clergymen, all equally qualified and competent, the only fair and reasonable distribution is to give the hundred parsons all the best posts, and to apportion the remainder among the 900 laymen. Admirable! I wonder now whether by any chance my correspondent is the wife, sister, or other female relative of a clergyman. Such insight into the principles of strict justice and fair dealing could hardly have been learned except by close association with a parson.

In spite of this lady, however, I venture to lay before my readers the remark of a gentleman connected with one of our foremost schools, that "the real work of our public schools is done by the house-masters and form-masters, and they are mostly laymen." Precisely, and the religious teaching is often given as much by these laymen as by the clerical head-master. I am amazed that people should write to me, as one or two have done, to contend that the interests of religious education are dependent upon the tenure of head-masterships by the clergy. To most public school boys the head-master is simply the wielder of the birch, and as such the supreme representative of Academic discipline. To my mind the interests of religion would be safer in any other hands. What is the position of a priest who birches a boy overnight, and preaches a sermon, or even administers the Sacrament to him next morning?

Speaking the other day to a friend of mine who is interested in the parochial work of St. Nicholas Cole Abbey, I was told that Cannon Shuttleworth was presented to this living by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's for the purpose of getting rid of him, the Minor Canon's enlightened and unconventional ideas on religious matters being anything but acceptable to his ecclesiastical superiors. If this is true, it is a pretty satire on the Scribes and Pharisees of the Established Church. Just before Canon Shuttleworth's appointment, St. Nicholas came out bottom of the list in a census which was taken of the congregations in the City churches. For years past it has been one of the most crowded churches in London. It has an admirable choir, and most active parochial organisations of all kinds, and perhaps the most remarkable feature about it is that there are generally as many men as women in the church, and sometimes more. Perhaps it may be said that the Dean and Chapter foresaw all this when they presented Canon Shuttleworth with the living. I hope they did, and that they will always be equally fortunate in their distribution of the loaves and fishes.

The Rev. W. A. Magee, who has inherited a fair share of the great oratorical powers of his father, the late Archbishop of York, has just been presented to the vicarage of Garngave, near Skipton, which is worth about £500 a year with residence.

The Church Congress is to meet this year at Shrewsbury on Tuesday, October 6, under the presidency of Bishop Legge, of Lichfield. The preachers at the three opening services will be the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Rochester, and the Bishop of Ballarat, and the list of selected preachers and readers is a very strong one. At the concluding services, on Friday, October 9, the preachers will be the Dean of Christ Church, Canon Gore, and the Rev. R. F. W. Ingram. One of the most notable features at the Congress should be the Master of the Temple's paper on "Current Literature."

Dean Fremantle has been exciting the wrath of some Puritanical bigots who have been "venting their venom" in one of the Church magazines, and they denounce him as a clerical propagator of infidelity, and threaten to bring him before the Bishop of Ripon or before the York Convocation as a heretic. There are many worthy fanatics who regard any Divine of liberal tendencies or of really wide mind as being little better than an atheist. Father Ignatius has felt obliged to trouble the Archbishop of York with an exposition of his views on the subject, although feeling "dreadfully sorry" for his Grace. It is difficult to see what practical object would be gained by these foolish people by haling Dean Fremantle before either the Bishop or Convocation. The "Essays and Reviews" blunder might surely have taught a lesson to such geese.

Here is a begging letter which seems to have been extensively circulated. The gentleman who received it wrote to the Bishop of St. David's on the subject, and received a reply in which the Bishop said that he regarded such appeals as an intolerable scandal, but that

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he had no power of checking them, though he intimated that he would be very glad if he had; for he had received between two and three hundred letters on the subject—a striking proof of the extent to which the appeal has been circulated. How far the statements in the letters are true I cannot say; but assuming them to be well founded, it seems to me that the Bishops might put a stop to such appeals by exerting themselves to bring about such a redistribution of the abundant revenues of the Church as would prevent any incumbent finding himself in the position here described. That an incumbent should be in this position is, in my opinion, a far more "intolerable scandal" than that he should appeal to the public to help him out of his troubles:—

Llanganten, Builth, R S.O., South Wales,
July 6, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—May I ask you the favour to allow me, in our present urgent pressing need, to solicit your immediate generous aid to enable us, by faith in God's gracious Providence, and with your kind help and prayers, to stem the tide over the waves of oppression arising from present depressed circumstances?

My whole annual net income is £61, out of which I have to pay—house rent, £27; rates and taxes, £5, leaving the remainder for our maintenance—my wife, myself, and two children.

May I pray that you will kindly grant me your sympathy and aid, and may I pray that you will have compassion on me?

I cast myself on your very great kindness and tender mercy.

I have the honour to be your most humble and obedient servant, DAVID DAVIES, Vicar of Llanganten.

There is a little paragraph in the current number of the *Missionary Record* of the United Presbyterian Church which eloquently testifies to the truth of what I have so often said as to the meagreness of the results from the lavish expenditure on missionary work. It is as follows:—

BAPTISM OF AN ARAB IN EGYPT.—After four years' work in Egypt, the North Africa Mission rejoices in its first baptism. . .

One convert gained by four years' labour! It would be interesting to know how much it has cost the North Africa Mission to get him.

At a recent meeting of the Stratford-on-Avon Guardians the Vicar made an impudent attempt to institute an inquisition into the religious beliefs of the candidates for an appointment as workhouse nurse. The sharp criticism which he encountered seems to have rankled in the reverend gentleman's mind, and he returns to the subject in the *Parish Magazine* with sundry foolish and irrelevant remarks about Dissenters being "ashamed of their colours," and so forth, after which he proceeds to express the opinion that, as "nine-tenths" of the paupers are Church people, "they ought to be nursed by one who will give them the consolations of the religion to which they are accustomed." The Vicar could not have more completely given away the object of his questions to the candidates, or more abundantly justified the protests which his colleagues made against his conduct.

As a *reductio ad absurdum* of prosecutions under that precious legacy of the piety and wisdom of our ancestors, the Lord's Day Observance Act of Charles II., a case which recently occurred at Sheffield will be bad to beat. The Chief Constable summoned a man for publicly crying milk for sale at eleven o'clock on a Sunday morning. The Stipendiary convicted the defendant, but found that all he could do in the way of imposing a penalty was to issue a warrant for the seizure and sale of the milk, one-third of the proceeds to go to the Chief Constable as the informant, and two-thirds to the poor of the parish. The milk, however, had actually been seized by a policeman at the time of the offence, and had become sour and unsaleable, so that the magistrate's order was a mere farcical formality. The solicitor for the defence objected to the defendant being saddled with the costs, and intimated that there would be an appeal in regard to certain points in the case which, if his contention were sustained, would have the effect of making the Act a dead letter, so far as the crying of milk is concerned. I hope the appeal will be successful, for it will be a public benefit to have any part of such a preposterous statute rendered inoperative.

Further questions were asked of the Home Secretary last week respecting the street-collection nuisance, but the result was not much more satisfactory than on the last occasion. In this instance Mr. Hogan, who asked the first question, put it explicitly to the Home Secretary that these street-collectors work on commission; but the Home Secretary could only reply that he "has no knowledge, or means of knowledge, as to the point raised." To this statement I demur most emphatically. Sir M. White-Ridley can buy a copy of TRUTH on the same moderate terms as the rest of the public, and can obtain the fullest information on the subject from that source; and if there is any difficulty in procuring the paper I should be happy to supply him with a copy gratis. But even without that, the Home Secretary can easily ascertain the facts by inquiry of the girls themselves, whom I have never found at all reticent on the subject. If that is not enough, I shall be pleased to supply the Home Secretary with the evidence of a gentleman who runs one of the charities chiefly supported in this way. I have interviewed this "philanthropist," and he frankly states that the collectors are paid by a commission on their receipts. As he attempted no disguise about the matter, I really think that the Home Office is hardly justified in stating that it has no means of knowledge.

Another question on the subject, asked by Mr. T. G. Bowles, was whether this method of collecting money does not come under the law of street-begging. The Home Secretary replied that this law "applies only to rogues and vagabonds," and he himself "doubts whether it would be held that those persons who collect with boxes in the streets of London are rogues and vagabonds." This, at any rate, ought to be good news to the rogue and vagabond section of the community. If it is the correct view of the law, any rogue or vagabond may beg for alms in the streets,

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and laugh at the police, if he only arms himself with a collecting-box and labels it with the name of some charity. There used to be an elderly beggar, with a very shady record, who went about in a black coat and a white tie, under the name of the "Rev." Robert Macmillan, soliciting cash for what he called his "Sustentation Fund." Why should not every rogue and vagabond have a "sustentation fund" for himself, and a box to collect money for the fund?

"The practice," says the Home Secretary, "requires careful watching." I should think so. It bids fair to reduce the whole of the law respecting street obstructions and street beggars to a dead letter. But what does Sir Matthew White-Ridley understand by "careful watching"? He will not abate this, or any other nuisance, by sitting at a window at the Home Office with his official eye on the young woman outside, who presides over a collecting-table and its accompanying boxes. This sort of watching is not of much use. What is required is, first, that the police should ascertain who the people are who are parading the streets and other public places with collecting-boxes, and then ascertain whether the facts are such that the law can deal with them, or whether the law itself requires amendment. If the law is capable of suppressing this gigantic nuisance, let the police enforce it. If not, let the Home Secretary bring in a Bill to amend it. Should "careful watching" take this form, I shall heartily commend it, but not otherwise.

There is now being circulated, on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Hospital, Earl's Court, "a special and urgent appeal." It makes the usual extravagant statements as to the vast benefits afforded by this charity, and the "altogether inadequate funds." As it is some time since I referred to the Jubilee Hospital, I take the opportunity of again warning the charitable public against all its appeals. The inadequacy of the funds is due solely to the scandals arising from Mr. R. F. Benham's connection with the hospital, and the stupidity, or worse, of the Committee, which has refused to deal with these scandals in the only way that can be satisfactory to the public. Since the TRUTH exposure of Benham's financial eccentricities, the regular subscribers have in a great measure withdrawn their support, and the Hospital has become more than ever what the Charity Organisation Society several years ago described it, "an enlarged private dispensary." Such an institution, where most of the patients pay more or less for the attention they receive, has little claim to the support of the public as a charity. But in addition to this, the Hospital has been pronounced by a high authority not only totally unfit for its present purpose, but a positive source of danger to the patients received in it. Those, therefore, who respond to the present appeal are simply assisting to perpetrate abuses which ought long ago to have ceased to exist.

With regard to the aforesaid "financial eccentricities" of Mr. R. F. Benham, an interesting action was tried the other day in the Brompton County Court, arising out of the story several times referred to in TRUTH of Benham's appointment as executor to one of his poor patients. The case ended in the plaintiff, Miss Butler, recovering judgment against Benham for the sum of £22. 18s. 6d., being the greater part of the balance which I have contended all along was owing from the founder and benefactor of the Jubilee Hospital to these unfortunate people. I refrain from saying more about the case at present, as certain other proceedings are pending in reference to the conduct of the solicitor who originally acted for the Butler family.

By the way, a man gave me the other day a curious report of his experiences in the Jubilee Hospital. He had been taken to that institution after being knocked down by a cab. He was surprised, when Mr. Benham came to see him, to find himself charged with being a representative of TRUTH. He denied the soft impeachment, but he seems to have left the Hospital under the impression that his denial was not believed, and that he was a suspected individual as long as he remained there. Mr. Benham's guilty conscience would seem to be making him morbidly suspicious, if he seriously believes that I could procure a man to get run over by a cab and be taken to the Jubilee Hospital for some sinister purpose of my own. Is it the general practice at the Jubilee Hospital to inquire of the patients whether they are connected with TRUTH?

Here is a good example of the dilatoriness of the Charity Commissioners. A gentleman, desirous of redeeming a charitable rent-charge upon his land, proceeded, according to the usual course, to purchase the necessary amount in Consols in the name of the Commissioners. He completed his share in the transaction by sending the stock receipt to the Commissioners in December last, and was informed that the Commissioners would "proceed to issue the formal order of redemption." Presumably this would only be the work of an hour or two, but the Commissioners have not "proceeded" as yet. This is the third case in which they have not proceeded to do anything at all since December last. Has the office been taking a six months' holiday?

I have had forwarded to me the following amounts for Lady Jeune's Poor Children's Holiday Fund:—

M. R., £5; E. H. S., 10s.; the proceeds of a bazaar given by the children of Redcliffe-square, Alice Morant, Evelyn Tweedie, Winnie Bourke, May Bourke, Lily Croft, Agnes Croft, Dorothy Tweedie, Eugenie Tweedie, and Aileen Morant, £20. 1s.; the children of Robert Whyte, £2. 10s.; Molly, Paddy, Kitty, Grace, and Susie, £3. 15s.; Cockchafer, 5s; C. H. D., £1; Col. C. E. Dixon, £1; Faith, £1; J. S. R., £1; Mr. and Mrs. A. Allen, £1. 11s. 6d.; E. B. H., £3. 3s.; H. B., 10s.

CEREBOS.—"Shortly put, the difference between ordinary salt and the Cerebos preparation is this—the one is a seasoning, the other a splendid food, containing the most nutritive qualities absolutely essential to the physical framework."—*Bristol Mercury*, in Report of Medical Association.

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The demands which some of my correspondents continue to make upon my time and attention, notwithstanding my numerous protests on the subject, sometimes quite take my breath away. I have just been reduced to this condition by one of my military readers in India. This gentleman, not content with writing me a private letter of four pages, calmly sends me four type-written letters for publication in successive issues of TRUTH. Each of these four letters extends on to the fourth folio of type, and the subject has several times been referred to in TRUTH, and is one which only interests a very limited number of readers at the best. I can only tell my esteemed correspondent that there is no possibility of my being able to read his letters until the slack season comes on—if a slack season for the Editor of TRUTH ever should come on—and when I have read them, I fear some further period must elapse before I shall be able to place a column of TRUTH at his disposal for four weeks in succession.

Sometimes I am tempted to wonder whether I shall ever come to the end of the grievances of Army men. One would think that there must be an end somewhere, but, though I have been looking for it for years, never a week passes but what I am introduced to some new and perfectly legitimate matter for discontent. For instance, an officer holding the rank of Colonel tells me that many years ago the Government obtained from him a substantial sum of money, by the simple process of stopping it from his pay, nominally to cover the cost of his commission. Up to the present time that commission has never been issued to him, and from what he says I gather that there are many more officers in the same position. Anarchists will tell you that government is simply a system of organised brigandage, and really, when one comes across facts like the above, one is tempted to think that the Anarchist has some grounds for his opinion. How much money, I wonder, has been forcibly appropriated as a charge for commissions which have never been issued, say, during the last five years? To me it seems a contemptible and pettifogging sort of proceeding to levy such a charge, even if value were given for money.

I asked the other day whether anything could be more monstrous than that a Volunteer should have to pay the cost of ammunition for the purpose of rendering himself an efficient shot. An officer in the Indian Army replies confidently, "Yes; there is something more monstrous still, and it is that a private soldier should be in this position." I gather from his remarks that the Indian Government only allows its soldiers thirty-five rounds per annum for individual firing, but I am not sure whether my informant means to state that a further fifteen rounds are allowed for match-firing and practice. Whether, however, the total allowance is thirty-five rounds or fifty rounds, it is obviously quite insufficient for the training of an efficient marksman; and this is so far recognised in the Indian Army, that those regiments that take any interest in shooting have their private rifle funds, supported by all ranks, to which the private Sepoys contribute monthly a sum equal to about a day's pay. A more lamentable illustration of the penny wise and pound foolish policy adopted by the Indian Government can hardly be imagined, and this fact alone ought to bring home to Englishmen the disastrous results which may follow from the financial embarrassments of the Indian Government. And this is the Government which is asked to contribute £35,000 towards the idiotic operations of our present rulers in the Soudan!

In this connection I may mention a personal grievance of the Sepoy, to which my attention has been called by another Indian officer. It is that the native regiments employed on frontier expeditions get no extra allowance to compensate them for the wear and tear of their kit, which they consequently have to make good out of their own pockets. What a serious tax this is may be judged from the statement of the Indian officer just referred to, that in a two months' campaign in Burmah or Lushai, where there is much work in the jungle, a Sepoy will wear out a pair of boots and part of another pair, and a couple of suits of khaki clothing. A pair of boots costs from 6s. to 8s. (native shoes being of no use except for followers), and a suit of khaki 4s. to 5s. The only extra allowance of kit ever granted to a native regiment is what is called the Burmah scale of clothing, consisting of a cardigan, a blanket, a pair of socks, and a pair of native shoes. Batta, I learn, to my surprise, is never issued to native troops, although the Sepoy would seem to have as good a claim to it as our friend Tommy Atkins.

The salary of the Military Secretary at the Horse Guards has been reduced from £2,100 a year to £1,500, because his work has been considerably curtailed, the business of arranging all the Army examinations having been transferred to the Director-General of Military Examinations.

What is the meaning of an advertisement which I have before me of the "special engagement of the 6th Dragoon Guards" in connection with "The Third Annual Dudley and District Fancy Dress Cycle and Trades Parade and Fire Brigade Competition"? From a local paper it appears that the Dudley Volunteers excused themselves from taking part in the function, on the ground that it would be contrary to the Regulations for them to do so. I understand that another company of the same Battalion (3rd V.B. South Staffordshire Regiment) gave a similar answer to an application for their services. The "special engagement" of the Dragoon Guards, under the circumstances, is, to say the least of it, surprising.

The luncheon given to the members of the Boston H.A.C. at Aldershot was, I find, paid for by the War Office. Heaven forbid that I should cavil at this,

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

for I am sure that the British taxpayer will not grudge our American cousins their entertainment; on the contrary, in the present state of the relationship of the two countries, it may have a good effect if it is understood that the Boston men have been publicly entertained at the expense of the British Nation. I would rather say that, if this is done in the case of the Boston H.A.C., the same rule ought to be applied to all royal, foreign, and other distinguished visitors, who are fêted at regimental entertainments. As far as I can see, the cost of such entertainments is at present borne exclusively by the officers, to which there are objections on many grounds.

Among other correspondence which I have received on the 4th Hussars case, I am much impressed by an anonymous communication, emanating, I suspect, from a German officer. "If," says the writer, "the much abused system of duelling were in force in the British Army, you would hear nothing of such detestable outrages as were perpetrated on Mr. Hodge, or the insolent boycotting applied to Mr. Bruce. A man does not lay himself out in cold blood to insult another against whom he has no personal grudge, when he knows that the first result will be that he will have to make himself a target for the other man to shoot at from a distance of a few paces. Your bully is always a coward; and as far as I can make out had duelling been in fashion in the 4th Hussars, the gang in that regiment who have made Army life intolerable for their juniors would either have avoided such offensive conduct, or would by this time have all been in their graves." Should Lord Wolseley see no other way of putting a stop to organised bullying, he might do worse than turn his attention to these remarks.

"Bullying in the Army may be on the increase," writes a correspondent, "but it will have to increase considerably before it is as bad as it is at our two great Universities." The writer goes on to illustrate this assertion by some particulars of the damage inflicted on men at Oxford and Cambridge by the practice of "making hay" in their rooms. With all respect, I fancy that this must be a considerable exaggeration. At any rate, I am quite sure that at any decently-managed college the victim has the remedy in his own hands. So far as my experience goes, college dons are pretty severe in dealing with these little outbursts of playfulness, whenever they are brought under their notice. I remember a case in which the whole of a large college at Oxford were summarily "sent down," because a stone was thrown through the window of an unpopular undergraduate; and one has heard of many other cases in which the error, if any, has been rather on the side of excessive and undiscriminating severity in dealing with the offence. The chief complaint in regard to bullying in the Army is that the authorities are disposed to wink at it.

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In the following instalment of my Military Pillory will be seen a case which shows that in one respect at all events justice is administered in the Army on principles which find favour in civil life. Here is a man charged with drunkenness on the evidence of two military policemen, and not allowed to call the evidence of three N.C.O.s and three privates, who would have deposed to his sobriety. Apparently the C.O. was so convinced of the superiority of a policeman's word to that of any number of men on the other side, that he did not even think it necessary to go through the formality of hearing other witnesses. Not even a London police magistrate could show such sublime faith as this in the unimpeachable trustworthiness of police evidence. The only other special remark that I have to make on the points mentioned is with regard to the band-money in the 2nd D.C.L.I. I have not forgotten what an officer stationed in Ireland told me some time back as to the necessity of taking what you can get for a band performance in that part of the United Kingdom. But in the first place, when the amount is so small, the men themselves ought to have some option as to whether they will accept engagements or not; and in the next place, the smaller the amount the greater the necessity for dividing it equitably. One and twopence for blowing a brass instrument for six hours is a poor sort of wage—a man could earn ten times that amount in the time on the beach at Margate—and the amount looks the more inadequate when the bandmaster gets £1 for his services with the baton during the same time:—

2nd Somersetshire Light Infantry, Guernsey.—A party of four or five men were returning to barracks. Two of the military police charged one of them with being drunk, and marched him to the garrison guard-room, whence he was removed by the garrison picket to his own guard-room. There he was seen by the provost-sergeant of his regiment, who pronounced him sober, and sent him to his room. When brought before the C.O. he was convicted and punished on the evidence of the military police alone, the provost-sergeant's evidence not being taken, and the prisoner not being allowed to call the two N.C.O.s in charge of the picket, and the three men who were with him, all of whom were prepared to testify to his sobriety.

2nd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.—The band of this regiment has been lately taking engagements at £5, which was divided in the following proportion: Band Fund, £2; bandmaster, £1; bandsmen, £2. There are about thirty-five men playing in the band, so that they receive a trifle under 1s. 2d. per head. Two of the engagements have been from 4.30 till 11 p.m.

2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, Woolwich.—A Regimental Order just issued in this battalion enacts that no civilian is to be allowed in the corporals' mess. Civilians are, of course, allowed in the officers' mess, and also in the sergeants' mess. Why not in the corporals'?

Medical Staff Corps.—A Corps Order recently issued provides that instead of promotion to lance-corporal being, as hitherto, by seniority among men who have passed the examinations laid down in the Manual, private soldiers who possess first-class education certificates, and are qualified compounders of medicine, besides being otherwise eligible, will be specially considered. This debars from promotion for a considerable period a number of privates who have been waiting for promotion, and have passed all the examinations hitherto necessary. Those who have not obtained the certificates now rendered necessary cannot do so for about twelve months, and in the meantime will see other men passing over their heads. When new Regulations of this kind are introduced, exceptions ought in all cases to be made in favour of men who have already done all that is necessary to qualify.

4th Battalion South Wales Borderers.—There is no regular roster for Depot duty at Brecon among the N.C.O.s on the Permanent Staff of this battalion, and the periods of such duty assigned to each man are fixed in a purely arbitrary and capricious manner. Some men are kept at the Depot for twelve or eighteen months, while others do two or three months Depot duty only. This state of things creates a serious grievance among the N.C.O.s who are stationed at Welshpool, and who are liable to be kept away from their families for a year or more

at a time. It would be well if the C.O. of this battalion were to inquire into the reasons why some of the men get off with much shorter terms of Depot duty than others.

Here is an amusing summary of the effect of a number of recent military scandals, sent to me by an officer who has evidently read his TRUTH diligently. Each case has actually occurred, and most of them will be fresh in the memory of my readers :—

1. A medical officer asks a lady for a kiss. Penalty : removal from the Army, and destruction of professional career.
2. A medical officer in his professional capacity is subpœnaed as a witness in a divorce case. Penalty : removal from the Army, and destruction of professional career.
3. An officer in a Departmental Corps figures as co-respondent in a divorce case. Penalty : *nil.*
4. An Infantry officer on the Staff takes part in the private trial of a race-horse on the eve of a race, behind the owner's back. Penalty : reprimand, and revert to regiment.
5. A Subaltern in a Cavalry regiment does anything that he pleases. Penalty : *nil.*

Apropos of a recent note in TRUTH on the fine for non-efficiency, which Volunteers incur by enlisting in the Regular Army, I hear of a case in which a man, who transferred from the 3rd Middlesex Rifles to a Line battalion, has actually had to pay £5. 5s. to his old corps in consequence. Considering how little spare cash a soldier ordinarily possesses, it will be admitted on all hands that this is a most monstrous charge, and such a tax, if understood, must be prohibitive to men who contemplate transferring from the Volunteers to the Regulars. This particular case has, I hear, been brought under the notice of the Adjutant-General by the friends of the man concerned, and it is to be hoped that Sir Redvers Buller will give it his careful attention.

An officer writing to me on this subject the other day contended that every Volunteer ought to know the consequences of failing to be reported as an efficient, as the Regulations are read over to him when he joins. What a man ought to know and what he really does know are very different things ; but really this is not the point. Whether the Regulations are understood or not, they are wrong, and the better they are understood the more certain are they to deprive the Army of a most useful class of recruits. What is required is not that the Regulations should be made better known, but that they should be amended altogether.

The practice of keeping unofficial defaulter sheets in certain battalions was referred to in Parliament the other day, with the usual result that the representative of the War Office professed total ignorance of the existence of any such practice. At the same time it was stated that if the names were given to the War Office of any regiments in which such a practice existed, full inquiry would be made. The War Office must be well aware that this last suggestion comes to nothing. The practice in question is one which nobody in the Service is interested in stopping, except the C.O.s of other regiments which do not keep these unofficial sheets, and which are in consequence placed at a disadvantage by comparison with others in which the practice prevails. The War Office hardly expects, I imagine, that regimental officers who are aware of the practice will give away their own C.O.s by privately furnishing information on the subject for the use of the War Office. Neither is it likely that one C.O. would give such information for the purpose of damaging a brother Commanding Officer. There is not the slightest doubt that the practice does exist. I understand that printed forms for such defaulter sheets are actually sold ; and, as I mentioned a fortnight ago, an order forbidding the keeping of such records has been recently issued by the General Officer Commanding at Cork. Unless, therefore, the authorities approve of the practice, which is hardly likely, they can have no excuse for continuing in ignorance of it.

In a private letter from a medical officer at Cape Town, strong statements are made respecting the shorthandedness of the medical staff there. There are an exceptional number of troops at Cape Town at present, and, on the other hand, a number of the medical staff have been sent to Mafeking. It seems desirable that this matter should be looked to, for, judging from the present outlook of affairs in Rhodesia, the demands upon the medical staff are likely to increase rather than diminish.

The cruiser *Hyacinth* seems to have been a terribly bad bargain to the country. She was built at Devonport thirteen years ago at a cost of £73,000, and £20,000 has since been expended on her repairs. She was commissioned in 1886, and she has been in active service for only nine years. The Admiralty have now removed this vessel from the active list of the Navy, and it would be interesting to learn how it comes about that a practically new ship is to be thus "weeded."

The new cruiser *Terrible*, about the manifold merits of which vessel there has been so much trumpeting, is being most severely criticised by all the experts who have inspected her, and Naval men are unanimous in abusing her. She is very unwieldy, her armament is ridiculously inadequate, and she would be a most easy mark for either shell or torpedo.

Do the Admiralty really expect a man to support himself and a wife and family on £12 a year ? If not, one would like to know on what ground they have just withdrawn a pension of that handsome amount from Thomas Power, of Waterford. This man served for twenty years in the Naval Reserve, and on his discharge it was certified that his conduct had been "very good," and he was granted a pension of £12 a year. Naturally, he did not understand that he and his wife and family would be expected to live upon this pittance, and so he secured employment as a night watchman. On hearing of this, the Admiralty stopped the pension, and in reply to a memorial on Power's behalf they state that the Regulations "do not admit of

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his being awarded a pension whilst he is materially able to contribute to his own support." It may be in accordance with the Regulations, but it is utterly unjust all the same, and such pitiful meanness is likely to give a decided check to volunteering for the Naval Reserve.

Mr. Goschen stated, when introducing the Naval Estimates, that surveys were to be made at once, preparatory to the construction of docks for H.M. ships at Simon's Bay, Port Louis. The remark has brought me a communication from an old resident at Mahé, in the Seychelles Islands, which deserves the notice of all who are interested in the Navy, and more particularly in the maintenance of our lines of communication with India. The writer speaks most emphatically of the immense superiority of the Seychelles over Mauritius as a naval station. As regards position, I understand that for steamers the usual route between the Cape and India is by the Mozambique Channel, so that the Seychelles lie on the direct route to Bombay or Colombo, while Mauritius lies far out of it. As regards harbours, my correspondent had better speak for himself:—

> The Seychelles Islands, and especially Mahé, have numerous fine and well-protected harbours. The harbour of Port Victoria, Mahé, is a splendid one. There is an outer roadstead and an inner harbour inside the coral reefs. Vessels, including even ironclads, can lie within a few yards of the coal wharf with their stern moorings on shore. The outer roadstead is so well protected that ships can always coal there, never mind how rough it is outside. During the six years that the Australian liners of the Messageries Maritimes coaled here, we were never prevented on one single occasion from coaling their vessels on account of the weather. It is impossible to understand why the British Government fortifies and garrisons islands like Ascension and St. Helena, which have neither harbours nor cable communication, and are wretched coaling stations, while it neglects places with such immense advantages as the Seychelles.

In addition to the foregoing points of superiority, the Seychelles enjoy a magnificent climate, which my correspondent describes as the best of any British colony in the tropics. On the other hand, the unhealthiness of Port Louis is proverbial. The death-rate in Mauritius is over 40 per thousand per annum, while in the Seychelles my correspondent tells me it is 14·8. The advantages of these islands in this respect are fully appreciated by the Germans, who every year send their cruisers on the East Coast of Africa there for a six weeks' holiday. In one recent instance a German warship, which arrived with over a hundred men down with fever, had not a case left at the end of a month. To this has to be added that hurricanes are absolutely unknown in these islands.

Perhaps some of my readers may remember that General Gordon, in his queer fantastic fashion, came to the conclusion that the Seychelles Islands were the site of the original Garden of Eden. When Gordon made this discovery he had been sent out by the Government to report on the question of fortifying the Islands, and I understand that he prepared a plan for the fortification of Port Victoria. But, as my correspondent at Mahé points out, while almost everybody knows and ridicules Gordon's theory about the Garden of Eden, his much more valuable conclusions respecting the fortification of the Islands have been consigned to oblivion. It is worth note that the cable to Mauritius touches at the Seychelles, which lie within easy reach of Diego-Suarez, the French naval headquarters in those waters, so that in the event of a sudden outbreak of hostilities a French warship could cut the cable at this point before it could be protected. If, therefore, we are going to commit the folly of making a dock at Mauritius, it would still seem necessary to take some steps for the protection of the cable at the Seychelles.

The Royal Alfred Aged Merchant Seamen's Institution has lately been making a vigorous attempt to whip in subscriptions and extend its organisation in Scotland. The results, I am told, have not been particularly satisfactory, and the managers of the institution would do well to ponder over the reasons for this. At the bottom of them lies, I fancy, the feeling, which is not confined to Scotland, that taxation and representation should go hand in hand. The Royal Alfred Institution works by means of local committees. These committees seem to be primarily engaged in collecting funds, but they have no voice in the management of the institution, nor in what is a most important matter, the nomination of candidates. The managers of the Institution, I believe, defend the present state of things on the ground that the benefits already granted to Scotch seamen greatly exceed the amount of the Scotch subscriptions. This argument is not altogether fair, because the Scotch seamen in question are for the most part employed by English shipowners. At any rate, a feeling exists in Scotland that these local committees are merely collecting agencies for a London charity, and that is a feeling with which the management must reckon. The best way of meeting it would be to allow one life nomination to every local committee collecting a certain amount per annum for a certain number of years.

I am glad to hear that the Committee on Post-Office Establishments have before them a copy of the article in TRUTH of August 1 last on the sweating of the sub-postmaster. It is to be hoped that they have also studied the other remarks which have appeared in TRUTH at different times on the same subject. I do not ask the Committee to take any of these statements for granted. Let them simply be made the basis for inquiry, and I doubt not it will be found that what has appeared in TRUTH is merely a mild sample or two of a widespread evil.

In connection with the case of the clerk in the Savings Bank Department who lately lost his reason, my attention has been called once again to the standing grievance in regard to the distribution of holidays among the Post Office staff. I am told that there are men in the Savings Bank

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BRIGHTON.—NORFOLK HOTEL.—This old-established Country and Family Hotel is in the best situation, and replete with comfort, style, and luxury.—JULES A. CREIGHTON, Manager.

Department who have served for several years without ever getting a holiday except in November or December; and nearly twice as many clerks have to take their holidays in November as in May. In April all holidays are stopped on the plea of the exigencies of the public service. If I remember rightly, medical evidence has been given before the Tweedmouth Committee with reference to the unfavourable effect of these arrangements upon the health of the staff.

The proper arrangement of holidays in a public office is that which I have suggested in previous remarks on this subject—namely, to make each man take his holiday a month earlier (or later) every year, so that there would be a regular rotation in the holiday season among all the clerks. Failing that, the present system ought to be reversed. The juniors and lower grades who cannot get far away from London should have their holidays in the summer; while the well-paid heads of Departments who can afford a trip to Monte Carlo or Cannes, should take their leave during the Riviera season.

A good example of "Post-office stupidity" was given in the *Times* last Monday. Some practical joker having written the address of a letter in the form of an acrostic, the P. O. staff waste their own and the public time in solving the riddle, apparently for no purpose but to get a cheap advertisement of their own cleverness by making the result public. At the same time no attempt is made to rectify trifling errors in the addresses of ordinary letters—*e.g.*, a letter addressed to a well-known peeress at Eaton-square, instead of Grosvenor-square, is returned to the sender at Cairo, although the mistake could have been rectified by reference to any Directory. I have just heard of another example of this sort of thing. A letter was addressed the other day to a house in "Charlton-road, St. John's," instead of to "Carlton-road, St. John's." The gentleman to whom it was addressed has resided in the same house for thirty years. Instead of trying Carlton-road, St. John's, however, the Post Office people sent the letter to Charlton-road, Blackheath, whence it was returned to the sender. There was a time when it was considered almost a point of honour at the Post Office not to return a letter unless the address was hopelessly undecipherable. But since the sweating system was introduced, and Dukes condescended to become Postmasters-General, we seem to have changed all that.

Since the reference in last week's TRUTH to a telegram from Cirencester, which took three days to deliver in London, an explanation has been received from the Post Office. The explanation states that "the failure of the telegram in question was due to the incorrect transmission of the address;" that "serious notice has been taken of the matter;" that the inconvenience caused is regretted; and that the sixpence prepaid will be refunded. This explanation is dated July 14, and the complaint was made on May 29. Why it should take the Post Office forty-six days to discover that the address of a certain telegram had been incorrectly transmitted, only the officials concerned can tell. But better late than never. Now that the Department has established a precedent for offering an explanation and refunding the money, perhaps it may learn in time to perform this simple process in something less than six and a half weeks.

It is one of the privileges of the Post Office that it is free from legal liability for any loss that may be caused through the negligence or dishonesty of its servants. This is a happy position for the Department, but as is shown in an article in the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, it sometimes bears very hardly on the public. A short time since a packet of rare stamps, worth something like £200, was handed in and registered at Leadenhall-street Post-office. After giving the receipt, the lady clerk left the packet on an unprotected part of the counter, and it was stolen. The loss having been clearly due to gross carelessness on the part of one of the employees of the Post Office, the owners of the stamps had a strong moral claim to full compensation against the Department. Legally, however, they could claim nothing at all; and it was only "voluntarily, and as an act of grace" (as the regulations put it), that the Postmaster-General paid a paltry £5 for the loss of £200. That is the maximum compensation which he allows for a registration fee of 2d.; if a fee of 11d. had been paid he could have granted, he explained, as much as £50. The moral from this case would seem to be that parties who entrust valuable packages to the tender care of the Post Office would do well not only to register them, but to wait and see that the officiating clerk does his or her duty by depositing them in a place of safety.

Why should not a dog licence be transferable? A gentleman who has come into possession of a dog through the death of his brother at Easter last, complains of having had to take out a fresh licence, although his brother had paid the tax for the whole year in respect of the same animal. Of course, so far as the law goes, he has no ground for complaint, the licence being clearly specified as not transferable, being, in fact, a licence to a man to keep a dog, and not a licence to a dog to be kept by a man. At the same time, I take the liberty of questioning whether this is altogether equitable. As long as the tax is paid for the year in respect of the animal, the State has no right to expect to be paid over again when the animal changes hands.

SPA, BELGIUM.—*Cercle des Etrangers*, with Roulette, &c. For details apply to Secretary. Racing, tennis, and pigeon shooting. Theatre and concerts. Superb bathing establishment.

SUFFERERS from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and INGRAM & ROYLE, LTD., 52, Farringdon-street.

Some further explanation ought to be given by Mr. Chaplin with regard to the decision of the Local Government Board to separate the ancient township of Milnthorpe-cum-Heversham. The inhabitants of Heversham are chiefly well-to-do farmers and wealthy landowners, and they sought the separation in order to evade their share of the projected expenditure on sanitary improvements in Milnthorpe, where the population of the district is concentrated. For many years the usual practice in these cases has been to enlarge the area of taxation for such purposes rather than to narrow it, but the influential Heversham people succeeded in obtaining an order from the Westmorland County Council for the division of the district, and this has now been confirmed by the Local Government Board, after an inquiry by one of their inspectors. Mr. Chaplin has refused to publish the report of this inspector, on the ground that it is confidential. It is extraordinary, to say the least, that a report by a public official on a public inquiry of this kind should be held to be "confidential," and unless Mr. Chaplin is anxious to encourage the belief that his Board has acted contrary to the recommendations of its inspector —a belief which seems to be prevalent in Milnthorpe—he would do well to produce the report.

Judging from what happened at Bradford last week in the case of William Smith, an injured person who is also homeless and penniless would fare badly in that town were it not for the kindness of the police. Smith met with an injury to his foot in a street accident, and was taken by a constable to the police-station, where a doctor saw him. By the doctor's advice the constable removed the poor fellow in a cab to the workhouse. The doctor had written a note to the Relieving Officer, but the latter was not at the workhouse, and the constable was directed to go to his house. But the Relieving Officer was also away from home, and so the constable returned with Smith once more to the workhouse. He was then informed that it was a matter for the Infirmary, and to the Infirmary Smith was accordingly conveyed. There the man's injured foot was dressed, but it was not considered a case for further treatment at the Infirmary, and the constable was recommended to take the patient back to the workhouse. Having had enough of this bandying from pillar to post, they went instead to the police station, and the Chief Constable ultimately paid for a night's lodging for Smith. There seems to be no doubt that the case was a proper one for the workhouse hospital, and it is highly discreditable to the Poor Law Authorities that arrangements have not been made for the prompt admission of an injured person in such circumstances. The Bradford Bumbles appear, indeed, to recognise this, for while denying that there was anything deserving of censure in the present case, they have adopted rules to prevent a repetition of it.

Gratis and post free, very elaborately-illustrated Price Lists, showing exact sizes of Havana Cigars issued by the Havana Trading Association, 177, Piccadilly.—C. A. Carlin, Gen. Manager.

At the last meeting of the Court of Common Council, it was announced that Sir Erasmus Ommanney has presented to the Guildhall Museum the sword which William IV. wore when he served in the Navy, which weapon was presented by Lord Adolphus FitzClarence to the late Sir Francis Ommanney. Of course, a man can dispose as he pleases of an object which is his own absolute property, but it does seem utterly absurd and foolish to bestow the sword upon the Corporation of London, instead of sending it either to Greenwich Hospital or to the Museum of the United Service Institution.

Reference was made in last week's Truth to certain statements in "a local evening paper," in which it was alleged that the widow of a poor man who had died in Aberdeen, after having failed to get the Poor-law authorities to undertake the interment (the deceased not having been in receipt of parish relief), applied to the Sanitary Authorities, and was informed that they could not interfere until the body had become a nuisance. It is due to the Sanitary Inspector of the town to state that at a subsequent meeting of the Public Health Committee he made a statement fully explaining his action in the matter. He denied, among other things, that he told the woman (as she had alleged) that "they did not bury people until they were stinking," though really I cannot see that there would have been much harm if he had used those words, for they seem to represent the exact state of the law. It is clear, at any rate, that the Sanitary Inspector did his duty in the matter quite correctly; and I am glad to see, from a further discussion on the case which took place in the Trades Council, that there is no foundation for the other statement made in the local Press that the coffin which was supplied was not big enough for its purpose. The members of the Trades Council seem to have come to the conclusion, however, that the law applicable to such a case is in an unsatisfactory condition, and from the unsavoury evidence given as to the state of the body in this case by the time it was coffined, I should say that the Trades Council are right.

My publisher has now brought me a letter addressed to him by Mr. H. Macdonald, Chairman of the Law Committee of the Aberdeen Town Council, and also, it would seem, a solicitor, commencing in this strain:—

Sir,—Mr. Kenneth Cameron, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Charles Green, undertaker for the Local Authority, have consulted me in consequence of false, calumnious, and slanderous imputations against them and each of them, contained in a paragraph published on page 145 of your issue of Truth of date July 16, 1896.

The libels referred to which have found circulation through the medium of your paper in the most reckless and unwarrantable manner, have not the least foundation in probability far less in fact; but they are calculated to convey the impression that my clients, and each of them have been guilty of a violation or gross and culpable neglect of duty, and of behaving

No aperient water can boast of such sure and beneficial purgative efficacy as the "Franz Josef." It was known on the Continent twenty years ago, and is now sold everywhere.

in their official capacity, with unfeeling and brutal coarseness. My clients have been greatly wounded in their feelings, and injured in their business and reputation as the result, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Macdonald's command of language is very wonderful, but I should advise him not to embark in the journalistic profession, or his pen may get him into trouble. I must respectfully inform him that I have said nothing whatever about his clients capable of the extraordinary construction here placed upon it; and that his professional feelings have led him to entirely misapprehend the effect of the inaccuracies in the local reports which I have corrected in the preceding paragraph. Neither of his clients was personally referred to in my paragraph, and nothing was said which imputed blame to any individual.

Mr. Macdonald goes on in his letter to call upon my publisher ("without prejudice") to immediately undertake to publish an apology, and also to "send me a cheque for £5. 5s. to cover my clients' costs," failing which he has instructions to commence an action for substantial damages. As the statements made were inaccurate, and as these two gentlemen consider that they are affected by them, my publisher at once apologises to Mr. Macdonald's clients, and I have much pleasure in endorsing and giving this publicity to the apology. I may add that either I or my publisher would have been equally ready to publish an explanation and an apology had either of the gentlemen concerned written to me personally. When any person complains of an incorrect statement in Truth, I never hesitate either to correct it or apologise when the error is pointed out to me; and it is quite unnecessary to employ a solicitor to write a letter like the above for the purpose. My publisher is also quite ready ("without prejudice") to pay any costs which Mr. Macdonald's clients may have justifiably incurred in writing to ask for an apology; but he does not see how these costs can amount to £5. 5s., nor do I. I am quite willing, on my publisher's behalf, to pay the cost of writing through a solicitor, for which I have always understood the charge to be 6s. 8d. My publisher also suggests that he ought to pay for the copy of Truth which Mr. Macdonald, or his clients, had to buy before writing the letter. That will be 6d. more—or 7s. 2d. When a penny is added for postage, I really cannot conceive of any other item of expense which Mr. Macdonald's clients have incurred; but if there is I shall be delighted to settle it. In the meantime, I have sent on my publisher's behalf and "without prejudice" the sum of 7s. 3d., and I trust that this will be found satisfactory.

A learned junior at the Bar, for whose opinion I have the greatest respect, tells me that prisoners very often go undefended from reluctance to incur the exorbitant charges generally levied by the legal gentlemen who take charge of their cases; and he makes a very simple and ingenious—not to say ingenuous—suggestion for getting over the difficulty. Every prisoner, of course, enjoys the right to instruct counsel without the intervention of a solicitor, and the suggestion is that, as many of the less experienced prisoners are unaware of this right, notice should be given in the gaols that they can obtain the services of able, learned, and eloquent gentlemen at the very reasonable figure of £1. 3s. 6d. I can only invite the prison authorities generally to take note of this suggestion. Should they not see their way to adopt it, perhaps they might permit barristers' clerks to go round the gaols before Sessions or Assizes, and leave their masters' cards upon parties likely to be in want of legal assistance.

The difficulties which beset the ex-convict who tries to reform his way of life were strikingly illustrated in a case at Lowestoft last week. A ticket-of-leave man, named Barnard, was charged with failing to report himself to the police. It appeared that he had been serving at sea for four months, and that he had reported himself on going away and on coming back, but not—as indeed it was impossible for him to do—in the interval. Nevertheless, the police prosecuted him, and the shallow-pates who administer the law at Lowestoft sent him to gaol for fourteen days. How can criminals be expected to reform when police and magistrates treat them in this harsh and idiotic way?

The soft answer that turneth away wrath is all very well, but when it is an official reply to a question in the House of Commons, it should surely show also a decent regard for accuracy. A flagrant example of the misleading statements which are put into the mouths of Ministers on such occasions was afforded last week when the Home Secretary was interrogated as to the refusal of the Midhurst Justices to accept the evidence of a witness who claimed to be sworn in the Scotch fashion. Here is the Home Secretary's reply, side by side with the report of the incident from the *Sussex Daily News*:—

The Home Secretary.	The Report.
Sir M. W. Ridley said he was informed that the Clerk to the Justices was on the point of administering the oath to the witness in the Scotch fashion, when it appeared that the evidence he was to give was immaterial, and on an intimation from the justices that they regarded it in that light, the solicitor for the defence withdrew the witness. In no instance had the justices refused to administer the oath in the Scotch fashion.	The Rev. Rowley Lascelles was then called, and refused to be sworn in the usual way. He asked to be sworn in the Scotch fashion. The Clerk: "*But you are a clergyman of the Church of England?*" Mr. Lascelles: "I refuse to answer any such question, and claim to be sworn in the Scotch fashion." The Chairman: "*Are you an Englishman?*"—After some consultation, the Bench decided not to hear the reverend gentleman's evidence. Mr. Wannop (the solicitor for the defence) then said he would leave the case as it was, and not proceed further.

Other reports confirm the one I have quoted, and it is also borne out by the statements of the witness referred to and other persons who were present in court at the time. But even accepting the official version that the Bench did not absolutely refuse to administer the oath in the Scotch fashion, the clerk and the chairman were still both guilty of impertinence and illegality in putting questions to Mr. Lascelles, for the Oaths Act of 1888 distinctly provides that a witness shall be sworn without any questioning whatever.

Prince of Wales Hotel, Harrogate.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

In looking through the samples of Justice's justice which appear in the first column of my Legal Pillory each week, it is curious to note how frequently the remarks of the magistrates themselves help to accentuate the inadequacy of the penalties they inflict for offences of violence and cruelty. Thus, in the following list, the Birmingham Stipendiary expresses the opinion that a betting man convicted of a cowardly and unprovoked assault "deserved to be sent to prison;" the Blackburn Bench confess to a "doubt" (which few people will share) as to whether they should not visit an even worse street outrage with a term of imprisonment; the Port Glasgow Bailie tells a man that he has committed "a most inhuman act" on a little child; a Midlothian J.P. rightly stigmatises the torturing and ill-treatment of a cow as "an exceedingly bad case;" and the Dronfield Bench admit that they are dealing with "a heartless case" of cruelty to a pony. To fit the punishment to the crime, a dose of hard labour ought to have been prescribed in every instance; but, without exception, the magistrates followed up their strong words with weak action, all the offenders being let off with fines. Somehow, one never observes this reluctance to send people to gaol, or if that is not possible, to exact the heaviest of pecuniary penalties when it is a matter of poaching or sleeping out or petty theft. The sentence for poaching at Forfar was especially monstrous, inasmuch as it was for a first offence:—

Liverpool County Quarter Sessions. George Maguire (32), charged with maliciously wounding his wife. Bound over to keep the peace.

Midlothian J.P. Court. Before Messrs. W. Stuart and J. Knox-Crawford. James Forrest, cattle dealer, charged with cruelty to a cow by stabbing it on the breast and ears with a knife, striking it on the head and body with a thick stick, causing it to fall repeatedly, breaking its tail, and otherwise brutally ill-treating the animal. His only defence was that he was under the influence of drink at the time, and did not know what he was doing. Mr. Crawford said it was an exceedingly bad case. Fined £5.

Coventry Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. C. J. Hill, T. G. Beamish, and J. Maycock. Percy Docker and Daniel Geary, convicted of assaulting William Adams. Docker struck him while he was drinking from a jug, blackening his eye, and smashing the jug, and cutting his face badly. Geary struck him on the head with a pair of tongs, cutting it severely. Docker fined 5s. and costs; Geary 10s. and costs.

Dronfield Petty Sessions. Before Dr. Rooth and Mr. J. H. Harrison Thomas Bollard charged with cruelty to a pony. The animal was found lying in a weak and emaciated condition in a field where it had been left without food or water, and it had to be killed. A witness remarked that the animal was practically starved to death. The Bench said it was a heartless case. Fined £2.

Liverpool County Quarter Sessions. Mary Riley (60), charged with stealing 2½ lb. of beef. Three months.

Norwich County Police-court. Before Colonel Boileau and other magistrates. Alfred Wiseman, pauper, charged with absconding from St. Faith's Workhouse in February last. Three weeks.

Barnsley Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Harvey, C. H. Taylor, W. Batty, F. Dransfield, and T. D. Dunsworth. John Rowbottom, charged with sleeping out in a cowshed. One month.

Macclesfield Police-court. Before Messrs. P. J. Eaton and W. Whiston. Charles Barker and George Barker, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a number of rabbits. Fined £5 each and costs, or two months.

Kettering Police-court. Before Messrs. J. J. Roughton, J. A. Gotch, T. Wallis, F. Barlow, and G. H. de Crespigny. George Hawkes, Enoch Bales, and Frank Desborough, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of nets and rabbits. Fined £3. 3s. each, or one month.

Port-Glasgow Police-court. Before Bailie Houston. James M'Gee, charged with assaulting his daughter, aged 8 years. He deliberately burned the child on the hip with a hot gridiron. The Bailie said it was a most inhuman act. Fined £2.

Birmingham Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Harry Clery, commission agent, convicted of assaulting George Henry Briggs. Defendant pushed against Briggs, and on being remonstrated with struck him two violent blows on the head with a pair of field glasses, causing a severe wound. The stipendiary said defendant "deserved to be sent to prison." Fined £3.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Green, R. Laming, E. Cooper, and H. Higson. John Foster, convicted of assaulting Robert Coupe. Without the slightest provocation defendant went up to Coupe in the street and kicked him twice on the leg, causing him to fall and breaking his leg. While he was on the ground he was further ill-treated by defendant's companions. The Bench were in doubt as to whether they should not send defendant to prison. Fined £5.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Guthrie. Samuel Hooper and John Hooper, charged with assaulting a man by knocking him down, kicking him, and otherwise maltreating him to the effusion of blood; also charged with creating a breach of the peace. John failed to appear; Samuel pleaded guilty, and there were a number of previous convictions against him. Fined 20s.

Forfar Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Robertson. Peter Duff, charged with poaching. It was stated that it was his first offence. One month.

Clitheroe County Police-court. Henry Barton and Sam Rigby, charged with poaching. Three months each and a further term in default of finding sureties.

Fareham Police-court. Before Messrs. J. C. Garnier and C. E. Radclyffe and Colonel Hunt. Thomas Slater pleaded guilty to sleeping out. Seven days.

Tiverton Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. F. A. Payne and S. Mackenzie. William Vinnicombe, charged with sleeping out under a hay-rick. One month.

Bingham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. T. B. T. Hildyard and Sir Henry Bromley. Thomas Parker charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of nets and rabbits. Fined £5 and costs.

Whitchurch Petty Sessions Before Messrs. C. T. Dugdale, R. T. Smith, J. Jones, J. G. Harrison, J. Beckett, and T. Topham. George Jones, charged with stealing four hen's eggs. Fined £1. 10s. or one month.

Mr. F. P. Tombs, J.P., has written to me respecting the part he played in the recent row among the magistrates on the Pembroke Bench. He wishes me to make it known that "he did not speak to or about Mr. Reynolds (another magistrate) until the latter attacked him," and he sends a full report of the proceedings to convince me of the fact. I willingly comply with his request, though the way in which the squabble arose is really a matter of no importance. However it may have begun, such an altercation on the Bench was most unseemly, and it was solely in that light that I commented upon it.

In the evidence which was given at a coroner's inquiry at Runcorn the other day, the Manchester Ship Canal Company figure as anything but generous or considerate employers. The deceased was a clerk named Hutton, who for fifteen years had been in the employ of the company and the previous owners of the Bridgewater Canal. It was stated that for his salary of £75 a year he frequently had to work twelve or thirteen hours a day; and recently his health broke down from overwork. Notwithstanding his long service, his employers, after he had been away five or six weeks, wrote to inform him that they could not keep open his place any longer, with the result that he was much upset

SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

and committed suicide. The jury expressed the opinion that the letter from the company was, in the circumstances, a very cruel one, and with this I think most people will agree.

The old question of the employment of the rural police as gamekeepers has been brought before the Norfolk County Council by a member who vigorously protested against the unfairness and injustice of public money being expended "for protecting vermin in the shape of hares, rabbits, &c., for the luxury, pleasure, and enjoyment of a small minority of rich game preservers." The matter was referred to the Standing Joint Committee, and it is to be hoped they will do something to put an end to the practice complained of. In many other counties besides Norfolk the rural police are very largely engaged in doing the work of gamekeepers, and as some of her Majesty's judges have often taken occasion to point out at Assizes, the system is utterly wrong and unjustifiable.

The magisterial tendency to side with the police whenever they come in conflict with the public has been strongly shown in a case at Derby. A man named Cooper was charged with assaulting a constable, and the latter, on a cross summons, was charged with assaulting Cooper. The constable deposed that he found Cooper lying drunk on the pavement, that he got up and struck him on the shoulder, that in defending himself he struck Cooper twice on the head with his staff, and that they then fell together. On the other hand, Cooper swore that he was first struck by the constable, and this statement was corroborated by two other witnesses. There was also medical evidence to the effect that Cooper received three wounds on the head and suffered from concussion of the brain, his life being for a time in danger. The Bench dismissed the charge against the officer and fined Cooper 40s., though how this decision can be reconciled with the evidence is difficult to understand. But it seems to be accepted as an axiom in Police Courts that one constable's word is worth that of half-a-dozen civilian witnesses.

Numerous warnings have been given from time to time in TRUTH against a firm calling themselves "Graham & Co.," who carry on business in the cheap watch and jewellery line at 277, Strand. This firm came in for a good dressing-down at Bow-street last week, when two ladies from the country complained that they had each paid £2. 7s. 6d. for a watch which fell to pieces as soon as the happy purchaser attempted to wind it up. Mr. Vaughan sent an officer of the court down to see "Graham & Co." in company with the ladies, with a little hint from himself that the money ought to be returned. Later on, the parties came back with an individual calling himself "Mr. Graham," and they then had an interesting interview with Sir John Bridge, who had taken Mr. Vaughan's place. "Graham" contended that the ladies must have used the watches very roughly, but this was not only emphatically denied by the ladies, but was further discounted by the following evidence of a detective officer:—

Detective-sergeant Hailstone informed the magistrate that Mr. "Graham's" real name was Goldstein. For at least ten years past the Commissioner of Police had received complaints as to the conduct of "Graham & Co.," and when the police interfered the money was returned to the customers.

The case then proceeded thus:—

Sir John Bridge: Will you give the money back?—Mr. "Graham": Certainly.

Sir John Bridge: Will you pay it at once?—Mr. "Graham": Yes, at once.

Sir John Bridge: Then that will do.

That may do as far as this case is concerned; but it is a flagrant scandal that these people should pursue their swindling trade year after year, without any other inconvenience than being called upon to return the money, when any particular victim invokes the assistance of the police. They would not be able to carry on their trade for a week if a certain class of newspapers in London and the provinces did not publish their advertisements; and I would specially commend the above evidence to the notice of those newspaper proprietors who are co-operating in "Graham's" fraud in this way.

"Graham," as the detective mentioned in the above case, is really one of the Goldstein family. Another of the family of Goldstein is the so-called "Harry Roberts," who a few years ago put up an employee to prosecute me, for the exposure in TRUTH of the abominable practices carried on at a music-hall agency which he conducted in Stamford-street. The result of these proceedings against me was that the prosecutor got six months' hard labour, while a warrant against Goldstein, *alias* Roberts, on charges arising out of the facts which I had exposed. Roberts-Goldstein absconded, leaving his employee to do his "time." Since then this scoundrel has been a fugitive from justice, and the latest appearance of the Graham-Goldstein branch of the family in the police-courts leads me to ask once more if any one can tell me where Roberts-Goldstein is to be found.

It is no uncommon thing for the touts who sell watches on the instalment system to servant girls, to forge the girls' names to orders when all other means of inveigling their victims fail. I have heard of several cases in which the man hands the watch to the girl requesting her to keep it till he calls again, and then writes her name in his order-book, so that he can afterwards assert that it is her signature. A gentleman in the north, who has taken up a case of this kind on behalf of his maidservants, tells me of a simple method of defeating this trick. He handed over the watch to the head-constable of the town, and wrote to the firm informing them that the head-constable had instructions to hand over the watch, as soon as the order was produced to him bearing the girl's original signature. A representative of the firm subsequently called and asked for the watch, but carefully refrained from producing the required order, and consequently did not get the article. Up to the present time he has not returned, and I should imagine that he is not likely to do so. Presumably the inside of a police-station is a spot where gentry of this class are not unduly anxious to show themselves.

By the way, some interesting revelations concerning this kind of business were made in a case at Dublin City Sessions last week. A firm called "Milner & Co." (alias Albert Thomas), of 1, Finsbury-square, London, prosecuted

one of their agents for purloining some of the watches and jewellery which he was employed to palm off on servant girls. It was stated that these were among the instructions the prisoner received from "Milner & Co.":—

Always look out for a wet day or Saturdays, particularly as you will be sure to get the servants cleaning for Sunday. Smile at all rebuffs. Be sure the masters of the servant girls are at business, and it will be far better. Also play a musical album, and one servant will call the others to listen to it, and it will facilitate the selling of watches. Receive no money, and the police cannot interfere for a pedlar's licence.

"Milner & Co.'s" representative at the trial denied that they had issued a circular in these precise terms; but however that may be, it is by such artifices as those described that girls are bamboozled into dealing with these people and buying cheap watches and jewellery at extravagant prices. One watch of "Milner & Co.'s" which the prisoner said he had to sell for £8. 10s. was valued at £2. 10s. The Recorder, I am glad to see, took the opportunity of warning the public against the firm. "It was," he remarked, "altogether a scandalous business, ruining unfortunate servant girls."

Recently a "Mrs. Dring, Witham Bank, Boston," advertised a "magnificent grandfather's ancient hall clock" for sale, and probably advertisements of other articles have emanated from the same quarter. I have had a communication from a lady in the west of England who was rash enough to purchase a clock on the strength of the representations in the advertisement, and in consequence of her experience with Mrs. Dring I should like to know something more about that person's business. Perhaps somebody at Boston can enlighten me. Meanwhile I would advise people who contemplate buying goods from Mrs. Dring to first have them sent "on appro."

Mr. H. Clarke, of 136, Great Charles-street, Birmingham, "is very hard up for money, and trade is very bad with him." So he "takes the liberty" (his own expression) of forwarding to likely people by post pairs of driving reins of his own make, which he desires the recipients either to purchase at the price of £1, or to return at an early date. Clarke certainly takes a great liberty—indeed, he might say more truly that he is guilty of a great piece of impudence. This form of annoyance, however, would very soon cease if all who are solicited in this way to buy goods which they don't want would make it a rule to refuse to return the things, and leave the would-be vendors to come and fetch them.

Among the numerous money-lenders' circulars which have been brought to my notice in the past week are two of a particularly impudent and nefarious character. One is addressed to a married lady by a firm calling themselves Perrin, Dunn, & Co., of Imperial-mansions, Oxford-street, who state that her name has been mentioned to them "as requiring an advance of money." It so happens that the lady referred to died more than a year ago, and she was never in want of monetary assistance from Shylock & Co. I do not know whether Perrin, Dunn, & Co. make a special business of luring married women to their net, but they are evidently gentry against whom married women — and their husbands, too — should be on their guard. The second circular emanates from one Vernon L. Beaumont, of 61, Moray-road, Tollington Park, who has been approaching several of the students at an agricultural college with an offer of a loan "on security of reversions, private incomes, annuities, or money coming at the death of relatives, arising under wills or settlements." I do not remember hearing of Vernon L. Beaumont before; but his circular is a sufficient introduction. Principals of colleges and schools cannot too earnestly warn their pupils against such sharks.

There is a turf tipster carrying on business in the name of "Morton Seegrove," in Old Ford-road, who seems to have a very fine command of circularising language. Here is an extract from one of his recent circulars:—

I have no equal at this business, for I attend our principal clubs each morning and assist to work out commissions, and am able to enter the company of people and glean information from sources which are quite closed to the ordinary advertising correspondent. Were I to place before you the names of several well-known turf personages who have been and are still on my list, it would convince you that I must be in a position to obtain turf intelligence of a first-class nature to keep the patronage of such gentlemen.

I have in my possession some splendid information concerning an animal running at Newmarket on Wednesday next, &c.

In a later circular Seegrove remarks: "It is not my wish to pester gentlemen with letters of this description against their will." Nevertheless, a young gentleman, of nineteen years of age, who tells me that he never attended a race meeting or made a bet in his life, and has far too much sense to patronise any of the Seegrove fraternity, has had no less than three letters of this description in one month. In the first of them Seegrove makes the interesting statement that he has "purchased your address, amongst others, as a good sporting address." One would like to know where, and how, he purchased it.

An old and hardened offender in the begging-letter line of business is at present writing from 9, York-road, Tunbridge Wells. Her name is Mrs. A. M. Thompson. In her latest effusion she states that she is "seeking twenty-five kindhearted people who will contribute towards the education of her youngest child." In order to stimulate sympathy, she encloses a photo of the young lady in question, the youngest of six, for whom, she says, she has an offer of an excellent school, if she can pay £25 per annum. A collecting book is also enclosed, with a few subscriptions entered—as a sort of ground-bait, I should imagine.

This Mrs. Thompson is, as she says, a widow. Her husband was a medical man, I believe, at Beverley, and died some twelve or thirteen years ago. His life was insured for £500, and a collection was made in the town for his widow, by which about £300 was raised. She started a boarding-house at St. Leonards, but, in consequence of her ill-health, moved to Ramsgate, a lady giving her £50 for that purpose. At Ramsgate she started writing begging-letters, and has been at it ever since, appealing generally for help in educating her children. She seems by this means to have kept all her children at school, and to have lived more or less comfortably down to the present time. In November, 1893, when inquiries were made of her, she stated that her two eldest daughters were in situations, that the two next were

at school, supported by charity, that another was at home in delicate health, and that the sixth was living with a lady as companion to her daughter. Mrs. Thompson herself was also then receiving an allowance of £1 per week from a brother. The family were, therefore, at that time pretty comfortably provided for. Those who know the lady and her circumstances may consider themselves justified in helping her; but it is certainly not a case of distress; and on principle I would advise all who receive appeals like Mrs. Thompson's from absolute strangers, to make a rule of disregarding them.

Apropos of a recent paragraph in TRUTH on the difficulties of a gentleman over his plumber's bill, an officer of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers calls my attention to the special supplement published by the *Lancet* on July 4. In this supplement not only are some of the chief defects of plumbers' work dealt with from a sanitary point of view in a very comprehensive and exhaustive manner, but a great deal of attention is given to the question of price. Most people, when they come to pay a plumber's bill, are under the impression that they have been mercilessly bled, but the *Lancet* commissioner seems to be of opinion that one of the causes of defective sanitation in our houses is that the public, or the builders, from one cause or another, refuse to pay the price of good workmanship. "What is required," he says, "is a standard of charges that will yield to the master-plumber a fair remuneration for capital and time employed, or some properly qualified Board to whom, at a slight cost, an appeal might be made on either side to act as arbitrators." Cannot the Plumbers' Company, who, for a City Company, seem to take an exceptional amount of interest in the trade they represent, do something to supply these desiderata?

It would seem that it is not London alone that has been puzzled over its gas bills for the first quarter of 1896. A gentleman residing at Altrincham gives me an experience very similar to that of the London householders whose grievances have lately been noticed in TRUTH. In addition to the other reasons for increased consumption in 1895 as compared with 1896, this gentleman had an illness in the former year, which necessitated the burning of a gas fire night and day for a fortnight. This fire was hardly lit in 1896, and, in addition to that, a billiard-room chandelier, which was responsible for a considerable consumption in '95, was removed at the beginning of March '96, to be exchanged for an electric light fitting. Nevertheless, the gas bill, which had been £5. 14s. 4d. for the same quarter of 1895, became £8. 13s. in 1896. The meter is reported to be correct, and the company are unable to offer any explanation, except that there must have been some waste of which the master of the house was not aware. This proposition is almost self-evident. But the material questions remain, how did the waste occur, and did the gas company have anything to do with it?

A gross case of political boycotting has just occurred in West Gloucestershire. For sixteen years Mr. Robert Biddle has been an annual tenant at Woolastone, of Sir W. Marling, a Tory squire. That he is a good tenant may be judged from the fact that he has won four prizes for the cultivation of his farm. But he happens to be a Liberal in politics, and lately committed the crime of winning a seat on the Gloucestershire County Council from a Tory J.P. He has now been served with a notice to quit at Michaelmas next, no reason being assigned, other than that which every one who knows the circumstances can infer for himself. The fact of a Tory landlord being thus able to afford to evict an excellent tenant is a pretty commentary upon the call that has just been made upon British taxpayers to supplement agricultural rents out of the public purse, on the plea of agricultural depression. Landlords may imagine that they are serving the interests of their own class in ejecting tenants who differ from them in politics, but in my humble opinion this is a grievous mistake, and such incidents as this at Woolastone must not only tend to stimulate Radical sentiment, but must eventually lead to landlords being deprived of the powers they use in this way.

I am asked by a correspondent the best way to learn how to debate, by which, I presume, he means what is the best way to acquire the habit of at once replying to the speech of a previous speaker? I should imagine that this can only be acquired by so cultivating contrast that the brain acts almost automatically in that direction. A nerve is excited by a wave of sound. This excitement is transmitted along the nerve to a cell in the grey matter of the brain. The cell is infinitesimally decomposed, and this decomposition is met by a rush of blood which acts as nutriment to it. The result is that an amount of stored energy is set free, which is an idea, although why this is the result of the decomposition of brain tissue no one knows. This idea may be concurrence or contrast. Whether it be the one or the other depends primarily on volition. But if contrast rather than concurrence be produced by volition, the idea produced is automatically one of contrast rather than of concurrence.

A person, therefore, wishing to become a ready debater should never concur, and should train his nerve cells to produce an inverted picture of all that arouses their activity. If he does this, he may very probably weaken his judgment, but he will become—provided that he has a stock of words on which to draw—a debater. The normal condition of the mind is assent, because it is the line of the least resistance, and requires the least cellular activity. This is somewhat modified by a new idea coming in contact with some old idea that has firmly impressed itself upon the brain cells. A person, therefore, seldom really weighs an argument. As it agrees or disagrees with his stored-up ideas, so does it produce assent or dissent. I have now answered the question of my correspondent, but whether he will be wiser from the answer I do not know. My explanation amounts to this: think "No," until the brain, trained to this habit, evolves "No" without any act of volition on the part of the thinker.

THE SANITARY ENGINEERING CO. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

A Burton Radical sends me a newspaper report of a Primrose League gathering in that borough, at which the principal business seems to have been the consumption of a meat tea and the enjoyment of such elevating sports as a tug-of-war for ladies, an egg-and-spoon race for ladies, and races for ladies of different ages. There were similar events for men, and the prizes were such things as aprons, shawls, umbrellas, pipes, and tobacco. My friend opines that the Primrose League must be on the down grade. Not at all. This is how it has always been accustomed to fulfil its noble mission; and no doubt those who run the League know very well that for the promotion of their political cause it is safer to rely upon meat teas, egg-and-spoon races, and so forth, than upon appeals to the reason and understanding of the people.

THE ANGEL GABRIEL.

Mr. Balfour says that the Angel Gabriel could not lead the House of Commons satisfactorily.

If Gabriel himself were here,
He'd quickly find his level;
And why? The reason's pretty clear,
He's not sufficient "Devil."

The most astounding programme ever dreamt of by human being is that set forth by the Reverend Joseph Parker in a letter to the *Times*. The House of Commons is to be reduced to half its present numbers, and of this reduced House, the Prime Minister, if a Peer, the Bishops, and the chairmen and past chairmen of other ecclesiastical bodies are to be *ex-officio* members, because political and social questions can be greatly helped by "pastoral study and experience." County Parliaments are to be developed, "not for legislation but for discussion," and the foreign policy of the country is to be left either to Lord Salisbury or to Lord Rosebery, both of whom have deservedly won the confidence of the whole country. Lord Rosebery is to be recognised as the "National Leader of English Liberalism," owing to "his training, his experience, and his transcendent ability." Having thus settled the Executive and the Legislature of the future, the first business of both is to be to cleanse the Prayer Book of Popery, which means "a revised Protestant and defeudalised Book of Common Prayer."

This proposal to hand over the government of the country either to Lord Salisbury or to Lord Rosebery, who are to be aided in their task by "the study and experience" of the pastors of the various religious denominations, comes strangely from a Nonconformist; for Nonconformists hold that State and Church, having separate functions, ought not to trench on the attributes of each other. I should imagine that the Reverend Joseph Parker will not find one Dissenter ready to endorse his programme. In days past the Nonconformist divines exercised considerable political influence over their flocks. At present the flock considers that it knows quite as much about politics as its shepherd, and resents the shepherd endeavouring—as shepherd—to force his political views upon the flock.

FROM THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

The following verses were picked up near the seat usually occupied by a well-known County member, the day after Sir O. Morgan's constituents had given their impromptu concert on the Terrace:—

Sigh no more, dear Mr. Speaker! Mr. Erskine, have no fear!
There no longer is good reason for devising rules severe;
There no longer is occasion to deal harshly with the swarm
Of fair feminine invaders who the Terrace take by storm.

For, of course, you know what's happened; you most certainly have heard
What upon this very Terrace only yesterday occurred,
When a score of sturdy Welshmen, by Sir Osborne Morgan led,
Stood and sang (ye gods!) a chorus in their native tongue so dread.

Aye, they stood and sang in daylight by the swiftly flowing Thames,
What the complaisant reporter says were "well-known Cymric gems;"
Unabashed they stood and sung them till—though no one cried "Encore!"—
They had wakened frightened echoes on the distant Lambeth shore.

Now, it seems to me quite certain that no Madam and no Miss,
Though devoted to the Terrace, could survive a shock like this;
Be they e'er so fond of taking tea and cake with their M.P.,
By such vocal efforts startled, they perforce must turn and flee!

So the cure is very simple, if the ladies still should flock
To the Terrace in such numbers as this much-liked lounge to block,
Let the bland Sir Osborne Morgan more constituents quickly bring,
And just let them with effusion in their native language sing!

Nay, if that be not sufficient all the tables there to clear,
Let some other vocal parties on the scene forthwith appear;
Say a group of Celtic songsters of a Tipperary clan,
And a band of Gaelic warblers with their pipers in the van!

Or a lodge of "Orange" heroes; or a score of Yorkshire tikes,
And a crowd of vocal Fen-men from East England's dunes and dikes;
Or a set of stalwart Dalesmen, with strong lungs and brawny limbs,
And a gang of Cornish miners loudly shouting Wesley's hymns!

Let each member, as he pleases, as he shows his voters round,
Help to swell the choral chaos that would certainly abound,
And the Speaker and the Serjeant then serenely may sit still,
For if *that* won't clear the Terrace, why I do not know what will!

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Mr. Radcliffe Cooke, M.P., appears to have told his leaders some home truths in regard to their muddling. He ascribes it to taking the opinions of the aristocracy, "with whom alone they associate," for the will of the people, and he advises them to mix more freely with the rank and file of their followers.

This advice might be usefully given to all Governments. None mix—in the House of Commons—sufficiently with their followers, and this has been the case ever since Ministers were given private rooms. They have a separate staircase to approach the House of Commons, and a separate door to go in and out of the House, through which they appear mysteriously, and with equal mystery disappear. The result of all this is, that they are as separated from their followers as actors on the stage are from the audience before the curtain, or the priest in a church from his congregation. Half Lord Palmerston's popularity was due to his gift of familiarity with all or any of his followers.

The *Times* correspondent with the Soudan Expedition informs us that the rule of the Khalifa is oppressive. It is thus described:—"In theory certain fixed percentages of crops and cattle are supposed to be collected for the Government by the Baggara tax-collectors, but in practice it invariably comes to this:—Twenty or thirty Baggaras arrive at a place accompanied by their slaves; they read out to the people the Khalifa's proclamation with regard to taxation, and then seize all the land and all the cattle. They apportion out to the original inhabitants only just as much land as will enable them to procure the barest subsistence, and then enter into possession of all the remainder, employing their slaves to cultivate it for their benefit." Would not this be how a Matabele would describe the civilising mission of the Chartered Company in Matabeleland, except that, as the civilisers do not bring slaves with them, they force the natives to act in that capacity?

In a letter that I have received from Bulawayo it is strongly urged that any Court of Inquiry into the administration of the Chartered Company should have before it some of the settlers in Rhodesia. "There is great danger otherwise," writes my correspondent, "that the Company, backed up by its Company-promoting and Press friends, and by the many who have succeeded and hope to succeed in getting from it pickings and douceurs of various kinds, will so manage as to make it appear that all the settlers are favourable to the Company." This is very far from being the case, but, as it is generally the poorer settlers who have most cause to complain of the Company, there is little likelihood that their grievances will be properly presented unless evidence is obtained from them.

As to the lot of the natives under the benign rule of the Company, my correspondent encloses a statement by a prospector respecting the treatment to which two "boys" in his employ were subjected at the instance of a Native Commissioner. The incident occurred a week or two before the commencement of the native rising. It seems that during the prospector's temporary absence from his camp the native police came across one of the "boys" and ordered him to proceed with them to another place to work, but on the way there he bolted back. Some weeks later the Native Commissioner informed the prospector that the police must take this "boy" and punish him for "running away." He was taken accordingly by the Inspector of Native Police (a European), who also arrested a second man, remarking "I believe I want him as well, but I'm not sure; I'll take the —— at any rate." The statement continues:—

> I saw nothing more of them until they came back to me. Their backs were in a fearful state. Pieces of skin, from 2 in. to 3 in. long, and 1 in. to 2 in. wide, had been taken off them with a sjambok. There were great weals across the spine, and the sjambok must have whipped round from their back, as the skin was peeling off places in front. They said they had had forty strokes each. They had crawled to my place, the mile and a half from ——'s (the Commissioner's) place, and when they arrived the blood was streaming from their wounds to the ground. . . . . I brought the boys into town (Bulawayo) and took them to the Magistrate's court, where Mr. P. G. Smith said they had been shamefully beaten, and had them sent to hospital. I have heard nothing more since.

It will be observed that there was not even a semblance or pretence of a trial of the two wretched natives who were flogged with such fiendish cruelty. I gather that their employer has been to some extent moved to give an account of the affair by resentment at a remark of Earl Grey's, that the rebellion was partly brought about by the ill-treatment that the natives received from the settlers—a resentment which many of the latter have expressed. The Company's Administrator was decidedly injudicious from his own point of view in beginning to throw stones.

No one had the remotest doubt that Mr. Rhodes and certain of the officials of the Chartered Company in South Africa had confederated together to promote a raid into the Transvaal. In regard to this, the finding of the Committee of the Cape Parliament causes no surprise. Whether Mr. Rhodes did or did not at the last moment advise Dr. Jameson that the raid should be deferred is obviously rather a question of tactics than of principle. It is pretty clear, however, that the Cape Committee is of opinion that he did not really wish it to be deferred. On receiving information that the raid was to take place, he drafted a telegram which was not forwarded because the telegraphic line was cut. As Prime Minister he must have had a very shrewd

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

The Princes' Restaurant, Piccadilly, W., now open, is the most elegant and best appointed establishment of the kind in London, where Society can meet to enjoy Luncheons, Dinners, and Suppers of the most recherché description. Signor Bocchi's celebrated orchestra performs daily and Sunday during dinner and supper.

impression that this was the case. The next day, when communications were restored, the telegram was not sent, and during these twenty-four hours he kept out of the way of the Governor and of the members of his Cabinet, and did not inform them what was transpiring. It would seem by the report of the Committee that large sums were drawn from the coffers of the Company in London for some mysterious flotation, and that these were subsequently covered by a cheque drawn on himself by Mr. Rhodes. The Committee therefore believes that the London Board was cognisant of what was to occur. I doubt if all were. The Board seems to have been in the main a mere ornamental appendage to the Company. Probably some actually knew, some took care not to appear to know, and some really did not know.

It would seem that the famous "women and children" letter was in the hands of Dr. Jameson a month previous to the raid, and was post-dated by him. Here again the matter is of small importance, because it has been proved by the published telegrams of the leader of the movement for reform in Johannesburg that he considered that the mass of the Reformers had no wish that the Chartered Company's forces should enter the Transvaal, and that the reforms themselves were only kept to the fore by a plentiful expenditure of money from outside.

The conclusions to be drawn from the report of the Committee are, that Rhodes, a German of the name of Beit, and Rutherfoord Harris, the South African Secretary of the Company, were the prime movers in the raid. With them were confederated certain persons in Johannesburg. Dr. Jameson was left a free hand; at the last moment there was a hitch, and the responsibility of at once going forward or putting off the moment of action was left to him. The entire scheme was a financial one, and patriotism had no part in it, the aim apparently being to annex to Rhodesia a portion of the goldfields of the Transvaal, and thus bolster up the shares of the Company in the market by securing to it a valuable asset.

When Napoleon was about to engage in the battle of Austerlitz, he issued a proclamation to his troops, promising them that he would not expose himself to danger if they fought well. The *Cape Times* is more or less in financial connection with Mr. Rhodes, and it contains an amusing appeal to that remarkable man to moderate his valour. "Rhodesians," it says, "have such an interest in his well-being that for their sakes, if not for his own, he should take more care of himself," for "he rides about on a big, well-fed horse, and being big in person himself, offers an excellent target to the enemy." Have the Press scribes of Mr. Rhodes in South Africa really no sense of the ridiculous? These appeals to the hero not to risk his valuable life, and to leave it to others to incur the chance of a random shot in putting down an outbreak, which is greatly due to him and his financial friends having denuded Rhodesia of its police by employing them in a land-grabbing expedition, are rendering Mr. Rhodes utterly ridiculous. The battle in which he ought to have taken part was waged in the Cape Parliament. The Parliamentary Committee very rightly complains of his not having appeared before it. Had he done so, this would have been a far greater evidence of pluck than riding about on a big, well-fed horse in the veldt, and watching others shoot down ill-armed, and consequently not very dangerous, savages.

A motion was made in the Cape Parliament last week to give Mr. Rhodes leave of absence. Such a motion would have been a formal one if moved in the House of Commons, and would have been agreed to *nem. con.*; indeed, this often takes place. In the Cape Parliament, however, a member opposed it, on the ground that it was a vote of confidence in Mr. Rhodes. This construction was at once repudiated by the mover, and the motion, of course, was carried. Several of the Rhodesian organs in this country dwell on the occurrence as proof positive that the Cape Parliament is most favourably disposed towards Mr. Rhodes. If only we could get hold of the amounts expended by persons connected with the Chartered Company in bribery, what curious reading it would be!

I hear that the wirepullers of the Chartered Company are doing their utmost to ensure that the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry shall be a joint Committee of Lords and Commons, as they think that a joint Committee would be more favourable towards the Company than one consisting alone of M.P.s. On such a Committee no Liberal M.P. would serve, and in view of this, it is not likely that the Committee will be a joint one of the two Houses. It is contrary to all precedent: whenever the House of Commons has decided upon an investigation of the sort intended, it has appointed a Committee, *ad hoc*, consisting exclusively of its own members.

SCRUTATOR.

THE BALFOUR BIKE.

ACIDS have their useful properties, so have alkalies. But mix them together, and the one neutralises the other. This is, I suppose, why, although individually the members of a Cabinet may be sensible, collectively they seem in the conduct of public business to be without the modicum of common sense vouchsafed by Providence to a jackass. Mr. Balfour has learnt to "bike," but as Leader of the House he has not got beyond the first lesson in the art when the wheel turns here, there, and everywhere, the machine is always on the wobble, and the rider comes down now on this side, now on that. What could have been more absurd than to have started with a programme that could only have been carried through had Parliament sat, not six months, but for six years in continuous Session? On the Bills brought in, too, it might have been supposed that the Cabinet knew their own minds, and had gauged those

of their followers. Neither, however, was the case. The Education Bill was to be their *magnum opus*. The man in the House who seemed to have the lowest opinion of that Bill, as a constructive effort, was its putative father, Sir John Gorst. The opposition to it was as strong on the Ministerial side as on the Opposition side, and after a number of days had been devoted to a general discussion of it, the bantling was discussed out of existence. If this be the right mode of conducting public business, all that has to be said is that public business is not business in the ordinary acceptation of the word. On the Irish Land Bill, too, the Government could not make up its mind. Mr. Gerard Balfour has explained that his object was to introduce an Irish Bill upon which all Irish would agree. He might as well have devoted his time as Irish Secretary to an endeavour to square the circle. I can understand an Irish Secretary calling the Irish Members together, and accepting the view of the majority in regard to land tenure in Ireland. But even then weeks would have had to be devoted to the Bill in the House if it were of any real value, during which the Irish minority would have done its best to defeat it.

The practical politician accepts the conditions under which he has to work. The unpractical politician assumes non-existent conditions because he would have them exist. The latter has been the mental state of her Majesty's Government during the present Session, and a very pretty mess these philosophers in the clouds have made of it. When the Session ends all that they will have done will be to have made a present of a considerable amount of public money to landocrats and plutocrats by relieving them of taxation and by transferring it to the shoulders of the community. Agricultural land is only to pay in future half rates, which means that the occupier will have to pay in rent what he is let off in rates; the land tax, which is the rent charged by the State to the individual owner for ownership, is to be reduced; and all who have invested in valuable works of art are to be permitted to hand them over on death to their heirs without payment of death dues. This latter "reform" is tantamount to a present to each generation of Rothschilds of about £100,000, and further than this spoliation of the many for the benefit of the few cannot well go.

But whilst Mr. Balfour has not got beyond his first lesson on the Government bicycle, it must be admitted that the machine itself is an exceedingly bad one for all purposes of progress. A Legislature should be able to legislate. This is why it exists. The Tory creed is that the less there is of legislation, the better is it for the country. Tories rejoice, therefore, that the machine is guaranteed to go very slowly over the level, and to decline entirely to move up hill. The mistake which Radicals make is to aid and abet them, on the plea that everything ought to be so fully discussed, that discussion as to what reforms ought to be passed takes the place of passing reforms. When the Liberals have a majority they deplore and denounce the obstructive tactics of the Tories. When the Tories have a majority the Liberals practise these same tactics, and they fail to see that in so doing, they play the game of the Tories, who are delighted to be provided with an excuse for doing nothing. The actual aim of both when in a minority, is to stalemate the majority: the difference being, that the Tories like being stalemated, and the Liberals do not. Consequently, the Parliamentary game, as now played, is entirely to the advantage of the Tories. I am, however, by no means certain that the official Liberals really desire to put an end to this. They like to profess the most advanced views in the country, but they are not exactly sorry that they cannot give effect to them in Parliament.

The result of all this is that Parliament is every day being more and more discredited, and the governing centre of gravity is being every day more and more transferred from the House of Commons to the Executive. The latter, instead of being the servant of the Legislature, has become its master. This is why I would have all Radicals rise above the wretched rivalries between two opposing gangs struggling for the flesh-pots, and insist that the elected Representatives of the People should in great and in small things be the governing body in the State. Be the majority at a General Election Tory or Liberal, that majority ought to be able to give the fullest legislative effect to the pledges and assurances on which it was elected. For Radicals to seek to discredit the House of Commons whenever the Tories have a majority there, is to discredit popular government by sapping all popular respect for it. This throws power into the hands of the ruling classes, for power must reside somewhere, and if not with the people, then with those that are not of the people.

We are sometimes told that electors do not care for constitutional changes, and desire alone legislation that will materially benefit them. To a certain extent this is true, and those opposed to constitutional changes play upon this "bread and circuses" aspiration. But Radical electors should bear in mind that they never will obtain any real security for legislation in their interests, until the legislative machine is altered. As it is, the House of Commons clings to a mode of procedure the aim of which is to hinder and impede, rather than to facilitate, legislative reforms. As long as this scheme of government continues, all that the people will get are a few crumbs superciliously thrown to them, and the privilege of looking on at the feast, which has been bought and paid for with their labour, being consumed by Brahmins.

The rules of Procedure, which were presumably originally made to aid in the confection of laws, and to secure to all members of the House an opportunity by voice and vote to advocate the views that they were sent to Parliament to urge, have now become the very reverse of that for which they were intended. They are impediments in the way of legislation, and they crush out all independent criticism; they serve to reduce Parliamentary control to impotence; they are an instrument by means of which a Ministry is able—provided that it has a mechanical majority, to rule without Parliament, and to bid defiance to

the wishes and requirements of the country, no matter how strong public opinion may be for them, and yet withal to profess the strongest desire to give effect to them. They are the first line of defence against all sane progress, and the House of Lords is the second line. Between the two, popular government has become a mere sham.

But we must not suppose that the classes are likely to surrender their political supremacy without a struggle. In a fair and square fight they would soon go to the wall. This they know, and every trick will be resorted to in order to hinder such a fight. If we allow ourselves to be involved in a campaign of trickery, we shall be beaten. We must force our opponents into the open. The issue with us must be clear and definite. We must not permit ourselves to be diverted from it. We must be even more on our guard against false friends than open enemies.

THE PRICE OF A LIFEBOAT HERO.

Communications have been made to me both from the Lifeboat Saturday Fund and the National Lifeboat Institution with reference to the article on lifeboat affairs in last week's TRUTH. What the Lifeboat Saturday Fund have to say may be very briefly disposed of; for, as I intimated last week, the question is a domestic dispute, with which the public is not very much concerned at present—though it may be in the future. The Organising Secretary of the Fund takes exception to my statement that the headquarters "were last year transferred to London, where they are now directly under the control of the National Lifeboat Institution." The headquarters, he states, were not transferred to London till January 1 of this year; and they are in no way under the control of the Institution—which I am glad to hear, for several reasons. The Secretary also objects, I gather, to the comparison between the figures for 1894 and 1895 (the figure "1892" in my article was an obvious misprint) being made the basis of any inference respecting "the results of the change of administration," because he contends that there was in 1895 no change of administration whatever. This, however, might have been clearly understood from what I said as to the contentions of the two disputants. I really do not think it is necessary to go further into this question, as I have expressed no opinion on it myself, and I would advise the public also to suspend their judgment. When the result of the Saturday collection for the present year is known, it will be quite time enough to discuss the question whether the removal from Manchester and the severance of Mr. Macara's connection with the movement have been advantageous or not to the Fund.

I pass, therefore, to the much more important matter dealt with in last week's TRUTH—the payment of lifeboat crews for salvage services to property. On this subject, Mr. Dibdin, the Secretary to the Institution, has written me at considerable length, but, I am sorry to say, without any result commensurate with the length of his remarks—indeed, I only find in Mr. Dibdin's letter complete confirmation both of the statements I made and of the conclusions drawn from them. The first paragraph of the letter deals with the management of the Saturday Fund, and requires no notice after what I have said above. The second paragraph states that negotiations are pending between the Institution and Lloyd's on the question of salvage services by lifeboats, and expresses Mr. Dibdin's "surprise" that any one should have communicated the Lloyd's allegations to the Press while those negotiations were pending. I really cannot see that this is any way material to the issue raised in my article, nor can I understand the ground for Mr. Dibdin's surprise; but I am afraid it is a habit of this gentleman to introduce personalities into controversies concerning the lifeboat service, if he sees the slightest opportunity for so doing. Passing over this point also, we will come to the merits of the question with the following passage. I may perhaps remark at starting, in reference to Mr. Dibdin's first sentence, that I was perfectly aware—as I suppose everybody else is—that the lifeboat crews are nominally volunteers, and I am at a loss to discover anything in my article which would lead Mr. Dibdin to infer that I am ignorant on this point. But as Mr. Dibdin raises the point, it should be remembered that the coxswains receive retaining fees, and that the men are paid for their time at practice. I rather fancy, too, that it has lately been the practice to give a retainer to the bow oar as well as the coxswain:—

> I gather from your criticisms that you are not aware that the lifeboat crews are all volunteers, and that the Lifeboat Institution has no power whatever to insist on the crews in their private capacity using a form of agreement of any kind, nor could it advise them to use a form of agreement, as suggested by the Secretary of Lloyd's, which gives the sole arbitration, or right of appointing the arbitrator, to Lloyd's, who represent one party to the matter to be arbitrated upon. My Committee have given the greatest attention to the subject, and have sought the view of the Board of Trade on it. They have been informed by the Board of Trade that it is not their intention, as proposed by the Secretary of Lloyd's, to make the adoption of Lloyd's form of salvage agreement obligatory. The sole *locus standi* of the Lifeboat Institution in the matter is the lending of the lifeboats in cases where the vessels in distress do not need assistance in respect of life saving. For this the Institution does not receive a farthing, the only condition of the loan in such cases being that should the lifeboat be damaged while rendering property-salvage services the cost of repair is to be met by the salvors. The salving of life is the sole object of the Institution, and it was for this purpose alone that it was incorporated under Royal Charter. The Institution is satisfied, however, that it is not the wish of ship-owners or underwriters that the Institution should refuse to allow the lifeboat crews to use the lifeboats for rendering property-salvage assistance to vessels in distress, as such assistance often saves underwriters and ship-owners from very considerable loss. My committee wrote to the Secretary of Lloyd's three months ago asking the direct question whether it was "really the wish of the Committee of Lloyd's that the crews of the lifeboats should in no circumstances be allowed to render assistance to vessels in distress," but although the question has since been repeated no definite reply has been given on this important point. The Institution's sole control over the lifeboat crews is when they are engaged on life-saving service. The Secretary of Lloyd's has approached the General Shipowners' Association with the view to obtaining an opinion from them on the subject, and they have passed a resolution declining to press the Institution to adopt the views of Lloyd's. This resolution was not passed until they had obtained full information as to the point in dispute.

There are one or two remarks in this paragraph which are obviously open to exception. Whether the lifeboat crews should or should not adopt Lloyd's form of salvage agreement, is a question on which I know nothing, and which was not even remotely alluded to in my article. It seems to me that Mr. Dibdin, notwithstanding his "surprise" at the Lloyd's statement having come to my knowledge pending the negotiations, is using this opportunity to argue out in the Press some question at issue

in those negotiations. It is not a question in which I have any interest, but when Mr. Dibdin says that the Institution "could not" advise their crews to adopt Lloyd's agreement, he obviously means that they would not. They can give any advice they please to their crews, and they can, if they please, insist on their advice being adopted. "The sole *locus standi* of the Lifeboat Institution in the matter," says the Secretary, is "the lending of the lifeboats in cases where the vessels in distress do not need assistance in respect of life-saving." What more *locus standi* could they possibly have? A boat belonging to the Institution is taken out by the regular crew under the command of the regular officer. The Institution have absolute power to say on what terms the boat shall or shall not be used, and consequently have complete control over all that the crew do. To talk as if the Institution only had a limited jurisdiction over its own boat and crew is absurd. Besides when a lifeboat goes out to a crew in distress, can anybody say whether they are going to save life or merely to save property? I should imagine not. Mr. Dibdin's account of the arrangement would seem to result in this: that if a lifeboat crew go off to a ship in distress, and find after a time that no life is in danger, they then drop the character of a lifeboat crew, and become a party of ordinary mariners using a boat which the Institution has kindly lent to them. I do not say that this may not be, from a legal point of view, a strictly accurate definition of the position, but I ask the public to take careful note of the contention, more especially in view of what follows.

Mr. Dibdin next deals with some of the cases referred to in the Lloyd's statement. In regard to this, all I have to say is that I assumed that the Lloyd's allegations would be denied by the Institution, or rather by the crews to whom these allegations referred, and that I carefully refrained from drawing any conclusion which depended on controvertible facts. I give what Mr. Dibdin says under this head because I do not wish to afford ground for any imputation of having done the Lifeboat Institution less than justice. But I am bound to say in regard to it that it does not go to the root of the matter, and that where there is a conflict of evidence on such points, I should be more disposed to accept the testimony of the captain and crew of the ship than of the lifeboat men whose conduct was impugned. The best test of truth in such a case is "*cui bono*"? I do not see, for instance, why a captain should assert that lifeboat men made palpably exaggerated representations about the dangers of the coast; or boarded the ship after being ordered off; or gave so much trouble that he had to threaten to throw them overboard; or why sailors should say that lifeboat men tried to induce them to abandon the ship, if none of these things occurred. But I can see very plainly why the lifeboat crews should deny these imputations, even if they were true. However, here is what Mr. Dibdin has to say:—

The cases given in the document from Lloyd's to which you refer have been carefully examined by my Committee. They represent almost entirely property salvage cases during the year 1895, the list *having been furnished to Lloyd's by this Institution*, and my Committee have pointed out to the Secretary of Lloyd's that two of the cases in question were connected with the Ramsgate lifeboat, which is under the management of the Board of Trade. Another case, that of the *Mona's Isle*, mentioned by one of the informants, cannot be traced at all as a salvage performed by any of the Institution's lifeboats. As regards the *Capella*, my Committee fail to understand why the case should have been mentioned, inasmuch as the lifeboat was not employed at all for property salvage purposes; the lifeboat, having completed her life-saving work seven hours earlier in the day, had been placed in her house. The alleged property salvage was the work of a shore boat, made use of by the men in their private capacity. Although the same men had, it is true, previously gallantly saved lives in the lifeboat, the Institution cannot be held responsible for their subsequent action, which was altogether unconnected with the lifeboat.

In the case of the *Echo*, the honorary secretary, Mr. Mirehouse, of Angle Hall, Pembrokeshire, who was himself in the lifeboat at the time, declares that the allegations that the crew of the lifeboat tempted the *Echo*'s crew to desert their ship is entirely without foundation.

I may mention that none of the cases here referred to was among those specially noticed in TRUTH. The *Capella*'s is a case which occurred in 1891, and was only referred to in a note at the end of the Lloyd's statement. The reason, however, for its being so referred to, although Mr. Dibdin's Committee fail to understand it, seems to me sufficiently obvious. The lifeboat crew brought an action for salvage, which the court dismissed with the remark that "the misconduct of the lifeboat crew was such as to work a total forfeiture of salvage reward." The case, therefore, was evidently cited to show that lifeboat crews are not always beyond reproach; and the fact that the misconduct was committed in a shore boat in no way weakens this conclusion. With regard to the *Echo*, the last case dealt with by Mr. Dibdin, it was not one of the cases cited in TRUTH, and it was not even a case in which a claim for salvage was made. The testimony, therefore, of Mr. Mirehouse, of Angle Hall, however impressive in itself, has no bearing on my argument. Mr. Dibdin continues:—

With regard to the remaining twenty-five cases, the information given is in many cases quite at variance with the certified evidence furnished by the Honorary Secretaries of the Stations, and the former not being substantiated by the names of those from whom the information proceeds cannot be accepted as accurate.

This is a somewhat bold assumption. Mr. Dibdin may feel that he personally cannot accept the evidence given to Lloyd's as accurate; but he must remember that, to the public, evidence given to Lloyd's is *a priori* as credible as evidence given to the Lifeboat Institution. I have already given the reasons for holding the allegations of ships' captains and crews quite as trustworthy as those of the lifeboat men whose conduct is impugned, and it is not necessary to argue the point further.

I notice (continues Mr. Dibdin) that in your article you four times use the expression "facts," thus assuming the accuracy of the statements made by Lloyd's in the papers to which you refer, whereas my Committee take exception to the statements in question for the reason that they hold that they are inaccurate and therefore *not* "facts."

If Mr. Dibdin had spent his time in mastering the drift of my remarks instead of counting the number of times that this particular word is used, he might have saved himself the trouble of penning this singularly inept paragraph. Neither he nor his Committee can possibly assert that there are no facts in the Lloyd's statement. All the more important assertions are beyond contradic-

CYCLING SUITS are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

tion, and Mr. Dibdin does not attempt to deny them. The "facts" to which I referred, and from which alone I drew any conclusion, are the facts as to lifeboat crews going out to earn salvage money, enforcing their claims in a litigious spirit, and obtaining in this way hundreds and even thousands of pounds at a single stroke for their services. These are the "facts" which Mr. Dibdin and his Committee have to attend to, and to which I call the attention of the public. In the rest of the letter it will be seen that, so far from being questioned, these facts are taken for granted, and even defended :—

As regards the cases quoted, it would appear that in no case was there an agreement made, the amounts of salvage were all either ordered by the Admiralty Court or settled by the owners or underwriters out of court; my Committee presume that in the former case Lloyd's do not question the justice of the Admiralty Court award, and in the latter case the owners or underwriters could have taken them into court had they not considered a settlement out of court wiser.

The policy adopted by the Institution as regards property salvage services performed by lifeboat crews is, as far as the Committee are aware, precisely the same as that adopted on the Continent.

In conclusion, I must again remind you that the lifeboat men are volunteers, and were the Institution to attempt to force on them any conditions such as those suggested by the Secretary of Lloyd's, the almost certain results would be (1) that the men would on some parts of the coast refuse to man the lifeboats; (2) that they would use their own craft for the salvage work, making precisely the same claims and receiving the same amounts for the property salvage services as they would had they used the lifeboats; (3) that many lives would be lost both of those on board the distressed vessels and of those attempting to rescue them in unsuitable boats.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, CHARLES DIBDIN, Secretary.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution,
14, John-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.
July 17, 1896.

In these concluding passages of the Secretary's letter we come to the whole point of the matter, and to facts in regard to which there seems to be no question whatever. The only question is as to the proper view of these facts, and not a word that Mr. Dibdin says affects in the slightest degree the opinions expressed in last week's TRUTH. On the contrary, it seems to me that this gentleman has placed the case against the Lifeboat Institution and the Lifeboat crews in a far uglier light than any previously thrown upon it. For what does he say? Apparently, the only inducement to the sailors "on some parts of the coast" to volunteer for lifeboat service is the expectation of making money by property salvage operations, and that without this inducement the Institution cannot hope to man its boats. In other words, the lifeboat heroism of which we hear so much, and which is such a potent factor in the appeals of the Institution to public support, rests exclusively upon a cash basis, and if the heroes are not paid their price no heroes will be forthcoming. To me this is an astounding confession, and I believe it will be not less astounding to the subscribers to the Lifeboat Institution and the public at large. So much has always been made of the nobility and self-devotion of lifeboat crews, and benevolence has been so powerfully stirred by sentimental admiration for their work, that when the naked truth becomes apparent, many will look upon the National Lifeboat Institution as little better than a gigantic imposture. There is one way, and one way alone, in which the Institution can remove that impression, and that is by publishing a complete statement of all the amounts which have been received by its crews for salvage services, say, during the last five years. Let us know what these men are earning, and we shall then know what claims the so-called work of life-saving on our coasts has to be regarded as a charitable undertaking. For the present, there seems to be room for considerable doubt as to whether it has that character at all.

To OVERCOME WEAKNESS.—Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic gives New Life, Appetite, Health, Strength, Energy. Cures Neuralgia, Indigestion, Pepper's Nerve Tonic. Debility. Kept everywhere.

MACVEIGH THE PIRATE.

In its current issue the *Scottish Antiquary* has a trenchant and useful exposure of the latest piracy of Mr. or "Captain" MacVeigh, of Dumfries. As already mentioned in TRUTH, the fraud in question consists in the republication, with the name of MacVeigh as author, of a book called "The Scottish Nation," by Mr. W. Anderson. MacVeigh has apparently done with this work precisely what he did in the case of the "Genealogical History," which first brought him under notice in TRUTH. It will be remembered that in that case he obtained by a trick a number of unbound copies of the work from Messrs. Virtue & Co., of London, and had them bound up with a forged title-page, representing the work as his own. In the present instance he is in the same way using the whole text of Anderson's "Scottish Nation," with a title-page of his own, and a preface slightly garbled from the original. In his garbling MacVeigh manages to show that he has not a sufficient knowledge of grammar to perform with success even an act of literary theft, as may be seen from the two following parallel extracts :—

Opening sentence of Anderson's preface.	*Opening sentence of MacVeigh's preface.*
The work which is now presented to the world assumes, by its comprehensively national title, that the various and diversified information it contains is so illustrative of the Scottish nation, and of the origin and constitution of modern Scottish Society, as to justify the adoption for it of a design so conspicuous.	The work which is now presented to the world assumes that the various and diversified information it contains is so illustrative of the Scottish Nation and of the origin and constitution of modern Scottish Society, as to the adoption for it (*sic*) of a designation so conspicuous.

The concluding passage of the preface is a peculiarly fine piece of impudence, MacVeigh boldly taking credit to himself for twelve years' labour and research in producing the work he has stolen :—

ANDERSON.	MACVEIGH.
In the course of his labours the author was necessarily obliged to enter into extensive correspondence with noblemen and gentlemen in all parts of the kingdom, and with some families out of it, and he now returns his acknowledgments to all for the kindness and promptitude with which they answered his applications, furnished valuable information, and, in many cases, placed their family records for the time at his perusal. It may give some idea of the care and research bestowed upon this work, when it is stated that the author was altogether nearly twelve years occupied in its composition and correction. W. A.	In the course of his labours the author was necessarily obliged to enter into extensive correspondence with noblemen and gentlemen in all parts of the kingdom, and with some families out of it, and he now returns his acknowledgments to all for the kindness and promptitude with which they answered his applications, furnished valuable information, and, in many cases, placed their family records for the time at his perusal. It may give some idea of the care and research bestowed upon this work, when it is stated that the author was altogether nearly twelve years occupied in its composition and correction. JAMES MACVEIGH.

Respecting the body of the work the *Scottish Antiquary* makes the following remarks :—

Now for the results of Mr. MacVeigh's labours! A glance is sufficient. Behind all the MacVeigh titles, and behind the MacVeigh preface, lies bodily and complete, but, of course, minus the original title-page and preface, a copy of Anderson's "Scottish Nation," from the original stereotypes of the now extinct firm of Fullerton & MacNab, printers, Edinburgh, and bearing their name at the end of each volume, and at the foot of the lithographed pedigrees. There is not a stroke of MacVeigh's work in the whole of it. It is not added to nor corrected. Anderson's appendix of additions and corrections is still an appendix. Anderson's misspelt names and Fullerton's misprints are still there. The book is not even reprinted, it has been got ready-made, and as Anderson left it, talking in the present tense of Catherine Sinclair, the late Duke of Buccleugh, and other celebrities notoriously dead for years. . . . .

We have now done our duty in exposing a fraud and warning the public. It would be interesting and useful to know how many copies of the book have been sold, and at what price, or whether the copy which we have described (and which is now in the Advocate's Library) is unique. On the inside of the board of vol. I. is written "£3. 10s., cost £9." Anderson's "Scottish Nation," intact and unmutilated, sells at 30s. or thereby.

To this it may be added that the fraud is by no means exhausted in the *Scottish Antiquary's* account of it. Not content with stealing the work in this way, James MacVeigh, as many of my readers are aware, resorts to further false pretences in order to sell it. This he does by writing to the children or heirs of persons recently deceased, representing that the deceased person has given him an order for the work, and asking where it shall be sent. If he has really been by such means as these selling a thirty-shilling book at £3. 10s., I should think that some of those who have been defrauded may at last be induced to set the law in motion against him. On the title-page of the "Scottish Nation" MacVeigh describes himself as author of "The Historical Records of the Black Watch; the 74th Highlanders; the 78th Highlanders," and several other regiments. Are these fictitious works, or more literary piracies? If the latter, as it is probable that the officers of these regiments may have been induced to purchase the book, they might perhaps like to turn their attention to Mr. (or "Captain") James MacVeigh. It is time that somebody took steps to stop this worthy's dishonest practices.

THE THEATRES IN JULY.

Mr. George Edwardes is always on the move. He does not allow the grass to grow under his feet, and has never as yet taken the leaf out of the book of several of his less tactful rivals and contemporaries, who think the essence of good judgment is to force upon the public the style of play it does not want and has never demanded. Think of the failures that might have been avoided this last year if managers had only studied the stage more, and, before running any risk, had felt the pulse of the public! Directly a clever novel or story is published, it is instantly assumed that it will make a good play, whereas it may contain the most difficult of all subjects for treatment on the stage. In a novel you can explain, you are bound by no form; one chapter may be a mere incident, the second a reflection, the third a desultory conversation, the fourth a tragedy. But these things do not do for the the stage. All must be in form, constrained, and in order. It is argued that it should not be so; but, for all that, it is.

In the case of "My Girl," produced with so much success at the Gaiety, it is rather the reversion to an old precedent than the creation of a new one. There was a time when all our domestic dramas and most of our farces were sandwiched with song. The old French vaudeville was at one time a very popular entertainment in London, whilst in France the originals of nearly all our best farces, such as "Box and Cox," "The Spitalfields Weaver," "Off the Line," and so on, were *mêlées de chanson*, Of late years Mr. George Edwardes has suggested that a story of that kind should be applied to burlesque. But hitherto the romance has been of a humorous kind, as in the "Gaiety Girl" and the "Shop Girl," or of a semi-romantic kind, as "The Geisha." Why not give the public something simpler, and more dramatic still, thinks the Gaiety manager. And so he puts on the stage "My Girl," which is a kind of musical "Vicar of Wakefield." I am bound to say that as far as I could judge, the audience liked the fun far better than the melodrama. They infinitely preferred Mr. John Le Hay's very funny Scotch Jew to the muscular parson, and they jumped at every tune and dance that was reminiscent of the music hall. I don't myself think that serious drama and comic songs will ever be on a very friendly footing on the stage, and this is proved by the fact that the second act of the play, which verges on burlesque, went far better than the first.

The stage face of the Harry Jackson type of Jew has become a bit of a bore. He has been done to death at Drury Lane. So the humorous idea of connecting the Semitic race with a veneer of old Gaul came as a welcome relief, particularly as it was admirably carried out by Mr. John Le Hay. Thus, in the way of variety, we have a real African comedian, the delightful dancing of Miss Katie Seymour, the burlesque spirit of Miss Connie Ediss, who sings with point and emphasis, and, of course, the gentle and refined art of Miss Ellaline Terriss, who is as pretty and sweet as a lovely spring flower.

Mr. A. W. Gattie, the clever author of "The Transgressor" — the play that brought Miss Olga Nethersole into such conspicuous notice—seems to be at loggerheads with society, and to be sick of its humbug, inconsistency, and double dealing, so he has written a play called "The Honourable Member" in order to air his peculiar views. I really do not think that society will be converted to Mr. Gattie's views of morality by the best play ever written, and "The Honourable Member" is certainly not that. There are some people, as we all know, who maintain that a woman who has the misfortune to have a husband put away in prison should, on that account alone, claim the privilege of a divorce. But Mr. Gattie seems to think that a divorce is utterly unnecessary, and a superfluous as well as an expensive proceeding; so his earnest hero coolly asks his hesitating heroine to come with him into a life of freedom, and to cut the cords of

MORTLOCK'S China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

conventional bondage. The heroine hesitates—but is not lost. Whilst they are yet speaking, the inconvenient gaol-bird dies; so the patient heroine, who is rather a bad lot herself, is able to marry the hero with the questionable moral code. But we have strange things on the stage of to-day. One of the characters, a pale, cadaverous clerk—excellently played by Mr. James Welsh—has an exit in which he d——s his employer's soul to h——! How different from the days when the Examiner of Plays changed the name of the Deity to Heaven or Providence lest the ears of the majority might be shocked! There were two other admirable performances by Mr. G. W. Anson, an amateur but clever actor, and Miss Madge McIntosh, who has brains, and should be encouraged. But I fear that few managers would endorse the ethics of Mr. A. W. Gattie. The circulating library is, after all, the best place for the ventilation of the new moral code, and even there it is becoming a little tiresome. We can always fling down a book, but it is rude to walk out of a theatre.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

"BANTINGISING AT MARIENBAD."

In Bantingising himself at Marienbad, the Duc d'Orléans, it appears, meant to kill two birds with one stone. He wanted, rumour says, to fit himself for a cycle incursion into France, and to become a romantic-looking suitor of the Archduchess Dorothea Amelia. Henri V. was to have come forward on horseback, Philippe VIII. prefers the bike. It is safer and more modern. He can shoot across the frontier and fly through towns without fearing to be recognised. To cycle rapidly he had to reduce his flesh. The Archduchess had been set apart for the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who has recently decided not to figure in history, should consumption spare him, as Emperor of Austria. She is therefore now open to a matrimonial offer. Her taste leads her to prefer a tall, slim suitor to one with a figure threatening to become Falstaffian. Hence the Bantingising regimen at Marienbad. It is said that the Duc d'Orléans with his reduced figure is quite up to the fancy of the Archduchess. Should the Comtesse de Paris and the Duchesse de Montpensier join to make a handsome settlement, the Archduke Joseph will consent to a marriage. He is among the immensely wealthy members of the Imperial family, and is open-handed. The Hungarians are attached to his branch of the reigning family—a branch that has for three generations lived among them. There have been three successive Josephs discharging the function of Palatine of Hungary. They lived with due regard for the Hungarian taste for magnificence, and have been noted for their public spirit. The Archduchess Dorothea is, through her mother, a grand-daughter of the Princess Clementine and Duke Augustus of Coburg-Kohary. She is nearly related to the Queen of the Belgians, to Queen Christina, and is a cousin of her suitor. I am not sure that a marriage with her would improve the Duc d'Orléans' prospects as a Pretender; but it would help him to hold a footing at the different Courts of Europe, some of which question his claim to Royal rank. The Comtesse de Paris always wished the Duc to marry a near relation, with whom she could feel quite at home, and who would not look at her with a scanning stranger's eyes.

Where does the Duc d'Orléans get his fat? From the Spanish and Neapolitan Bourbons, of whom he is unquestionably a descendant, even though Louis Philippe were a Chiappini. I cannot think of any French Bourbons, except Louis XVI., his sister Clotilde, and Philippe Egalité's father, and the Comte de Chambord and his sister, who were very fat. The two latter were, however, descended from the Neapolitan and Spanish Bourbons. Obesity has been an oft-recurring malady of the Spanish Royal family ever since Elizabeth Farnese married Philip V. She was the heiress of the fattest Italian that probably ever lived. He was a Prince for a Barnum show, whose legs had to be propped up by buckram and whalebone cases to prevent them overlapping his feet. Fatty degeneration impaired the usefulness of Charles III. of Spain, and destroyed the activity of the late Queen Christina—grandmother of the Comtesse de Paris. Queen Isabella strongly inherits the family failing. The Comtesse de Paris makes a brave fight against the hereditary diathesis by Bantingising at Marienbad and on the Auvergne moors, where she tires out all her gamekeepers.

The Duc d'Orléans was an uncommonly fat boy until he suddenly shot up at the age of seventeen into a tall youth. He was clean-built and smart the day he appeared a prisoner before a Paris police tribunal. Ample and luxurious meals in prison (to which he did the fullest justice) brought out his Parmesan heredity. He is not one to stint himself at table, and trusts for reduction to Marienbad and much walking. The fatty tendency skipped Marie Amélie and her sons. Save the Duc de Montpensier, who latterly fell into flesh, the Comte de Paris and his brother inherited the May-pole figures of the Mecklenburg-Schwerins. The Comte de Chambord was also very fond of a good and very plentiful dinner, and often went to Marienbad to get rid of the unpleasant consequences. He ended by drinking himself there into the illness of which he died.

Is it true that Mayfair and South Kensington have been worshipping an exotic belle imported under illustrious auspices? She certainly has not been the idol of these fashionable centres all the season. During the last two carnivals she filled a front seat at Cannes. The prominence was greatly due to a maypole figure, and to the admiration of all the Royalties there. The only person with whom she was at all well paired in ball-rooms was Prince Louis of Battenberg. He, you know, is the tallest of the Queen's connections. She towered so far above most of the Royalties, that they really seemed to need a field glass to contemplate her visage as she moved through the quadrille. This belle was often under the wing of an American Baroness. Her

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name was French, but reminded one of that of the great Renaissance banker who soothed the itching palms of German Princes when Charles V. was candidate for the Imperial throne. As the French think the Venus de Médicis was just the right height, Paris was not a good field for the belle in question.

Li Hung Chang has come rather late to be lionised by society. But he will be an object of curiosity to the crowd, and the official world is sure to heap attentions on him. It is hard to read the face of an Oriental, and especially of a Celestial. But it is a mistake to think that one Chinaman is exactly like any other. Those who write for the papers have discovered that his countenance betrays strong character and astuteness. There is no Madame Li. Chinese ladies seldom leave the Flowery Empire. The Marquise Tseng and her daughter were among the rare exceptions that I can remember. The three Chinese Ambassadors whom the American, Anson Burlinghame, bear-led through Europe in '68 left their wives "at home," by which they meant in China. Japanese ladies are more apt to imitate European ways. They not only come to Europe and place their daughters at high schools, but call for skating-rinks, knickers, and cycles. The Empress and her ladies have taken to the steel horse, and cycle on a maze of walks made on purpose for them in a secluded part of the Imperial gardens.

Louis Philippe's soul has not apparently been released from purgatorial suffering. Last week a requiem was celebrated for its repose at the Chapel of Saint Ferdinand. The Duc de Chartres, who has a distinct recollection of his grandfather, represented the Duc d'Orléans on this occasion. Coming on behalf of "the King," it was arranged that he was prominently to have the *pas* of all the other Princes who might attend. The Orleanists keep up a perpetual course of annual requiems to call attention to their claims. There are services for the souls of Marie Amélie—who is reputed a saint; the Duc d'Orléans, who was accidentally killed fifty-four years ago; the Duchesse de Nemours, and the Duc de Montpensier. There has not yet been time to have an annual mass for the repose of the Duc de Nemours. The Duc d'Aumale's dead are allowed to rest. If masses are celebrated for them, it is so privately that the papers are never informed. The defunct daughters of Louis Philippe are neglected by the party. They both were wives of heretics, but lived and died in the true faith. The Duchesse d'Orléans was an impenitent Protestant, and lies utterly neglected in a lone vault at Dreux.

Is it true that the Queen has really decided to inhabit next spring quite a new hotel at Cimiez? What were her doctors about when they consented to such a thing? There is nothing more dangerous than to "dry the walls" of a new French house. The gypsum, of which plaster of Paris is made, gives out poisonous emanations long after it has been used in house building. One can always rent a new French flat at a rent considerably less than what will be asked for it some years later. The reason is that the tenant dries the plaster to his personal detriment. When Thiers rebuilt his house in the Place St. Georges, hot-air flues were going night and day to purge the inner walls of deleterious gases. Nevertheless, his doctors strongly advised him not to live there for another year. He was in the best of health when he went back, but no sooner was he there than his health began to fail. The mucous membranes were as if corroded. He had a constant headache and a feeling of unfitness. Madame Thiers was attacked in the same way. I was once myself a sufferer from staying in a new French house.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

DEAR LADY BETTY,—The proceedings of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Licensing Laws last week excited much interest in the West End, for the Commissioners then took evidence which bore upon the question of licensing clubs. It may be as well, therefore, to re-assure those who are anxious about the matter. The Licensed Victuallers, who were desirous that the Royal Commission referred to should be appointed, complain that the numerous political and other clubs—especially in the Provinces — organised for the use of workmen, affect their custom. That being the case, they desire that these clubs should have the same restrictions imposed upon them as are placed upon the proprietors of houses of public entertainment. They have nothing to gain, and there is no public advantage to be attained by legislation which would render it necessary for high-class clubs to be licensed. There is, moreover, no likelihood that the Royal Commissioners will recommend that such clubs should be so treated.

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That disposes of one important point in connection with the matter. The evidence given before the Royal Commissioners last week by Mr. Algernon Bourke, the manager of White's Club, is more interesting. Mr. Bourke assured the members of the Royal Commission that, judging by his experience in connection with several clubs, there has been an appreciable decrease of drinking in recent years at the West-End clubs. In saying that Mr. Bourke was partly correct and partly incorrect. It is true that since the collapse of the commercial house of Baring Brothers, the failure of which directly or indirectly affected almost every one associated with the West End, there has been a considerable decrease in the amounts annually spent at clubs upon wine and cigars. The fact is, however, that since the financial crisis referred to, at nearly every club the members have drunk less expensive wines, and have smoked less expensive cigars, than they did. According to the most experienced club secretaries in the West End, champagne—especially the high-priced vintages—and the high-priced clarets, for instance, are now comparatively seldom ordered, whilst cheap clarets, still Moselle, and beer, are more generally consumed. There has, indeed, been a considerable reduction of expenditure all round in almost every West-End club, and, as this decrease is still continuing, the financial position of many of these institutions is rapidly becoming alarming.

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To return to the question of licensing clubs of a high-class character, it is amusing to observe that many of the politicians who urge that these institutions should be licensed appear to imagine that clubs like the Carlton, the Turf, the Marlborough, and the Bachelors' are conducted on much the same lines as a gin-palace. Their imagination seems to present vivid pictures to them of well-dressed men stumbling about the gorgeous rooms helplessly drunk, wrestling upon the thick pile-carpets, or having desperate free-fights over the card-table to the accompaniment of

indescribably bad language. The same strange inability to understand life at a club is common amongst women, who seem to suppose that men pass their time at these institutions in a state of continual enjoyment, having every conceivable luxury at their command. As a matter of fact, the average man who has average comforts at home seldom cares to enter the club, where two-thirds of the members bore him and he probably bores the remaining third.

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There is this to be borne in mind, however, that if at any time the Legislature enacts that high-class clubs shall be licensed, gambling of every sort will at once have to cease at all these institutions.

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The Bachelors' Club and the Piccadilly Club are neighbours. The committee of the former charged twenty-five shillings for admission tickets for strangers—including luncheon—to view the procession upon the occasion of the Royal marriage, and the latter charged five shillings. It is true that at the Bachelors' wine was not charged extra, but even allowing for that, why was there so great a difference?

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It is understood that Mr. Eric Barrington will succeed the late Sir Percy Anderson as Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

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Should Sir Edmund Monson accept the offer to succeed Lord Dufferin as British Ambassador in Paris, it is generally hoped throughout the Diplomatic Service that Sir Horace Rumbold, the British Minister at the Hague, will be promoted to be British Ambassador at Vienna to replace Sir Edmund. Sir Horace is one of the most talented diplomatists in the British Service; a man possessed of great ability and very brilliant. Fortune has not favoured him, however, in the matter of promotion, and it is hoped by all his colleagues that she will seize this opportunity to make a fitting reparation for her past neglect.

Were Sir Horace Rumbold to obtain the appointment of British Ambassador at Vienna, those who form judgments by the fitness of things suppose that Sir Charles Stewart Scott would be transferred from Copenhagen to the Hague, an appointment which would be popular throughout the Service.

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As it is rapidly becoming the custom to present the high prizes of the Diplomatic Service to important supporters of the Government who have had no training in diplomacy, would it not be well to develop the system a trifle further? The "Foreign Office Guide" gives the salary of the British Ambassador in Paris as £9,000 a year. There are many South African millionaires and others who would willingly pay the country twice that sum to obtain the appointment. The salaries given to the British Ambassadors are as follows: At Paris, £9,000; at Constantinople, £8,000; at St. Petersburg, £7,800; at Berlin, £7,500; at Rome, £7,000; at Washington, £6,000; and at Madrid, £5,500, and there are other emoluments attached to some of them. These amount together to a total of £50,800. Were South African and other millionaires to give between them double the salaries to the State for permission to hold the appointments, the community would receive annually a hundred thousand pounds instead of paying fifty thousand. The plan would, moreover, be more sensible than is that of appointing amateurs whose only qualification is that they support the Government by influencing the votes of their tenants at the elections.

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With regard to a letter which was published in these columns last week, the following has been addressed to me:—

"I heartily sympathise with 'A Large London Landlord' in his plea for removing the hideous wall that hides Devonshire House. I am sure, however, that everybody who knows Grosvenor-place will sympathise with its residents who face the old, dilapidated wall which separates them from the beautiful grounds of Buckingham Palace. This fine, wide thoroughfare would be vastly improved if the authorities would, at least, have the bricks rubbed and the wall repaired, a not very costly work, but one which would meet with the approval of all those who like to see London look bright and cheerful. The work cannot of necessity be long delayed, why, then, wait?

GROSVENOR PLACE."

Of course, the gardens of Buckingham Palace should be surrounded by a fine iron railing, as the grounds of most Royal palaces are throughout Europe. Besides, these grounds should occasionally be opened to the public by admission tickets during the absence of the Court. All this will be one day, but in England we move slowly. Meanwhile we live but once, and have to do so in discomfort.—Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

I RECENTLY expressed an opinion that Helm will probably turn out to be the Duke of Westminster's best candidate for the Leger. It is now quite certain that Regret can have no earthly chance at Doncaster, for he is evidently a non-stayer, and it will in future be useless to seriously consider his prospects in any race of more than a mile, unless the class of the other competitors is decidedly inferior. The performance of Troon at Sandown greatly disappointed his friends, but why they should have been so sanguine it is difficult to understand, for there seemed to be no affinity with reason in the notion that another fortnight's work would bring him on so much as to enable him to reverse the Newmarket running with St. Frusquin and Regret. I do not believe that Troon can really stay a yard beyond a mile. Of the Duke of Westminster's three-year-olds Shaddock is far and away the best over a long course, and if anything should happen to Persimmon or St. Frusquin during the next six weeks the unaccountable omission to engage this colt in the Leger will be exceedingly regretted at Kingsclere. St. Frusquin is a colt that evidently thrives on work, for he never looked better or went better than at Sandown. My own opinion is that he ought to have won the Derby, and if different tactics had been adopted with him in that race he would not have been defeated by Persimmon, who will never beat him again. St. Frusquin can evidently stay well, and he will win the St. Leger if he goes on all right. Troon was so "groggy" last winter that no fresh engagements were made for him, and the only race in which his name appears is the Jockey Club Stakes, in which event he is held perfectly safe by St. Frusquin, Persimmon, and Regret. I hear that Sir Visto will not run for the Goodwood Cup, but he is to be reserved for his autumn engagements, which include the Jockey Club Stakes and the Champion Stakes.

Goletta managed to win the Chesterfield Stakes, only, however, after a desperate race with Eager, and she ought to have beaten Mr. Fairie's horse easily on the Ascot running, but is believed to have been not quite up to the mark. If it is true that she was shin sore she is not likely to be seen out at Goodwood. Merle, who won the Soltykoff Stakes from a moderate field, is by St. Serf out of Thistlefield, her dam being a half-sister to Common and Throstle. The American filly Terpsichore II., who finished second in this race, is a daughter of St. Blaise, and she belongs to Mr. Belmont, who is bringing over a stud of some thirty horses from the United States, including Henry of Navarre, who is to be trained for next year's Ascot Cup. Mr. Belmont's string includes Don de Oro, by Rayon d'Or out of Belladonna, a two-year-old who is held in very high estimation, and who will probably be heard of in connection with next year's Derby and Leger. Don de Oro is also engaged in the Grand Prix.

Ramapo was very heavily backed for the July Handicap at Newmarket, but he got off badly. He, however,

made up his ground in a manner which considerably impressed those spectators who watched his running. It may be true that he has a temper, which makes him unreliable, but unless I am vastly mistaken he will certainly win a T.Y.C. handicap before very long, and my speculative readers will do well to follow him. He must not be discarded by backers on the strength of his defeat last week, as he might take it into his head to astonish them by a display of his best form some day when the British public have plunged upon something else.

Amphora, who has been a great tip for the Stewards' Cup, won the Beaufort Handicap very easily indeed, and she must be an exceedingly smart filly over a short course. The fact that she was not kept for Goodwood shows that the Bedford Cottage stable have something in reserve for the Stewards' Cup, and it will probably turn out that Easter Gift is the best of their lot.

That Velasquez and Chelandry would be two of the cracks of the season was confidently predicted by me four or five months ago, but after the hollow defeat of the filly at Ascot, I had not expected her to win the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park. Chelandry, however, was no doubt suffering from the effects of her two races on the hard ground at Epsom when she ran at Ascot, as she came out on Saturday in very different form. She was expected to run well, but Alfar was the great tip at Newmarket. Simoon has been amiss, and she will not be seen out before the Newmarket First October Meeting, so the Kingsclere stables had to rely upon Mr. Low's colt by Bend Or out of Braw Lass, who was very heavily backed. Chelandry won with consummate ease, and Lord Rosebery ought now to secure the £3,000 stake at Kempton Park in October, for both Velasquez and the filly are engaged, and a breeding allowance of 5 lb. reduces her penalty to 5 lb.

Regret ought to make amends for previous disappointments by winning the £2,500 stake at Liverpool this afternoon, for which seventeen three-year-olds have been left in. Of course St. Frusquin will not run. The Duke of Westminster ought also to win the Knowsley Dinner Stakes of £600 to-morrow with either Regret or Shaddock.

As to the two-year-old events at Liverpool, the £2,000 stake this afternoon has twenty-six acceptances, including Galtee More (9 st. 5 lb.), Alfar (8 st. 12 lb.), Glencally (8 st. 11 lb.), Brigg (9 st. 3 lb.), and Tonquin (8 st. 9 lb.). I am disposed to fancy that Glencally (hitherto the most unlucky two-year-old of the season) will win this race if he can beat Galtee More; and, in any case, he ought to secure the Mersey Stakes of £550 to-morrow, for which event fifteen are left in.

Early speculators on the Liverpool Cup have been indulging in execrative cacklings respecting the scratching of Gazetteer, but people who will rush in directly the weights are published, and put their money on a horse, in utter ignorance of the intentions of its owner, do not deserve a particle of sympathy. There will probably be about ten runners. Lord Derby's Canterbury Pilgrim has been all along a firm favourite, because she has a nice weight for an Oaks winner, and her backers knew very well that they could implicitly rely in this case upon having a good run for their money. Mr. Singer's Telescope, who ran so well in last year's Leger, is much fancied, and so also is Lord W. Beresford's Paris III., but the Australian horse strikes me as being overweighted. Mr. Blake's Bowline would probably do better over a longer course. Mr. Wallace's Spook has been expressly reserved for this race, but I do not believe that he can give 7 lb. to Dule Tree, and I shall venture on a plumper for Mr. Oswald's colt, who has done a capital preparation, and he is much fancied by some good judges at Newmarket.

There ought to be excellent sport at Goodwood next week, as there are large entries for all the principal events, and the course is in first-rate order. The meeting bids fair to be a great success.

The Ham Stakes on Tuesday will be worth £850 even if only three start, and there are fourteen subscriptions. The Duke of Portland's Berriedale, by Donovan out of Caithness, is by no means a flyer, and I know nothing in favour of Prince Soltykoff's pair. If the Duke of Westminster's candidate is fancied by the Kingsclere people it ought to win. He has Arkle, by Arklow (brother to Ormonde) out of Angelica, dam of Orme, and Delamere, by Blue Green out of Sandiway. The large entry for the Richmond Stakes includes Chelandry, Smean, colt by Bend Or out of Braw Lass, Flying Colours, Monterey, St. Agnes, and Bayolia as the best known of the public lot. I should fancy that Mr. Baird's filly Briseis, by Galopin out of Briar Root, will win this race if she can beat Chelandry, who has 12 lb. extra to carry. On Wednesday the Halnaker Stakes, which has obtained thirty-seven entries, may be left to Galtee More. The Lavant Stakes will probably be won by Alfar. Sixty-two animals are left in for the Rous Memorial Stakes on Thursday, including Alfar, Lowly, Princess Anne, Lady Frivoles, Smean, and Blue Water. This race should fall either to Alfar or to Blue Water, each of these animals having the advantage of a 5 lb. breeding allowance. The Prince of Wales' Post Sweepstakes, which will be worth £2,800, should be won by Lord Rosebery with Velasquez. The entry includes his filly Chelandry, Goletta, and Lowly. Among the dark lot are Mr. Bass' own sister to Meddler, Lord Durham's filly by St. Simon out of Primrose Day, and the Duke of Westminster's Guernsey, by Bend Or out of Jersey Lily. On Friday the Molecomb Stakes looks good for Galtee More, who will be able to beat Sauce Tartare and Berzak. Of course, at such a Meeting as Goodwood, dark "flyers" must be looked out for in the two-year-old races. In the absence of Galtee More the Findon Stakes will probably be won by Lord Alington's filly Zarabanda. There are sixty-four entries for this race.

As to the three-year-old events, the Gratwicke Stakes should fall to Labrador. Prince Soltykoff may take the £200 for second horse with La Toison d'Or. Fifty-three animals are left in for the Sussex Stakes on Wednesday, and this race should be won by Regret, while in the absence of the Duke of Westminster's colt, Nouveau Riche may be successful.

There are forty-six entries for the Nassau Stakes, but neither Thais nor Canterbury Pilgrim is engaged in this race, which will fall to either the Duke of Westminster's Helm (winner of the Coronation Stakes at Ascot) or to Lord Zetland's Jolly Boat, who has not run since she finished third for the One Thousand. Jolly Boat will have 12lb. the best of the weights with Helm. It is rather absurd that the penalties in this event are for three-year-old winnings only, the result being that Jolly Boat, who won about £3,200 last season, has no extra weight to carry.

The Goodwood Cup should be won by Count Schomberg, who has a great advantage in the weights. Pride will be his most dangerous opponent, and Mr. Brassey's horse has also undergone a special preparation for the race. The conditions of the Cup, so far as relates to penalties and allowances, ought certainly to be altered before next year. The Gordon Stakes has a very good entry, including Whittier, Galeazzo, Marco, and Roquebrune, but all these animals have been doing little work of late, and not one of them is likely to be seen in winning form before the autumn. I do not suppose that either Thais or Nouveau Riche will start, and the filly will have 10 lb. extra to carry. The Duke of Westminster will probably win with one of his lot, which consists of Shaddock, Conroy, and Helm. The obvious course to be taken with Shaddock is to run him through for his engagements, as he is not entered for the Leger. If Shaddock goes on all right he will be seen out at Doncaster when he is to run for the Scarborough Stakes on Thursday.

People will do well to leave the Stewards' Cup alone until the day of running arrives. Ugly is well in, and the course will just suit Lord Wolverton's speedy horse. Grig must surely have got rather stale by this time, and the Rothschild stable may find a better candidate in Imposition. It would not a bit surprise me to see

Ramapo win this event. Omladina has not been doing much work since Ascot, but I dare say she will be ready enough to run next week if she is wanted at Goodwood. Raconteur has been well taken care of, and so also has Red Heart, who has no pretensions on public form to be placed within 1 lb. of Troon. Sir Michael will run well if he is "slipped" on this occasion. Mr. McCalmont's Amphora won the Beaufort Stakes at Newmarket last Tuesday with 8 st. 7 lb. on her back in a common canter, and here she has 7 st. 10 lb. to carry. If her stable companion, Easter Gift, is better at the weights, this race should be won by Bedford Cottage.

Of course there was only one cricket match last week, and that was played at Manchester between England and Australia. The batting of the home team failed miserably in both innings. This was all the more inexplicable because Jones, the Colonial fast bowler, was practically no good at all. There were only two real exceptions to the general rot, and those were Lilley and Ranjitsinhji. The reception that the old Cantab received at the hands of the public showed that they did not appreciate the action of the M.C.C. in excluding him from the first match. It was just as well that he played. In the second innings his style was the perfection of cricket, and he never made a mistake all through his long innings. Lilley, the Warwickshire wicket-keeper, hit hard, and his batting was invaluable. As for the Australians, they fairly collared the English bowling. Giffen was in his old form, and Trott played every ball as though the match depended on his efforts; while Iredale was irreproachable. It seemed impossible to realise that they were the same team that on two occasions failed so miserably at Lord's. But it was not to their batting alone that they owed the victory. Their fielding was very different to what it has been. There were practically no mistakes. They had some little difficulty in getting their runs on a worn wicket that suited Richardson, but Gregory came to the rescue, and they thoroughly deserved to win. They played a great game from start to finish.

At the same time it would be idle to pretend that the selection of the English team gave anything like satisfaction. Taking a line through the Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's, it was obvious that MacLaren had not had sufficient practice to justify his inclusion, while Hayward was batting finely, and he is a good bowler. Lohmann, too, would evidently have been more useful than Briggs, but he could not play owing to a sprain. In the match at Lord's the Gentlemen followed up in a more decisive manner their previous success against the Players at the Oval. Both Woods and Grace bowled admirably, and Ranjitsinhji's batting was excellent. In county matches the feature of the week was the poor display of Yorkshire against both Essex and Hampshire. Essex well deserved its victory, which was due in a great measure to the bowling of Bull and Kortright and the admirable batting of Owen, Carpenter, and Perrin, who made his first century against Warwick. That county, owing to a brilliant innings by Diver, and steady batting by Quaife, was in a very favourable position at the end of the match. The tremendous score of Captain Wynyard against Yorkshire showed that the strength of the county batting, as evidenced by their victory over Sussex, was no mere chance, and it was owing to the consistent batting in both innings of Milligan, Hirst, and Mounsey, and the bad fielding of Hants, that the game was a draw. The success of Hampshire last week was due to a plucky effort after a run of very bad luck.

At Winchester, last week, there was some extraordinary scoring in a match between the I Zingari and the Green Jackets. The former made 437, Lord G. Scott making a century. Their opponents ran up 619 for nine wickets, D. H. Blundell, Captain Majendie, and Prince Christian Victor each making over a hundred.

Probably Mr. Guy Nickalls will admit that in Guinness his brother Vivian has met a better sculler. It may be remembered that last year Mr. Guy Nickalls took my rowing correspondent severely to task for having suggested that in Guinness there was a greater sculler than even Vivian or Guy. Well, the results of the Diamonds and Wingfields have fully justified the estimate that was then formed of their respective powers. At the same time, a finer race for the Wingfields has never been witnessed. They were practically level at Hammersmith, and it was quite three miles before the winner, with his long, easy stroke, shook off his antagonist, who appeared to be rowed out at the finish. Vivian Nickalls has never rowed a pluckier or sterner race. He cannot be too highly praised for the desperate efforts he made to secure a victory. At the Kingston regatta the younger Guinness won the Senior sculls very easily, and Thames had fairly easy wins in the Senior eights and fours. The change in the course obviates the chances of collision, which were so prevalent in the past.

There was a pleasant meeting between the London Athletic Club and the United Hospitals. The latter are decidedly strong at present, and if Woodyatt only trained to start he would be a very fine sprinter. Leggatt's long jump was very good, and Shaw did even time over the hurdles, while Munroe had the three miles all his own way without having been on the path before during this year. It is a great pity he has not tried to get fit. Robertson, the Oxford Blue, won the hammer. In Dublin a representative team of Irish athletes beat a strong Scotch team, the best performers being Welsh, of Scotland, in the half, and Ryan and Horgan (Ireland) in the high jump and weight. The meeting was so successful that it should be possible to organise an International contest between the four countries. At the Salford Harriers meeting Cullum, the Welsh champion, ran brilliantly in both the half and thousand yards race.

The new conditions for entering the competition for the Lawn Tennis Championship at Wimbledon give affiliated clubs a direct interest in the event, and the consequence is that the entry this meeting has been very satisfactory. The final to decide who should meet the holder, Baddeley, was played out between Mahoney and Eaves. But earlier in the competition both players had to meet some tough antagonists. The chief of these were the Dohertys, from Cambridge University, the Riseleys, from Clifton, Nesbit, Simond, H. Baddeley, and Larned, the American. The scores indicate that there was really very little difference between these players and those who met in the final. Mahoney certainly had the hardest work, and he found in Eaves a player who gave him less trouble than some of his earlier opponents. To the great surprise of most people, Mahoney succeeded on Monday in wresting the championship from Baddeley. The latter, however, was palpably out of form. In the Ladies' competition, Mrs. Pickering, by her excellent volleying, beat Miss Austin, who won the Covered-Court Championship last winter. She had therefore to meet Miss C. Cooper, who is also a hard and accurate volleyer.

The Thames Swimming Club had bad weather again, but the meeting was a great success, especially the Public Schools race, for which there were eighteen competitors. Powell, of Wellington, won after a close finish with Farrar, of Oundle, who was gaining rapidly, and next was Deacon, of Westminster. The half-mile was easily won by Green from Cohen. Of course, Tyers won the quarter-mile sea-race at Southport. The Ealing S.C. had a most successful and well-managed meeting. The diving was very good, and the finishes in the open race were remarkably close, Grafton being the winner; and in the Water Polo, after a close game, Richmond were just beaten by the home team.

For about the fourth time in forty years the Gold Prize of the M.C.C. for Tennis changed hands. The holder, Alfred Lyttelton, was clearly out of practice, and there was a touch of sorrow at his defeat by Sir Edward Grey, who has undoubtedly come on a good deal.

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

MAMMON.

FROM MOSES MOSS *TO* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The past week has been a disappointing one from the point of view of the mere market speculator; but the investor has not much to grumble about, for he can afford to wait until the present holiday interregnum gives place again to a more active period.

THE OUTLOOK.

Amongst the favourable influences, the announcement of satisfactory dividends by a number of Home Railways stands out very prominently. These stocks have not so far responded in proportion to the coming distributions, but after a temporary reaction the tone has again become very strong and hopeful. The recent dulness was in part caused by the collapse in the American market, of which the fear of gold shipments and the illness of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt were the principal causes. The gold shipments are, of course, the logical consequence of the silver agitation in the United States, but any one selling Vanderbilt stocks on the paralytic seizure of Mr. Vanderbilt will be ill-advised. It may be taken for granted that all arrangements have been made that even if unfortunately the worst should happen the securities so closely connected with the Vanderbilt family will not be thrown upon the market. In other respects the American outlook is still very doubtful; but it is a very mistaken reasoning, under the influence of which other stocks have been depressed in sympathy with Yankee Rails. It is true that a few of the South African operators have loaded up with big blocks of Yankee Rails, on a tip which was recently put about in the Kaffir Circus that these gambling counters were now on bed rock; but even if these speculators should be compelled to let go on a further spasm, this would not by any means imply that the South African market would suffer. Least of all should Home Railway stocks be affected by events in the American market. Foreigners have been comparatively dull, the dead season having already commenced on the continent, while the issue of the new Russian loan is being awaited there. Argentine Government and Railway stocks have fluctuated somewhat, and are not maintained at top prices; but there appears to be a fair prospect of the unification scheme becoming law, so that for a time at least we might have a further advance. In the meantime I may congratulate readers of TRUTH who have, on my urgent advice, stuck to their Argentine Provincial bonds, when much lower down, on the very marked recovery which has already taken place, and which promises to make further progress. In the Kaffir Circus prices have again been dwindling, but I keep to the view already expressed that, the longer the inactivity lasts, the sharper will be the rally when it does come; and it would be strange indeed if August and September were to pass without a very strong recovery in sound Transvaal Mining and Land Companies. Mr. B. I. Barnato is expected in London early in August, and his advent should also be a stimulating feature. The West Australian market has continued to show a certain irregularity, but some of the groups have displayed great strength, and the news from the goldfields is so favourable that an important improvement may eventually be looked for. All the same, the rush of new enterprises is being overdone, and I would strongly advise my readers to leave the majority of these new ventures alone. Amongst the Companies now on the board almost the only ones which appear to be tempting are the Northern Territories, the Hill End Consols, the Great Boulder Junction Reefs, and the Brownhill Central. New Zealand mines have also had a partial set-back, due chiefly to the excessive number of new issues, and promoters will do well to stay their hand now. Readers of TRUTH, at all events, should keep aloof from those amongst these undertakings which acquire only some plots of land, carelessly pegged out, upon which, so far, very little development work has been done. There is a pause in the Cycle market, and in connection with most of the new enterprises in this section the underwriters have been saddled—a very salutary lesson!

HOME RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

It is a curious feature of Stock Exchange dealing that the most favourable events when they come off are frequently found to have been discounted, and the various dividends announced during the week illustrate this paradox. It is true that, as I have already stated, the favourable Brighton dividend produced a rise in Brighton "A" to 186, but there has since been some backsliding, and the price is now only 185. Assuming that the dividend for the current half-year will be the same as that for the corresponding half of 1895, the yield of this stock would be £3. 17s. per cent. per annum, and it is quite on the cards that the current half-year will yield better results. Under these circumstances there is still some room for improvement. The Brighton report is satisfactory, and the proposal of the Directors to grant an annuity of £1,000 a year to the ex-Chairman, Mr. Samuel Laing, will doubtless be heartily endorsed by the shareholders who have benefited so largely by his skill in Railway management. Next to the Brighton the South-Eastern dividend has been the most satisfactory, as out of the published gross increase of £55,000, no less than £44,500 has been saved "net." Dover "A" would, if results of the current year were merely to equal those of last year, receive a dividend of 3 per cent., against $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for the previous year; but in view of growing traffics, and of the probability of additional savings in working expenses, owing to the arrangements with the Chatham Company, a further increase in this half-year's result may be looked for, and the present quotation of 103 therefore looks distinctly tempting. The stock is certainly cheap as compared with Great Eastern, which receives a dividend only at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the half-year, against $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for the corresponding half of 1895. Should the Great Eastern earn the same dividend for the current half year as for the second half of 1895, the distribution for the year would be only $2\frac{3}{4}$, as against the 3 per cent. of Dover "A." At the present price of $103\frac{7}{8}$, therefore, Great Eastern stock appears to be high enough. The Sheffield dividend, at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum for the half-year, has been a disappointing one, so far as the market is concerned. My readers are aware that I did not anticipate any more, and it is evident that working expenses have increased considerably. There is nothing to be said against the Metropolitan dividend at the rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., against $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for the corresponding half of 1895, but the stock had already risen to $115\frac{1}{2}$ on inside purchases effected in anticipation of this announcement. Expectations with reference to the Chatham announcement have been very favourable of late, the market expecting the full Arbitration Preference dividend with a large surplus. Hence the "Bears" who had sold rather wildly at the time of the decision of the House of Lords are reducing their commitments, with the result of a distinct rally in the stocks. The stocks of the Heavy lines have also displayed a firm appearance, as good dividends are looked for, and there is a lingering hope that some of the Boards will follow the example of the Midland. Some attention has also been given to the stocks of the Central London Railway, now that the erection hoardings at various points indicate that the work in connection with the new stations of the line has already commenced. The Scotch stocks have shown unexpected weakness, yet there is nothing in the position to encourage the "Bears," and sooner or later I look for a sharp recovery both in Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) and North British Deferred. The decrease in the traffics of the Scotch lines is only apparent, as the comparison is with the holidays of the Glasgow Fair last year.

NOTICE TO CONNOISSEURS OF FINE DRY CHAMPAGNE.—PÉRINET & FILS' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

YANKEE RAILS UNDER THE SILVER CLOUD.

The victory of the Silverites at the Democratic Convention in Chicago is already bringing about the inevitable results. Gold shipments to Europe have re-commenced, and there are rumours of very large amounts to be shipped in the near future. In the meantime there is some prospect of the Democratic Party splitting up over the silver platform, and one of the leaders, Mr. Whitney, has just pronounced against it, but others who are known to hold sound views on the currency question are as yet silent. I repeat that I cannot believe that the American people can in the end endorse the policy which triumphed under the lead of Mr. Bryan at Chicago; but unfortunately there must be a protracted period of uncertainty before the Presidential election can settle the point, and in the meantime the American market will be swayed by the conflicting rumours which will be current with reference to the political position. To these unfavourable influences there has been added the sudden illness of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, who, however, it is now reported, is likely to recover again. Those who have effected "Bear" sales in the expectation that the possible decease of Mr. Vanderbilt would cause a slump in the Vanderbilt stocks, are, however, doubtless reckoning without their host; although the persistent stream of sales has had the effect of knocking down the prices of New York Central and Lake Shore about 4 dols. and 7 dols. respectively. The decline has, however, been general in the whole of the active list, although it has not assumed similar dimensions, and, as shown in the following comparison of quotations, the fall ranges from one to five dollars, with the exception of Southern Prefs., which have suffered more heavily:—

—	Price Jan. 2, 1895.	High'st in 1895.	Low'st in 1895.	July 10.	July 19.
Atchison	4½	25	3⅞	14⅛	11¾
Do. 5 per cent.	18⅛	30½	16½	20¼	17¼
Atlantic Firsts	14	27¾	13	25¼	25
Canadian Pacifics	60½	62⅝	35	62¾	60¾
Central Pacific	14½	21⅜	12⅜	15½	14¾
Denver	11¼	18⅜	9⅞	13⅜	12½
Do. Pref.	34¾	56⅝	33⅝	48¾	43⅝
Erie	10½	15⅝	6	15	14⅛
Lake Shore	136½	155½	136	151	144
Louisville	54¼	67½	39½	50⅛	46¾
Milwaukee	57½	80	54⅝	76⅝	70⅞
Mis., Kan., and Texas	13¾	19⅝	9⅛	11⅜	10⅜
New York Central	101¾	107	94⅓	98¾	94½
Norfolk Pref.	19⅛	19¾	6¾	12¼	11½
Nor. Pacific Pref.	17¾	27⅜	10¾	16¾	13¾
Ontario	16	19¾	11⅞	14⅜	13¼
Reading	6⅝	12	2¼	7	5¾
Southern Ordy.	11¾	15¾	7⅜	9	7⅞
Do. Pref.	37½	44⅞	24⅓	26¼	21⅝
Union Pacific	11¾	18½	3⅝	7⅛	6⅛
Wabash Pref.	14¼	27	12¾	16¾	14¾

The above table shows how heavy has been the relapse in quotations from the highest point in 1895, a circumstance which is chiefly due to the currency trouble, which is now being aggravated by the Democratic victory. It remains, however, to be seen whether the Democratic party has really been captured bag and baggage by the free coinage men. As Mr. Chauncey M. Depew recently put it very forcibly, McKinley is now the only buffer between the free-coinage mania and the White House; and he is of opinion that for every vote the Republican party loses on account of its manly and direct repudiation of free coinage, it will gain two, three or more votes from the gold standard Democrats. There is still a great deal of talk in the Wall-street papers of purchases effected for London account. This is an amiable fiction, due perhaps to the fact that some blocks of shares have been transferred through the arbitrage houses to London, although still held for American account. There is at present no public demand here for American Rails, and there will not be until the silver question is settled. Neither have there been any professional dealings on the part of English operators. As one of our leading financiers recently put it to me, it is preferable to wait until the currency question has been decided, and rather then to pay say ten dollars more, than to embark in large commitments on the "Bull" tack at present. One of the stocks concerning which some of my Wall-street contemporaries are expressing favourable opinions is Louisville and Nashville. On this point one of the Wall-street journals says that none have better stood the "Bear" onslaught than Louisville and Nashville. It declined stubbornly, and when other shares fell a point at a time, yielded only a fraction. This contemporary states that this is no doubt due not alone to the fact that the stock is well held, and not honeycombed with "stop loss" orders, but also to the foreign demand. Yet Louisville have now also given way, owing to the general slump. Canadian Pacifics have suffered in sympathy with American Rails, and are finally lower at 60¾. The traffic increase of 66,000 dols. for the second week of July was certainly satisfactory, and brings up the increase from January 1 to 1,680,000 dols. Grand Trunks have about maintained their quotations.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

There has been very little movement in Foreigners, and less disposition to operate; but it is not improbable that the holiday feeling which has already seized upon the Continental Bourses may give way to temporary activity on the appearance of the Russian loan at the end of the present month. It will be for a smaller amount than originally contemplated, and is not likely to affect this market to any extent, as Paris will engineer the issue. It may, however, have the effect of diverting American gold shipments to Russia *viâ* Paris. Italians at 87¼, and Spanish at 64, have recovered a temporary decline. Turks have been fairly steady, but Ottoman Banks dropped as low as 12 1/16, recovering to 12⅜. The gold premium in Buenos Ayres keeps above 180, and, although the fluctuations are but small, they generally affect quotations of the Argentine Government stocks. The unification scheme of the debt is passing through the various stages, and will apparently become law as far as the Argentine Republic is concerned. It remains to be seen, however, in which way the London issuing houses will safeguard the security of the so-called Customs loans. Uruguay bonds have been very steady, the old loan at 50½, the new loan at 1¼ discount. Considerable amounts of the latter have of late been absorbed by investors. The older Chilian bonds are the turn harder, although the new loan is now offered at par, after having been quoted at a small premium. Brazilians have eased off slightly, and there is nothing doing in Peruvian Corporation stocks, while the South and Central American rubbish stocks are also neglected.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS STILL WAITING.

The expectant attitude of the Kaffir Circus continues, and in the meantime the serious news from Rhodesia is acting as a wet blanket. It seems very unreasonable that the troubles of the Chartered Company should have the effect of stifling operations in Transvaal gold and land shares, and I am still in hopes that this influence will shortly wear off. Chartered shares, however, are being "pegged" at about 3 or slightly over; and I should not be at all surprised if the first great victory over the wretched natives in Matabeleland and Mashonaland were to be made the signal for an advance, as the insiders have a much larger holding than they like. It is rather significant that one of the sub-companies of the Chartered Company (the Colenbrander Matabele Development Co.) should actually contemplate helping the parent with £5,000, and it is conjectured that some kind of general appeal will be made to the other sub-Companies. But this I really cannot believe, as I cannot see what benefit has been conferred by the Chartered Company on the unfortunate sub-Companies, whose work has been so rudely interrupted by the native rising. We are now waiting for two events which may have a favourable influence upon the course of the Kaffir Circus. In the first instance, it is hoped that President Kruger will follow up the initiatory reforms to which I referred last week by further measures of greater importance to the mining industry on the Witwatersrand. The service on the Netherlands Railway is also stated to have

been considerably improved, and native labour is becoming more abundant. The other event is the impending return of Barney Barnato to this country. So far the return of the four Reform leaders, which I chronicled last week, has not benefitted the market at all. I should hope, however, that the return of Barney Barnato would, at all events, help the stocks of his own group, while he will no doubt also make a complete statement of the details of his great amalgamation scheme, and influence other operators in the South African Market by that indomitable energy, not to say enthusiasm, which characterises him. Considering the important services which he has rendered to the Reform prisoners, and to the cause of the pacification of South Africa, he will be received here with open arms, and will no doubt be fêted as much as he was at Kimberley and at Johannesburg. As regards the Barnato stocks, I repeat that in my opinion holders should stick tight to their shares, and buy more to average of those specially mentioned by me in my last two or three letters, if they can afford to take up and pay for them. By the way, I hear that some of the South African operators have turned truants to their old love and gone in for speculation in the Yankee Market. They bought some huge blocks of stock and are now shivering in a club not very far from Angel-court at every drop which the cable advises from Wall-street. I think it would have been much better for them if they had stuck to their last. I still hold a favourable view with reference to the leading stocks of the Robinson group, including more especially Langlaagte Estate and Randfontein. The Oceana amalgamation scheme is undoubtedly making much progress in public favour, and when it is once consummated I shall look for a substantial advance in the shares of the new Oceana Consols. In the meantime the discrepancy between the quotations of the old Oceana shares, now standing at $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the Austral-African, at $1\frac{3}{8}$, is gradually disappearing, as these will rank *pari passu* in future. Woodstock (Transvaal) shares have been very firm at from $1\frac{5}{8}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$, and I look for a further improvement in these, as well as in Niekerk, now quoted at $1\frac{1}{4}$. A somewhat strange decline has taken place in African Estates, which are only quoted $2\frac{1}{16}$. Can it be that this is still the effect of the non-success of the Paris option? Sheba Hill shares have been actively dealt in at from 3s. to 3s. 3d., and I should again like to point out that the Company's property is between that of the famous Sheba Gold Mining Company and the Royal Sheba. It owns no less than sixty claims, with an area of about 80 acres. If the opinion of Mr. Pegler, that the formations carrying the Sheba lode are practically east and west, should be correct, the Sheba Hill property would be in the direct line of that lode. Mozambique shares have been firm at about $1\frac{3}{4}$, and I hear of some fresh developments which are likely to put the price of these shares higher. I mentioned last week the prospect of the early construction of the Pretoria-Waterberg-Zoutpansberg Railway, and I now hear that final arrangements have been made, so that its construction will be expedited as far as possible. I have already stated that the Oceana group is connected with this enterprise; and this Railway, which will connect Pretoria with Pietersburg, will, of course, greatly increase the value of a number of the farms held by the Oceana in the Waterberg and Zoutpansberg districts. There has been a pause in the activity in Lydenburg shares, and Lydenburg Goldfields are slightly easier at $3\frac{5}{8}$, but this is probably only a case of *réculer pour mieux sauter*. The *Statist* is responsible for the announcement that a strong South African group are working for the introduction of fresh blood on the Board of the Spitzkop Company, a consummation devoutly to be wished, as this concern has been monstrously mismanaged in the past. Transvaal Exploring shares have been in good demand, on the favourable statements to which I referred last week, and the price has risen to 1 to $1\frac{1}{8}$, with every prospect of a further advance. A good deal of talk has been caused by sensational advices which have been received viâ Vienna from the Free State as to the discovery of a new goldfield near the Vaal River; but so far there has been no absolutely reliable report on the subject. Rand Reefs are again slightly firmer at 10s. 6d. Willoughby's Consolidated is to the front with an encouraging report; but the surrounding circumstances are so discouraging that it wants a good deal of nerve on the part of the Directors to write in the strain they do. The news from the Paarl Central is to the effect that crushing will be delayed for some time yet. This is again a case of hopes disappointed. With reference to the Bantjes Deep I learn that in the view of insiders this property is not yet rounded off sufficiently, so that further amalgamations and similar operations are contemplated for the benefit, no doubt, of the wire-pullers. The Directors of the Africander Gold Mining Company have at last been compelled to break their silence, and a circular has been issued by them stating that, although there have been difficulties in connection with the delivery of the heavy machinery owing to the outbreak of the rinderpest, the work of opening up the mine has been prosecuted, and that explorations have shown that instead of having only the Africander Reef to depend upon, the ground contains two other valuable reefs, viz., the Green's Reef assaying from 8 dwt. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and the Worcester Hope Reef assaying from 5 dwt. to 1 oz. 8 dwt. They also state that at a depth of 600 ft., the main shaft on the Africander Reef gives assays running as high as 2 oz. per ton in parts. Other statements equally favourable are made, and the only surprising thing is that the Directors did not think fit to communicate such pleasant tidings to the shareholders long ago. Diamond shares have been fairly steady, notwithstanding the surrounding dulness. De Beers are quoted $30\frac{3}{8}$, New Jagersfontein $11\frac{1}{4}$, and there have been active dealings in Leicester Diamonds at $3\frac{5}{8}$, and in Consolidated Leicester at $1\frac{15}{16}$. It will be remembered that this last-mentioned Company acquired 451 claims, adjoining those of the Leicester Diamond Mining Company. Mr. Parsley, a well-known expert in diamond mining, states that down to the 80-ft. level there are at least 2,000,000 loads of yellow ground, which, after paying all expenses, should yield a net profit of £120,000; and that from 80 ft. downwards the workings will be in blue ground (which should be much richer than the yellow), both quantity and quality of diamonds, as a rule, improving. New Bulfontein shares have been steady at 2. According to the *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, the new Bulfontein Diamond Mining Company has achieved excellent results in the first quarter of 1896, when the increase in the output was as much as 12,000 carats. The New Bulfontein has now absorbed the Bulfontein Central Mines and the Bulfontein Premier D. M. Company, the latter amalgamation having taken place about a month ago. The New Bulfontein owns 148 claims, of which there are working about 110 claims in the open at a depth of about 300 ft. There are over ten miles of tram lines in use, and the floors extend over 148 acres, on which there are at present some 200,000 loads of blue.

Golden West Australia.

The West Australian market has displayed greater strength since the settlement, although the movements are still somewhat irregular, and advances, in some instances, are offset by a certain number of declines. Yet advices from the goldfields, both by cable and mail, continue very satisfactory, and everything points to the certainty that with every month more of the new issues will fall into line with crushings. The strongest group has again been that of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust, the shares in which have advanced to $4\frac{1}{8}$ premium. Associated Gold Mines have been in good demand at $3\frac{1}{4}$, Associated Southern at $1\frac{9}{16}$, and Nil Desperandum at $1\frac{3}{8}$. Quite a controversy has arisen in the Press concerning the respective share which the West Australian Joint-Stock Trust and the other Finance Companies have in the great Northern Territories scheme, which is

Clerk (confidential), thoroughly conversant with the routine of a fashionable West End business, good bookkeeper, &c., requires Re-engagement.—Address, H. 347, Regent-street, W.

shortly to be launched. Mr. Allen Stoneham stated at the meeting of the West Australian Goldfields, Limited, that the West Australian Joint-Stock Trust held only 12½ per cent. interest in the scheme, whereupon the Secretary of the Trust writes that his Company holds exactly double the interest of the West Australian Goldfields in the Northern Territories Syndicate and controls 35 per cent. of the whole capital. The Secretary adds that the Trust had throughout been the pioneer in connection with the scheme, and had up to the present provided by far the larger portion of the funds. Mr. Stoneham now bursts into print, acknowledging that his first statement was incorrect inasmuch as the Joint-Stock Trust holds 20 per cent., and its sister Company, the West Australian Loan and Finance Company, 5 per cent., in addition to which the Trust is to receive a commission of 10 per cent. on the profits of the introduction of the business. This would appear to amount very much to the same thing as originally stated by the Secretary of the Trust, and the fact that eleven other Finance Companies have joined in the Syndicate shows how strong the combination is, and how promising the scheme is considered to be. The whole of the working capital has already been subscribed by these Companies, and it is thought probable that the novel experiment of tender for a number of the shares will be adopted, leaving the public to put their own price upon them. That this price will constitute a considerable premium goes without saying. Mr. Stoneham's speech at the West Australian Goldfields meeting was moderate in tone, yet it clearly set out the excellent position in which the Company finds itself, and the favourable impression created was strengthened by Mr. George Leake's remarks on the wealth of the goldfields of the Colony generally. West Australian Goldfields have not, however, benefited much by the meeting, the shares being quoted 9½. Personally, I do not know of any shares of this group more promising than Hampton Plains at 4⅞, and Block 50, Hampton Plains, at 1 5/16. The Whitaker-Wright Group has shown dulness, partly owing to the absence of the Managing Director, and it seems high time that the latter should take the helm again. There has been quite a shake-out in some of the shares, and when a revival comes about in the market, such shares as Lake View Consols, now at 4¾, Mainland Consols at 3¼, and Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure at 1 5/16, will probably take jumps, with very few shares changing hands. The West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation, Limited, has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) on the Ordinary shares. This distribution appears to have been limited to 10 per cent., in order to liquidate the prior dividend due to the holders of Ordinary shares before division of further profits equally between the Ordinary and Deferred shares. I hear that a syndicate, named the A1 Syndicate, has been formed for the purpose of floating the Great Pyramid Gold Mine in the Gibraltar district of the Coolgardie Goldfield. This, I am told, has been favourably reported upon by Mr. Leslie Norman, M.A.I.M.E., Manager of the Hainault Gold Mining Company, and Mr. James Fallon, of Coolgardie. From the Ninety-Mile Proprietary, Mr. C. C. Macklin cables a clean up from the Gimlet lease of 80 tons for 80 oz. 18 dwt. of gold. A feature in the dealings was the sharp fluctuations in Lady Loch shares, which reacted to 2⅝, and recovered to close upon 3. The crushing appeared to be satisfactory enough, but the quantity treated was small. Hannan's Brownhill are out of favour on the latest disappointment, and the price has fallen away to 4⅞, which is not surprising. There have been declines in Sir John Forrest, Big Blow, and Mount Margaret Reward, while, on the other hand, Hannan's Oroya, Great Boulder Main Reef, Hit or Miss, and Lady Shenton have improved. An important advance has taken place in King of the West to 2⅜ on very favourable advices from this promising mine. The news from the King of the West Mine is to the effect that the work in No. 1 shaft, north drive, shows a well-defined reef 4 ft. in width; and that in No. 2 shaft the footwall side of the reef is stoped to a depth of 52 ft. This work is producing a very large quantity of ore, some of which is exceptionally rich; and rich veins and bunches of ironstone are also stated to have been found right through the body of the ore. Development is being actively pushed ahead, and early in the new year the Chairman is going to visit the mine, in company with a first-class expert, to decide on the best programme as to the crushing machinery, by which time there will be an ample quantity of ore at grass. The manager states that he is about to forward a box of fine specimens to London. The New Coolgardie Exploration and Finance Association (W.A.), Limited, have received the following cable from Mr. Angel, the Colonial Director, in reference to two exploration parties which the Company equipped and sent out:—"July 16, both parties went yesterday." Miner's Dream and Miner's Dream Extension have improved to 1⅜ on the discovery of a new reef 3 ft. wide on the Extension property. Hannan's Britannia on favourable advices are up at 1¼, and there have again been active dealings in Gladiators at 1 to 1⅛. Royal Sovereigns are quoted 3½, but the "Bear" squeeze does not seem to be at an end yet. The shares of the Company largely interested in this mine, the Anglo-French Colonial Trust, are firmer at 1¾. New Explorers' Syndicate have also been in demand at ⅜ premium. Princess Royal shares are in demand at 7s. 6d. to 8s. in view of the expected completion of the railway to Cue in September, when work will go ahead very actively at this mine. The Great Boulder Proprietary is taking a new departure in making an issue of a new Company, the Great Boulder Junction Reefs. The property consists of 39 acres, comprising the Great Boulder Junction Reefs and two adjoining mining properties upon which Mr. Zebina Lane, Mr. Gibson, the mine manager, and Messrs. Colin J. McCulloch & Co. have reported most favourably. It is no secret that several strong groups are connected with the flotation, and the shares are expected to go to a considerable premium. This will, no doubt, also be the case with the shares in the Hill End Consols, a new Company which acquires the Hill End Consols Mine, situate about half a mile to the east of the celebrated Hill End Mine, in the Broad Arrow district. According to Mr. Fearby's report this is a very rich mine, and the capital of £125,000 is moderate, the necessary working capital having already been guaranteed. Finally, it may interest my readers that a large finance Company, which will deal exclusively with West Australian Mining shares, and will not only pick up cheap shares, but also employ its capital in giving the much wanted facilities in that market, is in course of formation, with a capital of £1,000,000. Strong people, including those of the Great Boulder, are behind it, and a large portion of the capital has already been secured. The Western Australian Development Corporation has issued a circular to the shareholders furnishing information regarding its various properties, amongst which the Armadale is one of the best. Mr. Frank Nicolas is erecting the machinery as rapidly as possible, and crushing is expected to commence next month. On the Rome Consolidated, Professor Nicolas has just reported very satisfactorily. The prospectus of the Central Finance Corporation, Limited, is being circulated privately. It is of Scotch inception, the offices being located in Glasgow, and two of the Directors, Mr. D. N. Shaw and Mr. Robert Stewart, propose to allot to themselves 25,000 shares of £1 each against two options and two agreements to purchase certain claims, which it certainly cannot have cost much to acquire. The total capital is fixed at £100,000. I should like to know if this is the same Mr. Shaw who was connected with a Wood Pulp Company now in liquidation, and where the house of Mr. J. Edgar Paterson is situate. I wonder who is Mr. W. Hunt, of 116, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth, S.W., who, in order to raise certain money, offers 100 of his Transvaal and Westralian Gold Concessions £1 shares at 16s. as a bargain to strangers. I cannot say that I know much of this concern, but I notice that Sir William Young, Bart., figures in the prospectus as Chairman, and this mode of hawking

CHAMPAGNE.—PÉRINET & FILS' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

the shares about is certainly not encouraging. At last the Directors of the unfortunate Londonderry Gold Mine have issued a further circular, in which the position of affairs as far as Lord Fingall, Mr. Myring, and the executors of the late Col. J. T. North are concerned, is explained. The proceedings at next Wednesday's extraordinary general meeting have now to be awaited; but I trust that there will be no attempt to get out of engagements entered into with the shareholders by the two first-named and by the deceased Colonel North, whose clearly expressed intention should certainly be carried out.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Insiders connected with Indian Gold Mines are now looking for increased returns and for higher prices, the cholera having abated. Mysore Gold have already advanced to $7\frac{9}{16}$, and there has been a strong demand for Coromandel, which have risen to $2\frac{1}{4}$, with every prospect of a further improvement. Champion Reefs, Ooregum, and Nundydroog are all better, and there should now also be a recovery in Goldfields of Mysore, which are quoted only 25s. 6d., although a few weeks ago they touched 28s. Kadur Mysore are being dealt in at 7s., and there is a talk of the formation of sub-Companies. Aladdin's Lamp have been quiet at $1\frac{13}{16}$ x.d., Wentworth Proprietary at 1. New Chum (Bendigo), Gibraltar, and Day Dawn P.C. have improved, but Mount Lyell and Brilliant and St. George United are lower. From the property of the Mount Reid Mining Company, to which I referred last week as a promising Tasmanian Company, the following cablegram has been received:—"The main lode in the end is 40 ft. wide, and carries solid payable ore. Lode No. 2 is 6 ft. wide, Lode No. 3 is 8 ft. wide, solid payable ore. The lode looks exceedingly promising." With reference to my remarks regarding the North Queensland Mines Agency, I have received a communication from Messrs. Lupton & Fawcett, solicitors, Leeds, to the effect that an influential meeting of Yorkshire shareholders was held at their offices on the 15th inst., when about 20,000 shares were represented. A resolution was passed appointing a committee of large shareholders, who were instructed to seek an interview with the Managing Director (Mr. Macfie), who is now in London, and to require the immediate and unconditional payment of the dividend declared last January, and the calling of a general meeting of shareholders to be held in London at once. It also appears that very great dissatisfaction was expressed at the meeting at the high-handed manner in which the Directors have acted—a circumstance upon which I have already commented—and I hope that the movement now inaugurated will be energetically prosecuted. In New Zealand Mines Woodstock, Scotty's, and Tokatea (Hauraki) have improved, and there has again been a good demand for Komata Queen, now quoted 4s., Maoriland Gold at 3s., and Preece's Point at 3s. 9d., are also low-priced shares, which have deservedly received attention. In Irene (Hauraki) Gold Mining shares 5s. fully-paid dealings have taken place at 5s. 6d., at which they are a good purchase. On the other hand, Waihi Silverton, Kapanga, Royal Oak, and Waite-Kauri Extended are lower. The Mines Corporation of New Zealand, Limited, which has recently been formed, deserves more than a passing notice, as it is floated under the auspices of the strong Venture Syndicate group, and there is, therefore, every prospect of the Company taking a prominent part in the development of the New Zealand goldfield, especially as the services of Mr. S. Herbert Cox (of Messrs. Bainbridge, Seymour, & Co.), who acted for many years as mining engineer to the New Zealand Government, have been secured. In the general foreign section Tolima B, De Lamar, Frontino and Bolivia, La Yesca and Palmaryo are all lower, but Golden Feather have improved, and there has been fair demands for Malacate at 1. Copper shares have declined under the lead of Rio Tinto. Major Clement F. Buttle, Secretary of the Great Work Tin Mining and Development Syndicate, Limited, of 41, Temple Chambers, Temple-avenue, London, E.C., is continuing his efforts to obtain subscriptions for this Syndicate, which is to work the Great Tin Mine in Western Cornwall. Need I again repeat that this mine has not been worked for thirty years, and that there is in my opinion no prospect of ever making it pay?

The Mercantile Bank of Scotland—A Disclaimer.

My readers will remember that I have repeatedly drawn attention to the touting circulars of Mr. William Anderson, 112, Bath-street, Glasgow, in which he recommends "a guaranteed deposit system," under which he agrees to accept deposits of £5 upwards. He proposes to pay monthly interest at the rate of 16s. 8d. per £5, which would work out to 200 per cent. per annum. This is specially offered to applicants "who wish to receive a stated and positive return, and are unwilling to participate in stock and share transactions." I characterised this as an impossible proposition, and expressed the opinion that people would be very ill-advised to deposit their money with Mr. William Anderson, the more so as the guarantee appears to be that of the philanthropist himself only. What I could not understand at the time was that William Anderson headed his circular with the notice "Bankers—Mercantile Bank of Scotland;" and I asked the question who the Mercantile Bank of Scotland could be to allow its name to be used in this manner. I have now received a communication from the Secretary of this Bank, Mr. William Rogers, who informs me that having submitted to his Directors a copy of Truth with the paragraph regarding William Anderson, he has been instructed by them to inform me that as soon as they learned (June 5) that Anderson was using the name of the Bank for advertising purposes, they instructed him (the Secretary) to write to the said Anderson that unless he desisted from using the Bank's name for any purpose, legal measures would be adopted. The Secretary also asks me to explain that the bank has no connection with Anderson. I must confess that I had not hitherto any special knowledge of the Mercantile Bank of Scotland, which I now learn is a small institution, with the head office at 44, Bath-street, Glasgow, the capital consisting of 10,751 shares of £1 each, of which 10s. per share has been called and paid up; but even if it is a small bank this is no reason why it should not be a respectable undertaking; and I notice from the balance-sheet that it holds deposits to the amount of £19,069. In the matter of William Anderson the Bank has, at all events, acted most correctly, although that gentleman does not appear to have at once complied with their request, as one of the circulars still bearing the name of the Bank was sent to a reader of Truth on July 3.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The C. E. (Civil Engineers) Exploration Syndicate, Limited.—This Association of Civil and Mining Engineers has been incorporated as a professional undertaking, with the object of establishing a professional Association of Civil Engineers, for the introduction and sale of approved properties, mines, &c. The capital is £100,000 in £1 shares.

The British Gas Traction Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working the British patent rights for the system of working tramways, &c., by means of motor cars worked by gas-engines. The capital is £250,000, in shares of £5 each.

John Lovibond & Sons, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the business of maltsters and brewers carried on as the Greenwich Brewery, Greenwich, and St. Ann's Brewery, Salisbury, together with all properties held in connection therewith. The capital is fixed at £100,000, divided into 5,000 Five and a Half Cumulative per Cent. Preference shares and 5,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each. The whole of the Ordinary and £10,000 of the Preference shares are taken by the vendors. The present issue is of £100,000 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage debentures at £105, and 4,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £10 each at £11.

The Brownhill Central Gold Mines, Limited.—Applications are invited for 135,000 shares of £1 each in this new Company, which is formed for the purpose of acquiring four gold mining

leases situated in the centre of Hannan's, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, containing an area of about 59½ acres. The total capital is fixed at £200,000. The issuing Corporations are stated to have guaranteed the subscription of 50,000 shares for the purpose of providing working capital.

According to a cablegram from Mr. George Gray, the property occupies a good position in the centre of the main ore channel in the Hannan's district, being about 15 chains north of the Brownhill Mine, contiguous to the Crœsus South United on the west and the Oratava Group on the north. Cable advices since received from the manager of the Brownhill Central Mine, dated July 7, state that of six samples, a sample containing no visible gold assays 34 oz., the lowest 2 dwt. per ton; and that the average of assays was 6 oz. per ton.

Bostock & Co., Limited.—This Company is formed to purchase and carry on the sugar refining and saccharine business hitherto carried on under the name of Bostock & Co., at Garston and Liverpool. The capital is fixed at £150,000.

Mount Reid Mining Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and further developing a gold, silver, and copper mining property at Mount Reid, Dundas district of North-West Tasmania. The capital is £150,000 in £1 shares.

This is a property of about eighty acres in extent, and at the base of the mountain from which it takes its name alluvial deposits have been worked for some time past. The source of these, it is expected, will be found on the slopes of Mount Reid itself. Considerable prospecting work has already been done, and the assays of various samples of ore give an average of 1 oz. 5 dwt. of gold, and 21 oz. of silver per ton, in addition to which a large amount of copper pyrites is stated to be on the property, which is at a comparatively short distance from the Mount Lyell and Mount Bischoff Mines. This promises to be a successful Tasmanian venture.

North-American Trust Company, Limited.—The object of this Company is to deal in American and other securities. The capital is fixed at £500,000, in shares of £10 each.

This prospectus contains a long list of the trading and profits of old-established American Trust Companies; but, considering the present unsettled state of financial affairs in America, I cannot see that this is an opportune moment for the launching of this Company, nor can I see any inducement for investors to put their money into it.

Nowthanna Gold Mine, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and work three gold mining leases of about 24 acres in extent, known as the Nowthanna Mine, Western Australia. The capital is £75,000 in £1 shares.

This property does not appear to be situated in the neighbourhood of any of the well-known mines. As it is, moreover, in a backward state of development, it cannot be considered a tempting venture.

New Marine Rope Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring Haase's British patents for the manufacture of ropes containing cork for England and the colonies. The capital is £100,000 in shares of £1 each.

The use of cork in rope for life saving and other purposes is not new, and up to now it has not met with any success. What the merit of this invention may be I cannot say, but the capital is very large for a comparatively untried invention.

E. Bishop & Sons, Limited.—This Company was recently formed to acquire as a going concern the pianoforte business of E. Bishop & Sons, of Baker-street, and elsewhere. Capital, £150,000 in shares of £1 each.

The capital asked is a very large sum for a pianoforte business. It may be a flourishing concern or otherwise. Personally, I have never heard of the firm before. Under any circumstances, I should hesitate before I ventured to advise any one to place money in a Company so over-capitalised as, in my opinion, this is.

The Hans Crescent Hotel Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the freehold property known as the Hans-place Hotel, Hans-place, Belgravia, S.W. The capital is £180,000.

SPRATT'S PATENT various Dog Foods and Medicines can be obtained of all Corn Dealers, Grocers, and Chemists in the United Kingdom and in all important Continental cities. They are also stocked at 14, Rue des Mathurins, Paris; Rummelsburg, Berlin; and 239, East 56th-street, New York. Your own tradesman or stores will supply you.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &c., BONDS.

W. C. W.—I consider the new Uruguay loan preferable to the old one at present price. *Beaulieu.*—I think that the new Uruguay loan would be most suitable for you as likely to gain considerably in capital value, besides yielding upwards of 7 per cent. per annum. *C. A. B., Leeds.*—I do not think that the Swiss loan in question is at all tempting; but you must give me some indication as to what kind of stocks and what yield you require, before I can give you a list of investments for your £4,000. *Evesham.*—1. It would be preferable to await further developments. 2. 66, Old Broad-street, E.C. 3. Members of the Stock Exchange, but I know nothing as to their standing. *Shva.*—I cannot see anything in the points you raise, and the security of the new Five per Cent. Uruguayan loan is ample.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

P. A., Stockwell.—Of course the answer is *No*, and you had better let your solicitor go ahead at once. *W. F. T., Bombay.*—I have repeatedly stated in these columns that the lottery bonds recommended by Cunliffe, Russell, & Co., of Paris, are bonâ-fide enough, although some are of a very low grade, and all yield but a very small return. This firm in many cases, however, charge prices considerably above market value. If you want to buy these bonds you should only do so through a respectable foreign banker in London. *J. F. P.*—I have repeatedly expressed my opinion that the tempting circulars of James Edwards & Co., Talbot House, Arundel-street, London, W.C., inviting participation in syndicates, should be disregarded, and I again say so. You should refuse their communications. *Dolphin.*—Outside dealers, you should only do business through a member of the Stock Exchange. *D. L., Lanelly.*—If your niece has bought New Zealand Inscribed stock, her name would be on the register. *Faint Heart.*—A sound undertaking, but yielding a comparatively small return. *West York.*—I really cannot accept the responsibility of advising you on the investment of your £3,000, you "placing blind confidence in my judgment." You must first tell me what kind of securities you require, what yield you expect, and what degree of risk you are prepared to run. *J. E. W.*—Why not buy the Argentine Funding Loan? *Springfield.*—1. These deposits are all right; but I do not like them, and consider investment in sound securities preferable. 2. A good investment. *Waterloo.*—It is very difficult to give you advice on this matter without knowing what investments you are allowed to make. All high-class securities, into which the £15,000 at present in Consols could be exchanged, are at present at famine prices; and I do not suppose that you are prepared to invest in speculative stocks. *Bromtrack.*—The amount which figures on the transfer is no guide to the actual sale. *C. G. F. T.*—As requested, I forward the name of a sharp City solicitor in your envelope, who will no doubt bring the outside stock broker in question to book. He generally appears to settle up when applied to. *Kinsale.*—I should think that the fall in the shares of the Bank of Australasia was due to the somewhat unfavourable Directors' report of the Union Bank of Australia; but there seems to be no reason for selling in a hurry.

HOME RAILS.

S. D. O.—Dover "A" should certainly be held. The dividend is excellent, and it is a most progressing line. *Rover, Liverpool.*—Hold North British Deferred, and buy more to average.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Anxious, Chelsea.—There seems to be every possibility of this interest being paid, notwithstanding the very precarious situation in the United States. *Scot, Perth.*—No fresh information is available, but matters are apparently coming right. *Umed.*—1. A progressive Argentine Railway stock. 2. A fair Brazilian stock; no particular reason for selling. *T. S.*—Yes, the American Railroad bonds in question, Nos. 1 to 3, are at a low price, and should be suitable for a lock-up. Instead of the Argentine Railway bonds, you had better buy the new Uruguay loan. *Constant Reader of "Truth," Sunderland.*—After having held so long, you had better keep your American Railroad bonds now. It is almost impossible to believe that the Silver Party can triumph. *R. G.*—I have always warned my readers against New Zealand Midland Railway debentures, and you do not appear to be a regular reader of TRUTH. The present quotation is 50½. *M. J. M.*—You should hold your bonds for a recovery. *Torquay.*—Cordoba and Rosario Five per Cent. Debenture stock was dealt in at 81¼ on June 26, 1895, and the Six per Cent. Preference shares then stood at 39.

MINING SHARES.

West Cliff.—The African Estates Company is well managed; with regard to the other inquiries you should write to the Secretary. Sheba Hill (2), Komata Queen (3), Maoriland (4) are a good purchase, but I do not care so much for No. 1. *Finance, Carlow.*—I think that Finance Corporation of Western Australia is quite high enough. Amongst the other shares Hannan's Mount Ferrum, Hannan's Golden Treasure, and Nil Desperandum are the best. You should sell Band F, on an improvement.

Argon.—1. Bradbury Drill shares are an excellent investment. 2. Certainly, I quite expect an improvement. 3. You had better hold, as the news is more favourable. *A. J. M.*—This is quite correct, and your broker ought to have informed you of it. *Neophyte.*—Hold Nos. 1 and 2, but do not average. *J. H. B.*—Hold, and buy more to average. *D. A. D.*—1. You should take no notice of publications of this class, and there is every prospect of an important advance. 2. Ditto. 3. Hold Barnato Banks. 4. Hold these W.A. shares. 5. The mine is a good one, but it is badly managed. 6. No option but to hold for the present. *Cestrian.*—You had better make your selection from my remarks under "The Kaffir Circus Still Waiting." *A Scotchwoman.*—No option but to hold both these shares for an improvement. *A. G. A.*—It is advisable to hold. *Juliet.*—I do not like the New California Milling and Mining Company. *Viking.*—You should hold the shares, a recovery is probable. *Roach.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 to 3 for an improvement; but take a fair profit on No. 3. I do not care for the British Colonial Mining Corporation (4), and never have. *Simpleton.*—You should hold North British Deferred. I should advise holding No. 1, and there is no option but to hold No. 2, although the Directors do not seem to have managed this mine well. 3. I do not care for Palmarejo. 4. No catch. Nos. 5 and 6 should be held. *Sharrow.*—Associated Southern is a good mine, and the shares are likely to recover. *Squelphead.*—I think you will do well both with Rand Reefs and Croydon Consols; but make it a rule to take fair profits. *Tissel, Tralee.*—A fair mining risk. *Belgravia.*—You should hold Holcomb Valley Pref. and Sheba Hill for an improvement, but take fair profits, also in Hit or Miss. *Cherrie.*—1. You should hold these shares. 2. I think you will have to exercise a great deal of patience if you want to get out of Roodepoort Central Deeps without loss. 3. No, leave Glynn's Lydenburg alone. 4. Hold Randfontein for an important rise, and buy more to average. *W. S. W.*—Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 14 there is no reason for selling any at present; hold for an improvement. *Scottie.*—1. I do not like Buffelskloof. 2. No catch. *Stingo.*—1. No. 2. Messrs. Barnato. 3. Yes. *Spec.*—Take a good profit on such transactions. *L. B.*—1. You have done quite right to take your profit. 2. No. 3. Gladiators are the best of the two. *Gwalie.*—1. You have done quite right to buy Woodstock (Transvaal), and hold for an improvement. 2. Yes. 3. These should be held. *Castle.*—I am referring to the Londonderry board in to-day's issue. *Rustic.*—All your shares Nos. 1 to 10 are well selected, and should be held for an improvement. *Constant Reader, Hyde Park Gate.*—You had better sell them on the market again. *Pensioner.*—There seems to be no option but to hold the shares, as in a recovery of the Kaffir Circus they should improve again. *Yachtsman.*—The Great Boulder Main Reef is a promising property. *Anxious Enquirer, Chelsea.*—1. If you had followed my advice you would not now hold Chartered at 7; I have persistently advised selling. 2. No option but to hold for the present. Hold Nos. 3 and 4. Why not take your handsome profit on No. 5. *Unlucky.*—There is every prospect of a rise, and you should hold. *Perplexed.*—You will have seen from my letter that I have a very poor opinion of Rooderand Main Reef; why did you not at once cancel your application? *Kerry.*—These shares should be held. *Loughtonian.*—1. I do not care for Elandfontein No. 2. 2. Yes, I still think that members of the Stock Exchange afford more protection to the public than outsiders. *Peter Simple.*—A good property, which will come to the front again in due time. *Done Brown.*—I still hear that the position of the New Rand is a good one, and it is not improbable that it will be utilised in one of the deep level amalgamations. *Bap.*—1. I do not like these. 1. Be careful. 3. A is a fair mining risk; B (Woodstock Transvaal) is an excellent property; and C (Randfontein) should be held. *Disgusted.*—You are quite right, it is very disappointing that this mine should stand so low, but I suppose that they will improve with other West Australians. *Hard Cheese.*—Not yet; await the return of Barney Barnato. *Viola.*—At the price at which you bought, it is a fair mining risk. *Plen.*—1. It is a pity you did not take your profit at the time; at present, hold. 2. Sell when you see a fair profit. 3. Certainly hold Wealth of Nations. 4. You have done quite right. 5. Yes. 6. Yes, now. 7. No reason to sell now. *Major.*—No option but to hold Springdale; the mine is a good one, but the management is bad. The London agent is T. H. Roberts, 2, Birchin-lane, E.C. *Cains.*—I do not care for the Gresham Syndicate. *E. T.*—The best map of the country was published by the W.A. Exploring and Finance Company, which was sent to all their shareholders. *W. C. S. Attareen.*—Your shares, Nos. 1 to 4, are well selected; although you got in at the top, you should hold for a recovery. Also keep No. 5. *Humble Pie.*—Hold all your mining shares, Nos. 1-5, for an improvement, but I have very little opinion of No. 3 (Turon Gold). Take a good profit in Brokenhill Proprietary (6). *Tikoos.*—No option but to hold No. 1. I have no very good opinion of the Gresham Gold Exploring Syndicate. 3. Sell Indian and Colonial Goldfields as soon as you can get a small profit. 4. Bayley's Reward seem hopeless. 5. Associated Gold Mines of W.A. should be held for a further advance. 6. Not promising, but hold for the present. Central Exploration and Investment (7) should be held. *Gain, Paris.*—Bearer shares are not a good delivery here, and in order to sell in the London market you would have to have them transferred. *Ladywood.*—1. I do not think much of the Nepean Gold Mine. 2. Yes. Write to the secretary. *J. B. B.*—No, I do not think St. Augustines should ever be bought. No option but to await a recovery in the case of the other shares. The Lake View Consols are the conversion of Lake View and Boulder East. *Gordon.*—Your holdings Nos. 1-10 are well selected, and you should hold them for a rise. No option but to hold Nos. 11 and 12. *S. D. Brittany.*—No option but to hold Poorman's, but do not average yet. *Donation.*—Write to the Secretary for information. *Dreamer.*—Amongst the shares Nos. 1 to 14 mentioned by you, I should prefer West Australian Gold Concessions (1), West Australian Joint Stock Trust (2), Coromandel (4), Johnnies (5), and Hannan's Golden Treasure (8). *Mac Dhu.*—All your shares Nos. 1 to 5 are well selected and should be held. No reason to sell No. 6 or 7. *A. B., Ennis.*—1. Write to the London agents. 2. Not yet. Amongst the shares Nos. 3-16 mentioned by you, I prefer Balkis Land (5), Block B (9), Barnato Banks (13), and Transvaal Exploring (15), but all should be held.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Preserve.—Yes, the London Canning Company appears to be promising, the new process for preserving meat being apparently very valuable. *B. R., Dublin.*—There is a fair prospect of the Cavendish Waterproof Asbestos Sole Company achieving success. *A. B. M.*—I do not think that the Dunlop-Truffault Company will prove a success. I have already expressed an adverse view in previous issues. *T. W. W.*—I quite agree with you that it is necessary to reform the management of the Lamer Assam Tea Company, the Directors, although having drawn their fees for 30 years, are evidently unable to achieve success. New blood is badly wanted, and I hope that the shareholders will combine to introduce it. *W. J. T. C.*—1. See remarks *re* William Anderson in to-day's issue under "The Mercantile Bank of Scotland—a Disclaimer." 2. I do not advise purchase of the Cycle shares at present. There has been a considerable rise, and it would rather be the time to take profits. *Skye.*—Yes; I think you will do well to exchange into Grand Trunk Perpetual Debenture stock. *A. M. S.*—I do not like the Premier Cycle Company at all. *Bobo.*—I do not like the Dunlop-Truffault Company at all, and have repeatedly said so. You should join the other shareholders who propose to have their names taken off the register owing to the change in name. *A. S. V.*—No; I do not recommend purchase of Holborn and Frascati now. *A Lady Investor.*—I should not advise you to make the investment in Pryce Jones. *E. M.*—I do not care for either of the concerns mentioned by you. *Dick Swiveller.*—1. A fair industrial investment. 2. A fair investment; but neither are a particular catch at present prices. *Country Journalist.*—I do not think that this kind of investment is promising. There is no market for the shares, and there is just a risk of future results not being equal to those at present. *W. P. P.*—No; I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with the Great Work Tin and Mining Company, which is being puffed by Major C. F. Buttle. *Novice, Liverpool.*—1. A fair investment, but no catch. 2. A good investment of the kind, but now high enough. *H. O. L.*—The investment is a speculative one, but the Company is apparently doing well. *Viva.*—No; I do not recommend investment in the United Kingdom Tea Company. *Oxford.*—You had better take your profit on the Cycle shares. *Sea Water.*—A local concern, about which no information is available here. *Shikarry.*—1. If you are a holder, sell these Tyre shares now and realise a good profit. 2. I do not like New Beestons at all. 3. I do not advise a purchase of New Premier. *J. W. B.*—A fair debenture issue, but no catch.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Sirrom.—1. A cheap Indian mining share, but I do not advise a further purchase to average. 2. I do not like this at all. *W. Y.*—Yes, the Brewery Debentures in question would be suitable for the investment of your £2,500. You should hold Holcomb Valley for a further rise. *Edina.*—1. The pamphlet is returned as requested; I advise you to deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange, and not through outside brokers of this kind, who make absurd promises. 2. No reason at all, and no doubt a recovery will evidently come about. 3. You should take your profit in these shares. 4. I think under the circumstances you ought to give the letter of indemnification, as you have mislaid the document. *R. H. E. A.*—You appear to have made a fair selection and should hold for an improvement, although I am not particularly fond of Turks (1). *C. M. F.*—1. See remarks under "Home Railway Dividends." I think Great Eastern Ordinary are quite high enough, and should prefer Dover "A." 2. I do not advise sale now. 3. I do not like New Beestons; but Singer Cycles may recover. 4. No; I do not recommend the investment. *Parrhesia.*—A and B. No option but to hold for the present. C. Hold for an improvement. D. Great Boulder South are likely to improve again. E. No, leave the Antimony-Gold and Complex Ores Extraction Company alone. You have done right about Nitrate Rails. *Tarts.*—I am glad you did so well in Dover "A." Jagersfontein (A) should be sold on an improvement. Certainly keep Mozambique (B) for a rise. I do not advise a "Bear" of Great Western. As regards D, you will see my views under "Home Railway Dividends." *J. M.*—1. Take a fair profit. 2. Take your profit. 3. A recovery will no doubt come about again. 4. I do not advise a "Bear" of Brighton "A." 5. Louisville are a fair speculative purchase; but it might be advisable to await further developments in the States. *Cheque.*—1. See remarks under "The Kaffir Circus Still Waiting." 2. I certainly do not advise a purchase of Chartered; and, amongst the other mining shares, I prefer Croydon Consols (I). 3. I do not like the New Beeston. 4. Not

at all. *Sailor.*—No, I do not advise the sale of Alabama Midland bonds. Amongst the West Australia Mining Companies mentioned by you I prefer Lake View Consols, Hannan's Golden Treasure, and Hampton Plains; amongst the Transvaal shares Langlaagte Estate and Randfontein. Yes, you can buy the mines in question. *Leontodon.*—Yes; you should hold your shares, Nos. 1 to 4; but get out of Cheque Banks at a fair profit. *Quid.*—1. Hold this stock for the present. 2. Await the sale before you buy other shares. 3. Yes. *Heather.*—1. I do not care for these. 2. No option but to hold for an improvement. *D. 05.*—Amongst your shares, Nos. 1 to 23, I see no reason for selling any at present. Most of the Americans should recover, and the others are well selected. *T.*—1. Not advisable to sell at a loss now that the other Home Rails are doing so well. 2. No reason to make any exchange just now. 3. Hold now, also No. 4. When Mr. Barnato returns some fresh information concerning the Kimberley Roodepoort (S) should be forthcoming. 6. A meeting is to be held shortly. All South Africans should be held. *Job.*—1. You got in too high, but hold now for a rise. 2. Yes, hold. 3. Very speculative. 4. The best Uruguay bonds to buy are those of the new Five per Cent. Loan, issued at 71½, and now quoted at 1¼ discount. No temptation to buy the Gas stock. *Border Boy.*—1. No option but to hold and to average when the price is low. 2. Only market influences. 3. Wealth of Nations are a good purchase, and will come along again, also Wealth of Nations Extended. *Enquirens, Scotland.*—1. Hold Randfontein. Apparently you bought after the shares were ex-rights, in which case you could not claim the bonus. Give me the exact date of your purchase. 2. All these are fair mining risks. 3. No, I do not like Pearson's, Limited. *A. R. H.*—1. The new Lake View Consols at 4¾ are a tempting purchase. Nos. 2, 3, and 4 are all promising from your point of view. *Addis, Birmingham.*—I do not like Nos. 1 or 3, but Nos. 2 and 4 should recover again. *Oridia.*—1. Yes, you might sell on a further advance. 2. I am afraid they are too speculative. 3. The mine is being developed.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

The money market still maintains a semblance of firmness, partly owing to the number of Yankee bills drawn against Railroad securities which are offering here, while lenders of money also rely upon the early issue of the Russian loan to support rates. But it is now known that the issue will not be large, and being issued chiefly in France, it will not affect London much. Consols are the turn firmer at 113$\frac{7}{16}$, and gilt-edged stocks generally display a firm tone. Silver has improved slightly to 31$\frac{7}{16}$d., but it is evident that the silver craze in the States is not taken *au sérieux*, as otherwise the price would already have advanced more. Rupee Paper is firmer at 64⅜, chiefly on the demand for remittances to the East. Brewery shares have been steady, and Allsopps are slightly firmer at 176. Guinness have also recovered to 670. In Nitrate Rails hardly any business has been transacted, the quotations remaining at 7¼. Notwithstanding a better demand for Nitrate of Soda, the shares of Nitrate-producing Companies have not been in favour. Mexican Rails have experienced an improvement on a report that an effort is being made to bring about a renewal of the pooling arrangement between the four leading Companies. It is greatly to be regretted that this step was not taken sooner, or, in fact, that the pool was ever broken up. In this the Mexican Railway (Vera Cruz line) has been the chief offender. Cycle shares have been very dull, although prices have been fairly well maintained. The Humber Cycle Manufactory in Coventry has, unfortunately, been burnt to the ground. Thus I suppose we must not look for any improvement in these shares in the immediate future, although I hear that the Extension Company is doing very well. I am also told that Cycle Tubes are worth buying; while Beestons, now quoted 4¾, had best be left alone. Dunlop Deferred are steady at ¾ premium, but a good many realising sales have recently been effected, and considering the substantial profits to be cleared, this is undoubtedly a wise policy. Who are William Simpson & Company, stock and share dealers, 66, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.? They are sending out circulars in which they boast of having closed their "co-operative joint deal" in Chatham Preference stock at the magnificent profit of £42. 10s. on each £10 invested, and that they have concluded the whole of the "co-operative joint deals" conducted by them during the present year without having made a single loss. William Simpson & Company must indeed be clever, and it is surprising that they should condescend to share their profits with the public; in fact, they are such complete philanthropists that they are again inviting subscriptions for a "co-operative joint deal" in a stock (not named) in which a rise is so imminent that, without the slightest hesitation, clients may expect a very handsome profit. W. Simpson & Company also give a guarantee against the loss of the subscription; but that, I suppose, is their own individual guarantee only. The wonder is that Simpson & Company have not retired long ago as millionaires, instead of still touting for subscriptions from complete strangers.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE MAN IN THE TRAIN.

THE Northern express was about to leave the Tedcroft Junction when two girls rushed into the station. They had just time to hurry into the first carriage at hand and have their bags and rugs bundled in after them, when the whistle sounded and the train started.

"How I hate a rush!" exclaimed Angela Trevor, the elder of the two sisters, a handsome, resolute-looking girl, as she sank breathless into her place. "It is so upsetting to one's nerves."

"Disarranges one's clothes, too," added Molly.

"To think of our not having had time to select a carriage for such a long journey!" said Angela.

Both glanced involuntarily to the other end of the carriage, where their one fellow traveller sat in the corner seat on the same side with Angela. His head and face were hidden from view by the ample pages of the *Times* spread out before him. Two long, tweed-clad legs were stretched out, finished with flattish feet in well fitting boots. At the side glimpses showed of a shoulder, an arm, and a thin nervous-looking hand.

"He looks all right," Molly said, carelessly thrusting a hairpin into her back hair.

"Undeniably a gentleman," said Angela, with decision. "He has a good tailor, and his boots are unexceptional."

The girls settled down for the journey, extracting from amongst the surrounding impedimenta the usual literary solaces in the way of newspapers and vividly bound books. First, however, they talked over in low tones the visit on which they were going in Yorkshire. Their hostess was a friend and contemporary, who had lately married the Squire of Mapledene. The girls were full of excitement, surmise, and pleasant anticipations regarding the visit to their friend in her new place and position. It was some time before the flow of conversation ceased, and they took up their books. Angela was soon engaged in following the unwholesome career of a modern heroine through all its risky intricacies. Molly had chanced on a volume of short stories, plainly inspired by the triumphs of Sherlock Holmes. They were full of ghastly adventures with criminals and lunatics; the situations, though infinite in variety, were all alike thrilling and blood-curdling. Molly's youthful imagination took fire; one story, an adventure with a lunatic in a railway-carriage, especially excited her. It was not a particularly happy selection for a railway journey. She looked up from the pages with a shudder, her blood running cold. It was only in books, however, that awful, creepy adventures happened to travellers. She had never known a real person who was unlucky enough to meet a criminal or lunatic in a train. As the reassuring thought entered her mind, her eyes wandered to the far end of the carriage. They unexpectedly met those of the man in the corner seat; the shock was sharp and violent. He was sitting up, the *Times* folded on his knees, allowing his whole face to be seen. Such a face! Just like so many of those described in the stories Molly had been reading. The coincidence was extraordinary and startling. The girl's imagination rushed off on a series of wild flights, as she drew quickly back, cowering behind her book.

MEDITERRANEAN and BALTIC CRUISES for EIGHTEEN GUINEAS, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars. Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

She had never seen a stranger looking man: hollow cheeked, gaunt, grim, but, above all, with the most peculiar eyes, staring and prominent. She had so little expected such a development in the harmless-looking man behind the *Times* that the shock and surprise were very great. She retained, however, self-control enough not to appeal to Angela on the impulse of the moment. Molly was used to having her fears ridiculed. She therefore decided to wait before giving any alarm, for it was possible that her excited imagination was running away with her.

After a few minutes she ventured to peep cautiously from behind her book. The man had turned away, and was looking out of the window, the gaunt face only showing in profile. Molly breathed more freely, relieved from the stare of those terrible eyes; she made a quick, close study of the stranger. As the scrutiny progressed, however, another change came over her face—the composure she had regained began to diminish rapidly. Her eyes noted the man's bare head, then went from it to the rack above, to the seat opposite, to the floor. No trace of hat or hat-box, of bags, rugs, or luggage of any kind could she discover. Her heart stood still. Who but an escaped lunatic or criminal would be travelling hatless and without baggage? The ghastly ideas, vague before, now took terrible and definite shape. She bent quickly across, and touched the unconscious Angela, whom the doubtful heroine's adventures still held wholly absorbed.

"Take care," Molly whispered. "Don't start and look round. I want to tell you something."

"Good gracious! What has happened? Are you ill."

Angela, so suddenly roused from her reading, found it hard not to exclaim aloud at her sister's words, and the sight of her pale face.

"No, no. I am all right. Only it's a great deal worse. It's about the man in the carriage." Molly's voice sank to the lowest whisper.

"What do you mean? Has he been doing anything?"

"No. But he is dreadful-looking, such a strange face and staring eyes. He must be an escaped criminal, or a lunatic. A lunatic, I think, he looks so queer. Oh, it's dreadful."

"Why should you rush at such awful conclusions," Angela expostulated, "merely because a man is queer-looking?"

"But it's not only that. Oh, I wish it was." Molly's teeth chattered with fright.

"What else? What is it? For Heaven's sake speak plainly."

"He is travelling without a hat, his head is bare," Molly gasped out in strangled whispers. "And he has no hat in the carriage, no luggage of any kind either."

"Good gracious! Are you quite sure?"

"Quite. He has nothing with him but the *Times*. Would any ordinary man travel like that?"

Angela's face bleached to the colour of her sister's; her fears started into just as acute life. No ordinary man would travel bareheaded. There was an awful probability about the conclusions drawn by Molly from his hatless condition.

"Oh!" she gasped under her breath. "It is awful! And to think that we are nearly half an hour from the next station!"

A movement at the other end of the carriage made both girls sink back in their places with beating hearts. As Angela sank against the cushions, she caught a sudden and unexpected glimpse of the suspected stranger. He had turned again from the window, and was re-opening the *Times*. Alas! Molly had not exaggerated, as fear sometimes made her prone to do. The man's face was dreadful in its gaunt grimness. And then the staring eyes and bare head!

Angela could not but accept the situation, as the more suspicious and timid Molly had accepted it. There was something wrong with the man; he had all the appearance of being a lunatic. Awful though the thought might be that they were alone in the carriage with a madman, it had to be faced. Angela, less helpless than Molly, rapidly began to consider what could be done. The train was not due to stop for at least twenty minutes longer. Would the quiet phase in which the man evidently then was, last during that time?—a terrible and vital question. And if it did not? Angela clenched her hands in the agony of the thought, and thrust it from her resolutely. Better not to think of the worst, not to anticipate a situation which would find them helpless. The thing was to stave off danger, to do all that they could to preserve the man's present state of calm.

Angela made a rapid mental review of all her knowledge—principally gathered from sensational literature—concerning the insane. As the result, she concluded that what they had to do now was to avoid everything which could attract the man's notice, or excite him in any way. They must not, for the world, let him see them looking at him, nor rouse any suspicions in his mind that they were talking or thinking of him. The difficulty was to communicate these decisions to Molly without exciting suspicion.

Angela first ventured a swift glance from behind her book to the other end of the carriage. The man was again concealed by the newspaper; the peaceful, ordinary way in which his long legs were stretched across the carriage would have been more reassuring were it not for the top of the bare head that showed above. He was quiet, however. A gleam of hope kept up Angela's spirit. That calm state, if undisturbed, might very well last until their arrival at the next station.

She snatched the opportunity to stoop over and communicate with the trembling Molly. It was difficult to restore her to the appearance of a normal state to prevent her little gasps becoming audible.

"Try not to look so frightened for Heaven's sake, Molly," Angela softly whispered. "Quiet and calm are our best chance. Don't give way like that, it may not be so bad after all. If we do nothing to attract his attention he will not notice us. They often do not. Perhaps, he will fall asleep; he must be drowsy going over that paper so often."

A smothered "Oh!" answered Angela's well-meant attempt to reassure her sister.

"He's not a bit drowsy," she gasped. "I've just caught his eye over the newspaper. And—and—he looked as if he—was—going—to—talk. Oh! What are we to do! Oh, Angela!"

Angela had turned deadly pale, but her presence of mind did not desert her.

"Let us pretend to be admiring the view," she whispered. "How lovely the light on those fields is!" she said in a louder tone, turning to the window. "Do look, Molly."

"He might spring on us——"

"Look," Angela severely interrupted the faltering whisper, "at that effect. Out of the window beside you, a little to the right; the shadows on the trees."

"Yes—yes—I—see."

"Go on looking, and talking about what you see," admonished Angela in undertones, "and when you can think of nothing more to say we will go on to the weather, and to Yorkshire, and the hours of arrival at the stations."

She gave the lead, taking up the prescribed topics in a quiet, level tone, the least calculated to arouse interest and attention. Her ears, all the time, were fearfully alert, listening for the slightest sound from the other end of the carriage. The chief burden of the conversation rested on her, for Molly's part in it, even with the most heroic efforts, was very weak and disjointed. Sometimes it broke off altogether, when a rustle, or movement in the far corner, made her teeth chatter and all power of speech fail. Though the stronger minded Angela's heart beat just as quickly at these awful moments, she always rose to the emergency and kept up the discourse with unvarying calmness.

To those, stretched in agony upon a rack, minutes are as hours. Never had the sisters dreamed that twenty minutes could be drawn out to such dreadful length. Ten times twenty seemed to have passed, when at last, the engine began to whistle and the train to slacken speed, before pulling up in the station. On the instant that the stop was made, the man sprang from the carriage, and disappeared in the crowd on the platform. It was hard for the girls to realise at once that the

danger was over; the reaction after the great strain had such a bewildering effect.

Angela found her voice first.

"Oh"—she drew a deep breath—"what an escape we have had! He is stark, staring mad."

"To think of his rushing off like that! We need not leave the carriage now. Oh, it was dreadful while it lasted!" sighed Molly.

"He is evidently evading pursuit. I hope he may be caught. I wonder if we ought to tell any one about him, Molly?"

The girls had not decided the question when the signal for departure was given, and the train began to move. At the moment there was a rush and a shout, the door was dragged open, the bareheaded man precipitated himself into his former place in the carriage, breathless and panting. The girls, literally paralysed by the terror of the awful surprise, were struck dumb. They could not call for help until it was too late and the station had been left behind.

The extremity of the danger had the sudden effect of steadying Angela's nerves; she stood, as it were, at bay. Everything depended on her, for Molly had utterly collapsed. The situation seemed desperate; the man was now palpably excited, and, what was a thousand times worse, evidently determined to fix his attention on them. A dreadful intuition told Angela that he would address her. It rapidly went through her mind that no matter what he said he must be humoured, at any cost, and not contradicted. It was the only chance with lunatics.

Several awful moments passed in silence. Although Angela did not look, she felt the staring eyes fixed on her, as surely as if she saw them.

The man moved uneasily and cleared his throat. Angela's heart beat wildly, the crisis had come.

"I beg your pardon," he jerked out the words in a peculiar and awkward way. "I frightened you?"

The conventional "not at all" had almost escaped her lips when she remembered. Being mad, he had probably wanted to frighten her.

"Yes," she agreed, hastily. "You did."

"I had to run like a lunatic, I couldn't help it."

Alas! she knew only too well, that he could not help it!

"I failed in my attempt, though I ran half way through the town. I hope to have better luck next time. I shall try again at Darlingham, the next station."

"Oh! I hope so. Indeed, I am sure you will succeed at Darlingham."

"You know the town? Then perhaps you can direct me where to go?"

"Yes, I know the town very well," said Angela, boldly. She had never in her life set foot in the place; but if ever there was a case in which the end justified the means, it was her present one.

"But how do you know what I want?"

The sudden suspicion in the inquiry made her answer quickly,

"I don't know what you want. Certainly not. I haven't thought about it at all."

"But you said you were sure I would succeed at Darlingham." The man stared hard at her.

"Yes—that is—no—that is, I should be very glad if you succeeded in whatever it is."

The man stared harder than ever. How dreadfully mad his staring eyes looked!

"Success would be very convenient," he said, drily. "I was looking for a hatter." He gave a short laugh.

Angela's blood ran cold; Molly, with a still whiter face, cowered more closely in her corner.

"I suppose that does not surprise you, does it?"

"No," Angela managed to answer. "Not at all, it is very nice—very natural, I mean."

Had he also included the search for a March hare it would have seemed only too natural as well.

"Perhaps the train may not wait long enough at Darlingham. Is it a small place?"

"No, a splendid town, with fine streets and shops of every kind. You will certainly have the opportunity you want."

Angela's imagination was rising gloriously to the emergency, under the stimulant of apparent success. Molly's heart gave a first, faint throb of hope on seeing how closely the lunatic was attending to Angela's words. To have his mind well fixed on Darlingham was the best way of keeping deadly thoughts out of it.

"Do you know of a hatter? And can you direct me to the shop?"

"Certainly." Angela ran on with glib inventions regarding streets and turnings to right and left, the name of the hatter even.

"I can hardly go wrong with such copious directions," he remarked. After a pause, apparently spent in considering them, he sat back in his seat and said, as if to himself:—

"It is a question of time."

With his staring eyes fixed straight before him, he began fumbling in his pockets. From one of them he finally produced a small leather case. The eyes of the girls followed his movements with a terror far more deadly than any which had before possessed them. Molly's pupils dilated still more; the man had drawn something from the case. What was it—that thing clasped within his hand? Had not the light caught for a moment an edge of steel? In a quick flash of memory the details of the ghastly story, which had first started her fears of the man, came before her. The lunatic's sudden drawing forth of a razor from a bag, his address to the other occupant of the carriage, "I am about to sharpen this for you. I have been studying your throat; it looks as if it would cut well."

The positive, the appalling certainty possessed Molly that the man opposite held concealed in his grasp a clasp knife. Did Angela know it, too? Perhaps Molly would have shrieked aloud, but that fear fastened her tongue to her mouth; her brain grew dizzy and confused. Several moments, or it may have been minutes, had passed, she was just making a frantic clutch at Angela, when the train pulled up in Darlingham station. Bereft of all perception, save of the mad man and his movements, even Angela had not noticed the slackening of speed.

As on the previous occasion, the man rose instantaneously.

"I shall follow your directions closely," he paused in the doorway of the carriage to say. "Excuse me, I have not a moment to lose. *Au revoir*, young ladies."

He disappeared from sight at once. The girls clung to each other speechless. As the peril had been so much greater, so was the reaction on this occasion. Angela's nerves broke down completely in the sudden relaxation of the strain. A considerable time passed before she had sufficiently mastered her hysterical sobs to gasp out, "Let us call the porter. Quick, quick."

Even as she spoke the train—which still had to make up for lost time—was in motion. For some awful instants the girl's eyes were riveted in agony on the door. It remained fast shut; the station receded from sight; the train got up speed.

"We are safe, safe at last, Heaven be thanked!" Angela and Molly threw themselves into each others arms in an ecstasy of joyful emotion.

One gruesome memento of the peril escaped lay on the far corner seat—a clasp knife of curious make, with a watch set in the handle. Molly's fears had not deceived her.

At Mapledene the girls' adventure was the sensation of the evening, Angela, the heroine of the hour. Her nerve in danger and her successful strategy in getting rid of the lunatic at Darlingham created general enthusiasm.

Next morning as Angela passed through the hall, a fly, with luggage, drew up at the door. The interchanged greetings, "Hallo, Professor!" "Well, Tom!" reached her ears. The first voice was the Squire's, hearty and welcoming; the sound of the second made Angela start and turn abruptly round. Descending from the vehicle appeared a long, thin figure, with a gaunt face and staring

Simpson Lever Chain. Great Cycling invention, increasing ease, lessening exertion, and giving lady riders grace of action. Used by seven Royal Princes & Princesses. On view at 16, King-st., St. James's

eyes. His head was not bare but covered by a soft hat. Still there was no mistaking—the lunatic!

Some hours later the Trevors were holding private conference with the lady of Mapledene in her boudoir. Tears of laughter still filled the eyes of the latter.

"I cannot help it girls, you musn't mind. It is too killing!" she said. "Any one would have made the mistake. I never saw the man until now. Such a being! No wonder you thought him a lunatic."

"And remember," put in Angela, "that he had no luggage and no hat."

"He explained to Tom the loss of both. He is awfully learned, you know; always in the clouds. He had all his things put in one train and went off himself in another. Just before the junction where you got in, he put his head out of the window and had his hat blown off. At the next station he failed in an attempt to reach the town and buy a hat, and was obliged to rush wildly back to the train. At Darlingham, you know what happened—oh!" the hostess broke off laughing, "you should hear him inveighing against the 'silly girl creature'—he hates all women, and no wonder, for none are ever likely to care for him—who befooled him, and deliberately made him lose his train at Darlingham."

"The worst of it is," said Angela plaintively, "that he is right; and we can never explain. You cannot tell a man that you mistook him for a lunatic, because of his queer looks and style. Oh, it's dreadful!"

"We can never face him again!" both girls exclaimed together, after a pause. "It would be impossible. We must leave at once; we cannot stay."

"Make your minds easy. The Professor has to lecture at York this evening, and then goes on to Scotland. He was to have spent last night here but for the Darlingham mishap. You need not meet him; he goes away before dinner."

"And the knife!" exclaimed Angela.

"Oh, it can easily be smuggled back to him anonymously. He has been deeply bewailing its loss. It appears that it is a special invention of his own, constructed with the most peaceful scientific intentions, instead of those murderous ones which its appearance suggests. You should hear the solemn vow he has registered, never again to travel in a railway carriage with one of our sex."

The lady of Mapledene broke off in peals of laughter, in which Angela and Molly, with minds relieved, were now able to join.

* * * * *

The Professor religiously kept his vow. Never again did he enter a railway carriage which held a lady, young or old. The sight of one always brought him back, however abstracted and absent-minded, from the clouds to the region of practical precaution.

ART NOTES.

THE late Mr. Tom Taylor was probably the very dullest dog that ever edited a comic paper, but in other capacities he achieved well-deserved success. He was a very capable adapter of plays, for example, and as an art critic his judgment was usually sound, and expressed with considerable felicity. More years ago than one cares to remember, Mr. Taylor, writing in the *Times* of Mr. H. G. Hine's water-colours, said "For wise economy of means and objects, tenderness and sweet sobriety of colour, and the expression of serenity and expanse, Mr. Hine stands alone;" and it would be difficult to characterise more succinctly and truly the impression made by the collection of drawings by the late Vice-President of the Royal Institute, now on view at the Fine Art Society's Gallery in New Bond-street. Mr. Hine, whose recent death at over four-score years will be remembered, was born at Brighton, and his fame as an artist will depend chiefly upon his painting of the South Downs he loved so well. In an artistic sense he may be said to have discovered them, for though his fore runner and intimate friend, Copley Fielding, portrayed some of the beauties of these modest slopes he was never fascinated by them as Hine was, and at most only painted them in a hesitating and tentative fashion. How wedded to Sussex Mr. Hine became, and how closely he studied in all their moods the billowing ranges of downs which form so appropriate a bulwark against the sea, visitors to the Piccadilly Institute have long known; but the exhibition at 148, New Bond-street will do much to widen that knowledge. The drawings on view, some three score and ten in all, were in the possession of the late artist, at the time of his death, and comprise views of the swelling uplands around Lewes and Midhurst, Eastbourne and Hayward's Heath. They exemplify that love of simplicity, gentleness, and repose which not only was ingrained in all the artist's work, but was a reflection of the geniality and unaffectedness in his own nature. It is difficult to realise, as one looks at the drawings, that the late Mr. Hine was as a young man one of the artis s employed on *Punch*, and that he actually worked as a comic draughtsman on that paper with Birket Foster and other now famous landscapists. Such is the fact, however, as readers of Mr. M. H. Spielman's "History of *Punch*" will remember. But it was as a painter of the deep combes and leafy shaws, and graceful holts and hangers he loved so well that Mr. Hine found his real *métier*, and no lover of what is best in English water-colour art should miss the present exhibition of his most characteristic work.

That dainty dilettante and elegant critic, Mr. Frederick Wedmore, has prefaced the catalogue of Mr. J. J. Shannon's pictures at the Fine Art Society's with what Mr. William Morris might call a praise-imparting foreword. Of course it is very nice and kind of Mr. Wedmore to write this effusive appreciation; but this particular mode of log-rolling always reminds one of the method some publishers adopt when they send round to the newspapers, with copies of the books they publish, laudatory reviews of the volumes in question. In this particular case, however, I am not going to say that Mr. Wedmore's language of praise is much too strong. Mr. J. J. Shannon is without doubt one of the most engaging and interesting of our younger painters. He has managed to avoid the Scylla of conventionality without being swallowed up in the Charybdis of eccentricity. He has hit the happy medium between, well, suppose I say Professor Hubert Herkomer and Mr. P. Wilson Steer. Though born in New England, and trained artistically in France, most of Mr. J. J. Shannon's work has been done in this country, and a most agreeably varied selection from that work has been gathered for the present exhibition. It was as a portrait painter he first became known and fashionable, but there is something much more than ordinary portrait painting in such pictures as "The Babes in the Wood," "The Squirrel," and "Tales of Japan," all included in the Bond-street show. There, too, is to be seen that attractive portrait study of a lady, which is called "Spot Red," a happy notion which may suggest a series of similar pictures of fair subjects with such titles as "Thirty, Love!" "Punctured!" and "Three holes up and one to play!" Mr. Shannon's brush-work—invariably excellent—and his colour sense, so rarely at fault, are perhaps seen at their best in "In the Springtime." (No. 15). There is, indeed, only one picture in the exhibition which I could wish away—the sketch of Sir Henry Irving as Louis XI., which is crude even to the extent of repulsiveness.

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

ST. RAPHAEL TANNIN WINE.—Formula of Drs. Pasteur and Bouchardat. The best tonic for women, children, convalescents (consumption and indigestion). A restorative during the hot summer weather. No bottle without a label round the neck bearing the name and address of E. GALLAIS & Co., 90, Piccadilly, London, Sole Consignees for the United Kingdom.

MUSIC.

THE BAYREUTH FESTIVAL.

THE fact that Mr. Schultz Curtius sold £7,000 worth of tickets in England alone for the Bayreuth Festival, which commenced with a performance of "Das Rheingold," under Dr. Richter, on Sunday evening, speaks very eloquently for the continued popularity of Wagner's music. Whether the cult will still flourish now that Wagner's works are being introduced into the domain of the operatic "star" remains, of course, to be seen. Hitherto the public have been drawn by the music; but experience has proved that whenever M. Jean de Reszke or other great artists have appeared in a work, the public will not accept it with inferior singers. M. Jean de Reszke has now sung in "Lohengrin," "Tristan," and "Die Meistersinger," and next season, both in America and in London, he proposes to add to his repertory Siegmund and Siegfried. At Bayreuth this year they have no artist of any such rank. The Germans, although they would be immensely aggrieved if the howling tenors and voice-worn sopranos of their country were not allowed to accept British gold, are extremely jealous if any engagements for Bayreuth are made outside the Fatherland, and they appear to be quite content that Wagner's music should, in accordance with the Teutonic traditions, be declaimed rather than vocalised. Even M. Van Dyck, who is on the staff of the Vienna Opera, is this year not to sing at Bayreuth; and the whole cast, which includes some venerable sopranos, basses, and tenors, with certain younger ones, are Germans, save such few British exceptions as Miss Brema, who plays Wotan's scolding wife, Fricka, one of the Walkyrie horsewomen, one of the stage prompters, and the second oboe of the orchestra. Considering that a fourth of the whole Bayreuth subscription comes from Great Britain and the United States, Frau Cosima Wagner cannot be accused of excess of liberality towards English-speaking musicians and singers.

The stage mounting is, indeed, the chief feature of Bayreuth this year, and thus we get back to the old pantomime idea, "property" dragon and all. In 1876, when "Der Ring des Nieblungen" was first produced under the composer himself, the festival was a financial failure, and Wagner, in order to cover the debt, sold the scenery and dresses to Herr Neumann, who brought them to Her Majesty's Theatre, in 1882. The tetralogy—of four operas, each being performed five times—forms the entire programme this year, and the cost of the elaborate scenery—painted under the direction of Professor Brückner, of Coburg—and of the costumes, which come from Frankfort and Munich, together with all sorts of new stage machinery, "made in Germany," for the steam curtains, &c., exceeds, I am told, £18,000. Each ticket costs £1 a night, and if we may add the very moderate estimate of £16 a head for travelling and a week's hotel expenses, Bayreuth will take from English musicians this autumn no less than £35,000.

It is, however, to be hoped that foolish people will not again come back with exaggerated notions of the surpassing ability of the vocalists. Most of this is pure cant, although there is something in the atmosphere of Bayreuth which seems to destroy criticism. At any rate, the singers who are fairly raved about at Bayreuth, and who are afterwards engaged here, are found to be very small potatoes indeed, and are, as often as not, condemned by the very writers who previously belauded them. This sort of thing is most disconcerting to managers, although nowadays no manager in his senses would dream of paying the slightest attention to the hysterics of travelling correspondents.

At the Opera, the want of a strong hand is already manifest. Such performances as those of "Aïda" and "Les Huguenots" would never have taken place under the Harris régime. Mr. Maurice Grau who may be one of the Covent Garden managers next year—though as he is expected in London to discuss the affair this week, the matter is not by any means yet settled—gave "Les Huguenots" in the United States with M. Jean de Reszke as Raoul, M. Edouard de Reszke as St. Bris, M. Maurel as De Nevers, Madame Melba as the Queen, M. Plançon as Marcel, and Madame Nordica as Valentina. The de Reszkes have now left England, but a more suitable Raoul than Signor Lucignani could surely have been found; while Madame Albani was in a fatigued condition of voice. Madame Melba, who appeared as Marguerite de Valois and sang in the Garden scene very charmingly, was, indeed, the star of the cast, so much so that it is not very easy to discover the reason why at the performance announced for Friday she is to be replaced by Madame Marie Engle. In Massenet's "Manon" her defects as an actress were more manifest, and here, indeed, M. Alvarez, as Des Grieux, carried off the honours. The Opera closes next week; the projected matinée for the Harris memorial being abandoned. In fact, if the dramatic contingent carry their proposal to annex the whole of the fund for a theatrical charity, it is not impossible that the musical men—the wealthiest among the subscribers—may withdraw, or start a fund on their own account.

"A Subscriber to the Opera for the last Thirty Years" has written me a letter protesting against the practice which Signor Mancinelli has developed of coming before the curtain to bow with the vocalists. It is a very silly custom, and it is the more unmeaning inasmuch as it is generally observed when Signor Mancinelli is conducting the operas of Wagner, in which, beyond all question, Italian musicians must be greatly inferior to the German conductors who make Wagner's music a special study. My correspondent writes:—

> "There is absolutely no reason why the very mercurial gentleman who takes the call should in any way obtrude himself on the audience. No one expects to see him, and very, very few want him. . . . No doubt if this custom is to prevail, the spectators may eventually make the acquaintance of the scene painter, the chorus master, and head carpenter, after an usually brilliant "set." This is, of course, an age of self-advertisement, but an orchestral conductor should advertise himself by his own musical merits if he can; or, if he cannot, he should imitate the conduct of such real masters of their craft as Costa, Vianesi, and Arditi, in the past, and Mottl, Levy, and Richter in the present."

The Philharmonic Society met last week and passed a resolution forbidding encores next season. I should rather like to know how they propose to carry this scheme out. The artists will certainly have a word to say, and as great pianists play at the Philharmonic for almost a nominal fee—often, by the way, eked out by pecuniary contributions from the pianoforte manufacturers, who in return are allowed to plaster the instruments with advertisements—they certainly must be listened to. Also the encore-piece insisted on after the pianist has made two or three returns to the platform is, beyond question, wanted by the public. To encore a song in the middle of an opera, or a movement in the middle of a piece, may possibly destroy its symmetry and balance. But the only objection to an encore-piece after a pianoforte concerto at the close of the first section of the concert comes from a few atrabilious writers, who have the matter in their own hands by taking a walk while the encore is being played, and by not mentioning the incident at all.

Some of the artists who disappointed last season have again promised to appear at the Philharmonic next year. Among them are M. Paderewski, who will produce Mackenzie's Scottish Fantasia, Madame Sembrich, and possibly Herr Rosenthal, although the terms offered are not very large for so great an artist. Mr. D'Albert will also return, together, it is hoped, with Madame Menter, Herr Sauer, and others.

M. Paderewski was in town a few days ago, but he kept his journey from Paris very secret, as he did not wish to

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A magnificent gift would be the Mustel Organ, which is suited to orchestral purposes, and therefore invaluable for private operatic theatricals, as well as church music. It can be made to sound like a full military band, but the delicate tones of the violin or flute can be heard as a solo."—*World*, 11th Dec., 1895.—METZLER & Co., 40 to 43, Great Marlborough-street, London, W.

be asked to play in public. It was a matter of a consultation with an English physician, who, it is hoped, is curing the great pianist's only child—a cripple.

It is not very easy to understand the reason of the semi-privacy attending the banquet given to Mr. Cummings last Thursday. It is perfectly true that many leading musicians took part, but it appears that from some oversight the Press was not invited, so that the oratory was wasted. I am told, however, that Professor Bridge made a most laughter-provoking speech in reply to the toast of the ladies. Professor Bridge and Mr. Cummings are indeed the best speakers in the musical profession. Two days earlier Mr. Cummings had a most enjoyable reception at the Guildhall School of Music, given by the Professors, 120 in all. The album, with its flowery address, might, however, have been omitted. This testimonial business is being vastly overdone.

Although Promenade Concerts were not anticipated this year, it is very possible that a short season may be given at Queen's Hall, starting on August 29. This, of course, is miserably late in the season, for the Musical Festivals will then be commencing, and the ordinary London concerts will start immediately afterwards. In the old days it was considered by Promenade Concert managers that every day lost in August was so much lost money.

The death of Alfred Novello at the fine old age of eighty-six brings us back to the very early days of choral music here. When he started in business in 1829, there was really only one important choral society, the St. Cecilia, who were making a great fuss about a performance, with a band and chorus of "at least a hundred," of "Messiah" at London-wall. The engraved music was then so expensive, vocal scores coming to about £2 each, that each member made a manuscript copy of his part for himself. Alfred Novello, by using Messrs. Clowes' movable types and by adopting stereotyping, altered all that, and he and his former manager and successor, Henry Littleton, made choral music cheap, and therefore popular. It is exactly half a century since the first cheap copies of the "Messiah" and "Creation" were issued, in twelve monthly parts at 6d. each, although now the "octavo" edition consists of nearly 100 oratorios and other sacred or secular works, which can be got at prices from 1s. to 5s. each. Music has therefore been placed in the hands of everybody, and choirs have multiplied throughout the land. In Germany they still stick to the old costly prices for music, and this is one reason why England has in oratorio gone so far ahead of the Fatherland. Alfred Novello retired thirty years ago, and has since enjoyed the placid life of an annuitant. He lived in Genoa with his sister Mrs. Cowden Clarke, author of the "Shakespeare Concordance." Another sister is the once famous *prima donna* Clara Novello, who is still living in Italy.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—What were things like with you on Thursday? Here we had a morsel of winter inserted in the midst of summer by the damp and ghostly finger of that depressing old saint, St. Swithin. It blew, it poured, it shook down heaps of poor little leaves, dried up with previous drought, and the thermometer dropped a trifle of thirty degrees or so. On the Tuesday it was 87 deg. in the shade, and on that dripping Thursday it was 57 deg., and nothing but shade. I want to know what you were feeling like. A little bit dismal? We bore up bravely, looked out of window as little as possible, and I found consolation in a delightful book, an old one, that I had picked up at a bookstall a few days before. It is "John a-Dreams." Have you ever read it?

Princess Maud has had lovely presents. The Queen has given her a diamond and ruby necklace, the stones being very fine; the Empress Dowager of Russia an enormous turquoise mounted in splendid brilliants, forming a brooch; her sisters, brother, and sister-in-law, a parure of turquoise and diamonds; some ladies and gentlemen combining, a diamond tiara; the Queen's Household, a diamond and turquoise necklace; the Prince of Wales's Household, a beautiful pony, with Ralli cart, harness, clock, and fur rug, and a Simpson bicycle with a Simpson lever-chain to the bridegroom. The Prince and Princess have given a handsome dressing-bag, and the Princess, in addition, a lovely circular cloak of violet velvet, lined with sable, and made with a collar of dark Russian sable. A rivière of diamonds is among the wedding presents, being a legacy for Princess Maud on her marriage, from the late Duchess of Inverness. I hunted out this lady in an old Peerage, and found that she was a daughter of the second Earl of Arran, that she was married in 1815, and that her husband died in 1825. In 1834 she took her mother's maiden name, Underwood, and adopted her maternal grandfather's coat of arms. She was created Duchess of Inverness in 1840. I fancy this must have been rather a unique distinction, and should like to know all about it. The Duchess lived at Kensington Palace for many years before her death in 1873.

Lord and Lady William Nevill's wedding present is a lovely one. It consists of a dessert and coffee service of old Sèvres, the ground in the deep rich blue shade of blue known as bleu du roi, and the whole richly jewelled and gilt. The monogram is in the centre in raised and chased gold, surmounted by a coronet. This was designed by Messrs. Goode, South Audley-street, and manufactured by Copeland, Stoke-upon-Trent. The beautiful Sèvres green dinner and coffee service, richly gilt, with a crossed M in gold and a coronet in heraldic colours, presented by the inhabitants of South Yarmouth, was also executed by the co-operation of these two firms.

The Countess of Gosford's present is a unique and beautiful service of table glass so fine of texture that the various articles were practically imponderable. We often hear people say, "Oh, it's no weight!" but in this instance the phrase has an almost literal meaning. The glasses have an M engraved in oak leaves and a coronet surmounting the letter.

Another beautiful gift is an Early English lantern, a fine specimen of the old English handicraft of hammered iron, revived by the members of an Art Guild at Sandringham, who present the lantern. The glass has been engraved by Messrs Goode with a coronet and an M.

A lovely wedding cake has been made for Princess Maud by Searcy, of Connaught-street. It is in three tiers and stands 4 ft. 6 in. in height, including the three-step silvered pedestal plateau, with its allegorical and finely-modelled angels and lions, signifying peace and power, and its sprays of water-lilies. The top is surmounted by an open-work tazza carried out in sugar, very graceful in outline and supported by three Cupids, exquisitely modelled and portrayed in a light and happy dance, the sense of motion being very cleverly conveyed. The tazza above is heaped with flowers, all carried out in sugar, every bit of the ornamentation being edible, with the sole exception of the green leaves. A garland of orange blossom is lightly laid round the border of the topmost tier; on the others, where they extend beyond the tier above, are disposed sprays of roses, orange blossom, narcissus, and lily of the valley, with pears, apples, oranges, grapes, cherries, strawberries, and peaches modelled in marzipan, the tint being a soft cream colour. The rose petals were touched with pink, and the narcissus with orange round the central cup. Shields with the initial letters of bride and bridegroom, M. and C., placed alternately, are bordered with pearls and illuminated in the correct heraldic colours. These are hung, four square, on the second tier. On the one below are the coat-of-arms of England and Denmark, also bordered with pearls (edible) and emblazoned in the tints approved of Heralds' College.

Fashions up to Date.—Should you be desirous for an elegant and svelte figure in your new gowns, have an easy and perfect-fitting stay shaped by the experts, Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, London, W.

The Hungarian Ball was a great success this year. It was held at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water-colours, Piccadilly. The Blue Hungarian Band was in attendance, and at midnight there was a grand quadrille danced, which was a pretty sight. Countess Deym, who is a very pretty woman, with large grey sparkling eyes, and quantities of hair nearly white, danced with the Duke of Teck, who wore a broad red ribbon across his breast. So did Count Deym, whose partner was the Duchess of Portland, dressed in white satin and wearing superb pearls. A cluster of Malmaisons was fastened in her dress. Madame von André, a subject for Whistler's highest art, with her white dress, white hair, creamy complexion, and exquisite diamonds; the Duchess of Roxburghe and her two tall daughters; Lady Sarah Wilson, in black, with a star tiara and a diamond necklace; Lady Randolph Churchill, in pearl grey with black tulle ruchings, and her sister, Mrs. Jack Leslie, all took part in the quadrille, which formed a large square. I also noticed the Countess of Mar and Kellie, looking very pretty, and Mrs. Ronalds. Mrs. Arthur and her handsome daughter, Muriel, were present.

Many of the skirts worn at Sandown on the Eclipse Stakes day were bordered with some slight trimming, such as a band of sequined braid, a ruche of coloured ribbon, two or three rows of black velvet laid on a band of gold galloon, or some device of the kind. It was apparent that these trimmings had been added, at the close of a busy season, more in order to conceal the effects of wear-and-tear at the hem of the dress than because fashion has decreed any such additions.

French muslins with flowers of bright tints printed on them were worn by several, and plain white muslin was adopted by many young girls. One of these was supplemented by a fichu of palest green chiffon frilled with its own material. A large bow of pale-green ribbon was tied on the brim of the rustic straw hat, and seemed to fasten in the stems of a dozen large and beautiful roses, pink and red. A tall girl in white had a very short zouave of shot yellow and orange silk, embroidered in cream colour. Iceland poppies trimmed the hat.

A club for ladies is going to be opened in Brighton under the title of the "Brighton and County Ladies' Club." It has secured a home in the King's-road, a convenient centre, where there are to be reading, writing, luncheon, drawing, and bedrooms; also rooms where members can interview dressmakers, servants, &c. Among those who have already joined are Lady Alice Morland, Lady Dora Yeoman, Lady Isabella Stewart, and the Hon. Mrs. Hastings. The subscription is two guineas per annum and one guinea entrance fee. This latter is to be remitted in the case of the first fifty members. If you would like to join you can do so, though you do not live in Sussex. The subscription for such temporary members is 15s. a month. If you want to know more about it, you must write to Miss Thorold, 14, Montpelier-terrace, Brighton, one of the secretaries.

I have a sad confession to make to you. I mixed up the millinery of two plays in writing to you last week. Lilla told me about the frocks in "The Little Genius" and in "My Girl" at the Gaiety, and rattled on so inconsequently about both that I was under the impression that all the gowns belonged to the first-named at the Shaftesbury. As a matter of fact, the beautiful seaside gowns in "My Girl" are made by Redfern, and are acknowledged to be an immense success. Mr. George Edwardes was determined to spare no expense in turning out the play, and as a result the costumes are a great draw, even in July. The way in which the changes are rung on the simple *motif* of blue and white is surprisingly clever.

I know you are a great enthusiast for the support of home industries, so I must not omit to tell you of the afternoon party Mr. J. L. Wanklyn, M.P., gave at his rooms in Hyde Park Court to view samples of Bradford manufactures. No doubt you saw in the papers that Mr. Wanklyn was instrumental in inducing the Princess of Wales to select some pieces of his constituents' products for her daughter's trousseau. It was a good idea of his to give a wider circle an opportunity of inspecting patterns of the Bradford goods, and among those who accepted his invitation were a number of well-known people. Of course, the Countess of Bective was there—you remember the splendid efforts she made in the interests of Bradford trade years ago—and so also were the Marchioness of Salisbury, Viscountess Cranborne, and Lady Evelyn Cavendish. Many of the materials exhibited—alpacas, mohairs, velvets, plush silks, and what not—were very handsome and artistic, and I suspect that others, like myself, regretted that the beauties of some of the things for summer dress had only been revealed to us so near the end of the season. Cannot Mr. Wanklyn arrange later on a similarly agreeable function to show what Bradford can do for us in the way of winter wear?

Arthur, who was so fearfully-ill in the Spring, writes from Dieppe in terms of high eulogium. He says:—

The place is marvellously recuperative. Look at me, for instance. People who saw me at first were sure I was dying; doctors told me I could not expect to get well under a year; but in three months I was playing tennis! A lady came here a month ago who had not been out of her room all the winter. Rheumatism and nervous debility were her chief ailments. She was taken out in a bath-chair all the first week, and then gradually took to getting out for a stroll on the front. In three weeks she was walking by the sea all day, and a few days ago went off to Rouen sight-seeing. We have already seen several other cases of great benefit to visitors. Then as to amusements. There is a delightful and well-managed Casino here, where there are most excellent concerts every afternoon and evening, at which there are occasionally Parisian stars—indeed, one star at nearly every performance. Hikku, who is said to be the finest living 'cellist, is here this week. To-night they are doing Ambroise Thomas's "Mignon" with Parisian talent. At the Casino there is, of course, the bathing from the boxes, and baths in the building, reading-room, café, and, above all, the *petits chevaux* tables, which are much patronised, and find the funds for the building. A few folks win, but most lose, as at all gambling places. Outside, in the casino grounds, are charming walks, and every afternoon a conjurer or Punch and Judy performs for the children; and there is a capital tennis club, with two lawns. There is a baccarat room there, too (open only to special members of the Casino).

Then visitors may like to know that there is a pigeon shooting club here—I have been to the opening of it to-day—where the sport is practised with glass "birds;" also a golf ground is being prepared at Puys, a suburb one and a half miles away where Lord Salisbury's villa is, or rather the villa that was his for fourteen years.

The town authorities have just acquired the *plage* from the Government, and are going to create a new esplanade, and lay it all out with trees and seats galore. They have begun by running a line of electric lights from end to end, which look very striking. The place is not cheap in the season, of course, any more than other resorts, but it is not so ruinously dear as it is reputed to be; far less than Trouville or Ostend.

Is it too hot to think of cookery? If not, try these "Creams of Trout;" they are very delicious and have a most appetising appearance:—

Take the flesh of a nice trout weighing about ½ lb., pound until it is a pulp; add 2 oz. of butter and the yolks of 2 eggs, pound again, season with salt and pepper and rub through a hair sieve into a basin. Work the mixture with a wooden spoon until it is quite light, adding a gill of thick cream gradually. Grease eight or nine cutlet-shaped moulds with creamed butter, fill with the fish cream, and place them in a stewpan with very little water; put a greased paper over, and steam without allowing them to boil for twenty minutes. Then drain on a cloth and place aside to cool. Meanwhile the bones and skin of the fish should be stewed with very little water, and a bead of shallot; then strained through a cloth, and returned to the stewpan. Add 2 sheets of soaked gelatine, 2 tablespoonfuls of thick cream, and half a gill of aspic jelly. Stir the sauce briskly on the ice until on the point of settling, and use it immediately to coat the creams. Garnish each one with picked tarragon leaves and lobster coral, and arrange them on a border of aspic jelly. Garnish the base with a border of sliced cucumber and chopped aspic, and fill the centre with picked lettuce mixed with mayonaise sauce. Put a little thick mayonaise on the top, and crown it with picked chervil and lobster coral.

"Mock Chicken Pie" is a good luncheon dish:—

Cut scallops of lamb from the thick end of the loin. Season with salt, pepper, a very little pounded mace, chopped parsley, thyme, and shallot. Arrange a layer in a pie-dish, which must be lined with slices of bacon, then put a layer of crumbled

Cowes Regatta.—A Redfern Gown being essentially a part of the wardrobe of every yachtswoman, Messrs. Redfern invite inspection of their 1896 display.—Now on view at 26, Conduit-street, London, W.

vermicelli and hard-boiled yolks of eggs. Repeat the layers of lamb, vermicelli, and egg until all the ingredients are used, cover with good puff pastry, and bake two hours and a-half in a moderate oven. Fill the pie with good gravy and serve either hot or cold.

This chicken pie is a recent invention, and is lovely for any cold collation :—

Remove the fillets from a couple of chickens, split, and place them aside. Scrape the remainder of the meat free from skin and sinew, and pound it, with the breast of an old hen, thoroughly in the mortar; add 6 oz. of scraped fat bacon and 2 oz. of butter, pound until it is thoroughly amalgamated, then add the yolks of 4 eggs, season freely with salt, pepper, and a pinch of cayenne pepper; work the ingredients thoroughly together until it is a compact mass. Now line a game-pie dish with slices of bacon, put a layer of forcemeat in the bottom, garnish it with slices of cooked red tongue, hard-boiled eggs, and truffle, sprinkle with chopped parsley, a suspicion of shalot, and a pinch of chopped thyme; cover with a layer of the fillets of chicken, then put a layer of forcemeat, which garnish in the same way as before; cover with the remainder of the fillets and forcemeat, on the top of which put slices of bacon. Cover the pie with pastry, composed of flour and water, and bake nearly 3 hours in a moderate oven. Meanwhile, the bones of the birds should be stewed in weak stock, with a carrot, an onion, 6 peppercorns, a blade of mace, 2 cloves, and a bouquet of herbs. After it has boiled some hours, strain and reduce it by boiling to about a gill and a half. When the pie is done remove the pastry, fill with gravy, skim off the fat, which will rise to the top, put a small plate and a 2 lb. weight on the top, and put it in the larder until next day. Then scrape off the fat, and pour on 2 oz. of clarified butter, place it on the ice to cool, then decorate it tastefully with pieces of aspic jelly and sprigs of chervil.

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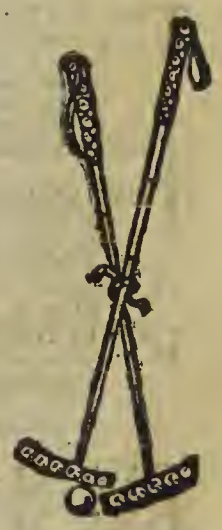

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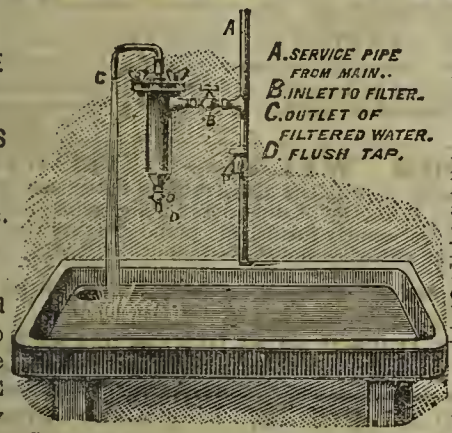

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Pure Water from an Artesian Well on the premises.
Electric Light throughout. Address, MANAGER.

For COMFORT and CONVENIENCE.
THE
LANGHAM HOTEL,
PORTLAND-PLACE, LONDON, W.
Situated in the most fashionable, convenient, and healthy locality. Artesian Well Water. Electric Light throughout. Moderate Tariff.
Table d'Hote 6.30 until 8.15. WALTER GOSDEN, Manager.

HOTEL BELGRAVIA,
VICTORIA STREET, S.W.
(Quite close to Victoria Station.)
This is an Hotel in name only. In reality it is a REFINED HOME, replete with every convenience, every comfort, every luxury. Large and small Suites by the day, week, month or year. Also single Bedrooms.
TABLE D'HOTE, at separate tables, open to non-residents.
FIRST-CLASS CUISINE. CHOICE WINES.
For tariff and all particulars apply to MANAGER.

INNS OF COURT HOTEL, Holborn.—A first-class Family Hotel, with 200 bedrooms, all modern conveniences. Electric lights, lifts, &c. Banquets arranged. The Central Hall is the finest and the Dining-room the pleasantest in London. Masonic lodge, public meeting rooms, &c. Table d'hôte, 6 to 8, 3s. 6d.—FRANK BLACKLEY, Manager. Inclusive terms from 10s. 6d. per day.

THE LONDON HOUSE, Restaurant Dieudonne, Ryder-street, St. James's. Most charming and luxuriously decorated in the real Louis XV. style. For recherché dinners, luncheons, and suppers, at fixed price and à la Carte. Dining Salons for parties. Electric Light throughout. Telegraphic address—"Guffantl, London." Telephone No. 35,265. The Grand Salon on the first floor is now open.

HASTINGS. Due South, Facing Sea.
QUEEN'S HOTEL,
LARGEST AND BEST APPOINTED.
Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
ELECTRIC LIGHT. PASSENGER ELEVATOR.
Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
WILLIAM GLADE, Manager.

ILFRACOMBE.
ILFRACOMBE HOTEL,
The PRINCIPAL and ONLY HOTEL facing the Sea.
Unrivalled sea frontage and open surroundings. Grounds five acres Lawn Tennis Courts. Croquet Lawn. Large Swimming Bath. Elegant Lounge hall. 250 rooms.
H. R. GROVER, Manager.

BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE PALACE HOTEL.
Large and high-class Hotel. Upwards of 200 rooms. Finest position in Buxton. Surrounded by own grounds of six acres. Ground-floor sitting-rooms and bed-rooms. Magnificent public rooms. American elevator. Table d'hôte at separate tables. Tariff, with plan of rooms and sketch map of Buxton, on application. A. CROSS, Manager.

HANS PLACE HOTEL,
HANS CRESCENT, BELGRAVIA, LONDON, S.W.
Within three minutes' walk of the Albert Gate Entrance to Hyde Park.

THIS **FAMILY HOTEL,** sumptuously Furnished and Appointed, is now
Open for the reception of Visitors.
It is luxuriously complete in every detail. There are many self-contained Suites of Apartments, ensuring the utmost privacy (each having a Bathroom), as well as Single Bedrooms. **A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT (à la carte and at fixed prices)** is attached to the Hotel for **Non-Residents.**

RECHERCHÉ CUISINE.

One of the many attractions of this Hotel is the unique **WINTER GARDEN,** splendidly proportioned, and occupying an area of 2,500 square feet.

Manager, MONS. C. DIETTE.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—"The healthiest, most bracing watering-place in the world."—*Vide* report, *Lancet*. The GRAND ATLANTIC is the principal and leading Hotel, facing the sea. 130 sumptuously appointed rooms, delightful public rooms, hydraulic lift, every modern comfort. Nearest to Golf Links and Railway Station. "Own model farm."—Apply, Manager. Telegraphic address, "Atlantic." Telephone No. 11.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Charming health resort for this season.—ROYAL HOTEL, aristocratic and old established, facing sea and standing in its own grounds of 8 acres. Every home comfort and attention, with unrivalled cuisine. Dairy produce and vegetables from home farm. Four tennis courts. Near golf links and beautiful woods. Extensive view of Welsh coast. Terms strictly moderate.—Proprietors, ROGERS BROS.

RAMSGATE.—The GRANVILLE HOTEL.

FIRST-CLASS FAMILY HOTEL.
TURKISH AND OZONE BATHS IN THE BUILDING.

Commanding unique views of the World's Highway for shipping. Charming and invigorating ocean air. Fishing, yachting, coaching. Special Granville Express daily. Under entirely New Management.
CARL G. GRÜNHOLD, Manager.

EASTBOURNE.—CAVENDISH HOTEL.—This first-class Hotel stands alone in the centre of the Grand Parade, and is replete with every modern improvement. Magnificent Public Rooms. Family Suites, &c. Table d'Hôte, Passenger Lift. Electric Light. Enlarged Hall and Lounge. Moderate tariff.—G. LOWMAN, Manager.

OATLANDS PARK HOTEL, Walton-on-Thames, 17 miles from London (Waterloo Station), formerly the favourite residence of H.R.H. the late Duke of York. Charmingly situated in its own beautiful park (40 acres). Grand Hall, lounge, tennis courts, table d'hôte. Moderate tariff or inclusive terms. Capital stabling. "Old Times" Coach daily 10.45, from Hotel Victoria, London. Postal address, Weybridge.

KNOWLE HOTEL, SIDMOUTH.

Entirely rebuilt and refurnished. Under same capable management. Greatly increased accommodation. Every luxury and convenience. New hot-water and sanitary arrangements. Suites of private apartments. Magnificent private grounds. Unrivalled views of sea and land. Through carriages from Waterloo.

LOWESTOFT GRAND HOTEL.

The finest Situation on the East Coast; 300 ft. sea frontage, facing the German Ocean. Stands in its own beautifully wooded grounds, within easy distance of Oulton Broad.

Connected with the ROYAL HOTEL, LOWESTOFT; also RIDLER'S HOTEL, HOLBORN, where Tariff may also be obtained.

PITLOCHRY.

THE ATHOLL HYDROPATHIC (MACDONALD'S).

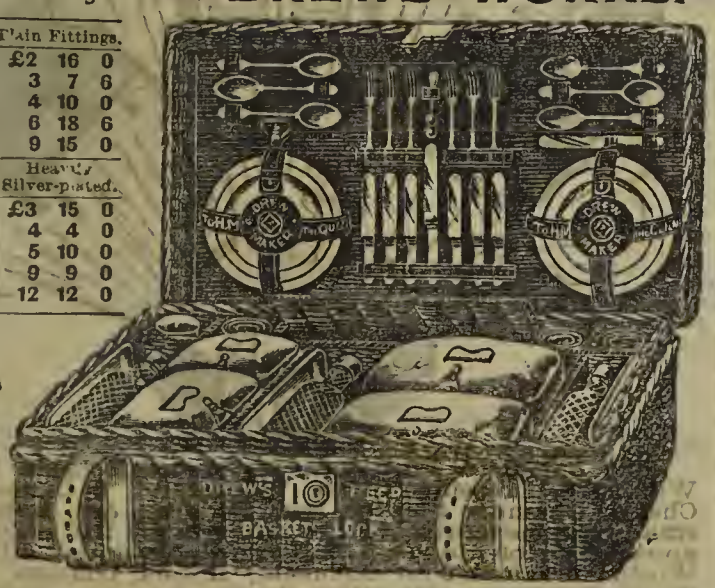
The ORIGINAL and very much the LARGEST. Every window commands a view of the MOST MAGNIFICENT SCENERY in SCOTLAND. 500 feet above sea level. Pure, dry, bracing air. Extensive Pleasure Grounds.
TENNIS—CROQUET—GOLF—ARCHERY—FISHING.
To prevent disappointment, address all communications—
"THE ATHOLL, PITLOCHRY." Telegraphic Address, "ATHOLL."

DREWS' 33, 35, & 37, PICCADILLY CIRCUS LONDON, W.
ACTUAL MAKERS.
Catalogues Post Free.

LUNCHEON BASKETS

Made throughout at DREWS' WORKS.

Size.	Plain Fittings.
2 persons	£2 16 0
3 ,,	3 7 6
4 ,,	4 10 0
6 ,,	6 18 6
8 ,,	9 15 0
	Heavily Silver-plated.
2 ,,	£3 15 0
3 ,,	4 4 0
4 ,,	5 10 0
6 ,,	9 9 0
8 ,,	12 12 0



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FOR

RACE MEETINGS, THE RIVER, &c.

ALSO SOLE MAKERS
DREWS' PATENT 'EN ROUTE' TEA BASKET.

LONDON, BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

GOODWOOD RACES, JULY 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Fast Trains at Ordinary 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class Fares leave London for Portsmouth, Southsea, and the Isle of Wight every Week-day as under:—

From Victoria 6.35, 10.30, and 11.35 a.m., 1.45, 3.55, and 4.55 p.m., also at 7.15 p.m. for Portsmouth only.

From Kensington (Addison Road) 6.5, 10.10, and 11.10 a.m., 1.25, 3.40, and 4.20 p.m., also at 6.50 p.m. for Portsmouth only, all calling at West Brompton and Chelsea.

From London Bridge 6.45, 10.25, and 11.40 a.m., 1.50, 4.0, and 4.55 p.m., also at 7.25 p.m. for Portsmouth only.

SATURDAY, JULY 25th, and MONDAY, JULY 27th, SPECIAL FAST TRAINS FROM VICTORIA, for Pulborough, Midhurst, Singleton, Arundel, Littlehampton, Bognor, Drayton, Chichester, Havant, Southsea, and Portsmouth (for the Isle of Wight).

SPECIAL TRAINS for SERVANTS, HORSES and CARRIAGES only, from Victoria, SATURDAY, JULY 25th, 7.45 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., and MONDAY, JULY 27th, 6.40 a.m., 7.45 a.m., and 6.30 p.m.

Horses and carriages for the above Stations will not be conveyed by any other trains from Victoria on these days.

ON ALL FOUR DAYS OF THE RACES

A SPECIAL TRAIN (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class) will leave Victoria 7.5 a.m., Kensington (Addison-road) 7.0 a.m., Clapham Junction 7.10 a.m., London Bridge 7.10 a.m. for Drayton and Chichester. Return Fares, 18s. 6d., 11s. 8d., and 10s. 4d.

A SPECIAL FAST TRAIN (3rd Class only) will leave Victoria 8.40 a.m., Kensington (Addison-road) 8.25 a.m., Clapham Junction 8.50 a.m., London Bridge 8.40 a.m., direct to Singleton, arriving about 10.55 a.m. Return Fare 10s. 3d.

A SPECIAL FAST TRAIN (1st and 2nd Class) will leave Victoria 9.0 a.m., Kensington (Addison-road) 8.40 a.m., Clapham Junction 9.5 a.m., and London Bridge 9.5 a.m., for Drayton and Chichester. Return Fare 20s. and 15s.

AN EXTRA SPECIAL FAST TRAIN (1st Class only) will leave Victoria 9.45 a.m. for Drayton and Chichester. Return Fare 25s.

TICKETS may be obtained previously at the London Bridge and Victoria Stations, at the City Office, 6, Arthur-street East, and at the West End Offices, 28, Regent-street, and 8, Grand Hotel Buildings, which last two offices will remain open till 10.0 p.m. on July 24th, 25th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th.

(By Order) ALLEN SARLE, Secretary and General Manager.

LONDON BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

FESTIVAL WEEK AT WORTHING, Monday, July 20th to Saturday, July 25th, inclusive.

Cheap 1st Class Day Tickets will be issued each day from Victoria 10.5 a.m., and Clapham Junction 10.10 a.m. Returning by any Train same day. Fare 13s. 6d., including Pulman Car between Victoria and Brighton.

Cheap Day Return Tickets will be issued on Saturday, July 25th, from Victoria 8.25 a.m., Clapham Junction 8.30 a.m., London Bridge 8.30 a.m., calling at New Cross, Forest Hill, Norwood Junction and East Croydon. Returning from Worthing 6.15 p.m. Fare 3s.

For full particulars see Handbills.

(By Order) ALLEN SARLE, Secretary and General Manager.

GREAT NORTHERN, NORTH EASTERN, and NORTH BRITISH RAILWAYS.

EAST COAST ROUTE TO SCOTLAND.

ADDITIONAL AND ACCELERATED TRAINS FROM

LONDON (KING'S CROSS),

JULY, 1896, SERVICE.

	C a.m	C a.m	C a.m	C p.m	A p.m	B p.m	DE p.m	H p.m	F p.m	G p.m
London (King's Cross) dep.	5 15	10 0	11 20	2 20	7 45	8 15	8 45	10 0	11 30	11 30
Edinburgh arr.	3* 5	6 30	7 45	10 45	3 20	3 40	6 0	5 30	7 0	7 0
Glasgow ,,	5 15	8 0	10 20		...	5 50	7 18	7 18	8 25	10-43
Craigendoran ,,	5 34	...	..		...	7 32	8 44	8 44	10 11	...
Callander .. ,,	5 11	8 45	12 20		...	6 3	8 52	8 52	10 55	...
Oban .. ,,	8 45	...	4 45		...	8 45	11 55	11 55	2 5	...
Fort William ,,	9 46	...	...		...	...	11 51	11 51	6 31	...
Perth .. ,,	5 37	7 52	10 32		4 30	5 0	...	6 45	8 50	8 23
Dunkeld .. ,,	8 55	8 55	1§17		...	6 57	10 5	...	10 5	9 18
Dundee .. ,,	6 10	8 10	10 47		...	4 57	8 33	6 47	8 40	9 0
Aberdeen .. ,,	8 40	10 5	12 45		...	6 35	...	8 30	10 30	11 10
Ballater .. ,,	...	...	8§55		...	8 55	2 0	11 10	2 0	...
Inverness .. ,,	...	...	6§10		...	9 40	2 40	11 5	2 40	1 30

Corridor Dining Car Saloons (1st & 3rd cl.)

A. From July 20th to August 7th inclusive, Saturdays and Sundays excepted.
B. Week-days (Saturdays excepted) and Sundays. Will run specially on Saturday, August 8th.
From morning of July 21st to August 8th, will be in connection at Perth with a Special Express in advance of the Mail, conveying Passengers for stations north of Inverness.
C. On week-days only. D. Week-days and Sundays.
E. Not run to Craigendoran Pier, Callander, Oban, Fort William, or Ballater on Sunday mornings, and arrives Glasgow 7.20 a.m., Perth 8.23, Dunkeld 9.18, Inverness 1.30 on Sundays. F. Week-days (Saturdays excepted) and Sundays. G. Saturday nights. H. Will run from July 13th to August 11th, Saturdays and Sundays excepted. * These times apply from July 6th to August 31st only; from July 1st to 5th inclusive will arrive in Edinburgh 3.40 p.m. and Callander 5.53 p.m. § Saturdays excepted.

The new Corridor Day Cars will for the present run in the trains leaving King's Cross at 11.20 a.m. and Edinburgh (Waverley) at 12.15 noon on week days. There will be an Attendant with the Cars, and tea, coffee, and other light refreshments are served during the journey.

Corridor Dining Car Saloons (First and Third Class) are attached to 2.20 p.m. Express from London (King's Cross).

Sleeping Carriages are attached to all night trains.

June, 1896. By Order.

THE ALBION S.S. COMPANY, LIMITED.

FORTNIGHTLY CRUISES from NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE to NORWAY.

The Finest YACHTING STEAMER afloat. No Upper Berths.
"MIDNIGHT SUN," 3,178 Tons, 3,500 H.P.
Capt. CABORNE, R.N.R., F.R.G.S.
Sailings:—August 1 and 15.
Fares from 12 Guineas, including first-class table.
For itinerary &c., apply to "MIDNIGHT SUN" PASSENGER SUPERINTENDENT, 4, Lombard-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ORIENT COMPANY'S PLEASURE CRUISES,

The Steamship "GARONNE," 3,876 tons register, will leave LONDON on the 25th August, for a 28 days' Cruise to the
BALTIC,
visiting COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM, ST. PETERSBURG, KIEL, BALTIC CANAL, and HELIGOLAND.
String band, electric light, high-class cuisine.
Managers, F. GREEN & CO. / ANDERSON, ANDERSON, & CO. Head Offices: Fenchurch-avenue.
For passage apply to the latter firm at 5, Fenchurch-avenue, London, E.C.; or to the Branch Office, 16, Cockspur-street, S.W.

SCHEVENINGEN (Holland) — the Dutch Brighton — *viâ* Harwich-Hook of Holland, daily (Sundays included). Guide Book (free) and full particulars on application to the Manager, Hotel Kurhaus, Scheveningen, Holland.

THE HARWICH-HOOK route is the quickest to Holland (to Amsterdam 11 hours) and cheapest to Germany.

HARWICH-ANTWERP route for Brussels (for the Field of Waterloo), The Ardennes, Switzerland, Germany, &c., every week-day.

Passengers leave London (Liverpool-st. Station) at 8.30 p.m. Direct service to Harwich, *viâ* Lincoln or Peterboro' and March from Scotland, the North and Midlands, saving time and money. Dining car from York, *viâ* March. HAMBURG by G.S.N. Co.'s fast passenger steamers *Peregrine* and *Seamew*, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Cheap tickets and tours to all parts of the Continent. Read the G.E.R. Co.'s "Tourist Guide to the Continent," fully illustrated, price 6d., post, 8½d. Particulars at the American Rendezvous, 2, Cockspur-st., S.W.; or of the Continental Manager, Liverpool-st. Station, E.C.

STORAGE BATTERIES

of the most durable and satisfactory type are manufactured by

THE CHLORIDE ELECTRICAL STORAGE SYNDICATE, LIMITED,

16, VICTORIA ST., WESTMINSTER, S.W.,
AND
CLIFTON JUNCTION, near MANCHESTER.

Batteries of any other type can be refilled with plates of our manufacture at a small cost, and the power of old batteries greatly increased, and the frequency of charging now necessary reduced by one half.

Hunyadi János

BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

25 Years Success in the United Kingdom.

Recommended and Prescribed by Medical Men Everywhere.

"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters." —*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th, 1884.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

GOLD MEDAL
Health Exhibition, London.

BENGER'S

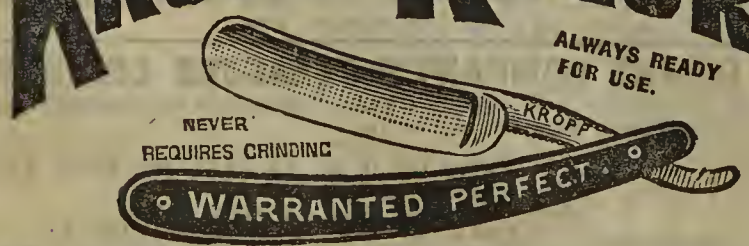
"Retained when all other Foods are rejected. It is invaluable." —*London Medical Record.*

FOOD FOR INFANTS, INVALIDS, AND THE AGED.

BENGER'S FOOD
is sold in Tins by Chemists, &c., everywhere.

REAL GERMAN HOLLOW GROUND

KROPP RAZOR



Black Handle 5/6 | Kropp's Duplex Strop 7/6 | Pair, Ivory Handles, in
Ivory Handle 7/6 | Kropp's Strop Paste ...6d. | Russia Leather Case, 21/-
From all PERFUMERS & DEALERS.—Wholesale: OSBORNE, GARRETT, & CO., LONDON, W.

5/9 **The "ACME" CHAMBER SET.** 5/9

Beautiful Pearly White.
Single Set (5 pieces), 5s. 9d
Services to match or blend, with the modern delicate tints in bedroom furniture from 10/6 to 10 guineas.
If for the Country, 9d. extra for package.

DINNER, DESSERT, BREAKFAST, AND TEA SERVICES.

ALFRED B. PEARCE,
39, Ludgate Hill, London.
Established 1760.

Time, Trouble, and Expense saved in Households by the use of

CONSOMMÉ. In Gelatine Tubes. **Boxes containing 10 Tubes, 1/8; Post Free, 1/10½.**

FRENCH SOUPS (33 Varieties). **In Packets of 6 Tablets each Packet 1/4; Post Free, 1/7.**

THE QUEEN, December 7th, 1895, says:—"The only preserved and condensed Soups that require nothing but a certain proportion of water to produce a bowlful of perfect Consommé."

OF ALL GROCERS AND ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN.
AND OF THE SOLE AGENTS—
COSENZA & CO., 95 & 97, Wigmore-st., London, W.,
Where the Consommé and Soups may be tasted daily.

BREAKFAST—SUPPER

EPPS'S

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

COCOA

BOILING WATER OR MILK.

LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.
Sole Consignee, W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

The complete Furniture of a comfortable Bedroom: Wardrobe, Dressing Chest, Washstand, 2 Cane-seat Arm Chairs, Chamber Service, Bed, Bedding, &c., folds into one small case measuring 6 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. Rigidity and appearance of glued-up Furniture. Patented all over the World. Invaluable to Colonists, Hotels, Officers' Quarters, Spare Bedrooms, Shooting Boxes, &c., &c. Suites at all prices, separate parts can be had. Obtainable at all Dealers' or direct from

THE
V.P. FOLDING BEDROOM SUITE & FURNITURE CO., LIM.
330, OLD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

NO TOURIST'S OUTFIT

IS COMPLETE WITHOUT

Vinolia Cream

For Sunburn, Insect Bites, Itching, &c.

The *Baby* reports:—"For acne spots on the face, and particularly for Eczema, it is undoubtedly efficacious, frequently healing eruptions, and removing pimples in a few days. It relieves itching at once."

1s. 1½d., 1s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 6s. per Box.

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For Sweating Feet, Chafes, &c.

The *British Medical Journal* reports:—"An impalpable rose-dusting powder, soluble, of remarkable fineness, and well adapted for the nursery, toilet, weeping surfaces, and sweating feet."

1s., 1s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 6s, per box.

Vinolia Soap

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins

KEEPS THE COMPLEXION BEAUTIFUL & CLEAR.

The *Chemist and Druggist* reports:—"An ideal soap delightfully perfumed."
The *Lancet* reports:—"No free alkali, a distinct excess of free fat, odour delicate, an article of excellent quality."

Premier, 4d.; Floral, 6d.; Balsamic, 8d.; Toilet (Otto), 10d.; Vestal, 2s. 6d.

Highest Award at Food and Cookery Exhibition, London, May, 1895

BREAD
HOVIS
REGD
BISCUITS

CURE FOR INDIGESTION.

SUPPLIED TO H.M. THE QUEEN AND ROYAL FAMILY.

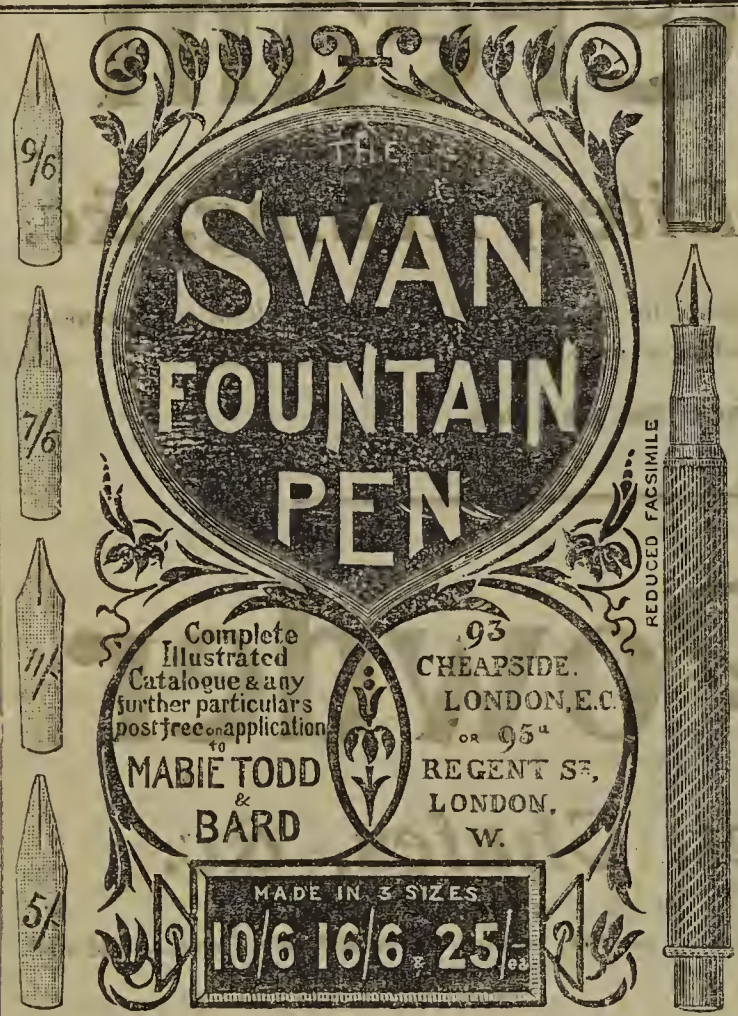
Imitation is the Sincerest Form of Flattery.

The public are cautioned against accepting from Bakers spurious imitations of "Hovis," which, having met with such unprecedented success, is being copied in many instances as closely as can be done without risk.

If any difficulty be experienced in obtaining "Hovis," or if what is supplied as "Hovis" is not satisfactory, please write, sending sample (the cost of which will be defrayed) to

S. FITTON & SON, Millers, Macclesfield.

BAKERS RECOMMENDING ANY BREAD IN PLACE OF "HOVIS" DO SO FOR THEIR OWN PROFIT. BEWARE!



HOW MR. HALL CAINE WROTE 'THE 'MANXMAN.'

"Yes, if the fact is of any consequence, you are very welcome to say that I wrote the 'MANXMAN,' with the SWAN FOUNTAIN PEN It has become quite indispensable to me. I can use it with ease and certainty anywhere and at any time, even in the dark, in bed, and on horseback."

We only require your steel pen to select a pen to suit you.

Complete Illustrated Catalogue sent post-free on application to

MABIE, TODD, & BARD,

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NEW BRANCH, 21, High-street, Kensington, W.

DISTILLED FROM FRESHLY GATHERED RHINE VIOLETS.

A SCENT OF RARE FRAGRANCE.

A VERY ECHO OF NATURE.

CAUTION.

Owing to the phenomenal success of this popular Scent, some perfumers are offering essences of their own manufacture under the name of "RHINE VIOLETS." The public must not be deceived, but insist upon "MULHENS" brand, which is distilled from the flower itself. Don't accept any bottle not bearing Ferd. Mülhens' name. This alone ensures genuineness. Ferd. Mülhens, of Cologne, is the originator of this exquisite perfume, and was the first to introduce it into England.

The Fashionable Press of London are unanimous in praise of it.

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- *per bottle.*

"Rhine Violet" Sachets, 2/6 each.
"Rhine Violet" Soap, 2/6 per tablet, or 7/- per box of 3 tablets.

Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes, or from

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FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.

Is Partly Composed of Honey, and Extracts from Sweet Herbs and Plants.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.

2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER,

Only put in Glass Jars, Price 1s.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.

Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

Should be in every House where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.

ASK YOUR CHEMIST OR HAIRDRESSER FOR

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per bottle.

THE PLACE TO SPEND THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

Bexhill-on-Sea

THE MOST DELIGHTFUL SPOT ON THE SOUTH COAST, WITHIN TWO HOURS FROM LONDON.

From Photograph.] PARADE FROM COASTGUARD STATION. [*Frith & Co., Reigate.*

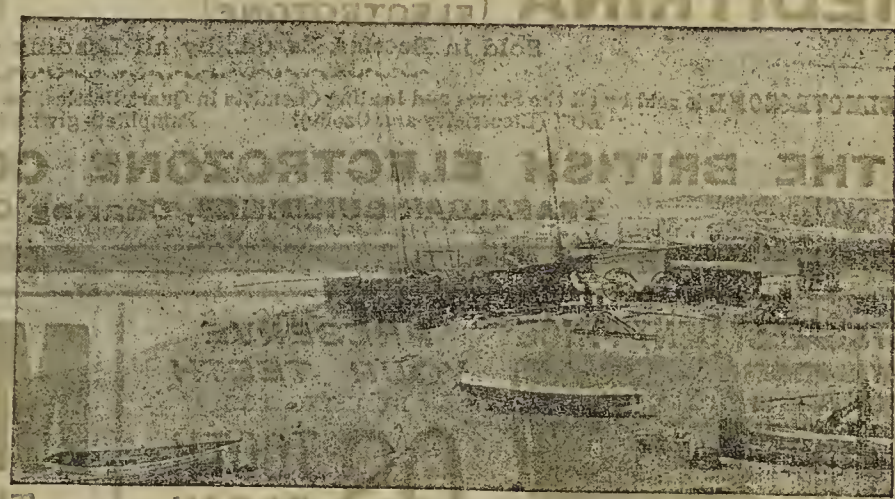
Parade under Private Control of De La Warr Estate.

Bracing and Invigorating Air.

Charming Walks and Drives.

Excellent Boating and Fishing.

Cricket. Lawn Tennis. "Eighteen Hole" Golf Links.



From Photograph.] WEST BEACH, BEXHILL. [*Frith & Co., Reigate*

SPLENDID HOTELS (SACKVILLE & MARINE.) With Moderate Tariffs.

HERR WURM'S WORLD-RENOWNED VIENNESE WHITE BAND ENGAGED FOR THE WHOLE SEASON.

From Photograph.] LORD DE LA WARR'S CRICKET FIELD. [*Blomfield, Hastings.*

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BETWEEN THE

AUSTRALIANS and LORD DE LA WARR'S ELEVEN,

JULY 30th and 31st, and AUGUST 1st.

GRAND INTERNATIONAL CYCLING TOURNAMENT,

With Prizes to the value of ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS.

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From VICTORIA—8.10, 9.50, and 10.15, a.m., 12 noon, 1.30, 3.26, 4.30, and 6.50 p.m.
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EXTRA FAST TRAINS from London Bridge on Saturdays at 2.5 and 3.20 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 9.10 p.m.

N.B.—Bexhill-on-Sea is not shut in by Cliffs, but stands on the edge of the open Country, and in the midst of the most DELIGHTFUL SCENERY in SUSSEX.

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The PURIFYING AGENT FOR ALL PURPOSES

TRADE E-O MARK

A PRODUCT of PUREST SEA-WATER and ELECTRICITY. ABSOLUTELY NON-POISONOUS.

For USE in the HOUSEHOLD, in the BATH, in the SICK-ROOM—IN FACT, ANYWHERE and EVERYWHERE. A UNIVERSAL DISINFECTANT.

REMOVES ALL SMELLS. ANNIHILATES DISEASE GERMS. ENSURES PERFECT SANITATION.

HEALS CUTS, BURNS, WOUNDS, &c.
KILLS ALL INFLAMMATION. PREVENTS BLOOD-POISONING.

Used in all the Principal Hospitals, Infirmaries, Hotels, and in Private Houses in the United States for many years. Its Valuable Properties have been demonstrated at Leading English Hospitals, and recognised by British Sanitary Specialists, Doctors, and Analysts.

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ELECTROZONE is sold by all the Stores and leading Chemists in Quart Bottles, 1s. Large Quantities on Special Terms. Note the Trade Mark "EO" (Electricity and Ozone). Pamphlets giving Fullest Information sent Free from

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SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS IN ELEGANT CRYSTAL TOILET CASKET PRICE 2/6.
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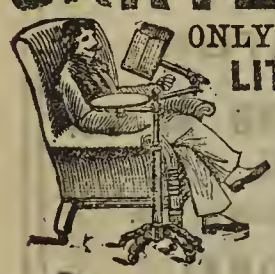

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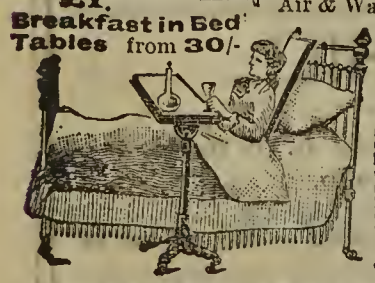

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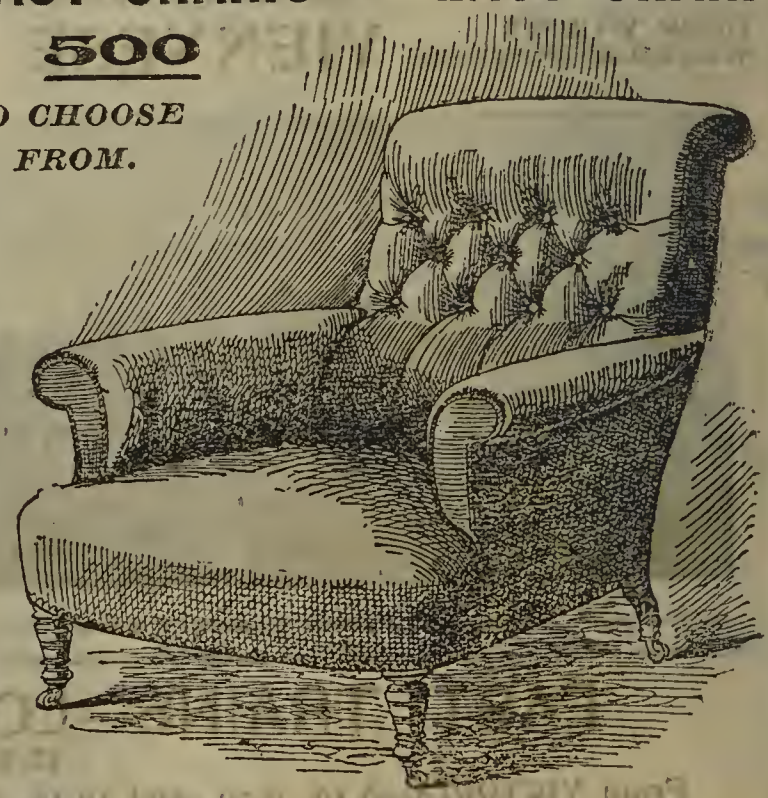

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£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
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£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

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REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary

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ADVANCES MADE in TOWN or COUNTRY at a FEW HOURS' NOTICE, Without Public Enquiries for Short or Long Periods, From £30 to £5,000, To Ladies and Gentlemen, Merchants, Farmers, Traders, or any responsible persons upon their NOTE OF HAND ALONE.

ALL TRANSACTIONS STRICTLY PRIVATE.

Also upon security of Furniture, Stock-in-Trade, Reversions, Deeds, Leases, Life Policies, Legacies, Jewellery, Silver Plate, Farm Stock, &c., without mortgage expenses, from one to 15 years, repayable by easy instalments, or so long as the interest is paid, the capital may remain.

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FIRST LETTER OF APPLICATION IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO, A Gentleman sent direct from the Bank to carry out all advances. Current accounts opened in accordance with the usual practice of other London Banks.
Prospectus gratis, or post free on application. Personal visit preferred.
Interest allowed on deposits, 4 per cent. 6 months', 5 per cent. 12 months' notice. Apply to the SECRETARY.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.
Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.
A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to
FRANCIS LEVIEN,
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FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK
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Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., 52, Farringdon Street, LONDON, E.C.

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THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.
Invested Funds, £23,000,000.
The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

WEST AUSTRALIAN EXPLORING and FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.
Notice is hereby given that an INTERIM DIVIDEND of 10 per cent. (two shillings per Share), free of Income Tax, will be paid on the Ordinary Shares of this Corporation, on the 30th inst., to all Shareholders whose names stand on the Register on the 22nd July, 1896.
The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 22nd to the 29th inst., both days inclusive.
By order of the Board,
C. F. SHACKEL, Secretary.
17th July, 1896.

— READ —
GREGORY'S
FIVE LATEST WORKS:

1. **"GREGORY'S GUIDE TO WESTRALIA'S GOLD."** Giving dates of Registration of Companies and Table of Yearly Production from 1886 to 1896 inclusive. (95 pages).
2. **"GREGORY'S STANDARD HANDBOOK of SOUTH AFRICA."** Contents: General Description—Climate—Advice to Visitors and Emigrants — Merchant Shipping Act — Emigration Societies—Emigrants Generally — Cape Colony — Steamers — Railways — British Bechuanaland—Natal—Transvaal—Orange Free State—British South Africa Company—Native Words and Phrases. (272 pages, with map.)
3. **"GREGORY'S GUIDE to AFRICA'S GOLD,"** with Witwatersrand Gold Output from 1887 to 1895, inclusive. (72 pages.)
4. **"GREGORY'S MAP of SOUTH AFRICA."** Showing the British South Africa Company's Territories, and a Map of the Transvaal and Frontier.
5. **"GREGORY'S FULL TEXT of the BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S ROYAL CHARTER,"** and also the Transvaal and Great-Britain Convention of London, 1884, together with complete list of full names and addresses of all Shareholders since the incorporation of the Company in October, 1889. (105 pages).

All five works are written right "up to date," and can be obtained gratis and post free from

George Gregory & Co.
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS,
London, Manchester, Liverpool, Brighton, Hastings, Leeds, Hull, and Folkestone, with Agencies in all large towns.
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THE GREAT BOULDER PROPRIETARY GOLD MINES,

LIMITED,

WILL INVITE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR AN ISSUE

— OF —

GREAT BOULDER

JUNCTION REEFS,

LIMITED,

AND THE PROSPECTUS WILL BE ADVERTISED THIS WEEK.

The List of Applications OPENS WEDNESDAY, the 22nd day of July, and will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, the 23rd day of July, 1896, at 4 p.m., for Town, and the Following Morning for the Country.

THE HANS CRESCENT HOTEL COMPANY, Limited, Hans Crescent, Belgravia, S.W.

SHARE CAPITAL £180,000 Divided into 16,000 Six Per Cent. Preference Shares of £5 each £80,000, and 20,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each £100,000—£180,000.

The Preference Shares entitle the holders to a Cumulative Preferential Dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, which is intended to be paid half-yearly, and are also Preferential as to Capital. Also Four per Cent. Perpetual First Mortgage Debenture Stock, amounting to £140,000.

Present Issue:—

£140,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock at £103.
£80,000 in 16,000 Six per Cent. Preference Shares of £5 each at par.
And £100,000 in Ordinary Shares of £5 each at par.

The Vendors stipulate for an allotment in part payment of the purchase price of one-third of the Ordinary Shares, credited as fully-paid, this being the largest amount allowed by the rules of the Stock Exchange; and the Debenture Stock, the whole of the Preference, and the remaining 13,334 Ordinary Shares are now offered for subscription, payable as follows:—

	Debenture Stock Per Cent.	Preference Shares Per Share.	Ordinary Shares.
On Application.....	10	£1 0 0	£1 0 0
On Allotment	43 (including premium)	1 10 0	1 10 0
On 30th Sept., 1896	50	2 10 0	2 10 0
	103	£5 0 0	£5 0 0

Interest will accrue as from date of payment of instalments.

The Debenture Stock will be secured by a Trust Deed and be issued in multiples of £10 and will be registered in the books of the Company, and the interest will be payable half-yearly, on the 1st January and 1st July in each year. The first Warrant will be issued on 1st January, 1897, for interest to that date.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.
The Debenture Corporation, Limited.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. the Earl of March and Kinrara, 49, Belgrave-square, S.W., Chairman.
The Lord Berkeley Paget, 42, Cadogan-square, S.W.
Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Vivian, 15, Grosvenor-square, W.
Edward Rawlings, Esq., 16, Victoria-street, S.W. (Chairman of Barrett's Brewery and Bottling Company, Limited).
Herbert Bennett, Esq., 175, Sloane-street, S.W. (Director of Harrod's Stores, Limited), Managing Director.

MANAGER.—Monsieur C. Diette.
BANKERS.—The City Bank (Knightsbridge Branch), Head Offices and Branches.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Lee & Pembertons, 44, Lincoln's-inn-fields, W.C.
BROKERS.—Messrs. E. O. Lloyd & Hardy, 7, Finch-lane, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
ARCHITECTS.—Messrs. Read & Macdonald.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., 44, Gresham-street, E.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Mr. T. T. Willcox, 16, Victoria-street, S.W.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the important freehold property known as the Hans Place Hotel, containing about 20,000 square feet, and an adjoining piece of freehold land containing about 10,000 square feet, and erecting as an annexe to the Hotel, a magnificent Ball Room, Banqueting Hall, and numerous additional suites of apartments.

The hotel is situate in Hans-crescent, Belgravia, at the Knightsbridge end of Sloane-street, in one of the most fashionable parts of London, within three minutes' walk of the Albert Gate entrance to Hyde Park. The hotel, which is completely detached, comprises basement, ground floor, and five floors above, and contains about 159 rooms in all, and when the annexe is completed there will be about 242 in all.

The entrance hall, staircase, and public rooms are all of exceptional beauty, as will be seen by the illustrations accompanying the prospectus, reproduced from photographs, and include drawing-room, grand dining-room, banqueting saloon, billiard, reading, and smoking rooms, and a palmery, or Winter garden, formed by an ornamental structure in iron and glass, with a high domed roof, splendidly proportioned, and having a floor space of about 2,500 superficial feet. This Winter garden is a very attractive feature, and quite unique in a London hotel.

The first and upper floors have many suites of rooms, admirably planned on the principle of flats, all separately enclosed, each suite having its own bath-room and lavatory, and as many or as few sitting-rooms and bedrooms as may be required, with private hall and entrance from the corridor, thus ensuring complete privacy.

The hotel has been erected by Messrs. Stephens, Bastow, & Co., of Bristol, from designs by Messrs. Read & Macdonald, of 4A, Cork-street, W.

A full hotel licence has already been obtained, and there is also a fully-licensed Saloon Bar (with separate entrance), a source of profit which most London hotels are unable to secure.

It is considered that the architects have most successfully dealt with the very important considerations of light and ventilation, the spaciousness and light of the corridors being particularly striking.

Great attention has been given to that which is now properly regarded as one of the most important essentials of a modern building, viz., the drainage and sanitary arrangements. These have been executed under the superintendence of the London Sanitary Protection Association, who are to periodically examine and test the drainage system, so that it shall be maintained in perfect order. All the corridors and staircase are heated by hot water, ensuring perfect comfort during the coldest weather.

The whole of the plumbing work, and hot and cold water and heating service, have been executed by Messrs. Wenham & Waters of Croydon, in the most satisfactory manner.

The electric lighting has been carried out by Messrs. Strode & Company, and Messrs. Verity & Company, according to plans and specifications prepared by the Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Kincaid, Waller & Manville, who have adopted an improved system of carrying the wires in specially prepared iron tubes, by means of which accidental fire is absolutely prevented; and Messrs. Merryweather & Company have supplied and fitted hydrants and fire-extinguishing apparatus throughout the building, so that the utmost has been done in this direction for safety.

The decorations, furniture, and appointments by Messrs. S. J. Waring & Sons, of Liverpool and London, are of great artistic merit and far superior to those usually found in hotels even of a luxurious class.

The hotel was opened on the 20th day of May, 1896, and there have been so many expressions of satisfaction from the visitors as to indicate that the hotel has acquired an excellent reputation.

The annexe, which it is intended to erect on the freehold land adjoining the hotel, will have an entirely separate entrance from Basil-street, so that balls and banquets can be held there without in any way disturbing the privacy and quiet of the main portion of the hotel. The plans for this annexe have already been prepared by Messrs. Read & Macdonald, the architects, who estimate that the cost and equipment of the building will not exceed the sum of £40,000.

The erection of this annexe should command a large and remunerative business in the way of balls, banquets, and receptions, as the accommodation for such purposes will be perfect at this hotel, and can be had nowhere else in Belgravia.

Messrs. George Trollope & Sons', the well-known valuers, report accompanies the Prospectus.

For contracts, see full Prospectus.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained of the Bankers and Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

The SUBSCRIPTION LISTS will OPEN THIS DAY (MONDAY), the 20th day of July, 1896, and CLOSE on or before FOUR o'clock on WEDNESDAY next, the 22nd day of July, 1896, for Town and Country.

59½ ACRES IN THE HEART OF HANNAN'S.

The issuing Corporation having guaranteed the Subscription of 50,000 Shares to provide Working Capital, the Directors will proceed to Allotment immediately after the closing of the Lists. WORKING CAPITAL, £50,000.

The MINES INVESTMENT CORPORATION, Limited, The DISCOVERERS FINANCE CORPORATION, Limited, The UNIVERSAL CORPORATION, Limited, invite Subscriptions for Shares of the

Brownhill Central Gold Mines, Ltd.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

HANNAN'S DISTRICT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

CAPITAL £200,000, divided into 200,000 Shares of £1 each.

APPLICATIONS are INVITED for 135,000 SHARES of £1 each, payable as follows:—2s. 6d. on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance as and when required in calls of 2s. 6d. per Share at intervals of not less than one month.

A cablegram, dated Kalgoorlie, July 7th, states:—"Giles" (the Manager of the Brownhill Central Mine) "selected six samples; a sample containing no visible gold assays 34 oz., lowest 2 dwt. per ton. Average of assays is 6 oz. per ton."

DIRECTORS.

Josceline Bagot, M.P., 17, Lower Berkeley-street, W., and Levens Hall, Milnthorpe, Westmoreland, Director Mines Investment Corporation, Limited.

Alexander Matheson, Dashwood House, New Broad-street, E.C., Director Hannan's Lake View Central, Limited.

John McDonald, 43, Threadneedle-street, E.C., Director Discoverers Finance Corporation, Limited.

H. Seton-Karr, M.P., 12, Lower Sloane-street, S.W., and Kippilaw, St. Boswells, N.B., Director Crœsus South United Gold Mines, Limited (Hannan's).

W. MacLaren Walker, 31, St. Vincent-place, Glasgow, Director Universal Corporation, Limited.

CONSULTING ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER.—George Gray, Perth and Kalgoorlie (Hannan's) Western Australia.

BANKERS IN LONDON.—The Clydesdale Bank, Limited, 30, Lombard-street, E.C.

BROKERS.

London.—Billett, Campbell, & Grenfell, 26, Austin Friars, E.C.
Liverpool.—J. H. Townley & Son, 15, Batavia-buildings, Hackin's-hey.
Manchester.—Kerr & Lowe, 26, Brown-street.
Glasgow.—James Kirkwood & Son, 62, Buchanan-street.
Huddersfield.—Mellor & Wimpenny, 1, Cloth Hall-street.

SOLICITORS.

For the Universal Corporation, Limited, and the Discoverers Finance Corporation, Limited.—Henry D. Kimber & Co., 79, Lombard-street, E.C.
For the Mines Investment Corporation, Limited.—Lattey & Hart, Devonshire-square, E.C.
For the Company.—Goodchild & Hammond, 1, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Turquand, Youngs, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 41, Coleman-street, E.C.

SECRETARY.—A. E. Layzell.

OFFICES.—2, Cowper's-court, Cornhill, E.C.

Power has been taken in the Articles of Association to enable the Company to establish a Colonial Register, and also for the issue of Share Warrants to Bearer.

PROSPECTUS (ABRIDGED).

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring four gold mining leases, situated in the centre of Hannan's, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, containing an area of about 59½ acres, the properties being held under the usual leases, and known as Nos. 1,170E. 1,596E, 1,013E, and 989E.

As is shown by the maps accompanying the prospectus, the Brownhill Central property is in the very heart of what is believed to be the richest gold-bearing field at present discovered in Western Australia, and is adjacent to well-known and successful gold mines.

The following particulars of the acreage of these principal surrounding mines are taken from "The Stock Exchange Year Book, 1896," and show in each case the value of their lands per acre upon the basis of the market value of the Shares on the 13th July, 1896, and the working capital provided, as compared with the price per acre and the working capital of the "Brownhill Central."

Mine.	Acreage.	Market Price per Acre.	Working Capital.	Market Price per Share.
Hannan's Reward	39 acres	£5,833	£22,000	3¼
Hannan's Brownhill	†21 ,,	19,643	20,000	5¼
Hainault	20 ,,	13,125	20,000	3¾
Kalgurli	18 ,,	11,805	10,000	2½
Ivanhoe	24 ,,	16,666	20,000	8
Great Boulder	‡79 ,,	16,337	30,000	7⅜
Brownhill Central	59½ ,,	3,400	50,000	

† "The Stock Exchange Year Book" gives the acreage of "Hannan's Brownhill" as twelve acres, but it is actually 21 acres; presumably, nine acres have been added since "The Stock Exchange Year Book" was published.

‡ The Great Boulder Proprietary Gold Mine, Limited, have lately sold 24 acres of their property, thus reducing the acreage given in "The Stock Exchange Year Book," namely, 103 acres, to 79 acres.

The leases comprised in this property were taken up for the late Mr. G. McLeod Matheson, the well-known mining engineer, of Sydney and Kalgoorlie, who contemplated working the property himself, but, owing to his death, it is now offered to the public.

Three shafts have been sunk on the property to a depth of 112 ft., 45 ft., and 60 ft. respectively; cross-cuts have been put in from the two first-mentioned shafts through large gold-bearing lodes.

Extract from the cabled report, dated June 1st, 1896, since confirmed by letter, of Mr. George Gray, the well-known mining engineer of the Hannan's Proprietary Development Company, Limited:—

"Systematic developments should prove the property to be a valuable one, as the experience of the district shown in mines such as the Boulder, Lake View, Crœsus, Brownhill, the mines of the Hannan's Proprietary Development Company, Limited, Hannan's Reward, and the Associated Gold Mines is that at greater depth, where the country is more settled, the lodes have been found to carry rich values. I, therefore, recommend this property, believing that when it has been opened up at a greater depth it will be likely to justify the sanguine anticipations I have formed after a consideration of the position, the superficial features, and of the developments already completed."

Extract from the cabled report dated June 17th, 1896, of Captain William Oats, Manager of Hannan's Oroya and Brookman's Boulder Gold Mining Companies, Limited:—

"Brownhill Central admirably situated in the centre of main ore channel, Hannan's district 70 chains along known strike lodes. Have made a careful examination of the ground.

"I have seen Gray's report. I can fully confirm his statements and figures. The position (and) general indications, (and) the work already completed, lead me to expect valuable discoveries at a greater depth."

The following is a report from the manager in charge of the mine, Mr. Edgar Giles, dated 19th February, 1896, in which he states:—

"I herein send you my report on the 'Brownhill Central' property, contained in Leases Nos. 989, 1,013, 1,596, and 1,170.

"A shaft has been sunk on Lease No. 989 to a depth of 100 ft., and a cross-cut has been put in at the 60 ft. level about 20 ft., showing the lode about 14 ft., but no footwall has been met with. At about 80 ft. another cross-cut has been put in showing the lode, but without a footwall. This lode was only a few inches wide on the surface when discovered. Gold was got the whole way down, going from 1 to 3 and 4 oz. per ton. The formation is of a soft, schisty slate, and similar to the 'Brownhill' in places; at about 60 ft. large blocks of stalactitic ironstone were met with, and fine gosson and quartz sand; this continues to go down, and is 2 ft. to 3 ft. wide, but at a somewhat cross angle with the country. It seems of too loose a nature at this depth to hold only very fine gold, but I am of the opinion that heavy gold will be met with at a lower level. This is the only formation of the kind, I believe, that has been found on the field, and is well worthy of following down. It was intended, before work was suspended, to put in drives at 120 ft., and test this and the other lode thoroughly.

"To the eastward of this shaft, about a chain or so, another surface vein similar to the above has been discovered, running parallel with it, and carrying gold up to 4 oz.; it has only been sunk on a few feet, but is rapidly widening as did the other. As these veins or lodes are so hidden, it may be possible that in driving from one to the other at a lower level that others may be met with.

"On Lease No. 1,013 the same lode has been carefully traced, and a shaft has been sunk on a 12 in. outcrop to a depth of 40 ft., and at that level the lode is 7 ft. wide, carrying fine gold. Further up the rise another shaft has been sunk, to strike this lode at a greater depth, and is now 117 ft., with a cross-cut at that level in 40 ft.; here the lode has just been struck, carrying gold up to 1 oz. from one small sample; but what width the lode is, and what it carries throughout and on the footwall, remains to be proved, as work was suspended at this point.

"Still further up this rise, and on the summit, the same formation exists, and similar parallel lodes, only more defined, and extending fully three chains wide. As gold was discovered in one of these, it was intended that a main shaft should be sunk, and cross-cuts put in east and west at a low level, and test the width, &c.

"There is also a splendid machinery and battery site here, and with so many lodes a large supply of water will undoubtedly be met with. This same formation continues on in the same direction, and should be easily found on 1,596 and 1,170. The strike is about N.N.W., and the underlay to the W.

"In conclusion, I consider this one of the finest properties on Hannan's line, and certainly the best obtainable for flotation. The country is easily worked, and with further development should turn out to be one of the best mines on the field."

Extract from letter received from the Manager, dated April 29th, 1896:—

"Lode in Brownhill Central at 117 ft. level is now over 30 ft. wide and not through it yet. Gold has been got the whole way, less 2 ft., and is improving. Shaft on the nine-acre lease is also improving, and I really do not know what width it is there, but I am now getting gold beyond what was supposed to be the hanging wall."

In this same letter, speaking of the 45 ft. lode formation, the Manager writes:—

"I test the stuff daily, and always get gold up to one and two ounces (per ton) in this immense formation."

The Directors have secured the services of Mr. George Gray, whose name is so well and favourably known as an eminent mining manager and expert, and especially associated with the Hannan's district, as general manager to the Company.

The only contract entered into to which the Company is a party is one dated the 16th day of July, between the Mines Investment Corporation, Limited, the Discoverers Finance Corporation, Limited, and the Universal Corporation, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part, whereby the Company will acquire the properties for the sum of £150,000, payable as to £30,000 in cash, as to £65,000 in fully-paid Shares, and as to the balance in cash or Shares, or cash and Shares, as the Directors may determine. Under this contract the three issuing Corporations, who are the Vendors to the Company, and who are reselling to them at a profit, undertake to pay all the expenses of issuing this Prospectus, and guarantee the subscription of 50,000 Shares to provide working capital.

There are also two agreements, dated the 12th day of June, 1896, and the 15th day of July, 1896, respectively, between Alexander Matheson, of the one part, and Herbert Skyring Stoneham, of the other part; and between Herbert Skyring Stoneham, of the one part, and the Mines Investment Corporation, Limited, the Discoverers Finance Corporation, Limited, and the Universal Corporation, Limited, of the other part. The above contract of 16th July, 1896, together with the original reports and cablegrams mentioned in this Prospectus, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be inspected up to the date of Allotment by intending subscribers at the office of the Solicitors of the Company. Mr. Alexander Matheson, one of the Directors, is interested in the purchase price. Mr. Josceline Bagot, Mr. John McDonald, and Mr. W. Maclaren Walker are also Directors of and Shareholders in the issuing Corporations.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and from the Bankers, Solicitors, Brokers, and Auditors.

London, July 16th, 1896.

The Form below may be cut out and used as an Application for Shares.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of

BROWNHILL CENTRAL GOLD MINES, Limited,
2, Cowper's-court, Cornhill, E.C.

Having paid to your Bankers (the Clydesdale Bank, Limited, 30, Lombard-street, London, E.C.) the sum of £....., being 2s. 6d. per Share on this Application for ..... Shares of £1 each in the above Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number allotted to me, and to become a member of the Company in respect thereof, and to pay the sums due thereon, according to the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and of the Prospectus dated July 16th, 1896, and I authorise you to place my name in the Register of Members for the Shares so allotted.

Name in full.....
Address .....
Profession (if any) .....
Date.....1896.
Signature .....

MOUNT REID MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862-1890.

CAPITAL - £150,000

IN 150,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

£50,000 of which has been allocated for the purposes of Working Capital.

DIRECTORS.

HAROLD G. CAMPION (Chairman), 23, Old Broad-street, E.C.
GEORGE EDWARDS, 37, Old Jewry, E.C.
FRANCIS GRAHAM LLOYD, 78, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.
J. WHITE MELDRUM, 73, Basinghall-street, E.C.

BANKERS.

BANK OF ADELAIDE, 11, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.
(AND ITS BRANCHES.)
COMMERCIAL BANK OF TASMANIA, Hobart, Tasmania.

SOLICITORS.

MESSRS. CHESTON & SONS, 1, Great Winchester-street, E.C.

SECRETARIES AND OFFICES.

(IN LONDON.)
NEWMAN M. OGLE, 90, Cannon-street, E.C.
(IN THE COLONY.)
JOHN THEODORE BROOK HICKSON, Cook's Chambers, Elizabeth-street, Hobart, Tasmania.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and further developing the well-known gold, silver, and copper mining property at Mount Reid, in the Dundas district of North-West Tasmania. This property comprises an area of 80 acres or thereabouts, and is situate in a rich mineral locality.

At the base of the Mountain from which the property takes its name, in the Ring River Valley, alluvial gold deposits have been worked for some time past, and in the opinion of several mining engineers the source of these deposits is to be found on the slopes of Mount Reid itself. Within comparatively short distances are situated the Mount Lyell Mine, the Mount Bischoff Mine, the North Dundas Tin Fields, and the Zeehan Silver Fields, all of which properties are being successfully worked.

Mr. Montgomerie, the Government Geological Surveyor, in his official report dated 6th April, 1893, says:—

"At Mount Reid, in what appears to be the same belt of country in which the Mount Lyell Mine is situated, a somewhat similar pyrites deposit has been found, and in this case the ore seems very plainly interlaminated with the country rock. There are reported to be several deposits of pyrites in and near the line of country connecting Mount Lyell with Mount Reid, which goes far to bear out the theory of their sedimentary origin."

And Mr. Montgomerie further states in his report on the Mount Reid Mine (quoted in Mr. Luke Williams' report of the 5th February, 1894) of the 20th May, 1893:—

"Heavy spar (baryta) is one of the most notable minerals in the Mount Lyell Mine, and its occurrecne here strengthens a belief which I entertain that the Mount Reid lodes are of a similar origin to the large deposit of pyrites at Mount Lyell."

Mr. James McMurray, M.E., in his report dated 8th April, 1896, says that "there is no shadow of doubt but that these two mines are on one and the same run of country;" and Mr. A. M. Reid, in his report of the 28th March, 1895, states:—

"It is now admitted by all competent mining authorities on the West Coast, including Dr. Peters, M.E., that an almost unbroken belt of mineral-bearing country extends from Mount Lyell to Mount Bischoff, and a straight line drawn between these two points will show that Mount Reid, and further on, Mount Peters, where large deposits of rich ores have been recently discovered, come directly within its scope."

Considerable prospecting work has already been carried out on the property, and, describing this, Mr. McMurray reports as follows:—

"In the northern part of the mine the deposit consists of two branches, which converge southwards, and junction near the centre of the claim, continuing thereafter to the southern boundary of the property as one undivided mass. The deposit strikes N.N.W. through the centre of the property, so that while a length of 600 yards are available along the outcrop, abundant room is left on either side to follow the mass in depth within the boundaries of the mine, whether it should be found to dip towards the east or west. The work expended on the property has proved the course of the lode matter for upwards of 1,000 lineal feet in length, and over 100 in width. The outcrop of the deposit consists of oxide of iron and quartz, from which gold can be freely washed, but at a shallow depth this oxidised material gives place to iron pyrites, copper pyrites, and silver lead carrying gold and silver. Some assays of the ore have yielded from a trace of gold to the wonderful amount of 671 ounces to the ton, and in silver from a few ounces to 419 ounces to the ton, and at the depth of 50 feet, copper has assayed from a trace up to 40 per cent."

Working assays of 14 different samples of ore taken from this property gave an average, according to Mr. McMurray, of 1 ounce 5 dwts. of gold, and 21 ounces of silver per ton of ore.

As regards means of communication and transport, Mount Reid is situated about 30 miles from Strahan, the seaport of Western Tasmania, and the greater part of that distance is already traversed by a railway, and the Board have reason to believe that the construction of a tramway to the immediate neighbourhood of Mount Reid is under contemplation,

In respect of both water and timber, supplies are immediately available for the company's requirements.

Steps are being taken to secure a thoroughly capable and experienced engineer as General Manager of the Company's property, and in the meantime Mr. James McMurray, who possesses special experience in the methods of working in Tasmania, is acting as mine manager.

The above is published for public information only, no Shares are offered for Subscription.

The List will open on Monday, July 20th, and close on or before Wednesday, July 22nd, for Town and Country.

THE BRITISH GAS TRACTION CO. Lim.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - £250,000,

IN 50,000 SHARES OF £5 EACH,

Of which 10,000 are taken by the Vendors in part payment, and the residue of 40,000 are now offered for subscription, payable as follows:—On Application, 10s. per Share, On Allotment, 10s. per Share, *Two Months after Allotment, £2 per Share, *Four Months after Allotment, £2 per Share.

**Due Notice will be given of the date on which these Instalments are payable.*

DIRECTORS.

Lieut.-Colonel W. T. ELLIS, Director The Incandescent Gas Light Co., Limited.
THOMAS SKARRATT HALL, Esq., 23, Berkeley-square, W.
HENRY P. HOLT, Esq. (Crossley Bros., Limited), Manchester and London.
THOMAS G. GILLESPIE, Esq., Director The London Tramways Co., Limited.
ALFRED DU CROS, Esq., Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Limited.

Bankers.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED, 222, Strand, London, and other Branches.
And their Agents in Ireland.
THE BANK OF IRELAND, Dublin, and Branches.

Solicitors.

Messrs. DAWES & SONS, 9, Angel-court, London, E.C.
J. B. PURCHASE, Esq., 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

Auditors.—Messrs. FRANK DAVIES, MEREDITH, & CO., 95 and 97, Finsbury-pavement, E.C.

Brokers.—Messrs. ALISTAIR HAY & CO., 5, Lothbury, E.C.

Secretary *(pro tem.)*—PERCY HOLYOAKE.

Registered Offices.—22, Chancery-lane.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, working, developing or otherwise dealing with the British Patent Rights, including all improvements thereon, for Great Britain and Ireland for the system of working Tramways, light Railways, &c., by means of Motor Cars worked by gas engines, invented by the late Carl Lührig, of Dresden, and Mr. Henry P. Holt.

Amongst the principal objects of the Company are to build and sell Gas Motor Cars in Great Britain, and to equip and work Tramway lines by contract.

The cars are similar in appearance to ordinary horse-tramcars, and are propelled by specially-constructed gas-engines. The engines and driving-gear are so arranged that no part of them is seen, and they do not encroach on the space for carrying passengers; no inconvenience arises from noise or vibration of machinery, and the car runs as smoothly as a horse-car. There is no smell from either gas or oil. As evidence of the safety with which gas traction can be worked, it may be stated that during the years 1894-5 there were at Dresden 212 accidents with horse-cars, 88 accidents with electric cars, but not a single accident with gas motor cars.

The advantage in this system (apart from the diminution in cost) is that each car carries its own power and is thus in no wise dependent upon a central station as in the case of electric and cable lines, where, if any accident occur, the whole traffic is stopped.

The danger, inconvenience, and unsightliness of overhead electric circuits are avoided.

A further consequence, which is of immense economical value in facilitating the adoption of the system, is that the whole of the fixed plant can be obtained at the moderate cost of £300 to £400 and that no special form of line is required. The cars can thus be tried on any properly laid tramway at a trifling expense, and can be adopted to the extent found convenient. The system has been thoroughly tested in Germany. Five cars were put in traffic in Dresden in 1894, and their successful working is attested by the Managing Director of the Tramway Company in the following letter:—

"Dresden, 8th February, 1896.

"To the GAS TRACTION COMPANY, Ltd., London and Dresden.

"Dear Sirs.—In reply to your enquiry we have pleasure in confirming that the five Gas Motor Cars have been worked here successfully since July, 1894. The cars are the first ones built according to your system, and are of a somewhat old design; but although they have been worked on a most difficult line with five railway lines to cross, they have done their work successfully, and are in good condition.

"These satisfactory results have induced us to build further lines for working with gas cars as soon as those with your latest improvements are ready.

"For the Deutsche Strassenbahn-Gesellschaft,
(Signed) "STOESSNER,
"Director."

In Dessau a company was formed, and a line laid down and fully equipped, on this Company's system. It was opened for traffic in November, 1894, with nine cars. It worked so satisfactorily that in the early part of 1895 the public agitated for the construction of further lines to connect other parts of the Town. The company decided to do so, and the requisite capital was subscribed in the Town of Dessau alone. The Managing Director's report of this company and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1895, are published, and show a satisfactory profit on the first year's working. The result of the year's running up to December, 1895, as shown by the published accounts, proves conclusively the cheapness of the system as against every other mode of traction, the cost per mile for gas, including compression, being less than one penny with gas at 2s. 11d. per 1,000 cubic feet.

In Dresden, according to the accounts of the tramway company, the cost of the three modes of traction which are worked by them is given for the year 1895 as follows:—

Single Horse Cars	5¾d. per mile.
Electrical Cars with overhead wires ...	4¼d. ,,
Gas Cars	3¼d. ,,

It will thus be seen that the cost of traction by gas is much less than by any other known mode of traction.

It must be borne in mind that this result is obtained without the large initial expenditure on fixed plant required in all other systems of mechanical traction, since a small compressing station is all that is necessary.

A contract has been entered into with the Blackpool, St. Anne's, and Lytham Tramway Company for the supply of cars and for working their system by gas traction, the benefit of which will be transferred to this Company.

From the last Board of Trade Returns the total mileage run by tramcars in the United Kingdom was over 75,000,000 miles; of these about 66,000,000 miles were worked by horse-traction. Supposing that gas-cars were used for one-eighth of the last-named mileage, say 8,000,000 miles per annum, this would, at 2d. per mile saving, give an increased profit of over £68,000 per annum.

Professor A. B. W. Kennedy, LL.D., F.R.S., in exhaustive reports upon the Company's system of traction states:—

"The comparatively small Capital expenditure, as well as the ease with which the system can be used on existing lines if they are reasonably well built, the fact that gas is everywhere available, and that in many cases the Gas belongs to the Corporation to whom the Tram Lines may also ultimately belong, are all points very much in its favour. Until now it has no doubt been a question whether a scheme which looked so promising on paper, and in experiments, could stand the rough usage of actual work. So far as I can judge, the experiments in Dessau answer this question definitely and satisfactorily."

"I have to-day (July 17th, 1896) inspected the gas-cars at Blackpool, and am pleased to find their running very satisfactory, and even a distinct advance on the results at Dresden and Dessau."

In addition to the above Mr. Corbett Woodall, M.I.C.E., has also favourably reported upon the system and working.

Mr. John Imray, of Messrs. Abel & Imray, Patent Agents, having examined the specifications of the Company's Patents, says:—

"From what I have seen of the working of the Patented Cars, and from what I know as to the proposed improvements, I am satisfied that there is a great future for this undertaking, and I consider that the inventions embodied in it will be well secured."

The following letters have been addressed to the Solicitors by Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., and Mr. R. W. Wallace, Q.C.

"11, King's Bench-walk, Temple,
July 15th, 1896.

"Dear Sirs,—It is impossible for me to advise upon the validity of the English Patents owned by the Gas Traction Company, Limited, because I am a considerable shareholder in that Company and take a large interest in its proceedings. Indeed, the original purchase of the Patents was made under my advice, and the numerous Patents that have been taken out by or on behalf of the Company have been drawn up or settled by me, so that substantially I should be advising upon what I have myself done.

(Signed) "J. FLETCHER MOULTON."

"2, Harcourt-buildings,
"Temple, July 15th, 1896.

"Dear Sirs,

"*Re* The Gas Traction Co's Patents.

"As I myself am largely interested in the Company, I am precluded from advising upon the Patents, and I suggest that you should rely upon the opinion already given by Mr. John Imray.

"Yours very truly,
(Signed) "ROGER W. WALLACE."

"Messrs. Dawes & Sons,
9, Angel-court, E.C.

The following Contract has been entered into:—

Contract between the Gas Traction Company, Limited (the Vendor Company), and this Company for the sale and purchase of the Patents and Patent rights for Great Britain and Ireland for Traction by Motor Cars and the benefit of the Agreement with the Blackpool, &c., Company above referred to.

The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendor Company at £105,000, payable as to £55,000 in cash and as to £50,000 in fully-paid shares. The Vendor Company pays all the expenses of the formation of the Company and preliminary expenses of every kind up to the first general allotment.

A print of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Sale and Purchase Agreement, and the Agreement with the Blackpool, &c., Company, the originals of the Reports of Professor Kennedy, Mr. Corbett Woodall, of Messrs. Abel and Imray, and of the Managing Director of the Dresden Tramway Company, and the originals of the letters from Messrs. Moulton & Wallace, and Herr Stoessner can be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

It is intended to apply for an official quotation and settlement of the present issue on the London Stock Exchange.

Applications for shares should be made on the accompanying form, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. If the number of shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the payments on allotment, so far as necessary, and any balance will be returned. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full. Failure to pay any instalment will render all payments previously made liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and Application Forms may be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the Company's office.

July 18th, 1896.

This form to be filled up and sent entire, with a cheque for the amount payable on application, to Lloyd's Bank, Limited, 222, Strand, W.C., or any other branch, or to the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, and branches.

No.....

FORM OF APPLICATION.

THE BRITISH GAS TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL, £250,000, in 50,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each,

Payable 10s. per Share on Application; 10s. per Share on Allotment; £2 per Share two months after Allotment; and £2 per Share four months after Allotment.

To the Directors of THE BRITISH GAS TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—I request you to allot me.....Shares of £5 each in the above-named Company, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon the terms of the Prospectus issued by you dated the 18th July, 1896, I authorise you to place my name upon the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due.

I enclose a Cheque for £.... ....., being the deposit of 10s. per Share payable on application.

Please write distinctly and give full Permanent Address.

Full Name .....
Ordinary Signature .....
Description or Occupation.....
Address .....
.....

Date .....

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on MONDAY, the 20th of July, 1896, and will CLOSE on or before WEDNESDAY, the 22nd of July, 1896, for London, and on THURSDAY morning, the 23rd of July, 1896, for Country applications.

Parr's Bank, Limited, and Branches, are authorised to receive Subscriptions for the undermentioned issue of Preference Shares.

BOSTOCK & Co.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.) **LIMITED.**

CAPITAL - £150,000,

Divided into—

9,000 £5 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each	£90,000
6,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	60,000
	£150,000

Present Issue of £90,000, viz.: 9,000 £5 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each.

Payable	£1	0	0	on Application.
	3	0	0	on Allotment.
	3	0	0	on 1st September, 1896.
	3	0	0	on 1st October, 1896.
	£10	0	0	

The Preference Shares confer the right to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, and the right to repayment of capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The Ordinary Shares will be allotted to the Vendors in part payment of the purchase money, none being offered for subscription.

DIRECTORS.
GEORGE R. CLARKSON, Esq., Liverpool (Chairman).
MALCOLM GUTHRIE, Esq., J.P., Liverpool.
WM. MURRAY, Esq., J.P., Manchester.
WILLIAM ORMSBY POOLEY, Esq., J.P., Manchester.

BANKERS—Parr's Bank, Limited, Liverpool, Manchester, London, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.
Messrs. Miller, Peel, Hughes, Rutherford, & Co., 8, Cook-street, Liverpool.

BROKERS.
Messrs. A. M. McCulloch & Co., 18, Dale-street, Liverpool.
Messrs. Fernyhough & Ashe, India-buildings, 14, Cross-street, Manchester.
Messrs. Hore & Doidge, 2, Copthall-buildings, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

AUDITOR.—W. H. Cochran, Esq., F.C.A., 5, Cook-street, Liverpool.
SECRETARY (*pro tem.*)—Mr. A. M Messer.
OFFICES—30, James-street, Liverpool.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to purchase and carry on the well-known and old-established Sugar Refining and Saccharine business hitherto carried on under the name of Bostock & Co., Garston and Liverpool.

The Company will acquire the valuable freehold Saccharine works, land, dock, railway siding and property at Garston, together with all the fixed and loose plant, rolling stock, casks and drums, railway and other waggons, and stock of sugar, saccharine, glucose, caramel, charcoal, stoves, &c., and the entire goodwill of the business.

The Refinery is exceptionally well situated for carrying on its business and handling its products on the most economic lines. On the one side there is a river frontage of 457 feet on the Mersey, and a dock sufficiently large to accommodate a vessel of 2,000 tons, while on the other side a railway siding from the London and North Western Railway runs directly into the works, thereby obviating the necessity of cartage. The plant and machinery are in perfect order, and capable of much larger production than the present out-turn. The products of the Company are of excellent quality, and give every satisfaction to the customers, the most important of whom are brewers and brewery companies.

The business was carried on up to February 20th, 1895, by the late Mr. William Bostock. After his death, his estate was ordered to be administered by the Court of Chancery of the County Palatine, and on February 28th of that year, Mr. W. H. Cochran of Liverpool, Chartered Accountant, became Receiver and Manager under the Court, for the management of the business and property.

Under this Receivership, satisfactory profits continued to be earned, as will be seen from the certificate of Mr. W. H. Cochran.

The business was purchased from the Court by the Vendor as from March 6th, 1896, since which date certain economies and improvements have been effected.

Mr. William Thomson, of No. 7, Cook-street, Liverpool, the well-known Valuer, has valued the properties to be acquired by the Company, and the following is a copy of his certificate.

7, Cook-street, Liverpool, June 30th, 1896.

Dear Sir,—I have inspected the Garston Sugar and Saccharine Works, formerly called the South Garston Dock, situate at Garston, near Liverpool.

The Property is freehold, and comprises about 28,372 square yards, adjoining Messrs. Bibbys' Copper Works, and having a frontage on the River Mersey of about 457 feet. It is bounded on the north by the property of the London and North-Western Railway Company, and on the south side by land belonging to Messrs. Bibby.

The buildings upon the land consist of offices, warehouses, sugar house, kiln house, charcoal house, engine beds, boiler houses, all modern and substantially built and specially adapted for the purposes of the sugar and saccharine business.

There is also a dock, and lines of railway are laid with turn-tables, giving access from the main line to the buildings, dock and river.

On the river frontage there is a sea wall, and the remainder of the land is enclosed by walls.

There is a well upon the property giving a good supply of fresh water, which is very favourable for these works.

The dock is outside the jurisdiction of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, and exempt from all dues.

I am of opinion that the value of this property as a going concern, inclusive of fixed plant and machinery, railway lines and turn-tables, is the sum of sixty-three thousand six hundred and eighty-two pounds (say, £63,682).

I am of opinion that the value of the moveable plant, including railway waggons, barrels, drums, &c., is the sum of one thousand two hundred and thirty-three pounds (say, £1,233).

The total amount of my valuation is the sum of sixty-four thousand nine hundred and fifteen pounds (say, £64,915).

Yours truly,
WM. THOMSON,
Valuer and Property Auctioneer.

Wm. Clarkson, Esq.

In addition to the assets, valued by Mr. Wm. Thomson at £64,915, the stock-in-trade stood in the books on March 6th at £12,682 4s. 9d. As this issue provides for £25,000 working capital, there will be ample margin, after payment for the stock-in-trade, for the future conduct of the business.

The Vendor to the Company has fixed the purchase price of the property being acquired at £65,000 in cash and £60,000 in fully paid ordinary shares, the balance of the Company's capital, viz: £25,000, being set aside for working capital.

Arrangements have been made for enlarging the scope of the Company's operations, and with the improvements already made, it is believed that the profits can be materially increased, for the output of the works can be nearly doubled with very little additional machinery.

The Directors are satisfied that the business is an increasing one, and that last year's profits are in excess of those of previous years.

The following is a copy of the Certificate of Mr. W. H. Cochran, alluded to above.

5, Cook-street, Liverpool, W.,
June 1st, 1896.

To WILLIAM CLARKSON, Esq., Liverpool.

Sir,—I have carefully examined the accounts appertaining to the sugar business of Messrs. Bostock & Co., of Garston and Liverpool, for the year ended the 6th March, 1896, during which period the business was managed by me under the direction of the Court of Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster, and certify that the profit (exclusive of any charge for my services) was the sum of £10,245. 10s. 8d.

It appears from the books kept by the late Mr. Bostock that a considerable sum was expended in boilers, plant, machinery, &c., during the previous year; and during the above-mentioned period of my management, whilst no deduction is made from the profits for depreciation, a sum of £1,650 was expended by me and charged against profits, for repairs and renewals of plant, buildings, and machinery, rendering any further provision for depreciation, in my opinion, unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. COCHRAN, F.C.A.

It will be seen that the profits as certified amount to £10,245, and if this sum is taken as a basis, after payment of—

5 per cent. interest on £90,000 Preference Shares..	£4,500
There will be a surplus of	£5,745

available for management, reserve, and dividend on the Ordinary Shares.

It will be observed that the certified profits are more than double the amount required to pay the Preference dividend.

No Debentures or Debenture Stock or further shares can be issued without the consent of an Extraordinary Resolution passed at a meeting representing at least two-thirds in value of the Preference Shareholders.

Application will be made for a quotation for the Preference Shares on the London, Manchester, and Liverpool Stock Exchanges.

The following contracts have been entered into, viz.:—(1) Dated July 15th, 1896, made between Mr. William Clarkson and the Company; (2) Dated July 15th, 1896, between Mr. William Clarkson and the Omnium Contract Corporation, Limited, whereby the Omnium Contract Corporation, Limited, undertakes to pay all expenses attending the incorporation and registration of the Company, and also all brokerage, commissions, printing, advertising, and all other expenses attending the formation of the Company up to and including allotment. There are also divers contracts or arrangements by the Omnium Contract Corporation, Limited, and Mr. William Clarkson, with other persons, entered into in relation to the formation of the Company, and the guaranteeing of the Preference Capital, to none of which the Company is a party, and there are also contracts connected with the business as a going concern. All applicants for the Preference Shares will be deemed to have waived any right to further particulars of contracts, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, and to have agreed with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors, the said Mr. William Clarkson, and all persons authorising or taking part in the issue of this Prospectus, not to make any claim upon them or any of them under the said Section, or upon any other ground except wilful mis-statement, and allotments will only be made on this condition.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the originals of the two contracts referred to above, and the report and valuation of Mr. Wm. Thomson, and the certificate of Mr. W. H. Cochran, can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors for the Company by applicants for Preference Shares.

Applications for Preference Shares should be made on the forms accompanying the prospectus and forwarded to the Bankers, accompanied by a remittance for the amount of the deposit. Cheques should be made payable to the order of Parr's Bank Limited.

If the whole amount applied for by any applicant be not allotted, the surplus amount paid on deposit will be appropriated in payment of the sum, or part thereof, due on allotment. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and at the offices of the Company.

The Subscription List will close on Wednesday, July 22, for London, and Thursday, July 23, for the Country.

In reply to a circular letter setting forth the objects of the Syndicate addressed by the founder, who is a member of the Inst. C.E. and Mining Inst., to fellow members, offers of business and professional support and opinions favourable to the objects of the Syndicate have been received from about 200 members of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Mining, the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, and of other recognised engineering corporations resident in the Colonies and abroad.

2,500 Shares have been subscribed for and allotted to representatives and correspondents co-operating with the Syndicate in the Colonies and abroad, and sufficient working capital having been guaranteed, the shares now offered for subscription will be allotted in the order of application.

There are no Founders' or Preferred Shares.

THE C.E. (CIVIL ENGINEERS) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE,

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares.

Capital £100,000, divided into 100,000 SHARES of £1 each, of which 50,000 at par are now OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION, payable—2s. 6d. upon application, 7s. 6d. upon allotment, and the balance one month after allotment.

DIRECTORS.

*T. F. Veasey, Esq., Member Inst. Mining Engineers, Associate Member Inst. C.E., Surveyors' Inst., and Société des Ingénieurs Civils de France.

J. Bree, Esq., Member Inst. Mining Engineers, formerly of Auckland, New Zealand.

R. E. Wilson, Esq., Member Inst. C.E., 8, Delahay-street, Westminster, S.W.

J. Harding, Esq. (of Valparaiso), Member Inst. C.E., 112, Palace-chambers, Westminster, S.W.

†W. Seymour Wells, Esq. (for Sydney), Associate Member Inst. C.E., Messrs. Wells & Downs, 19, Hunter-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

†H. Warren, Esq. (for British Columbia), Associate Member Inst. C.E., Vancouver, British Columbia.

†J. D. Toomer, Esq. (for Mexico), Associate Member Inst. C.E., Messrs. Toomer, Nunn, & Co., City of Mexico, Mexico.

†U. Dudley, Esq. (for Western Australia), Member Inst. Mining Engineers, and Member Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers, Coolgardie, W.A.

* Founder and Managing Director. † Advisory Directors.

Consulting Engineer—Hon. R. C. Parsons, Memb. Inst. C.E., Memb. Inst. Mech. Engineers, and Member of the Société des Ingénieurs Civils de France, 39, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.

REPRESENTATIVES.

Western Australia—

H. S. Ainsworth, Esq., F.R.G.S., Member Inst. Mining Engineers, Mayor of Geraldton, Geraldton, W.A.

Hon. H. M'Kernan, Member Legislative Assembly, Messrs. Hugh M'Kernan & Co., Perth, W.A.

New Zealand—

Oakley Archer, Esq., Associate Member Inst. C.E., Christchurch, New Zealand.

D. W. M'Arthur, Esq., Associate Member Inst. C.E., Paeora, Ohinemuri, Auckland, New Zealand.

Bankers—London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, E.C.

Solicitor—W. L. Cooper, Esq., 5, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

Auditors—Messrs. Ball, Baker, Deed, Cornish, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 1, Gresham-buildings, Basinghall-street, E.C.

Secretary (*pro tem.*)—A. W. Lewin.

London offices—5, Copthall-buildings, London, E.C.

Sydney—W. Seymour Wells, Esq., Associate Member Inst. C.E. Messrs. Wells & Down, 19, Hunter-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Melbourne—Messrs. Monash & Anderson, Associate Members Inst. C.E., Australian-buildings, 49, Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Johannesburg—W. F. Crawford, Esq., Associate Member Inst. C.E., Johannesburg, S.A.

THE C. E. (CIVIL ENGINEERS) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE (Limited).
5, COPTHALL-BUILDINGS, E.C.

OBJECTS.—This Association of Civil and Mining Engineers has been incorporated as a professional undertaking, with the co-operation and professional support referred to below, with the object of establishing a professional association of Civil and Mining Engineers for the introduction and sale of approved properties, mines, contracts, and concessions introduced, through members and correspondents of this Association co-operating with the Syndicate in the Colonies and abroad, either by private treaty, through the formation of subsidiary Companies, or in co-operation with Syndicates and Companies having similar aims to this Syndicate, and to undertake the establishment of Colonial and Foreign agencies, and all matters relating to the profession of a civil and mining engineer, and the business of a financial agency and exploration Company.

THE C. E. (CIVIL ENGINEERS) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LIMITED.
5, COPTHALL-BUILDINGS, E.C.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT.—All the preliminary expenses incidental to the formation and establishment of the Syndicate have been paid. The Syndicate acquires offers of business and professional support received from about 200 members of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, and other Engineering Corporations, many of whom will co-operate with the Syndicate in securing sound and profitable business, and will act as advisory correspondents in their respective Colonies and Countries.

THE C.E. (CIVIL ENGINEERS) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE (Limited).
5, COPTHALL-BUILDINGS, E.C.

CAPITALISATION.—In capitalising the Syndicate at a moderate figure attention has been paid to the success obtained by undertakings commenced upon a similar scale, and to avoid any pretensions foreign to the objects of the Syndicate involved in a larger capitalisation than that required by the professional association for the introduction and sale of approved properties and concessions upon the London market, and the capital of which can be hereafter increased as business opportunites justify.

THE C.E. (CIVIL ENGINEERS) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, Limited,
5, COPTHALL BUILDINGS, E.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEER AND LOCAL MANAGEMENT.—The Directors have secured the assistance of the Hon. R. C. Parsons, M.I.C.E., as Consulting Engineer to the Syndicate, upon favourable terms; for the local management of subsidiary Companies, the services of correspondents, who are qualified engineers acquainted with local details, labour and prices are available.

THE C.E. (CIVIL ENGINEERS) EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, Limited,
5, COPTHALL BUILDINGS, E.C.

Prospectuses and application forms can be obtained at the London Offices of the Syndicate, or from the Bankers of the Syndicate, the London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard street, E.C.

The LIST will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, the 24th July.

John Lovibond & Sons,

LIMITED.

(THE GREENWICH & SALISBURY BREWERIES.)

SHARE CAPITAL, £100,000.

5,000 5½ per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each	£50,000
5,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£50,000
	£100,000

The whole of the Ordinary Shares and £10,000 of the Preference Shares are taken by the Vendors.

Issue of £100,000 4½ per cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock at £105 and of 4,000 5½ per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each at £11.

This First Mortgage Debenture Stock will be issued in multiples of £10, and will be redeemable at the option of the Company at 110 any time after 1910 on giving six months' notice.

Interest on the First Mortgage Debenture Stock and Preference Shares will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July in each year. The first payment will be made on the 1st January, 1897.

THE FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK IS PAYABLE:

£5	per cent. on Application.
£35	,, (of which £5 is premium) on Allotment.
£65	,, Two Months after Allotment.
£105	

THE PREFERENCE SHARES ARE PAYABLE:

£1	per Share on Application.
£4	,, (of which £1 is premium) on Allotment.
£6	,, Two Months after Allotment.
£11	

Or the whole may be paid up on Allotment.

TRUSTEES FOR FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS:
The Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust, Limited.

DIRECTORS.
Joseph Williams Lovibond, Chairman.
Edward Lovibond.
Edward A. Lovibond.

BANKERS.—The London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, London, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Rattray Brothers & Cairney, C.A., 45, West Nile-street, Glasgow.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Tomkinson & Price, 3, Copthall-buildings, London, E.C.

SECRETARY (*pro tem.*).—Mr. F. W. Hull.

OFFICES.—The Brewery, Greenwich; St. Ann's Brewery, Salisbury.

TEMPORARY LONDON OFFICES.—36, Throgmorton-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to acquire, as from September 30th, 1895, the business of Brewers and Maltsters carried on as the Greenwich Brewery, Greenwich, and St. Ann's Brewery, Salisbury, together with the freehold, copyhold, leasehold, and other premises and properties held in connection therewith. All mortgages and charges on the property, and all other liabilities as on September 30th, 1895, will be discharged by the Vendors, the First Mortgage Debenture Stock thus forming a first charge on all the property and assets of the Company.

The assets of the Company will comprise the following:—

1. Freehold Brewery Premises, Malthouses, and an Aerated Water Factory, together with six Freehold Dwelling Houses in the Greenwich-road; large Leasehold Stables and a Storage Yard, and the Freehold Brewery and Malthouses known as St. Ann-street Brewery, Salisbury, together with three Freehold Dwelling Houses and forty-six Freehold and Leasehold Public Houses, Beer Houses, and Licensed Stores, standing in the Vendors' books on September 30th, 1895, at	£81,317 0 0
2. The utensils, plant, stock, and book debts, standing in the books of the Company at 30th September, 1895, at	56,102 0 0
There will be set aside for further Working Capital out of the issue of Debenture Stock	10,000 0 0
Making a total of	£127,419 0 0

Messrs. Rattray Brothers and Cairney (who, with their predecessors, have acted as Auditors and Accountants for the Vendors for the last five years), report that the profits of the business acquired by the Company have been for the year ending 30th September, 1895, £14,646 1s. 1d.

The extra working Capital should increase the future earnings.

The Interest on the £100,000 First Mortgage Debenture Stock will only amount to...	£4,500
The Interest on the £50,000 5½ per cent. Preference Shares amounts to	2,750
	£7,250

Thus it will be seen that the profits of the year ending September, 1895, were sufficient to pay the Debenture Stock and Preference Interest twice over.

Messrs. Lovibond & Sons, who have fixed the purchase price and sell direct to the Company, have entered into a contract to transfer all the above assets, together with the goodwill, free of all liabilities for £190,000, payable as to £90 000 in First Mortgage Debenture Stock and £100,000 in Preference and Ordinary Shares, the Company undertaking to offer for Subscription at a premium the whole of the Debenture Stock and £40,000 of the Preference Shares.

The Vendors agree to pay all expenses of the formation of the Company up to allotment, including all stamps incident to the registration of and transfer to the Company, and also the expenses and subscriptions of this issue, which is made on their behalf.

The following Contracts have been entered into:—

Contract dated the 3rd day of July, 1896, between Joseph Williams Lovibond and Edward Lovibond of the one part and Frederick Walter Hull, for and on behalf of the Company, of the other part, being the contract for sale from the Vendors to the Company.

Contract dated the 7th day of July, 1896, between the said Joseph Williams Lovibond and Edward Lovibond of the one part and the City of London Contract Corporation, Limited, of the other part, being a contract for the payment of certain expenses undertaken by the Vendors and a guarantee of subscription for the present issue of First Mortgage Debenture Stock and Preference Shares.

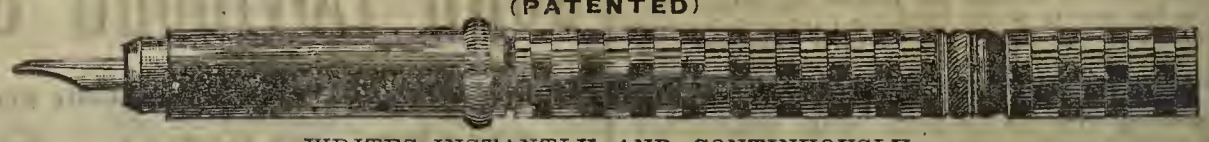
In relation to this Contract the said Corporation has entered into various arrangements which may constitute contracts within the meaning of the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867. There are also various Trade Contracts. Applicants must be deemed to waive the insertion of dates and names of the parties to any such arrangements or contracts, and in order to prevent any question must accept the foregoing as a sufficient compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

Copy of the Report of Messrs. Rattray Brothers & Cairney is annexed to the Prospectus. The original Report, the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the above-named Contracts, &c., and the draft Trust Deed securing the First Mortgage Debenture Stock, can be seen at the Offices of the Company.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or at the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors, or at the Breweries, Greenwich and Salisbury.

10/6 THE "PELICAN" SELF-FEEDING PEN 10/6

(PATENTED)



WRITES INSTANTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY.

Has Extra Large Reservoir of Ink. Secure against Leakage in any position. Flow of Ink regulated with the Greatest Nicety.

POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, FITTED WITH SPECIAL BARREL PEN in 14-ct. GOLD, IRIDIUM-POINTED. Also

THE "NOTA BENE" STYLOGRAPH OR FLUID PENCIL

(PATENTED)

5/- 5/-

IS READY FOR INSTANT USE, WITHOUT ANY ADJUSTMENT. MAY BE CARRIED IN ANY POSITION, WITHOUT FEAR OF LEAKAGE.

POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, WITH NEEDLE, SPRING, & NOZZLE, MADE OF THE PRECIOUS METALS.

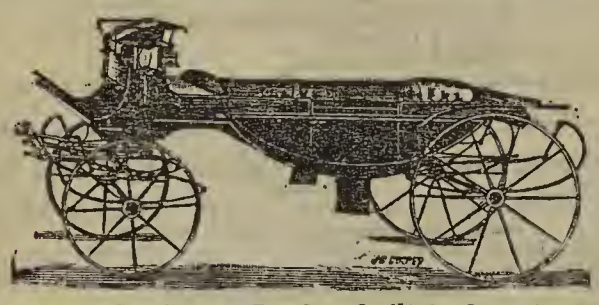
Sold by all Stationers. Wholesale only by the Sole Manufacturers, THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. Ltd., Bunhill Row, London, E.C.

MORGAN & CO. Limited

Under Royal and the Most Distinguished Patronage.

45 FIRST CLASS PRIZE MEDALS &

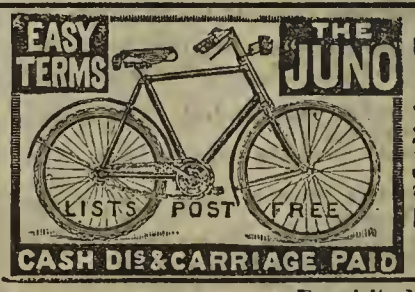
9 *HIGHEST AWARDS CHICAGO EXHIBITION.*



Patent Cee Spring Landau, built in four sizes.

100 to 104, 128, 129, 15, 15a, **LONG ACRE**

And 10, OLD BOND STREET.



JUNO CYCLES ARE THE VERY BEST.

Easy Terms of Twelve Monthly Payments.

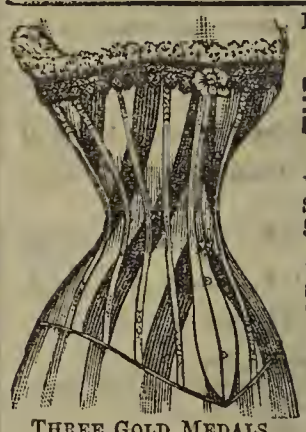
JUNO Racers, 22 lb.; Roadsters, 28 lb.

JUNO Ladies' and Youths' Safeties and Tricycles. *Write for large New Season's* JUNO *Illustd. List sent post free. It will interest you & everyone should have a copy.*

METROPOLITAN MACHINISTS CO., LTD.,

75, 76, Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C.

MENTION THIS PAPER.



THREE GOLD MEDALS.

Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

THE **Y & N** PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in White, Black, and all the fashionable colours and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine **Y & N** Corset is stamped.

Sold by Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters in the United Kingdom and Colonies.

BUY FROM THE GROWER.

TEA MERCHANT

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

TO HER MAJESTY

THE QUEEN.

LIPTON'S DELICIOUS TEAS

HAVE THE LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD.

NO HIGHER PRICE. PER 1/7 LB. NO HIGHER PRICE.

APPRECIATED EVERYWHERE FOR THEIR DELICATE FLAVOUR AND EXQUISITE AROMA.

THIS IS THE FINEST TEA THE WORLD PRODUCES.

PER 1/4 LB. RICH, PURE, AND FRAGRANT. PER 1/- LB.

LIPTON, Tea Planter, Ceylon.

Chief Offices, CITY ROAD, LONDON. Branches Everywhere. Agencies Throughout the World.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 908.—RHYMED ALPHABETS ON THE LONDON SEASON.

OOM PAUL (real name and address will be published next week)	£1 1 0
SABRINA " " " " "	£1 1 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 905.

I am unexpectedly prevented this week from making the promised statement as to this Competition. It will appear without fail in the next number of TRUTH.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 909.

The Prize in this Competition has been awarded to CARFAX for the following answer:—

"Edinburgh is the prettiest, Dublin the wittiest, but London is the one that I love best."

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 913.

In the opinions of many the age of the horse is soon coming to an end. This long prized and trusted quadruped is fated, it is said, to be the next victim crushed beneath the Juggernaut of machinery. The particular car in which the Juggernaut, which is to crush the horse, is to be borne, is, of course, the auto-car! Who can say in how many ways and to what an extent the mechanical motor will supersede the horse? Perhaps the turf will ere long be affected by the change; possibly even the hunting-field itself may be invaded. It will, at any rate, for the purposes of our competition, be interesting to anticipate the presence of the auto-car at the meet, and to imagine what may happen when the sportsman rides to hounds on a petroleum or electricity-driven machine. The usual prize of two guineas is, therefore, offered this week for

THE BEST HUNTING SONG, OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY-TWO LINES, APPROPRIATE TO THE NEW STATE OF THINGS FORESHADOWED ABOVE.

The songs may be parodies of well-known hunting songs or entirely original compositions. They may be in any metre, and all of them must reach me by the morning of Monday, August 3, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of BEGINNER, winner of a half of Prize No. 907, is Miss Nellie Hall, 11, George-street West, Luton.

*** The real name, with the address, of OROYA, winner of a half of Prize No. 907, is William Potter, Esq., the Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

ARCH. GIBBS.—Many thanks for your suggestion.

MARIGOLD.—I have duly received your answer to Puzzle No. 910.

HOUNSNITCH.—I am obliged to you for your suggestion; but I regret to say that I do not quite see how it can be carried out.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SUGGESTED NAMES FOR TWELVE YEARLINGS.

The following are the names of the sires and dams of the yearlings which have to be named:—

Yearling.	Sire.	Dam.
1. A Bay Filly	Sheen	Rosewood
2. A Chestnut Colt	Surefoot	Geology
3. A Bay Filly	Pioneer	Zig-zag
4. A Brown Colt..	Macheath....	Wedding Ring
5. A Bay Colt	Friar's Balsam	Mother Superi'r
6. A Bay Colt	Galopin	Quickwit
7. A Chestnut Colt	Buccaneer....	Stiletto
8. A Bay Colt	Saraband	Vivandière
9. A Chestnut Colt	Goldfinch	Oak Apple
10. A Chestnut Colt	Bend Or.....	Pink Pearl
11. A Black Filly..	Endurance ..	Play Away
12. A Chestnut Filly	Retreat	New Magdalen

1. High Polish. 2. The Professor. 3. Pathfinder. 4. Macbride. 5. The Monastery. 6. Repartee. 7. The Pirate. 8. Corps de Ballet. 9. Gold Leaf. 10. Jewel. 11. Gamble. 12. Twice Shy. — Knight Templar.

1. Furniture Polish. 2. Rock. 3. Knapsack. 4. White Heath. 5. Father Confessor. 6. Quickstep. 7. Brigand. 8. War-dance. 9. Golden Apple. 10. Bend Gules. 11. Try Again. 12. Sanctuary.—F. L. L.

1. Satinwood. 2. Solid Rock. 3. Ariadne. 4. Heathery Link. 5. Curator. 6. Quickstep. 7. Cutlass. 8. Vivacious. 9. Golden Russet. 10. Pearl Pendant. 11. Follow On. 12. Repentance.—K.

1. Elbow Grease. 2. Underfoot. 3. Cross Touch. 4. Heath Match. 5. Mother's Balm. 6. Running Fire. 7. Sharp Practice. 8. Regimental Ball. 9. Meed of Fairest. 10. Family Pride. 11. Paper Chase. 12. Patchwork.—La Plata.

1. Polish. 2. Stone-breaker. 3. Short-cut. 4. Spliced. 5. Monkshood. 6. Epigrammatic. 7. Clasp-knife. 8. Caperer. 9. Birdie. 10. Flawless. 11. Cast-iron. 12. Seclusion.—Gervase.

1. Varnish. 2. Sandstone. 3. Crossover. 4. Divorce. 5. Heal-all. 6. Lightning. 7. Steel. 8. Champagne. 9. Peck. 10. Oyster. 11. Deerfoot. 12. Clewer.—I.O.

1. Carissima. 2. Pegaway. 3. Dewdrop. 4. Gecko. 5. Hoodwink. 6. Gladheart. 7. Starlight. 8. Whatisit. 9. Acorn. 10. Kruger. 11. Grass Widow. 12. Winette.—Teapot.

1. French Polish. 2. Earthling. 3. Cometary. 4. Bridegroom. 5. Acolyte. 6. Quickstep. 7. Bandit. 8. Sutler. 9. Kingfisher. 10. Bijoutry. 11. Playfair. 12. Cloister.—Iuvieta.

1. Satinwood. 2. Terra Firma. 3. Tanglefoot, a name for whiskey drunk by colonists in the West. 4. Gilderoy, a famous Scottish robber. 5. Nun Monkton. 6. Witting. 7. Blade. 8. War Dance. 9. Golding. 10. Bend Argent. 11. Played Out. 12. Penitent.—Omemee.

1. Veneer. 2. Alpenstock. 3. Lightning-conductor. 4. Patrico*. 5. St. Jacob. 6. Gallicism. 7. Assassin. 8. Vivacity. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Orient. 11. Patience†. 12. Empire.—S. W. F.

* The sham parson in Gay's "Beggar's Opera," of which Macheath was hero, who married the thieves.

† The game of cards.

1. French Polish. 2. Macadam. 3. Led Astray. 4. Elopement. 5. Pomade Divine. 6. Cleg Kelly. 7. Dirk Hatterick. 8. Sword Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Opal. 11. Grace. 12. Fair Penitent.—"The Moor."

1. Veneer. 2. Whymper. 3. Mountain Path. 4. McBride. 5. Absolution. 6. Repartee. 7. Dirk Hatterick. 8. War-dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Heirloom. 11. Long Suit. 12. Hospital Nurse.—Dry as Dust.

1. Veneer. 2. Mosaic (cosmogony). 3. Whimperer (suggested by Whymper). 4. Morganatic. 5. Benedictine. 6. Artful Dodger. 7. Captain Kidd. 8. Can-Can. 9. Gilded Pill (American oak apple used in medicine). 10. Parure. 11. Barrel Organ. 12. Mrs. Tanqueray.—Emeritus.

1. French Polish. 2. Stonewall. 3. Pathway. 4. Baudman. 5. Monkswell. 6. Gamin. 7. Main Point. 8. Canteen. 9. Birdseed. 10. Solitaire. 11. Game One. 12. Nun's Veiling.—The Bounder.

1. Miss Sheraton. 2. Adam's Peak. 3. Io. 4. Mock Marriage. 5. Soothing Syrup. 6. Scapin. 7. Dirk Hatterick. 8. Salle d'Armes. 9. Finchley Oak. 10. Spink (jewellers in the cause célèbre known as the Pearl case). 11. Peterloo. 12. Magda.—Nomenclator.

1. Shewood. 2. Surology. 3. Pionzig. 4. Maering. 5. Balperior. 6. Galopwit. 7. Bucceth. 8. Vivanband. 9. Gold Apple. 10. Pearl Or. 11. Endaway. 12. Redalen.

These names contain part of each name of sire and dam, so that the pedigrees of the colts and fillies so far can be traced.—H. S. B.

1. Bright Rose. 2. The Digger. 3. Straight Ahead. 4. Gretna Green. 5. The Cowl. 6. Sharp Canter. 7. Treachery. 8. Vive la guerre. 9. Golden Oak. 10. Precious Stone. 11. "W. G." 12. Fair Penitent.—Greyfoot.

1. Rose of Richmond. 2. Witwatersrandt. 3. Crooked Pin. 4. Gretna Green.* 5. Pope's Nephew. 6. Gasconard. 7. Filibuster. 8. Canteen. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Orpington. 11. Stay Away. 12. Anglican Sister.—Smilax.

1. Rose d'Orleans. 2. Pick-me-up. 3. Caution. 4. Gretna Green. 5. Extremes Meet. 6. Flash i' the Pan. 7. Vendetta. 8. Musical Ride. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Orient Pearls. 11. Patience. 12. Shriven.—Nina.

1. Hannah's Magic. 2. Sandstone. 3. Short Cut. 4. Heather Bell. 5. Balm of Gilead. 6. Repartee. 7. Cutter. 8. Sword Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Priceless. 11. Fiddlestrings. 12. Clewer.—Burnerook.

1. Varnish. 2. Globe Trotter. 3. "Fan" de Cycle. 4. Two to One. 5. Nunguent. 6. Scapin. 7. Cutter Out. 8. Stirrup Cup. 9. Tawney Tan. 10. Banglo. 11. Not Out. 12. Newhaven.—Cortex.

1. Ruby Gloss. 2. Foot-prints. 3. Follow-your-leader. 4. Hand Over. 5. Motherwort. 6. Answer Ready. 7. Bold Blade. 8. Dancing Attendance. 9. Gold-coat Gall.* 10. Pearl Blaze. 11. Joneuse. 12. Madelonnette (religieuses dont les maisons servaient d'asile à des pécheresses repentantes).—Danettee.

* A species of oak-apple, appeared in South of England about 1840.

1. Elbow Grease. 2. Footprint. 3. Pathfinder. 4. Belle Ringer. 5. Father Siegel. 6. Lunatic. 7. Feud. 8. Quickstep. 9. Golden Oak. 10. Dorpin. 11. Home Rest. 12. Asylum.—Geo. Webster.

1. Pianoforte. 2. Stone-breaker. 3. Mountain Pass. 4. The Jewel. 5. The Perfect Cure. 6. Firefly. 7. The Bravo. 8. The Dancing Boy. 9. Sweet Bird. 10. Diadem. 11. Music Mistress. 12. Contrition.—Suckthumb.

1. Fair Rosamond. 2. Beachy Head. 3. New Craze. 4. Best Man. 5. Father Confessor. 6. Quick Galop. 7. Brigand. 8. Dancing Girl. 9. Golden Apple. 10. Necklace. 11. Patience. 12. Penitent.—Wookey.

1. Aurora. 2. Fossil. 3. Follow me Lad.* 4. Golden Gorse. 5. Heal-all. 6. Sharper. 7. X Ray. 8. Drummer Boy. 9. Mocking Bird. 10. Rose Drop. 11. Long Whist. 12. Sister Mary.—Chica.

* Vulgar name of a creeping plant.

1. French Polish. 2. Chamois. 3. Leading Lady. 4. Divorce. 5. Le Cure. 6. Archer. 7. Basco (a famous Buccaneer). 8. Fancy Ball. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Golden Pearl. 11. Maid of all Work. 12. Repentance.—Mahatma.

1. Brightwood. 2. Chamois. 3. Forked Lightning. 4. Mac Bride. 5. Soothing Syrup. 6. Repartée 7. Vendetta. 8. Supper Dance. 9. Golden Apple. 10. Pearl Band. 11. Music Mistress. 12. Neophyte.—Cottingham.

1. French Polish. 2. Chamois. 3. Errantry. 4. Gretna Green. 5. The Monk. 6. Repartee. 7. Quietus. 8. Vivacious. 9. Nid. 10. Scarf Pin. 11. Grace. 12. Convent.—Clef.

1. French Polish. 2. Goldbug. 3. Incognita. 4. Shillyshally. 5. Styptic. 6. Repartee. 7. Spadassin. 8. Brandyball. 9. Gallfly. 10. Breastpin. 11. Pegalong. 12. Penitent.—Skriker.

1. Lustre. 2. Terrafirma. 3. Makeway. 4. Gretna Green. 5. Nostrum. 6. Repartee. 7. Corsair. 8 Fandango. 9. Maybird. 10. Keepsake. 11. Gamecock. 12. Fair Rosamond.—Echo.

1. Veneer. 2. Footstone. 3. Uncertain. 4. Mak Siecar (Make Sure). 5. Prior. 6. Flyer. 7. Bandit. 8. Pirouette. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Barbaric. 11. Not Out. 12. Recluse.—Fowler.

1. Veneer. 2. Prospector. 3. Mountain Maid. 4. Buckle to. 5. Friar Tuck. 6. Retort. 7. Rapier. 8. Drummer Boy. 9. Songster. 10. Goldseeker. 11. Last Lap. 12. The Penitent.—Chum.

1. Veneer. 2. Bedrock. 3. Wanderer. 4. The Rogue. 5. The Confessor. 6. Mirth. 7. Cutlass. 8. War Dance. 9. Woodlander. 10. Dazzle. 11. Lightfoot. 12. Pensive Maid.—Mona.

1. Satinwood. 2. Stratagem. 3. Bastion. 4. Bridewell. 5. Seigel. 6. Speedyeut. 7. Swashbuckler. 8. Mazer.* 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Parure. 11. Charley's Aunt. 12. Penitentiary.—Francis Jay.

* An old-fashioned drinking-cup.

1. Queen of Brilliants. 2. Mountaineer. 3. New Woman. 4. Scotch Marriage. 5. Monkshood. 6. First Fiddle. 7. Braggart. 8. Canteen. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Engagement Ring. 11. Fast and Loose. 12. Penitent.—Flitters.

1. Elbowgrease. 2. Rockwork. 3. Forked Lightning. 4. Ringleader. 5. Aconite (Monkshood). 6. Look Alive. 7. Dangerous. 8. Vivacity. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Jeweller. 11. Never Say Die. 12. Penitentiary.—Mell.

1. Polish. 2. Fossil. 3. Straight-away. 4. Hoop-la. 5. Monk. 6. Stop. 7. Dagger. 8. Keg. 9. Peck. 10. Opal. 11. Rest. 12. Ingleneuk.—Ranunculus.

1. Satinwood. 2. Professor. 3. Jungle Path. 4. Gretna. 5. Best Cure. 6 Gall. 7. Cutlass 8. Bacchanal. 9. Golden Acorn. 10. Perle d'Or. 11. Nursery Cannon. 12. Moscovienne. — Merry Martyr.

1. French Polish. 2. Mountaineer. 3. Enterprise. 4. Bridecake. 5. Mendicant Friar. 6. Certainty. 7. Brigand. 8. Canteen. 9. Treetop. 10. Jewel. 11. Champion. 12. Penance.—Tatters.

1. French Polish. 2. Discovery. 3. Rhodesia. 4. Gretna Green. 5. Heloise. 6. The Scorer. 7. Romance. 8. Sword Dance. 9. Gold. 10. Bend Sinister. 11. Golfeuse. 12. Whitewash.—Pat-a-cake.

1. Housemaid. 2. Stepping Stone. 3. The New Woman. 4. MacBride. 5. Hush. 6. Repartee. 7. Desperado. 8. Can-Can. 9 Golden Pippin. 10. Scarf Pin. 11. Cycliste. 12. Ritualist.—St. David.

1. Satinwood. 2. Geologist. 3. Lady Guide. 4. My Jo. 5. Motherwort. 6. Chef.* 7. Bandit. 8. War Dance. 9. Bittersweet. 10. Bend Gules.† 11. Golf. 12. Hallelujah Lass.—A. E. L.

* Galopin, Scullion.—Webster. † Gules, Red (heraldry).

1. Varnish. 2. Mastodon. 3. First Wrench. 4 Scotch Marriage. 5. Seigel. 6. Gamin. 7. Hanger. 8 Canean. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Order of India. 11. Encore. 12. Clewer.—J. R.

1. Satinwood. 2. Footstone. 3. Lady Cyclist. 4. Macbride. 5. Father Seigel. 6. Repartee. 7. Cutlass. 8. Vive la Danse. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Gold Shell.* 11. Miss Grace. 12. Magda.
East Anglia.

* A composition of powdered gold and gum-water, and spread on shells for artists' use.

1. French Polish. 2. Precipice. 3. Amazon. 4. Gretna Green. 5. Priestridden. 6. Brevity. 7. Brigand 8. War Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. The Green Gem. 11. Record Breaker. 12. Sister of Mercy.—Hematite.

1. Venecr. 2. Footprint. 3. Echelon. 4. Macbride. 5. St. Jacob. 6. Headlong. 7. Cutlass. 8. Quickstep. 9. Golden Bough. 10. Bendemeer. 11. Drawn Game. 12. Remorse.—Inshallah.

1. Satinwood. 2. Quarry. 3. Pathfinder. 4. Heather Bell. 5. Holy Balm. 6. Gamin. 7. Buckstick. 8. Sword Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Orient*. 11. Encore. 12. Penitent.—Coruna.

* "A gem of the purest quality" (Nuttall's Dictionary).

1. French Polish. 2. Stepping Stone. 3. Chevaux de-Frise. 4. Gay Bridegroom. 5. Strained Relations. 6. Gutter Pup. 7. Boarding Pike. 8. Can-can. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Golden Grain. 11. Street Music. 12. Eloise.—Sundowner.

1. French Polish. 2. Stepping Stone. 3. Bastion. 4. Pinchbeck. 5. Benedictine. 6. Form-at-a-glance. 7. Assassin. 8. War Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Escalop. 11. Spot Stroke. 12. Nunnery.—Le Roi.

1. Mahogany. 2. Mastodon. 3. Zagazig (leading town, Egypt). 4. Gretna Green. 5. Hospice. 6. Zit (Ainsworth's "Tower of London"). 7. Free Lance. 8. War Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Bay of Bengal. 11. Lisette (cyclist). 12. Madelonette. —Bishops Hull.

1. Furniture Polish. 2. Alpenstock. 3. Lady Wheeler. 4. Honorable Sire. 5 Young Monk. 6. Bushranger. 7. Bandit. 8. Drum Major. 9. May Finch. 10. Gallant. 11. Pas de Seul. 12. New Nun.—Homnis.

1. French Polish. 2. Mountain Pass. 3. Lady Rhodesia. 4. Knight of the Road, or Chevalier d Industrie. 5. Guérisseur. 6. Repartee. 7. Red Rover. 8. Tambourin. 9. Aurifruct. 10. Golden Gem. 11. Première Danseuse. 12. La Pénitente.—Hippo.

1. Aurirosa. 2. Lyell. 3. Lady Cyclist. 4. Dilemma. 5. Medical Missionary. 6. Chantage. 7. Colt's Revolver. 8. Barn Dance. 9. Golden Apple. 10. Streeter. 11. Lady Footballer. 12. Steam Laundry.—Thranneen.

1. Varnish. 2. Ibex at Home on the Rocks. 3. Doubtful. 4. Lucky Beggar. 5. Shaveling. 6. Galvanist. 7. Stoccado. 8. Cancan. 9. Forest Song. 10. Jeweller. 11. Away, Lady Cricketer. 12. Pretty Saint.—Pelican.

1. Lady Betty. 2. Don Juan. 3. Queen Mab. 4. Don't Care. 5. Flyaway Jack. 6. Ben Nevis. 7. Broiled Bones. 8. Lightening. 9. Demon. 10. Svengali. 11. Darkey Darling. 12. Moss Rose.—Monte Cristo.

1. Sheraton. 2. Totteridge. 3. Travellers' Joy. 4. Fortune-Hunter. 5. Mal-de-Mer. 6. Go-a-head. 7. Freelance. 8. Soldaten Lieder. 9. Up-a-Tree. 10. Peerless. 11. Grace. 12. In-the-Shade.—Nodding Violet.

1 French Polish. 2. Stepping Stone. 3. Traverser. 4. Fleet Marriage. 5. Halo. 6. Running Fire. 7. Sword Thrust 8. Quick March. 9. Thistle Gall. 10. Morning Ray. 11. Hard Hit. 12. Devotee.—Templar.

1. French Polish. 2. The Fossil. 3. The Maze. 4 Gretna Green. 5. Monkshood. 6. Repartee. 7. Davy Jones. 8. War Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Lustre. 11. Margaret Scott. 12. Girton Girl.—Mab.

*** Many other lists of names have been received, and I hope to be able to publish a further selection. —THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

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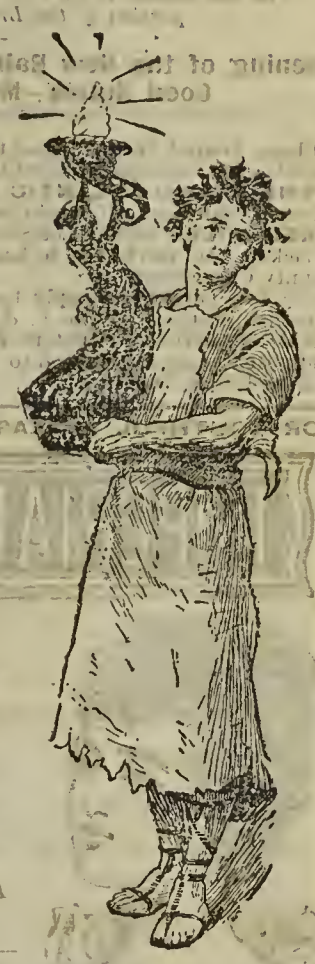

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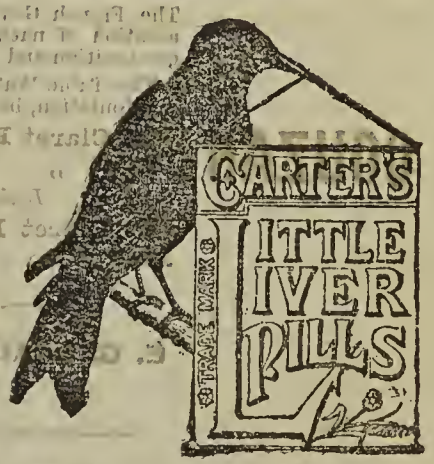

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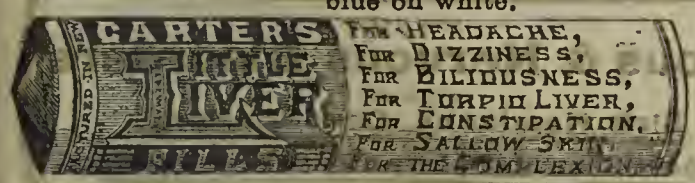

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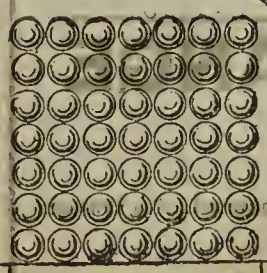

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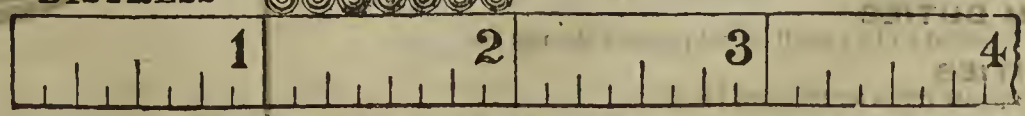

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the Kilburn Sisterhood can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, price 2d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to arrive at Balmoral, according to the latest arrangements, on Friday, August 28th, and her Majesty will stay in Scotland for eleven weeks, returning to Windsor Castle on Saturday, November 14.

Her Majesty is to hold a Council at Osborne on Saturday. It was necessary to have a Council this week, but why, in the name of common sense, is Saturday selected for the function? Every one knows that the Saturday before the August Bank holiday is one of the heaviest days of the year for passenger traffic, and nothing can be more troublesome for the railway authorities than to have to provide special trains between London and Portsmouth for the individuals attending the Council.

There was a good deal of change connected with the Court Wedding arrangements last week. In the first instance the Queen was inclined to think that the marriage ought to be put off owing to the Court mourning; and when she forewent this delay, she insisted that everything should be done as quietly and with as little state as possible. The bridesmaids were at first not to be allowed to appear in the carriages, and, only after a lengthy discussion and many counter-orders, were they permitted to follow the happy pair after the ceremony had been performed. The result of all this was that the procession was deemed a failure by the sightseers. The outbursts of cheering that were chronicled by the Press were for the most part efforts of journalistic imagination.

The Lord Steward's arrangements, however, were excellent, and the guests' luncheon in the ball-room was very much better served than on the occasion of the Duke and Duchess of York's wedding. Lord Pembroke called the toasts with much effect, standing by the buffet at the end of the room. The Royal luncheon in the State dining-room was served on a number of round tables, which were beautifully decorated. There were four toasts, three of which were proposed by the Prince of Wales, and the other by the Crown Prince of Denmark.

It has always been the rule to invite the Ambassadors to such functions as the Royal Wedding, but on the present occasion only those who represent "Family Sovereigns" (the German Emperor and the Czar) received cards for the chapel, and this innovation has caused considerable comment.

Nothing astonishes me more in connection with such functions as that of last week than the struggling and fighting of the crowd for no conceivable purpose. Let me advise any one who feels a philosophical interest in his fellow creatures to take the following course when there is next anything in the shape of a Royal Wedding going forward. Secure a room in the Hotel Albemarle high enough up to command a good view of Piccadilly and St. James-street. Enjoy the excellent lunch which you will get at that irreproachable hostelry, and then, in the spirit of calm contemplation thereby induced, settle yourself down to watch the frantic struggles of the mob massed in Albemarle-street and eastward along Piccadilly to force themselves into a position where they can see something. Hour after hour, held in check by a cordon of police, they struggle unceasingly. They are half crushed and half stifled by their own weight. They surge to and fro, like a huge sea, every individual powerless and helpless. Those who are forced or who fight their way to the front are incessantly buffeted and rammed back by the police, and trodden on or kicked by horses. They groan, perspire, and fight blindly with one another and with the police. Women shriek and faint, are dragged out, and borne away by ambulance men. Even the front row can hope to see little or nothing of the procession, for beyond the masses of police on foot and horseback are parties of mounted Guardsmen. The people behind the first row are able to see nothing whatever, except the shoulders, backs, and heads of their neighbours. Reflect from your window that every individual before you might, if he chose, be seated in his chair at home in as much comfort and ease as yourself, and you will surely say, like old Hans Sachs after the riot at Nüremberg, "Wahn, Wahn!" . . .

The Duchess of Connaught will probably go next month to France, in order that she may take a course of waters at Bourboule-les-Bains. H.R.H. derived great benefit from her last visit to that place.

The Duke and Duchess of York are to proceed from Goodwood to Cowes, and, on leaving the Isle of Wight, they will go to Sandringham for a short time before their annual trip to Scotland, when they are to visit the Queen and the Duke and Duchess of Fife. Their Royal Highnesses will return to Sandringham for the winter at the end of September, and during the first week in October they are to attend the Musical Festival at Norwich.

Princess Louise is next week to be the guest of Lord Crewe, at Crewe Hall, Cheshire, and on Thursday H.R.H. will open a bazaar, which is to be held in the park, in aid of the Crewe Memorial Hospital. Crewe Hall is one of the finest Jacobean houses in England, and it has beautiful grounds, but the surrounding country is very ugly indeed.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden will probably pay a brief visit to the Queen at Osborne about the middle of next month. The Grand Duchess is the sister of the late Emperor Frederick.

The papers state that the Duke of Marlborough visited the Queen at Windsor the other day "partly on business," in order that he might present to Her Majesty the flag of tenure by which he holds the estate of Blenheim. This is nonsense. The Duke and Duchess were merely invited to dine and sleep at Windsor Castle, and their visit had no reference whatever to "business." It has never been the practice for the Dukes of Marlborough to go to Court in order to present the flag to the Sovereign.

Captain Malony has recently succeeded the late Major Burslem as Governor of the Military Knights of Windsor. A vacancy was thereby created among the Knights of the Lower Foundation. It has been the invariable practice to promote the senior Knight of the Lower Foundation under such circumstances, but on the present occasion a scandalous job has been perpetrated. The senior Knight who has been passed over not only served with great distinction during the Indian Mutiny, but he has the Victoria Cross, and is also a Companion of the Bath. His eminent services in 1857 and 1858 caused his promotion by brevet to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and he was four times mentioned in despatches. It is monstrous that so thoroughly deserving a soldier should be unceremoniously superseded by a junior officer, whose services are comparatively nil.

There is also a complaint that the newly-appointed Knight of the Lower Foundation (who has filled up the vacancy caused by these promotions) is not qualified for the position, as he is said to be in receipt of retired pay amounting to about £240 a year. The statutes by which these appointments are regulated state that only those officers are eligible who have "but little or nothing whereupon to live," and are therefore brought to necessity. It is impossible to understand upon what principle an officer, with retired pay to the above amount, is regarded as having "but little or nothing" to live on, and especially when the amount of his income is compared with the resources of so many other deserving old soldiers.

Lord Cadogan has just completed his first year of office as Viceroy of Ireland. No one, for many years, has worn the cares and duties of the Irish Viceroyalty so lightly as he; in no case did so little performance ever follow such enormous promise. Well might he exclaim, "Save me from the prophets of my Party!" This time last year the welkin rang with predictions of the dawning era of social brilliancy for Ireland. Twelve months have passed and the brilliancy is yet to come. The fact is, Lord Cadogan is a courtier, and Ireland is not in favour at Court. The Royal mourning, which destroyed the Dublin Castle season, was in strong contrast to the Royal Wedding, which gave some sort of brilliancy to the London season. In the Royal rejoicing Ireland had no part whatsoever; Royal mournings are its only share of Royal favours. Lord Cadogan did not even give the country the benefit of a Viceregal wedding, though he would have been following precedent in doing so.

Lord and Lady Cadogan return to the Viceregal Lodge next month. The Horse Show begins on August 25, and will be attended each day by a Viceregal party. After the Horse Show, Lord and Lady Cadogan will pay some visits in Ireland to the west and south. They will probably stay with Lord and Lady Arran in Sligo, where Lady Arran has been so active in promoting Irish Cottage Industries and helping the work at Foxford. In the south Mr. Smith Barry will entertain their Excellencies, who will have the opportunity of seeing the southern capital of Ireland, Cork. Up to the present time Lord Cadogan has only visited the warlike north.

Miss Stewart, daughter of Lady Nairne's sister, Mrs. Stewart, of Dalguise, died last Tuesday at Edinburgh in her hundredth year. Miss Stewart had a host of interesting recollections of her famous aunt, of Sir Walter Scott, and of all the Edinburgh celebrities of his epoch. She was a most accomplished musician, and has often played to Sir Walter Scott, with whose family she was on terms of close intimacy, and she was present at the marriage of John Gibson Lockhart and Sophia Scott.

Charles Dickens the Younger was a man of considerable abilities and of most amiable character, but he entirely lacked concentration or perseverance, and no sooner had he put his hand to a plough than he withdrew it again.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 316 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 318.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 315.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 333.

In early life he had great opportunities, but he utterly failed to make use of them, and his career was a disappointment from first to last. He was always drifting hither and thither. The Baroness Burdett-Coutts (who defrayed the cost of his education), and other influential friends of his father, did their best to push him on in the City, and he would have done well indeed if interest, zealously exerted, could have made his mercantile career a success. He failed also in his literary undertakings, and for many years past his life must have been something of a struggle.

Dickens himself was both mortified and exasperated at his eldest son's various failures. In 1862 he allowed Wilkie Collins to introduce a character into "No Name" (which novel was then coming out week by week in *All the Year Round*), whose inglorious mercantile career was simply that of the younger Charles Dickens; and it was so vividly depicted that all the Gad's Hill circle at once recognised where the original of "Francis Clare" was to be found.

On behalf of two young ladies who recently crossed to the Continent by the Flushing and Queenborough route, a statement is made to me which calls for the prompt notice of the steamboat and railway companies controlling that route. The two young ladies in question were mere girls, about eighteen years of age. On embarking at Flushing they were told that the steward would allot them berths. On the plea that the ladies' side was full, the girls, with two others, were taken to a small cabin on the men's side. Owing to the heat and the absence of other ventilation, the door was left open when the girls lay down. Before long, one of them became aware that persons were standing in the doorway, after which the steward entered, woke her up (as he thought), and handed her a slip of paper, which he said was from a gentleman. On the paper was scribbled the words, "Can I speak to you?" The significance of this incident is obvious, and I trust it will be inquired into and proper steps taken to prevent its recurrence.

On one of the balconies of the Reform Club a dove has made its nest, and is engaged in hatching its eggs. It would seem that there is something dove-like in the nature of Liberals which puts this bird at its ease with them. The blind of the window opening on the balcony may be raised or let down, or the window itself may be opened, without the dove taking any notice. There are some who think that the dove has made its appearance at the Reform Club as did the dove of the Deluge at the ark, in order to show that the Tory waters which submerged Radicalism last autumn are falling.

No power on earth will ever persuade me that in the matter of getting on and off, the man's bicycle is as convenient as the woman's. I suppose that when first the present form of bicycle was invented, the cross bar was deemed necessary for strength, and that when women took to this mode of progression the bar was found not to be needed. But bicycle makers probably make a larger profit on masculine frames, and therefore they insist on perpetuating the absurdity, whilst buyers are such fools as to fancy that there is something unmanly in riding on what goes by the name of a woman's cycle.

I was reading the prospectus of a company that proposes amongst other things to derive a profit from the sale of cycles as middlemen. The estimate of profit on this head shows that commission allowed by manufacturers is about 15 per cent. This would be all very well if manufacturing companies did not sell direct to the public. But they do, and as a rule charge this 15 per cent. in addition to their trade profit, which is excessive. Competition between companies will probably soon bring down prices, and, considering the vast number of persons of small means who buy cycles, this day will, I trust, not be far off.

A good many people are much exercised about the perils which ladies incur by riding bicycles in London. I wonder if any of them ever turn their attention to the dangerous practice of a rider carrying a young child on the front of his machine. Whether serious accidents have occurred in consequence of this practice I have no means of telling; but the danger seems beyond dispute. Boys in particular seem to have a fondness for carrying their younger friends or relatives in this way. It seems to be a matter in which the police might well be empowered to interfere.

The cruelty inflicted on omnibus horses by the incessant stoppages of the vehicles has been under discussion again in the Press; and a lady has been moved thereby to express to me her willingness to pay for advertisements in all 'buses, beseeching people not to stop the vehicles on steep gradients—or anywhere else where it can be helped. My advice to this lady is to save her money. The public in this matter are not intentionally cruel, but the vast majority are actuated before all other things by a desire to get as much as possible for their money; and this majority will always insist on their right to get out exactly at the point that suits them, as long as they possess that right, regardless of horses or any other consideration.

The only way in which my tender-hearted lady friend can hope to do any good is by bringing any pressure she can upon the Home Secretary or the Chief Commissioner of Police, to get the stoppage of omnibuses regulated by superior authority. I long ago obtained counsel's opinion to the effect that the Chief Commissioner has power under the existing Acts to appoint fixed stopping places for all omnibuses, and to forbid them to take up

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or set down passengers elsewhere. Were he to exercise this power, it would be a good thing, not only for the omnibus horses, but for the whole street traffic of London. And I believe, on the whole, it would be an advantage to omnibus passengers, for the vehicles would get along much faster under this arrangement, and the annoyance of passengers incessantly getting in and out during the journey would be removed.

The Agricultural Show at York was the best ever got together by the Yorkshire Society. A finer muster of horses has seldom been seen, and there was a splendid collection of Shorthorns and Aberdeen Angus cattle. Indeed, all classes of stock were well represented.

A Scotch correspondent writes:—

"The "reports from the moors" which the papers have been publishing are as usual most roseate in their statements. So far from 1896 being likely to prove the record grouse year as has been announced, it is probable that the average bags will be little, if any, better than those of the last two or three seasons. Young birds are remarkably scarce in many districts, and there has been a great deal of disease, particularly in Perthshire.

Mr. M. H. Spielman points out to me that in my notice of his *Contemporary Review* article I did not do full justice to one of the allegations against South Kensington incompetence. Not only is it true that "200 volumes of the *Builder*, *Gardener*, *Architect*, and other trade journals were bound up at the public expense in half-morocco, with gilt edges, all the advertisements being carefully preserved; but the fact is that the advertisements were taken out only to be bound up in separate volumes, and these volumes alone amounted to nearly two hundred. A more outrageous robbery of the public has rarely been perpetrated, and now that it has been brought to light, the proper course would be to make the official responsible for it pay the bill himself.

The ingenuous editors of the *Pall Mall Magazine* have been dreadfully hoaxed by some wicked wag. The great feature of their new number is "an unpublished poem by Wordsworth," which is announced as "a well-authenticated literary curiosity." This precious "unpublished poem" positively consists of six lines out of one of Wordsworth's most popular sonnets, beginning "The most alluring clouds that mount the sky," which was published some sixty years ago. To any one with any literary knowledge there would be a preposterous absurdity in the very idea of any work of Wordsworth's having remained unpublished for nearly half a century after his death. Where was this "poem" supposed to have been concealed all this time?

The Military Tournament at the Agricultural Hall is to be succeeded by a military exhibition of a different character. From August 1 to August 10 the Salvation Army is to hold the Hall with Gujeratis, Bheels, Zulus, Kaffirs, Scandinavians, Finns, Germans, Dutch, French, Swiss, and Italians as performers, and villages, kraals, slums, laundries, and factories, &c., as exhibits.

St. Margaret's, Westminster, is my parish church, and I shall frequent it henceforth less than heretofore, because the sight of two banners affixed in a prominent place will be so offensive to me that they will disturb my devotions. That the inhabitants of a country should be ready to defend it against an invading army is no special proof of patriotism; indeed, were they not ready to do so, this would be evidence of all absence of patriotism. In 1798 certain persons in Westminster volunteered to defend England against any invasion, and they were given two banners. These worthy persons remained prepared to cover themselves with glory until 1815, when, on Napoleon being removed to St. Helena, it was felt that there remained no foeman worthy of their steel, and they were disbanded. The mind of man can conceive nothing more utterly absurd than that their two banners, innocent of battle and breeze, should be treated as trophies of valour and victory, and should flaunt the congregation of St. Margaret's with idle state until the end of time. We have now a number of Volunteers, and I make no doubt that they would do good service, if an invasion were to take place. I should be sorry to see Volunteering checked, and consequently I regret anything which taints the movement with ridicule. The affectation of the citizens commanding Volunteer Regiments to be known under a military title is foolish, but this banner business, promoted as it has been by Colonel Howard Vincent, M.P., Colonel of a modern Westminster Volunteer Regiment, and of Mr. Tomlinson, M.P., parishioner of Westminster, ought really in the interests of Volunteering to be discountenanced. If this sort of nonsense goes on, every Volunteer Colonel will expect on retiring to have his sword hung up in his parish church.

Canon Wilberforce is to be in residence at Westminster Abbey during the first fortnight of August, and he will preach on the afternoons of the 2nd and 9th. Canon Gore will be in residence from the 15th until September 1, and he is to occupy the Abbey pulpit on the afternoons of the 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

Canon Newbolt will on Friday replace Archdeacon Sinclair as the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral, and he is to be on duty until September 1, when he will be succeeded by Canon Scott-Holland.

I am assured by Lieut.-Colonel Newton-Dickenson, Seneschal of Canterbury Cathedral, that the paragraph in TRUTH of the 16th inst. respecting the Catholic pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Thomas is inaccurate;

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and it seems clear, from what he says, that Dean Farrar was wrongly blamed in the matter, which I am glad to make known. The official version of the affair may be best given in the Seneschal's own words:—

May I, as the official who arranged the matter (on behalf of the Dean and Chapter) say that your informant appears to have misunderstood the circumstances? For some years past the Roman Catholics have been allowed certain privileges when they have annually visited the Cathedral, and when they wrote this year asking for the same again, Dean Farrar was willing that they should do as they have done before; but it was pointed out to him that within the last twelve months the whole system of showing the Cathedral and of arranging for parties to visit it has been reorganised. It only remained, then, to consider their request by the light of the Rules.

The Catholics asked (1) to be allowed the use of the Chapter House for an address by one of their number; (2) to be allowed (numbering about 600) to go all round the Cathedral unaccompanied by the usual guides; and (3) to do this without paying the usual fees. The two first requests were acceded to, but the rules did not admit of the third being granted, and under the circumstances they declined (as a party) to go round at all. . . .

With all respect to Lieut.-General Newton-Dickenson, the last sentence reduces the matter to very much the same form in which I originally stated it, except only for the plenary absolution of the Dean. The complaint was that the pilgrims were unable to visit the holy places except as ordinary public sight-seers, *i.e.*, on payment of a fee, and under the eye of a verger-guide and the music of his descriptive drone. It is now officially admitted that the usual conditions were imposed on the pilgrims, and that they refused to visit the Cathedral on these terms. In his letter the Seneschal goes on to quote a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Catholic visitors, who says that the Catholics cannot complain of having to pay the usual fees, and expresses his thanks for the courteous treatment he has received. But it is clear that in regard to the fees the Hon. Secretary does not here accurately represent the feelings of his clients, for the Seneschal tells us that the Catholics declined, as a party, to go round the Cathedral on the terms offered, and I can answer for it that some of them, at any rate, warmly resented the terms. The fault seems to lie with the "new rules," which apparently permit of every condition being relaxed except the payment of fees. There is no reason why these new rules should be as immutable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and I hope they will be modified before the next pilgrimage.

I would recommend the charitable to exercise caution in responding to any appeals made to their charity by the Rev. James Flamank, Vicar of Cold Ashby, near Rugby, on behalf of a distressed lady in whom this gentleman is interested. In one of the last of these appeals, the lady in question is described by Mr. Flamank as the daughter of a late General Officer, whose husband is out of employment through an injury to his hand, and who is bringing up a family of five children on an income of £72 a year. Mr. Flamank is making a special appeal for a specific sum to pay the schooling of the second boy. No name is mentioned, but, unless I am very much mistaken, the lady referred to is a Mrs. Woodcock. For many years past this lady has been appealing, directly or indirectly, for charitable support, and there is considerable reason to doubt whether all her statements respecting her means are strictly accurate. There are, at any rate, good grounds for insisting upon more information than the Vicar of Cold Ashby gives before responding to appeals on this lady's behalf.

From one or two letters received it would seem to be expected by some of my readers that I should say something respecting a reference to TRUTH in the current number of the *Review of Reviews*. Mr. Stead has there devoted a lengthy article to Dr. Barnardo and his work, and has wasted a page or more of his valuable space in dealing with some supposed feud between TRUTH and Dr. Barnardo. All I have to say about it is that Mr. Stead appears to have been "spooked." On one occasion, and one only, has unfavourable reference been made to Dr. Barnardo in TRUTH, and that was about two years ago. Dr. Barnardo issued a sensational appeal for a very large sum of money, which he required to be in his hands within a few days, in order to defeat an alleged Popish plot for the ruin of his homes and the destruction of his work. He got the money, and more; but before he got it the existence of any such intention as that on which he based his appeal was emphatically denied by every one competent to speak for the Roman Catholic Church.

I pointed out that, under these circumstances, Dr. Barnardo owed it to the public, to those who answered his appeal, and to himself, either to show that he had good grounds for what he had stated, or to apologise and return the cash which he had obtained from the public by means of his statement. To this day he has never done either one thing or the other. He has sheltered himself behind the opinion of personal friends and adherents, who have declared their conviction that he had reason to believe what he said; but no particle of evidence in proof of his *bona fides* has ever been made public, and there can be very little doubt in the mind of any impartial observer that the "Popish Plot" was a myth—a myth which, by his own admission, brought into Dr Barnardo's coffers £7,000, "and more."

On this business I formed a very strong opinion, and took the liberty of expressing it. That opinion I still hold, and am ready to repeat and justify it whenever necessary. But I have hardly once alluded to the subject without acknowledging the merits of Dr. Barnardo's work; and if any unfavourable reference to the work has appeared in TRUTH, I have no knowledge of it. When, therefore, Mr. Stead speaks of the Proprietor and Editor of TRUTH as playing the part of the thorn in the flesh to the St. Paul of Stepney-causeway; appeals to the honour and duty of those stony-hearted cynics for recognition of the philanthropists' "good

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works;" and adjures them to abandon "the somewhat unworthy rôle in which they have persisted so long," he is talking, if he will forgive my speaking frankly, nonsense. If he will allow me to give him a piece of advice in return for his homily, it is that before he next attempts to answer TRUTH, he would do well to ascertain what TRUTH has said.

My attention has been called to a letter in the *Western Morning News* headed "The Kilburn Sisters," and signed "Mabel Bouchier, Local Secretary, C. E. A., Ivy Lodge Branch." After having stated that she is personally acquainted with several of the Sisters, this lady says:—

> I feel I must raise my voice against the misleading statements that are still being made and circulated. I will gladly send a pamphlet to any one who will give me an address, in which it will be seen that all the accusations have been thoroughly investigated by a special commissioner from *Church Bells* on their own account, for the benefit of the public. All the serious allegations have been proved to be false. . . .

If Miss Bouchier will send to my address, which she will find on the cover of TRUTH, a copy of this wonderful pamphlet, I shall be deeply indebted to her; for, so far from the allegations against the Kilburn institution having been "proved to be false," I am under the impression that up to the present time no serious attempt has ever been made to answer them.

With regard to the *Church Bells* "commissioner," it is sufficient to say that in the course of the investigation which I undertook at the request of the Sisters, I did not come across a single witness outside the Kilburn homes who had ever seen or heard from any one connected with *Church Bells*, while the Charity Organisation Society have publicly stated that this "investigation" was undertaken and completed without reference to them. In other words, the journal in question has simply heard what the Sisters had to say, accepted their testimony without hearing any evidence on the other side, and gives the result to its readers as the outcome of an independent inquiry. A report arrived at by such a process is undeserving of serious notice, and can only be accepted as an *ex parte* statement. For these reasons I have not, in considering the questions affecting the Kilburn Sisters, paid any attention to what has appeared in *Church Bells*. So far as I have seen these articles, however, I should say that they are unquestionably open to the charge which Mr. Loch makes in the *Guardian* of being "obviously inspired" by the Sisters. Except on that assumption, it is difficult to understand much that appears in them.

Perhaps the most remarkable fact about the attitude of *Church Bells* in this matter is that no allusion whatever to the TRUTH inquiry and its result has, so far as I can discover, ever been made in that paper. Whatever else the friends of the Kilburn Sisters may think about the TRUTH inquiry and report, they must at least acknowledge this—that the inquiry was undertaken at the request of the Sisters themselves; that it made known everything that could be said on both sides of the case (so far as the Sisters allowed of that being done); and that the result was extremely unfavourable to the Sisters. It is difficult to believe that the journal which has so strongly taken up the cause of the Sisters would have observed absolute silence on the subject unless at the desire of the Sisters themselves, who, as it now appears, have decided that absolute silence is the only answer that can be given to the TRUTH report. Let the Sisters and their journalistic friends by all means keep silence if they please; and let the public draw their own conclusions. But do not let us have lady secretaries of the C. E. A. writing to local papers that "all the serious allegations have been proved to be false," while the Sisters have decided that all the most serious of them must be left unanswered. And do not let us have the *Church Bells'* pamphlet advertised (as it has been advertised) as a full and complete reply to the whole case against the Sisterhood, while *Church Bells* has studiously refrained from any notice of the TRUTH inquiry and its result. Tactics of this sort are only calculated to further discredit the character of the Kilburn party for straightforward dealing.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that, in response to the large demand for the TRUTH report on the Kilburn Sisterhood, I have had the article reprinted as a pamphlet, price 2d., and it can now be obtained either direct from the publisher of TRUTH, or through the usual agents.

The *Daily Chronicle* on Monday published a letter from Mr. Robert Frewer, which was avowedly a puff of the "Women's Convalescent Home Association," run by that individual under the style of "Hon. Secretary." Had the editor of the *Chronicle* been aware of all that has appeared about Mr. Frewer in the columns of TRUTH, I feel confident that the letter would never have been published. I would more especially refer him to a recent article entitled "Home Truths on Frewer's Homes," which is at his service if he cares to see it; and when he has perused it, I feel confident that he will do his best to counteract the effect of Frewer's letter in Monday's *Chronicle*.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor and Sickly London Children:—Mrs. Lucas Ralli, £10; J. W. P., £2; H. P. Gibson, 2s. 6d.; J. M., £1; J. E., 5s.; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Roth, Brighton, £5. 5s.; Mount Park Crescent, £1. 1s.; S. A. J., 10s.; X., £5.

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Innumerable exhortations have been addressed to me during the last two or three weeks not to let the 4th Hussars' scandal drop. I can assure my readers and correspondents that I have no intention of so doing. It must be remembered, however, that the promised personal inquiry by the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General into all the allegations that have been made is now in progress, and must necessarily take some time, if, as I take for granted, it is to be anything but an empty form. Until the result of this investigation is known, I cannot see that any good purpose is to be served by further discussion of the case. But I do trust that the Adjutant-General will have concluded his labours before the time comes for the departure of the 4th Hussars for India, which, unless I am mistaken, is only about two months distant. If the regiment goes abroad under the present circumstances, at least the incriminated officers ought to be kept back till the inquiry has been completed.

Among others who have recently communicated with me on this subject was a gentleman who has a son in preparation for the Army, and who asked my advice on the subject, feeling hesitation about committing the boy to the chances of a military career after reading particulars of the Hodge case. I am certainly not prepared to warn parents, individually or generally, against putting their sons into the Army merely on the strength of the misconduct of one particular gang of rowdy subalterns; though no doubt there are several cavalry regiments into which a father would be unwise to put a son who is not of "fast" tastes and blessed with unlimited cash. I have no reason to doubt that the majority of British officers view the kind of blackguardism to which Mr. Hodge was subjected with as much disgust as I or any other civilian. The bullying evil, from what I can hear, is a kind of tradition in a few well-known regiments; but it is one of those diseases which spread if not stamped out.

A worthy citizen of Northampton calls my attention to a recent Battalion order in the 1st Northamptonshire regiment now at Secunderabad. The order in question fixes a scale of charges to be made by the armourer-sergeant for cleaning and repairing rifles. It is contended that this order is at variance with paragraph 385, part 1 Equipment Regulations, 1890. I do not know what the general practice in the Army may be, but if an armourer-sergeant is paid by Government, it is not easy to understand why he should be permitted to levy these charges on his comrades for doing his regular work. Of course, if a soldier damages his rifle by his own negligence, he ought to pay for it; but some sort of damage to weapons is bound to occur in ordinary use without any negligence on the part of the soldier, and I should have thought that an armourer-sergeant was paid by the Government to make this class of damage good. They tell me the way this arrangement works out in the 1st Northamptonshire is that all weapons are sent periodically to be looked over at the armourer's shop, and the armourer detains as many as he thinks fit, and charges the owner accordingly. This is very much what might be expected.

Another instance of the way taxes are levied on the unfortunate Atkins. Some men from the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment recently joined the 1st Battalion at Karachi. They brought with them tin bed-head tickets with a space for a card to be fitted in, and this arrangement so delighted the quartermaster that he forthwith ordered the whole of the 1st Battalion to provide themselves with similar tickets in place of the brass ones they had previously had. This cost every man 12 annas. After mature consideration, however, the quartermaster seems to have come to the conclusion that he likes the brass tickets best after all; so he has ordered them to be replaced. As most of the men have got rid of their old brass tickets in the meantime, this means a further expenditure of 12 annas per man. Far be it from me to prevent the quartermaster having whatever style of ticket meets his taste and fancy; but if the tickets are changed for his gratification, clearly he ought to pay for them.

As I am not able to give a further instalment of "Military Pillory" this week, I would call special attention to the glaring travesty of justice which has just been perpetrated by a district court-martial at Sheffield. The prisoner was a sergeant in the Connaught Rangers, named Byrne. He was accused of conduct to the prejudice of discipline in using certain language about a colour-sergeant named O'Brien. As I have sometimes been accused of taking a biassed view of matters of this kind, I will give the account of the case as it has presented itself to the editor of the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*. After stating that relations between the two N.C.O.s had for some time been very strained, that paper says:—

> The two non-commissioned officers ultimately appeared before the Commanding Officer, Sergeant Byrne as a prisoner, and Colour-Sergeant O'Brien as his accuser, on the minor charge of not having warned six men for fatigue duty. In answer to the charge, Byrne—smarting, no doubt, under the sense of what he seems to have rightly deemed O'Brien's personal animosity—said that the colour-sergeant was telling lies about him, and added that O'Brien was in the habit of telling lies about him. The minor charges were then dropped, and the prisoner remanded for court-martial, and thus in solemn seriousness a military tribunal of the first importance was yesterday occupied in trying a man for denying, in emphatic terms, a charge made against him by another man. We have always been accustomed to regard a court-martial as something dignified and impressive, but this surely tends to reduce the affair to a level of ridicule beneath the most trivial trial in a minor police-court.

This was written before the trial had ended, as it now has, in Byrne being found guilty and reduced to the ranks. I understand that there is to be an appeal to the Judge-Advocate General on the question of law whether such a charge will lie on the strength of a mere observation made in the course of a prisoner's defence, when under trial for a minor offence before his Commanding Officer. For the sake of common-sense and common

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justice, it is to be hoped that the law will prove to be in Byrne's favour. Nothing said in a civil court, whether by way of plea or of evidence, can be made the subject of legal proceedings, except, of course, for perjury; and a court of justice would be a pretty place if this were not the rule. In this instance, the prisoner, by pleading not guilty to the first charge, necessarily implied that the prosecuting N.C.O. was guilty of falsehood; and to prefer a new charge against him and punish him with the utmost severity, merely because, instead of using some delicate periphrasis in denying the prosecutor's statements, he blurted out the repudiation in the simplest and most direct form of words, is nothing better than a vindictive abuse of legal powers.

At the last training of the 4th Battalion South Wales Borderers, "camp damages" were assessed at two shillings per head for officers and sixpence for N.C.O.s and men. As the same amount was levied last year, it is apparently a fixed charge. It is difficult to believe that this amount of damage is really done, the more so, because in the sister battalion, the 3rd South Wales Borderers, the amount does not exceed twopence per man. No account seems to be issued respecting these camp damage fees, which makes the thing look even more suspicious.

Complaints are made by soldiers at Malta about the restriction of the wearing of khaki. I understand that while khaki is worn on parades, guards, &c., no soldier below the rank of warrant officer is allowed to walk out in it. The men of the Navy and of the Marines are allowed to walk out in white clothing at Malta, and there can be no reason, beyond the caprice of some one in authority, why soldiers should be compelled to disport themselves at a sub-tropical station in red serge.

The Madras papers have recently contained some reference to the case of a young warrant officer of the Madras Public Works Department, who died from heat apoplexy, apparently owing to his not being able to get proper house accommodation in the hot season. There are certain Government regulations with regard to the posting of European subordinates of this Department to those places only where they can obtain both proper lodging accommodation and medical attendance. But it would seem that in this case these regulations have not been observed, and the officer responsible ought to be called to account for his share in the matter.

There are also similar complaints as to the military subordinates in the same Department being posted where they are unable to get medical attendance, and I have correspondence before me referring to two recent cases in which men have been informed, in reply to applications for medical attendance, that it was impossible to send an officer to attend them. If there are regulations on this subject, why are they not observed?

The editor of the *Broad Arrow* is to be congratulated on a curious journalistic performance. In February last, as most of my military readers will remember, a shocking exposure was given in TRUTH of the hardships and sufferings endured by invalid soldiers in removal from India to England, the backbone of the article consisting of a personal narrative describing the journey of a detachment of invalids from the north-west frontier to Netley. The matter has been under notice in TRUTH from time to time ever since, and I give elsewhere this week a further contribution to the discussion. It would seem that the *Bombay Gazette* has lately turned its attention to the subject, and it must have practically reproduced the original personal narrative from TRUTH.

In its current issue the *Broad Arrow* suddenly wakes up to this question, and in its turn reproduces, at third hand, all the more material statements which appeared in TRUTH last February. I have not seen the *Bombay Gazette* article, but the *Broad Arrow* is so profuse in its quotations that I have no difficulty in recognising my own literary property in its new setting. "The matter must be investigated most thoroughly," is the *Broad Arrow's* concluding reflection, "and without loss of time." Better late than never, of course, but if my contemporary had made the observation when the facts appeared in TRUTH six months ago, the possibility of "loss of time" would have been considerably lessened. I do not know whether the editor of this Service journal is really ignorant of all that has appeared about the trooping service in TRUTH since the article which has now reached him viâ Bombay; but considering the extraordinary amount of attention which he every week devotes to my remarks, it seems to me a pity that, while wasting so much of his valuable space in carping, sneering, and straw-splitting, he has managed to overlook a matter of urgent public importance.

It will be good news to British residents in Malta that the recent hint in TRUTH about the desirability of a little more steamship competition between England and that island has not been thrown away. I hear that the Prince Steam Shipping Company, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, intend to start in September three commodious steamers between Manchester and Malta at regular intervals of twenty days. The first-class fare by this line is to be £9. 9s. single and £16. 16s. return.

Another item of intelligence which will interest many of my readers is that the Directors of the Great Western Railway Company, at their meeting last week, decided definitely upon the doubling of their line

"NORSE KING," 3,212 tons register, 4,500 horse-power, will sail from London (Tilbury), August 27, for a twenty-five days' Cruise to the CAPITALS OF THE BALTIC, calling at Leith, Copenhagen, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Kiel, returning viâ the New Baltic Canal and Heligoland. Fares from EIGHTEEN GUINEAS. Passengers are allowed to take bicycles free of cost.—PIRRIE & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne; JAS. J. BALLANTINE, 134, Vincent-street, Glasgow; HY. GAZE & SONS, LTD., 142, Strand, London, W.C.

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between Twyford and Henley, and gave orders for the work to be completed in time for next year's Regatta. This cannot fail to lead to a great improvement in the Regatta service, and will probably be of advantage to Henley all round.

Apropos of the *Drummond Castle* inquiry, I have been asked whether Parliament intends to adjourn without taking further notice of Mr. Goschen's answer some weeks back on the subject of the provision of life-saving appliances in the Navy. Mr. Goschen, if I remember rightly, stated that there were no regulations in force in the Navy on this subject similar to those applicable to the merchant service, and he gave no indication that the desirability of such regulations is in any way recognised by the Admiralty. It is difficult to see why, if private shipowners are compelled to take certain precautions for the protection of their passengers and crews, the Government should not be required to do the same. On the contrary, I should have thought that the "model employer" ought to set an example to private owners in all such matters. The truth is that the Navy is conducted on the principle that a sailor has no business to leave his ship, whatever the emergency, and this seems to be carried to the length of assuming that if the ship goes to the bottom, it is the sailor's duty to go to the bottom with her. Is Mr. Goschen prepared to support this contention in the House of Commons?

Some time ago attention was called in TRUTH to the sweating of the mail-cart drivers at Portsmouth, and the result of my remarks was that the men got another two shillings a week, although they still seem to be doing a most extravagant day's work for the eighteen shillings a week they are now earning. It would seem, however, that the contractor in whose service these men are harbours some grudge against them in consequence of the publicity that has been given to the case. Three of the men have been discharged within the last two months, without any reason being given them, except that they had grumbled—which is denied—and last week a fourth was discharged in the middle of the day, at a moment's notice, with equally little ground. The impression prevails that every man who was in the service at the time when TRUTH drew attention to the matter is to be got rid of, and the contractor, who, by the way, is a lady, would do well, in her own interest, to contradict the suggestion, if she can. The men are not responsible in any way for what was said in TRUTH, nor ought they to be punished because their shabby treatment has provoked public comment. I hope it will not be long before the subcontracting system in the Post Office is done away with altogether, and all these employees put on the footing of established public servants. What has been going on at Portsmouth demands the attention of the Post Office, and Portsmouth is not the only place.

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The examples of Post Office stupidity or negligence which find their way to the TRUTH office are, of course, only a small proportion of the total number of such occurrences, and I am glad to see that the *Times* has again devoted some of its space to gibbeting a few more of these eccentricities. The most remarkable example it gives is that of a gentleman living at a village just out of Cromer, who has had his letters addressed to him "near Cromer." By the wisdom of St. Martin's-le-Grand it has been ordained that this particular village is "near Norwich" (a distance of about fifteen miles), and not "near Cromer" (a distance of a mile and a half). The consequence is that this gentleman's letters, which are addressed "near Cromer," are first sent from London to that town, then sent back to Norwich, and then back again to their destination, virtually at Cromer. This triumph of the most idiotic red-tapism means a delay of twenty-four hours in the delivery of the letters, and goodness only knows how much trouble and expense to the Department.

I do not wish to be unduly hard upon the Duke of Norfolk, who is a very amiable and estimable gentleman, and has, of course, no special training or aptitude for the duties which at present devolve upon him. At the same time, the Duke is Postmaster-General by his own wish, and not, I should imagine, by the desire of any other individual in this country, and under these circumstances he must bear the responsibility of the consequences of his occupying his position. One of these consequences is that the Post Office is without any capable and efficient head, and in such a state of things every fool or idler among the subordinate officials necessarily has a free hand, and takes full advantage of his liberty. Hence the growing demoralisation of the Department.

Last week an iron staircase at Waterford Post Office gave way without a moment's warning, precipitating two employees who were on it at the time down a distance of some 15 ft. Fortunately they escaped with nothing worse than a shock and some bruises, but the accident might easily have been of the most serious character, especially if the staircase had been crowded at the moment, as I am told it frequently is. Such an accident points clearly to defective construction, and I understand that the main support of the staircase was only driven about an inch into a wall of masonry, and held there with mortar. It is to be hoped that there will be some searching inquiry into the circumstances, which will lead to the responsible party being brought to justice. Whether it is an example of the incompetence of the Irish Public Works Board, or of the vicious system of allowing private individuals (with interest in the right quarter) to put up Post Offices and lease them to the Government for their own profit, in the manner recently described in TRUTH, I am not able to state, but it would seem to be one or the other.

The following case may be added to others of the same kind given in last week's TRUTH. A newspaper addressed from London to a house in "Carmarthen, South Wales,"

reached its destination some three months after it was posted. It then appeared that the paper had been sent to New South Wales, although the address was quite legibly written. Accidents of this kind will happen in the best regulated Post-office, and if they only happened occasionally no one would be entitled to complain. But I have often heard of letters intended for South Wales being sent to New South Wales, and it is a mistake which all Post-office employees ought to be on their guard against. The true cause, I believe, of all such blunders is the disgraceful sweating of the sorters, and the unfavourable conditions under which the important work of sorting is done at St. Martin's-le-Grand. From what I have heard on this subject, I fancy that it is much to the credit of the staff that mistakes are not of more frequent occurrence.

The Sabbatarians have won the battle at Linlithgow, and the harmless pleasure of Sunday boating on the loch is to be stopped after this week. Mr. Akers-Douglas did not wish to interfere, but Mr. Wilson, M.P. for Falkirk Burghs, has worried him pertinaciously to withdraw the new rule, which he represented to be opposed to the wishes of the respectable bigots of Linlithgow, most of whom, doubtless, are Unionists.

It cannot be said that the water famine at the East End of the Metropolis has come to pass without due warning; yet the means taken by the East London Water Company to obviate it appear to be thoroughly inadequate. Their chief engineer asserts that the drought of the present year is far worse than that of 1895, the flow of the river Lea, from which the greater portion of the water is drawn, being 40 per cent. less this year than the preceding one. The Company's efforts to carry out their duties efficiently seem to have been limited to the construction, at the beginning of the year, of a new reservoir with a storage capacity of 200,000,000 gallons. This has enabled them to carry on four weeks longer than last year. But this is not enough. When the monopoly of one of the great necessities of life is placed in the hands of private individuals, no excuse should be allowed for the non-fulfilment of their liabilities, even to the very uttermost limits.

At last week's meeting of the Cowes Urban District Council it was stated that the steamer *Anglesea* had arrived in the Roads with a large cargo of "dangerous explosives," but she was not allowed to enter the harbour. This was all very well, but it turned out that these "dangerous explosives," which are used for blasting purposes, were transferred to a barge and quietly taken to a special train which conveyed them to Merstone. A number of parcels are said to be stored at Newport in the borough police-station, which is a pretty sort of place to keep "dangerous explosives."

It was recently reported to the Sevenoaks Rural District Council that the curate at Shoreham had been going about while "peeling" after an attack of scarlet fever. The case was a particularly bad one, for it seemed that the reverend gentleman had acted in defiance of the warnings of the sanitary officers, and that when refused a ticket at Shoreham railway station, he had driven to another station and travelled thence to London. The Medical Officer considered that a prosecution should be instituted; but all the Council did was to write letters to the curate's doctor and the curate, pointing out to the latter "the considerable risk he had run of spreading infection." One councillor said the poorer people at Shoreham "complained that it was not just that they should not be allowed to go out of doors after a case of infectious disease whilst their parson could go anywhere —even out of the district." Some of them have expressed their intention to ignore in future the notices of the sanitary inspector, and if they do so the Council will only have themselves to thank. This case was precisely one of those in which proceedings ought to have been taken, and after letting off the clergyman with a remonstrance, it will be difficult for the authorities to enforce the law against some poor and ignorant parishioner.

If the evidence given at an inquest held in Dublin on Thursday last upon the body of a child three years and a half of age, who had died through eating rotten fruit, is correct, it reveals a shameful amount of incapacity in connection with the management of the Meath Hospital. The mother took the child to the hospital between 9 and 10 p.m., but the outcome of the visit seems to have merely been a casual examination by a student, who recommended brandy as a specific. The child was taken away by the mother, but brought back again at eleven. By this time the resident surgeon was in attendance and recommended the detention of the child, but as he was left lying at the foot of a bed with another patient, with his clothes wet through and unchanged, the mother at 4 a.m. took him away. Once again the mother went to the hospital to ask if anything could be done for the child, now growing cold and stiff, but without result. The whole treatment seems either to show a cruel callousness to suffering, or a desire to save trouble and to shirk responsibility. In either event it is a case in which the managing committee of the hospital would do well to make searching investigation.

The privileges afforded to the local public at the Fever Hospital of the Douglas Corporation are certainly not undervalued by the local authorities. The five year old child of a tailor's assistant earning 50s. per week was removed to this hospital suffering from scarlet fever. After seven weeks' detention the child was sent home,

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Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

and the happy parent received a bill for £8. 2s. 6d., being one guinea a week for board, nursing, and medical attendance, and the balance for disinfection and carriage to and fro. The father, declining to pay, was sued in the County Court, when the Corporation relied in support of their charges upon the fact that a trained night-nurse had been employed to attend the child for a considerable period; but the judge held that the father was not liable for this, and gave judgment for the reduced amount of £6. Even that seems a pretty stiff price, considering that the father was a working man, the hospital a municipal institution, and the removal compulsory; and I should think that the Douglas public would do well to inquire into the principles on which such charges are fixed.

The Hampstead Guardians had a discussion the other day on the advisability of sending patients to Beach Rocks Home at Sandgate, and a minority of four out of nine members voted for a resolution against sending more patients until the Home is certified by the Local Government Board. It seems a pity that the resolution was not carried. Although I have never suggested that the practical management of this Home is open to adverse criticism, it is perfectly true, as Mr. King, one of the Guardians, reminded the Board, that TRUTH has alleged that the director, Mr. John James Jones, has "made a good thing" out of the "philanthropic" work with which he has been connected; and it is wrong in principle that public bodies should in any way countenance a so-called charitable concern which has been handled in public as the London Samaritan Society has been, and has allowed the impeachment to pass practically unanswered. A Local Government Board certificate may not be worth very much from a financial point of view, but it would at any rate imply that John James Jones was subject to some sort of supervision, and was not (as I contend he always has been) absolutely master of the situation. Which is probably the reason why John James does not already possess a Local Government Board certificate.

Verbal faction fights of the most extraordinary description have for some time past been the rule at the meetings of the Dungarvan Town Board. These culminated at the last meeting in an exhibition of blackguardism which, I trust, will remain unprecedented. I have far too great a respect for my readers to reproduce in these columns any of the expressions which were freely bandied about amongst the Councillors. It is sufficient to say that the language was of the vilest description; and how the citizens of any town could have selected such representatives of all that is vulgar and brutal can only be regarded by the rest of the world as an inscrutable mystery.

SUFFERERS from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and INGRAM & ROYLE, LTD., 52, Farringdon-street.

I have received the following letter in reference to a matter dealt with in last week's TRUTH:—

Chambers, 123½, Union-street,
Aberdeen, 23rd July, 1896.

The Editor of TRUTH,
Carteret-street, London, S.W.

Sir,—I received your letter of the 21st inst., which I submitted to my clients, and I have since had the opportunity of advising my clients in reference to the terms of the paragraph in your issue of this week.

Although my clients have, I think, good reason for not resting satisfied with the character and form of your retractions, having regard to the very serious nature of the slanders published concerning them, they have no desire to be vindictive, and if they are relieved of all cost they are prepared to let the matter drop. The sum tendered by you, both as regards amount and the manner and style of your offer, are not calculated to induce generous dealing, to which your paper on this occasion, will not, I presume, make any claim. The precognition of parties, meetings, correspondence, and trouble require to be provided for, of course free of all expense to my clients.

In the whole circumstances, however, and to facilitate a final settlement, I am willing to modify my account to £1. 11s. 6d., that is, send me 24s. 3d. to settle.

Failing this my instructions are to instruct my correspondents, Messrs. Black & Moss, Lincoln's-Inn-fields, to at once serve a writ, in which case no previous offer is to be founded on, and is entirely without prejudice.—Yours, faithfully.

H. MACDONALD.

With all respect to Mr. Macdonald, I must say that his clients appear to have shown a much more reasonable appreciation of the position than their legal adviser. As inaccurate statements in the local Press had been reproduced in TRUTH, it is a matter of course that they should be corrected and apologised for on the inaccuracies being pointed out, and I have no objection to pay any reasonable costs that may be incurred in calling attention to the error. But for the terms of Mr. Macdonald's original letter, and for the demand of £5. 5s. costs for writing it, the solicitor alone is responsible, and I must say that both the demand itself and the terms in which it was made were such as I was entitled to take exception to. Mr. Macdonald virtually admits this by now reducing his demand from £5. 5s. to £1. 11s. 6d.—a very handsome and substantial reduction. When in the first instance I tendered this gentleman the sum of 7s. 3d., I had, I thought, reckoned up every possible item of expense which could reasonably be charged against me. I had not, however, allowed for "the precognition of parties, meetings, correspondence, and trouble," requisite for the purpose of writing a very simple letter and despatching it from Aberdeen to London. Neither can I now admit that any one who considers himself aggrieved by inaccuracies in a newspaper report is entitled to charge the editor with all the cost of these various legal operations. However, I am a man of peace, and I have no desire that Mr. Macdonald's clients should be in any way out of pocket in consequence of a mistake to which I have innocently given currency; and as Mr. Macdonald himself has become so much more reasonable in his estimate of the expense, I have cheerfully paid him the balance of £1. 4s. 3d., which is his present price for a final settlement. Knowing what I do of solicitors' costs, I cordially agree that Mr. Macdonald has been very moderate in estimating the cost of "precognition of parties, meetings, correspondence," &c., at the modest figure of £1. 11s. 6d. But I would respectfully suggest to his clients that when they next have occasion to write to a newspaper, it would be possible to have the thing done on even more economical terms than this.

I must apologise to the learned friend whose suggestion on the subject of the employment of counsel by prisoners was noticed in last week's Truth, and who complains that I have done him an injustice. I can best put the matter right by allowing him to speak for himself:—

I was serious in what I said, and I have often known cases when solicitors have asked £15 to defend some impecunious delinquent, who could easily scrape together a guinea, and who has a fair defence. But I certainly should never encourage such an idea as leaving cards, which would in my view lead to the very most undesirable forms of "touting;" whereas were a notice exhibited in the gaol, a prisoner would communicate with his friends, and they generally know how to get hold of some one who is fairly good, and yet not too big a gun to take a guinea. The only prisoners who are up to the dodge now are the old hands.

There is a great deal of force in this, and Heaven forbid that I should weaken it by undue levity. It is a monstrous thing that a prisoner in needy circumstances should be sweated out of an amount like £15 for the benefit of a legal middleman, when a fee of £1. 3s. 6d., or even £2. 4s. 6d., to counsel is the most he need spend; and if any steps can be taken, either in the prison or elsewhere, to give the accused an opportunity of obtaining proper legal assistance, by all means let it be done. It would be an advantage all round if the public could be brought into more direct relations with counsel, and if my correspondent can suggest any means by which the above advantages can be extended to defendants in civil actions, I shall be delighted to give the suggestion publicity.

At Shropshire Assizes, Sir Henry Hawkins once more had occasion to severely lecture the Great Unpaid on their refusals to grant bail to prisoners, and on their harsh treatment of unfortunate girls charged with concealment of birth. In two instances in which servant girls were tried and acquitted on this charge, it appeared that they had also been committed by the magistrates for wilful murder, though there was not a tittle of evidence to support the capital charge. As the result of this preposterous and utterly unjustifiable action on the part of their worships both prisoners had been kept in gaol awaiting their trial, and one had actually undergone four months' imprisonment—a term which, the Judge said, would in the circumstances have been four times too long even if she had been found guilty of concealing her child's birth. In their dealing with cases of this kind, the magistracy frequently appear to be bereft both of common sense and compassion.

There were some edifying disclosures at Liverpool last week at an inquest on a woman who had died after taking a quack medicine advertised as somebody's "Marvellous female remedy." A man named Dennis Collins, who stated that he was formerly a qualified practitioner in London, but had been struck off the register two years ago for advertising, deposed that he was employed in the shop where the mixture was sold, and got a salary of £2 a week. The shop belonged to a Mrs. M'Conville, whose husband had formerly carried on a business of the same kind at another address, but is now, according to Collins, "down in Portland," where he is "serving the Queen." A clerk in the business conducted under these delectable auspices produced books showing that as much as £14 and £15 was taken in a day, and that £30 a week was spent in advertising the "female remedy." Another "surgeon"—by name Fitzgerald—employed in the business, "appeared to be in a dazed condition" when called as a witness, and answered "in a rambling way," but denied that he had been drinking "to any great extent." Doctors of a more reputable character gave evidence that the deceased woman had undergone an illegal operation. After the coroner had denounced in the strongest terms the business carried on at this shop, and had deplored that "advertisements of the character he had read should be allowed to appear in the public Press," the jury returned an open verdict, and the proceedings terminated. A more lame and impotent conclusion can hardly be conceived. If they had their deserts, all who are concerned in running places of the kind above described would join the worthy M'Conville in serving the Queen at Portland, and if the law is not capable at present of bringing about that result, it ought to be amended. But the worst feature in the whole scandal, to my mind, is the part played in this infamous traffic by the newspapers who fill their columns with advertisements of these quack "remedies." There are scores of them, as I have again and again pointed out, in London and the provinces, and their conduct is a disgrace to the whole Press.

Some horrible particulars of a case in which the body of a girl has been kept uncoffined and unburied to await the attendance of the coroner have been sent to me from Chadlington, Oxfordshire. The girl met with an accidental death on Saturday, the 18th inst. The coroner was informed of the occurrence the same day, but owing to previous engagements the earliest date he could fix for the inquest was the evening of Tuesday, the 21st. Consequently throughout the tropical heat of the three days the body remained lying in a labourer's cottage occupied by the father, mother, and ten children. When the jury viewed the body it was a mass of corruption, while the odour was perceptible to passers in the street, although the cottage stood back from the road. Apart from the needless pain which these circumstances inflict upon the relatives, the danger to the public health is a real peril, and one well deserving of the attention of the county authorities. The appointment of a deputy coroner would obviate once for all the recurrence of so hideous a scandal.

A very similar case, though due to a different cause, has also occurred at Eton, where the inquest upon the body of a lad who met with a fatal accident on the 20th inst. was not held until the 23rd. The coroner made clear his freedom from liability for the delay by explaining that he had not been informed of the circumstances until the 22nd, and the blame obviously rests with the police for the unconscionable time occupied in forwarding the information. This is easily understood, for the Buckinghamshire County Council are of opinion that two constables form an efficient police force for the Town Ward of Eton during the twenty-four hours.

Which offender deserves the more severe punishment—the bank cashier who commits a series of frauds, and purloins hundreds of pounds belonging to his employers, or the working-man who obtains a cheap watch by a false pretence? Most people would say the former. It will be seen from my Legal Pillory, however, that at Scarborough Quarter Sessions the working-man in such circumstances is awarded two months' hard labour, after being kept in custody for three months before his trial, while the bank cashier, who has been for four months a fugitive from justice, gets his case disposed of by the magistrates in Petty Sessions on the very day he surrenders to the police, and is let off with a month's imprisonment without hard labour. I am always reluctant to say a word in depreciation of magisterial lenity to first offenders, but on this occasion it really appears to have been stretched too far, and, with all deference to the Bench, I consider that, instead of dealing summarily with a case of such gravity, they ought to have committed the prisoner for trial at Quarter Sessions or Assizes. The course they adopted is admirably calculated to confirm the popular belief that there is one law for the rich or well-to-do criminal and another for the poor man. Other cases in the list illustrate more familiar characteristics of Justices' justice, those from Stamford making a particularly instructive contrast:—

Scarborough Police-court. Before Captain Darley and other magistrates. James W. H. Cattley, lately cashier at the local branch of the York City and County Bank, charged with embezzlement. He absconded nearly four months ago, but surrendered to the police on the morning he was brought before the Bench. A large amount had been taken by the prisoner, but only one charge of stealing two sums of £81 and £75 was proceeded with, and to this he pleaded guilty. One month, without hard labour.

Lurgan Petty Sessions. Alfred Alford, charged with cruelty to a dog. Defendant consigned an Irish terrier from Lurgan to Liverpool, cramming it into a box about five inches shorter and four inches lower than the animal itself, with small holes for ventilation. the dog died in the agony of suffocation, being found with its tongue protruding from the mouth and pierced through by its teeth. Fined £2 and costs.

Nottingham County Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Heyman, R. B. Bagnall-Wild, H. Barker, and C. H. Hill. John Maltby and Thomas Taylor, convicted of assaulting William Widdowson and Elizabeth Powdrill. Complainants were walking together when defendants, after demanding money from them, struck Widdowson several times, and knocked him into a ditch. Powdrill was also struck and knocked into the ditch, and both complainants bore marks of violence. Fined £2 for each assault.

Searborough Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder. Joseph Edward Mulvannah, sawyer, pleaded guilty to having obtained a watch, value 7s. 6d., by false pretences. He got the watch by saying it was for his employer. He had already been in custody over three months, and was now sentenced to a further two months' hard labour.

Derby County Police-court. Before Hon. W. M. Jervis, Colonel Noel, Messrs. H. Boden, H. V. Mellor, H. Swingler, R. Waite, W. H. Marsden, and J. H. Smith. John Steeples, and Levi Bull, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of rabbits and nets. Bull fined £3 and costs; Steeples £5 and costs.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Mr. T. Hill and Mr. W. Lee. William Smith, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Maidenhead County Police-court. Before General A. B. Thompson, Colonel F. Clayton, and Mr. J. Whitehead. Arthur Thomas Woodbridge, a boy of 14, charged with breaking into a house and stealing a silver watch and 5s. 1d. in money. Six weeks' hard labour.

Stamford Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. F. Dickinson, H. Knott, C. Chapman, H. T. Betts, W. J. Battle, and Major Hart. Thomas Lincoln, charged with being drunk and disorderly on two occasions, and with assaulting a woman. With regard to the first two charges, it was stated that defendant behaved like "a raving madman," was very violent, and attacked a policeman. As to the assault, he insulted complainant in the street, followed her into her house, struck her on the face, and twice knocked her down. There were many complaints of prisoner having assaulted people while drunk, and fourteen previous convictions were recorded against him. For the three offences he was fined altogether £2. 2s.

Doncaster Borough Police-court. William Thompson and John Henry Kelly convicted of assaulting John O'Dowd. Complainant was thrown to the ground and kicked, receiving injuries which had to be attended to at the infirmary. Thompson fined 40s. and costs; Kelly 10s. and costs.

Crediton Petty Sessions. Before Mr. H. Elston, Major Montague, and Mr. L. B. Gamlin. Henry Ware and Frank Brealy charged with assaulting Ernest Walsh. Defendants assaulted Walsh in a most brutal manner, knocking him down and kicking him while he was on the ground. Fined 20s. each, including costs.

Kilmarnock Police-court. Before Bailies M'Grau and Morton. William Strain, convicted of indecently assaulting a young woman; also of assaulting a married woman who had remonstrated with him on account of his behaviour. Fined £2.

Irvine Police-court. William Garrett and William John Garrett, charged with assaulting John Cunningham. The accused made what was described as a murderous attack upon the prosecutor, felling him to the ground, beating him on the head, face, and body, and kneeling on him. Fined 15s. each.

Pollakshaws J.P., Court. James M'Cullum, junior, convicted of brutal and unprovoked assault on his mother by compressing her throat, knocking her down, and kicking her on the face and body. Fined £2.

Upton-on-Severn Petty Sessions. Before Sir C. C. Johnson, K.C.B., R. S. Bagnall, and E. Tennant. Robert Smith, farmer, charged with cruelty to a mare by allowing it to be worked while in an unfit state. It had a greasy, swollen leg, twice the size of the other, covered with wounds. The hoof was full of maggots. Fined 10s. and costs.

Stamford Borough Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Thomas Mountain and Thomas Lee Lattimore, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of eighteen rabbits and two nets. There were previous convictions against them. Fined £5 each and costs, or two months.

Clay Cross Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. P. Jackson, J. S. Jackson, and W. B. M. Jackson. William Shakespeare, a youth, convicted of stealing sixpennyworth of bones. One month.

Horncastle Police-court. Before Rev. Canon Wright, Rev. J. Graham, Messrs. H. M. Hawley, N. L. Calcraft, and C. Conington. Thomas Lovely and Henry Hardy summoned for unlawfully using a gun for the purpose of taking game. Fined £4. 9s. each.

Honiton County Police-court. Before Messrs. D. W. R. Buchanan and J. Ashley. Frederick Hurford, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Belfast Custody Court. Before Messrs. F. G. Hodder and D. Corbett. Patrick M'Keown pleaded guilty to the larceny of a coat. One month.

Alloa Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Johnstone. Robert Allan and James Cook, miners, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. They had caught two rabbits. Cook, fined £1. 5s., or seven days; Allan, £2. 9s., or fourteen days.

Blackpool Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Fisher, E. Bryning, T. Riley, and J. Fish. John Stewart, charged with stealing a pair of trousers from a shop-door. One month.

Greenock Sheriff Criminal Court. Before Sheriff Begg. Julia M'Allister, an old woman of 74, charged with stealing a pair of slippers. There were previous convictions against her, the last about eighteen months since. Sixty days.

Perth Police-court. Before Bailie Smart. Ellen Joyce, an inmate of the workhouse, charged with breaking a number of panes of glass in the probationary ward. Fined 30s., or in default twenty days' imprisonment.

A disgraceful story is told in the Irish papers of the experiences of a little girl, barely ten years old, who was summoned the other day as a Crown witness in a case at Belmullet Petty Sessions. No provision having been made for her conveyance to the Court, this child was

THE HERNIA INSTITUTE, 489, Oxford-st., London, W., absolutely CURES RUPTURE in from three to six weeks. Highest testimonials. Pamphlets and consultations free.

left to trudge on foot in heavy rain from Rossport to Belmullet, a distance of fourteen miles. The Rev. Michael Smyth, of Aughoes, reports that he found her a few miles from Belmullet barefooted and bareheaded, wearing a thin cotton dress and a little shawl, and drenched to the skin; and he states that it was only by the kindness of a friend that she was able to appear in Court at all. His reverence personally endeavoured to bring the matter before the Bench, but the presiding magistrate refused to let him say a word on the subject. The presiding magistrate ought to be ashamed of himself, and so ought the police and other Crown authorities who required the little girl's attendance.

I am curious to know what price is paid by the purchaser in South Africa for a khaki coat. The following facts in regard to the cost of making them came out at a trial last week before Judge Emden at the Lambeth County Court. George Glenie, a clothing manufacturer, of East Dulwich, is engaged on a large export order for South Africa. He gets 4½d. per coat for cutting, making, button-holing, and pressing, and out of this he pays tailoresses 9d. per dozen for working in each coat by hand five button-holes and sewing on four buttons. The tailoress out of this has to pay for thread, and a 2d. fare for fetching the coats and carrying them back. It takes one hour to finish each coat. Therefore the rate of wage is a trifle below ¾d. per hour. Glenie pleaded that, owing to the small amount that he himself received per coat, he had to "cut it very fine," that he had big orders from Messrs. Cook & Son, of St. Paul's Churchyard, and that almost all profit goes to the capitalist. From Messrs. Cook & Son we ought to have —if Glenie's contention be true—what is the price of material of each coat, and at what price each is sold by them. We should then be able to estimate the relation between the profit of the capitalist and the wage to labour in the matter of khaki coats.

A gentleman laying claim to thirty years' trade experience has unburdened himself to me at some length on the subject of the recent decision in the Cupar Sheriff's Court upon a disputed dressmaker's bill. In that case the Sheriff held that where a dress had been sent back for alterations nine times, the customer forfeited the right to ultimately refuse to accept it. My present correspondent contends that if this is the law, it will be very hard on tailors and dressmakers, as it will lead customers to reject every unsatisfactory garment straight off; and he argues that customers are very rarely satisfied with a garment when it is first tried on, partly from mere fidgetiness, and partly because the garment has not become properly moulded to the figure of the wearer. I trust that these considerations will have due weight with other judges who may be tempted to follow the ruling of the Cupar Sheriff. The inference from it seems to be that the law ought to allow a tailor or a dressmaker one misfit, just as it allows a dog its first bite.

Not for the first time the Aston police have distinguished themselves by a scandalous abuse of their authority. Last week they haled a Birmingham Councillor before the Aston Bench on a charge of contravening a by-law of the Warwickshire County Council by "shouting" in the street. The only basis for the charge was that this gentleman, in addressing an open-air meeting, spoke loud enough to make himself heard by the crowd, and the police admitted that no complaint had been made to them by residents or anybody else. Nevertheless, the defendant was taken into custody, marched through the streets by two policemen, and at the lock-up ordered to turn out his pockets, and treated just as a pickpocket would be. The magistrates dismissed the ridiculous and trumped-up charge, and for the sake of the inhabitants of Aston it is to be hoped that the Councillor will bring an action to test the legality of his arrest. It is manifest that their lot will become perfectly intolerable if the police are not sharply checked in their high-handed proceedings.

For the second time within a fortnight, "Graham & Co.," of 227, Strand, otherwise Goldstein, has been brought up at Bow-street by one of his victims, and once again he has been made to disgorge by a little pressure from the magistrate, in the shape of a visit from a warrant officer. This is all very well, but one cannot help asking how long it is to go on. Are these people to be judicially slated at Bow-street once a week, and allowed to get off with no worse consequence than refunding the money obtained from one particular victim? Sir John Bridge will, I doubt not, be the first to recognise the anomaly of this method of procedure, and I think that if he gave a hint on the subject to the police, some steps might be taken to shut up Goldstein's shop altogether.

I do not blame Goldstein half so much as my fellow-editors and newspaper proprietors who co-operate in his little game by placing their columns at his disposal. In the last case at Bow-street the journal concerned was a paper bearing the seductive title of *Home, Sweet Home*, in which the victim had read one of the usual highflown puffs of "Graham & Co's." rubbishy watches. Of course I know what the answer will be. The advertisement manager of every paper which publishes "Graham & Co's." advertisements is doubtless prepared to depose on oath that he knows absolutely nothing of their real nature. There is a point, however, at which such protestations cease to convince the impartial observer; and that point is reached when evidence of the fraudulent character of an advertisement is within everybody's reach, and when the advertiser is being denounced once

Prince of Wales Hotel, Harrogate.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

a week from the Bench of the Chief Metropolitan Police-court. There is a certain class of advertisements which it is the duty of newspaper managers to be on their guard against, and Goldstein's, *alias* "Graham & Co's.," is one of them.

I have received the following letter :—

61, St. Martin's-lane, Charing-cross, London, W.C.,
July 25, 1896.

Sir,—Messrs. Perrin, Dunn, & Co. have consulted me in reference to a paragraph which appears in this week's issue of Truth, in which you refer to them in the most offensive terms.

My clients' business is carried on in a most straightforward and legitimate manner, and the matter and inuendo in the paragraph referred to is (*sic*) unfounded.

Under the circumstances, unless a retractation is made in your next issue of statements which, if uncontradicted, are calculated to seriously injure my clients in their business, I must take such proceedings as may be advised for the vindication of their reputation and the prevention of a repetition of the libellous statements.—Yours truly,

Henry Grain.

What this means I do not know. I stated that Perrin, Dunn, & Co. had addressed a letter offering pecuniary assistance to a married lady, now deceased, and I described this letter as "of a particularly impudent and nefarious character." "The matter and inuendo," says Mr. Grain, if he will allow me to correct his grammar, "are unfounded." As regards the "matter," I have the letter in my possession, and it was sent to me by the husband of the lady to whom it was addressed. It is absurd under these circumstances to request me to retract my statements respecting the letter. As regards the "inuendo," here is the letter to speak for itself :—

Imperial Mansions, Oxford-st., W.C.
(*Facing Tottenham Court-road*),
London, 13th July, 1896.

Dear Madam,—Your name having been mentioned to us as requiring an advance of money we shall be pleased to arrange same for you if you will write or give us a call.—Yours truly,

Perrin, Dunn, & Co.

This is what I call "impudent and nefarious"—"impudent," because it is an insulting thing to write to a stranger, and a person of good credit, that you believe him (or her) to be in want of ready money; "nefarious," because it is a wicked, mischievous, and vile thing to try and tempt a married woman to borrow money at a loan-office behind the back of her husband. If Mr. Henry Grain considers this carrying on business "in a most straightforward and legitimate manner," I can only say that I am sorry to hear a member of an honourable profession express such an opinion. I adhere to everything I have said about Perrin, Dunn, & Co.'s letter, and I shall be content to take the opinion of any twelve British husbands whom Mr. Grain can get into a jury-box as to whether my view of the matter is not a just one.

In connection with this same circular, it may interest Mr. Grain to know that a barrister has given me his opinion that to write of a person that you "hear he is in want of money" is unquestionably libellous, the "inuendo," in pleader's language, clearly being that the party alluded to is "a person of no credit and in financial straits." I suppose there is no doubt about this, though, of course, a libel must be published to a third party before it becomes actionable. In the very instance above referred to, Perrin, Dunn, & Co.'s circular was sent to a wrong address; and if the firm are in the habit of scattering their innuendoes about in this indiscriminate fashion, they would do well to study the law of libel themselves before invoking its protection.

I take the following from a growl that has reached me against the annual religious gathering known as the Keswick Convention. Judging from what my correspondent says, the ways and doings of the worthy people who attend the Convention are far from adding to the pleasure of a summer sojourn in the Lake District; and though I feel sure that he must be mistaken in his remark respecting the R.S.P.C.A., it might, nevertheless, be well for the headquarters staff of that organisation to inquire into the matter :—

. . . . During the Convention it is very awkward for any ordinary tourist to come within ten or twenty miles of Keswick. At any street corner he may be confronted by some impudent ignoramus who will put to him some question, intended to be soul-searching, which is too often provocative of a profane retort. But this is not the worst. These pious folks, though they would not confess that they are "on pleasure bent," yet cannot refrain from showing the workings of "the frugal mind." On every road, north, south, east, and west, hard bargains are driven with the drivers of traps and other vehicles, and these conveyances are shamefully overcrowded by parties of the "uncoʼ guid," the sufferings of the poor horses being something painful to witness. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has had its attention directed to these abuses, but they seem to shrink from the exposure of the difference between piety in pretence and piety in practice.

Apropos of the statement in Truth of the 16th inst. about the cruelty to fowls in transit from London to Ireland viâ Milford, a correspondent tells me that, some years ago, being in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company, he himself called the attention of an officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to this subject. It is evident that the state of things described the other day in Truth is really an abuse of old standing, and I hope that this time the matter will attract the attention of the R.S.P.C.A. My present correspondent remarks incidentally that the fact of poultry being kept without water during a journey lasting over two days or more makes all the difference to their condition on their arrival at market. So I should have thought; but it is a consideration which does not seem to trouble those who send the poultry to market.

THE UGANDA RAILWAY.

What it will cost no words can express,
What is its object no brain can suppose,
Where it will start from no one can guess,
Where it is going to nobody knows.

What is the use of it none can conjecture,
What it will carry there's none can define;
And, in spite of George Curzon's superior lecture,
It clearly is naught but a lunatic line.

Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
Ernest Irroy & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

Until a few days ago the secretary of the local branch of the Irish National League of Great Britain was employed at Messrs. Laird's ironworks at Birkenhead. In his absence from home one day, a canvasser from the Birkenhead Conservative Association called, and ascertained from his wife where he was employed. A few days afterwards the man was dismissed from his employment, without any reason being assigned. Is there any connection between the Tory canvasser's visit and the man's dismissal? He thinks so, and if he is right, it is a piece of political spite as mean as it is malicious. I do not suppose that such a thing has been done with the knowledge of the principals of the firm, or that they would approve of it if it came to their knowledge; and, if that is so, I think they would do well to inquire into the matter.

Now that the Land Bill has attracted again attention to the question of judicial rents in Ireland, the following facts, given to me by a gentleman who has had large experience as a valuer under the existing Acts, may be of some interest, as showing the absurdity of attempting to "fix" a fair rent:—

At a fair held in Timoleague, co. Cork, I bought six lambs for £1. The next year I got £1 each for lambs of exactly the same quality. Another year I got for fat cattle almost any price I liked to ask, the butchers actually coming and asking me to sell. The very next year after that fat cattle were almost unsaleable, actually fetching in February little, if anything, over their price as stores in the preceding August. Such fluctuation would upset any "fair rent."

Similar fluctuations, though perhaps not so rapid and violent, occur in the price of crops and other agricultural produce. It seems clear from such facts that no fixed rent which is based on price can possibly be a "fair" one to both parties.

To beat a Government possessed of a majority of 146 is always pleasing to an Opposition. But whether Radicals outside Parliament will approve of some of their representatives beating the Government on a snap division, at the cost of every principle which they have professed, is doubtful. On Wednesday last a clause in the Irish Land Bill, which provided that landlords selling their estates should be paid their ascertained value in the current coin of the realm, was under discussion. An amendment was proposed declaring that they should be paid in bonds. This was supported by all the Irish, and was carried by the aid of the Radicals present. The effect is this: an estate is valued at £1,000. It is paid for in a security which may at once be sold for £1,100—*i.e.*, the owner receives a bonus from the Treasury of 10 per cent. It was urged that this bonus would be divided between the selling landlord and the buying tenants. But whether it goes to the one or the other, or whether it is divided between the two, the effect is the same so far as regards the British taxpayer. He pays the piper, and it is hardly likely that he will consider that he has got a *quid pro quo* by the Government having been defeated in an almost empty House.

FROM THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

Lines to Mr. Balfour.

BY A PERSPIRING M.P.

They may call you weak, my Balfour,
They may feeble style your reign,
They may chide your cynic humour,
They may deem your acts inane:
Men of energy and impulse
May denounce your manner mild,
They may jeer at your confession
That in tactics you're a child;
They may speak of you as idle,
In derision they may scoff
At your wasteful love of "wheeling,"
At your woeful zest for golf;
Nay, comparisons suggesting,
They may hint you do not shine
Like your famous predecessors;
But take courage, Arthur mine!
Let them censure and upbraid you;
Let them talk of "Dizzy's" fame,
Let them dwell on Peel and Gladstone,
And applaud Lord Randolph's name;
Let them praise Sir Michael's method,
And extol Sir William's bounce,
And good Mr. Smith remember,
Who was always "on the pounce;"
Yet be calm! Though these have triumphed
In their miscellaneous ways,
'Twill be yours to make a record
That shall last to distant days.
'Twill be yours to be remembered
And be lauded to the skies
Every time the glass to ninety
May in London chance to rise.
Yes, M.P.s as yet unthought of,
In hot sessions yet to come,
When the most loquacious members
By the heat are stricken dumb,
Shall, perspiring in their places,
Of a sudden take new heart
When they recollect how boldly
You have played a leader's part.
Aye, posterity's debaters
Shall rise up and bless your name,
And the Senate of the future
Shall your memory acclaim
As the leader of all leaders
Who, discomfort to avert,
Dared to lead the House of Commons
In a simple flannel shirt!

Last Friday Lord Rosebery, in a speech at Epsom, called attention to the competition in our home market of "German-made" articles, and he ascribed it in the main to Germany having a better system of technical education than we have. I have frequently noticed this explanation before, but I do not believe it to be correct. In some particular cases technical education would aid us, but by no means in all. All else being equal, the consumer will, of course, buy in the cheapest market. In Germany either an artisan works per hour for less money than our artisans, or the German capitalists contents himself with less profit; and if the material put into the article be the same, the saving by machinery

MEDITERRANEAN and BALTIC CRUISES for EIGHTEEN GUINEAS, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars, Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

the same, and the skill of the worker be the same, it follows, as a necessary consequence, that the price of the German article is less than that of the English article.

But there is another factor—the greater the subdivision of labour the greater is the output. In America certainly, and in Germany probably, the subdivision is carried to greater lengths than with us. This subdivision substitutes an abnormal facility in one particular detail of a trade for a general knowledge of all its details. Machinery and subdivision of labour tend to make the artisan himself a machine rather than an intelligent worker. Mind is sacrificed to manual quickness. On many grounds this is to be regretted, but the regret does not alter the fact that converting artisans into one wheel of a labour machine unquestionably cheapens output.

I have always thought that, owing to circumstances peculiar to Great Britain, Protection would ruin us. But it is well that the argument which has led other countries to adopt Protection should be understood. It is this: a home market is secured where the price is kept down by domestic competition. The main profit of the manufacturer comes from this home market; he therefore can keep his workmen always employed by manufacturing goods for the foreign market and selling them there at an almost nominal profit.

Our monopoly of the markets of the world was based on two things: we had a monopoly of capital and a monopoly of skilled labour; thus the selling monopoly was the outcome of manufacturing monopolies. So soon as other countries became possessed of capital and skilled labour, it was obvious that they would come into competition with us. We might perhaps have held our own against them owing to being already in possession of the markets, but our manufacturers neither took measures to keep abreast of their opponents by employing able commercial travellers, nor would they provide what foreign countries wanted, instead of what it was considered that they ought to want. Moreover, they sought to increase their gains by furnishing shoddy rather than honest articles. At present we have almost a monopoly of the ocean carrying trade. But even this is becoming a questionable advantage, for such is the competition amongst our own shippers that its profits are becoming a vanishing quantity.

I see it stated (I know not with what truth) that the French Government contemplates the bestowal of the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour on President Kruger. Would it not be a graceful act for the Queen to bestow the Grand Cross of the Bath on him? Certainly no man could have behaved more generously in his action towards the raiders from Rhodesia and towards the Company-mongers in Johannesburg, who spent money to get up a revolution which, by their own admission, no one there wanted except themselves.

The tricks and dodges of Mr. Cecil Rhodes's friends in the Press afford an inexhaustible field of study and amusement. On Monday morning, under the heading of "Cape Sympathy with Mr. Cecil Rhodes," the *Daily Telegraph* gave a report of a "mass meeting of citizens" at Capetown, where a resolution of sympathy with the fallen Colossus in his apple-cart misfortune was unanimously carried. "The enthusiasm," said the ingenuous reporter, "manifested by those present is without precedent in the history of the colony." A telegram in very similar terms, including the unanimity and enthusiasm, was published by the *Times*; but with the addition of the following somewhat important sentence:—

> Mr. Anderson, a merchant, presided, but *nearly all the leading and influential people held aloof from the movement.*

That Mr. Rhodes was actuated by patriotic motives I always doubted. He always seemed to me to put his own interests above those of his country, except when the two happened to be identical. But I did suppose, until recent events, that he was a clever man. This notion his recent proceedings have entirely dispelled. His stock-in-trade was a conviction that almost every one is to be bought, and that every one is to be humbugged. He now, it appears, has turned on Dr. Jameson, who, he complains, has "upset his apple-cart." His interview on December 30 last with Mr. Schreiner, the then Cape Attorney, was an effort to throw all blame on the Doctor if the raid failed, and to profit by it if it succeeded. Unfortunately for Mr. Rhodes, the cipher telegrams have upset that apple-cart.

Rhodes and Beit provided the money for the raid out of the funds of the Chartered Company. They got up the grievances at Johannesburg; they were cognisant of the post-dated letter respecting the "women and children." Rhodes concealed all this from his ministerial colleagues and from the Cape Government. When all was prepared, the company's troops assembled, the letter in the hands of Dr. Jameson, the provisions and horses distributed along the route to Johannesburg, Rhodes wrote a telegram—after the line had been cut—urging Jameson not to advance. Then he hid himself away, and declined, when telegraphic communication was re-established the next day, to forward the telegram. His next step was solemnly to deny that he had had anything to do with the raid. All these shifty tricks have now been exposed by the Cape Parliamentary Committee. If Mr. Rhodes had been an intelligent man he would have perceived that his special pleading, his pettifogging subterfuges, and his endeavour to throw all responsibility on his puppets, can deceive no one, besides being alike mean and silly.

Cæsar and Pompey agreed to divide the world. But eventually they fell out, when one put an end to the other. I am reminded of this by a speech of Lord Lorne

to the African Association last week. Thus spoke his Lordship :—

After a topical allusion to the Royal marriage apropos of the union of South Africa, Lord Lorne said that before long we ought to be masters of the Zambesi as well as of the Nile. He remembered saying to Mr. Cecil Rhodes, "Well, we mean to take the Nile if you will take the Zambesi," and he replied, "This is just what we mean to do."

The career of Mr. Cecil Rhodes has been cut short, and this conqueror is, according to last accounts, dolefully wandering about the veldt on a "large, well-fed horse." This is almost to be regretted, for otherwise Pompey Lorne and Cæsar Rhodes, each at the head of an army, might have met and fought somewhere in the interior of Africa, and interesting indeed would have been the battle.

THE ST. STEPHEN'S MUSIC-HALL.

When a worried politician said the House he has to lead
Bears resemblance to a music-hall, he spoke the truth indeed,
For in very many matters, as comparison will show,
Both the institutions mentioned on all fours appear to go.

There are music-hall performers who are very much the rage ;
Are there not, too, special favourites on the House of Commons' stage,
Who, with *répertoires* unending, nearly always cheers invite,
As they go on re-appearing, doing several "turns" a night ?

Of comedians at St. Stephen's the supply, 'tis true, is small,
But we three at least could mention who've engagements at that hall ;
Whilst of would-be "serio-comics" we could designate a score
Who with ill-advised persistence nightly take, and keep, the floor.

At St. Stephen's, too, are Jugglers who with figures do strange things ;
And Contortionists who startle with the oddest verbal flings :
There are Fencers, too, possessing a most pretty skill, no doubt,
And not a few examples of the genus "Knock-about."

Then, of course, of "Living Pictures" there are some at which to laugh,
And repeated presentations of "The Animatographe ;"
There's a Ministerial Troupe, too, great at "leaping in the dark,"
And Herr Joseph's tight-rope dancing has already made its mark.

And St. Stephen's has performers, like the other halls in town,
Who with Jingo recitations try to bring the country down ;
Men who seek to rouse excitement by their blatant bounce and brag,
And their very ill-timed waving of the good old British flag !

There is not just now a *ballet* on the House of Commons boards,
But the "All-Night Sitting" often an attraction great affords ;
Whilst on Fridays, when the audience, as a rule, is somewhat sparse,
The night's programme is enlivened with "The Estimates" —a Farce.

But in spite of all these items, rather varied, p'r'aps, than strong,
The "St. Stephen's" Hall 'tis certain will not run its programme long.
There, in fact, are signs already that its series of mishaps
Will result—and very shortly—in a well-deserved collapse.

And, indeed, when we remember what fiascoes it has seen,
And how plentiful the failures of this Music-hall have been ;
When we note that its performance has grown worse and worse of late,
We can only hope they'll close it at a very early date !

SCRUTATOR.

LOYALTY *VERSUS* FLUNKEYISM.

THAT Royalties should marry and be given in marriage can hardly be a subject of complaint. I wish Princess Maud and her Danish husband every sort of happiness. I am glad, however, that the orgie of flunkeyism that breaks out whenever a Royal marriage takes place is over. There is something to be said for a Monarchy such as ours, in which the Sovereign is the ornamental figurehead of the State, reigning but not ruling. King Log occupies the throne to keep out King Stork. What I object to, and what I shall always object to, is the servility which is not necessarily part and parcel of the institution, but which has grown up under it. Loyalty to the Crown means loyalty to the country. In this sense it is a commendable feeling, and it is in no way inconsistent with respect for the incumbent of the Throne, when the incumbent has proved worthy of it. I have never, however, understood what is meant by loyalty to the family of the Sovereign. The idea seems to me to be an absurdity. Why, indeed, should there be a Royal Family, maintained in a condition of quasi-royal state by the taxpayer ? What is the *raison d'être* for this ? Where the benefit to the nation ? It costs annually a considerable amount. What is the *quid pro quo ?* It is a survival of a condition of things that has passed away. Time was when the Sovereign was deemed an almost divine being, and then his family was supposed to share in this divinity. At present the Monarchy exists alone as a political arrangement, dependent for its continuance upon the good pleasure of the nation. The family of the Sovereign is, therefore, the Sovereign's private concern, with which the nation ought to have no more to do than with the family of any other public official. At most the nation has an interest in the direct heir to the Sovereignty.

It is, moreover, full time that all the mediæval tomfooleries connected with a Court should cease. They are an anachronism in the present age. Why hedge in the Sovereign with an etiquette which is as contemptible as it is ridiculous, and which—except that habit becomes a second nature—must be to the Sovereign, if a person of common sense, an intolerable nuisance ? There always

will in every country be a herd of flunkeys who take a positive delight in abasing themselves. Being invertibrates, their backs naturally curve. But why should the country pay this herd for bowing and scraping? Yet such is the case. A large portion of the Civil List is spent in salaries to people for degrading humanity in their own persons. If it be held that there ought to be a relief fund for the pauper members of the aristocracy, then let us have the courage of the opinion, and vote it directly. But why contribute this monetary assistance to the nobility under the guise of a Civil List to the Sovereign?

So long as the Queen occupies the Throne, these questions cannot well be raised. But whenever her reign ceases, they will have to be seriously considered by the light of common sense. Theoretically, I prefer a Republic to a Monarchy, because I regard the former as more consistent with self respect, and less likely to bring into existence creeping vermin. Practically, being a citizen of a country in which there is a Monarchy, I believe that there are many other things more baneful, and which consequently ought to occupy reformers, rather than the conversion of the Empire into a Republic. But I would have the Monarchy adapted to the spirit of the age. The President of the French Republic performs all the representative functions with which he is entrusted on a salary of £40,000 per annum. He is treated with decent respect, but it occurs to no one to give large salaries to the French nobility for cringing before him, or for looking after his servants and his horses. To this respectable position I would reduce the first magistracy of this country, the sole difference being that in France the first magistrate is elected, and with us position is inherited. A Court—as we understand it—I would abolish. A Royal Family—as we understand it—I would put an end to. Financially, the change would save us many hundreds of thousands per annum; politically, it would alter nothing; socially, it would strike a blow at the flunkeyism which makes us contemptible in the eyes of the world.

In a few months time, the Queen will have reigned longer over England than any previous Sovereign. Her reign has been prosperous, and she has, far more than any of her predecessors, realised the conditions under which alone a Monarchy is tolerable. It is suggested that the event should be the occasion for some sort of celebration, and already many Press scribes are tuning their lyres for the gush with which they intend to inundate us. A national holiday is proposed. This would be foolish; for a national holiday simply means that on a given day the workers are to receive no wage. But there seems no reason why the epoch should not be marked by addresses to the Queen from public bodies; and to this I trust that the celebration will be confined. In these addresses there will, no doubt, be a good deal of abject flattery, but for this, those who indite them or vote them must alone be held responsible. The addresses would probably be more manly in their tone if it were distinctly understood that no baronets or knights will be created on the occasion.

MORE INVALID TROOPING HORRORS.

In my last article on "Troopship Atrocities," Truth, June 25, I dealt generally with the whole subject of the conveyance of troops between India and England. The wider question had been raised by the facts which came to light respecting the last homeward voyage of the *Clive*; but it will be remembered that attention was first called to this subject in Truth in connection with the lamentable deficiencies in the accommodation for invalid soldiers on the troopships. It is the invalid trooping service which most urgently calls for amendment. During the last few weeks I have been receiving correspondence on the subject from all parts of the world, which throws a good deal of new light upon the evils which exist, and serves to further demonstrate the futility of the attempts which have been made in certain quarters to pooh-pooh the Truth allegations.

It may be remembered that the original picture which I gave of the conveyance of a detachment of troops from the Indian frontier to Netley hospital was founded upon facts which admittedly occurred some three or four years ago. Although ample evidence is forthcoming to show that no material change has taken place since, advantage has been taken by officialdom of the subsequent lapse of time to suggest that the Truth picture does not represent contemporary facts. I only wish that I could see the slightest ground for believing that contention to be well-founded; but not only is all the evidence I have seen to the opposite effect, but I have been supplied by a thoroughly competent and trustworthy eye-witness with an account of the recent voyage of a party of invalids from Rangoon and Bombay, which surpasses in horror anything that has yet been stated on the subject. The voyage in question was made in the ship *Dalhousie*, of the Royal Indian Marine, formerly owned by the British India Company, a boat described to me as "a wretched old tub." She sailed from Rangoon on October 7, 1895, and arrived at Bombay on October 19, carrying about a thousand troops, including the autumn invalids from Burmah, some forty men. Here is the account of the treatment of these invalids:—

> There was no hospital accommodation worthy of the name on board. A small cabin on the main deck, close to the engines, was told off for the purpose. It might have been about double the size of an ordinary state-room. Six bunks were ranged round it, in each of which was a mattress, indescribably foul and filthy. The only ventilation was provided by two small ports and the door, which opened immediately opposite the engines. There were no baths, and no ablutionary arrangements of any kind, and no w.c. There were no sheets to be had, and there was not even a chair. The food served out was the ordinary rations issued to the troops, and no other could be procured.
>
> Among the invalids were half-a-dozen cases of chronic dysentery, and a like number of human wrecks soaked with malaria. All these men were in urgent need of the best medical appliances and comforts. How much of these necessaries they got, you can judge for yourself from the foregoing statements.
>
> But the crowning horror was the presence among the invalids of one poor wretch covered from head to foot with foul sores, arising from a disease which I leave you to guess. The poor creature was wasted to a skeleton. The stench from his body was intolerable even to the most hardened to such things; and he was an object of horror to himself as well as to everybody else. It was impossible to place him anywhere but in the "hospital," and his presence in that apartment soon made it impossible for any other invalid to remain there. The whole of the victims of malaria and dysentery had consequently to be sent among their comrades, and left to lie as well as they could upon the crowded deck. One fever patient became so bad through lying on the deck by night and by day with no protection from the sun or weather, that the Doctor thought it absolutely necessary at last to take him below into the

"hospital." He was laid as far as possible from the other occupant of the cabin; but, ill as he was, it was soon more than he could stand. He begged and prayed to be taken out of the place, and at last, thinking it the less of two evils, the Doctor had him carried back to the deck, and got his comrades to clear a space and do the best they could for him. . . .

Such was "the best trooping service in the world" in October last. By way of bringing the matter a little nearer up to date, I would call attention next to the last voyage of the transport *Teucer*. This vessel left Portsmouth in October last with a few troops for the Far East. The extent of her accommodation may be judged from the fact that on her inspection at Portsmouth the medical authorities made some objection on the ground of her being overcrowded. She then had less than 200 soldiers on board. At Hong Kong this vessel, officially pronounced unfit to carry 200 troops, took on board 300 for the passage home. About sixty of these were invalids, most of them suffering from malaria, and several in an advanced stage of consumption. An eye-witness, in a position to speak to all details of the arrangements for the troops, gives the following account of the condition of the ship on her homeward voyage:—

The hospital accommodation consisted in the first place of two small compartments on deck, each fitted with four bunks. They contained neither latrine, bath accommodation, nor any provision for ablution, and there was only room for one person beside the patients to enter at a time. The excreta of the sick had all to be carried by hand through that portion of the deck occupied by the women and children. This hospital accommodation was supplemented by two compartments partitioned off on the main troop-deck (the fore main cargo-hold). One compartment, which had neither ventilation nor light, candles having to be used all day, served for a dispensary; the other was fitted with eight cots for patients. The cots all but filled up the space, so that two attendants could not pass one another. There were no more conveniences here than in the other "hospital," and all the excreta and refuse had to be carried through the main troop-deck.

There being no room whatever in the "hospitals," the Medical Officers had to see their daily sick on the main troop deck, where all clerical work, &c., had to be performed.

The sick, both in and out of hospital, were on the ordinary troops' rations, consisting of salt beef, salt pork, &c. The M.O.s ordered occasionally extra rations, but what could be obtained on such a ship?

A word as to the treatment of women and children. Of these the ship had accommodation for twenty-four. In this space forty-one persons were packed. There was only one w.c. among them all. They were supposed to mess on the main troop deck, but in consequence of its crowded state, they had to take their meals as well as they could on deck, without either table or seat. In wet weather, and when loading the cargo, the space where they took their meals was wholly unprotected; at other times it was partially covered by an awning of one thickness. The latrines for the troops were immediately adjoining this spot, and the women and children were often compelled to clear off in consequence. For the number of children on board, the regulation allowance of milk should have been sixteen tins a day; but only six tins were issued. No rations of rum were obtainable during the voyage. Complaints were made, but there was no alteration.

From a private letter which has been sent to me since the foregoing communication, I gather that there has been some disturbance at headquarters as to the condition of the *Teucer* on her homeward voyage. Inquiries have been sent from the War Office to the medical authorities at Hong Kong respecting the practice of keeping all invalids until the end of the year, although there is a strong feeling in the Service that the War Office knew as well as anybody else what the practice has been. I understand that the Admiralty have issued instructions to Hong Kong that invalids are only to be sent in ships containing a certain percentage of sick accommodation to the number of troops carried, and that in other cases invalids are to be sent by mail. I gather also that the Hong Kong authorities have been in rather hot water over the *Teucer* business, but I fancy this is merely the usual official attempt to shunt the responsibility from headquarters to somebody lower down the scale. However, it is satisfactory to hear that the official mind really has been exercised on the subject.

It would be easy enough to multiply statements from soldiers, medical officers, naval officers, and others who have had experience of the subject, in order to prove the lamentable shortcomings of the trooping service in every respect; but the evils seem to be so notorious that it is almost waste of time to dwell on the subject further. It is interesting to note, however, that in the face of all the evidence now forthcoming on this subject, the *Calcutta Englishman* recently had the hardihood to publish an article asserting in the most uncompromising terms that what has appeared in TRUTH on this subject has no foundation in fact. This was published after the appearance in TRUTH of the description of the state of things which prevailed on board the *Clive* on her last voyage home; and the *Englishman* has the brazen audacity to remark that "no unprejudiced person can hesitate for a moment in rejecting TRUTH's picture of the state of things prevailing on the troopship *Clive* as a clumsy caricature." All I would reply to this is that no one who knows anything about the facts will hesitate to attribute the *Englishman's* observations either to deliberate dishonesty or to incurable stupidity. As I think myself that dishonesty is more common in the Press than stupidity, I should be inclined to adopt the first of these alternatives, though many may be of opinion that the article contained a fair share of both ingredients.

The *Englishman* has not, and does not pretend to have, one jot or tittle of evidence to rebut any of the allegations that have appeared in TRUTH, either in regard to the *Clive* or any other vessel. Its article offers two points, and two points only. The first is that after what has already appeared in TRUTH it is incredible that the authorities would have allowed the *Clive* to come into port in the condition described. Now, the first TRUTH article on the Invalid Trooping Service (and it dealt with nothing but the invalid Service) was published on February 19, and could not have reached India till at least a fortnight later. The *Clive* sailed not later than the middle of April; so that the editor of the *Englishman* credits me with the power of bringing about a complete reform in the conditions of the Trooping Service in the space of about one month. Without undue modesty I think I may say that he rather over-estimates my powers, as well as the amenability of Indian officialdom to criticism in the Press. He also overlooks the trifling fact that even if "the authorities" were as sensitive as he imagines, they had not the slightest reason to expect that the *Clive* would be overhauled on her arrival by a representative of TRUTH. As far as I am aware, this is the first occasion on which a representative of the Press has inspected a troopship on her arrival, with her passengers aboard; and I should not be at all surprised if it is the last. So much for the *Englishman's* first point. The second is simply that the gentleman who

inspected the *Clive* on my behalf "admits that he does not know much about ships." My representative stated that he had not sufficient nautical knowledge to name correctly the various compartments and divisions of the ship. The *Englishman* would apparently ask its readers to infer from this that my representative is incapable of counting the number of persons confined in a given space, or to measure the extent of that space; that he is unable to tell whether a latrine is or is not in an offensive condition, and whether the arrangements do or do not violate the first principles of decency; that he is mistaken in objecting to such arrangements as that which compels healthy men to wash in the same basins as those suffering from the vilest infectious disease; that when he saw two families suffering from measles lodged in a horse-box with a canvas screen to separate them from the rest of the passengers, his optical powers were impaired by his lack of nautical knowledge, and so on, and so on. It is hardly worth while to argue over this twaddle, but it may interest the *Englishman* to know that a medical officer, who has performed more than one voyage in Indian waters in the *Clive*, tells me that his experiences in regard to the lack of hospital accommodation and the defective provision for the sick on this ship are far worse than anything suggested by my representative's report. I wonder that the *Englishman* did not suggest that because my representative has not studied the construction of ocean-going ships, therefore "no unprejudiced person will hesitate for a moment to reject" the C.O.'s condemnation of the provisions supplied to the *Clive*, or this officer's statement that hundreds of pounds of provisions had been thrown overboard. The *Englishman's* idea of an unprejudiced person would appear to be one who first makes up his mind that a certain state of things is right, and on the strength of this rejects the testimony of an unlimited number of reliable witnesses who are in a position to depose to the exact state of the facts. I have heard many a complaint from Anglo-Indians of the servility and lack of independence of the Anglo-Indian press, but I confess I was hardly prepared for such unmitigated pandering to official abuses as this.

Since the foregoing was written, I have come across, in a London paper, a Press telegram giving the result of some inquiry which seems to have been held at Bombay into the allegations respecting the last voyage of the *Clive*. I am glad that the Indian authorities have had sufficient conscience to hold any inquiry at all, but there all matter for satisfaction ends. An inquiry which must necessarily have been held in the absence of every witness who was likely to have cause of complaint—that is to say, the whole body of troops who travelled by the ship—can only be regarded as a worthless farce. The account of the result that I have seen is most meagre, and two points only among the matters referred to in TRUTH are touched upon. The first is the overcrowding, which seems to be admitted, inasmuch as an apology is offered in the fact that "an unusually large number of invalids had to be sent home." The other is the condition of the latrines during the voyage, as to which it is coolly affirmed that the statements that have been made were "grossly exaggerated." These statements were made (1) by the gentleman whom I sent down to look over the ship, and who had no conceivable motive for misrepresenting what he saw with his own eyes; and (2) by an intelligent and trustworthy N.C.O., who had kept a careful diary of the state of things prevailing day by day throughout the voyage. Their statements were confirmed by every single soldier on board whom my representative had time to interrogate. For the Indian authorities to hold an inquiry without an attempt to take any of this evidence, and, in the absence of the witnesses, to pronounce them guilty of "gross exaggeration," is simply to add insult to injury; and the public will rightly reject the findings of such a tribunal as unworthy of serious consideration.

The truth of the matter seems to be that, so far from there being any serious doubt as to the shortcomings of the Trooping Service, whether for invalids or healthy troops, the authorities, both in England and India, have been for a good many years past considerably exercised on the subject, as, indeed, they ought to have been; for I hear on all hands that they have been almost incessantly beset by forcible reports on the matter both from medical officers and officers commanding troops. The abandonment of the old system of Government troopships was the result of a consciousness in official circles that things were not what they ought to be, and from 1893 onwards the matter was under discussion between the Home and the Indian Governments. The Admiralty, in the first instance, proposed to substitute for the old troopships the conveyance of troops in armed cruisers specially built for the purpose. The Indian Government opposed the suggestion strongly, and with the best reason, for it was open to many and weighty objections. In return, the Indian Government proposed that a new class of vessels should be built for the trooping service, and worked under the joint control of the India Office and the Horse Guards, without the intervention of the Admiralty. They calculated that in this way the comfort of the troops would be increased, and a yearly saving effected. This proposal also fell through, probably through the influence of the Admiralty, and the discussion resulted in the adoption of the new system of conveyance by hired transports. This system, by general consent, seems to have had great advantages as regards the comfort and convenience of officers and their families; but, as mentioned in my last article on the subject, it has brought little or no benefit to the rank and file. It is now evident that yet another new departure will have to be made.

Judging from the evidence which is forthcoming as to the management of the *Clive*, and other ships of the same class directly under the control of the Indian Government, I should hesitate to say that the difficulty can be solved by placing the whole service under Indian administration. It does seem to me, however, that the suggestion made by the Indian Government, that they should undertake the business in conjunction with the War Office is a promising one, more especially in view of the estimated saving which can thereby be effected. Probably there is no room for any actual reduction of expenditure; but there is a strong feeling

among experts that the present accommodation might be vastly improved without any addition to the annual cost of the service, and any means which promise an improvement of the service on these terms ought to be tried. On one point there can be no question, however, namely, as to the necessity for an absolute separation of invalids from healthy troops by means of ships exclusively devoted to the invalids. On the outward voyage they could be used for the conveyance of stores, or, under proper care and restrictions, for that of married women and children; but on the homeward voyage every consideration of humanity requires that those invalid troops whose condition is such as to require their separation from their healthy comrades, should be conveyed in hospital ships, specially designed and equipped for the purpose. That suggestion was made by the officer whose observations on the invalid trooping service first called my attention to the subject. It has since been endorsed by numerous medical officers who have communicated with me, and the necessity for it is demonstrated by everything that I have since heard of the sufferings inflicted upon the sick, and the indescribable abominations endured by the healthy, under the present conditions. I trust, however, that the reform will not end here. The present service is bad all round, and the War Office ought to take the opportunity of initiating reforms at once while there is a strong public feeling on the subject to back them up.

A RECORD BURIAL SCANDAL.

There has lately occurred in the parish of Deptford one of the most astonishing incidents that has ever come before readers of newspapers under the familiar title of "Burial Scandal." The matter has been brought before the Deptford Burial Board and the Bishop of Rochester, and the facts as stated to these authorities are as follows:—In the early part of May a Deptford undertaker conducted in Brockley Cemetery the funeral of a man whose friends had desired the undertaker to have him buried in unconsecrated ground. It seems that between the original order to the undertaker and the funeral itself, the clergy of St. Paul's, Deptford, through one of the curates, had persuaded the widow of the deceased to order the burial in the consecrated portion of the cemetery; but the lady altered her mind again before the funeral, and her final instructions to the undertaker were in favour of unconsecrated ground. When the funeral party reached the cemetery, the undertaker found himself called upon to pay the additional fee of 4s. 6d., which is charged for burial in consecrated ground. He refused to pay it, but while the first part of the service was proceeding in the Nonconformist chapel, one of the clergy of St. Paul's remonstrated with him on the responsibility he was taking, and the undertaker then consulted the superintendent of the cemetery, who advised that the body should be buried in consecrated ground. This course was accordingly taken; but the undertaker did not pay the extra fee, the fact being, as I understand it, that he had himself only been paid on the unconsecrated scale. Here ends the first act of the drama.

On June 2 this same undertaker was in charge of the funeral of a child at the same cemetery. In this case it was the free wish of the parents that the burial should take place in consecrated ground, and the fees were paid accordingly. On the arrival of the funeral at the cemetery, the Rev. Dr. Hodson, Vicar of St. Paul's, called the undertaker aside, and demanded the extra fees which had not been paid for the funeral above described. The undertaker refused to pay them—in which, of course, he was well within his right, as they would have had to come out of his own pocket, with an extremely remote probability of his ever recovering them from anybody else. Upon his refusal, the vicar absolutely refused to read the service over the child then awaiting interment until the fees for the previous burial were paid, and persisted in his refusal in spite of every remonstrance. The result was that the mourners, who had come there desirous of an interment in consecrated ground in accordance with the rites of the Church, had to proceed with the corpse to the Nonconformist chapel, and to submit to the burial of their dead in unconsecrated ground.

These are the facts which the father of the child thus buried, whose feelings, equally with those of all the relatives of the deceased, have been wantonly and heartlessly outraged, has laid before the Burial Board and the Bishop, and which, in the absence apparently of any means of redress, he has asked me to lay before the public. The Bishop of Rochester, after inquiry into the facts, writes that he "deplores the result;" and I take it that among all who read the story, irrespective of creed or denomination, there will be a unanimous feeling of indignation and disgust at the vicar's conduct. This feeling will only be aggravated when the circumstances under which the scandal arose are more clearly understood. From inquiries which I have made into these circumstances, it would appear that there prevails in this particular parish what can only be regarded as a sort of trade rivalry for the custom of parties who have corpses to dispose of. There is a gentleman, of unascertained religious denomination, who is ready to perform a religious service of some kind in unconsecrated ground at the lowest price quoted in the market. The clergy of the Established Church, on the other hand, with their superior pretensions, charge the highest recognised rate to those who desire the full benefits, present or future, of an orthodox Church of England funeral. Very naturally, in a poor district, where economy is perforce the ruling consideration and theological subtleties are somewhat at a discount, this leads to a run upon the minister, whatever his credentials, who offers his services on the cheapest terms. To counteract this tendency, the representatives of orthodoxy have recourse to their moral or spiritual influence, with the result that, as seen in the first of the above cases, the poor woman with a dead husband awaiting interment becomes a sort of shuttlecock between the battledores of the orthodox parson and the unorthodox practitioner, and is driven this way or that according as spiritual terrors or £. s. d. for the moment

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

influence her most strongly. Ugly as this game is, from the parson's point of view it may be legitimate enough. To an unprejudiced spectator it may look rather like a contest between the professional practitioner and the amateur, or between the trade-unionist and the "blackleg;" but, so far, the parson may plausibly plead that he is actuated by conscientious motives and not by regard for his fees. But when we come to the case of the Vicar of St. Paul's, Deptford, how does the matter stand? Here we have a loyal Churchman, anxious for the burial of his child with orthodox rites, and the privilege, or right, is denied him. Why? Simply for the sake of the 4s. 6d., which the parson lost last time, when the unqualified practitioner got the best of the game. The sole object of the vicar in refusing Christian burial to this child seems to have been to put pressure on the undertaker, who acts as the middleman between the parson and the customer. Because the undertaker, who is in the position of stakeholder, has on a previous occasion paid the fees over to the party whom he condered entitled to them, this cleric virtually says, "I perform no more services for you until you have handed to me the profits which went last time to the opposition firm." Until the undertaker pays up, therefore, he can conduct no more funerals in consecrated ground; and if this leads to a funeral party or two having to take their dead to unconsecrated ground, what does that matter to a parson with a vested interest in fees to protect?

Well may the Bishop of Rochester "deplore this result." It is a disgrace to the Church; and when the Burial Board have to confess, as they have done in this case, that they are powerless to interfere, because "the clergy of the parish are not under their control," the whole law in regard to the burial of the dead is brought into contempt. Such a state of things is deplorable from every point of view, and I can only suggest that all parties concerned—parishioners, Burial Board, and Bishop—should unite in some attempt to remedy it.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A ROMANCE OF USHANT.

I HAVE had a talk with a naval officer long engaged in coastguard duty in the waters of Ushant. He says the islands there are a paradise on earth, but by no means a place for dreamy lotus-eaters. The men are strong and daring seamen; the women are the prettiest and most industrious that he knows of. The type perhaps is monotonous. But one of the most overpowering sights that could fall on a masculine eye is to see four or five hundred girls ranged round the port to wave kerchiefs at the fishing fleet as it sets out for Newfoundland. They wear flat linen head-dresses, curiously wrought with needlework, like the Italian contadina's; have dark, soft, poetic, and yet piercing eyes—often grey, but taking a dark shade from long black lashes—and neat, supple figures. The eyes take their expression from the habit of scanning the horizon at the times when fishing smacks and boats are expected. Hope and fear seem to influence the optic nerves. The teeth are splendid, but one only sees them well when the mouth is distended by hearty laughter. Otherwise the edges alone appear. They are shown in speaking, for the lips are finely formed and close well. These island beauties have no idea how beautiful they are. They herd about 10,000 sheep, cultivate the ground, spin, weave, and dye the wool, and have the deftest hands for feminine industries, such as embroidery, knitting, and making clothes. The men fish, and the elders shear the sheep. All the 3,000 inhabitants of Ushant are related to each other, and have been time out of mind; hence the monotony of type. Pure air and active hardy habits prevent degeneration. The men take to the water like Newfoundlands when a wrecked crew or a drowning person is to be saved. Every one is familiar with the idea of death from drowning. Deeds of daring in the rushing waters round the islands form the burden of insular ditties. Romances sometimes grow out of daring rescues. Naval sea-fights off La Hogue and Ushant have inspired the local bards and story-tellers.

The late Prince Sayn-Wittgenstein's love for Brittany and the Bretons was due to his life having been saved at the greatest risk by an old fisherman. The Prince, whose Polish estates have gone to the Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst family, was driven, under stress of weather, in a yacht into the Race of Fromveur. His vessel was knocked to pieces. But Prince and crew were rescued. When brought to shore senseless, he was tended by the lass whom he afterwards married. She was of an insular family that migrated to the mainland, and had come on a visit to the island. For some time the marriage was kept quiet, for the Prince had to take his Breton beauty through the church to the nuptial chamber. He made splendid post-nuptial settlements on her, and to please her built a grand castle on the coast where her youth was passed. There she resided among her own people. As he was attached to the Russian Embassy as Military Secretary, he could not bring her out in Paris, even had she cared to go. Her favourite amusement was to go to fancy balls in her own character—that of a Breton peasant. She could be natural, and talk and laugh as she might, but not as heartily, she said, as if there were real sailors and their sweethearts in the company. The fine society the Prince brought to the château wearied his wife, but she was good-tempered, hospitable, and did her best to be pleasant. She fell into a *maladie de langueur*, or wasting sickness, that puzzled the doctors. It was due to inability to adapt herself to new conditions. The Prince was in despair. She was fond of her kindred. He bought cutters and barques for the men, sent some of the boys to naval cadet schools, and gave dowries to the girls. His sorrow at her death was black and incurable. It soon brought its own cure in death from utter incapacity to enjoy life.

I remember seeing the Archduchess Dorothea Amelia at Chantilly soon after the final defeat of Thiers. The hopes of the Royalists were then high. There was a grand family gathering round the Duc d'Aumale, who, being the wealthiest member of the family—and the most

clever—was accepted by all his kindred as the chief. There were three little Palatine Hapsburgs from Alcsuth under the grand-maternal wing of the Princess Clementine, three little De Paris, three little De Chartres, a little D'Alençon, and four little Montpensiers—Antonio, Christa, Mercedes, Fernando. The three last are dead. The eldest De Chartres—Robert—was about ten years old, but as helpless as a baby, and had not learned to speak. Most of the children were fair, blue-eyed, and had birdy noses. Their feet in every instance gave promise of tall stature. The feet of that beautiful Mercedes, who looked otherwise so Spanish, were all that an ill-natured critic could urge against her. The Archduchess Dorothea was ten years old and dressed in white with blue sashes and ribbons in her straw hat. She was a great deal taller than the Duc d'Orléans. He was two years younger, and a fat, restless, and very naughty boy. There was a Hapsburg in the nurse's arms (an Archduke)—a fine child of two years old, who was also naughty. It was very foolish to have such an exhibition of children at Chantilly. What with all those fledglings, their parents, and grand-parents, and grand-uncles the French really got frightened. The lesson they learned in beholding them was that their Civil List allowances would leave nothing for *le pauvre monde.*

The Archduchess keeps the bird face she had in childhood. It was remarked how like she was to M. Waddington, then "the one-day minister" of Thiers' last Cabinet. She has a strongly curved nose, long in outline and short at the base, small twinkling eyes, and a round face that accentuates the type transmitted to her by the Princess Clementine. The late Princesse Christa de Montpensier had such a face also. I should call it the tame-eagle type. H.I.H. is highly educated and a wondrous linguist. After the Crown Prince Rudolph's mysterious death, she was reserved for the next heir to the throne. To prepare for the high situation of Empress, she learned the many tongues and dialects of the dual Empire and the Kingdom of Bohemia. French, English, German, she already knew. Her grandmother, the Princess Clementine, is a singularly accomplished linguist. I should say that the future Duchesse d'Orléans is ambitious. She has at different times visited England and was there last year, when she had an opportunity to compare the lusty person of the Duc with the consumptive Archduke Francis Ferdinand. The comparison was favourable to the Duc. The younger sister of the Archduchess married not long ago a nephew of the Emperor of Austria, Prince Turn und Taxis, one of the richest noblemen in Austria. The very strong features of the Archduchess make her look more than twenty-nine. Royalists hope she will fly the white flag at the Château d'Eu. The Society ambition of the President might enable her to do so with impunity.

Henri was the favourite name at Royalist christenings, in the Comte de Chambord's time. "Philippe," I hear, is likely to be favoured now that the Duc d'Orléans is engaged to an Austrian archduchess. It was never a popular name in France, and for centuries was counted a name of ill-omen. I dare say it originally sounded outlandish to French ears, as Leopold, Albert, and such like sound to English ears. The first King Philippe was named by his mother, a Russian Princess, after her grandfather, a Greek Emperor. His Byzantine taste for relics led to the first crusade; his joke about William the Conqueror's obesity plunged France into a quarrel that led to a series of disastrous wars. Philippe Auguste was excommunicated for being a polygamist and treating cruelly his wife Ingeborg. Philippe le Bel was the worthy father of that she-wolf of France who employed her pretty Mortimer to impale Edward II. He tortured and burned all the Templars he could get hold of, with a view to subsequently seizing their estates. There is not much to be said about Philip IV. But Philip VI. lost the battle of Crecy. Philippe, brother of Louis XIV., was a contemptible fellow, who plotted with a minion the murder of his first wife by poison. His son, Philippe the Regent, practised the Black Arts, and was a sad rascal. Philippe Egalité was worse. The Comte de Paris was Louis Philippe until the Comte de Chambord's death. He then dropped the Louis, and came forward as Philippe VII. His heir—another Louis Philippe—is now Philippe merely. In the Black Masses, which for centuries were so frequent in France, a rather curious use was made of the name of Philippe. The woman who was the central figure wound up the ceremonial by decapitating a toad dressed as a king. As she did so she cried, "Ha! Philippe, would that I held thee as I do this vile beast, to be able to treat thee like wise!" Philippe is not a common name in any class, but is almost unknown in the peasant and working classes. The Comte de Paris showed himself a pedantic goose in dropping the Louis and calling himself Philippe. He should have done the contrary. Louis XX. would have had at least the moss and ivy of antiquity and great associations to recommend it.

Ladies' arms are much less over-dressed in France than in England. A reaction against voluminous sleeves is setting in. The attempts to throw out skirts with crinoline bustles and demi-hoops do not find favour here. The necessity for rapid locomotion and small trunks are an obstacle.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE following letters, dear Lady Betty, have been addressed to me:—

"Dear Sir,—I am old enough to recollect the brick wall which fifty years ago hid the Green Park from Piccadilly. This stood where the iron railings are now, which extend from Walsingham House to Hyde Park Corner. I therefore rejoice that you have called attention to the hideous continuation of the demolished wall which still disfigures Grosvenor-place. It is time that this also

Kinahan's LL Whisky.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

should be replaced by an ornamental railing. It is ridiculous to pretend that the alteration, which would considerably improve Grosvenor-place, and would materially add to the attractions of London, could, however slightly, affect the comfort of her Majesty, for the Queen has only occupied Buckingham Palace for twenty-four hours during the last twelve months.

"I am empowered to write, by a large number of residents in Belgravia, to offer on their behalf subscriptions, of which the total already amounts to five hundred pounds, towards removing the obnoxious wall and replacing it with a substantial ornamental railing. It is hoped, however, that as Buckingham Palace is Crown property, the authorities will effect the improvement without accepting money from the public which would be more suitably employed in relieving distress, in alleviating suffering, and in ameliorating the condition of the poor.

"You suggested in your last letter that the public should occasionally be permitted to visit the grounds of Buckingham Palace. I am altogether unable to perceive what reasonable objection there can be to that suggestion being adopted, for if the Queen and the Court do not use the Gardens, why should they be closed?—Your obedient servant, "Senex."

* * * * *

"Sir,—I venture to address a few lines to you with regard to the Royal procession of Wednesday. Piccadilly and St. James's-street were crowded with men and women who were anxious to see the procession, and were eager to cheer the young bride and bridegroom. After they had waited for some hours, there at last appeared a few closed carriages, surrounded by escorts of the Blues in their sombre uniforms. None of those in the houses, and few of those in the streets, could see into the carriages, and the mournful procession passed at a funereal pace without being enlivened by music, and eliciting scarcely a cheer. Whenever one who has been a prominent person is accorded a public funeral in England, a band marches at the head of the procession; when, however, there is an occasion for public rejoicing such as was the procession to Westminster Abbey during the celebrations of the Jubilee year, or a Royal wedding, we never have music. Why is this?

"There were thousands of men, women, and children in the streets on Wednesday who were eager to cheer the bride and bridegroom, but the diffidence of the British character is so considerable that few, if any, of them ventured to raise their voices so as to be heard at a distance. This characteristic of the race being recognised, would it not be well, upon any future occasion of the kind, for the authorities to place along the line of the procession small bodies of men paid to cheer vigorously, much as they have a *claque* to lead the applause at the theatres in France?

"The good temper, the tact, and the uncommon commonsense of the police on duty along the line of the procession excited the admiration of all who observed with what judgment they controlled the vast multitude.

"I do not trust myself to criticise the decorations. Faded scarlet cloth, paper Christmas-tree flags, an absolute disregard of taste, and no attempt at concerted action only contrived to disfigure Piccadilly and St. James's-street. "M.P."

* * * * *

"Sir,—The hot weather which we have experienced in England during the last three or four summers does not appear to have taught Englishmen how to keep their houses cool. I have observed that at all the clubs in the West End, and at the private houses that I have visited during the hot weather, every door and window is opened wide, so as to create a draught, which is supposed to cool the rooms. As a matter of fact, this merely fills the house with hot air, whilst the draughts cause summer colds, that are always inconvenient and frequently dangerous. In every country in the world prudent people close the windows and draw down the blinds to keep the heat out. They air their houses during the hot weather in the early morning and in the evening. Perhaps, now that these obvious precautions are mentioned in print—that is, if you publish my letter—I may be able again to visit my club without being at one and the same time suffocated by the heat and chilled by the draughts. "Anglo-Indian."

* * * * *

Boodles' is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in England, and though the fortunes of the club have varied, it still possesses sufficient historic and intrinsic interest for its future to be a matter of public concern. The recent death of Miss Gayner may affect the future of the club considerably. With regard to this matter I have received the following letter:—

"Mr. Gayner, the proprietor of Boodles', died a few years ago, leaving his large fortune, including the Club, to his three sisters, the two Miss Gayners and Mrs. Greenhill. Mr. Greenhill objected to his wife sharing in carrying on the Club, so that lady was paid her portion, and the Club was carried on by the two maiden sisters, and managed by the elder, who died the other day without leaving a will. Her property has, therefore, to be divided again, notwithstanding the previous settlement, between the remaining Miss Gayner and Mrs. Greenhill. Mr. Greenhill still objecting to his wife being associated with the Club, Miss Gayner will probably not be able to buy her married sister out a second time, and carry on the concern herself.

"There will be a meeting of the family and the managers in September, followed probably by a general meeting of the members of the club.

"It is understood that if the club is to be sold it will be offered first to the members.

"The lease is said to be worth beween £20,000 and £30,000. The furniture and plate are of great value, being as regards some items unique. The cellar was recently valued at £6,000. It contains some very rare wines; very old sherry of the beginning of the century, and some wonderful Hocks and Moselles. There is a quantity of '80 champagne left, and some '65 still Sillery. The '84 wine, which in most clubs has already come to an end, is hardly begun, there being over sixty dozen of one brand alone—Giesler.

"The 'managers' of Boodles' form a species of secret and mysterious tribunal, their names being unknown, whose duties are understood to correspond with those of a committee in an ordinary club. Their proceedings are conducted with the utmost secrecy. Their existence is inferred by the fact that from time to time, at intervals varying from six months to fifteen years, a printed notice, generally affecting dogs or strangers, is put up—'By order of the managers,' and generally appeals to the 'custom of the house existing from time immemorial,' which are the only rules (unwritten) that exist, resembling in that respect the Common Law of England. I have long thought of editing a 'Commentary on the Laws of Boodles.'—White Pebble."

* * * *

The popular owner of the *White Heather*, Mr. Whitaker Wright, who bought that magnificent yacht when the German Emperor had to give her up early in the year, has recently purchased Lee Court, near Milford, in Surrey, from Mr. Davison, for £60,000. Mr. Wright is now spending close upon £200,000 in building and in other directions upon the Lee Court Estate, £10,000 of this sum alone being about to be spent in erecting a palm-house.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

Typewriters and Cycles for Sale or Hire. Great bargains in Standard Machines.—N. Taylor, Manager, 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

SPORTING NOTES.

ST. FRUSQUIN and Persimmon have been doing no work at Newmarket lately, and both colts will be the better for their rest. They will not commence their training for Doncaster for another fortnight. They are both looking very well indeed. Whatever may be the issue of the Leger, St. Frusquin and Persimmon will again meet a fortnight later in the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000. If Mr. de Rothschild's colt wins at Doncaster each would carry 9 st. 7 lb., but if he fails to carry off the Leger, then Persimmon would again have to give him 3 lb. It may be hoped that the conditions will be altered if these races are continued, as every winner of £4,000 should be made to carry the extreme penalty. Galeazzo has resumed work since the rain fell at Newmarket, and he is going remarkably well after his long rest. Galeazzo is really one of the best three-year-olds in training, and if anything happened to St. Frusquin he would prove a most dangerous opponent to Persimmon at Doncaster. Galeazzo has an engagement in the £2,000 stake at Kempton Park next month, and if he goes on all right I should think he will win. He has several nice engagements at the Newmarket October Meetings, and will, no doubt, be entered for the Cambridgeshire. Santa Maura, who was backed for the Leger recently, is not likely to stand a preparation, as she has been very groggy since she fell lame when being trained for the Oaks. Roquebrune is another filly of whom great things were expected, but who invariably goes wrong after a week or two of galloping. Ortolo has not a 1,000 to 1 chance at Doncaster, and people who back Knight of the Thistle must be the most infatuated of idiots. Mr. McCalmont's great baby of a colt wants time still, and he will not be seen at his best until next season. If Knight of the Thistle goes for any race as a three-year-old I should think it will be the Jockey Club Stakes, in which he would have a 5 lb. maiden allowance, which would give him a great advantage with the cracks. Bucephalus, who is the Leger fancy of some addleheads, has not a 1,000 to 1 chance for that race. If it was now necessary to back anything for a place I would choose Helm, in the uncertainty which prevails as to Arreau running at Doncaster. Galeazzo figures on the lists at 10 to 1 and 12 to 1 for a place, but I do not see how he could be kept out of being third, at least if he started and was ridden out. Nouveau Riche, who has been talked of as a promising outsider to back for a place, is really, I believe, considerably behind Canterbury Pilgrim. His Reverence could not stay the Doncaster course.

There will not be a large field for the Goodwood Stakes this afternoon, and I fancy that Powick ought to win. Lord Hindlip's horse has been expressly reserved for this race, and he is certainly very well handicapped.

Entries for the Cesarewitch and for the Cambridgeshire are to close on Tuesday next, the conditions being the same as last year. £500 is nominally added to each race, but, inasmuch as an entrance of £5 is imposed on every entry, the sum which the Jockey Club ostensibly give is sure to be got back. These handicaps continue to flourish, in spite of their miserably meagre pecuniary conditions, simply because they are now the only really great betting races of the year. On each of these events speculation continues to be so heavy that a large stake can still be won by dexterous management without any corresponding outlay. These, moreover, are the only events upon which there is still extensive speculation on the part of the public before even the entries have been made. Between twenty and thirty horses have already been well backed for each race. Portmarnock is the great fancy for the Cesarewitch, and next to him come the filly by Saraband out of Busybody, Minstrel Boy, Rockdove (who won last year), Bard of Avon, Pride, Dormeuse, Omnium II., the filly by Salisbury out of Galop, Fatherless, Bonnie Briar, Bowline, Opera Glass, and Telescope. Considering the ignominious failure of the Galop filly in the Oaks (when she ran, moreover, like a non-stayer), it is odd to find her fancied for the Cesarewitch, and Pride has been so thoroughly exposed, and has shown such excellent form that he will certainly be among the top weights, but Mr. Brassey's horse has fallen lame, and it is quite possible that the last has been seen of him on the turf. The favourite for the Cambridgeshire is Indian Queen, who won that race in 1894, and who has done nothing since, but is supposed to be in reserve for another handicap coup. Whittier is another favourite, but this horse (even if he stands training again), cannot stay the course. Quarrel (who is sure to be among the top weights), Avilion, Love Wisely, La Sagesse, Easter Gift, Gazetteer, Marco, The Tup, and St. Michael are the other leading fancies for the Cambridgeshire. Laodamia has been in request, and if she was in her three-year-old form (when she ran a great mare in the race with 8st. 9lb. on her back), it would not be easy to stop her. Marco, who won last year so easily, has been considerably backed. If Mr. Luscombe's horse can be trained again he is sure to win a good race in the autumn. The Cesarewitch will be run on Wednesday, October 14 (just five weeks after the Leger), and the Cambridgeshire on October 28.

The Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park (run Saturday, October 10) also closes next Tuesday. The value of this race has been reduced from £5,000 to £2,000, but it will no doubt obtain every bit as good an entry as last year. The managers could not be expected to maintain this handicap on its last year's footing, as it then cost the fund £3,100, while in 1894, when the value was £2,000, there was a loss of £860.

Entries close on Tuesday for several important events at Doncaster, including the Great Yorkshire Handicap of £1,300, the Portland Plate of £500, the Prince of Wales's Nursery of £1,000, and the Doncaster Cup of £600.

Gulistan has been struck out of his Goodwood engagement because Mr. L. de Rothschild intends to run him for the Baden Grand Prize, on August 27. Lord Drummond and The Owl have also been left in for that race, which is well worth winning, as its value is £4,000, besides a gold cup of the value of £500. I wonder that English owners do not more generally patronise the principal events at Baden, for they are most generously endowed, and the opposition is not formidable as a rule. Next year there is a three-year-old stake of £2,900, for which only three English horses have accepted, one by Mr. de Rothschild's smart colt Brigg, while the others are owned by the Prince of Wales and Lord Durham respectively. The only English entries for next year's Grand Prize are Galeazzo, Lord Hervey, and the Prince of Wales's dark colt St. Leonards.

Victor Wild is all right again, and he is to be trained for the Prix du Conseil Municipal, which is run at Longchamps on the Sunday before the Cesarewitch, and if he comes to the post all right he will probably win the rich stake.

This year's Eclipse Stakes has cost the Sandown Park fund £1,782, which is a somewhat doleful result, considering that last year only £1,081 had to be thus contributed, while in 1894 the added money was £810: but in 1893 there was a surplus of £617, while in 1892 no less a sum than £1,831 had to be added in order to make up the promised £10,000. The National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000 resulted in a surplus of £82 in 1892, while in 1893 the added money was £1,916; but in 1894 only £1,047 was required, and in 1895 there was a surplus of £213. To this year's race £613 had to be added. It is evidently impossible to predict how these big subscription stakes will ever turn out, but it is certain that they are more costly now than when they were originally started, as owners have become so much more sharp in looking after their forfeits. Such events are fearfully expensive to an owner who engages his animals generously.

When writing about the Liverpool Cup I expressed the opinion that anything that could beat Canterbury Pilgrim would win, and the issue of the race was the easy victory of Lord Derby's filly, whose Oaks trial signified Nouveau

Riche in this handicap at a ridiculous weight, and she was "off" when she was defeated for the Coronation Stakes at Ascot. Lord Derby's victory was, of course, received with great enthusiasm at his home meeting, and it was a most satisfactory result of the race, for his colours are thoroughly trusted by the public, and therefore very popular. Paris III., who was heavily backed, had no pretension to give the winner of the Oaks 7 lb. more than weight for age; and Spook, who was also a great tip, is not a nice colt for a boy to ride. Dule Tree was unlucky not to be placed. The American horse, Santa Anita, was very heavily backed, but ran in a most contemptible fashion. Regret, of course, had a difficulty in winning the £2,500 three-year-old stakes, yet he had nothing to beat, and the race was an ignominious failure, there being only four starters, with an entry of 109, while 5 to 1 was laid on the Duke of Westminster's colt, who figures nominally at 12 to 1 in the Leger betting, but no creature fit to be at large would take ten times that price, as he could no more stay the Doncaster course than fly. The other three-year-old race at Liverpool fell to Shaddock. I see it is asserted that the colt is 10 lb. inferior to Regret. This may be the case over a mile, but Shaddock would win at even weights over the Leger course.

There was a splendid finish for the £2,000 two-year-old race at Liverpool, Brigg winning by a head, while there was a dead heat for second place between Galtee More and Glencally. Inasmuch as Brigg was in receipt of only 2 lb. from Galtee More, it is clear that Mr. Gubbins's colt is not the superlative flyer that was supposed after his victory at Stockbridge. Glencally had 8 lb. the best of the weights with Galtee More, and he ought to have won if there had been any justification for the trumpeting of which he has been the subject. Glencally is a heart-breaking beast, for this is the third rich stake for which he has been beaten by a head since his successful début at Chester. On Thursday, however, he made some amends for these tragical reverses by winning the Mersey Stakes.

Now that Pride has been scratched, I cannot see anything in the Goodwood Cup entry that is likely to beat Count Schomberg, with his advantage in the weights. Portmarnock is not expected to show in winning form before the autumn.

Lord Durham's colt Hellebore, by Peter Flower out of Satanella, is a tip for the Prince of Wales's Sweepstakes, which is a race worth winning, as its value is £2,800. Having Fiorini in the stable, Lord Durham can get an accurate line of the two-year-old form, but his colt will have to be smart to defeat Velasquez, although he has the advantage of a 5 lb. breeding allowance.

I am told that Rampion will win the Chesterfield Cup on Friday, and Helm ought to secure the Nassau Stakes, although she has so much the worst of the weights with Miss Fraser and other fillies.

Next week there will be racing at Hurst Park (a Bank Holiday orgie), Ripon, Brighton, and Lewes, and, of course, the best sport will be at the Sussex meetings, where there are sure to be large fields and plenty of betting. Lord Derby's Pace Egger and Mr. Pilkington's Glencally seem to be the best pair in the Corporation Plate at Brighton; but the Astley Stakes at Lewes will be the most important two-year-old race of the week, and it may be won by Blue Water or Brigg.

Velasquez has been backed for next year's Derby, but his admirers would do well to wait until after the Newmarket October meetings, as we have not yet seen half of the season's two-year-olds, and there are certain animals at Kingsclere (notably Orelio and Guernsey) of which great things are expected. The New Stakes form has not come out well since Ascot. Velasquez is an exceedingly handsome colt, and he has capital legs. After his race to-morrow Velasquez will no doubt be reserved for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, as there are no penalties in that race, which is a mistake with a two-year-old event run in September. When the conditions of next year's Champagne Stakes are drawn out there should be a penalty of 7 lb. for winners of £500 and upwards, and 10 lb. for any winner of £1,000.

Stag-hunting on Exmoor is to begin earlier than usual this year, as the Devon and Somerset pack will have their first meet next Wednesday at Cloutsham.

Lord Macclesfield was a fine sportsman of the old school. As a four-in-hand whip and as a judge of horses he was unrivalled. Lord Macclesfield hunted the South Oxfordshire country with great success for twenty-seven years. He showed excellent sport, and there never was a better nor more fearless rider. He also thoroughly understood every branch of his business as M.F.H., and no hunt ever had a more courteous and considerate ruler. It gave many of his friends a start to see him gallop down hill at a racing pace, but he was a consummate rider. It should be added that he was a most liberal and considerate landlord, and he was very popular among all classes in Oxfordshire.

It is so easy to criticise, but some of those who watched the conclusion of the game between the Australians and the M.C.C. thought that the last wicket of the Colonials was given rather a free hand in the matter of run-making. It was a grand idea to put Gunn on to bowl. Hill had been sticking at 49, and Trumble was playing a regular stonewall game. The mob began to jeer, but Gunn went on, and it yelled with delight. Four runs in half an hour did not please a Saturday crowd. Now there would be hitting. But they were mistaken. Trumble poked about, and got bowled. Hill, who had played fairly freely and whose strokes on the leg side were extremely pretty, went out and hit the ball full-pitch to Gunn. Kelly did likewise to Stoddart, but then came Jones and McKibbin, and the second-class bats had a good time. The lobs had no terrors for them, and they hit merrily until Woodcock sent McKibbin's stump flying out of the ground. Probably Attewell instead of Gunn would have saved both time and runs. As it was the last wicket saved the game. Very pretty indeed was Stoddart's innings, and the way he drove Jones both to the on and off was grand. Both MacLaren and Ranjitsinhji were out to Trumble in the same way. They each tried to put a ball round to leg and failed. After all, Trott was the hero of the match. In both innings he played a careful game, although he was fortunate enough to find in Board a merciful wicket keeper.

There is a good deal of nonsense being written about the final of the three test matches. People want it played out to the end, however long it may take. This sort of cricket does not do in this country. On the whole, the Australians are certainly slow scorers, and their methods would soon ruin the game. Three days are quite long enough to settle the question of supremacy, and, if it cannot be done in that time, let it remain in abeyance. As for the visitors, if they choose to play for their averages instead of playing to win, that is their affair, and so much the better for their opponents.

No one would insult the Catford ground by calling it a first-class cricket pitch, and the ardent supporters of Surrey would like to see some other county, Yorkshire for preference, taking their chance on it. At the same time, the pitch alone does not account for the miserable show made by Surrey in their first innings. They have shaped this year too much like a team that can only play on a good fast wicket. Martin, the Kent bowler, well deserved the subscription that was raised for him on the ground. Some brisk hitting by Key and Lohmann and good bowling by Abel and Richardson had enabled Surrey to revenge themselves on Middlesex earlier in the week when Stoddart came out as a bowler. Soar's bowling accounted for the downfall of Essex in their match with Hants, but they pulled themselves together against Derbyshire, and scored a fairly even draw. Bonnor seems likely to develop into a very useful bat. Now that Jackson and Brown have returned, the Yorkshire team has again been victorious. The Somerset bats were all out of form, and they could do nothing with Peel's bowling, who was also very deadly against Lancashire. They had not Roe's help, whose batting was extremely useful against Kent, in which match Livesay scored well, and Shine, the Cambridge

bowler, was very successful. Indeed, he has been so useful to his county that it is wonderful that more use was not made of him in the University match. Kent certainly had a successful week, and it is to be hoped their present run of luck will last during the Canterbury week.

A correspondent wants to know why an innings cannot be closed at any time by the remaining batsmen not going in. In the rules there is nothing to prevent such a course, and it is peculiar that no one has ever made the experiment. If a man is absent or hurt he cannot bat, and the only point is that the opposing captain could object to those who did not bat going out to field, on the ground that as they had not batted they had declined to take part in the game. Whether or not this would be a valid objection must be left for those learned in the laws of cricket to determine.

The Royal St. George's Y.C. Regatta at Kingston was most successful. On the first day there was good, steady, smooth, water breeze, and on the second day, although there was rain and the wind a bit unsteady, it never dropped away until the finish. Under the circumstances, the big cutters could not have had a fairer test. Of course *Meteor* won, but the feature of the racing was that *Ailsa* on both occasions beat *Britannia* for second place. In the other classes *Isolde* and *Carina* came out even, each winning a race, and *Saint* on both occasions beat *Niagara* with ease.

It is almost a formality to say that Mr. A. J. Chitty admirably managed the Lawn Tennis Championship at Wimbledon. It was unfortunate that Baddeley had been severely indisposed just before the final. It is only too usual to make excuses for the defeat of champions. But this is only a statement of fact, and every man must take the chance of good or bad health. Invalids cannot be champions. At the same time it was rough luck, and Baddeley failed to last out against Mahony, who well deserved to win, for he had had a hard fight to get his place. In the Ladies, Mrs. Pickering was decidedly disappointing against Miss Cooper, who had a much easier task than when they met earlier in the year. The winner had more nerve, and this probably had a good deal to do with the result. Perhaps the best play was seen in the Doubles, when the Allens were beaten by Doherty and Goodbody. All four are Cambridge men, and on their form in that round the latter pair ought to have beaten the Baddeleys in the final. Why are the champions only called on to play one round unless it be for gate purposes. It is surely unfair on the other competitors that they should have the wear and tear of the whole tournament and then have to play the person who, if there is anything in the title, should be best able to stand the strain.

Goodness only knows where the pleasure or profit comes in for amateurs in doing a ride for twenty-four hours on a bicycle. However, both amateurs and professionals have been indulging in these pursuits, and the former—the winner being Goodwin—cut all records for amateurs. The "pros" made a poor show, and finished at a slow crawl. Unless professionals improve in their displays, they will soon cease to "draw"; while these long races are utterly valueless and absurd. They are an obvious strain on the riders, whose constitutions must in many cases eventually suffer. Much more interesting was the tandem record for an hour, when over thirty-five miles and a half was done by Chase and Walters. There is no truth in the report that they have been engaged by any railway in Kent as substitutes for an express engine.

Molesey Regatta was as crowded as ever, and fortunately the rain held off. There was quite an excitement when Guinness was upset by Beddington in the sculls, but he won the final all right, as the heat was given him on a foul. Forrester at last won his junior sculls, though Ross (Thames) ought to have beaten him in his heat. Cooper's Hill just beat Kensington in the Thames eights, the latter having to row the final in less than an hour after their heat. It was a pity the programme was not better arranged. The senior pairs were easily won by Kingston, and Thames continued its successful career by clearing off the other senior events. The School of Mines did very well to win both the junior eights and fours.

Spa, Belgium.—*Cercle des Etrangers*, with Roulette, &c. For details apply to Secretary. Racing, tennis, and pigeon shooting. Theatre and concerts. Superb bathing establishment.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

My dear Ben,—Considering that we are now, as our French neighbours call it, *en pleine saison morte*, the state of affairs on the Stock Exchange during the past week cannot be viewed as discouraging. At all events, although everybody and their wives are hurrying off to their holiday haunts, there are plenty of surplus funds left in the market, and the hunger for gilt-edged stocks was again last week shown by the rush of investors for the Burma Railway issue made by Messrs. Rothschild under the guarantee of the Indian Government. The subscriptions are estimated at twenty times the amount of the capital.

When Will the Boom Come?

The plethora of money thus again illustrated, and the low rates prevailing, undoubtedly point to great activity in the course of the autumn, when the holiday-makers return, and a more general upward movement would not then be surprising. It will hardly touch the Yankee market, which must necessarily remain in an unsettled condition until the fate of the Presidential election is decided in December. At best a see-saw movement can therefore be looked for in this section. Home Railway stocks bid fair to retain their hold upon the favour of investors, and the additional million or more of dividends which is about to be paid to holders, as compared with the first half of 1895, is certain to bring fresh capital into this department, the more so as traffics continue to show most favourably. A hitch might perhaps be caused by renewed trouble with the coal-miners, but there are still hopes that matters will be adjusted. It would, indeed, be a thousand pities if the present distinct improvement in trade were to be checked by a strike, which would be quite as disastrous for the miners as for the coal-owners and business men generally. For the boom, if boom there is to be, we must, however, chiefly look to the Mining market. It must be admitted that the Kaffir Circus is not at present in a condition indicating, on the face of it, the probability of a boom. Yet circumstances closely affecting South African mines are gradually improving, as shown by the initiation of reforms on the part of the Transvaal Government, and by the disposition of the whilom Reform leaders to put their shoulders to the wheel in actual work. From this point of view the decision of Mr. John Hays Hammond to renew his engagement with the Consolidated Goldfields, is a favourable point. The great financiers connected with the South African market are apparently doing nothing, and those amongst them connected with the Jameson raid are no doubt awaiting the result of the Jameson trial, and better news from Rhodesia. Such adverse features will eventually disappear, and I am still of opinion that the advance will be all the sharper the longer the present dulness and sagging movement last. I refer, of course, more especially to the sound Transvaal gold and land properties as worthy of attention. A market which is already showing unmistakable signs of a coming boom is that for West Australian gold mines. The distinct rally in the Whitaker Wright group, and the sensational advance in Lake View Consols, coupled with the still more sensational news concerning the wealth of gold discovered in this mine, are highly encouraging features. The falling into line of a number of new mines with large crushings confirms the opinion

which I have expressed for some time, of the richness and permanence of the West Australian goldfields, and in due time we shall, therefore, see a regular rush for the good properties, and a corresponding upward movement in prices. The New Zealand section has been quiet, the excessive promotion of new Companies making investors shy, and, considering the very doubtful quality of some of the new ventures, this is a salutary development. Indian mines have now and again shown signs of growing animation, and I quite expect that the next favourable news from the Colar goldfield will bring about a fresh rise. I look for a revival in the Cycle market when, in a week or two, the New French Dunlop Company sees the light of day. With reference to the numerous Industrial Companies which are now being rushed forward by promoters, the greatest discrimination should be shown, as nine-tenths of these are over-capitalised or doubtful, and highly speculative.

More Home Railway Dividends.

Dividend announcements are following each other rapidly in the Home Railway market, and I have now to chronicle two of the "Heavy" distributions, viz., those of the North-Eastern and Midland. Both were exactly in accordance with my forecast, and quite up to market expectations. The Midland dividend—at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, with £18,000 forward, as against 4 per cent., with £13,000 carried forward for the corresponding half of 1895—caused a moderate improvement. That of the North-Eastern, at the rate of 5½ per cent., against 4½ per cent. last year, was not altogether up to the anticipations of some rather sanguine operators, and the price of the stock has eased off; but if the North Western and Great Western dividends about to be announced should be in the same proportion, we may expect the Home Railway market to gather fresh strength, more especially as there has been a good deal of profit-taking, and the account should, therefore, be of moderate dimensions only. The South-Western dividend, at the rate of 5 per cent., against 4½ per cent. last year, was not considered satisfactory, a better result having been looked for owing to the large traffic increase. On the other hand, the Metropolitan District dividend, at the rate of 3½ per cent. on the Preference stock, against 3 per cent. last year, was viewed favourably; and the fact that the Chatham Company pays, for the second time in its history, the full 4½ per cent. on the Arbitration Prefs. was also satisfactory, although the amount carried forward disappointed some. It is curious that, notwithstanding the issue of a most favourable report by the South-Eastern Directors, Dover "A" should have reacted. The reduction of the ratio of expenditure to gross receipts from 57·5 per cent. in the first half of 1895 to 55·4, is distinctly encouraging, and there is now little doubt that a considerably increased dividend may also be looked for in the current half-year. Under all the circumstances Dover "A" at 102 are a very promising speculative purchase. Great Eastern have hardened to 103⅞, which seems to be quite high enough when compared with Dover "A." Brighton "A" have maintained themselves at 184¾, and are good value in view of the excellent traffics of the line. As I anticipated, the traffics of the Scotch lines have picked up considerably, in view of the Glasgow Fair, and the Caledonian shows an increase of £14,225, and the North British one of £14,016. These returns bring up the increases for the twenty-five weeks to £98,884 and £91,605 respectively. This is even better than had been anticipated, and I consider that both Caledonian Deferred ("Coras") and North British Deferred at present prices are a very tempting purchase, more especially the latter.

Yankee Rails Still Unsettled.

There has been a recovery in the American market from the lowest points touched last Monday, and at one time a good deal of strength was shown owing to the action of New York banks in strengthening the gold reserve of the Treasury. Their efforts, and those of Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., and of other Anglo-American houses, were distinctly praiseworthy and patriotic. But they cannot affect the final result, which depends entirely upon the result of the Presidential election. The news with reference to the chances of the different parties varies from day to day, and one day we are told that the Democrats will all combine, and that the Populists will support them in carrying the silver "Plank," while next day rumours reach us that the Democratic party is in a state of disintegration, and that one wing of the party is as strongly in favour of maintaining the gold standard as the other is uncompromisingly opposed to gold and in favour of free and unlimited coinage of silver. Unfortunately this silver craze has obtained a strong hold on the minds of numbers of people in the States, who regard it as the exclusive remedy for that great variety of economic maladies which have been current in that country during late years; while the chief strength of the movement finds its home in the farming sections, where the fall of prices has been a perpetual worry for years. I hope and trust that wiser counsels will prevail, and that the sound money men will carry the day. As Messrs. John H. Davis & Co., leading New York bankers, put it very cogently, it is well that the lines in the contest are sharply drawn; it is to be gold and national credit, or silver and national humiliation and disaster. It is no time for apathy or indifference. Every capitalist, every business man, every labourer who works for wages, every depositor in a savings bank, every person for whose benefit a life has been assured, owes it to himself as well as to his country to make the four months' period one of unremitting work in favour of sound money upon a gold standard. Messrs. Davis finally point to the startling shrinkage which has taken place of late in the market price of the leading stocks dealt in on the New York Stock Exchange, the total value of twenty-nine listed securities having fallen almost 60,000,000 dols. The total stock of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy is worth over 6,000,000 dols. less than it was a few weeks ago; of Atchison, over 5,000,000 dols.; of the Southern Railway, over 4,000,000 dols.; of Western Union, nearly 3,000,000 dols.; of Manhattan, over 2,000,000 dols.; of New Jersey Central, over 1,500,000 dols.; of Chicago Gas, about 2,000,000 dols.; of American Sugar Refining, about 6,000,000 dols. less; and so on through the list. The firm believe, however, that the worst has been seen; that stocks and bonds of intrinsic merit are a purchase now; that by the end of the year the silver craze will have subsided through the verdict of the American people at the polls; and that before two years have gone by even those who are now most vociferous in calling for free silver coinage will have occasion to rejoice that the delusion was as short-lived as it was intense. With reference to the dimensions of the "Bear" account, some of my New York contemporaries are making all manner of guesses, from insignificant figures up to 200,000 shares. As far as the so-called "loan crowd" is a reflection of the size of the short account, it would indicate that the latter is not considerable, as stocks can be borrowed at money rates. Experience has shown that there is no method of accurately determining how extensive the short interest may be, as private borrowing of stocks both in the New York market and by cable renders it impossible so to do. In the present instance it seems reasonably safe to assume that the short interest is not unusually large—that is, considering the severe slump of the last few weeks. Wall-street is still very much exercised over the London purchases, which were effected some time ago, and they are having quite a crow over the operations of the South African clique of Angel Court fame; but the latter would be but a sorry support to lean on in case of a further slump; while if the Kaffir Circus were to boom again they would no doubt promptly rush out of Yankee Rails into their own favourites. As far as can at present be gathered we shall continue to have a see-saw movement with occasional slumps and sharp rallies, until the political atmosphere clears, and the result of the Presidential election can be more thoroughly gauged. By the way, it might be as well to point out that gilt-edged American Railroad bonds, payable as to capital and interest in gold, should not be affected by an adverse result, and I may mention that only

gold bonds have all along been recommended by me. Canadian Pacifics, after recovering, have eased off again in sympathy with American Rails, and Grand Trunks have been fairly steady, although also in their case the unsettled state of the American market has prevented any improvement.

Foreigners and South Americans.

In the Foreign market the chief event has been the issue of the new Russian loan, which is, however, confined to France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Russia. It was bound to be placed, but, even if subscriptions had been invited in this country, very little interest would have been taken in it here. Some withdrawals of gold from the open market to Paris were the result, but the movement has not assumed any large proportions; and in case of any strong demand the United States will, no doubt, be drawn upon for supplies. There has not, however, been any enthusiasm over the Russian loan this time, the premium at which it is quoted being but small. Italians and Spanish have moved within narrow limits, and Turks have been flat, as the news both from Crete and Macedonia is unsatisfactory. Very little movement may at present be expected in interbourse securities, owing to the absence of many operators from the Continental Bourses. The gold premium in Buenos Ayres keeps remarkably steady, and Argentine Government stocks have maintained quotations. There is a fair prospect of the Argentine Unification scheme becoming law, although some amendments have yet to be discussed. Amongst these there is one to which the Chamber of Deputies have agreed, at the request of the representative of Entre Rios, that the National Government should make good any deficiency where one or the other of the Provinces does not hold the 65 per cent. of its debt in Four and a Half per Cent. Internal Gold bonds. Prospects of the Provincial bondholders, and especially of those of the Province of Buenos Ayres, are distinctly more favourable, and have, as I stated last week, resulted in higher quotations of the bonds. Altogether, the advance which has now been established in Argentine National and Provincial Government bonds since the years of the crisis has assumed very large proportions, as will be gathered from the following comparative table:—

—	Lowest in 1891.	Lowest in 1893.	Lowest in 1895.	Price on Jan. 2, 1896.	Present Price.
Argentine, 1884	29	33¼	39	45	60
Do. 1886	52½	58⅛	62½	69	82
Do. Funding ...	47	59½	66	73	83½
Do. 4½ % Sterling	27¼	35	39½	46	56
Cedulas "B"	14	24	24¼	26	32
Buenos Ayres, 1882-6 ...	27	23	20	28½	44
Entre Rios, 1886-8 ...	18¾	31	20	29	40
Santa Fé, 1883-4	18⅛	14½	18⅛	25½	40

The differences are, of course, greatest compared with the lowest prices touched in 1891; but there has also been a marked appreciation since the commencement of this year, the 1886 Loan having advanced 13 points, the Funding Loan 11, and Buenos Ayres Provincial bonds 16. It is a source of great gratification to me that, when all the financial scribes advised holders to get out of their stocks, and especially during the dullest period, I strongly urged my readers to stick tight to their holdings. For the patience then shown they are now richly rewarded. Uruguay bonds have displayed a much stronger tone, the old loan having at one time improved to 51, while there has been a very considerable demand for the new loan. Considering the large interest which many of the leading financial houses now hold in Uruguay bonds, I am strongly of opinion that at a given moment a sharp advance will be engineered, which would, moreover, be justified by the position. A settlement has now been granted on the London Stock Exchange for the new Uruguay bonds for August 6. Brazilian and Chilian bonds have been quiet, but Mexican Sixes have, as usual, shown a firm front. Absolutely no interest is being taken in the stocks of the South and Central American Republics, which are at present under the cloud of default.

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

Stagnation in the Kaffir Circus.

The Kaffir Circus is at present in a state of suspended animation. The big financiers are allowing matters to drift, and it is difficult to see what they could do to restore animation while the holiday season is in full swing, and so many untoward influences have yet to pass away. I have repeatedly explained that there is no earthly reason why the difficulties of the Chartered Company, and the trouble in Rhodesia, should affect Transvaal mining enterprises. Yet such is undoubtedly the fact, owing perhaps chiefly to the connection of many of the men prominently engaged in them with the Chartered Company's fortunes. The Jameson trial is also a disturbing element. On the other hand it is quite possible that the July output of the Witwatersrand mines may prove very favourable, in which case it would probably give an impulse to the Kaffir Circus. Even as regards the Chartered Company, I have not the slightest doubt that, in view of the powerful interests concerned, we may at any time, on the receipt of news of a victory in Matabeleland or Mashonaland, witness an attempt to put prices up. It is a well-known fact that at the end of August a number of options in Chartered shares are maturing, and active steps will no doubt be taken by those interested to avail themselves of any favourable developments for the purpose of a market rig in the shares. That the debentures would benefit from the same circumstance is obvious. At the present settlement, however, quite a shake-out has been caused by the withdrawal of a million sterling from the market by Messrs. Wernher, Beit, & Co. Why the firm should have chosen this critical period for such a step is not quite apparent, but a slump in the stocks in which they are chiefly interested—viz., Chartered, Consolidated Goldfields, and Rand Mines, Limited—has been the inevitable result. As regards the position in the Transvaal, all accounts are to the effect that the native labour trouble has passed away. The Transvaal Government is probably awaiting the issue of the Jameson trial to take any further measures in the direction of reform; and there have also been current certain rumours that in case the decision does not meet with the approval of the Boers there may be further trouble with reference to the Suzerainty. It boots not to speculate on such developments, but the favourable facts bearing upon the mining industry in the Transvaal, viz., growing abundance of labour, and the proportionate reduction in cost, reduction of railway rates, and the passing of the liquor restriction Bill, cannot be denied. Some time ago it was stated that Mr. John Hays Hammond, who had done so much on his first appearance in South Africa to ensure the satisfactory development of the Barnato mines, would not return to the scene of his labours. The fact that he has again engaged himself for three years to the Consolidated Goldfields tends to show that he has with other Reform leaders made up his mind to accept the inevitable, and will in future devote himself to the development of the mining industry. It also shows that he has a full belief in its future, especially as he appears to have accepted terms which are dependent upon results. I still maintain the view that sound Witwatersrand mining properties should be borne in mind in the first instance by investors. Their position can be so accurately gauged that they are no longer speculative counters. Then follow the leading land Companies, some of which are exceedingly promising. Finally, the shares of Lydenburg and Barberton Companies are likely to receive a great deal of attention in the near future. I need not particularise as regards the Witwatersrand shares, which appear to me most promising. It is easy enough to make a selection amongst substantial mines of the Barnato and Robinson groups, say—amongst the former, New Primrose, Glencairn, Buffelsdoorn, Riet-

fontein, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Banks, and Barnato Consols. Again, in the Robinson group, Langlaagte Estate and Randfontein are certain to maintain and improve their positions. Amongst Land shares Oceana and Austral-Africans, in view of the amalgamation, are most promising, and so are Mozambique shares, in view of the coming combination with the Companhia da Zambesia. Amongst the Lydenburg properties Lydenburg Goldfields appear to me likely to lead the way; but Lydenburg Estates are also promising. A new Transvaal Mining Company is a novelty in these times; at all events, as far as the issue of the same in London is concerned. I refer to the Cataract Barberton Gold Mining Company, Limited, which is formed with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, for the purpose of working and developing a property in the Barberton district of the Transvaal, known as the Waterfall Reef, and consisting, according to the prospectus, of 150 claims, double banked, giving a length of nearly 3,880 yards, or over two miles along the line of the reefs. This is, at all events, no hole-and-corner flotation, as are so many of the concerns registered in the Transvaal only; and the reefs are favourably reported upon by well-known engineers. The average value, according to the experts' reports of the reefs, varies from 15 dwt. to 1 oz. 7 dwt. per ton, as regards No. 1 reef; while although No. 2 reef has only been proved on the surface to give an average of about 5 dwt. to the ton, there is a prospect of its becoming richer in depth. A favourable point about the prospectus is that the Directors have agreed not to go to allotment unless a minimum of £20,000 is provided for working capital, while 50,000 shares are held in reserve in order to provide further working capital for the acquisition of full permanent plant, &c. The issue is made by the Transvaal Exploring Company, a Company which holds a good many valuable interests in the Transvaal, and the shares of which, at present quoted at from 1 to 1⅛, will no doubt in the case of a revival in the Kaffir Circus reach a higher level. I still hold a favourable opinion of Woodstock (Transvaal) shares, now quoted at 1⅝ to 1¾; and I see no reason for altering my opinion of Niekerk, which stand at 1¼. The result of the first Midas Estate crushing is not so favourable as had previously been stated from an unauthorised source. The total yield is only 1,438 oz., against 1,741 oz., as previously announced, and the yield is but 12 dwt. against 25 dwt., which makes all the difference, and does not constitute the Midas Estate a tempting concern. The strike in the Robinson Deep is a favourable feature; but I protest against its being utilised for the purpose of rigging all the other deep-level properties. The Meyer and Charlton Directors have decided not to distribute any of the half-year's profits. This has been a much over-rated mine, and, as the *Citizen* puts it in a review of its history, the present experience of the Company shows how foolish it is not to make any allowances for such contingencies as dykes and reduction in the value of the ore. I also feel inclined to agree with my contemporary that, although Meyer and Charlton have fallen from 7 to 5⅝ during the last three months, the decline will have to be much more substantial before a purchase would be warranted, a fair value of the shares being £4. The issue of the first annual report of the Eastern Investment Corporation discloses the fact not hitherto known that its chief interests are in South Africa. The net assets, according to the accounts, stand at £1,030,069, while the issued capital is £750,000; but all depends, of course, upon the quality of the assets which is not determinable at present. I wonder whether Sir Edgar Vincent is still interested in this concern? The Central Buffelsdoorn has, according to a circular just issued, suspended operations, as the result of the first borings has not proved satisfactory; but is the case so hopeless that a second borehole should not be made? I should like to know who are the people behind the South African Argosy Association, which was established last October? Diamond shares have receded with the rest of the South African market, and De Beers are down to 29⅜, New Jagersfontein to 10⅞. Leicester Diamond shares, however, have remained firm, and so have the shares of the new Consolidated Leicester Diamond Company. At the extraordinary general meeting of the Leicester Diamond Company, held in Kimberley on the 15th inst., the amalgamation of this Company with the Consolidated Leicester D.M. Company was agreed to. The new Company will start with a working capital of £100,000, of which a portion has been subscribed at £2 per share; and the amalgamation being a promising one, an advance in the shares would be fully justified.

THE WHITAKER WRIGHT GROUP TO THE FRONT.

I have for several weeks, during the reaction in Westralians, advised the purchase of shares in the group of the West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance Corporations, and more particularly of the shares of these two parent companies, also Lake View Consols, Hannan's Golden Group, and Hannan's Golden Treasure. All who have bought shares on the recent slump have done well, as Globes and Explorings have each advanced about ½, and Lake View Consols are at this writing 6¾ bid. In regard to the Lake View Consols, Mr. Callahan, the new superintendent, after making a searching examination of the property, confirms Mr. Kaufman's opinion in every respect, and states that "there is every reason to believe that it is the biggest mine in Western Australia, the lowest level demonstrating that there is no doubt that it eclipses everything in his experience in extent and richness." Those who ought to know predict that these shares will double their present market price within the next three months. I again advise the purchase of Hannan's Golden Groups and Hannan's Golden Treasures, from which properties the most favourable reports are coming to hand, and it cannot be long before they score a material advance, which their position in the wonderful Hannan's Goldfield fully justifies. It is reported with regard to the Mainland Consols that the mill is running on high grade ore, and that the return for the current month will be larger than last month. I strongly advise the purchase of the shares of the London and Globe and West Australian Exploring and Finance, it being reported from responsible sources that the profits of these Companies this year are equal to four times the capital of the Corporation. When all the particulars are officially known, I cannot see how the shares can fail to greatly advance in market value. The shares of the Austin Friars Syndicate (associated with the above group) should also be bought now. I may add in conclusion that Mr. Haggard, one of the Directors, has returned from New Zealand with the highest opinion of the properties controlled by this Syndicate, especially the Thames Hauraki.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

The fact that the Whitaker Wright group is bracing up, and that the Lake View Consols Mine is proving so wonderfully rich, cannot fail to favourably affect the whole of the West Australian market. To this influence must be added the receipt of satisfactory first crushings from a number of new mines, which go far to prove the great richness of the goldfields in this Colony. Other mines will also contribute first returns to the output in the near future, and it would be strange indeed if these actual results would not weigh much with the public. Amongst such recent developments I may mention the second crushing on the Glenloth lease of the Mackenzie Mining Company of 104 tons for 176 oz., the tailings assaying 15 dwt., so that the return is estimated at 2 oz. 9 dwt. to the ton, an improvement of 6 dwt. on the first crushing. With reference to the Great Boulder Main Reef crushing of 117 tons for 379 oz., it is now announced that the tailings contain 2 oz., bringing up the total to the value estimated before crushing, viz., 5 oz. The Menzies Crusoe had a crushing of 185 tons for 507 oz., the Menzies Gold Reefs one of 175 tons for 357 oz. The Edjudina, Hit or Miss, and Golden Arrow are about to commence crushing. A moderate reaction has occurred in West Australian Joint-Stock Trust shares to 3½ premium, but when in a week or two the Northern Territories Company is issued, a recovery is

probable in these and in other shares of the group. I am glad to learn that Mr. Allan Stoneham is recovering from his indisposition. West Australian Goldfields are quoted at $9\frac{3}{8}$, and it is understood that the Directors' report and accounts of the Hampton Plains will shortly be issued. Hannan's Brownhill shares have recovered to $5\frac{1}{16}$. I have made it my business to inquire into the trouble with reference to the machinery, and from what I can learn the only hitch is now that with regard to the treatment of the slimes, of which there is a very large proportion. Pressure of space does not permit me to enter more completely into this matter to-day, but from what I gather shareholders must not just yet anticipate more than the present crushings from about 200 tons. When the new appliances for treating the slimes are completed, however, they will probably in three months' time obtain returns from 600 to 700 tons of ore, and everything seems to point to the prospect that eventually this dry-crushing process will prove a success. This would undoubtedly be a very important circumstance for the whole of the West Australian goldfields, where water will always be wanted, considering the enormous extent to which mining work will eventually be carried on there. The issue by the Great Boulder Proprietary of the Great Boulder Junction Reefs, referred to last week, appears to have been received favourably, and the shares are stated to have been dealt in at $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. The shares in the Hannan's Empress Gold Mining and Development Company have been in some request. At the statutory meeting of the Hannan's Empress Gold Mining and Development Company, Limited, very favourable statements were made by the chairman, according to which there is a very large lode from 50 ft. to 80 ft. wide in places, of which some 20 ft. is expected to be found payable. Recent development is represented as having been very satisfactory by the manager, who states that gold is visible in certain portions, and that good gold is obtained from dollying in other parts. King of the West shares have been in demand at $2\frac{1}{4}$. According to the latest mail reports from the manager, Mr. Walter Burrell, they are driving through stone showing fine gold, and the width of the reef in No. 2 shaft, at a depth of 58 ft., is 14 ft. The manager also states that the mine is looking first-class. Hannan's Lode shares are quoted $1\frac{1}{4}$, with a considerable amount of dealings. According to cable advices from the managers, Messrs. Colin J. McCulloch & Co., of Kalgoorlie, the No. 1 shaft is now 25 ft. down, and the No. 2 shaft 17 ft. down. The managers add that they can put out gold. Gladiators have been in demand at 1 to $1\frac{1}{8}$, the news from this mine being very promising. Professor Nicholas wrote on June 10, 1896:—"The shoot of gold is pitching deeper, going east in No. 5 shaft. The reef is evidently 15 ft. thick, for the wall on the north side has not yet been reached in cross-cutting the reef, which also contains galena and pyrites. The new main shaft is being sunk at good speed. It is 70 ft. deep. A new leader of quartz has just been discovered in the 'Barrier Queen' lease in the bottom of the shaft, which will be broken into during my visit in the next week." The following telegram has been received from the mine manager at Coolgardie of the Rome Consolidated Mines, Limited:—"Have had samples assayed with following result: No. 1 assay of ore from 130 ft. level, 4 oz. of gold per ton. No. 2, New shaft, from 50 ft. level, 3 oz. 5 dwt. of gold per ton. Recommend sinking the vertical shaft in order to further develop reef." Burbank's Birthday Gift have been dealt in at $1\frac{3}{4}$, and there appears to be every prospect of the shares in the new Burbank's Consols, now quoted 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$, following in the wake of the older Company. Burbank's North, too, are promising well, the shares having been bought in some quantity at $1\frac{1}{4}$. West Australian Gold Concessions have remained firm at $1\frac{3}{4}$, notwithstanding the agitation concerning the Bailey's West, which by some is attributed to "Bears" of the Concessions. On the Hannan's Golden Dyke property of the latter Company highly auriferous ore has been struck. Amongst the shares which have suffered declines are Hainault, Abbott's, Arrow Brownhill, Hannan's 100 Acre, Lady Shenton, and Lake View South. Rumours have been current of a rich strike on the Murchison New Chums, which have fluctuated between 7s. and 8s., and I regret to notice that the same reprehensible secrecy is still being practised by the Directors. The statements made at the Londonderry meeting were not very encouraging, but I trust that the legal action to be taken will promptly decide the point as regards the transfer of the profits of the Colonel North of £70,000 to the Company. More light is wanted with regard to the position of the West Australian Minerals and Finance Corporation, and the shareholders will do well to demand full particulars. I should like to know the *raison d'être* of the 90-Mile Development Syndicate. It acts as an intermediary for the transfer of eight leases to a Company with a capital of £150,000, which at once purchases these properties. I wonder to how much the profit of this unnecessary Syndicate is to work out? With reference to some brief remarks which I made in last week's issue concerning the Central Finance Corporation, Limited, I have received a communication from Mr. D. N. Shaw, one of the Directors, with which I propose to deal next week. I shall, of course, be pleased to give him every opportunity of explaining the matter. Cable advices concerning the mines of the Venture Syndicate group continue satisfactory. The British Empire, Victoria United, and Carlisle at Yalgoo are stated to develop splendidly, and on the Sugar Loaf (25-Mile district) the reef has been struck 4 ft. wide, at a depth of 115 ft. The 90-Mile Proprietary mill is stated to be running smoothly, and a good crushing is looked for, the stone, of which there is an immense body, averaging from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 oz. to the ton. The news from the Hannan's Britannia is to the effect that the lode is 3 ft. wide, and that rich ore is expected to be struck at a deeper level. Latest cablegrams are to the effect that the lode has been crosscut at 80 ft., and is rich in gold. An important piece of news comes by cable from Perth to the effect that the second reading of the Loan Bill, to provide money for the great water scheme, has been moved in the Legislative Assembly by the Premier, Sir John Forrest, so that there is a prospect of the goldfields being in future fully provided with water. The outlook in the mining industry must indeed be very bright, to judge by the huge outlay of upwards of £2,000,000 which is contemplated for water, railway extensions, improvements in existing lines, harbour works, and a good supply of rolling stock. Incidentally, I hear that not long ago 100,000 acres were under lease, and since that time numbers of leases have been applied for. The Premier is, of course, ably assisted by the Minister of Mines, Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, who, being the only member of the Government in the Upper House, has to pilot all the Bills through it. I hear that the Government have a very ample programme, which includes a reduction of taxes and a Redistribution of Seats Bill. The latter means an appeal to the country during the next recess; but although the elections are expected to be very lively, the Government are pretty certain to carry the day.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Those who ought to know are of opinion that Indian Gold Mining shares, which have suffered in sympathy with the other Mining sections, will be benefited by improved July crushings. In the meantime, however, Mysore are firmer at $7\frac{13}{16}$, Champion Reefs at $7\frac{1}{2}$, Ooregum at $3\frac{3}{8}$ xd., and almost the only marked rise has occurred in Balaghat. Goldfields of Mysore at 24s. 6d., and Coromandel at $2\frac{1}{8}$, appear both to be a good purchase amongst the lower-priced shares. It is stated that the lode at the bottom of the shaft in the Coromandel mine is as much as 6 ft. wide, and goes 1 oz. 4 dwt. to the ton. It is surprising, under the circumstances, that the recent rise has not been maintained. Turning to Australian Mines, I find Aladdin's Lamp firmer at $1\frac{7}{8}$ xd., and Wentworth Proprietary 1. The Aladdin's Lamp Mine is again making an excellent return for the last four weeks with an output of 1,507 oz., valued at £5,530. This return appears to foreshadow another dividend of 1s. per

share (or 5 per cent.), and there are not many mines which show such returns monthly. In Charters Towers Mines, Bonnie Dundee and Day Dawn Block have improved. Mount Lyell have fluctuated wildly, and, after touching 7¼, have improved to 7¾. Gibraltar, British Broken Hill, Mosman, and Australian Broken Hill have also declined. In Mount Reid shares a considerable business has been transacted at 1 7/16. New Zealand Mines are lower all round, especially the high-priced shares. Taitapu are down to 2¾, Waihi Silverton to 2⅜, Waihi to 6⅝, Waitekauri to 5½, almost the only improvement being marked in Thames Hauraki to 1⅛, and Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand to 4 3/16, Komata Queen are quoted 4s., Preece's Point 3s. 9d., and Maoriland Gold 3s. With reference to the latter, cablegrams have been received stating that the transfer of the property to an English Company has been effected, and that further developments on the mine will at once be started, new machinery having been ordered. I mentioned last week, at special request, that a Committee of Yorkshire shareholders in the North Queensland Mines Agency would interview the Managing Director (Mr. Macfie) in London with reference to the position of the concern. A circular has now reached me from Mr. Arthur Lennard, chairman of the Committee, stating that the explanations given at such interview to the Committee were satisfactory; it was arranged that Mr. Macfie should call a meeting of the shareholders of the new Company within three weeks to appoint a London Board of Directors and Secretary, and the advice is given to shareholders to send in their certificates. It strikes me that, after all the fuss that has been made, the explanations above referred to should be fully published for the benefit of the other shareholders. In the general foreign section Burma Ruby, Columbian Hydraulic, Pestarena, Banner Gold, and Doric are all lower, but Richmond have improved. Copper shares have receded under the lead of Rio Tinto, which are down to 23⅜.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Key of Komata, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire 149 acres, or thereabouts, of mineral land containing gold reefs, situate in the Thames district of the Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand. The capital is £100,000 in shares of £1 each.

This property is situated within an easy distance of the township of Waitekauri, and the reefs are reported as generally large, and carrying well-defined walls. On the Komata Reef property they range from 4 ft. to 20 ft. in width, the assays from which have been fairly satisfactory. The cost of mining in this district is comparatively low, as the lodes are of a soft character, hence the working expenses will be small after development. This appears to be a fair mining venture with the probability of developing into a valuable mine.

New Zealand Iron and Steel Company, Limited.—This Company, according to the prospectus, is formed to meet the demand for marketable iron and steel in New Zealand and Australia, and to purchase and work a Government Lease of New Zealand for the entire existing deposit as shown on a map at the Company's offices. The capital is £450,000 in £1 shares.

This is a venture that had better be left alone until further progress has been made. What the promoters propose to do will take a long time to complete, and a large business will have to be done to realise anything like the estimated profits.

The New Brighton Tower and Recreation Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to purchase the Rock Point Estate of about 20 acres in extent at New Brighton, upon which it is proposed to erect a tower 550 ft. high. The capital is £300,000 in shares of £1 each.

This venture is nearer the flourishing City of Liverpool than London, and the inhabitants of that city can form a far better estimate of the possibilities of success than Londoners. I think it would be better to let the Liverpudlians have it all to themselves.

The Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the works and business now carried on by the new Howe Machine Company, Limited, at Bridgetown, Glasgow, as manufacturers of sewing machines and cycles, &c. The capital is £250,000 in shares of £1 each.

Brockie-Pell Arc Lamp, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the inventions for the construction of electric arc lamps of Messrs. Brockie & Pell, and the various patents, rights, and future improvements thereto. The capital is fixed at £80,000, in shares of £1 each.

Lovell & Christmas, Limited.—This Company is formed to take over a provision business that has been carried on at Smithfield, E.C., with the freehold and leasehold premises appertaining thereto. The capital is £350,000, and 200,000 Four per Cent. Mortgage Debenture stock.

I cannot conceive how so excessive a capital can be asked for a business of this description. The profits depend entirely upon commission earned by the sale of goods, and should the supply fail there is not much to fall back upon. There are far better investments in the market.

Gavin's House-to-House Cycle Cleaning and Insurance Company.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of establishing in London and the provinces depots for cleaning, repairing, storing, and selling cycles, and for other purposes. The capital is fixed at £300,000 in £1 shares.

The objects that this Company proposes to undertake are multifarious, but not such as to warrant the enormous capital of £300,000. With the exception of insurance, there is nothing but what existing cycle manufacturers and small traders can and possibly will undertake to do. The sum paid to the vendor also is very large for what is simply an idea.

The Cannon Brewery Company, Limited.—This is an issue of £500,000 Four per Cent. "B" Debenture stock, redeemable in 1915 at £110. The price of issue is £104 per £100 bond, which will be secured by a floating charge over all the assets of the Company, subject only to the prior claim of the First Mortgage Debenture stockholders. Applications are to be sent to Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, E.C.

Thorpe Brothers & Co., Limited.—With a capital of £150,000 in Cumulative Six per Cent. Preference shares and Ordinary shares of £1 each, and Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, this Company is formed to take over as a going concern the wholesale and retail businesses of Messrs. Geo. Thorpe & Co., at Bradford. £50,000 of the Debentures and £50,000 in Cumulative Preference shares are now offered for subscription.

Batchelar & Son, Limited.—This Company is formed with a share capital of £55,000 and Debenture stock of £30,000, to take over and carry on the old-established business of Batchelor & Son, furniture removers, cabinet makers and upholsterers, and proprietors of depositories at North End, Broad Green, Summer-road, and Duppas Hill, Croydon. Issue of 5,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each at par, and £30,000 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock at 103 per cent.

The West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation, Limited.—This Corporation has been formed for the purpose of taking over the assets and liabilities of the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Syndicate, Limited. The capital is fixed at £505,000, divided into 500,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, and 5,000 Founders' shares of £1 each. This is an issue of £100,000 Ordinary shares at a premium of £1 each.

The Belmore Hill Amalgamated Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire eight mining leases of about fifty-three acres in extent, situated on the Belmore Hill, two miles and a half from Canowindra, and eighteen from Cowra, New South Wales. The capital is £150,000 in £1 shares.

Notwithstanding the expert reports, I cannot see anything in this prospectus to warrant my recommending it to my readers.

Benskin's Watford Brewery.—This is an issue of £150,000 Four and a Half per Cent. "B" Mortgage Debenture stock at the price of £108, redeemable at the Company's option in 1910 at £113. Applications are to be sent to the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., or any of its branches.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

The Acme Insurance Company, Limited.—This Company has been established for the purpose of undertaking every form of insurance (life excepted). The capital is fixed at £250,000 in shares of £1 each.

This Company has undertaken to do what is already done by other Companies, but its promoters claim that owing to economies rendered possible they will be able to insure at rates considerably under those at present charged. My readers must not forget that cheapness does not always mean safety, and the capital is to my mind too small for an insurance business covering the ground this one proposes to do.

Thomas Edward Brinsmead & Sons, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on the business of pianoforte manufacturers carried on by Thomas Edward Brinsmead & Sons at Camden and Kentish Town, N.W. The capital is £100,000, in shares of £5 each.

A. M. Peebles & Son, Limited. — Share capital £200,000. This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the business of A. M. Peebles & Son, 153, Queen Victoria street, and Peebles & Son at Whiteash and Rishton Paper Mills, Lancashire.

The Liverpool Lighterage Company, Limited. — Capital £150,000, divided into £75,000 Preference and £75,000 Ordinary shares. This Company is formed for the purpose of uniting several lighterage businesses of Liverpool and other ports on the Mersey.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

Beaulieu.—1. The Argentine Funding Loan is a 6 per cent. loan, which, under the Romero-Rothschild agreement, receives 5 per cent. for the present, and was to return to the 6 per cent. basis in 1899. The present quotation is 84, and it will be dealt with under the Unification Bill, apparently receiving very satisfactory treatment. 2. The Old Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent. Loan stands at 50¾. The new bonds bear 5 per cent. interest, and were issued at 71½ per cent. They are at present quoted 1¼ discount, and thus yield upwards of 7 per cent. per annum; and these are the bonds which I consider preferable for investment. Twenty-five per cent. has been paid up, 25 per cent. more is payable on August 15, 1896, and 21½ per cent. on September 30, 1896. The first quarterly coupon of £1. 5s. per cent. is payable on October 31. *Hard Hit.*—No option but to hold for the present. *A. B.*—Perhaps you had best put the £200 into a large dividend-paying South African or West Australian gold mine, which you can easily select from my letter. As regards the Metropolitans you might hold for a further improvement. *Jack.*—The new Uruguay loan will receive a settlement and quotation in due time. There is a prospect of the Argentine Provincial debts being settled, and you should hold now. *Tanner.*—No reason to sell the Argentine Government bonds; hold for a recovery. *Phono.*—Both the Government stocks mentioned by you are fair investments, but no catch. Personally, I should prefer the new Uruguay loan, which yields a much higher return.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

Faint Heart.—A fair investment, but you must consider the uncalled liability of £20 per share. *P. A., Clapham.*—I have given you all the information you required, and have at your request recommended you a smart firm of City solicitors; what more do you want? *Jigs.*—The firm has as you say formerly settled all accounts promptly; but as there appears to be some change in the position you had better at once set the firm of City solicitors at work, the address of whom I forward in your envelope as requested. *Uglifer.*—Union Bank of Australia shares are recovering again, and I do not advise a sale now. *Patey.*—1. I am afraid that by waiting so long you have forfeited your right of claim, unless it is a very strong case. It is a matter for a solicitor, and I have at your request sent you the address of a smart firm. 2. You have absolutely nothing to complain of. The receipt which I return is perfectly in order, and there is no doubt that the matter will be all right. *C. H. R.*—If you want to buy Paris Lottery bonds you had better apply to a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, such as Messrs. N. Keizer & Co., 1, Cowper's-court, London, E.C. *A. P.*—You might put the money into sound Home Brewery debentures, or into Brighton "A," which yields £3. 17s. per annum, with every prospect of an increased yield. *B. B. B.*—Outside brokers; why do you persist in dealing with such people when I have always warned my readers against them? You ought to deal through members of the Stock Exchange only. *C. M. F.*—All high-class investments are at present at exaggerated prices, so that it is very difficult to recommend a stock yielding the return mentioned, with a certainty of increase in capital value. *G. M. A.*—I do not like this concern, and I advise you to take an opportunity to get out. *H. N. W.*—I do not see how I can help you; it is a matter for a solicitor. *Tobias Twister.*—I advise you to have nothing to do with these outside dealers.

HOME RAILS.

E. B., Harrogate.—There is not so much speculation in this stock as in the others, and very little market in London. *T. N.*—For a speculative purchase Caledonian Deferred (Coras), North British Deferred, and Dover "A" might be most suitable.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

Porphyry.—1. Yes, Central Argentine stock is a sound investment. 2. A fair purchase, but no catch at present. *R. N.*—1. No option but to hold for the present. 2. I do not recommend averaging, but hold; the decease of Colonel North is an unfavourable feature as regards this stock. *Domingo.*—No option but to hold for the present until the market takes a favourable turn. *East Anglia.*—Yes, you should hold these; the interest is being paid, and the future seems fairly promising. *Addis, Birmingham.*—I do not advise purchase of Yankee Rails at present, as these will be very unsettled until the Presidential election has been decided. *R. I.*—No option but to hold for the present. *Seaman.*—There is no Government guarantee, but a contract with the Government. *Torquay.*—The Cordoba and Rosario conversion took place after the date mentioned, and the Debentures were first officially quoted in their new from on August 28, 1895, as follows:—The Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 93½, and the Six per Cent. Debenture stock at 71.

MINING SHARES.

Enquirer, Wardrobe-place, E.C.—These shares are not dealt in on this market, and nothing is known as to the Company's position or prospects. *Enquirer, Newport, Mon.*—I am not an admirer of the W. A. Gresham Syndicate, and you ought to be able to obtain the information you require from the Secretary. *F. F. H.*—If you cannot obtain a settlement employ a solicitor. *Trams.*—It is absurd for you to expect an upward movement in any particular South African or West Australian share, unless the whole market improves. There is every prospect of this taking place, but it will have to be awaited. Be careful with reference to the publication mentioned. *Juvenis.*—Hold for the present, but there is no temptation to buy more. *Nith.*—Although the Australasian Gold Trust has not done anything much yet to encourage its shareholders, I think it is advisable to hold. *E. W. W.*—I do not recommend purchase of Broad Arrow (1); but Holcomb Valley Prefs. (2) are a fair mining risk. Of the other shares mentioned, Nos. 3 to 7, I prefer Randfontein (5) and Glencairn (6). *Sholto.*—1. I do not care for Klipfontein. 2. Not just yet. 3. Quite nominal. 4. There is no market here. *H. P. G.*—Mount Lyell shares are quite high enough. *Tristan.*—Try the Scottish Widows' Fund. With reference to your mining shares, Nos. 1 to 20, a great many of these are not bought on my advice, but there is no option than to hold those specially mentioned by you, Nos. 8, 12, 17, and 18 for the present. There is no hurry in selling the others, on which you have good profits, as yet. You ought to have bought Mainland Consols and Lake View Consols before, but there is still a prospect of a further rise in these. *Prow, Aberdeen.*—The talk about Waterfall Estates is absurd. It is a promising Company, and whenever the South African market revives they will reach a higher level. *J. H.*—Hold for the present; a circular has just been issued to the shareholders. *H. O.*—It is absurd that you should pay attention to blackmailing circulars of this kind. If you take your cue from such persons you will be sorry for it. *Italiano.*—No; I do not advise investment in Bechuanaland Exploration. *Pizzicato.*—No reason for selling West Australian Exploring and Finance shares. Write to the Secretary for an explanation. With reference to the other shares mentioned, Nos. 1 to 3, they should be held. *Acacia.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1 to 5 at present, although I do not like Great Fingall Reefs (3). With reference to other West Australian shares to buy, I must refer you to my letter. Nos. 6 to 9 are fair mining risks; but no catch. *Rothes.*—I consider Komata Queens (C) promising; but I do not think much of A and B. *Tha Brough.*—1. Yes, Barnato Banks are a good purchase. 2. Do not pay the call, but join the other shareholders in objecting. *Fido.*—1. A fair New Zealand mine. 2. A fair mining risk. *Proof.*—I do not advise purchase of any of the shares mentioned by you. *X. Y. Z.*—In the position of the widow lady in question, she should certainly not speculate in such doubtful mining shares. *West Cliff.* — Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I should prefer Gladiators and Transvaal Exploring. *Pop Gunner.*—A fair mining risk. *W. B., Manchester.*—1. No, I do not advise purchase of Sam's Wealth of Nations. 2. Central Exploration

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of W.A. is a promising Company. 3. You got too high into Great Boulders. 4. No. 5. Yes, Paddington Consols is a promising Company. 6. Do not buy now. Wealth of Nations (7) and Hannan's Proprietary (8) should be held. *F. H., Colchester.*—It is impossible to tell how Great Boulders will move in the near future; and with regard to the other questions you should write to the Secretary. *Barrow Club.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you A to G, it would be advisable to hold the majority. I can tell you nothing about any possible dividend on the Barnato Consols. Amongst West Australians I should advise you to make your selection from the recommendations in my letter under "Golden West Australia." You have done quite right in buying Glencairn and Randfontein. *Jeg.*—You should disregard such stupid comments, and keep your shares. *Dingle.*—Chartered shares may rise again, when you should sell (1). You might also risk holding Nos. 2 to 4. *Correspondent, Great Coram-Street.*—I cannot tell you when the general meeting will be held; but you should apply to the Secretary for information. *B. B.*—The South African Colliery Company in question will probably come all right, but at present business in the Transvaal is not flourishing. The Australian Trust shares should be held for the present. *W. C. L. L.*—1. You should certainly take your proportion of shares in the new Barnato amalgamation, whenever this takes place. 2. Hold all these shares, and await the publication of the particulars. 3. Yes. 4. About 4½d. *Gwalia.*—1. The date of the meeting has not yet been fixed. 2. No. 3. Yes, I still retain my favourable opinion. 4. No reason to sell. 5. No. 6. Yes, Barnato Banks would be preferable. *King's Road.*—1. A good mine. 2. Yes. 3. In August or September. *Cam.*—I do not know any reason; but a circular has been issued to the shareholders, and the shares should be held. *Carousal.*—Hold your mining shares Nos. 1 to 6. I have no settled opinion with regard to Pegamoids (7). *Unlucky.*—This mine has been very disappointing, but I should not advise you to sell now. *Morley Club.*—1. Be careful. 2. I advise you to have nothing to do with it. 3. The Aroha is a promising New Zealand mine. *J. W. G.*—I think there is every prospect of African Estates recovering again. *J. R., North Devon.*—I quite agree with you as regards the recent step taken in connection with Colenbranders to supply the Chartered Company with funds. *Constant Reader, Manchester.*—You got in rather high, and should sell as soon as you see a slight profit. *A. E. H.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I prefer Nos. 1, 4, 6 (Croydon Consols), and 11 (W.A. Share Corporation). I do not advise averaging the shares mentioned at present. The firm in question is considered reliable. *Sligo.*—I do not recommend the investment. *Airdrie.*—The London-Paris Corporation is fairly promising, but I do not advise purchase of the other shares just now. *R. T. L.*—I do not approve of Lisbon-Berlyn. With reference to the West Australian shares mentioned by you, the future is as yet doubtful. Jokers are a good purchase, and the Trust shares should improve. *Realisation.*—I do not think much of this concern. *H. N.*, Clifton.—1. New Explorers' Syndicate should be bought. Nos. 2 and 4 are fair mining risks. With reference to No. 5, the meeting is not likely to take place for some time, but the Company is doing very well. I do not remember the syndicate in question. *W. S.*, Broxburn.—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I like Hannan's Proprietary (3) and Associated Southern (4) best. *Dimin.*—I have not, so far, received any such information concerning the Central Wealth of Nations, but I think that it is time for the shareholders to bestir themselves and bring the Directors to their bearings. *E. R. L.*—1. Hold Mainland Consols for a fresh rise, and see remarks under "The Whitaker Wright Group to the Front." 2. Hold, but take a fair profit. 3. Randfontein are bound for much higher prices when once the general depression has passed from the Kaffir Circus. *D. O. E.*—Yes, Burbanks Consols are a good purchase; the mine is a very promising one. *Hextoldian.*—A fair mining risk, but no catch. 2. Take a good profit in Hit or Miss when you get it. 3. I do not care for Klerksdorps. 4. Fair prospects. 5. No catch. *Newry.*—The Wealth of Nations Mine will come right again. Hold! *Alabaster.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I should prefer Gladiators and Burbanks Consols. *Erina.*—1. Sell when you get out without a loss. 2. A fair mining risk, but you got rather high into Hainault, and could have done better elsewhere. 3. I do not like North Fingalls at all. 4. Hold Holcomb Valley. 5. No catch. Take any fair profit. 6. Research and Development shares are quite high enough. *Investor, South Tottenham.*—How can I advise you without your giving me the name of the Murchison Mine in which you are interested. *Badger.*—I quite agree with your strictures on the proposal of Colenbranders to pay £5,000 to the Chartered Company, and expressed this view already last week. *Omega.*—1. Make your selection from Golden West Australia; Gladiators, Burbanks Consols are promising shares still at a low price. You should also buy at once Lake View Consols and Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure. Certainly amongst the new mines Great Boulder Junction Reefs, and Hill End Consols are promising. Shirlaw's Gold Mine should be held. 2. No reason to sell Sheba and Randfontein; they will eventually rise to a higher level. *Cain.*—Yes; hold all these shares for an improvement. *A.B.P.*—1. I should prefer Associated Southern to 2. As regards 3, it is promising, but you are of course aware that the South African position is still very much involved. *Snipe.*—No; Hannan's Associated are not tempting. *Search Light.*—A report has just been published. Why do you not write to the Secretary for information. *X.Y.Z.*—1. I am told that the Directors' report and accounts of the Hampton Plains are now being drawn up. 2. I cannot tell. 3. Absolutely no reason. *Unlucky, Ballinamore.*—Amongst your list of shares I prefer Gladiators (1), Golden River Quesnelle (4), and West Australian Concessions (2). 8. The Randfontein will not crush itself; it is a parent Company which will eventually have some twenty mines as sub-Companies. 9. The Croydon Consols Mine is improving as it goes down, but it is not possible to fix the life of the mine. The Croydon goldfield generally is, however, very permanent. 10. About ten shares. *Truth Reader, Bexhill.*—Keep your £5 at the Savings Bank! *Sphinx.*—No reason to sell. *John Shaw.*—I think you might as well adopt a different *nom de plume.* Hold your mining shares for the present. *Victor.*—I do not like this concern at all, and I do not think that the shares will turn out "friends." *R. T. M.*—No option but to hold the first-named shares for the present. I do not advise purchase of the shares mentioned by you. You could do better in those referred to in my letter.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Lea.—You must be aware that unfortunately Olympia has not prospered, and there is absolutely nothing to be done in the matter. You are doubtless aware of what has been decided by the committee of shareholders. *Cork Reader.*—Dunlop Deferred shares never rose above ⅞ premium in this market. *Electricity.*—The future is still too uncertain. *Ryot.*—There is no market for these shares at present, and nothing for it but to wait. *Alpha.*—I see no reason why you should not hold the shares; the money has been found by the underwriters, and the undertaking in itself is promising. *Bernasconi.*—1. I see no temptation to buy these music-hall shares. 2. Any stockbroker will buy them for you. *J. D. H.*—These preference shares are fair value, and nothing has occurred to change my opinion. It was a clerical error. *A. W. C.*—I do not consider these tea shares promising. *Ignorant, Maidenhead.*—You must tell me what return you require, and whether you want debentures or shares. *C. T., Carlisle.*—You will see that I have given special attention to the Brighton and Hove Dairies, Limited. *Irish.*—I do not like either of the shares mentioned by you. *Flageolet.*—I think it would be advisable, before buying any more American brewery shares, to await the upshot of the present political movements in the United States. *Rotterdam.*—The process is a successful one, and it is hoped that the Companies will finally come all right. *Sally.*—In view of the surroundings of the Kent Coalfields, I do not advise the investment. *Viva.*—I do not recommend this new Tea Company. *Essex.*—No; I do not advise the investment. *Pool.*—1. I do not like this warehousing Company. 2. No reason to buy these meat shares now. *Infelix.*—I quite agree with you that these preference shares are very promising. *Ladyship.*—I do not know the reason, but I daresay the insiders know. *Aorillia.*—Yes; I do not anticipate much of a rise in these Cycle shares at present. *Somerset.*—A fair industrial investment, but no catch. *Glam.*—I do not recommend purchase of the New Premier or Singer Cycles. *Westminster.*—I do not think there is any risk with this Company; some of the Press comments are unfair. As the capital has been provided by the underwriters, I do not see why you should worry yourself so much.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Nemo, Highgate.—1. A fair investment, but no particular prospect of a rise. 2. No. *Cheshire.*—1. You got rather high into Rand Reefs; hold now. 2. St. Louis Brewery shares would have improved ere this, had it not been for the currency trouble in the United States. *Peggy Bane.*—I really cannot advise you on this matter; you had perhaps better wait until the other shareholders have obtained some result. You should certainly hold Uruguay bonds. *Sawdust.*—1. I do not think much of this purchase. 2. Hold, but do not buy more to average. *Yates & Co.*—This inquiry is written on the back of a circular bearing this name, and being anonymous I can take no notice of same. *New Club.*—The list you have made up *re* the investment of your £8,000, Nos. 1 to 14, is fairly satisfactory; but I consider Nos. 6 and 8 too uncertain. American Breweries are at present hanging fire, and Home Industrials are very speculative, unless you buy the debentures and are satisfied with a small interest. *Pioneer.*—1. You ought to join other objecting shareholders in the Dunlop-Truffault Cycle Company, and demand the return of your subscription; but I cannot tell you anything about the persons in question. 2. It is a question which you must yourself decide. 3. No option but to hold your Chartered shares for the present in the hope of a recovery, when you should sell; it is a pity that you did not take my advice to keep out of them. *Cheeroot.*—I agree with you that these Tea Companies are now "on the crest of the wave," and I really cannot advise you to invest this large sum now. *Valloneto.*—Yes; the new Chilian Five per Cent. loan is a good investment. I do not think much of the other shares mentioned. *Cheque.*—1. I do not like New Seddons either, and do not think they will go to the price mentioned. 2. These shares should improve, but when it is impossible to tell. *William B.*—1. You had better hold these Buenos

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Ayres bonds now, as the price is rising. 2. Impossible to tell. *Wharfedale.*—There is no market for the first-named shares at present. As regards the mining shares, there is no option but to hold on the chance of recovery. *Dok.*—Sell the Tyre shares as soon as you can get a small profit. Hold London and Globe Finance shares for a considerable rise. *19.*—You might put some of the money into the new Uruguay and Chilian loans, and into a few dividend-paying South African gold mining shares, such as Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose and Glencairn. *Tiney.*—1. A fair mining risk, but very speculative. 2. Yes. 3. If the silver party should prevail in the United States, the outlook would be very bad; but I cannot bring myself to believe that they will succeed. 4. I do not advise purchase of the London Drapery Stores. *C.L.C.S.*—1. You will have to hold for some time before you can get a good price. 2. No. 3. Yes; it would be preferable to hold. *C. F., Bournemouth.*—No particular reason to get out of the Brazilians at once. The bank in question is not suitable for making investments through. You must tell me in what class of investment you wish to put your thousand pounds. No option but to hold New York Central now. *H. W. B., Manchester.*—Your American Railroad bonds Nos. 1 to 6 are well selected, and you should hold for a recovery. The West Australian mine in question has been a great disappointment, and there is no option but to hold. The Springdale is a good mine, but the management has been bad. If you want something new, you may go farther and fare worse.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

Money continues abundant and cheap, and gilt-edged investments are as much in demand as ever, as illustrated by the great success of the Burma Railway issue. Consols have been remarkably steady, and show very little change for the week at 113$\frac{5}{16}$. Silver is slightly easier at 31$\frac{3}{8}$d. It is, of course, out of the question to already discount the possible victory of the Silverites in the United States. Rupee Paper has improved slightly to 64$\frac{5}{8}$, chiefly on purchases by Eastern Banks for the Indian market, and the success of the new Rupee loan. Brewery shares have been firm, and Allsopps have advanced to 180 on dividend rumours. It is now expected that the announcement will be made next Friday, the market going for 8 per cent. Guinness are easier at 650. Nitrate Rails have been quiet at 7$\frac{1}{4}$, and Mexican Rails have also been neglected. In Cycle shares very few dealings have taken place, and prices have shown a sagging tendency, Dunlop Deferred declining to $\frac{5}{8}$ premium. Humber Extensions have been well supported at $\frac{5}{16}$-$\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., although the fire at the Coventry works must affect them, as stated at the meeting of shareholders. Beeston's have dropped to 4$\frac{1}{2}$, but Cycle Tubes are firm at 1$\frac{1}{16}$. The disclosures in connection with the financial operations of the former Colonial Treasurer of New Zealand, the Hon. J. G. Ward, in his examination before a Judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, are of a very damaging nature. He admitted that the balance-sheet of the J. G. Ward Association, of which he is Managing Director, was not correct, and his dealings with the Colonial Bank were, to say the least of them, curious. Frank Tarrant & Co, of 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., are circularising the public with boastful statements, according to which they have just closed a Midland joint deal at 425 per cent. profit, and that they have closed twenty-six deals without a single loss. I remember several outside dealers at various times boasting of similar results, but they invariably finished up with big losses. It is quite clear to me that if Tarrant & Co. could always make such big profits, they would do the business for their own account and not for the public, and I should personally be very sorry to put a single shilling down with such syndicate touts. Mr. Claude Audain, stock and share broker and dealer, of 107, London-wall, is sending out prospectuses of "The Brighton and Hove Dairies," capital £20,000 in Seven per Cent. Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each. He "has secured the firm call of a block of shares, and offers an underwriting bonus of 10 per cent. in fully-paid Ordinary shares." Although Mr. Audain describes this as "an unusual opportunity of acquiring a good home investment, yielding a high rate of interest," I should prefer to invest my money elsewhere, but I should like to know what profit that gentleman expects to make out of the block of shares of which he has secured the call.—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

BANK HOLIDAY AT BROWLESWORTH.

WHEN the Vicar of Browlesworth suffered a temporary breakdown of health, and was ordered by his doctors to go away for three months' change, his parishioners heard the news with some regret; for though the old gentleman was prosy in the pulpit, procrastinating in parish matters, and generally somewhat slack and behind the times, he was, nevertheless, amiable and good-natured, and rather popular than otherwise with his little flock. But with the arrival of the *locum tenens*, who came to take the vicar's duty during his absence, the regret of the parishioners speedily vanished. The Rev. Marmaduke Mollington was quite a revelation to the inhabitants of sleepy little Browlesworth. He was entirely unlike the average clerical stop-gap. There were about him none of those features which characterise the ordinary guinea-pig. He was young, energetic, earnest; an eloquent preacher, an assiduous parish priest, a comely and well-bred man. Naturally, he soon became popular with all classes. And it may be hardly needful to add that the fair sex, to a woman, fell in love with him. For was there ever an engaging bachelor cleric who failed to inspire wholesale passion in the bosoms of his lady parishioners?

Perhaps, indeed, it implied no great attractiveness to be beloved by the ladies of Browlesworth. Men were scarce in that benighted country town, and women were extremely plentiful. It follows, as a consequence, that, the air of the place being salubrious and the death-rate low, it contained a large number of elderly spinsters. Strangers who came to stay there often remarked with amusement upon the number of old maids who resided in Browlesworth. There were no less than fourteen such in the limited pale of Browlesworth Society, and eleven of these were (if we may be allowed an auctioneer's phrase) self-contained; that is to say, they lived in their own houses, and kept up their own small establishments. The most considerable of them, Socially, was a Miss Anstilter, who wrote "Honourable" before her name upon her cards. She lived in a small house, and only kept two maid-servants. But the daughter of a peer was necessarily a great person in Browlesworth, even though her habits were stingy and her establishment inconsiderable. Besides, although she only did live in a small house, and kept but two maid-servants, her "form" of doing things was quite undeniable. When she received at afternoon tea, the refreshments might be scanty, but they were served in a style befitting a princess; and when she gave a little dinner, though the mutton came from New Zealand and the champagne was gooseberry, her guests ate the former off some of the finest plate and imbibed the latter from some of the best cut-glass in the county.

Miss Anstilter has been designated an old maid. The description is true, if an unattractive and scraggy unmarried lady of forty-six should be so designated. It fails, however, if in the term old-maid is involved the abandonment of all matrimonial projects by the lady to whom it is applied. Miss Anstilter was not married, but the truthful historian cannot say that she did not wish or expect to be married. On the contrary, she still cherished the idea that the longed-for husband would soon cross her path, and that her post-meridian charms would shortly bless the future of some eligible aspirant. When Marmaduke Mollington appeared upon the scene, Miss Anstilter began to feel vaguely that the eligible one had arrived.

This Honourable spinster had a pretty, a poetic fancy. When Marmaduke spoke to her, she could read hidden passion in his eyes, she could detect veiled meanings in the polite forms of his conversation. Sometimes in church, when he read some passage in the Scriptures allusive to love, she knew—knew by some subtle instinct—that his thoughts on the instant flew to her, and then she blushed behind her spotted veil and felt her heart beat like a hammer right through the steels of her "Rejuvenator" corset. One Sunday in particular, there came

in the second lesson that passage where St. Paul enjoins the brethren (including, of course, the sisters) "to salute one another with the holy kiss." As he read these words, he looked up from the lectern and caught her eye; then both their gazes fell; and she knew that he was thinking how sweet it would be to exercise the Apostle's precept upon herself. Oh! in what a twitter she was at that supreme moment. It was as if she actually felt the pressure of his saintly lips upon her cheek.

Now to do the *locum tenens* justice, he was very far from being a flirt; nor did it ever occur to him to make love either to Miss Anstilter or to any other of the Browlesworth ladies. He was civil, polite, courteous to all; perhaps rather more, indeed to the Honourable old maid than to any of the rest. But that was due to no amatory sensations on his part. It was, partly, a mark of respect to her superior rank; partly a way of ingratiating himself with her *pour le bon motif*. Any one who was not absolutely blind could see that the Rev. Marmaduke was entirely wrapped up in his clerical work, and that he cared not a brass farthing for anything outside it. He was rather appalled at the backward state, ecclesiastically, in which he had found the parish of Browlesworth; and he was anxious, simply from love of his calling, to work the parish into a better condition, before handing it back to the vicar upon his return. Success in this depended, mainly, upon the co-operation of the parishioners themselves—especially of the lady parishioners. And that is why the reverend *locum tenens* was so anxious to ingratiate himself with Miss Anstilter. She, as the daughter of a peer, set the tone to the other ladies. And if she could be induced to take an active share in parish work, there was no doubt that many others would follow her Honourable lead.

One of the first parish institutions which the Rev. Marmaduke took upon himself to work up and improve was the local branch of the Girls' Friendly Society. This had existed for many years in Browlesworth, but had lately fallen into an almost moribund state. It had been originally started by the vicar's late wife, and during her lifetime had flourished tolerably well; but when she died, no other lady in the parish could be found to take her place; and though one or two remained who were nominally associates of the society, they practically did no work in connection with it, and left the few members who hung on very much to themselves.

This state of things the *locum tenens* at once set himself to amend. He had long taken a deep interest in that admirable society, and having seen what excellent work it had effected among the girls and young women in other parishes with which he had been connected, he could not bear to see it languishing and dying in Browlesworth from the want of a little energy to resuscitate it. He preached a stirring sermon about it from the text, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;" and the day afterwards, wishing to strike while the iron was hot, he went round to see some of the leading ladies of the parish, with a view to inducing them to take up this excellent work. Of course, he began with Miss Anstilter. He was delighted to find her amenable and in every way ready to fall in with his suggestions.

"Ah, Mr. Mollington," she said, with a sweet glance of her faded eyes. "After your beautiful sermon yesterday, could I possibly refuse?"

"Ah! you flatter me," he replied, deprecatingly. And then he added, with earnest energy: "It is a noble work."

"It is indeed," she assented. "Oh, Mr. Mollington, what tender plants are we women! And with what dangers and temptations are we encircled on every hand. We are all so weak, Mr. Mollington, so weak, and so—so—foolish!"

"We are all weak and foolish, taken individually," said the *locum-tenens*, feeling rather alarmed. "But when banded together we acquire strength to fight against unnumbered foes. That is one of the chief advantages of these great organisations. Then I may count upon your co-operation in this?"

"My most hearty co-operation," she said, fervently.

"And you will take steps to become enrolled an associate of the G.F.S. as soon as possible?"

"Certainly I will."

"This is truly good of you. And you will use your influence—your great influence—to induce the girls and young women of the parish to join—will you not?"

"You may rely upon me, Mr. Mollington. When once I put my hand to the plough, I am not one to look back."

"I am sure of it, dear lady. I may add that the G.F.S. makes a great point of getting at domestic servants—alas! the most spiritually neglected class in the whole community. But many of them think it *infra. dig.* to join the society. I wonder whether you could persuade your two maids to become members. It would indeed be a help if you could; for did *your* domestics join us, few others, I believe, would hold back."

"Oh, I will get them to join, never fear," said Miss Anstilter, confidently.

"Thank you, indeed. Then I know that the battle is already half won. I am particularly anxious that the work should be accomplished quickly, not only because, alas! my time here is short" (Miss Anstilter sighed audibly), "but also because I should like our members to be enrolled in time to take part in the great Diocesan meeting of the G.F.S., which is fixed for Bank Holiday. The Bishop, you know, entertains the whole Diocesan branch of the Society in his grounds at the Palace. It will be a grand thing if we can muster there in strong force."

After a few more minutes' conversation, the Rev. Marmaduke took his departure, well satisfied with the result of his interview. Having Miss Anstilter on his side meant that he had a tolerably easy task before him. And so indeed he found it; for within three weeks there had been enrolled in Browlesworth two working and six honorary Associates, and close upon seventy Friendly girls—many of the latter domestic servants. When he saw this satisfactory evidence of his labours, our simple-hearted cleric was quite childish in his eager expressions of delight.

On the Sunday before the holiday he preached another stirring sermon—addressed especially to the members of the G.F.S. He dwelt on the importance of the parish being well represented at the great meeting on the morrow. He entreated the girls, if they had already formed plans for enjoying Bank Holiday in more secular fashion, to abandon those plans, and make a point of going to the G.F.S. gathering instead. He alluded—though with becoming delicacy—to the temptations and dangers incident to the day as it was often spent by young women, and pointed out that Bank Holiday had been intentionally fixed by the Society for their meeting, in order to draw girls away from the danger to which they were then exposed. He exhorted the mistresses of houses, also, to deny their own conveniences for this one day, and to let such of their servants as were members attend the meeting. His pleading was earnest and eloquent. It was well calculated to move female hearts. Many shining eyes were fixed upon the preacher's eager face. Many tender bosoms throbbed and fluttered. Truly religion is the royal road to woman's heart. The pen may be mightier than the sword. But (where ladies are concerned) the stole can give points to either.

Next day broke fine and warm—the eventful Monday to which so many were looking forward. The Rev. Marmaduke's sermon had not been without effect. The Friendly girls and their Associates, bound for the Bishop's Palace, assembled at Browlesworth Railway Station almost in full force. Miss Anstilter was there, with her two domestics; so was Miss Primster, the other working Associate, with her two domestics. Four of the honorary Associates also put in an appearance. Taken together the band must have numbered nearly sixty. But at present all felt that it was like the play without Hamlet; for the Rev. Marmaduke, the one for whose sake, and for the pleasure of whose company most of them were going, had not yet put in an appearance. At length, just before the train started, there arrived, not the reverend gentleman himself, but a messenger bearing a note from him addressed to Miss Anstilter. She opened the missive with trembling fingers, and, having mastered its contents, communicated them to the rest of the party.

They were to the effect that the clergyman had been called away, at the last moment, to visit a dying man, but that he would follow them by the next train.

The news was received with evident disappointment, especially by the Associates, who had looked forward to the delight of making the journey in the same compartment with the fascinating cleric. However, there was nothing for it but to possess their palpitating souls in patience, and to look forward to the time—an hour or so at the latest—when he would join them at the Palace. Miss Anstilter herself found consolation in the fact that the note had been addressed to her. When she had an opportunity, she slipped it carefully into her purse, where she had several other specimens of the Rev. Marmaduke's handwriting. They were only ordinary little notes, dealing mostly with parish matters. But had they not been penned by those dear fingers? Besides, as has been said, Miss Anstilter had a pretty, a poetic fancy, and could read between the lines.

All that fine weather and an assiduous host and hostess could do to make the G.F.S. gathering "go" was done. And by most of those present the Bank Holiday treat was voted a big success. But in the hearts of the Browlesworth ladies, and more particularly in the heart of Miss Anstilter, was an aching void, which even a genial Bishop and Bishopess could not fill. For the Rev. Marmaduke failed to keep his promise. Many times during the day, when the iron gates of the Palace gardens clanged on the entry of some newcomer, Miss Anstilter's heart jumped, and her eyes were turned expectantly thitherward. But each time she suffered a shock of disappointment. The day passed away; evening came on; but no Marmaduke. Miss Anstilter began to feel annoyed and angry. She thought now she could see through the faithless deceiver's ruse. He had—had—traded on her—her—affection for him—to—to get her there, as an enticement to the others; and then—having done this—he had basely thrown her over, and had, very likely, gone to enjoy his own holiday elsewhere.

She went back that night very cross indeed, resolved that, unless the clergyman could give some satisfactory explanation, she would resign her associateship of the G.F.S. the very next day.

But when she reached home, her annoyance over this trifling matter was put into the background by a far more distressing occurrence. During her absence her villa, which she had been careful to leave securely barred and locked, had been entered by thieves. Every valuable in the house had been taken; all the old family plate, and all her diamonds and jewellery into the bargain. Not an ounce of silver—not so much as a teaspoon—was left. "Ill news flies apace." The news of Miss Anstilter's loss was soon flying through Browlesworth—and not Miss Anstilter's only. For it transpired that the houses of three other maiden ladies in the place had been similarly ransacked while they had been absent with their domestics at the treat.

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The *locum tenens* was never again seen in Browlesworth. He is still badly wanted. So is the swag.

MUSIC.

OPERA—THE PAST SEASON AND THE NEXT.

THE Opera season closed on Tuesday; but before it ended matters were definitely settled for next summer. At one time it seemed likely that Mr. Higgins, finding himself in the same predicament in regard to the Opera as his lawyer-predecessor, Benjamin Lumley, fifty years ago, might have had to take a far busier part in the management next season than he perhaps may have desired. Matters, however, are so far straightened out that Mr. Maurice Grau was able last Thursday to definitely accept the managing directorship from May to July. The necessary capital is provided by a private Joint Stock Company, registered on Saturday as "The Royal Opera Syndicate," formed of a few wealthy subscribers, including, it is said, an American millionaire. When the sub-lease is signed, Mr. Faber, ground lessee of the theatre, will join the Syndicate. The addition of Mr. Faber's name is of considerable importance, for, while the ground lessee remains a member of the Syndicate, the house will always be available for purposes of opera. Indeed, rather than that Covent Garden should have been converted into a potato market, I understand that a South African millionaire was, under certain conditions, prepared to buy the lease. There was also a talk of a syndicate of Italian bankers and capitalists, who would, of course, have ousted the French contingent. But the opera is now practically financed by the subscribers, and although this state of matters is likely to be more profitable to the artists than to Art, it is the best arrangement that under the circumstances could be made.

Mr. Maurice Grau was offered the management some weeks ago, but he was obliged to refer the question to the United States, where, by the way, a very similar change of operatic management has just been effected. Mr. Grau will, in fact, manage the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, under the supervision of a Finance Committee, the chairman of which is Mr. William Steinway, the eminent pianoforte manufacturer. By this American Committee, who, by the way, will engage the leading artists on their own account, Mr. Grau was bound down to accept no other engagement. But the management of Covent Garden, with practically the same operatic troupe as that of New York, was felt to be so beneficial to all parties, that Mr. Steinway last week cabled Mr. Grau permission to accept it. Much will, of course, depend upon the financial results of next season; for, although the ups and downs of operatic life are notorious, a syndicate of subscribers will naturally want to see two ends meet, although if the fees paid to vocalists in the United States are to rule here, I fear the ends will not meet at all. Mr. Grau is also reputed to have a personal predilection for the operas of the past, for the old Verdi, Bellini, and Donizetti repertory, and these doubtless will best suit some of the "star" artists, and a good many of the older subscribers. The public, however, demand newer works, and therein a danger lies. Even the late Sir Augustus Harris had a difficult task in reconciling the two opinions, and I believe some of the subscribers more than once vigorously protested against the performance of Wagner's operas. Yet these are now the compositions which pay best. The Wagnerites may, at any rate, congratulate themselves that they have a powerful ally in M. Jean de Reszke, who has already appeared in "Lohengrin" and "Die Meistersinger," and is this year so bitten with the success of "Tristan und Isolde," that next season, both in New York and London, he proposes to add to his repertory Siegfried in Wagner's opera of that name, and Siegmund in "Die Walküre."

No novelties were produced during the past opera season. Indeed, there have been no new works produced abroad which at all cry aloud for a hearing here, and no manager in his senses would dream of spending money on the production of mediocrity, unless the foreign publishers were prepared to put down a heavy sum towards the cost. Mme. Calvé did not appear, and thus "Cavalleria Rusticana" was given only twice—the figures published in some of the weekly papers do not agree with the official records—and "Carmen" only three times, while "La Navarraise" was not performed at all, so that it is understood the copyright reverts to the French proprietors. On the other hand, "Roméo et Juliette," as usual, heads the list with eight representations, the part of Roméo being a favourite of both the leading tenors of the company, M. Jean de Reszke and M. Alvarez. Moreover, the opera is not a very expensive one to cast, and is, therefore, beloved by managers. "Faust" came next with six performances, and then the three Wagner operas, "Die Meistersinger," "Tannhäuser," which was given in French, and "Lohengrin," each performed five times. "Tristan und Isolde," although given only four times, was very trying to the voice of Madame Albani, the Isolde; while "Die Walküre" was only given twice, for the German colony

boycotted the opera because it was performed in French, an extremely silly piece of Chauvinism. Madame Melba was, of course, the star prima donna, and during the present season indeed, as she had no real competitor, she has immensely improved her position here. The De Reszkes and M. Alvarez have also done some splendid work, but none of the new comers made any particular hit.

The hitch concerning the projected autumn opera season at Covent Garden arises from the fact that Mr. Hedmondt had signed a contract with the Carl Rosa Company as their principal tenor on tour, agreeing also to accept no other operatic engagements. The Carl Rosa Company accordingly depend on him to sing the leading parts in some of their most attractive productions, such as "Die Walküre," "Tannhäuser," and "Lohengrin." Mr. Hedmondt, however, now desires to direct an autumn season of Wagner's operas in English at Covent Garden, and he proposed, if the Carl Rosa Company would release him, that he would secure for the Company Covent Garden for a London season early in the new year. But the Carl Rosa Company do not want so large a house as Covent Garden, and would be quite satisfied if they could fill every night a theatre of the size of the Lyceum or the Adelphi. They therefore hold Mr. Hedmondt to his provincial contract. But surely a way can be found out of the difficulty. Tenors, it is true, are scarce; but Mr. Hedmondt is not the only vocalist available either for the Carl Rosa Company or for Covent Garden. Indeed, the experiment tried last year of doubling the parts of impresario and leading tenor is hardly one to be repeated.

A good deal of nonsense has been written and telegraphed last week from Bayreuth, and the gentleman who spread himself to the extent of half a column in a telegraphic description of the plot of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" must have been a greenhorn indeed. A few straight words of truth concerning the incapacity of some of the Bayreuth vocalists have been spoken. But the absurdity of the panegyrics in which others have indulged is pretty plainly shown by the eulogy with which Miss Brema has been greeted in the comparatively small rôle of Fricka. Miss Brema is, of course, a very good artist, but the fact that she is declared to be so immeasurably above her companions will suffice to indicate the present vocal standard of Bayreuth. And Bayreuth will probably go from bad to worse so long as German writers insist that none but their own compatriots shall be engaged to sing the chief parts there. Next year it seems "Der Ring des Nibelungen" is to be repeated, but with a better cast, and in 1897 also "Parsifal," which this year is shunted, will be revived.

The Crystal Palace concerts will begin this year on October 3—two or three weeks earlier than usual. The result of this very sensible step will probably be that the London season will henceforward commence at the end of September, instead of late in October. Hitherto concert managers have thought it wise to wait until the provincial Musical Festivals were over; but the festivals are rapidly losing their musical importance, and in the present year, although about half-a-dozen festivals are announced, there is not likely to be a single novelty which will tempt eminent musicians to leave London. At Worcester they depend on a local musician for a short novelty, the Bristol programme is a disappointment, while Norwich is again more or less a festival of the Italians. By delaying the commencement of the London concert season until October, November became an unworkable month; as busy, indeed, as May or June. Last year some of the concert-givers broke through the rule, and started early in October, with most successful results. The Crystal Palace has followed suit, and M. Colonne will this autumn commence his week of concert-giving with his Paris orchestra on October 12—the week, by the way, of the Sheffield and Bristol festivals. In the future, unless a festival possesses a very strong programme indeed, it will have to be over by the end of September if the committee desire to attract any more than merely local attention.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I want to tell you all about the Royal wedding, but must try not to dwell unduly on the details that have been so fully gone into in the budget of papers, illustrated and otherwise, that I have sent you. Richard and I were fortunate enough to receive cards for the Terrace at Buckingham Palace, so he in his uniform, and I in my best bib and tucker, presented ourselves at the Buckingham Palace-road entrance with extreme punctuality, as you may imagine. In fact, we were so excessively punctual that, in common with some hundreds of others similarly placed, we had to wait outside until the covered way was finished. It was being draped with pure white muslin, and this, with the carpet of ripe-cherry red, produced the Danish colours. At eleven o'clock we were all admitted, and found that the covered way was carried completely up to the Terrace, and, being open at the sides, we had a view of the gardens, with the lake in the centre, and a lively fountain making a playful bridal whiteness all by itself in the deserted grounds. The trees and grass looked rusty, like their other less favoured compeers who have not the advantage of being tended by Royal gardeners. But all verdure and foliage is dry and thirsty after the long drought.

The Terrace, you know, runs behind Buckingham Palace on the garden side, and has a broad flight of steps in the very middle. The half on the Pimlico side of the steps was covered in, roof and sides, with canvas, in which windows were inserted. The whole of the canvas had been lined with white muslin, the supports being covered with Danish red, and the floor covered with a carpet to match. Against the white walls were ranged at intervals tall palms, whose greenery made a refreshing contrast with the white and red. The Yeomen of the Guard, in their picturesque uniform, looked splendid against the pure white of the muslin, and the whole scene was one of beauty and refinement, such as befitted the Palace of a great Queen. You cannot imagine how much of this fine effect was due to the soft white muslin that lined the canvas.

Lord Limerick, in command of the Yeomen of the Guard, stood at the end of the Terrace, and the band of the Grenadier Guards occupied one corner of the large square formed by the canopy opening out from the window of the Bow Library to the garden steps. In the opposite corner sat some Danish officers. Richard and I got as near that end as possible, he sitting behind me, as the front seats were all occupied by ladies. This was a good arrangement from a spectacular point of view, the light dresses and flower-trimmed hats and toques making a long line of soft, bright colour on either side. Uniform or evening dress was imperative for men. The officers who were present wore their medals and the great people their stars, medals, and orders, it being a great occasion.

After we were all seated we found the time pass rather slowly, there being no music. The band was there for the sole purpose, as we afterwards discovered, of playing marches for the various Royal processions. But still there was occupation in noting our neighbours and their dresses. In our immediate vicinity was the beautiful Marchioness of Hastings, whose colouring is the most perfect I have ever seen. She has quantities of hair of the true auburn, dark brown with a glint of red where the high lights touch it. It is the rarest hair, and is always accompanied by a clear white complexion, with the softest pink upon the cheeks. In this instance the eyes are a golden hazel in some lights, with now a violet tinge and again a depth of sunny brown. With the Marchioness, who wore a very becoming dress of white silk striped with black satin, the bodice covered with open work jet, studded with cabochons of the same, was her second daughter, Miss Olive Chetwynd, whose

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early girlish freshness was admirably suited to her white muslin with insertions of Valenciennes over a lining of yellow silk. Her picturesque black hat shaded a white brow, large dark eyes, and a gentle face of considerable charm. Almost opposite was Mr. Reuben Sassoon, with Mrs. Sassoon and Mrs. Leopold Rothschild. Further down was Canon Duckworth and a group of other ecclesiastics, who seemed to be enjoying a monopoly of jokes, to judge from their hearty laughter. Mrs. Lawrence Drummond and Mrs. Gerard Leigh, one in pure white, and both divinely tall, sat not far off, near Lady Burton and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, whose enormous hat, tilted sideways, was abundantly garnished with beige feathers. We soon had mastered all these details, and had discovered M. Johannes Wolff in a quiet corner with a lady, and afterwards we felt the proceedings to be monotonous. But it was something to be comfortably seated, with plenty of air and agreeable surroundings, and Lord Arthur Hill passed up and down more than once in his blue and gold uniform, his hand full of papers. So there were alleviations.

At length a murmur and a bustle and the word "Attention!" with the resultant grounding of the Yeomen's halberds, announced that the Procession of the Royal Family was approaching. We had time to admire the beauty of the ushers' pure white uniforms, with silk stockings and knee-breeches, and the splendour of the heralds' magnificent bravery, before there entered to us the imposing array of officials who preceded the Duchess of Teck. Dressed in grey and gold brocade, with low bodice and short sleeves, demi-toilette evening dress being the order of the day, Princess Mary was as stately as she is always genial. Her magnificent jewels included a necklace of enormous emeralds. With her was the Duke of Teck in scarlet uniform. Then followed Prince and Princess Edward of Schaumburg-Lippe, but I did not look at them, being fully engaged in remarking the wonderful improvement in the Duchess of York, whose stately carriage and fine poise of head gave added effect to her appearance. She was dressed in bright reddish mauve brocade, a tint that suited her fair colouring extremely well, and her jewels were splendid. She wore a tiara of pearls and diamonds, and had around her neck a collar containing five rows of large diamonds, besides a rivière of diamonds and a pearl and diamond necklace. With her walked Prince Nicholas of Greece. He had not the blithe and happy look I have seen him wear.

The Duchess of Fife, looking, as usual, like a bit of Dresden china, walked next in white and silver brocade arranged with knots of bright rose-pink velvet on the shoulders. The Duke of Fife was with her.

The next Princess whom I remarked—for though they all passed slowly I could not separately identify each one among so many—was Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, with her Marquis. She is as young and handsome as ever, with that brightness of air and manner which has always characterised her. Her graceful figure looked its best in a charming dress of black net, embroidered with sequins, and showing a white satin lining through the meshes of the net. A few touches of pink about the bodice rendered it very becoming. The sleeves were short frills of the net, edged with silver sequins. A few pink roses nestled in its folds. The Princess wore beautiful diamonds. Princess Christian and her husband followed, and then came the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The next couple were the Duke and Duchess of Sparta, the latter a daughter of the Empress Frederick and the former a son of the Princess of Wales's brother, the King of the Hellenes. The last quartet of this galaxy of Royalties were the Duke of Cambridge, walking with the remarkably tall Crown Princess of Denmark, and our Princess of Wales with her brother the Crown Prince. The Princess wore a sweetly harmonious dress of grey satin, veiled with grey silk muslin, and showing subtle gleams of silver in embroideries here and there. Across her bodice was the red ribbon of the Danish Royal Family, and her jewels were splendid. In addition to a high collar of pearls, a necklace of pearls and diamonds glittered round her neck, and her tiara was very high and very handsome. She looked sad, but most beautiful.

Now, was not that an interesting procession? And as they all walked quite slowly we had abundance of time to take in almost every individual. I missed some, however, including the Duchess of Albany and her sister, and one or two others.

The next procession was that of the bridegroom. It was so arranged—I was just going to write "stage-managed"—that he walked alone, the central figure—a tall, handsome, well-set-up young fellow, with good temper and a sunny disposition written distinctly on his manly face. He wore the uniform of a Lieutenant in the Danish Navy.

Just behind him walked his two brothers, the eldest extremely tall, like his mother. He was in a scarlet uniform, with a light blue ribbon across it.

The third and last procession was the bride's. Lightly touching the arm of her father with her gloved fingers, she came past us looking as if she had indulged in a good cry. She was very pale and looked extremely nervous. The Prince, on the contrary, wore an air of perfect happiness and geniality. He smiled and bowed with a radiant look as he walked. Princess Maud's dress suited her splendidly. I have told you about it before. Her pretty neck and shoulders had nothing to fear from the daylight. Her veil floated back from her face, and allowed us to see the large dark eyes heavy with the languor left by recent tears. I thought there was too much green in her bouquet.

The eight bridesmaids followed in their white satin dresses, with a cluster of red geraniums on each bodice and a spray fastened in with a white aigrette in each coiffure of the four elder ones. The other four, being children, wore red wreaths in their hair and carried baskets of red flowers instead of bouquets. Of the whole group, not one attracted so much attention as the little Lady Alexandra Duff, the Duke and Duchess of Fife's eldest daughter. This little damsel of five summers comported herself with a quite remarkable grace and self-possession. Her beautiful little head is covered with rings and curls of fair hair cut short, and her straight little limbs carried her along with an erectness and decision of gait that may be supposed to indicate force of character. She wore socks and low shoes, and was as dainty a small maiden as ever stepped.

And so ended the processions. After a long wait, during which we had plenty to talk about, the bride and bridegroom, now husband and wife, came back again, holding each other by the hand; and now the bride looked her own serene self again, and had a tinge of pink upon her pretty face. Prince Charles seemed to have had quite enough of processions. Princess Victoria of Wales was evidently sorrowing for the impending parting. The Princess of Wales smiled more gaily than she had done before. The Prince beamed, and they both nodded to friends on either hand as they passed up. The Duke of York was carrying some one's bouquet. And so they all passed out of our sight again.

Directly after, a buzz of subdued voices ran along the lines of spectators, and Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone came up the terrace, the former wearing the dress of an Elder Brother of the Trinity, and appearing to be rather excited, and the latter in black, with fine old white lace disposed upon it. She wore her bodice very much off the shoulders. On her head was a black coif, with informal streamers of white tulle floating out at the back. The next arrival was the Duke of Portland, in his magnificent uniform as Master of the Horse. And soon after him came all the Dukes and Duchesses and other distinguished persons who had been in the chapel. It was strange to see the ladies all in evening dress at that hour of the day; rather an ordeal, you know, and one which proved trying to several. Those who stood it best were the Duchess of Abercorn, the Duchess of Portland, and Lady Knollys, who had with her a lovely little daughter, with beautiful hair and eyes, and prettily dressed in soft pink and white. It was a wonderful show of

jewels, quite equal to that presented by the Royalties. The Duchess of Abercorn outshone everyone else. She wore pale mauve with a cluster of lilac on one shoulder and a large diamond bow on the other, and many diamond ornaments on the bodice. Her necklaces were magnificent—one being in very large sapphires and diamonds—and her diamond tiara was by far the most graceful and beautiful we had seen. It was in a design of roses and leaves raised in relief; a spray being arranged both back and front under the high points, and at the sides the tiara ended in a sprig of roses and leaves. The Duchess of Devonshire had an all-round tiara, but I never think these so becoming as the others. They are too stiff and always suggest scalping to my ill-regulated imagination. The "Double Duchess" wore marvellous necklaces of diamonds and pearls. The Duchess of Portland's sapphires were as large as the Duchess of Teck's emeralds. Countess Cadogan had also splendid jewels, and the Marquise d'Hautpoul had a tiara round her head and another round her neck. Surrounded by distinguished men in uniform, such as Mr. Goschen, Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Rosebery, Lord Cross, Lord Wolseley, the Bishop of Winchester (with a diamond cross suspended from his collar), Sir William Harcourt, Lord George Hamilton and his brother—the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Carrington, and the Chevalier de Souza Correa (with a wonderful show of medals upon his breast and a crimson and yellow ribbon), the ladies stood talking for a long time, and we soon left the brilliant scene to go and see the chapel.

The floral decorations were beautiful. The pillars were wreathed with red and white roses. On the altar stood two vases of lily of the valley, Princess Maud's favourite flower. At the back was a sort of screen made entirely of exquisite white flowers. Two tall vases were filled with Eucharis lilies, and the Greek form of Christus was carried out in white flowers at either side. At each side of the altar rails were hung double festoons of lily of the valley and green leaves. The tall brass supports were utilised as flower-holders, and an exquisite touch was the introduction of some bright scarlet orchids. The chapel was quite transformed with all this wealth of lovely blossom. We asked who had done it, and were told that it was the work of Mr. Owen Thomas, the Queen's gardener at Windsor Castle. He must be an artist.

We had that day the unique experience of driving across Hyde Park in a hansom, in company with omnibuses, vans, drags, and, in fact, the whole of the ordinary traffic of Knightsbridge and Piccadilly, which had been turned into the Park in order to clear the route of the bridal procession.

We spent a delightfully pleasant afternoon at Ranelagh on Saturday, and found places quite near the Royal pavilion, where the Prince and Princess of Wales, with the Duke and Duchess of Sparta, and the Crown Prince of Denmark with his sons and daughters, looked on at the admirable programme with its amusing events. The Princess of Wales, looking charming, was particularly bright and animated; and Princess Victoria seemed immensely amused by the wonderful dummies and by the Victoria Cross race, in which the competitors had each to jump a hurdle with one of the dummies on his horse. The potato race was very funny, too. We liked the tandem race, because it showed to such perfection the points of the beautiful horses. The winning pair were especially fine, the leader more particularly.

The Princess distributed the prizes, and among the winners was one young lady who had dressed the best dummy, in a Norman fishwife's costume. She advanced very gracefully with a becoming blush, but without a trace of awkwardness. The ordeal was rather a trying one.

The Royal Party afterwards witnessed the musical ride by young ladies on flower-decked bicycles in another part of the grounds. The Prince, on leaving, complimented Lord Ava and Mr. Miller on the excellent programme and the smoothness of its working. Everything went admirably, and it was a very pretty scene, with the long lines of gaily-dressed spectators seated on either side of the course, some in the sunshine and others under the shade of the grand old trees.

We were attracted by some glorious La France roses in Goodyear's window on Tuesday, and going in to get some, saw miles of pale blue and pale pink ribbon being cut into lengths over billows of smilax. No doubt we looked interrogative, for we were told that this was part of the preparation for the Duchess of Devonshire's cotillon that night. The decorations must have been lovely with baskets of flowers and other devices; wands with bunches of flowers were used in one figure, and flags in another. The presents were flowers, fans, silk bags, gloves, handkerchiefs, and even stockings. The cotillon seems to have been fading out of favour of late, but this one revived all its splendours.

One of the prettiest of Princess Maud's wedding presents was the set of dainty little silver toast racks given by thirty ladies in society whose name is Maud. The divisions in each rack were in the form of the letter "M.," and were surmounted by models of her Royal Highness's coronet. They were designed and manufactured by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company.

We saw the new felt hats with sugar-loaf crowns at Clematis's shop in Maddox-street. They are sweetly becoming, but we did not invest, our thoughts being bent on seaside straws both light and cool, and, as there was a sale on, we secured some agreeable bargains.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—How glad you must all be that the "season" is over! How you people in town have stood the almost tropical heat of the past few weeks is more than we people not in town can understand. And yet you continued to rush and to crush, to crowd, feast, and bedeck yourselves in festive array. You may well claim fashion's crown of martyrdom for the fiery ordeal you must have gone through. In weather ideally perfect for musing meditation, for the restorative tranquillity of the contemplative life, you have led the most arduous of active lives. With no Acts of Parliament to impose time limits on your work of amusing yourselves, scorning the ease of an eight or even twelve hours' day, you have cheerfully done throughout the season an almost twenty-four hours' one. With what superiority Diogenes from his tub would have looked on such toil as yours! We, in the cool calmness of an unfashionable seaside place, have been, so far inclined to become disciples of that crusty philosopher as to read with wonder the chronicles of the "season," including Royal garden-parties, wedding festivities, and so on. And the long columns of recorded toilets! The mere descriptions of the frills, fulness, embroideries, and all the superfluities of full dress made one hot. One has read of grandeur hearing with a disdainful smile "the short and simple annals of the poor"! Perhaps the poor, on their side, are prompted to smile at the more complex chronicles of grandeur.

The break in the weather here last week was a very rude one, and came when the Kingstown Regatta was in progress. The landsman and the racing seaman have not the same ideal with regard to weather. The rougher atmospheric conditions which disturbed the equanimity of the wearers of airy summer costumes at the club houses were, no doubt, more favourably received by the yachtsmen. During the first day the rain kept off, though the wind was fresh, but the second day was disastrous from our point of view. Nevertheless, there was a large attendance each day at the Royal George Yacht Club, under whose auspices the regatta took place this year. The Duke of York is Commodore of this Club, and the Lord-Lieutenant is a member. There was no Viceregal patronage given to the occasion, but we have by this given up expecting much from our present Viceregal rulers. The Kaiser's *Meteor* was a great feature of the regatta, Lord Lonsdale representing in the races the imperial owner. The great William's yacht won both the events in which she took part, beating in each his Royal uncle's *Britannia*, the *Ailsa*, and others. The yachts have little to do with the festivity, however, for those who enjoy it in the Club, listening to military music, and partaking of tea and ices. The guns that one hears at intervals alone recall one to the fact that we are not only assembled to merely meet each other. Most of the yachts departed for other regattas at once. At the end of the week Kingstown had an excitement still greater than that of having the *Meteor* and *Britannia* in its harbour in the appearance of many great battleships and torpedo-catchers, which took up their station just outside the harbour, in an arm of Dublin Bay between Kingstown and Dalkey. A thunderstorm and frightful weather of many varieties greeted them on Saturday. A battle in Dublin Bay is eagerly being hoped for after the Sunday rest.—Yours ever, Clare.

I am giving you this week a recipe for preserving green plums, as we have just ordered a quantity of Pollard, the fruit-grower at Evesham, of whom we obtain all our fruit, and are about to work upon this very recipe. I am

sending you a small pot of the jam, made a year ago, and as every one pronounces it delicious I fancy you will like it. We put about half the kernels in, boiling the stones and drying them before manipulating them, which made the work both clean and easy :—

Divide the plums, take out the stones, and put them on to large dishes, with roughly-pounded sugar sprinkled over them, allowing ¾ lb. to every 1 lb. of fruit, and let them remain for one day; then put them into a preserving pan, stand them by the side of the fire to simmer gently for about half an hour, and then boil them rapidly for another fifteen minutes.

You will like this. It is called Riz à l'Impératrice :—

Blanch 4 oz. of Carolina rice in boiling water for five minutes, strain and put it into a pint and a half of boiling milk and allow it to simmer gently until soft, but not pulpy. While this is in process prepare a macédoine of 4 oz. of crystallised fruits. Cut the fruit into small dice-shaped pieces, and stir them over the fire, in a small omelette pan, with a liqueur glass of Kirschwasser, or any nice liqueur, until the fruit has absorbed all the moisture. Now drain the milk from the rice, and convert the milk into a custard by adding 5 oz. of pounded sugar, 8 yolks of eggs, and sufficient milk to make up the quantity (that will have evaporated) to a pint and a half; stir over the fire until creamy, then mix in ¾ oz. of dissolved gelatine, and when it has cooled add a gill of whipped cream, embed a plain mould in rough ice, pour in the cream, and, when nearly set, mix the rice and the prepared fruit very carefully into it. When the cream is quite firm, turn it on to a dish, and pour round half a pint of syrup, which is coloured pink, and flavoured with a little of the same kind of liqueur as that used for the macédoine.

To convert this into an ice pudding :—Put the cream into a hermetically-closed mould, and imbed it in ice and salt for three hours, in which case no sauce is required.

This is Riz à la Reine :—

Prepare the rice in the same way as for Riz à l'Impératrice, but instead of the macédoine of fruit, add a purée of 4 oz. of blanched and pounded almonds, and 1 or 2 drops of essence of bitter almonds. Finish in the same manner.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

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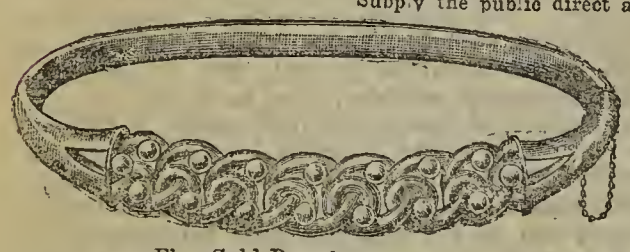

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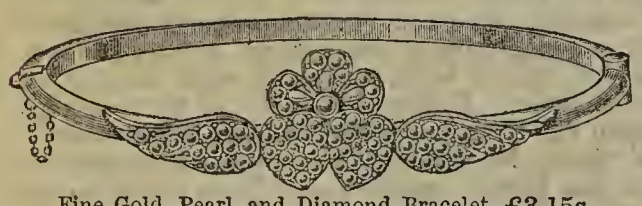

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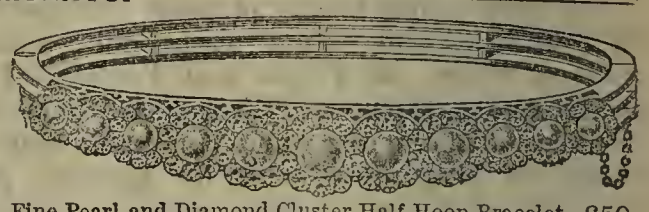

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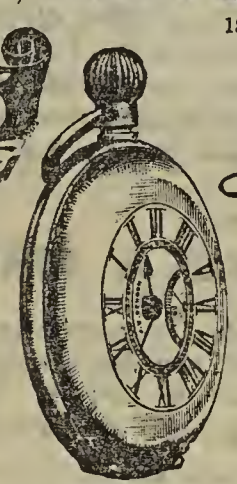

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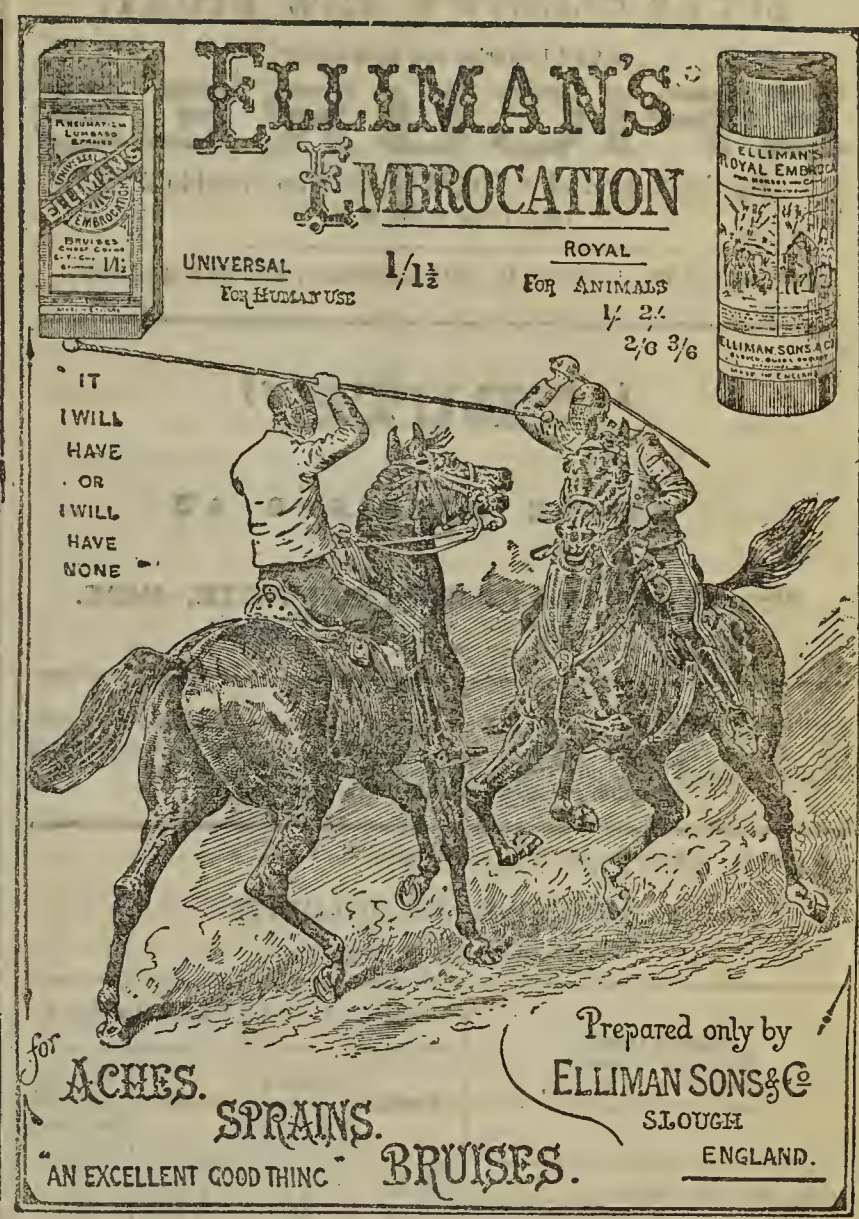

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CHEAP DAY EXCURSIONS.

Charing Cross, Waterloo, Cannon Street, London Bridge, and New Cross to	SUNDAY, AUG. 2. Train.	SUNDAY, AUG. 2. Return Fares 3rd Class.	BANK HOLIDAY. Train.	BANK HOLIDAY. Return Fares 3rd Class.
	a.m.		a.m.	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS	9 20	3/6	8 30	4/-
HASTINGS	9 20	6/-	8 30	5/-
ASHFORD	8 15	4/9	7 0	3/6
CANTERBURY	8 15	4/-	7 15	5/-
DEAL	9 0	4/-	7 15	5/-
WALMER	9 0	4/-	7 15	5/-
RAMSGATE	8 15	4/-	7 15	5/-
MARGATE	8 15	4/-	7 15	5/-
HYTHE	9 0	3/-	7 0	5/-
SANDGATE	9 0	3/-	7 0	5/-
FOLKESTONE	9 0	4/-	7 0	5/-
DOVER	9 0	4/-	7 0	5/-
*ALDERSHOT CAMP	—	—	7 0 & 9 28	3/-
GRAVESEND	Any Train	1/6	Any Train	1/6
ROCHESTER	" "	2/6	8 0 & 10 0	2/6
CHATHAM	" "	2/6	8 0 & 10 0	2/6
SHEERNESS	" "	2/6	9 10	2/6

* Not calling at New Cross.

SPECIAL TRAINS for HAYES, BLACKHEATH, GREENWICH, GRAVESEND (for ROSHERVILLE GARDENS), &c., on Bank Holiday.

SPECIAL NOTE.—The CHEAP FRIDAY or SATURDAY to MONDAY TICKETS to the SEA-SIDE, issued on July 31st and August 1st and 2nd, also the CHEAP SUNDAY to MONDAY TICKETS to RAMSGATE, MARGATE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, ST. LEONARDS and HASTINGS, issued on August 2nd, will be available to Return up to Wednesday, August 5th.

CHEAP TICKETS to ST. LEONARDS and HASTINGS, available to Return on the 8th, 10th, 15th or 17th day, will be issued on Saturday, August 1st, and every Saturday until the end of September, leaving Charing Cross at 8.20 a.m. and 11.15 a.m., calling at Waterloo, Cannon-street, London Bridge, and New Cross. Return Fare, 3rd Class, 7s.

Cheap Tickets will be issued from Country Stations to the Seaside and other Stations.

SPECIAL CHEAP EXCURSIONS.

BOULOGNE.—Charing Cross dep. 3.5 p.m., calling at Cannon street, London Bridge, and New Cross, Saturday, August 1st, 21s. (1st cl.), 12s. 6d. (3rd cl.). Returning at 4.30 p.m. on Bank Holiday.

PARIS.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street dep. 9.0 a.m. (10.0 a.m. from Charing Cross only), and 9.0 p.m. on Saturday, August 1st. Charing Cross and Cannon-street, dep. 9.0 p.m. July 30th to August 3rd, 54s. (1st cl.), 37s. 6d. (2nd cl.), 30s. (3rd cl., and by 9.0 p.m. Train only). Tickets available for 14 days.

OSTEND.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street dep. 9.0 a.m., 5.35 and 9.0 p.m., 32s. 6d. (1st cl.), 25s. 6d. (2nd cl.), July 31st to August 3rd. Tickets available for 8 days.

CALAIS.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street dep. 9.0 a.m. Bank Holiday, 15s. (1st cl.), 10s. (3rd cl.). Returning same day at 1.10 p.m. and 3.45 p.m., or 1.30 a.m. on following day.

BRUSSELS, viâ Calais.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street dep. 9.0 a.m. or 9.0 p.m., 54s. (1st cl.), 40s. 6d. (2nd cl.), 25s. 9d. (3rd cl., and by 9.0 p.m. Train only), July 31st to August 3rd. Tickets available for 8 days.

BRUSSELS, viâ Ostend.—Charing Cross and Cannon-street dep. 9.0 a.m., 5.35 p.m. (1st and 2nd cl. only) and 9.0 p.m., 40s. 7d. (1st cl.), 30s. 1d. (2nd cl.), 19s. 11d. (3rd cl.), July 31st to August 3rd. Tickets available for 8 days.

CHEAP RETURN TICKETS to BOULOGNE or CALAIS (available for certain periods) will be issued on July 31st and August 1st and 2nd. The Services between London and the Continent will be run as usual.

For full particulars of the Return Times of Excursions, Alterations in Train Services, &c., see Bills and Holiday Programme.

PASSENGERS INTENDING TO TRAVEL BY THIS LINE TO TUNBRIDGE WELLS, CANTERBURY, and SEA-SIDE Stations, will find the new facilities for COLLECTION and DELIVERY of LUGGAGE IN ADVANCE ECONOMICAL and EXPEDITIOUS. For full particulars, apply to Mr. Bradly, Cannon-street Station.

ALFRED WILLIS, Manager (Passenger Department).

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

AUGUST—BANK HOLIDAY. — Special Cheap Return Tickets will be issued on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 31st and August 1st and 2nd, to and from London and the Seaside, available for return on any day up to and including Wednesday, August 5th, as per special bills.

SEASIDE for 8, 10, 15, or 17 Days.—Every Saturday Cheap Return Tickets are issued from London and Suburban Stations by certain Trains as per bills.

Fares, Brighton, 6s., Seaford, Worthing, and Littlehampton, 6s. 6d., Eastbourne, Bexhill, St. Leonards, Hastings, Portsmouth, Southsea, Fratton, Havant, Hayling Island, Chichester, Bognor, and Midhurst, 7s.

PARIS.—SPECIAL CHEAP EXCURSIONS, viâ Newhaven, Dieppe, and Rouen, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st.—Leaving London Bridge and Victoria 10.0 a.m., and Kensington (Addison-road) 9.30 a.m. (First and Second Class only).

Excursion Tickets (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class) will also be issued by the regular Express Night Service, leaving Victoria 9.45 p.m. and London Bridge 9.55 p.m., on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, July 30th to August 3rd inclusive.

Returning from Paris 9.0 p.m., on any day within 14 days of the date of issue. Fares: First Class, 39s. 3d.; Second Class, 30s. 3d.; Third Class, 26s.

First and Second Class Excursion Passengers may return by the Day Express Service from Paris 10.0 a.m. on payment of 4s. 9d. and 3s. respectively.

CAEN FOR NORMANDY AND BRITTANY. — Viâ Newhaven and Ouistreham.—The only direct Route.

PASSENGER SERVICE EVERY WEEK-DAY.

From London to Caen and from Caen to London.
Fares—Single: First, 25s.; Second, 21s.; Third, 13s.
Return—1 Week, 30s.; 25s.; 15s.—2 Months, 38s.; 32s.; 20s.

ANGLO-NORMAN TOURS.—Tickets are issued enabling the holder to visit all the principal places of interest in Normandy and Brittany.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY.—The Return Tickets issued to Caen on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 30th and 31st, and August 1st, at the 30s., 25s., and 15s. Fares will be specially available for return on any Week-day within 14 days of the date of issue.

BRIGHTON.—SPECIAL WEEK-END TICKETS.—Cheap Return Tickets to Brighton will be issued on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 31st and August 1st and 2nd, by all Trains, according to class, from Victoria, Clapham Junction, and Balham; from Kensington (Addison Road), West Brompton, and Chelsea; and from London Bridge, New Cross, Brockley, Forest Hill, &c.

Returning by any Train, according to class, on any day up to and including Wednesday, August 5th. Return Fares from London, 14s., 8s. 6d., and 6s. 4d.

EVERY SUNDAY CHEAP FIRST-CLASS DAY TICKETS from Victoria, 10.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Fare, 10s.

BANK HOLIDAY, MONDAY, AUGUST 3rd.—Cheap Day Excursions from London. To Brighton, Lewes, Newhaven, Seaford, Tunbridge Wells, Eastbourne, Bexhill, St. Leonards, Hastings, Worthing, Havant, Portsmouth, Southsea, and the Isle of Wight.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—FREQUENT TRAINS DIRECT to the Crystal Palace from London Bridge, New Cross, Victoria, Kensington (Addison-road), Clapham Junction, &c., as required by the traffic.

FOR full particulars see Programmes and Handbills, to be obtained at the Stations, and at the following Offices, where Tickets may also be obtained:—West End, 28, Regent-street, and 8, Grand Hotel-buildings; City, 6, Arthur-street East, and Hays', Cornhill; Cook's, Ludgate Circus; and Gaze's, 142, Strand.

(By Order) ALLEN SARLE, Secretary and General Manager.

GOODWOOD RACES
BY
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY,

ON WEDNESDAY, 29th, THURSDAY, 30th, and FRIDAY, 31st JULY.

Passengers, AT ORDINARY FARES, will be conveyed to MIDHURST by undermentioned Trains.

—		1st, 2nd, & 3rd Class.	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Class.	Fast Special. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Class.
		a.m.	a.m.	a.m.
Waterloo	dep.	6.45	9.15	9.20
Vauxhall	"	6.25	8.35	9.10
Kensington (Addison-road)	"	6.5	8.42	8.42
West Brompton	"	6.8	8.45	8.45
Chelsea	"	6.10	8.47	8.47
Clapham Junction	"	6.56	9.9	9.18
Wimbledon	"	6.39	8.50	9.38
Surbiton	"	7.11	8.59	9.46
Woking	"	7.35	10.5	..
Aldershot	"	7.20	9.18	..
Guildford	"	7.48	10.20	10.15
Midhurst	arr.	9.35	11.42	11.30
" (L.B. & S.C. Railway)	dep.	10.34	11.52	11.52
Singleton	arr.	10.48	12.6	12.6

RETURNING from MIDHURST, by SPECIAL TRAIN, on WEDNESDAY, 29th, and THURSDAY, 30th JULY, at 6.35 p.m., and on FRIDAY, 31st JULY, at 6.10 p.m.

TRAINS leave SINGLETON for MIDHURST at 6.10 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 29th, and THURSDAY, 30th JULY, and at 5.35 p.m. on FRIDAY, 31st JULY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE SPECIAL TRAINS.

CHAS. SCOTTER, General Manager.

THE ALBION S.S. COMPANY, LIMITED.

FORTNIGHTLY CRUISES from NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE to NORWAY.

The Finest YACHTING STEAMER afloat. No Upper Berths.
"MIDNIGHT SUN," 3,178 Tons, 3,500 H.P.
Capt. CABORNE, R.N.R., F.R.G.S.
Sailings:—August 1 and 15.
Fares from 12 Guineas, including first-class table.

For itinerary, &c., apply to "MIDNIGHT SUN" PASSENGER SUPERINTENDENT, 4, Lombard-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

ORIENT COMPANY'S PLEASURE CRUISES,

The Steamship "GARONNE," 3,876 tons register, will leave LONDON on the 25th August, for a 28 days' Cruise to the
BALTIC,
visiting COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM, ST. PETERSBURG, KIEL, BALTIC CANAL, and HELIGOLAND.

String band, electric light, high-class cuisine.

Managers, { F. GREEN & CO. / ANDERSON, ANDERSON, & CO. } Head Offices: Fenchurch-avenue.

For passage apply to the latter firm at 5, Fenchurch-avenue, London, E.C.; or to the Branch Office, 16, Cockspur-street, S.W.

AMUSEMENTS.

INDIA AND CEYLON EXHIBITION,
EARL'S COURT.
Director-General:
IMRE KIRALFY

THE EMPRESS THEATRE
GRAND SPECTACLE "INDIA"
OVER 1,200 PERFORMERS
CHORUS OF 200 SINGERS
A GORGEOUS SPECTACLE
THE FULL-SIZED TROOPSHIP

GRENADIERS & COLDSTREAMS
EMPRESS & IMPERIAL BANDS
NATIVES AT WORK & AT PLAY
BRILLIANT ILLUMINATIONS
LAKES AND FOUNTAINS
THE GARDEN OF LONDON
THE GREAT WHEEL.

TIVOLI, Strand, London.—Cool and Well Ventilated.—Open EVERY EVENING, at 7.45, and SATURDAY MATINÉE, at 2.30, with a STAR PROGRAMME, embracing every Artiste of note now in London.—Manager, Mr. VERNON DOWSETT.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—BANK HOLIDAY, August 3.—Admission 1s., or 1s. 6d. from London and Back, including admission, 1s. 6d. MARVELLOUS PROGRAMME.—First appearance in England of JEAN P. WEITZMAN, the Champion and most daring Lofty Wire Walker in the World. Burmese Village, Horseless Carriage Drives, Highland Sports, Living Pictures. Two Great Variety Shows by Star Artistes. Monster Balloon Ascent. Two Military Promenade Concerts. Jullien's British Army Quadrilles. The whole concluding, wet or fine, with a magnificent Display of Fireworks, by C. T. Brock & Co.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION, Baker-street Station.—Portrait Models of Fowler and Milsom, Mrs. Dyer, &c., &c. The Actual Confession of Mrs. Dyer. Admission, 1s.; Extra Rooms, 6d. Open from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m.

LONDON PAVILION.—Sisters Preston, R. G. Knowles, Leo Stormont, T. E. Dunville, Amy Lyster, Brothers Griffiths, Alice Lloyd, W. P. Dempsey, Sisters Hawthorne, Tom Leamore, Harriett Fawn, Verno and Voyce, Lottie Walton, B. Armstrong, Kitty Raeburn, Skatinelly and Delilia, Lucy Weston; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto; Valoni, Conway and Clarke, Binns and Binns, The Ottaways, Lady Mansel. The Sliding Roof off every evening. Prices from 1s. to £3. 3s. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open from 11 to 5.

TO INVALIDS.—A LIST of MEDICAL MEN, in all parts, willing to RECEIVE RESIDENT PATIENTS, giving full particulars and terms, sent Gratis. The List includes Private Asylums, &c. Schools also recommended—Address, Mr. G. B. STOCKER, 8, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

AMUSEMENTS.

GAIETY.—Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDES.—ANOTHER GAIETY SUCCESS.—EVERY EVENING, at 8 o'clock (doors open 7.40), a New Domestic Musical Play, in Two Acts, entitled MY GIRL, by James T. Tanner, Music by Osmond Carr, Lyrics by Adrian Ross. Box-office open daily from 10 till 6.

SAVOY.—Every Evening, at 8.30, and Every Saturday Afternoon, at 2.30, THE MIKADO, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. At 7.30, AFTER ALL. Box-office 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.—R. D'OYLY CARTE, Proprietor and Manager.

VAUDEVILLE.—A. & S. GATTI, Sole Lessees and Managers. EVERY EVENING, at 9, a Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières, entitled A NIGHT OUT. Preceded, at 8.15, by PAPA'S WIFE, by Seymour Hicks and F. C. Phillips. Music by Ellaline Terriss. MATINÉE EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 3. Doors open 7.45. Box office open 10 to 10.

COURT THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.—MISS MAY YOHE'S SEASON.—EVERY EVENING, at 9, MAMZELLE NITOUCHE. Preceded, at 8.15, by THE LITTLEST GIRL. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 5. Telephone No. 3,031.

ROYALTY.—Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, Lessee and Manager. LAST TWO PERFORMANCES.—EVERY EVENING, at 9, THE QUEEN'S PROCTOR, by Herman Merivale. Mr. BOURCHIER as Sir Victor; Miss VIOLET VANBRUGH as Stella. At 8.15, KITTY CLIVE, ACTRESS. Miss Irene Vanbrugh. (Proprietress, Miss Kate Santley.)

DALY'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. AUGUSTIN DALY.—EVERY EVENING, and SATURDAY MATINEE. Mr. George Edwardes's Company in THE GEISHA. The book by Owen Hall. Lyrics by Harry Greenbank. Music by Sydney Jones. Full cast.

ALHAMBRA.—TO-NIGHT, Two New Grand Ballets, RIP VAN WINKLE and DONNYBROOK. Grand VARIETIES. Prices, 6d. to £3. 3s. Open 7.45. ALFRED MOUL, General Manager.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—EVERY EVENING, Two Grand Ballets, FAUST and LA DANSE. Great success. LUMIERE'S CINEMATOGRAPHE. GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Doors open at 7.30.

PALACE, Shaftesbury-avenue.—The HANDSOMEST THEATRE in EUROPE. The finest Variety Entertainment in London, including the NEW SERIES OF TABLEAUX VIVANTS. Full Licence. Prices from 6d. Doors open 7.40.—Manager, Mr. CHARLES MORTON.

SPECIAL SHIPMENTS OF
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TO BE SOLD AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

TRELOAR & SONS,
LUDGATE HILL.

PRICES ARE MUCH REDUCED, as not only is the Raw Material lower, but cheap freights and a low rate of exchange are at present in favour of buyers.

TURKEY AND INDIAN CARPETS

Are delivered to the warehouse two or three times a week in all sizes, both in the old and new colourings.

ANY CARPET WILL BE SENT ON APPROBATION TO APPROVED CUSTOMERS.

A CATALOGUE OF FLOOR COVERINGS POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

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BATH.—LANSDOWN GROVE HOTEL.—Desirable residence, in beautifully wooded grounds, 400 feet above sea level, facing south, and protected from north and east. Air dry and bracing. Assembly and Pump Rooms within easy distance. Omnibus free to and from Hot Mineral Baths. Billiards, Tennis Lawn.

BONCHURCH HOTEL, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, one mile from Ventnor Station.
A comfortable, quiet, and most beautifully-situated Hotel. Pretty garden. Good sea view.
H. RIBBANDS, Proprietor.

BOURNEMOUTH.—HOTEL MONT DORE.—South aspect, 150 rooms, electric light throughout, passenger lift, first-class cuisine, winter garden and lounge, covered tennis court. Turkish, sea-water, and medicated Baths. The Hotel is within two minutes' walk of the Golf Links.—For tariff, address W. KNEESE, Manager.

BOURNEMOUTH.—The HIGH CLIFFE HOTEL.—Of world-wide reputation for comfort.
Full south. Magnificent sea views. Table d'hôte. Electric light.
Supplies from own Alderney Dairy Farm.
JOHN KILNER, Proprietor.

BRIGHTON.—GRAND HOTEL.
Centre of Sea Front. Magnificent view.
Hot and Cold Sea Water Baths. Electric Light throughout.
Inclusive terms if desired.
For tariff and particulars apply to A. D. HOOK, Manager.

BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms.
GEO. HECKFORD, Manager.

CARBIS BAY HOTEL, CORNWALL. The very spot to obtain rest and quietude. Overlooking the finest bay in England. Mild yet bracing climate. Within easy distance of London by G.W.R. Splendid Golf Links. "A more beautiful spot for residence could hardly be imagined."—*Truth.*

FOLKESTONE.—WEST CLIFF HOTEL (180 Apartments). Stands in own private grounds of 2½ acres, facing the sea. All latest sanitary improvements. Excellent cuisine and wines. Table d'hôte at 7 p.m., separate tables.—For tariff please address The PROPRIETOR.

FOLKESTONE.—BATES' HOTEL, West Cliff Gardens, and LONGFORD PRIVATE HOTEL, The Lees. Oldest established and most select Family Hotels in Folkestone. Reduced terms during Winter and Spring months. Pension (new Coffee-room) at Bates' Hotel.—G. L. HART, Proprietor. Sanitation Certified.

FOLKESTONE.—ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL, facing Sea. 200 Apartments. Near landing-stage for Continent. Large winter garden. Table d'hôte at 7 p.m.
G. SPURGEN, Proprietor.

GRAND CANARY.—THE METROPOLE.
Newest and best Hotel.
Delightful position, fronting the sea.
Terms most moderate.

JERSEY.—The GRAND HOTEL is charmingly situated, facing the sea, with full south aspect, and sheltered from the north and easterly winds. Every home comfort and liberal management.—For terms apply to D. DE LEIDI, Manager.

MALVERN—One of the most charming places for the Holidays.—The IMPERIAL HOTEL occupies the best position, and receives visitors *en pension.* The golf-links (18 holes) are one of the best in England. Capital stabling for hunters. Droitwich Brine, Turkish and large Swimming Bath in separate buildings. For tariff, apply to the Proprietor and Manager. F. MOERSCHELL.

MATLOCK BATH.—ROYAL HOTEL.—Hydropathic Baths of every description, Medical Man. Healthful situation; extensive grounds, greatly admired. Large swimming bath. Billiards. Dairy farm. Splendid fishing.—Also NEW BATH HOTEL, with extensive grounds, fishing, &c., &c. Terms very moderate. Bus meets all trains—T. TYACK, Proprietor.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate.
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—WELLINGTON HOTEL, Mount Ephraim. Under the distinguished patronage of his Grace the late Duke of Wellington, K.G., the leading nobility and gentry, &c. 422 ft. above sea level, south aspect; elegantly furnished; piano in every sitting-room. Cuisine English and French. Electric light throughout.—BRABY, Proprietor

THE GROSVENOR HOTEL,
BELGRAVIA, LONDON, S.W.
Well known for Wedding Breakfasts and Dinner Parties.
TABLE D'HÔTE OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS.
Covered Communication to three Railway Stations.
The only Terminus Hotel of the Brighton Railway Company in London.
Pure Water from an Artesian Well on the premises.
Electric Light throughout. Address, MANAGER.

HOTEL BELGRAVIA,
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(Quite close to Victoria Station.)
This is an Hotel in name only. In reality it is a REFINED HOME, replete with every convenience, every comfort, every luxury. Large and small Suites by the day, week, month or year. Also single Bedrooms.
TABLE D'HOTE, at separate tables, open to non-residents.
FIRST-CLASS CUISINE. CHOICE WINES.
For tariff and all particulars apply to MANAGER.

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GRAND HOTEL.
The finest Situation on the East Coast; 300 ft. sea frontage, facing the German Ocean. Stands in its own beautifully wooded grounds, within easy distance of Oulton Broad.

Connected with the ROYAL HOTEL, LOWESTOFT; also RIDLER'S HOTEL, HOLBORN, where Tariff may also be obtained.

HASTINGS. Due South, Facing Sea.
QUEEN'S HOTEL,
LARGEST AND BEST APPOINTED.
Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
ELECTRIC LIGHT. PASSENGER ELEVATOR.
Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
WILLIAM GLADE, Manager.

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ILFRACOMBE HOTEL,
The PRINCIPAL and ONLY HOTEL facing the Sea.
Unrivalled sea frontage and open surroundings. Grounds five acres Lawn Tennis Courts. Croquet Lawn. Large Swimming Bath. Elegant Lounge hall. 250 rooms.
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HOTEL DE PUYS, Dieppe, NOW OPEN. Beautifully placed on the edge of Cæsar's Camp, with spacious verandahs overlooking the sea. Magnificent Salons. No back bedrooms. English sanitation and furniture. Electric light, and refrigerating chamber. Good bathing and cycling, lovely drives and walks, delicious cooking, moderate charges, and all the comforts of an English country house.—J. PELLETIER, Manager.

RAMSGATE.—The GRANVILLE HOTEL.
FIRST-CLASS FAMILY HOTEL.
TURKISH AND OZONE BATHS IN THE BUILDING.
Commanding unique views of the World's Highway for shipping. Charming and invigorating ocean air. Fishing, yachting, coaching. Special Granville Express daily. Under entirely New Management.
CARL G. GRÜNHOLD, Manager.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Charming health resort for this season.—ROYAL HOTEL, aristocratic and old established, facing sea and standing in its own grounds of 8 acres. Every home comfort and attention, with unrivalled cuisine. Dairy produce and vegetables from home farm. Four tennis courts. Near golf links and beautiful woods Extensive view of Welsh coast. Terms strictly moderate.—Proprietors, ROGERS BROS.

EASTBOURNE.—CAVENDISH HOTEL.—This first-class Hotel stands alone in the centre of the Grand Parade, and is replete with every modern improvement. Magnificent Public Rooms, Family Suites, &c. Table d'Hôte, Passenger Lift. Electric Light. Enlarged Hall and Lounge. Moderate tariff.—G. LOWMAN, Manager.

OATLANDS PARK HOTEL, Walton-on-Thames, 17 miles from London (Waterloo Station), formerly the favourite residence of H.R.H. the late Duke of York. Charmingly situated in its own beautiful park (40 acres). Grand Hall, lounge, tennis courts, table d'hôte. Moderate tariff or inclusive terms. Capital stabling. "Old Times" Coach daily 10.45, from Hotel Victoria, London. Postal address, Weybridge.

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THE ATHOLL HYDROPATHIC (MACDONALD'S).
The ORIGINAL and very much the LARGEST. Every window commands a view of the MOST MAGNIFICENT SCENERY in SCOTLAND. 500 feet above sea level. Pure, dry, bracing air. Extensive Pleasure Grounds.
TENNIS—CROQUET—GOLF—ARCHERY—FISHING.
To prevent disappointment, address all communications—
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WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—"The healthiest, most bracing watering-place in the world."—*Vide* report, *Lancet.* The GRAND ATLANTIC is the principal and leading Hotel, facing the sea. 130 sumptuously appointed rooms, delightful public rooms, hydraulic lift, every modern comfort. Nearest to Golf Links and Railway Station. "Own model farm."—Apply, Manager. Telegraphic address, "Atlantic." Telephone No. 11.

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Entirely rebuilt and refurnished. Under same capable management. Greatly increased accommodation. Every luxury and convenience. New hot-water and sanitary arrangements. Suites of private apartments. Magnificent private grounds. Unrivalled views of sea and land. Through carriages from Waterloo.

NO TOURIST'S OUTFIT

IS COMPLETE WITHOUT

Vinolia Cream

For Sunburn, Insect Bites, Itching, &c.

The *Baby* reports:—"For acne spots on the face, and particularly for Eczema, it is undoubtedly efficacious, frequently healing eruptions, and removing pimples in a few days. It relieves itching at once."

1s. 1½d., 1s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 6s. per Box.

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For Sweating Feet, Chafes, &c.

The *British Medical Journal* reports:—"An impalpable rose-dusting powder, soluble, of remarkable fineness, and well adapted for the nursery, toilet, weeping surfaces, and sweating feet."

1s., 1s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 6s. per box.

Vinolia Soap

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins

KEEPS THE COMPLEXION BEAUTIFUL & CLEAR.

The *Chemist and Druggist* reports:—"An ideal soap delightfully perfumed."
The *Lancet* reports:—"No free alkali, a distinct excess of free fat, odour delicate, an article of excellent quality."

Premier, 4d.; Floral, 6d.; Balsamic, 8d.; Toilet (Otto), 10d.; Vestal, 2s. 6d.

HOSPITALS & APPEALS.

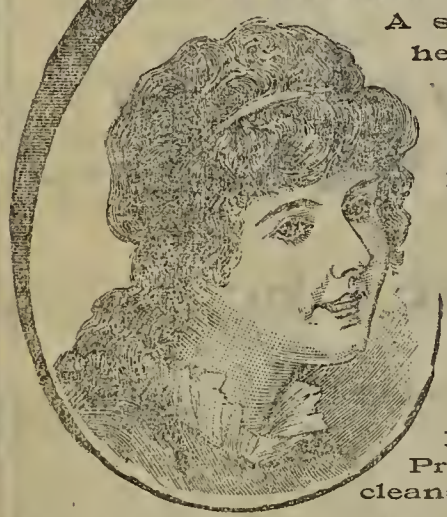
GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL.
VERY POOR, FREE, and UNENDOWED.
The only Hospital available for a population of one million.
An urgent APPEAL is made for FUNDS to support the work of relieving 1,200 In-patients and 30,000 Out-patients annually.
Holloway, N. L. H. GLENTON KERR, Secretary.

CANCER WARDS of the MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—35 beds devoted to Hopeless Incurable Cases.
A FUND of £12,000 is being raised for the purpose of erecting a separate BUILDING for the accommodation of the FEMALE CANCER PATIENTS hitherto located in the hospital, an improvement which is urgently demanded on the ground of the health, comfort, and convenience of the patients. Towards the cost of the new building the sum of £9,000 has been paid or promised, and an URGENT APPEAL is now made for the balance of £3,000 still required. Patients are admitted without letters or any recommendation, save that of necessity, and are permitted to remain until "relieved by art or released by death."—F. CLARE MELHADO, Secretary-Superintendent.

LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.
ADDITIONAL HELP is urgently needed.
Scarlet fever and diphtheria are very prevalent. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by the Secretary at the Hospital.
MAJOR W. CHRISTIE.
Bankers—Prescott & Co., 50, Cornhill, E.C.

Highest Award at Chicago '93
"Lanoline"
Prepared from the purified fat of lamb's wool, is SIMILAR to the FAT of the HUMAN SKIN and HAIR. It is their natural nutrient.

Toilet 'Lanoline'
A soothing emollient for health and beauty of the skin. For the complexion. PREVENTS WRINKLES, SUNBURN, & CHAPPING.
Price 6d. & 1s.



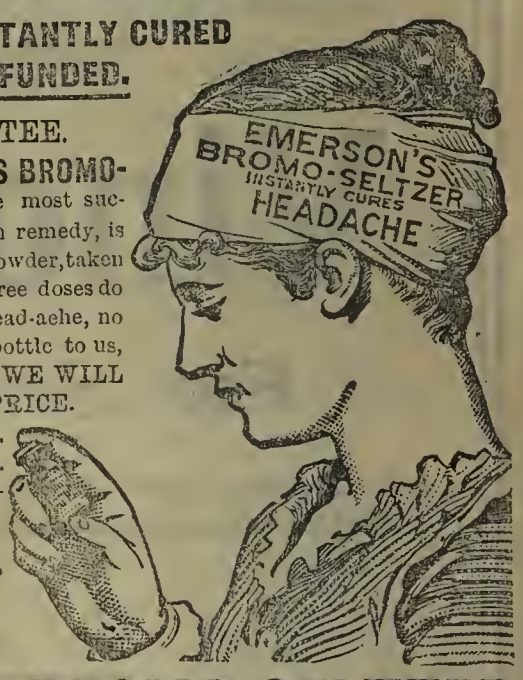
'Lanoline' Pomade
NOURISHES, INVIGORATES, and BEAUTIFIES the hair. Prevents dandruff by its cleansing properties. *Price 1/6.*

'Lanoline' Toilet Soap
(No caustic free alkali.) RENDERS the most SENSITIVE SKIN Healthy, Clear, and Elastic.
6d. & 1s., from all Chemists. Wholesale Depot, 67, Holborn Viaduct, London

CHIVERS'
DELICIOUS. WHOLESOME. REFRESHING.
Prepared in silver-lined pans. Highly prized by all. Flavoured with Ripe Fruit Juices.
Dr. GORDON STABLES, R.N. says:—'Jellies that really add to our health and luxury.'
GOLD MEDAL
½-PINTS, 2½d. PINTS, 4½d. QUARTS, 8d.
S. CHIVERS & SONS, Proprietors of the First English Fruit Farm Jam Factory, Histon, Cambridge.
CHIVERS' PATENT CUSTARDS and BLANC MANGES—2d. and 3d. packets and 6d. boxes — two more delicious and digestible additions to the dinner and supper table. Made by simply adding milk and boiling.
CHIVERS' 1st PRIZE JAMS. The Royal Commission on Agriculture, in its report (1895), says: "Messrs. Chivers' Factory at Histon . . is now well-known throughout the country for the excellence of its manufactures."
JELLIES.

Best is Cheapest & Lasts Longest
Fixed, moderate prices.
Permanent Protection from Chill.
JAEGER
PURE WOOL UNDERWEAR, HOSE, PYJAMAS, RUGS, BLANKETS, CASHMERE SHEETS, DRESSING GOWNS, SHAWLS, CORSETS, CYCLING OUTFITS, BOOTS AND SHOES, etc. etc.
"Health Culture" & Jaeger Coy.'s Price List sent free.
JAEGER DEPOTS:—
3 and 4, PRINCES-ST., CAVENDISH-SQ. (near Regent-circus)
126, REGENT-STREET (near the Quadrant).
30, SLOANE-STREET (adjoining McPherson's Gymnasium).
456, STRAND (near Trafalgar-square).
85 and 86, CHEAPSIDE (near King-street).
TAILORING (only):—
42, CONDUIT-STREET, NEW BOND STREET, W.
The "Jaeger" goods are sold in many Towns. Address sent from Jaeger Co.'s Head Office, 95, Milton Street, E.C.
TRADE MARK ON EACH GARMENT.
The "Jaeger" goods are tested for purity and durability.
Dr. JAEGER'S SANITARY WOOLLEN SYSTEM Co. SOLE CONCESSIONARIES PURE WOOL WARRANTED

ALL HEADACHES INSTANTLY CURED OR MONEY REFUNDED.
LEGAL GUARANTEE.
7½D. EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER, the most successful American remedy, is an effervescent powder, taken in water. If three doses do not cure any head-ache, no matter how caused, send the bottle to us, saying where obtained, AND WE WILL AT ONCE REFUND THE PRICE.
Trial Bottle, post free, 7½d. Larger Sizes, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Sold by many Chemists or obtained to order by almost all.
EMERSON DRUG CO., Ltd.
46, Holborn Viaduct, LONDON, E.C.
INSIST ON FULL NAME—
EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER



A LADY, going abroad, is anxious
TO LET
Her unique and well-furnished
HOUSE
IN BOURNEMOUTH.
It stands in a grand position. Magnificent sea-view, close to pine trees. South aspect. Three reception rooms, six bedrooms and fine bathroom, conservatory.—Apply to
The BELGRAVE LADIES' AGENCY,
83, EBURY STREET, S.W.,
Who have also Furnished and Unfurnished Houses and Apartments abroad, seaside, and in the country.
Brighton, Eastbourne, Westgate-on-Sea, Folkestone, Homburg, Ostend, Dieppe, Biarritz, Crieffe, Dover, Wimbledon, Mitcham, Bucks, Datchet, Twickenham, Cookham, Ryde, Tunbridge Wells.

DREW & SONS PICCADILLY CIRCUS LONDON, W.

PATENT "EN ROUTE" TEA BASKET Indispensable to all TRAVELLING ON THE CONTINENT.

Two-person size,

£2. 17s. 6d. With silver-plated kettle. | £4. 10s. All fittings silver-plated.

N.B.—Either of these 'En Routes' fitted with Drew's Patent Railway Attachment, lid, and fall-tray. Two-person size, 7/6 extra to above prices. These Patent Tea Baskets are fitted with all DREW'S latest improvements.

Packed free of charge on receipt of cheque. Catalogues Post Free.

NOTE.—In consequence of the many cheap imitations put on the market to profit by the fame of Drew's "En Route," CUSTOMERS ARE ADVISED TO SEND THEIR ORDERS WITH REMITTANCE DIRECT, *or if the order is sent through an agent care should be taken to see that the Basket* IS OF DREW & SONS PATENT MAKE, AND FITTED WITH THEIR PATENT ADJUSTABLE SAFETY LAMP AND STOVE.

DREW & SONS Makers of DRESSING BAGS, TRUNKS, &c.

33, 35, 37, PICCADILLY CIRCUS, W.

FARADAY & SON's

Electric Light Fittings

NEW DESIGNS *for* SEASON '96

2 & 3 BERNERS ST. LONDON W

Goddard's Plate Powder

SIX GOLD MEDALS.

Non-Mercurial.

THE BEST and SAFEST article for CLEANING SILVER and ELECTRO PLATE. Sold in Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each, by Grocers, Oilmen, Chemists, &c., everywhere.

W. & F. THORN'S CARRIAGES AND ELSWICK CYCLES.

Acknowledged by all the World to be the BEST.

LONDON ADDRESSES—

19 and 19a, Great Portland Street, and 16 and 17, Little Portland Street, W.
Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor Place, S.W. London (only).

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

Alfred Webb Miles & Co.

12, 10, & 8, Brook-street, Hanover Square, London, W.

SPECIAL SHOW OF

Loch, Moor & Mountain Suits

For SHOOTING, FISHING, YACHTING, and DEER STALKING.

A. W. MILES & CO.'S	Celebrated Hebrides Tweed Shooting Suits, specially adapted for hard wear...	£3 3 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	Donegal, Mayo, Kenmare, and Kilmacthomas Homespun Suits	£3 3 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	Bannockburn, Gairloch, and Glencoe Cheviots, in New Lovat and Heather Shades...	£3 3 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	Real Shetland and St. Kilda Homespun Suits in Natural Undyed Hand-made and Hand-spun Pure Wools, from ...	£3 3 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	R.Y.S. Imperial Indigo Blue Cheviot and Serge Suits from	£3 3 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	White, Blue, Lovat, and Fancy Flannels, thoroughly shrunk, for Golf and Cycling Suits	£3 3 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	Real Isle of Harris Homespuns in Great Variety (Hand-made and Hand-spun)...	£3 15 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	Fine Angolas and Cashmeres in the Newest Designs for Suits, from... ...	£3 15 0
A. W. MILES & CO.'S	Patterns sent on application to only address as above.	

Alfred Webb Miles & Co.'s Show Rooms

contain a Select Assortment of the Newest Styles in Overcoats, Travelling Wraps, Inverness Capes, Racing Paletots, Covert Coats, Golf and Shooting Capes, Cycling Flannels, &c.; also, Young Gentlemen's Attire, comprising Eton and Scotch Tweed Suits, Overcoats, &c., cut and made by our own Experienced Cutters and Workmen. All sizes ready for immediate use.

Soft Water in Every Home.

MAIGNEN'S

Patent Apparatus for Softening HARD WATER.

MADGE, in her letter to AMY, published in "Truth" of May 7th, says:—

"Every one who lives in chalk districts ought to use Maignen's Process."

"Some friends of ours at Brighton—where as you know the water is decidedly hard—have one of their filters fitted to their cisterns, and are delighted with it."

"I quite sympathise with you, for there is nothing more detestable than hard water."

Full and Illustrated Particulars from Maignen's Filtre Rapide and Anti-Calcaire Co., Ltd., 255, Regent-street, London, W., where the Process can be seen at work.

ALLAN'S ANTI-FAT

PURELY VEGETABLE, Perfectly Harmless. Will reduce from two to five pounds per week; acts on the food in the stomach, preventing its conversion into Fat. Sold by Chemists. Send stamp for pamphlet.
Botanic Medicine Co., 3, New Oxford-street, London, W.C.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

PUREST IN ENGLAND.

BOURNE TABLE WATERS

SODA, SELTZER, LITHIA, POTASH, LEMONADE, GINGER ALE, ETC.

Supplied in 6 Dozen Cases Carriage Paid by

Analysis, &c., on Application.

R. M. MILLS & CO., BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE

West-End Agents, **WHEATLEY & SONS**, 24, South Audley-street, W.
City Agents, **RAE & CO.**, 6, Railway-place, E.C.;
And of all CHEMISTS, WINE MERCHANTS, &c.

THE BELGRAVE LADIES' AGENCY

83, EBURY STREET, *Near Victoria Station,*

HOUSES
HOUSES
HOUSES
HOUSES

Have a LARGE SELECTION of First-rate HOUSES and FLATS for the Parliamentary and London Seasons. Rents MODERATE. Every care is taken to save clients unnecessary trouble and expense. Also APARTMENTS in London, Country, and Abroad. Continental Agents. Rooms all inspected, and the highest references given. Entirely worked by Ladies.

THE HOMACOUSTIC.

WHAT IS THE HOMACOUSTIC?

THE HOMACOUSTIC is a contrivance connected with Speaking Tubes, which entirely supersedes for indoor purposes not only the Telephone, but all other existing arrangements for indoor inter-communication.

THE HOMACOUSTIC
Is Automatic, not Mechanical. Once fixed always in Working Order. Its first cost is its last cost.

WITH THE HOMACOUSTIC
There is no blowing into pipes. The automatic whistle is always in position. One speaks and listens at the same time. The tube is closed when not in actual use. Ordinary speaking tubes can be utilised.

ONE (No. 4) HOMACOUSTIC
Places the speaker in communication with any Number of Rooms.

THE HOMACOUSTIC
Is of special value and inestimable convenience not only in business establishments, but in all Private Houses.

The Homacoustic Saves Time, Temper, and Trouble.

For Detailed Particulars, Copies of Testimonials, &c., write to the MANAGER,

THE
Homacoustic Speaking Tube Co.'s

Show Rooms:
6, BRUTON ST., NEW BOND ST., W.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S
AND
GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1866.

CHIEF OFFICES:—
BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

LONDON OFFICES:—
2, WEST STREET, FINSBURY PAVEMENT.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting was held in Birmingham on Tuesday the 14th inst.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT.—The results of the year's working, surpass everything before accomplished. The increase in business in the past, and the still greater increase expected in the future, have rendered it necessary for the Company to take in a further considerable portion of the Broad-street-corner property.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.—During the year further efforts have been made to meet the requirements of the Old Age Pension Scheme, under the Company's Endowment Assurance policies, and Special Tables of benefits have been issued.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL TABLES.—These also have been prepared, and they show the great advantages to be derived from the payment of premiums either yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly, instead of weekly. Under these tables a considerable amount of business has already been transacted.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The total income of the Company was £438,250 and total expenditure £395,249, leaving a balance on the year's accounts of £43,001.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NEW BUSINESS.—The total number of policies issued for the year was 354,805 at an annual premium of £218,587.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CLAIMS.—The amount paid in claims during the year in the Ordinary Department was £15,527, including £1,153 in surrender claims. The amount paid in the Industrial Department was £160,295, including £8,051 in surrender claims.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND.—The Directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. upon the paid-up Capital of the Company, free of income tax. This dividend, which is in course of payment, is the largest distribution hitherto paid to the Shareholders, and the prospect is of a steadily increasing dividend from year to year. The Shares—£1 fully paid—are now quoted at 50s., and at this high premium it is difficult to obtain them.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

A YOUNG ENTHUSIAST.—More than thirty years have elapsed since Mr. Port, a young enthusiast in the cause of industrial assurance, conceived the idea of establishing a company in the great Midland capital. He had unbounded faith in the success of a company offering broad and liberal conditions, and was prepared to deal generously with claims as they arose.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

A NOBLE SELF-SACRIFICE.—For the first few months after the establishment of the Company the indoor staff of the office consisted solely of Henry Port, and such was the arduous character of his occupation that he laboured by night, as well as by day, snatching an occasional hour of repose in the office itself.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE DAY OF FEEBLE THINGS.—In the first five years the average premium income was £2,131. The average annual income during the last quinquennium is £347,819. The comparison is convincing proof of the growing confidence of the people, and of the expanding strength and usefulness of the Company. The premium income of the year 1895-96 exceeds that of the average of the quinquennium, and amounts to £428,089.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TESTIMONY OF FIGURES.—The premium income for the last thirteen years is briefly stated as below:—

PREMIUM INCOME.

1884	£118,017
1885	130,057
1886	142,864
1887	153,384
1888	173,543
1889	207,575
1890	243,889
1891	274,969
1892	289,406
1893	306,234
1894	335,282
1895	380,088
1896	428,089

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

AN INTERESTING ANNIVERSARY.—The Company now celebrates its Thirtieth Anniversary. There are only ten other British Life Offices which possess a greater income. Among them are the following:—

Established.	Names.	Annual premium income.
1815	Scottish Widows'	£947,919
1848	Gresham	862,266
1825	Standard	786,246
1823	North British and Mercantile	678,356
1837	Scottish Provident	585,471
1843	Star	459,186
1840	U.K. Temperance and General	439,024
1845	Royal (1895)	402,460

These Offices were all established before the BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

TRIUMPHAL PROGRESS.—The progress has been triumphal. The modest venture of 1866 has developed into a large and prosperous Company, with a total income of £438,250, and total funds amounting to £249,429.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

A NATIONAL INSTITUTION.—In the British Workman's and General Assurance Company Mr. Port has built up a National Institution of great usefulness to the community, and it will remain an enduring memorial of his life's work.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S & GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE IDEAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

BRITISH WORKMAN'S
AND
GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED.

CHIEF OFFICES:—
BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

LONDON OFFICES:—
2, WEST STREET, FINSBURY PAVEMENT.

The List of Applications will OPEN on TUESDAY, JULY 28th, 1896, and CLOSE on or before FOUR o'clock the Following Day.

BENSKIN'S WATFORD BREWERY, Limited.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862—1890.

150,007 Ordinary Shares A B and C of £1 each	£150,007
20,000 Five per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, ...	100,000
	250,007
4½ First Mortgage Debenture Stock	150,000
	£400,007

Issue of £150,000 4½ per Cent. "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock at the price of £108.

Payable as follows:—£10 per £100 stock on Application. £20 per £100 stock on Allotment. £28 per £100 stock October 1st, 1896 (including premium). £50 per £100 stock January 1st, 1897.

Payment in full may be made on Allotment at a rebate of £2½ per cent. per annum.

The "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock is redeemable at the Company's option on or any day after the 1st day of January, 1910 (on six months' notice), at £113 for each £100 Stock.

The Interest on this Stock will be payable half-yearly on 1st July and 1st January in each year. Interest on the instalments from their due dates will be paid on January 1st, 1897.

The Stock will be transferable in multiples of £5.

DIRECTORS.

Thomas Benskin, Chairman. Henry M. Husey
James A. Panton. Ernest Innis Husey.

TRUSTEES FOR "B" MORTGAGE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

Robert H. Cunningham, Esq., 4, Arthur-street West, London Bridge, E.C.
W. C. Jackson, Esq., 2, Vicarage-gate, Kensington.

BANKERS.—The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C., and its Branches.

BROKER.—Charles Bowerman, 2, Copthall-buildings, and Stock Exchange.

AUDITOR.—W. C. Jackson, F.C.A., of the firm of Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, & Co., 58, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Young, Jones, & Co., St. Mildred's-court, Poultry, E.C.; Messrs. Crossman & Prichard, 15, Theobald's-road, Gray's Inn, W.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—W. H. Barnes, The Cannon Brewery, Watford, Herts.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company was formed in July, 1894, the Vendors taking shares for their interest in the business without any payment in cash. A prospectus was issued inviting subscriptions for 4½ per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock to the amount of £150,000, the whole of which was subscribed. In January this year the Company issued 20,000 5 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, which were fully subscribed, and the proceeds have been all invested in licensed houses. The Directors believing that still further capital can be profitably employed, invite subscriptions for £150,000 "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock, which will be issued at a premium of £8 per cent., and will bear interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

The object of the issue is to purchase other licensed house properties, and further extend the business.

The "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock of £150,000 and the interest thereon will be secured by a specific charge to Trustees of property representing an expenditure of upwards of £300,000 (power being reserved to the Company to sell, lease, and deal with the same for the purposes of the business), and by a floating charge in their favour on the general undertaking of the Company, and such charges are to rank next after the £150,000 Original Debenture Stock, and the securities for the same, but no further floating charge is to be placed before or rank *pari passu* with the "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock.

The property thus to be specifically Mortgaged will consist of

	£	s.	d.
(a) The Freehold, Leasehold, and Copyhold Properties, &c., and Fixed plant comprised in the Trust Deed for securing the original Debenture Stock, valued by Messrs. Mason & Sons in July, 1894, at	150,045	0	0
(b) The Property and the Mortgages to be acquired with the proceeds up to £150,000 of the present issue	150,000	0	0
	£300,045	0	0

The assets of the Company (exclusive of goodwill), as appearing in the last Balance Sheet, are as follows:—

The Brewery Maltings and Freehold and Leasehold Public-houses and Plant	174,246	15	6
Book Debts and Moneys advanced on Mortgage	64,629	13	8
Other Assets, consisting of Cash, Casks, Stock in Trade, &c. ...	46,745	12	7
	£285,622	1	9
To which must be added the Licensed Houses acquired with the proceeds of the 100,000 Preference Shares...	100,000	0	0
The Assets to be acquired with the proceeds of the present Issue	162,000	0	0
	£547,622	1	9

In the above Summary of Assets nothing is included for Goodwill.

The Profits for the year ending 30th September, 1895, as per Balance Sheet enclosed, amounted to	£23,415
The Profits on Trade acquired during the current year by investment of new Capital are carefully estimated to amount to	9,300
Estimated Profit to be derived from the investment of £162,000 produced by this issue of £150,000 "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock at, say, 8 per cent.	12,960
	£45,675

Deduct Interest on £150,000 First Mortgage Debenture Stock	£6,750	
Deduct interest on £150,000 "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock (present issue)	6,750	13,500
Surplus applicable for payment of Dividend on £100,000 5 per cent. Preference Shares (£5,000), Directors' Fees (£1,500), and Dividend on Ordinary Shares		£32,175

The trade of the Brewery has shown continual extension as shown by the following Barrelage of Beer sold:—

Year ending September 30th, 1893		59,882
" " 1894		61,917
" " 1895		68,071
Six winter months ending March 30th, 1896	34,368	
Three summer months ending June 30th, 1896	19,795	
Three summer months ending September 30th, 1896, estimated at	21,000	75,163

The Sales in June, 1896, amounted to 7,101 barrels, as against 5,981 barrels in June, 1895, showing an increase of 1,120 barrels for the month.

A copy of the Company's audited accounts will be sent to each registered Debenture holder annually.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the draft of Trust Deed constituting and securing the "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors, Messrs. Young, Jones, & Co.

Applications for the "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock must be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and sent together with a deposit of 10 per cent. to the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, Bishopsgate, E.C., or any of its branches.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, of the Bankers, Solicitors, Auditor, and Broker.

In cases where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full. When the amount allotted is less than that subscribed for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the payment of the amount due on allotment.

Provisional Scrip Certificates will be issued after the amount due on allotment is paid and Definitive Certificates will be issued by the Company as soon as possible after the payments are completed.

A quotation on the Official List of the Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course.

London, 24th July, 1896.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £23,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
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LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EPPS'S COCOAINE.

COCOA-NIB EXTRACT.
(TEA-LIKE.)

The choicest roasted nibs (broken-up beans) of the natural Cocoa on being subjected to powerful hydraulic pressure, give forth their excess of oil, leaving for use a finely-flavoured powder—"Cocoaine," a product which, when prepared with boiling water, has the consistence of tea, of which it is now, with many, beneficially taking the place. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

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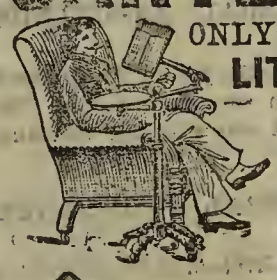

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ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

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Electric Bells, Urinals, &c.
Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests 7/6
Leg Rests 10/-
Crutches 10/6
Bed Baths 12/6
Commodes, £1. 5/-

Self-Propelling Chairs from £2

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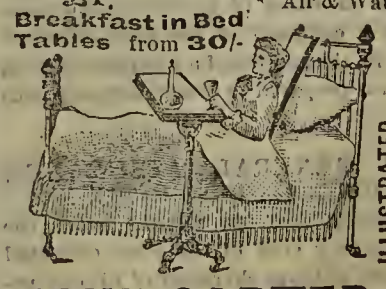

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JOHN CARTER. 6a. NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

The LISTS will CLOSE on FRIDAY, 31st July, for Town and Country.

Mr. HARVEY DU CROS, Managing Director of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company (Limited), pays to this Company the following powerful tribute:—"The system upon which you propose to work appears to me to be sound, and one which, subject to capable management, should bring substantial results to investors.....I am of opinion that such an organisation will offer very great advantages to the ever-increasing cycling public." (See letter.)

12,000 Annual Subscribers enrolled in London alone.

GAVIN'S HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CYCLE CLEANING AND INSURANCE COMPANY, Ltd. (Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.) Capital, £300,000.

Of which 98,000 ORDINARY SHARES are now OFFERED to the PUBLIC at Par (the balance of 200,000 Shares being reserved for future issue as and when required for the further development of the Company), payable 2s. on Application, 8s. on Allotment, and the balance in calls not exceeding 5s. each, and at intervals of not less than three months.

The Capital of the Company is £300 000, in 300,000 Shares of £1 each (298,000 Ordinary and 2 000 Founders'). The Founders' Shares are entitled to one-half the net profits after payment of 7½ per cent. to the Ordinary Shares. The Vendor will transfer or cause to be allotted at par to every Subscriber for 250 Ordinary Shares one fully-paid Founders' Share for every 250 Ordinary Shares allotted to such Subscriber.

DIRECTORS.—Lord Henry Fitzgerald, 36, Ashley-gardens, S.W.; J. McCalmont, Esq., M.P., Carlton Club, Pall Mall; Col. Eyre, C.B., 72, Carlisle Mansions, S.W.; T. Harrison Lambert, Esq., 44, Buckingham Palace Mansions (Director of Humber & Co., Ltd.); T. H. Gavin, Esq., 84, High-st., Stoke Newington, and 159, Mare-st., Hackney; Andrew Beattie, Esq., J.P., 122A, Stephen's Green, Dublin (Director of the Osmond Cycle Co., Ltd.)

MANAGING DIRECTOR.—*W. A. Gavin, Esq., Warwick House, Enfield.

MANAGER.—Capt. Hanshaw Russell (Manager for 12 years, Crystal Palace).

BANKERS.—Messrs. Barclay & Co., Ltd., Head Office, 54, Lombard-st., London.

BROKERS.—Sir R. W. Carden & Co., 3, Threadneedle-st., E.C.

SOLICITOR.—T. Wilkinson, Esq., 57, Gracechurch-st., and 23, Ebury-st., S.W.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. W. H. Pannell & Co., Chartered Accountants, 13 and 14, Bassinghall-st., E.C.

SECRETARY and OFFICES (pro tem.).—Mr. W. Burnett Brooke, 9, Gracechurch-st., E.C.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The objects for which this Company has been formed comprise the following:—The establishment in London and the Provinces of depôts for the cleaning, repairing, storing, and sale of cycles. The supply of all accessories connected with the use of cycles. The teaching of cycling and the provision of every accessory conducive to the enjoyment of this popular sport. In connection with the above will be maintained a large and efficient staff, who will travel about the various districts in which the depôts exist for the purpose of cleaning and executing minor repairs to the machines of subscribers at their own residences.

The system by which it is intended to carry out the above objects consists of an annual subscription of £1 6s., for which sum the following services will be rendered, and the undermentioned benefits secured:—

CLEANING.—Relieving cyclists of the disagreeable task of cleaning and adjusting their machines.——INSURANCE.—Subscribers insured against accident whilst cycling for the following amounts:—£100 at death, £50 loss of one limb, and £2 per week for five weeks during total disablement.——STORAGE.—Storing subscribers' machines when out of use, and keeping them in cleanliness and order until required by their respective owners.——TUITION.—Tuition to learners by competent instructors.——SIGNAL CARDS.—Providing a signal card which subscribers will place in their window when the services of a cleaner or repairer are required.

The following letter has been received by Mr. Gavin from Mr. Harvey du Cros, Managing Director of the Pneumatic Tyre Company:—The Pneumatic Tyre Company, Ltd., 14, Regent st., London, S.W., July 18th, 1896. W. A. Gavin, Esq., care of Gavin's House-to-House Cycle Cleaning and Insurance Co., Ltd. Dear Sir,—I have now considered very carefully the details of the House-to-House Cleaning Company which it is proposed to form, and I am of opinion that such an organisation will offer very great advantages to the ever-increasing cycling public. The system upon which you propose to work appears to me to be sound, and one which, subject to capable management, should bring substantial results to investors. On the point of management, however, so much depends upon the proper appreciation of the scope of this scheme that I for one would consider it essential that you should direct it personally. If this is agreeable to you, then my firm will be prepared to enter into the proposed working arrangement with the proposed Company.—Yours faithfully, HARVEY DU CROS, Managing Director Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co. Mr. W. A. Gavin has consented to act as Managing Director to the Company for a definite period.

The sources whence the Company's profits are to be derived are as under:—Profit on cleaning 500 cycles per week at each Depôt. Profit on the sale and exchange of cycles. Profit on the sale of accessories, outfits, and miscellaneous articles. Profit on substantial repairs.

Subsidies from manufacturers (already assured). There are also additional sources of revenue which have not been included in the above, but which are covered by the plan of the Company's intended operations. Full and exhaustive particulars of the Company's plans have been submitted by the Vendor to the well-known firm of Chartered Accountants, Messrs. W. H. Pannell and Co., whose report follows, from which it will be seen that an annual profit of not less than £35,880 should be made by 50 depôts. Taking the figures stated, and deducting the sum of £5,000 for general administration, Directors' fees, and various charges, there remains a net annual income of £30,880, equal to 20 per cent. upon the present issue of Ordinary Shares after providing the proportion to which the Founders' Shares are entitled.

The following is a copy of Messrs. Pannell and Co.'s report:—Library Chambers, 13 and 14, Bassinghall-street, E.C., June 29, 1896. Dear Sir,—We have gone carefully into the details of your scheme for cycle cleaning, &c., and also into the estimates you have submitted to us. We find that these estimates are based upon a very careful consideration of the facts you have gathered from various sources connected with the subject. In our opinion, your estimate that each depôt consisting of 500 subscribers should give your Company a net profit of £717 12s. per annum is fair and reasonable.

In coming to this conclusion reasonable allowances have been made for contingencies, management expenses, &c. The above profit is subject to the deduction for Directors' fees and general administration. You have produced to us, and we have carefully checked, the list of subscribers in London alone, and we find that you have already obtained 12,500 annual subscribers at 26s., which is sufficient to start 25 depôts, and which at the above rate would represent an annual profit of £17,940. We have also inspected the weekly returns of inquiries for cycles from your superintendents in the various districts, and these represent an average per week of five cycles per depôt, in addition to the large number of accessories and requests for cycles on hire.—Yours faithfully, W. H. PANNELL and Co., Chartered Accountants.—W. A. GAVIN, Esq.

The Company is protected from risk in the insurance department by a policy arranged for on advantageous terms with the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd.

Valuable offers have been received from many high-class manufacturers for exclusive supply of their products and for advertisements at the Company's depôts, which would, if accepted, bring in to the Company considerable additional revenue. The Vendor has fixed the price to be paid for everything, including the benefit of his arrangements with manufacturers, 12,000 signed application forms from subscribers (representing revenue of £16,000 per annum), the cost of forming and floating the Company, and his services at a moderate salary as Managing Director, at £23,000 in cash, 2,000 Founders' Shares (less such as may be allotted by the Directors to subscribers of 250 shares and upwards), and £25,000 in cash or shares, or partly in each, at the option of the Directors, subject to the stipulation that he has the option for himself and his nominees to claim a preferential allotment of shares up to 10,000. 50,000 shares will thus remain available for working capital, which should be ample to thoroughly establish and equip fifty depôts and allow for further extensions. For contracts see full prospectus. The above contract and the Memorandum and Articles of Association may be seen at the offices of the Company's Solicitors. Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitor, or Auditors, and from the Secretary, at the offices of the Company.

The List of Applications will OPEN on Wednesday, July 29, 1896, and will CLOSE on or before Friday, July 31, 1896.

LIVERPOOL LIGHTERAGE CO., LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL £150,000,
Divided into £75,000 Preference and £75,000 Ordinary Shares.

PRESENT ISSUE:—

5,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each	... £50,000
5,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each...	50,000
	£100,000

No Ordinary Shares are offered for Subscription, the Vendors taking £46,550, and the balance (£3,450) being reserved for the purchase of some Lighters, the negotiations for which are not yet completed.

The Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares are now offered for Subscription.

There are also offered for Subscription—£80,000 Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures in Bonds of £100 each.

Payable as follows—Preference Shares, £1 on Application, £4 on Allotment, and £5 on August 31st, 1896. Debentures, 5 per cent. on Application, 20 per cent. on Allotment, and the Balance, including premium, on August 31, 1896.

The Debentures are offered at £105 per £100 Debenture and are repayable on December 31st, 1920, at £105, with power to the Company to redeem them at any time after 1901 at £110 upon giving six months' notice. Interest will be payable on June 30th, and December 31st in each year, and the Debentures are a first charge on the entire property and assets of the Company. The £80,000 Debentures now offered form part of a series of £90,000. The balance (£10,000) will only be issued in the event of the Company building or purchasing additional lighters or lighterage businesses, and then only in the proportion of one-third of any such purchase.

DIRECTORS.

William Newall, Esq. (Chairman of Messrs. Walkers, Parker, & Co., Limited,) Garston, Liverpool, Chairman.

William D. Mack, Esq. (Messrs. W. D. & H. B. Mack, Lighter Owners), Water-street, Liverpool; and

Herbert B. Mack, Esq. (Messrs. W. D. & H. B. Mack, Lighter Owners), Water-street, Liverpool, Managing Directors.

William Barnes, Esq. (Messrs. J. & W. Barnes, Colliery Proprietors and Lighter Owners), Fenwick-street, Liverpool.

Philip Speakman, Esq., J.P. (Messrs. Philip Speakman & Sons), Harrington-street, Liverpool, and Runcorn.

BANKERS.—North and South Wales Bank, Limited, Castle-street, Liverpool, and Branches; and their London Agents: The London and Westminster Bank, Limited, Lothbury, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Simpson, North, Harley, & Birkett, 1, Water-street, Liverpool.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Harmood, Banner, & Son, 24, North John-street, Liverpool.

BROKERS.

London: Messrs. M. Mocatta, Son, & Browne, 10, Copthall-avenue, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

Liverpool: Messrs. Hornby & Ockleston, 3A, Queen Insurance-buildings, and Stock Exchange.

SECRETARY.—Henry Bloor, Esq. (William Bloor & Son, Lighter Owners).

OFFICES.—14, Water-street, Liverpool.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of uniting the principal lighterage businesses of Liverpool and other ports of the Mersey, with the object of effecting considerable saving in the management of the flats or lighters and in the distribution of the cargoes, and to enable the lighterage of the Port to be conducted in a more expeditious manner so as to better meet the requirements of the shipping trade.

The Company will include the following well-known and well-established lighterage businesses, viz.:—

J. and W. Barnes	Established about 25 years.		
Wm. Bloor & Son	"	" 35	"
Berrington & Company	"	" 10	"
Henry Blower & Co.	"	" 20	"
Wm. Darlington	"	" 10	"
Thos. Harrison & Sons	"	" 30	"
John A. Kelly, Goree Piazzas	"	" 15	"
W. D & H. B. Mack	"	" 25	"
Wm. Newall, Garston	"	" 30	"
Owen Bros.....	"	" 30	"
Thos Robinson & Sons	"	" 20	"
Philip Speakman	"	" 20	"
Thos. Thompson	"	" 20	"

Contracts have already been entered into for the purchase of 185 lighters, flats, and barges, including six steam lighters, and the Company is in negotiation for the purchase of a further number, which will bring the total up to about 200.

The Company will also acquire the old-established Ship and Lighter repairing business, together with all plant and machinery, at Garston Dock, which has been successfully carried on by Mr. William Newall for over 30 years. The Company will effect a very great saving by having their own building and repairing yard, and as Mr. William Newall will undertake the special supervision of this department, the Company will have the benefit of his valuable experience.

The following are some of the advantages to be derived from the amalgamation:—

(1) A considerable saving will be effected—
(a) In the distribution of the cargoes;
(b) In having only one Liverpool office in place of about twelve;
(c) In the wholesale purchase of stores;
(d) In the Company having their own building and repairing yard.

(2) Hitherto it has been necessary in most cases for lighters to go empty from one port to another to get cargoes. The Company having a large carrying business, will generally have lighters in every loading port, and will thereby be enabled to arrange the cargoes so as to avoid this. Very considerable saving will thus be effected in wear and tear of craft, and greater facilities will be afforded to the Company's customers for the expeditious despatch of business, a matter of great importance to shipowners.

Mr. W. D. Mack and Mr. H. B. Mack (who are among the largest owners of lighters in Liverpool, the former having been engaged in the lighterage trade for over 25 years), have entered into an Agreement to act as Managing Directors of the Company.

As will be seen from the following certificate the lighters taken over by the Company have been valued by Mr. Thomas K. Hayes, Master Shipwright, of Liverpool, at £132,100 without including the value of the goodwill of any of the businesses.

Liverpool, July 24th, 1896.

I have valued the 185 lighters and barges to be acquired by the Company, and, without allowing anything for goodwill, I estimate their value to be £132,100.

T. K. HAYES.

The consideration payable to E. C. Fowler, the Vendor, for the purchase of the various Lighters and businesses, including goodwill, has been fixed by him at £162,840, payable as to £69,750 in cash, £46,540 in cash or Preference Shares, and £46,550 in Ordinary Shares. Out of this sum the Vendor will pay all expenses connected with the formation of the Company, including fees and stamp duties payable on registration, but not the charges of the Company's Solicitors.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

July 25th, 1896.

The LIST OF APPLICATIONS will be OPENED on WEDNESDAY, the 29th JULY, 1896, and CLOSED on or before the FOLLOWING DAY.

THE CANNON BREWERY COMPANY, Limited,

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

St. John Street, Clerkenwell, London.

Share Capital	£1,300,000	
Debenture Stock	£700,000	
6,000 Ordinary Shares of £100 each		£600,000
7,000 5 per cent. Preference Shares of £100 each...		700,000
£700,000 4 per cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock...		700,000
		£2,000,000

The whole of the Share Capital is held by the Directors of the Company and their friends.

Issue of

£500,000 FOUR PER CENT. "B" DEBENTURE STOCK, redeemable at the Company's option after the 1st January, 1915, at 110 per cent.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C., is authorised by the Directors to receive applications for the above Stock, at the Issue Price of £104 payable as follows:—

10	per cent.	on Application.
19	" "	Allotment.
25	" "	the 1st September, 1896.
25	" "	the 1st October, 1896.
25	" "	the 2nd November, 1896.
104		

Interest on the Stock will be paid on the 1st June and the 1st December in each year. The first payment will be made on the 1st December, 1896, and will be calculated from the dates of the payment of the Instalments.

Payment may be made in full on Allotment, if desired, under discount at the rate of Two per cent. per annum.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS.

Charles Edward Barnett, *Director of Lloyds Bank, Limited.*
Charles Stancliffe Newton, 23, Chesham-street, London, S.W.
William Musgrave Wroughton, *Director of the Cannon Brewery Company, Limited.*

DIRECTORS.

William Musgrave Wroughton, } *Managing*
Andrew Richard Motion, } *Directors.*
Walter Gore Marshall.
Arthur William Ridley.
Henry Wroughton Toulmin.
Thomas Augustus Motion.

BANKERS.

Lloyds Bank Limited, 72, Lombard-street, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Boulton, Sons & Sandeman, 21A, Northampton-square, E.C.
Dawes & Sons, 9, Angel-court, E.C.

BROKERS.

Cazenove & Akroyds, 52, Threadneedle-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Price, Waterhouse & Co., 44, Gresham-street, E.C., for the Trustees.
Edwin Jones & Co., 46, New Broad-street, E.C., for the Company.

SECRETARY.

W. T. McMurtrie.

OFFICES.

St. John-street, Clerkenwell, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The Cannon Brewery Company was Incorporated in January, 1895, the Vendors retaining the whole of the Preference and Ordinary Share Capital. Since that date the Directors of the Company, who were the original vendors, and their friends, have subscribed for 3,000 additional Preference Shares of £100 each, and 2,000 additional Ordinary Shares of £100 each, and such additional Share Capital, amounting in all to £500,000, has been paid up in full.

In the Debenture Prospectus of the 28th January, 1895, the Company reserved the right to issue a further £200,000 of Debenture Stock, to rank *pari passu* with the issue then offered for subscription. This right has since been exercised in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed.

The Assets of the Company on the 31st December, 1894, consisting of the Brewery and Premises, with Plant and Machinery, Freehold and Leasehold Houses, Loans and Interest due from Licensed Victuallers, Stocks of Malt, Hops, and Beer Casks, Horses, &c., Cash, Book Debts, &c., stood in the Books at		...£1,007,545 0 9
On the 30th June, 1896, the surplus of Assets under the same headings, forming the security for the First Mortgage Debenture Stock, and for the present issue, stood in the Books at	...£1,623,250 1 9	
To which must be added the sum of ... ... being the amount of Share Capital since paid up.	71,200 0 0	
The proceeds of the present issue will be applied exclusively to the further development of the business and to the general purposes of the Company, and, subject to the expenses of the Issue, will constitute an additional security for the Debenture Stock Holders to the amount of ... say—	500,000 0 0	
		£2,194,450 1 9

The Profits for the Year ending 31st December, 1895, amounted to...	£95,327 11 1
And for the Six Months ending the 30th June, 1896, to ...	£69,992 0 9

The following is the Certificate given by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., Chartered Accountants, 44, Gresham-street, E.C., Auditors for the Trustees to the Debenture Stock Holders in verification of the above figures:—

" 44, Gresham-street, E.C.,
" 22nd July, 1896.

" To the Directors of the CANNON BREWERY, LIMITED.

" GENTLEMEN,

" We have audited, on behalf of the Trustees to the Debenture Stock Holders, the Accounts of the Cannon Brewery, Clerkenwell, from the 1st January, 1895, to the 30th June last. After writing off depreciation and making reserves for extinction of value in such of the properties as are Leasehold, and before charging interest on Private Deposits and Loans and on the existing Debenture Stock, the Profits have been as follows:—

Year ending 31st December, 1895	£95,327 11 1
Half-Year ending 30th June, 1896	£69,992 0 9

The book value of the Assets as at the 30th June, 1896, consisting of the Brewery and Premises, Loans, Stocks, Cash, and Book Debts, amounted to	...£2,038,406 16 10
The Liabilities (other than the Mortgage Debenture Stock of £700,000) at the same date, consisting of Current and Trade Accounts and Deposits, amounted to	415,156 15 1
Leaving a net surplus of Assets over Liabilities of	£1,623,250 1 9

" Since the 30th June additional Ordinary and Preference Capital has been paid in to the amount of £71,200, which will add to the security of the Debenture Stock Holders.

" We are, Gentlemen,
" Your obedient Servants,
" (Signed) PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO."

The sum required annually to pay the interest on the First Mortgage Debenture Stock is	£28,000
On the Present Issue	20,000
Total	£48,000

The Stock will be secured by a Floating Charge over all the assets of the Company, subject only to the prior claim of the First Mortgage Debenture Stock Holders.

Applications for the Debenture Stock are to be made to Lloyds Bank Limited, on the forms accompanying the Prospectus.

In cases where no allotment is made the Deposits will be returned in full, and when the amount allotted is less than that subscribed for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the payment due on allotment. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

It is intended to issue Provisional Certificates after the payment due on allotment has been made, and to apply for a Stock Exchange quotation in due course.

Prospectuses, with Forms of Application, can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or at the Offices of the Brokers and Solicitors to the Company, or at the Head Office and Branches of Lloyds Bank, Limited.

London, July 24th, 1896.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILROAD.

REORGANIZATION.

TO THE HOLDERS OF NORFOLK AND WESTERN, ROANOKE AND SOUTHERN, AND LYNCHBURG AND DURHAM SECURITIES.

Over 97¾ per cent. of the disturbed Bonds of all Classes and over 87 per cent. of the Stocks of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company having been deposited under the Plan, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to those Security Holders who have not already deposited, that further deposits of Bonds and Stocks after 15th June, 1896, will not be received except in the discretion of the Committee, and on such terms as it may impose.

NEW YORK EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE.

New York, 6th June, 1896.

London Depositaries (acting as Agents of the Mercantile Trust Company of New York)—Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co., Founders-court, London, E.C.

The 2nd Instalment of $3 per Share (payable on all Stocks deposited) was due on 1st June, the 3rd of $3 was due on 6th July, and the final Instalment of $2·50 will be due on 6th August, 1896, at the rate of 49¼ pence per $.

Any further information as to the Reorganization may be obtained on application to Mr. Howland Roberts, Secretary to the London Committee, care of Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co.

London, 21st July, 1896.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—

WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.

LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.

£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.

£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.

£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

CASH ADVANCED PRIVATELY.

UNION DEPOSIT BANK.

No. 17, KING WILLIAM ST., Charing Cross, London, W.C.

[ESTABLISHED 1867.]

ADVANCES MADE in TOWN or COUNTRY at a FEW HOURS NOTICE, Without Public Enquiries for Short or Long Periods, From £30 to £5,000.

To Ladies and Gentlemen, Merchants, Farmers, Traders, or any responsible persons upon their NOTE OF HAND ALONE.

ALL TRANSACTIONS STRICTLY PRIVATE.

Also upon security of Furniture, Stock-in-Trade, Reversions, Deeds, Leases, Life Policies, Legacies, Jewellery, Silver Plate, Farm Stock, &c., without mortgage expenses, from one to 15 years, repayable by easy instalments, or so long as the interest is paid, the capital may remain.

NO SURETIES REQUIRED.

Distance no object. No delay, and no unnecessary expenses charged.

FIRST LETTER OF APPLICATION IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO, A Gentleman sent direct from the Bank to carry out all advances. Current accounts opened in accordance with the usual practice of other London Banks.

Prospectus gratis, or post free on application. Personal visit preferred.

Interest allowed on deposits, 4 per cent. 6 months', 5 per cent. 12 months' notice. Apply to the SECRETARY.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

Since the completion of the Prospectus a large order has been given by the Hammersmith Vestry for the lighting of a portion of their districts with these lamps. A further order has just been received for lighting the City of Chester.

The lamp has also been specified by the Shoreditch Vestry for a like purpose. A large number has been ordered for the lighting of the streets of Durban (Natal).

The LIST will CLOSE on WEDNESDAY, the 29th inst.

BROCKIE-PELL ARC LAMP, LIMITED.—Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.—CAPITAL £80,000, divided into 80,000 SHARES of £1 each, of which 50,000 are now offered for subscription, payable—5s. per share on application, 5s. on allotment, and balance as and when required. 25,000 (the largest amount permissible by the rules of the Stock Exchange) are taken by the vendors, and 5,000 are reserved for future issue.

DIRECTORS.

Right Hon. Lord Suffield, K.C.B. (Chairman Westminster Electric Supply Corporation, Limited), Chairman; Sir Frederick D. Dixon Hartland, Bart., M.P. (Director of the Westminster Fire Office), Vice-Chairman; Hon. Reginald Brougham, Director of the London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited; H. W. Maynard, Esq., Director Union Steamship Co.; Bennett Pell, Esq., M.I.E.E., F.I.Inst., late General Manager and Chief Electrician Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, Limited.

BANKERS.—The London and Midland Bank, Limited, Head Office, 52, Cornhill, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Wm. Mortimer & Son, 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C., and Stock Exchange, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Mellors, Basden, & Co., 33, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C., and Nottingham.

CONSULTING ENGINEER.—John Hopkinson, Esq., D.Sc., F.R.S. (President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers).

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER.—James Brockie, Esq., M.I.E.E.

SECRETARY (pro tem.).—J. D. Hurst, Esq.

TEMPORARY OFFICES.—14, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire Messrs. Brockie & Pell's inventions for the construction of electric arc lamps, as embodied in the various patents and patent rights, and all future improvements on such patents, &c.

The Company will acquire the goodwill attaching to such patents, and the business connected therewith, and they will work and develop the said business in connection with the several patents and patent rights and otherwise.

The Company comes before the public not as a concern to establish a connection, but with a valuable business already built up, the profits from which it is believed will yield a handsome dividend to the Shareholders.

The sale of the lamps is an increasing one. The year 1895 showed a continued increase, whilst for the first quarter of 1896 there was an increase of more than 27 per cent. over the corresponding quarter of 1895.

A guarantee of the importance of the business to be taken over is the fact that many thousands of the Brockie-Pell lamps are in use, and that over 10,000 of them have been sold. It is now being used for street and other public lighting by vestries or electricity supply companies at the following places (among others):—

London—(St. Pancras), (Ealing), (Hyde Park), (Regent-street); Aberdeen, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bray, Brighton, Bristol, Burnley, Dublin, Dundee, Edinburgh, Galway, Glasgow, Halifax, Hastings, Hong Kong, Huddersfield, Hull, Johannesburg, S.A.R., Larne, Leeds, Liverpool, Londonderry, Manchester, Nelson, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newcastle, N.S.W., Nottingham, Oldham, Oxford, Portsmouth, Salford, Southport, South Shields, Stafford, Sunderland, Sydney, N.S.W., Taunton, Tunbridge Wells, Wolverhampton.

It has also been supplied to the following (among others):—Her Majesty's Government, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich; Royal Mint, London; Office of Works; Science and Art Department: National Museum and Library, Dublin; General Post Offices in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Hull, and S.W. district; Postal Stores, London; H.M.'s Government Telegraph Factory, London; Government of New South Wales; ditto of South Australia; ditto of Cape of Good Hope; the German Government and other foreign Governments; London County Council; the Imperial Institute; the People's Palace; the Royal Exchange, London; ditto, Manchester; Free Trade Hall, Manchester; the Stock Exchange, London.

London and North-Western, Midland, Great Northern, Great Eastern, North Staffordshire, London and South-Western, South-Eastern, London, Chatham, and Dover, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, Caledonian, Glasgow, and South-Western, and other railways.

De Beers, Mount Morgan, City and Suburban, Simmer and Jack, and other mines.

Sir A. Guinness, Son, & Co., Ld., Sir Titus Salt, Bart., Sons, & Co., Ld., Dalgety & Co., Ld., G. Kynoch & Co., Ld., Harland & Wolff, Ld., Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Spiers & Pond, Ld., Lion Brewery Company, Ld., Crosse & Blackwell, Ld., Civil Service Stores, William Whiteley, Jones Brothers, Lewis's, Manchester and Birmingham, T. J. Lipton, and many other well-known Companies and firms all over the world.

Alhambra, Empire, Tivoli, Palace, Globe, Savoy, Gaiety, and other theatres. Hotel Cecil, Hotel Victoria, Inns of Court Hotel, Criterion, Holborn, Frascati's, Blanchard's, and numerous other hotels and restaurants.

Sir David Salomons, Bart., M.A., Vice-President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, &c., Chairman of the City of London Electric Lighting Company, Limited, in his book, "Electric Light Installations," after referring to Brockie-Pell Lamps, concludes as follows (p. 272).

"This projector and other lamps have been largely employed by the writer, and from his experience he is fully justified in saying that he has never come across any lamp equal to the Brockie-Pell for steadiness, simplicity, and efficiency."

John Hopkinson, Esq., D.Sc., F.R.S., President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, has examined and very favourably reported on the lamps, and a copy of his report accompanies the Prospectus.

The services of Mr. Pell as Managing Director, and of Mr. Brockie as Electrician and Superintendent of the Manufactory, have been secured for the period of five years.

The working capital will be £15,000 cash, and £5,000 will be held in reserve in unissued Shares.

The outlay for the supply and erection of the necessary machinery for the manufacture of an annual output of more than double the present sales of lamps is guaranteed by Messrs. Brockie & Pell not to exceed the sum of £4,783.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditors, and at the Offices of the Company, or applications for Shares may be made on the following form, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, with the full amount of the deposit.

BROCKIE-PELL ARC LAMP, Limited.

APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of Brockie-Pell Arc Lamp, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your bankers the sum of £ being 5s. per Share payable on application for Shares of £1 each, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions stated in the Prospectus and Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I request you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me; and engage to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due, and I also agree with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any further compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than is contained in such Prospectus.

Usual signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Address (in full) .....
Profession or occupation .....
Date ..... 1896.

The Subscription List will Close on July 30th.

A PARENT COMPANY.

Situation—The Thames District, New Zealand.
Area—149 acres.
Capital—£100,000.
Reserved for Working Capital, £40,000.

The Reefs:—

Captain W. H. Argall:—"The Reefs in this particular portion are generally large—."

"The Reef system of the Komata Reefs Mine adjacent to this ground lies in the same channel of auriferous country that traverses both the 'Hibernica' and 'Key of Komata.'"

Captain E. Thomas:—"You have eight gold-bearing reefs going into your property."

Captain J. Benney.—"The Rewi surplus and 'Key of Komata' holdings are two adjoining claims which embrace the auriferous channel of reefing country in this part of the district."

C. W. Skrine:—"In the Komata Reefs Extended they have opened up five different Reefs all carrying gold and running into the Key of Komata."

Cable received June 29th, 1896:—

"Recent developments show Komata Reefs have been traced through the whole length of property."

The Prospectors' Association, Limited, invite Subscriptions for the Capital of the undermentioned issue. Subscriptions for 20,000 Shares have been guaranteed.

THE KEY OF KOMATA,

LIMITED

(Thames District, New Zealand).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - - £100,000,

Divided into 100,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 33,000 Shares will be allotted to the Vendors in part payment of the purchase consideration, and the balance, namely 67,000 Shares, are now offered for subscription, payable 2s. 6d. on Application; 2s. 6d. on Allotment; and the balance as required in calls not exceeding 2s. 6d. per Share at intervals of not less than one month.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Honourable Lord Camoys, Stonor, Henley-on-Thames.
The Honourable A. F. H. Campbell, J.P., Director of the Prospectors' Association, Ltd.
Fred. Morton Eden, Chairman of the Achilles Goldfields, Ltd.
Charles E. Hogg, C.E., Chairman Golden Arrow Mine, Ltd.
Curwen Sisterson, Chairman the Light of Asia Amalgamated Gold Mines, Ltd.
W. Hamlyn Speed, Claremont-road, Surbiton.

BANKERS.—Brown, Janson & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, E.C.; Charles Hopkinson & Sons, 3, Regent-street, W.

SOLICITORS.—Keeping & Gloag, 26, Lombard-street, E.C.

SECRETARY.—W. H. Brown (pro tem.).

OFFICES.—34-36, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire 149A. 1R. 30P. of Mineral land containing gold-bearing reefs situate in the Thames District, in the Southern portion of the Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand.

The properties are held under two licences, comprising the "Key of Komata," of 99A. 2R. 0P., and the other, the "Hibernica," of 49A. 3R. 30P., making together an area of 149A. 1R. 30P.

This property lies about 1,600 yards south and west of the Waitikauri G. M. Co.'s property, 450 yards south of the Komata Reefs Gold Mining Company, is bounded on the north and east by the Komata Reef Extended and the Komata Queen, on the south by the "Ingall Mine," and on the east by "The Alfred" and "Alfred Extended."

It will be noticed that in the reports on the Key of Komata and Hibernica, frequent references are made to the reefs traversing the adjacent claims and passing into these properties, consequently it has been considered advisable to give extracts from such published reports as assist in explaining the text and describing the district:—

Dr. August Scheidel, Ph.D., General Agent and Consulting Engineer to the New Zealand Mines Trust, Limited, reporting on January 25th, 1896, for the Waitikauri Gold Mining Company, Limited, whose property lies only about seventy chains north and east of Key of Komata and Hibernica, and which is reported to contain the same system of reefs as the Komata Reefs, the Komata Queen, Key of Komata, and Hibernica, states:—

"The geological formation of the properties is that of the Hauraki Goldfield generally. . . . The solidity and the undisturbed character of these distinguishes them favourably from the reefs of the more northern part of the Peninsula, and promises well for their continuance and permanency. The quartz, as far as known, is free, or almost so, from base admixtures; the gold is free, but mostly exceedingly fine, and chemical methods, such as the cyanide process, have to be applied to save a high percentage."

In the same series of Reports, Mr. Hubert Akers, Secretary to the same Company, furnishes some useful data regarding the value of ore obtained on this system of reefs by actual battery crushings:—

From both Sections up to 29th Feb., 1896.

Tons.	Yield per Ton.	Total Value.
9,203 ...	£5. 13s. 9d. ...	£52,378.

For Contracts, Reports, &c., see full Prospectus.

The Vendor has fixed the price to be paid for the Property at £60,000, payable as to £33,000 in Shares, and the balance, viz., £27,000, shall be partly in shares and partly in cash at the option of the Directors. This will leave £40,000 for working capital.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers and Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, July 25th, 1896.

No.....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

This Form may be cut out, used, and sent with amount payable on application to the Company's Bankers.

THE KEY OF KOMATA, LIMITED.
(New Zealand.)

To the Directors of
THE KEY OF KOMATA, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—

Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £ ..... as a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on ..... Shares of £1 each, I request you to allot me that number of Shares upon the terms of the Prospectus and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I hereby agree to accept such Shares, or any less number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the further instalments thereon as provided by the prospectus, dated 25th July, 1896, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of same, and I agree with the Company (as trustees for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive any further compliance with Sec. 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise than contained in such prospectus.

Ordinary Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date ..... 1896.

The Lists of applications will be opened on TUESDAY, 28th July, 1896, and closed on WEDNESDAY, at 4 p.m. for Town, and THURSDAY at noon for Country.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN (GOLD DISTRICT) TRADING CORPORATION, Ltd.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862—1890.

Registered Capital - £505,000,

DIVIDED INTO 500,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF £1 EACH, AND 5,000 FOUNDER'S SHARES OF £1 EACH.

Issue of 100,000 Ordinary Shares at £1 premium.

Payable, as to the Ordinary Shares, 10/- per Share on application; 10/- per Share on allotment, and the balance in instalments of 10/- each on the 15th day of August and the 15th day of September, 1896, respectively.

Applicants for Ordinary Shares will be given the privilege of subscribing for One Founder's Share at par value for every 200 Ordinary Shares allotted.

After payment of 10 per cent. Dividend on the Ordinary Shares, the profits of the Corporation will be divided equally between the Ordinary and Founder's Shares. The Founder's Shares are expected to stand at a high premium, and are payable in full on application.

Directors.

SIR EDWARD LEE, 14, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London, W.
C. F. OGILVIE, M.D., Sholapore, Croydon.
L. H. GOODMAN, ESQ., 212, Cromwell Road, S.W., Managing Director.
(With power to add to their number.)

Bankers.

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C., and Branches.

Bankers in Australia.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED, London and Perth, W.A.

Solicitors.

MESSRS. SUTTON, OMMANNEY & RENDALL, 3 and 4, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

Brokers.

Messrs. E. B. HASELDEN & Co., 27, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

Auditors.

Messrs. BROWN & MACDONALD, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., and 3, Pitt Street, Edinburgh, Chartered Accountants.

Secretary and Offices.

Mr. GEORGE MORGAN, 28, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Registered Offices.

28, BASINGHALL STREET, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

THIS Corporation has been formed for the purpose of taking over the assets and liabilities of the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Syndicate, Limited.

The Syndicate, at the statutory meeting held on the 22nd day of June, 1896 (a full report of the proceedings at the said meeting is herewith enclosed), declared a dividend at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum.

At the time of the preparation of this Prospectus the Ordinary 5s. Shares, fully paid, in the Syndicate were quoted at £3 10s., and the £1 Founder's Shares, fully paid, were quoted at £35.

Western Australia with its immense area, equal to twenty-five times the area of Great Britain, with its extended seaboard, and great natural resources, has sprung suddenly into prominence on account of the phenomenal discoveries of gold in various parts of the colony. New auriferous districts are being continually proclaimed, and at the present time the population is increasing at the rate of 1,000 per week. This large industrial population has to be supplied with the necessaries of life and all the equipments requisite for their various callings. Food, drink, clothing, building materials, and implements of trade must be brought to the spot where the prospector and miner pursue their avocations, and the principal aim and object of the Syndicate has been to supply the best possible articles, and by so doing establish an enduring reputation in the Colony.

With this view all commodities sent out by the Syndicate have always borne its special brand and trade mark (which will be transferred to the Corporation), and the demand for machinery, hardware, iron, railway plant, mining tools, provisions, beer, wine, spirits, apparel and drapery, and in fact all the necessaries of a thriving colony, presents an inducement to the capitalist which cannot be equalled by any modern example, and it can be readily understood that a trading corporation, with commodious stores, a well organised system, experienced and reliable agents, and ample capital, has opportunities and advantages over the average trader. A large number of depots and agencies are already in full and lucrative operation, and it is intended to establish other agencies in all the principal ports and mining towns of the colony, and also to engage in the profitable business of carriers to all parts of the great Continent.

The Syndicate to be taken over by the Corporation has been acting in the double capacity of wholesale merchants and retail distributors, and will make a special feature of securing the sole agencies of well-known necessary consumable articles. In this respect it will follow on the lines so successfully pursued by the Syndicate, whose business this Corporation has acquired. It may be mentioned amongst the sole agencies thus acquired is that for the sale of Bass's beer, and other commodities of large and almost universal consumption.

The Government of Western Australia gives every encouragement to such an undertaking as this. The merchant and storekeeper are a necessity of the Colony; without their aid the advance into the interior and its consequent development is an impossibility, and as regards the inland trading it has been the practice of the Syndicate, as it will be of the Corporation, to establish depots at all outposts, and be ready at a moment's notice to push its wares by means of its own caravans and stock trains, to the scene of new discoveries.

The Corporation will also act as Bankers, Brokers, Agents, and Experts, and cultivate these several profitable departments of commercial enterprise.

The Colony of West Australia also has its own natural resources, which can be made use of to the advantage of the capitalist. Wool and Timber are commodities of themselves sufficient to engage the employment of numerous enterprises and enormous capital, from which profitable results will undoubtedly follow. The Jarrah-wood now so extensively used for road paving purposes in London and the provinces, is found in great abundance in situations most favourable for exportation. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Syndicate referred to has acquired an option, on very advantageous terms, of purchasing a Jarrah forest of upwards of 24,000 acres, thus providing a profitable return freight for the ships chartered outwards by the Corporation.

It is an important matter for an investor to remember that The West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation, Limited, will at all times be under the protection of the British Flag. There is no "native" difficulty. It must therefore be obvious to the most casual observer that this vast and rich country, with its rapidly increasing population, and trade, must offer opportunities to the trader with large capital such as cannot at present be obtained in any other part of the world.

The Corporation is in the fortunate position of having secured the sole concession for Western Australia of a discovery which, according to experiments made, should revolutionise the gold producing industry in every part of the globe. One of the greatest difficulties which miners have to deal with, is the crushing of the quartz, and the treatment of refractory ores. To deal with these formidable difficulties, powerful stamps have to be erected, costing many thousands of pounds; expensive steam engines have to be used to bring these massive implements into operation; and very large expense has to be incurred to carry these materials over tracks of difficult country, often in a temperature of 120 degrees, in waggons drawn by teams of bullocks or horses.

The process just alluded to will enable a miner to reduce the hardest quartz to the condition of fine sand, without slime. It drives off every vestige of sulphur and arsenic and breaks the ore into fragments along the line of particles of gold itself, which may sometimes be seen sparkling on the little fragments of quartz, or lying in a free state amongst the disintegrated ore. It has been tried on ores from South Africa, Western Australia, British Guiana, and India, with equal success.

The estimates of the cost of crushing quartz vary from 9s. (under the most favourable circumstances) to 30s. under the conditions ruling in parts of Western Australia; the average being, say 19s. By this system, called the "Ore Atomic Reduction Process," the quartz can be reduced to dust with simple apparatus, entailing but small outlay, and at a small cost per ton. A small royalty per ton would effect a great saving on all crushings to every company adopting the process, and at the same time yield a splendid return to the Corporation. The highest grades of ore will give greatly increased profits, and the lower grades (at present thrown away as useless), will yield a profitable return.

The Corporation has, through the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Syndicate, Limited, secured the rights of this remarkable invention for Western Australia, with full power to grant licences for the whole of the colony, or to form subsidiary companies. With an eye to the great possibilities of the future, a number of gentlemen of education have been instructed by specialists, in order to become expert exponents of the new process, and have already been despatched to West Australia.

The only Contract to which this Corporation is a party is dated the 27th day of July, 1896, and made between the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Syndicate, Limited, and Major-Generrl A. Tullock and Thomas William Mills, the liquidators, of the one part, and the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation, of the other part.

The shares to be allotted to the members of the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Syndicate, in consideration of the acquisition by the Corporation of all the assets, rights and privileges belonging to the Syndicate, absorb 340,000 Ordinary Shares. There will thus remain a balance of 160,000 Ordinary Shares available for subscription. Of these shares 100,000 are now offered for subscription at one pound premium, which, with the proceeds of 500 Founders' Shares, will produce £200,500 further cash for working capital and reserve fund.

60,000 Ordinary Shares and over 2,000 Founder's Shares will still remain unissued, and will be available for the future purposes of the Company as and when required.

The Directors have satisfied themselves as to the validity of the Ore Atomic Reduction Patent, and are advised by J. Fletcher Moulton, Esq., Q.C., and W. R. Bousfield, Esq., Q.C., M.P., that the same can be maintained. An exhaustive search has been made for prior patents by Messrs. Fell & James, of 1, Queen Victoria Street, the well-known Patent Agents, who report that the invention has not been anticipated.

The following special features in the administration of the Corporation are worthy of note:—

1. The Corporation has not and will not pay any promotion money.
2. The Directors will receive no fees unless voted by the Shareholders in General Meeting.
3. There will be frequent Meetings of the Shareholders.
4. The distribution of dividends will be made as often as practicable.
5. There will be a fair distribution of Founder's Shares among the Subscribers for Ordinary Shares.
6. There are no waiver clauses, so that every Contract is disclosed.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the offices of the Corporation or from the Bankers, Solicitors, Auditors and Brokers, or direct from the Offices of the Corporation.

Applications for Shares must be made on the forms accompanying the Prospectus, and handed to the Corporation's Bankers, together with cheque for the amount payable on application. Should no allotment be made, the deposit will be returned in full, and if the number of shares allotted is less than applied for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment.

JULY 27TH, 1896.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ORDINARY AND FOUNDER'S SHARES.

To the Directors of the

WEST AUSTRALIAN (GOLD DISTRICT) TRADING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers, the Capital & Counties Bank, Limited, 39, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C., the sum of £ being a deposit of 10s. per Share on Ordinary Shares in the above-named Company, and a sum of £ being payment in full on Founder's Shares in the said Company, I request you to allot to me that number of Shares, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated the 27th day of July, 1896, and the Memorandum of Association of the Company, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the balance of Calls on such allotment of the Ordinary Shares, as provided by the said Prospectus, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Ordinary Shares and Founder's Shares.

Name (in full) .....
Address (in full) .....
.....
Profession or Occupation .....
Usual Signature .....
Date..... 1896

The Subscription List will Open this Day, July 28, 1896, and Close on Thursday Next, July 30, at or before four p.m., for London and Country.

THE HOWE CYCLE AND SEWING MACHINE CO., LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

Share Capital £250,000, in 250,000 shares of £1 each. Debenture capital, £160,000, in First Mortgage Debenture Bonds of £100 each, bearing interest at £4 per cent. per annum, all of which are now offered for subscription. Payable—Shares, 5s. on application, 5s. on allotment, 5s. on September 1, and 5s. on October 1, 1896; and Debentures, £25 on application, £25 on allotment, and the balance one month after allotment.

The Debenture Bonds will be secured under a deed of trust by a first mortgage of the works (held under perpetual feu) and leasehold properties now being acquired, and by a first floating charge on all the other assets of the company, present and future, not including uncalled capital, and will be redeemable by the company at £110, by annual drawings or six months' notice. Non-payment of any instalment will render the shares or debentures liable to forfeiture.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.
Colin George Macrae, Esq., Castle-street, Edinburgh.
Ernest Tozer Janson, Esq., 32 Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS TO THE TRUSTEES.
Messrs. Janson, Cobb, Pearson, and Co., 41 Finsbury-circus, London, E.C.
DIRECTORS.
Major-General William Barwell-Barwell, 27 Garrick-street, London, W.
Thomas C. Hersey, Esq., C.E. (late of the Gas Light and Coke Company, London, and Director of the Anglo-Portuguese Gas and Water Company, Limited), Carlton-chambers, Regent-street, W.
James Robertson, Esq., The North British Machine Company, Glasgow.
Sir Edward Sullivan, Bart., 32 Fitzwilliam-place, Dublin, Director of the Cycle Manufacturers Tube Company, Limited.
W. Maclaren Walker, Esq., Iron Merchant, 31 St. Vincent-place, Glasgow.
Hugh Lawson, jun., Esq. (General Manager "The New Howe Machine Company, Limited"), Managing Director.
Bankers—The Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Branches; Brown, Janson, and Co., Abchurch-lane, London.

Brokers—Glasgow: Messrs. Aitken, Mackenzie, and Clapperton, 68 St. Vincent street, and Stock Exchange, Glasgow. Edinburgh: Messrs. Gilmour and Shaw, 18 St. Andrew's-square, and Stock Exchange, Edinburgh. London: M. Mendelssohn, Esq., 6 Austinfriars, E.C., and Stock Exchange, London. Dublin: Messrs. Manifold and Hines, 4 College-green, and Stock Exchange, Dublin.

Solicitors—For the Company: Messrs. Kidstons, Watson, Turnbull, and Co., 50 West Regent-street, Glasgow; Messrs. Williams and Neville, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C. For the Vendor: H. S. Burbidge, Esq., Hatherton-chambers, Birmingham.

Auditors—Messrs. Findlay, Kidston, and Goff, Chartered Accountants, 102 Hope-street, Glasgow.
Messrs. A. R. Lancaster Hackett and Co., Chartered Accountants, Temple-row, Birmingham.

Secretary (pro tem.)—Henry Hardy.
Show Rooms (Temporary Offices)—112 New Bond-street, London, W.
Works—Bridgeton, Glasgow.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

THIS company has been formed to acquire the valuable and extensive works and the well-known business now carried on by the New Howe Machine Company (Limited), at Bridgeton, Glasgow, as manufacturers of sewing machines and cycles and their several components.

The works, which are held in perpetual feu subject to an annual feu duty of £103 11s. 9d., are by far the largest owned by any cycle manufacturing company in Great Britain, having a capacity, meeting the requirements of the Board of Trade, for the accommodation of 5,399 workpeople.

The Howe Company has established local depôts in

London,	Liverpool,	Hull,
Preston,	Norwich,	Nottingham,
Sunderland,	Dublin,	Macclesfield,

and out of 232 towns in Scotland, with populations of more than 4,500, is represented by agents in 220 of them, while the total number of agents in Great Britain and Ireland is nearly 3,000.

As will be seen by the subjoined certificates, the orders now on hand awaiting execution represent not fewer than 37,598 cycles and 11,500 sets of parts, from which it is computed a manufacturer's profit will be made by this company of not less than £100,000. The return from these orders, therefore, alone represents a very handsome dividend on the share capital, after providing for the interest on the debentures, and for the creation of a redemption fund. The managers estimate that the above orders, with those coming in in the usual course from provincial buyers and branches, will keep the works fully occupied for some years.

There are also 50,000 sewing machines provisionally ordered for the Continental trade alone, but the complete execution of these will necessitate an extension of the works and plant, should the cycle trade be fully maintained.

The works and heritable plant and fixtures have been valued by Mr. Thomas Hill, M.I.Mech.E., M.I.E.S., Consulting Engineer and Valuer, of Glasgow, at £210,218, and the plant, tools, stock, machinery, book debts (guaranteed), and effects by Mr. Sydney Lee, the Cycle Valuer and Expert, of London, at £111,321, representing, therefore, an aggregate value of £321,539, independently of goodwill. The certificates are as follows:

"Glasgow, 24th July, 1896.

"To the Directors of the Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company (Limited), London.

"Gentlemen,—I hereby certify that I have valued the buildings, chimneys, fixed and heritable plant, as a going concern, belonging to the New Howe Machine Company (Limited), Avenue-street, Bridgeton, Glasgow, as under-noted:

Heritable plant and fixtures	£34,092
Buildings and Chimneys	176,126
Total	£210,218

"(Signed) THOMAS HILL,
"Consulting Engineer, Licensed Auctioneer, and Valuator."

"9, Furnival-street, Holborn, E.C., London, July 24th, 1896.

"To the Directors of the Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company (Limited), London.

"Gentlemen—In accordance with your instructions, I have made a careful inspection of the plant, tools, and stock-in-trade of the Howe Works, Bridgeton, Glasgow, and in conformance with your wishes, exhaustive details of fixed and loose plant, machinery, tools, parts and fittings, manufactured and partly manufactured stock, office furniture, &c., have been taken by me for the purposes of valuation, and I enclose herewith lists of same.

"The business being an important going concern, the fair and reasonable value of such plant, &c., based upon the detailed valuations made by me, is, in my opinion, £96,321.

"This amount does not include the sum of £5,000, covering items of furniture, fittings, &c., at the various depôts in Glasgow, London, Liverpool, Sunderland, Hull, Nottingham, Norwich, Macclesfield, and Dublin; nor the sum of £10,000, being the amount of book debts, guaranteed by the vendors, which will be acquired by the company.

"With the addition of these items, the total would amount to £111,321.

"Having been asked to give my opinion respecting the works, I am able to state that they are by far the largest of any cycle manufacturing company in Great Britain, and are capable of accommodating between 5,000 and 6,000 workmen.

"There are no works, in my opinion, so admirably adapted and situated from every point of view, and eminently suitable for the purposes of cycle making, an essential feature being that skilled labour can be obtained in any quantity, while in Coventry and other manufacturing centres there is at present a dearth of men.

"I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,
"(Signed) SYDNEY LEE."

"To the Directors of the Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company (Limited), London.

"We have examined the books of the New Howe Machine Company (Limited), of Glasgow, and certify that the orders now on hand waiting execution amount to 37,500 cycles, and 11,500 sets of cycle parts. (Signed)
"FINDLAY, KIDSTON, AND GOFF, Chartered Accountants.
"102, Hope-street, Glasgow, July 24, 1896."

"Athenæum-chambers, Temple-row, Birmingham.
"July 24, 1896.

"To the Directors of the Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company (Limited).

"Gentlemen—In accordance with your instructions we have made an independent examination of the present cost books of the New Howe Machine Company (Limited), Glasgow, and are satisfied, subject to allowances being made to cover depreciation and administration expenses, that the Company should realise a profit of upwards of £93,000—ninety-three thousand pounds—upon completion of the orders for 37,598—thirty-seven thousand five hundred and ninety-eight—cycles which are now on hand for future execution.—We are, Gentlemen, yours obediently, (Signed) A. R. LANCASTER, HACKETT, and Co.,
"Chartered Accountants."

It will be seen that £60,000 has been set aside for subscription as working capital—which is, of course, in addition to existing stocks, book debts, &c., included in the purchase. The directors are advised that an expenditure of not more than £5,000 on special tools and plant, and working double shifts, would command a weekly output of at least 1,000 cycles, besides castings, forgings, &c.

The consideration to be paid by the company for the extensive premises in Glasgow, the local depôts and agencies above-named, the trade marks, designs, and patent rights (if any), goodwill, stock-in-trade, plant, machinery, book debts (guaranteed), and everything appertaining to a going concern, has been fixed by the vendor at £350,000, payable in cash, or partly in cash and partly in shares, at the option of the directors.

Applications for shares and debentures must be made on the forms accompanying the prospectus and forwarded to the bankers or to the offices of the company, with the amount payable on application. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full, and should the number of shares or debentures allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be applied to satisfy subsequent instalments.

Application will be made in due course for settlements and quotations on the Stock Exchange.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained of the bankers, the solicitors, and the auditors, or at the offices of the company.

24th July, 1896.

Application for Shares may be made upon the following form.

THE HOWE CYCLE and SEWING MACHINE COMPANY (Limited).

APPLICATION FORM FOR ORDINARY SHARES.

To the Directors of the Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company (Limited).

Gentlemen—Having paid to your bankers the sum of £ , being a deposit of 5s. per share on an application for Ordinary Shares of £1 each, in the above-named company, I request you to allot me that number of shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the memorandum and articles of association, and upon the terms of the prospectus issued by you, dated 24th July, 1896, which I have read, and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted shares as the same shall become due; and I agree with the company, as trustee for the directors and other persons liable, to waive any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said prospectus with the requirements of Sec. 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date .....1896.
Signature .....

All cheques to be made payable to the bankers.

Application for Debentures may be made upon the following form:

THE HOWE CYCLE and SEWING MACHINE COMPANY (Limited).

APPLICATION FORM FOR DEBENTURES.

To the Directors of the Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company (Limited).

Gentlemen—Having paid to your bankers the sum of £ , being a deposit of £25 per cent. on an application for Debentures of £100 each, in the above-named company, I request you to allot me that number of Debentures, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the memorandum and articles of association, and upon the terms of the prospectus issued by you, dated 24th July, 1896, which I have read, and I agree to pay the further instalments as the same shall become due.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date ..... 1896.
Signature .....

All cheques to be made payable to the bankers.

CONVERSION OF AN OLD-ESTABLISHED DRAPERY BUSINESS.

The actual assets to be acquired by the Company (exclusive of Goodwill) amount to more than the entire issue of Debentures and Preference Shares.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on TUESDAY, 28th day of July, and will CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, 30th day of July, 1896, for Town and Country.

THORPE BROTHERS & CO. LIM.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL.

50,000 Cumulative Six per Cent. Preference Shares of £1 each	£50,000
25,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	25,000
	£75,000
Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures	75,000
Total Share and Debenture Capital ..	**£150,000**

The whole of the Ordinary Shares and £25,000 Debentures are taken by the Vendor to the Company as part of the purchase price.

The Bradford District Bank, Limited, are authorised by the Directors to receive subscriptions for:—£50,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each at par redeemable at the Company's option at £105 on or after July 1st, 1916, and £50,000 in 50,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each at par.

The Preference Shares confer the right to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of £6 per cent. per annum, and the right of repayment of Capital in priority to all other Shares.

It is provided by the Company's Articles of Association that no further issue of Debentures nor of Preference Shares to rank in priority to or *pari passu* with the present issue of Preference Shares shall be made without the sanction of three-fourths in value of the holders for the time being of the Preference Shares present at a meeting to be specially convened.

The amounts payable for Debentures and Preference Shares are as follows:—

	Debentures.	Preference Shares.
On Application	£10 ..	2s. 6d. per Share.
On Allotment	£40 ..	7s. 6d. ,,
On August 15th	£50 ..	10s. 0d. ,,
	£100	£1. 0s. 0d.

The whole amount may be paid on Allotment.

The interest on the Debentures will accrue as and from July 1st, 1896, and the Dividend on the Preference Shares from date of payment. Both the Interest and Dividend will be paid half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July in every year.

DIRECTORS.

Alderman William Moulson, J.P., Bradford, Director Bradford Third Equitable Benefit Building Society.

Robert Hempsted Fowler, 12, King William-street, London, E.C., Director Maynards, Limited.

*F. H. Thorpe, *Ben Snow, } Thorpe Buildings, Bradford, Joint Managing Directors.

* Will join the Board after completion of purchase.

BANKERS.

The Bradford District Bank, Limited, Bradford and Keighley.

London Agents:—Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smiths, 1, Lombard-street, London.

BROKERS.

G. H. & A. M. Jay, 17, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

Middleton & Fraser, Bradford.

A. Ripley, Keighley.

SECRETARY (pro tem.)—Geo. F. Whitworth, A.C.A.

SOLICITORS.

Robinson, Scott, & Holmes, Bradford (for the Vendor).

E. Shirley Parker, Finsbury House, E.C. (for the Company.)

AUDITOR.

W. Martello Gray, F.C.A., District Bank Chambers, Bradford.

REGISTERED OFFICES.—Thorpe Buildings, Bradford.

PROSPECTUS.

Owing to the retirement of Mr. George Thorpe, Senior, this Company has been formed to purchase as a going concern the well-known Wholesale and Retail Drapery Businesses of Messrs. Geo. Thorpe & Co., of Bradford, hitherto carried on under the style of "George Thorpe & Co." and "Thorpe Brothers & Co.," together with the valuable freehold premises, plant, machinery, fixtures, stock-in-trade, and book debts.

The original business was founded by Mr. Geo. Thorpe, Senior, upwards of 40 years ago, and from a small retail drapery establishment progressed to such an extent that it was found necessary to build the present handsome block of buildings, illustrations of which accompany the prospectus, to meet the requirements of the combined wholesale and retail businesses.

The accounts of the businesses have been investigated, on behalf of the Company, by the eminent accountants for the drapery and kindred trades, Messrs. Beecroft, Sons, & Nicholson, of London, Manchester, and Luton, and by Mr. James E. Wilson, Chartered Accountant (of Messrs. Dixon, Wilson, & Dixon, of Basinghall-street, London), whose joint certificate is as follows:—

12, Wood-street, Cheapside. London, E.C., 24th June, 1896.

To the Directors of THORPE BROTHERS & CO., LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your instructions we have investigated the accounts of Messrs. George Thorpe & Co. and Messrs. Thorpe Brothers & Co., of Bradford, Wholesale and Retail Drapers, Silk Mercers, Warehousemen, &c., and find that the sales, after deducting those in respect of departments discontinued, were:—

	£.	s.	d.
For the year ending January 31st, 1894	72,091	12	3
do. do. 1895	80,207	8	4
do. do. 1896	81,076	3	4

and those for the three months to April 30th, 1896, show an increase of £4,866. 5s. 6d. over the corresponding period of last year. If this increase continues, the sales for the current financial year will be £100,541. 5s. 4d.

We also find that the gross profits of the business have been increasing satisfactorily.

On sales of £100,541 per annum, taking the same ratio of gross profit as made in the last completed year, after deducting what we consider should be proper working expenses of the business, a reserve for bad debts, and the same amount for depreciation as has been written off last year, but not including interest on capital or moneys employed in the concern, there remains a balance of £6,511 which, added to the sum of £500 per annum received as rent for a small portion of the building let off, makes a total of £7,011 per annum. We understand the premises are freehold.

In our opinion the business does not appear to have been worked to the best and fullest advantage, and we believe that the volume of trade and profits could be considerably increased without any material additional expense.

Yours faithfully,

BEECROFT, SONS, & NICHOLSON.

JAMES E. WILSON, A.C.A.

It will be seen that the present profits from the business (without taking into consideration the further development of which it is capable) suffice to pay the interest on the Debentures, the dividend on the Preference Shares, and to leave a substantial balance as dividend on the Ordinary Shares.

The Directors believe that the recent increase in the business shown by the above certificate is in a large measure due to the judicious and energetic management of Messrs. F. H. Thorpe & B. Snow (who will continue their management as joint Managing Directors), and that with the additional facilities afforded by this Company (provided as it is with ample working capital), the volume of trade and profits can be considerably increased.

Messrs. F. H. Thorpe and B. Snow, having the same confidence, have agreed to act as Managing Directors, and to give their entire services at small salaries, relying for their adequate remuneration upon a percentage of the dividends payable on the Ordinary Shares after payment of the Debenture Interest and Cumulative Preference Dividend.

The following valuations show that the freehold property and other assets taken over by the Company (including additional working capital) fully secure the whole of the Preference Share Capital, in addition to the Debentures.

Messrs. W. G. Stansfield & Co., the well-known Auctioneers and Valuers, of Bradford and Manchester, have made the following report as to the value of the Freehold Land and Premises.

Bradford Sale Rooms, Forster-square, Bradford, June 22nd, 1896.

To the Directors of Thorpe Brothers & Co., Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—We have carefully surveyed the freehold premises belonging to Messrs. George Thorpe & Co., and Messrs. Thorpe Bros. & Co., trading as Merchants, Wholesale and Retail Drapers, and General Warehousemen, in Tyrrell-street, Ivegate, and Hustlergate, Bradford, and value the same at Seventy-four Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy-eight Pounds Twelve Shillings and Fourpence.

We may add that, in our opinion, there are no premises in Yorkshire better adapted for the trade, for which they were specially designed by Mr. T. C. Hope, Architect, Bradford, and built under the personal supervision of Mr. George Thorpe.

Among all the noble structures in the town there are none better built, or which surpass the above for elegance of design, elevation, and general outline, whilst the position is unique, commanding, as it does, extensive frontages to the busiest and best shopping thoroughfares in Bradford, and in our opinion there is a considerable prospective value resting in these premises which will develop as Bradford increases in population and makes commercial progress.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. STANSFIELD & CO.

The amount of the above valuation of the Freehold Premises by Messrs. W. G. STANSFIELD & CO. is	£74,578	12	4
Mr. RICHARD CROSS, of 1A, Wood-street, Cheapside, one of the leading Drapery Trade Valuers, has valued the firm's fixtures, fittings, machinery, plant, horses, vans, &c., as a going concern, at the sum of	9,173	0	0
To which must be added the valuation of stock and book-debts, and the subscription of additional Capital for working and general purposes, which the Vendor guarantees shall amount together to the sum of...	42,000	0	0
	£125,751	12	4

Thus the working capital of the Company provided by the above £42,000 amounts to more than one-third of the entire issue of Debentures and Preference Shares.

The Vendor, having the fullest confidence in the increased permanent success of the business, has consented to take payment for the goodwill and a part of the above assets in the Ordinary Shares of the Company fully-paid.

The businesses will be taken over as and from July 1st, 1896, the Vendor paying all liabilities and outgoings up to that date, and he further agrees to pay all the expenses of formation and flotation of the Company up to allotment except the costs and expenses of the Company's Solicitor and Capital duties and fees payable on its incorporation.

The Vendor, who is the promoter, has fixed the purchase-money at £108,000, payable as to £58,000 in cash, £25,000 in Debentures, and as to the balance £25,000 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares. The Stock and Book Debts will be taken over at a valuation, subject to a substantial discount in favour of this Company of such valuation.

The following Agreements have been entered into, viz.: 24th June, 1896, between the Vendor, Mr. George Thorpe, of the one part, and Mr. William Harcourt Bustard, as Trustee for the Company, of the other part; dated 24th July, 1896, between the Company of the one part, and Mr. Frederick Herbert Thorpe and Ben Snow of the other part, as to their appointment as Managing Directors.

The businesses will be taken over subject to and with the benefit of all existing contracts which are of the ordinary trade character, but including, as they do, numerous contracts with manufacturers' agents, and others, they cannot be specified. There are also contracts in connection with the acquisition of the businesses and premises, and as to the subscription of the capital and the promotion of the Company, to none of which the Company is a party. As all or some of these contracts may fall within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, applicants for Shares will be deemed to have had notice and to have waived their rights (if any) to particulars thereof, whether under the said section or otherwise.

The Agreements above-mentioned, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the original Reports and Valuations above set forth can be seen at the offices of the Solicitors.

Application for a quotation and special settlement on the Stock Exchange will be made in due course for both Debentures and Preference Shares.

Applications for Shares and Debentures should be on the forms accompanying the Prospectus, and sent with the deposit to the Company's Bankers. In cases where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the amount allotted is less than that applied for the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, July, 1896.

This Application Form may be used and should be filled up and forwarded with the amount payable on application to the Company's Bankers, The Bradford District Bank, Limited, Bradford, or to their London Agents, Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smith, 1, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

Issue of £50,000 in Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each.

£50,000 in Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each.

To the Directors of Thorpe Brothers & Co., Limited.

GENTLEMEN,

Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being the deposit required on application for ..... Preference Shares of £1 each ..... Debentures of £100 each, I request you to allot same to me, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less amount allotted to me, and to pay the instalments thereon, as required in the terms of the Prospectus, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register in respect of such Shares and Debentures, and I declare that I waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise than that contained in such Prospectus. In the event of my receiving no allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

To be written distinctly.
Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Description .....
Address .....
Date ..... 1896.

The List of Applications for Shares opened on Tuesday, the 28th July, 1896, and will close to-day, Wednesday, the 29th inst., for town, and to-morrow for the Country.

A portion of the Capital has been reserved for the Musical Profession and Music Trades. All applications for the remaining Shares available will be carefully considered, and a strictly fair and proportionate Allotment made.

Thomas Edward Brinsmead & Sons

PIANOFORTE MANUFACTURERS. LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares

CAPITAL - - £100,000,

Divided into 18,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each, and 2,000 Deferred Shares of £5 each.

The Ordinary Shareholders are entitled to a Preferential Dividend of 8 per cent. per annum on the amount for the time being paid up thereon, and, subject thereto, the profits in each year will be applied as to one-third to a Reserve Fund, one-third by way of additional Dividend on the Ordinary Shares, and the remaining third by way of Dividend on the Deferred Shares. The Shares are payable as follows:—10s. per Share on application; £2. 10s. per Share on allotment; and the balance in two instalments at one and two months after allotment respectively; or the whole amount may be paid up in full on allotment, the Shares ranking for dividend from date of payment.

DIRECTORS.

*Thomas Edward Brinsmead, Esq., The Pianoforte Works, Ferdinand-street, Camden Town, London, N.W.
*Edward George Stanley Brinsmead, Esq., Bartholomew Works, Kentish Town, London, N.W.
Jacob Bradford, Esq., Mus. Doc. Oxon, Director of the Cambridge, Limited.
E. H. Lomax, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Aylburton House, Richmond, Surrey.
Edwin Ballantyne, Esq., F.S.I., Boscastle, West Hampsted, N.W.
*Sydney Walter Brinsmead, Esq., The Pianoforte Works, Ferdinand-street, Camden Town, London, N.W.
* Will join the Board on completion of the purchase.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Brown, Janson & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.
BROKER.—John Howard Gill, Esq., Bartholomew House, Bartholomew-lane, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Thomson & Co., 2 and 3, West-street, Finsbury-circus, London, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Seear, Hasluck, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 17, Holborn-viaduct, E.C.
SECRETARY.—Stephenson Wilson.
CITY OFFICES.—94, Cannon-street, London, E.C.
WORKS.—The Pianoforte Works, Ferdinand-st., Camden Town, London, N.W. and Bartholomew Works, Bartholomew-road, Kentish Town, London, N.W.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, carrying on, and considerably extending the business of Pianoforte Manufacturers now carried on by Thomas Edward Brinsmead & Sons, at Ferdinand-street, Camden Town, and Bartholomew Works, Bartholomew-rd., Kentish Town, London, N.W.

The business was established by Mr. Thomas Edward Brinsmead, who, for nearly 30 years, held an important position with Messrs. John Brinsmead & Sons, and who has since taken his two Sons, Mr. Edward George Stanley Brinsmead and Mr. Sydney Walter Brinsmead, into partnership. The business is solely conducted by these three gentlemen, and has so greatly increased that they find themselves unable to execute the large number of orders for their instruments at the Bartholomew-road factory, and have therefore acquired, on favourable terms, additional and larger premises in Ferdinand-street, Camden Town, N.W. (in the immediate vicinity of the principal Pianoforte manufactories), which are being fitted up with first-class plant and machinery in accordance with present day requirements. In order to carry out the necessary extension and thoroughly develop the business, it has been decided to convert the undertaking into a public Company, and to give the numerous customers and others an opportunity of participating in the profits.

The members of the firm are all practical men, each having been for many years engaged in the actual manufacture of pianos. Mr. Thomas Edward Brinsmead has for many years personally superintended the adjustment of the delicate parts of pianofortes, while Mr. Edward George Stanley Brinsmead has been mainly responsible for the extremely beautiful sounding-boards with which the firm's instruments are fitted.

BUILDINGS AND PLANT.

The new premises alone will be capable of turning out a minimum of 50 pianofortes weekly, and the orders in hand will keep the factory busy for many months to come. The firm manufactures largely for the trade as well as for private buyers, and these orders emanate from some of the best houses in the Kingdom. As an instance of the popularity of the firm's manufactures, it may be mentioned that during the past month orders have been received from various houses for over 800 Pianofortes.

The Ferdinand-street Works, which are situated in the centre of the pianoforte manufacturing district, contains three floors, and cover a superficial area of 5,500 square feet, while the total area of the yards for stacking the necessary timber used in the manufacture of Pianos, together with the buildings, amounts to 11,300 superficial feet. The plant and machinery include boiler by Marshall, 45-h.p. engine by Bellis, dynamo, motor, and complete electric installation, circular saws, shafting, and all the usual plant of a first-class pianoforte manufactory.

MANAGEMENT.

The Company will have the advantage of a practical Board of Directors, while the Messrs. Brinsmead have bound themselves to give their services to the Company for a term of years, and the whole of the present staff will be retained, thus ensuring the continuation of the present excellent workmanship which has made these Pianos so universally appreciated.

PROFITS.

It is a well-known fact that very large profits are made by all well-known pianoforte manufacturers, and since the introduction of the hire-purchase system, whereby pianos have been placed within reach of all classes, an enormous increase in trade has taken place.

It is the intention of the Directors, in addition to the home trade, to cultivate an extensive export business, and, owing to the excellent quality of the instruments which the firm manufactures, the Directors confidently anticipate a large increase; but on an output of only 50 pianos weekly, taking the profit at £7 each, which is below the average, a profit is shown of £18,200 per annum.

To pay 8 per cent. on £90,000 Ordinary Share Capital will require ...	£7,200
Leaving a balance of	£11,000

which would be sufficient, after placing one-third to Reserve Fund, and paying dividends on Deferred Shares, to increase the dividend on the Ordinary Shares to over 12 per cent. per annum.

The Vendor is so satisfied as to the expansion of the business with the additional Capital and new Works that he guarantees that the dividend shall not be less than 8 per cent. per annum for a minimum period of three years, and will lodge with Trustees on behalf of the Shareholders on or before the completion of the purchase, a sufficient amount in cash to secure the due payment thereof.

PRICE TO BE PAID FOR THE PROPERTY.

The price to be paid for the property, including the leasehold premises, plant, machinery, designs, stock, goodwill, and effects, has been fixed at £76,650, leaving £23,350 available for working capital. Messrs. Brinsmead will collect the book debts and discharge all liabilities. The Vendor will accept in part payment for the business the whole of the Deferred Shares, and also stipulates for the right to an allotment of one-third of the Ordinary Shares on the same terms as the allotment is made to the public, further agreeing to defray the whole of the expenses in connection with the incorporation and formation of the Company, including registration, printing, advertising, law costs, brokerage, &c., up to and including allotment. The Deferred Shares will not be entitled to any dividend until the Ordinary Shareholders have received 8 per cent. per annum on the amount for the time being paid-up on their Shares, after which the balance will be applied as to one-third to a reserve fund, one-third for additional dividends on the Ordinary Shares, and the remaining third to the Deferred Shares.

Application will be made in due course to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for a settlement and a quotation in the Official List.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.

The following Agreements have been entered into:—

An Agreement dated the 1st day of July, 1896, between Thomas Edward Brinsmead, Edward George Stanley Brinsmead, and Sydney Walter Brinsmead of the one part, and Joseph Henry Davis of the other part.

An Agreement dated 20th day of July, 1896, between Thomas Edward Brinsmead of the one part, and this Company of the other part, whereby the Company secures the exclusive services of Mr. T. E. Brinsmead for a period of ten years from the date thereof.

An Agreement dated the 20th day of July, 1896, between Edward George Stanley Brinsmead of the one part, and this Company of the other part, whereby the Company secures the exclusive services of Mr. E. G. S. Brinsmead for a period of fifteen years from the date thereof.

An Agreement dated 1st July, 1896, between Henry William Alabone and Francis Richard Jordon of the one part, and Joseph Henry Davis of the other part.

An Agreement dated 2nd July, 1896, between Joseph Henry Davis of the one part, and Stephenson Wilson, as Trustee on behalf of the Company, of the other part.

An Agreement dated the 20th day of July, 1896, between Sydney Walter Brinsmead of the one part, and this Company of the other part, whereby the Company secures the services of Mr. S. W. Brinsmead for a period of fifteen years from the date thereof.

There are also the usual trade contracts and engagements, the benefits and obligations of which will be taken over by the Company. Certain arrangements have also been entered into with reference to the formation of the Company and for guaranteeing the subscription of a portion of the capital, to none of which the Company is a party. It is believed that such engagements and contracts do not come within the meaning of Section 38 of the Act of 1867; but, should they do so, applicants for Shares shall be deemed to have waived the insertion of the dates and names of parties to any such engagements or contracts, and to accept the above statements as a sufficient compliance with the aforesaid Section, and applications will be accepted subject to this provision.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and of the contract for sale, may be seen at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Application for Shares should be made on the accompanying form, and forwarded to the Bankers, Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C., with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, from the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors to the Company.

This Form may be cut out and sent entire with cheque or cash for the amount payable on application to the Bankers, Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C., or to the Secretary, at the Offices of the Company, 94, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

THOMAS EDWARD BRINSMEAD & SONS, Limited.

To the Directors of Thomas Edward Brinsmead & Sons, Limited, 94, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

Gentlemen.—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 10s. per Share payable on application for .....Shares of £5 each in Thomas Edward Brinsmead & Sons, Limited, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus and Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company. I request you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I undertake to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as and when the same become due.

Ordinary Signature .....
Name in full.....
Address .....
Description .....
Date.....1896.

If you desire to pay in full on Allotment sign the following:—
I desire to pay in full on Allotment.....

The List of Applications will Open on Tuesday, the 28th July, and Close on or before Friday, the 31st July, 1896.

BATCHELAR & SON, LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - £55,000

Divided into 5,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, £25,000; 30,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, £30,000.
There will also be an issue of £30,000 4½ per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock.

TRUSTEE FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS.—The Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, 40 to 44, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

The Debenture Stock will be secured by first Mortgage in favour of the above-mentioned Trustee of the Freehold Shops, Warehouses, and Depositories (including one small Long-Leasehold), and by a floating charge upon all the other property and assets of the Company. It will be repayable at par on 1st July, 1930, or redeemable at the option of the Company at £108 per cent. on or at any time after 1st July, 1910, on six months' previous notice.

The Preference Shares will rank in priority to the Ordinary Shares, both as to Capital and Dividend.

20,000 of the Ordinary Shares credited as fully-paid up will be taken by the vendor in part-payment of the purchase-money, and the remaining 10,000 have been subscribed for and will be allotted to the Directors and their friends.

Applications are invited for 5,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each at par, and £30,000 4½ per Cent. First Mortage Debenture Stock at 103 per cent., payable as follows:—

PREFERENCE SHARES.

On application	£0 10
On allotment	2 0
On September 24th, 1896 ...	2 10
	£5 0

DEBENTURE STOCK.

On application	£5
On allotment, including premium	48
On September 24th, 1896	50
	£103

DIRECTORS.

*Frederick William Batchelar (Chairman and Managing Director).
Robert Josiah Hinton, "Dereham," Bramley Hill, Croydon (of the firm of Hinton & White, Smithfield, E.C.)
Ernest Robert Simmons, 41-47, North End, Croydon.
Alderman Martin Taylor, "Tilburstow," Park-lane, Croydon.
* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.

London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, London; and Croydon, Beckenham, Bromley, and other Branches.

SOLICITOR.—Sydney George Edridge, 4, High-street, Croydon.

AUDITORS.

Cash, Stone & Co., Chartered Accountants, 90, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—G. S. Herbert & Sons, 6, Finch-lane, London, E.C.

SECRETARY.—Leslie Aves.

OFFICES.—41 to 47, North-end, Croydon.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to take over and carry on the old-established business of Batchelar & Son, Furniture Removers, Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers, House Decorators, Sanitary Engineers, and Proprietors of Furniture Warehouses and Depositories at North End, Broad Green, Sumner-road and Duppas Hill, Croydon, and also at Beckenham and Bromley.

The business was established in the year 1834, by the grandfather of the present proprietor, and has since been carried on and extended until it has become the largest and best known business of its kind in the district. It is still increasing, and is capable of continued further development.

In consequence of the death of Mr. Thomas George Batchelar, the brother and partner of the vendor, whose capital has to be paid out, it has become necessary to introduce fresh capital into the business, and the Company has been incorporated solely for that purpose.

The Freeholds of the principal Warehouses and premises have been vested in the Trustees of the will of the late Thomas Batchelar, the father of the vendor, and it is desired to wind up the Trusts of his will. The opportunity is therefore being taken to acquire these properties for the Company.

The vendor, Mr. Frederick William Batchelar, who is the surviving partner in the firm and the sole promoter of the Company, will retain his active connection with the business, and has entered into an agreement to act as Managing Director for at least five years from the date of its incorporation. His interest will be large, and consist almost entirely of Ordinary Shares, which he has agreed to hold until the expiration of the said period of five years. The services of Mr. E. R. Simmons, who has been connected with the business for the last seventeen years, will also be retained.

The business will be taken over as from the 31st December last, from which date the profits will belong to the Company. The vendor, however, is to receive thereout interest on the amount of the purchase-money at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, from the 1st January to the completion of the purchase, less the amount required to pay the rentals of the freehold properties which are to be acquired by the Company, from that date till the completion of the purchase of such properties.

The properties and effects acquired by the Company, exclusive of goodwill, consist of—

The freehold Premises, 41 to 47, North End, Sumner-road, and Duppas Hill, and the long leasehold depository at Broad Green, all in Croydon, as valued by Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, Farmer & Bridgewater, at	£38,675
The stock-in-trade at or under cost price	15,016
The cash at bankers and in hand, and book debts, less liabilities (guaranteed by the vendor)	3,599
The trade implements, fixtures, and effects at all the establishments, including 39 vans and carts and 20 horses, engines, machinery, and electric-lighting plant...	6,350
	£63,640

The purchase price to be paid by the Company for the properties, businesses, leases, plant, fixtures, book-debts, stock-in-trade, horses, vans, &c., has been fixed at £80,000, payable as to £20,000 in 20,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, credited as fully paid up, as to £50,000 in cash, and as to the balance of £10,000 in fully-paid Preference Shares, Debenture Stock, or Cash, at the option of the Company. The remainder of the proceeds of the present issue of Preference Shares and Debenture Stock, and of the Ordinary Shares subscribed by the Directors and their friends, £5,900, will be available as additional working capital.

Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, Farmer, & Bridgewater, who have valued the properties, report as follows:—

80, Cheapside, London, E.C., 19th June, 1896.

Dear Sirs,—In accordance with instructions, we have made a careful inspection of your properties at Croydon, comprising the extensive freehold shops, show rooms, auction sale room, fire proof depository, factories, private residence, stabling and forge at North End, the freehold depositories and dwelling houses at Duppas Hill and Sumner-road, also the long leasehold depository at Broad Green, and are of opinion that for the purposes of the business now carried on, and as a going concern, the value of the aforesaid properties is thirty-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-five pounds (£38,675). This is exclusive of the goodwill, stock, plant, vans, horses, &c.

Yours faithfully,
DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, & BRIDGEWATER.

Messrs. Batchelar & Son,
Croydon.

The books of the firm for the last three years have been investigated by Messrs. Cash, Stone, & Co., Chartered Accountants, of 90, Cannon-street, London, E.C. whose certificate is appended.

90, Cannon-street, London, E.C., 20th July, 1896.

To the Directors of Messrs. BATCHELAR & SON, LIMITED, Croydon.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the books of the business carried on under the style of Batchelar & Son, at Croydon, Beckenham, and Bromley, for the three years ending 31st December, 1895, and find that the profits have been as follows:—

For the year ending 31st December, 1893 ..	£4,161 4 0
" 31st December, 1894 ..	5,295 3 10
" 31st December, 1895 ..	5,084 5 11
Making a total for the three years of..	£14,540 13 9
Or an average annual profit amounting to..	£4,846 17 11

The above profits have in each case been arrived at after charging all the usual trade charges, and a sum sufficient in our opinion to make proper provision for bad and doubtful debts, and depreciation, but no charge has been made for: (a) Rent of premises now to be acquired by the Company. (b) Interest on loans, and partner's capital. (c) Income tax. (d) Services of Mr. F. W. Batchelar.

We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
CASH, STONE, & CO., Chartered Accountants.

Taking the average net profit as certified above at the sum of	£4,846
And deducting therefrom the amount required for interest on £30,000 4½ per Cent Debenture Stock	£1,350
There would remain a balance available for Directors' remuneration and dividend of	£3,496
The amount required to pay the dividend on the Preference Shares is only.....	£1,375

The accounts will be made up annually to 31st December, and the Debenture interest will be paid half-yearly on the 1st January and the 1st July. The first dividend on the Preference Shares will be calculated from the dates fixed for the payment of the respective instalments up to December 31st.

The vendor will defray all the preliminary legal and other expenses connected with the formation of the Company up to the first allotment of Shares, including the transfers of the properties to the Company, stamps, and brokers' fees and charges. Except as appears by this Clause, no promotion money has been or will be paid, and no portion of the Capital has been or will be underwritten.

The contract for sale is dated 22nd day of July, 1896, and is made between Frederick William Batchelar, as vendor, of the one part, and William James Paxton, as trustee for the Company, of the other part. The following contracts have also been entered into by the vendor:—(1) A contract dated the 21st day of July, 1896, and made between Agnes Batchelar and Samuel Crowhurst of the one part, and the said Frederick William Batchelar of the other part, relating to the purchase of the Share of the late Thomas George Batchelar in the business; (2) A contract dated the 21st day of July, 1896, and made between Robert William Price and Robert Josiah Hinton of the one part and the said Frederick William Batchelar of the other part, for the purchase of the freehold premises in North End, Croydon; (3) A contract, dated the 21st day of July, 1896, and made between Alfred Bullock of the one part and the said Frederick William Batchelar of the other part, for the purchase of the freehold premises in Duppas Hill, Croydon. These contracts and the memorandum and articles of association, Messrs. Cash, Stone, & Co.'s certificate, Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, Farmer, & Bridgewater's valuation, and a draft of the Trust Deed, securing the Debenture Stock, may be inspected at the Office of the Solicitor.

The business will be taken over subject to all existing contracts. These are of the ordinary trade character, and cannot be more particularly specified. They do not refer in any way to the promotion of the Company, or the placing of its capital, but some of them may possibly fall technically under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Shares will be deemed to have waived their right, if any, to further particulars or specification of such contracts.

Applications for Shares and Debenture Stock should be made on the forms accompanying the Prospectus, and be sent to the Company's Bankers, with a cheque for the amount payable on application.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be refunded in full, and where the allotment is less than the amount applied for the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the instalment payable on allotment. The failure to pay any future instalments when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained at the Offices, or from the Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitor.

North End, Croydon, July 24th, 1896.

The List of Applications will open to-day, Wednesday, the 29th day of July, and close on or before to-morrow, Thursday, the 30th day of July, 1896, at 4 p.m., for Town, and the following morning for the Country.

A. M. PEEBLES & SON, LIM.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL - - - £200,000,

DIVIDED INTO

20,000 £5 per Cent. Preference Shares Cumulative as to interest and preferential in respect of Capital over the Ordinary Shares of £5 each ...	£100,000
20,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each ..	100,000
	£200,000
100,000 £4. 10s. per Cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock to be issued at 105 for each £100	105,000
	£305,000

The Debenture Stock will be a first charge upon the property, undertakings, and assets of the Company, and will rank as a floating charge on all other its property, present or future, including its uncalled capital (if any). It will be redeemable at the expiration of 20 years at the rate of £105 per cent., or earlier, at the option of the Directors, on giving 6 months' notice at the rate of £110 per cent.

Applications are invited for

14,200 5 per Cent. Preference Shares ...	£71,000
14,000 Ordinary Shares ...	£70,000
£70,000 4½ Per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock ...	£70,000

The Vendors having agreed to take as part payment for their property and business about one-third of the Debenture Stock and about one-third of the Preference and Ordinary Shares, a third being the largest proportion of Shares allowed to be taken by a Vendor by the Rules of the Stock Exchange. The subscriptions for the Debenture Stock and Shares will be payable as follows:—

	As to the Debenture Stock.	As to the Shares.
On Application ...	£15	£1
On Allotment ...	£40	£2
On the 14th September, 1896 ...	£50	£2
	£105	£5

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

Frederick Henry Milbank, Esq., of No. 31, Threadneedle-street, London.
Wilberforce Savery Pasmore, Esq., of No. 153, Queen Victoria-street, London.

DIRECTORS.

John Henry Fraser Walter, of Drayton House, and the Taverham Paper Mills, near Norwich.
Mason Jackson, of 79, Warwick-road, Kensington, Middlesex, Director of *The Illustrated London News*, Limited.
George John Maddick, of South Bank House, Surbiton, Surrey, Manager of *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*.
Edward William Frederick Hopewell, of Streatham, Surrey, and Brighton, Sussex.
Howard Maxwell Peebles, of 153, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Soames, Edwards, & Jones, 55, Lincoln's Inn-fields, W.C.

BANKERS.

The Bank of England, Threadneedle-street.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Laurie, Milbank, & Co., 31, Threadneedle-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. S. Ogle & Co., Chartered Accountants, 90, Cannon-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

W. S. Pasmore, 153, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purposes of (1) Acquiring, as from the 30th day of June last, carrying on and developing the business of a paper manufacturer and paper agent, for many years successfully carried on by the late Mr. Philip Cadell Peebles, under the title of A. M. Peebles & Son, at 153, Queen Victoria-street, in the City of London, and as Peebles & Son at the Whiteash and Rishton Paper Mills, in the county of Lancaster; (2) Acquiring the freehold paper mill, land and premises called Whiteash Mill, with the machinery and fixtures therein, and the long leasehold, mill and premises known as the Rishton Mill aforesaid, with the machinery and fixtures therein, and also certain freehold and leasehold land and premises and water rights used in connection with the said mills.

As is well known, the late Mr. Peebles carried on one of the largest, if not the largest and most successful, businesses of a paper manufacturer and paper agent in England, and his business is now being converted into a Company by his executors by reason of his death.

The Directors have, however, been fortunate enough to secure as Managing Director of the Company Mr. Howard Maxwell Peebles, a son of the late Mr. Philip Cadell Peebles, who for a long time prior to the death of his father was associated with him in the active management of the business, and since his death (in November last) has carried on the business on behalf of the executors.

The accounts of the business, which have been regularly audited by Messrs. W. S. Ogle & Co., chartered accountants, of 90, Cannon-street, show, as appears by the following certificate, after writing off upwards of £7,000 a year for depreciation, an average profit of upwards of £25,000 a year, the year ended the 31st December, 1895, having shown a profit of nearly £30,000.

The following is a copy of the certificate furnished to the Directors by Messrs. W. S. Ogle & Co.

"To Messrs. A. M. Peebles & Son, Limited.

"Gentlemen,

"For some years past we have audited the accounts of the Rishton and Whiteash Mills, belonging to the late Mr. P. C. Peebles, which, after charging depreciation, but without charging interest on capital, show profits as follows:—

	Depreciation. £	s.	d.		Profit after deducting Depreciation. £	s.	d.
For the year ending 31st December, 1891	6,039	4	3	..	17,500	19	11
" " " " 1892	6,882	13	3	..	13,023	12	11
" " " " 1893	7,289	17	9	..	9,601	0	9
" " " " 1894	7,600	6	11	..	15,442	14	10
" " " " 1895	7,950	10	1	..	20,671	18	5

Giving an average of £15,248 per annum.

"We have also for the last four years audited the books of the Firm kept at 153, Queen Victoria-street, which show profits, after providing for bad debts, but without charging interest on capital, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For the year ending 31st December, 1892	10,815	15	6
" " " 1893	9,784	10	1
" " " 1894	10,010	16	5
" " " 1895	9,167	19	10

Giving on the whole business an average annual profit of £25,192.

"Yours faithfully,
"WILLIAM S. OGLE & CO.,
"Chartered Accountants.

"90, Cannon-street, E.C.
"24th July, 1896."

The mills, lands, and various properties with the machinery therein have been valued by Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell, and they have furnished to the Directors their report, of which the following is a copy:—

"To the Chairman and Directors of A. M. PEEBLES & SON, LIMITED,

"July 25th, 1896.

"Gentlemen,—In accordance with instructions we have attended at the premises known as *The Whiteash and Rishton Paper Mills*, and have made a careful survey and valuation of same.

"The Whiteash Mill is situate near Accrington, in the county of Lancaster, and occupies, together with the Brookside Mill site, a total area of about 25½ acres.

"The Rishton Mill is situate near Blackburn, in the same county, and has a ground area of 17 acres and 23 perches or thereabouts.

"The former Mill is freehold, and the latter is leasehold for unexpired terms of about 977 years.

"The plant and machinery, which throughout both mills is of modern design and in thorough working order, includes three paper-making machines, with the necessary washing, beating, and pounding engines, main and auxiliary driving engines and steam boilers, &c., &c.

"*We are of opinion* that the present fair value as a going concern of the above-mentioned freehold and long leasehold Paper Mills is the sum of One hundred and twenty-four thousand, six hundred and forty-nine pounds.

"These figures are inclusive of the leases, wayleaves, and grants which secure to the Whiteash Mill its exceptionally abundant supply of water, but are exclusive of any value for goodwill, stock, stores, and book-debts.

"We are, Gentlemen,
"Yours faithfully,
"FULLER, HORSEY, SONS, & CASSELL."

In addition the Company will take over the stock of paper and materials at the Mills which on the 30th of June last, according to the stock sheets, were of the value of £28,792 17s. 1d. and in London of the estimated value of £300, and they will also take the debts due to the firm (but not including cash at the bankers) which on that date stood in the books at the sum of £34,282 5s. 3d., and will have to discharge liabilities of the firm not exceeding £32,074. The Company in addition to the goodwill of the business freehold, leasehold properties, machinery and stock, will thus take the benefit of the difference between the value of the stock and materials and the liabilities before mentioned or £31,301 2s. 4d., as is shown by the foregoing figures.

The price to be paid by the Company for the purchase of the goodwill, properties and businesses, free from incumbrances except the rents and covenants reserved by and contained in the several leases and grants by which the properties are holden and the discharge of the liabilities before mentioned, has been fixed by the Vendors at the sum of £265,000, payable as to £30,000 by the allotment to them of Debenture Stock of that nominal amount, as to £20,000 by the allotment to them of 5,800 Preferred Shares in the Company, and as to £30,000 by the allotment to them of 6,000 Ordinary Shares in the Company, such shares to be allotted as fully paid-up, and as to the remainder in cash. The Vendors will pay all the expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the Company up to the first general allotment. The Directors propose to appropriate £25,000 out of the proceeds of the Debentures and Preference and Ordinary Shares for Working Capital and the further development of the business. The profits, as certified by Messrs. W. S. Ogle & Co. after providing for the interest on the

Debenture issue	£4,500
And on the Preference Shares	£5,000
Total	£9,500

and after setting aside an ample sum for reserve and providing for the Directors' remuneration, show a sum more than sufficient to pay 10 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares of the Company.

The following contract has been entered into, namely—A contract dated the 27th day of July, 1896, between Wilberforce Savery Pasmore James Mortimer Garrard, Howard Maxwell Peebles, and George John Maddick, executors of the will of the late Philip Cadell Peebles deceased, and the Company, being the contract for the acquisition by the Company of the above mentioned properties, and for the engagement of the said Howard Maxwell Peebles as Managing Director, and certain contracts have been entered into by the Vendors in the ordinary course of business for the supply of paper and for the purchase of materials for making paper, and with their travellers, superintendents, and agents, and agreements have been entered into with third parties as to the formation of the Company, and the subscription of capital and otherwise, to none of which the Company is a party, and as these contracts and agreements may constitute contracts under Section 38 of the Companies Act of 1867, applicants must be deemed to have notice of the contents of them, and will be required and will be deemed to have waived particulars and specifications of any such contracts, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, and subscriptions are invited and will be received on that condition only. It is intended to apply to the Committee of the Stock Exchange, London, for official quotations.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the contract above set out, and of the deed which has been prepared to secure the Debenture Stock, can be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

Applications for Shares and Debenture Stock must be made on the respective forms accompanying the Prospectus, and sent to the Company's Bankers, the BANK OF ENGLAND, who have been the Bankers of the Firm of A. M. Peebles & Son for the past 35 years, with the amount payable on application. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the amount of Debenture Stock or the number of Shares (as the case may be) allotted is less than the amount or number applied for the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment.

Prospectuses with Forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company or at its Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors.

Dated this 27th day of July, 1896.

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

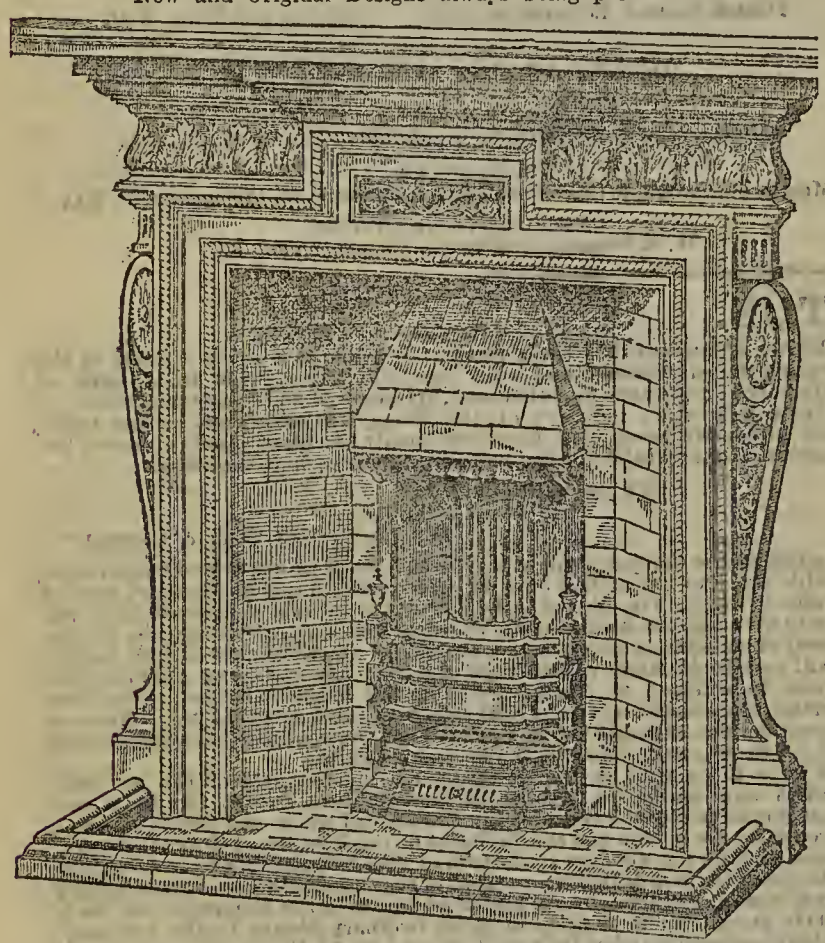
BARNARD, BISHOP, & BARNARDS

LIMITED.

ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED

SLOW COMBUSTION, OR, COUNTRY PARSON'S STOVES.

New and Original Designs always being produced.



Latest Novelty—**ALL-TILED CANOPY STOVE**, as Illustrated, No. 667,

"THE IDEAL." (*Design Registered.*) Fitted with our well-known Patent Norfolk Fire Basket.

Brass Vases to Bar Frame, Ventilating Ash Pan, &c.

This Stove, when made up in 6 in. × 2 in. brickettes as shown, in whole colour, as Teapot Brown, &c., has an exceedingly quaint and attractive appearance.

PRICES—

34" wide × 36" high, 13" fire...	£4 12 6	39" wide × 36" high, 18" fire...	£4 17 6
36" " × 36" " 15" " ...	4 15 0	42" " × 36" " 21" " ...	5 0 0

Mantel, Hearth, &c., extra.

93, QUEEN VICTORIA ST., LONDON, E.C.,

And NORFOLK IRONWORKS, NORWICH.

SINGER

Grand "Modèle de Luxe"

HIGHEST GRADE CYCLES ONLY.

Prompt Delivery may now be had.

SINGER & CO. LTD., COVENTRY.

LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

Sea-sickness

Mr. LABOUCHERE, M.P., said in "TRUTH":—

"The man who discovers a perfect cure for sea-sickness will be one "of the greatest benefactors of the human race. At different times "many such discoveries have been announced, but somehow they "have not stood the test of practice. Being one of the worst of "sailors, I have tried most of the remedies as they have appeared, "and I can therefore make the last statement confidently. But at "last hope has dawned upon me. On two recent occasions when "crossing the Channel I have tried the remedy advertised under the "name of '**Yanatas.**' On both occasions—and they were the first "on record—I got across without serious qualms. As the weather "was thoroughly bad on both passages, I feel justified on this, in "recommending fellow-sufferers to try '**Yanatas.**' I cannot "answer for its effect on a long voyage, and it may not be equally "efficacious on all constitutions; but if it only enables the average "'bad sailor' to cross in peace from Dover to Calais, it will be to "many a priceless boon."

Of all Chemists, 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d.

YANATAS

WHOLESALE AGENTS—LONDON: Messrs. DAKIN BROS.; IRELAND: T. RITCHIE, 43, Dame-street, Dublin; PARIS: PHARMACIE NORMALE, 19, Rue Dronot; BERLIN: Dr. C. W. BARENTHIN, 75, Ritter Strasse; NEW YORK: Messrs. SCHIEFFELIN & Co.

CADBURY'S COCOA

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 909.—DEFINITIONS OF LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND DUBLIN.

CARFAX (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 905.

This competition must have been an unusually difficult one, I think. At all events, the answers received were exceptionally weak, and it is only after long consideration that it has been determined to strain a point and award the Prize, which will be given to TOUCAN for the suggestion "Vi-cycle."

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

As I hope to be able to publish a further selection of Lists, I will not at present award this Prize.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 914.

According to a contemporary, numerous suggestions have already been made as to the way in which the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Queen's reign should be marked. These suggestions include the following proposals:—

A commemoration bible. A sixpenny history of the reign. A portrait of the Queen by a first-rate artist. Gilding the dome of St. Paul's! The establishment of Imperial Penny Postage. The Queen's title to be "Empress of Britain." The beginning of Channel tunnels between Ireland and England, and Ireland and Scotland. The appointment of a Federal Council of the Empire. A children's bronze medal. A special coinage. A new annual Bank Holiday. An Imperial charitable fund. "Something" for the volunteers.

Thinking that the above proposals can be considerably improved on, it has been resolved to offer the usual prize of Two Guineas this week for

THE BEST ORIGINAL SUGGESTION AS TO THE WAY IN WHICH THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HER MAJESTY'S REIGN CAN BE MARKED.

All suggestions, which should be made as briefly as possible, must reach me by the morning of Monday, August 10, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of OOM PAUL, winner of a half of Prize No. 908, is Robert Edward Eeles, Esq., 115, Devonshire-road, Forest Hill, S.E.

*** The real name, with the address, of SABRINA, winner of a half of Prize No. 908, is Nigel B. Severn, Esq., 9, Earl's Court-square, S.W.

MARE, MAUD, and BONNY.—Your suggestions arrived too late to be printed with the Current Specimens.

THEOLOGY.—I am obliged to you for your suggestion.

MIXED BISCUITS.—Many thanks for your letter and the suggestions it contains.

OMEMEE and PELICAN.—I will not fail to make the necessary corrections to your lists of names.

DILARAM.—I regret the misprinting of "Health" for "Wealth" in your "Definitions."

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 911.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

TOPICS SUGGESTED AS SUITABLE FOR DISCUSSION IN THE NEWSPAPERS DURING THE SILLY SEASON.

1. Are cab-fares in general more than they ought to be? 2. Why should not women propose? 3. In which profession, on an average, are the best husbands found?—Antelope.

1. Is the use of artificial aids to beauty—*i.e.*, cosmetics, &c.—permissible? 2. "Hill-Top" literature. 3. Women "New" and Old—types most admired by men and women respectively. 4. A plea for a simpler life. We live too rapidly and generally "take too much out of" ourselves. 5. The bike craze (not very original, but still interesting).—Flitters.

1. Is the higher education of women misdirected? 2. The decline of courtesy in England. 3. Is Parliament played out? 4. Are we over-educated? 5. Will the "Deceased Wife's Sister Bill" prove a blessing socially or otherwise?—Smilax.

Should girls propose?—Cloister.

Start a discussion on the complaints and grievances of cyclists *v.* pedestrians and pedestrians *v.* cyclists.—Hobbima.

1. Is smoking in moderation injurious to health? 2. Should women paint and powder the face and dye their hair? 3. What is the best age to marry for men, also for women? Is a married or a single life the happiest?—Clara.

1. Best method of dealing with the natives in new settlements. 2. When the higher education becomes universal, where shall we look for domestic drudges, scavengers, &c. 3. What form of the metric system would be most acceptable to British subjects? 4. Have the lower animals souls? 5. Is it advisable to continue such "pomps and vanities" as Lord Mayors' shows, judges' robes, barristers' wigs and gowns, High Sheriffs' liveries, coaches, and javelin-men, &c. &c.? 6. Tall hats, frock-coats and swallow-tails.—Eboracum.

Narrow Escapes (this being also the travelling and tourist season, plenty of amateur copy will be elicited by the paper which starts it.—Cartoon.

1. Is Bank-holiday a failure? 2. Season tickets for clerks, male and female, at special rates on the lines of workmen's trains. 3. Life in a flat. 4. Should children be taught to believe in the literal accuracy of the narrative of the Creation and other portions of the Old Testament, disproved by Science and generally ascribed to tradition? 5. Are cricket and kindred amusements in danger of being overdone? 6. Is street collecting by children advisable?—Marplot.

1. Are babies' heads becoming bigger? 2. Is national blindness imminent? 3. Should horse-power be applied to bicycles?—Jessica.

1. Should dogs wear muzzles when it seems to hurt their feelings? 2. Is it mean to pocket your opponent's white ball?—Jamie.

The best place to spend a summer holiday.—Si je puis.

Ladies' railway carriages.—Irma Lee.

Why is it that a man who wants money is generally accounted among those who want wits?—Thanatopsis.

1. Should women smoke? 2. Are our manners deteriorating? 3. Should capital punishment be abolished? 4. Should single women of education, anxious to marry, emigrate? 5. Is hydrophobia on the increase?—Mixed Biscuits.

Were this country at the present time to become Republican who would be elected President? Should our boys be taught at school to sew and knit? Would women make good captains of steamships?—Dora.

Is the collection of foreign stamps injurious to health—first, from the general method of making them adhere; secondly, the cultivation of bacteria in the favourable medium of gums, &c.—Edgerton.

A correspondence might be started under the heading "Should Women Wait!" *i.e.*, for men to propose. A suitable topic for this (Leap) year of grace, 1896.—Riam.

1. Which is the worst railway? 2. How to abolish the tip nuisance. 3. How to make a daily paper a success. 4. Most crying evils requiring redress. 5. How to obviate the street collection box nuisance. 6. An efficient preventive against suicide.—Nemesis.

Does it pay to live?—Rhyn Rheta.

1. Canine opinions on the muzzling bore. 2. The domestic habits of the stickle-back. 3. The perennial "old arm chair" from the following points of view:—The sentimental, the scientific, and the curio buyers'.—Nina.

Should peeresses (in their own right) sit and vote in the House of Lords?—Enoch.

1. Brownies, banshees, and fairies. 2. Oleomargarine: Its composition. 3. Legendary sayings, *e.g.*, Where was Moses when the light went out? *a* Who was Moses? *b* What sort of light was it? *c* Why did it go out? The answering of the main question depends upon the answers to these three. 4. The letter "H."—Jeff.

1. A universal system of coinage, weights, and measures. 2. Christianity in the churches, and the advisability of using them for public meetings, criticising their methods of raising money by bazaars, balls, concerts, &c.—J.O.N.

1. Suitable men's costumes for tropical weather in England. 2. Is football a dangerous pastime? 3. The best dress for lady cyclists. 4. Is cigarette smoking injurious to health? 5. Music-halls *v.* Theatres; and, last—but not least—The top hat.—East Anglia.

1. Are manners dying out amongst men? 2. Is the bicycling craze acting injuriously upon the different trades and industries?—Pansy.

1. Are English people polite? 2. Why don't people go to church? 3. Are music-halls demoralising? 4. Is cycling harmful? 5. Is lunacy on the increase? 6. Is education a failure?—Wandering Jew.

Are domestic servants as good as they used to be?—Almaviva.

Is bicycling, lawn-tennis, or archery, most conducive to matrimony in rural districts?—W. G. B.

1. The future of the horse. 2. The British farmer. 3. Western Australia or South Africa? 4. Should cycles be taxed? 5. Employment for spinsters.—Co.

That actions for breach of promise of marriage should be abolished.—Envoy.

1. Should our girls be brought up on the English, American, or French system? 2. Do men like English or American girls best? 3. Is the English, American, or French lady's bicycling costume the most appropriate? 4. What should be done with Rhodesia? 5. The Deceased Wife's Sister's Bill. 6. Could fashion not invent more suitable costumes for men to be worn in the warm weather?—Malua.

1. Will people get too fat for want of walking exercise when motor carriages become general? 2. Will cycling be beneficial on the whole to the rising generation? 3. Do people get sufficient sleep nowadays? 4. Why do not creditors receive more of a bankrupt's estate, and lawyers and accountants less? 5. Which is the happiest time of life? (The general idea is that childhood is the most enjoyable; my own experience contradicts this, so I believe does that of most thinking people.) 6. Is farming played out in England?—Zou-Zou.

As examinations are such a fearful bugbear to every profession, and not always a true test, is there not a better method of ascertaining whether the student has really mastered the subject or not?—Beginner.

Whether there would be fewer bachelors and old maids if the women proposed marriage instead of the men.—Nurse.

1. Did actors act better when "rogues and vagabonds" by statute law, than now they are "society" people (by courtesy)? 2. What is the reason why authors and publishers are enemies?—Alastor.

1. Is the sermon a waning influence? 2. Is gambling sapping the nation's morals? 3. Is eternal punishment an exploded dogma?—Wobbles.

The insertion of bogus advertisements of domestic servants in daily papers by registry office agents, resulting in a lot of correspondence which invariably comes to nothing.—Bath Chap.

1. What shall be done with husbands who have retired? 2. Which is the best hour to show a husband an overdrawn house account. 3. How can a husband tackle a wife on extravagant dress.—Penguin.

1. How to make Sunday a day of rational rest and recreation. 2. How to reduce street noises without having the "silence of the tomb" around you.—H. E. G.

1. Is it dignified for our clergy to ride the bike? 2. Shall our horses wear hats? 3. Why not motor boots and shoes for the million?—Das Ding.

Should women read the newspapers?—Kathleen.

1. Is the modern man losing flesh? 2. Is home life declining?—Oom Paul.

Is a domesticated husband an unmixed blessing? —Grannie.

As women are unrepresented in Parliament, should they not be exempt from direct taxation—income tax to wit?—Mrs Hampden.

1. Is poverty a crime? 2. Is philanthropy genuine? 3. Is true love a myth? 4. Is the Socialist mad? 5. Is wealth essential to happiness? 6. Does honesty pay?—Pigtail.

Over civilisation—its various evils tending to destroy peace and happiness, and to increase physical and mental disease.—Dilaram.

1. Is cycling conducive to physical and moral health? 2. Ought a man to be compelled to marry on attaining the age of twenty-five? 3. How ought we to dress on Sundays for church, &c.?—W. J. T.

1. Should not women as well as men remove their headgear in places of worship? 2. Do the sexes really love one another?—Arch. Gibbs.

1. The astonishing successes and unaccountable failures of candidates for the Oxford and Cambridge local exams., as indicated by the logic of many facts, and the subterranean murmurs of those who think they are "in the know" concerning the hidden mysteries of the proclaimed results—the details of which are not given, as with College of Preceptors. 2. The "debasing of the moral coinage" as displayed in the numerous secretly paid agents, who praise certain commodities—posing as friends giving friendly advice, while really receiving a commission when their sly words have been successful.—Lafouc.

1. Best rational costume for summer for policemen and postmen. 2. Why not have a Continental Sunday in England? 3. Abolition of tipping by guests at private houses. 4. Should not the full address of the sender and receiver be allowed in the charge for the 6d. telegram? 5. Should ladies and gentlemen be allowed to bathe together at the seaside? 6. Why not abolish the custom of sending wreaths to funerals, and give the money now spent in flowers to charities? 7. The advisability of all items in hotel menus being set out in English. 8. Prevention of overcrowding railway carriages with small parcels. 9. Overcrowding on Underground railway.

Woman in the railway carriage. How to protect her from lunatics and libertines.—Chelsea.

1. What sort of a wife and mother is the girl who spends most of her life out on a bicycle likely to make? 2. Should the use of motor cars become general, would this inevitably lead to the extinction of the horse, and consequent decay of horse racing and hunting? 3. Should Members of Parliament be paid? Would this step lead to the popularisation or the reverse of the House of Commons?—Beaumanoir.

1. My Hobby. 2. Where to spend a holiday. 3. How to save.—A. E. L.

Freemasonry *versus* Christianity as the required subject for papers in the silly season, as that topic has been lately much discussed in religious circles, especial weight having been given to Margiotta's revelations, published by Burns & Oates. I believe I am right in saying that, should the above topic be mooted in any paper soever, its editor and staff would be able to get a good long holiday, as the topic in question is of such a character as to ensure devotees of every sect in England madly rushing into print to air the doctrines of the sect they pertain to. Indeed, I venture to think that the letters that might (and would to a certainty) reach the editor of any paper would allow of his being provided with matter for at least ten years—that is, supposing, of course, he inserted all letters sent him.—Cable Tow.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSEKEEPING.

So many complaints are made of the inefficiency of cooks, that it seems as if the above idea might be elaborated. For example, we see twenty-five houses in a terrace, and every morning twenty-five incapable maids of all work, or, perhaps, so-called "cooks," light twenty-five fires and send up twenty-five very indifferent breakfasts, when by co-operation one house of the twenty-five might be made into a kitchen, and really good chefs be employed who would send out well-cooked meals to the other twenty-four at a far smaller cost.—Blanche.

LADY ON WHEELS.

Is she usurping her position to the detriment of her sex? I would say in reply:—

Here's to the lady on wheels,
Happy no doubt she feels,
Sitting with form erect and with good grace,
A pattern to those who are doing the pace.
Which example if not followed it has been said
We shall soon have a race the shape of the Z.
Snibor

1. How can the indiscriminate giving of wedding presents be brought again within reasonable limits, and restricted to friends and relations? 2. In anticipation of the auto-car coming into vogue, what will become of the horses? 3. Are young children of to-day more precocious than the children of forty or fifty years ago?—Esperanza.

1. On the ethics and desirability of interviewing. 2. On the comparative advantages and disadvantages of living in a flat or a house to one's self. 3 The nineteenth century has witnessed marvellous discoveries in science and practical applications of them; what may be expected or predicted of the twentieth?—Excelsior.

1. The best way of keeping railway carriages cool in summer and warm in winter. 2. The best kind of education to make girls useful, womanly women. 3. The best way of expressing degrees of friendship in the termination of a letter, as yours truly, sincerely, faithfully.—Qu'Appelle.

The Deceased Wife's Sister has been discussed in and out of season, and some years ago the question "Is Marriage a Failure?" was the subject of a long and strong controversy in the *D. T.* Now, there is a closely related question which, so far as I know, has never been discussed in a public journal, and it is one which, if thrashed out in its moral, social, and legal bearings, could not fail to produce suitable matter for a silly season. I allude to the question, "Is it right for a man to marry his widow's niece?"—C. D. Dub.

1. Should women cycle, and if so, should they wear skirts or breeches? 2. If women continue to "develop" as they have done for the past decade, how many years will it take to have the respective positions hitherto occupied by the sexes completely reversed? 3. Would it be advisable to conduct experiments with the view of utilising the tides and other energies of the sea for the production of mechanical power?—Shamrock.

1. What is the best kind of treatment for reforming evil-disposed or deceitful boys? 2. Is an extension of British territory abroad, and consequent immigration thereto, of much advantage to the working man remaining in England, so long as an unlimited number of needy foreigners are allowed to land here without any restrictions, and supply their place in the labour market? 3. Should a civilised power like England, in making war against a newly-conquered people like the Matabele, who are making a brave stand, as the ancient Britons did, for what they consider their rights and their independence, burn their kraals and kidnap and take captive their women and children, as we are told Col. Plummer carried off some hundreds in a recent battle?—Rex.

1. A tax on cycles. 2. Municipal theatres and music-halls. 3. Ethic influence of the play. 4. The unemployed. 5. Reform of the Poor Law system. 6. Free education. 7. State socialism or collectivism. 8. The payment of members of the House of Commons. 9. One Anglican church. 10. Nationalisation of railways and waterways. 11. A new political party. 12. Gambling. 13. The motor carriage of the future. 14. Credit and Usury. 15. Speculation by Companies. 16. Stockbrokering. 17. The decline of ballad concerts.—Antiquary.

1. Are clergymen of all or any denominations helps or hindrances to the spread of true Christianity? 2. What are the essentials necessary for truly enjoying life? 3. Does civilisation increase individual happiness? 4. Can Socialism become a national characteristic? 5. Does the "stove-pipe" hat add to the respectability of the wearer? If so, why? 6. Should the female domestic servant be taught and allowed to practise cycling, dancing, pianoforte playing, and other innocent recreations? 7. Is cycling conducive to female health and elegance?—Immortal Will.

George Eliot, somehow, says that "the secrets of Freemasons, if they have any, do not seem to weigh very heavily on them." Have they any? Or is the "banquet" the attraction? A lady writer on theosophy has stated that the Freemasons are not likely to recover "the lost secret" until they admit women as members of the craft. And the question that I should propose is:—Are the ranks of Freemasonry likely to be invaded by the "new woman"? —Queensholme.

1. Is our spelling immoral? 2. Shall we ever have an aristocracy? 3. Is any tongue fit to be catholic? 4. Shall we ever have a free press? 5. Is a good conceit bad for us? 6. Is character ever knowable? 7. Is patriotism ever a vice? 8. Are popular proverbs misleading? 9. Is Parliament necessary? 10. Does reading make us shallow? 11. Are popular poets reliable? 12. How can we save the lapsed churches? 13. Do we ever really love the whole truth? 14. Is chemical medicine ever necessary? 15. Can science ever be irreligious? 16. Is heredity a nightmare? 17. Is pessimism ever poetic (artistic)? 18. Can humour become universal? 19. Is nature reliable? 20. Can genius be cultivated by code? 21. Is self-reliance a virtue? 22. Is money a luxury? 23. Is science overdone? 24. Which minority should rule? 25. Should prisons be abolished? 26. Is selfishness always useful? 27. Is individuality a vice? 28. Are we all Pagans? 29. Must poverty be perpetual? 30. Are the insane irresponsible?—Makmax.

1. The pros and cons of universal conscription for the Army and Navy. 2. The desirability of founding self-supporting agricultural and pastoral communistic retreats for occasional (not excluding permanent) retirement from a competitive world. 3. Open-air clubs for encouraging in the interests of health and good spirits the spending of the whole of life in the open-air, or with the barest shelter; with (*inter alia*) the restoration of the Roman amphitheatre form of building in lieu of existing churches, theatres, halls, &c. 4. Formation of missionary societies to teach the world the gospel of indifference to supernaturalism, which, itself the offspring of dreams, is the fruitful parent of the deadliest hatred, resulting in most of the war, cruelty, and rapine that has affected the world. —Nitram.

1. Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. Allow a man to marry his deceased wife's sister; we must allow a woman to marry her deceased husband's brother. "If they once broke through the table of affinity in this case, the whole table would soon go the wall" (Duke of Argyll's speech). "Better marry your grandmother and have done with it" (Sidney Smith). 2. British filibusters in Africa. Why not openly avow our mission to extirpate native races, seize their land, gold, diamonds, and cattle? Why cloak our crime by pretending to civilise and convert them? They are no more "rebels" to us than the Greeks who fought at Marathon under Miltiades, and at Thermopylæ under Leonidas, were rebels to Xerxes. Why does not the church protest? 3. Why should not cycling ladies wear "knickers?" They could pedal far more easily. As to propriety—having appropriated all man's garments, but one, why hesitate to take that? Man will say with Othello: "I am not valiant neither: but every pushing spinster gets my pants. Well, let it go all. Why should honour outlive honesty?" 4. Abolish side-saddles. Why should not ladies ride astraddle on horses as well as on bicycles? Their seat would thus be more secure; and they would sit square on the saddle, not leaning to the left as many now do.—J. McGrigor Allan.

1. Write a leading article for the newspapers, showing why the present Government use their large majority on every pressing occasion in the House of Commons instead of their brains (if they have any). 2. (Another article.) Also why the present Government is the most stupid, "addlepated" in existence since the year 1832, and why they will very soon "politically" hang themselves. —Theology.

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Cartcrct-street, S.W.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

OWING to my printers having a conscientious objection to working on Bank Holidays—an objection with which I fully sympathise—it has been impossible to deal in this week's Truth with any correspondence received since Saturday last, and with a good deal received prior to that date. I will ask both my correspondents and readers to kindly note this fact. All communications held over in consequence of the Bank Holiday will receive my best attention during the coming week.

It is utterly untrue that the Queen's health is causing anxiety at Court, and that her Majesty has been advised to hasten her departure from Osborne to Balmoral. These mendacious flimflams are now circulated every few weeks. As a matter of fact, the Queen is in the very best possible state of health, and during the last four months her Majesty has been better in all respects than for many years past.

Before the Queen leaves Osborne the Battenberg Memorial Chapel in Whippingham Church is to be "dedicated" by the Bishop of Winchester, and there will be an elaborate ceremony on the occasion, attended by the Queen, the Royal family, and the Court.

The papers announce that "the usual Semi-state banquets" at Osborne during the Cowes Regatta week will not be given this year, in consequence of the Royal family being in mourning. There have never been any such functions during the week, except when the German Emperor has happened to be at Cowes, and then two large dinners were given by the Queen in his honour in the Indian Room at Osborne. It seems rather hard that the officers and seamen of the Royal yachts should have been forbidden to take their customary part in the Cowes Regatta, and their vessels are not to be illuminated during the week, as has been usual.

Here is a valuable addition to the suggestions now being ventilated for the celebration of the Queen's "record" as a reigning Sovereign. It is that the railway should be extended from Ballater to Braemar and be opened by her Majesty. The gentleman who offers this suggestion writes me very strongly on the great need which exists for this line, and the blessing that it would be to the inhabitants of Braemar as well as to visitors who frequent the place. There will be no question, I imagine, as to the general utility of such a line, and the only objections to it would probably come from owners of deer forests, and crack-brained æsthetics who consider a locomotive an outrage on the beauties of nature. A victory of public interest and common sense over these obstructionists would certainly be a worthy event to commemorate the sixty-first year of the Queen's reign.

Apropos of Royal processions, who trains elderly gentlemen to walk backwards? The sight of them when engaged in retrograde progression recalls forcibly to mind the trained poodles of a circus, and is not pleasing. Whom does the lamentable spectacle gratify? Surely it is an outrage on the dignity of human nature and inconsistent with average sanity. To the Sovereign, the officials shuffling backwards in front of her must be a grotesque rather than a majestic sight. Why should they walk as nature has not meant them to? The subject is well worthy of a silly season discussion.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to leave Cowes next week. H.R.H. goes direct to Homburg, and from the 26th until the 28th he is to be at Baden-Baden, when he will be the guest of the Prince of Fürstenburg at the Hôtel Stéphanie. The Princess will be conveyed in the *Osborne* (and also Princess Victoria and Prince and Princess Charles) to Copenhagen, and she is to stay in Denmark until the middle of October, and will then return to London for a week before going to Sandringham for the winter.

The Prince of Wales will probably be the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, at Dunrobin Castle, about the end of September, after his visits to the Queen at Balmoral, and to the Duke and Duchess of Fife at Mar Lodge.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Serge of Russia, who are now in Germany, are coming to England about the middle of September, and they will be the guests of the Queen at Balmoral for a week or ten days. The arrangements for the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Russia to England next summer will then be discussed by the Queen and the Grand Duke Serge.

Princess Beatrice will not spend the autumn at Balmoral, but her stay there is to be limited to three or four weeks, after which H.R.H. will go to Germany to pay some family visits. During the absence of Princess Beatrice the Queen will have the company of Princess Christian or Princess Louise. Princess Beatrice is still suffering from extreme depression of spirits, and it is thought that a prolonged stay at Balmoral would be very injurious to her.

The Duchess of York has been ordered to the Engadine for a month, as she derived much benefit from her last visit to that region in August, 1894. H.R.H. started yesterday for St. Moritz accompanied by the Duchess of Teck. The Duchess of York will go to Balmoral when she returns to England in September, and the Duchess of Teck is to proceed from the Engadine on a visit to the King and Queen of Würtemberg at Friedrichshafen, on the Lake of Constance, where she will be met by the Duke, who has gone to Germany for two months.

A tragic occurrence, which occurred at the recent visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to the Yorkshire Agricultural Show, has given rise to dire heartburnings in the bosoms of some of the City Fathers. By invitation of the Lord Mayor, the aldermen, including the ex-Mayor and several who had held the Chief Magistracy, assembled in carriages to meet the Duke and Duchess on their arrival, and drove in procession to the Show ground. Arrived at the Pavilion, the Royalties and other eminences proceeded to the feast there prepared for them; but when the turn of the humble aldermen came, they found the door closed against them, and had to go elsewhere and get what refreshment they choose to pay for. To exclude an alderman from anything in the shape of a feed is at all times a heartless and indefensible proceeding; but to bring a hungry man up to the door of the banquet and then shut the door in his face is rudeness, whether perpetrated at the expense of an alderman or anybody else. In this case the rudeness was accentuated by the fact that every one of the aldermen was a handsome contributor to the funds of the Show.

Nearly all the newspapers have described Prince and Princess Frederick of Schaumburg-Lippe as "the daughter and son-in-law of the Empress Frederick," with whom, as a matter of fact, they are in no way connected. Princess Frederick is the eldest daughter of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark, and she was married at Copenhagen last May, her husband being a grand-nephew of the Queen of Denmark, and the eldest son of Prince William of Schaumburg-Lippe, who is one of the great territorial magnates of Bohemia. One of Prince Frederick's sisters is the Queen of Würtemberg, and another of them is married to the Duchess of Albany's brother, the Prince of Waldeck-Pyrmont.

The proposed marriage between the Hereditary Prince of Coburg and one of the twin daughters of the Grand Duchess Vera of Würtemberg (each of whom will have a fortune of twelve millions of marks) appears to have fallen through, and it is rumoured that Prince Alfred will shortly be betrothed to the Princess Feodore of Saxe-Meiningen, only child of the Hereditary Prince Bernard, while her mother is the Princess Charlotte of Prussia, eldest daughter of the Emperor Frederick. Princess Feodore was born at Potsdam, May 12, 1879, so she is four years and a half younger than Prince Alfred. The early marriage of this Prince is a great object to his parents, as he is by no means in strong health, and in the event of his death the Duke of Connaught would become next heir to the throne of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and to the large settled estates in the two Duchies in Upper Austria and in the Tyrol, which pass with the succession.

The Duke of Cambridge is to return from Homburg on the 31st, and during September he will pay some visits in Yorkshire and in Scotland. The Prince of Wales is to shoot with the Duke in October at Six-Mile Bottom near Newmarket.

The attention lately drawn to the failure of Lord Cadogan in fulfilling, up to the present time, the brilliant predictions regarding his Viceregal reign in Ireland led to a ludicrous announcement last week in what may be called the inspired Irish Viceregal Court organ. It was solemnly announced that there would be a brilliant "season" at the Viceregal Lodge during August. A London season might as well be announced for September. Dublin is a complete social desert in August. Only in the last week does it fill for the Horse Show, and then only for the week. An August season would be very much out of season so far as Irish society would be concerned. Parties of visitors at the Viceregal Lodge and one or two cricket matches would hardly constitute a "season."

Lord Cadogan will probably remain in London until the Land Bill leaves the House of Lords. Lord Ashbourne left Dublin this week for London. The position he occupies now with regard to the Irish Land Bill has some awkwardness for one who in the beginning of his career was a staunch landlord champion. The position now held by Mr. Carson was once his. Most of the Irish landlords have bitterly resented the way in which the sweets of office tempered the views of one, who was wont to be as ardent a champion of their rights as if he had been one of their number. Some years ago this feeling found expression, when the Kildare-street

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 380 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 379.
For Amusements, see page 379.
For Our Puzzles, see page 389.

Club would not accept as member a near relative—to whom there was no personal objection—of Lord Ashbourne's.

I recently alluded to the "Deer's Leap" which surrounds Deer Parks. The following is stated to be its origin and nature in a paper contributed in June to *Notes and Queries*:—

In mediæval times no one could convert his own land into a park without special licence. The park owner having obtained the licence, often introduced deer into it, and for that purpose left a low place in the fence called a Deer's Leap. A park with Deer Leaps was styled a free park, the right having been gained by prescription. The term "Deer's Leap," however, came to be used in another sense. In some ancient parks the boundary was not the actual hedge and external ditch, but an imaginary line about 15 ft. from the outer edge of the park ditch. Thus the extended boundary sometimes has been claimed for the whole circuit of the park, sometimes for only parts of it.

Nine years ago the London and North-Western Railway took a small portion of Lord Gerard's Lancashire estate, and he claimed £9,187 in respect to compensation for certain items, besides £360,000 for damage to the property, as the Company's operations might interfere with the coal workings. After a deal of correspondence and negotiation, the question of compensation came two years ago before Mr. Bosanquet, Q.C., as arbitrator, and there were prolonged sittings, with much evidence on both sides. The arbitrator has just issued his award, and he gives Lord Gerard £6,245. This being a less sum than the Company originally offered, Lord Gerard will have the satisfaction of paying all the costs he has incurred during the last nine years, which are estimated at £10,000.

I have had a great deal of correspondence with reference to the comparative prices of a seaside hotel in England and at Scheveningen, on which something was said in TRUTH a fortnight ago; and with all respect to the gentleman who sent me the original figures, I think there must have been some mistake about them. It may be remembered that he stated that a sum equivalent to £5. 16s. 8d. was quoted to him as an inclusive weekly charge for two persons occupying one of the best rooms n one of the best hotels in Scheveningen. I have now before me the tariffs of the only three hotels in Scheveningen which could come under that description. Taking in each case the cheapest price quoted for a second-floor bedroom the total charge per week (at "en pension" rates) works out in the lowest case at a pound a week more than the above figures, in the next at £2 more, and in the third at £4 more. If a better class of bedroom were taken, an addition of 10s. or 20s. per week, or more, must be made to these figures.

How the mistake arose it is not for me to say; but it is evident that there has been a mistake somewhere, as I fear my correspondent will find to his cost when he gets to Scheveningen. Looking at these tariffs all round, it seems to me that there is little or nothing to choose between the Scheveningen tariffs and those at the best English hotels, which is only what I have always heard. Any reader of TRUTH, therefore, who is meditating an excursion to Scheveningen on the strength of what he read in these columns the other day, will do well to reconsider his plans. I may add that a traveller, who stayed at both Scheveningen and Ostend last August, tells me that he was charged 10s. a day for a room only at the former place, and 30s. a day for the same accommodation at the latter.

There is another point which, in fairness to English hotel-keepers, ought to be considered, and that is that "boarding" terms imply in England a great deal more than they do on the Continent—more especially in Holland. The English hotel breakfast is a substantial meal, as compared with the Continental coffee and bread and butter. The English luncheon may not equal the French déjeuner; but it is fully equivalent to the corresponding meal in Holland. As regards the dinners, there may not be much to choose in point of quantity and quality; but the English hotel certainly has the advantage over Scheveningen and most similar places in the style in which it is served. Finally, the visitor who boards at an English hotel gets a fourth daily meal in the shape of afternoon tea (the most important meal of the day, I believe, to ladies), whereas abroad this will mean extras to the amount of perhaps 10s. a week. I have been comparing with the Scheveningen tariffs those of two first-class English sea-side hostelries—the Imperial at Torquay and the Royal Bath at Bournemouth—and the figures are by no means in favour of Holland, while there is not a doubt that the visitor will get more for his money at the English hotels. Add to all this that the Dutch hotel-keeper gets all the necessaries of life 20 or 25 per cent. cheaper than his English rivals, and you cannot fairly complain of English prices. No doubt it is possible to live more cheaply in many parts of France, Switzerland, and Germany than in the majority of English and Scotch hotels. But certainly not at fashionable French, Belgian, and Dutch watering-places.

By the way, I heard the other day of a case in which three ladies found themselves charged at a seaside hotel at the rate of sixpence a day each for their bicycles, or 10s. 6d. a week for the three. Possibly some one may write to tell me that this a perfectly fair and reasonable charge. It may, therefore, save trouble if I state at once that I regard this charge as extortion, and that no amount of argument to the contrary is at all likely to change my opinion.

With reference to a letter quoted by my correspondent "Marmaduke" last week, dealing with the affairs of Boodles' Club, I am asked to state that many of the statements of the writer respecting the affairs of the proprietors are incorrect, and that the late Miss Gayner was, under her brother's will, the sole proprietor of the club, her sisters having no interest in it.

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

The confidence with which people come to me for the redress of all kinds of grievances, large and small, is very flattering to a humble journalist, but also somewhat embarrassing. Here, for instance, is a lady at Corsham inviting me, in effect, to get certain slaughterhouses removed from the village street. It must be a disgusting state of things to have streams of blood running across the pavement when slaughtering is going on; and, no doubt, the sickening sights and sounds render these establishments, in their present public position, an intolerable nuisance to all except the small boys, who become demoralised by watching the butchers at their gory work. But what can I do beyond passing on the complaint to the local authorities? If a nuisance exists it is their duty to stop it, and if they won't do their duty the parties aggrieved should take the first opportunity of electing men who will.

An anonymous correspondent writes to me very strongly on the cruelty inflicted on cattle in transit between Tangiers and Gibraltar. He states, among other things, that it is the custom to sling the animals from lighters on to the steamer suspended by their horns, two beasts being slung in this way at a time, so that their horns constantly ram each other as they are lifted. It is not my custom to give publicity to anonymous communications, but as my correspondent supplements his statement by an illustration of the process, he is presumably describing what he has seen; and such an abominably cruel practice most undoubtedly calls for notice.

BICYCLE "SHOP."

(BY ONE WHO IS SICK OF IT.)

However our modes we may mar or may mend,
Of the talking of "shop" there, alas! is no end.
The soldier, the sportsman, are equally prone
To a fault which has now uncontrollable grown;
The artist, the author, the player of golf,
Alike furnish cause to the cynic to scoff;
But of all the annoying and pestilent crop,
The worst is the talker of bicycle "shop!"

On most kinds of "shop" that are rampant to-day
There are limits imposed in a qualified way;
But for bicycle "shop" no restraint can be found,
Like a sea overwhelming it surges around.
All ranks and all stations, both sexes alike,
Can only converse, it would seem, of the "bike;"
'Tis a flux universal which nothing can stop,
This ceaseless outpouring of bicycle "shop."

Whatever you do, go wherever you may,
At the dinner and dance, in the Park, at the play,
At the club, in the train, on the tram, on the 'bus,
The world and his wife but one topic discuss.
Yes, even the weather now takes second place,
One subject makes kin of the whole of our race;
The peer and the peasant, the fool and the fop,
All pour out their quota of bicycle "shop."

Society, turning aside from its scandals,
Is great on the rival attractions of "handles."
Our idle acquaintances, formed into camps,
Are sharply at odds about mud-guards and lamps;
The smartest of dames with excitement o'er-brims
As she prattles of "hubs," and enlarges on "rims;"
The meekest of damsels most naïvely lets drop,
Her mild contribution to bicycle "shop."

Old cronies now join in a rivalry keen
As to which of them boasts of the lightest machine;
Where Fashion its many attractions parades,
The prevalent babble's of "makers" and "grades."
The "masher" the maiden now subtly allures
By hints upon mounting, and "tips" about tours;
'Tis a crutch for the shy, for the bashful a prop,
This terrible talking of bicycle "shop."

To admit that one rides is enough to let loose
A ne'er-ending chorus of queries profuse;
Our opinion of spokes we are asked to assert,
And of what's the best cut for a bicycling skirt.
We are not let alone till diffusely we've dealt
With the hazards of "rat-traps," the merits of "felt;"
Even strangers may down on one heavily drop
With their merciless onslaught of bicycle "shop."

For the state of one's health not a friend now inquires,
The question of questions is "How are your tires?"
The fairest of lasses, in luxury reared,
Impressively queries, "How high are you geared?"
Folks, just introduced, not intending to meddle,
Yet earnestly ask us, "Oh, *can* you back-pedal?"
Nay, the man in the street, if in passing we stop,
Falls at once to the talking of bicycle "shop."

If a pause from the valse couples manage to snatch,
They converse on the latest and best "puncture patch;"
On the easiest saddle, the right sort of shoes,
And which is the gear-case 'tis safest to use.
And we hear, not without an incredulous smile,
Of wonderful "records" in riding a mile.
But, whatever the item may be that's atop,
It is *always* connected with bicycle "shop."

Then surely it need not be looked on as strange,
If already we own we are keen for a change;
If we frankly confess that our patience rebels
'Gainst this chatter on toe-clips and pouches and bells;
That a too strong demand on our temper it makes,
This endless discussion on pumps and on brakes;
That, in short, an extinguisher gladly we'd pop
On all who annoy us with bicycle "shop."

We most of us "wheel," and we do not gainsay
The fact that the cycle has come and will stay;
But this but supplies us with one reason more
For denouncing the nuisance we daily deplore.
Let us ride on the cycle as much as we will;
Let us add to our speed, and develop our skill;
But, by all that is sensible, *do* let us drop
This purposeless talking of bicycle "shop!"

I find that I have to apologise to the poet of the Massachusetts H.A.C., who recently stated in verse that "The thunder of our cannon reverbes along our shore." It has been pointed out to me that the verb to reverbe was used by no less a personage than Shakespeare, and is to be found in "King Lear," Act i., scene i. When I learnt this, I concluded that "reverbe" was one of the good old Elizabethan words which were exported by the Pilgrim Fathers, and been brought back to our shores by their descendants. Webster's Dictionary, however, disposes of this notion. Webster is, I suppose, an authority on American usage, and he pronounces "reverbe" to be "obsolete and rare." However, I cheerfully admit that a nineteenth-century poet has a licence to use words which are obsolete and rare, and

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really "reverbe" is a more terse and forcible expression than reverberate. I am sorry that, while he was about it, Shakespeare did not give us authority to "repude" and "objurge."

During last year 60,296 "items" were acquired by the Bodleian Library, of which upwards of 40,000 books and pamphlets came in under the Copyright Act. Some exceptionally valuable MSS. were purchased, and the payments in connection with the Library amounted to about £8,500.

The executive and members of the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund are, as I expected they would be, extremely angry that any one should dare to interfere with their comfortable nest egg. Sheltering themselves behind their very convenient little Act of Parliament passed when George III. was king, they proceed to fling stones at their necessitous neighbours. Living themselves on public charity, they indignantly want to know why they should be "robbed" for the benefit of the improvident actors and actresses, who have no right to leave the necessitous children behind them. That is good, is it not? Here is a fund founded to relieve the widows and children of actors trained at one patent theatre—Covent Garden—and when it is known and ascertained that Covent Garden has for years past been closed against actors and actresses, and that the capital, according to Act of Parliament, must fall to the last surviving member of the fund, these dogs in the manger bark out that they are being robbed in order to help the improvident actor.

But the facts of the matter are perfectly clear. The Covent Garden Fund is no doubt a fund established for the relief of indigent persons belonging to the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, in Tragedy, Comedy, Opera, Drama, Farce, Spectacle, Extravaganza, Burlesque, or other stage play in the English language, who, after a certain number of seasons, shall be deemed to be a performer and shall be qualified to be elected a member of the Society. "No person, not a member of the Society, shall be qualified to participate in any of the benefit therein." Well and good. So says the convenient Act of Parliament, and the members of the Fund have a right to stick to their own as long as they can. But when it is proved that the Fund is a close borough, and that the capital will eventually fall to one lucky individual who outlives his companions, there is no harm in asking for an adjusting Act of Parliament to secure the capital for the widows and children of the whole dramatic profession. I never before heard it was a crime on the part of an actor who dies young to leave behind him penniless children.

So far as my experience guides me, I should say the average actor or actress is the most charitable person in existence. Out of whose pocket came the £2,000 recently collected for the Actors' Orphanage? Why, the bulk of it came, not from the public at all, but from the pockets of actors and actresses. It is said that there are no actors' orphans to be relieved, when, at the moment there are hundreds of applications for a portion of the money already collected, and they cannot all be provided for. It may be robbing Peter to pay Paul when it is asked to make the Covent Garden Fund general, and not particular. But in this case Peter is rich, and Paul is poor. Peter does not want the money, and Paul does. *Voilà tout!*

Curiously enough, after discussing this question recently, I took up the "Greville Memoirs," and came across this interesting passage making a direct allusion to the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund:—

> After the Old Bailey (where I went to hear the trial of the Hibner women for the murder of a parish apprentice, Francis Colepitts, by savage ill treatment), I went and dined *at the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund Dinner!!!* The Duke of Clarence could not come, so they put Lord Blessington into the chair, who made an ass of himself. Among other toasts he was to give, "The Memory of the Duke of York," *who was founder of the institution.* He prefaced this with a speech, but gave "The *health*, &c.," on which Fawcett, who sat opposite, called out in agony, "The *memory*, my lord!" He corrected himself, but in a minute after said again, "The Health." "The memory, my lord!" again roared Fawcett. It was supremely ridiculous. Francis Leveson sat on the right, Codrington on the left, and Lawless, the agitator, just opposite. He is a pale, thin, common looking little man, and has not at all the air of a patriot orator and agitator. . . .

This bears date April 13, 1829, still in George III.'s time.

I continue to receive a good deal of correspondence on the subject of lay versus clerical headmasters. One of the most interesting communications that have come to hand is from a headmaster who has had personal experience, as a pupil or master, of four different public schools. With this experience to guide him, this gentleman boldly asserts that the "real work of our public schools" is done, not by the house-masters and form-masters, as a correspondent recently contended in these columns, but by the sixth form. He goes on to say, however, that the sixth form is made by the headmaster, and by nobody else. The following passage from his letter will enlighten many who do not at present fully appreciate the niceties of our public-school system:—

> The sixth form take their tone simply and solely from the headmaster. If he is a strong man, as the present Archdeacon of Manchester was when he was Headmaster of Clifton, the school will run strongly and vigorously. The sixth at Clifton may have been a set of prigs; doubtless we were. I am afraid we regarded the assistant-masters with a tolerant condescension. But we ran that school, and we stood no nonsense. I can swear that during the two years I was in the School House there I never heard a single word of moral filth; and that is due, as I tell you, to the spirit so energetically diffused by Wilson.
>
> It is only too true that the average public-school headmaster is a fool, but it is not being a parson that makes him one. It is generally due to his having been selected for the billet solely for possessing a brilliant degree, whereas this very fact is almost certain to remove him miles and miles from anything like sympathy with, or the understanding of boys. . . .

This estimate of the average public-school headmaster is one which I have long held, and I am glad to have it confirmed by a public-school headmaster. I

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remain of opinion, however, that the number of these fools might be considerably reduced, if competition for their billets were perfectly open among all members of the schoolmastering profession. The restriction of headmasterships to clergymen not only narrows down the choice in those cases in which a cleric is insisted upon by the Governing Body, but also for posts which are not thus limited. Clerical headmasters naturally believe that a cleric alone ought to be a headmaster; and they manifest this belief by either refusing to give testimonials to their own lay assistants when competing for headmasterships, or by giving very much more favourable ones to clerical assistants. I hear statements to this effect from all sides; and one master in a public school goes so far as to say that there is not a lay assistant-master in any school governed by a clerical head who has the remotest chance of ever obtaining a headmastership anywhere, for the simple reason that his chief will take good care not to give him a satisfactory testimonial. It is not to be wondered at, that while the majority of the profession, including many of its ablest members, are thus either handicapped or excluded from competition, the average headmaster of a public school should be a fool.

A tutor who recently took up a youngster to Eton and stayed with him three days at one of the leading local hotels, sends me the hotel bill, with some severe remarks on that document. I should be disposed to say myself that a charge of £4. 17s. for exactly three days' accommodation is decidedly stiff, especially seeing that the visitors did not sleep in the hotel, but were "boarded out" in a room in a private house. What, however, I would point out in connection with this bill, is that it is a perfectly easy thing to obtain private lodgings in Eton without employing an hotel-keeper as a middleman; and at those times when Eton hotels are packed to overflowing, I fancy that visitors to the town will find such accommodation at least as comfortable and very much cheaper.

The sort of pleasantry which amuses the members of the Tottenham School Board in their intervals of piling up the rates received vivid exemplification at the final meeting before the recess, when various epithets, of a pronounced uncomplimentary character, were freely bandied about between two of them. "Cur," "cad," and "Hull bully" were some of the expressions which found favour with these popular educators, to whom I would in all humility suggest that the recess could not be more profitably employed than in taking one or two very much-needed lessons in manners.

A monstrous example of clerical intolerance and tyranny—if not, indeed, of something worse—is afforded by the case of Miss Pottle, head mistress of St. Matthew's Church Schools, Ponder's End, Middlesex. It is a case, too, which may be usefully borne in mind when the Government make their next attempt to strengthen the parson's control over the so-called Voluntary schools, which are almost entirely carried on at the expense of the State. Miss Pottle recently applied for a post under the Enfield School Board, whereupon the Rev. Martin Sharpe, Vicar of St. Matthew's, called upon her to tender her resignation. "It is simply a matter of religion," he told her. "I cannot dream of your staying here. After applying for a Board School, you cannot be fit to teach religion in a Church school." Miss Pottle, who had been at St. Matthew's for twelve years, and earned the highest testimonials for her work, refused to resign on any such preposterous ground. The Rev. Prebendary Hodson then waited upon her, and intimated that if she did not tender her resignation, the Vicar would bring a charge of falsifying the school registers against her. She still refused, and after she had been given notice of dismissal, the Government Inspector was called in to investigate the charge as to the registers. He reports that the registers have certainly been altered, but he proceeds:—"*I consider these alterations have been made recently to justify a statement against the mistress*," and he goes on to give his reasons for coming to this conclusion. By whom, then, were the registers altered, if not by Miss Pottle? This is a matter which ought to be cleared up, and I am glad to learn that the National Union of Teachers is determined that it shall be thoroughly sifted. Meanwhile, as showing the attitude and disposition of the school managers towards Miss Pottle, it may be mentioned that, notwithstanding her acquittal by the Inspector, the charge against her has not been withdrawn, and the notice of dismissal still remains in force.

Much indignation has been excited among the unbeneficed clergy by the singularly unbecoming form in which the Bishops of Gloucester and Bristol and Oxford thought fit to discuss the grievances of curates during the recent session of Convocation. These prelates were so lucky as never to be curates, but that piece of good fortune is very far from being an excuse for their offensive arrogance of demeanour. Bishop Ellicott doubted the "supposed grievances" of curates, being himself "not a man of any grievances at all." Considering that this "Father in God" is in his seventy-eighth year, he was curiously unfortunate in his cool reference to those "elderly persons" who, after a certain age, find considerable difficulty in getting employment. Bishop Stubbs had the effrontery to assert that "the assistant curates show much want of acquaintance with their rights and position. It would be valuable that they should be informed of what they really are." It is

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

revolting to find such an utter want of sympathy displayed by exorbitantly paid dignitaries towards the hard-working and miserably remunerated curate.

Sir Thomas Acland has presented the Rev. C. P. Whitaker, Rector of Highbury and formerly Diocesan Inspector of Schools, to the important living of Broad Clyst, near Exeter, which has become vacant by the resignation of his brother, the Rev. Sub-Dean Acland, who has been vicar since 1845. The living is worth about £550 a year, with residence. The rectory of Highbury (about £350 a year, with residence) has been given by Sir Thomas Acland to the Rev. G. L. Dickinson, who has been curate of Broad Clyst for the last five years.

The late Archdeacon Cooper, who was one of the most popular and most highly esteemed ecclesiastics in the North of England, took high honours at Cambridge, and he was for more than twenty years one of the most active and prominent of the University "dons." He was an intimate and trusted friend of Dr. Whewell, his chief at Trinity College. Archdeacon Cooper left Cambridge when he accepted the college living of Kendal, which he held for thirty-seven years, and he was much beloved and respected by his parishioners of all classes. The Archdeacon was a learned, hospitable, and courteous clergyman of an old-fashioned type, and very charitable.

The following document, sent to me from Switzerland, seems open to a good deal of criticism. In the first place, it looks as if the S.P.G. were allowing themselves to be used as an advertising medium by the proprietor of the hotel in question. In the next place, there are complaints that the church in question has been built on a site where it is of very little use to English visitors to the district, and that a much more suitable site had been placed at the disposal of the S.P.G. Finally, exception may well be taken to the erection of a costly permanent church in a place where worship is only carried on for four months in the year, unless, at any rate, the money for the purpose had been obtained beforehand. To incur a debt for such a church, with the result that appeals of this kind have to be issued to liquidate it, does not seem the right way to go to work. In many cases, foreign hotel keepers provide a room gratis for a Church of England service, and I believe that almost invariably they feed and lodge the Pastor who is sent to perform the service gratis. This they do, on strictly commercial grounds, because many English people only remain over Sundays at places where they can attend the services of their Church. If the proprietor of the Hôtel Axenstein advanced £640 to build a church in connection with his hotel, this is because he hoped to make interest and profit on the investment. There is no more reason why he should be recouped by individual subscriptions than that his guests should subscribe to pay for the building of the hotel:—

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

THE ENGLISH CHURCH AT AXENSTEIN.

The proprietor of the Hotel Axenstein gave to the S.P.G. the site of the English church, All Saints', Axenstein.

He also—in addition to a liberal contribution in money towards the cost of the erection of the church—advanced sixteen thousand francs (bearing interest) for the remainder of the cost of the church.

For the liquidation of this debt (*i.e.*, £640) an appeal is made to the English visitors. It is only by their gifts that the debt and the interest can be paid, and it is hoped that the response to this appeal may be such that the burden on the chaplaincy for the interest and principal may soon cease.

Subscriptions and donations for the liquidation of the debt &c., &c.

With reference to the appeal to charity by the Vicar of Llanganten, Breconshire, Mr. John Lloyd sends me the following. If his view of the facts is correct, it strengthens my suggestion that the ecclesiastical authorities are the parties most to blame for the Vicar's appeal. It would be interesting to know whether this was what the Bishop had in his mind when he referred to the "intolerable scandal" of such an appeal. It would also be interesting to know what sort of a congregation this vicar has, and what reason there is for him to be occupying his present post at all:—

When I see "vicar" appended to a clergyman's name I always try to find out where the "great tithes" go to. These were in this parish commuted at £148 a year, and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are entitled to take the whole of them "for the suspended prebend of Llandarog, Llanganten, and Llangynog." Taking one-fourth off for the present low average, that would leave about £110 net, which, added to £49 a year derived from the rent of 60 acres of glebe, ought to make the vicar's income over £150 a year at the present time. Probably the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' keep "the suspended prebend" alive with some part of the £148, and rob the parish for the purpose. If so, the vicar's strongly-worded appeal should be first directed to the Church authorities in Whitehall-place, to whom the parish pay a large tribute. I observe that the present vicar has managed to live somehow at Llanganten since 1877.

When penning the remarks in last week's TRUTH upon *Church Bells* and the case of the Kilburn Sisters, I had not seen the article upon the subject in the current number of that paper, in which reference was made to the TRUTH inquiry and report. I have since had an opportunity of reading that article, and there are one or two observations which I should certainly like to make upon it. The exigencies of Bank Holiday week, however, prevent my going into this question at any length at the present moment, and I must, therefore, postpone what I have to say until a future occasion.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor Children:—J. C. C., £1; C. D. O., £5; Little Fay, £2; Two Irish Children, 10s.; F. A. ., £1.

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THE HERNIA INSTITUTE, 489, Oxford-st., London, W., absolutely CURES RUPTURE in from three to six weeks. Highest testimonials. Pamphlets and consultations free.

The Army Manœuvres come round year after year without the slightest attempt being made to reduce the expense thereby entailed upon officers; and every year brings its fresh crop of outcries against this grievance. In part, I believe, this expense might be materially reduced by a more economical scale of living among officers in manœuvre camps; but in a great measure it is due to causes beyond regimental control, and for which the War Office must be held responsible. There can be no question, for instance, that officers ought to be supplied with wooden floors to their tents, but an officer writing to me on the subject complains that these things have to be privately obtained through a contractor. The Government contribution towards mess tents, furniture, and cooking arrangements is also so inadequate as to involve a further heavy expenditure before officers can get the most indispensable conveniences. My correspondent states that during the manœuvres the most ordinary fare cannot be obtained under a charge of 7s. 6d. a day per head, and that when the manœuvres are at any distance from a town, the charge often rises to £1 a head. "It is an acknowledged fact throughout the Army," writes this gentleman, "that a spell of two months at manœuvres costs an officer at least £50 in extra expenses." This state of things is not only unjust in itself, but it all helps towards the undesirable result of excluding all but rich men from commissions in the Army. The officer I have just quoted remarks that the expectations that were formed when purchase was abolished, as to the future in store for men of limited means, have been entirely falsified; and as to the truth of this I suppose there can be no doubt.

On the question of tent-flooring, I hear that in consequence of Militia battalions being sent for summer training to Aldershot this year, the tent-floors were taken from the Regulars for the benefit of the Militiamen. In addition to this, the soldier, when manœuvring, is forbidden to cut a trench round his tent for drainage purposes, and the consequences would have been disastrous in any but a very dry season, such as we have luckily had. Are we really to understand that if one or two extra battalions are sent into camp at Aldershot, there are no tent floors in store for their accommodation?

The arrangement by which Colonel Johnston takes command of the 101st Regimental District in succession to Colonel Barnard, while Colonel Kempster, D.S.O., succeeds to the command of the 1st Munster Fusiliers, is a characteristic piece of War Office jobbery, apparently prompted solely for the benefit of the second of these officers. Colonel Kempster, though a gallant and distinguished officer, has put in an irreducible minimum of service with his regiment, and had the very smallest claim to the command of it. He has served in the Royal Canadians, from which he exchanged, after he had obtained the rank of Captain, into the Munsters. He was with Sir Charles Warren in Bechuanaland; and for nearly ten years past has been serving in the Egyptian Army. While second in command of his own regiment, he was sent to Ashanti on extra-regimental employment, and by rights should then have been removed from the regiment. The majors of the Munsters are all very junior men, and there was no reason to create a vacancy while so many men senior to Colonel Kempster, but less favoured by interest and fortune, are being forced to leave the Service on account of age.

Writing from Colchester about a case in which the junior sergeant of a regiment was promoted over the heads of all those above him, some of them having held the rank for six or seven years, a military correspondent asks whether I will inform him if this is a common occurrence in the Service. Oh, yes! quite common. In this instance it is suggested that the ground for promotion was the athletic prowess of the lucky N.C.O. That, too, is by no means uncommon.

From the last return of crime in the Army it would seem that the percentage of courts-martial in Cavalry regiments ranges between 1·1 per cent. and 12·7, the average being 4·7. The 4th Hussars' percentage is 10·2, or more than double the average. In an article in one of the Service journals the other day occurred the remark: "Generally speaking, the men prove good soldiers if the officers are gentlemen." Very true, very true!

I had a communication the other day from a man who had served in the Chitral Relief Force, had been discharged time-expired, had returned home, and had been in England three months without having received the batta to which all who served in that force are entitled. Is not this a monumental instance of official dilatoriness? The total amount due to this man is about Rs. 24, and for this paltry sum he is still making unavailing applications, some twelve months after the services in respect of which it was awarded were at an end.

Among the correspondence which, owing to the Bank Holiday, I am compelled to defer dealing with this week, are many communications from Army men on the subject of the Commander-in-Chief's remarkable observations on Short Service, in his evidence before the Royal Commission on the Military and Civil Expenditure of India. It is not surprising that these observations have caused much unfavourable comment, and I can assure my various correspondents that what they have to say on the subject will not be lost sight of.

Recently a battalion at Lucknow were lectured on parade on the gross impropriety of failing to salute officers in garrison towns when out walking, and they were told that they ought to have no difficulty in recognising officers. I should greatly like to know from the author of this proposition what are the outward visible signs by which officers in plain clothes are to be distinguished from civilians. One unfortunate Tommy, who writes to me on the subject, tells me that in India the only course for a soldier who is anxious not to omit to

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

salute an officer in the street, is to salute every one he meets. "I defy any one," he says, "to tell an officer from a civilian out here. The civilians put on such a swagger, and imitate the military so, that some of them look more like officers than the officers themselves." Perhaps this is what makes the officers so sensitive on the subject of being saluted.

A very bold innovation has been introduced by Colonel Dooner, commanding the 87th Regimental District, in connection with enlistment into the Militia under his command. Taking advantage of the fact that a man can purchase his discharge from the Militia at the price of £1 at the end of his first seven weeks' service, Colonel Dooner has introduced a system, the effect of which is that these seven weeks are virtually probationary, and at the end of them a man has it in his power to go or remain in the Service, according to the impression he has formed during two months' practical experience of military life. The Colonel invites all his recruits to leave their pay undrawn to the amount of at least 3s. 6d. per week, so that at the end of six weeks they have in their possession the £1 requisite to obtain their discharge, and can leave the Service simply by forfeiting what is due to them; while, on the other hand, a man who elects to stay in the Service draws at the end of his time in pay and bounty something like £1. 15s., and goes home proportionately impressed with the advantages of the military calling. I hear that this system is working uncommonly well, and has increased the number of recruits, as well as the number and spirit of those who ultimately elect to join. It is only natural that these results should follow. Many more men would enlist, were it not that they feel uncertain as to how they will like military life when they come to try it. On the other hand, many enlist thoughtlessly, and regret doing so after a few weeks' service; and it is far better that such men should go at once than remain in a Service which they have no liking for, and to which they are not likely to do credit.

It is a standing mystery in Army circles what becomes of rations, &c., drawn, but not consumed, when a regiment is moving, or a Militia battalion is going home after its training. For instance, on the last day of the training of a certain Welsh battalion, the men were all out of camp before 9 a.m. All they got before they left was a sandwich apiece. They were charged with the usual amount of groceries for that day, and I understand that the full meat rations were also drawn. Circumstances like these are continually being brought under my notice; and in the interests of all parties, I should like to know what becomes of the money, or the money's worth, charged on such occasions.

An artilleryman, complaining the other day of the trumpery little minutiæ which are insisted upon at kit inspection, told me, among other things, that the men had to show with their kit "pipe-clayed pull-throughs." Is it a customary thing to pipe-clay a "pull-through"? I never had occasion to clean a carbine myself, so that I speak with all deference to expert opinion, but I should have thought that a "pull-through" would be much better fitted for its purpose without pipe-clay on it than with. If that is so, there can be no object in requiring the article to be pipe-clayed, unless it be to make work for the men.

In connection with the Compensation Allowance grievance in India, the *Times of India* recently published a very strong article, calling attention to the case of the servants of the Indian railways. It appears from this that the Directors of some of the guaranteed railways decided, very properly, to make their servants an allowance analogous to the Government Exchange Compensation Allowance. When, however, this matter came before the Government Examiners of Accounts, these functionaries insisted upon setting up the same pettifogging conditions which the Government has adopted in dealing with its own servants. The result is, among other things, that all the absurdities and injustice incurred by the distinction between domiciled and non-domiciled Anglo-Indians have been introduced into the railway service. Surely the Government might have satisfied itself with creating these distinctions among its own servants without interposing between the railway Directors and their employees.

The tissue of absurdities and inconsistencies in which the Indian Government has involved itself by introducing the question of domicile into the Exchange Compensation Regulations is admirably illustrated by the following case. Three brothers, sons of an officer who was formerly in the service of the East India Company, and subsequently of the Crown, are now employed one under the Government of Bombay, another in Burma, and the third in a post directly under the Indian Government. The two first-named have both been allowed exchange compensation by their respective Governments; but the third brother, whose position places him immediately at the mercy of the Financial Department of the Government, has been denied this allowance. There seems to be no doubt that in point of law the third brother, like the other two, has an English domicile. He has not a relative in India except the two brothers above-mentioned, who are officially admitted to be domiciled Englishmen; he intends to return to England on his retirement, and he has just the same occasion to remit money to this country as any other servant of the Government similarly circumstanced. The refusal of the exchange compensation allowance in this case, and in a dozen more like it, is one of the most gross abuses of justice ever perpetrated by a Government upon its servants.

Reference was made in TRUTH a few months back to the fact that the Colonial Secretary had relaxed the Regulations of 1870 respecting the importation of Indian coolies into Trinidad, so as to allow of the importation of 1,500 coolies during the present season, instead of the 151 which would have been the limit had the

ordinance been observed. By a recent Port of Spain paper, however, I see that this indulgence has been still further extended, and that a total of 3,000 coolies are now to be imported. This further extension of the limit has, I understand, been granted on a request which was drawn up at a secret meeting of the interested planters, and forwarded to the Colonial Office through the Governor, without the official knowledge of the Legislative Council. It is difficult to understand why, in any case, Mr. Chamberlain should have authorised this enormous increase of the coolie traffic. But his action would be still more difficult to understand, if he knew the circumstances under which the request to him was drawn up. Did he know them?

What a difference there is between paying money to the Inland Revenue Department and getting it out of them! On April 13 a gentleman who had a claim for a refund of something like £18 income tax in respect of life insurance premiums, received the following letter from Somerset House:—

> The Secretary of the Inland Revenue begs to enclose the returned premium receipts, and to state that a money-order for the amount of income tax repayable will be issued and sent as soon as possible.

Note the words "as soon as possible." Up to a week ago the promised money-order had not been sent. The shortest possible time, therefore, that it takes to obtain and send a money-order from Somerset House to an address in the West End is something like ten weeks, and an unknown period beyond. Sucking blood out of a stone is nothing to the process of extracting over-paid income tax from Somerset House.

The lot of an Assistant-County Surveyor in Ireland does not appear to be a happy one. His maximum salary as at present fixed by law is £80 a year, out of which he has to keep a horse and vehicle, and provide all his own travelling expenses, while inspecting from 300 to 500 miles of contract roads each year, superintending new works, and attending at Sessions and Assizes. There is no provision for his superannuation, and promotion through seniority or otherwise is barred for him. Under these circumstances I am not surprised that he wishes me to call attention to his evil plight. Unfortunately nothing but an Act of Parliament will supply a remedy, and this he has sought persistently year by year since 1875 without success. Some one has always blocked the Bill which would relieve him. This represents the present position of affairs, and I would suggest that for once even the exigencies of party politics should not be allowed to perpetuate so long-standing an injustice.

British prudishness is a byword on the Continent, but our German friends do not seem free from blame in this particular. A well-known harp-maker in South Kensington decorates his stationery with a picture of a little Egyptian figure, bearing a harp as constructed in the year 000 B.C. He sends to his German correspondents, for the purpose of facilitating their replies, an addressed envelope bearing this device; but he finds that when the envelope is posted in Germany, the German Post Office return it to the sender, on the ground that it is immoral. The Duke of Norfolk will kindly note this fact. A little of this solicitude for public morals might well be cultivated by our own Post Office.

In this connection I may mention that several ships in the Channel Squadron have just been inundated with copies of a certain obscene quack pamphlet—a most offensive publication, which has been freely circulated by post for years and years past. People, particularly those connected with the Universities and public schools, are incessantly complaining to me about this publication, and hundreds of people must be annoyed and insulted every day by the receipt of the thing. Here is a case in which a Post Office which refused to carry the matter on the ground that it is "immoral" would earn the approval of all.

A tradesman at Newton Abbot sends me a leaflet issued by some degraded creature carrying on business at Plymouth under the name of "Phillips," and styling himself an "Australian herbalist." It appears that this thing has been scattered broadcast by hand in shops where young men and women are employed; and my correspondent expresses a regret that nothing can be done to stop such proceedings. I am glad to inform him that he is mistaken. So far as I can see, the distribution of these circulars comes within the terms of the Indecent Advertisements Act, and anybody who chooses to take the matter up can have this "Phillips" properly punished.

Apropos of what I said last week about a certain class of newspaper advertisements, a gentleman calls my attention to some filthy literature of this kind published in papers avowedly intended for boys. I suggest to him that he should call the attention of the Home Secretary, or some other member of the Government, to these filthy and pernicious productions. It is now a criminal offence to post advertisements of this character in the streets, or to distribute them by hand; yet they may be published with impunity in any newspaper, even a paper intended for the reading of mere children. A more idiotic state of the law could not be imagined, and it is the duty of the Government to see that it is amended.

St. Martin's-le-Grand certainly seems to be in hot water all round just now. On the top of the growing outcry of the English press, the *New York Herald* of July 21 published an article upon the shortcomings of the American mail service. It appears that from Saturday, June 11, to Saturday, June 18, no English mails were delivered in the United States. Two steamers from English ports arrived during that time, but no letters were carried "except the few specially addressed, which the Post Office authorities are good enough to allow to be put on board the German ships at Southampton"

(I am quoting the *New York Herald*). It is also mentioned that, while the whole of the letters sent by the American liner *St. Paul*, which left Southampton on Saturday, June 11, were delivered in New York on the following Saturday, those which left Liverpool by the *Umbria* were not delivered until two days later, *i.e.*, the Monday week following the date of sailing. After summarising all the shortcomings of the mail service, the *New York Herald* asks, "Could there be a greater scandal"? If it knew our Post Office better it would admit that there can. The mail service is bad enough, no doubt, but there are many Post Office scandals to beat that.

In respect to what was said in TRUTH the other day about the Portsmouth mail-drivers, I understand that the London drivers get on an average 25s. a week and additional pay for Sunday work and overtime. Their hours average twelve a day, and they have no stable work whatever to do. On the other hand, for their 18s. a week the Portsmouth men are working fourteen and fifteen hours a day, without extra pay for Sundays, and without any proper time for meals, owing to their having to perform all necessary stable work as well as driving. The London men also seem to have substantial advantages as regards uniforms. As I have stated before, the whole system of sub-contracting is bad, and ought to be abolished. But as long as it is maintained, it is at least the duty of the Postmaster-General to see that the men employed by contractors are properly paid, and on one uniform scale. I do not know what the terms of the present contract at Portsmouth may be, but, when the time arrives for renewing it, it will be the duty of the Post Office to prevent a repetition of anything like the treatment of these mail-drivers during the last few months.

The *Telegraph Chronicle* reports that at Belfast one man has lately been in charge of the instrument room on Saturday nights in place of two, as heretofore. In case of exigency, he is to be assisted by the delivery telegraphist, and a messenger is to be placed in charge of the public counter, including the cash and all telegrams. It is to this cheeseparing, penny-wise sort of policy that the shortcomings of the service are more than anything else due. It will be specially interesting to the Belfast public to know that anyprivate telegrams they may despatch on Saturday night may be studied by the messenger boy who happens to be in charge of the office.

The following circular, addressed by the Local Government Board to the Clerks of the Local Authorities in the East End, indicates a pretty state of things. Here is the Government Department which ought to be taking steps to deliver East London from these perpetually recurring water famines going out of its way to help the Water Company through its difficulties, by putting pressure upon Local Authorities to reduce their consumption for necessary public purposes:—

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.,
July 21, 1896.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that, as the Authority are no doubt aware, the East London Water Company, in consequence of the long-continued drought, have found it necessary to discontinue the water supply between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. The Board have informed the Company that they consider that they should as far as possible discontinue the supply of water for street watering so long as the present drought continues, and the Board trust that the Local Authority will concur in the adoption of this course.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S. B. PROVIS, Assistant Secretary.

Here is another little notice, issued by the Company itself, which ought to help to bring home to West-Enders the state of things that has lately prevailed in the East End:—

Notice is hereby given that, owing to the excessive use of water for garden and similar purposes (not included in "domestic supply"), the Directors have found it necessary to strictly prohibit garden hose, sprinklers, and similar apparatus being so employed in the district of this Company. Arrangements can, however, be made by agreement for service through a meter, where not already existing.

So that, in the whole district supplied by the East London Water Company, no householder may fix any apparatus for watering his garden, unless he is prepared to pay the cost of having a meter erected. What would be said if this were attempted, say, at Hampstead or Putney, or in any other wealthy suburban district where gardens are kept on a large scale? There is no other great city in the world where such an occurrence as the failure of the water supply in the East End would have been allowed to occur for two years in succession; and the only reason why it occurs in London is because Londoners have not the sense and spirit to insist on these great municipal services being taken out of the hands of private corporations and placed under public control. I suppose we shall see a change some day, but it will not occur until London is wiser than to return to Parliament seven Tory members for every Radical.

Even, however, where water is under municipal control, it is necessary that the controlling authority should possess the normal human allowance of brains. This is shown by what has just happened at Enniscorthy. A water famine prevailing there is partly accounted for by the unexampled drought, and partly by the extraordinary action of the Town Commissioners who control the water supply. Enniscorthy, it seems, has two reservoirs from which the inhabitants are supplied with water. In both of them the water had recently fallen to a very low point. Accordingly, the brilliant idea occurred to the Commissioners that the occasion was an opportune one to clean out one of the reservoirs; so, after warning the inhabitants by means of the town-crier, these gentlemen proceeded to cut off the supply and to drain away such water as remained in it. Now the inhabitants are praying, not so much for rain, as for a judgment upon the heads of the men who could perpetrate so ridiculous and extravagant a blunder.

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BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Guaranteed to be free from alum.
BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. It has the largest sale in the world.

CYCLING SUITS are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use

Public bodies must not be so fatuously hasty in initiating legal proceedings, the expenses of which the ratepayers have to defray. At Exmouth Petty Sessions the Budleigh-Salterton Urban Council prosecuted a highly respectable tradesman in that village for an alleged waste of service water. The defendant was fined half-a-crown, but as the magistrates considered that such a trifling case need not have been brought before them they remitted the costs, the result being that the Budleigh-Salterton ratepayers will have to pay £1. 12s. 6d., and they will probably consider that the local authorities would have acted more wisely if they had contented themselves with cautioning the offender in the first instance, instead of rushing headlong into legal proceedings, which have proved profitable only to the attorney employed, who happened to be their own clerk!

In Truth of April 23 reference was made to an inquest on a pauper, who had died at West Ham Workhouse from septic peritonitis and with various bodily injuries, including a fractured jaw, after a struggle with four attendants on returning to the House after a day's leave. The jury returned an incomprehensible verdict, accepting the denials of the officials concerned, in the face of the medical evidence as to the deceased man's injuries and direct evidence given by a pauper inmate as to the violence which had been used by the attendants. In regard to this case, I now hear that another pauper inmate, who was in a position to give important evidence, was officially warned of the consequences of doing so, and it would seem that the mere attempt of this inmate to offer himself as a witness has been followed by unpleasant consequences to him. It is impossible for a private individual, even the Editor of a newspaper, to sift out allegations of this kind as to occurrences which have taken place within the four walls of a workhouse. But I would strongly suggest to the Local Government Board that it is their duty to do so. Has any official inquiry been held since the inquest above mentioned? If not, why not?

What I feel I am justified in describing as the great toffee question has produced a passing breeze at a meeting of the Fylde Board of Guardians. It arose out of a desire of a lady guardian to treat the inmates of the workhouse to seed-loaves and cakes on the occasion of her birthday. A number of the male guardians looked askance at this proposal to provide paupers with cakes, even without ale. One of them feared that the attraction to outsiders to come into the house would, as a consequence, prove irresistible. Then, in course of the debate on the matter, it appeared that some of the lady guardians were in the habit of solacing aged paupers with toffee. The Board straightway resolved that whatever was brought into the workhouse was to be submitted to the master, whereupon the lady guardians retired, declaring that they would "put toffee into the old people's mouths, whatever the Board might say." Toffee for aged paupers is evidently in Bumble's eyes an unheard-of atrocity.

Some valuable new light is thrown upon the petty sessions crime of "sleeping out," by a letter on the subject that I have received from a barrister. This gentleman points out, that under the Act which creates the offence, magistrates have no jurisdiction to inflict a penalty for the bare offence of sleeping out. In order to give them jurisdiction, it must be shown that the culprit, in addition to sleeping out, is guilty of "not having any visible means of subsistence," and "not giving a good account of himself." I take it that any man who is not actuated by criminal intention can "give a good account of himself" within the meaning of the Act, and if in addition to that he has enough coppers in his pocket to buy himself a meal, he is clearly not "without visible means of subsistence."

On this view of the law, you could not have a better example of the truism that in this country there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. So long as a man has money in his pocket he may sleep in the open air during the hot weather to his heart's content; but if his pocket is empty this luxury is denied to him. What nonsense, then, are the arguments with which I have often been favoured about the danger to property from men striking matches while sleeping in sheds or under hay-stacks! It is not a question of a man's having matches in his pockets, but money. If I have sixpence in my pocket I may sleep in any shed or under any rick in the kingdom, enjoy my pipe before "turning in," and strike, if I please, a whole box of matches for that purpose.

There is another interesting point in connection with "sleeping out." Between what hours in the twenty-four does it become a criminal offence to take a snooze in the open air? I am induced to ask this question by a gentleman who suggests that, while no one can have any reasonable ground for objecting to his fellow creatures sleeping about the highways and by-ways at night, there are very substantial objections to their doing so during the day time. My correspondent points specially to the condition of St. James's Park at mid-day, which, he justly observes, resembles a battle-field after a terrible carnage rather than a place of public recreation. I am a Democrat. I like to see the public using the parks for their own convenience and pleasure, so long as they do not interfere with the convenience and pleasure of others. I also quite approve of the custom of taking a siesta in the open air. But it does seem to me a monstrous inconsistency that the London parks, and other open spaces in towns, should be literally black with sleeping forms during the greater part of the day, while a poor homeless wretch who lies down to sleep at night under a hedge in a country lane is haled before the "beaks," and packed off to gaol.

An application has been made to the West Hartlepool magistrates for a licence to sell refreshments on the racecourse during the meeting. Such licences are nearly

always granted as a matter of course, but the West Hartlepool magistrates refused it. It seems that of six "justices" who were on the bench, five are teetotallers publicly pledged to suppress the liquor trade, and three of these magistrates attended, although they were not upon the rota for the day.

A little scene which took place at the Aberdare Police-court illustrates one advantage at least of the stipendiary magistrate over the "Great Unpaid." In the absence of the Stipendiary, the Bench was occupied by sundry J.P.s, including a Mr. Thomas and a Mr. Rhys. Mr. Rhys is Chairman of the District Council. Certain charges of wasting water were down for hearing. In one of these cases Mr. Rhys said that he would take no part in the decision, but upon a fine of 10s. and costs being awarded by the Chairman and the other magistrates, Mr. Rhys lost his temper, and commenced to attack the Chairman in the most violent and unseemly manner, asking Mr. Thomas "Why are you sitting in my chair?" and other impertinences of the same kind, the truth being that Mr. Thomas had taken the chair at the request of Mr. Rhys himself. In the end the worthy Rhys called upon Mr. Thomas to "come out of that chair," which the latter at once did, and Mr. Rhys then proceeded to remand the remaining cases for a week, the motive of this step presumably being to obtain a tribunal less inclined to show mercy towards the crime of wasting water. One advantage of a stipendiary magistrate is that he is independent of the local interests and prepossessions which seem to have prompted the unseemly behaviour in this instance, and it is to be hoped that the Aberdare Stipendiary will soon be in his place again.

Mr. Sheil's magisterial eccentricities are notorious, but they have never been illustrated more conspicuously than in a cruelty case last week at the South-Western Police-court. A carman was charged with cruelty to his horse, and a lady gave evidence against the man. After she had stated that she saw the prisoner thumping the animal in the stomach and kicking its shins, the following dialogue ensued:—

Mr. Sheil: Were there any marks of the kicking?
Witness: No.
Mr. Sheil: *Oh, it is no use having a woman as witness in this kind of case. What is cruelty to a woman is probably not cruelty at all.*

The best comment on this utterance is the magistrate's own decision; for, after putting some more questions to the witness, Mr. Sheil fined the prisoner 10s., thereby distinctly repudiating his own doctrine that a woman's evidence is of no use in a cruelty case. But it is a monstrous thing that a lady, who undertakes the trouble and inconvenience of appearing as a witness in a case of this kind, should also have to submit to be insulted by the Bench.

Sir David Evans last week administered another warning to those citizens who on public grounds presume to criticise the police in the execution of their duty. Mr. R. H. Frost, a City gentleman of irreproachable character, saw a constable larking with some girls about ten o'clock in the evening, and made some observation to him. In the usual course, he was taken into custody, and charged with being drunk and disorderly and obstructing the police. Although he gave his address, he was detained at the station. He asked several times to be taken before a doctor, and offered to pay the expenses, but the request was peremptorily refused, and he was detained till released on bail at five o'clock the next morning. This is bad enough; but the atrocious thing is that on being brought before the magistrate next morning, he was promptly fined 10s. and costs, on the unsupported evidence of the constable, without an inquiry as to his character, and in spite of the allegations he made against the police. It is a monstrous thing that any respectable gentleman should be liable to have a police-court conviction publicly recorded against him under such circumstances; but there is little likelihood that such things will cease to happen until a Metropolitan magistrate has been run in on a trumped-up charge of this kind and kept for a night in the cells as drunk and disorderly.

At Mildenhall, in Suffolk, bills have been posted offering a reward of £10 for evidence leading to the conviction of any keepers who have killed dogs by means of poison. In the meantime, it has been shown that some of the dogs in the neighbourhood have been poisoned through partaking of Battle's Vermin Killer, which was put down by others, not keepers, with a view to destroy rats. This Vermin Killer contained 23 per cent. of strychnine, and ought to be scheduled as a poison. Any one can buy it for 3d., without being called upon to sign when purchasing it. As regards keepers, they ought under no circumstances to be permitted to place poison in woods or coverts, unless surrounded by a wall or a paling, which would prevent all incursions of dogs. If they do, they should be sent to prison—and their masters too, if they knew and winked at what was being done.

A rick-fire at Harberton, in Devonshire, has just given the local police and magisterial authorities an opportunity of displaying their crass incompetence in dealing with juvenile offenders. A child nine years of age had attempted to burn out a wasps' nest in a hedge; the hedge caught fire, and the fire extended to the rick—at least, this is the boy's story, and his own statement was the only evidence against him. Accordingly a warrant was procured, the child was arrested as he was leaving school, and was taken in custody to Totnes, where he was locked up in the cells for nearly twenty-four hours. He was brought before the magistrates on the day following his arrest, and convicted of arson, for which he was sentenced to be birched. The absurdity of employing all the machinery of the law in such a case as this was never more clearly demonstrated. It is merely folly to convict a child of nine for "unlawfully, maliciously, and feloniously" setting fire to the rick, but it is absolute cruelty to drag him away from home and incarcerate him alone in a prison cell.

The two cases from the West Riding Police-court at Pontefract which adorn my Legal Pillory this week afford a striking object-lesson in Justices' justice. If a miner occupies his leisure time and expends his spare energies in knocking over a policeman and jumping upon him, he is let off with the modest penalty of twenty shillings; but if he finds a recreation more to his taste in knocking over a few rabbits, he is straightway committed to gaol for three months. The list below contains other examples of the unbending rigour with which offences against the Game Laws, in common with acts of vagrancy and petty larcenies, are punished; while it will be seen that on the other hand the magistracy are ever lenient towards defendants convicted of cowardly and brutal assaults, or heartless ill-treatment of little children, or gross cruelty to dumb animals:—

West Riding Police-court, Pontefract. Edward Carney, miner, charged with assaulting a policeman. The officer was taking a prisoner to the lock-up when defendant interfered, struck him in the eye with a stick, knocked him down, and jumped on him. Fined 20s. and costs.

Yarmouth Police-court. Before Messrs. R. Martins, J. W. de Caux, W. Barnard, T. Saul, and W. H. Palmer. Jarvis Blois, shoemaker, charged with ill-treating his four children, aged 8, 6, 4, and 2 years. He was tramping the country with them, and the youngsters had walked 72½ miles in six days. Discharged with a severe caution.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Wilson. Thomas M'Phillips pleaded guilty to assaulting a woman by striking her repeatedly on the head and face and kicking her on the body. The couple cohabited and prisoner expected the woman to work to keep him. He thrashed her because she did not give him the whole of a day's earnings. Fined £1.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Fisher. Archie M'Laughlan, charged with cruelty to a horse. The man went into the stable at midnight and severely beat the horse with a rake, a three-pronged fork, and a wooden rack-pin. Fined 21s.

Malton Police-court. John Tasker, charged with cruelty to a young bull. One of the animal's legs had been broken, and defendant was driving the beast along the road on three legs when he was stopped. Fined £1. 5s., including costs.

Burton-on-Trent Police-court. John Radford, convicted on three charges of assault. He went home drunk and severely thrashed his wife. Next he made his way to a recreation ground, and without any provocation "set upon" a boy named Wilkinson, beating him unmercifully and rendering him partially unconscious. Finally he assaulted a policeman. Fined £5. 7s., including costs.

West Riding Police-court, Pontefract. Frank Stubbs, James Spencer, Arthur Child, and Jesse Renshaw, miners, charged with poaching. Three months each.

Yarmouth Police-court. Before the same Bench. Albert Coulsey, charged with absenting himself from the workhouse, without performing his allotted task. He was admitted on the Saturday, and went out on the Monday without giving notice. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Hawick Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Substitute Speirs. James Riddle charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of three rabbits and a net. Fined £3.

Chichester Police-court. Before Alderman Caffin and Mr. E. M. Street. Barney Moore, charged with sleeping out in a field. Ten days.

Cupar Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Henderson. William Smith and Hugh Tinineny, charged with trespassing in pursuit of rabbits at night. Fined £4 each, or thirty days' imprisonment in default.

Bradwardine Police-court, Hay. Before Rev. Henry Drew, Messrs. T. T. Lawden and H. Phillips, Dr. Giles and Dr. Trumper. William Probert and William Kisley, labourers, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Probert fined £2. 4s. 4d., and Kisley £2. 14s. 4d.

Devonport Police-court. Before Messrs. G. T. Rolston, H. Williams, and G. Breeze. Mary Townsend, a young married woman, convicted of stealing a basket, value 9d. Twenty-one days.

Spittlegate (Grantham) Police-court. Before Mr. W. Hornsby. John William Collins and Charles Skelly, two youths, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable reunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

Cerne Abbas Petty Sessions. Before Lord Digby, Messrs. H. H. Palairet, R. E. Saunders, E. Barkworth, G. H. Digby, and Colonel Digby. Vernon Soutt, farm bailiff, charged with cruelty to seventeen pigs by causing them to be improperly conveyed. The pigs, five large ones and twelve small, were all crowded into a waggon 7 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 5 in., the small pigs being put on top of the large ones. One of the latter died. Fined 20s. and costs.

Grimsby Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. Jackson, E. Bannister, J. M. Dennis, H. Mudd, W. B. Louth, and W. S. Letten. Joseph Edwin Pullen, charged with cruelty to a dog. Because the dog would not follow him, defendant thrashed it and cut its throat in three places. A policeman said the animal was in such a condition that it had to be drowned. Fined 42s. including costs.

Church Stretton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Hill, W. S. Buddicom, A. Wood Acton, and Lyde Benson. William Bayliss, a gamekeeper, charged with an unprovoked assault upon W. Johnson. Johnson had a black eye, his lip was cut through, a tooth was broken, and he was badly bruised. Fined £1 and 7s. 6d. costs.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Messrs. E. Cooper, R. Leeming, and H. Higson. Wm. Henry Hannon, convicted of assaulting his wife. A police officer said he saw defendant kicking the woman, and he refused to desist when witness spoke to him. Defendant had been many times previously before the Court. Fined 20s. and costs.

Swainsthorpe Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Cairns, M. C. Boileau, J. H. Gurney, G. Taylor, H. P. Green, Sir F. Bateman, Sir C. Harvey, and Rev. C. Fellowes. Walter Douglas and James Alden, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of four rabbits. Fined £5. 12s. 6d. each, and Douglas committed for six weeks in default of payment.

Wigan County Police-court. Peter Baxter and Michael Knockton, charged with poaching on Lord Gerard's estate. One month each.

Chelmsford County Petty Sessions. Before Mr. T. Kemble and other magistrates. John Edwards, charged with stealing a pair of boots. One month.

Stony Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. A. G. Thorold and Rev. G. E. Willes. Joseph Higgs, apprehended in consequence of his strange behaviour, was charged with disorderly conduct. A doctor said he was shamming. One month in default of payment of £1. 13s. 4d. fine and costs.

Epping Police-court. Before Major Tait, Messrs. W. S. C. Marsh, W. Patchett, W. Smith, and R. Herring. Walter Bass, charged with trespassing in search of game. He had been previously convicted. Fined 40s. and costs.

Langport Police-court. Before Messrs. V. Stuckey, F. W. Pinney, C. L. Eastlake, and E. W. Valentine. Francis Harwood, farm labourer, charged with stealing a gallon of cider, the property of his employer. One month.

An edifying exhibition of Petty Session methods was given at the Weymouth Borough Court the other day. A negro "evangelist" called Higgins was prosecuted by the police for causing an obstruction by preaching on the beach. Higgins is a well-known character in many parts of the country, and seems to have come into collision with the police in Hyde Park, and at Brighton, Hastings, and other places. It is pretty clear that he had committed the alleged offence at Weymouth, and that he had no right to preach on the beach without permission. Instead, however, of contenting themselves with hearing evidence on the charge before them, the Weymouth magistrates deliberately set themselves to hear the evidence of the police as to the various convictions of the prisoner in other places. Their own clerk appears to have pointed out to them the irregularity which they were committing; but he was only rebuked by the Chairman, Sir Richard Howard.

There was a strong popular feeling in favour of Higgins, and as he protested against the irregularity of taking evidence respecting his previous convictions,

the crowd in court cheered him again and again. One of the magistrates on the Bench also protested, amid the cheers of the public in court, and the case went on in the most disgraceful uproar and confusion. In the end the prisoner was fined 10s. and costs, which he declined to pay. He resisted the police when they attempted to remove him, and, being a very powerful man, had a rough-and-tumble fight with six constables before he was carried out of court, the people cheering and hooting all the time, and the place being for the time more like a bear-garden than a Court of Justice. Finally, one of the magistrates and one of the witnesses posted themselves at the door as the public departed, and held their hats to make a collection for the prisoner. The requisite amount was speedily obtained, one of the magistrates giving half a sovereign, and the collectors then returned into court, paid the money, and obtained Higgins's release, amid a scene of indescribable tumult and excitement. This scene is the more discreditable to the magistrates who provoked it by their irregular conduct, because the Chairman, Sir Richard Howard, is himself a solicitor, and Town Clerk to the borough. Seeing that the prosecution was undertaken by the police, who are themselves under the control of the Watch Committee of the Town Council, it is not clear what business the Town Clerk had to take the chair at all.

I see that the indefatigable begging-letter writer, Sir Charles Coote, Bart., is still at his old game, and from the old address, "5, Summer Hill-parade, Dublin." He is now supplementing his own appeal with a letter purporting to be written by the Rev. R. P. Carroll, curate of St. Thomas's Church, Dublin, who testifies that he "has been acquainted with Sir Charles Coote for the past couple of years or so," that he "has every reason to believe him (Sir C. Coote) to be an honourable gentleman," and that he "recommends his case very urgently to the kind consideration of any who would be in a position to give him substantial assistance." I do not know who the Rev. R. P. Carroll may be, but he is, at the best, a very foolish person in giving such a testimonial to this shady baronet, on the strength of a two years' casual acquaintanceship. Sir Charles Coote, as I have already explained in TRUTH, has no better claim on the benevolent than any beggar in the street who is reduced to poverty by his own fault. Some people seem to think that, because he is a baronet, he is entitled to alms where an ordinary beggar would certainly not get them, and on this, no doubt, he himself trades. But it is surprising to see from copies of letters which he circulates—among them being communications from Lord Scarsdale, Lord Robartes, Sir Gilbert King, and many others—that so many people who ought to know better still encourage his whining appeals.

Another and far more undeserving mendicant, of whose activity I have just received fresh evidence, is the Reverend Edward Henville, the disreputable Rector of Chipping-Warden, near Banbury. Henville, too, has found a new sponsor in the person of the Rev. Charles Heaven, Vicar of Horley, in the same neighbourhood, to whom he refers for evidence that his case is a deserving one. This Henville, as readers of TRUTH are aware, has long been a scandal to the Church, and a source of continual trouble and annoyance to the Bishops. Anybody who assists to perpetuate such a gross scandal is doing the Church a very bad service; and some explanation seems to be due from the Rev. Charles Heaven as to his position in relation with this man. It is certain that any one who refers to the Bishop of the Diocese will not hear anything that will encourage him to give money to Henville, and it is a strange thing that a neighbouring incumbent, who ought to be familiar with all the facts of the case, should be prepared to give him a recommendation in direct opposition to the opinion of the Bishop.

From a letter sent on to me, I see that the notorious and unprincipled scamp, Ernest Day, of 439, Old Kent-road, has gone into the deepest of deep mourning. This is in pursuance of the fiction that he has recently come into a very valuable family portrait "through the death of a relative." People who fall victims to this swindler really deserve very little sympathy, for, in the first place, it is evident that they do not read TRUTH, and, in the next, Day's communications often carry on their face pretty clear indications of their character. In the letter I have before me it is evident that the date and the name of the lady whose portrait Day seeks to dispose of have been filled up at a different time from that at which the rest of the letter was written, this proving that this letter is really a circular form, which Day keeps by him, and fills up with the necessary particulars as occasion may require.

Since Isaac Gordon, or whatever his name may be, invented the polychromatic circular, the whole herd of usurers are sending out their pernicious effusions got up in this style. Samples of these works of art are sent to me by an hotel proprietor at Eastbourne, where one of them had been addressed to the manager and another to the manageress. Next to the practice, which I commented on last week, of tempting a married woman to obtain a loan without the knowledge of her husband, there can be nothing more pernicious than the offering of these temptations to employees who hold responsible positions, and enjoy comfortable salaries, which ought to prevent them having any legitimate reasons for getting into debt.

The mild Hindoo is going ahead indeed. I have before me a sample of a money-lender's circular, written in the best Baboo English, issued by Messrs. Buldeo Prasad and Balgobind Bajpai, "Bankers," of Allahabad. Messrs. Prasad & Bajpai "beg to notify that they have re-opened a branch of money-lending shop for the facility of family men of middle means, who sometimes are in need of small loans and cannot get from Banks at the time of

their need. They have, therefore, to enable the public for the compliance of their need, opened a firm opposite to the Colvin's Dispensary." The sort of "facility of family men of middle means" offered by these two worthies, throws into the shade anything given by the money-lending fraternity at home. Here are the terms exactly as printed in the circular :—

Over and above	Rs. 50	up to	100	Rs. 10	a month.
,, ,,	100	,,	300	Rs. 25	,,
,, ,,	300	,,	500	Rs. 30	,,

Messrs. Prasad & Bajpai remark in regard to this "that the object of the firm by framing these easy terms is to meet the requirements of persons of limited means." The terms are not any too clearly expressed; but, so far as I can make them out, a "family man of middle means" who did business with this firm would speedily come to the end of his resources and find his family in the workhouse.

Some edifying specimens of chartered accountants' certificates were given in the issue of the *Accountant* for July 18. They should be studied by all—and it is to be feared they are many—who have not yet learned the untrustworthy, and often misleading, character of such documents. The ugly feature of the matter is that there is no room for doubt that in many cases these certificates are intended to mislead. While they state nothing but the truth, they often keep back the whole truth, and they occasionally state even the modicum of truth they convey in such a manner as to prevent the unwary from grasping its real significance. When such things are done in a document designed to bring in cash from the public, or to afford information to shareholders, the chartered accountant who signs the certificate is simply a party to a fraud; and it is high time that the Institute of Chartered Accountants dealt vigorously with this growing scandal.

No small amount of fluttering has been caused in the social dovecotes of Lincoln by the following interesting announcement in a newspaper paragraph concerning the newly-appointed electrical engineer to the Lincoln Town Council :—

> He is about 30 years of age, tall and good-looking, and is the nephew of a lord.

Electrical engineers are fairly plentiful nowadays, but it is not every one who, besides being young, tall, and good-looking, is also the nephew of a lord, and I understand that many worthy people in Lincoln are delighted at the excellent taste and judgment the Corporation have shown in securing an official with such a rare combination of attractive qualities. It is only fair to add, however, that the gentleman in question does not appear to owe his selection in any way to the fact that he is his uncle's nephew; indeed, two municipalities were in eager competition for his services.

An exceedingly pharasaical form of Sabbatarianism has made its appearance in the Lake district. The Furness Railway Company having inaugurated a series of Sunday excursions to Ambleside, the Urban District Council of this eminently respectable abiding-place of lodging-house keepers promptly decided to memorialise it upon the subject. The Council, according to this document, "feel it their duty to strongly deprecate such an innovation—an innovation which, without the excuse of necessity, destroys the quiet of Sunday, and deprives a number of persons of their weekly rest, and which is most distasteful to the majority of the inhabitants, and highly prejudicial to the best interests of the neighbourhood." These people cannot even plead a religious fanaticism as an excuse. Their action is the mere outcome of a priggishness which cannot tolerate the person of an excursionist between the wind and their respectability.

Some comment was made in Truth a few weeks ago upon a speech of Sir Gerard Smith, the Governor of Western Australia, which I think it is my duty to modify on further information as to the facts. The truth seems to be that the speech in question was made to an audience of about twenty people in a tent, on the occasion of an inspection of a vine-growing district by a Committee of the Bureau of Agriculture; and that the report which found its way into one of the local papers, and on which my comment was founded, was chiefly the product of journalistic imagination, and bore no relation whatever to the Governor's remarks. At this distance of time it seems hardly worth while to say more on the subject, or I should be disposed to tender some advice to one of my West Australian contemporaries on the duties of a newspaper in reporting the speeches of public men.

A member of the Anglo-Indian Passengers' League begins a letter to me with the sentence: "Wanted, a member for Anglo-India." He goes on to contend that, while there are plenty of Members of Parliament ready to represent the needs and wishes of the gentle Hindoo, the Anglo-Indian community, apart from its official section, has the greatest difficulty in making its voice heard in the House of Commons. If this be the case, I should be disposed to say that the official voice does its best to make up for the want of vocal power in the rest of the community. However, from what I know of honourable members, I feel sure that it is only necessary for the above want to be made known for it to be at once supplied. If those who need their services go to work in the right way, there is no lack of ambitious private M.P.'s ready to constitute themselves the representatives of any conceivable cause in want of a Parliamentary advocate.

A J.P. for Gloucestershire, who tells me that he is, always has been, and always will be a Radical, assures me that an injustice has been done to Sir William Marling in attributing the ejection of a tenant on Sir William's Woolaston estate to political motives. In proof of this my correspondent appeals to the fact that there are several Radical farmers on the estate, and that one tenant recently opposed Sir William and one of his sons at a Parish Council election, and has never had any

cause to regret it. I am bound to say that the original allegation reached me from a source which I had every reason to believe to be trustworthy; but when a Radical writes to such effect as the above, and expresses the opinion that the tenant in question has only himself to thank for his enforced departure, it is clear that the suggestion of political animus cannot be supported. If so, it is unnecessary to inquire further into the reasons for the tenant's departure. They are a private matter between Sir William Marling and the tenant, and not a matter of public interest.

It is a strange thing that in all the tinkering at the Irish Land Laws during the last fifteen years no attempt has been made to deal with the scandal of lawyers' costs. What this amounts to may be judged from the following facts. About 1884 a mortgagee instructed a firm of Dublin solicitors to take steps to sell certain holdings to the tenants, having come to the conclusion that this was the only way of realising anything out of his security. Year after year went by without anything being effected, and the mortgagee then entered into negotiations with the tenants himself, and eventually arranged a sale. The first bill of costs that he received from his solicitors for their share in the negotiations amounted to about £800. The client then had the papers handed over to another firm, upon which the same solicitors sent in another bill for about £88. In all, this transaction has cost the mortgagee between £900 and £1,000, and has taken just ten years to carry out, and for all practical purposes might as well have been conducted by the client himself as by the lawyers. Both in England and Ireland it strikes me that the worst feature in the Land Laws is the land lawyers.

If the recommendation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to report on the most eligible sites available for the erection of Government offices should be ultimately adopted, the War Office will, after all these years, find itself located opposite the Horse Guards. It is proposed to acquire for this purpose all rights in the property lying between Whitehall on the west, Whitehall-place on the north, Whitehall-court on the east, and Whitehall-yard on the south. Few will probably be found to object to an arrangement which will not only do away with the inconvenient block of private houses at present constituting the office of the War Minister in Pall Mall, but, by bringing the same in close proximity to the Admiralty and India Office, will utilise the vacant site of Carrington House, and prove an important factor in decorating the approach to the Houses of Parliament from the direction of Trafalgar-square.

I see no particular reason why a smoking-room should be provided in the Westminster Palace, to which the members of the House of Commons and of the Lords will both have access. But if the Lords like to provide such a room out of their portion of the Palace there can be no objection. What is really wanted by the M.P.s is a larger smoking-room than they now have. The House is much like a club. Give it half a dozen smoking-rooms and only one will be frequented, and, most unquestionably, the present smoking-room is often overcrowded. Of course, there is the question of space to be considered in providing a large room. It has been suggested that the yard which is surrounded by the cloak corridor, should be covered over. But to this the Whips object, for they fear that if their sheep could slip downstairs on the plea of going to smoke they would slip away home when no longer under the vigilant eye of their shepherds. This might be met by raising the yard, or a portion of the yard, to the level of the first floor, and thus providing a large room. This would not interfere with the light, for the yard is already surrounded on the first floor by a sort of corridor divided into rooms with nothing above it, so that light for these rooms might be obtained by means of skylights. Below, the portion of the yard towards the entrance to the cloak room would remain open and thus ventilation would be secured. The back part of this "cloak" corridor might be lighted by means of electricity, for no one ever goes there except to hang his coat on a hook.

On the whole, I think that I am more interested in the planet Mars than in this planet. We, the creatures of a day, are an insignificant dot in the universe, and I have always wondered what takes place elsewhere. I have therefore read with the greatest interest the outcome of the recent investigations into what goes on in Mars. It would seem that the planet is now in a condition to which the Earth must come. It is struggling against the gradual disappearance of water on its surface and in its atmosphere. There is no weather there, for there is no rain and there are no winds. Dew in winter is deposited on its poles in the form of snow. The rest of the planet consists of deserts with very slight elevations. The inhabitants have met this state of things by a gigantic system of irrigation. What we call canals are irrigated districts about thirty miles wide, with a canal running through them, from which water is distributed. Here and there there are large oases of irrigation, and these oases are connected with each other by means of the canals. When the snows of the poles melt, the melted water is distributed over the planet, and thus crops are produced. The inhabitants store up food and water for that part of the year when there is neither water nor vegetation. So rarefied is the atmosphere, that one of these inhabitants can work at one-twentieth the exertion that it costs us, or, in other words, perform with the same expenditure of strength twenty times the task.

It does seem a cruel thing that what sort of beings the Marsian irrigators may be should never be to us anything beyond a hypothesis. They may have—and they probably have—senses and forms very different to all that we, reasoning by analogy from the creatures on our planet, can imagine. Do they exceed us in

Spa, Belgium.—*Cercle des Etrangers*, with Roulette, &c. For details apply to Secretary. Racing, tennis, and pigeon shooting. Theatre and concerts. Superb bathing establishment.

intelligence? Have they found means to use the forces of nature in a way not dreamt of by us? There, as here, are there some overburdened with wealth, and others in misery and want? Do they, like us, massacre each other, and deem this the most glorious occupation in which beings endowed with reason can be engaged? Do they have kings, and grovel before them? Do they over-eat and over-drink themselves? Is there the vaguest resemblance in their thoughts and habits to ours?

The *Times* has distinguished itself since the Transvaal raid took place by the most unblushing advocacy of the raiders, and by equally unblushing denunciation of President Kruger. Who its correspondents in South Africa have been has not been made public, but the information that it received from them has been so faulty that in almost every instance it has been disproved by subsequent information. The paper is still true to its strange loves, and it now states that the gentlemen who have been sent to prison have been "increasingly recognised as free from all taint of sordid or dishonourable motive;" whilst, as it finds that it cannot hinder the inquiry into everything connected with the Company, it asserts that "public opinion demands, and will probably demand with increasing force, that the inquiry now decreed shall have regard much more to Imperial interests and the means of safeguarding them than to any useless stirring up of dying scandals, or any vindictive exposure of mistakes made by men who, after all, have done a great work for the Empire." According to this wondrous organ, "at the Cape public opinion is gradually changing in favour of Mr. Rhodes."

As a matter of fact, the evidence before the jury on the Jameson trial was confined to the legal point whether the defendants had violated the Foreign Enlistment Act, and the question of motive was not considered. This, however, will of course be gone into by the Parliamentary Committee, and the Committee will have to consider whether Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit aided and abetted in preparing the raid in order to benefit the Empire, or in order to benefit financially the Company of which they were the chief shareholders. The former may have been the case, but the fact that the *Times* asserts that it was so does not precisely prove it; nor does the suggestion that there is "no use in stirring up dying scandals" look as though the *Times* had very great confidence in the ability of its clients to prove their innocence.

As for public opinion, its attitude, I should say, is this: it wants to be put in possession of facts, for it recognises that, for one reason or another, it has not been able to obtain this knowledge from the usual sources of information; and until it has these facts it suspends its judgment. That public opinion in regard to Mr. Rhodes is gradually changing at the Cape would be more correctly stated were it said that the Press there, which is in the hands of Mr. Rhodes, is carrying on a campaign in order to change it. In pleading for "dying scandals" not to be raked up, the *Times* is indeed pleading for its own relations with the raiders not to be investigated, as an explanation will be needed as to the mode in which it obtained the "women and children" letter that appeared in its columns the day after the raid.

What is the precise legal meaning of "culpable negligence"? As a condition of granting a Charter in South Africa to "our well-beloved" Rhodes and Beit and Maguire, the Queen insisted upon "our well-beloved" Fife, Abercorn, Grey, and Farquhar being made co-owners of the Charter, and being placed on the Board of the Company which was to be the outcome of the Charter. It appears that £61,000 of the Company's money was expended for purposes of revolution in Johannesburg, and that further moneys were spent in expenses connected with the Jameson raid. The London Directors plead that they knew nothing of this until after the raid. Would not this amount to culpable negligence? "We were not," is their defence, "knaves, we were only fools." But what astounding fools! When half the City knew that a raid was about to take place, when the Company's money was being expended, and the Company's forces being collected for the raid, these innocents knew absolutely nothing of what was occurring!

However, the Parliamentary Committee which it is decided to appoint in regard to the Chartered Company will have, by the terms of the reference, the amplest power to go to the bottom of everything connected with the proceedings of the Company in South Africa, whilst the inquiry will also embrace its finance at home. We shall, therefore, get at last to the bed-rock of fact, and be dependent for information neither upon the imaginative efforts of the Rhodesian Press in South Africa, nor upon the *communiqués* of that exceedingly astute lawyer, Mr. Hawksley, to the Press at home. As all concerned will be allowed to appear by counsel before the Committee, any explanations that any of them may have to submit, in reply to what may seem to be a *primâ-facie* case against them, will be fairly put forward. All this must be most gratifying to the Company, for no sooner was the news of the raid conveyed to England, than its directors expressed themselves exceedingly anxious that such an investigation should take place. I have done my utmost to urge the legitimate character of this desire, and I trust that the Company will appreciate my disinterested efforts.

Mr. Chamberlain is to be congratulated upon his determination that the investigation shall be a full one; and all the more should he be congratulated, as there can be little doubt that many persons of influence were inclined to burke the inquiry, and thus deprive the Company and those connected with it of all opportunity of publicly showing their innocence of anything more than an excess of patriotism.

I am glad that Dr. Jameson and his brethren in misfortune are to be treated as first-class misdemeanants. I signed with pleasure the petition begging for this

mitigation of their sentence. They were condemned under the Foreign Enlistment Act, and consequently—whatever may have been their motives, whether patriotic or selfish—they are imprisoned as political prisoners. Such prisoners are treated in no other country as ordinary delinquents. I was against Irish Nationalists being treated in this fashion, and I am consistent. I trust that the Conservatives who signed the petition will be equally consistent, and, if ever there are again Irishmen condemned to prison for political offences, that they will join in a petition to mitigate the hardship of their imprisonment.

SCRUTATOR.

COMMON SENSE AND COLLECTIVISM.

We have during the last week been privileged to have amongst us an International Socialist Congress. As advocated by many of the delegates to this Congress, Socialism would suppress the capitalist and replace him by the collective action of the State in every phase of existence.

It is not likely that the entire world will be converted to this creed; indeed, the Congress itself is showing that there are insuperable differences of opinion amongst Socialists themselves when they leave theory and come to fact. Let us suppose that these idealists were to apply their scheme to one country — say the British Isles. How would they set about it? The first step would be to clear the ground by confiscating all property belonging to the individual. But, as a matter of fact, a vast amount of property belonging to individuals in the British Isles could not be confiscated. It is in bonds, which have been issued abroad, and the interest on which is paid abroad. These could not be touched. Their owners would betake themselves elsewhere, if called upon to surrender them as a condition of existence here. All this vast capital, with its annual interest, would consequently cease to be expended amongst us. But, apart from this source of taxable revenue, there would be many, by no means capitalists, at home who would not agree to the confiscation of their property. Take the Irish tenants. Would they surrender their tenant right? Take artisans, many of whom have bought their houses. Would they give them up? Many, too, have secured a provision by an investment in Friendly Societies. Would they agree to forego this provision? So again with manufacturers and shopkeepers. They have plant, stock, and working capital. Would they surrender them? What seems to be forgotten is that, in a general confiscation of capital, not only large capitalists would be affected, but many men with small means, who have acquired these means by individual labour and thrift. And yet State Socialism in its full acceptation necessarily involves the collectivism of all property. Even if this clean sweep were made, how would it be possible to prevent future accumulations in the hands of individuals? This could only be done by refusing to recognise any individual rights in property; and does any one suppose that the English, Scotch, and Irish, with their innate and racial views in regard to the incidence of property, would ever consent to this?

But let us assume that these difficulties are got over, and that no individual remained possessed of property. How would the State obtain that amount of capital involved in cost of raw material and wages fund? It could not borrow, for its credit would have disappeared, and all capital that could be withdrawn from the country would have left it. This new difficulty having been overcome, labour would be divided amongst all, the estimate being that each individual would work about two hours per diem, and that for this he would receive a fair living wage. This would cut us out of all the foreign markets by increasing the cost of the manufactured article, as by this reduction of hours, the rate of wages per hour would be quadrupled. For whom, then, should we manufacture? In apportioning the labour to each individual, who, too, would decide in which branch of industry each person would be employed? One branch might be deemed more attractive than another; but it is obvious that in each branch only a certain number could find employment. How, moreover, should we deal with the many who would scamp work, and prefer to live on others rather than to do themselves one honest hour's work? Then comes the difficulty as to who would be superintendents. All would wish to be, for to see that others work is more agreeable than to work. Of course, all who felt that their superior intelligence entitled them to additional profit would betake themselves to countries where this profit could be obtained, whilst others with some love of individuality, and not satisfied to be mere pawns moved by others, would leave the country. It seems, therefore, to me that the practical result of the "reform" would be to leave us without capital, without intelligent workers, and without a market for our goods.

But where the State is everything and the individual nothing, the danger would have to be faced of the entire social fabric being overturned in some revolution against this flat level. Human nature would not be changed. Ambitions would still exist, the desire for individual aggrandisement would not be a thing of the past. The grinding despotism of a theory would soon be replaced by that of a few men, or of one man. Admitting that such a scheme of perfection were possible, the whole world would become a prison house, in which a dreary uniformity would reign. Patriotism and individual aspirations would be merged in a universal collectivism, in which each would fulfil his allotted task, like some little wheel in a machine, contented with the knowledge that he is aiding in moving the machine, like a donkey drawing water, and receiving in return provender and a stable. Can any one conversant with human nature believe that this would last?

Socialism as conceived by its apostles is only one

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degree more unpractical than Anarchism. Anarchists would do away with all law and all government, on the assumption that, if their scheme were to prevail, all would become so wise and so good that law and government would become unnecessary. For the State to do nothing as the Anarchists suggest, and for it to do everything as the Socialists suggest, are the two extreme poles between which common sense is to be found.

That common-sense tells us that competition must ever exist alike between nations and between individuals of a nation. If neither nation nor individual can be bettered by individual energy, all energy would soon disappear, just as a limb disappears in a species when unused. The entire human race would deteriorate. As theory, Socialism is all very well; but beyond theory it is an absurdity. I once had a public discussion with a well-known Socialist. I imagine that he honestly believed in his theories, but he was like an eel. I never could pin him to anything definite. He always fell back on generalities. When I urged this or that difficulty of detail, he replied that these things concerned others. He seemed to consider that he had performed his mission by elaborating from his moral consciousness a scheme of social regeneration, and that it was for some one else to overcome all difficulties in its path; not realising that nothing is more easy than to invent a plan by which the world might be bettered, and nothing more difficult than to make a practical one, because mankind is what it is, and not what theorists would have it be. How a thing can be done has to be shown, before the thing is worth considering as a practical suggestion. Theorists are often most well-meaning persons, but if the world's progress were left to them, it would very soon stand still. It is not, however, surprising that men to whom life is one long sordid struggle for mere existence should be caught by a creed which would substitute for this struggle a sort of lotus-eating existence, in which the State would take upon itself their well-being, and should not trouble themselves about its feasibility, provided this be asserted sufficiently often, and with a sufficient air of dogmatic conviction.

The harm that is done by the advocacy of unpractical theories of this sort is, that they alienate opinion from that practical socialism which is not only possible but desirable. Although the State cannot do everything, it can care much more than it does for the welfare of all. In many things collectivism is possible. By Trades Unionism workers have collectively benefited without losing their individuality or their independence. There has, too, of late been much sound social legislation, and every day the obligations of the State towards the community are more fully recognised.

Just as the individual should be able to move independently in the orbit of his Union, so should the Union remain independent of external control. Where its functions end, there should those of the State commence. When I hear of any proposal for State interference, I ask myself three questions:—(1) Would it be beneficial to the community? (2) Can the desired end be effected without the action of the State? (3) Can it be effected by the State? If useful, and if only the State can give practical effect to it, then, and then alone, I am for State interference.

The State has a perfect right to regulate the conditions of labour, and to give effect to its regulations by legislative enactment. This in many ways it has already done. It might go a good deal further in this direction. There might be a law limiting the hours of employment in a week. As regards the wage, this, I think, should be left to the various Trades Unions. I have never been able to agree to the view that the State is bound to find employment for all at the current wage, for the very plain reason that this would be impossible. But the State should recognise that it should do something more for starving men than half starve them; it should see to the welfare of children and provide pensions for the aged. If working men would make it their business to look to these and other such matters, at the same time banding together in unions, and still each retaining his individuality, they would do far more to conduce to their well being, than by listening to the frothy oratory of men who dangle before them an Elysium which never can be realised, and by regarding them as social benefactors.

I take it that very few of those who even call themselves Socialists are for the Socialism of the leaders of the International Congress. They are for social legislation, but not for the suppression of all private property, and for the State undertaking to be the one employer of labour, and the one distributor of the results of labour. In no part of Great Britain has this creed many adherents. In not one of our colonies has it taken root. Capital is not the natural opponent of labour, for without capital there would be very little labour. Its distribution, however, may leave much to be desired, and I am all for the public revenue being raised from those who are best able to bear the burden. The best way to do this would, I believe, be largely to increase the death dues. But even here there is a natural limit to what can be done, for if these dues were raised above a certain point, we should have all large capitalists betaking themselves outside of our jurisdiction, with their goods and chattels. The distribution of capital is one thing; but the fact remains that the greater the amount of capital possessed by a nation, the greater is its prosperity, and, in the term capital, credit must be included. The lower the terms of interest on which capital can be obtained, the larger is the share in the results of the union of capital and labour that comes to the latter. That capital for industrial undertakings can now be obtained on far lower terms than a few years ago is due to accumulations having increased, and this must be to the advantage of the workers, for the gross return on what is produced by capital and labour is, and ever will be, dependent, not on the will of the producers, but on skill and energy in the world's markets.

Gratis and post free, very elaborately-illustrated Price Lists, showing exact sizes of Havana Cigars issued by the Havana Trading Association, 177, Piccadilly.—C. A. Carlin, Gen. Manager.

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THE GHOST GIVES UP LEIGH SAMPSON.

As might have been expected, the man Leigh (or Levi) Sampson has returned no answer to the invitation addressed to him in TRUTH of July 16. It will be remembered that this was an invitation to Sampson to prove that he can paint a picture, by coming round to TRUTH office and performing the feat before my eyes. I issued this invitation in consequence of its having been represented to me, by people who have known him for years, that Sampson is a fraud and a humbug who has been for years trading on the benevolence or the ignorance of the public, by representing himself as a young artist in difficulties, and by this representation selling, as his own, work which in reality he had paid other men to do for him. I never seriously supposed that artists would have come to me and stated that they had regularly worked for Sampson for years, or that respectable picture-dealers would assert that they had known this man for years as a brother-dealer, unless there was very good ground for these assertions. I thought, however, that Sampson ought to have a chance of showing that he has some right to call himself an artist, before deciding that the account of himself, on which he has been so long trading, is nothing more than a pack of lies. Well, he has had the opportunity, and he has not chosen to avail himself of it; and I have no doubt whatever that those who have worked for him are well within the truth when they state, as they do, that he is quite incapable of producing anything which could be seriously offered for sale as a work of art. The man is clearly an out-and-out cheat and impostor.

He is a clever rascal, however, and the history of his various successful attempts to impose upon people, including my humble self, is decidedly amusing. I have already described how he humbugged me. Let me now give the cases of a few of my fellow-victims. I may say at the outset that my authority for most of the facts is the artist who has played the part of Sampson's "ghost" for many years past, and whom we will call "Mr. F." The first victim on the list is the late Lord Derby. In 1890 Sampson brought to Mr. F. three photographic views of Nice, which he had purchased in London, and gave him an order for three oil paintings 36 inches by 24, to be executed from these photographs. He also commissioned Mr. F. to go down to Holwood, Lord Derby's seat, and make a picture of the house the same size. All these pictures were sold to Lord Derby by Sampson, and Mr. F. received £10 apiece for them. What Lord Derby gave for them, and by what means Sampson obtained the order, I cannot say; but it is a highly significant fact that as early as this Sampson was using the trick, which he has had recourse to again lately, of representing that he was about to go to Australia to take up some appointment there. On the strength of this statement, he obtained from Lord Derby, as chairman of a watch company, an order for a watch; but in this instance the biter himself got bitten, for on presenting the order, which he supposed to be a free one, he found that he had to pay £2. 10s. for the watch. He endeavoured to turn this bad bargain to account by selling the watch to Mr. F., and that is how that gentleman came to know the history of the article.

The next victim is no other than that astute and wide-awake gentleman, Sir Edward Clarke. I congratulate myself on being deceived by Sampson in such distinguished company. In 1891 Sampson happened to be enjoying himself on his ill-gotten gains at Hastings, when he noticed Sir Edward Clarke entering one of the leading hotels. Although on pleasure he was bent, Sampson had a frugal mind. He at once made inquiries at the hotel, and having found that Sir E. Clarke was a frequent visitor at Hastings, and fond of the town, he purchased a photograph and went off to Mr. F. with an order for a water-colour picture of Hastings. This picture he took to Sir Edward Clarke, and ultimately succeeded in disposing of it for £12. £2 out of the £12 he paid to the artist who painted the picture.

About a year later Sampson obtained by some means a commission from Lord Howe to paint his country seat and the church at Penn. He then commissioned Mr. F. to go down to Penn and paint two pictures in oils, for which he paid £10 each. Lord Howe, I believe, paid £45 apiece for the pictures, and wrote a kind letter expressing his satisfaction with the work, and inviting Sampson to come down and have some shooting in the following September.

The next victim is no less a personage than H.R.H. the Duke of Coburg. It seems that Sampson commissioned Mr. F. to go down and make three water-colour paintings of the house and grounds of Eastwell Park, Sampson apparently having himself obtained a commission from Mr. Campbell, then the owner of the property. When the pictures were finished, Mr. Campbell found some slight fault with them, and Sampson took them away to be altered. Instead of altering them, he took them straight to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, as he then was. He succeeded in getting at the Duke, who was so impressed with the pictures of his late residence that he bought all three of them. As to the exact price paid I am not quite sure, but it seems to have been either £170 for the three pictures, or something more. Having brought off this *coup*, Sampson went back to Mr. Campbell to tell him that the Duke of Edinburgh had seen the pictures and purchased them. Mr. Campbell, probably not a little impressed by this fact, insisted that he must have three replicas, and Sampson commissioned M. F. to paint them. Mr. Campbell bought these three pictures for £150. Mr. F. got £10 apiece for them. Sampson, therefore, netted upwards of £250 over the Eastwell Park job.

One of the more recent victims is Sir George Newnes. In March, 1895, Sampson commissioned Mr. F. to make a picture of Sir George Newnes's house at Wimbledon. Mr. F. went down and made a sketch, and in due course completed the picture. I may here remark that Mr. F. seems to be a very rapid worker, for he states that he finished the picture the day after he took the sketch. Sampson, according to his own account, then went down to Sir George Newnes, and tried to persuade that gentleman that he had at some previous time given him a commission to paint a picture. Sir George did not remember the circumstance, but ultimately, by throwing in another small picture, Sampson

succeeded in persuading him to take the two for 40 gs. In this instance Mr. F. stood out for higher payment, and got one half of this amount out of Sampson.

Another transaction shows the success of Sampson's impudent trick of sending out his pictures "on appro.," with an appeal to sympathy for the necessities of a poor artist. Two Suffolk landscapes, painted by Mr. F., were sent in this way to Major Kitchener, at Cairo. The carriage, as usual, was not paid. Major Kitchener wrote back to say that he did not want the pictures, but that the officers of the mess rather liked them, and had bought them at Sampson's price, £25. He accordingly enclosed a cheque for £23. 18s., after deducting the 22s. which he had had to pay for the carriage of the pictures. On another occasion Sampson was being dunned by a solicitor for the rent of the house he then occupied at Brixton. To this solicitor Sampson wrote a pitiful tale of his having been in a hospital for six months, and being consequently destitute, and at the same time he sent the solicitor a couple of pictures, and begged him to buy them. The tender-hearted solicitor bought the pictures, and sent Sampson a cheque for a balance of £5 after the rent had been paid. The pictures in this instance were not painted by Mr. F., but by another artist, but Mr. F. gives the story as told by Sampson himself. It seems that one day when Mr. F. was in Sampson's company in London, this very same solicitor appeared upon the scene. Sampson beat a hasty retreat, and subsequently told Mr. F. this story, in explanation of his desire to avoid the solicitor.

It may be remembered that Leigh Sampson first came prominently before the public in connection with the betrothal of the late Duke of Clarence. He took advantage of the public interest in that occurrence to send out a fancy picture in black and white of the young Prince making his proposal; and loud outcries were made by people in various parts of the country, who found themselves called upon to pay the carriage of this picture, and to pack up and return it, if they were not disposed to patronise Mr. Leigh Sampson. It would seem that this is only one example of Sampson's adroitness in utilising passing events for his own business purposes. On the death of the late Mr. Matthew Arnold, Sampson sent down Mr. F. to make him no less than six drawings of Laneham Church, where Matthew Arnold is buried. Within about a week of the funeral Sampson succeeded in disposing of the whole of these six pictures among Mr. Arnold's friends and relatives, at various prices, ranging from twelve to fifteen guineas. Mr. F.'s price for the drawings was £2 apiece.

In order to bring the record up to date, here is a delicious letter written by Sampson to a gentleman a few weeks ago in the character of "Donald Sampson." It may be remembered that his latest dodge is to approach Welsh patrons under the name of "Lloyd Sampson," and Scotchmen under the name of "Donald," and I take it that his more familiar name of "Leigh" has only been assumed for the benefit of those Englishmen who might have a prejudice against the name of Levi, which is, I believe, the only name that Sampson has any right to be known by. The gentleman to whom this letter was written had been moved by Sampson's appeal to pay him £6 for a picture which he had sent "on appro." Before responding to the appeal, the gentleman invited Sampson to refer him to any Scotchman who knew his circumstances. Sampson refused to give a reference, on the lofty ground that he was not asking for charity, and suggested, instead, that the purchaser, if he entertained any doubt that he was getting value for his money, should take the opinion of an expert upon it. This the gentleman has since done, and the valuer prices the picture at £3—exactly half what Sampson got for it. This letter is written by the ingenuous "Donald" in forwarding his receipt for the money:—

May 7, 1896.
28, Glebe-road, Bromley Heath.

My Dear Sir,—I am very grateful for your kindness, and in thanking you for the cheque, beg to apologise for trouble occasioned.

I am quite sure, Dear Sir, if you ever wish to realise upon the drawing it will be found to fetch quite, if not more than, the £5. 10s. I asked you.

Nay—if by God's help and hard work I make a name, it may fetch ten times the sum, and this is one of the most disgraceful traits of the artistic luck.

A man grows his hair, and paints hideous monstrosities. A hundred idiotic journalists rave, a thousand dealers rush to buy, and the public, which knows more of kail soup than "poetic" art, are also all eager to purchase—and the man's fame is won.

It is harder for the painter with a conscience, and although you may think I am trying to deceive you, Sir, yet nevertheless I have somewhere about me the remnants of such an article, bequeathed to me by my rude but sturdy Scottish forbears.

Of all the successful rogues there is no rogue like the fashionable one, and if my hair would but grow long enough, I could be a great man to-morrow, but like the convicts I must e'en be short cropped and honest—and yet, Dear Sir, always your grateful and obedient servant,

Donald Sampson.

Whatever may be thought of Sampson's power with the brush or pencil, there can be no question as to his ability with the pen, and I almost look upon him as a good journalist spoilt. Nothing written by him that I have yet come across is finer in its way than this letter. It was a little indiscreet of Sampson perhaps to introduce the allusion to the convict and his crop; but it may be evidence that he has, as he declares, the remnants of a conscience "somewhere about him." At any rate, it shows that his thoughts took a very appropriate direction as he penned this tissue of impudent humbug. The short crop may come yet.

These are only samples from a very large mass of anecdotes illustrative of Sampson's *modus operandi*. Without prolonging the list, they will be sufficient to show the kind of trade which this man has been carrying on for the last six years. As regards Mr. F.'s share in the transactions, it is not necessary for me to say much. He does not appear, so far as I can see, to be at all proud of them; but he pleads that an artist who sells pictures to a dealer is in no way responsible for the way in which the dealer does his business, and that, in the present state of art in this country, an artist is too much at the mercy of dealers to be able to quarrel with his bread and butter. The person, however, with whom the public are concerned is, not the struggling artist whose necessities compelled him to deal with Sampson, but the dealer himself, who has assumed the character of the struggling artist for the purpose of imposing on the public. This man seems to be one of the cleverest and most unscrupulous swindlers whom it has ever been my lot to introduce to the public notice. The whole

pretence under which he has traded is a fraud. By means of various false representations he has palmed off at handsome prices as his own laborious work slight sketches which another man has dashed off for him in a few hours at express speed, and which, from the manner of their production, cannot possibly be worth, in most cases, more than a small fraction of the money paid for them. Finally, he has not hesitated to cheat the very men on whose work he has been living, paying them in cheques which have been dishonoured, and bills which he has failed to meet. At the present moment he is badly wanted by the holders of one dishonoured bill, and has avoided the service of the writ, which has been taken out against him, by departing from his last abode and leaving no address. If any of the numerous gentlemen who have been imposed upon by him would set the law in motion against him, they would be doing a public service. But whether that happens or not, I trust that the account which I have now given will put a stop to his operations in the future.

SOCIALISM, CIGARETTES, AND LIFEBOATS.

In the course of the comments that have appeared in TRUTH upon the management of the National Lifeboat Institution, reference has more than once been made to the fact that those who have the audacity to criticise this immaculate concern are invariably answered by personalities or misrepresentation. A fresh instance of this has just been furnished in the columns of the *Yorkshire Post*, which on July 27 devoted a lengthy article to the recent discussion in TRUTH on the question of the payment of lifeboat men for the salvage of property. This article is of considerable interest, not so much on account of the intrinsic importance of the opinions of the *Yorkshire Post*, as because the Editor of that journal is closely identified with the present management of the Institution, and has taken a prominent personal part in the controversy that has arisen in the North of England over the transference of the headquarters of the Lifeboat Saturday movement to London. If I understand the position aright, the Editor of the *Yorkshire Post* has succeeded to the position from which Mr. Macara, of Manchester, was recently ousted, and in that capacity he has been personally concerned in fixing Mr. Macara, rather than the present Executive, with the responsibility for the comparative failure of the Lifeboat Saturday Collection in 1895. The utterances, therefore, of his paper have a certain official character about them which entitles them to more notice than they might otherwise receive.

The principal points in the *Yorkshire Post*'s rejoinder seem to be these:—That I am a "Socialistic philosopher;" that I am a "tool in the hands of the Secretary of Lloyd's;" that I am "a journalistic Don Quixote;" that I have entered upon "a campaign of calumny against the lifeboat crews;" that I smoke cigarettes; and that I grudge a lifeboat hero a remuneration which would not keep me in cigarettes for a month. This will show the style of controversy by which the present position and arrangements of the National Lifeboat Institution are defended. As regards my being a "Socialistic philosopher," Mr. Palmer would do well to tell that to the—Socialists. As regards my being "a tool in the hands of the Secretary of Lloyd's," the fact is that I happened to hear of the controversy between Lloyd's and the Lifeboat Institution on the question of salvage, and that I took the liberty of considering that the controversy turned on certain facts of great public importance, and gave them publicity accordingly. With regard to my cigarettes and the remuneration of the lifeboat men, the truth simply is that I have taken up the ground that lifeboat men ought to be properly and adequately paid for all the services they perform, and not left to make anything they can for themselves out of the dangers and difficulties of ships in distress by the use of the National Institution's boats and appliances. A grosser misrepresentation was never used for controversial purposes than Mr. Palmer's suggestion that I have calumniated the lifeboat crews. "To the Editor of TRUTH," says this gentleman, "belongs the distinction of having struck at the Institution by defaming the crews;" and he goes on to quote a passage in which I said that "the lifeboat heroism of which we hear so much rests exclusively upon a cash basis, and if the heroes are not paid their price the heroes will not be forthcoming." When Mr. Palmer quoted these words from TRUTH, he knew very well, for he must have had the article before him, that they were only a fair and literal inference from the allegation of the Secretary of the Lifeboat Institution in the letter which immediately preceded them. In that letter the Secretary distinctly stated that if the present salvage arrangements were interfered with, "the men on some parts of the coast would refuse to man the lifeboats." That statement justifies my words up to the hilt, and, if there is any calumny in the case, the men have been calumniated by the Secretary of the Institution, and by nobody else. Is this statement of Mr. Dibdin's true, or is it not? I would advise Mr. Palmer to settle that question with Mr. Dibdin before he informs his readers that the lifeboat crews have been calumniated by the Editor of TRUTH. No less unwarrantable is the suggestion that I object to a lifeboat man earning in a year as much as would keep me in cigarettes for a month. In my first article on this subject I was careful to say that "the labourer is worthy of his hire, and if the calling is an exceptionally dangerous one the hire must be in proportion." To this I added that salvage services to property at sea must be paid for by shipowners on the legal scale by whomsoever they are rendered. In using such language I thought that I had sufficiently guarded myself against even the possibility of being represented as one who expects lifeboat men to risk their lives and render invaluable services without adequate reward. But the truth would seem to be that in dealing with this Lifeboat Institution and its Press apologists, it is impossible by any means to guard against having one's words garbled and one's argument misrepresented.

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, HARROGATE.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

One question and one only, is raised by the recent articles in TRUTH on this matter of property salvage, viz., whether it is a desirable arrangement that men should be induced to "volunteer" to save life by the prospect of being able to earn a big sum of money for themselves now and then by saving property. That question the Editor of the *Yorkshire Post* does not attempt to deal with, and he shows his inability to deal with it by trailing a red-herring across the scent, and fixing upon me contentions which I have never raised. Mr. Dibdin, the Secretary of the Institution, was at any rate more honest. Without entering into the question whether the present arrangement is desirable, the Secretary boldly contended that it is the only one possible, and that if you do not allow the men property-salvage you will not get them to undertake life-salvage. In my humble judgment, this contention, even if well-founded, is a confession of failure on the part of the Institution. As pointed out in my first article—though neither Mr. Dibdin nor Mr. Palmer has thought it prudent to notice the argument—the saving of life and property from the perils of the sea is precisely analogous to the saving of life and property from fire on land; and there is no reason why men should not be found to man a lifeboat on the same terms as they can be found to man a fire-engine. There are as many heroes in the fire brigades as there are in the lifeboat service, and they are obtained without offering them prizes for property-salvage. This salvage-prize system is, in my humble judgment, unfair to the men as a class, exposes them to most undesirable temptations, and is by no means to the interest of shipowners. I may be (unconsciously) a Socialist philosopher, and I may be a cigarette-smoker, but my impression is that these views have nothing to do with either Socialism or cigarettes, and that when the facts are clearly understood similar views to mine will be held by many who regard both cigarettes and Socialism with aversion. In that belief I have done, and shall continue to do, my best to make the facts known.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

HIGH LIFE ABOVE STAIRS.

I WAS visiting, the week of the Royal wedding, a rich and invalided English lady. A hired companion was reading to her the names of the foreign Royalties and their attendants, who were guests at Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House. I begged of the reader not to stop on my account. When she had done, the invalided lady, who prides herself on being a true Englishwoman, said, "The names of those ladies and gentlemen-in-waiting are so euphonious that it really gives me pleasure to hear them. They strike the ear agreeably and set my fancy going. It is quite amusing to evoke in imagination beings of high birth and situation, whose appearance answers to the names." Poor lady, I thought—is that all you know of Courts, even although you are a brewer's widow? I had not the cruelty to attempt to rid her of her harmless illusions. But I could have repeated a conversation I had just had with a maid-of-honour to a northern Queen, which would have set all her fancies flying. The maid-of-honour is wealthy in her ownright, has a time-out-of-mind pedigree, and is daughter of an eminent statesman. Not satisfied with these advantages, she thought how nice it would be to enter not merely the charmed circle of the Court, but the impenetralia (to the ordinary mortals) of the Royal Family. The Queen to whom she owed social allegiance, learning of her wish or weakness, deigned to gratify it.

Royalty would take it ill indeed if weariness of the place led to retirement. The unfortunate maid-of-honour's waits last for nine months, a good many of which are spent moving about from one German spring to another. She is given £80 a year, out of which she has to keep her maid. This keep includes the price of demi-pension in the Palace, and wages. Though the Queen leads, for her station, a quiet life, there are a good many State pageants and public drives in open carriages. This involves a good deal of expensive dressing. Etiquette does not ordain that her Majesty should be consulted about the toilettes, but *les convenances* do. The maid-of-honour should be handsomely, but not too handsomely, dressed. Her belongings should be subordinate to that of her Royal mistress. Her unvarying manner should be one of even cheerfulness. A betrayal of tedium would be thought bad form. Nervous headaches must be concealed. One does not speak until spoken to. The subjects of conversation are limited, because so many subjects would be unsafe if repeated. Thus that kind of scandal which goes in at one ear and out at the other is tabooed. But serious fault may be found if leading questions are asked. Young members of the Royal Family are held in by staid attendants, though dying to vent the animal spirits natural to their age. They sometimes, bursting out, shake with laughter at the slightest provocation, and sometimes at no provocation. Visits of other Royalties delight them, for these guests can be as jolly as they please and start subjects of conversation. A Prince of European repute for his indefatigability in fighting against the tedium of Court life, is nicknamed by his Royal nephews and nieces "Uncle What-next." The reason is that when one form of amusement is exhausted at a house where he is a guest, he is sure to ask "What next? What next?" The fair Princess his wife can play for a whole evening with a toy puzzle, and with non-Royal companions thinks this the safest pastime. But with kindred Royalties she throws off all restraint and *fait chanter le piano*, throwing into the instrument all the feeling she has had to keep to herself, unless in her Sunday visits to the kennel. There is scarcely a Royal personage in Europe who does not doat on dogs. They can be themselves with their dogs, and familiar without fear of breeding contempt.

As to the "good" that can be done at Courts, the disappointed maid-of-honour says it is as mechanical and conventional as everything else. She gives the fullest credit for good intentions. But the desk of the King's or

SPRATT'S PATENT various Dog Foods and Medicines can be obtained of all Corn Dealers, Grocers, and Chemists in the United Kingdom and in all important Continental cities. They are also stocked at 14, Rue des Mathurins, Paris; Rummelsburg, Berlin; and 239, East 56th-street, New York. Your own tradesman or stores will supply you.

Queen's Secretary is like the Pool of Siloam before the angel touched it. All the ills to which flesh is liable are represented there. In sad letters, some true and some false, morbid and vain persons delight to reveal their uneasy consciousness to Heads of States and their consorts. This mania is worse in Protestant than in Catholic countries. In the latter, praying before Calvaries, making stations of the Cross in churches, going on pilgrimages, and confiding to spiritual directors, serve to draw the morbidness away from the Crowned Head. It is impossible to waste-paper-basket all the appeals for help and recognition of unsuccessful talent. When there is a letter showing the sense of a permanent grievance it is sent to the police, and precautions to protect the Royal person are multiplied.

The pests of the small Courts are the importance attached to etiquette, and the thin-skinnedness and jealousy of the courtiers. Great pests of all Courts, but chiefly of the greater, are the hosts of fussy people, humbugs of all kinds, and projectors who want to secure Royal patronage as a means to advertisement. They are much more likely to get it than the deserving, because their instinct tells them how to make their approach. Queens are now pestered all over Europe with individuals who imagine money is to be made in getting up unions to secure artistic and literary employment for women. The poor weak things would go to the wall if they were not brought into droves. The larger the drove the greater the number of subscriptions, and the better for the drover. The Empress Frederick is ready to help feminine unions, but for handicrafts requiring trained skill and talent, and not to get poor scribbling or painting shot into the market. The Queens of Sweden and of Denmark are of the same mind. But the Queen of Sweden likes to patronise authoresses on the side of religion and good morals. The Empress of Russia feels her way. My maid-of-honour tells me that the Prince of Wales's daughters are credited in northern Courts with shrewdness and insight into the motives of fussy philanthropists.

The most pleasant Court for maids-of-honour is that of St. Petersburg. The Countess G. was there on a visit, and wondered whether there were limits to the liberties of the courtiers. One sex is as free as the other. The ladies smoke, skate, dance, take sentimental drives in the long day-like summer nights, flirt with grand dukes, or with no matter whom, throw themselves into love, diplomatic, palace, and even political intrigues. The latter may lead to Siberia. But the gambling spirit is strong in them: danger gives zest to enterprise, and forbidden fruit is sweetest.

The late M. Spuller was in many respects an exemplary statesman. He showed openly that wealth and *chic* were not needed to command respect. The honest, excellent, plodding Spuller lived, when out of office, on a fifth floor in the unfashionable Rue Favart. His household consisted of an elderly bonne—his laundress when he was young and poor. He often saved candle-light by writing at a table in the Café Restaurant of the Grand U. There he had his lunch. He dined out too often for his health not to suffer. There is no surer slow poisoner than the chef who furnishes dinners at from twenty francs a head to private houses on company days. Spuller had one great defect. He did not see that courage is the whole battle. He was apt to despair, and to make up his mind to be a martyr. In the early and difficult years of the Republic, he used to write disheartening letters of endless length to Gambetta, who spoke of them as *hannetonage allemande*. Spuller could be a bore. He was a heavy, diffuse writer, but sound, solid, and well informed. I never knew him, when Minister of Public Instruction, to pay attention to any songstress or danseuse. The friends he then made among high members of his staff led to his books selling well later. They were ordered in thousands to serve as prizes in Government schools. The State might have gone farther and fared worse in search of Republican literature. Spuller's admiration of and friendship for the late Lord Lytton were due probably to that law in virtue of which we are apt to like most those who resemble us least. He kept in a special portfolio a letter from Lord Lytton expressing his deep sorrow at Spuller having to retire from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "I regard that letter," he said to me, "*comme un titre.*" Spuller was a bulky person until he lost his health, when he became a skeleton covered by a yellow skin a world too wide for his bones. He had a suspicious-looking eye. The expression, as he seemed to scan one's face, was deceptive. It was inherited from generations of forefathers whose trade was to fell cattle. They looked the ox well in the eyes before smiting its forehead.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE school of Dr. Fashion, dear Lady Betty, has broken up for the holidays.

During the last term an incident occurred which created much excitement in the school and attracted considerable attention outside of it. Young Jameson with several companions went out of bounds and broke into the orchard of Farmer Kruger. The farmer, having been informed that they were trespassing, hurried to the orchard with several of his men, and, upon their arrival, Jameson and his followers threw stones. The boys were, however, captured, and Farmer Kruger, acting with much self-restraint, delivered them over to the school authorities to be punished according to the regulations of that establishment.

From the first Dr. Fashion has regarded the affair as not being so serious as some consider it to be, and there are those who think that as most of the boys are well connected, and their relations have influence and money, he has not punished them so severely as he might have done had they been of less importance. Then, in talking the matter over, Dr. Fashion openly declared that to try to steal fruit from the neighbours showed that the boys possessed the fine British spirit, and therefore an offence of this kind should not be punished very severely. Besides, Farmer Kruger has never shown that he is well-disposed towards the school. It has also been asserted that Jameson and his companions had been ordered to steal the fruit by two boys who were bigger than they are—to wit, Cecil Rhodes, who holds a position of trust in the school, and his particular friend, Beit, the son of a very rich German financier. It is obvious, however, that if Jameson and his followers had succeeded in stealing the fruit they would have kept some of the apples for themselves.

However, the authorities thoroughly investigated the matter and punished the boys, and Dr. Fashion has modified the punishment to suit his own views.

But the Board School children in the district assert that if they had done the same things that Jameson and his companions did they would have been treated as common thieves and perhaps even as murderers. That young Jameson and his followers are well educated, have been brought up in comparative luxury, and have other advantages, they argue, should have made their offence more serious than had it been committed by ill-bred, half-educated lads to whom fruit is a delicacy which they could not hope to obtain unless they stole it. Moreover, though it is true that a child who has been brought up in the enjoyment of every comfort is more sensitive than is one who has been brought up roughly, the former has not the temptations that the latter has, and has far better means of knowing what is right and what is wrong. Therefore, though the one may feel the punishment more, the seriousness of the offence which he commits is considerably greater.

Breaking into orchards, trying to steal apples, and then fighting for liberty are acts which the Board School children naturally approve of, and they look upon those who do these things as heroes. What annoys them in this particular instance is that Jameson and his companions tried to excuse themselves by saying that they went into the orchard not to steal the apples belonging to Farmer Kruger, but because they heard some little girls crying in it, and they wished to rescue them from whatever danger they were in. This pretence has been proved to be wholly untrue, and the Board School children think that it was therefore unworthy of British boys to try to shelter themselves in that way from the consequences of their conduct.

However, Dr. Fashion, it is well known, is a great respecter of persons. It is the sons of the rich and of those who have position who fill his school, whilst those of the poor and of the labouring class—or of the belabouring class, as some call it—he would not have there, however much they might strive to be admitted.

But it is a bad precedent to set up. The Board School children with this example before them will no longer believe that attempted theft and taking life are such terrible crimes as the clergymen of the district are always telling them that they are. Many of them will now maintain that the gravity of these acts depends considerably upon where they are committed and upon who commits them. As there are about a thousand common boys to every one well-bred boy, if any large quantity of the former become convinced of this, life and property throughout the district will be in serious danger.

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Another point in this case deserves to be considered. It is supposed that young Jameson and his companions were ordered to break into the orchard by the two bigger boys, Cecil Rhodes and Beit, and it is assumed that for this reason they are not being punished so severely as they would have been had they committed the offence upon their own account. When, however, those who are opposed to the views of Dr. Fashion in this matter urge that Rhodes and Beit should be punished, the worthy doctor objects that it would be very difficult to prove that they had really given the order. But if there is proof enough of it for young Jameson and the others to have their punishments considerably modified, there must necessarily be sufficient proof to establish the guilt of Rhodes and Beit.

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The following extract from "Sketches," by "Mark Twain," may be appropriately quoted here:—

"There are some natures which never grow large enough to speak out, and say a bad act *is* a bad act, until they have ascertained the nationality or the politics of the man who did it. And they are not really scarce, either. Cain is branded as a murderer so heartily and unanimously in America only because he was never an American citizen, and was neither a Democrat nor a Republican. The Fiji Islander's abuse of Cain ceased very suddenly when the white man casually mentioned that Cain was a Fiji Islander.

"The next remark of the savage, after an awkward pause was, 'Well, what did Abel come fooling around there for?'"

* * * * *

Another observation to which attention may be recalled in connection with the recent proceedings occurs in a letter written by Lord Chesterfield to his son, dated New Year's Day, 1753:—

"There is a strange but never-failing relation between honest madmen and skilful knaves; and whenever one meets with collected numbers of the former, one may be very sure that they are secretly directed by the latter."

* * * * *

An especially curious accident occurred to a cyclist close to Wilton-place last week. He was riding an old-fashioned cycle with one very high wheel in front and one very small wheel at the back. As he was coming down the hill from Hyde Park Corner there was a victoria in front of him. Upon reaching Wilton-place a policeman suddenly stopped the traffic, and as there was no other course open to the cyclist he was compelled to run his machine into the back of the carriage. In an instant he was shot over the hood, and clutching at whatever he could reach to break his fall, he found himself the next moment with his arms round the neck of the lady who was in the victoria, and both he and her struggling together on the floor of the carriage. It would be difficult to describe the astonishment of the good woman, who, from an attitude of dignity, thus unexpectedly and suddenly found herself scrambling with a stranger upon the floor of her own victoria. The accident was witnessed by several people, and it must be admitted that much amusement was caused by it as soon as it was ascertained that neither the man nor the woman had suffered any injury.

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The Guards' Club is to undergo this month its biennial process of redecoration. During the three weeks that the members will be unable to use their club-house they will receive the hospitality of the New Club in Grafton-street, as they did in 1894. The prosperity and the popularity that have attended the New Club prove that the estimate which was made of that institution in these columns from the commencement of its career was not over-rated. As the New Club is managed upon right principles, and complies with the altered requirements of the present generation, it is bound to prosper, even though upon every side older and more pretentious institutions of the kind are tottering.

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The proprietors of the Piccadilly Club have made another departure in the right direction, which in time will have to be adopted by every other club. There has existed until now a hard-and-fast rule that club subscriptions must be paid upon the first of every year. This is inconvenient in many ways. To begin with, if a candidate is elected in July, after being a member for half a year, he is called upon to pay another full subscription. That is unjust. Again, the New Year is the time when most people are compelled to make payments in many directions. The new regulation framed by the proprietors of the Piccadilly Club and passed by the Committee, provides that "The subscriptions of all members elected after August 1, 1896, become due on the anniversary of their election." By this means every candidate elected obtains his full year in return for his first subscription. As regards the management of the club, this rule will do away with the overcrowding of work at the end of the year when the Secretary has to send out a large number of reminders to the members, and

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

as to answer many letters dealing with the matter. The reminders will now be sent out gradually, and will almost imperceptibly increase the daily duties of the Secretary and of those who work in his office. If this system is found to work admirably in insurance offices, turely it must succeed also in clubs. How long will it be, however, before the committees of the old-fashioned clubs will condescend to learn the lesson?—Believe me to be very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A FORTNIGHT ago I expressed the opinion that in spite of the bad running of Ramapo in the July Handicap at Newmarket, this horse would nevertheless win a T.Y.C. Handicap before long. "He must not be discarded by backers on the strength of his defeat last week, as he might take it into his head to astonish them by a display of his best form some day when the British public have plunged upon something else." The correctness of my views respecting him was proved conclusively at Goodwood, for the horse was backed in right earnest for the Stewards' Cup, and he would assuredly have won that race if he had been ridden by a competent jockey. The eccentricities of Ramapo's American rider had a tragical issue, for they not merely cost that horse the race, but his infernal antics entirely destroyed the chance of Kilcock. With a clear course the finish would have remained between this pair. The defeat of Ramapo was regretted by his backers only, and his victory would have been most unpopular. It would be interesting to learn how the horse's owner and trainer can reconcile his excellent running at Goodwood with his ignominious exhibition at Newmarket. He may have a temper, which makes him untrustworthy, but this would appear to be coupled with the wit to know when the stable money is on all right, as it certainly was at Goodwood.

The Duke of Westminster ran nothing at Goodwood on the first day in consequence of Lord Macclesfield's death, and the absence of his horses made a considerable difference in several of the events. Lord Rosebery would not start Chelandry for the Richmond Stakes, as she had a penalty of 12 lb., so he depended upon Trawler, by Trayles out of Seabreeze, who ran badly, and the filly would have won in spite of her extra weight. Chillingham won for Lord Durham by a head from the Prince of Wales' Oakdene, but neither colt is anything of a flyer. The Prince of Wales' Sweepstakes (value £2,800) and the Rous Memorial Stakes resulted in accordance with my predictions, Velasquez winning the former and Bluewater the latter. There was a very strong belief that Goletta would defeat Lord Rosebery's colt, and she was generally tipped from Newmarket, but when it came to racing she had no chance with him, for he defeated her in a common canter. Velasquez will run next at Doncaster for the Champagne Stakes, after which he is to be reserved for the Middle Park Plate, while Chelandry will run for the £3,000 Stake at Kempton Park, which Sir Visto won two years ago. Chelandry has incurred a penalty of 10 lb., but a breeding allowance reduces this to 5 lb. Bluewater is a very smart filly, and she has come on wonderfully since her unsuccessful début at Sandown Park in June, when Canonbury gave her 15 lb. and a beating. Lowly, who ran so well for the Rous Memorial, is rapidly improving, and she will win plenty of races for Lord Cadogan. Bluewater ought to win the Astley Stakes at Lewes on Friday if she runs, and there would be no object in keeping her at home, this being her last engagement as a two-year-old, except the £1,000 race at Derby next month. This filly will be invaluable at Kingsclere as a trial animal for the other two-year-olds. Orelio, the brother to Ormonde, will no doubt be galloped with her before he makes his début in the Middle Park Plate.

The collapse of Pride left the Goodwood Cup at the mercy of Count Schomberg, but I must again express a hope that the conditions as to penalties and allowances will be revised before next year. It would be a wise step, moreover, to reduce the distance of this race to two miles.

Regret, of course, won the Sussex Stakes, and I suppose he will next be seen out at York, where he is engaged in the Great Yorkshire Stakes. Of course, the distance (one mile and three-quarters) is too far for him, but then there is nothing in the list that could make him gallop. Regret is in the mile race (value £500) at the Sandown Park Meeting next month. This will be a most interesting contest if the Duke of Westminster's colt is opposed by Canterbury Pilgrim. If Regret is seen at Doncaster, he will run for the Doncaster Stakes on the Friday, and not for the St. Leger, supposing that Persimmon and St. Frusquin go on all right.

I have several times warned my speculative readers to look out for Raconteur whenever he came to be started for a T.Y.C. race. Mr. McCalmont's horse carried off the Singleton Plate on Thursday, and how his price came to be 10 to 1 I cannot understand. This is Raconteur's first success since he won the Middle Park Plate. He cost the gullish herd many thousands last year over the Two Thousand and the Derby, but for neither event did I ever fancy him at all.

There is practically no betting on the Leger, for which event Helm is understood to be the great public fancy for a place. I hear that she is to run at York for the Yorkshire Oaks. If the favourites keep well, I should fancy that the Duke of Westminster will scratch Helm for the Leger, in order that she may come fresh to the post for the Park Hill Stakes, as in that race she will meet Canterbury Pilgrim, having 4 lb. the best of the weights. It is a pity that Thais is not entered, as if she was engaged in the Doncaster event the result of that race would clearly show which is the best filly of the year.

The Panglosses of the sporting papers have, as a matter of course, described the Derby entries for 1898 as being in every respect most satisfactory, but this roseate view will certainly not be shared by any one who looks carefully through the list. There are 282 entries, as compared with 297 for next year, while for this year there were 280. These figures are all satisfactory enough, but when the entry comes to be examined it will be found that there are nearly fifty American and French yearlings in the list, so that if the race had depended upon home patronage only there would have been a vast decline in the number of subscribers. The fact is that owners do not enter their yearlings for the Derby so generously as of old. The event exists mainly upon its old prestige, and the value of the race should be increased, and its miserably mean pecuniary conditions revised. There is no catch to an owner in being allowed to "get out" for £5 in January next, for this is too early a date to be able to form an estimate as to the racing prospects of more than one yearling out of every twenty. The value of the Derby ought to be raised to £10,000, and a more attractive arrangement of the subscription should be devised. Sir Tatton Sykes and Mr. Platt are the largest subscribers, each having entered seven animals, which will be offered for sale at Doncaster next month. The Sledmere lot includes a brother to Buckingham, whose own sister realised 2,200 guineas last year; and there is a colt by Galopin out of Heresy, whose half-sister, by St. Simon, then fetched 3,800 guineas. Mr. de Rothschild has five entries, including Isabinda, own sister to St. Frusquin; and Douy, half-brother, by Donovan, to Galeazzo, whose sire was the defunct Wisdom. The Duke of Westminster has six, including St. Maur, half-brother, by Orme, to La Sagesse; Ameer, by Orme out of Quetta; and Shapfell, half-brother, by Kendal, to Orme. Of the Duke of Devonshire's six, one is a half-brother, by Ayrshire, to Marvel. Mr. McCalmont also has six, and so has Sir Blundell Maple. Of Lord Rosebery's five, one is an own sister to Ladas, and another is a colt by Donovan out

The ONLY PALATABLE NATURAL APERIENT to take is "Franz Josef" Water, generally admitted to be the best. Ten gold medals at World's Exhibitions. No household should be without it.

of Seabreeze. The Prince of Wales has two entries, both being colts bred at Sandringham, and one is a son of Orme and Marguerite. Lord Durham also has two, one being a colt by Sheen out of Primrose Day, while the other is by Common out of Alibech, the dam of Son o' Mine. M. Ephrussi has two, one being a half-brother, by War Dance, to Alicante, who is named Margaux. Of Mr. Fairie's pair, one is Speedaway, who is a half-brother, by Galopin, to Speedwell. Of the other "public" breeders Mr. Hoole has five entries, and Lord Scarborough and Mr. Taylor Sharpe have four each. Sir J. Miller's lot of three includes a colt by Galopin out of Thebais, and a half-sister, by St. Simon, to Sainfoin. Mr. Perkins has only one entry, a colt by Bend Or out of Jenny Howlet, and Mr. Houldsworth's solitary nomination is a colt by St. Simon out of Sunrise. Mr. Pilkington enters Southerness, who is half-brother, by Chittabob, to Glencally. Of the Duke of Portland's five, one is Savoir Vivre, half-brother, by Donovan, to Amiable. Mr. Russel's colt, The Virginian, is half-brother to Whittier, by Ayrshire. Lord Derby has entered nothing, but Lord Stanley has two nominations. Lord Dunraven has a colt by Galopin out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre. Lord Zetland's only entry is Red King, half-brother, by Royal Hampton, to Keelson. The principal new names in the Derby list are Lord Warwick, Mr. Woolf Joel, and Mr. H. L. Raphael.

There are 243 entries for the Oaks, as against 232 for next year, and 201 for the present year. The Prince of Wales has two nominations, one being a half-sister, by Surefoot, to Persimmon. Lord Alington is represented by Furze, by Common out of Fuse. Mr. D. Baird has Grasse, by Macheath out of Antibes, and Simylla, by St. Simon out of Palm Flower. Of the Duke of Devonshire's four one is half-sister, by Donovan, to Minstrel. Mr. Luscombe has a half-sister to Marco, by Sheen. Sir J. B. Maple has six entries, one being Nun Nicer, by Common out of Priestess. Mr. Platt has four entries, two being daughters of St. Simon. Of the Duke of Portland's four one is Elizabeth Hardwicke, half-sister, by Orme, to Donovan. If this filly does not race there is nothing in running blood. Another of the Welbeck lot is a filly by Satiety out of Rattlewings, a mare which represents one of the late Lord Falmouth's most successful strains of blood. Lord Rosebery has three, one being the sister to Ladas and another is Mauchline, a felicitously named daughter of Ayrshire and Corstorphine. Mr. Rose has a filly by Bonavista out of Penitent, dam of Ravensbury. Mr. de Rothschild has five, including Isabinda and Ayah, half-sister, by Ayrshire, to Utica. The Duke of Westminster has entered four fillies, including Lowood, by St. Serf out of Rydal; Orpah, by Orme out of Ruth (dam of Tarporley); Wheatley, by Orme out of Shotover; and Console, own sister to Conroy. Of Lord Zetland's pair one is St. Veronica, by St. Simon out of Verdigris.

A paragraph has appeared in a weekly paper which states that the Duke of Richmond and Gordon makes £8,000 a year out of the gate-money at Goodwood Races. Such idiotic nonsense must be the invention of some moon-calf who has never been at Goodwood, and who has not taken the slightest trouble to verify this ridiculous fiction. There is no gate-money of any sort or kind at Goodwood, nor any of the devices for fleecing the public which are now so common at race meetings. If Goodwood Races were conducted with an eye to profit, the course would have been enclosed long ago, and the Lawn would have been covered with a stand fitted up with boxes and stalls, as at Ascot. A very large revenue could easily be derived from the Goodwood meeting, if it were managed on the system which prevails at Ascot and Epsom, where the annual profits are simply prodigious.

It is all nonsense and rubbish for some sporting writers to prescribe increased added money as the proper specific to restore the popularity of the Goodwood Stakes and the Goodwood Cup. These races are no more failures than are the long-distance events at Ascot and other meetings. The added money of the Gold Cup has been increased from £500 to £3,000, and yet there are seldom more than three or four starters, while every one knows that the Vase and the Alexandra Plate are ghastly failures as a rule. The fact is that very few indeed of the present breed of racehorses really can stay a Cup course, and owners and trainers prefer to devote themselves to mile races and T.Y.C. scrambles. Under these circumstances, increasing the added money of the long-distance races is a fatuity which reminds one of Milton's country gentleman who raised his park wall in order to keep the crows out of his domain.

Next week the annual series of Yorkshire meetings begin with Redcar. The Redcar Stakes of £600, which has eighty-two entries, is the principal two-year-old race, and Chillingham, winner of the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood, is entered, but he will scarcely be able to give 13 lb. to maidens if there is anything smart among the dark lot. The Great National Breeders' Foal Stakes of £600 has sixty-seven three-year-olds entered, and Lord Zetland may bring out his dark colt, Red Rag, half-brother, by Prism, to Keelson for this event, and if he has any pretensions to be at all in form he ought to win easily.

There will be some good sport at Kempton Park. The £800 two-year-old race may fall to Ardeshir. The principal event in the programme is the £1,500 three-year-old stake, the entry including Labrador and Galeazzo. I shall predict the success of Mr. L. de Rothschild's colt, although he has a penalty of 14 lb., but he is really a very much better animal than most people think. Being in the same stable with St. Frusquin it is a case of *une lune bien pâle.*

Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale, who combines the functions of a master of hounds with those of a governor of a grammar school, is of opinion that too much attention is paid to athletics. He is an old Oxford oar, and he is reported to have said that too much attention was devoted to sport at Oxford. This was probably a slip on the reporter's part. At the same time, it helps to explain away the little defeats that Cambridge has been suffering from, and many a Cambridge undergraduate will hope these words will not fall on barren soil. A little less attention to rowing at Oxford and a little more on the Cam would do admirably.

The Metropolitan Regatta, where there was no picnicking or band and hardly the pleasure of a cocoanut shy at Hammersmith, but only stern racing, attracted few spectators. Thames had the events pretty well to themselves, and in the sculls young Guinness altogether upset Henley form by beating Beaumont, who does not seem to care about tidal waters. At the same time the Metropolitan is not the only regatta that suffers from want of spectators. At Molesey there was not nearly the crowd there was last year, and even at Henley the crowd down the course was not so thick as it has been. In fact, the boatmen are complaining bitterly of the lack of patronage, and although I cannot speak from experience, rumour says that the tariff to the boating man is becoming more moderate. The bicycle craze is the cause of all this woe, and the riverside men bless the machine accordingly. At Maidenhead a strong Orkney Cottage crew won the Challenge Cup for fours outright. At Fieldhead, Lehmann has a good eight in training for Goring.

The Australians have not been beaten by a county team, and it does not seem likely that they will be. Whatever opinion the public formed at first, there is but one view of their talents now, and that is that they are not far short of the best team that has come over. When Abel made the first century an Englishman has made against them, Surrey looked secure from defeat, and when the Australians started they did not look like winning. But then the Surrey fielding almost made one weep. Gregory ought to have been caught in the slips at ten. Then he hit a five, and got four from an overthrow, thanks to Leveson-Gower, who soon after let a drive off Read's lobs pass him. This was the sort of mis-fielding that went on. Hill's innings was very pretty, and, considering his strength on the leg side, it was remarkable that the fielders were not shifted. It is curious how good left-handed batsmen are on that side. Killick, of Sussex,

and Thornton, Middlesex, are almost as deadly with their leg strokes. Kelly, the wicket-keeper, is also a decidedly sound bat, whose merits are scarcely sufficiently appreciated. Both from that match and against Yorkshire it is clear that Hayward has played himself into form again. But it was scarcely anticipated after the fine start made by him and Abel that the Colonials would win. However, Jones and McKibbin had matters all their own way, and a genuine rot set in that only a Key or a Lohmann could stop, and they were not playing. It was very satisfactory to find Hearne again in form, and taking wickets cheaply on such a batsman's wicket as that at Hove. He has for a fast bowler had to do a lot of work recently, and he has rather overbowled himself. After most of the Somerset bats had played brilliantly against the Lancashire bowling they utterly failed against Mold and Briggs in their second innings, and the rain alone saved them from a bad beating. Captain Quinton played two good innings for Hampshire, which county scored the same number of runs each time it went in against Leicester, and was then beaten after a close finish. Marlborough made a miserably weak display against Rugby, for whom Fletcher and Wilson bowled admirably, while Walford alone did anything worth mentioning in the way of batting.

Too much attention must not be paid to the Australians' defeat at Bexhill. At the same time, Douglas's batting was excellent on the bad wicket. Yorkshire had bad luck all through their match with Surrey. Smith's hitting was superb, and it was gratifying to find Peel in form again. Ranjitsinhji and Marlow played stolidly for Sussex against Notts until defeat was very improbable, and then the former's hitting was brilliant in the extreme. Captain Quinton and Ward saved Hants from a beating by Warwick, for which county Bainbridge and Quaife made big scores.

Many cyclists will be glad to hear that the Surrey County Council is going to take Kew Bridge in hand and have it rebuilt. At present to ride over it is something like going over a church steeple, with the pleasant additional excitement of not knowing what may appear at the top.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—We had quite an old-fashioned slump in connection with the settlement last week, and for once again rumours have been busy as regards forced closing of large accounts. The greatest weakness has been shown on the Paris Bourse, and it is evident that a stale "Bull" account in Turks and other stocks of that ilk, and in South Africans, had to be weeded out there. In London sales of Yankee Rails were pressed, and there is no doubt that there was some compulsory closing in these securities as well as in South African shares, both classes of stocks having of late experienced very important declines. The trouble, however, did not prove of much importance, and a sharp recovery has since taken place, which will probably, after the Bank Holiday, make further progress. A very lively market cannot, of course, yet be expected; but everything tends to show that when the holiday-makers return there will be an all-round improvement.

Home Railway Dividends.

Home Railway stocks were also affected by the general weakness, and although rates at the carry-over were easy, and money was plentiful, quotations at one time suffered a sharp relapse. Then a distinct rally followed, and the market will doubtless be much better for the shake-out which has eliminated some of the weak elements. Of further dividend announcements I have only to record that of the North London, which was extremely favourable—viz., at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum against 6¼ per cent. for the corresponding half-year of 1895. This distribution had a very beneficial effect upon Brums (London and North Western), this line being interested in the North London; and there were also favourable dividend estimates current as regards the North Western, an increase at the rate of 1 per cent. being confidently looked for. Both the Great Western and North Western announcements will be made this week. The time has now come to pass in review in tabular form the position of the different lines, and the yield of the stocks. I have compiled the following table, which gives the yield on the basis of the distributions for the twelve months ending June 30, 1896:—

Dividends.

—	First Half 1896.	First Half 1895.	Div. for year 1895-6.	Present price.	Yield per cent. per annum.
	%	%	%		
Great Eastern	1⅓	¾	2¾	104⅓	2¾
Great Northern.....	3	2½	3⅞	126½	3
Lancashire & York.	5	3¾	5⅛	151½	3⅜
London, Brighton...	4¾	3¾	6½	196	3½
Lon.Chatham Prefs.	4½	2⅚	4½	136½	3⅜
Lon. & S. Western.	5	4½	6⅜	213	3
London, Tilbury ...	2¾	2½	4¼	133	3 3/16
Manchest'r,Sheffi'ld	1	nil	1⅜	58	2⅜
Metropolitan	3¼	2⅞	3⅛	115	2 11/16
Met. District Prefs.	3½	3	3	104	2⅞
Midland	5	4	5⅝	170½	3¼
North-Eastern	3½	4½	6⅛	182¼	3⅜
North Staffs.	4	3½	4¼	134	3 3/16
South Eastern	3	2¼	4½	150	3

I propose to add the North Western and Great Western next week to this table. It will be seen that the North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire stocks yield the highest return, and that Chatham Prefs. equal this yield, the Midland ranking with a return of 3¼ per cent. per annum. The Brighton Ordinary stock tops this result with a yield of 3½ per cent., and I may mention that Brighton "A" at 184½ return £3. 17s. per cent. South Eastern Ordinary yield 3 per cent., and Dover "A," on the basis of the last two half-yearly dividends on the Ordinary, also yield 3 per cent. It is probable that the traffics during the current half-year will show a considerable increase upon those of the corresponding half of 1895, in which case the annual yield would of course be considerably raised, and that is doubtless what present purchasers are looking for in view of the continued excellent returns. With reference to the South Eastern line, more especially, a further reduction in working expenses is looked for, as the result of an arrangement with the Chatham Company; and under all the circumstances I consider Dover "A" one of the most promising speculations. There has been a considerable shake-out in the Scotch Deferred stocks, and an important further rally seems assured. Both Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) and North British Deferred are in fact excellent purchases at present prices. Dividend estimates will stimulate dealings, no doubt, in the near future, and excellent distributions as compared with those of last year are anticipated; while last week's traffic again shows a very large increase, that of the Caledonian amounting to £8,329 above the corresponding week of last year, while the North British increase is £5,044.

Spasms in the Yankee Market.

As I anticipated, sharp spasms are now the order of the day in American Railroad stocks, and there is little doubt that the unsettled condition of this department will continue up to the Presidential election. The position in New York is unchanged, and everything turns upon the currency platform. Mr. McKinley is evidently about to make the very best of the chance thus given him by the Democrats, and sound money will be his watchword. The bankers and merchants are likely to rally round him, and in fact the more intelligent portion of the people will doubtless support him. Governor Flower gives vent to his feelings on this

subject with characteristic candour in the following statement, which I take from an interview which one of the New York pressmen had with him:—

I met a great many business men at Chicago, including men from all sections of the country, especially the South and West. I met others at Watertown, and still others since I reached New York. I never found business men so thoroughly united in their ideas as they are now, and I have never seen a political party succeed which was opposed even by a majority of the business men. They wish no further disturbance to the currency, and they are a unit in their desire to preserve the present standard. It cannot matter what the politicians do; the business men will send out their literature to the farmers and mechanics of the United States, and absolutely control this election. It is a great business question, for on it hinges prosperity for all the people. I look for organisation outside of both parties, and an issue wholly of business and not of politics. The people will be thoroughly educated on this currency question before November. I have no doubt but what the people will decide the question in the right way. There are some Republican farmers in my county who believe in taking free coinage as a dose to cure their ills resulting from the small returns for produce, but when they thoroughly understand the question they would sooner take jalap than free coinage.

It is to be hoped that Governor Flower's sanguine views will be borne out by results. The sharp decline which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday was chiefly due to a "Bear" drive, both here and in Wall-street, and the ursine party succeeded in dislodging a good deal of stock which was weakly held. Forced closing was the result, more especially in the case of Louisville, which were strongly attacked by the "Bears," under cover of rumours of a war in rates. A recovery has since come about, and it is hardly likely that the great financial houses so closely connected with this road will in the long run leave it without support. Yet the time for making speculative purchases has hardly come, as political accidents might any day counteract a moderate advance, and the only manner in which profits might be skinned in Yankee Rails at present would be by buying on sharp declines and selling on rallies. In the meantime, it is possible that more object-lessons will be needed before our American cousins realise the extreme danger which they will run by adopting a silver basis. With reference to Milwaukee, the *Wall-street Daily News*, which has somehow or other turned on the "Bear" tack of late, goes so far as to state that the salvation of this stock depends entirely upon the fact that London has not yet started to liquidate its holdings to any extent. My contemporary is of opinion that should an attempt be made to do so, it would be difficult to say to how low a point the price would drop. It is this which, according to the *Wall Street Daily News*, makes the "Bull" pool in Wall-street quite anxious, and no cat ever watched a mouse more closely than these gentlemen are watching the Britishers for a change in their market position. If the salvation of the Milwaukee "Bull" pool depended upon London, I am afraid that there would not be much chance for them. But I have repeatedly explained that the purchases of American Rails, which have during the last month or two been made on this side in the face of panicky conditions, were really carried out for American account; so that the key of the market is practically on the other side of the Atlantic. By the way, the present political situation in the United States is bringing about some curious developments in journalism. An American contemporary remarks that the *World*, owned by Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, is a strong advocate of the gold standard, while the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, also owned by Mr. Joseph Pulitzer, is a rabid champion of free silver, and "in Anarchistic, Populistic, and Socialistic divagations can double discount Herr Most." Editor Jones, of the *Post-Dispatch*, is in fact credited with having formulated the Chicago free silver platform. I am afraid that this dual rôle of Mr. Pulitzer must be a very inconvenient one to him. Canadian-Pacifics have been weak in sympathy with the American market, and seem little inclined to recover, but Grand Trunks are displaying greater rallying power.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

Foreigners and South Americans.

We are so little accustomed nowadays for any special weakness to develop on the Paris Bourse, that operators were quite surprised to find quotations of interbourse securities knocked down all round in connection with the Paris settlement. Spanish and Italians did not suffer so much; but Turks and Ottoman Banks showed great weakness, and this is indeed not surprising when it is considered that the Ottoman Empire is now threatened by two different upheavals, one in Crete and the other in Macedonia. No wonder that the Turkish Groups dropped suddenly from one to three points! I have always argued that Turkish stocks were too high, in view of the danger of political trouble in that tottering Empire. I dare say things will be patched up once again, and none of the great Powers are as yet desirous of partitioning that country off. But sooner or later the Sultan's reign will come to an untoward end. The weakness emanating from the Paris Bourse also communicated itself to Argentine Government and Railway stocks, and quite a sharp decline was caused at one time by French sales, which came upon a somewhat inflated position here. The 1886 Loan temporarily dropped to 80, the Funding Loan to 82, Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds to 66½. But there has been a moderate recovery since, and unless Paris repeats the performance I shall look for a further improvement. It was, however, just as well that the speculators in Argentines were reminded that the rise cannot go on for ever. Uruguay bonds were also temporarily affected, but the Old Loan did not drop below 50½. This week the New Loan will get its settlement, and then we may look for more active dealings in it. Brazilians also passed through a moderate spasm, and Mexican Sixes fell rather sharply on a somewhat critical article in a financial daily contemporary. I cannot say that I share the somewhat gloomy view taken in these remarks, and am not surprised that these bonds are recovering now. South and Central American rubbish stocks are unaltered, and much neglected.

The Kaffir Circus.

Tempora mutantur! How different was the condition of the South African market a year ago when I had to write to you (also just before the August Bank Holiday) about the boom in Kaffirs which was then in progress, notwithstanding the weakening influences of the holiday season. At that time record prices were touched by a number of gold and land shares, and the street market was in a state of intense excitement. French and German investors and speculators were rushing into gold mines, and there seemed to be no end to the boom; although I then already suggested that some speculators were going beyond their depth, and that setbacks were in store for the Kaffir Circus. The excitement lasted a little longer, and prices rose still higher, and then the "far-seeing" financiers who organised the famous "flotation" which culminated in the Jameson raid, unloaded upon the public and afterwards smashed the market. The collapse of the Kaffir Circus, in fact, was entirely their doing. Had not the disastrous and mischievous Jameson raid been carried out, the output of the Witwatersrand mines would have gone on steadily increasing, the trouble in the Transvaal would never have happened, labour would have been abundant, and probably by this time a number of useful reforms would have been introduced. Even the Chartered Company would have been in a better position than it is at the present time, especially as the upheaval of the natives in Matabeleland and Mashonaland can be distinctly traced to the after-effects of the Jameson raid. It is no good crying over spilt milk; but I would just like to put on record that Chartered shares a year ago stood at $5\frac{11}{16}$ and rose to $8\frac{1}{2}$ afterwards, while they have now dropped to $2\frac{3}{4}$. Langlaagte Estate were then quoted $6\frac{5}{8}$, and are now $5\frac{1}{4}$ x.d.; Oceana, then $4\frac{1}{16}$, are now $1\frac{3}{8}$; Randfontein had risen to $3\frac{7}{8}$, and are now $2\frac{13}{16}$; Buffelsdoorn had touched the high quotation of $8\frac{1}{4}$, and are now quoted $2\frac{5}{8}$. New Primrose a year ago stood at 7, and are now $5\frac{5}{16}$, Barnato Consols, now 3, then stood at $4\frac{1}{4}$; and so on. I do not specially refer to Rand Mines,

Limited, East Rands, and Consolidated Goldfields (which in the height of the boom touched 45, 12½, and 19 respectively, and are now quoted 29½, 6 15/16, and 12 respectively), for the simple reason that I always warned my readers to be careful of these dangerous gambling counters. From this melancholy retrospect I turn to the present condition of the market, which has experienced a severe shake-out during the past week. Paris has been unloading, a number of weak "Bulls" having apparently been compelled to close their engagements. There were also weak spots in London, which now appear to have been eliminated; and after a further collapse we have a moderate improvement. Whether the latter will last through the holiday period, or whether the real advance will only come next month, when the holiday-makers return, I do not undertake to say; but that in the course of the present year we shall have a marked rise from the present level I feel fully convinced. The unfavourable points are gradually disappearing. Dr. Jameson and the other leaders of the raid have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, after a very fairly-conducted trial; and thus I think that even the most vindictive Boers will admit that the British Government have acted loyally and fairly in the matter. The appointment of a Parliamentary Committee has, moreover, been agreed to by the House of Commons to inquire into the origin and circumstances of the Jameson raid and into the administration of the British South Africa Company. Thus further light will be thrown upon the whole matter, and all the reasonable expectations of the Transvaal Government and the Boers will be fulfilled. It is for President Kruger and his Government now to introduce the reforms, the necessity of which they themselves admit. Mr. B. I. Barnato has again arrived in our midst, and I have no doubt that he will have some cheery information to give with regard to his own stocks, and more especially concerning the big amalgamation scheme which he is about to engineer. With reference to the Robinson group the decline in some of these shares is doubtless due to a large extent to the Paris settlement, as our French neighbours have all along taken much interest in Langlaagte Estates and in the Randfontein and its sub-Companies. With the elimination of the weak elements an improvement should set in, as the recent decline was by no means due to intrinsic conditions, but to the collapse of certain speculative positions. The amalgamation of the Oceana with the Austral-African and the Africana is being carried out, and I have little doubt that the new Oceana Consols will rise to a much higher level, and, in fact, when the next August Bank Holiday comes along I expect to see them up again in the neighbourhood of 4, as they were a year ago. The important amalgamation which is on the board with reference to the Mozambique Company should also help these shares, which are still quoted 1⅝, notwithstanding the surrounding weakness. Leicester Diamond shares have remained firm at 3⅝, and the new Leicester Consolidated shares stand at 1 15/16. De Beers at one time suffered considerably from the shake-out, as some of the weak holders had also loaded up with these shares, but they are now above the lowest at 29½. New Jagersfontein have been steady at 10¾. In New Bulfontein a fair amount of business has been passing.

Golden West Australia.

Advices from the West Australian goldfields are as favourable as ever, and I have received by the last mail a private letter from a high authority in the Colony expressing some exceedingly encouraging views, considering that the writer is a very cautious man. His opinion is now to the effect that the area of auriferous ground in Western Australia is practically unlimited and inexhaustible. Indeed, he states that "gold has been discovered in material and under circumstances in the colony which put to flight every conceivable theory or practice of the geologist and the mineralogist." The writer adds that discoveries of coal of fine quality, opals, diamonds, and rich copper deposits appear to him to be within measurable distance of realisation. The most important event of the past week has been the emancipation of the West Australian market from the weakening influences which are still depressing the Kaffir Circus. Business is growing, and quotations of particularly promising mines are going ahead fast. Amongst these I must place first the Lake View Consols Mine, from which further sensational news has been received. The following are the latest cables received:—Mr. Kaufman cables: "We have in hand a reserve of ore of at least 500 oz. per ton. The purchase completed; additional 10-stamp mill." The West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance Corporation have received the following cable from Mr. Kaufman:—"Private and confidential: Do not part on any account with Lake View Consols shares. Property simply wonderful in extent and richness." It is not surprising that under these circumstances Lake View Consols should have advanced to 8. Competent authorities are already pledged to the view that this will prove the greatest gold mine the world has ever seen. The whole of the Whitaker Wright group, in fact, has again improved, and we have now West Australian Exploring and Finance at 4¼, London and Globe at 4¼, Mainland Consols at 3⅝, Paddington Consols at 1 13/16, Wealth of Nations at 1¼. The Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Companies are stated to have made over a million sterling in Lake Views. The improvement which I predicted last week in Hannan's Golden Treasure and Hannan's Golden Group has already commenced, and both these shares have moved up to 1⅝. I expect to see them at 2 in a very short time, and strongly advise their purchase. The Golden Crown will be the next to crush, and as this mine has a remarkably rich shoot, the shares will probably double their present figure. Mr. Kaufman is erecting a great water dam at the Wealth of Nations. When it is completed this famous mine may be expected to give a good account of itself. Further favourable information has been received by cable from Perth, according to which the Kalgoorlie Mine is opening up well, and the Star of West has crushed 33 tons for 924 oz. of gold. The manager of the Hannan's Brownhill is also stated to have completed the erection of a reverberatory furnace for drying the ore before crushing, and it is hoped that this will greatly increase the output. The encouraging view which I was able to express last week has been confirmed by a rise in the price of the shares to 5⅜. Respecting Burbank's Birthday Gift a cablegram is to hand from Professor Nicholas, the manager at the mines, according to which they started crushing on July 18. The winding engine has been started and is going well, and the balance of the 20-stamp mill and saw-mill has been shipped. We may therefore look for further large crushings from this mine at an early date, and there is every prospect that these satisfactory developments will also benefit the Burbank's North (now quoted 1⅛) and Burbank's Consols (also quoted 1⅛). The improvement has extended to a good many other mines, and there has been a sharp rise in Great Boulder to 7½, while both Lady Loch and Hannan's Reward are firmer. Associated Gold Mines and Associated Southern are better, and a considerable business has again been done in West Australian Joint-Stock Trust shares, which have improved to 3⅝ premium. The issue of the great Northern Territories scheme is now in sight, and will, no doubt, be crowned with complete success. I have received a long statement from Mr. D. N. Shaw, of Glasgow, through his solicitors, respecting a short paragraph which appeared in Truth on July 23, concerning the newly-formed Central Finance Corporation, Limited. Mr. Shaw explains that he had secured a number of properties in New Zealand and Western Australia, and also home industrial businesses, which he thought might be advantageously handled by such a new Finance Company. In consideration of these options, &c., along with the expenses of the formation of the Company, it was agreed to give him £25,000 in shares out of a capital of £100,000. Mr. Shaw states

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

that his connection with the Wood Pulp Company, now in liquidation, was of the most honourable and laudable description, and the concern was wound up owing to a heavy decline in wood pulp from £13 to £9 per ton; that, in fact, a large proportion of the capital subscribed for the Central Finance Corporation was found by the shareholders belonging to the Wood Pulp Company in question. Mr. Shaw also mentions that Mr. J. Edgar Paterson, one of the Directors, lives in the Hydropathic at Slateford, a large establishment well known in Scotland. Having briefly recapitulated all Mr. Shaw's statements, I trust that his hopes with reference to the Company's future will be realised, and I certainly shall follow its future course with some degree of interest. The declines in West Australian shares generally have not been numerous and are unimportant. Hannan's Crœsus, North Boulder, Hainaults, and Mount Jackson are lower, and there have been slight reactions in a number of others. Great Boulder South have attracted some attention at $1\frac{5}{8}$, and there has been a considerable demand for King of the West, which have improved to $2\frac{3}{8}$, and, considering the very favourable news from this property, it is more than probable that a further improvement will occur. Tardily a cablegram has been published by the Secretary of the Murchison New Chum Gold Mines, Limited, to the following effect:—"Present discoveries most encouraging. Level No. 3, the formation is 2 ft., the vein continues narrow, ore contains visible gold, both walls are well defined and very strong." I should like to know why this news has not been sent out before, as the movements in the market distinctly pointed to some inside knowledge of an improvement. When will the time come that the Murchison New Chum shareholders are promptly advised of any good or ill fortune? I note with satisfaction that my West Australian contemporaries continue to pay me the compliment of reproducing my articles on "Golden West Australia," while very courteously acknowledging the source. Not only does the *Western Mail* of Perth (W.A.) publish these, but I see that the Kalgoorlie *Western Argus* gives extracts (amongst others) of "Leaves from the Notebook of a West Australian Mining Engineer," which appeared in TRUTH some months ago. The *Mining Journal* of Perth (W.A.) also quotes some of my remarks.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Although a distinct rally in Indian Gold Mining shares has not been altogether maintained, prices are firm, and there is every prospect of a marked recovery, especially if, as is anticipated, the July crushings prove satisfactory. Mysore Gold are higher at 8, Champion Reefs at $7\frac{1}{2}$, and Ooregum at $3\frac{3}{8}$ xd. Although Goldfields of Mysore at about 24s. are hanging fire, I anticipate a recovery in these, and in Coromandel, now quoted $2\frac{1}{8}$. In Australian mines (other than West Australians) a fair amount of business has been transacted. Aladdin's Lamp are steady at $1\frac{13}{16}$ xd., and Wentworth Proprietary at 1. Amongst Charters Towers mines very few transactions have occurred, but Croydon Consols are distinctly firmer at 5s. 3d. The latest statement is as follows:—"Underlie about 260 ft. deep. No. 3 shaft 160 ft. deep; cleaned up for fortnight 263 tons for 1,306 oz.; approximate value, £3,300. Mine at the deepest workings is opening out most satisfactorily; crushing steadily. A circular letter will be issued to shareholders within the fortnight." Mount Lyell shares have been active at 8, and in other Tasmanian mines of a similar character there has been some demand for Curtin-Davis and Mount Reid, the last-mentioned being quoted $1\frac{1}{2}$. With reference to the Mount Lyell the *Australian Mining Standard*, of Sydney and Melbourne, furnishes a good deal of information in its latest issue, and more especially brings out the fact that Tasmania is at last coming to the front. It argues that to say that Tasmania is always coming, but never comes, is manifestly unfair in the face of such grand dividend yields as those from the Tasmania (Beaconsfield), the Golden Gate (Mathinna), in gold; the Western, Oonah, Junction, and Silver Queen (Zeehan), in silver; and the great Bischoff in tin. The total dividends from the Bischoff, £1,414,000, and from the Tasmania, £612,675, certainly look as though the colony had "come" pretty handsomely. According to the same authority the present healthy movement in Zeehan and Dundas stocks, and the general interest which has been directed to the West Coast yields springs entirely out of the fact that when all outside resources had been cut off, and the in-flowing stream of capital had wholly ceased, Tasmania kept "coming" in a quiet, dogged manner, supporting its own mining communities, and so encouraging the enterprise which is now represented by such groups of mines as the Curtin-Davis, the Hercules, and Mount Reid, and in another direction by such a great enterprise as the Mount Lyell Company. I have for some time taken a favourable view of the Mount Reid and Curtin-Davis mines, the shares in which still stand at a comparatively moderate price, and I have little doubt that there will be a considerable improvement in these. New Zealand mines have recovered somewhat, more especially Waihi Silverton which are now quoted at $2\frac{3}{4}$, Waihi at $6\frac{13}{16}$, Waitekauri at $5\frac{1}{2}$, Hauraki at 19s. The great drawback in this section is the excessive number of new Companies which are being brought out. Once a stop is put to these flotations, I shall look for an improvement in some of the better-class shares, and amongst low-priced shares in Maoriland, Preece's Point, Komata Queen, and Key of Komata. In the general foreign section business has been restricted. Copper shares have fluctuated wildly, the collapse in Paris also affecting Rio Tinto, and although they have recovered somewhat, they are still below the top quotation at $23\frac{3}{8}$; thus bearing out the view which I have repeatedly expressed that this is a highly speculative share. I need hardly say that this refers also to Anaconda, which, in spite of their influential backing, are also weak at $6\frac{7}{16}$.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

North Boulder East Block, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire a mining lease at Hannan's Western Australia. The capital is fixed at £120,000 in shares of 10s. each.

This, to my mind, is an over-capitalised concern. There are but ten acres, and very little or no development has been done. Until some further information is obtained it will be as well to wait.

Lidstone, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire as going concerns twelve meat and provision businesses situated in various parts of London. The capital is fixed at £120,000 in shares of £1 each.

I cannot see how people can feel tempted to invest their money in a venture like this. A simple sum of arithmetic will show the large average cost of each shop. Why do not the promoters give the returns and profits of each shop separately, instead of collectively? To my mind the course followed throws doubt upon some of these concerns.

The Electrical Development and Finance Corporation, Limited.—Capital £500,000 in £1 shares. This Corporation has for its object the promotion and development of undertakings for utilising electrical power.

The Britannia (Hauraki) Gold Mining Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and work a property known as the Britannia, situate in the Coromandel Goldfields district of Hauraki, New Zealand. Capital £100,000, in shares of £1 each.

My Letter Box.

I am once again obliged to remind my readers that I can only reply to communications which are accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, not, of course, for publication, but as a token of good faith. All anonymous letters will be consigned to the waste-paper basket. Some delay must necessarily occur in answering questions which entail special inquiries, and it is, as a rule, not possible to attend in the current issues to communications which arrive after Friday. My correspondents will also greatly simplify my task by reading my weekly letters carefully through, as these frequently contain remarks on the very subjects on which information is sought. I again repeat that I can accept no fees for

replies in "My Letter Box," and that I cannot undertake to answer by letter or telegram. I must also absolutely refuse to execute any orders for stocks or shares, or to act as an intermediary in any way. It is necessary to number the stocks on which information is asked. Owing to the intervening holiday I have not been able to answer all inquiries, and my readers will, therefore, have to excuse some delay. The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

Government, &c., Bonds.

S. P. N.—I gave particulars of the rise which has taken place in Argentine Government stocks in last week's issue. A further improvement is probable. *Herbert.*—Uruguay bonds are a promising purchase, more especially the New Five per cent. Loan which was issued at 71½, of which £25 has been paid up, while £25 is due on the 15th inst., and £21 10s. on September 30. The price is at present 1¼ discount, and the yield therefore is upwards of 7 per cent. per annum. *Nemo, Cullompton.*—The Japanese Loan in question is suitable for investment, and you might also buy the new Uruguay loan which yields upwards of 7 per cent. per annum. *A. D., Edenbridge.*—No reason to sell Mexican Sixes now.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

J. L., Enniscorthy.—I regret being unable to comply with your request for a recommendation of a stockbroker; but you can doubtless obtain the name of a respectable member of the Stock Exchange through your bankers. Do not deal with outside brokers. *T. R., Sydenham.*—I quite agree with you that an association which really would give bonâ-fide advice to investors would be desirable; but it would be most important to see that only highly respectable and honourable men are at the head of it. Until this is fully demonstrated to me, I could not give any countenance to such a movement. *Eyre.*—You must know that at present it is not possible to obtain from 4 to 4½ per cent. in gilt-edged securities. You would have to put up with speculative stocks, and would have to tell me what particular class of securities you prefer. *N. L., Larne.*—Outside brokers; you should deal through members of the Stock Exchange only. *J. R., Burnley.*—The address of a smart firm of City solicitors has been forwarded to you in your envelope as requested. *A. D. F.*—The name of the foreign bankers in London, from whom the lottery bonds can be purchased, has been forwarded to you in your envelope as requested.

Home Rails.

Pierhead.—As a speculation, I should prefer North British Deferred, Caledonian Deferred (Coras), and Dover "A" to those Home Railway stocks Nos. 1 to 4 mentioned by you. I do not recommend a purchase of Spanish.

American and Foreign Rails.

Dyoll.—A change would perhaps be advisable, but you cannot buy high-class investments to yield you a better interest unless you run the risk of a decrease in capital value. *Laroche.*—No reason to sell Nitrate Railway bonds at present, even though some further capital may have to be raised. *Artist.*—No reason to sell the Canadian Railway bonds in question. You cannot get any absolutely safe investment to yield 5 or 6 per cent. To get that return you must run some risk. *A. M., Cumbrae.*—Central Argentine have recovered to a considerable extent, and, after having held so long, I think you might keep them a little longer. *J. W. S.*—It would be preferable to hold.

Mining Shares.

Meirion.—No option but to hold the mining shares mentioned. Hannan's King are a good purchase. Do not buy any more of the low priced South African shares about which you inquire, and leave Bembesi alone. Africana should improve on the amalgamation with the Oceana, and the New Zealand mining shares in question should also advance. In future please number your inquiries. *Irishman, Bangor.*—I have never expressed any favourable opinion about the Hainault mine, and certainly do not think that it will be a second Great Boulder. *A. G. L.*—Lake View Consols are likely to go much higher. Barnato Banks, Barnato Consols, and 90-Mile Proprietary are an excellent purchase now. *J. J. G.*—1. London and Globe are doing remarkably well, and the shares promise to go much higher. 2. No. 3. No reason to sell now. *Oulton Low.*—1. That is the fact. 2. Crushing will, no doubt commence very soon. 3. No. 4. A fair mining risk. *M. R. B.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 14 for an improvement; most of these are well selected and should do exceedingly well. You had better buy some more promising mining shares, such as Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, Lake View Consols, Hannan's Golden Treasure, and Hannan's Golden Group. *Enquirens.*—Please repeat your inquiry in full. *W. W., Southend.*—Waterfall Estates are a fair mining risk, and the statements mentioned are absurd. *Malacca.*—African Gold Properties are promising at the present low price. *D. S. W.*—The Aladdin's Lamp mine is doing remarkably well, and the shares are likely to improve. *Anxiety.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. I do not think much of North Boulder East Blocks. *Fife.*—Your shares Nos. 1 to 9 are partly promising, especially Glencairns (1), Mount Margaret (2), and Paddington Consols (4). The others should also be held for an improvement. *H. E. L.*—I should think it would be advisable to try again. *Gold Trust.*—No, do not follow this publication. Your shares Nos. 1 to 16 had better be held, as they are likely to improve all round. *D. L. G.*—It boots little to cry over spilt milk. You have dealt with an outside broker, against whom I have always warned my readers, and have been regularly taken in in the Colonial and Finance deal, and have not been apparently sufficiently able to look after the "rights;" but I do not see how you can now raise an action about it. In future have nothing more to do with this person, and deal only through members of the Stock Exchange, and you will always be able to get your rights. *Taffy.*—New Bulfontein were ex dividend then, and purchases made after that date would be x.d. *Sigma.*—It is quite correct that Northern Territories shares cannot be purchased. The Company has not yet been brought out, and it is not settled yet whether the shares will be offered by tender or not. *Scotsman.*—You have made some splendid purchases in West Australian Mines, Nos. 1 to 4, and should obtain a still higher profit by holding. I think you are right with regard to Great Eastern (5). 6. Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, and some of the West Australian mines mentioned in my letter. You certainly have not too many London and Globes, as these are likely to go much higher. Hold Nos. 7 to 11. I look for a further advance in Knights (12). I do not care for No. 14; but No. 15 is a fair mining risk. *Hagen.*—No reason to sell at present. *F. M. S.*—No option but to hold these shares for the present. Whenever the South African market improves these should also go ahead again. *Southern Cross.*—1. I should think that this West Australian mine will recover. 2. I have a very unfavourable opinion of the Sapphire and Ruby Company of Montana, and have always expressed this. 3. Write to the Secretary. *A. McC.*—Yes; I still hold a favourable opinion of these shares in spite of the temporary slump. *Advice.*—1. Hold the shares for an improvement, which is probable. 2. I do not generally advise purchase of low priced shares; but amongst those mentioned by you I consider Nos. 4 and 8 the most promising. *Ierc.*—There are not many dealings in the South African shares in question just now; but they are likely to improve again. *Avondale.*—The *Financial News.* *Optimist.*—You have done exceedingly well to buy Lake View Consols on my advice, and as the price has already risen to 8 you will see that you are in for a good profit; a further improvement is expected. *Musicus.*—1. I suppose it will be best to join the reconstruction and sell after. 2. You ought to have bought Lake View Consols when they first came into the market; but they are still a good purchase. Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group are likely to go much higher. 3. London and Globe should be held for a further important improvement. I cannot reply by letter. *Boltonian.*—Yes; all the South African shares mentioned by you are a good purchase at present, more especially Barnato Banks (1), Barnato Consols (2), New Primrose (3), Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (5), Buffelsdoorn (6), and Randfontein (10).

Industrial Shares.

N. Y.—1. I cannot tell you what has become of the New Sociable Bicycle Company, Limited. If, as you say, your application money was taken at the end of April, and no allotment has been made, this application money should certainly be returned to you. 2. Have nothing to do with such outside dealers, but deal through members of the Stock Exchange only. 3. I cannot help you in the Dunlop-Truffault matter; I have repeatedly expressed an unfavourable opinion of this concern. *J. S., Waterford.*—I do not like Grapplers, and never have. *Sextant.*—A fair investment, but no catch. *Veritas, Upper Sydenham.*—It is quite true that your patience is much tried with this meat Company; yet I cannot take the responsibility of advising you to clear out after having held so long. *Oxon.*—I do not advise present shareholders to take up more Beeston shares. *A. D. U.*—No option but to hold for the present. *Venturer.*—Under the circumstances I am afraid that there will not be any chance for you to object; but I have a very unfavourable opinion of the Dunlop-Truffault Cycle Manufacturing Company, which I have repeatedly expressed. *Birr.*—I do not think much of the Warehouse Company in question, and advise you to take a moderate profit. *Enquirer, Newcastle.*—The decline has taken place in sympathy with the weakness of American Rails; no doubt they will recover again. *Kent.*—No occasion for selling at present; a recovery will doubtless come about in due time. *Q. O. C.*—1. I do not like Beeston Tyre shares. 2. Why not take your profit? *An Admirer.*—I do not care for either of the two Cycle shares in question, and in your position you ought not to go into such speculative investments, but should be satisfied with a moderate yield. Coats's shares are quite high enough.

Mixed Investments.

Norton.—Your list of investments Nos. 1 to 17 is upon the whole a satisfactory one; and I do not advise selling your American Railroad bonds, as these are not likely to suffer even if the Yankees were to become mad enough to adopt the silver

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Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

"plank." No reason to sell No. 5 for the present. Grand Trunk Debenture stock (6) should be held, and there is no reason to sell No. 7. No. 16, and all the others, should also be held for the present. *Alma Chaletson.*—1. I do not consider the heavy fall in Atchison stocks justified; but the present trouble with the silverites is, of course, a serious matter. 2. Even if this should happen, gold bonds would be safeguarded. 3. The line appears to have suffered from a series of bad traffics; but matters should improve again. 4. I have never recommended Wolhuters much, but I should say that they should be held now; a turn in the Kaffir Circus should come soon. *L. E. W.*—A. A fair investment but no catch. B. I do not advise the purchase of these American bonds, which have only recently been introduced on this market. C. A fair investment, but no catch. D. Black Flag Consolidated are no catch; you can do better in other West Australian mines referred to under "Golden West Australia." *Mary.*—If you are a holder of the shares Nos. 1 to 11, you had better keep them. I do not think much of Nos. 2, 3, and 7; but all the same there is a prospect of an improvement. *Waterloo.*—I really do not see why you should not stand at present as you are. The Home Railway Guaranteed stocks mentioned, in which the £15,000 is invested, are likely to further improve, and Consols are not likely to decline for the present. Before further investing in American Railroad bonds at present, it would be wisest to await the course of political events. Bartholomay Brewery Prefs. are, however, a good investment. *Liverpool.*—No; I do not advise purchase of Kent Coalfields' shares; neither do I like Maynards, Limited, as a permanent investment. City of Mexico bonds are a good investment. *South Clifton.*—I should say that a recovery will take place again; and as regards Johnnies, they should certainly be held for an improvement, and you might now average by buying more. *Rindo.*—1. They will probably recover again. 2. No reason to sell now. 3. No option but to hold. 4. No; I think you ought to have sold your copper shares when they were very strong the other day. 5. I do not advise the purchase. *Hematite.*—Langlaagte Royal (1) should be held. 2. You will probably have a better opportunity of selling. 3. I do not like Elandsfontein; but think it would, perhaps, be better to hold for a general improvement in the South African market, which will, no doubt, come about. *F. E. S.*—No option but to hold your shares Nos. 1 to 9, and sell when the market improves again. *China.*—There is nothing to be said against your investments A to I, which are likely to do well. With regard to mining shares I must refer you to my letter.

P.S., Tuesday.—In view of the splendid weather with which holiday-makers have been favoured, bumper traffics of Home Railways may be looked for, and a corresponding improvement, especially in the Passenger stocks, is probable. The outlook in the Yankee market is as uncertain as ever, and the see-saw movements will obviously continue. The position in Paris has greatly improved, even though the trouble in Crete is still causing some nervousness. There are signs of a further rally in the Kaffir Circus, especially as, to judge from private utterances of Mr. B. I. Barnato, he holds favourable views of the position in the Transvaal, to which he will no doubt give public expression when opportunity offers. —Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE NEW JERUSALEM.

"THESE links always remind me of the New Jerusalem," said Cutlish Pinkerton, as, after carefully testing the possibilities of a brassey in relation to his half-imbedded "Silvertown," he replaced that wooden implement in his bag, and drew out the heaviest iron he possessed.

"And why of the New Jerusalem?" inquired Minnie Anson, his partner in the foursome.

"Because there is nothing here that maketh a lie," answered Pinkerton, gravely. "This is the fourth time running that I have had to play from the bottom of a cavity."

Minnie laughed.

"You use your Bible knowledge for practical illustration," she observed.

"Just so, Miss Anson. The clergyman preached from a text last Sunday which impressed me a great deal. I was thinking of our foursome the day before; and I could not help feeling how much—from a golf standpoint—I resembled St. Paul."

"In what way?"

"Why, the evil that I would not—slicing, pressing, topping, &c.—that I do; and the good I would do—clean swing, hands well away, straight putting, &c.—that I do not. The psalms for the day, also, contained a very appropriate verse: 'They went astray in the wilderness, out of the way.' I need not tell you that my thoughts at once reverted to our awful experience in the gravel-pits the day before."

"Really Mr. Pinkerton, you are incorrigible."

"People know me, and they make allowances," said Cutlish Pinkerton, apologetically.

People did know Cutlish Pinkerton very well indeed. The most popular comic lion of the London stage is inevitably the best-known man in the country, not even excepting Mr. Gladstone or W. G. Grace. For more than a year past the public, of all classes, had been flocking to see him in "Ticklebery Takemorf," at the Garrulity; and their tears, induced by laughter at his screaming impersonation, would, taken together, have filled a good-sized reservoir. Even the stalled oxen (as Pinkerton used to designate the sleek and prosperous Philistines who sat in the half-guinea seats), forgetful of their dignity, laughed till their waistcoats shook and their very dinners were digested; thus saving the price of their entertainment in camomile and podophyllin. Cutlish Pinkerton always declared this to be the one real test of farcical success. "When we start a new piece," he used to say, "and I want to judge whether it is likely to catch on, I always fix my eye on the sleekest Philistine in the stalls. If he grins, I am satisfied; if he chuckles, I am elated; but if he laughs that digestive laugh, I simply dunno where I are. But there's one thing I do know, and that is, that we are in for a safe run of three hundred nights."

Cutlish Pinkerton was still young; that is to say, he was on the vernal side of forty. He was also a cultivator of the tender passions, which were ever and anon assailing his susceptible, if rather fickle, heart. And if the truth must be told, this golf foursome, in which he was now making one on the Bigham Links, had been arranged by him quite as much to facilitate a flirtation, as from any innate affection for the game itself. Minnie Anson's sister, Dora, and young Charles Tredgold, a fellow comedian of Pinkerton's company, formed the other pair. They also were flirtatiously inclined, and so were too much taken up with each other to be in the way of Pinkerton and Minnie.

Now, it is a sad thing to say—but so it was—that Minnie and Dora Anson had behaved in this matter like very naughty girls indeed. They had allowed Pinkerton and Tredgold to drift into an acquaintance with them, upon the Bigham Links, without any proper introduction, and—what was still worse—without their mother's knowledge or consent. Mrs. Anson was a very strict and severe lady, having rigidly old-fashioned notions on the subject of propriety. She also cherished a Puritanical horror of all things and persons theatrical (her father had been the Lowest Church Dean of his generation), and not only would she never enter a playhouse, as she valued her immortal soul, but she would as soon have been introduced to the Devil himself as to a play-actor. This was why Minnie and Dora kept so absolutely silent on the subject of Pinkerton and Tredgold; and this was why, when they had privately arranged a foursome with those gentlemen on the Bigham Links, they pretended to their mother that they were simply going to play a twosome between themselves in the ordinary way.

Mrs. Anson was not enthusiastic about their playing golf at all. She knew nothing of the game, and cared less, supposing all games to be more or less a waste of that valuable time which is allotted to man to be spent in working out his eternal salvation. Still, she allowed the girls to join the Bigham Ladies' Golf Club (having ascertained that the committee numbered among its members several matrons of the highest social standing and moral character), and did not object to their going down there for a round now and again. Had she known that these demure daughters of hers were sometimes to be seen disporting themselves on the gentlemen's course, in the company of two actors, she would have nearly had a fit.

But she was in blissful ignorance of that appalling fact; and Minnie and Dora, of course, took no steps to enlighten her.

Now when they played their foursome, they not infrequently dispensed with the services of caddies. To couples flirtatiously inclined the presence of caddies is apt to be irksome. These youngsters have eyes as sharp as needles, rendered especially acute by practice in marking down golf balls (and on the "sporting" Bigham course balls want some marking), while their ears have grown keen by constant straining to catch the muttered expletives in which even the most righteous and sober players at times indulge. Nothing very wrong passed between the members of our foursome. Matters had not yet progressed to the length of a stolen kiss; only once or twice (and that when they were hunting for a ball "in the wilderness out of the way") to the length of a hand-squeeze. Still, even that might result in the caddies carrying back undesirable rumours to the club, or retailing them to other golfers by whom they might next be employed; and so they found it convenient to dispense with them altogether, and to carry their own clubs. That is to say, of course, each gentleman carried his own and his partner's in his capacious canvas bag.

If there was one thing more than another which showed the utterly demoralising effect of flirtation upon sound golf, it was the complacency with which Pinkerton and Tredgold accepted their own crooked drives from the tee. Now Pinkerton sliced his drives abominably; Tredgold, on the other hand, pulled his in the vilest way. In a golfer of any proper feeling the perpetration of either enormity should induce a sense of the direst shame and distress. Yet Pinkerton would slice into a gravel pit with entire equanimity, and Tredgold would pull into a whin-forest with perfect composure. If both had kept straight, the foursome would have advanced on their balls *en masse*. But one ball lying fifty yards to the right of the proper line, and the other fifty yards to the left, the players moved away in pairs, with a convenient space intervening, and only met again at their Philippi—the putting green.

By that time each side had usually approached double figures in the way of strokes. When it is added that they could not merely accept this without turning a hair, but actually joke—yes, joke—over the disgrace, it will be seen that the loss of their golfing self-respect had become perfect and complete.

At this point, when Pinkerton had just had to dig his ball from the bottom of a well, and Dora had experienced that wonderful bit of luck in jumping the bunker, they were approaching the seventeenth hole, which—as all Bigham golfers know—lies closely adjacent to the Croydon high-road. It was Minnie's shot, and she raised her cleek in the act to strike. But she stopped in the middle of her swing, let the club sink feebly to the ground, and uttered a sudden cry of dismay.

"Oh—oh—Dora," she cried to her sister. "Oh—oh—Do—do—you—see?"

"See? What? The hole?"

N—n—n—o—o. *Mamma!* Yes, and I do believe it's—it's—M—Mr. Carruthers with her."

"*Mamma? Mr. Carruthers?* Where?" exclaimed Dora, turning as white as a new golf-ball.

"There: just coming towards us along the footpath. Oh, what *shall* we do?"

"Will your mother be very angry?" asked Cutlish Pinkerton.

"Angry? She'll be furious; she—she—she will never let us play golf again. She'll—she'll——oh, what *shall* we do?"

"By the way, this Mr. Carruthers," said Pinkerton hurriedly. "Is he the gentleman whom you told me of the other day as——"

"Yes, yes! He's rich and—and—horrid. And m—mamma wants me to marry him. And—and—I won't. But, oh dear! What *shall* we do? It—it's—too late for you and Mr. Tredgold to fall back, and pretend you don't belong to us. They—they—must have seen us talking. Oh, Mr. Pinkerton, what *is* to be done?"

Cutlish Pinkerton looked at Minnie's frightened face with genuine concern. He felt that he himself was chiefly to blame for the *contretemps*; he also felt that, as so often happens in this topsy-turvy world, all the punishment would fall on the less guilty heads of the girls, and that he and Tredgold should escape with nothing more than a passing unpleasantness. He was too decent a fellow to contemplate that unjust visitation of his own fault upon the girls, without a keen sense of distress. At the same time, how the deuce was he to prevent it? Suddenly an idea occurred to him. He was renowned for his marvellously ready wit, and had often before now got himself out of scrapes by adopting a course of action which the average man would have considered impracticably audacious. But Pinkerton was nothing if not audacious; and he was endowed with a cucumber-like coolness that was quite phenomenal.

"Hist, Tredgold!" he said, "Sling that bag across your shoulders, man; slouch; for the love of Heaven, slouch! Here; like this. Gad! it's lucky we came out in these old coats of ours. Turn your collar up, Tredgold. Right: you look a regular sweep now. So do I, I dare swear. Now remember, Tredgold, that we are both caddies—*caddies*, twig? And if you speak, mount the Cockney twang. I'll do the canny Scot."

"You—you—don't mean to t—ry to t—t—ake mamma in that way?" gasped Minnie, "she—she'll never——"

"Yes, she will. It's the only chance. Oh, we'll carry it off, never fear. . . . Iron, leddy? Oo aye, leddy!" said Cutlish, in excellent Caledonian, touching his cap. "There don't you think I shall manage?" he whispered, with a reassuring twinkle in his eye.

"I—I—don't know. Oh—oh—I'm so frightened—I—I——"

"Will yer tike yer putter, lydy?" asked Tredgold of Dora, entering at once into the humour of the situation.

"Yes, please, Mr.——, I mean caddie," gasped Dora, who was trembling like an aspen, yet at the same time unable to help feeling amused. "I—I—think I will."

By this time Mrs. Anson and Mr. Carruthers were within speaking distance. The two caddies fell respectfully back, and Dora and Minnie advanced, trembling, to greet the unwelcome arrivals.

"Oh, here you are, dears!" said Mrs. Anson. "It is such a beautiful day; and when Mr. Carruthers suggested to me that he should bring me down here to see you play, and enjoy the bracing air upon this common, I could not refuse. I hope you are having a good game, dears."

"Excellent; thank you, mamma."

"Good morning, Miss Anson — good morning, Miss Dora," said Carruthers, raising his hat. Minnie saw, with increased dismay, a malicious look on his face which she did not at all like. "We may as well turn and walk round with you. Eh? What do *you* say, Mrs. Anson?"

"Certainly. The grass is quite dry. I shall enjoy it."

"Th—this is the last hole but one. We only have one more to play after this. But for that short distance, we shall be charmed with your company," said Dora, forcing a smile.

"Putter, caddie," said Minnie, with her heart almost in her mouth, as she turned towards Cutlish Pinkerton.

"Oo aye, leddy, said Cutlish, handing her the gun-metal implement with the gravest air.

"Do you have *men* to carry your clubs?" whispered Mrs. Anson to Minnie, with a note of disapproval in her voice.

"Yes, we call them caddies, you know," replied that young lady, trying to speak in a natural and unconcerned way, though her heart was thumping against her ribs with terrific palpitations. "Let me see!" (addressing Pinkerton). "How do we stand, c—caddie?"

"You've each played sax, leddy. You are lying like."

"Like the devil," muttered young Tredgold, aside Tredgold never could resist the opening for a joke.

"Eh! What is that man saying? I—I—believe I

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heard him swear," said Mrs. Anson (whose ears were of the sharpest) in an indignant tone.,

"Naw—naw," answered the imperturbable Cutlish. "He'd naw say swear words before leddies. He ainly said they were lying like and level."

"Was that all? Oh!" said the lady, with a severe and rather suspicious glance towards Tredgold, nevertheless.

"Go and lift the flag, please, caddie," said Minnie, fearful lest Cutlish Pinkerton should be tempted to overdo it by saying too much.

"Oo, aye, leddie." And he slouched off to execute her request.

They holed out, and then crossed the road to the next tee. Minnie could see by her mother's face that, thanks to her absolute ignorance of golf in every particular, she as yet suspected nothing of the truth. But this brought her little relief, since by several furtive glances at Mr. Carruthers she had satisfied herself that he had taken in the whole situation and meant to make use of it. Indeed, it was almost inevitable that he should know Cutlish Pinkerton by sight; and even if that were not the case, neither the latter nor Tredgold could well be mistaken for real caddies by a shrewd man of the world like Claud Carruthers. In spite of the skill with which they threw themselves into their parts, in spite of their shabby coats and slouching gait, their appearances nevertheless gave them away. And no one except a complete golf-ignoramus like Mrs. Anson, could well have failed to smell the proverbial rat.

Minnie's first fear was lest Carruthers should expose the whole deception then and there; for she believed him to be capable of any meanness. But from the expression of his face, and one or two peculiar glances which he gave her when she looked at him, she divined—or thought she divined—that this was not his game. Unless her penetration was entirely at fault, he meant (she was convinced) to hold his tongue, but to demand a price for his silence. Minnie was naturally timid. She was very much afraid of her mother. Of course, Claud Carruthers knew this, and was not above taking advantage of it. He was quite bent on making Minnie marry him; and having learnt, by experience, that no efforts of love-making would be the least use, he was ready to exercise any means of pressure that might come to hand.

Of course she should refuse him—even under stress of this pressure. But then the dire results! Carruthers would tell her mother the truth about the caddies; and matters would be far, far worse than if Mrs. Anson had discovered it for herself in the first instance.

It was an appalling, a humiliating situation. Nothing but dire, awful disaster either way. Did any poor girl ever find herself more hopelessly between the devil and the deep sea?

As they played the last hole, Cutlish Pinkerton, who had kept his eyes wide open, whispered to Minnie, under cover of handing her her cleek:

"Carruthers sees through it—eh?"

Minnie nodded.

"What's his game?" whispered Cutlish. "Will he split?"

"Not now," said Minnie, hurriedly. "I think he means to—to—hold it as a threat over my head."

Pinkerton waited until she had to exchange her cleek for an iron, to play the approach to the green.

Then he murmured:—

"I say. Does Mrs. Anson take the *Morning Post?*"

"Yes," said Minnie, wondering why he asked this extraordinary question.

But there was no chance then of asking him to explain; so she took her iron and played the shot. It was a beauty, landing just over the small crescent bunker, which fences the home green, and running on towards the hole till it stopped nearly dead.

"Gran gowf!—gran gowf! leddy" exclaimed Cutlish, enthusiastically. "As pratty a shot o'er a bunker as I ever saw."

Minnie brought off the put and won the hole—thus finishing the match. She was relieved that it was over; for the strain of the last ten minutes had simply taken years off her life. Yet she dreaded the journey back to town, and the unpleasant interview with Claud Carruthers, which she knew was in store for her, more than she could say. In her nervousness and agitation she forget a certain little matter; of which, however, Cutlish Pinkerton, true to his part, reminded her with a respectful touch of his cap.

"It's a shilling, please, leddy," he said. "And twa bawbees for cleaning the irons. Wull I leave your gowf-sticks down wi' the professional?"

"Yes, please. Here's your one and twopence."

"Thank you, leddy."

Then he added in a meaning whisper, "Put him off with excuses for to-day, and—read the golf news in to-morrow's *Morning Post.*"

* * * * *

Minnie's conjecture anent Claud Carruthers' little game was soon verified. On the return journey, he found an opportunity of reiterating his suit, at the same time hinting at distressing consequences in event of her answer still being negative.

Remembering Pinkerton's last injunction, she hurriedly excused herself from giving an immediate answer.

"I must h—h—have time, Mr. Carruthers, "she faltered. "I—I—must think about it."

"Very well," he said. "I will come to-morrow afternoon for my final answer. I hope—I do sincerely hope, Miss Anson, that, *on all accounts*" (his tone was distinctly menacing) "it will be favourable."

The two girls, Minnie particularly, passed a miserable and anxious night. Next morning she was down very early, and at once caught up the *Morning Post*, turning to the golf-intelligence with great curiosity and excitement. When Dora came down a few minutes later, she found her sister quite radiant and smiling.

"Oh, Dora!" she exclaimed. "Isn't this clever and considerate of Mr. Pinkerton? He—he—has furnished us with a—a—complete defence. Just listen."

And she read aloud from the paper, as follows:—

Amusing Incident.—A curious bet, made some time since, between Messrs. Cutlish Pinkerton and Charles Tredgold, the well-known Garrulity actors, on the one part, and certain fellow-comedians of theirs on the other part, was decided on the Bigham Golf Links yesterday, in favour of the former. Messrs. Pinkerton and Tredgold backed themselves, we understand, to masquerade as caddies on the Bigham Links, and to carry for a whole round without being detected by their employers. Yesterday they succeeded in their design, their services being innocently requisitioned by two young ladies, for whom they carried in an eighteen-hole match, and from whom they duly received their shillings, never having aroused the least suspicion that they were not genuine caddies.

"Oh, I say! How artful! How splendid!" cried Dora. "Whatever happens, we need only stick to that version, and we shall be all right."

"Yes. The eleventh commandment's the ticket. Well, there's one thing, at any rate, that Mr. Pinkerton will never again be able to say about the Bigham golf-course."

"What's that?"

"Why, that it reminds him of the New Jerusalem," answered Minnie, demurely.

MUSIC.

LAMBETH AND OTHER MUSICAL DIPLOMAS.

THE fact that the Archbishop of Canterbury has conferred the degree of Mus. Doc. Cantuar upon those two excellent musicians, Mr. W. G. McNaught and Mr. G. D. Wood, of Exeter, again directs attention to that which Sir George Grove once rightly described as "an anomalous power." In Grove's Dictionary it is not quite fairly stated that "the only regulation existing in connection with this strange prerogative" is the payment of £63 in fees. However, at a meeting of musicians held at St. James's Palace, under the Presidency of the Prince of Wales, some years ago, the then Archbishop of Canterbury referred almost pathetically to the power of granting degrees exercised by the "unworthy person whom the musicians now saw before them." As a matter of fact,

the Archbishop of Canterbury knows no more about the status or qualifications of a musician than the Senate or Hebdomadal Councils of the Universities which grant musical degrees "Honoris Causâ." Therefore Archbishop Benson wisely will not move without a memorial, which in the present case, I believe, was signed by Sir John Stainer, Sir George Grove, and Sir Walter Parratt. The fact that Sir John Stainer recommends musicians to the Archbishop for an honorary degree, which his own University of Oxford has an equal opportunity of granting, is only one of the anomalies of the system. The University of Oxford will rarely or never grant British honorary degrees at all save to its own officers. As a matter of fact, the Royal College of Music has by Charter the right to grant degrees of Doctor or Bachelor in Music, and this would at first seem to be the proper body to entrust with a duty which it has scrupulously neglected. The Archbishop and the Universities can only go by hearsay.

The Archbishops of Canterbury, indeed, have arrogated to themselves this power, which, so far as I know, has been conferred upon them neither by the Sovereign nor by Act of Parliament. Before the Reformation, it seems, the Archbishop of Canterbury, as Papal Legate, asserted his right to license teachers in Divinity and Music apart from the Universities. This alleged right (with its correlative 60 guineas in the form of fees) the Archbishop still exercises, though curiously enough, under no other authority than that of the Pope of Rome. Dr. McNaught, who, if I mistake not, is a pillar of Dissent, consequently obtains his degree, vicariously, from the Vatican. Still, while the Universities seem inclined to keep their degrees for their own officials, or for eminent foreign musicians, and while the Royal College neglects its chances, the Archbishop has some sort of excuse for offering his sixty-guinea degree. Of all the big British musicians who hold the Mus. Doc.—Sullivan, Mackenzie, Hubert Parry, Villiers Stanford, and the rest of them—not one, save Sir John Stainer and Professor Bridge, has gained the honour by examination. For some reason, rightly or wrongly attributed to unworthy jealousy, several of our best musicians, such as Mr. Cowen, Mr. Manns, the late Sir Charles Hallé, and Sir J. Barnby, were never offered the degree at all; while Professor Prout, one of the greatest contrapuntists in Europe, had no musical degree, until he was elected Professor of Music at the University of Dublin, whereupon these honours began tardily to be showered upon him. Max Bruch, Boito, Grieg, and other foreigners have had the honorary, and in their case, unmeaning degree of Doctor conferred upon them; though the compliment was declined by such really great musicians as Gounod, Verdi, and Rubinstein, while to the invitation to accept a doctorate, Johannes Brahms characteristically made no reply whatever. As to Handel, we all know the contempt with which he received the suggestion of a doctor's degree. He said, amongst other things, it had been conferred at Cambridge upon "my bellows-blower," or in other words, upon the distinguished Church musician, Dr. Greene, who in his younger days had once blown the bellows for Handel at St. Paul's Cathedral.

If, however, honorary degrees are pieces of absurdity, what can be said for the diplomas which certain institutions lavish on their students, with the privilege of adding any number of capital letters to their names? The Royal Academy and Royal College have some sort of Chartered rights to do this, although amusingly enough the older institution has no power of preventing any former student from adding the capital letters R.A.M. to his name, whether he has passed an examination or not. But other and younger schools and colleges have also adopted the system, and recently at the Guildhall School certain young ladies and gentlemen have blossomed forth with the grotesque diploma A.G.S.M. I should really like to know who signs these preposterous documents. Sir Joseph Barnby has been dead more than six months, and the School authorities, with Civic good taste, have recently issued statistics to prove that the institution has got along far better without than with him. Meanwhile, the Guildhall School of Music has been mainly under the control of the Chairman, who, of course, knows little or nothing about musical diplomas in general or the mystic letters "A.G.S.M.," in particular. Nobody for a moment suggests that these diplomas are not granted until after full and fair examination. But it is one of the amusing points of the situation that the door porter of the Guildhall School, or for the matter of that the man in the street, has an equal right to confer musical diplomas and capital letters upon anybody he chooses. Clap-trap nonsense of this sort should be above a great City school. Indeed, it is high time such rights were limited by Parliament, for diplomas with capital letter appendages are now so numerous that it is almost a distinction among musicians to be able to boast of nothing of the sort.

Mr. Robert Newman has now arranged for a series of six weeks' Promenade Concerts at Queen's Hall, to open on August 29, under the conductorship of Mr. H. J. Wood. It is rather late to commence such an enterprise, which, according to precedent, ought to be started the first week of August. It is perfectly true that last year the first two or three weeks of the season in early August attracted comparatively few people, but the reason lay in the fact that Promenade Concerts had then been discontinued for many years, and time was necessary to advertise them. It is very possible that the same results may happen this year, although the management of Promenade Concerts, since the music-halls catered practically for the same *clientèle*, has necessarily become more or less an experiment. Mr. Newman, however, will have an excellent band led by Mr. Arthur Payne, and if his programmes are as interesting as those which he put forward last autumn, he will richly deserve success.

The veteran Sims Reeves, with his young wife and the baby, sailed last week by the *Tantallon Castle* for South Africa. It is not very often that a tenor vocalist about to enter his seventy-ninth year starts on an extended tour of this character. Mr. Reeves, however, hopes to sing both in South Africa and Australia before he returns to this country.

M. Jean de Reszke has written a most complimentary letter to Mr. Maurice Grau, congratulating him upon undertaking the direction of Covent Garden next year. Mr. Grau is now on the ocean, bound for New York; but before he left he engaged Madame Nordica for the parts played this year by Madame Albani, and he likewise arranged to do Signor Mancinelli a good turn by producing that volatile conductor's Norwich Festival cantata "Hero and Leander." Lord de Grey, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Greenfield (nominee of the ground lessee), Mr. Montagu Guest, Mr. Forsyth (representing the Harris executors), Mr. George Cawston, and Mr. Grau form the syndicate with a capital of £15,000; while the subscription is about double that amount, so that (unless Mr. Grau is tempted to go to American extremes) the enterprise is safe enough for next season.

The next National Eisteddfod of Wales will be held at Monmouth, and as this is so near to London, it has been suggested that one or more London choirs should compete. I hope, however, that nothing of the sort will be attempted. The Welsh Eisteddfod is a national institution with which London choirs clearly do not wish to interfere.

The compromise in regard to the Harris memorial ought to be satisfactory to all parties, although some people who are always grumbling, and from whom little or no money can be expected, propose to make things merry at the meeting to-day (Wednesday), when most of the opulent subscribers will have left for the holidays. That

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"Norse King," 3,212 tons register, 4,500 horse-power, will sail from London (Tilbury), August 27, for a twenty-five days' Cruise to the Capitals of the Baltic, calling at Leith, Copenhagen, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Kiel, returning viâ the New Baltic Canal and Heligoland. Fares from Eighteen Guineas. Passengers are allowed to take bicycles free of cost.—Pirrie & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Jas. J. Ballantine, 134, Vincent-street, Glasgow; Hy. Gaze & Sons, Ltd., 142, Strand, London, W.C.

the bulk of the money should go in charity was generally admitted. Musical scholarships have of late years been rather overdone, and have at any rate not been so productive of the long-expected British Handel or Mendelssohn as was anticipated. A certain number of the subscribers, however, wish part of the money to be devoted to more personal uses. Ten per cent. of the subscriptions are therefore to be set aside either for a monument for Harris's grave, or for a bust at the Opera House. The remainder will be divided between the Royal Society of Musicians and the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

One of the schemes which Harris projected, and which had, indeed, been sketched out before his death, ought certainly not to be dropped. That which deals with the question of a permanent English opera is, perhaps, too difficult of accomplishment now, for it comprises London seasons in the autumn and spring and a tour. The permanent orchestra, however, is another matter. Harris intended that it should be of about forty-five members, who would play in the autumn drama at so much per week, with liberty to send deputies; in autumn opera at so much extra per night, but without deputy rights; in pantomime day and night; afterwards again in the spring opera; and finally at season prices at Covent Garden in the grand season. Thus the bandsmen would have about ten months' engagement, and would not only be able to accept slightly more moderate prices than under the present conditions, but would also acquire that ensemble which only comes by long association.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You cannot imagine the social bleakness of deserted London. The place is a blank, so far as Society is concerned, and one feels that it is pure waste to put on a pretty costume or adjust with ordinary care the neatest of one's toques. But for a belated wedding or two, there would be left no sweetness or light. What is the charm in the crowds of daintily dressed women and their husbands, brothers, and cousins, that one misses so much when they all vanish like a dream? Is it that the sight of the highest physical culture is agreeable to us in the same degree as that of rags and dirt in connection with the lowest human stratum is disagreeable? There is something subtle about one's sensation of pleasure in the crowded park, the full opera house, the smart theatre, that is difficult to analyse.

We are busy packing, being bound for Folkestone as soon as Bank Holiday gets cleared away. Those who venture forth on that day find a grand opportunity for studying the companion picture to the high life that has, wraith-like, swirled itself away in the smoke of departing train and steamboat. I wonder if the Bank Holiday-makers are really happy, or if they are not, half consciously, pleased when the day is well over, and their doings become mere reminiscence. The young lovers who pass it together are happy, of course. The children are happy in the beginning of it, but when they tire and lean heavily on a weary, peevish mother, overdone always and more than ever after the early start and the crowded train, the little ones must sometimes vaguely wonder if they are really enjoying themselves, or if they only fancy it.

It requires so much foresight, and even intuition, to say nothing of a little margin of loose cash beyond what is expected, to render a day's outing perfectly and smoothly agreeable, even in ordinary circumstances. And in the crowds of a Bank Holiday, with slow trains, stifling carriages, and delays in getting home again, there must be everything favourable to ebullitions of temper and irritability.

Richard says that this is all nonsense; that the crowds find happiness in being crowds, and that if it were not for drink and its victims, Bank Holidays would be perfect bliss for thousands and thousands.

However, we wait till it is all over and go down to the sea on Wednesday. Bee and I went to Folkestone to look after rooms one day last week, and we think it is one of the prettiest places we have ever seen. The drive to Hythe, along Lord Radnor's private road, which skirts the sea as far as Sandgate, is a lovely one. It seems wrong that any one man should own so much of the coast, but it is fortunate, perhaps, in this instance, that it is so; otherwise it would not be so beautifully kept as it is, with the lovely little bosky bits on either side, with steps cut in the wooded cliffs, rustic bridges crossing from point to point upon the beach, and giving exquisite "sketchy" glimpses of the sea.

We did not care much for Hythe. There is, however, a perfectly beautiful and most romantic avenue of wych-elms, now called the Ladies' Walk, which would be worth thousands a year to Olympia or Earl's Court, could it only be bodily transplanted, just as it is, to suburban London, with the light greyness of the aged trunks, gnarled and knotted, and the youthful green of the leaves that meet overhead.

Sandgate we thought delightful, with its houses right on the sea-beach. We noticed a pretty house for sale on the top of the hill above the sea, but under the cliff. I wish Richard would buy it, and give up his house by the river. The latter is delightful in May and June, but after that a sort of close, dry sultriness seems to settle down over everything, and until September one scarcely feels able to breathe in long, full draughts of air. I should prefer one week by the sea to a whole month by the river in weather so exhaustingly hot as this.

One of the charms of Folkestone consists in the dim, mysterious pathways through the woods close by the sea, with seats abundantly provided all along them, in the depths of shade. On the other side, close to the pier, there is considerable skill shown in landscape-gardening, shrubs, and trees having been planted so judiciously as to embellish the sea-front in a remarkably tasteful way. Bee and I sat there for a whole hour, dreamily enjoying the lovely greenish, grey-blue of the sea and the vivid turquoise of the sky,

> And only the noise of the switchback
> Cast its shadow over me.

We think of crossing to France and spending a week or so on the investigation of the watering-places along the coast. It would be interesting. I think I shall write a guide-book afterwards, on a plan of my own. It will give the information that every-day mortals really need—such as particulars of local train service, the hours the boats leave and return, the charge for flys from the station or by the hour, when the posts go out and come in, and the tariff of one or two hotels. We bought at Folkestone all the guide-books we could get and found in them none of these things. They contained much antiquarian lore, whether accurate or not we are not in a position to say, but for practical purposes absolutely useless.

When people go to a new place, they want to know all about it as it is, not as it was several hundred years ago. There are pages of padding, but not a word to enlighten the reader as to the whereabouts of the golf links. A whole history of the ancient Norman monastery is given, but you may look in vain for the hours of modern church service. There is some information given about the reading-room, but the most useful item to strangers is omitted, viz., the hours during which it is open free to them. A picture of the town-hall is given, but we are not told that the omnibuses and brakes start from there for Hythe. And what everybody wants to know immediately they arrive—where to find a post-office, and

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at what hour is the last mail for delivery in London in the morning—is, of course, omitted.

Oh, yes! I'll write a guide-book all of my own.

The feline population of London grows apace. Who shall compile statistics that will tell us how many kittens are born in every year, and how many escape the perils incident to infancy, and survive to catdom? It is really high time that some one should take the matter in hand. I suppose the business would devolve on the London County Council. I wish they would put a small tax on cats, and have the superfluous ones put mercifully to death. It would be a kindly thing to do, for there must be an enormous number of stray cats, homeless and generally hungry, whose lives must be far from happy.

We have, as you know, a garden large enough for a small lawn, a greenhouse, and some flower-beds, and from it we can see a goodly bit of the south-eastern sky. It is a boon to be able to see a stretch of sky in London, and with frightful presumption we call this limitless home of countless worlds "our bit of sky." Richard has had an al fresco room made by having a portion of the garden covered in with an awning, and there the girls and I read and sew, and sometimes write. Richard occasionally smokes out there, and it is a pleasant change from the house in this broiling weather. But much of our pleasure in it is destroyed by cats. They prowl about, lie on the cushions when we are in the house, and upset our work-baskets. The dogs keep them away while we are out, but, as you know, dogs are fond of human company, and when we leave the garden they leave it too, and when we go back there are disagreeable evidences of the feline visitors. Anybody who walks much about suburban London will testify to the nuisance our over-supply of cats occasions.

I wonder if you are as much troubled with them as we are?

Unfortunately I could not myself get down to Goodwood, but Frances, who was there, has sent me a long account of the delightful four days she spent at that most pleasant of pleasant race meetings.

She tells me that regardless of several threats to the contrary the weather was all that could be desired. Still the meeting was not by any means a crowded one. On the Thursday—the Cup day—there was a good "lawn," and on Tuesday our sex were fairly well represented, but on the two other days the gathering, from a social point of view, was below a very ordinary Sandown. I suppose this was partly owing to the dull mornings, and also to the fact that, though Goodwood is second to no other race meeting when you are there, you have to get there first—which, especially from London, is in itself no small undertaking. Nevertheless, it is well worth all the trouble and all the exercise of patience that are required, if only to get the chance of having one's lunch under the charming trees on the equally charming lawn.

Luncheon is a distinct feature at Goodwood. At Ascot you snatch your food from the top of a coach surrounded by gipsies and every conceivable species of beggar; at Sandown you fight for it in a crowded and generally very hot room; at many other meetings you more often than not have to go without it altogether; but at Goodwood you sit down comfortably at a table (if, of course, you are fortunate enough to have a friend who has a table there) surrounded by the cream of Society, from the Prince of Wales down to—but no, it would not be fair to say down to whom. Not only, however, are there private tables, but several of the Brighton clubs, and, in fact, one or two of the London clubs, entertain there. Frances tells me that this year the decorations of the tables were as a rule far quieter and less pretentious than last year—which is a step in the right direction—as the self-advertising that has at times been conspicuous through the luncheon tables at Goodwood was threatening to vulgarise the whole idea. Have we to thank the various hosts and hostesses for this improvement, or is it due to the discretion of such caterers as Sayers & Co., of Brighton, who seem to have been responsible for many of the luncheons?

Goodwood this year will be noted as a red-letter meeting by the male sex for the sensible resolve arrived at by the Prince of Wales that it should not be a "top hat and frock-coat meeting." It has always seemed absurd to me that men should be expected to thus clothe themselves at a race meeting, especially during such weather as we have recently experienced; and I trust, for the sake of our Males, that the Prince of Wales will extend this Royal resolve even to Royal Ascot.

I must, however, cut short Frances's criticisms, as unfortunately I have already exceeded my usual limits.

But you will ask, How about dresses at Goodwood? Has Frances nothing to say about them? Well, all she says respecting frocks is that they were more interesting than striking—it being interesting to see how old friends had been revivified and altered to make them appear as though they had really been made specially for the occasion. Dress at Goodwood, she adds, is like luncheon at a country house on the day following a dance—it is simply a réchauffé or redishing-up of what one has seen before.

Fancy a table top of solid silver! One has just been made for an American customer by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company in Regent-street. The table is a round one, and the silver top is more than 10 ft. in circumference. It seems rather a triumph to England that a commission of this kind should come from the great silver-producing country, and in spite of the fact that America protects its manufacturers by a heavy import duty. If this duty were rendered a moderate one, England could supply America with silver articles, now that the metal is so cheap, at prices lower than it now pays for electro-plate.

Doubtless you have seen in the accounts of the arrival of Li Hung Chang, or, to be more correct, Li Chung Tang, that the Chinese Viceroy is scarcely able to get about except with the assistance of his attendants. We had the fact brought home to us very forcibly the other day in calling at Carter's, in Cavendish-street, to inquire about an invalid-chair for a friend of Richard's in the country. Among other admirable appliances for the comfort of the bedridden and infirm, we saw a delightful adjustable reclining-chair, which Mr. Carter has made specially for our Celestial visitor. It is a most handy conveyance, and will doubtless be of great assistance to Li—that is his real name, you know, Amy, the rest being only complimentary titles, I believe—during his visit to this country. But are you not astonished at the courage and resolution of this Grand Old Man of China, who can actually undertake a journey round the world, and all the labour of a state progress through the chief countries of Europe, not to mention the United States, while almost incapable of walking without assistance?

And now for our weekly bit of cookery. This is a new savoury fritter which I think you will like:—

Take 8 oz. of cold boiled rice, mix it with 2 tablespoonfuls of flour, 2 oz. of grated Parmesan cheese, a pinch of cayenne pepper, a little salt, and sufficient water to make a very stiff batter. Place a frying basket in a stewpan of hot lard, and carefully place portions of the batter, with a tablespoon, about the size of an egg in it, so that they do not touch each other. Fry briskly until they are a delicate golden colour, and turn on to a paper to drain. Arrange the fritters in a pyramid in a dish, and pour the following sauce round:—Put the yolks of 2 eggs into a stewpan, with three-quarters of a gill of milk, a pinch of salt and pepper, and a pinch of cayenne pepper, whisk

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over the fire until it is a thick custard, then add a tablespoonful of grated Parmesan cheese, and stir it till it is dissolved.

And you must try this *surprise* of cutlets :—

Roll out some good puff-paste very thin, which cut into small portions about the size of a crown piece—heart shape. Put into the paste, apricot marmalade, lap over half the heart and pinch it to the other, so as to resemble a cutlet. Put them on a tin and bake. Cut the remaining paste into strips and form into the shape of a bone, bake them at the mouth of the oven, but not sufficiently to colour. When the cutlets are cooked glaze them over with the beaten white of an egg. Bruise some macaroons and roll them in it. Heat a skewer and press it across the cutlets to give them the appearance of having been grilled. Fix into them the bone of paste, arrange the cutlets on to a mound of whipped cream, then pour round some liquid red-coloured jelly.

This delicious sweet is a recent invention :—

Oil and paper a plain round mould and line it with strips of Genoese 1 in. wide and ¼ in. thick, using a little white icing to stick them together, then leave it until next day to get firm. Blanch and pound 2 oz. of sweet and ¼ oz. of bitter almonds, and steep them in 1 gill of water for an hour, then strain, with pressure, into an egg bowl; add 4 yolks of eggs and 3 oz. of fine sugar; whisk the contents of the bowl over a saucepan of boiling water until quite hot and thick; now remove the bowl from the fire and whisk until cold. Mix a gill of whipped cream and a dessertspoonful of maraschino with the custard, and freeze it in the usual way. When ready to serve, place the prepared cake on a fancy paper, fill it with the frozen mixture, piling it high in the centre, and sprinkle the top with chopped pistachios.

Foie-gras in aspic is a dainty dish. It is made in this way :—

Pour a little dissolved aspic jelly into a plain round mould, and when it is set decorate it tastefully with diamond or crescent shaped pieces of truffle; pour in a little more jelly to set without disarranging the garnish. Remove the fat from the contents of a tureen of foie-gras, and pound the liver with part of the breast of a boiled chicken and an ounce of butter, season with salt and pepper, rub it through a wire sieve, and place it lightly in the mould; pour in a little dissolved aspic, and allow it to set. Then add more jelly, filling the mould by degrees. Turn it on to a dish and garnish the base with chopped aspic and sprigs of chervil.

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MISS ADA REHAN and Mr. DALY'S COMPANY
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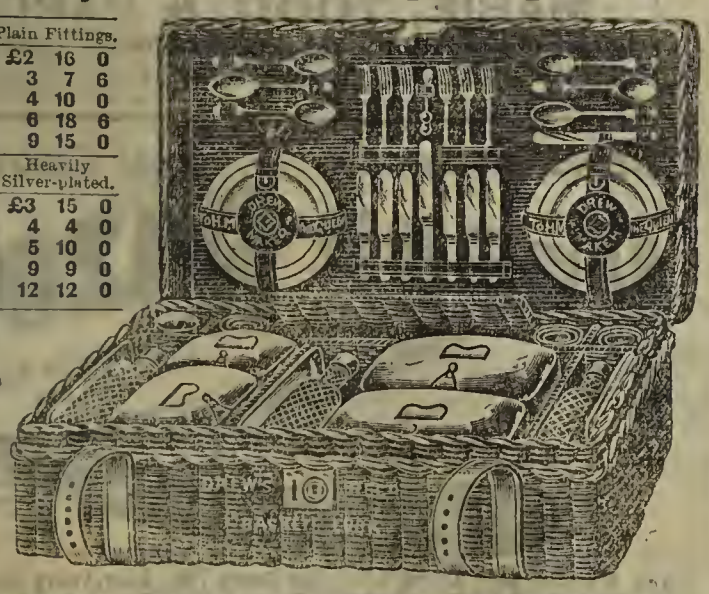

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Waterloo ..... dep.	6 0	7 55	11 15	12 50	3 10	5 50
Cowes ..... arr.	11 0	12 10	3 0	4 50	7 0	9 20
Newport ..... ,,	11 54	12 50	3 55	5 10	7 35	...

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Waterloo ..... dep.	5 50	6 0	9 30	12 30	2 25	4 55
Yarmouth (Boat) ..... arr.	9 15	11 30	1 0	3 30	5 45	7 55
Freshwater ..... ,,	9 37	...	1 36	4 56	6 57	9 33
Totland Bay (Boat) ..... ,,	...	12 0	...	4 0	6 20	...
Alum Bay (Boat) ..... ,,	...	12 10	...	4 10	...	...

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	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Waterloo ..... dep.	6 45	9 0	9 15	12 10	1 0	3 40	4 10	5 0	7 5	10 15
Portsmouth ..... arr.	9 23	11 0	11 50	2 11	3 27	5 30	6 35	7 4	9 40	12 37
Ryde ..... ,,	10 15	11 55	12 45	3 0	4 43	6 25	7 30	7 40	...	3 10
Ventnor ..... ,,	11 4	12 49	1 51	3 35	6 6	7 10	8 30	8 30	...	...

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	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Waterloo ..... dep.	5 50	7 55	11 15	2 25	3 10
Ryde ..... arr.	9 2	12 0	2 55	5 15	7 0
Ventnor ..... ,,	10 0	12 49	3 35	6 6	8 30

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Victoria ..... dep.	...	...	10 30	11 35	...	1 45	3 55	...	4 55	7 15
London Bridge ,,	6 45	10 25	...	...	11 40	1 50	4 0	4 55	5 0	7 25
Portsmouth ..... arr.	9 0	12 45	1 5	1 40	2 16	4 23	6 39	6 56	7 38	10 25
Ryde ..... ,,	10 0	1 50	1 50	2 50	3 0	5 10	7 30	7 40	8 40	...
Sandown ..... ,,	10 45	2 29	2 29	...	3 37	5 46	8 14	8 14	9 24	...
Shanklin ..... ,,	10 51	2 36	2 36	...	3 45	5 52	8 19	8 19	9 30	...
Ventnor ..... ,,	11 4	2 50	2 50	3 35	3 35	6 6	8 30	8 30	9-40	...
Cowes ..... ,,	11 23	3 17	3 17	...	3 35	5 35	7 55	9 7	...	...

Extra Trains leave Victoria 1.0 p.m., and London Bridge 2.30 p.m. Saturdays and Tuesdays only.

LEWES RACES, August 7th and 8th.—A SPECIAL FAST TRAIN at Ordinary Fares, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class, from LONDON BRIDGE 8.55 a.m., calling at New Cross and Croydon; from VICTORIA 9.0 a.m., CLAPHAM JUNCTION 9.5 a.m.

A SPECIAL FAST TRAIN (at Ordinary Fares, 1st and 2nd Class) from LONDON BRIDGE 10.40 a.m.; Victoria 10.50 a.m., calling at Clapham Junction and Croydon.

SPECIAL TRAINS at Ordinary Fares return from Lewes immediately after the Races.

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SPECIAL TRIP ROUND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH. A First, Second, and Third Class Special Fast Train will leave Victoria 9.30 a.m., Clapham Junction 9.35 a.m., and West Croydon 9.50 a.m., for Portsmouth, connecting there with a Special Steamer for a trip round the Isle of Wight, returning in time for the Up Special Fast Train at 6.15 p.m. Fares, Train and Steamer, First Class 12s. 6d., Second Class 7s. 6d., Third Class 6s. Tickets may be taken at the Victoria Station, or at the Booking Offices, 28, Regent-street, 8, Grand Hotel-buildings, 6, Arthur-street East, and Hays', Cornhill, on and from the preceding Monday.

(By Order) ALLEN SARLE, Secretary and General Manager.

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—The SESSION of the FACULTIES of ARTS and LAWS and of SCIENCE (including the Indian and Oriental Schools and the Department of Fine Arts) will BEGIN on OCTOBER 6th. The Introductory Lecture will be given, at THREE p.m., by PROFESSOR J. P. POSTGATE, M.A., Litt. D.

Subjects.	Professors or Teachers.
Latin	A. E. Housman, M.A.
Greek	J. A. Platt, M.A.
Hebrew (Goldsmid Professorship)	The Rev. Dr. D. W. Marks
Comparative Philology	J. P. Postgate, M.A., Litt. D.
Archæology (Yates Professorship)	E. A. Gardner, M.A.
Egyptian Archæology (Edwards Professorship)	W. M. Flinders Petrie, D.C.L., LL.D.
English (Quain Professorship)	W. P. Ker, M.A.
History	F. C. Montague, M.A.
Philosophy of Mind and Logic (Grote Professorship)	J. Sully, M.A., LL.D.
Political Economy	H. S. Foxwell, M.A.
Statistics (Newmarch Lectureship)	A. L. Bowley, M.A.
Architecture	T. Roger Smith, F.R.I.B.A.
Fine Arts (Slade Professorship)	Fredk. Brown.
French	H. Lallemand, B. ès Sc.
German	F. Althaus, Ph.D.
Italian	F. de Asarta
Mathematics	M. J. M. Hill, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.
Chemistry	W. Ramsay, Ph.D., F.R.S.
Pathological Chemistry	Vaughan Harley, M.D.
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Zoology (Jodrell Professorship)	W. F. R. Weldon, M.A., F.R.S.
Botany (Quain Professorship)	F. W. Oliver, M.A., D.Sc.
Geology (Yates Goldsmid Professorship	The Rev. T. G. Bonney, D.Sc., LL.D., F.G.S., F.R.S.
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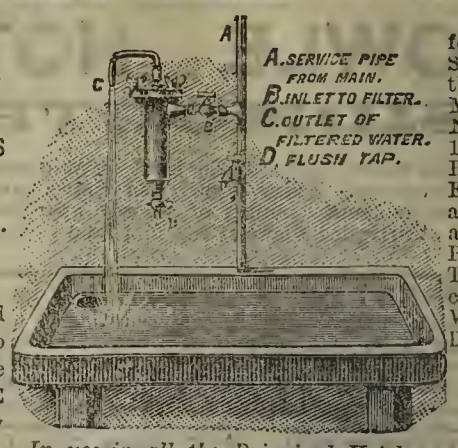

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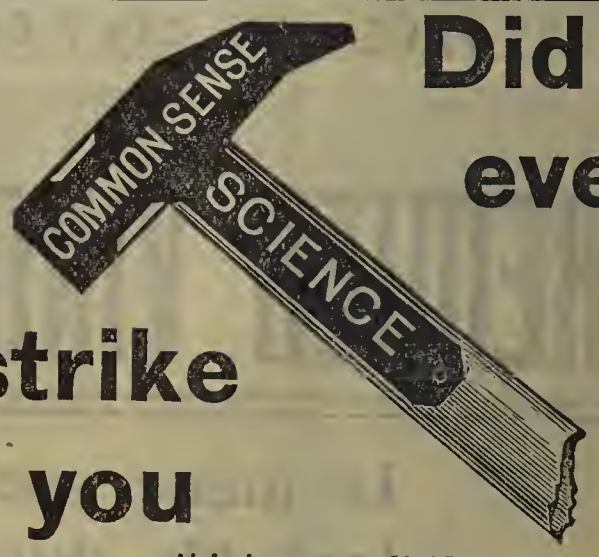

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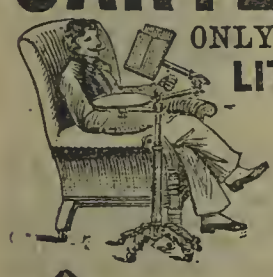

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18th July, 1896.—Cut reef bottom of "Britannia" shaft foot thick. Appearance first-class. Good dish prospects from stone pounded, also loose gold. Course north and south-westerly dip, excellent country surrounding.

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PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire and work a property known as the "Brittania," situate on the Coromandel Gold Fields district of Hauraki, New Zealand.

SITUATION.—The position of the property is in the same channel of gold-bearing country as the "Hauraki," "Kapanga," "Scotty's Hauraki," "Tokatea," and other well-known mines.

Area and Title.—The property consists of 38 acres or thereabouts, and is held as a special claim under the usual conditions from the Government of New Zealand.

Extract from the *Statist* Newspaper, 22nd February, 1896.

"We were amongst the first to recommend our readers to study South Africa, and to select judiciously good shares, which could then be bought at tempting prices. Now, we repeat our advice respecting New Zealand. The out-turn there has been larger than the world supposes up to the present time, and in some cases the cost of production is wonderfully small. Those, therefore, who turn their attention to that field before everybody is rushing at it, will, we venture to hope, make handsome profits—always, of course, assuming that they exercise care and judgment."

Reports.—The property has been reported on by the following experts:—
W. H. Argall, M.E.M.I.M.M., Manager of the "Kapanga" and other gold mines;
R. A. Marshall, Mine Manager;
George M. Steedman, Mine Manager;
whose reports "in extenso" accompany the prospectus, and the Directors recommend a careful perusal thereof.

Mr. Marshall states: "Portions of the present ground were afterwards taken up by a small company of working men, who put in the drive marked A on the sketch, and, in want of sufficient funds, did not timber the drive properly, and after cutting a 2 ft. 6 in. reef, and only taking out some 40 or 50 tons (which averaged 4½ oz. per ton), the drive fell in. The surface water was also making, and not having the means to get timber and pumping gear, and the expense of crushing and carting at that time being heavy, the Company broke up. Since then other developments adjacent to the property have taken place, and the original men again took up the old ground, with extra area, which is now the 'Brittania.'

"The drive referred to as marked A, called the 'Flying Cloud.'—They drove in about 220 ft. and cut a 2 ft. 6 in. reef; the stone from same, without picking, averaged 4½ oz. per ton. This reef is in good sandstone country, with well-defined walls.

"'Bonanza.'—This shaft was sunk 30 ft. near the point of the main spur, and a drive put in at that level 25 ft., and cut a strong leader 18 in., carrying good gold.

"'C.'—This is another shaft they sunk on a leader, which was showing very fine gold.

"'D.'—M'Neil shaft. This, you will see, is on the west side of the creek. He only sank 25 ft., and from stone obtained got 40 oz. gold. This good leader is dipping under the creek, and therefore prevented him single-handed going down further.

"'D.'—Again referring to this rich leader. It is a very favourable indication that good gold is in the ridge running north, on the west side of the creek, and that a large portion of the ridge is included in 'Britannia' lease."

Mr. Steedman states: "Its position I was at once struck with as excellent, being in the same channel of gold-bearing country as the 'Hauraki,' 'Kapanga,' 'Scotty's Hauraki,' and 'Tokatea' Mines, from all of which, I need hardly remind you, very rich deposits of gold have been won. It is bounded on the west by 'Scotty's Hauraki,' while the 'Tokatea' lies to the east, and less than a mile to the west the 'Famous Hauraki' is yielding gold at the rate of about £10,000 per month.

"A most important feature about the ground is that all the reefs and leaders cut are more or less gold-bearing, and loose dish prospects can be obtained from the surface soil in many places, which all points to the fact that the right class of country for carrying gold is enclosed in your area. Your property, on the whole, is 'low-lying,' with a creek running through it: therefore it will be necessary to sink before a good mine can be developed, and to this fact I attribute the chief cause of attention not having been directed to this property before.

"Another most important feature (and one that has been entirely overlooked in the past) is, that there is a 'slide' traversing the northern end of the ground (in a north-westerly direction), which should cross the 'Flying Cloud' reef just about the point where it is intersected by the 'Junction' reef; and as it is characteristic of the Coromandel reefs and leaders to make their richest patches where they strike a 'slide' or 'flat-head,' I trust that when this point is reached at a depth that it will not prove to be the exception to the rule, but cause a period in the history of the 'Britannia Special' to be long remembered."

Mr. Argall reports: "The lodes are found enclosed in a decomposed andesite rock, called by miners the 'Kindly Sandstone,' and by geologists 'Propylite.' This is the productive class of country, being of soft yellowish, grey, and blue colours, and in the vicinity of the quartz veins is highly impregnated, as a rule, with iron pyrites, and sometimes arsenical pyrites. The reefs generally, in this particular locality, are rather changeable in their nature, but they are always auriferous, and often very rich deposits of the precious metal are struck, as can be instanced from some of the adjoining mines, viz.: 'Kapanga,' 'Scotty's Hauraki,' the 'Tokatea' group of mines, and, I believe, in this very mine rich ore was obtained in the early days of the gold field.

"From a miner's point of view, the situation of the mine is everything that can be wished for, lying, as it does, close to the 'Kapanga' and 'Tokatea' mines, which have yielded large returns of gold, and in direct line of the auriferous belt of country. Well, considering all these matters, one cannot but arrive at one conclusion, and that is—if the property is systematically and energetically worked, with judicious management it should be very profitable to the shareholders."

On the advice of the manager, Mr. Steedman, a working shaft has been sunk, and has now attained a depth of 190 feet. It is expected to cut the reef at a depth of about 250 feet.

Timber.—There is a plentiful supply in the district.

Water.—Water will be obtained both in sinking and from a river running through the property.

The following contracts have been entered into, viz.: (1) Dated June 8th, 1896, between the Britannia Gold Mining Company of New Zealand and David Nairn Shaw, for the sale to the latter of the property to be acquired by the Company; (2) dated July 14th, 1896, between the said David Nairn Shaw (with consent of Robert Stewart) and the Central Finance Corporation, Limited; and (3) dated July 15th, 1896, between the said The Central Finance Corporation, Limited, as Vendors, David Nairn Shaw, Robert Stewart, and Peter Laurence, as trustee for the Company, for the resale of the said property to the Company at a profit.

Copies of the above contracts, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, with the original reports of Mr. Argall, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Steedman, on which the statements in this Prospectus are mainly based, may, while the list is open, be seen at the Offices of the Company.

The Vendors under the latter contract, who are the Promoters of the Company, have fixed the purchase price to be paid by the Company for the property at £75,000, payable as to £5,000 in cash and as to £50,000 in fully-paid Shares, and as to the remaining £20,000 in cash or in fully-paid Shares at the option of the Directors of the Company. The Vendor pays all preliminary expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the company, and the subscription of its capital to allotment. During the negotiations for the purchase of the property and the formation of the Company, agreements have been entered into with various parties in connection therewith, and as to the above expenses and the issue of the capital now offered, to none of which the Company is a party. Applicants for shares must be deemed to have had notice of these agreements, and to have waived the specification of the names of the parties to, and the dates and other particulars of, the said agreements, whether under the provisions of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, and allotment will be made on that condition. Mr. J. Edgar Paterson is also director of and shareholder in the issuing corporation.

Applications for shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and should be forwarded to the Company's Bankers, with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

If less than the whole number of shares applied for by any applicant be allotted, the surplus paid on application will be applied towards the sum due on allotment, and the balance (if any) returned. In case no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from the Company's Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors.

July 24th, 1896.

The List of Applications for Shares will CLOSE on FRIDAY, AUGUST 7th, for Town, and the following day for the Country.

THE

ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.)

CAPITAL, £500,000, in 500,000 Shares of £1 each.

PRESENT ISSUE: £250,000 in 250,000 Shares of £1 each, payable 5s. per Share on Application; 5s. per Share on Allotment; 5s. on November 2nd, 1896; and the remaining 5s. on January 1st, 1897.

DIRECTORS.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, 11, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, W.

W. Claude Johnson, M.I.C.E., M.I.E.E. (Messrs. Johnson & Phillips, Electrical Engineers and Manufacturers, Old Charlton, Kent, and 14, Union-court, Old Broad-street, E.C.).

Professor William Crookes, F.R.S. (Chairman Notting Hill Electric Lighting Co., Ltd.), 7, Kensington Park-gardens, W.

BANKERS.—London and County Banking Company, Limited, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Renshaw, Kekewich & Smith, 2, Suffolk-lane, E.C.

BROKERS.—Marcus & Peczenik, 2, Drapers'-gardens, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.—Price, Waterhouse & Co., 44, Gresham-street, E.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEER.

F. Hastings Medhurst, B.Sc., M. Inst. E.E., 13, Victoria-street, S.W. (Consulting Electrical Engineer to the Vestries of Hackney and Fulham, and to the Corporations of Bedford, Reigate, Bury St. Edmunds, &c.).

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro tem.).—James Meadowcroft, 24, Coleman-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

1. This Corporation has for its primary object the promotion and development of undertakings for utilising Electrical Power in all its industrial applications.

2. About eight million pounds sterling are already invested in the United Kingdom alone in Electricity Supply undertakings, while in the immediate future the use of Electricity for transmission of power for working light railways, and for street traction, will in all probability demand an expenditure far exceeding that amount.

3. The business of the Corporation will not be confined to the British Isles, but is proposed to be extended to the Colonies and foreign countries.

4. The Directors attach importance to the field for enterprise presented by the transmission of Electric Power for mining and other purposes from existing water powers, and they hope for considerable revenue from this source alone.

5. Electric Traction for tramways has not, as yet, attracted the attention in the United Kingdom it obtains on the Continent and in America. In the United States there is scarcely a town with a population of more than 10,000 people without its Electric Tramway. In this country the subject is now receiving serious attention from Tramway Companies, Engineers, and Capitalists, and this Corporation anticipates a considerable revenue from the promotion and development of Electric Tramway undertakings.

6. In 1890 a Company similar to this Corporation was formed, and its operations were practically carried on on the lines now proposed, and it has paid—after its first year's working—dividends yearly of not less than 20 per cent. on the capital issued, in addition to providing a very considerable Reserve fund.

7. This Corporation intends commencing operations at once, and has under consideration the following businesses:—

(1) The exploitation of a new and improved system of Electric Traction.

(2) The Electric Lighting of an important and rapidly growing district.

(3) An interest in a new and thoroughly practical self-starting alternating current motor.

(4) The construction of a system of electric generating stations and the transmission of power in a mining district of South Africa.

From these and other likely opportunities for the employment of capital there appears every prospect of success for the Corporation.

8. The Corporation will on all technical matters have the assistance of Mr. F. H. Medhurst, B.Sc., M.Inst.E.E., the Consulting Electrical Engineer to the London Vestries of Hackney and Fulham, and several important provincial Corporations.

9. This Corporation has not entered into any definite contracts other than those hereinafter mentioned.

10. The Corporation has entered into (1) a contract with Ernest Coleman, dated August 4th, 1896, whereby he has agreed to pay all the preliminary expenses, including Registration Fees, down to the first allotment of Shares, for a Commission of 2 per cent. upon the Capital of the Corporation, and (2) a contract with F. H. Medhurst, dated August 4th, 1896, for his employment as Consulting Engineer, whereby his remuneration is dependent on profits only. The Corporation has entered into no other contracts, but applicants for Shares will be deemed to have agreed with the Corporation as Trustees for the Directors and others to waive their right (if any) to further particulars of contracts, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, and applications will only be received, and Allotments made, on this footing.

11. It is proposed to apply in due course for a quotation of the Shares of the Corporation on the Stock Exchange.

12. In the event of no allotment being made, the deposit will be returned in full.

13. Prospectuses and forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and of the Bankers and Solicitors, where the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the contracts herein mentioned, can be inspected.

August, 1896.

This Form may be cut out, filled up, and sent with amount payable on application to the Company's Bankers.

THE ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.
APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

No.....

To the Directors of THE ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,

Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being five shillings per Share payable on application for .....Shares of £1 each, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus accompanying this Form of Application, and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company; and I request you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and engage to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due.

Usual Signature .....

Name (in full) .....

(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address (in full) .....

Profession or Occupation .....

Date.....1896.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILROAD
REORGANIZATION.

TO THE HOLDERS OF NORFOLK AND WESTERN, ROANOKE AND SOUTHERN, AND LYNCHBURG AND DURHAM SECURITIES.

Over 97¾ per cent. of the disturbed Bonds of all Classes and over 87 per cent. of the Stocks of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company having been deposited under the Plan, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to those Security Holders who have not already deposited, that further deposits of Bonds and Stocks after 15th June, 1896, will not be received except in the discretion of the Committee, and on such terms as it may impose.

NEW YORK EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE.

New York, 6th June, 1896.

London Depositaries (acting as Agents of the Mercantile Trust Company of New York)—Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co., Founders-court, London, E.C.

The 2nd Instalment of $3 per Share (payable on all Stocks deposited) was due on 1st June, the 3rd of $3 was due on 6th July, and the final Instalment of $2·50 will be due on 6th August, 1896, at the rate of 49¼ pence per $.

Any further information as to the Reorganization may be obtained on application to Mr. Howland Roberts, Secretary to the London Committee, care of Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co.

London, 21st July, 1896.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £23,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

LEOPOLDINA, MACAHÉ & CAMPOS & RIO DE JANEIRO & NORTHERN RAILWAY LOANS.

1.	Leopoldina Railway	6	per Cent.	Loan	1884	for £500,000
2.	Do.	5	,,	,,	1888	,, £2,000,000
3.	Do.	5	,,	,,	1890	,, £1,150,000
4.	Macahé and Campos	5	,,	,,	1888	,, £800,000
5.	Do.	5	,,	,,	1889	,, £500,000
6.	Rio de Janeiro and Northern	6	,,	,,	1887	,, £250,000
7.	Do. Grão Pará Divn.	5	,,	,,	1888-1890	,, £1,350,000

Committee.

Robert Benson, Esq.
Charles Burt, Esq.
Robert H. C. Harrison, Esq.
Alexander Henderson, Esq.
Edward Herdman, Esq.
W. Cuthbert Quilter, Esq., M.P.
William Trotter, Esq.
Henry Vernet, Esq.

To the Bondholders.

From time to time Bondholders have been informed through the medium of the press, of negotiations that have been carried on with the view of some arrangement between the various security holders and the Company.

The Committee are now informed that these negotiations have failed, and looking to the large arrears of interest due, they have come to the conclusion that it is time to take new steps to protect the interests of holders of the various classes of bonds by legal proceedings or other means, and provide for the efficient and economical management of the railways with a view to the regular payment of interest.

Before any definite action can be taken it is necessary to arm the committee with full powers and to provide a fund for expenses.

The Committee, therefore, request holders to deposit their Bonds with Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, E.C., who will give formal certificates in exchange, and further, at the time of deposit, to pay to Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, for credit of the Committee the sum of 2/6 in respect of each £100 of bonds deposited.

A copy of the purposes and conditions of deposit is annexed to the circular issued, and will be endorsed upon the certificates to be issued in exchange for Bonds.

Application will be made in due course to the Stock Exchange, to allow a quotation for the Committee's Certificates.

By order,

E. J. LAKE, Secretary.

66, New Broad-street, London, E.C.
31st July, 1896.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

Why Rack Your Brains

to discover the most suitable materials for Ladies wear when by sending a post card to our Mills, a **Box of Patterns**, containing a most varied assortment, can be promptly obtained on approval *Post Free*. Further, by dealing direct with the GREENOCK MILLS, customers are supplied with goods at wholesale prices, so that while the choice of designs is unequalled, and it may almost be said unlimited, thorough economy is also ensured. In short, our postal system is found in practice to be in all respects more convenient and satisfactory than shop visiting. Our principal lines are—

Knitting Wools and Worsteds
Knitted Hosiery & Underwear
"Shawswater" Serges . .
Dress Fabrics, &c. . . . .

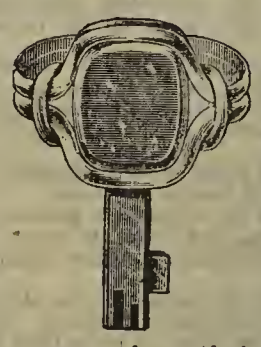
All these goods are made from specially-selected wools SPUN TO WEAR, and not merely to compete with unreliable low-priced qualities, now so extensively offered. Write us TO-DAY for a Box of Patterns. You will be delighted with the contents. Kindly note the address—

FLEMING, REID & CO. *Worsted Mills,*
GREENOCK, N.B.

A valuable knitting instruction book free on application.

The Best is The Cheapest

A MASTER KEY of this SIZE



Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

For Prices and Particulars apply to—

NEEDS & CO. *Late* **BRAMAH & CO.**

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks,

100, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

SINGER

Grand "Modèle de Luxe"

HIGHEST GRADE CYCLES ONLY.

Prompt Delivery may now be had.

SINGER & CO. LTD., COVENTRY.

LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS.

BIRD'S CUSTARD POWDER

THE FRUIT SEASON AND BIRD'S CUSTARD.

BIRD'S CUSTARD advantageously takes the place of cream with fresh, Stewed or Tinned Fruits.

So rich, yet will not disagree; enhances the flavour. So cooling, agreeable, and wholesome. The safest of dishes for the hot weather.

BIRD'S CUSTARD is the one thing needed with all Stewed or Tinned Fruit.

The best resource for every housekeeper, affording a constant variation in the daily menu.

NO EGGS! NO TROUBLE! NO RISK!

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 905.—SUGGESTED NAME FOR HORSELESS CARRIAGES.

Toucan (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 911.

The Prize in this Competition will be divided between Flitters and Clara, who both make what is practically the same suggestion for a subject for discussion in the newspapers during the Silly Season. Their suggestion is that correspondents should be invited to discuss whether the use of artificial aids to beauty, such as cosmetics, rouge, powder, &c., is permissible?

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 915.

In accordance with many requests, a Translation from French into English verse is made the subject of Competition this week. The usual Prize of Two Guineas is therefore offered for

The Best Rendering of the Two Stanzas printed below into Rhymed English Verse of the same Metre as the original French Lines.

Here are the two well-known stanzas of which an English version has to be written:—

"La vie est vaine :
Un peu d'amour,
Un peu de haine,
Et puis—bonjour !

La vie est brève :
Un peu d'espoir,
Un peu de rêve,
Et puis—bonsoir !"

Competitors will please specially note that they are not to lengthen the number of the syllables in the lines of their version. Each line of the English version must also rhyme with its alternate line as in the original. I need hardly add that though a literal translation is not asked for, it will be well for competitors to keep as nearly as possible to the original in their English versions. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, August 17.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** In consequence of going to press exceptionally early several answers to correspondents are held over until next week.

Oroya.—The Puzzle Prize Cheques are sent out periodically in batches.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 912.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

DESCRIPTION OF A CYCLING TOUR, IN RHYMED VERSE.

We started off one morning, and we sped along so fast,
That everybody seemed to stare in wonder as we passed,
"I say, old boy!" he said to me, "now what d'you think of this?
"To me, to spin at such a rate is nearly perfect bliss."
Well, as we'd ridden thirteen miles, and faster grew the pace,
I answered rather gruffly, "Well, you know, it's not a race,"
I don't know what he thought I said; he seemed to take no heed,
In fact, I saw with horror that he now increased his speed;
I thought I'd not be beaten, so I worked with all my might.
He thought that I was racing him, and vanished out of sight.
Now work grew ten times harder, and I felt with deepest pain
That I had got a puncture; and then it began to rain;
The prospect thus of ten miles more I really couldn't bear,
And, though I grieve to say it, I straight began to swear.
Now, with my feelings thus relieved, I had to drag that load
For nearly ten miles in the rain upon a greasy road.
And when at last I did arrive they took me for a tramp,
And if my friend had not been there I should have had to "camp."
Next day I had to stay in bed until my clothes were dry,
And then I let my friend go on, and wished him there "good-bye."

A warning pray take if it's now to your liking,
And never go far if you should take up "biking,"
Whatever you do, never go with a scorcher,
Or, like me, you'll pass through unlimited torture.

Asher.

Attend all ye who list to hear my noble cycle's praise:
I tell of the thrice famous deeds she wrought in recent days,
When such a storm—a Dartmoor storm!—against her bore in vain
The wildest blasts of hurricane, the thickest sheets of rain.
It came, a year or two ago, upon a summer's day.
What came? A little sable cloud right up from Plymouth Bay,
And blinding was the lightning's flash, and loud the thunder's sound,
As slow against the labouring wind I forced the pedals round.
Night sank upon the purple heath (so far as I could see)—
Such night on Dartmoor ne'er had been—and one's enough for me.
For swift to east, and swift to west, that sable cloudlet grew,
And every stick and stone it drenched—it drenched the writer through.
The sentinel at Dartmoor Gaol looked forth into the night,
And saw approaching (up the hill) a speck of ruby light;
Then with one start, and with one yawn, he shook his dripping hat,
And as my cycle passed, he cried, "Why, who the devil's that?"
And faster still the wheels went round, and faster fell the rain,
And faster, faster, onward still, my cycle raced again.
And on and on, without a pause, untired she bounded still,
And hurried, with the wind behind, like lightning down the hill,
Till, like volcanoes flared to heaven, "The Duchy" lights below,
Till broad and fierce the boss came out, and roared, "Who's knocking so?"
Till, 'neath his hospitable roof, I housed my iron horse,
Till thus I closed my cycle tour with such a *tour de force*.

Relwop.

Carew de Vere, rich and no wife,
Was thirty-eight, or thereabouts;
His club and liver were his life,
And Bond-street was his whereabouts.
When cross, he was a Hottentot,
And when polite, an icicle,
But grew more cheerful when he'd got,
And learned to ride a bicycle.
For first to Rochester he rode,
And studied that Provincial See,
Then Dover was his next abode,
From there, through Hythe, to Winchelsea.
Here dwelt his aunt, and pretty Coz
(When Coz was small he'd carried her)
Who had a tandem—thus it was
He fell in love and married her.
And now he dwells far out of town,
His liver working actively,
His eye is clear, his face is brown,
Life smiles on him attractively.
So, as no happiness is real
Till love and health are put to it,
Don't place your shoulder to the wheel,
But, rather, put your foot to it.

Oom Paul.

Breathes there the man so forced by adverse fate,
So out at elbows, or so up of date.
Whom sylvan joys avail not to allure
To taste the rapture of a cycling tour?
How sweet to rise at breezy call of day,
Forecast the weather, and forswear delay!
Then, breakfast o'er, bestride the glittering wheel,
That chafes for action worthy of its steel.
By dewy lawn, by stream, by feathery brake,
By hamlet rude, our sinuous course we take,
Till timely inn suggests a noontide halt,
And hints at lunch and eke a mug of malt.
A pipe; a siesta 'neath the whispering trees
That thrill with murmur of a myriad bees;
Till Phœbus sloping slowly to the west
With warning finger speeds the parting guests.
Thus hour by hour on velvet tyre we stray,
Keeping the noiseless tenour of our way;
Till, evening come, we stall the patient steed,
Sans tache, sans puncture, best of all—*sans* feed.
Then dinner: weary limb but restful head;
A well-earned slumber, and a well-aired bed;
Blest he that thus can tread the pilgrim's way,
And rest content with forty miles a day!

Kottabos.

We'd projected, some few weeks ago,
On our cycles to take a long tour,
And my spirits they rose, that I very well know,
As they never had risen before.

Our mark'd route was to Bath, and then on
To fair Exeter, Plymouth, Penzance;
And, returning, we thought we'd have probably gone
Just to take a short spin in North France.

There was Bill, there was Tom, there was Jack,
And last, but not least, there was I;
And we started one morn with our humps on our back,
As to scorch o'er the roads we did try.

But the luck was against us. First Bill
Got entrapped in a large flock of sheep,
Which soon caused him to have a most terrible spill,
And his bike was a ruinous heap.

Then young Tom, with a stone cut his tyre,
And old Jack we just left on the road;
While his bike it picked out a good place full of mire,
And then, for a joke, "shed its load."

So we never reached Bath, and I guess
I in future will travel by rail,
Where no spills make one swear, and no punctures distress,
And no rents in our clothes we bewail.

Almaviva.

John L-pin was a gentleman,
Of cycle trade renown;
A man of much invention he
Of Coventry's fair town.

And he had, too, his Mary dear,
Who for wedding he was keen.
"The honeymoon a-wheel," said he,
"Will we two spend, my queen."

So by the church where they were wed,
This modern pair got on
Their motor-bikes, the foolish souls,
To scour the country 'pon.

Away went L-pin, and away
Went Mrs. L-pin, too.
They little thought, when they came out,
What motor-bikes could do.

"Stop, stop, John L-pin," shrieked his bride,
"Do pray, for dinner, stay";
"I'm hungry, and I am so tired."
And L-pin echoed "Yea."

But motor-bikes are tricky things,
For L-pin vanished he;
And Mrs. L-pin waits and pines,
For him no more she'll see.—Amapola.

SIC VOLVITUR ROTA.

Through the grey, silent streets, ere the dawning
We tranquilly treadled our way;
And when slowly the night's cloudy awning
Rolled back 'fore the smile of the day,
We were ringed by the green of lush meadows,
We were kissed by the balm-bearing wind,
And the storm and stress of the city
Lay far and forgotten behind.

So our days slipped away, in a vision
Of an earth when the world was young;
As we lingered, 'mid pastures Elysian,
And the scenes by Theocritus sung.
How we swept, with the swoop of the swallow,
By the dull-droning, ivy-clad mill,
Where the hamlet lies hid in the hollow,
'Neath the sentinel tow'r on the hill.

Drowsy noons, when, the cool turf our pillow,
Lotos eaters, we languidly lay
In the shade of the silver-palmed willow
That waves o'er the well by the way.
Et nos in Arcadia—we've chanted
Our earth-mother's grand choric song;
And our κτημα ες αει she granted
In these days when her love lapped us long.

Tibicen.

Just a step to the pedal, a spring to the seat.
And we're off and away down the still sleeping street.
Then past mansion and villa, by homes that are poor,
Till the town lies behind us, the country before.
And it's oh! what a freshness from woodland and brake,
As we swing through the land ere the world is awake.
There's a God in the heaven, a song in the blue;
Ev'ry leaf seems enchanted, a-spangle with dew.
How light-hearted we're laughing. Now comes a stiff hill—
Put your weight on the treadles, and up with a will.
There! we've crested the top, and the moorland is ours,
With its lights and its shadows, its peaks and its flowers.
Now 'tis down through the valley our pathway must lie;
With our feet on the rests we can fearlessly fly.
Steeds like these never tire—but should punctures betide,
They are easily mended, and on soon we ride.

Noonday rests in some coppice, nights spent at an inn,
With some quaint lattic'd window where roses peep in.
So through country and village we rove, till at last
Our holiday's over—the days fled too fast.
Back we go to our calling, hard-muscled and brown;
With some pretty tall stories to tell in the town.
Let others look doubtful, we who've tried it are sure
That there's nothing on earth like a bicycle tour.

Janet.

I wanted to go for a tour on my bike;
Quoth the wife of my bosom, "Very well; as you like.
But, my chances of holiday being so few,
Pray say, dearest Alfred, that I may come too!"

Now this was not what I'd intended at all,
As my wife, on her bike, can't get out of a crawl;
Whilst her Alfred darts forward, breaking record at last,
She is far, far behind—not a milestone has passed.

I own that I was unaffectedly bored
When in the first half-hour my wife was thrice floored.

My language was strong, and I fear me, unkind;
Yes, I gave my Maria a bit of my mind.

She whimpered and bothered, said her pedals were wrong,
Called the saddle too small, and the brake much too strong;
Vowed I didn't care if she broke all her bones,
And finally wept on a hard heap of stones.

At last we reached Bagshot (our first place of call);
The inns were all full—there was no room at all.
My wife turned quite rusty, said "Home I'll return,"
And I did not oppose it, for I wished her to learn

That I do not approve of the woman on wheels:
For as such she is symbol of care at my heels!
So I bought her a ticket, saw her into the train,
Much relieved at the thought she'd be soon home again!

Pastorella.

Lines have also been received from Box, Pigtail, Theology, Arch. Gibbs, Charlwood, Laddie, Emma, Boss, Mumbles, J. W. J., Ammonite, W. W. M., Alastor, Co., Quetzel, Rex, Ruth, Alys, Qu'Appelle, and Pump Court.

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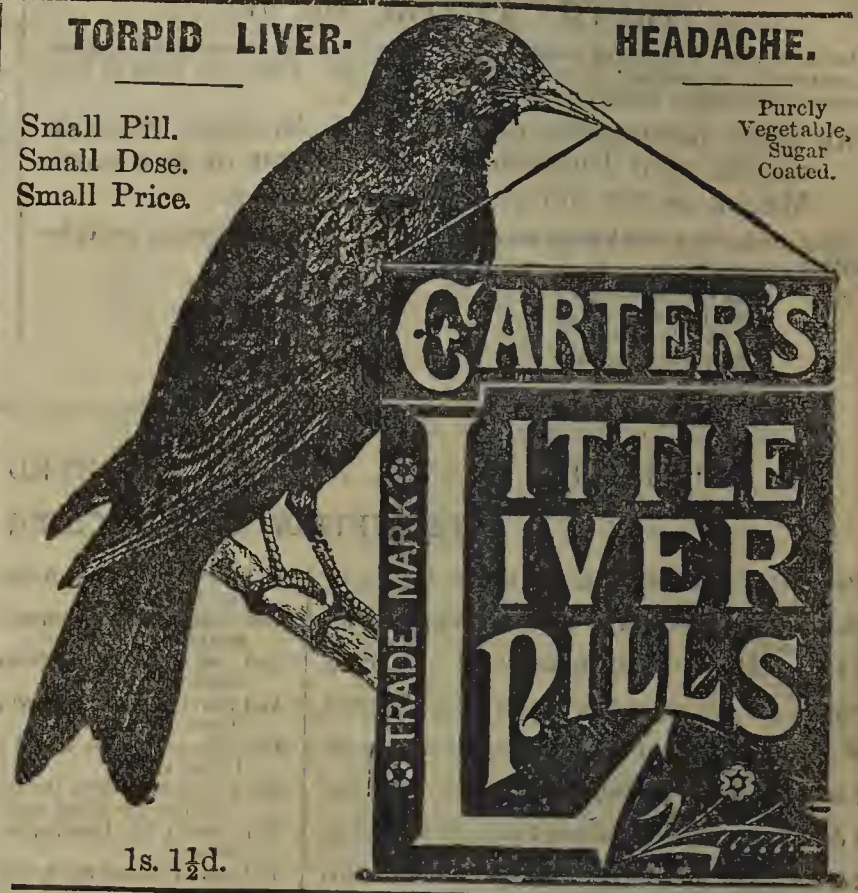

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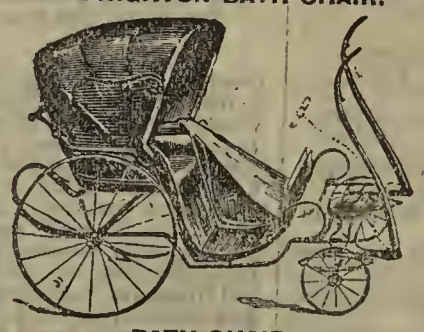

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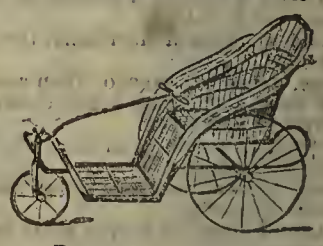

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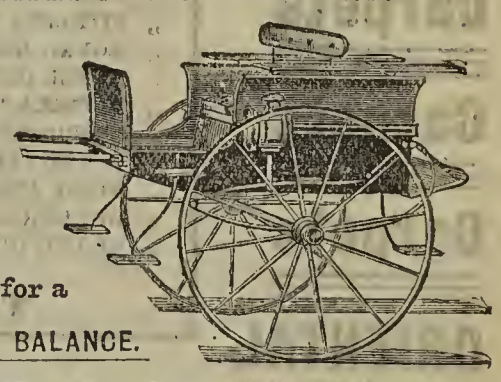

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

An evening journal announced last week that "the projected celebrations of her Majesty's long reign are already engaging the attention of the officials of the Household." This is an absurd fiction, and the statement that "alternative plans will be laid before the Queen for provisional approval" is another invention. There is, at all events at present, no idea of having any elaborate "celebration" next year, and the "officials of the Household" have heard nothing whatever on the subject, nor would it be their business to make the arrangements for any such functions. This duty would fall (as in 1887) on the Queen's "State servants," and it might as well be attributed to Convocation or to the Corporation of London as to the "officials of the Household."

I have a little suggestion of my own to make in regard to the celebration of the Queen's sixty years' reign. It is that the Imperial Institute should be pulled down. The Institute was built to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, and by common consent it is one of the most crack-brained projects that ever emanated from the mind of man; although, doubtless, some of those who were behind the scenes had a certain amount of method in their madness. There could not, it seems to me, be a better means of celebrating the coming event in English history, than by putting this Jubilee blunder right, and preventing the Imperial Institute remaining for ever a reproach to British common sense.

Of course, if the Institute could be sold by auction, and the proceeds applied to some useful purpose, this would be a still better way of celebrating the occasion. But, so far as I have been able to see, no one would bid any sum worthy of consideration for the premises in their present shape, so that the idea of getting the subscribers' money back is out of the question. On the other hand, if we got rid of the bricks and mortar, we might undoubtedly do something sensible with the land. The best thing that has been done at the Institute has been the open-air concerts in the gardens. Those who have heard the Strauss and Monte Carlo orchestras during the last two seasons will bear me out in this. The only fault about these entertainments has been the smallness of the ground, and the hideous character of the huge factory-like buildings with which it is surrounded. Get rid of these buildings, and you would more than double the size of the garden, and, under the present intelligent management, London would gain a kind of open-air recreation place which it very badly needs. I have noted a great many of the idiotic suggestions now being made for celebrating the Queen's "record" as a reigning British Sovereign, but I have not seen one among them which strikes me as so simple and practicable as this little idea of mine.

It will soon come to be said of the Royal Victorian Order, as Mark Twain observed of a French decoration, "Few, indeed, escape it." Considering the number of Orders which already existed, each with its various classes, it seemed that the Queen's opportunities for decorating meritorious persons were already abundant. The Royal Victorian Order, however, has been given away during the last few months with a profusion so lavish that there will surely be a rise in the price of ribbon before long. Ten French officials were decorated when the Queen left Nice, and there have been almost daily creations ever since, ending with Li Hung Chang. The Queen was advised to give him the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, but her Majesty insisted on bestowing her new Order upon the Chinese statesman, who will probably not be flattered when he learns that he shares that decoration with a number of railway officials and household servants. During the Queen's last visit to the Continent the order was given to persons who, under ordinary circumstances, would have received presents of either plate or jewellery, so it is a novelty which has the merit of economy.

The Duke of York is going to Scotland, to visit the Duke and Duchess of Fife at Mar Lodge, Aberdeenshire, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon at Tulchan Lodge,

Morayshire. The Duchess of York is to proceed to Balmoral when she returns from the Engadine, and the Duke will meet her there.

The Duke of Cambridge, who is now at Homburg, will return to England in time to attend the Sanitary Congress at Newcastle on September 2, when H.R.H. is to be the guest of the Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle.

The Empress Marie Feodorovna of Russia, who is to arrive at Copenhagen this week, will probably spend the month of November in England, when she is to be the guest of the Queen at Windsor Castle, and of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House and at Sandringham. The Empress will be accompanied to England by her children, the Grand Duke Michael and the Grand Duchess Olga, who are to be with her in Denmark.

Princess Marie of Greece, second daughter of King George, is engaged to be married to the Grand Duke George Michaelovitch of Russia. An Athens journal announced the other day that the match had been broken off, and the unfortunate editor has been arrested on the charge of insulting the King and his family, an offence for which the penalty is imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding seven years.

Lord Bridport is to go to Osborne next Tuesday, and he will stay there until the Queen leaves for Balmoral on the 27th.

The annual meeting of the British Association is to take place at Liverpool next month, and Lord and Lady Derby will give a large garden-party to the members at Knowsley, and other entertainments. Dean Farrar is to preach the sermon at the special service in Liverpool Cathedral.

From more than one source lately, inquiries and suggestions have reached me respecting the sanitary condition of Westgate. A few weeks back there was an outbreak of typhoid fever in one of the hotels, and the local medical opinion was that the source of infection was to be found in something that the patients had had to eat. The other day, however, a friend of mine who had intended to take a house in the place, abandoned the idea, after what he heard on the spot as to the health of the town. In view of this last fact, if the local authorities can show a clean bill of health, they should do it without delay. If, on the other hand, there is still any typhoid, diphtheria, or similar illness in the town, it is better in the long run for all parties that the exact truth should be made known, and the cause of the illness thoroughly and publicly sifted.

Another matter on which I have been repeatedly questioned of late is the water supply of Eastbourne. There seems to be no doubt that the water is still very far from irreproachable, and it is as well that intending visitors to Eastbourne should recognise this fact. I was told the other day by one gentleman that he had been unable to use the town water for drinking purposes while staying there, and by another that while for perhaps two days out of three the water would be all right, on the third it would be so salt as to suggest that the salt spring, which was supposed to be the cause of all the trouble last year, had been suddenly turned on again. The chemists in the town are selling distilled water at 6d. per gallon, and many visitors report that it is generally necessary to use this water for drinking purposes and for making tea. Doubtless when these statements are made public, I shall at once be confronted with official statistics proving that the health of the town was never better than now, and that the effect of the salt is rather beneficial than otherwise. This may be perfectly true, but there will be many with whose constitutions salt water does not agree, and others who find fresh water more to their taste. Tectotallers, at any rate, would do well to avoid Eastbourne for the present.

While on this subject, I would ask why do not more people go to Bournemouth in the summer? I had a letter the other day from a friend who writes in high praise of the beauty and healthiness of the place at this time of year, and it is surprising that Londoners are not more alive to the fact. There is a popular idea that Bournemouth is only a wintering place, and that in summer it is intolerably hot. This is entirely a delusion. The thermometer does not rise higher there than at Hastings or the Isle of Wight—to say nothing of Devon and Cornwall—and, owing to the pine woods and the dryness of the soil, you feel the heat far less there than at the majority of South Coast watering-places. So far as amusements go, Bournemouth—with its capital steamboat service, its fine new recreation ground and golf links, the splendid country all round, and the New Forest almost at the door—has far more attractions in the summer than in the winter. A new one, by the way, has just been added to them in the shape of a daily coach service between the Bath Hotel and Salisbury—a lovely drive. Bournemouth possesses unrivalled hotel accommodation, and it is one of the few places where, at this time of year, the hotels are not uncomfortably overcrowded. To people who are alarmed by diphtheria in one seaside place, salt-springs in the water-mains at another, and extravagant charges in many more, I would say give Bournemouth a trial for your summer holiday.

To my cost I know all about sea-sickness, but I am a stranger to railway-train sickness. There are, I suppose, many sufferers from the latter malady, and a lady tells

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 437 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 438.
For Amusements, see page 436.
For Our Puzzles, see page 449.

me that in her experience the infliction is worse than anything to be met with on the treacherous ocean. This unfortunate sufferer laments the absence of the "steward," with his appurtenances, on board railway trains, and asks me why there is no medical remedy for the evil. Probably anything that will cure sea-sickness will cure train-sickness. I recommend my lady correspondent to try "Yanatas." But Heaven forbid that we should have stewards running about with their implements in the corridors of our long-journey trains.

Having read in TRUTH of the story of the dove which has found her a nest in the precincts of the Reform Club, a clerical correspondent thinks that my readers may like to hear how another bird lately built in one of the apertures in the walls of the quaint little old parish church at Neasdon. Unfortunately, this bird, after having got so far as to lay an egg, took to flight—as far as I can make out—without hatching it. I am not quite clear what inference my clerical friend draws from this little incident in natural history. To me, however, it seems a striking example of the sagacity of the brute creation, that while a bird finds herself compelled—doubtless from conscientious motives—to leave the Church, she should be able to make herself a permanent home in the temple of Liberalism.

The following letter is an instance of the touchiness of the "New Woman." Females of this class are indignant when the slightest suggestion is made that there may be occupations more fitted for men than for them, and yet if the same sort of criticism is applied to them as to men, they are also indignant. Here we have a lady either denying that women ever eat too much, or insisting that if they do make an exhibition of themselves by gorging in public, no notice should be taken of it. If it be any pleasure to my correspondent, I will admit that many men also eat a great deal too much; indeed, whilst some men and women eat too little, because, unfortunately, they are without the means to buy sufficient nourishment, others consume each day about twice as much as is necessary, and even healthy. The late Mr. John Bright, many years ago, once explained to me the reason of this. He was saying to me that he was getting too stout. I suggested a course of Banting, for at that time "to bant" was all the craze. "No," he replied, "I shall eat less," and then he went on to say that the stomach is a cavity which is easily distended. If a person eats very much, the distension becomes permanent, and whenever the enlarged cavity is not full an artificial feeling of hunger is produced. This is met by eating less. By degrees the stomach resumes its normal size, when its owner ceases to feel hungry whenever he does not eat too much:—

5, Lydford-road, St. Peter's Park, W.
August 7, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—There seems a class of writer which finds its sole occupation in finding fault with whatever women do. Their dress, exercise, amusements, morality, habits, temperament, and work are all and each the subject of unfavourable comment. But that you who, in TRUTH, avail yourself of at least two distinguished ladies in Mrs. Lynn Linton and Mrs. Humphry, should be a member of this band, I can scarcely believe. Yet, in this month's *Westminster Review*, Mr. Walter Nathan purports to quote from your authority that women eat too much, and if his statement is correct, you descended to the spying of the ladies who were taking lunch at Lord's, and of taking note of every morsel they put into their mouths. If a woman rides a bicycle she commits a fault in some eyes. If she dresses well and goes out she is either extravagant or immoral. If she sits at home she is either lazy or a dowdy. If she tries to earn a living she unsexes herself, and now it would appear to be a crime to eat if she is hungry. I trust, if the quotation is correct, no others will follow your example. For myself, I shall never eat comfortably in public again, for I shall always imagine some one is calculating the exact weight and cost of whatever I eat to be published and commented on in some journal. I may add that, whether on your authority or that of Mr. Walter Nathan, I do not believe that any lady would eat pickled salmon after strawberries and cream.—Yours faithfully, ELLEN GORDON.

Athletic sports, as managed at Stamford appear to be a decidedly dangerous form of amusement for the spectators. A paragraph in a local paper states that at the meeting on Bank Holiday a bullet from the starter's pistol, after striking the ground, rebounded, and whizzed by several onlookers some sixty yards away, passed through the hat of one girl, grazed the ear and made a hole in the hat of another girl, went through a lady's dress, and finally found a resting place in the thigh of a youth, who was conveyed to the infirmary. It might be inferred from the paragraph that the pistol was only once loaded with ball cartridge, and that, indeed, would be bad enough. I am told, however, that, as a matter of fact, ball-cartridges were used in starting the races throughout the sports. A more amazing, or a more disgraceful and reprehensible proceeding at a gathering of this kind I never heard of, and the idiots responsible for the arrangement will, I hope, have to pay smartly for the mischief they have done.

One of the morning papers produced a special article last week about yachting at Cowes, which contained the amazing statement that the Solent "has really given birth" to the pastime. As a matter of fact, Solent yachting only commenced during the Regency, when the Royal Yacht Squadron Club was founded. There were yacht races on the Thames in the last century, and the Royal Cork Yacht Club is by far the oldest establishment of the kind. The success of the R. Y. S. was mainly due to the enthusiasm and sagacity of Lord Yarborough, who was Commodore for many years.

In reference to a paragraph in the "Linkman's" letter of July 30, in which Mr. Whitaker Wright was referred to as the owner of the *White Heather*, Mr. R. C. Leigh asks me to mention that the vessel belongs to him, and is only chartered by Mr. Wright.

"NORSE KING," 3,212 tons register, 4,500 horse-power, will sail from London (Tilbury), August 27, for a twenty-five days' Cruise to the CAPITALS OF THE BALTIC, calling at Leith, Copenhagen, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Kiel, returning viâ the New Baltic Canal and Heligoland. Fares from EIGHTEEN GUINEAS. Passengers are allowed to take bicycles free of cost.—PIRRIE & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne; JAS. J. BALLANTINE, 134, Vincent-street, Glasgow; HY. GAZE & SONS, LTD., 142, Strand, London, W.C.

The following delicate question has been propounded to me. A lady takes a seat in the stalls at Brighton Theatre expecting to see a performance of the "Geisha." In front of her is another lady—in the conventional sense of the term—with a gigantic hat upon her head, and the first lady finds that she can see absolutely nothing but the hat and its forest of black plumes. Not wishing to entirely lose her money, Lady No. 1 politely asks No. 2 if she will kindly remove the hat. Lady No. 2 replies, with a frigid stare, "I shall do nothing of the kind." In her pocket Lady No. 1 happens to have a pair of scissors. *Query:* Would she be justified in snipping off No. 2's feathers, and thus obtaining a glimpse of the stage? Personally, I should like to answer the question in the affirmative; but I fear that the result would be that every reader of TRUTH would go to the play with a pair of scissors in his pocket, and that the result would a general mêlée, in which the hats would not be the only things disfigured. Really, this is a matter which the management of every theatre ought to see to. If I pay my money to see a play, I have a right to complain when I find that I can see nothing but one lady's hat. If managers of theatres have not sufficient courage to require ladies to remove their hats, they must make such structural alterations as will enable those in the background to see over the hats of those in front.

A leading and well-known gentleman of the theatrical profession sends me this letter in regard to the Covent Garden Fund. No one seems clearly to know what is the amount of the Fund, but that it is considerable there is no question. It is evident that existing subscribers should be entitled to all that has been secured to them by their contributions. But that the principal should be divided between survivors is entirely contrary to the intentions of donors and subscribers. There are, it would seem, directors. Why should they not make a clean breast of the exact position of the Fund? They owe this to the entire profession. The Fund was established under an Act of George III. I see no reason why an amending Act to meet the present situation should not be passed. If a public Act, it might be referred to a Select Committee, empowered to receive evidence. If such an Act were brought in, backed by a petition of the leading members of the theatrical and musical professions, I do not think that there would be any objection to its being read a second time, and then to its being referred to such a Committee.

DEAR SIR, — With reference to "The Covent Garden Theatrical Fund," I thought it might interest you to know that when my father died about two years ago, the only benefit his children received from the Fund was a cheque for (I believe) £12 to pay his funeral expenses, although he had subscribed to the Fund regularly since the days of Pyne and Harrison. My father told me, some time before his death, that he could retire from the stage any day, and would receive a pension of about £300 a year from the Fund, but as he died suddenly he did not comply with the rules of the Fund, which required that he should retire, so not a penny did we receive, except the cheque referred to. My uncle, who died last year, was also on the Fund, and, if I am not mistaken, my grandfather and another uncle were also on the Fund, and, though four members of our family were subscribing to this Fund, the children of my father (three sons and one daughter) get no benefit from all this money, which is particularly hard, when my father died without leaving a single penny to any one of us.

I only hope that Mr. Hogan's protest will bear fruit, because it seems monstrous that the last survivors of this Fund should reap the benefit of the hard-earned money of less fortunate fellow artists, especially as I am under the impression that most of the present subscribers are in very comfortable circumstances, including Charles Lyall and Charles Santley. I am pleased to say that neither my father's wife or his children are in need of any help from this Fund, but it has always been felt by all of us a great injustice that, after my father having paid this money away for years from his hard-earned savings, the only return his family get is the paltry sum of £12.

To commemorate the centenary of the death of Burns, the Scottish Associations of Australia have sent a wreath to Dumfries which weighs 23 cwt., including the case which contains it, and an ice-block. The wreath was deposited at the mausoleum on Friday, with an elaborate ceremonial.

Under the title "Advertising as a Fine Art," the *Glasgow Evening News* publishes, with some very appropriate remarks, the following letter, which a Glasgow gentleman has picked up in Germany:—

"Travel," A Monthly Magazine,
5, Endsleigh Gardens,
London, July 16, 1896.

The Proprietor,
Kronprinz Hotel, Wurzburg.

DEAR SIR,—In the course of a few days my brother, Mr. Edward Lunn, Mr. John Foster Fraser, a distinguished journalist, and Mr. F. H. Lowe, whom I am sending as the three cycling commissioners of this magazine to cycle round the world—through Belgium, Germany, Austria, the Balkan States, Russia, Persia, India, &c.—will arrive in your town. They are writing a series of articles, both for my magazine and for some of the most influential English papers, and hotel proprietors at some of the principal hotels en route have already offered them hospitality. If you would be willing to entertain them gratuitously at your hotel, they would be glad to mention your hotel in their articles on "Travel," and I have no doubt their visit would attract the attention of all the English visitors passing through the town at the time, and would give you very considerable publicity. They would only stay one, or, at most, two nights. Awaiting the courtesy of your reply.—Yours very truly,
HENRY S. LUNN.

In plain English, these three "Commissioners" are making a tour round the world at the expense of all the hotel-keepers who can be induced to put them up in return for a puff. From some of the articles which have already appeared, it may be reasonably supposed that they have obtained their machines and outfits on similar terms. I do not blame them for so doing, if they can manage it, though it is not exactly a mode of travelling which would commend itself to one possessed of much delicacy. But I certainly blame any editors who allow hotel or bicycle-maker's advertisements to be smuggled into their columns on such terms. The tourist described by Dr. Lunn as a "distinguished journalist" (though when or how he has distinguished himself before this occasion is more than I know) is apparently writing articles on this delectable tour for the *Daily News*, and I would advise the readers of that paper to take any of his remarks about the hotels he visits, the machine he rides or the clothes he wears, for what they are—paid advertisements, and nothing more. The same remark applies, of course, to whatever may appear on the same subject in Dr. Lunn's publication, "Travel." I wonder what happens when the hotel pro-

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"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

prietor thus approached does not respond to Dr. Lunn's invitation to accord hospitality gratuitously to the "Commissioners." Does the opposition house get a favourable notice in that case? If so, I would suggest to Dr. Lunn that the difference between this operation and blackmailing is not a very wide one. There is an old sporting novel well known under the title of "Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour." It might be a happy thought to issue the descriptive articles of these three "Commissioners" as a companion volume, under the title of "The Messrs. Sponges' Bicycling Tour."

A correspondent writes:—

A paragraph which originated in a romancing weekly journal has been going round the papers, which states that when Dickens died Gadshill "passed to his eldest son, who was offered an enormous price for it, but he had not the heart to part with it at the time." This is a ridiculous romance. Dickens left directions that all his property was to be sold by auction as soon as possible after his death. When Gadshill was put up the competition was not keen, and "young" Charles Dickens commenced bidding in the hope of running up the price. However, he overreached himself, and his opponent suddenly stopped, and the property was knocked down to him, much to his discomfiture. The same journal states that when "young" Charles Dickens succeeded to *All The Year Round* that serial had already seen its best days, as it had never fairly taken the place of *Household Words*. I happen to know that during the period of about eleven years when Dickens was "conductor" of *All The Year Round* (1859-70), his net profit from that periodical averaged £3,000 a year, although there were no advertisements, as, owing to some ridiculous fad or other, he would not have them.

The most gratifying evidence I have yet seen of the decrease of crime in Ireland is afforded by the following circular. The Royal Irish Constabulary, it would seem, have so little to do that they just sit down in their barracks and write poetry. The sword has been turned into a ploughshare, or the truncheon into a quill-pen. The Constabulary poet seems to be a man of business, too:—

R. I. Constabulary,
Ballybay, co. Monaghan,
July 9, 1896.

Dear Sir,—Being about to publish a volume of Poems, entitled "Harp and Crown," which will have a large circulation in this country, I have space reserved for advertisements at the following rates:—

Full page	£1 0 0
Half do.	0 12 6
Quarter	0 7 6
Card	0 5 0

Your esteemed order will have my best attention.—I have the honour to remain, yours obediently,

Joseph Latimer, R.I.C.

The History School examinations at Oxford produced some exceedingly funny answers. One candidate stated that the Prussian Army was reorganised after the disasters of 1806-7, by "the great Schnadhorst, the real maker of modern Germany as a military power." Another genius described the discoverers of America as "two intrepid seamen, San Sebastian and Cabot."

I mentioned the other day how two perspiring boys at the City of London School were "sent up to the Headmaster"—and every one knows what that means—for outraging the dignity of their form-master by appearing before him on a hot summer's day without waistcoats. It would probably give a terrible shock to the pedagogues of the City of London School to see a photograph that has been sent to me of the Headmaster of Loretto School and his prefects. The whole party are arrayed in white flannel, without coats or waistcoats, and the only difference that I can discover between the Headmaster and the boys is that the former wears trousers, while the latter have loose knee-breeches, such as are worn for running. The following words of wisdom on this subject were recently put on record by Dr. Almond in a phonographic message:—

I cannot understand why schoolboys should be condemned to wear so much unnecessary clothing in hot weather. Here, when the temperature rises much over 60 deg., they are all in flannel shirts and trousers, no starch, and no coats or waistcoats; and I follow their example myself. It makes us all brighter and fresher, and cleaner both in reality and in appearance. No one here would wish to revert to the conventional disguises. We may not be able to drive Mrs. Grundy out of the world; let us, at least, drive her out of schools.

To which the Headmaster of Felsted School replied with the following sublimely foolish utterance:—

I have never been able to persuade myself that the course which he suggests, and in his school adopts, would really be consistent with the dignity and mutual respect which I still venture to hold ought to characterise school work and the relations of masters and their boys.

From this it would seem that in the opinion of this pedagogue (and he ought to know) whatever dignity and respect he possesses in the eyes of his pupils are entirely due to his clothes. I wonder whether he has ever read "Sartor Resartus."

If a summer costume of white flannel or white "duck" is good for schoolmasters and schoolboys (as I doubt not it is), one cannot help reflecting how much better it would be for those who have hard manual labour to perform in hot weather, or whose work keeps them exposed to the sun. Why not white flannels for our postmen, policemen, and railway porters—not to mention our lawyers, doctors, stockbrokers, and journalists? Why should not our poor friend Tommy Atkins be allowed to wear the same clothing in London in the dog-days as he would wear in the same temperature in Egypt or India? Was ever such insensate cruelty as that of setting a Guardsman to do sentry-go in a bearskin with the thermometer at 86 deg. in the shade? Talk about rational dress for women! There is infinitely more need of rational dress for men. I have often wondered that no dress reformer has ever endeavoured to convert the British workman from his corduroy or cloth garments to clothes that will wash. What a difference it would make in our third-class carriages of an evening!

Here is a monumental example of clerical narrow-mindedness and pedagogish arrogance. Mr. Richard Dunn, the well-known bookmaker, lately had a son, twelve years old, at Heathfield School, Streatham, under

Kinahan's LL Whisky.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

the charge of an ornament of the Church, by name the Rev. James Cornford. Two or three weeks back a report appeared in the papers of an Anti-Gambling League prosecution, in which Mr. Dunn was one of the parties. On the day following, the Headmaster called young Dunn up before all the school, handed him a newspaper, and ordered him to read the report. He asked the boy whether he knew what it meant, and the boy answered that he did not. The master then expounded his views about Mr. Dunn, senior, in the most opprobrious terms, and informed the boy that he would not have the son of such a man in his school, and that he intended to expel him. Expelled accordingly young Dunn was. Schoolboy annals are full enough, Heaven knows, of stories of the persecution endured by boys at the hands of their schoolfellows on account of their fathers' avocations or rank in life. But this is the first time that I ever heard of a boy being publicly insulted by his master on the score of his father's calling; and it is difficult to say whether such a proceeding is more reprehensible for its cruelty or its snobbishness.

The important living of Spitalfields, which has become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. J. H. Scott, whose health has broken down badly, is not in the gift of the Bishop of London, as stated by several papers. Mr. T. Fowell Buxton is the patron, and he will find it no easy task to discover a new rector, for the parish is one of the most laborious and engrossing in London, with only a small income and a poor house, while the surroundings are the reverse of agreeable. It is a disgraceful scandal that such a living as this is should have such a meagre endowment, while several City benefices, where the incumbent has practically no work whatever, have incomes of from £1,000 to £2,500 a year.

The Rev. John Wakeford is a very admirable preacher, but he does not appear to be a "judicious divine." He has been in conflict with the Chancellor of the diocese of Liverpool, who protests against his persistently ignoring the lay officials, and his objecting to churchwardens being formally admitted to their office unless they undertake to carry out the old canon which directs them to present "all evil-livers" to the Ordinary, in order that he may deal with them. The Chancellor has been obliged to curb the undue zeal of Mr. Wakeford for "Church discipline," and he has pointed out that churchwardens are not under the incumbent, but are really the officers of the Bishop of the diocese.

"Do you think it right," asks a country visitor to town, "that at a time when London contains thousands of visitors from the provinces and abroad, to say nothing of a few millions of its own natives, the Sunday evening services at one of the grandest, best endowed, and most famous of English churches should be discontinued?" The writer refers, I presume, to Westminster Abbey. If so, I need scarcely say that I think the thing a scandal, for it is one that has been dealt with in these columns annually for years past. There is, of course, no more reason why the Sunday evening services should be suspended at Westminster than at St. Paul's, or any other church in London; and it is disgraceful to the Dean and Chapter that they should persist in a course which Churchmen of all grades and complexions condemn.

A gentleman writes from the neighbourhood of Leighton Buzzard:—

> I am the lessee of a glebe farm, on which the buildings are, and have been for years, in a most dilapidated state, though I have repeatedly called the attention of the incumbent, who is also the owner of the advowson, to the fact. Failing any satisfaction from him, and there being unfortunately, no covenant as to repairs in my lease, I have complained to the Archdeacon, and also to the Bishop of the Diocese (Oxford) with a like result.
>
> Now, the Act of Parliament distinctly recognises the liability of the incumbent for such repairs, but on my pointing this out to the ecclesiastical authorities they reply that the incumbent has a discretionary power. If such is the case, what in Heaven's name is the use of the Act at all? Supposing the incumbent should get into pecuniary difficulties, as may happen to any one, where will the money come from to repair the farm buildings?

I can only say that the case is another instance of the unsatisfactory state of the law in regard to the management of Church properties. And I am afraid I must add that, as the Church sets its face resolutely against all attempts to reform the abuses connected with its property, there is very little chance of amendment until the natural end comes, in the shape of the resumption of the Church endowments by the State.

The following extract from a local Press report of a school treat at Stranocum contains some valuable information about the aristocracy which has been overlooked by the compilers of peerages and similar publications:—

> In addition to the teachers and children there were present Mrs. F. Hutchinson, The Rectory, Derrykeighan; Master Roger Hutchinson, Miss Ferguson, and Miss Scudamore (*aristocracy*); also Mrs. Shields, Mrs. Coile, Mrs. Henessy, Mrs. M'Dowell, Mr. and Mrs. Cathcart, Miss M'Racken, and the Misses Holden.

It would be interesting to know whether the intelligent reporter discovered for himself this distinction between the aristocracy and the plebs; or, if not, how it was brought home to him.

I have received the following additional amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for poor and sickly London children:—M.P., £1. 10s.; George and Philippe, £2. 2s.; R. G. S., £2; R. H., £4. 4s,; C. T. A., £1; Mrs. Johnstone, £1. 1s.; Flora and Clarice, Shortlands, 10s.; White Violet, £1; D. G., £8. In answer to D. G.'s inquiry, I unhesitatingly say, This Fund.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

Since reference was made to the subject in last week's Truth, a sort of official disclaimer has appeared of the remarks of Lord Wolseley on the Indian Army which have evoked so much unfavourable comment. Through Reuter's Agency we are given to understand that his lordship entertains the highest possible opinion of the efficiency and fighting qualities of the Indian Army, and that the extracts from his evidence that have appeared in the Press are "misleading." After this, all that it seems necessary to say on the subject is that it is a pity that a functionary in Lord Wolseley's position should not have been more careful on such an occasion to use language which would not have been open to misconstruction. Lord Wolseley may have the military talents of all generals from Alexander to Moltke. But it cannot be said that he shares with the latter the priceless gift of silence. It was said of Moltke that he could hold his tongue in a dozen languages. In how many can Lord Wolseley perform this feat?

By the way, are we to take it that the disclaimer above mentioned refers to the following remark, which is attributed to the Commander-in-Chief in one of the reports?

After having served eight years, soldiers are of no use to the Army in India, or, as a matter of fact, anywhere.

This off-hand condemnation of the veteran—hitherto looked upon as the backbone of all armies—may be a stroke of genius, or a bit of empty phrase-making. But, assuming it to be true, is there any reason why it should not apply to the soldier who is a General Officer as much as to the soldier who is a private?

Apropos of the recent question in Parliament as to the order forbidding N.C.O.s of the 2nd Battalion Royal Berks to subscribe to funds for the defence of their comrades before courts-martial, the following story of a sergeants' mess subscription is decidedly interesting. About a year ago the sergeant-major got a commission as quartermaster, and the Colonel took to himself a wife; and it was proposed by certain sergeants of the class who busy themselves over matters of this kind, that the sergeants' mess should mark the two auspicious occasions by a presentation to each officer. The proposal was so unfavourably received in the mess that it was dropped for a time, but the promoters of the movement, nothing daunted, having privately sounded the sergeant-major on the subject, purchased, and presented a set of fish carvers to the Colonel, and a clock to the sergeant-major—now quartermaster. End of Act I.

Act II. opened with the arrival of the bill for the above-mentioned articles. This bill was calmly presented at the next monthly mess meeting, when the majority of the members flatly declined to pay it. Pressure of the usual character was then privately brought to bear upon the dissentient N.C.O.s, with the result that an arrangement was arrived at for every member of the mess to be charged a certain sum per month until the debt was liquidated. The agreed amount was stopped accordingly for some few months, when some of the sergeants again struck against it. Finally, the unpaid balance (about £7) was included in another bill from the same firm, and smuggled through a mess meeting, after which it was sanctioned by the officer temporarily commanding and debited against the mess fund. It is only fair to the Colonel to say that this little matter did not come before him personally, and presumably he does not know much about the secret history of his fish-carvers. At the same time, it is decidedly amusing to see the difference between the attitude of the regimental authorities towards the court-martial defence fund and this fund for a presentation to two officers, which the majority of the mess had twice, at least, refused to have anything to do with.

Here is another little item from the 2nd Berkshire. During last season the band had a weekly engagement to perform on the pier. At the end of the season the managing director of the pier gave them a benefit, which was well supported by the public. Not a penny out of the proceeds did the musicians ever receive—beyond their usual scale of pay for "playing out." What has become of the money? Did it go to the band fund? If so, I would ask the managing director of the pier whether the performance was intended and advertised as a benefit for the band fund, or for the band?

I hear from Ranikhet that a proposal has been brought forward by the sergeant-major of the 2nd Yorkshire at a sergeants' mess meeting, that a special mess jacket should be adopted and worn by the men. As usually happens with proposals emanating from such a quarter, the mess as a body had not the courage to resist, although the married men and one or two others strongly objected to having such an unnecessary expenditure forced upon them. A pattern has now, I understand, been seen and approved by the new C.O., who took over the command of the battalion a week or two back, and the sergeants have been informed that they were to appear in their new garments at a forthcoming dance. There is an impression in the regiment that the whole proceeding is entirely contrary to regulations, and so far as my knowledge goes this impression is well founded. But whatever the regulations may say, it is obviously wrong that a compulsory expenditure of this kind should be authorised, except with the full consent of every man concerned.

By the way, a military friend who was down at Canterbury for the Cricket Week, expresses his astonishment at seeing sergeants and colour-sergeants from the

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

cavalry depot disporting themselves on the ground in patrol jackets. This also, I am given to understand, is entirely irregular, but it is said to be nothing uncommon at Canterbury.

A correspondent who has been visiting Dover gave me the other day an amusing account of the drilling of a party of men of the Medical Staff Corps, as witnessed by him. It seems that for some portions of the drill a horse or a mule was required, and, no live quadruped being at hand, his place was supplied by an empty linseed tub placed on a couple of packing cases. As an entertainment for the spectators, drill under these circumstances may have its merits, but I should hardly think it would serve any other purpose—more especially as my informant adds that the officers in command appeared to know nothing about the technicalities, and actually read the words of command from the Manual of the M.S.C. Perhaps, however, the drill was designed for the instruction of the officers.

In Truth of July 16 certain statements were made respecting the detention of the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment in the Portsdown forts for another winter, and the statements were of a character which, I think, called for an answer of some kind. It was alleged, on the authority of those who best know the facts, that Colonel Hayne was personally desirous of remaining in his present quarters for the winter; that, having sounded the General on the subject, he was informed by that officer that he had better take the opinion of the officers of the regiment; and that Colonel Hayne subsequently reported that the majority of his officers, if the vote of one junior was disallowed, were in favour of remaining at the forts. It was further alleged that the Colonel gave this report without having consulted the whole of the captains or any of the subalterns; in other words, that the General was misled as to the state of feeling in the regiment. Is this true, or is it not? Surely if it is untrue, it ought to be contradicted on the authority of the Colonel. There is so strong a feeling in the regiment against their being kept in the forts for another winter that it seems almost impossible that a clear majority of the officers, or anything like a majority, can really have voted for this course; and unless there was an overwhelming preponderance of opinion that way, it is a most indefensible thing that the regiment should be kept there. From what I hear, it would seem that the General, very properly, had no desire whatever to keep the regiment in the forts unless it was their own wish to remain there. That it is not their wish I can say with confidence; and I really think that the General would be justified in making some further inquiries of Colonel Hayne as to how the feeling really stands among the whole body of his officers.

I rejoice to hear that Sergeant Bryne, of the Connaught Rangers, whose case was fully dealt with in Truth of the 30th ult. has been reinstated, the decision of the court-martial which reduced him to the ranks having been overruled by the Judge Advocate-General. It will be remembered that Bryne, when before the C.O. charged with some minor offence at the instance of a colour-sergeant, hotly remarked that the prosecutor was telling lies; whereupon he was court-martialled for conduct prejudicial to discipline, with the result above mentioned. The course taken was equally repugnant to common-sense and common justice, and it is satisfactory to find that it is equally at variance with law. It is to be hoped that the Commanding Officer of the regiment, who cuts rather a poor figure in the affair up to the present point, will now make some intelligent effort to adjust the feud between two of his non-commissioned officers—both of them apparently very good soldiers—which resulted in the above explosion.

Here is another growl following on the one which I published the other day with reference to the clothing of troops at Malta. From time to time special permission to wear mufti has been given to schoolmasters (both warrant and non-commissioned officers), to the garrison sergeant-major, to two sergeant-majors A.S.C., and one of the M.S.C., and two or three others; but to no regimental sergeant-major. At a sub-tropical station like Malta the privilege of appearing out of uniform is greatly valued, and there is something extremely invidious in drawing distinctions of this kind between men of the same rank. If half a dozen sergeant-majors in the garrison are allowed to wear mufti, the privilege should be extended to all.

On the inexhaustible subject of rifle-stealing on the north-west Indian frontier, an Indian officer writes me that such thefts are much less common in Native than in British regiments. This he attributes not to the greater vigilance of the Sepoy, but to the superiority of the arrangements for guarding rifles. It appears that in the Punjab Frontier Force the rifles are put all together into stands in the barrack-rooms, with a rod run through the trigger-guards and padlocked to the framework of the stand, the key being kept by the Company N.C.O. on duty. It is this N.C.O.'s business at the conclusion of each parade to see that all the rifles are placed in their stands and if any rifle is not in its place he knows the reason why. This N.C.O. is made jointly responsible with the private in the case of any rifle being missing, and not accounted for. Such arrangements may be all very well in barracks, but they will hardly do, as I think has been pointed out before, where there is any possibility of a sudden alarm.

If it is necessary to punish soldiers for the loss of their rifles by theft, at any rate attention ought to be given to the disadvantage which sentries are under in dealing with thieves or suspects. An old soldier told me recently of a case in which a sentry was shot dead by a Pathan thief,

who simply lay in wait for him and potted him as he came round the corner. Shortly afterwards a sentry who shot a native in the belief that he was a rifle thief (the man having failed to answer when challenged) was tried and sent to prison in consequence. This happened in Rawal-Pindi about two years ago. The truth is, I suppose, that soldier-sentries are of very little use in dealing with intruders of this class. By the way, I heard from one of my correspondents that a few months ago the Indian Government offered a prize for the best design for a safety arm-rack. Judging from the statements of the native officer referred to in the previous paragraph, there ought to be very little difficulty in designing a suitable contrivance.

The cost of living is a perpetual source of complaint among soldiers of British regiments in India, and from examples which are given there seems ample room for the military authorities to deal with the grievance. Here are a few samples from one battalion. Enamelled basins and plates are being supplied regimentally at R. 1. 8 a. apiece; precisely the same articles are on sale in the bazaar at R. 1. Putties have lately been issued at R. 1. 8 a. Officers' putties are advertised in the local papers by private firms at R. 1. 4 a. Brown helmet-covers are charged to the men at Rs. 1. 2 a.; the same articles are sold in the regimental tailors' shop at 12 or 14 annas. The worst instance of all is our old friend the regulation cane for walking out. The soldiers are charged R. 1. 4 a. for these; they can buy in the bazaar for 4 annas an article in all respects similar, except for the regimental crest on the head. All articles of this kind could, by proper management, be supplied to soldiers below market prices; and if this is not done, I should imagine that it is because it is somebody's interest that it should not be done.

My Military Pillory contains one or two items which seem to call for special notice—more particularly the grievance in the 2nd Cheshire, which is not confined to this battalion, and the objectionable battalion order now in force in the 1st East Yorkshire Regiment, a method of indiscriminate punishment which can only have a bad effect, and which I imagine hardly any one will defend. With regard to the case from Netley Hospital, I dare say I shall hear that this man has been very troublesome, and that he has no one but himself to thank for the punishment he has incurred. But it seems certain that the second dose administered to him is entirely the result of the C.O. having omitted to observe the rule which requires the option of a Court-martial to be given before the punishment is awarded, and I mention the case as one more example of the laxity that prevails among Commanding Officers in regard to the observance of this rule:—

2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment, Cork.—In this battalion there are loud complaints against the practice of promoting raw recruits, who have got their lance-stripe at the depot after a few weeks' service, to the rank of paid lance-corporal in preference to old soldiers of good character. In some cases, owing to the dearth of N.C.O.s, a recruit gets the lance-stripe at the depot after as little as three weeks' service. He joins the home battalion and ranks as unpaid lance-corporal until a vacancy occurs, when he is placed on pay, without regard to the claims of any privates in the battalion to promotion. This system is not only very unfair; it can hardly be conducive to discipline.

1st Battalion East Yorks. Regiment, Belgaum.—An order has recently been issued in this battalion by which whenever any man is found guilty of insubordination the whole of his company are turned out for one hour's extra drill. In one week three companies got an hour's extra drill under this order for the offences of three individuals. The principle of such punishment has been condemned over and over again, and such orders ought not to be allowed.

Medical Staff Corps, Netley Hospital.—A private who was absent without leave for twenty-four hours and missed a guard, was punished with three days' C.B. Another, who quitted his post while on sentry over sick, and was found in the Garrison canteen, got seven days' C.B. A third, having been reprimanded and sentenced to one day's C.B. by his company officer, asked to be allowed to see the C.O., and was thereupon made a prisoner on a charge of insolence to his company officer. The C.O., after hearing the evidence of a sergeant, awarded him ten days' C.B. In doing this, the C.O. omitted to give the prisoner the option of being tried by court-martial, and the man accordingly made a complaint to the P.M.O., including in his complaint certain allegations against the sergeant, on whose evidence he had been punished. The P.M.O. declined to entertain the complaint, but the C.O. inquired into the charge made against the sergeant. At this inquiry the private was not present, and without having any opportunity of proving his allegations, he was confined on a charge of making an untrue accusation against an N.C.O., and eventually got a further term of eight days' C.B.—making eighteen days in all.

2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, Devonport.—A private of this battalion was recently sentenced to 168 hours cells for wearing a dirty serge when guard mounting. The man was wearing his 1895 serge, which was no dirtier than might be expected from the age of the garment. He had the new one for this year in his possession, but had been forbidden to wear it. The conclusion would, therefore, seem to be that he was punished to the above extent for not having supplied himself, at his own expense, with an extra serge, price about 9s. 9d.

8 Company, W. Division, Royal Artillery, Milford.—Two married N.C.O.s of this company were proceeding from South Hook Fort to their quarters in Milford, without belts on. They met the sergeant-major, riding a bicycle in his shirt-sleeves (his coat being strapped to the handle), and wearing white shoes, contrary to Regulations. The two N.C.O.s were next morning made prisoners for being improperly dressed. The sergeant-major has remained at large. What is going to be done to him?

Depot, Royal West Kent Regiment, Maidstone.—At this depot the library accounts are at present being kept by a depot sergeant-major, while the librarian is a depot colour-sergeant. The Regulations for canteens, grocery shops, &c., lay down expressly that the accountant is to be an N.C.O., and that the librarian shall also be a non-commissioned officer not above the rank of sergeant. There seems to be no reason whatever why this regulation should not be observed at Maidstone.

Army Service Corps, Aldershot.—By an order in force at this station, only three men per company are allowed a pass out of church parade on Sundays. There being fifty men in a transport company A.S.C., this means that a man can only get a Sunday out about once in four months. There is no such order in force elsewhere, and it is naturally resented.

With reference to a statement in TRUTH of July 30 that the "camp damages" in the 3rd South Wales Borderers did not exceed 2d. per man, I am told that even this estimate is a good deal over the mark, no camp damages at all having been charged in this battalion either this year or last. The necessary amount is defrayed out of a certain battalion fund which the C.O. utilises for the purpose; and the men have only had to pay in this way an amount equivalent to about ¾d. per man. This makes it appear all the more unreasonable that the N.C.O.s and men of the 4th Battalion should be charged 6d. per head.

CHINA AND GLASS.—Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

Upwards of 3,500 Volunteers were encamped on Dartmoor last week; and on Thursday a serious accident occurred, and several persons were badly injured. Much distress was occasioned through there being no ambulance waggon. It appears that there is some idiotic regulation which prevents an ambulance waggon from being sent to a Volunteer camp, so the War Office refused the application for one, thereby manifesting a most reprehensible indifference to the welfare of the men. It seems, moreover, that these wonderful regulations "do not allow the War Office to issue ordinary sanitary appliances to a Volunteer camp for the purposes of a temporary hospital." Last week on Dartmoor two hospital tents were crowded with sick men, and there were no conveniences of any sort or kind, although the articles required are, of course, lying by dozens in the various stores. Such leather-headed red-tapery is really quite sickening in these days, and the War Office fatuities are certainly not calculated to stimulate the zeal of the volunteers.

Apropos of the Invalid Trooping Service, it has been suggested to me that there is great room for improvement in the hospital accommodation on the Eastern passenger liners. At present, whenever a steamer is full, the provision for isolation in the case of an outbreak of infectious disease on board is practically nil. The danger which may arise from this state of things, to say nothing of the hardship to the sick, was forcibly illustrated on a homeward-bound P. & O. steamer last year. Soon after leaving Calcutta smallpox broke out among the crew, and although the sick were landed at Colombo, it was not long before a lady passenger was taken ill with the same complaint. In the first instance she was removed to the "dispensary," which is simply a cabin, adjoining other cabins; and when the adjacent passengers became aware of the state of the case, the patient was removed to a tent on deck. As the tent was close to the skylight of the second-class saloon, the second-class passengers naturally protested against this arrangement, but there was no help for it, not another vacant place in the ship being available, and the poor lady remained in the tent until she reached Aden, where she was landed. Had the weather been bad, the patient would have had to be taken below, regardless of the consequences to the other passengers. On this same ship, after leaving Aden, an outbreak of measles occurred—an event by no means uncommon. It would be a simple matter in building a ship to arrange one or two cabins in such a way that they could be utilised as an isolation hospital in case of emergency; and there need be little loss of space thereby, as such cabins could be occupied when not required for their special purpose.

The papers contained a few days ago advertisements of one of the periodical sales of "old and surplus stores" from Portsmouth Dockyard, and the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard. I would recommend every taxpayer to study these announcements for himself, and calculate the appalling amount of reckless waste which they represent. Look, for example, at such articles as the following. Is it conceivable that they are all good for nothing but to be knocked down at auction-room prices? Or is it nothing but a wanton and wicked sacrifice of public property? If the latter, who orders it, and who profits by it?—

Twenty tons electric cable, eight lathes, planing, shaping, and punching machines, thirty-four hydraulic jacks, 720 gallons olive oil, 120 loads teak and oak planks, 5,509 yards carpet, cabin urniture, &c., &c.

Again, look at the following items from the Clarence Victualling Yard sale:—

Provisions, including 32,000 lb. biscuit, 22,000 lb. fine and coarse middlings, 12,000 lb. pollard and bran, peas, oatmeal, preserved milk, &c., 1,500 blankets, 50,000 staves and heading pieces, 15 tons old iron hoops, lamps, lanterns, implements, officers' mess traps and utensils, troop bedding, and numerous other effects; also *489 dozen champagne* (*Giesler Extra Superior*, 1884), *1,585 dozen claret* (*St. Estephe*, 1889, *and Chateau Beaucaillon Dueri*, 1875, bottles and half-bottles).

The wine list is specially interesting, the wonder here being not so much that the liquor is being sold, but that it was ever bought. For whose delectation were these luxuries originally intended? Of course, it may be said that the wine, the '84 champagne especially, will now realise a profit on the original cost; but I question much whether the sale is prompted by any such solicitude for the taxpayer. The explanation given to me is simply that it is the rule at all the Government yards to periodically clear out all stores at auction prices, regardless of their condition, and replenish at current trade prices. The champagnes and clarets are no more sold because they have improved in value, than the provisions, blankets, &c., are sold because they have deteriorated, and the responsible officials care no more for the profit in one case than the loss in the other. The goods are simply chucked overboard in compliance with an established red-tape formula.

Lord Hopetoun has leased a piece of land to the Admiralty at Queensferry for a term of twenty-one years, on which sick quarters for the invalids of the *Caledonia* have been erected at a total cost of about £3,500. Considering that the lease is for so short a period, this generous expenditure seems highly foolish, as, of course, the buildings will revert to Lord Hopetoun at the end of the term and, even if he should grant the Admiralty another lease, he would be sure to require a largely-increased ground rent.

A report appeared in the papers a few days ago of a case in which a Naval engineer, Mr. Stewart, of H.M.S. *Opossum*, was court-martialled for making his bedding in a dirty condition by getting into bed in his clothes after leaving the engine room. It was also alleged against him

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

Every requirement for Furnishing tastefully at least expense is amply illustrated in the Galleries and Catalogues of Hampton & Sons, Furnishers & Decorators, Pall Mall East, S.W.

that he had only taken two baths in six weeks. Although the prisoner offered a very plausible explanation of the condition of his bedding, the charge was held to be proved, and Mr. Stewart was sentenced to be severely reprimanded, dismissed his ship, and to forfeit two years' seniority. Readers of TRUTH are familiar with some pretty stiff examples of Naval court-martial justice, but I doubt if anything has been recorded to beat this. The charge was technically one of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline, and one wonders to what length this convenient offence will next be stretched. Will it be laid down next that it is prejudicial to discipline for an officer not to use his tooth-brush in the morning, or to wear the same shirt for more than two days in succession? If the prisoner had been condemned to take a bath twice a day and put on a clean shirt every morning for a month, the interests of justice, as well as cleanliness, would have been amply served.

Very appropriately, the *Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette* contrasts with this monstrous sentence upon a commissioned officer the punishment of Lieutenant Pearson of H.M.S. *Landrail.* This officer, holding the same relative rank, was convicted of "gross negligence," for involving his ship in a disastrous collision. He was severely reprimanded, but not dismissed his ship, and he only forfeits eighteen months' seniority, against Mr. Stewart's two years. So that, in the eyes of the naval authorities, for an officer to sink a large merchant ship, for which the country has to pay, and to greatly damage and endanger the safety of a Queen's ship by gross negligence, is a much less serious offence than for an officer to go to bed in his clothes, and to take only two baths in six weeks. This is putting cleanliness next to godliness with a vengeance!

The executive of the National Lifeboat Institution will do well to ascertain and make known the exact facts of an incident that has been exciting a good deal of unfavourable comment in the Isle of Man. The version of the facts which has reached me is as follows:—Two brothers on a visit to Castletown hired a boat and went for a sail. The boat was suddenly capsized some little distance from shore, and four of the crew of the Castletown Lifeboat put off to the rescue, as I understand it, in the Castletown Lifeboat, though this does not agree with the account in some of the local papers. After having been rescued and landed, the two visitors gave the boatmen 10s., which was all they had in their pockets, but said they would make it up to £5. On arriving at their lodgings, however, they found that they had only £4 more in their possession, and this they gave to the men. The boatmen then became abusive, insisted that they must have £5, and for some time refused to leave unless the money was paid. As I have said, it is not clear from the local papers, nor from my own correspondent's report whether the lifeboat was really used. If it was, here we have an extortionate demand made for the services of a lifeboat in a case of life-saving pure and simple. In any case, these "heroes," who this time had incurred nothing worse than a quarter of an hour's row on a fine day, seem to have made a most extravagant and indefensible claim, and to have robbed the men whose lives they had saved of their last farthing. It will be interesting to see what action the Lifeboat Institution takes in regard to their conduct.

A circumstance reported from the telegraph office at Madras may be of interest to the Indian taxpayer. When this office was built, the unmarried signallers were accommodated with quarters in the building. They have, however, since been turned out, and in lieu of free quarters, received an allowance of Rs.10 per month — a totally inadequate compensation. In their place the premises have been occupied for some time by the Superintendent of the Madras Division and an Assistant Superintendent. These two officials are entitled to an allowance for house-rent amounting in the aggregate to Rs.75 a month, and it would be interesting to know whether they have ceased to draw it, or whether they are merely staying temporarily at the telegraph office in the character of visitors.

The *Southern Daily Mail*, a Tory paper of Portsmouth, has the impudence to talk about TRUTH being "got at" over the case of the Portsmouth mail drivers. It seems that the Portsmouth journalist has placed himself at the disposal of the contractor, has swallowed anything she and her servants chose to tell him, and has then offered the result to his readers as "facts." The first "fact" in the list is that the contractor "interceded with the Post Office for her men and obtained them a further two shillings a week." How such rubbish can be printed and published it is difficult to understand, seeing (1) that the men are not in the service of the Post Office, but of the contractor; (2) that it is notorious that their rise of 2s. came after public attention had been drawn in TRUTH to the atrocious way they were sweated; (3) that the late postmaster at Portsmouth had himself interfered in the matter before the rise was granted. The other "facts" now put forward are much of the same character as this, and can all be disproved by the evidence of the various men concerned. The public can judge for themselves who has been "got at."

I am curious to know whether the inhabitants of Ryde have any cause to find fault with their Parcels Post service. If they have not, it is greatly to the credit of the postmen employed at the work, but certainly not

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

THE HERNIA INSTITUTE, 489, Oxford-st., London, W., absolutely CURES RUPTURE in from three to six weeks. Highest testimonials. Pamphlets and consultations free.

to that of the postal authorities. From certain particulars which I have before me, it would seem that the work, more particularly on the morning deliveries, must be a great deal too heavy for the men employed on it, while the carts are at once too small for the work, and too big for a hilly town like Ryde. One result of this state of things is that on the morning delivery, it is a common thing to see a cart too full to be locked, and the surplus parcels packed outside, at the mercy of any light-fingered member of the public who sees his way to lay hands on them while the postman's back is turned. The departmental rules provide that the carts shall be kept locked during the deliveries, and there ought to be enough carts and men to enable this rule to be complied with.

The other day, a Glasgow Town Councillor visited one of the tramway depots in order to inspect it, but the foreman in charge gave him a very unceremonious reception, and concluded by "chucking" him out. It was explained that the offending functionary "had no idea that he was dealing with a Town Councillor." It has since been proposed "that each Councillor should be provided with a distinctive badge," in order to prevent any repetition of the mortifying adventure of this inspecting Councillor.

It is to be hoped that the town of Chepstow will be free from anything in the shape of infectious disease for some little time to come. At the Urban District Council last week the Medical Officer, Dr. King, made a report on certain proceedings with reference to a supposed case of smallpox. The case had been attended by Dr. Lawrence, a member of the Council, and Dr. Lawrence considered himself grievously outraged by the report and general behaviour of Dr. King. After having intimated as much in no uncertain terms, Dr. Lawrence informed the Council that "he had been advised by a lawyer to defy the Council for the future and make no notifications;" and he eventually left the room declaring that he should burn his book of notification forms and never notify another case, as it would be far less trouble to him to be prosecuted and pay a 40s. fine. It would seem from this that the Act wants strengthening. The Legislature did not foresee the existence of magnificent medicos who would find it too much trouble to fill up a notification form, and would laugh at a 40s. fine. Clearly it ought to be 40s. or a month.

A strong complaint has been addressed to me in reference to the lack of a mortuary at Eton. Drowning accidents are almost inevitable during the boating and bathing season, and when a body is recovered from the river, the usual course is to take it to the nearest public house and there deposit it in a stable or shed, where, pending the inquest, it is left lying upon the floor or upon an improvised slab, just as it has been taken from the water. The practice is objected to by the publicans, it is revolting to the friends and relatives of the deceased, and at times it may conceivably be a source of danger to the public health, for the places utilised as temporary dead-houses are situated in the midst of closely-packed dwellings. Two recent drowning cases have helped to accentuate the scandal, and it is to be hoped that the indignation which has been manifested in the town will persuade the authorities of the necessity and desirability of providing a public mortuary.

Concerning the reference in last week's TRUTH to certain slaughter-houses in the main street of Corsham, my attention is called to the still greater nuisance caused by similar buildings in Air-street, Brighton, adjoining Queen's-road. Not only do these sheds open out of one of the principal thoroughfares of the town, but they are immediately alongside the large and handsome Congregational Church in Queen's-square, from the interior of which the voices of the cattle and sheep can be plainly heard, even on Sundays. Apart from the proximity of the church, the slaughterhouses are in the midst of a densely-peopled residential and business quarter, and the municipal authorities are greatly to blame for allowing them to remain in such a position. Brighton has erected, at great expense, a convenient public abattoir, and with such provision for the more offensive operations of the butcher's trade, there can be no excuse for countenancing a public nuisance of this magnitude in the very centre of the town.

I do wish that persons whom I do not know would cease writing to me asking me to find them situations in this or that walk of life. How can I? Even if I knew of friends with such situations in want of occupants, what could I say to recommend my correspondents? Assuming that the friend entertained the request, he would naturally ask me what I knew of my client, and were I to reply that I knew nothing of him, except that I had received a letter from him, is there the remotest probability of his acceding to my request? One would have supposed that this would be obvious to all; yet I receive so many letters of this description that I have given up even answering them.

An individual described as "a respected resident in Indiana," who was first married in 1876, has just been divorced from his ninth wife. The ladies are all living.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

MORTLOCK'S China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

Many of my readers will recollect the pitiful case of Fanny Gane, a domestic servant, whose conviction at Winchester Assizes for the murder of her illegitimate child excited a good deal of public feeling in 1891. More than 50,000 people signed a petition on her behalf, and the sentence of death was promptly commuted by the Home Secretary to one of penal servitude for life. But it was generally considered that this punishment also was preposterously excessive in the circumstances of the girl's offence, and the committee which was formed at Portsmouth has persistently agitated for a further remission of the sentence. It is now announced that Gane was liberated last week, and the honorary secretary of the committee, Mrs. Proctor, and the ladies associated with her, are to be congratulated on the success which has at last crowned their efforts in the cause of mercy and justice.

A most discreditable scene occurred at Skibbereen Petty Sessions the other day on the occasion of an application for a summons for assault against Dr. Jennings, a member of the Bench. This worthy J.P. not only persisted in remaining on the Bench while the application was made, but continually interrupted and insulted the applicant's advocate, sarcastically remarking that he was "such a respectable solicitor," taunting him with appearing there "because he got a miserable fee," casting aspersions on his conduct in connection with some local election, and so on. Dr. Jennings also referred to the applicant himself as "a little bailiff," declared that it was "perfectly justifiable" to refuse the summons, and asked for a Testament so that he might there and then "take his oath" in regard to the alleged assault. Finally, after what the report describes as "a regular scene of commotion and noise," the Chairman of the Bench intimated that he would sign the summons. Whether the summons has been heard, and, if so, with what result, I do not know. But from what happened at the application it is quite clear that Dr. Jennings is lost to all sense of judicial decency and decorum, and a magistrate capable of taking such a part in proceedings concerning himself should not be allowed to remain in the commission of the peace a day longer.

There is a popular idea that no person can be imprisoned in this country without a trial by some judicial tribunal, but that it is an entirely erroneous idea has just been shown by the experience of one Varney. This man was formerly assistant overseer for the parishes of Eaton Bray and Edlesborough, and for embezzling the poor rates he was tried in the ordinary way and sentenced to four months' imprisonment. The extraordinary feature of his case came in afterwards. It seems that besides being assistant overseer Varney was a collector of taxes, and it is alleged that he failed to account for two sums amounting to £145. On his liberation from Northampton Gaol at the end of the four months, he was re-arrested under two warrants signed by the Commissioners of Taxes, and conveyed to Bedford Gaol, there to be detained as a debtor until payment should be made of the £145.

That the Commissioners (who are not necessarily Justices of the Peace) should have power to commit a defaulting collector to prison in this way without any magisterial investigation of the charges against him, is certainly a remarkable state of things, and one which is on many grounds open to grave objection. Of course, Varney may not be receiving more punishment than he deserves, but that does not affect the question. A man ought not to be imprisoned until he has been tried and found guilty, nor ought defalcations by a tax collector to be treated purely as a matter of debt, so that such an offence as the theft of £145—for that is what it practically is—can at once be wiped out by the mere repayment of the money.

What amount of ill-usage do the Harlow Justices consider a wife should undergo before she gets an order of separation from her husband on the ground of "persistent cruelty"? Some time back a Mrs. Grove applied to these worthies for such an order under Section 4 of the Act which came into force at the beginning of this year. Mrs. Grove proved that her husband had taken a razor and threatened to cut her throat; pulled her by the arms violently upstairs and threatened to strangle her; put his hand over her mouth and threatened to break her nose; and committed various other assaults. All this, however, was not sufficient to satisfy the justices that the husband had been guilty of "persistent cruelty," and they refused to convict him. Fortunately, the new Act allows an appeal to the Judges of the Divorce Division, and last week Sir Francis Jeune and Mr. Justice Barnes granted the wife the desired order, and referred the case back to the magistrates for the settlement of the amount of the allowance for maintenance. Others of the Great Unpaid as well as the Harlow Justices will do well to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Sir Francis Jeune's judgment. Too often their worships appear to think that a woman should not be judicially parted from her husband until she has been pretty well half murdered.

I referred some time since to the grave disclosures which had been made in an action in the Chancery Division respecting the conduct of Mr. I. B. Coaks as solicitor to the trustee in the bankruptcy of the Norwich banking firm of Harveys & Hudson. It is satisfactory to see that the case in due course received the attention of the Incorporated Law Society, with the result that Mr. Coaks's conduct was last week brought under the notice of the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Lawrance. It was urged that Coaks had already made restitution to the bankrupts' estate to the extent of £15,000, but their lordships refused to consider the repayment of the moneys he had wrongly obtained as an expiation of his misconduct, and he was accordingly struck off the roll of solicitors. To a man who has occupied such a prominent position as Coaks has occupied this is doubtless a heavy penalty. On the

other hand, considering the nature and magnitude of his fraudulent transactions, about which Lord Russell used some very strong language, it will seem to many people that this Norwich solicitor and Deputy-Lieutenant of his county should really thank his lucky stars that no harder fate has befallen him.

Amazing stories of the rapacity of those notorious usurers, Isaac and Leopold Gordon, continue to be narrated in the bankruptcy courts. At Kirkcudbright, last week, a bankrupt farmer gave the following account of his transactions with this brace of bloodsuckers. He had four different loans from one or other of the brothers, the amount advanced being in each instance £30. The first £30 he repaid in three months with £7. 10s. interest; the second in twelve months, with £60 interest; the third in seven months, with £40 interest; while for the fourth loan of £30 he paid £10 interest every three months, and the principal to be finally repaid was reckoned at £40 instead of £30. No wonder agriculturists become insolvent when they allow themselves to be preyed upon by such unconscionable rascals as the Messrs. Gordon.

By the way, somebody has sent me an extract from the *Aberdeen Journal* of July 19, 1796, which shows how effectively the ravages of sharks like the Gordons were checked in those days. It is the report of an action for usury in the King's Bench. The defendant, a man named Prager, had lent one Brown various sums and charged interest at the rate of 28, 55, and 58 per cent., "by which Brown had been plundered, and was now a bankrupt." Brown's creditors sued the money-lender to recover the penalties for usury, and the jury gave a verdict for three times the sums lent, £8,700. Compared with what is often exacted nowadays, 58 per cent. is a moderate rate of interest; and it is a pity the modern Shylock cannot be made to disgorge as this Prager was.

Manchester is happy in the possession of authorities who take a sensible view of that antiquated and asinine piece of legislation, the Lord's Day Observance Act of Charles II. There is an association of barbers in the city which desires to put the Act in force against half a dozen or so humble members of their craft who open their shops for shaving on Sunday mornings. Nothing could be more ridiculous than that a statute passed (according to the preamble) for the purpose of promoting "piety and true religion" should be thus converted into an instrument of trade tyranny, and it is gratifying to find that the Chief Constable and the Watch Committee are opposed to such proceedings. The associated barbers have somehow managed to induce a majority of the City Council to take their side, and the Watch Committee have accordingly been asked to reconsider the question; but I hope the Committee will stick to their original decision, as they have a perfect right to do, without regard to the opinion of the Council. In any event, the associated barbers would probably not gain much by the institution of prosecutions, for hitherto whenever attempts have been made to enforce the Act in Manchester, the magistrates have refused to convict under it.

By way of contrast to the scandalous sentences for the so-called crime of sleeping-out which figure in my Legal Pillory every week, it is pleasant to record an incident which occurred at Over Police-court the other day. Four homeless and destitute wanderers pleaded guilty to sleeping out at some salt works, but instead of committing them to gaol the magistrate discharged the poor fellows and provided each with a plate of food for breakfast. I commend the course taken by this "model magistrate," as the *Chester Chronicle* rightly calls him, to the attention of the Shallows at Chichester, Bath, Malmesbury, and Sleaford, whose rigorous methods of dealing with such "offenders" are exposed in the following list. As to the other pilloried cases, it may be noted that, according to Judge Colston's eccentric decisions at Edinburgh, it is a more heinous offence to beg for a dinner than to steal one, and that at Macclesfield a man merely suspected of poaching (he was found in possession of a net "containing leaves, &c.") is mulcted in a penalty ten shillings heavier than that imposed on another defendant for atrocious cruelty to a horse. At Derby and Harlow also animal-torturers have been very inadequately punished, while at Bridgnorth, Maryport, Chorley, Wednesbury, and Coatbridge outrageous assaults have been treated with a lenity which is perfectly astounding. The case at Bridgnorth is a particularly glaring one, for a constable convicted of such wanton brutality towards an unoffending citizen ought unquestionably to have been sent to prison without the option of a fine:—

Macclesfield County Police-court. Before Messrs. C. E. Thornycroft, H. C. Yates, H. Philips, G. C. Greenwell, Colonel Thorp, Colonel Stancliffe, and Major Beck. Samuel Mottershead, charged with cruelty to a horse. He was driving an old worn-out horse which an inspector said was "simply skin and bone," and "could scarcely hobble along." Defendant severely flogged the wretched animal with a whipstock, leaving a number of marks on its body. Fined 40s. and costs.

Derby Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. J. P. Doherty, S. Whitaker, W. G. Norman, W. Williamson, W. Hall, and T. Mawbery. Joseph Brailsford, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with cruelty to a pony. Defendant beat the pony violently with a heavy stick, and the sides of the animal were "horribly wealed" and bleeding in several places. Fined 5s. for the first offence, and 20s. and costs for the cruelty.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Silvester, Messrs. D. Marriage, and R. L. Crosse. William Bolton, convicted of assaulting Thomas Hatch. Without any provocation, defendant battered complainant's head against a wall, and also kicked him, so that he was unable to work for a week. Fined 40s. and costs.

Macclesfield County Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Thomas Brocklehurst charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a net. A constable said the net "appeared to have been recently used, and it contained leaves, &c." Fined 50s. and costs.

Bath County Police-court. Daniel Watts, charged with wandering abroad and sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Bakewell Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. Fenton and other magistrates. Henry M'Gregor and John Bond, charged with trespassing on the estate of the Duke of Rutland in search of rabbits. Fined 40s. each and costs.

Bridgwater County Police-court. Charles Stone, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Fourteen days.

West Penwith Petty Sessions. Before Mr. G. P. Bazeley and other Justices. Philip Taylor, charged with begging. He called at a house where a policeman lodged, and asked for something to eat. Seven days.

Sufferers from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and Ingram & Royle, Ltd., 52, Farringdon-street.

Bridgnorth County Petty Sessions. Before Rev. F. H. W. Whitmore, Colonel Wakeman, Messrs. W. L. Southwell, and J. R. Cartwright. Thomas Evans, a policeman, charged with assaulting John Houlden. It was proved that the constable committed a brutal and unprovoked assault upon the complainant, throwing him upon his back, pressing upon his body with his knees, and bumping his head against the ground. He subsequently renewed the assault, again knocking complainant down. Fined 10s. and costs. After being summoned for the assault Evans brought a charge of drunkenness against Houlden, but the Bench dismissed the case.

Edinburgh Police-court. Before Judge Colston. Thomas Keddie pleaded guilty to the theft of a dinner. He ordered the meal at a restaurant and consumed it, but had no money to pay the bill. Discharged with an admonition.

Harlow Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Todhunter, H. Broke, C. J. Bury, and R. G. Johnston. Henry Walker, charged with cruelty to a horse. Defendant put the chain end of a "chap rein" in the horse's mouth, and galloped it across some fields. The horse's mouth was cut, and about two inches of its tongue torn out. Fined 20s.

Maryport Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Ritson and H. Carr. William Holliday, summoned for assaulting Mary Ann Grieveson. Defendant seized hold of complainant, threw her down, put his hand over her mouth, and attempted to commit a more serious assault, but she managed to get up, and he then ran away. Defendant did not appear in answer to the summons. Fined £3.

Coatbridge Police-court. Before Bailie Pettigrew. Samuel Simmons, convicted of assaulting his father and mother. The accused went home drunk and struck his mother, an old woman, on the face with his fist, and hit his father with a poker, knocking him down. The Bailie said it was a most cruel and cowardly assault. Fined 10s. 6d.

Wednesbury Borough Police-court. Before Lieut.-Colonel Smith and Mr. C. Southern. John Vincent, his wife, and his son, charged with assaulting Martha Palmer. The assault was of a brutal character, complainant being pulled to the ground and kicked and punched until she was rendered insensible. She was taken home in a cab, and had to be attended by a doctor. John Vincent, fined 5s. and costs; the other defendants 10s. and costs.

Bridgnorth Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Dr. Thursfield, and Mr. J. Anderson. John Donoghue, charged with being drunk and disorderly. Fourteen days.

Elizabeth Harrison, charged with a similar offence. Ten days.

Malmesbury Police court. Before the Mayor. Edward Reeder, charged with sleeping out in a cart shed. Fourteen days.

Edinburgh Police-court. Before Judge Colston. Margaret Butler, charged with begging in the street. Forty days.

Luton Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. F. J. Brown, and W. R. Phillips. John Bunyan, charged with stealing two pennyworth of potatoes from a garden. Two months.

Sleaford Police-court. Before Captain Reeve, Messrs. H. Smith, C. Kirk, C. Sharpe, and W. Pattinson. George Aynscough, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Johnson, Follows, Chance, and L. Parker. Thomas Wall, a youth of 17, charged with stealing coal from a canal boat. One month.

Cranbrook Petty Sessions. Before Colonel G. J. Courthope, General Scrase-Dickens, Colonel Ready, Major T. Neve, Messrs. E. Hardcastle, T. B. Dobson, and J. R. Diggle. George Bradley, George Smith, and Robert Hurley, charged with stealing a fowl. One month each.

Chichester City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Caffin and S. Garland. Sarah Crumpler, a middle-aged woman, charged with sleeping out in the recreation-ground. She pleaded for leniency, it being her first offence, and she having tried, she said, to get a lodging. Seven days.

Before the same Bench, George Spareham, a wretched-looking man, charged with sleeping out in a churchyard. He said he had tried to obtain a lodging. Seven days.

Penrith Police-court. Before Sir H. R. Vane and other magistrates. Tristram Lowther Montgomery, charged with assaulting his wife. He beat her with an umbrella and also with a stick. The Chairman said it was "a brutal assault," and could not be overlooked. Fined 10s. and costs.

SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-street, London, for Shooting Gowns, Cawdor Capes, Travelling Ulsters, Jackets, Racing Coats, Carriage Rugs, Mauds, Shawls, and Scotch Tweeds. Patterns post free.

Here is another proof of the evils attaching to the present pernicious custom of street collecting. Two boys, under ten years of age, were recently brought up at the South-Western Police-court by a detective officer, who had watched them collecting by means of a box from pedestrians. When money was placed in the box they disappeared round a corner and abstracted it. Charged with the offence, they admitted it, and confessed to spending the money in sweets. The boys were supplied with the box by the Secretary of the Howard-street Gospel-Mission Sunday and Ragged School, New-road, Wandsworth-road, who deposed to the fact of the box being firmly pasted over with paper before he gave it to the boys to prevent its being opened. The magistrate ridiculed such a flimsy precaution, and remarked that, in his opinion, a great deal of temptation was thrown in the way of boys by this custom of street collecting, which, moreover, taught them to beg. The Home Secretary has given us to understand that street collections require and will receive "careful watching." I wonder if this case has come under his watchful eye; and, if so, what he thinks about it.

When writing last week on the subject of the poisoning of dogs by a "vermin-killer," I had not before me the terms of the statute which regulates the sale of poisons. I now learn that the Pharmacy Act, 1888, includes among its scheduled poisons vermin-killers that are preparations of any of the poisons expressly enumerated in the schedule. Strychnine being a scheduled poison, it follows that any vermin-killer compounded of strychnine is subject to the provisions of the Act. It can, therefore, only be sold by a properly-qualified chemist, who must keep in his poison-book a record of the date of the sale, the name and address of the purchaser, and the other prescribed particulars. These facts will probably be of interest to those people at Mildenhall who have had their dogs destroyed by vermin-killer. Some chemist in the district, in all probability, has in his books a record of the sale of the article, and it ought to be possible by this means to trace the offender.

It is the sport to have the engineer hoist with his own petar; and it is hardly less amusing to have a J.P. arraigned at Petty Sessions, convicted and fined on police evidence, and protesting forcibly that his brother magistrates have done him a grievous injustice. Mr. W. C. Sparrow, J.P., of Albrighton Hall, Salop, found himself in this position at Worcester County Sessions last week, when he was summoned for riding a bicycle at night without a lighted lamp. Mr. Sparrow called his daughter, who was riding with him, to prove that the lamp had been duly lit, and that it was still warm when the policeman stopped them, so that it could not have been out long. A servant also proved that the lamp had been duly filled and trimmed before starting,

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, HARROGATE.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

and Mr. Sparrow contended that having done his best to fulfil the requirements of the law, and not having noticed that his lamp had gone out, and having at once lit it again when the defect was pointed out, he ought not to be dealt with as a wilful law-breaker. The Bench, however, seemed to think that they must make an example, and fined him five shillings and costs. Perhaps they feared that they might appear in the Truth Pillory if they did anything which might expose them to suspicion of undue tenderness to a brother magistrate. I am bound to say, however, that I think they were unduly hard on the bicyclist. Lamps will go out accidentally, and no amount of police-court fines will prevent them doing so. When there is reasonable doubt as to whether the offence was accidental, the cyclist is entitled to the benefit of the doubt, whether he is a J.P. or a day labourer.

Some few weeks back the cheaper class of newspapers were full of an advertisement headed "Watizit?" The answer, as was pretty obvious, should have been "a swindle." The swindle was started on much the same lines as the "Cash for Brains" trick, which brought a party of enterprising Americans within the clutches of the law last year. The reader was invited to guess half a dozen or so of household words, like "Beecham's Pills," or "Sunlight Soap," thinly disguised by the suppression of two or three letters in each. Any one sending 1s. 6d. for "Watizit" was free to solve these problems, and it was announced that "£60 in prizes," would be distributed among the successful competitors, the first prize being £20, the second £16, and so on. Needless to say, a large number of fools at once entered for this competition, solved the problem, and sent 1s. 6d. for "Watizit?" in order to qualify for the £20 prize. They received in return a little cardboard puzzle introduced years ago, which might be sold at a profit for 2d.

The party running this trick took the name of "Miss Edith Hamilton," and carried on operations from "2, Arthur-street, Bloomsbury, W.C." "Miss Edith Hamilton" has now issued a statement of the "result of the £60 Free Prize Distribution." This is to the effect that 20,128 purchasers of "Watizit?" (out of 20,217) solved the puzzle correctly; that as an equal division of £60 among these competitors would give less than ¾d. each, Edith Hamilton, "acting upon the advice of her solicitors" (a fine touch this!) "has decided to meet the difficulty by sending ½d. to each competitor," and to make the balance up to twenty guineas and hand it over to Mr. Charles Dibdin, Secretary of the National Lifeboat Institution, a copy of whose receipt she appends. By her own showing, therefore, "Miss Edith Hamilton" has taken in gross some £1,500 odd, of which probably not less than £1,200 is clear profit. I do not know whether any of the idiots who have contributed to this little haul will feel disposed to stir themselves further in the matter; but it seems anything but creditable to our police administration that such a gigantic "ramp" should be perpetrated without interference, and I should hope that some attempt is being made to set the law in motion. The worst difficulty in the way is likely to be that by this time "Miss Edith Hamilton" and the rest of the gang have probably disappeared. The circular is headed "E. Hamilton, English Toy and Puzzle Manufacturer;" but there is no evidence of any such business being carried on at the address given.

Two points chiefly strike me in connection with this business. The first is that dozens of newspapers, professedly respectable, should connive at the perpetration of a fraud of this kind on their readers by publishing advertisements the nature of which is obvious. The other is that Mr. Dibdin should allow the National Lifeboat Institution to be dragged through the mud by being mixed up in such a dirty business. It is as clear as daylight that the gang working this swindle are endeavouring to cover their retreat first by stating that they are acting on the advice of a solicitor, which may go down with one class of fools; secondly, by showing that they have given the undivided balance of 20 guineas to a charity, which will influence fools of another class. Mr. Dibdin may say that if 20 guineas are offered to the Lifeboat Institution through him, it is his duty to take the money without inquiring where it comes from. If he does say that, I still think he makes a mistake. In this instance he would, to my thinking, have shown a wiser appreciation of his duty by refusing to allow the Lifeboat Institution to be used by the "Watizit?" swindlers—even at the price of £21.

Mr. Henry Crispe, "late a member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the School Board, and other London and county clubs," and still later a resident in one of H.M.'s prisons, is once more at large, and is again calling attention by post to his "lamentable, distressing, heart-breaking, and exceptionally sad case." Crispe now asks for money to enable him to emigrate. A full account of this old reprobate's career was given in Truth of April 23 last, and without going over all the facts again, it is sufficient to warn those gentlemen whom he applies to that he has been for years past a professional mendicant, and is, in every respect, a most undeserving character. As there is not the slightest prospect of his ever emigrating, and still less that he would turn over a new leaf if shipped abroad, the best thing that can happen to him is that he should go back to gaol; and I would suggest to any one who may receive his begging letters the propriety of taking immediate steps for that purpose.

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

Gratis and post free, very elaborately-illustrated Price Lists, showing exact sizes of Havana Cigars issued by the Havana Trading Association, 177, Piccadilly.—C. A. Carlin, Gen. Manager.

Inquiries having been made of me respecting certain heartrending appeals issued by an old lady named Annie Labone, now of 36, Fowler-street, Liverpool, I think I cannot do better than reprint the following remarks on Mrs. Labone's case which I published some two years ago :—

In her epistles, Mrs. Labone states that she is "an old lady whom the Lord has heavily afflicted," and she gives distressing particulars of her afflictions, on the strength of which she hopes you will purchase recipes for a cough mixture, and a cure for rheumatism at the price of 6d. [To these she has now added a cure for neuralgia at 1s., further cures for rheumatism at 1s., a recipe for rhubarb wine for 2s. (described as "most excellent"), for lemon and potato cheese-cake at 6d., and for Grantham gingerbread at the same price, the latter being "also excellent."] She encloses tracts suitable to the comprehension of children and adults. Her history, however, does not seem to qualify this lady for the cure of souls any more than for the cure of bodies. If those who receive her appeals will apply to the Charity Organisation Society, they will find that that body has been issuing warnings against Mrs. Labone ever since 1877, and that the lady has been in the begging-letter business for over thirty years past. If it be true that "the Lord has heavily afflicted her," she has also good cause to be thankful for His mercies, by which during all these years she has been delivered from the hands of the police.

As I see from a letter just received that the impudent rascal Stockham is still keeping up his house-agency swindle in Chancery-lane, it may be well to give those who have houses to let a warning against him. Stockham has no bonâ-fide business as a house-agent. He occupies a room in the basement of a block of Chancery-lane offices, and calls there for his letters, when he has made sure that there is no one on the look out for him. The form which he invites property-owners to fill up and sign is an ungrammatical rigmarole which (in its latest form) entitles Stockham to be paid a sovereign on the receipt of instructions. When any one who has walked into the trap declines to pay the sovereign, Stockham writes impudent post-cards threatening county-court proceedings if the debt is not settled. No one, however, need be intimidated by him, for the only time he ever ventured to show his face in court the judge treated him as a swindler, and since then he has contented himself exclusively with threatening.

The so-called "Carlton Bank, Limited," is still circulating the objectionable circular addressed to clergymen, to which attention was called in TRUTH a few weeks back. In this circular the "Bank" offers to the clergy a commission of 5 per cent. for disposing of any of its £1 six per cent. preference shares. The pernicious character of this bribe, for such it is, is well brought out in a letter that I have just received from a clergyman who has been favoured with one of these circulars. "I know at least half-a-dozen people," says this gentleman, "who would buy a thousand of these shares, or any others you like to name, on my personal recommendation; so that if I chose I could earn a commission of £50 at the expense of each one of them." Exactly so; and it is because clergymen possess this sort of influence over a certain class of people, who know nothing about business, that this "bank" addresses to them this offer of a commission. The "bank" knows also, of course, that many of the clergy are in the last stage of impecuniosity, and for this reason peculiarly open to temptation—to say nothing of the fact that the majority of them know as little about the comparative merits of investments as those whom they are likely to advise. A more iniquitous proceeding than this attempt to make the clergy agents of a joint-stock money-lending concern I have never come across.

When lovely woman stoops to money-lending, she shows a wonderful mastery of the familiar dodges of the male usurer. There has lately been an extraordinary development of lady Shylocks in all parts of the country, and the provincial newspapers are studded with their little advertisements. Here is a sample, issued by "Mrs. Gertrude Hall," of Manchester :—

A lady of means, knowing the very great difficulty in obtaining assistance from so-called "Banks, Accountants, Private Gentlemen," and money lenders generally, has decided to invest a large amount of money in sums of not less than £20 to £1,000, to ladies, gentlemen, professional men, farmers, tradesmen, and all responsible householders, &c., &c.

It only remains to add that there are "no sureties, deductions, or preliminary fees," and the reader will see that Mrs. S. is quite as deft a hand at the business as Shylock himself.

Mr. "Hubert de Burgh" continues to hawk about his serio-comic tale of "the daughter of the late gifted Thomas M'Nevin," and apparently he still finds Irishmen soft-hearted enough—or soft-headed enough—to send him cash on the strength of his pitiful narrative. The latest of his efforts is dated from 38, Great Charles-street, Mountjoy-square, Dublin, on July 27, and recites that Mr. de Burgh has received gifts of £5 from the Marquis of Conyngham, the Earls of Listowel and Gosford, Lord Iveagh, Lord Plunket, Lord Rathdonnell, and several others. Did these noblemen read TRUTH regularly, they would see the foolishness of allowing themselves to be humbugged by the tricks of a professional begging-letter writer like the brother of the daughter of the late gifted Thomas M'Nevin. But if people are so wilfully blind to their own interests as not to read TRUTH regularly, little sympathy can be felt for them when they reap the consequences.

A fortnight back I published a letter from Mr. Henry Grain, of St. Martin's-lane, in which that gentleman called upon me to retract certain statements which I had made about his clients, Messrs. Perrin, Dunn, & Co., and informed me that if the retractation was not forthcoming, he, Mr. Grain, "must take such proceedings as may be advised for the vindication of his clients' reputation, and the prevention of a repetition of my remarks." To this I replied by pointing out that my statements were perfectly accurate, and founded upon evidence which could not be disputed, and that

MEDITERRANEAN and BALTIC CRUISES for EIGHTEEN GUINEAS, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars, Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

I was prepared to defend my opinion upon the facts wherever necessary. Since then I have been waiting with considerable curiosity to see what steps Mr. Grain might be "advised" to take under the circumstances. Up to the present I have not heard anything. Am I to take it that Mr. Grain has been "advised" to let the matter drop? If so I would suggest to Mr. Grain and all other solicitors who may be consulted under similar circumstances, that they should take whatever advice is necessary before, rather than after, writing their letters.

This is the third time within about six months that I have been threatened by solicitors, either with an action for libel, or with these mysterious "steps," if I did not withdraw something that I had said, or if I said something which the solicitor did not wish me to say. In none of these cases have I paid the slightest attention to the threats, and in no case has any result whatever followed so far as I am concerned. It is right and necessary, of course, that there should be a law for the redress of any wrongs committed by newspapers; but it does not seem to me right, or even expedient, that attempts should be made to intimidate editors by threatening them with the terrors of the law when there is little or no intention of setting the law in motion. This sort of thing seems to me to be an unjustifiable interference with the liberty of the Press, and an abuse of the law—an abuse to which an honourable profession should not lend itself.

The following characteristic letter has been addressed to me in reference to my remarks on the proposed railway extension from Ballater to Braemar:—

> I may tell you there was considerable correspondence on this matter in the *Aberdeen Evening Express* in January and February of this year, from which you could gather local people are sufficiently wide awake to the advantages Braemar enjoys in its isolation, and that they are determined to oppose tooth and nail the making of their highly select place a resort of cheap trippers and vulgar people. It is well, I think, that there are still a few places in the country in which one can depend upon being rid of vulgar neighbours. Braemar assuredly is one, and long may it remain so!

Hoity, toity! What a nice, amiable sort they seem to be at Braemar! Unfortunately, being a vulgar person myself, I desire to go to Braemar, and I feel I have quite as good a right to go there as the unspeakable snob who could write the above lines. Let us vulgar people, then, unite and storm this stronghold of conceited exclusiveness. As to its being "well" that any place in the kingdom should be reserved for the private use of my correspondent, or any one like him, my view is that there is no room for such people in this country, and that the sooner they are crowded out of it by their "vulgar neighbours" the better it will be for everybody.

From all that I hear, Mr. Bryan, the boy orator of Nebraska, is likely to be defeated in the Presidential contest, although his defeat is by no means a foregone conclusion. The Silver Kings will provide the sinews of war, for the free coinage of silver would quadruple the value of their mines. Agriculture in the Western States is not thriving. Most of the farms are mortgaged, and it commends itself to the farmers to pay off their indebtedness in a depreciated coinage. Both Western and Southern States are debtors to the Eastern States, and this new way of paying old debts is not without a charm to them. If the Democrats were united, it is very possible that, with the aid of the northern Populist votes, they might beat the Republicans. But they are not. Some Silver Republicans will vote for Mr. Bryan, but against this a vast number of Democrats will either vote for Mr. McKinley, or for a second Democratic candidate.

I wonder that some "platform" is not put forward reducing the interest on mortgages upon farms. These mortgages are practically rent. If owing to the fall in the price of agricultural produce, the farm does not enable the farmer to live, after paying full interest, a general reduction in that interest would be as legitimate as has been the enforced reduction of rent in Ireland. This would be far more reasonable and far less injurious to the country than tampering with its currency with the assumed object of partial repudiation. Bimetallists started the silver craze, but bimetallists have always contended that a fixed ratio could be established between gold and silver without lowering the buying power of the currency. This is true, provided that the ratio were such as to make the amount of silver given for gold equal to the value of the gold exchangeable for it; the objection to bimetallism being that a fixed ratio between the two metals is impossible, and that the cheaper of the two would drive out the dearer.

But the proposals of Mr. Bryan and his friends are very different from this. They amount to this, that a man who has lent a dollar of 100 cents is to be paid back with a dollar of 60 cents. Such a scheme would kill all credit for many a day, and it would be killing the goose with the golden eggs. Individuals might temporarily benefit, but the community would be permanent sufferers. There would soon be a second scaling down of the dollar; for once admit that this scaling down is legitimate, and eventually a dollar would only be worth one cent; indeed, I am surprised that its advocates make two bites at the cherry. I do not care what the coin of a country is, but that coin should be fixed and immutable. This is not so much a question of ethics as one of well-understood self-interest. There is nothing new in scaling down. Kings before now have done it by the simple process of mixing alloy with the gold or silver coinage. But invariably this has been productive of so much financial disaster that they have had to go back to the old values. The Liberals in America are only treading in the steps of these kings, notwithstanding that they have before them all the experience of the lamentable effect of such questionable practices.

Typewriters and Cycles for Sale or Hire. Great bargains in Standard Machines.—N. Taylor, Manager, 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

Reading a day or two ago some of the comments of the Press upon the answer of Mr. Chamberlain respecting the position of a Hebrew of the name of Sampson and an Australian of the name of Davies, who were concerned in the attempt at revolution in Johannesburg, I asked myself whether there is something in a connection with the Press which renders it impossible for many Pressmen to look at facts impartially. It is claimed by these two worthies that they ought to be let out of prison by President Kruger without being called upon to petition for their own release, because Sir Jacobus de Wet had declared that no one would be imprisoned if all the revolutionists laid down their arms. Sir Jacobus denies that he ever gave such an assurance. But supposing that he had, unless he had had the assent of the Transvaal Government, such an assurance would not be binding on the Transvaal Government; and unless he had had the permission of the British Government, it would not bind us. Supposing that there were a colony of French in England, and they were to break out in rebellion against the British Government. If a French Consul assured them that they would not be punished if they laid down their arms, would any one say that this Consular pledge was binding on the British Government, or that the French Government ought to enforce it? The reason why Sampson, Davies and Co. surrendered was that the Outlanders in Johannesburg were not prepared to fight for them, nor were they inclined to fight for themselves. Do not these silly fools see that by declining to ask for their release on the ground that this would be dishonourable to them, they bring a charge of dishonour against all their friends who did petition?

Li Hung Chang is a gentleman who, having come over to Europe for information, rather than to give information, asks questions instead of putting them. When talking with Mr. Chamberlain in the House of Commons, I understand that he examined the Colonial Secretary as to our precise relations with our Colonies; who appointed the Governors; whether Mr. Chamberlain or Lord Salisbury; whether they contributed tribute to us or cost us money; who paid for the garrisons, &c.

It would seem that he is not really the decrepit person physically that appears to have been assumed from his either being wheeled in a chair or leaning on the attendants when he walks. All this is mere etiquette on the part of so eminent a personage.

There is fair ground for his demand that the rate of duties on English goods imported into China should be altered. The duty is now 5 per cent. ad valorem; but this, owing to the fall in silver, has become a little above 2¾ per cent. Li would have the duties 10 per cent., and as this is for revenue purposes, we can hardly decently refuse his request.

The anti-opium crusaders have always asserted that we force the Chinese to receive our opium, and that to this the Chinese object. The reply has always been that the Chinese have no objection, and that if they wished it, they might forbid the import of opium. I hope that some one will draw his Excellency on this subject, and that we shall learn on the best authority what view the Chinese really entertain on this matter.

On Thursday, last week, I passed a pleasant evening listening to the Lords digging their own grave. Some of the Unionists near me seemed pleased that the Lords were showing that they are not—as is sometimes alleged—mere pawns of a Conservative Government, but that they can act independently when impelled thereto by their consciences. For consciences, read pockets. A more indecent spectacle I never witnessed. Eighty-three of these conscientious gentlemen owned property in Ireland. The English landlords, in the main, helped by their absence. Out of the one hundred and five supporters whom Lord Salisbury could rally, there were about thirty who had taken the Salisbury shilling, and who would have lost their salaries had they gone against him.

The opposition was led by Lord Londonderry and by Lord Macnaghten. The former is a clear and ready speaker; the latter is a species of Mrs. Gamp, always jumping up with a "which I wish to say." Their troops consisted of Irish landlords, helped out by a few English territorial magnates. The Irish were strange-looking beings, and their oratorical efforts, with the exception of Lord Dunraven's, were wretched trash. One of them rightly said that the question was one of pounds, shillings, and pence, and most of those who took part in the debate talked of "I" and "my property." They seemed about as fitted to be legislators as the pigs feeding on the bogs over which they sought to maintain the blighting spell of landlordism. One Bishop remained to vote with the Government. He was sat upon, not metaphorically but actually, for I saw a Peer plump down on the episcopal lap. The next evening, these Irish cormorants appear to have been frightened into quasi-submission, for they had entirely changed their attitude. What a crew!

I trust that this orgie of landlordism will serve as an object-lesson to the country. The Peers and their friends perpetually tell us that they more truly represent the country than those whom the country elect as legislators, because they act without fear or favour in the interests of all. The elected of the nation had passed a Bill, almost unanimously, which the Irish landlords opined might have an injurious effect on their proprietary "rights;" they, therefore, opposed those of its provisions which they deemed might have this effect on personal grounds. If all this does not strengthen the conviction that it is full time to abolish such legislators, it will be surprising. Out of evil, therefore, good may come.

SCRUTATOR.

THE ISSUES BEFORE THE S.A. COMMITTEE.

We are to have a Parliamentary Committee next Session to inquire into all and everything connected with the career of the Chartered Company of South Africa. A good deal of discussion has taken place as to the relative expediency of a Royal Commission or of a Committee. The main objection to the former is that it is not clear how the case against the Company could be brought before it. Whilst counsel would appear before a Commission to defend all and any, it is not the business of any one to brief counsel to take the opposite view. When it was decided that there should be a Committee, the Rhodesian Press suggested that it should be packed, and that no person who has expressed an unfavourable view of the Company, or of any of its officials, should be allowed to serve on it. To this, of course, the House of Commons would not listen, and, so far as I can see, the outcome has been a Committee which will insist upon sifting to the bottom the issues that have been submitted to it, so that the public may have the facts clearly put before them. This it will be able to do, as the reference enjoins it to inquire into the administration of the Company in its territories in South Africa, into its raids upon neighbouring States, and into its financial career.

Public opinion in regard to the Company and its doings has been somewhat prejudiced owing to the attitude of some of our leading newspapers. I do not suppose that these newspapers have been bribed with cash. Most of them are as ignorant as they are dogmatic in respect to everything outside London. They are given to advocate all extensions of Empire, whether the extension be advantageous or the reverse, and so indiscriminate is their laudation of any one who directly or indirectly has added to our obligations some bog or desert, that I verily believe that, no matter what the crimes of a man may have been, they would make a hero of him, if he could show that, by an admixture of ruffianism and trickery, he had performed this feat. I suppose that they consider that in this fashion they achieve a reputation for patriotism, and that, as "Society" is Jingoist, they also show that they belong to it. They had elevated Mr. Rhodes to the rank of a demigod, and they assumed that all that their divinity did must be well done. When the Transvaal raid took place, they evolved everything respecting it from their imagination, aided by bogus telegrams from their correspondents and from news agencies in South Africa. When all this nonsense was exposed, they were not prepared to admit that they had been led into error, and sought to fool their readers by means of articles, in part implying that all these detected lies were true, and in part endeavouring to shelter themselves under frothy rhetoric. Naturally they have objected to any serious inquiry, for, whatever this may prove or disprove, it will at least give all the opportunity to form their judgment upon the solid ground of fact. At present, these newspapers are labouring to show that Mr. Rhodes, Herr Beit and all connected with them are patriots actuated by no personal motives, and that if guilty of any wrong-doing, their aim was so unselfishly patriotic that it almost justified the means that they employed. If this can be proved to be the case, so much the better for the gentlemen concerned; but not only has it not been proved, but the presumption from the facts already known hardly leads to this conclusion. Nothing is more compromising than over-zeal. One reason why public opinion has veered round in regard to the Chartered Company and its officials is to be found in the reckless falsehoods that have been published by their defenders in the Press, and the endeavour, when these falsehoods were exposed, to ask for a verdict in their favour without any real inquiry. Had I been a Jingo, I should have made a merit of necessity, and have thrown over men whose action has done more to weaken the cause of Jingoism than any general homilies against it that might be preached.

After having made clear what really has occurred in South Africa under the auspices of the financial ring, which secured a concession from Lobengula, and subsequently a Royal Charter in order to give effect to that concession, the Committee is instructed to report upon any changes that are deemed desirable in regard to the Government of Rhodesia. I confess that I do not attach myself much importance to this expression of opinion in regard to the future, for it is a matter that concerns rather the Executive and Parliament than a Committee. My own view is this: the Chartered Company ought to remain possessed of all rights in regard to property secured by their concession and confirmed by a Royal Charter. They ought, on the other hand, to be deprived of all civil and military administration in Rhodesia, both of which should be assumed by the Imperial authorities, or by the Cape Colony if it is ready to take over the territory under these conditions. But in either case, the Company ought to pay for everything connected with putting down the native outbreak and all administrative charges as a *quid pro quo* for their proprietary rights in the territory. My impression is, that so soon as expenditure has to be met from revenue, and subscribed capital is exhausted, the Company will go to that bourn to which so many Companies have already gone. There seems to be no paying gold in Charterland, and a more undesirable place for agricultural colonists cannot well be conceived. This, however, is a matter which concerns the shareholders and not the community. Our business is to see that the country is properly governed, and that so long as the Company retains its concessions, it shall pay every farthing of cost incurred.

As regards the natives, I trust that the Committee will closely inquire into their condition. They were the owners of the soil; they would still be the owners, were it not that gold was expected to be found in it When vanquished they appear to have been deprived of all ownership in the soil, and of the greater portion of their cattle. That they were ill-treated by these victors is probable, for in the main these victors consisted of

men attracted to their country by the *auri sacra fames*, whose idea of natives was that they should work for their conquerors. There ought, most unquestionably, to be some sort of "native bureau," entirely independent of these speculators, to see that the natives have not only fair but generous treatment.

I quite understand that a war against savages cannot be conducted on the same lines as one between two civilised nations. At the same time, I think that all must desire, on grounds of common humanity, that the war now being carried on against the natives should speedily be brought to a close. When I read of kraals being burnt, of women and children being taken captives, of grain being destroyed, and cattle being looted, in order to starve the natives into submission, and of "battles" in which several hundred ill-armed blacks are killed, against the loss of two or three men, or two or three horses, by the whites, my soul revolts against such "military operations." There is too much "extermination" about it, and all the more is this "extermination" horrible, as the object seems to be to enable a few thousand gold prospectors to wander about without let or hindrance over a country larger than France and Spain combined, in order to bring out Companies, the majority of which are more or less bogus. In Zululand, the natives under their own laws, but under our paramount authority, live and thrive. Why should this not be so in Rhodesia? Surely some scheme of settlement might be devised which the natives would accept. As it is, their resistance seems to be the result of a belief—justifiable in a great degree—that they are either to be slain as noxious vermin, or to be deprived of all local independence, and of all property. Into all these matters the Committee will have to inquire; but in the meantime I should be glad to see some one sent out as High Commissioner, charged with the task of putting an end, if possible, to the abominable slaughters that are now taking place under the name of war.

I am, of course, charged with being a Little Englander. It is true that I do not believe in expansion of the Empire, unless some very strong reasons can be shown for this expansion in any particular direction. I do not believe that indiscriminate expansion adds to our strength. But we must accept facts. Clearly we cannot give up Rhodesia. It does, and therefore it must, form part of the Empire, whether it be treated as a Protected State or as a State within the sphere of our influence. Without entering into the general question of the advantages and disadvantages of government by Charter, that government has proved in this particular case a dismal failure to all except to a few individuals, who have made money, not by the development of the country, but by manufacturing shares, and selling them at a huge premium to the unwary. Not content with warring against natives, this Company has kindled a racial feud in South Africa by a filibustering expedition into a neighbouring State. The question to be decided is whether such an *imperium in imperio* ought to continue. It may be that the Company, or Mr. Rhodes, or Mr. Beit, will be able to show that it ought. It may be that they will not be able.

DEGREES, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

It may interest those who have not enjoyed the advantages of a University education to know that the man Sayer, alias James, is still touting from 7, Westwick-gardens, West Kensington Park, as the agent over here for the sale of the degrees of the "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis" of Chicago. In a recent article entitled "Academic Honours from Porkopolis," I mentioned that Sayer seemed to have retired from business, inasmuch as another individual, calling himself sometimes "the Rev. J. Rogers," and sometimes "G. Elliott," was advertising as the authorised representative of the "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis" in London. This inference, however, turns out to have been erroneous, and the fact that there are two of these gentry on the job is a remarkable proof of the thriving trade which is done over here by the retail agents of the Chicago degree-factory. Sayer, alias James, appears still to entertain, as he has always done, a wholesome dread of undue publicity. In one of his latest letters in response to an inquiry about the degrees he writes:—

> All communications will be held in the strictest confidence, and which (*sic*) also I expect, also that you will give a pledge of *bona fides*, for my time is too limited for correspondence with any other intention.

The *bona fides* which James looks for is evidently that form of honour which is said to prevail among thieves. I prefer myself the form of *bona fides* which leads those who come across gentry of the James type to do their best to enlighten the public respecting their little games; and I am much obliged to the gentleman who has done so in this instance by forwarding me another budget of Sayer's correspondence and trade circulars.

Among the rest of his business literature, Sayer or James, whichever his name may be, issues an amusing leaflet on "The Current Value of University Degrees," under the highly original title of "Verbum Sat Sapienti." The author of this compilation describes himself as "Flavel S. Thomas, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Surgery (U.S.A.)." The object of the treatise is apparently to prove that if you want a good degree you ought not to mind paying a good price for it. "I am a firm believer in the degree system," says the Professor of Medicine and Surgery, U.S.A.; and, judging from the array of letters after his own name, his faith in the "system" has been shown in the practical form of dollars. In order to induce others to become firm believers in the degree system, he goes on in this strain:—

> But has a degree any pecuniary value? Clergymen will readily reply in the affirmative to this question, as far, at least, as degrees in Theology are concerned. A Church will willingly pay a greater amount to a minister holding the degree of D.D. than to any other; not only because it is considered as a proof of superior learning and merit, but, like a lofty and elegant spire or richly-painted window, it is an ornament and attraction, and therefore a benefit to the cause of the Church.

The true value of spires and stained-glass windows as advertising mediums was probably little understood by the original designers of these decorations. It has been reserved for the modern American to discover the utilitarian basis of Mediæval art. A church spire, to translate Flavel S. Thomas into everyday language, is simply an ecclesiastical "sky-sign;" and a stained-glass

window a piece of high-class furniture which helps to let the pews, and, possibly, to raise the rent. On the same principle a University degree becomes a sort of trade-mark, indicating the market price of the bearer's services. Whether the trade-mark is forged or genuine is evidently a matter of no consequence. *Caveat emptor* is the recognised principle of trade, and is apparently to be the rule of the clerical tradesman. His congregation will pay him so much a year for the letters "D.D.," and if they are such fools as not to know the difference between a D.D. of Oxford and a D.D. of Porkopolis, that is their look out.

But Thomas is careful not to limit himself to the clerical degree market. "Any degree," he says, "conferred by a University of good standing" (such, of course, as the "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis") "will ensure for an energetic person a certain income of thousands of dollars a year." Accordingly, "EVERY MAN and every WOMAN, too, BOTH BEING ELIGIBLE, should strive to obtain a degree," not only with a view to obtaining thereby many thousand dollars a year, but for the following excellent reasons:—

> It will give rank and position, which will afford them much pleasure and profit. It will admit them to circles from which they might otherwise be excluded. It will command a deference from others, which is very pleasing to most of us; and it will be a good investment, as it cannot be lost nor its value lessened. . . .
>
> Not only are all persons urged to possess a degree, but also to use it when possessed:—
>
> Some writers pretend that an academical degree should not be appended to a signature unless it is at the same time professional, as, for instance, M.D., &c. But would it be worth the trouble and expense of earning a degree that is not to be used? . . . . My advice, therefore, is to obtain the title and use it, if you would attain to the success to which you aspire.

I need only add that the "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis" will do the thing for you at £12. 10s. if you are content with a "B.A." and "B.L.," or £15. 15s. for an "M.A.'" and "B.D.;" while if you aspire to become a "D.D.," "LL.D.," "Lit.D.," or a "Ph.D.," the charge is twenty-one pounds sterling. Is it not dirt cheap at the price? And could there be a more impudent fraud on the public? Applying to it the simile used above, if those who forge commercial hall-marks and trade-marks are amenable to the criminal law, is it not high time that the public had a similar protection against those who forge the hall-marks and trade-marks of education?

WACHTMEISTERISM IN HELIGOLAND.

On July 30 an English sailor named Ebbett, one of the crew of a Hull sailing-boat, was walking on the pier at Heligoland, when he was peremptorily ordered by a policeman to join his comrades, who had just embarked in their boat. Ebbett replied that he wished to remain on shore for a time, and some sort of altercation ensued, each party speaking his own language, and neither understanding the other. While this was going on, the chief constable, Wachtmeister Stoffer, came up, and the sailor was marched off to the police-station. On arriving there, he refused to enter, upon which Stoffer drew his sword, and gave him a cut across the head, felling him to the ground. Ebbett remained in the police-station, severely injured, until August 4, when he was brought up before a magistrate; and, after evidence that he had resisted the police and defended himself with his fists, he was sentenced to four months' hard labour, besides having to pay the costs of the prosecution. He had no legal assistance at the trial. Ebbett, who is a native of Grimsby, was sober at the time of the occurrence, and his captain gives him an excellent character.

The foregoing facts have come to my knowledge in rather a curious way. My informant is a German lady on a visit to Heligoland; and she is so indignant at what she has seen and heard of the case that she writes to beg me to use my influence on Ebbett's behalf. I may say that she wrote in the first instance immediately after the man's arrest and the assault by the Wachtmeister, being even then of opinion that the sailor had been grossly ill-treated. It would seem, too, that the lady is not inspired solely by sympathy for the English sailor. Wachtmeister Stoffer, she says, has been for three years a curse to the island and a terror to the inhabitants; and the assault on Ebbett is the third case in which he has drawn his sword and inflicted severe wounds on the very slenderest provocation.

Now, it is not my province to supervise the actions of German policemen, nor have I any intention of opening a pillory for the benefit of German J.P.'s. But when German police-officers commit wanton assaults on British subjects, and slash their heads with swords; and when German magistrates follow this up by imposing on the victims such outrageous sentences as four months' hard labour for the most flimsy offences, then any English journal has a right to criticise this method of administering justice. Our countryman in this particular instance may possibly have been a little indiscreet in not doing what he was told, and in violently resisting when he was taken prisoner. But, so far as I can see, the local authorities were absolutely in the wrong all through. When Lord Salisbury bartered Heligoland the Germans in exchange for certain more or less visionary rights in Central Africa, he did not surrender the right of his countrymen to land on the rock in future. So long as he behaves himself properly, a British sailor is entitled to go ashore there, and for a policeman to order him off the island without any sufficient reason is a breach of international comity. Before the Englishman was arrested and taken to the lock-up, the Herr Wachtmeister ought at least to have satisfied himself that the man understood what had been said to him and what was required of him; and, however much he struggled for his liberty, that is no excuse for laying his head open with a drawn sword. As for the ultimate punishment, seeing that the man had been already five days a prisoner and had suffered heavily for resisting the police, the sentence would be unjustifiably severe in any case, and it becomes a monstrous one in the case of a foreigner, who neither understood clearly what the police had said to him, nor could open his mouth in his own defence when before the Court.

The question now is, can anything be done for this unfortunate sailor, who, I understand, has a wife and children dependent upon him at Grimsby? The indi-

vidual ultimately responsible for the whole affair is Lord Salisbury, to whom it is due that Heligoland is to-day a German instead of a British possession; and on this view of the matter, I certainly think that it is the duty of his lordship to come to the rescue of Ebbett with all the power of the Foreign Office. The townspeople of Grimsby would do well to bestir themselves on the subject; and it might have a good effect if the worthy Alderman who represents the town at Westminster were to call attention to the affair in Parliament before the Session terminates. Lastly, I trust that the German Emperor, in making his weekly study of the columns of TRUTH, will have his Imperial attention called to the facts. This I hope, not solely on account of our countryman Mr. Ebbett, but for the sake of the whole population of Heligoland—till lately our fellow subjects. With all respect, I would point out to his Majesty that the honour of his Crown and Government is very much at stake in this matter. It is not to the credit of the German Empire that the Heligolanders should have cause to regret the cession of their island by the British Government; still less that German subjects should be appealing to a London editor to redress they wrongs which they are suffering at the hands of German officialdom. Herr Wachtmeister Stoffer is evidently what would be called in this country a "very harbitrary gent," and officials of that stamp are not seen to advantage in small stations, remote from the control of superior authority. The Wachtmeister would probably do better in a position of less freedom and greater responsibility, and I humbly suggest to his Imperial master the propriety of removing him accordingly.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

FELIX FAURE AND THE FIFTY-FIVERS.

It was a funny idea of the Town Council of Brest to have a committee of citizens of the same age as M. Faure to receive him at the top of the landing stairs. The original design was to have fifty-five of them. This would have made a committee-man for each year that has passed over since January 31, 1841. But enough could not be found who were born on that date. Those who were culled represented all classes, from the dock labourer to the pharmaceutical chemist. All were the worse for their hard struggles for life, and looked quite their age if not older. M. Faure was not forewarned. His reception by birthday *confrères* was kept as a surprise, and startlingly surprising it proved. The President makes a brave fight against the encroachments of time. He is well aided by his valet and tailor. He can, in surveying himself in his *armoire à glace*, feel that he has not yet ceased to be le Beau Félix Faure. Fancy how he must have been affected as the members of the Fifty-Five Committee were presented! They were a rude reminder of the flight of time. No better object-lesson could there have been of the falsity of horoscopes drawn from the stars. M. Faure, a Fifty-Fiver remarked, was born to luck. Possibly. He was in a way the architect of his own fortune. But it was luck that enabled him to erect the building. Luck drove him to Amboise, and made him an acceptable suitor for his employer's niece, Mlle. Bellnot. Her £4,000 dowry enabled the journeyman to set up as a master tanner, and launch out in business at Havre. As a franc-tireur in 1870 he won popularity; as an agent at Tours of Licesne of Havre, and Remington, he minted money by the sale of arms. What was more important, he made the acquaintance of Gambetta, who ever afterwards pushed him, and got him into Parliament. There Faure's bluff, business manners and a business readiness to split the difference stood him in lieu of eloquence. In committee-rooms "il y avait toujours moyen de s'arranger." Thus he was everybody's friend. Luck served him in bringing him into the Ministry of Marine. He was able to befriend the reactionist families of naval officers there who afterwards were for him at the Presidential election. The ladies were on the side of le Beau Félix Faure.

Talking of ladies, that interview with the Empress Dowager of Russia in the railway train secured, it seems, the promise of a visit from the Czar and his Consort. Whether owing to chance or design, it is to come off on September 18—the twenty-sixth anniversary of the investment of Paris. It is disappointing that Versailles cannot be made ready in time for the Imperial visitors. The German Empire under William I. was proclaimed there twenty-five years ago. To have the Emperor of Russia at Versailles as an ally in the silver jubilee year of that proclamation would be a nice tit for all the tats given in 1895 by the German Emperor. But the palace and gardens are too much out of repair to be made habitable for a Court in seven weeks' time. Symbolism will take refuge at the French Foreign Office. If Nicholas I. still takes an interest in European affairs, what may he not feel should Nicholas II. date a ukase as the friend of the French Republic at her Ministry for Foreign Affairs? It would be a mistake to think the heads of the South German States dislike the Russo-French alliance. They look to Russia to moderate France in regard to South Germany and to the effect at Berlin of the pact to secure Particularist independence. Würtemberg, Bavaria, the Hesses, and Saxe-Coburg have found Prussian overlordship irksome. They did not feel it so much in the old Emperor's time. He was the most unassuming Prince of his time, and bore himself modestly, though with Imperial dignity. He was more the *Imperator*, that is to say, supreme head of the German Army than the Emperor, as the title is now understood. The overweening self-assertion of his grandson has been the great factor in European changes now going on. It threw the late Czar—whose ruling power was jealousy—on the French side. The Russo-French union aiding, it now acts as a dissolvent on the German Empire under Prussia. Saxe-Coburg, so devoted to Berlin under the late Duke, shows South German affinities. Baden alone does not chafe. But the coming Grand Duchess is a Nassau, and her husband is not a man to stem a strong current. The German Emperor may perhaps be explained by the extraordinary elation of Queen Victoria in the early period of her reign.

It did not quite skip the Princess Royal, who is impetuous and self-willed. But it blooms out in her son. Latent germs were powerfully stimulated by his accession to the Imperial crown when Bismarck, in its name, was overbearing the rest of Europe. Paris is next September pretty sure to bring forth events calculated to tame this elation.

The Court of Appeal stamps Lombroso as a plagiarist. His advocate pleaded plagiarism for the advancement of science. This did not do. Does it take from the scientific value of a quotation to give the author's name in a footnote?

Lombroso is of the Max Nordau school, or Max Nordau of the Lombroso. The Italian doctor is industrious and sensational. He rides to death in unemotional Turin the Greek notion of hereditary fatality. Fatalism is an awesome power in human affairs. There is, I think, no denying it. But I should be sorry to believe it cannot be averted. There never was, and never will be, a Rougon-Macquart family overborne in seventy or so branches by a hereditary *névrose*. Could a Lombroso of that day, staying at Naples when Lady Hamilton reigned there, have foretold what paragons of perfection Queen Caroline's daughters would grow up to be? They were four, and scandal never touched them. One was second wife of the Emperor Francis II. and mother of the Empress Marie Louise. The other was La Bella, or the Beautiful Queen of Sardinia. She was adroit and politic, but pure as snow. The third, La Dotta, or the learned, was Princess of Asturias, and was said to have been poisoned because her correct life gave umbrage to her parents-in-law and husband. The fourth was Marie Amélie, Queen of the French. If ever there was a domestic saint, perfect in all respects, it was that Royal lady. Her three daughters followed her example. The Queen of the Belgians, who had at once *un triste mari, et un mari triste*, devoted herself to needlework and piety. The Princesse Marie, who married a Würtemberg, devoted herself to art and her nursery. She died young. Her mother wrote, on learning she was no more, "I have lost a child and God has another angel." The Princesse Clémentine in countenance resembles her maternal grandmother, and is, like her, a *maîtresse femme*, but is untainted by her vices. These vices were Lorraine vices. The Dukes of Lorraine, on whom the Hapsburgs were grafted, seemed to take their models from the Greek mythology. James I. of England and the womanish Philippe, brother of Louis the Fourteenth, were among their remote and near ancestors. Caroline could no more help herself than could Phædra. But by careful education she managed to release her daughters from hereditary fatalities.

There has been, I concede to Lombroso, here and there reversion in the third generation. It does not always show itself, however, in the peculiar Lorraine *névrose*. Thus, Prince Philippe of Würtemberg is a morning-noon-and-night worshipper of the god Hazard. His own fortune (a seventh of Louis Philippe's) and his wife's enormous fortune were not too much to sacrifice on the altar of that divinity. The Palace on the Ring, now an hotel, was also sacrificed. The Princess Philippe is only daughter of the late Archduke Albert, the richest Lorraine-Hapsburg that ever was. Charlotte, widow of the ill-starred Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, is another of the neuropaths. Her first cousin, Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg, was the companion at Meyerling of the Crown Prince Rudolph in his final and most tragical revel. There is something abnormal in the Prince of Bulgaria. His behaviour at Carlsbad after Stambouloff's murder showed at least *inconscience*. Another member of the third generation adorns a far-off Court. It is a staid Court, with which her whims and fancies do not accord. H.R.H. is Colonel of a fire-brigade. When her husband a few years ago was at some grand Royal marriage, she sallied out in uniform. At the head of her brigade, hydrant in hand, the Coloneless led the way at a fire. One of her self-appointed missions is to rescue lambs from butchers. She returns to her rooms in the palace with the lamb she has saved clasped to her breast. When it becomes a sheep, her interest in it ceases. In short, she is the incarnation of *étourderie*, but means well. Strange to say, her eyes are devoid of all expression. The complexion, however, lights up. It is beautifully fair, and with golden hair and a nice figure makes her a highly attractive Princess.

I cannot imagine the Prince of Naples mating himself with any Princess of Montenegro. He is a tiny tenorino, with, in speaking a falsetto voice, and has long delicate hands, with the long nails of an artificial flower maker. His nice discrimination of hues and shades of colour ought to relieve him from the stigma of degeneration. Degenerates are more or less stricken with Daltonism. All the Montenegro Princesses are vigorous beauties. They have their mother's splendid black eyes that remind one of a smouldering fire ready to blaze out.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

IDLENESS, dear Lady Betty, is the mother of invention.

. . . . .

The celebrated composer, Rossini, had contracted to write an opera which was to be produced upon a certain night. Three days before the time appointed for the production of the opera, the impresario called upon Rossini and inquired how far he had proceeded towards the conclusion of the work. "I have not written a line of it yet," replied Rossini. It is said that the impresario then locked the latter in his room, and the opera was composed in time to be performed upon the night that had been arranged for it to be produced.

. . . . .

I, however, am not Rossini. Having left London for the country, I delayed writing this letter until the last minute, and now that the last minute has come, I have little to say, and find it difficult to extricate myself from so painful a situation with some semblance of dignity.

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In three days I have made several startling discoveries. I have always imagined that milk, eggs, meat, butter, fruit, and vegetables, and other commodities of the same sort, came from "the country." The experience of

three days in the country has taught me that butter comes from Brittany, eggs from various parts of the Continent, fruit from France, matches from Sweden, milk (condensed) from Switzerland, and meat from Australia. Even the flour they sell in the country is foreign! Cream, which in London is common, is almost impossible to procure in the country! How can the farmers prosper when almost every article that they consume is imported, and their exports are few and of little importance?

* * * * *

Mr. Fox, the Registrar of the Croydon County Court, is a philosopher. One day last week the defendant in a case which was being tried before this Registrar complained that he had been "done." "It is impossible to live in this world a day without being 'done,'" Mr. Fox replied; "and the sooner you resign yourself philosophically to being 'done,' the more comfortably you will get through life, the longer you will live, and the better will your digestion be." It would be well if the majority of men and women recognised the value of these remarks. If a man injures you, if he treats you unfairly, or if a friend proves false, why trouble yourself to be revenged upon him? As he has treated you, so will he certainly some day treat another whose mind is less well balanced than yours is, and who is of a more reckless temperament than you are. The latter will savagely pursue your enemy, and you will probably obtain the revenge you desire without having to run any risk. Those who treat us unfairly invariably treat others in the same manner, and sooner or later they are punished.

Why is it that generation after generation has to learn by experience the elementary circumstances which those who came before them have learnt? Wisdom of the world is all but the most important branch of knowledge, and the elementary principles of it have been known almost since the beginning of the world. I suggest that there should be in every school a professor of worldly wisdom; a man trained in the best society, possessed of much experience, who should teach boys and girls the unchangeable principles of this important branch of knowledge. It does seem strange that generation after generation of men and women should have to learn the same things by bitter experience when it could easily be so arranged that in this matter one generation should begin where the other left off. For instance, the boys of to-day commence to learn science where yesterday the old men of science left off; why should it not be precisely the same as regards wisdom of the world?

* * * * *

There has recently been published a book which pretends to mention and to give a short account of the history of every important club in London. It is singular that in that work no notice is taken of "The Club" which was founded by Sir Joshua Reynolds in 1764. In the early part of this year two members were elected to "The Club," they being the 215th and 216th that have secured election since the creation of the institution. By the regulations of "The Club" the number of members is limited to forty. Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Oliver Goldsmith, Mr. Burke, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Charles Fox, Mr. Gibbon, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Leighton, Mr. Huxley, Lord Salisbury, Lord Rosebery, Mr. Goschen, the Duke of Argyll, Mr. David Garrick, Lord Herschell, Lord Dufferin, Lord Wolseley, Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, Mr. Arthur Balfour, Lord Peel, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Poynter are amongst those who have been or are members of "The Club." Notwithstanding the importance of this institution, the existence of "The Club" is scarcely known. Indeed, when the Turf Club was being founded, it was proposed to call it "The Club," and it was some time before the promoters of the former institution became aware that the name was already in use.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

A Fair Beautiful Skin.—By washing with Sulpholine Soap the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion is ensured.

SPORTING NOTES.

ONE of the sporting papers has been so bold as to print a list of the "probable starters" for the St. Leger, upon which race not a single bet was laid last week. The aforesaid list contains eighteen names, but I shall be vastly surprised if there are more than half a dozen starters on September 9 if the favourites go on all right. It is positively difficult to make up half a dozen runners without including such utterly hopeless candidates as Bucephalus and Nouveau Riche. I have reason to believe that neither Regret nor Helm will oppose St. Frusquin and Persimmon, and Earwig's inferiority to the favourites having been conclusively demonstrated at Epsom, he is more likely to "go for" some good handicap. It is probable that M. E. Blanc will be represented by Trébons instead of Arreau, who has a valuable engagement in France just about that time, which he ought to win on his Grand Prix form.

Utica did very well in winning the Brighton Stakes with a heavy weight on her back, and she is probably beginning to recover her form. Canterbury Pilgrim, having been eased in her work since she won the Liverpool Cup, did not start for the Brighton Cup, a race which is really converted into a handicap by an elaborate arrangement of penalties and allowances. Bradwardine had such an advantage in the weights that he was bound to win. The fatal accident to Jest was unfortunate, as she was a really smart filly, and invaluable for home trials.

The Duke of Westminster was represented by Brooch in the Astley Stakes at Lewes, in preference to Bluewater, who would probably have won. Odds were laid on Brigg, but he was cleverly beaten by the American colt Draco, to whom he was giving 8 lb. Ugly proved a good thing for the De Warrenne Handicap, which at one time was a minor Stewards' Cup, and he ought to have been backed by all who had noticed how well he ran at Goodwood for five furlongs.

Gulistan has been tipped by several of the papers for the Three Year Old Stakes at Redcar, but I understand the colt is in reserve for the Baden Grand Prize on the 27th.

Rampion will win a good race before the season is over, but the colt requires to have a man on his back, as no boy can properly get him out. I do not fancy, moreover, that Rampion can really stay for more than a mile.

It is now quite certain that Mr. Leopold de Rothschild will head the list of winning owners, as he has already been credited with upwards of £43,000, and St. Frusquin and Galeazzo are tolerably sure to add largely to the total before the season is over, to say nothing of Goletta and the other two year olds and his handicap horses. Mr. de Rothschild headed last year's list with nearly £21,000, but in 1893 he secured only £2,062, although he had quite as large a stud as at the present time, and it was being managed with the same care and liberality. I hear, by the way, that Goletta will miss her engagement in the Champagne Stakes (where she would meet Velasquez at even weights) and will run for the Rous Memorial Stakes, the Clearwell, and the Criterion Stakes, all at Newmarket.

After Santa Maura had been only just defeated by Thais for the One Thousand, which race she would have won if there had been another dozen yards to go, it was thought that Mr. Baird's filly would carry off the Oaks, but she fell lame, and could not run at Epsom. Then she was talked of as a likely filly to be a dangerous candidate for the Leger, but she had to be stopped in her work, and now I hear that she will not stand training again, so that her turf career is at an end. This is a tragical result of the high expectations as to Santa Maura's future which were entertained during the spring.

It is the same story with Sir James Miller's Roquebrune, who has not run since she made her successful début last year in the New Stakes at Ascot. Roquebrune

is put into work, and does well enough for a few weeks, but then she invariably falls lame again. It is impossible to keep her sound, and unless a miracle occurs it will never be possible to prepare her for any race, so that I shall be disposed to anticipate her retirement to the stud at the close of the season. Roquebrune cost 4,100 gs. as a yearling, and she has won only £1,894 in stakes, but she is worth every shilling of her original price as a brood mare, being by St. Simon out of St. Marguerite, the dam of Sea Breeze.

Lord Zetland's two-year-old filly, Puff Ball, by Petronel out of Gale, has won a trial at Newmarket, and she is expected to win a race at Redcar or at Stockton, meetings at which her owner's popular colours are usually worth following.

Last autumn, when many people were thrown into paroxysms of enthusiasm about the superlative excellence of Omladina, of whom it was asserted that she would sweep the board of this year's fillies' races, I pointed out that the produce of Geheimniss have not up to the present time improved with age, and expressed the opinion that we should very likely see the best of Omladina as a two-year-old. The Duke of Westminster's filly conclusively demonstrated her inability to stay by her running in the race for the One Thousand, but it was then hoped that she would do well over short courses, a belief which was strengthened by her easy victory in the Coronation Stakes at Ascot. I hear, however, that the last has been seen of her on the turf, as the Duke of Westminster has decided to turn her out of training, and she will probably be sent to Orme next season.

Mr. G. Dawson's colt, Welbeck, was well galloped at Newmarket last week in the presence of Lord Londonderry, and it is hoped that he will win the £1,500 stake at Kempton Park this afternoon, in which Galeazzo has to give him 18 lb. Welbeck was a smart colt during the spring of last year, but he went amiss, and had to be thrown up for a long time. During the last few weeks he has been going remarkably well in his gallops and, with such an advantage in the weights, he ought to win the Kempton Park race if Galeazzo is not quite in his best form, and I hear that Mr. de Rothschild's colt is not nearly fit.

A writer in the *Standard* states that the "nominal value" of the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket is £10,000, but that last year "it was actually £1,000 less." Any one reading this would suppose that the race in question is not really what it is represented to be, *i.e.*, a stake of £10,000. If the writer had taken the trouble to "verify his references" he would have discovered that the Jockey Club added £1,277 to the owners' subscriptions in order to make up the promised £10,000, and that the winner received £8,990 (including his own stake of £110), simply because £700 went to the owner and nominator of the second horse, and £200 to the owner of the third, in accordance with the published conditions. It is probable that a still larger sum will have to be added to this year's Jockey Club Stakes from the Newmarket Fund. The Stewards of the Jockey Club profess to add £1,000 to the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire, but in reality they do not give a farthing to these handicaps from the Newmarket Fund, as the entrances (£5 each) amount to £1,075. The entries for both handicaps are most satisfactory, both in numbers and in class. Among the three-year-olds in both races are St. Frusquin, Galeazzo, Gulistan, Thais, Balsamo, Earwig, Labrador, Rampion, Shaddock, Arlequin, Pas de Danse, Tambour, Knight of the Thistle, Spook, Bournemouth, and Dosser, while the list of doubly-entered older horses includes Contract, Marco, Count Schomberg, Briardale, Bard of Avon, Filepa, Omnium II., Portmarnock, Victor Wild, Bride of the Sea, Sir Visto, Indian Queen, Ramapo, Cypria, Laodamia, and Dormeuse. Portmarnock has been for some time favourite for the long race at the lists, and Indian Queen has been most in demand for the Cambridgeshire. St. Michael, who has been a public fancy for the short race, is not entered. It is odd to find Ramapo entered for the Cesarewitch, as he has been proclaimed a non-stayer, and nobody can have expected to find Laodamia in the list for that race.

Among the animals which are only in the Cesarewitch are South Australian, Aborigine, Love Wisely, Mademoiselle de Limermont, Trébons, Rock Dove (who won the race last year), The Rush, Fiesole, and Son o' Mine.

The following are only in the Cambridgeshire:—Canterbury Pilgrim, Helm, Red Heart, Paris III., Ghislaine, Clorane, Galop filly, Regret, Zébre, Vigoureux, Champaubert, Encounter, Arreau, Raconteur, Kirkconnel, Bay Ronald, The Tup, Kilcock, Laveno, Speedwell, Quarrel, Avilion, Hebron, Teufel, La Sagesse, and Roquebrune. Of course, Victor Wild will be the topweight in both handicaps as a matter of certainty, and it will be interesting to see how Major Egerton handicaps St. Frusquin and Regret with Canterbury Pilgrim and Thais. It is a fact worthy to be noted that M. E. Blanc has put Arreau, winner of the Grand Prix, only in the Cambridgeshire, while he is represented in the Cesarewitch by Trébons. Vigoureux won a race at Deauville last week, while some other French horses which are entered for these handicaps were beaten there. It is odd that Persimmon has not been entered for either race, and the names of Whittier and Keelson are also missing. Mr. Russel's horse, who is unsound, has been one of the early fancies for the Cambridgeshire. Speedwell's name was not expected to appear, and I fancy there is very little chance of his standing a preparation.

Any alteration at Newmarket must always be forced upon the authorities, who have certainly shown themselves to be among the most determined enemies of every species of salutary change. It has been over and over again pointed out that the conditions for the Cesarewitch and for the Cambridgeshire should include a penalty for the winner of any weight-for-age stake after the publication of the weights. At present the Leger winner has to carry a fixed weight, and there are penalties for winners of handicaps. If, however, an animal wins the Doncaster Stakes, or the Park Hill Stakes, or the Great Foal Stakes, no penalty is incurred. Still more preposterous is the idea that the winner of the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000 would have to carry no extra weight, although the penalty for winning a trumpery handicap of £450 is actually 10 lb. The fact is that these penalties should be for winners of any races whatever, and it may be hoped that this obviously-desirable alteration will be made next year.

Lord Londonderry will very likely win the Wilton Plate at Redcar this afternoon with Helen Mary, by St. Serf out of Helen Mar, which did well in a gallop at Newmarket last week.

Next week there will be racing at Stockton, Wolverhampton, and Nottingham. There is always some interesting sport at Stockton, which is a meeting that is fortunate in being zealously supported by several powerful stables. The Wynyard Plate of £600 will probably be won by Lord Londonderry's Cyrenian, by St. Simon out of Daisy Chain, who has had a fairly good trial. There are ninety-nine entries for the Hardwicke Stakes of £500, and the name of Cyrenian again appears in the list. The Great Northern Leger of £1,000 has fifty acceptances out of an original entry of eighty-seven. A very moderate lot of animals are engaged in the event, not one of the Derby or Oaks placed lot having been entered. Lord Durham will very likely win with his filly Drip, by Barcaldine out of Drizzle, who has been specially prepared for this race. Lord Derby will be near winning the Stockton Handicap with Dingle Bay, who is very well in; and Mr. Lambton has a good chance of securing the Steward's Cup with Red Hat, as the horses engaged in that race are a very moderate lot. Son o' Mine is fully prepared to run for the Stockton Handicap, but Lord Durham's beast cannot now be trusted to do his best. He has grievously degenerated since his two-year-old days.

The richest event in the Stockton programme is the Durham County Breeders' Produce Plate of £1,250, for which event there were originally 117 entries, and sixty-four three-year-olds are left in. They are a very bad lot;

the best being Nicholas, Amaryllis, Serfdom, and Nenemoosha; their previous running at Stockton and also at Redcar should indicate the winner of this race.

I hear that Nouveau Riche is to run for the Great Fakenham Stakes on the 17th, and it will be interesting to see whether he can beat Regret over this course, which is three-quarters of a mile further than the best distance of the Duke of Westminster's colt. There is no object in reserving Nouveau Riche for the Leger, as he can have no chance for that race while the favourites are well.

IS THE "PRO." WORTHY OF HIS HIRE?

There seems to have been a lot of unnecessary excitement over the conduct of the five professional cricketers who refused to play except on certain terms for England against Australia. In the absence of the publication of the actual correspondence between the parties, all that took place appears to have been that the five men were invited, without any conditions being named, to play, and they said they would if they were paid £20 for the match and expenses. Thereupon the Committee of the Surrey C.C., in high dudgeon, wire to other men, who agree to play on the ordinary terms of £10 for the match and expenses. At the same time, the papers are placarded with "Strike of English Professionals," and in most cases a tirade of editorial wrath is poured upon their benighted heads, and many correspondents have written asking me to give them, the cricketers, a bit of my mind. I am ready and willing to do so. The facts I have stated are drawn from a bare official letter. The arguments used against the professionals are that by not speaking until the last moment they have attempted to corner and coerce the Committee; that they should have chosen some more opportune moment for speaking; that their conduct, especially in the case of Lohmann, who has recently had a benefit, is very unsportsmanlike; that their demands were not couched in a sufficiently deferential tone, and finally that the Surrey C.C. was bound on principle to reject the demands.

Now to deal with these arguments in their order. First, as to the charge of coercing, it must be borne in mind that the invitation to play was only received on the Saturday week before the match, and as soon as it did come the reply of the players was at once despatched. What else could the players do? If they had intimated that they expected certain terms before an invitation came the obvious answer would have been, "Wait until you are asked. It is scandalous that the players of England should take up the position you have done and practically select yourselves for the team." They asked for the terms to which they considered themselves entitled as soon as they possibly could do so. This first argument is, in short, about as rotten as the next one that they should have chosen some other time for speaking. Goodness only knows when they ought to have spoken. The fact that no one considers the remuneration they ask excessive is evidence of their extreme moderation in not asking before, and it is obvious from what has been said that they could not have asked before so far as this, the final test match, is concerned. These considerations dispose at once of the charge of unsportsmanlike conduct. As to Lohmann, his benefit was a well-deserved reward for work done, and it is extremely unsportsmanlike to regard it as a reward for favours to come, and to make it a basis for refusing him and others the payment that is their due. The last argument—that of principle—is advanced in all seriousness by the Surrey Committee and Mr. Alcock, their secretary. Apparently the principle of loyalty to other clubs is the basis of this argument. It is said that if they had offered other terms than those given in the other matches, they would have been accused of attempting to buy over players. I suppose Surrey, with its large means, has never been able to buy, nor has, in fact, ever been guilty of buying other players. The argument will not hold water. The only antagonism would have been with the clubs that have the test matches on their grounds. Are the M.C.C. and the Lancashire County so near the brink of bankruptcy that they could not have afforded the same terms, and would have been ruined by the opulent generosity of the Surrey Club? Really, one would have expected more reasonable arguments to justify the tirade of abuse that these players have been subjected to. The fact that they have since put themselves in the hands of the Committee merely shows that, rather than let the English team be weakened they are perhaps willing to forego their just demands. Their case is a very strong one. There is not the least doubt that they are paid, on the £10 scale, less than many amateurs receive either in cash payments for expenses or by holding sinecure offices. How much, too, will the Australian amateurs pocket by the tour and by the big gates at these test games? The "pros." have to make their living and put something by in a comparatively short lifetime. Considering the big gates they draw they are not over paid. In a representative match about which so much is written, and over which the public both here and in the colonies is most excited, the final and deciding game of the three test games, it is surely not too much to expect that the "pros." should receive generous treatment. As compared with this game, the other two played at Lord's and Manchester sink into insignificance. Cricket is with these men their business and their livelihood. Test their position by the same test you would apply to any other man in any other walk in life whom you employ to do something for you. The affair is an important one, and whether it be a case in the law courts or a piece of business to be negotiated in the City or an operation to be performed by a surgeon, your ordinary business instincts tell you that you must pay your leader, surgeon, or City man handsomely if you want the best of his skill, time, or attention. It is the same with these "pros." They will, no doubt, do their best. But the knowledge that they are being well treated cannot but fail to have a beneficial effect. Association Cup teams are very differently treated. Every "pro." who played deserved his £20.

These so-called strikers acted like business men. They were asked to play, no terms being mentioned. They at once replied saying they would on certain terms, which no one has considered unreasonable or excessive. To attempt, therefore, to justify the conduct of the Surrey Committee for its promptitude in getting others to play is clearly ridiculous. I have small respect for any "principle" that involves the refusal of an admittedly just demand. Perhaps the tone of the "pros'." letter was not so deferential as the communications which the Surrey Committee are accustomed to have addressed to them on all occasions; for example, when their fellow-members criticised their ruling that no football should be played on the ground. In consequence of which decision their printer sued the club in the County Court for damages. The claim, except as to amount, was in law irresistible. But the committee had to go to the County Court before they did what they protested they were always so anxious to do, namely, only what was just and fair, and then they consented to a verdict against them for £25 and costs. If there be any truth in the saying *Ex uno disce omnes*, one cannot, from that example, be very favourably impressed by the tact of a committee which, at all events, in the case under consideration, never saw the men whose demands they admit to be reasonable, but which they, on principle, refused.

Additional facts which have come to light since the foregoing was written show that after the match at Lord's a request for further remuneration was made and refused. After the game at Manchester Abel and Richardson asked for five pounds for expenses. This request has not been acceded to, and the letter containing it was not considered until the Thursday before the final game. In the meanwhile no hint was given that its form was unsuitable. What tact this shows! Finally it is proved that the

Spa, Belgium.—*Cercle des Etrangers*, with Roulette, &c. For details apply to Secretary. Racing, tennis, and pigeon shooting. Theatre and concerts. Superb bathing establishment.

"pros." are paid no more than certain amateurs receive for expenses. All of which strengthens the "pros.'" case enormously.

No wonder the partisans of Essex are triumphant. People thought their victory over Yorkshire a fluke, but now there is the little victory over Surrey to be explained away. Fane played most correctly, and the experience he is gaining is standing him in good stead. Russell hit vigorously, and Owen batted most steadily. Then the bowling of Mead and Bull, backed up by as good fielding as one could wish to see, settled the Surrey men. No wonder the crowd went wild with delight; and if the financial position of the club is not now assured, there are no sportsmen in Essex. Certainly my Essex friend is justified. At the beginning of the season he wrote: "You may smile, but we shall be much higher up than many think." Gloucester have every reason to be pleased. Grace made a huge score against Sussex. It is twenty years since he made 300 in a first-class match, and this gave his team a victory. The Middlesex men, for whom O'Brien played two good innings, and Lucas at last showed his old form, looked like making a draw. But Jessop hit tremendously hard and won the match. Sewell and Champain, the Cheltenham boy, also played excellent innings, and the latter's hitting all round the wicket showed great promise. The Canterbury week was not a success for Kent. At the same time there was some good cricket. The fine innings of Rashleigh and Mason made Lancashire follow on, and then MacLaren showed his best form, and was not out with a big score, the game being a draw. Against the Australians the county batting was disappointing, Burnup alone doing anything worth mentioning. Of course Trott had won the toss, and the team gave its usual exhibition of batting strength, Jones's hitting being most vigorous. Then Trumble's bowling proved fatal, and the Colonists kept their unbeaten record in county games with ease.

At the council meeting of the Football Association it was decided that in cup competitions disputes shall be referred to the council, and that each club may call witnesses, but no barrister or solicitor shall represent a club at the hearing of a protest unless he be the secretary of the club concerned. No doubt, the Bar Committee and the Incorporated Law Society will at once make representations to the Lord Chancellor as to this unwarrantable limitation on their services. At the same time enterprising but briefless juniors might apply for secretaryships to these larger clubs, and, no doubt, their services would soon be worth a large retainer.

The report of the Amateur Athletic Association meeting, at which Bradley, Downer, and Bacon were suspended for receiving cash payment, is not pleasant reading. At the same time, in justice to the men themselves, further details should be given. All the public is told is that well-known northern clubs and five or six well-known London clubs paid moneys. Blair's defence was that he was only nineteen, and, being offered money to run in London by honorary secretaries of prominent metropolitan clubs, he did not think he was doing wrong in taking it. He was then reinstated as an amateur. But who were these honorary secretaries? They are the real offenders, because they hold the money bags. They are well known. But neither they nor their clubs are suspended. It is farcical to whitewash the devil and whip the sinner. But this is exactly what the A.A.A. is doing.

The Royal Yacht Squadron produced its annual farce in the squadron race for the Queen's Cup. It is true *Meteor* and *Britannia* entered, but then the handicap is framed to give all yachts, save the mark, a chance. The result was *Mohawk* won with eighty minutes start. It was in a pretty piece of work to windward that the Prince's yacht beat the German Emperor's, which next day lost her bowsprit, but as all the other yachts mistook the sailing instructions the race was off. This in the way of blunders was a remarkable coincidence. In the other races *Ailsa* with a good whole sail wind more than held her own with *Britannia*.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The hopes which had been rife in some quarters that matters would improve to some extent after the Bank holiday have been disappointed, chiefly owing to another of those disagreeable accidents which sometimes alter the whole course of the market. A heavy failure in Chicago furnished fresh evidence of the dangerous condition into which the United States are drifting, and it appears to have knocked away some of the chief supports of the Yankee market, already weakened by the dismal prospect of the Presidential election and the precarious position of the currency question.

The Position on the Stock Exchange.

The firm of Moore Brothers, of Chicago, would, no doubt, have come to grief sooner or later. This has ever been the fate of daring speculators who monopolise some particular stock, and rig it to an absurd price. In the present instance the growing discouragement with regard to the political future of the country, and the consequent aggravation of the financial position, sufficed to prick the bubble. It could hardly have burst at a worse moment, in view of the holiday season and of the utter indisposition to undertake new commitments at present prevailing. The complete demoralisation which followed in the Yankee market, and which culminated in a fall of the active list of prices 2 to 7 dols., has unfortunately affected the whole of the other markets adversely—unduly so, to my mind. Why should Home Rails, with improved dividends and excellent traffics, follow the lead of Yankee Rails? Why should the Kaffir Circus be troubled by this American collapse, when affairs in the Transvaal generally are mending, and an important increase in the output of the Witwatersrand mines is only a question of months? Foreigners have a little trouble of their own in the shape of the upheaval in Crete. But the Eastern Question has always been with us, and there is every prospect of the difficulty being again patched up without any fear of the disruption of the effete Ottoman Empire just yet. With other South Americans, Argentines have eased off, although the gold premium is lower, and the unification scheme is now certain to become law. The fact is that the American scare has caused a number of timid operators to throw over their holdings of other securities prior to the settlement, and, unless other untoward events should happen, a marked recovery may be anticipated in all stocks which are not directly affected by the *débacle* in the States. The West Australian market, by the way, has withstood the various weakening influences remarkably well, and an active business has in many instances been accompanied by a rise in prices. It is needless to say that the unusually promising position of the gold-mining industry in that colony fully justifies this manifestation of exceptional strength.

Home Rails Unduly Depressed.

If there were in existence a big "Bull" account in American Railroad stocks one could understand a sympathetic downward movement in Home Rails. But the account in Yankees is unusually small, and the position of Home Rails is remarkably favourable. The announcements of the North Western dividend at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum, against $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. last year, and of the Great Western dividend at the rate of $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. against $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. last year have just completed the list of favourable dividends, and both were fully up to expectations. It is true that prices have experienced a marked advance, owing to a strong investment demand, but the causes which produced this demand, the dearth of good investment stocks, and the plethora of money continue in operation. Again, something like £900,000 more is available for distribution as dividend on the Ordinary stocks of the English and

Irish lines than for the first half of 1895, and traffics are still showing considerable increases, although the comparison is now with better returns in 1895. Least of all can I consider the relapse in Brighton "A" and Dover "A" as justified, and I have no doubt that these stocks will recover sharply in the near future. The reaction in the stocks of the Heavy lines was in part due to the disappointment felt by certain operators at the abstention on the part of the Directors of the North-Western and Great Western Companies from any remark concerning the splitting of the stocks in question. The subject is to be brought up at the North Western meeting, but present indications seem to show that a great deal of pressure will yet have to be exercised upon the respective Boards before they will accede to the wishes of that section of the shareholders which is so strongly in favour of the sub-division of stocks. Interest now chiefly centres in the Scotch stocks, as their fiscal year has come to an end, and dividend announcements may shortly be expected. I have repeatedly pointed out that the Caledonian and North British have both done exceedingly well. The Caledonian increase for the six months amounted to £107,212, that of the North British to £96,649, so that a substantial increase in the dividend for the past half-year is assured. Now that the issue of new Caledonian stock has been announced, and the amount issued is shown to be small, the only unfavourable feature affecting these lines has passed away. Again, the opening of the Central Glasgow Railway will greatly improve matters, and "Coras" (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary) might easily have an important rise. Why North British Deferred should lag behind at about 50 is one of those things no "fellah" can understand. There is, I am told, no immediate intention of issuing new North British stock, while dividend prospects are very good indeed. I maintain the view that there is more room for a rise of a good many points in North British Deferred than in "Coras." For the last ten days the passenger traffic on both lines has been enormous, and I am told on very good authority that it will be good (even with last year's traffic to compare with) for the whole of this month. Dividend estimates in the current issue of the *Glasgow Herald* put the Caledonian dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 5½ per cent., as against 4½ per cent. for the corresponding half of 1895. The same authority estimates the North British dividend for this period at the rate of 5¼ per cent., as against 4 per cent. for the first half-year of 1895.

The Collapse in Yankee Rails.

I have for some time expressed the opinion that the unsettled condition of the American Railroad market would continue up to the Presidential election. I also said last week that the time for making speculative purchases had hardly come, as political accidents might any day counteract a moderate advance, which had then come about. This anticipation has only too soon been fulfilled through the failure of Moore Bros., of Chicago, which appears to have disorganised the Chicago Stock Exchange, thereby giving the Grangers a knockdown blow, which has brought Milwaukee down to 62⅝, against the highest price touched this year of 81⅝. Again, Louisville have been down below 40, as against 56¾, the highest price reached during the present year; while other declines, although perhaps not in the same proportion, are heavy enough in all conscience. I have said all along, when commenting upon the remarks of my New York contemporaries, who were relying so much upon the alleged London purchase of American stocks, that these were not effected for account of the public here, but were chiefly transfers of stock from New York, so as to create the impression that English investors were buying. The only exception of which I know was the operations of the South Africans hailing from the Angel Court Club. These gentlemen have, however, been so well peppered in their attempt to retrieve their fortunes in Yankee Rails, that they are not likely to touch them again for a good long time to come. The market is at present receiving a very severe shake-out, and the demoralisation is so great, that even the big houses are afraid to interfere. It is, moreover, their policy to give the Democratic politicians, who are responsible for the general collapse, a severe object-lesson. While I still consider investment purchases inadvisable, I yet would strongly urge holders of American stocks not to throw them away now, as we cannot be far from bottom quotations in most stocks now. The 'Bears" have, moreover, become so venturesome, that they run the risk of being caught some day. In the meantime the bankers in New York, who are doing their utmost to maintain the Treasury reserve, may be considered as good men struggling with adversity. What would have become of the market without their aid it is difficult to say, as the strain on the stock market was becoming intense, and something was needed to check the flood of liquidation, which unfortunately, however, has now again broken all bounds. Canadian Pacifics have suffered with the Yankee Market, although not in the same proportion, and have so far dropped to 56½; while Grand Trunks have displayed great steadiness amidst the general slump.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The Foreign market has been chiefly affected by fears that the Cretan difficulty might assume large proportions, and bring about a general international scare. There is, however, so far nothing in the attitude of any of the great Powers to indicate a wish on their part to force a disruption of the Ottoman Empire, and it is probable that the evil day will again be postponed. All the same, I should be very sorry to hold Turks to any extent, as they must sooner or later experience a very severe spasm. Ottoman Banks have also been under a cloud, and the speculation in Rio Tinto has suffered another collapse. Spain is again in the throes of a financial dilemma, brought on by the very heavy expense of the insurrection in Cuba, and the only surprise to me is that Spanish still maintain themselves at 62⅞. The weakness in interbourse securities has also spread to Argentine Government stocks, notwithstanding the further fall in the gold premium in Buenos Ayres to 176, and the passing of the unification scheme of the Argentine debt. Uruguay bonds are also lower at 49⅛, and the new Five per Cent. loan, which has now received a settlement and a quotation, stands at 69 for the scrip all paid, at which it is a remarkably cheap investment. Mexican Sixes have also eased off slightly, and there has been no movement in the various Central and South American rubbish stocks. Even Colombians remain at 18½ only, although it is reported that the proposed settlement of the Colombian debt is based upon the capitalisation of the overdue coupons in full, and the issue of new bonds in exchange for the old bonds to the amount of the latter. It is almost too good to be true, and there would always be the fear that the interest on the new bonds might at any time stop again.

Stagnation in the Kaffir Circus.

It may be assumed that the holiday season is in part at least responsible for the continued stagnation of the Kaffir Circus, which certainly is not justified by the present position in the Transvaal, which is distinctly improving. President Kruger has given further proof of his intention to introduce the necessary reforms, as the Volksraad has passed the new Bill making provision for the education of Uitlanders' children in their home language. Again, the principle of the Rand Municipality Bill has been approved by the Volksraad, and the measure prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to the natives has become law. If the Transvaal Government continues in this path of reform, it will greatly benefit the country and stimulate the mining industry, while gradually extinguishing the smouldering discontent. A fresh sagging movement in South African gold mines has been ascribed to the semi-panic in Yankee Rails; but this would be a most illogical movement. The Wall-street papers have all

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

along taunted the English financial journals with being in the pay of the South African financiers to run down American stocks, so as to induce English investors to give preference to the Kaffir Circus If, therefore, Yankee Rails should become yet more unpopular, it would naturally follow that South Africans would not suffer by the movement. Mr. B. I. Barnato's return to London has not so far benefited the Barnato group of stocks, and he has been singularly reticent as regards any communications to the Press, or other public utterances. In due time, no doubt, he will speak out, but he evidently proposes to choose his own time and place. Holding the view as I do, that sooner or later, and undoubtedly in the course of the present year, a strong recovery will take place in sound South African mining and land shares, I can only advise my readers to stick tight to such shares and where possible to average the same. This applies more especially to such Barnato stocks as New Primrose, Glencairn, Buffelsdoorn, Rietfontein, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Banks, Barnato Consols, as well as to the leading stocks of the Robinson group, such as Randfontein and Langlaagte Estate. It also applies to all the well-known dividend-paying mines on the Rand; and certainly includes, as I have said on several occasions, Knights, now quoted 6⅛. Of this mine I find that the *Statist* gives some interesting particulars, in the course of which the opinion is expressed that it will attain to a leading position on the Rand. The auriferous ground consists of 443 main reef claims, and at £7 per share the property is valued at only £5,000 per claim. Sixty stamps will be at work in a month's time, and a second sixty have been ordered, and are expected to be running about the end of the present year. From the Woodstock (Transvaal) very favourable advices are to hand. A well-known engineer has just visited the mine, and expressed the opinion that it will prove one of the richest mines of the district, and will eventually rival the celebrated Sheba. Oceana shares have been steady at 1 5/16, pending the consummation of the amalgamation. Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, on the other hand, have been flat at 11 9/16, and the whole of the Wernher-Beit group, seems to be in a depressed condition. I dare say there is good reason for this state of things, and I certainly do not think that the explanation suggested in certain quarters can be correct—viz., that the big financiers connected with this group want to freeze out the weak holders. Rand Mines are down to 29⅛, and East Rands have dropped to 6 11/16. This is still a very high price when it is considered that the real merit of the properties owned by this concern is a matter of great doubt; and that so far the New Comet is the only sub-Company which has reached the crushing stage. But even in this case the 23,000 tons crushed yielded an average of but little over 11 dwt. of gold per ton, against the estimate of 13½ dwt. The East Rand Company is, moreover, compelled to raise more money, especially for the financing of the subsidiary Companies. With reference to the Bantjes Deep I have already expressed an unfavourable opinion, which is confirmed by the following letter which I have received from a correspondent in South Africa, who signs himself "M. E.":—

Roodepoort, S.A.R.,
July 4, 1896.

Sir,—Kindly allow me through the columns of Truth to give investors a few particulars with reference to the "Bantjes Deep, Limited." This ground is situated between the "Marie Rose" and "Marie Louise" mines, and over a mile from the outcrop of the main reef. As the working capital is only £100,000 (about sufficient to equip an outcrop Company), I conclude they intend working the reefs outcropping on the property, none of which are payable. Through this property runs the low-grade reefs known as the "Kimberley Series," which is very much broken up here, and in places disappears altogether; in fact, there is hardly 100 ft. of reef without a break. Several prospecting shafts have been sunk on this reef, two or three over 100 ft., and drives put in from which samples were taken, which assayed something under 2 dwt. per ton. This would never pay to work, if treated direct by cyanide; the working expenses would be at leaft 3½ dwt. per ton. About 9,000 ft. south of the main reef the so-called "Red Reef" outcrops on this ground, which was formerly worked by a French syndicate. After sinking and driving for over two years on this reef, they threw it up as worthless; the remains of their workmen's quarters, &c., are still visible. The best assay I ever obtained from a picked sample of this reef was 3 dwt. On the west of this ground there is a prospecting cutting, about 800 ft. N.S. and 10 ft. deep, which cuts about six banket reefs, one only of which shows traces of gold. Should the Directors of this concern have the temerity to sink for the main reef on their ground, they might, by a little perseverance and a few re-constructions, reach it in about ten years. The working capital they have in hand might possibly pay for timbering.

If the statements made by my correspondent are borne out by results, the promoters and shareholders of the Bantjes Deep will certainly not be the recipients of any congratulations. The increase of the capital of the Anglo-French Exploration Company by the issue of £350,000 in Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, is now notified; and amalgamations and further issues of capital are quite a feature at the present juncture. In some cases this strengthening of resources is doubtless justified; in others it will merely be throwing good money after bad. Chartered shares have again fluctuated, and at somewhere above 2½ inside support is apparently being given. While I should be sorry to advise a purchase of these gambling counters, I should not be one whit surprised if the shares were, on any favourable developments in Rhodesia, to be hoisted by the wirepullers, who can do pretty well what they like with them. In view of a number of options which are running at present, it would, in fact, be extremely incautious to make "Bear" sales. Sales for Paris account have again been a source of weakness in the Kaffir Circus. They seem to betoken a further weeding-out of the weak elements, which should in due time prove a source of strength to the market generally. I have recently had a conversation with some of the leading French operators, who took a very favourable view, and expressed their conviction that when once the trouble in Rhodesia was over, some big French buying will come along again. It is to be hoped that our French neighbours will not wait too long with their purchases, or else they will certainly miss their opportunity. With reference to the Chartered Company, it is being continually asserted that Messrs. Rhodes and Beit had agreed to make a very generous sacrifice by bearing the cost of the war in Rhodesia and of compensation of the mining companies, &c., in connection with the struggle, and to take over the liability of the Company concerning the indemnity to the Transvaal. It might be as well that these two gentlemen should openly state their determination to make this sacrifice, or the reverse, so as to dispose of these rumours one way or the other. Amongst new Companies in which it is sought to interest the public is the Hex River Exploration Company, which appears to hold certain property in the Heidelburg district, and the capital of which has recently been raised to £160,000. This concern is, of course, entirely *en l'air*, and this is also more or less the case with the Daspoort Proprietary Syndicate and the French Rand Gold Mining Company, to which attention is being drawn by interested parties. I have received a number of complaints from shareholders in the Umtoli Reefs and Abercorn Reefs (which are sub-Companies of the unfortunate African Gold Concessions Company), concerning a communication which they have received from the Secretary, giving notice that, unless they pay on or before the 18th inst. the final call of 1s. per share, the shares will be forfeited. Why do not the shareholders in these two Companies at once combine to resist this demand, and institute a thorough investigation of the whole history of these concerns? Just as the shareholders of the African Gold Concessions took matters in their own hands and turned out the objectionable Directors, so the shareholders in these two Companies ought to take immediate steps to save what they can out of the wreck; and this last call should certainly not be entrusted to the Directors before a thorough investigation has been made. If some of the leading shareholders will undertake to act for the others, I should be pleased to place my various correspondents in communication with them. By the way, one of

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

my correspondents who became a shareholder in the Umtoli Gold Reefs Company, on the urgent and glowing representations of a Mr. Arthur Reis, stock and share broker, Broad-street House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C., has sent me a whole collection of the communications upon which he finally took those shares; and he directs my attention also to the strong puffs which Mr. Arthur Reis now devotes to Doric Gold Mines, Limited. He suggests that if these are no better than Umtoli, investors had better keep their money in their pockets. Diamond shares have also caught the infection, and are distinctly weaker, De Beers being quoted 29¼, New Jagersfontein 10½. The strongest shares in this section are Leicester Diamonds and New Bulfontein. By the way, I hear favourably of a new Transvaal Coal Company, called the Penshaw Collieries, which has acquired properties on the Molteno coalfields. A number of Kimberley and London capitalists have combined to take this property up, which seems to be one of considerable promise. Since writing the above, the figures of the output of the Witwatersrand Mines for July have been published, and they show that the total of 203,873 oz. marks another record, being 300 oz. more than the previous highest return, and 10,233 oz. above the June output. Some of the individual crushings just issued are also very favourable. The New Primrose production for July was 10,752 oz. against 9,786 oz. in June; the Glencairn yielded 3,824 oz. against 3,468 oz. in June; the New Crœsus 2,577 oz. against 2,454 oz. in the preceding month. Again, the output of the Langlaagte Estate was 9,253 oz. against 9,131 oz. in June; the Langlaagte Block B yielded 3,075 oz. against 2,511 oz.; and the Langlaagte Star 1,816 oz. against 1,491 oz. in June. It is evident that the more favourable conditions prevailing in the Transvaal, to which I have repeatedly drawn attention, are already bearing fruit.

Golden West Australia.

The one exception to the general weakness which settled upon the markets as a consequence of the collapse of American Rails, and of the general holiday feeling, has been that for West Australian gold mines. Nor is this to be wondered at! Mail after mail brings the most encouraging advices as regards new discoveries and the development of the existing mines; while a number of cablegrams came to hand during the past week announcing excellent crushing returns. That is the one thing which the public had been waiting for. It naturally takes some time before an important goldfield can make large returns, and in the case of Western Australia especially, there were great difficulties of transport and water to be got over. This is now being accomplished, and actual results will gradually and surely creep up; while the measure which has just been approved of by the West Australian Assembly, authorising the expenditure of £2,500,000 in connection with the Government scheme for the supply of water to the Coolgardie Goldfield, will eventually develop the resources of that field on an enormous scale. The crushings are now supplying the missing link for which the public had been waiting, and with actual results confirming the favourable views which had been expressed, the way is now open for a very active and favourable market movement. Amongst the crushings which may be considered extremely satisfactory is one of the Ivanhoe Gold Mining Company of 210 tons yielding 1,420 oz., the tailings assaying 16½ dwt. per ton. The Island Queen mine of the British Coolgardie Company has obtained from 2 tons 15 cwt. of ore as much as 444 oz. The Maori (Menzies) mine obtained 200 oz. from 63 tons, and the Great Boulder Proprietary has again had a fortnightly crushing of 847 tons for 2,773 oz. From the Gimlet Lease of the Ninety-Mile Proprietary Gold Mine there was a crushing of 130 tons for 122 oz., and 75 tons on the Ashbourne Gold Mine of the West Australian Mining Company have yielded 115 oz. of gold. On the Star of the West 33 tons are stated to have yielded 914 oz. Thus, the production is gradually extending, and although the export in July from Western Australia was only moderate, it is evident that the next few months will show much larger figures. What is greatly wanted is that a regular return of the production of each goldfield should be made monthly by the Wardens, and I trust that the Minister of Mines, who is, I am fully aware, doing his utmost to facilitate the development of the goldfields, will give instructions for such regular statements. A great feature of the week has been a further advance in Lake View Consols to £9. My readers will remember that I strongly recommended a purchase of these shares four or five weeks ago at 4, and again a fortnight ago at 6½. There is now every prospect of a further important rise, in view of the very favourable developments at this mine. The engineer in charge, Mr. Charles Kaufman, has cabled a further crushing of 390 tons for 1,266 oz. on the ten-stamp mill running fifteen days; and I hear that it is proposed, in view of the additional enormous deposits of gold which have been discovered there, to increase the stamping power to 100 stamps. The latest news is to the effect that in the shaft, a distance of 500 ft. away and quite distinct from present workings, at a depth of 108 ft. they have struck a large body of ore in the crosscut, 40 ft. in width, 5 ft. of which runs 8 oz. to the ton. It is not surprising that under these circumstances there is a talk of the shares going to £15. Mainland Consols of the same group are now quoted 3 7/16, Paddington Consols stand at 2, Golden Crown at 2⅛, Wealth of Nations at 1⅜. Another splendid crushing of the Mainland Consols of 295 tons for 1,422 oz. has just been announced. On my statement concerning the large profits made by the London and Globe Finance Company out of the Lake View deal, these shares have risen to 4⅜, and West Australian Exploring and Finance are but little lower at 4¼. I still hold the view that Hannan's Golden Group and Hannan's Golden Treasure, both quoted at 1 9/16, have the best chance of a sharp advance in the Whitaker Wright group. The Venture Syndicate has, I hear, also been very active of late in Western Australia, and a good deal will be heard of new Companies issued under their auspices before the end of the year. They have acquired some valuable properties in the Joker and Lake Darlôt districts, one of which, I am told, will prove as rich as the Joker itself. Under these circumstances, it appears to me that the shares of the various Exploration Companies connected with the Syndicate would well pay for picking up. The amalgamation of the Bayley's Reward with Bayley's No. 1 South, Bayley's No. 1 North, and Ford's Hill Leases, does not appear to produce any enthusiasm. The question is whether the £36,000, which will be obtained under the scheme as working capital, will be large enough, considering the extent of the area of the new combination. At last week's meeting of shareholders of the London and Western Australian Investment Company some very favourable statements were made; and Mr. C. A. Moreing more especially sang the praises of the Hannan's district, also of the Hannan's Brownhill, and of the dry process which he has perfected there. It remains, however, to be seen whether this process will come to the front as "the survival of the fittest." There is another claimant in the field in the shape of the Atomic Reduction process, of which Mr. Goodman, of the W.A. (Gold District) Trading Syndicate, spoke so very favourably at the recent meeting of shareholders; and I dare say we shall hear of a good many more dry processes. The Cardiff Castle Gold Mine reports that they have started crushing. This has been hitherto a silent mine, and it is to be hoped that results will be sufficiently favourable to deserve publication. The shares of the W.A. Joint Stock Trust group have been steady, the shares of the parent Company standing at 3⅜ premium, the Founders' shares at 52½. Associated Gold Mines of Western Australia have also improved to 3⅝, and Associated Southern are quoted 1⅝. Whenever the Northern Territories Company makes its appearance, this group will doubtless brace up. The Stoneham

Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
Ernest Irroy & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

group has been quiet, but when Mr. Stoneham returns from the short stay at the seaside which was necessitated by his recent indisposition, these shares should also go ahead, notably West Australian Goldfields now quoted 9⅛. Amongst low-priced shares which might be picked up with great advantage, I may mention Gladiators, now quoted ⅞ to 1, and Princess Royal, 7s. 9d. West Australian Gold Concessions have been firm at 1¾. The manager reports as follows concerning Meteor (Black Flag), Limited:—"A very large amount of work has been done upon a very fine-looking solid reef. The men are at present driving along its course, and a rich chute may be struck at any time." The Burbank's Birthday Gift Mine has crushed 130 tons for 360 oz., exclusive of tailings, in a fortnight with the four-stamp hired battery. This should also prove encouraging for the Burbank's North and Burbank's Consols Mines. Advices from Hannan's Lode and Hicks's Gold Mines are also satisfactory. In the latter a rich reef has been opened, the stone going up to 10 oz. to the ton. At the statutory meeting of the Kurnalpi Gold Exploration and Development Company satisfactory statements were made concerning the development work which is being carried out, gold having been struck in three shafts. It will thus be seen that all the news from the goldfields points to a very satisfactory state of things, to great auriferous wealth, and numerous as well as permanent reefs. The prospectus of the Hill End Consols, Limited, which I mentioned some weeks ago as about to be placed before the public, has now been issued by the West Australian Trust, Limited. The lease of about twenty-four acres acquired is situated in the vicinity of the famous Hill End Mine, and adjoins the well-known Pride of the Arrow mine. It is, in fact, in the neighbourhood of some very successful mines, while an average sample taken by Mr. Fearby is stated to have yielded 5 oz. of gold to the ton. A good deal of development work has already been done, and I am told that the issue has been well received. The fact that £25,000 has been reserved for working capital is satisfactory. The Board of Directors is influential and businesslike. By the way, it may be stated that Mr. T. Harrison Davis, who is the Managing Director of the West Australian Trust, has, after arduous exertions, piloted the Trust (which had temporarily suffered by the decease of Mr. W. F. Thompson) into smooth waters; and it is fully expected that it will prove the success which had originally been anticipated when it was formed. I hear that the Gold Lands, Limited, has carried out some excellent strokes of business in connection with West Australian mines. In addition to the Hannan's Kalgoorlie, it has recently successfully floated the Mona Gold Mine, Limited, and also another property in connection with the West Australian Goldfields. The shares are at present quoted from ⅜ to ½ premium, but in view of the ample profits already secured, a much higher price would be justified. I should like to say a word with reference to the practice which some promoters connected with the West Australian market are making of touting for underwriting by circulars offering very large underwriting commissions. I know of a recent case where as much as 35 per cent was offered to underwriters; and not only do such practices throw discredit upon the whole of the market, but they also defeat the objects of the promoters, as they throw doubt upon the merit of concerns which require such heavy commissions to be floated. I have before me circulars issued by the London and Westralian Mines and Finance Agency, Limited, sending prospectus, underwriting letter, and application forms, for the North Star Gold Mines, Limited, in which 10 per cent. in cash and 10 per cent. in fully-paid shares is offered as commission for underwriting. I should also think that in this instance such circulars would not achieve the object for which they were intended.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

The Indian section shares with the West Australian market the distinction of having shown a strong front, notwithstanding the surrounding depression. When the excellent crushings for July are considered, it is indeed surprising that prices have not advanced more. Mysore Gold are firmer at 8⅛, Champion Reefs at 7⅞, Nundydroog at 3 9/16. Coromandel have been strong throughout at 2⅛, and Mysore Goldfields, which had been temporarily neglected, are also firming up at 25s. The two last-named shares have all the possibilities of a big rise in them. Amongst Australian mines (other than West Australian) dealings have not been active. Aladdins have, however, been firmer at 1⅞, and Wentworth Proprietary are quiet at ⅞ to 1. In Charters Towers shares Day Dawn Block have improved, while Day Dawn P.C. have eased off. British Broken Hill are firmer at 15/16, and in Broken Hill Proprietary business has been transacted up to 2½. Croydon Consols are in favour at 5s. 3d. to 5s. 6d., and it is understood that crushing is proceeding uninterruptedly. In fact, a circular just issued gives the last return as 263 tons for 1,306 oz., or 5 oz. to the ton, and announces another dividend of 3d. per share, while in future it is intended to declare dividends of 6d. only. Mount Lyell have eased off to 7⅞, but other Tasmanian Mines have been firm, notably Curtin Davis and Mount Reid. New Zealand Mines have moved irregularly; Waihi Silverton being firmer at 2⅝, Woodstock at 2¼, Hauraki at 18s. 6d., while Waihi, Tokatea, and Thames Hauraki have eased off. In the General Foreign section, De Lamar, La Yesca, and Golden Feather have improved, but Linares, Pestarena, Burma Ruby, and Victory are down. At the statutory meeting of the Lucky Guess Mine, Mr. Samuel Jennings was able to make some very favourable statements as regards this Cripple Creek property, good dividends being apparently in sight.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Hill End Consols, Limited.—This Company proposes to acquire, further develop, and work the Hill End Consols Mine, consisting of about twenty-four acres, held on a lease from the West Australian Government. The property is situated in the Broad Arrow district of the Coolgardie Goldfields (W.A.), and the capital is £125,000 in £1 shares, of which £25,000 will be reserved for working capital; while the necessary working capital has been guaranteed.

This property is situated about half a mile to the east of the famous Hill End Mine, and to the north and adjoining the block is the well-known "Pride of the Arrow," the reef of which, according to Mr. Fearby's report, goes through the centre of the Hill End Consols. The same engineer states that from a shaft sunk on the Hill End Consols to a depth of 70 ft. an average sample of the lode gives 5 oz. to the ton, and that the stone obtained on the adjoining property gives as much as 9 oz. 15 dwt. per ton. This is, therefore, evidently a mine of considerable promise.

The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company (France), Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the whole of the assets and undertaking known as "La Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop," which is the most prosperous of the subsidiary Companies established by the Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited. The following are the agreements which have been secured for the use of Dunlop tyres exclusively in France:—La Société des Cycles Gladiator, including Phebus, for twenty years; Humber & Co., Limited, Rue de Quatre Septembre, Paris, for five years; The Coventry Machinist's Company, for ten years; the Singer Cycle Company, Limited, for eight years; the John Griffiths Cycle Corporation, Limited, for eight years; the Trent Cycle Company, Limited, for eight years. The share capital is £650,000, in shares of £1 each.

This Company comes before the public under the same auspices as its parent, the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited, the Directors being both influential and capable. This French business has been greatly fostered by M. Adolphe Clément, the oldest and largest cycle manufacturer in France, and M. Clément's support has been assured. The total sum paid in royalties since the first introduction of the business in France is stated to be £64,129 9s. 2d. The profits are to be derived both from the large cycle works at Levallois-Perret (Seine), and from the carriage-tyre department; and in view of the great popularity enjoyed by the Dunlop tyre in France, and the ever-increasing demand for cycles in that country,

where the movement in favour of cycling is quite as strong as in this country, the new French Dunlop Company should prove successful. The capital is under the circumstances moderate, and there is every prospect that it will be largely over-subscribed.

The Anglo-French Motor Carriage Company, Limited (Roger's System).—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and taking over as a going concern the established business of E. Roger & Co., as at present carried on at 52, Rue des Dames, and 4 and 6, Rue Mariotte, Paris, for the construction of motors for application to all types of mechanical carriages, and for extending the existing works in France.

The Goldfields of Mexico, Limited.—With a capital of £100,000 in shares of £1 each. This Company has been formed to carry on business as a promoting, financial, and mining company. Its first enterprise will be to purchase and deal with the auriferous district of Huruapa, Chihuahua, Mexico, a well-known mineral area. The Ordinary shares are entitled *pro ratâ* to four-fifths of the net profits, and the first issue is of 60,000 Ordinary shares at par.

The City of London Joint Stock Trust.—This Company is formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of a Finance Corporation, and as such of acquiring interests in sound industrial or mineral concerns, &c. Capital £150,000 in £1 shares, of which 50,000 are Preference shares. These Preference shares are now issued.

The New Zealand Minerals Co., Limited.—Capital £250,000, in £1 shares. This Company has been formed to conduct the business usually carried on by an Exploration, Development, Finance, and Agency Company, more particularly with regard to Gold Mining in New Zealand.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Beaulieu.—The description of the Uruguay Scrip which you have bought is quite correct, with the exception, however, that the settlement took place on the 6th inst.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Captain A. C. F.—I quite agree with you that the position of these debentures is very dangerous, and as requested have forwarded in your envelope the address of a smart firm of City solicitors. *Aaron.*—I think this is a very adventurous scheme, and should advise you to have nothing to do with it. *L. S., Ashford.*—Your young friend should certainly try to get his money back from these "infallible" syndicate-touts; but he will find this exceedingly difficult. You must be aware that I have always warned my readers against these people. *F. H.*—I advise you not to avail yourself of this three-monthly settlement system. You should deal under ordinary conditions with a member of the Stock Exchange. *Zaro.*—1. A fair Eastern bank of good standing. 2. One of the best Australian banks; no reason to sell. *Tottie.*—These bank shares have absolutely no market value at present in view of the reconstruction; but the deposit-notes are worth about 15s. in the £. The shares will probably again become valuable later on. *R. S.*—You cannot be a regular reader of TRUTH, or else you would not have so foolishly sent your money to a syndicate tout. I mentioned the touting circulars of William Simpson & Co., 66, Finsbury-pavement, E.C., a fortnight ago, and am again referring to them in this issue. The documents are returned, and you had better place the matter in the hands of a smart firm of City solicitors. *Marvell.*—I cannot reply by letter. I cannot advise on the solvency of outside stockbrokers, but should recommend you to deal through members of the Stock Exchange only. *M. S. M.*—You may be able to dispose of the building lots in question by putting yourself in communication with the Town Properties of Western Australia, 28 and 29, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C. I cannot reply by letter.

Home Rails.

F.T.—Yes, Dover "A" are a good speculative purchase. *L.N.*—No reason to sell North British Deferred; on the contrary you should buy more to average.

American and Foreign Rails.

Wellington.—No option but to hold these Gold bonds, which are not affected by the position in the United States. *Ubique, Eastbourne.*—It is not advisable to sell your American Gold bonds, Nos. 1 to 5, at present. They are all well selected. *Paccha.*—No option but to hold the American stock in question, and average on a further reaction. Central Argentine should be held. *J. L. B.*—No reason to sell the American Gold bonds, Nos. 1 to 5, mentioned. *J. T. S.*—There is every prospect of the Argentine Railway bonds in question recovering again; hold. It is not likely that the Gold bonds, Nos. 1 to 3, will be affected, even should the silver "plank" eventually be adopted in the States. *T. W., Brighton.*—No option but to hold your Atchison stocks now. *Verax.*—No option but to hold your stocks, Nos. 1 to 5, for the present.

Mining Shares.

Gothamite.—I do not advise purchase of Abbotts at present; but I think it is advisable to pay the call on Balkis Eersteling after the reconstruction. *Inshallah.*—While I consider the New Bulfontein Company a prosperous one, I do not hold the same opinion of the other Bulfontein concern mentioned by you. *West Cliff.*—London and Globe (1), West Australian Exploring and Finance (2), as well as Austin Friars Syndicate (3), are most promising finance companies, and likely to rise to a higher level. Amongst the gold mines of this group, Hannan's Golden Treasure (6) and Hannan's Golden Group (5), are also likely to go much better. Gladiators (7) are quoted from ⅞ to 1, and will no doubt go much higher. No. 8 is also a promising cheap share. *Berksdale.*—1. There is no option but to exercise patience and await developments; I should certainly not advise sales now. 2. Yes. *A. M. S.*—I do not like Monastery Diamonds at all. *Moth.*—1. It is impossible to say when the Langlaagte Estate will declare the next dividend, but the mine is pulling round splendidly. 2. I think there is every prospect of an improvement in Barnato stocks. You must be aware that the Jameson raid has interrupted the whole of the business in South African shares; but if you bought fifteen months ago you must at one time have been able to take a big profit. *Chercheuse.*—1. There is no particular reason for this decline, and you should hold. 2. Yes. 3. I have already expressed an opinion about this amalgamation; the matter has been represented in far too favourable a light. 4. I do not think that these are as promising as most of the mines mentioned by me under "Golden West Australia"; and you know my opinion of brokers' recommendations. 5. See remarks concerning Paddington Consols in last week's issue; an investor in mines must have patience. 6. Very soon. *Purveyor, Clapham.*—1. I do not advise a further purchase; you had better clear a handsome profit on the next improvement. 2. No. 3. No reason to sell Associated Southern. 4. Certainly hold Randfontein and Wealth of Nations, and exercise a little patience. *A.A.*—I am not in love with the Jackson Goldfields reconstruction, but in such cases it is advisable to join the reconstruction and sell after. *Domino.*—At the present low prices the West Australian shares Nos. 1 to 3 appear to be fair mining risks. *Senex.*—No, I do not advise the purchase. *Knerschner.*—The West Australian Trading Corporation shares are high enough. Hold Graskop Exploring (1), and there is no option but to hold No. 2 for a possible improvement. *Ibyeus.*—1. Buffelsdoorn are a steady market, and should be held for a rise. 2. Yes. You should hold both Glencairns and Johnnies. *Doonside.*—1. You should certainly hold Barnato Banks for a rise. 2. I do not like Gordon Diamonds, and have so often said so that I must refuse to advise you on the subject. *Caster.*—The mine is stated to be developing satisfactorily; but until crushing commences you will have to exercise patience. Lake View Consols are still a good purchase for a further advance. *West York.*—The paper in question is irresponsible. Amongst West Australian finance companies, London and Globe Finance and Exploring and Finance are some of the most promising. Amongst the lower-priced shares of this description, New Explorers' Syndicate at ⅜ premium, and Explorers' and Finance Founders' shares at about £25, are also a good purchase. *Spera, Somerset.*—Your shares Nos. 1 to 9 should all be held for an improvement, which is probable. A. Yes. B. More or less doubtful, partly owing to the trouble in Matabeleland. C and D. Yes. *Coombe.*—1. Both Hannan's Group and Hannan's Treasure are equally good for a rise. 2. A fair mining risk. 3. No particular catch. *Dum Spero Spiro.*—1. It is no use giving you the name of a stock jobber, as these are not allowed to deal direct with clients; you can only operate through brokers. 2. You cannot effect this saving. 3. Not just yet. *Girlington.*—I should think that the dividend is due to you, and you should call upon the secretary for an explanation. *Cam.*—If the Directors of the Imperial Corporation of Western Australia do not give satisfactory news, you should insist upon this being supplied to you as a shareholder. The Secretary is bound to give you all reasonable explanations. *G. W. B.*—The W.A. Joint Stock Trust seems to be in a very promising position. *Finance, Mullingar.*—1. Hold Rhodesia Limited. Nos. 2 and 3 should also be held for the present. No option but to hold No. 4. I do not think much of No. 5, and I have frequently commented unfavourably upon the African coal shares (6). Hold Nos. 7 to 16, and realise your profit on Nos. 17 and 18. *Replacement.*—I think you had better stick to your exploration shares; they are likely to rise again. *Italiano.*—As regards South African shares, an improvement is probable in the course of the present year; you should hold your shares, even though they be not well selected. *Dennis.*—No, I do not advise you to take shares in the West Australian Loan Corporation in question. There are other W.A. finance Companies referred to in my letter, which are far more promising. I do not think the shares were ever quoted at that price; at all events, there is no market for them now. *Buttermere.*—Yes, your shares Nos. 1 to 3 should be held for an improvement. *Amber.*—You should join other shareholders in the Abercorn Reefs in order to resist the call of 1s. per share, which should not be paid in view of the extraordinary action of the Directors. 2. Yes, join and sell after. *L. S. D.*—The mining shares, Nos. 1 to 5, mentioned are fair mining risks; but you had better make your selection from the shares recommended by me under "Golden West

Australia," which, upon the whole, are more promising. *Midlothian.*—Yes, hold for the present; the South African market will have its turn again. *Brutus.*—Yes, Croydon Consols are a good investment, and you might with advantage make your other selections from "Golden West Australia." *Wivenhoe.*—You are quite right. The silence maintained by the Directors of the Rhodesian Mineral Properties, Limited, is altogether unjustified, and you should insist upon full information being furnished. You ought to combine with other shareholders to resist these proposals, and the call of 7s. 6d. per share which is now being made. *R. H. R.*—Great Boulder South should be held for a fresh advance, and you might average. Croydon Consols are a good purchase as a more permanent investment. I do not care so much for Nos. 1 to 4; and you had better make your selection from my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Heene.*—I do not advise selling Nos. 1 to 3 now; when the South African market revives they should go better. I have a favourable opinion of Golden River Quesnelle (4). *Cherry.*—Hold Nos. 1 to 5 for an improvement. *Salisbury.*—I am informed that a report and accounts will shortly be issued, and if you are really the largest shareholder you should easily be able to satisfy yourself by applying to the secretary. *Pico.*—1. The Hampton Plains report will disclose a very favourable position and large profits earned; but whether a dividend will be declared I cannot tell you. 2. Probably. 3. I do not advise purchase of Bechuanaland Exploration. 4. A very promising South African mine. 5. Yes, Nundydroog should be held for an advance. 6. Yes. *W. A., Fal.*—1. There seems to be nothing for it but to await the publication of the report; I know nothing about the underwriting. 2. The Bushmans' circular is certainly very unsatisfactory, and the vendors should be called to account for the misstatements in the prospectus if these can be proved. The documents are returned. *Gwalian.*—1 and 2. No. *Hendersons.*—I still have a very favourable opinion of Henderson's Estates, and think that these will go better; but nothing can improve in the present state of the South African market. I cannot tell you anything about the Bocksburg Gold Company. *Caster* (second letter).—1. I think it will last a little longer as regards the crushing of the Golden Crown. 2. No option but to hold. *Umtoli.*—You should join other shareholders in the Umtoli Reefs in order to resist the call of 1s. per share, which should not be paid in view of the extraordinary action of the Directors. *Innocent.*—Your shares Nos. 1 to 9 should be held for an improvement. W.A. Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance are now of equal value. *Foster Reay.*—Fair mining risks. *J. F., Ayr.*—Hold Hampton Plains, and buy more to average; the report which is to be issued shortly will be favourable. Also hold Nos. 1 to 6 for a rise. *Batch.*—When the South African market generally improves, your shares Nos. 1 to 3 should recover. *E. B. C.*—Hold Nos. 1 to 5 for an improvement. I still think favourably of Barnato Banks. *Carousal.*—Yes, Oceana would be a good purchase. *Sillwood.*—1. The Langlaagte Estate dividend was declared on June 30, and is payable at the end of August. 2. The New Bulfontein dividend has been paid. 3. No, not yet. *E. P. W.*—No reason to sell Hannan's Proprietary. *J. H. McK.*—I cannot undertake to act for the purchase of shares. I must leave you to make your selection from my recommendations under "Golden West Australia," and employ a broker to buy them. *Culpepper.*—I do not advise purchase of Nos. 1 to 6 as an investment; you should make your selection from my letter. *Link.*—I am glad you are doing so well in Lake View Consols. 1. No. 2. No reason to sell now. *S. W. F.*—What I meant to convey is that I have not seen my way of late to recommend Hainaults. I made a favourable remark on them a year ago, and they have since, as you say yourself, touched 4 twice; but times alter, and it is quite impossible for me to maintain the same opinion of individual mines for twelve months in all cases. I am glad you are doing well in South Kalgurli. Why did you not buy Lake View Consols on my advice, as you would have doubled your money? 2. Not now. *Impatient.*—Yes, New Explorers' Syndicate shares are a good purchase. I do not like the Faith Gold Mines. *Doric.*—1. I do not like Dorics. 2. Neither do I like the Friendship Gold Mine. Nos. 3 and 4 had better be held for the present. *Ajax.*—The Londonderry has been a most unfortunate affair from beginning to end; but I do hope that Colonel North's trustees will return to the Company the £70,000 which he wished to give back to the shareholders. Ooregum Prefs. are a fair mining risk. *Lombard.*—1. I never have recommended W.A. Minerals and Finance, and really cannot advise you; I do not care for the Company. 2. Instead of hesitating, you ought to have bought Lake View Consols at once; since then there has been a big rise. 3. I have no particularly favourable opinion of these. 4. I do not advise purchase of Chartered. *Tempted.*—I should advise you to be cautious.

Industrial Shares.

Shamus.—1. I do not approve of the Standard Oil Company of Galicia, and should not advise you to put your money into it. 2. The price of Beeston Rims is nominally par; but there are no buyers, and you should take an opportunity to get out. *W. T. W.*—I do not like these Preference shares as a permanent investment, as newspaper property is subject to great and sudden changes. *Osborne.*—I think you had better take your splendid profit of nearly 50 per cent.; the rise seems to be overdone. You might still buy Lake View Consols, with every prospect of a further important improvement. *A. W. P.*—I do not see how you can refuse to pay the calls. Not only would you forfeit your holding, but you would afterwards be compelled to pay up. Your only chance is to get out of these shares when an opportunity offers. *Investor, Paisley.*—Your inquiry was replied to in last week's issue, and I cannot answer by letter. I do not see that you have any option but to keep these oil shares for the present. *Deferred.*—It is quite correct that the special settlement of the Dunlop Tyre Company has not yet been appointed, and whenever that is fixed you will be able to get a settlement of your account. *Paris.*—I am very much surprised that the secretary of the Wynaad Tea Company, 23, College-hill, E.C., should not have replied to your inquiry. He certainly ought to do so, and you should write to him again. I cannot tell you yet about the Argentine Railway bonds. *R. R. M.*—I quite agree with you that it would be advisable for the National Company for the Distribution of Electricity by Secondary Generators, Limited, to be wound up, as it seems to have a useless and unremunerative life. You had better interest your co-shareholders in a movement to that effect. *Phonographer.*—I cannot answer questions as regards the bona fides of Hire-furnishing Companies. *Truth.*—1. No; I do not like the Larne Air-Tight Inner Tube Company, and do not think it will be a success. 2. No. *Heartsease.*—A small industrial concern and very speculative. No reason for selling Trustees and Executors' shares now. *Chester Confederate.*—The new departure seems to be somewhat risky; but I suppose that almost your only course is to take the shares in the new company and then sell. *Impransus.*—I do not think much of either of the two electrical shares in question. *Persimmon.*—I do not like the Roller Bearings Company, neither do I hold a favourable opinion of Simpson's Lever Chains. *R. A.*—I cannot send you the name of a stockbroker, but you might obtain this through your bankers. I forward the name of a firm of smart City solicitors in your envelope, as requested. The cycle shares in question are not likely to go much higher, and you had better sell. *Eblana.*—No option but to hold these shares, as the Company is by no means in the desperate condition which has been suggested to you.

Mixed Investments.

Harp.—No reason to sell the Brewery shares Nos. 1 to 3, or No. 4 after the heavy decline. *Nemo Black.*—I have repeatedly stated that I disapprove altogether of these three-monthly accounts. Some of the stocks you hold have been bought altogether against my advice, such as East Rands at 7⅝ (now 6⅝), Consolidated Goldfields at 12½ (now 11⅝). Neither have I advised speculative purchases of American Rails at such prices as you have paid for them. The Home Rails might be held; but altogether your prospects are not promising. *Black Diamond.*—1. I do not like the intermediaries, and I should advise you to try and get out of your bargain. 2. On receiving notice of the change of name of the Dunlop-Truffault Company, you ought to have at once cancelled your subscription; but in any case you should join the movement for removing your name from the register. *Cestrian.*—1. I do not think much of this transfer. 2. I suppose you have no option but to do so. 3. Yes. 4. Do not sell now; there is every prospect of the Lagunas Nitrate Company now being pulled right. 5. I do not like Mazawattee Tea shares; they are quite high enough. 6. Fair prospects; but no particular catch. Nos. 7 and 8 had better be held. *Orillia.*—Metropolitan Ordinary have had a big rise; why not take your profit? You will be quite correct in holding the Colonial bonds (*a*), Caledonian Preferred Ordinary (*b*), and Grand Trunk Debentures (*c*). *Inspection.*—All your mining shares Nos. 1 to 6 are well selected, and I see no reason for selling any. I do not like Singer Cycles (7); but there is no reason to sell No. 8, or Westralia, Limited, now. *Caudebec Caux.*—1. Take a fair profit on Mysore Gold. 2. No, too speculative. 3. No particular catch. 4. I do not care much for Tharsis. 5. The Langlaagte Estate has a long life before it. *Clerieus, Cambridge.*—1. I do not like Claremont Cycles (*a*) or Singer Cycles (*b*); and if you are a regular reader of Truth, you must be aware of this; c is a fair mining risk. 2. No option but to hold these South African shares for the present. *Belgravia.*—1. Bradbury Drills are promising; but I certainly do not advise investment in No. 2, of which I have already expressed a very unfavourable opinion. *Ubique, Queenstown.*—1. Take your profit. 2. West Australian Trading Corporation shares are quite high enough. 3. No reason to sell these New Zealand shares. 4. West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares are likely to further improve. 5. I do not like the Standard Oil Company of Galicia. 6. I do not like Corsairs. 7. A fair mining risk. 8. Yes. *Spa.*—I do not recommend Russian Humbers; and the West Australian mines mentioned are not nearly so promising as those referred to in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Larry, Cahill.*—Your West Australian shares Nos. 1 to 3 are well selected; but I do not like No. 4 (Golden Cliffs); Nos. 5 to 7 should be held, but No. 8 is somewhat doubtful. No. 9 is rather speculative, but promising. No option but to hold No. 10; and I do not care for Simpson's Lever Chains (11). *Beginner.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1 and 2 now. The Cycle shares (3) are high enough. No reason to sell Nos. 4 and 5. Sell No. 6

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at a small profit when an opportunity offers. I do not care for No. 7; but No. 8 is promising. *J. E. H.*—1. The present quotation of No. 2 is 97, and No. 3 is 93½. I do not see any reason for nervousness with reference to these. 2. I have not heard of the gas in question. *J. E. W.*—Possibly they will recover again; but the management does not appear to be satisfactory. I must refer you to my letter as regards South African shares. *J. J. G.*—1. I spoke out as soon as ever I had an opportunity of doing so, and still retain my opinion with regard to Singer Cycles. 2. No reason to sell these now. 3. No; they are high enough. 4. You have done quite right in buying London and Globes. *W. D. R.*—I consider Mexican Sixes and the new Uruguay Five Per Cent. Loan a promising purchase. *Nova Castella.*—I think that under the trust deed in question the proposed selection, Nos. 1 to 9, would be suitable. It is just a question whether you should not substitute some of the investments, Nos. 10 to 20, for some of the American Rails Nos. 2 to 7. Better leave Nos. 23 and 24 alone just now, and Nos. 25 to 29 are quite high enough. Neither do I see much advantage in investing in Nos. 30 to 33. *West Riding X.*—I do not think much of the concerns in question. *Trust.*—No option but to hold the bulk of your investments Nos. 1 to 26, many of which (especially the West Australians) are likely to go much higher; but there is also a prospect of the others coming right in time. *Pakeha.*—Hold No. 1. I do not think much of Nos. 2, 3, and 4, neither of which are quoted in the official list. *E. E. L.*—1. You will get a higher price for your London & Globe Finance shares. 2. No. *Flageolet.*—1. Full particulars have been published. 2. A fair mining risk, but no catch. Amongst low-priced Indian gold mining shares, Goldfields of Mysore and Coromandel are the most promising. *Medicus, Dublin.*—1. No option but to hold these bonds. You had also better hold Murchison New Chums. Evidently some more satisfactory discovery has been made, although the Directors are always backward in giving publicity to their news. *Phonetic.*—If you are content to run a moderate risk in connection with these industrial undertakings, I see no reason why you should not buy Nos. 3 and 4; but No. 2 is decidedly risky, and I should prefer the New Uruguay loan. *T. T.*—Lagunas Nitrate shares should now be held, as measures have been taken to put the Company in a sound position. *Mere.*—No reason to sell the American bonds now; and you should also hold the South African shares.

Various Investments.

Money has hardened but slightly, and there are still large surplus funds ready for investment; although in view of recent events they will not be immediately available for such highly speculative stocks as American Rails, &c. High-class investments generally have been steady; but in sympathy with the general weakness there has been a decline in Consols to 112$\frac{11}{16}$. Silver, too, has eased off to 31¼d., while Rupee Paper has improved to 64¾. The annual report of the Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust, Limited, recently issued, fully bears out the favourable opinion I had formed of it; and the Ordinary shares seem attractive at their present price of £6, which includes the balance dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. to be paid in a few days. The results of the year are extremely satisfactory; they not only permitted a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. to be paid on the year, but £6,900 to be added to the reserve fund, and £2,209 to be written off for doubtful investments; so that the net earnings on the capital employed for the year approach 14 per cent. The Company has a large appreciation on its investments over their capital cost amounting to upwards of £20,000; whilst so conservative is the management that upwards of 41 per cent. of the valuation are in Debentures, and 82 per cent. in Debentures, Bonds, or Preference shares. The Company has issued a full list of its investments, which can be obtained by intending investors on application to the secretary at 12, Moorgate-street, London, E.C. Home Brewery shares still continue in demand. A cheap and safe Preference share appears to be Buckley's pre-Preference. The Debenture capital is £70,000; the pre-Preference shares (quoted at 11⅜) only amount to £60,000, and bear interest at the rate of 5¼ per cent., behind which there is £110,000 of Preference and Ordinary share capital. Allsopps have maintained their price very well at about 180; but a sharp relapse has taken place in Guinness to 600 on the announcement of the dividend, which is no better than last year; while the sanguine section had expected an increase in the distribution. Nitrate Rails have been dull at 6¾; and the shares in the various Nitrate-producing Companies have also been inactive, holders awaiting the result of the Lagunas litigation. Cycle shares have been steady, but business as usual at this period has been slack. Dunlop Pneumatic shares have, however, upon the whole, maintained prices remarkably well, the Deferred being quoted ⅝ premium, the Preferred par, the Ordinary ¼ premium. Humber Extensions have been firm at ⅜ premium, and Humber Ordinary have remained at 1$\frac{5}{16}$. I hear of a coming amalgamation in Cycle Tubes, which are firmer at 1⅛. Grapplers are dull at 1⅛, and Beestons at 4¼. The new Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company (France) is likely to meet with an excellent reception, as the capital is fixed at a comparatively moderate figure; while there is no doubt that the business in France which the Company will take over is a most important and growing one; our French neighbours having taken quite as enthusiastically to cycling as we have ourselves. It is therefore expected that the shares will be many times over-subscribed, and will at once be quoted at a big premium. Amongst coming flotations are, I hear, some conversions of West-End trading firms and some Music Halls. I also understand that a Company has been formed privately under influential auspices with a present capital issue of £120,000, out of a total of £200,000, to purchase the patents and rights for the whole of the world except the United States and Canada for the Baron Cigarette Machine, which is at present on view at room No. 20, Billiter-buildings. It is a triumph of ingenuity, and makes round cigarettes, thick or thin, long or short, also oval-shaped cigarettes as turned out by the Egyptian and Turkish Companies with equal facility, also printing name of the cigarette upon the paper. Speed and work are first-class, the average being 450 cigarettes per minute, equal to best hand made, while the smallness of the lap is also a feature. As the trade has expressed strong approval of the machine the Company is expected to do a large business. My readers will recollect that I have warned them repeatedly against the syndicate touts, who are again lifting up their heads regardless of the punishment which was some time ago meted out to some of their fraternity, and are again scattering their circulars broadcast over the country. One of these men against whom I have repeatedly warned my readers is T. Hemming Custance, stock and share dealer, late of 50 and 51, Lime-street, London, E.C., who tried to bamboozle the public into his "special guaranteed mutuals," which he described as "guaranteed with a net profit of 50 per cent. within six weeks." A correspondent informs me that he has been victimised to the extent of £52 10s. paid as "cover," not counting profits amounting to £20. Of course it is the usual tale. Custance refused to close the stock, and when finally a solicitor was set to work, the 'syndicate tout's' offices had been closed for ten days, and no trace of his whereabouts could be discovered. My correspondent wishes me to help him now to get his money back; but as the man has levanted, I do not see how I can do so, unless one of my correspondents can, by chance, inform me where Custance, or the man who adopted that name, is hanging out. I really cannot sympathise much with the complainant, for if he was a regular reader of Truth, he has altogether disregarded my advice, and if he was not, why should he bother me now? William Simpson & Co., stock and share brokers, 66, Finsbury-pavement, E.C., are still on the warpath with what they call "our co-operative joint deals." Of course, they also boast of having made magnificent profits on all their deals without a single loss, and they also guarantee their clients against loss. Can human credulity go so far as to think that these men would prefer to make profits for the public, if they could do so without any risk themselves! The Investors' Syndicate, of 9, Union-court, Old Broad-street, E.C., is, according to circulars which have reached me, formed to carry out on a more extensive scale than has hitherto been pursued, the backing of horses during the present racing season. I should think that the purpose which would certainly be achieved by the public will be to lose money on a more extensive scale; and I should advise my readers to have nothing to do with it. Who are the persons behind the Promotion and Investment Trust, Limited, of 83, Wool Exchange, London, E.C.? They are sending out circulars, stating that they have had placed in their hands for immediate disposal forty-five shares of £5 each, bearing a guaranteed

minimum dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, in the British Electrical Manufacturing and Engineering Company, Limited, at £4. 15s. per share. The reason of the offer is, according to this "Trust," that "the vendor is sadly pressed for funds." I wonder who the vendor is?—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY;

AN EXHIBITION EPISODE.

"WELL, Amy, this *is* a pleasant surprise!"

"Ditto, dear old Gladys. Fancy our meeting here too, of all the places in the world!"

"Yes; but we always had a spice of independence in our respective compositions. So our both happening to join this club was nothing so very improbable, after all. Are you living in town?"

"Yes; my husband is at the Bar, you know."

"Ah! I was very interested to read the announcement of your marriage in the papers. You always used to say that you would never marry—if you remember."

"So did you. And yet you lost no time in following my example, it seems."

"True; I was like the man in the 'Honeymoon,' my dear—

I made a very silly vow,
But was not quite so foolish as to keep it."

"Do you find matrimony agree with you?"

"Oh, yes; capitally. I go my own way a bit, of course. I'm not an absolute slave to my husband."

"No more am I. I put down my foot from the first. Robert was inclined to be absurdly exacting."

"Did he make a fuss about your joining this club?"

"Rather! But I insisted on having my own way. Did your husband raise objections?"

"Plenty. However, I overruled them all."

"That's right. In fact, it strikes me, Gladys, that though we *are* both married, we are, nevertheless, doing full credit to our early principles."

"Just so. After all, the being married or not married is a mere detail. It is the being free, or not free, that really matters."

"And if one was not married, one could not belong to this very excellent club?"

"No. And what a miss that would be! Oh, thank goodness! Here comes our luncheon."

The two ladies engaged in the above dialogue were seated at a small table in the dining salon of the Aspasia Club. Everybody has heard of this institution, which is one of the newest and most successful of ladies' clubs in London. It was especially founded to encourage and foster the freedom of married women; and so matrons only are eligible for election. Its motto is descriptive and characteristic: "Liberty, Equality, Maternity." And the principles which it upholds are the most advanced principles of wifely emancipation. Nor are these principles a mere matter of words—a simple question of theory. The conditions of membership are stringent, and are rigidly enforced. The founders of the club had no belief whatever in faith without works. They required the members of the Aspasia to show their faith by their works—to act, not merely to subscribe to, their creed of emancipation.

Pursuant to this requirement, each member agreed to perform, at least once in the month, some decided act of wifely independence; and such act she was obliged to record in a book of blank forms—provided by the club for the purpose—and at the month's end to send in her form to the secretary, duly signed and filled in with particulars. If the secretary did not consider that the act, or acts, recorded were sufficiently assertive of wifely liberty, she submitted the form to the committee, who, if not satisfied, would call upon the defaulting member for an explanation. It will thus be seen that a very strict eye was kept by the Aspasia upon its members.

"How long have you been a member of the club, Gladys?" her friend inquired, as they discussed their luncheon.

"Only a fortnight, dear. How long have you?"

"Rather less than a month."

"And have you done your first task, as enjoined by the regulations?"

"Well—yes; I did it only last evening."

"And what form did it take, dear?"

"I went alone to the Indian Exhibition after dinner."

"By the piper, Gladys" (expletives were rather encouraged than otherwise in the Aspasia Club), "what a very extraordinary thing," Amy exclaimed, with a half-laugh. "It just shows what kindred spirits you and I are I did my task only three nights ago; and *I* went alone to the Indian Exhibition after dinner."

"You don't say so. And how did you get on?"

Amy hesitated a minute, and looked rather embarrassed.

"I—I——" she began. "At least—well, I may as well confess to you, Gladys, my—my—visit resulted in a rather unfortunate occurrence."

"What was that?" inquired her friend, looking interested.

"Why—why——" said Amy, lowering her voice, "I—was quite alone, you see, and—and——"

"Yes? yes?"

"I—I—didn't know my way about very well, and—and—I happened to ask a—a—gentleman if he would kindly direct me to Elysium. He said that he was going in that direction himself, and that he would act as my guide. He—he—was quite a gentleman, and seemed very agreeable, and—and—nice-looking. And—and—I could not very well refuse his civil offer."

"Go on—go on," interjected Gladys, eagerly.

"W-w-well, he walked by my side as far as Elysium, and was most polite and pleasant. I—I—couldn't very well help talking to him, you know, and—and——"

"Of course not. But what happened? I'm dying to hear."

"He—he—kept with me for quite a long time; and he was really very nice-looking and amusing, and I had found it rather slow by myself, and—and—altogether I saw no harm."

"Why should you, my dear? But how did it end?"

"We—we—strolled about Elysium for nearly an hour, and—well then he said he must be going. He—he—began to—to—talk dr-dreadful non-nonsense then: said he'd never appreciated the name Elysium before, and as he wished me good night, he put his arm round my waist and—oh, Gladys!—he—he—kissed me."

Amy spoke almost in a whisper. Her cheeks were the colour of a geranium.

"What cheek of him!" ejaculated Gladys, whose face gave the impression that she was full of a certain suppressed excitement. "And yet," she added, "it will look very well in the report, especially the kiss."

"I—I—it may have been weak of me, but—but—I didn't put the kiss in the report," faltered Amy.

"Look here," exclaimed Gladys, with great eagerness. "This is a most extraordinary thing. It is *the* most extraordinary thing I have ever heard of. I may as well tell you—*I* myself had a—a—very similar experience when I went alone to the Indian Exhibition. A—a—strange man got into conversation with me. *He* was very nice-looking and agreeable, and—and—it ended the same way as your experience did."

"Did he kiss you?"

Gladys nodded.

"And was your man fair, with blue eyes, and a flaxen moustache?"

"No, dark, and clean shaved."

"Ah, then it wasn't the same. But what an extraordinary coincidence!"

"Most extraordinary. It only shows what these men are."

"Yes, the wretches. And—and—did you put down the kiss in your report?"

"N-no. I was like you, my dear. I thought it read sufficiently strong without. But—but—something worse happened to me, Amy. If my experience had—had—

ended where yours did, I should not so much mind. Some one saw my man kiss me!"

"Oh, how dreadful! Who was it?"

"The last person I could have wished to do so, except my husband. One of my own domestics."

"I say! How did that happen?"

"Well, it chanced to be the cook's evening out, and by the most unlucky coincidence in the world she was spending it at the Indian Exhibition with her young man. I—I—was not aware at the time that she had witnessed the—the—unfortunate occurrence; but this morning, when I complained to her about the—the—dinner, she spoke to me most impertinently, and upon my giving her notice she told me what she had seen, and threatened, unless I withdrew the notice, to report matters to my husband. I—I—had to give in to the woman in the end. I was never so humiliated in my life. And the worst of it is she still has it in her power to expose me to—to—Tom."

"Oh dear! That is dreadful. I am sorry for you, Gladys."

"Well, it is most uncomfortable for me. Of course, you know, I'm not in the least afraid of Tom; but still I shouldn't quite like him to—to—"

"Exactly. And, of course, I'm not in the least afraid of Robert. But I shouldn't quite like him to—to—"

"Precisely. Men are so hasty."

"And so unreasonable."

"They make no allowances."

"And always believe the worst."

"That comes of judging others by themselves."

"Yes; but we must not blame them too much. Look at the matter the other way round. We should be righteously incensed, my dear, if we found our husbands kissing strange girls in places of public amusement—shouldn't we?"

"I—I—should like to catch Tom kissing a strange girl in a place of public amusement, or anywhere else," exclaimed Gladys, bridling.

"And if I caught Robert, he should have good reason to remember it."

"Besides, my dear Amy, we occupy a totally different position. We were kissed, involuntarily, against our wish."

"Oh, of course. Quite against our wish."

"We didn't like it."

"Simply hated it."

"Just so. Whereas, men—the wretches—kiss voluntarily, of their own initiative, and—well, of course, they do not hate it; else they wouldn't do it. That makes all the difference."

"To be sure it does; I didn't think of that."

"But, coming back to the point, I can't think what I am to do about cook. I wish you could advise me."

"I—I—really don't know what to suggest. I—I—tell you what it is. "Why shouldn't you place yourself in Robert's hands? He's considered very clever at the Bar, and I'm sure he could help you if anybody could."

"Do you think he would?"

"Oh, I'm certain of it."

"That would be awfully kind. I do want a m——I mean some clever person's assistance."

"Well, look here. Come home to tea with me by and by. Robert generally drops in for a cup of tea at about five o'clock, and then you can see him and talk to him confidentially."

"And you will back me up, and assure your husband that my—my—little escapade was perfectly harmless?"

"Of course I will. But you need not be afraid of Robert. He is strict in his ideas about me, his wife, you know—in fact, ridiculously strict; but he is very easy-going in his ideas about everybody else."

"I'm glad to hear that—the last part of it, I mean. Very well, then, dear, I'll come home with you to tea."

So shortly after four o'clock the two ladies quitted the Aspasia Club, and adjourned to Amy's home—a flat in the Cromwell-road. They had just settled themselves comfortably to the afternoon tea-table, when the sound of men's voices, laughing and talking, was heard in the passage outside, and just afterwards the master of the flat, accompanied by a friend, entered the drawing-room where the two ladies were seated.

Robert, the barrister, was a tall, handsome man, of imposing aspect, with dark hair and a clean-shaven face.

"I've brought in a friend," he said, "who is thirsting for a cup of your excellent tea. Allow me to introduce—why—Hilloa! Why—Good Lord!—my dear, I——"

Robert, the barrister, had suddenly turned very pale indeed; his face betokened extreme confusion and dismay. He stared angrily, yet shamefacedly, at Gladys, and then turned, deprecatingly, to his wife.

"My dear," he went on, "my *dear*—I hope you have not believed anything that this—this—young person——"

But his wife was not listening to him. Her eyes were fixed, in horror-struck dismay, upon Robert's friend, who himself seemed by no means at his ease. He was a fair man, with blue eyes and a flaxen moustache—a very prepossessing type of the Anglo-Saxon.

"How dare you, sir?" cried Amy, covering her face with her hands. "This is—too—too—mean and—and horrid of you, when it was all your fault, to come and—and—expose me l-like this."

"L-l-leave me, you—you wr-wr-wretch!" murmured Gladys at the same moment, her voice muffled by the sofa-cushion, in which she had buried her face. "How can you d-d-dare to rem-m-main in my presence, after forcing—literally forcing—a kiss from——"

"Oh, I say!" interposed Robert, the barrister. "It's too bad of you to say that; it is indeed. Why, you never resisted at all, and you—you actually seemed to like it."

At this point Amy suddenly started round. The shame had almost vanished from her look. She was full of righteous, wifely wrath. She had grasped the situation.

"Robert," she demanded, in an awful voice, "am—am I to understand that it was *you* who—who kissed and carried on with Gladys in—in a public place?"

"Well, you see, my dear——"

"Don't try to make excuses, sir. And you, Gladys" (rounding upon her unfortunate friend), "do you mean to say that you—you let him kiss you, and—you—*actually seemed to like it?*"

Gladys, however, was equal to the occasion, for she, too, had now grasped the situation.

"And *you*, Amy," she demanded, fiercely, "you dared to entice *my* husband to—to——"

"No, no! my dear. Not enticed," struck in the Anglo Saxon, mildly. "I can't say that she enticed——"

"Can't say that I enticed, indeed!" retorted Amy, heaving with indignation. "You know, you false wretch——"

"Am I to understand, Tom Jiffkins," thundered Robert, the barrister, at this point, "that *you* dared to kiss my wife in a public place?"

"And am I to understand, Robert Pilkington," retorted the blue-eyed Saxon, firing up, "that *you* dared to kiss *my* wife in a public place?"

"Damn it," said Robert, the barrister, "you needn't get excited. I didn't know she was your wife. And, besides, I was only carrying out the rules of the Alcibiades Club."

"So was I carrying out the rules of the Alcibiades Club."

"And I was only carrying out the rules of the Aspasia Club," said Amy, now beginning to whimper.

"Just what I was doing," sobbed Gladys.

"Do the rules of the Aspasia Club compel you to undergo kisses from strange men?" demanded Robert, the barrister. "Because if so——"

"No, no. Not that. Only to perpetrate some act of w-w-wifely independence. . . . . But what is the Alcibiades Club? I never heard of it before," questioned Amy, drying her tears, and again looking indignant and suspicious.

"Well, you see, my dear," explained Robert, "as you had joined the Aspasia—a club whose avowed object is to encourage the independence of wives—I and some other disgusted husbands formed a little club of our own, to encourage the independence of husbands. We called it

the Alcibiades. And a necessary condition of membership is that every man in the club should kiss a pretty woman—not his wife, of course, but if some one else's wife, so much the better—at least once a week, and——"

"Robert," cried Amy, with flashing eyes and panting bosom, "if you don't leave that—that club at—at once, sir, I shall get a divorce."

"And if you don't withdraw your name, Tom, this very evening, I shall go home to mamma," threatened Gladys.

"Well, you see, ladies," answered Robert, the barrister, "we have an axiom in the law that no agreement is good without consideration. And if we agree to withdraw from the Alcibiades—for I have no doubt that my friend Jiffkins will back me up in this—you must withdraw from the Aspasia. That is the consideration which we demand. What do you say?"

* * * * *

It ended in both the ladies resigning their membership of the Aspasia. Jiffkins and Pilkington also threw over the Alcibiades—not a very difficult step, since the so-called club had never consisted of any more members than these two.

"I say," observed Robert, on meeting Tom a few days later, "we managed that little affair very neatly, didn't we?"

"Prime!" assented the other, grinning.

"But look here," inquired the barrister, dropping his jocular tone, and speaking rather anxiously, "my—my—little woman didn't—didn't really draw you on to kiss her, did she?"

"Not a bit of it, old man. She objected strongly to the liberty. And my wife, now—she—she—didn't really seem—seem—to—to like being kissed by you, did she?"

"Incredible as it may appear," confessed Robert, the barrister, surveying his comely person in an adjacent pier-glass, "she did—not!"

ART NOTES.

THE "banner with the strange device" which has been hung out upon the outer wall at No. 157, New Bond-street does not bear, unfortunately, the Longfellow-esque motto of "Excelsior!" It announces in letters aggressively large, on a background unnecessarily red, an exhibition of "Startling Pictures from the Paris Salons of 1896" to be seen within, and it is only fair to say at once that the adjective used is by no means too strong. For myself I should be inclined to select one with a less ambiguous meaning, for it is possible to be startled by bad pictures as well as by good ones, but more of this anon. Meantime, let me raise my protest against the new departure made by the proprietors of the "Continental Gallery." It is positively alarming to contemplate what Bond-street would become if their innovation were to be adopted and developed by neighbouring art galleries. From the flaunting red flag that waves over the portal of No. 157 it would be but a short step to a leather-lunged showman banging a big drum and vociferously inviting the public to "Walk up! Walk up!" and see the show. And another step downwards would result, possibly, in the hanging out of crude *kakimos*, illuminated by naphtha cressets, and depicting in exaggerated style the art sensations to be seen within, in accordance with the plan in favour with the travelling caravan proprietor. Thus might Bond-street, before the end of the century, be turned into a sort of up-to-date Bartlemy's Fair, in which, instead of Fat Ladies, Hottentot Venuses, and Spotted Wild Men from Borneo, would be seen the latest horrors of artistic realists and the eccentricities symbolists gone demented.

I said just now that "startling" was not too strong an adjective to apply to some of the paintings at No. 157, New Bond-street. Take, for instance, M. Tattegrain's "Les Bouches Inutiles." One might call this a "revolting" picture without the slightest risk of exaggeration. On a canvas, well-nigh as large as a tennis-lawn, the artist has crowded horrors enough to cloy the most morbid of palates. This is the ennobling and inspiriting subject: From a closely besieged fortress of the Middle Ages, all the old and useless non-combatants have been turned out into the midst of a severe winter by the hardly-pressed garrison, and we see a crowd of half-famished and maddened human beings fighting like carrion crows for such horrible means of subsistence as may be found on the snow-covered ground. The artist shows us emaciated wretches not only seeking dead dogs and gnawing at dead rats, but actually struggling like ravenous hyænas for the possession of the mutilated corpses, from which, in their extremity, they are hacking scraps of flesh. There is a group in the foreground of the picture which, once seen, it is almost impossible to forget. Its horrible features linger in one's memory like the gruesome details of Mr. Kipling's "Ride of Morrowby Jukes." "Les Bouches Inutiles," it may be remembered, was one of the sensations of the recent Salon. There were even critics who spoke of its "superb audacity" and "great nobility of motive and achievement." For my own part, I would rather not say what I think of such a prostitution of talent.

If in M. Tattegrain's picture we find so-called realism rampant, in M. Jean Veber's "L'Homme aux Poupées" we assuredly come upon symbolism gone mad. Here again masterly painting is perversely turned to most unsatisfactory account. We can all admire a colour scheme which recalls the brush of Eugène Delacroix; and approve the luminous modelling of the nude woman lying asleep in an attitude of abandonment on the couch in the middle of the picture, but when we try to get at the meaning of the artist, twenty interpretations suggest themselves, and not one of them conclusive.

A third of the "startling" pictures is M. de Laubadère's "L'Arène," another canvas in which artistic truth, and reticence, and good taste are wantonly sacrificed to the determination to excite sensation at any price. So resolute is M. de Laubadère to startle us that he has painted an assorted group of thirteen stalwart gladiators, nude Christian maidens, and dusky prisoners of war, all about to become the prey, apparently, of a single rather diminutive lion. Nay, he has even painted one Oriental satrap, who has been consigned to his fate wearing enough precious stones of enormous size about his neck and in his mitre-like hat to have made even the mouth of a Roman Emperor water. Possibly, captive kings were sometimes given to the lions in the Coliseum, but I venture to assert that they were always stripped of their regalia first.

It is but fair to add that there are pictures to be seen at the Continental Gallery, which, though they do not startle, most pleasantly impress one with their artistic strength. Amongst such I would include M. Gustave Wertheimer's noble study of lions and lionesses, "Le Tribut de la Reine," a most masterly piece of work, and M. Alberti's "La Loge de Mlle. Yvette Guilbert." The further end of the gallery is devoted to a collection of odd paintings by Herr George von Hoesslin, of Munich, who is as eccentric and enigmatic as M. Fernand Khnopff, without, however, a tithe of the skill which makes the latter artist's work so distinctive and distinguished.

MUSIC.

PROSPECTS OF AUTUMN OPERA.

AT one time it appeared likely that both Covent Garden and Drury Lane would be closed until Christmas. But suddenly the clouds seem to have lifted, and there is now every prospect of at least one, and perhaps two, important operatic enterprises this autumn. As to Covent Garden, there are a couple of schemes *in nubibus*, both by Italian speculators, though neither is ripe enough for discussion. The Carl Rosa Company, however, are fully prepared to take Drury Lane from early next month for an autumn season, and, unless somebody else speedily secures the house for an autumn drama, the Carl Rosa enterprise will most probably be carried out. Moreover,

it ought to do remarkably well at this period of the year, when the middle classes have returned to town, and when, except as to the luckless Queen's Hall promenade concerts, it will have a complete monopoly of music in the Metropolis.

A good many absurd statements have been made as to this suggested season. The idea that only the death of Sir Augustus Harris has allowed the Carl Rosa troupe to give evening performances in London is absolutely preposterous. When the Company and Harris dissolved their association, Harris agreed not to run English opera in the Provinces, while the Carl Rosa Company undertook not to attempt Italian opera in London. As a matter of fact the Rosa Company would have given evening performances last Christmas, could they have found a London theatre; and they might have given such evening representations even at Daly's, if they had consented to take over Mr. Hayden Coffin and another of the leading artists. It is also absurd to say that the Company insisted upon the performance of his contract by Mr. Hedmondt in order that that gentleman should not give an autumn season against them. As a matter of fact, Mr. Hedmondt had already signed an agreement to sing exclusively for the Carl Rosa Company, and at no other operatic enterprise during the current season. Mr. Hedmondt will, of course, be their principal tenor at Drury Lane should they open there, and he will play Siegmund, Tannhäuser, Lohengrin, and other parts. "Die Meistersinger," one of the big successes of the last tour, will also be given, together with the successful opera, "La Vivandière," which has not yet been heard in London. All these arrangements, however, must depend upon whether the Company secure the house, and the London season, in any event, must be a brief one. The troupe open at Dublin next Monday, it consisting of Mesdames de Lussan, Elandi, Esty, Heenan, Macdonald (a new American soprano), and Kirkby Lunn; Messrs. Brozel, Hedmondt, Grover, Paull, Marsh, and Ludwig; with several other singers, and Messrs. Jacquinot and Eckhold as conductors.

The meeting on behalf of the Augustus Harris fund at Covent Garden last Wednesday came to rather a lame conclusion. Mr. Raleigh, it is true, was beaten on the proposition, attributed to Lady Harris, to devote the fund to a statue of the deceased manager. But although the meeting would beyond doubt have agreed to spend the whole amount in charity, after deducting a small sum for a medallion, or some other sentimental souvenir, they were not asked to do so, and instead, by some fatuity, it was resolved to divide the fund in two, and allow each subscriber to earmark his money for which branch he chose. The effect of all this will be to please nobody, for while a comparatively small sum will probably be subscribed towards the statue, a further squabble will, beyond doubt, arise over the money raised by the operatic and musical benefits.

Mr. Higgins, it is true, stated very frankly that the opera money (which, with the contributions of the wealthy subscribers, will probably nearly approach £1,000), must be devoted to charitable objects; doubtless upon the principle that the man who pays the piper should be allowed to call the tune. He further stated in his opinion, and in the judgment of many of the opera subscribers who acted with him, that not half a dozen contemporary persons were worth a statue. Most of us will be inclined to endorse this view, and the matter should have been brought to its logical conclusion by a vote to devote the cash to a more useful purpose. Mr. Randegger and Professor Stanford started speeches, but speedily demonstrated that, whatever their merits as musicians, they were no orators. The suggestion of Mr. Ganz, to found further scholarships at our music-schools, was very properly sat upon. The schools, even now, have an abundance of scholarships and exhibitions, without showing any very satisfactory results for them. Another proposition was to endow a bed at Charing Cross Hospital. Another was to set up a drinking fountain in Covent Garden Market. Nobody suggested an equestrian statue, but the idea would have been almost as ridiculous.

The rumoured hitch as to the arrangements for the opera season next year have only this foundation in fact: namely, that the "Grand Opera Syndicate"—the word "Royal" is objected to by the Board of Trade—have not yet arranged with the Harris executors as to the copyrights and as to the scenery and costumes brought over from Drury Lane. The copyrights are, perhaps, of less importance than the clothing, for we do not want to hark back to the Covent Garden dresses and scenery of the latter Gye and Lago days. But the idea that if Mr. Higgins—who, by the way, with Earl de Grey, has just been appointed irremovable Director of the Opera till the end of the present century—and Mr. Grau do not come to terms, the Harris executors will start an opera season at Drury Lane against Covent Garden, will cause those two particularly wideawake gentlemen no little amusement. Executors who will not even risk an autumn drama are not in the least likely to emulate Harris' operatic exploits in 1887 at Drury Lane, where, although M. Jean de Reszke then cost a week less than he now costs a night, the manager asserted he lost £15,000 in one season.

As to the copyrights, undoubtedly Sir A. Harris held performing rights in various popular operas. But "Hamlet" and "La Navarraise," it is understood, have lapsed, while "Lohengrin" and all the earlier Wagner operas such as "Tannhäuser," and "The Flying Dutchman," are out of copyright, and are anybody's property. Certain claims have been made as to Gounod's "Faust," though it is understood only the English version is copyright, a difficulty which Mr. Turner and others have avoided by making a fresh translation in place of the feeble adaptation of Chorley. The performing rights of "Carmen" are also stated to be secured, but Mme. Soldene played the opera freely in the Provinces, and the late Mr. Carl Rosa, although he had bought the English rights, did not care to fight the question.

A few years ago Sir A. Harris purchased—it is reported for the sum of £400—from Herr Goldmark, of Vienna, the performing rights for a term in certain of Wagner's operas, such as "Die Meistersinger," "Tristan," and "Der Ring." It is understood that these rights subsist, except that Messrs. Schott hold the right to license the performance of the music at concerts. The Harris executors also hold the performing rights in "Roméo et Juliette," "Philémon," and in a large number of Italian and other operas which Sir Augustus Harris from time to time produced, either at Covent Garden or Drury Lane. Many of these works are, undoubtedly, in the repertory, but an arrangement should not be a matter of difficulty.

I have had a courteous letter from the hon. sec. of next year's Newport Eisteddfod pointing out that London and Cumberland choirs have already been enthusiastically received at Eisteddfodau, and expressing a friendly wish that next year other London choirs will compete at the National Eisteddfod. My own opinion, that so essentially Welsh an institution as the Eisteddfod should as far as possible be kept to the musicians of the Principality, has more than once been stated. But it is only right to say that at Newport the Welsh are willing to challenge the choirs of "the City of Lud in Britain," and I am perfectly sure that any Metropolitan singers who may like to compete will receive fair treatment, and a generous welcome.

The last cycle of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" commences at Bayreuth next Sunday and closes on the following Wednesday, Dr. Richter temporarily breaking his holiday in order to conduct it. These performances will be attended by the De Reszkes and other artists. A good deal of nonsense is still being written concerning the "Ring" performances this year, and one of the most wonderful expressions, perhaps, was that telegraphed to a London paper by an enthusiast, "Miss Brema is certainly one of the greatest operatic artists in the world. She is worthy to be ranked with Mr. Bispham." The spe correspondents have, however, of late become

more level-headed, and have discovered the absurdity of covering with eulogy at Bayreuth, German vocalists whom they unhesitatingly condemn when the artists come to London.

Even in Germany, too, there have been plain words spoken concerning the vocal deficiency of some of Mme. Wagner's artists. Herr Otto Lessmann, editor of the *Allgemeine Musik Zeitung*, has some hard words about the singers, and also severely criticises the costumes and stage management, being particularly sarcastic against the satin bodices in which the Rhine daughters disport themselves in the water. Herr Lessmann likewise wickedly inquires how these fair maidens manage to keep their hair in curl at the bottom of the Rhine, and he boldly states that the god Wotan's scolding wife Fricka is dressed like an Arcadian shepherdess.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Do you remember how pleased Sam Johnson was at the compliment paid him in the retort made to some parson's complaint that "in his parish they could only talk of runts"—"Sir, if Dr. Johnson lived in your parish, he would learn to talk of runts"? Mr. Henry James, like that superfine parson, complains again and again of the stupidity of the public with whom he has to do, as though it was to his credit that he was unintelligible to it. Is it then to the discredit of Shakespeare or of Scott that they "learned to talk of runts"? In the most ambitious of the four fine tales in his latest volume, "Embarrassments" (1), Mr. James re-states his grievance in an extreme form. A novelist of supreme powers writes only and always to convey a single idea to his readers.

There's an idea in my work without which I wouldn't have given a straw for the whole job. It stretches from book to book, and everything else, comparatively, plays over the surface of it. The order, the form, the texture of my books will perhaps some day constitute for the initiated a complete representation of it.

Upon this hint a critic who was as supreme in his own domain as the novelist was in that of fiction, gave his life up to the study of the Master's works, and to the discovery of the idea that inspired and underlay them. After intense and prolonged application he discovers it, and would have disclosed his discovery to the world but for the arrest of death. Without such a hint from the Master the critic with all his subtlety would never have suspected the existence of this organic base of all the novels, and, without a Newton-like intensity of application, he would never have discovered it. But this idea, even though it were as abstruse as the Kantian philosophy, or as well hidden as the treasure in Poe's "Golden Beetle," yet could have been, and but for the intervention of death would have been, revealed to the world by the critic. What is to be said, then, for the novelist who failed even to suggest its existence. Was his unintelligibility less to his own discredit than to that of his acutest critics, to say nothing of the ovine or bovine public? In another tale, "The Next Time," Mr. James returns to the charge, and represents a second novelist of genius, who, like a star, was too high above the world to enlighten it. In truth, Mr. James is never weary of making a complaint of which his public is quite weary; while the complaint itself is at once unreasonable and undignified. "He that will wryte well in any tongue," says Ascham in "Toxophilus," "must follow thys councel of Aristotle, to speak as the common people do, to think as wise men do." Mr. Herbert Morrah can write intelligibly and well, but the wise with whom he thinks are of the "Unjust Steward" tribe. In "A Serious Comedy" (2) he expects you to sympathise with two swindling adventuresses who by exploiting a Society for the Befriending of Young Women and by embezzling its funds, succeeded in achieving high social position and in netting aristocratic husbands. Poetic justice would have locked up his heroine and her female Fagin instructress for two years to pick oakum, and condemned his hardly less unprincipled hero to union for life with the ballet-girl he jilted so unconscionably. The author of "Mr. Magnus" (3), on the other hand, has so little sympathy with swindlers who have achieved flagitiously the highest social and political positions that he makes a ferocious attack on the two African fetiches of the hour, "Mr. Magnus" and "Mr. Benoni." In fact "Mr. Magnus" is in no sense a novel, but an exposure in the disguise of a novel of the gentlemen who have exploited Royalty, the Empire, Christianity and Civilisation to make for themselves colossal fortunes out of the bankruptcy of duped shareholders at home, and out of the slavery and misery of African miners. "Mr. Magnus" in the middle of an exposition of his methods of squaring people either by bribes or bunkum or flattery, is interrupted by the crash of the falling-in of a mine, and the news of the hopeless entombment of the miners:—

The news of such a disaster seemed to strike a chill through all. The only man who made a comforting remark was Hartmann, Mr. Benoni's factotum, who observed that it ought to send up the price of rubies. As, however, Mr. Benoni's firm had purchased the entire output for the year which was just expiring, the remark was hardly regarded as disinterested. The only person who had not made any movement was Mr. Magnus. As they were leaving, some one asked him what he was going to do? "Stay here," he replied, "and think in hemispheres. Boy! Another soda!"

No sooner, however, had his confederates gone off the ruined mine than Mr. Magnus stole away, ordered a special train, and left them "to face the music." "The Hero of Wynnum" (4) is the precise inverse of Mr. Magnus, since he is too conscientious to touch a treasure of untold gold and precious stones in heaps, because the house wherein he finds it is not his own. It was hidden in its wainscoting during the plague year, is covered by plague-infected cloths, and is revealed by the staring eyes of a picture opposite fixed with such intentness on the *cache* that the hero thereby divined its existence. These eyes, by the way, have such hypnotic power that the hero, having been once mesmerised by them, dared not look long at them again.

He pulled a chair into the middle of the room and sat down in it, and stared back at the picture. *Had he remained* (adds the author with all the emphasis of italics) *in that position for many minutes he would have been hypnotised, and this story might never have been written.*

Would that the heroes of half the hypnotic novels of the hour had been so hypnotised! The real hypnotist is the historical novelist who holds you with his glittering eye till

Nothing is
But what is not.

Mr. Standish O'Grady in all his stories shows this surprising power of conjuring up the past and making its dry bones live, but in none perhaps with such magic effect as in his latest romance, "In the Wake of King James" (5). While you read, the only realities to you are its sombre scenes, grim personages, its heroine, hero, and its hero who had something in him of the heroine in his virginal simplicity. Nothing finer than the closing scene of this vivid romance can be found in contemporary fiction.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "Embarrassments." By Henry James. (London: William Heinemann.) Price 6s.
(2) "A Serious Comedy." By Herbert Morrah. (London: Methuen & Co.) Price 6s.
(3) "Mr. Magnus." (London: T. Fisher Unwin.) Price 6s.
(4) "Wynnum." By J. D. Hennessey. (London: Sampson Low & Co.) Price 3s. 6d.
(5) "In the Wake of King James," or, "Dun-Randal on the Sea." By Standish O'Grady. (London: J. M. Dent & Co.) Price 4s. 6d. net.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—In a seaside place one can understand how it is that so many thousands of persons living in the country are content to let the great world go by without interesting themselves to any extent in its doings. In London we are all awake and alert, intent on the morning papers and their telegrams from all over the world, and expectant of the modifications and additions to be found in the evening papers. But down here the chief things that seem to matter are the sea, the sky, the prospects of the weather, to bathe or not to bathe, to walk

or to drive, and other insignificant questions that, for the moment, assume an importance that does not really belong to them.

Is it that the rehabilitation of the body, after weeks of fatigue and late hours, makes the intellectual portion of us dwindle for the time? In London, our morning paper is more to us than breakfast, as a rule. But down here, breakfast is much—a real meal. That we cannot have our daily paper with it does not seem to matter. We look at the blue sea and the cloudless sky, nod to the white cliffs of Calais across the way, note the packet waiting for its passengers for Boulogne at the pier, and when the London papers at last arrive, the first thing we hunt out in them is very probably the weather forecast.

Selfish, isn't it? A sad confession, but an ower true one.

Folkestone is rough on skirts. Already we have had to invest largely in velveteen bindings, for though we wear our gowns quite short all round, as fashion, common-sensible for once, requires, yet we find them white with chalky dust and cut and frayed in a very short time. There must be an equivalent to capillary attraction in the matter of dust, I think. How else can one account for a quarter of a yard of chalk-trimming on a gown that never touches the ground except, perhaps, in going down hill?

There is the usual seaside mixture of almost all social classes here. On the Lees on Sunday, after church, there is a prayer-book parade, at which a most extraordinary hotch-potch of garmenture assembles. Some of the ladies are immaculately attired in orthodox seaside Sunday gear—foulards, alpacas, grass lawns, canvas plain or shot, and light summer cloth in tones of cream and tan and biscuit. But the town ladies stream forth, too, in silks and satins and velvets, with beady capes and jet-trimmed mantles; and their husbands' favourite costume seems to be frock coat and straw hat or bowler, with a small child worn on one arm.

Another contingent consists of visitors from the cheap parts of the town, who have carefully provided themselves with a variety of most unsuitable decorations for a sojourn by the sea; including ostrich feathers of the frugal kind, bright muslin flowers in black jet bonnets and black lace hats, tweed coats with lace collars turned down over them, and black satin capes with serge or tweed gowns and felt travelling hats.

We went to the theatre on Wednesday to see Miss Fortescue play Stéphanie in "Forget-me-not," and were interested in the variety of costume of the seaside audience. One girl wore a low bodice and short sleeves, and looked dreadfully out of it, for full dress is not usual at a watering-place. Others had quiet demi-toilettes of the usual kind when the London season has run its course. But quite as many of the occupants of the stalls wore bonnets and hats. So we had abundant variety of costume to study.

It was such a chilly, unresponsive audience. It reminded me of the old German Reed "congregation" as Corney Grain was known to call it, in its impassivity. When the orchestra played a lovely solo from "Shamus O'Brien," there was not the remotest sign of any pleasure having been afforded by it; but they woke up at Miss Fortescue's excellent acting; and she wore such lovely gowns and looked so pretty in them. The one I liked best was a corn-coloured satin, with a chené ribbon at the waist in cream colour with a design of pink roses. The black hat worn with this was tilted at a most becoming angle.

With her last dress, cream colour and poppy red, the latter arranged in long ends ending in gold tassels, with smaller ends hanging over the sleeves, Miss Fortescue wore a pearl necklace suspended from arm to arm above the front of the low bodice. It was a good idea.

It was a new sensation, by the way, to walk home at 11 p.m., and find the "snorting citizens," as Iago calls them, conspicuous by their absence. The world of Folkestone keeps early hours, and we felt quite dissipated in being amongst the minority who were awake a whole hour before midnight.

So sheath skirts are coming in again, with small bonnets and tight sleeves with no puffs at the top. We shall all be transformed by this time next year. Paris has decreed it, and a few yards may come out of our skirts with a very perceptible diminution of weight. There is always something good in every change, as we know from the old proverb about an ill wind. But we shall miss our gores and the floating fulness of our hems, shall we not? As to the puffs of sleeves, they were always out of drawing and extremely inconvenient. "De mortuis nil nisi bonum;" but there are cases in which this would mean perfect silence about the defunct, and the large sleeves are one of the cases.

But do not forget that I have given you fair notice of the coming changes, and do not invest in any more wide skirts. The new ones are only half the width of those we have been wearing.

There is some prospect of the revival of a very old fashion—that of jewelled gloves. Did not Richard Cœur de Lion wear diamonds in his glove? And had not Mary Queen of Scots a glove set with rubies, garnets, and pearls?

Bridegrooms who are at a loss to know what present to give bridesmaids can now fall back on jewelled gloves, pale pink kid sewn with seed pearls, or something of the sort. And what an interest it will add to one's small bets at sunny Sandown and elsewhere to feel that there is a possibility of the payments being made in gloves with the stitching of the points brightened by diamonds.

It has often occurred to me as a bad and wicked thing that men should monopolise the saloon on packet boats and leave their unfortunate wives and sisters to the horrors of the ladies' cabin. I see that this has attracted attention in print, and I sincerely hope that some refuge for women may be supplied in boats where the passage occupies the greater part of the night. I shall never forget the awful stuffiness of the cabin in crossing from Harwich to the Hook of Holland. And in the saloon were stretched in the full enjoyment of air and space the male creatures who were our privileged fellow passengers. Why can we not have some air and space as well? Will some one see to it for us?

We appreciate our Cravenettes this showery weather. And how suddenly the deluges arrive, too. At one moment we are all spruce and trim with skirts all gracefully falling and a red sunshade held aloft, and the next we are damp, dispirited, invaded by mud and grime, the wretched sunshade dark with rage at being wet through. Such a contrast as we present to our previous selves! It is too humiliating.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Now that the rush of the season is over, you are all no doubt in full swing of the holiday rush. Oh! the crowded boats and trains, the overflowing hotels, and all the excruciating pleasures of the summer outing. Pleasures may be said advisedly, for who would have these things otherwise? However we may grumble at the overcrowding, to which we take good care, at the same time, to contribute, how much greater would be the lamentations over deserted hotels, trains and boats. The dreadful suspicion would then enter our minds that, through some ghastly chance, we were not "in it," that we were doing something for which there was no struggle; something nobody else wanted to do; in a word, something not worth doing. And so we crush and rush, and if being driven almost distracted by fuss and fatigue is a sufficient measure of the distraction of mind recommended by our doctors, there is no doubt that we do get it on the holiday tour of the summer season. One wonders if doctors who send their unfortunate patients careering about the Continent at this time have the crafty idea that by sending them to greater ills those they are suffering from will seem less. What opportunities for the wear of "sorrow's crown of sorrows" a passage across the Channel gives, with a brisk wind or a deceitful ground swell. Amidst rolling and pitching, the victim's mind turns landward with despairing regret; in his misery, the memory of any day on land seems a happy one. Did you ever try an entirely restful holiday? It has its drawbacks, too. A friend of mine, in a fit of world-weariness, took a month's rest from everything and every one—friends, relatives, newspapers, posts. It is some years since, but he has never

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recovered that month of seclusion. He emerged from it a kind of Rip Van Winkle. The whole world was changed; entirely new subjects—or the old ones under entirely new aspects—were engaging public attention. People and things which at the moment had seemed of such vital importance were almost forgotten. The worst of it was he never regained that lost month. No one dreamt of telling him of all the things which had filled the papers during that time. The assumption that he knew them produced very awkward situations in many a conversation, yet all attempts to gain enlightenment through others were met with suspicions of his sanity or sobriety. To be sure, he could have read all the back numbers of the newspapers for the month, but what evil would be terrible enough for such a remedy? A holiday, like everything else, ought to strike the just mean, and happily blend together activity and inaction, society and seclusion.

Lady Cadogan, with some of her sons, returned to the Viceregal Lodge last week. How lonely she must feel, being daughterless now that both her daughters are married. A Court is more lively, too, with a young lady element. Cricket is the chief pastime just now at the Viceregal Lodge, where there is a nice cricket field, with surrounding trees from under the shades of which one can watch the matches. The Zingari are to visit Dublin

(play on several days in the week before the Horse Show. ey will be entertained as usual at the Viceregal Lodge. In er days a Zingari dance used to be an institution at the ceregal Lodge, and gave an opportunity for Zingari supper- le decorations, toilets, and bouquets. The military have n playing polo vigorously in the Phœnix Park. The Ireland Polo Tournament is yet to come, in which the litary also have a large part. It will be held just about e Horse Show time. All the arrangements of Irish Society e made at this season with a view to the Horse Show; is the centre round which all things social move. One wonders what temper with Lord Cadogan the Irish landlords will be hen they meet him at the great festival of the Horse. They oycotted Lord Crewe for doing a great deal less against them han their own Government has done. What an interesting, f not exalting, study of humanity the House of Lords afforded ast week! To have Lords Lansdowne, Ranfurly, and Ash- ourne ranged against the Irish Land-Lords! One could not but hink of Sir Robert Walpole's cynical "All men have their rice."—Yours ever,

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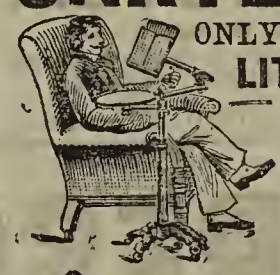

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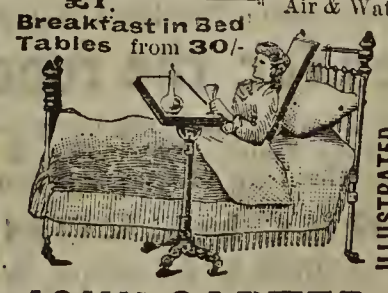

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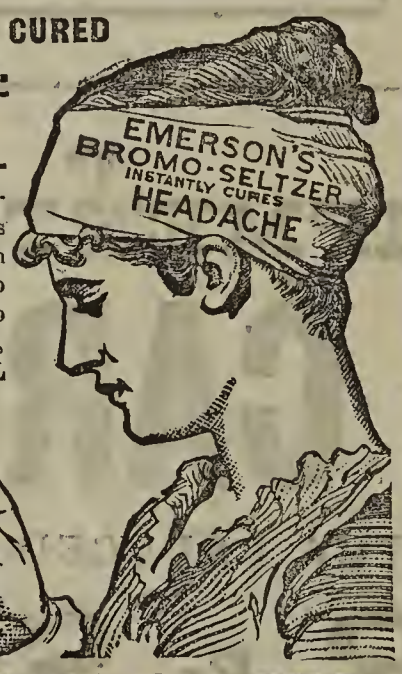

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REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £23,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s

The SUBSCRIPTION LISTS will OPEN on MONDAY, the 10th day of August, 1896, and CLOSE on or before WEDNESDAY, the 12th, at Four p.m., both for Town and Country.

A CARRIAGE MOTOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. A GOING CONCERN: WORKS IN FULL OPERATION.

The orders in hand on 1st June (from which date the Company takes over the business) from responsible parties are of considerable magnitude. The leading features of the Motor Carriages, as manufactured by M. Roger, are: Freedom from vibration when in motion; sensibility and steadiness of steering apparatus, facilitating easy guidance; practically instantaneous stoppage; arrangement for automatically stopping carriage in case of accident to driver; lightness and simplicity of construction; few component parts, lessening chance of disarrangement of machinery; complete independence of motor, which, though fixed to carriage, can be utilised for other purposes.

The Anglo-French Motor Carriage Company

LIMITED (ROGER'S SYSTEM).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL, £300,000, divided into 300,000 Shares of £1 each.—Parr's Bank, Limited, in Great Britain; their Correspondents, La Société Générale in France; and the Belfast Banking Company, Limited, in Ireland, are authorised to receive subscriptions for an ISSUE of 258,000 SHARES of £1 each, of which the Vendor stipulates that at least 86,000 shall be allotted to him as fully paid in part payment of the purchase-money, being one-third of the whole issued capital. The balance of the capital (42,000 Shares) will be reserved for the further requirements of the business. The Shares are payable as follows: 2s. 6d. on application, 5s. on allotment, 5s. on 15th September, and the balance as and when required.

DIRECTORS.

The Earl of Lonsdale, 14, Carlton House-terrace, and Lowther Castle, Westmorland (Chairman).
Lord Marcus Beresford, Bishopsgate, Englefield Green, Surrey.
E. B. Ellice-Clark, Memb.Inst.C.E., L.C.C., 34, Victoria-street, S.W.
A. Barrett (R. Barrett & Son, Limited, Brass and Iron Founders), Beech-street, Barbican, E.C.
F. Shanks (F. & R. Shanks, Carriage Builders), Great Queen-street.
Germain Paillardin (Grands Magasins du Louvre, Paris).
*Emil Roger, Managing Director in France, 52, Rue des Dames, Paris.
*M. Roger, being the Vendor to the Company, will not join the Board until after allotment.

BANKERS.—Parr's Bank, Limited, Bartholomew-lane, London, E.C., and Branches; La Société Générale, Rue de Provence, Paris, and Branches; The Belfast Banking Company, Limited, Belfast.
BROKERS.—London: Montagu, Oppenheim, and Co., 22, Austin-friars. Liverpool: G. E. Schultz and Sons, 17, Manchester-buildings. Manchester: R. A. Armitage and Son, 10, St. Ann's-square. Bristol: Harry James and Co., 13, Corn-street. Belfast: Adam Duffin and Co., 9, Waring-street. Dublin: T. J. Carolin, 5, Foster-place. Glasgow: Paterson, Newlands, and Co., 28, Renfield-street. Edinburgh: George Denholm, 15, Duke-street.
SOLICITORS.—Burn and Berridge, 11, Old Broad-street, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, and Co., 58, Coleman-street, E.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro tem.).—F. H. Firth, 58, Coleman-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

1. This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and taking over as a going concern the established business of E. Roger & Company, as at present carried on at 52, Rue des Dames, and 4 and 6, Rue Mariotte, Paris, for the construction of motors for application to all types of mechanical carriages, and for extending the existing works in France. It is also proposed to establish a factory in England, and to form subsidiary companies in such other countries as may be deemed expedient, and where the demand justifies the outlay of capital.

2. The Company will also acquire from Monsieur Roger his patent rights, together with all future improvements, for the United Kingdom and France, relating to motors, and will also acquire all Monsieur Roger's rights in such inventions for every other country (excepting the United States of America). M. Roger also binds himself to act as managing director for a period of ten years.

3. Arrangements have also been made with Messrs. L'Hollier, Gascoine, & Co., of Birmingham and Maidstone, who have hitherto been M. Roger's sole agents and licensees for Great Britain, and who are amongst the leading pioneers of the motor-car movement in this country, by which the Company will acquire the benefit of the organisation they have established for selling purposes. Being well in touch with the trade and large industrial firms, they are in a favourable position for obtaining for the works in England, as soon as they are established, immediate and important orders. Mr. E. Gascoine, who is a mechanical engineer, has agreed with the Company to become manager in England.

4. The following extract from the report of Mr. Booth, M.Am.Soc.C.E. (made at the instance of the Vendor), fully describes the most essential points of the Roger Motor:—

"I have no hesitation in stating my conviction of the practical and commercial success of the improvements effected by M. Roger's system, and the general excellence of the motors he constructs, and of the arrangement and balance of the vehicles generally, and I consider them certainly to be the best motor vehicles existent. The machinery is well constructed and is very accessible for repairs. It can quickly be removed from a vehicle and replaced, or even employed for other purposes.

"Every facility was afforded me for examining the motors and the vehicles themselves, and also the working drawings of every detail. As a result of my examination, I am of opinion that the objects secured by the improvements, viz., greatly increased efficiency, convenience, comfort, and safety, are attained with less weight of machinery. The various improvements consist in brief of (a) an arrangement for backward running; (b) a safety device to prevent the carriage running backwards when left on a hill; (c) an improved system of water cooling, prolonging the duration of the water supply; (d) a simpler gear, whereby, by means of a single handle, the driver is enabled to employ either the fast or the slow speed; (e) automatic gear, whereby the application of the break also disconnects the driving gear, and at once causes the vehicle to stop; (f) a special safety arrangement to ensure that an accident to the driver, who might, for example, fall from his seat through illness, shall cause instant stoppage of the motor, a most important point; (g) general simplification of the motor, and improvement of the water jackets, reduced weight and space occupied, whereby the rear of the carriage is very considerably reduced in length."

5. Unlike other Companies hitherto formed in England with a similar object, this Company has the advantage of being the first construction company of any importance formed to acquire an established business turning out motors for carriages as rapidly as it is possible to manufacture them. Carriages fitted with motors made on this system are regularly at work, not on prepared tracks, but over ordinary roads, and running in every description of weather, and the satisfaction they give to their owners a few of the testimonials attached to the Prospectus will show.

6. The works in Paris are in full operation, and the Company enters at once into an established industry. The present factories are quite inadequate to cope with the increasing trade, and, in consequence, the Vendor has secured the option of acquiring a lease of other premises in the immediate neighbourhood of the present works, having a superficial area of about 35,000 square feet, furnished with steam power, and well adapted for carrying on a large business, the benefit of which option will be transferred to the Company.

7. In view of the probability of the Locomotive (Highways) Act, which will authorise the use of motor carriages in this country, receiving the Royal Assent this session, the Directors propose taking immediate steps to secure adequate premises to enable them to commence the construction of motors in England. In the meantime English orders will be filled from the Paris factories.

8. To illustrate the future prospects of the Company, M. Roger estimates that with a working capital of £75,000, the subscription of £37,500 of which is already secured, about 1,000 carriages of different styles can be turned out annually in the Paris factories alone; and that this output at present prices would permit of profits being earned to the extent of about 25 per cent. on the present issue of capital.

9. The profits to be derived from the intended formation of subsidiary Companies should be considerable, whilst, according to Mr. Roger, a substantial additional income should be earned from the manufacture of stationary motors.

10. On the 1st June, 1896, the Vendor had on hand a considerable number of orders from responsible persons, which are taken over by the Company. Since that date numerous other orders have been received, and additional orders are arriving daily. The large drapery establishment, the Grands Magasins du Printemps, in Paris, has made a series of most satisfactory trials, resulting in orders for delivery carts for the Grands Magasins du Louvre, as well as for other important houses.

11. The motors can be readily adapted to launches, pleasure boats, tramcars, omnibuses, and every sort of vehicle, and also for the purpose of pumping water and electric lighting. The Company proposes to grant to carriage builders and others, where deemed advisable, licences to adapt these motors to their own carriages and boats, which should be a source of additional revenue.

12. M. Roger was the recipient at the recent Nantes Exhibition (1896) of the Prix d'Honneur and Gold Medal, and the unanimous congratulations of the Exhibition Committee for the excellence of his system; also the Silver Medal at the Paris Exhibition of 1889; whilst he received prizes both for the Paris-Bordeaux and Paris-Rouen races, in both of which all the carriages started by him arrived back safely, and in good condition.

13. The business will be taken over as from the 1st June, 1896, M. Roger discharging all liabilities up to that date. All orders standing in the books on that day, whether in course of execution or to be executed, will be for the account of this Company, it being agreed that (in addition to the purchase price below mentioned) both the manufactured and unmanufactured stocks are paid for by the Company at cost price.

14. M. Roger, who promotes this Company, has fixed the purchase price of the whole of his business as a going concern, including all plant, machinery, tools, patent rights, models, drawings, goodwill, and the optional lease of the new premises, at the price of £183,000, payable as to £33,000 in cash, £64,000 in cash or fully-paid shares, at the option of the Company, and £86,000 in fully-paid shares in the Company; and in addition he stipulates that if subsidiary Companies are formed to manufacture his inventions in countries other than Great Britain and France he shall receive one-third of the net purchase-price to be paid to this Company by any such subsidiary Company. Out of the above-mentioned purchase price the consideration to be paid to Messrs. L'Hollier, Gascoine, & Co., for the transfer of their business as aforesaid will be provided. The Vendor will pay all expenses (other than legal charges and registration fees) in connection with the formation of the Company down to the first general allotment of shares.

15. Of the present issue 75,000 shares are appropriated to provide working capital, 42,000 shares being held in reserve for future issue if required.

16. The statements of fact contained in this Prospectus are based upon information furnished by the Vendor and the report of Mr. Booth, a copy of which accompanies the Prospectus.

17. The following contracts have been entered into: (1) dated 5th August, 1896, between E. Roger of the one part, and the Company of the other part: (2) dated 25th June, 1896, and made between E. Roger, of the one part, and John Ornstein of the other part; and (3) dated 7th August, 1896, and made between Leon L'Hollier, of the first part, Edmund Gascoine, the younger, of the second part, Daniel Courtois, of the third part, John Ornstein, of the fourth part, and the Company of the fifth part.

18. There are numerous trade contracts relating to purchases of material, &c., and also contracts for orders which are far too numerous to mention in this Prospectus.

Other agreements and arrangements have been and may be entered into with third parties as to the promotion of the Company and the subscription of its capital, to none of which the Company is a party. Applicants for shares will be deemed to have had notice of the contents of all such agreements and contracts, and to have waived their right (if any) to particulars thereof, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

19. Copies of the contracts above particularised, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are open to the inspection of intending subscribers at the offices of the Solicitors.

Applications for shares should be made on the accompanying form, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

In cases where no allotment is made, the amount deposited on application will be returned at once without deduction. If the number of Shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the payment on allotment; any balance will be returned.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, 8th August, 1896.

Since the Prospectus was drawn up, the "Locomotives on Highways" Bill has passed the third reading in the House of Commons, and now only awaits the Royal Assent to become law.

Application may be made on the following form.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH MOTOR CARRIAGE COMPANY, LIMITED, (ROGER'S SYSTEM).

To the Directors of THE ANGLO-FRENCH MOTOR CARRIAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.
Gentlemen,

Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £ ..... being 2s. 6d. per Share payable on application for ..... Shares of £1 each, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus dated 8th August, 1896, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as required in the terms of the said Prospectus, and I agree with the Company (as trustees for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than is contained in the said prospectus.

Please write distinctly.
Ordinary Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
(Miss or Mrs.)
Address .....
Description .....
Date .....1896.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on FRIDAY, the 14th for Town, and SATURDAY, the 15th, for Country.

There are no Founders' Shares. No promotion money has been or will be paid to anyone.

The Preference Shares now offered for Subscription are entitled to dividends equivalent to a return of 100 per cent. before the Ordinary Shares rank for any dividend, after which the Prefereuce Shares are convertible into Ordinary Shares, and will rank pari passu with the same.

THE

City of London Joint Stock Trust,

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890. LIMITED.

CAPITAL - - £150,000,

Divided into 150,000 Shares of £1 each,

Of which 50,000 are Preference Shares, entitled to a Preferential Dividend of 100 per cent. (after which they are convertible into Ordiuary Shares, with which they will rank pari passu), and 100,000 are Ordinary Shares. The Ordinary Shares are entitled to no dividend until the Prefcrence Shares rcceive 100 per cent.

ISSUE OF 50,000 PREFERENCE SHARES OF £1 EACH,

Payable :—2s. 6d. on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in monthly calls of 5s. each. The Company has acquired, free of any charge whatsoever the option to purchase at par, substantial interests in each of the following financial undertakings :—

In a Company with assets which, valued at par only, are stated to be equivalent to 200 per cent. on its issued capital.

Iu a Company with assets which, valued at par only, are stated to be equivalent to 275 per cent. on its issued capital.

In a Company with assets which, valued at par only, are stated to be equivalent to 175 per cent. on its issued capital.

The Company has also offered to it on most favourable terms, and free of any payment for the options, a substantial interest in the followiug gold mining undertakings :—

A mining property stated to contain ore reserves amounting to 50,000 tons, of an estimated value of £400,000.

A mining property stated to contain ore reserves amounting to 20,000 tons, of an estimated value of £160,000.

The Directors are in no way committed to the above or any other undertakings, and will only exercise any of the options referred to after being satisfied iu the fullest manner that it is to the Company's interest to do so.

DIRECTORS.

R. Ambrose, Esq., M.P., Director Exploring and Development Syndicate, Ltd.
Major-General J. P. W. Campbell, Barcaldine, Argyllshire, N.B., and 16, St. James'-square, Pall Mall, S.W.
H. T. Hartley, Esq., 163, New Park-road, Streatham Hill.
Sir James D. Linton (Chairman London aud Westminster Contract Corporation, Limited), 39, Brook-street, W.
M. Lucien Merle, 2, Place de l'Opéra, Paris.
G. F. Vallat, Esq., 26, Stonor-road, West Kensington.

BANKERS.—The Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard-street, E.C., Head Office, Edinburgh, and Branches in Scotland.
BROKERS.—Messrs. Muir & Scott, 8, Finch-lane, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Pattison, Son, De La Chapelle & Co., Suffolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon-street, E.C., and 94, Rue St. Lazare, Paris.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Jackson, Gourlay, Taylor & MacRae, Dashwood House, E.C., and 24, George-square, Glasgow.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro. tem.).—Mr. A. Dever, Bishopsgate House, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of a Finance Corporation, and as such of acquiring interests in sound Industrial or Mineral concerns, of becoming Concessionaires, and guaranteeing the issues of approved Debentures and other Securities.

The profitable nature of the business contemplated is amply exemplified by the balance-sheets and reports of similar undertakings, notable amongst which are the London and West Australian Exploration Company, the Colonial Finance Corporation, the West Australian Gold Fields, and the West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation.

The results of these undertakings, as set forth in the last annual balance-sheets and reports, were as follows :—

	Net Profits earned.
The Londou and West Australian Exploration Company	About 250 per cent. on the paid-up capital.
Colonial Finance Corporation	About 575 per cent. on the paid-up capital.
West Australian Gold Fields	About 100 per cent. on the paid-up capital.
West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation	About 206 per cent. on the issued capital.

Results such as these, achieved in some instances within the first year's operations, illustrate the profitable nature of a class of business which has hitherto been largely carried on by individuals who, by the employment of capable engineers and the judicious development of properties, frequently acquired in the first instance at merely nominal figures, have been able to amass large fortunes, whilst investors have ultimately acquired their interest in such properties at enormous premiums.

Similar opportunities to those which presented themselves in the early days of gold mining in South Africa, and by which such undertakings as the South African Gold Trust and the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, as well as certain prominent individuals, were enabled to make fabulous profits and fortunes, are offered to-day in West Australia, New Zealand, British Columbia, and British Guiana, with the important additional advantage of greater security from political disturbances.

West Australia is regarded by some as destined to prove itself the greatest and richest goldfield yet discovered. In 1886 the value of its gold production was about £1,100, while in 1895 it was valued at about £879,700. The machinery now in course of transit and erection will, it may safely be predicted, make the return for 1896 much greater. Better than the general consensus of opinion as to the value of these fields is the fact that crushings from fourteen West Australian mines, aggregating 35,362 tons of ore, are stated to have given a yield of 147,404 oz. of gold, or an average of over 4 oz. per ton—a remarkable result, and a very significant one, considering that the mines in question are situated widely apart and in different sections of the fields—viz., five at Murchison, five at Coolgardie, and four at Hannan's.

The mineral wealth of New Zealand is also proverbial amongst those who are acquainted with the subject, but lack of capital and the proper mechanical and metallurgical appliances have retarded its progress. Notwithstanding this fact, however, it is stated that, since any proper records of its production have been kept, the value of its gold exports have been placed at £50,000,000.

There, as also in British Columbia and British Guiana, the employment of capable and trustworthy engineers and the judicious expenditure of capital, combined with the application of modern machinery and processes, are all that is necessary to ensure a profitable yield of an abundance of the precious metals.

A large field is also open for the safe employment of capital on properties the values of which have been determined by individuals or Companies lacking the necessary funds for their flotation, or with which to provide plant and machinery.

In such cases as these the engineers employed by the Company will be entrusted with the duty of an exhaustive examination of the properties, in order to ascertain their present and prospective values before the Directors employ the funds of the Company in rendering any financial assistance.

To those conversant with such matters it is well known the enormous advantages and profits which accrue to individuals or Companies able to render assistance in such cases.

Another fruitful source of revenue is the cheap purchase of blocks of Vendors' Shares frequently held by miners, whose means for prosecuting further research for mineral often depend upon realising at nominal figures the Shares acquired by them in exchange for claims or leases sold. The Directors have already a free option, at a price much below the market value, to acquire a block of Vendors' Shares in a Company whose property is reported to be of immense value, and whose crushing plant is on its way up to the mines, and is expected to be very shortly at work.

The Directors will also be able to employ a portion of the funds of the Company in issuing and guaranteeing the capital of approved industrial and other enterprises, and in the amalgamation and reconstruction of undertakings of proved merit and value.

The Company is empowered by its Memorandum and Articles of Association to carry on the business of a Trading Company, and as such to deal in all kinds of merchandise and machinery and all requisites for mining operations, and to act as agents for the letting out on royalties of processes for the recovery of gold, and to provide the necessary plant for the same.

The Company has offered to it the options mentioned on the first page of the Prospectus, the estimates and statements respecting which are made upon the faith of, and taken from information supplied by the Companies interested or referred to. Nothing whatever has been or will be paid for these options, and the Directors are in no way committed to the exercise of any of them, nor are they in any way committed to any undertaking or business whatsoever, but are free to accept or reject any or all business already under offer.

It is not intended to employ the whole of the funds of the Company in any one enterprise, but, as far as possible, to distribute their investment over a wide area, thus limiting all risk in this respect, and ensuring the principle of averages in the selection of investments.

The Company will have the opportunity of associating with other similar undertakings, having organised staffs of engineers now on the various fields, in addition to employing its own representatives, so that in this respect it will not be delayed in getting to work.

A reference to the results accomplished by similar ventures is sufficient to indicate the advantages to investors of co-operating together in a business proven to be most lucrative when carried on under the advice of experienced engineers. Modern machinery and the application of newly-discovered processes having reduced gold mining to a commercial industry, it only needs that its operations be conducted on sound principles and under experienced engineers to make it second to none in its revenue-earning power, while its produce finds a ready market at a fixed and permanent price throughout the world.

There are no Founders' Shares.

No promotion money has been or will be paid to anyone, the whole of the capital of the Company being available for the business of the Company.

The only contract is one dated the 15th day of July, 1896, and made between Henry Ward Tanner, the Promoter, of the one part, and the Company of the other part, whereby, in consideration of the payment by the Promoter of all expenses incidental to the formation of the Company up to the first allotment of Shares in the Company, the Company agrees to give to the Promoter an option for three years to purchase 50,000 Ordinary Shares in the Company at par.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the above-mentioned Contract with the Company, may be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Prospectuses, with Forms of Application, may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

Applications for Shares should be made on the following Form or the Form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard-street, E.C., and Head Office, Edinburgh, and Branches in Scotland, together with a remittance of 2s. 6d. per Share, which is payable on application. If no allotment is made this remittance will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess will be returned to the applicant.

London, August, 1896.

This Form may be cut out and sent entire to the Bankers of the Company, the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard-street, E.C., Head Office, Edinburgh, and branches in Scotland, accompanied with a cheque for the amount of deposit payable on application.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR PREFERENCE SHARES.

To the Directors of The CITY OF LONDON JOINT STOCK TRUST, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being 2s. 6d per Share on ..... Preference Shares in the above Company, I hereby request that you will allot me that number of Shares upon the terms stated in the Prospectus and Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I hereby agree to accept such Shares, or any less number you may allot to me, and to pay 2s. 6d. per Share on Allotment, and the balance thereon according to the terms of the Prospectus, and I request you to place my name on the Register of Members for the shares so allotted to me.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Occupation .....
Date .....
Usual signature .....

The List will open this day, Wednesday, the 12th inst., at the Company's Bankers and Branches, and will close on or before Friday, the 14th inst., for London and the Country.

OF THE SHARES NOW OFFERED for Public Subscription over 30,000 have already been applied for AT PAR.

THIRTY SQUARE MILES OF FREEHOLD MINING TERRITORY.—TWENTY-SIX GOLD AND SILVER MINES DISCLOSING LARGE HIGH-GRADE ORE RESERVES.—TIMBER LANDS AND WATER POWER.

The Gold Fields of Mexico, LIMITED.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL £100,000, IN SHARES OF £1 EACH.

Of which 99,900 are Ordinary Shares, entitled *pro rata* to four-fifths of the net profits (divided in accordance with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association), and 100 are Adventurers' Shares, entitled *pro rata* to the remaining one-fifth of such profits. The Adventurers' Shares have been allotted at par and are paid up in full.

First Issue of 60,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each at par,

Payable—1s. per Share on application, 4s. per Share on allotment, and the balance in three instalments of 5s. per Share each, at One, Two, and Three Months respectively from date of allotment.

DIRECTORS.

LORD DOUGLAS OF HAWICK, 14, Cranley-gardens, S.W.
HERBERT B. MARKS, 42 to 46, Houndsditch, E.
L. P. MONTEFIORE, 35, Hyde Park-square, W.
The Honble. JAMES ROCHE, M.P.
HENRY WILLIAM SPRATT, 46, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.
(With power to add to their number.)

BANKERS.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED, 112, Bishopgate street Within, and Branches.

BANKERS IN MEXICO.

Messrs. EST. BENECKE SUCESORES.

BROKERS.

ALFRED J. BENJAMIN, 1, Austin Friars, E.C., and Stock Exchange, London.
EARLAM-BOOTH & PRESTON, 4, Copthall Chambers, and Stock Exchange, London.
R. SALMON BACKHOUSE, St. Andrew's Chambers, Park-row, Leeds.

SOLICITOR.

T. CLARKSON RUSSEL, J.P., 24, Coleman-street, E.C.

AUDITOR.

A. A. YEATMAN, F.C.A., 2, Gresham-buildings, E.C.

SECRETARY and OFFICES.

E. W. BACON, 13, Size-lane, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to carry on business as a promoting, financial, and mining Company, and its first enterprise will be to purchase and deal with the auriferous district of Huruapa, Chihuahua, Mexico, a well-known mineral area, which has been in the possession of the present Vendors, who are the native proprietors, for many years past.

The object of the present issue is to provide the actual purchase price ($300,000 Mex., at rate of exchange about £33,150) to be paid in apportioned amounts to the native owners, and to furnish a working capital estimated to be ample to properly organise a scientific development of the immense mineral resources of the property, and to dispose of the Mines, either singly or in sections. It will thus be observed that subscribers of the capital of this Company are invited to take a position usually occupied by a promoter, and it is submitted that the shares should, on the merits, command and maintain a substantial premium above the price of issue.

The Estate above referred to, a sketch scale plan of which accompanies the Prospectus, is entirely freehold, has water power for driving mills, is well wooded, covers an area of about four sities or thirty square miles, and contains groups of gold and silver Mines to which special reference is made in the reports on the property, a feature being the existence of gold-yielding ores of high grade in considerable quantity. Notwithstanding the developments, the territory is described as a virgin goldfield. On one section of the properties there is a 10-stamp mill, which has been worked at a large profit, although in a primitive manner, by the Vendors.

Accompanying the Prospectus are extracts from a Report, dated the 5th November, 1895, in which Capt. Francis Drake, M.E., gives his description of Twenty-six Mines in various states of development on the property, and his estimates of the ores visible or now available (amounting approximately to $1,000,000 Mex.) in certain of the Mines. Mr. William Liddle, M.I.C.E., an engineer of experience who is now in Mexico, writes and cables his opinion that such Report is a conservative one, and that the value of the property has been understated rather than overstated. Certain associates of this Company have nominated by cable Señor Don Louis Hijar Haro, a practical mining engineer (who has for some years been in the service of The Real del Monte Mining Company, the largest and most important dividend-paying mining institution in Mexico), to personally examine the property and compare same with the above Report. This gentleman, who is entirely independent either of the Vendors or the Experts who have previously reported, has concluded his survey, and cables (June 5th, 1896) as follows:—"Have examined the mines and workings; can fully confirm Drake's Report in all essential particulars, HIJAR." A comprehensive Report from Señor Don Louis Hijar Haro has been received (August 7th) thoroughly substantiating this cable.

Although the Reports are stated to furnish but an outline of the Mines on the Huruapa property, the Directors desire that subscribers should draw their own conclusions from such description of the magnitude and promise of the undertaking, rather than that the usual estimates of profits should be set forth in this Prospectus. It may be sufficient to state that, having regard to the terms under which the property is to be acquired by the Company and to its capabilities, the prospects of development without delay or large outlay are certainly favourable; for it will be observed from the scale plan that the Los Hundidos Gold Mines on the North-west section of the Huruapa are situate within a mile of the Railway by which the ores from these mines can be cheaply conveyed to a newly erected 50-stamp Crushing Mill and reduction works at Zapote. This Mill has been constructed at large outlay by the present owners, is driven by water power, and the necessary modern works and complete establishment are on a considerable scale. The gold ores of the Los Hundidos group could therefore, by arrangement (which is now being negotiated), be realised without the delays and outlay inseparable from the erection of a reduction establishment for that section of the Mines on the Huruapa.

This Company is bound by no purchase contract, but has options contained in two bonds, dated respectively March 28th, 1896, from Señor Don Martin Salido the father, and Señor Don Martin Salido the son, comprising rights, in consideration of deposits then paid, to purchase the freehold of the property, together with all buildings thereon, water and timber rights belonging thereto, and the mill and mines, at the price above stated.

These options are current for six months from the date of the said bonds, and the benefit of them has been vested in the Company on the allotment of the Adventurers' Shares as above stated.

A print of the Company's Memorandum of Association is endorsed on the Prospectus, and copies of the said Bonds and Reports upon which the above statements are based, can be inspected by applicants at the offices of the Company's Solicitor.

Application for Shares must be made on the printed Form of Application, and lodged with the Company's Bankers. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned to the applicant in full forthwith, and if a partial allotment any surplus of deposit will be applied in further payment upon the Shares allotted. A settlement and quotation will be applied for in due course. Prospectus and full reports can be obtained of the Secretary and Bankers.

August 11th, 1896.

The Form below may be cut out and used as an Application for Shares.

The Gold Fields of Mexico, Limited.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of **THE GOLD FIELDS OF MEXICO, LIMITED.**

GENTLEMEN,

Having paid to your Bankers, the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, the sum of £....., being a deposit of One Shilling per Share on ..... Ordinary Shares of One Pound each in the above-named Company, and I agree to accept the said Shares, or any less number which may be allotted to me, and to complete payments for same in accordance with the Company's Prospectus.

Name (in full) .....
Ordinary Signature .....
Address .....
Description.....
Date.....1896.

THIS PROSPECTUS IS ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

The Subscription List is now open, and will CLOSE at Four o'clock TO-DAY (Wednesday, August 12th, 1896, for Town; on Thursday, August 13th, 1896, for Country; and on Friday, August 14th, 1896, for the Continent.

The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company.

(FRANCE), LIMITED.

REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £650,000,

Divided into 650,000 Shares of £1 each.

The above Shares are payable—2s. 6d. on application, 2s. 6d. on allotment, 5s. on September 1st, and the balance on October 1st.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. Earl De La Warr, Chairman and Director of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd. (Chairman.)
The Right Hon. The Earl of Albemarle, Director of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd.
Charles Wisdom Hely, J.P., Oaklands, Rathgar, co. Dublin, Trustee for Debenture Holders of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd.
*A. Clément, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, Director Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop.
*Harvey Du Cros, Managing Director of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd., and Chairman Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop.
*Arthur Du Cros, Managing Director of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd., and Managing Director Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop.
* Will join the Board after allotment.

BANKERS.

England: Lloyd's Bank, Ltd., 222, Strand, and all Branches.
Ireland: The Bank of Ireland, Ltd., College Green, Dublin, and all Branches.
Paris: Applications will be received and receipts issued at the Offices of the Company, 29, Avenue de la Grande Armée.

SOLICITORS.

J. B. Purchase, 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.
Arthur T. Ashwell, Nottingham.

SOLICITOR IN FRANCE.

Me. Pouillet, 10, Rue de l'Université, Paris (Bâtonnier de l'ordre des avocats).

BROKERS.

George Whitehead & Chown, 23, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.
William Wilson & Son, 36, College Green, Dublin.
Henry Schumann et Cie., 56, Rue de la Victoire, Paris.

AUDITORS.

Turquand, Youngs, Bishop, & Clarke, 41, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

GENERAL MANAGER.

Henry E. Watson, 29, Avenue de la Grande Armée, Paris.

SECRETARY.—Frank G. Fenton, 14, Regent-street, London.

REGISTERED OFFICES.—14, Regent-street, London, S.W.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the whole of the Assets and Undertaking known as:—

La Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop,

which is, and has always been, the most prosperous of the subsidiary Companies established by the Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited.

The Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited, itself was founded in 1889, and in 1890 an independent business was commenced in France.

Owing to the difficulty in establishing a commercial undertaking in a foreign country, the French business was in its inception founded by the appointment of M. Adolphe Clément, the oldest and largest cycle manufacturer in France, as sole licensee.

The business was conducted solely by M. Clément under this arrangement in 1890, 1891, 1892, and during the cycling season of 1893; and he developed the business rapidly, and large profits were earned in each year.

Under this arrangement, however, the interest of the parent Company was confined to the income derived from royalties, the profits from actual trading being, by agreement, the exclusive property of M. Clément.

At the close of the Season 1893, it was recognised that the business was developing with such rapidity that it could not be carried on with advantage by any single Cycle Manufacturer, however large; and with a view to placing the tyre in a more independent position with regard to the remainder of the French Trade, La Cie. Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop was formed.

That Company proved eminently successful, and its assets and undertaking have been sold to the Vendor to this Company for the sum of £364,000.

The purchase contract further provides for the extinction of a royalty of 2s. 3d. per pair hitherto paid by La Cie. Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop to M. Clément as a consideration for the surrender of his original licence.

La Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop is purchased as from the 1st October, 1895, and the whole of the profits from that date become the property of this Company.

The Vendor has also agreed to reserve out of his purchase-money £100,000 to be handed to the Company as additional working capital.

The Royalty payable to The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd., is not extinguished, and continues payable to that Company as hitherto.

Exceedingly valuable agreements have been entered into with leading English and French cycle manufacturers doing business in France, for the exclusive use of Dunlop Tyres for terms of years.

Too much importance cannot, in the opinion of the Directors, be attached to this new feature in the business, as it insures a largely increased volume of trade, and consequently a greater earning power for the Company.

POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The splendidly-situated works at Levallois-Perret (Seine), occupied by La Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop, were specially built for its requirements in 1894. They are found with all the most modern plant and machinery, and are capable of meeting all demands of both the cycle tyre and vehicle tyres trades in France. These works require no outlay whatever.

The Dunlop tyre in France, as in England, has obtained a great reputation for quality and speed, and, as a result, is recognised as the leading tyre there.

CARRIAGE TYRE DEPARTMENT.

After two years of careful experiment, Carriage Tyres have been brought to perfection, and during the current season trade in these tyres is being rapidly established.

It is anticipated that both the Carriage and Motor Car Tyre trade will in future become large factors in the business of the Company, and important arrangements have been made which will greatly facilitate the development of this department.

As a guide to the future earning powers of this Company, it may be stated that, before ascertaining profits, a total sum has been paid in royalties alone since the first introduction of the business into France amounting to the sum of £64,129 9s. 2d., irrespective of which large profits accrued to M. Clément, while La Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop paid large dividends and placed considerable sums to reserve.

All expenses of the series of lawsuits entered into by the Company for the establishment of its patent rights have also been paid out of profits. These cases have been in progress for the past three years, and the Experts appointed by the French Courts have only recently handed in their reports to the effect that, in their opinion, all wired-on tyres in France are infringements of the Company's well-known patents.

It is considered that, having regard to the declaration and reports of these French Legal Experts in favour of the Company, the profits hitherto made do not nearly represent the results which should accrue to this Company in the immediate future. The Company is further advised that infringing firms will, in the event of the Courts adopting the reports of the Experts, be liable to the Company in very heavy damages.

The following are the agreements which have been secured for the use of Dunlop Tyres exclusively in France:—

La Société des Cycles Gladiator, including Phebus for	20	years.
Humber & Co., Ltd., Rue du Quartre Septembre, Paris ,,	5	,,
The Coventry Machinists Co... ... ... ,,	10	,,
The Singer Cycle Co., Ltd. .... ,,	8	,,
The John Griffiths Cycle Corporation, Ltd. ... ... ,,	8	,,

These firms, with the continued support of M. Clément (the largest customer of the Company), form an amalgamation unequalled in the Cycle Trade of any country, the combined orders of these great firms providing an enormous output; in fact, it is estimated that the orders from these firms alone will realise a profit sufficient to pay a substantial dividend on the total capital of this Company.

These combinations should place this business, which has always been prosperous, in an unrivalled position, with perfectly appointed works, ample working capital and cash reserves, and with an assured business having a much larger earning capacity than La Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop has ever previously enjoyed.

The formation of The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company (France), Limited, will provide the following Assets and Working Capital, including the amount of £100,000 reserved by the Vendor:—

Stock, Machinery, and Plant, as valued 18th May, 1896	£18,964	17	10
Capital in Reserve, including Cash Balances in hand 18th May, 1896	118,722	10	8
Book Debts, as valued 18th May, 1896...	22,991	10	2
	160,678	18	8
Patent Rights, written down before Expert's decision to ...	6,590	13	9
	£167,269	12	5
Less debts outstanding ...	£13,947	4	8
Total ...	£153,322	7	9

To the above are to be added the Trading Profits accruing to the Company since October 1st, 1895, but which are not yet ascertained.

Contingent claims upon firms who have infringed are not taken into account.

The Directors are advised that the Patent rights taken over are exceedingly valuable, owing to the Reports of the Experts above referred to, and that the sum at which they are written down to is altogether disproportionate to their real value.

An agreement has been entered into with Mr. Arthur du Cros under which he will continue to act as Managing Director of this Company.

The valuable services of Mr. Henry E. Watson have also been retained in the capacity of General Manager.

It will thus be seen that the hitherto successful management and organisation will be continued.

The Vendor will pay all expenses of every kind up to and including the completion of the purchase.

Stock Exchange quotations in London, Dublin, and Birmingham will be applied for in due course.

The contracts entered into are as follows:—

1. Agreement dated 18th day of June, 1896, between Adolphe Clément, Arthur du Cros, and Harvey du Cros, Directors of La Compagnie Française des Pneumatiques Dunlop, and Percy Baker Dobson, which agreement was duly confirmed by the said Company in General Meeting on the 6th day of July, 1896.

2. Agreement dated August 8th, 1896, between Percy Baker Dobson and the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co. (France), Ltd., being an agreement for sale to the Company.

3. Agreement dated August 8th, 1896, between the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company (France), Ltd., and Arthur du Cros.

The business will be taken over subject to all existing contracts. These are of trade character and necessary for the working of the concern, but including as they do the above-mentioned tyre agreements and numerous contracts with customers and others, it is deemed unwise to specify them. There are also other contracts relating to the formation of the Company, and subscriptions to its Capital, and otherwise, which may technically fall within Sec. 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Subscribers will be held to have had notice of all these contracts, and to have waived all right to be supplied with particulars of such contracts and to have agreed with the Company as Trustee for the Directors, and other persons liable, not to make any claim whatsoever or to take any proceedings under the said section in respect of any non-compliance therewith.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form enclosed with the prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, with the amount of the deposit. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Copies of Prospectus, with Forms of Application for Shares, can be obtained at the offices of the Company, or of its Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the said Contracts specified above, can be seen at the offices of the London Solicitor to the Company.

August 8th, 1896.

The West Australian Trust, Limited,

Invite Subscriptions for 75,000 Shares at par in the undermentioned issue—Payable 2s. 6d. on Application; 7s. 6d. on Allotment; 5s. on 1st Sept., 1896; and 5s. on 1st Oct., 1896.

Mr. G. R. FEARBY cabled on 12th May, 1896.—"The average of samples, Hill End Consols, 5 ozs."

Financial News, 7th April, 1896:—"The Hill End Mine has crushed 53 tons, yielding 284 oz. of gold."

Australian Mail, 9th April, 1896:—"The crushing returns of the Hill End Mine in the North-East Coolgardie Goldfield have been sufficiently high to attract considerable attention."

The Mine's record stands thus:—

March, April, and May, 1895	78 tons ...	1,673 ozs.
June, August, and September, 1895	84 ,, ...	1,360 ,,
October, November, and December, 1895	220 ,, ..	3,706 ,,
January, February, and March, 1896	163 ,, ...	1,419 ,,
Total production	545 ,, ...	8,158 ,,

Gold to the value of, say, £30,000 has thus been yielded by this mine.

Financial News, 28th May, 1896:—"A very rich lode has been struck in the famous Hill End Mine, recently purchased by Dr. Simon, representing a French Syndicate. The stone is said to be the richest ever seen in the mine, and is expected to go 30 ozs. per ton."

The Hill End Consols Mine is situated about half a mile to the North-East of the above Hill End Mine.

HILL END CONSOLS, LIM.

(Broad Arrow District, Coolgardie Goldfields, Western Australia.)

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - £125,000,

IN 125,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

Of which 50,000, issued as fully paid, will be allotted to the Vendor in part payment of the purchase money, and 25,000 will be available for Working Capital.

Share Warrants to bearer will be issued if required in exchange for fully-paid Share Certificates.

DIRECTORS.

*T. Harrison Davis, Esq., Director Lady Loch Gold Mine, Limited.
Roland G. Hill, Esq., Chairman Taitapu Gold Estates, Limited.
F. Hall Kirby, Esq., M.I.C.E., Director West Australian Pioneer Syndicate, Limited.
H. W. Lowe, Esq., Director London and Continental Investment Corporation of Western Australian, Limited.
Hon. Howard Spensley, Chairman Mainland Consols, Limited.

* As Managing Director of the West Australian Trust, Limited, the Vendor Company, Mr. T. Harrison Davis will join the Board after Allotment as Chairman.

Consulting Engineer.—G. R. Fearby, Esq., M.E., Coolgardie, Western Australia.

Bankers.

Messrs. Prescott, Dimsdale, Cave, Tugwell, & Co., Limited, 50, Cornhill, E.C., in London.
The Bank of Australasia, in Western Australia.

Solicitors for the Vendor Company.

Messrs. Lumley & Lumley, 37, Conduit-street, W.

Solicitors for the Company

Messrs. Flower, Nussey & Fellowes, 1, Great Winchester-st., E.C.

Brokers.—Messrs. G. H. & A. M. Jay, 17, Old Broad-st., E.C.

Auditors.—Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co., 58, Coleman-street, E.C.

Secretary.—W. G. Browne, Esq.

Offices.—54, Old Broad-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire, further develop, and work the Hill End Consols Mine, being Lease No. 1845E, consisting of about 24 acres, held under lease from the Western Australian Government at a yearly rental of 20s. per acre, situated about half a mile to the north-east of the famous Hill End Mine, in the Broad Arrow District, Western Australia, referred to in above newspaper extracts. To the north, and adjoining the block, is the well-known Pride of the Arrow, and Mr. Fearby reports that the reef of the latter property goes through the centre of the Hill End Consols.

It further appears from Mr. Fearby's report that a shaft has been sunk on the Hill End Consols to a depth of 70 feet, and the latest information received by cable from Mr. Fearby, on 12th May, 1896, is to the effect that the average sample from the lode gives 5 ozs. to the ton, the property developing well, and that the stone obtained on the adjoining property gives as much as 9 ozs. 15 dwt. per ton.

Mr. Fearby states that the reef of the Pride of the Arrow property is bearing N. 20 degrees W., and passes through the Hill End Consols block. He also says that he went down the shafts on the former property, and that they have a fine body of stone, showing rich gold, and, referring to the Hill End Consols Mine, concludes:—"I consider this block has a very good position, and should develop into a valuable property, considering the mines around it and the reef passing through it, which undoubtedly it does."

Mr. J. Wyatt, M.E., has also reported on the property, and states:—"In conclusion, I have no hesitation in saying that you have a very valuable property, as with a very small capital, judiciously spent, it would turn out a really good one."

Water is reported to have recently been struck at a depth of 250 ft. on the Golden Arrow property, adjoining the Hill End.

Mr. Fearby cabled on May 12th, 1896, agreeing to act as Consulting Engineer to the Company, and the mine at the present moment is being managed and worked by him on behalf of the present owners.

The *Australian Mail* of April 9th, 1896, states that the Hill End Mine, between March, 1895, and March, 1896, crushed 545 tons of ore, which gave a yield of 8,158 oz. of gold, to the value of about £30,000. The record of the Hill End Mine is understood to be the best in the Western Australian fields, and the Directors have every confidence that the property now offered will develop into one of the best-paying mines in the district.

The amount to be paid by the Company under the Contract below mentioned has been fixed at £100,000, payable as to £10,000 in cash and not less than £50,000 in fully-paid shares, and the balance in cash or shares, at the option of the Directors, leaving £25,000 available for working capital.

All charges and expenses in connection with the formation of the Company up to and including allotment will be paid by The West Australian Trust, Limited.

The only Contract entered into by the Company is that for acquiring the mine. It is dated 5th August, 1896, and made between The West Australian Trust, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part.

The above Contract and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Mr. Fearby's and Mr. Wyatt's reports before referred to, may be seen by Subscribers at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors. These reports are the foundation for the statements made in this Prospectus.

The above Contract recites the Contracts under which the West Australian Trust, Limited, and its immediate Vendor are respectively acquiring the property, and other contracts have been made in relation to the formation and promotion of the Company, but to none of these contracts is the Company a party, and Subscribers shall be deemed to have had notice of all such contracts, and to have agreed with the Company (as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable), not to make any claim whatsoever, or to take any proceedings under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

Application for Shares should be made on, or in accordance with, the form enclosed in the Prospectus, and sent in with the required deposit to the Bankers of the Company. If the Shares allotted be less than the number applied for, the surplus of the amount paid on deposit will be appropriated towards the amount due on allotment.

Prospectuses and Application Forms may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and also of the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers.

6th August, 1896.

The Singer Manufacturing Company,

Management for Great Britain and Ireland:—42 & 43, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCH OFFICES EVERYWHERE.

THE "SAN REMO" BABY CAR.
Price as drawn £6 6s. nett.
Cheaper qualities from £3 3s.

HITCHING'S BABY STORES.

The Premier Manufacturers of HIGH-GRADE BABY CARRIAGES in the World, have extensive Showrooms at

23, 21, & 19, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.
(WORKS: LUDGATE SQUARE.)
198, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. (NEAR PETER ROBINSON'S.)
28, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W. (ST. GEORGE'S PLACE, NEAR HYDE PARK CORNER.)

THIS elegant Baby Car is equally adapted for use as a Sleeping Car for a young baby, or a Mall Car for an older child.

1. Newest registered design.
2. Runs on four silent wheels.
3. Small light front wheels.
4. Very safe, bed being lower than in any other Car.
5. Hitching's "Versailles" Cee Springs. Very easy.
6. Occupies less space than any other.
7. Has deep well for legs and feet. No cramping.
8. Hitching's Patent "Any Position Hood."
9. Half the weight of a wood body. Finest cane & rattan
10. Cool in summer.
11. Artistically painted.
12. Beautifully upholstered in biscuit, biscuit and pale blue, mignonette green, &c.

Messrs. HITCHING & WYNN have recently had the honour of building the Baby Carriage for the Baby Prince Edward of York, having previously executed orders for H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, &c. Also the Royal and Imperial families of Russia, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Sweden.

Hitching's Baby Carriages from 2 to 25 Guineas, and **Baby Cars** from 15/6 to 10 Guineas, are not only the **Best**, but also 25 per cent. *cheaper* than those sold by dealers and stores. A carriage should always be purchased from the actual manufacturer. Enquiries receive prompt and courteous attention. Illustrations free. Correspondence solicited.

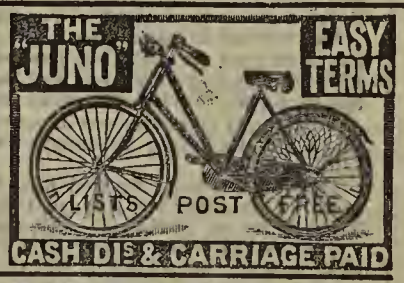
Bankers: CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK AND CITY BANK. *Telegram Address:* "HITCHING, LONDON." *Liverpool Agency:* 74, BOLD STREET. *Boston (U.S.A.) Agency:* 92, WASHINGTON STREET.

HITCHING'S "PRINCESS MAY" BABY CARRIAGE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTENING PRESENT, BEING RECHERCHE & UNPROCURABLE ELSEWHERE.

Before going elsewhere send for Hitching's Pictorial Price Book free on mentioning "TRUTH."

JUNO CYCLES ARE THE VERY BEST.

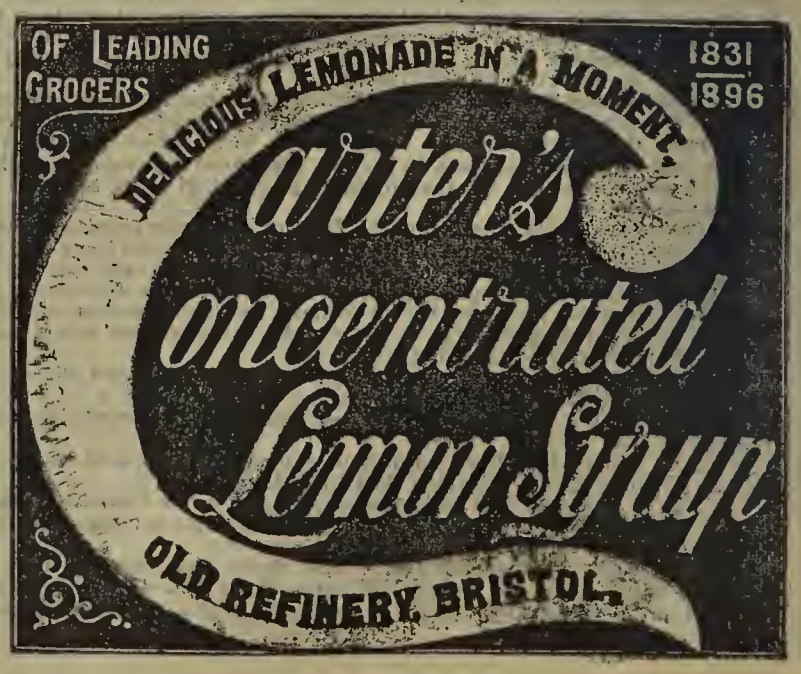
Easy Terms of Twelve Monthly Payments.
JUNO RACERS, 22 lb.; Roadsters, 28 lb. JUNO Ladies' and Youths' Safeties and Tricycles. *Write for large New Season's* JUNO *Illustd. List sent post free. It will interest you & everyone should have a copy.*
METROPOLITAN MACHINISTS CO., LTD., 75, 76, Bishopsgate Without, London, E.C.
MENTION THIS PAPER.



DIASTASED FARINA FOOD.

A New and Very Superior Food for Infants, Delicate Children, and Invalids. The great desideratum of a Food for Infants, Delicate Children, and Invalids, is easiness of digestion, simplicity of preparation, and power of restoring strength. For these purposes
DIASTASED FARINA
is superior to any other Food.
Sold by all Chemists, 1s. 6d. per Tin.
Manufacturers:
E. BEANES & CO., Falcon Works, Hackney Wick, LONDON, E.

TRADE MARK.



NAME for NEW LIQUID BEEF TEA, Advertised for in TRUTH, of July 2nd.—FIRST PRIZE of £2. 2s. awarded to ROBERT GILLIGAN, 11, Park Mansions, South Lambeth-road, S.W SECOND PRIZE 1s awarded to W. AMES, 52, George-street, R

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 911.—SUGGESTION OF A SUITABLE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION IN THE PAPERS DURING THE SILLY SEASON.

FLITTERS (real name and address will be published in due course)	£1 1 0
CLARA " " " "	£1 1 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

Should an occasion not present itself shortly for the publication of a further selection of the lists of Names of Yearlings, I will make the announcement as to the Prize Winner without much further delay.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 912.

The Prize in this competition has been divided between KOTTABOS and ASHER, whose lines descriptive of a Cycling Tour were printed in last week's TRUTH.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 916.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST ORIGINAL EPITAPH, IN EITHER PROSE OR VERSE, ON THE PAST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

Competitors should not make their Epitaphs very long, and should take care that they are sent off so as to reach me by the morning of Monday, August 24, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MELIORA.—I have handed your letter to the Editor of TRUTH.
W. W. S.—On August 14, 1866.
LONG-STOP.—The time has gone by, I think, for such a competition as you suggest.
CHARLWOOD.—Your suggestion is an excellent one, and I thank you for it very much.
BALL-BEARINGS.—Your answer to Puzzle No. 912 failed to reach me.
J. J. (Newport).—I have made the necessary correction.
CRUMS.—Certainly.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 913.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

HUNTING SONGS OF THE FUTURE.

Come forth, come forth, my fiery steed;
It is a hunting morn;
Thy snorting valves proclaim thy speed,
Thy wheels the greensward scorn;
And a-hunting we will go, a-hunting we will go,
Thy firebox fill with hearty will,
And a-hunting we will go.

No spur my puffing steed requires,
No rein in hand I take;
I make him go with roaring fires,
And curb him with a brake;
So a-hunting we will go, a-hunting we will go;
His iron soul delights in coal,
And a-hunting we will go.

His aëroplanes are true and light,
And lift him in the air;
O'er hedge and brook we take our flight,
And naught for them we care.
Then a-hunting we will go, a-hunting we will go;
O'er vale and hill we fear no spill,
And a-hunting we will go.

And when at last his steel's worn out,
And all reduced to scrap,
By rolling-mills all mixed about,
He'll turn out new, mayhap;
And a-hunting we will go, a-hunting we will go;
Though quite worn out, we yet may shout,
"A-hunting we will go!"

Almaviva.

Yoicks; tally-ho! and off we go,
Nor whip nor spur they need
To mend the pace
Who join the chase
Upon the motor steed.
Through briar and brake our way we take,
We shirk nor ditch nor dike.
On for the brush
With one wild rush
Go motor steed and bike.

Away, away, at break of day,
O'er hill and dale resounds
The huntsman's horn that cheers the morn,
The baying of the hounds.
The fox cries "Zounds! these metal hounds
May well make one despair;
We don't complain of bridle rein,
But is the motor fair?
Pneumatic tyres your brave old sires
Dreamt not of in their day."

Ah! Reynard lad, your case is sad,
There's none to say you "neigh!"
Yoicks; tally-ho! and off we go,
Nor whip nor spur they need
To mend the pace
Who join the chase
Upon the iron steed.
Through briar and brake our way we take,
We shirk not ditch nor dike,
On for the brush,
With one wild rush,
Go motor steed and bike.

Baritone.

On our bykes we join the meet,
In our coats and breeches neat;
Or in our motor-cars we join the merry gladsome fray;
And we tie electric wheels
On our little houndies' heels,
And o'er the crops and furrows wheel our cheerful, gleeful way.
Yoick! Tally-ho! See us go!
We steam all through the mud,
And we hope to meet no flood
Of burn or wimpling river as we hunt, and as we stray;
With electric push and power
We screech from out their bower
The foxies which were happy where their ferny cushions lay.
Yoick! Tally-ho! See us go!
But the cream of all the fun,
Is the foxies when they run,
They run before us joyful, all the morning, all the day;
For the foxies have no wheels,
So we never see their heels,
And they live for sport another day as debonair and gay.
Yoick! Tally-ho! See us go!
Oh, motor-cars are smart,
When with horses we must part!
But see the foxies grinning when they note this gaseous bray;
If you bend a list'ning ear,
Their derision you may hear;
"And oh, I wish the day would come!" 'tis this the foxies say.
"Yoick! Tally-ho! See us go!"

Christie Deas.

Poets of old-day have chanted the praises
Of horse and hound. They may say what they like
In favour of such pre-historical crazes,
But give me my auto-electrical bike.
Give me the hounds that require no feeding
(In summer they simply lie by in a box);
Never a care or a worry in breeding
Our patent elec-automatical fox.
Watch how our Master—a sporting patrician
(Of all M.F.H.s acknowledged the best)—
Says, with a nod to his first electrician,
"Now touch the button, Jim, I'll do the rest."
See the field scatter and tail in a minute
Down by that fence of the cruel barbed wire,
That man is over, no—no—he is in it!
Wheel over handle—he's punctured his tyre.
Look at that lady go straight as an arrow
Down by the stream where the willow tree grows.
Nothing to her, be the stream broad or narrow,
Presses a lever, and—over she goes.
Straight for that gate a one-wheeler goes flying,
With inches to spare, too, he clears the top bar;
That man and wife on their tandem are trying
To get past that new auto-family car.
Never a blank day—no check that enrages,
Now we can make runs slow, medium, or fast.
That is the hunting for latter-day ages,
Horse, hound, and fox are quite things of the past.

Godfather.

We care not a fig for the wind or the sky,
The weather we're utterly scorning;
For, whether it's raining or whether it's dry,
'Twill do for a hunting morning.
Then up on our cars and away!
Send the red flag ahead to give warning;
The scene looks uncommonly gay,
Our funnels the landscape adorning.
Then hark, oh, forward!
Tally-ho! Take it slow! Tally-ho!
The hounds and the huntsmen we do not require
We don't chase the fox or the stag now;
To brushes the ladies no longer aspire,
And antlers we seek not to bag now.
Our quarry must needs be more tame,
Since at three miles an hour we must lag now,
So, in order to keep up the game,
We hunt the old man with the flag now!
Then hark, oh, forward!
Tally-ho! Take it slow! Tally-ho!
Then here's to Diana, the queen of our sport,
Autocartic, but not autocratic!
And long may we live to attend at her court,
And to share in her pleasures ecstatic.
Our steeds cannot jump very high,
And their snorting is rather emphatic,
But their metal no one can deny,
And their action is quite automatic.
Then hark, oh, forward!
Tally-ho! Take it slow! Tally-ho.

Vox.

Hurrah for the meet,
On a motor so fleet,
We want neither habit or topper.
We follow the hounds
Without leaps and bounds,
Or the danger of coming a cropper.
On our favourite steed,
At a high rate of speed,
We scud through the sticks and the stubble,
With pleasure to find,
Before and behind,
There is nothing to give us much trouble.
Then, hurrah for the meet, tally ho!
On a motor so fleet, tally ho!
Without losing our breath, we are in at the death.
Oh, the hunt is a treat, tally ho!
What ho, for the meet,
On a motor so fleet,
Now we're rid of the habit and topper,
We can keep to the fore,
For there'll be nevermore,
The danger of coming a cropper.
With the dash of a deer,
Our steed we can steer,
When we want neither whip, crop, or bridle,
At the dogs' welcome bay,
We are off and away,
Oh, hunting's a treat—for the idle.
Then, hurrah for the meet, tally ho!
On a motor so fleet, tally ho!
Without losing our breath, we are in at the death.
Let's away to the meet, tally ho!

Georgina.

When the fox is found by the scenting hound,
And you've turned the handle, so!
The electric gee, like a lively flea,
Hops off, and away you go.
Neither head you'll find, nor a tail behind,
For he's no-end of a horse;
But he has four legs, four flexible pegs,
Attached to the trunk, of course.
If your mount is hired, then away you're wired,
As straight as a London tram,
By electric pow'r, at a bob the hour,
Like a shilling telegram.

Chorus.

So a cheer for the motor force-y-o,
And the belle of the hunt, so sauce-y-o;
Then sing out "Hooray, tally ho, and away!"
And be off on the auto-horse-y-o.

At the first high fence goes General Spence,
A regular hunting swell,
But his gee-gee shies as its hind legs rise,
And he jumps the horse as well.
At a rattling pace next follows his Grace,
Refusing to use the break,
Till electric heat penetrates the seat,
Producing a stomach-ache.
Then a foreign Count, one leg of whose mount
Breaks off as the brute sticks fast,
Sits up, like a fool on a three-legged stool,
While the field goes riding past.

Chorus.

Then, hurrah for the motor force-y-o,
For there's nothing in life so sauce-y-o
As the rollicking fun of a furious run
On the back of the auto-horse-y-o.

Oom Paul.

The hunters' moon is up, my boys,
'Tis time to go a hunting;
Upon our steeds, with little noise,
We'll ride—the gee-gee shunting.

The stag and fox have legs, my boys,
That tire the more they use 'em;
But iron steeds have no alloys,
If you do not abuse 'em.

Then to the meet, a thousand strong,
We'll hie, our trumpets blowing;
Our bells decoy the sheep along,
And set the cattle lowing.

The yokels stand and stare, I fear,
But we fly by unheeding;
Let stag and fox and pussy sneer,
But "motors" need no feeding.

We'll jump the gates—I mean we'll ope;
No spurs, whips, crops, or switches,
But only just one bit of rope,
To pull us through the ditches.

O'er hill and dale—ploughed fields are rot—
We'll stick as tight as wedges;
Stag, hare, and fox, the blooming lot,
We'll chase through prickly hedges.

Ere long we'll hunt with metal hounds,
With bark and bite miraculous;
For science seems to have no bounds,
No difficulties tackle us.

Then three times three for the iron gee,
No C.C. now can stop him;
When hunting's done—'twixt you and me,
Why, then, p'raps one can—'pop' him.

La Plata.

Oh! the auto-car on a hunting morn
Is not a thing to laugh to scorn:
"The meet," "the run," "the in at the death"
Can managed be without loss of breath;
And hounds, altho' they still are needed,
Guess they'll ere long be superseded;
For the view-halloo can be whistled out
By pressing a nob on a crooked spout!
And marvels—would strike the ancients dumb—
Thro' electrors are wrought and pe-tro-le-um!
Yo-ho! yo-ho! away we go,
With a jolly slap dash,
And a crash, and a smash,
'Gainst, wall, and fence, and gate five-barred;
They are nought to him who is auto-carred.
Your father's father would have burked it,
And your father would have shirked it.

They rode a creature called a horse,
Extinct as the dodo now, of course,
Which, full of pranks as soon as colted,
Trotted and ambled, shied, and bolted!
But the "auto" neither thinks nor feels,
But moves along on its well-greased wheels,
And whether the route be near or far,
Heedless itself or its rider to scar,
It bangs thro' fence or centupled bar;
So hurrah! for the auto-moto car!
Oh, the auto-car, on a hunting morn,
Is not a thing to laugh to scorn.

K. W.

Hunting Songs have also been received from Antelope, Nitram, Dodo, Arch. Gibbs, "Diakoko," J. McGrigor Allan, Rex, Beginner, Sol, and Esperanza.

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TRUTH.

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to leave Osborne on the afternoon of Thursday week for Balmoral, where her Majesty will reside until November 12 or 13. The Queen is to be accompanied to Scotland by Princess Beatrice and Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein, and when Princess Beatrice goes to Germany her Majesty will be joined at Balmoral by Princess Louise.

During the first month of the Queen's stay at Balmoral, Lord Halsbury, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, and Lord Cross are to be the Ministers in Attendance, and in October Lord James of Hereford and Mr. Henry Chaplin will be there. Lord Salisbury is to be at Balmoral to meet the Emperor of Russia.

The Dowager Lady Ampthill, Dowager Lady Churchill, and the Dowager Duchess of Atholl are to be the Ladies in Waiting on the Queen during the first six weeks of her residence at Balmoral.

Apropos of the celebration of the Queen's sixty years' reign, it has been suggested to me that the occasion could not be better marked than by the raising of an additional fund to supplement the £70,000 devoted at the Queen's desire in the Jubilee year to founding an Institute for Nurses. Heaven forbid that I should in any way encourage a renewal in Truth of the idiotic correspondence on this subject which has been running in the *Daily Telegraph;* but this particular suggestion certainly seems deserving of consideration. In deciding what form the celebration is to take, the Queen's personal wishes ought certainly to have great weight, and by disposing of this fund in the way she did in 1887 the Queen gave the plainest possible indication of the kind of celebration which she herself prefers. The present endowment of the Jubilee Institute for Nurses only brings in about £2,100 a year, and there is urgent need of a larger income.

If there is to be any question of a public holiday on this occasion, it should be clearly understood that the holiday is to be provided at the expense of employers of labour. To decree a general holiday is practically to compel every wage-earner to sacrifice a day's pay for the celebration of the occasion—a form of compulsory rejoicing which is only justifiable if every individual concerned consents to the compulsion. If, however, all employers are willing to pay their servants their week's wages as usual, notwithstanding the holiday, by all means let us have a celebration of this kind. This will mean that every employer of labour is contributing a day's wages of his establishment to the celebration fund. If employers are willing to do this, it will be a most gratifying manifestation of loyalty, and thoroughly satisfactory to all parties.

The question was asked in Truth the other day—"Who trains elderly gentlemen to walk backwards in Royal processions?" A correspondent seems to think he has found the answer to the question in the following extract from a book on bees, which he sends to me:—

> As she (the queen bee) leisurely traverses the combs, the bees clear a passage on her approach, their heads turned towards her. . . . . The affection they show for her is plainly the mere loyalty of subjects, rather than the personal love of a child . . . . and to fully realise its nature we must take into account the intense patriotic spirit of the bees; they know that the queen is essential to the prosperity of the commonwealth, and as such, and not caring a straw, or a crumb of wax, about her individual person, they cherish her devotedly, and show their lives to be bound up in hers."

"Who taught the bees this?" asks the gentleman who sends me this extract, "and is it inconsistent with either their dignity or sanity?" Apparently he is under the impression that the elderly gentlemen to whom I referred learn to walk backward by the light of nature, or that Providence imparts the necessary instinct for this mode of locomotion in court functionaries. I do not know whether my correspondent is an elderly gentleman, but if he were suddenly given a place at Court, I think he would speedily exemplify in his own person that the power of walking backwards does not develope itself spontaneously in human beings. I also fancy that he can never have seen a procession of Court officials, or he

would not libel Nature or Providence by suggesting that so ludicrous a spectacle is a natural phenomenon. If nature inspired man to proceed stern foremost, she would at least teach him how to do it with dignity and grace—accomplishments which no Court functionary ever mastered, nor, in my opinion, ever will.

The above extract shows how easy it is for any one to misread a passage in order to support some conclusion which he has previously formed in his own mind. If my correspondent will look at his author again, he will see that he does not even say that the bees walk backwards. They merely clear a passage for the queen as she approaches, and turn their heads towards her. This is precisely what a crowd does in the streets of London when her Majesty passes. A little compulsion from the police may be occasionally necessary before the passage is cleared, but the crowd turn their faces to the Sovereign spontaneously. This is nature if you like, and the passage quoted shows that in this respect bee nature is very much like human nature. But until it can be shown that the bees perform absurd antics entirely contrary to nature in order to testify their loyalty I am inclined to think that the bee is the superior being.

The Princess of Wales, who is staying with the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland at their seat in Upper Austria, near Gmunden, will proceed from that place to Copenhagen, travelling by way of Lubeck. The Princess is to stay in Denmark for about two months, and H.R.H. and the Prince of Wales are expected to return to Sandringham for the season on October 30, as the first shooting-party is to be invited from November 2 to 7.

The Duke of York will conclude his visit to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Bolton Abbey on Friday night, when he is going to Scotland to stay with the Duke and Duchess of Fife, at Mar Lodge, Aberdeenshire.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse, the Grand Duke Serge of Russia and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, and Princess Louis of Battenberg are to arrive in London about the middle of next month from Germany, and they will all proceed to Balmoral on a visit to the Queen.

Lord Cadogan returned to Ireland last week and joined Lady Cadogan and his family at the Viceregal Lodge, where a party of visitors were also staying. The Lord-Lieutenant is in *villeggiatura* at the Viceregal Lodge, the same State not being kept up as at Dublin Castle, nor is the attendance of so many of the household officials required. The week was principally given up to cricket on the Viceregal ground. The leading match, that between the Eton Ramblers and the Viceregal team, also of a very rambling nature, was spoiled by the inclement weather, the wind and rain being in great force on the first day. The players were entertained at the Viceregal Lodge during the week, and on Friday evening a small dance was given.

This week the Zingari visit Ireland, and are the guests of Lord and Lady Cadogan at the Viceregal Lodge. Several cricket matches will be played in the Phœnix Park. Viceregal dinners will be given, followed in some instances by dancing. On Saturday and on Monday, before the opening of the Horse Show, the Leopardstown autumn race meeting takes place. A large Viceregal party is expected to be present each day.

In Ireland some interest is felt regarding the future attitude of the Irish Peers towards Lord Cadogan. Will he be boycotted because of the Land Bill of his Government? Lord Crewe was boycotted simply for refusing to receive a commercial address, which contained—by malice prepense, too—a sentence insulting to his political party. Lord Cadogan, in supporting the Land Bill, has done a good deal more against the interests of the rapacious band of landlords than Lord Crewe ever did. But, then, he has not committed the social crime in Irish society of having Liberal views.

A number of paragraphs have appeared in the papers respecting the office of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports but the fact does not appear to be known that down to the time of the Duke of Wellington's appointment (about 1829), there was a salary of £5,000 a year annexed to the post. This was abolished when Lord Liverpool died, as were a number of perquisites and privileges, of which he had freely availed himself, and so also had Mr. Pitt.

The Duke of Rutland has closed Belvoir Castle, and a variety of economical changes has been carried out on his estates, while his Derbyshire grouse moor has been let. The Duke and Duchess will live principally abroad for some years, and their only country residence will be Stanton Woodhouse, a small shooting lodge near Bakewell.

Sir John Millais detested "Society" and all kinds of functions. His favourite amusement in London was playing whist at the Garrick, but his happiest times were spent in Scotland, when salmon fishing in the Tay, preferably at Murthly, a place which he loved, and it was a hard blow when he had to give up his tenancy in consequence of changes which took place there after the death of Sir Douglas Stewart. He was always most genial in manner, full of wit and repartee, and the best of good company. Among his most intimate friends were Thackeray, Anthony Trollope, Landseer, Tennyson, and Wilkie Collins. Millais sold his first great picture, "A Huguenot," for £200, but many of his later and much less meritorious works fetched from £2,000 to £4,000 each. His terms for portrait painting considerably exceeded those of Sir Joshua Reynolds from a very early

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For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 500.
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date in his career, and for many years his lowest price for a half-length of life-size was £1,000. Millais made a great deal of money, and he did not waste it.

Millais was an inveterate joker, and he never could resist any opening for a jesting remark. When Newman went to give the first sitting for his portrait, Millais said to him, "Will your Eminence be good enough to place yourself upon that eminence," pointing to a platform in the studio. The Cardinal was exceedingly offended for a minute, and whispered to the friend who accompanied him, "Don't you think I ought to take notice of that?" However, Newman's wrath quickly abated, and he became charmed with Millais before the sittings were finished.

An accident more horrible and deplorable than the death of Mr. Crozier can hardly be imagined, and it behoves theatrical managers to take the most stringent precautions against the repetition of such a catastrophe. Seeing that the same thing has happened again and again in stage history, the greatest blame attaches to all concerned in the case of any accident of such a kind. From the evidence given at the inquest, it would seem that there was as utter an absence of all precaution in arranging this scene at the Novelty Theatre as though no danger whatever existed. The two actors were left to arrange the stabbing between themselves, and such was their arrangement that the life or death of one of them seems, from the evidence of the survivor, to have depended entirely upon his moving an inch or two from the position agreed upon. What are the probabilities of a man preserving a certain attitude at a certain time amid all the excitement of a stirring scene upon the stage? Where such risks are incurred, all details should be systematically arranged in such a way as to put danger out of the question. If stage-managers are not alive to their duty in this respect, it becomes a question whether public authorities should not be armed with the same powers for the protection of life on the stage as they are among the audience.

While racing in the Solent one afternoon last week the *Ailsa* lost a man overboard. The steam yacht *Thistle* bore down to the rescue, lowered a dingy, and picked the man up in a half-drowned condition, steamed to Cowes, and procured medical aid for him, and eventually sent him in a boat to his own yacht. Mariners of all classes are proverbially men of few words, but it will surprise most people to hear that neither when the *Thistle* picked the man up, nor when she subsequently restored him to his ship, did a single soul on board the *Ailsa* say as much as "Thank you" for the service rendered. It is only fair to say, however, that the owner of the *Ailsa* was not on board at the time.

There is another little point worthy of notice in connection with this little incident. When the *Thistle* ran back to Cowes with the *Ailsa's* man on board she flew a signal for a doctor, and went in the first instance alongside H.M.S. *Australia*. She was there received with the cry "No doctor on board, try the yacht," *i.e.*, the *Victoria and Albert*; but no doctor was to be found on board the Royal yacht either. Is it not rather an extraordinary circumstance that there should be no doctor to be found on board a large vessel like the *Australia*, to say nothing of the *Victoria and Albert?*

People who are so benighted as still to believe that Scotland is the Paradise of grouse-shooters, will doubtless be surprised to learn that whereas there were not more than half a score of "one-day" bags of more than 100 brace last week—the highest being 190 brace—some of the Yorkshire moors yielded bags of 561½, 390, 365½, and 350 brace. There were more than a score of bags of between 100 brace and 200 brace in Yorkshire. The honours of "the Twelfth" were carried off by Lord Ripon's party of four guns, who killed 1,123 birds at Dallowgill, near Ripon. Lord Rosebery and Lord de Grey were out.

The Hastings authorities have arranged a full and strong programme of attractions for their Carnival next week. On Monday the proceedings open with an illuminated fête and concert. On Tuesday there is to be the inevitable cycling demonstration, with a fancy dress fête in the evening; and on Wednesday the equally inevitable battle of flowers. On Thursday there are to be more illuminations and concerts; and on Friday a Military Tournament and sports. These Carnivals are a great addition to the attractions of the seaside watering places; but I cannot help expressing a hope that Hastings will not exhaust its energies over next week's function. Something might well be done to amuse visitors in the winter and spring as well as in August, and I rather think that a little expenditure in the former direction would pay the town almost better.

I publish with the greatest pleasure the following official statement as to the health of Westgate, in regard to which there has undoubtedly been some misapprehension. There seems no reason, however, for publishing various disclaimers which I have received from hotel-proprietors, each anxious to make it known that his establishment was not the one in which the outbreak of typhoid took place. No one seems to think it necessary to inform me which was the unfortunate hotel, and as the whole town now has a clean bill of health, it seems invidious to distinguish one establishment from another. For my personal information, I should very much like to have the menu in which the source of the outbreak of typhoid is to be looked for:—

The following facts will doubtless suggest to your readers that there is no reason why they should not with confidence visit Westgate-on-Sea. A limited outbreak of typhoid, now stamped out, occurred at one of the hotels in June last. It subsided as quickly as it came; and all the evidence at our disposal indicates with tolerable certainty that the source of the poison was to be found in some article of food, as the drainage of the hotel and milk and water supply were quite satisfactory. In any case, the cause has proved a transitory one. No case has occurred which cannot be traced to the one occasion, and no case whatever has originated in the town outside the hotel. Some of the patients being week-end visitors, have, I regret to say, fallen

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

at their own homes in London. Of those remaining in Westgate, all are now practically convalescent. Dr. Robinson, the Medical Officer of Health, informs me that there has been no diphtheria or other notifiable illness whatsoever in Westgate during the current year.

A correspondent sends me the following verses:—

A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN.

There is wailing by the water, there is sobbing by the sea,
All the children on the shingle are as wretched as can be;
All the little lads and lasses swarming now on Britain's shore
With their sighing and their crying almost drown the billows' roar.

For a sudden blight has fallen on their summer holidays,
They have heard about the warning which the *B. M. J.* conveys;*
They have heard how now the doctors (as that cruel journal saith)
Have discovered that to paddle means paralysis and death!

* The *British Medical Journal*, in a recent paragraph, states that the danger involved in paddling at the seaside *is very great.*

So they stand beside their nurses, and their look of gladness fades,
And they find but little pleasure in their buckets and their spades,
For they must, alack! no longer—this it is brims sorrow's cup—
Take their little socks and shoes off, and their petticoats tuck up.

Where the waves make shallow lakelets they, poor children! must not stand,
They must not, blithe and barefoot, splash about upon the sand;
They must not the swift invasion of the swirling eddies dare,
Nor, adventurous and happy, track the shrimplet to its lair.

For the *B. M. J.* has spoken, and the details has supplied
Of a fair-skinned little laddie who *would* paddle, and who died;
For a month he lay unconscious—Dr. Whitfield Perkins states—
And he suffered from convulsions, too, at not infrequent dates.

Now, though doubtless this sad statement of the Doctor is quite true,
Yet it seems a little stringent therefore paddling to taboo;
Yes, it seems a little needless of the *B. M. J.* to write
Words that surely must have tended countless parents to affright.

There may be some risk in paddling, but why shock us thus anew?
There's *some* hazard, for that matter, in whatever children do;
And the *B. M. J.* might warn us just as well in next week's sheet,
That they run the risk of choking every time they try to eat.

So again we'd ask the doctors not so ardently to seek
To alarm us with new bogies in this manner every week;
Young or old, our every action must involve some risk, of course,
But, oh! why upon our notice take such pains these risks to force?

No answer has been forthcoming from the authorities of the Campbell College, Belfast, to the serious impeachment of the administration of the College which was dealt with in these columns on July 16, and it would seem that they are determined to shirk, if possible, all discussion and inquiry on the subject. The letters that have reached me during the past two or three weeks show that the silence of the governing body, in the face of the damaging statements that have been published, is exciting the greatest uneasiness and dissatisfaction among the local public, and the matter is one of so much importance—the College being the best endowed public school in Ireland—that I need offer no apology for returning to it. To make clear the present position of affairs it is necessary to explain that under the will of the late Mr. Henry Campbell three trustees, one being a member of the Presbyterian Church, and the other two members of the Church of Ireland, were appointed to administer the fund of £200,000 which he bequeathed for the foundation of the school. The two Church of Ireland trustees soon retired, and their places were filled by two Presbyterians, Messrs. A. D. Lemon and R. W. Corry. Neither of these gentlemen has had any personal experience of public school life, and whatever other merits they may possess, it is difficult to understand how they can be qualified to control such an institution as the Campbell College. In filling up the office of headmaster, no attempt was made by advertising or other means to secure a choice of candidates, two local men, one a member of the Church of Ireland, and the other (Mr. J. A. M'Neill) a Presbyterian, being appointed co-Principals of the College. Within a year the former resigned, and the sole charge passed into the hands of Mr. M'Neill, with the result that, contrary to the intention of the founder, the institution is now wholly under Presbyterian control.

The College was opened in September, 1894. In a little over twelve months troubles of the gravest character arose in the school, and, owing to the course taken by Mr. M'Neill, the three senior house masters felt it incumbent upon them to tender their resignations. Their reasons for taking this step have been set forth in a pamphlet. In effect they attribute the difficulties which occurred to Mr. M'Neill's unfitness for the post of headmaster—to his ignorance of public school organisation and discipline, his lack of tact, and his mistaken and mischievous methods of dealing with both his staff and the boys. The senior masters were not alone in finding it impossible to serve under Mr. M'Neill, for a few weeks afterwards four assistant-masters followed their example by resigning. When it is added that between Christmas and Midsummer there was a falling-off of no less than seventy in the number of boys on the roll, that in July last there were only four outside entries for eighteen scholarships, and that in the comparatively short period since the opening of the College, as many as fourteen boys have been expelled, it will be seen that

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

there are ample grounds for the fears which have been excited as to the future of the institution under the present management.

From the facts that I have given above, it is only too clear that a continuance of the existing state of things will be attended by the most disastrous consequences to the College, and the assistance of the Endowed Schools Commission or the proper authorities, whoever they may be, ought to be at once invoked for the purpose of putting an end to it. The first thing that seems to be necessary is a re-constitution of the governing body, so that it may be composed of men qualified by their own education and training to take part in the administration of a big public school, and so, too, that the wishes of the founder with regard to the representation of the Church of Ireland as well as the Presbyterian Church may be duly carried out. There is little doubt that this would be speedily followed by other changes and radical reforms in the system on which the establishment is now conducted. It will certainly be a gross scandal if the usefulness of Mr. Campbell's splendid endowment is allowed to be any longer marred by the incompetence of the persons into whose hands its administration happens to have fallen.

A parent with boys at the Mutley Grammar School, Plymouth, asks whether I know anything of "the Kensington Local Preliminary Examination" at which "successes" have been obtained by this school. The only "Kensington Local" examinations I know of are those run by the man Sturman and his precious "Society of Science, Letters, and Art, of London." If it is these to which the head-master referred in his recent annual report, I venture to give him a friendly word of advice. It is that he should read a few of the exposures of Sturman that have been published in these columns during the past three or four years. I am sure he will then recognise that the less he has to do with Sturman's "exams." the better it will be for the reputation of his school.

The Bishop of Sierra Leone is about to resign his see, and Mr. Chamberlain has very properly declined to advise the issue of letters patent to the next diocesan. It is, therefore, probable that the payment of £500 a year from the four Crown Colonies of the West Coast towards the Bishop's salary will cease, and that the Government contribution towards the maintenance of St. George's Cathedral, Freetown, will be withdrawn. Mr. Chamberlain would have continued the present arrangements "if a strong opinion was manifested in the colony in favour of this course," but no such feeling appears to exist, and indeed, there seems to a general desire for the disestablishment which is now impending.

Bishop Bardsley's selection of Canon Diggle, of Liverpool, for the vacant stall in Carlisle Cathedral and the Archdeaconry of Westmoreland, is a job of the most scandalous kind, and reflects the greatest possible discredit upon that prelate. Canon Diggle is an intimate friend of the Bishop and one of his examining chaplains, but most assuredly he has no claim whatever of any sort or kind to this preferment, which ought properly to have been reserved for a clergyman who has earned such coveted promotion by hard work in the diocese of Carlisle. It is a deliberate slight to the clergy of the diocese (and particularly to those of Westmoreland) to pass them all over in favour of an unknown stranger. We hear a great deal of croaking about the difficulties of the Church of England, but her greatest troubles arise from the flagrant and persistent jobbery of her Bishops, most of whom appear to think that official patronage is to be used (when it is of any value) to provide for their own friends and relations, and this is the system upon which they dispense it—without shame or scruple.

In the days of the Church Commission, when Bishops and Chapters were wrangling over the new arrangements, a very distinguished Tory statesman privately expressed the opinion that the less patronage that is given to the Bishops the better for the Church. He had been brought to this view by the knowledge (which his official position had given to him) of the outrageous jobbing in which the prelates freely indulged themselves. I am afraid that affairs are just as bad now as they were fifty or sixty years ago, and the Church papers rarely protest against even the most disgraceful cases of episcopal nepotism. The "upper clergy," moreover, are sly creatures in "jockeying" patronage. One has heard of the Bishop of X. giving a living in his diocese to a relative of the Bishop of Z., and a few months later, by a curious coincidence, the Bishop of Z. would select a relative of his right reverend brother of X. for preferment.

It was expected that the Bishop of Carlisle would have appointed the Rev. J. Llewellyn Davies, vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale, to the late Archdeacon Cooper's preferment, an arrangement which would have given general satisfaction, both in the diocese and out of it. Mr. Davies is unquestionably the most distinguished ecclesiastic in the diocese, but he is a Broad Churchman and a Liberal, which accounts for his being passed over by a prelate who is not merely a Tory but an Orangeman.

The rectory of Kingswood, Gloucestershire, which is now vacant, will be filled up by popular election, the patrons of the benefice being the payers of tithe. The living is of the net value of £180 a year, with residence.

Rather an interesting point is made in a letter that I have received from a country clergyman on the position and grievances of curates. It was originally intended, he says, that curates should hold office during good behaviour, the Bishop's consent, in writing, to a curate's dismissal beyond all doubt being meant to protect him from capricious and arbitrary treatment. This is clearly

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shown in the following passage from the form of nomination signed by an incumbent who gives a "title" for ordination to a curate :—

> . . . And I hereby promise and engage with your lordship and the said —— that I will continue to employ the said —— in the office of curate in my said church *until he shall be otherwise provided of some ecclesiastical preferment; unless for any fault by him committed he shall be lawfully removed from the same.*

If the Bishops did their duty no curate would be removed from his office until some "fault" had been proved against him. But what is their lordships' general practice? It is to give the requisite consent to incumbents to dismiss their curates as a mere matter of form, often without even communicating with the curate, much less giving him a fair hearing. I have myself known scores of cases in which curates have been discharged after years of excellent service without the shadow of a pretence of justification, and solely to satisfy some whim or animus of the incumbent. But episcopal consciences are tough, and this is not the only matter in which a manifest duty is shirked by the right reverend successors of the Apostles.

One cannot but admire the enterprise, not to say assurance, which the clergy display in begging for parochial objects. Last week I was favoured with a circular from a reverend gentleman in the parish of Perranzabulo — it is somewhere in Cornwall—soliciting "a good selection of my specialities for exhibition and sale" at an "advertisement stall" in connection with a church bazaar. "Do not miss the opportunity thus afforded you," says the circular, "of cheaply advertising your specialities, but promptly send me your contribution to this stall, and let it be, I would advise you, as large as possible, so that by wide distribution you may reap the greater benefit." Very likely there are tradesmen who will jump at such a chance, but for my own part, having no "specialities," I am at a loss to know what to send—unless it be a few cuttings from back numbers of TRUTH respecting this kind of clerical touting. These might not be acceptable, and instead, therefore, of seeking an advertisement for TRUTH at the bazaar, I have thought it better to give the bazaar an advertisement in TRUTH. I hope it will be appreciated.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Poor Children's Holiday Fund:—H. T. C., £5; R. D., £1; H. R. S., 5s.; Minetta, £3.; Myfanwy and Vera, 10s. 6d.; W. Y., £2. 2s.; D. P., £1. 10s.; J. T. F., £2.

Gray wrote of the rude forefathers of the hamlet being "each in his narrow cell for ever laid." In the parish churchyard at Stalham, Norfolk, however, they rest in their narrow cells only for a few short years, and then their bones are unceremoniously bundled out to make room for somebody else. For a long time the churchyard has been frightfully overcrowded, but interments still go on, and the most revolting scenes are witnessed when a grave is dug. A gentleman who visited the place last week informs me that he noticed a quantity of human remains scattered about; that on more than one occasion skulls have been disinterred with the hair still attached, and that bodies have been disturbed with portions of the shroud remaining. I referred to this matter some months ago; but it appears useless to appeal to the ecclesiastical authorities to close the churchyard. Is there no other means of putting an end to such an abominable state of things? It is clear there ought to be, for it is never safe to rely upon the church authorities dealing with such a scandal.

Since the reference in TRUTH of the 30th ult. to the little job recently perpetrated in the establishment of the Military Knights of Windsor, I have been favoured with a good deal of correspondence respecting the affairs of that body. In justification of the promotion of a junior Knight to the Royal Foundation, at the expense of the senior Knight on the Lower Foundation, it has been pointed out that the senior Knight has lately been involved in financial difficulties. If this is all that can be said in defence of the step that has been taken, it amounts to very little, for the senior Knight in question satisfactorily passed his examination in bankruptcy, and is now awaiting his discharge, and the best proof that his temporary embarrassments are not considered to reflect upon him in the least by those who know him best, is to be seen in the fact that a subscription to assist him out of his difficulties has been contributed to by a large number of his fellow Knights. If his temporary financial difficulty was really allowed to weigh against his distinguished military services and his seniority in the Order, it can only be concluded that there was a very strong disposition to find any excuse for shelving him in favour of the junior Knight who was promoted.

It would seem that Colonel Maude is not the only knight who has cause to complain of the recent promotion. A claim has been advanced on behalf of Lieutenant-Colonel Maguire, late 60th Rifles, on the ground that he also is senior to Captain Atkinson, the Knight recently promoted. In point of Service standing, Lieutenant-Colonel Maguire is undoubtedly the senior, and he has a distinguished record to his credit, including services in China, the Punjab, and the Indian Mutiny. It would seem that the Royal Warrants appointing these two officers to the Lower Foundation were both signed on the same day, but Lieutenant-Colonel Maguire happened to be in Ireland at the time of his appointment, while Captain Atkinson was living close by at Maidenhead. Owing to this circumstance, Captain Atkinson went through the ecclesiastical ceremony of installation at once, while Lieutenant-Colonel Maguire was not installed till about two months later. On this ground rests Captain Atkinson's claim to be considered the senior Knight of the two. Lieutenant-Colonel Maguire does not seem to have appreciated the state of the case for some time, but as soon as he did so, he put in a protest, and here again he seems to have been treated very unfairly; for his protest was never forwarded by the Governor to the Dean, to whom it was addressed, and until the last two or three weeks the Dean was not aware that Lieutenant-Colonel Maguire had made any claim to be considered the senior. The question has now, I understand, gone before the Lord Chancellor, with whom a

decision lies in such matters, and it is to be hoped that it is not too late for justice to be done. It has transpired in the overhauling of the Statutes in connection with this matter that the Lord Chancellor is charged with the duty of periodically inquiring into the grievances of the Military Knights; and, now that this fact is known, it is possible that the Knights will be frequently disposed to avail themselves of the Lord Chancellor's functions.

In the monthly Indian *Army List* it is the custom to notify against those officers who have passed the Staff College whether they have linguistic qualifications, and, if so, in what languages. It has been represented to me that it would be of very great advantage if the same course were taken in the English *Army List*. The difficulty of compiling the necessary particulars would be small, and it would undoubtedly be of advantage to officers going up to the Staff College if they could ascertain exactly in what languages most of the existing P.S.C.s have qualified, and consequently what languages it is likely to pay best to take up. The existence of such a record would also, one would think, be of considerable use at the War Office.

The Civil Service Commissioners would do well to look into the causes of the many seeming inconsistencies and incongruities in marking the papers of candidates for Sandhurst examinations. In November, 1894, a candidate who failed in other respects, though he qualified for a commission, obtained 1,000 marks in geology. Encouraged by these figures, he proceeded to devote himself to the study of the science under the tutorship of a well-known professor, and worked hard at the subject for eighteen months. His tutor pronounces that he was at least 50 per cent. stronger in the subject than when he went in for the previous examination, but on going in again in June, 1896, he actually obtained 200 less marks than he did in '94, although he answered nearly every question in the paper. On the other hand, another candidate went up in June, '96, who had only had about four months' preparation, and he, to his own and everybody else's astonishment, obtained over 1,000 marks. It is impossible to believe that the marking in these two cases bears any relation to the actual qualifications of the candidates, and they are only exceptionally striking cases of what is a constant source of complaint.

I hear from a correspondent who takes a great interest in the welfare of the Army Medical Staff, that not one of the medical officers who are now holding themselves in readiness to embark for India in September or October has been allowed any leave before sailing. Hardly one of these officers has had any leave this year beyond a day or two at a time, and every one of them is entitled to about six weeks or upwards, and many of them have their homes in Ireland and Scotland, so that they have had not the slightest chance of going home to say good-bye to their friends before going to India for a term of six years' exile. This is a most monstrous state of things, and I should hope that even yet it may be remedied now that attention has been called to the matter.

Some little time back an N.C.O. of the Commissariat Department in the Bombay command was brought before his Departmental officer for a certain offence, and was given the option of a court-martial or resigning. He elected to resign. The resignation went in due course before the Major-General commanding, who pronounced that as the Departmental officer had allowed the N.C.O. to resign, he had condoned the offence, and that the N.C.O. must continue to serve in the Department. A fortnight later the Major-General wrote again, cancelling his order that the man was to continue to serve, and left the matter to be disposed of by the Departmental officer and the Brigadier-General commanding the district. It was decided by these two officers that the man should continue to serve, but in a different station, and under a junior, and should be discharged from the Service on the next unfavourable report. This decision, having been formally promulgated, went before the Major-General. Six weeks later, when everybody else had forgotten about the case, there came a fresh order from the Major-General that the N.C.O. should be remanded to Regimental duty. The whole time occupied in this incomprehensible shilly-shallying amounted to over four months, and while the authorities were fooling about in this way the man concerned had first of all sold up his home preparatory to resigning, had commenced to get his things together again on receiving the second decision, and finally had to sell up again when the third sentence upon him was pronounced; so that he was pretty heavily punished, quite independently of his sentence. If this is the way military matters are managed in India, our administrators at home have not so much to learn from that country as is sometimes supposed.

The following story from the 1st Battalion King's Regiment at Barbados, seems to call for notice. A few weeks back a married bandsman of the regiment was called to orderly-room and informed by the Colonel that misconduct had been witnessed at a certain time between the bandsman's wife and a petty officer of H.M.S. *Pallas*, then in harbour. The bandsman knew that his wife had been in her quarters at the time named, and said that the thing was impossible, whereupon the Colonel referred him to the sergeant-major for evidence. The sergeant-major, when questioned, informed the man that the provost-sergeant and other N.C.O.s were witnesses of the incident referred to. The bandsman then went to the Colonel, and asked him to have the matter brought up and investigated. This the Colonel refused to do, saying that he was quite satisfied with the evidence, and adding that he would have nothing more to do with the case. There the matter stands. Direct evidence is forthcoming that all the petty officers of the *Pallas* were on board their ship at the time when the alleged incident was said to have occurred; and the bandsman and his wife are prepared to

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swear that neither of them left their quarters at that time. There is also good reason to believe that the allegation which has been made was dictated by personal spite. However that may be, it is a monstrous thing that a respectable woman should be subjected to an imputation of this kind, and absolutely denied any opportunity of rebutting it. I would put it to the Colonel, as a gentleman and a man of honour, that having, doubtless in all good faith, allowed himself to be made the mouthpiece of such an imputation, it is his plain duty to the woman to see the charge either withdrawn or substantiated.

In a battalion of Artillery stationed at Athlone the men are charged with a contribution of 6d. per month to the "Battery Fund." The history of this fund is peculiar. Originally it was known as the "Cleaning Trap Fund," and the contribution to it was 2d. per month, the drivers receiving out of this fund soap, beeswax and other articles requisite for cleaning. As the gunners received nothing for their money, they objected to the payment. The designation of the fund was then changed to "Battery Fund," and the subscription was raised to 4d. per month. About six months ago, barrack damages were abolished, and 2d. per month was added to the "Battery Fund" subscription, bringing it up to 6d. a month. Many of the men still maintain that, beyond the equivalent to barrack damages, they get nothing out of the fund. Surely some account ought to be issued which would clear this matter up.

A most gratifying tribute to the Sergeant-Major R.A. at Milford, referred to in last week's TRUTH, has been addressed to me by three bombardiers and a corporal of the company. After describing the admirable manner in which the sergeant-major performs his duties, the writers state, "We all look up to him for guidance and advice in our various duties, which he is always most willing to give." In fact it would seem that the three bombardiers and the corporal almost bow down before the sergeant-major and worship him. It grieves me very much that I am not permitted to mention their names, for the sergeant-major ought to know who they are who thus reverence him. It should be added, however, that my paragraph had reference to an allegation that the sergeant-major, when taking two N.C.O.s to task for being improperly dressed, was himself riding a bicycle in his shirt sleeves and wearing white shoes. The three bombardiers and the corporal deny that the sergeant-major was improperly dressed. As, however, it does not appear that they were present at the time of the incident, and as it is also possible that their excessive admiration for the sergeant-major warps their judgment as to what is or is not proper, I cannot accept their evidence in preference to that of other witnesses who were present, and are apparently trustworthy. Besides, if the sergeant-major desired the allegation corrected, he would, no doubt, have written to me himself.

In the last issue of TRUTH a case which recently occurred at Netley Hospital was cited as an example of the laxity of Commanding Officers in awarding punishments, which would entitle a man to trial by court-martial, without giving him the option of being so tried. It has been pointed out to me that in this particular case the man had no right whatever to trial by court-martial, and that consequently the Commanding Officer was perfectly justified in the course he took. This I readily acknowledge, and I must express to the officer concerned my regret for the mistake. As usually happens in these cases, it was the fault of a military correspondent who ought to have known better—another instance of the danger of relying on experts in professional matters.

Technical military matters are not, as a rule, much in my line, but I am induced to break through the rule by a Staff Corps officer, who writes very strongly on the practice prevailing in many British and native regiments in India, of soldiers "hammering the butts of their rifles on the ground previous to shouldering or sloping arms from the order." This practice, I am told, necessarily damages the rifles, and this seems highly probable. As my informant further asserts that the practice is a waste of time; that it would have to be abolished, on account of the consequent noise, on active service when anywhere near the enemy; that the men dislike it because it entails unnecessary labour; and that it is contrary to Regulations, I certainly think, speaking as one of those who pay for the rifles, that the practice ought to be stopped.

Is it the intention of the Board now inquiring into the advisability of abolishing the Discharge Depots at Fort Brocklehurst and Gosport to take any evidence of their utility from soldiers? If not, I would suggest the propriety of this being done, for, after all, the soldiers themselves are the best judges in a matter like this. I have a long communication before me from a Reservist recently discharged, giving no less than seven reasons why the Depots should be maintained. Among these reasons are the difficulty of making up accounts, issuing civilian clothing, and conducting a proper medical examination on board ship; the impossibility of a man having a bath and smartening himself up if discharged direct from the ship; the necessity for some chance for the men to go into hospital for a day or two if they need it after the voyage; the danger of their falling into the hands of sharks and sharpers if turned adrift on the quay of a garrison town, and several other points of more or less importance. Individually, these considerations may be small ones; but collectively they seem to make up a strong case from the soldier's point of view for the retention of the Discharge Depots, at any rate in some shape.

To the grievances that have arisen out of the distribution of the Volunteer long service medal and decoration there is no end. The latest complaint comes to me from Hong Kong, and it is to the effect that the Volunteers there have been practically shut out from any chance of receiving the medal by the action of the authorities in

fixing the qualifying period of service in all the colonies at twenty years, the same as at home. For India the period has been reduced to eighteen years, and it seems only reasonable that a similar concession should be made in the case of Hong Kong and several other Crown Colonies, where the trying nature of the climate and the conditions of life generally make Volunteering a very different business from what it is in the mother country.

Here are a few more military grievances which seem to deserve pillorying. I am particularly struck with the story about the 1st Dorsetshire, which is worth attention quite apart from the grievance of the men who took the bounty in 1892 for extending their service. So far as I can make out from the War Office letter referred to, when this battalion, already on foreign service, was under orders for India, it was discovered that so many men were approaching the end of their time that the proper strength of the battalion for India could not be made up. At the same time the home battalion was for some reason quite unable to supply drafts to make the other up to its proper strength; and the War Office were in such a hole that they had to expend £1,500 in hard cash in bribing men to extend their colour service. Such a state of things in time of peace is somewhat at variance with the optimistic views we sometimes get from headquarters on the admirable working of the short service system:—

1st Battalion Dorset Regiment, Bangalore.—When this battalion was in Egypt and under orders for India in 1892, a War Office letter was received, offering a bounty of £10 to any of the rank and file, up to the number of 150, whose service would expire before September, 1893, "on condition that they would extend their service to eleven years with the colours, which would leave them one year in the Reserve." A very large number of men accepted this offer, and proceeded to India. Many of them completed their eleven years in April last, and have claimed their discharge to the Reserve accordingly. The authorities, however, insist that they are entitled to keep them for a full twelve years. The terms of the War Office letter of May 19, 1892, are precisely as quoted above, so that it is perfectly clear that these men engaged under a special agreement for eleven years' service only, and when they have completed that period with the colours, they have an absolute right to insist on being sent home.

1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, Cape Town.—The post of sergeant-major in this battalion became vacant in April, 1894. A colour-sergeant was recommended by the C.O., but the War Office refused to appoint him because he had not a first-class education certificate. They, however, allowed the vacancy to remain open until April, 1895, in order to give the colour-sergeant a chance of obtaining his certificate. This he has failed to do, although he has since sat at more than one examination, but the vacancy still remains open. This battalion has, consequently, been without a sergeant-major for two years and four months.

2nd Battalion West Riding Regiment, Pietermaritzberg.—The sergeant-cook of this battalion took over in January, 1895, an old Dean's oven in very bad condition. In November, 1895, he applied for a new one, but the old one was patched up by a R.E. smith, who stated at the time that it ought to be condemned. In April, 1896, further repairs became necessary to the amount of £5. 1s., and it was decided that the regiment should pay one half the cost. This half share, £2. 10s. 6d., has now been debited against the cook, on the ground that the damage was due to over-heating. The cook says that the over-heating was unavoidable, as, owing to the decrepit condition of the oven, the doors could never be shut. There seems no doubt that the oven is worn out, and considering that Parliament voted for the Army last year the sum of £20,805,758, it would seem that money ought to have been forthcoming for a new oven without laying the cost of the repairs upon the unfortunate cook.

Jamaica.—The junior European N.C.O.s of the garrison here are complaining of one of the rooms in the canteen, which was formerly set apart for the use of N.C.O.s under the rank of sergeant, having been appropriated to the exclusive use of staff sergeants and others above that rank, so that those below that rank have now no separate room for their use. As the sergeants' mess of the West India Regiment, to which all the warrant and non-commissioned officers of the European staff have access, is only a hundred yards distant, this proceeding seems quite unnecessary. It is also alleged that the canteen funds have been drawn upon to defray the cost of preparing and furnishing this room for the use of the staff sergeants. Is the G.O.C. in Jamaica aware of this fact?

In common with several other editors, I have received communications from some of the crew of the ship *Siren* with reference to the refusal of the Admiralty to compensate them for the loss of their effects by the collision of that ship with H.M.S. *Landrail*. A more odious and contemptible piece of meanness than this has never been perpetrated at the Admiralty, which is saying a good deal. It has been decided by a court-martial that the officer commanding the *Landrail* was guilty of gross negligence. I do not know whether there may be, in point of law, any difference between the liability of the Crown for the consequences of gross negligence on the part of its servants and the liability of private individuals in the same circumstances; but there cannot be the slightest question that those who have suffered by the gross negligence of Lieutenant Pearson have every moral claim to be reimbursed whatever they have lost; and there is something peculiarly mean in refusing such compensation to men who have lost nearly everything they possess, and who are in too humble a position to be able to assert their claims with any effect. All the seamen of the *Siren* ought to receive at least the new outfit necessary before they can obtain fresh situations.

It is only the other day that the Admiralty were selling by auction 489 dozen of '84 champagne, to say nothing of thousands of pounds' worth of other public property of different kinds. To put the seamen of the *Siren* on their legs again would not make a very big hole in the proceeds of this sale.

It seems desirable to call attention again to the duty of shipowners to provide awnings for the protection of their crews during the hot season in the Red Sea. This matter was mentioned in TRUTH a few weeks back, and ample corroboration has since been forthcoming of the justice of my remarks. A gentleman who has made some inquiries into the subject, states that he finds that there is a general opinion, not only among seamen, but among masters and others who understand the circumstances, that to send a ship through the Red Sea between May 1 and September 30 without such an awning is nothing short of murder. Further, the neglect of this necessary protection does not seem to be confined to tramp steamers. Many ships belonging to lines, the owners of which might be expected to show more consideration for their men, have lately been observed without any sort of awning; although I am told that foreign steamers are, as a rule, better equipped in this respect than our own. I do not know whether the Board of Trade have power to make any regulations on this point, but, if not, it certainly seems desirable that they should obtain it.

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

It is also a desirable and reasonable thing that ships passing through the Red Sea during the hot season should be compelled to carry a certain quantity of ice, for use in cases of heat apoplexy. A couple of hundred pounds of ice, I am told, would be ample for the purpose, and this could be obtained either at Suez or Aden for about thirteen shillings. I believe I am right in saying that were this indispensable restorative always on hand on steamships, many lives would be saved which are now lost through want of it.

Lord Salisbury has insisted on filling up the vacant office of Consul-General at Florence, although it is the opinion of every competent authority that it is preposterous folly and extravagance to pay £1,000 a year to that functionary, who has nothing whatever to do. There is no trade now at Florence, as everybody knows. Of course, if our Consular arrangements were regulated by common-sense, the Foreign Office would, as I have before explained, have followed the sagacious example of Germany, and Genoa and Milan would have been made the most important posts in Italy, as those two cities are now the centres of the trade of the country. We neglect these places, to our own great and increasing loss, and to the corresponding gain of Germany.

The discontent which has long existed among the Traffic Revenue officers of the Indian State Railways, owing to the Government's breaches of faith in regard to their pay and promotion, has been greatly intensified by the recent appointment of Mr. H. P. Burt, Executive Engineer, as Deputy Traffic Superintendent of the North-West Railway. Nobody has a word to say against Mr. Burt personally; but it is regarded as grossly unfair that he should be given this post in the traffic branch, where he has had no practical experience, and where he blocks the promotion of a considerable number of officers whose whole service has been spent in traffic work. The Director-General of Railways must have been aware of the indignation the appointment would arouse, for only a few months since he dropped a proposal to provide Mr. Burt with a similar berth on another line, owing to the outcry it occasioned. The fact is said to be, however, that Mr. Burt's removal from his own Department, where he had strong claims to promotion, was desired in order that an opening might be made for a Royal Engineer.

The following statement which has been sent to me affords a good example of the slipshod and discreditable manner in which the South Kensington Museum is managed. The facts are, I believe, beyond all question, and it is a gross slight to our Indian feudatories, as well as an injustice to the public at home, that a valuable gift from an Indian Prince should be treated in this manner:—

In 1886 the late Maharajah Scindia of Gwalior presented a costly carved gateway to the South Kensington Museum, weighing 75 tons of carved stone. As a representative piece of modern Indian art, it was greatly admired both at the Calcutta and Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London. At the time the Council of Education published a Government order to the effect that the "Gwalior Gateway" had been prepared for the South Kensington Museum. But this was erroneous. Major J. B. Keith, late Conservator of Monuments in Central India, who both proposed and prepared the work, wished to secure it for India itself as a specimen of indigenous workmanship. In India it would have been of use to native workmen; here it has been lost.

When publishing an excellent engraving of the "Gwalior Gateway," the London *Builder*, in 1886, expressed the hope that it would not share in the fate or the scandal that had overtaken another piece of art, relegated to obscurity.

Unhappily, the fears of the *Builder* have been realised, and the gateway has been relegated to a lumber-room in the Museum for the last ten years, nor is there any provision for it in the new South Kensington buildings. This is a curious way of encouraging Indian art industry, and a nice compliment to the late Maharajah Scindia and his artisans!

As the authorities of the India Office justly viewed the gateway on its arrival as a species of white elephant, on account of the expense both of execution and of transport thrown on the Maharajah, it is necessary to remember that South Kensington is wholly responsible. The then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Rivers Thompson, was ready to provide a most suitable site, but the interest of South Kensington prevailed. . . . .

It is only fair to add that the new Director, Mr. Turdon Clarke, is in no way responsible for the fate of the "Gwalior Gateway," and it is to be hoped that now that attention has been called to the matter he will find his hands sufficiently strengthened to be able to rescue the structure from the lumber-room in which it is now hidden.

An Irish solicitor, who has gone out to practise in New South Wales, complains somewhat loudly of being required to pay a fee of forty guineas before he could be admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of that colony. Forty guineas is the normal fee for a solicitor on admission in New South Wales, but my Irish friend seems to think that having been admitted in the United Kingdom, he ought not to have to pay all over again before he can practise in a British colony, where the courts, procedure, and law, are exactly modelled upon our own. This reasoning, however, if admitted, would apply to a good many other matters than the profession of a solicitor, and I cannot myself see any force in it. But I mention the matter for the information of any other lawyers who may contemplate going out to practise in the colonies, without having first ascertained the terms on which they will be allowed to do so.

In reference to a recent remark in TRUTH on the difficulty of compelling Somerset House to disgorge overpaid income-tax, a gentleman has taken the trouble to write to me all the way from Oporto to tell me that he has always found the Inland Revenue officials most prompt and courteous in dealing with applications for a refund of tax. As the gentleman in question has had to do with a large number of claims by Portuguese subjects for return of income-tax paid in respect of shares held in British companies, I cheerfully record his opinion, on the *audi alteram partem* principle. I think I can undertake to say, however, that for every one individual who expresses satisfaction with the promptness of Somerset House in repaying income-tax, at least a hundred could be found who would bear their testimony in the opposite direction. But then they are Englishmen—not Portuguese.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Surely directories ought to be provided for the use of the public in all telephone call-rooms. A City gentleman complains that he went into the call-room near the Royal Exchange in order to communicate with his own firm, and was unable to do so as he had forgotten the number, and no directory was available. He was coolly told that he could obtain a directory at Lloyd's rooms, which of course he could only do if he happened to have a friend there who would help him. A telephone call-room without a directory is of very little use to the casual caller, and the charge levied is quite sufficient to justify the public in asking for this necessary accommodation.

The Eastbourne Waterworks Company have just issued a notice which throws into the shade all previous performances of all water companies. Let it speak for itself:—

NOTICE.

EASTBOURNE WATER WORKS COMPANY.

It having come to the knowledge of the Company that water is being obtained by some persons from sources other than the Company's supply, the Company desire to warn consumers of the risk they incur of using water of doubtful purity.

The Company desire that it may be clearly understood that the water supplied by them is organically absolutely pure and fit for every purpose. This is proved by periodical tests made by Dr. Frankland, the eminent analyst.

The salinity recently perceptible in the water is due to the presence of salts which are not in any way injurious to health, and Dr. Willoughby (Medical Officer of Health), has recently issued a report showing that the health of the district has never been so satisfactory as during the past six months.

To meet the wishes of some consumers who prefer, for dietetic purposes, the water obtained from Holywell, the Company has arranged to give a supply by stand-pipes at certain points on the main between Holywell and the reservoirs.

This water may be obtained on and after Wednesday, August 12, between the hours of 6.30 and 10.30 a.m. and 4.30 and 6.30 p.m., at the following places:—

1. Meads-road (by Meads National Schools).
2. Carlisle-road (junction of Meads-road).
3. Compton-place-road (corner of Meads-road).
4. Town Hall (entrance to South-fields).
5. Grove-road (by Water-lane).
6. Enys-road, Upperton.

By order of the Directors,
A. J. Howard,
General Manager.

August 11, 1896.

The fact is that owing to the water being frequently so salt as to be to many persons undrinkable, distilled water is being retailed in the town at 6d. per gallon. As though it were not enough that people, after paying water-rates to the Company, should be compelled to purchase water at this price, the Company add insult to injury by solemnly warning them against the risks of obtaining water elsewhere than from the Company's mains. The statements about the health of the town are precisely what was anticipated in my remarks on this subject last week. Very possibly salt water may have all the virtues here claimed for it. Possibly, if the Company were to turn on a supply of Freiderieshall or Vichy once a week, instead of the brackish beverage to which they are now treating their customers, this also might be conducive to the public health. Many persons, however, would object strongly to make their tea or dilute their whisky with these liquids, and their objections would undoubtedly be entitled to respect, notwithstanding the assurances of an eminent analyst that the water was "fit for every purpose." Indeed, there are not a few who would prefer a little organic impurity to an excessive admixture of chemical salts—however wholesome.

Joking apart, the above notice places the failure of the Eastbourne Waterworks Company to fulfil its duty beyond all question, and for the Eastbourne ratepayers the position is a most serious one. The provision of six stand-pipes in a town of this size, all of them at the very back of the town, and far away from the sea, is totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the many who "prefer for dietetic purposes" water in which the salinity is not perceptible. To lodging-house and hotel keepers, with their houses full, the necessity of drawing by hand and storing all drinking water must be a serious tax; and nothing can compensate this class of ratepayers and the tradesmen of the town for the loss of those customers who will be kept away from Eastbourne by reports as to the state of the water. It is now nearly twelve months—although the Company call that "recently"—since this difficulty first became acute, and had it been properly recognised and dealt with, it is impossible to believe that it could not have been overcome by this time. The ratepayers must be apathetic indeed if they do not see the moral, and act on it.

By the way, is it a peculiarity of sea-side watering places to have their slaughter-houses in undesirable positions? Last week I mentioned the case of Brighton. Scarborough, it would seem, is similarly afflicted. There are two slaughter-houses within about a minute's walk of the esplanade, surrounded by private residences and lodging-houses, and others in different parts of the town equally open to objection. The local authorities would gladly do away with these places, but the question of compensation, which would have to be very heavy, stands in the way. What a satire it is on our tenderness for "vested interests," that a man should have the right to maintain a public nuisance, unless his neighbours will pay him a prohibitive price for abating it!

A lady on a visit to Lyndhurst was the other day frightened out of her wits by the apparition in the middle of the village of a man with heavy chains upon his legs and arms, and of generally unprepossessing demeanour. Having taken refuge in the nearest shop, she learned that the man was a harmless lunatic, who had temporarily escaped in his chains from his home in the village. By what right does anybody in these days keep a lunatic—harmless or not—chained up in a private house? The local authorities should look into this case, and it is surprising that the neighbours have not already forced them to do so.

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

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A capital method of bringing home their responsibilities to negligent and incompetent sanitary authorities is revealed by two recent actions at Birmingham Assizes. In the first case the King's Norton Rural District Council were sued for damages by the executors of a gentleman who died from typhoid fever, which he contracted through certain defective workmanship of the Council's servants having caused sewer gas to be conveyed into his house. The jury awarded £3,500 damages. In the second case the same Council were mulcted in £300 damages for polluting a pool with sewage. These results should be a salutary lesson not only to this particular Council, but to other sanitary authorities which may be similarly careless in carrying out their work, and similarly indifferent to the welfare of the people whose health they are appointed to safeguard. The actions certainly constitute a valuable precedent for suffering ratepayers in such circumstances.

Apropos of the recent proceedings against a member of the Common Council for non-payment of rates on Turkish baths belonging to him in St. Pancras, a correspondent raises a curious question. It was stated that the Vestry had previously "entirely lost" £58 due from the Councillor for rates, and that in respect of the £44 now sued for a distress warrant had been issued, but the broker had made the return that there were not sufficient goods to levy upon. The magistrate thereupon committed the defaulter to Holloway, with the result that the £44 was soon forthcoming. The point that has puzzled my correspondent is this: Supposing the defaulter had persisted in his refusal to pay, would he have wiped out the liability and barred all further proceedings by undergoing three months' imprisonment without hard labour—that being the maximum period for which a man can be committed in such a case? If not, in what way have the Vestry "entirely lost" the £58? Perhaps some legal friend can throw further light upon the matter; for if the law is as above suggested, anybody might evade the payment of rates by temporarily removing his goods and chattels from the rated premises, and then taking a short holiday at Holloway at the expense of the taxpayers.

There are some interesting items in the last half-yearly financial statement of the Wem Union, which one of the ratepayers has forwarded for my inspection. It seems that the in-maintenance of seventy-two paupers for the half-year cost £193. 10s. 5d., and £229. 9s. 3d. was expended in out-relief, while officers' salaries and rations took no less than £324. 10s. 1d. Five officers in the workhouse consumed 783 lb. of meat, costing £24. 9s. 4¼d.; the seventy-two pauper inmates had to be content with 1,090 lb. of beef, costing £22. 14s. 2d. That there is no pampering of paupers at Wem is further shown by the statement that the average weekly cost per head, not only for provisions, but for "clothing and necessaries" as well, is only 2s. 3¾d. The officers may not be overpaid, but there seems to me to be little doubt that the paupers must be underfed.

I have always been a warm advocate of the system of boarding out pauper children, but it is obviously one which may do more harm than good, if Bumble is heedless of the fitness and character of the persons with whom the little ones are lodged. This appears to be the case with the Lincoln Guardians, and, judging from the account of their life and surroundings that is given me, some of the children would be decidedly better off in the workhouse than in such homes as they have been placed in. The matter has been brought before the Guardians more than once, but without avail, and I would therefore suggest that Miss Mason, the Local Government Board Inspector of Boarded-out Children, should go down to Lincoln and make a few inquiries—not contenting herself, of course, with official statements alone.

An odd complication has arisen at Dorchester owing to Sir Robert Edgcumbe, the high sheriff of Cornwall, having refused to pay the fine of £25 which is due from him in consequence of his having resigned the office of alderman of the borough. Sir Robert Edgcumbe took an active part in all local affairs for many years, and he was elected alderman from outside the Council. He has now resigned, but protests in vigorous language against his being fined, and vows that he will not pay £25. At last week's meeting of the Town Council it was proposed to raise the £25 by a subscription among the members of the Corporation, but, after a very lively discussion, the motion was rejected. Suppose that Sir Robert Edgcumbe persists in refusing to pay, and therefore retains his office of alderman, the Council cannot compel him to attend to the duties of that position.

Why lotteries should be illegal in this country while they are permitted, and even encouraged, by the ecclesiastical and civil authorities in Ireland, is one of those mysteries connected with the relations of the two countries which I have never been able to understand. A Grand Bazaar and Fête are to be held at Cork in the first week of September, under the distinguished patronage of the Lord-Lieutenant and Lady Cadogan, and an announcement in connection with the function gives a long list of prizes which have been "presented for ballot," as it is euphemistically expressed. The first prize is a case of silver, value sixty guineas, the second a cash prize of twenty guineas, and, among other articles, are two cases of champagne. The tickets are one shilling each. Here is a lottery pure and simple, under the distinguished patronage of the Lord-Lieutenant. As long as we have one Legislature for the two countries, and a Parliament in existence sworn by an overwhelming majority to maintain the Legislative Union, I really do not see why the law should allow an Irish charity to obtain money by means which, on this side of the Channel, would bring all concerned, even a Lord-Lieutenant, into the clutches of the police. By the way, what about the raffling of champagne at a fête of this kind? Do the Irish licensing laws permit that? If so, the anomaly is aggravated.

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The proceedings of the Malling Bench in the case recorded below appear to have been reported more widely than usual, and in consequence, people have written from all parts of the country requesting me to give their worships a place in my Legal Pillory. This is not at all surprising, for it is simply a mockery of justice that men guilty of such wanton and atrocious cruelty to animals should be let off with any mere pecuniary penalty, however heavy. These defendants at Malling ought to have been sent to gaol without the option of a fine, and it is some satisfaction, at any rate, to see that the Chairman was in favour of this course, and that he did not hesitate to express the opinion that the magistrates who overruled him were "far too lenient." The following list includes, however, some even more striking examples of misplaced lenity, among which I would particularly call attention to the extreme indulgence shown towards wife-beaters at Witham, Grantham, and Kilmarnock. The cases on the other side illustrate the very different spirit in which the magistracy deal with such crimes as poaching, sleeping out, and petty larceny :—

Grantham Police-court. Before the Mayor (Alderman W. L. Wand) and Mr. G. Slater. John Wm. Preestone, charged with assaulting his wife, also with threatening her. He went home drunk, took hold of her by the hair, and knocked her about until she was nearly unconscious. Two days later he went to her with a knife in his hand and threatened to kill her. The Mayor said his conduct had been base indeed. Ordered to pay the costs and bound over.

Grantham Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Charles Cooper, charged with neglecting to perform his allotted task while an inmate of the workhouse casual ward. Fourteen days.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Richard Lewis, fishing apprentice from the Wolverhampton Union, charged with disobedience. One month.

Birmingham Police-court. Joseph Konning, convicted of assaulting Amy and Arthur Clews, brother and sister. Defendant, who was drunk, struck the girl a violent blow in the eye, and on her brother interfering defendant knocked him down. The magistrates said the assaults were of a brutal character. Fined 20s. and costs.

Birmingham Police-court. Maggie Williams, aged 16, charged with being in company with another girl and stealing a pair of boots from a shop door. One month.

Sheffield West Riding Police-court. Before Mr. B. J. Young and other magistrates. Samuel Wright, charged with cruelty to a pony. Defendant was driving a worn-out pit pony, which he bought for 17s. He thrashed the animal unmercifully about the head and body, continuing the ill-treatment along the road for a mile. Fined 10s. including costs.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Alderman J. F. Swallow, Messrs. H. A. Fowler and R. Eyre. Frederick Pollard, Edwin Pollard, and Samuel Large, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of rabbits. Fined £2. 10s. each and costs; in default one month.

Witham Police-court. Before General Howard Vyse, Messrs. J. H. Salter, John Moss, R. G. Rann, and A. Motion. James Moule, described as an old offender, charged with assaulting his wife. He got "beastly drunk," and struck her in the mouth, and kicked her on the body. She was expecting to be confined in a few weeks. Bound over and ordered to pay the costs, 11s.

Tunbridge Wells Police-court. Before Mr. W. F. Browell and Mr. Finch. Thomas Mitchell, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Bedale Police-court. Before Captain Carter, Sir H. B. Peirse, Captain Lascelles, Messrs. R. Hutton-Squire, and H. Rouse. William Kitching, labourer, charged with stealing a pennyworth of onions from a garden. Fined £1.

Ystrad Police-court. William James Griffiths, convicted of cruelty to a pony. He was employed as a hauler in a coal mine, and in defiance of his orders made a pony pull five loaded trams up a stiff gradient, with the result that the animal dropped down dead through over-exertion. Fined £2 and costs.

Barnsley Police-court. Before Messrs. F. H. Taylor, H. Pigott, Z. Hinchliffe, W. Brady, and S. Seal. Albert Swift and Walter Crossley, miners, charged with poaching. They had one rabbit. Two months each and a further month in default of finding sureties for their good behaviour.

Retford Borough Police-court. Alfred Rex charged with assaulting John Westnidge. The latter went into a public-house where the defendant without the slightest provocation seized him by the legs, threw him over a table on to the floor, and struck him a violent blow which broke the bridge of his nose. Fined £2 including costs.

Ipswich Police-court. Before Messrs. R. M. Miller, R. D. Fraser, S. R. Anness, and Colonel J. H. Josselyn. Herbert John Grayston, convicted of what the Bench characterised as a cowardly assault upon Harry Cross. Defendant knocked Cross down, rendering him unconscious, and jumped upon him. Cross had to be taken to the hospital, where he was detained for two days. Fined £2 and costs.

Kilmarnock Sheriff Court. Before Mr. James Henderson. Alexander Brown, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her on the head with a zinc pail and on the mouth with his clenched fist. There were a number of previous convictions against him. Fined £2.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Messrs. W. A. Blain and G. Wigley. William McCabe charged with stealing a pennyworth of onions from a stall in the market-place. Seven days.

Wells City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. G. Trench and J. Slater. Thomas Henry Hucker charged with absconding from the workhouse. Two months.

Colchester Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. J. Wicks) and other magistrates. William Saxby, charged with sleeping in an unoccupied house and being without visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Charles Lythgo, charged with a similar offence. Seven days.

Louth Borough Police-court. Before Alderman Simpson (Mayor), Messrs. Nesbitt, Hurst, Longbottom, and Dr. Best. Robert Bond, charged with being in the unlawful possession of four hares. Fined £5 and costs, or two months.

Malling Petty Sessions. Before the Hon. E. V. Bligh and other magistrates. Bertie Sage and Edward G. Sage, convicted of cruelty to two horses. The animals were attached to a brake crowded with excursionists, and were literally driven to death. The chairman wished to send the accused to prison without the option of a fine, but his colleagues objected, and the defendants were fined £5 each and costs.

I am entirely free from any desire to assume the mantle of prophecy, but when, after the Leeds prosecutions under the Lord's Day Act, some time since, a Select Committee of the Upper House was appointed to inquire what amendments, if any, were necessary in this Act, I remember remarking that I thought the chances of relief by legislation singularly small. Well, the Select Committee has reported. I quote their summing up: "After reviewing all the facts, the Committee were forced to the conclusion that, whilst inappropriate in phraseology, the existing law substantially harmonises with public opinion, and that any material change would be harmful." So, through the lawn-sleeve interest, those who endeavour to wean the masses from the public-house by providing rational and instructive entertainments on Sundays will still be liable to persecution by saintly faddists because the Committee could not even see its way to restrict initiative in prosecutions by the Crown.

A bankrupt was under examination in Leeds County Court last week, and on entering the box expressed his wish to affirm instead of being sworn; whereupon he was greeted by the Registrar, Mr. T. Marshall, with the remark, "Kiss the Book; it is good enough for one in the position of a bankrupt." It seems desirable to inform this supercilious functionary that it makes no difference to a man's rights in a Court of Justice whether he is "in the position of a bankrupt," or the position of a Registrar; and a personage occupying a judicial position has no business to insult those who come before him by offensive reflections on their position.

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Many men become bankrupt through no fault of their own, and it is part of the business of a Bankruptcy Court to ascertain whether or not a debtor is to blame for being "in the position of a bankrupt." These may appear very elementary truths, but apparently it is possible for a man to reach the position of a Registrar of a County Court without being aware of them. As to the kissing of the Book, I suppose that a bankrupt has the same right as anybody else to claim to be sworn in the Scotch fashion, in preference to using the silly hocus-pocus over a battered Bible, which has been pressed to the lips of successive generations of witnesses, of all sorts and conditions; and it is a pity that the debtor in the above case did not insist upon this right.

Mr. Hugh Macdonald, solicitor, of Aberdeen, with whom I recently had some correspondence in regard to an inaccurate statement respecting the action of the local sanitary authorities, sends me a newspaper report showing the latest development of the case, and expresses a hope that I will refer to it. It seems that the sanitary inspector of the town commenced an action against the *Aberdeen Journal*, and that the action was settled by the publication of an apology and the payment of thirty guineas "in respect of expenses which had been incurred"—which I suppose means Mr. Macdonald's little bill. What further reference, if any, I am expected to make to the case I do not know; but I certainly congratulate Mr. Macdonald on having made such a much better thing out of the *Aberdeen Journal* that he did out of TRUTH. In fact, seeing that this enterprising solicitor has got £31. 10s. out of the *Journal* and 31s. 6d. out of me, I think the little mistake has been a good thing for him all round.

At Carrick-on-Suir Petty Sessions last week a publican was summoned by the police for selling liquor to two men on a Sunday. The defendant was examined, and he denied that he had sold any drink to either of the men, whereupon the Chairman of the Bench asked: "Did you sell any drink at any time that day to any one not a traveller?" The defendant's solicitor advised his client not to answer the question, pointing out that he was summoned on account of a particular transaction and was not bound to account "for his whole life," to which the Chairman replied, "I say he is." In the end the magistrates, by a majority, dismissed the case; but the fact that such an attempt should have been made to get the defendant to incriminate himself in regard to some undisclosed offence is a pretty illustration of the Chairman's ideas of judicial fairness. The correspondent who brings the incident under my notice urges that the system of entrusting the administration of the law in Ireland to "half-pay autocrats from the Army and wooden-headed duffers from the snobocracy" ought to be altered, and paid official magistrates appointed from the legal profession. I agree with him—only I would not confine such a reform to Ireland.

SUFFERERS from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and INGRAM & ROYLE, LTD., 52, Farringdon-street.

One of the most interesting and agreeable letters I have ever received from a solicitor has been addressed to me by Mr. Henry Grain in response to a reference to him in last week's TRUTH. Here is the gist of it:—

> Under the present circumstances I may at once say that Messrs. Perrin, Dunn, & Co. do not propose to seek the opinion of a jury. I will with your permission add a few words of explanation.
>
> In the paragraph mentioned, after referring to a letter from my clients which had been brought to your notice, you proceeded to class them with "Shylock & Co.," and to suggest the possibility that they made a special business of "luring married women to their net."
>
> You have since been good enough to publish in full the letter "brought to your notice," and my clients are content to let such of your readers as may be interested in the paragraph judge whether the letter is a sufficient justification for your remarks.
>
> As you have not mentioned any other justification, I take it that you have virtually admitted that there was none, and if, after the publication of your comments, no complaints have been made (which I assume from your silence on the subject to be the case), it must in fairness be granted that Messrs. Perrin & Dunn have, as I stated in my letter, conducted their business fairly, and to their clients' satisfaction.—I am, sir, yours truly,
>
> HENRY GRAIN.

Mr. Grain complained in his first letter that I had referred to his clients, Perrin, Dunn, & Co., "in most offensive terms," and called on me to publish at once a retractation of what I had said about Perrin & Co., failing which he would take "such proceedings as might be advised for the vindication of their reputation and prevention of a repetition of the libellous statements." To this I responded by declining to withdraw, repeating the statements complained of, and offering to justify what I had said before any jury. Mr. Grain now says, if I understand him aright, that he saw clearly from my second paragraph that it was quite out of my power to justify the first, and that he therefore deemed it superfluous to take the threatened proceedings, and preferred to leave the matter to the judgment of the public rather than a jury. From this it would seem to follow that had he seen in my second paragraph ample justification for the first, he would thus have felt it his duty to commence at once the aforesaid "proceedings." Although I have now had many years' experience of the libel laws and the libel lawyers, this attitude of Mr. Grain strikes me as most novel and original. It would seem to be his practice to demand an apology under threat of proceedings when he believes that the words complained of may be justified; but as soon as he has satisfied himself that there would be no defence to an action, he magnanimously abandons all idea of recourse to the law, and leaves the public to pronounce judgment. I cannot too strongly urge those who have any cause of complaint against remarks in TRUTH to at once put themselves in the hands of Mr. Grain, who is to be found at 61, St. Martin's-lane.

Shylock & Co. generally prefer to lie low and say nothing under judicial trouncings; but at Cardiff they have taken to whining in the Press about the treatment they receive in the County Court. A local paper pub-

tishes a series of interviews with money-lenders under the elegant heading, "Pitiful wail of Done-up Hebrews." "It is most disheartening," remarked one poor fellow, "the way Judge Owen is going on." I do not know exactly what it is that his Honour has said or done, but the fact that it is "disheartening" to the usurers is sufficient to convince me that it is something commendable, and I hope he will continue to arouse their lamentations in the same way. The interviews are very amusing, the money-lenders posing as public benefactors who are most grievously maligned. I observe that one of them ingeniously attempted to show that county court fees were far more exorbitant than his own charges, and this point is taken up in some editorial comments in the *Western Mail*. The writer, however, does not seem to know—or, at any rate, he omits to mention—that county court fees are fixed by the Treasury and not by the judges. So far from being responsible for them, the judges have, in fact, represented over and over again that the fees are too high in amount.

Copies of the many-coloured circular of the many-aliased Isaac Gordon, of 6, Livery-street, Birmingham, and other addresses too numerous to mention, continue to reach me from all parts of the country. I have expressed my opinions about this rapacious and unscrupulous scoundrel so often that it seems superfluous to say anything more about him. However, there are accessions to the ranks of my readers every week, and so, mainly for their information, I repeat the warning I have so often given that dealings with Gordon, or, indeed, with any circularising usurer, should be most studiously avoided. Anybody in financial difficulties who is foolish enough to go to these gentry for assistance speedily finds that he has jumped from the frying-pan into the fire.

Following closely upon the case of the Birmingham Councillor who was run in like a pickpocket for "shouting" when addressing an open-air meeting, another monstrous example of the methods of the Aston police has been brought to light. Last week the magistrates dismissed a trumpery charge against four boys of stealing some bottles of ginger beer. During the hearing it transpired that one of these boys, aged twelve, the son of a respectable tradesman, had been fetched out of bed by two policemen at midnight and taken off to the police-station, the father being told that he could bail him out the next morning. It is scarcely necessary to point out that the usual and proper course would have been to proceed against such a youthful offender by summons, and in any place but Aston constables so stupid or so tyrannical as to insist upon arresting a lad under such circumstances would be sharply called to account. But in Aston the police seem to be allowed to do as they please.

A few days since an inquest was held at Felixstowe on the body of a young woman who had been drowned while bathing from a machine on the beach. The evidence showed that the deceased and a lady bathing with her had suddenly found themselves out of their depth about a dozen yards from the shore, and that but for the mere chance of their distress having been noticed by a gentleman returning from a sail, a second life would also have been lost. I believe the beach at Felixstowe is in places very steep, so that at certain states of the tide it is easy enough for a person to step unexpectedly into deep water; but, so far as the newspaper reports show, neither coroner nor jury raised the palpably pertinent question as to what measures, if any, are taken by the authorities to guard against accidents. A boatman ought to be always kept on duty for the purpose during bathing hours, and it is a pity the jury did not press the necessity of this elementary precaution upon the attention of the authorities.

Last June I commented in strong terms upon the conduct of the Birkdale Bench in hearing and dismissing *in camera* a charge of assault which had been preferred against Dr. Joseph Dawson Crawford, a well-known Liverpool practitioner, by a girl named Newman. A few days since the case came up again at Liverpool Assizes, in the form of an action against Crawford for damages for the alleged assault, and I note that in his summing up Mr. Justice Cave abundantly justified my censure of the magistrates. Want of corroboration was the reason they assigned for the dismissal of the charge, but his lordship said that to him this reason "did not seem at all conclusive, and he could only attribute it to a weak but well-meant attempt to hush up the affair. Such attempts," he added, "were very rarely successful." I hope these remarks by the learned Judge will be taken to heart by the Great Unpaid, not only at Birkdale but throughout the country. Besides being as a rule futile, an attempt to "hush up" such an affair is calculated to destroy all confidence in the administration of the law, and is, indeed, a perversion of the course of justice which cannot possibly be reconciled with the obligations of the magisterial oath.

As to the action against Dr. Crawford, it is a great pity that the jury were unable to agree to a verdict, one way or the other, in a matter of so much importance to both parties. Mr. Justice Cave observed that, on the defendant's own account of what took place, "such a combination of imprudence and impropriety he certainly had never witnessed in a medical man." Whatever other opinion may be formed as to the merits of the case, I think most people who have read the evidence will agree with his lordship in this respect.

As an instance of misguided lenity to an animal-torturer, a gentleman forwards me the report of a prosecution before a Police Magistrate in Ceylon, where

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a man convicted of gross cruelty by overcrowding a boat with cattle, some of which were trampled to death, was let off with a fine of Rs.10. I agree that it was an absurdly inadequate penalty; but I feel that an English journalist is scarcely in a position to cavil at it. Over here the most abominable cruelty to animals in transit by boat and rail is allowed to go wholly unpunished (there was an instance of this in the abortive prosecution at Colchester a few weeks since), and it will be time enough for us to preach to the Colonial Magistracy when we have amended our own practice.

With reference to a paragraph that appeared in Truth on May 28, the Clerk of the Dungannon Presbytery asks me "as a matter of simple justice" to insert the following:—

> At the last meeting of the Dungannon Presbytery, held in Ballymagrane, on August 4, the Committee appointed to examine the collecting books of ministers who had raised money for church objects outside the bounds of the Presbytery reported that they had examined these books and found that they were all carefully and correctly kept. The report was accepted, and the Presbytery passed a vote of thanks to those ministers who had taken such trouble in raising money for the improvement of the Church property.

I willingly publish this, but I feel bound to point out that it is scarcely an answer to the allegations of the local paper which I quoted. These were to the effect:—(1) That certain persons were collecting money in England and Scotland on the strength of credentials granted by the Dungannon Presbytery more than ten years ago, though under the rules of the church such credentials only hold good for twelve months; and (2) that no accounts had ever been rendered of the funds so obtained. In the report sent by the clerk the first point is altogether ignored, and as to the second something more was required than the mere statement that the collecting books had been "carefully and correctly kept." Moreover, it would have been interesting to learn whether the Presbytery still intend to countenance the objectionable system of cadging against which I was requested to caution my readers.

Who is the Honourable Mrs. Randolph Clay? From time to time there has appeared in different London newspapers references to this lady, as though her name were a household word. The latest example of this occurred in the *Daily News* one day last week, where I read that the Honourable Mrs. Randolph had patented an ornamental hair-pin. No such person as the Honourable Mrs. Randolph Clay is to be found in the English Peerage, Baronetage or Knighthood, and, if I mistake not, the lady in question is merely the wife or widow of one of those "Honourables" who are so common in the United States. All I know personally about this "Honourable" lady is, that she has extended her patronage to one of the charitable enterprises of Mr. Robert Frewer. Now Mr. Robert Frewer is a charity-monger of the shadiest complexion.

With reference to the "Watizit?" swindle, described in last week's Truth, it seems that this is the second coup of the same kind perpetrated within a few months—to all appearance by the same parties. In June last an individual, calling himself "Mark Strong," advertised a puzzle competition, in which every successful competitor was to receive a share of certain prize money, provided he forwarded a shilling for a puzzle called "The Wizard's Secret." "The Wizard's Secret" turns out to be precisely the same thing as the "Watizit?" puzzle, and both are mere reproductions of a puzzle first brought out many years ago. The only difference between the two swindles is that the "Wizard's Secret" was sold at the price of a shilling, while "Watizit?" was offered at eighteenpence. The inference seems to be that so many shillings were netted over the first venture that the parties running the trick determined to raise the subscription and increase their profits on the second coup. Once more I would advise all those who have been victimised, either by the first or second edition of this fraud, to communicate with the police, who ought to be able to trace the gang yet, if the matter is put in their hands.

Some of my readers will remember a reference in Truth a few weeks back to the exposure of an itinerant professor of pretended occult phenomena—Ormonde by name—at the hands of the Rev. T. I. Jarrott, a Nonconformist minister of Ipswich. Ormonde, when tackled, responded with a letter full of the most impudent abuse of Mr. Jarrott, and amounting to a very gross libel. A copy of this epistle he addressed to Truth, and I had much pleasure in consigning it to the waste-paper basket, and expressing my own opinion about Ormonde. Certain provincial papers were less careful, and published the document, with consequences which have proved unpleasant to themselves. They all declined to withdraw and apologise, when requested to do so by Mr. Jarrott, but four out of the five thought better of it when called to account by that gentleman's solicitor. The fifth, the *Essex Telegraph*, stood its ground until a writ for libel was issued, when it also apologised, paid all costs, and contributed £20 to a charity with which Mr. Jarrott was connected. Mr. Jarrott is to be congratulated upon the result, and deserves the greatest credit for the pluck and determination with which he tackled Ormonde in the face of the strong popular sympathy which imposters of this class generally manage to attract.

It should be added that although he did not deem it worth while to sue Ormonde himself upon his letter, Mr. Jarrott did formally accept a challenge contained in the letter to "try conclusions" with him before a jury in a public hall. In making this challenge Ormonde

Brighton.—Norfolk Hotel.—This old-established Country and Family Hotel is in the best situation, and replete with comfort, style, and luxury.—Jules A. Creighton, Manager.

suggested that for the purpose of this contest a stake of any amount from £100 up to £1,000 should be deposited by each party with the Editor of TRUTH or the Bank of England. Mr. Jarrott has now formally notified me that he has accepted Ormonde's challenge, and that a friend of his is prepared to deposit the sum of £500 in my hands on his behalf, if Ormonde is prepared to act up to his offer. Up to the present time Ormonde has taken no notice of the acceptance of the challenge, and Mr. Jarrott states that he has even asserted in public that it has not been accepted. I am therefore pleased to make it known that the challenge has been accepted, and that Mr. Jarrott is ready to deposit his money, and I am now waiting to receive Ormonde's £500. I trust that the Press in any town where Ormonde may be performing will notice these facts, and thereby do its best to stop all imposture of this mischievous class.

Inquiries are continually being addressed to me respecting a "Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances," conducted by Miss Smallwood, of The Lees, Great Malvern. Not having any knowledge of Miss Smallwood's Society, I have not hitherto been able to express any opinion on the subject; but I have just received from a correspondent a leaflet containing Miss Smallwood's financial statements for the years 1894 and 1895. There are two honorary auditors of the Society, one of them being Mr. C. N. Bass, of the Birmingham, District, and Counties Bank, Kidderminster. Mr. Bass signs both the statements, and I suppose it may be taken from this that he has drawn out and accepts full responsibility for the accounts. In view, however, of the lax way in which even chartered accountants append their signatures to financial statements, I would respectfully suggest that Mr. Bass should formally certify precisely what he has seen and done in connection with the accounts. This seems the more desirable in view of the somewhat singular form of certificate appended to the 1895 accounts by Mr. H. B. Bennett, the other auditor. This gentleman states: "I hereby certify that I have examined the bank books and the cash in hand. The amounts agree with the balance, namely, £181. 15s. 11d." Mr. Bennett's auditorial functions would therefore seem to have been extremely limited. In making these remarks I must not be understood as offering or suggesting any opinion in regard to the work of the Society. I am merely contending for the principle that every society of this kind should issue accounts fully and properly certified by competent accountants.

With reference to the sponging tour of Dr. H. S. Lunn's three "Commissioners," the manager of the Jaeger Clothing Company informs me that the goods supplied by that firm to Dr. Lunn's three representatives "had been paid for by him in hard cash," and that they are "neither wholly nor partly given in consideration of an advertisement." I am pleased to mention this circumstance, although nothing whatever has been said in TRUTH as to the three "Commissioners" having been provided with Jaeger garments, or having advertised these goods. This communication from the Jaeger Company only shows how unfair is the system of advertising to which Dr. Lunn lends himself. When the reader finds in the articles written by the "Commissioners" references to the merits of hotels at which the travellers sojourn, he knows from the letter which I published last week that these notices are really advertisements, given in exchange for free board and lodging. Consequently, when the same reader finds the "Commissioners" writing in praise of their clothing, their machines, or any other property they may possess, he naturally concludes that this again is mere puffing for a consideration, whereas the writers may really be paying an honest tribute to the merits of the articles, as in the case of the Jaeger clothing. It is in order to avoid misconceptions of this kind that newspaper editors distinguish puffs which are inserted for a consideration by the word "*advt.*," and now that they see the injustice that they have done to the Jaeger Company, I trust that Dr. Lunn's "Commissioners" will observe this rule in their future writings.

As I see that a whole gang of individuals who have been concerned in running lotteries of one kind or another from Holland, are now before one of the London magistrates, I would call the attention of the police to an individual styling himself "Frank James, Banker," who is carrying on the same game from 30, Boulevard du Midi, Ostend. This James catches his victims by means of the following advertisement, or others like it:—

HOW to EARN £2 to £20 per WEEK without interfering with present occupation. No outlay, no canvassing required. Strictly bonâ-fide.—Send 1d. stamp for particulars to F. J., 35, Fairholme-road, West Kensington, S.W.

Those who reply receive a copy of a publication called "Frank James' Weekly. A Mine of Wealth for Young and Old," which is simply a prospectus of a weekly series of bogus competitions and other swindles of the same kind. As James is to be found, either personally or by deputy, at 35, Fairholme-road, there seems to be no reason why the police should not stop his little game.

The "lady of means" who advertises from 26, Brown-street, Manchester, under the name of Mrs. Gertrude Hall, proves, as might have been expected, to be a preliminary fee harpy of the ordinary kind. Since referring to her advertisement in last week's TRUTH, I hear of two cases in the north of England in which she has obtained inquiry fees from perfectly responsible persons with whom no legitimate money-lender would object

To Overcome Weakness.—Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic gives New Life, Appetite, Health, Strength, Energy. Cures Neuralgia, Indigestion, Pepper's Nerve Tonic. Debility. Kept everywhere.

Mediterranean and Baltic Cruises for Eighteen Guineas, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars, Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

to do business, and has then refused to make any advance. In neither case could the victims find that any serious inquiries had been made in regard to their financial status. This is in the face of the statement in Mrs. Hall's advertisement that she is prepared to make advances to all responsible householders "without charging preliminary fees." Her actual charges, I understand, range from £1. 1s. upwards. I should be glad if any one at Manchester could give me further information respecting this "lady of means," who, in all probability, is merely the decoy of some notorious usury-monger in the background.

My opinion has been asked upon one of the appeals of the Rev. G. W. Skene, of Barthomley Rectory, Crewe, on behalf of the new Parish Church of Alsagar. This appeal has been circulated broadcast for years past, and there is, of course, no reason why Mr. Skene should not beg for help from Church people outside his own parish; but Alsagar is a well-to-do district which might very well bear the cost of providing itself with a new church, if it wants one; and Mr. Skene's relations with his chapel-of-ease have not always been such as to give him personally a claim to much consideration in the appeals he is making.

Another appeal of somewhat the same class is being circulated for the liquidation of the debt for the renovation of Megarahamlet Presbyterian Church, co. Down. It seems that the congregation began this work in 1891 at a cost of £500, £400 of which they have succeeded in collecting, and apparently appeals have been in circulation during the whole five years. My view is that a congregation ought to pay for this kind of work themselves. If they must ask for outside help, they ought, at least, to confine their appeals to their own particular religious community.

The other day I published a circular from a firm of Dutch bulb-growers who offer a commission of 5 per cent. "to gardeners only." From numerous communications since received, it appears that the practice of offering such commissions prevails also among English seed growers and nurserymen, and several gentlemen express their strong objections to the practice. I suppose there is not much difference between a seedsman giving a commission to my gardener and a butcher giving a tip to my cook, or a tailor to my butler. And a seedsman is under special obligations to propitiate a gardener, inasmuch as that individual has it in his power to prevent any seed that he may buy bringing forth satisfactory results. At the same time, if no seedsman gave such commissions, a gardener would be under no inducement to obtain an order for one firm rather than another, and it seems to me a pity that the trade do not make a stand against such perquisites. The whole system of secret tips and commissions to servants behind the backs of their employers is thoroughly objectionable, and possibly many employers, if they knew what was going on, would themselves find the means of stopping it.

In connection with an accident on one of the southern lines the other day, when an express train was all but wrecked at a private level crossing, I have been asked to call public attention to the imperative necessity for some alteration of the existing arrangements governing the use of these crossings. On the occasion in question a traction engine was crossing the line immediately in front of an express train, without any signal or notice to the driver, who was unable to pull up in time to avoid a collision, though fortunately he saw the obstruction in time to prevent any very serious results. The crossing in question, like many others of the same kind, is entirely beyond the control of the Railway Company, and any traffic may cross there at any time, at the owner's risk, of course, and also at the risk of the lives of all the passengers in any train which may happen to be approaching. Such a state of things ought certainly not to be permitted to continue. George Stephenson's historical retort, that if a cow got on the line it would be "a bad thing for the coo," does not altogether apply to a traction engine trespassing upon a railway. A collision in the latter case might be bad for the traction engine; but the consequences are not likely to end there. It is necessary, I suppose, that there should be a right of communication between land on either side of the line; but there can be no reason why such communication should be used without notice to the nearest signalman. It is to be hoped after what happened that the Board of Trade will have the law on this point altered.

Last week I published a letter from a resident at Braemar, deprecating the construction of a railway, which would introduce vulgar people into that aristocratic and most exclusive spot. Notwithstanding the want of a railway, however, it would seem that some vulgar people have already found their way to Braemar. There is an individual giving the name of "John Henry," and the address 141, Bethnal Green-road, who has recently imposed upon one or two tradesmen in that part of the world, by means of a dodge which ought to be familiar to readers of TRUTH, under the name of the "Marking Ink Trick." The individual working this trick calls on a tradesman in the character of the representative of a wholesale London firm, generally in the marking ink line, offering him an agency, and promising enormous advantages in the way of advertisement. By this means he succeeds in disposing of a consignment of more or less worthless goods, and nothing more is heard of him. The rascal who has been playing this trick at Braemar and the

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

surrounding districts is described as a man with dark hair and complexion and a Jewish cast of features, and not improbably he is the same man whom I referred to about a year ago as carrying on the same trick at Manchester under the name of "Rose," his real name being Isaacs. All that is known of "Henry" at 141, Bethnal Green-road is that he has relations there with whom he sometimes stays when he is in town, and he has his letters addressed there. It is a great pity that the tradesmen who are continually being swindled by this man, and others of his class, do not put the police on to them and get them locked up.

In reply to the letter from one of the exclusives of Braemar which I published last week, another correspondent points out that apart altogether from the "vulgar people" who desire to visit that place, the want of railway communication is seriously felt by the humbler residents, who have just as much right to live there as those who desire to be "rid of vulgar neighbours." They want the cheap means of communication which every civilised community does its best to promote. The prices of many necessaries of life are monstrously high at Braemar, and many others can hardly be obtained. Coal, for instance, during the summer months costs as much as 30s. per ton, and is described as very bad at that. But it ought hardly to be necessary at this time of day to argue about the benefits which railways bring to all sections of the community—except the superior few who regard the mass of mankind as "vulgar people."

One of the silliest exploits of the session has been voting three millions for a railway to Uganda. The opposition to this mad folly was limited to the non-official Radicals, for although Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Morley made no secret of their opinion that the money would be utterly wasted, they were unable to resist the vote, because the Cabinet to which they had belonged had been forced by Lord Rosebery to declare itself for a Protectorate in Uganda, and for the making of a railroad to that country; indeed, as though to show the difference in respect to this policy between himself and his former colleagues, his Lordship went out of his way to congratulate Lord Salisbury on having asked for this sum when the Bill reached the Lords.

The railroad will, in all probability, cost far more than three millions, for the greater portion of the route has not even been surveyed. It will never pay its running cost, still less the interest on the cost of construction. There are about 150 Europeans in Uganda—almost all either civil or military officials. The country is unfit for European colonisation, because not only does it break down the health of white men residing in it, but it is impossible for them to bring up their children there. Imports will be trifling, because the inhabitants have nothing wherewith to pay for them. A little ivory may find its way to the coast—enough, perhaps, to fill two or three trains annually—but this is all. To assert that the railroad will reduce the number of slaves sent to the coast is nonsense. In the Protectorate of Uganda slavery exists as an institution. The slaves that come down are mainly sold to work on the clove-fields of the Island of Pemba, which is in our Zanzibar Protectorate. About ten thousand are annually required to make up for the deaths caused by ill-usage. All slaves sent for shipment beyond Africa reach the coast by other routes. The pretence that the railroad will be a means of diminishing slavery is sheer hypocrisy, and how any one can venture to put it forward, in view of the fact that we allow slavery in Uganda and in Pemba, would be surprising were it not that the ultra-Jingoes, whose dream is to peg out claims for futurity in the jungles, and swamps, and forests of Central Africa, have ever sought to carry into effect this insane policy; now by posturing as Christians eager to spread Christianity, now as anti-slavery men anxious to put an end to slavery.

For this absurd outlay I hold the Liberal Party to be responsible. Lord Salisbury left office in 1891 without prejudicing our future action in Uganda. A Liberal Government annexed the country, and a Liberal Government pledged itself to build a railway to it. Lord Salisbury has only given monetary effect to this pledge. Instead of acting as a restraining force on wild Jingoism, the Liberal Party has out-Jingoed the Jingoes. What outrages me is that this should be the case. We are suffering from the defects of our own internal communications, which make it difficult for our own produce to compete successfully in our own markets; and yet we squander millions in improving communications from nowhere to nowhere in tropical Africa. We have at home millions in want and misery, and we spend millions in wild schemes of pegging out claims for futurity in the tropics! One way with another, Uganda will cost us about £300,000 per annum. Could not this sum have been better spent at home?

Cyprus is a pleasing instance of how we squander money on what does not concern us. We obtained the island by means of a bargain obliging us to take the side of the Turks against the Russians, and thus reduce the area of freedom from misgovernment in European Turkey. As a condition we pledged ourselves to guarantee a tribute from Cyprus to the Sultan of about £100,000. This tribute cannot be raised in the island, and therefore we have ourselves to pay a portion of it. When we obtained the island in this fashion we were told that it would be a British place of arms in the Levant. It has no harbour. Two or three hundred British soldiers are left in this place of arms, and, in the event of our finding ourselves engaged in a war in that part of the world, it would be worse than useless to us.

Seldom have I read a statement in Parliament with more satisfaction than that of Lord George Hamilton as to the inquiry which it is proposed to hold respecting the results of the suspension of the "C. D." Acts on the health of the Indian Army. This is a subject which I am incessantly being urged to ventilate; but it is one

which cannot be handled easily or effectually in a newspaper, and, moreover, it is one in which it appears to be almost impossible for a private individual to get at the truth—the statements made on one side and the other being hopelessly at variance. I would now suggest to all those connected with the Army, including even the Army Chaplains, who have been of late years so anxious to enlighten the British public on this point through the pages of TRUTH, that they should at once offer their testimony to Lord George Hamilton. And let us hope that the result will be to show on which side the truth really lies.

SCRUTATOR.

PARLIAMENTARY STOCK-TAKING.

MR. BALFOUR, as a tipster, is to be congratulated upon having managed that the prorogation of Parliament should take place upon about the exact day on which, at the commencement of the Session, he announced that it would occur. As a Leader he has shown that he has alike merits and defects. He has an imperturbable temper and an agreeable manner. The advantages of this *suaviter in modo* are, however, somewhat marred by an absence of the *fortiter in re*, and by his not having mastered the technicalities of the "business of the House." The Session commenced by the production of a programme of Bills which it was absurd to suppose would be passed in a Session. This was evidently due either to his good-natured wish to please all, or to his not being master in the Cabinet. Whilst with Radicals it is a principle that the Premier should be in the House of Commons, the practical objections to that post being filled by a Peer are becoming every day more apparent even to Tories. The House of Commons is the place where the business of the country is carried on. The duration of a Ministry depends upon its retaining a majority in that House. For the Premier not to be there is much as though the captain of a ship were to remain on shore, and to attempt to command his vessel by transmitting orders to it whenever it enters a harbour.

The Education Bill was an ill-conceived measure, in the sense that it pleased neither friend nor foe. After considerable discussion, it had to be withdrawn. For a Government with a huge majority to be reduced to this surrender could hardly conduce to increase the confidence entertained in it by the country. An Act has been passed by which a present has been made of a vast annual sum to the landlords on the plea of benefiting farmers and agricultural labourers. Its duration is to be for five years. Even as a dole to the landlords it is a bungled measure, for it relieves landlords of rates even where there is no agricultural distress. In rural districts I doubt, however, whether it is unpopular, because people never seem to realise that, when rates are reduced at the cost of taxes, the burthen is not taken off but merely shifted in its incidence. In towns the Act cannot be popular, and in all probability at the end of the five years, if it be continued, some reduction of urban rates at the cost of taxes will be included in it.

The Government has not been seriously injured in the country by anything that has occurred in this year's Session. Those actively engaged in politics are far too apt to suppose that the mass of the electors closely follow procedings in the House of Commons. They form their conclusions on general results. Probably the Church Party is offended by not having succeeded in effecting the endowment of Church schools from rates and taxes without submitting them to popular control. But the Church Party is well aware that, if it were to put the present Government in a minority, this would be to jump from the frying-pan into the fire. The Cabinet, unless its members fall out with each other, is likely to last for the next five years, and any mistakes that have been made now will as little affect the result of the next appeal to the country as does the position of the horses in a race fifty yards from the starting point affect the race. Very probably the members of the Cabinet snap and snarl at each other in private, but between this and upsetting the cart which contains the apples there is a vast difference. So, too, with their followers. Since I have known Parliaments the "outs" are always wagging their heads and portending disaster to the "ins," but this is due to the "outs" invariably taking their hopes for realities.

The Liberal Party has during the Session been in a curious position. In the House of Commons Lord Rosebery's very existence has been ignored, and to all intents and purposes Sir William Harcourt has been our leader. But, notwithstanding this; notwithstanding the strong conviction entertained by all Liberals, who are not blinded by self-interest, that a Liberal Premier must be in the Commons, and notwithstanding that the late Premier proved himself a dismal failure as a Leader, Lord Rosebery periodically makes his appearance at some country gathering, and tacitly puts forward his claim to the Leadership. All this weakens the Party, and prevents it from any concentration of effort. What its policy is has to be slurred over, because the policy of Lord Rosebery in foreign affairs is entirely at variance with that of the Liberals, whilst in domestic policy he is rather a Whig than a Radical. As a Party, in fact, so far as I can perceive, the Liberals have no policy, and their wire-pullers and office-seeking hacks are under the impression that they must count on the swing of the pendulum alone to restore it to office.

The country is, alas, Conservative. This was shown by the last General Election. It is Conservative, because it prefers a Conservative Government to a Government neither Radical nor Conservative. Conservatism means political lethargy, and this lethargy will last until the Radical element in the constituencies asserts itself. I have again and again pointed out what alone will secure a Radical victory at the next General Election. Unless the issue is to be whether we are to fight for those drastic reforms which will put an end to a system of see-saw between two gangs of shilly-shallying office-holders, seeking in their own respec-

BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.—MAJOR HOWE & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

tive interests to perpetuate a scheme of Government wedded to the perpetuation of the rule of class privilege, there is no hope for us. Indeed, so far as I—and I think most other Radicals are concerned—it is better that we remain in the wilderness until we have made up our minds to go forth to battle in order to secure the triumph of Democracy along the entire line.

THE KILBURN SISTERHOOD.

ANOTHER FALSE STEP.

Although no attempt has been made in London to answer the indictment of the Kilburn Sisterhood contained in the report upon the TRUTH Inquiry, there has been during the last two or three weeks a spasmodic effort to whitewash the Sisterhood in the West of England, and last week it came to a very singular and instructive climax. The secretary of one of the local branches of the Church Extension Association started a correspondence in the *Western Morning News* by a letter, already noticed in TRUTH, offering to send to any one who desired it a pamphlet refuting all the allegations against the Sisterhood. Other letters followed from critics and defenders of the Sisterhood, the former contending that nothing in the shape of an adequate defence had been published; the latter contending that the Sisters had been cruelly traduced, and had satisfactorily answered their accusers. It would seem that it was thought desirable at the headquarters of the Sisterhood to take advantage of the local interest thus aroused, the C.E.A. having apparently, until the recent blow fell upon the Sisterhood, had an influential following in Devonshire. Accordingly, about a fortnight ago, the following letter appeared in the *Western Morning News*:—

"THE KILBURN SISTERS."

SIR,—Regarding the correspondence about the "Kilburn Sisters," I beg to say that one of the senior Sisters is coming to the local office on Monday, the 10th inst., and there will be a meeting on Tuesday, 11th, in the local office-rooms, 3, King-street East, at 3.30 p.m. The accusations made by TRUTH will be fully discussed, and I should like all persons who are interested in the matter—either for or against—to come and hear for themselves. (Miss) L. HUMPHRIS,
Secretary, C.E.A.
Local Branch, 3, King-street East, Plymouth.

It will be seen that this is an invitation to the public—or as many of the public as are "interested in the matter, either for or against"—to attend a meeting at which a qualified representative of the Sisterhood was to appear, apparently for the purpose of making a public defence of the Sisterhood. Immediately before the meeting the following advertisement was published:—

Fair play is a jewel! A special meeting will take place on Tuesday next, at 3.30 p.m., at the local offices of the Church Extension Association, 3, King-street, Plymouth, when a Kilburn Sister will gladly answer any question relating to the recent TRUTH accusations. All are invited.

Every effort seems to have been made to secure a large attendance of the public by private advertisements, as may be seen from the following singular epistle, addressed to the manager of one of the Plymouth hotels, and, I presume, not to him only:—

Church Extension Association,
3, King-street East, Plymouth.
August 8, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—May I venture to solicit your co-operation in securing for us your guests' attendance at a special meeting next week, be (*sic*) allowing the enclose (*sic*) notice to be placed in a prominent position in your hotel, as when two sides of the question, in reference to the attack of our Sisterhood is heard one may have equal judgment (*sic*). Thanking you in advance, yours faithfully,
L. HUMPHRIS, Local Secretary.
The Manager, Westminster Hotel, Plymouth.

This is the notice enclosed:—

THE KILBURN SISTERHOOD.

The Local Secretary cordially invite (*sic*) the Guests and Household of the Westminster Hotel to a special meeting on Tuesday afternoon next at 3.30, when a Senior Sister will address the meeting.—3, King-street, Plymouth.

The meeting convened in this way was duly held on the 11th, and a report of the proceedings appears in the *Western Morning News* for the following day. The reporter describes the event as a "fiasco," and it was indeed a fiasco of the most extraordinary character. The office at which the meeting was held seems to be the local depot of the Church Extension Association—"a shop in which was a large collection of new and second-hand clothing, and a set of rooms up stairs." On the reporter of the *Western Morning News* presenting himself he was received in the manner thus described:—

He was met in the shop by a lady attired in the garb of a "Sister," and at once asked if he was a reporter. On learning his mission, the lady informed him that the meeting was strictly private, that the presence of reporters was not desired, and that no publicity was to be given to the proceedings in the Press. Our representative pointed out that the gathering was advertised as a public one, that the public was invited, and that those who were unable to be present expected to be able to read a report of the proceedings. "Sister" May—for so the lady was addressed by her companions—persisted in her assurances that the meeting was strictly private, and that the advertisement in the paper was all a mistake, and ought never to have been inserted. Seeing that others were allowed to enter without being interrogated, our representative intimated his willingness to withdraw from the meeting if it was the wish of the majority of the public attending it that he should do so; and eventually he gained admission.

Here we have another phenomenal exhibition of the shiftiness of attitude—I do not wish to use an offensive word, but "shiftiness" is the only one I can find to express the facts—which seems to characterise all the dealings of the Sisterhood with their supporters and the public. A meeting is extensively advertised, everybody interested in the Society, whether for or against, is invited to attend, and when a representative of the Press, which is surely interested in whatever interests the public, presents himself, he is informed that the advertisements are a mistake, and that the meeting is "strictly private." The general public did not attend in any great force—it is stated that only about a dozen persons were present—but those who came were treated in precisely the same way as the Press representative. The proceedings were opened with some remarks from the Sister above referred to—I presume the same "Sister May" whose acquaintance I have made in interviews at TRUTH Office and at Kilburn. At the outset a gentleman present proposed that reporters should be allowed to remain, and another gentleman seconded the proposition, but Sister May repeated that the meeting was a private one. A desultory conversation ensued, in the course of which another gentleman, who seems to have been favourably disposed towards the Sisterhood, said that he

CYCLING SUITS are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

had understood that the meeting was a public one, and that that was why he was present, but that if it was a private meeting the only remedy was for all who were not subscribers to withdraw. No one withdrew, however, and a fresh turn was given to the proceedings by a local tradesman, who complained that goods had been ordered in the name of the Association, and had not been paid for, and that a County Court summons had had to be issued. A lady concerned in this transaction then answered this criticism with some warmth, and another lady who was present asked the representative of the *Western Morning News* "to remember, if he remained, that it was not desirable to report all that might be said at the meeting." After other irrelevant episodes, Sister May stated that she must decline "to take any further part in the proceedings if the meeting was to be public"; whereupon two gentlemen moved a resolution to the effect that business should be commenced, and another gentleman moved that the meeting should be adjourned *sine die*. The report concludes:—"In the absence of a chairman—apparently an unthought-of item—each proposer put his own motion; with the result that those in favour of an adjournment triumphed, and the meeting terminated."

The Sister who presided over this ridiculous farce, although I have had occasion to criticise somewhat severely the part which she has taken in the recent history of the Sisterhood, is at any rate a lady of considerable intelligence and some knowledge of the world. I would seriously ask her, with other "senior Sisters" who still remain in responsible positions at Kilburn, whether they can seriously believe that their Society is to be rehabilitated in the eyes of the public by such lamentable tomfoolery as this performance at Plymouth. The impression produced by the TRUTH Report can only be aggravated by such means, and the effect must be to deprive the Sisterhood of the last shreds of confidence and respect which may linger in the minds of its former supporters.

The same thing may be said of the attempts which have been made, at Plymouth and elsewhere, to represent the Sisters as having furnished an answer to the TRUTH Report. The only shadow of foundation for such a contention, as I have already pointed out, lies in a series of articles published in *Church Bells* in answer to the Report of the C.O.S. These articles were actually published prior to the TRUTH Report, to which they are now represented as an answer, and no attempt whatever has since been made in the columns of *Church Bells* to deal with the result of the TRUTH inquiry. On the contrary, the editor of that paper has expressly excused himself from so doing. Let me here call attention for a moment to the following paragraph in an article published in *Church Bells* of July 24:—

The Editor of TRUTH points out that we have not dealt with his supplement referring to the Kilburn Sisterhood. The *Record* and several other leading Church papers have also been silent. As for ourselves, it will be apparent to any reader of our pamphlet that on several points the conclusions we came to in our investigations were diametrically opposed to those subsequently arrived at by the Editor of TRUTH. It did not appear to us necessary or courteous to narrate at length our points of difference, while it was obviously impossible, since we were not present to endorse or criticise the account of the private interviews to which the Editor refers at some length. We were favourably struck with the temperate way in which he sums up his conclusions in the matter, and still more with his expression of a sincere desire that the work of the Sisters, once relieved from the burden of adverse criticism, may have a further and more vigorous lease of life.

I am reluctant to say anything implying that I do not reciprocate these amiable sentiments; but there are occasions on which it is necessary to lay aside sentiment and speak the truth plainly. It is undoubtedly the case that the conclusions arrived at by *Church Bells* were diametrically opposed to those subsequently arrived at by the Editor of TRUTH. That being so, and the conclusions of TRUTH having been arrived at on materials supplied by the Kilburn Sisters, by the Charity Organisation, and by other parties, much of it being evidence which *Church Bells* had never looked at, it seems to me that the Editor of *Church Bells* owed it to himself and his readers to make at least an attempt to justify conclusions which to anyone who has read the TRUTH report must appear absolutely irreconcilable with facts which the Sisters did not dispute; and this duty becomes the stronger when it is remembered that the report of *Church Bells* was being ostentatiously used for the purpose of restoring confidence in the Sisterhood, and satisfying the subscribers to the Church Extension Association that all imputations upon the management of the charity were unfounded. Without boasting, I think I may say that the case made out by the TRUTH report was a very strong one, and that it has been recognised as such by the Press and the public. Unless the evidence given in it was false and fraudulent, and the arguments utterly fallacious, the conclusions put forward by *Church Bells* were calculated at every step to mislead the public. For my contemporary to say, under such circumstances, that he does not deem it "necessary or courteous" to defend his own case against the effect of the TRUTH report, looks to me very like shirking an encounter the result of which is likely to prove unpleasant.

As long as this attitude is observed, it does not seem to me that I am called upon to go at any length into the case put forward by *Church Bells*. My answer to the *Church Bells* report is the TRUTH report. The two pamphlets are before the public, and it is an easy matter for those who desire it to compare the two, and see for themselves how far the *Church Bells* conclusions are or are not disposed of by the TRUTH conclusions. Were I now to deal in detail with the *Church Bells* report, it would simply mean that I should go over the whole case again, step by step, and show how completely each argument and allegation put forward in *Church Bells* on behalf of the Sisters fails to answer the evidence which I have already put forward. But there are one or two general observations which I will take this opportunity of making. The first is this: That, whereas the TRUTH inquiry was a complete inquiry, so far as the Sisters permitted it to be so, the *Church Bells* inquiry cannot lay the slightest claim to be considered anything of the sort. That journal, having undertaken to investigate the allegations made by the Charity Organisation Society, made no pretence whatever at allowing the Charity Organisation Society an opportunity of justifying its own allegations. Its procedure was confined to ascertaining what the Sisters had to say in reply, and deciding off-hand whether or

not these replies were sufficient. For instance, upon the question of the treatment of the children in the orphanages during 1893—to many the most vital question of all—not an attempt was made to get at the real evidence against the Sisters, although this is a case of a direct conflict of testimony; but the whole of this branch of the case was disposed of by the simple process of accepting the statements of the Sisters, inspecting the children as they were two years later, and pronouncing the witnesses on the other side (who had not been seen or even approached) to be persons undeserving of credit. A remarkable illustration of the attitude of *Church Bells* towards evidence unfavourable to the Sisters was brought under my notice the other day. A letter was written to the Editor calling attention to certain specific facts. The letter was not published, and a reply was sent to the writer on the Editor's behalf, to the effect that the Editor could not investigate isolated cases. How on earth is an issue of this character to be decided except by investigating isolated cases? To take another most important point, there is no indication in the *Church Bells* report that the "Commissioners" had seen the accounts on which the criticism of the C.O.S. was directed, or the auditor responsible for these accounts. Neither, it is true, did I see either the accounts or the auditor; but there is this important difference between us: that I made every effort to see both the accounts and the auditor, and succeeded in obtaining from the Sisters promises that I should do so—promises which were subsequently evaded by the tactics which have been fully described in the TRUTH report, and which are calculated to inspire the gravest doubt as to the straightforwardness and good faith of the Sisters. These are a few instances only of the onesidedness and superficiality of the *Church Bells* "investigation." The Charity Organisation Society have characterised the report as an *ex parte* statement, and it seems to me impossible to regard it as anything else. The first duty of an investigator is to hear both sides of the case under investigation, and that the Editor of *Church Bells*, I say it most emphatically, has not done. His report, therefore, has no title whatever to be regarded as the result of an impartial inquiry.

To this I must add that, in dealing with such matter as they took into consideration—that is to say, the replies to the Charity Organisation Society, furnished to them at Kilburn—the authors of the *Church Bells* report displayed an amount of credulity or partiality, or both, which deprives their conclusions of all weight. The reader who compares the *Church Bells* articles with the corresponding passages in TRUTH will see for himself again and again that the same statements and observations were made by the Sisters to the *Church Bells* representatives and to me; but whereas my contemporary's representatives seem to have invariably swallowed "whole" whatever was told to them, I made bold to test what I was told by further questions or other investigation, with the result that in many instances the original statement had to be considerably modified, and in some cases proved to be unsupportable. One of the most unpleasant results of my investigation was that many statements made on behalf of the Sisterhood turned out to be quite at variance with undisputed facts, and the net result of my inquiry was that there was very little controversy indeed as to facts—excepting, perhaps, on the important question of the treatment of the girls—and that the difference between the two sides resolved itself very much into a matter of the interpretation of facts, or the opinion to be formed upon them. When it comes to this, the partiality, or otherwise, of the party drawing the conclusion is a very important consideration. Personally, I am unconscious of any bias whatever against the Sisterhood—on the contrary, as an institution, it is one for which I have every admiration—and, even by the admission of *Church Bells*, the subject has been handled in TRUTH temperately. But I regret to say that I cannot by any means return this compliment. The worst feature in the *Church Bells* articles is the attacks there made—not only on insufficient evidence, but in the very face of documentary evidence to the contrary—upon the attitude and motives of the ladies who have left the Kilburn Sisterhood. It is no part of my business to defend these ladies, and I am far from asserting that nothing may have been said or written by individuals which is irreproachable. But of this I am confident, that the attitude of those Sisters who led the great secession in 1894, as testified by their language and behaviour at that time and since, has been, from first to last, beyond reproach. I would go further, and say that no one who has looked impartially into the inner working of the Sisterhood down to the beginning of 1894, and at what took place in the Homes and Orphanages in the period immediately preceding it, can doubt that these ladies were justified in the course which they took, and that their justification has been completed by everything that has happened since. In delivering the wholesale and undiscriminating attacks which it has done upon these Sisters, *Church Bells* has simply made itself the mouthpiece of the rancorous spite of the present heads of the Sisterhood towards those who thought it their duty to separate themselves from the Community. In so doing, it forfeits all title to be regarded as an impartial authority upon the questions at issue. I may add that, in what passed between myself and the Sisters, it seemed to me that they distinctly looked upon *Church Bells* as their mouthpiece, referring me in many instances to what had been said in that paper on one point or another. An incident which specially impressed me was the production by the Sisters, for the purposes of our interview, of a letter which had actually been written to the Editor of *Church Bells* for publication in that paper. Instead of being so published, the letter had been sent by the editor to the Sisters, obviously for the purpose of assisting them in their interview with me, the purpose for which they used it. From this it follows that the Editor of *Church Bells* knew what was passing between the Sisters and myself, and was ready to help them even at some sacrifice of the ordinary etiquette of an editorial office. This, again, is the attitude of a partisan, not of an independent searcher after truth.

I have thought it my duty to make these general

remarks upon the *Church Bells* articles in view of the reiterated attempts to use them as a defence against the result of the investigation which I was myself invited to make by the Mother Superior and her representatives. But to all who are capable of seeing for themselves the true state of the case is best demonstrated by the conduct of the Sisterhood in its relations with TRUTH since December last. What has that conduct been? In consequence of the reference in TRUTH to the original report of the C.O.S., the Mother Superior and her advisers approached me with a declaration that I had been misinformed, and an invitation to me to test the allegations against their Society for myself. In a series of interviews I went into the whole case with the Mother Superior and her representatives — up to a certain point. At that point the Sisters manifested reluctance to allow me to complete my investigation on the lines to which they had originally assented, and made demands upon me which it was out of the question that I could comply with. On my requesting that the original arrangement should be adhered to, they then placed themselves in the hands of a solicitor, who gravely proposed that *I* should submit a case to him, and (apparently) allow him to pronounce judgment on me. When I declined to assent to this course, and insisted on the completion of the inquiry that I had undertaken, this solicitor announced that he declined to let me go further, at the same time informing me that on the publication of any further remarks unfavourable to the Sisterhood in TRUTH he was instructed to at once commence an action for libel; in other words, legal proceedings were threatened in order to prevent my publishing the result of an inquiry undertaken at the request of the Sisters, and on the understanding that the result, favourable or not, must be made public. Without regard to this threat my report was published, and was at nearly every point unfavourable to the Sisterhood. No libel action followed, no communication of any kind has since been received by me from the Sisters or their solicitor; so that the threat of an action, apart from the impropriety of any recourse to the law after what had passed, was a mere piece of empty brag, uttered purely for the purpose of intimidation, and without any serious intention of giving effect to it.

Since then what have we seen? The Sisters have studiously refrained from any direct answer to the TRUTH report, or any attempt to justify before the public the shuffling and discreditable tactics which led up to the report. The Church paper which has taken up their case excuses itself from noticing the result of the TRUTH inquiry on the ground that to do so is not necessary and would not be courteous. In the meantime, the *Church Bells* pamphlet is busily advertised and circulated by the Sisters as a conclusive answer to all allegations, including those in the TRUTH report. Finally, we have it announced with a flourish of trumpets at an important provincial centre that a senior Sister is coming down to address a meeting in answer to the allegations of TRUTH; and what does this demonstration turn out to be? A gathering of a dozen people in a room over a shop, at which the lady who has taken the most prominent part in the negotiations with TRUTH arrives only to announce that the meeting is not a public one, and that if what passes is to be reported in the Press, she declines to speak. Such proceedings, regarded as an attempt to meet a serious indictment, publicly made, are simply childish in their fatuity; and they are of a piece with everything that has happened since the early stages of the TRUTH inquiry. Had the present executive of the Kilburn Sisterhood deliberately set themselves to see how they could best alienate all public confidence, make themselves ridiculous, and drag the Institution through the mud, they could hardly have adopted tactics more certain to achieve these ends. The fiasco at Plymouth, taken in conjunction with all that has preceded it, can only serve to drive home the conclusion drawn in the TRUTH report, that the government of the Sisterhood and the management of the Church Extension Association have fallen into the hands of persons totally destitute of practical wisdom, and utterly incompetent for the task. Unless some drastic reform is speedily effected the result must be the utter ruin of the great work which this Sisterhood has undertaken. Is nothing to be done to avert that calamity?

MORE LIFEBOAT POLEMICS.

The *Yorkshire Post* published some further remarks last week on the recent criticism of the Lifeboat Institution in TRUTH. Until Mr. Palmer and the Secretary of the Institution have come to some agreement as to how far they impute mercenary motives to the crews of their boats, it is idle for me to argue further with either of them. The Secretary wrote to me:—

> Were the Institution to attempt to force on them [the boatmen] any conditions such as those suggested by the Secretary of Lloyd's, the almost certain results would be (1) that the men would on some parts of the coast refuse to man the lifeboats. . . .

I know nothing, nor does the public, of the conditions that have been suggested by the Secretary of Lloyd's, and their adoption has never been suggested in TRUTH. The Secretary of the Lifeboat Institution wrote the above sentence in answer to the suggestion of TRUTH that the present arrangement in regard to salvage of property is a bad one. The only inference I can draw from this, and the only inference that I can admit is a natural one, is that Mr. Dibdin intended his remarks to be an answer to TRUTH as much as an answer to the Secretary of Lloyd's, and that he meant to say that unless the men "on some parts of the coast" are allowed to salve property on their own account they will not attempt to salve life. This, I contend, is a statement that unless the heroes are paid their price no heroes will be forthcoming. What does the reader think? What do the subscribers to the National Lifeboat Institution think—more especially when they see that Mr. Dibdin personally has not in any way disclaimed the interpretation which I place upon his words to me?

Mr. Palmer, however, conscious, no doubt, of the awkwardness of Mr. Dibdin's language, tries to give us another reading of the argument. Here it is:—

> The truth is—as Mr. Dibdin had said in another part of his letter—that the Secretary of Lloyd's has endeavoured to induce the Lifeboat Institution to force upon the crews conditions so

wholly inequitable and unjust that both the Shipowners' Association and the Board of Trade had refused to be parties to them; and if any such coercion were to be attempted, the men would resist *en masse* in whatever way they found most effective.

The last sentence, as the reader will see at a glance, is directly at variance with what Mr. Dibdin said. Whereas the editor of the *Yorkshire Post* predicts that the men will resist *en masse*, Mr. Dibdin only says that they will resist "on some parts of the coast." And the difference between the two statements is most important, the fact being that on some parts of the coast property salvage is of little consequence to the men, while on others it is the paramount consideration. No suggestion has been made in TRUTH that the men should be subjected to conditions "wholly inequitable and unjust." On the contrary, I have contended, and still contend, that the present system, of which Messrs. Dibdin and Palmer are the apologists, is itself inequitable and unjust—and the best proof of this, so far as the men are concerned, is Mr. Dibdin's admission that only "on some parts of the coast" would the men strike to maintain the present system. Mr. Palmer is defending a system under which a lifeboat crew on one station earn £2,000 for themselves by a few hours' work without incurring a particle of risk, while on another a crew may imperil their lives time after time to save their fellow-creatures without earning a brass farthing; and when this state of things is criticised he has the audacity to affect grave solicitude, lest the men should be subjected to conditions which are "inequitable!" The first consideration of equity seems to me to be that the risks and labours of the lifeboat-man's work should be rewarded on a uniform scale, regardless of the value of the ship or the part of the coast where the work is done—which is certainly not the case at present.

Finally, this strange exponent of equity repeats again his claptrap appeals to the gallery. "The lifeboat crews are to be traduced," he says, "and their splendid humanity and courage made a scoff because they decline to become a cheap salvage corps at the bidding of the Secretary of Lloyd's." The Secretary of Lloyd's must have been hitting Mr. Palmer very hard, judging by the bitterness with which he continually recurs to this gentleman! But so far as the lifeboat crews are concerned, let Mr. Palmer and his clients understand once for all, that it is not the courage of the lifeboat crews which is called in question, but the intelligence and competence of the management of the Lifeboat Institution. The present attempt to shelter the responsible parties behind the crews, and to represent the latter as the object of attack, is a feeble artifice and a decidedly undignified one. Mr. Palmer is good enough to express a desire to make it easy for me "to withdraw from a position at once untenable and unworthy." I am much obliged to him, but I have no intention of withdrawing—quite the reverse. My present object is to cause other parties to withdraw; and nothing that has appeared in the *Yorkshire Post* up to the present is calculated to deter me from that object. On the contrary, the more I see of the methods by which it is defended, the less I like the look of the National Lifeboat Institution.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

GETTING READY FOR THE CZAR.

THE Government have decided wisely not to leave to irresponsible busybodies the task of getting up fêtes and functions in honour of Nicholas and Alexandra. There was a danger of the Imperial couple being used by editors as Barnumesque curiosities. A scheme was seriously mooted, in the names, too, of charity, patriotism, and Society, to show them to the highest bidders for places at the Opera House. The person who thus wanted to turn an honest penny is the ex-secretary and debt-collector of a famous beauty. M. Hanotaux, however, snubbed him for his proposal. That Minister will be in a double sense the confrère of Prince Lobanoff, who comes with the Emperor and Empress. Both are historians. One has taken up statecraft in French history, and the other the romance and graces as incarnate in Mary Stuart. As there is not rivalry there is agreement. M. Faure, *toujours galant*, will go out to sea in the new crack warship, the *Dupuy de Lorne*, to salute the coming Empress. This exceeds the late French Emperor's politeness in going to meet Queen Victoria at Boulogne-sur-Mer. Napoleon III. on that occasion overrid the Protocol in consideration of the Queen's sex, as Louis XIV. set aside etiquette to honour the sex and misfortunes of the refugee Queen of James II. But had Albert been King and Victoria Consort merely, the Emperor would not have gone further than his hall door steps.

It is the fashion, I see, to drop "Czar" and "Czarina" for "Tsar" and "Tsaritsa." Fashion is a mighty power, and not to be argued with. All the same, one may point out its errors. The former titles west, and east too, of the Vistula, unless in speaking Russian, have been in use for 170 years. Would it not be ridiculous to speak in Paris of "Londres" as London, or "La Chambre des Pairs" as "Le House of Lords?" Voltaire, Frederick the Great, Catherine II., and Prince de Ligne, fixed the use of the word Czarina or Czarine in their respective countries. I find Czar and Czarine alone used in the "Life of Peter the Great," "Voltaire's Correspondence," and the "Memoirs" of Frederick's Sister, the Margravine of Beyreuth. We might as well talk of a German "Queen" in English as "Die Kœnigen" as of a Tsaritsa of Russia. In State papers, however, Czar and Czarine or Czarina were always dropped. The Russian potentate there appeared as Emperor or Empress. I have before me an original letter of the wife of Paul I., written here in 1782. She speaks of Catherine II., then living, as "la Czarine," of her husband as the "Czarewitch," and notes that she was spoken of before her face at Versailles, not as the Comtesse du Nord, her incognito title, but as the "Mme. la Czarevna." Tsaritsa, unless in Russian, has a pedantic smack, and sounds uncouth to ears used to tongues of Southern origin. Is not this a case for saying *le mieux est l'ennemi du bien?*

The Czar's great wish is to see *Paris nature*, as his

uncles are used to see it. He and the Czarina will dine at the Elysée. But they would much more enjoy going incognito to the theatre than in state. If the gentlemen of the Protocol wish really to please him and his young wife, they should go to Copenhagen and the German towns to study the Tivolis there. The Paris Tivoli is dead ages ago, and buried under streets. Its Danish and Teutonic progeniture are lively and likely to live long. I believe that Ranelagh and Vauxhall were the original ancestors of all the Continental Tivolis. It is curious that the type should have died out in England and France. The Copenhagen Tivoli is a place for families—courtly, aristocratic, and shopkeeping—to pass the evening. The climate is more rainy than that of England, so that all kinds of shelters are provided. When it is at all fine all ranks are confounded at little supper tables in colonnades. One has the best music, and the sights and diversions of a fair, without any rowdyism. Denmark is dear to all the children of the late Czar, as it was to him and his wife. They enjoyed these homely, happy times. Every one liked them, few noticed them in public, unless they attended some open-air function. They felt in a genial atmosphere of friendliness, and were *unshadowed* by Russian or other police.

In dealing last month with the Bonaparte Library, I little thought I was bringing on myself a shower of "criticisms" filling four foolscap papers. They are really defensive explanations. The *plaidant* is by a Mr. Victor Collins, who does not say for whom he speaks, but shows eagerness to get me to retract. He makes it hard for me to answer him by asking for "an amende for causing bitter grief to a friendless and most unfortunate widow, the Princess." I had no idea that there was either widow or princess to be served by the library scheme, or, indeed, that there was such a person. If I unwittingly hurt whose is the fault? The backers of the scheme—Mr. Collins objects to the word promoters—never hinted that they were actuated by compassionate feeling as well as public spirit. Their appeal, as I read it, meant business, and nothing else. It asked the public to give £2,000 more to complete a fund of £6,000 for the purchase of the Bonaparte Library. The bait thrown out was the wonderful bargain that was offered. It had the glow of an auctioneer's advertisement. Neither manner nor matter showed the sober verbiage of erudite men, of which alone, it appears from Mr. Collins, the committee is made up. Could, I thought in reading it, a Littré or a Burnouf have so talked down to a credulous and snobbish public? I only saw that the proffered library was not a gift horse but really a gift elephant, and so thought of looking it in the mouth. The appeal to public confidence may have been, and I now am ready to admit was, made with the purest motives. But it was, at any rate, a mistake to base it on the rare erudition of Prince Lucien and the readiness of the City of London—a most incompetent judge in such a matter—to take it over if the £6,000 were fully subscribed in July. If not in July, then the library, worth nearer to £40,000 than to £30,000, must be brought to the hammer in August when every one was out of town. This looks to me still as *la carte forcée*.

It was legitimate to treat Prince Lucien as a sorry fellow, who, if he owned such a library, held out his hand for a civil list pension, on a claim to erudition which competent persons thought flimsy. I know that the Institute smiled at his erudition, which was that of a dogmatic dilettante. Van Eys' Basque grammar shows what Prince Lucien's claims were. Anyone who chooses can, I fancy, look over it at the British Museum. The edition that I know was published in 1879 (Maisonneuve, 25, Quai Voltaire; Williams and Norgate, London; and Muller, Amsterdam). Van Eys before that date spent fifty years in studying Basque. He still lives, and is at Remo. There is no more competent authority.

I recollected in writing last month that Prince Lucien made Basque studies an excuse for hovering near Biarritz when the Imperial court, from which he was excluded, was there. It is ridiculous to say that Van Eys would be too generous to gainsay, now that Prince Lucien is dead, his claims to erudition. The question of generosity should not be raised. Lucien made rattling mistakes, and Van Eys, whom he presumed to attack, wrote him down a pseudo savant. For a "Prince" he was learned. I should class him as an *erudit* with the late King of Portugal as a translator of Shakespeare, or the Duke of Coburg as a violinist. You remember that when Dom Luis translated Shakespeare his subjects said: "How well qualified he would be if he only knew Portuguese!"

Mr. Collins throws at my head a long list of works and translations of Prince Lucien and of the learned societies he belonged to. What has the number of books to do with the issues raised, or of the learned societies (mostly British) to which he belonged? Such societies are formed generally of amateurs and dilettanti. Their secretaries are always trying to net as members men with illustrious names. To aspire to erudition in this or that direction is enough for a titled personage. Membership is not a proof of capacity as at the Institute of France.

Why do not the Committee ask Prince Roland Bonaparte to take over his uncle's library? He rolls in riches, has just built himself a big palace which he is furnishing, thirsts for scientific fame, and should be pleased and proud to possess relics honourable to his branch of the family. Or why not approach Lady Burdett Coutts? Her nephew, Lord Dudley Stuart, married a sister of Prince Lucien, who was uncle of the Baroness's great nephew, Mr. Coutts Stuart. If she bought the library, after a valuation by qualified persons, and gave it over to the British Museum, she would be again a public benefactress.

Prince Lucien Bonaparte was the best of the four sons of Lucien the First. The others made the States of the Church too hot to hold them. All had impetuous, masterful tempers, and literary and archæological tastes. In different ways each contrived to bleed the late Emperor of money. They were brought up at Musignano among the Etrurian remains which their father disinterred during more than twenty years, to the enrichment of most of the great museums of Europe. Pierre and

Antoine lived like banditti, carrying off women and shooting the men who went to stop, or came to arrest them. Pierre fired his final shot at Victor Noir, at Auteuil, and killed him. The eldest, whom I remember as Prince of Musignano, was married to a daughter of his uncle Joseph. He revolted against the Pope, was President of the Roman Constituent, and such a violent domestic tyrant that his wife ran away to Paris to supplicate the Emperor to protect her and her son—the future Cardinal. The Prince of Musignano met this by threatening to publish certain papers of the first Lucien, proving over and over again the dishonour of Josephine and Hortense. Louis Napoleon bought these documents at his cousin's price. The death of the wife, Zenaïde, put an end to the feud. The late Prince Lucien, who obtained a civil list pension of £250 a year, *about the fourth of the entire fund*, figured here during the Second Republic as an ultra-Liberal. He played this card until he got a large sum of money and a senatorship. This post was honorary as he had to live out of France.

Antoine, the youngest of the four brothers, led a charmed life. His life was spared by the Pope at the supplication of Lady Dudley Stuart and her mother. The Papal Government banished him and he went to Greece, where he got into another serious scrape. In New York he had the narrowest escape of being lynched for forgetting that he was not at Musignano. Thence he went to Mexico and Panama with a scheme in his head that he and Louis had talked over at Bordentown for making an inter-oceanic canal. He laid the egg at Columbia which his cousin Lucien Wyse and De Lesseps hatched fifteen years ago. Thus, had the sbire sent to arrest Antoine shot, instead of being shot by, him, the Panama bubble would not have been inflated in our time.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE late Lord Houghton, Dear Lady Betty, is said to have declared that the highest condition of social happiness would consist in being known by everybody and knowing nobody, and in being asked everywhere and going nowhere. It has always appeared to me that the highest state of human happiness must be to have much health, much wealth, much time, and many friends to do nothing whatever with.

I am now attempting to attain that ideal state. Instead of the continuous roar of the road which is the dominant sound in London, there is here, as I write, a silence which is audible. Instead of the continual movement which becomes so irritating, there is not even a leaf trembling upon a tree. So quiet are my surroundings that the music of the midges annoys me, and I am distressed if a fly occasionally hums! It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that I am altogether disinclined to write.

* * * * *

The death of Sir John Millais will be regretted by all. He was both an excellent artist and an excellent man. Very good looking, possessing great charm of manner, very straightforward, always pleased to be of use to his fellow-creatures, and invariably cheerful, he was the central figure in an especially charming British home. All who knew Sir John will grieve that he is gone, and all who knew that home will sympathise with Lady Millais and his family. The late Sir John Millais never tried to attain or to retain popularity by self-advertisement; he worked conscientiously, and left the public to decide whether that which he had done pleased or did not please it. There are many artists, authors, and actors now who cannot expect to attain the success which he achieved; they might, however, imitate his honesty.

* * * * *

Li Hung Chang deposits packets of tea and pretty phrases throughout his tour in Europe. It is a pity that the official world in this country will not learn that Orientals enjoy quiet and abominate banquets. The mistake which was made when the Shah visited England some years ago has been repeated in the case of Li Hung Chang. The Chinese Statesman is being hurried from one town to another, from this factory to that, and no opportunity is lost of inflicting a dinner upon him. It is amusing to notice the ingenious efforts he makes to upset the official telegram. At first he explained that he was too old and infirm, but this excuse was not accepted. He then declared that he had received important despatches from China which had to be answered at once. He obtained a few hours' rest by this. Li Hung Chang became brutal, and frankly declared that he did not wish to see anything. After much "persuasion" he relented. Before he leaves England he will probably become "sulky," like a salmon, and nothing will "persuade" him to move from the house. When the late Shah of Persia left England he did not conceal the happiness he felt, and it is not at all unlikely that Li Hung Chang will follow his example.

Li Hung Chang has accepted the invitation of only two London Clubs to become an honorary member, to wit, of the Athenæum and the Piccadilly.

* * * * *

The Ryde Regatta, which ended on Friday, was the most successful upon record. The feature of the week was the race of the big yachts on Wednesday, for the cup and prize presented by Mr. Whitaker Wright. The first half of the race was keenly contested by *Meteor* and *Ailsa*, but after that *Meteor* sailed away swiftly, defying all competition. The sailing of *Meteor* in a light wind on Wednesday was magnificent. Having been notified of the victory of *Meteor*, the German Emperor telegraphed the following message to Mr. Whitaker Wright:—"Am most proud to have won your cup, which, I am told, is a very handsome one. Would be glad to have a photograph of it till the original graces my table."—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A THUNDERBOLT from a summer sky, as Sir William Temple says, would not have caused more amazement than the sudden announcement of the scratching of St. Frusquin for the St. Leger. The tragical collapse was utterly unexpected, as only last Wednesday the horse was sent a fast gallop on the Limekilns, and he went as well as possible, and pulled up all right at the finish. St. Frusquin walked on Thursday, and again on Friday, when he did not manifest any signs of lameness. Whatever may be wrong with him, a wise policy has been adopted in throwing him up at once, for, although his Doncaster chance was considered to be hopeless, yet it may still be possible to get him ready to run for the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000 on October 1, in which race he would meet Persimmon with 3 lb. the best of the weights. Even if St. Frusquin does not start again this year, it must be remembered that he is entered for all of next season's £10,000 stakes, and no doubt if he is well he will run for the Gold Cup at Ascot, a race which his owner is particularly anxious to win.

There has been a great deal of wailing and croaking over the destruction of the prospect of having at Don-

Spa, Belgium.—*Cercle des Etrangers*, with Roulette, &c. For details apply to Secretary. Racing, tennis, and pigeon shooting. Theatre and concerts. Superb bathing establishment.

caster "one of the most exciting races ever seen," and so forth. It is an undeniable fact that these contests, about which there is so much preliminary trumpeting, very often prove most disappointing. What an elaborate noise was raised for weeks together about the meeting of Robert the Devil and Bend Or at Doncaster, also about La Fleche and Orme, and how dolefully uninteresting was the issue of each encounter!

That St. Frusquin would have won the St. Leger is my firm opinion, but I have no sympathy for the infatuated simpletons who had hastened to back him. If ever there was a case in which waiting until the last was an obviously prudent policy, this was one. St. Frusquin has been in constant training on hard ground ever since he commenced his Two Thousand preparation in March, and he has taken part in five races, four of which he has won, and three of these races must have taken a great deal out of the horse.

The withdrawal of St. Frusquin is likely to increase the field for the Leger, as Persimmon's form has been by no means so good as that of Mr. de Rothschild's colt, nor is there any certainty that the Prince of Wales's colt can stay the course. Persimmon commenced his preparation last week, after more than a month of rest, and he looks well and goes well, but I believe it is a fact that he is touched in his wind, and this defect will not improve his chance over such a course as Doncaster. M. E. Blanc will now doubtless send over either Arreau or Trébons, and the Grand Prix winner is at least sure to stay the distance. The Duke of Westminster may start Helm, Regret, or Labrador. Galeazzo has been doing only cantering exercise, and he cannot be trained for such a race as the Leger on hard ground, so that he is not likely to start at Doncaster. Knight of the Thistle has been stopped in his work, and he has not the most remote chance. Santa Maura is being sent along, and so also is Roquebrune, but it is to be feared that neither filly will stand a severe course of training. If Santa Maura could be brought to the post at Doncaster fit and well she would certainly run into a place. Nouveau Riche will not disgrace himself if he goes on all right. It is simple nonsense and rubbish for some of the sporting papers to twaddle about the race being a certainty for Persimmon, and at the mercy of the Prince of Wales. This is the sort of ecstatic drivel with which we were deluged two years ago when Ladas was being so extravagantly eulogised, and a pretty sort of "certainty" Lord Rosebery's horse discovered himself to be.

The prospects of the Doncaster meeting are not particularly bright, for the Champagne Stakes appear to be only a matter of health for Velasquez, and Goletta will not run again before the Newmarket First October Meeting. As to the minor three-year-old events, Shaddock cannot lose the Scarborough Stakes, and the Duke of Westminster looks like also winning the Doncaster Stakes with either Regret or Labrador. The Park Hill Stakes, however, will be an interesting race if it brings out Santa Maura, Canterbury Pilgrim, Miss Fraser, and Helm.

Fair entries have been obtained for the Doncaster events which have just closed. There are fifty-eight two-year-olds in the Prince of Wales's Nursery of £1,000, which is run over a mile course. The entry includes several animals which are reported to have been reserved for races of this description, but class is tolerably represented. Brigg, Jaquemart, Chillingham, Chantilly, Pooley Bridge, Flying Colours, Specific (who was well tried in the spring), and Terpsichore II. having been engaged. The Portland Plate, which at one time was a Yorkshire Stewards' Cup, and a very heavy betting race, has fifty-five entries, including Wise Virgin, Easter Gift, Amphora, Raconteur, Palaver, Ugly, Lady Sophie, Chasseur, Meli Melo, Sir Michael, Little Bob, Grig, Utica, Amandier, The Tup, El Diablo, Cold Steel, and Americus. The Portland Plate would have been a real good thing for Raconteur if he had not been exposed at Goodwood, as he would have received a weight which would have made the race a certainty for him. There are only thirty-seven entries for the Great Yorkshire Handicap of £1,300. In 1874, when only £200 was added, there were sixty-two entries. A number of animals have been engaged in this race which are presumed to be in reserve for the Cesarewitch or the Cambridgeshire, and the Great Yorkshire will no doubt be grievously "cut up" before the hour of running arrives. The best animals in the entry are Portmarnock (who has been backed for the Cesarewitch with frantic determination since his defeat at Lewes), Safety Pin, Love Wisely (winner of the Ascot Cup), Briardale, Count Schomberg, The Corsican, Rock Dove, The Rush, Sir Visto, Ortolo, Spook, Telescope (who ran so well over the course last year when he finished second for the St. Leger), and The Docker. There are twenty-four entries for the Doncaster Cup of £600, including Love Wisely, Sir Visto, Ramapo (what really is this horse's proper course?), Lord Hervey, Laodamia, Nouveau Riche, Bard of Avon, The Rush, Rock Dove, and Safety Pin.

Mr. de Rothschild is really most unfortunate with his three-year-olds. Gulistan, who would certainly have won the great race at Baden-Baden next week, has been stopped in his work, and as he is suffering from weakness of the hocks he is not likely to run again this season. The £4,500 stake at Baden has only Lord Drummond and The Owl left in, and I do not suppose that either horse will be sent over to Germany to run for it.

Keelson's very disappointing career on the turf has presumably terminated so far as flat racing is concerned, for he has been leased by Lord Zetland to Mr. C. J. Cunningham. It will not surprise me if Keelson turns out a great success over hurdles, like many another rogue. Labrador's performance at Kempton Park was a most creditable one, for he gave a stone and an easy beating to Welbeck, who (as I stated last week) had been well tried at Newmarket, and he was heavily backed. Ardeshir was made a great favourite for the two-year-old race on the strength of his forward running at Sandown Park last month; but the colt had no chance with Flying Colours, who won in a common canter. The filly was well tried at Newmarket some time ago, but she had hitherto disappointed her friends.

At Redcar Helen Mary carried off the Wilton Plate for Lord Londonderry, as I had predicted would be the case, and it was a good performance, as she carried extra weight for having won the Kirkleatham Biennial on the previous day. Hellebore was made favourite for the Redcar Stakes, but he was beaten by both Silver Fox and Puff Ball. Many people insisted that Lord Durham's colt ought to have won, as Rickaby had waited a little too long. There was a splendid finish for the principal three-year-old stakes, but the class was decidedly poor, seeing that Musley Chief was the winner, and he is no flyer. Lord Zetland's Red Rag, half brother to Keelson, by Prism, made an unsuccessful début in this event, but he ran somewhat green, and will soon win a race. Red Rag, however, is evidently a long way from being a good colt, as Musley Chief gave him 7 lb. and a beating.

The entries for the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) and Prix de Diane (French Oaks) for 1898 are the largest ever obtained for those stakes, there being 174 in the former and 153 in the fillies' race. These stakes are confined to animals bred in France.

It is astonishing that sixty-two yearling fillies should have been entered for the Coronation Stakes at Ascot (1898) considering that the liability of each nomination is £50, while only £300 is added. As a matter of fact, the winner gets the sweepstakes only, for the added money is divided between the second and third. If twelve start the race would be worth £4,000. The success of the St. James's Palace Stakes, which has obtained forty-five entries, is not so remarkable, for that race is open to both colts and fillies, the pecuniary conditions being precisely the same. The fact is that owners now seem to prefer stakes in which there are penalties and allowances.

The Newmarket events which have recently closed have been wonderfully well patronised, considering their singularly unattractive pecuniary conditions. There are actually forty-nine entries for next year's July Stakes,

although not a farthing is even nominally added, and the liability on each entry is £30. The Chesterfield Stakes has forty-eight entries, and here again the owners have only their own money to run for, while the liability on each entry is £20. Six owners have subscribed to the Boscawen Post Stakes of £100 each, to run in 1898. Mr. Brassey has two grandly bred foals in his colts by St. Simon out of Merry Miser, and by Donovan out of Pauline, by Hermit, the latter being a purchase out of the stud of Baron de Hirsch. One of Lord Ellesmere's is a colt by St. Simon out of Clarissa, and Mr. W. Johnstone has a colt by Orme out of Lady Primrose. One of the Duke of Portland's is a colt by St. Simon out of Ismay, and the other is a filly by Morion out of Semolina. There is a good entry of foals also, from the "class" point of view, for the Bennington Stakes (1899), including the Duke of Portland's own brother to Amiable, Mr. James's filly by Royal Hampton out of Charm, and "Mr. Jersey's" colt by Sheen out of Lady Rosebery.

To-morrow at Stockton the Durham County Produce Stakes of £1,250 should be won by either Red Rag or Nicholas, both animals having all the allowances, and Sir R. Jardine's colt has been kept for this race.

There will be racing next week at York and at Hurst Park, and there ought to be some interesting sport at both places, the best, of course, on the Knavesmire. The Ebor Handicap of £1,000 has proved a wretched failure, seven stables being represented by nine horses. Lord Derby may win with Dingle Bay. Times are lamentably changed with this handicap since the days when it was one of the heaviest betting events of the summer, but it has shared the fate of the Ascot Stakes, the Northumberland Plate, and the Goodwood Stakes. The Yorkshire Oaks (£300 added) has Santa Maura, Drip, Miss Fraser, and Helm, and the Duke of Westminster's filly will win if she runs. Santa Maura is not fit. The Duke of York Stakes is another three-year-old race with £300 added, but a very poor lot of animals are engaged in it, and Ceylton may be able to win for Mr. Houldsworth, in spite of his defeat at Redcar last week. I shall leave the Great Yorkshire Stakes to Nouveau Riche, who ought to be able to beat Labrador, Ortolo, and Red Rag. Regret cannot stay the course. The Prince of Wales Plate of £1,000 is the most valuable two-year-old race in the programme, and it should be won by Hellebore, unless Mr. Vyner has something smart among his dark lot. The Convivial Produce Stakes will fall to Canonbury, who has the advantage of a 5 lb. breeding allowance. There are 109 entries for the Gimcrack Stakes (£500 added), but it seems a most unfair arrangement to make the forfeits (which will amount probably to about £300) go to the fund. I shall plump for Galtee More, although he will have to give 12 lb. to maidens. Mr. Gubbins' colt, however, is a very smart animal indeed, and probably the second-best two-year-old of the season, so far as it has gone.

After all the trouble about the professionals, the great match between England and Australia has been played and won. It was certainly an exciting game, and any good fortune Grace had in winning the toss was quite compensated by the good luck Iredale and Darling had when they went in. They topped the English score for the first wicket, and then, as was the case during the whole of the game, the bowlers had matters their own way. Trumble, McKibbin, Peel, and Hearne did what they liked with the ball, and the Australians clearly showed they are no good on a bad wicket. In the difficulties in which the batsmen found themselves, no one played more consistent or useful cricket than Abel. He alone seemed to know where the ball was coming. The fielding on both sides was admirable, and the way in which the Englishmen set to work to save a possible boundary when the visitors' wickets were tumbling down was admirable. In fact, when Abel caught McKibbin, who played quite the right game, in the slips and then went sprinting off to the pavilion, it was a few moments before the majority of the crowd realised that the ball had not passed him. And then the mob crowded before the pavilion and cheered to their hearts' content.

If the game had been played by a county there is no doubt there would have been a whip round for the benefit of the pros. As the eleven was an English one, there was nobody to take a lead in the matter. The Surrey Executive have presented Peel and Hearne with £5 each in addition to their usual fee. As for the amateurs and expenses, several correspondents have written me on the subject. But a discussion appears to me profitless. It is useless to compare one form of sport with another. Each sport must rest its own definition of amateurism on the circumstances with which it finds itself environed. It would have been monstrous if Grace, a qualified medical man, had been unable to play cricket because his father had not left him large private means, unless, indeed, he had chosen to enrol himself as a professional player. There are many other fine cricketers who could not afford to go all over the country unless they received their expenses. But what all these critics of Grace or others seem to advocate is that there should be only two classes of players: the regular "pros," who make cricket their only business, and the wealthy amateurs who can stand all the expenses of the game out of their own pockets. The large middle-class is left out altogether. A few there may be in cricket who make money out of the game. The great majority do not. But those who do and those who do not equally help to delight thousands in the summer months. It is utterly absurd to try to make the cricket world an ideal one, and the criticism to which Grace and others have been subjected is mean and contemptible.

Turning now to county cricket, the bowling of Jessop and Townsend, who finds the wickets to his liking, coupled with another excellent innings by Sewell, gave Gloucester an easy win over Notts, who had a weak team. The latter, earlier in the week, had played a draw with Kent. Shrewsbury, Jones, and Mason all made heavy scores. Unfortunately, A. Hearne and Mason hurt themselves, and so the hop county had a poor team against Surrey, when the defeat at Catford Bridge was amply avenged, Abel scoring well. Lancashire can scarcely look on the week's play with pleasure. Storer, Davidson, and Chatterton all scored centuries against the northern bowling, and it was only some steady play by Paul, Ward, and Sugg which enabled the game against Derbyshire to be drawn. Then against Middlesex the visitors to Lord's found Ford and O'Brien in brilliant hitting vein, and it was very gratifying to see the old Cambridge captain in such excellent form. MacLaren played two good innings. Sugg played patiently, but he was responsible for Bardswell being run out just when a draw seemed probable. Against the Australians, the display given by Sussex was sadly disappointing. A brilliant effort by Ranjitsinhji and Fry was utterly wasted, as the rest of the team failed miserably. Killick had fair success in bowling, and Graham, the colonial bat, is apparently all right again.

The whole country side came down to Marlow to see the regatta. And a very pretty sight it was on a bright and sunny afternoon. The Marlow crew for the town four was beaten by Reading, and it is a great pity the local club does not give more attention to rowing. Lehmann stroked, and every other man in the boat did the same after half way. The Tadpoles rowed good races, but in the fours against Kingston they started off with crabs, and though they pulled up afterwards they were never really dangerous. In the tug of war the success of the football punt was very popular.

Tyers did not turn out for the five mile swimming championship at Southport. The event took place in the open sea, and there was only ten yards at the finish between Green, the winner, and Horgan. In rather rough water, W. Allison won the Otter S.C. race at Brighton. Mr. Pragnell and his friends spent an enjoyable holiday in Ireland, introducing water-polo and life-saving to the natives.

Water, water everywhere, is the good motto of Buxton.

Even the Garden Company of that health resort is so far imbued with the spirit of the place that the tennis courts are laid out by the side of a murmuring stream, over which a grand stand is built. So many parasols fell into the water that it is called the Bridge of Sighs. This lovely situation makes the court so moist that most of the leading lawn-tennis players prefer to go elsewhere. However, there was some interesting play. Miss Steedman played an excellent game at the net, but Mrs. Hillyard's all-round play was too good for her. Those two were partners, and beat Miss Morgan and Miss Wadsworth in the Ladies' final. Miss Morgan is a pretty player, and as an umpire she is excellent, and her clear announcement of the scores delighted everybody hugely. A promising player with good service and a back handstroke is Miss Wolfenden. The ladies were undoubtedly the better class. The men, as has been explained, find there is too much water there. Davy and Rooke met in the final of the County Championship, after showing some good play in the earlier rounds. Some of the spectators were wicked enough to ask when a ladies' veteran class would be started.

"The Man on the March" is the title of a very interesting volume of reminiscences which I have just been reading, and which I may appropriately mention in this column, seeing that it is mainly concerned with sporting subjects. It is the work of Mr. Martin Cobbett (otherwise "Mr. Sporting Notions"), who, writing from a long and varied experience as a sporting journalist, discourses in a pleasant and entertaining way on men and things, and flavours his reflections and recollections with a liberal infusion of good stories. The book is published by Bliss, Sands, & Co.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Although the holiday season is in full swing, there has been a distinct improvement in the markets all round during the past week, due to the brightening outlook in various directions. A strong rally came about in the American market, a resumption of purchases bringing in "Bears," who began to get frightened at the extent of their commitments.

The Clouds Lifting.

It would, perhaps, be going too far to say that the American cloud is lifting, but the sharp recovery in American Railroad stocks, and the fiasco of Mr. Bryan's visit to New York, are encouraging features; and the horizon is undoubtedly clearing as regards the rest of the markets. The settlement has been got over much more comfortably than had been anticipated, the only failure being that of a small man, who had formerly devoted himself to the South African market, and had recently been dabbling in Yankee Rails. The big South African men, hailing from the well-known Angel-court Club, who had of late loved Yankees not wisely but too well, paid up their differences like men; and if they do not get their losses back in the treacherous American market, they have every prospect of recouping themselves in their own sphere. The Kaffir Circus, in fact, shows distinct signs of a revival, and the improvement is all the more promising, as it is not the result of any concerted rig on the part of the big financiers. The latter have hitherto refrained from supporting their market, on the grounds that it was not much good to attempt to galvanise the Kaffir Circus into life while so many were absent on their holidays. The buying, on the contrary, has been on the part of investors who are encouraged by the splendid July crushings of the Witwatersrand mines, and by the prospect of an early submission of the Matabele, as a consequence of the recent victories of the troops. A very significant feature has been the resumption of buying by the Cape, orders from that quarter having been absent for a long time past. The fractional improvement which has now been established is doubtless only the commencement of a much more important upward movement, and those will be wise who effect their purchases before the market becomes more active. The West Australian market has not been quite so animated, but a considerable proportion of advances is again shown; and, with improved crushings coming to hand in increasing numbers, there are now all conditions provided for a more general rise in quotations. Home Railway stocks have fully borne out the view which I have taken of late that they had been unduly depressed. Excellent traffics of the Southern passenger lines, and a favourable South-Eastern statement have helped the stocks of this section; and the Scotch stocks appear to be bracing up preparatory to a more marked advance. The Cretan difficulty cast at times a shadow over the Foreign market, but a more hopeful view is now also being entertained as regards its settlement, and the latest pronouncement of the Prime Minister confirms, at all events, the opinion that the European Powers will continue to act in concert. The Industrial market has been quiet, and the Cycle section more particularly has been extremely inactive. In this latter department there is some irritation concerning the extraordinary delay with regard to the special settlement of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company. As soon as this is arranged for, a distinct revival may be expected.

Rally in Home Rails.

I argued last week that Home Rails, with improved dividends and excellent traffics, ought not to follow the lead of Yankee Rails, which are overshadowed by circumstances which in no way affect our own railway companies. It is true that the splitting notion is for the time being exploded, for at the North-Western and Great Western meetings the subject was not even broached. The splitting apostles cannot, therefore, argue any longer that the majority of the proprietors are in favour of the subdivision, and the stocks will in future have to move on their own merits. These are quite good enough, in view of the dearth of high-class investments, to at least maintain present quotations. The North-Western has already an improvement of £66,873 to show for the first six weeks of the current half year, followed by a North-Eastern increase of £55,832, a Midland increase of £41,606, and a Great-Western increase of £37,370. Comparatively even more satisfactory is the position of the South-Eastern, and of the other passenger lines, as they are being greatly benefited by the expansion of the holiday traffic, due to the splendid climatic conditions. This is, moreover, a class of traffic which does not increase working expenses at the same rate. The South-Eastern statement for the period from July 1 to July 25, for instance, shows a gain of £2,850 in gross receipts, and a saving of £747 in expenses, resulting in a net increase of £3,597. Since July 25 this line, moreover, has had a further gross traffic increase of £8,000, and it may be assumed that by now the net increase for the half-year exceeds £10,000. This is an excellent showing, and should make Dover "A" worth a good deal more than the present price of 103¼. Brighton "A" have recovered to 185, although the Brighton traffic for the six weeks shows only an increase of £9,922. The Scotch section has not so far improved in proportion to the really excellent results which have been obtained during the past half-year; but as favourable dividends will shortly be announced I look for greater activity in both Caledonian Deferred (Coras) and North British Deferred. The Glasgow Central Section of the Caledonian is now in full work, and will no doubt eventually bring increased traffic to that line. It is, I hear, proving an unqualified success. Considering the present rate of improvement, I still think, however, that North British Deferred are likely to have a more important advance than "Coras." The *Glasgow Herald*, by the way, has

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

corrected the North British dividend estimate for the past half-year, referred to by me last week, from 1¼ to 1¾ per cent.

Recovery in Yankee Rails.

As usual when affairs in the United States assume the very blackest aspect, a rift appears in the cloud. All manner of stories had been current as regards impending trouble at the fortnightly settlement, but the alarming rumours were not confirmed, only one insignificant failure being announced; and although some heavy losses had to be faced they fell upon wealthy operators who were able to pay up. In this they were helped by the distinct rally which preceded the carry-over, and has made further progress since. The highest prices have, however, not been maintained. Thus Louisville, after touching 43, are down again to 42, and Milwaukee, after touching 67, stand at 66⅜. Still this is well above the lowest. The recovery has been assisted by the fiasco of Mr. Bryan, the boy orator, at the Madison-square meeting. The New Yorkers did not receive him with that enthusiasm which he had expected, and so great has been the disappointment of the men who "run" him, that they are curtailing his engagements and sending him into temporary retirement. He certainly displayed an absolute ignorance of financial matters in committing himself in his speech in New York to the extraordinary assertion that "the free and unlimited coinage of silver by the United States alone suffice to raise the bullion value of silver to its coinage value, and make silver bullion worth 1·29 dols. per ounce in gold throughout the world." This utterance stamps him as either a knave or a fool, and in neither capacity would he be fitted to preside over the American nation. The words which Mr. Bryan uttered were, of course, put in his mouth by the free-silver agitators, who justify their proposition to open the mints of the United States to the unlimited coinage of silver by claiming that such action would create an unlimited demand for the white metal at the ratio of sixteen ounces of silver to one of gold, which is equivalent to 1·29 dols. an ounce for silver. No one, they argue, would sell silver bullion to anybody else for less than 1·29 dols. per ounce, with the United States standing ready to take and coin all offered at that figure, and hence that no silver could be bought for less than the par of gold. Now if everybody believed that this would be the effect of free coinage upon the price of silver, then everybody would be for free coinage. But at best it is a fallacy, and we have the predictions of men experienced in finance—in fact, the standard authorities upon monetary questions—that no such result would follow. What the free silver enthusiasts lose sight of is the kind of money that the United States would pay for the silver. No one proposes to enact that the United States Government shall pay for the silver brought to its mints in gold. It would pay for the same in silver dollars or silver certificates, or it would coin the silver brought in and return it to the owner of the bullion in the shape of dollars, less the charge for mintage. Now, what would these silver dollars in which the Government would pay for the silver be worth? If, as is predicted by sound financiers, the result of free coinage would be to drive gold to a premium, the silver dollars would be worth only the amount of gold they would buy. That is to say, if gold were at a premium of 200 it would take two silver dollars to buy a gold dollar; therefore the bullion owner, receiving in exchange his silver dollars, would be receiving for it in reality only 64½ cents. an ounce, gold value. Further object-lessons are, in the meantime, being administered to our American cousins in the shape of the non-success of the New York bond issue, and in the similar experience of the city of Brooklyn. Only once before in the history of the city of New York has its bond issue been a failure, and this was because the community had a silver fright, and would not touch a security not having an express stipulation that the principal and interest should be payable in gold, which the bonds then offered had not got. No such reason exists to-day for failure to float the issue as both principal and interest are payable in gold. When the greatest city in the United States, the second in the world as a money centre, cannot float its gold bonds investors must be thoroughly frightened. The silver spectre is, of course, at the bottom of it all, as it is the great menace of repudiation; and, as one of my American contemporaries puts it, the danger of establishing a new standard of values would place the United States in the same category as Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, China, and Persia. The worst feature is the unfavourable influence which the unsettled state of the country must have upon its commerce and industry. Although Mr. Bryan's chances appear to have diminished the uncertainty will continue until November next, and thus the see-saw in stocks will probably go on for the present. I do not believe in "Bull" combinations under these circumstances, and I repeat that the only way in which profits could be skinned at present would be by buying on sharp declines and selling on recoveries; while bonâ-fide holders of stocks should keep them now, as it is hardly credible that the disreputable silver party will prove victorious in the Presidential contest. Canadian Pacifics have been affected very little by the dividend announcement. Neither have Grand Trunks moved to any extent on the publication of the half-yearly statement. A deficiency of £82,000, as compared with a deficiency of £94,000 for the corresponding half year of 1895, is but a very negative improvement, and much better results will have to be shown before the Company can be said to have turned the corner.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The Continental financiers are all *en vacance*, and it is therefore impossible to expect any animation in interbourse securities. The Eastern question is, moreover, always with us, and at times a good deal of nervousness was felt with reference to the Cretan difficulty; while Spanish finances also gave rise to unfavourable comment. According to the latest utterances of the various statesmen, however, the European concert as regards Crete has not been disturbed, and it is hoped that this question will be patched up again. The Spanish Budget has been adopted by the Cortes, and I suppose that another process of raising the wind will be resorted to. Thus Spanish bonds are firmer, Turks are steady, and Ottoman Bank shares have recovered. The latter institution is, of course, also very deeply interested in South African mines, and any improvement in these would help it and its clients. A rally in Greeks seems to foreshadow some new financial move. Argentine Government stocks have not responded any further to the decline in the gold premium in Buenos Ayres, which now stands at 174½. In fact, quotations of the Government stocks were five or six points higher when the gold premium was quoted 200. The present inactivity is doubtless due to the absence of so many operators. The Old Uruguay Loan has recovered to 50⅛ after touching 49⅛, while the New Loan has remained remarkably steady, and is slightly firmer at 70. I have already stated that this is, in my opinion, an excellent purchase for an investment, although of a somewhat speculative kind. Brazilians and Mexican Sixes have been firm, and Venezuela, which are quoted 39 x.d., look like going better, the latest statement with regard to the Venezuelan question being satisfactory. There has been hardly any business in the various rubbish stocks of the South and Central American Republics. From an American source I gather that a London syndicate that recently bought the Mexican City Street Railway has paid 833,387 dols. cash, and will pay 6,000,000 dols. in Six per Cent. bonds. The manager of the Company will be Thos. H. McLean, formerly manager of the Houston-street and Pavonia and 23rd Street Railroad of New York. The Mexican line consists of about 160 miles of track.

Revival in the Kaffir Circus.

It is not surprising, in view of the various favourable developments bearing upon the Kaffir Circus, that a distinct improvement has at last manifested itself. It is all the better for being spontaneous, and not engineered by the usual wirepullers. The fact, too, that some of the buying

orders came from the Cape is distinctly encouraging. Very sanguine views are being entertained as to the increases which may be expected in the output of the Witwatersrand mines in the near future, and in some quarters it is anticipated that the returns will rise from five to ten thousand ounces every month. As several new mines made returns in July, and others will shortly fall into line, this would not be by any means improbable; and it will readily be seen that such sustained increases must still further strengthen the confidence in South African land and gold shares, which is now slowly returning. Labour conditions in the Transvaal are greatly improved, and the rumours that President Kruger proposes to revive the question of the Suzerainty were evidently untrue, and set about by interested parties. So far the purchases which have actually been effected have only been on a moderate scale, for the very good reason that there is but little stock to be got at the present level. The big financiers have for some time been mopping-up stock, and the weak elements have thus been eliminated, with the result that at the last settlement the account showed a considerable reduction, and rates were easier. I have for some time advised my readers to avail themselves of the present moderate value of sound Transvaal gold and land shares, to either average or to increase their holding generally. Barring accidents, it is pretty certain that as soon as the holiday season draws to an end prices will move up sharply. I am told, for instance, that one of the South African millionaires, when asked why he did not give his shares a twist-up, expressed himself to the effect that it was of no use spending his powder while every one was away, but that he would make things hum as soon as the month of August was turned. This is apparently a view which is shared by a good many other of the wealthy operators in the Kaffir Circus, and there is no doubt that when once purchases are resumed on a large scale prices will rise by leaps and bounds. Already some substantial advances are marked. Knights, for instance, to which I have several times drawn attention, have gone ahead to $7\frac{1}{16}$, as against $6\frac{1}{8}$ a week ago. There have also been advances of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in Crown Reef, Geldenhuis, Wolhuter, Nigel, Ferreira, Henry Nourse, Jubilee, &c. In fact, all the good Witwatersrand mines are gradually moving up. In the Barnato group a good deal of attention has been paid to Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, which have improved to $3\frac{15}{16}$, and there is no doubt that in view of the coming amalgamation of the Barnato Bank and the Estate portion of the Johannesburg Waterworks Company, these shares will be very active in the near future. I have received a number of inquiries with reference to the dividend on Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares, which has not so far been announced. As Mr. B. I. Barnato is now in our midst, I should say that some statement as to whether a distribution will be made or not would shortly be published. Barnato Banks have also hardened to $2\frac{5}{16}$, and Barnato Consols are firmer at $2\frac{7}{8}$. There is a talk of a coming important consolidation of properties in the Heidelberg district under the auspices of Messrs. Barnato. Amongst the gold mines of the Barnato group, New Primrose have recovered to $5\frac{3}{4}$, Glencairn to $3\frac{5}{8}$, New Rietfontein to $3\frac{3}{4}$; and there has also been an improvement in Buffelsdoorn, now quoted $2\frac{5}{8}$. These advances fully confirm my previous anticipations, and I look for a very considerable further rise. The Robinson group is also commencing to brace up, and when Mr. J. B. Robinson returns from his yachting cruise we may expect some lively dealings. In the meantime Randfonteins, which were obtainable at $2\frac{5}{8}$ a week ago, are now quoted 3; Langlaagte Estate have improved to $5\frac{5}{8}$; Langlaagte Block B to $1\frac{3}{4}$; Langlaagte Star to $1\frac{1}{2}$. In all these shares I look for a marked advance. Of course, the gambling counters are also on the move. Thus, Consolidated Goldfields are up at $12\frac{1}{2}$, Rand Mines, Limited, at $30\frac{3}{8}$, and East Rands at $7\frac{3}{8}$; and we may expect that the wirepullers will rig them again whenever the surroundings are favourable. Chartered shares, too, have advanced to 3, some support being given by insiders, in the expectation of an early collapse of the native insurrection in Rhodesia. This I also anticipated; and, although I do not advise my readers to touch these gambling counters, I should not be one whit surprised to see an important advance in them. A great many options have been acquired for the end of August and for the end of September, and it only requires some encouraging development to bring in the option-dealers as buyers. It is satisfactory to find that the Chartered Company have not accepted the charitable contribution of £5,000 of the Colenbranders Company, which would really have been tantamount to Messrs. Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Beit passing round the hat, as common report credits them with the laudable intention of paying the expenses of the war and the indemnity themselves. Until the Transvaal Government has actually fixed its demand for the indemnity at a certain sum, however, it is not at all likely that these two flotation-mongers will officially express a desire to pay the indemnity, for fear that the Boers would squeeze them all the more. Amongst other Transvaal mining shares, to which it would be advisable to give attention at the present juncture, I again mention Woodstock (Transvaal) now quoted $1\frac{1}{2}$; Waterfall Estates now standing at $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$; Niekerk at $1\frac{1}{8}$; and Transvaal Exploring at $\frac{7}{8}$ to 1. It is understood that the Transvaal Exploring Company has successfully flotated the Cataract Barberton Company (the shares in which stand at $\frac{3}{8}$ premium), and that it has realised a considerable profit on this promotion. This Company owns other very valuable properties in the Transvaal, and with the general improvement the shares are likely to go much higher. It will be remembered that last year they rose considerably above 2. The Modderfontein Company is doing better now, and the shares have advanced to 7. I quite look forward also to a rise in Modderfontein "B," which shares are quoted $1\frac{7}{8}$. An important piece of news has been received with reference to the New Rand Gold Mine, a Company of which I have always held a favourable opinion. In the third deep borehole the main reef has been struck at a depth of 2,000 ft. According to the *African Review*, the strike shows that the average angle of dip of the reef from the outcrop down to the point where the end of the New Rand ground is, is about 30 to 40 ft.; and from the information thus gained it seems that the main reef series underlies the whole of the Company's property at a depth varying from 2,000 to 2,750 ft. I should think that in view of this fresh development, Messrs. Barnato and S. Neumann & Co., who own adjoining claims, could with advantage amalgamate the Mine with their surrounding properties. The City and Suburban has now 160 stamps running, and good results are looked forward to. The Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep Company propose to sink to a considerable depth; but they cannot be expected to strike the south reef before another nine months, so that crushing is as yet in the dim and distant future. The Marievale Nigel Estate Company's report is distinctly disappointing, as the assays of the reef so far obtained are very poor. A fresh decline in African Estate shares appears to be due to an organised opposition, which proved very obstinate at the last meeting in Johannesburg. Mozambique shares have recovered to $1\frac{11}{16}$, and there is little doubt that these will in the near future attain a much higher value. Amongst other shares which are likely to improve are Heidelburg Estates, Henderson's Estates, and Oceana. The latter Company is now sending out circulars, calling an extraordinary meeting for the 24th inst. for the purpose of authorising the liquidation of the Company preparatory to its absorbing the Austral-African and Africana Companies by the formation of the Oceana Consolidated Company. Once

If you wish a good purgative drink the "Franz Josef" Aperient Water, the only Palatable Natural Aperient, and the most popular of all Aperients.

"Norse King," 3,212 tons register, 4,500 horse-power, will sail from London (Tilbury), August 27, for a twenty-five days' Cruise to the Capitals of the Baltic, calling at Leith, Copenhagen, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Kiel, returning via the New Baltic Canal and Heligoland. Fares from Eighteen Guineas. Passengers are allowed to take bicycles free of cost.—Pirrie & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Jas. J. Ballantine, 134, Vincent-street, Glasgow; Hy. Gaze & Sons, Ltd., 142, Strand, London, W.C.

these formalities have been got through, we may look for an active market in the new Oceana Consols, and insiders are already prophesying a rise to 3 or 4. The present price of Oceana of $1\frac{1}{2}$ is, therefore, very tempting. I have received a number of communications from shareholders in the Abercorn Reefs, Limited, and the Umtoli Gold Reefs Company, Limited, who wish to join a combination for resisting the last call, and obtaining an investigation of the affairs of these Companies. The period fixed for the payment of the call expires on the 18th inst.; but I look to the Directors (Mr. Arthur L. Fyfe, Mr. J. W. Blackstone, Mr. J. M. Coward, and Mr. J. Dennis) to grant a further delay pending such examination. I hope that one or other of the largest shareholders will take the matter in hand, and shall be pleased to place the shareholders who have applied to me in communication with them for the purpose of appointing a committee for thoroughly entering into this matter. Diamond shares are improving with gold shares, De Beers having hardened to $29\frac{5}{8}$, New Jagersfontein to $10\frac{5}{8}$. There has also been a considerable demand for Leicester Consolidated up to 40s. The Managing Director, who is on a visit to the mine, writes that it looks very well. They have been washing top stuff of late, but the anchorage is about to be lowered 10 ft., and there will be about three months' work down to the 100 ft. level, from which better results are expected. The machinery to be erected will be capable of working 4,000 loads per ten working hours; and as the working hours are more than ten per day, it may be anticipated that about 30,000 loads can be treated with that gear weekly. A cablegram has also been received stating that 875 loads have produced 72 carats, and another cable reports that they are shipping by next mail 730 carats, reasonably valued at £1,500.

Golden West Australia.

The West Australian banqueting craze appears to have broken out again, for no fewer than three West Australian dinners took place last week. I suppose it is a sign of prosperity, for people do not congregate at such festive occasions unless there is occasion for rejoicing. The most important of these functions was the banquet at the Savoy Hotel, offered to Mr. Philip Mennell, the editor of the *British Australasian*, on his return from Western Australia, on which occasion the completion of the railway from Coolgardie to Kalgoorlie was also celebrated. Mr. Mennell has rendered most important service to the gold mining industry of Western Australia, and his latest visit to the colony was more especially remarkable by the splendid service of special cables which he inaugurated, and which embraces all the important events on the goldfields. Another dinner was that given at the Hotel Cecil by Messrs. Stange & Co. to members of the strong financial group with whom they are connected, and to their clients and friends. Messrs. Stange have a large clientèle on the Continent, and have practically introduced West Australian mines in German centres. What is more, the mines in which they have interested their friends belong to the strong Venture Syndicate group, and have so far proved uniformly successful. The third function was a farewell dinner at the Savoy Hotel, given to Mr. Charles D. West, who is proceeding to Western Australia to represent Hannan's Development and Finance Company. Sanguine forecasts were indulged in on all these occasions, and it is to be hoped that the speeches will be followed by deeds. That the gold-mining industry is making steady progress is shown by the crushing returns which continue to pour in both from older producers and from new mines. The *West Australian Review* has compiled a very complete list of such returns, amongst which a little table giving the output of the thirteen largest producers whose shares are held in Europe is so interesting that I herewith reproduce it:—

The Record of the Leading Mines.

Mine.	End October.	End February.	Mid-June.	Mid-August.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Great Boulder	19,328	30,134	46,924	58,021
Bayley's Reward	53,726	54,391	54,491	54,491
Lake View	8,826	10,723	15,126	20,301
Murchison New Chum	12,071	16,536	17,364	17,364
Consolidated Murchison	10,770	12,167	14,180	15,902
Star of the East	11,879	11,879	11,879	11,879
Mainland Consols	8,250	8,500	8,500	9,776
Londonderry	8,000	9,365	9,754	9,754
Hill End	3,033	7,426	8,178	8,178
Ivanhoe	1,619	2,799	4,123	6,551
Burbank's	—	2,077	3,351	6,116
Golconda	3,271	4,167	5,933	5,993
Emerald Reward	5,636	5,716	5,785	5,785
Totals	146,409	175,880	205,588	230,051

As my contemporary explains, the Bayley's Reward property has been ousted from its position as first in the list, the Great Boulder taking its place. The Lake View, which was sixth in the list ten months ago, is now third, and from present appearances it seems that it is only a matter of time before it comes in front of the Bayley's Reward. Another mine which is going ahead is the Ivanhoe, and it is worthy of note that the Great Boulder, Lake View, and Ivanhoe properties adjoin each other, forming a very prosperous trio. The *West Australian Review* also points out that "the returns of the Bayley's Reward, Londonderry, Star of the East, and Emerald Reward mines have remained almost stationary since October last—*i.e.*, their outputs have advanced only from 79,241 oz. to 81,909 oz. in ten months, but that the rate of progress made by the remaining nine mines is very marked, their returns amounting to 67,168 oz. at the end of October last, 94,529 oz. at the end of February, 123,679 oz. at the middle of June, and 148,142 oz. at the present time." The Great Boulder continues to do remarkably well, and the shares are quoted at $7\frac{1}{2}$. There is little doubt but that most of the mines in the immediate vicinity are also very rich, as shown by the cable report just received that the Ivanhoe lode has been struck in the Lake View and Boulder Junction, while I shall expect favourable results from the Great Boulder No. 1 and Great Boulder Junction Reefs to throw fresh lustre upon the name of Great Boulder. The news from the Lake View Consols is most satisfactory. Very rich stone has been struck in the crosscut at a depth of 200 ft., and one of the specimens obtained, weighing 1 cwt., is said to be the richest yet unearthed in the Hannan's district. After reacting to $8\frac{1}{2}$, the shares have recovered to $8\frac{3}{4}$, but if only half the cabled reports are borne out by results, Lake View Consols will reach double their present price. It should be remembered that the above results have been obtained with ten stamps only. What will the output be when 100 stamps are at work and the rich deposits lately discovered are opened up? The stocks of the Whitaker Wright group have not been going so strong this week, holiday influences prevailing, but they will doubtless be amongst the first to brace up when active business is resumed. Mainland Consols are easier at 3, yet the mine is doing all it was expected to do, 295 tons during the month producing 1,422 oz. of gold, while the tailings give 11 dwt. per ton, so that the total average value of the ore crushed was 5 oz. 7 dwts. per ton. London and Globe Finance are quoted $4\frac{7}{16}$, West Australian Exploring and Finance $4\frac{1}{2}$, and both are expected to improve, while I also retain my favourable view of the Golden Group and Golden Treasure Mines, the shares in which are an excellent purchase at present price. The group of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust has been steady, although these shares have not improved any further, being quoted $3\frac{5}{8}$ premium; but the Founders' shares have advanced to $62\frac{1}{2}$. I repeat that when the big Northern Territory scheme comes out, a fresh improvement is probable. Associated Gold Mines have been firm at $3\frac{5}{8}$,

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

the favourable statements made at the meeting of shareholders having created an excellent impression. Associated Southern stand at $1\frac{5}{8}$, and Nil Desperandum at $1\frac{1}{4}$. The Stoneham group has again been quiet, the West Australian Goldfields taking quite a back seat at $9\frac{1}{4}$, and Hampton Plains have temporarily eased off to $4\frac{1}{4}$, the issue of the report having been delayed. The meeting is expected to be held in September, when I have reason to believe a very satisfactory position will be shown. From the Lady Shenton a cablegram has been received, announcing a crushing of 250 tons for 695 oz.; an average sample of tailings is stated to have assayed 32 dwt. per ton, and generally the outlook is described as very satisfactory. The Lady Loch is also to the front with a very satisfactory crushing, a clean-up from 594 oz. giving 1,747 oz. As this is nearly 3 oz. to the ton, the shareholders may be congratulated upon the result. From the Gladiator Mine Professor Nicholas cables that the 10-head battery is being furnished by Messrs. Thompson & Co., of the Castle Main Foundry. The Directors of the Victoria Reef Gold Mine, Limited, have issued a circular to the shareholders, in which are recapitulated the various cables and reports published since the statutory meeting. The latest cable is to the effect that the lode is opening up extremely well, that some of the machinery has been received, and that everything is going right. The lode is stated to be 10 ft. wide, with well-defined walls, at a depth of 115 ft. The New Coolgardie Gold Exploration Company have received a cablegram from the local Director, according to which Mr. Young, who is connected with one of the prospecting parties despatched by the Company, has found a country with good reefs and formation. A good deal of comment has been caused by the manner in which the remaining Directors of the Empress of Coolgardie Company reappointed themselves at Wednesday's meeting of shareholders, notwithstanding considerable opposition on the part of the latter; while Sir Alexander Armstrong was simply ousted from his post as chairman by his colleagues. The meeting has been adjourned for a week, and I hope that by this time wiser counsels will prevail amongst the Directors, who are at present riding the high horse in so injudicious a manner. At the meeting of the Cassidy Hill Gold Mining Company considerable diversity of opinion prevailed, but a thorough investigation of the whole position should suit all parties best. I am therefore glad to see that the meeting has been adjourned for three months, pending which period the Directors have promised to furnish further information. The manner in which the Paringa property has been dealt with certainly requires elucidation. At the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Whitehead and Sultan Gold Mines, held on Monday last, full explanations were given of the recent history of the properties owned by this concern, which, according to the inspecting engineer's report, have now been found to be practically valueless. The reef of the Mount Whitehead lease is described as fairly regular, but of too low a grade; while the ore body encountered in the Sultan mine has pinched out. Whether any fresh discoveries could be made in the course of further development remains to be seen; but upon the whole it seems to be useless to carry out further work upon the property, when so many rich mines can be acquired at comparatively moderate prices. This is apparently the view also adopted by the Chairman, who stated that they would have to look out for another property. The unfortunate occurrence points the lesson, however, which I have so often been preaching, that undeveloped properties should not be floated upon the market. It, moreover, does not reflect any credit upon the consulting engineer, Mr. William Gray, who had been in charge of the property for some time, or upon the experts upon whose published testimony the shareholders subscribed the capital. The redeeming point is that the vendors have returned 45,000 fully-paid shares, and that a large amount of working capital is still intact. Another duffer mine is evidently the Great Fingall Reefs. I stated some time ago that the reefs had pinched out; but I trust, as some very influential men and groups were connected with the promotion, that the shareholders will be treated in a fair manner; and I hope that a mine containing auriferous reefs will be substituted for this most disappointing property. The extraordinary part about the Great Fingall Reefs is that, according to the December circular of the Directors, Bergrath Schmeisser had after careful examination reported favourably upon the mine. If this is correct, it fully confirms my view that the "only Schmeisser" is far from infallible. I hear that the Mona Gold Mine, Limited, a sub-Company of the Gold Lands Corporation, has been well received by the shareholders in the latter undertaking, who have practically absorbed the entire issue, a portion being taken up by the Directors and their friends. My readers will remember that the Gold Lands Corporation is also the parent Company of the Hannan's Kalgoorlie Proprietary, from which the news has been received that the lode formation on Lease No. 1,190 is 99 ft. wide, and the stone is better than that hitherto obtained. Of course a lode 99 ft. wide cannot be rich throughout, but the mine looks promising. It is thus not surprising that Gold Lands have improved to $\frac{1}{2}$ premium. The Burbank's Birthday Gift Mine has crushed during the past fortnight 140 tons for 500 oz., which is again a very satisfactory yield. From the Burbank's North Mine a cable is to hand stating that the average width of the lode is 3 ft., showing visible gold. According to a cablegram from the Consuello, the Madrid lease shows an 8 ft. ore body in the face of the south drive. From the Miner's Dream a cablegram is to hand stating that the erection of the works will be completed very shortly, and that the mine could not be looking better. A circular has been issued by the Chairman of the Armadale Gold Mine, giving a report from Mr. Frank Nicolas (the Company's consulting engineer), according to which he proposes to work a cyanide plant, which has in fact been purchased in Adelaide, as the ore, although rich, is pyritic. As forty stamps will shortly be running, a plant of considerable extent will be required. Shareholders of the West Australian Gold Concessions, Limited, will be glad to learn that their ordinary general meeting has been fixed for the 27th inst., when the long-expected report and accounts will be submitted, and a dividend declared.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Quite a strong tone has again been displayed by the Indian gold mining section, and there has been more especially an advance in Coromandel and Mysore Reefs. On the other hand, Nundydroog and Ooregum are slightly lower. Mysore Gold remain firm at $8\frac{1}{8}$, and Mysore Goldfields at $1\frac{1}{4}$. When the August crushings are announced, a further upward movement is looked for. Amongst Queensland mines, Wentworth Proprietary are quoted about 1. Aladdin's Lamp shares, which I have frequently recommended, touched 3 last week, a rise from $1\frac{7}{8}$ since I last recommended them, and declined to $2\frac{5}{8}$ on profit-taking. The advance has been caused by the last report mentioning, among other favourable features, that on rising from the 600 ft. level a strong vein has been met with, assaying over 33 oz. and still improving in quality. This phenomenally rich discovery should add materially to the already large dividends. Another 10 per cent. is expected to be declared shortly, making 30 per cent. for the current year up to date. Mount Lyells are firmer, and the sustained demand for these shares should also benefit Mount Reids, now quoted $1\frac{3}{8}$, this being a similar mine. Broken Hill and Mount Morgan are firmer. In Charters Towers shares, a slight improvement is shown in Day Dawn Blocks, but New Queen are lower. A sharp fall in New Chum (Bendigo) was also a feature. The satisfactory news contained in the circular issued by the London agents of the Croydon Consols Mine has had the effect of creating a considerable demand for these shares, which have improved to 5s. 6d. x.d.. Even this is an extremely moderate price for a dividend-paying mine, the last crushing from which

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

yielded 1,695 oz. of gold from 265 tons (or upwards of 6 oz. to the ton), being a fortnight's clean-up I repeat that if this were a West Australian or South African mine the shares would stand at double the present price. New Zealand Mines have moved irregularly, and while Waitekauri and Consolidated Goldfields are lower, there has been a recovery in Kapanga and Kathleen, and Taitapu Estates have risen ½. In the general Foreign Section, Montana and Golden Feather are lower, while Frontino and Bolivia have recovered. There is, however, a great absence of business in this department, which is neglected in favour of the South African and West Australian departments.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the past week :—

Mona Gold Mine, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire and work a gold mining lease, situate at Broad Arrow, Western Australia. The capital is £75,000 in £1 shares.

This mine is situated on the belt of the Broad Arrow. It is about twelve acres in extent, and several lodes traverse the property. It was originally brought under the notice of the Gold Lands Corporation by their special representative, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, C. E., whose good opinion upon the mine has been confirmed by other experts, and a large amount of development has already been done.

Seabrooke & Sons, Limited.—This is an issue of £50,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock at £102 per £100 stock secured on the freehold and other properties of the Company.

This Company was formed in 1891 to take over the Thurrock Brewery, Grays, with a capital of £90,000, divided into 3,000 Preference shares and 6,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each. The valuation of the freehold and leasehold properties is stated to be a trifle over that sum, and that of the loose plant, stock in trade, book debts, &c., at about £33,000. This, to my mind, does not offer a good security for a Debenture stock of this amount, as if this issue is placed the total capital of the Company will amount to £140,000, a very large amount for so small a concern.

Jeffs, Williams, & Curtis, Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £200,000 for the purpose of amalgamating several fish, poultry, and game businesses in London and elsewhere.

My readers had better carefully study this prospectus before going into this concern. Amalgamations have been rife lately, but this one will not, in my opinion, be of advantage to any one but those in the "swim." The price to be paid for the businesses is, to my mind, enormous, while the valuer's report is a most cautious one. The goodwill, for instance, is valued by one firm at £130,796 upon the report of another firm as to the profits. This is a fishing venture, and my readers will do well to keep out of the net.

The Prize Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and work a group of mines situate at Granite Butte, Deerlodge County, Montana, U.S.A. The capital is fixed at £150,000, in shares of £1 each.

The British public have paid for their experience in American Mines, but as there is now every opportunity of investing in dividend-paying African and West Australian Mines, which are proving highly remunerative, there is no longer any temptation to put the money in more or less doubtful Yankee ventures.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Investor, Edinboro'.—I am afraid that the best combination would not at present be able to induce the Honduras Government to do justice to the bondholders. It is a thoroughly dishonest Republic. The time will, however, no doubt come again when something can be achieved by united action. *Carlos.*—The new Uruguay Five per Cent. Loan now stands at 70, and is an excellent purchase. *Grey Cat.*—What you require is precisely so very difficult to find ; but I see no reason why you should not invest in Mauritius or Trinidad stocks.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

H. J. T.—You must tell me what kind of securities you wish to invest in, what yield you expect, and what amount of risk you are prepared to run. *B. M. L.*—You are dipping too far into antiquity ; I have no record of the matter. *Seiancia.*—If the transaction can be traced, and the broker is a member of the Stock Exchange, it would doubtless be put through on the special settlement ; but there are evidently cases in which complications would arise. *Bayley.*—I am sorry to hear that you have reason to be dissatisfied with the purchase of shares in the Brazilian Finance Association, and that you have never been able to receive certificates for the same. The only course you can take is to at once proceed energetically through your solicitor, which, in fact, you ought to have done long ago. *A. C., Mullingar.*—I cannot answer this question exactly in the terms in which you put it. The Company is second-class, but I should think it would last for the time stated. Still, in life assurance you require thorough security. *Rollo.*—As requested, I forward in your envelope the name of a smart firm of City solicitors. *J. W. B., Halifax.*—You will have seen that I specially dealt with the matter of F. Hemming Custance in last week's issue under "Various Investments."

Home Rails.

Erne.—I should not advise you to sell any of your Home Railway stocks Nos. 1 to 5, but to hold them for a further improvement.

American and Foreign Rails.

Pogmoor.—No option but to hold both of your American Railroad stocks Nos. 1 and 2 for a recovery. *Oxford.*—Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds should not be affected by the position in America, and ought certainly to be held as a good investment. *Reform.*—You had better hold your Gold bonds ; there is no cause for alarm.

Mining Shares.

S. H. S.—According to recent cablegrams, the reef has now been struck in the New Rand Mine, which is most important ; and you should certainly hold the shares. *S. W.*—A fair mining risk. *Alvie.*—For the investment of your £5,000 in W.A. Finance Companies, I should think that the following would be preferable :—W.A. Exploring and Finance, London and Globe Finance, West Australian Goldfields, Hampton Plains, W.A. Joint Stock Trust, New Explorers' Syndicate Ordinary shares, and Explorers' Finance Founders' shares. *C. A. S.*—No reason to sell these West Australian shares now. *A. McC.*—1. Hold these South African shares. 2. There is every prospect of a further improvement in Sheba ; hold. *C. W.*—Although several of your West Australian mining shares are not at all well selected, they had better be held for an improvement. I do not like Hannan's Sir John Forrest (3). On the other hand, Paddington Consols and Kalgoorlie Proprietary are your best shares. *Ignoramus, Maidenhead.*—I am delighted to hear that you made £800 on my advice in Lake View ; by holding further you would have made yet more. *Taggia.*—Randfontein have recovered now to 2¾, and you will remember that you must have received ¼ in bonus shares. You should certainly buy more to average. Kathleen is a New Zealand gold mine, but no catch. *North Stair.*—Although you have a large profit on your London and Globe Finance shares, you should hold these for a further rise. Certainly hold W. A. Share Corporation. *Flora J.*—I am sorry I cannot, as a matter of principle, recommend you a stockbroker. You ought to be able to obtain the address of a reliable stockbroker, a member of the Stock Exchange, through your bankers. Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 7, I like Nos. 2, 3 and 5 best. The others were not bought on my recommendation, and are but indifferent ; it may, however, be advisable to hold now. *Investor, Halifax.*—I am sure you cannot have bought Cassidy Hills on my recommendation. It is, however, turning out a fair mining property, although badly mismanaged. *M. M., Bolton.*—You cannot be a regular reader of Truth to ask my advice as to a purchase of British Chartered of South Africa. I say No ! *Loma Loma.*—Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 21, I like Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, and 18 best ; all these should certainly be held for a rise. It will also be advisable to keep the others, as a further improvement is probable. I do not like No. 14 at all. *Brickland.*—You should certainly hold Randfontein (A), Golden Cement Claims (D) ; and there is no reason to sell the other West Australians, which should go better. *Sordello.*—All your shares, Nos. 1 to 6, are well selected, and should be held for a rise. I have a very favourable opinion of Hampton Plains. *S. H. F., Cardiff.*—In the case of shares in which there was known to be a large "Bear" account you must expect to be held to the letter of the law, and, as far as I can see, the purchaser had a perfect right in having the shares bought in. *Golden Group.*—1. No, the Central Wealth of Nations does not appear to be properly managed ; if it were, the mine would be in a better position. 2. Doubtful. 3. I cannot tell. 4. Paddington Consols are likely to go much higher. 5. It seems to be a fair mining risk. 6. Yes. 7. No. *F. H., East Grinstead.*—A very fair mining risk ; but it would be preferable to put the money into half a dozen of the mining shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Otto K.*—I do not think much of United Bulfontein,

and advise you to avail yourself of an opportunity to get out. *Victor.*—No; I do not like the Friendship Mine, and have already said so. *W. A., Fal.*—I have returned the report. I suppose that the only way is to agree to the proposal, and sell after. *Springfield.*—Prospects of South African mines are much improved, and you should certainly hold your shares Nos. 1 to 3. No reason to sell No. 4 either. *Potatoe.*—You are quite right to average Langlaagte Star (1). Langlaagte Block B, Buffelsdoorn, and Central Boulders are also promising. *H. N., Clifton.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are fair mining risks, and should be held. *Devonian.*—1. Hold for a further improvement, and then clear your handsome profit. 2. The other West Australian shares should be held. *West Cliff.*—Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand are high enough. *Anchises.*—No reason to sell your Mining shares Nos. 1 to 4. *Ernest.*—The Gladiator Mine is very promising, and a rise in the shares is expected. *Lord.*—Great Fingall Reefs have declined owing to the fact that the reefs have pinched out, and the question is now whether they will find them again. *H. L. C.*—1. Hold the shares. 2. I do not care for Nigel Extension; sell on a recovery. *C. C.*—You should hold your Mining shares for a rise. *Honest Dick.*—Have nothing to do with this outside concern; deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. Your selection Nos. 1 to 11 is distinctly promising, and might be recommended to other investors in the South African market; I therefore repeat it. It is as follows:—Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Banks, Barnato Consols, New Primrose, Langlaagte Estate, Langlaagte Star, Glencairn, Buffelsdoorn, Lydenburg Estates, Lydenburg Goldfields, and Modderfontein B. *H. K.*—I do not care for Pestarena; but the other shares should be held. *Marian.*—1. You had better average your West Boulder shares; the mine is promising. 2. I do not like Aurora United. *Enquirens.*—It is quite correct that the rights in the Randfontein have not yet been settled. They will be settled in about a month's time, when you should receive them through your broker. *Vital Spark.*—These W.A. shares should improve again; hold, but you ought in such cases to be able to take the shares up if necessary, and not go beyond your depth. *Essex.*—I do not like the Pelaez Silver Mines, and am surprised that you have taken shares in it. You should try to get out of it, if you can. The documents are returned. *Esperance.*—You should hold Golden River Quesnelle. They are likely to improve when matters become more active; but there is very little market in them at present. *Gateshead.*—Hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 5 for the present. *C. S.*—Hannan's Napier are promising, and should be held for an improvement. *Princess Royal.*—The market just now is dull all round. If you wait you will get a better price. *Cymro.*—1. How can I answer this question? 2. Yes; I still think favourably of Randfontein Estates. *Ben. A.*—1. I cannot recommend you a stockbroker; but you ought to be able to procure the name of a member of the Stock Exchange through your bankers. 2. Yes; Barnato Consols are a good purchase. 3. You can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. 4. Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group are certainly preferable. *Hope Deferred.*—The London and Globe Finance Company (A) is most promising, and you should hold for a further important advance. B. A fair mining risk, but no catch. *Ignoramus, Chester-square.*—I do not like Doric Gold Mines, and have already said so. Neither have I a favourable opinion of the Western Witwatersrand Exploration Company. What is the good of your buying shares first, and asking my advice afterwards? *E. C., Colchester,*—You should hold the West Australian shares, they are likely to improve again. *Samaritan.*—1. The London and Globe Finance Company has good prospects. 2. I certainly would not exchange into these. 3. The Coromandel gold mine is likely to go ahead. *J. P., St. Martin's-lane.*—I am very pleased to hear that you bought 2,000 Croydon Consols on my advice at 4s. 6d., the quotation having risen very considerably. This is a splendid mine, and the shares are likely to go much better. You should write to the London agents, and make every inquiry about the other points mentioned by you. *A. W., Newry, and J. C. B., London, E.C.*—I note that you wish to join a combination of shareholders in the Umtoli Gold Reefs. As soon as some of the large holders have agreed to take the matter in hand, I will place you in communication with them. *A. M. B. R., Birkenhead; Mrs. Newington; and P. B., Tuam.*—I have already stated my views regarding the Abercorn Reefs in last week's issue. You should combine with other shareholders to turn the present Directors out.

Industrial Shares.

Down.—No, I see no reason for selling these American Brewery shares now. *Soda.*—The Lagunas Nitrate Company is working into a better position with the change of Directors, and you should hold the shares. *F. W. C.*—1. No reason to sell the Telegraph shares. 2. Yes. *Hampshire.*—1. No reason for selling these Brewery shares. 2. No particular temptation to buy these. *Speculator, Ashbourne.*—I do not think much of these music-hall shares. *Quandary.*—1. You start with a supposition which is not likely to be fulfilled; but in any case the dividends would not be taken away from the shareholders. 2. Hold. 3. I cannot tell you yet. *Radbourne.*—I do not think much of the Howe Sewing-machine and Cycle Company. *Paccha.*—If you wish to buy these Nitrate shares as a lock-up, they may come all right; but it would be preferable to await further developments. You must know that there is a lawsuit between the Lagunas Nitrate Company and the Lagunas Syndicate. *J. F.*—1. You should certainly cancel your application for T. H. Brinsmead & Co., Limited, and get your money back.

Mixed Investments.

Dilemma.—What you require is very difficult to find, and I should advise you rather to invest in high-class securities, and be satisfied with 3 per cent. Or you might buy Brighton "A," which yield 3¾ per cent. at present price. *F. U.*—Amongst the shares Nos. 1 to 8, I do not see any temptation to buy any, least of all Sam's Wealth of Nations. You can do much better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *S. C.*—1. Why did you buy North Coolgardie shares? I never advised their purchase, and do not like their prospects. 2. I do not like the Margarine shares. No reason to sell No. 3. *Norway.*—I do not like New Beeston Cycles (1), but Hannan's Golden Group (4) are very promising, while Nos. 2 and 3 are fair mining risks. *Tokio.*—Very speculative; you should take an opportunity to get out—the surroundings are doubtful. *J. M. R., Paddington.*—Yes; a fair investment. *Larry, Cahill.*—Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 11, I like Nos. 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10 best. No. 1 is rather speculative, No. 5 (Golden Cliffs) is not very promising, and I do not like Simpson's Lever Chains (11) at all. *Cucaracha.*—Hold for the present. *Joe.*—You should certainly hold your South Africans. Realise the Cycle shares when a good opportunity offers. *Marmaduke.*—Argentine Northern Central bonds should be held. I do not like the Chili Gold Development Syndicate. *Simplex.*—The Company appears to be a promising finance undertaking. With reference to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé, it seems to be a great pity that you have not given your attention to the numerous advertisements which have appeared in the papers. I do not see how you can escape the fine. The documents are returned in your envelope. *L.P.C.*—1. The Directors of the Union Bank of Australia have acted very straightforwardly and conservatively, and there is every prospect of the shares improving again. 2. Hold your old Uruguay bonds. *Lakeview.*—1. Coats' shares seem to be quite high enough. 2. I have never been in favour of these shares, and you will probably do well to sell on an improvement. 3. A fair mining risk. 4. Certainly hold Barnato Banks for a big rise. *A. C.*—Your shares Nos. 1 to 14 are upon the whole well selected, and I see no reason for selling any. As regards the second-class investment you require, would not the Uruguay Five per Cent. loan suit you? *Oswald.*—I think you will be quite right in realising your £2,500 Spanish Fours, and reinvesting in Uruguay, Glencairn, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, and London and Globe Finance. *Spec.*—1. South Africans generally are bound for higher prices, and you had better hold for a recovery. 2. As you do not approve of French Dunlops you had better not buy them; my view of the business is very favourable. *Clarendon.*—You should not sell any of your South African mining shares now, as the market looks like going much better. The other shares, too, had better be held. The exchange from the Chinese Gold loan into Uruguay bonds appears to be promising. The new Five per Cent. Uruguay loan is now quoted officially at 70, and is secured on the Uruguayan Customs receipts. *Oakhurst.*—After the heavy fall, it would be preferable to hold your American investments Nos. 1 to 9. *Pete.*—Under the present circumstances the South African market is likely to go much higher, and you should hold your shares Nos. 1 to 6 for an improvement. No reason to sell Nos. 7 and 8 now, and you should certainly hold Coras (9) and North British Deferred (10). *A. S. B.*—1. One of these days. 2. No option but to hold; and you should also keep Nos. 3 to 7 for the present. *Solway.*—No reason for selling the shares Nos. 1 and 2; both ought to improve now, although No. 1 is certainly not one of my tips. *Parrhesia.*—1. No risk in holding for the present. 2. Why not realise your handsome profit. 3. Your view coincides with mine, viz.—that a boom in South African shares is within measurable distance. I am afraid that I cannot give another tip such as Glencairns when they were from 5s. to 7s. You will find, however, that I have mentioned under the "Kaffir Circus" a number of South African shares worth buying, and as a cheap share with great promise I may mention Transvaal Exploring at 1. 4. My opinion of Lady Loch is favourable. *Perplexed, Bournemouth.*—1. Fair prospects of an improvement. All your South African shares Nos. 2 to 16 should now be held for a rise, as matters at present look much brighter as regards the "Kaffir Circus." You know how unfavourable my view has always been of No. 7; but Nos. 8 and 9 had better be held. *N. W.*—1. The Northern Transvaal Railway will be constructed very shortly, everything in connection with it having been arranged. 2. Langlaagte Royal will also come right again. 3. Yes. 4. The *Financial News.* *G. M.*—I should say that, under the circumstances, Chilian bonds would be most suitable for you. *Ceres.*—1. There is no doubt that the interest on the Four Per Cent. Debenture Stock of the Grand Trunk will be paid this time. 2. I should think that it will be preferable to hold the Brewery shares, but not to buy any more just yet.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

Various Investments.

Rates of money have eased off again, and with the disbursement of the various Railway dividends quite an easy tone has been created. The surplus funds to be invested are still large, and although some hardening of rates may be looked for in the autumn, money may be expected to remain cheap for some time to come. High-class investments have upon the whole been well supported, and a distinct recovery has taken place in Consols to 113⅜, which was due partly to the lower rates in the Money Market, and also to the improved political outlook and the less panicky condition of the American department. It does not say much for the faith of our American cousins in the triumph of silver that they should be so anxious to get rid of the metal as to offer it in large quantities, with the result that a further decline of ⅜d. has been caused to 30⅞d. The steadiness of Rupee Paper, on the other hand, continues, and is chiefly due to the improvement in Indian finances. At the meeting of the Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust, Limited, very favourable statements were made, and the Ordinary shares are firmer at 6 x.d. Considering that these shares are in receipt of a dividend of 7 per cent. per annum, they are still an excellent purchase for permanent investment, the more so as a large surplus has been earned, which has not been divided. Home Brewery shares have been steady, Allsopps remaining at about 180. Nitrate Rails have again fallen to 5⅞, there being a good deal of nervousness as regards the coming competition; yet I cannot help thinking that this decline is overdone, and in any case the relapse in the Debentures is not justified. The shares in Nitrate-producing Companies are dull, although nitrate of soda is firmer. San Jorge is quoted 5¼, Santa Rita 3¾, Lagunas Nitrate 2, Lagunas Syndicate 1¾. Hardly any business has been transacted in Cycle shares, and prices have been sagging, with the exception of Dunlop Deferred, which remain at ⅝ premium. Beestons have fallen heavily to 3, at which readers of TRUTH will not be surprised. Amongst the shares likely to improve in the near future are Cycle Tubes now quoted 1⅛. A long-delayed judgment in the action of the North British Rubber Company to restrain the Gormally and Jeffery Manufacturing Company (an American firm having large business places at Coventry) for an infringement of a patent taken out by Mr. Bartlett for an improvement in pneumatic tyres (the Clincher patent), has at last been delivered by Mr. Justice North. He granted an injunction restraining the defendants, during the continuance of Bartlett's Patent of 1890, from manufacturing, or in any other way dealing with, anything that is included in the complete specification. The defendants have to pay the costs of the action, and render a profit-account. I hear that the London Distillery and Yeast Company are finding a ready and increasing sale for their yeast and spirits. The shares at about par, and especially the Five per Cent. Debentures, at 105-106, should be worthy of the attention of investors. I have several times referred to the circulars sent out by Frank Tarrant & Co., stock and share dealers, 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., in which they invite participation in "their special deals"; and I have explained how these syndicate-touts are boasting that their "deals" are invariably successful. As late as June 20 they boasted of having closed their "Allsopp's Special Joint Deal" at "the truly magnificent profit of £125 net on every £30 subscribed." A correspondent who sent £10 to this firm on June 21, and who received on July 18 a circular in which one more great success was announced, "Messrs. Tarrant & Co.'s Midland special deal having been closed at a profit of £114 on every £30 subscribed," then wrote to that firm asking for his share in that deal; but received an intimation that he was interested in the "Lake Shore deal," and has not received any profit. Neither has his subscription been returned, although Frank Tarrant & Co. in their circulars "undertake to guarantee subscribers against any loss." I should like to know what Frank Tarrant & Co. have to say to this? Another prophet has arisen under the name of Kynaston, Son, & Co., at 114, Fenchurch-street, E.C. This firm calls its deals "Kynaston's Accumulative System"; but the "system" consists of nothing but the ordinary syndicate-touting practice; although a redeeming point about their circulars is that they mention "that this is a speculation, so that it cannot be altogether devoid of risk."—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

A LITERARY LEGACY.

THE will, as it appeared in a daily paper, after stating the extent of the personalty and mentioning a few trifling legacies, ran as follows:—

> To my son John I leave the sum of £250, to be expended in the publication of a memoir of my public and private life. Having implicit confidence in his filial love and discretion, I desire him to write that life himself, and to base the record entirely upon such letters and documents as he shall select from the large packet, labelled A, which is lying, tied and sealed, at my solicitors, Messrs. Parker & Sons; and which is not to be opened until three years after my decease. The publication of any private letter or public document shall lie absolutely in his discretion. The rest of my personalty, after payment of my just debts and funeral expenses, I leave absolutely to my said son John.

Jack Harford laid the paper down on the ink-stained writing table in his chambers, and with a dolorous little laugh muttered to himself: "Well, now that every one in London has seen the will, so far as my social life is concerned, I might as well be a cave-dweller in the Desert of Gobi."

This was certainly a cynical reflection upon the will of his famous father, the more so as the document was, on the face of it, a monument of paternal affection. It was, however, to the prefatory statement of the Somerset House authorities as to the extent of the personalty, rather than to the disposition thereof, that the remark applied. And, indeed, Jack Harford was not wrong when he assumed that the public conscience would be shocked at the will of a Cabinet Minister being proved for a less sum than £7,000, and that society would vindicate its sense of propriety by discreetly ignoring a son who was unable to excite a ten-figure affection in the heart of an indulgent father.

The Right Hon. John Harford, late Secretary of State for Public Industries, and the testator in question, was a man who had lived in the public eye from his youth upwards. Being well born, handsome, talented, endowed with the most charming manners and a comfortable income, he had early embarked in politics, and having held several under-secretaryships had in the fulness of time obtained Cabinet rank and a lucrative office. His wife died soon after his son Jack was born. He never married again, but gossip said he was not without his consolations. But whatever may have been his private life, the most exacting critic could not but commend the way he brought up the lad, to whom he was passionately attached.

Jack was sent to Eton, where he occupied a creditable position in the sixth, and thence to Christ Church, where a handsome allowance enabled him to hold his own with the best. A second in "greats" proved that the example of his father's life, and the privilege of associating with the most intellectual men in England, had not been wasted. And the lad had, after two years' pupilage in "chambers," just been called to the Bar when his father, at the early age of fifty-seven, paid the debt of nature. This, alas, poor Jack Harford soon discovered was about the only liability the gifted statesman did succeed in meeting. His private affairs had long been in the most hopeless confusion; and, as his house in Charles-street was merely rented, and his realty limited to fortuitous accretions on his shooting boots, it was scarcely surprising that the residue of his once handsome patrimony fell far short of the figure at which the world had prematurely fixed Jack Harford's expectations.

This disparity between hope and realisation at first

affected Jack but little. He loved his father, who to him was the ideal of manhood. His poverty proved the incorruptibility of his father's public life. To use the quaint Albanian proverb, "Though handling honey he had not licked his fingers." He knew that his father had given him the most liberal education obtainable, and had placed him in a profession which, though he had himself regarded it as a mere ante-room to politics, none the less offered him a career. He knew, moreover, that it was only by lavish expenditure that his father could have held his position in that charming society in which Jack had been brought up from childhood, and which he was fain to regard as a more important factor in his education than either school or college. And so he felt, after all he had enjoyed the training of a gentleman—had enough for the bare necessities of life, and, thanks to his father, possessed many influential friends who, he little doubted, would be kind to him in the hour of adversity.

It was not long before Jack realised that this last pious hope might be of that deferred character which, according to the Psalmist, turneth the heart sick. On returning from the funeral, an old friend and colleague of his father's implored him with much emotion to cherish not only his father's memory, but a certain bin of red-sealed claret which, so he said, was worth 200 shillings a dozen. On discovering the true state of his affairs, Jack wrote a polite note to his venerable friend, explaining his financial position, and offering him the claret at the price named. He received no reply. The next day the old gentleman passed him in Pall Mall with a curt nod. Nor was this the only instance of the world's fickleness.

The one woman whom he had known intimately all his life was Lady Cardew, the wife of his father's colleague, Lord Cardew. Though she was an essentially worldly woman, she had always kept a tender spot in her battered heart for the motherless boy. To the Right Hon. John Harford, Lady Cardew was the model of the *Grande dame de pas le monde.* In all social matters he deferred to her as the infallible arbiter, and when, a few years back, Lord Cardew died, rumour was pleased to regard Mr. John Harford as his probable successor. Though this prophecy remained unfulfilled, that gentleman was wont to impress upon Jack that Lady Cardew was the type of woman a man could marry as well as love, little thinking that Jack had formed a somewhat similar opinion by falling in love with his life-long playfellow, Nelly Cardew, who was in person the very reflex of her handsome mother. Lady Cardew's keen eyes were more discerning, but, as she liked Jack, and had little doubt he had a career before him, she gave the intimacy the negative encouragement of non-opposition. When John Harford died, she sent a wreath like a cartwheel, and a little note to Jack, telling him that he must regard her as a mother. Nevertheless, when he visited her after his first interview with the family solicitors, and confided to her the nature of his financial prospects, she firmly, but plainly, intimated that the words "in-law" could not be appended to the proferred relationship. In short, she gave him to clearly understand that while her personal opinion of him was unchanged, their own precarious position necessitated a good marriage for Nelly, and as Mr. Swynfen Hart, the South African millionaire, was calling with significant regularity, she must ask him to be generous, and not impair Nelly's chances by any compromising attentions.

Under these circumstances, Jack Harford's pessimism was not unnatural. Having thrown aside the paper, he knocked the ashes out of his pipe, brushed his hat, and sallied forth for his mid-day chop at Black's Club, to which aristocratic society he had, thanks to his father's influence, been recently elected. He determined to brave the neglect of the timeservers, knowing well that he himself had done nothing to be ashamed of.

He had scarcely turned into Pall Mall, when, lo! thirty yards ahead, whom should he see coming towards him on the same side of the street but Lord Linden, the friend whose solicitude for the red-seal claret had been so touching. Jack Harford contracted his brow, compressed his lips, and, staring into vacancy, endeavoured to pass him. But this proved an impossibility, for, with a beaming smile and outstretched hand, Lord Linden stopped him.

"My dear boy, delighted to see you. I've just been writing to you from 'Black's' about that claret you mentioned. I really was so overstocked, I couldn't let you know before. I've sold a couple of bins full of sherry to my brother, and I'll take the lot, at your price, my good fellow, at your price. What did we say, 200s. a dozen? Well, well, let us say 240s. That's an outside price, and I venture to think you won't get it elsewhere. Oh don't thank me," he continued, as the astonished and penitent Jack was pouring out his gratitude to the man he had so grievously misjudged. "You must give me the privilege of an old friend of your dear father's—what a charming man he was—and—er—by the way, I see in to-day's papers he desired you to write something in the way of a memoir. I suppose he left a good deal of material, eh?"

"To judge from the size of the packet," said Jack, "he must have kept every scrap of correspondence for the last thirty years."

"Ticklish things, letters, Jack. A good many are devilish compromising unless one knows the circumstances under which they were written. I think if I were you—of course I speak as an old friend—I shouldn't publish too many that deal with politics; letters from colleagues and the like. Lets the public too much behind the scenes. Perhaps I could help you a bit in the selection, you know. You see a public man understands these little things. Don't hesitate to ask me if I can be of any use."

"Thank you very much, Lord Lindon; but, to speak frankly, I think I ought to go through the correspondence myself. You see my father leaves the whole thing to my absolute discretion, and clearly never contemplated my seeking extraneous advice. Thanks all the same."

"Humph," ejaculated his lordship, with an expression on his face that was not quite amiable; but after a moment's thought he brightened up. "Well, perhaps you're right. Now, what are you going to do this Long Vacation—yachting, I suppose, as usual."

Jack intimated that owing to very obvious reasons his nautical excursions would have for the future to be restricted to the deck of a penny steamer from the Temple pier.

"Then," said Lord Linden, with much fervour, "you must come to my shooting-box in Scotland on the 12th, and stay three weeks and get the cream of the shooting. I insist upon it, and I shouldn't be surprised if a charming young lady was staying at the lodge to keep my daughter company. Well, good-bye; send the claret and put nails into your shooting boots on the 11th."

Jack went his way rejoicing but mystified. Nor did his good fortune end there. Scarcely had he finished his post-prandial pipe in the smoking room when he felt a heavy hand on his shoulder, and on looking up saw Robert Ross looking down upon him with a kindly smile. Mr. Robert Ross was an M.P. on the same side of the House as his father. He was a most intimate friend of the deceased statesman, but had for many years neglected politics for finance. He was a burly, outspoken man, whose keen, quick brain manifested itself in speech rather more than is the case with most of his kind. With him, however, speech had proved as golden as the proverbial silence.

"Well, Jack, old fellow, I saw your poor old Governor's will this morning, and I am sorry he didn't cut up better. It was the failure of that infernal Transcarpathian Loan that did it. It hurt me, but it broke him."

"Indeed," said Jack. "I know nothing about any loan. What do you mean?"

"Oh, nothing," said the financier quickly, as he read Jack's ignorance at a glance. "Well you must make a bit on this Life your father wished you to write. And take my tip—burn any reference to your father's little efforts in the financial way. Every one does it you know, but the world is so infernally censorious about other people's little failings."

THE SANITARY ENGINEERING CO. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

"I'm sure," retorted Jack hotly, "my father never did anything to be ashamed of, and I shall place his life before the world exactly as he lived it."

"Oh, of course," said Mr. Ross with a grim smile, "very proper feeling Jack, and all that, but still I thought you wouldn't resent the advice of an old friend of your father's. And now," he added, after a pause during which he looked at Jack with a quizzical expression "how are you going to live in the meantime?—a lad with your bringing up can't live on £250 a year. Can I help you. I could get you a billet in the City if you'd like, but I'm always chary of advising a lad with a limited capital to go east of St. Paul's. No money, or a lot, is what you should have for the City swim."

"You're very good, Mr. Ross, but I don't much relish the idea of finance; besides, my legal education would be wasted. No, if you really want to help me you might introduce me to a solicitor or two. I've only recently been called to the Bar, but I have been two years in chambers, and think I could do the work all right—that is, if you happen to know any solicitors."

"Happen to know any solicitors!" echoed Mr. Ross. "Why, my dear fellow, our office keeps at least one member of a big firm in constant work. What with disputes upon concessions, injunctions against rivals, and actions for the enforcement of contracts, finance and litigation are convertible terms. I'll speak to the Rummingtons this afternoon. Good-bye, Jack! Always remember I am your friend"—and he added significantly—"a friend in my position is a valuable acquisition to a young man. Good friends should not be lightly lost."

Later on Jack thought a good deal about this aphorism, and certainly a good friend Robert Ross proved, for the very next morning a clerk from Messrs. Rummington left a bundle of papers, whereon "Mr. Harford, of 4, Flag-court, was requested to advise." This proved to be the advanced guard of a comfortable troop of other papers—opinions, investigation of titles, and even briefs. Thus, within a few months of his "call," Jack got the start for which so many other young men of the highest attainments have to wait for years.

The editor, too, of a great paper, with whom the late John Harford was intimately acquainted, and to whom Jack, in fear and trembling, sent an article, not only accepted the same but requested an interview, and proved altogether most gracious. He reminded Jack of his father's services to their party, referred lightly to the projected memoir, and having suggested to Jack certain literary work which he could easily contribute in his spare time, reminded him of the loyalty and discretion that all great journals expected at the hands of those they regularly employed.

Thus was it that young Harford found the world far less unkind than he anticipated, and though he was poor in worldly goods, he had before him an honourable career, and above all—hope.

He occasionally saw Nelly in the park. She was invariably shadowed by the assiduous millionaire; so apart from a few words on general topics, he certainly kept his word to Lady Cardew, and did nothing to impair the young lady's matrimonial prospects. This made it the more curious that, before the season was over, he received a note from Lady Cardew telling him that she never, of course, intended him to cease visiting the house entirely, and that really there was no reason why he shouldn't come occasionally. She added she would be at home on Sunday afternoon. Accordingly on Sunday afternoon he presented himself in Sloane-street. As he traversed the hall he passed Mr. Swynfen Hart, who looked crestfallen. Lady Cardew rose and welcomed Jack with a sad little smile. "Nelly is upstairs, Jack; she has just given Mr. Hart his congé. I can't blame her, poor child, for he was a vulgar little person; and I must say, Jack, you've behaved very well. Oh, Jack, I do wish your father had left you more."

"My father was too generous a man, Lady Cardew, to leave much," replied Jack warmly, and quite unconsciously his eye fell upon a handsome diamond bracelet Lady Cardew had worn continuously since her husband's death. She turned scarlet and gave a frightened look at Jack's face, but gathering from his expression that his words were entirely devoid of a personal application, she gave a little sigh of relief and replied: "Yes, Jack, he was certainly very kind, and no doubt when you write this Life every one's talking about, you will draw attention to it. But Jack, dear, you'll have to be *very* careful. I should confine the memoirs entirely to your father's political life."

"'Pon my word," cried Jack Harford, "this is extraordinary. Not a friend of my father's have I met but makes some reference to this memoir, and forthwith proffers advice. But as every one's advice is different, I must, after all, judge entirely for myself, as my father intended. I shall go steadily through the whole package of papers, select those most interesting, and write the Life upon them."

"Are there many letters?" said Lady Cardew, with a little tremor in her voice.

"Thousands! from the size of the package."

"But surely you will never read his private correspondence?" inquired Lady Cardew, with a tentative little gasp.

"Why not? My father was a high-minded and honourable man, a man of blameless life. Nothing, I am sure, will be found of a compromising character, so I shall act as my father desired—read every letter; and should there be any matter the public should not know, I will exclude it. Besides, my solicitor tells me, so long as I spend the stated sum in publication, there's nothing in the will to prevent my limiting the work entirely for private circulation."

"Let's see, Jack, there'll be nearly three years to run. Well," observed Lady Cardew, sententiously, "a good deal may happen in three years' time. You'll stay to dinner, Jack. Nelly will have got over the agitation caused by her interview with Mr. Hart, and she'd like to see you, Jack, I know."

Jack did stay to dinner, and learnt that Nelly was the particular young lady to whom Lord Linden had slyly alluded as a probable guest at his shooting-lodge. And when dinner was over, he told Lady Cardew privately that he had also been invited, but that if she desired he would make an excuse and stay away. To his delight and astonishment Lady Cardew offered no objection, but merely suggested he should not be precipitate.

So all the stars in their courses seemed to fight for the fortunate young man. And when he returned to the Temple after the Long Vacation, if he was not actually the accepted suitor of the charming Miss Helen Cardew, there was none the less an understanding between them—namely, that if Jack could, in three years' time, raise an income of a thousand a year, he could marry Nelly with Lady Cardew's full consent.

Two years passed away, in which Jack's income, term by term, gradually approximated the allotted standard. The case of Ross *v.* Contango & Co., which Jack steered through all its vicissitudes, from skirmishing in a Master's Chambers to ultimate victory in the House of Lords, gave him a splendid advertisement. The briefs came trooping gaily from several well-known firms, and his literary earnings also increased comfortably.

Nor was his success limited to his profession and the press. His father's many friends looked upon the young man with favour. He became an accepted member of that charming society wherein he was bred. Invitations showered upon him; the best shooting was his, at no greater cost than a tip to the head-keeper. The best horse in many a friend's stable enabled him to hold his own with the Quorn or Pytchley. His handsome, merry face was welcome everywhere. Happy youth! Moreover, the cap of Fortunatus grew only the more bounteous as the three years' embargo on the mystic package, labelled "A," approached its completion. In the meanwhile, Society awaited, with daily increasing curiosity, the opening of the afore-mentioned package, and the publication of a volume which, for gossip and piquancy, ought easily to have distanced the "Greville Memoirs." For once Society was doomed to disappointment. A very few weeks after the opening of the packet the volume did appear, it was

true. But it was circulated privately, so privately indeed, that the edition was limited strictly to fifty copies, each of which were duly presented to one or other of his father's intimate friends. Whether Jack's "art" was long there was no chance of judging, for his father's "Life" was commendably short. Nor did the volume itself fulfil anticipation. Though so exquisitely bound that the bulk of the £250 was swallowed up in the glories of morocco leather and elaborate tooling, the book itself was as attenuated as the heart "bleatings" of a modern minor poet. Most of the chapters, in short, bore a striking resemblance to that famous chapter on snakes in Iceland which excited Dr. Johnson's merriment. For after giving a very bald recital of his father's birth and education, Jack went on as follows:—

Chapter II.—Politics.

The Right Hon. John Harford enjoyed the esteem of all his opponents and of those colleagues who looked to him as a means of their own advancement. As, however, most of the latter have been conspicuously kind to the present writer, and one especially has given him the best shooting in Scotland, he feels it only right to maintain a discreet silence as to the late statesman's relations with his political friends.

Chapter III.—The City.

It has been hinted in inspired circles that Mr. Harford occasionally dabbled in finance, and, like most honourable men, lost thereby. From one gentleman alone could information be obtained as to the truth of the rumour; but, as the biographer owes his whole professional success to that gentleman's kind offices, he feels he would ill requite his generosity by dragging his name into vulgar publicity.

Chapter IV. Journalism.

No doubt Mr. Harford was, during his long career, connected indirectly with one famous organ. As his son has been for some time honourably attached to that paper, he is precluded by the ethics of his calling from disclosing its name, or touching more fully on so delicate a subject.

Chapter V.—The Salon.

After his wife's death Mr. Harford sought to forget his bitter bereavement in the witty and polished life of Mayfair, wherein he shone above all men. Nevertheless, for the last twenty years only one person can be said to have influenced his life. As that lady is the embodiment of all that is charming and womanly, sent the largest wreath to his funeral, and has always regarded me as her son, to disclose her identity would be a vulgar impertinence.

There were a few other chapters dealing with the "Turf," "Clubs," and "The Drama;" but as they imparted no more information (lest the susceptibilities of some friend or another might be hurt) it could scarcely be said that Society was the richer for the volume.

But one member of Society was distinctly the richer, and it need scarcely be added that member was Jack Harford himself. Every friend who received the volume blessed the charity and discretion the youth had displayed. Their gratitude possibly was little else than the "lively sense of favours to come," for the letters, so far as they knew, were still in existence and might be utilised in the future. So the publication of this abortive little work did not check their flow of hospitality. On the contrary it rather stimulated it. Jack is still junior in all Mr. Ross's litigations. Lord Linden still asks him to Bencloigh on the 12th, and with him the Hon. Mrs. Jack, for it is needless to say Lady Cardew was so elated at Jack's touching reference to "the charming lady", and his generosity in leaving her identity veiled, that she insisted on the wedding taking place, and pinches herself sorely to give Nelly a sufficiency of pin money.

So, after all, Jack's literary legacy turned out very valuable.

It may be doubted whether it would have turned out so valuable had his many entertainers known that when Jack, with beating heart, opened the "sealed package labelled A," he found therein nought but many obsolete blue books, three months' file of the *Times*, the contents of the waste-paper basket in the Industrial office for a week, and on the top of all the following note in his father's well-known handwriting:—

"My dear Son,—As an actual fact, I have never kept a letter in my life; but do not be disappointed, for unless my knowledge of human nature be sadly mistaken, you will by this time be accepted in Society, with many friends both rich and powerful. Possibly you may even have attained a creditable position either in your profession or in public life. I hope so; at all events, you will have learnt early in life to appreciate La Rochefoucauld's cynical maxim, 'We promise according to our hopes; we perform according to our *fears*.'"

MUSIC.

SUNDAY AND OTHER MUSIC LICENSING.

THE London County Council, in their annual report just issued, again regret their inability to grant occasional musical licences, or licences at all at any other time of the year than November. Most sensible people will share this regret. The Middlesex County Council, who have jurisdiction over riverside and rural districts in this county, possess the power, but the London County Council have not. Was there ever anything more absurd? And the result is that the Act of Parliament has become almost a dead letter. The Commissioner of Police has lately drawn attention to the very great number of places where musical and other entertainments are held without any sort of licence. Performances which, if the buildings themselves were safe against fire or panic, would be blameless, are held every week and in increasing numbers in school-rooms and mission halls; while during the fashionable season benefit concerts, for which tickets are freely sold in Bond-street, take place almost every afternoon in the drawing-rooms of ladies of the aristocracy. Last year one of these unlicensed, and therefore utterly illegal, concerts took place in the drawing-room of one of the Judges of the High Court. His lordship, when he next morning read in the papers an account of what her ladyship had been up to, must have raised a prayer against the intervention of the Common Informer. Yet the County Council admit that the Rev. Mr. Blank, of the Mission Hall, and Lady Dash, of the drawing-room benefit concert, would willingly take out an "occasional" licence if the law enabled them to do so.

Indeed, at present they are quite at the mercy of an informer, and unkind remarks have once more been made that their reverences and their ladyships are spared; whereas a publican, who in a poor neighbourhood gives a sing-song for a "friendly lead" in his bar parlour is prosecuted and fined. The County Council has, it seems, the right to grant occasional licences for stage plays, although the lady editor who recently gave a representation of Mascagni's "Zanetto" in her drawing-room, is probably unaware of it. But the Council cannot grant occasional licences for music, and the wit of man is powerless to say why not. Had they a discretion in the matter, they would certainly licence school-rooms and similar places, but only when sufficient exits prevented danger to life and limb. As to concerts in private houses, it is impossible to licence them at all under the present law. Imagine the feelings of a lady who found it necessary to paint in "large capital letters" over her front door, "Licensed pursuant to Act of Parliament of the 25th of King George the Second." This Act of his Hanoverian Majesty was, according to the preamble, passed chiefly to stop the "advertising a reward, with no questions asked, for the return of things which have been lost or stolen." The "large capital letters" painted over her ladyship's door, or at St. James's or Queen's Hall, are, in fact, by the blessed 25th of George II., intended as a warning against "thefts and robberies," and a hint to button up the pockets. But the warning is now quite out of date. The

only robbery in a latter-day concert hall is the price of admission to an entertainment possibly not worth a tenth of the money.

Sunday licensing is in quite as chaotic a state, and the report of the House of Lords' Committee recommending that matters should be left as they are, is a self-evident piece of absurdity. The lawyers themselves differ as to the correct reading of the Act of 1781. Lord James, two years ago, gave a written opinion that providing the public were admitted to all parts of the house—not to a few places in the back row of the gallery, but to all parts of the house—gratis, a charge could legally be made for programmes and seats. Sir Richard Webster, on the same date, was of a wholly contrary opinion; apparently considering that under the Act of 1781 a performance of the "Messiah" on Sunday evening converted the Royal Albert Hall into a "disorderly house." As a matter of fact, at the Albert Hall people are admitted to all parts of the house without payment, but as they cannot sit down without paying for seats, and as they are, of course, not permitted to endanger the audience by lounging about the gangways, the free admission does not amount to much. The whole of the gallery, which holds about five thousand people, is, however, entirely set apart for those who like music on Sunday, but have conscientious objections to paying for it. At Queen's Hall, on the contrary, both at Mr. Newman's concerts and the Sunday League, tickets are openly sold at the box office, the prohibition (21 George III., cap. 49) against admission "by payment of money or by tickets sold for money" being candidly, and I hope legitimately, ignored. It is doubtful whether Mr. Newman, as manager of the Hall, is not thereby at the mercy of a Common Informer. It would be a crying shame if he were; but, if not, it certainly seems a gross absurdity that an illegal performance is made legal by the simple process of admitting a few parsimonious people gratuitously to the back seats. What possible harm a Sunday evening performance of an oratorio can do to the morals, the health, or the character of an Englishman, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Winchester, and other lights of the Lords' Committee omit to explain. How a proceeding can be bettered by admitting a few people without payment they also leave to the imagination. And yet we are sometimes surprised that the intelligent foreigner refers to the English as a nation of hypocrites.

Appended to the report, by the way, is a memorial signed by Mr. Chirgwin, Mr. Jolly John Nash, Mr. Charles Coborn, Mr. Herbert Campbell, Mr. Victor Stevens, Mr. Lonnen, and others, expressing a hope that the law against the Sunday opening of amusements "for money payment" may be upheld. I dare say I shall not be far wrong in supposing that the anxiety of the memorialists in regard to "money payment" has some oblique reference to the fear of a seven day week at the salary of a six day week. Indeed, a good deal of the opposition to a rational Sunday doubtless springs from a very natural objection to an extra day without pay. I am bound to say that the Queen's Hall people have done their best to give logic to the Sabbatarians by paying the Sunday band half-price. But apart from this purely commercial argument, I venture to suggest that this extraordinary memorial, in which the aims of the Episcopal bench are supported by such doughty champions of the sanctity of (to quote the Act of Parliament) the day "commonly called Sunday," is more provocative of laughter than anything I have recently heard in the entertainment "commonly called" comic singing.

Mr. Maurice Grau is expected back from New York on Tuesday week, when certain details concerning next year's season at Covent Garden will be settled. The Harris executors apparently hold an almost prima donna-like opinion of the value of their copyrights, but matters should easily be arranged with a little common-sense. If not, nothing remains but a fresh repertory, which, I have no doubt, would be welcome enough to the subscribers.

The Promenade Concerts at Queen's Hall commence on Saturday week. A list of the vocalists with whom Mr. Robert Newman is "in negotiation" has been issued, but in several cases no contract has yet been signed, the theory of holiday terms not apparently being just yet quite understood by some of the artists.

The London rehearsals for the Worcester Festival will commence on Wednesday week, and the festival itself starts on the following Sunday. The programme put forward is not a particularly striking one, and as the novelties are limited to two short works by local composers, the affair will hardly interest visitors from London or the music public generally. I hear, however, excellent things of Mr. Elgar's "Lux Christi," an oratorio based upon the miracle narrated in John ix., of the giving of sight to the man blind from his birth. Mr. Elgar, indeed, has managed to make really dramatic the scene in which the enraged Pharisees drive the unfortunate convalescent out of the Temple. Representative themes are freely used, though hardly in the Wagnerian manner, and there are one or two examples of Canonic and Fugal writing.

The Duke and Duchess of York some time since agreed to visit the Norwich Festival in October, and the Prince of Wales has also intimated his intention of being present at two performances. One of these will no doubt be Signor Mancinelli's new cantata, "Hero and Leander," for the talent of the Covent Garden conductor is greatly admired by his Royal Highness.

The copyright case of Dennison v. Boosey, in regard to the publishing and performing rights in "Les Huguenots" will call up many reminiscences. Mr. Harry Wall, who appeared as the principal witness for the plaintiff, is the gentleman who some years ago was so frequently a figure in performing-right cases, first as representative of Mme. Bodda Pyne, and afterwards on his own account. Mr. Wall purchased certain performing rights in "She Wore a Wreath of Roses," "Kathleen Mavourneen," and songs by Vincent Wallace, and doubtless made a good thing of it. In the present case the plaintiff, Mrs. Dennison, who Mr. Harry Wall stated was formerly his cook, and was so old and toothless that it was useless to call her as a witness, as the Court would not understand what she said, purchased the rights in the libretto of "Les Huguenots" from Mr. Wall himself for £50, Mr. Wall supposing he had previously purchased them from the executors of Mr. Francis Romer in 1889. This, the Judge found, was Mr. Wall's illusion. Mr. Ashdown, the well-known publisher, proved that he had purchased the rights at an auction at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, in 1872, and at this auction Mr. Francis Romer was present. The judge therefore held that Mrs. Dennison had no rights in "Les Huguenots," and accordingly the musical cook has apparently lost the £50 which she paid her employer. It is, indeed, rather late in the day to discover any special copyright in "Les Hugnenots," an opera (copyright lasts forty-two years, or in the alternative, seven years after the author's death), produced as far back as 1836. Even the English version was produced at the old Surrey Theatre in 1849.

The Arts Club, for so many years in Hanover-square, is about to be moved to Dover-street. A large number of musicians have been members of this club, for one reason, perhaps, because it was next door to the Royal Academy of Music and was handy for luncheons and dinners, which at the Royal College of Music are provided for in the South Kensington kitchens. Why musicians have not a club of their own it is not very easy to explain. Attempts to form a Musicians' Club have, as a rule, failed, owing to the fact that the projectors imagined professors of music hanker after musical performances in their hours of ease. I expect what they really do desire is to meet possible pupils. The stage, law, journalism, the army, and numerous other professions and callings have their clubs. A musician, however, is either an unclubable man or his special needs in this department have not yet been catered for.

The organ in the Temple Church, which is now being renovated by a Norwich firm, has a "history." Originally, now more than two centuries ago, the Treasurers of the two Temples invited Father Smith to erect an organ in the

old church. This, however, angered the equally celebrated organ builder Renatus Harris, who was then living in "Wyne Office-court," on the other side of Fleet-street, and he therefore also obtained permission to compete. So the Temple had two organs until 1688, when the Treasurers came to terms with Father Smith, who received the big fee of £1,000, and the Renatus Harris organ then disappeared. Some of Father Smith's pipes are still in the Temple organ, upon which the veteran Dr. Hopkins has presided for considerably over half a century.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"Shamus O'Brien" every one knows, but few know that the ballad was not Lover's, but Sheridan Le Fanu's; while fewer still are aware that the weird novelist had other and higher claims to being a poet. You will admit these claims to be indisputable when you read the little volume of his "Poems" (1), which has just appeared admirably edited by Mr. Percival Graves. Like his novels, these longer poems, "Beatrice" and "The Legend of the Glaive," are weird and tragic; and, indeed, Melancholy had so marked Sheridan Le Fanu for her own, that even in his spirited imitation of "Young Lochinvar" he buries the bold bridegroom in a rebel's grave before he has done with him! The sole fault, you will find, I think, with the longer poems is a lack of concentration, and there are isolated passages, in "Beatrice" especially, that by their pathos and power will remind you of "The Cenci." Mr. Percival Graves, in his most interesting memoir of the poet, tells the story of the child's quick retort to the reproaches of his father for being late for breakfast:—

"Sheridan, I ask you is this right? Is this right, sir?" holding out an accusing watch. "No, papa, I think it's fast."

But Mr. Graves omits the delicious essay the child at six years of age wrote on the text set him by his father—a Dean—"The Life of Man":—

The Life of Man (wrote the infant decadent) is divided into three stages. The first stage is when he is planning all kinds of mischief and wickedness—this is the age of youth and innocence. The next stage is when he is carrying all these plans out—this is the prime of life and manhood. The last stage is when he repents and takes to prayers—this is dotage.

Apropos of Mr. Percival Graves, I see that his brother, the poet, and his brother-poet, has brought out "More Hawarden Horace" (2), as playful, genial, sparkling as its predecessor. All that Mr. Page in his graceful introduction says of Horace may be transferred without qualification to his latest imitator:—

He knew much and he meditated much, and he had thus acquired the rarest of arts—the art of writing about living persons in a manner at once wise, witty, and without offence. Nothing would tempt him into an ill-natured joke, but he writes to amuse men of taste, education, and good feeling.

While on the subject of poetry, I might notice the persistence of the delusion that blank verse is as simple a secret as that which Orator Henley, the butcher preacher, held out as a bait to get together a congregation of cobblers:—"How to make a pair of shoes in two minutes." After a rousing sermon to a crowded congregation of the trade, he disclosed his patent—"Take a pair of boots and cut away the uppers." Similarly, some poets seem to think that blank verse is made by cutting prose down to ten-syllable lines. Here, for instance, in "Iona" (3) you have six thousand such lines as these presented to you as blank verse:—

Then started up a half-grown idiot boy
They called the "Flounder," just because he was
As much at home within the sea as out:
"I'll help you, Miss Iona, that I will!"
She looked at him with such a lovely light
Within her eyes, the boy felt more than paid.
"God bless you, Johnnie!" then she said; "but how
Can you come homeward in the boat alone?
But thank you for your offer—many thanks."

"To fatten padlocks on Antarctic food" is, you know, a line of one of Nat Lee's mad poems, yet in a brilliant table-talk volume I have just come across, "Here and There Memories" (4), it is attributed to a local Londonderry bard. Tennyson's description of Hallam's conversation:—

Heart affluence in discursive talk,

should have been prefixed as motto to this desultory but delightful outpouring of an eventful life's reminiscences. It is possible that the swift and subtle mind of the story-teller is guided to its abrupt transitions by associations not perceptible to that of the dull reader, just as the swallow's ziz-zag flight is guided by objects invisible to our dim eyes; but to me it seems as though "H. R. N." had thrust his hand into a lucky-bag and brought up whatever came first. The lucky-bag, however, contains all prizes. I shall just dip my hand in it and bring up for you at random two or three of the stories:—

Lord Clyde, when Sir Colin Campbell, inspected at Fermoy the author's regiment, with the main object of reforming the ruinous mess expenses of the depot battalions. His hosts at the mess, who may have been efficient officers, but who most certainly were not perfect gentlemen, made a point of being ostentatiously extravagant and rowdy on that evening. Presently there was a roar of horse-laughter louder than all that preceded it. Sir Colin graciously asked what the joke was. "I cannot repeat my joke to you, sir," answered the wit. "Pray do. Perhaps it's about me." "That's just the reason, sir." "Well, I don't mind—it must be good." "*I dare not*, sir." "What! Dare not at your own table, where I'm but a guest?" "Well, sir, I was very rude. I remarked on your shirt collars." (Sir Colin wore Gladstonian collars.) "My shirt collars? There is no joke there? Where's the joke?" "I merely said I supposed you mounted such *gills* to keep up the character of a *cod*." The fine old gentleman burned up.

I ought, perhaps, to explain that "cod" is low Irish slang for a pretentious imbecile. This brutality makes one shudder, and I hope the cad who perpetrated it was taught (if anything could teach him) manners by the revenge Lord Clyde took a couple of years after in India. Yardley, the wit, was reported to "the cod" for some regimental scrape, and the gallant General tore up the report as "a trifle not worth further notice before the enemy." It is only fair to give you *per contra* a story more to the credit of Irish hospitality. Jerry M'Cartie came on a fortnight's visit to a relative and stayed twelve years. At the end of nine years Jerry's long-suffering relative gave him the gentle hint that, as the house was to be completely renovated, *all* must quit it; but Jerry rejoined that he didn't mind the the smell of paint and wouldn't mind superintending the workmen. At the end of twelve years the host—probably on the principle by which one bacillus is introduced into the system for the extinction of a more noxious species—decided on getting married, and made the announcement of his engagement to Jerry with the hint:—

"I thought I'd tell you in good time, so that you can make leisurely preparations to go, as the lady and you may not hit it as well as you and I do." With tearful eyes Jerry grasped his cousin's hand, saying, "Oh, Dan, dear, you have my hearty thanks for your consideration; but, dear boy, surely if you can put up with her, I can."

And now for one more story *per contra* of genuine Irish wit as against Mr. Yardley's vulgar personality:—

"Your words," said a magistrate to the notorious Belfast lawyer, Ray—"your words, Mr. Ray, go in at one ear and out at the other."

"Because there's nothing to interrupt the passage, your Worship."

I cannot suppose that "H. R. N.," who was educated at the famous Jesuit School of Clongowes, can be in the destitute condition as to learning of the young gentleman who said to Sam Johnson, "I've lost all my Greek, Dr. Johnson." "Probably," retorted Sam, "about the time that I lost all my Lincolnshire property." It is no doubt to the printer's devil, therefore, that we owe such

(1) "Poems." By Sheridan Le Fanu. Edited by Alfred Percival Graves. (London: Downey & Co.)
(2) "More Hawarden Horace." By Charles L. Graves. With an Introduction by T. E. Page. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co.) Price 3s. 6d.
(3) "Iona." A Romance of the West. By Christabel Scott. (London: Elliot Stock.) Price 2s. 6d.
(4) "Here and There Memories." By H. R. N. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)
(5) "A Short Life of Thomas Davis." (New Irish Library Series.) By Sir Charles Gavan Duffy. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.) Price 2s.

terrible Latin as "Ehew" and "Sic transit gloria armis." By the way, I was delighted to see the high compliments on his masterly Australian policy paid by "H. R. N." to Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, whose "Short Life of Thomas Davis" (5) I should greatly like you to read. It is incomparably the most interesting, and politically the most instructive, of "The New Irish Library Series." —Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—There is now such latitude in the style of hairdressing that the variety of coiffures is great. I do not suppose that curling-tongs have ever before had such a busy year as this one. It is wonderful how a crinkle or two, produced by this means, brings out the colour of the hair and improves the appearance, especially if the waves and ridges are diplomatically made to agree with the contour of the head.

The prettiest head I have seen for a long time belonged to a bright-faced girl who had adopted the Victorian style, with modifications up to date. The hair was parted in the centre, and the surface portion of it lightly lifted with the curling-tongs at either side in a ridge parallel with the parting. Above the ears it was kept perfectly flat, but in front of them were two small side-curls, the tiniest ripples of hair rolled round the tongs, but so sweetly becoming. The back was arranged in loose but tidy coils and rolls, caught rather high.

It was at the play that I saw this pretty coiffure. The girl who wore it was accompanied by another, who, I immediately settled in my own mind, was a married sister. She, too, had managed her hair very prettily. It lay in three long curls on the top of her head. The central one had evidently been cut short, only sufficient having been left to make the light, shallow-looking curl. Those on either side were simply lifted into position by means of two long diamond-headed combs, probably wedding presents. A sort of twist at the back ended in a catogan tied with a bit of black velvet ribbon, but not hanging lower than the necklace.

I see advertisements of all kinds of devices for doing the hair, some looking like miniature life-preservers, and others like saveloys. But with just a little skill and some practice one ought, with a fair allowance of hair, to be able to manage a good coiffure without these aids.

Poor Ada's hair fell out frightfully after influenza, and has never grown thick again. She now dresses what is left of it over a high roll, which suits her splendidly. I forget where she got it, but it did not cost much, and it makes her look like a picture, giving her height and dignity in a quite surprising way. Her head was always too small to be in good proportion with her shoulders, and this addition to its outline is just what was wanted.

And in such ways, as with patchwork, our poverty becomes our pride!

Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, is the only one of our Princesses who wears her hair artistically. The others favour too much height and too much elaboration of curly fringe; but the Marchioness, who really grows handsomer and handsomer as she leaves girlhood behind her, abjures all Court hairdressers and wears her thick brown locks in a graceful coil, adapted to the shape of her head, with just a little crimping behind the ears and a soft little fringe on the forehead.

I had a sudden attack of rheumatism or stiff neck or something of the sort the other morning, and was much diverted by the wide variety of the advice given me. A friend, who is extremely up-to-date, advised me to go to a mesmerist, who, she declared, would in a very few moments cure me by convincing me that the pain did not exist. It seemed to me that that would be impossible. I could not get my right hand up high enough to brush my hair. Would the man's mere eloquence enable me to lift it and use it and yet feel no pain? "Oh, yes," said the friend. "But it is not eloquence. It is that he will imbue you with a disbelief in the existence of the pain. He will immediately acquire such perfect command over you that he will simply forbid you to believe in the pain, and you will be as though there were none."

She is enthusiastic, this friend of mine, though she drops her creeds and breaks her idols with as much facility as she takes them up and sets them on pedestals. So she wanted to take me off at once to this faith-healer, or whatever he calls himself.

But, do you know, Amy, I preferred the rheumatism to the cure! The idea of any man, or woman either, obtaining complete control over my mind, my emotions, and my beliefs, offered no charms, but very much the reverse.

Shortly after, a very old friend, contemporaneous with Aunts Tabitha and Jemima, called in, and after chatting awhile, noticed that I uttered a small shriek, when, forgetting my ailments, I stretched my arm back. "I'll cure you in an hour," she said, when I told her what was wrong. And so she did. You would never guess how. She laid a piece of brown paper, folded in two, on the exact spot where I felt pain, and ironed it lightly with a flat iron, not too hot, till the skin was bright red. In two hours there was hardly any pain left.

It was only a trivial little attack, but the point of the matter lies in the contrast between the new and the old remedies.

Are you not glad that skirts are to be so much narrower? I am delighted, though I hope fashion will not force us to have them *too* clingy. It is not so very long ago that we were wearing them so tight that when the wind blew our knees were almost fastened together with the swirl of woollen gowns. But what a change the sheath-like costume will be, will it not?

Lady Marcus Beresford is the special friend of cats. She has built stables for the accommodation of her own fifteen beauties at Englefield Green, Windsor Park. They are chiefly orange-coloured Persians, and I well remember her devotion to them and their affection for her at the cat show in Holland Park.

By the way, I wonder how the Ladies' Kennel Association is getting on? The last I heard about it was the resignation of the Secretary, Mrs. Stennard Robinson, because some paper had accused her of using slang terms. But we all do. Do we not? This is an age of slang, and even if we wish to avoid it, the misfortune is that it is often so very graphic and so exactly fitted to what we wish to express. This makes it extremely difficult to resist.

What equivalent, for instance, could we find for "duffer"? "He's a duffer" conveys an idea that would have to be expressed in a very roundabout of dictionary English. "He mulled it" is another useful phrase.

The explosion of the electric light at Vere-street did not surprise us. We fully expect that there will be some terrible catastrophe before very long. When the workmen laid down fresh coils in front of our house, some months ago, we had opportunities of observing their doings. They spent most of their time leaning on their spades and commenting on the passers-by, to some of whom they shouted rude remarks. There was no overseer or superintendent. Among the labourers there may or may not have been an expert under whose direction the others were working, but, so far as we could see, they were all muddling along together.

A week after they had finished, we became aware of a shocking smell of gas in our front hall, and employed two different sets of men to try to discover the escape. They both failed. Then Richard bethought him of the electric light workmen, and sent round to the Gas Company, asking them to investigate their pipes at our front

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door. They did so, and found the ground full of gas for yards.

It seems such a bad arrangement to have the gas pipes and the electric wires laid side by side, to say nothing of the possibilities of injury from the carelessness of men of rival companies working every now and then at each light, without any one to prevent them from negligently treating the channels through which the other is conveyed to the houses of consumers.

Mr. "Algy" Bourke's varied experiences in the catering line have rendered him highly useful to Li Chung Tong, for whose establishment in Carlton House-terrace he has done all the provisioning since the Chinese Viceroy settled himself there in the beginning of his stay in town. As manager of "White's," the Hon. "Algy" might not have had time to place his services at the disposal of the foreign visitor, but the Club was opportunely closed for repairs. The chef, M. Lemaire, took up his abode with some of his staff at Carlton House-terrace, and the English and native cooks worked most harmoniously together. How the former liked the Viceroy's early hours does not transpire. The result of the arrangement ought to be a distinct addition to our culinary lore, and it is just possible that even so conservative a country as China might adopt a hint or two from European modes. It is doubtful, however, if we should ever learn to enjoy such a dish as shrimps and prawns stewed with leeks and grapes!

Kidneys stewed in cream might be rather nice, even though they are pigs'. Fat pork sauté with peas and kidney beans is a little "tall" for this hot weather. But then, was it not of the Chinese that Charles Lamb wrote his famous account of how they burned their houses down in order "accidentally" to enjoy the flavour of roast pig?

A friend writes praising Paris-Plage, a little seaside place close to Boulogne, so we are going to include it in our small trip at the end of this month. Richard wants, if possible, to get as far as Ushant. An acquaintance of his was on board the ill-fated *Drummond Castle* that was wrecked there, and Richard, in whom unexpected streaks of sentiment are occasionally observable, wishes to visit the spot.

As for me, I never yearn after anything connected with the tragic side of life.

Fancy all those crowds of people visiting the Novelty Theatre the night after that most tragic accident! We all agreed that Miss Lawrence showed commendable taste in cutting out the stabbing scene, and the more so as she probably went against her own interests by doing so. No doubt, crowded audiences would have assembled in order to gloat over the scene which had proved so fatal.

Have you had your first brace of grouse yet? You must try this recipe for serving grouse in gravy:—

When the birds are dressed and ready for roasting cut them into neat joints. Put them into a stewpan with a little melted bacon, and set it over a brisk fire. Cook for five minutes, then pour into the pan a wineglassful of good brandy, and allow it to remain over the fire until the flame goes out of itself. Then throw into the stewpan 6 skinned mushrooms and 1 sliced parboiled truffle; add to these a half pint of good gravy. Set the pan over a moderate fire. When all is cooked and ready remove every particle of fat, stir in the juice of a lemon and a dash of cayenne. Place the joints of the birds in the centre of the dish, with the truffle and mushrooms around. Serve very hot.

Pigeon fritters make a pleasant change:—

Let a pair of pigeons be ready dressed, then blanch them. Slit them down the back, cut off the heads and feet. Take a small stewpan, lay in slices of bacon, then the four halves of the pigeons seasoned with pepper, salt, sweet herbs, and fine spice. Now cover with slices of bacon and lemon. Pour into the pan a wineglassful of white wine, put on the lid, and set them to stew. When the birds are half done, take up, and fill each half with rich forcemeat. Make a batter with flour, pepper, and 2 eggs well beaten, then add a wineglassful of sherry and a tablespoonful of oil. Dip the pigeon into the batter but keep the forcemeat in its place, then fry a golden-brown colour. Serve hot upon a napkin, garnished with fried parsley.

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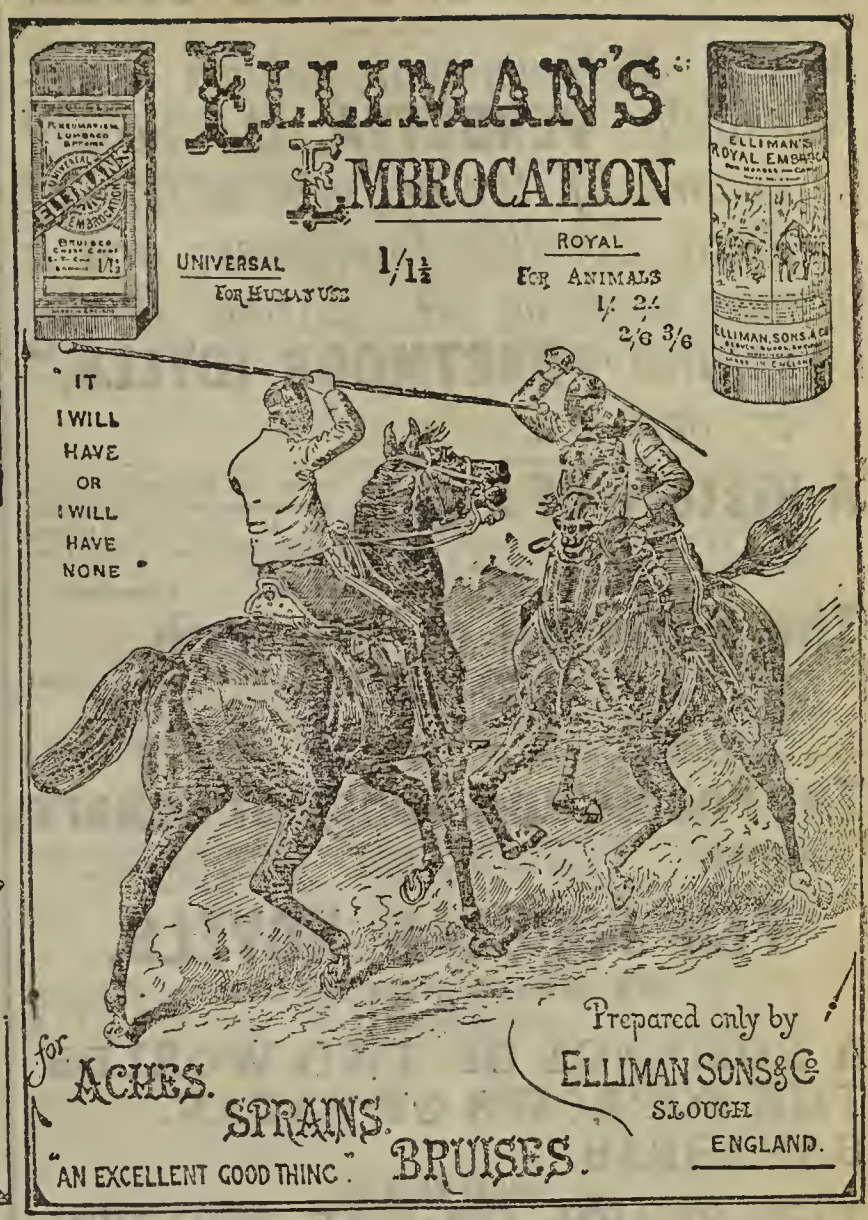

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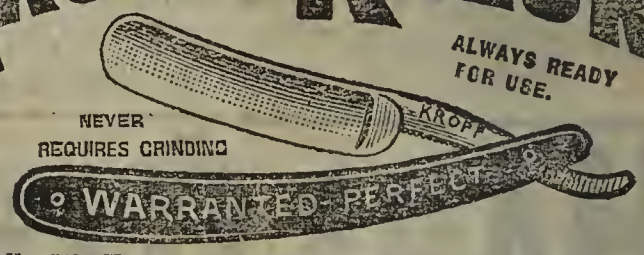

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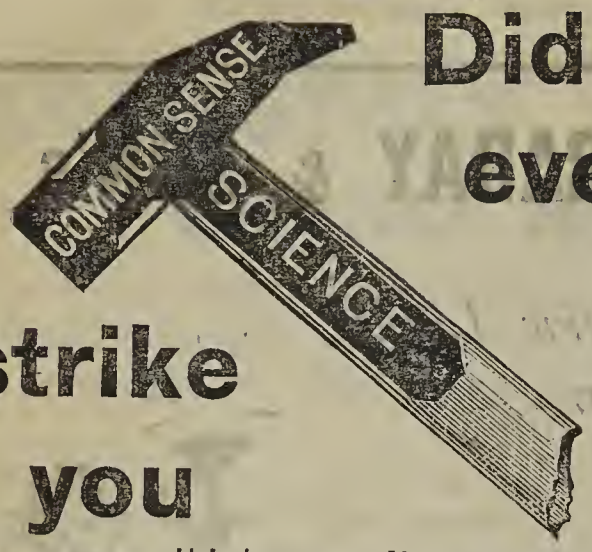

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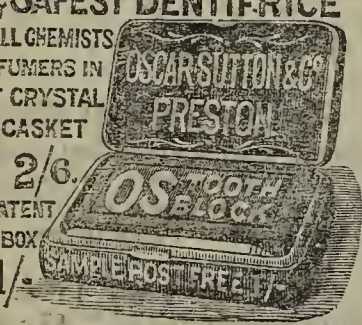

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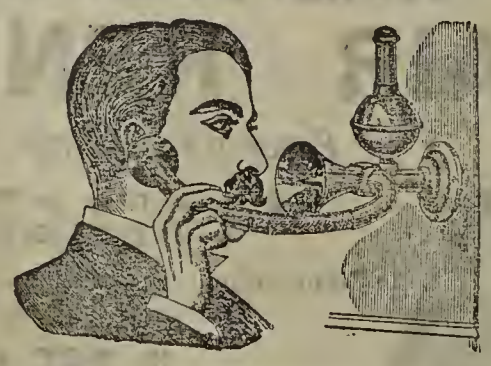

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LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.

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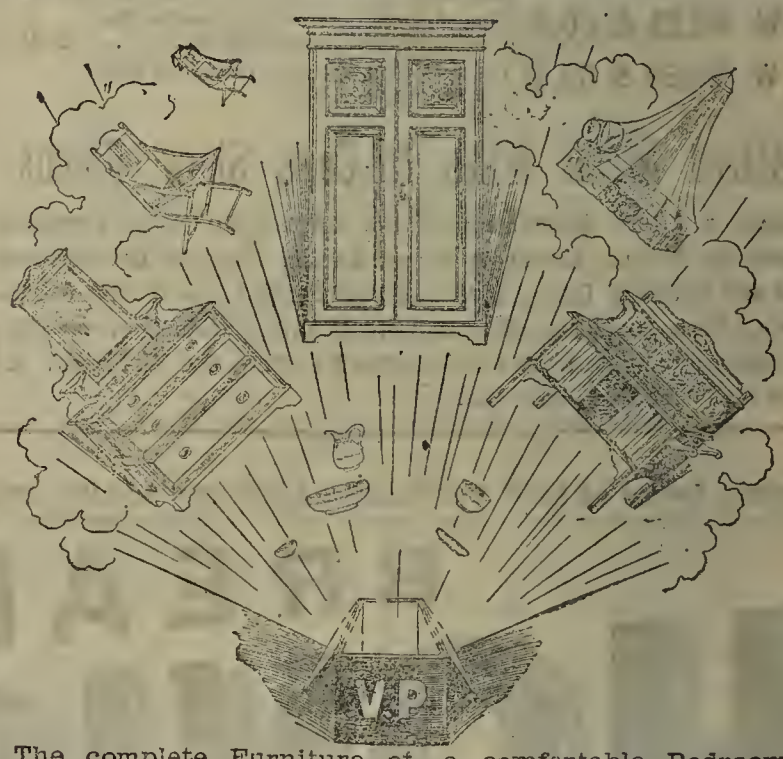

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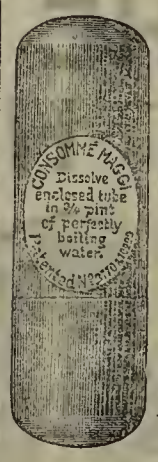

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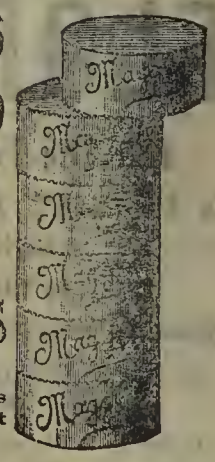

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is often due to a bad soap.

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yields a profuse, cleansing, demulcent, lather, and tends to keep the skin soft and velvety, and the complexion beautiful and clear. Its use doesn't cost a farthing a day.

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VINOLIA CREAM.—For Itching, Sunburn, Insect Bites, &c., 1/1½ and 1/9.
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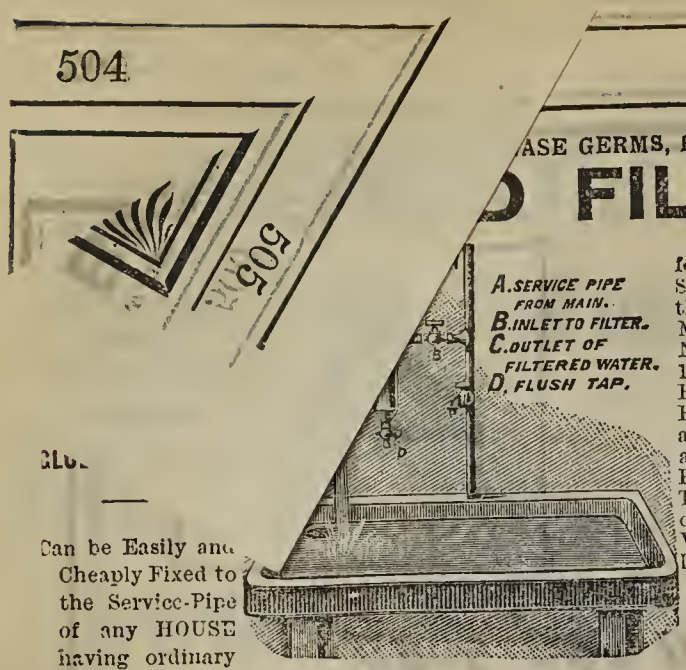

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NOTE.—Write for Copy of the Special Report to the "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL," Nov. 10, 1894, in which the BERKEFELD FILTER is specially demonstrated as affording COMPLETE PROTECTION against the communication of WATERBORNE DISEASES.

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CORALLINE Keeps the Teeth WHITE and SOUND.

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—*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th, 1884.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

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PURELY VEGETABLE, Perfectly Harmless. Will reduce from two to five pounds per week; acts on the food in the stomach, preventing its conversion into Fat. Sold by Chemists. Send stamp for pamphlet.
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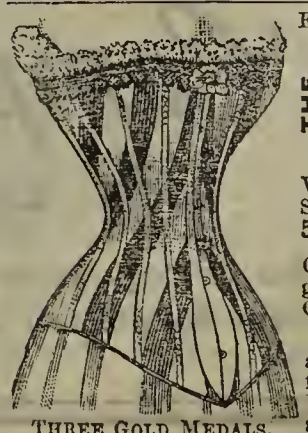

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Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

THE **Y & N** PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in White, Black, and all the fashionable colours and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11. 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine Y & N Corset is stamped.

Sold by Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters in the United Kingdom and Colonies.

The Issue having been fully subscribed by Shareholders of Gold Lands Corporation, Ltd., the Prospectus is now published for information only.

The latest cablegram referring to the property received from the Hon. Henry J. Saunders, and dated August 4th, reads as follows :—
MONA GOLD MINE.—"O'Brien reports :—Reef we are now working continues to go down well, from which bulk sample assays 10 oz. 10 dwt. per ton over "

Gold Lands Corporation, Ltd., invite subscriptions for the Capital of the undermentioned issue.

MONA GOLD MINE, Lim.

BROAD ARROW, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL, £75,000 in 75,000 Shares of £1 each. (Working Capital, £25,000.) 75,000 Shares are now offered for Subscription.

Payable 2s. 6d. on Application ; 2s. 6d. on Allotment ; and the balance by calls of 5s. each at intervals of not less than two months.

DIRECTORS.

D. T. Arnott, Esq., Director Lady Shenton Gold Mine, Limited.
Alfred Barrett, Esq., Chairman Mount Margaret Reward Claim, Limited.
Major A. C. Daniell, Anglesea-road, Ipswich.
Roger A. Gartside, Esq., Director Hannan's Kalgoorlie Proprietary, Limited.
John Girdwood, Esq., J.P., Managing Director Gold Lands Corporation, Limited.

AGENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The Hon. Henry J. Saunders, M.L.C., Mayor of Perth.
BANKERS.—Messrs. Prescott, Dimsdale, Cave, Tugwell, & Co., Limited, 50, Cornhill, E.C.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Burn & Berridge, 11, Old Broad-street, E.C.
BROKERS.—Messrs. Barber & Bridgford, 2, Drapers'-gardens, London.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Monkhouse, Stoneham, & Co.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Mr. E. W. Ayers, 18, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire and work the Gold Mining Lease No. 480 E, known as the "Mona," situate at Broad Arrow, Western Australia, consisting of twelve acres. The property was originally brought under the notice of the Gold Lands Corporation, Limited, by their own special representative upon the fields, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, C.E. and M.E., who thinks most highly of it, and upon whose report, confirmed by the opinions of Captain Hambly (Manager of the Arrow Proprietary), a report from whom is given below, and the Hon. Henry J. Saunders, the directors have no hesitation in offering the property to investors. The following is an extract from the report received from Mr. O'Brien by the Hon. Henry J. Saunders, who represents the Gold Lands Corporation, Limited, in Western Australia :—

REPORTS ON THE "MONA" MINE, LEASE 480E, BROAD ARROW.
Coolgardie, April 21st, 1896.

Hon. H. J. Saunders, Perth.
Dear Sir,—

I have great pleasure in bringing the above-named property under your immediate notice, as it comes nearer to my standard of quality and price than anything I have met with for a long time.

The lease referred to is situated 2½ to 3 miles south-east of the town of Broad Arrow, and about 35 miles north-east o fCoolgardie.

It comprises 12 acres, and is bounded on the east by the Paris, on the west by the Mona Extended, on the south by the Minnie Palmer, and on the north by the Arrow Proprietary.

It is distant from the very rich mine known as the Pakeha about 16 or 18 chains, and the other properties mentioned are also very desirable neighbours. This lease has a considerable amount of development work done.

There are four shafts, varying in depth from 85 ft. to 35 ft. besides several small costeens or holes from each and all of which very good prospects can be obtained by "dollying" and pan-assay, and in every working I inspected gold could be seen in the stone by the naked eye.

The owners (two in number) meet their current expenses by dollying the choicest of the stone. They showed me two samples in bottles of several ounces of coarse and fine gold obtained by their simple process.

There are four reefs running parallel with each other, trending N.N.E. and S.S.W. throughout the greatest length of the property, varying in thickness from 3 to 12 ft., and slightly dipping to the east.

You will see by the Assay Certificate which I enclose that No. 33 gave 1 oz. 10 dwt. 20 gr. This was a mixed sample taken from different parts of the Western Reef.

No. 34 from different parts of the two middle reefs gave the grand result of 2[illegible] oz. 15 dwt. 8 gr.

The result of No. 35, viz., 6 dwt. 14 gr., is very satisfactory, as it is taken from a very large ironstone lode, 10 ft. to 12 ft. thick, on the eastern side of the lease, and wholly dipping into it.

I have no doubt this great ironstone lode will improve at a depth. It protrudes above the surface, and some of it is light and gossan-like, indicating that gold has probably been shed from it.

At various places on the surface of this Lease very good alluvial gold has been obtained by "Dry-blowers."

This is a really good battery show of 2 oz. to 4 oz. all through, and is situated in one of the best districts.

There is an abundance of timber, and plenty of water may be obtained by sinking or by conservation.

. . . . . .

Trusting it may meet with your approval, I can safely recommend it.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. J. O'BRIEN, C.E. and M.E.

Arrow Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited,
Broad Arrow, W.A., June 11th, 1896.

Hon. H. J. Saunders, M.L.C.,
Attorney for the Gold Lands Corporation,
Limited, Perth, W.A.

Sir,—Pursuant to your request, I have this day inspected the Mona Gold Mining Lease, and beg to make the following observations respecting it :—

Name—"Mona," Number 480E.

SITUATION.—This lease is situated at Smithfield, Broad Arrow, and in the celebrated belt of the latter place. Area of Property, 12 acres; held and secured under the laws and regulations of the Gold Fields of Western Australia. This property is bounded on the East by the Paris G. M. Co. ; on the West by the Mona Extended, Rosebery, Durham, &c. ; on the South by the Minnie Palmer, and on the North by the Arrow Proprietary, Paddington Consols, &c.

LODES.—There are several traversing the entire length of property, but operations have been confined to three only, and for your better guidance of this lease and lodes, I enclose a rough sketch plan, showing position of claims, and run of some of the lodes of the mines under my management, viz., "Arrow Proprietary."

DEVELOPMENTS.—In the most southerly point and within 100 yards of the Minnie Palmer, a costeen pit is made on the back of lode, which is over 4 ft. wide, composed of quartry and lithomarge, and by pan assay producing 1¼ oz. of gold per ton of stuff. The object of this test pit was to open on and trace the Minnie Palmer lode ; this done, a shaft was commenced 67 yards north of same, and sunk vertical 50 ft. At this point the lode was intersected, and sunk on its line for 20 ft. The lode, for depth sunk, maintains its size, which is 4 ft. in width, but a change for the better in character, composition, and yield. Sample taken indiscriminately from 25 tons of stuff stacked at the surface assayed by pan 1¾ oz. per ton of very fine or flour gold.

No. 2 SHAFT.—This shaft is sunk 30 yards north of No. 1, and now down to a depth of 40 ft. Operations here were confined to the underlie of the lode which is slightly east. In carrying out this work about 40 tons of stuff are stacked at surface, from which I took a fair sample, assaying 2½ oz. per ton.

No. 3 SHAFT.—This shaft is sunk 60 ft. perpendicular, and the lode just intersected in the bottom of same, but the little work done on it I should say was not because of its character and general make-up, but for the want of funds on the part of the prospectors. In a pit 30 ft. south of this shaft the lode shows great strength, being over 6 ft. wide ; its bearing or strike is much greater than the other lodes to the west of north.

No. 4 SHAFT.—This shaft is about 180 yards north of No. 3 Shaft, and is sunk perpendicular to the 80 ft. level. At this point a lode is met with, producing a little gold, but in the judgment of the present operators the great lode running through the Gaul portion of the Arrow Proprietary Company Claims is to the west of this ; and I quite agree with them in this respect, and strongly recommend the continuation of the present cross-cut west, which is now driven about 100 ft. at a distance from shaft of 80 ft. ; a portion of a lode was passed through for 7 ft. in width, but the lode referred to in the adjoining property is 30 ft. wide. It is to be hoped a lode of similar worth and size will be also met with here.

No. 5 SHAFT.—This shaft is situated 33 yards west and 40 yards north of No. 4 Shaft and sunk to a depth in a perpendicular lode varying from 2 to 3½ ft. in width ; this lode carries visible gold. At times rich deposits were met with by the prospectors. The sample which I took from the heap at surface produced 7 oz. of gold per ton. At the bottom of this shaft a cross-cut is driven east about 50 ft., and a lode about 4 ft. wide passed through, composed of ferruginous quartz and gossan ; sample taken from stuff broken gave, by pan assay, 1½ oz. per ton.

I like the appearance of this lode, and would recommend its being vigorously developed.

The foregoing remarks comprise all the work of any consequence done on the property, and is rather more than is generally done by prospectors, whose means as a rule are very limited, but in this case the yield from these lodes kept them and helped them to develop certain portions of the lease as it is.

WATER.—In the Arrow Proprietary we met with water at 105 ft., and seeing that the shaft is only about 300 yards from your boundary, I should say you would meet with it at a similar depth.

TIMBER.—On this lease is abundance for most of the mine's requirements.

In conclusion, I would like to say the lodes operated on in your property are compact and of a very kindly nature, some of which are permeated with iron, closely resembling the same lodes in adjoining properties ; and from the favourable position of the Mine with regard to other proved mines, the amount of work done to develop it, the size of the lodes, and the cheapness with which it can be worked, warrants my saying you have a property which will, with economical and judicious management and the necessary machinery, pay a good profit on the money invested, and I can strongly recommend it as a sound investment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WM. HAMBLY, M.E.
Manager, Arrow Proprietary Gold Mines.

The following is the translation of a cable received from the Hon. Henry J. Saunders (the words in brackets being inserted on translation) :—
19th June, 1896.

"(To) GOLD LANDS (CORPORATION, LIMITED).

"Captain Hambly, Manager, Arrow Proprietary, reports :—MONA—Several reefs traversing the entire length property.—Developments—(a) costeen pit (has been) sunk to the south. The width of reef is 4 ft. Sample assaying 30 dwt. per ton. 200 ft. to the north, shaft has reached a depth of 50 (ft.); the width of the reef is 4 ft. down to the bottom of the shaft. 25 tons stacked (assays from which show) 35 dwt. per ton. 90 ft. to the north, shaft has reached a depth of 40 ft. 40 tons stacked, assaying 2 oz. 10 dwt. per ton. No. 3 Shaft has reached a depth of 60 ft. Lode shows great strength. No. 4 Shaft has reached a depth of 80 ft. Have driven crosscut 100 ft., passing through lode 7 ft. wide. No. 5 Shaft has reached depth of 30 ft. Carries visible gold. Sample from stack assaying 7 oz. per ton. Water plentiful. Plentiful supply of timber."

The Hon. Henry J. Saunders adds in the above cable :—

"I consider the Mine a good investment and a very profitable undertaking."

Mr. J. J. O'Brien reports by telegraph under date June 22nd, as follows :—

"'Mona'—Since last report had cut large black soft lode ; assays 6 dwt. per ton—of great value on account of its bulk."

The Vendors, the Gold Lands Corporation, Limited, have fixed the price to be paid for the property at £50,000, payable as follows :—£25,000 in cash, and £25,000 in cash or fully-paid shares, or partly in cash and partly in fully-paid shares. Mr. Girdwood, being Managing Director of Gold Lands Corporation, Limited, is interested in the sale.

Twenty-five thousand shares are appropriated for subscription for providing working capital, this amount being considered ample.

The Vendors will pay all the expenses of the formation and promotion of the Company up to the first allotment of shares.

The following contracts have been entered into :—An Agreement dated the 5th day of May, 1896, between Allan Stewart Allison and Richard Jones Pughe, and John Joseph O'Brien (Agent for the Vendors), and an Agreement dated the 29th day of June, 1896, between the Gold Lands Corporation Limited, of the one part, and Cecil Patey, as Trustee for the Company, of the other part.

Agreements and arrangements have been and may be entered into with third parties as to the promotion of the Company, and the subscription of a portion of its capital, to none of which the Company is a party, and applicants for shares will be deemed to have had notice of the contents of these, and to have waived their right, if any, to particulars thereof, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

Copies of the Report and Contract above particularised, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, are open to the inspection of intending subscribers at the Offices of the Solicitors.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

In cases where no allotment is made the amount deposited on application will be returned at once without deduction. If the number of Shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the payment on allotment ; any balance will be returned.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, July 4, 1896.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

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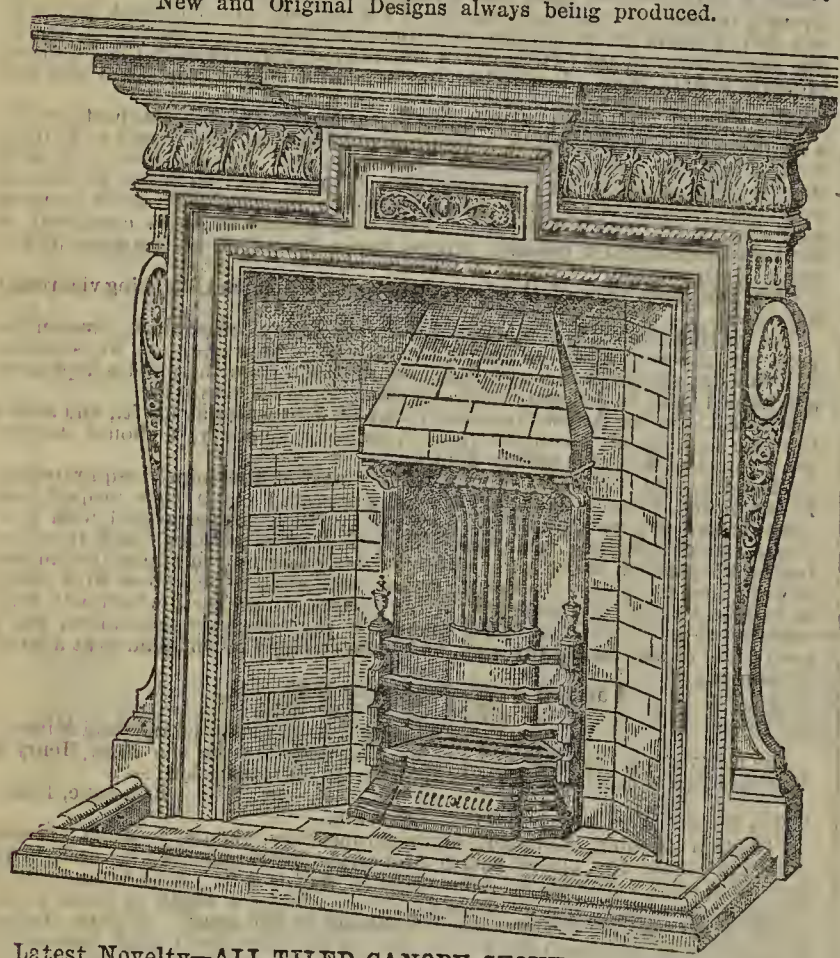

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 912.—DESCRIPTION OF A CYCLING TOUR IN RHYMED VERSE.

Kattabos (real name and address will be published in due course)	£1 1 0
Asher " " " "	£1 1 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 917.

It has been repeatedly proved in these pages that Shakespeare had a kind of instinctive acquaintance with most of the inventions and discoveries that now occupy the attention of the public. Let us, then, test the Bard's omniscience once more by offering the usual prize of Two Guineas this week to the competitor who sends

THE BEST QUOTATION, NOT EXCEEDING FOUR LINES IN LENGTH, TENDING TO SUGGEST THAT SHAKESPEARE HAD AN ANTICIPATORY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOTOR CAR OR HORSELESS CARRIAGE.

Of course the quotations will have to be taken verbatim from some part of Shakespeare's works. Competitors may send more than one quotation if they please, but all their answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, August 31 at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 913.

The Prize in this Competition has been divided between Godfather, and Almaviva, whose "Hunting Songs of the Future" appeared in Truth for August 13.

I would at the same time specially commend the Songs received from Christie Dean, Baritone, Vox, Oom Paul, Georgina, La Plata, Antelope, Dodo, K. W., Nitram, and Stephanotis.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Carfex, winner of Prize No. 909, is J. A. Cassels, Esq., 62, Buchanan-street, Glasgow.

Stephanotis.—Your correction reached me in due course. I regret that I was unable to find space to print your clever lines.

Hibernian.—Many thanks for your suggestion of a subject suitable for competition.

Mona.—Your suggestion that "Should we take things easy?" would be a good subject for discussion during the Silly Season, failed to reach me. I am sorry you do not see the point of the selected name.

Rugeley, H. P. D., and Lily.—Your descriptions of "Cycling Tours" arrived a day too late to be printed with the others.

Theology.—I fear that the subject you suggest would not meet with general approval.

Arch. Gibbs.—Thanks for your postcard. I think your criticism is in part well directed.

Desmotropy.—I am much obliged to you for your suggestion, though I fear it would make a rather too difficult competition.

E. Graham.—Your proposal is certainly an original one, and I have made a note of it for future use.

Master Gunner, Theology, and Box.—By an oversight, which I regret, the acknowledgment of your "Hunting Songs of the Future" was omitted last week.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 914.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE QUEEN'S REIGN MAY BE MOST SUITABLY CELEBRATED.

1. To raise a capital sum so that the interest of which would give "the poor and sickly London children" a fortnight or three weeks at the sea. 2. To establish a "home" in some healthy place in the centre of England for our neglected soldiers and sailors so that they would not have to end their days in the workhouse.—Hibernian.

The building of a palace where foreign crowned heads could be royally lodged when visiting London. Rebuilding Kensington Palace for the above purpose, as it is so closely associated with the youthful days of the Queen.—Rasana

Arrange some function in which women would be the principal performers. Assuming female costume to change materially every ten years, I suggest a grand review in Hyde Park of 6,000 ladies, forming six regiments, respectively representing the six decades of her Majesty's reign. Ladies of each regiment need not dress exactly alike, but must conform to the characteristic costume of the decade. Each regiment would have its band and banner, with appropriate motto; *e.g.*, the crinoline regiment would remind us, with mournful music, that 40,000 women were martyrs to that odious fashion. Such a review—novel and intrinsically interesting—would tend to decide which decade of costume was most becoming and should be permanent if women (by refusing to go into uniform at the command of some irresponsible autocrat of fashion) ever cease to exemplify Virgil's description—"Varium et mutabile semper fœmina."—J. McGrigor Allan.

The Church's part.—A special thanksgiving service, without an offertory, at a time when the people can attend. *The State's part.*—Remit the income tax on incomes below £300 a year, and give 5s. to every poor person above 60 years of age to provide a good square meal on the Sunday following September 23. *The Queen's part.*—To open the doors of the prisons for all criminals committed for one year or less, and to provide at a nominal cost, a medal for all Board and National school children and workhouse children; to give 1 lb. of tea to all the workhouse paupers, and medals to all soldiers, sailors, hospital and convalescent patients.—Dorset.

By the subsidising of Elementary schools to the end that the German language may be efficiently taught therein.—W. G. B.

For the Queen to abdicate in her son's favour.—Krakatoa.

The Queen to give to her people Buckingham Palace-gardens, "with necessary reservations." Her people all to contribute towards the re-arrangement of the grounds, making them beautiful, and a storehouse of everything that can go towards the commemoration of her sixty years reign. So that the rounds would be a grand historical memorial, and contain all that is best to remember of her reign symbolised in every possible way. A store garden of delight to future generations.—Eve

1. Endow an In Memoriam bed in each of the hospitals. 2. Raise the value of all the small livings in England and Wales to £200 per annum. 3. Provide *summer* clothing for policemen, soldiers, and railway porters.—Qu'Appelle.

1. The renovation of the interior of Westminster Abbey, the side chapels of which are in a very neglected condition. 2. The making of some good thoroughfares in London, running north and south, corresponding to those running east and west, to be named Avenue Victoria and Queen's Avenue. This would be a great convenience, though a very costly affair.—Excelsior.

For the Queen to abdicate in favour of the Prince of Wales.—Jeff.

1. That the Queen should formally appoint the Prince of Wales her deputy, to assist in all public functions, the Queen making him a liberal allowance from her own income. 2. That a feast should be provided for all in workhouses, orphanages, asylums, hospitals, and prisons, and as many of the poor and homeless as can be reached.—Esperanza.

Abolish the monarchy and proclaim a republic.—H. E. G.

By the organisation of the life-boat system of the British Isles, under Governmental support and direction.—Mismol.

1. To issue to soldiers half-fare railway tickets for any period (long or short) for any distance over twenty miles. 2. To rise a private soldier's pay to one shilling per day clear.—P. J. M.

1. Abdicate. 2. Proclaim a "British Republic." 3. Disestablish the State Church. 4. Close the House of Lords.—Theology.

House of Lords, usually picture of inertness' might transform picture and produce pleasing transformation scene by transforming for a week or so hereditary chamber into palace of varieties. A series of popular entertainments given personally by our own hereditary legislators in their own hereditary sanctum would command general approbation, confer general satisfaction, demonstrate that peer-age need not necessarily mean sere-age, and should produce such a goodly "pile" as would form the handsome nucleus for building fund of a yet handsomer pile to be called "Sex-Sepogenarian Jubilee Hospital."—Stephanotis.

Provide a country holiday for all the poor children in London, and other towns. This could be carried out by each town being divided into districts, each district having its own committee, who would receive all subscriptions, select the place for the day's outing, and carry out all details. The accounts of each committee would be audited, and any cash not expended to be handed over to the various hospitals and unions for the entertainment of the children of these institutions. I feel sure that a good sum could be collected if it was well advertised.—Luxor.

1. Celebrate sex-a-gerant teas, at which all women whose marriage (induction into government) took place sixty years ago, or more, will be fêted by the rest of the community. 2. A public subscription to provide annuities of equal amount to all women of the three Kingdoms who, having attained to the Queen's age, will accept them. 3. Adopt the French custom of doffing hats to all women of our acquaintance, and so do homage to the Queen's sex, irrespective of social position. 4. Let men, recognising the divided authority once solely theirs, acquiesce in the general adoption by women of that divided garment the wearing of which, having lost its cherished significance, will better symbolise the altered state of things. 5. Enrol women (as volunteers) in arms. 6. Establish municipal drawing-rooms, where all women may "Queen" it, according to ability. 7. Finally, for the advancement of the sex, introduce two, or more, shifts into domestic service, and so popularise it. (N.B.—This is not a *lingerie* proposition.)—Nitram.

1. An amnesty for the Irish political prisoners. 2. A free national boarding school under the patronage of the Queen for the maintenance and education of poor children. To be undenominational, endowed with an annual Imperial subsidy, and assisted by voluntary subscriptions. — Common Sense.

May it please her Majesty to abdicate in favour of a deservedly popular Prince in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of her glorious and happy reign.—Pigtail.

A collection to be made in the homes of each of the Queen's children and grandchildren (and in other mansions and palaces whose inmates may be wishful to contribute), to be called "The Royal Thank-offering," and to be distributed in the cities and towns of England among—

"The homeless girls whose fingers thin
Push from them, daily, want and sin."—
Rugeley.

The building of a hospital in London or elsewhere which shall be known by the name of "The Victoria," or some other name having reference to the Queen. The expenses of building to be met by donations, the annual expenses by the subscriptions of subscribers who shall be enrolled in a society under the name of "The Victorian Hospitallers," or some more appropriate name. The rules of the society to contain the following:—1. Each member engages to either pay his annual subscription for life or to get some one enrolled in his stead who will pay the subscription. 2. In case of

the death of one of the members, another to be appointed in accordance with the rules drawn up by the committee. 3. The number of members of this society never to be allowed to get below the original number.—Miserrimus.

1. The Queen to graciously abdicate the throne in favour of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. A grand coronation at Westminster Abbey; the procession going to and fro in full state. A monster fête to take place in Hyde Park; limited refreshments to be supplied by tickets provided either by Government or Crown. The park to be well illuminated at night with a good display of fireworks. Also a really clever statue of the Queen, to be subscribed for by the nation and placed opposite Buckingham Palace amid artistic fountains. 2. State prizes to be given for competition in poetry, music, painting, statuary and inventions; the winners to be crowned with laurels during the afternoon by the Queen. 3. Similar fetes to be arranged throughout the British nation.—Pan.

An establishment of old age pensions. Donations from all sorts and conditions of men, together with a sum voted by Parliament, would form the capital. The income derived from this sum, together with an annual amount voted by Parliament and provided for in each year's Budget, to be applied in pensions for the deserving, aged poor. I would, moreover, by inviting colonial co-operation, make the scheme an Imperial one. Imagine each subject of the Empire, in every part of the globe, able to count upon an old age secure from want! It sounds too good to be possible. Could the greatest of English Sovereigns have a more magnificent memorial?—In Hoc Signo.

The most rational way of celebrating her Majesty's sixtieth year of reign would be for the nation, through its representatives, &c., to present her with an artistically illuminated figuration of the amount of money uselessly spent upon and in connection with English Royalty during the sixty years of her illustrious reign. As the direct monetary grants, allowances, &c., come to about a million per annum, this item would multiply up to about £60,000,000; and the indirect expenditure connected with Royalty, such as preparations for receptions, pageantries, banquettings, "toastings," &c., would no doubt tot up, in the time, to an additional £40,000,000. The total would thus come to the tidy bagatelle of £100,090,000! spent without absolutely any useful or necessary service in return! Some relevant and interesting statistical legends might also be inscrolled underneath, such as the number of years it would take a man to count this sum of money in sovereigns, the extent of cubical space it would require to contain it, &c. She should then be respectfully, but firmly, asked to resign, the Prince of Wales being appointed as King-President at an adequate and generous salary of, say, £30,000 to £50,000 per annum. All the rest of the "Royalties" should live on the vast hoards accumulated during the past—that is if, in justice, they would not be required to restore a considerable part of them to the commercial and industrial community, from which they were filched. This would be the most complimentary method of signalising the approaching epoch, as it would prove that her reign at long last produced subjects with a modicum of commonsense, and the consistency to act accordingly.—Shamrock.

By an international exhibition.—Tutte-frutte.

That each family or individual in the United Kingdom should give *sixty* coins of the realm, from farthings to pounds, to form a fund for the relief of the deserving unemployed and destitute amongst Her Majesty's subjects—to be called the Victorian Sixtieth Anniversary Fund.—Clear.

To celebrate the Queen's sixtieth year of reigning institute decimal coinage, and include two gold coins, one value 50s. to be called a *Jubilee*, one of 60s. to be called a *Reine* or *Reign*. The former coin would be of more practical use than the £2 piece, and the "Reign" would be valued as a memorial, if not so useful for general circulation.—Woodhurst.

By giving Home Rule to Ireland—of course with certain restrictions.—Pelican.

By giving a free pardon to all political prisoners, and ditto to all poor women imprisoned for infanticide.—Bunny's Mama.

Let her Majesty's lieges throughout Great Britain and the colonies contribute, according to their means, money and books, to establish public libraries wherever possible, to further the enlightenment attained during her reign.—A. E. L.

The Queen as a thankoffering for her long and glorious reign should give a sum of money for each year she has occupied the Throne, and the total amount should be given to the London Hospitals in such number and in such proportions as Her Majesty may herself determine.—Spencer.

1. The abolition of the Income Tax. 2. A National Institution and Fund for the benefit of widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors. 3. Release of all political prisoners, and prisoners undergoing punishment for first offences.—Georgina.

A series of bonfires to be prepared, each visible from the next, and extending from end to end of the kingdom. The first of the series to be lit by, or on behalf of, Her Majesty, close to her residence at the date, the rest to be lit as seen in succession. In any districts affected by thick fog at the time, the succession to be assured by rockets or telegraph. The order may be reversed, or more than one starting point arranged if considered best —Cartoon.

The granting of a generous measure of enfranchisement to the people of India—*i.e.*, either by allowing them to elect a parliament of their own under needful restrictions, or by giving them direct and adequate representation in the British Parliament.—Metchley.

Let the Queen and the Prince of Wales or the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York visit Ireland. —Si je Puis.

The establishment of a Victoria Bureau of Universal Information, to which all classes of her Majesty's subjects, under all circumstances, may apply and obtain free the best advice which it is possible human wisdom can bestow. Its committee to be sole arbitrators in all matters of dispute. To be supported by a tax (a most necessary one) of 21s. annually on cycles. The foundation of this Bureau (to be connected by telephone with offices in every town) would alone effect a saving annually in litigation of £500,000.—Nemesis.

The abolition of the top hat.—Almaviva.

Formation of a national council for arbitration and settlement of all trade disputes.—Bo-peep.

1. An annual day of self-denial. Every person to sacrifice a day's income, and form a superannuation fund (with a suitable name) so that all of good character, on attaining the age of sixty, shall be entitled to a pension of not less than 60d. or 5s. per week. 2. Liberate and pardon all political prisoners.—J. O. N.

1. Give the Queen herself an entire privilege of establishing one new, or abolishing one old law. 2. Establish a new regiment consisting of the tallest men in the British Army, to be called "The Queen's Sixty," with a special uniform and colours selected by Queen Victoria.—Done Again.

Raise a fund for the free provision of artesian wells in the centre of waterless villages, the ironwork to be impressed: "Victoria, 1896. For the free use of all for ever."—Co.

That a special order might be founded exclusively for women who have served their country well by acts of conspicuous bravery and philanthrophy, or by any other means have earned the recognition of their sovereign and their fellow-countrymen. The honour should never be held by more than sixty women at once, and surely the first woman to be invested with the Order would be Her Majesty, who will have completed the 60th year of a reign devoted to her country's good.—Three Sisters.

Start a 60-pence gold piece.—Nina.

The establishment of a Royal residence (somewhat like Balmoral) in Ireland, with the promise, by the Queen, of an annual visit to it.—M. H. Hayes.

Abolish vivisection.—Desmotrophy.

That her Majesty should visit Ireland.—Zerneene.

1. As the Queen hardly ever uses Buckingham Palace, would it not be a fine thing to turn it into a home for deserving old soldiers and sailors? The endowment to be raised by public subscription (voluntary, of course). The majority of the board of management should consist of practical business men of the greatest integrity. The names of Lidderdale, Rothschild, Donald Currie, and Sutherland occur in this connection. 2. Abolish the workhouse uniform, and separate the deserving from the undeserving poor.—Oom Paul.

Found and endow an institution or almshouses for "sixty poor and indigent widows" of the East End of the metropolis, the inmates to be over sixty years of age. This building or buildings should be called the "Queen Victoria Institution," with proper trustees, &c., exactly the same as those of our oldest and best beneficent establishments of the kind. This would be no asylum for court flunkeys or dependants, but a royal "widow's cruse," that would be a perpetual boon and a blessing to future generations.—East Anglian.

By establishing a Board of Arbitration, whose decisions would have the force of law, to settle all trade disputes affecting wages between the employers and the employed. Also an efficient European Board of Arbitration to settle all international disputes between one country and another. —Rex.

Establishing a National Charitable Fund for assisting persons that have been sixty years (or the nearest approach to that time) in the Public Service. —Coloniensis.

Provide "Victoria Houses," or Homes in all large centres giving shelter, fire and attendance to refined and pitifully destitute ladies over 60 years of age.—Denizen.

Give every inmate in our Union Workhouses and Prisons a good dinner on the day in question, and every female employé in H.M. Service a holiday (when practicable) and a week's pay as gratuity.—Marplot.

1. Establish a penny telegram to be paid by stamps. 2. Build and endow a lifeboat to be called the Imperial Lifeboat, and to be stationed where decided to be most needed by a committee of members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.—Echo.

1. Abolish the 4s. and 2s. coin and issue a 1s. 6d. coin with scalloped edges, one side portrait, reverse the sexigesimal era, Sept. 23, 1896. 2. Ornamental card, say 12 in. square, suitable for hanging up or framing, with portrait and short summary of reign up to date headed The Sexigesimal Era, Sept. 23, 1896, and underneath a poem specially composed by the Poet Laureate. 3. Special prayer by the Archbishop to be read in all the churches on the following Sunday.

And may every heart rejoice and say:—
Many more years may she reign, and reign in peace
Her people contented, her Empire ne'er decrease;
And when on her is laid Death's cold hand
May she be found ready to go and reign in the better land. Snibor.

The establishment of a national bureau to procure employment for all who wish to work as a means of earning a living.—Pansy.

Let her Majesty spend at least one month of the season at Buckingham Palace, and by thus showing herself to her people she would best celebrate the sixtieth year of her reign. She might also, should she continue to enjoy her present good health, supplement her trip to the Riviera by a visit to Ireland.—Dumnorix.

Money should be collected in England and Scotland so as to make preliminary arrangements, by committee, for her Majesty having a Royal residence in Ireland. It is rather late in the century for it, but better late than never!—Ratseny.

That a building be erected in every village, proportionately to the inhabitants, where the infirm and aged poor might take refuge among their own kith and kin, instead of being handed over to the mercies of workhouse officials—and we are told that the mercies of the wicked are cruel.—A. A. B.

1. That a thanksgiving service should be held in all churches in the realm (no collection). 2. That each householder in the kingdom should submit to a tax on the rating of his or her house—above £40 of one penny in the £, and for all houses rated below £40 a tax of one halfpenny in the £, to be collected with the next rate following the date of H.M.'s sixtieth year on the Throne. That the amount so gathered be held in trust by the Lord Mayor or Mayors in each city or town through the United Kingdom, and be employed as a fund entitled "The Victoria Commemoration Hospital Endowment Fund," and be in aid of each chief hospital in city and town through the country. In London the chief hospitals, these to be decided upon by the Lord Mayor and two Councillors as trustees with him.—Sille.

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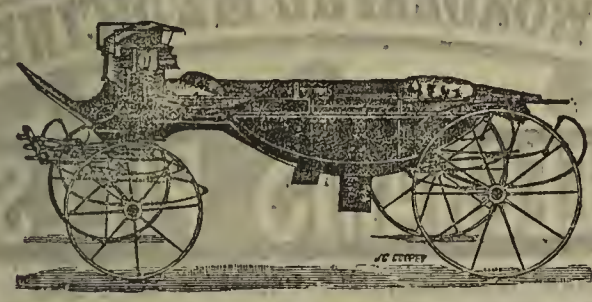

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HENRY PLEWS, General Manager.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

During the visit of the Emperor of Russia to Balmoral he is to be entertained by the Duke of Fife with a series of deer drives in Mar Forest. The Prince of Wales will arrange for a drive of red deer in the Queen's Whitemonth Forest, and there are to be roe deer drives in the woods of Abergeldie and Birkhall. The Emperor Nicholas is by no means a keen sportsman.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia are to be accompanied to Balmoral by a very small suite and as few servants as possible, but there will be considerable difficulty in finding accommodation at the Castle for the Imperial party, as the Queen's list of guests includes the Prince of Wales, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse, the Grand Duke Alexis, the Grand Duke Serge, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Louise, Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louis of Battenberg, M. de Staal, and Lord Salisbury. Abergeldie Castle and Abergeldie Mains will both be occupied by those Royalties and their suites for whom accommodation cannot be provided at Balmoral.

It is expected that Princess Beatrice, in consequence of her deep mourning, will be absent from Balmoral during the stay of the Emperor of Russia, and she may very likely pass the time with the Dowager Duchess of Athole, at Dunkeld House, Perthshire.

Lord Churchill and General Gardiner are to be the Lord and Groom in Waiting at Balmoral during the Imperial visit, and it is probable that the Queen will appoint Lord Clarendon and Sir John McNeill to be in attendance upon the Emperor of Russia during his stay in this country.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Davidson and Lieutenant-Colonel Carington are to be the Equerries-in-Waiting on the Queen from Tuesday next until October 1, replacing Major Legge and Colonel Byng.

One of the papers has given reasons why Sir Edmund Commerell was selected to represent the Queen at the funeral of Sir John Millais, which reasons are purely imaginative. Sir Edmund attended on the part of the Queen simply because he happened to be the Groom-in-Waiting on duty. When the Court is at Osborne or at Balmoral, the Queen does not usually require the attendance of either the Lord or the Groom-in-Waiting; but they must always hold themselves in readiness to take any extra duty which may arise. If there should be any extra duty when the Lord or Groom is at Court, then it has to be taken by the functionary who is next in waiting. This arrangement was made recently in consequence of the constant difficulty in finding Court officials ready to undertake such extra duty as representing the Queen at funerals and other functions, or meeting unexpected Royal visitors.

Bushey Park has been granted by the Queen to the Duke and Duchess of York, as I stated long ago would be the case. I hear that a very large sum of money is to be expended in alterations and repairs during the next few months, but surely the cost of all this waste is not to be defrayed by the public? By every principle of law and justice, the estate of a "beneficiary" should be liable for "dilapidations," if he leaves a Crown residence in such a condition that an extensive outlay is necessary before it can be again occupied. The Duc de Nemours enjoyed the free use of Bushey Park for forty-seven years, and the least he could have done was to keep up the place well.

The jubilation at Dover over the installation of Lord Salisbury as Lord Warden is not shared at Deal and Walmer. For the first time on record the whole of Walmer Castle is now closed to the public, the significant hint "Private" is exhibited on all the gates leading to the park, and at the drive through the park, which has hitherto been freely used by the public, policemen are on duty to see that the notification is obeyed. Under previous Lords Warden a certain portion of the Castle has been

open to the public, even when the Lord Warden has been in residence, and the withdrawal of this privilege, to say nothing of the closing of the right-of-way, has caused much disappointment and annoyance recently to visitors to the place, and is proportionately resented in the neighbourhood. Lord Salisbury's morbid love of seclusion has never been more unfavourably exhibited.

The fireworks let off at Dover to celebrate Lord Salisbury's installation as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports were ordered of a local chemist. Why chemist? The vendor of drugs thus favoured is not known to his fellow-citizens as an artist in pyrotechny, and there is no reason to suppose that he actually manufactured the fireworks which marked this historical event. But he is a J.P. and Town Councillor, which probably accounts for the order going to him, rather than to any of the less glorified citizens of the borough who pay for licences to keep fireworks. That is the way things are usually done in Dover, which is a hot-bed of municipal jobbery; and failing a chemist, no doubt the order for fireworks would have been booked by a butcher or a publican on the Town Council.

Last week at the Viceregal Lodge was chiefly given up to cricket, Lord and Lady Cadogan entertaining the Zingari team together with other visitors. Matches were played each day in the Phœnix Park, the weather being variable. On Thursday and Friday the match between the Zingari and the Gentlemen of Ireland was played on the Phœnix Cricket Ground, and resulted in the victory of the latter. Lord and Lady Cadogan and a large Viceregal party were present each day. The Viceroy's family was largely represented amongst the players, Lord Chelsea and Mr. Cadogan playing with the Zingari at the last match. On Friday evening a "Zingari" dance was given at the Viceregal Lodge, to which, amongst others, all taking part in the cricket matches were invited.

An invitation from the Lord Lieutenant in Ireland is supposed to be, like one from the Queen whom he represents, a command. Irish society, however, does not always treat it as such, but, according to convenience, either honours it in the breach or the observance. A "society" person may throw over a previous engagement in favour of a Viceregal invitation without being considered to have committed a breach of manners. He may also refuse the Viceregal invitation if so minded. Irish society is not servile on this point, but exercises common-sense and the liberty of choice in the matter of amusing itself.

The death of Lord Limerick leaves a vacancy in the order of the Knights of St. Patrick. The pale blue ribbon and diamond star—which the knights supply for themselves—are much prized, even struggled for, by those who are eligible to wear them; that is, Irishmen who are peers. Popular rumour in Ireland assigns the vacant ribbon to Lord Roberts, the suitability of a distinguished soldier for enrolment in a knightly order being more evident than that of a distinguished brewer. Lord Iveagh is the junior knight of the order, and the first created during the Viceroyalty of Lord Cadogan, who is the ex-officio head of the Knights of St. Patrick.

The Irish Viceroy has the power of creating knights. Last week he knighted the Irish official who bears the curious title of Ulster King-at-Arms. The appointment to this place fell vacant during Mr. Morley's tenure of the Irish Chief Secretaryship. He considered the subject of its abolition, but contented himself with abolishing some of the salary. As a rule, the holders of this office—like the officials at the Heralds' Office in England—exercise the curious prerogative of ennobling the ancestors of those whom the Sovereign ennobles.

Foreign Royalty has always taken more interest in visiting Ireland than the Royalty which rules the country. Of late years many princes and princesses have been amongst the tourists who crossed the Irish Channel from England. Last week the Crown Princess of Austria, travelling incog., and accompanied by a suite, visited Killarney, Kilkee, and many picturesque places in the South and West of Ireland. The weather, though somewhat broken, was not enough so to spoil the enjoyment of the tourists.

This week Dublin and its neighbourhood are crowded for the Horse Show, and tourists have converged from all parts of the country to the capital. Each year the attendance grows larger; it is expected to beat the record this season. The cycle and auto-car may have a great future before them, but the horse will take a great deal of beating, and the present is all his as yet, especially in Ireland. The Horse Show authorities, with great magnanimity and absence of jealousy, have made special arrangements for the accommodation of "bikes."

The Duke of Roxburghe's trustees have let his four principal salmon fishings in the Tweed at the satisfactory rent of £2,200 for the season. The Floors upper water has been transferred from the Duke of Portland to Lord Leconfield, Mr. Charles Perkins has taken the lower water in the place of Mr. Walker, and Colonel Percy has the Sprouston stretch, while Lord Home is again the tenant of Birgham Dub, which is the best cast in the Tweed.

Mr. Robert Wringe, master of the yacht *Ailsa*, sends me a categorical denial of the statement that no word of thanks was offered for the picking up of one of the *Ailsa's* men by the steam yacht *Thistle*. He states that

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 560 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 561.
For Amusements, see page 559.
For Our Puzzles, see page 569.

he personally thanked the captain of the *Thistle* on board that ship, and also another gentleman whom he took to be the owner. He also states that when the man was picked up, *Ailsa's* crew cheered and clapped their hands. I am bound to say that I had the original account of the incident from an eye-witness on board the *Thistle*, but perhaps the eye-witness was at fault as an ear-witness.

There will be no guests during Doncaster race week at Welbeck Abbey or at Wentworth Woodhouse, but there are to be large parties at Wortley Hall (including the Duke of Cambridge), Sandbeck Park, Hickleton Hall, Escrick Park, Serlby Hall, Tranby Croft, Warter Priory, and other country places in the neighbourhood. Sir Tatton and Lady Sykes have taken a house in the town of Doncaster. The Prince of Wales will be the guest of Lord Crewe at Fryston Hall, and H.R.H. is to travel daily by special train between Pontefract and Doncaster. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and Lord and Lady Londonderry will be included in the party at Fryston.

The late Mr. Graham-Stirling, of Strowan, who died last week at the age of eighty-six, was one of the most popular landlords in Scotland. He served in the 42nd Highlanders for ten years, but retired from the Army in 1837, and he had ever since lived at Strowan House, supervising the management of his estates, and taking a prominent part in Perthshire public affairs and in all local business. Mr. Graham-Stirling was a "laird" of the best type, and was always most generous and considerate to his tenants, and kind and hospitable to all classes of his neighbours. He was a keen sportsman and a renowned farmer, being, indeed, one of the most successful breeders of Shorthorn cattle in Great Britain.

I was right it seems. The Hon. Mrs. Randolph Clay is the widow of an American "Honourable," being herself of Scottish origin. The gentleman who sends me this information is loud in the praise of the lady, as well as of her late husband and his family, and he describes the lady as "distinguished," but in what respect, beyond the fact of being the widow of a distinguished man, and a contributor to a lady's paper "and other Court journals," he omits to mention. I am glad to make public this information for the benefit of those who, like myself, are ignorant of the Hon. Mrs. Randolph's antecedents and distinctions; but I would suggest that we have now heard quite as much as we want to hear about the lady.

Totnes was mentioned somewhere the other day as a popular Devonshire "health resort." According to some residents who have been writing in the local papers, the drainage of this town is so scandalously defective that it was officially condemned many years ago by the Local Government Board; but it has never been thoroughly reconstructed, although there are frequent cases of typhoid fever among the inhabitants. There are open drains in the streets for the benefit of the numerous houses which have no proper convenience, and the sewage of the town flows into the Dart, causing a most poisonous stench at low water.

A new terror has been added to life in hotels. A visitor to Harrogate tells me that at the hotel where he is stopping it is the custom to have a collection for some local charity at the table d'hôte every Sunday. For this purpose one of the guests, in the capacity of chairman of the table d'hôte, is requested every Sunday to say a few words recommending the charity to the benevolence of his fellow visitors, after which a plate for contributions is handed round with dessert. An incidental objection to these proceedings is that a visitor to the hotel is called upon to recommend some institution as to the merits of which he probably knows nothing whatever. I trust that this new form of charity touting will be nipped in the bud, or the next step will be that male and female collectors will be coming to the private rooms of guests with collecting boxes. There is quite enough of this sort of thing going on in the streets of pleasure resorts, without its being started indoors.

On July 9 attention was called in TRUTH to a complaint by a visitor to a well-known New York hotel, that though his baggage had been rifled in the baggage-room of the hotel, and the contents abstracted, the proprietor had failed to make good the loss, although he had promised to pay the amount claimed, sixty dollars, before the guest left for England. I was in hope that this reference to the matter in TRUTH, especially when coupled with an intimation that if the hotel proprietor paid up the amount it was to be given to the TRUTH Toy Fund, would lead to a speedy settlement of the obligation. But notwithstanding that the complainant sent a copy of TRUTH to the hotel proprietor, and requested him to forward the sixty dollars to the TRUTH Toy Fund, the money has not been received. The hotel in question was the Astor House Hotel, and I think I am now justified in formally calling upon the proprietor to hand over those sixty dollars. He has had a very long credit, and it is time he paid up.

A regular visitor to a well-known City restaurant noticed a mistake in his bill, and being led thereby to check those documents systematically, he discovered that such mistakes were the rule, the mistakes being invariably against the customer, and amounting to as much as 5s. to 8s. on luncheons for a party of five. Making further inquiries, he learned that the waiters at this establishment receive no remuneration of any kind, not even their meals, and this, no doubt, is the explanation of the systematic cheating of the customers. The system is equally unfair to the customers and the waiters, for it

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means that the latter are under a direct inducement to blackmail the former, either by downright cheating or by paying them no attention unless they give extravagant tips. It strikes me that it would pay a restaurant-keeper to introduce the rule now prevailing at all the best theatres, that "no gratuities are allowed, and that any attendant receiving one will be liable to dismissal."

It will interest many readers of TRUTH to learn that divorce proceedings are on the road to extinction in England. We have substituted for divorce, it appears, a new method of dissolving the matrimonial tie which is at once simple, efficacious, and devoid of all the unpleasant details incidental to proving a case in the Divorce Court. The process is that of obtaining a declaration of nullity of marriage. Those Englishmen who have hitherto supposed that this antiquated legal process comes into operation about once in five years, should look at the Paris *Figaro* for August 12, where they will find that it is the newest and most fashionable idea—devised, apparently, to get over British squeamishness about Divorce Court revelations. The writer, who is discoursing on "La Déchéance du Divorce en Angleterre," tells us :—

> Quand, au bout de quelques années de ménage, on a cessé de se plaire, dans la haute société anglaise, on s'aperçoit tout à coup que l'union malheureuse était entachée de quelque vice de forme, de quelque illégalité entraînant la nullité. Et vite on porte l'affaire devant les tribunaux qui s'empressent de déclarer que les deux conjoints n'ont jamais été mariés. Et le tour est joué.
>
> N'est-ce pas délicieux? Et comme c'est bien plus commode que le divorce dont, comme de la calomnie, il reste toujours quelque chose! et puis, c'est plus expéditif. Quand le tribunal prononce le divorce, l'arrêt est provisoire et ne devient définitif qu'au bout de trois mois. Avec la nullité, rien de tout cela ; on peut reconvoler le lendemain, le jour même.

"N'est-ce pas délicieux?" The writer is M. Paul Villars, and in another part of his article he remarks with reference to this "procédé admirable," "je regrette d'ignorer le nom de l'homme de génie à qui on en doit l'application courante." This is mere affectation. There can be no question that the name of this "homme de génie" is Paul Villars.

Mr. Joseph Latimer, the poet of the Royal Irish Constabulary, on whose volume I lately made some remarks, writes to tell me that I am quite mistaken in seeing in his book evidence of the improved condition of Ireland. So far, he says, from his poems having been thrown off in leisure moments, due to the absence of crime in the once distressful country, some of the verses were written as far back as 1884. All will agree that this is a most interesting statement, and I hope, for Mr. Latimer's sake, that it will lead to an increased inquiry for the volume. All through the stormy times which preceded the introduction of the first Home Rule Bill—possibly even in the stirring times when Mr. Balfour ruled Ireland with the assistance of his "Maiden"—Mr. Latimer was combining the production of poetry with the arduous duties of an R.I.C. man under a coercionist *régime*. It only shows that if a man has poetry in him, it will come out.

The *St. James's Gazette* published an article a few days back in which reference was made to Thackeray's club experiences of "a quarter of a century ago." As a matter of fact, Thackeray had been for nearly eight years in his grave "a quarter of a century ago."

In reference to my observation that, in the arrangement of the scene in which Mr. Crozier lost his life, there was "an utter absence of all precaution," Mr. Walter Tyrell writes from the Novelty Theatre :—

> As this is utterly untrue and distinctly against the evidence, I must ask you to contradict it in your next issue, the fact being that a property dagger was provided and offered to and refused by Mr. Franks, and this fact was sworn to both at the inquest and police-court, and the statement made in your leader is calculated to do the management an undeserved injury.

I was, of course, well aware of the evidence that a property dagger was provided, and offered to and refused by Mr. Franks. It was refused, I understand, by both actors concerned, and it excited laughter when produced in court. The question, therefore, is whether providing a property dagger which the actors object to use, and then leaving them to make the arrangements which resulted in a deplorable catastrophe, can be considered as taking proper precautions. In my opinion, it is not; and I should have hoped that by this time managers would have arrived at the same conclusion.

I publish with pleasure the following letter. The moral of it is the familiar one that nobody in these days can afford not to read TRUTH. Scarcely a week passes without some example of the consequences of neglecting this first duty of every citizen. As Mr. Thomas has already decided not to enter any more pupils for the "Kensington Locals," it is unnecessary to go further at this moment into the character of these swindling examinations; but I must say that it is quite time that every schoolmaster was informed respecting the character of the man Sturman and the examining body run by him, and if there are many more in the same state of innocence as Mr. Thomas, the profession must be very badly served by its own organs :—

> Mutley Grammar School, Plymouth,
> August 22, 1896.
>
> DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in TRUTH (August 20) relating to some of my pupils, having passed the Kensington Local Examinations, and referring to the exposures of Sturman (by whom apparently the exams. are conducted) that have been published in your columns during the past three or four years.
>
> I certainly knew nothing whatever of these "exposures," nor of the connection of Sturman with these exams. I considered them bonâ-fide examinations, and that they might be useful in stimulating young pupils in their studies, and also act as stepping-stones to more difficult exams.
>
> This is the first time I have sent in pupils for this exam., and it certainly will be the last; had I known that there was any-

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thing discreditable connected with the examining body, I should have had nothing to do with it.

For some years I have regularly obtained successes in the College of Preceptors and Cambridge Local Exams., and it is on these exams. that I depend as a test of efficiency. As you published the article referred to, I think, in justice to myself, you should insert this letter.—Yours truly,

F. H. Thomas (Head Master).

Much unfavourable comment has been excited in the diocese of Exeter by the announcement that Bishop Bickersteth has been so complaisant as to permit the vicar of St. Barnabas, Dartmouth, to accept the incumbency of the Anglican Church at San Remo. It is altogether wrong that any clergyman should be allowed by his diocesan to absent himself for half the year from his parish, and such an arrangement is particularly objectionable in the case of a large and important parish. There is a strong feeling in the parish on the subject.

Canon Scott-Holland is to be in residence at St. Paul's Cathedral during September, and Canon Duckworth will be on duty at Westminster Abbey.

With reference to the suspension of the evening services at Westminster Abbey, I have been reminded by a clerical correspondent that the responsibility in this matter rests solely with the Dean, and that the Chapter have no share in it. In the recent remarks on the subject in Truth the Dean and Chapter were coupled, and I cheerfully withdraw the aspersion on the Chapter. Not only is the Dean technically responsible, but there is every reason to suppose that a majority of the Chapter, if not all of them, would readily put an end to this particular scandal, if they had the power. The closing of Westminster Abbey at the ordinary hour of Divine Worship on Sundays is indeed a proceeding calculated to arouse a feeling of shame in every Churchman. What would be the amazement of any of the thousands of Englishmen now on the Continent were they to visit some famous Cathedral on Sunday and find it locked up? Yet that is what thousands of foreign and provincial visitors to London at this time of year experience when they propose to attend the ordinary Sunday evening service at the most famous of English churches.

The Chancellorship "of the Church at York" has been conferred by Archbishop Maclagan upon the Rev. John Randolph, who has held the rectory of Donnington for fifty-one years, and he is the senior member of the Chapter of York, having been collated to a prebendal stall in the Minster so far back as the days of Archbishop Harcourt.

The spectacle of Charles Surface putting his ancestors' portraits up to auction fades into insignificance beside the spectacle of the Church selling an ancient piece of communion plate to augment the parson's stipend. This is what has just occurred at Tong, Shropshire. In 1629 the church at Tong was presented with a splendid ciborium, which has always been described in the parish records as a communion cup, and which has frequently been used as one till quite recently; but after being retained through all the vicissitudes of nearly three centuries, it has now at last been disposed of, upon the suggestion—or, perhaps, it would be more accurate to say, by the order—of Lord Bradford, the patron of the living. The other day a Vestry meeting was quietly convened to go through the form of consenting to Lord Bradford's proposal, the sanction of the Bishop and his Chancellor having been previously obtained without the knowledge of the parishioners. Lord Bradford's agent attended the Vestry meeting, and explained that his lordship wished the ciborium to be sold, but that he was not at liberty to mention the purchaser's name or the amount offered; and, though one workingman had the courage to object, the other persons present—less than a dozen in number, and all tenants of the noble lord—obsequiously passed the required resolution. It is discreditable to the Church that such a sale should be allowed at all, and the mysterious, hole-and-corner fashion in which the business has been carried through the Vestry is anything but satisfactory.

What next? A testimonial is actually being promoted to Mr. Harry S. Foster, M.P., "in recognition of his untiring, able, and successful advocacy of the rights of private patrons and the just liberties of the clergy." Touting is going on busily among the clergy of all grades on behalf of this precious project, and even the unfortunate curate is being dunned for his subscription. Good Heavens! Think of the struggling curate, or the half-starved incumbent of a small country living, presenting his half-crown to a City plutocrat like Mr. H. S. Foster in sheer enthusiastic admiration of the said plutocrat's exertions on behalf of the rights of private patrons! There are two-and-twenty beneficed clerics on the Committee of this egregious movement, and I verily believe that if Simon Magus were still living among us, the clergy of the Established Church would get up a testimonial to him.

The closeness of the alliance between Bung and the Bishops, the publicans and the parsons, the Church and beershops, has often been illustrated, especially at election times; but, if a report that reaches me is true, never has it been made more conspicuous than on the occasion of a recent bazaar at Fonmon Castle, Glamorganshire, in aid of the restoration fund of Penmark Parish Church. It is said that considerable quantities of beer, wine, and spirits

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were contributed by the publicans of the district, and that during the three days the bazaar lasted one of its great attractions was a drinking booth wherein these liquors were sold for the benefit of the restoration fund. The bazaar was opened by the Bishop of Llandaff. Was it with his approval that a drinking booth was included in the arrangements?

There was a fresh and interesting development of the Church scandal at Rosliston last week, when the notorious Vallancey, the perpetual curate of the parish, was convicted of brawling in the churchyard which has so long been the scene of his irreverent and outrageous performances. It will be remembered that one of Vallancey's first exploits two or three years ago was to bring an action for trespass and damage to *his* herbage against a Miss Wright, who had clipped the grass above her sister's grave. On the present occasion, it appeared, he ordered the sexton to hack to pieces the mound over this same grave, and himself stood on guard, armed with a revolver in one hand and a stick in the other, to prevent the interference of members of the Wright family and other persons who were present while the sexton did his work. The magistrates had no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the Rev. Vallancey was guilty of both indecent and violent behaviour within the meaning of the Act 23 & 24 Vict., cap. 32, and they fined him £2 and costs. The prosecuting counsel mentioned that these proceedings had been instituted by the advice of the Bishop of Southwell, and, now that a conviction has been obtained, it is to be hoped that his lordship will see whether further steps cannot be taken to put an end, once and for all, to the unhappy state of things existing in this parish. The retention of a perpetual curacy by such a man as Vallancey has shown himself to be is a perpetual disgrace to the Church.

It seems quite the usual thing for distinguished personages of all sorts and conditions to patronise charity lotteries in Ireland. Since I mentioned last week one at Cork under the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant, my attention has been drawn to the fact that the Catholic Soldiers' Institute recently held a lottery which was announced as under the patronage of the Lord Bishop of Kildare, Lord Wolseley, Lord Roberts, and many other distinguished military and civil personages. On top of this come particulars of another "Grand Bazaar" (the Irish for "lottery," apparently), run by the Sisters of Mercy, Roscommon, "under the patronage of the Lord Bishop of Elphin and the Right Hon. Lord Crofton." I am far from saying that all this is wrong, but what I do say is wrong, is that while this sort of thing goes on in Ireland, it should mean fine and imprisonment to start even a charity lottery in England.

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Once again I have been questioned as to the genuineness of the snowball appeal on behalf of Guy's Hospital, which is being run by a Miss Weston, of Heather Lee, West Dulwich. That the thing is genuine may be assumed, I suppose, from the fact that the hospital authorities allow it to go on without protest. But in so doing the hospital authorities have inflicted upon themselves and the hospital grave discredit in the eyes of a large section of the public; and in the long run I think it will be found that this snowball, which has been circulated to an enormous extent, has done Guy's Hospital more harm than good.

In reference to Miss Smallwood's Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances, Mr. C. N. Bass, of Kidderminster, writes me a letter in praise of the institution, to which he has acted as honorary auditor since its inception. He states that he has "audited the accounts in the usual way," and has satisfied himself of their absolute correctness; but he thinks that the Society has now grown to a point at which the services of a professional accountant ought to be engaged. In this I think he is right, though in what I said last week I was far from suggesting that Mr. Bass himself is not a competent auditor; what I meant was that the auditor ought not only to be competent, but should state precisely how far he vouches for the accuracy of the accounts. The reason I made this remark was that in the published accounts of this Society Mr. Bass gives no certificate of any kind beyond his signature, while his brother auditor contents himself with a very limited certificate referring only to the balance in hand. I am not sure that I know what is meant by "the usual way" of auditing; there are so many of them, and many are not quite what might be desired. But if Mr. Bass has been over the whole of the books, has seen vouchers for receipts and expenditure, and is satisfied that everything is correct and in order, it would be better that he should clearly certify this.

Is any reader of Truth disposed to buy thirty unused 30 cent. Singapore postage stamps? I have these stamps for sale through the kindness of a subscriber to the Truth Toy Fund, to which they have been presented, so that an opportunity lies ready to the hand of any philatelist to enlarge his collection and do an act of charity at the same time. What offers?

I have received £1 from V. E. W., and £1 from Sibyl towards Lady Jeune's Poor Children's Summer Holiday Fund.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

In connection with the 4th Hussars scandal, I would call the attention of Lord Wolseley and Sir Redvers Buller to the punishment lately awarded by the United States military authorities to a party of cadets at West Point Military Academy. These youths were found guilty of the offence of "hazing" their juniors, and their punishment is a year's confinement to their quarters, which means that they lose their holiday leave and may not go beyond the street in which their several quarters are situate, except for drill and military duties. The punishment is warmly approved by the American Press, the only fault found with it being on the score of leniency; and I am specially impressed with the remark of one journal that youngsters who are capable of brutally bullying a junior of their own class cannot be entrusted with authority over private soldiers. That is a view equally applicable where the bully is a subaltern, and whether the private soldier is a Briton or an American. By the way, how are Lord Wolseley and Sir Redvers Buller getting on with their little personal inquiry into the Hodge and Bruce cases? Time is flying, and the 4th Hussars will soon be flying too, to India.

There are loud complaints against the ruthless severity of the newly-appointed Board of Examiners for Lieutenants of the Royal Engineers. It is said that every candidate who has recently been up has been rejected. People are asking, and not unreasonably, whether the examiners could themselves pass so hard an examination in two entirely distinct subjects.

Several further instances of the erratic marking of Sandhurst examination papers have been sent to me, apropos of the cases given in last week's TRUTH. It is rather remarkable that in one of these cases also the subject was geology. There seems every reason to believe not only that different examiners judge the papers of candidates by totally different standards, but also that the same examiners are by no means consistent in their judging from year to year. It behoves the Civil Service Commissioners to look into the complaints on this subject, for such eccentricities on the part of examiners mean heavy loss to parents, and often irreparable disaster to candidates.

By the way, it surprises me to hear so much about geology in this connection. On what principle is this science regarded as a matter of importance in the education of an officer and a gentleman? Geography I can understand the use of. Orthography also has obvious advantages. But, in the name of wonder, why geology? Can it have occurred to somebody at the War Office that a competent geologist would know all about earthworks?

Parliament was lately informed on behalf of the War Office that no complaints have been received as to the quality of the Lee-Metford ammunition. An infantry officer tells me, however, that he has recently found a very large percentage of miss-fires in the ball ammunition issued to his company. In one case a man had three miss-fires in one packet, and the company officer subsequently satisfied himself by experiment that the cartridge, and not the rifle, was at fault. It is a characteristic circumstance that though this officer duly reported what he had noticed, nothing is known on the subject at headquarters.

A recent article in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, gives an interesting comparison between the rate of promotion in the Staff Corps and the British Regiments at present serving in India. The following are shown to be the average periods at which the several steps have been obtained in the Home Army, as compared with the regulation period in the Staff Corps:—

	British Army.	Staff Corps.
Captain	8·19 years	11 years.
Majors	16·91 ,,	20 ,,
Lieut.-Colonels	25·86 ,,	26 ,,

Only in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel are the periods at all on an equality, and as regards the other ranks it must be remembered that the disparity is sometimes very much more marked than appears from this table. It is this disparity which is at the bottom of the old grievance about the supersession of Staff Corps officers by men junior to them in the British Army. An attempt recently made to adjust these differences by granting temporary rank, seems to have done more harm than good; and it is not likely that the grievance will ever be removed until promotion in the Staff Corps has been so accelerated that the two Services are more or less on an equality.

In Chandos-street, Strand, there is a drinking bar known as "The Chandos Buffet." At this establishment it is actually the practice to levy an extra charge, ranging apparently from 40 to 100 per cent., on liquors sold to soldiers in uniform. My authority for the statement is a Volunteer officer, who personally witnessed the imposition of this tax upon a quartermaster-sergeant, a colour-sergeant, and a corporal of two Guards regiments. For a twopenny glass of beer these men were charged 4d., and for a sixpenny whisky and soda 8d. My informant tested the facts by getting one of the non-commissioned officers to give an order, for which the charge was 1s. 2d., and then asking what the price of the same drink would be to him. The answer was 10d. This surpasses anything of the kind that I have yet heard of, and it would be a proper course for the Commanding Officers of the regiments represented on the above occasion—the 2nd Life Guards and the Grenadier Guards—to interrogate the proprietor of the bar as to whether he has a standing rule to the above effect. If he has, the next step should be to bring the matter before the Licensing Justices.

On what principle should the sergeant-instructors of musketry in a Militia Battalion be allowed to wear plain clothes habitually? A permission to this effect seems to

have been given to the sergeant-instructor of the 4th Battalion South Wales Borderers—a battalion where irregularities of one kind and another seem to be rife. The N.C.O. in question performs no duty which makes the wearing of civilian clothes specially necessary for him, and there is naturally not a little jealousy among his brother N.C.O.s at his enjoying a privilege which seems to denote some sort of superiority.

From what I am continually hearing on this subject, I have come to the conclusion that there is no foundation for the idea, so prevalent among civilians, that the wearer of the Queen's uniform is an object of admiration to the civil population, especially the female section. A soldier, so far as I can see, invariably regards his military garb as a degradation, and his highest ambition is to get rid of this mark of servitude whenever he is outside his barracks. Why this should be I do not know; but it looks highly unwise and shortsighted on the part of the military authorities to countenance the idea as much as is now done.

Is it the invariable rule of courts-martial in the Army, that the prisoner shall stand throughout the whole of the proceedings, however protracted? I ask in view of a recent trial which lasted for five days, and ended in the prisoner's acquittal. On each of these days the prisoner was on his legs from 10 a.m. till 5.30 p.m., with only half-an-hour's interval for his lunch; and nobody who knows what the interior of a court of law is—civil or military—will question that the fatigue of standing for such a time must seriously prejudice a man in the conduct of his case. A military correspondent, referring to a rule of military law, that the President of a court-martial should consider himself as the prisoner's counsel, asks whether counsel in any court would allow his client to stand all through a trial. It would be well if the next President of a court-martial, when struggling to assume the rôle of prisoner's counsel, would remember this question. I fear that it is too much to expect that any President of such a court will play the part of prisoner's counsel with much success; but only to get as far as offering the prisoner a chair would be something.

Reference was made in Truth of the 13th inst. to an allegation that in the Army Service Corps at Aldershot an order is in force that only three men per company are allowed passes from church on Sundays. I am assured, on what ought to be a very good authority, that no such order is in force, that men can get passes almost when they like, and that in one case as many as fourteen to sixteen per company got passes for Sunday. At the same time it is difficult to believe that men would take the trouble to complain to me about a rule of this kind if no such rule existed. Possibly the grievance referred to is confined to one or two companies only.

A question asked the other day in Truth, as to the intention of the benefit given last September to the band of the Berkshire Regiment by the Plymouth Pier management, seems to be fully answered by the programme and tickets issued on that occasion. On both of these the entertainment is described as a "grand complimentary benefit to the members of the band of the Royal Berkshire Regiment." A benefit to the members of the band is clearly a very different thing from a benefit to the Band Fund, and the proceeds of the entertainment ought unquestionably to have been divided among the men.

My attention is called by a Guardsman to the history of a man now serving in one of the Guards' battalions as an officer's servant. The man in question enlisted about five years ago, and went in due course to the depot at Caterham. He never even completed his recruit's course, but after a week or two at the depot was taken into the battalion as an officer's servant, in which position he has since remained. The soldier who gives me these facts states that this military valet cannot shoot, and is totally ignorant of drill and other military duties; and he asks what use it is to the Army to have dozens of men of this class on its "strength." This is a question which was asked in Truth only a few weeks ago, and it seems well worth the attention of Army reformers. If a man enlists as a soldier, and is paid and counted as such, he ought to be an efficient soldier in all respects, whatever non-military duties he may be employed upon. A suggestion has been made that Reservists should be employed as officers' servants, and this seems a promising proposal. If it cannot be carried out, I should have thought that it would be better that officers' servants should be civilians in name, as well as in fact.

A report reaches me that it has been decided that the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment is to leave the Portsea forts in October and go into Victoria barracks for the winter. Up to the present time I have not seen any official statement on the subject, but I sincerely hope that the report is well founded, both for the sake of the battalion and because it will afford a most striking and conclusive proof of the accuracy and justice of what has been said on the subject in Truth.

The following incident should be read with some of the recent remarks in Truth about the exclusion of British soldiers from the "civil lines" in Indian stations. A few weeks ago two N.C.O.s belonging to the 1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry attended evening service at Christ Church, Lucknow. There were several other soldiers in church, to the number of about twenty altogether. It is the custom at the church to

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serve out Prayer Books to those in the church in want of them; but in this instance when the functionary who performs this duty came round to where the soldiers were sitting, many of them without books, he deliberately turned away and went back to his own seat. His action was construed as an intentional slight to the soldiers, and, so far as one can judge, must have been so intended.

Is there no intention to issue any rewards in the way of promotion, &c., to the subordinates of the Commissariat, Medical and Ordnance Departments engaged in the Chitral campaign? Gazettes have long since notified the honours and rewards granted to the officers concerned, but not a word has ever been said about those subordinates who have been recommended for rewards, and who have in many cases borne the burden and heat of the day.

An officer stationed at Aldershot told me the other day that I should render the greatest service to the British Army by agitating for the removal of the tramway terminus in the Westminster Bridge-road to a point south of York-road. The interest of the Army in the tramway terminus lies in the fact that officers, N.C.O.s, and men, on their way to Aldershot, are continually missing their trains at Waterloo through the block of traffic where the tramway ends. This is really a grievance which the Army shares with all other members of the public who use Waterloo Station. All that is necessary to mitigate the evil is that the tramway terminus should be moved a few yards down the road, so as to prevent the stoppage of cars and the consequent block of traffic just at the corner of York-road. No one would be appreciably inconvenienced by this alteration, and I would suggest to the Railway Company and the London County Council that they might take some steps between them to get this public improvement carried out.

New surprises constantly await the civilian who devotes his attention to military matters. Is there nothing in the Army Regulations to prevent an officer or soldier on full pay engaging in trade or other civilian pursuits? I ask in view of the following circumstances. Just outside the barracks at Hamilton there is a bookseller's and stationer's shop. The surname over the door corresponds with that of a quartermaster-sergeant on the permanent staff at the depot; and the quartermaster-sergeant who bears this name is constantly to be seen in the shop of an evening, either behind the counter or in the circulating library at the back. It is generally understood in the neighbourhood that the quartermaster-sergeant is the proprietor of the business, and whether this is so or not, there can be no doubt that he assists to carry it on. As this is done without any attempt at concealment, and is common knowledge in the neighbourhood, it must be presumed that the N.C.O. has gone into trade with the full approval of his commanding officer. I have looked into the Queen's Regulations, and I cannot find anything which forbids such a thing to be done. But it strikes me as somewhat at variance with military propriety; and the neighbouring shopkeepers, who in their capacity of taxpayers help to keep the bookseller and stationer in his capacity of quartermaster-sergeant, have a reasonable ground for objecting to a state of things which means that they are taxed in order to subvention a rival tradesman.

In answer to my comment on the detention of certain men of the 1st Dorsetshire Regiment in India for a full twelve years, when they re-engaged for eleven, an officer refers me to the paragraph in the Regulations which provides for a man's detention with the colours an additional year, if he is abroad when his engagement expires. That, I have no doubt, is the ground on which the War Office proceed. But the point is, that these men extended their engagements under a special arrangement, made in view of their going to India, and expressly providing that they were to complete eleven years' service only. If it is now to be argued that this special contract is over-ridden by the general rule of the Service, I can only say that I never heard of even a Government office having recourse to such unscrupulous chicanery.

A complaint reaches me from the 1st Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, at Belgaum, in which it is stated that no account in connection with the Canteen Fund has been published for two years past. Considering how much dissatisfaction and mistrust prevail among soldiers about these regimental funds, it is very stupid, if nothing worse, on the part of the authorities, not to issue regularly the fullest possible financial statement.

At an inquest held at Weedon Barracks the other day, concerning the death of a driver in the Royal Artillery, the extraordinary statement was made that the deceased man and two others had to be sent to draw a water-cart full of water to the married women's quarters because, as the troops were away, there was no horse available for the work. The result of employing the men was that in descending a hill the cart got beyond their control, and the unfortunate soldier who was between the shafts was crushed to death against a gatepost. It seems incredible that it could have been really necessary to put men on this duty—indeed, that it was not so is conclusively shown by the fact that an arrangement has now been made for a horse to be used to draw the water-cart in future. If it be true, as I am informed, that this is the second accident of the kind that has occurred—the victim on the first

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occasion being a labourer who lost the use of an arm—somebody would appear to be seriously to blame for not having arranged for a horse to do the work before the sacrifice of a life had enforced the desirability of such a step.

Enteric fever still runs its course gaily in the various Dublin barracks. The latest Board of Inquiry on the subject assembled at the Royal Hospital last week, to inquire into the case of a private of the 15th Hussars. How much longer is this idiotic farce of holding incessant inquiries, which lead to no result, to be persisted in? It has long since become evident that the military authorities are totally destitute of all sense of responsibility for the pestilential condition of the Dublin barracks; and the only chance of terminating the scandal, so far as I can see, is that when the next death occurs the coroner's jury should bring in a verdict of manslaughter against the Secretary of State or the Commander-in-Chief, and that one or other of these functionaries, or both, should be put on their trial in a criminal court.

Yet another example of the blind unreasoning ferocity of Naval courts-martial. A boy named Kavanagh, of H.M.S. *Blenheim*, was ordered by Commander Currey to receive twelve strokes with a birch, and very probably with good cause; but, on receiving his sentence, Kavanagh straightway went for the Commander and struck the sacred person of that officer. The result to the Commander is not recorded, probably because it was too awful, but the result to Kavanagh is that he has been sentenced by court-martial to twenty-four strokes with the birch, twelve months' hard labour, and to be dismissed from the Service. Kavanagh may be an incorrigible desperado—though there is a Captain Marryatish flavour about his insubordination which makes one think he might have had the making of a sea-dog in him. But of this I am confident, that he was infinitely better fitted for his position in the Service from which he has been expelled than any of the officers who awarded this monstrous punishment. Here is a lad so young that he is liable to the punishment of whipping, and he is not only ordered that punishment but in addition to it a year's hard labour—a punishment which an adult on shore would only get for a very serious crime. Again, if the boy is to be kicked out of the Service, what excuse is there for thrashing him well first, and then treating him to a year's criminal discipline—and all this for losing his temper and aiming a blow at a superior? "Discipline" is the excuse, of course, for this sort of vindictive barbarity, but I can only say that those who suppose that this is the way to preserve discipline are living a full century behind their time. Can nothing be done to rescue this boy Kavanagh?

The fact that the Government possess £260,000, which ought properly to have been distributed long ago as prize money, is very discreditable to the authorities at the Admiralty, which is a perfect hot-bed of red-tape. If such matters were managed at Whitehall in accordance with common sense and ordinary business principles all the money would long ago have been divided among the sailors who were entitled to it. The result of the dilatory policy which has been followed is that most of those who ought to have received a share are dead, while the survivors are unaware of the state of affairs. During the last year certain payments of prize money have been made in connection with the capture of slavers, but even in this department there is actually a balance in hand of £7,657, which is described as "unclaimed."

It seems desirable that the attention of the owners of the South African lines of passenger steamships should be directed to the rowdyism and misbehaviour that go on among their second-class passengers, to the annoyance of all decent people travelling by that class. I have a statement before me of various occurrences that have taken place on three recent voyages to the Cape. In each case complaints have been made to the officers of the various ships, but without the slightest result. On one recent voyage the second-class passengers complained to the Captain no less than five times of the obscene language and insolent behaviour of a small ring of cads on board. In another instance the victim was a German journalist, almost unable to speak English, who, besides being baited and annoyed all through the voyage, was on one occasion subjected to a filthy insult in his cabin. The Captains of the South African lines must be very weak-kneed specimens of their class if they cannot put a stop to this kind of blackguardism.

Whether the Executive of the National Lifeboat Institution have inquired into the case at Castletown, to which reference was made in Truth of the 13th inst., I do not know. But without waiting for the result of any such inquiry, I think I can now say with confidence that the facts do not bear out the observations originally made on the subject in the Isle of Man. As mentioned in my paragraph, it was not clear in the accounts given whether the lifeboat had really been used for the rescue; but I now understand from a local correspondent that the lifeboat was not used; while one of the gentlemen rescued has written to the local papers to state that he paid the men for saving his boat, not his life. The case resolves itself, therefore, into one of property salvage once more; and if four boatmen, whether lifeboat-men or not, choose to go out in their own boat on an errand of this kind, it is, of course, no affair of the Institution. Whether the sailors were justified in screwing out the last sixpence

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they could get from a man under these circumstances may be open to question; but if the man who had to pay does not object, nobody else need.

In the last week of the session, Mr. Kimber, M.P., called attention once again to the abuse connected with the employment of "personal clerks" or "hired writers" in virtually permanent posts in the Civil Service, these individuals having been appointed on the personal nomination of heads of departments, and having passed no entrance examination of any kind. This is an abuse which has been frequently denounced in TRUTH, and questions have been asked about it in Parliament two or three times in as many years, but the practice goes on unchecked, and it is clear that it will only be checked by decisive action in the House. In the "Department of Civil Engineer-in-Chief, Works Loan," at 47, Victoria-street, the whole staff of draughtsmen and accountant clerks, eight of the former and six of the latter, are described as "temporary," and there does not seem to be anybody of junior rank in this office who has passed a Civil Service examination. A very similar state of things may be found in some other departments. At this rate the system of competitive examination for the Civil Service will soon become a complete farce; and already those who have entered by the legitimate process are suffering grievously in promotion and prospects by this illegitimate competition.

A curious statement appears in the administration report of Mr. H. H. Cameron, the late Government Agent for the North Central Province of Ceylon. It seems that Mr. Cameron was vexed at the omission of many of the Kandyan population to register their marriages, and it occurred to his ingenious mind that the best chance of inducing them to fulfil this duty "lay in devising some means by which a social penalty should attach to the neglect of the desired ceremony." He, therefore, proclaimed that if, after a certain date, any of the 5,000 couples in default "were still living as man and wife without having duly registered their union, they would be considered to be 'dhobies,' and would be condemned to the ignominy of washing their own clothes, inasmuch as I should forbid the dhobies to wash for them." The dhoby caste is a very low one, and looked down upon by the others; and the result of this proclamation was that, within a year, 3,626 of the 5,000 couples referred to registered their marriages. Mr. Cameron was, doubtless, actuated by the most benevolent and paternal motives towards the Kandyan population, but was it a regular and legal course that he took? Is the registration of marriages in such cases a legal obligation? If it is, is it customary in Ceylon for Government Agents to punish disobedience to the law by imposing a penalty of social ostracism, and compelling people to do their own washing?

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A firm of stockbrokers at Aberdeen report a case which affords a conspicuous example of the injury done by carelessness in the transmission of telegrams. They received a cipher wire from London, and on the strength of it sold certain stocks. Some little time afterwards the same wire was received again, and the stocks were again sold. It turned out that the second message was an accidental repetition of the first, and the stocks had to be bought in again, at a loss of £20. No redress, of course, can be obtained for a mistake of this kind, beyond the receipt of the usual form of apology kept in stock to send out as occasion requires. But there seems to me no valid reason why any one injured in this way by gross negligence on the part of a public Department should not have the same claim to compensation, as he would have for the like negligence on the part of a private firm or individual.

The interesting disclosure has just been made at Portsmouth that on various occasions when deputations from the Improvement Committee of the Corporation have come to London to interview the directors of the railway companies, with a view to securing improved train services and accommodation for the town, they have travelled with passes obtained from the general managers by the Chairman, Alderman A. L. Emanuel. This gentleman says he thought there would be no harm in applying for passes, and thereby saving fares which would have had to be paid out of the rates. There may have been "no harm," but there was assuredly a lamentable lack of dignity in the representatives of an important municipality seeking such a favour; and the fact that Mr. Emanuel has often distinguished himself by the severity of his strictures on the two companies makes it the more astounding that he should have been ready to apply for free passes. Ratepayers very properly keep a sharp watch on the expenditure of municipal deputations, but they have no wish to see their representatives travelling as railway deadheads, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Improvement Committee have now given up the practice.

With reference to my note last week on the boarding-out of pauper children in the Lincoln Union, a correspondent writes to say that no blame can be attached in this matter to Miss Mason, the Local Government Board Inspector of Boarded-out Children. I did not in any way imply that blame did attach to Miss Mason, who is, I believe, an excellent officer; but I suggested that she should make inquiries concerning the condition of the children from the Lincoln workhouse. I now find, however, that the Lincoln Guardians board out their children within their own Union, and that consequently they are not subject to the inspection and supervision of Miss Mason, whose duties are confined to children boarded out beyond the limits of the Unions to which they are

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chargeable. It is highly desirable that all the boarded-out children, whether they are living in their own Unions or away, should be under official inspection, and for this purpose another lady should be appointed as an assistant inspector. Meanwhile, I hope the Local Government Board will have special inquiries made into the matter which I mentioned last week.

For the second time within a few weeks the management of the Meath Hospital, Dublin, has come in for unfavourable notice at a coroner's inquiry. The latest case was that of a man subject to suicidal mania who had been admitted to the hospital suffering from a self-inflicted wound in the throat. He was in charge of a constable who, one day last week, allowed him to go to the lavatory with a mug to get a drink of water. There he found a bottle of carbolic acid, and drank enough of the stuff to kill himself. It seemed that the carbolic acid was used in the lavatory for disinfecting purposes, and the doctor expressed the opinion that that was the proper place in which to keep the bottle. The jury, however, censured the hospital authorities for leaving the poison within the reach of the deceased, and though the coroner disagreed with this censure, it will be generally endorsed by the public.

In connection with another inquest at Dublin last week the jury made a strong complaint respecting the condition of the Coroner's Court. A body in a very advanced state of decomposition was lying in the room immediately below, and the odour in the little court, where about forty people were crowded, was most objectionable and sickening, causing several of the jurors to become ill. It seems that this disgraceful and dangerous state of things has been repeatedly brought under the notice of the Dublin Corporation, but hitherto without effect. If the authorities disregard the further representations on the subject which have now been made to them by the coroner, the best plan will be for jurors and witnesses and everybody else concerned to go on strike, and refuse to attend inquests held in such an abominable den as the Morgue appears to be.

For years past complaints have been rife about the condition of the River Brent, but no one who has not actually seen and smelt the river can have the faintest conception of the actual state of things. Between Ealing and Harrow, at the present moment, the Brent is merely an open sewer, in which a stream of fœtid black liquid flows between banks of stinking mud. On hot days recently the smell from it has been perceptible at least a quarter of a mile away, and at points near Perivale, where the road is close to the river, the stench is intolerable. That such a state of things should exist close to thickly-populated suburban districts, and within four or five miles of London, is a disgrace to the local sanitary authorities. I take it that the authority on whom the chief responsibility rests is the Middlesex County Council, and if I am right in this, the Middlesex County Council ought to be ashamed of itself.

I alluded a short time ago to an incident in an Indian city where the remains of an old English soldier had been allowed to lie for hours on the roadside by which he had died. The evidence which was given at an inquest at Hinton Charterhouse last week, however, shows that it ill becomes us to comment on any callousness and indifference which may be witnessed in such a matter in a foreign land. A poor widow died suddenly on the road near the railway station at Midford, and there her body lay for three hours to be stared at by curious yokels. The village policeman made every effort to obtain some shelter for the corpse, but neither at the public-houses nor anywhere else could anybody be induced to receive it, and finally it had to be removed late in the evening from Midford to the woman's home at Hinton. Yet this is a civilised country, and the people of Midford doubtless profess and call themselves Christians.

The *Scotsman* states that considerable sensation has been caused in Uddingston by "an apparently heartless case of officialism," and if the facts are correctly given the indignation of the public can hardly be wondered at. The report is to the effect that a miner, out of work, and without money to pay his wife's funeral expenses, applied for relief to the Inspector of Poor at Bothwell, that this official sent him to the Fiscal at Hamilton, that the latter referred him to another Inspector, that he was next directed to go to the Sheriff, and that finally, after tramping about ten miles, he had to return home without having obtained the required assistance. It is further alleged that it was only by the kindness of neighbours—themselves in a state of poverty owing to the stoppage of the collieries—in undertaking to pay the cost that a coffin was at last procured, and by that time the body was in a most offensive condition. In connection with a similar story which was recently told at Aberdeen it was found that there had been exaggeration and misrepresentation; and for the credit of the authorities it is to be hoped that these allegations may also be refuted. They certainly ought not to be passed over, however, without some explanation.

A barrister and magistrate of many years' experience has been good enough to answer the question in last week's TRUTH with regard to proceedings before the Justices for the recovery of rates. He explains that in the case of rates made by the vestry for poor-law

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MEDITERRANEAN and BALTIC CRUISES for EIGHTEEN GUINEAS, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars, Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

purposes the Justices do not sit as a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and consequently rates beyond six months in arrear may be ordered to be paid, and, in default of distress, the defaulter may be committed to prison. In the case, however, of rates made under the Public Health Acts, the Justices sit as a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, the summons is limited to the past six months, and, in default of distress, the party sued cannot be committed without proof of his means to pay. If he is committed, the imprisonment does not purge the non-payment; but in practice the defaulter who has been sent to gaol is rarely proceeded against a second time for the same sum. It is not an altogether uncommon thing for district rates to be lost to the authorities through the collectors allowing further time for payment beyond the six months' limit, and possibly it was in this way that the vestry lost the rates in the case to which I referred last week. There is a simple means of preventing such losses by taking out a summons, and then, if grace be given, getting it adjourned by consent, which will prevent the time-limit operating. Vestries should see that their collectors do this.

The last annual report of the Commissioners of Lunacy is not pleasant reading, principally because it records the startling fact that, whereas in the year 1859 the ratio of known lunatics to population was 18·67 per 10,000, on January 1 of the present year the same has increased to 30 per 10,000. To account for this persistent spread of brain disease the usual argument will no doubt be brought forward, that every year the pressure and strain of living become greater. This would carry weight unquestionably, were it not distinctly shown that the increase is entirely confined to the pauper class of the community. Unfortunately, therefore, it is evident that heredity, drink, and unhealthy conditions of life are principally answerable for such large additions to the irresponsible portion of our population.

It is gratifying to learn that even German officialdom is amenable to the voice of TRUTH. It seems that the case of Henry Ebbett, the Grimsby smacksman whose arrest and imprisonment were commented upon in TRUTH of the 13th inst., had not been finally disposed of, and the man was brought up again on the 17th inst. In the meantime the German visitors and others who had interested themselves on the man's behalf, brought the TRUTH article before the notice of the authorities. *Post hoc*—modesty forbids me to say *propter*—Ebbett's sentence was reduced to a fortnight's imprisonment, and as he had already served that time he was forthwith discharged. He was ordered to pay 30 marks costs; but this part of the sentence was subsequently remitted, and I understand that a subscription has been got up for him on the island, which ought to be sufficient to bring him back safely to England. I have also to acknowledge the receipt of a postal order for 5s. on his behalf, which shall be forwarded to him in due course.

However, it is to be hoped that what has happened will cause attention to be directed to the doings of the Wachtmeister, and to the administration of justice in the island. I hear now that the captain of the smack offered to give bail to the amount of £10 for Ebbett's appearance; and, in view of what has now happened, the probability is that, had bail been accepted, the man would have been acquitted at the trial, and would never have suffered imprisonment at all. He has, therefore, a serious grievance against the officials who locked him up and refused bail; and from what reaches me (from German sources) it would seem that he is not the only party aggrieved.

Never, I should think, has a taxing-master struck out and cut down charges more rigorously than in the case of the bill of costs of Mr. John Walsh, a draper, in some arbitration proceedings with regard to the acquirement of his premises by the Sheffield Corporation. To begin with, the solicitor's bill was reduced from £989. 17s. 11d. to £585. 17s. 3d., though "counsel's fees and payments" alone had figured at £554. 18s. 1d. This is not bad; but it is in his treatment of the charges under the heading of "witnesses" that the taxing-master is seen at his best. Here are a few instances:—A firm of accountants asked for £1,073. 2s. 9d.; they got £262. 10s. A surveyor wanted £91. 19s. 6d.; he has to be content with £10. 10s. One "trade expert" charged £737. 10s. 8d., and another £841. 3s. 7d.; the amounts allowed them were £73. 10s. and £63 respectively. Two "drapery valuers" fared even worse. One claimed £737. 9s. 3d., and the other £661. 17s. 6d., but the remorseless taxing-master appraised their services at the modest price of £21 each. Miscellaneous items to the amount of £232 were wholly expunged; and altogether the bill against the Corporation was brought down from a total of £5,611. 4s. 1d. to £1,122. 17s. 3d. I gather from the *Drapers' Record* that the "trade experts" and "valuers" are aghast and indignant at the conduct of the taxing-master, and talk of appealing against his decision. Decidedly an appeal is desirable if there is any chance of its being successful, for the figures as they stand reflect anything but credit upon the reputation of the parties concerned.

The *Times* has opened its holiday columns to a discussion about lawyers' fees, on which subject barristers and solicitors write learnedly. The main complaint is that some barristers, at the head of their profession, charge too much for their services. I have little sympathy with the complaint, because no one who thinks these charges too high is obliged to pay them, for he can, if he pleases, obtain the services of other barristers for less money. There are, however, two things incidental to legal expenses which have

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always seemed to me to be open to a reform which would be greatly to the advantage of clients. Solicitors should be allowed to practise in all the courts. The result of this change would be that there would be a partnership between solicitors and barristers, as in America. The firm would get up the case, and one of the firm would state it in court. If an important case, a leading barrister would be retained, with the barrister of the firm acting as junior. This would considerably reduce the cost of litigation.

An edifying little dispute between neighbours has just been adjusted through the medium of the Sheriff's Court of Aberdeenshire. Some months back, Captain Brooke, of Banchory, Kincardineshire, missed two valuable dogs, a collie and an Irish terrier, belonging to his wife. He subsequently found that the dogs had been shot on the day they disappeared by his neighbour, Mr. Davidson, of Inchmarlo. Mr. Davidson, when interrogated on the subject by Captain Brooke, disclaimed any knowledge that the dogs belonged to Mrs. Brooke, but seeing that the families were not only near neighbours but on visiting terms, the disclaimer makes rather a large order upon one's credulity. The matter was placed in the hands of a solicitor, and, after some negotiations, in the course of which Mr. Davidson had been informed that the dogs had been purchased as puppies for £22. 10s., a writ was issued claiming £25 compensation. This amount Mr. Davidson has now paid up without going into court, and Captain Brooke has handed it over to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. The case has attracted special interest in the locality owing to the fact of Mr. Davidson, the dog-slayer, being a man of conspicuous piety.

By way of warning to the public, a notice has been affixed to the automatic machines in some of the Irish railway stations, recording a sentence of two months' imprisonment—pilloried in TRUTH at the time—which was passed upon a boy at Holywood, county Down, for obtaining goods from a machine "by fraud." It is all very well to punish the people who steal, but what about the machines which do likewise? I am continually hearing of the petty larcenies committed by instruments which take your penny and then refuse to deliver up the sweetmeats, or matches, or whatever you have paid for. It would put the business on a fairer basis if some director or official of the company were to get two months for such thefts.

Last week a farmer at Eastwood, near Nottingham, was summoned for cruelty to a mare which had been found lying in one of his fields in a truly pitiable condition, its body covered with suppurating sores and swarming with maggots. It was not disputed that the wretched animal ought to have been slaughtered, but the defence was that if the farmer had had her killed without first receiving the permission of the Horse Insurance Company, Limited, for which he had applied, he would have lost the insurance money. The magistrates dismissed the case, and, under the circumstances, I do not think much exception can be taken to their decision. It seems to me, however, that the insurance company are very seriously to blame for making it a condition that their formal consent shall be obtained before a diseased or injured animal is destroyed. Surely their interests might be sufficiently safeguarded by requiring a veterinary surgeon's certificate or having a *post-mortem* examination made.

The Mayor of Boston has brought an entirely new and original notion to bear on his dispensation of justice—courtesy compels me to call it justice. Last week one Taylor was brought up in custody charged with stealing a cat; and after hearing the evidence his worship addressed the defendant as follows: "On paying the costs for the trouble you have given, 9s. 6d., you will be allowed to go. *We are inclined to think that you did not steal the cat.*" So this worthy magistrate acquits the man of the charge, but punishes him for "the trouble" he has caused by being falsely accused! Could anything be fairer?

At Port Elizabeth there are some old tumble-down barracks which, after being evacuated by the military thirty years ago and remaining unoccupied for a considerable period, have, during the past few years, been patched up and made to do duty for the police, though the buildings are notoriously unfit for habitation. A man who recently joined the force refused to live in the barracks, stating that he expected to find a decent place, not a pigstye, whereupon he was haled before the magistrate, Mr. W. M. Fleischer, for disobeying a lawful order. It transpired that there had been an outbreak of typhoid fever in the barracks, and the magistrate himself admitted that "they were not as barracks should be;" nevertheless, he fined the defendant £1, or seven days. The defendant apparently thought gaol would be preferable to the barracks, but on his electing to take the seven days, the magistrate recalled his first sentence, imposed a fine of £10 or a month, and dismissed the man from the force. If this is the way in which Mr. Fleischer is accustomed to administer justice it is time some superior authority called him to order. When a sentence allows the option of paying a fine, or serving a term in prison, the defendant has an undoubted right to choose for himself which he will do, and it is an utterly wrong and unjustifiable thing for the magistrate to increase the punishment because he disapproves of the choice which is made.

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In my Legal Pillory this week the Lewes Bench gains the first place with a very effective illustration of the relative heinousness, in the magisterial judgment, of the offences of brutally assaulting a wife and poaching three rabbits. The lucky wife-beater gets off by paying the costs and undertaking not to thrash his spouse for the next three months; while the poacher goes to prison for a month. Wife-beating also appears to be a ridiculous cheap pastime for those who care to practise it at Portsmouth, Alloa, and Kirkcaldy. At Dundee the lenity of Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Johnstone in dealing with a charge of gross cruelty to a horse, stands out in marked contrast to his colleague's severity in a trumpery case of larceny by finding in the same Court. Among the other cases I would particularly call attention to the amazing indulgence with which a vile outrage on a little child has been treated at Redditch, to the monstrous punishment of a refractory fishing apprentice at Brixham, where the magistrates seem to have been corrupted by the evil example of the Grimsby Shallows, and to the flagrant disregard of the First Offenders Act at Stamford and at the Mansion House. The name of the City Alderman who was sitting at the Mansion House is new to me, but in future I mean to keep a special watch on his sentences, for he is evidently a thorough-going Draco. It will be noted that the Mayor of Honiton has made a promising début as a judicial humourist by inflicting a fine of 10s. on a labourer convicted of sleeping out, and "not having visible means of subsistence." His worship might as well have awarded the seven days without going through the farce of asking a penniless man to pay half a sovereign:—

Lewes Police-court. Before Messrs. J. G. Blencowe, A. Hillman, H. Scarlett, R. M. Beard, H. C. Lane, and Captain J. Shiffner. James Marchant, charged with assaulting his wife. He threw her down on the floor, knocked her about the face, giving her two black eyes, and otherwise ill-treated her. He had assaulted her on previous occasions. Ordered to pay 10s. 6d. costs, and bound over.

Dundee Sheriff-court. Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Johnstone. James M'Kay and Wm. Coupar, convicted of cruelly ill-treating a mare. Defendants covered the animal's head with a sack, tied her to a tree, and beat her on the head with a hammer for about twenty minutes, killing her. Fined £1 each.

Bishop Auckland Police-court. Before Mr. H. Chaytor and other Justices. Henry Burrosford, charged with wounding James Brown. While complainant was on the ground defendant beat him with a stick, inflicting wounds on his head and leg, and rendering him partially insensible. The charge was reduced to one of common assault, and defendant was fined £1 and costs.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Tait. John Johnston pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife by striking her on the head and face and kicking her on the body, and also to assaulting his wife's sister by striking her in the face to the effusion of blood. Fined 21s.

Lewes Police-court. Before Mr. F. B. Whitfeld and Mr. H. Whitfeld. Arthur Worthington, charged with poaching. He was caught with three rabbits in his possession. One month.

Wolverhampton Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Neve, R. W. Lewis, and W. F. Mee. Edmund Chell, charged with sleeping out. One month.

Dundee Sheriff-court. Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Paul. Margaret Cook, a middle-aged woman, charged with stealing one shilling. She found the coin in the street, and failed to give it up to the police. Ten days.

Market Rasen Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Holdershaw, T. Nettleship, and H. W. Marriott. Charles Booth, charged with stealing a briar pipe, value 6d. He found the pipe lying on a seat in a public-house, picked it up and began to smoke it, refusing to give it to the owner when asked to do so. Fourteen days.

Honiton Police-court. Before Mr. D. W. B. Buchanan (Mayor), Harry Bazley, labourer, charged with vagrancy by sleeping out, and being without visible means of subsistence. Fined 10s., and in default of payment committed for seven days.

Hungerford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. H. Dunn, Colonel Willes, Major Aldridge, Dr. Maples, and Mr. N. Bennett. Thomas Little, charged with assaulting Edith Kate Wallace on two occasions. On the first occasion defendant knocked complainant down, knelt on her, and tore her dress; on the second occasion he cut her in the face with a stick and used insulting and threatening language. The Bench said he had acted in a most disgraceful and cowardly manner. Fined £2 and costs, and bound over.

Alloa Police-court. Before Bailie Grant. Peter Conoboy convicted of a brutal assault on his wife. He went home drunk, and maltreated the woman so seriously by striking her with his fists and kneeling upon her, that she had to go to a doctor. Fined £2, and bound over.

Portsmouth Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. J. J. Young), Messrs. G. Curtis, and H. G. Matthews. George James, charged with assaulting his wife. He kicked and struck her, inflicting several bad bruises, and she had to go to the hospital. The Mayor said it was a cowardly thing to beat his wife as he had done. Bound over to keep the peace for three months.

Redditch Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. W. Haywood, W. Smith, and W. H. Yeomans. John Smith, a young man, convicted of assaulting a little girl aged 7. He took the child to a shed, and indecently assaulted her. A doctor described an injury which the child had received, and which, he said, was, no doubt, caused as the child had stated. The report states that "as the costs (34s.) were heavy" the Bench fined defendant 10s. only; and allowed him a month to pay.

Croydon Police Court. Henry Day, and Mary Ann Poynter, his sister, convicted of assaulting Emma Brickwood. Complainant, who was Day's housekeeper, was treated with shocking brutality, being pulled by the hair and kicked by the man, while Poynter savagely beat her until she was insensible. When rescued she was bruised all over, and bleeding from the eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. Day, one month; Poynter fined 31s.

Macclesfield County Police court. Before Messrs. F. D. Brocklehurst, E. H. Greg, H. C. Yates, W. T. Birchenough, and Rev. F. Richardson. James Timperley, charged with poaching. Three months.

Tunbridge Wells Police-court. Before Mr. H. Browell and other magistrates. William Page, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

St. Augustine's Petty Sessions, Canterbury. William Pierce, jun., charged with trespassing in search of conies. Fined £1. 19s., including costs.

Brixham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. N. Baker, Major Harlowe-Turner, and Colonel Sir John Daubeny. Frank Clark, fishing apprentice, charged with refusing duty. He had been previously convicted. One month.

Heanor Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. M. Mundy, J. J. A. Woolley, W. Smith, J. K. Fletcher, and Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Corfield. James Vicars, charged with stealing one pennyworth of apples from an orchard. Fined £1. 7s., including costs.

Burnley County Police-court. Before Mr. J. Baron and other magistrates. Joseph Ellor and John Slater, convicted of trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 each and costs.

Stamford Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. J. S. Loweth), Messrs. H. T. Betts, H. Knott, and C. Chapman. Charles Lansdale, engine-driver, charged with stealing 17¾ lb. of coal belonging to his employers. He had been in their employ for fifteen years and bore a good character. Twenty-one days.

Mansion House Police Court. Before Alderman Alliston, Margaret Taylor, domestic servant, charged with stealing sixpence from her employer's till. The prosecutor recommended her to mercy, on the ground that this was her first offence, and that she had previously borne an excellent character. The Alderman sentenced her to six weeks' hard labour.

It might be too much to say that the Houghton-le-Spring Justices have surpassed all previous performances under the Game Laws, but they have certainly made a bold bid for that distinction by punishing a man for the horrible crime of looking into a rabbit-hole. The defendant was a drayman, and as he could not leave his work he sent his wife to represent him at the Court. The technical charge against him was one of trespassing in search of game, but that the act I have described constituted the head, front, and whole extent of his offending was proved out of the mouths of the witnesses for the prosecution. Here is the report of their evidence:—

Police-constable Sanderson, stationed at Coxgreen, said that he saw defendant walk along a path from a house where he

lived to a rabbit-burrow near the Spa Well, in which was a rabbit-trap. There were also snares about. Defendant looked into the rabbit-burrow, and then walked back again. John James Dickeson, gamekeeper, said he was concealed with the officer when he saw defendant look at the rabbit-hole. Mr. Miller (magistrates' clerk): Was that all he did? There is no harm in looking into a rabbit-hole. Did he look at the snares? Witness: No.

After hearing this evidence the magistrates, Messrs. E. Richardson, J. D. Fairless, W. O. Wood, and Colonel Gregson, "consulted as though they were not sure what to do," but, continues the report, "it was at last concluded that defendant had no defence to offer, or he would have appeared at court," and a fine of 10s. and costs was inflicted. It would seem from this that these sapient gentry are actually ignorant of the elementary principle in English law and judicial procedure that it is for the prosecution to prove the defendant's guilt, not for the defendant to prove his innocence. If the Bench wished to deal with the man's failure to answer the summons in person, there was a regular way of doing so, but they had no right to fine him on that account, and it was a preposterous thing to fine him for looking into a rabbit-hole. In everything that concerns the game-preserving interest, however, the administration of the law by the rural magistracy is still very much what it was in the days of Squire Western.

One further point in the case is worthy of notice—I refer to the gamekeeper's statement that he was "concealed with the officer." Times out of number the highest authorities, including the most eminent of her Majesty's Judges, have pointed out that it is no part of the business of the police to act as game-watchers; and if there are men in the Durham Constabulary who have nothing better to do than to mount guard over rabbit-holes the force ought in justice to the ratepayers to be reduced.

A cruel instance of the persecution of an ex-prisoner by the police has been brought under my notice. Last October a man was sentenced at West London Police-court to six months' imprisonment for receiving stolen goods, and, on the expiration of the term in April, he immediately went to a different neighbourhood, where he succeeded in obtaining employment and earning an honest living. He continued to do very well in this place until two or three weeks ago, when the police acquainted the vicar of the parish with the fact of the conviction, and, this information being passed on to the employer, the man (who has a wife and two children dependent upon him) was at once discharged and obliged to quit the neighbourhood. Even if the sentence had included a term of police supervision the action of the police would have been wrong, for so long as an ex-convict duly reports himself and tries to lead an honest life he ought not to be interfered with. But in this particular case the man was not (legally) under supervision at all, and the course taken in officiously warning people of his past is, therefore, all the more unwarrantable and reprehensible. It is precisely by such methods that "old offenders" are manufactured. And then judges lecture them upon the iniquity of pursuing a "career of crime," as though any other career were open to them!

In connection with the "Watizit" swindle, my attention has been called to the following paragraph in a ladies' paper called *Woman at Home* for July 2:—

Have you seen "Watizit?" If not, I advise you to send at once for a copy of this fascinating puzzle to Miss Edith Hamilton, 2, Arthur-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. The price is only 1s. 6d., post free, and besides you stand a chance of winning the £60 prize. "Watizit" will help to fill up many an idle quarter of an hour in the intervals of tennis, cycling, and picnics, and, moreover, it "can be done," for I have succeeded in solving the puzzle—with the help of a key!

This occurs in a ladies' letter written under the *nom de plume* of "Etheldreda." The explanation of it apparently is that the "Watizit" swindle had been advertised in the *Woman at Home*, as had also the previous swindle on the same lines under the name of the "Wizard's Secret." It is bad enough that proprietors of professedly respectable papers should allow these advertisements to appear in their columns at all, but the scandal becomes disgraceful when such advertisements are actually "written up" in the editorial columns.

Although it is not an unknown thing for a political charlatan to push himself into Parliament, it is something new to hear of an itinerant, advertising, trumpet-blowing medical quack as a member of a legislative body. One of my Australian readers tells me that this is the position of a certain Dr. Maloney, who, after a tour in India, is now travelling about his native Australia with "a new and unique method" of curing every ill to which flesh is heir, combined with a "laughter-provoking electrical entertainment." This individual is a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, and, says my correspondent, a possible Minister of the future. For aught I know, he may be a sound legislator, but his own advertisements are sufficient to stamp him as a medical quack of the most pernicious class. I see, by the way, that his entourage includes a "Monsieur Richard," described as an "electrical healer." Can this be—as I am assured he is—the "Professor" Richard whose rascally career was exposed in TRUTH a year or so back, with the result that he promptly quitted England? If he is the same man, my Australian contemporaries do an ill service to the public in hiring out their columns for puffing him. If he is not, the sooner he makes the fact known the better both for himself and Dr. Maloney.

A correspondent who has had the misfortune to fall into the clutches of Isaac Gordon writes to inform me that that insatiable and inexorable bloodsucker and "James W. Ryland," of 6, Livery-street, Birmingham, are one and the same individual. This is a fact which I have previously mentioned, but as, judging from the copies of his polychromatic circular which I am getting from all parts of the kingdom, "James W. Ryland" is just now Isaac's favourite *nom de guerre*, it may be worth while to repeat the information. There is really no end either to his aliases or his addresses, and under any name and at any address he is always the same unmitigated scoundrel. Had he been sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment, instead of twenty months, at Worcester Assizes in 1889, it would have been greatly to the advantage of the country.

Reference was made in TRUTH a fortnight ago to the circulation in Devonshire of indecent advertisements issued by an individual carrying on business at Plymouth as an "Australian herbalist," under the name of Phillips. I have since heard a good deal about this business, which seems to be of the most disreputable kind. It is not, however, carried on actually in Plymouth, but at Stonehouse, a suburb outside the borough borders, and this is only one out of the many scandals ensuing from the exclusion of Stonehouse from the jurisdiction of the Plymouth police. There have been one or two attempts, I believe, to amalgamate the two places, but the Stonehouse authorities resist it obstinately. Why? Have any of them a vested interest in misgovernment?

Cabby is not a bad fellow in the main, but he appears just a little too prone to listen to counsels which are neither wise nor prudent. He is contemplating going on strike once more, with the result that he will inevitably alienate much of the sympathy of a public which not only dislikes being inconvenienced, but very naturally inquires why it should always be made to suffer when he and the proprietors or the proprietors and the Railway Companies fall out. As to whether the privilege question does or does not require revision, I give no opinion; but I can safely predict that it will not be settled by any amount of striking, which in the end will most certainly prove disastrous to cabby. He would do well to remember that in New York the cab or hack is rarely, if ever, resorted to by the inhabitants, who judiciously patronise the public trams. Our underground lines and increased omnibus routes would readily lend themselves to a similar course of action, if the long-suffering Londoner were driven too far.

In one of the communications respecting Dr. Nansen's expedition, it is stated that electric light was generated by means of a windmill. Why should not this be done in latitudes lower than those of the Arctic regions? What is needed is that a wheel should go quickly round. This is generally done by the consumption of coal; sometimes by the fall of water. It is true that the wheel of a windmill only turns when there is wind enough to make it. But then there is such a thing as the storage of electricity. Therefore electric force might, one would suppose, be produced by a windmill and by an electric engine, the latter only being worked when the wind fails. Thus electric power might be generated with a smaller consumption of coal than is now the case. Perhaps some electric engineer will kindly tell me why this joint motive power should not at once be adopted; and if not, why not?

Judging from some remarks in a Kentish journal, the new and more scientific system of hop cultivation, which enables the grower to defy insect and other plagues, is by no means regarded as an unmixed blessing. Washing, syringing, and other new-fangled methods have, it seems, pretty well eliminated the element of chance which formerly existed through the vagaries of the destructive aphis, and a grower can no longer speculate upon the possibility of his profiting by his neighbour's loss. In fact, the journal referred to, in its observations on this season's prospects, laments that a blight, "the one and only event that used to render profitable hop growing possible," is now out of the question; and winds up by expressing the hope that "some avalanche, blizzard, tornado, or tempest will find its way over the south of England and blow half the hop crop to smithereens." No doubt this would be very good business for growers whose crops were left; but what about the others?

I find myself in rather hot water owing to my remarks last week on the subject of gardeners' perquisites from seedsmen and florists, which have excited the wrath of several worthy individuals. This is the sort of epistle I am receiving:—

> DEAR SIR,—In reference to your paragraph in this week's TRUTH, *I object to it most strongly as a gentleman's servant.* It ought never to have been published. We have very few to take our part, and are often blamed for things over which we have no control, and are in very many cases a *down-trodden class.* I admit there are some of the character you write, but the majority, both of male and female servants, are far more honest and God-fearing than their employers. Expose our faults, but give us the credit we deserve, &c., &c.

Another critic of the same class bids me finish that article in my next issue, "by telling all the truth," which seems to be that in twenty-three years' experience of the gardening profession, the writer has never known a gardener guilty of a dirty trick. My worthy friends, let me remind you that we are all, including even journalists, descended from the first gardener, Adam, who bequeathed to his posterity sundry failings which we all share in common. I have never suggested that gardeners, or any other class of servants, are worse than the rest of human kind. The worst I think about them is that human nature is much the same in servants and employers; and that employers are far from perfect I need no reminding, for TRUTH largely exists for the purpose of exposing their imperfections.

Lord Wemyss has enriched the journals of the House of Lords with a protest against the Irish Land Act, which is about as long as an ordinary newspaper article, consisting of seven elaborate denunciatory clauses, and the fact is that this diatribe seems to be really a speech intended to have been delivered in opposition to the second reading of the measure to which it refers. Lord Wemyss winds up his characteristic attack by asserting that the Act "establishes further vicious precedents that will infallibly, in due course, come home to roost in the homesteads and industries of Great Britain." The real meaning of these mandrake-like wailings is that Lord Wemyss dreads the day when the advantages of the Irish Land Laws will be conferred upon the tenant farmers "of Great Britain."

Since writing last week upon the stupendous folly of the scheme for constructing a railway to Uganda, on which three millions of our money (to begin with) are to be squandered, I have received the following account of the amazing way in which this fatuous project has been inaugurated at Mombasa. The gentleman who sends me the statement remarks that it reveals "a case of really grossly illegal and tyrannical conduct on the part of the

Consular officials in the Protectorate of Zanzibar," and his language does not seem a bit too strong. The rights of the landowners in the island of Mombasa, some of them Europeans, appear, indeed, to have been treated with just the same scant respect which the makers of the railway will, by and by, show for the rights of the natives whose property they require on the road to Uganda. Here is an outline of the chief facts:—

. . . The railway engineers landed at Mombasa in November last, and surveyed the island with a view to locating the central station and commencing the line. Under the direction of the Consul-General, they proceeded in a few weeks to take possession of various private lands, and to begin destroying trees, cutting roads, and erecting buildings without notice or reference to the owners of the properties seized. Protests were lodged by the landowners, but it was not till February 29 last that steps were taken by the local officials to legalise their position and recognise the rights of private individuals, and then only (as subsequent events proved) with the settled purpose of forcing them to accept the award of a dummy Commission. Most of the protests by the landowners were ignored, but in replying to one the Consul-General wrote as follows:—"As a matter of fact no Act of Parliament is necessary in the Zanzibar dominions to enable the Administration to expropriate private owners in the public interest. The private rights of British subjects are protected at Mombasa by the treaties between her Majesty and his Highness the Sultan, *but her Majesty may waive or surrender the privileges which these treaties confer.*" However, the Consul-General was good enough to add that "there was at present no question of expropriating owners," and it was at length arranged that a Commission of five members, two being officials, two representatives of the landowners, and one a merchant, should be appointed to assess the value of the properties taken for the railway. Then, without any warning, it was announced that the number of the Commissioners had been reduced to three, only one to be a landowner. The owners naturally objected to this change, and would only consent to take part in the proceedings on condition that their right of appeal to the Judge of her Majesty's Consular Court at Zanzibar was acknowledged. As this condition was not granted they withdrew from the Commission, and the two other members then proceeded to make an assessment of the properties, which is regarded as altogether unreasonable and inadequate. The landowners took action in the Consular Court to obtain an injunction against the trespassers on their property, but meanwhile the local authorities had secured an order in Council giving them fresh powers, and rendering the position of the injured parties more helpless than ever. All the landowners have asked for was a judicial award by her Majesty's Court at Zanzibar; but after the most extraordinary subterfuges and changes of attitude the Consular officials have refused to agree to it. Why they should refuse, unless there has been something wrong in their course of procedure, it is impossible to understand.

It is to be regretted that no opportunity was found of raising this matter before the prorogation of Parliament; but nevertheless I hope that the representations of the landowners concerned will result in a strict inquiry being made by the Foreign Office into the treatment they have received. There are two or three points to which attention ought to be specially directed. First, there is the singular action of the Consul-General in threatening the abrogation of British Treaty rights for the purpose of expropriating a few British landowners in Mombasa—surely a most unjustifiable proceeding. Then there is the question, not mentioned in the above statement, of the quantity of land which will be required for the purpose of the railway at Mombasa. As I understand, the authorities have seized a block of no less than 400 acres, about a third of the island, comprising nearly all the available building sites of the new town of Mombasa. Is it seriously contended that all this land will be required for the alleged purpose of a station and station-yard for the Uganda Railway? Finally, there is the important point whether some change ought not to be made in the system under which Orders in Council are obtained by officials in such cases without the knowledge of persons directly and injuriously affected.

SCRUTATOR.

THE NEGATION OF GOD ON EARTH.

ONCE there were, in all probability, living things in the moon. Very possibly, in those long-vanished times, there were rival nations and eminent statesmen, so mighty and so wise that all thought that the memory of them would endure for ever. Yet, with these nations and these statesmen, their schemes and their dreams, it is as though they had never been. They have vanished into space, like the baseless fabric of a vision. So it will be with us. Our globe is cooling down, and when the temperature has fallen to a certain point, not one living thing will remain on it. And yet the lifetime of our planet is almost an eternity compared with that of one of the human grubs that for a few brief moments live—as we call it—upon its surface. Is it not, then, wonderful that for long successive generations of these grubs they deluded themselves into a notion that sun, moon, and stars were made for them to look at? Is it not wonderful that we, who know what a speck our planet is in the universe, and how brief is our existence on it, should take ourselves so very seriously?

Still here we are, and it is perhaps as well that we should rather endeavour to make the best of things whilst we are here, than lose ourselves in the consideration of our utter nothingness. We cannot meddle or interfere in what is going on outside our world; otherwise, with the illusion which possesses us, that we are a sort of universal Providence, we probably should do so. And thus I arrive at the conclusion that, being citizens of the British Empire, we should do well not to meddle and interfere outside that Empire. It will be full time for us to do this when we have put an end to the want and misery within our borders.

We live under a system of Party Government. Since I have known politics, I have heard it urged that we all should unite in some sort of National Party. But there has always been this difficulty, each Party desires to have its views adopted by the other. Yet this has come to pass in respect to our foreign policy. Since Mr. Gladstone withdrew from public affairs, this continuity has been served by the Liberal leaders accepting, and even exaggerating, the foreign policy of the Conservatives, and every Liberal not disposed silently to assent to this surrender, and to laud what he previously cursed, is denounced by the Press as a pestilential idiot, seeking, so far as he can, to bring his country into dishonour and discredit. And what has been the outcome of this continuity? Our armaments are increasing in such proportions that they soon will absorb our entire revenue, and with the increase of our armaments our swagger daily increases. Only a few months ago we were rejoicing in the thought that possibly we should be at war with the entire world. We welcomed this outlook, for we felt that the world ought to be made to understand, once and for all, that in us it has its master.

I suppose that we have given up all thought of frightening the German Emperor, of threatening France, of going to war with the United States, and of forbid-

ding Russia to extend her frontiers in Eastern Asia—at least we are not disposed to do all this at once, as was suggested to us last autumn by our intelligent Press. Just now we seem to be concerning ourselves with the Turkish Empire, and some of us are minded to accept a European war, in order to free the Christians in Turkey from the yoke of the Sultan.

Wondrous, indeed, is the change. For years we have stood forward as the friend of the Turk. Thanks to us, the existence of the vilest Government that can well be imagined has been artificially prolonged. After the last Russo-Turkish war a large portion of European Turkey, which had been freed from Turkish misrule by the Treaty of San Stefano, was restored to it by the Treaty of Berlin. The better government of Armenia had been secured by a provision in the same treaty. We could not permit this, owing to our jealousy of Russia. All this was in accordance with our traditional policy, which has been to make the Turks a barrier against Russian approach to the Mediterranean, and to sacrifice to this aim the well-being of the Christians in Turkey. I am glad that public opinion has at length awakened to the iniquity of this policy, although I think it exceedingly probable that our statesmen, who are most of them wedded to the old anti-Russian policy, will pay very scant attention to public opinion. Our humanitarianism is short-lived. How long is it since we were clamouring for a stop to be put to the Armenian atrocities? They are still going on, but our newspapers hardly condescend to allude to them. Crete now occupies their attention.

What I would have the country realise is this: So long as the Turkish Empire has sway over subject Christian populations, so long will its rule over these populations be a negation of God on earth. The misgovernment will be now more, now less, acute, but it will be the normal state of things. The only way to put an end to it is the "bag-and-baggage" policy advocated by Mr. Gladstone in respect to Bulgaria, and which has proved so successful in that Principality. I do not believe in our undertaking a crusade to drive out the Turk. I no more regard this as our duty, than it is our duty to reform the Chinese Empire. We should have all Continental Europe against us, because the great European Powers distrust our good faith. Is this surprising? We got hold of Cyprus as a condition of aiding the Turk to maintain his hold over the Christians of European Turkey. We interfered in Egypt to secure to usurers their ill-gotten gains, and although we pledged ourselves that our occupation would be but temporary, we have established ourselves there as though it belonged to us, and we are now engaged in making the Egyptians conquer the Soudan in order to increase the area of what really is our rule. For the well-being of no country outside the British Empire, would I risk becoming parties to a great European war. In the case of Turkey, I do not believe that this would be necessary. Once let us distinctly declare that the integrity of the Turkish Empire is no concern of ours, and that Empire would not last another ten years as an independent Power. When King Bomba outraged the public conscience by his misgovernment of Southern Italy, did we send an army to dethrone him? No, we put him under a ban by withdrawing our Minister and refusing to have any relations with him. This was enough: in a few years the Bourbons ceased to reign in Naples. So it will be with the Sultan, so far as his power to oppress is concerned. We ought to withdraw our Embassy from Constantinople, on the ground that no civilised country can have official dealings with Turkey. This would be enough. I am no believer in bluster. In the present state of Europe we cannot attack the Turk without risking a great war. This risk we should not be justified in incurring. But what we can do, we ought to do. Our miserable jealousy of Russia, and our absurd notion that if Russia were paramount at Constantinople, this would be the end of the British Empire, has kept the Turk on his legs. We are the crutch on which he has leant. Let us, at least, withdraw the crutch, unless we are the most contemptible of hypocrites.

Russia ought to have an outlet to the Mediterranean. Were we in her geographical position we should long ago have insisted on this. So far as we are concerned, we cannot ask for more than a right of way through the Mediterranean, because this is our nearest road to our Eastern Empire. But as, in the event of a great maritime war to which we were parties, we could close the eastern outlet from the Red Sea to our enemies and revert to the Cape route, the Mediterranean has not to us the importance which is ascribed to it by some. What are the two territorial neighbours of Turkey? Russia and Austria, and to Russia and Austria we ought to leave all relations with that Empire. The result would probably be that the sphere of influence of Austria would extend to Salonica, and that of Russia embrace the rest of the Empire in Europe and Asia Minor. This would be far better than a concert of Europe which really is no concert. Between the trio, the Christian populations would be fairly governed, owing to the pressure that these two Powers would exercise, whilst the Eastern Question would be localised. If all the islands in the Levant were handed over to Greece under some sort of vague Turkish suzerainty, such as exists over Cyprus, this would be most desirable. By degrees the Sultan would be reduced to the position that the Sovereign of Hindustan occupied in India—a mere royalty, without more political power than any other inhabitant of Constantinople.

HOTEL *v.* LODGING-HOUSE.

Recently some discussion took place in TRUTH on the charges of English as compared with those of Dutch hotels. One result of it was to bring me a very interesting and suggestive communication on a cognate subject—the charges of British lodging-house keepers. The writer addressed me from Liverpool, and his address would signify that he belongs to the comfortable classes. His letter had reference to a watering-place on the shores of the Irish Sea, much patronised by Liverpudlians. He indicted the place by name, but as it seems to me that the indictment would apply equally well to a dozen other places round the coast, I will take the liberty of

veiling the name under the symbol "X," which will represent any sea-side place the reader happens to be familiar with, and also the price of lodgings, which is often an "unknown quantity"—until you have got your bill. The facts relied on in the indictment were in substance these: For the best flats on the Parade at X. the proprietors are asking at present ten and twelve guineas per week; for inferior accommodation in the same houses the price is seven guineas. In side streets the price drops down to five guineas for a set of rooms at a considerable distance from the sea. These charges, however, are supplemented by innumerable extras. Further, it is the regular practice—one might almost say it is an understood thing—for the landlady and her family to subsist upon the victuals of her lodgers. A joint sent down-stairs re-appears in an attenuated shape, having lost several pounds in its descent and return. The same process occurs in the case of bread, milk, butter, cheese, and sugar. In some cases, even wines, spirits, dessert, and other luxuries, kept in the lodgers' rooms, pay toll on the same scale. Thus the lodger, during the period he is in residence, has to cater for an unknown number of individuals in addition to his own family. "The cry is," wrote my correspondent, "that X. is only half-filled," and he went on to imply that X. had only itself, and the organised brigandage carried on by its inhabitants, to thank for this result.

This set me thinking, and my thoughts took this shape: Why on earth do people who can afford to pay anything from five to twelve guineas a week for a set of three or four rooms go to lodgings at all when away for their holidays? Take the case of a paterfamilias who is paying, say, ten guineas a week for perhaps three bedrooms and a sitting-room in the best position at some fashionable watering-place — Eastbourne, Scarborough, Llandudno, or wherever it may be. His party will comprise, let us say, himself and wife, three children, and a maid. His ten guineas per week are swollen to £12 by the time he has paid the extra charges for "kitchen fire," 6d. per gas-burner, 1d. or 2d. for each pair of boots cleaned, 2s. 6d. per week for the famous lodging-house "cruet," various items for "washing linen;" and so on, and so on. For this expenditure he gets simply his lodging. He has to board his whole party at extortionate sea-side prices. He is the prey at every turn of tradespeople who, like the landlady, have to make their profit for the whole year in the space of six weeks or two months. He is, for the most part, badly as well as dearly served. Finally, he has to pay toll on every article of food purchased, to the landlady, her family, and her servants. Now, in any one of the towns I have mentioned, the same paterfamilias would probably have no difficulty in finding an excellent hotel where his party would be accommodated at an inclusive charge amounting in the aggregate to about sixteen or eighteen guineas per week. At that rate, I question whether he would be out of pocket as compared with his lodging-house, and how would he stand in other respects? He might not have the best bedrooms in the house, nor would he have a sitting-room to himself; but what of that? Instead of a single sitting-room to live, eat, smoke, and snooze in, with his children always obtruding themselves, he will have the use of as good dining, drawing, reading, smoking, and billiard-room as in his own house—probably also a comfortable lounge, and some sort of garden, where he or the younger generation can play tennis. He and Mrs. P. will have a chance of making friends and enjoying a little society outside their own circle, if they care for it. He will have an unlimited supply of newspapers, periodicals, and stationery gratis. He will have a first-rate table and a liberal choice of viands at every meal, beyond all comparison with anything he could get in lodgings, except at ruinous cost; and, what is probably of more consequence, he will get decent cooking instead of the abominable process passing by that name at most lodging-houses. He will have a staff of competent and trained servants at his beck and call, in place of an ignorant, and probably draggle-tailed, lodging-house slavey, and he will have a dozen other small conveniences and comforts which no lodging-house can possibly afford. Last, but not least, Mrs. P. will be relieved from all the trouble and bother of marketing and arranging meals, and the holiday will be a holiday for her as well as for the rest of the family, which it very seldom is in a lodging-house.

When one figures out and sums up the pros and cons of the account, I confess I wonder that so many people make martyrs of themselves in dear and nasty lodgings, when they might be enjoying their holidays in comfort, at little or no extra expense, and often at a saving, in excellent hotels. For the humble middle-class man who must find accommodation for himself and family at two or three guineas a week, the lodging-house may be a dreadful necessity. The only consolation for him is that he spends most of his time out of doors, and only comes in to feed and go to bed. If it happens to rain for a few days in succession, life indeed becomes a burden to him, and well may he return to his daily round with a sad conviction that holidays are a fraud. But for the man who can afford to spend three or four guineas a week per head for the board and lodging of himself and household at the sea-side, or who is prepared to pay it even if he cannot afford it, to go into "apartments" while there are on every side hotels, either licensed houses or "private," which will provide a family with every comfort at about this rate, seems to me the extreme of folly. Many people have a reluctance to take young children into an hotel, and if the darlings are to be introduced into the public rooms, far be it from me to reason against this very becoming feeling. But at all good hotels, young children will be just as well looked after, in charge of a maid, in the "steward's room," as in the public dining-room, and will be far happier in that unconventional region. As the cost of their board will be reduced in proportion, their parents will have a substantial compensation for this temporary severance from their offspring. No, my worthy Paterfamilias. Depend upon it, even if it costs you two or three pounds more per week to take your family to a quiet, well-managed hotel, you will find the money well spent, and will enjoy your holiday all the better for it; while as for Mrs. P., poor lady, for whom

the summer holiday has hitherto simply meant an aggravation of all the worry and annoyance of house-keeping, she will have such a time as she has never yet known since she entered into the bonds of wedlock. That is my advice to you in future, when you complain to me about the rapacity and dishonesty of lodging-house keepers.

EMIGRATION AND ASPDINISM.

The Emigrants' Information Office has just issued another of its useful warnings to intending emigrants, which it is to be hoped will reach the many whom it concerns. The latest warning is specially directed against the "farm-pupil premium system," the workings of which have so often been shown up in these columns, and against the frauds perpetrated on British emigrants by vendors of land in California, mostly American companies. With regard to the farm-pupil traffic, the Emigration Office say nothing but what ought to be familiar to my readers; but as several of the more active agencies in this line of business are still as busy as ever, and must be reaping every season their periodical crop of victims, it seems desirable to remind the public that everything that has been said in TRUTH on this subject is borne out by official utterances. The following extract from the last Government warning is a good example of the kind of swindle which I have so frequently exposed. It has reference to a party of young men who had been booked to Kansas by one of the English farm-pupil agencies:—

> The young men appear to have come out in response to an advertisement in the English newspapers. . . . I understand that those who are remaining in Canada paid some £25, and those who left for Kansas some £45. This money was paid in consideration of a situation being found for them here, and for the purpose of paying their immediate fare from Liverpool to Montreal, and first-class fare from there to Toronto, which altogether amounts to about 36.65 dollars. This would leave over some 73 dollars that each young man pays to an agency for service in placing them on a farm to work the same as farmers' sons, on the following terms:—
>
> The first six months for nothing, the next twelve months for 5 dollars a month, and then for what they are able to obtain. The young men have had to pay their hotel expenses during their journey. They are of the better class, and several very well educated.
>
> In nearly all cases the young men are grievously disappointed, expecting to be placed on first-class farms, which, however, is seldom done, the farms allotted to them having very poor accommodation, and consequently they eventually drift back to the cities, where they fail to find employment, and thus swell the already large number of distressed British subjects.

To this it is added, on the authority of the British Vice-Consul of Kansas city, that during the last year "over sixty young men were sent into this Vice-Consular district under false pretences from Great Britain." All these youngsters had paid handsomely in advance to be apprenticed on a "large stock farm;" they were all placed on small farms, and "in some cases not provided with work, but left to the mercy of strangers, which forced them to seek advice and assistance from the Vice-Consul." The Vice-Consul adds, what I think no one will deny, that all such agencies ought to be suppressed.

One of the most flourishing of these agencies is the one familiar to my readers as the "Canadian Farm-Pupil Association," conducted by James Aspdin, of Pendock, Tewkesbury, under the utterly false pretence of being not a commercial, but a philanthropic undertaking. In my last reference to this individual I promised to give some further particulars of the experiences of his "pupils," and here is one case which will serve as an illustration of many more. As in the last case to which I drew attention, the pupil was the son of a retired officer, whom it will be sufficient to designate as Colonel R. The parents got into communication with Aspdin through an advertisement in the *Church Times* emanating from a man named Collinson. This is a characteristic touch at the outset, the Aspdin Association having given up advertising in their own name since they attained undesirable notoriety by being shown up in TRUTH, and being generally content to advertise through a decoy, in the shape of a farmer about to return to Canada and desirous of taking out young men with him. Having answered Collinson's advertisement, the parents received a letter from Aspdin. In the course of the correspondence which ensued, Aspdin undertook to place the son on a farm in Ontario at the usual price of £30. This sum was to include the fare from Liverpool to Western Ontario, and all charges for placing the youth, as well as for supervision during the period of pupilage—the kind of supervision until recently undertaken by that disreputable old disgrace to his Church, the late Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Mooretown. The pupils, Aspdin stated, were placed with "good practical farmers, who make a business of agriculture, and make it pay." All pupils, he also asserted, received in addition to board and lodging, payment for their services, "therefore they are self-supporting from the first;" and they would enjoy "most of the conveniences, if not all the luxuries of civilised life together with the safeguards which are so essential in starting a young fellow successfully in life." In another letter Aspdin stated that a pupil usually received from £10 to £12 the first year, in addition to board and lodging, double that amount in the second year, after which "he should be able to earn good pay." The £30 having been paid, young Mr. R. went to see Aspdin, that individual having expressed a desire to meet him personally before he sailed. On his arrival in Canada, Aspdin's agent was not there to meet him as had been arranged, and he went to the nearest hotel, where Aspdin's agent eventually found him. After remaining at the hotel for two days at his own expense, he was taken to a farmer, who, however, was not willing to receive him. He was then taken to another place, which he describes as being so filthy and dilapidated that he refused to stay in the house, and he was finally deposited on a third farm, the owner of which undertook to take him for a month on trial. He found the life intolerably rough and uncomfortable, and he was kept at work every day from 5 a.m. till 8 p.m. He had to share a small room with two other young fellows, and to sleep in the same bed with one of them, who was so dirty that Mr. R. says he left his impression on the bed every time he got up from it. At the end of the month the "pupil" asked for the 5 dols. which he had been promised, but the farmer declined to pay him anything, saying that he would receive nothing but his board and lodging. The young man accordingly left, and, like so many others in his position, made his way to Montreal, and

endeavoured to find work there. The winter having set in, and the unemployed being numerous, he soon found that there was little or no chance of getting work, and eventually returned to England, his little trip having cost close upon £60.

When his son came back and reported his experiences, Colonel R. wrote to Aspdin, pointing out that the conditions of the contract had not been fulfilled, and asking for a return of some portion of the money that had been paid. Aspdin, precisely as in the last case to which I called attention, retorted by making all sorts of charges against young Mr. R., contending that *he* had broken his contract by leaving his place without notice, but offering to find him another if he liked to return to Canada. He concluded by saying that if necessary he would obtain "statements on oath relative to the matter" for the father's satisfaction. No doubt he would! Readers of TRUTH have seen these statements on oath already, and I doubt not that Aspdin can always get as many of them as he requires for any purpose from the parties with whom he works in Canada. That is all the satisfaction that the father has been able to get, and it is as much as any one is likely to get who pays money to this gang. When they have pocketed your money and given you nothing in exchange, they add insult to injury by defaming the character of their victim with sworn declarations. In my recent article "James Aspdin Unmasked," I dealt with certain infamous libels of this character which he had been surreptitiously circulating in answer to previous statements in TRUTH. I have since heard from Canada that one of the men who made these declarations was an individual of doubtful character and shady record. A man of this type is, of course, ready to swear to anything to justify himself and the agency with which he does so lucrative a business.

Even if it were credible that the complaints of farm pupils continually coming to hand are pure inventions, the fact would still remain that the business carried on by Aspdin and others of his class is essentially a fraudulent one. The point to be considered is, that any respectable Canadian farmer will cheerfully take a well-behaved, industrious lad in return for his services, teach him all he can, board and lodge him, and be ready to pay him a small and gradually increasing wage as soon as he proves himself worth it. All that is necessary is for the emigrant to find such a farmer, and this, as I have pointed out again and again, the Emigration Office in London, and the Canadian Government authorities on the other side, will do for every emigrant absolutely free of charge. The whole fee, therefore, that is levied by men like Aspdin—with the exception, of course, of the five or six pounds which is the cost of the passage out—is simply a charge for doing what the emigrant could get done for nothing if he were sufficiently wide awake. In other words, the Aspdin fraternity trade solely upon the ignorance of their victims.

Reference has once or twice been made in TRUTH to another concern called the "International Emigration Association, Limited," of 47, Victoria-street, Westminster. I recently received a circular issued by this Association, and headed "Important to Emigrants," which is, from beginning to end, a tissue of falsehood and misrepresentation. "We do not dispute the fact," says this precious Association, "that a young fellow may do equally well by going out independent of our cadet system, yet at the same time, the chances are greatly against his so doing." They go on to say that by going "independent of our cadet system" the emigrant, on reaching his destination, "has to take his chance of employment (sometimes very difficult to obtain) in addition to the worry and anxiety of having no guarantee of a comfortable home or payment of wages." They add a warning to parents against sending their sons abroad "without friends, to be at the mercy of touts and agents, whose advice is often misleading," and so on. Compare this with the following passage from the last official warning to emigrants issued by the Emigrants' Information Office:—

> Under the farm pupil premium system certain agencies in this country, some of which are now notorious, undertake, on the payment of specified fees, to find situations for young men on farms in Canada, and their operations extend also into the United States. There is no real consideration for the payments, which are in all cases unnecessary and in some cases simply fraudulent. . . . .
>
> The services of the Canadian Government agencies, both in this country and in Canada, are freely available, so are the services of the British Consuls in the United States, and the Emigrants' Information Office was instituted for the express purpose of giving gratuitously trustworthy guidance and advice. There is no reason whatever for employing agents who make their living out of the monies which they receive from, or on behalf of, intending emigrants. . . . .

Every sentence here gives the lie to the statements and suggestions of the "International Emigration Association, Limited," and proves up to the hilt what I have said in regard to Aspdin and all his class. I would earnestly urge upon my brother-editors, more especially in the provinces and the country districts, the desirability of doing more to bring the true state of the case before their readers. Although TRUTH has a very extensive circulation, it does not always reach the class from which many of the victims of farm-pupil agencies are drawn. In spite of the repeated warnings that I and others have given, the greatest ignorance on this subject still prevails among fathers of families, and the Press cannot do a better service than help to dissipate this ignorance on which alone farm-pupil harpies live and thrive.

LEIGH SAMPSON UP TO DATE.

As usual in these cases, the exposure in TRUTH of the frauds of Mr. Levi, *alias* Leigh, *alias* Lloyd, *alias* Donald Sampson, has brought me a great deal of correspondence disclosing further cases in which this wily and unprincipled rascal has imposed upon the good nature of benevolent people in his character of the impecunious artist. They are all much of the same character, but one or two are specially noteworthy as evidence of Sampson's artfulness. Here is a letter written by him in October last:—

> 44, Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill, London, S.W.,
> October 16, 1895.
>
> DEAR SIR,—You will possibly remember my writing to you last year on the subject of my drawings in water colour.
>
> You sent me very kindly £2. I have long meant to paint you something for that money, and I now beg to send you a hand-painted satin sachet for a lady's handkerchiefs of equal value, and I beseech you to accept it in exchange for the £2 sent.

Learning, Dear Sir, you are in London for a few days, I earnestly and respectfully beg you to consider if you could purchase one of my drawings in water colour at a time of the greatest moment to my fortune.

I have had the greatest misfortune lately, and for the past five months have not sold a single work.

Recently I applied for a situation as Teacher of Art in a school at Adelaide, South Australia, and as the enclosed letter shows, I have obtained it.

I am writing to respectfully ask you if, as I have to pay my own passage, you could purchase of me a really pretty drawing in water colour of "Where Shakespeare Sleeps, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon, at Sunset."

The price is only twelve guineas. I shall be most deeply and sincerely grateful did you kindly consent to retain it.

Knowing the price is a low one, I beg to invite an expert's valuation, by which I would gladly abide.

I beg to add that I do *not* ask for charity, nor could I accept it. I seek only to sell you the drawing subject to an expert's valuation.

For years I have suffered extreme privations, and I am most anxious to emigrate.

I shall be most deeply grateful did you kindly purchase the drawing.—I beg to remain, Dear Sir, your obedient servant,

L. Sampson.

It will be seen from this letter that the gentleman to whom it was addressed had first of all been applied to to buy a picture, and not being disposed to buy it sent Sampson £2 by way of charity. The virtuous Sampson, although, as he now proudly declares, he cannot and will not accept charity, pocketed the £2 and lay low for a year. He then evolves an ingenious scheme for bleeding this gentleman again, and as the first step sends him a bit of fancy work, which he pretends to have painted himself, but which he doubtless bought for the purpose. By this dodge he puts himself in the position of having wiped out all obligations in respect to the previous £2, and prepares the way for a fresh deal, by means of the other false pretence about the art appointment at Adelaide. He seems to have come across a very open-handed gentleman, and the trick succeeded only too well, the gentleman buying the picture at Sampson's price of £12. 12s., although he tells me that he had so little use for it that he has not to this day even opened the parcel in which it came. Sampson's letter acknowledging the cheque is another characteristic piece of humbug. He writes to the gentleman's son :—

Whatever my fortune in Australia may be, I shall never cease to think of Mr. ——— save with a full and grateful heart. I will try my very best to succeed, and, should fortune smile upon me, I shall attribute my success in the main to the benevolent patronage of your esteemed father.

Was there ever such an oily-tongued impostor ?

In a later case he appears in a new character, and under a new alias. This time, as he is writing to a Scotchman, he becomes a Scotch artist again, but for some reason he avoids the sobriquet of "Donald" Sampson, which he has lately used when writing to some of his Scotch "patrons," and comes out as Mr. "Alexander Clark." There is a peculiarly fine Scotch atmosphere about this work of art—one of the latest that Sampson has executed :—

100, Disraeli-road, Putney, London, S.W.,

Dear Sir ——,

May I most respectfully ask, now that you have come to reside in London, if you are inclined to purchase a few pictures of Scottish scenery ?

I am afraid you will think it great presumption my writing to you, but I am a poor man with many to provide for.

The dealers are over-stocked and refuse to buy, private buyers no longer exist, and the trade in art is greatly depressed.

Not having sold anything for many months past I am rendered extremely anxious to do so now, and I most humbly entreat you, Sir ——, to honour me by kindly examining the accompanying three pretty drawings in water colours, price only twelve guineas each, or *£35 for the three.*

One is called "Caledonia, Stern and Wild" (a scene near Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott). The next "Afton Water" (from the poem by Burns). And "By the Winding Ayr" (from "Highland Mary," by Burns).

In humbly apologising for the intrusion, I beg to say that I write only as a last resource, having had the greatest possible trouble of late months, and knowing of your great interest in Scottish Art.

I shall be most grateful did you purchase of me, Sir ——, but I wish specially to say I do not ask charity, nor could I accept it ; I seek only to sell the drawings, subject to the valuation of an expert, which I specially invite.

With much respect, and earnestly hoping for a favourable reply, I beg to remain, Sir ——, your most obedient humble servant, Alexander Clark.

P.S.—I have often sketched round ——.

This epistle was addressed to a gentleman occupying an official position, and came into the hands of a secretary, who happened to be a reader of Truth, and smelt Leigh Sampson behind "Alexander Clark." This gentleman wrote to "Clark" saying that he had seen similar letters with similar wording, but over another name, and had also read certain articles in Truth which had probably come under Mr. Clark's notice ; accordingly, he had not forwarded the letter to Sir ——. He added that the drawings had arrived, and would remain at the artist's risk, and would be handed over to him on the amount due for carriage, which he had (as usual) omitted to prepay, being forwarded. Sampson was not in the least taken aback by this communication—his impudence is proof, I imagine, against a great deal more than that. He replied by enclosing six stamps in payment of the carriage of the pictures, and sent a carrier to fetch them away, without further remark.

Mr. "Alexander Clark," however, is not always a Scotchman. He possesses an adaptable nationality, and was born, I imagine, in the same kingdom and county as any patron of art whom he happens to be addressing. Here is an extract from a letter written so recently as July 29 to a gentleman residing in Surrey. This also is dated from 100, Disraeli-road Putney, which may therefore be taken as the very latest of Sampson's numerous addresses :—

Dear Sir,—I beg you most respectfully not to be offended at my addressing you on the subject of my pictures.

Two years ago I did so, and your reply declining them, sympathised with young Surrey gentlemen who were unable to sell their pictures, and hoped to hear of my future success.

Since then, dear sir, I have experienced the greatest misfortune, and for the past five months I have sold nothing whatever, nor can I do so now, and I am filled with anxiety. I have therefore decided to emigrate, believing there is no opening in England for me. This is the reason I take the extreme liberty (for which I humbly apologise, and which I hope you may forgive) of sending for your kind inspection the accompanying good drawing in water-colour, &c.

This letter is signed "Alexander Clark," and goes on in the same strain as the last one I quoted. The gentleman addressed in this case had no recollection whatever of having written to "Alexander Clark," and replied requesting that individual to let him have a copy of his letter, which, it is needless to say, he never received. Immedi-

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Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W. ; 60, Strand, W. ; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City ; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

ately afterwards his attention was called to the last article on Leigh Sampson in TRUTH, and he has consequently not as yet purchased the "good drawing in water colour."

It will be seen from all this evidence what a cool hand this Sampson is, and what a wonderful variety of resources he possesses. From what I have seen of gentry of this character, I do not suppose that the mere exposure of his tricks in TRUTH will lead him to abandon his dishonest practices and set about earning an honest livelihood. For this reason I would recommend the public to be on the look out for him in any new disguise which he may assume. I heard accidentally the other day that he had been staying at Margate, where possibly he has been recruiting his energies after the depressing consequences of his exposure; and as he appears to have no means of subsistence apart from his connection with the picture trade, he is pretty sure to be trying his hand before long at some new swindle at the expense of patrons of art. If any of my readers should come across him, or any one at all resembling him, I trust that they will not fail to inform me of the facts, and I will do my best to keep on Mr. Levi Sampson's track.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

FRENCH BREAD ON BELGIAN WATERS.

THE Citizen King did a good thing for his posterity in letting Belgium become an independent State. He cast his bread upon the waters, and his descendants are finding it after many days. The Belgians have afforded the highest rank and great wealth to his eldest daughter, her children, and children's children. They are now taking on a daughter of the Comte de Paris as a coming Queen. She is a sonsy, German-looking girl—fair, fresh, and agreeable, but not likely to improve when *beauté de diable* gives way to matronly appearance. Her nose is retroussé, mouth cherry ripe, demure, and made to say soft things. The cheeks are well rounded, but with an oval contour. She has a charming figure, that goes well with the face. I fancy she is domestic, like her sister Hélène, who acted as her governess, and was indeed a mother to her younger brother and sisters. This match will draw, I hear, a lot of money out of the Duc d'Aumale's capital. He had intended to leave the best part of his fortune to his namesake, Prince Henri. But he has been brought to take an interest in the family of the Comte de Paris. He helped to secure a Royal match in Italy for the Princesse Hélène. The Queen of the Belgians came to ask his formal sanction of the marriage of Prince Albert and the Princess Isabelle, who are his grand-nephew and grand-niece. Her Majesty does not often trouble Chantilly with her presence. She only stayed there an afternoon and night, and had with her the Princesse Clémentine. The heir to the Comte de Flandre and the Belgian throne is a brilliant match for a Princess whose brother is a King *in partibus*. The drawback is his appearance. Prince Baldwin, who died a few years ago, was singularly handsome. Flattery could hardly speak of Prince Albert as well favoured and of ruddy countenance. Physically he is said, by those who wish to pay him their court, to resemble the Duke of Burgundy, grandson of Louis XIV. That Prince was slightly awry, and looked better in a carriage than on horseback.

There is no Prince in Europe more royally lodged than the King of the Belgians. I cannot think of any Prince, unless the Comte de Flandre, who is so comfortably cared for. His marine villa at Ostend is near the south end of the tiled Esplanade, and has in front the finest sands and sea view to be had east of St. Malo. The tiled Esplanade, nearly three miles long, is beyond comparison the finest sea-walk in Europe. The house fronts are sumptuously handsome, and the earnest of the splendid interiors. Ostend, need I say, is one of the gambling centres of Europe, and is being made—with, it is said, the sanction and aid of Royalty—a rival of Monaco. The Casino, it appears, stands in the way, and has been a good deal bothered in consequence. Ostend, this season, is almost what Baden-Baden used to be in the days of Benazet. In point of very fine and very fast company, it is quite equal to the Black Forest watering-place in its best days. Every morning, from sunrise to a quarter-past nine, the Esplanade is given over to cyclists. One sees there then only wheel-men and wheel-women. The latter predominate, and equality reigns. Prince, professor, actor, actress, professional beauty, rejuvenated dame, Monsieur Alphonse, Belgian nobleman, artist, corpulent Mynheer, all fly past, mixed up in the same flock. The lovely Liane, who was suddenly threatened with Rubensy flesh, has got rid of it by cycling on the Esplanade and sea bathing. The Queen and her daughters are not fond of Ostend. Her Majesty prefers horsy Spa.

Lodgings in hotels and private houses are fearfully dear at the Belgian Brighton. When I was there I found I could save money by lodging at Ghent or Bruges and passing my days and evenings at Ostend. The hotels in these old towns are really good; railway fares are cheaper than in any other State in Europe. Roads are good for cycling in fairly dry weather. One need not then go on the central cobblestone paving. But Belgium is badly off for temperance drinks, and cycling is such thirsty amusement! Nieuport—in train-communication with Ostend—is much cheaper. It is easy to get away from the latter place to England or Germany, but not to Paris. There are now some charming, and not dear, watering-places near Liége and Namur. An English family is not stared at in Belgium as it is in France. I remember the whole of a French burg turning out to see "un Révérend Anglais" with his wife and their numerous offspring. There were nine girls in all. If the Muses could be imagined as going about in home-made modern dress, with guide-books and Tauchnitz novels in their hands, these rectory girls might have been supposed to personate them. The eldest was long grown up; the youngest was not yet ten. This sight was not, however, so startlingly strange as another

CYCLING SUITS are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

reverend and wife who, with their bakers' dozen of lasses of all ages and sizes, walked over the same town in search of an hotel that could take them in. The legend is that there were ten sons left behind in England. In Belgium such a host of children might be exceptional, but not phenomenal. In France it would be startlingly strange. The French have not yet got over the effect on their nerves of Bonaparte saying that boys were future *chair à canon.* The 6,000 soldiers who died of fever at Majunga have been an unpleasant reminder of the dictum.

Paris often seems to me a cemetery of the great whom I have known and seen. I have had to cultivate the risen. As pre-eminence comes late in life, they soon sank below the horizon, to rise no more. The recent death of the Duchesse de Sesto reminds me of a number of brilliantly lovely women who shone under the Empire. The fairest of these fair were three Italians—all in Society—a Russian, a Spaniard, three Americans, a West Indian creole, and a Saxon. The Empress was the Spaniard; the Duchesse de Morny, since Duchesse de Sesto, the Russian. I used to see the latter at the Palais Bourbon and at Lady Cowley's. I still have her before my eyes, as she first impressed me. Do you remember Kilmeny in the "Queen's Wake," as she seemed to her kindred? After her return from fairyland, Kilmeny "looked up with a lovely grace, but no smile was seen on her sinless face." The Duchesse de Morny did not smile, and yet did not look sad or serious. She had the clearest complexion I think I ever saw, the brown eyes of a fawn, and pale gold, flossy hair that no dye could imitate—hair that softly frizzed and curled, and formed a nimbus round the diaphanous face. There was no mind in the face, any more than in a fawn's; but neither was there vacuity. She looked a strange, eerie being. I did not then know what summer nights in Northern Russia were like. Had I known, she would have appeared to me the Spirit of the Arctic Midnight, clear, still, and of subtle, subjugating golden beauty. Somehow it is not a beauty that awakes enthusiasm. One feels what cold there is behind it. The Duchesse de Morny had a slender figure. She wore a dark green plaid dress of twilled silk, a neat turned-down linen collar embroidered daintily at the corners, a small gold brooch, a large bonnet of white chip, with a blue "curtain" (bavolet), and a large bunch of blue cornflowers at the left side. One of the hands was ungloved. It was also diaphanous and thin. She had "pagoda" sleeves and puffed muslin under-sleeves with linen cuffs to match the collar. There was no bracelet, and the bared fingers were not ringed. There was little to notice in the dress. But the wearer gave it an air of astonishing style and elegance. The corsage seemed rather large, but this added to the effect, by enabling the dress to lend itself to the graceful motions of the Duchess.

This beauty was fast fleeting. The Duchess was married at the age of sixteen, from school, to the most experienced Frenchman of his time in refined dissipation. I believe she did not care for him, but rather enjoyed the sphere into which he brought her and the wealth that he commanded. Two years later she had grown much taller. I saw her then, in a white piqué dress and large crinoline, leading a child—a naughty boy, also in white—down steps into a garden. The hair and complexion were unchanged; but the eyes had lost the startled-fawn expression, and the face had grown too long and thin. Just before De Morny's death she looked witchy, seated among her four children. There was a shrewdish expression in the face that did not embellish it. We did not then know the word *inconscient.* If we had, I should have said it fitted her, and I should have also said there was something in the bantlings which threatened *inconscience.* There was a fair child, a perfect little Undine, quite soulless, very animated, and scarcely human in expression. We have known of her since as the Comtesse de Belbœuf. Another of the pretty little girls married a Spanish grandee, and died suddenly as she was going to a ball. The eldest of the two boys was destined to appear as first chief mourner at the most sensational funeral the Boulevards ever witnessed—that of the suicide, Mlle. Feyghine, of the Français. His mourning "supporters" were M. Perrin, manager of the Français, and the Prince de Sagan. The Duchesse de Morny, on her first husband's death, cut off her lovely hair and retired from the world. But the hair soon grew again, and she married the Duc de Sesto, Marquis of Alcenices, grand-master of her Most Catholic Majesty's Palace, and of his Most Catholic Majesty's in the Alphonsist reigns. De Sesto was ardently admired by Queen Isabella and the Duchesse d'Alba. He as ardently admired the Countess of Teba, who preferred to him the Duke of Osuna. The latter only pretended to return her admiration to hide his passion for her sister, who had a jealous husband. The story of each duke's flirtations would make a Comedy of Errors. That of Osuna indirectly but mightily affected the French Empire.

The Duchesse de Morny was said to be of Russian Imperial blood, but did not resemble any member of the Imperial family. She rather prided herself on De Morny's maternal origin. After her second marriage she kept her house in Chaillot, but lived a good deal at Madrid. Her husband was there the companion of the late King in his evening outings. Alphonso in one respect was like the Merry Monarch. His great passion was for a famous contralto singer, now living in Paris with two sons, who are both the image of the late King, and who take the name of Borbon. Nevertheless, Queen Christina judged well to keep on good terms with the Duke of Sesto and his wife. The latter ceased to lead fashion, but retained the old stamp of elegance. She, however, reverted to the Russian ways of her youth and smoked endless cigarettes, was tender to children, took a philosophical view of life, and was happy when her son obtained the richly-dowered daughter of Guzman Blanco. She had not the talent of Russian Court ladies for political or diplomatic intrigue, and was said to be the only virtuous lady in the Empress Eugénie's circle. It is believed that she brought about the existing intimacy between the Grand Duke Vladimir's family and that of Queen Christina—an intimacy that was greatly encouraged by the late Czar.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"MARRIAGES," dear Lady Betty, "are made in Heaven"—and Ambassadors are made in TRUTH.

Several weeks ago it was announced in these columns that Lord Salisbury had decided to appoint Sir Edmund Monson to succeed Lord Dufferin as British Ambassador in Paris, and it was suggested that Sir Horace Rumbold, our Minister at the Hague, should be promoted to replace Sir Edmund as British Ambassador at Vienna. The announcement has been proved to be correct, and the suggestion has been adopted.

Lord Salisbury has for several months been offering the appointment of British Ambassador in Paris to titled and territorial magnates who are supporters of the Conservative Party; and it is, therefore, a glorious triumph for the members of the Diplomatic Service that he has been compelled by circumstances to confer the post upon a diplomatist.

Sir Edmund Monson possesses considerable ability; he has had much experience; he has great charm of manner, and he is in every way eminently qualified to undertake the difficult task of acting as our representative in Paris. He is not a rich man—neither is Lord Dufferin; and he is not a peer; but this trifling defect can be easily rectified. It may, indeed, safely be predicted that before another twelve months have passed Sir Edmund will be elevated to the Peerage. Since the days of Sir Robert Stuart, every British Ambassador in Paris has been a Peer—to wit, Lord Normanby, Lord Cowley, Lord Lyons, Lord Lytton, and Lord Dufferin. Custom has now caused it to be considered correct that whoever holds this important office should possess a Peerage, and it is, therefore, probable that as soon as a suitable occasion presents itself the Queen will bestow a Barony upon Sir Edmund Monson, if for no better reason, as a compliment to the French nation.

Lord Salisbury has gained in reputation by promoting Sir Horace Rumbold to be British Ambassador at Vienna. The circumstances of this case have only to be stated to show how unworthily Sir Horace has hitherto been treated. It is admitted by his colleagues that he is one of the most capable men, if not the most capable man, in the Service. He is, moreover, a magnificent linguist. Sir Horace was appointed an Attaché in 1849. Sir Clare Ford, our Ambassador at Rome, joined the Service in '52; Sir Edward Malet, our late Ambassador at Berlin, in '54; Sir Edmund Monson in '56; Sir Frank Lascelles, our present Ambassador at Berlin, in '61; and Sir Nicholas O'Conor, who is our Ambassador at Petersburg, in '66. Therefore, though the great talent and experience which Sir Horace Rumbold possesses are admitted on every side, he has been passed over time after time by his juniors, and it is only now that the Foreign Office has done justice to a very efficient public servant. It is obvious that a malign influence has been exercised behind the scenes to the disadvantage of Sir Horace, and it is altogether to the credit of Lord Salisbury that, even though at the eleventh hour, he has refused to comply with the requirements of this nefarious opposition.

It only remains to be added that throughout the British Diplomatic Service the announcement of the appointments of Sir Edmund Monson and of Sir Horace Rumbold has occasioned much satisfaction; for, in the case of the former, there is the victory of a principle, and in that of the latter a prejudice has been vanquished.

It is probable that either Sir Charles Stewart Scott or Mr. Edmund Phipps will be appointed to replace Sir Horace Rumbold as British Minister at the Hague.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

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SPORTING NOTES.

THERE has been practically no betting on the St. Leger during the last week, for the backers have not, so far, manifested any inclination to lay 5 to 2 on Persimmon. It is inconceivable that any one suffered to go at large would bet such odds two or three weeks before the race is run under any circumstances whatever. A few speculators laid long odds on St. Frusquin and Persimmon coupled early in the summer, and although the bookmakers now have the best of this business, yet the backers are likely to find themselves comfortable enough on the day of the race if the Prince of Wales's colt is then all right. When a man has betted extravagant odds on two, it is, of course, always unpleasant to find one of the pair removed from the scene, but as to this race things might be worse, as a man is said to have remarked who looked into Hades, and saw the Devil dragging off his brother. Persimmon has been going very well indeed in his gallops, particularly last Thursday, when he was sent a mile and three-quarters, finishing on the Cambridge Hill. He was led by Safety Pin and Eclipse, and they came along at a good speed. Many a horse that has won the Derby has failed to stay the Leger course; but, even supposing that Persimmon's stamina is not his strong point, I cannot find anything that is likely to start which would be able to make a cracking pace throughout. Thais is in good work at Newmarket, but she is not likely to start for the Leger if Persimmon is well; and she is more likely to be seen winning one of the autumn handicaps. Thais has no weight-for-age engagements after the Leger. Galeazzo will not run at Doncaster, and I hear that the Duke of Westminster has decided to start Labrador, while Helm will be reserved for the Park Hill Stakes. No sign has been made with either of the French horses, but both Arreau and Trébons are in good work, and they will be perfectly fit to run at Doncaster. It is a fact worthy to be noted that although Arreau won the Grand Prix yet he has been entered for the Cambridgeshire only, whereas his stable companion is engaged in the Cesarewitch. Trébons defeated Arreau in the race for the Prix du Jockey Club. If either animal should be backed it will at once become second favourite, for at present 100 to 8 is everywhere offered bar one, but nobody appears disposed to meddle with the race. A writer in one of the sporting papers asserts that Santa Maura is out of training, being indeed untrainable. It is a pity that such addleheads do not take the trouble to verify their statements on these subjects, instead of thus misleading their unlucky readers. As a matter of fact, Santa Maura has been in sharp work for nearly a month, and she looks and moves well, and will run at Doncaster, if she goes on all right, for either the Leger or the Park Hill Stakes.

Last season's high-priced yearlings have not so far distinguished themselves, and most of them appear to be turning out hopeless failures. St. Ilma, by St. Simon out of Sterling Love, was bought at one of the Doncaster sales by Mr. J. A. Miller for the preposterously extravagant price of 4,100 guineas. She was badly beaten last week in a trial with some moderate animals, and has been scratched for her remaining two-year-old engagements. St. Ilma, indeed, is not likely ever to be of any use for racing purposes, and she will probably be relegated to the stud next season, but she is a very small filly. I hear also that Mr. H. Bass's sister to Meddler, the filly by St. Gatien out of Busybody, who cost 930 guineas as a foal (in July, 1894), is not likely to distinguish herself much upon the turf. Writing about the Stockton meeting a fortnight ago I plumped for Drip for the Great Northern Leger, and I mentioned Cyrenian as being likely to win one of the two-year-old stakes. Drip won her race very easily, as well she might, considering that she was receiving a stone from Symington, and 11 lb. from Serfdom, and the bookmakers were remarkably generous in laying 7 to 4 against Lord Durham's filly. Cyrenian was very heavily backed for the Wynyard Plate, but he ran badly. Next day, however, to the amazement and discomfiture of the backers, he won the Hardwicke Stakes after a terrific

finish with Chillingham, who was giving Lord Londonderry's colt 13 lb., so that the winner certainly is not so smart as he was thought to be when he left Newmarket. Helen Mary, whose merits were notified by me a fortnight ago, followed up her Redcar successes by winning the Lambton Stakes very easily indeed, and she is undoubtedly one of the smartest fillies of the season. Red Ray again disappointed Lord Zetland's stable in the Durham County Produce Plate, which race fell to Serfdom, and it was certainly her turn to win.

A somewhat acrimonious controversy has been going on about the recent sale of English mares at Deauville, and it might be as well if an authorised statement was published showing what animals really were sold, and the prices which they fetched. One or two of the sporting papers have indulged in florid eulogies of this sale, and describe it as having been decidedly a success. On the other hand, the *Field* plainly states that the Deauville sale was "a dire failure," for the excellent reason that "the mares sent over were either so bad that nobody would bid for them, or had reserves which made it useless to bid for them." Which account is correct?

I understand that Goletta will run next for the Rous Memorial Stakes at the First October Meeting, after which she is to start for the Clearwell Stakes at the Second October Meeting, and (missing her engagement in the Middle Park Plate) she will finish the season by running for the Dewhurst Plate, for which race Velasquez is not entered.

The French mare, Ghislaine, who now belongs to Lord William Beresford, is looking and moving remarkably well at Newmarket, and she is certain to win a good handicap before the season is over. It will be remembered that Ghislaine was highly tried before the Manchester Cup, and she will improve on the form which she displayed in that race.

Lord Ellesmere's mare Missive, of whom a very high opinion was at one time entertained, has gone entirely and hopelessly to the bad, and as she is evidently useless for racing purposes, she is to be turned out of training and sent to the stud.

Teufel has been a great public fancy for the Cambridgeshire, but I do not believe that he could stay the course. He was well backed for the Stewards' Cup but ran very badly, and he has since been beaten by moderate animals.

By far the most important and interesting item of news which has lately been published in the official "Calendar" is the entry for the National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000, which race is to be run at Sandown Park in July, 1899. A very large entry has been obtained, the list filling three columns of the "Calendar," and the information given discloses how most of the crack mares have this year been mated. The Prince of Wales has Perdita II. (dam of Persimmon) who has been sent to St. Simon, in the hope of an own brother or sister to the Derby winner. The Prince also has Merrie Lassie (dam of Grig) served by St. Simon; and Fanchette served by Donovan. The Duke of Westminster has engaged seven of his best mares, including Shotover, served by St. Simon; and Ruth, St. Mary, Vampire, Grace Conroy, and Ornament, all of which have been sent to Orme, and if that horse fails at the stud it certainly will not be through the want of chances of success. Of Mr. J. B. Wood's lot of four, Abeyance has been sent to Isinglass and Palisade to Orme. Mr. D. Baird also has a lot of four grandly-bred mares, consisting of Fleur de Marie, Silene, Antibes, and Hamptonia, which have been sent respectively to St. Simon, Ayrshire, Sheen, and Galopin. Mr. L. Brassey has sent Pauline, by Vermont, to Isinglass, which is an excellent cross. Of Mr. D. Cooper's lot of eight, Melody has been sent to St. Simon, Armorel to Carbine, Glare to Isinglass, Footlight to Sheen, and Float to Orme. Lord Derby has a fine lot: Broad Corrie, sent to Sir Hugo, Bridget to Orme, and Travancore to Sheen. The Duke of Devonshire has nine mares, including Applause II. (dam of Marvel) served by Melanion, Poem by St. Serf, and Mon Droit (by Isonomy) by Orme. The Duke has sent Snood to Galopin, and, by the way, I hear that this mare's two-year-old filly by Ayrshire will win a good Nursery in the course of the autumn. Lord Dunraven has L'Abbesse de Jouarre served by Isinglass. Lord Durham has two, one of them being Lady Primrose, served by Crafton. The Chevalier Ginistrelli has the once famous Signorina served by Martagon. This mare has proved a direful failure at the stud up to the present time, and the fathead who asserted five years ago that she was worth £10,000 as a brood mare should eat dirt. Captain Greville has engaged fourteen of his mares at the Burghley Stud, including Ornis and Rosy Morn, both served by St. Angelo. Mr. J. S. Harrison is another public breeder who has been generous in his patronage, having entered twelve mares, including Leonie and Pamela, both served by St. Simon; Hampton Rose, Sea Air, and Boyne, all by Orme; Sweet Lavender, by Isinglass; Isabelle, by Kendal; and Sterling Love, by Common. Mr. J. S. Harrison evidently appreciates the certain fact that in these days the only way to make breeding pay is to send mares to the most fashionable sires, and Sir Tatton Sykes acts on the same sound principle at Sledmere. Mr. Houldsworth has Napoli (dam of Laveno and Orvieto) served by Bend Or. In my opinion he would have been well advised to try another sire for the mare, for it never answers to go puddling on year after year with the same cross. Mr. H. Ingledew has four mares, one of which is Ste. Agatha, covered by Carbine. Mr. A. James has a lot of nine, including Charm and The Smew, both served by Carbine, Lady Heron by Royal Hampton, and Polenta by Sheen. "Mr. Jersey" has sent Lady Rosebery to Ravensbury, which is an excellent cross. Mr. W. Johnstone has a lot of four, including Koorali, sent to Best Man; and Lady Primrose to Orme. Of Mr. J. W. Larnach's pair, one is Pilgrimage (dam of Canterbury Pilgrim) served by Childwick. M. Lebaudy has seven mares, four of which have been sent to Xaintrailles, one of them being Rêve d'Or. Sir J. B. Maple has an entry of twenty-four, including Jennie Winkle, Minting Queen, Simon's Bay, In Bounds, Busybody (dam of Meddler), and Seville, all served by Common; and Superba, Siffleuse, Corrie Roy, Priestess, Mazurka, and Dame President, all of which have been sent to Royal Hampton. Mr. J. H. Marker's lot of seven includes Philomel, served by Kendal. Mr. L. Pilkington has Fair Marion (dam of Glencally) served by Galopin; and Canoness (dam of Canonbury) by Royal Hampton. Mr. Platt has a splendid lot of twelve, including St. Marguerite (dam of Sea Breeze) sent to Isinglass, Lucy Ashton and Maid Marian to Kendal, and Lonely to St. Simon. The Duke of Portland has eleven, and he is evidently bent upon giving the Australian horse Carbine every chance, having sent to him four of his very best mares — Mowerina (dam of Donovan), Memoir, Mrs. Butterwick, and Semolina. Satchel has been mated with Isinglass, and Muirninn, La Rose, and Neenah with St. Simon. I hear, by the way, that last season the Duke could have filled St. Simon's list three times over, at the easy rate of 400 guineas per mare. Of Lord Rosebery's crack mares, Sea Breeze, Bonny Jean (winner of the Oaks), and Cipollina have been sent to Ladas, and Kermesse sent to St. Serf. Mr. Russel has Virginia Shore (dam of Whittier) served by St. Simon. Mr. Sneyd has eight mares, all served by Blue Green; and Mr. A. Stedall has engaged eleven, all of which were sent to Freemason. Of course, an entry of this kind does sometimes turn up trumps, owing to the allowances which fall to the stock of cheap and unfashionable sires. There is a good reason why public breeders should engage their mares for this stake, as there is a sum of £300 for the nominator of the winner, £200 for nominator of the second horse, and £100 for nominator of the third.

Next week there will be some excellent racing at Derby, the meeting extending over three days. There are 170 entries for the Champion Breeders' Biennial Foal Stakes of £1,000, and this will not be a costly event to the fund, as the owners' entrance fees amount to £850. The entry includes the Duke of Devonshire's filly by Ayrshire out of Snood, Sir R. W. Griffith's Merle and Princess Anne, Mr. Leigh's Flying Colours, Duke of Portland's Smean and Lady Frivoles, besides Chantilly

(nominated by her breeder, Lady Stamford), Falkland, Galatia, Ste. Adresse (nominated by Sir Tatton Sykes, who bred her), and the Duke of Westminster's smart filly Blue Water. I shall predict the success of either Merle (who was well galloped at Newmarket last week) or Blue Water. The three-year-old heat of the Champion Breeders' Biennial Foal Stakes of £1,000 is run on Wednesday, and 141 three-year-olds are entered, including The Quack, Burgonet, Positano, Nicholas, Bonnie Briar (who was well beaten at Stockton last week), His Reverence, South Australian, La Toison d'Or, Aureus, Rampion, Conroy, and Red Ray. This race ought to be a good thing for Rampion, and if he is not sent to Derby then His Reverence should win on his Ascot running. There are twenty-two acceptances for the Peveril of the Peak Plate of £1,000 (one mile), and Hebron may win if he starts. The Harrington Stakes of £300 should be won by Brigg or Stewarton.

There will also be racing at Sandown Park on the last two days of the week, and there are such huge entries for the four weight-for-age stakes that the lists fill fifteen pages of the "Book" Calendar. A large number of three-year-olds are left in for the September Stakes of £500 (one mile), and this race will be won by either Canterbury Pilgrim or Regret. The Home Counties Plate of £500 may fall to Bay Ronald.

So far as the large yachts are concerned, their career has been prematurely cut short by the fact that they have been ordered by their owners to be laid up owing to the accident that resulted in the deplorable death of Baron von Zedtwitz, the owner of the *Isolde*. He was a pioneer of yachting in Germany, and he had made himself very popular in English circles. The coroner's inquest, so far as one can judge from the reports, appears to have been rather an unsatisfactory affair. The deputy-coroner, with delightfully cocksure manner, said that he had come to the conclusion in his own mind that the accident occurred owing to the *Saint* having turned the *Isolde* out of her course. All the evidence pointed to this conclusion. So he said, and yet Carter, the Captain of the *Britannia*, said, in answer to the coroner, that the accident occurred through the *Meteor* trying to pass to windward of the *Britannia*. It is absurd to try and put the blame on the *Saint*. There cannot be a Board of Trade inquiry, and the Y.R.A. ought to move in the matter. It is said they will not do so unless the Royal Albert Y.C. brings the matter before them. It is clearly the duty of that Club to do so.

A correspondent from St. Leonards is good enough to tell me that the final test cricket match is over. He considers that on a good wicket the Australians are equal to, if not better, than our players. He considers it degradingly unfair to compare the averages of English and Australian batsmen, and he wishes me to publish the averages of the English against the Australians and the Australians against the English. The latter he can see every week in the dailies and the former are published at the end of the tour in the sporting papers, to which excellent chronicles of sport I must refer him.

Owing to the absence of the sun the Australians did not get punished by the rain at the Oval in their return match with Surrey, who have discovered a most promising colt in Hayes. It was satisfactory to find Hayward in form again, and Abel all last week was playing excellently. This fact made the beating of Surrey by Lancashire all the more disappointing. Earlier in the week, after Lancashire had declared against Sussex when Paul and Ward had both played well, a superb innings by Ranjitsinhji had made the game a draw. However, at the Oval Mold found a wicket to his liking, and although Hayward bowled splendidly and took all the six wickets that fell when the Northerners went in again, they gained a fairly easy victory, thanks to MacLaren and Briggs. In fact, the Oval authorities seem too fond of changing the team about. If a new player does not always come off he is shunted at once, while too much consideration is shown to the old hands. Young Townsend bowled well for Gloucestershire against the Australians, and then Trumble and McKibbin did what they liked and got the county team out for seventeen, of which score the champion made just over half. It was a fine performance for Lord Harris to start first-class cricket again with a century against Somerset. Patterson made a bigger score, and it is a pity that Kent's finest bats are only available in the vacation. In the second innings of Somerset, Woods and Palairet saved the game, and both had bad luck in missing their centuries by one and two runs respectively. Following up his brilliant cricket against Lancashire, Ranjitsinhji gave an even finer display against Yorkshire, making a century in each innings, and he and Killick together saved a match in which Peel scored a century and achieved the feat of taking over a hundred wickets and making over a thousand runs in first-class cricket. Giffen has done the same, and the only other players who have done likewise are, I believe, Davidson, Studd, and Grace, who has done it eight times. Jackson has been batting superbly, and others who are finishing the season in fine style are Stoddart and J. Douglas. The latter has hardly ever failed to score since he did so well against the Australians at Bexhill.

At Wood Green there was some splendid cycling in a six hours' race. Ilsley and King had some fine dusts up and in the end the former won, easily beating the previous record for 150 miles by twenty-five minutes. This pace would no doubt shock that worthy magistrate, Admiral Field, M.P., who last week from the Bench denounced scorching and announced that he never rode more than six miles an hour. That is a very conservative pace. By the way, one day last week, a gentleman, whose right leg had been amputated above the knee, was seen riding a bicycle down the Strand shortly after midday. He managed the machine with ease although he carried his crutch in his right hand. The advantages of cycling to people so unfortunately circumstanced cannot be overestimated.

The different open lawn tennis tournaments do not indicate that the popularity of the game has in any material degree diminished. New names crop up and old ones still remain, and this is as satisfactory a state of affairs as one could wish. At Felixstowe the players were better than the courts, which will have to be amended if the meeting is to retain its popularity. In the singles Doherty and Allen had a hard tussle for the final, which the former won. But the play was spoiled by the ball not bounding truly. At Scarborough there was a heavy programme, and C. Wade retained the county championship, while his twin brother, the old First Trinity oar, also showed good form. He has not yet abandoned everything for golf. The brothers Riseley won the open doubles, and Nisbet the open singles. Altogether it was a very successful tournament.

Needless to say, everything was excellently managed at the Reading A.C. sports. Thomas, the sprinter, won the 200 yards scratch. Being a Welshman, he is going to Jesus, Oxford, but it may be doubted if he will set the running track on fire. At Manchester an invitation 100 yards was won by Morgan. It is races of this class that prove fatal to the reputation of so many amateur athletes. It would be as well if a limit were imposed on the value of the prize. At present the prize may practically be any amount. Then on the question of expenses, it should be the duty of the club secretary who is paying the expenses of the competitors to get an order from some official of the A.A.A. as to what the amount to be paid should be. In fact, a sort of taxing-master should be appointed for each district.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Although the markets generally are still affected by the holiday season, and the attendance in the "House" continues extremely limited, the revival in the Kaffir Circus has made further progress; and an advance has been established in a number of leading South African shares, which promises well for the future.

The Holiday Season, and After.

According to old-established usage, the holiday season in this country comes to a climax in August; but with the turn of that month a certain proportion of the holiday-makers return, and by the middle of September most Stock Exchange men are in their places ready again for work. Similarly, the public gradually return from their holiday haunts in September prepared for speculative flutters or for investment purchases, and they generally only require a lead from the professional element to resume business. It says a good deal for the position of the South African market that the present improvement should have developed in the very dullest part of the holiday season. Not only were most of the leading jobbers away, but almost all the leading South African financiers had gone either yachting or shooting, and although they probably held a protecting hand over their own stocks, they certainly did not initiate the upward movement which has now begun. That was undoubtedly due to the great improvement in the South African outlook, to the excellent July crushings, to more amicable relations with the Transvaal, and to the defeat of the Matabele. The supply of stock in the market proved extremely limited, and small purchases immediately took effect upon prices, notwithstanding the efforts made by the syndicate of liars to create the impression that renewed trouble would arise between England and the Transvaal. From all appearances we shall, within the next week or two, see the upward movement gather strength; and although it has become the fashion to talk about the improbability of a boom in South Africans, I am not at all sure but that some kind of boom will be upon us much sooner than had been expected. The West Australian market has temporarily receded to the background; but the reason for this pause in the movement of this section is chiefly the disinclination of the large financiers engaged in Westralians to give their shares a lift while so many are away on their holidays. In view of the excellent crushing returns, which are coming to hand daily, there is not the slightest doubt that within a few weeks' time we shall again have an active and rising market. Home Railway stocks have been stagnant in the absence of most of the professional operators engaged in this department; but traffics have remained excellent, and September will doubtless bring greater animation. Foreigners have displayed a firm front, and in view of the visits which the Tsar is about to pay to European potentates, Continental operators will probably look at affairs through rose-coloured glasses. With the Tsar paying complimentary visits, peace for the present at least is assured; and when he reaches Paris, the Bourse will no doubt engineer a special rise for his benefit. In the Industrial department, the announcement that the special settlement of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company will take place in the first week of September, has created great satisfaction. The only department which at present still looks doubtful, and in which, owing to the uncertainty of the coming Presidential election, a permanent recovery cannot yet be expected, is the Yankee market. Every now and then, when matters get to the worst, the New York bankers make an effort to save the situation, and thus a rally is produced, which in due time is again followed by a reaction.

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

Home Rails.

While the absence of business has brought about a temporary sagging movement in the Home Railway market, the position remains very hopeful in view of the continued large traffics shown by the leading lines, inherent merits of the stocks thus being improved. So far, there is already an increase of half a million sterling in the receipts of the Companies since July 1, a large portion of which is in passenger traffic. When it is considered that high-class investment stocks are at an almost prohibitive level, it must appear more than probable that on the resumption of active business investors will again turn their attention to this department, in which returns of from 3¼ to 3¾ per cent. are still obtainable on investment with every prospect that with a further increase of profits the yield may improve. One of the most progressive stocks is undoubtedly Dover "A." Although on the results of the past twelve months this stock yields only about 3 per cent. per annum, there is every prospect of a substantial improvement in the dividend, owing both to larger traffics and a decreased ratio of expenses. At the present price of 103 they are therefore an exceptionally promising speculation. Brighton "A," at 184½, are similarly situated, and an advance in Chatham Ordinary is quite on the cards. Among the stocks of the Heavy division North-Western and Great-Western have shown dullness, chiefly owing to the disappointment of those who had bought these on the hope that a splitting movement would be carried out. A relapse in Midlands and North-Easterns was due to realisations. In fact, the moderate reaction generally was due to small sales effected to secure profits. Some rumours have been spread of renewed labour troubles, especially in the North; but so far there is nothing to support these apprehensions, especially in Scotland, where the last strike, which proved so disastrous to the labour party, has not yet been forgotten. All the same, the Scotch stocks have been put down, but, with large traffic returns topping the increases of 1895 over 1894, and in view of the coming satisfactory dividend announcements, I must consider both Caledonian Deferred (Coras) and North British Deferred as exceedingly promising.

Yankee Fears and Hopes.

The movements of Yankee Railroad stocks have been fitful, and the fluctuations wild. There is unfortunately but too much reason for anticipating that this will continue the normal state of this market until the Presidential election solves the burning question as to whether gold or silver will triumph. In the meantime quotations at one time dropped again almost to the bottom prices touched during the present year, as will be gathered from the following comparative table:—

—	Price Jan. 2, 1896.	High'st in 1896.	Low'st in 1896.	Aug. 14.	Aug. 24.
Atchison	14½	18 3/16	9¼	11⅛	10⅝
Do. 5 per cent.	22	23⅞	14¾	17	16½
Atlantic Firsts	22	26 5/16	20	22	24¼
Canadian Pacifics	51¾	65⅛	51	58½	59
Central Pacific	15½	17½	13⅛	14	13¾
Denver	12⅜	14 11/16	10⅝	11	10¼
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	39	41½	39½
Erie	14⅛	16⅛	12	13	12⅝
Lake Shore	144	155	138	142	144
Louisville	44⅝	56¾	39⅝	42¾	39⅞
Milwaukee	69⅛	81⅝	62⅝	66¼	66⅛
Mis., Kan., and Texas	11¼	13 13/16	9¼	10⅜	10
Norfolk Pref.	8	14⅛	10⅛	13⅛	*12⅞
Nor. Pacific Pref.	12½	17 11/16	10 1/16	12	*16⅜
New York Central	98	101⅞	91	94¼	94
Ontario	13¼	16½	12¼	12⅞	12⅜
Reading	2	8 3/16	3¾	5	†3⅞
Southern Ordy.	8¾	11⅛	7	7⅞	7¼
Do. Pref.	26½	34⅜	18½	20¼	19⅜
Union Pacific	4⅛	9¾	3⅛	6⅛	5⅛
Wabash Pref.	15¾	20 3/16	13	13¼	13

* Cum Fourth Assessment. † Cum Third Assessment.

Even now, quotations are but slightly above the lowest, although the New York bankers have ordered gold from this side in order to strengthen the banks and to allay the

nervous feeling as regards the dwindling away of the Treasury reserve, some 2½ millions of dollars in gold being now on the way to New York. It is evident that in the present state of distrust in the United States, this operation will have to be repeated, but ten or twenty millions of dollars in gold could easily be spared in London or Paris; and thus, beyond putting up the rates in the money market here to a slight extent, this movement is not likely to have any effect upon our markets. Far more serious is the future course of events as regards silver in the United States, as the triumph of the silverites would bring about a financial collapse in the United States, which would temporarily, at least, react upon all our markets. I cannot bring myself to believe that the victory will rest with the Democrats under the lead of Bryan; but it must not be forgotten that the silver men have much at stake, and that they are still very wealthy. This is shown by a statement published by the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee showing the part played by the owners of the silver mines of the country in shaping the course of the recent conventions which have declared for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at sixteen to one. The statement is introduced with a table giving the estimated wealth of twenty-two individuals and corporations engaged in silver mining and directly interested financially in the opening of the Mints to free coinage. The table is as follows:—

	Dols.
Hearst estate, California	75,000,000
Fair estate, California	50,000,000
John Mackay	40,000,000
J. B. Haggin	40,000,000
W. A. Clark	40,000,000
William Stewart, Nevada	40,000,000
Francis J. Newlands (Sharon estate)	35,000,000
David Moffat, Denver	30,000,000
Senator John P. Jones (Comstock lode)	25,000,000
Flood estate	25,000,000
Denver Silver Smelting Works	25,000,000
R. C. Chambers, Ontario silver mines	20,000,000
Charles E. Lane, California	20,000,000
L. E. Holden, Old Telegraph mine	15,000,000
Mark Daly, Anaconda, Montana...	15,000,000
Butte Silver Smelting Works	14,500,000
S. T. Hauser, Granite Mountain silver mines ...	10,000,000
French Syndicate, Old Telegraph mine, Utah ...	10,000,000
Leadville Silver Smelting Works	8,500,000
Broadwater estate, Helena, Montana	5,000,000
Senator Henry M. Teller, Colorado	2,000,000
Senator Lee Mantle, Montana	2,000,000
Total	547,000,000

After criticism of some of the wealthy men who are working for free coinage, the statement charges that William J. Bryan has for years been paid to deliver silver orations, and concludes:

> To the silver mine owners the election of Bryan and of a free silver democratic House means millions. Placing the product of their mines at 54,000,000 oz. a year, though it would soon be 100,000,000 oz., and the Government paying them at the rate 1.29 dol. an ounce, and granting, for the sake of argument, that it cost them 68 cents an ounce to mine it, the people of the United States would pay into the pockets of the silver miners 41,000,000 dols. per annum, and make gigantic monopolists of the very men who are crying out against monopolies in their platform. This is an unduly conservative estimate of the profits of the silver barons; the actual figures would more likely reach 75,000,000 dols. per annum. It will thus be seen at a glance what is involved in the election of Mr. Bryan, not counting the evils that would flow from the retirement of upward of 600,000,000 dols. of gold upon which the credit of the nation is founded.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that Mr. McKinley has the whole of the possessing classes in the States behind him, and that business men of all shades will do their utmost to oppose the silver craze. In fact, an American news agency learns "that practically every large railroad company in the central and western belts, with headquarters in New York, are sending out large quantities of sound-money literature to the people along their lines. In many instances, it is being done by the clerical forces of the roads by direct order of the boards. In other cases, the leading officials are doing it on their own responsibility at the suggestion of leading members of the board. In one case the treasurer of the Company states that he has just sent out 20,000 copies of a free-coinage catechism." In this market Louisville and Milwaukee have moved most freely, and they have also been used more especially in Wall-street, for influencing the market. The "Bears" have had a splendid innings, particularly as in view of the silver scare small sales affected the market disproportionately. I still am of opinion that this is not yet the time for making speculative purchases, and it appears even doubtful whether it is advisable to buy on sharp declines. If any one proposes to do so he should be quick to get out again on a rally, but bonâ-fide holders should certainly not throw away their stocks now. Messrs. Woerishoffer & Company make some very instructive remarks in a recent circular which it is worth while considering. They point out how "many of the great fortunes made in the boom that culminated in 1881 with the shooting of President Garfield were based on the purchases made in 1877 and 1878. The circumstances producing the depression succeeding the panic of 1873 were not much like the present, but prices of many stocks were very low, just as now; there were Companies then lately reorganised, as well as others, the stocks of which were selling below 16 dols. per share. There was no speculative disposition; everybody was as blue as indigo, money was high as compared with to-day, the outlook was much less favourable than the present, the situation of the country in 1878 was not to be compared with that of to-day in population, wealth, development, or prospect, and yet the men who quietly absorbed the low-priced securities, then without a market, made from 100 to 1,000 per cent. within five years. In August, 1873, the net deposits of the New York banks were 220,000,000 dols., while to-day they are 447,000,000 dols. Then Six per Cent. United States bonds sold at 107 to 108, now Four per Cents. sell at 112. Then there were 80,800 miles of railroad, to-day there are about 180,000; then the gross railroad traffic was 490,100,000; in 1894 the latest complete returns figured up to 1,080,000,000, with net earnings for 1873 187,575,000 dols., in 1894 322,529,000 dols." The circular concludes with the argument that the States are "a great and constantly growing country, with success finally resting with the 'Bulls' instead of the 'Bears,' and that it will not need even the fingers of both hands to count the fortunes of those who have prospered by attacking credit and betting against the country." I wonder what Addison Cammack, the great "Bear" leader, would say to this? Canadian Pacifics have improved on better traffic returns and on German purchases; but while the American market is in its present state of collapse it is not likely that either Canadian Pacifics or Grand Trunks will rise much above the present level.

Foreigners and South Americans.

There is every prospect that optimistic views will prevail in interbourse securities during the next month or two. The bugbear of the Bourses and of the Stock Exchange has always been the fear of aggression on the part of the Northern Colossus; and now that the Czar is making himself agreeable to the various leading Courts of Europe by paying friendly visits, the inference is obvious that peace will not be disturbed in the near future, and certainly not before next spring. As in Stock Exchange matters, six months is an eternity, the Bourses will be free to burst into activity when business recommences. The view is also taken that the difficulties in Crete will be settled shortly, now that the unanimous action on the part of the Great Powers is forcing Turkey to make the necessary concessions. Spain has once again been helped over the financial stile, and Italy has become very quiet in Africa, which is the best thing she can do. A considerable rally is marked in Turks; but any one who values his peace of mind will do well to leave them alone. Even when the Cretan question is settled, some other trouble is sure to arise in the tottering Ottoman Empire. Argentine Government stocks have suffered as much as any from the prevailing inactivity; yet the position is promising, and according to an utterance of Dr. Romero, the Argentine Finance Minister, gold must go much lower still. He also seems to think that the unification scheme will be readily accepted, at least by the

National bondholders. He expresses the view that the nation was in a position to respond amply to the demands for the service of the debt, and asserts that the National Government will have to trouble the market very little, if at all, for gold, having its requirements already provided for. Considerable surprise has been caused, by the way, by the statement also made by the Minister that the Government last year remitted 40,000,000 dols. gold, as against 25,000,000 dols. set forth in the Presidential message. They seem still to manage Government financial affairs somewhat strangely in Argentina. The *Review of the River Plate*, in its current issue, is pleased to observe that at least one journal at home, viz., TRUTH, is taking up with some vigour the conduct of the Argentine Republic as regards foreign commerce. Unfortunately, there is so far no sign that the Argentine Government is disposed to admit any unfairness in its dealings with foreign shipping or foreign Companies. Only the other day it appears an instance arose in which the shipping dues on a Norwegian steamer were reduced to a nominal figure on appeal being made by the agents on the new treaty made with that nation; and the *Review of the River Plate* takes it for granted that if other nations were placed upon the same footing as the most-favoured nation clause entitles them, the revenue of the Argentine Republic would be most seriously affected. It seems to me the duty of the British Government to intervene in favour of British trade and shipping, so as to enforce the provisions of the treaty. Equally unjust is the special taxation imposed upon foreign Companies established in Argentina, which is clearly an infringement of treaties which were expressly intended to place the foreigner on a commercial footing in every respect equal to the native. If the Argentine Government wishes to thoroughly rehabilitate the credit of the country, it will have to fulfil such treaty obligations. Uruguay bonds have not altogether maintained the recent rise, the Old Loan standing at 49⅞, after touching 50⅛. The New Loan has, however, been well maintained at 70, at which it is an excellent investment, promising an early rise in capital value. Mexican Sixes have maintained a firm front, and Brazilians have improved, while Venezuelan bonds have risen to 40 x.d., as I anticipated. Costa Rica "A" and "B" bonds, on the other hand, are slightly easier; and it is much to be regretted that this defaulting Government should not yet have made any further proposal for a settlement of the debt. This Republic figures in the appendix just issued by the Council of Foreign Bondholders with a principal outstanding of two millions, and £200,000 arrears of interest. The principal of the Colombia Loan outstanding is, according to the same document, £1,913,500, and interest in arrears £1,522,428; while the wretched state of Honduras figures with as much as £5,398,570 capital outstanding, and £11,046,229 arrears of interest. The miserable price of 5¼ of Honduras bonds sufficiently indicates how hopeless the chance of that Republic returning to honest ways is considered to be.

A Preliminary Canter in Kaffirs.

There is every appearance of my anticipation, that the gradual hardening of prices in the Kaffir Circus in the present month will be followed by an important advance in September, being fulfilled. In fact, it is very probable that the rise will commence as soon as the settlement has been got over. The movement has been opposed in several quarters, and quite a recrudescence of the efforts of the syndicate of liars was noticeable at the commencement of the week. In the Transvaal rumours were spread of an intention of the British Government to take hostile steps against the Republic, while here the report was assiduously propagated that the Transvaal Government had made a secret treaty with a European Power, in contravention of Treaty obligations to England. In fact, it was put forward that the Transvaal was about to renounce the London Convention. Under these circumstances, the letter which appeared in the *Times* from Mr. J. B. Robinson was doubly welcome, especially as, on the preceding day, a letter had been published in that journal from its Johannesburg correspondent taking a very sombre view of the position. The opinions which he expressed were absolutely unjustified, and he had himself to withdraw them in a cablegram which appeared in the *Times* on Saturday morning. It boots not to discuss the statements made from so unreliable a source, but it is quite time that the public should ignore such malicious attempts to sow discord between Great Britain and the Transvaal. President Kruger himself has stated to Reuter's agent that the story in question was an absolute invention, and that Mr. J. B. Robinson's statements in his letter to the *Times* were the true facts of the position. In the light of this announcement special interest attaches to the views expressed by Mr. Robinson, who has all along been in the most cordial relations with the Transvaal Government, and who has done so much to counteract the baneful consequences of the Jameson raid, and to bring about a peaceful solution of the whole matter. Mr. Robinson states that the great desire of the Transvaal is to live on friendly terms with England, and that no act would be committed by the former in any way defiant or aggressive to this country. He absolutely contradicts the rumour of a secret treaty, or of any intention to abrogate the Convention. Mr. Robinson also points to the reforms which are now being passed by the Volksraad, and to the certainty that during the next session of that body further reforms will be granted. There can be no doubt that the Transvaal Government is doing all in its power to assist the mining industry, and thereby advance the general interest of the country. The Boers themselves, moreover, are equally anxious, now that their legitimate grievances have been recognised by the punishment of those responsible for the Jameson raid, to return to their peaceful occupations. It is obviously a hardship for them as an agricultural people to have to leave their ploughs and cattle to take arms, and they certainly would resort to warfare only under compulsion and in defence of their own country. The liquor law embodies one of the most important reforms bearing on the mining industry. The very fact that it was carried in opposition to the large canteen interest, which had put up a sum of a quarter of a million to oppose, either by bribery or otherwise, the passing of the prohibitive measure, is most promising, and shows that the Volksraad is not so corrupt as it has been represented by the enemies of the Transvaal. At the mines this reform will in itself cheapen labour. The native "boy," when drawing his wages on Saturday, used to spend them, more often than not, in drink, and only too frequently did not return till the Tuesday following, and then worked but indifferently. In this way his week's work was generally reduced to three or four days only, and yet he had to be fed in the compounds. Instead of spending his money by purchasing fire-water, he will in future be able to save some of it; and it will be all the easier to bring about that reduction of wages which is about to be enforced by the Chamber of Mines and the new Rand Mining Association. Through the scarcity of labour, wages had been unduly raised, and it is by no means an unjust measure to reduce these again to normal proportions. The consequences will, of course, be a reduction in expenditure and an increase in the profits of the Witwatersrand mines. Other reforms are promised, and it is evident that the mining industry in the Transvaal is entering upon a renewed period of prosperity. It is variously computed that from 500 to 1,000 more stamps will be at work on the Rand by the end of next year, and that we shall then see a monthly output of some 300,000 oz. of gold against the present figure of 200,000 oz. As regards the upheaval in Rhodesia, latest cablegrams encourage the view that the war is practically over, the chiefs in the Matoppos having agreed to surrender. It will doubtless take a long time before the various Rhodesian Companies recover from the blow dealt to them by the insurrection; at all events,

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

this depressing influence will no longer affect the market for Transvaal stocks. For all that I feel pretty well convinced that the market position will be utilised for engineering a considerable rise in Chartered shares, as so many options are running which lend themselves to a stroke of this kind. Yet it would appear to me that there can be no permanent improvement before the Transvaal Government have formulated their demand for an indemnity. For the investor and the speculator, however, the properties outside the Chartered Company undoubtedly offer the best opportunity for profitable operations; and it is not surprising, therefore, to find that the sound Witwatersrand Mines have again generally improved. Advances of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ have again been established in Simmer and Jack, Geldenhuis Deep, City and Suburban, Henry Nourse, Jumpers, Kleinfontein, Meyer and Charlton, Wolhuter, &c.; while dozens of others have gained from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$. Randfonteins have advanced to $3\frac{3}{16}$, and it is to my knowledge that offers at this price have been made for large blocks, which have been refused. I am firmly convinced that these shares will experience a sharp advance in the near future, not only because they are now most influentially held, and the weak elements have been weeded out, but also because important developments are at hand which will demonstrate the great value of the Company's properties. While the troubles were going on in the Transvaal, the new batteries of the sub-Companies have been completed, and on September 1 the Porges Randfontein will commence crushing with new machinery, viz., 60 stamps. On October 1 the North Randfontein will fall into line with its battery, and soon afterwards the Robinson Randfontein will be crushing. I am also told that negotiations for floating a further block into a sub-Company are proceeding, and when it is considered that there is room on the Company's property for some fifteen or twenty more mines, it will be realised how great the possibilities of Randfontein are. Langlaagte Estate have again improved to $5\frac{1}{2}$, Block B have risen to $1\frac{3}{4}$, Langlaagte Star to $1\frac{5}{8}$, and in these and the other sub-Companies of the Robinson group I look for a distinct revival. On Monday a sale of 2,500 town-stands of the Langlaagte Estate and Building Company will be held in Johannesburg, and is expected to yield excellent results, as these comprise the only direction in which the City of Johannesburg can extend. I have at various times said a good word for Knights, and these shares have done justice to my recommendation by a further rise to $7\frac{7}{8}$. In my opinion this is only the commencement of an advance, which should extend to several pounds. A strong feature has also been Modderfontein, which have improved to $8\frac{1}{16}$ on the important discoveries on this property. This new development is also of the greatest importance to the Modderfontein Extension property, and it is not surprising, therefore, that these shares should have risen to $2\frac{1}{4}$; but this is still a long way off of the price of $3\frac{3}{4}$, which they touched last year, and which they will probably touch again. In the Barnato group some disappointment has been expressed at the absence of any further statement by Mr. B. I. Barnato on his return from the Cape. I hear, however, that the notification of meetings of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, and of the Companies to be amalgamated with it, is to be issued for the middle of September. Johnnies in the meantime are quoted $3\frac{7}{8}$, Barnato Banks $2\frac{5}{16}$, Barnato Consols 3. While very little improvement has thus occurred in the stocks of the Finance Companies with which Mr. Barnato is connected, owing to the absence of any adequate information, some of the mining shares of the group have advanced considerably, and it needs hardly be pointed out that this very advance in quotations will benefit the Finance Companies, which have a very large holding in the Mining Companies. Of the latter, New Primrose have risen to 6, Glencairn to $3\frac{5}{8}$, New Rietfontein to $3\frac{3}{4}$, Buffelsdoorn to 3, Langlaagte Royal to $2\frac{1}{16}$, New Crœsus to $1\frac{11}{16}$. The amalgamation of the Glenluce with the Glencairn, to which I directed attention some time ago, has now been confirmed by the issue of a circular according to which the capital of the Glencairn is to be increased to £500,000, giving the shareholders of both the Glencairn and Glenluce Companies 225,000 shares each, or share for share of their present holdings. It is further proposed to obtain £150,000 of additional working capital by issuing 50,000 shares at £3 each, leaving 50,000 shares for future issue if required. The working capital of £150,000 is guaranteed at £3 per share, but shareholders in both Companies have the option of applying for the issue at the same price in the proportion of one new share for every nine shares standing in their names on September 21 next. The Glencairn has, as I may remind my readers, 100 head of stamps at work and a cyanide plant; while the Glenluce has a 60-stamp battery almost ready to commence milling, and it is intended shortly to increase this battery to 100 stamps, giving the mines a joint capacity of 200 stamps. The amalgamation is in the interest of both Companies, and although the Glenluce is not yet producing, the fact that its claims are intact, may be set against the drawback of the Glencairn that its life would not exceed twelve or fifteen years without the amalgamation. The official cablegram from the New Rand Gold Mines confirms the news of the strike to which I have already referred. It is to the effect that "at a depth of 2,035 ft. one of the Main Reef series of reefs has been struck, 7 ft. thick, with 3 ft. 6 in. banket, not yet assayed." As the South reef has never been found wider than 18 in., it is probable that this is the Main Reef, which would be most important. Amongst other shares which are likely to come into prominence in the near future I may mention Woodstock (Transvaal), Transvaal Exploring and Waterfall Estates. With reference to the Woodstock I learn that the 20-stamp battery will by now have arrived on the property, and that every effort will be made to erect it promptly. I have it on the authority of competent experts that this property is likely to rival the Sheba in richness; and at $1\frac{1}{2}$ the shares are an excellent purchase. Waterfall Estates are quoted $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, and any demand coming on the market, which is bare of stock, would cause a sharp advance. I have already explained the promising position of the Transvaal Exploring Company, which has benefited greatly by the flotation of the Cataract Barberton Company. Transvaal Exploring shares have improved to 1, and are likely to go much higher. Amongst South African Land Companies, Mozambique have advanced to $1\frac{3}{4}$. Lydenburg Estates have risen to $1\frac{7}{8}$, and Henderson's are firmer at $2\frac{5}{8}$. Oceana shares have hardened to $1\frac{3}{4}$, and I anticipate that as a result of the combination which is now fully authorised and in progress, a much more important advance will take place. Some interest attaches to the proposed amalgamation of the United Langlaagte with the Block "B," Deep, and other adjoining claims. M. Jacques Lebaudy, however, who has bought a number of United Langlaagte shares, will have to be reckoned with; and that gentleman seems to carry matters with a high hand. The Rand Central Ore Reduction Company, which has been made so much of by various puffs, pays only 10 per cent., amounting to £12,000; while for the previous year £36,000 was divided amongst the Ordinary shareholders and the Founders'. There has been a revival in the demand for Klerksdorp Exploration shares at 14s. 6d., while Lisbon-Berlyn have improved to 7s. 6d. Neither of these properties are, however, promising, and those who have kept aloof from them in the past on my advice have reason to be grateful to me. Improvements have also taken place in Consolidated Goldfields, Rand Mines, Limited, and East Rands; but these are highly speculative shares which are somewhat dangerous to touch, as many investors have found out by experience. The dividend of 5 per cent. which has been announced by the Stanhope Company is exceedingly disappointing, and it is not surprising that the shares have dropped. This distribution justifies the adverse opinion which I have expressed as regards this Company. Amongst the low-priced shares, Rand Reefs have been in demand at from 9s. 6d. to 10s. According to latest advices, work is proceeding actively on the property, and now that the weak elements have been shaken out, it is expected that a considerable improvement will take place during the present revival, speculative investors having taken

rather a fancy to these shares. Diamond shares have also shared in the general upward movement, De Beers having risen to 30⅛, New Jagersfontein to 10⅝. In New Bultfontein, business has been transacted at 1¾, and Consolidated Leicester Diamond shares are firm at 40s. The latest mail report from the Managing Director, dated July 27, is to the effect that Mr. Fyfe, the manager, on lowering the poles washed lumps from the grating, which ran 5 carats per hundred loads, and included a very fine pure stone of about 8½ carats of the value of about £7 per carat. Great things are, therefore, expected from the new gear. Kamfersdam Diamond shares have been in some demand up to ⅛ premium. A special settlement of this Company will take place on Thursday next, and it appears that the shares are oversold, in which case a sharp advance is probable. At the recent meeting of this Company, held on the 13th inst., it was stated that the main tunnel had been extended to 317 ft., and that the new machinery was in an advanced stage of erection, everything possible being done to expedite its early completion.

Golden West Australia.

Why the West Australian market should have eased off just now after having kept up a remarkably firm appearance throughout the holiday season is not quite clear, but I incline to the view that a few realisations in anticipation of the settlement came on the market at the precise moment when nearly all the leading Westralian financiers were on their holidays. That several amongst them propose to take a strong hand in their specialities in September I am assured, and in the meantime they allowed matters to drift on the view that they could easily pull up prices on their return when investors generally were again in the market. What is of greater importance is the continuance of satisfactory crushings and excellent general news from the goldfields. From the Great Boulder Main Reef a crushing of 124 tons for 269 oz. is reported, the tailings averaging 1 oz. 16 dwt. per ton. Then, again, the Desirable Mine (of which nothing is known here) is stated to have yielded 305 oz. of gold from 217 tons. Concerning the Mainland Consols, a cablegram has been received from Mr. Kaufman, the consulting engineer, to the effect that "the mill is running splendidly, and the mine looking better than ever." This statement disposes of all the recent "Bear" rumours, and it is probable that the next crushing will give the shares, which have now receded to 3$\frac{3}{16}$ a fresh impulse. I have reason to think that some of the jobbers who were holders were responsible for the attack. They sold not only their holdings, but put out some "Bears"—a somewhat risky proceeding in view of the excellent returns from the mine. Lake View Consols, also of the Whitaker Wright group, have been firm at 8⅝, and I have reason for anticipating a sharp advance in these early in September. The news from this highly-auriferous mine in the meantime remains very satisfactory. With reference to the Hannan's Golden Treasure, I hear that this is likely to turn out a second Lake View. West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares have been steady at 3½-⅝ premium, the Founders' shares at 60, and it is announced that the Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia has gone to allotment, but that the shares will not yet be dealt with. West Australian Goldfields are easier at 9 and the whole of the Stoneham group is suffering somewhat from the protracted absence of Mr. Allen P. Stoneham, who is recruiting in the North after his recent illness, but proposes to return to London early next week. In the meantime, Hampton Plains have recovered to 4⅜, and as the position of the Company is very satisfactory, as will be shown in the Directors' report, a further important improvement may be looked for eventually. From the Burbank's Birthday Gift mine a cablegram has been received announcing the discovery of gold in the vein formation in the water shaft. Professor Nicholas writes with reference to the Burbank's North that on inspecting the adjoining Bullara mine he recently found what appeared to be two parallel reefs, which contained a fair amount of gold, so that the Burbank North has mines in the north and south working on gold-bearing reefs that pass through it. Hannan's Brownhill have eased off to 6⅛, but Hannan's King are firm at 1½, and Hannan's Oroya have improved to 1$\frac{13}{16}$ on a favourable cablegram. The Hit or Miss is to commence crushing on August 24, and the shares have braced up to 2$\frac{5}{16}$, but Ivanhoe have dropped sharply to 9⅛. A smart decline in Golden Arrow to 16s. has been followed by a recovery to 18s., but this is a much manipulated share, and somewhat dangerous to touch by any but insiders. Great Boulder Proprietary are lower at 7¼, but there has been some demand for Central Boulder and West Boulder at about ¾, both these being very cheap shares. The various Menzies Gold Mining shares are all lower, apparently on inside liquidation. Amongst the new flotations, the Golden Ridge (West Australia) Proprietary Company, Limited, promises to give a good account of itself. It acquires an important property nine miles east of the well-known Great Boulder and Lake View Mines in the East Coolgardie goldfield, comprising an area of 132 acres. These five leases have been well developed, five shafts have been sunk to depths of from 45 to 62 ft., revealing several reefs and lodes varying in width from 6 to 17 ft., and proved to contain gold at the rate of from 1 to 4 ozs. to the ton. The capital is £150,000 in £1 shares, and £25,000 will be available for working capital in addition to 15,000 shares reserved for future issue. The Consolidated Gold Trust of London, Paris, and Brussels is another promoting concern which is formed at the eleventh hour. It appears to have no special advantages to show, although the prospectus states that the Directors have already the offer of several properties which they believe to be of a valuable character, and the Directors do not comprise any well-known men connected with the mining industry. Latest advices from the King of the West state that they have struck water at a depth of 100 ft., and that there is already ample stone on surface, or in sight, for a long time for any kind of treatment. From the Miner's Dream reports are to hand that development is proceeding satisfactorily, and that the machinery is being rapidly erected. The Manager of the Consuello Mine reports that the average flow of water is equal to 4,000 gallons per day. He states that No. 1 shaft is down 93 ft., No. 2 shaft is down 66 ft., and No. 3 shaft is down 52 ft., and that developments generally continue very satisfactory. A considerable demand has arisen for Anglo-Continental shares at 2⅜, and higher prices are now asked. There has also been a good inquiry for the shares of the United Australian Exploration, Limited, the £1 shares 5s. paid being dealt in at from $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{5}{16}$ premium. It will be remembered that this Company was started with a subscribed capital of £250,000 in March last, for the purpose of acquiring mining properties in Western Australia, New South Wales, and other Australian Colonies, several of the Directors being very influential and connected with some of the leading South African Companies. The Board secured the exclusive services of one of the leading South African mining engineers, Mr. Arthur S. Boucher, A.M.I.C.E., formerly Superintending Engineer to the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, Limited, besides other able experts; and I understand that Mr. Boucher has now arrived from Sydney in Kalgoorlie, where he has established an organisation for the Company. The Directors have lost no time, and since the formation of the Company have acquired a group of mines in the Murchison district, one of which has already been successfully floated into a Company, while another Company is to be offered for subscription to the shareholders. There is plenty of room in Western Australia for energetically and ably conducted Companies such as the United Australian Exploration, and I should not be surprised to see these shares rise to a higher level. Apparently there is some reason why the representatives of a number of journals were refused admittance to the meeting of the Gold Reefs of Western Australia, Limited, as some very dirty linen was washed in public. The chairman, Captain Dawson, explained that "the Company was promoted by Mr. Douglas Durnford, trading

under the aliases of several Companies, including the Great Bonanza Company, Limited, the Great Bonanza Syndicate, Unlimited, and the Co-operative Investment Trust, all of 34, Queen-street, E.C." The chairman also stated that "unfortunately, the Board had not been unanimous, owing to the presence on it of four of the promoters' nominees, Mr. Chatfield, Sir F. J. Milman, General Woolf, and Sir John Campbell." The upshot of it all was that the Directors quarrelled with the promoters, who, according to them, had not completed their contract, and they retransferred the 20,000 Deferred shares (which had been issued to Mr. Durnford and his Companies) again to the Gold Reefs of Western Australia, Limited. Mr. Durnford has since stated in my daily financial contemporaries that he was not trading under certain aliases, and that the meeting was illegally held; but I am glad to see that the meeting unanimously passed a voluntary winding-up resolution, and thus it will be possible to thoroughly sift this matter, which does not by any means wear a pleasant appearance.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Some irregularity is shown by Indian Gold Mines. The rise in Coromandel which I anticipated has come off, while Mysore are easier at 8, and Mysore Reefs, as well as Mysore West, have declined. Nundydroog are firmer at $3\frac{7}{8}$, Champion Reefs at $7\frac{3}{4}$ x.d., and Goldfields of Mysore at 25s. look like going better. In Australians, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have maintained their firm tone, advancing to $2\frac{3}{4}$. It should be noted that the returns of the Aladdin's Lamp for the last four weeks again show a net profit for that period of about 5 per cent. on the whole capital, the figures being 1,539 oz., valued at £5,625. This was achieved without the additional machinery (which, it is expected, will be in full work in six weeks' time), and irrespective of the recent rich discoveries. A further advance in the shares is therefore probable. Wentworth Proprietary, on the other hand, are neglected at $\frac{7}{8}$-1, and Crown Point, British Broken Hill, and Broken Hill Proprietary have eased off. In Charters Towers mines, Day Dawn Block and New Queen are lower. Croydon Consols have been a feature of strength at 5s. 9d. to 6s. x.d. Mount Morgan are firmer, and Mount Lyall are up at $8\frac{3}{8}$, while an easier tendency has prevailed for Mount Lyall South at $1\frac{1}{2}$. Great efforts are being made to make a market for the latter new concern, but so far with little success. In New Zealand mines there have not been many alterations. Taitapu and Waihi are firmer, but Hauraki and Waihi Silverton are dull. Advices are favourable from the Irene, Preece's Point, Komata Qeeen, and Maoriland mines, and in any revival in the New Zealand section these shares will no doubt be found well to the front. In the general foreign market De Lamar, Frontino and Bolivia and St. John del Rey are all lower. Some demand has arisen for the Grand Central Mining Company's shares at $1\frac{5}{8}$. This Company, which has a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, owns a very rich gold mine near the towns of Minas Prietas and La Colorada, in the Humosillo mining district, State of Sonora, Mexico. The Company has been brought out under the auspices of the Exploration Company. The reports of the experts, Messrs Janning and J. B. Farish, are very satisfactory. The mine is 238 acres in extent and the depth of the shaft 500 ft. The shaft in the neighbouring property, which has the main reef, is down 450 ft. lower, and is in stone, assaying about 35 dols. to the ton, and the reef at that depth is nearly vertical. A large ore body is in sight about 25 to 30 ft. wide, and recent developments at the Grand Central have been most extraordinary. While the production for June was 103,000 dols., plus 8,000 dols. concentrates and, for July 97,000 dols. plus 14,000 dols. concentrates (including stoppage of mill for ten days owing to the bursting of a boiler), the production for August up to the 14th was at the rate of 8,400 dols. a day, and accounts by cable received since are still more startling. The Company is in full work with thirty stamps, and if the output keeps up at the present rate, the shares should rise to a high premium. Since writing the shares have already advanced to $1\frac{7}{8}$-2 By the way, I hear that the attempt is about to be made to float some worthless Canadian mica properties in this market. Before making any purchases, it will be prudent for those who have been approached in the matter to obtain independent reports, as some of these mines are worked out, and could not be sold in Canada for 500 dols. The warning comes to me from Ottawa.

Abercorn Reefs, Limited, and Umtoli Gold Reefs Company, Limited.

Since I wrote last week in reply to a number of communications from shareholders in the Abercorn Reefs, Limited, and in the Umtoli Gold Reefs Company, Limited, who wish to join a combination for resisting the last call and obtaining an investigation of the affairs of these Companies, circulars have reached me, which have been sent out by the Directors of both Companies, in the following identical terms:—

London, August 19, 1896.

Sir or Madam,—I am instructed by the Board of Directors of the above-named Company to give you notice that, pursuant to a resolution passed this day, under Clause 36 of the Articles of Association of the Company, the shares standing in your name in the Company have been forfeited, in consequence of default in payment by you of the call of 1s. per share due thereon, and payable August 18, 1896. My notice requiring payment was sent to you and dated July 28, 1896.—I am, yours, &c., C. G. Bradnam, Secretary (*pro tem.*).

This high-handed proceeding on the part of the Directors makes it all the more necessary that shareholders should at once unite so as to safeguard their interests. The Directors, Messrs. J. Dennis, J. W. Blackstone, J. Coward, and A. L. Fyfe, are indeed taking a great responsibility on themselves in thus arbitrarily declaring these shares forfeited, and it is time that the shareholders took a leaf out of the book of the shareholders in the parent Company (the African Gold Concessions and Development Company, Limited), by turning out the Board neck-and-crop, and instituting a thorough investigation. The Directors have not supplied any adequate information, and no one knows what this final call is intended for. In fact several shareholders write that they do not see why they should pay a call on a share which is practically valueless. The shareholders must, however, help themselves, and although I have letters from a large number, so far none of the leading holders have declared their readiness to head the movement. I now call upon two or three of the shareholders (preferably those residing in London), to furnish me with their names and addresses so that I can place all the others in communication with them, for the purposes of forming a committee, of resisting the outrageous behaviour of the Board, and of saving what is possible out of the wreck.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies have been placed before the public during the past week:—

The "Old Bushmills" Distillery Company, Limited.—With a share Capital of £110,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed to acquire the old-established Distillery business known as the "Old Bushmills" Distillery Company, Limited, situate at Bushmills, near the Giant's Causeway, in the County of Antrim, Ireland. The present issue is of £70,000 Five per Cent. Preference shares of £1 each, £40,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. and £70,000 Four and One Quarter per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each.

The Consolidated Gold Trust of London, Paris, and Brussels, Limited.—This Company has been formed as a Finance, Exploring, and Mining Company, and to do finance business generally. The capital is fixed at £500,000 in shares of £1 each. There are so many Companies already established to do precisely what this one proposes to do, that I fail to see where the "strong position" comes in which the prospectus mentions. It is certain that existing Companies will have a far better chance than a new one. The Directors, moreover, do not appear to be specially posted in mining matters.

The Golden Ridge (West Australia) Proprietary Company, Limited.—The prospectus of this Company is about to be issued.

The capital consists of £150,000 in £1 shares, out of which £40,000 is set aside for working capital.

This is a promising West Australian Company, which acquires a well-developed property, which, according to the experts' reports, is rich in gold. Some further particulars will be found in my remarks under "Golden West Australia."

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

S. V.—1. You are quite right. The Government of Costa Rica will have to make an arrangement with the bondholders; but every possible pressure has so far been brought to bear upon them. It would be useless to rush matters, but you may be sure that they are carefully watched. 2. The exploration shares in question are fair value, but the Company is not so successful as some of the others.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Pembury.—I should advise you to deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *J. W. W.*—The address of the other victim of F. Hemming Custance has been forwarded to you in your envelope, as requested. It is a great pity that you did not either read your Truth carefully or take my advice. *Another Victim.*—I am exceedingly sorry that you should also have been a victim of F. Hemming Custance to the extent of £15; but you admit that you are, unfortunately, not a regular reader of Truth, otherwise you would not be a loser. So far, I have been unable to ascertain anything of this man's whereabouts. *Australia.*—The West Australian goldfields cannot in any way influence the reconstructed banks; but matters in Australia generally are improving, and there is no option but to wait. *Syntax.*—You were evidently too late with the withdrawal of your application, as the letters of allotment had already been sent out. *Dabbler.*—No; the delivery of shares could not be delayed with impunity, but your broker could have bought in without waiting. It is different with the certificates, which are sometimes late, although the transfer should have been made to you. *Pater.*—1. Have nothing to do with these outside dealers. 2 and 3. Keep your money in your pocket. If you are a regular reader of Truth, I cannot understand why you still have such confidence in such outside men. You should deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Ashford.*—What you wish to know is precisely what I cannot tell you; there are no gilt-edged investments which can be got cheap. *H. Thompson.*—I do not think that you can do anything better than deposit these securities with the bank. Amongst the safe-deposit companies, I personally prefer the City Safe Deposit Company, 13, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., which is under the most able management, and some of the leading City men are on the Board. I cannot reply by letter. *A Stupid Old Maid, Chelsea.*—I do not like any of the Insurance offices in question; you should apply to the Scottish Widows' Fund.

Home Rails.

F. J. B.—I do not see any reason for exchanging out of Midlands into anything else. *H. W. B.*—No reason to sell. *Roach.*—No reason for selling Nos. 1 and 2, which are likely to further improve. Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Permanent Debentures are a good investment. *Tunbridge Wells.*—Yes, I think South Eastern Deferred (Dover "A") are an excellent speculative investment, and preferable to the other stock.

American and Foreign Rails.

University.—Hold Nos. 1 and 2. After having held No. 3 so long, it would not be advisable to sell now. Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Debenture stock (4) is a good investment. With regard to No. 5, you should await further developments. *W. A. M.*—Hold for the present; they are likely to recover again. *E. Y. L.*—I think it is a very good thing that a Committee of Bondholders should have been formed to look after the Leopoldina, Macahé and Campos, and Rio de Janeiro and Northern Railway Loans; and you will do well to join the movement. *Owers.*—Yes, hold for the present; they are gold bonds. *Santa Fé.*—No further distribution has so far been made yet; but prospects are satisfactory. *Border Boy.*—Hold; but do not average yet. I have no doubt that you converted your Atchison "A" bonds and paid the assessments, so that the notice would not affect you any more. *Greedy Sam.*—1. No reason to sell. Nos. 2 and 3 should certainly be held. *Assessment.*—Five dols. has been paid, leaving another five dols. to be paid. The present price is 3¾, including the five dols. assessment.

Mining Shares.

Scotch.—I should advise you strongly to hold your West Australian shares Nos. 1 to 4 for an improvement, which is pretty certain to come about shortly in the West Australians. *F. A.*—1. No reason to sell now. 2. I do not like Kangarilla. 3. No, you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Corbys.*—There seems to be a prospect of a further rise in Associated Gold Mines. 2. Apparently not. 3. They might be worth holding. 4. Yes, Adler's Consols are likely to improve; they are doing a good business. 5. This is quite correct. 6. I cannot give information of this kind. *Independent.*—Certainly hold Langlaagte Star, and buy more to average. Guinness seem to be quite high enough, considering the yield. *J. C., Colchester.*—Great Boulder Junction Reefs is a promising mine, and will doubtless rise to a premium; but you must not expect to make your profits too quickly. *H. B. P.*—Amongst the shares mentioned I should consider New Explorers' Syndicate (a), Hannan's King (c), W.A. Joint Stock Trust (d), Princess Royal (h), and Lydenburg Estates (m), the most promising for a speculation. *Rustic.*—This is a speculative mining share, about which it is difficult to prophesy. Personally I should prefer a South African or West Australian mine. Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I should prefer Croydon Consols, Maoriland, Sheba Hill, Irene, and Balkis Land; but you might make up a better list from the shares mentioned in my letter. *R. G. B.*—The S.A. shares Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 are fair mining risks, and likely to improve. No. 8 (New Primrose) is already advancing, and it would also be advisable to hold the others for an improvement. *Bob.*—1 and 2. No; you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Alice W.*—The Golden Crown is a promising Company, and the shares should be held. Lake View Consols are likely to go much higher. *Kamloops.*—The office of Clark's Consolidated, Limited, is at 10, St. Helen's-place, London, E.C. *M. W. R., Cork,*—1. Yes, a fair purchase. 2. I prefer Randfontein, however. 3. Amongst the cheaper shares, Transvaal Exploring and Waterfall Estates might be suitable. 4. Yes. 5. No catch. 6. These shares have advanced since, but are still a good purchase. 7. No. *E. W., South Kensington.*—You should hold all your W.A. and S.A. mining shares for a rise. The New Zealand concern is a fair mining risk. *Saxon, Cornwall.*—1. London-Paris shares are so stagnant that I do not recommend their purchase. 2. Not now; you can do much better in the shares mentioned in my letter. As regards the other shares which you hold, you should keep them for an improvement. *Waterford Man.*—There is absolutely no reason for the reaction in Mainland Consols, and these should be held for an important advance. I have referred to the matter in this issue. *M. C.*—Take a fair profit in Lisbon-Berlyn and Graskop; but you ought to have sold them on my advice when they were much higher. *Bloater.*—1. In the present South African revival there may be a chance of an improvement. 2. These should certainly be held. *D. A. B., Mansfield.*—1. Hold for an improvement. 2. They are likely to improve. *Whittle Pike.*—1. The New Zealand mines mentioned by you are no particular catch, and Komata Queens are the best of these; but by holding you will very likely get a better price. Amongst the other shares mentioned by you I prefer Gladiators, Oceana, Burbank's North, Croydon Consols, Woodstock (Transvaal), Explorers' Finance Founders' shares, and Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure. *Corrigenda.* Amongst the shares, Nos. 1 to 13, mentioned by you, I prefer African Estates (4), Langlaagte Estate (8), Nickerk (9), Henderson's Estate (11), and King of the West (12). *Frieze.*—You should hold all your shares, Nos. 1 to 21, for an improvement, which is close at hand. *W. S. S.*—The Glencairn is doing exceedingly well, and the amalgamation is promising. City and Suburban prospects are also satisfactory. No news yet with regard to the Copper Company. *Uneasy.*—I cannot account for the reaction in Hampton Plains; except on the supposition that some of the holders were disappointed at the delay in the issue of the report. I hear, however, that the latter is very satisfactory, and that a good dividend will be paid. You should certainly hold. *Puzzled.*—I should certainly advise you to hold Langlaagte Star, as the yield is expected to improve. *Protoplasm.*—1. The New Zealand concern is a fair undertaking, but no catch. *G. C.*—Prospects of the Buffelsdoorn Estate are improving, as is also shown by the rise in the shares; hold. *Replacement.*—You had better address your complaint to the secretary of the W.A. Joint Stock Trust. *Dubio.*—A block of shares appears to have been thrown on the market; but I cannot understand the low price. *Wat.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I should only buy Mainland Consols (d). The others are quite high enough; and it would be advisable to rather make your selection from the shares mentioned in my letter. The Buffelsdoorn Estate and Gold Mining Company paid a dividend of 16s. per share in January last. *Crichton.*—The Porges Randfontein Company will commence crushing again on September 1, and you should certainly hold the shares. *Argent.*—You should hold Anglo-Colonial Mining Trust shares. *C. H. D.*—You will have seen from last week's issue that prospects of the New Rand are greatly improved. *The Seasons.*—No option but to go into the reconstruction and sell after. The two West Australian shares in question should be held for a rise. *Dividend.*—1. A fortnight ago. 2. Yes. 3. Doubtful. 4. No fixed rule can be stated. 5. If you are a registered holder you ought to have received the circular; write for it to the London agents. *H. S., Hull.*—I state my opinion as regards the Glencairn-Glenluce amalgamation in this week's issue under "A Preliminary Canter in Kaffirs." *W. J.*—Both are fair mining risks; but you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *Potatoe.*—Yes, Buffelsdoorn Consols should

Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
Ernest Irroy & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

also be averaged, though I prefer Buffelsdoorn Estate. Langlaagte Royal is a fair mining proposition. I refer to the Glencairn-Glenluee matter in to-day's issue. *Conso.*—I almost think it is throwing good money after bad. 2. A fair mining risk; hold these for an improvement. *Mysore.*—All your mining shares from A to Z should be held, as nearly all are on the up-grade. *J. H. C.*—The enclosure mentioned was not eontained in your letter; please to write again. *Caution.*—Both the W. A. shares Nos. 1 and 2 are fair mining risks; but you can do better in the shares mentioned under "Golden West Australia." *Dick.*—I do not approve of the Rowland Consolidated Gold Mining Company. *H. W. N., Forest Gate.*—The matter forwarded is returned to you. It is nothing new, and I am fully posted on the subject. *Sunflower.*—As the shareholders have taken the matter in their own hands, you had better now act with them, a new board having been appointed, and an investigation is now being made. *R. P., Aughrin.*—You should join other shareholders in the Abercorn Reefs to resist the call, and the confiscation move of the directors. I am again writing on this subject in this issue. *North Berwick.*—You should act with the other shareholders who have now turned out the direetors of the Afriean Gold Concessions. *J. D. S.*—With reference to Abereorn Reefs and Umtoli, I have put your name on the list, and must again refer you to my remarks in to-day's letter. *W. E.*—Refer to my remarks in this issue concerning the Umtoli Gold Reefs. *H. S., Brighton.*—I must refer you to my remarks in this issue concerning Abercorn Reefs. What is required is a eombination of shareholders to resist the direetors' latest move. *W. M., Oxford.*—See remarks concerning Umtoli Reefs in to-day's issue, and combine with other shareholders. *F. B., Oban.*—I note that you wish to eo-operate with others concerning the Umtoli Reefs. With reference to the other shares, it will be advisable to hold them. *R. T., Brighton.*—I must refer you to my remarks in to-day's issue, coneerning Abercorn Reefs. *Nocturna.*—1. The best thing you can do is to write to the Secretary of the Balkis Land Company, at 85, Graceehurch-street, London, E.C., for full particulars, with which he will no doubt be pleased to supply you. 2. A very promising Company. 3. Balkis Eesterling are likely to improve. 4. Certainly hold Langlaagte Star and Langlaagte Royal for a rise. *Nunquam.*—It is not yet settled when the meeting will be held. The mining Company is coming right; but it has had of course the very serious troubles eonnected with the Jameson raid to contend with during the past six months. *W. H. B.*—I do not like the Ethel Hope Gold Mines, Limited; but if you are a shareholder I do not see how you ean resist the eall. *Trimley.*—Heidelburg Estates are promising; the other shares are under a eloud at present. *Carling Knot.* 1. Balkis Laud shares are likely to improve in the present revival in South Africans; hold. 2. I do not advise purchase of these Exploration shares at present. *J. F.*—1. As a matter of principle, I cannot recommend stockbrokers. 2. Croydon Consols were issued at 5s. for the 4s. 6d. fully-paid shares. I cannot reply by letter. *Cantab.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. I do not think well of this concern. *W. D. L.*—I do not like the new Corporation mentioned by you. Australian Gold Trust is a fair risk. Highland Chiefs are exceedingly promising, and should be bought for a rise. *Exsul.*—All the South Afriean shares Nos. 1 to 4 are now advancing, and you should hold them for an important improvement; dividends will no doubt come along in time. You had better average Buffelsdoorn Consols. As regards Big Blow, I suppose you have joined the reconstruction. *Reader, Harlesden.*—1. You should certainly hold W. A. Trusts, and buy more to average. 2. Yes. 3. A fair mining risk. *Horse Shoe.*—1. If you have bought Aladdiu's Lamp at the low price at whieh I reeommended them, you are now able to clear a good profit; but a further advance is expected. 2. A fair mining risk; but you ean do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *A. W., Nottingham.*—There is nothing in the rumours concerning the Mainland Consols, and you should hold for a rise. See remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Cygnet.*—The Golden Crown is a promising mine, and you should hold the shares for an improvement. *Foxhound.*—I quite agree with you that the Directors of the Central Wealth of Nations are doing nothing, not even giving any informatiou; and it is quite time that the shareholders looked after their interests. *Straits.*—A fair mining risk, but neglected at present. *C. W. J.*—Thanks for your information; but I have so far been able to discriminate most suceessfully as regards West Australian miues. There are many duffers, and there are also many good Companies. *Palatine.*—These shares have fallen heavily in consequence of the insurrection in Rhodesia. An improvement is probable; hold. *Veritas, St. James.*—I cannot quite make out the name you mention, but if you mean Golden Links, I have never recommended them. Hannan's Golden Treasure I have recommended, and this is one of the most promising mines in the Hannan's district, and likely to prove another Lake View. I think Colonial Finance Founders shares are quite high enough, and it is just as well that the trees do not grow into the sky. *Sassenach.*—You should hold your Barnato Banks and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment for a rise, in antieipation of the amalgamation whieh will now be consummated. You will have seen that I asked the question in last week's issue as to whether the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company will declare a dividend. Probably when Mr. Barnato returns from his holiday he will give his attention to this matter. *T. S. O.*—I do not advise you to sell your mining shares at present. This is not the time for selling, as an important advance in West Australians and in South Africans is quite on the eards. *Clifford.*—1. These shares are promising; but you can do better in those mentioned in my letter. *Lancet.*—You should hold your shares iu the Central Exploration of Western Australia, they will recover. My opiniou of Nos. 1 to 4 is favourable; hold. *J. B. in B.*—Pigg's Peak should be held, they will improve with the rest of the South African market. *Scabrook.*—For the purposes of your small trust in mining shares, I should select amongst the South Africans in your list Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 (Gleneairn), 7 (Buffelsdoorn); aud amongst West Australians No. 14 (Lake View Consols), 15 (Mainland Consols), 17 (West Australian Gold Coucessions). You had better replace the others mentioned by making a selection from the shares recommended in my letter, notably Hannan's Golden Group, Hannan's Golden Treasure, Gladiators, and Hampton Plains. *J. W. W.*—I should advise you to hold your West Australian shares now for an improvement, which is probable as soon as the market becomes more aetive. Also certainly hold your Barnato Banks and New Crœsus; in fact, you might with advantage average the latter. You appear to have been badly treated in the matter of Selukwe Gold, and ought to have insisted at the first go-off ou your broker paying up. *J. H. B., Bristol,* and *W. M., Oxford.*—See remarks concerning Umtoli and Abereorn Reefs in this issue.

Industrial Companies.

Constant Reader.—I am afraid that prospects of the shareholders in Duval Restaurants are very doubtful. *Ludwig.*—1. You might as well clear any profit in Hotel Cecil Prefs. 2. No reason to sell Gordon Hotel debentures; they are superior in security to the others. *Subaltern.*—A fair industrial investment. *A. E., Dundee.*—These hotel shares are no catch. *Love.*—A local eoncern, respeeting which very little is known here. Not supposed to be doing well. *Pool.*—1. No, I do not recommend the investment. 2. Yes, but not much chance yet of paying up. *Cosmopolitan.* — Under the circumstances, it will be advisable to hold the shares. You have no grounds for refusing to pay the calls. 2. Later on. 3. You must pay up. 4. A fair speculative industrial risk. *Gunner.*—I do not hold a favourable opinion of this Cycle Company. *Springbok.*—I do not advise selling at preseut; awaitdevelopments. *C. W. W.*—It has been the intention to convert Peter Robinson into a public Company; but nothing has lately been heard of this. *Ex-Soldier.*—No particular reason for selling these brewery shares now. *Ballybunian.*—I do not think it would be advisable to sell Nos. 1 to 3, as a revival is quite on the eards. No. 2 (Humber Extensions) are, moreover, promising. You should take your profit on No. 5. I do not think much of No. 4. *Aurus Aururum.*—Louise & Company is a prosperous undertaking; no reason to sell. 2. I do not like Swan & Edgar's prospects. 3. A good Company; but the priee is now high enough. *E. S.*—Amongst the Companies mentioned by you, both Gordon Hotels and Spiers & Pond are doing exceedingly well. I do not like United Alkali, and Pears Ordinary are too speculative. *A. B. C.*—No reason to sell No. 3. Nos. 4 and 5 are likely to improve, when you should sell. No. 6 should be held. Nos. 1 and 2 are fair industrial investiments. No. 7 I do not like. *Miller.*—No.

Mixed Investments.

Hayling.—Amongst the mining shares mentioned by you, I like only Nos. 2, 4, 5, and 7 (Menzies Golden Rhiue). Hold the others for an improvement and then sell. Amongst the Industrials, I do not think much of Nos. 10 and 11; the others are doing well. *River.*—1. No, I do not like the Fauvel Gold Recovery Company. 2. A fair promoting Company. 3. These brewery shares are not officially quoted. *S. P. S.*—1. High enough for a publishing Company. 2. Hannan's Development are a fair mining risk. 3. Giusberg should be held now. 4. It is quite time to sell Spanish. 5. No. 6. Yes, Heidelburg Estates might now be averaged. *Z. Y. X.*—I take the view that cable property is not progressive nowadays, and from that point of view it might be advisable to sell Nos. 1 to 4. No. 5 may have a turn shortly, and No. 6 is doing fairly well at present. *Clarendon.*—You have been quite right in making an exchange, and you should also hold the Barnato Banks for an improvement. The exchange in the Indian stoek might also be advisable. *Cranbrookian.*—You hold only good American Gold bonds (Nos. 1 to 3), and there is no reason to sell either these or Chilians. *Chicarry.*—A fair mining risk; but you ean do better in the shares mentioned under "Golden West Australia." 2. Sell when a good profit offers. *M. J. T. H.*—You should hold your mining shares, as they will improve in due time, when the mines begin crushing. As regards the investments for your maid, I do not think she can do better than to keep the money in the savings' bank. *Malacca.*—It is advisable to keep Nos. 1 to 3, and not advisable to sell No. 4. *Debonnaire.*—The debentures of the Industrial Companies in question would be very suitable; but I should think that, for instance, South Eastern Deferred (Dover "A") would be also very suitable, and sure to give you a better return in time. *Perthshire.*—No option but to hold No. 1 for an improvement, and no reason to sell No. 2 now. Do you not think that No. 3 leaves you so large a profit that you might take it? This is not the time for selling Mining shares, and Nos. 1 to 10 should be held; but do not forget to sell in a month or two when higher prices rule. *J. P.*—1. Yes, you should hold these shares. 2. No reason to sell the Prefs. now. 3. Uruguay New Bonds at 70 are a first-rate investment. 4. Certainly sell on a substantial advance, which is likely to follow the deelaration of the dividend. 5. No information is

available about this concern, of which your brewer friend ought to know more than I. All your shares Nos. 6 to 17 are well selected, and should be held for a substantial rise. You cannot do better than make your selection for the investment of your £2,000 from the shares mentioned in my letter under "The Preliminary Canter in Kaffirs" and "Golden West Australia." *Novice, Belfast.*—I do not like No. 1, and have already expressed an adverse opinion of Nos. 3, 6, and 7. Sell Nos. 2 and 4 on an improvement, and hold No. 5 for a rise. *Rothiemurchus.*—Hold New Rand Mines (1) and Henderson's Estates (4), and buy more to average. Also hold Nos. 2, 3, 5, and 6 for an improvement. *Walbrook.*—I do not like St. Augustine Diamonds. No option but to hold the Elmore shares, and the Cycle shares should be sold when you can get a fair profit. *A. M. C.*—I do not think it would be advisable to sell your shares Nos. 2 to 9 now; things seem to be at about their worst. Hold also Nos. 10 to 14 for a recovery. *G. W., Ton-y-Pandy.*—No information is available about the local timber concern you speak of. Hold Dover "A" for a further rise. *Novice, Chelsea.*—1. Yes, considerably below. 2. Par. 3. Probably. *Larry, Cahill.*—1. A fair industrial investment, but do not hold too long. 2. I do not like these Mining shares; sell on a profit. *Tipperary.*—1. A fair investment. 2. Yes. 3. Probably. 4. Not yet. 5. This mine cannot crush yet for some time; but is considered exceedingly rich. *J. R. X.*—1. Yes, these Buenos Ayres bonds are likely to improve. 2. No news is available. *Albemarle.*—1. Write to the Secretary of the Arauco Company, 3, Gracechurch-street, London, E.C. I should say that it would be advisable to hold for the present. 2. Tati Concessions should be held for an improvement. 3. Under the circumstances you had better hold Chartered as you will probably get a better price. *Woodcock.*—1. I should advise you to hold this stock for an improvement. 2. Better not sell the Nitrate shares at the present low price. I am glad to hear that you did well in Brighton "A" on my advice. 3. Goldfields of Mysore are a very promising gamble. *C. J. W.*—1. Yes, Croydon Consols should be held for a further advance. 2A. No. B. Very risky. 3. These bank shares are a good investment. 4. Yes. 5. The price is quite high enough now.

Various Investments.

There has been a distinct hardening in the rates of money owing to the resumption of gold shipments from this side to New York. These may under certain circumstances assume large proportions, and the outlook generally in the United States is such as to prevent any low prices ruling in the market here. Consols have declined to $113\frac{3}{16}$ for the same reason. Silver, after a further relapse, marked a temporary rally; but the quotation is still lower for the week at $30\frac{5}{8}$. Rupee Paper has also given way to $63\frac{7}{8}$. Nitrate Rails have been distinctly firmer, and at $6\frac{5}{8}$ show a recovery of $\frac{3}{4}$. The Debentures, too, have improved; thus bearing out the view which I have taken that they have been unduly depreciated. There is very little change in nitrate of soda; but the shares of Nitrate-producing Companies have been steadier, San Jorge being quoted $5\frac{1}{4}$, Santa Rita 4, Lagunas Nitrate $2\frac{1}{8}$. Business in the Cycle share market has been very dull; but it may be that the Dunlop special settlement will cause a revival. Dunlop Deferred are easier at $\frac{7}{16}$ premium, while the Ordinary stand at $\frac{7}{32}$ premium, Humber Ordinary at $1\frac{5}{16}$, Cycle Tubes at $1\frac{1}{16}$, Beestons at 3. The special settlement of the Cycle Manufacturers Tube Company has been fixed for September 2. Undisturbed by the various criticisms which have appeared on their system in TRUTH and in the leading daily financial papers, Frank Tarrant & Company, Stock and Share Dealers, 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., go on inviting participation in their "special joint deals." Their latest invitation is one to a "special joint deal" which was to be opened on the 22nd inst., but the circular does not state with what stock this was to deal. Messrs. Tarrant apparently think it is sufficient to state that their previous "deal" in Denver Preferred had led to the magnificent profit of £94. 10s. on every £30 subscribed. I should like to meet with somebody who has made a profit on this "deal," and received it from Frank Tarrant & Co. By the way, the Secretary of the Wynaad Tea Company, Limited, informs me, with reference to the complaint of a correspondent of the non-receipt of a reply to his inquiries, that no letter to his knowledge has been left unanswered, and if my correspondent will write again, he will be most happy to give him any information in his power.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

A Fair Beautiful Skin.—By washing with Sulpholine Soap the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion is ensured.

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QUEER STORY.

CAPTAIN WIMPOLE'S EYEGLASS.

THE feud between Captain Wimpole and Mr. Sturmit dated from the last day of the previous shooting season, when they had met at the house of their mutual friend, Mr. Martin, in Hertfordshire. Wimpole was a man from town, and showed it in his manner. Sturmit was a country gentleman, and made rather a profession of hating Cockneys. The Captain, again, was rather undersized, with a quiet voice and style, while his rival was a great burly fellow, with a voice and demeanour to match. Both were excellent shots, but from the first Sturmit had shown a disposition to underrate the Londoner's capacity. A man brought up in the country, and taught to shoot from his youth upwards, must necessarily acquire greater skill than a man about town who had no shooting of his own. That was Sturmit's theory, and he held firmly to the belief that he and Wimpole were practical exemplifications of its soundness. Hence he and the Captain had not got on well together at Martin's shooting-party. The country gentleman had alternately bragged and patronised, and the town man had retorted with sundry sarcastic observations, which lost none of their point from being couched in the politest phraseology, and irritated none the less when only partly understood by the somewhat dull person at whom they were directed.

Now both Sturmit and Martin were members of the County Gun Club, at the meetings of which the former was a frequent and successful competitor. On the occasion of one of these gatherings, Captain Wimpole happened to be visiting his friend Martin, and intimated his desire to enter for the open sweepstakes that was one of the events of the morrow's programme. On the day preceding the competition Martin drove his visitor over to the club to lunch, and who should be there but Sturmit.

One of the peculiarities of Captain Wimpole was that no one had ever seen him in public without his eyeglass. He did not attach it to his person with a string, but there it was everlastingly fixed in his left eye. Any ordinary observer would have noticed that it was deeply concave, and this gave a very curious expression to the steely blue eye behind it. To Mr. Sturmit the eyeglass afforded the finishing touch to Captain Wimpole's cockneyism, and he made it the subject of many quips and sallies at which he laughed heartily himself, and Captain Wimpole always good-humouredly smiled.

They lunched together at the club, and the conversation naturally ran on pigeon-shooting.

"I should never have entered for the open if I'd known you were going to compete, Captain," said Sturmit. "I remember how you wiped my eye with the pheasants last year. Of course, I could not wipe yours, because of the eyeglass—ha, ha!"

"You must not be too hard on my unfortunate infirmity," remarked Wimpole, "considering how it stimulates your pleasant wit."

"I'm glad you like it," cried Sturmit. "You ought to be dead nuts on the plate to-morrow, seeing that you will look for it through plate-glass. There's a window insurance society in the town; you ought to take out a policy for fear of an accident."

"You're not the man to fire at a pigeon and hit a crow," responded Wimpole, suavely. "Besides, I always safeguard myself by keeping a glass in reserve."

"You had better come back with us, and dine and stay the night, Sturmit," said Mr. Martin, wishing to change the conversation. "I see you have driven over; send your man back for your clothes."

"Thanks very much, I will," said the gentleman addressed, who highly appreciated his neighbour's cellar; "let's have a cigar now and a stroll round."

As they walked and talked about the art and pastime of pigeon-shooting, Mr. Sturmit made several opportunities for getting a good look at Captain Wimpole's

eyeglass. He seemed also a little absent-minded, as though mentally revolving some project. Presently he remarked:

"I think, if you don't mind, Martin, I'll go back for my clothes myself. There is plenty of time, and I want to attend to a little business."

"As you please," said the host; "we dine at eight, and you can take Wimpole on at billiards afterwards. If I remember rightly, you had a great match when you met in the autumn."

"Oh, I'm no good against your town men at indoor games," said Sturmit, with a half sneer. "I always notice that men with eyeglasses fluke like the devil. I remember that the Captain got a tenner out of me; perhaps I shall get it back to-morrow, as flukes don't come off so much at pigeon-shooting."

He went swaggering off to his trap, Martin and Wimpole looking after him.

"Perhaps, perhaps not," softly ejaculated the latter, unconsciously quoting a music-hall ditty. Martin said nothing, but began to wish that he had not invited Sturmit to dinner. Why was the latter so cross-grained with Captain Wimpole? Was it only the intolerance which big men so often display towards little men when the latter exhibit unexpected qualities of nerve and skill which more than discount mere size and brute force?

Mr. Sturmit did not drive straight home, but made a detour in order to pass through the town. He stopped at an optician's, and, entering the shop, asked for an eyeglass suitable for short sight.

"Do you know the number you require, Sir, or is it for yourself?" said the man.

"No, not for myself," said Sturmit, "and I want it pretty strong. Haven't you got some suited to a peculiar kind of sight—I forget what it's called——"

"Astigmatism, you probably mean," the optician remarked.

"That's it," cried Sturmit. "Well, have you any eyeglasses suited to that kind of sight?"

"Yes, I have some," said the man, "but it will be very difficult to provide the right sight by guesswork."

"You leave that to me," interrupted Sturmit. "Show me the strongest you've got of that kind."

The optician produced the required glasses, and Sturmit examined them carefully. They looked extremely like those worn by Captain Wimpole.

"I suppose," said the intending purchaser, "that though these would suit persons suffering from the form of bad sight you mentioned, they would be of but little benefit to a person with ordinary short sight?"

"That is so; a person to whose eyes they were not adapted would find his vision impaired rather than improved by them."

"Would he discover the fact at once?" Sturmit inquired.

"Unquestionably," responded the shopman, "he would instantly perceive a certain distortion in the objects about him; he would——"

"That will do," interrupted Sturmit, "I will have a couple of them."

The purchase completed, the eyeglasses were carefully put away in the recesses of a pocket-book, and Mr. Sturmit drove off with a look of satisfaction on his florid visage. Arriving at his house, he hurriedly thrust his dress clothes into a bag, and was speedily on his way to Martin's. When he got there both his host and Captain Wimpole were dressing; so he went straight to the room allotted to him to perform the same operation. He casually asked the man who showed him the way which was the Captain's room, and found that it was next to his own. At this piece of information he gave a chuckle of satisfaction.

When he descended to the drawing-room he found the others already there, together with another neighbour named Langford. Dinner was immediately announced, and during the repast the conversation naturally reverted to the subject which had occupied their attention at lunch. Many and various were the theories expressed regarding the conditions and circumstances which make for success at pigeon-shooting. The only point upon which all were agreed was that it was a question of eye more than any anything.

"Don't think of taking aim, but keep your eye on the bird," was Mr. Langford's dictum.

"Both eyes," said Sturmit, emphatically. "I never yet knew a man who shut one eye, or tried to use only one, and shot well. Why, look at Wimpole—he's an example in point. Do you think that he'd stick to his eyeglass so carefully if he didn't shoot with both eyes?"

"I certainly keep both eyes open," said the subject of this remark, "and I know I should not shoot so well without my eyeglass."

"But one eye is generally the master," remarked Langford. "If you aim at some mark in the usual way with both eyes open, and then close first one and then the other, you will find that you are actually sighting with only one eye—generally the right."

Wimpole nodded his head in acquiescence.

"That may be so," pursued Sturmit; "but don't you think that when a man is accustomed to shoot with both eyes open he would shoot worse if anything went wrong with his left eye, even though the other were the 'master,' as you term it?"

"I certainly think so," observed Wimpole—"temporarily, at any rate. It would upset the nerves for one thing, and that would be quite enough to spoil a man's shooting."

Sturmit said no more, but it was clear that for some reason or other the conclusion arrived at, trivial as it seemed, afforded him considerable satisfaction. He helped himself to more wine on the strength of it, and when they adjourned to the billiard-room he was quite jocose. He adroitly brought the conversation round again to the shooting match, tried to get rather more than the regular odds against himself in the open sweepstakes, and then jocularly proposed to make a match of it with Captain Wimpole. The latter, in his quiet way, said he had no objection, though he considered that he ought to receive slight odds as a cockney sportsman when pitted against a country gentleman, whose experience and opportunities were so much larger than his own. Sturmit would not admit this, and cracked many jokes about the opportunities town men had of practising at cats in the back yard, and shooting candles at deal boards, and many more jovial witticisms to the same effect. And under the stimulus of these mental efforts, and several brandies and soda, he played so brilliantly at pool that he won quite a nice little sum, and grew more and more vainglorious in consequence.

The next morning Sturmit woke rather early. He was unpleasantly conscious of possessing a head, and would have given a good deal for a slightly-adulterated soda, but forbore to ring for it, lest the appearance of a servant at an inopportune moment should upset a little scheme he hoped to carry out. He slightly opened his door so that he might hear an approaching footstep, put a bath towl close by on a chair, and then got into bed again and listened. Presently he heard a door open, and hastily jumped out of bed and seized the towel. Some one was coming down the passage, and he opened his door just as Captain Wimpole was passing. He saw what he wanted to see—that the Captain was for once without his eyeglass.

"Going to the bath?" said Sturmit; "all right, after you, I'm in no hurry," and he stepped back into his room again.

Captain Wimpole thanked him and disappeared into the bath room. Sturmit listened until the sound of splashing from within assured him that the ablutionist could not reappear for a few minutes. Then he darted into the Captain's bedroom and looked over the dressing-table. Yes, there was what he sought—the two eyeglasses, in a neat little leather case. Quick as thought Sturmit took them out and put in their place the two he had bought the previous evening. A hurried examination showed that, superficially, Wimpole's and the substituted glasses were very much alike. Would the wearer perceive any difference, except in the matter of seeing through them? And if he felt that something was a little wrong with his vision, to what would he naturally attribute it?

To biliousness, or a cold in the eye, or a further stage in its organic deterioration—anything rather than the glasses, which he would never suspect for a moment had been changed.

These thoughts passed through Sturmit's mind when he had got back to his room, and they satisfied him. So far as he could see he had done the trick very nicely. In justice to him it must be said that he did not realise how thoroughly despicable were the means he was adopting to reach his end. He tried to persuade himself that he was only playing a smart practical joke on the Captain, who possibly wore the eyeglass only for show, and who, therefore, deserved to have his vanity punished. And, if at the same time the interloper's shooting was temporarily spoiled, well, so much the better for the other competitors, genuine sportsmen and honest country gentlemen—like himself.

When the party met at breakfast, Wimpole had got a glass in his eye, but the observant Sturmit thought that he detected a certain uneasiness on the part of the wearer. He seemed more silent than usual, and his mouth twitched nervously; but he made no remark on the topic that was uppermost in Sturmit's mind.

But after breakfast he seized an opportunity when Martin was alone, to ask if the latter could spare a man to drive over into the town for him. On receiving an answer in the affirmative, he sought out the man and explained to him his mission.

"I want you to hurry into Stradbrook and find the optician who yesterday evening sold a gentleman two eyeglasses like this one, which you can take with you. There cannot be many opticians in the town, and when you have found the right one, ask him if he will oblige me by coming over to the Gun Club at mid-day to-day. Say it is a matter of importance for him to be present. You manage to be there, too, and keep him about until I send for him. Don't say anything about this to anybody, and there's a sovereign for your trouble."

The man said he perfectly understood, and departed.

On arriving at the club grounds, Martin and his party found that one competition had been decided, and that another was in progress. Wimpole very speedily discovered that the shooting was not particularly good, and from the conversation of other spectators he gathered that Sturmit was expected to win the open sweepstakes. That gentleman could get only a slight shade of odds against himself, even when it transpired that the outsider from London who was going to compete had no inconsiderable reputation as a shot. There were about a dozen other entries for the event, which was one of seven birds each at twenty-two, twenty-five, and twenty-eight yards' rise.

When the order of shooting had been settled, they speedily got to work. Wimpole made a most disastrous start, missing his first bird with both barrels, but he killed the other six. The first failure, however, put Sturmit in excellent spirits. "The charm works," he muttered to himself. That Wimpole failed in only one instance rather disappointed him, but he reflected with satisfaction that in all probability the charm would work still more efficiently when the distance was longer. And then he proceeded to kill all his seven birds, Wimpole and another man coming second with six each.

The betting now became slight odds on Sturmit, and he laid eleven to ten in sovereigns on himself until takers were tired. Wimpole had so far declined to bet, but he now said to Sturmit:

"What odds will you lay against me individually?"

"Well, that amounts to backing myself against you," observed Sturmit, with characteristic arrogance, "and I think eleven to ten ought to be enough."

"You forget that Mr. Turner has done as well as I have," replied Wimpole, looking at the gentleman referred to; "even if I beat you, I am by no means sure to beat him."

Mr. Turner laughed. "I'll have an even fiver with you, sir, on the strength of your polite opinion," he said, pleasantly, and Wimpole agreed.

"Come, I'll lay twelve to ten against you," cried Sturmit; "but it's only to give you back the money I won from you at pool last night."

"What shall we make it—£120 to £100?" said the Captain, quietly.

Sturmit was slightly staggered by this offer, but as he had been loudly complaining of the difficulty of backing himself, he did not like to refuse it, especially as it was overheard by several of his friends. Moreover, he was quite confident of winning the sweepstakes himself, for he felt in a conquering mood. And it seemed to him that the eyeglass trick was working fairly satisfactorily.

"Oh, if you want to make a gamble of it, I don't mind," he said, "I don't suppose £100 more or less will break me; what do you think, Martin?"

"Break you, indeed!" quoth the gentleman addressed, "I wish you owed me a thousand."

"Well, I expect I could pay it without being sold up," continued Sturmit, swaggeringly, "and if I have to take a hundred from the captain, I hope his half pay will stand it."

Captain Wimpole's face darkened somewhat at this speech, but all he said was,

"I think my friend Martin will guarantee my solvency up to £100."

"Rather," cried the gentleman appealed to, "consider me your bond—and now let's get to business."

The shooting recommenced, and both got their first three birds, Wimpole with the right barrel, Sturmit twice requiring his left as well. Then the former hit his fourth hard, but did not stop it. Wimpole paused a second, as though expecting the bird to fall, and then fired again—a perfect kill. It was an admirable shot, the distance being quite forty yards. Sturmit muttered an anathema to himself, and his faith in opticians vanished for ever. He only feathered his next bird with his right barrel, and missed it altogether with his left. He killed his fifth and sixth, but bungled his seventh, which got away, and as Wimpole killed all his, it came about that, at the end of the second heat, instead of being one down he was one up. Things looked black for Sturmit, but not blacker than he looked himself.

"I think I ought to offer you the odds you laid me," said Wimpole to him in his politest manner, "shall I say £120 to £100 that I beat you?"

"You're damned obliging," growled Sturmit, "but I shoot for sport, not to put money in the pockets of——" sharpers, was on the tip of his tongue, but he caught the Captain's unglazed eye at that moment, and the expression warned him off, so he finished—"experts from town." Then he added, "It was very smart of you to miss the first bird, and so get longer odds; have you got anything else up your sleeve of the same sort?"

"If you wish me to explain how I came to miss the first bird, I will do so," said Wimpole, looking sternly at the other. But Sturmit hastily rejoined that he didn't care a straw how it happened, except that he should like to know the trick himself, as it seemed mighty convenient.

"Do you mean to insinuate——" began the captain, wrathfully.

"Of course he doesn't," interrupted Martin, who saw that the men were getting to loggerheads; "that's only his idea of a joke."

"Well, the idea does not strike me as a happy one," rejoined Wimpole; "and I like Mr. Sturmit's practical jokes even less, if he will permit me to say so."

Sturmit tried to laugh the matter off, but he was palpably uneasy. His waning self-confidence altogether disappeared at Wimpole's unmistakable innuendo. Clearly the captain had some inkling of the trick that had been played upon him, and had made a shrewd guess as to the identity of the perpetrator. But could he *prove* anything?

The shooting now began at the 28 yards rise. Only two of the other competitors were equal to Sturmit, the rest being practically out of the contest. Wimpole held his lead, not missing a single bird, while his particular adversary went all to pieces, being about fifth on the list at the finish. By that time Sturmit was quite yellow with rage and mortification, and, despite the more than suspicion in his mind that his little trick had been found out, he could not hold his tongue. He snatched a sheet of paper from

the stationery case directly they had returned to the club-house, and wrote out an order on his banker to pay the bearer £120. This he threw across the table to Wimpole; then, addressing the others to whom he owed bets, he said—

"I will send you *gentlemen* cheques when I get time."

"This is not to be borne," exclaimed Wimpole. "I had intended to spare this person the ignominious exposure he deserves, but he has rendered it impossible. Gentlemen, may I ask your kind attention for a few minutes?"

The altercation had already attracted some notice, and now everybody gathered within hearing distance of the irate speaker. Sturmit flung himself into a chair with a badly assumed air of indifference and took up a paper.

"Mr. Martin is an old friend of mine," Wimpole proceeded, "and I came down on a visit to him yesterday. I have met Mr. Sturmit once before, and it happened that last night he also enjoyed our friend's hospitality. You will all have observed that I have an infirmity of vision which compels me to wear an eyeglass. This morning while I was temporarily absent from my bedroom, some one entered it, and in place of the couple of glasses I always carry with me, substituted others of a different character. I detected the trick in a moment, and from the first I suspected the guilty person. There is no doubt whatever in my own mind that this mean trick was played upon me in order to spoil my shooting; and with most men it would certainly have had that effect. In a moment I will tell you why it did not in my case. What I have to say now is that I charge Mr. Sturmit with surreptitiously entering my bedroom and changing my glasses."

"And I say that you're a liar!" cried Sturmit, jumping to his feet.

"Martin," said Wimpole, turning to his friend, "will you have the goodness to go outside and bring in a gentleman you will find there with your man?"

Martin departed on this errand, and Sturmit also walked towards the door, but was promptly intercepted by the secretary.

"I think we must trouble you to remain, Mr. Sturmit," said that functionary. "This is a matter which affects the honour of the club as well as your own."

"Damn the honour of the club!" burst forth Sturmit. "Do you think I am going to be put on my trial because some infernal sharper from town brings an accusation against me to cover his own delinquencies?"

"Naturally we shall not allow an unsupported assertion to carry any weight," said the secretary, "but I understand——"

At this moment Martin returned with the stranger, whom Wimpole forthwith interrogated, first informing his auditory that the gentleman before them was Mr. Spackman, an optician from the neighbouring town.

"I have troubled you to come here to-day, Mr. Spackman," said Wimpole, "because we want your evidence in regard to a certain matter. I sent a glass over to you this morning; did you recognise it?"

Mr. Spackman took the glass in question from his waistcoat pocket.

"I think it is one of two that I sold to a gentleman yesterday," he said.

"Should you think that is the other?" continued Wimpole, taking the glass from his eye and offering it for inspection.

"I am practically certain those are the two I sold," said the optician. "I recognise them because the lenses are very peculiar, being for astigmatism."

"A person suffering only from short-sight would be considerably inconvenienced if he had to use one of these glasses?" pursued Wimpole.

"Certainly he would," the optician stated; "he would see indistinctly and inaccurately."

"Do you know the gentleman to whom you sold two eye-glasses of this kind yesterday?"

"No, he was a stranger to me; but I noticed him particularly. He was tall and stoutish, with rather a red face, and small side whiskers; he had on a tweed suit and cloth gaiters, and had a white tie with a dog's-head pin in it."

This was so exact a description of Sturmit that everybody looked round for him. But he had disappeared.

"Does any gentleman desire to further question Mr. Spackman?" Wimpole asked.

There was no answer, and after a momentary pause Wimpole informed the optician that they would not detain him further, but were exceedingly obliged to him for his attendance; and the good man departed, somewhat mystified by the proceedings, but hoping that they would in some way prove good for trade. Wimpole turned to the members of the club.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I greatly regret to have been the unfortunate cause in one way of this unpleasant business. Believe me, although I was conscious that a somewhat dirty trick had been played upon me, and suspected both the perpetrator and his object, I did not intend to make the matter public, and I should have refrained from doing so had I not been provoked beyond endurance. And I now wish to explain a fact which may have puzzled you—how it is that, with an eye-glass of an altogether different sight from my own, I have nevertheless shot pretty well. Gentlemen, although I always wear an eye-glass, and feel very uncomfortable without one; although this strange one did bother me at first, and probably was the cause of my beginning with a miss; yet this has nothing to do with the character of the lens. For, to let you into the secret of my unfortunate infirmity, the eye in which I always wear a glass is, in fact—a glass eye!"

MUSIC.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVALS.

NEXT Wednesday the London orchestral rehearsals for the Three Choirs Festival, to be held at Worcester, will commence at Queen's Hall. This autumn there will be no fewer than five musical festivals, namely, at Worcester, September 6-9; at Norwich, October 6-9; Sheffield, October 13-14; Bristol, October 14-17; and at Hanley, October 29-30. Several novelties are announced, none of them perhaps of particular importance, if I may except Signor Mancinelli's setting of Boito's "Hero and Leander," which will be given at Norwich as a cantata, and, should it then succeed, may possibly be produced on the stage at Covent Garden next season. Festivals have, indeed, of late years fallen from their high estate. Some of our best composers, more than one of them smarting under quasi-failure, have relinquished writing for musical festivals upon the very just, though painfully commercial, rather than artistic, ground that novelties are not paid for. The festival authorities expect such things gratis, and even look askance at the suggestion of a composer's hotel bill, hoping that the Bishop of the diocese, or the Dean, or at worst the organist, will stall the stranger without fee. Indeed, where British musicians are concerned, festival committees seem to have a conscientious objection to offering them any sort of adequate remuneration. Foreigners are different, for although the unenlightened provincial may smile at local talent, he takes off his hat to a "Monsieur," a "Herr," or a "Signor." A British oratorio or cantata may occupy a composer's time for twelve months, but festival authorities seem to labour under the impression that the author is sufficiently rewarded by hearing his music in public.

It is the "charity" business which, from a musical point of view, is the curse of provincial festivals. Everything, save the fees of the chief artists, who have a lively idea that charity begins at home, is subordinated to the passing round of the hat. Therefore, these celebrations are likely to become more and more local and less generally interesting, and, consequently, more costly and less profitable, until music instead of charity is made the principal object. At the Three Choirs Festivals the clergy of the Established Church have,

indeed, coolly appropriated the whole of the money which formerly was divided between them and the musicians. Even at the greater festivals, such as Leeds, Bristol, and Birmingham (for Norwich seems to be given over to the Italians) committees appear to think far more of getting up a big subscription for the local hospitals than of assisting the cause of Art. Consequently, the composer, who gives his work for nothing, and too often hears it massacred by the local forces, does not see why he should waste his time. In former days we had several progressive choral societies in central London eager to take up festival novelties. The composer was then supposed to have his reward in the increased celebrity with which a successful festival production invested him. But now, even when his oratorio makes a hit, he is compelled to rely for a bare hearing exclusively upon provincial choirs, who pay nothing for the right of performance, the unfortunate musician being supposed to be remunerated by the few pence per copy which the publishers allow him on sales. No English composer ever gained a shilling for the best symphony he ever wrote, and cantatas and oratorios seem now to be falling to an equally low commercial level. Festival committees also complain that novelties take up a good deal of time and are costly to produce, while local audiences do not support them in the sense that they crowd to familiar works, such as the "Messiah," "Elijah," and "The Golden Legend." So important Festival novelties, until a change for the better occurs, are likely to be things of the past.

The only Festival novelties this year accordingly are at Worcester (with the help of the choirs from Hereford and plague-stricken Gloucester), a short oratorio "The Light of Life," by Mr. Elgar, a local musician, and a church cantata by Mr. Blair, a local organist; while at Norwich, apart from Signor Mancinelli's cantata, the only new works are a violin concerto in D minor, by Mr. Cliffe, which will doubtless be heard at London and other concerts, and an Irish chorus, "Phaudrig Crohoore," by Dr. Stanford. At Sheffield there are no novelties at all, while at Bristol (which, by the way, like Sheffield, is held so late in the year that it clashes with the Colonne Orchestra at Queen's Hall, Mr. Manns' performances at the Crystal Palace, and other concerts) the only new works are a short setting of Coleridge's hymn "Before Sunrise," by Mr. P. M. Miles, and Mr. Roeckel's song "Siddartha," though a "Requiem" by Gounod, which is said to be new to England (although it has probably been heard at some of the Roman Catholic Churches), will also be given. For the rest the programmes at all these festivals will be devoted to the standard oratorios and similar works, while at each festival there seems to be this year a tendency towards miscellaneous programmes, in which orchestral symphonies and excerpts from Wagner's operas figure.

In short, the Festival schemes have been drawn up almost exclusively from the local point of view. I have no doubt that in this sense they do some good, for, particularly in the West country, performances of symphonies and similar compositions by large festival bands are rare, and they may thus fulfil some educational purpose. Such repetitions by scratch bands under local men do not, of course, appeal very strongly to London musicians, who were formerly amongst the staunchest supporters of the provincial festivals; for better performances under the greatest masters of the conductor's art are frequently heard in the metropolis. Perhaps partly for this reason, although the festivals seem to increase year by year, the receipts, or, at any rate, the profits, annually show a marked falling off.

A London musical season will open on Saturday with the Promenade Concerts, which will be given at Queen's Hall nightly till October 10. Mr. Wood this year has put forward a rather ambitious scheme, and it is only hoped that the means at command will suffice to properly carry it out. To hear first-rate music for a shilling is doubtless an advantage, but the performances must be a good deal better, and better rehearsed than last year, to be considered quite satisfactory.

Mr. Maurice Grau has now returned to Europe. In America he told his compatriots some strange things. For example, he is alleged to have said that the best representations at Covent Garden are not so good as those at the cheap-priced Saturday-night performances in New York. His opinion was probably formed after hearing some of the poorly-cast representations towards the close of the recent season — that is to say, after Sir Augustus Harris's death. Mr. Grau told an amusing story of singers who keep asking more and more every year, although they have now pretty well approached their limit, while "this season," he said, "since the free silver ticket, a number of them have insisted on the insertion of clauses in their contracts requiring the payment of their salaries in gold." The prima donna of the period obviously does not believe in free silver. Mr. Grau also complained of the size of Covent Garden, the capacity being only about half as great as that of the Metropolitan Opera House New York, so that London prices are about 20 per cent higher than American. I do not know quite what Mr. Grau wants. The gallery folks at Covent Garden are far enough away from the stage at present, and to put them twice as far off would need a supply of telescopes.

In New York, and possibly also in London, Mr. Grau promises some interesting casts, such as the De Reszkes, Mme. Melba (Brünnhilde and the Singing Bird), and Bispham (Mime) in "Siegfried," Melba as Rosina in "Il Barbiere," Calvé as Susanna and Selika, and Eames as Valentina. Amongst the new comers will be Mlle. Bellina, a young Italian soprano; M. Goquy, a tenor; and M. Thomas Salignas, a tenor from Rheims. Herr Siedel will conduct all the German operas, Signor Mancinelli being relegated to "Tannhäuser" in French and "Die Meistersinger" in Italian. It is a pity we cannot, in London, hear the Wagner operas conducted by a German. The Italians, with all their enthusiasm and genuine musicianship, are not at all at home in Wagner's advanced music.

The Carl Rosa Company are having a successful season in Dublin. Of course, the idea of a short visit to Drury Lane is now abandoned. In fact, as I stated at the time, the Carl Rosa Company merely intimated that they were prepared to give a month at Drury Lane in September-October providing that a dramatic season were not otherwise arranged. Mr. Coleman now has the house, so that the opera idea falls through.

Now that Sir Augustus Harris is dead certain writers are wildly speculating on his finances. For example, it is gravely stated by one of my confrères that the takings for Smetana's "Bartered Bride" at Drury Lane were only £6. 7s. 9d. Why the ninepence? Was there a thrippenny gallery for disthrested musicians of the unhappy Isle?

Herr Mottl has wisely resolved to abandon his autumn concerts this year, and instead will give an increased number in the spring. We have now so many orchestral schemes in the autumn, including three concerts under Richter, four under Colonne, six under Lamoureux, several under Henschel, twelve under Manns, and the usual amateur and extra performances, that the field of Wagnerian and symphony music seems to be pretty well filled.

The musical comedy, "Newmarket," at the Opera Comique, has a good deal of turf and comparatively little musical interest; though at any rate we have to thank Mr. Edouin for abolishing the vapid love ballads and the hitherto inevitable topical song sung by a would-be-

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comedian usually with a flower pot instead of a hat. "Newmarket" is, in fact, seriously dramatic, Mr. Edouin giving a beautifully-finished and striking character-sketch of the quick-tempered though good-hearted horse trainer; while Miss May Edouin is a bright representative of his mischievous grand-daughter. Except as to a few numbers by Mr. John Crook, the authorship of the music is mercifully not disclosed.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—In every age to deny degrading beliefs about God is—to those who hold these beliefs—to deny His existence; as though, to borrow an illustration from Bacon, to deny that Saturn ever ate his own children was to deny the existence of Saturn. Tom Paine was the bogey atheist of his day to candid contemporary Christians, yet not one of them more firmly held or more lucidly and earnestly expressed faith in immortality and in God than this execrated atheist. You have but to read his "Age of Reason" (1), of which a perfect edition has just appeared, to realise how convinced and fervent a theist was its author. In reading, again, an admirably written "Life of Oliver Wendell Holmes" (2), I find that for some time the author of "Elsie Venner," the most devout of Christians, was the bogey atheist of the Churches. It was, perhaps, inevitable that he should pay this penalty for preaching the duties of God to man almost in the spirit of Omar Khayyam's large utterance:—

> Oh, Thou, who man of baser earth didst make,
> And who with Eden didst devise the snake;
> For all the sin wherewith the face of man
> Is blackened, man's forgiveness give—and take!

"If a created being," said the Doctor, "has no rights which his Creater is bound to respect, there is an end to all moral relations between them." This was strong meat to those who, to use the scriptural expression, "filled their bellies with the east wind" of arid doctrines, without ever assimilating the teaching of Christ, or, in other words, to the vast majority of Christians. "Can any man look round and see what Christian countries are now doing," asks the Doctor, "and how they are governed, and what is the general condition of society, without seeing that Christianity is the flag under which the world sails, and not the rudder that steers its course?" Another heretical utterance of his recalls Voltaire's rejoinder to those who asked, "If you take away our faith, what will you put in its place?" "You might as well say of a tiger," replied Voltaire, "if you take away this tiger, what will you put in his place?" "One thing seems to me clear," writes Holmes in a letter on immortality, "that if the future life is to be for the bulk of mankind what the larger part of our pulpits teach, namely, a condition of hopeless woe, there is no reason why we should wish to have a proof of another life." When men are called atheists for holding such views, you are reminded of Epicurus' answer to the charge, "It is heresy—not to deny—but to accept the popular notions of the gods." "Non Deos vulgi negari profanum; sed vulgi opiniones Diis applicare profanum." The old negress who in Mr. Haweis' delightful book "Travel and Talk" (3) shouted frantically and frequently at a revival service he attended in New Orleans, "Glory! Glory! Barabbas in the Highest" (meaning probably "Hosannah") fairly expressed the mistake of the Churches about their Founder. The old ladies who are the usual spokesmen of the Churches are happily hit off in this pleasant book of Mr. Haweis' by Bishop Phillips Brooks' description of them as "Dear old moth-eaten angels." By the way, Mr. Haweis gives you a very pleasant impression of Wendell Holmes; though he does no great justice to his memory in printing a common-place hymn of the "Autocrat's," and comparing it, to its advantage, with Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar." No doubt Holmes was a very old man when he composed the hymn, but he did not, like Emerson, survive himself. "After Longfellow's death," he said to Mr. Haweis, "as he lay in the chapel before the coffin-lid was shut down, I went in with Emerson to take a last look at our poor friend. Emerson stood gazing at the quiet face for some moments. Then, turning to me, he said, 'That is the face of a very amiable gentleman, but I do not know who he is.'"

> In life's last scene what prodigies surprise!

Walt Whitman also described to Mr. Haweis these last vacant days of Emerson, but he did not think the spectacle piteous or painful. "Painful!" he said, "No, no, it seemed to me just right; it was natural; Nature slowly claiming back her own—the elements she had lent—he himself did not seem to feel it painful. I did not; it was all as it should be—harmony, not discord." And he then proceeded to compare such a decay to a sunset—surely the inaptest comparison ever made! What could less resemble the glory of a sunset than this:—

> Dull, mechanic, pacing to and fro,
> This set-grey life and apathetic end?

I have not been fortunate in the only novel I have read of late, "A Modern Siren" (4), in which a woman seduces her sister's betrothed and her own stepson. Perhaps a single specimen of the hysterical style of this silly story may suffice:—

> "O, kiss me, kiss me before we part," said Lilith, softly and tenderly. Julian could scarcely forbear clasping her to his breast, but he overcame the temptation. "As your son," he said firmly, and imprinted a kiss upon her forehead. With a wild cry she flung herself upon his breast. "Love! dearest! soul of my soul," she cried, the words rushing from her wildly as a torrent, "I love you. Why should we part? My love shall bridge over the great gulf between us."

She succeeds in seducing him, and in persuading him to an elopement, but, upon the death of the child of their shame, she commits suicide. Fortunately, the story is as feeble and foolish as it is unwholesome. I remember once seeing in one of those hotch-potch weeklies that sell by the million a column headed, "To be Read Aloud," containing brief paragraphs of such import and importance as to call for all the emphasis of elocution. The fifth paragraph in this portentous column ran thus: "The Queen is very fond of tapioca pudding." Those who think such revelations should be read out like the Gospel in church will revel in the disclosures and descriptions of "Marlborough House and its Occupants" (5). It speaks well indeed for the Prince and Princess of Wales that nothing this courtly book can say of them rouses a reactionary prejudice in the reader. Those for whom it is especially written must be charmed with its manner and matter, though it leaves still some fascinating mysteries unsolved. It does not, for instance, absolutely guarantee that all the male members of the Prince's Household purchase each a "Lincoln & Bennett" a day, though it suggests this as the only adequate explanation of the astonishing fact that none of them is ever seen with a shabby hat. Surely he should have remembered and quoted Holmes's lines:—

> Wear a good hat: the secret of your looks
> Lives with the beaver in Canadian brooks.
> Virtue may flourish in an old cravat,
> But man and nature scorn the shocking hat.

—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "The Age of Reason." Edited by Moncure Daniel Conway, M.A. (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.)
(2) "Life and Letters of Oliver Wendell Holmes." By John T. Morse, Jr. 2 vols. (London: Sampson Low & Co.) Price 18s.
(3) "Travel and Talk." 1885-93-95. My hundred thousand miles of Travel through America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Ceylon, and the paradises of the Pacific. By the Rev. H. R. Haweis. With two portraits. 2 vols. (London: Chatto & Windus.) Price 21s.
(4) "A Modern Siren." By Julian Harvey. (London: Digby, Long & Co.) Price 6s.
(5) "Marlborough House and its Occupants; Present and Past." By Arthur H. Beavan. Illustrated with drawings by Holland Tringham, R.B.A., and photographic views. (London: F. V. White & Co.)

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We constantly meet coveys of bicyclists, sometimes all men, sometimes a mixed party of youths and maidens. They do not often present a picturesque appearance, but very much the reverse, the girls looking cut in two, with dark skirt and light blouse, and the men with a displeasing insufficiency of cap. It would be better to wear none than to ride in the wretched little flimsy things that serve only to accentuate the meagre supply of hair that is now conventional, and the small and ill-developed head that seems to be the rule among the uneducated classes. The movements of the girls' knees are usually more or less hideous, though a small minority manage to ride gracefully enough without unduly raising the limbs. I sometimes think this is a mere matter of skirt-building. Minna, who wears a Redfern cycling costume, looks charming, and even from a back view presents a graceful appearance.

The other morning we sighted from afar a cycling party, and as they came nearer both of the girls exclaimed at once: "No blouses! What a mercy!" We were so delighted with that party. Whether by accident or design, they presented a perfect chord of colour in their attire. The men wore brown or heather mixture, and the girls had costumes with neat waistcoats, and trim collars and ties. One costume was orange and brown mixed, and with this an orange vest was worn. The girl was an attractive brunette with a clear complexion, and great velvet eyes with a hint of yellow in them. Another of the party wore chocolate cloth faced with a deep shade of greyish blue velvet. Her vest was white drill, and she had a white hat with cornflowers and a white veil. A third girl, whose youth was attested by a great switch of hair hanging to her waist and tied midway with pale blue ribbon, wore a rifle green cloth skirt and coat and a full front of pale blue batiste. Her hat was green straw with pale blue flowers and a knot of chené ribbon in the two colours.

It was quite a pretty sight.

I have seen so many bicycles in an unprotected condition at railway stations, on steamboats, and on the top of cabs, railway omnibuses, and broughams, that I notice with pleasure the particulars of a crate just registered by Drew & Sons. It is very light of weight, being chiefly made of strong wickerwork, and it takes the machine without the pedals being unscrewed. The handle has to be taken off. It straps inside the crate, which is on steel rollers, and can therefore easily be led along. This is a decided advantage, especially on Continental railways, where there is almost always a scarcity of porters. "Pity the sorrows of a poor old bike," might be the refrain of most of the machines one meets on one's travels. One sees them getting visibly demoralised, and, considering how much they cost, it seems a pity that this simple expedient for saving them from damage should not be adopted.

I see that Tennyson's early home, Somersby Old Hall, in Lincolnshire, is to be let or sold. I wish I were rich enough to buy it. Don't you think that life would in some degree be beautified by living in the midst of such associations as gather round the birthplace of such a man? Or would they, after awhile, be forgotten and become merged in the commonplaces of existence? I used to think that no one could lead an ignoble life within sight or sound of the sea. I need scarcely mention that this idea belonged to a very early age, and that it soon gave way before the realities of the seaside, as we know it. The sea is almost desecrated by the humanity that flows down to it in August—the cheap trippers; the people who munch incessantly from morning to night, whose only dishes are paper bags and only plates their fingers; the badly brought up children, whose yells go up incessantly from one quarter and another of the beach; the tired and thirsty goats and donkeys with their thoughtless boy attendants, liberal of whip but scant of real care; the "niggers" and the gaping crowds they draw with vulgar song and chorus, tedious tinkle of the banjo, tiresome thumping of the tambourine, and loathly braying of the concertina. The yells of "fresh s'rimps" and "water*creases*" do not improve matters either.

So that, instead of the idyllic ocean of my youthful dreams, there is rather an increase than otherwise of the vulgar and commonplace "by the sea."

But then, did not Byron write of the "rapture by the *lonely* shore," of the society "where none intrudes?"

Li Hung Chang fascinates me. I read every word of the accounts of his doings, and was delighted to note that, in the course of seeing the ship-building he had made two jokes. No one but his interpreter and himself understood them, but they were sufficiently good to make the latter laugh until he cried, and to cause the Viceroy himself to utter a laugh so loud, so sudden, and so brief, as to cause men who were at work several yards away to turn round to see if anything was the matter.

I admire the beautiful simplicity of the Chinese plan of orders of merit and decorative medals. Unlike ours, which are in a confusing number of patterns, and are, in fact, a complete study in themselves, just as though they were an ology or an ism, those of China consist of one Order only, that of the Double Dragon, which is divided into five classes, each class being subdivided into a variety of grades. This Order Li Hung Chang intends to bestow upon some three hundred individuals with whom he has been brought into agreeable association during his English tour. Paris, Petersburg, and London have all competed for the honour of making these souvenirs, and I am sure you are sufficiently patriotic to feel pleased that England has been the successful competitor. The Order has been given to the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, 112, Regent-street, and they have succeeded in reproducing with absolute fidelity the very elaborate Chinese ornamentation and characters in the finest possible repoussé work. The Order is in gold and silver, embellished by rich enamels of various colours.

I drew your attention some time ago to a new verb "to bunch," an etymological arrival from America, meaning to send or give bouquets to a lady. I have now found another new word—in fact, two new ones, both of which are elliptical and labour-saving. One is "brunch," signifying a meal that combines breakfast and lunch, and one that is partaken of at an hour somewhere within hail of ten a.m. The other is "blunch," and means a rather similar meal, but with more lunch than breakfast about it. Do you not admire the subtlety of these distinctions? The important difference must be borne in mind.

We had a whole wet day yesterday, and as Clare has developed a disagreeable condition of her bronchial tubes, we employed it in making her up some Vizella garments for wearing at night. It is an ideally soft and luxurious fabric, and quite lovely to sew. It is also perfectly shrunk, both in white, the natural tint, and in the soft shades of blue, pink, and citron in which it is made.

So we turned our one wet day to account, and afterwards, when it cleared, enjoyed a sunset walk, Dungeness looking like a line of gold in an amber sea, while the sky was pale green below and blue above, with clouds of pink and amber deepening into sepia.

The newest colour for fashionable notepaper is apple-green, a fresh and pretty tint. I am writing some of this on it, so that you may see what it is like. When we went to Parkins & Gotto's to get it we were shown the latest whisper in monograms—those in the form of a seal with the letters apparently stamped upon it. For instance, a large green seal is raised in relief round the edge exactly like wax, and in the flattened central oblong appear the interlaced initials. On others an old-fashioned wafer is simulated in the corner opposite the address and on the flap of the envelope, the monogram appearing on

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both. The wafer takes the form of a heart sometimes with a spray of golden ivy for support. Even prettier is a diamond-shaped shield in rose-petal pink bordered with a slender line of black and hung up by tiny black chains and a true lover's knot. This is repeated in white and blue, in mauve and silver, and probably in other combinations of colour.

And now let me give you two or three recipes. To begin with, you will find these chocolate sandwiches charming for afternoon tea :—

Beat 4 oz. of butter and 4 oz. of sugar together until white, add 2 eggs separately, then mix in 4 oz. of flour; spread the mixture on to a greased and papered baking-sheet, and bake twenty minutes in a moderate oven. Beat 2 oz. of butter with 4 oz. of sifted icing sugar, adding gradually 2 oz. of chocolate Menier, previously dissolved in a little water on the stove. When the cake is cold, spread half with the chocolate icing; put the other half on the top, and cut into neat square pieces. Put 4 oz. of sifted icing sugar into a stewpan with a tablespoonful of water, stir until warm, and add a few drops of essence of vanilla. Coat the top and sides of the sandwiches with the icing, and sprinkle them with desiccated cocoanut.

These tomato darioles make a delicious savoury :—

Pour a little dissolved aspic into a sufficient number of small dariole moulds, and garnish them with diamond-shaped pieces of hard-boiled white of egg and truffle. Now mix a gill of stiffly reduced tomato purée with an equal quantity of melted aspic jelly. Cut 4 stoned olives, 2 boned anchovies, and half the breast of a cold chicken into small dice-shaped pieces, and stir them lightly and carefully into the tomato aspic. Fill the prepared moulds, and place them aside to get firm. When ready to serve, turn them on to a silver dish. To form a border, garnish round with chopped aspic jelly, and put some nicely-seasoned salad in the centre.

Here is another savoury, and quite a new one :—

Place thick slices of ripe, skinned tomato on an equal number of round pieces of brown bread and butter. Put a teaspoonful of essence of anchovy, a pinch of cayenne pepper, a teaspoonful of lemon juice, and a pinch of salt and pepper to a gill of cream, and whisk it until stiff; put the cream into a paper cornet and press it on to the tomato; sprinkle the cream with grated Parmesan cheese, put a sprig of chervil on the top, and dust lightly with coralline pepper. Arrange them on a bed of small salad and garnish with a little chopped aspic.

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Victoria ..... dep.	...	...	10 30	11 35	...	1 45	3 55	...	4 55	7 15
London Bridge ,,	6 45	10 25	...	...	11 40	1 50	4 0	4 55	5 0	7 25
Portsmouth ..... arr.	9 0	12 45	1 5	1 40	2 16	4 23	6 39	6 56	7 38	10 25
Ryde ..... ,,	10 0	1 50	1 50	2 50	3 0	5 10	7 30	7 40	8 40	...
Sandown ..... ,,	10 45	2 29	2 29	...	3 37	5 46	8 14	8 14	9 24	...
Shanklin ..... ,,	10 51	2 36	2 36	...	3 45	5 52	8 19	8 19	9 30	...
Ventnor ..... ,,	11 4	2 50	2 50	3 35	3 35	6 6	8 30	8 30	9 40	...
Cowes ..... ,,	11 23	3 17	3 17	...	3 35	5 35	7 55	9 7	...	...

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Paris	dep.	10.0	9.0
		p.m.	a.m.
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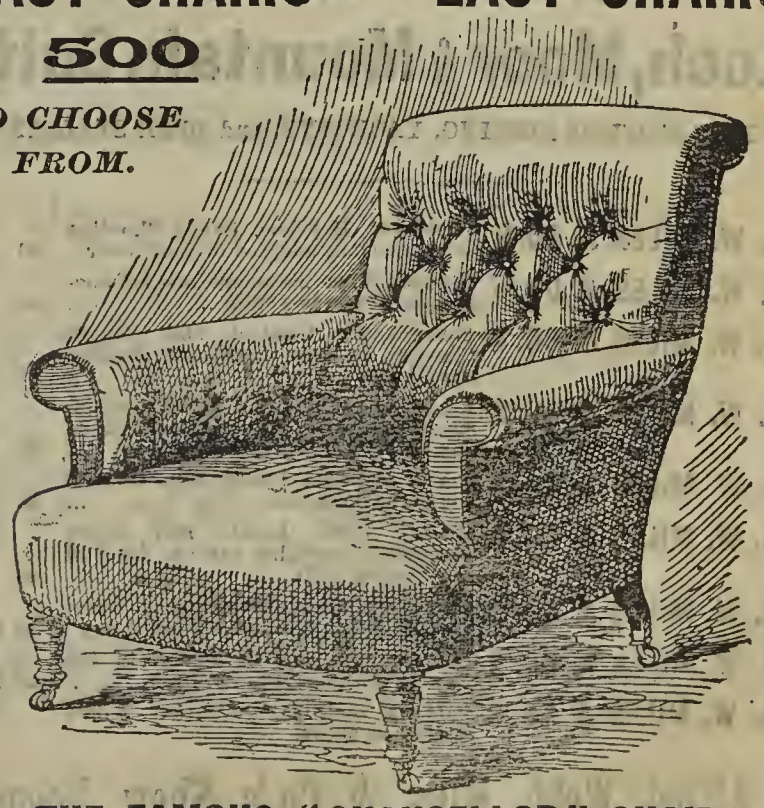

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contain a Select Assortment of the Newest Styles in Overcoats, Travelling Wraps, Inverness Capes, Racing Paletots, Covert Coats, Golf and Shooting Capes, Cycling Flannels, &c.; also, Young Gentlemen's Attire, comprising Eton and Scotch Tweed Suits, Overcoats, &c., cut and made by their own Experienced Cutters and Workmen. All sizes ready for immediate use.

STORAGE BATTERIES

of the most durable and satisfactory type are manufactured by

THE CHLORIDE ELECTRICAL STORAGE SYNDICATE, LIMITED,

16, VICTORIA ST., WESTMINSTER, S.W., AND CLIFTON JUNCTION, near MANCHESTER.

Batteries of any other type can be refilled with plates of our manufacture at a small cost, and the power of old batteries greatly increased, and the frequency of charging now necessary reduced by one half.

Goddard's Plate Powder

SIX GOLD MEDALS.

Non-Mercurial.

THE BEST and SAFEST article for CLEANING SILVER and ELECTRO PLATE. Sold in Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each, by Grocers, Oilmen, Chemists, &c., everywhere.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

A Bad Complexion

4d

is often due to a bad soap.

BLOTCHES ARE REPULSIVE, AND WILL MAR THE APPEARANCE OF ANY FACE. YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM WITH BAD SOAP.

PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

Is made specially for delicate, sensitive, irritable skins, and is scented with the most charming and innocent Perfumes.

PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

yields a profuse, cleansing, demulcent, lather, and tends to keep the skin soft and velvety, and the complexion beautiful and clear. Its use doesn't cost a farthing a day.

4d

Vinolia is a Complexion Soap.

VINOLIA CREAM.—For Itching, Sunburn, Insect Bites, &c., 1/1½ and 1/9.
VINOLIA POWDER.—For Roughness, Chafes, &c., 1/1 and 1/9.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.
Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

Best is Cheapest & Lasts Longest
Fixed, moderate prices.
Permanent Protection from Chill.

JAEGER

PURE WOOL UNDERWEAR, HOSE, PYJAMAS, RUGS, BLANKETS, CASHMERE SHEETS, DRESSING GOWNS, SHAWLS, CORSETS, CYCLING OUTFITS, BOOTS AND SHOES, etc. etc.

"Health Culture" & Jaeger Coy.'s Price List sent free.

JAEGER DEPOTS:—
3 and 4, PRINCES ST., CAVENDISH SQ. (near Regent circus)
126, REGENT STREET (near the Quadrant).
30, SLOANE STREET (adjoining McPherson's Gymnasium).
456, STRAND (near Trafalgar square).
85 and 86, CHEAPSIDE (near King street).

TAILORING (only):—
42, CONDUIT STREET, NEW BOND STREET, W.
The "Jaeger" goods are sold in many Towns. Address sent from Jaeger Co.'s Head Office, 95, Milton Street, E.C.

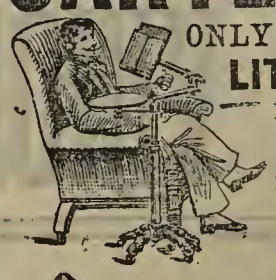
TRADE MARK ON EACH GARMENT.

The "Jaeger" goods are tested for purity and durability.

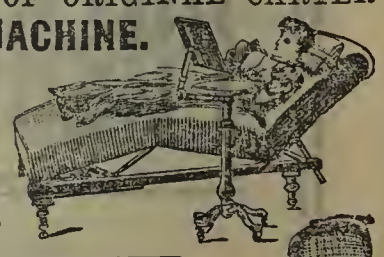
CARTER 6A, NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER

LITERARY MACHINE.



For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easychair, bed, or sofa.
Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**



INVALID FURNITURE.
ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-
Reclining Boards, 25/-
Walking Machines
Portable W.C.'s.
Electric Bells, Urinals, &c.
Air & Water Beds.

Bed Rests 7/6
Leg Rests 10/-
Crutches 10/6
Bed Baths 12 6
Commodes, £1. 5/-

Carrying Chairs from **£1.**

Self-Propelling Chairs from **£2**

Breakfast in Bed Tables from **30/-**

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

JOHN CARTER, 6a, NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

Soft Water in Every Home.

MAIGNEN'S

Patent Apparatus for Softening

HARD WATER.

MADGE, in her letter to AMY, published in "Truth" of May 7th, says:—

"Every one who lives in chalk districts ought to use Maignen's Process."

"Some friends of ours at Brighton—where as you know the water is decidedly hard—have one of their filters fitted to their cisterns, and are delighted with it."

"I quite sympathise with you, for there is nothing more detestable than hard water."

Full and Illustrated Particulars from Maignen's Filtre Rapide and Anti-Calcaire Co., Ltd., 255, Regent-street, London, W., where the Process can be seen at work.

CHIVERS'

DELICIOUS. WHOLESOME. REFRESHING.

Prepared in silver-lined pans. Highly prized by all. Flavoured with Ripe Fruit Juices.

Dr. GORDON STABLES, R.N. says:—'Jellies that really add to our health and luxury.'

GOLD MEDAL.

½-PINTS, 2½d.
PINTS, 4½d.
QUARTS, 8d.

S. CHIVERS & SONS, Proprietors of the First English Fruit Farm Jam Factory, **Histon, Cambridge.**

CHIVERS' PATENT CUSTARDS and BLANC MANGES —**2d.** and **3d.** packets and **6d.** boxes — two more delicious and digestible additions to the dinner and supper table. Made by simply adding milk and boiling.

CHIVERS' 1st PRIZE JAMS.
The Royal Commission on Agriculture, in its report (1895), says: "Messrs. Chivers' Factory at Histon . . is now well-known throughout the country for the excellence of its manufactures."

JELLIES.

LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.
Sole Consignee, W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

GLENLUCE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN that this Company having been amalgamated with the Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, shareholders in the Glenluce Gold Mining Company are advised that their certificates can be presented at the office of the London Agents of the Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, No. 7, Lothbury, London, E.C., in order that they may be exchanged (share for share) for certificates in the Glencairn Main Reef Company.

Circulars, giving details of the amalgamation, can be obtained of the London Agents of the Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, No. 7, Lothbury.

THE JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, London Agents.

THOS. HONEY, Secretary.

7, Lothbury, E.C.; August 17th, 1896.

GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Glenluce Gold Mining Company having been amalgamated with this Company, the capital has been increased to £550,000, composed as follows:—

To holders in the Glencairn Main Reef Gold Mining Company, share for share	225,000 shares.
To holders in the Glenluce Gold Mining Company, share for share	225,000 ,,
Working Capital, £150,000, obtained from issue of 50,000 shares at £3	50,000 ,,
Reserve Shares	50,000 ,,
	550,000 shares.

Shareholders have the right of applying up to October 6th for the new issue of 50,000 shares at £3 per share, at the rate of 1 new share for every 9 old shares standing in their names on September 21st next.

Holders of SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER must exhibit same at the Company's office in order to claim their rights in respect of same.

Application forms and full particulars can be obtained of the London Agents.

The Transfer Books will be closed from September 21st to October 5th inclusive.

The JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, London Agents.

THOS. HONEY, Secretary.

7, Lothbury, E.C.: August 17th, 1896.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

ALLAN'S ANTI-FAT

PURELY VEGETABLE, Perfectly Harmless. Will reduce from two to five pounds per week; acts on the food in the stomach, preventing its conversion into Fat. Sold by Chemists. Send stamp for pamphlet.
Botanic Medicine Co., 3, New Oxford-street, London, W.C.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,
and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS & CO., JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

George Gregory & Co.

STOCK & SHARE DEALERS,
LONDON, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, BRIGHTON, HASTINGS.

ABSOLUTELY THE LARGEST "UP-TO-DATE" STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS ON THE LONDON MARKET.
PAY AWAY HEAVIER DIFFERENCES THAN ALL THE OUTSIDE BROKERS AND DEALERS COMBINED.
SPECIAL BUSINESS AND DEALINGS IN GREAT EASTERNS AND JAGERSFONTEIN DIAMONDS.

BUY GREAT EASTERNS FOR 110, AND THEN FOR 120.
BUY JAGERSFONTEIN DIAMONDS FOR 15, AND THEN FOR 20.

HEAD OFFICES:—
3 & 4, TOKENHOUSE BUILDINGS, LOTHBURY, BANK OF ENGLAND, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "GRAMMARIAN, LONDON."

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE PROSPECTUS

—OF—

THE GOLDEN RIDGE

(WEST AUSTRALIA)

Proprietary Company, Limited,

Will be obtainable on THURSDAY, AUGUST 27th inst.

CAPITAL = = £150,000,

IN 150,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

5s. payable on Application, 5s. on Allotment, 5s. December 1st, 5s. February 1st, 1897

WORKING CAPITAL - - - - £40,000.

DIRECTORS.

H E. SHERWIN HOLT (Chairman of Swinburne & Co., Limited), Chairman.
Major DOUGLAS DEAN-PITT, late R.A. (Director of Burbanks North G. M. Co.)
Captain C. C. LONGRIDGE, late R.A., M.I.M.E.
WM. ABDY BEAUCLERK (Plater, Beauclerk), 5, Austin Friars, E.C.
*G. J. du CLAUN (Stange & Co.), 9, St. Mildred's Court, E.C.

* Will join after completion of purchase.

Bankers.

THE UNION BANK OF LONDON, 2, Princes Street, Mansion House, E.C.
THE BANK OF ADELAIDE, Leadenhall Street, E.C., and Adelaide, S.A.
THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK, Kalgoorlie.

Broker.

W. de NEUFVILLE, 11, Copthall Court, E.C.

Solicitors.

Messrs. CLARKE, RAWLINS, & CO., 66, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Auditors.

Messrs. BLAKEMORE, CHANTREY, & CO., Chartered Accountants, 27, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Secretary and Offices.

Mr. EDWIN HABBEN, Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, E.C

The Subscription List will Open on Monday, the 24th day of August, 1896, and Close on or before Wednesday, the 26th day of August, 1896, for town, and Thursday, the 27th day of August, for the country.

The "Old Bushmills" Distillery Co.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890. **LIMITED.**

SHARE CAPITAL - £110,000.

70,000 Five per Cent. Preference Shares of £1 each	£70,000
40,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	40,000
	£110,000

Preference Shares—Issue of £70,000 Five per Cent. Preference Shares of £1 each. The Preference Shares are entitled to a preference dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, and rank as regards capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares.

Ordinary Shares.—Issue of £40,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

Debentures.—Issue of £70,000 Four and One Quarter per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each.

The Debentures are now offered for subscription at the price of 102 per cent.

The banks mentioned are authorised to receive subscriptions at the price of 102 per cent. for £70,000 Four and One Quarter per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, and at par for the above £70,000 Five per Cent. Preference Shares, and £40,000 Ordinary Shares.

Payable.—

Preference.

2s. 6d. per Share on Application.
7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment.
10s. 0d. per Share one month after Allotment.

£1

Ordinary.

2s. 6d. per Share on Application.
7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment.
10s. 0d. per Share one month after Allotment.

£1

Debentures.

£5 per cent. on Application.
£47 per cent. (including premium) on Allotment.
£50 per cent. one month after Allotment.

£102

Payment in full may be made on Allotment, and as regards the Debenture Stock under a discount of 2 per cent. per annum.

Trustees for Debenture Holders.

JAMES DUFF, Barum House, Halifax, Chartered Accountant.
HUNTER MOORE, Solicitor, Newry.

Directors.

Hon. HERBERT T. ALLSOPP, Walton Bury, near Stafford.
Lord TRIMLESTOWN, Kew.
SAMUEL DUNCAN (Duncan, Alderdice, & Company, Limited), "Old Distillery," Newry.
Sir EDWARD LEE, 14, Waterloo-place, London, S.W.
JOSEPH HETHERINGTON, Wine and Spirit Broker, Liverpool.
The Vendor reserves the right to nominate two other Directors.

Brokers.

Dublin: D. D. BULGER, College Green and Stock Exchange.
Manchester: PIXTON & COPPOCK, 12, Half-Moon-street and Stock Exchange.
Liverpool: HOOK & BRADSHAW, York-buildings, Sweeting-street, and Stock Exchange.

Bankers.

In England: The UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER, Limited, Manchester, or their London agents; GLYN MILLS, CURRIE, & CO., Lombard-street, E.C.
In Ireland: The BELFAST BANKING COMPANY, Ltd., Belfast.
} or any of their branches.

Solicitors.

WALKER & ROWE, 8, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.

Auditors.

JOHN M'CULLOUGH & CO., Chartered Accountants, Royal-avenue, Belfast.

Registered Offices.

22 and 23, Great Tower-street, London, E.C.

Secretary (*pro tem.*)
MARTIN E. LYNAS.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire the old-established distillery business known as The "Old Bushmills" Distillery Company, Limited, situate at Bushmills, near the Giant's Causeway, in the county of Antrim, Ireland.

The Company takes over a large and valuable stock of whisky, the greater portion of which is fully matured, dating back to the year 1885, and this asset is rapidly increasing in value owing to the scarcity of very old whisky of fine quality.

The distillery proper occupies a freehold site of about 6 acres, in addition to which there are about 16 acres of accommodation land and a farm of 19 acres held on lease. There is also an office and stores in Hill-street, Belfast; stores in Market-place, Bushmills; bonded stores in Short-street and Albert-square, Belfast.

The assets to be acquired by the Company consist of:—

The distillery and property at Bushmills, which have been valued by Mr. Edmund Murphy, Government Arbitrator and Chief Receiver in the Court of Chancery, Dublin ...	£20,003	6	1
Stores and premises, Hill-street, Belfast, valued by Mr. T. A. Fisher, property broker, Belfast	1,000	0	0
Plant, machinery, casks, and implements, vehicles, live stock, chattels valued by Messrs. Hume & Gray, valuators, Belfast	16,258	12	6
Stock of whisky, valued by Mr. W. W. Brydon, spirit broker, Trinity-square, London	71,458	6	8
	£108,720	5	3
Book debts (guaranteed by vendor)	12,500	0	0
Duty paid on whisky in warehouse	2,200	0	0
Cash, being proceeds of the present issue (in excess of the amount of purchase money) remaining available for additional working capital	25,000	0	0
Premium on debenture stock	1,400	0	0
	£149,820	5	3

In the above-named assets no credit has been taken for goodwill.

The Company commences business free from all liabilities, and the working capital will be £112,558 6s. 8d., consisting of:—

(A) Stock of whisky	71,458	6	8
(B) Book debts (guaranteed)	12,500	0	0
(C) Duty paid on whisky	2,200	0	0
(D) Additional working capital acquired by present issue ...	25,000	0	0
	£111,158	6	8
(E) Premium on debenture stock	1,400	0	0
	£112,558	6	8

The books of the company for a period of two years and nine months prior to going into liquidation have been examined by Messrs. John M'Cullough & Co., chartered accountants, Belfast, and they certify as follows:—

Queen's Buildings, Royal-avenue, Belfast, July 30th, 1896.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the books of the "Old Bushmills" Distillery Company, Limited, for the years ending 31st July, 1892, and 31st July, 1893, and for nine months ending 30th April, 1894, at which dates balances were struck.

The books show a profit for the two years and nine months of	£19,057	0	11
But this is after charging to the trading, interest, preliminary expenses, and income tax, amounting to	25,595	19	9
	£44,653	0	8
This includes outlay for advertising for the year ending 31st July, 1892 (£3,318. 11s. 3d.), but does not include similar outlay for the year and nine months following amounting to	11,133	2	4
Which, if deducted from £44,653. 0s. 8d. shows, for two years and nine months	£33,519	18	4

There was a large increase in the quantity of whisky manufactured during the time referred to, and in stock at the end of each period, and the company was in the habit of valuing it at a stock price plus an addition per gallon, per year, for increased value by reason of age In our opinion the starting price was too high, and we have made fresh calculations of the stock at each term, upon the basis of a figure which we estimate as cost price, plus a fixed sum per gallon, per year, for improvement by age, but against this allowance has been made for ullage, or loss by evaporation, &c. and we find on this basis that the profit for the two years and nine months amounts to £26,536 13s. 5d. as against £33,519 18s. 4d. above mentioned.

The sales for nine months ending 30th April, 1894, were proportionately largely in excess of the sales for either of the two years preceding.

Your obedient servants,
JOHN M'CULLOUGH & CO., Chartered Accountants.

To the Directors of The "Old Bushmills" Distillery Company, Limited.

The assets of the Company more than cover the Debenture and Preference issues.

Applications for shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus (or upon that given below), and forwarded to the Company's bankers accompanied by a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

Full prospectuses and forms of application for shares may be obtained at the offices of the company or from the bankers, solicitors, and brokers.

London, 21st August, 1896.

No.....

THE "OLD BUSHMILLS" DISTILLERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

APPLICATION FORM.

(Which may be used.)

To the Directors of the "Old Bushmills" Distillery Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers, the Union Bank of Manchester, Limited, or their London Agents, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., or the Belfast Banking Company, Limited, Belfast, or one of their Branches, the sum of £....., being a deposit on application for Shares or Stock as follows:—

2s. 6d. per Share on ... ... } £
Five per cent. Preference Shares of £1 each ... ...

2s. 6d. per Share on ... ... } £
Ordinary Shares of £1 each ... ...

£5 per cent. on £ ... ... } £
4¼ per cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock ... ...

I request you to allot me the number of Shares or amount of Debentures named, and I agree accept the same or any smaller number or amount that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon the terms of the Prospectus issued by you dated the 21st August, 1896; and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the Shares or Debentures so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares or Debentures as the same shall become due; and I agree with the Company as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said Prospectus with the requirements of Sec. 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
.....
Description .....
Date.....1896.
Signature .....

All cheques to be made payable to the Bankers.

BUY FROM THE GROWER.

TEA MERCHANT
BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

TO HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN.

LIPTON'S DELICIOUS TEAS

HAVE THE LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD.

APPRECIATED EVERYWHERE FOR THEIR DELICATE FLAVOUR AND EXQUISITE AROMA.

NO HIGHER PRICE. PER 1/7 LB. NO HIGHER PRICE.

THIS IS THE FINEST TEA THE WORLD PRODUCES.

PER 1/4 LB. RICH, PURE, AND FRAGRANT. PER 1/- LB.

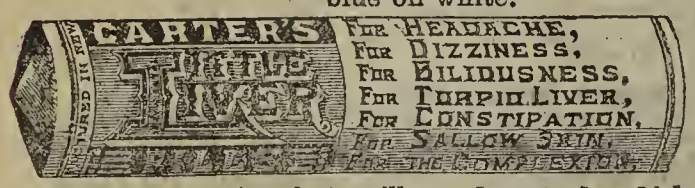
LIPTON, Tea Planter, Ceylon.

Chief Offices, CITY ROAD, LONDON. Branches Everywhere. Agencies Throughout the World.

THERE IS ONLY ONE
Pill to a dose of

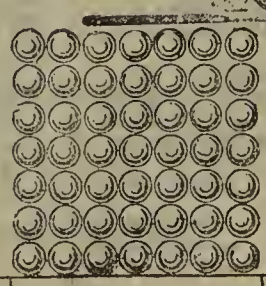
CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

AND THERE IS ONLY ONE GENUINE PACKAGE.
It is EXACTLY like this, only the wrapper is printed in blue on white.

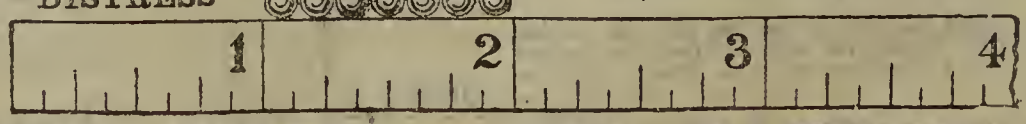


The vial contains forty pills, and costs 1s. 1½d. at the Chemist's. This is cheaper than pennyworths of doubtfully compounded pills. It is but a trifle over a farthing a dose, for ONE PILL IS A DOSE, though they are so small that FORTY-NINE of them only measure one inch square.

Cure TORPID LIVER WITHOUT FAIL, SICK HEADACHE, MALAISE, DISTRESS FROM EATING, and SALLOW COMPLEXION promptly done away with.



BRITISH DEPOT FOR
CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS
46, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.



"BUT BE SURE THEY ARE CARTER'S."

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 913.—HUNTING SONGS OF THE FUTURE.

Godfather (real name and address will be published in due course)	£1 1 0
Almaviva " " " "	£1 1 0

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 914.

The Prize in this Competition has been awarded to Eve for the following suggestion:—

The Queen to give to her people Buckingham Palace-gardens, "with necessary reservations." Her people all to contribute towards the re-arrangement of the grounds, making them beautiful, and a storehouse of everything that can go towards the commemoration of her sixty years' reign. So that the grounds would be a grand historical memorial, and contain all that is best to remember of her reign symbolised in every possible way. A store garden of delight to future generations.—Eve.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 918.

Special Services for Cyclists are now being held in various parts of the country. As such gatherings are likely to increase in number, it may be interesting to suggest suitable texts for the sermons which are preached at them, and the usual prize of Two Guineas is therefore offered this week to the competitor who

Selects from Some Part of the Bible the most Suitable Passage or Verse on which a Sermon to Cyclists can be Founded.

Competitors may suggest more than one text, and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, September 7, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Asher, winner of a half of Prize No. 912, is C. F. Garstin, Esq., Hill View, Sherborne, Dorset.

A. E. L.—I have duly received your post-card.

Meerschaum.—Your capital "Hunting Song" did not arrive until too late for the competition.

G. D. and Heurteloup.—Your "Novel Suggestions" were received too late for publication.

L. Gill.—Yes; you can make what use you please of the stanzas.

Justice.—Thanks for your note.

Edina and Cholo.—Your answers to Puzzle No. 914 were too late.

Salisbury.—Thanks.

E. G.—I am much obliged to you for your suggestion.

Desmatrophy.—I have made a note of your ingenious suggestion.

Hibernian.—Many thanks.

Master Gunner.—I am unable to trace the arrival of your "Hunting Song."

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 915.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

RENDERING INTO ENGLISH OF TWO FRENCH STANZAS.

*** The two French stanzas are printed below. I may add that so numerous are the translations which have been received, that it is impossible to publish even a tithe of them—at any rate for the present.—The Puzzle Editor.

"La vie est vaine:
Un peu d'amour,
Un peu de haine,
Et puis—bonjour!

"La vie est brève:
Un peu d'espoir,
Un peu de rêve,
Et puis—bonsoir!"

Life is vain:
Of love a ray,
Of hate a grain,
And then—good-day!

Life is brief:
Of hope a mite,
Of dreams a sheaf,
And then—good-night!
Tea Lamb.

How vain is life:
A lover's sigh,
A little strife,
And then—good-bye!

How brief its gleam,
Its hope how slight;
A little dream,
And then—good-night!
Maison Blanc.

Our life is vain,
Love's little ray,
Hate's petty pain
And then—good-day!

Our life is brief—
Dream's drifting light,
Hope's short relief,
And then—good-night!
Amy.

Too brief is life!
One passing ray
Of love and strife,
And then—good-day!

One transient gleam
Of hope's delight,
One fleeting dream,
And then—good-night!
Kittifonia.

Vain is our life,
'Tis but a play
Of love and strife,
And then—good-day!

Our life is brief,
A hope too bright,
A dream of grief,
And then—good-night!
Else.

Our life is vain:
Of love a lay,
Of hate a strain,
And then—good day!

Our life is short:
Of hope a flight,
Of dreams a sport,
And then—good-night!
C. M. P.

Life is but vain:
Love for a spell;
Hatred and pain,
And then—farewell!

Life is a gleam
Of Hope's delight,
A little dream,
And then—good.night!
Berrie.

Like fitful fate
Is life—a cry
For love, for hate,
And then—good-bye!

Like morning dew
Is life; hope bright,
With dreams a few,
And then—good-night!
North Pole.

Oh, futile life!
A tender sigh,
A flash of strife,
And then—good-bye!

Brief is life's gleam,
Hope sparkles bright,
A fleeting dream,
And then—good-night!
Ollamh.

Life is but vain;
Love sends a ray,
Hate adds a grain,
And soon—good-day!

Life is a dream;
Brief is its flight,
Hope but a gleam,
And soon—good-night!
Anybers.

How vain is life:
Some love has way,
Some little strife,
And then—good-day!

How brief life seems:
Some hopes see light,
A few short dreams,
And then—good-night!
St. Elm.

Oh, vain is life!
Of love a spell,
A little strife
And then—farewell?

Oh, life fades fast!
Of hope, a mite,
A dream soon past,
And then—good-night!
Wandering Jew.

Life is in vain!
Love flits away,
And hate, and pain,
And so—good-day!

And life is brief:
Hope fades from sight,
Short dreams, short grief,
And then—good-night!
Corvette.

Our life is vain:
Love's short, sweet spell,
Hate's short, sharp pain,
And then—farewell!

Our life is short:
Hope's little light,
A dream's brief sport,
And then—good-night!
J. McGrigor Allan.

Life is but vain!
Love for a spell,
Then hate again,
And then—farewell!

Life soon is o'er!
A hope so bright,
A dream once more,
And then—good-night!
Malleyshag.

What is life worth?
A lover's sigh,
A quarrel's birth,
And then—good-bye!

Life is so brief.
Our dreams take flight;
Hope turns to grief,
And then—good-night!
Peu d'espoir.

Our life 'tis vain,
Love does not stay;
Hate gives us pain,
And then—good-day!

Our life 'tis short,
Hope gives us light
With dreams we sport,
And then—good-night!
A Novice.

Oh! vain is life,
With love we play,
Soon follows strife,
And then—good-day!

For one brief space,
Hope's vision bright
In dreams we trace,
And then—good-night!
Pussy.

How vain is life!
Of love a ray,
A little strife,
And then—good-day!

How brief life seems!
Of hope a mite,
A few short dreams,
And then—good-night!
Persimmon.

This life is vain:
Of love a spell,
Of hate a strain,
And then—farewell!

This life is brief:
Some dreaming bright,
Hope's make-belief,
And then—good-night!
Sir P. Felis.

Our mortal state
Is vain—a play
Of love and hate,
And then—good-day!

Our state is brief:
Some hopes, some light
Day dreams, some griefs,
And then—good-night!
Apemantus.

Life is but vain:
Of love one ray,
Of hate one grain,
And then—good-day!

Life is soon o'er:
Of hope one sight,
One dream—no more—
And then—good-night!
Skriker.

Our life is nought:
A lover's sigh,
An angry thought,
And then—good-bye!

Our life is brief,
Hope's fancied light,
Sleep's make-belief,
And then—good-night!
M. A. L.

How vain is life!
A short love-lay,
Hatred and strife,
And then—good-day!

How short life seems!
Some hope but slight,
Some vanished dreams,
And then—good-night!
Martlet.

Oh, empty life!
A vow, a sigh,
A sound of strife;
'Tis hushed—good-bye!

Ah, life! one gleam
Of glad'ning light
To gild a dream;
'Tis dark—good-night!
Woking.

Life's but a bubble:
Love born to die,
Brief strife and trouble,
And then—good-bye!

Life is but fleeting:
Dreams brief as bright,
Hopes that are cheating,
And then—good-night!
Corydon.

Ah! vain is life!
It flutters by:
Short love, short strife,
And then—good-bye!

Ah! life is brief!
One stol'n delight,
One dream of grief,
And then—good-night!
Peltast.

Ah! vain is life!
A lover's lay,
A breath of strife,
And then—good-day!

Life's quickly sped:
A hope in flight,
A day-dream fled,
And then—good-night!
Twins.

How vain life's fate!
A short love-lay,
A little hate,
And then—good-day!

How brief life's tale!
A few hopes dight
With dreams that fail,
And then—good-night!
Albericus.

How vain is life!
A dawn that's gay,
A morn of strife,
And then—good-day!

How brief life seems!
A noon that's bright,
An eve of dreams,
And then—good-night!
Ephemeris.

How vain is life!
Love's little play;
Hate's little strife,
And then—good-day!

How short life's theme!
Hope's little light,
Joy's little dream,
And then—good-night!
Quirk.

How vain our life!
Love's little play,
Hate's little strife,
And then—good-day!

How brief life's gleam!
Hope's little light,
Joy's little dream,
And then—good-night!
Peggotty.

How vain is life!
Of love a ray,
A cloud of strife,
And lo—the day!

How short it seems!
Our hopes once bright
Prove idle dreams,
And so—the night!
Dummyweek.

The world is vain:
A short love-lay,
Hate causing pain,
And then—good-day!

Our life is brief:
Of hope a sight,
Dream's book a leaf,
And then—good-night!
Screw.

Life is but vain;
Love leads the way,
Hate follows pain
And then—good-day!

Life is but brief:
Hope all too bright,
Dreams end in grief,
And then—good-night!
Swimmer.

One hates and loves
A few short hours;
How vain it proves,
This life of ours.

One hopes and dreams,
A little spell;
How brief it seems,
And then—farewell!
Harold.

This life is vain:
A lover's lay,
An angry pain,
And then—good-day!

This life glides through
A hope-winged flight;
A dream or too,
And then—good-night!
Forsan.

This life how vain!
A little sun,
A little rain,
And then—'tis done!

This life how brief!
Hopes born to die,
Dreams full of grief,
And then—good-bye!
D.N.R.

Poor life—how vain!
"Love me," we say;
We hate again.
And so—good-day!

Poor life—how fleet!
Our hopes are bright,
Our dreams are sweet;
And so—good-night!
Maevius.

Vain is our life:
Love's little play,
A little strife,
And then—good-day!

Our life is short:
Hope's little flight,
Dreams' little sport,
And then—good-night!
H. M. Acton.

Vain, vain is life:
Love for a day,
A day of strife—
Good-bye for aye!

Brief too life's gleam:
Of hope a sight,
A broken dream—
And then—good-night!
Greville.

How vain life's state!
How short love's stay!
A little hate,
And then—good-day!

How soon life's o'er:
Hope—brief delight—
A dream, no more,
And then—good-night!
Hippo.

Our life's a bubble:
Some love, some play,
Some hate, so no trouble,
And then—good-day!

Our life is fleeting:
Some hope in sight,
Some vision cheating,
And then—good-night!
Pladda.

Bill Buggins (of London), having been to Boulogne and back in a day, thinks he ought to be able to traduce this little lot:—

Life's no great catch:
A mash or two,
A scrapping-match,
And then—Adoo!

Life's short (so's boose),
Of hope a pep—
Percorn, a snooze,
Then—Mind the step!
Chelsea.

How vain is life!
Love's fleeting stay,
Hate's empty strife,
And then—good-day!

How brief it seems!
Hope's transient flight,
A spell of dreams,
And then—good-night!
Random Shot.

Man's life is vain:
An ounce of strife,
Of love, a grain,
Good day, vain life!

Man's life is short:
Hope sheds dim light,
Dreams float athwart,
Short life, good night!
Prak.

Our life is vain:
Of love a ray,
Of hate a grain,
And then—good-day!

Our life is brief:
Of hope a mite,
From dreams relief,
And then—good-night!
Pictor.

How vain our fate!
To love a spell,
A spell to hate,
And then—farewell!

How brief our day!
For hope must die,
Dreams pass away,
And then—good-bye!
Vervex.

Yea! Life is hollow:
Our swift loves fly,
Our brief hates follow;
The end—good-bye!

Yea! Life is little:
Our dreams take flight,
Our hopes prove brittle:
The end—good-night!
E. L. T.

How vain life's race!
Love holds short sway,
Hate flames a space,
And then—good-day!

How brief life's gleam!
Fair hope we sight,
Awhile we dream,
And then—good-night!
Melrose.

What's life?—a bore:
Some kisses few,
Some quarrels sore,
And so—adieu!

Life's a brief play:
Hopes of renown;
A dream by day—
The curtain's down!
Blencathra.

Our life is vain:
A little play
Of love and pain,
And then—good-day!

Our life is brief:
A moment's flight
Of hope and grief,
And then—good-night!
Pretoria.

How vain our fate!
Love born to die,
And passing hate,
And then—good-bye!

Short life is this:
Some hope's brief light
And dreams of bliss,
And then—good-night!
Oceanica.

Vain is life's fate:
Of love a ray,
A little hate,
And then—good-day!

Life's but a gleame:
Now hope's delight,
A little dream,
And then—good-night!
Ellart.

What's life? A fate
Which lets us say,
"I love," "I hate,"
And then—good-day!

What's life? A spark
Of fancy bright,
A dream ere dark,
And then—good-night!
Bowzer.

Life is but vain:
Love holds its sway,
Hate its short reign,
And then—good-day!

Brief is life's race:
Hope wings its flight,
We dream a space,
And then—good-night!
Le Roi.

Thou'rt vain, oh, life!
A little love,
A little strife,
And then—above!

Oh life! thou'rt brief:
A little hope,
A dream of grief,
And then—we slope!
A Skit.

How vain is life!
Love for a spell,
A time of strife,
And then—farewell!

How brief life's dream!
Joy's fleeting sigh,
Hope's transient gleam,
And then—good-bye!
Orpheus.

Vain is our life:
Love's little play,
Hate's little strife,
And then—good-day!

Our life is brief:
Hope brings delight,
Dreams end its grief,
And then—good-night!
Platelayer.

Our lives are vain:
Love's fickle sway,
Then hate's short reign,
And so—good-day!

Brief lives they seem:
Hope's fading light,
A passing dream,
And so—good night!
Crustacean.

This little life:
One tiny spell
Of love, of strife,
And then—farewell!

Ah! life's short gleam:
Hopes flash and die,
Fast fades our dream,
And then—good-bye!
Impérieuse.

This life is vain:
Of love some ray,
Some hate and pain,
And then—good-day!

This life is brief:
Some hope and light,
A dream's relief,
And then—good-night!
Idem II.

Ah, life is vain:
Sweet love must die,
Hatred is pain,
So then—good-bye!

False life! a gleam
Of brief delight,
A hope, a dream,
And then—good-night!
Biddy.

Vain is our day:
Love for a spell,
Hate cannot stay,
And so—farewell!

Short is our day:
Hope gives no light,
Dreams fleet away,
And so—good-night!
May.

Answers have been received from:—Red Rowan, Peltast, Plopps, Esperance, Cornubea, Marsin, Scorpio, Ivy Leaves, Twins, C. F. Reed, Chica, Mountain Ash, Gingerbernooster, Dlek Mnisch, Abericus, Ephemens, Quirk, Grateful, Kernwood, Puritan, Alpha, Beddenham, Oom Paul, Peggotty, Little Eelda, Maevius, Gervase, Lan Nicola, Bathyllus, Bruin, Culpepper, Gazpacho, H. M. Acton, Greville, J. G. Parton, Echo, Kettleness, Novice, Ajax, Hippo, Anglo, Pladda, Chelsea, Quaruois, Random Shot, Prak, Shamrock, Pictor, Verve, Durnmont, Pretoria, Oceanica, Ellart, Darby, Castlecorner, Argonaut, Rlwop, Bowzer, M.C.C., Alectum, Topsy, Sophronia, J. McGregor Allan, Le Roi, A Skit, Corn Cob, Sea Waves, Arachne, Frana, Jessica, Orpheus, Ashbattle, Platelayer, Fortunatus, Coridd, Neophyte, Hopper, Crustacean, J. F. Close, Hadh, Hopeful, Impérieuse, Leadbeater, Idem II., Biddy, M. W., May, Iota, Rex, Risk, Old Peter, Eard, Burglar, B. P. M., Fuse, Carlo, Amoricco, Wilts, Nitram, Marpiot, Myrah, D. A. R., Bim, Dunfallandy, S'pup, Loyal au Mort, Penelope, Pentland, Langstone, Tibicen, Roseland, Young Sam, Boblims, Houghton-le-Spring, Contest, Comtesse Olga, Shriker, Cholo, Claymore, Char, Martlet, Curse, Hebe, Laris, Gabion, Cousin, Alice, Mauriston, F. J. F., Pipistrella, Sina, Hugo, Cartoon, Miriam, Bertha, Rosamond, Anon, Heather, Tea Cake, W.W., Achilles, E.A.T., Torfreda, Forsan, Mickey, Woodle, Vixen, Gobbo, Gold Finch, Penguin, Dunettie, Gallio, Irmabee, Dromedes, Neptune, Senex, Zeit Geist, Effie, Melrose, Mariquita, Daisy, Emperor, Bien, Aimé, Blencathra, Nicola, Miss Le Nesurms, Forget-me-not, Nurse, D.N.R., Bablio, W.E.B., Betsindia, St. Elm, Burgh le Marsh, Moses, Seaton, Janet, Thomas Earp, Bus, Lyneus, Kittifonia, Esplication, Beaumont, Elsie, C.M.P., W.P., Armiger, Litteralite, Berrie, Mr. James, Quid Nunc, Spin, Blarney, Mesmer, Allan L. Kurvenal, Edina, Verax, Butter, Nabo, Honey, Auybers, Colosse, Bantam, Geme, Muff, Failure, Earnest, Selim, Vivien, Vivia, Jack, R., Amalasantha, Eboracum, Heurteloup, Noel, Bloes, Vichleen Prapshot, Wandering Jew, Reggue, A.E.L., Esperanza, Corvetta, Zil, Excelsior, Adjud, Springer, S.W.F., M C.M., Are., Etak, Buckland, Austeli, Malieyse, Lag, Balaclava, Zou Zou, Xotox, Pax Est mitir, R.S.B., Espoir, Carlos, Lilian Holt, Possun, Benevolus, Almaviva, Orlando, Peu d'Espoir, A Novice, Flaccus, Pussy, Quye, Union Jack, Persimmon, Sir P. Felis, Quien Sabe, Hounsnitch, Apemantus, Moschus, M. V. B., Mab, A. W. C., Leladox, Experience, Beppo, Demon, Qu'Appelle, Pigtail, S. L., Woking, Kathleen, Buckles, Corydon, Silverpen, Fonteman, Harold, Forsam, Dirk, Nicolo, Enigma, Nurse, Babbo, W. E. B., Betsinda, Forget-me-not, Translator, Ars, Darby, Ufferton, Li Hung Chang, Mercurius, W. G. B., Surgeon, H. E. G., Niblick, Screw, Agatha Link, Vero, Arch Gibbs, Twig, Sauvageonne, Corunna, Asher, Nitram, J. P., Salisbury, H. S., Haro, Doodles, Desmostrophy, Cochran Field, Autumn Crocus, N. N. N., Buddhi, Nora, Ye Hermit, Reuper, Francesca, C. W. H., Dry Monopole's, Swimmer, Dummy-week, Poppœa, Pereander, Flesmo, Ladybird, Sphinx, Jess, Tea Lamb, Amy, Malignant, Astrœa, Maison Blanc, Bus, Kithfonia, Eise, C. M. P.

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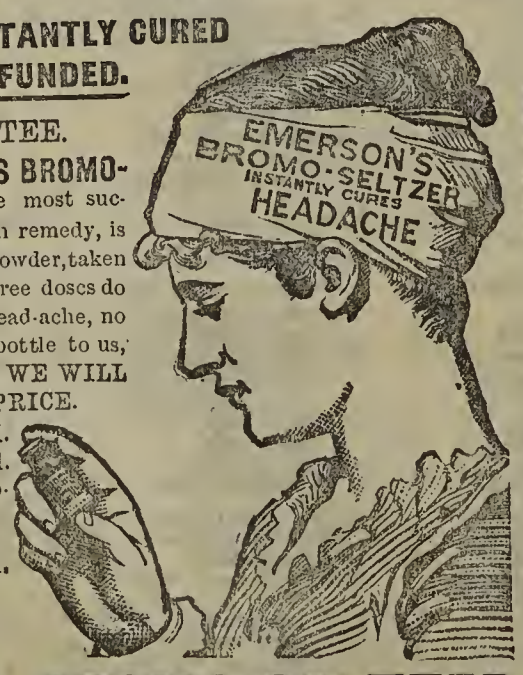

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I HAVE to make an announcement which has for many years past been found in Truth about this time of the year. The Dolls have arrived, large and small, and some thousands of them are now available for distribution. Will those ladies who intend to assist in dressing these Dolls for the Christmas Toy and Doll Show be kind enough, therefore, to make early application for parcels of the same? I reserve until a later date particulars of the Prizes which will be given in connection with the Doll-dressing. The important fact for the present is that between this and the middle of December upwards of 4,000 Dolls have to be dressed. Clearly this cannot be done without the help of many willing fingers. Who, then, is ready to lend a hand?

Her Majesty will stay at Balmoral until Friday, November 13, and is then to remove to Windsor Castle until December 18 or 22, when the Court will proceed to Osborne until the middle of February. The Queen has again engaged the hotel at Cimiez, near Nice, for the months of March and April.

The *St. James's Gazette* announces, truly enough, that a great deal of nonsense has been written lately about the "Queen's health." The *St. James's*, however, proceeds to add something on its own account to this stock of "nonsense," by stating that, although partially crippled by rheumatism, the Queen "can remain standing for a length of time which would utterly fatigue many a younger woman." This is crazy rubbish, indeed! As a matter of fact, the Queen never now stands on her feet for two minutes together. Her Majesty is wheeled even from room to room, and at all Court and other functions she sits on a low chair. It is quite untrue that the Queen always feels "great oppression" in her head when the weather is close. It seems to me that the *St. James's Gazette* would do better to reform its own ignorant inaccuracy than to denounce the errors of its contemporaries.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia are to land at Leith when they arrive from Copenhagen in the Imperial yacht, and they will travel by special train to Ballater, passing over the Forth and Tay bridges. The Duke of Connaught and the Duke of York are to receive the Emperor and Empress at Leith, and the Prince of Wales will meet them at Ballater Station.

When the Emperor and Empress are at Balmoral the Queen will personally invest his Majesty with the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, while the Empress is to receive from her Majesty the first-class of the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert.

The Emperor will return this compliment by conferring the St. Andrew (the first Russian Order) on the Duke of York, while the Duchess is to receive the Order of St. Catherine. The insignia of the St. Andrew include a star, which the Emperor will present in brilliants.

I stated last week that the Queen had granted Bushey Park to the Duke and Duchess of York. A carping and ill-informed contemporary states that "nothing has been decided," but that the Queen "will resume possession of the house and grounds." This is purely imaginative. The Queen "resumed possession" of Bushey on the day that the Duc de Nemours died, and her Majesty has already signed a warrant granting the place to the Duke and Duchess of York for their lives, with benefit of survivorship.

The Queen has lent Birkhall House, her place in Glen Muick, near Ballater, to Lord and Lady Clanwilliam until the end of October. Birkhall, which stands in well-wooded grounds, was built in 1715, and it was a seat of the Gordons of Abergeldie until the Prince Consort purchased the estate (7,000 acres) for the Prince of Wales, who sold it to the Queen in 1885.

I hear there is a possibility of Prince Max of Baden becoming more closely allied with our Royal Family. Prince Max, who was born in July, 1867, is the only son of Prince William of Baden, by his marriage with the

Princess Marie of Leuchtenberg, a granddaughter of the Emperor Nicholas I. Prince Max is a nephew of the Dowager Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and of the late Grand Duchess Michael of Russia. The Grand Duke of Baden has one surviving son, the Hereditary Prince Frederick William, who was married in 1885 to Princess Hilda of Nassau, who brought him a large fortune, but they have no children. The Grand Duke's only daughter is the Crown Princess of Sweden and Norway.

The Princess of Wales and the Empress-Dowager of Russia are staying with the King and Queen of Denmark at Bernstorff Castle, a pretty old place about seven miles from Copenhagen, which is near the sea, and with an extensive forest of beeches and oaks on one side. Bernstorff is within a short distance of Charlottenburg, the country residence of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark, where Prince Charles and Princess Maud are to arrive next week.

Next week the Prince of Wales will be the guest of Lord Crewe, at Fryston Hall, Yorkshire, and during the following week he is to visit Mr. Arthur Sassoon, at Tulchan Lodge, Morayshire (where the Duke of York has been staying for a few days), after which H.R.H. goes (on the 19th) to Balmoral. The Prince will stay on Deeside (at Balmoral and Mar Lodge) until October 8, when he comes to town until the 12th, and then goes to Newmarket for the race week, during which he is to have a day's shooting with the Duke of Cambridge at Six-Mile Bottom. On Monday, October 19, the Prince and Princess and Princess Victoria are going to stay with Lord and Lady Londonderry at Wynyard Park, until Friday, 23rd, when they will return to town. The Prince goes to Newmarket on October 26 for the Houghton Meeting, and thence, on the 30th, to Sandringham, where the Princess will previously have arrived from London.

The Duke of Connaught will go to Germany next month to represent the Queen at the unveiling (by the Emperor William) of the monument which has been erected at Coblenz to the Empress Augusta. The Empress Frederick is to be present at the ceremony, and also the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden, and the Duke of Coburg.

I learn that the Duke and Duchess of York are to pay a visit in December to the Duke and Duchess of Portland at Welbeck Abbey.

The Emperor William pointedly omitted his usual visit to the Empress Frederick at Kronburg when he was staying at Wilhelmshöhe, and it is understood that his Majesty kept away from Friedrichshof because he did not wish to meet the Duke and Duchess of Sparta, whom he treated very rudely when they went to Potsdam two years ago. The Emperor has bitterly resented the conversion of the Duchess (who was formerly his favourite sister) from the Lutheran to the Greek Church. His Majesty cannot well object to the mere fact of the Duchess changing her religion, as he viewed with complacency the "conversion" to the Orthodox Church of the Empress of Russia and her sister the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. What really enraged him was the fact that the Duchess of Sparta did not ask his permission to change her religion, but contented herself with consulting the Queen and the Empress Frederick.

Dublin was never more crowded for a Horse Show week than this year, and rarely have so many social attractions been provided in addition to the great Exhibition at Ball's Bridge. Lord and Lady Cadogan had a busy time. A large house party for the week tested the accommodation of the Viceregal Lodge to its fullest extent. Amongst the guests were Lord and Lady Coventry, Lord and Lady Craven, Lady Dorothy Coventry, Elizabeth Lady Wilton, Lord and Lady Enniskillen, Lady F. Cole, Lord Headfort, Lord Dunraven, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bourke, Sir H. Edwards, Mr. Van de Weyer, and others. Besides their visits to the Horse Show, Lord and Lady Cadogan and a large Viceregal party were present on Thursday afternoon at the match between the 10th Hussars and Freebooters in the All Ireland Polo Tournament, the "10th" on that occasion proving that polo is not amongst the things "the 10th don't do." On Friday afternoon the Viceregal party visited the Royal Horticultural Society's Flower Show in Merrion-square, Lord and Lady Cadogan afterwards giving a garden party at the Viceregal Lodge. Several dinner parties were also given during the week, and on Wednesday night there was a large dance at the Viceregal Lodge, which the younger members of the Viceregal party kept up with great spirit to a late hour.

Lady Cadogan left the Viceregal Lodge on Saturday to open the Foxford Industrial Exhibition. During her visit to the West she was the guest of Lord and Lady Arran at the family residence in Sligo. On Monday she returned to Dublin to accompany Lord Cadogan on his visit to the South of Ireland, where the Viceregal party stay in Cork with Mr. Smith-Barry, and at Lismore with the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, was also given over to hospitality during the Horse Show week. Lord and Lady Roberts entertained a party of visitors. On Tuesday a ball was given in the large banqueting hall, than which, since it was decorated in Lord Wolseley's time, there is no handsomer ball-room in Ireland. On Friday evening a concert for the Soldiers and Sailors' Aid Society was given at the Royal Hospital, Lord and Lady Cadogan and a large Viceregal party being present.

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, who are residing at Blenheim, where a variety of alterations and improvements are being carried out, will receive a visit there from the Prince of Wales during the last week in November.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 620 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 624.
For Amusements, see page 621.
For Our Puzzles, see page 629.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire are to leave Bolton Abbey next Monday on a visit to Lord Crewe, at Fryston Hall, near Pontefract, and on Friday, 11th, they are going to Ireland to spend a month at Lismore Castle, county Waterford, returning to England in time for the Newmarket Second October Meeting. The Prince of Wales is to be a guest at Chatsworth in November, during Derby race week.

Last week the *Waterford Standard* published the following announcement:—

In answer to many enquiries, Lady Waterford begs that gentlemen attending her Garden Party, Tuesday, September 1, will not think it necessary to wear tall hats unless they care to do so.

Much praise is due to her ladyship for the intimation, and it is to be hoped that the public way in which it has been made will have a good effect upon other hostesses.

The Liberals of the Ripon district, Yorkshire, have sustained a great loss by the death of Mr. Henry Bickersteth, who was a son of the late Bishop of Ripon. Mr. Bickersteth, who was a partner in a large manufactory at Ripon, had served the office of Mayor, and he was very popular in the city and county. Mr. Bickersteth was the local leader of the Liberal party, and he took an active part in the last five Parliamentary elections. He was an excellent public speaker, and a man of great ability.

An inventory of the property of the late Lord Moray has been lodged in the Commissary Office at Edinburgh, from which it appears that the personal estate amounts to £855,347, and the duty payable to the Government is £64,025. The contents of Darnaway Castle, the family place in Morayshire, are valued at £9,867, and £5,269 worth of plate is deposited in the vaults of the Commercial Bank of Scotland at Edinburgh.

Whatever may be the danger to children from "paddling" on the sands recently pointed out by the *British Medical Journal*, there is a very much more real and serious danger, which parents would do well to be on their guard against. This arises from the carelessness of excursionists and others in leaving broken bottles about on the beach. The danger of this practice was painfully illustrated the other day at Birchington, where a little boy of six, while running about barefooted on the sands, trod upon a broken bottle and inflicted a terrible wound on the sole of his foot. The main artery in the foot was severed, and the bleeding was so profuse that had not the child's father been close at hand, and applied a tourniquet to the leg immediately, the consequences might easily have been fatal. There are very few seaside places, unfortunately, where broken glass is not to be seen lying about on the beach, and it strikes me that in all frequented spots parents would do well to insist on their children wearing shoes of some kind while paddling. I would also suggest that the local authorities might find a job for some of their unemployed, by setting them to pick up empty bottles and all other refuse matter, in the same way as is done in the London parks and open spaces.

Another matter requiring the consideration of the authorities at seaside towns is the provision of boats when bathing is going on. I referred to this matter the other day in connection with the fatal drowning accident at Felixstowe, where bathing ought never to be allowed unless a boat is in attendance. At most of the larger towns this is invariably the rule, but a lady recently gave me a list of nearly half-a-dozen places where bathers are left to look after themselves as best they may. I suppose that at most places a licence is required to place bathing-machines on the beach, and it ought to be made a condition of such a licence that a boatman is always in attendance upon the bathers.

A gentleman living near the Thames Embankment makes a forcible complaint about the screeching of a siren on board a steam launch belonging to the river authorities in the early hours of the morning. The noise is said to be such as to disturb the slumbers of all within reach of it, which means a pretty wide radius. There can be no necessity, unless in very foggy weather, for using a siren at all on the river above London Bridge; and, so far from themselves creating a nuisance of this kind, the river authorities ought to make regulations to prevent all such noises. I do not know whether the Thames Conservancy are the proprietors of the offending launch; but, in any case, the matter is one which deserves their attention.

The Zeeland Steamship Company have taken up with commendable promptitude the statement published in TRUTH of July 30 respecting the delivery of a note from a gentleman passenger to some young girls in a ladies' cabin by one of the ship's stewards, during the voyage from Flushing to Queenborough. The result of the inquiry that has been made practically establishes the accuracy of the allegations, although the steward concerned pleads that he supposed the lady to whom he took the note to be a relative of the gentleman who sent it. The Company now write to me:—

The steward acted imprudently, as he should have refused to bring the note to a ladies' cabin. The rule on our vessels is that only stewardesses are to communicate with the ladies' cabins, and we can assure you that this is a very single case, and the first complaint we ever had of this nature.

I need only add that I hope it will be the last.

What is the reason for the extraordinary variations in the prices charged for the same drug by different druggists? I have recently been compelled, for my sins, to have a prescription made up at three different chemists. The first was the Army and Navy Stores, where the price was 10d. The second was at the seaside, where the price was 1s. 3d. The third was in another country town, where the price was 1s. 9d. There is, therefore, a difference of 50 per cent. between the Stores' price and the seaside price, and a difference of 110 per cent. between the former and the country chemist's price. I doubt whether a similar discrepancy could be found in any other branch of retail trade, and why should it be so in the chemists'?

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

I rejoice to see that Sir George Wombwell spoke out strongly the other day at a horticultural show in Wynyard Park on the cruelty of docking foals. As the utterances of a well-known sportsman like Sir George on a subject of this kind may have more weight than those of a humble London journalist, I quote a local Press report of what he said:—

> Having congratulated the gathering upon the all-round improvement in the show, Sir George Wombwell alluded to the docking of foals, a practice which he characterised as a mistaken and cruel one. He had been told that they did not feel the pain so much as they would do if done when they had grown older, but they must remember, at the same time, that when the animals were turned out to grass they suffered greatly from the loss of their tails, which nature had given them to keep off the flies and insects.

The best authorities now condemn quite as strongly the cropping of dogs' ears, and I hope to see the time when all practices of this kind will be looked upon as relics of a barbarous past.

Apropos of the recent references in TRUTH to the necessity of a railway from Braemar to the south, a correspondent suggests that the Light Railways Act now makes such a scheme easy of accomplishment. I am rather inclined to doubt this, however, in view of the story he goes on to tell of the fate of a movement which was started some ten years ago for the construction of a narrow-gauge railway from Alyth in Perthshire to Braemar. It was a most promising project, and it received the support of many influential people. But the scheme was not approved by an exalted personage, and in deference to the representations which were made to the promoters from that quarter, it was quietly dropped. It is only too probable that any fresh attempt to make a railway to Braemar will encounter the same powerful opposition.

There is no accounting for taste. Last week I made some remarks in deprecation of a custom, said to prevail at Harrogate, of making a collection at the table d'hôte in aid of some local charity. Two or three esteemed readers now express disapproval of my views. One thinks that the majority of people will cheerfully give a shilling in charity on Sunday, and would rather be asked for it than not. Another thinks that the principal Harrogate hospital is such an admirable institution that anybody ought to be glad of a chance of giving something to it, at any time and anywhere. A third thinks that the majority of people are so stingy that the little they give will not hurt them. For myself, I have no desire to obtrude my views upon the public, still less to force them upon others. Speaking solely for myself, I dislike nothing more than the apparition of subscription lists or plates at unexpected moments. If I go to church, I expect a collection. If I go to dine at an hotel, I don't. When I spoke on the subject last week, I was under the impression that the majority of the public would be entirely of my way of thinking. But if the majority of the public like to find the hat or the plate sent round at meal times in the hotel they are staying at, far be it from me to stand in the way of their enjoyment. I confess, however, that were I an hotel-keeper, I should be very careful how much of this form of pleasure I offered to my guests.

A selection of the admirable articles (mostly on literary subjects) which Dean Church contributed to the *Guardian* and to the *Saturday Review*, will be published shortly in two volumes by Messrs. Macmillan. The work is to be edited by Mrs. Church, who will have the benefit of the advice of her brother-in-law, Dean Paget.

I said in my haste the other day that it was impossible to believe that there are any unpublished poems of Wordsworth now in existence. From this opinion, however, I have been converted. It will interest all admirers of the poet to learn that the Rev. A. J. G. Curwen, Rector of Kirkby-Thore, Westmoreland, has in his possession a sonnet by Wordsworth, which apparently never has been published. The poem in question was written on the death of Wordsworth's grandson at Rome, the grandson in question being the child of the poet's son and a cousin of Mr. Curwen, the present possessor of the manuscript, whose father's sister married young Wordsworth.

A clergyman at Cradock, Cape Colony, advertises in the local paper that he is prepared to undertake the tuning of pianofortes and to give pianoforte lessons. One of my readers in that part of the world thinks it is somewhat "infra dig." for a parson to do this; but it seems to me that the reverend gentleman is rather to be commended for his departure from the beaten clerical track. He has no cure of souls, and so he gets his living by tuning pianos. Why not? To my mind, it is a pity many of the unemployed clergy at home do not take a leaf out of this colonial cleric's book, and turn their hands to some sort of useful work.

The necessity for the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent circular, warning incumbents of the grave scandal which may be created by the employment in the services of the Church of "unauthorised, irregular, and even criminous ministers," is incidentally enforced by a document which a clergyman left at my office last week. It is not necessary to give the reverend gentleman's name, but I may explain that the document in question purports to set forth the "grievous wrongs" he has suffered at the hands of a certain Welsh Bishop. As a matter of fact, this cleric was deprived of his living some three years ago—the case being one of the first under the Clergy Discipline Act—after he had been repeatedly convicted on charges of drunkenness and disorderly and violent conduct. He now states that for the past two years he has done duty in the dioceses of Exeter and Southwell, and that he has "kept his address unknown to the Bishop of ——," as he has been "upset in four or five instances where he had secured engagements." It is quite certain that nobody acquainted with this reverend gentleman's past record would employ him in the celebration of the offices of the Church, and the fact that he has been so employed for the last two years is a striking proof of the "want of precaution" in engaging ministers to which the Archbishop alludes in his circular.

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

I drew attention last week to the fact that the Bishop of Exeter has permitted the incumbent of the large and important parish of St. Barnabas, Dartmouth, to undertake the charge of the Anglican Church at San Remo, an arrangement which will cause him to be an absentee from his duties in Devonshire for about eight months of the year. The reasonable dissatisfaction of the parishioners has been greatly increased by an intimation that, while the Vicar is away, the parish will be in charge of a Curate who is to be practically an absentee. This ecclesiastic lives at Paignton, and he is to take the Sunday duty at Dartmouth, and will pay occasional visits to the parish which has been confided to his care. It is scandalous in the greatest degree that such a parish should not have a resident clergyman, and Bishop Bickersteth is the only prelate now on the Bench who would permit such slip-slop arrangements in his diocese.

It is full time for the Bishop of Exeter to resign the see and make way for a more energetic prelate, as it has been for some months painfully evident that he has got past his work. Some years ago Bishop Bickersteth expressed his opinion that a parish clergyman should be relieved of his charge at the age of seventy. He could not do better than apply this principle to himself, being now in his seventy-second year. There is no excuse for bishops who persist in clinging pertinaciously to their palaces, stipends, and patronage, as the Act provides every retiring prelate with a most generous pension. The Bishop of Exeter, for example, can resign on £1,400 a year. If the Benefices Bill is again introduced, it will be necessary to add a clause to enforce the resignation of aged and incapable bishops, deans, and residentiary canons.

As the selection of Canon Diggle for the vacant stall in Carlisle Cathedral and the Archdeaconry of Westmoreland was severely criticised in TRUTH the other day, it is only fair to mention that I have received from one of the clergy of the Diocese a warm defence of the appointment—which is entitled to the more weight as the writer is a Radical, and disclaims all personal obligations to the Bishop. The letter is supplemented by another, in which Canon Diggle's merits are very eloquently extolled. That Canon Diggle is a man of great ability and attractive character I do not question, but it has still to be proved that no one could have been found in the Diocese equally qualified for the vacant post. When a patron pitchforks a personal friend or relative into an appointment at the expense of others who have the first claim to consideration, it is always difficult to accept the defence that the favoured candidate has been selected solely upon his merits.

The Rev. Alfred Pontifex, who has resigned the valuable living of Yate, Gloucestershire, in consequence of ill health, was for many years a familiar figure in the cricket-field, and he was one of the best batsmen of his day. Mr. Pontifex has been Vicar of Yate for twenty-seven years, and his resignation is very much regretted by his parishioners.

The important living of Spitalfields, which has become vacant by the resignation of Prebendary Scott, has been offered by Mr. Fowell Buxton to the Rev. V. H. Davies, Curate of St. Jude's, Whitechapel, an able and energetic clergyman of Evangelical views. It is highly satisfactory to find the patron of a living of this importance offering it to a Curate, and other patrons might advantageously follow Mr. Fowell Buxton's good example, notably the various Bishops, who usually reserve their "lean and ill-fed" preferments for the unbeneficed clergy.

Apropos of Curates' grievances, the following story is worthy of notice. Three years ago a Curate took up his duties in a parish in a cathedral town, of which the Vicar was a Canon of the cathedral. In a general way he discharged his duties in a manner which elicited warm expressions of approval from the Vicar, but he found a great lack of organisation in the parish, and some things going on which were nothing short of a scandal, and he set himself to earnestly reform these abuses. He then gradually found that the Vicar took up an antagonistic position, and before long a complaint against him was lodged with the Bishop. The Bishop seems to have taken no notice whatever of this complaint, never even mentioning the subject to the Curate, but he sent for that gentleman, and deliberately forced him into a resignation, as an alternative to the termination of his services at six months' notice, on the sole ground that he did not get on well with his Vicar.

The incident affords a striking illustration of the attitude of Bishops in all differences between Curates and their Vicars. There is no attempt to get at the merits of the case, no indication of sympathy with the Curate in a difficult position, no regard for the loss he suffers in purse and prospects by being compelled to give up his residence and join the ranks of the unemployed. The only consideration which seems to commend itself to the episcopal mind is to make things comfortable for the Vicar and prevent unpleasantness in the parish. The Bishop of Oxford had the effrontery the other day to remark that Curates "show much want of acquaintance with their rights and their position." But it would be far more true to say that the Bishops themselves "show much want of acquaintance" with the rights and position of Curates, and a lamentable lack of proper appreciation of their own duty to support the Curate's rights and improve his position.

St. George's Chapel, Windsor, has been entirely closed for more than a fortnight "for the annual cleaning." Last year this church was shut up for about five weeks. The "annual cleaning" is merely a specious pretext for a holiday for the clergy and officials. Cathedrals are subjected to periodical "cleaning" without the services being suspended in this scandalous manner. If the choir is not available for a few days, let the services be held in

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the nave, and vice versâ. It is positively monstrous that the clergy of so rich a foundation as St. George's should eagerly seize every chance of shirking their work, which is purely nominal at all times, consisting of only "cathedral duty"—the nearest possible approach to doing nothing at all. The "free chapel" of Windsor rejoices in a Dean, four Canons, and four Minor Canons, whose united stipends exceed £7,000 a year, and the value of their official residences is at least £2,600 a year besides. In addition there is a generously paid organist, and a large and well-remunerated staff of choristers. The fact is that, under the present skimble-skamble régime at Windsor, everything has come to be done in a very slovenly fashion, there being a grievous degeneracy from the days of Dean Wellesley and Sir George Elvey. On Sunday, the 16th, for example, organist and choir were all away, and the services had to be read.

At Sir John Millais' funeral the well-known hymn was sung beginning "The saints of God, their conflict past." This moves some pedantic and sacerdotally-minded nincompoop to write to the *Guardian* questioning the title of the late Sir J. Millais to be numbered among the saints, and asking whether the late P.R.A. was canonised by the Archdeacon of London, Canon Scott-Holland, the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, or the Royal Academy. This tasteful witticism is accompanied by the remark that while the late Sir John Millais is thus canonised, it is deemed "not quite loyal to Anglicanism to observe August 15 in honour of the Assumption of the Mother of God." The Editor of the *Guardian* may possibly have published this letter as an awful example of the fantastic puerilities to which Ritualistic logic-chopping leads; but I confess I do not understand how any editor can allow such offensive twaddle to appear in his paper without at the same time indicating his own opinion about it.

Could Father McAuliffe, of Leeds, see some of the remarks made about his begging appeals by those who are not of his religious persuasion, he might entertain a doubt whether the harm done by them is worth the number of pennies they bring in. The worthy Father's literature is of a kind that can only appeal to Roman Catholics—and not to all of them, I should imagine; but it is delivered indiscriminately to Anglicans, Nonconformists, and all other religious denominations, and to these it certainly does not appeal—quite the contrary. After all, the Roman Catholics are still a nominally small sect in this country, and their policy is rather to ingratiate themselves with the Protestant denominations than to give offence. For this reason I wonder that the authorities of the Roman Church do not exercise some restraint upon priests who go a-touting with so little discretion as Father McAuliffe.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Poor London Children's Holiday Fund:—Norah, £1; Pretoria, £5; Corney, Muriel, and Dorrie, £1; H. N., 7s.; L. M. B., £2.

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The Ashanti "stars," which were given last week by the Duke of Connaught to those soldiers at Aldershot who are entitled to receive them, have been paid for by the Queen, who insisted on thus rewarding those who participated in the bloodless campaign, in order to please Princess Beatrice. The star which Prince Henry of Battenberg would have received was sent by Lord Lansdowne to Osborne, and the Queen has given it to Princess Beatrice, who intends to have it placed in a conspicuous position on the monument which is being erected in Whippingham Church. It is the first time that a decoration has been given after a campaign during which there was no fighting whatever.

The issue of this decoration has raised a fresh crop of growls from India, over the failure of the authorities to grant a medal for service in the expedition to the North Kachin and Kachin Hills in 1893. This is a grievance to which frequent reference has been made in TRUTH, but it is certainly aggravated by the issue of the Ashanti decoration. By comparison with the recent march to Coomassie, the Kachin Expedition was a great war. The operations lasted from October, 1892, to May, 1893, and they were of a most difficult nature, and involved heavy loss of life. Out of the small number of officers engaged, four were killed and one very seriously wounded, while all ranks suffered severely from the unhealthiness of the country, and endured privations of an exceptional kind, quite apart from the heavy losses in the fighting which took place. It is true that several decorations and rewards have been given to officers, but there never was a case in which the services of all ranks more thoroughly deserved recognition, and a medal is the proper way to bestow such recognition.

In connection with this matter, I have been asked by an Indian General whether it is intended to allow the new Royal Victorian Order to be worn by officers in uniform. I cannot answer the question myself, but I should hope that the answer will be in the negative. If it is intended to allow decorations for services in the battle-fields in the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny, or other such military operations, to rank side by side with a medal granted for service in a quasi-menial capacity about the Royal Palaces, the degradation of decorations will be complete. Seeing that soldiers have been forbidden to wear medals awarded for their gallant services in connection with the plague at Hong Kong, consistency certainly requires that no soldier should be allowed to display the insignia of the Royal Victorian Order.

Moreover, the omission to confer any rewards upon the subordinates of the Departmental Corps engaged in the Chitral campaign, to which brief reference was made in last week's TRUTH, appears to be a very ill-advised and unjust proceeding. From all sides I hear testimony to the invaluable services which these men performed, more especially those connected with the Transport service. The Indian Transport has never been put to a more severe strain than in the Chitral Expedition, and by universal

confession it stood the test admirably. In point of fact, the chief difficulties of the campaign were difficulties of transport, and by the success with which they were surmounted the Department contributed, perhaps more than any other, to the success of the operations. This was only done by unremitting work and devotion to duty, and to ignore the recommendations for special rewards made by the officer in command is both unjust to individuals and calculated to disgust the whole Department, which would have gained both in spirit and in popularity by a proper recognition of its services. One young N.C.O., who particularly distinguished himself, was specially recommended for a commission, and had the recommendation been acted upon, an excellent effect would have been created.

It is not to be wondered at, however, that the subordinates have been overlooked, when one sees how the officer who actually commanded the Transport service in this campaign has been treated. Major Fitzgerald was mentioned in despatches, specially complimented on the work of his Department, and recommended for a reward, but up to the present moment not a recognition of any kind has he received. Considering that Major Fitzgerald commanded on this occasion fifty officers, eighty warrant and non-commissioned officers, and 40,000 transport animals, and that his force undoubtedly discharged the most important duty with exceptional ability and success; considering, too, the prodigality with which decorations were showered upon every influential individual who managed to secure a trip over the frontier while the operations were in progress, this treatment of an able and successful officer is probably without precedent. Major Fitzgerald has been through five campaigns, in three of which he has been in charge of his Department, and he has been four times mentioned in despatches; but in the whole of his twenty-four years' Indian service, beyond the four medals he has gained, he has never received a reward or recognition in any practical shape. Such is the way the Indian Government treats its trusty servants when they do not possess the backstairs influence by which official favours are controlled.

An officer in a Line regiment has undertaken the somewhat ungracious task of pooh-poohing the claims of the Staff Corps for an acceleration of the present rate of promotion. His strongest argument is that in the Staff Corps promotion can at least be looked for with certainty at a given time, whereas in the British Army the prospects of an officer when he first joins are simply incalculable; he even reckons that the chances against a subaltern, when he joins, ever obtaining the command of his regiment are about three to one. As pointed out in TRUTH last week, the prospects, both in the Indian and British Services, as regards lieutenant-colonelcies, are, in point of time, as nearly as possible the same, and the grievance of the Staff Corps applies to the periods at which the earlier steps of promotion are obtained. It is certain, at any rate, from the figures I gave, that the British officers at present serving in India have on the average obtained these steps much more quickly than their comrades of the Staff Corps, and the only way in which it is possible to look at the merits of the case is by calculating the averages. A man here and there in the British Service may be worse off than any one in the Staff Corps, but the majority are clearly in a better position.

The same critic asks whether, if matters were the other way about, the Staff Corps men would accept the argument that their periods of promotion ought to be lengthened, in order to place them on the same footing as the Home Service. It seems to me sufficient to discuss what is, without considering what might be in some imaginary state of things. But if I were really compelled to answer the question, I should say that, looking at the disadvantages of the Indian, as compared with the British Service, if the Staff Corps had the advantage in rate of promotion, no one ought to grudge it them.

I have also been asked whether the calculation of the average periods of service for each step in the British Army took into account cavalry as well as infantry battalions. The figures, as I stated, were originally given by the *Civil and Military Gazette* of Lahore. Those for the Home Army were there stated to be taken from the records of "fifty-two British battalions" serving in India at the time. This I should understand to mean infantry. If cavalry were taken into account, the figures would undoubtedly be misleading, promotion in the cavalry being notoriously quicker. But until the contrary is shown, I think the presumption must be that infantry only were taken into account.

When I heard a few months ago of the formation of the Army Ordnance Department, I shuddered. Only too well I knew that it would not be long before I should begin to hear of the injustices done and the anomalies created by the Warrant establishing the new Department. These anticipations have been more than realised during the last week or two, by communications respecting the extraordinary position in which the senior officers of the old Ordnance Store Department are placed by the latest reorganisation. Under the pre-existing state of things, which was created by the warrant of 1880, it was a serious grievance that old officers were serving at lower rates of pay than their juniors in rank who had come in later on, *e.g.*—a Major might be drawing 18s. a day with a captain under him drawing £1 a day. Instead of correcting this anomaly, the new warrant has aggravated the evil, and we now have a state of things in which a subaltern of only four years' standing may be drawing £1. 2s. 6d. a day, and serving under a Major of twenty years' service who only draws 18s.

There are at present in the Department seven Lieut.-Colonels receiving 24s per diem, seven Majors receiving 18s. a day; while, on the other hand, there are eight regimental Majors drawing 25s. a day, with a prospect of rising to 30s. on promotion to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

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Again, there are four R.A. Lieutenants, with only two years' service as such, receiving 4s. 6d. per diem more than the old Majors, and only 1s. 6d. per diem less than Lieut.-Colonels who have served a quarter of a century. I am not unmindful of the parable of the labourers in the vineyard, who each agreed for his penny, whether at the first hour or the eleventh. But the labourers in the parable were all of the same rank, and I question whether their case has any direct analogy with that of officers in the British Army. There is a strong feeling among the old officers that this state of things has been created in the hope that they will resign, and this seems a plausible explanation of it. But if it is seriously desired to get rid of the older men, they ought to have been offered an opportunity of resigning on the same terms as if they had completed their service, or to have received "compensation for disturbance" in some form. To try and get rid of a man for your own convenience by goading him into "voluntary" retirement is neither decent nor honest.

When Surgeon-Major-General Taylor was promoted to that rank from that of Surgeon-Colonel, an official notification was subsequently issued that he would remain supernumerary until the time when his promotion from Surgeon-Colonel would have come in the usual course. Considerable anxiety is being felt in the Army Medical Staff as to whether the same course is to be taken in the case of Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Wolseley, who was lately promoted to that rank over the heads of no less than ninety brother officers. Of course, the proper arrangement, as one of my Army medical friends points out, is that all such promotions should be designated as "brevet," and distinguished in the *Army List* as such. But it may be considered at headquarters that rules of this kind must not be insisted upon too rigidly in the case of an officer whose name is Wolseley.

In reference to the case of the quartermaster-sergeant at Hamilton who keeps, or helps to keep, a stationer's shop, one of my military readers call my attention to Sect. vii. para. 203 of the Queen's Regulations. I looked at this paragraph in my original search for information on the subject, and came to the conclusion that it has no application to the case. It merely provides that private work may be executed by men who know trades, provided (1) that they have the approval of their Commanding Officers, and (2) that the work is done in barracks. The second condition clearly is not fulfilled in the Hamilton case. But apart from this, I imagine that a lawyer would say that the paragraph has no bearing on the facts. It occurs among a group of regulations dealing with "regimental workshops and the employment of soldiers in trades," all of which clearly have reference to the subject of teaching soldiers useful handicrafts, or enabling them to practise any which they happen to possess when they join. This is a very different matter from an N.C.O. keeping a shop in the garrison town where he is stationed.

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There is another very similar case to the Hamilton one at Birr, reference to which was made in TRUTH some months ago. In this instance a stationer's shop is run, or partly run, by a warrant officer. I trust that both of these cases will now be looked into by the officers commanding these two districts. If any one is to blame in the matter, a share of the blame certainly falls upon the C.O.'s at the two depots, who, if they have not actually known what has been going on, ought to have done so long ago.

A monstrously severe sentence has just been passed by a court-martial at York upon Colour-Sergeant Young of the 4th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment, he having been reduced to sergeant for an error to the extent of 2s. 6d. in the pay and mess book. The prisoner had really been tried on five charges, including one of fraud, and one of making a false statement in a return. On four of the charges he was acquitted, and it would really seem that the court, not seeing its way to convict him on any other count, resolved to compress the punishment for the whole series into the sentence for the one little trumpery offence established. Even this offence, if one may trust the local reports, was not really proved.

In answer to the question in TRUTH about the practice of keeping prisoners standing during courts-martial, one of my military readers calls my attention to the following paragraph in the "Manual of Military Law" (chap. 5, par. 43:—

> A prisoner is allowed a seat as a matter of course if he is an officer, and in any other case where the court think proper.

"It is not usual," writes my informant, "to supply a seat for the prisoner; I suppose because the trials as a rule only occupy a very short time." The cases, however, which have been referred to in TRUTH were trials lasting over two or three days, and where this happens it certainly seems desirable that prisoners should be allowed to sit down. Probably, if he knew of the above rule on the subject, the prisoner would ask for a seat, and would be allowed it without question.

The unsatisfactory wording of the Regulations in regard to the marriage of soldiers is conspicuously shown by the present state of things in the Army Service Corps. According to an official list recently issued, some fifty-five sergeants and rank-and-file of the Corps are at present awaiting permission to marry, the two senior men having been on the list since 1893. Of these men, nominally awaiting permission, a large number have, of course, already taken French leave, and married without waiting. A very serious grievance is thus created, because any man who desires to comply with the spirit of the Regulations by obtaining permission before he marries, is placed at the bottom of the list, and must wait for the completion of his matrimonial bliss until every man before him is placed on the married strength. Surely

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this is utterly wrong. If a man is told that he must obtain his C.O.'s leave before getting married, applies for leave accordingly, and loyally waits until he gets it, he certainly ought to be considered before a man who has taken leave first and asked for it afterwards.

As I have said more than once before, it seems to me that marriage in the Army ought to be either allowed or forbidden. As I understand the present arrangement, every Commanding Officer is expected to use what moral persuasion he can to prevent men marrying improvidently; but it ends at moral persuasion. If the C.O. is either lacking in persuasiveness, or does not care whether his men are improvident or not, they may all marry at their own sweet wills. The only difference between marrying with leave and marrying without leave, is that in the former case Mrs. Atkins is officially recognised by the War Office, and some sort of provision is made for her comfort and for that of her children, while in the latter case, the military authorities do not know her, though they will allow her husband to occasionally pass a night in her society if he behaves himself properly.

I suppose that this arrangement works all right from the War Office point of view, but it seems to me that if the desirability of discouraging matrimony in the Army is recognised, as it is, it would be far better to absolutely forbid marriage without leave, and only grant leave to men of proved good character, who have decided to extend their Army engagements and make the Service more or less a permanent profession. There can be no question that a young man under five-and-twenty, earning only about eightpence a day net, serving on a limited engagement, and with no certain prospect in life before him, ought to be discouraged from getting married by every means available.

Below I give a further instalment of my Military Pillory. The little matter from Devonport at the head of the list seems to call specially for attention, as it is not only contrary to the principles of good government that horses belonging to the State should be driven by officers in dog-carts and ridden by their lady friends, but such proceedings are highly calculated to demoralise the lower ranks of the force. The item from Fort William is only one out of a large budget of growls from the same battalion, the explanation of which will very probably be found in the fact that the Colonel has been away on leave, and that his understudy has not filled the gap by any means to the satisfaction of the critics:—

Army Service Corps, Devonport.—A boy trumpeter belonging to a Company A.S.C. at this station was the other day punished with twenty-one days' C.B. for neglecting to clean a horse. The horse, it is stated, had been used in a dog-cart by an officer for his private purposes, and it is also stated that the same officer has been for some time in the habit of so driving it. Another horse belonging to the company is also said to have been used by a lady friend of the same officer. If these allegations are correct, they seem to call for much more severe notice than the failure of a boy to clean a horse after an officer had improperly used it.

Upper Chatham Barracks. — The men of a detachment of Royal Artillery quartered here complain that the officer commanding them refuses to sanction the supply of vegetables and other provisions through a canteen, they having requested to be allowed to do so owing to the dearness and inferiority of the supplies they are at present obtaining. If they cannot get their provisions through a canteen, the men would wish to change tradesmen; but this also is refused. Surely it is better in a case like this to let the men deal where they please. To have a canteen is, of course, the best arrangement where practicable.

1st Shropshire Light Infantry, Fort William.—The men of this battalion have lately been exercised regularly for two days a week on the Maidan from 6.30 to 8 a.m. without having previously had any food. Many of the men have suffered considerably in consequence, and a good many of them have got into trouble for not comporting themselves in proper military style, when the truth of the matter was that they were half faint from hunger and exhaustion. Unless I am mistaken, there are definite regulations in India respecting the drilling of troops before breakfast, and some inquiry seems to be desirable as to why the regulations are not complied with in this case.

2nd Royal Irish Rifles, Poonah.—This battalion is at present quartered in bungalows which were condemned many years ago, and seem only to be fit for habitation in dry weather. During the heavy rains a few weeks ago, water was dripping incessantly through the roofs, wetting the men's bedding, and keeping their arms and accoutrements in continual need of cleaning. Matters are made worse by the men coming in wet and hanging their clothes up to dry, and by the charcoal supply being insufficient to keep the fires going. The place has been in a condition during the bad weather which must be injurious to health as well as destructive to all comfort.

2nd Middlesex Regiment, Purandhar.—A complaint is made by the men of this battalion that, although the European mail usually arrives on Monday morning, the newspapers coming by it are not placed in the library until Wednesday, or more often Thursday. When they do arrive, they bear traces of having been already read by somebody. In a recent case a man who was reading a paper on a Thursday morning received a message to the effect that the sergeant-major wanted it, and the messenger went off with the paper accordingly. I would suggest that some definite rule should be made requiring the papers to be placed in the library immediately on their arrival, and it might be well if the rule contained a clause forbidding their removal when once placed there, whether for the convenience of the sergeant-major or anybody else.

4th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—A Garrison Order, recently issued, notifies that "Quartermaster-Sergeant J. H. Holloway, D.L.I., having been promoted sergeant-major of the 4th Durham Light Infantry, will be addressed as a warrant officer by all N.C.O.s and men in the garrison." The Queen's Regulations clearly lay down that a militia sergeant-major ranks as a non-commissioned officer, and it would be interesting to know what authority there is for conferring upon such an N.C.O. the status of a warrant officer in regard to his brother N.C.O.s in the garrison. At Newcastle there are quartermaster-sergeants of the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Royal Engineers, the Army Service Corps, and the Army Pay Corps, as well as of the Durham Light Infantry, and to compel all these men to pay homage to one who is virtually of their own rank is naturally productive of considerable dissatisfaction.

Alexandria.—A few weeks back the spectacle was witnessed here of two sergeants of the Royal Engineers being hauled out of an inn in the Grand Square and marched through the streets by a lance-corporal of the Military Foot Police, preparatory to being confined in the guard-room for the night. These two men were on leave at the time, and had just returned from a picnic in the Khedivial Gardens, which had been held in consequence of the G.O.C. having given all the troops a holiday, it being the day of the August Bank Holiday in England. The men were perfectly sober, and the only offence they seem to have committed is that the part of the town where they had gone to get a glass of beer had been placed out of bounds, on sanitary grounds, to the extent that the men are not to enter houses there, although at liberty to pass through the streets. The incident seems to have created some indignation among the Royal Engineers at Alexandria, and it certainly does not seem calculated to increase the dignity of the British Army in the eyes of foreigners when two sergeants are marched through the streets in this way for such a trumpery irregularity.

Royal Fusiliers, Belfast.—A few nights ago the orderly-room windows at Victoria Barracks were broken during the night, and two men of the company quartered nearest to the building were made prisoners for the offence. Notwithstanding this, the whole of the same company was confined to barracks on the following Sunday, and this was followed by ordering them to form a night guard, by way of punishment. This is another flagrant instance of the practice of dealing out indiscriminate punishment both to innocent and guilty, which never had any good effect upon the discipline of a regiment yet, and never will.

Ferozipore.—In the fort at this place there are stationed about 100 artillery and 200 infantry. Although they are five miles from the nearest hospital, there is only one apothecary to look after the medical requirements of the garrison. This apothecary is occasionally absent, as he has a perfect right to be, and in his absence it may easily happen that a serious emergency may arise. In one instance the emergency took the shape of a man dying from sunstroke without medical aid. The apothecary is not to blame for this, but the higher military authorities certainly are.

It is only within the last few days that I have found an opportunity of reading the full report of the Select Committee on the Royal Patriotic Fund. Now that I have done so, the result has been to more than confirm the unfavourable impression of the document that I derived from the newspaper summaries. Anything more feeble, unsatisfactory, and disappointing than this Report could hardly have been produced. It is true the Committee recommend a few changes, such as that the Commissioners shall bring themselves into closer touch with the administrators of the Greenwich, War Office, and outside funds; that a Consultation Council shall be formed among the representatives of these funds; that local Committees shall be established in military centres and naval ports, to advise the Council as to the best manner in which relief may be advantageously given, and that the appointment of Commissioners shall be in future for a term of five years, "with power of renewal." But the Committee seem to have entirely failed to appreciate the most important points of all—namely, that there should be such radical reforms in the constitution and methods of the Commissioners as will make it certain that, for the future, the vast funds in their hands shall be administered with less hide-bound red-tapeism and more human sympathy; and, above all, that sums raised by the bounty of the public for a specific purpose shall be promptly, generously, and in the end exhaustively devoted to the benefit of the persons for whom the money is subscribed. The inexcusable delay which took place before the Commissioners began the distribution of the *Victoria* Fund, and then the shameful stinginess with which they doled out relief, are apparent even in the Committee's softened version of the facts; but nothing is said in condemnation of the course pursued on that occasion, and nothing is proposed which is at all likely to prevent a repetition of the same scandal at the first opportunity.

Hitherto the main object of the Commissioners has appeared to be to hoard up money and show handsome surpluses. For instance, since the administration of the Soldiers' Effects Fund was entrusted to the Commissioners the fund has grown from £44,000 to £135,000, and it is being continuously augmented by further sums arising from soldiers' unclaimed effects; but nevertheless not a fourth of the annual income is expended. The object of this fund was the relief of widows, children, or other dependent relatives of soldiers dying on service or within six months of discharge, and the Royal Warrant mentions three classes of cases to which preferential consideration should be given. The Commissioners affirm that it would be impossible to relieve "all cases" coming under two of these classes, and so they have relieved none at all, but allowed the fund to accumulate—a state of things which they seem to consider "highly satisfactory." In the draft report which Mr. Kearley prepared, he dealt with this and similar cases, and as to the general policy of the Commissioners he very truly remarked that nothing could discourage public benevolence more than the knowledge that existing funds are held back on the pretence of providing for "some remote and indefinite contingency which has not arisen, and which, when it does arise, the nation will assuredly be ready to meet." But the majority of the Select Committee were bent upon whitewashing the Commissioners, so far as that operation was possible, and accordingly Mr. Kearley's admirable report and all the most valuable reforms that he proposed were rejected. However, the thing is done now, and while regretting the line the Committee have taken, one can only hope that the Commissioners will nevertheless profit by the criticisms to which they have been subjected, and dispense their charities more in accordance with the wishes of the donors. One thing is certain. If the errors of the past are repeated, the public will insist that in future small funds as that, which was raised at the time of the *Victoria* disaster, shall not be handed over to the Patriotic Commissioners.

The *Westminster Gazette* has been investigating the statements in last week's TRUTH respecting the treatment of soldiers at the Chandos Buffet, and has given its readers the other side of the case. The other side of the case seems to me very washy. The manager of the Chandos says, in effect, that he does not want soldiers on his premises, owing to their frequently objectionable conduct. Many are perfectly quiet and orderly, but others "swagger in as if the place belongs to them, put their feet on the tables, and spend their time chaffing the barmaids, and sometimes they have to be forcibly ejected altogether." So the proprietor (if I understand the argument aright) subjects them to a tariff which he hopes will be prohibitive. He told the *Westminster* that he restricts them "to the saloon bar, where higher prices are charged;" but there must be some mistake here, for in the case to which I alluded the soldiers and the civilians were in the same bar—whether the saloon bar or not, does not matter—and a special charge was levied on the soldiers at this bar.

The weak point of all this is that if a soldier misbehaves himself in a public-house, the publican has a far simpler and more effectual means of dealing with him than he has with any civilian. By making a complaint to the officer commanding the regiment, he may be pretty sure of preventing any repetition of the conduct objected to. As to the chaffing of the barmaids, if soldiers are specially addicted to that amusement, the proprietor of the Chandos would do well to consider whether his barmaids may not have, on their side, a special weakness for chaffing soldiers. He will not say, I hope, that he possesses no influence over his barmaids. I have had a good many communications on this subject from people who know this establishment—civilians, all of them—and one of them remarks that, instead of keeping out soldiers for the benefit of the rest of his customers, the proprietor would do better to put some check on "the empty-headed young fools in evening dress who swagger in and make themselves objectionable to every one by their idiotic behaviour." This class of customers, of course, never chaff the barmaids.

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

By the last Indian mail I have been overwhelmed with correspondence provoked by a recent answer in the House of Commons, in which it was officially stated that there is no desire in India for the speed of the mail boats to be accelerated. One Anglo-Indian, who writes very strongly on the present state of things, has been working out the speed of four mail boats between Bombay and Perim during July. In the first case the speed averaged ten knots an hour; in the second, nine knots; in the third, under nine knots; while in the fourth it was close upon thirteen knots. In the last case the vessel was the fastest in the P. & O. fleet, and, as compared with the slowest, there is a difference of about two and a half days between Bombay and Perim. For anybody, even a wise and eminent Front Bench personage, to get up and state that passengers between England and India are indifferent to such a saving of time as this is an insult to the common sense of the House of Commons.

An anonymous correspondent writes to suggest to me that in my comments upon the case of the boy Kavanagh, of H.M.S. *Blenheim*, my "kind heart has rather bolted with me," and that a year's hard labour may give the boy a chance of reformation. Kind heart, my dear sir! It is not kindness of heart that makes me angry when I have to do with fools. Much more to the point is a communication from another reader of TRUTH, who asks what effect sentences of this kind are likely to have upon the supply of recruits for the Navy—none too numerous already, by all accounts.

In connection with the same matter I have been reminded of a "rule of mercy" which prevailed in the old days of flogging in the Army. By virtue of this, any mutinous or abusive words used by a soldier while expiating his offence on the triangle were overlooked. The victim was allowed to have his swear, I take it, as a sort of comfort to him in his sufferings. It is suggested that this principle ought to have been extended to young Kavanagh. It would be rather straining the "rule of mercy," I fear, to contend that a boy sentenced to a whipping ought to be allowed to relieve his feelings by punching his commanding officer's head. Without, however, going so far as that, it is a legitimate view of the case that Kavanagh's offence was committed in a moment of exasperation, and that this should have been taken into account on the side of mercy. But there is no trace of reason, sense, or discretion in his punishment, let alone mercy. It is a mere exhibition of blind and vindictive ferocity.

Since referring to the matter in last week's TRUTH, I have heard from Mr. W. R. Smith, the Assistant Secretary, that the National Lifeboat Institution have inquired fully into the allegations respecting the conduct of some of the Castletown lifeboat crew, on the occasion of their recently rescuing a man from drowning. The result is very much what I had stated last week, before the receipt of Mr. Smith's letter, and it does not seem necessary, therefore, to go over the facts again. I gather, however, from Mr. Smith's letter, that the only man of the Castletown lifeboat crew concerned in the affair at all was the coxswain, who used his own boat, so that the local scribes who spoke as if the whole lifeboat crew had gone to the rescue were singularly ill-informed.

I have often pointed out the hardship wantonly inflicted upon the officers and men of the Channel Squadron by keeping them at a foreign port during the Christmas holidays, and I am therefore pleased to hear that the Admiralty authorities have decided that the Squadron is to return from a cruise along the coast of Spain in ample time to give Christmas leave. It may be hoped that the inconvenient practice of granting leave from Portland will be altered this year, and that each ship will be allowed to return to her own port.

Nearly two months back (July 9) I noticed in TRUTH a curious communication received from Signor A. Radice, of Naples, who, without knowing anything of the facts, took upon himself to question the accuracy of certain information previously published in TRUTH respecting the doings of his son, the British Political Agent in Tipperah. In that letter Signor Radice informed me that he had written to his son to get his version of the facts. I have not yet heard the result of Signor Radice's communication with his son, but I see from a local Indian paper that young Mr. Radice has been warned by the Government to desist from the practice of which complaint was made; while my original informant, whose position entitles him to every credit, has written to say that all his statements are true. As there seems to be no doubt as to the official intimation to Mr. Radice, I take it that there can be no doubt whatever that the matter is as I originally stated.

There seems to be much the same difficulty in getting money out of the Post Office for prepaid telegraph replies which have not been used as there is in getting overpaid income-tax out of the Inland Revenue Department. I hear of two recent cases in which applications for a refund of 6d. have been ineffectual. In one the applicant has been waiting for his money some months, in the other since July 20, although in both cases the receipt of the application has been formally acknowledged. It would be interesting to know in the event of the applicant getting disgusted at the delay and letting the matter drop, who pockets the money.

If a man were to write to me on a matter of business and enclose postage stamps for a reply, and I were to send him a reply without stamping the envelope, what would he, or any one else, think of this proceeding? In point of law, I should imagine that the correspondent would have a right to sue me for a return of the postage stamps which I had not used, if not for damages in respect of the amount which he had been surcharged on the unpaid letter. Though few private individuals would treat a correspondent in this way, such a course has been actually adopted by the War Department of the United States Government in answering a London firm who wrote to them on a matter of business. It is impossible, of course, to forward postage stamps for reply in writing to a foreign country, but the London firm

did the next best thing, by enclosing English postage stamps for an equivalent amount; and if the United States Government were not disposed to pay the cost of their answer, they ought at least to have returned these postage stamps with the letter. This they have actually failed to do on two occasions, the firm having to pay 10d. each time for their communications from the United States Government. The firm in question state that they are in constant communication with Governments of different countries, and that they have never before found one which treated them in this manner. The Italian Government was so polite as to return the stamps forwarded, while stamping its reply with its own stamps.

An interesting correspondence on the subject of the duty of the Post Office in respect to lottery circulars recently passed between the Duke of Norfolk and the Protestant Alliance. It may be remembered that when Mr. Arnold Morley was Postmaster-General, he stated in the House of Commons that he had given instructions that all such circulars, when received from foreign countries in open envelopes, should be returned—an instruction, by the way, from which I have noticed no practical result, unless it is to be seen in the fact that so many circulars of foreign lottery agents are now posted in London. The Protestant Alliance called the attention of the Duke of Norfolk to the advertisements of Irish lotteries, and suggested that the instructions of the last Postmaster-General with respect to foreign circulars should be extended to all documents of a like nature. Other letters elicited that the Postmaster-General was in communication with the Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary for Ireland on the subject, and after three or four months' correspondence, an answer was sent to the effect that the regulations laid down by the last Postmaster-General "continue to be enforced, and that his Grace does not propose to take any further steps in the matter."

The Protestant Alliance then pointed out that, while the distribution by the Post Office of the advertisements of foreign lotteries involved nothing contrary to the laws of the country, in distributing those connected with lotteries promoted at home the Post Office were assisting in the perpetration of a gross breach of the law. This poser the Postmaster-General seems to have thought it best not to attempt to answer; and, though the Alliance returned to the charge several times, they only received curt official acknowledgments of their letters, ending with an expression of regret that the Postmaster-General was unable to add anything to his previous answer.

This correspondence shows very strongly the utterly illogical and indefensible position in which the Post Office has placed itself. The truth is clear, as has been repeatedly pointed out in these columns, that while the Government will prosecute anybody who promotes a lottery in England, the same Government has not the slightest objection to taking money, through the Post Office, for assisting the working of lotteries in Ireland. Is this what they call the "Legislative Union"?

Enniscorthy appears to be peculiarly unfortunate in its local governing bodies. I have more than once had occasion to refer to the eccentricities of the Board of Guardians and the Town Commissioners, and now there comes an account of some curious proceedings on the part of the Select Vestry of St. Mary's. This Vestry has the care of the Cemetery at Moyne, and until recently the fees for interments were £1 for each grave space, with 10s. for the gravedigger. The Vestry is also entrusted with the administration of a Poor Relief Fund in connection with the Church, out of which fifteen recipients have been receiving until recently the small monthly dole of 4s. each. The cemetery accounts show a substantial balance in hand; the poor fund is unable to pay its way. In these circumstances the Vestry has taken the singular course of increasing the cemetery burial fee by 10s., on the ground that this will be required for keeping the graves in order in years to come; and, at the same time, the monthly dole to the poor has been reduced to 3s. each. It might have been expected that the first object of the Vestry would be to put the poor fund in a better position; but apparently they are less concerned about keeping people from starvation while they live than about keeping their graves in order when they are dead.

I am glad to hear from the Town Clerk of Totnes that there is no foundation for the allegations respecting the condition of that town which have been appearing in a local paper, and which were noticed in last week's TRUTH. The Town Clerk writes:—

> The drainage, instead of being scandalously defective and officially condemned by the Local Government Board, has been carried out in accordance with the plans of the Local Government Board.
>
> There are no open drains whatever in the streets, and the houses are connected with the main drainage system.
>
> The only works required to be carried out are the outfall works, and the delay with respect to them does not rest with the Town Council, as the plans have been before the Local Government Board for some time, and have been inquired into by three Inspectors, and the Council are waiting the approval of them, when they are quite ready to carry out that work as well . . . .

This ought to be sufficient for visitors to and residents in Totnes; but if, as I assume to be the case, the last sentence refers to the outfall into the Dart, it is to be hoped that the Local Government Board will apply a little oil to its official machinery, and get these plans passed without further delay. I note that the Town Clerk of Totnes does not traverse the allegation as to the pollution of the river, and that is a serious matter for all the dwellers between Totnes and Dartmouth, if not for Totnes itself. The great feature of the Dart at low water is its magnificent stretches of mud-bank, and a mud-bank partially composed of deposits from sewers is one of the most pestilential abominations under the sun.

With reference to a paragraph in last week's TRUTH commenting on the fact that according to the report of the Lunacy Commissioners the increase in lunacy appears to be confined to the pauper class, my attention has been called to the explanation of this increase which is given in a memorandum on the subject by Sir Robert Edgcumbe. He points out that the county asylums have been filled up to a large degree with imbeciles and

idiots as distinguished from lunatics or mad persons, in consequence of a grant of 4s. per week having been allowed since 1874 to Boards of Guardians for each pauper sent to an asylum. The suggestions in Sir Robert Edgcumbe's memorandum that harmless idiots and imbeciles should not be admitted to the asylums, but be otherwise provided for, and that the 4s. grant should be payable to the Unions for all such paupers, whether they are maintained in the workhouse or not, seem to be well worthy of consideration.

It is not absolutely correct, I find, to say that Sir Robert Edgcumbe has refused to pay the fine due from him in consequence of his having resigned the office of Alderman of Dorchester, and I am glad to have an opportunity of making the exact facts known. It seems that in some recent cases where councillors have left the borough and vacated their seats by non-residence, and incurred the fine of £25, the Town Council has made no attempt to enforce payment. The amount of the fine is only fixed by a local by-law, which the Town Council have power to amend at any time; and, partly with a view to getting this absurd anomaly reformed, Sir Robert Edgcumbe offered to resign, on condition that the Town Council would reduce the fine to some reasonable amount. The Town Council have declined to do this, and Sir Robert has, accordingly, not resigned. In this I think there can be no question that he is perfectly right, or that the Town Council are perfectly wrong, seeing that they have allowed their by-law to become a dead letter in other cases. No doubt there is some personal feeling at the bottom of the matter, and that is why the Town Council refuse to meet Sir Robert Edgcumbe's perfectly reasonable suggestion.

The Bournemouth Justices refused the other day to sanction the sale of alcoholic refreshment in the local theatre; but in consequence of the storm they drew down on themselves in the local and London Press, they reconsidered their decision, and granted a full licence. All's well that ends well; but the incident is interesting as illustrating the narrow-minded and cranky views which prevail among the rulers of Bournemouth, and are the curse of the place. Under ordinary circumstances the holder of a theatre licence has a right to sell intoxicants, but it seems that at Bournemouth the Licensing Justices have only licensed the theatre on the personal undertaking of the lessee that no intoxicants should be sold. This was the arrangement which the Justices attempted to renew the other day, but which they have now abandoned in deference to public opinion. It is obviously an attempt to get round the general provisions of the law, and to substitute for it a special arrangement which seems good to the little local jacks-in-office. And for what purpose? Simply to satisfy the most irrational prejudices. No one goes to a theatre for the purpose of getting drunk, and there is far less objection to the sale of intoxicants there than at an ordinary drinking-bar. At the same time, to stop the sale in the theatre does not prevent the audience drinking, but merely drives those who are not satisfied with temperance beverages to take refuge between the acts in the neighbouring public-houses.

Licensing business always gives the amateur magistracy a grand opportunity of displaying their ignorance, incompetence, and general unfitness for their duties, and it was utilised to the fullest extent at Caerphilly Brewster Sessions last week. There were two applications for new licences, and each was strongly opposed, or, rather, would have been opposed, if the Caerphilly Bench had condescended to go through the usual form of listening to both sides of a case. What actually happened was that their worships, after impatiently cutting short the evidence for the applicants, absolutely refused to hear a word from the counsel, solicitors, and witnesses for the opposition, and amid a chorus of protests insisted upon retiring to their private room. On their return into Court the chairman announced that they had decided to grant one new licence, adding that they were sorry they could not grant the two. This decision, it afterwards transpired, was carried by the casting vote of the chairman.

The Justices were guilty of two flagrant irregularities, either of which would be in itself sufficient to invalidate the proceedings. In the first place, they had no right to refuse to hear the evidence tendered for the opposition, and in the second place the Chairman's action in giving a double or casting vote was contrary to the law, which on this point is as plain as a pikestaff; the proper course, where the magistrates are equally divided, being to adjourn the application. It will not be necessary, however, to carry the matter before a Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench. For some unexplained reason the Clerk to the Justices was not present, it seems, when they arrived at their decision, but after the Sessions were over he learned what had taken place, and immediately issued a circular informing the magistrates that the Chairman possessed no casting vote, and that in consequence the licence would not be issued. The Clerk says nothing as to the refusal to hear the parties opposing the licence, but two of the magistrates have unburdened their minds on this aspect of the case in the *South Wales Daily News*, and they take up the high judicial position that it would have been "a waste of time" to listen to arguments and evidence, as they knew all the facts! I fear advice or criticism would be thrown away on the Caerphilly Justices; what is wanted is that the Lord Chancellor should remove the whole lot of these woodenheads from the Commission of the Peace.

Apart from the gross blunders mentioned above, another point calls for notice. The Chairman of the Caerphilly Bench, on the occasion of the Brewster Sessions, was Dr. Franklen G. Evans, a gentleman who is said to very rarely attend the Court. The junior counsel for one of the two applicants for new licences was Dr. Evans' son, and it was in favour of granting the particular licence, in support of which his son appeared, that Dr. Evans gave the illegal casting vote. Of course the

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W. Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

Chairman was not in any way influenced by the fact that his son was briefed on behalf of the applicant for whom he voted; it was a mere coincidence. But unfortunately such incidents produce a most undesirable impression on the minds of a suspicious and censorious public, and it is a great pity that judges and magistrates ever allow their sons to practise before them. In South Wales this seems to be an especially frequent source of scandal.

Another illustration of the spirit in which magistrates approach the consideration of licensing questions was given at Wakefield Brewster Sessions, where it was discovered that in two instances memorials in favour of applications for licences had actually been signed by gentlemen sitting upon the bench and adjudicating upon those applications. A solicitor subsequently protested against such "a parody of justice," and the chairman admitted that the conduct of the magistrates concerned was "very irregular," and said he hoped such a thing would not occur again. But of course it will so long as the administration of the law is entrusted, as it is now, to men who are often destitute of the most elementary qualifications for the proper performance of judicial duties.

In this connection I may mention a complaint I have received from another town, where the Chairman of the Licensing Bench is a corn merchant who does a big business with the local brewers in the sale of barley. I agree with my correspondent that it is difficult to regard this individual as an impartial and disinterested judge in matters where the interests of "the trade" are at stake; but then, on the other hand, it is not uncommon to hear complaints from other places that magistrates who are total abstainers are equally apt to import their prejudices against "the trade" into the discharge of their judicial functions. The only remedy for all this is the disestablishment of the Great Unpaid.

There is undoubtedly great weight in the transatlantic admonition to "keep on pegging away." The Rev. Mr. Jenkins, who has recently been monopolising the services of the London magistrates in his crusade against the omnibus and the tram-car, scores heavily at last. After numerous drawn battles on the question of producing tickets during transit, the reverend gentleman conceived the happy idea of disputing the right of the proprietors to intercept the light by letting out the windows of their vehicles for advertising purposes. The result of this inspiration was a complete triumph for the cleric at the expense of the companies, and an order has been promulgated prohibiting the exhibition of advertisements in public conveyances, unless the sanction of the Chief Commissioner of Police has been previously obtained. All will agree that the windows of a public conveyance should not be obscured; but otherwise the modern advertisement is frequently more amusing than the blank countenances of one's opposite fellow travellers.

At Glasgow on Friday, Sheriff Guthrie passed a sentence of six months' imprisonment on a drunken woman who had assaulted her husband by hurling a glass tumbler at his head, and so permanently injuring the sight of one eye. I call attention to the case, not because I take exception to the punishment, but because it stands out in such marked contrast to the treatment generally accorded to husbands who maltreat their wives. A glance at my Legal Pillory almost any week will show that a man is allowed to thrash and kick and pretty well half kill his wife for an expenditure of a sovereign or so in a fine and costs. But what is sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander, and I, therefore, commend Sheriff Guthrie's exemplary sentence on this drunken wife to the notice of the Justices who deal so inadequately with outrages by drunken husbands.

Alderman Alliston has written to me in reference to a sentence of his at the Mansion House, on a domestic servant named Taylor, which was noted in my Legal Pillory last week. It will be remembered that Taylor was committed to gaol for six weeks for stealing sixpennyworth of coppers from a till in her employer's shop, though the prosecutor himself recommended her to mercy, because it was her first offence, and she had previously borne an excellent character. Mr. Alliston begins his letter by emphasising the fact that the prisoner was a woman of 42, but I fail to see how this affects the matter, the benefits of the First Offenders Act not being restricted to the young, although it was chiefly for their advantage that it was passed. He then goes on to say that the woman had been in the prosecutor's service two or three months, that she obtained the situation through a written character from a person the prosecutor did not know, that her place was in the kitchen, but that she surreptitiously entered the shop in semi-darkness, was caught in the act of stealing money from the patent till, and admitted that she had done this before. The Alderman considers that "there were no grounds for the prosecutor's recommendation to leniency," and it is evident from his further observations that he came to an unfavourable conclusion from the prisoner's refusal, in answer to his questions, to give any information as to her antecedents. But he ought not to have acted on mere impressions in such a matter, more especially in the face of the opinion expressed by the prosecutor, who was assuredly in a far better position to judge of the woman's character and claims to merciful consideration. The sentence which was passed struck me as being harsh and vindictive, and with all respect to the Alderman I see no reason to modify my opinion.

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Sufferers from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and Ingram & Royle, Ltd., 52, Farringdon-street.

It will be seen from the following instalment of my Legal Pillory, that the excessive indulgence which magistrates so generally show to the husband who thrashes his wife is now extended at Airdrie to the father who makes a football of his five-year-old child. If the ruffian M'Donald, with his long list of previous convictions, had netted a few rabbits or stolen a few apples, he would assuredly have gone to gaol; but as he had merely kicked and otherwise ill-used a poor little baby, the humane and intelligent J.P.s of Airdrie let him off with a fine of 15s., less than half the amount they exacted from a working man for cycling without a light. There are also examples from Irvine, Steyning, Harwich, Blackburn, and elsewhere, of the lenity with which offences against the person are treated, while the sentences on the other side of the list illustrate the severity with which the Great Unpaid punish petty thefts, poaching, and such really atrocious crimes as sleeping out under a hedge, or even sitting down on a pavement (see the report from Derby) without having "visible means of subsistence." In regard to the charge of cruelty at Gosport, I recognise that the Bench imposed a very heavy pecuniary penalty, but I have, nevertheless, pilloried the case, because it seems to me that a man in the position of the defendant, who deliberately starves a horse to death, ought not to be given the option of paying a fine :—

Airdrie J.P. Court. Before Messrs John Watt and William Ferguson. John M'Donald pleaded guilty to assaulting his daughter, aged five years, by kicking her and otherwise abusing her. He said he was "the worse of drink" at the time. There was a long list of previous convictions against him. Fined 15s. or ten days.

Walsall Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Noake (Mayor), G. Gill, and J. Moseley. Frank Hart, charged with assaulting Maud Thompson, domestic servant, and with threatening Emmanuel Marsh. Defendant showed the girl an indecent picture and afterwards knocked her down, giving her a black eye, and threatened to strangle her. On the girl's employer, Marsh, remonstrating, he threatened to murder him and became exceedingly violent. Fined 20s. and bound over.

Harwich Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor (Councillor W. J. Nalborough) and other magistrates. Edward Coppin, charged with assaulting his wife. He kicked her on the body, causing her to have a miscarriage. A separation order was granted, and for the aggravated assault defendant was ordered to pay 13s. costs.

Steyning Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. Wyatt, W. P. Beach, H. T. West, and other justices. George Sayers, charged with assaulting his wife. The woman, who appeared to be an invalid, was struck on the head and knocked down three times. Fined 10s. and costs, and bound over.

Airdrie J.P. Court. Before the same magistrates. Alexander Taylor, carter, charged with riding a bicycle at night without a light. Fined £1 and 19s. costs.

Louth Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor. Joseph Dunnington, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Trowbridge Police-court. Before Mr. J. P. Stencomb and Major T. Clark. Ann Barnes, a married woman, charged with hawking without a licence. Seven days.

Bournemouth Police-court. Before Captain Elwes and other magistrates. Susan Peterill and Jane Best, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Sir John Smith, Messrs. T. H. Harrison, S. Whitaker, T. L. Riley, W. Hall, and G. B. Unsworth. Edwin Booth, charged with wandering abroad, and being without visible means of subsistence. Late at night he was found sitting on the pavement. Fourteen days.

Gainsborough Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. Pearson, F. Mercer, and S. Hawksworth. John Hartley, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £1 and 14s. 6d. costs.

Doncaster West Riding Police-court. Arthur Padley and Thomas Hoey, charged with trespassing in search of game. They caught a rabbit. Fined £1. 10s. each.

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Messrs. E. Cooper, H. Higson, and R. Leeming, William M'Kinnings, charged with being drunk and assaulting his wife. A policeman saw the prisoner knock the woman down, and kick her on the mouth and about the body. Fined 20s. and costs.

Sheffield Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Milner and W. W. Harrison. John Albert Baley, charged with cruelty to a pony. He thrashed the animal unmercifully with a whip-stock, continuing the ill-treatment for some time. Fined 12s. 6d., including costs.

Falkirk Police-court. Anthony Sweency and Tague M'Ginlay pleaded guilty to assaulting a man named Wright. The prosecutor was an entire stranger to the accused, who, without the least provocation, went up to him in the street and committed what the Fiscal characterised as a cowardly and brutal assault. Fined 21s. each.

Gosport Police-court. Before Admiral Field, M.P., Colonel L. G. Rodney, and Mr. F. S. Stanley. Henry Hayward, baker and corn merchant, convicted of cruelty to a horse by neglecting to supply it with sufficient food. The animal was penned in a field where there was no grass, and was only fed once in eight days. If it had not been shot, it would have died of starvation, and a veterinary surgeon said it had apparently been gradually starved for two or three months previously. The Bench said it was the worst case of its kind that they had ever had before them. Fined £5 and £3. 4s. costs.

Irvine Police-court. Joseph Lawrie, found guilty of a serious assault on a married woman. A medical certificate was produced, stating that the woman was quite unfit to appear owing to her injuries. Fined £2.

Hastings County Bench. Before Sir A. Ashburnham, Dr. F. M. Wallis, and Messrs. T. Parkin and H. E. Cruttenden. George Clifton, an old man, convicted of sleeping in an unfinished house at Bexhill, and not having visible means of subsistence. One month.

Pembroke Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. W. Simon), and other magistrates. Jeremiah Mara and John Tunster, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with coming from land with rabbits in their possession. Fined £5 each and costs, and committed for two months in default of payment.

Maidenhead County Police-court. Before General A. R. Thompson, Lord George Pratt, Earl Russell, Messrs. J. Whitehead, A. Ricardo, and F. D. Lambert. William Neale, aged 69, pleaded guilty to stealing two bavins, value 5d., from a stack of wood. Fourteen days.

Leigh Police-court. Before Messrs. G. H. Evans and F. W. D. Bouth. William Pennington, charged with poaching. He pleaded that he had a wife and seven children dependent on him, and very small wages. Six weeks.

Yeovil County Police-court. Before Messrs. H. P. Batten and W. T. Bradford. Thomas Hambridge, charged with sleeping out in the fair field. Six weeks.

Chelmsford County Police-court. Before Mr. T. Kemble, and other Justices. Stephen Simmons, charged with lodging in the open air and being without visible means of subsistence. He was found under a hedge in a field. Seven days.

People round about Bromley should be careful not to walk abroad with fruit in their possession, or some active and intelligent constable may "suppose" that they have stolen it, and on the strength of his supposition they may be convicted and fined by the equally intelligent local magistrates. This was the fate which last week befell a lad from Bermondsey named Hatherton, who was charged "on suspicion with having a quantity of apples and plums in his possession supposed to have been stolen." It seemed that a policeman met him "carrying something in a bag," and asked what he had got there. The lad would have been perfectly justified in refusing to reply, but after some hesitation he stated that he bought the contents of the bag from a man at Swanley, and the policeman thereupon took him to the police-station and searched him. Although nothing had since been ascertained about the ownership of the fruit and the prisoner repeated his statement that he bought it, the Bench fined him 2s. 6d. and costs. The policeman, of course, had no right whatever to question or search this prisoner, nor could the magistrates have convicted him without a most unwarrantable straining of the law.

To the disgrace of the inspectors of the Local Government Board and the Board of Trade, who had a chance of putting an end to the system two years ago, the imprisonment of refractory fishing apprentices still goes on merrily at Grimsby. The thoroughly vindictive spirit which characterises the sentences of the magistrates—nearly all of them directly or indirectly interested as smack-owners—is effectively illustrated by a case heard a few days ago. The usual charge of disobedience by neglecting to go to sea in his employer's smack was preferred against a young fellow named Ernest French. It appeared that the offence took place so far back as May 14, and that French attained the age of 21 in July, so that when he was brought before the court he was no longer an apprentice, and it must have been obvious that the only result of sending him to gaol would be to damage his prospects now that he is free to earn his living as he pleases; but, nevertheless, he was committed for fourteen days. The magistrates cannot even put forward the feeble excuse that it was desirable to make an example of him in the interests of "discipline," for at the same court another youth was sentenced to a month's hard labour; and almost every week similar sentences are passed. Nowhere else, and in no other industry, is it found necessary to deal with apprentices in the ferocious fashion adopted at Grimsby, and the fact that so many lads prefer a term of hard labour in gaol to their life in the smacks is a pretty good proof that their treatment at the hands of the smack-owners and their crews is not what it should be. It is only because they are drawn, almost without exception, from workhouses, and are without parents or friends to look after their interests, that the scandal has been allowed to go on so long.

After the proceedings at the St. Albans County Petty Sessions the other day, nobody need be surprised if drivers of vehicles in that district come to look upon cyclists as intruders without any real claim to have their convenience and safety respected by the observance of the rules of the road. A summons was heard against a farmer for obstructing the passage of the highway, and two cyclists, a gentleman and his sister, proved that the defendant was driving a trap on the wrong side of the road, that he persisted in doing this when they remonstrated with him, and that when they ultimately attempted to pass he deliberately pulled his horse round so as to close the remaining portion of the road and compel the cyclists to ride into the ditch. This was regarded by the magistrates as so trivial a matter that they only fined the defendant half-a-crown. It seems necessary to remind their worships that a person on a bicycle has as much right to traverse the highway as a farmer in his trap, and if the latter defiantly drives on the wrong side and wantonly blocks the road, something more than a nominal penalty ought to be imposed. Not only in country districts, but in town as well (as anybody may see who watches the little manœuvres of the sportive cabby) many Jehus appear to think it is a legitimate amusement to worry, incommode, and obstruct cyclists, and such a decision as that at St. Albans is calculated to encourage this idea. I know that the conduct of many cyclists, on the other hand, is by no means irreproachable; but when they are convicted of any offence, magistrates are never backward in meting out an adequate punishment.

I do not remember hearing before of Messrs. Noble & Rock, jewellers, of Imperial-buildings, Ludgate-hill, but, from the statements made at the Mansion House Police-court on Friday, it would seem that they are entitled to a distinguished place among the firms who make a business of cajoling servants into the purchase of cheap jewellery at exorbitant prices. One of Noble & Rock's canvassers was charged with stealing two watches, which he had pawned, and another with attempting to obtain money from the firm by false pretences. Both these men were employed to sell jewellery to servants on the weekly payment system, and, under their agreements with the prosecutors, they were bound to devote the whole of their time to the service of the firm for a salary of 2s. 6d. each per week, this to be increased to 5s., if a certain number of orders were obtained, and after that a commission to be paid. The canvassers had to pay their own travelling expenses.

One of the watches which was pawned was valued by the prosecutors at £4. 10s.—that being, presumably, their selling price to servant-girls—whereas the pawnbroker affirmed that its fair market value was £1. 10s. The charge of false pretences was dismissed, and in the other case Sir Joseph Renals refused to convict the defendant of larceny, but fined him for illegal pawning. I am glad to notice that Sir Joseph called attention to the terms on which these canvassers were employed, asking how a man could be honest on half-a-crown a week? Instances enough and to spare have been given in Truth of the unscrupulous tricks to which canvassers in this kind of business resort in order to unload their goods on ignorant servant-girls; but considering the monstrous way in which they are sweated by their employers, their efforts to increase their incomes by such means can hardly be wondered at.

The "Spanish prisoner," like the rest of us, seems to feel the necessity of keeping himself close up to date. For this reason, presumably, in his latest communications he connects his cock-and-bull story of the buried treasure with the insurrection in Cuba. This result, however, seems to have been gained at some sacrifice of what little probability there was in the original narrative. The prisoner's latest account of himself is that he is an ex-officer in the Spanish Army, who had the misfortune to kill his Colonel in a duel on January 19, 1895 (please note the carefulness of the prisoner about his dates). Having killed the Colonel, the prisoner fled, first to the United States, and then to Cuba, where he entered into relations with the leaders of the insurrection. In the space of a few weeks, apparently, he so won the confi-

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dence of the insurgent leaders, that they sent him off to New York to buy arms and ammunition, with a trifle of two millions six hundred thousand francs in his pocket.

This confidence, however, was sadly misplaced. Having got out of Cuba with the money in his pocket, the prisoner's conscience suddenly pricked him, and he bethought him of the baseness of co-operating in a treasonable enterprise against his own country. So what did he determine to do? For love of Spain this conscientious adventurer resolved to stick to the cash himself. He communicated with his wife, who was lying ill at Malaga, and made arrangements to return to Spain in disguise and fetch her, preparatory to a flight to that blessed refuge of the distressed, the Argentine Republic. In the meantime, of course, it was necessary to dispose temporarily of the two million six hundred thousand francs. A simple method of doing this suggested itself to the prisoner. He would go to Brighton (he was in the United States at this time), dig a hole in the suburbs of that attractive town, and bury the cash there in a little zinc box. This plan he proceeded to carry out, first converting the money into French and English banknotes, and having dug his little hole at Brighton—somewhere on the beach, I expect—and deposited the money therein, he made "un plan topographique du terrain avec toutes les mesures exactes et détaillés," and went off in search of his better half.

Alas! then it is the old story over again. By the treachery of "un ami très infâme," in whom he had confided, he no sooner arrived in his native land than he was handed over to the Spanish police, and there he was on July 26 last, languishing in the "Prison Militaire de Madrid," with his two million six hundred thousand francs down the hole at Brighton. This is a situation calculated to excite despair in most people; but the Spanish prisoner, as my readers are aware, is a man of infinite resource. In his prison cell he evolved yet another little plan, which was to tell the whole story to a respectable tradesman at Brighton, and promise him half the two million six hundred thousand francs on condition that he would assist in recovering the buried treasure. The only thing he asked in return was that his trusty friend at Brighton should first forward a little matter of ten thousand francs either in gold or French notes, in order to release the prisoner's baggage, containing the precious "plan topographique," which had been seized to cover the unpaid costs of his trial. It might have been thought that the Brighton tradesman would have jumped at this chance, but such is the spirit of distrust now abroad that he simply sent the whole correspondence to the Editor of Truth. The prisoner consequently is still languishing in the dungeon at Madrid, as he has been any time these ten years past. The stolen treasure is still down the hole at Brighton, which is only one out of ten thousand places where it has already been secreted. Finally, all that is now wanted is a big fool to pay the prisoner's preliminary fees for this clue to the hiding-place, as only too many fools have done already.

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Reuben May's latest appeal is in the form of a post card, on the back of which is a picture of a small child, who is supposed to make a pathetic appeal to the reader to furnish Mr. May with the means of sending her to his seaside home. The appeal states that May wants to send a thousand denizens of the slums for a day in the country, and that he has thousands more to attend to every week. I wonder why May does not publish a financial statement of his work during the last few years, or even a balance-sheet of his current receipts and expenditure, for this would remove his mission from the stigma which at present rests upon it, and would doubtless bring in a greatly increased revenue for the benefit of the children and others in whom he professes such an interest. As it is, no sensible person ever sends Reuben a halfpenny, and is never likely to do so.

It is not to be wondered at that swindling advertisements so frequently find their way into the cheaper class of weekly newspapers, when one sees how some of these journals deal with their own contributors. There is, I understand, a paper called *Sketchy Bits*. That journal has been offering every week prizes of 10s., 7s. 6d., and 2s. 6d. for the three best original jokes sent in. A gentleman was recently gratified to find that his contributions were awarded a place in this column on two occasions, with prizes of 10s. and 2s. 6d. respectively. On each occasion the column was headed with a note to the effect that postal orders for the value of the three prizes "had been forwarded to the authors." Not having received his postal orders, the successful candidate called at the office, but, although he paid several visits, he was unable to see the editor. He wrote to another contributor, to whom a prize had been awarded as far back as July 6, when a postal order was stated to have been forwarded to him, and he found that this gentleman, like himself, was still waiting for his prize. The only explanation vouchsafed up to the present time, is a statement by a clerk at the office that the prizes were not forwarded at once, in case it should turn out that the prize jokes were not original. This plea does not go for much, especially in view of the explicit statement published every week, that postal orders for the amount of the prizes have been forwarded.

A house-master in one of the public schools forwards me a racing circular addressed to one of the boys in his house by one "Robert Francis," of High-street, Kingswinford, and in forwarding it to me the master states that he had previously noticed numbers of letters addressed to other boys in his house in the same handwriting. The circular is of the usual type, giving selections for the next week's races (mostly what are technically known as "wrong 'uns"), and inviting the

boys to back them. This "Francis" is evidently an unscrupulous rascal, and house-masters in other schools would do well to look out for his communications, as well as for all others of the same class. When a number of letters arrive in the same handwriting, addressed to different boys, it is not a difficult matter to spot them.

It is simply sickening to find provincial papers engaged in the fulsome puffing of various swindles run for the purpose of selling bogus degrees and academic honours. An instance of this sort of thing has just occurred in Bedfordshire, where the *Bedfordshire Advertiser* and other local newspapers have announced with a great flourish of trumpets that the head-master of a Board school at Luton has been granted the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the National University of Illinois, Chicago—our old friend the "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis." Instead of condoling with the unfortunate schoolmaster who has paid his money to a commission agent in London for this bogus distinction, one journal sagely remarks that "the conditions on which the diploma was awarded are exceptionally high, being the presentation of a thesis, embodying results of original research or thought, expressed in scholarly language;" and adds that "the Commissioner" has reported that the schoolmaster's thesis, which was on the subject of "Personality," was "the most scholarly that he had ever had to do with." The "Commissioner," I suppose, is my old friend Sayer, *alias* James, also *alias* "G. Elliott," and the "Rev. J. Rogers," of West Kensington and other addresses; and a pretty flat anybody must be who takes this individual's opinion on the scholarly character of a thesis to be worth anything more than the paper on which it is written.

Another infatuated journalist has the following observations upon the honour granted to the schoolmaster:—

> English folk have often just reason for lightly esteeming "American degrees," but though there are certain "sham Universities" across the Atlantic, by virtue of which some English Nonconformist ministers are enabled to awe their congregations with a more or less valuable "D.D.," we may assure Luton people that there is nothing suspicious about the great institution at Chicago, which is so lavishly endowed by surrounding millionaires, and has attained a leading position in the United States. It is modelled on the University of London, and extremely few doctorates are granted by the Council of Graduation, the Chicago University being strictly limited in such matters by the terms of their charter. The diploma is only granted for original research and high scholarly qualification.

It is scarcely necessary to tell any reader of TRUTH that the whole of this passage is simply a farrago of imaginative balderdash, obviously founded upon the trade circulars distributed by the man James in his character of agent in London for the productions of the Porkopolis degree factory. The only true remark in the passage is that "the English folk often have just reason for lightly esteeming American degrees;" and so far from there being any reason for esteeming the Chicago degrees any less lightly than the rest, they are the most outrageous swindles of the lot. As for the "surrounding millionaires" who have "so lavishly endowed the great institution at Chicago," so far as I have had an opportunity of judging, the great institution is chiefly kept on its legs by the humble contributions of misguided Britons, who are either duped by an advertising agent into purchasing its trumpery distinctions or deliberately invest in them as a means of imposing upon others. As it is only three weeks since I published my last article on the Universitas Nationalis, it is not necessary to go into the matter at any length again now; but it seems a useless sort of work for one journalist to be doing his best to put the public on their guard against these frauds while a dozen others are doing their best to keep the swindle going.

An anonymous correspondent has written to me in reference to the sale of drink at the recent church bazaar at Fonmon. He seems to disagree with the remarks I made last week respecting the remarkable development of the alliance between the Church and the liquor trade which was witnessed at Fonmon. It is a rule of mine, however, not to reply to anonymous correspondents, and so I do not answer the questions he has asked me; but I dare say he will get all the information he desires if he applies to the Star of Barry Lodge of Good Templars. This body has also had under consideration the proceedings at Fonmon, with the result that it has passed a resolution expressing "deep regret, combined with righteous indignation," at the action of the Bishop of Llandaff in defending "the union of beer and such-like poisons with the work of the Church of England," repudiating "all such attempts to lower the prestige of the National Church by dragging its dignity into the mire of the soul-destroying traffic in intoxicating liquors," and asserting "that all such combinations and unholy alliances are God-destroying and God-dishonouring, and a sure method to swell the ranks of the lost." Let me add that, though I have myself at times used strong language on this subject, I am by no means prepared to endorse the views of the Barry Good Templars.

Apropos of the recent complaints about gas bills, a resident in the north of London writes to me in praise of one particular type of governor, and he seems to think that when gas bills are incorrect, it is generally the fault of the consumer for not having his meter tested regularly, or not having a governor. I can hardly believe, however, that half the meters in London last spring suddenly took, from their inherent viciousness, to registering twenty or thirty per cent. more than the amount consumed; and, as for governors, from my own experience I should be sorry to undertake the responsibility of recommending any one of them.

Oh, no. I am not going to enter into a discussion with all the bi-maniacs of the world. Last week I pointed out the utter absurdity of Mr. Bryan's doctrines respecting the currency. Dishonesty I can understand, but dishonesty which must result in loss rather than in gain passes my understanding. What is really needed in the United States is a rousing and progressive death duty on all accumulations, and some law to hinder rich men

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confederating together in the form of a trust to raise the price of an article against the community. Take, for instance, the Standard Oil Trust. Here we have a gang of plutocrats able to fix the price of every can of oil sold at a figure which secures to them, in addition to the fair commercial cost of the product, a huge monopoly profit. A law ought at once to be passed in America to render such a proceeding criminal; indeed, were Mr. Bryan's ticket the hanging of Mr. Rockafeller, I am by no means certain that I—had I been an American—should not have voted for it.

By the way, a Manchester correspondent sends me two printed papers which have reached him by post under the same cover, one being a leaflet of the Bimetallic League and the other a catalogue of "fine art photographs," in which "studies from nature" are a leading feature. It would be interesting to know whether other people have been similarly favoured, and, if so, how these two documents came to be enclosed in the same packet. It seems preposterous to suppose that the League distributes the catalogue with the leaflet as a kind of sugar for the bimetallic pill; and yet it is difficult to understand what object the dealer in "art photographs" can have in embedding his price-list in the pages of a dry dissertation on bimetallism.

We are all filled with horror and indignation by the reports of the atrocities that have been perpetrated during the past few days at Constantinople. It is only natural that we should be. But what do my readers think of the following extract from a letter that the *East Anglian Daily Times* has published from a Suffolk man at Buluwayo? Such accounts of the barbarity with which the war against the Matabele has been conducted—and this is but an example of many similar stories that have been sent home—make one doubt whether after all we have much right to censure the Turk for his inhuman butcheries:—

> For instance, when out with patrol a week or so back, we suddenly surprised five Kaffirs sitting down watching some goats; they simply jumped up, threw down their shields and assegais, and covered their faces with their hands. One short command was given and the five men were shot dead, and we rode on again as if nothing had happened. In another case, a young, green, and very humane doctor, sent fresh from home by the Red Cross Society, was tying up a wounded Matabele when a non-com. officer came by. "Hullo, doctor," says he, "what are you up to?" "Attending to this wounded native," replies the juvenile medico. "Nonsense," says the N.C.O.; "leave the nigger and come and look after some of my men." "No," says the doctor, "I must attend to this native first." "Oh, you must," says the other; "all right, doctor, bandage away," and he drew his revolver and blew half the Kaffir's head off! That young surgeon will not hear the last of that for many a long day.

Mr. Chamberlain has shown considerable wisdom in sending as our representative to the Transvaal a trained diplomatist and a gentleman entirely unconnected with South African troubles. If he would only go one step further, and separate the High Commissionership in South Africa from the Governorship of the Cape Colony, vesting the former in some independent man of approved experience, and provisionally suspending the administrative powers in Rhodesia of the Chartered Company, the tension in South Africa would disappear. This is the course that I have always advocated, and it becomes all the more desirable as Mr. Rhodes himself now admits that the maladministration of the Company led to the Matabele outbreak.

Will no one advise Mr. Rhodes not to have his exploits and his words telegraphed over from South Africa by his henchmen? In the interests of their financial divinity, I would, moreover, advise his Press friends in England to abate their laudations of everything done by him. The Matabele, having had their wives, their children, and their cattle seized, and finding that they would all be massacred were they to continue to engage in battles in which they were slaughtered, and unable to do more than to wound occasionally a horse or a man of their foes, declared that they wished to come to terms, and suggested a meeting with Mr. Colenbrander, in whom they seem to have some confidence. Mr. Rhodes was good enough to accompany him. Not a word is said in respect to the action of Mr. Colenbrander, but Mr. Rhodes is represented in the telegrams as a hero of surpassing courage in having trusted himself to the Matabele, and I make no doubt that we shall soon be informed that it is due to his abilities that the war has come to an end. A chief, we are told, addressed him as "Father and greatest of chieftains," and on his return he himself said, "This is one of the scenes which make life worth living for." A little while ago this "greatest of chieftains" announced that he intended "to fight the Matabele to-morrow." Others fought, and, so far as I see, when the result of the fighting ended, as was to be expected, in favour of those with cannon and rifles, others negotiated.

The position appears to be this. The speculators who have been selling holes to credulous English investors as gold mines, are desirous that Mr. Rhodes should remain in Rhodesia, for the excellent reason that they hope that he will himself contribute, with his financial gang, to the costs of the war, and that his name will still exercise sufficient spell over investors at home to induce them to send good money after bad. They are therefore wise in doing their best to retain him in Rhodesia as a material guarantee. But they know nothing of public opinion at home, and this absurd endeavour to palm him off as a hero only renders them and him ridiculous. Mr. Rhodes has had his day. Fortunately for him, he has made a great deal of money during that day. Any attempt to replace him on the pedestal on which he was raised by a section of the Press will fail.

By the way, as we are to have a Committee to inquire —*inter alia*—respecting the administration in Rhodesia, it might be well that the Matabele should be invited to send over witnesses to testify to their views in regard to this matter. But it will be necessary that these native witnesses should not be selected by those who spoiled them of their country, and who "administered" them. Some of the Matabele chiefs seem not wanting in intelligence. I should like to see before the Committee the chief who observed of one of the "administrators" of the Company that he was "only fit to serve rum in a canteen in Pretoria."

SCRUTATOR.

REPUDIATION BY THE SILVER TRICK.

WHETHER Mr. Bryan or Mr. McKinley will become President of the United States, I have not the remotest notion; for all that we have to go on upon this side of the Atlantic is that the supporters of each are of opinion that their candidate will win, coupled with the fact that both these opinions are biassed. With us, Liberals and Conservatives are always certain to win a General Election according to both. So far as I can make it out, the contest in America does not turn upon bimetallism, but rather upon replacing for the existing coin a coin of less intrinsic value, but which is to be called a dollar, and which would be worth about two-thirds of the present dollar. This is brought about by making the ratio between gold and silver one to sixteen, and the aim is to enable debtors to free themselves of about one-third of their indebtedness. Bimetallism means that a State engages to exchange gold against silver and silver against gold at a fixed ratio. Thus, were the United States to adopt bimetallism, it is obvious that, if silver were to be exchanged for gold and gold for silver by the United States Treasury at any ratio assumed for the moment to be the real one, the objection would be that this ratio would soon cease to be the real one, for this would depend on the amount of each metal produced, and the metal which would be depreciated in real value as against the other would drive out that other. This is the main objection to bimetallism.

But the Silverites do not, so far as I understand their position, pretend that they are bimetallists. They say that gold has appreciated in value, *i.e.*, that its purchasing power has become greater than it was in past years. Therefore, a man who has incurred a debt estimated by a gold standard, really pays more than he bargained for when he repays the debt. They would, therefore, allow him to repay his debt in silver of a less value than that of gold—which is tantamount to his repaying it in less gold than he borrowed.

There would be some point in this, had the appreciation of gold been of such an extent as to seriously increase any debt in practice, for this would be equivalent to the creditor securing, in addition to the agreed interest for his loan, an unearned increment both on capital and interest. This, however, is not the case. It cannot be too clearly realised that the coined money of a country is merely a standard of value, as a barometer is a standard of weather. The purchasing power of a pound sterling, or of a five dollar gold coin, may have increased; but this is due either to increase of production, leading to competition in selling, or to the saving of labour in production. Take cereals —they are cheaper than they were. But why? Because the area of production has increased, and the cost of carrying them to market has decreased. Take clothes: there are many labour-saving machines employed in their manufacture, and consequently the cost of making them is smaller, although the wage paid to each individual concerned in their making is higher than it was. The purchasing power of a sovereign or of a five-dollar gold coin has not appreciated, but the amount paid for goods which are bought with gold has depreciated, owing to causes which have nothing to do with the supply of gold. The volume of dealings between man and man, and between nation and nation, is in almost all cases balanced by means of bills, bonds, cheques, &c., &c., without any interchange of coin. This latter is only used to strike the balance; and in reality even the margin of loss or gain is met without coin, except where a country produces less than the equivalent of the interest that it has to pay for loans from another country. Against this payment of interest, the borrowing country has the advantage of all that has been brought into existence by the borrowed capital, assuming that this borrowed capital has been properly spent.

When kings clipped coin and obliged their creditors to accept the clipped coin in full payment, they simply paid their creditors less than their due. So if the United States allow debtors to pay their creditors on a reduced standard of value, this practically amounts to repudiation by the amount of the reduction. The debtors get an immediate advantage, but this is at the cost of the permanent advantage of the community, because more than what is gained by this new way of paying old debts is lost by permanent depreciation of credit. At present there is an unexampled amount in the world of monetary accumulations. For a country to be prosperous, it must have capital and labour. What capital requires is security. The interest that it exacts for loans is dependent upon the security offered. The less the interest charged the greater is the share that goes to labour. Interest on loans, whether to individuals or to States, has fallen to one-half of what it was thirty years ago, where the security is deemed ample. This is an enormous advantage to labour. But if the United States or any other country, by means of some hocus-pocus in regard to its coinage, reduces all capital lent, and all interest on capital lent, to two-thirds of existing value, it will on all future loans be mulcted in far more than it possibly gains by this procedure. It is, in fact, killing the goose for its golden eggs.

There is a good deal of distress just now in the United States. Speaking broadly, the Southern and the Western States are creditors to the Eastern States and to Europe. If it be asserted that this indebtedness is so great that the inhabitants of the debtor States cannot live and thrive, then there might be some ground for their going into qualified liquidation. Assuming this to be so, a reduction in indebtedness ought to be decreed, much as the State with us has insisted on a reduction in rents in Ireland. But is this the case? I doubt it. I do not see that it is claimed that the interest on capital loaned is excessive. Much that has made the Western and Southern States industrial communities, instead of mere rocks and prairies, has been due to Eastern and European capital lent at fair current interest. Western and Southern farmers have borrowed. With this borrowed money they have been able to engage in agricultural enterprise. The price of their produce has fallen owing

to competition both at home and abroad. As I have said, if it can be shown that they cannot live and pay, and if this state of things is universal, then there may be some plea for a partial liquidation decreed by the Government. But to effect this partial liquidation by tampering with the coin, and to pretend that there has been no partial liquidation, is mere hypocrisy, and it is to do away with an existing evil by creating a far greater one.

Let us suppose that the dollar is reduced to two-thirds of its present value, and that this depreciated dollar must by law be accepted by all creditors as the equivalent of the existing dollar. What would follow? Debts would be reduced by one-third, but in future loans would be charged double the present interest, because capitalists would dread that what has been once done may be done again, and yet again. Apart from the immediate advantage to the debtors, workers in the United States would not be the richer, any more than the weather would be bettered by marking on the barometer "changeable" for what is now "storm," and "fair" for what is now "changeable." If a man bought land he would have to pay more dollars for it. If a man sold produce he would, it is true, get more dollars, but against this he would have to pay more for all that he might buy. An artisan would demand more dollars for his labour, in order to secure to himself the payment which secures to him his present purchasing power as a return for his labour. From an economic standpoint, the whole thing is as absurd as if we were to fancy that we should all become rich in England by decreeing that henceforward what is now called half-a-sovereign is to be called a sovereign. All that would happen, were Mr. Bryan's theories to be reduced to practice, would be that the West and the South which want capital would have to pay more for it, and in everything else things would remain as they are, except that three dollars would represent the present purchasing power of two dollars.

I suspect that the owners of silver mines in the United States are at the bottom of the silver movement. Obviously, if these worthies could insist on all the silver that they may produce being converted by the Treasury into current coin, they would be very great gainers. There is practically no limit to the production of silver in the Western States, provided that a market be secured at a fixed and remunerative rate for all produced. The United States would be soon flooded with these silver dollars; and it is by dangling before the more ignorant of their fellow-countrymen this unlimited extension of coined money that they have deluded them into the idea that the entire community would be benefited by it. As well might the owners of copper mines ask, as a panacea for all want and misery, that the ratio of copper to silver should be three to one, and that the United States should be obliged to coin all copper offered to it into coins three times the size of a silver dollar, and that these copper dollars should be legally the equivalent of the silver dollars.

I do not see how the United States would benefit, as against other countries to whom they export goods, by this alteration in the value of the dollar. Inside the United States, corn now selling at two dollars would sell for three dollars; the cost of transport to the coast would be increased at the same ratio, and so would the cost of transport across the Atlantic. But when the European State that buys the corn paid for it, the fact that three dollars only mean two dollars of present value would be taken into consideration by the purchaser, and the corn would have to be sold at precisely the same price as now, estimated at the standard of value of the purchasing State. So it would be with all imports into the United States from Europe. Where the United States purchaser now pays two dollars, he would have to pay three dollars. The sole and only result of Mr. Bryan's experiment in coinage, apart from the immediate advantage of existing debts being paid in a clipped coinage, and, consequently, reduced by the amount of the clipping, would be that silver-mine owners would benefit at the cost of the community, and that the percentage of interest on loans would go up, whilst each unit that it went up would be so much out of the pocket of labour. If in America the interest on money were far higher than in England, cost of bringing produce or manufactured articles into the market would be higher in America than in England by the amount of the excess of interest. The modern problem is to attract capital to a country, and to pay for it the lowest rate of interest. This is specially the case with the United States, where development, which involves capital, is more needed than in the older European States. Mr. Bryan's plan does precisely the reverse; nor can it be said that the existing capital in America would be used instead of European capital, for the Eastern lender would want security for his money, and although he might get a promise of higher interest in his own country than from European States, he would prefer low interest with security for his money, to high interest with no certainty of ever seeing either interest or capital. Apart from all morality, honesty in this matter is the best policy, because credit is dependent on honesty, and credit is wealth.

I am one of the warmest admirers of the United States in Europe. I am a democrat of the democrats in the true sense of the word. I believe that one of the greatest dangers to democracy in America is that huge accumulations of capital are in the hands of the few, and that these few are too apt to combine together against the well-being of the many. Where it can be proved that the many would permanently benefit by a reform in regard to the laws that regulate property, I am an advocate for such reforms. Morality and accumulations are not with me the same thing. So far as law could do it, I would have all possessed of a good living income, and none possessed of more. But as a democrat, and one desirous that the cause of democracy should everywhere prevail, and as an admirer of the sterling common-sense of the American people, I sincerely trust that Mr. Bryan will be defeated. When a man talks about a nation being crucified on a cross of gold as a ground for altering the value of the coinage of a country, and when he announces as a great discovery that his country is to be converted into an Elysium by reducing the purchasing power

of its coin, he is, to my mind, either a fool or, not being one himself, he wishes to float into power by fooling others. I see it stated that Mr. Bryan has, for the last year or two, received money from the owners of silver mines to go about lecturing on the free coinage of silver. Probably this is not true, but if it be not, then he has not received what is due to him. His panacea for all the woes that afflict humanity in America will alone benefit the owners of silver mines, whilst it will, by destroying the collective credit of the entire community, cost his country far more than ever these men will gain by it.

It may be, and it very probably will be, that communities will in the future more fully recognise their collective duty to all than they hitherto have done, and that those who have acquired an excess of this world's goods will be called upon to contribute far more towards the general prosperity of all than they do at present. Far from regretting this, I rejoice to think that it will be so. But for men to suppose that any such result will be effected by asking all to trample under foot one standard of values and to substitute for it another—to curse gold and to worship silver—is as silly as is the savage who beats his god and fashions another out of stick or stone. Crucify humanity, indeed, on a cross of gold! As well might humanity be said to be crucified on a cross of silver where silver is the measure of values, or on a cross of copper where copper is the measure. Coin, whether it be of gold, or of silver, or of copper, is merely a means to facilitate and to simplify that barter which has existed since the first primeval savage exchanged an egg with his neighbour for an ear of corn. Mr. Bryan mistakes shadow for substance, a measure for what is measured. I am against him, because I am against any quack who puts forward some elixir, which destroys health, as a certain cure for disease. I am for hard money, because without hard money, fixed and immovable, the United States will enter on the downward grade, and this I should regard not only as a calamity to its inhabitants, but to all mankind.

USE AND ABUSE OF THE LIBEL LAWS.

It is a popular idea that we have in this country a Free Press. Like a great many other popular ideas, however, this one is to a great extent a delusion. In saying this I do not refer to the fact that a newspaper is not free in this country to say what it likes. No one in a civilised community can be free to say or do what he likes. It is a fundamental principle of social order that no man has a right to injure a fellow citizen; and to this extent the liberty of journalists has to be restrained in common with the liberty of every other member of the community. What I mean when I say that we have not a Free Press is that the law as it stands does not leave every newspaper free to speak the truth without fear of the consequences. The law is such that it is in the power of any man, who can get a solicitor to act for him, to prevent newspapers, or at least a very large number of them, from speaking the truth, or even to force them into withdrawing and apologising for the truth when they have spoken it. It is only the very wealthy or the very reckless newspaper proprietor who can afford to defy such attempts at intimidation; and, as a newspaper is a commercial speculation, the first object of which is to make money for the proprietor, and not to perform public services at the proprietor's expense, even the wealthiest newspapers are careful to avoid placing themselves in the position of having to choose between withdrawing statements which they know to be true, or defending their statements at a cost which can never be recovered in full. The smaller newspapers are intimidated to an extent of which the public at large has no conception whatever. To the proprietor of a small provincial paper, or of a trade or professional journal, whether in London or the provinces, the law of libel is a perpetual terror, and those who have been behind the scenes could testify that in the offices of many journals, both in London and the provinces, which are popularly credited with being fearless and outspoken, the managers are ready to do almost anything, short of a public and ignominious surrender such as would itself be financially damaging to the paper, to avoid the certain loss and the incalculable risks of defending an action at law. While this state of things exists, the freedom of the British Press is simply one of our great national myths.

I have been moved to make these remarks by several letters which have reached me during the last fortnight or so. I had occasion to mention in Truth a short time ago that within about six months three different firms of solicitors had called upon me either to withdraw or apologise for something I had said, or to refrain from saying something which I proposed to say, under threat that legal proceedings, or "further steps," would be taken if I failed to comply, which threats are shown to have been mere empty attempts at intimidation by the simple fact that I have in each case failed to comply, and that no further action of any kind has been taken. Upon this I remarked that to attempt to intimidate a newspaper with threats of legal proceedings, when there is no intention to carry these threats into execution, is an abuse of the law, and an abuse to which respectable solicitors ought not to lend themselves. Sundry editors have written to me in support of these remarks in Truth, and all have experiences to offer, which show the helplessness of small newspapers in the presence of any demand, however outrageous, backed by threats of litigation, and the extent to which this helplessness is traded upon by individuals whose conduct exposes them to remark in the Press, and by solicitors who take up the cudgels on behalf of such individuals. One of my correspondents is the editor of a trade journal in the North of England, and he speaks with special bitterness of the effect of the libel laws as they stand at present upon journals of this class, the circulation of which is necessarily limited, and the capital embarked limited in proportion. The law, says this gentleman, "is the despair of every journalist who possesses in the

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slightest degree the instinct of serving the public interest as well as his own."

What strikes me most in this matter is the part played in it by solicitors—members, as we are reminded on all occasions, of an honourable profession. It is bad enough that solicitors should lend themselves to such proceedings as above described, but I am sorry to say that there is a worse view of their conduct in many cases of this kind, and that is that they take advantage on their own account of the timidity of journalists in order to put money into their own pockets under the name of costs. The editor who inadvertently exposes himself to a demand for an apology and withdrawal is also, as a general rule, informed that he must pay a certain number of guineas, "our costs in this matter," and the letter is always worded in such a way that the threat of proceedings covers the demand for costs equally with the demand for an apology. What is the right name for this? I call it blackmail, and I do not know any other term which accurately expresses it. The costs incurred in such a case can rarely exceed the fee for one interview with the client and the charge for writing one letter—a matter of something under a sovereign in nine cases out of ten. Yet it is a common thing in journalistic experience for a letter of this kind to be accompanied by a demand on the solicitor's part for payment of a sum of two or three, or, it may be, four or five guineas.

This is a matter which concerns newspaper proprietors first and foremost, and one of my contemporaries suggests that what is required is an organisation of newspapers for their own defence, so that any small editor threatened on insufficient grounds may have behind him the snpport of a powerful organisation. This is all very well, but as it is only the small men who feel the need of such support, I fear that it is only small men who will be induced to combine. There is also the obvious difficulty that, if they felt that they had behind them the strength of a trade organisation, small and struggling journals would become reckless, cultivate libel actions for the purpose of advertisement, and keep the Association in perpetual hot water. For the latter reason it would, in my opinion, be impossible, as well as undesirable in the public interest, to form an association for the purpose of defending all libel actions out of a common fund; and I do not see myself how any trade organisation of this kind is to discriminate between cases in which its members have got themselves into trouble by their own fault and those in which they are not in any way to blame. Two practical considerations, however, suggest themselves to me. One is that the legal profession might discountenance more strongly than it does at present blackmailing operations against newspapers by the lower class of solicitors. I think that it ought to be laid down that a solicitor is not justified in writing to demand an apology, and the payment of his own costs, under threat of legal proceedings, unless he has received definite and final instructions from his client to issue a writ in the event of the demand not being complied with. It is not consistent with the traditions of an honourable profession that recourse to the law should be threatened for the mere purpose of intimidation, and without any intention of carrying out the threat; and where such a thing is done, it ought to be in the power of the party against whom such threats are uttered to bring the conduct of the solicitor before the Incorporated Law Society, with a certainty that that tribunal will call upon him for an explanation, and take adequate notice of his conduct if the explanation is not satisfactory. This step alone would do much to reduce the amount of intimidation and blackmailing now practised upon the smaller class of newspaper proprietors. A man may not attempt to obtain money by threat of criminal proceedings, and I fail to see why he should be allowed to do so by threat of civil process—at any rate, where the threat is shown by the result to be a threat and nothing more.

Another reform which I have more than once advocated is that, subject to the decision of the High Court, a newspaper proprietor should, under certain circumstances, have the right to demand security for costs before an action is taken into Court. Here, I admit, I am ventilating a personal grievance. The question of intimidation and blackmail does not trouble me personally, nor any newspaper proprietor who is in a position to snap his fingers at attempts in that direction. But every newspaper proprietor, big or little, is absolutely at the mercy of any impecunious individual who, without any legitimate cause for action, chooses to subject him to the trouble and expense of a libel action. In my own person I have exemplified this scandal to the extent of upwards of £40,000 in less than twenty years, that amount being at the present moment due to me from various disreputable persons who have brought actions against Truth without success, and often on such flimsy pretexts that the cases have never been even taken into Court. It may happen that a newspaper proprietor has to bear the whole cost of defending himself, even where the plaintiff is not wholly impecunious. For instance, in the case which cost me the heaviest bill I have ever paid, the plaintiffs were people of considerable means when they started their action, but their own solicitor took care to protect himself by getting the whole of their property under his control before a verdict in my favour was given. It seems to me that this ought not to be allowed, for it is a direct encouragement to solicitors to bring speculative actions; and even where an action is brought justifiably and in good faith, and proves unsuccessful, it seems to me that the party unjustly sued has a claim to consideration before the solicitor of the unsuccessful party. That is not the law at present.

All these considerations combine to place newspapers at a very great disadvantage in publishing what they know, and can prove, to be the truth, and while this disadvantage exists, I say that it is absurd to talk of there being any real freedom for the Press. As long as to publish facts imputing discredit to individuals may entail an expenditure of many hundreds and perhaps thousands of pounds, only the wealthiest of men or corporations can afford to publish such facts; and only a few of these will care to take the risk of publishing them. The small men are not free to publish the truth, and the majority of them refrain

from publishing it whenever they see a possibility of getting into trouble thereby. The reader will, I think, see for himself that this is not simply a personal or a trade grievance. The legitimate freedom of the Press is a matter of the highest public importance, for it is directly to the interest of the public that the real truth should be known upon every matter of public concern. That will never be possible until there has been some material change in the procedure and law relating to actions for libel.

THE CONVERSION OF ST. TERRISS.

That manly and excellent actor, William Terriss, deservedly popular, in that after a long and faithful service at the Adelphi, he has kept his forcible melodramatic style clear of all rant and bombast, has, however, suffered severely at the hands of his stage enemies in nearly every play in which he has been recently engaged. He has been flung over precipices, and has been the hero of many a mutiny at the Nore; he has been sent off on a forlorn hope by his lady love in the American War; he has been paralysed as a fencing master; and degraded to the ranks as a Young Lochinvar in the barrack square; but I do not believe that in his whole melodramatic career, this luckless but handsome Terriss has ever been so cruelly and despitefully used as he is in the new Adelphi play by that arch scoundrel, Abingdon the Bad! Mr. Haddon Chambers and Mr. Comyns Carr have certainly "taken the cake" in the art of creating a dramatic monster to arouse the execrations of an Adelphi audience. Mr. J. D. Beveridge, now promoted to the ranks of a genial old Irish gentleman, was a pretty good Adelphi villain in his time. But the experiences of O. Smith, Arthur Stirling, J. D. Beveridge, James Fernandez, & Co., all pale before the misdeeds of the white-livered scoundrel of a newspaper correspondent created by Mr. Abingdon, and due to the fertile brains of Haddon Chambers and Comyns Carr.

William Terriss and W. L. Abingdon were at Eton together, and, presumably, both of gentle blood. Eton is proud of her alumni, but she has no cause to be proud of the Etonian Abingdon. Nor for the matter of that has the Army or the newspaper press, to which the wretched creature attaches himself, when he has been kicked out of every other profession. At Eton, Terriss and Abingdon fought until "their eyes were sable," and I must give Terriss the credit even in his schooldays of considering his companion Abingdon a very bad lot altogether. Eventually the world goes so well with Terriss that he is sent out by the War Office—though only of the rank of Major—in command of an expedition to the Soudan. I suppose the authorities were hard up for Colonels and had to fall back on Majors. Abingdon, who has changed his name and become a war correspondent, asks Terriss to take him out. Terriss never liked the fellow, and, like the deceased Mr. Manning, the murderer, would doubtless have desired to "finish him off with a ripping chisel," but so brimming over is he with the milk of human kindness and love that without any consultation with Pall Mall, Major Terriss consents to yield to Abingdon's request. What such distinguished gentlemen as Archibald Forbes, Bennett Burleigh, and Melton Prior would say to such a companion is not hinted; but, be that as it may, Abingdon is empowered by some newspaper unnamed to describe the Soudanese campaign at the time of the captivity of General Gordon at Khartoum. Before the somewhat gloomy Terriss—gloom not created at all by his nature or temperament, but simply because the comic ladies and gentlemen on the stage will cut in and spoil his business—well, before the gloomy Terriss starts for Egypt, he vainly imagines that he is desperately in love with "a charming young widow he met in the train." But the lovely and confiding Jessie Millward is not a widow at all. She is the cast-off wife of this rascally war correspondent. Husband and wife meet before Terriss embarks, and happily put an end to the vapid talk of the "subs." finishing their dinner at a Southampton hotel. Sillier "subs." never yet wasted time in any Adelphi drama. It was a positive relief when Jessie Millward came in and met her journalistic husband, thereby compelling the comic ladies and gentlemen to go back to their dressing-rooms and play poker until they are wanted on the stage to spoil more scenes and interfere with the main current of the story.

When, therefore, Jessie and the penman meet, why does she not tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, to the innocent Terriss? Jessie is, no doubt, half inclined so to do, but she remembers the Etonian's basilisk eye, and has no doubt encountered his fists as well as Terriss has done on the Eton playing fields. So Terriss and Abingdon go off to the war with those dreadful "subs." as merry as sandboys, leaving poor miserable Jessie at home to be protected by the comic relief.

When the war correspondent arrives in Egypt he "chums up" with a mealy-mouthed German in knickerbockers and old boots, who looks like the gentleman who used to sing, "Oh, vere, oh, vere, is my leetle dog gone" in the play; but this maudlin German only wails of his missing "moo cows." The Teutonic Mackintosh is almost as great a villain as the journalist, and they put their heads together to ruin poor Terriss, who, being virtually a prisoner, looks more melancholy than he did in Act 1, though he ought to cheer up, since a merciful providence has removed the vapid "subs." from the scene.

The twin villains, German and English, if, unlike their master the Devil, they cannot quote the Scriptures, clearly show that they understand the text. They adopt the biblical incident of putting some stolen money into the mouth of Terriss' sack, and the forlorn Adelphi hope is tied up by one of the disciples of the Mahdi, to be starved to death like Constantine Brancomir in "For the Crown." When crucified and helpless, the as yet unconverted Terriss is exposed to the extra torture of being insulted by his old Eton pal, who not only refuses to release him or to give him a cup of cold water or even "pison," but wags his head at him according to historical precedent, and says "Vah! Vah!" But as

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in the case of Coppée's fine play, a veiled Egyptian Melitza dashes out of the desert, falls upon Terriss's manly and exposed breast, into which happily she does not plunge her dagger, which might be dangerous, but forthwith she cuts the hanging man's cords and presents him with the dagger in order that he may be revenged on the treacherous Abingdon, and dispatch him straight away. But Terriss prefers to dispatch him very slowly indeed, and it takes him two long acts to mutter "vengeance is mine," and to be ultimately converted to Christianity by Jessie Millward, after the fashion of Marcus Superbus and Mercia in Shaftesbury-avenue. There is evidently some little peculiarity about this dagger presented by the Soudanese Melitza to the released Lion Terriss. Abingdon is presumably either, like a cat, possessed of nine lives, or his brutal body is proof against any weapon but a Soudanese dagger I should have thought that a revolver or a handy sword might have done the trick; but no, if Abingdon is to die, it must be done by the dagger, or not at all. At least this is insisted on with iteration, and contrary to all dramatic precedent. The Eton villain, as it happens, does not die by the dagger after all. The drama is full of these unconventional surprises. When Abingdon is caught by Terriss—who has turned himself, after the Soudanese campaign, from a soldier into an Oxford Doctor of Divinity at Commemoration, in a red and black gown, a costume of penance worn by the soldier presumably to warn the audience of his coming conversion to Christianity—Terriss, who, I must own, is a little bit spiteful, prods Abingdon in the hand with the dagger, just to give him a taste of the Soudanese steel. But the abject confession, rung so "pointedly" from Abingdon with the dagger that pins his palm on to the table, is eventually consigned to the limbo of dramatic but forgotten things. Nothing comes of the dagger or the confession either.

It is time now to convert Terriss, who still wears his blood-red cloak of repentance. The erstwhile Atheist, who has said some really very naughty things about the Powers that be, is to be added to the Army of Martyrs headed by Headley Vicars, Havelock, and General Gordon. Henceforth he will go out to battle with a Bible in his sack. The Adelphi Mercia is, of course, Jessie Millward. She does not lead her convert into the arena, but up the Alps, which are so strangely constructed that the couple do not even meet Abingdon, whom they have preceded along the narrow path hardly wide enough for a couple of goats to pass each other, and who arrives at the top ages before the hero and heroine. The audience prays earnestly for the conversion of St. William Terriss, for it has been bored to distraction by the scoundrelly German thief and liar, who has also been converted to Christianity when he should be "doing time" on the treadmill. This oily scoundrel babbles about his "coos" so often that to the majority the very odour of milk will be distasteful henceforth, and he is allowed by the unconventional authors to go unpunished for his crimes and canting imposture. If Abingdon and the "cooing" German had been put into a sack and flung over the precipice, no one would have experienced so much as a flutter. But instead of that, Abingdon and Terriss do an acrobatic fall, Terriss is saved by a convenient bramble, and the convert and the grass widow try to save the ghastly grinning Abingdon by a "pully-hauly" feat with a rope. This, however, Providence will not allow. Abingdon is not to be admitted to Paradise at any price. Down he must go. So the rope breaks, and exit the Etonian journalist into the glacier. Serve him well right. I believe, if the wretch had been saved, that the Adelphi pit and gallery would have revolted. The cry for unconventionality may have some plausible reason in it. But we cannot allow the Biblical drama to save Adelphi scoundrels; it would be positively immoral so to do. They must die, and the clear note of dramatic vengeance must be sounded.

With such an accomplished literary man as Mr. Comyns Carr at the figurehead, it is needless to say that the play is well written, or at least as well written as an Adelphi play has need to be. Were Mr. Carr to give to this theatre the kind of work that he gives to the Lyceum, he would not be the artist he unquestionably is. The acting all round is quite up to the Adelphi standard. Both Mr. Terriss and Miss Millward are at their very best, the one manly, vigorous, energetic, and convincing; the other tender, forcible, and human. The stage has few better actresses of the English Mrs. Kendal school than Miss Jessie Millward, and she has no affectations to disfigure her style. I should, I own, have been puzzled in casting the play whether to award the villain to Mr. Abingdon or Mr. C. N. Somerset—the first has the jaunty ease, the last has the power. And the horrible villain of this play really requires the kind of melodramatic power that Henry Irving shows in the "Lyons Mail." The Eton ruffian is a kind of Duboscq, Robert Macaire, and Bill Sikes rolled into one. It is a Frederic Lemaître part; but where is the Frederic Lemaître of the English stage? The heads of authors may teem with schemes, but where are the artists to interpret them? Mr. Abingdon has never done anything better. He is an artist, and a subtle one into the bargain. He thinks out all his work. If he could quite have succeeded as the blackguard journalist he would have demanded recognition as the best melodramatic actor on the boards. He missed the prize, but he was a very good *proxime accessit*. The comic relief was, to tell the truth, a little tedious. Harry Nicholls and his companions did their best, but the comic interest did not spring naturally out of the story; and have we not had quite enough of Harry Nicholls and the pyjamas? The joke is getting as wearisome as the old one of the low comedian and the squashed bandbox. The fun was slabbed in, and was desperately heavy on hand the first night. Doubtless it has now all been cut to order, and the critics are being blamed for the defects that they pointed out, and by this time have been remedied. An error corrected on the stage is an error that never existed. Authors will always point to their play and say "How beautiful it is!" never "How indifferent it was!" I have very little doubt that by this time the comic scenes have been reasonably adjusted, and that Mr.

Mackintosh no longer makes those incessant and mournful allusions to his Alpine "coos," which are about as unnecessary to the play as their depressing master with his "skim-milk" virtue. But, joking apart, the audience seemed to be intensely interested in "Boys Together," and swallowed it whole, as schoolboys do in the case of a big peppermint bull's eye.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE FRENCH SIR FRANCIS JEUNE.

PARIS learned the other day from the papers that a charming actress, reputed for her *mignonnes grâces* and swan-like neck, the daughter of a venerated historian, and her husband had been divorced for *torts réciproques*. What "mutual wrongs" may be in such a case every one is left to guess—or try to guess. In England there would have been no glossing or veiling over. You would have had several columns a day for a week for your enlightenment. Divorces afford the one chance for respectable papers and respectable readers to indulge in views of human nature from the "naturalist" standpoint. But French papers need no Divorce-court revelations, as the journalists on their staffs can write much better tales out of their own heads. They can give them a literary touch which barristers rarely attain to. By general consent, and from regard to innocent members of respondents' and co-respondents' families, divorces are carried through without that scandal, which is, as it seems here to us, the delight of English men and English ladies, even though they be of the Grundy kindred. There is none of that public washing of soiled linen—and family linen, too—which sometimes shows the world and his wife that Peers and Peeresses are just like ordinary mortals. However, the ferocious attacks and cross attacks of which Sir Francis Jeune is often the witness lend to French readers of English journals an interest they would otherwise not have. A Frenchman's present notion, as taken from Divorce-court trials, is that "Pairesse d'Angleterre" and "femme perdue" are nearly synonymous.

Sir Francis Jeune does not, I suppose, receive visits from fair clients of Sir George Lewis before they come into Court. A French Judge may be properly called upon at home to receive explanations from a fair respondent or suitor on delicate matters which she fears her counsel cannot quite understand. The suing or responding husband can only do so if quite sure the wife has been trying the eloquence of tears and the subtle effects of sentimental reasons. Thus the Judge becomes the sympathising confidant of couples seeking to be disunited. He may, should they prove desirable persons to know, become a fast and faithful friend. Their suits are expedited *in camerâ*. Notice is not given of the impending trial, which is over in a trice. Newspaper sympathy takes the discreet form of non-intervention. If the case is mentioned at all, three or four lines are thought enough.

A divorce for mutual wrongs is granted when man and wife have been unfaithful to each other, and the judge thinks there is little to choose between them. Legally it means this: that judgment is given for the husband against the wife and for the wife against the husband. Each party wins his or her suit, but is worsted in the cross suit of the other party. When there are children—as in the case of the delightful actress and her cross-grained husband—the Bench decides, after judging there have been *torts réciproques*, to have them brought up by a third party. But there are the costs of the suits and the expense of education to be settled. Infidelity is looked upon as an absolute sin by an English judge and jury. Not so in France. A Judge (there are no divorce juries) can here pare down breaches of the seventh commandment when he views them in the light of surrounding circumstances. Of course, if the husband or the wife be poor, he or she escapes all costs. But should man and woman be equally wealthy—the common case in France—what happens? A curious appraising of the liability of both parties. There is, I think, no parallel to it in England. This is how it is done:—

Suppose the first offence were committed by the husband, whom we will call the Comte du Vieux-Château: there will be a very bad mark against him, even though, sin for sin, that of the husband is held to be somewhat lighter than that of the wife, because she is a woman. But if he is a man of wealth, liable to temptation, and was travelling by himself, but having offered his wife to take her abroad, this will be an important circumstance. It will entitle him to, say, a discount of 25 if not 50, or, perhaps, 75 per cent. on his black marks. The Comtesse, in his absence, also fell. There would be three degrees of guilt, according as she sent her husband abroad alone, in the expectation of his sinning (to get up a case against him); if she had no evil designs, but, hearing of his conduct, sinned to be quits; or was ignorant of it at the time of her fall. In the latter case, because a woman, she would be more guilty. If an actress, the erring wife is considered not more bound by a moral law than a man. French judges do not believe in the stage as a possible school for virtue. Their notion is that, short of a miracle, an actress must fall. A liaison on either side, if entered into in the home, is a serious affair. It is like the old English law that made a distinction between stealing damp and dry linen in a field.

The judge, after totting up the bad marks he has mentally tallied against either party, and taking into account all circumstances of sex (sometimes age), profession, provocation, iteration, scandal, condoning, and so on, will perhaps order the Comte du Vieux-Chateau to pay two-fifths, and the Comtesse three-fifths for the education of the children. Supposing the Comte was "imprudent" in the choice of male friends he asked to his house, then he might have to pay four-fifths, and the Comtesse only one-fifth. A suit for separation before Naquet's law was passed was refused to a husband who had invited the Prince of Orange (Prince Citron) to pay visits of several days to his country house. He ought to have known better. The costs of a fair sinner trapped in a restaurant supping *en parti fine* with another Royal

wanderer were also reduced because of her husband's "imprudence" in encouraging the visits of the illustrious personage. This Royal *jouisseur* escaped being taken before a commissary of police by giving Prince Citron's visiting card as his own to the detective who made the arrest. The lady was allowed to go into a back room to put on her bonnet. There she quickly changed her clothes for those of a pastry-cook's boy, and with a basket of plates on her head got away before the eyes of the detectives. This scandal was thought very bad by the judge, but marital "imprudence" was set down as nearly tantamount to a letter of licence. Should the Comte be a cross-grained, sour husband, who keeps his best manners for the boudoirs of pretty women, then his share of the costs, no matter what the Comtesse did, might be brought up to nine-tenths. In this case the lady might be congratulated by her friends on "a moral victory."

These nice adjustments of the scales of justice do not affect the theoretical question as to the guilt of the couple —for we supposed both parties to be guilty. Rather the idea is that each party must pay in proportion to the damage his or her conduct has done to the "partnership" (association), which is the legal definition of marriage in the French Code.

All Paris will be able to see the coming Imperial visitors. The general holiday to mark their arrival will enable all the schoolboys and schoolgirls to enjoy the spectacle. It is now decided that they are to follow, so far as the Palais Bourbon, nearly the route taken by the Shah the first time he came here. He stayed at the Petit Bourbon — then vacant, because the National Assembly sat at Versailles. The difference will lie in the Rue de la Faisanderie, which is taken in preference to the Bois de Boulogne, to enable the families of M. de Freycinet and other Deputies living in that street to see the Czar and Czarina proceeding from Passy-green to the Russian Embassy. From the Esplanade des Invalides they are to take an unnecessarily devious route. Instead of turning into the Rue de Grenelle St. Germain—in which their future temporary residence stands—they are to turn into the Rue de l'Université, drive then down the Rue de Iéna, pass by the south entrance of the Chamber of Deputies into the Rue de Bourgogne, and then into the Boulevard de St. Germain, to enable the War Minister to let his staff and endless ladies salute them as they pass. The Rues de Lille and Solferino are also to be driven through, thus enabling the families of a number of Deputies residing there to witness the sight of the day. Any one desirous of seeing how well things are managed, so as to afford an historical spectacle to the greatest possible number, should study a map of Paris. Would as much care be taken in London, if an Imperial ally visited the Queen, to put him through his paces for such a length of way? The visit to Versailles will also be turned into a gratis spectacle. Their Imperial Majesties are to lunch in the Palace, and to see the *grandes eaux*—which cannot be what they were thirty years ago. The conduits are greatly out of repair, and most of the basins in a ruinous state. Rats swarm in the Trianon gardens. They have lost all sense of fear, and gather round picnic parties. Time's effacing fingers are visibly at work on the Swiss village and the trees sent by Joseph II. from Vienna for Marie Antoinette to plant. The famous silver poplar, that shaded the steward's or bailie's house, was snapped in two a short time ago by a storm. The small square palace, however, is as it is "believed" she left it. The whole place looks like a faded beauty, who wants to war against the effects of Time with cheap cosmetics and adornments that suit not her age.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

SEVERAL striking phrases, Dear Lady Betty, have recently obtained currency, and it is important, in the interest of historic truth, that the origin of these should be established at once.

. . . . .

A well-known lady, referring to divorce, is supposed to have said, "C'est le commencement de la femme." This is an obvious alteration of the celebrated phrase which Talleyrand adopted, though it was not he who created it.

. . . . .

Dr. Jameson at Krugersdorp did not call to his troopers "Follow my white flag." The correct sentence was the memorable rallying cry of Henry IV.: "Follow my white plume."

. . . .

When the Duke of Devonshire—who was then Lord Hartington—withdrew from the Liberal Party, and joined the Unionists, he did not look round to the Irish Home Rule members, and murmur, "Et il faut quitter tout cela!" It was Cardinal Mazarin who said that upon his death-bed, referring to his favourite art treasures.

. . . . .

A recently-created Peer did not have the message conveyed to Lord Salisbury before a critical division, "If you wish to bribe me you must send me a coronet." It was Demetrius who said to the Emperor Caligula, "If you wish to bribe me you must send me your crown."

. . . . .

It is not true that a prominent Conservative recently declared that "Speech was given to Mr. Balfour to disguise the thoughts of Lord Salisbury." It was Talleyrand who created the phrase, "Speech was given to man to disguise his thoughts."

. . . . .

"All the other sciences have rules and principles: patriotic stock-jobbing has none," is a sentence which has been erroneously attributed to Mr. Cecil Rhodes. It was Marshal Saxe who said, "All the other sciences have rules and principles: *war* has none."

. . . . .

The phrase "The Tory alliance with Mr. Chamberlain is a Liberal education," was never uttered by a Conservative Cabinet Minister. It is a manifest parody of the celebrated saying of Sir Richard Steele concerning Lady Elizabeth Hastings, that "To love her was a liberal education."

. . . . .

To avoid serious errors being made in the future, it is necessary to trace at once the origin of these memorable phrases, and to give them in their accurate form.

* * * * *

It was telegraphed from New York on Friday, that on landing, when Li Hung Chang was received by General

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

M'Cook, he asked the latter, "Where did you all become Generals?" There is a companion story to this which Sir Walter Scott told. A Persian ambassador of that day was being conducted over Holyrood Palace. When shown the series of portraits of the kings of Scotland, he asked the housekeeper:—

"You paint them yourself?"

This, in all humility, she at once said was not the case.

"You no able? You try, and you paint better."

These Easterns do not use flowery compliments in their conversations with Christians.

* * * * *

Li Hung Chang, who was present at the Coronation of the Czar, is said to have considered the appalling catastrophe which occurred during the festivities at Moscow as a very serious evil omen. It may be interesting, therefore—as no writer has yet drawn attention to the fact—to recall that a similar catastrophe occurred in Paris during the festivities organised in honour of the marriage of that ill-mated and ill-fated pair, Marie Antoinette and the Dauphin. The following quotation from an article which was published in the *Edinburgh Review* in July, 1859, graphically describes the occurrence:—

"The marriage was solemnised in the Chapel of Versailles on the forenoon of May 16. . . . The ceremony was hardly ended when the sky was darkened by clouds and the rain fell in torrents. . . . Through the mismanagement of the municipal authorities, who insisted on superseding the regular police for the occasion, the crowd got jammed in the Place Louis Quinze (now Place de la Concorde), and a furious conflict had already commenced between those who wished to come in and those who were struggling to get out, when the scaffolding round the statue on which the ornamented lamps were hung caught fire. The alarm spread; the efforts to escape grew frenzied; the strong trampled down the weak; the firemen dashed to the spot with their engines over every obstacle, and when the confusion ceased the outlets and much of the open space were found heaped with the dying and the dead."

It is curious that attention has not been called to the strange similarity there is in the two terrible occurrences. History has yet to unfold what it has in store for the Czar and Czarina.

* * * * *

The appointment of Mr. William Conyngham Greene to replace Sir Jacobus de Wet as British Agent to the Transvaal Republic is in every way admirable. Though Mr. Conyngham Greene is clever and has experience; he has not until now had a substantial opportunity of distinguishing himself; for to be Chargé d'Affaires at Stuttgart and Darmstadt in these days is, from the Diplomatic point of view, almost equivalent to being buried alive. "Let Tippoo Sahib do his best," said Hyder; "he has his reputation to make."

It is officially announced that whilst he is employed in the Transvaal, Mr. Greene is to hold the personal rank of Chargé d'Affaires. Has Mr. Chamberlain, then, promoted the capital of the Transvaal Republic into a Diplomatic post? If President Kruger has succeeded in making Mr. Chamberlain change the form of representation, he may be congratulated upon having gained another Diplomatic victory.

* * * * *

The death of Miss Mildred Beresford Hope, which occurred last week, will be regretted by all her contemporaries who knew her. The late Miss Hope was a niece of Lord and Lady Salisbury, who were both much attached to her. A very amiable, agreeable, intelligent, and accomplished lady, having much experience of society, Miss Hope had many friends who will deplore her death, and will sympathise with her popular family.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

To Overcome Weakness.—Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic gives New Life, Appetite, Health, Strength, Energy. Cures Neuralgia, Indigestion, Pepper's Nerve Tonic. Debility. Kept everywhere.

SPORTING NOTES.

St. Frusquin has been in regular work at Newmarket during the last few days, and it seems a pity that the colt was struck out of the Leger with such reckless impetuosity, as he would have been perfectly fit to run at Doncaster. Whatever may have been the nature of the injury which St. Frusquin sustained, it was evidently of a very slight character, and its importance appears to have been preposterously exaggerated. St. Frusquin will, of course, start for the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000 on October 1, and this race must be a good thing for him if he goes on all right, as he meets Persimmon on the same terms as when he beat the Prince of Wales's colt at Newmarket in July—*i.e.*, with 3 lb. the best of the weights. There is nothing in the entry that is likely to trouble St. Frusquin and Persimmon, as they hold Sir Visto, Kirkconnel, Regret, Troon, and Laveno all quite safe. Labrador will have 3 lb. the best of the weights with St. Frusquin, who has to give a stone to Knight of the Thistle, supposing that Mr. McCalmont's steed is in a fit condition to run. Mr. L. de Rothschild's colt has two previous engagements in the Newmarket Triennial and in the Great Foal Stakes, but he will, no doubt, be reserved for the Jockey Club Stakes. I see nothing to beat St. Frusquin in the entry for the Champion Stakes of £1,000 at the Newmarket Second October Meeting, and there are neither penalties nor allowances in that event. Then a week later St. Frusquin has another nice engagement in the Sandown Foal Stakes of £2,000, which appears to be as complete a certainty for him as the Champion Stakes.

The weights for the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire are to be published to-morrow, but I do most earnestly advise my speculative readers to leave this event alone for several weeks to come. There will be a long list of quotations on both handicaps, but these early transactions represent merely the harum-scarum fancies of eager, greedy, fatheads, who know nothing whatever respecting the intentions of the owners of the horses which they are so infatuated and so audacious as to "rush" to prominent positions in the betting.

The Prince of Wales has sold his horse Serpa Pinto (1890), by Galliard out of Pinbasket, who has won several Queen's premiums, to Lord Arthur Cecil, who has purchased the animal for the Government of Trinidad.

Writing a fortnight ago about the Ebor Handicap, I gave a plumper for Dingle Bay, whose victory was received with much satisfaction, as Lord Derby's colours are very popular. The stable were exceedingly confident, and Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley came all the way from Bolton Abbey with the Duchess of Devonshire to see the horse run. Of course, with a field of four, the Ebor was the ghost of the shadow of the race which it used to be in days when there was heavy betting for three weeks, and the event was one of the most important of the summer handicaps, ranking with the Northumberland Plate and the Goodwood Stakes, both of which have shared its fate. However, there was a most exciting finish between Dingle Bay and Posterity (who carried the bulk of the Yorkshire money), and it was only in the very last stride that Lord Derby's horse got up and made a dead heat, but in the decider he won very easily indeed. Son o' Mine again disappointed his friends, of whom there were legions, for Lord Durham's beast was plunged upon with frantic zeal, being backed, I believe, for no less a sum than £8,000 in one hand. This handicap would certainly have fallen to Drip if she had been kept for it, but her penalty for winning at Stockton destroyed her chance.

I was also fortunate in giving plumpers for Helm for the Oaks and for Canonbury for the Convivial Stakes; and, with 5 to 2 laid against her, Mr. Pilkington's filly was far and away the best thing of the week. This was an excellent performance, as the filly was giving 13 lb. to Lord Zetland's Puff Ball, who was thought to be a real good thing. Fortalice won the Prince of Wales'

Plate for Lord Ellesmere, giving more than a stone to Restored, a colt belonging to Sir B. Maple that was very much fancied, and behind was The Wake, who was a great tip of the sharps. Fortalice had been well galloped at Newmarket, and this is by far her best performance, but she has no pretensions to first-class form. Monterey ran well for the Gimcrack Stakes, being beaten by only a head by Silver Fox. Intense ought to have won this race, but she was shut in and could not get through.

Labrador won the Great Yorkshire Stakes in a canter, Nouveau Riche, who was very much fancied indeed, having no chance with him, and the race was run at a good pace throughout. Labrador can clearly stay well, and he is the only animal in the Leger entry (except the French colt Arreau) that has won over the Doncaster distance. It is simply idiotic to judge Labrador by his running in the Two Thousand, as he was then backward, and he has probably improved 21 lb. during the last four months. As to all the delirious cackling about the inferiority of Labrador to Regret in their trials, I do not suppose that any sane creature would back Regret to beat his stable companion over the Leger course. Regret may be a good horse over a mile, but it is quite certain he lacks stamina; and Labrador will be the Duke of Westminster's best candidate at Doncaster. Regret is stated to have been seized with influenza, but this news must be incorrect, seeing that the colt was sent a good mile gallop on Friday. I fancy that Regret will not be seen at Doncaster, but that he is to be reserved for his autumn engagements at Newmarket, and he is entered for the Liverpool St. Leger of £500, which is run on November 11. The Duke of Westminster, who is now at Lichmore, in Sutherlandshire, a place which is about thirty miles from the nearest station, will not come south for the Doncaster meeting.

There has been no betting on the St. Leger, and, although Persimmon continues to give great satisfaction at Newmarket, yet there is no disposition to bet the odds on him. Persimmon's stamina has to be entirely taken upon trust, but he has certainly gone as well as possible in his gallops over the Leger distance. Santa Maura will run for the Leger, and she ought to win some good races for Mr. Baird during the autumn, as she now appears to be in excellent form, and moves well and freely. It is said that neither Arreau nor Trébons will be sent over for the Leger, a decision which is to be regretted, and their withdrawal is a piece of fatuity, all things considered, as the Grand Prix winner must have been a formidable opponent to Persimmon, and some people assert that Trébons is better than Arreau. M. E. Blanc ran second at Doncaster to Common with Révérend, and it is quite on the cards that next Wednesday his candidate might have obtained the first place. There has been a prodigious trumpeting about the superlative merits of Persimmon, and the Leger seems to be generally regarded as being practically over, but there was just the same fanfaronade two years ago about Ladas. It will not surprise me to see Labrador outstay Persimmon and win the St. Leger, if there is a fast-run race, and Conroy or Rampion can be started to insure a good speed.

If ever there was a real certainty on paper it was Tokio II. for the Grand Prize of Baden, and how he came to be merely backed against the field (six started) when it was in reality any odds on him, I cannot understand. Last year Tokio started first favourite for the Cambridgeshire, with the respectable weight of 8 st. 3 lb. on his back, and it was quite understood afterwards that his bad running was to be attributed to the fact that he would not do his best in a large field. Lord Drummond was a doleful representative of England, but Gulistan would not have been able to beat the Hungarian horse. The value of this stake is to be raised in 1898 from £4,500 to £5,000, and no doubt a number of English horses will be entered. It is the richest race in Europe for five-year-olds and upwards.

The hearts of breeders must sink within them when they contemplate Messrs. Tattersall's catalogue of the Doncaster sales, which fills twenty-three columns of the Calendar. It only needs a hurried glance through the list to convince one that two-thirds of the animals to be offered will either be sent back or sold at a considerable loss. It is marvellous that many breeders do not yet appear to apprehend the certain fact that it is sheer waste of time, trouble, and money to send up to Doncaster or Newmarket animals which are not sired by "fashionable" horses, and even the persuasive ingenuity of Messrs. Tattersall will not obtain bids for such creatures. Some sporting writers make it their business to puff zealously with intrepid plausibility all stock which is commended to their notice by judiciously placed advertisements, and they are ready to eulogise anything and everything with wearisome iteration. If any breeders still cherish in their credulous bosoms the chimerical idea that these puffs are of the very slightest benefit to their stock, they had better dismiss at once and for ever any such fantastical illusion. The ardour of bidders at next week's sales will not be stimulated by the recollection of any brilliant successes on the part of the animals for which such extravagant prices were paid at Doncaster twelve months ago, for up to the present time they have achieved nothing, nor are any of them talked of as being likely to distinguish themselves. There are about a hundred lots to be offered on Tuesday, but I can see nothing worth notice, except a colt by Quartus out of Polpetti (dam of Xury), and a filly by Janissary out of Wifey (dam of Satiety), in the Manor House, Middleham, lot; and colts by St. Serf out of Bide-a-Wee (dam of Althorp), and by Martagon out of Exning Lass (dam of Stewarton), which belong to Mr. Lawrence. On Wednesday Mr. J. B. Wood sends up a filly by Orme out of Cassimere in his lot; and the Bruntwood Stud team includes colts by St. Simon out of Clapper, by Kendal out of Romance, by Kendal out of Lucy Ashton, and by Kendal out of Lady of the Lea, an own brother to Lesterlin, and fillies by St. Simon out of Link Girl, by Kendal out of Maid Marian, and by St. Simon out of La Cloche. These animals are sure to realise very high prices if they are liked. One of Mr. Marshall's is a filly by Orme out of Ierne. Lord Scarbrough sends up twelve, eight of which are sired by Prism. The Westerham Hill lot includes the first yearlings by Orion, and I hope this lot will sell well, as it is announced that there will be no reserve, and no lots will be privately disposed of. Many breeders have ruined their sales by idiotic reserves and friendly biddings, which lead invariably to mortifying miscarriages of all kinds, while buyers soon become perplexed and disgusted, with the result that they betake themselves elsewhere when they contemplate a speculation in yearlings. I will deal next week with Thursday's sales, which are always the most important of the week at Doncaster. Sir Tatton Sykes sends up nine, and he has nothing this year out of Plaisanterie or Marchioness, whose two yearlings fetched 5,000 gs. last September. The Sledmere lot includes a colt by Galopin out of Heresy by Hermit. Last year a filly by St. Simon out of Heresy realised 3,800 gs., and 2,200 gs. was paid for an own sister to Buckingham, of whom an own brother will be offered next week.

There will be some interesting sport at Doncaster next week, no doubt, but the prospects of the meeting are not particularly bright. The Doncaster programme ought to be revised and strengthened, and the value of the two-year-old stakes should be increased, while another £1,000 nursery ought to be established. There is no excuse for the parsimony of the management, as the revenue of the meeting is very large indeed. Not one farthing is even nominally added to the Leger, which is simply a stake of £25 each, and of the £500 which is ostensibly given to the Champagne Stakes, a considerable proportion is got back through the reprehensibly mean device of making the minor profit go to the fund. Let the Champagne Stakes be made a subscription stake of £3,000 on the Kempton Park lines, with adequate penalties for winners.

It would be a flagrant waste of space to discuss at any length the large entry for the Champagne Stakes, as the race is simply a certainty for Velasquez, and if Lord Rosebery cares to reserve the colt for his autumn engagements, his stable companion, Chelandry, would be able to

beat Lowly, The Wake, Monterey, Cyrenian, Brooch, Sauce Tartare, and Puff Ball, which are the best of the "public" lot. I omit Goletta, because, as I have already stated in TRUTH, Mr. de Rothschild's filly will not run again until the Newmarket First October Meeting. The Tattersall Sale Stakes may be won by Falkland. There are actually eighty entries for the Rous Plate of £500, and with an entrance of £5 on each nomination, the owners have the satisfaction of subscribing £400, leaving only £100 to be provided from the fund! This race may fall to Galtee More, the entry also including Eager, High Chancellor, Sagittarius, and Merle. The Prince of Wales' Nursery of £1,000, which is run on Friday, may be left alone until next week.

As to the minor three-year-old races, the Scarborough Stakes may be left to Shaddock, or the Duke of Westminster can win with Conroy. The Zetland Stakes will fall to Merchiston in the probable absence of Roquebrune. The Park Hill Stakes, which will be worth nearly £1,100, will be a most interesting race if it brings out Santa Maura, Canterbury Pilgrim, Drip, Miss Fraser, Serfdom, Roquebrune, La Toison d'Or, Jolly Boat, and Helm. The conditions of the race are ridiculous, for, while winners of the One Thousand, Oaks, and other specified events have to carry penalties of 12 lb. or 7 lb. as the case may be, the winner (if entered) of the various £10,000 stakes and of the rich Coronation Stakes at Ascot escapes with 3 lb. only; Canterbury Pilgrim will, therefore, have to give 4 lb. to Helm, and on the Ascot running it will be a close race between the pair. I rather prefer the Oaks winner.

The Doncaster Stakes will be won by Labrador, as he can beat Santa Maura, Coylton, His Reverence, South Australian, and Red Ray. The Bradgate Park Stakes looks well for Devoué or Macbriar. Safety Pin is very well in for the Great Yorkshire Handicap, and it would not surprise me if the Prince of Wales's colt carried off the Cup, as he will have a considerable advantage in the weights with Sir Visto and Love Wisely. Mr. Bass's colt would never have won the Ascot Cup if Omnium II. had been ridden by a clever jockey.

Mr. Asquith, with his natural modesty, has announced that he has for the most part been vainly endeavouring to cut a decent figure at the game of golf. Being a singularly unambitious man, it is absurd to suppose that he considers golfing an essential qualification for the leadership of the House. However, it is just as well that he should follow Mr. Balfour's example and stir the passions of his followers for the ancient game. It is ridiculous to say that the game is dying out, or that its popularity is evanescent. But the fact remains that new recruits are not coming in rapidly this year, and that many clubs round the coast will find their gross fees much less than in former years. The fact is the visitor has just learned to bicycle, and he is exploring the neighbouring country instead of cutting up the local links.

No doubt a good many visitors to the seaside have discovered how soon the handle-bars of the bicycle and other bright parts get rusty with the sea air. Goodness only knows why the handle-bars are not turned out black like the other parts of the machine. It is said it looks so ugly. Well, let any colours you please be used. But the less polishing surface there is the more convenient is the machine. At Wood Green a professional meeting was successful so far as the number of spectators was concerned, but when Barden was given second in the final of the five miles scratch race and Drury first, the mob invaded the enclosure and hooted the referee, just as they had hooted the riders when they crawled in the second heat of that race. If judges are to be intimidated, there will soon be an end of professional cycling. Platt Betts' attempts at the mile and five-mile record were both failures. Pearce, aided by some good pacing, easily won the Polytechnic hundred miles championship. Considering the weather, Edge's times in his long-distance ride have been marvellous.

The Priory ground, Chichester, looked lovely for the annual lawn-tennis tournament, and the meeting was well attended. The grass had stood the dry summer very well, and the courts were in good order. The weather, unfortunately, when it was not wet was windy. There were few really well-known players competing, but the class of play was decidedly good. The twin brothers Allen were in good form, and had quite a good haul of "pots," although one of them in the handicap was beaten by H. Plaskitt, a boy of 16, who should make a first-class player. Of the lady players, Miss Scrimgeour and Miss Stonham were the best. Neither of them seemed over fond of volleying. The Bognor tournament was dated to commence on Tuesday. It is a minor affair, but that is no reason why there should be no netting, and why the balls should therefore wander all over the ground, which compares unfavourably with that at Littlehampton.

The Australians are to be congratulated on the brilliancy of their tour. They have not lost a match against a single county, and they wound up by disposing of Lancashire in very much the same way as they had done Gloucester. It is perhaps just as well that they had dry wickets for the greater part of the tour, otherwise McKibbin would have had a great time. His later performances clearly shows that he is a most dangerous man on anything like a bowler's wicket. It was perhaps lucky that the rain stopped play against Somerset. The western county had a very nice lead, and Robson had been very lucky with the ball. However, Somerset followed this up by beating Surrey in the most unexpected manner. In fact, one of the leading sporting papers at the end of the first day's play had a line, "Surrey in a safe position." They seemed to be, for they were a hundred runs on and Somerset had only two wickets to fall. But Hill and Tyler passed the Surrey score, and then Hayes was the only man to play Hedley's bowling. The result was the visitors to Taunton lost by nine wickets. There was some good forcing play in the match between Middlesex and Kent. Stoddart played one of the finest innings he has done this season, while Douglas, Warner, and Bromley-Davenport, all made useful scores. Sussex, or rather Ranjitsinhji and Fry, were unable to beat Notts, for Jones and Attewell were bowling well, and Shrewsbury, Wright, and Flowers were scoring as in days of old. Hampshire finished off the season in most satisfactory style, beating both Essex and Leicestershire with good margins in hand. These results were chiefly due to the exceptionally fine batting of Barton in each match, while Ward scored a century, and Barrett, a public school boy, also showed great promise; and Captain Bradford's bowling was most useful. Yorkshire came out champions, and easily beat Kent, despite a plucky effort by Burnup, who could get no one to stay with him.

As Lord Hawke is not going to take a cricket team to India this winter he will go with one to the West Indies. H. G. Leveson-Gower is also likely to go as well. The team will be much stronger, especially in bowling, than that which R. Slade Lucas took out. Some of the natives are very good fast round-arm bowlers. By the way, Mr. B. Cave, the Consul at Zanzibar, used to play cricket for Richmond. He was a good wicket-keeper and left-hand bat. As a footballer he played chiefly for the Old Merchant Taylors, and he was a deadly tackler at three-quarters.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Although the unexpected happened again last week, and a fresh crop of untoward political incidents occurred, the effect upon the markets has been only temporary, and one of the developments—viz., the further shipments of large amounts of gold to New York—while producing stiffer rates in the money market, and depressing Consols and Home Rails, had, on the other hand, a very favourable effect upon American Rails.

Holiday Influences Passing Away.

A satisfactory feature was also the larger amount of business transacted in several departments, thus indicating that holiday influences were passing away. A good many operators have returned from their various trips, and in the course of this week quite a number of familiar faces will again be seen in the City and in the "House." I know, for instance, of half a dozen leading West Australian financiers who are expected back within the next few days. The most important movements have taken place in South African shares, and at one time street dealings became so active that it looked almost like old times. Then came the general set-back caused by the trouble in Zanzibar and the riots in Constantinople. The former was disposed of with admirable promptness, and although the latter again illustrated my remarks that as soon as the Cretan difficulty was settled some untoward event would be sure to come about in another portion of the tottering Ottoman Empire, the worst seems to be over again for a time, and the fighting so close at home has had the good effect of frightening the Sultan into accepting the proposals of the Ambassadors with reference to Crete. The Continental Bourses would perhaps have shown more nervousness were it not for the journey of the Czar, whose visit to Vienna has created a favourable impression, and, upon the whole, we shall therefore have plain sailing in foreign politics for some time to come. The sudden death of Prince Lobanoff, although quite unexpected, is not likely to prove a disturbing feature. The connection between the riots in Constantinople and the Kaffir Circus is as remote as could be, yet the latter suffered temporarily, and Paris, more especially, again shot the holdings of some of the stale "Bulls" upon our market. But the pause in the upward movement should really prove healthy, as a too rapid advance would become a danger to the stability of the market. That there will be a further important rise cannot now be doubted, and from what I can gather the big South African financiers are preparing to give it their strong support. The West Australian department is also bracing up again, and the fact that neglected shares are being picked up in all directions seems to point to the resumption of active operations by some of the leaders. Foreigners have been remarkably steady, and even Turks have not so far suffered to any marked extent. The greatest change, however, has come about in American Railway stocks, some of the big firms in Wall-street and on this side having put their shoulders to the wheel in order to squeeze the "Bears." In this they have been supported by the large gold shipments to New York, and by the temporary improvement in the political outlook. Almost the only department which marked declines all round is that of Home Rails. Dearer money, and continued adverse reports with reference to the dispute with the engineers in the Clyde shipbuilding trade, were the adverse influences.

Home Rails.

In my opinion far too much importance has been attributed to the efflux of gold to America. As I said some time ago, five millions sterling could easily be spared for this purpose, and so far not quite four millions have gone, while some amounts have been shipped direct from Australia to California. The dispute on the Clyde is so paltry that it is difficult to believe that it will lead to a general lock-out, especially as the London Executive of the Amalgamated Engineers is not supporting the men. As long as high-class investments remain at the present level, moreover, it cannot be said that values of Home Railway stocks are too high, and so far even Consols have given way but slightly. At the settlement stock proved scarce, and rates were light; and it is not surprising that at one time such favourite stocks as Dover "A" advanced to 103⅝, although they subsequently dropped again on the money and political scare to 103. In view of the excellent traffics of the South-Eastern, I cannot see any more promising stock for moderate speculation than Dover "A." Brighton "A" have reacted to 183¼. This stock is always more sensitive than other Home Rails, as it is held to some amount in France. The Heavy division has been depressed all round, the declines, however, not exceeding 1 to 2; and while traffics remain as satisfactory as they did during the past week, when the receipts again showed an increase of £62,000 in the case of fifty-six Companies, the position cannot be considered unsatisfactory, especially as the increase over 1894 is as much as £156,000. With reference to the Scotch stocks a great deal will depend upon the settlement of the dispute on the Clyde before September 12, when the notices will expire. In other respects the outlook is satisfactory. Advices from Glasgow are to the effect that the Glasgow and South Western dividend, which shows an increase at the rate of 1 per cent. against last year, must not be considered as a guide for the Caledonian and North British dividends, as the fact that no larger distribution is made was chiefly due to the disinclination of the Ayrshire Directors to allow the Deferred shareholders to receive any dividend in view of the intention which exists on the part of the Board to eventually buy out the Deferred interest. Favourable dividend announcements, and a settlement of the dispute in the shipyards, would bring about a very strong upward movement in both Caledonian Deferred and North British Deferred; and this seems to be quite worth playing for.

Yankees on the Up Grade.

For the first time for months the American market has shown distinct strength, and there appears to be a prospect of a more settled market in the immediate future. It is too much to hope for a lasting recovery, as political influences are too strong, and the Presidential election cannot be decided for two months yet. There is, however, a disposition to take a more hopeful view of the issue, partly owing to Mr. McKinley's letter of acceptance, in which he expressed the view that until an international agreement was reached with reference to silver the plain duty of the United States was to maintain the gold standard, and partly on the opening of the campaign of the Republican party by ex-President Harrison, who was received with great enthusiasm at a meeting in New York, at which 5,000 people were present, and at which he delivered a speech in favour of sound money. The view is also taken in some quarters that the silver trouble has been pretty well discounted by the heavy fall in quotations; but what has chiefly induced fresh courage into the "Bulls" in New York is the shipment of large supplies of gold from this side, the amount reaching £3,500,000 sterling, £800,000 of which was sent by the *Campania* on Saturday, while £718,000 in eagles are to be shipped on Wednesday. Powerful hands have been at work to bring about these gold shipments, and to give the market strong support; and it is an open secret that certain leading Anglo-American firms have combined with big Wall-street men to punish the "Bears." This will not apparently be difficult to do for the time being, especially in the case of Louisville and Milwaukee, which are very heavily oversold. But when the "Bears" have done their climbing-in, a fresh reaction would not be surprising, although perhaps not to as low a level as has lately been established. There are distinct signs that large English capitalists are picking up low-priced shares, taking their chance of the Presidential election, and locking up the stock in their safes. I met one of these men a day or two ago, who told me that he had bought 10,000 shares of the various stocks standing at rubbish prices, such as Readings, Union Pacifics, Missouri, Kansas and Texas, Erie, North Pacific Prefs., Denvers, &c.; and he maintained that anyone holding such an assortment long enough would make a lot of money. Perhaps he is right, and the risk for a rich man is not very great, although it must depend very much upon what view he takes of the ultimate outcome of the Presidental elections. As regards the present movement undertaken by the big firms to punish the "Bears," it was perhaps to some extent necessity which brought about this strong combination. A couple of months ago, as one of my Wall-street contemporaries puts it, large interests which had for years held the market in a close grip, that enabled them to control prices in spite of events, began to get out

of their holdings owing to the unfavourable conditions. The stocks that came on the market broke prices, and the general course was a downward drift, one lot buying and holding for a few points, and then turning the load over to a new set of buyers, who were in turn exhausted or scared out. Now, with prices down twenty points or more, it has become necessary for large interests to take the market in hand for a time in order to steady it, as their extensive holdings forbid any further, or, at least, a considerable decline, which might get the market beyond control. Amongst the men who are actively engaged in the present campaign against the "Bears" is the well-known Wash. Connor, connected with the Gould interest, who has more particularly taken Western Union and Manhattan under his wing. It should not, however, be forgotten that exports from the United States have largely increased. In July already the exports of the four principal American staple articles showed a total increase of 6,000,000 dols., and now there is a strong movement in grain, the greater scarcity of money stimulating shipments. Thus it is reported from Chicago that the farmers along the lines of the Atchison and other western roads are finding it as difficult to get the banks to advance them enough money to carry their crops as are the representatives of other industries. The banks at present do not care to let their money out on any account, and want to have their resources well in hand next November, so as to be prepared to meet any contingency that may arise when election returns are received. This action of the banks will compel the farmers to realise at once, and will start the grain traffic on the roads sooner than if things were left to take the usual course. Officials of the roads expect a much greater movement of grain than they have known for many months to set in considerably earlier than usual, and there is no doubt that most of the present gold shipments are already being made against large consignments of grain and cotton to Europe. With reference to the Atchison, by the way, it is satisfactory to note that the earnings for the first six months of the current year have been sufficient to cover all fixed charges and leave a surplus, as will be seen from the following figures:—

	Dols.
Earnings, including income from investments ...	13,785,552
Expenses, including taxes and rentals	10,892,681
Profit	2,802,871
Present fixed charges for same six months	2,325,295
Surplus over fixed charges for the six months	477,576

This is, perhaps, nothing to boast of, but the bad times have to be reckoned with. It is not for me to predict the outcome of the Presidential elections, but I am inclined to think that our Yankee cousins will have enough good sense not to elect such a firebrand as the "boy" Bryan. Every effort is being made to educate the people towards sound money, and one of my Wall-street contemporaries actually bursts into poetry on the coinage question:—

If a dollar be a dollar—honest coin—without deceit—one may melt it, one may smelt it, but it's value won't retreat.
Melt ten dollars—silver dollars—in unbiased melting pot, and the silver "slug" resulting, only sells for "five the lot."
Melt gold dollars—melt an eagle in aforesaid melting pot—and the golden slug resulting quickly sells for "ten the lot"
Will you tell me—kindly tell me—how these dollars equal are—if a little glowing furnace put on only one a scar?
There was never yet equation that demanded legislation to establish right to be—an equation is equation—else it is a fallacy!
And I'm thinking—quietly thinking—that a poor man has poor sense—if he vote to have a dollar—that will melt to fifty cents.

Senator Sherman's speech on the silver question also appears to have made a good impression. This Statesman has not always been consistent, but he does not hesitate to reverse his ideas when he finds them wrong; and he pronounces now strongly against free coinage. In sympathy with American Railroad stocks, Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have hardened again, and they will no doubt continue to fluctuate to some extent with the Yankee Market.

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The optimistic tone of the Continental Bourses continued last week, until, on Thursday morning, like a bolt from the blue, the tidings burst upon them of renewed Armenian riots in Constantinople, and of the actual capture of the Ottoman Bank premises by the conspirators. Curiously enough these rioters did not quite succeed in putting their hands into the tills of the institution; but considering the very grave position, it is surprising that Ottoman Bank shares did not drop below 11⅝, from which they have recovered to a moderate extent. There could hardly be any stronger proof of the rottenness of the Ottoman Empire than this outbreak, and it illustrates my contention that Turkish stocks had better be left alone. Sooner or later the inevitable must happen, and then we shall for some time see chaos in Turkey. Fortunately for the nerves of the Bourses the Tsar was being feasted at Vienna at the same time, so that there was no reason for assuming that Russia has been hatching the trouble, which has, at all events, had the effect of settling the Cretan question, provided the Sultan's adhesion to the programme of the Ambassadors does not come too late. Spanish and Italians have kept up very fairly, considering that Spain has now also an insurrection in the Philippine Islands, and Italy the difficulty with Brazil to contend with. As to the latter Republic, it will certainly not benefit by expelling the thrif Italians, who are contributing so largely towards the prosperity of other countries, such, for instance, as the Argentine Republic by the tilling of endless tracts of land. Argentine Government stocks have been in a state of suspended animation. Notwithstanding the further fall in the gold premium in Buenos Ayres, which has now dropped to below 170, there seems to be a general disposition to await the carrying out of the unification scheme. Uruguay bonds have been firm, the Old Loan at 49¾, the New Loan at 70, and I shall not be surprised to see a sharp upward movement whenever business becomes active again. In the various Central and South American rubbish stocks no fresh development has occurred, with the exception of a move on the part of an American Company which has made a contract with the Government of Honduras. This Company is to complete the Inter-oceanic Railway, and to receive from the Government a certain sum per annum towards the service of the External Debt. This amount is, however, not to exceed £20,000 per annum, and when it is considered that Honduras has a loan of £5,398,570 outstanding, and £11,000,000 sterling arrears of interest, it will readily be seen that there is not much hope for the bondholders from this little arrangement.

The Kaffir Circus Waiting.

Various circumstances have contributed to cause a temporary reaction in the Kaffir Circus. To begin with, Paris greatly disappointed the operators on this side by availing itself of the recent advance to pour stale holdings upon this market. Many French operators had been locked up ever since the Jameson raid with their stocks, and seized the first opportunity to get out. But such is the inconsistency of our volatile French neighbours, that I should not be one whit surprised if they were to buy back the shares, which they are now selling, at much higher prices in a few months' time. At all events the French taps appear now to be drying up, and the Paris market has readily followed the latest recovery from the spasms caused by the trouble in the East and the gold shipments. The position in the Transvaal is undoubtedly becoming more satisfactory; and Mr. Greene, who has of late acted for the British Government in Teheran, will find a very promising field for his activity in Pretoria. His choice appears to be another satisfactory move on the part of Mr. Chamberlain, as he is an able member of the Diplomatic Service, and has a considerable German and Dutch

experience, and, what is most important, a complete knowledge of the Dutch language. His first duty should be to promote the more amicable understanding which is now existing between the Boers and the Uitlanders. That the Boers are prepared to make reasonable concessions was shown by the passing of the Liquor Bill, and in this connection it is quite refreshing to find from mail advices that a number of the members of the Volksraad with their wives paid a visit to the goldfields, and there gathered conviction as regards the baneful effects of the unrestricted sale of liquor in the compounds, from personal experience. The representative of Mr. J. B. Robinson, Mr. J. W. S. Langerman entertained the deputation at luncheon at the Langlaagte Estate Mines; and this first measure of reform will doubtless prove the forerunner of others. There is a very general impression that the Witwatersrand August crushings will again mark a record, and, if the increase in the output should be important, we may look for a fresh all-round rise. Already the market is fast recovering from the last set-back, and there is a total absence of rumours of further trouble in the Transvaal, the manufacturers of these reports realising the fact that no one would believe them any more. As regards the insurrection in Rhodesia, it does not appear to have altogether come to an end in consequence of Mr. Cecil Rhodes's interview with the native chiefs, but I suppose matters are drifting that way; and in the meantime Chartered shares, after reacting, have recovered to $3\frac{7}{16}$, and efforts are being made to create a market for the shares in the various Rhodesian Companies. The changes in prices for the week have again been mostly in the upward direction, after the early decline had been recovered; and advances of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 are shown in Consolidated Goldfields, South African Gold Trust, Simmer and Jack, Balmoral, Nourse Deep, Wemmer, and dozens of others. The only important reaction has been in Ferreira, smaller declines also being marked in Heriot, Worcester, Rooderand, Violets, and Stanhopes. In the Robinson group, Randfonteins reacted to 3, and recovered to $3\frac{1}{8}$. The temporary decline was apparently due to French sales, which, however, have now come to an end, and I quite look for an important advance, the more so as the various sub-Companies in which the Randfontein is interested are all on the up-grade. Porges Randfontein, for instance, have advanced to $1\frac{15}{16}$, North Randfontein to $2\frac{1}{2}$, Robinson Randfontein to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Block "A" to $1\frac{1}{16}$; these movements having occurred on my statement that all these three mines will commence crushing in the near future, the Porges Randfontein, in fact, already commencing to crush on September 1. Langlaagte Estate have maintained a firm front at $5\frac{1}{2}$; Block "B" have advanced to $1\frac{15}{16}$, and Langlaagte Star are quoted $1\frac{5}{8}$. An improvement may be expected in all these shares. Knights, after a temporary decline, have recovered again to $7\frac{7}{8}$, and look like going much better. Modderfontein also receded at first, but are now firmer at $8\frac{1}{16}$ ex rights. Modderfontein Extensions are firm at $2\frac{1}{8}$, and purchasers of these at higher prices should take the opportunity of averaging. In the Barnato group some sensation has been caused by the circular issued to the shareholders in the Langlaagte Royal by Mr. F. J. Dormer; but the shareholders in that Company are evidently by no means scared by the statements made in that document, as is shown by the fact that the shares remain at $2\frac{1}{8}$; and I doubt if they have any particular wish to be presided over by Mr. Dormer, who seems to be so anxious to become a Director. Mr. B. I. Barnato has returned from his brief holiday, and is completing his great amalgamation scheme. So far the details have not yet been fixed, however, and the various reports which have appeared are mere or less efforts of imagination. It is to be hoped that the matter will be promptly settled, and that Mr. Barnato will take the shareholders of all the three Companies concerned into his confidence. Johannesburg Consolidated Investment have improved to 4; but Barnato Banks are unaltered at $2\frac{3}{8}$, and Barnato Consols stand at $2\frac{15}{16}$. Most of the Barnato gold mining shares have improved, although not maintaining top prices. New Primrose stand at 6, Glencairn at $3\frac{5}{8}$, New Rietfontein at $3\frac{3}{4}$, Buffelsdoorn, at $3\frac{1}{16}$, New Crœsus at $1\frac{11}{16}$. As I anticipated, Woodstock (Transvaal) have made a further step in advance, rising to $1\frac{3}{4}$, but this is only the commencement of an upward movement which should make much further progress. Waterfall Estates have risen to $\frac{3}{4}$, and look like going better. The shares in the Transvaal Exploring Company are also firmer at $1\frac{1}{16}$, and Rand Reefs have improved to 10s., as I thought they would. Mozambique at $1\frac{3}{4}$, and Henderson's Estates at $2\frac{3}{4}$, are the turn firmer; and Oceana remain at about $1\frac{3}{4}$; but in all these shares a further upward movement may confidently be expected. I learn that the accounts of the African Gold Properties are now being prepared, and will be submitted to the shareholders within the next week or two. If, as is being foreshadowed, these should show well, there will probably be a marked advance on the present price of $1\frac{5}{8}$. At one time last year they were quoted in the neighbourhood of $4\frac{1}{2}$. I have received several inquiries with reference to the Troye Exploration Company, and it seems to be quite time that the Directors of the Company should give an account of what has so far been done. The Balkis Eesterling has held a meeting at which the reconstruction of the Company was authorised; but there is no doubt that the management in the past has left very much to be desired, and care should be taken to improve this. From the Buffelsdoorn Mine advices have been received to the effect that the erection of the new sixty stamps is being pushed forward. This will make 170 stamps altogether, and as a large cyanide plant is also being completed, a very considerable output may be looked for. According to the consulting engineer's report, rich ore has been struck in the bottom of the main shaft at a depth of 1,000 ft. As the shaft struck against the much talked-of dyke at 800 ft., the latter must either have been cut through, or the reef found underneath it. Another amalgamation is contemplated in connection with the Jumpers Deep. The other day it purchased the Heriot and Jumpers Deep level and Donian Syndicate blocks, and now it is proposed to sell twenty claims to the Jupiter Gold Mining Company. I suppose that these little deals generally redound to the benefit of the financiers chiefly interested. Everybody is wondering what M. Jacques Lebaudy will do with the United Langlaagte Company, now that he has put it in liquidation. A reconstruction of the Gray's Mynpacht Developing Syndicate must take place sooner or later, although the Bothás series is stated to run through the property. The Company has a loan from Adler's Consolidated Land and Mining Corporation, which will doubtless have the control of the reconstruction. A few weeks ago I mentioned the formation of a new South African coal company under influential auspices—viz., the Penshaw Collieries Limited. I now learn that the venture has been taken up by some of the leading men in London as well as in South Africa, and that it is expected that the result will be a material development of the resources of the Stormberg and Molteno coalfields. There is a siding from the railway into the mine, which is appointed with all the necessary appliances, and Molteno coal has already been used in Kimberley for the last two or three years. Of late the demand has been steadily increasing, and it is now amongst the best known in use on the diamond fields, the New Bulfontein and several other mine using the same. The colliery has been very largely extended, and it is expected that the coal on the new part will be equal to that found in the old. The capital of £75,000 has been privately subscribed, so that no public subscription will be made. As dividends at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum are being foreshadowed, the shares at present quoted $1\frac{3}{4}$ are likely to attain a higher level. I have received a further number of communications from shareholders in the Abercorn Reefs, Limited, and the Umtoli Gold Reefs Company, Limited, who wish to join the movement for obtaining a thorough investigation of the affairs of these Companies; and in the meantime for resisting the call and forfeiture of the shares which has been attempted by the Directors. It is still necessary for two or three shareholders to take the trouble of forming a committee for directing the operations, which I obviously cannot under-

take to do. I am doing my best for the shareholders; but they must put their own shoulders to the wheel if they wish to save their money. I hope, therefore, that two or three of the shareholders, residing in London and having the necessary energy and time at their disposal will form themselves into a committee; and I shall then be pleased to place them in communication with the other shareholders who have applied to me. Since writing the above, I have received a communication from Mr. Ernest C. Holland, 27, Walbrook, E.C., solicitor, who is a holder of shares in the Abercorn Reefs, Limited. He states that he has made up his mind to thoroughly investigate the Company and the conduct of the Directors. I shall therefore be glad if the other shareholders, who have written to me on the subject, will communicate with Mr. Holland at once, with the view of forming a Committee of Investigation. From one of the shareholders I learn that it is intended to acquire a new property with the money realised by certain calls; but it is obvious that the Directors have absolutely no power to do so, without calling a general meeting of shareholders. I have also just received the following communication from Mr. A. L. Fyfe, one of the Directors:—

August 29, 1896.

Sir,—I note you have in this week's TRUTH mentioned my name as a Director of the Abercorn and Umtoli Reefs, Limited. It is only right for me to state that the Directors wrote me on June 11, through their then Secretary, Mr. Thompson, that my resignation was accepted. I replied, urging the desirability of their calling forthwith a meeting of the shareholders.—Yours, &c., A. L. FYFE.

The acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Fyfe was news to me. This leaves only Messrs. J. Dennis, J. W. Blackstone, and J. Coward as Directors; and it is simply astounding that they should dare to assume the responsibility of their recent action. Diamond shares have also been fairly firm, De Beers being quoted 30, New Jagersfontein, 10⅞. A fair business has been passing in New Bulfontein at 1⅞, and Consolidated Leicester stand at 1⅞; Kamfersdam at ⅛ premium. With reference to the latter Company, the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* states that the two large elevators which have been constructed are visible from the Barkly West Road, but they convey no idea of the amount of machinery to be erected, the area to be covered by the gear alone being 384 ft. by 120 ft. The mine is said to be about 400 claims in extent, and three tunnels are being driven throughout the whole length of the property. From the Leicester Diamond Mine a cablegram has been received stating that 355 loads had been washed, producing 60 carats, including one stone of 37 carats of common quality. The New Gordon reconstruction proposed by the Directors has not been agreed to by the debenture-holders, at which I am not at all surprised.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

"Great is the prosperity of Western Australia." This was the burden of Sir John Forrest's speech on introducing the Budget in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly last Thursday. The population has, according to the Premier, increased from 89,550 on June 30, 1895, to 122,420 on June 30, 1896. The revenue for the year was £1,858,695, being an increase of £732,754 over the preceding year, and as much as £540,000 in excess of the estimates. Sir John Forrest also explained how the Banks had increased their gold by £1,176,365, and their indebtedness to the public by £2,074,746. The estimated revenue for the current year is £2,425,000, and the estimated expenditure £2,720,420, this large increase being doubtless due to proposed public works, railways, &c. Western Australia is outstripping some of the sister colonies, its revenue being, for instance, three times greater than that of Tasmania, while the public debt is only half the size, and in the matter of revenue the Cinderella of Australia has actually caught up South Australia. It is gold that has done it all, and the figures produced by the Premier show that there is something very substantial about the goldfields of Western Australia. The crushings, too, from the various mines are commencing to show very substantial totals, and with many hundreds of stamps being shipped and erected, the output will eventually go up by leaps and bounds. Rich strikes are reported from older properties and in new districts. Thus rich gold has been struck in the Ivanhoe, Great Boulder, Perseverance, Cassidy Hill, Lake View Extended, &c. From the Menzies Golden Age a sample crushing of 55 tons is reported as yielding 6 oz. 8 dwt. per ton, and assays of samples from the Hannan's Oroya are cabled as running from 2 oz. 4 dwt. to 11 oz. 15 dwt. There have been distinct indications of returning activity in the West Australian market, and with the return of several of the leading spirits this week I look for a good deal of animation in the near future. One of the groups which will show the way under the lead of Lake View Consols is undoubtedly the Whitaker Wright group. Lake View Consols, after reacting to 8⅜, are firmer again at 8½, and I hear that very favourable advices are to hand which should cause a fresh advance. West Australian Exploring and Finance are firm at 4 1/16, which is also the price for London and Globe. Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group at 1½ are amongst the most promising in this group. West Australian Goldfields have advanced to 9⅜, and on the return of Mr. Allen P. Stoneham, of this group, Hampton Plains, which have recovered to 4⅝, should further advance. West Australian Joint-Stock Trust shares are quiet at 3 9/16 premium for the Ordinary and at 60-65 for the Founders' shares. Burbank's Birthday Gift are quoted at 1⅞-2, Burbank's North at ⅛-¼ premium. Hannan's Brownhill appear to have steadied down at 6¼, but the next crushing is looked forward to with much interest. King of the West have been firm at 2⅜. Great Boulder Proprietary have shown strength at an advance to 7¾, but the various Menzies properties receive little attention. The shares of the West Australian Mining Company are neglected at 8s. to 8s. 6d. These shares used to command a good market, and the Company is in a strong position. It has interests in over twenty different Westralian properties, not all in one district, but distributed over the various goldfields, and chiefly in the Hannan's, Niagara, and Mount Margaret districts. I am considerably puzzled why so little has been heard of Webster's Find, an offshoot of the Coolgardie Gold Syndicate. The Company owns two leases in the favourite Niagara district. A few samples from the dump gave 5½ oz. The concern is moderately capitalised at £75,000, of which £25,000 is for working capital. It appears that Webster's Find will commence crushing before any other property in the same locality, and that water is plentiful. The par price of these shares is 10s. A good demand has been experienced for Gladiators up to 1⅛, and in view of the promising position of this mine, which is under the management of Professor Nicholas, the shares are likely to go considerably higher. It is announced that the registration of the transfer of the property of the Rome Consolidated Mines, Limited, has been completed, and that rich gold has been obtained from the 120 ft. and 50 ft. levels. A communication has been sent to me with reference to the crushing of the Desirable Mine, which it appears was not 305 oz. of gold from 217 tons as stated by one authority, but 503 oz. from this quantity of ore, the tailings assaying 6½ dwt. per ton, and there was in addition 7 tons of blanketings estimated to yield 5 oz. per ton. The Mayflower Gold Mine, Limited, Mount Magnet, Western Australia, has been developed to a greater extent than a good many other mines in that Colony, the amount of driving and sinking done being 300 ft., and according to Mr. John M. Muir there are three reefs in the property which will average 5 oz. to the ton. This information is confirmed by another mining expert at Mount Magnet, Mr. Joseph Bryant, who was favourably impressed by the numerous outcrops of lodes to be seen on the surface, and described the lode in shaft A as very solid and well defined, and at the bottom of the shafts as 5 ft. 6 in. thick. Out of the capital of £100,000 in £1 shares, £20,000 will be available as working capital. Hannan's King

BRANDAUER'S CIRCULAR-POINTED PENS. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

(Brownhill) have improved to $1\frac{5}{8}$ on the circular issued by the Company announcing the discovery of a rich streak of ore. To judge from the interesting report which Mr. Herbert Moir has sent out to the shareholders of the Colonial Finance Corporation, the West Australian Pioneers, the Hannan's Proprietary Development, and the Corsair Consolidated Companies, of all of which he is Managing Director, he has made excellent use of his short trip to Western Australia, and of his visit to the goldfields. The idea of embodying what he has been able to gather with reference to the various properties in a circular is a good one. West Australian Gold Concessions have been a steady market at about $1\frac{3}{4}$. At the meeting of shareholders, Mr. E. D. Oppert was able to give very satisfactory information regarding some of the properties acquired by the Company, amongst which the Princess Royal and Talisman, in Western Australia, and Preece's Point, in New Zealand, are some of the most promising. The question of the Bayley's West was also discussed. This is a sub-Company of the West Australian Gold Concessions owning a mine which has proved very disappointing, and I am glad to see that the Bayley's West shareholders have now accepted the offer of the parent Company, viz., that each original allottee of the Bayley's West Gold Mining Company, Limited, is to receive one fully-paid share of £1 each of the Meteor Black Flag for each £1 fully-paid share in Bayley's West Gold Mining Company, in exchange for the transfer of their shares. The West Australian Gold Concessions had a balance of profit for the period ended December 31, 1895, of £53,043, of which dividends to the amount of £7,177 have been paid; and there is every prospect of the shareholders receiving further substantial dividends. Hit or Miss shares have advanced to $2\frac{9}{16}$ on a cablegram stating that crushing started on August 27 with ten stamps, which are running well; and that a further head—making twenty stamps—will be started in a few days. The Great Boulder crushing for the last fortnight has just been announced at 2,634 oz. from 859 tons of ore. I should like to know whether Mr. W. Hunt, of 151, Manor-road, Brockley, London, S.E., whose letters to French readers of TRUTH I mentioned on June 18, as offering special information respecting a certain West Australian stock "which will see an advance of 50 to. 75 per cent., or more, in a few weeks, against payment of £1 at once and a furthur (*sic*) sum of £4 as soon as the stock shows an advance of 50 per cent.," is the same W. Hunt who now writes from 116, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth, London, S.W., in the following strain?:—

116, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth,
London, S.W., July 28, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—Artemus Ward (I think it was) once said "never prophesy until you're certain;" had I followed that advice I should not now be troubling you with this letter, or wanting to realise some security in order to pay calls on others. As a matter of fact, through over speculation I find myself in arrears of calls that must be paid directly, or forfeiture results, so I am compelled to sell some of my shares to get money for the time being in order to meet demands I enclose you an original prospectus of a parent Company called the Transvaal-Westralian Gold Concessions which has just brought out (as its first child) "The Southern Cross," whose shares are already at a premium, there will be a considerable dividend payable from this directly. Then this Company holds nearly one half the shares in the West Randt Development Company, another very successful concern, besides having further interests both in Africa and West Australia. I want to sell 100 of my fully paid £1 shares, a bargain, viz: 15s. a share; its a low figure I know, but I want the money just now. Will you buy them? Or a part of them? The favour of your reply will be esteemed.—I am, yours truly, W. HUNT.

The prospectus enclosed is that of the Transvaal Westralian Gold Concessions, Limited, the chairman of which is Sir William Young, Bart., but I must confess that, after reading through this prospectus, I should not like to give 15s. per share for them. It would be interesting to know whether the Directors of this concern are aware of the efforts which Mr. Hunt is making to offload these shares on the public, and whether they are in any way connected with him?

INDIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND OTHER MINES.

I take some credit to myself for the important advance which has taken place in the Indian section in Coromandels to 3, reacting to $2\frac{3}{4}$, as I have recommended these shares from $1\frac{3}{4}$ upwards, and my readers have now the opportunity of clearing a handsome profit. Ooregum Ordinary have advanced $\frac{3}{8}$, and Mysore Gold are also higher at $8\frac{1}{8}$, Nundydroog at $3\frac{13}{16}$. Goldfields of Mysore, although firmer, are still very cheap at 25s., and should be picked up before they also take a jump. Amongst Australian Mines other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have maintained themselves at $2\frac{15}{16}$, and Wentworth Proprietary stand at 1. A further advance has taken place in Mount Lyell to 9, while Mount Reid are also firm at $1\frac{7}{16}$. As the latter is a mine of a similar character as the Mount Lyell, and in the same district, the shares should soon reach a higher level. The rich strike which has been made at the 65-ft. level, south of the Highland Chieftain, and which is described as the richest as yet made in this mine, ought to help these shares. In Charters Towers shares, Brilliant and St. George United, New Queen, and Day Dawn are all firmer. Broken Hill Proprietary have been steady at 49s. x.d. In New Zealand Mines a better tendency has prevailed. Taitapu have advanced, Waihi are better at $6\frac{7}{8}$, Waihi Silverton at $2\frac{5}{8}$, but Waitekauri, Triumph Hauraki, Kathleen, Royal Oak, and Komata Reefs are all lower. The shares in the Key of Komata, Limited, which went to allotment on July 31 last, are likely to come into some notice soon in view of the valuable property of 149 acres owned by it. Another promising New Zealand Mine is the Britannia (Hauraki) Gold Mining Company, Limited, owning the Britannia property on the Coromandel Goldfields, which has been favourably reported upon by Messrs. W. H. Argall, R. A. Marshall, and George M. Steedman. According to their reports in several shafts rich ore assaying about $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton has been struck, and the mine is situate less than a mile to the west of the famous Hauraki Mine. Out of the capital of £100,000, in shares of £1 each, £25,000 is available for working capital. From the Kuranui-Caledonian a cablegram is to hand announcing that during the month the mill crushed 55 tons, yielding 186 oz. of gold. In the general Foreign market Richmond, La Yesca, De Lamar, and Montana are all lower, and Rio Tinto have also shown a dull tendency. The shares in the rich Mexican mine, the Grand Central, of which I gave particulars last week, and which are largely held by the Exploration Company, have again advanced to $2\frac{1}{4}$, and look like going higher, especially if, as is anticipated, the output at the end of August proves again very large. During the dull period Mines and Banking Corporation shares have receded to $1\text{-}1\frac{1}{8}$. At the meeting held not long since the Chairman was able to announce that the Corporation had not entered into one transaction which had brought a loss. From the Lucky Guss (Cripple Creek) a cablegram is to hand, according to which the manager has made a rich strike in the Mountain Beauty, near the Guss line. This is supposed to be, not the Orpha May vein, but quite a new one.

THE HOLLANDSCHE CREDIETBANK.

My readers will remember that I referred to the Hollandsche Credietbank in TRUTH of April 2 and 23. A number of people have been victimised by the purchase from this "bank" of certain lottery bonds at prices far above the market quotations, while other lottery bonds, which they foisted upon their unfortunate clients, were absolute rubbish. The following letter has just come under my notice:—

37, Tivisden-road, Highgate-road,
London, N.W., July 25, 1896.

SIR,—I take the liberty, on behalf of my firm, to enclose circular, setting out various advantageous combinations of Pre-

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

mium Bonds, and beg your careful consideration of the same. We invite your comparison of our prices with those of any other house, and say fearlessly that no other can offer anything like such value. We draw your particular attention to combinations "M" and "O," and to the very special advantages which the participation in a large number of other bonds, in addition to those he actually buys, gives to the purchaser. Experience has taught us that holders of these combinations are practically certain to draw something before their instalments have been completed. Should you feel inclined to purchase, I shall be glad to give you any further information you may require. I may say that there are three very important redemptions on August 1, which you should not miss.—I am, Sir, yours obediently, Fr. Pountney,
Sole Agent Hollandsche Credietbank.

I said once before that the attention of the police authorities ought to be called to the doings of this "bank," and I say so again.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and Issues have been placed before the public during the past week :—

The Golden Hex Rivier Mines, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire and develop a block of 118 gold claims situated on the Farm Hex Rivier, in Heidelberg, South African Republic. The capital is £60,000 in shares of £1 each.

I do not see any one on the Board of this concern possessing sufficient practical knowledge of Transvaal gold mining. It is true that one of the Directors is Colonel G. Montagu Hicks, who states that he is a Director of the Transvaal-Westralian Gold Concessions, Limited (which is referred to by me under "Golden West Australia"), but this is by no means a Company holding a good position. The intention also stated in the prospectus, to split up and sell portions of the property, appears to be impracticable, as it is quite small enough. Neither is it possible to gather from the prospectus exactly where the farm is situated. Equally valueless is the information vouchsafed as to work done by neighbouring properties. In view, moreover, of the generally inadequate information given, I strongly advise my readers not to put their money into the concern.

The 90-Mile (Goongarrie) Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited.—With a capital of £150,000 in 300,000 shares of 10s. each, this Company has been formed to carry on the business of a gold-mining, development, and exploration Company. Certain properties on the 90-Mile (Goongarrie), North Coolgardie Goldfield, are at once acquired.

Although it is asserted that a large amount of development work had been done on the properties, it does not appear at all that the various leases have been proved valuable mines, and I see nothing to tempt investment in this Company.

The First Hand Syndicate, Limited.—This Company proposes to carry out the usual objects of an Exploring and Finance Corporation. The capital is only £10,000, divided into 9,995 Ordinary shares of £1 each and 100 Deferred shares of 1s. each.

It is difficult to see how the promoters of this concern can justify the name "First Hand." The idea, on the contrary, appears to be altogether second-hand and second-rate; and the fact that the hundred Deferred shares are to receive a very large proportion of the profits, embodies an old and objectionable idea.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

Government, &c., Bonds.

New Club.—So far, the Costa Rica Government has not made any adequate proposal for a settlement of the debt. The last offer was very properly refused; but I should say that sooner or later the Costa Rica Government must come to terms. *J. E. W.*—No particular reason for making the exchange, although I prefer the new Uruguayan Loan. I do not know any lady stockbroker. *R. R. M.*—1. Messrs. N. Keizer & Co., 1, Cowper's-court, Cornhill, E.C., are foreign bankers who supply foreign lottery bonds at market prices. 2. I really do not care to take the responsibility of advising on the bonds in question; you had better be guided by the bankers.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

W. B., Margate.—You must have mistaken the contents of the article; but a liberal Company in the matter of annuities is the Royal Exchange Assurance. *Another Victim of the Hollandsche Credietbank.*—I do not know whether the person, whose letter you have sent to me, is the same as the one who previously acted as agent for this concern; but it is certainly advisable that people in this country should have nothing to do with the "combinations" of these persons. *Syntax.*—You will have seen the answer to your question in last week's issue. Please understand that letters which are not received by the first post on Friday morning *cannot* be dealt with in the current issue. *Business, Poole.*—I do not like the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Assurance Company. *Rue.*—As you are taking the Debentures up, the broker is quite correct in charging you stamp and fee. *H. T. T.*—A wealthy American office. Personally, I should prefer insuring in an English office. *Honest Dick.*—One of the best outside brokers; but personally I should prefer dealing through a member of the Stock Exchange, *Ashford.*—The position of gilt-edged stocks is such that, according to my opinion, prices may give way at no distant date; and for this reason I do not wish to recommend any to you. You had better be patient, and avail yourself of an opportunity of making the investment.

Home Rails.

P. O. S.—Certainly hold Dover "A" for a rise. There is no reason why they should have declined, and both traffics and working statements are most satisfactory. *Liverpool.*—I see no reason for selling the Scotch deferred stocks now.

American and Foreign Rails.

W. A., Harrogate.—One of the competing lines is in existence, and another is to be constructed; but you are quite correct in assuming that so far the whole of the capital has not yet been secured. *P. L. C.*—As regards American Rails, I must refer you to my letter. It seems to be too early to undertake purchases. *F. W. W.*—There will be no difficulty in dealing with the fractional certificate in question when the time comes. *South-West.*—Yes, it seems to me advisable to join the movement for bringing pressure to bear re the Leopoldina, Macahé, and Campos Railway Loan. *C. A.*—Yes, you should certainly hold your stocks Nos. 1 to 4 for a recovery. *Nodrog.*—I see no objection to your investing in the Indian stock in question. The Indian Government have the option referred to. *Gilberta.*—There is every prospect of the gold platform triumphing in the United States. What will happen in case the silver "plank" were to be successful it would be impossible to tell. As regards the Railroad bonds, both capital and interest would still be payable in gold. *W. E. H.*—1. I should advise you to hold after the heavy decline. 2. A speculative investment; you cannot call it a safe investment in the present position of affairs in the United States. *V. B. G.*—I can see no other course than to hold your bonds Nos. 1 and 2. Certainly hold Grand Trunk Four per Cent. debentures (3). No. 4 is more speculative; but I see no reason for selling. I have never recommended Canadian Pacific Prefs. (5); but under present circumstances I should advise you to hold. 6. This is an American concern of which I have always disapproved, and against which I have repeatedly warned my readers; so that you have yourself to blame for being involved in it. *Pete.*—I do not think that matters are as bad as has been represented. 1. No. 2. Hold after the heavy fall. *Regret.*—I cannot possibly advise sale of these shares after the heavy fall; hold.

Mining Shares.

Miss E. M. G.—I have added your name to the list of shareholders who wish to combine with reference to the Abercorn Reefs adn Umtoli Gold Reefs. *J. L., Belfast.*—African Gold Properties are likely to go much higher; hold, and average if you can afford to do so. *W. A. P.*—No reason to sell Great Boulder Main Reef; they are likely to further improve. *E. L.*—I do not see how you can resist the call. *Halifax.*—1. Yes, it will be advisable to join the reconstruction. 2. Yes. 3. One of these days I suppose these shares will improve. *West.*—1. I have never recommended Hannan's Reward, and thought that the former price was too high; but it might be advisable to hold after the recent fall. 2. Yes, Modder "B" are a good purchase, and should be bought for an improvement. *F.*—1. I think West Australian Trading Corporation shares have been rigged quite high enough. 2. I do not advise selling any Lagunas shares now. 3. You should hold Barnato Banks for a further important improvement. 4. No. *Rev. E. R.*—I have noted that you are a shareholder in the Abercorn Reefs, and have placed you on the list; I cannot reply by letter. 1. It is difficult to say how this mine will turn out; so far it has had a chequered career. 2. The Bendigo Mine may come all right. 3. Wealth of Nations should be held. 4. The office of the Oceana Company is at 13, Austin Friars, E.C., and the London agents of the Croydon Consols are Elmslie, Limited, Blomfield House, London-wall, E.C., where you will be able to obtain further information. 5. I do not like either the Rhodesian Minerals or the Rhodesian Gold Trust. *Maid-*

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

stone.—1. I still have a favourable opinion of the shares in question; held, but do not average yet. 2. Why not take the splendid profit which you are now able to realise on my advice? As regards further purchases, amongst the shares mentioned by you I place first Nos. 3, 7, and 8. The others I do not care for much; but Lake View Consols are likely to go much higher, and you can do better than in the other shares mentioned in those recommended in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Glyn.*—The Mainland Consols Mine is doing excellently, and you should hold your shares for a rise; why not average, if you can afford to do so? But you have disregarded my advice only to buy such shares if you can take them up and pay for them. 1. Probably, when the weak "Bulls" are cleared out. 2. No. *Ross-shire.*—Yes, I think they are worth applying for; and I confirm my remarks in last week's issue under "The Preliminary Canter in Kaffirs." *A. B. C.*—You should hold your Hampton Plains and buy more to average. Prospects are favourable, and a recovery has already come about. *Doubtful, Southport.*—What is the use of your buying West Australian shares first and asking my advice afterwards? I do not like the British Colonial Mining Corporation, neither do I approve of the Coolgardie Central. You could have done far better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *H. M., Gainsborough.*—The issue of TRUTH in which the various groups were mentioned is May 21; and you must communicate with the publishing office with regard to this. If you are a regular reader of TRUTH, you must know that I am favourable to the mine specially mentioned by you. Why do you not file TRUTH for financial purposes? *Gashry.*—So far there is no prospect of a rise in these shares, which will probably, however, follow in the wake of the South African market. *Otto K.*—I do not think that this is a case of throwing away your shares. On the contrary, you had better hold, and avail yourself of an improvement. *R. S. W.*—1. A fair mining risk, but no catch. 2. The Companies are quite different, and for that reason you cannot say that one is better than the other; they are both promising. 3. A fair mining risk, but no catch, although if you are a holder there is no reason to sell. *P. E. H.*—I have expressed my opinion of the Glencairn-Glenluce amalgamation in last week's issue under "The Preliminary Canter in Kaffirs." *R. M. K.*—1. A further rise is probable; but be careful to take your profit whenever the opportunity occurs. 2. There is a fair prospect of these shares improving. 3. I do not advise purchase after the recent important advance. 4. Yes. 5. Why not take so splendid a profit? 6. No particular temptation just now. 7. Yes. *Arual.*—1. Not particularly, and there will doubtless be a better opportunity of getting out on the further improvement in the Kaffir Circus. 2. Yes. 3. The prospects of Knights are excellent. 4. Yes. 5 and 6. Possibly. 7. Both shares are a good purchase; why not divide the amount between the two? *W. W., Southend.*—Yes, you should hold Waterfall Estates. Colonial Finance Corporation, West Australian Pioneers, and Continental and West Australian Trust shares are all quite high enough, considering the present position. *W. G. G.*—No option but to hold; these shares will recover again. Hold also the other West Australian shares. I expressed my view with regard to Mainland Consols in last week's issue. *Hamish.*—Hold; but do not buy more to average yet. *G. W., Ton-y-Pandy.*—If you are a regular reader of TRUTH you must know that I advise purchase of both Randfontein and Barnato Banks. *Reader, Harlesden.*—Your letter came too late at the time; but it was answered in last week's issue. *Adventurer.*—I have already expressed my opinion concerning the extraordinary fluctuations in Golden Arrow. Apparently the insiders are always playing with these shares, and I cannot therefore offer an opinion. You should certainly hold your Coras, and buy more to average. South African Estates should be held. *Cornubian.*—1. I do not like the Transvaal-Westralian Gold Concessions or its surroundings, and am specially referring to this elsewhere. 2. Hold these shares. 3. Royal Sovereigns are promising. 4. Why not take your profit on Hannan's King (Brownhill). 5. Hold Wealth of Nations. 6. Sell on an improvement. *Aaron.*—Nearly all your shares Nos. 1 to 6 are well selected, and should be held for a rise. You should certainly average Nos. 1, 2, and 6, and hold the others. *Subscriber, Sheffield.*—Hold Mysore Goldfields, and buy more to average; they are very promising. *Vanna.*—Write to the Secretary of the Austin Friars Syndicate, at 15, Austin Friars, E.C. As far as I know the Syndicate has an interest in the Lake View flotation. *Sycorax.*—1. This Company must have made a good many profitable deals, but some of the men connected with it are not sufficiently capable; hold. There is no option but to hold Nos. 2, 4, 5, and 6. I have no special information on Hampton Gold Hill (3), and do not like it. *Tasma.*—1. You can easily make your selection from my remarks under "The Kaffir Circus." 2. These deep-level shares already stand at a very high price; I think you can do better in the outcrop mines. 3. Certainly hold Oceana, and buy more to average. *Viking.*—Yes, Barnato Banks are a good purchase. *St. Lawrence.*—Your list of shares Nos. 1 to 29 is a very promising one, and in the present revival in the Mining Markets you will doubtless be able to obtain higher prices. If you have to dispose of any, you should sell Nos. 3, 24, 26, 27, and 28, and reinvest, as you propose, in Woodstock (Transvaal) and Transvaal Exploring, both of which are very promising. *J. J. C.*—The Hit or Miss is doing exceedingly well, and the price has advanced to 2⅜. You should, under these circumstances, be able to realise a good profit. *True Green.*—I am not responsible for all your purchases Nos. 1 to 4; but there is a chance of their improving. Hannan's Golden Treasure (5) are exceedingly promising, and should be held for a very important advance. Both the other shares mentioned are promising; but I need hardly tell you that nothing is certain in the Mining Market. Mining shares are not Consols. *Sorry Yankee.*—I quite expect an important improvement in Barnato Banks and Johnnies. You had better write to the London Agents about Pleiades; I have no recent knowledge about these. *Enaf.*—1. Certainly. 2. Explorers' Finance. 3. The £1 shares 10s. paid stand at $\frac{3}{16}$ premium. *W. D. B.*—1. I do not like Sheba Queens; Sheba Hills are far more promising. 2. No; leave them alone. *Stupid, Streatham Hill.*—No option but to join the reconstruction. In such cases it is always best to do so, and sell after. *Clio.*—1. Barnato Banks will further improve; hold for an advance. 2. Randfontein, Mainland Consols, and Hannan's Golden Treasure are some of the best selections possible, and you should hold them for an important rise. 3. No option but to hold them for the present. 4. The British Aluminium Company is promising. *F. T.*—Hold for an improvement. *Ebbw Val.*—1. A respectable stockbroker. I think he has dealt fairly by you; sometimes such prices are only nominal. 2 and 3. Yes. *Toby N.*—I advise you to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 6 for an advance, which is pretty sure to come about. You might buy Woodstock (Transvaal) and Transvaal Exploring; and amongst the better-class shares Knights and Buffelsdoorn. You should also make up a little private trust of West Australian shares from those recommended in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *F. M. B.*—1. I do not like Monastery Diamonds; why do you not take your profit? 2. No. *Hedgehog.*—I cannot give you limits at which to sell; take a good profit when you can see it. *Guillaume.*—Hold the South Africans, Nos. 1 and 2, for a rise. *E. H., Penzance.*—A fair mining risk but no catch; take a good profit. *Gordon.*—1. No reason as far as I can see. 2. Hold for the present. *W. M., Stalybridge.*—1. Hold for an improvement. 2. I do not like St. Augustine. *Kaloogamma.*—1. You are aware that I have always been averse to Loma Gold shares, why did you not sell out long ago? Do not throw good money after bad. 2. The Holton Land and Mining Company is a concern which has acquired land in the territories of the British South Africa Company, and you must be aware that these Companies have been under a cloud for some time owing to the insurrection in Rhodesia. This is, of course, no reason why the agents, the Rhodesia Agency, 8, Copthall-buildings, E.C., should not give any information; but I do not suppose that any favourable news was available under these circumstances. Write to them again. 3. Only if you could get a combination up amongst the other shareholders. *Mercutio.*—No option but to hold these West Australian shares, which are likely to recover. *Highfields.*—No particular temptation to buy these shares; you can do better by making your selection from those recommended under "Golden West Australia." *Caution, Bristol.*—No option but to hold Hampton Plains Block 50 for an improvement, which is probable. *Beati Coras Mundi.*—Write to the agents of the Bradbury Drill Sharpener, Finsbury House, Blomfield-street, E.C., for the necessary information. Hold the W.A. Venture Syndicate shares, and all the other West Australians; they should all improve. *J. P.*—With reference to Croydon Consols, I understand that a dividend has now been posted; you should make immediate inquiries if you have not yet received it. You have done quite right in purchasing Transvaal Exploring and Hannan's Golden Treasure; both are very promising. *Ka.*—You should hold your shares for an improvement, which is probable. The best time for the Mining Market is coming now. *Sir Nic.*—A. No option but to hold these shares, which are likely to improve again. B. Wealth of Nations had better be averaged now, if you can afford to do so. C. Take a good profit on Hit or Miss. *Green.*—I see nothing against your broker's charges. He would, of course, charge for stamp and fee, as you take up the shares. There is nothing further to pay. I return the contract-note in your envelope. *A. R.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are very promising, and should be held for an improvement. I do not like Lisbon-Berlyn (3); but Oceana and Sheba are likely to improve. *Adelphi.*—I do not like Brookman Brothers' Boulder at all; you can do far better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Ashton.*—1. Unfortunately a large block of these shares appears to have come upon the market, and there is no option but to hold. You had better keep Nos. 2 and 3 for an improvement which is already in progress; and do not sell Nos. 4 to 6 now. *Nitram.*—The Porges-Randfontein bonus to the Randfontein shareholders will doubtless reach you in the course of a month. *F. C. S.*—All your shares Nos. 1 to 11 should be held for a rise, which is probable. I agree with your views regarding the British Guiana mine in question. *Lacon.*—1. I am inclined to think that an exchange out of these Indian shares, which have now advanced, into South Africans would be advisable. Try, for instance, Woodstock (Transvaal), Transvaal Exploring, and Waterfall Estates. 2. Not exactly. *New Comer.*—Most of your shares, Nos. 1 to 6, are well selected, and should be held for an advance. If you can afford to do so you should average Nos. 4 and 5. I do not like New Seddons (7). *Circle.*—1. I see no reason for selling Hannan's Props. 2. No. 3. No option but to hold. *Buz, Balham.*—They should come right again. *John.*—I have placed your name on the list with reference to the proposed Abercorn Reefs combination against the Directors. New Rands are promising, and you will do well to buy more to average. No reason to sell Caratals now. *Two Disgusted Shareholders.*—You must be aware that I have thoroughly taken up the cause of the shareholders in the

Abercorn Reefs and Umtoli; but it is necessary for some of th shareholders to head the movement which is now in progress. Will you and your friend, both living in London, join the Committee? *F. P. F.*—I have placed your name on the list as regards the movement now in progress against the Umtoli Directors. *S. C.*—See preceding reply. *Maidenhead.*—Having made some inquiries into the position of the Gold Lands Corporation, I agree with your favourable view of this Company and of its sub-Companies, the Mona of Kalgoorlie Proprietary, as expressed by me in recent issues.

INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS.

F. O.—No; I do not advise purchase of Swan & Edgar Prefs. They have not paid any dividend for a long time. *Jack Straw.*—1. It is absolutely impossible for you to cancel your application, unless you did so before receiving an allotment. 2. If you do not pay the calls your shares will be forfeited, and you will be sued for the amount of the calls all the same. *M. A. H.*—A very fair investment, but under the present circumstances in the States, it might be advisable to wait. Spiers & Pond Ordinary shares are a fair investment. *Captain G.*—It is a great pity in the first instance that you applied for so large a number of shares in the Brockie-Pell Arc Lamp, Limited; and that you subsequently did not formally and absolutely cancel a portion of the same. I do not see how I can help you; although the Company ought in fairness to have considered your request. *An Irish Reader.*—Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 11, I do not like Nos. 3 and 4 (Simpson's Lever Chains), or Nos. 5 to 8. Nos. 1, 2, 9, and 10 are promising; but it seems almost time to take profits on No. 1. *Mackay, Aberdeen.*—The Deferred shares were the ones to buy in this Company, as regards the Ordinary I cannot possibly tell you how they will go, but I should not advise you to sell unless you get a fair profit. *Delft.*—There seems to be no reason for selling at a loss; you should, however, take an opportunity to sell when the market improves. *Western.*—A good brewery Company; no reason to sell. *Windermere.*—No reason to sell Johannesburg Tramway shares.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Fernhurst.—1. The future prospects of Lake View Consols are not speculative at all; but substantial. 2. The same applies to Hannan's Golden Treasure, which is expected to become another Lake View. 3. Ditto, as regards Hannan's Golden Group. 4. I do not think much of this stock; you should sell on a further improvement. *B. H. W.*—1. Yes, the amalgamation of the West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance Companies is to come off eventually. 2. There is very little market in the shares of Barrett's Brewery Company. 3. Possibly, when better managed. *Querist.*—There is no fresh news about this Nitrate Company. I do not think much of Barberton Estates, and the Clyde Gold Mining Company is what my contemporary the *Financial Times* terms a silent mine. Chatham Ordinary are certainly worth keeping. *Youth.*—I do not advise purchase of Nos. 1 and 2. You can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *T. W., Derby.*—1. No. 2. I do not think much of A and B. 3. Not much market in these. 4. I cannot answer this question. *R. A.*—1-2. Steady going investments, without much room for a rise. 3. No reason to sell now as a further rise is quite probable. 4. Eventually these should undoubtedly be averaged; but not yet. 5. The *Financial News.* 6. Write to Messrs. Mathieson & Sons, 15, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C. *Clarendon.*—The present price of Transvaal Estate and Development shares is £1. There will be no difficulty in your making the sale as suggested. *C. H. N.*—1. Nitrate Rails are improving again, and you should hold for a further rise. 2. The proposed investments, A to E, appears to be satisfactory, as you are prepared to run some risk; certainly hold F and buy more. 3. No reason to sell Western of Buenos Ayres Debentures. As regards the conversion you must take your own course. *F. J. O., Fife.*—The Debentures, Nos. 1 to 3, are a good investment. I think Egyptian Unified (4) are quite high enough. No. 5 is a local concern about which I cannot obtain any information here. *Teme.*—1. Hold these shares, which should recover again. 2. I do not like the Great Horseless Carriage Company, it is a very speculative concern. 3. If you mean W. A. Exploring and Finance you should hold for a rise. 4. Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand are quite high enough. I do not see anything to tempt a purchase of Nos. 5 to 7; you can do better in the shares mentioned under "Golden West Australia." *Longton.* With regard to Nos. 1 to 12, I see no reason for selling any just now, although some are badly selected. Nos. 3 to 6 are likely to improve with the rest of the market. Nos. 7 and 8 are highly speculative. With reference to Chartered shares (9) you must be fully posted if you are a regular reader of TRUTH. No reason for selling Nos. 11 and 12, and no option but to hold No. 10. *Penny.*—I do not like No. 1; but Great Boulder South (3) should certainly be held, and it would be advisable to keep Nos. 4 to 8 for an improvement. I do not think much of No. 2. *Alpha.*—I do not think much of No. 1. No news regarding No. 2 is to be obtained here. 3. New Primrose and Buffelsdoorn should be held for a rise; but I cannot tell you anything about the dividends. *J. G.*—None of your shares Nos. 1 to 4 were bought on my advice, and I do not think much of Nos. 1 and 4. I do not know what you paid for Nos. 2 and 3; but when you can get out without a loss you should do so. *A. B. C. D.*—1. It would be preferable to hold now after the decline. 2. No reason to sell Grand Trunk Debentures. 3. Prospects of the Woodstock (Transvaal) are excellent, and you should hold these for an important rise, they have already advanced to 1¾. *Spes.*—Hampton Plains Block 50 (1) should be held, and there is no reason to sell Hannan's Props. (2). *Ruhtra.*—1. Hold; the report will no doubt come along in due time. 2. The office is at 4 and 6, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., and there is no special group connected with it. 3. 22, West Nile-street, Glasgow. 4. There is a much larger market in Paris for the shares than in London; write to the Secretary at 8, Prince's-street, London, E.C., for further information. *North Riding.*—1. No option but to hold, they should recover again. 2. There seems to be every prospect of a rise. 3. I have already expressed my opinion of the Dunlop-Truffault Cycle Company long ago; I dare say the solicitors are right in the advice they give you. *Gallovidian.*—1. The distribution of Porges-Randfontein shares will be made in a month's time. 2. Prospects are good. 3. Certainly hold for the present. *Parrhesia.*—Your reasoning with regard to the American market is very sound; but you must be aware that there is a considerable element of uncertainty yet, and I think you will not be wrong in waiting for the present. Upon the whole I still think that if you made up a small private trust of well-selected West Australian and South African mining shares (distributed over a dozen) you would do better. *Glen Lyn.*—In such cases it is generally advisable to join the reconstruction and sell after; the circular has been returned in your envelope. No reason to sell Nos. 1 to 13; hold for a recovery. *Munro.*—1. I do not like Grapplers, and have repeatedly said so. 2. Not now. 3. Hold. 4. I have repeatedly expressed my view of the system of Cunliffe, Russell and Co., 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris. The bonds are bona fide enough, but they generally charge much higher than the market prices. If you wish to buy such bonds, you should only do so through a respectable London firm of foreign bankers. 5. I must refer you to my letter. *Salterton.*—I am glad to see that out of your holdings Nos. 1 to 26, there are only a few upon which you cannot make a profit. Those upon which you can make a profit are very promising, and you should hold them. There is also no reason for selling any of the others at present. *M'Limo.*—1. The capital is £100,000. 2. No market for them. 3. Impossible to tell. 4. Yes. 5. They are going to do so. *Paddy Ruyan.*—I do not advise the purchase of the Cycle shares now; and with regard to Mining shares I must refer you to my letter. *Elgin Crescent.*—1. There is no option but to hold these American shares now. 2. I do not like the Forest King of Coolgardie mine particularly.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

The Money Market is distinctly firmer, and rates for three months' bank bills have advanced to 1⅜, being quite ⅜ higher than a week ago. This advance was due entirely to the large gold shipments to New York, which has also in part caused sales of Consols, and a decline in the price of these to 112 9/16. Some of the selling of Consols, however, was also carried out as a hedge against other commitments in view of the political news from the East, and these will probably have to be covered again at a loss. Old-fashioned speculators do not yet appear to have realised that selling Consols as a hedge is, nowadays, a very risky business. Nitrate Rails have again advanced to 7, the firmer tone being chiefly due to the fact that the construction of the Huara-Iquique Railway has been suspended, and will probably not be resumed. This does away with one of the competitors, and as the traffics since January 1 show an increase of £8,700, and the Company is obtaining promises of traffic from some of the new oficinas, the recent fall must be considered to have been exaggerated. Nitrate-producing shares, however, have remained stagnant, and prices show little changes. San Jorge are quoted 5¼, Santa Rita 4, Lagunas Nitrate 2⅛, Lagunas Syndicate 1¾, Paccha and Jaz Pampa ⅞. At last week's meeting of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company very satisfactory statements were made by the Chairman; but a good many Stock Exchange men and others were disappointed by the statement that the special settlement had to be postponed. They will be proportionately elated at the announcement now made that it will, after all, come off on September 9. In the meantime, prices of the Deferred shares have taken a turn for the better, being quoted ⅝ premium, while the Ordinary are quoted ¼ premium. Humber Extensions are firmer at 7/16 to ½ premium, but Beestons have receded to 2⅞, and Cycle Tubes stand at 1. I have received a little pamphlet entitled "Cost-Book Advertising," by J. T. Segrue, Limited, Advertising Agents, 15-17, Gresham House, London, E.C. It shows that this firm is thoroughly *au fait* with reference to

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advertising, and certain advantages which will be gathered from the booklet are worth consideration. I gave the other day some particulars concerning a new cigarette machine, the "Baron," for the working of which a Company has been formed here. I now gather from the *Journal of Finance* of New York that the National Cigarette Company, which owns the patents for the United States for this machine, is now so busy filling orders that its factories are kept in operation day and night. I see that extraordinary efforts are being made by those behind the Merchants' Fire Office, Limited, to obtain subscriptions. The first attempts to induce the public to come into the concern were evidently not successful, and I have already explained that the objects for which the Company is formed are already being amply served by the other fire insurance offices, and that there is nothing in the prospectus to attract investors. It is, of course, quite absurd to print a table giving the dividends of leading and old-established Companies as indicating anything like the prospects of this new concern. I hope that my insurance contemporaries will give their attention to the British Life Office, which has lately been mysteriously formed. One of the questions which occur in connection with this prospectus is, why the name of no actuary figures on it, as naturally somebody would have to certify the tables? Then, again, it would be interesting to learn who has supplied the £20,000 deposit, as the Directors are certainly not millionaires; and more important than all is the question which my Irish contemporary, the *Finance Union*, asks, whether it is true, as pretty generally reported, that the Provident Association of London advanced the amount of the deposit? My contemporary states that this strikes more than one person as being the case, seeing the Company came on the public unawares, and that two of the confidential Provident men are officially connected with the British Office. If this is correct, what can this latest move of Baron Profumo mean?—Your affectionate uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE PRINCE AND THE PARTRIDGE.

THERE was no man of my acquaintance whom I at once hated and despised so much as the Duc de Nullicourt. I flatter myself on being tolerably cosmopolitan; and the fact of a man's being a Frenchman would not in the least prejudice me against him if he were a good fellow. Indeed, I have the pleasure to hold several of that nationality among my most intimate friends. But the Duc de Nullicourt was a beast—there is no other word—and as such I loathed and scorned him with a deadly loathing.

I very much wished that I could induce my uncle and aunt to see him in the same light. I believe that, *sponte suâ*, my uncle would have done so. But his "sponte" never was "suâ"; it was always "uxoriâ." For my excellent aunt ruled the roast at Shawfordbury Towers; and my uncle had precious little voice in making up the house-parties at his fine old Somersetshire seat.

Now my excellent aunt was rather a—I was going to have said snob. Perhaps, however, as applied to a lady, the term is too severe; for nearly all the fair sex have a spice of this thing in their compositions. And if I say that she was a typical woman, it will be sufficiently descriptive. With her, therefore, it weighed considerably that the Duc de Nullicourt was prince of a royal, though no longer reigning, house. As long as she had known him—a matter of three or four years—she had taken care to ask him down to Shawfordbury every season for the shooting. And M. le Duc was never loth to accept her invitations. He knew the ropes much too well for that. In addition to being one of the most comfortable and best-appointed county-houses in England, Shawfordbury was surrounded by an estate which for partridge shooting, at any rate, had few rivals. It was on the extreme east of the county, and overlapped the Wiltshire border, where the farmers go in largely for the arable branch of the profession. Here hundreds and hundreds of acres of roots and cereals afford splendid cover for partridges; while, owing to the undulating ground and the extreme dryness of the soil, the young birds can bear even the wettest summers with comparatively little havoc.

M. le Duc was an ardent devotee of *le sport*. And in some branches of it he certainly excelled. Much as I hated him, I could not fail to recognise that he was a good rider, a good fisherman, and an excellent shot. Only he was so confoundedly vain of these things, and boasted so insufferably of his achievements, that most of us men regarded him as the curse of the smoking-room. And there was another quality of which he was even vainer, and boasted in still louder tones. Fur, feathers, and scales were not the only victims of his prowess. He could kill a lady with the same ease as he could a salmon. A glance of his eye was as deadly in a boudoir as a charge of his No. 5 in a covert. It sickened us all to hear him bragging of his conquests, and licking his nasty fat chops over them with oily complacency. I dare say that women had fallen victims to the Prince; though I'll swear that not even a scullery-maid could ever have sacrified herself to the man. He was one of the most revolting-looking brutes I have ever come across.

Here is a recipe for his portrait. Take a fat, yellow face, with bloodshot eyes, a fleshy nose, thick lips, and pendulous cheeks. Add a crop of oily black hair, and a chin-tuft of the same material. Set the whole upon a thick neck, and the latter upon an obese trunk, furnished with short arms and still shorter legs. When the process is complete, you will have a very fair presentiment of the Duc de Nullicourt.

The last time I met him was down at Shawfordbury two years ago. Certain circumstances have made the occasion, to me at least, memorable; and I look back on it now with some inward satisfaction. My reasons for this satisfaction I will proceed to explain.

We were a large house-party, assembled for the partridge shooting; eight or nine men—none of whom, with the exception of M. le Duc, is there any need to particularise—and quite a bevy of pretty women. None of these, however, could, in my opinion, hold a candle—for looks—to my cousin Laura, the daughter of the house, who was quite the prettiest girl I had ever met. Eh? An affair—a cousinly affair? Nothing of the sort. Laura was already engaged, or as good as engaged, to Lord Hillbrow, whose estate joins her father's, and whom she has since married. Hillbrow is a good fellow, and on the whole, perhaps, worthy of the prize he has won. But, of course, we who live much in the world can't help thinking him rather obsolete. He seldom comes up to town, you know, except now and again on business; spends all his time on his estate looking after his tenants. Quite a survival. "A good old English gentleman, all of the olden time," and that sort of game. I've stayed at Hillbrow Hall. It isn't bad, only Hillbrow's a bit strait-laced. Have to mind your P's and Q's; no loo or baccarat or anything of that kind; show up at church on Sunday morning, &c. However, I didn't find my visit otherwise than enjoyable, and I'm going there again next Christmas. But this is by the way.

I was talking about Laura—wasn't I? Well, when I went down to Shawfordbury upon that memorable occasion, I could not help noticing a great change in my cousin. Usually she was the personification of brightness and high spirits; but now she was obviously depressed and dull. I wondered what was the matter with her, and at last, having made up my mind by acute observation that she must have some sort of trouble or difficulty weighing upon her, presumed on our brotherly and sisterly terms to ask her what it was, and if it was anything in which I could help her. We were alone in the garden together at the time, and no one was near to interrupt. First of all Laura evaded my questions, said it was nothing, and so forth. But, in the end, she burst into tears, and when I had calmed and soothed her a bit, confessed to me the whole matter.

It appeared that a year previously, when Laura was only a school-girl of seventeen, that scoundrel of a Nullicourt had presumed to make clandestine love to her. She had not (Laura told me) ever cared twopence for the fellow, nor, knowing him to be married (the scoundrel, you know, has a duchess who lives apart from him, and a good thing for her!), had she taken his amatory speeches at all seriously. But, in a fit of girlish folly, being momentarily under the glamour of his royalty, and her mind being just then filled with romantic notions about an exiled Prince, robbed of his rights and all the rest of it, she was silly enough to play the game of flirtation with him; and, in the course of doing so, to write him a couple of indiscreet letters.

This was where the trouble came in; for De Nullicourt still had the letters, and, though Laura had begged him to do so, he absolutely refused to give them up. And worse than that, annoyed by the chilling disdain with which Laura now treated him, thus publicly wounding his vanity in its tenderest point, he had had the incredible meanness, the odious caddishness, to threaten Laura by means of these letters, vowing that unless she changed her demeanour towards him, he would show her letters to Lord Hillbrow.

When I heard this, my wrath with that sneaking French beast knew no bounds.

"Let him show them to Hillbrow!" I exclaimed, "and I'll thrash the scoundrel within an inch of his life. Yes; and if Hillbrow is a decent fellow, he'll do the same by him."

"But—but—don't you see, Charlie," said poor Laura, miserably, "even if you half-murdered the Duke it would do me no good. I—I—wouldn't have H-Hillbrow see those letters for anything, or father or mother either. I—I—meant no serious harm; but—but—I daresay I said some awfully foolish things, and—and—seeing they were written to a married man, and not understanding the—the—exact circumstances, Hillbrow might——"

"Hillbrow would surely believe you if you told him the exact truth," I said warmly.

"Yes—yes! I daresay, Charlie; but Hillbrow is so scrupulous, so above board, himself, that—that—O, Charlie, I'd do *anything* for you if only you could get those two silly letters back!"

"Has he them here with him?"

"Yes; he showed them to me; he taunted me with them, only yesterday."

"The brute!"

"Oh, Charlie" (piteously), "don't you think you could get them away from him somehow?"

And again she burst out crying.

"My dear little coz," I said, consolingly; "don't give way like this. I'll think what can be done."

"Oh Charlie! Do—do get them away from him."

"Well—well," I told her, wishing to console her, and therefore speaking confidently, "I daresay it can be managed. Leave the matter to me and don't worry about it any further."

"Oh, thank you, thank you, Charlie. Isn't that mamma coming along there? Yes, it is! She must not see that I have been crying, else she will want to know what is the matter."

And my pretty cousin jumped quickly from her seat and ran off towards the house by another way.

I thought very carefully over what Laura had told me. I was anxious to help her if I possibly could; for I saw what cause of uneasiness the existence of those letters naturally was to her; although I was sure that her fears had exaggerated the dangers of the situation. For one thing, the letters, if shown, would doubtless be found to contain nothing very seriously compromising. For another, I did not believe that, for his own sake and credit, the mean cad would venture to show them at all However, assuming that I could devise some possible means, I decided to get the letters from him; and I set myself to think what way promised the best hope of success.

All sorts of ideas occurred to me; but none seemed particularly feasible. And when we started on our shooting expedition next morning—which was the eventful "first"—I had not in the least made up my mind what line to pursue.

I am ashamed to say that in the course of the morning's shoot poor Laura's trouble was quite eliminated from my mind by an unforeseen and unfortunate accident which happened to myself. Like a stupid ass, I potted a hen-pheasant. She was a very young, small bird, and was half obscured from me when I shot her by an intervening belt of hazels. The most scrupulous sportsman in England might easily, under the circumstances, have made the same mistake. But it was devilish annoying to me all the same; and I was in a fine state of mind when I discovered what I had done. Luckily, however, I was on the outside wing (being the youngest and most active member of the party), and was more or less hidden from the others by the same hazels which had obscured my view for the shot. By that merciful interposition, my crime escaped discovery; for I at once pounced on the murdered pheasant, and doubling it up anyhow, thrust it hastily into an inner pocket in the skirt of my shooting jacket; not venturing to leave it lying where it was, for fear it should be retrieved by one of the dogs. But I meant to get rid of the evidence of my guilt on the first available opportunity.

However—much to my dismay—I found no opportunity of doing this before luncheon. And very guilty I felt as I sat down to feed among my fellow-sportsmen, and several of the ladies who had joined us at our midday repast, with that wretched pheasant bulging out my pocket. I was in mortal terror lest some one should call attention to the protrusion. But, happily, it passed unnoticed, either because, in my loose jacket, it was less obvious than I, the guilty murderer, supposed it, or perhaps because, if observed, it was simply set down as cartridges or some other paraphernalia of the sportsman. At any rate, no allusion was made to it by any members of the party.

That cad of a Frenchman was in the greatest feather, and talked in his most self-asserting tones as he discussed his luncheon. He *had* shot remarkably well; indeed, he had (as he took care to announce to us) killed ten brace to his own gun. All of us—except M. le Duc—were very pleased when Hillbrow, who was of the party, capped the boastful foreigner by claiming ten and a half brace.

"Ha!" said the Prince, "and I did also keell one partridge more than I have said. You remember that last shot of mine just before luncheon; I hit the bird, and I am sure that I did keell it. I saw it fall among the fern there. It is lying not far away, dead, I will swair-r-r, although the dogs could not find it."

"You only winged it, I expect, Prince. It must have run," said my uncle.

"Ah! But I did not only weeng it. I keelled it," persisted the Frenchman. "And I am sure it will be found not far from there," he added, indicating the patch of fern.

It was then that an idea struck me. Here was a grand opportunity of getting rid of my hen-pheasant. I turned to the Frenchman and said, carelessly, for I feared to betray myself by evincing too much interest in the matter,

"I agree with you, Prince. I saw the bird fall. And I'm sure that there was devilish little run in him. I have no doubt he is somewhere close there. I'll go and have a look if you like, while I'm smoking my weed."

"And I will come and asseest you, mon ami!" exclaimed the Prince, jumping up eagerly.

"You'll be wasting your labour," said my uncle. "If the bird had fallen there, the dogs must have had him."

"Ah, the dogs are often at fault when birds are falling thick," I said sagely.

And M. le Duc and I strolled away together. Now, of course, was my chance. The Duke and I had separated,

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when we reached the patch of bracken, to explore different parts of it. The fern was thick and tall. When I stooped a little, my movements were invisible. In less than a twinkling that slaughtered hen-pheasant was lying on the grass at my feet.

I gave a low whistle. The fat Frenchman ran gasping towards me through the bracken.

"Have you found it? Have you found it?"

"Yes!" I almost whispered, and then I added, very impressively, "Not so loud, Prince!"

"Why not so loud? I——"

"Look here," I interposed, kicking the pheasant gently towards him. "And then you'll see why."

The Prince started; his red face turned quite pale. He looked down at the murdered fowl with the deepest dismay.

"Sacrebleu!" he muttered. "Est-il possible?"

"Looks like it!" I said, with a grin. I was thoroughly enjoying myself.

"What is to be done?" gasped the Prince.

"Hanged if I know. If we leave him here one of the dogs is bound to find him, and then——"

I thrust my hands deep into my pockets and whistled. There is an air of desperate mystery about this process which makes it more tremendous than any articulate words.

"Ha! where shall we put it? Say, say," gasped M. le Duc, with an apprehensive look towards the other sportsmen, who were already rising from their seats and taking up their guns.

"Into your pocket, quick, quick!" I whispered.

He was too frantic and flabbergasted to think or to reason. He stooped down, doubled up the pheasant—which, though he never noticed this, was already in an awfully tumbled state from its sojourn in my pocket—and stuffed it into the loose bosom of his Norfolk jacket. I could have screamed for joy as I witnessed it. I was giving the odious beast a "doing" with a vengeance.

"There is nothing showing—no tail feathers?" he asked me, with fearful eagerness.

"No; but keep it in the middle, over your—hem—stomach," I told him. (Oh, how I did relish roasting the beggar!) "It looks more natural there. They'll only think it's your luncheon."

He was too much overcome with anxiety to resent my allusion to his huge feeding propensities. He only said, imploringly,

"And you'll say nothing about it—not a word?"

"All right. I won't split. But mind you keep it in the middle, or else you'll give yourself away! Take care! It is working round towards your ribs now!"

And before anything more could be said we were joined by the rest of the company.

"Well, you didn't find it?" asked my uncle.

"No," said the Prince.

"Not a sign of a partridge anywhere," I added, with a scarcely-suppressed grin.

Heart alive! How the beast squirmed at that. He was afraid that my emphasis on "partridge" had betrayed the secret. But no one noticed. And the head keeper proceeded to form us into line for shooting the next beat.

As we started off, Laura, who had come out with the other ladies, attached herself to my side. Not till that minute had I remembered poor Laura's trouble. My whole thoughts had been taken up with getting rid of the pheasant and roasting the Frenchman. But now I saw, with a flash of holy joy, that our enemy was delivered into our hands.

"Look here, dear little coz," I said to her, after briefly explaining matters to her. "I have to keep my place in the line. But you can walk where you please. Make it your business to walk by the side of the Prince and see that he has no opportunity of reducing his—hem—corporation on the way. If his waist gets no smaller by the time we reach home, you shall have back your two letters before dinner to-night!"

She did.

Mediterranean and Baltic Cruises for Eighteen Guineas, Conducted by Mr. Woolrych Perowne, on the s.s. "Midnight Sun" (3,188 tons).—Particulars, Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gdns. Ldn. N.W.

MUSIC.

PROMENADES AND MUSIC.

THE Promenade Concerts at Queen's Hall of to-day are very different entertainments from those which the present generation when young used to visit on the sly. Formerly there were two distinct audiences. One consisted of genuine music lovers, who welcomed the shilling performances of Symphonies and better class works. These no doubt remain. The others were true promenaders, city clerks, men about town, and others who cared little for the music, but much for the lights and the decorations; or very young men who thought themselves rackety dogs indeed, when they bade a lady "good evening," without the ceremony of a formal introduction. These, it seems, have migrated to the music halls, which now offer more glittering and more diversified entertainments than they did thirty years ago. In Mellon's time, a girl seen in the Promenade at Covent Garden would have been considered by the dowagers of the period to have gone irretrievably to the bad. To-day a lady could go without escort to the Queen's Hall concerts, with as little fear of rudeness or annoyance as at the Monday Pops themselves.

Mr. Robert Newman, in fact, has to cater almost exclusively for the great shilling public, the musical middle-class section of the community. His programmes at Queen's Hall are practically those of mixed concerts, and there seems no earthly reason why the promenade should not be abolished altogether, or, at any rate, why the greater part of the floor of the house should not be provided with seats. For a man, however great a musical enthusiast, to have to stand throughout the performance of a Beethoven's Symphony or a Concerto, is a severe physical task. To ladies it is almost impossible. The present season is, however, more or less experimental, and if experience shows that the public demand seats, the promenade may be abbreviated, or even abolished altogether. It is certainly a capital shillingsworth that Mr. Newman provides, for, although his band may not perhaps quite justify some of the wild nonsense that has been written about it, and although the vocal programme on Saturday could easily have been bettered, yet the entertainment at the price is quite a marvel of cheapness. Certain days of the week are to be set apart for composers whose works will fill the first part, Monday being devoted to Wagner, while last Tuesday the favoured musician was Sir Arthur Sullivan; Mendelssohn holds the place of honour to-night (Wednesday), and Friday will be devoted to Beethoven. The second part of each concert is of a more miscellaneous character, although even on Saturday it included Mlle. Chaminade's "Idylle Arabe," the march written in honour of the painter Regnault by Dr. Saint-Saëns, and the principal melodies from "Cavalleria Rusticana," all a great deal better than the trashy dance pieces which formerly were considered good enough for the second half of the evening. The enterprise, which has commenced rather late in August, must be brief, as the regular musical season starts early next month. The improvement in the Promenade Concerts programmes is, however, a striking sign of the times, for it shows that the fact has been drilled into the heads of managers that the shilling public demand music of the highest class.

There is no particularly fresh operatic news, although rumours are still plentiful enough. Somebody, indeed, has even discovered the exact night when Mr. Chevalier Scovel will open an autumn season at Covent Garden. October 20 is the date given, but as that happens to be a Tuesday, people may perhaps be sceptical on the point. Nothing, at any rate, has, I believe, been signed, though Mr. Scovel is credited with the intention of singing "Lohengrin" in English, and of producing Leoncavallo's "Chatterton," and perhaps the same composer's opera "I Medici." The German papers also confidently announce a German opera season under Mr. Grau at Covent Garden

this winter. But Mr. Grau is not at all likely to be so foolish.

The craze for musical comedy continues, and by the end of next month nearly half the theatres in London bid fair to be devoted to it. "Monte Carlo," which was produced at the Avenue last Thursday, is a good deal superior to "Newmarket," given at the Opéra Comique the previous week, although the second act is not a little dull, and the whole work needs complete revision. It is the weak point of this class of theatrical production that almost every singing member of the cast demands one or more ballads, so that the comedy element is overloaded with music much of which is by no means of an exhilarating character. Mr. Howard Talbot is one of the numerous British musicians who pay Sir Arthur Sullivan the sincerest form of compliment, but although Mr. Talbot possesses a pretty gift of melody the unconscious imitation is far off the original. The cleverest thing of "Monte Carlo" (apart, perhaps, from the persistency with which a real monkey tried to claw off a chorus lady's headgear) is a parody of an East End music-hall song, rendered with amusing vulgarity by Miss Lalor Shiel. Mr. Garden is an hotel waiter, subsequently, by some topsy-turveydom, discovered to be the long lost husband of a lady who keeps a yacht (it is now the ambition of every burlesque lady to keep a "yot"), and there are two genuine recruits from the Halls to show what a very refined and entertaining damsel the latter-day serio-comique can be. "Monte Carlo," however, has a good cast, including Mr. Robb Harwood, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Richard Green (the best singer of the troupe), Miss Lottie Venne, and graceful Miss Emmie Owen. Miss Owen, by the way, was formerly a dancer at the Savoy, but Sir Arthur Sullivan once accidentally overheard her singing to herself, and discovered her possession of a really pretty voice, which has since been properly cultivated.

The "Little Genius"—Sir Augustus Harris's last mistake, as somebody has described it—has been completely overhauled, and in the course of this week it will be presented in a second edition, Miss Florence St. John now playing the part of the twelve-year-old boy "progidy." There is to be a new second act, and almost entirely new music; so that comparatively little will be left of Sir Augustus Harris's purchase. We are also promised ahead an Armenian comedy at this house, a circus piece at the Gaiety, for which it is whimsically said Mr. Lionel Monckton is writing the music at Bayreuth, the "Rightful Heir," by Messrs. Sturgess and Glover at the Duke of York's, and a new musical piece at the Prince of Wales's.

Among my correspondents this week is a lady, impetuous like all other young ladies, who takes me severely to task for a chance word about musical clubs. I remarked that "attempts to form a Musicians' Club have, as a rule, failed, owing to the fact that the projectors imagined professors of music hankered after musical performances in their hours of ease. I expect what they really do desire is to meet possible pupils." And my fair correspondent wrathfully exclaims, "Do lawyers in joining a club aim at meeting possible clients, or painters possible purchasers of pictures?" Painters are, of course, beyond reproach, but the hint may, perhaps, not be lost upon married lawyers addicted to late hours. It would therefore be unkind to say that the Law Club is one of the dullest clubs in London.

Apropos of musical clubs, I learn, by the way, that another attempt is about to be made to form a genuine professional club. Sir Arthur Sullivan, Professor Bridge, Mr. Cowen, and other gentlemen have, it is said, promised their support, and "The Musical Arts Club" will open in Gerrard-street in a week or two. Personally, I know nothing about it, but I hear that the subscription is to be as low as half a guinea, in order to attract the concert and opera bandsmen, who will be glad to find some place to dress, and read, and eat between afternoon rehearsals and evening performances. Such a club, as a business rendezvous, ought to be a good deal more successful than the pretentious, dilettante, cock-and-hen musical clubs which during the past ten years have come so plentifully, and gone so regularly.

Another correspondent writing apropos of my allusion to the historic Temple organ (we have, by the way, many old organs in London, but most of them renovated, rejuvenated, and practically rebuilt), directs attention to another ancient organ with a "history" which has been receiving renovation during the last few months:—

This is the organ in the chapel of the Foundling Hospital, associated with memories of Handel. It was in 1740 that Handel opened the organ, built by Parker, and on it he performed at the early performances of the Messiah, given under his direction in the chapel. The present larger instrument, built about 1830, contains some of the pipes, as well as the case, of Handel's organ, with which it is often erroneously confused by writers. It was rebuilt by Messrs. Willis in 1884, and the present alterations consist mainly of some of the latest improvements of action and touch, supplied by Messrs. Hill.

According to a German paper, the German Emperor is to be greeted on his visit to Westphalia next month by a party of 500 singers and 700 trombone players. Even to be a Kaiser is consequently not all beer and skittles.

The Crystal Palace Directors have put forward a capital programme for the autumn concerts, which commence on the 3rd prox. No second-rate provincial novelties are to be tried this year, but the two concerts in which the choir will take part are to be devoted to "The Golden Legend" and Berlioz's "Faust." Also there is a strong cast of principal artists, headed by MM. D'Albert, Sarasate, and Hambourg; Mesdames Chaminade, Fanny Davies, Ella Russell, Landi, Clara Samuell, Sherwin, Brema, and others. There is an interesting list of novelties, some new work, indeed, being given in almost every programme, while many favourite standard compositions are likewise to be heard. In short, the scheme is infinitely better than that of last year, and it is hoped that the attendance will be improved. The Crystal Palace concerts have lasted forty years under the same conductor, Mr. Manns. Happily, they still seem to be in vigorous life.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Have you ever known weather so changeable? We have been caught in showers ever so often during the last few days, and but for the boon and blessing of what we call our "blankets," viz.: thick-ribbed serges, we should probably now be a cheerful party occupied in sneezing, coughing, and otherwise indulging in symptoms of a catarrhal condition.

We had a fine shower accompanied by a short but energetic thunderstorm on Friday, on our way to the Military Tournament at Hythe. The Tournament was great fun; and so was the Bazaar on the following day. I wonder how many regiments are represented by detachments at Shorncliffe. We could not even keep count of the enormous variety of uniforms we saw there. Just to enumerate a few, we noticed Highlanders, Hussars, Bucks, Berks, Middlesex, and Indians, highly picturesque in white and scarlet. There were several others, but I cannot remember them.

We took such a fancy to Sandgate, in passing through on our way to Hythe, that we put up there for a few days. It is a quaint and curious little place, consisting of one street, one-half the houses in which deliberately turn their backs on the sea, ignoring it completely, and quite hiding it from the other half. Well planned, it might be so managed that all should have a sea view, but the dwellings seem to have very contentedly nestled down at the foot of the cliff. Some of the prettiest of the houses are made of wood, and their whiteness gives them an attractive look, to say nothing of roses and honeysuckle growing up the walls, and wild clematis throwing its long, thick clustering sprays over porch and window.

You cannot imagine what a cheery place the quaint old High-street is on a Sunday morning with the soldiers marching to the different places of worship and the regimental bands playing. On Sunday last we attended

St. Paul's and heard a short, practical, and excellent sermon preached in the simplest Saxon English by the Bishop of Lincoln, and addressed chiefly to the military, who occupied the whole of one gallery.

There is a horse-tram, open at the sides, but covered at the top, which runs between Sandgate and Hythe, chiefly by the sea, and it is really a delightful drive. Or may I amend that utterance by saying that it would be a most perfect drive if only the men who occupy seats would refrain from smoking strong tobacco, and puffing it in the faces of those who sit opposite them?

As you know, I am no foe to tobacco, but I dearly like it to be good.

One can get much more good out of the sea at Sandgate than at Folkestone. There are no crowds of cheap trippers as there are at the latter, and there is a good asphalted parade, on which a glorious walk towards the sunset was our regular evening amusement, chiefly in the teeth of a lively, roaring south-west wind, laden with ozone and the delicious smell of the salt sea breeze. Three miles of this parade—or is it four?—are a liberal allowance, and Lilla should be here and compel herself to walk it once a day and back. She would soon shake off some of her too, too solid flesh.

By-the-way, she is in mourning for her sister-in-law, poor Fred's favourite sister. I wonder if Lilla feels the smallest sympathy for him in his loss? She is one of that numerous class of persons who, if they do not themselves like any individual or any thing, completely fail to grasp the idea that any one else can really do so. Lilla detested both her sisters-in-law, and in writing to tell me of the death of this one, says:—

> Fred's in an awful way. The news of Anna's death, out in India, came this morning. Write by return and tell me if you would advise me to wear crape. I am so vexed, for we were engaged to dine next week at the Manor House to meet the De Veres, and you know how I have been wishing to make their acquaintance without appearing anxious to do so.

Poor Fred! One can fancy how she will try to scold him out of his grief, as if it were a naughty temper.

Of course she must wear crape, mourning being as deep for one's husband's relations as for one's own. In fact, many of us are more particular to do all that could possibly be considered necessary in such cases than if the lost relative were really our own.

I am sending her a very useful little card lately brought out by Charles Letts & Co., on which the leading authorities are quoted on the correct periods for wearing mourning. The way in which these authorities agree in the main, while differing slightly in detail, is interesting in its line. For instance, one well-known paper gives the requisite period of wearing mourning for a sister as "crape three months, plain black two, and half-mourning for one month;" and another says: "Crape for three months, mourning for three." Practically the same, you see, but different in minutiæ.

You ask me what I mean by the word "Vizella." Your "z" is wrong. What I wrote was "Viyella," the name of the delightfully soft material which will not shrink. I believe a whole width of it—and it is very wide—could be drawn through a wedding ring with ease.

There is such a lovely young woman here. We see her on the Lees very often. She has a pretty face, an exquisite complexion, and quantities of magnificent ruddy brown hair. She looks about sixteen, but there is a baby always by her side in its dainty perambulator, with a white-clad nurse. So we conclude that this girlish, almost childish, beauty is the baby's mother.

Another extremely fascinating woman charms us by her dresses. She must have an almost endless supply, for we seldom see her wearing the same gown twice. One morning it was a blue serge with pointed lapels lined and turned back with embroidered grass lawn, a vest of the same just showing between the lapels. Another morning she wore a cream-white coat and skirt with a blouse or front of Indian pattern in blue and pink and amber. Her hat was blue straw, with chené ribbons in many mingled tints for trimming. Again, one afternoon, we saw her in a blue and white foulard, made to perfection, and trimmed very sparingly with cream-coloured guipure insertion on the sleeves and shoulders. Her belt and neck ribbon were cream-coloured satin ribbon, and her hat was blue rough straw with cornflowers and poppies for trimming.

A girl here who cycles constantly wears, on fine days, a white piqué skirt, a white muslin shirt, belt of Danish red silk, and a dark blue hat trimmed with red geraniums matching the belt. On damp days her skirt is in light tan-coloured covert coating with a short, well-fitting coat to match, buttoned across at the waist, but with lapels folded back above to show the neatest of pink and black check shirts, with white collar and black tie. Her business-like sailor hat is black straw with a pink ribbon.

I enjoy seeing a toilette that is well thought out even to the most trifling detail; don't you?

Some of the bathers swim very well. A pretty girl who wears a scarlet bathing suit is a capital swimmer, and another, in grey relieved with crimson, is almost as good. The one in the red gown does what I thought no girl or woman could ever do. She actually looks pretty when coming out of the water after her bath. But then, as Bee remarks, she never wets her hair!

The too hideous bathing cap has its votaries. I wonder that its wearers do not copy their French sisters and tie round it a becomingly tinted handkerchief, finishing it off in front with two little "dog's-ear" ends. It makes such a difference in the appearance of a bather!

And, after all, appearances have to be studied, though one need not go so far as the Narraganset girl, who bathes in black satin knickerbockers and a low-cut bodice of the same and wears her pearls. People say, by the way, that pearls are benefited by a dip in their native brine, but how about the setting, or the string that ties them together?

How irritating silk dress linings and silk petticoats are! Why does not some one invent a silk that will not cut? One no sooner gets on agreeable terms of familiarity with a new gown than the silk lining begins to show signs of fatigue, and finally, after having been mended and re-pinked out in its borders, strikes work altogether, after having first calmly disintegrated itself in the most public place into which its owner has rashly taken it. Let us invent some other material, and make our fortunes!

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

> Dearest Madge,—Of course we, in common with thousands upon thousands of Celts and Saxons, of strangers and pilgrims from many parts of the globe, were at the Horse Show last week. Though the grouse and the horse come into rivalry at this season, the latter has till now scored an easy triumph, and carried off from the moors even the most rabid and bloodthirsty of bird slayers, who have been content to stay their hands and spend the week in Dublin. It was a strain no doubt, a clashing of the great interests of life, with regard to which true philosophy teaches compromise. The authorities who rule these things have therefore decided—perhaps not quite finally yet—that the Horse Shows of the future are to be held at the beginning instead of at the end of August. Just after Goodwood and before grouse.
>
> Notwithstanding the strike of the wheels against the horse, and their establishment on an independent basis, the horse has not only retained his old position in Ireland, but scaled even greater heights. The horse show of last week again beat the record. What do you think of an attendance on one day of over twenty-four thousand? On the corresponding day last year it was not quite twenty-three. Of course, it is the mere humans I allude to in these thousands. What the entry of horses was I cannot say, but that they, too, were there in their thousands I can certify, my judgment being founded on the long rows of legs and tails I, circumspectly, walked between. That was in the morning hours, when human interests were suspended, and we gave all our minds and zeal to the horse, his pedigree, points, performance, and possibilities. We bought and sold him, while he looked on from his stall with a more supreme indifference to fate than the philosopher in his tub ever attained (Fred here interpolates that human interests do largely come into these sales, as in horse-coping bargains the horse is rarely the only animal that gets sold). Then there were tweeds, lace, embroideries, wood carving, basket work, and all sorts of other Irish industries to be

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studied, admired, and above all bought, but you have seen most of these things at the sales in London.

In the afternoon on both Wednesday and Thursday Lord and Lady Cadogan made the usual entry into the Ball's Bridge grounds, their carriages being driven to the grand stand through the enclosure. The ladies of the Viceregal party generally remain seated in the Viceregal box on the grand stand during the afternoon, whilst the Lord Lieutenant and the men go into the jumping enclosure with the judges to have a closer view of the proceedings. On Wednesday the weather moderated the display of toilets, which had a tendency more to the useful and suitable than to the brilliant. A keen north wind and heavy showers are not favourable to any draperies, frills, and flowers. They had, however, their opportunity on Thursday and profited of it amply. Headgear—one uses the word advisedly, the distinctions between hats, bonnets, and toques being too fine for the average intelligence—as usual led the way in rainbow-like brilliancy, and bodices monopolised all the frills. One had no forecast, even in the Viceregal party, of a future of restricted skirts and more reasonable shoulders. The Irish Peerage and society in general from the north, south, east, and west of the country were largely represented, besides a large contingent from across many waters. Lord Morris and Sir James Mathew were amongst the representatives of the English Bench. Lord Ashbourne was absent, but Mr. E. Carson was present. The Irish Lord Chief Justice and Lord Justice FitzGibbon were amongst the many members of the Irish Bench to be seen. The muster of the military was naturally very great, headed by Lord Roberts with his family, and a large party, including Lord and Lady Settrington, Lord and Lady Airlie, Lord and Lady Southampton, Lady Carew and her sister. Lords Arran, Belmore, Rosse, Talbot de Malahide, Longford, Langford, Willoughby de Broke, Portarlington, Clonbrock, Ashtown, Lord and Lady Bellew, Lord and Lady Clancarty, Lady Limerick, Sir T. O'Brien, and hosts of others well known in Society moved up and down the crowded enclosure. There were many charming faces and figures amongst the strangers and foreigners who come in increasing numbers each year to the Horse Show. Quite a fleet of large yachts was in Kingstown Harbour for the week, Kingstown being within twenty minutes of Ball's Bridge. There were parties on board Lord Fitzwilliam's *Kathleen*, Lord Morton's *Cressida*, Mr. Ninian Stewart's *Maria*, the Duchess St. Theodora's *Æolia*, the *Capercailzie*, and many others.

It was rather a clashing of interests to have the All Ireland Polo Tournament on the same days as the Horse Show, especially on Thursday, when the match between the 10th Hussars and the Freebooters drew crowds away in the afternoon to the Phœnix Park. Modernity, however, is never satisfied without a rush, and of course one felt that it gave *ton* to the Horse Show to have to rush away from it to something else.

You like to know the inside of things; do not believe that Lord Cadogan was received with great warmth, as the Court-inspired papers report, at the Horse Show. The Irish landlords are very sore at present about the Land Bill, and their feelings towards the Government and its Ministers are just now decidedly going through a glacial period. The contrast between the way in which Lord Cadogan was received in the Enclosure at the Horse Show this year and last was very marked. This kind of thing is the fault of the system, not of the Viceroy himself. What a pity that we have not a Viceroy as India has, who does not represent a party, but only as one of the name should, the Sovereign.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Arthur writes from Dieppe:—

Dieppe has been very full lately, this being the race week. Everyone's pleasure has been sadly marred by the broken weather. It poured in torrents last Friday afternoon, just as people had fairly settled down to the first day's racing, and has rained on each race-day since—Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The French Fleet was to come on Tuesday, and great preparations were made for a ball, a banquet, and a reception at the Hôtel de Ville. Owing to the squally weather, they were a day late, but at last arrived on Wednesday morning, and everyone was in a state of great excitement, and the Hôtel de Ville was gaily decked with flags, &c. Just as the hour for the reception was near, a telegram arrived, ordering the Fleet to proceed at once to Cherbourg, as the glass was falling and a gale expected. The anchorage here is very bad, and it is not safe to lie off here in bad weather. So about 6 p.m. we sorrowfully watched the squadron file away.

And now to turn to things culinary. Try this lemon pudding; it is very refreshing, and equally good either hot or cold:—

Put the strained juice of half a small lemon into a stewpan with 4 oz. of pounded sugar, boil it on the side of the stove until it turns a golden colour, pour at once into a plain round mould, and allow it to cool. Beat four yolks and two whole eggs with 6 oz. of pounded sugar and the grated peel and juice of a lemon, pour into the prepared mould, twist a buttered paper over and steam, without allowing it to boil, for three-quarters of an hour.

I think you will like this savoury:—

Cut rounds of bread from a tin loaf about 2 in. in diameter and fry them carefully in hot butter. Pound the meat of a couple of cooked kippers with the yolk of a hard boiled egg and 1 oz. of butter, season with cayenne pepper and rub it through a wire sieve, spread the croutes rather thickly with the fish paste, then put a dessertspoonful of tomatoes, cut in dice-shaped pieces and seasoned with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, on the top and garnish with a little hard boiled yolk of egg passed through a wire sieve. Arrange them on a dish paper, on a bed of mustard and cress, with sprigs of chervil here and there.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

With the Japanese Troops.

JAMES CREELMAN, the American War Correspondent, in his dispatch to New York, dated PORT ARTHUR, Nov. 24, 1894, writes:—

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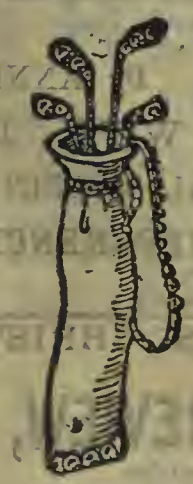

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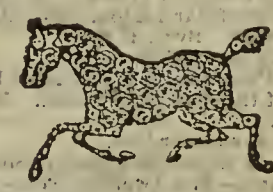

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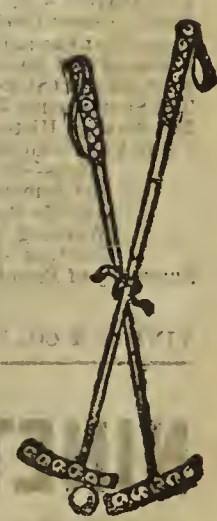

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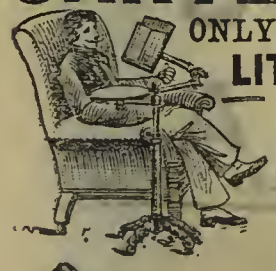

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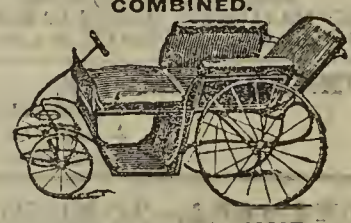

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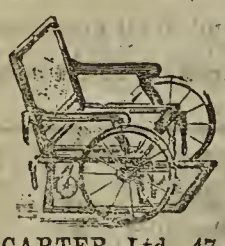

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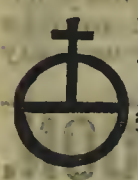

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Comparative Philology ...	J. P. Postgate, M.A., Litt. D.
Archæology (Yates Professorship) ...	E. A. Gardner, M.A.
Egyptian Archæology (Edwards Professorship...	W. M. Flinders Petrie, D.C.L., LL.D.
English (Quain Professorship) ...	W. P. Ker, M.A.
History ...	F. C. Montague, M.A.
Philosophy of Mind and Logic (Grote Professorship) ...	J. Sully, M.A., LL.D.
Political Economy ...	H. S. Foxwell, M.A.
Statistics (Newmarch Lectureship) ...	A. L. Bowley, M.A.
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Fine Arts (Slade Professorship) ...	Fredk. Brown.
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Chemistry ...	W. Ramsay, Ph.D., F.R.S.
Pathological Chemistry ...	Vaughan Harley, M.D.
Physics (Quain Professorship) ...	G. Carey Foster, B.A., F.R.S.
Zoology (Jodrell Professorship) ...	W. F. R. Weldon, M.A., F.R.S.
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Mechanical Engineering...	T. Hudson Beare, B.A., B.Sc., M.Inst. C.E.
Electrical Engineering ...	J. A. Fleming, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.
Civil Engineering ...	L. F. Vernon - Harcourt, M.A., M.Inst.C.E.
Roman Law...	A. F. Murison, M.A., LL.D.
Jurisprudence ...	J. Pawley Bate, M.A., LL.D.
Constitutional Law and History ...	
Law (Quain Chair) ...	Augustine Birrell, Q.C., M.P.
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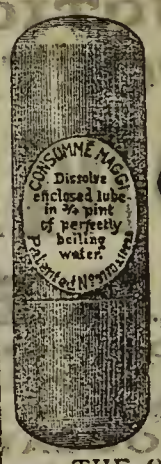

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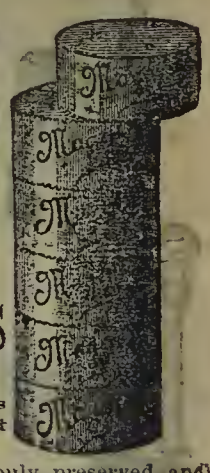

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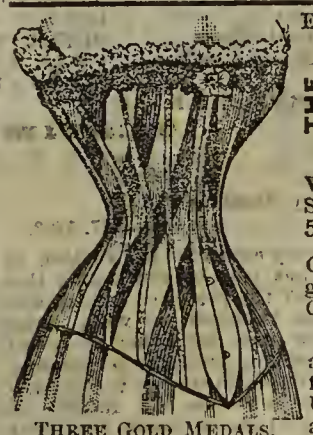

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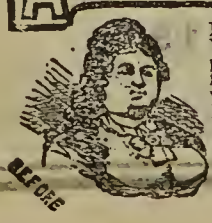

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Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

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To the Directors of the

139, Cannon-street, London, E.C. : August 10, 1896.

COLONIAL FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED. WEST AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS, LIMITED. HANNAN'S PROPRIETARY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND CORSAIR CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,—I arrived in Perth, Western Australia, on the 2nd of May this year, and before I left the city for the gold-fields, I proceeded to examine the land investments, which had been made by our representative, Mr. George Gray.

I found that the freehold properties, which had been selected by him in the centre of the city, had risen enormously in value since our various purchases less than twelve months ago.

The Cottesloe Estate, of about twenty acres, overlooks the Swan River on the way to Fremantle, and is one of the most attractive spots near the capital of the colony. There has been a large increase in the value of the land, and, after consultation with Mr. Gray, we agreed that it should be held for still higher prices.

The extensive property, bought on the joint account by the West Australian Pioneers, and the Colonial Finance Corporation, in Hay-street West, had also largely increased in value, and owing to the substantial dwelling-houses which are being erected close to the property, will become still more valuable in the near future. Before I sailed for England several more acres had been bought by the Colonial Finance Corporation, adjoining the blocks held on joint account.

In my opinion the pick of the landed property held by the two Companies named is the seven-acre block in Lake-street, and, acting on my advice on my return to England, I think that we have done very wisely in deciding to build about sixty houses on this property, which, as you will remember, cost us £3,000, and for which Mr. Gray and I refused an offer of £10,000 cash before I left for London. The houses which we have arranged to build will produce, in accordance with Mr. Gray's estimate, 15 per cent. on the capital expenditure. I found generally that the city of Perth was increasing very rapidly both in area and population, and that the fresh arrivals in the Colony, while I was there, reached from 900 to 1,000 persons per week. In fact, from my own personal experience, I can say that there was a difficulty in obtaining the necessary food supplies at anything like a reasonable figure, and, moreover, the revenue of the Colony was attaining the respectable figure of about three millions sterling per annum, much to the satisfaction of the able Premier, Sir John Forrest, K.C.M.G.

From Perth I travelled up to Coolgardie, and from thence drove 25 miles over a treacherous road to Hannan's Proprietary camp, which I found to be very comfortable quarters, and one of the show camps of Western Australia. I took an early opportunity of going into the Kalgoorlie township (the new name for Hannan's), and found there that our success in investments in town sites had exceeded my expectation, so far as increased value was concerned. We hold two important blocks in the principal street. One of these cost us £300 for the freehold, and is now let at a rental of no less than £850 per annum to a well-known firm of brokers in the town, and for the other block, which cost £900, opposite one of the leading hotels, a cash offer of £8,000 has been made and refused. These results, I think you will agree with me, promise well for future dividends.

At Hannan's Proprietary camp Mr. George Gray and myself were joined by that well-known expert, Captain William Oates, one of the first men on Hannan's field, and he and Mr. Gray treated me with every kindness and showed me over the field, giving me at the same time every information in their power. I found that the development on our main camp had been undertaken in Mr. Gray's usual thorough manner, and that the shafts and the general equipment of our various mines, together with the cross-cutting across the Hannan's lode formation, had been well done.

I brought home with me from the various shafts samples which had been sent into the office of Hannan's Proprietary camp and which will be subjected to assay by Messrs. Johnson, Matthey & Co. My opinion is that they will yield a result of several ounces to the ton. Mr. George Gray told me that out of the twenty-two leases held by the Hannan's Proprietary Development Company, he expected to find at least nine or ten permanent payable Gold Mines, and he is not alone in that opinion.

The Lady Forrest, Oratava, Lake View East, Golden Pike, and Ironsides are all developing in a highly satisfactory manner, and there are many others upon which the working capital of the Company has been most intelligently laid out. Samples were brought up from Lake View East while I was at the camp, and you will be pleased to hear that the assays went no less than eight ounces to the ton. It should be borne in mind that the capital of Hannan's Proprietary Development Company is £500,000, and, as we have 500 acres, the cost of our property to the Company, was £1,000 per acre. At the present time, however, owing to extremely rich finds which have been made on the Hannan's Goldfields, the property can be readily sold at from £6,000 to £7,000 for the acre, so that the present price of the shares is fully warranted, and as a matter of fact is very much below their intrinsic worth. It is impossible to form an adequate estimate of the value of our Hannan's leases without bearing in mind the Hannan's water-right on Hannan's Lake, for which, as you know, the West Australian Government have just signed the lease to us, and I have no hesitation whatever in saying that this water-right is of great value. Mr. George Gray, and I went carefully over the concession, and on the day of our first visit to Hannan's Lake there were certainly three feet of water on the ground. On examining the experimental plant and the boring apparatus, which had been put down on the western side of the Lake, we found that ample water had been struck only 25 feet below the surface. I cannot over-estimate the value of this find, because water means practically gold on the Hannan's field. Acting on the advice of our experts I strongly advise the immediate issue of the Prospectus of the Hannan's Water Company, which should prove a first-class investment to intending subscribers, and I would suggest that a preferential allotment should be given to our own shareholders in the Hannan's Proprietary Development Company.

A competent hydraulic engineer should be sent out immediately from London to co-operate with Mr. George Gray in putting up the necessary pumping plant on the Hannan's Lake, as it is my opinion that not only will a large revenue accrue to us by this water-right, but that perhaps even the future of the field is bound up with our water scheme.

While on the Hannan's Goldfields I took the opportunity of visiting the Lake View and the Great Boulder Mines, and they certainly are two of the richest gold mines in existence. I saw lodes in both the Lake View and the Great Boulder from 15 to 40 feet wide, yielding 4, 6, and 7 oz. of gold to the ton.

From the Hannan's Proprietary Camp we drove about six miles to see the work which had been done at the Corsair Consolidated Mines, and we found both the miners' camp and headquarters on this property had been put up in Mr. George Gray's usual business-like manner.

This property is situated on the side of a hill, and trenches were being cut and shafts sunk at 10 or 12 different places, so that the lode formation could be cut. I saw two of the shafts, which were down about 90 feet, and they produced each 5,000 gallons of water per diem. I have laid before you samples which I have brought from this property, and the shareholders will be glad to hear that in addition to the satisfactory developments which we have ourselves made, the whole of the properties surrounding us have yielded excellent results. Several of them have cut lode formations going 3 oz. to the ton.

I look for an important improvement in the shares of the Corsair Consolidated Company this autumn, as we have reason to believe that we have secured a property of great value.

There is no doubt whatever about the future of Western Australia as a gold-producer, and anybody who has the common-sense and a certain amount of mining knowledge has only to go there to recognise at once the extraordinary richness of many of the properties, which are now being opened up. I speak more especially in regard to Hannan's Goldfield, because I spent three weeks there, but there was reliable news coming into Kalgoorlie township every day of important finds being made in outlying districts, and I need only mention as instances Lake Lefroy, Mount Margaret, Mount Ida, and Mount Malcolm. Hannan's Goldfield is picturesquely situated in a valley to the westward of a small range of hills, and it is interesting to note that the gold seems to have hugged the hills, or rather the slopes of the hills, and it was at their foot near Kalgoorlie township on the flat that Mike Hannan first discovered gold. For some four miles, stretching away from the township right down to the Great Boulder camp, the ground has been turned over by alluvial diggers with the pick and shovel, and I was informed by a well-known miner, who was on the spot twenty-four hours after Hannan discovered his first nugget, that no less than £90,000 worth of gold had been dug up on the surface by these primitive methods.

It is only reasonable to suppose that this gold was shed from some great mother-lode or lodes, and I believe that, in addition to the rich lodes discovered in the Lake View and the Great Boulder, there are others quite as rich in the immediate vicinity and perhaps running parallel. Of the permanency of the goldfield there can be no doubt. The entire expert opinion is that the Hannan's goldfield holds the premier position in Western Australia to-day.

I should like to add one word in regard to the cost of mining at Hannan's. Under present conditions it is probably a little less than 1 oz. of gold to the ton; but we had been promised by the contractors that the railway would be at Hannan's by, at any rate, the end of last month. My own opinion is that it will not be completed and running until September, and, naturally a great many mining engineers in the camp have been keeping their machinery at Fremantle and Albany awaiting the advent of the line. When the great delay and the cost of carriage by waggon is borne in mind, their position as regards this matter can be readily understood, and naturally the railway will largely decrease all round the cost of mining and of living.

Faithfully yours, HERBERT MOIR, Managing Director.

Since the above was written the following cable has been received from the manager of the Corsair property:—

"Corsair blocks labour concentrated. Commenced to drive at 140 feet depth on four points on strong lode formation. Have struck a flow of water at 200 feet in the water-shaft."

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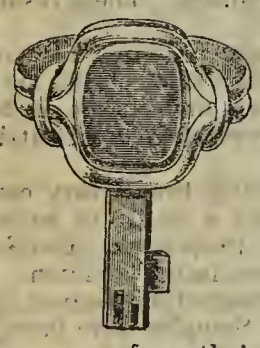

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 914.—SUGGESTION FOR COMMEMORATING THE SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE QUEEN'S REIGN.

EVE (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE NEXT "TRUTH" DOLL SHOW.

I wish to draw special attention to the announcement made in another part of this paper that the Dolls have now arrived, and that the Editor is anxious to receive applications forthwith from those ladies who intend to assist in dressing them. Any number of Dolls can be sent, and it is hoped the demand for them will be great. As on former occasions, the available Dolls are of two sizes.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 919.

An amusing correspondence is going on in the *Spectator* on the subject "SHOULD BISHOPS RIDE ON BICYCLES?" It will be interesting to see what the readers of TRUTH have to say on this subject, and the usual Prize of Two Guineas is therefore offered to the competitor who sends

THE BEST ANSWER TO THE ABOVE QUESTION IN THE FORM OF A RHYMED STANZA, CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN EIGHT LINES.

The answers may take the form of reasons why Bishops should, or should not, ride bicycles; and must reach me by the morning of Monday, September 14, at the latest. The stanzas may be written in any metre which is in ordinary use.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 915.

The announcement of the Prize-winner in this very popular competition will be made next week. Meantime let me acknowledge the receipt of verses from the following competitors whose names should have been included in last week's list—viz., Kitty, Mesmerist, Anglo-French, A. W. T., Stultulus, De Valroy, Hilda, Cynthia, A. Norman, Wanda, Nodding Violet, Imal Oswin, R. A. Grange, Lucie d'Aymant, Carrie W., Pembroke Castle, H. H., Tinkle, Matador, Dumuorix, M. P. B., Treize.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of KOTTABOS, winner of a half of Prize No. 912, is Conyngham Greene, Esq., Penbury, Walmer.

*** At Mr. Conyngham Greene's request, the amount of his Prize (one guinea) will be added to the Children's Holiday Fund which is being raised by Lady Jeune.

*** The real name, with the address, of CLARA, winner of a half of Prize No. 911, is Mrs. Clara Shennan, Roselee, Christchurch-avenue, Brondesbury, N.W.

*** The real name, with the address, of ALMAVIVA, winner of a half of Prize No. 913, is Joseph Harry Fry, Esq., 64, Craven Park, Willesden, N.W.

SINGRON.—I am much obliged to you for your suggestion.

W. H. C. and TRIEZE.—I hope to be able to announce the result of the Yearling Puzzle next week.

PAX VOBISCUM.—Many thanks for your kind suggestion.

MASTER GUNNER.—The first was the correct intimation. I have handed your letter to the Editor in order that your ingenious suggestion may be duly considered.

NEMESIS.—Let me thank you very much for the ingenious suggestions you have made. I shall have something more to say about them when I have had time to more thoroughly consider your proposals.

THEOLOGY.—Thanks for the specimen you have sent me.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 916.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

EPITAPHS ON THE RECENTLY-EXPIRED SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

Here lies our dear departed session,
Which, dying, made this sad confession—
It tried to rule the education
Of its good grandmother, the Nation;
But failed, alas! to raise a quorum
To get across "pons asinorum!" Clive.

D. M. S.
SISTE VIATOR.

Here lieth the session of ninety and six;
Like rockets it rose, but came down like the sticks.
As sky-scaling Icarus, soaring it sings,
Till the strong sun of truth melts the wax of its wings;
Then earthward, swift-swooping, it slumped like a log,
And wriggled and ramped in expediency's bog;
Where, ventose with verbiage, full filled with fog,
It burst with a bang, like the fabulous frog.
Its name—like its record—in water is writ;
Circumspice! Nihil ex nihilo fit. Tibicen.

WRITTEN BY A DISGUSTED EAST-ENDER.

The crew of our ole ship o' State
Did what they didn't oughter—
They spent their time upon the land,
And not upon the water.
Oom Paul.

A UNIONIST TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTED SESSION.

It was sitting more weeks than we quite like to own,
And now it is lying beneath the cold stone;
And for all it did—sitting—we're fain to confess
That now, lying here, it can hardly do less.
Pat-a-cake.

Here lies the Session of 1896:
First the majority joined it, and now it has joined the majority.
Pat-a-cake.

To the fond memo.
of
FRANK FAILURE,
the only child
of
Earnest Hope, and his wife, Faith.
He breathed his last Aug. 15, 1896, aged one year.
Though so young, he celebrated his majority,
and obtained considerable applause for his few Acts.

His voluntary suicide in the schools
(under the influence of a Bowl of Bishop),
led to his having to repudiate a heavy Bill,
in which his honour was deeply involved.
His end was a tail of woe.

Large his majority, his soul sincere,
Heav'n did some counteracting weakness send,
He made each champion all he could—a peer;
And gained from Churchmen many a lukewarm friend.
Nodding Violet.

Here lies
the Carcase of
M. T. SESSION,
Offspring of the late Retro Session,
of St. Stephen's, Westminster.

Having neglected to avail himself of
the Education provided for him in his Youth,
his Maturity failed to justify the
Flattering Hopes and Promises of his Sponsors;
and, being Deserted
by many of his Quondam Friends in his Old Age,
EXTREME MORTIFICATION
set in, and he shared the Fate of
The Great Majority
on August 14, 1896.

Scant praise, alas! can we bestow;
His virtues were not strong,
He did but little here below,
And did that little wrong!
Vox.

In memory of
The late Session of Parliament,
Which, after a wasting disease, passed away
To the happy hunting grounds
On August 14, 1896.
Its youth was full of promise,
But a forced and ill-judged education
Sapped its constitution,
Leading to a creeping paralysis which ended
A useless life.
Its friends, who had made preparations for
Celebrating its majority,
Now sorrowfully confess
It had better it had never been born.
The funeral car bore a single wreath,
Sent by the Irish Nationalists with this
Text from Timothy:
"The husbandman that laboureth must
Be first partaker of the fruits."
Dandelion.

Here "lie" no longer England's chosen men;
Widely dispersed, they hope to meet again.
Sad to relate, though lacking not the will,
They passed a Session, yet passed scarce a Bill.
Corn Cob.

"A plague on both your houses."—H. E. G.

In the grave of this Session, all dead and forgotten,
There lie Bills that were healthy and Bills that were rotten;
There lie, too, the remains of the monster majority,
Who lied better still when they weren't in authority!
Forsan.

EXCESSIT, EVASIT, ERUPIT, ABIIT.

Free translation: It went to extremes, it equivocated, it broke loose, it adjourned.

In place of the classical addendum: "It said it was the Opposition."—Enoch.

In memory of the First Session of a Parliament pledged mainly to stand still while the world moves. What they have done undoes them; and what they have left undone is their true doing.—Mora.

Here lies a babe, "Procrastination,"
Who never cut his wisdom teeth;
Whose sponsors spoilt his education,
Yet on his tombstone place a wreath.
His military life was short,
And though at sea he won his rating;
His brother next year really ought
To do some work with less debating.
Heurteloup.

Of the still dead speak nought but well,
Let silence greet the prompter's bell;
If through our errors we've gained fame,
Pray call it by another name,
Penguin.

Rest, Tories, rest, nor heed the route
Until the Liberals sound the grand "turn out."
Balaklava II.

A giant of strength, but a monster of weakness,
'Neath the shade of the past, here we lay;
Advancing with boast, withdrawing with meekness,
His motto was—Bluff, and give way.
Singeon.

Here lies a Parliament of whom we can't belave it,
Nullum tetigit quod non ornavit.
Arch. Gibbs.

Here lies six hundred and fifty-eight
Members appointed to legislate;
What they have done, and what they have said,
To tell would puzzle a wiser head,—
Though I through all the journals should dig,
For one is so little, the other so big!
Biddenham.

Here lie
Blunder and Waste,
Who lived in a hurry, and died in haste.
The rogues
Prorogued themselves, that they
Might end their ills,
And make fresh bills,
Wherewith to blunder at the judgment-day.
Uffculme.

Here lies disgraced
Gigantic Waste;
His epitaph—
The wide-world's laugh!
Uffculme.

The late Session, wherein hon. members lied and slept, is now lying asleep. May it lie still.—Pigtail.

Here lies the Session, gone for good or ill,
Through life it lied, and now is lying still,
Its only assets were dishonoured Bills
(Its guinea-pig directors swept the tills),
Its capital was raised on false pretences,
The parish paid its funeral expenses,
Its personalties were sworn below,
How much or little only the Lords know.
Dandelion.

Dry Stones!
Drier Bones!
Oh, my! Here they lie! Heave a sigh? Why? Why?—
Told no lie! Clear as "pie"!
Measures passed! So strongly cast! For ever last!—
Thus Fama's blast. Stephanotis.

Here passed from view with loads of pills,
And remedies for all the ills,
From Irish plagues to sisters' wills,
The Grand Bargees of "Ninety-Six"—
A motley crew from Thames to Styx.
Idem II.

Here rests a body gigantic in promise and proportions, but puny in strength. In its abortive encounter with the children, it contracted the fatal child(1), and—for the rest—took a turn again to "rend" (Matt. vii., 6). It "taxed the land to give the money" (2 Kings xxiii., 35) to them that "toil not neither do they spin" (Matt. vi., 28). "The cattle" it "took for a prey" (Josh. xi., 14) "of them that are afar off upon the sea" (Psalm lxv., 5). "It is the (land)lord, let him do what seemeth him good" (1 Sam. iii., 18). "The memory of the just (canvassed) is blessed"-ly short (Prov. x., 7).—Nitram.

It died of inanition,
With many sins 'twas rife—
Omission and commission,
Palavering and strife.
It did a few good actions,
Of evil it did none,
And but for warring factions,
Much business might have done.
It riled an anxious nation,
To please a pack of fools
Who'd stifle Education,
To fill the parsons' schools;
But common-sense, victorious,
Soon crush'd the hateful Bill,
And showed—tho' oft uproarious—
"We are a people still."
The Session now is over,
It's lying in its grave;
From Pentland unto Dover,
Let peer and parson rave,
While we fulfil our mission,
Its epitaph to write—
"It died of inanition,
Tho' erst so full of fight!"
Balaclava.

IN MEMORIAM.

Gone! from the wide world's history, floating away with the stream,
Our latest political mystery, drowned in each turbulent scene;
Gone, with obstructionists' fury, all that landowners hold dear,
Crafty of soil, likewise of spoil, nought but the grave do they fear.

AD VALOREM.

Weep not o'er fallen statesmanship, 'twere better pluck to show
That Englishmen brook no defeat, tho' statesmen play her low;
Their own untimely efforts dug themselves an early grave;
Let those who mourn the country's loss be to themselves more brave.
Sol.

1. Here lies our Tory Parliament,
Us it tried to educate;
We, ungrateful wretches, went
And in return gave it checkmate.
2. Pendulum Parliament, long thou wert dying,
Now wilt thou gain the reward of thy lying;
'Stead of the hoped-for words, "Friend, come up higher!"
Mind there's no counterblast, "Stir up the fire!"
Alastor

In eighteen eighty-six began
A Session which 'twas thought,
Would run a very glorious course,
And make laws good and short.

They had a great majority
(The Unionists I mean);
Union less unanimity
No Union is I ween.

Oh! stranger, read my little song,
That Session's use is dead;
To find a reason takes not long,
The party was *ill led*.
Jeff.

Stranger, or friend, or foe, whatever name you bear,
Whatever creed profess, or controversial feeling share,
Stop! and here upon this new-laid mould,
In silence pause, ere now the corpse's dust be cold
And drop a tear.

Think how a life, begun in bounding prance,
Has fallen low beneath Truth's scathing glance;
Think how his promises, in confidence expressed,
Have fallen short of all that he professed.
And lo! his bier.

Mighty was he of frame, his soul of strength impaired,
For all his deeds fell short of what he loud declared;
Humanity in vain called to his high chief for aid,
When Mussulman and Turk made raid on raid,
And felt no fear.

How weak his will to do, see Bills all cast aside,
For e'en the framer's followers would only these deride;
Disgust, though long time latent, burst at last in flame,
And whelmed the Ministry in ridicule and shame.
His end was near.

Stoutly he stood his ground, but friends and foes combined
To make his end a toil, by artfulness refined;
His steps began at last to totter, and his strength to fail,
His chief supporters looked upon his death without a wail;
E'en gave a cheer.

And now, dear people all, since here he lies confined,
His good or evil projects left perforce behind;
In charity condemn him not, for what was other's ban,
But leave his deeds for Truth and History to scan,
And drop a tear.
Culpepper.

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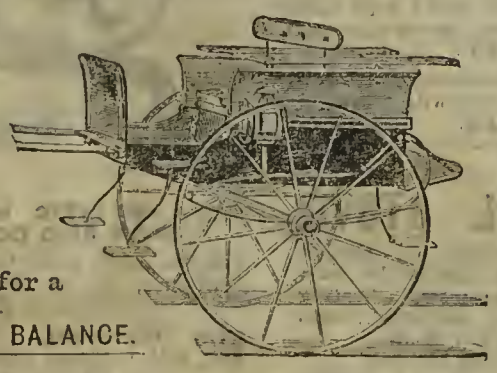

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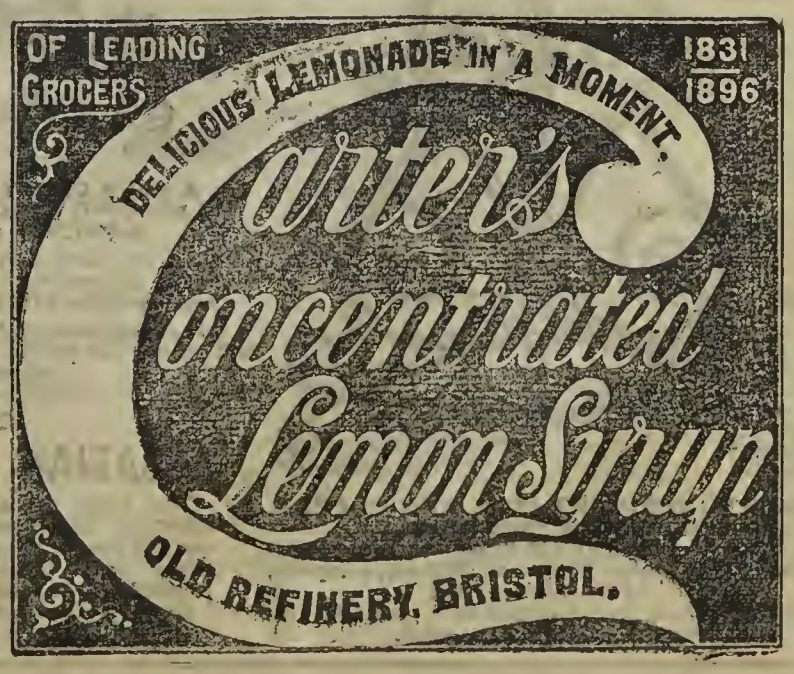

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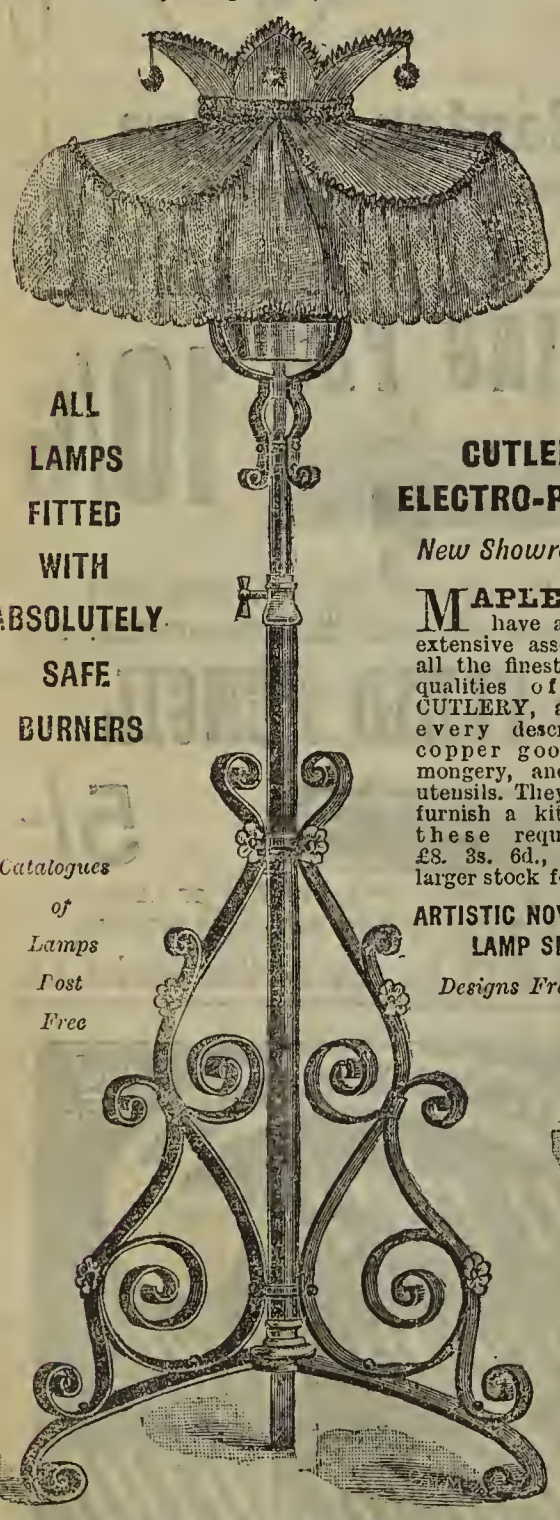

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THERE will be no Braemar Gathering this year, as the Queen has forbidden the function in consequence of the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg, so the usual parades and marches of the egregious Balmoral and Duff "Highlanders" will not take place. If the late Sir James Mackenzie had lived for a year or two longer, we should no doubt have heard by this time of the Glenmuick "Highlanders."

The Princess of Wales will accompany the Emperor and Empress of Russia from Denmark to Scotland, and H.R.H. is to stay at Balmoral during the Imperial visit. The Princess will afterwards spend a week or two with the Duke and Duchess of Fife at Mar Lodge. The Princess had not intended to visit Scotland this year, and she has not been seen at Deeside since the autumn of 1894, but her plans have been changed in consequence of the Queen of Denmark having decided to proceed the week after next to Gmunden, in Upper Austria, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, at their splendid and beautiful domain on the Traun See. The Empress Dowager of Russia will probably accompany Queen Louise to Germany, and King Christian will then take up his residence at the Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen.

After the Imperial yacht has landed the Emperor and Empress of Russia at Leith, she will go round to Portsmouth, where their Majesties are to embark for Cherbourg. The Emperor and Empress are to travel direct from Ballater to Portsmouth Harbour without passing through London, and they will be accompanied by the Grand Duke Alexis, who is expected at Balmoral the week after next on a visit to the Queen.

Last week the *St. James's Gazette*, in recording the eighteenth birthday of Princess Alexandra of Coburg, remarked that the elder sisters were married before this age was attained, but that bachelor Princes are not now so abundant as they were a few years ago. My contemporary need not have lavished any such egregious condolence on Princess Alexandra, as she was married nearly five months ago to the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenberg.

The King of the Hellenes, who is expected at Copenhagen this week, will come to England at the end of October for a short time on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House and at Sandringham. On leaving England King George will proceed to St. Petersburg, to attend the wedding of his daughter, the Princess Marie, and the Grand Duke George Michailovitch.

A news-agency announced last Thursday that the Empress Frederick has purchased the Ditton Park domain, near Windsor, from the Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch, and this nonsense was copied by several of the evening papers. It happens that the Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch died about eighteen months ago. Ditton came to the late Duke of Buccleuch from his uncle, Lord Montagu, and it was the dower house of the Dowager Duchess, on whose death the estate passed to her second son, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, to whom it now belongs. Ditton is a fine old house, with beautiful gardens and a well-wooded park. The place is to be let furnished at the rent of £1,200 a year, and there was some talk at Windsor in the spring of the Empress Frederick becoming the tenant, which was probably the origin of the ridiculous report that she had bought the property.

The Duke of Cambridge is next week to be the guest of Sir George and Lady Julia Wombwell, at Newburgh Park, where there will be a large party for partridge shooting. The Duke is expected to attend the Agricultural Show at Easingwold on Wednesday.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* announced on Friday that "yesterday" the Duke of York took part in a deer drive at Invermark, which resulted in a bag of 146 brace of grouse! How a deer drive could have produced simply a number of grouse it is not easy to understand. As a matter of fact, however, the shooting in question had taken place on the previous Tuesday, and there was no deer drive, but simply

a series of grouse drives. The Duke and Duchess of York go this week to Balmoral, and they will stay in Deeside until they return to Sandringham at the beginning of next month in time for the Musical Festival at Norwich.

Last week Lord Cadogan paid his first Viceregal visit to the South of Ireland. On Monday he left Dublin, accompanied by Lady Cadogan—who had just returned from her visit to Lord and Lady Arran in Sligo—and a Viceregal suite, for Fota, Mr. Smith-Barry's residence near Cork. Amongst the house party assembled to meet the Lord-Lieutenant were Lord and Lady Bandon, Lady Castletown, Sir R. and Lady Penrose Fitzgerald, and Miss C. Verney.

The week was a busy one for the Viceregal party, who took part in many public functions in Cork, the Lord-Lieutenant being called on to make the usual speeches. Lord Cadogan has adopted a habit of having his state carriages sent from Dublin when he visits the leading towns in Ireland, which, as the Irish Viceregal carriages are always admirably "turned out," gives great effect to these visits. Besides opening a bazaar and attending luncheon and tea parties, Lord and Lady Cadogan visited most of the public institutions and sights of Cork and the neighbourhood, making journeys by water, as well as by land in some instances. They were politely received throughout the visit. The weather, though of the mixed nature to be expected in September, was fine enough to give an interesting object lesson in the beauty of Irish scenery to Lord Cadogan, who is President of the Tourist Promoting Society in Ireland.

Lord and Lady Cadogan left Fota at the end of the week for Killarney, to spend a few days with Lord Kenmare. On Monday they were due at Lismore Castle, the Duke of Devonshire's picturesque residence—in which he so rarely resides—on the banks of the Blackwater.

Whilst the Lord-Lieutenant was visiting the South, the Chief Secretary and Lady Betty Balfour were making a tour in the North of Ireland. Mr. Balfour received many addresses, and Lady Betty Balfour many bouquets. A marked practical spirit, an improvement on the conventional and sentimental one, pervaded the addresses, the Chief Secretary's replies being sympathetic and encouraging.

At this present moment there is no doubt that the Irish landlords are sulking with the Lord-Lieutenant and the powers that be, especially those in the Cabinet. The Irish Landlord Convention has passed a resolution thanking Lord Macnaghten and Mr. E. Carson for their services on the occasion of the late Revolt in the House of Lords. With this state of things, the appointment of an Irish Peer, or rather of a Peer who is an Irishman, to the vacancy in the Order of the Knights of St. Patrick, has special interest. It is hoped in Ireland that a distinguished Irishman, rather than one who has politically helped the Government, will receive the vacant ribbon.

Lord Waterford's coming of age was celebrated last week at Curraghmore, co. Waterford, with great festivity. Amongst the house party assembled for the occasion, in addition to the members of the Beresford family, were the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, Lady Lansdowne, Lady Beatrice Fitzmaurice, Lord Ormonde, and others. Entertainments of various kinds were given, the neighbours and tenants of all sorts and conditions being Lord Waterford's guests during the week.

The Northern Meeting is to be held at Inverness next week, on Thursday and Friday. A ball will take place on each night of the gathering, which is to be attended by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland and a large party from Dunrobin Castle.

I wish somebody on the spot would put me in possession of the exact facts in regard to the changes which the new Lord Warden is said to have made at Walmer Castle. Some months since it was reported—and I have received a repetition of the story within the past few days—that soon after Lord Salisbury assumed the office, the Wellington room was dismantled and the relics of the Iron Duke banished to some attic or cellar. More recently there have been complaints that Lord Salisbury has departed from the practice of his predecessors by closing the whole of the castle to the public, and preventing the use of the drive through the park which has hitherto been freely enjoyed. On the other hand, I have had a letter denying that the Wellington room has been interfered with, and affirming that in regard to the closing of the castle and the drive Lord Salisbury has pursued the same course as his predecessors. I should like to know which of these conflicting reports is correct; as, if it turns out that any injustice has been done to the Prime Minister, I should like to at once put the matter right.

A correspondent writes:—

The Sleeping Car Company or someone else in England ought to be able to give tourists coming to Switzerland some definite information respecting the entry of bicycles into Switzerland. I started from England for Coire in the Engadine express. At the Victoria Station I was told that I must book my bicycle to Calais, and there rebook. On arriving at Calais, I did rebook. When I reached Coire, there was no bicycle. My destination was the Engadine. There I passed a fortnight, writing to Coire, Bâle, &c., to obtain news of the whereabouts of the machine. At last I learnt that it had stuck fast at Bâle, and, after further correspondence, an agent forwarded it to me. A deposit has to be paid on entrance into Switzerland, which is returned on leaving the country and showing the receipt at the custom house on the route by which the country is left. So far so good. But how about entry? If the owner has to leave the train and to pay in person the deposit at the frontier, where is this payment made on coming direct from England? At the frontier or at Bâle? In either case the Engadine express does not stop long enough either at the frontier or at Bâle to render this possible. Moreover, I do not know whether the Engadine express takes bicycles.

In regard to all this I could get no definite information in London. I asked an expedition agent, and suggested that he should forward the bicycle. He replied that even if sent by him *grande vitesse* it would take ten days reaching its destination. This is why I took mine with me. But the plan does not seem to have been very successful. What I should like to know is this. Given that a person starts for any place in the interior of Switzerland with a bicycle, where does he pay the entrance duty? Also if he is passing through Switzerland to Italy by the St. Gothard Railway, can he book through, and, if so, does he

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 681 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 682.
For Amusements, see page 683.
For Our Puzzles, see page 689.

not pay duty on passing through Switzerland? At the Engadine I found most people with bicycles had had as much difficulty in respect to them as I had. In France things are made easy to bicyclists. As Switzerland counts upon tourists, it might be well that it should also be made easy to those going there; in any case, however, the exact steps that have to be taken by those who start for that country with a bicycle, in order to get it on arrival without a delay of many days, should be known.

I have another suggestion to make to those who may be weighing the alternatives of hotel and lodging house as desirable resorts for the holiday season. It is to take a trip in one of the big ocean liners. I have been led to the conclusion that this would be an eminently desirable method of recruiting exhausted energies by the report of a representative whom I sent to inspect the new Castle Line s.s. *Dunvegan Castle*. He makes it quite clear to me that the *Dunvegan Castle* is nothing less than a floating palace, and I am bound to believe that having once tasted of its luxuries nothing less than the strictest sense of duty enabled him to tear himself away from its delights.

Once more I am asked to utter a protest against the brutal conduct of the wretched cockney sportsmen whose main delight at the seaside is to shoot as many sea-birds as possible. The complaint comes from a recent visitor at Scarborough and Bridlington, who states that whilst out boating he has repeatedly seen maimed gulls, some with legs shot away and others winged, floating about in agony. I have had similar complaints before from Scarborough, and for some reason the practice of slaughtering and maiming sea-birds would seem to be especially prevalent on that part of the coast. There is, I fear, no way of checking it, except by the influence of public opinion, and, unfortunately, the parties who indulge in such wanton butchery are not likely to care much for the scorn and reprobation they bring upon themselves from all humane and decent-minded people.

A vast amount of correspondence has reached me in reference to the astonishing disparities in the charges which chemists in different places make for the same articles. Many instances are given, which cap even those I related the other week, and the question is one which it may be interesting and instructive to further deal with. I do not intend, therefore, to lose sight of it, and meanwhile I beg to thank my correspondents for the information with which they have favoured me.

In spite of the hysterical paroxysms in which the log-rolling admirers of Stevenson have been indulging during the last few months, it may be doubted whether any of his books will be "alive" twenty years hence. Could anything be more crack-brained than Mr. Andrew Lang's description of Stevenson as "the chief literary glory" of Scotland after "Burns, Scott, and Carlyle"? *Longo intervallo*, I should say. As a matter of fact, no clear-headed and competent critic would place Stevenson on a level with Hume or Smollett, much less above them. Was not Galt a "literary glory," and is anything of Stevenson's equal to that writer's "Annals of the Parish"? There is also Drummond of Hawthornden, to say nothing of John Gibson Lockhart, Francis Jeffrey, and poor James Boswell. The biographies of Scott and Johnson will continue to be read long after the very name of Stevenson is forgotten.

With regard to a recent announcement that the Duke of Rutland has closed Belvoir Castle, I am informed that the Castle is still open as usual to the inspection of the public, the arrangements for the admission of persons wishing to see it remaining unaltered. I also hear on good authority that it is not, as was reported, the intention of the Duke to live principally abroad for the next few years.

Great preparations are being made for next week's meeting of the British Association at Liverpool, which is to be attended by Dr. Nansen. There will be abundance of hospitality, and Lord and Lady Derby, who are to entertain a large house party at Knowsley, will give a garden party there. Excursions have been arranged to Chester and Eaton Hall, Hawarden Castle, the Manchester Ship Canal, the Railway Works at Crewe, the Northwich Salt Works, and the Rivington and Vyrnwy Waterworks, while some marine dredging expeditions have also been planned. There are excursions after the meeting to the Isle of Man and to the Lake District, which will extend over several days. Dr. Farrar, Dean of Canterbury, is to preach the sermon in Liverpool Cathedral next Sunday. Lord Derby, as Mayor of Liverpool, will give several large luncheon and dinner parties during the week.

Dean Macdonnel, who is now the Canon-in-residence at Peterborough Cathedral, has completed his Life of Archbishop Magee, and the work will be published next month in two volumes. I am glad to hear that a selection of the Archbishop's correspondence will be included in the book, as he was an admirable letter writer.

The Rev. Henry Granville Dickson, Secretary of the Church Defence Institution, has no doubt rendered valuable service to the Tory Party, as he has been working zealously in the cause of "Church Defence" for several years. Mr. Dickson has been generously rewarded by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has given him the valuable rectory of Coulsdon (one of the best livings in the gift of the Primate), which ought properly to have gone to one of the diocesan clergy, several of whom have well earned such preferment.

I am not in a position to say what sort of progress is being made with the egregious proposal to present a testimonial to Mr. Harry S. Foster, M.P., in recognition of his "advocacy of the rights of private patrons and the just liberties of the clergy." It may be interesting, however, to mention the fact, just brought to my notice, that Mr. William Sparks, the honorary secretary of the committee, is Mr. Foster's brother-in-law. This should greatly stimulate the flow of subscriptions.

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Canon Ainger is not to put in his usual term of residence at Bristol this year, and with the consent of Dean Pigou, he has arranged for one of the Honorary Canons to take his place in the Cathedral services. In sanctioning this arrangement the Dean has doubtless been actuated by the most amiable motives; but the absence of the Master of the Temple has caused much unfavourable comment in Bristol, and no small amount of disappointment to the congregation, who are deprived of his sermons. Many people hold that a Canon drawing a stipend of £700 a year ought to do at least the three months' duty for which he is so handsomely paid. I think so myself; indeed, if I had the ordering of the matter, I would make it a rule, "No work, no pay."

"MAY BISHOPS BIKE?"

(*Vide* SPECTATOR *passim.*)

May Bishops bike? Why, certainly! without a doubt or question.
There's not the slightest need to jib at such a sane suggestion.
We would, indeed, still further go—we've given the point some thought, too—
And when we're asked "*May* Bishops bike?" we'd answer, "Nay, they *ought* to!"

There are some people, it is true, who urge with much malignity
That Bishops ought to sit apart and stand upon their dignity;
But this is folly; let us say, in accents most emphatic,
Bishops can only hope to last by being democratic.

They in the daily life of those o'er whom they watch should mingle;
They should be partners in their griefs and with their joys should tingle;
And how can they more strongly feed this mutual sort of feeling
Than by developing a zest for what is known as "wheeling"?

It is no wish of ours, be sure, a bishop to disparage,
Yet we have never cared to see one lolling in his carriage.
We do not like those cushions soft that he is prone to lie on:
He looks to us as though he were too much "at ease in Zion."

But, put him on a bike, and lo! how all his aspect alters!
Straight on the path of duty then he rides and never falters;
He ceases like a derelict that see of his to cumber,
When once he has acquired, and knows the way to ride, his "Humber"!

How strange, too—should he be engulfed in fashion's latest eddy—
To know that in one way, at least, he for the change is ready!
His gaiters and his apron may not be to all folks liking,
But no one can deny they are the very things for "biking!"

Nor can the innovation fail to foster his ability,
The cycling Bishop would, we hold, be dowered with new utility;
Think how throughout his diocese he daily could be "spinning,"
Redressing wrongs, and in the cause of right new triumphs winning!

The harassed curate then might find in him a strong protector,
As he all suddenly "scorched" down to chide a despot rector;
The erring vicar then would feel that, like a new St. Michael,
His Bishop any day might swoop upon him from his cycle!

Think how he might inspire new zeal in dull and droning preachers!
Think how each hamlet in his see might get to know his features!
Till even Liberationists might find it hard to *dish* up
Fresh charges 'gainst a Church in which was found the Cycling Bishop!

So when the staid *Spectator* asks "May Bishops bike?"—right cheery
Is the rejoinder that we give to its persistent query—
"In this direction we've no wish their lordships' tastes to fetter;
By all means let our Bishops bike—the sooner, too, the better!"

Commenting upon the Archbishop of Canterbury's official warning against the employment of unworthy clergymen, the *Church Times* states that "the law makes provision for the due protection of our congregations from the ministrations of clerical *mauvais sujets*, since a strange priest may not officiate in a church on two consecutive Sundays without the diocesan being informed of it." The case I mentioned last week shows, however, that if this is the law, it is, as at present administered, far from affording "due protection" to congregations. The minister to whom I referred was the Rev. Evan Jenkins, formerly Rector of Monafon, in the diocese of St. Asaph. He was deprived of his benefice in May, 1893, for disgraceful conduct which brought him before the magistrates no less than three times within a week, but nevertheless in the document he lately addressed to me he stated that for two years since this misfortune he had been doing duty in the dioceses of Southwell and Exeter, and I now learn that in a recent application for clerical employment he has asserted that for about eighteen months of this period he was practically in sole charge of the parish of Wingerworth, in the diocese of Southwell, where the incumbent is incapacitated by old age. In view of this reverend gentleman's antecedents, it is impossible to suppose that the Bishop would knowingly have allowed him to have charge of a parish for eighteen months. Is it a fact that he did so? If it is, there can be no question that in the diocese of Southwell the regulation cited by the *Church Times* is either wholly ignored or

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else the notification of the Bishop where a strange priest is engaged for two consecutive Sundays is a mere useless formality.

The Clerk of the Dungannon Presbytery has now replied to the questions I raised on August 20 in reference to the system under which Ministers connected with the Presbytery are allowed to collect money for Church objects in England and Scotland. He states that there is no rule in the constitution of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to the effect that the credentials granted to such collectors shall only hold good for twelve months. As to this, I must say that the absence of such a rule is to be regretted, for if no renewal is required for certificates which are granted for some special or temporary purpose, there is always the possibility that they may still be used after the purpose in question has been fulfilled. So far as Dungannon is concerned, I now have the Clerk's assurance that accounts of the money raised in connection with each congregation are annually submitted to the Presbytery, and, as I have previously mentioned, a committee of that body has reported that the collecting-books have been carefully and correctly kept. But whether the practice of cadging "outside the bounds of the Presbytery" which has been carried on for so many years past is altogether creditable to the Church is a question on which the Clerk is judiciously silent.

The University College of South Wales has raised its local fund of £20,000, so this institution can now claim a grant of that amount from the Government, besides £10,000 from the Drapers' Company. Lord Bute has given £10,000 to the College, which is to be employed in promoting technical education.

One or two Americans write to me in defence of the National University of Chicago. They appear to think I have attacked it, but I have done nothing of the kind, I have only attacked the "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis" of Chicago, which is evidently an entirely different institution. It is true that in the country newspaper which I quoted last week the "Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis" was alluded to as "the Chicago University." But this is only one of the tricks by which the agents of the former establishment in this country seek to humbug the public as to the source of the degrees which they are ready to procure for anybody prepared to pay prices ranging from £12. 10s. for a "B.A." to £21 for an "LL.D."

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor London Children:—B. F. A., £1; A. V., £1. 1s.; C. P. C., 10s.; Herbert Stephenson, £1. I have also received £1 from Margaret towards this year's Toy Fund.

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Some one has sent me a newspaper report of the entertainment which was given by the N.C.O.s of the 4th Hussars to the N.C.O.s of the 9th Lancers on the eve of the latter's departure for South Africa. The report states that Regimental Sergeant-Major Brown, of the 4th Hussars, presided over this gathering, and that "in the course of the evening Colonel Bloomfield Gough and between twenty and thirty other officers visited the mess and united in the conviviality of the time." Far be it from me to say a word in depreciation of the conduct of these officers—on the contrary, I think their mingling with the N.C.O.s for an hour or so's social intercourse on such an occasion was a most praiseworthy proceeding. But the incident becomes very curious and instructive when it is considered in connection with the case of Mr. Bruce, of the 4th Hussars. As my readers will remember, that young officer's conduct in passing half-an-hour in the Sergeants' mess of his regiment, on Boxing Night, and (at the request, by the way, of the above-mentioned Regimental Sergeant-Major) drinking the health of the mess in a whisky and soda, was actually made the pretext for forcing him out of the Army. It would be interesting to know whether any of the bullies and snobs who so shamefully persecuted Mr. Bruce were among the officers who "united in the conviviality" of the N.C.O.s the other night.

My attention has been called to a paragraph in the *Broad Arrow* of the 29th ult., with reference to the account given in Truth some weeks ago of the treatment of a subaltern of the 20th Hussars. The paragraph is of the usual impudent character, and the editor of the *Broad Arrow* has the goodness to inform me what he considers to be due from me "in common honesty." Pending my fulfilling the requirements of "common honesty," the *Broad Arrow* graciously defers the publication of the "an authoritative statement" in its possession respecting the subaltern in question. I am much obliged to my contemporary for his consideration, but as he is about the last person in the world whom I should allow to dictate to me in matters relating to the management of my own business, I should advise him to publish his "authoritative statement" without further delay. I should then be in a position to judge whether it is anything of the same character as another authoritative statement purporting to come from the 20th Hussars, which reached me two or three weeks back. My "authoritative statement" was of such a nature, that, after considering it carefully, I could not possibly believe it to be genuine; and I accordingly at once put myself in communication with the officer from whom it purported to come, in order to test its genuineness before taking any notice of it in Truth. It may turn out yet that the editor of the *Broad Arrow* would have done better to take similar precautions; but if he will have the kindness to publish his "authoritative statement," we shall then be in a position to judge on that point.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

With regard to the original story in Truth, about the 20th Hussars, I have only to say again that, though it was not founded on evidence at first hand, it came to me on authority which I consider to be amply sufficient to justify its publication—authority which I should certainly not repudiate on the mere *ipse dixit* of the editor of the *Broad Arrow*. There was further justification for the publication of the story in the fact that it was generally current in India, and called for repudiation on behalf of the officers of the regiment. I was careful to say all this when I published the statement, and it would follow, as a matter of course, that if any full and satisfactory disclaimer on behalf of the regiment was forthcoming, I should feel it my duty to give it the fullest publicity. Beyond that I do not conceive that my duty extends. Up to the present no disclaimer which I can consider either full or satisfactory has reached me, but, as mentioned above, I have been favoured with a document, which, if it turns out to be genuine, I shall know how to deal with.

In addition to the statement referred to above, I have received from India another lengthy document relating to various incidents in the recent history of the 20th Hussars, and though it is true that, in regard to the particular matter with which I dealt some weeks ago, this account differs in certain details from that to which I gave publicity, yet in substance the story is the same. I am now making further inquiries, and the *Broad Arrow* may rest assured that the full truth as to a number of interesting incidents in connection with this regiment, both in India and at home, shall in due course be made known in these columns.

An Anglo-Indian correspondent asks me to call attention to the practice of the Government of India in exacting income-tax from officers serving in the Berar Commission. These officers are employed in the administration of the districts which were assigned by the Nizam for the pay of the Hyderabad Contingent. The whole cost of this administration and of the Contingent is taken from the revenues of the province, and the balance handed over to the Nizam; so that practically, if not nominally, the officers in question are the Nizam's servants, and, as an Indian contemporary has pointed out, if they have to pay income-tax at all it should be credited to his Highness. There certainly seems to be no just reason why they should pay it to the Government of India; but in matters of this kind the Government of India cares less for what it ought to do by right than for what it can do by might.

The following narrative affords an edifying example of the meanness displayed by the War Office in dealing with meritorious officers. A late quartermaster of a certain regiment originally enlisted on the understanding that by exemplary conduct for a certain number of years he would gain a good conduct medal and a gratuity of £15. In due course he gained the medal, but not the £15, the amount of gratuity having been reduced to £5 by a regulation made subsequently to his enlistment, and without regard to the vested interest of the rank and file. Even the payment of the £5 was so long deferred that the War Office were moved to send 6s. 9d. interest at the same time. In the course of time, the hero of the story gained his commission, and upon this a demand was actually made upon him to refund his £5. The officer returned the £5, and, not wishing to be under any obligation to a Government which would treat him in this way, he sent back the 6s. 9d. interest. The War Office for some reason returned the 6s. 9d., but the officer sent it back a second time, saying that if he was not entitled to the £5 he was certainly not entitled to the interest on it, and the War Office acquiesced in this view and kept the money. If any instance can be given in which an officer has been treated with more contemptible shabbiness than this, I should uncommonly like to hear of it.

A good instance of the way in which medical officers are shunted about from one station to another has recently occurred in Ireland, where a medical officer of Surgeon-Captain's rank has been moved no less than nine times in five months. This incessant changing of work and surroundings must be bad enough from the officer's point of view, but what about the patients?

The detachment of the Medical Staff Corps at Hong Kong, whose good character and good work have often received official commendation, seem to be rather discontented just now, judging from the growls that have reached me. Among other things, it is complained that since the arrival of a new P.M.O. needless and vexatious changes have been introduced which bear hardly on the men, and especially that the hours of duty have been so excessive during the recent spell of hot weather—the hottest known at Hong Kong since 1885—as to be really injurious to health. As to the latter grievance, the fact appears to be that the detachment is not strong enough to work the hospital properly, and it is to be hoped that the authorities will accede to the application which has been made for additional N.C.O.s and men.

Is it strictly legal, having regard to the provisions of the Army Act on the point, for a junior officer to be placed in the position of having to inspect and give orders to his senior officer in rank? This state of things has long prevailed among the Army Medical Staff in India, where the P.M.O. on the Commander-in-Chief's Staff is junior to the P.M.O.s of the Bengal and Bombay commands, who are, nevertheless, his official subordinates, and have to take orders from him. Nor is this sort of arrangement absolutely confined to India, for only a few days back Surgeon-Major-General Taylor was inspecting the establishment at Netley, which is under the charge of his own senior. Considering what an abnormal amount of stickling for rank and etiquette there is among Army doctors, these arrangements are a little surprising.

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A good instance of the inequitable way in which payments for outside engagements of regimental bands are divided has recently occurred in the 1st Royal Dragoons. The band of that regiment recently played at a promenade concert in the absence of the Bandmaster, who was on furlough, and whose bâton was wielded for the occasion by the band-sergeant. Nevertheless, the bandmaster was credited with £1 out of the proceeds, in addition to the 15s. allowed to the band-sergeant. It seems a very unjustifiable thing that the bandmaster should take his fee for a performance in which he took no part.

There seems to be something requiring the attention of the higher military authorities in the present condition of the 4th Volunteer Battalion Scottish Rifles. The following account of certain recent occurrences reaches me from a gentleman in Glasgow who has interested himself in what has been going on. A colour-sergeant named Roy, serving as an instructor in the battalion, considering himself entitled to a good-conduct medal, went to Hamilton to make inquiries on the subject. According to his own statement to my informant, Roy did this on the advice of the Adjutant, Captain Brogden, whom he had consulted on the subject. On inquiry being made, however, of Captain Brogden as to whether he had authorised Roy to proceed to Hamilton, that officer denied having given such authority. It is further alleged by Roy that at the same time the Adjutant privately asked him to take the blame upon himself, which Roy refused to do. An entry was then made against him in the defaulter sheet of the company for stating a falsehood by saying that he had been authorised to go to Hamilton by the Adjutant. This entry, which still stands, was made without any formal charge being made against Roy, and without being brought to his knowledge in any way, and seems, therefore, to have been a pure irregularity. When Roy eventually discovered what had been done, he applied to the Colonel to have the entry removed, which request was refused, and he then laid a complaint before the Officer Commanding the District. He was next placed under arrest for making this complaint direct instead of through his own C.O.; but, after inquiry by the Officer Commanding the District, he was exonerated from all blame, and underwent no further punishment. The entry, however, which was the cause of his complaint, still stands. Subsequently to this incident the Colonel, I believe, resigned the command of the regiment.

This seems a queer business all round, and it gets an uglier look from the fact that a year or so previously Roy, in company with another colour-sergeant, had preferred complaints of a very serious nature against an officer of the battalion with regard to certain returns that had been sent in. Nothing, so far as I can learn, has come of these complaints, unless the above experiences of Colour-Sergeant Roy are to be looked upon as an indirect result of them. These complaints must be either true or false—if the latter, the N.C.O.s who made them ought to be sharply dealt with; if the former, other steps ought to be taken. Either way, the whole business clearly requires investigation, and ought not to be left upon its present footing.

Reference was made in Truth a fortnight ago to the severity of the newly appointed Board of Examiners for Lieutenants of Engineers, which resulted in the rejection of nearly every candidate sent up. It has been represented to me that this severity may not only be called for by the circumstances, but is highly desirable in the public interest; and having heard a great deal of late of the incompetency of the Royal Engineers in many respects, I am bound to admit that there may be much force in this view of the matter. I heard not long ago of a case in which plans and estimates were prepared for a small job by a Lieutenant R.E., which were so hopelessly wrong and unworkable that it was obvious that the young man had merely put together two or three detached scraps cribbed from other plans and estimates which he thought would meet the requirements of the case for which he had to provide. I hear on very good authority that similar exhibitions of incompetency are by no means unknown among senior officers of the Royal Engineers, and I have a copy of a letter before me which contains a practical admission of ignorance of the simplest and most elementary of engineering work. Probably there is no department of the service in which more outrageous waste of public money is committed, owing to the incompetence of the officials concerned in the spending of it, than in the Royal Engineers; and I must admit that under these circumstances the utmost strictness on the part of the examiners is to be highly commended.

It seems that my explanation of the erratic marking of the geological papers by the Sandhurst Examiners was correct, and that it is due to the fact that, like most men of science, they belong to different schools of thought. Thus one is a follower of Lyell, another treads in the footprints of Prestwich, whilst others may be generically described as New School men. Consequently, if the papers of a candidate who has been crammed with Lyell fall into the hands of Prestwich or New School examiners, the unhappy candidate has to bear the brunt of the professional contempt for rival theories. The only way I can see out of the difficulty is for the Commissioners to state definitely which school is to be followed, and so prevent the waste of the candidate's time and money.

Another correspondent takes me to task for questioning the value of geology in the army, and cites as an instance that a force in the field might find itself in a country where the water supply was scanty or absent, under which circumstances the services of a geologist would be invaluable, as he would know where to look for it. I have my doubts in regard to the value of a geologist under the circumstances. But if this is the only reason why geology is taught I should imagine that it would be better for all parties if the rival school men were ousted

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from their positions on the Examination Board and a competent water diviner appointed. There could be surely no two opinions as to proficiency in the simple art of water divination.

A question was asked in Truth of July 2 respecting a sum of money said to have been collected in the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers, for the purpose of erecting a stone over the grave of a colour-sergeant, and not expended for that purpose. The question was asked in consequence of representations made to me purporting to emanate from the rank and file of the regiment; but I now hear from Major Frere, commanding the battalion, that no colour-sergeant of the battalion has died since January, 1881, and only one sergeant, over whose grave a stone was erected within four months of his death (1892). This seems to answer the question conclusively, and I trust that my original correspondents will be satisfied with the result.

We have heard a great deal of late about the necessity of a long purse for any man desirous of getting on as a cavalry officer; but it is something new to hear that an N.C.O. depends on the same condition for his promotion. Nevertheless, I am informed, in regard to a certain Line Regiment in the South-West District that unless a sergeant has plenty of money there is no chance of his getting promoted to colour-sergeant. What this means I cannot say, but it might be well for the officer commanding the battalion to give his attention to the statement. Certain it is that promotions of junior sergeants have taken place in this battalion which are not to be explained by any ordinary rule.

The unjustifiable and vindictive sentence of the Court-Martial which reduced Sergeant Sayers, of the 2nd Berkshire Regiment, to the ranks, does not seem to have exhausted the animus he had excited by his activity and success in performing the duty of "prisoner's friend" for some of his comrades. Sayers has just been transferred to the Army Reserve. On his certificate the C.O. has entered his character as "formerly good (1887-1894)." This purports to give the man's conduct and character "according to the records," and the entry plainly implies that since 1894 his conduct and character, "according to the records," have not been good. But what are the facts? There was an entry on Sayers's defaulter's sheet on February 13, 1894, but, as the prosecutor admitted at the recent Court-Martial, he was "clear of crime" of any kind from that date until January 23, 1896, when he was punished for absence without leave, and within about a fortnight two more entries were made against him. At that particular time Sayers was acting as "prisoner's friend" for another N.C.O., and there was no further entry against him from February 8 until June, when he was again acting in the same capacity. It will be seen from this that the C.O.'s statement on the certificate of character, "formerly good (1887-1894)," is calculated to convey an entirely erroneous impression as to Sayers's character since the beginning of 1894, and if that is the object with which it was made, it is a very mean and contemptible piece of work.

A very grievous affliction has befallen a worthy divine not unconnected with the Army. He was passing through the barrack square at Dum-Dum on Sunday, the 16th ult., and saw what appeared to be the whole of the Royal Munster Fusiliers turned out to watch a football match between a team of the Munsters and a Calcutta team. He was horrified. Nor did a night's repose lessen his perturbation. On the succeeding day he wrote to the Colonel in command of the regiment:—

> This is the first time in my thirty years' experience of military work in India that I have heard of or seen a football match played by British troops on the Lord's Day. I hope yesterday's match was played without your knowledge or consent. May I also respectfully request that you will be pleased to forbid all football matches hereafter on the Lord's Day in the barrack square?

Now, I am convinced that if this worthy minister of the Gospel had given a trifle more reflection to the subject, he would never have penned such a request. He would have realised that there is no sacrilege in football *per se*, and would, perhaps, have further come to the conclusion that no more admirable means for keeping the whole regiment out of the proverbial mischief for idle hands could have been devised.

It is not always that my comments upon Army matters meet with such a prompt justification as has been the case at Malta. On July 30 I inquired the reason why the troops at this sub-tropical station should not be allowed to walk out in khaki instead of the regulation red serge. Upon August 28 a Local General Order was issued, giving permission for khaki to be worn by men when walking out up to 5 p.m., except on Sundays, and the further boon that men out of barracks at 5 p.m. need not return to change. It seems quite evident that some one in authority is amenable to reason, and under the circumstances I hope that by this time the second little matter in regard to dress at Malta, to which I have referred—*i.e.*, the extension of the permission to all warrant officers to wear mufti instead of a privileged few—will be an accomplished fact.

The injustice done to time-expired men in India by keeping them waiting for months after the expiration of their period of service is apparently to be perpetuated again this season. The programme for the trooping season has just been issued, and according to the arrangements December 12 is the date of sailing of the first ship to take "details." Consequently many men will be compelled to serve months over their time without any compensation. It should surely not be impossible to devise some scheme whereby so gross a breach of contract could be obviated.

I gather from a letter written by a civilian correspondent that in cavalry regiments it is not an uncommon thing for an officer to have two, or possibly more, soldiers waiting upon him in the capacity of servants. My correspondent instances the case of a man of his acquaintance who has been taken from his military duties, much against his will, in order to act as a second groom to one of the officers. In this case, the servant's duty is simply to look after two polo ponies, so that it cannot by any

stretch of imagination be considered as military duty. Is there any limit to the number of men who may be thus transformed from soldiers into grooms or stable-helps; or would it be open to any plutocrat in one of those cavalry regiments which make it a point of honour to "go the pace" in everything but soldiering to employ half the regiment as his menials?

An officer, to whom I have been indebted for many valuable hints on military matters, gives me the following reasons for the prevailing desire of both commissioned and non-commissioned officers to exchange their uniform for plain clothes whenever possible: (1) That uniform is far more expensive and more easily damaged than plain clothes; (2) that it is far less comfortable to wear; (3) that it makes the wearer exceeding conspicuous in a crowd, and draws on him an uncomfortable amount of attention, often uncomplimentary, from the lower classes. Reasons 1 and 2 could be easily got over—the first by making the uniform cheaper, or increasing the soldier's allowance of clothing, the second by making the uniform more comfortable. With regard to the third, as to which I had a long letter not many weeks back from a non-commissoned officer, it strikes me as possible that there would be very much less of these unpleasant attentions on the part of the public, if officers and N.C.O.s always appeared in public in their full war paint. No doubt the complaints of our warriors on this head are natural and reasonable, and that is one reason why, when I hear of a publican or anybody else insulting the Queen's uniform, I always hasten to pillory him. It strikes me, however, that the attentions paid to soldiers by the general public, whether in railway carriages or elsewhere, are as a rule more flattering than uncomplimentary; and that, on the whole, it does not require a very great deal of fortitude in order to put up with them.

A gallant warrior who is laid up in the Station Hospital at Eastbourne wants to know why things provided for the use and comfort of the patients are kept locked up in stores. What particularly disgusts him is the absence of such little articles as, for instance, egg-cups and spoons, so that when he gets an egg he has to take it in his hand and scoop out the contents with his fingers or his knife, a barbarous method of eating which is enough to spoil his appetite. Will somebody please look into the stores and bring out the spoons and other requisites to which sick Tommies are entitled under the hospital regulations?

Some few weeks back I called attention to the lack of newspapers provided for those unhappy members of the British Army who are condemned to serve their country at Port Blair, in the Andaman Islands. From a communication that I have just received from that part of the world, it would seem that there is a lamentable lack of provision all round for the comfort of the troops stationed there. The so-called library is a miserable apartment, containing only some thirty worm-eaten volumes, not one of which is complete, and the only furniture is two or three rickety forms and tables, not even a chair being provided. For a long time past it was impossible for the men to obtain any suppers at the coffee-shop, and when this was reformed it was only to the extent of making provision for some few of the men. Complaints were also made of the delay in paying the men, a circumstance of considerable significance, as the pay-sergeant was also canteen steward. There are many other minor complaints, and the state of things on the station would seem to call for inquiry. If there is a place in the whole world where everything that can be done should be done for the comfort of soldiers, I should think that place is the Andaman Islands.

The Admiralty have been curiously unfortunate of late in their purchases of tugs. The *Stormcock* was bought at an extravagant price, and then it was discovered that an expenditure of £4,000 would be necessary in order to make the vessel serviceable. The *Crocodile*, purchased for £7,500, has required an outlay of nearly £3,000, and she was in such a filthy condition (being thoroughly infested with vermin) that it was impossible for the crew who brought her round to Devonport from Liverpool to sleep on board. Indeed, the *Crocodile* is still in a very nasty state in this respect, although she has been cleaned and fumigated over and over again.

A petition to the Governor-General of India for those who have suffered from the high rates of passage in vogue between Europe and India is just now being extensively signed. Frequent reference has been made to this question in TRUTH and to the reason by which the system has been prolonged, viz., the fact that the P. & O. Company, by practically holding the monopoly of the mail contract, is in a position to dictate the terms upon which passengers shall be conveyed. The effect of this is that a second-class return passage between Bombay and Brindisi actually costs more than a first-class return passage between Bombay and Australia, although the latter journey is about 5,000 miles longer than the former. The petition advocates the abolition of the mail monopoly and the insertion of a clause in future mail contract agreements fixing minimum rates of passage-money between Europe and India in accordance with rates current in other parts of the world. If these recommendations were to be acted upon, it is evident that cheaper and more rapid communication between England and India would speedily become a reality.

For some time past a state of things most disgraceful to the authorities of the Ordnance Survey has prevailed in the office at Southampton. The process of preparing zinc plates is carried on in a shed, the roof of which ranges from about 9 ft. to 12 ft. in height, the place possessing the most inadequate arrangements for ventilation. From twenty to twenty-five men are employed there. Various acids—sulphuric, hydrochloric, and sometimes nitric—are used in treating the zinc. Other chemicals which give off

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noxious fumes, such as saturated solution of caustic potash, are also used. There are two hot-water boilers with gas stoves continually alight. Wet sand is also constantly being dried in the place, and the smell given off is at times intolerable. The condition of the atmosphere under these circumstances may be readily imagined, and, apart from the discomfort arising from it, can hardly fail to have an injurious effect upon the health of the men. No Factory or Sanitary Inspector ever enters the place, and I presume no such officer has any jurisdiction over it; but this state of things only imposes the stronger obligation upon the Government authorities to keep their workshops in a wholesome condition. The "model employer," that we hear so much about, would probably have been heavily fined long ago, if he had been subject to the ordinary law. The men employed in this pestilential hole are, many of them, earning not more than 18s. a week, and only two of them are receiving the maximum rate of 4s. per diem—a miserable pittance enough for work under such noxious conditions. It would be interesting to know whether any definite facts can be adduced respecting the health of the men thus employed.

From a progressive point of view there is little to be said for the last Annual Report on the Post Office, recently made public. The salient item, which is presumably considered sufficient to cover any shortcomings, is the substantial profit earned during the year of over three millions and a half. But those who look for promises for the future, in the shape of an Imperial penny postage rate, the omission from all charge of the address in sixpenny telegrams, or other similar salutary reforms, will be doomed to bitter disappointment. The fact is the Department may just now be said to be looking after itself. Without questioning his will, the Duke of Norfolk is incapable of grappling with the workings and the wants of such a large establishment, and as innovations mean increased work for permanent officials, our Post Office is likely to be a "Sleepy Hollow" for some time to come.

In the Post-office at Bedford a place has been found, by somebody's influence, for a female clerk, who, though she has not been properly "appointed," received the same commencing salary as those who are "appointed," and shortly afterwards was granted an increase, again without passing any examination. This lady not only blocks the chance of promotion of a duly qualified telegraphist, but she is favoured in various ways, one instance being that she was recently given a week's leave of absence at the expense of the Department to attend a relative's funeral, while, about the same time, another clerk (a male) had a difficulty in obtaining two hours' leave at his own expense to follow his father to the grave. Favouritism of this kind is naturally irritating to the rest of the employees and it ought to be checked.

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It is quite twelve months since a considerable amount of attention was directed to the "snowball" emanating from a Miss Brown, of Hanville, Kasee County, Illinois, U.S.A., in which that misguided individual appealed for used postage stamps, with the object of obtaining an entry of a cripple into a medical institution in the United States. Yet, in spite of the wide-spread publicity and equally wide-spread condemnation given to the project, and the endeavours of every one concerned to stop its progress, this "snowball" is still rolling merrily onward, India being at the present moment the field of operations. There can be no more effective object-lesson of the imbecility which conceives such a means of collection than this particular "snowball," which is now nothing but a nuisance to its originator and fulfils no end but that of swelling the Post Office revenues.

A traveller at Munich the other day addressed a German post-card to London, where, on its delivery, a fee of 5d., being double the postage at the letter-rate, was charged. The post-card had been treated as unpaid by the Bavarian Post Office, and St. Martin's-le-Grand has explained that this was done "because German Imperial post-cards are not available in Bavaria." I suppose this is one of the little matters in which that State likes to show its independence of the German Empire. It is an absurd and anomalous state of things, however, and the King of Bavaria and the Emperor William should see whether they cannot agree to put an end to it.

For many years past an old man named Terrell has been a familiar figure to passers-by the Park gate at Hyde Park Corner, where he has picked up a precarious livelihood by the sale of newspapers. He lately disappeared from his old haunt, and for a time he was in the workhouse. It appears that he was forced into this last refuge of the poor and friendless through the action of the authorities in suddenly withdrawing the privilege of affixing his contents bills and papers to the Park railings, which had been freely accorded to him since 1879 or 1880. This step was evidently not taken in compliance with any general edict against the vending of newspapers outside Park gates or in other public places, for the occupiers of similar stands are still to be seen in their accustomed places. Nor does there seem to have been any complaint against Terrell on the score of his character and conduct. Indeed, I believe the police expressed their regret at being obliged to interfere with him. Why, then, has the old fellow been deprived of the privilege he has so long enjoyed? His case strikes me, at present, as a very hard one; but there may be some official justification for his treatment. If there is, I should like to hear it.

I take the following from a local report of a recent meeting of the Swaffham Guardians:—

The relieving officer reported that Louisa Rose, of Hilborough, had been discharged from the County Asylum as fully restored, but that a great deal of difficulty had arisen in the case, in consequence of the father's employer forbidding him to receive his daughter, or to have her in any part of Hilborough. One of the Guardians had assisted in persuading the father and mother to take the girl to an adjoining village, where she had

been able to find shelter for a few nights, but had now had to go to Watton. At a later stage the father applied to the Board for pecuniary assistance, as, in consequence of not being allowed to have her at home, it became so expensive that he could not afford to maintain her. As, however, the girl was discharged as cured and was reasonably able-bodied, the Guardians could not assist.

This bald narrative relates to one of the most amazing manifestations of landlord tyranny that have ever come under my notice during a long experience. Let me fill in the details of the story. The employer referred to above is Mr. Joseph Trueman Mills. He is a J.P. and a Director of the Great Eastern Railway Company. The whole of the village of Hilborough belongs to him, and so also does the village of Little Cressingham. The parents of the girl Rose are employed by Mr. Mills as caretakers at Hilborough Hall. They have stated that they were prepared to receive their daughter on her return, and had arranged for her to reside at a cottage in the vicinity of the Hall. However that may be, just before she was discharged from the asylum, the man Rose received a letter from Mr. Mills' agent informing him that the girl would not be permitted to live at the Hall "or any house in Hilborough," and that if he could not arrange for her to be kept elsewhere, he must leave his place as caretaker. This seems to have terrorised the parents out of any natural affection they may have had for their daughter, and when the girl arrived at the nearest railway station, six miles from Hilborough, they resolutely refused to take her home, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that they were prevailed upon to conduct her to a neighbouring village and give her a few shillings to pay for a week's lodgings. So anxious were they not to incur the displeasure of their employer that they took a long roundabout way to this village in order that their daughter should not even pass through his sacred estate. Singularly enough, the woman with whom Louisa Rose has now found a temporary home is said to have been herself compelled to leave Hilborough some time ago, because she would not give up keeping a pony and cart!

If the reason of this unfortunate girl had been again unhinged by her extraordinary reception on leaving the asylum, it would not have been at all surprising. For the fact that she has escaped that misfortune no thanks are due to those who were bound by every tie of affection and responsibility to shelter and protect her. The conduct of the parents, even allowing for the difficult position they were placed in, was indefensible. But what shall be said of the individual whose threat impelled them to take so unnatural a course? He had a right to say that the girl should not live with her parents at the Hall, though, in the circumstances, most people will consider it would have been a harsh proceeding to do so. But to absolutely forbid her residence anywhere in the same village, under pain of her parent's dismissal from his service, was nothing less than barbarous. What motive Mr. Mills can have had is simply inconceivable, though if he likes to send me any explanation I shall be glad to give publicity to it.

The following story has been sent to me by the Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Tipperary, who vouches for its accuracy. A private in the Seaforth Highlanders, lately stationed in the town, died there, and was buried in the graveyard attached to the Protestant Church. Last week his widow journeyed to Tipperary from Cardiff with the pious purpose of having a memorial stone placed over his grave. An initial difficulty was to discover the grave, but after some trouble, and an expense she could ill afford, this was done. The widow then arranged for the erection of the headstone she had provided, only to be informed at the last moment that it could not be admitted to the churchyard until she paid a fee of £1. 2s. 6d. Being at the end of her resources it was impossible for her to meet such a demand, and so, for the time at any rate, she had to abandon the object of her visit. My informant characterises this as a cruel exaction, and few, I think, will disagree with him. The authorities of the churchyard have, I suppose, a legal right to levy this tax upon the bereaved, but it is little to their credit that they should have insisted upon doing so in such a case as this.

Wishing to give me a higher opinion of the management and usefulness of reformatories, a correspondent forwards a copy of the entry two Government Inspectors made in the visitors' book on a recent visit to a reformatory in the Midlands. It is a favourable report, but for two reasons it does not make much impression upon me. In the first place, I have never supposed or suggested that all reformatories are badly conducted. Secondly, my faith in the present system of inspection has been so much shaken that I attach little importance to such reports. One of the most disquieting features of the scandals that occurred a year or two back was the revelation of the ease with which the worst abuses could be concealed from the inspectors.

Can nothing be done to stir up the Darbys and Joans, who are forced by stress of poverty to find their last shelter but one in the Purton Workhouse, to demand the measure of justice the Legislature has accorded to them? I find from the report of a recent discussion of the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Board of Guardians, who are the ruling body of the workhouse in question, that the rule in force is that an inmate should only be allowed to see her husband or his wife for one half hour per week. In one case the Guardians have thought fit to vary the rule, fearing the expense consequent upon the couple demanding the right secured to them. But what about the others?

There was an angry debate at the last meeting of the Preston Guardians over a proposal that laundry machinery should be introduced into the workhouse,

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and several members protested in vigorous language against a change which would allow the female inmates "to pose as ladies, instead of being kept to hard work!" However, the proposal was carried, and very properly, seeing that, in consequence of the present inadequate laundry arrangements, no fewer than 400 male paupers had been kept in bed on Sundays owing to scarcity of shirts.

For some reason or other the following appears to have been omitted from the usual Police-court reports in my daily contemporaries:—

At the Worship-street Police-court yesterday, Thomas Stordy was summoned by the East London Bread Company for non-payment of his bread-rate.

The Solicitor of the Company produced the Act of Parliament, showing that the Company had the power to levy a bread-rate assessed on the value of a house. The defendant, who occupied a flat on a second floor, had refused to pay his rate. Under the circumstances, the Company had the right to cut off his bread, but they were unwilling to take extreme measures, and as it was understood that Stordy was, in a sense, a ringleader, to whom many foolish persons looked for guidance, they had thought it better that the case should be tried in that Court.

The Magistrate: Well, defendant, what have you to say?

Defendant: In the first place, your worship, I haven't had the bread. This summons is for bread up to Christmas, and we're only in August.

The Solicitor: That is so, your worship. The Act gives us power to demand the rate in advance.

The Magistrate: Anything else, defendant?

Defendant: Then why do they charge me more than the man on the ground floor?

The Solicitor: The Act gives us power to charge an extra 15 per cent. for high service.

The Magistrate: And high service is ——?

The Solicitor: Delivery of bread 10 ft. above the level of the pavement.

Defendant: Your worship, for six weeks the Company didn't deliver an ounce of bread, and yet they claimed the rate all the same.

The Solicitor: Quite right; our ovens were out of order—of course they wear out in time—but the Act allows us to levy the rate, supply or no supply.

Defendant: Well, but when your ovens were in order again, the supply wasn't regular.

The Solicitor: It is true that for a time we gave an "intermittent supply." There was an unusual scarcity of wheat, but by using horse beans and potatoes we were able to give half the usual supply. This would have been more than ample, but the waste by ratepayers is really terrible. Why, at the time of the greatest scarcity, the children of this very man were seen feeding sparrows in Victoria Park with bread, *our* bread!

Defendant: It come out of their breakfasts, anyway.

The Magistrate: Really, defendant, this is reprehensible. At a time of scarcity of bread your family waste it in this way.

The Solicitor: In consequence of this wanton waste, several families had to go short for days.

The Magistrate (to the defendant): Have you anything more to say?

Defendant: What's the good of my saying anything?

The Magistrate: I am afraid it would be a waste of words to say much to you, defendant. You must pay the rate and £3. 2s. 6d. costs, or go to prison for a month. I advise you to pay the money, and not to let me see you again. And let me recommend you to cultivate a feeling of sympathy with the Company and its chief baker and other officials, who at great cost and inconvenience supply you with a necessity of life. Where would you be if the Company did not supply you with bread? And yet you have the gross indecency to grumble!

Stordy refused to pay, and was removed to the cells.

Concerning the imprisonment of fishing apprentices at Grimsby, I have had a letter from a gentleman whose precise views on the subject I do not quite understand. He has just returned from a trip on a steamer which had on board a number of fishermen, all of whom served their apprenticeship at Grimsby. Three of them said they were sent to gaol there for not joining their vessels; and they all agreed that they deserved the punishment. My correspondent seems to be of the same opinion, for he refers to the loss that arises when a smack is prevented sailing at the appointed time through an apprentice's absence. But then he goes on to say that he thinks "the reason so many of the lads run away is not so much any ill-treatment that they receive on board the smacks and steamers, but the monotony of their existence at sea." Even accepting this explanation of the constant desertions, it seems to me that the apprenticeship business cannot be regarded as a satisfactory one from any point of view but that of the employers. As I have repeatedly urged, the fact that it causes so many youths to abscond, and if they are caught, to become gaol birds, is in itself sufficient to condemn the system; and so long as this continues I shall not fail to protest against it.

The new rule which has just come into force in the Royal Irish Constabulary, giving half the vacancies in the rank of the District Inspectors to head constables, appears to be a good one, so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. Three head constables are to be appointed by competitive examination, and three under the old system of recommendation. But it seems that only officers under a certain age are allowed to enter for the examination, and the senior head constables are completely shut out from the competition, so that any of them who are not favoured by the sort of influence which is required for promotion in the old way are no better off now than they were before the introduction of the rule. To limit the competitive examination in this way seems both an absurdity and an injustice.

Owing to their arbitrary and unreasonable proceedings in various cases, the police at Aston have of late come in for a good deal of criticism in the local newspapers. The officer in charge of the force is one Walker, and for any journalist to presume to censure him or his minions is evidently to his mind "flat burglary as ever was committed." His wrath exploded with terrific effect at the Police-court last week. The reporters asked him to allow them, as usual, to see the charge-sheet. "No, I shall not give you anything," replied the indignant Dogberry; and then he proceeded to relieve his overcharged feelings. "There was not," he declared, "a paper in Birmingham—he meant a daily paper—the *Post*, the *Gazette*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Argus*, but what at some time or other their representatives, or members of their staff or relations, had been locked up at Aston."

This observation was impertinent in both the classic and the common acceptation of the word. Of course, nobody acquainted with the Birmingham Press will believe it, though even if the truculent Walker could substantiate his statement it would not signify much, for the police at Aston have shown themselves capable of locking up people on any or no pretext. But while

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my contemporaries can afford to treat Superintendent Walker's outburst with contempt, it is a serious matter that Aston should be under the dominion of an officer with such a temper as he appears to possess. I hope the Chief Constable of Warwickshire will recognise this, and lose no time in investigating the complaints which have been made against the police in this division of the county.

The County Court Acts do not, I believe, expressly direct the Judges to give preference to their own sons in the distribution of their patronage. Judge Turner and Judge Bedwell apparently look upon this as an oversight on the part of the Legislature which it is their duty to remedy. The first-named Judge has just bestowed the Registrarship of the Stockton and Middlesbrough County Courts—a post worth £1,300 a year—upon his son Mr. E. M. Turner. Hitherto this gentleman has held the Registrarship of the Darlington County Court, which his father conferred upon him soon after he was admitted as a solicitor. The other berth, however, is more valuable, and so, as a matter of course, he gets it the moment it becomes vacant. Judge Bedwell has appointed his son, Mr. Hugh Bedwell, a solicitor of some five or six years' standing, to the Registrarship of the Malton County Court. Another of his Honour's sons is the Registrar of the Scarborough County Court; and if he has any more we shall doubtless, in due course, see them provided with comfortable berths. These flagrant jobs have aroused great indignation, especially among members of the legal profession; but the Judges know what they are about. The only person who could call them to account and make things unpleasant is the Lord High Jobber, and he can hardly blame these minor judicial luminaries for following his own example.

On the occasion of the amazing proceedings at Caerphilly Brewster Sessions, which I described last week, no fewer than thirteen J.P.s were present to demonstrate their ignorance of the law, and their contempt for the judicial practice of hearing both sides of a case before arriving at a decision. On the 1st inst., it became the duty of the same Bench to deal with the ordinary business of petty sessions, but only one magistrate put in an appearance, and he only did so because he happened to have been summoned as a witness in a case. Efforts were made by the police to obtain a second magistrate, but without success, and after nearly two hours' delay, the business had to be adjourned until the next sitting, thus causing great inconvenience and no small expense to something like a hundred interested parties, including several professional men. It is possible that after the ridicule and contempt they had brought upon themselves a week previously the Great Unpaid at Caerphilly were ashamed to show their faces on the Bench. A more probable explanation, however, may be found in the fact that this sitting of the court was, unfortunately, fixed for St. Partridge's Day. Whether shame or shooting kept their worships away, the incident affords another reason for bringing the conduct of this Bench to the notice of the Lord Chancellor.

A very harsh and unjustifiable course appears to have been adopted in the case of a bargeman named Plant, who was before the Reading Bench on Monday week on a charge of assaulting his son, a youth of sixteen, on the previous Friday. The defence was that the man had only properly corrected the lad for a serious fault, and the Bench dismissed the case. But while Plant was thus acquitted by the magistrates, he had already undergone the punishment of two days' imprisonment, having been arrested on a warrant at midday on Saturday and confined in a cell at the police-station till Monday. Plant's address was known, and it is a scandalous thing that he should have been treated in this way when the case was obviously one in which the interests of justice would have been equally well served by the issuing of a summons.

The Mayor of Boston has again distinguished himself. Last Friday one Parkinson was charged with the atrocious crime of wandering abroad and lodging in the open air, "not having any visible means of subsistence." As a matter of fact the defendant had 2d. in his possession, but I suppose this was not a sufficient amount to be regarded as "visible means of subsistence," nor do I see how a man so situated could be expected to pay the penalty of 4s. 6d., including costs, which the Bench imposed. It was in announcing this decision that the Mayor came out with another of his delightful little speeches. The defendant was fined, he explained, "not so much for this offence, but because he had twenty-five previous convictions against him." I know plenty of magistrates proceed on this pernicious principle of punishing a man over again for his past misdeeds, but it is not often that they avow the fact with the Mayor of Boston's ingenuous bluntness.

At Bradford last week a man named Henry Jackson was charged with having ill-treated his son, a boy of eight. It appeared that the child had been drowned under circumstances which pointed to suicide, and, according to the statements of the mother at the inquest, he had been continually ill-treated by the defendant. He was, it was alleged, exceptionally cruel to the boy a day or two before he was drowned; and a witness asserted that on being told that his son had committed suicide the defendant remarked "that's all right," subsequently saying that "he was very glad." The newspaper report states that the Bench dismissed the charge, as they did not think the evidence "sufficient to warrant a conviction." It may be that the report is incomplete, but if the outline of the case which is given is anything like correct, one can only wonder what amount of evidence these justices would really consider necessary "to warrant a conviction."

It will be well within the memory of my readers that I have on several occasions found it necessary to deal with a white-washing letter that had been obtained by the man Benham, of the Jubilee Hospital, from one Wm. Martin Baker, a solicitor practising under the name of

Montague Scott & Baker, at 10, Gray's-inn-square. The whole circumstances of the case were of so gross a nature that I felt compelled to bring them under the notice of the Incorporated Law Society, who promptly took action in the matter. I attended upon subpœna before the Committee of the Incorporated Law Society, though I am glad to say that they did not find it necessary to make any very extravagant demand upon my time. However, the inquiry into the facts was completed, and, as I understand, the report was being drafted when any further proceedings were rendered unnecessary by Baker being struck off the rolls upon another charge. In one way I regret this result, inasmuch as it would have been a matter of sincere pleasure to me to have been the means of removing so pernicious an individual from the list of practising solicitors and so limiting his future opportunities of mischief. Nevertheless, I have not the faintest doubt but that had the previous case failed, the one in which I was more particularly interested would have brought about the desired result. Meanwhile, the incident throws a flood of light upon Benham's attempts to bolster up his reputation, since it is from the ranks of discreditable persons of the character of Mr. William Martin Baker that he finds it necessary to call witnesses as to his own character.

Sundry letters have reached me in reference to my recent note respecting the constant cheating of customers which goes on at a well-known restaurant in the City where the waiters receive no remuneration whatever and so are under a direct inducement to obtain their income in this way. The system is not, of course, confined to one establishment. One way of getting it stopped, or, at any rate, of effectively exposing the proprietors who thus practically compel their employees to be dishonest to the public, is suggested in a communication from the Amalgamated Waiters' Society. It is that some of the parties who are victimised should lay the facts before the magistrates at the October Licensing Sessions, and see what they have to say about such a system.

Can any one give me any information about the occupants of Staunton Villa, Albany-road, Southsea? I ask because from this address numbers of appeals to purchase worthless pieces of lace or needlework are sent out over different signatures. The latest I have seen purports to come from a Mrs. Sheter, who describes herself as "being left with a large family and a very small income," and expects in consequence total strangers to purchase her worthless handiwork. From my knowledge of Leigh Sampson and others who have been mentioned in TRUTH as resorting to similar methods for the sale of their wares, I find that this particular device is an extremely profitable one, and I should not be at all surprised to learn that the occupants of Staunton Villa are managing to secure a fairly luxurious existence by means of it.

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My Legal Pillory for this week includes, as usual, a sentence of imprisonment on a fishing apprentice at Grimsby; though on this occasion the defendant was charged with doing some trifling damage to the smack-owner's property at the apprentices' home, instead of with the familiar offence of disobedience to orders and neglecting to go to sea. It will be seen from another case at the same court that while the Grimsby Shallows thus award a fortnight's hard labour to a youth who wrenches two bars off a window, they are content to impose a fine of 42s. on a ruffian who thrashes a woman, kicks her, jumps upon her and breaks one of her ribs—a very effective illustration of the relative heinousness in magisterial eyes of damage to property and damage to the person. As to the rest of the list I would specially call attention to the lenity with which assaults on women have been treated at a number of courts, while on the other hand vagrancy, poaching, and petty larcenies continue to be punished with undiminished severity:—

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Alderman E. Palmer), Messrs. W. Jackson, C. Morton and W. Southworth. Henry Loftus charged with assaulting Elizabeth Henitt. The parties lived in the same house, and complainant stated that defendant went to her room late at night, struck her between the eyes and in the mouth, and when she fell to the ground he jumped upon her and kicked her. One of her ribs was broken. Fined £2. 2s, including costs.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Bennet. Thomas Hume, convicted of assaulting his mother, an old woman of 76, by striking her on the body and face with his clenched fist. Fined 20s.

Sevenoaks Police-court. George Reeves, charged with cruelty to a horse. Defendant was driving a waggonette containing seven persons, and the horse was completely exhausted. He nevertheless severely beat the animal with the butt end of a whip, covering it with weals, some of which were stated to be as much as 3 ft. long. Fined £2 and costs.

Kilmarnock Sheriff-court. Thomas Healey pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife and step-daughter. He kicked his wife in the abdomen and struck her on the head with his fists, and he gave his step-daughter a blow in the mouth. He had been previously convicted. Fined £2.

Ardrossan Police-court. Patrick Burns pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, and without any provocation caught hold of his wife, threw her to the ground, and kicked her brutally about the legs and body. Fined £2 or thirty days.

Kirkintilloch Police-court. John O'Neill, convicted of assaulting his wife. He tore her clothes to ribbons and cut up her boots, and when she left the house owing to his conduct, he overtook her, threw her down in the street, lifted her up again and threw her violently down a second time. Fined 15s.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Aldermen Louth and Jackson, Messrs. W. S. Letten and J. M. Dennis. William H. Reed, fishing apprentice, charged with wilful damage by wrenching two bars off a window at the apprentices' home. Fourteen days.

Saffron Walden County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. B. Gibson, J. Bell, and H. Byng. Arthur Goodman, labourer, charged with stealing two faggots, value 4d. Fourteen days.

Long Eaton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Orchard and A. Marriott. George Bingham, Henry Hopewell, and James Ellendar, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of fourteen rabbits, and nets, and bags. Hopewell fined £1. 6s.; Bingham, £2. 6s.; and Ellendar, £5 and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. H. Boam), Sir John Smith, Messrs. W. H. Marsdon and A. Longdon. John Pearson, charged with wandering abroad and lodging in the open air in King-street, and being without visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Hay Police-court. Before Colonel Thomas and Mr. F. R. Trumper. Richard Chipps and Albert Evans charged with poaching. Six weeks each, and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

Totnes County Police-court. Before Messrs. R. H. Watson and J. Hamlyn. Ellen Macken, cook, pleaded guilty to stealing a table-cloth and six dusters belonging to her employer. They were found in a locked box. The prosecutor asked the Bench to be lenient with the prisoner. One month.

Coventry County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. Lant, T. R. Vickers, and Colonel Woodlcombe-Adams. Benjamin Edwards, charged with assaulting Charles Cox. He pulled complainant to the ground, kicked him in the head and back, and bit him near the eye. Fined £1 and costs.

Blackburn Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Hoyle, H. Lewis, and J. A. Watson. David Allen, charged with assaulting his wife. The parties were separated, and defendant went to the house where his wife was living, struck her several times with his fist, knocked her over a chair, and then kicked her. Fined 20s. and costs.

Aldeburgh Petty Sessions. Before the Mayor, Messrs. J. G. S. Anderson, W. H. Hall, and H. Cowell. John Rose Davey, charged with cruelty by working a pony while in an unfit state. The animal was suffering from bad wounds upon which the harness pressed; it was also afflicted with an abscess, both knees were broken, and there were many sores about its body. Defendant had previously been cautioned. Fined £1 and 9s. costs.

Spittlegate (Grantham Police-court. Before Lieut-Colonel C. J. B. Parker. Walter Bailey, Joseph Bailey, and Elizabeth Bailey, charged with stealing turnips valued at 3d. from a field. Seven days each.

Kettering Police-court. Before Messrs. J. T. Stockburn, T. Wallis, and F. Barton. Charles Prestige, George Willis, and Ambrose Mabbutt, charged with poaching. Two months each.

Banbury Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. T. C. Cartwright, J. F. Starkey, W. Anker, and P. S. Edmunds. Frederick Dainty, charged with stealing apples, valued at 2d., from an orchard. One month.

Chichester City Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. E. Prior) and Mr. E. M. Street. Emily Day, charged with sleeping out and being without visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Mr. Rider Haggard has rendered a public service, and I hope at the same time gained a useful experience, by his prosecution of Valentine Rose, alias Fabian Ross, at Manchester last week. The piteous tale set forth by this rascal in a begging letter so worked upon the feelings of the unsuspecting novelist that he sent him a sovereign. Not content with this, Rose asked for more, whereupon Mr. Haggard made some inquiries, and the swindler was arrested. He is an old hand at this business. I exposed him myself so long ago as 1892, when he was inditing his touching appeals from Ashton-under-Lyne, though he was actually under police supervision at the time. He has been convicted more than once since then, and now he has got another three months, at the end of which he will probably resume his old game. It is a game, however, which he and scores of similar impostors would find to be not worth the candle, if only charitable people like Mr. Haggard would take the trouble to make inquiries before bestowing their bounty upon any stranger with the knack of telling a plausible story of distress.

I see that this man Rose is described in some of the papers as a "journalist." He has about as much right to be called one as my printers' devil has. But nowadays it is becoming the fashion for every man who gets into trouble to claim that he is a journalist, while all sorts of disreputable females pose as "actresses." Why newspapers should help to libel the two professions by so describing prisoners in their Police-court reports I cannot understand.

Whether it is that recent climatic conditions have rendered indoor pursuits desirable, or whether the great army of beggars has returned to its homes with renewed energies from its annual holiday at the seaside, I am not prepared to say; but the fact remains that during the past week I have been deluged with inquiries respecting beggars of all classes and conditions. Some of them I know, some of them are new to me; but in regard to one and all, I can safely say that much more deserving recipients of charity are to be found without any very extended search.

Take, for instance, the appeal which a certain Duncan E. Mackay issues from 1, Myrtle Villas, Temple-road, Hounslow. Mackay writes that he is in temporary pecuniary difficulties, and bases his claim for charity on the grounds that the educational classes to which he holds the post of instructor are closed during the summer months; that he is a successful "speaker on political matters pertaining to the Conservative cause," and that he has a sick wife and five young children dependent upon him. I find that for the past twenty years "temporary pecuniary difficulties" have been invariable in their attendance upon Duncan E. Mackay. In 1887 he was begging for money to release a poem he had written from the hands of the publisher, and in the following year because he was out of work and his landlord was about to distrain upon his effects. In 1893 he sent out piteous appeals because his wife was "hourly expecting confinement," and in 1894 he made a bid for practical sympathy with the announcement that his "dear baby boy, aged eight months, has died." No domestic incident is too slight a peg for Mackay to hang upon it one of his numerous appeals, and he seeks sympathy—upon a strictly cash basis—from all the world. One curious point about Mackay is the fact that the instructorship to which he refers is a semi-official appointment at Chiswick, Brentford, and Hounslow Police Stations, for the coaching of police constables in the necessary promotion examinations. I should suggest that if for one occasion an alteration of the respective rôles of master and pupils could be brought about, the result would have an eminently educative value to Duncan E. Mackay.

Another pertinacious beggar at the present moment is the Rev. James W. Smith, of Bourney Rectory, Roscrea, Ireland. His appeals are a really amazing example of clerical impudence. To one gentleman from whom he has regularly begged for the past seven years he makes the modest request for funds to purchase any or all of the following articles:—

A Brazen Eagle or Lectern.
New Books.
Cathedral Glass in 6 Windows.
Furniture for Vestry.
2 Oak Cathedral Chairs.
3 Curtains, Brass Rods and Bars.

In this instance, as in a number of others brought under my notice, the gentleman to whom the appeal was made has not the faintest interest of any sort in Ireland, and has never been at Roscrea in his life. For the Rev. J. W. Smith to write that he is "constrained" to such a course is an additional impertinence. I wonder what he would think if I wrote him that I was constrained to appeal to him for new furniture for my office. Yet the justification is in both cases the same.

There are a good many clerics of all denominations, however, who imagine that the wants of their parishes justify appeals to utter strangers, and so do much to foster begging-letter writing. A very striking instance of this is to be found in the following letter from a Miss Florence Firmstone, of which nearly every post brings me lithographed copies :—

Winchester.

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly send me 1s. towards helping a deserving case? For thirty years a nurse has been engaged in sick nursing, and is universally respected. Till lately she has had to help support her mother, so her savings are small. I hope, by means of these letters, to augment them and buy her a small old age Pension in the Nurse's Pension Fund. Do send me 1s. I have now got £145. It seems hard that such a good, self-denying life should end in the workhouse.—Yours truly,

Florence Firmstone.

You may remember my name in connection with the building of my father's church, St. Paul's, Winchester.

It is evident from the postscript to the foregoing epistle where Miss Firmstone graduated in the art of begging-letter writing. About the lady's bona fides I have no information, nor have I any wish to question them in the slightest degree, for to my mind the mere fact that such an appeal is sent out broadcast is sufficient to condemn it utterly. There can be no excuse for sending such an appeal to an absolute stranger to all the parties, and by so doing Miss Firmstone takes up a position precisely analogous to that of the beggar's assistant, who leads his master to a well-frequented spot, carefully arranges his sores to catch the eye of passers-by, and stands with outstretched hand to receive their pennies. I would put it to Miss Firmstone whether such a position is altogether a desirable one. I can assure her that in the opinion of a large number of my correspondents her action is open to considerable misconstruction.

Many of my readers will, doubtless, remember the exposure in Truth in January and December last of a Farm Pupil Agency which owed its inception to the arch-swindler Pointing, styled itself the International Emigration Association, Limited, and had an address at Albany-buildings, 47, Victoria-street, Westminster. The manager of this precious concern was a Mr. A. L. Atkinson. Now the International Emigration Association has disappeared from Victoria-street, only, however, to be resurrected, under the title of the "International Emigration and Colonisation Company," at Dacre House, 5, Arundel-street, Strand. Of this Company, as of its predecessor, Mr. A. L. Atkinson is still the leading spirit, and he is at the present moment actively engaged, with the assistance of the *Evening Standard*, in touting for cadets at £22 a head to join his next personally-conducted party, which is announced to leave Liverpool on October 22, per Dominion Royal Mail steamer *Canada*, for Montreal. To any one who might be contemplating the acceptance of the costly but doubtful benefits of this Company I can only reiterate facts I have frequently stated before. To ship a youth from Liverpool to Montreal costs £5. 10s. A pound or two more will take him to places where plenty of decent farmers will be only too glad of his services, and an inquiry of the Agent-General for Canada at Westminster will secure him advice and recommendations to such free of charge. It is evident, therefore, that any one who pays Atkinson the fee he asks is simply making him a present of some £15.

This latter point is made abundantly clear in a particularly specious circular which is included amongst the literature forwarded to applicants by the International Emigration and Colonisation Company. In this circular, which purports to be a "Caution" against "Mushroom Agencies" and "Private Advertisers," it is stated that the special object in view in the formation of the Company "was to establish a trustworthy and reliable medium for sending out to Canada, and elsewhere, farm cadets, without the payment of premiums"—to any one but Messrs. Atkinson & Co., the circular should have added, in order to be strictly accurate. Whatever excuse there may be for paying a premium to the farmer—and the Canadian Government have publicly announced that there is none—there is still less excuse for handing over sums of money to agencies like this of Atkinson's for services which are absolutely valueless.

An advertisement which has been appearing very frequently of late in nearly all the leading newspapers makes an offer of a "very powerful six-guinea binocular, with twelve lenses, twenty-five miles' range, fitted with sun-shades; in leather sling case complete, unsoiled," for 35s., the address given being Mrs. B., 38, Willes-road, Kentish Town, N.W. Having my suspicions as to the genuineness of this bargain, I have taken the trouble to investigate it. Mrs. B. I find is a myth, and 38, Willes-road is merely an accommodation address. However, an application brought a speedy response from a Mrs. T. Fielding, of "The Limes," Great Yarmouth, whose name will no doubt be familiar to those who remember my exposure of the cutlery swindle some little time ago. I have obtained one of the "Powerful Six-Guinea Binoculars" and submitted it to experts, and the universal decision is that to so characterise such a race-glass as this is nothing less than an impudent falsehood. There can be no doubt that the price asked, 35s., shows a very good margin of profit, and further, that the glasses are specially manufactured for this particular form of trade. Under these circumstances it seems scarcely necessary to warn any intending purchasers that they would, instead of securing a bargain, merely become the possessors of an article at its full value, and one which is likely besides to prove of an exceedingly unsatisfactory nature.

Some months ago I had occasion to publish a warning against an impudent advertising swindle carried on by some persons calling themselves variously Mason & Co., Mason-Smith, Mason-Roberts, and Smith & Co., all of 145, Fleet-street. This much-titled firm is again particularly active, though experience, probably, has led them to make some slight alteration in their methods.

The bait is an innocent-looking advertisement offering employment to those willing and able to address circulars and to copy. In response to an answer to such an advertisement the following circular is received :—

Agent's Address :—A., 112, Graham-road, Hackney, London, N.E.

Dear Sir or Madam,—In reply to your inquiry respecting the employment advertised by me, I should state that I am engaged by Messrs. Mason & Co., publishers, of Smith's, 145, Fleet-street, London. Your handwriting being satisfactory, they will be prepared to accept your application. The employment they offer can be engaged in entirely at home, without any canvassing, and consists of copying addresses, inserting announcements, &c. Messrs. Mason & Co. think it necessary to mention that they have no connection with rubber stamp dealers, or any other firms who offer higher salaries than their agents ever receive.

For a Specimen Copy of the Book, value 1s., a fee of 1s. is required, which will be returned in full immediately you take up the employment. Messrs. Mason & Co. are obliged to charge this small fee to applicants owing to many persons replying to their advertisements who do not intend to work, but are merely trying to obtain something for nothing. On my receiving 1s. postal order or thirteen stamps, and 1d. stamp extra for postage, I will forward the necessary amount to Mason & Co., who will send you the Specimen Copy with full instructions, and give you an appointment.—Yours faithfully, (Unsigned).

Persons sending their shillings in reply to this circular get a book of "Useful Recipes and Prescriptions," and instructions to publish in some newspaper an advertisement similar to the one described above. On receipt of the answers to this advertisement the agent is to post to the senders a circular similar to that quoted, to make a list of those who take the bait and forward their shillings, each of whom in his turn is expected to become an agent in the same way. It is difficult to imagine that many could thus be deluded into parting with a shilling. Yet a gentleman who had the curiosity to call at 145, Fleet-street, the other day, found the sole representative of Messrs. Mason-Roberts-Smith & Co. seated at a table with a goodly pile of 1s. postal orders and sheets of stamps before him. It seems a pity that in a case of this kind the police should wait the initiative of the aggrieved party before taking action, for such a course gives swindlers of this stamp practical immunity, owing to the helplessness of the class upon whom they prey.

An advertising dodge which has frequently been noticed in Truth has recently been applied to the selling of bicycles by some persons calling themselves Couthrie, Thompson, & Co., of 4, Featherstone-buildings, High Holborn. The advertisement took the form of a ridiculously easy problem competition, the winners of which were to have the option of purchasing a pneumatic safety bicycle at a greatly reduced rate. The next step was the receipt by those who had answered the advertisement of the following communication from Couthrie, Thompson, & Co. :—

Investor Prize Competition.

Dear Sir,—We are authorised to state that, although not one of the three prize-winners, you are numbered among the six competitors whose answers were perfectly correct.

We have consequently been instructed to forward you a Pneumatic Safety similar to the one offered as First Prize (drawing enclosed), should you care to forward remittance, £8. 17s. 6d. for gent's, or £9. 7s. 6d. for lady's machine.

The above charges include all accessories, and for lady's safety a pretty gear-case and dress-guard.

The "drawing enclosed" bears the title of "The 1896 'Claremont' Pneumatic Safety," which is priced at £20. Upon hearing of this offer, a correspondent of mine at once called at Messrs. Couthrie, Thompson, & Co.'s office to make inquiries, and, presenting himself as a possible purchaser, learned to his surprise that the prices mentioned above were the ordinary prices asked for the machines in question. I also sent a representative on a similar errand with the same result. I therefore would warn any one against becoming the purchaser of one of these machines without first having them examined by an expert; for it is evident that the promised reduction of price to prize-winners is a mere blind; and, if it were possible to place a trustworthy machine of the kind on the market at such prices, I am convinced that Messrs. Couthrie, Thompson, & Co., would, instead of having to find purchasers by such shady tricks, have difficulty in executing the orders entrusted to them.

From certain letters which have been appearing in the *Grocer*, it would seem that many firms in the grocery trade have lately been imposed upon by a trick analogous to the one which I have often exposed under the name of the "marking-ink trick." In one of these instances an individual comes round and invites tradesmen to take up a local agency for the sale of "cattle spice." He represents that the article is to be extensively advertised, showing handbills and posters in proof of his assertion, and as there is a prospect of a good sale, the grocer not infrequently gives a handsome order. The promised advertisements are never published, and the tradesman finds himself with a consignment of goods on his hands which are totally unsaleable, and probably utterly worthless. A grocer near Newcastle who has been one of the victims of this dodge, tells me that in his case the man who called gave the name of "Francis Robbins, Cattle Food Manufacturer, Shrewsbury." There are probably many varieties of this same trick, and it is about time that tradesmen of all classes were on their guard against it.

The most astonishing discovery that I have made for some time about the "Spanish prisoner" is that he is now having his circulars lithographed. This shows, more significantly than anything I have yet come across, the systematic way in which this trick is worked. Evidently in some parts of Spain the thing is looked upon as a regular industry, with the prisoner, the buried treasure, the orphan daughter, and all the rest of it, as so much commercial stock-in-trade; and in the usual course of business the parties living by their industry have their business correspondence lithographed just like any other tradesman would. I suppose it must also be concluded that there are plenty of people in the United Kingdom so green and unsuspicious that they will swallow the cock-and-bull story of the Spanish prisoner, even when the letter which that worthy purports to write from his dungeon at Madrid or Barcelona is manifestly a lithographed document.

Really, I must ask Mr. Gladstone to be a little more discreet in his correspondence. I am compelled to

do this when I see his name prominently used in the furtherance of the business of that enterprising advertiser Mr. Ernest Goode. As all readers of TRUTH are aware, Goode is the man who advertises the free gift of a watch to any one who can guess correctly some ludicrously easy puzzle, a minor condition, apparently, being the purchase of a chain to wear with it. In Goode's latest advertisements there occurs as a sequel what is termed a "Unique Testimonial from the Right Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone," consisting of a warm acknowledgment through Mr. H. Drew of a present Goode has sent to him. Of course, Mr. Gladstone probably thought that he was merely acknowledging a tribute of admiration from some ardent follower; but the fact remains that his utterances, whether they refer to the "Assassin on the Throne" or to Goode's watches, are of considerable value. The use to which Goode has put this particular letter makes it seem that Mr. Gladstone has been a pleased participant in one of the competitions.

I received an invitation last week from the Directors of the Crystal Palace, on the occasion of Brock's benefit, to view the fireworks. I was unable to make use of it myself, so I unwarily handed it to a member of my staff who has a sneaking sympathy for minor poets. The result was disastrous—four columns at least of poetry. I do not profess to be a judge of poetry, but this effusion seems quite up to the modern standard. Besides being poetically sympathetic, I should also judge that my representative is in full intellectual accord with Pinero's doctrine of praise. I had not really suspected him of such an extraordinary command of superlatives as he has shown himself to have. I regret that the exigencies of space prevent my giving publicity to his descriptions, which are every bit as brilliant as the source of his inspiration—the fireworks themselves. Under the circumstances, I think I must be content with recording the two first words of his ode. These words at least record a truism in a convenient form. They are:—

Great Brock!——

Last week a firm of provision merchants at Liverpool sent out a black-bordered circular announcing, with very much regret, the sudden death of one of the partners. Their grief does not seem, however, to have altogether blunted the keen business instincts of the surviving partners, for three pages of the circular containing the mournful intelligence were filled up with quotations of the current prices for bacon, cheese, butter, eggs, and other goods. After this, it will not be surprising to hear of the epitaph on the departed merchant's tombstone winding up with an intimation that his partners continue to carry on the business as usual.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

I have to thank a great many readers in different parts of the country who have sent me evidence of the practicability of employing windmills for generating electricity. There seem to be several places at which dynamos are being worked by windmills for illuminating purposes, and, judging by what I am told, the experiment has in all cases been successful, there being no difficulty in storing enough electricity to carry an establishment over those brief intervals in this country when there is no wind blowing. There really seems to be no reason why every London householder should not rig up a windmill on the top of his house for generating electricity, and snap his fingers at the electric lighting companies.

Apropos of my recent references to the cruelty of compelling a prisoner at a court-martial to stand throughout a protracted trial, I have been asked to ventilate the grievance of a numerous body of persons, not even under accusation of wrong-doing, who are similarly tortured while in attendance on the Private Bill Committees. Seats are provided in each Committee-room for the Committee, for counsel, and for the reporters; but for everybody else there is only a single common school form against the back wall, and a good portion of this is nearly always taken up with boxes and papers. The consequence is that the majority of the witnesses and other interested parties—and they are mostly middle-aged or elderly men—are compelled to stand hour after hour and day after day in a close and crowded room. In the Commons a witness is indulged with a seat whilst under examination, but in the Lords he must continue to stand even then. It will easily be understood that the ordeal is a very trying one, more especially for professional men, who are expected to keep their minds alert and attentive on behalf of their clients during proceedings which last for four or five hours a day without an interval. Why do not the expert witnesses and others who have to endure this hardship session after session combine in some representation to the authorities at Westminster, or get some Member to take the matter up?

With regard to the practice at courts-martial, an officer tells me that in India he has often seen both the prisoner and his escort provided with seats. No doubt this is especially necessary in a hot climate; but my correspondent agrees that at home also prisoners ought always to be allowed to sit down during a long trial, and he suggests that the omission to do this is due to thoughtlessness more than anything else on the part of the president of the tribunal. I dare say this explanation applies to the majority of cases, and probably if the prisoner asked for a seat he would be allowed it. At the same time I am bound to add that on the occasion to which I originally referred the prisoner did ask for permission to sit down, that his request was contemptuously ignored, and that, consequently, he had to stand throughout a trial which extended over five days. There was, therefore, something worse than thoughtlessness on the part of the president in that case.

The Convention of the Irish Race last week in Dublin is one more blunder to be classed with the Plan of Campaign and New Tipperary. Such is the verdict of Irish common sense. But there is evidently a good deal in heredity. Two speakers at the Convention, who had come from across the water, contributed the following sentences in the course of their speeches:—Said one, "Until last week I had never set foot in the land of my birth." The other, in giving some details of personal history, informed his hearers that "he had left Ireland fifty-three years before, a naked little boy, without a dollar in his pocket."

At a Primrose League garden-party at Halifax the other day two important items in the programme were "a washing competition" and a "race with donkeys" (won by the secretary), while in connection with a Unionist "Demonstration" at Holker Park a race for M.P.s occupied a prominent place in the bills. Such are the tomfooleries by which the Tory party obtains the support of an enlightened electorate! Might not the attraction be even greater, and would not the arrangement be more fitting, if the M.P.s' race and the race with donkeys were merged into one event?

Occasionally I am asked for information as to the prospects which fruit-farming in California offers as a career for a young man able to invest a moderate capital, and anxious to seek his fortune in some such sphere; but except that I most strongly warn everybody against the farm-pupil system, which is very much the same swindle in California that it is in Canada, it is not possible for me to give advice on the subject. Some of my readers may be interested, however, in the following extracts from a letter by a gentleman who has had several years experience in California. The writer, Mr. W. E. Pedley first recommends intending fruit farmers not to pay anyone a premium for the privilege of working on a farm; not to make any purchase until they have been out six months or more; and when they do start to be sure and get within two or three miles of a railway station, and to examine, with the utmost care, the position of the markets for whatever it is proposed to produce, for it is neglect of this vital precaution that has brought most colonists to grief. As to what is and what is not paying at the present time, he writes:—

Except a tree or two for home use, avoid all fruits which ripen and have to be disposed of at once, such as peaches, cherries, nectarines, plums, &c.; if allowed to ripen, it is very difficult to get them to market without bruising, and if picked unripe they have but little flavour. Raisins are not paying; wine grapes are doing a little better, but the industry cannot be said to be in a flourishing condition. Prunes yield well, but the price of the dried product is very low. Olives and walnuts are doing satisfactorily, and in places, very well, and the same applies to almonds; but by far the best-paying fruits at present are oranges and lemons. Orange growers, on *foothill land*, with *sufficient water* and *suitable soil*, have been for some years clearing fifty per cent. (net) per annum on their original purchase price, and even considerably more; not in one place or one instance only, but wherever the conditions are suitable and the orchard well looked after. Please take note of italics.

Any one knowing the law of supply and demand will say at once that for these exceptional profits there must be some exceptional cause, and so there is, *i.e.*, the total destruction of almost the whole of the Florida orange groves by frost in the winter of 1894-95. Prior to that year Florida used to ship about 5,000,000 boxes of oranges per year, whereas it now ships hardly any, almost all the trees being killed. Even assuming that the frosts do not recur, many years must elapse before Florida can again become a serious competitor. In 1895-96 California only shipped 1,900,000 boxes, so that clearly an enormous expansion of production would have to take place before Florida's missing 5,000,000 boxes could be replaced.

There is a great deal of land suitable for oranges in Southern California, but the available water supplies are already about all taken up, and in many places the supply is unequal to the task of properly supporting the existing orchards in dry years, so that facts and figures do not indicate that overproduction is at all probable, and present rates for oranges are likely to be maintained or even increased; under these conditions there is no doubt that orange orchards, at prices now ruling, are a wonderfully paying investment, and living is much cheaper than in England.

While reading Lady Baker's "A Year's Housekeeping in South Africa," I came across the following passage, which refers to Natal, but which is probably even more applicable to Rhodesia. No attempt is there made to civilise the natives. The Government under a Company, whose shareholders seek to become rich by running up the price of the shares in the market, make no endeavour to convert them into self-supporting human beings; all is done to make them work for their rulers, whilst these rulers have but one thought—to make money:—

It is said that immigration is the cure for all the evils of this country, and that we want more white people. Now, it seems to me that is just what we *don't* want—at least white people of what are called the lower class. Of course, every colony is the better for the introduction of skilled labour and intelligence of every kind, no matter how impecunious it may be. But the first thing a white person of any class does here is to get Kaffirs under him, whom he knocks about as much as he dares, complaining all the time of their ignorance and stupidity. Everybody turns at once into a master, and an independent gentleman with black servants under him, and the result is that it is impossible to get the simplest thing properly done, for the white people are too fine, and the black ones too ignorant or too lazy. English servants directly expect two or three Kafirs under them to do their work, and really no European seems to do anything except by deputy. Now if we were only to import a small number of teachers and trained artisans of the highest procurable degree of efficiency, we could establish training schools in connection with the millions which are scattered all over the country. In this way we might gradually use up the material we have already to our hand on these swarming black people, and thus bring them into the great brotherhood of civilisation. They are intelligent, good-humoured, and easily managed. It is more easy to get at the children than at the grown-up people. I want to see training schools set up all over the country, where boys could be taught carpentering and all other trades, and the girls housewifery.

I do not believe in "Armenian patriots" getting hold of a bank, killing some of the employees with bombs, throwing these missiles at those outside, and, after filling the cellars with dynamite, threatening to blow up the establishment if a programme of reform is not granted by their rulers. Still less do I believe in these "patriots" if, after killing and causing to be killed many, they surrender on condition that they themselves receive no punishment. Nor do I greatly wonder at the Mahommedans taking a bloody vengeance in Constantinople upon the Armenians, whose Revolutionary Committee adopted these means to show their indignation at Christian Europe not coming to their rescue. If the Polish Jews in London were to lay hands on the Bank, and to throw thence, and from windows, bombs on the troops sent to dislodge them, it would go hardly with those Jews. I forget what animal a French naturalist declares to be a most ill-conditioned beast, because he defends himself when he is attacked. Beasts of all kinds are in the habit of acting in this improper fashion.

Englishmen are gradually realising what the Turkish question really is. In Turkey, wherever there is a Christian population, that population is more or less misgoverned by the dominant Mohammedans. This is inherent in Turkish rule, and, so long as that rule continues, this misgovernment will continue. For nearly one hundred years our efforts have been devoted to maintain this Empire; had it not been for us it would have ceased long ago to exist. Of late we have fallen back upon insisting that nothing shall be done in Turkey without a European concert, and, as this concert never takes place, this is tantamount to saying that nothing is to be done. Our statesmen still hold to this policy, but public opinion has at length awakened to its iniquity.

Turkey closes the road of Russia towards the open sea. Westwards Austria is her near neighbour. Politically the territorial arrangements in that corner of Europe in no way concern us if we only emancipate ourselves from the illusion that it is our mission to hinder the access of Russia to the open sea. The aim of Russia has always been to establish a sort of paramount suzerainty over the Black Sea and the outlet from that sea into the Mediterranean. To this Austria never has objected provided that she, on her part, exercises the like suzerainty over the western portion of Turkey. Since we have laid hands on Cyprus and Egypt we are viewed with jealousy by every Continental Power. What, then, should be our course? To declare that beyond a desire to see an end to Turkish misrule, we are prepared merely to be spectators of what territorial changes may occur. If we do this, in a very few years there will be no Turkish question. Austria will extend to Salonica. The Sultan will become a sort of protected potentate under Russia, much as the native rulers are under our protection in India, and, like them, he will have to do justice to all. The islands in the Levant will fall, in part to France, in part to Italy, and in part to Greece. In all this I do not see that we shall be damnified, for all that concerns us in the Mediterranean is to ensure that the roadway for our carrying trade between the West and the East is left open, and we have absolutely nothing to gain by an increase of territory in that sea.

When we hear of conferences between the Continental Powers with a view to action, the above is their aim. They would solve the question in the only way that it can be solved, and the sooner that we frankly accept this solution the better it will be for the well-being of Europe, and especially for the well-being of the Christians in Turkey.

"ABDUL THE DAMNED."

Each day the proofs of guilt are made more sure,
  Each day the grave indictment grows more grim;
Surely the time for sentence is mature,
  Surely the cup is filled now to the brim.

Lying and subterfuge cease to avail,
  The damning truth can be suppress'd no more;
Well may the cowering Abdul quake and quail,
  For see! his trembling fingers drip with gore.

See, where he stands, his villanies disclosed,
  His plots unravelled and his treachery known!
See, how he shakes, detected and exposed,
  An arch-assassin, trembling on his throne!

Full long has Europe closed her listless eyes
  To all the horrors his black heart conceived,
Full long has she feigned deafness to the cries
  Of his doomed victims, tortured and bereaved.

But surely now her listless eyes *must* see,
  Her careless ears no more can deafness feign,
Even *her* callous heart must now decree
  Just vengeance on this slayer of the slain.

The time for diplomatic "Notes" has fled;
  How can vain chatter deadly wrongs appease?
Whilst victims, unavenged, lie stark and dead,
  Who recks the babble of the Embassies?

Ambassadors may talk, but Abdul acts;
  Whilst they dispute, he deals his craven blows;
He meets their endless words with direful acts;
  As they delay, more daring still he grows.

How long, then, Europe, shall your hand be stayed?
  How long shall devilish deeds like his be screened?
Oh, when will you proclaim a new Crusade
  Against the sway of this incarnate fiend?

In Mercy's name, your rivalries forget;
  For once let Policy to Pity yield;
Let party jealousies aside be set
  Whilst you the tardy sword of Justice wield.

And wield it sternly! End, with one swift stroke,
  The rule that now so fair a land can ban;
And save a tortured people from the yoke
  Of one accursed alike by God and man.

SCRUTATOR.

THE KILBURN SCANDAL.

Where the Guilt Really Lies.

"IN the current issue of Truth," writes "An Old Subscriber to the C.E.A.," "you ask whether anything is to be done to avert the impending ruin of the great work which the Kilburn Sisterhood has undertaken? Many of us are asking the same question; but the difficulty is to decide what should be done. Cannot you help us with some practical advice on this point?" I am glad that this request has been made to me, and I will do my best to respond to it. I may say at once that I believe that one thing, and one only, is required, and that is a reform in the *personnel* of the governing body of the Sisterhood. The subscribers to the C.E.A. are not, of course, in a position to effect this directly, but they are unquestionably in a position to bring to bear pressure which will effect it. The Kilburn Sisterhood, although an autonomous body quite independent of the subscribers to the Church Extension Association, is yet absolutely dependent upon that association for the

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means of continuing its present work. Should the C.E.A. collapse by the defection of its subscribers—which from what I hear is within a measurable distance—the Kilburn Sisterhood would be reduced to financial extremities scarcely distinguishable from bankruptcy, and the position of the Sisterhood, even as a religious community, would be seriously imperilled. With such results in sight, it is clearly within the power of the subscribers who have hitherto supported the work to bring to bear, by means of concerted action among themselves, such pressure as the present masters of the situation will find it difficult to resist.

The first point, then, which has to be realised by the subscribers and members of the C.E.A. is the necessity for a radical change in the *personnel* of the present management. I have already given my opinion in the report on the TRUTH inquiry that the main cause of all the trouble into which the Kilburn Sisterhood has drifted is that a work has been undertaken which it is beyond the competence of the Sisterhood as it stands now to discharge satisfactorily. I think it has become my duty to add to this that the Sisterhood is at present ruled by persons who are not only incompetent from a business point of view, but have been guilty again and again of a duplicity and untruthfulness which render them unworthy of all public confidence. Up to the present time I have refrained, so far as possible, from making any personal imputations in connection with what I have seen of the management of the Kilburn charities, hoping that the force of the facts and conclusions set out in the TRUTH report would have been sufficient to bring home to the Mother Superior and her present advisers the untenability of the position they have taken up, and the impossibility of carrying on their work without substantial reforms. But it is now clear that any such hope is futile, and that these ladies are prepared to adhere to the attitude they have adopted, regardless of the consequences to the various institutions under their charge. It therefore seems to me necessary to point out to the public the reasons why these ladies must be regarded as totally unworthy of confidence.

Let me first remind the reader of the course of the TRUTH negotiations. When I had noticed the first Charity Organisation Society's report in TRUTH, and had mentioned that important evidence respecting the management of the orphanages was in my possession, and that I intended to publish it at an early date, the representative of the Sisterhood wrote to me with profuse compliments to my charitable disposition, assuring me that I had been misinformed, and that the Sisters were desirous of showing me the true state of the case. As the result of this letter, it was arranged, first, that I should see two of the Sisters; secondly, that I should personally inspect the Kilburn charities in respect to which unfavourable allegations had been made; thirdly, that I should personally inspect the accounts which had been made the subject of unfavourable remark, and should interview the auditor who had been responsible for the accounts at that time. It was also arranged that, having heard what the Sisters had to say, I should consult the C.O.S. respecting their answers, and hear anything that the C.O.S. had to say in support of their original allegations. It was also definitely agreed that I should deal in the same way with the evidence which I had mentioned as having been given me in proof of the mismanagement of the orphanages. Nothing could be clearer or simpler than this understanding, which is evidenced by the correspondence which preceded our first meeting, and by the record of what passed at the very outset of my interview with Miss Frances Ashdown and Sister May. Was the agreement thus made carried out? Emphatically no. Having allowed me to investigate matters up to a certain point, the Sisters shifted their ground, and invented one excuse after another for preventing the original arrangement being carried out. They next categorically informed me that they could not allow certain things which they had promised to allow. They then put up a lawyer to propose a totally different course of procedure; and they finally threatened me through this lawyer with proceedings for libel, if I made known the result of my inquiry so far as it had gone, or made any unfavourable reference to the Sisterhood in TRUTH. This change in the attitude of the Sisterhood took place after an attempt had been made by them to get out of the original arrangement in regard to the inspection of the accounts and the interview with the auditor, by showing me books for the last six months only, and introducing me to an accountant who had only been in office for that time; and after I had personally informed the Mother Superior that I had seen several of the witnesses who testified to cruel treatment in the Orphanages, and that I was very strongly impressed by their evidence. Any one who reads the detailed account of the negotiations, as set out in the TRUTH report, can have little doubt that the Mother Superior, seeing that I was unfavourably impressed on certain points, and that I was determined to inspect the accounts, the inspection of which had been promised me, resorted to the tactics that I have above described for the purpose of defeating my further investigation.

But more than this was done. At the interview with the Mother Superior just mentioned, a request was made by that lady that I would inform her of the names of the witnesses whom I had seen. As I had not the permission of the witnesses to mention their names, and there being no agreement with the Sisters that the names of the witnesses should be indicated, I demurred at the moment; but subsequently I wrote giving the names of nine young women whom I had seen, and stated at the same time that I did so "in confidence." How this confidence was treated readers of TRUTH already know. No sooner were the names received than Sisters were sent down from Kilburn to attempt by threats or cajolery to induce these girls to vary or withdraw the evidence they had given. This proceeding alone was one of very doubtful honesty, and calculated to destroy all confidence in the good faith of these ladies,

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who had invited me to examine their side of the case; while it also strongly suggested that the Sisters were afraid of the evidence of these girls, and were prepared to use any means to close their mouths.

Nor did these questionable tactics end here. As described on the same page of the TRUTH pamphlet, letters in defence of the Sisters were about this same critical time—that is to say, two or three weeks after my interview with the Mother Superior, and at the moment when that lady had brought my investigation to a standstill—addressed to me from all parts of London and the provinces. Some of these letters purported to be written by former inmates of the orphanages, some by children still there, some by workers and visitors at Kilburn, and some by outsiders who had interested themselves in the work. Apart from the conclusion obviously suggested by their all arriving within a week or two of each other, and without anything having appeared in TRUTH to prompt them, these letters all bore internal evidence of having been inspired from a common source; and the attempts of some of the writers to disguise this fact, and to suggest that they had been prompted to write to me by something which they had themselves seen or read, were so transparent as to be almost comic. Here are a few examples, out of about seventy letters in all, which deserve to be rescued from oblivion. A youth wrote from Newcastle:—

DEAR SIR,—I fear there have been grave mistakes appearing lately in your published book TRUTH. Mistakes that may cause harm to one of the noblest works in England. I refer to the work of the Sisters of the Church at Kilburn. You may think what right I, a young fellow of nineteen, have to criticise the mistakes of TRUTH. But you will think that no longer when I tell you that I have been brought up by the Sisters for ten years. . . .

Note that this was written on March 7, and that the last previous remarks on the Kilburn Sisterhood had appeared in TRUTH of December 12. What made this youth suddenly fear in the first week in March that "grave mistakes had been appearing lately in my published book TRUTH"? A lady in the country wrote:—

SIR,—I am truly grieved to see that the papers are speaking so ill of the Church Extension Association, when those good Sisters are doing such a noble work for our Heavenly Father in caring for His poor, and clothing, teaching, and feeding the orphans which would otherwise be left to starve, or worse. . . .

This lady, it will be seen, attempts to disguise the fact that she is writing in response to a request from the Sisters by suggesting that her letter is prompted by what she has seen in "the papers." What papers, I wonder? Another lady, writing from a London suburb, had somehow got it into her head that "information" was appearing in TRUTH, and hastened to supply her evidence—needless to say, evidence entirely irrelevant to any point which required elucidation:—

SIR,—I am sure the information respecting the conduct of Kilburn Sisters towards the inmates in their Homes which appear in your paper of TRUTH could not have been given by an eye-witness. I not only have heard from an inmate, but have been to the Home unexpected and uninvited, and cannot allow such a false statement to pass without saying a word or two in the highest praise of those who have been and are so unjustly judged. The good that these noble women do is untold, &c.

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A Rear-Admiral wrote to me:—

DEAR SIR,—As I know you are a lover of truth and would not insert in your paper anything that could harm a society, unless you were fully acquainted with both sides of the story, I am writing to beg you to send some trustworthy and reliable person to inspect the Orphanages of the C.E.A. I have known of their Society for many years, and have helped them to the best of my power, &c.

This was when I had been occupied for nearly two months in interviewing the Sisters and inspecting the work, as any one who read the references to the matter would have known for himself. I should like to hear from this gallant officer what he supposed I had "inserted in my paper," and how he came to suppose that I had inserted anything. Then came a mysterious letter from Brighton, the writer of which had somehow heard that the enemies of the Sisters had been "assailing me with letters." Had she said the friends of the Sisters, she would have been much nearer the mark:—

DEAR SIR,—It has grieved me to hear that the enemies of the Church Extension Association have been assailing you with letters to publish bringing charges of cruelty to orphans against the Sisters of the Church. To people who are familiar with the Orphanages and Homes this charge seems almost *absurd*, &c.

A Lieutenant R.A. was moved on board his ship at Portsmouth to contradict something which he apparently imagined I was actually then saying:—

SIR,—With reference to the remarks you make in TRUTH about the treatment of children under the care of the Church Extension Association, I should like to state that I have been all over the largest of their institutions in London, and can testify most warmly, &c.

A lady at Torquay began:—

SIR,—I am sorry that you are still, in spite of many contradictions, asserting that the Sisters of the Church are cruel to the orphans in their charge. I have visited the orphanages at various times, and stayed some days, and can assure you there is not the least foundation, &c.

This lady is one of the best of the lot. She states point blank that I am "still" traducing the Sisters, and doing it in spite of contradiction. Apparently hints in almost identical terms were sent to Torquay and the neighbouring town of Exmouth, for a lady at the latter place begins in precisely the same strain:—

DEAR SIR,—Your words have great and far reaching influence, that I am sorry to see them directed against those victims of misrepresentation, the Kilburn Sisters. I have known and co-operated with these ladies for nearly twenty-four years, &c.

But the writer who spoke most severely of my supposed unkindness to the Sisters was the Vicar of a place called Battyeford. This gentleman began:—

MY DEAR EDITOR,—As it would appear that the enemies of the Church Extension Association have found in you a champion worthy of their cause, I write as a true friend of the Sisters to ask you to allow the plea of *audi alteram partem*. I am speaking from a lengthy experience extending over a period of more than sixteen years, &c.

Considering that at the time when this was written I had been for about two months in constant communication with the Kilburn Sisters, and doing my best to hear everything that they had to say for themselves, I should certainly like to hear from this reverend gentleman how it "appeared" to him that the enemies of the C.E.A. had found in me "a champion worthy of their cause."

As an interesting appendix to this Vicar's letter, here is a sample of one from a professed unbeliever—for even the infidel were summoned to the rescue of the Sisters of the Church in the hour of their emergency. It will be

seen from what the lady says that the Sisters knew something of her religious doubts. It would be interesting to know whether she was put up to write to me specially for that reason, and whether in the instructions she received, any hint was given her to inform me of the truth about her religious status :—

Dear Sir,—Will you allow one who does not belong to the High Church party, who is not even a professing Christian, to say a word in your columns respecting the Kilburn Sisters? I have stayed with them a number of times, and for several months at a time. They kindly allowed me to help in the secular work, without attending religious services, which I respected, but did not understand.

I have been astonished to hear the charges, &c.

It would only weary the reader to multiply extracts from this extraordinary mass of correspondence. As regards the body of the letters, they were all virtually to the same effect, that is to say, expressions of the writers' opinion that there was no credibility in any of the allegations respecting the ill-treatment of the orphans; but there was, of course, not a syllable in any one of them, nor in the profuse expressions of gratitude to Sisters which came from children still in the homes, which could for a moment be regarded as an answer to the specific allegations of the girls who were sent away in 1893 respecting their treatment. The reader who has been through the TRUTH report will also know from what appears there that the Sisters whom I saw were themselves not able to give any satisfactory or convincing denial to the allegations which these girls make. Could anything be more silly than this attempt, when the evidence of the girls themselves could not be refuted, to bias my opinion by turning on me this stream of irrelevant correspondence from people, not one of whom knew anything at all about the facts?

But this proceeding was worse than silly. The way it was done makes it in the highest degree disingenuous, more especially when it is remembered that, at the time when this attempt to influence my judgment was made, the Sisters were concocting pretexts for preventing me from completing the inquiry on the lines which they had originally agreed to. Within the last week or two, however, I have discovered a fresh piece of evidence which throws a flood of light upon the way this whole correspondence was worked, and the flagrant dishonesty of those who had recourse to these tactics. Among others who were requested about the end of February to write their opinions to the Editor of TRUTH was a foreman, at that time in charge of one of the workshops of the C.E.A. In reference to his writing to TRUTH, the following instructions were conveyed to him. I take them from a letter signed "Sister Kate," written from "The Elms, Hampstead." The italics are mine :—

The Mother thinks it would do more good if you wrote to
The Editor,
Truth Buildings,
Carteret-street,
S.W.,
as an outsider. *Do not mention you know or work at any of our Homes, but write from your own address, and say you are surprised to hear of the disgraceful attack* made against the C.E.A. Then mention its work among the unemployed, &c., &c., and say the C.O.S. ought to be had up for libel, and *that you and many more will be obliged to come forward and put a stop to the damaging reports*, and will take strong measures to do so. Something of the sort might do great good if you take them with a high hand, asking TRUTH to do his best to put an end to false reports.

It will be a great help if you will write. Will you also write to
The Secretary,
Charity Organisation Society,
Buckingham-street,
and threaten them well. Say anything you can to show how bad their conduct is. Could we have copies of letters?

Here the reader will see for himself, if he had any doubt upon the subject, how the oracle was worked. "Say you are surprised to hear of the disgraceful attack made against the C.E.A. Then mention its work, &c." Such, doubtless, were the hints sent out in all directions to the supporters of the Church Extension Association about this time, and the result is to be seen in the flood of correspondence with which I was forthwith deluged, and of which I have given samples above. I regard this last letter as the crowning iniquity of the Kilburn Sisters. Here is a deliberate attempt to impose upon me, at a time when I was investigating their case at their own request, by putting up a man in their employ as an independent outside witness on their behalf. The man is categorically instructed by one of the leading Sisters, at the instigation of the Mother Superior, to utter a succession of lies by assuming a fictitious character, and representing himself—a working man on weekly wages—as one who is prepared with others to come forward to prosecute the Charity Organisation Society. This wilful misrepresentation is to be perpetrated for the purpose of deceiving me and influencing my judgment in the inquiry which I had undertaken at the Mother Superior's request. I cannot imagine anything more calculated to shock those who have hitherto believed in the religious professions of the Sisters, or to stamp them in the eyes of the public as totally undeserving of any kind of confidence.

In connection with this letter I have further to call attention to another equally unpleasant circumstance. Reference has been made in the TRUTH Report to my desire to see personally the Sister who took a leading part in the inquisition at the Orphanage in 1893, and against whom serious allegations were made by numbers of girls whom I have seen. It being essential, where there is a direct conflict of evidence, that the witnesses on both sides should be seen personally, I specially represented to Sisters Frances and May, when they called upon me, the desirability of my seeing Sister Kate. They replied, as stated in the TRUTH Report, that this lady was so ill that it was out of the question for me to see her. Sister May, in particular, described Sister Kate as having been completely broken down by the late events at the Orphanage, and she even said that Sister Kate had been kept "on her back" for several months, leading me to suppose that Sister Kate was on her back still. I went so far as to suggest that even if the lady was unable to stand, it might still be possible for me to see her, and hear what she had to say in regard to the allegations of the girls; but the answer was that it was impossible. Further, on referring to this matter at my interview with the Mother Superior at Kilburn, I urged upon the Mother the desirability of my seeing Sister Kate. From the Mother

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I heard the same story as from the two Sisters. She was quite certain that Sister Kate's condition was such as to render an interview out of the question, and when I suggested that the doctor's opinion should be ascertained, I was told that it might be taken for granted that the doctor would not permit such a thing. Yet what do we find now? Within two or three weeks of my interview with the Mother Superior at Kilburn, Sister Kate writes the above letter to the foreman of a department over which she had charge; and not only is she there seen to be taking an active part in the little plot for imposing upon the Editor of TRUTH, but it appears from other passages in the letter, which I need not quote, that she was at this time going about from one place to another, and actively superintending the work of this particular department. The man to whom the letter was written tells me that she was going about at this time apparently in enjoyment of her usual health. I can only infer that the pathetic tale told to me, and reported to me so late as February 12, about Sister Kate's broken-down state, and the impossibility of my seeing her personally, was another fiction, invented for the purpose of obstructing my investigation, and preventing my seeing the most important of all the witnesses on the Kilburn side. I do not wish to use strong language, but in the course of a long experience I have never come across a more lamentable display of duplicity, and when it is remembered that these are the acts and words of ladies whose lives are professedly dedicated to the service of religion, the thing becomes shocking in the extreme. Incidentally, it must also be remarked that the fact of such tactics being resorted to has a most important bearing upon the merits of the dispute between the Sisters and their accusers. If they had nothing to be ashamed of or to conceal, why should these ladies, after inviting me to judge between them and their enemies, endeavour to put me off with deliberate falsehoods?

Nor can it be pleaded in mitigation of the offence that it is a mere isolated indiscretion, committed at a moment when the Sisters found themselves in a position of difficulty. On the contrary, the evidence is only too clear, and will be found scattered all through the pages of the TRUTH Report, that recourse to prevarication and downright falsehood, when it suits their purpose, is an habitual practice with the present rulers of the Kilburn Sisterhood. An exceptionally bad instance of this was the insertion in a published report of the C.E.A. of an appeal for contributions for "a home for children of weakly intellect," which institution was a pure figment of the imagination of the writer. It was deliberately stated that such an institution was being carried on at "The Elms," West Hampstead, and that a "happy family party of twenty-nine," which implied, of course, twenty-nine imbeciles, was to be found there; whereas the truth was that "The Elms" was used at that time as a home for those elder girls who were employed as pupil teachers in the various schools conducted by the Sisters, and that no institution of the kind described in this appeal ever existed among the Kilburn charities. Many other statements of a purely imaginative character have been repeatedly put forth in the monthly journal, *Our Work*, for the purpose of obtaining cash from the public. The allegations which have been publicly circulated from Kilburn, in regard to the secession of 1894, are of the same character. In this case, as pointed out in the TRUTH Report, the ladies who found themselves compelled to separate from the community after having, in some cases, been connected with it from its very foundation, placed on record their reasons for so doing in letters to the Mother Superior. Yet within a month or two an official statement, signed by Sister May, was issued from Kilburn, alleging as the reason for the secession, that the seceders had desired to Romanise the religious services—a reason which was at variance with the written declarations of the seceders, and was beyond all doubt a mere fiction invented for the purpose of prejudicing the seceders in the eyes of the public, and disguising the unfortunate state of things then existing at Kilburn. This fiction was again repeated to me by the Sisters who visited TRUTH Office. I asked these ladies what was the real reason for the secession, and they told me that the seceders had formed a Romanising party, thereby obviously suggesting to me that this was the only reason for the secession; the fact being that the seceders had expressly given as their reasons for leaving that they had lost confidence in the Mother Superior, and were dissatisfied in various particulars with the government of the Community. No one who studies all these facts can doubt for one moment that these ladies—the leader of them one who had been associated with the Mother Superior for twenty-two years—were amply justified in the course they took, or, indeed, that some such step was forced upon any lady of honour and prudence who saw the principles on which the policy of the Community was being directed.

The latest evidence of the shifty and prevaricating tactics of the Sisterhood is to be found in the incident that has just occurred at Plymouth. In an article on that affair, I have already told how notices were inserted in the local papers to the effect that "a Senior Sister" was coming down to attend a meeting and answer the allegations that have appeared in TRUTH and elsewhere; how "all persons interested," friendly or otherwise, were invited to attend; how, when a representative of the *Western Morning News* presented himself, he was told that the meeting was not a public one; and how the Senior Sister (Sister May), whom all interested had come to hear, declined to address the gathering if it was to be considered a public one. Since that, a characteristic attempt to explain the fiasco has been addressed to the *Western Morning News* by a lady signing herself "E. P. Davie." Mrs. (or Miss) Davie states that "the meeting was planned and advertised by herself and another lady without the authority or knowledge of any of the Kilburn Sisters"; and that she only "found out when too late that nothing could be further from their wishes than that any public meeting of the kind should be held." These statements are almost too extraordinary for belief. That two ladies in a provincial town should plan and advertise a meeting to be addressed by one of the

Senior Sisters from Kilburn, without any member of the Sisterhood having the slightest knowledge of their intentions, is, if not incredible, incomprehensible. Even if strictly accurate, the statement suggests conclusions highly unfavourable to the intelligence and business abilities of those who have the local control of the Association's affairs. But the point which is of most importance is this, that the Senior Sister did attend the meeting got together in this way, and that she was perfectly prepared to address the meeting if it was to be treated as a private one, that is to say, if her observations and anything else which passed were not reported and made public. So that the only thing objected to was publicity. Sister May was quite willing to take advantage of the unauthorised proceedings by which the meeting of "all interested" had been got together, and expound her own views on the TRUTH report or anything else, but on condition that everything she said was kept within those four walls. Only when this condition was not granted were the terms on which the meeting had been called repudiated, and the meeting declared to have been summoned without the authority of the Kilburn Sisters. Such pitiful shuffling is only characteristic of the people who could, in April last, inform me through a solicitor of their intention to commence an action for libel if I made known the result of the inquiry they had themselves invited, and who now admit that "nothing could be further from their wishes" than to offer any answer to the TRUTH report at a meeting to which reporters are admitted. The whole history of their proceedings since they came to solicit my good offices in December last is a history of shuffling, trickery, and deceit.

The conclusion which I desire to impress now upon the public, and more particularly upon subscribers and members of the C.E.A., is that what these Senior Sisters did in 1894 it has now become the duty of all members of the Association to do, unless the present government can be reformed. Without disguise or equivocation, those ladies then told the Mother Superior that they had lost confidence in her and in the government of the Community. That was the opinion formed by personal friends after intimate association with the Mother and the work for twenty years and more, and everything that has happened since shows how right that opinion was. The errors and blunders that have been pointed out in TRUTH are the work, not of the Community as a whole, but of the Mother Superior and the two or three Sisters who act with her as the Governing Body. Upon the Mother Superior herself rests undoubtedly the moral blame, as well as the formal responsibility for everything that has been done amiss. Miss Ayckbowm—I regret that her name was incorrectly given in the TRUTH Report—has been from the first the inspiring spirit of the whole organisation, and of late years she has been practically free from any shape or sort of control. One of the chief complaints of the seceding Sisters was that "important steps were taken without the knowledge or advice of Council or Chapter, which, indeed, had ceased to exist," and this is only one piece of evidence out of many that the government of the Community has been for many years past in the hands of the Mother Superior and those two or three Sisters whom she has chosen to take into her confidence. It has been remarked by one of the apologists of the Sisters, in reply to a passage of the C.O.S. Report, that the question of the constitution of the Community is a domestic affair of the Sisters, in which the public are not concerned. This is a plausible proposition, but it loses all weight when it is remembered that this Sisterhood is administering a revenue of something like £36,000 a year drawn from the contributions of the benevolent public, not to mention a further large sum of an unknown amount indirectly drawn from the same source. The question how a Community occupying this position is constituted and governed is one of most vital concern to every body who subscribes to the funds; and if it is found that the administration is deplorably defective in many respects, that grave errors of judgment have been repeatedly committed, that false statements have been laid before the public for the purpose of obtaining money, and, finally, that recourse has been had to shameful trickery and falsehood for the purpose of hushing up the truth, and preventing the public learning how matters really stand, then every one can see for himself that the management of the institution has fallen into incompetent and unworthy hands, and that the first step towards putting things right is to effect a reform in the *personnel* and machinery of the government.

We thus come back to the point at which I started. There is no hope for the Kilburn Institutions until the management has been reformed and placed in the hands of ladies who can possess the confidence of one another and of the public. Neither is there any hope that this reform can come from within. The Mother Superior and her advisers have sufficiently manifested their indifference to public opinion, and their resolution to persevere in their fatuous and discreditable tactics at whatever cost to the work on which they are engaged. As to the great body of the Sisters, I believe that they are practically ignorant of what has been going on, and powerless to influence the course of events, even if they knew the truth. There are over a hundred Sisters in the Community—the great majority of them, I doubt not, good and honest women, entirely free from blame for anything that has taken place. But in the government of the Community they are ciphers. The Sisterhood has never had anything more than a provisional constitution, and even that would appear to have been over-ridden at will; and, whatever the theory may be, there is practically no representative council of the Sisters which has any power or authority in the institution. It comes, therefore, to this, that the Mother Superior is at present master of the situation. She is at once the person primarily responsible for everything that has brought discredit upon the institution, and the person who has to be moved from her present attitude and policy, if not from her present position, before there is any hope of better times for the Sisterhood. I would earnestly call upon those outsiders who are interested in the welfare of the Sisterhood, and the great work which they have taken in hand, to attentively consider these remarks. Let me

repeat again that I have, unlike many of their critics, no hostility whatever against the Sisters as a body, and I would wish to see their work placed on a secure foundation and entering upon a great career of usefulness. My sole object in what I have said now, and what I have said on other occasions, is to call attention to grave abuses which have grown up, and to point out to those concerned in what way they must go to work if they desire to see those abuses remedied. The rest remains in the hands of the subscribers.

THE ENGADINE.

Whether a person is bettered in his health by perching for a time in some valley of high altitude I should say is somewhat doubtful. The theory is that it does not conduce to the well-being of the microbes, who repay the hospitality afforded to them by preying on the lungs of their host. This may be true, but then every one's inside is not a home of these microbes. Be all this, however, as it may, the Engadine is a high valley, and as a health resort it was invented by a certain Badruth, who practised the calling of a blacksmith there, and built a hotel, small at first, but which has become a huge caravanserai, and a cause for the erection of other hotels in the valley. I have been at the Engadine, under the notion that its mountain air is invigorating, five or six times in the last twenty years. Climatically, it is as nasty as most medicines. My experience of it is that the fine days are few, and the bad days many. Its normal condition is rain, snow, or sleet, with a biting and an eager wind. On each of my visits I have been told that all this is exceptional; so perhaps I have by some ill chance come in for the exception instead of the rule. Certainly during the few days of fine weather that I have seen there, the air is bracing and exhilarating, but they are like angels' visits. This year there has been one during the whole of my sojourn. The best thing about the place is the pastry, for the Engadine produces a race of pastrycooks who go forth into the world, make fortunes, return to their valley, where they build themselves a house with very thick walls and very little windows, and hibernate in this habitation like bears, until they die. The English visitors are, I should imagine, in the minority; and the majority consists of Italians, Germans, and Americans. Nevertheless, the English seem to impress their individuality on the place, and lawn tennis and golf flourish as though they were to the valley born, whilst every self-respecting male dresses as a member of the Alpine Club, ready to ascend a mountain at a moment's notice. Few, I imagine, do ascend mountains, and most content themselves with "dressing" the part. Of ladies, the name is legion: in the matter of dress they are sensible, and they do not, as at Homburg, work through half a dozen trunks of the latest fashions. In the evening they dance, but the "Alpine climbers" are generally too fatigued with intending to climb, and are therefore unable to take part in this amusement, so the ladies mainly dance with each other. The Duchess of York and the Duchess of Teck have passed the autumn here, and presumably they have enjoyed themselves, for there has been little of the staring and the mobbing that dog the steps of Royalty, and which must be such a nuisance to the victims. A little beauty in Royalty goes a great way, but the Duchess of York, even if she were not Royal, would, I think, pass as a pretty girl. This week we have had a conjurer, last week we had Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, the former reading "The Chimes," the latter reciting a poem. Mr. Bancroft reads well and emotionally. Many wept. To-day there is a sage examining the lines in persons' hands, at five francs the hand. As it is amusing, there is a run upon this professor of a dark art. What contempt he must feel for the human intellect!

St. Moritz consists of an upper and a lower village. Dominating the upper is the Badruth Hotel, and a second hotel with all modern comforts has just been opened by one of the family. In the lower village there are about a dozen hotels and about two dozen booths, where coral, olive wood boxes, and such like articles are sold. The upper village is picturesque and old; the lower is hideous and new. Winter, I am told, is more pleasant than summer, and there are several hundred guests in the Badruth Hotel. They skate, they toboggan, and they dance. Life must be much like what it is on board ship, for they are cut off from the rest of the world. The change that has come over hotel life since I first knew it is great. Then everybody affected a sort of travelling undress, and if a man had appeared at a table d'hôte in evening costume he would have been regarded as a waiter on his holidays. Now all — men and women — dress. There are, moreover, a vast number of families who have no homes beyond hotels. From year's end to year's end they live in them—husband, wife, and children—their goods and chattels being contained in half a dozen huge boxes. This sort of communistic life, without any household cares, never seems to pall on them. In winter they go to Italy or to the shores of the Lake of Geneva; in summer, to the Swiss mountains or to the German baths. The sons go forth into the world to make their fortunes; the daughters generally flirt themselves into marriage. The hotel flirt, like the garrison beauty, has become an institution; but, more fortunate than the latter, she is able to vary the scene of her operations, and thus generally picks up a husband before she becomes flat, stale, and unprofitable. On the whole, not having unsound lungs, I have come to the conclusion that the great charm of the Engadine is that a short sojourn in it tends to reconcile the visitor to the climate of the rest of the world.

The most curious thing connected with the Engadine is a picture. Who would have supposed that the Sixtine Madonna in the Dresden Gallery is a copy, and that the original is in the Hotel Badruth at St. Moritz? Yet this is what M. Gaspar Badruth asserts, and he has written a book in which he cleverly and exhaustively seeks to prove it. This is the history of his picture, as related by him. The Madonna was painted by Raphael, and carried in April 11, 1513, by Alfonso I., Duke of Ferrara, as *Confalione della S.R. Chiesa*, in the coronation procession of Pope Leo X. It was afterwards, having

A Fair Beautiful Skin.—By washing with Sulpholine Soap the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion is ensured.

become the property of Alfonso, taken by him to Ferrara, and hung in the chapel of the Ducal Palace as an altar-piece. As the Court of Este had to move to Modena in 1598, the picture was transferred in that year to the Ducal Chapel there. At the end of the last century this chapel was demolished, and its contents were scattered. The Madonna became the property of the family of Baraldi, which had been in the service of the House of Este since 1752. Until 1882 the picture remained in the Palazzo Pentetorre, the house formerly occupied by the Baraldi family, but which, with the picture, had become the property of the Bertoni family of Reggio, and in that year it was purchased by the father of M. Gaspar Badruth from Signorina Elisa Bertoni. In 1888 it was sent by him to Herr Sesar in Augsburg to be cleaned and restored. Herr Sesar stretched the picture on new canvas, cleaned it, and removed the uppermost layer of paint, which covered the robe and the lower part of the picture, filled up the wide rents in the Madonna's drapery, and enlarged the picture upwards, downwards, and sideways. The heads, however, were not touched. In M. Badruth's book there is a photograph of the picture before and after restoration. Then what is the Dresden Madonna? A copy, replies M. Badruth. And he suggests that it was obtained by the Benedictine monks of San Sisto in Piacenza in the following manner:—In March, 1543, Pope Paul III. travelled to Piacenza to meet the Emperor Charles V. On his way, he stopped for some time at Ferrara, where he was entertained by Duke Hercole II. Paul, whilst Raphael was still living, must have been acquainted with his principal works. Finding the Madonna at Ferrara, he asked Hercole to give it to him, a request that the latter could not well refuse, and so soon as he obtained it he made a present of it to the Benedictines of San Sisto. But why give it to them? Because Cardinal Gambara was just then devoting himself to make Piacenza a princely residence for the Farnese family, and San Sisto, being situated close to the Castello, afterwards the Farnese Palace, became the royal chapel. But Hercole, although as a vassal of the Pope not liking to refuse his request, had no desire to part with the original Madonna. He therefore gave Paul a copy, and kept the original himself.

My knowledge of art is not sufficient to enable me to express an opinion as to which of the two pictures—the one at Dresden and the other at the Hôtel Badruth—is the original. This, however, is certain—the one is a copy of the other; and the copy, whichever it may be, dates from the sixteenth century. The Dresden picture is painted on coarse canvas with two cross seams; the Badruth picture is painted on one piece of damask linen, and, as M. Badruth urges, no other genuine Raphael is painted on more than one single piece of canvas. In 1892, M. Badruth proposed to Professor Woermann, Director of the Dresden Gallery, that the two pictures should be exhibited together, and the Professor agreed that they should be placed side by side for one hour, provided that the public were not admitted. This M. Badruth declined, as he thought that the test would not be conclusive unless a large number of art critics and admirers of Raphael were allowed to examine them in juxtaposition at their leisure. For all that I know to the contrary, M. Badruth's picture may be the copy, but it would be interesting were his request assented to by the Director of the Dresden Gallery; indeed, I can see no reason for its refusal.

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

AN OASIS IN BRITTANY.

I AM somewhere in Brittany, but won't give the address. My present abode is in an old-world seaside place, affording much to arouse curiosity and interest. One has on view a river equal in beauty to the Dart and superior in the freshness of the air. Clustered on its banks are, within sight of each other, most charmingly picturesque towns, none of which is of any great size. But they look as if arranged for an artist to image them on canvas. The quaintest and oldest is a northern Avignon, so far as its ring of turreted and machicolated fortress walls go. These ramparts are mellowed by time from grey to yellow. All kinds of stone-plants bloom on them, and tamarisks have managed to gain a footing in the rocks on which the old walls stand. Another of the towns in the prospect is less old, but still ancient. As it climbs a low hill one takes in its main points at a glance. It is set in beautiful suburbs, all ancient, too—suburbs formed of villas standing in high-walled gardens, also mellowed by the action of time. Most of these villas date from the seventeenth century. But they were solidly built, and are in as good repair as if fresh from the mason and carpenters' hands. They were built by Corsairs, who preyed in war times on Dutch and English merchantmen. Roofs are all high, in the Henri IV. style. But the Versailles plan of a corridor running from end to end on one side, and of rooms opening on to each other and on to that passage on the other side, is followed in the internal structure. Wainscotings to the ceilings keep off the coldness of the granite walls. All the rooms look on the garden. What stories these roomy old houses might tell, if they could but speak! As it is, they in their stately simplicity suggest a great deal. They inculcate also a lesson of philosophy. They are now mostly inhabited by English families living on fixed incomes, and impervious to every French influence. A few are let as boarding houses to ladies—English, too—who have seen "better days" and are none the less sharply businesslike in looking out for profits. There are three casinos in a range of four miles, a good many hotels commanding heavenly views, and a few English book clubs and tennis courts. Episcopacy is well represented. The Briton has Low Church here, High Church there, a Jubilee Church somewhere else. There is said to be a deal of hot religious controversy over the different shades that divide and sub-divide. The chaplain of one place is as much heckled as a stickit-minister by a Scotch congregation. Nothing he can do will please the Low Church members of his flock. The poor man

is slightly *High*, and is, of course, thought a Jesuit in disguise. He thought to set an example of cheerfulness by dancing at little festive gatherings. This brought the *serious* persons down upon him. A good many others found fault with the eye to good looks, good dress, graceful manners, and social standing evinced in his choice of partners. Was it Christian to let wallflowers remain wallflowers, or to neglect the shabbily-dressed girls?

Brittany roads would be the best in France for cycling were it not for the granite particles that lie thick on them. Tires are perforated just as if they ran over broken glass. It is amazing what shoals of cyclists the Southampton steamers shoot on to the Brittany coast. The lady-cyclists are seen at a great advantage beside the men. They sit erect on the saddle—I have not yet seen one with her nose on the handle-bar. Though they still wear skirts, the motions of their limbs does not strike one as *fearfully* ungraceful. Skirts, I see, are shortened. But why do bands of British cyclists sneeze in chorus as they shoot by French? Since they will behave like donkeys, why not bray at once?

The "bike" revolutionises in all directions. It wakes up—I am sorry to say often in a boisterous and cad-like way—lonely places. But it scatters money in wayside places. Towns used to be spoken of as congestions. The "bike" is de-congestionising as fast as it can. A casino hairdresser tells me that lady-cyclists (French) are losing their taste for capillary art and artifices. For one forehead fuzzy fringe he sold this season he sold fifteen last year. Now, such a fringe is thought cheap at 12f. Judge of the loss. The muscular fatigue of cycling tells also on casino profits. After doing thirty or forty miles, how can cyclists be attentive to a three-act play, or care to dance? They want to go to bed. The cycle keeps the young—and of both sexes—from going on fine Sundays to the English churches here. Dressmakers say it kills the time-out-of-mind taste for flimsy finery. The coquette now when before the mirror thinks chiefly of her necktie and the fancy "shirt" front that her open jacket shows. Englishmen not in the movement complain that cycling and other kinds of sport now fill the papers. *A qui la faute?* Paterfamilias has long gone in for the muscular Christianity of Kingsley. There has been nearly half a century of it. Youngsters were brought up like carnivorous animals. To have muscles they had to take up football, cricket, rowing, running, and the rest. To keep up and improve the muscles they had to devour meat—the worst brain food that there is. Eating often, and in large quantities, the brain and stomach were in conflict when studies had to be gone through. The victory was, of course, to the ignoble organ, the noble getting depleted. Thus ill-used it got sluggish, and to use one's brain became not a cause of pleasure but of pain. Those sneezing cyclists already mentioned can think of nothing but sport. It is appalling to think what will happen when fair cyclists bring their brains to the same state. I am not afraid of the sport-hobby being ridden to death in France. The French have bright, active minds, and take more pleasure in using them, than any sport-excitement short of betting could make up for. The cycle will be their servant, but not their master. Directly French fathers and mothers found that Rugby football, cricket, and other athletic sports prevented their boys from passing good exams., they fell into disfavour. The Collége Monge, where they were most favoured, found itself suddenly without pupils. Doctors then had their say, and assured us that meat and muscularity were a cause of premature old age.

I have been to a Pardon, or Pattern. The spirit is akin to what is rife at Lough Dearg. But the costumes, caps, old stone crosses round the shrine, and much other local colour, are lovely. The painter who has best depicted a Pardon is Jules Breton. Saints venerated by Bretons knew how to choose sites for their shrines. The whole province is dotted over with pilgrim resorts. Convents are to be found near most of them; some of them are inns where hospitality is neither gratis nor very dear; some are schools which, in separate buildings and grounds, are devoted to the education of genteel, non-genteel but paying, and working-class youth. For the latter charitable patrons pay. There are other convents that receive only the poor children of the neighbourhood as day pupils.

In summer, the nuns go away for a change. Lay sisters and a Directress remain and turn these houses into hotels and pensions. They are mostly to be found near the sea-side, behind ridges that shelter trees from ocean winds. Wayfarers can put up at them for eight francs a day. The extra charges are not high. If one binds one's self to stay a week, terms are a good deal reduced. Coffee and wine are not included in the general price for lodging and entertainment. Those whom three meals a day do not satisfy can have *goûter* or a "snack" for fifty centimes. A room larger than a nun's cell is charged for at the extra rate of three francs. Children under ten and servants are received for twenty-five francs a week. Young ladies can hire a piano for eight francs a month. Gentlemen are thought more troublesome and more greedy than ladies, and charged for accordingly. That is to say, their greed and the trouble they give are appraised at two francs a week extra. "No English clergyman need apply for admission." No English lady or gentleman can be taken in unless well introduced. English boys must keep out in the cold with the clergymen.

A French person asking for admittance must have a certificate of religion and good manners from a Bishop or a Vicar-General. Non-Catholic English men and women are taken in if very well introduced. But their room is preferred to their company. "They have," said a reverend mother, "a fault-finding spirit, and are not accommodating. We must give them veal often because Brittany sheep are so small, and oxen so tiny. All the veal has been well fatted, and is succulent and toothsome. Whenever they see a dish of veal they begin to grumble. It is no use hinting that they had better go away, for they are well alive to the advantages of the place." "In all reason," said a Catholic *pensionnaire*, "they ought to be delighted. The big bell is, no doubt, rung at five and then at seven in the morning; but the first breakfast is *not* at seven. It is served according

to the hour of the tide, to enable us to bathe in the morning. We have any quantity of bread, butter, fresh milk, fresh eggs, and those who like it have *café au lait*. Lunch is at noon, and consists of fried fish, ragout, cold meat, potatoes, or other vegetables. We have soup, fish, beef, with vegetables, roast or fricasseed fowl or rabbit, or roast mutton or veal, and dessert at dinner. All is good. The whole house, including the kitchen, is, as you have seen, beautifully clean, spacious, airy, simple. Outer doors are locked and lights out at nine. Of course there is no casino or anything approaching it. We, who come to rest and enjoy air that dilates one's lungs and stimulates one's vitality, do not want plays acted by scratch companies, or *les petits chevaux* to bet on. You have seen the shady grounds so rare at the seaside; you have seen the wild headland on which they open, and the lovely cliff, sands, and sea encircling it. What reasonable being with an eye for beauty could require more? It is quite true that the boarders enable the Order to educate poor children gratis. The nuns have a work to accomplish with the money they make. Why should they not then look to the exact payment of bills?" It appears that their capacity as business women was jeered at by some British boarders. The most sarcastic of the lot bears a high Scotch name, and a retired Field Officer. I am not going to tell the name of this convent. If I did, the headland next summer would be black with trippers. I have spoiled so many lovely spots by descanting on their beauties in TRUTH.

Prince Lobanoff could have never, with the sanction of the Czar, encouraged the Sultan to massacre. But he would have said, "Since the massacred Armenians cannot be called to life again, let us derive what benefit we can from the slaughter. Lord Salisbury put spokes in our wheels at Berlin. We can now return the compliment by showing what a sorry plight he is in as *Protector* of the Armenian Christians. France will follow our lead, whatever we may do." Prince Lobanoff was new to his department and had not its restless agents in hand. Had he been able to control them, much bloodshed and misery would have been avoided, for he dreaded turmoil, war, and the unloosing of great forces. His greatest object was, from day to day, to conceal his unfitness for public business. He could go in a groove, but had long grown unfit to cope with new difficulties. A heavy feeder, and a frequent diner out, he had ruined his digestion and arterial system. The veins were "furred" like an old boiler. Indeed, they were like the shank of a clay pipe. As to the fine capillary arteries that renovate skin and brain, they were silted up. The poor starved brain was often in a state of daze and dizziness. Memory grew slippery, and words were not always at command. A doctor, who saw a good deal of him at Contrexéville, said to me last year that the notion of a war scared him, and that he was never tired of preaching the policy of watching and waiting. But he could not master any situation, and might therefore be pushed into making a plunge. He showed great skill in hiding his infirmities. One of his little tricks was pretending to ask for information and encouraging interlocutors to give it to him at great length. Prince Lobanoff's grandfather not only drew up the Treaty of Tilsit, but organised a bureau of espionage in Paris, the most complete that was ever known. He bribed a number of War Office clerks to give him information about Napoleon's plans and to lend him secret documents, copies of which were sent to Russia. As he was coxcombical, in some ways odd, and said to be rolling in riches, he went on some time without being suspected. He got, through his cleverness and address, out of the scrape, but had to go back to Russia. The late Prince had a passion for collecting autographs of historical personages and other documents. He was a Mary Stuart enthusiast. Mary Stuart, he found, always interested ladies throughout Europe. He gave up believing in her innocence, but thought she deserved absolution when judged according to the standards of her time and the circumstances of her life.

MAIGNEN'S FILTER is the only one adopted after public competition by the City of Paris (10th July, 1896) see *Bulletin Municipal Officiel*, 30th July, 1896.—Full particulars from Maignen's Filtre Rapide & Anti-Calcaire Co., Ltd., 255, Regent-street, London, W.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE eldest son of the celebrated Madame Ancelot, Dear Lady Betty, once produced a piece of stamped paper and observed, "You see this piece of paper? It is worth twenty-five centimes. When I have written my name at the bottom it will be worth nothing."

The Radical Party is, perhaps, worth little at the present moment, but when Lord Rosebery has placed himself at the head of it—it will be worth nothing.

* * * * *

Writing in the *Quarterly Review* in 1872, the late Mr. Abraham Hayward, the brilliant essayist, declared that there was then "Nothing first-rate under forty." How much more reason have we to complain that this is so now! The English of to-day can organise, can classify, can manufacture, can discover—but they seem to be utterly unable to create or to decorate. Science and mechanism are at the highest point that they have ever attained, but originality—not eccentricity—the creative faculty, literature and art appear to be set at excellent mediocrity. We are immoderately moderate.

Where are the leaders who tower above the rest of their contemporaries? We may ask, as Mr. Hayward did a quarter of a century ago, where is the Byron, the Scott, the Wordsworth, the Coleridge, the Shelley, the Moore, the Tennyson, the Dickens, the Thackeray, or the Carlyle of the younger generation? Where is the Sir Thomas Lawrence, the Constable, the Wilkie, the Turner, the Flaxman, the Chantrey, the Landseer, or the Millais? Where, in politics, are the successors to Disraeli, Gladstone, Cobden, Bright, Peel, and Palmerston. Where are those whose wit equals that of Sydney Smith, Hook, or Hood? Where, in English society of to-day, are the ladies who have replaced even Lady Palmerston, the late Lady Waldegrave, or the late Lady Molesworth of Pencarrow? Where are the brilliant conversationalists who compete with the late Lord Houghton, the late Mr. Abraham Hayward, the late Mr. Bromley-Davenport, and others of the same calibre? Where even is he who has succeeded the late Mr. Augustus Lumley as the hero of the drawing-rooms and the arbiter of fashion?

We are, I know, all famous now—especially the infamous—but whose name is destined to live to-morrow?

* * * * *

I have no intention of being extravagantly unfair, but is not the following imaginary conversation almost word

for word such a one as may be heard every night at every other dinner-table throughout the country?

Scene: Drawing-room. *Time:* Before Dinner.

He is introduced to her. Let us name them A and B. They bow. Pause.

B: "What wretched weather!"

A: "Wretched, and it does not look like clearing soon."

Another pause. Dinner is announced. Having settled at the table:

B: "What pretty flowers!"

A: "I was admiring them. They arrange flowers now much better than they did."

That leads to nothing. After an interval of silence:

B: "Have you taken to cycling?"

A: "Oh, yes; I was one of the first to ride."

B: "Do you cycle in the Park in the morning?"

A: "Not now. I found it was becoming too crowded, so I returned to Battersea Park."

This seems to meet with her approval. Evidently a man who follows the fashion and disposed to be exclusive.

B: "I much prefer Battersea Park—all the best people now ride there."

Again this leads no further. After an embarrassing pause:

A: "Have you been very gay this season?"

B *(brightening up. An admirable chance this for giving him the means to place her socially, and to enable her also to form an estimate of* HIS *social value)*: "Yes, we were very busy. We have been out almost every night. Were you at the Duchess of Dunderhead's last night? It was a capital ball."

Lets him know by this that she is in the Duchess's set, and gives him an opportunity of making known to her that he is in it too.

A: "No, I was so sorry, but I had promised to go to Lady Fitzfoodle, and it was too late when I left there to go on."

B gives him a quick look to discover if he is telling the truth or is merely attempting to conceal the fact that he had not been invited by the Duchess. Not being fully satisfied:

B *(frigidly)*: "Yes, I did hear that Lady Fitzfoodle gave something. What was it like?"

A: "Oh, slightly dull of course, but she is a very old friend of mine, and I had to go to it."

B (thinking): "Well, in any case he is obviously not utterly below contempt, as he is an old friend of Lady Fitzfoodle."

Thaws . . . . . .

And so the conversation—if it may be called conversation—drags drearily on until the hostess rises and the women have left the room.

That which is still more pitiable is that this same conversation with trifling modifications will be repeated indefinitely by A and B even if the acquaintance between them continues for thirty or forty years!

Let the man hazard an original observation he will at once in May fair society be regarded as being "bad form;" in middle-class society as being "vulgar;" and by club-men as being "dangerous."

Originality in the England of to-day is equivalent to Original Sin in theology. You must repent and do penance for it.

Upon the other hand, if a man or a woman succeeds in obtaining the reputation of being privileged to say or to do unconventional things, he or she will be permitted to make the rudest and the most offensive remarks, and all will laugh at whatever he or she may say.

Conformity, however, is the order of the day. Each tries to adopt submissively the prevailing opinion of men, manners, and things. Individuality, independence, originality are very serious social crimes. Conversation, talent, art, and literature have never thrived, nor ever will thrive, under the depressing rule of conformity.

Our masters the mediocrities!

* * * * *

According to the *Times*, Messrs. Sampson & Low are about to publish a work entitled "The Civilisation of Our Day." "It will consist of a series of about twenty-five essays on phases of civilisation at the close of the nineteenth century." It should be interesting to compare this with the celebrated "Julien, ou la Fin d'un Siècle," by M. Bungener, which attempted to give a clear account of civilised life in Paris at the end of last century.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE numerous transactions on the Cesarewitch and the Cambridgeshire which have been recorded, represent merely the skimble-skamble fancies of the public, which are usually founded on the most intense ignorance. Count Schomberg, who was actually backed down to 16 to 1 before the weights appeared, is the nominal favourite for the Cesarewitch, but M. Lebaudy's steed appears to me to have quite enough weight. Captain Machell will be dangerous with either Portmarnock (the original favourite for the handicap) or Dosser, and the latter is believed to be a really good stayer. Rockdove (who won last year) is well in, but she may not stand a preparation. Sir Visto will probably be dangerous, and Bournemouth and Scotch Wisdom are general tips at Newmarket. Pride has been preposterously overweighted, and few people expected that Omnium II. would be top weight, but this horse certainly ought to have won the Ascot Cup. If Laodamia can stay she is nicely in, and she ran remarkably well in the Ascot Cup.

Thais is by way of being the favourite for the Cambridgeshire, but she does not seem to be in it with 8 st. It is very doubtful whether she could stay the course with a fast-run race, and I fancy she is more likely to go for the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park, or she may be kept for the Derby Cup. Red Heart is remarkably well in for the Cambridgeshire, but he may lack stamina for the last 200 yards, and he is another candidate that might be seen out at Kempton Park. Ghislaine is perhaps the pick of the lot in the Cambridgeshire. Teufel is thrown in with 6 st. 7 lb., and on the Kempton Park running last year this would mean St. Frusquin with about 7 st. 3 lb., whereas Mr. de Rothschild's colt is honoured with 9 st. 3 lb. Teufel has been running very badly this season, and probably (like so many others in this list) he cannot stay. Bay Ronald and Knight of the Thistle are both well in, and if Mr. McCalmont's colt should happen to win the Jockey Club Stakes (Persimmon having to give him 17 lb.), he would have no extra weight to carry. Laodamia will be near winning if in her best form, as she has the same weight (8 st. 9 lb.) as when she ran so well here as a three-year old, when Molly Morgan won. Indian Queen, who won in a canter two years ago, has risen in the estimation of the handicapper, as he has 8 st. to carry, whereas she had only 7 st. 1 lb. in the City and Suburban, and 7 st. 12 lb. in the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap, and for the latter event she did not accept.

St. Frusquin has "gone," and he will be at once relegated to the stud. After galloping well for several days, Mr. de Rothschild's horse again manifested symptoms of soreness, and his condition was found to be so serious as to render it highly improbable that he would get through another preparation. The collapse of St. Frusquin is greatly to be regretted, as his withdrawal from the turf will vastly diminish the interest of the Jockey Club Stakes, and of next year's £10,000 races, in all of which he was entered.

Canterbury Pilgrim runs for the Park Hill Stakes on

Friday, and she missed her Sandown engagement in order that she might be kept fresh for this race. Lord Derby's mare ought to defeat Helm, Miss Fraser, and all the others in the entry. Labrador cannot well lose the Doncaster Stakes, and The Rush or Laodamia should secure the Doncaster Cup. Mr. Dobell's horse has to give the Irish mare 2 lbs, whereas in the Cesarewitch they are handicapped at 1 lb. Love Wisely has the best chance for Friday's race if Major Egerton's estimate of Mr. Bass's colt is correct. In the Cup he will be receiving 4 lb. from The Rush, and 2 lb. from Laodamia. In the Cesarewitch, Love Wisely has to give 1 lb. to the horse, and 2 lb. to the mare. Palaverer and Whiston (who won last year) are well in for the Portland Plate to-morrow, and Monterey ought to be able to win the Rous Plate. There is nothing in the Scarborough Stakes that can beat Shaddock, and the Zetland Stakes should fall to Nouveau Riche, as Roquebrune has again been stopped in her work, and it is to be feared that this filly will never start for another race.

Melton, who won the Derby and St. Leger of 1885 for his breeder, Lord Hastings, has returned to England, having been purchased from the Italian Government by the proprietor of the Westerham Hill Stud for £11,340, which is a very much larger price than was paid for the horse when he left this country six years ago. Melton's fee next season will be 200 gs. He is the sire of Best Man, Avington, and Bullingdon, and the last of these would assuredly have won the Derby and St. Leger of 1894 for the Duke Westminster if he had been all right at Epsom, and if he had lived and flourished until Doncaster.

It is understood that the Stewards of the Jockey Club have been in considerable doubt as to whether it would be prudent of them to persevere for another year with their two £10,000 Stakes, which were established in 1891 with such mighty trumpetings. As the late Sir Robert Peel would have remarked, there were "three courses" open to the Stewards—to continue the stakes as before, to give them up, or to reduce their value. It has been finally decided to keep them on as before, and the Princess of Wales Stakes of £10,000 and the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000 for now foals and yearlings, to run in 1899, will therefore close next Tuesday. In the hope of attracting larger fields, the owner of the second horse will in future receive £1,500, instead of £400, and the third is to get £1,000 instead of £200. As the bonuses to the nominators of the first and second horses amount to £600, it follows that the winner's share of the £10,000 will be only £6,900, which seems to me to be a preposterous cutting up of the stake. The idea that the change will lead to larger fields appears to be utterly chimerical, for the best horses of each year are tolerably sure to be entered for these races, and there will be no temptation to the owners of inferior animals to oppose them, as they could gain nothing by doing so. It is, however, highly discreditable to the authorities at Newmarket that the absolutely idiotic conditions as to penalties have not been altered. We still have the winner of the Derby, St. Leger, and Grand Prix made to carry 12 lb. extra, while any winner of £3,000 has a penalty of 9 lb. We see the result this year. Persimmon has 12 lb. extra for winning the Derby, whereas St. Frusquin's penalty would be only 9 lb., although he has carried off two stakes of £10,000 each. Why, in the name of common sense, is not the extreme penalty imposed for every winner of £4,000 and upwards. The official advertisement in the "Calendar" draws the attention of public breeders to the fact that generous bonuses are given to the nominators of the first and second horses, but it is a strange fact that although thousands of foals and yearlings have been entered for rich stakes of this description by individuals who breed for sale, yet never has one of these events been won by such an animal. These races are certain to fill, as the Stewards stipulate for only 200 entries for each stake.

Lord Beaconsfield described the Doncaster race week as "the Carnival of the North," but from a variety of causes the meeting has lost a great deal of its old prestige. At a former period, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire hospitality during Doncaster week was on a scale that reminded one of Lady Holland's famous receipt for making Parmesan cheese, which commenced—"Take the milk of a hundred cows." Now, however, several of the great country houses which used to send the largest parties, are regularly closed during the week, and other places which are still open have only an exceedingly limited number of guests. The Leger has too often of late years been regarded as a "one-horse" race, and, putting aside that event, there is really nothing in the Doncaster programme which is worth much trouble. The Champagne Stakes, which has seriously suffered by the establishment of the Middle Park Plate, has been knocked to pieces by the £3,000 race at Kempton Park. This event will fall into utter contempt unless the unreasonably parsimonious authorities will tardily increase its value considerably, and there ought to be penalties for winners of £1,000 and upwards. The Leger for 1898 closes next Tuesday. Not one farthing is even nominally added to this race, which is simply a sweepstake for £25 each. Contrast this beggarly meanness with the conditions of the Grand Prix de Paris, which event also closes next Tuesday. Here we have £8,000 of *bonâ fide* added money, which is not (as is usually the case in England) given with a great deal of elaborate fuss, while most or all of it is quietly recovered from the subscribing owners by means of a dexterous arrangement of entrances and forfeit. To engage a yearling for the Leger means a liability of £25, but in the Grand Prix an owner can "get out" for £4 by declaring forfeit about six weeks before the race is run, by which time the chances of every animal in the entry can be estimated with tolerable accuracy, or, at least, it can be ascertained whether it is worth while to leave a beast in.

I hear that Catherine Luther, the dark filly by St. Simon out of Heresy, for which Mr. A. James paid 3,900 gs. at the sale of the Sledmere yearlings twelve months ago, is believed to be a real flyer, and she is to make her début in the Middle Park Plate, when Velasquez will have to give her 7 lb., and the Duke of Westminster's Orelio (brother to Ormonde) will probably make his début in that race as well. If Catherine Luther misses the Middle Park Plate she can try again in the Dewhurst Plate, when she will meet Goletta, with 7 lb. the best of the weights.

The Eclipse Stakes for 1899 has obtained 199 entries, as against 197 for next year, and 213 for 1898. This year there were 191 entries, which dwindled down gradually to an acceptance of twenty-five, and the race resulted in a considerable loss to the fund. The Eclipse Stakes began very well in 1886, when Bendigo ran, and there was a surplus of £430. The race was run for the second time in 1888, when Orbit was the winner, and the result of 169 entries was a deficit of £2,604. In 1889 there were 298 entries, with a surplus of over £1,100, and Ayrshire was the winner. There was no race in 1890, but in 1891, when Surefoot won, the result of 243 entries was a surplus of £1,675. There were 191 entries for 1892, and £4,831 had to be added from the fund, Orme being the winner. In 1893 Orme won again, and there was a surplus of £617, the race having begun with 208 entries. That, however, was the very last of the years of plenty, and now the lean times commenced in earnest. In 1894 there were 209 entries, and £810 had to be drawn from the fund, Isinglass being the winner. Last year, when Le Justicier won, there were 188 entries, and £1,081 was added. It is evidently a mere toss up how a subscription stake of this kind will turn out in the end.

The Eclipse Stakes of 1899 has been patronised by all the leading owners, but the public breeders have not been very generous in their support here. French owners have entered foals and yearlings, and Messrs. Belmont and Lorillard have engaged a number of animals bred in the United States, while Baron Bordinard is responsible for two colts by Melton, which were bred in Italy. The Duke of Westminster has fourteen entries, and one of his foals is a colt by Amphion out of Rydal (dam by Kendal), while another is a colt by Orme out of St. Mary, by Hermit. The Duke of Portland has ten entries,

Lord Alington has seven, the Duke of Devonshire has six, and Mr. L. de Rothschild has five, one of his yearlings being an own sister to St. Frusquin. The Prince of Wales has engaged his colt foal Sandringham, who is own brother to Persimmon. Mr. Platt, of the Bruntwood Stud, has thirteen entries, and several of the yearlings he has engaged are to be sold at Doncaster to-day. Among his foals is an own brother to Saintly, and at his sale next year there ought to be some high bidding for the filly by Kendal out of St. Marguerite, dam of Sea Breeze. Lord Rosebery's entry includes a filly foal by Sheen out of Illuminata, dam of Ladas, but he has no relative to Velasquez. Sir Samuel Scott is apparently intending to go in for breeding, as he has entered three foals.

There are only thirty-eight entries for the Prince Edward Handicap of £2,000, which is run at Manchester on the 26th, and very few good horses have been engaged. The best of the older ones are Troon, Laveno, Hebron, Ramapo, Ghislaine, Paris III., and the everlasting Gangway. The Duke of Westminster has engaged no fewer than four of the three-year-olds—Rampion, Conroy, Shaddock, and Kelvin, and the others of this age include King Hampton, Bradwardine, Belleven, Spook, Balsamo, Amphosa, and His Reverence.

There will be racing next week at Warwick, Great Yarmouth, Ayr, and Lingfield, but there is not likely to be any sport of much general interest before the Newmarket First October Meeting. There is, for some reason or other, an interval of three weeks this year between Doncaster and Newmarket, instead of a fortnight as usual. Intense (who ought to have won the Gimcrack Stakes at York) will secure the Gorleston Plate at Yarmouth, if she runs, and she has no other engagement this season.

In the midst of cricket we are in football. On September 1 broken collar-bones, inquests, and other exciting incidents of the winter game were in full swing. The Australian tour is over, county cricket is ended, and the curtain has dropped so suddenly that one can scarcely realise it. Let me begin by wishing the Colonial team a hearty farewell. When they came over they were practically a new team to us. Naturally, they were doubtful as to their powers and nervous about the success of the fresh hands. They said they would be satisfied if they won half the games and one test match. The result of the tour every one knows. They won a test match. Despite that wretched innings at Lord's, they were not beaten by an innings until they met Thornton's team at Scarborough. Like the famous team of 1882, they were not beaten by a single county. And this is all the more remarkable having regard to the new first-class counties that now figure in the list. Yorkshire, who easily heads the counties, played them three times and never won, although Peel proved most fatal to the visitors on every other occasion. They are a solid, stodgy class of batsmen, without any brilliant hitters like Bonnor, Massie, or Macdonnell. On the whole the fielding was brilliant, and Kelly at the wicket has accounted for a lot of victims. On a soft wicket McKibbin was deadly, and the bowling was much stronger than had been anticipated. At the same time they did not seem to like a wet wicket, and Hearne quite upset them in the last innings of the tour at Hastings.

In consequence of the incident as to the follow-on at the University match, the county secretaries have received a letter from the M.C.C. asking their views as to a change in the follow-on rule. If they desire a change, one of two courses is proposed. Either the follow-on is to be optional, or abolished, and then a team is to be able to "declare" when it pleases. Well, the follow-on does often work a hardship, and its object is not very apparent. The present rule as to declaring an innings is very arbitrary, and it is hard to ask professionals to risk their talent money and their averages by going in and getting out quickly.

After all, it is not only wicked man who is the sporting pot-hunter. The lady, in such pursuits as she can win a pot, runs him close in all his vagaries from the ways of honourable sport. Anyone who has taken an active part in local tennis tournaments in which visitors compete has often noticed the marvellous difference there is in a young lady's play before and after the handicap is announced. Then there is the other class of young lady who pesters the nervous umpire. He is, most likely, perilously perched in a high wind on the top of a pair of housemaid's steps. He combines in himself the duties of scorer, umpire, and linesman. Suddenly she cries, "How's that?" He says, "Play on," and a look of petulant dissatisfaction passes over the face of the player, who is probably not enjoying the first flush of youth and beauty. So she goes on until the umpire gets flustered, and gives a ball "out" in her favour when there has been no appeal at all. Everybody else sees it is in, and she herself plays at it and misses. The other side, surprised, ask her if she did not think it was in. She is too old a bird to be caught. She murmurs something about "What does the umpire say? What he says must be right," and she takes the game and set. Then linesmen are appointed, and her play and appeals fall off. Now this is a kind of lady player whom one too often meets. Strange as it may seem to say so, it is absolutely the duty of players in all games to assist the umpires as much as possible, and prevent the necessity of having linesmen, or so on. This can only be done by honest and straightforward playing, and by refraining from making appeals that are entirely uncalled for.

The latest form of German competition is that Schlee, the goal-keeper of the German Association Football team that has been visiting us, has signed on for Sheppey United. He is practically the only man in the team with any idea of the game. He has lived at Woolwich, and no doubt learned the game there. League matches are in full swing, and the Albion has started off by beating Aston Villa. In the Southern League, importations from the North and Midlands should raise the standard of play. The London Football Association has declared for amateurism, and really some such body is required to manage the amateur interests of the metropolis. I believe at Charterhouse School the League system prevails with beneficial results, and it would be a good thing in many ways if a strong Southern Amateur League were formed. As for Rugby football, the professionals will have a large accession to their ranks in the North, and it will not be long before similar developments may be expected in the West.

The autumn golf season is just now at its zenith. Many of the cracks were absent from the jubilee vase competition at St. Andrews. However, there were several scratch players, and one of them, Mr. Boothby, met Mr. Blackwell with four strokes in the final. The latter played a strong game, especially when going out, and won easily, as his opponent was clearly off his putting. At Comin, Sayers played a remarkably accurate game against Auchterlonie, the ex-champion, and beat him. A grand match of thirty-six holes was played at Hunstanton between Vardon and Herd. The former was five down at the end of the first round, but afterwards the champion played up splendidly and halved the match. The morning was fine and the afternoon soaking wet, and as Vardon is best on fast greens, his success was remarkable. In fact, at the fifteenth he was one up, and after halving the next two he played badly at the last hole and Herd halved the game.

At Wood Green the amateur records were beaten in the ten miles bicycle race after the sixth mile. Palmer, the winner, was well paced, but Bardsley rode rather disappointingly. At the Blackheath Harriers' Sports a similar race was badly muddled. The pacing was bad and there were apparently no lap scorers, and the judging did not give satisfaction. In the foot racing Parker's handicapping for the sprint, won by Davis, was excellent, and in the quarter, Butler, the medical student, won in brilliant style from scratch. At the L.A.C. Meeting on September 28, Fenton and Sturgess, the champion, are matched for a mile walk which should be worth seeing.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The feature of the past week has been the growing influence which the American market is exercising upon the general position on the Stock Exchange. To begin with, the course of the money market is now being entirely guided by the requirements of gold for the United States, while on the other hand the important advance which has taken place in Yankee Rails tends to encourage an improvement in the other departments. These are undoubtedly

Preparing for Active Business.

There was a pause, owing to the uncertainty as to what sums in gold might still be required for the States, but a temporary cessation of the demand for the precious metal has caused a reaction in the Money Market, rates in which had previously been rising sharply; and if there should be no further important efflux of gold during the ensuing week, we shall probably see a marked rise in Home Railway stocks, which have been sold on the prospects of dearer money. Consols are already on the up-grade again, and it strikes me that the operators who have sold these with a light heart, as a hedge against commitments in other markets, will have much difficulty in getting them back again, unless some other political incident should come to their aid; but the political horizon is clearing at present, the position both in Constantinople and in Crete having improved, and, notwithstanding Prince Lobanoff's death, the Tsar is continuing his visits to the European Courts. My view, that the death of Prince Lobanoff would not cause any trouble in the markets, has been borne out by the result, and if only an immunity from unfavourable events could be secured for a few weeks, we should, doubtless, have a general revival in business. One by one the holiday-makers are returning from their various haunts, and it is quite on the cards that the fag-end of the present nineteen-day account will see a good deal of animation. The Kaffir Circus is on the tip-toe of expectation as regards the August crushings, and if the sanguine predictions of another record output should be realised, there would be every prospect of a fresh upward movement following the slight setback of the past week. The relations between the Transvaal and this country continue satisfactory, and although the war in Rhodesia has not yet come to an end, the latest official cablegrams are to the effect that the Matabele are tired of fighting. This has not, perhaps, a direct bearing upon Transvaal securities, but curiously enough the latter stocks are undoubtedly being kept down by the weakness in Chartered shares and others of that ilk, probably because they are held in many cases in the same quarters. The West Australian market has presented a firm front, although there has been here and there some sliding back. This, however, in view of the excellent news from the goldfields, is perhaps only a case of *reculer pour mieux sauter*. The Cycle market has braced up under the influence of the announcement of the Dunlop settlement, and there has also been some increasing demand for Brewery stocks; but the most active section has undoubtedly been that of American Rails, and, as the financial position in the States has been strengthened by the large gold shipments, and recent political developments are in favour of sound money, there has been a distinct disposition in London to buy some of the much-depreciated stocks in this department. In fact, the market has been more active than for many a month, and it would not be surprising to see it assume some of its old animation, especially if, as I anticipate, the Milwaukee dividend, which will probably be announced on Thursday, should prove very satisfactory and above the market estimate. The outlook is all the more promising as a large "Bear" account has been created, which acts as a support to the market.

Prospects of Home Rails.

The old saying that the hour is darkest before the dawn has again been illustrated by latest events with reference to the dispute in the engineering trade on the Clyde. On Saturday morning the news was all in favour of a far-reaching and protracted lock-out, and prices of the Scotch stocks fell sharply. At noon, however, telegrams came to hand stating that the dispute was in course of settlement, and wires have since been received stating that a settlement has been arrived at. It is a pity that matters should have been allowed to go so far as to create a very threatening position; and if a lock-out had really come to pass, the trouble would, doubtless, have spread to other districts. As it is, a heavy decline has been caused in the stocks of the Caledonian and North British Railways, which was aggravated by the very disappointing dividend, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, of the Caledonian. This result has been brought about by an exceptional increase in the ratio of working expenses and by the over-estimating of the weekly traffics. In the meantime both lines are doing exceedingly well, and with the labour trouble removed, prospects are so favourable that I look for a further recovery, especially after the North British dividend has been announced. The stocks of the Heavy lines have been kept down, partly by the advance in the money market, and partly by the fear that the labour difficulty might also interfere in their case. Neither of these factors is any longer threatening the position, and I shall not be at all surprised if investment purchases were to be resumed, traffic returns continuing most substantial, and showing in most instances increases on the top of large traffics in the previous year. The total increase in the traffic returns for the nine weeks of the current year is now as much as £567,000, of which considerably more than one-half is due to the splendid passenger business, the holiday traffic having beaten the record. Throughout the recent spasm Dover "A" have maintained a firm appearance, and at 104 promise a further substantial advance, in view of large traffics and the decline in ratio of expenses. Brighton "A" have been steady at 184, and in this instance, too, some improvement seems warranted.

Further Advance in Yankee Rails.

The few remaining jobbers in the Yankee market have begun to smile again, for their department is broadening out in an almost unlooked-for manner, and if the animation continues, some of the truants, who have gone over to the Kaffir Circus, will probably return to their old love. The sharp rally is not perhaps surprising, when it is considered that this is the only department in which for the last three months a persistent fall has been going on, while quotations elsewhere have been rising. There was thus a disposition on the part of operators to again enter this market as soon as ever some rift in the clouds could be discerned. The large gold shipments from Europe to the United States, which now exceed 20,000,000 dols., and which were undoubtedly facilitated by heavy exports of grain from the States, coincide with favourable developments in the political position, and already we hear of an improvement in the commercial and industrial position. Whether this beneficial change in politics will be followed by fresh Republican reverses remains to be seen, but the chances of Mr. McKinley carrying the elections for the Presidency are undoubtedly greatly increased. The sweeping Republican victory in the Vermont State elections has been followed by very satisfactory proceedings at the Democratic sound-money convention in Indianapolis. The platform adopted is to the effect that the gold standard must be maintained, and also the parity of every dollar issued by the Government. The free coinage of silver is opposed, and currency reform is urged which would confine the Government to its legitimate functions, completely separate it from the banking business, and would afford to all

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sections of the country a uniform, safe, and elastic bank currency under Government supervision. General Palmer of Illinois has been nominated as a candidate for the Presidency, and Mr. Buckner for the Vice-Presidency. It is not, of course, likely that General Palmer will be elected President, but the very fact that the Democratic Party has split up on the sound-money question will greatly reduce Mr. Bryan's chances of election and increase those of Mr. McKinley. The platform of the sound-money Democrats, by the way, is far more outspoken, and the policy advocated is sounder than that of the Republican Party, so that Mr. McKinley might well take a leaf out of the book of the gold Democrats. The advance which has taken place during the past week has been important, as will be gathered from the following comparison :—

	Price Jan. 2, 1896.	High'st in 1896.	Low'st in 1896.	Aug. 28.	Sept. 7.
Atchison	14½	18 3/16	9¼	11⅛	12¼
Do. Five per Cent. Prefs.	22	23⅞	14¾	17¼	18½
Atlantic Firsts	22	26 5/16	20	24¼	24¼
Canadian Pacifics	51¾	65⅛	51	58xd	60¼
Central Pacific	15½	17½	13⅛	13¾	14⅞
Denver	12⅜	14 11/16	10⅜	10⅝	11½
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	39	40½	43½
Erie	14⅛	16⅛	12	12½	13¼
Lake Shore	144	155	138	144¼	148
Louisville	44⅝	56¾	38⅝	40¾	41¼
Milwaukee	69⅛	81⅝	62⅝	66⅞	71¾
Mis., Kan., and Texas	11¼	13 13/16	9¼	10½	10⅝
Norfolk Pref.	8	14⅛	10⅛	13	*13⅝
Nor. Pacific Pref.	12½	17 11/16	10 1/16	16¾	*20
New York Central	98	101⅞	91	94¾	95½
Ontario	13¼	16½	12¼	12½	13⅜
Reading	2	8 3/16	3¾	3¾	*7¼
Southern Ordy.	8¾	11⅛	7	7⅜	7⅞
Do. Pref.	26½	34⅜	18½	20	21¼
Union Pacific	4⅛	9¾	3⅛	5¼	6¼
Wabash Pref.	15¾	20 3/16	13	13	14½

* Cum Assessments.

The most important rise has taken place in Milwaukee which are up 5 points on large purchases both on this side and in Wall-street, apparently made in anticipation of a satisfactory dividend announcement. In some usually well-informed quarters a further improvement of 5 dols. and more is predicted. Denver Prefs. have also risen nearly 4 points, and this is a stock which certainly deserves special attention. Even in the now unlikely case of the Silver Party triumphing, the large traffics which it would gain from the silver mines in Colorado would offset other unfavourable features. But results for the year ending June 30 already show a marked improvement over the preceding year, the gross earnings having increased by as much as 634,000 dols., which work out to a net increase of 277,000 dols. There is a surplus over fixed charges of as much as 835,000 dols. for the past year, out of which 473,000 dols. was distributed in a 2 per cent. dividend on the Preferred. The strong revival in gold mining in Colorado is helping this line materially, and Denver Preferred at 43½ are still at a very moderate level for a dividend-paying stock, which will, no doubt, eventually receive its full 5 per cent. dividends again. With the Prefs. the Ordinary shares will no doubt also improve. Atchison Five per Cent. Prefs. have also recovered, but there is here still much room for an advance, and the same applies more particularly to Louisville and Nashville. This stock has been most persistently raided by the "Bears," and so much energy has been expended in keeping the price down that it almost looks as if large operators had banged Louisville in order to purchase Milwaukee and other stocks under the cover of this attack. The most unscrupulous rumours have been utilised for the purpose, such, for instance, as the probability of a receivership, altogether ignoring the fact that during the year ended June 30 the Road earned a substantial surplus. It is well known, moreover, that the Louisville and Nashville is under a conservative management, and that some of our first English houses are represented on its Board. All this makes it probable that at a given time the ursine party will be subjected to a very unpleasant squeeze. The stock was already in very short supply at last settlement, and will be more so at the next carry-over. By the way, there has been a moderate recovery in American Railroad Gold bonds. Should affairs continue to shape themselves favourably, there will be a most substantial appreciation in all these bonds, and I strongly advise my readers to hold these, and to average if they can afford to take the bonds up. On no account should they now part with their holdings. Canadian Pacifics have been firm on satisfactory traffic returns, the quotation having advanced again above 60. Grand Trunks, on the other hand, are weak, as neither the traffics nor the working statement are encouraging.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The political barometer having risen again, the foreign Bourses have taken heart of grace, and even the bonds of impecunious Spain are firmer. There appears at last to be some prospect of greater unanimity amongst the European Powers in putting pressure upon the Sultan, and thus we may perhaps see some further reforms being introduced. Yet a fresh outbreak in some other portion of the Ottoman Empire will always have to be faced, and I should be sorry to embark my money in Turks, or for the matter of that in Ottoman Bank shares, which have, however, now recovered to 11⅞. Italians appear to have benefited by the proposed alliance of the Prince of Naples with a Montenegrin Princess, a consequent *rapprochement* with Russia being hoped for. Should no fresh trouble threaten the peace of Europe during the next month or so, we may look for a very active campaign on the Continental Bourses, and amongst the issues which will then make their appearance will no doubt be the new Spanish Quicksilver Loan and another instalment of the Chinese Loan. Argentine Government stocks have, after being long neglected, displayed more strength, in anticipation of the unification scheme being carried out. Cedulas are distinctly firmer, and as far as the National Series is concerned this is not surprising, as from the investment point of view they yield at the present gold premium from 7 to 8 per cent. per annum. The question of course is whether the premium will not advance again. There have been rumours of some proposed arrangement with the Provincial Cedula-holders, and it has been pointed out that the holders might take over the Provincial Mortgage Bank, and that the Cedula bondholders might besides obtain some provincial bonds from the province of Buenos Ayres; but the wish is no doubt father to the thought in this case. Uruguay bonds have hardened, the Old Loan being quoted at 50⅛, and the New Loan at 70. The remittances on account of the service of both these issues are being made with commendable regularity. A feature has been the advance in Mexican Sixes, the Old Loan having reached 94 again. Peruvian Corporation stocks are also at last on the up grade, the Debentures being up to 40. Amongst the South and Central American rubbish stocks there has been hardly any movement.

The Kaffir Interregnum.

Movements in the South African market have again been fitful and irregular, operators still displaying a waiting attitude. However hopeful the predictions as regards the crushings of the Witwatersrand Mines for August may be, the market would like to see actual facts, and we have thus another interregnum to pass through. All the same, advances have not been wanting, notably in Village Main Reef, Rand Mines, Kimberley Roodepoort, Geldenhuis, Salisbury, and a dozen others; while on the other hand, Modderfontein, Simmer and Jack, Ferreira, Jumpers, Orion, and others have declined. There has been no special reason for these relapses, with the exception of small realisations, which have had an exaggerated effect. The relations between the Transvaal

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

and this country continue satisfactory, notwithstanding the efforts which are being made in certain quarters to stir up strife again; and now that Lord Rosmead, the High Commissioner, has returned to South Africa, and Mr. Greene is shortly expected at his post in Pretoria, it is probable that matters will proceed still more smoothly. The event of the week has been the issue of the circulars giving full particulars of the great Barnato amalgamation. So much has already been written on this subject, that it is not necessary for me to enter into all the details of the arrangement. It provides for the absorption by the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Corporation of the Barnato Bank, the Market Concessions Company, the Central Commercial Buildings Company, the Johannesburg Buildings and Estate Syndicate, and the Houghton Estate Company, and the acquisition of the Berea and Doornfontein Estates of the Johannesburg Waterworks Company. The new capital is to be distributed as follows:—Of the £2,750,000 to which the capital of the Johannesburg Consolidated will be raised, £834,000 is to be allocated share for share to the Johannesburg Investment shareholders; £1,503,125, or five for eight, to the Bank shareholders; £133,333 to the Waterworks Company; and various amounts to the other companies enumerated above, which bring up the total capital to £2,534,905. Then there is to be an issue of 200,000 shares to provide funds for the development of the valuable landed estates, and this issue is guaranteed by Messrs. Barnato at £3. 15s. per share. The premium on the issue (£500,000) will be placed to reserve, and with the existing reserves of the Barnato Bank and the Consolidated Investment Company—which together amount to £1,100,000—the Consolidated Company will start with a cash reserve of £1,600,000, which will place it in a very strong position. The above Barnato guarantee, by the way, is one of the largest of the kind ever given. Under the scheme the Barnato Bank shareholders will receive £2 10s. for each share, and although this does not bring up the price to the figure at which the extraordinary rush was made for them at the first issue, the shareholders have not much to grumble at, especially as their bank is amalgamated with a dividend-paying concern, the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment having just declared another dividend of 10 per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year. On the other hand, the Johannesburg Consolidated will no longer have to face the competition of a somewhat similar concern, as the Barnato Bank undoubtedly was. Very large assets are being acquired by the new company in land and house property in and around Johannesburg, which are undoubtedly of a very progressive nature; and if, as Mr. Barnato foreshadows, the Company will ere long be in the receipt of an income of £250,000 per annum from ground rents alone, this would be sufficient to ensure substantial dividends. This is altogether apart from the great possibilities of the holdings of mining and land shares acquired, and of the share in future financial business which will be assured to this powerful Corporation. Johnnies have been firm at 4, and Barnato Banks at $2\frac{5}{16}$. They would probably have experienced an advance had it not been for the somewhat dull surroundings. The Barnato group has, however, on the whole been very firm, and there have been smart improvements in two shares, viz., Kimberley Roodepoort to $3\frac{1}{8}$, and Langlaagte Royal to $2\frac{7}{16}$, after touching $2\frac{3}{4}$. This latter advance was evidently caused by a "Bear" squeeze, which would lead one to believe that the issue of the recent circular opposing the Barnato interest had been preceeded by special efforts of the ursine party. New Primrose are firm at $6\frac{1}{8}$, Glencairns at $3\frac{1}{2}$. New Rietfontein are firm at $3\frac{5}{8}$, and it is somewhat curious that Buffelsdoorn should be quoted only at 3 in view of recent very favourable developments on this mine. In the Robinson group there has been a good deal of selling of Randfontein, apparently for French account, which has caused a reaction to 3, but as soon as the Paris holders have sold out, we shall probably see a smart recovery. At all events, the sub-Companies of the Randfontein continue very strong, Porges Randfontein at $1\frac{15}{16}$, North Randfontein at $2\frac{3}{8}$, Robinson Randfontein at $1\frac{3}{8}$, and Block "A" at $1\frac{1}{8}$. It will be remembered that the Porges Randfontein commenced crushing on the first of this month. Langlaagte Estate have been firm at $5\frac{1}{2}$, and the dividend has just been received in London. Block "B" stand at $1\frac{7}{8}$, Langlaagte Star at $1\frac{9}{16}$. Last Monday's sale by the Langlaagte Estate and Building Company of townstands in the neighbourhood of Johannesburg appears to have realised excellent prices, and I hear that a number of these stands will be taken up by the railway, which runs through the property, for a station. Knight's have eased off to $7\frac{11}{16}$, but this is a most promising mine, and I look for a fresh advance in the near future. Modderfontein are now quoted $7\frac{1}{2}$ ex-rights, the issue of the new shares having caused a temporary decline. Modderfontein Extension have eased off in sympathy to 2. According to the Directors' report, good progress has been made with the exploration of the large area owned by this Company, which adjoins the Modderfontein and Van Ryn estates, and is no less than 4,550 acres in extent. The Company has still ample resources in hand, and, according to all indications, it has both the well-known Modderfontein and Van Ryn series of reefs. At the present prices the market estimate of the Modderfontein is very moderate, the capital amounting to £275,000 in £1 shares. Woodstock (Transvaal) have given rise to further dealings at $1\frac{3}{4}$, and advices are in every respect satisfactory. I understand that Mr. Roberts, the manager of the Woodstock, has also taken over the management of the Sheba Hill. Waterfall Estates are firm at $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$, and there are very few shares on the market. Rand Reefs are quoted 10s. African Gold Properties are unchanged on the week, but the tone continues good. The shares of the Randt Gold Mining Company are being quietly bought by usually well-informed people at from 5s. 6d. to 6s. Oceana shares, now quoted $1\frac{5}{8}$-$\frac{3}{4}$, are likely to join in any general upward movement of the market now that, at Monday's meeting of the shareholders, the amalgamation has been confirmed, and there will in future only be the Oceana Consols to deal in, the African and Austral-African Companies having now ceased to exist. With reference to the Abercorn Reefs, Limited, and Umtoli Gold Reefs, Limited, I gave last week the address of a shareholder in London who proposes to act resolutely in this matter, and I hope that the other shareholders will combine to act with him in face of the unwarrantable action of the remaining three Directors—viz., Messrs. J. Dennis, J. W. Blackstone, and J. Coward. African Estates are slightly easier at $1\frac{7}{8}$. A few dissenting shareholders in Johannesburg, who held very unreasonable views, have now got out of their shares, which have been readily absorbed by the market. The bone of contention was the circumstance that the balance-sheet did not disclose the whole of the Company's business; but it is obvious that such a financial corporation must in its own protection suppress such details. That the opposing faction was only a small one is shown by the fact that the report was adopted at the Johannesburg meeting by 200,000 against 1,600 votes. It is generally acknowledged that this Company has passed through a very difficult and trying period in South Africa with considerable credit. It paid a dividend of 10 per cent. after one year's business, and accumulated a reserve of £225,000 out of profits, which is one-third of its entire issued capital, while it has a further sum of £20,000 undivided profit available in addition to £200,000 cash, and upwards of £500,000 in available securities. The Company is ably managed, and an important advance on the present price of the shares is looked for. The World's Patent Bradbury Drill shares are unduly depreciated at $1\frac{1}{8}$, and I hear of some favourable developments. A quarterly dividend of 10 per cent. is about to be paid, and a sub-Company has just been formed to acquire the American and Colonial patents, from which considerable profits are anticipated. The first return of the Bonanza is unexpectedly favourable, amounting to 3,803 oz., being an average yield of 17·09 per dwt. per ton from the mill, and 13·39 dwts. from the tailings. With reference to the Niekerk, it is now stated that the Company will be re-constituted under the name of the Niekerk Consolidated, with

a capital of £200,000 in order to acquire 150 new claims south and east of the property, thus increasing the area to 217 claims. The Company has also acquired, for 7,000 shares, a large cyanide plant, and a 30-stamp battery is also about to be arranged for. I have repeatedly warned correspondents in "My Letter Box" against the Rowland Gold Mining Company, and as my contemporaries, including the *Financial News* and *African Critic*, have very extensively dealt with this apparently swindling promotion, I should have hoped that the latter had been put a stop to; yet I continue to receive inquiries from persons who read the advertisements in the country papers. Barberton Consolidated Goldfields have come into some demand at $1\frac{3}{8}$-$\frac{1}{2}$. This Company, which has a capital of £500,000 in £1 shares (of which 100,000 shares are reserved for working capital, and 50,000 remain unissued), owns 220 selected claims on either side of the Concession Creek in the Barberton district of the Transvaal and should come into some prominence when the Barberton district, as is generally expected, comes to the front. The Transvaal Exploring Company has just issued a circular making some very favourable announcements. In the first instance they state that they have acquired the ninety-nine years' lease of the farm Jackalsfontein, consisting of 4,800 acres, and the twenty-five years' lease, with the option of purchase, of the adjoining farm Kortfontein, which has an area of 1,500 acres. These farms are in the coal-bearing district of Middelburg, and, as will be gathered from the circular, the rights acquired are distinctly valuable, there being also a gold formation carrying banket on the property, which it is confidently expected will be found to contain payable gold reefs. The shares in this very ably and energetically managed Company appear to be cheap at their present price of from 1 to $1\frac{1}{8}$. Diamond shares have been firm, and almost the only shares for which Paris has sent buying orders have been De Beers, which are quoted $30\frac{1}{2}$. New Jagersfontein stand at $10\frac{3}{4}$, Kamfersdam at $1\frac{1}{8}$, and Consolidated Leicester Diamond at $1\frac{15}{16}$.

Golden West Australia.

At last the progress of the West Australian goldfields is finding expression in the official figures of the exports of gold from the Colony. These amounted in August to 29,517 oz. against 16,257 oz. in July, Coolgardie ranking with 7,009 oz., North-East Coolgardie with 8,723 oz., and Murchison 6,016 oz. These figures, however, are not complete, and do not represent the total output of the goldfields; and I would again press upon the Minister of Mines the advisability of arranging for regular monthly returns of the output of the mines to be made by the wardens of the different fields. The market for West Australian Mining shares has not yet quite recovered its tone, and the movements still show some irregularity, advances being offset by declines, the latter being just now in the majority. But the crushings are beginning to show better and better, new mines falling into line, as will be gathered from the yearly works' budget of returns announced by cable:—

	Tons of ore crushed.	Ounces of gold	Assay of tailings per ton.
Lady Shenton	237	954	37 dwt.
Golconda	415	974	$5\frac{1}{2}$ dwt.
Great Boulder Propr.	859	2,634	—
Hannan's, Brownhill	206	626	—
Menzie's Crusoe	530	1,031	15 dwt.
Maori (Menzies)	100	208	$1\frac{1}{4}$ oz.
Premier (25-Mile)	120	160	—
Gt. Boulder Main Reef	124	270	1 oz. 16 dwt.
Ivanhoe	187	1,335	
Lady Loch	290	580	
Lake View Consols	630	1,205	—

The Ivanhoe crushing for August just announced, and contained in the above table, is again a splendid one, being at the rate of nearly $7\frac{1}{4}$ oz. to the ton. The Lady Loch crushing, on the other hand, is unsatisfactory; and the decline in the shares which has recently taken place, was apparently in anticipation of this poor result. Some of the above, of course, are only trial crushings, which are, however, in every respect promising, and there can be no doubt that, when the larger mines have their additional stamps erected, the output will go up by leaps and bounds. The Hannan's Brownhill crushing appears to have disappointed some holders, as evidenced by the decline in the shares to $5\frac{15}{16}$, but I stated some time ago that until the machinery for treating the slimes was at work there was no prospect of an increased yield. This, I assume, will take another two months or so. I have reason for stating that one of the first groups to show a strong revival will be the Whitaker Wright group. Most of the men connected with these Companies are returning this week, and we are promised some lively doings. No doubt Lake View Consols, which have eased off to $8\frac{1}{4}$, will lead this revival. It is understood that Mr. Charles Kaufman, the consulting engineer of the West Australian Exploring and Finance group, is about to connect the battery of the Lake View Consols by pipes with the shafts of the Hannan's Golden Treasure and other mines on which there are already large volumes of water. This is expected to make it possible for the Lake View Consols to run 30 stamps, and thus to already increase the output in the near future. In the meantime a very large crushing has just been cabled over of 630 tons for 1,905 oz. in 23 days 23 hours. It will readily be seen how very large the output will eventually grow with the 100 stamps to which the battery is to be increased. The policy adopted not to crush only the very rich ore first, but to obtain such an average as can be maintained all along, is to be commended. Hannan's Golden Treasure is, as I have already stated, likely to prove another Lake View, and the shares at $1\frac{5}{8}$ are still very moderate in price. The Hannan's Golden Group is also a very promising mine, standing at $1\frac{9}{16}$. These, together with the Wealth of Nations Extended (now quoted $\frac{7}{8}$), and Wealth of Nations at $1\frac{1}{8}$, are the only shares of the Whitaker Wright group still standing at a low price. Mainland Consols stand at $3\frac{3}{16}$, Paddington Consols at $1\frac{7}{8}$, West Australian Exploring and Finance at $4\frac{3}{8}$, which is also the quotation of London and Globe Finance. In reply to several inquiries with reference to the position of the Wealth of Nations, I have obtained the information that the fall in these shares was merely due to the lack of water for crushing purposes, which causes delay. But in addition to the fact that the Government water scheme to Coolgardie is to be carried out, Mr. Charles Kaufman has arranged to build a dam that will give the mine an independent supply of water. In the opinion of insiders the present time is suitable for averaging Wealth of Nations for an early rise. The West Australian Goldfields group has been dull, notwithstanding the return of Mr. Allen H. P. Stoneham, and the Goldfields shares have declined to $9\frac{1}{4}$, and Hampton Plains to $4\frac{1}{8}$, although it is well known that a very favourable Directors' report is to be presented at the shareholders' meeting to be held this month, when a substantial dividend will be declared. The Ordinary shares in the West Australian Joint-Stock Trust stand at $3\frac{9}{16}$ premium, while the Founders' shares are easier at 60. The news from the Burbank's Birthday Gift is very favourable, and the shares are firmer at $2\frac{3}{8}$. From the Burbank's North advices are to hand that a new main shaft is being timbered, and that crushing will start on the 21st. These shares are quoted from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. The last excellent crushing of the Burbank's Birthday Gift, and the rich discovery made in the dam should, of course, also prove very favourable to the Burbank's North and Burbank's Consols. With reference to the latter, Professor Nicholas cables that he has taken possession of the property on behalf of the Company, and that he has discovered another reef on the mine in addition to those mentioned in the prospectus. He also states that the mine gives every indication of opening up well. The Explorers' Syndicate shares, now quoted $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ premium, should improve considerably in price during the next month or two, for it must be remembered that they have large interests in the various Burbank properties, which are opening up so well. I hear, moreover, that they own a share in the De Beers mine at Gibraltar, which is being quietly developed, and for a quarter share in which £150,000 in cash was recently asked. There

seems to be no reason why the Explorers' Syndicate shares should not again touch the prices recorded last autumn, viz., 1¼ to 1½ premium. The Explorers' Finance Company is also doing a very good business, as the shareholders will know when the annual report is issued in January next, and I think the Directors are to be commended for not placing any new issues before the public at the present moment. The Founders' shares at from £20 to £25 are well worth picking up. Gladiators have been in active request at 1. The water-shaft has now reached a depth of 127 ft., and the main shaft in the Barrier Queen lease is down 113 ft., while developments with regard to the reef are described as satisfactory. Professor Nicholas's last cable from the Gladiator mine is to the effect that the main shaft is down nearly 190 ft., and that the prospects of the mine are as encouraging as ever. He believes that it will turn out to be one of the six best paying mines in Coolgardie. A moderate business has been transacted in Great Boulder Proprietary at 7½. With reference to Webster's Find, mentioned last week, I hear that private advices quite bear out the satisfactory reports received officially. This mine will probably be the first in the Niagara district to give returns. The shares are quoted in the neighbourhood of 10s. King of the West shares have improved to 2⅜. This promises to turn out a very important Company. The manager is urging that the machinery be at once erected, and he states that there is a large quantity of stone in sight, and immense reserves that may be reckoned upon to keep a large battery in full swing for years. This Company compares well as regards capitalisation. The issued capital amounts to only £40,000, of which 50 per cent. is available for working. Investors who buy the West Australian Mining Company's shares practically take an interest in what may be considered a West Australian mining trust owing to the large number of separate ventures with which this undertaking is identified. The shares remain steady at 8s. to 8s. 6d. Hit or Miss shares have improved to 2⅝, and it is hoped that the crushing which is now proceeding will yield very satisfactory returns. Bass and Flinders have been dealt in at 7s. 6d. According to the manager's report, dated July 11, the reef is widening as sinking progresses, and at the bottom level of 106 ft. the stone assays from 3 to 4 oz. per ton in the main shaft. The reef in shaft No. 2 is still disturbed, but the manager thinks that at about 70 ft. there will be a well-defined reef. The reef although broken is about 4 ft. in width at the bottom of the shaft at 55 ft. and prospects from 1 to 1½ oz. to the ton. The manager has also advised having cut a large reef which traverses the property, and which carries fine gold on the surface. The Legislative Council of Western Australia has agreed to the third reading of the bill authorising the expenditure of £2,500,000 for the water supply to the Coolgardie Goldfields, and we may now expect this scheme to be taken promptly in hand. It has been attacked in some quarters as unnecessary for the working of the mines, there being already sufficient water for that purpose; but this is an absurd argument. At the present rate of development the Coolgardie Goldfields will require ten times the amount of water as yet available, and there is, moreover, the drinking water to be provided for the fast growing population of the field, apart from the requirements of the railway. Samples from the City of London Gold Mine have assayed 3 oz. 5½ dwt. at the 60-ft. level, and 1 oz. 13½ dwt. per ton at the 82-ft. level. With reference to the Hicks' Mine it is stated that the battery will be delivered in twelve weeks' time. An adjoining property to the present lease has been purchased, thereby materially enhancing the value of the Company's property. I hear that the Golden Ridge (West Australia) Proprietary Company, the prospectus of which was published a fortnight ago, has been very favourably received, and I understand that it was over-subscribed. A cablegram received by the Gold Lands Corporation from Messrs. H. J. Saunders & Co. states that Mr. O'Brien reports from the Mona Gold Mine that the No. 2 reef varies from 2 ft. to 6 ft. in width, and shows visible free gold; while a sample of the ore on the dump panned out to 10 oz. per ton. Mr. Alexander Forrest has been interviewed on his return to Western Australia, and has made some very caustic remarks upon the state of affairs in London, with special reference to the flotation of Companies. What Mr. Forrest, however, seems to regret is that the investing public was unwilling to part with actual money. This impression has been apparently produced upon him by the fact that he floated a Company with a capital of £400,000, in connection with which he did not get any cash. Whether he would have preferred cash to shares he does not exactly state. It would appear to be about time that the Directors of the Golden Link Gold Mining Company, Limited, made a public statement as regards the state of affairs, these shares having dropped from 2 to 1 on all manner of rumours. The Gold Estates of Australia have issued an interesting report concerning their various properties, including the Union Jack Lease, and the Southern Boulder Leases, both at Hannan's. Concerning the Menzies' Alpha Leases the circular states that in a winze which is being sunk in the reef, it assays 12 oz. 18 dwt. of gold per ton at 59 ft. depth, and 23 oz. 17 dwt. at 75 ft. depth, these results being highly satisfactory. The Menzies' Consolidated, another sub-Company, has large bodies of ore proved in various parts of its mines, carrying 1½ oz., 3 oz., 5 oz., and 6 oz. of gold per ton, and a 20-stamp battery is being rapidly erected. The Menzies' Crusoë has now, with the above-mentioned crushing, yielded a total of 3,565 oz. from 1,390 tons, a very favourable showing.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Indian mining shares have moved somewhat irregularly, and while Goldfields of Mysore and Champion Reefs are firmer, Ooregum Ordinary and Prefs. and Nundydroog have eased off. In Australian mines other than West Australians, Aladdin's Lamp are fairly steady at 2 13/16, and Wentworth Proprietary are quiet at 15/16. A further improvement has taken place in Mount Lyell and Mount Morgan, and amongst Charters Towers shares Day Dawn P.C. and Day Dawn Block have improved; but Brilliant, St. George United, and Bonnie Dundee have eased off. Amongst Croydon mines there has been a strong tone for Croydon Consols at a smart advance. The latest cablegram is to the effect that the crushing for three weeks, of 422 tons, yielded 2,744 oz., equal to 6½ oz. per ton; also that crushing is going on continuously, and that the Company has purchased a quarter-interest in a 15-head stamp mill, thus effecting a considerable saving in cartage and cost of crushing. Broken Hill Proprietary are quoted 49s. 6d. I regret to notice that the private flotation of Australian Companies continues. Thus I see from a puff inserted in one of my contemporaries that the Nuggety Gully Gold Mine, Limited, has been formed to acquire a gold mine on the Calliope Goldfields, Queensland. If such a Company were formed publicly, and the prospectus fully advertised, this would be a distinct protection for the shareholders, and I hope that the public will discountenance this kind of flotation. Amongst New Zealand mines, a decline in Taitapu has been the feature. Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Waitekauri, and Hauraki are also easier, and the only improvements have taken place in Woodstock and Komata Reefs. The fact is that the New Zealand market is overstocked, and until some of the new issues have found a resting-place this section will probably remain dull. In the general Foreign market very little business has been transacted. There has been a slight improvement in Lucky Guss and Burma Ruby, the former rising on the rich strike reported last week. Montana are also firmer, but Golden Feather and

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China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

Banner Gold have declined. The news from the Grand Central, the rich Mexican mine I mentioned some weeks ago, is so favourable that a further advance to 2½ has taken place. The Mines and Banking Corporation is a dividend-paying institution, and the shares are still obtainable at a small premium. It must not be forgotten that not one penny of promotion money was paid. Mines Contract shares are also likely to come into notice. I wonder who is behind the San Joaquim Gold Mining Company, Victoria, B.C., of which circulars are being sent out under date of August 28, signed R. W. Ward, setting forth that this property is proving rich in minerals and that the assays go very high. Mr. Ward puts a footnote that he will be at the Commercial Hotel, Kendal, on August 29 and September 5, and that letters addressed to him there will be forwarded. Is this a new way of raising the wind? A somewhat sensational statement was made lately on the strength of a Dalziel message from New York stating that Mr. Frank Gardner had completed for a London syndicate the purchase of a gold mine in Nevada for the sum of one million sterling. This, however, seems to be a large sum to pay for one of the Yankee mines, in which British investors have made such bitter experiences in the past.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Sailor.—Your selection of Argentine and Chinese bonds A to D for investment is suitable for your purpose; but I think you could with advantage add the new Uruguay Five per Cent. Loan. *Folkestone.*—Yes, I still hold the view that Uruguay bonds are a first-class investment, and there is no reason to sell. *A Beneficiary and a Trustee.*—I have published your letter in this week's issue under "Various Investments" without comment, and I have no doubt that it will bring forth some expressions of opinion which will be useful to you.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

P. A., Stockwell.—I note that you have come to an arrangement, and hope that you have not been victimised too much. *Chesterfield.*—I cannot supply the information you require. *Garonne.*—I have repeatedly expressed the opinion that Douglas, Hungerford & Williams' system of speculation is not at all satisfactory; and that if these people were as infallible as they maintain, they would rather, I think, make 92 per cent. profit for their own account than for strangers. Of course, they may be philanthropists! I return the documents as requested. *Insider.*—1. Yes, if you have not paid the difference the broker would be justified in closing your account. 2. It is really impossible to tell without knowing all the circumstances; but if you have to deal with unscrupulous men, you must expect to be kept to the very letter of the law, and this you do not appear to have done. *T. H. L. H.*—I am sorry that, as a matter of principle, I cannot recommend stockbrokers. *P.R.*—I know nothing of the stockbroker in question, who appears to be an outside broker; but even if he has given orders to buy in the ten shares, he had no business to retain your money, nor ought you to have forwarded to him the cash beforehand. You should now insist upon the return of your money or the delivery of the certificates. The documents are returned. *R. M. C.*—The name of a firm of foreign bankers is forwarded in your envelope as requested. *Militat-in-Sylvis.*—Syndicate touts; I should advise you to have nothing to do with them. *Wat.*—Very respectable and prosperous. *Vale of Neath.*—Syndicate touts; have nothing to do with them. High rates of interest are not compatible with safety. *Queer Tale.*—Thanks for the suggestion. I should certainly advise you to keep up your premium with the American insurance office in question. It is very wealthy, and affairs in the States appear to be taking a more favourable turn. *Chemicus.*—I think you will not do amiss by investing the money in high-class bank shares such as you mention. I am of opinion, moreover, that you might now put some money into high-class American Railroad Gold bonds, as matters in the United States are taking a more favourable turn. *La Bella Italiana.*—If you have the money in question to spare, and can afford to lose it in case of need, you might put into a mining venture, and it appears to me that the Hannan's Golden Treasure is as good as any. You would, of course, have to be prepared to wait for a few months. *L. M.*—You might as well take your profit. You should certainly hold your American Railroad Gold bonds now. *Vincent Gregson.*—I do not like this outside concern, or its system. *Koffeyfontein.*—I should advise you to deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange.

Home Rails.

C. H. W.—Chathams have suffered through the idiotic decision of the House of Lords with regard to the raising of new capital; but they should certainly be held. *Cambria.*—Yes, I consider Dover "A" a very promising speculation at present price. *Labourer.*—No option but to hold. The document is returned. *E.B.B.*—No reason to sell Vestas.

American and Foreign Rails.

J. P.—The *Times* article in question was absurd. The position in the United States is very much better, at least, temporarily, and American Gold bonds should certainly be held. If Mr. McKinley is elected there will be a general and very important improvement in these; and even if he is not, the adverse position appears to be fully discounted in the present quotations. *F. M. C.*—Obviously the present unfortunate state of affairs in America is accountable for the collapse. *New York.*—Yes, the bonds Nos. 1 to 3 are suitable for investment. *Dora.*—1. These gold bonds will improve again; you should hold. 2. No reason to sell; the market appears to have taken a turn for the better. *Louis.*—No option but to hold the American Rails, matters are improving again. With reference to Peter Robinson, Limited, it had originally been intended to bring this Company out publicly; but other counsels have evidently prevailed for the present. *Doubtful, Brighton.*—I think you need not be afraid with reference to your American Railroad gold bonds Nos. 1 to 7. Affairs in the States have taken a more favourable turn, and these bonds are all well selected. Certainly hold Nos. 8 and 9. *Nagpur.*—The interest is quite safe as far as can be judged; and you should certainly hold these bonds for a recovery. *Littlewood.*—No option but to hold these bonds; the market appears to be turning round. *Ceres.*—1. Distinctly a permanent charge; but it is not possible to obtain from the Secretary or the Directors any statement as to the priority of the issues. 2. No. I should advise you to keep the Debentures, as this is not one of the Yankee lines which so easily go into the receiver's hands. *Cumbrae.*—Certainly hold your Manhattan Consolidated Mortgage Gold bonds for a recovery. *Parrhesia.*—1. I am not so sure about the further slump, as recent developments have created a very active market; but I quite agree with you that if you buy Louisville, Milwaukee, and Denver Prefs. at low prices, you are likely to make a large profit. 2. There should also be hopes for this; but I am not sweet on Wabash. 3. You are quite right in having bought Randfontein, and should hold for a further important advance. *S.O., Liverpool.*—The most promising stocks to buy of the more substantial class in the American market are Louisville, Milwaukee and Denver Prefs.

Mining Shares.

J. H. C.—I should advise you to have nothing to do with these people, or with the shares they offer. *T. W. D.*—No dividend has been paid, but the prospects of the Company are favourable. *Speculator*—1. You had better hold the shares, but do not buy more yet. 2. No option but to hold these. 3. Take your handsome profit, it is worth taking, even though the shares may be likely to further advance. *Nemo, Brighton.*—You should hold Nos. 1 to 6 for a rise. *An Anxious Investor.*—All your shares should be held, most of them are very promising. *Ironsides.*—You should certainly hold Hampton Plains (1), Mainland Consols (3), and there is no reason for selling Nos. 2, 4, 5, and 6. *N. G. E.*—I do not think much of these diamond shares; but it may be advisable to join the re-construction so as to be able to sell after. *Yarg*—No reason to sell any of your mining shares Nos. 1 to 11 now, as most of them are likely to improve. No. 11 is the least satisfactory of them. *Helemsburg.*—Amongst your list of mining shares, Nos. 1 to 31, there are a good many promising ones. Most are likely to improve again. The least promising are Nos. 10, 13, 15, 23, 25, 27, and 28. *Acacia.*—1. It is possible that this disappointing mine will come round again, and the price is very low; but I must leave it to you whether you will buy more. 2. Hold, but do not average yet. *Crozier.*—I think that the Oceana combination is in a good position, and that it will eventually pay good dividends. *Beginner.*—1.—I do not think much of Hannan's Treasure Trove (1); but No. 2 is a fair mining risk. *Skelligs.*—I do not care for either of the shares mentioned; you can do much better in those mentioned in my letter. *Felis Leo.*—I like No. 1, but not No. 2. *Albemarle.*—I am sorry it was not possible to reply to your letter before; but I must distinctly keep to the rule of not answering inquiries received after the first post on Friday morning. The present time is not at all favourable for putting money into gilt-edged stocks. With the rise in the value of money it is quite possible that we shall see these ease off, and my advice to you is to keep your money unemployed a little longer. Jones & Higgins at 2½ seem to be quite high enough. As you have already a considerable stake in American Gold bonds, it would be hardly advisable to increase it just yet. *Scotia.*—You must have paid an excessive price for Modderfontein "B." On August 29, 1895, the quotation was 4½. *Wealthy.*—See remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Perthshire.*—1. I think you might wait for a higher price; in view of the general advance in Indian mines you ought to make a good profit on these. 2. Whenever you see your money back you should certainly sell Chartered shares. No reason to sell Africanders. *S. B. L., Beauly.*—You seem to have got very high into Rand Mines (1), and altogether against my warning; at present you had better hold, on the chance of a further improvement. Also keep Rooderand (2). No reason to sell Nos. 3 and 5 now. Klerksdorp (6) at 32s. you have also bought altogether contrary to my advice, and there is no option but to hold. Average No. 4 at the present low price. Randfontein (7) should certainly be held for a further advance, although they already show you a good profit; and

there is no reason to sell Sheba (8). *J. T., Dublin.*—A fair mining risk, but you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *A. B., Ennis.*—I do not like the Friendship Gold Mine at all, neither are the other West Australian mines you mention tempting. You should have made your selection from my letter. About the industrial shares in question nothing is known. *Neo.*—I cannot see any option but to hold your United Langlaagte shares. The Company has, as I stated last week, been forced into liquidation by M. Jacques Lebaudy, and it remains now to be seen what he will do with it. He apparently objects to the present Directors, and wishes to turn them out. *A. B., Glasgow.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. I do not think any dividends are in sight yet. 3. No particular temptation to buy these. *Cigarette.*—1. I have referred to Wealth of Nations in to-day's issue under "Golden West Australia." The other shares should be held. There seems no special reason for the decline; but I believe most of the men connected with this group are out of town holiday-making. *Kirkcaldy.*—I should advise you to leave this mine alone. The Bonanza is a promising property, but I do not like Lisbon-Berlyn. You had better leave your money in the Dock Company's stock than put it in the other shares mentioned. The Great Horseless Carriage Company is far too speculative a concern. *A. R., Tottenham.*—1. The prospects of this concern appear to be promising. 2. A fair mining risk; no reason to sell. 3. I have already stated my views regarding the Glencairn-Glenluce amalgamation. 4. Wealth of Nations are referred to under "Golden West Australia." *A. G., Tirol.*—It is quite impossible to obtain what you wish, viz., a high-class investment yielding 5 per cent. If you are prepared to run some risk, you might buy the new Uruguay Five per Cent. loan at 70. I referred to the Glencairn-Glenluce amalgamation a fortnight ago. *Ajax.*—It is quite correct that the Porges-Randfontein bonus on Randfontein is nearly due. *Dunallen.*—I do not like the mine at all. *Enquirer, Dalton.*—There is no reason why you should not invest in No. 1, and Hannan's King (2) is a promising mine. *Marjorie W.*—With reference to Wealth of Nations see remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Herbert.*—No; I do not advise purchase of these West Australian shares. You can do better in those mentioned in my letter. *Rastus.*—1. The old Directors of the African Gold Concessions have been turned out, and a Shareholders' Committee is inquiring into the concern. You should support them. No option but to hold the shares Nos. 2 to 6; they will doubtless recover again; also hold No. 7. *J. K. D.*—Certainly hold Hannan's Napier; it is a promising West Australian mine. *Consul.*—If the shares in question were dealt in only for special settlement, your broker would be right. Without knowing the name of the mine I cannot tell this. *Tempest.*—If you are a holder join the re-construction; but I do not advise purchase. *Anglo-Saxon.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 3 for a recovery, which is probable; although I do not like No. 3. *Enquirer*, Birmingham.—1. No. 2. A fair mining risk. *Homespun.*—1. With reference to Wealth of Nations I confirm my remarks under "Golden West Australia." 2. No temptation to buy Hannan's Crœsus; you can do better in the shares mentioned by me under "Golden West Australia." 3. You have done right to buy Hannan's Golden Treasure. 4. No. 5. Quite right. *J. W. J.*—Yes, hold; but do not buy any more. *Luther.*—You should hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 10 for an improvement. I have not a favourable opinion of No. 10, and said so before. No option but to hold No 3. *Mysore.*—Taitapu Estates have been recommended by me from 1 upwards; but they seem to be high enough now. *Sanitation.*—Hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 14 for a rise. *Evertonian.*—You should hold your London & Globe Finance shares; they are likely to improve to a considerable extent. *J. H. M.*—I have entered your name on the list of Umtoli shareholders. *Newtonian.*—1. With the rest of the South African market these will probably recover. 2. Very doubtful 3. I must refer you to my letter. *Coolgardie.*—The Hit or Miss is doing extremely well; sell on a further rise. Considering the difference in price I should prefer Hannan's Golden Treasure. *Tapley.*—With reference to Wealth of Nations I must refer you to my letter. *Irish.*—Yes, I recommend you to hold these shares. *Anxious, Devonport.*—Many of your shares Nos. 1 to 20 are well selected, and they should all be held for a rise. *Cyrrom.*—I have entered your name on the list of shareholders of Abercorn Reefs. *F. H. Y.*—You can easily make your selection from my letter. Hit or Miss and Associated Southern are good mines. *Apex.*—African Estates should be held. Also hold Big Blow. I do not care much for De Lamar. *W. C.*—A. I do not like either the people or the system; have nothing to do with them. 2. Hannan's King (Brownhill) is a promising mine. *Kingdom.*—The first-mentioned is a fair South African finance company. Hold the New Zealand shares. *Faraló.*—All your mining shares Nos. 1 to 17 should be held for a rise. *Japan.*—1. With reference to Abercorn Reefs, I can only advise you to join with other shareholders in turning the Directors out. Nos. 2 to 8 should be held for an improvement. 9. It is quite possible that Chartered shares will go to the price you mention, when you should make haste to clear out. *Borderer.*—Take your profit on Hannan's Oroya. Advices from the Bass and Flinders are promising. *Fifeshire.*—The circular which you have received with regard to the Barnato amalgamation gives full particulars. The distribution of the bonus shares in question will no doubt be made in the near future. *A. B. B.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I can only advise purchase of No. 2 (Randfontein). The others are no catch, and you can do better by following the advice in my letter. *Flageolet, No. 2.*—A fair mining risk. *Carnonstie.*—Hold the West Australian shares Nos. 1 and 2. *Medicus, Dublin.*—1. Yes. 2. Certainly hold Langlaagte Estate, the dividend is payable almost immediately. *Calluna.*—1. No particular catch. 2. I do not think much of this. 3. Write to the London agency of the Simmer & Jack, 8, Old Jewry, for the information. 4. The Wemmer dividend was 10s. per share, and the shares are of £1 each. 5. Hannan's King (Brownhill) is a promising West Australian mine. *A. B., Southport.*—Yes, I still think that Barnato Banks will improve, the amalgamation being to the advantage of both Barnato Banks and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment. Barnato Consols should also be held for a rise. *Vadsö.*—Hold; but do not buy more to average. *Big Ben.*—Do not go too deep into West Australian Trading Corporation, the price is quite high enough. 2. Komata Queens are a fair mining risk. 3. No option but to hold for the present. *Haben.*—Hold the mining shares A to C for an improvement. *Fiat Lux.*—1. Yes, Wealth of Nations should now be bought to average. 2. Not yet. 3. Yes, hold. *Sphinx.*—The address of a smart firm of City solicitors is forwarded in your envelope. 3. I think you are entitled to the three Brilliant Gold Mines dividends. *Umtoli.*—I have placed your name on the list of shareholders who wish to move in the matter of Umtoli Reefs. *Ajax, Brixton.*—I think the way suggested by you is correct. *Airdrie.*—I should certainly prefer Croydon Consols and Gladiators. The Gladiator more especially is a promising mine. *Cyril Bateman.*—1. The Hannan's Golden Treasure is an established mine, which is being rapidly developed, and is very promising. 2. The price per £1 share is $1\frac{1}{16}$. *G. O. P.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are low-priced shares, which are likely to improve. I do not know what you mean by No. 3, you must give me the correct name. No. 4 is a fair mining risk; but I do not like No. 5. *Hainthorpe.*—Hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 10 for an advance. *K. M.*—No option but to join the re-construction, you will be able to sell better after. *Edzell.*—1. No option but to hold; there is every prospect of a recovery in due time. 2. The Company is in existence, and the office is at 73, Basinghall-street, London, E.C. *H. D. D.*—The paper in question is an outside broker's circular, which is absolutely valueless. My advice to you is to hold the shares, and disregard such comments. *W. O'C.*—You are very unreasonable. Surely it would not inconvenience you to write earlier, instead of my having to answer 50 or 100 letters which, instead of arriving on Friday morning, would be received on Saturday, thus entailing special inquiries on a half-holiday, when it is very difficult to meet with people. You have bought Elmslie, which are a good investment. Obviously, you cannot expect every mining share you buy to go up immediately in price!

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Homo.—The shares should be held, and it is supposed that the Company was well subscribed. *Musicus.*—I am afraid that the Incandescent Fire Mantel Company is not promising. You have, however, no right to discontinue paying the calls. *A. H. L.*—I do not advise purchase of these Waterworks shares at present. I do not think the brewery debentures in question are a high-class security by any means. *Lingan.*—The special settlement takes place this week, and you should be guided by this as to what steps to take. My advice is, always to take reasonable profits. The debentures should be safe enough. *Dunlavin.*—I have repeatedly expressed an unfavourable opinion of Beestons, and you do not appear to be a regular reader of TRUTH, or else you would know this. You must of course pay up your calls. *Flageolet.*—A very speculative industrial investment. *H. S. F.*—Very sound Preference stock, and you should hold it. I do not like Pryce-Jones debentures. *Gipps.*—You should be entitled to the dividend, unless you specially bought ex-dividend. *Moses.*—Yes. Certainly take your profit. When this kind of concern passes into the hands of a public Company, the profits generally fall off. *Pianoforte.*—You should combine with other shareholders for the purpose of getting out of Thomas Edward Brinsmead & Sons, Limited. I do not think that the statements in the prospectus can be maintained. *Explosive.*—I think that this is a very speculative investment, and I should advise you to take a small profit and get out. *Surgeon-Major.*—A very speculative industrial investment, about which I should not like to advise you. *R. A.*—I do not like the Salt Union, and do not recommend a speculative purchase of the shares.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

F. L.—No option but to hold No. 1 a little longer, and No. 2 should also be held. You seem to have been very unlucky in your purchases, and if it were a question of investing savings you should have only put them into high-class securities. *Camberley.*—1. None. 2. Yes. 3. Not yet. 4. Yes. 5. 85-90. 6. No reason to sell. 7. Barnato Banks are bound to go better. 8. Both these low-priced shares should recover again. *Gunner.*—I do not like the Moss Litter Company, and never have. As regards the mining shares there is no option but to hold for the present. *Milk.*—You might sell the Cork Company's Prefs. now, but it seems to be a bad time to sell Grand Trunk stocks, and you might await a recovery. As regards South African shares, my letter gives you full information. *G. N. S.*—Your South African shares, Nos. 1 to 4, are likely to improve, and should undoubtedly be held for a rise. No 5 is quite high enough. As regards No. 6, which White-Lead Company do you refer to? *Ignoramus.*—You must know that I have a favourable opinion of Transvaal Exploring (1), and also think that Balkis-

Land (2) and Randfontein (4) are going better. No reason to sell No. 3, and the American debentures should also be held. No option but to hold No. 6 for the present. *Russia.*—1. Amongst the better-class, Louisville, Milwaukee, and Atchison Prefs. would be the best to buy; and amongst the low-priced shares, Reading, Erie, Denver, Missouri, Kansas and Texas, and Ontario. 2. No. 3. A local concern, about which no information is available here. 4. No; I do not like De Lamar. 5. If you have a profit, take it. 6. No. *Bogton.*—1. You should hold your London and Globe and West Australian Exploring and Finance for a further rise, also Hannan's Props. Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure are very promising. I do not advise exchange out of one into the other. 2. The price of Jones & Higgins' shares is 2½. 3. Take your profit. *Volunteer, Lincoln.*—For the investment of your £500, I do not advise the cycle shares (1); but Nitrate Railway Mortgage bonds (3) and City of Monte Video bonds (2) should be suitable. Instead of Nos. 1 and 4, you might buy some of the new Uruguay Five per Cent. bonds at 70. *Subaltern, Whitchurch.*—1. In such cases it is generally advisable to join the reconstruction and sell after. 2. Not just now. 3. Too speculative. *F. T. J.*—1. No option but to hold these as American Rails generally are advancing. 2. There is no market for these shares yet, but they will probably settle shortly. 3. Yes. *S. M., Anerley.*—Your proposed small mining trust of Mainland Consols (1), Burbank's Birthday Gift (2), Buffelsdoorn (3), and Randfontein (4) is very promising. I do not like the Home investments you mention, and am not fond of cable property, which is not progressive nowadays. *Teign.*—1. Certainly hold for a recovery. 2. Yes. 3. Not just yet. *Derwent.*—You should hold your American gold bonds Nos. 1 and 2 for a recovery. No. 3 is a promising exploring Company. No. 4 is a fair mining risk; but No. 5 is no catch. *R. H. S.*—1. Yes, Uruguay bonds are a promising investment, and the new Five per Cent. bonds and the old 3½ per cents. rank *pari passu*, both having different securities; they are equally well secured. 2. No; Taitapu Estates are quite high enough. 3. I have no late news. *Sigil.*—1. I do not like Beestons, and warned my readers against them long ago. 2. West Australian Exploring and Finance should be held for an important rise, also Croydon Consols, West Australian Venture Syndicate, and Great Boulder South. 3. No reason to sell. 4. Join the reconstruction and sell after. 5. West Australian Gold Concessions are promising. *Caveat Emptor.*—1. You should hold this Argentine stock for an improvement. 2. Johnnies and Barnato Banks are likely to come right, and you should average your holding. 3. No reason to sell now. 4. Impossible to tell yet. 5. No option but to hold. 6. Yes. *T. W. L.*—No reason to sell the Railway stock, and you should certainly hold Baltimore and Ohio Terminal bonds.

Various Investments.

The Money Market still displays great strength in consequence of the gold shipments to the United States, and the rate for three months' bank bills has again advanced at one time to 1½ per cent., reacting to 1¼ per cent. Consols have stood their ground fairly well, being quoted $112\frac{9}{16}$ for cash. The following communication from a reader of Truth, who signs himself "A Beneficiary and a Trustee," opens up a question which it is well worth while for investors to study, and on which some of my readers will probably have something to say:—

As a trustee with funds to invest, and also as a beneficiary whose trustees are proposing to purchase Two and a Half per Cent. stock, may I ask you, for the sake of myself and others, to discuss or explain the enclosed point in your money article? You may, I think, feel that it involves a question of considerable public interest—the point as to the *comparative* prices of Consols and Government Two and a Half per Cents. Ought trustees to sell the latter and buy the former? Approximately, say, Consols are 112½, Two and a Half per Cents., 107½. Are the public, and many trustees, buying Two and a Half per Cents., or holding them, with the idea that there will be no reduction of interest, as with Consols, from 2¾ to 2½: in fact, with the idea that Two and a Half per Cents. are the stock of the future? But quite oblivious of the fact that the redemption of the Two and a Half per Cents. at par in 1905 is almost a certainty, because the total amount is only £32,000,000 (of which about 12 millions, according to a return of last session are held by Government). Such an amount as 20 millions, or even 32 millions, is so small that it surely will be redeemed without any difficulty in 1905. Any interference with 500 millions of Consols is quite a different matter, and so distant (1923) that it need not be considered in the present price. Consols at 112½, and paying 2¾ till 1903, are as if they cost 110¾ (very nearly), and paid 2½ per cent. from the present time; they practically pay $\frac{10}{11}$ of $\frac{5}{2}$, equal to $2\frac{3}{11}$ per cent., with a distant and very doubtful chance of redemption, or reduction of interest, in 1923. The Two and a Half per Cents. at 107½ pay $\frac{200}{215}$, equal to $\frac{40}{43}$ of $\frac{5}{2}$, equal to 2⅓ per cent. (very nearly); but if redeemed, as, for the reason stated, it seems they must be in 1905, there will be a loss of £7. 10s. in nine years, or about £$\frac{5}{6}$ per annum, and the rate of interest is reduced from 2⅓ to 2⅓ − $\frac{5}{6}$, equal to 1½ per cent. (approximately). Why should Two and a Half per Cents. be held to pay (in all probability) 1½ per cent. when Consols will pay $2\frac{3}{11}$, or, say, 2¼ per cent., to any trustees or others who may hold them?

Silver has been fairly steady, being quoted 30⅝d., and Rupee Paper has advanced to 64⅛. Nitrate Rails have maintained themselves at 7⅛, and the outlook for Nitrate Companies generally has somewhat improved, through a further arrangement which has been come to under the combination, fixing a limit of 20,100,000 quintals with a 2½ per cent. margin, for shipments from April 1, 1896, to March 31, 1897. There has, however, been hardly any movement in Nitrate-producing shares. The market for Cycle shares is slightly firmer, and from buying orders which have recently come in the market for Dunlop Deferred, it is evident that insiders are not afraid of the special settlement which is now in progress and at which the contango, opening at 2½d., finally went off to "even." Dunlop Deferred have now advanced to ¾ premium. Cycle Tubes have got over their special settlement, and are firmer at 1. I hear that the special settlement of the Singer Cycle Company will take place in the middle of this month; they are consequently lower at $\frac{1}{16}$ discount. Frank Tarrant & Co., 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., continue to boast of great successes, and in a circular dated September 5, they state that they have closed their Louisville "deal" at 237½ per cent. profit in five days. They still assert that in their long list of "deals" there is not one instance of a single failure. It is really very good of Frank Tarrant and Company thus to confer benefits upon their fortunate clients; but I should like to hear from some of the latter who have made all the profits without a single loss through Messrs. Frank Tarrant & Co. Another prophet has arisen under the name of Arthur Denny & Co., "Originators and Sole Proprietors of the famous Denny Co-operative Deposit System," 328, High Holborn, London, W.C. This is a gambling combination, and Denny & Co. boast of the "highly successful termination of their last month's operating at Spa." They are now forming the "Denny Co-operative Deposit Fund, from which fortnightly profits of from £18 to £40 per share, in addition to a regular coupon dividend of 5 per cent. monthly, may be relied upon;" but what would happen if the system upon which Denny & Co. are working, should go wrong, as is generally the case with such systems? The Royal London Investment Bank, 42, Charlwood-street West, South Belgravia, London, S.W., is to the front with a circular in which the statement is made that "founded on a former financial enterprise, which dates from April 28, 1890, it has now developed into the form of a Syndicate of honourable and experienced men of business, both commercial and financial, and is in most excellent business relationship with high-class bankers and financiers, whose valued recommendations and introductions are its main support." The capital of this ambitious concern is not stated, neither are the names of the directors given; although the name of the acting manager (Mr. Florance Wyndham) is furnished. Copies of two letters are subjoined, apparently in proof of the respectability of Mr. Wyndham, one of which is from Messrs Hoare & Co., of 37, Fleet-street, London, E.C., and according to which these gentlemen have written in a somewhat unusual manner, viz., "At the same time it is right to mention that the inquiries made as suggested by you, have been answered in a perfectly satisfactory manner as regards your personal character and antecedents." The Chief Cashier of the Bank of England, on December 10, 1894, also wrote the following letter to Mr. Wyndham, viz., "I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date, and in reply to inform you that the Bank will be happy to send you bank notes by post registered at your risk, whenever you may require them." I wonder whether Mr. Wyndham, by publishing this last letter, means to imply that the Bank of England would send him bank-notes simply on his application? In addition to these delighful testimonials, a special notice is also inserted that the "Bank" possesses great advantages in procuring life insurance, fire insurance, and the purchase of house property through the instrumentality of the Provident Association of London, Limited. Considering that I have repeatedly shown that life insurance and the purchase of house property can be carried out far

more satisfactorily through our leading life offices and high-class building societies, this latter paragraph seems to me to weaken the "splendid" testimonials from Messrs. Hoare & Co. and the Bank of England. It will be interesting to watch the progress of the Cape Colonisation Company, Limited, which proposes to establish on commercial, and in some respects on co-operative, principles, an extensive fruit farming, agricultural, and industrial colony in the Western Province of Cape Colony. In theory, the scheme looks very promising; how it will work out in practice remains to be seen, but if the undertaking should prove a success, it would doubtless be the forerunner of other enterprises established on a similar basis.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

LEGER-DE-MAINE.

"'DON'T BE WITHOUT MONEY!' Very excellent advice; and, unlike most other advice, everybody would willingly take it — if they could. Seems easy enough to manage, according to this advertisement, too! 'A gentleman wishes to lend £10,000, in sums of £5 to £500, on note of hand alone. Moderate interest. No tedious loan-office routine. No fees. Apply personally, or by letter, to Bernard Mervyn Ponsonby, Esq., 1, Jerusalem-row, E.C.' Any good writing to him? I trow not. Suppose he's on all fours with that money-lender whose advertisement I answered last week? Wouldn't look at me. Even my cloth wouldn't fetch him. Don't know what I shall do. There seems no chance of raising the wind. Must clear out of this shortly, too! Hilloa! What's that?"

"Lidy to see you, sir. Witin' in the 'orl," replied the small lodging-house maid, to whom the last question had been addressed.

"Who is she? What name did she give!"

"Wouldn't give no nime, sir; but she wants to see you most pertiklar. She's a stylish lidy, and looks most genteel."

"Oh, well—show her up," said the reverend gentleman, nodding.

The little maid disappeared to summon the visitor. His reverence threw down his newspaper, smoothed his hair before the glass, pulled the paper shields from his shirt-cuffs, and moved into the darkest part of the room, where the shabby seediness of his clerical black would be least noticeable. He was youngish, but his face was lined and careworn, and there was more than a sprinkling of grey in his black hair. Altogether, he gave the impression of being a worn and unsuccessful man—a type, unfortunately, too common among the ministers of the Established Church, which, while it contains, on the one hand, some of the sleekest divines in the world, can produce also, on the other, some of the leanest and hungriest.

Our reverend friend had scarcely completed his few trifling preparations before the lady visitor was shown in. As he bowed to her politely and drew forward a chair, he took a hasty, though interested survey of her face and appearance. Who *was* she? Was she some vicar's wife, come to engage his services on behalf of her husband? Many vicars' wives did, of course, engage the curates, and, for the matter of that, dismissed them as well. But no. This lady had nothing of the cut of a vicar's wife about her. She was young, good-looking, and (as the maid had said) stylish; three qualities seldom to be noted in a vicar's wife, even separately; and, in combination, altogether foreign to the species. And then another point. This lady had no managerial, masterful air about her; a circumstance sufficient of itself to negative the vicar's wife supposition. Her manner was courteous and apologetic. She addressed him in a tone which even bespoke humility. No! she was assuredly not the better-half of a beneficed clergyman.

"I trust," began the lady, "that you will pardon the liberty I have taken in calling upon you; but—but——"

"Oh! don't mention that, I beg," interposed our curate, blandly. "In what way can I serve you, my dear madam?"

"I—I—have come to you in—in your capacity as a minister of the Gospel. I wish to seek your advice."

The curate smiled encouragingly. He felt pleased and flattered. It is a pleasant thing for a young clergyman to have his advice earnestly sought by an attractive and stylish girl. Nothing is more calculated to make him feel benevolent and sympathetic.

"I will begin by asking you," said the young lady, fixing her eyes upon him anxiously, "what view you, as a minister of the Gospel, take of the practice of betting?"

"Of betting?" repeated the curate, evidently surprised at her question. "Surely, my dear lady, you cannot doubt what my answer will be?"

"That you condemn it?"

"Most unhesitatingly. Apart from its pernicious and disastrous consequences, betting is in itself a great sin; and I should not be doing my duty as a minister of the Gospel, if I were to pronounce any other opinion."

An expression of disappointment—almost of pain—passed over her face.

"Then you consider," she said, "that, from the point of view of a true Christian, the practice is, under any circumstances, indefensible?"

"I do not see," answered the curate, falling into professional phraseology, "how it could fail to be so. Sin is always sin. Circumstances can only palliate: they can never justify it."

"Not even if the bet was made for some good—some charitable purpose?"

The curate shook his head.

"We are expressly forbidden," he said, "to do evil that good may come."

"Well, I suppose that is the high line to take. But I—I—should just like to tell you the—the—exact circumstances which—which—have led to my coming and seeking your advice in this matter. You will then understand better the difficulty in which I am placed—the temptation to which I am exposed. Have you the time to spare me?"

"Oh, certainly; most certainly!" responded the curate, with heartiness. "For, though my opinion about betting is scarcely likely to be altered, I may at any rate be able to afford you counsel and comfort in your temptation and difficulty."

"You must know," explained the young lady, "that I have an only sister. Both our parents are dead; and she is, in fact, the one near relation I have in the world. She is married and has two children. Her husband, who is manager of a small branch of the Confederated Bank of London, has, I grieve to say, got into money difficulties, and—and—(this in the strictest confidence)—has been—been—tempted to—to—extricate himself by drawing upon the moneys of the bank."

"Ah! I see. Poor fellow!" interpolated the curate, sympathetically—with the sinner, of course, not with the sin; as a true Christian should.

"The bank has not yet discovered this," continued the young lady; "and until the next audit is not likely to do so. If, therefore, in the meantime my unhappy brother-in-law can replace the money, he will be all right. But the sum is a large one—£700, in fact—and he has no possible means of finding it."

"But surely," said the curate, as she paused, thinking he gathered the drift of her remarks, "for him to try to set himself right by betting, under these circumstances, would only——"

"There is no question of his betting," she interposed, quickly. "It is I who am thinking of doing so."

"You?"

"Yes. I am not well off. I earn only a small salary as a 'companion.' But I have £70 saved; and I believe I could invest that upon a horse so as to bring me in the requisite £700."

THE SANITARY ENGINEERING CO. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

She spoke quietly and with confidence. The curate could scarcely repress a smile. Her ingenuous simplicity amused him, inwardly, not a little.

"My dear young lady," he said, "leaving morality out of it, and regarding this matter simply as one of worldly prudence, you are obviously far more likely to lose your £70 than to win your £700. It seems to me, therefore—you will pardon my saying so—that your project is financially ill-advised, to say nothing of its being morally wrong. And——"

"But I don't agree that it *is* financially ill-advised," expostulated the young lady, eagerly. "You see, I have private information about this horse upon which I can absolutely rely. The—the—gentleman to whom I am engaged to be married" (she blushed and faltered slightly) "is an—an—intimate friend of Mr. John B——, the celebrated trainer, who has given him, in confidence, this excellent tip for the Leger. When I asked his advice yesterday about my poor brother-in-law's difficulties, he—my fiancé, I mean—told me that I could not do better than invest what I could afford upon this particular horse. He himself would have found the money, had he possessed it; but he only has a small income, and has a mother and sister to support. He firmly believes that this tip is what he calls 'a good thing,' and, as he justly pointed out, £70 would be practically useless to my poor brother-in-law; and so, even if I lose the money, he will be little worse off; whereas, if I win, he will be saved from a most dreadful fate. He advised me, however, to put the money on at once, before the public get hold of the tip, and the odds against the horse become greatly reduced. That has not yet happened, for I see in the paper to-day that they still quote him at 10 to 1. These are the exact circumstances. After having heard them, do you still, as a minister of the Gospel, advise me not to make the bet?"

"My dear young lady," replied the curate, feelingly, "you are placed in a very difficult position. I sympathise deeply with the temptation to which you are exposed. If I were to speak simply as a man, I could not do otherwise than concur in your unselfish project. But as a priest, I dare not—I dare not."

She regarded him intently with her large dark eyes. They were very earnest and eloquent.

"I believe you are right," she said. "Something tells me that you are right. You seem surprised at my consulting you. Ah! I have always made it my rule to seek spiritual direction in the important crises of my life; and, my own dear pastor being just now abroad for his holiday, I—I—do not think I wish to flatter you—to say anything that may—may seem forward, but I came to you particularly, because I had—had heard so much about your good work among the poor and afflicted, and I felt that in you I should have a—a truly Christian, unprejudiced adviser—one whose mind was not warped by the—the narrow limitations of a formal clericalism. Yes; there are those who have sounded your praises in my ear, little as you may think it. I—I have complete confidence in you. I accept your advice. I—I will not make that bet. But think of me—will you not? Pray for me, that I may have strength to persist in my resolve. And now good-bye—good-bye!"

Her voice quivered with emotion. Tears shone bright in her earnest eyes. Our curate seemed quite touched. He tried to say something consolatory, but before he could formulate the words, she was gone. It was as if a beam of sunshine had vanished from his dingy room.

He sat down again and lighted his pipe. Even in the priesthood a pipe is a grand panacea.

The curate ruminated for an hour or so over his baccy, and in the course of his ruminations smiled a good deal to himself with some inward amusement. But he was not left long undisturbed. Shortly there arrived his tea, which he qualified with brandy; and soon after that, the post, bringing a few bills; two solicitors' letters; three negative replies from friends in answer to applications for a "trifling loan of £5, to be repaid by next Saturday week at the latest;" a betting tout's circular, "Henry Maine, having lately invested his large capital in a Betting Agency, offers unusual facilities to the gentry, nobility, &c., &c." Our curate perused this communication in an aimless sort of way for several minutes; then he leaned forward and picked up the newspaper which lay on the floor at his side. "She said the horse was quoted to-day at 10 to 1," murmured our curate, reflectively. "Ah! here we are. Only one horse at that price, I see, for the Leger. Thunderbolt. A good thing, eh? Wonder if it is? And if it is, how divinely simple that angelic creature was!"

* * * * *

One morning, about ten days later, two persons, a lady and a gentleman, were drinking whisky "splits" in a first-floor room over a greengrocer's in Glasshouse-street. The lady's acquaintance has been already made; the gentleman was Henry Maine, betting agent.

"There is no doubt, old boy," she was saying, emphatically, "that the clergy are the primest gulls in existence. Let me see! What do the profits work out at?"

Henry Maine opened a pocket-book, and spelt out the following account:—

"Two—four—six—eight—ten vicars at £15 = £150. Eighteen at £10 = £180. Thirty curates at £5 = £150. Total, £480. A very pretty haul!"

"They have all paid up, too, haven't they?"

"All except one; though I've had to threaten several with the Bishop before I could get the oof. That one has promised to look in and pay me to-day. He had better, too," added Maine, menacingly.

"Ah! He was the last curate whom I went to see. A poor, beggarly wretch, and the primest flat of the lot. Ha! ha! ha! I did lay on the lard thick for him; and he swallowed it all, the mug!"

"Well—though I say it who shouldn't—our game was a very clever one. That money-lending advertisement of mine in the *Guardian*, you see, got us the names of the likely parsons for our purpose. And then your visit, to seek their advice as Ministers of the Gospel, when you so artfully worked in your 'cert' for the Leger, followed by my betting-agency circular, did the rest. Never was anything neater. Ha! ha! ha! Hilloa! was that the bell? Ah!" (going to the window) "here's our curate!"

"Then I'll make myself scarce!" said the lady, with a laugh, as she slipped through a side door into an adjoining room.

A minute later our curate entered.

"Good morning, Mr. Maine," he said, with a nod.

"Good morning, sir. I am glad to see that you have come to redeem your promise. It is always unpleasant to be obliged to enforce payment from customers; and, being used to dealing with gentlemen, who would scorn to keep a poor man waiting for his money, I——"

"Ah! you needn't go on," interrupted our curate, speaking with sudden curtness. "You can't hoodwink me, Mr. Maine. I may as well explain to you that you are caught in a trap. I am no clergyman. I'm Detective-Inspector Pinch, of Scotland-yard; and I hold a warrant for your arrest. No, sir. It's no use showing fight. Two officers are waiting now outside the door. Come in, there!" cried the detective, raising his voice.

Immediately, in answer to the summons, two constables, in plain clothes, entered the room. With a look of rage, dismay, and baffled cunning, Mr. Henry Maine realised that he was fairly trapped.

"Now I must search the premises," said the Inspector, briskly. "Hand over your keys, please."

The betting agent muttered something about seeing him damned first.

"Come, my man," said the Inspector, in a voice that evidently meant business. "Resistance will only make matters worse for you. Do you wish to be handcuffed and have the keys taken from you by force?"

Seeing that his position was hopeless, Maine sulkily, and very reluctantly, complied. The Inspector went up to a small safe which stood in the corner, and after trying over the keys, at length found the one that fitted. He opened the door, took out several rolls of bank-notes, cheques, and other documents, and proceeded to count them over. While he was thus engaged, he was suddenly disturbed by the sound of a scuffle in the room, and looking round saw the form of Henry Maine vanishing

through the open doorway, with both the plain clothes men after him. He heard a further scuffle on the stairs—a sound as of several men falling over one another—and then the patter of running footsteps on the pavement outside. They grew more and more distant. But the Inspector did not seem at all disturbed. He quietly applied himself to examining the papers which he had taken from the safe.

In about ten minutes the officers came back—without their prisoner.

"Got away?" inquired the Inspector, who, however, preserved an expression of great complacency under the escape of his captive.

"Clear away," said one of the constables; and then—the familiar fellow!—he actually winked at his superior officer.

"The lady has gone off, too, I believe?" remarked the Inspector, not appearing to resent his subordinate's liberty.

"I heerd her slip out some time previous!" and the ill-mannered constable winked again.

"So did I. Now I can dispense with your further services, my men. By the way, what did I promise you?"

"A fiver apiece, guv'nor?"

"Well, you managed so very cleverly *not* to recapture the prisoner that I'll make it a tenner. Here you are!"

The two men took their ten-pound notes, well satisfied, thanked their employer, and withdrew. The curate returned to his lodgings alone, chuckling mightily to himself as he went.

"Ah!" he soliloquised, "It was a sharp game of theirs, and if I had been a real cleric no doubt they would have 'had me on.' When I dubbed myself reverend, shaved my beard, and mounted the sables and choker, as a convenient disguise, I little expected this marvellous luck to result from it. Greek against Greek; and I was the Greekier! This year's Leger will always be associated in my mind with the name of Maine—a monumental instance of Leger-de-Main(e). Ha! ha! ha!"

MUSIC.

THE ARCHIEPISCOPAL DIPLOMA.

THE Lambeth Musical Degrees have often been satirised, but for a good joke it would be hard to beat the text of the Archiepiscopal diploma. It was read, it seems, over Dr. McNaught at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop, the candidate kneeling and being clothed by one of the chaplains with the Mus. Doc. hood while the Archbishop was going through his part in the performance. This precious document recites:—

> Whereas in schools regularly instituted that laudable Usage and Custom hath long prevailed, and that with the Approbation as well of the pure reformed Churches as of the most learned Men for many Ages past, that they who have with Proficiency and Applause exerted themselves in the Study of any Liberal Science should be graced with some eminent Degree of Dignity . . . . We, therefore, being vested with the authority aforesaid, and following the Example of our Predecessors, have judged it expedient, in consideration of your Uprightness of Life and Purity of Morals, that you be dignified with the Degree of Doctor of Music.

The diploma is worthy of the notice of Mr. Gilbert. Of all the quaint reasons for conferring upon a man the degree of Doctor of Music, "uprightness of life and purity of morals" appears to be the most extraordinary. Musical knowledge, it seems, is not required at all; in fact it is not mentioned in the diploma. The sole qualifications beyond the oath of allegiance, are "uprightness of life and purity of morals," so that, in all fairness, this degree should be conferred upon our clergy, our legislators, our judges, our policemen, and all good people generally.

In this document, by the way, which is too long to quote in its entirety, the Archbishop of Canterbury claims his anomalous power of granting degrees "by the public authority of the law." The term is vague, and I believe there is no law whatever in the matter, the Archbishop having, so far as the statutes are concerned, no more power to grant musical degrees than I have. The Archbishop, in the Roman Catholic times, claimed the right, as Legate of the Pope, to license teachers in Divinity apart from the Universities. The Bull of Gregory IX. in 1231 contained regulations for conferring the Papal Degrees in the Faculties of Arts, Medicine, Law and Theology, though there was not a word about music. However, the Lateran Council of 1179 enacted that no price was to be demanded by a Bishop for a licence to teach. This, of course, we have improved, and the Archbishops of Canterbury of the present day so far dissent from the Roman Catholic doctrine, in that they demand from Lambeth Degree holders the trifling fee of £63 a head. So much for the advance of civilisation.

By the way, a Doctor of Music had at one time a very quaint privilege. It was ordained at Cambridge in 1578 that no man, unless he were a Doctor, was allowed to wear any hood lined with silk. The penalty was 6s. 8d., and if the delinquent refused to pay this fine, he was to be punished by the Vice-Chancellor for "wilful perjury." What perjury had to do with the taste and texture of a man's head-gear is not quite obvious.

Among the numerous suggestions which have been made for an autumn season of opera at Covent Garden is one in which I believe Signor Leoncavallo, a brother of the composer, is interested. With certain Italian capitalists this gentleman, I am told, proposes to take the theatre for a short season to produce Leoncavallo's "Chatterton," "I Medici," and other novelties, with a company at the head of which Signor Tamagno would be. There are also one or two other schemes, and it is, perhaps, a pity that Mr. Mapleson, who has organised a company to play in the United States towards the end of next month, did not have a short preliminary season in London. Any autumn season in fact, can only be a short one, for the theatre will be wanted before Christmas for the fancy dress balls. Autumn opera, particularly if adequate performances were given at cheap prices, used at one time to be a very profitable speculation. There is no reason why it should not be so again, and at any rate the time would seem to be ripe for a six weeks' season with a good company, but without expensive stars, although with a due proportion of novelties and at popular prices. Signor Leoncavallo, it is understood, has not yet signed contracts, but there is nevertheless good reason to hope that his season at Covent Garden will come off.

The Worcester Festival, which began on Sunday with the usual service in the Cathedral, boasts this year only one genuine novelty, the oratorio, "The Light of Life," by Mr. Elgar, of Malvern. The prospects of the festival are said to be fairly good, though of course the recent epidemic in the neighbouring city of Gloucester is not likely to improve business. Still, the county families are doing their best, and the list of noble and other guests invited for the festival week filled a couple of columns of the local papers on Monday.

The new edition of "The Little Genius," which was given at the Shaftesbury on Saturday night, is not very much better than the old. Mr. Lonnen, it is true, has worked up the fun, but this is the ordinary practice of comedians, who, in musical comedy, rarely develop their gags until after the piece has had some sort of run. The second act of "The Little Genius" has been rewritten, mainly, I suppose, in order to introduce the variety element. It comes in very comically sometimes. A gentleman, for example, happens casually to meet a lady acquaintance at Ostend, and exclaims, "Hallo! it's a long time since I saw you in Edinburgh." "Yes," she replies, "and then I danced like this," whereupon the skittish young damsel commences a skirt dance on the sea front, the gentleman meanwhile whistling the tune. Again, apparently in the middle of the afternoon during the fashionable season, the sky darkens—it may be a thunderstorm—and the electric lights disclose the Moulin-Rouge quadrille quartet, at their head La Goulue in yellow dress and displaying a profusion of black

stocking, cerise garter, and lingerie generally. La Goulue and her associates, if not particularly good dancers, are almost acrobatic high kickers. Miss St. John, who was in poor voice but in high spirits, now for the first time assumes the part of Paola. There is a good deal of make-believe in musical comedy, but to suppose Miss Florence St. John, sprightly as she is, to be a small boy of twelve requires strong imagination indeed.

The death of Miss Alexandra Ehrenberg was inexpressively sad. This young lady, who had a class of nearly 100 pupils at the Guildhall School of Music, had just been promoted from the lowest to the intermediate grade, so that while earning the same salary, she might have avoided the hard work which beyond much question contributed to her fatal illness.

Mr. Wallworth, one of the best teachers at the Guildhall School and also of the Royal Academy of Music, has rather suddenly announced his intention of retiring into private life. He has made his pile, and proposes at the end of this month to go to South Africa, where he has relations, and perhaps another fortune in the goldfields. Mr. Wallworth in early life was a baritone of Miss Kelly's Theatre (the present Royalty), and he was one of the first members of the Pyne and Harrison Company. For the last thirty years, however, he has devoted himself to teaching, one of his most successful pupils being Mme. Alwina Valleria.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—In one of the most interesting of the "Heroes of the Nations" series, "Jeanne D'Arc" (1), Mrs. Oliphant, who is always "on the side of the angels," makes an astonishing defence of the divine "voices" which misled the Maid to her martyrdom:—

> The voices of God—how can we deny it?—are often, though in a loftier sense, like those fantastic voices that keep the word of promise to the ear, but break it to the heart. They promised her a great victory; and she had it, and also the fullest deliverance: but only by the stake and by the fire, which were not less dreadful to Jeanne than to any other girl of her age. They did not speak to deceive her, but she was deceived; they kept their promise, but not as she understood it. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them and embraced them." Jeanne, too, was persuaded of them, but was not to receive them—except in the other way.

Now, putting aside the case in which the "voices" were not only deceiving, but deceived, when they supposed the King of England to be, not the helpless little child he was, but a strong and resolute man, and promised Jeanne untruly that she should be brought before him; putting this case aside, and taking that only which is cited and justified by Mrs. Oliphant—the equivocation which entrapped Jeanne to her martyrdom. If the "voices did not speak to deceive her," why, upon perceiving that she was deceived, did they not undeceive her? If, on the other hand, they did speak to deceive her by a base and gross equivocation, why should it not be at least as true in heaven as on earth:—"That a lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies"? As for the text cited by Mrs. Oliphant as illustrative and justificative of the trick played on Jeanne, and worthy only of "those juggling fiends that palter with us in a double sense," it is, of course, preposterously inapplicable. "Those who all died in faith" were not promised bread, and given a stone; but promised bread which they expected for supper, but were to get only after they had slept the sleep of the righteous, for breakfast. While on the subject of the heroes of the nations, I ought to tell you that one of the most interesting books about the most interesting of these heroes, "Constant's Memoirs of Napoleon" (2) has just been for the first time translated, and admirably translated, too, into English by Mr. Percy Pinkerton. It is no exaggeration to say that, with the exception of the rather stupid and spiteful "Souvenirs of a Lady-in-Waiting," which, without any rhyme, reason, preface or preparation, are thrust impertinently into the second volume, there is not a single dull page in these memoirs. Napoleon was unquestionably a hero to his valet de chambre, for Constant, who had been his head valet during all the years of his glory, adored him. At the same time, it must be admitted that Constant was not a stern, unbending *censor morum*. Can anything be more delightfully naïve, for instance, than his definition of immorality?

> The Emperor used to say that one might know a virtuous man by the way he treated his wife, his children, and his servants; and I hope that from these memoirs it will be seen that in this respect the Emperor, from his point of view, behaved like a virtuous man. In fact, he used to affirm that immorality was a monarch's most dangerous vice, for he had to make laws for his subjects.

But here, bethinking himself, no doubt, of the countless occasions when he "Sir Pandarus of Troy became" to his Master, the worthy Constant adds:—

> Doubtless by "immorality" he meant being found out—scandalous publicity given to intrigues which ought to be kept secret. As for the intrigues themselves, if they happened to come in his way he thought no more about them than anybody else.

Less, rather. Towards his servants, at all events, Napoleon was "the virtuous man" here defined, and I cannot resist quoting one instance of his consideration, not so much because of its intrinsic interest, as because of its refutation of the "monster of selfishness" idea of the Emperor.

> The Emperor went out about eleven, and remained away three or four hours. I sat down in his arm-chair near his writing-table to wait for him, and was so tired that I fell fast asleep, my head resting on my hands. When the Emperor came in with Roustan and Marshal Berthier I heard nothing. The Marshal was going to rouse me, and make me get out of his Majesty's chair, but the Emperor prevented him, saying, "Let the poor fellow sleep; he's been up for ever so many nights."
>
> Then, as there was no other chair, the Emperor sat down on the edge of his bed, bidding the Marshal follow his example. He chatted with him for a long time, while I continued to sleep. But as he wanted one of the maps on which my elbows were resting, his Majesty tried to pull it gently away. Though he did this as carefully as possible, he woke me, and I at once got up in great confusion and with profound apologies.
>
> "Monsieur Constant," said the Emperor, with a kindly smile, "I am so sorry I disturbed you; pray excuse me."

Surely the "Monsieur," used only and considerately on this occasion, deserves the emphasis here laid upon it by the valet. The chamber light by which Constant saw, as by X rays, every intimate movement of his master is at least as trying as "the fierce light which beats upon a throne;" yet it certainly shows Napoleon to advantage as domestically amiable and even lovable. The association of names must excuse my sudden drop from these fascinating memoirs to the Princess Laura Bonaparte's novel, "The Greek E" (3), a melodramatic tale in which crime and madness are made to hang, so to say, by a hair-trigger. The plot itself turns upon a hinge so slight as the detection of an anonymous post-card writer by his use of the Greek, in place of the English "e" in his correspondence—not at all an uncommon usage. Do you remember the "Punch" bonnet, advertised as "to be worn with the mouth partly open"? Here is a parallel passage from "The Greek E."

> She returned with a bewitching smile that became her bonnet well.

Mrs. Alexander's "A Winning Hazard" (4) is to the Princess Laura Bonaparte's sentimental melodrama "as moonlight is to sunlight, and as water is to wine." It is, in truth, milk for babes, and might well have had prefixed to it the Byronic motto:—

> O mirth and innocence! O milk and water!
> Ye happy mixtures of more happy days.

Mr. H. A. Hinkson's "O'Grady of Trinity" (5), on the other hand, is a rollicking story of University life, as

(1) "Jeanne d'Arc." Her Life and Death. By Mrs. Oliphant. ("Heroes of the Nations Series."). (London: G. P. Putnam's Sons.) Price 5s.
(2) "Memoirs of Constant, the Emperor Napoleon's Head Valet." Now first translated by Percy Pinkerton. 4 vols. (London: H. S. Nichols.)
(3) "The Greek E." By the Princess Laura Bonaparte. (London: H. S. Nichols.)
(4) "A Winning Hazard." By Mrs. Alexander. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.) Price 3s. 6d.
(5) "O'Grady of Trinity." A story of Irish University Life. By H. A. Hinkson. (London: Lawrence & Bullen, Ltd.) Price 3s. 6d.

exhilarating through the inspiration of its animal spirits as a College wine party.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You, who are so excellent a sailor, can scarcely imagine what an odious sensation is that of sea-sickness. But I will draw a veil over its horrors and endeavour to forget them as rapidly as possible, since they have again to be encountered before very long. We left Folkestone for Boulogne on Monday morning and had a two hours' passage, the last twenty minutes of which were made uneasy by a troubled, choppy sea. I am using the mildest language I can think of to describe emotions that are highly disagreeable. Perhaps the time-honoured custom of adapting or paraphrasing Shakespeare to the occasion, is the best to follow. You remember when King Lear says "Down! down! thou climbing sorrow"? That seems rather appropriate, I fancy.

We were glad of some mutton cutlets at the Hôtel Meurice at Boulogne, and afterwards enjoyed an hour's delicious repose on downy couches, free from the troubled tossing of the boat. The station is only five minutes' walk from the hotel, and we were soon on our way to Dieppe, a long journey by rail, but we preferred that to the longer crossing *viâ* Newhaven. Being already at Folkestone, it seemed as easy to have the railway journey in France, and also more interesting, because more novel. And it is so nice to be able to see the land for which one is making. There is something consolatory about it. On the principle of "Le roi est mort; vive le roi!" we nodded adieux to the cliffs of England, and in the next moment "How d'y do?" to those of France. Clare and Bee would have made a good representation of a feminine Janus, as they sat side by side on deck; the more sentimental Clare with her face turned to England, and the vivacious, eager Bee on the look-out for France.

The first un-English thing we noticed was a man on his knees weeding in his little garden. The English peasant never kneels over his agricultural processes. He bends his poor back.

Do the French speak really more rapidly than we do? Or is what appears to us as frightful velocity simply the outcome of our own want of familiarity with their language? Do we speak as quickly to their ears as they to ours? For instance, our route lay past Etaples on the direct line du Nord, and we were told to change at "Aville," as it sounded to us. But when we looked it out in the railway guide we had bought, we found it was "Abbeville," rattled out with immense celerity. I suppose the English "Marylebone," "Shoeburyness," and "Cirencester" would sound equally abbreviated and puzzling to a foreigner. The country up to Abbeville was rather flat, so far as we could see from the railway, though pretty enough. Afterwards the views on either side were often lovely, though the train frequently ran us through deep cuttings with nothing but high stony banks to be seen. There had been rain, and the exquisite verdure of the undulating hills was most refreshing to the eyes after these deep cuttings, which seem actually to annoy the sight. The variety of trees was another feature in the beauty of the landscape. Tall poplars predominate, but there are grand old chestnuts, oaks, and elms, with silver birches, beeches beginning to wear their golden yellow autumn tints, and here and there a cluster of dark pines throwing the varied tones of green into beautiful relief.

As we approached Eu the scenery became grand, the hills rising higher, the forests growing thicker. A wide curve on the railway permits the traveller to see Eu from some two or three miles off, with its cathedral, the town being situated on the side of a very high hill, part of an extensive range which is covered by a dense forest. We longed, again and again, for a kodak.

At Eu we changed for Dieppe, and were glad to do so, for our carriage had been invaded by a family of children bound for Tréport, with spades and pails, and suffering from, or enjoying—whichever you like—a terrible restlessness of joyous anticipation which made them extremely shrill, besides causing them to knock their implements of pastime against our knees and to tread frequently on our feet. They were pretty children, however, so we forgave them much that, I fear, we should have resented had they been less interesting to look at.

On the way from Eu to Dieppe the scenery is worth going far to see. The hills are very high, and the valleys with their tall trees, winding rivers, little hamlets, picturesque villages, wooden bridges, brown cattle, the exquisite green of the meadows and their variety of trees, kept us interested throughout a rather tiring journey. We preferred to go first to our furthest point, Dieppe, returning towards Boulogne by easy stages. Richard like horses, is happier when his face is set towards home.

Arrived at Dieppe, we went straight to our hotel, which is near the Casino and opposite the theatre. We were too late for table d'hôte, but our "square party" was soon accommodated with an excellent square meal.

The girls professing to feel perfectly fresh, we all made our way to the Casino afterwards, and enjoyed the sight of the green tables where the people were betting on the petits chevaux, some with a perfect absorption of deepest interest, others with countenances expressive of nothing deeper than amused curiosity. The costumes of some of the ladies made us open our eyes and exchange looks of wonderment with each other. We did not dare to remark upon anything in audible language, for we heard English spoken all round us. The Casino is a magnificent building, opposite a grand old gateway, one of the few remaining relics of the fortifications that once protected Dieppe. Besides the large hall there is a fine corridor on either side of the petits chevaux room, and as it is all splendidly lighted, the fine toilettes are seen to perfection. People of every nationality appear to foregather here. We have heard German, Italian, Spanish, and Dutch since we came. There are some lovely faces to be seen daily on the Plage and nightly at the Casino, but some of the handsomest are, as usual, spoiled by their owners in the endeavour to improve upon Nature. However, this all tends to variety for the spectator and we are far from grumbling at circumstances that render the scene so animated, so interesting and so productive of oceans of conversation and comment afterwards.

There is, for instance, a handsome girl, a brunette, who visits the rooms with her dark-complexioned husband. She has fine features and one of those complexions that light up well at night, but are occasionally sallow by daylight. She wears a costume of deep, warm red, turned back with collar and lapels completely covered with lace in the deepest cream tint. It is most effective. Her hat, however, is rather too much so, being quite a foot in height on the side, where a huge panache of feathers stands erect like a family of waves crystallised and frozen in the act of breaking. At the tables the other evening, a tall and handsome blonde stood next this girl and made an excellent contrast to her. She was dressed in pink from head to foot, her gown being most elaborately made, with a whole army of half-inch tucks ranged in companies of seven round the skirt, the bodice being trimmed to match, with the tucks running horizontally to match those on the skirt. She had a lovely diamond star-brooch fastened in the waves of softest pink chiffon that rippled downwards from her neck, and another diamond brooch held the end of this cascade just above the waist. Her sleeves, all tucks, finished at the elbows and were met by long white suède gloves, which must have measured

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certainly a yard in length, in such a multiplicity of folds did they lie beneath the sleeves. Her hat was a mass of real Brussels lace, with pink roses and white ostrich feathers. Such a hat! Bee has been raving about it ever since. The roses stood erect and tall, such lovely pink ones, and the beautiful lace made them look like real somehow.

You should see the pretty toilettes on the Plage, both morning and afternoon. There is something in the way a French woman puts on and wears her clothes which far surpasses the ordinary English woman's efforts in that direction. The French woman holds herself so well, keeps her back so straight, poises her head so well on her shoulders, and keeps the shoulders so flat, the elbows so well back, that she does good justice to the efforts of her tailor and dressmaker, to say nothing of her corsetière. Our own country women incline to lounge, to sink somehow towards the waist, with a result of round shoulders and sunken chest. It is a pity it should be so, for the English figure is generally, apart from carriage, conceived on finer lines.

The prettiest promenade costume we have seen is a shepherd's plaid, with plain skirt, but with the coat turned back with green cloth in the shade of a laurel leaf, and the front filled in with a vest to match, fastened with small brown buttons. The hat is white straw, with a trimming of variegated petunias and begonias, deftly imitated from nature. Another good costume is blue "corkscrew," the new material, with red facings, and on it narrow lines of white braid, arranged horizontally on the revers, and perpendicularly on the collars, of which there are two, a deep one couchant, and a narrow one rampant, to seize a simile from heraldry.

We find ourselves so well amused here that we have almost abandoned the idea of going to Trouville. Richard has to be in London on the 15th, so after a week of Dieppe we shall begin to toddle homewards, visiting two or three places of interest on our way, and very probably the girls and I will stay longer in France than Richard.

Both language and coinage bother him. He is so intensely British, too, that he is already longing for "a cut from a joint." We three, on the contrary, are pleased with the change, and I am certain you will envy us when I tell you that some friends who entertained us on September 2 gave us *perdrix aux choux* at lunch, and *perdrix aux choux-fleurs* at dinner. Such luxury, you will say, especially on the day after partridge shooting begins, and they were such dear, plump and toothsome little birds.

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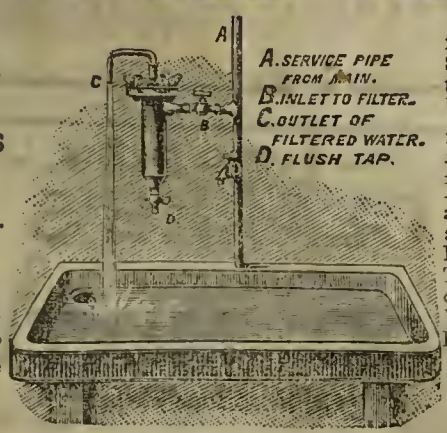

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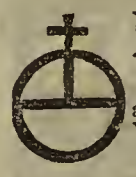

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JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is Hereby Given that a further DIVIDEND of 10 per Cent. (2s. per share) has been DECLARED, making 25 per cent. for the year ending 30th JUNE, 1896. The Dividend will be paid to Shareholders registered on that date, so soon as the Johannesburg and London share registers have been agreed.

By order,
T. HONEY, London Secretary.

7, Lothbury, London, E.C.
1st September, 1896.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Transfer Books of this Company will be Closed from the 14th to the 28th September, 1896 (both dates inclusive), for the purpose of balancing the Share Ledgers in connection with the proposed issue of 200,000 new shares. A circular will be sent to the shareholders, with application forms, shortly after the 28th September.

By Order,
THOMAS HONEY, London Secretary.

7, Lothbury, E.C.
7th September, 1896.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best EPIGRAM, CONUNDRUM, LIPOGRAM, BOUTS-RIMÉS, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the TRUTH OFFICE by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. ALL NEW CONTRIBUTORS ARE REQUIRED TO FORWARD WITH THEIR FIRST ANSWERS THEIR REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR REGISTRATION; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. COMPETITORS MUST ON NO ACCOUNT CHANGE THEIR NOMS-DE-PLUME THEY HAVE ONCE ASSUMED.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," CARTERET-STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S-GATE, S.W.

SPECIAL NOTICE. — THE COMING "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

As some readers of TRUTH may have failed to notice the announcement which appeared on this page last week, let me repeat that the Dolls have arrived, and are now ready for distribution. Will those kind ladies who intend to assist in dressing these Dolls for the Show at Christmas be good enough, therefore, to make their applications as soon as possible? The Dolls, as in former years, are of two sizes, and ladies in applying should state how many of each they are willing to dress.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

I have delayed making the announcement in this case, as I had hoped to publish a further selection of the lists of names received. As, however, a chance has not been forthcoming, I now publish the name of the prize-winner and the names suggested by him for the yearlings. The subjoined list, I may add, cannot be considered quite satisfactory, but it seems to me, after very long consideration, the best of the hundreds which I received, and the prize is therefore awarded to W. W. P., on condition that none of the following names already belong to horses now in training.

THE PRIZE LIST OF NAMES FOR 12 YEARLINGS.

as particularised in TRUTH for July 23:—

1. Miss Veneering. 2. Macadam. 3. Rhodesia. 4 Divorce. 5. Nostrum. 6. Repartee. 7. Sudden Death. 8. Sword Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Mr. Streeter. 11. Charley's Aunt. 12. Magda.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 916.

The prize in this competition has been awarded to VOX, whose Epitaph was printed on page 630 of TRUTH, for September 3.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 920.

I am reminded by several correspondents that the time has come to repeat a competition which has on several former occasions proved successful about this time of the year. Holiday-keepers, especially, will appreciate the chance thus given, for the usual prize of Two Guineas is offered for

THE BEST DESCRIPTION, IN TWENTY LINES OF RHYMED DECASYLLABIC VERSE, OF SOME FAVOURITE WATERING PLACE.

I need scarcely explain that by "decasyllabic verse" is meant the ten-syllabled metre, often described as "heroic," in which Pope and Dryden wrote so much of their poetry. In using this metre competitors are at liberty to finish some or all of their lines with a double rhyme, though by so doing they will, of course, increase the number of syllables to eleven in the lines thus ended. Each line must rhyme with some other line in the composition, and all answers must be received by me by the morning of Monday, September 21, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JEFF.—The misprint was an obvious one. The date in your epitaph should have been 1896, and not 1886.

BINKS.—Thanks.

CLEAR.—Your duplicate answer reached me in due course.

L. C. B.—I altogether fail to see the relevancy of your complaint.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 917.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

QUOTATIONS TENDING TO SUGGEST THAT SHAKESPEARE HAD AN ANTICIPATORY KNOWLEDGE OF THE AUTO-CAR.

He is pure air and fire; and the dull elements of earth and water never appear in him, but only in patient stillness, while his rider mounts him (Henry V., act iii., sc. 7).—Our Dodd, Polly Toodle, and Speedwell.

Hors'd upon the sightless couriers of the air Macbeth, act i., sc. 7).—Gervase.

The want is but to put those powers in motion that long to move.—(Cymbeline, act iv., sc. 3).—Pansy, Six Knobs, and Merle.

The carriages, in faith, are very dear to fancy, very responsive to the hills . . . . and of very liberal conceit." "What call you the carriages?" (Hamlet, act v., sc. 2).—C. M. P., Taurus, Pax, Merle, Econanore.

A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse (King Richard III., act v., sc. 4.—Tamarisk, Impéricuse, Cheshire Cat, Jeff, and Utis.

Osrick: Most delicate carriages and of very liberal conceit. Hamlet: What call you the carriages? (Hamlet, act v., sc. 2.)—Denny.

And then it started like a guilty thing, Upon a fearful summons (Hamlet, act i., sc. 1).—A. A. A. A.

Farewell the neighing steed (Othello, act iii., sc. 3).—Thanatopsis, Hobbima, Nitram, Antelope, Taurus, Speedwell.

It is shaped, sir, like itself: and it is as broad as it hath breadth: it is just so high as it is, and moves with its own organs (Antony and Cleopatra, act ii., sc. 7).—Bede.

Then marvel not, thou great and complete man. . . . Since things in motion, sooner catch the eye, than what not stirs (Troilus, and Cressida, act iii., sc. 2)—C.

It is shaped, sir, like itself: and it is as broad as it hath breadth: it is just as it is, and moves with its own organs: it lives by that which nourisheth it: and the elements once out of it, it transmigrates (Anthony and Cleopatra, act ii., sc. 7).—Hesta.

Let go thy hold, when a great wheel runs down a hill, lest it break thy neck with following it; but the great one that goes up the hill, let him draw thee after (King Lear, act ii., sc. 4).—Anon.

Go in with me; and counsel every man the aptest way for safety, and revenge: get posts, and letters, and make friends with speed (King Henry IV., act i., sc. 1).—Gollywog.

And pity like a naked new-born babe striding the blast; or heaven's cherubim, horsed upon the sightless couriers of the air (Macbeth, act i., sc. 7).—H. H.

Moves with its own organs: it lives by that which nourisheth it: and the elements once out of it: it transmigrates (Anthony and Cleopatra, act ii., sc. 7).—Esperanza.

1. She creeps. Her motion and her station are as one; she shows a body, rather than a life (Anthony and Cleopatra, act iii., sc. 3). 2. It is a massy wheel Fixed on the summit of the highest mount To whose huge spokes ten thousand lesser things Are mortised and adjoined (Hamlet, act iii., sc. 3).—Nitram.

Like youthful steers unyok'd they take their course—east, west, north, south—or like a school broke up each hurries towards his home.—2 Henry IV., act iv., sc. 2.—Spencer.

It seems that the first information of locomotion by auto-car was brought to Shakespeare by a correspondent, for he says—"I have heard of riding wagers, Where horses have been nimbler than the sands That run i' the clock's behalf" (Cymbeline, act iii., sc. 2). This evidently aroused his imagination so that he saw the motor-car, either in reality or else in dream, for he says—"I know thee well, though never seen before, Be not amaz'd, there's nothing hid from me" (Henry VI., Part I., act i., sc. 2). And again—"In open market-place produced

they one To be a public spectacle to all" (Henry VI., Part I., act i., sc. 4), which evidently refers to the Crystal Palace exhibition. And yet again—"I saw young Harry . . . . Rise from the ground like feather'd Mercury [And vaulted with such ease into his seat] As if an angel dropp'd down from the clouds, To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus" (Henry IV., Part I., act iv., sc. 1).—Initium.

Why, here's a change indeed! (Measure for Measure, act i., sc. 2). What need we any spur? (Julius Cæsar, act ii., sc. 1). Farewell the neighing steed (Othello, act iii., sc. 3).—Pelican.

Let there be some more test made of my metal, Before so noble and so great a figure Be stamp'd upon it (Measure for Measure, act i., sc. 1). You must borrow me Gargantua's mouth first: 'tis a word too great for any mouth of this age's size (As You Like It, act iii., sc. 2). You must not make the full show of this till you may do it without controlment (Much Ado About Nothing, act i., sc. 3). Make not impossible That which but seems unlike: 'tis not impossible (Measure for Measure, act v., sc. 1).—Verbum Sat.

You must live, drawn by your own sweet skill (Sonnet, xvi., 14).—Lemuel.

Moves like an engine . . . . and his hum is a battery (Coriolanus, act v., sc. 4).—Lemuel, Nin Nin.

As true as truest horse that yet would never tire (Midsummer Night's Dream, act iii., sc. 1).—Eleanor Hazle, Light, and Vindex.

O Phœbus hadst thou never given consent, that Phaeton should check thy fiery steeds, thy burning car never had scorched the earth (Henry VI., Part III., act ii., sc. 6.)—Blois and Auntie Ray.

Wilt thou aspire to guide the heavenly car, and with thy daring folly burn the world? (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1).—Heurteloup and J. McGrigor Allan.

Beshrew your heart for sending me about, to catch my death with jaunting up and down (Romeo and Juliet, act ii., sc. 5.)—Noel.

When he walks, he moves like an engine, and the ground shrinks before his treading (Coriolanus, act v., sc. 4).—Ivanhoe.

It is a creature that I teach. . . . to stop, to run directly on; his (its) corporal motion governed by my spirit (J. Cæsar, act iv., sc. 1).—Vindex.

For from his metal was his party steel'd; . . . and as the thing that's heavy in itself, upon enforcement, flies with greatest speed (Henry IV., Part II., act i., sc. 1).—Ling-Ling.

Haled thither by most mechanical and dirty hand (2nd Henry IV., act v., sc. 5). In winged speed no motion shall I know: there can no horse with my desire keep pace (Sonnet 51). O you leaden messengers that ride upon the violent speed of fire (All's Well, act iii., sc. 2).—Merle.

Why, Phæton (for thou art Merop's son), wilt thou aspire to guide the heavenly car, and with thy daring folly burn the world? (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1).—S. L. and Speedwell.

A chariot of an inestimable value (Pericles, act ii., sc. 4).—Hobbima and Speedwell.

He goes before me and still dares me on: when I come where he calls, then he is gone. The villain is much lighter-wheel'd than I: I follow'd fast, but faster he did fly (Midsummer Night's Dream, act ii., sc. 2).—Theology.

O for a horse with wings! (Cymbeline, act iii., sc. 2). I have heard of riding wagers, where horses have been nimbler than the sands that run i' the clock's behalf. But this is foolery (Ibid).—J. McGrigor Allan.

A piece of work so bravely done, so rich, that it did strive in workmanship and value; which I wonder'd, could be so rarely and exactly wrought, since the true life on 't was (Cymbeline, act ii., sc. 4).—A. E. L.

The thing that's heavy in itself, upon enforcement flies with greater speed (2 Henry IV., act i., sc. 1). It is a creature that I teach to fight, to wind, to stop, to run directly on, his corporal motion governed by my spirit (Julius Cæsar, act iv., sc. 1).—Nin Nin.

And doubt not but success will fashion the event in better shape than I can lay it down in likelihood (Much Ado About Nothing, act iv., sc. 1).—Nemesis.

Nay, keep your way, little gallant; you were wont to be a follower; but now you are a leader (Merry Wives of Windsor, act iii., sc. 2). It goes on I see, as my soul prompts it (The Tempest, act i., sc. 2).—Auntie Ray.

For O, for O, the hobby horse is forgot (Hamlet, act iii., sc. 2).—Mickey-Doodle and Gollywog.

We the globe can compass soon, swifter than the wandering moon (Midsummer Night's Dream act iv., sc. 1).—Light and M. P. B.

For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck your kings, carry them here and there, jumping o'er times, turning the accomplishments of many years into an hour-glass (King Henry V., Prologue).—Fritz.

Why a horse can do no more (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act ii., sc. 1).—E. Culverhouse.

Then can no horse with my desire keep pace (Sonnet 51, line 9).—Antelope.

Their carriage ride, as they did battery to the spheres intend (A Lover's Complaint, stanza 4). Of posting is no need (Sonnet 51).—M. E. W.

Oh for a horse with wings! Hearest thou, Pisanio? He is at Milford Haven: If one of mean affairs May plod it in a week, why may not I Glide thither in a day? (Cymbeline, act iii., sc. 2).—Philomel and Cyclist.

O heaven! That one might read the book of fate and see the revolution of the times (2 Henry IV., act iii., sc. 1).—Dorset.

The ne'er-yet beaten horse of Parthia we have jaded out of the field (Anthony and Cleopatra, act iii., sc. 1).—Pax.

1. Dire combustion. . . . new hatched to the woful time (Macbeth act ii., sc. 2). 2. Double, double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble (Macbeth act iv., sc. 1).—Mickey Doodle.

Down, down I come like glistering Phaeton, wanting the manage of unruly jades (K. Richard II., act iii., sc. 3.).—Culpepper.

O for a horse with wings (Cymbeline, act iii., sc. 2).—Pansy.

They sell the pasture now, to buy the horse. . . . With winged heels, as English Mercuries, for now sits Expectation in the air (K. Henry V., chorus).—Francis.

1. Thus the Whirligig (Twelfth Night, act v., sc. 1). 2. Come my coach (Hamlet, act iv., sc. 4). 3. For O, for O the hobby horse (Hamlet, act iii., sc. 2). 4. To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus (Henry IV., Part I., act iv., sc .1).—Hibernian.

Which she with pretty and with swimming gait, would imitate, and sail upon the land, to fetch me trifles and return again as from a voyage, rich with merchandise (Midsummer Night's Dream, act ii., sc. 2).—Lily Hazle.

In this, the antique and well-noted face of plain old form is much disfigured (King John, act iv., sc. 2 21, 22). Diseased nature oftentimes breaks forth in strange eruptions (King Henry IV., Part I., act iii., sc. 1, 26, 27). It is a beast for Perseus: he is pure air and fire (King Henry V., act iii., sc. 7, 20). Service shall with steeled sinews toil (King Henry V., act ii., sc. 2, 36).—Kilwarlin.

To draw with idle spiders' strings most ponderous and substantial things (Measure for Measure, act iii., sc. 2).—Dombey.

I go, I go; look, how I go; swifter than arrow from the Tartar's bow (Midsummer Night's Dream, act iii., sc. 2).—M. P. B.

Then should I spur though mounted on the wind; in winged speed no motion should I know: there can no horse with my desire keep pace (Sonnet 51).—Utis.

Where is the horse? (Merchant of Venice, act ii., sc. 6). Turn and wind a fiery Pegasus (Henry IV., act iv., sc. 1). Wilt thou aspire to drive the heavenly car? (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1).—Pax.

(To the horse): And still, as you are weary of the weight, Rest you. . . . (King Richard III., act i, sc. 2.) We do it wrong, being so majestical, To offer it the show of violence; For it is, as the air, invulnerable; And our vain blows malicious mockery. . . . (Hamlet, act i, sc. 1.)—Arch. Gibbs.

1. Why 'tis the rarest argument of wonder that hath shot out in our latter times (All's Well that Ends Well, act ii., sc. 3). 2. For goodness' sake, consider what you do; how you may hurt yourself, ay, utterly. . . . by this carriage (King Henry VIII., act iii., sc. 1).—Polly Toodle.

I saw young Harry . . . . as if an angel dropped down from the clouds to turn and wind a fiery Pegasus, and witch the world with noble horsemanship (King Henry IV., act i., sc. 4).—Francis.

This is a gift that I have. Simple, simple; a foolish extravagant spirit, full of forms, figures, shapes, objects, ideas, apprehensions, motions, revolutions (Love's Labour's Lost, act. iv., sc. 2).—In dubiis.

The sightless couriers of the air (compressed) (Macbeth, act i., sc. 7).—Utis.

That it may please you to give quiet pass through your dominions for this enterprise, on such regards of safety and allowance, as therein are set down (Hamlet, act ii., sc. 2).—Taurus.

I'll put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes (A Midsummer Night's Dream). It was alway yet the trick of our English nation, if they have a good thing, to make it too common (Henry IV.). Striving to do better, oft we mar what's well (King Lear).—Cheshire Cat.

Or who hath brought the fatal engine in (Titus Andronicus, act v., sc. 3). And their rough carriage so ridiculous (Love's Labour's Lost, act v., sc. 2). Attend me where I wheel (Troilus and Cressida, act v., sc. 7). Then may I set the world on wheels (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 3).—A. D. R.

With his banners and his well-paid ranks, The ne'er yet beaten horse of Parthia We have jaded out of the field (Antony and Cleopatra, act iii., sc. 1).—Econamore and Ivanhoe.

So service shall with steeled sinews toil (Henry V., act ii., sc. 2). The present eye praises the present object (Troilus and Cressida, act iii., sc. 3). There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy (Hamlet, act i., sc. 5). Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed (Richard II., act v., sc. 2).—Dorset.

Nestor, hatch'd in silver, Should, with a bond of air (strong as the axle-tree on which heaven rides), Knit all the Greekish ears To his experienced tongue* (Troilus and Cressida, act i., sc. 3, line 67.—Speedwell.

* In re the invention.

Dauphin: I will not change my horse with any that treads but on four pasterns (King Henry V., act iii., sc. 7). Constable: Hark, how our steeds for present service neigh (King Henry V., act iv., sc. 2).—Argonaut.

And their rough carriage, so ridiculous, should be presented at our tent to us (Love's Labour's Lost, act v., sc. 2). Since thou, created to be aw'd by man, wast born to bear. I was not made a horse, and yet I bear a burden like an ass (Richard II., act v., sc. 5).—Comet Aster.

We in your motion turn and you may move us (Comedy of Errors, act iii., sc. 2, line 24). That which is now a horse, even with a thought, the rack dislimns (Antony and Cleopatra, act iv., sc. 14, line 9). Then may I set the world on wheels, when she can spin for her living (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1).—Pansy.

The extreme part of time extremely forms all causes to the purpose of his speed; and often, at his very loose, decides that which long process could not arbitrate (Love's Labour's Lost, act. v., sc. 2). And here an engine, fit for my proceeding (The Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1). Then I may set the world on wheels (The Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1). Why, a horse can do no more (The Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1). O excellent motion (The Two Gentlemen of Verona, act ii., sc. 1).—A. E. L.

Come here about me, you, my myrmidon. Mark what I say. Attend where I wheel. Strike not a stroke, but keep yourselves in health. Delay leads impotent and snail-pac'd beggary: Then fiery expedition be thy wing (King Richard III., act iv., sc. 3).—E. Culverhouse.

Rumour: I, from the orient to the drooping west, Making the wind* my post-horse, still unfold The acts commenced on this ball of earth (King Henry IV., induction.) Duke: Making practice on the times, Draw with idle spiders' strings Most ponderous and substantial things (Measure for Measure, act iii., sc. 2).—Culpepper.

* Wind=hot air or gas as motor.

I see before me (man) not heere, not heere; Nor what ensues but have a fog in them What I cannot looke through (Cymbeline, act iii., sc. 2). There's no more to say, Accessible is none but Milford way (Cymbeline, act iii., sc. 2). Then comes the time who lives to see it, That going shall be us'd with feet. This prophecée Merlin shall make; for I live before his time (King Lear, act iii). I may truly say it is a noveltie in the world (All's Well, act ii.). O you leaden messengers That ride upon the violent speede of fire (All's Well, act iii.)—Cyclist.

Are these things then necessities, Then let us meet them like necessities (King Henry IV., Part II., act iii., sc. 2). Here's fine revolution, an we had the trick to see't (Hamlet, act v., sc. 1).—Nemesis.

In winged speed no motion shall I know, Then can no horse with my desire keep pace (Sonnet 51). M. E. W.

Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim, hors'd Upon the sightless couriers of the air (Macbeth, act i., sc. 7).—Macbeth.

Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed, which his aspiring rider seem'd to know, with slow but stately pace kept on his course (King Richard II., act v., sc. 2). Rise from the ground like feather'd Mercury, and vaulted with such ease into his seat, to turn and wind a fiery Pegasus, and witch the world with noble horsemanship (first part Henry IV., act iv., sc. 1). I like the new tire—excellently (Much Ado about Nothing, act iii., sc. 4). Freedom, heyday! freedom, freedom O brave monster! lead the way (The Tempest, act ii., sc. 2).—Auntie Ray.

And here an engine fit for my proceeding (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1). The spirit of the time shall teach me speed (King John, act iv., sc. 2). I may truly say 'tis a novelty to the world (All's Well that Ends Well, act ii., sc. 3). They say miracles are past. . . . Why 'tis the rarest argument of wonder that hath shot out in our latter times (All's Well that Ends Well, act ii. sc. 3). "Let me not live," quoth he, "after my frame lacks oil, to be the snuff of younger spirits whose apprehensive senses all but new things disdain (All's Well that Ends Well, act i., sc. 2).—Nin-Niu.

See the wonders of the world (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act i., sc. 1). Not a horse (King Henry IV., act iv., sc. 3) to carry thee (1 Henry VI., act i., sc. 3); a coach doth carry thee (Love's Labour's Lost, act iv., sc. 3). I would my horse had the speed of your (Much Ado About Nothing, act i., sc. 1) car (King Richard III., act v., sc. 2). What is it carries you away? (1 King Henry IV., act ii., sc. 3): A most noble carriage (1 King Henry IV., act ii., sc. 4), a team of horse (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act iii., sc. 1). Can do no more (Two Gentlemen of Verona, act ii., sc. 1). Fashion a carriage to (Much Ado About Nothing, act i., sc. 3) carry (2 King Henry VI., act i., sc. 2) as fast as horse can carry (2 King Henry VI., act i., sc. 4.). Many carriages (King John V., act v. sc. 7) fashioned for the journey (Timon of Athens, act ii., sc. 2). A mighty strength they carry (Anthony and Cleopatra, act ii., sc. 1), worth a thousand (2 King Henry IV., act ii., sc. 1) horse and mares together (Anthony and Cleopatra, act iii., sc. 7).—Ivy Leaves.

You speedy helpers, that are substitutes Under the lordly monarch of the north, Appear, and aid me in this enterprise! (King Henry VI., Part I., act v., sc. 3—La Pucelle). Where is the horse that doth untread again His tedious measures with the unbated fire That he did pace them first? All things that are, Are with more spirit chased than enjoy'd (The Merchant of Venice, act ii., sc. 6—Gratiano).—Hesta.

Come here about me, you, my myrmidons; Mark what I say. Attend me where I wheel (Troilus and Cressida, act v., sc. 7). The wheel is come full circle (King Lear, act v., sc. 3). In an extravagant and wheeling stranger (Othello, act i., sc. 1). Hors'd upon the sightless couriers of the air (Macbeth, act i., sc. 7). The hobby-horse is forgot (Love's Labour's Lost, act iii., sc. 1. Hamlet, act iii., sc. 2).—J. McGrigor Allan.

You draw me, you hard-hearted adamite: But yet you draw not iron, for my heart Is true as steel; leave you your power to draw, And I shall have no power to follow you (Midsummer Night's Dream, act ii., sc. 2).—Theology.

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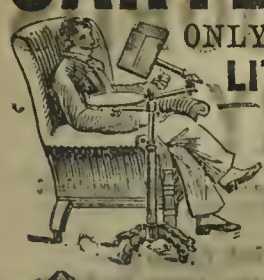

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• TRUTH •

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I FIND that I failed to make quite clear the other day the fact that the large as well as the small dolls are now ready for distribution. There has been, in former years, a special run on these large dolls, which form so important a feature in the Truth Show at Christmas, and, therefore, ladies who may wish to take part in dressing them should make their applications with as little delay as possible. It will be impossible, let me add, to secure a further supply of the large dolls when those on hand have been disposed of.

The Queen's party on Deeside to meet the Emperor and Empress of Russia will include the Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Beatrice, Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovitch, Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and Prince Francis Joseph of Battenberg. Princess Louise and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark will be at Balmoral for a few days during the stay of the Emperor and Empress. The intended visit to Balmoral of the Grand Duke Serge and Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Princess Louise of Battenberg has been given up, and they will meet their Imperial relatives at Darmstadt next month.

The "elaborate preparations" for the Imperial visit to Balmoral which are reported by some romancing journals to be in progress, are purely fictitious. One or two extra pieces of furniture have been placed in the rooms which the Emperor and Empress are to occupy, and a quantity of plate has been sent from Windsor, but this is all that has been done. The stories about theatrical performances, tenants' balls, concerts, and so forth, are all rubbish and nonsense, nothing of the sort being in contemplation. The Imperial visitors desire only to be allowed a continuation of the peace they are now enjoying at Bernstorff.

A statement has been going round the papers that it has become "an unwritten law" that the Queen is always to have the attendance at least of one of her daughters. As a matter of fact, this "unwritten law" has been in existence ever since the death of Prince Albert, the Queen having invariably had the company of a daughter wherever she has been. During the first few years of the Queen's widowhood her favourite companion was her half-sister, the Princess Féodore of Hohenlohe-Langenberg, who died at Baden Baden in 1872.

The Queen is going to expend a considerable sum on improvements at Osborne. Large kitchen gardens are to be formed, and extensive hot-houses are to be built. At present all the fruit and vegetables which are consumed at the Palace are supplied from Frogmore.

An imaginative evening journal, describing the Queen's life at Balmoral, states that the Castle "at first sight looks small." Greater nonsense never was written, and St. Paul's Cathedral might just as well be described as "small." Balmoral is a vast pile of buildings, which really has the appearance of some great public institution. It is very large and very ugly, nor has the house the merit of being well arranged inside, for it is altogether a marvel of discomfort. The former house at Balmoral, which was pulled down to make way for the present hideous structure, was a most picturesque old château, and was considered to be one of the best examples in the Highlands of the true Scottish baronial style.

Balmoral is a hugger-mugger sort of place, and the house is so badly heated and so abounding in draughts that few people go there without catching cold. The rooms are by no means richly furnished, and there are only a few pictures (hardly any good ones) and a small library. Tartan is everywhere to be seen—either the Stuart hunting tartan or the Balmoral, which was designed by Prince Albert for the exclusive use of the Royal family. The Queen is anxious that Balmoral should always be one of the residences of the Sovereign, and she has settled this domain (including the adjoining estate of Abergeldie, which is held by her Majesty on a long lease from Mr. H. M. Gordon) to go with the Crown.

▲

Empress Frederick, who has been residing for several months at Friedrichshof, her place on the Taunus Hills, is coming to England towards the end of next month on a visit to the Queen at Balmoral and at Windsor Castle. The Empress, who will remain in England until she goes to Berlin for the winter, about a week before Christmas, is to pay a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham during the first week in December, and her Majesty will also be the guest of Lord and Lady Salisbury at Hatfield House for a few days.

The Duke of Cambridge is staying with Sir George Wombwell at Newburgh this week, and the party also includes the Marquis of Londonderry, the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Colonel Augustus Fitz-George, Sir Henry Edwards, Lady Sykes, Miss Agnes Keyser, Sir Philip and Lady Gray Egerton, the Hon. Ronald and Mrs. Greville, and Mr. Stephen Wombwell. The present is the twenty-fifth year in succession in which H.R.H. has gone to Newburgh the week after Doncaster for partridge shooting.

The simmering dissatisfaction of the Tory Peers with the Government certainly will not be abated by the appointment of Lord Bagot to be a Lord-in-Waiting, which is likely to excite profound annoyance among certain leaders of the Party. The names of the Tory Peers who have real claims upon the gratitude of the Ministry were privately urged upon Lord Salisbury by some influential supporters, but the Prime Minister, as usual, has disdainfully ignored the representations of his disgusted followers. Lord Beaconsfield has recorded that in 1846 he passed "the musing hours of the Whitsuntide recess" in considering how Sir Robert Peel could be turned out, and I suspect that similar meditations as to Lord Salisbury are now engaging a number of the Tory magnates. Lord Bagot will get £702 a year, and his average of annual duty at Court will be three weeks.

Lord and Lady Cadogan returned to the Viceregal Lodge on Friday after spending nearly a fortnight in the south of Ireland. In the evening of the same day they started for England to fulfil their engagement to take part in the launch of the new steamship of the City of Dublin Company, at Birkenhead. The weather in the Irish Channel was in a very uncourtierlike mood, and made no attempt at tempering the "crossing" for Viceroyalty. The Viceroy after his exertions during the past fortnight will probably have a holiday for some time in England. The Viceregal Lodge is a somewhat dreary abode at this time of the year, being "neither fish nor flesh, nor good red herring." Though it is not in the town, it cannot certainly be called a country house in the usual meaning of the term.

The Archbishop of Canterbury arrives in Ireland this week on a visit to the Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Plunket. Archbishops of Canterbury have been even rarer visitors to Ireland than British Royalties. Dr. Benson will preach in Dublin on Sunday at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and may be expected to draw a crowd that will tax the space within the Cathedral to its utmost. Lord Plunket's episcopal palace is in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. He usually resides throughout the year at his country residence, Old Connaught, which is picturesquely situated near Bray, on the borders of the County of Wicklow.

As usual at this season, the Duchess of St. Albans is staying at her place, Newtown Anner, near Clonmel. Her stay always produces a stir in the neighbourhood, which has been festive of late. Sir Henry and Lady Blake have been amongst the family party staying at Newtown Anner. Lady Kitty Somerset, with her husband, has been in Switzerland during the summer testing the delights of real Swiss life in a chalet.

A paragraph has appeared in the papers stating that "it is reported" that Lord Salisbury has sold his villa at Puys, near Dieppe. As a matter of fact, Lord Salisbury sold this property more than a year ago.

The following lines come to me from "An Aggrieved Husband," whose digestion, I fear, must be rather out of order:—

ANOTHER INCENTIVE TO SHOPPING.

I observe, Sir, that they've started a new "Dress Advice Bureau,"
And that ladies, bent on shopping, are advised to it to go;
For it's promised that the clients who upon its aid rely
Shall be told by its Directors just what things they ought to buy.

This implies, in other words, Sir—so, at least, it seems to me—
That our wives for spending money now will have another plea.
This confounded institution will, in short, be their excuse
For insisting on an outlay yet more wastefully profuse.

They, advised by it, will hasten, there is too much cause to fear,
To obtain more costly dresses, and new bonnets yet more dear;
And if their too patient husbands should meet irritation show,
They'll refer them—helpless victims!—to the "Dress Advice Bureau"!

So permit me to protest, Sir, 'gainst this institution new,
Which is destined, I feel certain, husbands further to undo.
"Dress Advice Bureau!" What rubbish! What we want is a Bureau
Which, when wives are bent on shopping, will advise them *not to go!*

A visitor at Dinard writes to me extolling the natural beauties of the place, but mentioning several drawbacks to the pleasure of a sojourn there, one being the niggard-

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 740 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 738.
For Amusements, see page 739.
For Our Puzzles, see page 749.

liness of the civic authorities in the matter of street-lighting, and another the abominable cruelty to animals which is constantly witnessed. The Bretons who let out carriages and brakes at Dinard seem to make a practice of buying old worn-out horses for next to nothing and running them through the season by dint of hard flogging, after which the wretched beasts are sold to the knacker. The other day a party going in a brake to the golf green four miles off had to get out and walk, owing to one of the horses being utterly unfit for work, and the same animal was sent out the next day with the same result. Dinard is, unfortunately, beyond the jurisdiction of our R.S.P.C.A., or the offenders would soon be called to account. It is a pity, however, that the natives of Dinard cannot be made to understand that, apart from its inhumanity, such treatment of dumb animals is bad business, inasmuch as it helps to drive away many visitors.

In view of recent advertisements and recommendations of the British West Indian Islands as a winter resort, it may be of service to utter a word of warning. There is an idea abroad that yellow fever is a thing of the past, and it is, I believe, quite true that there has been much less of the disease of late years than there used to be. But a medical man who has just returned from one of the islands assures me that this falling off in the number of yellow fever cases is mainly attributable to a falling off in the supply of unacclimatised people for the malady to work its deadly course upon. Last year, however, a considerable number of fatal cases occurred in Antigua, and this year, in St. Kitts also, four Europeans have died of the fever, and one of dysentery, all these victims being, more or less, new comers. Tourists and others will do well, therefore, to consider whether it is worth their while to run the risk of sharing the same fate. Basseterre, the capital of St. Kitts, should at any rate be carefully avoided, for according to my correspondent its abominably insanitary condition is almost certain to make it, sooner or later, the centre of a frightful epidemic.

Although somewhat late this year, the annual record of human life sacrificed to the ambition of scaling inaccessible mountains is beginning to declare itself. From all accounts it may be gathered that bad weather for climbing purposes has prevailed in Switzerland throughout almost the whole of the season, a circumstance which accounts for the fact that the number of accidents has been out of proportion to the number of successful ascents. This legitimate method of committing suicide is conceivable so far as the amateur mountaineer is concerned, but suggests uncomfortable reflections when it is remembered that the old race of guides were wont to consider their lives of greater value than money, and unhesitatingly refused to undertake ascents unless the weather and the general conditions were distinctly favourable. The "excelsior" mania, however, is so powerful that not even the useless sacrifice of human life will inculcate the restraining influences of wisdom and caution.

Having the other day referred to the sufferings of residents on the Thames Embankment from the nightly screeching of the siren on a steam launch belonging to the river authorities, I am now invited to ventilate the grievance of people whose rest is destroyed by the shrill whistling of railway locomotives. My correspondent piles up the agony on this topic to an alarming extent. He draws an awful picture of tens of thousands of people being distracted by a continuous fusillade of ear-piercing shrieks and yells which he asserts have no legitimate connection with the conduct of railway traffic, but which are produced by vicious-minded drivers in a spirit of downright devilry. I fear the writer has allowed his indignation to get the better of his judgment. There is inevitably a good deal of noise from the railway traffic, but the nuisance is not so intolerable as my correspondent represents; nor is it credible that engine-drivers would be allowed, even if they desired, to make night hideous by sounding their whistles merely for the fun of the thing. Besides, householders who are annoyed by the proximity of railway lines generally have the annoyance taken into account in the rent they pay.

The following interesting experience is narrated by a tourist who lately visited Waterford. He had occasion to cross the only bridge in the city, an unsightly wooden structure. Toll being demanded he paid his money, expecting a halfpenny change. The tollman, however, said that he must first weigh the bag the tourist was carrying. He did so, and then intimated that as the weight was more than 14 lb. he must keep the halfpenny for toll on the bag. On inquiry, the tourist discovered that this was a regular and legal fee, and it is evidently only through some oversight in the drafting of the Act that the toll proprietor is debarred from weighing passengers themselves and charging accordingly. My correspondent further learned that one hotel alone pays upwards of £170 in conveying passengers and goods over this bridge to and from the railway station. Some proposal has been made to buy out the rights of the present farmer of the tolls, but he refuses to sell, and no wonder, when he is able to wax rich by such an iniquitous system of exactions.

A lifelong Radical, and one who carried the party standard as a candidate at the last General Election, asks what reply I would suggest to an invitation he has received from Commissary-General Hamley to become a member of the Junior Conservative Club. My friend considers that the Commissary-General has been guilty of a piece of impertinence in sending him this invitation. So he has; but it is an utter waste of stationery and postage to address any remonstrance to him. For years past this Junior Conservative Club has been touting for members among all and sundry, and so long as a man is prepared to pay the subscription it does not matter a scrap what his political opinions are.

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

I have received a communication, though rather late in the day, from the Mr. Henry A. Campbell to whom I referred in an article on August 6 as having been one of the dupes of that arrant rogue Leigh Sampson. Quite unnecessarily, it seems to me, Mr. Campbell imagines that he is bound to make some defence of himself. Still, I am quite willing to give his statements the fullest publicity. "May I state," he writes :—

1. That I gave the order for the picture of Eastwell to Sampson as a charity.
2. That I gave him permission to sell the originals to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh if he could do so.
3. That I certainly never "insisted that I must have three replicas," although I did not withdraw my order merely because H.R.H. had been kind enough to help a man whom I believed to be in straitened circumstances.
4. That I paid Sampson a price arranged between us when I gave him the commission, and nothing like the absurd sum which you name.
5. That I never was the owner of Eastwell Park, but rented it for some years.

To deal seriatim with the points Mr. Campbell raises, I can only say in regard to (1) that this was the point which I have laboured in all my references to Leigh Sampson, and that I fully credited Mr. Campbell with the most benevolent intentions in commissioning Sampson to make the drawings of Eastwell Park; (2) That I fully appreciate his extraordinary self-sacrifice in granting Sampson "permission" to sell the originals to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh; and further (3), by not withdrawing his order because H.R.H. had been kind enough to be found as charitably disposed as himself. It is not every day one has an opportunity of being associated with Royalty in the private dispensation of bounty. In regard to (4), Mr. Campbell has unfortunately only managed to excite my curiosity. The sum I mentioned was £150 for the three pictures, and this he characterises as absurd. Perhaps he will be good enough to enlighten me as to the exact amount. (5) I am sorry that I credited Mr. Campbell with the ownership of Eastwell Park; it was purely a slip of the pen, for I was well aware that he was merely a tenant. Of course I can understand that Mr. Campbell feels a little natural annoyance at having been duped by Sampson. I quite sympathise with him. I was humbugged myself.

Among the obituary notices in the *Belfast Evening Telegraph* appears the announcement of a lady's death "of pneumatic." Is this simply due to the aberration of a cyeling compositor, or has a new disease broken out in Belfast?

In a letter to the *Sportsman* Mr. G. G. Vertue has made some allegations in reference to one of the races at the recent Southsea Regatta, which the parties responsible for the arrangements cannot afford to leave unanswered. The race in question was that for the Queen's Challenge Cup for boys of her Majesty's training-ships and private training-ships. Mr. Vertue asserts that certain alterations were made in the conditions of the race, with the result, if not with the intention, of unduly favouring the crew from H.M.S. *St. Vincent*, one of these changes being that all the competing crews were compelled to row in the *St. Vincent's* boats instead of their own boats, as they had formerly done. Mr. Vertue, furthermore, comments upon the fact that, in the drawing for stations, the outside berth fell each time to the crew from the training-ship *Mercury*, and that in the drawing for boats for the final the same crew were allotted a yawl which was not suitable for racing, and which virtually handicapped the *Mercury* boys out of the race. These things, of course, may have been mere coincidences; but what is not so easily explainable is the circumstance that the same crew were placed at an additional disadvantage by being instructed that, contrary to the usual practice, they must, even if in front, leave the inside boats an absolutely clear course in rounding the Spit Fort, thus very considerably lengthening their own course. Finally, Mr. Vertue makes a grave insinuation by remarking that the crew of the *St. Vincent* was not mustered before the final, "and it was thus quite possible for a different crew to have rowed in the heat and in the final." In the first heat the *Mercury* crew, notwithstanding the fact that they had the worst station, beat the *St. Vincent* boys, but in the final the latter won. The whole tenor of the letter is to suggest that advantages were unfairly given to the crew of the *St. Vincent*, which won the cup this year, at the expense of the crew of the *Mercury*, which won it last year, and it is to be hoped that some explanation will be at once forthcoming from the authorities of the Regatta.

Many hunting men who have enjoyed good sport with the Wingrave Harriers will be sorry to hear that owing to the state of his health Mr. Stewart Freeman has decided to sell his pack. The sale will take place at Aldridge's on Wednesday next, and the pack comprises 24½ couple of hounds and 4½ couple of puppies.

The Perth show of the Highland and Agricultural Society was not favoured in the matter of weather, but it has nevertheless proved a great success, the receipts amounting to £4,773, as compared with £2,597 at Dumfries last year. The show of 1897 is to be held at Glasgow, and will probably be visited by the Prince of Wales, who is to be the guest of Lord Blytheswood at Blytheswood House, Renfrewshire, where the Queen stayed for several days about eight years ago.

On September 3 I mentioned a complaint that two winners of prizes for contributions to a paper called *Sketchy Bits* had not been able to obtain the sums due to them, though a notice in the paper asserted that the prizes "had been forwarded to the authors." I am pleased to hear that the prizes have now been sent to the parties referred to. It seems that the money was withheld for the time being simply owing to the fact that doubts had been cast upon the

Every requirement for Furnishing tastefully at least expense is amply illustrated in the Galleries and Catalogues of Hampton & Sons, Furnishers & Decorators, Pall Mall East, S.W.

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

originality of the successful contributions after the awards had been made. The conductors of the paper recognise, however, that it was a mistake to publish the announcement that the prizes had been despatched before this had actually been done, and in future the wording of the notice to competitors will be altered so as to avoid any misunderstanding on the subject.

That notorious swindler, James MacVeigh, of 25, Queen-street, Dumfries, is still busily engaged in attempts to dispose of the genealogical and other works which he has obtained by means of the most unscrupulous literary thefts. He has recently been trying to induce the Duke of Hamilton to become a patron and purchaser of one of his pirated books, but his Grace is a reader of Truth, and being, consequently, acquainted with MacVeigh's character, he declined to have anything to do with him. Through the attention I have devoted to him, MacVeigh meets with a good many similar rebuffs nowadays, and so he is adding other pursuits to that of a literary impostor. Not long since I noted that he had come out as an agent for letting fishings and shootings; and now he is advertising for farm hands for a Scotch farming colony in Idaho, U.S.A., "each to be shareholders." Considering the many unprincipled transactions in which this man has been detected and exposed, anybody who parts with any money to him in connection with farms in Idaho, or any other enterprise of his, will be extremely foolish.

Reference was made in Truth the other week to the curious circumstance that a pamphlet of the Bimetallic League was being distributed through the post in the same cover with a certain catalogue of "fine art photographs." I inquired how two productions, so different in character, came to be mixed up in this way. The publishers of the catalogue have now explained. It seems it is because they are bi-maniacs themselves that they "recommend to their friends the study of so abstruse an economic question as international bimetallism." I must point out to this firm, however, that many of the strangers whom they so confidently claim as their "friends" are anything but grateful for their attentions, and that their offers of "fine art photographs" (including "studies from nature") would be better confined to the collectors and artists for whom they profess to cater.

The British Archæological Association is to meet in London on Monday, the 21st, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, and the session will extend over a week. The evening meetings are to be held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, and the days will be devoted to excursions, one being given to the City and another to Westminster. St. Albans and Hatfield House are to be visited, also Rochester and Maidstone, Guildford and Godalming, and the Waltham Abbey district.

A correspondent sends me the following verses apropos of the paper read at the recent Newcastle Sanitary Congress by Mr. Dines, an earnest meteorologist:—

COLD COMFORT.

Folks used to think they must be ill
  When they began to shiver,
And took forthwith a draught or pill
  To stimulate the liver.
A chill, they thought, perforce implied
  Disease would soon afflict 'em;
But this belief is falsified
  By Mr. Dines's dictum;
For by this expert we are told
We're only healthy when we're cold!

If this be so, our way of life,
  'Tis very clear, must alter;
Henceforward we, where draughts are rife,
  Must sit and never falter.
East winds, however cold they be,
  We must no more amiss count;
Whilst fur-lined coats, we must agree,
  Are wholly at a discount.
Who will in wraps his form enfold
When health depends on being cold?

Henceforward, too, if Dines be right,
  The knowing Anglo-Saxon
In Polar outings will delight,
  Like Nansen and like Jackson.
To Egypt he no more will hie,
  Nor any Southern-map land;
Spitzbergen he instead will try,
  Or tickets take for Lapland;
In short, he'll spend his time and gold
In seeking, not for heat, but cold!

Our coal bill will, of course, grow less,
  As, ever waxing bolder,
We shall our faith in Dines express
  By seeking to get colder.
And Fashion's sway will soon be stopp'd,
  Since every sir and madam
Will in their search for health adopt
  The dress of Eve and Adam!
For are we not distinctly told
To healthy be, we *must* be cold?

The way in which some of the so-called "voluntary" schools are kept going is strikingly illustrated by a circular, which has just been issued by the manager of the Cwmavon Tin Works at Port Talbot, Glamorganshire. It seems that the Cwmavon Works Schools are the property of this Company and another Company, who receive rents for their use, and that hitherto the expenditure has been to a large extent met by the simple process of taking so much in the pound from the wages of the workmen. The latter have been dissatisfied with the management of the schools, and a few weeks since they expressed their objections to the system of deductions from their wages. In consequence, they have now been informed by the manager that they may, if they please, discontinue paying the school poundage, but that if they do so, "it must be distinctly understood that to meet the school expenditure increased house rents will have to be enforced at the rate of one shilling per month per cottage at least."

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

The two Companies on whose behalf this extraordinary notice has been issued own practically all the workmen's dwellings in the place; and it is evident they are determined that the cost of these schools shall be defrayed in some way or other by their employees. This determination is doubtless due to the fact that if a School Board were formed the masters would have to pay a good deal more and the men a good deal less than at present; and I shall be much interested to learn whether the Education Department has anything to say to this monstrous attempt to maintain schools on the "voluntary" basis by the exercise of downright tyranny and coercion.

Some representations have been made to me in the interests of the schoolmaster at Luton, who was recently placed in such a ridiculous position through the vapouring of the local press over the fact that he had received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the so-called National University of Illinois. I am told that the thesis which he sent in was the result of much study and thought. I do not doubt it. For aught I know, indeed, it may have been a most valuable and scholarly production; but that does not alter the fact that the diploma which it was supposed to have been instrumental in securing is an utterly worthless distinction, which the Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis, through the agency of its Commissioner, the "Rev. J. Rogers," *alias* "G. Elliott," is ready to award to practically anybody misguided enough to pay the fee of £21. I am also informed that the schoolmaster took the precaution of making various inquiries, but as these all seem to have been directed to persons connected with the concern by which he has been gulled, I cannot compliment him upon his sagacity in that respect. If I may venture to say so, the best safeguard against swindles of this kind, or for that matter any kind, is to read Truth. Had he done this, the Luton schoolmaster, like a good many other people, would have been better off in pocket, and he would also have saved himself a good deal of humiliation and annoyance.

A Professorship of Mental Philosophy and Logic is to be established at Cambridge, with a salary of £700 a year. The new Chair was resolved upon several years ago, but the necessary funds have hitherto been wanting.

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol has presented the Rev. William Mann, Precentor of Bristol Cathedral, to the vicarage of St. Thomas, Bristol, which is worth about £300 a year, with house, and has become vacant by the preferment of the Rev. C. S. Taylor to the Dean and Chapter living of Banwell, Somersetshire, of which the value is £500 a year, with residence. The first offer of the Vicarage of Banwell was made by the Dean and Chapter to Precentor Mann, but he does not wish to leave Bristol.

It is proposed to restore the fine parish church at Bradford (where there is seating accommodation for 1,300 persons) as a memorial of the late Archdeacon Bardsley, at a cost of £10,000. The Rev. John Robertson, who has been presented to this important and valuable living by the Simeon Trustees, is to be inducted on October 10 by the Bishop of Ripon, and he will preach his first sermon as vicar on the following day.

In commending the recent appointment of the Rev. W. H. Davies to the rectory of Spitalfields, I alluded to him as a clergyman of Evangelical views. My attention has since been directed to an interview in the *Church Review*, in which Mr. Davies on being asked whether he should be described as an Evangelical with broad sympathies, admitted the broad sympathies, but stated that "though some people would call him an Evangelical, he was not a party man." I reproduce this statement with pleasure, though I do not seem to have been very far wrong in my original reference to the reverend gentleman.

The Rev. J. Dennis Hird, who has been obliged to resign the very comfortable living of Eastnor, Herefordshire, by the joint efforts of Bishop Percival (his diocesan) and Lady Henry Somerset, the patron of this benefice, has also, it is stated, been compelled by his Right Rev. Father in God to renounce the clerical profession altogether, and he is to resume educational work at Oxford. I do not understand by what authority the Bishop of Hereford has been enabled to deal in so drastic a fashion with this ecclesiastic, and it seems to me that the whole transaction requires explanation. Mr. Hird appears to have been bullied and hustled out of both his preferment and his profession.

Several months ago the European members of the Civil Service in Sierra Leone petitioned the Colonial Secretary in favour of a reduction of the term of service from fifteen months to twelve months, the period in force on the Gold Coast. As no answer has yet been given to the application, I have been requested to jog Mr. Chamberlain's memory concerning it. One of the grounds on which the petitioners ask to be put on an equality in this respect with officers on the Gold Coast is that the climatic conditions in the two colonies are the same, and Sierra Leone is only three days nearer England than Accra. What havoc the climate plays with the lives and health of Europeans may be judged from the fact that out of twenty officers continuously resident in Sierra Leone in the first seven months of the present year, no fewer than four have died, while five have been invalided.

Miss Florence Firmstone, of Hyde Abbey, Winchester, about whose appeal on behalf of a pension fund for an old nurse I felt constrained to comment last week, has written me a long defence of her action. In the first place she maintains that having given references in the appeal, the fact must surely convince the public that she is no swindler. Probably, to people who are acquainted with Winchester and its inhabitants, such references would be convincing, but Miss Firmstone's appeal has gone far more widely afield, and I can assure her that a number of my readers have misconstrued her action. Still the point is

a minor one, for I expressly stated that I did not question Miss Firmstone's bona fides in the slightest degree. Then, Miss Firmstone, realising that it was the system to which my objection was taken, urges with considerable force that in the particular case in which she is interested, the end justifies the means. I cannot agree with her. Such a plea amounts practically to a justification of begging of any and every description, and to my mind a personal appeal is only justifiable when made to some one who is acquainted with the parties. Finally, Miss Firmstone acknowledges that I have impressed upon her my view that her position is not altogether a desirable one. That was precisely my object in making allusion to the matter, and I shall be glad if my remarks lead her to abandon in the future so undesirable a method of collecting funds for charitable objects.

An appeal that seems to be circulating very widely just now is from the East London Protestant Youths' Mission for funds to enable the Mission to provide its children, aged poor, widows, and convalescents with a day in the country. In reply to those who have inquired of me about this appeal, I can only reiterate the advice I gave some months ago in respect of a similar appeal emanating from the same quarter. The Mission is an enterprise which a Mr. F. W. L. Jones carries on in the intervals of his daily occupation. He publishes no list of subscribers, and is uncontrolled by any committee, and therefore I would advise any one who has not the personal knowledge of Mr. Jones necessary to enable them to entrust him with the dispensation of their bounty to refrain from handing over any cash to him.

As I have once before mentioned, a wealthy and benevolent friend of mine has founded and endowed some almshouses, which are intended, to quote his own words, for "persons of a gentle position who have been brought to distress under circumstances of genuine misfortune." My friend asks me to state that there are now two vacancies in this institution, and that he will be glad to receive through me particulars of any deserving cases which can be recommended to him. Each house, I may explain, accommodates two persons and carries an annuity of £31. 4s. Applicants must be above sixty years of age, and preference is given to a married couple, though brother and sister are eligible. Will parties forwarding particulars of cases in response to this invitation kindly note that the letters must be addressed, "Almshouses, care of Editor of Truth, Carteret-street, Westminster, S.W."?

I have received the following amounts towards the Toy Fund:—Mrs. Snepp, £2; J. D., 10s.; Mr. Milner-Gibson, £10; and for Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund, Mr. C. Green, £1 1s.; L. J. C., £2; Mrs. Snepp, £1.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

The following two announcements in a Battalion Order of the 1st Dorset Regiment are edifying reading when taken together. Even in death the distinction of military ranks is so carefully marked that military etiquette does not admit of the same expressions of regret being used in regard to the death of a private as in regard to that of an officer:—

1. No. 4,079, Private A. Wooding, "C" Company, having died in the Section Hospital on the 2nd inst., is struck off the strength of the battalion from this day.
2. With the deepest sorrow, which he knows is shared alike by officers, N.C.O.s, and men, Lieut.-Col. J. M. Percy announces to the battalion that Second Lieut. W. Ashburner died at Bangalore this morning.

In view of the terms of these two announcements, may I ask whether it is not customary when an officer dies for him to be struck off the strength of the battalion?

No military regulation appears to be more frequently broken than that which prescribes three years as the maximum period for which an N.C.O. shall be posted to the depot. The latest growl comes from the Royal Highlanders' depot at Perth, where, it is reported, a sergeant is not only being retained beyond his three years' term, and drawing an extra shilling a day as gymnastic instructor, but also getting further extra pay as pay-sergeant to a company. If this is true, he is being doubly favoured at the expense of other men.

The complaint that I published the other day respecting the condition of some bungalows at Poonah would seem to apply equally to those in which certain batteries of artillery are quartered in Rangoon. These structures appear to be defective in ventilation in warm weather, while in the monsoon the rain comes in at the sides and top in such quantities that a stream of water may be frequently seen running the length of a bungalow, and the bed and clothing are constantly wet. One bungalow, in particular, has its condition aggravated by the filthy state of the ground around it, and the absence of any kind of drainage. I understand that the whole of the bungalows occupied by the Royal Artillery were condemned many years ago, and the one mentioned above has been specially condemned more recently by the P.M.O. There can be no excuse for keeping troops quartered in the buildings under such circumstances.

Dublin Barracks are not the only place where, through the supineness of the authorities, enteric fever is allowed to freely run its course. In India the sanitary returns show that this disease is responsible for no less than 36 per cent. of the mortality among the British garrison—a sacrifice of life which might be enormously reduced if proper measures were taken to purify the water supplies for the troops. In an article on this subject the *Pioneer* remarks that when the Pasteur filters are generally used "there will in all probability be a large decrease in enteric, but it may take two or three years to provide them." If this is the remedy for the mischief, why on earth should there be a delay of two or three years in applying it?

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

The filter in question was adopted in the French army so far back as 1888, and four years ago the Minister for War declared that "wherever it had been applied to water previously bad, typhoid fever had disappeared." Clearly they order these matters better in France.

In reference to a paragraph in my last issue, I am informed that the bandmaster of the 1st Royal Dragoons did not take his usual fee on the occasion of the outside engagement to which I alluded, and that the band-sergeant did not receive 15s., but only 13s. 6d. This information comes to me in an imposing-looking document signed by thirty-two members of the band, and I trust its publication will suffice to appease their anger, pending the result of the further inquiries into the matter which I am now making.

During the past week or so I have been bombarded with complaints respecting the quality of the beer sold in the garrison canteen at Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow. If the unanimity of the writers' testimony still left any doubt (which it does not) as to the sourness, flatness, and nastiness of the liquor, that doubt would be removed by the fact that the senior medical officers and three other officers, who were last week requested to sample it, unanimously endorsed the men's opinion, and at once condemned the two consignments which were then in the canteen. This was on Tuesday. On Saturday, however, the condemned beer was still being sold, the explanation of the canteen steward being that the stuff could not be returned to the brewers until the authority of the G.O.C. had been obtained. I hope the G.O.C. will hurry up with the necessary authority, for the delay means that poor Tommy must either go without his beer or else be half poisoned with it. While he is about it, too, the G.O.C. might inquire whether the change made some time ago in connection with the contract for beer has been generally satisfactory and advantageous to the men.

In answer to a complaint, noted in my Military Pillory on the 3rd inst., as to the mess arrangements of the detachment of Royal Artillery at Upper Chatham Barracks, certain individuals have sent me a statement to the effect that there is no wish for the establishment of a grocery canteen, that there is no reason for dissatisfaction with the present supply of provisions, and that a little while ago the men were given the option of dealing where they liked, but were soon glad to revert to the old tradesman. The statement concludes with a panegyric on the officer commanding as one who has the comfort of his men ever at heart. This being his reputation, I hope he will act up to it by making some personal inquiries, for, notwithstanding the confident tone adopted by my present correspondents, I fancy he will find that they by no means represent the general feeling of the men on the subject referred to.

Concerning the recent atrocious sentence on a boy named Kavanagh belonging to H.M.S. *Blenheim*, a naval officer pertinently asks how it came about that the prisoner was able to strike Commander Currey? It will be recollected that this assault, for which a court-martial sentenced Kavanagh to twenty-four strokes with the birch, twelve months' hard labour, and dismissal from the Service, was committed by the youth on the Commander ordering him to be whipped for some previous offence. Presumably the boy was in the charge of an escort when he was taken before the Commander. What, then, were the escort doing to allow him to strike that officer? Is it customary, too, for the Naval Rhadamanthus to have the culprit standing alongside him within striking distance, when meting out punishment? What would be thought of a judge who took a seat in the dock when sentencing prisoners? I notice by the way that a Service journal rebukes me for my comments on the case, and suggests that I do not sufficiently appreciate the gravity of the crime of striking a superior officer. It fears that I "ignore the surely obvious necessity of maintaining strict discipline on board H.M.'s ships." I do nothing of the kind. What I do hold is that the interests of discipline never have been, and never will be, promoted by such savage and outrageously excessive sentences as that which was passed on this boy Kavanagh. Furthermore, when I see a newspaper, in dealing with such an offence as this lad's, solemnly refer to the fact that "not so many years ago the penalty for striking a superior officer was death," I am strongly of opinion that that paper has outlived its time by about a century.

Much amusement has been afforded to the West Australians by a correspondence that has taken place between Captain St. Leger, the private secretary to the Governor, and the Perth Municipal Council. The Captain has had the happiness of marrying the Governor's daughter; and on the occasion of his wedding he had some gravel put down on the roadway near Perth Cathedral, the condition of the road not meeting with his approval. He afterwards asked the Council to pay the bill for this gravel, and remarked that it would be "a pity to make the road in a mess by taking it all up again." The Council replied that they could not pay for the gravel, nor could they permit its removal from the road. Captain St. Leger next suggested that the Council should pay half the amount he had expended, namely, £1. 3s., but this also they declined to do, and he then wound up the correspondence with a nasty reference to the desire of the authorities "to keep their neglected roadways in proper repair at the expense of private individuals." With this experience in his mind, the gallant officer will doubtless remember in future that people who indulge in such luxuries must pay for them.

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

SUNDAY BY THE SEA.

The Cleethorpes District Council have announced a new decree
For the future better keeping of the Sabbath by the sea;
So henceforth, say their new by-laws, let the penalty be dire
On the man who dares a carriage or a horse to ply for hire!

Woe, say they, to any urchin who with any kind of cry
Dare invite the Cleethorpes public any Sunday print to buy!
Woe, say they, to any boatman who shall dare a skiff equip!
Woe to any bathing-woman who shall dare a child to dip!

* * * * *

But the Cleethorpes District Council should not be with this content,
There are other Sabbath-breakers they should seek to circumvent:
There's that hardened Sun, for instance, which, in spite of all they say,
Dares to shine away on Sunday as on any other day.

There's the tide, too, which a spirit of great obstinacy shows,
For at Cleethorpes every Sunday it perversely ebbs and flows;
While the waves, despite the precepts which these local Mawworms preach,
Pass the sacred hours of Sunday (Sabbath)-breaking on the beach!

Let the Council, then, be stirring, and as soon as, one by one,
They have tackled with their by-laws wind and waves and tide and sun,
Then, no doubt, they will be ready, on the same egregious ground,
To arraign our world on Sundays for still daring to go round!

But, in sober, serious earnest, what, we wonder, is the way
That these Councillors of Cleethorpes keep, themselves, the Sabbath day?
Have they by-laws for their households, which they never break or shirk,
Framed against the perpetration of all sorts of Sunday work?

Do they never buy a paper and commit a mortal sin?
Are their bath-rooms locked securely so that no one can get in?
Do their coachmen and their horses get that rest which is their right?
Do their cooks abstain from labour Sunday morn, and noon, and night?

And here is one more question: Do these Councillors opine
They have any sacred sanction for their Sabbatarian line?
If they do, we'll undeceive them: it is time that they should know
Christ annulled the Jewish Sabbath nineteen hundred years ago.

Colwyn Bay, too, cannot be an altogether desirable place in which to support existence, since the Urban District Council considers itself bound to protect the morals of the inhabitants by sternly discountenancing frivolity of every description. The puritanical fervour of these bigots found an outlet one day last week while discussing a proposal to find a suitable site for a pavilion. Llandudno, of all places, was cited as an awful example of degeneration, because the pavilion of that unhappy seaside resort had become "almost a theatre." A Rev. Mr. Howarth feared the same fate for Colwyn Bay, as the niggers there were "innocent at first, but they were not so now." Unhappy Colwyn Bay! Miserable niggers! Which is the cause and which the effect? Surely it cannot be that the atmosphere of Colwyn Bay has caused this lamentable moral decadence of its corked visitors.

However much one may sympathise with the object of the Liverpool magistrates in stringently administering the licensing laws in that over-licensed city, it is impossible to approve of the extraordinary, and I should think unprecedented, course which they adopted at the licensing sessions last week. The chairman said the Bench were "determined only to have licences who were fit and proper persons"—a determination which everybody will applaud. But, referring to the proceedings which had been taken against licence-holders during the year, he then went on to make the following remarks:—

> There were two or three cases in which there had been successful appeals, but the Bench felt that, notwithstanding those dismissals, the applicants should be brought before them, so that attention should be called to the conduct which had been going on during the year, and that they should be cautioned. Even where the cases had been dismissed by appeal, the record still stood good, and would have its weight in regard to the house in question.

What does this mean? It means that if a licencee has been convicted by the magistrates, and if on appeal to the Recorder at Quarter Sessions that conviction has been quashed, the original record is nevertheless to "stand good" against him and have its weight in regard to the renewal of his licence—in other words, a man found to be innocent by the Superior Court is still to be treated as guilty by the inferior Court whose decision has been overruled! A more astounding declaration from the Bench, and one more utterly at variance with every principle of law and justice, has never come under my notice.

Many people are in the habit of going for their holidays to the rural districts of Scotland, but the sanitary arrangements at these "country quarters" would appear to be in urgent need of improvement. A leading Scotch journal laments that the laws of health should be "mocked" by many village communities in the Highlands, which it describes as being "a century behind the age" in their ideas of sanitation. A certain seaside village in the popular neighbourhood of Dornoch is mentioned as having no drainage and no scavenging, the result being that the place "is never free from cases of erysipelas and blood-poisoning, and the infant mortality is startling." As a matter of fact, the infantile death-rate at this place has risen to the appalling figure of 202·2 per 1,000. Surely the County Council might take

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for HEWETSONS' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—HEWETSONS, Tottenham Court-road, London.

drastic measures to purify this and similar villages, and if that body is somnolent, then the Local Government Board should stimulate it to interference.

After the boasts that have so often been heard about the wonderful growth of Belfast and the superiority of its civic management to that of such "mere Irish" towns as Dublin and Cork, it is decidedly startling to read the revelations that have been published during the past two or three weeks in the *Northern Whig*. Vast numbers of the population of Belfast appear to be living in slums which are a disgrace to a civilised city—indeed, the two principal sanitary officers of the Corporation have just reported that there are no fewer than 19,000 houses, occupied by 100,000 persons, which, if such a radical measure were possible, ought to be forthwith closed as unfit for human habitation, so offensive and injurious to health is their sanitary condition. This state of things has been brought about under the deliberate sanction of the authorities; for "nearly all these houses," says the officers' report, "have been built upon plans passed by the Corporation." The land-jobber and the jerry-builder seem to have been allowed to have things all their own way, and instead of the special inquiry by a Committee of the Corporation into "the health of the city, the present high death-rate, and the causes thereof," which is now being held, what is wanted is a special inquiry by the Local Government Board into the gross negligence and maladministration of the Corporation, and the reasons thereof.

On the burning question of the great gas-meter swindle, I have had an interesting communication from Alderman F. Smith, the Chairman of the Lighting Committee of the Liverpool Corporation. The Committee took the matter in hand in the interests of the consumers, and their expert clearly proved that the startling variations which occur in gas bills are commonly due to corresponding variations in the pressure of the supply, the quantity of gas which the ordinary burner passes being entirely dependent upon the pressure at which it is supplied by the Gas Company. To increase our gas bills, therefore, all the Company has to do is to increase the pressure. In the forefront of the safeguards and economies open to the consumer the Liverpool Committee placed the adoption of suitable governor burners, and such burners officially certified as effective and trustworthy are used by the Corporation itself, and are on sale to private persons at sixpence each. It is claimed that these burners give a better light, and at the same time effect a considerable saving in the amount of gas consumed; and by recommending their adoption and educating the consumer in the use of his gas to the best advantage the Committee appears to have done much good work in Liverpool. Cannot the County Council do something in the same direction for us poor benighted Londoners?

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

It has been represented to me as a desirable thing that the deaf and dumb alphabet, or some other sign system in general use for conversing with the deaf and dumb, should be taught in public elementary schools, or, at any rate, recommended as a special subject by the Education Department. I have no objection to giving publicity to the suggestion, but I really think it would be possible to teach Board School children other things which would be of more use to them and to the community. The gentleman who presses the matter on my attention is very strong on the uselessness of teaching the deaf and dumb to communicate with their fellow-creatures, unless their fellow creatures, or a considerable proportion of them, are also taught to understand the communication. But really the deaf and dumb among us are happily such a very small minority, that I suppose not one person in a thousand ever has occasion to hold communication with any one so afflicted. So far as the deaf and dumb alphabet goes, I should have thought that it was pretty well understood in schools already. I know that in my schooldays this method of communication was very generally used as a means of conversing behind the back of a master.

A very hard measure of justice seems to have been meted out to a pauper named Harmston at Lincoln Police-court last week. He was charged with disobeying the lawful orders of the workhouse master by refusing to go as a patient into the sick ward of the workhouse; and it was stated that he had been examined by the doctor, who, having found that he was suffering from rheumatism, had recommended that he should undergo a course of treatment in the infirmary. Harmston, however, objected to going into the infirmary, and applied for his discharge from the workhouse, offering to take it at once, but this was refused, and he was forthwith haled before the magistrates, who sentenced him to fourteen days' hard labour. If this man was suffering so badly from rheumatism as to justify his being ordered to the infirmary, he ought not to have been sent to gaol.

The surprise which I felt at the action of the workhouse officials, as well as of the magistrates, in the above case, was removed when I read a day or two later the report of some proceedings of the Lincoln Guardians. Harmston, it appeared, had been making certain complaints to the Local Government Board, one being in reference to the overcrowded condition of the workhouse cemetery, and the horrible state of things which is produced every time a fresh grave is dug. On the man's letter being read, the clerk to the Guardians at once said "he should judge the statements were untrue," while the master stated that, "though the allegations were not absolutely incorrect, yet there was very little truth in them." For once the Guardians do not seem to have been quite convinced by these official denials, and a youthful pauper who had been

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

employed in grave-digging was called into the Board-room and questioned on the subject. His answers practically bore out Harmston's allegations, and eventually a Committee was appointed to deal with the matter. It would be well for the Committee to inquire at the same time how far Harmston's conduct in bringing this scandal to light is accountable for the harsh treatment he has since received.

My request last week for information concerning a Mrs. Sheter, of Staunton Villa, Albany-road, Southsea, has elicited replies from two of her friends. Mrs. Sheter is in the habit of sending out appeals to people to purchase pieces of lace or needlework, which she forwards with her letters. Both her friends assure me that Mrs. Sheter is a lady, and that the statements she makes are correct. This may be; but I venture to suggest that instead of seeking to justify the method which she has adopted for supplementing her income, Mrs. Sheter's friends would render her better service by pointing out in what a very unpleasant position she places herself by addressing such appeals to total strangers. There are many very disreputable characters who resort to precisely the same means for supplying or supplementing their incomes, and if a lady is content to follow in their wake she must not be surprised if strangers make the mistake of classing her with the rest of the begging-letter brigade.

A very similar kind of business is being carried on by Mary L. Eyres, of 97, Newark-road, Lincoln. She is one of those individuals who imagine that the announcement of a man's death is justification sufficient for her to address the widow with offers of mourning collars, cuffs, and sympathy for a cash consideration. "May I ask," she writes, "if you will kindly give my mother an order if you possibly can? My father, who was a son of the late Colonel Eyres, of the Grenadier Guards, and grandson of the late Colonel Rushbrooke, late M.P., of Rushbrooke Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, died through a sad affliction, and has left my mother with four of us young children almost unprovided for——." I have my doubts about this descendant of the "late M.P., of Rushbrooke Hall," for one of her letters that has recently come to hand was addressed to a non-existent person, and has evidently done service on more than one occasion, the date having been altered from May, 1895, to July, 1896. I suppose there are persons who respond to this sort of appeal, but to me a letter of this kind, from its initial "Madam," to the concluding tearfully crocodilian phrase, "Deeply sympathising with you in your sad bereavement," is as offensive as it is impertinent.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth": Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

Is it good form or a desirable thing for an M.P. to preside at a Licensing Session where applications for new licences are to be granted or refused to parties belonging to his own constituency? A Norwich correspondent asks the question owing to the fact that at the recent Brewster Sessions at Cromer the Chairman of the Bench was Mr. S. Hoare, one of the Members for Norwich, and two new licences were granted to brewery companies at Norwich for hotels at Sheringham and Mundesley. For my own part, I feel confident that the Chairman's vote was not influenced one way or the other in the slightest degree by the fact that the applications were made on behalf of Norwich brewers; but, at the same time, his position was one calculated to provoke criticism, more especially as the licences in question appear to have been granted in direct opposition to the general wish of the inhabitants of the two villages.

How have the mighty fallen! John James Jones has, I know, been engaged in a variety of occupations, but it is with considerable surprise that I find that he is now desirous of enrolling himself amongst the publicans. I see that he is applying, in the person of his son, for a full licence for his boarding establishment adjoining the Beach Rocks Convalescent Home at Sandgate. Of course, I cannot know what view the licensing magistrates may take of the application, but in the event of success I foresee a little conflict between John James Jones, publican, and John James Jones director of the London Samaritan Society, whose rules for the patients entertained at Beach Rocks, I understand, lay an embargo upon their entering any of the licensed victuallers' establishments of the neighbourhood.

There were some remarkable revelations in the course of an Inland Revenue prosecution at Preston on Friday last. It appears that in that borough there are five hundred small dealers engaged in the sale of "temperance drinks," while there are twenty manufacturers of these beverages, which have been found to contain precisely the same ingredients as beer—sugar, hops, and yeast. One of these drinks, for which there is a great demand, is nothing more or less than disguised beer, and it contains nearly as much alcohol as a good deal of "genuine" beer. Of course the revenue is being seriously defrauded by the sale of these decoctions, and, what is worse—at least, I presume so—many teetotallers are gradually becoming "habitual drinkers."

Solicitors are cheap to-day. Here is a country practitioner advertising in the *Law Times* for "admitted man as clerk;" he must be a "good advocate and conveyancer," and the salary offered is £75 a year. I am not surprised at the contempt for the advertiser to which a legal correspondent has given expression in sending me this precious announcement. But I suppose it may be taken for granted that the advertiser would not have named this miserable stipend unless he had been pretty sure that men would be found ready to accept it, and while this is, of course, no excuse for such disgraceful sweating, the fact that the services of a full-blown

solicitor can be secured for less than 30s. a week throws a lurid light on the condition of the profession. The lamentations one often hears about its overcrowded state would appear to be abundantly justified, and advertisements like this in the legal journals may well give pause to parents who contemplate putting their sons into the profession. The money required to article a youth and qualify him as a solicitor might just as well be saved if by the time he has become a good advocate and conveyancer he will only be able to command the wage of a copying clerk.

From a circular which has been forwarded to me, I learn that the publication of a book entitled "The Charitable Ten Thousand," and announced to contain the names and addresses of upwards of ten thousand of the largest donors to charitable objects, is an accomplished fact. I can find no words of condemnation strong enough to characterise this production of what is in point of fact a Beggar's Vade-Mecum. Every begging-letter writer who learns of its existence will forthwith expend the next guinea which his specious story succeeds in luring from the pocket of some credulous person in the purchase of a copy. Meanwhile, what do the ten thousand who are sold in this egregious fashion propose to do? I know that if my name and address figured in such a list without my knowledge and consent I should consider that I had good cause to look for a considerable recompense from the publishers. Individually, however, I can gain comfort from the thought that Truth will become even more essential to at least ten thousand of my fellow creatures.

A gentleman who chanced to come across the pamphlet published by the man Miller of 14, Holborn, E.C., has been at the pains to point out to me the utter absurdity of the pretensions this worthy makes for his "perfection system of investment"—the alluring title he gives to his "system" of betting on horse races. The rottenness of the "systems" run by Miller and others in the same line has been proved often enough, however, and if people will be such egregious greenhorns as to go in for this sort of "investment," all I can say is that they thoroughly deserve to lose their money, which in the long run they invariably do.

More specious than Miller's method of trading upon the credulity and cupidity of the public is that adopted by an individual named W. Nolan at Clapham. Nolan does not ask to be entrusted with money for investment according to his "secret" system. All he wants is a trifle of 10s. for a month's telegrams, and your undertaking to pay him 25 per cent. of the profits you make from following the information he wires you as to what horse to back and how much to put on at starting price. How can the tipster gain by this, it may be asked, unless his tips are right? Easily enough. The telegrams, of course, cost him nothing, even if the 10s. does not leave some profit. In sending his tips to different addresses all he has to do is to ring the changes on the names of the horses for each race, and in that way he is absolutely certain to spot the winners for some of his clients, who at the end of the week will be only too delighted to hand over his share of their winnings. It is, in fact, a game of "heads I win, tails you lose," and anybody can calculate for himself how lucrative it must be if there are any considerable number of clients. Yet I suppose there are scores and hundreds of infatuated noodles who never see through it.

Wanted: the present address of a young woman of ladylike appearance and manners, age about twenty-five, medium height, very pale complexion, black eyes, and very short black hair, known under various names, of which the latest are Miss Brookes, Miss Lane, and Mrs. Lyle. The individual who answers to this description has recently been engaged in a swindle of the most barefaced character, and it seems to have been planned and executed with so much boldness that I am convinced she can be no novice at the game. Her method was simplicity itself. Under the name of Miss Lane she engaged, towards the end of June, a bed-sitting room in a house at Acacia-place, St. John's Wood, at a moderate rental. From this address she sent to a number of ladies a printed document purporting to be the prospectus of "The Kensington Association." In this document she figured as a Miss Brookes, and described herself as secretary. The object of the Association as set out in the prospectus was to assist members in bringing their work before the public by offering prizes and giving them assistance in the sale of their work. The work, for which weekly prizes were offered was to consist of needlework and fancy articles of all descriptions, paintings in oil or water colours, wood carving, and so forth.

Naturally, an essential part of the scheme was the membership fee, and this was fixed at 10s. for an annual subscription, 6s. for the half year, and 3s. 6d. for the quarter. A leaflet which accompanied the prospectus gave a lengthy list of prizes open to the competition of members, and stated that the results would be forwarded on August 5, and the prizes sent on to the winners on that date. There seems to have been a considerable response from those who were circularised, for a large number of letters and parcels were received by "Miss Brookes." However, a day or two previous to August 5, Miss Lane went for a walk and did not return to her lodging, much to the distress of her landlady, who, duped by her appearance and manner, had boarded and lodged her free during the whole of her stay at Acacia-place. I have been able to trace her to Fitzroy-street, where she lived for a short time under the name of Mrs. Lyle; but from this address she has also disappeared. I learn now that she is engaged in applying under the original name of Lane for various advertised vacancies as domestic servant, and, with the plea that she has travelled a distance, she endeavours to obtain small sums of money to recoup her for travelling expenses. There is no doubt that this individual, in spite of her engaging manners and lady-like appearance, is a past-mistress in the gentle art of swindling. Hence this warning.

At the head of the present instalment of my Legal Pillory I place two cases which constitute a most effective answer to persons who seek, like my correspondent of last week, to extenuate the action of the Grimsby Bench in sending fishing apprentices to gaol on the ground of the seriousness of the offence of delaying a smack about to proceed to sea. Here are two defendants, one a fisherman, the other an apprentice, charged with precisely the same offence. It is the man's fifteenth appearance before the court for "neglecting to go to sea," and he is let off with a fine of 40s. The youth has been up on one previous occasion, and he is sent to gaol for a fortnight. There could scarcely be a more striking proof of the monstrous severity with which these unfortunate apprentices are punished. Possibly, I may be told that the fisherman was not committed to gaol because the law would not permit that course in the case of an adult; but if that is the explanation, I can only say that the fact makes it all the more scandalous that the law should allow imprisonment to be inflicted in the case of boys. The other items in the following list are of the usual type, contrasting the lenity with which the magistracy treat offences of violence and cruelty with their severity towards persons guilty of petty thefts, poaching, or sleeping out:—

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Alderman E. Palmer), Messrs. E. Bannister, J. C. Wright, and J. M. Dennis. Walter Clayton, fisherman, charged with disobedience by neglecting to go to sea in his employer's smack. This was his 29th appearance, and the 15th time he had been before the Court for "stopping ships." Fined £2 or one month.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Francis Holt, fishing apprentice, charged with disobedience by neglecting to go to sea in his employer's smack. This was his second offence. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Warwick Borough Police-court. William Cook, convicted of assaulting Mary Ann Kelly. Complainant had befriended the defendant by giving him employment as he was out of work. He showed his gratitude by violently assaulting her, her eye still being badly disfigured a fortnight afterwards. Fined £1. 19s., including costs.

Warwick Borough Police-court. George Davis and Robert Crane, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of forty-one rabbits. Fined £5 each or two months.

Doncaster Police-court. Joe Carroll, a well-known wrestler, charged with assaulting William Grogan. Defendant was creating a disturbance outside complainant's house, and, on being asked to go away, he threw complainant twice over his head and kicked him each time he fell on the ground. A police witness said complainant was smothered with blood. Fined £2 and costs.

Retford County Police-court. Before Messrs. E. E. Harcourt-Vernon, W. T. Gent, W. Chapman, and Colonel Denison. William Elliott and Walter Whitlam, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game, and being in possession of a gun for which they had no licence. Fined £2 each for the trespass, and 19s. each for the second offence.

Warminster Police-court. Before Mr. T. H. Cookson and Mr. W. F. Morgan. Harry Holton, convicted of assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, and on his wife running out of doors to escape his violence he dragged her back, and struck her in the side with such violence as to fracture her ribs. He threatened to kill her. The woman was granted a separation. There were two previous convictions against defendant. Seven days.

Newark County Police-court. Before Mr. W. N. Nicholson and Rev. R. Washington. William Hall, charged with stealing four pecks of apples from an orchard. Three months.

Arundel County Police-court. Before Mr. John Whitehead and Captain Hills. John Millward, charged with stealing two bottles of ginger-beer from a publican's premises. A previous conviction was proved. Three weeks.

Abergele and Colwyn Bay Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. H. Roberts and other magistrates. William Arthur Roberts, charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit a public-house, and John Edwards and William Edwards with assaulting the landlord. Roberts behaved in an outrageous way, and, on the landlord trying to eject him, he was attacked by the other defendants, who kicked him and bit his hand so seriously that it was useless for days. Roberts fined £1. 4s. 4d., the other defendants £1. 4s. 10d. each.

Aberdeen Police-court. Before Bailie Farquharson. George MacRay and George Conn pleaded guilty to having assaulted James Mitchell in a railway carriage by beating him, seizing him by the throat, and forcing him down upon the seat. They attacked him on his asking them to close a window while going through a tunnel. Fined 10s. 6d. each.

Devonport Police-court. Before Messrs. J. W. Ryder and W. Hawkes. William Lovell, stoker R.N., charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting James Thompson. Owing to prisoner's violence, a constable called upon Thompson to assist in conveying him to the lock-up. Prisoner thereupon threw Thompson to the ground and bit his lip, causing a wound which had to be dressed at the hospital. Fined 6s. for the first offence, and 10s. 6d. and costs for the assault.

St. Helens Police-court. Before Mr. Walmsley-Cotham and Mr. Dromgoole. William Beddons, charged with assaulting his baby, four months old. Defendant struck the infant on the face several times with his open hand, and also held it up by the legs and smacked it. His wife went for a neighbour, and on returning found the defendant with the child face downwards on the rug and beating it. A police witness said the side of the baby's face was black and swollen. Fined 5s. and 4s. 6d. costs.

Chesterfield Borough Police-court. Benjamin Barley, charged with cruelty by working a horse while in an unfit state. The animal was lame, it had sores on its back and sides, and it was in a most emaciated condition, one witness describing it as a complete wreck. Fined £1 and costs.

Swindon Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. D. Hussey-Freke (Chairman), C. Wykeham-Martin, L. L. Morse, and W. Reynolds. William Garland, labourer, charged with stealing six eggs and some apples, value 7d., belonging to his employer. It appeared to be his first offence. He had been in custody for several days, and was now sentenced to a week's hard labour.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before the Rev. C. W. Payne-Crawford. Samuel Weeks charged with trespassing in search of conies. He was in Buckhurst Park, and went into the brakes and got a rabbit which another man had shot. Fined £2. 2s. 8d.; in default fourteen days.

Plymouth Police-court. Before Professor Anthony and Mr. R. Woolland. William Howell, porter, charged with stealing six eggs. Six weeks.

Norman Cross Police-court. Before Captain Vipan, Messrs. J. Herbert and T. C. Ratcliffe, Revs. G. H. Woodhouse and H. H. Wyatt. Edward Leach, charged with lodging in the open air and being without visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Buxton Petty Sessions. Philip Hooper, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having in his possession a net used for taking game. Fined £2 and costs.

Horsham Police-court. Before Colonel Lyon. John Norris and Richard Botting, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Mansfield Police-court. Before Mr. J. Paget and other magistrates. Benjamin Hill and Charles Sargison, charged with poaching. Three months each, and a further term in default of finding sureties for their future good behaviour.

A case at Burton Police-court the other day, in which Princess Duleep Singh was fined for having an unmuzzled dog in a public place, is commended to my attention by a correspondent who apparently regards it as a *reductio ad absurdum* of muzzling-order prosecutions and convictions. It appeared that a vigilant policeman detected the Princess riding in a carriage with the unmuzzled dog on her knee, and being desirous, no doubt, of proving that whether an offender was a Princess or a peasant

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was immaterial to him, he forthwith applied for the usual summons, and the magistrates in due course inflicted the usual fine. As my correspondent suggests, it does seem to be carrying the law to an absurd point when a lady is fined for taking a lapdog out in a carriage without a muzzle. But, on the other hand, if the order were to be relaxed in such cases as that, it would also have to be relaxed in others, and in the long run the authorities would probably find a difficulty in knowing where to draw the line.

A remarkably cool method of procuring a supply of water was disclosed at the Bury County Police-court the other day, the defendants in the case being Samuel Knowles & Co., Limited, calico printers. The water at their mills having run short, the company took the delightfully simple course of making up the deficiency by connecting a 2½ in. stand-pipe with one of the Bury Corporation's mains, and diverting the supply from the main into the mill lodge for a period of about forty hours, the result being that the inhabitants of three districts were deprived of water from a Saturday afternoon until the Monday morning. This was done without even asking the permission of the authorities, and the magistrates showed their sense of the defendant's "irregularity," as their solicitor euphemistically called it, by imposing a fine of £5 and costs—the maximum penalty allowed by the law, but, at the same time, a totally inadequate one in such a case as this. I am told that in his character of a county magistrate the gentleman at the head of the delinquent firm is fond of expatiating upon the evils which arise from the drink traffic. He now has an opportunity of pointing out that an unbridled appetite for water may also get people into trouble.

At Brentford Police-court last week a soldier was charged with extinguishing a street lamp at Hounslow, and the Chairman (Mr. P. Watson) having commented in severe terms upon the gravity of the offence, inflicted a small fine. While it is necessary that this idiotic form of practical joking should be punished, it would, perhaps, be better if the infliction of the punishment were left to some other magistrate than the gentleman who is Chairman of the local street-lighting authority. The penalty imposed in this instance was suitable enough, but that does not alter the fact that, no matter how trivial the charge may be, it is always undesirable for the same person to be practically prosecutor and judge.

In vindication of a sentence of a month's hard labour for stealing two-pennyworth of apples from an orchard, which was passed on a man at Banbury Petty Sessions, and mentioned in my Legal Pillory last week, one of the magistrates writes to tell me that there were five previous convictions against the prisoner and that "he had done no work for eight years." I willingly give publicity to this information, though it does not affect my point in pillorying the case. Magistrates, I know, differ from me; but I contend that a man who steals a few apples, even if he has five previous convictions, is far less deserving of a month's hard labour than a brute who half murders his wife, or wantonly tortures a dumb animal, and, as I show every week, offenders of the latter class are continually let off with mere paltry pecuniary penalties.

There must be a boom in the Spanish buried treasure business, judging from the activity with which the enterprising prisoners are distributing copies of their romantic narrative. These gentry are getting decidedly bolder as time goes on. No doubt they have always looked upon the people of this country as mostly fools, and it would seem that the longer they know us the bigger fools they take us to be. Only on this hypothesis can one account for the audacity they now show in sending out their story on lithographed circulars, seeking to lure to their net not merely individual farmers or tradesmen, but actually a large firm of manufacturers. This latest departure has occurred in a case at Belfast; a limited liability company there having been favoured with the usual letter, and having, of course, forwarded it on to me. It is, indeed, a national humiliation that this transparent swindle should still be successfully carried on—and successful it evidently is—after so many years of constant exposure.

An elderly, but sturdy, beggar is Richard Gray, of 50, Grosvenor-park, Tunbridge Wells. He was, it appears, according to his own account, formerly an Australian merchant and shipper, who was thrown into poverty by the Australian bank failures, and to enable him to meet his serious difficulties and to preserve a home for himself and children, he found it necessary to appeal broadcast by sending total strangers a begging-letter, accompanied by a petition, which bears some sixty signatures of those who have assisted him. I have made some inquiries into the truth of his statements, and find that they are in the main correct. There are, however, one or two points which Gray has omitted to mention—points which, even were his method desirable, remove him from the list of deserving cases. First, the children to whom he refers are aged respectively 24 and 16, and consequently cannot be dependent upon him for support. Secondly, when he first started upon his career, £75 was the total sum necessary to enable him to meet the whole of his difficulties, and he has already received considerably more than this amount. Thirdly, he has been already warned to discontinue his operations by a gentleman who at first acted as a reference, and who considers, as I do, that begging is a reprehensible method of existing. Under these circumstances, I think it

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The only Palatable Natural Aperient to take is "Franz Josef" Water, generally admitted to be the best. Ten gold medals at World's Exhibitions. No household should be without it.

advisable to give Richard Gray a warning on my own account. The police have already thought fit to make inquiries about him, and I am afraid that if he does not desist, it will not be in my power to prevent his grey hairs from being brought down with sorrow to the grave.

I have received a number of requests for information about a firm of rubber-stamp merchants, of 92, Gracechurch-street, calling themselves Messrs. Ireton & Co. I am sorry to say that I have been able to ascertain very little about these people, owing to their having disappeared from that address, and the landlord would, I am informed, be as pleased as my correspondents to ascertain the whereabouts of the firm. At one period of their existence they appear to have done some genuine business, but for some time before their disappearance they seemed satisfied to accept the cash for orders without troubling themselves to execute the same. I am not surprised, therefore, that they have found it convenient to disappear.

The singular thing about this, as about many similar cases, is that the police decline to take any action in regard to the matter. One of my correspondents having failed to get any response to repeated requests for the return of his money or the execution of his order, made application to Scotland Yard, only to receive the stereotyped reply that the police could do nothing. I must say that I entirely fail to appreciate the subtle distinctions which the official mind is able to draw between the theft direct and the theft indirect. If anything, the public require infinitely more protection against the latter than against the former.

Another instance of the unscrupulous methods employed by the individuals who make it their business to supply servant girls with wholly unnecessary articles has just been brought under my notice. The firm in question, Messrs. A. Pritchard & Co., of Grosvenor-buildings, Richmond and Feltham, Middlesex, sold a silver watch to a domestic servant for £2. 8s. 6d., to be paid for by monthly instalments of 4s. Ten of these had been duly paid, but when the eleventh became due the girl happened to be away on a holiday, and consequently she delayed sending the instalment. Upon her return she received the following printed memorandum enclosed in an open envelope:—

Madam,—Not having replied to our previous applications for subscriptions, we beg to inform you that unless we receive same per *return of post* we shall be compelled to make unpleasant inquiries at your business address.—We are, madam, yours faithfully, A. Pritchard & Co.

This specimen of Messrs. Pritchard's business methods strikes me as a peculiarly impertinent method of extracting money from an easily terrorised class.

Sufferers from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and Ingram & Royle, Ltd., 52, Farringdon-street.

As I expected, the advertising swindle set on foot by Messrs. Mason, or Smith, of 145, Fleet-street, to which I referred last week, is producing a fine crop of dupes. Thus nearly every day of late the following advertisement has appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

A.—A Home Employment, for either sex, in spare time. No canvassing whatever; 5s. to 30s. weekly. Addressed envelope, in own writing, for particulars.—Letters only, B. Groves, 31, Palace-terrace, Fulham.

An application to B. Groves brings in response a circular almost identical with that published in my columns last week, and offering the same dubious advantages. Really the agents who lend themselves to the propagation of the swindle are very little better than the originators. Is it too much to ask that the *Daily Telegraph* should refuse to lend its advertising columns for the purpose?

Another advertisement in one of the Sunday papers promises "a handsome gold watch" to "the person" who correctly solves a so-called enigma, which obviously consists of a slight derangement of the letters forming the name of a well-known food for infants. There is always a countless herd of greedy noodles ready to jump at an offer of this kind, and as two penny stamps have to be sent with every solution, and only one watch is given each week, the advertiser is probably making a very good thing out of the business. I have no sympathy whatever for the fools who part with their twopences so easily. At the same time, they are entitled to any protection the law affords, and why the Wilkinson Advertisement Company, 33, Osborne-terrace, S.W., is permitted to carry on this game while missing-word competitions are stopped is an enigma which it is difficult to solve.

There is no shadow of doubt that the Mrs. Fielding of "The Limes," Great Yarmouth, whose offer of a "powerful six-guinea binocular", under the nom-de-plume of Mrs. B., 38, Willes-road, Kentish Town, I dealt with last week, is very extensively engaged under a variety of aliases in disposing of all kinds of goods as duplicate wedding presents, &c. Quite recently she was getting rid of an afternoon tea-set and kettle as a Mrs. North, of Surrey-gardens, and in another instance brought under my notice she actually made a proposal of partnership to one of her customers. The fact is, as I have frequently pointed out, that the whole of this business is more or less fraudulent, and I am surprised that, after my repeated exposures of it, reputable newspapers still continue to assist the operators.

I am sorry the *Chemist and Druggist* should have jumped to the conclusion that I expected it to reply to my paragraph concerning chemists' charges. I am always sorry when I see an esteemed contemporary

The Hernia Institute, 489, Oxford-st., London, W., absolutely cures rupture in from three to six weeks. Highest testimonials. Pamphlets and consultations free.

making itself ridiculous. This is what has happened on the present occasion. My readers will remember that I referred to the fact of three different chemists having charged three different prices for making up the same prescription, the price in the first case being 10d., in the second 1s. 3d., and in the third 1s. 9d. I asked why there should be such variations in the price for the same stuff. The *Chemist and Druggist* says it cannot answer the question because I gave "such vague information," and failed to describe precisely "the character of the medicine." This, of course, completely misses the point, which was the vast discrepancy in the charges of the three chemists for making up exactly the same prescription. Seeing that the same medicine was supplied by each tradesman, its "character" is wholly immaterial. My contemporary goes on to say that there are also variations in the prices of newspapers. How anybody could come to make such an absurdly irrelevant, such a childishly feeble retort passes my comprehension. There might have been something in it if different prices were charged for the same newspaper; but as it is the remark is perfectly meaningless. The *Chemist and Druggist* should really see whether it cannot make some better defence of its clients, and I will give it a further chance by citing another out of the numerous cases that have been brought to my notice. A week or so ago a lady bought a bottle of Sulphate of Quinine at a chemist's at Dover and had to pay 2s. for it. A few days later she bought a precisely similar bottle of the same drug at some stores in London, and was only charged 6½d. for it. Is there any reasonable explanation of this difference of 1s. 5½d. in the price of the same article; and if so, what is it?

My thanks are due to several correspondents at Constantinople for sending me private accounts of the recent atrocities. It is noteworthy that they all agree that the wholesale slaughter of the Armenians was either instigated and arranged, or else connived at, by the Turkish Government. Some of the London papers have stated that the mob were led by fanatical Softas, but this appears to be a mistake. According to one of the letters I have received, none of the Softas took part in the massacres. They held entirely aloof, and issued a "Fetva" (ordinance), which was verbally circulated, condemning the massacres as against the precepts of the Koran. As to the manner in which the fiendish work was carried out, these notes may be of interest:—

The mob was led by police in uniform and members of the organisation known officially as the Secret Police, but vulgarly called spies and informers. The mob was under complete control, and worked methodically. The so-called riot broke out simultaneously in twenty different parts of the city, and there were one or two rules governing the rioters' conduct, which they observed to the letter, and which could not have been the result of accident, *i.e.*, they killed male Armenians only; they did not touch a single female. They avoided foreigners, and the very few who were killed were mistaken for Armenians through running away. They left crowded thoroughfares and went into by-streets and attacked Hans which were known to contain Armenians in numbers. The massacres stopped by magic without any display of authority or a single rioter being arrested.

The mobs were not composed of Constantinople Turks, but Turks from the provinces—Lazes, Kurds, and a few Albanians, riff-raff of the very lowest type. There are many cases known where Turks sheltered and hid Armenians, and some of these have been reported by the Secret Police to the clique at Yildiz as having protected members of the Armenian Revolutionary Society.

As the term Han will be made use of pretty often I may as well explain that it is a large building, solidly built, with iron doors and shutters, and occupied by many tenants either as offices or warehouses. The *modus operandi* was for the mob to proceed and batter the door down with picks or axes, and, in one or two cases, improvised battering rams. If the inmates offered no resistance they would be butchered. If any resistance was offered, such as firing a shot at the mob, then the police would report to the military that the place was occupied by revolutionaries, who were firing on the lawful officers of his Majesty, whereupon the military would open a sharp fusillade on the windows of the building, whilst the mob broke into the building under the cover of their fire.

SCRUTATOR.

BOARD SCHOOLS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

In reply to a question asked just before the end of last Session, Sir John Gorst facetiously remarked that he should not fail to think a great deal about the next Education Bill during the recess. No doubt that subject will furnish him with plenty to think of, especially if it causes him to think of the last Bill at the same time; but as Sir John is a man who—although nominally a Conservative—takes kindly to new ideas, and has shown himself prepared to turn the whole educational system of the country upside down at a moment's notice, and apparently merely for the fun of the thing, it has occurred to me that this will be an excellent opportunity to make him a present of a little idea of my own, which may afford him some additional matter for cogitation during his holidays. My idea is this. The only real objection to Board schools which is generally felt by the public at the present time, is the objection to pay rates to support them. I know that religious considerations are pressed into the service of the "Down with the Board Schools" movement, but this is such transparent humbug that no reasonable man is deceived by it. If the School Board rate had never risen above a penny in the pound, we should never have heard jeremiads over the impending destruction of our National Morals and National Religion through the sinister influence of the Board Schools. It is the shilling in the pound levied by the London School Board that has pricked so many tender consciences, and raised misgivings about the danger to all that we hold sacred with which such a rate is fraught.

Now, the School Board rate would never have had such a sting as it now possesses if it were not for the fact that the majority of the people who pay it feel that they are getting nothing in return. The bulk of the School Board rate is paid by the middle classes, and the bulk of the School Board population belongs to the working classes; and what touches up your average middle-class man in his tenderest spot is the feeling that his shilling in the pound is paid for the exclusive benefit of that (from the British ratepayer's point of view)

Brighton.—Norfolk Hotel.—This old-established Country and Family Hotel is in the best situation, and replete with comfort, style, and luxury.—Jules A. Creighton, Manager.

Savoy Hotel, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

ungrateful, not to say undeserving, character, the British workman. It is no use arguing against this feeling. If a man will think the matter out for himself, he will see, what was far more clearly perceived before the first Education Act was passed than it is to-day, that to allow the greater part of the rising generation in our large towns to grow up in ignorance and savagery must eventually produce results disastrous to the whole community. But if a man cannot, or will not, recognise this palpable truth for himself, it is not much use trying to enlighten him by argument; and I am afraid that as long as School Board rates have to be paid, a considerable proportion of those who have to pay them will look upon them as a dole, which is extorted from them by compulsion for the purpose of doing for other members of the community what those other members ought to be doing for themselves.

The first merit of my scheme is that it will go a long way towards removing this unreasonable notion. My scheme is that the School Boards should open paying schools for the middle classes. I do not mean elementary schools. The present elementary Board schools are open to all, and though the middle classes, for reasons of their own (I dare say very good reasons), do not care to send their children to them, that is their own look-out. All have a right to use the schools if they choose. It would never do, at any rate in a Democratic age, to run side by side two classes of public elementary schools, one for paying pupils and one for children whose parents cannot afford to pay. If such an attempt were made there would speedily be a demand for three classes, and after that for four, five, and six. Once introduce a purely social distinction into the schools, and you will never be able to stop until you have as many classes of schools as there are gradations of Society. But I cannot see why Board Schools should not be started for paying pupils on a higher educational standard than is reached by the elementary schools. The working classes would not use these schools (unless in the very limited way which I will refer to presently) because attendance would be voluntary, and the children would have reached an age at which the working-class parent expects them to begin to shift for themselves. They will, therefore, be Board schools for the middle classes; and this is what it seems to me we want, in order to make the Board school system acceptable to all, because useful to all.

In order to extend their usefulness, I would make the fees in such schools progressive. The payment should be so much per week or per term for each standard; and the standards should be graduated up to the point of preparing a youth for the University. In fact, each such school would be very much on the pattern of such endowed schools as St. Paul's or Dulwich College, the chief difference being that the longer a boy stopped in the school, the more he would have to pay. The actual amount of the fees I would base on the principle that the school should be just self-supporting in the lower standards, and should yield a profit in the higher, this profit to be carried to the general fund of the School Board, and to be applied in reduction of the rates. Thus, not only would cheap and efficient schools be provided for the middle classes through the agency of the School Board, but the present rates would be reduced in effecting this result.

I put forward this little idea of mine on a financial basis, because, as I have said, I believe that the general public looks at all educational questions chiefly from the point of view of £. s. d. But I hope there may be many who will see that there are other reasons than these for a measure of this kind. The end which I should most hope to see achieved by the middle-class Board schools would be, not so much the saving of the middle-class pocket, as the improvement of middle-class education. Looking at it as a whole, and making allowance for numerous notable exceptions, there probably never was anything worse of its kind devised than the average small proprietary day school, whether for girls or boys. As regards girls, there have lately been certain attempts made on an organised plan to supply first-class and cheap day schools in London and the provinces; but these attempts make no pretence at covering the whole of the ground—to say nothing of the fact of their being on a sectarian basis—and we cannot look to private enterprise to supply in every district a thoroughly efficient and trustworthy system of public education. There is hardly a parish in the United Kingdom where schools cannot be found at the present moment, which are conducted by private speculators possessing no qualifications whatever for their task, and assisted by young men and women whose educational attainments are most limited. Every year thousands of boys and girls of the middle-class leave such schools knowing little or nothing, and that little often of a useless character. It is in middle-class education, far more than in that provided at the Universities or the public elementary schools, that the superiority of the Germans to ourselves is most apparent; and this superiority has had much to do with the progress of Germany during the last quarter of a century. We are at this moment in one of our periodical fits of panic over the rapid advance of German commerce and industry. We hear a great deal about the superior education of the German mechanic and craftsman, but Germany has far less advantage over us in the matter of skilled labour than in the better education of her clerks, her commercial travellers, and her business men generally. In the German educational system provision is made for training boys in foreign languages, book-keeping, commercial correspondence, and all the technicalities of office life, and boys leave these schools knowing as much about all branches of business as many English clerks learn in a lifetime. The first aim of our educational reformers should be to provide England—Scotland is far less behind-hand in this matter — with public schools which will place a young middle-class Englishman on a footing of equality with his German rival. Nor does this apply merely to commercial technicalities. It is equally true in regard to all forms of natural science, more especially those sciences which are applied in manufactures, agriculture, and engineer-

ing. A German boy can acquire a knowledge of chemistry, electricity, mechanics, and all similar branches of science before he is out of his teens, which an English boy rarely has an opportunity of obtaining at the same age. If we are permanently to hold our own, not only in commerce, but in manufactures and the industrial arts, schools thoroughly equipped in all respects for education in all these subjects must be within the reach of the rising generation; and we shall never get such schools if we wait for private enterprise to provide them.

Depend upon it, this is the great educational need of the day. It is no use to dole out a few thousand pounds to County Councils to be expended here and there upon technical education by means of lectures, evening schools, and continuation classes at the present Board schools. Much useful work can be done, and is being done, in this way, but it reaches only a limited section of a single class. The public secondary and technical schools which I want to see established will be open to all classes, and if only they are efficient, all classes will speedily fill them. Undoubtedly, in such schools a certain proportion of free education should be given. Scholarships admitting the holder to education in such schools for a certain period free of charge should be open to competition among pupils at the elementary schools. Other scholarships should be given in each grade or standard of the secondary school, entitling the holder to a further period of free education in the standard above. In this way the "educational ladder" between the elementary school and the university, of which we have heard so much, will be completed in every rung; so easy, indeed, of ascent will it be that it will be more like an inclined plane than a ladder. But the bulk of the pupils at these schools—nineteen out of every twenty, at least—will pay their own expenses, and a considerable proportion of them will pay enough to make the whole undertaking a source of financial profit to the Board and the ratepayers. That the scheme is perfect as I have sketched it out, I do not suppose for a minute; but that the development of public education in some such direction as this is better worth consideration than the kind of Education Questions with which the public has been occupied of late, I entertain no doubt whatever.

THE ABUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT.

I have lately come across a case which throws further interesting light upon the abuses of the confidential report system. The officer concerned is Major Acheson, late of the Army Service Corps, who resigned his commission under compulsion about a year ago. Major Acheson's case is an example both of the laxity with which the Regulations respecting confidential reports are carried out, and also of the deadliness of the weapon which is thus placed in the hands of the War Office, in the event of an officer who has been unfavourably reported upon giving offence to his military superiors. At the time of his resignation Major Acheson had served about sixteen years in the Army without incurring a reprimand of any kind until the last six months of his career. He served in Egypt during two campaigns, and was mentioned in despatches by the General in command. In 1889 he was specially selected to command the depot company at Aldershot, and from that appointment he was selected for the adjutancy of the same station, so that he may be regarded as an officer of exceptionally good record.

In April, 1893, Major Acheson returned from foreign service, and about a year later he was selected to proceed to Cork, as assistant to Lieut.-Colonel Cook, D.A.A.G., an appointment which generally precedes selection for the General Staff. In this appointment he seems for some time to have given every satisfaction. On about three occasions the Lieut.-Colonel was absent on leave, in all for about two months, and no fault of any kind was ever found with the way in which Major Acheson discharged the duties of the post during his chief's absence. Then, however, a little personal difference seems to have arisen between the two officers. Major Acheson himself asked for a few days' leave, and Lieut.-Colonel Cook, without assigning any reason, objected to his going. Major Acheson pressed the point, and requested that his application might be forwarded to the General. Lieut.-Colonel Cook complied, but at the same time made a remark of a somewhat threatening character. The leave was granted by the General, and very shortly afterwards Lieut.-Colonel Cook made an unfavourable entry in his confidential report on Major Acheson, to the effect that the Major "possessed ability without stability and perseverance," did not take kindly to the work of the General Staff, and was not, in Lieut.-Colonel Cook's opinion, "fitted for further-continued employment as such." This report in itself was not, perhaps, of a very damaging character, and apparently it was not taken very seriously at the War Office. The report was communicated to Major Acheson, as required by the Regulations, and feeling himself strongly aggrieved by it, the Major wrote a protest, which was forwarded through the usual channels to the War Office. His letter, however, was not answered, and he received no communication from the War Office, as provided for by the Regulations. It is worth while to note what the Regulations really say on this point:—

> If the result of the report is considered by the Commander-in-Chief to disqualify the officer from further promotion, he will be so informed, but if reported for reasons which may be removed by amendment or study, he will be cautioned, and when more favourably reported on his claims may be considered (sec. 5, par. 35).

As Major Acheson was not even cautioned under this section, it might be taken that what had been said about him was not deemed worthy of serious notice, in view of his previous record. But see now the use which was subsequently made of this report.

On his return to England in 1893, Major Acheson had been, in the first instance, desirous of obtaining an appointment at Aldershot. He failed, however, in this, and was informed at the War Office that it was due to some objection on the part of Lieut.-Colonel Bridge, then commanding the Army Service Corps at that station. As might be expected, this did not produce a very friendly feeling on the part of Major Acheson towards Lieut.-Colonel Bridge. Being in England

in April, 1895, Major Acheson went on a visit to Aldershot, and dined at the Army Service Corps mess, to which he was a subscriber. In the ordinary course of things he there met Lieut.-Colonel Bridge, and, on being greeted by that officer, he responded in a way which was probably not unduly polite. This was, of course, indefensible, and it was an obvious indiscretion on Major Acheson's part to have gone to the Army Service Corps mess at all under the circumstances. He seems to have seen directly afterwards that he had behaved wrongly, for he tendered an apology to Lieut.-Colonel Bridge, which he understood was accepted. The incident, however, evidently rankled in the breast of the superior officer, and after nursing his wrath for two or three weeks, he made a report on the subject to the War Office. Major Acheson was called to account, and in the end was required by the Commander-in-Chief (H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge) to send in his resignation, the letter in which this was done expressly stating that the decision had been arrived at *after taking into consideration the previous unfavourable report of Lieutenant-Colonel Cook.* Major Acheson protested and appealed, interviewed the Quartermaster-General, and did all that he could in his own defence, but the Commander-in-Chief was immovable, and the Major's military career came to an end.

The significance of this case lies, as I have said, in its bearing upon the confidential report system. No one can suppose that an officer, who had served in the Army for sixteen years with every possible credit, would have been turned out of the Service simply on the strength of a little act of discourtesy to a superior officer, such as that of which Major Acheson was guilty on his visit to Aldershot. Even the late Commander-in-Chief hardly had the courage to commit such an act of injustice as this; and accordingly, when calling for Major Acheson's resignation, he fortified himself, by falling back upon a passage in a confidential report which had previously been considered of so trivial a character that it had lain at the War Office for six months without any notice whatever being taken of it. Now how does this passage in the confidential report of Lieutenant-Colonel Cook aggravate the complaint made by Lieutenant-Colonel Bridge? Grant that under ordinary circumstances an officer ought not to be kicked out of the Service for an isolated act of discourtesy to a superior officer on the occasion of a private meeting at a club, and it certainly does not afford any stronger reason for kicking him out that he has previously been pronounced by another officer to be unsuited for Staff employment. The act of which Lieut.-Colonel Bridge complained was an isolated offence, which ought to have been judged upon its merits; and its merits are in no way affected by the professional qualifications of the offender or his suitability for promotion. To couple the two incidents together is so obviously illogical and unjust as to strongly suggest that there must have been some further reason, which was deemed at headquarters to make it desirable to get rid of Major Acheson. It so happens that a clue can be found as to what this reason really was.

In 1884 certain correspondence with reference to the Army Service Corps had appeared in the *Army and Navy Gazette.* Major Acheson was suspected at the War Office of being one of the writers, and of having spoken unfavourably of his Corps. This is proved by a private letter which Major Acheson received from an officer holding a high position at the War Office. In this letter occurred the following passage:—

> I take this opportunity of writing to you to ask you to clear up a certain matter which is causing comment.
>
> A number of letters have from time to time appeared in the papers, crabbing the Corps for varied reasons, and have done, and will yet do, immense harm to it. Some are believed, rightly or wrongly, to have been written by you, and your name has accordingly been mentioned as their author.
>
> It is necessary that we should be in a position to deny this if you have been maligned in the matter, and I am to ask you what is the truth. Please do so as early as you can.

In point of fact Major Acheson had written one letter to the *Army and Navy Gazette*, and it had reference to the subject of promotion in the Army Service Corps. But it was an inoffensive production, and was certainly not of the character suggested in the above letter from the War Office; nor was there any ground for imputing any of the other letters complained of to Major Acheson. The truth seems to be, however, that this officer was suspected, without any adequate cause, of entertaining views about the Army Service Corps which were not acceptable to his superiors, and of uttering these views in the Press; and there can be very little doubt that this was the ground for the hostility towards him, which culminated in his enforced resignation.

Thus we have a confidential report, produced under circumstances which are suggestive of personal feeling, raked up after having passed for six months unnoticed, in order to be used as the means for getting rid of an officer personally distasteful at the headquarters of his Department. It is only one instance of a danger which always exists, and which has been exemplified in innumerable instances. The confidential report is a weapon which constantly threatens the reputation and happiness of every officer, and often his commission itself. The safeguards by which it is at present surrounded are not sufficient to prevent it being abused; and, even if they were, they are often disregarded. In the very case described above, it would seem that after the confidential report had been communicated to Major Acheson it was altered in one particular unfavourably to him before its final transmission to the War Office; and the War Office itself seems to have failed in complying with the Regulations, inasmuch as no caution of any kind was administered, before action was taken upon the report, as the Regulations, in spirit at least, require to be done. In theory, the confidential report system is all very well, and if the officers entrusted with the making of such reports were free from ordinary human infirmity, and capable of laying aside all personal predilection and bias when forming judgments on their fellow men, the system would be as good in practice as it is in theory. But unfortunately it has to be worked by

Maignen's Filter is the only one adopted after public competition by the City of Paris (10th July, 1896) see *Bulletin Municipal Officiel*, 30th July, 1896.—Full particulars from Maignen's Filtre Rapide & Anti-Calcaire Co., Ltd., 255, Regent-street, London, W.

ordinary human beings, and nothing is more rare than to find a human being capable of forming and expressing a good opinion of a subordinate who has manifested a disinclination to bow down and worship him. The consequence is that there is always a danger of the confidential report becoming a mere expression of personal antipathy, or even an instrument of personal spite.

"DR." FOLEY—BEHIND THE SCENES.

Outside the entrance to 21, High-street, Kensington, there is to be found a boy clad in an attractive uniform. Under the lad's arm is a bundle of pamphlets which he distributes to the passers-by in the street. The title to be found on the cover of each of these pamphlets is "Behind the Scenes," and each contains some sixteen pages of laudatory matter concerning a Mr. or Dr. Foley, one of whose establishments is situated at this particular address, and who also carries on business as a dentist at 113, Westbourne-grove, 32, Tavern-street, Ipswich, 150, High-street, Colchester, and 95, North End, Croydon. I have been perusing this pamphlet with considerable interest, and I find the introductory passages admirably, if somewhat ornately, descriptive of my present purpose. Thus, referring to its title, the author writes :—

> We must not be understood to mean that we are about to take the reader behind the scenes of an ordinary playhouse, but rather that it is our intention to conduct him behind the scenes of that vast theatre in which is being enacted the great drama of life, and especially so far as the scenes of that drama are connected with the exercise of the precious science which deals with the most important agents of human nutrition, viz., the Teeth. *We propose in this connection to bring to light some valuable truths and facts that, for the public benefit, ought to be widely known.*

The italics are mine, and I also propose in this connection to bring to light some facts that, for the public benefit, ought to be widely known. Following closely upon this introduction, the author gives a hint of his real purpose by the enunciation of the following "Eastern Proverbs" :—

> Who has not teeth and no money to buy teeth, is poor indeed.
>
> Who hath money and no teeth, yet seeketh not the aid of an experienced dentist, might as well be poor.
>
> Who has money and no teeth, and useth the money to buy teeth, proveth that right to wealth which consisteth in knowing how to use it.

Having added to these singular aphorisms a long catalogue of the evils attendant upon neglect of the teeth, the author proceeds to give a warning to the public in the choice of a dentist in the following terms :—

> Beware of the man who, because of his great expenses in rent and advertising, the insignificant number of his patients, and the imperative necessity of eating, is compelled to make those patients who come to him pay for those who stay away; who, in other words, charges from ten to forty guineas for a set of teeth which, if his business were larger, he could afford to supply to his patients at less than one-third of the price. To avoid an overcharge of this kind the only plan is to go to an acknowledged
>
> MEMBER OF THE DENTAL PROFESSION.
>
> At the very head of those dental notabilities who deserve to be so classed universal admission places
>
> Mr. Foley, the American Dental Specialist.

So much for Mr. Foley's professions. I have gone into them at such length because they are exceptional even amongst advertisements of self-advertising quacks, and because they throw into particularly vivid relief the treatment which has been the recent experience of a poor patient who entrusted herself to Mr. Foley's hands. The patient in question, whom I will call Mrs. P., is a cook, and although she has attained to mature years, yet there is evident in her manner that astonishing simplicity in relation to the facts of life outside the immediate sphere of her daily duties not infrequently found in her class. In November last Mrs. P. found herself in the position of having money but no teeth, and accordingly she went to Mr. Foley's establishment at Westbourne-grove. She was at that time out of a situation, but could afford to view the prospect with equanimity owing to the fact that she had been thrifty enough to save something over a hundred pounds out of her earnings. As a result of her visit to Mr. Foley, however, within nine months Mrs. P. found herself with two unsatisfactory cases of teeth, mounted in vulcanite and thinly cased in gold, but minus her savings—£110 in all—and still owing a balance of £16 to the dentist. She had meanwhile obtained a situation, and the matter coming to the notice of her employer, that gentleman at once set about rectifying it, so far as he was able. His first step was to demand an account from Foley. The immediate effect of this letter was the abandonment of the claim for the £16 owing, a long reply in defence of the charge of £110, and an offer to make any alteration in the cases, or even to make new cases if desired. To this the gentleman in question replied with a peremptory demand for a detailed account, with the result that the following extraordinary statement was forwarded to him :—

113, Westbourne-grove, Bayswater, W.

Mrs. P. To S. Foley.

1895.		
Nov.	15.	To professional attendance.
,,	16.	Do.
,,	18.	Do.
,,	22.	To Professional attendance, when £110 was agreed upon to include all operations, temporary Gold and Vulcanite cases to be supplied from time to time until mouth was in condition to have permanent Cases made. The two full Sets, Gold and Vulcanite, with Gold Springs.
,,	28.	Gold Cases made and fitted.
Dec.	19.	To Professional attendance at residence, Enfield.
1896.		
Jan.	22.	Fresh cases supplied, as Gums had receded.
Feb.	19.	Re-making Same.
Mar.	2.	New Case.
,,	7.	To Professional attendance.
June	25.	Do.
July	22.	New Permanent Case. To complete agreement permanent case to be attended to if required, and to supply a second complete set.

A more ridiculous attempt to justify the large sum charged can scarcely be conceived, and it is especially worthy of notice that the sum already paid by Mrs. P. is set down as the amount agreed upon to be paid by her, in spite of the fact that a month or two previous to the furnishing of the account Mr. Foley was claiming an additional £16 from her. Consequently no sooner was Mrs. P.'s employer in possession of this document than he wrote to Mr. Foley to the following effect :—

> Sir,—I have taken advice on your transactions with Mrs. P., with the result that I am satisfied that you have received money from her to which you are not entitled on the most liberal scale of charge. I cannot overlook the fact that this poor woman is an illiterate servant, as you knew, and that the savings of years of hard work accumulated to provide some small comfort in old age now close on her have been parted with in ignorance of the ways of the world. Before taking proceedings to bring the

Gout and Rheumatism permanently cured by Post's C.B.Q. Certificate of Analysis proves it absolutely free from Colchicum, Calomel, or Mercury, or ingredients equally injurious.—Full particulars and testimonials free on application to A. M. Post, 98, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

facts before a jury, I write to give you an opportunity of returning some portion of this money. If you were to return £75 you would then be very handsomely paid for all you have done, and I hope you will see your way to do this if not more. This is written without prejudice.—Yours, &c.

The result was just what might have been expected. A representative of Foley appeared hot-foot upon the scene, and eventually, rather than face the exposure entailed by bringing the facts before a jury, agreed to refund £40. This sum Mrs. P.'s employer thought well to accept on her behalf rather than be put to the inconvenience and expense which would have been entailed by an appeal to the law, and in due course a cheque for that amount was forwarded to Mrs. P. through Mr. Foley's solicitor.

About this transaction there can be no two opinions. From the quotations which I have made from his pamphlet, and I have by no means exhausted the verbal inducements contained therein, it is evident that Foley stops at no artifice to secure customers. Upon his note-paper, but not in the pamphlet, he assumes the title of "Dr.," though what his qualifications are I have been unable to discern. His exposition of the "precious science" is worthy of being used as a manual by professors of quackery. And, throughout, the one point upon which he insists more than any other is the moderation of his charges. It is true he admits that money is not wholly unnecessary for the acquirement of the necessary aids to dentition. According to his "Eastern Proverbs," the right to wealth can only properly be claimed by those who part with their money to buy teeth. His interpretation of the proverb is obvious; for in spite of the specious pretences of moderate charges in the pamphlet from which I have quoted, Foley no sooner gets an illiterate woman into his hands than he proceeds to fleece her of the whole of her hardly-earned savings, and when brought to book by some one better versed in the ways of the world than his victim, practically admits the justice of the charge against him by refunding a portion of the plunder rather than face the well-deserved publicity of the Courts. Really it seems as if "Dr." Foley were in the position of those dentists against whom he is so profuse in his warnings. I do not know whether it is "because of his great expenses in advertising," the boy in livery, and the printer's bill for the "Peep behind the Scenes," or "the insignificant number of his patients and the imperative necessity of eating," which leads him to charge £126 for teeth which no dentist who valued his reputation as an honourable man would have priced at more than twenty guineas, nor do I care. The man stands revealed as a charlatan whom it is a pleasure to unmask. There is a flavour of undisguised rascality about the whole procedure, and I trust that this glance "behind the scenes" which I have been enabled to give will be sufficient warning to prevent any of my readers who might at any time contemplate so doing from entrusting themselves to the mercies of this eminent American Specialist.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

SANITATION AT THE SEASIDE.

Every summer brings forth some fresh proof of the short-sightedness of seaside municipal bodies in matters of sanitary administration. It is a characteristic of such bodies which has always amazed me, and which becomes the more amazing as time goes on. There is no difficulty in understanding, however much one may deplore, the tendency of ratepayers and their representatives in the ordinary country town to shut their eyes to unpleasant facts and put up with an imperfect system of drainage, or an unsatisfactory supply of water, in order to avoid as long as possible any addition to their financial burdens. If they suffer from such procrastination, that is their own look out, and they are in a position to be more or less indifferent to the views of outsiders. But in a place which is first and foremost a health and pleasure resort, the case is altogether different. Its prosperity is bound up with its reputation for good sanitation, and the policy of glossing over defects that come to light, and staving off the necessary remedial measures, is certain to end, sooner or later, in disaster. Experience has shown this over and over again; yet, in spite of all warnings, that is the policy which the local authorities of watering places almost invariably pursue. Something is found amiss with the drains or the water, and the fact leaks out in the Press. At once the statement is met with official prevarications and denials, and torrents of abuse are discharged at the newspaper which has dared to speak the truth. (On this point I speak feelingly, for probably no journalist has had to brave more such storms than I have.) Then when the evil becomes too palpable to be wholly disavowed, more precious time is wasted in silly attempts to minimise it or make it appear something accidental and temporary, and it is only after untold mischief has been caused to the town that the difficulty is fully and properly grappled with. That this is no exaggeration is proved by what happened at Worthing in 1893. For months the authorities maintained that their water supply was perfectly pure, and descended to all sorts of disingenuous and misleading devices to explain away the outbreaks of typhoid that were occurring in the town. Not until these outbreaks had grown to the proportions of an appalling epidemic, and hundreds of persons had been stricken down by the disease, scores fatally, did the Worthing Corporation show itself alive to the gravity of the situation and take the necessary steps to put its house in order. This it has since effectively done, and Worthing is now, I hope, enjoying all its former prosperity. But the frightful sacrifice of life and health that took place, to say nothing of the heavy pecuniary loss that fell upon the town in 1893 and the following season or two, would have been averted if the authorities had had the courage to face the truth at the outset.

Take, again, the treatment of the water question at Eastbourne. Just about twelve months ago I gave publicity to the complaints residents and visitors were making respecting the extreme hardness and saltness of the water. In reply I received from some quarters the usual assurances that the complaints were totally

unfounded, while from others, with a nicer regard for veracity, came grudging admissions that the water was a trifle hard and salt, but strong assertions that it was not injurious to health. Organically pure the liquid might be, but that it was highly unpalatable was evident from the fact that, rather than use it, people were paying sixpence a gallon for distilled water. At Eastbourne the water supply is the monopoly of a Company, not of the Corporation, and it is only fair to the latter body to say that, the moment the question arose, they recognised its importance to the town, and within a few weeks passed a resolution in favour of promoting a Bill which would transfer the water supply to their own hands. The Waterworks Company, however, were profuse in their promises that anything which was wrong with the water would be speedily set right—their explanation was that a salt spring had been accidentally tapped, but could easily be "blocked out"—and owing, if I remember aright, to an adverse vote by the ratepayers, the Council's proposal was dropped. Eastbourne is now bitterly repenting the trust it reposed in the promises of the Waterworks Company. Again this season, as my readers are aware, the water has been excessively salt; again visitors have been buying distilled water at sixpence a gallon; and again the Company have trotted out an eminent analyst's report that the beverage they supply is "organically pure," as though that disposed of the objection that it is so salt as to be undrinkable. Half way through the season the Company, as a gracious concession to the prejudices of consumers, erected six stand pipes, from which they could obtain water free from the presence of salts. But this is only a temporary, and at that a most inadequate arrangement, and the ratepayers are confronted now, as they were a year back, with the necessity of securing a permanent water supply of unexceptional quality. Are they going to run the risk of being befooled a second time by the Waterworks Company? So far as the Council are concerned I am glad to see that at their meeting last week the speakers were unanimously in favour of applying to Parliament for power to take over the water supply, and it is to be hoped that they will now be backed up by the ratepayers. Certain it is that any repetition of the state of things which has existed this season and last year will most seriously imperil the popularity of the town. Eastbourne has many advantages and attractions, and its healthiness is unquestioned; but it cannot afford to go on disgusting visitors with water which, though it may not be injurious, is undoubtedly distasteful.

Deal is another town which needs to be reminded of the dangers of apathy and delay in regard to its sanitary condition. About eighteen months ago I directed attention to the question of the drainage of middle and upper Deal, and shortly afterwards the Corporation gave some signs of an awakening to their responsibilities in this and other matters. The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act was adopted, and it was decided to join with Walmer in providing an Isolation Hospital. For the fact that the Hospital is not yet built the Local Government Board is mainly to blame. The Corporation also appointed a special Inspection Committee to deal with the grosser cases of insanitary dwellings and nuisances in the town, and I am told that it has done much good work. But the drainage question, the most important of all, is still in practically the same position as in the early part of 1895. It is true that a committee was directed to report on the subject; that a deputation was appointed to examine the systems in operation at Hastings and Eastbourne, and that, finally, the Surveyor was ordered to prepare plans and estimates for carrying out the work. But at this point the zeal of the Council seems to have been exhausted, and to all appearance the actual commencement of the work is as far off as ever. No doubt it is something to be thankful for that a majority of the Council have formally recognised the necessity of draining upper and middle Deal, but when month after month passes without any further progress being made, the sincerity of their declarations is naturally suspected. All this time the undrained district referred to remains a standing menace to the health and popularity of the town. Its sewage is disposed of on the most primitive cesspool system, or, rather, by means of cesspools without any system, for they are emptied when and practically where the inhabitants please, the results in the way of sights and smells being admirably calculated to drive away visitors. Apart, moreover, from the question of the genuineness of their desire to remedy this state of things, the Council have somewhat shaken public confidence in their competence and sagacity. One of their achievements has been to construct a new road, the Marina, without a drain, while in another street where there is some drainage, it is so inadequate that a heavy storm of rain, such as occurred only last week, soon floods the road to a considerable depth with a delectable mixture of storm-water, sea-water, and sewage. But the most astonishing performance of the Deal Council has been in connection with the decision of the South Eastern Railway Company to build a new hotel—a project which cannot fail to be of great benefit to the town. The Company made it a condition that the Corporation should lower and extend the southern sewage outfall which enters the sea opposite Deal Castle and the site of the proposed hotel. They advertised for tenders for this work, but the lowest sent in (£650) was about £200 above the surveyor's estimate, and it came from a firm which had had a difference with the Council as to whether a Councillor, who is a builder, should be allowed (as alleged) to break the building by-laws while builders who are not Councillors are compelled to observe them. The Council rejected this tender, and instructed the surveyor, much against his will, to carry out the work himself. The contractors were to have been bound under a penalty to complete the job by the beginning of June. In the hands of municipal workmen only about a third of it had been finished by the middle of July, though no less than £500 had been spent. It was then decided to suspend operations till next February, and, as a consequence, about half the amount already expended will be absolutely thrown away. Undoubtedly the blame for this miserable fiasco rests, not so much upon the surveyor as upon the parties who imposed the task upon him; for common sense

ought to have told them that a job of this kind was not likely to be carried out so economically and expeditiously by an official without the requisite organisation and equipment as by an experienced firm of contractors. Such incidents are not encouraging to the ratepayers of Deal; but it is of no use to cry over spilt milk or wasted funds. What they have to do now is to see that the Corporation set to work immediately and effectively upon the drainage scheme, which is indispensable if Deal is to take the flourishing position as a seaside resort which lies before it. A scheme to place the drainage of Deal beyond reproach will, I understand, involve an expenditure of £20,000, and the sooner it is executed the better it will be for the town. Westgate-on-Sea has lately had impressed upon it the desirability of a similar undertaking, and it has promptly resolved to incur the necessary outlay. Deal will be well advised to follow this example.

Whenever I allude to the shortcomings of a watering-place, I am forthwith credited with a sinister desire to spoil its season, or, if that is over, to damage its prospects for the next year. Hotel proprietors and lodging-house keepers overwhelm me with reproaches and protests. I quite expect that this will happen again on the present occasion. But really no accusation could be more unjust. I have no wish—why should I have?—to damage this, that, or the other town. On the contrary, I consider that a little plain speaking in these matters is the most valuable service that can be rendered to any place afflicted with somnolent or crass-headed civic rulers. Such criticism by an outsider is, too, all the more useful when, as often happens, local journalists are afraid to say a word which will affront the powers that be. There was a good instance of the general attitude of the local papers in these cases at Eastbourne a few weeks back. A visitor chanced to see in the *Sussex Daily News* two or three lines recording the fact that the Ratepayers' Association had been in correspondence with the Waterworks Company respecting the quality of the water. This correspondence had been read at a meeting of the Association, and the Eastbourne papers were turned to for full particulars. But not even a word did they contain on this subject, though the other business of the meeting was reported at length. Again, within the past few days I have received a letter from a resident at Southport in reference to the condition of the Marine Lake, which has to compensate visitors for the coyness of the ocean in keeping at a very respectable distance from the Promenade. My informant asserts that the sea water in this lake is positively rank and green from putrescence, and he complains that on this and other subjects requiring the attention of the Corporation, the local Press is dumb. Wherever it is adopted, this policy of veiling over defects and hushing up scandals affecting the health and amenities of a holiday resort is doomed to failure. The idea that any fault in the water supply or danger from the drainage can be hidden is, on the face of it, absurd, for over and above the fact that all journals are, fortunately, not disposed to join in a conspiracy of silence, the news is spread everywhere by dissatisfied visitors—and visitors, it must be borne in mind, are a good deal more exacting nowadays than they were a few years ago. It is, therefore, the height of folly for seaside municipalities to palter with questions of this kind; and I venture to repeat to them, in all friendliness, the advice I have given before—Remember Worthing.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

CONTINENTAL v. ENGLISH BEAUTIES.

I FEAR that England's fame as the mother of incomparably fair daughters must go down now that it is tested by Continental competition. Was it given to her by Englishmen, unused to any but English faces, and bigoted to the type to which they were accustomed? The English, doubtless, are a motley nation, and offer a vast number of types. But the best types bear a family likeness to the most ordinary. What first strikes me on landing in England is the prevalence of small, expressionless eyes—most of them wanting in perception. The mouths are also unfinished, and made more for eating than for sweet social converse or eloquence. The teeth are too much shown. It may be objected that one chiefly sees railway porters and newspaper boys on landing-piers. True. But one also sees the well-dressed idlers who have come to see the steamer arrive.

One very much notices the difference between English and French physiognomies in the different British settlements dotted over France. The English eye, when sunny and straightforward, is very beautiful. But it is generally a man's eye. The best eyes that I saw in English heads in Brittany were sailors'. I have seen there charming English girls, and many who would have been pretty were it not for the stereotyped smile they cultivate. The smile should be fleeting as a pleasant impression. Once it gets fixed it disfigures.

It has been remarked to me that the most successful hostesses in London are of motley race. If one inquires into their ancestry one finds there were Irish or Welsh or Scotch or French or Jews in their family tree. The pure Anglo-Saxon is, on week-days as well as Sundays, too apt to dissent to be amiable or accommodating. He or she is apt to take fads for principles. Sometimes she may deem a touch of rudeness the proof of sterling virtues, in herself of course. I fancy the loveliest girls England can boast of are, like the nice hostesses, of motley race. Those are whom I have come across here. I never saw a rarer beauty than one who dropped down a few Sundays back at Saint Servan. She turned out to be the daughter of a Bristol Crœsus and a Scotch lady. Here were her points—a faultless figure, a face perfect in outline, and the finish of nostrils, eyelids, lips, and chin. The skin was of the rose-petal texture, and had a delicate bloom, and as to the eyes, they had a pensive cast and were beautifully set. Their colour was light blue with a tinge of violet that came and went. A poet might be pardoned for expatiating on the lashes, the lids, the pencilled brows, and a forehead that looked intellectual. There was clustering hair of the frank nut-brown tinge that showed innocence of dye. This vision of loveliness

turned the congregation from their devotions. The dress of some of the gentlemen with her pointed to a yachting excursion. In point, of fact they had all crossed over in a yacht from Cowes to enjoy sea-coolness.

Talking of motley blood as conducive to beauty, are not the Jersey Lily, the Princess of Pless, the newly-married Mrs. Allhusen, Lady Edward Cecil, the Misses Agar, of Highworth, Wiltshire, examples? Most of the supremely triumphant beauties who have shone in Paris since it has become a cosmopolis were or are of mixed race.

One of those flowers of miscegenation, Mme. Burdeau, has just died. She was a native of Chili, but had an Irish grandmother. The power of her face to light up was infinite. She had good features, but too wide a mouth. It, however, expanded into gracious, good-natured smiles that afforded glimpses of snowy teeth. The skin was dark and bilious; but one did not see this at night, when the eyes gleamed, blazed, languished, and gave point, or feeling, to her most insignificant words. Not that she played with her eyes, for the whole face was reposeful. Mme. Burdeau was the link that united the Panamist and South Railway parties, after power departed from them, to the Left Centre or Moderate. Twined together, they both made a strong combination. Burdeau became President of the Chamber, and Casimir Perier President of the Republic. Her salon became the happy hunting-ground of politicians and place-hunters when Burdeau was Minister of Marine. She dressed with taste, had a flexible, harmonious figure that did credit to her dress-maker, and liked to crowd on diamonds. Somehow she never seemed in crowding them on to overstep the limits of good taste. Her life was, in some respects, a romance. She married in Chili the eldest son of a Lyons seamstress. He had gone there as a commercial traveller. In his journeys from Lyons to Paris and back he had sometimes travelled with M. Pierre Casimir Perier, who also went out to Chili, but as a diplomat. The Burdeau *ménage* and M. Perier became intimate friends. French are so glad to meet French abroad. M. Pierre Casimir Perier died, and so did M. Burdeau, the commercial traveller. Madame Burdeau came to France with a son. She seemed to her brother-in-law and to M. Casimir Perier, to whom she brought news of his brother, interesting as Andromache. The former was bound in law and honour to support her, for she was destitute. He provided for her by making her his wife. He was then a professor in a lyceum. Her friendship with the Periers opened wide horizons on one side. On the other side Burdeau was related to old Grippo, a Deputy for Lyons, who, from being a Revolutionist, had crystallised into a prosperous bourgeois. It was Grippo who, when an exile, wove at Spitalfields the Queen's coronation robes and wedding dress. Burdeau was a man of great talent, and felt he had a fortune in his brains, so he threw up his professorship, became the editor of a morning and of an evening paper—the *Globe* and *Soir*—and distinguished himself by his campaign against the Bank of France. He continued it, after he became a Deputy, to make a sudden change of front. Setting out to denounce, he ended, like Balaam, by blessing. Drumont accused him of attacking to obtain blackmail. Burdeau brought an action for libel, which ended in a sensational trial. The jury were talked round in their private room by the judge. He promised a nominal sentence, but gave one year. The judgment was lengthy, and to be published *in extenso* in an endless number of papers at advertisement rates. Between publication, fine, and damages, the convict had £4,000 to pay.

Honour was preserved. Burdeau, as champion of the Bank of France's endangered monopoly, went on rising by leaps and bounds. He controlled all exchequer bills in the Chamber. Almighty financial barons were glad to attend Mme. Burdeau's soirées. Politics, art, literature, war, the Navy, crowded in after them. Royalists were glad to pay homage to a Chilian lady who knew nothing of French politics, and was *très femme*. She was of the Directory type, and a *fin de siècle* Empress Josephine. At the Marine Ministry, the naval officers pressed round her to declare Chili a Heaven upon earth and the habitation of angels. She saw they wanted promotion, and pleaded for them with her husband. The greatest height was the Presidency of the Chamber of Deputies. Mme. Burdeau surpassed at the Petit Bourbon in elegance and suave gracefulness the semi-Creole Mme. Henri Schneider, who reigned there after the Duchesse de Morny. The reign of Mme. Burdeau was marked by the revival of chinchilla as a fashionable fur. Burdeau died from the effects of nervous tension and obligatory dinners of *trent-six plats*. He breathed his last breath in the arms of Casimir Perier, then President of the Republic, whose grief was overpowering. He attended the State funeral voted to his friend, and insisted on the settlement of an annuity on the widow and her family. The conditions were startling. Mme. Burdeau was to get 12,000 francs a year for life. On her death that income was to go in equal shares to her three children. When any child died, the others were to inherit his or her share, and the last survivor was to come into all. One of the children was only five years old. The eldest, a son of Burdeau's brother, was aged 18. The upshot of the wrangle in Committee was that Burdeau's mother—the old dressmaker, in whom nobody had been interested—was to get 3,000 francs a year, and Mme. Burdeau 9,000 francs; and if she died while her sons were minors they were to have 3,000 francs a year each to the age of 21. The daughter was to have 3,000 francs also until her marriage. Mme. Burdeau had not a Frenchwoman's energy. She collapsed under disaster; fretted, moped, pined, repined, and showed signs of liver complaint. The world does not want our sighs or tears. The best thing one can do in affliction is to bury one's sorrow in one's own breast. The fair-weather friends deserted her; the fast friends were too few to afford her company. Her last illness was most painful. The newspaper announcement of an operation did not bring callers to her door. Her children only were in attendance. On her death a paid nurse was fetched to watch beside the body. An *agent de la préfecture*, says a daily paper, is *en permanence* in the death chamber.

Why? Some surmise to watch the diamonds, and others to get hold of the papers left by Burdeau. If they got into the wrong hands, a fatal blow might be given to some who now fill tip-top places and are about to see the Czar and Czarina face to face. M. Brisson called to leave a card at the mortuary house. M. and Mme. Casimir Perier have also been there, and written their names in the visitors' book.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

A GLASS-HOUSE under water, dear Lady Betty, is the latest luxury. A rich man, who has a large lake upon his estate, recently caused it to be drained, and in the deepest part he has had a house built which contains three rooms—a smoking-room, a dining-room, and a servant's waiting-room. The framework of the house is of iron, and the floor is stone resting upon a foundation of concrete. The sides and the roof, however, are entirely composed of very thick plate-glass. There is a passage under the water from the boat-house to the glass-house, and air is obtained through large clumps of artificial water-lilies which rest upon the surface of the lake. It is indescribably pleasant to sit in one of the rooms upon a warm day; the air is very cool, there is no sound to be heard, and it is especially interesting to watch the fish swimming around, attracted by the glare of the electric lights. This is decidedly a new luxury. The house and the passage, moreover, cost comparatively little to build.

The millionaire to whom this belongs now contemplates carrying out a more ambitious scheme. He has upon his estate almost two square miles of forest. This tract of land he intends to enclose from the inside—first, by a wide and deep trench; second, by a strong iron railing; and third, by a high and massive stone wall. He will then turn loose into this enclosure every sort of wild animal that he can procure—lions, tigers, elephants, and every other kind of beast—in order to ascertain if they can live at large in this climate, and without unduly interfering with each other. There is to be a network of underground passages leading to numerous stone towers which are to be erected at different places in the forest, and from these he intends to watch in safety the animals, and to study their habits when in a comparatively wild state. This, too, appears to be a new idea.

* * * * *

It has for some years been generally imagined that Mr. Henry Austin Lee was destined to succeed the late Sir Joseph Crowe as British Commercial Attaché to Europe—with the exception of Russia—to reside in Paris. Mr. Lee has been appointed to the post. Sir Joseph received £1,300 a year as salary, with an allowance of £200 a year for house rent, making a total of £1,500 per annum. As Mr. Austin Lee already receives £500 a year as Resident Director, in Paris, of the Suez Canal Company, the Treasury has cut the salary down to £1,000 a year, which, considering the magnitude of the duties he will have to perform, and the importance of the post, appears to be an altogether inadequate sum.

Mr. Henry Austin Lee has considerable experience of commercial affairs, is acquainted with a large number of useful people throughout Europe, and speaks several languages. He has, morever, been training himself for the post for some years. The appointment is considered to be a judicious one by those who are the best qualified to pronounce an opinion upon the matter.

There seems, however, to be an impression that there should be more than one British Commercial Attaché to Europe in consequence of the enormous interests that this country has at stake there. The German Government has appointed a diplomatist as commercial representative to reside at Milan, and considering the success of German competition during recent years, it might be a wise course were our Government to improve upon this new departure.

. . . . .

A report has reached London from Paris that Mr. Henry Howard has been appointed to succeed Sir Horace Rumbold as British Minister at the Hague. It was generally supposed that the Hague would be given either to Mr. Edmund Phipps or to Sir Charles Scott. Mr. Howard is a diplomatist who can be relied upon with absolute confidence. A man possessed of a strong character, very popular, respected by all, a hard, an intelligent, and an experienced worker, he is one of the best men we have in the Service.

. . . . .

A well-known Austrian Ambassador recently described the qualities which a diplomatist should possess to attain success as follows:—"Il faut avoir des pensées sérieuses avec des manières frivoles."

. . . . .

The authorities at home are beginning to appreciate the wisdom of the old adage, that he gives twice who gives quickly. It is only a few days ago that Mr. Michael Herbert, who was then Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople in the absence of Sir Philip Currie, distinguished himself at the time of the riots. The Queen has created Mr. Herbert a Companion of the Bath—a recognition of his decisive and courageous conduct to which he is fully entitled. On the other hand, many officers and men who fought for their country some years ago have not yet received the rewards which they expect the War Office to distribute.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT is an undeniable fact that many of the acting members of the Jockey Club are among the most determined and bigoted enemies of every species of change, however obviously desirable. The most salutary reforms have always been forced upon the Newmarket authorities, who show no zeal except in manufacturing devices for increasing the Jockey Club revenue at the expense of the owners, who are regarded there as veritable milch cows in breeches. When the conditions of the Cesarewitch and the Cambridgeshire were originally published, I pointed out the folly and absurdity of the arrangement by which a penalty is inflicted for winning any trumpery handicap, whereas half-a-dozen weight-for-age stakes can be carried off without any extra weight being incurred. Can anything be more extravagantly ridiculous than to make the winner of a handicap value £450 carry 10 lb. extra, whereas there is no penalty for the winner of the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000? We see the result of this fatuity in the case of Laodamia, who, on Friday, cantered away with the Doncaster Cup; and, in my opinion, the Cesarewitch is a mere question of health for Mr. Fulton's mare, with 8 st. 8 lb. to carry. The one doubt was whether or not Laodamia can stay, and as her stamina has been most palpably demonstrated in a fast-run race over a Cup course, she ought to win the Cesarewitch. It is impossible for any one to frame an accurate estimate of this mare's true form, but when well she is probably a very much better animal than even the majority of her admirers suspect. Laodamia gave the public a taste of her quality at Derby last November, when she won the Cup very easily indeed, having 8 st. 9 lb. on her back, from a good field of twenty-one. It must never be forgotten, moreover, that as a three-year-old, with 8 st. 9 lb., Laodamia ran so forward in the Cambridgeshire (when Molly Morgan won) that she would have been placed if she had been ridden out. Some idea of her prospects of success may be gained from a consideration of the fact that at Doncaster she gave 2 lb. and a hollow beating to Dinna Forget, who in the Cesarewitch is made to give her 4 lb., and he has accepted with this weight. If Major Egerton's estimate is correct, Laodamia in the Cesarewitch means Dinna

Forget at about 8 st. 1 lb. I have no idea of Count Schomberg having any chance with Laodamia at 4 lb., and she ought to hold Portmarnock perfectly safe. Arlequin will probably be the best of the French lot. I hear that Portmarnock may not stand a thorough preparation.

There are thirty-five acceptances for the Duke of York Handicap, but Thais has paid forfeit, although the Prince of Wales's filly appeared to have a much better chance in that race than in the Cambridgeshire. This handicap ought to be a real good thing for Ghislaine, who could not stay the course when she was so heavily backed for the Manchester Cup, but here the distance will just suit her. Lord William Beresford's mare should win at Kempton if she is all right.

If Laodamia misses the Cesarewitch she will very likely make amends by winning the Cambridgeshire in which she has 8 st. 9 lb. to carry, the same weight which she bore so well three years ago. Shaddock will be the Duke of Westminster's best for this handicap, and whatever beats him will win. I have no fancy for Thais, who certainly will not beat Shaddock at even weights, and there are half-a-dozen others which hold her safe. The French are sure to have a dangerous candidate for this race.

Persimmon defeated Labrador cleverly enough, and the best judges thought that the winner had 7 lb. in hand. In estimating the value of a beating in a long race it must always be remembered (as Admiral Rous used to say) that the weight would have to be given away from start to finish, but this consideration is usually overlooked, and the same allowance is made for a length beating in a mile and a half race as in a T.Y.C. scramble. Persimmon might appear to have 10 lb. in hand (as some people assert) when he passed the winning post, but then where would he have been if he had been carrying that 10 lb. throughout the race? St. Frusquin would no doubt have won the Leger easily enough if he had come to the post all right, and it is very lucky for Persimmon that Shaddock was not engaged in the race.

Lord Rosebery, who was mentioned in some of the papers as having been at Doncaster last week, was really in the remote wilds of Sutherlandshire. Velasquez cantered away from Berzak for the Champagne Stakes, and it was a good performance, as the American colt has been going remarkably well of late, and he is believed to have made a vast improvement. He had been galloped with Sandia, who won the Clumber Plate in a trot. Velasquez is a grand colt, and it is about two years since his high promise when a foal was first mentioned in Truth. After Velasquez, the best two-year-old that ran at Doncaster was Galtee More, who won the Rous Plate very easily, and Monterey had no chance with him.

It was pleasant to see Roquebrune come out after her long retirement and win the Zetland Stakes (literally "losing" East Sheen), as she had been again stopped in her work. This was her first appearance since her successful début in last year's New Stakes. If Roquebrune stands a winding-up preparation she is well in for the Cambridgeshire with 7 st. 9 lb., as she is at present capable of great improvement; but it would be idiotic to venture a farthing on the filly until she is seen at the post, as she might any day have again to be stopped.

Persimmon's next race will be the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000 on October 1, and he seems to hold the four-year-olds (Sir Visto, Troon, Kirkconnel, and Laveno) all safe enough. Regret cannot beat Persimmon on the running at Newmarket in July, and the Prince of Wales's colt will now meet him on 6 lb. better terms. The Leger showed that Persimmon is quite 6 lb. in front of Labrador, who will probably represent the Duke of Westminster in the Jockey Club Stakes. If Persimmon should be beaten, his conqueror will be either Knight of the Thistle or Bay Ronald, as he has to give 17 lb. to the former and 20 lb. to Mr. Brassey's colt. Persimmon is afterwards in the Lowther Stakes and in the Limekiln Stakes, but he will not run for either race, and I hear that after October 1 his next apppearance will be in the Ascot Cup, and he will afterwards run for the Eclipse Stakes of £10,000 at Sandown Park. The writers who have been jargoning about the probability of Persimmon winning all next year's £10,000 stakes (like Isinglass in 1894) would have done well to verify their references, and, having taken that precaution, they would have discovered that the Prince of Wales's colt is not entered for either the Princess of Wales Stakes or the Jockey Club Stakes—a most inexplicable oversight, considering how highly he was estimated as a yearling.

I hear that Lord Rosebery intends to run Chelandry for the £3,000 Stakes at Kempton Park on October 9, and Velasquez will be reserved for the Middle Park Plate. Velasquez has incurred the extreme penalty of 10 lb. for the Kempton Park race, and so also has Chelandry, but the filly will have only 5 lb. extra to carry, as she is entitled to a breeding allowance of 5 lb. It is said that Mr. Houldsworth's Rapallo (own brother to Orvieto and Laveno) is in reserve for this race, and so also is Lord Cadogan's Lowly, who ran Blue Water to a head at Goodwood with 6 lb. the best of the weights, while Lord Alington is reported to have a smart colt in Vesuvian, by Royal Hampton out of Fuse.

There will be racing next week at Kempton Park (one day), Hurst Park (one day), Pontefract and Windsor (each two days), and at Manchester, where the meeting is absurdly dragged over three days, although two days would be amply sufficient for it. All the best horses are now in reserve for Kempton Park October Meeting, Newmarket, and the "back end" fixtures. There are seventy-three acceptances for the Autumn Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,000 at Manchester, and I shall plump for the representative of Prince Soltykoff.

T. Brown, who died suddenly the other day, was one of the leading trainers at Newmarket for some years. Brown won the Middle Park Plate three times—with Newry in 1873, Plebeian in 1874, and Beaudesert in 1879. The odd thing was that neither horse ever won a race afterwards, to which it may be added that they were also very lucky winners. Newry never would have won the Middle Park Plate if Ecossais had started, and Plebeian's race ought unquestionably to have been secured by Galopin, who was execrably ridden. Brown was the owner of Marden, and for several years that horse must have brought him in a comfortable income. Brown's most successful time was about 1873, when he trained a large stud belonging to the late Mr. Graham, the owner of Formosa, Sabinus, and other good horses. He afterwards trained for the late Lord Anglesey, who was so lucky as to sell Beaudesert for 5,000 gs. after the Middle Park Plate, and the horse never ran again!

There was a tremendous plunge on Americus for the Portland Plate, as this horse had been well tried with Sandia, who on Tuesday had defeated Ugly for the Clumber Plate, so it really did seem a good thing. Americus looked like winning easily until Grig caught him. Twelve months ago, when St. Frusquin was tried for the Kempton Park race and the Middle Park Plate, he was equal to Grig at even weights.

Drip won the Great Yorkshire Handicap very easily for Lord Durham, and this was really the good thing of the week. I do not see Chit Chat's chance for the Autumn Handicaps after her defeat in this race. Drip is a useful and improving filly, and she ought to win some races at Newmarket during the autumn meetings, notably the St. Leger on October 2, and she seems to have a good chance of carrying off the Newmarket Stakes, as Canterbury Pilgrim is not entered, and Helm could not give Lord Durham's filly 5 lb. over such a course as the T.M.M.

Bournemouth is very much fancied for the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire, and he is remarkably well in when his spring form at Liverpool is considered in connection with the recent performances of Drip, Melange, and Symington. He, however, is a very awkward horse, for a boy to ride, and I cannot recommend any one to back him with such a light weight. Troon has been an early

popular fancy for the Autumn Handicaps, and he has accepted for the Kempton Park race, but the Duke of Portland's horse will probably run at Ayr this week, and he is fairly well in for the principal handicap at that meeting. His Reverence has also been left in for the Duke of York Handicap, but putting aside Ghislane, I am disposed to regard Kirkconnel as being the pick of the lot in that race, and he will win for a certainty on his best form, but he cannot now be trusted if it comes to a severe finish.

The withdrawal of Sir Visto from the Cesarewitch has caused much surprise, as he was generally thought to be very well in. Sir Visto has accepted both for the Duke of York Handicap and for the Cambridgeshire, but he certainly lacks the speed for the shorter race, in which a good start is essential, as I fancy that Lord Rosebery's horse is not a ready beginner. Sir Visto might run well for the Cambridgeshire, particularly if the ground is heavy.

King Hampton was sent last week from Newmarket to Doncaster, where he had several engagements, but he returned without having run. This colt is sure to win a good handicap in the course of the autumn, and he will carry off the £2,000 race at Manchester on the 26th, if that event is his "journey." As to King Hampton's expensive stable companion, Red Heart, he has accepted for the Cambridgeshire, but the horse has been doing no work for some time past, and I hear that it is very doubtful whether he will stand a preparation.

Many of last week's yearling sales were simply farcical, being at once melancholy, ludicrous, and most tiresome. The idiotic and pernicious practice of buying in stock is becoming much more general, and Messrs. Tattersall really ought to make it a condition that the reserve price is always to be announced as each lot comes into the ring, which would save a great deal of time and trouble, and it would really be a far better arrangement for the breeders themselves. Many of the yearlings had been fattened up for sale in a preposterous fashion, and might have been intended for market like prize bullocks. An enormous number were sent back, and many which did change hands were sold at a considerable loss to their breeders. The success of the week was achieved by Mr. Platt, of the Bruntwood Stud, who sold his lot of twelve for 16,940 gs. being an average of 1,410 gs. each. The satisfactory result of the sale proves clearly enough the advantage of sending mares only to the most fashionable and successful sires, as five of the lot were by Kendal, three by St. Simon, and three by St. Serf. The yearlings by Orme were much admired, and realised high prices, and another of the Duke of Westminster's horses, Blue Green (now at Mr. Sneyd's Keele Stud), is evidently going to be a most successful sire. The sale of the Sledmere yearlings was a grievous failure, as out of the nine which were offered only three changed hands, and they realised only 1,580 gs. altogether.

This was a doleful contrast to last year, when Sir Tatton Sykes obtained 14,650 gs. for eight. The reserves were extravagantly high, for it is simply fantastical to ask 5,000 gs. for any yearling that ever was foaled, and when buying in once begins on such occasions there is a general blight, and people simply cease to bid. Lord William Bentinck was said to have refused a private offer of 1,500 gs. for his filly by St. Simon out of Lady Superior, but the highest bid at the sale was 1,350 gs., and he would have done well to let her go at that remunerative price, but no doubt the Duke of Portland will take her off his brother's hands, as he is always ready to treat for St. Simon's stock; he has just arranged to lease from his neighbour at Rufford, Lord Savile, that horse's filly foal out of Cissy. The wise breeders are those who get rid of their yearlings on any terms sooner than be at the expense of taking them home again, for they must inevitably in the end be either sold for whatever they will fetch, or else put into training, which is ruinous work.

The outcome of the recent quoit match at Cheltenham between England and Wales renders it probable that an association will be organised to foster the game. Some such body is needed both for quoits and bowls. Both are excellent games, and they are too little appreciated by the majority of people. The consequence is one has only the vagnest notion of what the maximum or minimum weight of a quoit should be. Then, too, the length of the pitch varies in different places. Some of the players in the recent game were handicapped by having a pitch of a length different to that to which they were as a rule accustomed. Bowls are more generally dallied with than quoits. They do not cut up the lawn. But one shudders to think of the miserable spheres that are sold as bowls. There is no uniformity either in weight or bias, and it would as often as not be possible to play just as exciting a game with croquet balls as with some bowls. The rules are contained in a box, and certainly do not tend to make the game exciting. Most men know how to pick a bat or a lawn-tennis racquet, but they choose a set of bowls that are utter impossibilities to play with. The fact that such things can so easily be put on the market shows how little the game is really understood.

The Southern Committee of the Amateur Athletic Association has practically suspended Crossland, and so another good runner has been relegated to the limbo of professionalism. At the same time, no inkling is given of the clubs who paid these moneys and made the men professionals. It would be just as well if Bradley and others were to take the matter in their own hands and publish the names of the persons who gave them moneys. The conduct of the Southern Committee of the A.A.A. does not reflect credit on that body. It makes a perfect fetish of amateurism. It seeks vainly to make men run for the sake of sport alone. It is utterly ridiculous to suppose that men do this when a ten-pound prize is awarded for a handicap, and the value of the prize for a scratch race is practically unlimited. The articles given are of such a character as to be utterly useless to the class of persons who are the recipients. The consequence is the prize goes to the pawnbroker. The runners themselves cannot afford out of their own pockets the amounts required for entrance fees, travelling expenses and training. They must therefore pawn and bet or have their expenses paid. It is impossible to expect anything else, and inasmuch as these practices obtain surreptitiously, they cannot have anything but a bad influence on athletics. The old idea of an amateur was one who took part in sport for sport's sake and paid all his expenses. The advent of gate-money has changed all that. In cricket and in football the amateur receives his expenses, but he is not paid for his time. In athletics the prize was a memento of success, and nothing more. Originally a cup or medal, it is now silver plate, a dressing bag, or a clock. Something useful was required. This was the first step down from the old ideal. The next step is payment in cash. But then, it is said, you do away with amateurism. That may be so, and one would not be sorry to see the present impossible definition done away with. The only true distinction between an amateur and professional at the present time is that the one does and the other does not make sport his livelihood, and does not take part in it for the purposes of gain, while at the same time he cannot afford to be out of pocket over it. It would be obviously impossible for the amateur to compete in athletics with the professional. An organisation is necessary to look after the interests of the former. This has been the function of the A.A.A. Now, it is hard to understand the difference between giving an article which can be pawned for two or three pounds and giving that amount in cash. There certainly appears to be a prospect of a healthier condition of athletics if cash prizes of an amount not larger than three pounds were permitted. A great deal of subterfuge and humbug would be done away with. I cannot see that a man would be running less for the sake of sport than he is at present. It is no more derogatory to take money for winning a race than it is to be paid for handicapping a race event or reporting an athletic meeting. The premium on pot-hunting would not be any greater than it is at present. The reform is essentially a radical one and the natural outcome of the

change in the class of prizes offered at athletic meetings. The obstacle in the way is a big one, and it is the conservative clinging to an impossible definition of amateurism, which is itself only the creation of recent years. The late Sir John Astley was avowedly a professional runner. But he was not one whit the less respected for having been so, and I am under the impression that the president of the A.A.A., Sir Richard Webster, A.G., himself took prizes in hard cash when he started athletics at Cambridge.

With regard to the London Football Association and its repudiation of professional football, a correspondent is very angry because the action it has decided on has received the approval of my football correspondent. He considers that Southern professionalism has been snubbed, and he says a lot of hard things about Old Boys' Clubs and their tours and expenses. I have already dealt with what I conceive to be the present distinction between an amateur and a professional, and some governing body required to look after amateur interests. No one can deny that the general standard of professional football is considerably higher than that shown by amateurs, but professionalism is not the be-all and end-all of football. Commercial football is quite able to look after its own interests. Its advocates assert that the amateurs cannot meet them on equal terms. Surely they are too good sportsmen to suggest that those who are not paid for playing should not have an organisation in London to look after their own interests and to raise the standard of play amongst the great unpaid as far as possible.

Considering the weather, those in authority at Eastbourne did remarkably well to get through their annual lawn tennis tournament as well as they did. The entries were in point of quality excellent, and the play was in many cases better than that seen at Wimbledon. In the ladies' singles there were some very interesting encounters. Miss Cooper who as lady champion had to owe fifteen, after a great fight with Miss Pickering succumbed to Miss Austin, who just pulled the second set out of the fire. In the gentlemen's singles Barlow and Greville had a hard game, although the wet ground spoiled the play to a great extent. In the next round Barlow had nearly as hard a fight with H. Baddeley, who was left in to fight his brother, the holder. The winner was very fortunate in that Hillyard, his opponent in the previous round, retired. But he and Smith beat the Allens in the doubles.

Without taking upon myself to answer cycling questions, in reply to a correspondent I may say that single tube tires are not satisfactory. They are a trouble to mend, and in country lanes a thorn is very fatal to them.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—After all, the old Stock Exchange superstition, that a nineteen day account is generally unlucky, has received some kind of confirmation, as the mid-September account is ending under the influence of two scares which have caused an important setback throughout the markets. It is true that the movement has been altogether exaggerated, and that the various rumours which have been utilised to depress quotations proved false; but as the scares came so close to the fortnightly settlement the "bears" had it, for a time, all their own way.

Exaggerated Scares.

The advance in the Bank rate gave a shock to the markets, as it was not generally expected, and hardly were quotations recovering again when a crop of political and other rumours caused a fresh slump. Most of the reports which were so assiduously set about by the syndicate of liars were unfounded. To begin with, it was stated that a very large sum in gold would be withdrawn from the Bank on Saturday for the States. That further amounts will be shipped for that destination is more than probable; but on Saturday at least only £100,000 was so withdrawn. It is more than likely that certain measures will be taken to exercise pressure upon the Sultan in connection with the recent massacres in Constantinople; but as the Collective Note addressed by the European Powers to the Sultan shows, the various Governments are acting in concert. At all events, there is no reason for the extraordinary nervousness which has been displayed by the Stock Exchange, while the fall in prices, especially in Home Rails, is altogether excessive. That Consols and other high-class investments would temporarily be affected by the rise in the value of money is obvious; in fact, such is still the dearth of this kind of security that I have for some time felt indisposed to advise my readers to invest at the present level. It seems to me that if we are going to have dearer money, the decline should in the first instance occur in such securities as yield a small return. Why, of all others, the South African mining market should be affected, in which the account is shown to be a very moderate one, while prices are at a low level and the industry is flourishing again, it is difficult to understand; and I quite anticipate a strong recovery as soon as the political cobwebs are brushed aside. The West Australian market has not, so far, suffered to any extent, and such is the strength of the undercurrent in this department, and so favourable is the outlook on the goldfields, that I still consider the position very hopeful. Yankee Rails have fluctuated. There has been a strong disposition in Wall-street to put up prices, counteracted on this side by the recent spasms. Political developments in the States have, however, of late been more favourable, and the large influx of gold from this country has improved the financial position. A moderate advance in Argentines, engineered on speculative grounds, has partly been lost again; but South Americans, on the whole, have displayed a firm front. The Dunlop settlement has passed off very satisfactorily, the only disappointed persons being apparently the "Bears."

The Spasm in Home Rails.

Although sales have preponderated during the past account, so that the amounts of stock carried speculatively must have been considerably reduced, the monetary and political scares have caused a further fall in quotations, which is undoubtedly exaggerated. I am not surprised at some of the Prior Charges having given way, as these had been hoisted to quite an impossible level, as I have frequently explained, and the first breath of a rise in the Money Market would naturally have this effect. The stocks of the Heavy lines, too, might be considered a little top-heavy, although the traffics continue on a most satisfactory scale, and there is no doubt that a general improvement in trade is in progress. With a settlement of the troubles in the Clyde shipbuilding yards, moreover, labour troubles have for the time being disappeared from the scene. As regards last week's traffics, they show again an increase of £54,602 on the leading British lines, and this satisfactory result comes in most instances on the top of considerable increases in 1895 as against 1894. The fall in the stocks of the Southern Passenger lines seems to be much less justified than that in the Heavies. Not only are the traffics of both the Brighton and South-Eastern lines excellent, but the South-Eastern revenue statement just issued shows that the gross increase of £9,000 has worked out to £8,000 net, thus showing a large and continued saving in expenses. I have already explained that Brighton "A" is the best-yielding stock in the active list, and that the South-Eastern is the most progressive. Under the circumstances, I anticipate a sharp recovery both in Brighton "A" and Dover "A." The latter had, in fact, already risen to over 105, when the money scare came over the market, causing a general reaction. The Scotch stocks have also been knocked down in the slump, although the settlement of the Scotch labour troubles is more particularly in their favour, and the announcement of a dividend at the rate of 1 per cent. on North British Deferred, with a larger carry-forward, against no dividend last year, was quite as satisfactory as

had been anticipated. Then again, look at the splendid traffics of these lines. The Caledonian traffic return for the past week showed an increase of £3,721, that of the North British an increase of £5,029 over the corresponding week of 1895, which had already shown increases of £20,300 and £8,700 respectively over 1894. The total increase of the Caledonian for the first six weeks of the current half-year already reaches £13,000, and that of the North British £15,000. Under all these circumstances, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary ("Coras") and North British Deferred cannot fail to mark a sharp recovery the moment the market recovers from the unreasonable scare.

The Prospects of Districts.

An important advance in Metropolitan Districts calls for special notice. All kinds of explanations have been vouchsafed with reference to the cause of the large purchases which have been made apparently for influential and well-informed quarters; and, while there may be something in the report of certain proposed extensions, I have reason for stating that the chief feature is the practical adoption of a scheme under which a new line is to be constructed underneath the present District Railway between the Mansion House station and Earl's-court, which would be chiefly available for an express service between the City and the West End. In this way the journey from the Mansion House station to Earl's-court should be made in about eight minutes, while Charing Cross, the only intermediate station at which it is proposed to stop, could be reached from the City in a couple of minutes. Electric traction would, of course, be adopted, and in view of the improvements which have been recently devised in this, and of the fact that no houses or land need be appropriated, the actual cost of the work is estimated at only £800,000, a sum which must be considered trifling as compared with the large accession of traffic which an express service would undoubtedly command. Respecting the history of the present development, I may state that some two years ago a well-known reorganiser was deputed by important shareholders to approach the Board of the District Railway, with the view to carrying out certain reforms. The Board's answer was, "We have already discussed these reforms (which included cheap mid-day fares), and know their possibilities; but we cannot move until we have relieved the traffic between Earl's Court and the Mansion House, which is now strained to its utmost capacity, and leaves no scope for development. You must first show us how this can be done!" This statement was straightforward, and remained unanswerable until this new electric express train scheme made its appearance. Its advantages are obvious, for it is estimated by trustworthy railway authorities that an additional tenth of the capital will double the earning capacity of the District Company. Engineers, Directors, and financiers have been consulted, and no difficulties have manifested themselves. It is estimated that 2½ years will be required for the completion of the work, which is not long considering the great possibilities that are opened up. For example, it is calculated that, if the new electric express train is only used by one-fifth of the passengers it can accommodate, the increased gain in the traffic to the railway would be £4,000 per week, or one-half of the present weekly takings. Deducting £34,000 as arrears of interest on the Preference stock, and £32,000 more interest at the rate of 4 per cent. on the amount of new capital required, viz., £800,000, a balance would be available sufficient to pay an easy 6 per cent. to the long-suffering investors in Districts, many of whom are represented by the Metropolitan District Railway Shareholders' Association, which has been formed for the purpose of financing and carrying out the new scheme. There is thus great hope for shareholders in the District, who will probably refuse to part with their stock at anything like present prices, once they realise the importance of the change which is coming about. Already the buying movement during the last few days showed that there was very little stock in the market, as the price rose sharply to 30⅞, while on Friday several of the jobbers were unable to balance their books even at the higher prices. On Saturday, of course, the general scare came to their rescue; but I have said enough to show that we may have some very sensational developments in Districts in the near future; and selling "Bears" of this stock should prove a very dangerous pastime, some of the insiders talking of the stock doubling its price.

Yankee Rails Fluctuating.

There has been a good deal of animation in Yankee Rails during the past week, and while the success of the Democrats in the Arkansas State elections was ignored as having been a foregone conclusion, favourable developments, both in politics and otherwise, have not been wanting. Many of the most influential Democrats are joining the "gold plank" section, and the brutal frankness of Bryan's utterances is alienating from him the sympathies of most of those who have something to lose in the States. Can there be anything more stupid than his remark, "That he believed the gold standard to be a conspiracy against the human race, and that he would as soon join the ranks of the goldites as enlist in an army marching to attack his home and destroy his family!" This kind of rant can only injure his own prospects. Favourable events were the publication of the Milwaukee Directors' report and accounts, showing very favourable results. The surplus on June 30, after payment of the dividends, was 2,173,000 dols., against a deficit of 402,000 dols. in the previous year. The usual dividend of 2 dols. on the Ordinary stock has since been announced, and Milwaukee at one time touched 73¼, from which there has been a reaction to 72, the New York market being, of course, indirectly affected by the spasms in London. Louisville at one time rose to 43¼, but fresh attacks have since caused a relapse to 41⅝. It seems that the "Bear" account in Louisville is growing very unwieldly now, and, on the other hand, the American Courts have ordered the restoration of rates amongst the Southern Roads, thus removing, at least temporarily, the chief source of weakness. More gold will, undoubtedly, have to be shipped to New York, as large exports of produce are being made to Europe, and the indiscriminate sales of American stocks on this side have ceased. There has, on the contrary, been a moderate buying movement for European account. It is, of course, still impossible to say how the November elections for the Presidency will pass off, but Bryan's chances are evidently lessening, a fact which will probably be brought into prominence in the near future by the result of the coming Maine State Elections. Those of my readers who have, on my advice, bought Milwaukee, Louisville, Denver Prefs., &c., at the recent low level, and sold on the important advances which were at one time established, will have done well; and in the present state of affairs satisfactory results may still be obtained by purchases on distinct reactions, if followed up by sales on recoveries. Investors should certainly stick to their stocks, and also to American Railroad Gold Bonds, some of which are already marking important improvements. Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have fluctuated with the Yankee market, and are likely to do so in the near future. Both lines must depend so much upon the prosperity or otherwise of the United States, that the Presidential election is for them also a most important influence.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The Continental Bourses have upon the whole taken the rise in the English Bank-rate and the political rumours which have been set about here with a good deal of equanimity. Personally, I should think that such stocks as Spanish and Italians are the most dangerous of all, considering the impecuniosity of these states, and the insurrections in Cuba and the Philippine Islands which Spain has to face; but Paris is expecting the Czar next month,

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

and the Paris Bourse will do its best to put on a smiling countenance for the present. The Czar's journey, moreover, is a guarantee of peace for the immediate future, and might lead to satisfactory results, especially if, as is rumoured, he is to meet the Marquis of Salisbury on his visit to the Queen. That sooner or later an end must be put to Turkish misrule is undoubted, and the recent Constantinople massacres should prove another nail in the Sultan's coffin. Probably the matter will end in another puppet being put in his place; and the strong tone of the last Collective Note of the Powers seems to show that they are at last united in their action against the Porte. It may be necessary to make a naval demonstration in Turkish waters, but even that would by no means presage an European war such as the Stock Exchange anticipates with every little fresh development in Constantinople. The fact is that none of the Powers, and Russia least of all, desire such a struggle. The wonder to me is that Turks keep up as well as they do, although Ottoman Banks have dropped to 11½, partly, perhaps, owing to the fall in South Africans, in which this institution is heavily engaged. A sharp rally in Argentine Government stocks has been nipped in the bud by the recent spasms. Although the position in Argentina is, upon the whole, satisfactory, the gold premium in Buenos Ayres has rebounded sharply to 181. In the present unsettled state of affairs, it may be advisable to go slowly even in speculation in South Americans. Uruguay bonds have eased off, owing to the dismal surroundings. The rumour which had been mentioned in the *Financial News* of an impending fresh Chilian loan, and which had been set afloat by a Paris financial paper, has been contradicted by Messrs. Rothschild, who state that the loan of four millions issued by them four months ago for railway works has furnished Chili with ample funds, and that no fresh application to the European market is in contemplation. On the other hand, another instalment of the Chinese Goverment Loan of six millions, being the balance of a total amount of sixteen millions, has just been offered for public subscription in England and Germany; but it has not come out at an opportune moment. After a temporary reaction, Mexican Sixes are recovering again, the Old Loan being quoted at 93. In Peruvian Corporation stocks the recent rise has been pretty well maintained, more especially in the Debentures. There have been a number of advances in Argentine Railway stocks, but these have also eased off again in sympathy with the other markets.

Depression in the Kaffir Circus.

It should matter very little in the case of South African Gold Mining shares whether the Bank rate is 2 or 3 per cent., and the set-back which ensued on the rise in the Bank rate was therefore absurd, as was the further slump caused by the political rumours on Saturday, which unfortunately came just on the first day of the mining carry-over, when everybody was busy with the account, and no one wanted to do business. The rates, however, were no higher than at the last settlement, ranging from 7 to 8 per cent., and the amount of stock to be arranged proved very moderate, as was in fact to be expected, considering the realisations on a large scale which have of late taken place. The only really unfavourable feature was the wretched result of the Geldenhuis Deep crushing for August. That, however, had only a bearing on the Deep Levels, the prospects of which I have always criticised; and it was absurd to put down the shares of the outcrop mines on the Geldenhuis disappointment. On the other hand, there was the splendid output of the Witwatersrand mines for August, which established a fresh record, the total yield being 212,429 oz., against 203,873 oz. for July, an increase of 8,556 oz. over the previous record figure, which was that for July. Only one new mine fell into line, viz., the Bonanza, with a yield of 3,800 oz., so that an increase of 4,750 oz. was shown on the mines which were already producing. It is curious that this excellent result should have been altogether disregarded by the market. Sooner or later, however, the increasing output must tell, especially if a few doubtful points should be disposed of. To begin with, the pacification of Charterland is not proceeding so quickly as we had been led to suppose, and it will evidently take some time before the Matabele will give in. This, of course, ought only to affect Chartered shares and other Rhodesian ventures; but, unfortunately, it has an indirect bearing upon Transvaal stocks, which are in many cases in the hands of the same holders. An active interchange of opinions is also going on between the men largely interested in the South African mining industry and the Transvaal Government concerning the proposed Sunday Closing Bill. The Volksraad and even President Kruger are in favour of it under the influence of the Puritan spirit which animates them; but in the case of the mines, the stoppage of the batteries on Sundays would by no means abolish Sunday labour, while increasing the difficulties of working. It would be necessary to employ a special staff to guard the gold on the plates. To my personal knowledge strong representations are being made by Mr. J. B. Robinson and other South African magnates, and it is hoped that the objectionable Bill will be withdrawn. Another drawback, viz., that of the inadequate service of the Netherlands Railway, more especially with regard to the carriage of coal, is being gradually remedied; but it had an effect upon some of the August crushings. Once these few points are settled, we may expect the mining industry on the Witwatersrand to mark a further important improvement. The effects of the Liquor Bill are already proving most beneficial, and will greatly cheapen native labour; while, on the other hand, relations between the Boers and the Uitlanders are becoming more amicable from week to week. Whenever the mining market gets over the unreasonable scare, I shall look for an important rally in all the sound Transvaal gold mining and land shares. It is unnecessary for me to again single out the various shares which may be considered most suitable for investment. By consulting last week's remarks my readers will be able to make suitable purchases of the leading Barnato, Robinson, and other mines. It is curious that Randfontein should have fallen as low as 2$\frac{13}{16}$, but I have not the slightest doubt that they will promptly recover from this setback. With reference to the amalgamation of the Barnato Bank and other properties with the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Corporation, I have received a good many inquiries as to why Mr. B. I. Barnato does not make some sort of public statement of the position and prospects. As he has only recently returned from the Transvaal he is fully posted with reference to his various properties, and it is to my personal knowledge that he would indeed be able to give some most encouraging information both concerning his financial enterprises and the condition of his mines. The shareholders in the various undertakings with which his firm are associated would undoubtedly appreciate some such public statement, and I put it to Mr. Barnato that he should accede to the wish of the investors who have placed such large sums into these enterprises. A statement which I made in last week's issue with regard to the Woodstock (Transvaal)—viz., that Mr. Roberts, the manager of the Woodstock, had also taken over the management of the Sheba Hill—has brought me a communication conveying an absolute contradiction, so that my informant was evidently wrong in his assertion. The services of Mr. Roberts are exclusively secured for the management of the Woodstock Mine, and all he has done with reference to the Sheba Hill has been to make a report on it. I have received further communications with reference to the Abercorn Reefs, Limited, and the Umtoli Gold Reefs, Limited; but I have done all in my power to help the shareholders, and it is now for them to appoint a Committee to act for them. Barberton Consolidated Goldfields, to which I drew attention last week, have been in fair demand at from 1½ to 1¾, which shows a slight advance. Transvaal Exploring shares have been steady throughout the slump at 1. Advices from the mines of the African Gold Properties are stated to be satisfactory, with the exception of the information from the Apollo

Mine, which appears to be somewhat disappointing. The danger of speculating in such gambling counters as East Rands and Rand Mines, Limited, is shown by the important declines which have taken place since last settlement, the making-up price of East Rands being only $7\frac{1}{4}$ as against $8\frac{1}{8}$ a fortnight ago. Rand Mines stood at $31\frac{1}{2}$ a fortnight ago, and now are $30\frac{1}{2}$. From the unfortunate Lisbon-Berlyn Company the news is to hand that transport is unobtainable, and that the cyanide process is stopped. This again points to the correctness of the view which I have taken, that these shares should be left alone. Diamond shares have also participated in the general set-back, De Beers having fallen to $29\frac{3}{4}$, New Jagersfontein to $10\frac{1}{16}$; but this relapse will probably be recovered again. Consolidated Leicester Diamond shares have remained firm at $1\frac{15}{16}$, and New Bultfontein are quoted $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Golden West Australia.

The event of the week in matters West Australian has been the opening of the railway from Coolgardie to Kalgoorlie, which was celebrated by a banquet at Kalgoorlie, at which some very important statements were made. Sir Gerard Smith, the Governor, openly admitted on this occasion that he had been a strong opponent of the Bill for providing water on the Coolgardie goldfields; but he had changed his views, and was now fully convinced that the scheme was necessary. Sir John Forrest, the Premier, again mentioned the water scheme, which will now receive the Governor's assent, and therefore become law. In this connection, and in view of the strong criticisms which have been passed upon the scheme, it will be useful to refer to the debate on the second reading of the Bill, the proceedings of which are to hand by the last mail. The more detailed statements made on that occasion by Sir John Forrest clearly showed that the proposals were both feasible and reasonable; and the very fact that the Legislative Assembly endorsed the Government Bill without even a division goes a long way to show that the recent criticisms were ill-founded. The fact is that for household purposes, and for the growing wants of the mining industry, enormous quantities of water will have to be provided; and the scheme which is now to be carried out is applicable to the future rather than to the present. In three years' time, when it is to be completed, there will probably be thousands of stamps at work, when it will be most important to have an adequate water supply. The extension of the railway to Kalgoorlie marks, of course, another important step in advance, and Sir John Forrest stated at Kalgoorlie that the Government intended to introduce Bills authorising extensions of the line to Menzies and White Feather in a few days' time. Thus the iron horse will in future assist in the development of the great Coolgardie goldfield. Mr. George Gray, who has certainly a very extensive experience of gold mining in various parts of the world, appears to have made the enthusiastic statement on that occasion "that Kalgoorlie was the greatest goldfield in the world." As Mr. Gray's chief interests centre in that field, it is perhaps natural that he should say so, but the excellent results obtained at Hannan's certainly back his opinion up. The London market has shown a good deal of irregularity, but upon the whole the West Australian department has displayed much greater strength than the Kaffir Circus. I stated last week that one of the first groups to show a revival would be the Whitaker Wright group, and so it has happened. It is true that Lake View Consols shares have reacted to $7\frac{3}{4}$, but this is due merely to the fact that a block of shares held in Colonial hands came upon the market, for which insiders did not propose to pay the top price. This block is being gradually absorbed, and directly the balance has found a resting-place in strong hands, we shall see a sharp rebound. Developments at the mine are so favourable in every respect, and the future is so thoroughly assured, that shareholders may safely hold tight to this mine. In Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure the movement which I predicted is already in progress. Groups are quoted $1\frac{5}{8}$, and Treasures $1\frac{3}{4}$, and I shall expect to see them at 2 in a very short time. Most of the other mining shares of the Whitaker Wright group are also firmer, and I fully confirm my remarks of a week ago with reference to Wealth of Nations, which will doubtless recover from the effects of the "Bear" raid which has been directed against them. There is absolutely no truth in the rumours that developments as regards the reef were unsatisfactory. These reports are mere efforts of imagination of the syndicate of liars, which has been rather active in the West Australian market of late, as is also shown by the utterly unfounded rumours which have recently been current regarding Hampton Plains. The only difficulty as regards the Wealth of Nations is the water trouble, and that is being got over. Shareholders should not allow themselves to be frightened out of their holdings. Mainland Consols are quoted 3, Paddington Consols $1\frac{13}{16}$, and both West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance shares are preparing for an important upward movement. They have already advanced to $4\frac{9}{16}$—$4\frac{5}{8}$, and I am informed on the best authority that in view of the enormous profits which have been made by these Companies, and of further flotations the success of which has already been ensured, we may look for a rise of a pound or two in these shares. Many of my readers have bought these shares at half the present price, and still I say to them, buy more! From information which I have recently gathered, greater activity may be looked for in the Stoneham group. It is true that West Australian Goldfields are quoted only at $8\frac{3}{4}$, and Hampton Plains at $4\frac{5}{16}$; but the low price of the latter shares is entirely due to false rumours which have been circulated that this Company would not make any distribution. I think the men who are responsible for these "Bear" rumours will be very much surprised when they see the Directors' report and accounts. Not only will a cash dividend be paid, but a further large distribution may be looked for. I am not at liberty to disclose the exact nature of this distribution, but it will be such as to warrant a very important rise in the shares, and holders should on no account part with any. On the contrary, if they are able to take the shares up, they should buy more to average. The meeting of shareholders will take place on October 1. I hear, by the way, that the Hampton Plains Company will very generously grant a site for a hospital to contain some thirty-six beds, which is about to be erected by the West Australian Trading Corporation at the initiation of Mr. L. H. Goodman. This West Australian Gold District Trading Corporation, I may mention, appears to be doing an excellent business, the Ordinary shares standing close to 2, while the Founders' shares, after touching 100, are quoted at 90. This improvement appears to be chiefly justified by the trading results, but if the new Ore Atomic Reduction Process, in which the Company is interested, should prove the success it is reported to be, one might look for some sensational developments. The Hannan's King (Brownhill) is a promising mine, and considerable inquiry has been noticeable for the shares of late. Burbanks have very fairly maintained the recent advance to $2\frac{3}{8}$, the developments at the mine fully justifying the rise. Burbank's North at one time rose to $\frac{3}{8}$ premium, and are still quoted $\frac{1}{4}$ premium; while Burbank's Consols stand at $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. I explained last week the promising position of these mines. The special settlement of Burbank's North shares takes place this time, and it is found that the market is short of the stock. This mine will commence crushing on the 21st inst., and a further improvement in the shares is anticipated when the results of the crushings are made known. A considerable business has been transacted in Explorers' Syndicate shares at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ premium, and some demand has also been experienced for Explorers' Finance Founders' shares at £20 to £25. The favourable position of the Gladiator mine has already been referred to by me, and these shares are a good purchase at about 1. I am informed that Professor Nicholas has left for the Gladiator mine, and that important cable news may be received any day. The statement made by the chairman of the Great Reef at the meeting held during the week was of a satisfactory character, and the promise that this Company

will be winning gold before Christmas will, if fulfilled, be the best proof of the energy of the management. With reference to Sherlaw's Gold Mine, locally known as the Perseverance, it is stated that the rock drills are the first on the Field, and that they will save considerable expense, more than repaying their cost in a few months. The stamps of the Company were hung up for a time owing to want of water; but there is now at least 100,000 gallons in the main reservoir, and crushing has recommenced. King of the West shares show an exceptionally strong market, and the property is opening out well. The group of the West Australian Joint-Stock Trust has shown great strength, and the Ordinary shares of the Trust have advanced to $3\frac{15}{16}$ premium on rumours of a coming very favourable interim report. It is stated by the Secretary of the West Australian Minerals and Finance Company and the Lady Montefiore United Gold Mines, Limited, that Sir John W. Campbell is no longer a Director of these concerns. I should think that the Secretary should also state what was the reason of this resignation. At Wednesday's meeting of the Hannan's Kalgoorlie Proprietary Company very favourable statements were made by Mr. Herbert Moir, who recently had an opportunity of inspecting the mine. The railway is now close to the properties owned by the Company, concerning which very satisfactory news has been received. I should like to know what Mr. T. H. Myring and Lord Fingall have to say about the Londonderry. It is really time that the long-promised Exploration Company was started, and this extraordinary delay is most trying for the shareholders. An opportunity is at present being afforded to subscribe privately for the Brownhill Great Southern, Limited, a Company which has been formed with a capital of £160,000 to acquire a property in a very rich part of the Hannan's Goldfield, immediately adjoining the celebrated Hannan's Brownhill Mine, and surrounded by other valuable properties. The area is about twenty-four acres, and, according to the reports of the experts, a reef has been struck which, although only 4 ft. wide at first, soon opened out to a great body 18 ft. thick; while the mine generally is described as altogether similar to the famous Hannan's Brownhill Mine. It is expected that these shares will come into active request in the near future. A sharp recovery in Jokers of $\frac{5}{16}$ to $2\frac{7}{16}$ has also been a feature. Under the circumstances, Joker Proprietary, now quoted from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium, should, too, come into notice. The West Australian Venture Syndicate has issued a detailed report concerning several of its properties, notably those at Mount Sir Samuel (East Murchison), Crœsus Consols (Hannan's), Good Luck (Hannan's), Carlisle and Cumberland Group (Yalgoo), Craig-y-Nos (Menzies), Victoria United Block (Melville), and Warparilla (Bardoc). The news, especially from Mount Sir Samuel, seems very satisfactory. Western Australia will soon be the rendezvous of a further number of eminent engineers. That distinguished expert, Mr. James Mactear, is leaving for the colony in order to study and advise upon the application of the cyanide and other processes for the most judicious treatment of West Australian ores. Mr. George Leake, the leader of the West Australian Opposition, is returning by this week's mail steamer to Perth. Having made a very intelligent study of matters over here as far as they have a bearing upon Western Australia, the knowledge which he has acquired should prove of great service in his political sphere. The British Dominions, Limited, has been registered with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares. Its programme is apparently wider than I have noticed in the case of any similar Company, covering everything from the purchase of mines to the leasing and settling of land in any part of the British possessions or in any other part of the world. The construction of rail and tram roads, piers, wharves, docks, gas, water, electric and hydraulic works, &c., are also included in its programme, and one of my correspondents ventures the remark that "though apparently comprehensive and proposing to ransack the earth and its industries, the prospectus provides for the return of nothing into the soil, and that no power is taken as to thunderstorms and tombstones." The Directors of this gigantic Corporation, moreover, whose qualification is to be £200, will receive only £220 a year as salary, and the Chairman only £500 per annum for superintending what is practically the exploitation of the whole world. This is indeed modest! With reference to my remarks concerning the efforts made by a Mr. W. Hunt, of 116, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth, London, S.W., to unload privately the shares of the Transvaal-Westralian Gold Concessions, Limited, I have received the following communication from the Secretary of that Company:—

> The attention of my Board has been drawn to the remarks made by you in your last issue under the head of "Golden West Australia," and I am instructed to inform you that my Directors became aware of Mr. Hunt's efforts to sell the shares of this Company in July last when they deemed it their duty to send a circular with regard thereto (which I now enclose for your perusal) to each shareholder. You will see by the terms of the circular that the Directors were not then, and, I may add, they are not now, in any way connected with Mr. Hunt, neither have they sold nor attempted to sell directly or indirectly a single share in this Company. This can be proved by the Register of Shareholders, which is open to your inspection.

I am glad to hear that the Directors of the Transvaal-Westralian Gold Concessions, Limited, are not in any way connected with Mr. Hunt, and that they have not sold any shares in their Company. It would now be interesting to know the motive of Mr. Hunt's action, especially if, as the Directors state in their circular, he has been securing the Company's shares in considerable quantities. I should like to know why Ivanhoe dropped suddenly from $9\frac{3}{8}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$. Does this mean that the next crushing will be bad?

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

The Indian section has also shared in the general depression; but the downward movements have not been by any means important, and very excellent dividend estimates are current with reference to Mysore, some going for as much as 7s. per share. Coromandel are easier, which is not surprising, after the recent rise; and I hope that my readers who had handsome profits took my hint to clear them. They could with advantage put the money into Goldfields of Mysore, or some cheap share such as Kadur Mysore, concerning which some favourable statements have recently been made. These shares are now quoted 7s. 6d. In Australian mines other than West Australians, Aladdin's Lamp have declared another dividend of 2s. per share, and the price is quoted $2\frac{13}{16}$, which is very low considering the splendid return in dividends. In Charters Towers mines, New Queen have improved; but Mount Lyell have lost as much as $\frac{5}{8}$, and New Chum (Bendigo) 3s. Wentworth and Mount Morgan are also easier, and so are Broken Hill Proprietary at $2\frac{7}{16}$. Amongst Croydon mines a better tone has prevailed, in consequence of the splendid results yielded by the Croydon Consols. I say again that if this were a West Australian or South African mine the shares would stand at least at 15s., and not at 7s. 3d.; and I take much credit to myself for having been able to advise investment in these shares from 4s. upwards. I am receiving a great many inquiries from shareholders as to whether they should sell now and take their profit or not. I must leave this decision entirely to them. They must know themselves how splendid the developments at the mine have been of late, and that a much higher price would be justified. There is, moreover, the circumstance that the Australian vendors have sold out the balance of their shares, so that the market is ready for a rise. They would, in fact, have advanced long ago, had it not been for these blocks of shares. Australian vendors are an uncomfortable lot to deal with, as has been frequently illustrated in the West Australian market. They are only happy if they can get hold of the cash, and most of the strong West Australian groups are now making a point of buying properties only for cash, as the tying-up of shares does not seem to answer in these cases. And so it has been with the Croydon Consols. Some other Croydon mines are now coming to the fore, concerning which I shall have more to say next week. Amongst New Zealand mines there have been very irregular dealings. Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand and Woodstock are firmer; while Komata Reefs, Royal Oak,

and Kathleen Crown are lower. In the general foreign sections business is at low ebb. De Lamar, La Yesca, and Montana are lower; while Linares and Santa Anna have improved. The feature in this market is still the Grand Central, the rich Mexican mine to which I have already referred, and the shares in which readers of TRUTH who acted on my first advice were able to acquire at $1\frac{5}{8}$. They have now risen to $2\frac{11}{16}$, on the statement that the rich discovery has also been made at the lower level. The Cripple Creek Exploitation Syndicate announce that warrants for a dividend of 25 per cent. have been posted. This enterprise has apparently been doing exceedingly well.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and Issues have been placed before the public during the past week:—

The Dumont Coffee Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, carrying on, and further developing the Coffee Estates of the Companhia Agricola Fazenda Dumont, situate in the districts of Ribeirao Preto and Parapa Panema, in the State of Sao Paolo, United States of Brazil. The capital is fixed at £800,000.

The property acquired by this Company consists of 110,000 acres, of which 13,000 are now under coffee cultivation, returning good profits. There are about 20,000 acres available for extending coffee fields, and the remainder is suitable for the cultivation of sugar, tobacco, &c. The estate is well equipped with everything necessary to carry on a large business, and seems to be a promising industrial venture.

The Golden Leases Mining Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working two gold mining properties known as the Golden Ridge and Golden Ridge Extended, of about twenty-four acres in extent, situated one mile from the Railway Station at Coolgardie. The capital is £120,000 in shares of £1 each.

This Company is issued under the auspices of The Mining, Transport, and General Finance Company, who have guaranteed the whole of the present issue. The property has been favourably reported upon by several mining experts, and from its situation should prove a fair Mining venture.

Lindsay's Find Proprietary, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire and develop eight gold-mining leases, having an area of 173 acres, with a water area of 5 acres additional, known as Lindsay's Find, about 82 miles from Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. The capital is £200,000 in £1 shares, of which amount £50,000 is to be reserved as working capital.

Robinson and Price, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the undertaking and assets of Robinson and Price, Limited, cycle manufacturers, Liverpool. The share capital is £50,000.

For high-falutin' this prospectus takes the cake, more especially the paragraph relating to the quality of the cycles manufactured by this (in London) comparatively unknown firm. The capital is excessive, and the issue had better be left to those who appreciate and can see the "exquisite finish unseen in any other make."

Lavington Evans & Co., Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £120,000 in shares, and 300 Four and a Half per Cent. First Morgage Debentures of £10 each, to acquire the Chalkwell Tannery, Sittingbourne, Kent, carried on under the style of Lavington, Evans, & Co.

The promoters of this issue are evidently believers in the adage "There is nothing like leather," but whether this belief will extend to the investing public, who are asked to subscribe an excessive amount for a business in which there is keen competition, I very much doubt. There is little in the prospectus to recommend it.

The New Options Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to take over the assets (except uncalled capital, gold, and cash in hand) of the New Options Syndicate, Limited, in liquidation. The capital asked is £50,000 in £1 shares.

This is a very curious Finance Company. They ask for £50,000 to take over the assets of a Company in liquidation, which appear to be very speculative. Forty thousand fully-paid shares are to be handed over to the vendors—viz., the Company in liquidation—leaving only £10,000 to work and develop the properties. This is very much like asking Peter to pay Paul.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

A. W. B.—No, these City bonds are not included in the Argentine Unification Scheme. *G.G.*—No option but to hold. After all, there may be a chance of partial resumption of payments.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Imprudent.—Syndicate touts, whose system is pernicious. Have nothing to do with them. You cannot be a regular reader of TRUTH, or else you would know better. *North Lowestoft.*—With reference to your proposed investment of £15,000 trust money, don't you think that now money is hardening it would be wise to wait a little in case gilt-edged investments give way? As regards the other £5,000, you would have to tell me just what kind of security you require. *L. H.*—You must tell me what class of investment you require. *Inquirer, Ipswich.*—1. I do not advise dealings with this outside concern. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. 2. No, you cannot deal with a jobber direct. 3. Undoubtedly in your case cash payments would be advisable. *A. E., Great Malvern.*—Have nothing to do with these Syndicate touts. *K. B. A.*—1. You cannot get this return at present in high-class stocks, and it might be advisable to wait for a possible decline on the rise in the value of money. 2. Try the Scottish Widows' Fund. *Anxious.*—I advise you to have nothing to do with the "Perfection" system of H. Miller, 14, Holborn, E.C. *Vectis.*—Syndicate trusts, whose system I have frequently condemned. Give them a wide berth. *Anonymous.*—It is to be regretted that you do not read TRUTH regularly, or else you would not have sent the money to F. Tarrant & Co. *Hogarth Road.*—I do not think very favourably of the Colonial concern, but the Debentures should be fairly secured. No reason why you should not leave the money on deposit at Harrod's Stores.

Home Rails.

R. N. O.—I maintain my favourable opinion of Dover "A." There is no reason why the rise in the Bank rate should interfere with them. At their present rate of progress they will yield $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the whole year on the investment at to-day's price. *Cosmos.*—3s. 9d. per cent.; £2 new on every £100 stock.

American and Foreign Rails.

W. T. H.—I have already expressed my opinion on the unfounded rumours concerning the Louisville and Nashville in last week's issue. *R. F.*—Amongst the better class American stocks, Milwaukee, Louisville and Denver Prefs. are the most promising. *E. F., Basingstoke.*—Keep your American Railroad Gold Bonds. There is no such fear. *Page.*—Hold these bonds for a recovery.

Mining Shares.

Kangaroo.—1. The Glencairn and Glenluce amalgamation is very promising. 2. Yes, but I have already said so a fortnight ago. 3. Yes, as to the first named, but I do not like the African Coal concern at all, and have always said so. *C. M. R.*—1. It is quite correct that the London and Globe Finance Company has made a lot of money. 2. I do not care for Deccans or the other stock. *Sekondi.*—1 and 2. *The Financial News.* 3. No good publication available. 4. None lately. *R. L.*—A fair mining risk. I cannot reply by letter. *Cambria.*—Some of the Sydney papers write in an absurdly hostile manner on the West Australian Goldfields. It is pure and stupid jealousy. Hold your Mining shares, they are well selected. *Firby.*—The new "Johnnies" should be taken. The Transvaal Company in question has not yet paid a dividend this year. Langlaagte Estate and Glencairns should suit you. *Markato.*—Not yet, but both West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance should be held for an important rise. *Polonius.*—No, you are not entitled to the bonus. Randfontein were ex-rights long ago. *Bert.*—No option but to hold. They will recover. *Nollive.*—Good West Australian Companies. Hold. *Glenlyn.*—In the case of such reconstructions, it is generally wisest to join rather than to forfeit your shares, and you had better do so in this instance, if you can afford it. *Nag.*—Yes, I look for an early rise in Hannan's Golden Treasure and Hannan's Golden Group. Nos. 1 to 3 are fair mining risks. *Sly-go.*—I almost think you had better do so. *Frederick.*—It is a moot point and as your liability was not stated to be limited to the cover, I do not think you would win. But why do you deal with such outside men? *Linen.*—Hardly any value. Write to the Secretary. *Aline Chaletson.*—There is nothing against the West Australian Share Corporation, as far as I know. *Perplexity.*—1. Hold London and Continental Investment shares. 2. No reason to sell. 3. Yes. *Sophocles.*—Hold. I have not heard anything about the dividend prospects yet. *Acti.*—No, leave them alone. *Weh.*—Hold Lake View Consols. *Naval Gunner.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1-6. This is not the time to sell. *W. S. J.*—Hold Golden River Quesnelle for a rise. Advices are favourable. *Rover.*—Certainly hold Hannan's King (Brownhill) for a further rise. *F. A. M.*—Hold Nos. 1-3. News concerning No. 1 is looked for shortly. *J. P.*—Good profits should generally be taken, although the mine is doing exceedingly well. Why not close half? 3. North Croydon

Consols are a fair purchase. *Dennis, Glasgow.*—(*a*). Hold. (*b*). No option but to hold these and (*c*), (*d*), and (*e*), but do not buy any more. *A. Y. J.*—No, I do not advise purchase of East Rand Extension. *A. B.*—Hold for a recovery. *Ernest.*—I do not think much of this Mexican mine. *Hopeful.*—1. You must take your own decision. 2. Hold Holcomb Valley Prefs. *E. L.*—Most of them are doubtful and badly selected. No option but to hold at present on the chance of a recovery. *Greenhorn.*—A mixed lot of mines, but hold at present. *Anxious, Cork.*—1. Both. 2. Yes, hold Hannan's King (Brownhill), for a further rise. 3. Not stated yet. 4. No. 5. No. *Penny.*—A. No. B. Hold Barnato Banks for a further rise. C. Yes. 4. At a good profit. *Erne.*—I should say that it would be advisable to join the reconstruction. *G. A. W.*—Hold for a recovery which is probable. *Jess.*—No reason to sell No. 1. No option but to hold Nos. 2 and 3. *Dubio.*—1. Hold for a further recovery. 2. Yes. 3. You have done right. *Joseph.*—A recovery in all these is probable. *Q.*—I dealt with No. 1 in last week's issue. 2. Yes. 3. Perhaps also as to No. 4. The shares No. 5 are recovering somewhat. 6. Yes. *Cantab.*—A fair mining risk. *N. W.*—1. Not yet. 2. Probably. *Manor.*—No option but to hold No. 1 for a rise. 2. Yes. *Widow.*—Certainly hold Nos. 1-4 for a rise. *John G.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 to 4; do not, however, buy more. 5. These should recover. 6. I do not know. 7. A good investment. *G. J. M.*—Explorers Syndicate shares are promising, but I do not advise the sale of the other shares for the purpose of an exchange. *G. L.*—I must refer you to my letter which gives all the information you want. Mount Lyell seem high enough. *A. Z., Guernsey.*—Your best course will be to hold all your mining shares, Nos. 1 to 8, for an improvement, which is probable. *Vecta.*—Your mining shares, Nos. 1 to 4, should be held for a rise. I do not think so well of No. 6, but it would be better under present circumstances to keep these. The Argentine bonds (5) are likely to improve. *Diamond.*—You have a fair selection of West Australian mining shares, Nos. 1 to 11, and you should keep these. It is of no use making too many exchanges. *Ceres.*—You should act in accordance with the advice of the shareholders' committee. *Sorry Yankee.*—I maintain my favourable opinion of Barnato Banks and of the amalgamation scheme. *G. C. Y.*—You had better hold all your mining shares, Nos. 1-10, they will recover. W.A. Exploring and Finance and London and Globe are on the eve of a big rise. *Traveller.*—Yes, you should take up the new shares in the Barnato amalgamation. *A. E. D.*—Hold both Nos. 1 and 2. The new property of the Mackenzie looks well. *W. J.*—You are entitled to the Randfontein bonus. It is expected in London at the end of this month. Hold Buffelsdoorn for a further rise. *Right.*—Uruguay Government bonds should suit you. They yield upwards of 7 per cent. per annum, and the new loan is also secured on the Customs revenue. *D. M. B.*—1. No. 2. Yes. 3. I do not know anything special of the British Colonial Mining Corporation. It has evidently still its way to make. The other two Companies are said to be doing well. *Veritas, Cork.*—I do not like the Hall Mines. You can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Tyke.*—I do not agree with your view, but it is the Englishman's privilege to grumble. I think, however, that Mr. Barnato should now make a public statement of the position of his enterprises. *Snapper.*—Yes, the investment is admirable. *Beginner, Lancashire.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are fair mining risks. The Princess Royal is a promising West Australian mine. *Dart.*—1. You should communicate with the other shareholders. 2. I do not like Otto's Kopje, neither do I approve of the Coal Company. *W. C. L. L.*—The Lake View and Boulder Junction is a different mine. The other two are identical. 2. The Glencairn-Glenluce amalgamation is considered by the best authorities as favourable to the Glencairn. If you are a shareholder, the London agents will give you all the information you require. *Gairloch.*—No. 1 is very doubtful; Nos. 2-6 should be held for a recovery. *Wellington.*—I have already expressed a favourable opinion of the amalgamation in last week's issue. Hold "Johnnies." Certainly keep Langlaagte Star. *W. A. M.*—A fair mining risk, but no catch. *Skelligs.*—No option but to hold Torva Exploration, but I should not buy more. *Nimrod.*—An irresponsible outside broker's sheet. You should disregard such rubbish. *W. W.*—Central Exploration of W. A. should be held. They are temporarily neglected. Hold the other shares. The Wonderfontein water scheme is not taken *au sérieux* in Johannesburg Waterworks circles. *East Fifer.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. Yes. See remarks concerning Lake View under "Golden West Australia." 3. Yes, take your handsome profit on Coromandel and buy Mysore Goldfields instead. 4. Not yet. *Rhymney.*—I have added your name to the list. I do not like Nuggets. They are quite high enough. The West Australia Mine is a fair mining risk. *Rhoda.*—You had better buy West Australian Exploring and Finance shares with the money at once. *Verbena.*—1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. Hold Wealth of Nations. 4. Yes; this so-called Diamond mine is hopeless. 5. Yes, hold. *E. D. P., Manchester.*—I cannot reply by letter. You can easily make your selection of Gold Mining shares from my remarks under "Golden West Australia." *C. B. T.*—Have no anxiety concerning Lake View. The reaction is merely temporary. See remarks under "Golden West Australia." I cannot reply by letter. *Navarino.*—No option but to hold. *Oyster.*—No option but to hold the first-named shares, also Holcomb Valley. Croydon Consols are a first-rate investment. *W. J. Swindon.*—No option but to hold. The management is bad, but the mine is good. *F. S., Teddington.*—You are an unreasonable grumbler. Croydon Consols quite recently advanced to 7s. 6d., and it is a splendid mine, paying large dividends. What more do you want? Wealth of Nations should be held. You have not bought Lady Loch at that price on *my* advice. *Halifax.*—You need not join the reconstruction, but in that case your shares will be forfeited. *Austral.*—A fair mining risk. *E. T. G.*—I see no reason to sell your mining shares Nos. 1-5. The affairs of the Finance Corporation in question look better now. *Zenopton.*—1. Hold, but do not average yet. Hold Croydon Consols, they are worth much more than the present price. 3. No option but to hold. 4. Yes, especially Preece's Point. 5. Yes. *Alpha, Galway.*—The dividend was 2s. per share for the half-year ended June 31. *R. L., Reading.*—Yes, Hannan's King (Brownhill) are a good purchase. I cannot reply by letter. *R. M., Townsend, A. R. A., W. M. C., C. W. H., Urgent.*—See remarks in this week's issue concerning Abercorn Reefs and Umtoli Gold Reefs under the "Kaffir Circus."

Industrial Investments.

F. F. L.—I do not like Singer Cycle shares. There is, of course, no talk of a dividend yet. The special settlement is about to take place. *Hew.*—Yes, prospects of the French Dunlop Tyre Company are good. *W. C. W.*—Gordon Hotel and Spiers & Pond shares are good investments, but all these industrial stocks are already high up. *Duped.*—I do not like the Boudard Peveril Cycle Company at all. Why did you go into it? *Josephine.*—There is no such paper. You will have to take the official list of the Stock Exchange. *K. H. C.*—1. Some day. 2. Why did you go into such doubtful concerns as Pegamoid and Laverton? There is no market here for the shares. *St. Helens.*—I do not think much of the Brewery mentioned by you. *Cycle.*—1. I do not think much of them. 2. Possibly. 3. You must decide yourself. I never advised investment in Singer Cycle. *Stirlingshire.*—1. I do not like the Great Horseless Carriage Company at all, and have said so already *ad nauseam.* 2. Fair prospects if the capital subscribed proves sufficient. *A. W. W.*—No doubt the meeting of the Company will be fully attended. *Nemo, Torquay.*—I do not think much of this concern. The debentures are not gilt-edged. *O. P.*—I. My views are as follows:—1. No catch. 2. A fair investment. 3. Speculative. 4 and 5. Fair investments. II. You must decide yourself. III. The official list of the London Stock Exchange. IV. There is no useful book of the kind. *Kew.*—A promising Company. *Dooars.*—A fair investment. *Somercotes.*—No. *H. E. T.*—No market for the shares, which are no catch. *G. M.*—Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 6 are fair industrial investments. I do not care for the others. *M. D.*—I do not think much of this concern. It is very speculative. *T. S. B.*—I must confess that the Independent Theatre Society, which you say was turned into a Limited Liability Company, and has been declining ever since, has not yet come under my notice. You say that there has not been a single performance for more than a year, and I personally am surprised that you put money into such a scheme. *C. W. H., Rotherham.*—I cannot reply by letter. The document is returned. These Preference shares are a fair investment, but seem to be quite high enough for a colonial stock.

Mixed Investments.

A. C., Tirol.—1. I do not quite see that the provisions of your trust apply. Is the word Debentures mentioned? 2. Yes, you should apply for the new Johnnies shares. *Bolive.*—1. I do not advise the investment. 2. My opinion of French Dunlops is still favourable. *Rex.*—No reason to sell Chilians. 2. No fresh news available. 3. No reason to sell. 4. Not affected by the Unification scheme, but promising. *G. F.*—1. No, I do not advise purchase of St. John del Rey. 2. Hold Langlaagte Block B and Star. 3. I do not care for this share. *Senorous.*—Your broker's charge is not excessive. The investments are fairly promising. *Montrose.*—1. Sell Westralia, London, and Johannesburg shares if you can. 2. Randfontein should be held for an important advance. 3. Mynpacht. 4. Both are fair mining risks. 5. Hold. 6. No. *Trojan.*—A. Hold the Brewery shares. B. Yes. C. They are likely to recover. *T. E. C.*—1. You can buy the Barron Cigarette Machine Company's shares on the London Stock Exchange. 2. Hardly. 3. Hold the Argentine Railway Bonds. 4. No special reason to sell. *Abergavenny.*—Your investments No. 1—8 are well selected. Hold. *Philatolus.* 1. Yes, a first-class American Brewery. 2. A high-class institution. With the advance in the Bank rate, Bank shares look more promising. *Clarendon*—I do not advise selling a "Bear" of such stocks. *H. M.*—1. No. 2. It is, however, a promising mine. 3, Write to the secretary. 5. No. *Roach.*—You have done right to buy the new Uruguay bonds. Both No. 1 and 2 are promising investments. *Lancastrian.*—1. Yes, I still am in favour of North British. 2. Leave the Bulawayo Syndicate alone, notwithstanding the puffing Manchester circular. 3. A recovery is probable. *C. J. W.*—I. Your investments No. 1-7 are promising and should be held. You might easily avail yourself of an opportunity to get out of No. 8. II. Yes. III. No catch. IV. Hannans Golden Treasure is a most promising mine. V. Yes. *Worry.*—Sound investments of their kind. *Hants.*—There can be no objection to your selection under the circumstances. *Leonidas.*—Your selection of No. 1-4 is a very suitable one.

To Overcome Weakness.—Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic gives New Life, Appetite, Health, Strength, Energy. Cures Neuralgia, Indigestion, Pepper's Nerve Tonic. Debility. Kept everywhere.

Albert.—1. High enough. 2, You can find these mines under "Golden West Australia." 3, I cannot as a matter of principle, recommend stock brokers. 4, No. *Vesta.*—Hold No. 1. Every prospect of No. 2 and 3 recovering. I do not like the Campania mine, or the Beeston Tyre Rims (5). Do not hold No. 6 too long. *H. W. Chester.*—Yes. *Gold.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. Promising. *C. J. A.*—1. No option. but to hold. 2. Hold. *Saple.*—1. I still hold a very favourable opinion of Langlaagte Building and Exploration shares. 2 and 3. Yes, hold these; also Urugnay. *Kirckaldy.*—Very promising American Railroad Bonds. *G. H.*—1. Hold Barnato Banks. 2. Yes. 3. Yes. 4. Decidedly. 5. Take an opportunity to sell. 6. I do not like these concerns at all. *Hardup.*—I explained the position of Wealth of Nations last week. You should try London and Globe Finance shares again. An important advance is expected. The Crown United is a fair mining risk. Some very favourable developments are taking place in Metropolitan Districts, as stated under "Home Rails," and these make this a very promising speculation. *F. U.*—The Croydon Consols Mine is doing splendidly and the shares are suitable for permanent investment. Yes, the other shares are promising, also Cycle Tubes. I do not think much of the last-mentioned shares. *W. H. W.*—1. Hold for the present. 2. Not particularly. 3. Yes, a promising speculation.

Various Investments.

The rise in the Bank rate has brought great comfort to the "Bears" of Consols, and a fall has now to be recorded of nearly 3 points, the lowest quotation having been 109⅝, from which a recovery to 110⅛ has since taken place. The advance in the Bank rate was distinctly a precautionary measure, which will ensure a large reserve being retained by the Bank of England, provided only that the present rate is made effective. I say distinctly that the Bank ought to adopt some measure, such as borrowing on Consols, in order to raise the rate in the outside market, as two and three months' bills are only quoted 1⅞, and short loans remain at 1 per cent. If this policy is not adopted, it may be necessary to raise the Bank rate to 3 per cent. Not that that would be anything to be dreaded, as we should probably have discount in the open market at about 2¼ to 2½ per cent., and that is not a rate to be feared by any legitimate operator or speculator. Some of the weak operators, in fact, have already been scared out by the last spasm in the market. What will be the future of Consols it is impossible to foretell. Some of the large sales were undoubtedly again made as a hedge against commitments in other stocks, and others were "Bear" sales on the absurd political rumours. A higher rate of discount would in itself justify a fall in Consols, but against this has to be set the Government purchases for the Sinking Fund and for the Savings' Bank. Silver has also relapsed in the general flurry, being ⅞ lower for the week at 30d., while Rupee paper has given way 1 to 63⅛. Colonial Government stocks have commenced to ease off, and if money should further rise in value, we must certainly look for a reaction in these and in Corporation stocks, as well as in the Prior Charges of Home Railways, which are at extreme prices. A 3 per cent. Bank rate, on the other hand, should not affect the more speculative and progressive Home Railway stocks or the Mining markets, and generally it is quite time that the second and third-class stocks should approach a little more to the quotations of the first-class securities. Nitrate Rails have again reacted to 6⅞, but Nitrate-producing shares have been steady. In the Cycle share market, Dunlop Deferred have displayed a strong tone, and have only eased off during the last day or two to 1 9/16, probably on the rumours of litigation against the promoters of the new Company—which appear to be, however, very far-fetched. Cycles Tubes are firm at 1, Humber Extensions at 1⅜, Beestons at 4½, Grapplers at 1 1/16. In Mexican Rails a distinct rally has taken place on the report, which seems to be well founded, that a pooling arrangement will again be brought about between the different lines. The First Prefs. have thereupon advanced to 70½. Who are Clarke, Richardson, & Co., Stock and Share Dealers, 3, Copthall-buildings, London, E.C.? I see from circulars which have been sent to me that those of this firm are almost identical with those drawn up by F. Hemming Custance. Take, for instance, the introductions to these remarkable syndicate-touting prospectuses:—

Clarke, Richardson & Co., Stock and Share Dealers, 3, Copthall-buildings, London, E.C. Telegrams: "Offaveo, London."	F. Hemming Custance, Investment Broker and Stock and Share Dealer, 50 and 51, Lime-street, London, E.C. Telegrams: "Bicuspid, London."
Prospectus. "Special Investments." In introducing our "Special Investment" System to your notice we would state that the plan on which we conduct our "Special Investments" has stood the test of trial and long experience; a loss to subscribers thereto is almost impossible.	"Mutual" Investments. In introducing my System of Mutual Investments to your notice I would state that the System on which I conduct my "Mutuals" being practically perfect, and having stood the test of long experience, a loss of subscribers thereto is almost impossible.

The similarity does not end with the introduction, as it continues throughout the circulars; and I should like to know if Clarke, Richardson & Co. know anything of F. Hemming Custance, who has recently levanted, leaving a number of clients in the lurch? Frank Tarrant & Co., of 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., are always with us. I have received another batch of circulars, sent out by them, in which extraordinary profits are boasted of. I have also received a letter from a reader of Truth, who sent them two £5 notes on August 3, but has not got the big profits promised, and cannot obtain any satisfactory answer from them. This is a fresh development which Frank Tarrant & Company should be made to explain. J. Edwards & Co., Stock and Share Dealers, of Talbot House, Arundel-street, London, W.C., are also boasting of tremendous profits which they say they have made for their clients. They sent out polite invitations for an "operation" in London and North-Western, which was to commence on September 10, when North-Western fell from 203½ to 202. This stock has now declined further to 199¼. I wonder whether the clients of Edwards & Co. will lose all that money, or whether Edwards & Co. are philanthropists who guarantee profits to clients when a loss is made? I see that a person who has repeatedly been mentioned in Truth for the promising "deals" which he recommended to his clients is appearing in the Bankruptcy Court. This is James P. Law, of Clock House, Arundel-street, London, W.C. That I should say would be the fate of all the syndicate touts, provided anybody takes the trouble to make them bankrupt. In the majority of instances they take French leave, so that their creditors cannot find them.—I remain, your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

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QUEER STORY;

GIFFEN AND GREGORY.

Now that our Australian visitors have departed, I may, without raising awkward questions, relate an amusing incident which happened in connection with a previous team of Antipodean cricketers, in a match upon the Hastings ground, now some five years ago. This incident—to the best of the present writer's knowledge—has never been made public; few persons, except those actually concerned, having even heard of it. But as it is one which will very well bear recounting, it is now written down at this seasonable date, with as much accuracy of detail as a five years' memory can be expected to display. If there are any little points in which the present recital departs from the real facts of history, those who are "in the know" will kindly ascribe it to the interval which has since elapsed, and will probably recognise that these departures are so slight as to be quite immaterial. The leading features, at any rate, have been adhered to throughout.

It has often been the case that these end of the season matches at fashionable watering places have rather

degenerated into picnics; the players, on both sides, being a trifle lax both in keenness and punctuality, and the public showing them an unusual indulgence in the matter. The match to which we allude was one of this description. It so happened that a certain resident in Hastings, and a member of the local cricket club, had a relative playing in the Australian eleven. Of this he was no little proud, and he did not omit to introduce several of his particular pals, also local cricketers, to his distinguished Australian cousin. The latter introduced his cousin and his cousin's friends to other members of the Cornstalk team. And when, on the first day of the match, some of the colonial heroes came out early for a little desultory practice at the nets, they good-naturedly allowed these three or four local W. G.'s (who had turned out in flannels to fag the big hits for their illustrious visitors) to take an occasional spell both with bat and ball; a distinction which, it is needless to say, fairly entranced them.

While one of the Sussex gentlemen—a poor, though enthusiastic, performer—was wielding the willow, quite in a style of his own, a stoutish, elderly man, in a top-hat and frock-coat, came up at the back of the net and began to watch the batsman very interestedly. The elderly onlooker's face was so extremely eager, and he was following every stroke with such evident keenness, as to render himself quite conspicuous, and several of the bystanders regarded him with a half-amused curiosity.

Now it so fell out that a local cricketer (whom we will call Brown, and who was indeed the above-mentioned cousin of one of the Australian Eleven) was standing at the back of the net, near to the elderly gentleman. Both he and a pal of his—Robinson by name—who was then talking to him, wore flannels, having only just themselves left off taking part in the practice. And these two eyed the old gentleman with particular attention.

Brown was a young man, of athletic build, tall and well-proportioned. But his face was sallow and cadaverous, and had a sober, melancholy air. As a matter of fact, this entirely belied his nature; for Brown was the wag of the local club, an incorrigible joker, practical and otherwise; never happy unless he had some fun on hand. At times his jests contained strokes of genuine humour; but, for the most part, they were somewhat feeble in themselves, relying chiefly for their point upon the sober, serious air with which he carried them off. Robinson was his bosom friend, and a warm admirer of his genius. In appearance, he was short, rotund, florid—Brown's physical antithesis. But in everything else he had, by sedulous imitation, made himself resemble him as nearly as possible. It was his one desire to be a great wag like Brown, and in all that he did he kept this object before him. Brown patronised and encouraged him. He was useful to Brown, as the jackal is to the lion. A joker, especially a practical joker, can scarcely do without a confederate to play into his hands. Robinson was always ready to play into Brown's hands. He was even proud to share the kicks which sometimes resulted, when some choleric victim of Brown's jokes was moved to a by no means jocular retaliation. To do Brown justice, he was always ready to let Robinson enjoy his full share of this fruit of his humorous escapades.

On the present occasion, Brown watched the old gentleman thoughtfully for several minutes. Then he nudged Robinson.

"See that old johnny?" he whispered.

"Yes," replied Robinson. "What about him?"

"Just keep your eye on his face for a moment or two. . . . . Now, what do you make of him?"

"Make of him? How do you mean?"

"Well, do you think that Bulger's batting is class enough to excite all that keenness in the old boy, eh?"

"I shouldn't have thought so."

"Nor should I. What's more I don't think so. And I believe I twig the true explanation."

"What's that?"

"Why, it's my conviction that the old chap is a bit of a greenhorn, who don't know much about cricket, and that he imagines Bulger to be an Australian. What do you say to taking him on about it—eh?"

"By Jove! Not a bad idea. But we'd better make sure that he really is mistaken first."

"Not much doubt on that score. Look at his face, man. However, we can easily settle it by a few judicious remarks as a preliminary. Come along. We'll just get the old boy into conversation. And I say—bright idea—we'll be Australians, too! Hist! You're Gregory; I'm Giffen. Twig?"

They strolled carelessly towards the old gentleman, and, with an indifferent, nonchalant air, as though heedless of his very existence, came to a standstill at his side. Brown, looking out of the corner of one eye, noted with satisfaction that his prospective victim was regarding him with an intensely interested and admiring gaze. He saw at once that his part would be an easy one to play, for it was evident that the old gentleman already took him for an Australian.

"Hem!" said Brown, with a patronising air, such as a famous cricketer might be supposed to adopt towards an ordinary member of the public; "Nice day!"

"Very," assented the old gentleman.

"Haw—pretty decent wicket this, though a trifle slow."

"Excellent, as far as I can see," was the reply. The old gentleman's tone was distinctly respectful. He evidently realised that he was talking to a great man. Brown chuckled inwardly; though his face was sober and serious as usual.

"Fond of cricket?" he inquired, carelessly.

"I'm very fond of watching it," answered the old gentleman, with humility, "Though I really know very little about it."

"Seen us play before this season?"

There was a lordly indifference in Brown's way of asking the question, which was very excellently assumed. The old gentleman regarded him with increased respect.

"No, I am sorry to say I have not," he replied, quite apologetically; and then he added, "I suppose you find English wickets very different from what you have been accustomed to?"

"Devilish different" (Brown was now in the full swing and enjoyment of his little joke, and, as his manner was, grew more impressively serious with every word he uttered). "Although we've now had several weeks' play on these wet wickets, some of us are not a bit at home with them yet. Look at Trott there" (indicating Bulger), "he hasn't learned the pace—or rather want of pace—of the ground in the least."

"God bless my soul!" gasped the old gentleman, "is that really the great Trott? And they've bowled him out a good many times, too."

"Turner would bowl out most men on this wicket," remarked Brown, with a patronising smile.

"W-w-hich is Turner?" inquired the old gentleman, in an awe-struck voice.

"Oh, don't you know him by sight? There! That one just starting to bowl now. Keeps a grand length, doesn't he?"

"Grand!" assented the other, in enthusiastic admiration; as the trundler (who was, in fact, one of the forlorn hopes of the local eleven) sent down a full pitch which scarcely missed Bulger's head.

"And the left-hand bowler—who is the left-hand bowler?"

"Oh! That's Jimmy Ferris."

"God bless my soul! This is deeply interesting. He, Mr.—Trott—seems to find him very difficult, too."

"Yes—on this wicket. Ah! beautiful stroke that—wasn't it?"

"Beautiful," ejaculated the old gentleman, ardently. Bulger had called forth this encomium by deftly, and quite unintentionally, placing a leg-ball into the slips.

"Out in Australia," said Brown, with a judicial nod of his head, "they think Trott about our most stylish batsman. And even now, though he is quite at sea on this wicket, you can't help remarking the grace and elegance of his play, can you?"

"It—it—is—grand!" cried the old gentleman, as Bulger, after nimbly skipping out of the way of a short one from "Turner," proceeded to play back at a half-

volley from "Ferris." "I—I—never saw anything like it."

"I say, Giffen," Robinson inquired of his friend at this point, "who's in after Trott?"

"Beg pardon, Gregory; what did you say?" replied Brown, feigning abstraction.

"I said, who's in next?"

On hearing these two distinguished persons address one another by name, the old gentleman's expression, hitherto respectful and admiring enough in all conscience, suddenly developed into one of positive awe. He gasped. He could hardly speak; so overwhelming did he find the situation. An average citizen suddenly realising that he was in converse with the Prince of Wales could scarcely have been more overcome.

"I—I—beg—your—your—pardon," he managed to ejaculate, at last, "but I—I—are you—really—*the* Giffen."

"Well, I'm the only Giffen in this team," answered Brown, smiling affably, and speaking with the true humility of a great man.

"And you—are you *the* Gregory?" continued the old gentleman. "*The* cover-point!"

"Really, you are too flattering," responded Robinson, choking down an almost irresistible impulse to scream with laughter. "But my name is Gregory; and I do generally field at cover."

The old gentleman stared at the two heroes, with eyes that were riveted upon them in reverential worship. He looked half inclined to fall upon his knees then and there, and offer his devotions to them.

"I—I—I'm sure," he gasped, "I—I—feel d-deeply honoured by—by—making your acquaintance. I—I—think it a—a—greater distinction to—to—have conversed with—with you, than with—with—W. G. himself. . . I—I—" added the old gentleman, speaking abjectly, yet eagerly. "I—I—would you think I was t-t-taking an unpardonable l-l-liberty, if I was to—to—ask——"

He broke off, afraid to continue, and evidently overwhelmed by the consciousness of his own temerity.

"My dear sir, don't stand on ceremony. Ask whatever you please," the Giffen reassured him, with perfect affability.

"By all means," added the Cover-point, graciously.

"Well—well—gentlemen, I—I—was—going to ask," he stammered, partly taking heart again, "whether you—you—would—honour me by—by—permitting me to—to—offer you some—some refreshment."

The Giffen and the Gregory exchanged glances. Neither was at all averse to a drink, nor yet to a good cigar. And the old gentleman was evidently a man who would "do" them well. Still, they had to sustain the character of demigods, and they must not appear too eager.

"Thank you, very much; but I seldom take anything so early in the day," said Giffen.

"Nor I, thank you," added Gregory.

"Still, just this once—just this once," pressed the old gentleman, with positive entreaty in his voice.

"Well," replied Giffen, relenting, "Well, as it's a hot day, perhaps——"

"Yes, as it's a hot day," struck in the Cover-point, wiping his forehead.

"Oh, thank you, gentlemen—thank you," he exclaimed, trembling with pleasure and elation. "This *is* good of you. Come along! Come along!"

And he turned and led the way towards the entrance of the ground, and through it to an adjacent tavern beyond.

The old gentleman took his two distinguished guests into the bar parlour of the hotel; then, summoning the waiter, ordered various drinks and smokes, the best of their kind that the house could produce.

"Do you like cold punch?" he asked them. "I have a most excellent recipe for mixing cold brandy punch. I should like you to taste it; I am sure you will pronounce it good. Shall it be that, gentlemen; or would you like anything else better?"

Giffen was kind enough to say that he would try the punch; so was Gregory. Both, also, condescended to help themselves to Havannahs from the box which the old gentleman had ordered to be brought in. When the necessary ingredients and the bowl for the punch had been set upon the table, their host proceeded to mix them together with great care and skill. At the end, he took a small bottle, containing white powder, from his waistcoat pocket, and shook some of its contents into the bowl.

"This is a very particular spice," he explained. "A friend of mind sends it me from the West Indies. It gives brandy punch a peculiarly delicious flavour. Now, gentlemen," filling their glasses and handing them across to them. "Tell me what you think of that?"

Giffen soon emptied his tumbler and pronounced it excellent; as indeed it was. So did Gregory. The old gentleman was obviously delighted. He pressed them to take more. Giffen did not refuse. Nor did Gregory. It was a hot day; and the cold punch was delightfully grateful and stimulating.

"But don't neglect yourself, I beg," said the Giffen, affably, to the old gentleman, who, intent upon his guests, had not yet helped himself.

The old gentleman did not seem to hear. His eyes had fallen upon the small glass bottle, which lay upon the table at his elbow, and seemed riveted upon it. He caught it up, and started from his chair, with an expression of the deepest dismay. Giffen and Gregory saw that his face now wore a look of the utmost horror and alarm.

He seized the bell, and tingled it frantically; "Quick! quick!" he gasped to the waiter, who answered the summons. "Warm water—a jug of warm water—quick! quick! There has been an—an—awful mistake."

The waiter hurried away to execute his order, frightened and flabbergasted by his tone and his words.

"What's the matter?" asked Giffen and Gregory in one breath, and in a voice of sudden anxiety.

"I—I've made a—a—terrible m-mistake," cried the old gentleman: "I've—I've——Oh, here's the warm water. Thank God!"

And as he spoke, he rushed to the sideboard, seized the mustard-pot from the casters, ladled spoonful after spoonful of mustard into the warm water, and stirred it hurriedly together.

"Here!" he cried, handing Giffen the jug. "Here, man! Drink some of this, quick! quick! And then pass it on to your friend. Oh, quick! quick! Or it may be too late!"

"Drink *this?*" ejaculated the Giffen, turning pale, "You don't mean to say—that—that——"

"Yes! yes! I've made a—a—dreadful mistake. I—I—forgot that I—I—had the two bottles with me. I am an entomologist, my friend, and this morning I bought some poison for killing beetles, and instead of spice I've—I've—given you——arsenic.

"Arsenic?" cried both Australians, simply livid with horror.

"Yes, arsenic! And enough to kill an elephant! Drink that quick—for God's sake!"

There was no need now to urge them. Giffen emptied half the jug at a gulp. Gregory finished it to the last drain. Then both rushed from the hotel round into the stable yard.

* * * * *

Ten minutes later, when the worst of it was over, and they were leaning against the wall, nursing their bodies with their arms, their faces a greyish green, and their whole bearing utterly limp and miserable—who would have recognised in these pitiable and feeble creatures the Giffen and the Gregory?

The old gentleman himself had forgotten his respect for them in his amusement at their—yes there was no denying it—their ludicrously limp appearance, and stood regarding them with a broad grin upon his face.

"Hang you!" groaned Brown, indignantly, as soon as he could speak. "What are you grinning at? When it's all your infernal fault, too!"

The old gentleman only grinned the more.

"Damn you," said Brown, as much incensed as his sufferings would permit. "If anybody has the laugh, it's us, you Cheshire Cheese! We took you on nicely. We're not Australians at all!"

"No," struck in Robinson, in the middle of a series of spasms. "We're not—oh, lor'!—Au—oh, lor', lor'!—stralians at all—oh, lor', lor', lor'!"

"I know that," said the old gentleman. "I also know something else. What I put into your punch wasn't arsenic."

"Not arsenic?"

"No," replied the old gentleman, with a huge chuckle—"saccharine!"

MUSIC.

A FESTIVAL FIASCO.

MANY more festivals like that at Worcester last week, and the Three Choirs celebrations may, after an unbroken career of nearly a century and three quarters, become extinct. Everything here now seems to be subordinated to the whims of the clergy and to the itching palm of the Church of England. Owing to some superstitious nonsense that people should not turn their backs on the Chancel, the seats last week were arranged longitudinally down the nave and aisles, so that ticket holders faced the wall, instead of, as at Hereford and Gloucester Cathedrals, and in our chief concert halls, facing the artists. There seems to be a sort of West Country ecclesiastical idea that oratorios are wicked in a Cathedral, but that a merciful Providence may be mollified if the auditor is permitted to hear with only one ear. It may be that the punishment fits the crime when the sinner has been mulcted in fifteen shillings for his uncomfortable seat, plus a contribution to the hat—I mean the plate—which is so conspicuously held out at the Cathedral doors. I do not, however, wonder that under such out-of-date conditions the inhabitants of the "Faithful City" are gradually taking less and less interest in their Festival, and that both attendance and receipts triennially show a falling off. The preliminary prayers, to indicate that the people have paid their money for a church service instead of for a concert, are perhaps an amiable weakness which the average Englishman will excuse. The intelligent foreigner, who knows perfectly well that the audience have planked down their fifteen shillings to hear the music, to listen to Mr. Lloyd (never in more glorious voice than last week), and to see the latest fashions in costumes sported by Madame Albani, may rightly put the prefatory collects down to British hypocrisy; although even he might be amused at the varying efforts at true intonation made by the officiating Canon, an official who, if he were singing in public, would inevitably be requested by the gallery boys to go off.

It is more to the purpose that the Established Church has long ago dishonestly purloined the whole of the proceeds of the Festival, and now starves the music. When the Festival was first established, the poor choristers shared the proceeds with fat Deans and Chapters. This is the circular issued at the first Festival, in 1724, by Dr. Bisse, Chancellor of Hereford:—

> These are to give notice that to-morrow, Thursday, the 10th inst. (September), there will be a collection made after morning service at the Cathedral door for placing out, or assisting to the education and maintenance of the orphans of the poorer clergy belonging to the dioceses of Gloucester, Worcester, and Hereford, or *of the members of the three respective choirs*, to be disposed of by six stewards, members of the Society, a clergyman, and a gentleman respectively belonging to the said dioceses.

But the clergy now confiscate the entire amount, the unfortunate choir singers not benefiting in the charity to the extent of a sixpence. Even last Wednesday, when they had a night off, and went for a picnic, the Clergy had the incredible meaness to allow Lord Beauchamp, the Mayor, to pay the expenses out of his own pocket.

It is a more serious matter that, under the specious plea of saving expense, the Worcester Committee limit the rehearsals to a few hours on Saturday and from 10 to 5 on Monday. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" had a bare three-quarters of a hour devoted to it, and the choral performance was, I think, one of the worst I ever heard at a Festival. "Elijah," "Messiah," and part of "St Paul" were not rehearsed at all; while the performance of "Elijah" would have been laughed at by the audience of the Mile End Assembly Rooms or of Shoreditch Town Hall. It was not, of course, at all the fault of Mr. Hugh Blair. That clever young organist may not be a conductor of any great experience; but a Richter could have done little with such a choral lot without adequate rehearsal. And it would be easy enough to give the Tuesday to extra preparation. All that is necessary is to abolish the Wednesday evening secular concert, which draws a handful of six or seven hundred people, and to finish the Festival on Friday night with an oratorio performance instead of a religious service. There would be no extra expense, the same number of oratorios could be given, and it would afford the Festival forces a better chance.

The two novelties were both promising works, though that they should have found their way into a Festival programme at all suggests the problem presented to King George III. of the fly in amber. His Majesty, it may be recollected, wondered how the deuce it got there. Mr. Blair's Advent cantata is, at any rate, unpretentious, and the composer undoubtedly has the gift of melody. I should imagine, however, that the work would be more effective in its original form; that is to say, for ordinary church service, and interspersed with well-known hymns to be sung by the congregation. Mr. Elgar, in his oratorio "The Light of Life," is at present violently coquetting with Wagner. But the Bayreuth musician never used representative themes in the manner which his English disciples affect, and Mr. Elgar, moreover, is more at home in the dramatic choruses than in some of the solos, which are duller even than is usual in British oratorio. He is best of all in his orchestration, and otherwise he shows plenty of promise. Madame Albani and Mr. Plunket Greene, unfortunately, were both suffering from severe indisposition. Madame Albani, it seems, had tried a Continental health cure which had weakened her both vocally and physically. Mr. Plunket Greene, too, was decidedly hoarse, and as he did not spare his voice, he became worse towards the end of the week. But much could be forgiven on account of the intelligence and dramatic force shown by this excellent vocalist. Mr. Hirwen Jones took a long step in advance as an oratorio tenor; but Mr. Lloyd was fairly the king of the Festival, and I have never heard him in more magnificent voice. To listen to Mr. Lloyd in Verdi's "Requiem" was a treat to those who recalled Masini under Verdi's own conductorship at the Albert Hall I forget how many years ago.

The opera season which, as I mentioned last week, Signor Leoncavallo has in view at Covent Garden is mainly in order to give a London hearing to "I Medici" and "Chatterton." Most of the artists will, I believe, afterwards take part in the winter season in Italy, but, except as to Signor Tamagno, who may come here, although he is at present in Montevideo, and as to one lady who, I am told, sang some years ago with the Harris troupe in the provinces, they are all unknown in London. Some of them, I hope, will shorten their names for the English market. My printers are longsuffering; but they are already looking a little askance at Signorina Carmen de Bonapatabau.

Should he come to Covent Garden this autumn, Signor Tamagno's chief effort will be in Leoncavallo's "I Medici," the opera in which he created the part of Giuliano at Milan three years ago. Giuliano is a Medici, and is quite characteristic of that family. He is a lady-killer in more senses of the term than one, for the woman he has ruined faints in the middle of a dance when she overhears him making love to her particular lady friend, and subsequently dies. Giuliano himself is ultimately stabbed in mistake for his brother Lorenzo the Magnificent. "Chatterton," which will also be one of the novelties of the season, is in the style of "Pagliacci," and contains some very dramatic situations, although the story is filtered through de Vigny's drama for Italian operatic use

The official *démenti* is a wonderful and a beautiful thing. This is the latest, though rather belated, effort in that

direction of Mr. Hoile, secretary of the Carl Rosa company, who last Thursday sent round a type-written circular :—

There has not been the slightest foundation for the statements that have appeared that the company were contemplating a season at Drury Lane Theatre this autumn. The subject has not even been thought of by the directors.

What really was said in TRUTH was that the "Company are fully prepared to take Drury Lane from early next month for an autumn season, unless somebody else speedily secures the house for an autumn drama." Mr. Coleman now has the house for drama, and the operatic idea is of course at an end. My authority for the original statement was one of the Carl Rosa directors, who is certainly not given to falsehood. He spoke openly, in the presence of one of the Covent Garden officials, and immediately afterwards crossed the street to ask Mr. Cecil Raleigh if that gentleman had withdrawn his drama from Drury Lane. The director perhaps committed a terrible breach of company etiquette by taking a pressman into his confidence before he had consulted the company's excellent secretary.

The death of young Gillie Betjemann was inexpressibly sad. He was in the full flush of life and in the best of spirits when he started that luckless journey on the Grindelwald Glacier. His father, leader at the opera, had re-married a few weeks ago, and was travelling elsewhere in Switzerland, where his only son was to join him. Young Betjemann was killed on the glacier, and a promising life was thus cut short. He was an ex-student at the Royal Academy of Music, a violinist at the Opera and at our leading concerts, and was also a capital viola player, pianist, and baritone vocalist.

Mr. Robert Newman has again been compelled to increase his orchestra. The same thing happened last year, and it is doubtless attributable to the French pitch, particularly while English players refuse to adopt the thick strings used on the Continent, so that the tone of the violins in the lower pitch is dull and weak, and their number has to be increased at a considerable cost to the enterprise. Mr. Newman, I am glad to hear, is having a successful Promenade Concert season.

We all know that in the police reports the tipsy diner-out is "described as a journalist," and that the damsel who wears vine leaves in her hair is "described as an actress." But "Suicide of an Opera-Singer" is a step upwards. The luckless girl who concealed her identity under the name of "L'Estrange" never, of course, was an opera-singer, and she was a good deal too young even to have sung in an operatic chorus, the first qualification for which is full sixty years.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—It may seem in itself a silly thing to make imminent risk of your life to climb a mountain peak, barren under eternal snow, or get another degree nearer the Pole, but where would England be but for the spirit to which it seems

An easy leap
To pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moon?

The nerve, energy, self-reliance, endurance, and pluck needed to achieve these barren conquests of high latitudes or high altitudes are but the excess steam of the motive power that has won our fruitful conquests on every continent. At the same time, in reading books like Mr. Traill's admirable "Life of Sir John Franklin" (1) you cannot help again and again regretting that such heroic energy, enterprise, pluck, patience, and perseverance were wasted. By the way, this excellent biography records something no less English than the heroism of Franklin, of his mates, and of his seekers and successors—the commercial scoundrelism which "in all probability led to the disastrous fate of Franklin's expedition." Truly "Honour sinks where commerce long prevails." The padding of life-belts with straw was an English industry; and a scoundrel named "Goldner"—whose name deserves to live as long and infamously as that of Herostratus—ensured the failure of the Franklin expedition and the slow death of its heroes by provisioning the ships with putrid meat. Isn't it odd that the intensely practical Englishman should be so fascinated by the mirage of the North Pole? An eminent man of science assured me not so long since that its discovery would be of comparatively small scientific value; of as slight value scientifically, perhaps, as the discovery of the North-West Passage has been practically.

"That North-West Passage," says Mr. Traill, "on which the hearts of our Arctic voyagers were so long set, was at last discovered; and its discovery was wholly useless to the commerce of the world. Half a century has nearly passed since then, yet this shadowy channel remains and will remain untried."

Another enterprise at once essentially unpractical and English is mountaineering, and the current hero of feats in this kind is unquestionably Mr. E. A. FitzGerald. Mr. FitzGerald's account of his thrilling exploits is so modest that you almost resent the sumptuous get-up and sensational illustrations of "The New Zealand Alps" (2), as suggestive of either a carpet-knight or of a Bobadil. But that Mr. FitzGerald is made of other metal may be inferred from the gallant way in which he held fast the ice-axes in the following thrilling adventure :—

Suddenly as I was coming up a steepish bit, while Zurbriggen waited for me a little way above, a large boulder that I touched with my right hand gave way with a great crash and fell, striking my chest. I had just been on the point of passing up the two ice-axes to Zurbriggen, that he might place them in a cleft of rock a little higher up, and thus leave me both hands free for my climb. He was in the act of stooping and stretching out his arm to take them from my uplifted hand, the slack rope between us lying coiled at his feet. The falling boulder hurled me down head foremost, and I fell about eight feet, turning a complete somersault in the air. Suddenly I felt the rope jerk and I struck against the side of the mountain with great force. I feared I should be stunned and drop the two ice-axes on which our lives depended. After the rope had jerked me up I felt it again slip and give way, and I came down slowly for a couple of yards. I took this to mean that Zurbriggen was being wrenched from his foothold, and I was just contemplating how I should feel dashing down the 6,000 ft. below, and wondering vaguely how many times I should strike the rocks on the way. I saw the very block that I had dislodged going down in huge bounds; it struck the side three or four times, and then, taking an enormous plunge of about 2,000 ft., embedded itself on the Tuckett Glacier.

As a matter of fact it was touch and go. Two strands of the rope had been cut through by the falling rock, and but a single strand remained to support the weight of Mr. FitzGerald; while the ledge on which Zurbriggen stood was literally crumbling away beneath his feet, and he was inevitably being dragged down.

"Turn round!" he cried, "I cannot hold you much longer." I gave a kick at the rocks with one foot, and with great exertion managed to swing myself round, get hand-hold of a ledge and ease the strain on the rope.

All through he stuck to the ice-axes. I was delighted to see an old and dear favourite of mine. "Walton's Lives" (3) appear in Mr. Henley's excellently selected and edited "English Classics Series." Walton treats his subjects as a preacher treats Biblical characters, dwelling only on such actions, incidents, and aspects of their lives as tended to edification. That happy motto on a Venetian sun-dial, "Horas non numero nisi serenas," might aptly be prefixed to these Arcadian biographies, understanding "serenas" to mean bathed in the "lux benigna" of the saints. Who would gather from Walton that Donne, or Herbert, or Wotton had ever been the reverse of saintly? Surely Mariana's philosophy is truer to life and nature, and more also to the credit of religion.

They say best men are moulded out of faults;
And for the most, become much more the better
For being a little bad.

—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "The Life of Sir John Franklin, R.N." By H. D. Traill. With Maps, Portraits, and Facsimiles. London: John Murray. Price 16s.

(2) "Climbs in the New Zealand Alps." Being an Account of Travel and Discovery. By E. A. Fitzgerald, F.R.G.S. And with contributions by Sir Martin Conway, Professor T. G. Bonney, D.Sc., F.R.S., C. L. Barrow, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S. With many Illustrations from Original Drawings by Joseph Pennell. H. G. Willink, A. D. McCormack, Photographs by the Author, together with a New Map. London: T. Fisher Unwin. Price 31s. 6d.

(3) "The Lives of Dr. John Donne, Sir Henry Wotton, Mr. Richard Hooker, Mr. George Herbert, and Dr. Robert Saunderson." By Izaak Walton. (English Classics Series. Edited by W. E Henley.) London: Methuen & Co. Price 3s. 6d.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I am writing you this week from Paris-Plage, the new watering-place, about half an hour's rail from Boulogne, which has sprung up in the last four or five years. It is approached from Etaples by a lovely drive through a pine wood; not a great gloomy one like some of which we wot, but diversified by young birches, beeches, oaks, and elms, and made still brighter by the sand that forms the soil. Noting the lovely green glades of this wood as we passed, we promised ourselves many a drive in it during our stay at Paris-Plage, where we soon found the friends we had come to join. They took us to their chalet—a highly-picturesque one, with blue walls picked out with brown, and with ever so many gables. Three snails, carved in wood, and many times larger than life, occupy commanding positions on the roof. They are probably emblematic of something agreeable, but we have not yet got to the bottom of those snails.

Everything is new and bright at Paris-Plage, which lies at the north-east corner of a promontory formed by the river Canche running up far into the mainland and forming a natural boundary between Artois and beautiful Picardy. A wooden bridge, close to Etaples, crosses the Canche, which in the time of Napoleon was wide enough at this point to admit of a fleet of frigates and sloops getting up as far as the town. It is now greatly filled in with sand; but Richard heard with joy that very large salmon trout are caught in it. He is a devoted angler, Amy! The one amusement above all others that is a penance and a punishment to me. Fancy sitting still for hours, perfectly silent, with no other interruption to the monotony than playing and landing a wretched, wriggling fish! However, it promotes the cultivation of the quality of patience, an excellent thing in husbands.

Our friends, the Whites, are very much interested in the new enterprise, Mayville, which is to be a big Anglo-French watering place at no distant date. They took us next morning to see it from a high point in the woods, where a platform, reached by a ladder, has been built, those standing on it gaining a bird's-eye view of the whole surrounding country. We loved the drive through the wood and the scramble up the hill. We were not quite so fond of the ladder, but the view from the platform well repaid us for the difficulties of the ascent. Just get your map of Europe and look out a point immediately below Boulogne, and imagine your Madge standing there with glorious sunshine overhead, and before her lying the blue waters of the English Channel, with no land between her and America, so that the air comes fresh across the great Atlantic; for Mayville faces due west. Combined with this purest of ozone is the odorous breath of the pines, and withal the air was like velvet, so soft and zephyrous. We were all enchanted with it, and took in deep breaths of it, wishing most heartily that we could bottle some and have it sent to London for use during the winter.

We amused ourselves by trying to imagine ourselves in a "London particular," making believe like children, and thereby enhancing our enjoyment of the exquisite air and the wonderful scene that lay spread out at our feet. Ten miles of sands, hard and firm, girdle the land with a golden zone as far as we could see to the left. To the right lay the Canche and little Paris-Plage nestled cozily in the corner. Stretching away from our feet downwards towards the sea lay the woods, two thousand acres in extent, with their endless tones of green, from the palest through infinite gradations down to the deep bass of the pines. Here and there the stems of a group of silver birches made a touch of silver, and again, the brown of the rugged pine stems added its note to the chord of woodland colour. The immensely tall twin lighthouses of Le Touquet, snowy white, and placed at the corner of land between the Canche and the sea, were most effective items in the picture.

Mr. White pointed out to us the line through the woods where the railway from Etaples will run down to the casino and pier, having between these and the terminus a spacious street, which is to be devoted to shops, the wide paths in front of them to be covered in with an arcade. On the right of the railway line is to be the vélodrome, and on the left are planned the race course, polo ground, golf links, tennis courts, and cricket field.

Richard soon became intensely interested in the whole scheme, and button-holed Mr. White in the most inexorable fashion. How far is Mayville from London? Four hours and a half. From Paris? Two and a half? And so on through an unconscionable catechism, of which the girls soon tired. In the midst of it we descended that wonderful ladder and wandered back to the carriages through the lovely wood, the girls gathering an exquisite bouquet of thistle flowers in tones of mauve and purple, lovely against their silver-grey, almost white leaves, with here and there a few just deepening into green. These thistle blossoms were not hard and prickly, but soft and feathery, and you can't think what a perfect bouquet they made.

Mrs. White, who is one of the sweetest of women, and an old friend of mine, told me, as we wandered on, that in spring and the earlier summer the woods are full of nightingales, thrushes, linnets, and blackbirds, and that the variety of wild flowers is quite marvellous. And oh! what appetites our woodland wanderings gave us.

The girls, who soon foregathered with the three pretty daughters of the house, set out before breakfast next morning on a biking expedition. Richard and I strolled about, and for some time heard their clear, fresh voices in the stillness of the morning air. I longed for a gallop on the sands, but even if there had been what the newspaper people call "a steed" at hand, I could scarcely have mounted it without a habit.

The Whites gave us a delightful drive that afternoon to the Château d'Hardelot, a beautiful and picturesque bit of antiquity, with battlemented ramparts and a high tower, recently restored. The moat that once surrounded the Château is now turned into a kitchen-garden, the water having long been drained away in these blessed times of peace. The ramparts are clothed with ivy, and here and there a bright green hart's-tongue fern has set up its dwelling-place in a cleft of the old grey stone walls. A very fine old gateway, of which I should like to send you a sketch, is also mantled with ivy. Henry VIII. besieged and took this Château, so that it is historic.

The young and pretty châtelaine received us, gave us tea under a spreading tree on the historic lawn, and introduced us to two new acquaintances—her dear little baby and a magnificent St. Bernard, with a dash of the bloodhound in him. This gentleman's voice had greeted us on our arrival with that deep bay which, in a less kindly canine creature, might have meant menace. As it was, I felt decidedly anxious not to offend him or hurt his feelings in any way. I would not have annoyed him for the world! He carefully inspected us, however, and fortunately came to the conclusion that we were fit and proper persons to be admitted into the beautiful home of which he made such a stately guardian. He superintended our introduction to the baby, and afterwards became quite friendly, escorting us on our tour round the ivied ramparts, but declining the narrow winding stair up which we went to the tower.

Leo also drew the line at accompanying us into the cellars beneath the Château, most wonderful places, with oubliettes amidst them, where skeletons had been found with chains about them when the workmen were restoring the old tower.

The scenery around was perfectly beautiful, with pine woods crowning and clothing the hills, and a lake

John Busvine & Co., Tailors to the Royal Family and the Courts of Europe. Ladies requiring Riding Habits for the coming hunting season are begged to order early, as, the pressure of business being so great during October, it is frequently impossible to complete late orders in time.

glittering like silver about two miles away. We shall long remember our excursion to the Château d'Hardelot.

At dinner that evening the talk turned on dress, and as I know you consider my letters very incomplete if they contain no mention of chiffons, I must tell you of the latest *on-dits* from Paris as retailed by one of the company.

Capes are to be worn as much as ever. There is a decided tendency towards tightly-fitting coats. Basques are longer, and not so full. Skirts are narrower and more clinging. Sleeves are not so tight as they have been, but still are quite free from the huge absurdities of a year ago. The new felt and velvet hats are high crowned and not too heavily brimmed. A sort of raspberry red is a favourite colour for rough straws in both bonnets and hats, and with this black is the only trimming.

We saw a light blue felt hat at Dieppe, Tyrolese shape, with a brown ribbon round it and an eagle's feather. The dress it was worn with was a brown and pale blue check of very large proportions.

Ursula forwards me the following interesting account of her visit to Doncaster:—

Dearest Madge,—I remember reading some time ago that Talleyrand once said, "Those who were not living in and about the year 1789 know little of the enjoyments of life," and I should like to add to this that those who have never attended a race meeting know little of its excitements! From this you will very probably, and rightly, infer that we are fresh from the delights of Doncaster week—a week on which we had entered with the gloomiest apprehensions, since for the preceding fortnight the rain had rained more or less steadily, not only every day, but generally every night, and the country was so soaked that we had visions of the Leger runners floundering through a morass past a submerged judge's box. As a consequence, on the first day we all went so heavily laden with thick waterproofs and large umbrellas that the weather for once seemed ashamed of itself, and broke out into bright sunshine. The Leger Day was not so fine, and I believe that only the babel of the ring below prevented us from hearing various growls of thunder which would otherwise have materially interfered with my peace of mind, already sufficiently disturbed by the difficulty of finding the winners. By the way, I am sure that some of the nervous exhaustion, to which we are all fain to confess after a race meeting, would be dispelled if only there existed a ready guide to the identity of the different horses. It is all very well to describe their colours on the card, but when eight or ten quadrupeds, with jockeys clad in every possible mixture of colour, file in rapid succession out of the paddock and dash out of sight, one has to make an agonising effort to distinguish between "green, red cross-belts, red and green halved cap," and "white, black and white hooped sleeves, red cap," and "cream, olive green sleeves, red cap," &c., and the result is generally a hopeless muddle. It is almost as bad in the paddock itself, unless one happens to be near an intelligent native who knows all about everything; and if the horses are merely being exercised the grooms are reticent, and the saddlecloths noncommitting, except in one or two cases—Sir Blundell Maple, for instance, being considerate enough to have his horses' names embroidered in full on their clothing. It was worth going to Doncaster to see the scene of enthusiasm when Persimmon swept an easy first past the winning-post. The lucky steed and his rider were escorted back to the paddock by a posse of mounted police and a shouting crowd; and when the Prince of Wales, who is looking very well after his visit to Homburg, came down to bestow an approving pat on his beautiful colt, the excitement was tremendous. All sorts and conditions of men crowded round the Heir Apparent trying to shake hands, and it needed a strong bodyguard of police closely surrounding him before a passage could be forced through the crush. Ned says he saw three females, who planted themselves obstinately in the Prince's path, and insisted on shaking hands with him, while one said, "Eh, mister, I'm glad thee's won!" Instead of appearing in the regulation Leger and Cup day uniform of tall hat and frock coat, the Prince wore a dark blue serge suit with a low brown hat on both occasions, and this will probably create a sensible revolution.

Dress was really very smart this year, and the number of pretty glacé silks was simply legion. Among the most successful I saw were a pink, spotted black, with a pink chiffon vest and slightly trimmed with narrow black lace; a black and white worn with a large black velvet hat; a pinky heliotrope rather spoilt, however, by very uncompromising scarlet in the high crowned hat, and a lovely white which had a few light frills of green velvet, edged with silver on the bodice. A yellow silk was covered with black chiffon, the sleeves softly ruffled and the vest pale yellow, and a black satin had a broad band of lively creamy brocade round the foot of the skirt, the same material forming sleeves and yoke. Lady Astley was in black every day. Once she had a short sealskin cape, with a toque much adorned with black sequins, and another time she wore black silk with a bodice of Persian lamb and a high feather collar. The Dowager Lady Rossmore was also in black, and the Ladies Hastings came one day in blue and white. One elderly lady of somewhat matronly proportions interested us much with the magnificence of her attire. On the first day she wore a peach-coloured brocade which was a perfect dream, and would make a lovely evening gown, and a black and white silk in very large stripes was her choice on another occasion. Other striking costumes were a red; a pink silk, very plainly made, and with nothing but a little drapery of black chiffon round the neck; a creamy muslin with bands of black lace insertion over green brocade and a green belt; and I admired a grey canvas with a white chiffon vest and white satin belt, the sleeves and basque being trimmed with guipure. This was worn by a lady with very fair hair, which suited the cream serge gown she donned on Leger Day. I saw Mrs. Arthur Wilson in black, and her daughter looked very charming in grey embroidered in silver, a white chiffon vest, and large hat with black and grey feathers. Another day she wore dark blue and had red cherries in her hat. A purple covert coating with revers of white corduroy velvet, white vest, and mauve hat with sprays of lilac and white wings looked well; and Miss Peel, dame d'honneur to Lady Tweeddale when she holds court at Holyrood, had brightened her dark blue serge costume with a vivid red hat. I noticed several crépons, and remember one of fawn colour with a pattern of cherries running through it—belt, revers, and straps of green velvet edged with sequins and red collar band, while another of pink had chiffon ruffles and narrow panels on the skirt of bead embroidery over pink. A diamond necklace was a further adornment to this costume. Lady Elena Wickham generally wore a dark coat and skirt with smart vest and a buttonhole, and she seemed much interested in the proceedings, as did many others of the fair sex. Two nice-looking girls in pink were with Lord Lindsey's party, and I once caught a fleeting glimpse of one of the prettiest girls I ever saw. She was a lovely blonde, with large blue eyes, and had wisely chosen a soft creamy coloured gown. A tall woman looked stately in grey covert coating with wide outstanding collar and high crowned hat of pink satin covered with black tulle and sequins. I hope that white canvas over white silk trimmed with satin ribbon and worn with a red hat adorned by black feathers and red tulle sounds as nice as it looked. A lady with Sir R. Waldie Griffith's party had a pretty gown of white canvas over satin striped with white satin ribbon with a brocaded pink pattern, and there was a regular symphony in the paddock of black and white, silver and magenta. A dark blue canvas trimmed with creamy lace looked well, and so did a lovely white and black striped silk with a flowered design in pink running through it, a high folded black satin belt with paste buttons and white chiffon vest. To the same lady belonged a most covetable cloak of purple velvet lined with white brocade and trimmed with sable. I must not conclude without a hearty word of commendation for the delightful little new tea-tent in the paddock, where delicious tea was very daintily served, and every one was unanimous and loud in its praise.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—The weather we, no doubt, have always with us, but in what different degrees in the country and in town! In the latter there are many escapes from it; its existence when going through a disagreeable phase may easily be ignored. Not so in the country. There, it surrounds and circumvents us, presenting itself as a prominent, dominant, and most aggressive fact in life. Our daily doings are "by permission of the weather." Every pastime and occupation are at the mercy of this tyrant, than whom none was ever more arbitrary and fickle, more cruelly indifferent to our wishes and prayers, more callous in inflicting disappointments on us. Never did we feel this more acutely than last week in the country, to which we returned after the Dublin Horse Show. It was not that the weather was so bad; worse weather—if you will allow the paradox—would have been better. It was malignantly thwarting. Like the oratory described by the Irishman: first it buttered us up and then it slithered us down. We had sunshine to lure us into hopes and plans, rain and wind to prevent their fulfilment. However the men might defy the weather, we women could do nothing; cycles, mallets, racquets, golf sticks, all were laid up in enforced idleness. The whole week was paved with abandoned intentions with regard to amusement. Led on by short spells of delusive morning sunshine, or by sunsets of supposed favourable aspect, we made stupendous biking plans of campaign, including luncheons and teas out; we arranged croquet, tennis, and golf tournaments. Not one of these arrangements came to a good end, and very few even to a beginning. Finally we had to take to books, and some even retrograded to the extent of needlework. We were indeed driven to extremes.

The newspapers and magazines came nobly to the rescue of the readers. They saved the situation for the increasing number to whom anything beyond ordinary paragraphs, or fiction of a few pages is a severe strain on the mind. By the way, have you taken to croquet? Cycling is, I suppose, responsible for its revival. The quieter game is so much more suitable than tennis at a party to which one cycles many miles. Quiet and eminently respectable though croquet is, it, too, has

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its drawbacks. Try a couple of hours' play in wet grass—the difficulty in any croquet-playing district will be to avoid this trial—and you will soon find that rheumatism is just as certain to discover all your bones as the Röntgen rays, unless, indeed, you have a skeleton as special in its way as Trilby's.

All through the week Lord and Lady Cadogan pursued their tour in the south of Ireland, not under the most favourable aspects as regards weather. One can only hope that they enjoyed, like average mortals, the fine spells, and with regard to the rain, an artistic appreciation of its grey and blurring effects. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, who, with a family party including Lord and Lady Gosfort—she is the daughter of the Duchess—and their son and daughter, arrived only a day or two before the Viceregal party, can hardly have felt more at home at Lismore Castle than their visitors. Lord Cadogan, as usual, had a busy time, visiting every institution for miles around in the country, seeing every sight, and receiving all who wished to be presented, within limits, of course. Dinner parties were given every evening by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and a very large garden party on one afternoon. Besides these, there were luncheon and tea parties at which the Viceregal party were present at various houses in the neighbourhood—at Dromona and Ballinatray, amongst others, where Captain Villiers Stuart and Colonel and Lady H. Holroyd Smith respectively reside. The big garden-party at Lismore Castle created quite an excitement in the neighbourhood. No place in Ireland is more suited for such an entertainment than the Castle, which rises so picturesquely from the banks of the Blackwater. How different Irish country neighbourhoods would be if there were less absenteeism! A big establishment in working order is like a big business in the matter of giving employment and circulating money. What a pity that one family should have more houses than they can possibly live in. Public spirit ought to make people in that condition have a *locum tenens* in each big place to keep it up as a permanent "going" concern.

The Chief Secretary and Lady Betty Balfour are still on their Irish tour, which combines an enormous amount of instruction with—one hopes—amusement. They are taking quite a grand tour, almost a circuit of the whole melancholy island. After Donegal they were in Clare, where Mr. Balfour had an opportunity of trying the merits of the golf links near Lahinch.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Did you ever hear of beetroot bread? It has medicinal properties of which I am ignorant. They are, however, of little account, as it is so delicious I am sure you will enjoy it:—

Grate 1 lb. of raw beetroot, and put it into a basin with 1 lb. of Hungarian flour. Mix it into a batter with a pint of warm milk, in which 1½ oz. of German yeast and 1 oz. of salt have been dissolved. Allow the sponge to stand for nearly two hours in a warm place to ferment, then mix in sufficient flour to make a soft dough. It must again stand in a warm place to rise, after which beat it down and half fill four small buttered tins, and place them on the rack. When the dough has proved to the top of the tins, bake the loaves nearly an hour in a moderate oven. Turn them on to a pastry rack to cool, and use for bread and butter for afternoon tea.

I can also recommend this new dish of tomatoes and oysters:—

Blanch, strain, and beard about 18 plump oysters, reduce the liquor, and thicken it with an ounce of butter and a tablespoonful of flour, previously kneaded together on a plate, stir until quite smooth, and boil five minutes, season with salt and pepper, a pinch of cayenne pepper, a squeeze of lemon juice, a little cream, and the yolks of 2 eggs; add the oysters, which must be nicely minced. Cut the stem part from 6 or 7 ripe tomatoes, and, with the handle of a teaspoon, scoop out all the seeds. Fill them with the oyster preparation, and turn each one, cut side downwards, on to a small round of fried bread, and bake them in a moderate oven until the tomatoes are done. Warm the sauce, diluting it with a little milk, and pour round the tomatoes when dished up.

I feel so far from you in France, dear coz! Till next week good-bye.—Your loving cousin,

MADGE.

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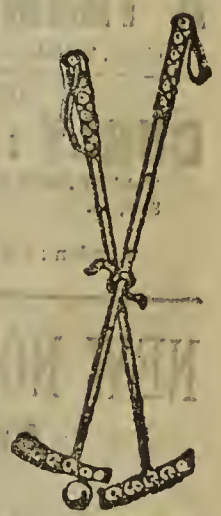

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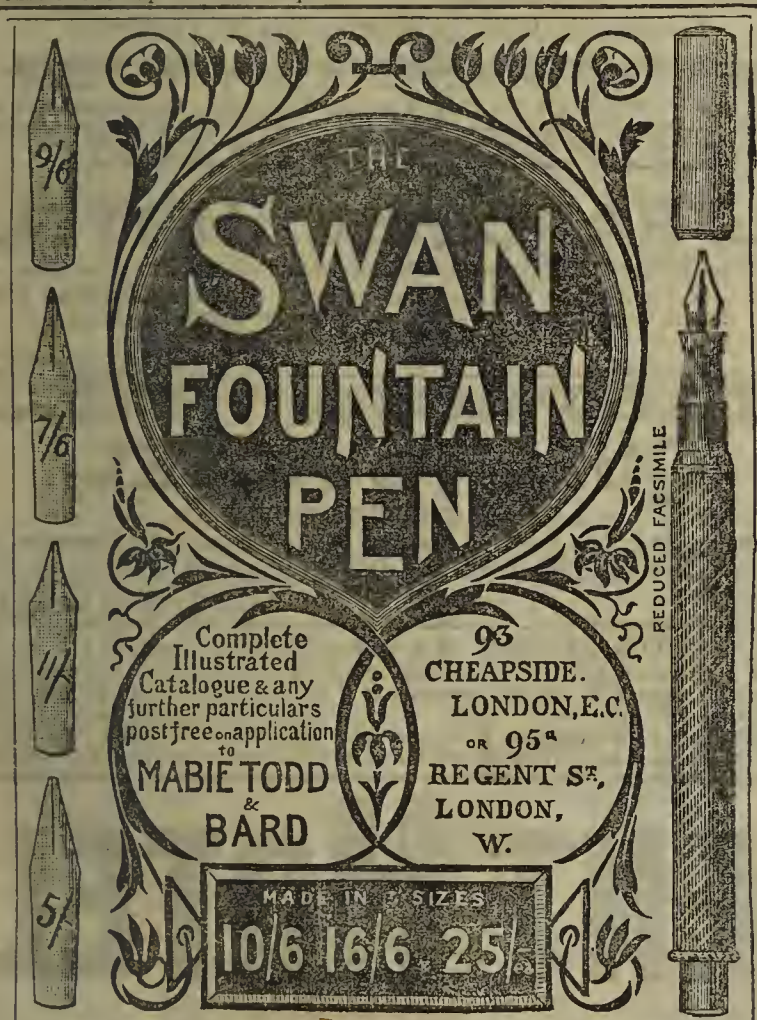

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THE WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, facing the Abbey and Houses of Parliament. Every modern comfort and convenience. Reasonable tariff, and no charge for attendance. Telegrams "Hostelry, London."

INNS OF COURT HOTEL, Holborn.—A first-class Family Hotel, with 200 bedrooms, all modern conveniences. Electric lights, lifts, &c. Banquets arranged. The Central Hall is the finest and the Dining-room the pleasantest in London. Masonic lodge, public meeting rooms, &c. Table d'hôte, 6 to 8, 3s. 6d.—FRANK BLACKLEY, Manager. Inclusive terms from 10s. 6d. per day.

A COMPLETE LIST OF
HOTELS OF THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.

London	MIDLAND GRAND (St. Pancras).	Leeds ...	QUEEN'S.
Liverpool...	ADELPHI.	Derby ...	MIDLAND.
Bradford ...	MIDLAND.	Morecambe	MIDLAND.
		Normanton	STATION.

The Favourite Hotels for Tourists, Cyclists, and Pedestrians.
Specialities—Comfort, Good Cuisine, Moderate Charges.
WILLIAM TOWLE, Manager, Chief Office, St. Pancras, N.W.

ILFRACOMBE.
ILFRACOMBE HOTEL,
The PRINCIPAL and ONLY HOTEL facing the Sea.
Unrivalled sea frontage and open surroundings. Grounds five acres. Lawn Tennis Courts. Croquet Lawn. Large Swimming Bath. Elegant Lounge hall. 250 rooms.
H. R. GROVER, Manager.

HASTINGS. Due South, Facing Sea.
QUEEN'S HOTEL,
LARGEST AND BEST APPOINTED.
Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
ELECTRIC LIGHT. PASSENGER ELEVATOR.
Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
WILLIAM GLADE, Manager.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Charming health resort for this season.—ROYAL HOTEL, aristocratic and old established, facing sea and standing in its own grounds of 8 acres. Every home comfort and attention, with unrivalled cuisine. Dairy produce and vegetables from home farm. Four tennis courts. Near golf links and beautiful woods. Extensive view of Welsh coast. Terms strictly moderate.—Proprietors, ROGERS BROS.

HANS CRESCENT HOTEL
HANS CRESCENT, BELGRAVIA, LONDON, S.W.
Within three minutes' walk of the Albert Gate Entrance to Hyde Park.

THIS **FAMILY HOTEL,** sumptuously Furnished and Appointed, is now
Open for the reception of Visitors.
It is luxuriously complete in every detail. There are many self-contained Suites of Apartments, ensuring the utmost privacy (each having a Bathroom), as well as Single Bedrooms. **A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT (à la carte and at fixed prices)** is attached to the Hotel for **Non-Residents.**

RECHERCHÉ CUISINE.

One of the many attractions of this Hotel is the unique **WINTER GARDEN,** splendidly proportioned, and occupying an area of 2,500 square feet.

Manager, MONS. C. DIETTE.

HOTELS, &c.

HOTEL DE PUYS, Dieppe, NOW OPEN. Beautifully placed on the edge of Cæsar's Camp, with spacious verandahs overlooking the sea. Magnificent Salons. No back bedrooms. English sanitation and furniture. Electric light, and refrigerating chamber. Good bathing and cycling, lovely drives and walks, delicious cooking, moderate charges, and all the comforts of an English country house.—J. PELLETIER, Manager.

DIEPPE.
HOTEL ROYAL.

Hotel of the Best Class. Established 50 Years.

200 Bedrooms (130 facing the sea). 24 Private Sitting Rooms facing the sea.
Public Drawing and Reading Rooms.
Within 40 yards of Casino and Etablissement des Bains.
THE ONLY HOTEL IN DIEPPE WITH A LIFT TO EVERY FLOOR.
Electric Light. Telephone. Perfect Sanitation.
HIGH-CLASS CUISINE. MODERATE TARIFF. Season, June 15 to Oct. 15.
For Terms, address, MADAME LARSONNEUX, *Propriétaire.*

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—"The healthiest, most bracing watering-place in the world."—*Vide* report, *Lancet.* The GRAND ATLANTIC is the principal and leading Hotel, facing the sea. 130 sumptuously appointed rooms, delightful public rooms, hydraulic lift, every modern comfort. Nearest to Golf Links and Railway Station. "Own model farm."—Apply, Manager. Telegraphic address, "Atlantic." Telephone No. 11.

LOWESTOFT
GRAND HOTEL.

The finest Situation on the East Coast; 300 ft. sea frontage, facing the German Ocean. Stands in its own beautifully wooded grounds, within easy distance of Oulton Broad.

Connected with the ROYAL HOTEL, LOWESTOFT; also RIDLER'S HOTEL, HOLBORN, where Tariff may also be obtained.

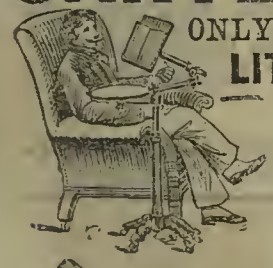
BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE PALACE HOTEL.

Large and high-class Hotel. Upwards of 200 rooms. Finest position in Buxton. Surrounded by own grounds of six acres. Ground-floor sitting-rooms and bed-rooms. Magnificent public rooms. American elevator. Table d'hôte at separate tables. Tariff, with plan of rooms and sketch map of Buxton, on application. A. CROSS, Manager.

PITLOCHRY.
THE ATHOLL HYDROPATHIC (MACDONALD'S).
The ORIGINAL and very much the LARGEST. Every window commands a view of the MOST MAGNIFICENT SCENERY in SCOTLAND. 500 feet above sea level. Pure, dry, bracing air. Extensive Pleasure Grounds.
TENNIS—CROQUET—GOLF—ARCHERY—FISHING.
To prevent disappointment, address all communications—
"THE ATHOLL, PITLOCHRY." Telegraphic Address, "ATHOLL."

CARTER 6A, NEW CAVENDISH ST. PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON.

ONLY ADDRESS OF ORIGINAL CARTER
LITERARY MACHINE.



For holding book, lamp, meals, &c., in any position over an easy chair, bed, or sofa.
Deliciously luxurious. A most useful gift. Prices from **17/6**

Carrying Chairs from £1.
Breakfast in Bed Tables from 30/-

INVALID FURNITURE.
ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

Bed Lift £3. 10/-	Bed Rests 7/6
Reclining Boards, 25/-	Leg Rests 10/-
Walking Machines	Crutches 10/6
Portable W.C.'s.	Bed Baths 12 6
Electric Bells, Urinals, &c.	Commodes, £1. 5/-
Air & Water Beds.	

Self-Propelling Chairs from £2

BATH CHAIRS FROM **£1. 5/-**

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

JOHN CARTER, 6a, NEW CAVENDISH ST. Portland-pl. London, W.

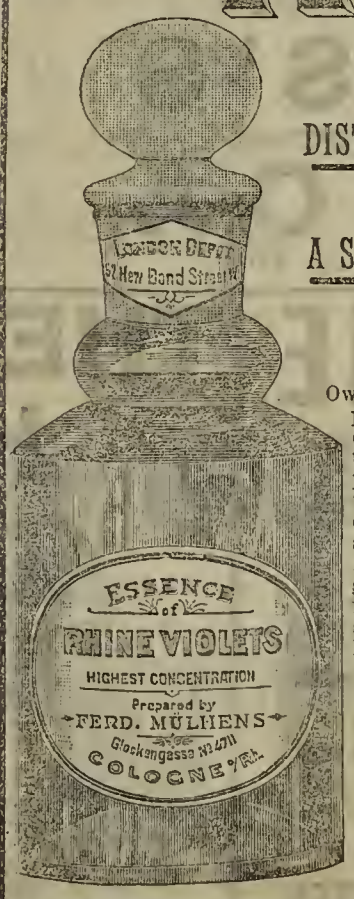
FARADAY & SON's

Electric Light Fittings

NEW DESIGNS *for* SEASON '96

2 & 3 BERNERS ST.
LONDON W

Mülhens' "Rhine Violets"



DISTILLED FROM FRESHLY GATHERED RHINE VIOLETS.
A SCENT OF RARE FRAGRANCE.
A VERY ECHO OF NATURE.

CAUTION.
Owing to the phenomenal success of this popular Scent, some perfumers are offering essences of their own manufacture under the name of "RHINE VIOLETS." The public must not be deceived, but insist upon "**MULHENS'**" brand, which is distilled from the flower itself. Don't accept any bottle not bearing Ferd. Mülhens' name. This alone ensures genuineness. Ferd. Mülhens, of Cologne, is the originator of this exquisite perfume, and was the first to introduce it into England.

The Fashionable Press of London are unanimous in praise of it.

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- *per bottle.*

"Rhine Violet" Sachets, 2/6 each.
"Rhine Violet" Soap, 2/6 per tablet, or 7/- per box of 3 tablets.

Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes, or from

4711 Depot, 62, NEW BOND STREET, W.

Highest Award at Food and Cookery Exhibition, London, May, 1895.

BREAD
HOVIS
Regd
BISCUITS

CURE FOR INDIGESTION.

SUPPLIED TO H.M. THE QUEEN AND ROYAL FAMILY.

Imitation is the Sincerest Form of Flattery.

The public are cautioned against accepting from Bakers spurious imitations of "Hovis," which, having met with such unprecedented success, is being copied in many instances as closely as can be done without risk.

If any difficulty be experienced in obtaining "Hovis," or if what is supplied as "Hovis" is not satisfactory, please write, sending sample (the cost of which will be defrayed) to

S. FITTON & SON, Millers, Macclesfield.

BAKERS RECOMMENDING ANY BREAD IN PLACE OF "HOVIS" DO SO FOR THEIR OWN PROFIT. BEWARE!

The complete Furniture of a comfortable Bedroom: Wardrobe, Dressing Chest, Washstand, 2 Cane-seat Arm Chairs, Chamber Service, Bed, Bedding, &c., folds into one small case measuring 6ft. by 2ft. 6in. by 2ft. Rigidity and appearance of glued-up Furniture. Patented all over the World. Invaluable to Colonists, Hotels, Officers' Quarters, Spare Bedrooms, Shooting Boxes, &c., &c. Suites at all prices, separate parts can be had. Obtainable at all Dealers' or direct from

THE
V.P. FOLDING BEDROOM SUITE & FURNITURE CO., LIM.
330, OLD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

LATEST AWARDS—

Geneva, 1896	(Hors Concours)	HIGHEST HONOURS
Frankfort o/M, 1896	(Gold Medal)	HIGHEST HONOURS
Chicago, 1893	(Medal and Diploma)	HIGHEST HONOURS

Hunyadi János

BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

25 Years Success in the United Kingdom.

Recommended and Prescribed by Medical Men Everywhere.

"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters." —*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th, 1884.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

BREAKFAST—SUPPER
EPPS'S
GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.
COCOA
BOILING WATER OR MILK.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.

Is Partly Composed of Honey, and Extracts from Sweet Herbs and Plants.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.

2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER,
Only put in Glass Jars, Price 1s.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.

Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

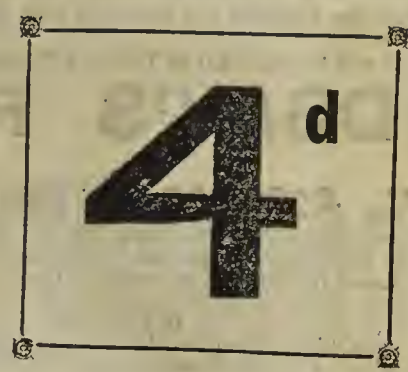
Should be in every House where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.

ASK YOUR CHEMIST OR HAIRDRESSER FOR

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per bottle.

A Bad Complexion



is often due to a bad soap.

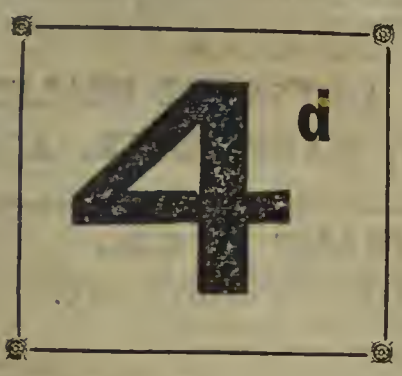
BLOTCHES ARE REPULSIVE, AND WILL MAR THE APPEARANCE OF ANY FACE. YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM WITH BAD SOAP.

PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

Is made specially for delicate, sensitive, irritable skins, and is scented with the most charming and innocent Perfumes.

PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

yields a profuse, cleansing, demulcent, lather, and tends to keep the skin soft and velvety, and the complexion beautiful and clear. Its use doesn't cost a farthing a day.



Vinolia is a Complexion Soap.

VINOLIA CREAM.—For Itching, Sunburn, Insect Bites, &c., 1/1½ and 1/9.
VINOLIA POWDER.—For Roughness, Chafes, &c., 1/1 and 1/9.

A PROPRIETARY COMPANY. 173 ACRES. 15 GOLD-BEARING REEFS.

DAVID LINDSAY, F.R.G.S., reports:—"One of the richest surface shows yet found." LESLIE A. NORMAN, M.A.I.M.E., reports:—"One of the finest properties on the Goldfields."

SCOTTISH WESTRALIA (Limited) INVITES SUBSCRIPTIONS of the UNDERMENTIONED ISSUE.

£50,000, being the whole of the necessary cash for working capital and purchase consideration to be provided out of the present issue, having been guaranteed, the Directors will proceed to allotment on the closing of the Lists.

The LISTS will be OPENED on TUESDAY, 15th September, 1896, and CLOSED on FRIDAY, 18th September, 1896, at 10 a.m., for both Town and Country.

LINDSAY'S FIND PROPRIETARY, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL, £200,000, in 200,000 Shares of £1 each. SHARE WORKING CAPITAL, £50,000.—£30,000 Cash Working Capital will be secured by the present issue, the balance of 20,000 Shares being held in reserve. Present Issue, £180,000 Shares, of which 80,000 are to be allotted as fully paid to the Vendors, being part of the purchase consideration. The remaining 100,000 SHARES are NOW OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION. Payable 2s. 6d. on Application, 5s. on Allotment, and the balance, as required, in calls not exceeding 5s. each, at intervals of not less than two months.

DIRECTORS.

Robert Thomson, Chairman of Scottish Westralia, Limited (Chairman).
Robert Crawford, J.P. (of Messrs. Burns, Crawford, & Co.), 84, Miller-street, Glasgow.
David Lindsay, F.R.G.S., Coolgardie, W.A.
Edmund Mitchell, 50, New Broad-street, London, E.C.
John Morty, Tudor Lodge, Hornsey-lane, London, N.

MANAGING ENGINEERS.—Kyle & Norman, Coolgardie, W.A.
COLONIAL SECRETARY.—John Telfer, Coolgardie, W.A.

BANKERS.

Bank of Scotland, London, Edinburgh, and Branches.
Bank of Australasia, Coolgardie, W.A.

SOLICITORS.—Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Brown, Fleming, & Murray, Chartered Accountants, 163, West George-street, Glasgow.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Walter Maclachan, Chartered Accountant, 50, New Broad-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and developing eight gold mining leaseholds, having a total area of 173 acres, together with a water area of 5 acres additional, known collectively as "Lindsay's Find," lying about 32 miles N.E. of Kalgoorlie, about 10 miles due north of the famous General Gordon Mine, and 12 miles E. of the Hit or Miss Gold Mine in the Kanowna district of the North-East Coolgardie Goldfield, Western Australia, and for the other purposes specified in the Memorandum of Association.

It is the intention of the Directors to develop each block, and, as results justify, to form subsidiary Companies for working sections of the property, and equipping them with machinery; and large profits, in cash and shares, should be earned for the Proprietary Company's shareholders from these flotations. The present provision of £30,000 of working capital is considered ample for these purposes.

Timber for all mining purposes and for fuel is reported to be abundant on and around the property.

Water has been struck on the water rights area, and there are also extensive catchments for conserving the rainfall, and excellent sites for tanks for storage of water.

The railway now nearly completed to Kalgoorlie is proposed to be extended a further 12 miles to Kanowna, whence there is a good level road to the property, a distance of only 20 miles.

The reports accompanying the Prospectus show that no fewer than fifteen reefs outcrop on the property, varying in width from 12 in. to 18 ft., and all showing visible gold.

The reports show that all the reefs carry gold. From two of the reefs stone in which no gold was visible gave by mortar and dish test 3 oz. to the ton, while in other parts samples taken from the reefs assayed at the rate of 5 oz. to the ton. Large blocks of dollying stone, carrying heavy pieces of gold, were broken from different parts of the reefs.

Special attention is directed to the reports which accompany the Prospectus, from which it will be seen that the property is one of great extent, and quite exceptional promise.

The geological formation of the country indicates permanence. The workings on the Hit or Miss Gold Mine prove that the reefs in this district continue in depth and improve in gold value.

The development of this large and valuable property will be under the immediate supervision of Mr. David Lindsay, F.R.G.S., Colonial Manager of Scottish Westralia, Limited, who is one of the Directors of this Company.

Prospectuses, containing full particulars of Contracts, &c., and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Auditors, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, 14th September, 1896.

This Form of Application may be used, and should be sent either to the Bankers, or to the Secretary of the Company.

No.....

LINDSAY'S FIND PROPRIETARY, LIMITED.

Capital ... ... £200,000, in Shares of £1 each.
ISSUE of 180,000 SHARES, being those numbered 1 to 100,000 inclusive.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of LINDSAY'S FIND PROPRIETARY, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share payable on application for .....Shares of £1 each in Lindsay's Find Proprietary, Limited, I hereby request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any less number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Prospectus, as advertised, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company; and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as required in the terms of the said Prospectus, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect thereof, and I declare that I waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than that contained in the Prospectus.

Usual Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date .....1896.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LANGLAAGTE ROYAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN that the GENERAL MEETING of this Company will be held at JOHANNESBURG, on the 13th OCTOBER, 1896.

Transfer Books wil be closed from the 22nd September to the 13th October, both days inclusive.

By order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited.
T. HONEY,
London Secretary.

7, Lothbury, E.C.
September 11th, 1896.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS Spring

Sold by all Chemists, Druggists, and Grocers throughout the Kingdom.

Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., 52, Farringdon Street, LONDON, E.C.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.

Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary

The whole of the present issue, viz., £23,500 having been privately guaranteed and subscribed, this notice is only intended for the purpose of giving public information, no Shares being offered for public subscription.

The Leases to be acquired by the Company are, and have hitherto been known as THE GOLDEN RIDGE and THE GOLDEN RIDGE EXTENDED. As however another Company has been recently registered, bearing the title of THE GOLDEN RIDGE PROPRIETARY COMPANY, Ltd., it has been found necessary, and is also obviously advisable, in order to prevent confusion, to register this Company under a different title. The name, THE GOLDEN LEASES MINING COMPANY, Ltd., has therefore been adopted.

The Subscription List will be opened at Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., Bankers, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C., on Thursday, the 17th day of September, 1896, and will be closed at 4 p.m. the same day, for both Town and Country applications.

The Mining, Transport, and General Finance Company, Limited, and others, having guaranteed the subscription of the whole of the Present Issue, the Directors will proceed to allotment on Thursday, the 17th September, 1896.

The Golden Leases Mining Company

(Coolgardie, Western Australia.) **LIMITED.**

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL, £120,000, divided into 120,000 Shares of £1 each.

WORKING CAPITAL - - £30,000.

Of which £20,500 has been guaranteed, leaving 9,500 Shares for future issue, as and when the Directors may deem fit.

The Mining, Transport, and General Finance Company, Ltd., offers for subscription 23,500 Shares at par, payable—2s. 6d. on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in calls of 2s. 6d. each, at intervals of not less than two months.

DIRECTORS.

James Blackwood, Esq. (Chairman Champion Reef (Nanninc, W.A.) Gold Mining Company, Limited), Messrs. Blackwood Bryson & Co., East India Merchants, 12, Great Tower-street, E.C., Chairman.

Henry J. Hadrill, Esq. (Director Victoria Reef Gold Minc, Limited), Millfield, Chislehurst.

Charles Milman Mainwaring, Esq. (Director Menzies Golden Age, Limited), 30, Grosvenor-place, S.W.

Henry McDowell, Esq. (Director Mining Transport and General Finance Company, Limited), Oatlands Park, Weybridge, and 31, Aldford-street, Park-lane, W.

The Right Honourable Lord Waterpark (Chairman, The British North Borneo Development Corporation, Ltd.), Doveridge, Derby.

LOCAL CONSULTATIVE BOARD.

John Wilson, Esq., J.P., Mayor of Kalgoorlie, Kalgoorlie, W.A.

Phillip Hargan, Esq., Messrs. Hargan & Gorrie, Coolgardie, W.A.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

Western Australian Bank, Perth, Western Australia, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Morten Cutler & Co., 99, Newgate-street, E.C.

Messrs. Pilkington & Hall, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

BROKERS.

London—Messrs. Dean Swift & Co., 18 and 19, Old Broad-street, and Stock Exchange.

Bristol—Messrs. Betton, Sayce, Vaughan, & Co., 10, Clare-street and Stock Exchange.

Glasgow—Alfred Muir, Esq., 104, West George-street, and Stock Exchange.

Bradford—Messrs. Middleton & Fraser, 206, Swan Arcade, and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. E. Layton Bennett & Co., Chartered Accountants, 55 and 56, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.

MINE MANAGER.

John Ryan, Esq. (Present Mining Manager Golden Ridge Leases), Coolgardie, Western Australia.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro tem.).

John Richardson, Esq., Throgmorton House, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Golden Leases Mining Company, Limited, has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working two Gold Mining properties, one known as the Golden Ridge, Lease No. 2,596, and the other as the Golden Ridge Extended, Lease No. 2,392, containing together about 24 acres. The property is distant about one mile from the Railway Station at Coolgardie, and is situated in the heart of one of the rich gold-bearing districts of the Coolgardie Goldfield.

The Golden Ridge claims have been extensively developed, and as soon as the necessary crushing machinery is erected, the mine should commence to give returns. There appears to be an ample supply of water on the property. The services of Mr. John Ryan, the present Manager of the Golden Ridge properties, and who is one of the original Vendors, under whose supervision all the development work has been carried out, have been secured to this Company, an arrangement which the Directors consider of an advantageous character.

The properties have been reported on by the following gentlemen :—

R. Webster, Esq., Manager, the Golden Bar Gold Mining Co.	Under date April 6th, 1895.
T. Bower, Esq., Messrs. Lindsay & Bower ...	,, ,, 8th, ,,
A. Netherwood, Esq., Manager, Lindsay's Gold Mine, Ltd.	,, ,, 8th, ,,
Duncan Henderson, Esq., Late Proprietor, Mainland Consols, Ltd.	,, Aug. 19th, ,,
Uriah Dudley, Esq., M.E., Golden Bar Mine, Secretary Australasian Institute Mining Engineers	,, March 2nd, 1896.

Copies of the foregoing reports, printed in full, together with copies of extracts from Mr. John Ryan's letters, are enclosed with Prospectus.

The following are extracts from the report :—

Mr. Uriah Dudley, M.E., F.G.S., Secretary Australasian Institute Mining Engineers, who, under date March 2nd, 1896, says :—

"The whole of this Main Reef outcrop is auriferous for a distance of about 15 chains, as also some portions of the very easy contact surface country, on or near both sides of it for the whole distance, but to what extent is not yet proved. The Main Reef proper, however, has been prospected to sundry depths, which tends to show that the lode is uniform in strike, running almost due north and dipping east with some usual irregularities in thickness. The greatest visible width is about 15 feet—even wider if the gold impregnated decomposed country rock is taken into consideration. There are some very narrow parts in the Main Reef, but these do not prevent an average, estimating roughly, of at least 12 feet width being maintained. The north shaft, 110 feet deep at the boundary of the property, is the deepest on the reef, and it shows the reef by cross-cut, at that depth, to be as thick, viz., 15 ft., there, as at any part of the surface. Other shafts, each 40 ft. deep, distributed southward along the Main Reef, also show its persistence and uniform character, carrying gold to the southern boundary, which adjoins the BIG BLOW. The gold contents of the reef are highly variable, and in small parcels, and to the prospectors gave returns in all grades, even as high as the best dollying stone. The gold is mainly in a very fine condition, and much of the reef looks over 1 ounce stone. To the east of the main reef, and running near north-east from the southern boundary, are a number of quartz leaders, small veins which, in places, are exceedingly rich in gold."

The following extracts are from letters written to England by Mr. John Ryan, the Manager at the Mine.

April 7th, 1896.—

"We have cut a large formation at 15 ft. which is about 30 ft. wide carrying nice gold ; it is a lode formation intermixed with quartz leaders and vistained bands and have cross-cut fully 20 ft., but have not reached hanging wall ; it is near the leaders (see plan); it goes 1 oz. 4 dwt. by rough test, which is most satisfactory. The shafts near Northern are all full of water, and there is an immense catchment here which will make, without doubt, the best dam (or tank) site in Coolgardie. All the gullies from Big Blow, Sherlaws, run into this corner. The adjoining claim, the Austral, are making a dam on their property to catch the immense quantities of water running through our N.W. corner. A dam on our N.W. corner would conserve millions of gallons.

May 13th, 1896.—

"GOLDEN RIDGE.—The property is looking better and better every day. I sampled the formation—which is felspar, quartz, &c.—and assays as high as 4 oz. 18 dwt. 5 gr. Silver, 5 dwt. 5 gr., and giving an average assay of 2 oz. 15 dwt. which is excellent. I have now thoroughly proved the large formation, which is now over 60 ft."

May 20th, 1896.

"We have opened up a new reef on 2,392 GOLDEN RIDGE EXTENDED. It is over 10 ft. wide, and shews fine and coarse gold on the surface. I intend to sink about 50 ft., and then cross-cut to see what it is like. The formation is still looking splendid. Can get prospects anywhere."

The following Assays have been made from four samples showing very little gold, and they are stated by the Australian Vendors to be fair average samples taken from four different Shafts. The sample from Shaft No. 2, giving the Assay of 59 oz. 14 dwt., is stated to have been taken at 30 feet right in the centre of the "Ridge" or "Blow" which rises up to 20 feet in height.

CERTIFICATE OF ASSAY.

Assay Offices,
41 and 42, New Broad-street, London, E.C.
August 24th, 1895.

We have examined the four samples of mineral received, and report the following to be the result :—

			oz.	dwt.	grs.	
Sample weighing 6,470 grains ...	No. 1	Gold	2	18	19	per ton.
		Silver	0	13	0	,,
,, ,, 8,728 ,, ...	No. 2	Gold	59	14	0	,,
		Silver	0	18	0	,,
,, ,, 4,526 ,, ...	No. 3	Gold	18	13	22	,,
		Silver	0	13	0	,,
,, ,, 7,860 ,, ...	No. 4	Gold	5	11	1	,,
		Silver	0	13	0	,,

DANIEL C. GRIFFITH & CO.

Unlike most gold mining properties situated at Kalgurlie, the water difficulty does not appear to exist, as the reports and letters from the Mining Manager indicate there is an ample supply of water which can be rendered available for all mining purposes. The recent opening of the Railway from the coast to Coolgardie will be of great advantage to the Company, and largely reduce the cost of getting up the necessary machinery, and of working the Mine.

The Vendors to the Company, who pay all expenses attending the formation of the Company up to allotment, have fixed the price to be paid for the property at Ninety Thousand Pounds (£90,000), payable as to Three Thousand Pounds in cash, and the balance in fully-paid Shares, thus leaving Thirty Thousand Shares (30,000) available for providing working capital.

The statements in the Prospectus are based upon the reports and certificate of assay referred to, all of which can be inspected by intending applicants for shares at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Mr. H. McDowell, being a Director of the Vendor Company, will join the Board after allotment and transfer of property.

Contracts have been entered into between John Ryan, by his attorney, W. H. Elphinstone Stone, and The Mining Transport and General Finance Company, Limited, dated the 30th day of July, 1896, and between The Mining, Transport and General Finance Company, Limited, and John Richardson, dated the 14th day of September, 1896, copies of such contracts, as well as the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the original reports above referred to, may be seen at the offices of the Solicitors of the Company until the first allotment of Shares.

Agreements and other arrangements have been or may be entered into relating to the property sold, or the purchase thereof, and for the payment of the charges and expenses attending the formation and registration of the Company, and also underwriting, brokerage, commission, and other expenses attending the issue of the Company's Capital, to none of which agreements or arrangements is the Company a party, though they may technically be contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Shares shall be deemed to have notice thereof, and to waive their rights (if any) to any further particulars as to the dates and names of the parties thereto or otherwise, and shall accept same as a sufficient compliance with the said Section, and to have agreed with the Company (as Trustees for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive all claims (if any) against them for not more fully complying with the requirements of the said Section, and allotments will only be made on this express condition.

Applications for Shares must be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. In cases where no allotment is made the amount deposited on application will be returned in full. If the number of Shares allotted be less than applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction or payment of the amount due on allotment, and the balance (if any) will be returned.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and the Offices of the Company.

London, September 10th, 1896.

The Subscription List will be closed both for Town and Country, on or before Wednesday, the 16th September.

THE DUMONT COFFEE COMPANY, LTD.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL ... ... £800,000.
5½ PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES £400,000.

The Share Capital will be divided into

40,000 7½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each ...	£400,000
and 40,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£400,000
	£800,000

One-third of each class of security (being the largest proportion allowed by the rules of the Stock Exchange) will be taken by the Vendors in part payment of the purchase consideration.

The Directors and their friends will apply for £50,000 of Debentures, £50,000 of Preference Shares, and £50,000 of Ordinary Shares, in the terms of the Prospectus, which will be allotted to them in full. They have also underwritten the whole of the Shares and Debentures now offered.

The Mortgage Debentures will be a first charge on the land, buildings, and fixed plant of the Company, and a floating charge on all other assets of the Company, and will be secured by a Trust deed in favour of the Trustees for the Debenture-holders, viz.:—EDWARD F. COATES, Esq., 99, Gresham-street, E.C., and ARTHUR BRYANS, Esq., 45, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

Interest on the Debentures will be paid half-yearly on the 1st day of January and the 1st day of July in each year, the first half-yearly payment on the amounts as paid up being made on the 1st day of January, 1897.

The Debentures are repayable at part on 1st January, 1920, or may be redeemed by the Company prior to that date by drawings, on giving six months' previous notice, and with a bonus of £15 per cent., or by purchase in the market.

The Preference Shares will be entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 7½ per cent. per annum, payable out of the profits of the Company, and will also be preferential as to capital.

There are now offered for subscription at par:—

26,665 Preference Shares of £10 each	£266,650
26,665 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£266,650
and 2,667 5½ per cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each	£266,700

Payable as follows:—

	Preference.	Ordinary.	Debenture.
On Application ..	£1 ..	£1 ..	£10
On Allotment ..	£2 ..	£2 ..	£40
On 20th October ..	£3 ..	£3 ..	£25
On 15th December ..	£4 ..	£4 ..	£25

The Shares and Debentures may be paid up in full on the date on which any instalment falls due, and interest will be allowed at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, on instalments paid in advance.

Interest and Dividends will accrue as from date of payment of Instalments.

Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, & Co. will act as Registrars for the Company's Debentures, which will be Registered at their Banking House, and they will issue the Interest Warrants on behalf of the Company when due.

Scrip Certificates will be issued after payment of the amount due on allotment on the Debentures to be exchanged for the Debentures when ready, at the Banking House of Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, & Co., after payment in full of all instalments.

DIRECTORS.

P. R. Buchanan, Esq., Chairman (Chairman of the East India and Ceylon Tea Company, Limited, and Director of the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company, Limited).
H. K. Rutherford, Esq. (Chairman of The Ceylon Tea Plantations Company, Limited).
Major F. B. McCrea (Director Army and Navy Co-Operative Society, Limited).
Hon. H. A. Lawrence (Director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank).
G. A. Talbot, Esq. (Director of the Selangor Coffee Company, Limited).
Robert Hart, Esq. (Chairman of the Baraoora Tea Company, Limited).
Signor Cornelio Procopio, Managing Director on the Estates.
John Buchanan, Esq., Managing Director at Sao Paulo and Visiting Agent.
Signor Rudolfo Miranda, Managing Director at Sao Paulo.
Forming the Local Board at Sao Paulo.

BANKERS IN LONDON.—Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., 30, Lombard-street, E.C.

BANKERS IN BRAZIL.—The British Bank of South America.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, London.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey & Co., 58, Coleman-street, London.

SECRETARIES AND MANAGING AGENTS.—Messrs. P. R. Buchanan & Co., 45, Leadedhall-street, London.

ESTATE AUDITOR AND ACCOUNTANT IN BRAZIL.—J. Hussey Robertson, Esq., C.A.

ESTATE SECRETARY AND BOOKKEEPER IN BRAZIL.—C. K. T. Burrowes, Esq.

REGISTERED OFFICES.—45, Leadenhall-street, London.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring, carrying on, and developing the celebrated Coffee Estates of the Companhia Agricola Fazenda Dumont, situate in the districts of Ribeirao Preto and Parapa Panema, in the State of Sao Paolo, United States of Brazil.

In order in no way to disturb the local and trade relations of the existing Brazilian Dumont Company, this Company will take a transfer of the whole of the Brazilian Company's Capital stock, and will not, unless it is otherwise advised, take a direct conveyance of the property itself.

The estates are freehold, and comprise about 110,000 acres of land, of which 13,000 acres are planted with Coffee, 20,000 acres are estimated to be still available for Coffee extension, and the balance is suitable for the culture of Tobacco, Sugar, Maize, &c.

The properties have an ample labour force, and are well equipped, having fine stores, workshops, drying floors, shops, substantial dwelling houses, &c. The Company also possesses a light railway of 35 miles, the main line of which connects the estate with the neighbouring town of Ribeirao Preto, an important station on the Mogyana Company's line.

The method of calculating the area of Coffee estates in Brazil is by the number of trees, and not by measurement. The average number of trees per acre is about 300.

The following certificate is the result of a survey made by independent experts on behalf of the Company:—

[Certificate.]

The undersigned, Coffee Planters in the Municipality of Ribeirão Preto, having proceeded to ascertain the number of Coffee Trees which exist on the "Companhia Agricola Fazenda Dumont," at the request of the Chairman of the said Company do certify by these presents and for all purposes, that they have found 4,426,604 (four millions, four hundred and twenty-six thousand, six hundred and four) Coffee Trees of various ages, including 194,000 (one hundred and ninety-four thousand) planted in October and November, 1895.

FRANCISCO SCHMIDT.
ARTHUR DIEDERICHSEN.

Ribeirão Preto, 23rd June, 1896.

I certify the above signatures.
In witness whereof,
MANSEL JOSE D'OLIVEIRA,
Notary Public.

S. PAULO, 27th June, 1896.

Taking the maximum number of trees per acre at 330 this gives a cultivated area of at least 13,000 acres.

In November, 1895, the estates were offered by the vendors to Messrs. P. R. Buchanan & Co., and preliminary enquiries having proved satisfactory, Mr. P. R. Buchanan, the senior partner of that firm, proceeded to Sao Paolo for the purpose of making the necessary investigations on the spot. A copy of his report is enclosed with this prospectus, in which the following valuation of the estates will be found:—

"7,000 acres coffee in bearing, giving a profit of £130,000 in 1895, at seven years' purchase	£910,000"
"6,000 acres young coffee of various ages, at £40 per acre	240,000"
"Railway, machinery, and buildings ...	100,000"
"Land, suitable for coffee, say	50,000"
"Other lands	"
	£1,300,000"

"I think if a Company were formed to buy the property for £1,200,000 such a company would prove to be a sound and remunerative investment."

On Mr. P. R. Buchanan's return to England, arrangements were made for the careful inspection of the Vendor's books, and a capable bookkeeper and an accountant were sent out for this purpose, and to prepare the accounts for audit by Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co.

Two experienced planters were also sent out to inspect the estates during crop time, and Mr. Robert Hart, Chairman of the Baraoora Tea Company, Limited, and Mr. John Buchanan, Superintendent of the East India and Ceylon Tea Company, Limited, were selected for this duty, and a copy of their report also accompanies this prospectus. Regarding the valuation of the property, Mr. Hart writes:—

"I concur in the valuation of £1,300,000 of the Dumont Coffee Estates, stated by Mr. P. R. Buchanan in his report. The appearance of the area already planted with coffee, the increasingly good results realised by its working, as well as the rich character of the lands not yet cultivated, all indicate that the capital value he puts on it is a moderate one, and well within safe limits."

Mr. John Buchanan, who has been appointed one of the resident Directors at Sao Paolo, and visiting Agent of the Company, confirms the above opinion and writes on the 29th June, 1896, as follows:—

"I cannot close this letter without expressing to you my very great admiration of the Dumont Coffee Plantation. Although Mr. P. R. Buchanan gave me a good idea of what to expect, I never realised I would see such luxuriant and heavy yielding coffee; and it is satisfactory to note that although the coffee is yielding so well, it is still in splendid heart and vigour, and not suffering in any way (except in the case of a few individual trees) from the large crop of this year."

The two reports enclosed, on which the statements in this Prospectus are based, give full particulars of the property, and show that the Dumont Company's estates are certainly the largest and finest coffee property in Brazil, and probably in the world.

The following is a statement of the coffee trees in bearing, and of the yield and profits from 1892 to 1895, and estimated profit for 1896.

	Coffee Trees in Bearing.	Yield lb.	Profit.
1892 ...	1,300,000 ...	3,897,600 ...	£53,978 19 0
1893 ...	1,400,000 ...	4,200,000 ...	£68,128 19 0
1894 ...	1,500,000 ...	5,107,000 ...	£86,589 4 3
1895 ...	2,069,700 ...	8,400,000 ...	£127,453 3 6
1896 ...	2,476,500 ...	9,000,000 ...	£142,226 12 6 (Estimated.)

CERTIFICATE.

The following is a copy of the Certificate of the Auditors, Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co., of 58, Coleman-street, London:—

"We have personally examined at Sao Paulo, Brazil, the books of the Companhia Agricola Fazenda Dumont, of Ribeirão Preto, for the years ending 31st December, 1892, 1893, 1894, and 1895, and after making necessary readjustments and without allowing anything for depreciation, we assess the profits respectively at £53,978 19s., £68,128 19s., £86,589 4s. 3d., and £127,453 3s. 6d., the exchange being taken at the average rate ruling during the coffee season of each year under review.

"We have also examined in detail an estimated Profit and Loss Account prepared for the current year, showing a profit of £142,226 12s. 6d., which appears to us to be carefully made up.

"The profits shown above have been earned from a comparatively small area of the present cultivation. The annual advance is due to the increase, year by year, of coffee plants in bearing.

"(Signed) Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co.,
"Chartered Accountants."

"No. 58, Coleman-street, City,
"August, 1896."

The above estimate of £142,226. 12s. 6d. for the profits of 1896 is based on an exchange of 10d. per milreis. Nearly the whole of the estimated crop has now been gathered, and more than one-third has been sold at a price exceeding that at which the estimate is calculated. As an additional security the Vendors have guaranteed that the actual profits for 1896 will not be less than £120,000.

It will be seen that only 56 per cent. of the coffee plants are in bearing and these are all comparatively young (ranging from 5 to 17 years). When all are mature, it is estimated they will yield an average crop of 15 million pounds or 6 million pounds increase on the crop of the present year. By the gradual development of the extensive reserves of unplanted land this increased output should be maintained if not exceeded, thereby rendering the future of the Company very promising and of a permanent character.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Taking the profits of 1895 as a basis, although not half the planted area was then yielding crop		127,453 3 6
There would be sufficient to provide for interest on the Debentures	22,000 0 0	
For dividend on the Preference shares	30,000 0 0	
		52,000 0 0
And leave a balance of		£75,453 3 6

for the payment of a handsome dividend to the ordinary shareholders, and for the formation of a reserve.

The Company take over the estates as from January 1st, 1896, and are entitled to the profits earned during the current year. These are estimated at about £142,000, and will be used for providing working capital, for forming a Reserve Account, and for the payment of interest on the Debentures, and a dividend to the Preference and Ordinary Shareholders from the dates of payment of the instalments up to December 31st, 1896. It will be noted that the average profit of 1894 and 1895 is sufficient to pay the Debenture interest and Preference dividends more than twice over.

Signor Cornelio Procopio, who has so successfully held the direction of the Estates in the past, and Mr. John Buchanan, a Coffee and Tea planter of 30 years' experience, will be the resident Managing Directors of the Company, and the present Managers and Assistants will continue in the service of the Company, so that the business will be conducted without break of any kind.

Mr. J. Hussey Robertson, C.A., will act as Estate Auditor and Chief Accountant, and Mr. C. K. T. Burrowes as Secretary and Book-keeper.

The purchase-price has been fixed at £1,200,000, payable as to two-thirds in cash, and one-third in Debentures, Preference Shares, and Ordinary Shares in equal proportions.

The following Agreements have been entered into:—

1. A Contract dated 17th April, 1896, between Messrs. Cornelio Procopio de Aranjo Carvalho, Barao Bananal, Antonio Ribeiro dos Santos, and Luiz de

Continued on next page.

DUMONT COFFEE CO., LIM.—*Continued.*

Rocha Miranda, and Patrick Robertson Buchanan, under which, in consideration of a commission payable entirely in shares of the Company, Mr. Buchanan undertook to assist the Vendors at their own expense in the investigation of the value of the properties and the formation of the Company.

2. A Contract dated 26th August, 1896, between the said Messrs. Cornelio Procopio de Aranjo Carvalho, Barao Bananal, Antonio Ribeiro dos Santos, and Luiz de Rocha Miranda, and Mr. Buchanan, as Trustee for the Company, under which the Company acquires the above properties.

During the negotiations for the purchase of the property, and the formation of the Company, agreements to which the Company is not a party have been entered into with various persons in connection therewith, including agreements relating to the Subscription of the Capital now offered. Applicants for Shares must be deemed to have had notice of these agreements, and to have waived all right to any particulars thereof, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

An early application will be made to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for a quotation.

Copies of the accounts for the current year and for the years 1892, 1893, 1894, and 1895, may be seen at the offices of the Auditors.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the above-named contracts, and the within-mentioned reports, certificates, Messrs. Hart & John Buchanan's confirmation of the valuation of the property, and the draft trust deed securing the first mortgage debentures, can be seen at the office of the Company's solicitors.

Applications for Shares must be made on the form accompanying Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, with the amount of the deposit. In cases where no allotment is made, the amount deposited on application will be returned in full. When the number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the offices of the Company, of Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., 99, Gresham-street, or at the Bankers and Solicitors of the Company.

11th September, 1896.

TOWN WATER SUPPLIES.

PURIFICATION BY

MAIGNEN'S FILTRE RAPIDE

MAIGNEN'S FILTER is the only one adopted after public competition by the City of Paris (10th July, 1896).—See "Bulletin Municipal Officiel," 30th July, 1896.—Full particulars from

Maignen's Filtre Rapide & Anti-Calcaire Co., Lim.

255, REGENT ST., LONDON, W.

LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.

Sole Consignee, W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

'One Piece' Studs

PATENTED UNBREAKABLE.

Beautifully Formed.

No one who appreciates a ni. Stud wears any other.

SECTION.

AVOID IMITATIONS.

SEE THEY ARE STAMPED PATENT.

Sold by all Leading Jewellers.

Wholesale only, Saunders and Shepherd, London

THREE GOLD MEDALS.

Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

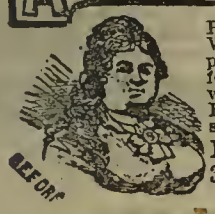
THE Y & N PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in White, Black, and all the fashionable colours and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine Y & N Corset is stamped.

Sold by Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters in the United Kingdom and Colonies.

ALLAN'S ANTI-FAT



PURELY VEGETABLE, Perfectly Harmless. Will reduce from two to five pounds per week; acts on the food in the stomach, preventing its conversion into Fat. Sold by Chemists. Send stamp for pamphlet.

Botanic Medicine Co., 3, New Oxford-street, London, W.C.

GOLD MEDAL

Health Exhibition, London.

BENGER'S

"Retained when all other Foods are rejected. It is invaluable."
—*London Medical Record.*

FOOD FOR INFANTS,

INVALIDS, AND THE AGED.

BENGER'S FOOD

is sold in Tins by Chemists, &c., everywhere.

BEST & SAFEST DENTIFRICE

SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS IN ELEGANT CRYSTAL TOILET CASKET PRICE 2/6.

ALSO IN PATENT METALLIC BOX PRICE 1/-

PRESERVE YOUR TEETH

BY USING THE

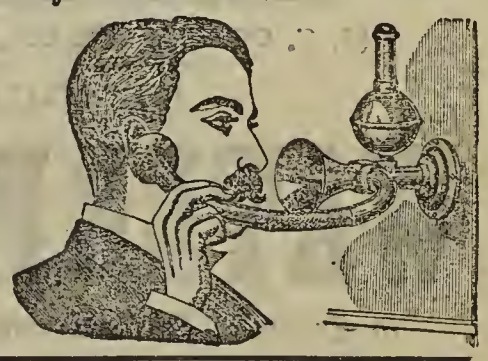
OS TOOTH BLOCK

Established 20 years

OVER 3000 TESTIMONIALS

WHAT IS IT?

Why, an ATTACHMENT TO A SPEAKING-TUBE by means of which you can carry on a sustained conversation and need only have one instrument for 6 or 8 Tubes.



Of all Speaking Tube Fitters, or THE HOMACOUSTIC SPEAKING TUBE CO. Show Rooms:—6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.

MAPLE & CO

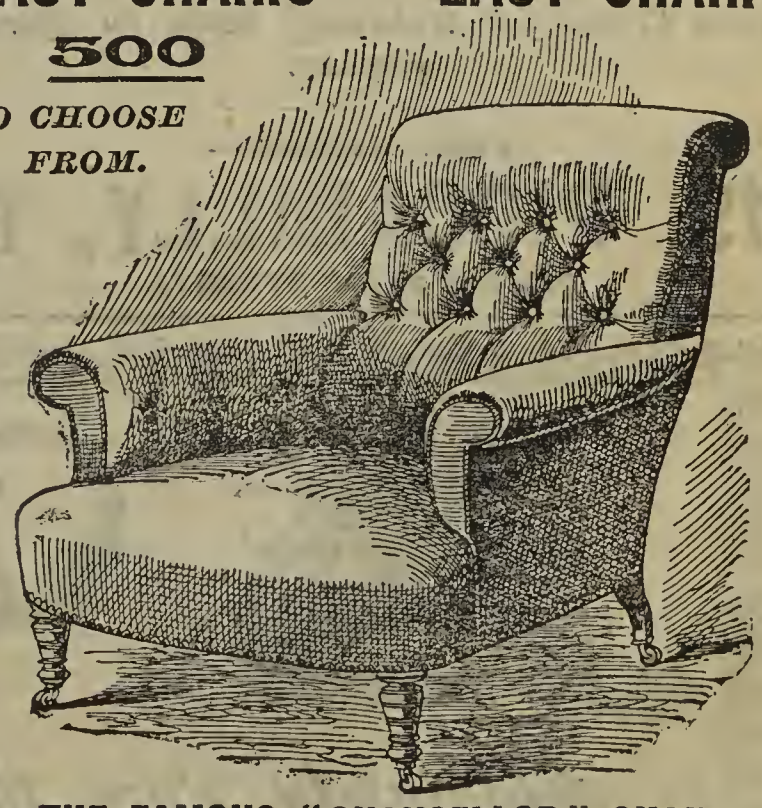
THE LARGEST & MOST CONVENIENT

Furnishing Establishment IN THE World

EASY CHAIRS EASY CHAIRS

500

TO CHOOSE FROM.



THE FAMOUS "CHANCELLOR" CHAIR

Large, roomy, well proportioned, exceedingly comfortable upholstered in Dormouse cloth of any shade

50/-

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD LONDON

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

THE ORIGINAL

CORDING'S

(J. C. CORDING & CO., Established 1839.)

HIGH-CLASS

WATERPROOFS

In Exclusive Patterns and Latest Designs for

SHOOTING, FISHING, DRIVING, AND GENERAL USE.

Every Necessary in Waterproof Goods for Sporting Purposes.

ONLY ADDRESS—

19, PICCADILLY, W.

(Corner of AIR STREET).

BARNARD, BISHOP, & BARNARDS

LIMITED.

ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED

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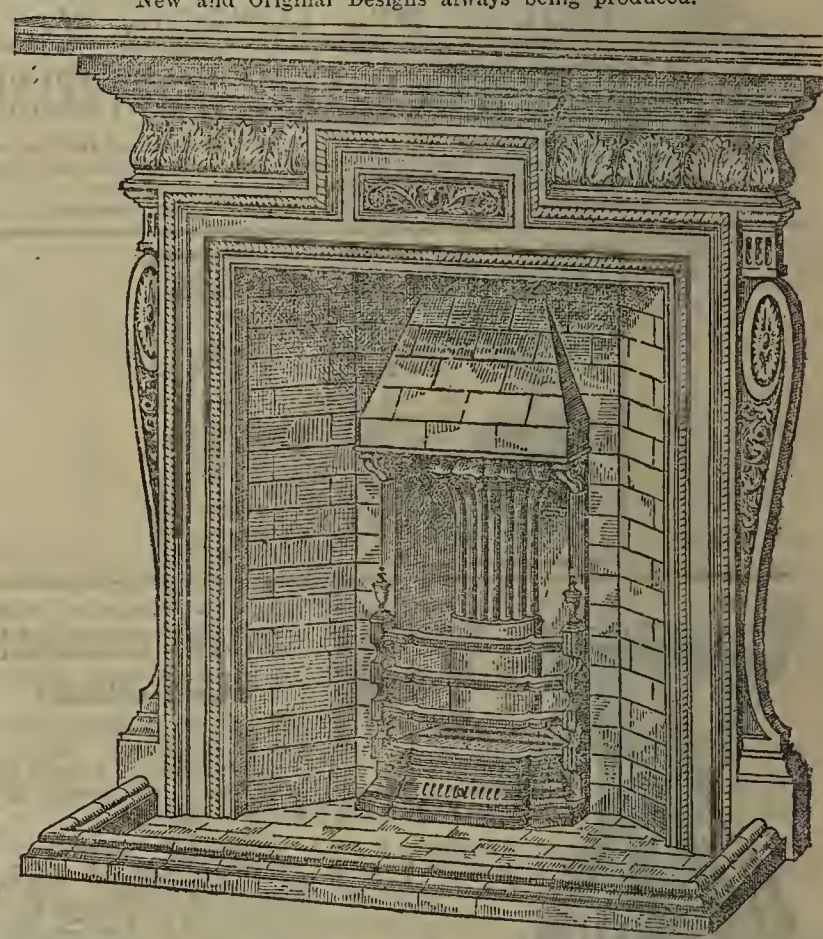
New and Original Designs always being produced.



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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.—SUGGESTIONS OF NAMES FOR YEARLINGS.

*** I find that one of the names given by W. W. P. (viz., Nostrum) is borne by a horse that ran last year, and is, I am told, still in training. This being so, I will next week name another prize-winner in W. W P.'s place.—THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, NO. 916.—EPITAPH ON THE LATE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

Vox (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE. — THE COMING "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

As I have had several inquiries on this subject, let me say here that the *large* Dolls, as well as the small ones, are now quite ready to be sent out to early applicants. In former years the supply of these large Dolls has always proved insufficient to meet the demand. This year a larger number than usual has been obtained, so it is hoped there will be no disappointments. But as the Dolls are sent out in the strict order of the dates of the applications received, ladies who want to dress large Dolls should not delay in communicating their wishes.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 915.

The announcement of the result of this competition will be made next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 917.

The Prize in this Competition has been divided between VINDEX and NIN-NIN for the following quotation :—

"It is a creature that I teach. . . . to wind, to stop, to run directly on; its corporal motion governed by my spirit." Julius Cæsar, Act iv. Sc. 1.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of ASHER, winner of a half of Prize No. 912, is C. F. Garston, Esq., Hill View, Sherborne, Dorset.

C. H. S. and DONE AGAIN.—Many thanks for your letters. You will see that I have acted on the information you have sent me.

MERCY AND TRUTH.—I am much obliged to you for your communication.

J. E. S.—The subject is scarcely a suitable one, I think.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 921.

An ingenious correspondent of a contemporary, following a precedent long set in French journals at times of crises in French politics, has found in the names of the members of the present Cabinet letters which, when duly arranged, form the significant sentence

"ANNIHILATE THE DESPOT."

Below it will be seen how this sentence is formed :—

Be A ch
Devo N shire
Lo N g
Sal I sbury
Gosc H en
Burle I gh
Ba L four
C A dogan
Ri T chie
Jam E s

Hamil T on
As H bourne
Chamb E rlain

Lans D owne
Ak E rs-Douglas
Hal S bury
Cha P lin
Cr O ss
Whi T e-Ridley

As other sentences, apropos to the present crisis in Foreign affairs, can doubtless be formed in a similar fashion, the readers of TRUTH are asked to exercise their ingenuity in forming them. The usual prize of Two Guineas will therefore be given to the competitor who

BY TAKING ONE LETTER FROM THE NAME OF EACH OF THE NINETEEN CABINET MINISTERS (AS SHOWN ABOVE) IS ABLE TO FORM THE SENTENCE WHICH SHALL BE DEEMED MOST APROPOS TO THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN TURKEY.

Any part of the names of the Ministers may be used for the purpose of this puzzle. Competitors may send in more than one sentence, on condition that all answers reach me by the morning of Monday, September 28, at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 918.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SUGGESTIONS OF TEXTS SUITABLE FOR SERMONS AT CYCLISTS' SERVICES.

The burden of Tyre, Isaiah xxiii., 1.—Infelix, Bootle's Baby, Skriker, Danehill.

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak, I. Corinthians viii., 9.—Demerara Girl.

The Lord will take away their round tires, Isaiah iii., 16.—Junius, Mavourneen, Jedforest.

Power was given him to scorch, Revelations xvi., 8.—Junius, Immota, E. N. S., Nedals, Anvil, Eila, Sterne, and others.

When they went out, the wheels also were beside them; and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord's House, Ezekiel x., 19.—Esperanza, St. Blaise, Meewit, Baritone, A.B.T., Achilles, Albrighton, Figaro, Adelphos, Cyclana, Asher, S. P. W., Penserosa, Infelix.

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee, Proverbs iv., 25.—W. H. Fenton, E.M.S., Nedals, L. Whitton, Elimans, Londoner, Mavourneen, Kit, Peltast, White Heather, Risk, and others.

The driving is like the driving of Jehu, the son of Nimshi, for he driveth furiously, II. Kings, ix., 20.—Baba Jujube, Taffy, W. G. B., Clericus, Pax est Mihi, Allspice.

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps, St. Matthew xxv., 3.—Silver Mell, Lyswys, Kipper, Mazeppa, Kit, Hopo, Enilorac, Drynoch, Rex, Amalasuntha, Pneumatic, and others.

The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings, Nahum ii., 4.—Cymraes, Penserosa, Wanderer, Margaretting, Kynde Wytte, Springer, Dairy, Pigtail, Arch. Gibbs, Derfla, S. Anstice, W. Stone, &c.

Two are better than one; . . . For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to lift him up, Ecclesiastes iv., 9 and 10.—Red Republican, Isabel, Omemee, Dartmouth, Naomi Tighe, Derfla, Pelican, Lil, Provident, X. Q. Q., Oatcake, Orman, E. M. S., White Heather, Elvy, Drynoch, Cortex, Immata, Gregarious, W. B. J., Pop, Uncle Joe, Nedals, Pictor, &c.

My record is on high, Job xvi., 19.—Judith.

He that hasteth with his feet sinneth, Proverbs xix., 2.—Marrowbones.

And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. And their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. For the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels, Ezekiel i., 14, 16, 20.—E. N. S., Peltast, May Lewes, Pegasus, Skriker, Penelope, White Heather, Meg, Ivanhoe, Enilorac, Atra Cura, &c.

For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come, Timothy iv., 8.—Aberglaslyn, Cymraes, A. E. Beginner, Ro, Donagh, Go Ahead, &c.

We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift, Isaiah xxx., 16. (N.B.—In New York policemen are set to catch "scorchers" on cycles of their own).—Sterne, Dartmouth, Atro Cura, Leo, &c.

Lo, this I have found that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions, Ecclesiastes vii., 29.—Pentland and others.

For the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels, Ezekiel i., 20.—Pump Court, Nesta, A Novice, Ivanhoe, Meewit, Oom Paul, Clericus, Antelope, White Heather, Lyswys, Enilorac, Iris I., Amalasuntha, Rasbeg, Pipestrella, Annan Academy, A. E. Hancock, Binks, Isabel, A. Hopkin, Searabee, Cigarette, Qu'Appelle, Berrie, Nedals, The Mac, Avis, Inda, E. T. H. W., S. D. Richards, Dora, Adam, Cheriton, X.Q.Q., Tatters, Asher, Ombra, Crofter, &c.

And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up, Ezekiel i., 19.—Hesta, Dulwichian, Angarad, Ombra, S. P. W., Meg, Inda, Kipper, Timphoni, Arromanches, Wentworth, May Lewes, A. Hopkin, Zummerzet, Naomi Tighe, Beginner, &c.

We will not ride upon horses, Hosea xiv., 3.—Noë, Belfastite, Kilwarlin, Naomi Tighe, &c.

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain, Cor. ix., 24.—Demerara Girl, A. E. Hancock, Oatcake, Daisy, White Heather, Ro, Allspice, Raby, Metchley, Elchartay W. Molo, Nikerman, Go-Ahead, Nancy B., Ling-Ling, Wanderer, Whirlwind, Rex, X. Y. Z., Per Ardua, Wanderer II., &c.

I was a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me, Psalm xxxi., 11.—Ubique.

They should be sorely pained at the report of Tyre, Isaiah xxiii., 5.—Iris I.

The race is not to the swift, Eccl. ix., 11.—Silver Mell, Immota, Risk, Dodo, Judith, Drynoch, Taffy, Omemee, J. McGrigor Allen, Wyalong, Pax, Queenie Dog, Pictor, Nesta, Kilwarlin, Oatcake Rewob, Dalton, &c.

Some fell by the wayside, St. Luke viii., 5.—Silver Mell, Pictor.

And their wheels like a whirlwind, Isaiah v., 28.—Forget-me-not, Applepine, St. Blaise, Hopetoun, Zac, Dodo, Judith, Wentworth, W. Molo, Opoponax, Ivy Leaves, J. McGrigor Allen, Anvil, Clericus, Avant, Qu'Appelle, Pictor, Meg, Pax Vobiscum, Dartmouth, Deadeye, Kilwarlin, &c.

We will ride upon the swift, Isaiah xxx., 16.—St. Blaise, Hopetoun, Taffy, White Heather, Invicta, Grow Pride, Zac, Whirlwind, Alpha, Atro Cura, Lancaster, Annan Academy, Deadeye, Orlando, Lea, Achilles, E. Phillips, Qu'Appelle, Albrighton, S. P. W., Sterne, Skriker, Noë, &c.

They hunt our steps that we cannot go in our streets, Lamentations iv., 18.—Skriker and Grow Pride.

Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Hebrews xii., 1.—Aberglaslyn, Allspice, Per Ardua.

As for the wheels, it was cried unto them in my hearing, O wheel! ("whirling wheels" in Revised Version), Ezekiel x., 13.—Hopo, Ivanhoe, Isabel, Hester, A. E. Hancock, Dartmouth, Toby Snibor, Mona, Cigarette, The Mac, C. H. Smith, A Novice, Lil, May, Quid Nunc, Jedforest, Pictor, Nicola, Beryl, Pump Court, Senrab, Could'em, Per Ardua, &c.

When they went out the wheels also were beside them, Ezekiel x., 19.—Hopetoun, Isabel, Pneumatic, Invicta.

A false balance is not good, Proverbs xx., 23.—Applepine, White Heather, and others.

The prudent man looketh well to his going,

Proverbs xiv., 15.—Applepine, Red Rowan, Carfax, and others.

They shall come with speed swiftly. None shall be weary nor stumble. Isaiah v., 26.—Penserosa, Oatcake, Meg, and others.

And the eye cannot say unto the hand I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you, I. Corinthians xi., 21.—Demerara Girl, Danehill, Queerie, Provident, &c.

The height of a wheel was a cubit and half a cubit, and the work of the wheels was like a chariot wheel; the axle-trees, and their naves, and their felloes, and their spokes were all molten.—I. Kings, vii., 32, 33.—Senrab.

Many shall run to and fro, Daniel xii., 4.—Oceanica.

A just weight and balance are the Lord's, Proverbs xvii., 2.—Boythorpe.

Whither have ye made a road to-day, I. Samuel, xxvii., 10.—Serpent, Moris, and others.

A word fitly spoken upon his wheels is like apples of gold in pictures of silver, Proverbs xxv., 11.—Berrie, Per Ardua, and many others.

When they went they went upon their four sides; they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went, Ezekiel x., 11.—Pegasus, Emilorac, and others.

The Singers go before, Isaiah v., 28.—Dodo.

The Singers went before, Psalm lxxviii., 25.—Springer, Deadeye.

Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes and looked, and behold a flying roll. Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth, Zechariah v., 1 and 3.—Mickey-Doodle.

And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise unto the House of the Lord, Jeremiah xvii., 26.—Arcturus.

And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about them, Ezekiel xxviii., 24.—Mazeppa.

Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God, Job xxxvii., 14.—Greeba.

The Pharisees said unto Him, Behold, why do they on the Sabbath day that which is not lawful? . . . And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath, Mark ii., 23-28.—Alpha.

And many among them shall stumble and fall and be broken, Isaiah viii., 15.—Ornan.

And they shall be as mighty men . . . and the riders on horses shall be confounded (*i.e.*, they shall make the riders on horses ashamed; see margin), Zechariah x., 5.—Elvy and Metchley.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, Is xxxv., 1.—Pictor.

For this cause pay ye tribute also, Romans xiii., 3.—Margaretting.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city, Luke ii., 3.—J. McGrigor Allan.

Strengthen ye the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees, Isaiah xxxv., 3.—Polar, Whirlwind.

He hath hedged me about that I cannot get out; he hath made my chain heavy.—Lam. iii., 7.—Rewob.

In that day the Lord will take away their tinkling ornaments and their round tires like the moon, Is. iii., 18.—Rex and Crofter.

Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions, Eccl. vii., 29.—Atra Cura, &c.

They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end, Psalms cvii., 27.—It.

My record is on high, Job xvi., 19.—Pictor and Elchartay.

But what went ye out for to see, Mat. vxi., 8.—Cigarette.

We also bear record; and ye know that our record is true, 3rd Ep. St. John i., 12.—Nedals.

PROPHETIC OF THE "SCORCHER" ON A TANDEM.

1. There met him two possessed with devils . . . exceedingly fierce, so that no man might pass by that way, St. Mat. viii., 28. 2. And strong men shall bow themselves, Eccl. xii., 3.—Pax est mihi.

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth to man, Deut. xxii., 5.—Uncle Joe, Grow Pride, Amalasuntha, Mixed Biscuits.

When they shall say peace and safety then sudden destruction cometh upon them, I. Thess. v., 3.—Annie.

He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse, neither delighteth he in any man's legs, Psalm cxlvii., 10.—Cortex.

Beware of dogs, Philipp. iii., 2.—Lyswys.

Their strength is to sit still, Isaiah xxx., 7.—Whitburn.

They return at evening, they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city, Psalm lix., 6.—Mena and others.

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro, Amos viii., 12.—S. Anstice.

He wrought a work on the wheels, Jeremiah xviii., 3.—Sancta Bega, Margaretting, M. W., and others.

I am escaped with the skin of my teeth, Job xix., 20.—Scotia.

Put forth all your strength, and be ye not weary, for ye can never go far enough.—Blue China.

Let your moderation be known unto all men, Philippians iv., 5.—Vitio E. J.

Feet have they, but they walk not, Ps. cxv., 7.—A. B. T.

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men, Titus iii., 1, 2.—Mona.

Behold, they shall come with speed swiftly: none shall be weary nor stumble among them, Isaiah v., 26, 27.—Excelsior.

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established, Proverbs iv., 26.—Harebell.

And the noise of the rattling of the wheels, Nahum iii., 2.—Nemesis, and others.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, St. Matthew xi., 28.—Tempus Fugit.

For a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again, but the wicked shall fall into mischief. Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth, Prov. xxiv., 16-17.—Pop and others.

Wasting and destruction are in their paths, Isaiah lix., 7.—Danehill.

A false balance is abomination unto the Lord; but a just weight is his delight, Proverbs xi., 1.—Lea.

And many among them shall stumble, and fall and be broken, and be snared, and be taken, Isaiah viii., 15.—Clandon.

Always in my prayers making request if by any means now at length I may have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you, Romans i., 10.—Mixed Biscuits.

Her filthiness is in her skirts, she remembereth not her last end; therefore, she came down wonderfully, Lamentations i., 9.—Pax Vobiscum.

When they (the cherubims) went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord's house: and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above, Ezekiel x., 19. (N.B.—This last is especially applicable to the duty of cyclists attending church.)—Peltast.

Give us of your oil for our lamps are going out, St. Matt. xxv., 8.—Omemee and Opoponax.

Cast up, cast up the highway, gather out the stones. Isaiah lxii., 10.—Ndalama.

Is there anything whereof it may be said, "See, this is new," Ecclesiastes i., 10.—Blossom.

To guide our feet into the way of peace, St. Luke i., 79.—Hope.

1. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye, Ps. xxxii., 8. 2. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path, Ps. cxix., 105.—Atra Cura.

In all thy ways acknowledge him. He shall direct thy path, Prov. iii., 6.—Baptist.

The days of Terah, Genesis xi., 32 (with no offence meant to Ernest Terah Hooley, Esq.).—The Mac.

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand or to the left; remove thy feet from evil, Provs. iv., 26, 27.—Fritz.

Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of Hosts: I will go also, Zech. viii., 21. Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. Eccles. ix., 7. I will surely go forth with you myself also, 2 Sam. xviii., 2.—Uncle Joe.

And the inhabitant shall not say I am sick, Isa. The medical profession agree that cycling has a most beneficial effect on the health, especially in the case of dwellers in towns. If the preacher chose the above appropriate text he can pass on naturally from emphasising the importance of physical well-being to a sermon on the necessity of moral and spiritual health.—Biddy.

The race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but time and chance happeneth to them all, Eccles. ix., 11.—Juno.

A wise king scattereth the wicked and bringeth the wheel over them, Proverbs, xx., 26. Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions, Eccles vii., 29.—Alastor and others.

If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high, Isaiah lviii, 13-14.—Elvy.

I heard . . . the noise of the wheels over against them, and a noise of great rushing, Eze. iii., 13.—M. B.

Take heed, therefore, that the light which is in them be not darkness, Luke xi., 35. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses, and as horsemen so shall they run, Jon. ii., 4.

Many shall run to and fro, Dan. xii., 4.—Torridge.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, Philippians iii., 13, 14.—Ro.

The riders on horses shall be confounded, Zechariah x., 5.—Melrose,

Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses; neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, ye are our gods, for in Thee the fatherless findeth mercy, Hosea xiv., 3.—Agatha.

1. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee, Proverbs iv., 25. 2. Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness, they shall be driven on and fall therein, Jeremiah xxiii., 12.—Pop.

Other texts have also been received from Taffy, E Phillips, St. Blaise, Hopetown, Wild Arab, Nin Nin, Frank, Theology, Forget-me-not, Hope, Pansy Johntoe, Meg, W. Stone, Arromanches, Iris 1., E. M. S., Uncle Joe, R. A. S., Lucastes, Kynde Wytte, Allspice, Atra Cura, Ro, Maori, Junius Grow Pride, X. Y. Z., Zac, Polar, Immata, M. B., Baritone, Rex, Whirlwind, Alpha, Wanderer, Invicta, E. N. S., Demerara Girl, Juno, Margaretting, Quidnunc, Dalton, Metchley, Mixed Biscuits, Marrowbones, Isabel, Omemee, Bootle's Baby, Jedforest, Per Ardua, Derfla, E. N. S., Crofter, E. J. Go-ahead, Provident, Queenie, Risk, Danehill, Red Rowan, Serpent, Noë, S. K., Emlorac, Pegasus, Ivanhoe, Donagh, White Heather, P. M., L. W., Beginner, Oatcake, Mavourneen, Toby, Deadeye, Applepine, Dartmouth, Clericus, Zummerzet, A. E. H., A Novice, Cymracs, S. P. W., Ombra, Nemesis, Judith, A Denizen of Pump-court, Amasaluntha, Dodo, Drynoch, E. N. S., Springer, Raby. Wentworth, Metford, Kingston, Pennywig, Risk, Hamburg, Serpent, Binks, Mabel, Sappy, Go-ahead, Snibor, Nedals, Dorset, Xavier, Viti, Cigarette, Orlando, Scarabee, Rob Roy, Neptune, Infelix, Opoponax, Will & Co., Dove, A. Hopkin, Blue China, J. McGrigor Allan, Anvil, Gregorians, Hibernian, Wyalong, Ivy Leaves, Albatross, The Mac, Eila, Jeff, L. S. Manger, Garret, Pelican, Wanderer, C. B. T., Angarad, Inda, W. G. B., C. H. Smith, Daisy, Millefleurs, Lil, Pigtail, Elimans, C. M. P., E. T. H. W., S. D. Richards, Arch Gibbs, Ubique, Francis, Barberry, Ling-Ling, Achilles, Mey, Baritone, Mena, Avis Kellan, Pax Vobiscum, Pneumatic, Nitram, W. J. T., Beryl, W. B. J., Bimbo, Londoner, Asher, Cyclone, Adelphos, Nicola, Figaro, Pictor, Elchartay, Albrighton, Queenie Dogge, Qu'Appelle, Pax, Avant, Tatters, X. Q. Q., Aspiring Maid, Roan, Pentlands, Cheriton, H. P., Rabelais, Dove, L. Whitton, Kip, H. St., Naomi Tighe, Pilgrim, Ap Deio, E. Hobson, Facteur.

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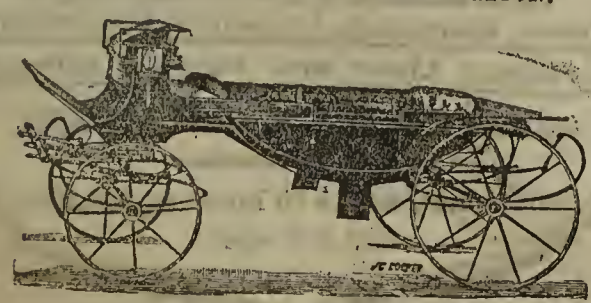

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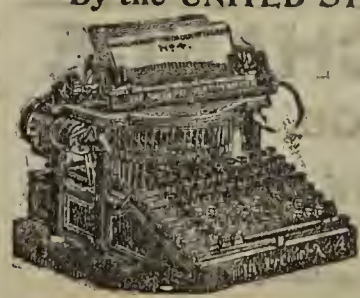

WASHINGTON, MARCH 27.

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Write for Illustrated Guide.
HENRY PLEWS, General Manager.

Dublin, June, 1896.

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen has summoned Lord Pembroke to Balmoral, a fact which has excited some comment, as the Lord Steward is not usually in attendance at Court during the private visits of Foreign Royalties. The Emperor Nicholas had requested that he might have an opportunity of meeting Lord Pembroke, who is a great grandson of Prince Woronzow, a Russian territorial magnate, who was for a great number of years one of the most prominent personages at the Court of St. Petersburg, and was long the Russian Ambassador in London. Prince Woronzow was born in 1744, and he died in London in 1832.

Sir John McNeill is to be the Equerry-in-Waiting on the Queen at Balmoral during October. Colonel Carington has been appointed to be in attendance on the Czar because he was the Equerry next for duty until the 30th.

When the Emperor Nicholas I. visited England in June, 1844, he spent a week in London (living at the Russian Embassy) and at Windsor Castle. His presents on leaving included six gold snuff-boxes, with his portrait set in diamonds, for the Lords-in-Waiting; eight gold snuff-boxes, with his cypher in diamonds, for the Equerries and Grooms-in-Waiting; £2,000 among the servants at Windsor Castle, besides a separate gift of £1,000 for the housekeeper. A hundred brooches, rings, and watches were distributed by the Master of the Household among various of the dependents; £500, to be continued annually, was given for a Cup at Ascot; a parure of diamonds, valued at £2,000, went to Madame Brunnow, the Russian Ambassadress, and £2,800 was given for charities, including £1,000 to the Society for the Relief of Foreigners in Distress.

At Balmoral the great event since the arrival of the Court on Deeside has been the return of the Munshi Abdul Karim from India, after an absence of six months. A Queen's Messenger was despatched to Calais to meet the Munshi and his retinue, and special arrangements were made for their accommodation on board the steamer in which they crossed to Dover. The Queen has built a house in the Balmoral grounds for the Munshi, who has been accompanied to Deeside by his wife and her female attendants, all of whom are closely veiled.

The silly season is certainly raging with severity. Could anything be more extravagantly absurd than the announcement of the *St. James's Gazette* that on Sunday last the Queen's dinner party would be "invested with rather more ceremony than usual," for her Majesty would drink two toasts, in memory of the battle of the Alma, in champagne. This is an absolute invention, for no such anniversaries are ever thus celebrated at Court, and toasts at the Queen's table are unknown. How people can be found to print such fantastical fooleries it is difficult to understand. Certainly a ceremonial at Balmoral in memory of the battle of the Alma would be a pretty sort of *bêtise* just forty-eight hours before the arrival there of the Emperor and Empress of Russia.

There is an infantile ingenuousness in the idea, expressed by a number of people, that the visit of the Prince of Wales to Lord Rosebery must have an important bearing on the Eastern question, and is therefore to be generally regarded with satisfaction. The Prince simply went to Dalmeny to spend a couple of days, because from that place he could meet the Emperor and Empress of Russia at Leith without trouble, and otherwise he must either have spent a night at an hotel in Edinburgh, or have travelled direct to Leith from Balmoral, which would have involved starting at six in the morning The notion that the Prince went to Dalmeny "to talk over the political situation" is simply idiotic, for if H.R.H. wished seriously to discuss matters with a view to any practical result he would, of course, go to Lord Salisbury.

Last week the Scotch papers were full of the yelpings of the people of Grantown, who had made elaborate

preparations to give "a suitable reception" to the Prince of Wales when he passed through their station on Monday on his way from York to Adrie, where he was to be the guest of Mr. Sassoon at Tulchan. There was a loyal and eager crowd at the station, and the special train stopped for several minutes, but the Prince never showed, the blinds of his saloon remaining down. Considering that the hour was seven in the morning, the Prince was probably asleep, and the good people of Grantown were decidedly unreasonable in their expectations, and had much better have remained in their beds.

The Duke and Duchess of York, who are now at Balmoral, will arrive at York Cottage, Sandringham, for the winter on Tuesday, October 6. The Duke is to shoot in November and December at Elveden, near Thetford, with Lord Iveagh; and at Didlington, near Brandon, with Lord Amherst of Hackney.

The Duke of Cambridge is to pay a visit next month to the Duke of Grafton at Euston Hall, Suffolk, when there will be a shooting-party to meet H.R.H., who is also to be the guest of Captain and Mrs. Pretyman at Orwell Park, their beautiful place near Ipswich.

The Duke of Connaught has quitted Aldershot for two months on leave of absence. H.R.H. and the Duchess, who are now at Balmoral, will leave London for Vienna on Wednesday, October 7, and they are going to Hungary to visit Prince and Princess Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and the Archduke Joseph and the Archduchess Clotilde. The Duke and Duchess will afterwards proceed to Siniai, near Bucharest, on a visit to the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania.

The Emperor William has sent the Queen three large photographs of himself, his Majesty being depicted in the full, undress, and field uniform of the 1st (Royal) Dragoons, the British regiment of which he is the Honorary Colonel.

The Crown Princess of Denmark, who had hoped to marry her son, Prince Charles, to the Queen of the Netherlands, is consoling herself for this disappointment by arranging a match between her eldest son Prince Christian and Princess Pauline of Würtemberg, another great heiress, who is the only child of King William, by his first marriage with Princess Marie of Waldeck-Pyrmont, sister of the Queen Regent of the Netherlands and of the Duchess of Albany. Princess Pauline is excluded from the throne of Würtemberg by the Salic Law, but she will inherit her father's huge fortune. Prince Christian will celebrate his twenty-ninth birthday next Saturday, while Princess Pauline will be nineteen in December. There is already a family connection between the Court of Copenhagen and Stuttgart, as a few months ago Princess Louise of Denmark, eldest daughter of the Crown Prince, was married to Prince Frederick of Schaumburg-Lippe, eldest brother to the present Queen of Würtemberg.

This is not the only marriage which is in process of arrangement at Copenhagen. Princess Ingeborg, second daughter of the Crown Prince of Denmark, who was one of Princess Maud's bridesmaids, is to be betrothed to the Hereditary Prince of Wied. The Prince of Wied owns very large and valuable estates in the Rhine Provinces and other parts of Germany. The Princess of Wied, who is an aunt of the Crown Princess of Denmark, inherited an immense fortune from her father, Prince Frederick of the Netherlands. The Queen of Roumania is a sister of the Prince of Wied, and their mother is a sister of the Grand Duke of Luxemburg and of the Queen of Sweden. The Hereditary Prince Frederick was born in June, 1872, and he is six years older than Princess Ingeborg. The Prince and Princess of Wied and their family have been staying at Charlottenburg on a visit to the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark.

The Emperor Nicholas has intimated his intention of conferring the Order of St. Andrew (which is the first decoration in Russia) upon Lord Salisbury, who, however, will have to refuse it if he follows the example of his predecessors in office under similar circumstances. The St. Andrew has a light blue ribbon and a diamond star, which the Czar invariably presents. The Duke of York is to be made a Knight of the St. Andrew.

Lord and Lady Cadogan will not return to Ireland for some time, probably over two months, this being the season at which Irish Viceroys usually take their "long vacation." A general feeling prevails in Ireland that Lord Cadogan has not taken to the country. His "reign," notwithstanding all the prophecies, is likely to prove an uninteresting and uneventful one. It is not easy to be a successful Viceroy of Ireland. The place has been, of late years, an especially difficult one to fill gracefully and judiciously. The hopelessness of the case is considerably increased when the Viceroy is a Cabinet Minister as well, which necessarily makes him far more representative of the Government than of the Sovereign. To be a rich peer is popularly supposed to be a great thing, to be a Viceroy greater still, and greatest of all to be a Cabinet Minister. No wonder if the burden of three such honours laid on him at once should prove too much for one man; and for one to whom, if heredity had not given the first honour, the other two would, in all probability, never have come. The rumour again prevails in Ireland that Lord Cadogan is anxious to resign his post, but he is not likely to do so at present.

The Archbishop of Canterbury arrived last week in Ireland on a visit to the Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Plunket. The Primate of Ireland, Dr. Alexander, was also the guest of Lord Plunket in Dublin. On Sunday large congregations had an opportunity of hearing Dr. Benson and Dr. Alexander preach respectively in St.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 792 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 796.
For Amusements, see page 793.
For Our Puzzles, see page 801.

Patrick's and Christ Church Cathedrals at different services. Catholics are not allowed by the laws of their church in Ireland to enter a non-Catholic church whilst any religious service is being held, a rule which remains in force since the penal times, when apparent conformity to the Protestant religion enabled any member of a Catholic family to seize the property of his non-conforming kindred. The main object of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Ireland was the opening of the Kildare Cathedral, which took place this week on Tuesday, with much ceremonial. No such gathering of Protestant ecclesiastical dignitaries has for many years taken place in Ireland.

Lord Ashbourne has taken on Howth Castle from Lord Howth for another year, and the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Sir Peter O'Brien, has again rented Castletown House, co. Kildare, for the hunting season. Howth Castle, at the foot of the Hill of Howth, is picturesque, and one of the oldest residences in Ireland. It has been in possession of, and inhabited by, the St. Lawrence family since the eleventh or twelfth century. Lord Howth's health has not allowed him to live there for the last few years. Lord Ashbourne became the tenant of Howth Castle on coming into office with the present Government. Castletown House belongs to the Conolly family, and is of palatial size. It has often been suggested as a possible Royal residence. Meanwhile, the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland dispenses royal hospitality there and has become a well-known figure in the hunting fields of Kildare.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is going to sell his Netheravon estate in Wiltshire. He has also a fine property in East Gloucestershire, Williamstrip Park, near Fairford, but that place has been let for some years. It was at Netheravon that Sydney Smith was curate for several years, before he went to Edinburgh, and he then acted as tutor to the grandfather of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The enterprising Italian who runs the buffet at the railway station at Modane considerately publishes his bill of fare in both French and English, so that his patrons of the latter nationality may be under no misapprehension as to what they are eating. The following interesting example of his efforts to enlighten the travelling Briton has been sent to me, and I reproduce the menu or "slender" (it will be seen that the ingenious translator crowned his achievement by writing "porridge" where he meant "slender," and vice-versâ) just as it was originally printed :—

Menu.	Porridge.
Potage Saint-Germain.	Slender at the Saint-Germain.
Quenelles de Brochet sauce financière.	Pike forced meet ball sauce of the financial.
Bœuf braisé Légumes.	Beef to bake Vegetables.
Galantine de volaille de Bresse à la gelée.	Poultry snovv-drop of the Bresse at the Jelly.
Salade de saison.	Salad of the time.
Entremets. Fromage et dessert.	Side-Dish. Chees and dessert.
(1/2 bouteille de vin.)	(1/2 bottle of wine.)

With reference to a complaint published in Truth the other day about the difficulty of mastering the regulations for the conveyance of bicycles to Switzerland, Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons write that all necessary information can always be obtained at their various offices in England and on the Continent. They also mention that in all countries it is necessary for the owner to personally see his machine through the custom-house, in the same way as other luggage, which is a fact perhaps not universally understood.

In reply to my paragraph last week respecting the bridge tolls at Waterford, I have been favoured with a communication from which it would seem that the inhabitants of the city and their visitors should really be thankful that things are no worse. It is true that some of the charges which are at present levied strike many people as nothing less than iniquitous; but, as a matter of fact, still higher charges are authorised by the old Act of Parliament under which the bridge is worked. As to the particular charge which I mentioned last week, my informant, who is in a position to speak with authority, states that prior to the last letting of the tolls an attempt was made to get the weight limit of parcels which can be carried over the bridge free raised from 14 lb. to 28 lb., but the majority of the directors thought the proposal revolutionary, and rejected it. However, it is satisfactory to learn that there is a prospect of the Bridge Company being bought out before long, and the sooner this happens the better I should think it will be for Waterford.

LET SLEEPING "LAUREATES" LIE!

"What is our Poet Laureate about in these stirring times? Is he asleep?"—*Evening Paper.*

Let's hope he is. His crown of bays
  P'r'aps helps to drowsy make him.
At all events, if sleep he does,
  For goodness sake don't wake him!
By all means let him slumber on—
  For who meanwhile the worse is?
But if he woke—portentous thought!—
  He might indite more verses!

So let us sing a lullaby
  In soft, appropriate numbers—
"Sleep, little Alfy, soundly sleep!
  Let naught disturb thy slumbers!
Great Alfred's mantle's fall'n on thee,
  Its folds, forsooth, thou'rt lost in,
Then let it as thy bed-gown serve—
  Sleep on, exiguous Austin!

"Thy lyre, upon a hat-peg hung,
  Has ceased to music scatter;
But never mind, recumbent bard,
  It really doesn't matter.
Thy Muse has not of late a flash
  Of rapture to thy eye lent,
But never mind, for as a fact
  We like you better silent.

"Sleep on, then! for if thou shouldst wake,
  By Jingoism heated
Thy fatuous ode on 'Jameson's Raid'
  Might be too soon repeated.
Sleep on! lest some impulsive gust
  Parnassus-ward should sweep thee.
Sleep on! exiguous Alfy, sleep!
  'Twill out of mischief keep thee!"

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

Mr. John Hare has at last played Eccles in "Caste" and I am confident that his rendering of this oft-quoted character in a recent revival at Birmingham would have delighted Robertson, the author of this remarkably successful play. The germ of the play called "Caste" first appeared in a Christmas book entitled "Rates and Taxes" (1866), contributed to by Tom Hood, Thomas Archer, W. J. Prowse, Tom Robertson, W. S. Gilbert, and Clement Scott. We there see the real Eccles that Mr. Hare has for the first time placed before the play-going world. Robertson was never wholly satisfied with the Eccles of George Honey, amusing as it was. He thought it—and it was—a trifle exaggerated and out of the picture. Mr. Hare has restored the lost balance by giving us an Eccles who invests the curse of inebriety with a grim pathos which materially assists the play and the motives of the various characters. As the critic of the *Birmingham Daily Post* neatly puts it, "Mr. Hare as Eccles seems to be a human being conscious of his unhappy infirmity and trying to appear sober, rather than an actor playing at being drunk." That is exactly it, and very happily expressed. The terrible cloud ever hanging over the "little house at Stangate" has never been better expressed than by the old Eccles of John Hare. It is something to be able to boast of being the best Gerridge and the best Eccles in the same play of "Caste."

I am asked to mention that the Southwark and Lambeth free loan exhibition of pictures, which has been so highly successful during the last three or four years, is to be held this year at Red Cross Hall, Southwark, and will remain open for three weeks from October 24.

The Bishop Suffragan of Stepney (Dr. Browne) is to be the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during October, and Sub-Dean Duckworth will be on duty at Westminster Abbey.

The Bishop of Ripon has taken a long time to fill up the Archdeaconry of Craven, which has been vacant since the death of Archdeacon Bardsley, Vicar of Bradford. The new Archdeacon is to be the Rev. F. C. Kilner, Vicar of Bingley, who has done much good work in the diocese during the last ten years. While Archdeacon Bardsley was a staunch Evangelical, his successor is a decided High Churchman, but a man of wide mind and liberal sympathies.

The Low Churchmen of the diocese of Durham have lost one of their most popular, most able, and most zealous leaders by the widely lamented death of the Rev. John Coulson, who had held the important living of Holy Trinity, South Shields, for twenty-four years. Mr. Coulson, who was a very clever man, an excellent organiser, and an admirable preacher, was originally a National School teacher, but his talents and perseverance enabled him to enter Durham University, where he took high honours and gained a Fellowship, after which he entered the Church. Bishop Baring had a very exalted opinion of Mr. Coulson, and it was mainly through the influence of his diocesan that he was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Durham to the living which he held until his death.

Apropos of the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent warning to incumbents against the employment of "unauthorised, irregular, and even criminous clergymen," I mentioned the other week a statement of the Rev. Evan Jenkins, formerly Rector of Monafon, that he had been doing duty during the past two years in the dioceses of Exeter and Southwell. As I indicated at the time, I had only Mr. Jenkins's word for this, and I now learn that so far as the diocese of Exeter is concerned careful inquiries have failed to discover any case in which he has officiated there during the last two years. If Mr. Jenkins still adheres to his statement, perhaps he will name the parish in which he was engaged.

By the way, nobody has questioned Mr. Jenkins's other statement that, since he was deprived of his living, he was for eighteen months practically in sole charge of the parish of Wingerworth, in the diocese of Southwell. If that is true, as it would seem to be, the fact is anything but creditable to the Bishop of Southwell and the diocesan officials.

In recording the fact that the Festival of St. Eanswythe was held at the Folkestone Parish Church last week, a local paper mentions that many visitors took the opportunity of inspecting "the relics of the sainted Saxon Princess, which were exposed to view." This means, some one writes to tell me, that once a year on St. Eanswythe's Day, the Vicar gets the sainted Saxon Princess's bones out of a cavity in the wall of the church and exposes them to the view of the morbid. "It seems to pay," adds my correspondent, who apparently considers that such a business is not exactly reverent or creditable to the church. But if it does pay, I am surprised the exhibition is limited to one day in a year.

Concerning the case of the Vicar of Llanganten, Breconshire, Mr. John Lloyd informs me that an application is to be made to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a grant to the Vicar on account of the tithes which are paid by the parish but appropriated to "the suspended prebend of Llandarog, Llanganten, and Llangynog." It has been

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

ascertained that in 1830 the then holder of the prebendal stall granted a lease of the tithes for three lives, and if living now the persons named would be respectively eighty-two, seventy-five, and seventy-four years of age. Whether all or any of these lives survive or not, it is to be hoped that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners will be able to accede to the application, and so put an end to what the Bishop of St. David's has characterised as "the intolerable scandal" of the Vicar's appeals to the charity of the public—an "intolerable scandal" directly due to the unprincipled way in which the Church has allowed the revenue intended for the incumbent of the parish to be diverted from its original object.

The Vicar of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, is the reverend gentleman who once distinguished himself by preaching a sermon in which he argued that the fall of the church spire during a gale was a judgment of the Almighty on the town for proposing to erect a memorial to Darwin. He is now seeking fresh distinction as a polite letter writer. The Council of the Shropshire Archæological Society lately passed a resolution in reference to certain alterations to St. Mary's Church, which were said to have been in contemplation. The Vicar has now sent the Council a letter, from which I take the following:—

> I note also your protest against the "demolition of any old work in any part of the fabric." What a pity it was not addressed to the wind on the day of the great gale in 1894! It might have been as effectual then as it is likely to be now; for I sincerely hope that if the vicar and wardens of St. Mary's think it their duty at any time to make any alteration in their church they will not have the Archæogynismatic weakness to be deterred by the protests of any Archæological Society, even though it be THE COUNCIL OF THE SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, but will take them at the fitting valuation, "hujus assis."—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
>
> NEWDIGATE POYNTZ."

Cannot the Rev. Newdigate Poyntz's friends prevail upon him not to make himself so supremely ridiculous?

The continued neglect of French and German at Sandhurst is exceedingly discreditable to the authorities, and especially when the strong and repeated recommendations of the Board of Visitors are remembered. A species of French and English game seems to be played at Sandhurst, one body of governors pulling pertinaciously against the other, and such chaotic fatuities are highly mischievous on all accounts. It may be hoped that a new and more satisfactory system will be established there in the course of a few months.

I have received the following amounts towards this year's Toy Fund:—O. G., £1; Howard Ellis, 10s. I have also received for Lady Jeune's Fund:—O. G., £1; F. C. H., £3; Fredk. Weldon, £5.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

LORD WOLSELEY'S "RIDICULUS MUS."

[Elaborate instructions for the adoption of a new mess jacket have just been issued to the officers of the British Army.—Daily Papers *passim*.]

Come, come, Lord Wolseley, what is this? Your most pronounced assailers
Did not expect that *you*'d be found amongst the Army tailors;
That *your* reforming zeal, 'bout which you made so great a racket,
Would for its boasted first-fruits bear—a paltry new mess jacket!

The "Limpet" Duke, as well we know, a glutton was 'mongst gluttons
For altering chevrons, changing belts, and rearranging buttons;
Gold lace possessed a charm for him, and 'twas his greatest pleasure
To give to things sartorial large portions of his leisure.

But you, we'd always understood, when him you had succeeded
Did not intend to be content to do the things that he did;
You, we imagined, when you were to his high post promoted,
Would prove yourself to higher aims and greater ends devoted.

Then what is this we hear about those long, excited sittings,
At which this jacket was evolved with its new-fangled fittings?
What of the rumours, flying round, of strong and heated feeling
'Mongst you and your advisers when with its chief features dealing?

Is this a time, d'you think, my lord, to waste on such a question
So great a wealth of intellect and highly-paid suggestion?
Europe, you know, is one vast camp of mighty hosts divergent—
This new mess-jacket was it, then, just now so very urgent?

The Army you have criticised with such unsparing candour
Did not expect this kind of thing from its brand-new commander.
It looked to him to firmly deal with questions much more pressing—
Its wrongs, and not its officers, are what most need re-dressing!

The scandals rife throughout its ranks, too numerous to mention,
Its crying grievances—'tis these that first demand attention.
'Tis ripe for great reforms, and 'tis with disappointment bitter
It sees you on a tailor's job your time and talents fritter.

There are a thousand things to do which have too long been slighted;
A thousand faults that should be cured and wrongs that should be righted;
A thousand urgent points to be examined and debated—
Then, surely, for a time at least, that jacket might have waited.

REJECTED ADDRESS BY THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION. Vital importance to Dental Licentiates, Parents, and the Public. Post free five stamps.—O'DUFFY, L.D.S., 54, Rutland-sq., Dublin.

By order of the Czar, the colonel of a crack Russian regiment has just been retired, a lieutenant dismissed the Service, and eleven other officers of the regiment reduced in rank, as a punishment for a blackguardly attack upon a civilian. The only culpability of the colonel in connection with the affair was that he had failed to report it to headquarters. Comparing this incident with the abominable outrage upon Lieutenant Hodge in the 4th Hussars, and the organised conspiracy against Lieutenant Bruce of the same regiment, it would seem that somewhat more strict notions as to what constitutes conduct becoming to an officer and a gentleman prevail in the Russian Army than in our own. I do not know whether Lord Wolseley is likely to meet the Czar during his Majesty's sojourn in Britain, but should a chance offer itself, he might with advantage take the opinion of the Russian monarch upon the Hodge case.

Although nearly three months have elapsed since a personal inquiry into the Hodge and Bruce cases was promised in the name of the Commander-in-Chief, no visible result has followed up to the present moment. On the contrary, from the fact that no steps seem to have been taken to obtain the evidence of the two gentlemen principally concerned, while the officers implicated are all leaving the country with their regiment, it looks very much as if an attempt would be made to let the scandal drop again. I trust it may turn out that I am mistaken in this prediction, and I do not wish to appear impatient, but my experience of official methods leads me to anticipate the worst.

A military appointment of an extraordinary, probably unprecedented, character, was notified in the *Gazette* a few weeks back. In 1888 a Mr. Bland-Hunt left the 4th Royal Fusiliers with the rank of Second Lieutenant. He has since then been engaged in civil pursuits until the other day, when he was suddenly appointed to a captaincy in the same battalion, over the heads of all the officers who have been doing their military duty during that time. Virtually, this favoured individual takes up the same place as he would have occupied had he remained in the regiment during the last eight years. Such a proceeding points to jobbery of the most nefarious and shameless description, and it is astonishing that Lord Wolseley should countenance it.

During a recent visit of the Cape Premier to King Williamstown the Municipal Council directed his attention to a truly extraordinary and startling state of affairs. It appears that no Imperial troops are stationed in the town, and the detachment of Cape Mounted Rifles has also been withdrawn, but the military authorities still keep stored at the barracks arms and ammunition to the value of nearly a quarter of a million, and all this property (including 38,000 lb. of loose gunpowder) was actually left until lately in the care of two old watchmen, one a cripple, and the other reported to be a drunkard. Since then "six special constables armed with revolvers" have been engaged to guard these munitions of war; but considering the possibilities of danger to the town, especially in case of any trouble with the natives, even the presence of this formidable force has failed to make the inhabitants of King Williamstown easy in their minds. Such an arrangement is anything but creditable to the colonial military authorities, and if they really cannot spare any troops for King Williamstown they ought to be compelled to remove their stores.

The Government will shortly have the disposal of the valuable office of Chairman of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland, which is to be vacated in a few weeks by Mr. Andrew Beatson Bell, who has held this post for about sixteen years.

Mr. Edward Garrard, who has been an officer of the British Museum (in the Zoological Department) for the unprecedent period of sixty-five years, is to retire on a pension next week. Mr. Garrard's retirement is a purely voluntary act, as he is still thoroughly up to his work.

In reference to a note in TRUTH the other day concerning the system of promotions to District Inspectorships in the Royal Irish Constabulary, a member of the force tells me that neither a senior nor a junior head constable can present himself at the examinations, which are supposed to have thrown the higher posts open to competition, without first being recommended by his immediate official superior. As to the value of the new system to head constables who can obtain such recommendations, but who are without further influence to back up their claims to advancement, my correspondent expresses misgivings which seem to have been intensified by the result of the first "competitive examination" which has just been announced. Three officers are named as having passed the examination. Each of them is stationed in County Clare, each was promoted from sergeant to head constable on the same day, July 16, 1893, and now each has qualified for a District-Inspectorship on the same day, other candidates being rejected. This certainly does seem, on the face of it, an extraordinary series of coincidences.

More than once I have referred to the very hard case of Mr. Kunhi Kannan, a late deputy-collector and magistrate of Malabar, who was dismissed from the Service owing to a gross miscarriage of justice. Twelve months ago Mr. Moberly, the district magistrate of Malabar, reported to the Madras Government that a consideration of the facts had led him to the conclusion "that C. Kunhi Kannan was convicted on false evidence," and he recommended that he should be given an opportunity of establishing his innocence. Notwithstanding Mr. Moberly's recommendation, this unfortunate gentleman has up to the present been persistently refused any chance of vindicating his character, the Madras Government being apparently afraid to admit that it may have erred. There is now, however, a new Governor at Madras, and the petition which has just been sent to him will afford Sir Arthur Havelock an excellent opportunity of showing that he has the moral courage to mete out

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justice in spite of the advice of official underlings who foolishly imagine that British prestige will be damaged by the righting of a wrong.

By the last mail from India I received a long letter, accompanied by a mass of printed papers, respecting the grievances of the provincial or junior division of the Survey of India Department. I have referred to the matter before, and at the present moment, at any rate, it it is impossible for me to again discuss it in detail. To put it briefly: these officers complain, and for years past have been complaining, of the slowness of promotion in their branch, of the poorness of their pay (which remains pretty much as it was fixed thirty years ago, notwithstanding the depreciation in the value of the rupee, for which they are allowed no compensation), and of the inadequacy of their scale of travelling allowances; and, so far from being improved, their position seems to have been rendered rather worse than before by a reorganisation scheme which was formulated in April, 1895. Their case is an exceedingly strong one, and if the Viceroy gives his personal attention to the latest of the series of memorials that have been addressed to him, I cannot but think that he will recognise the justice of their claim to more favourable and considerate treatment than they have hitherto obtained.

A gentleman at Singapore invites me to crack this little nut for him. His father was a German and his mother an Englishwoman. He was born in Turkey and baptised at the British Embassy Chapel. Since he left Turkey he has always lived in British possessions. Is his nationality German or is it English? I should say that it is German. Further, if his legal status at present is that of a German subject, can he become naturalised as a British subject at any place where there is a British consul, and will such naturalisation entitle him to all the rights and privileges of a person born a British subject? To both these questions I am inclined to reply in the affirmative. But I do not profess to speak with any authority on the subject; and if I am wrong I dare say some of my legal friends will be ready enough to put me right.

I have received a lengthy communication from Mr. J. Mackenzie, the President of the "Strangers' Hospital" at Rio de Janeiro, with reference to the dispute between the committee and certain of the nurses, which was referred to in Truth on July 2. The remark that I made upon the incident was that, in view of all the circumstances, it would be better if in future the agreements with the nurses were to specify their duties more fully. Mr. Mackenzie now tells me that in future the contracts will contain a clause prescribing "out-nursing" (the matter over which the dispute arose) as one of the obligations of the service. In view of this statement it seems to me quite unnecessary to go at this date into the various questions respecting the merits of this particular dispute, which are raised by Mr. Mackenzie's letter. That there were other differences, more or less personal, in the background was pretty clear from the first; but the question of out-nursing was the one on which each of the parties took their stand in the correspondence which passed, and the decision of the committee in regard to the future arrangements under this head seems to justify all that I said on the subject. The hospital is a very useful institution, and I wish it every prosperity.

Some two months back the post of surgeon to H.M. Customs at the Port of Gravesend fell vacant by the death of the local practitioner who had held it; and, after an official intimation that the salary would be reduced, the late surgeon's assistant, who had succeeded to his practice, was informed by the Board of Customs that they were highly satisfied with the way in which he had done the work, and would recommend him for the post. The appointment, however, rests with the Treasury, and My Lords have eventually passed over Mr. Skipworth, the gentleman above referred to, and appointed another local practitioner, Mr. Thurwell, whose qualifications are certainly in no way superior to those of the other candidate, and who is an absolute stranger to the work. There can be no doubt that this appointment is a job, due to occult influence of some kind, and, as usual, in carrying it out the public interest has been ignored as much as the claims of justice.

A medical reader of Truth suggests that the discrepancies in chemists' charges are explained by the variation in the wholesale price of certain drugs. It seems that some drugs vary immensely in quality, and proportionately in price. This will be a very interesting point to the general public, for it at once raises the question whether the efficacy of the drugs varies with their quality. If such is the case, I ought to have been benefited half as much again by the prescription I had made up at the seaside for 15d. as by that which I had made up at the Stores for 10d., and twice as much by that which cost me 1s. 9d. in the country. The last one, in fact, ought to have cured me outright. Judging, however, by their effect on my anatomy, the value of the drugs was pretty much on a par in all three cases.

Besides, is there not a Sale of Food and Drugs Act which requires all the more familiar preparations to be of a certain quality? When a tradesman supplies the quality of article prescribed by law, he has done all that is required of him. If a chemist wishes to supply a fancy quality of drug, he ought at least to give his customers a choice in the matter. There may be connoisseurs of physic (as of wine) who would pay half-a-crown for an old, crusted black draught, so many years in bottle, rather than poison themselves with a cheap article, bought at the Stores for fourpence-halfpenny. But in the matter of drugs few of us are connoisseurs, and for my part, so long as the fourpenny-halfpenny dose does its duty, it is good enough for me.

Fire Protection of Country Houses.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write Merryweathers, 63, Long-acre, London.

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Even in a modest little village like Pitlochry the Post Office officials are infected with the departmental passion for appearing smart at the expense of the public. The other day a telegram was sent to a gentleman there addressed, "——, Hydro, Pitlochry." There are two "hydros" in the village, but the people at the Post-office knew perfectly well at which establishment the gentleman in question was staying, other telegrams similarly addressed having been duly delivered. This message happened, however, to be one of some urgency and importance, and possibly for that reason it was not delivered, but returned to the sender with the notification, "Address insufficient; two hydros. there." In any concern conducted on common-sense business principles this sort of stupid fooling would be summarily checked; but in the Post Office it seems to be positively encouraged.

At the last meeting of the Brecon Town Council, the medical officer reported the existence of a disgraceful and dangerous condition of things in connection with certain cottages, and the surveyor expressed the opinion that the dwellings in question should be pulled down. It transpired that this scandal had been reported over and over again, and the surveyor said he had spoken to the landlord about it times out of number; but nevertheless the Council contented themselves with ordering a notice to be sent calling upon the owner of the property to put it in order, the idea being that he should be given further time. Is it the practice of the Council to dawdle and trifle in this way with matters of sanitary administration? If not, why has an exception been made in this instance? Has the fact that the property owner referred to is a magistrate and councillor anything to do with the procrastination of the authorities?

The monstrous prosecution of a pauper at Lincoln, which I mentioned last week, has been followed by another equally monstrous case at Lichfield. In this second instance a woman named Kilbride, who carried a baby in her arms, was charged with absconding from the workhouse with Union clothing. It seemed that the Guardians had granted her a day's leave of absence to visit her mother and friends who live six or seven miles from Lichfield, and that on the way there on Saturday morning she and her baby got wet through in a heavy storm. Having no other clothes, she did not return the same day, and Sunday being again wet she postponed her tramp back to the workhouse till Monday, when, upon her arrival, she was at once arrested under a warrant which the master had taken out. At the Police-court, the woman expressed the belief that the master had prosecuted her because she had ventured to make a complaint against him some days before about her dinner; and to anybody who knows the average Bumble, the explanation will not seem at all an unlikely one. Whatever his motive may have been, however, this Lichfield Bumble said he must press the charge against Kilbride, and instead of sharply reprimanding him for bringing such a ridiculous case into court, the dunderhead on the bench proceeded to sentence the defendant to seven days' hard labour. A magistrate capable of passing such a shameful sentence is no more fit for his position than the workhouse master who prosecuted the woman under such circumstances is fit for his.

At Poplar Workhouse the aged and infirm pauper who becomes a bit troublesome is forthwith thrust into the padded room, or, as a witness at an inquest last week preferred to describe it, "the padded dungeon." The inquest concerned the death of Mary Pendred, aged eighty-five, who, though very weak and ill, had been placed in a padded room because the nurses alleged that she was violent. Just imagine, now, the amount of violence this poor old creature would be capable of! The assistant medical officer said he was told that she had attempted to strike a nurse, and that when he went to see her she was packing up her things and declaring that she would not stay in the workhouse any longer. He seemed to think that this extraordinary display of viciousness by a feeble old woman of eighty-five justified him in subjecting her to the restraint of the padded room, and keeping her there until her death, four or five days later; but the jury were of a different opinion, and so most people will be. It was not pretended that the woman was insane, and, even if her confinement in the padded room had been temporarily necessary, there was no excuse whatever for prolonging it day after day when, as the doctor and nurses admitted, she had become perfectly quiet. The case is one which ought not to be allowed to drop with the censure pronounced by the coroner's jury. There must be something radically wrong about the management of a workhouse where the officials consider such cruel and callous treatment fit and proper for a sick and dying old woman, and the Local Government Board will fail in its duty if it does not at once hold a searching inquiry.

Yet another example of Bumbledom is reported from Brecon. Among the inmates in the workhouse there is an Army pensioner named M'Donagh whose pension is sufficient to pay for the maintenance of himself and two children. The other day M'Donagh wanted to go into the town to meet a friend, and tried to find the master to ask for leave, but as that functionary could not be found he took the liberty of going without his consent. Although the man pays for his own support he must, of course, conform to the rules of the house, and if the Guardians had reprimanded him for his breach of discipline nobody would have blamed them. This, however, was too mild and too sensible a course to commend itself to their minds, and so they directed that the delinquent should be put on a bread-and-water diet for three days. In common justice they should make a reduction in their charge against M'Donagh for those three days.

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"After having once used 'Cerebos' I cannot endure the common table salt. Cerebos is so dainty, so fine, so dry, and never goes lumpy." All the best Grocers and Stores keep it. In large tins, 6d. and 1s.

In the course of a case before the Manchester County Court the other day, Judge Parry pointed out a very fertile source of robbery in the liquidation of insolvent debtors. It seems that in proceedings under an administration order, the Treasury has a preferential claim to 2s. in the £ on the liabilities, which means that in the case of many exiguous estates the Treasury takes the bulk of the assets, while not unfrequently it scoops in the whole of them. As a stroke of humour it is a piece of excellent fun that when debtor and creditors come to public authority to adjust the little difference between them, public authority should settle the matter by appropriating everything that the debtor has to offer his creditors. That a business nation, however, should regulate its affairs on this serio-comic principle is inexplicable.

The estate of a Mr. Hame, lately liquidated in the Norfolk County Court, has yielded to the gratified creditors a dividend of ⅝d. in the £1. In the case of one creditor the Official Receiver has, by some inscrutable process of official arithmetic, arrived at the conclusion that the amount due is exactly one penny, without any fraction. Thereupon this lucky creditor receives by post the usual printed notification of his good fortune, with the corresponding form of acknowledgment of the receipt of the penny, and the authority to the Official Receiver to remit the penny (at the creditor's risk) by cheque or money order. Should the creditor prefer to travel to Norwich in order to receive payment of the penny in person, he is warned to bring this imposing document with him. It may be that the safety and well-being of the nation require that this sort of solemn tomfoolery should be performed in the name of the Law; but—owing, I suppose, to the mental obliquity which makes a man a Radical—I quite fail to see the necessity.

There have been many curious and humorous incidents at the Revision Courts during the past week or so, but none, I think, quite equal to the scene enacted at Barrow on Thursday. Attention was drawn to "a matter of importance with reference to his Honour [so the Revising Barrister is designated at Barrow] missing his train at Coniston." It had been hinted that this catastrophe occurred through one of the political agents informing the station-master that "his Honour" was in the train, which, in the absence of such information, would apparently have been delayed for so august a personage. On Thursday the Revising Barrister graciously expressed himself satisfied that the agent was not to blame. He added, however, that he had been told that it was a reporter who gave "the false information," and that if he found him out "certain proceedings would be taken against him." Somebody said the reporter was in Court, and that his name was James Hudson, whereupon the following colloquy took place:—

The Revising Barrister: Will James Hudson step forward?—Mr. Hudson, who was seated at the reporters' table, then stepped forward.—The Revising Barrister: It is reported to me that you gave false information to the station-master at Coniston as to my being in the train, James Hudson. Why did you give that statement?—Mr. Hudson: I did not give the statement directly. It was understood you were in the train.—The Revising Barrister: I shall hold you responsible for the train going without me. What is your name?—James Hudson.—The Revising Barrister: You gave information you had no right to do without authority.—Mr. Hudson: I did not, sir, and I understand from the letter read that the station-master at Coniston——.—The Revising Barrister: Will you hold your tongue? You had no right at all to say I was in the train, when you had no authority.—Mr. Hudson: I did not say so to the station-master, and I appeal to the agents whether I said it or not.—The Revising Barrister: I hold you responsible.—He then took down Mr. Hudson's name and address.

I am anxious to learn what punishment will be meted out to this presumptuous scribe. It will require at least something lingering with boiling oil in it to fit the crime, I should think.

Here is an extraordinary story of the conviction of a publican at Newcastle-on-Tyne, which, for some reason or other appears to have been ignored in the local papers. The defendant was the landlord of the Cumberland Arms. On the night of August 27 a party of men were in the house for three or four hours drinking beer, and on leaving at eleven o'clock one of them purchased two gills of whiskey. He afterwards drank half this whiskey, and three or four hours after leaving the public house he fell down some stairs and was killed. Two summonses were issued against the publican, one for permitting drunkenness on his premises, and the other for supplying a drunken person (the deceased) with two gills of whiskey. The witnesses for the prosecution were four men who were with the deceased the whole of the evening in question, and for the defence four men who saw him quit the house at eleven o'clock. Not only the four witnesses for the defence but also the four for the prosecution swore positively that the deceased man was perfectly sober when he bought the whiskey, and when he left the Cumberland Arms. In spite of their unanimous testimony, however, and of the fact that the landlord had been a licence-holder in the city for twenty-five years without a single conviction being recorded against him, the magistrates fined him £10 and costs, under the second summons, and endorsed his licence. If these are the facts, a more monstrous miscarriage of justice has never occurred, and I imagine that the Court of Quarter Sessions will, on appeal, have no hesitation in quashing the conviction. I trust the Court will at the same time give some wholesome advice to these Newcastle Solons. They should be told that, however intense their antipathy as teetotalers to Bung, they have no business to allow it to interfere with the course of justice.

Mr. Samuel Knowles has written to me in reference to the recent prosecution of the firm of S. Knowles & Co., Limited, for taking water from a main belonging to the Bury Corporation without first obtaining the consent of the Corporation. He says he was himself entirely ignorant of what was done until afterwards, and that, whatever opinion may be formed "as to the wisdom of

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the method adopted, he is quite certain it was not prompted by any improper motives." Neither in these statements, however, nor in a further letter which Mr. Knowles's son has addressed to a Manchester paper is there anything which affects what I said last week. I did not suggest that Mr. Knowles, senior, was personally to blame; and as to the intention of the Company to pay for the water, it does not alter the fact that they were guilty of an extremely audacious proceeding in annexing the supply from a main for forty hours and thereby depriving many domestic consumers of water without the sanction of the authorities. If a householder did such a thing, I doubt whether he would escape, as this Company were lucky enough to do, with a fine of £5.

A customer of the East London Waterworks Company, the Directors of which have just declared a dividend of 7 per cent., sends me the following verses, which, he suggests, might appropriately be appended to the last half-yearly report of the Board:—

THE DIRECTORS TO THEIR SHAREHOLDERS.

Our mains have been empty for half of the day,
Our reservoirs frequently dry,
Our customers, too,
Have had reason to rue
A sparse, intermittent supply;
The Press has assailed us in outspoken style,
And charged us to quickly repent;
But why need we care,
How they bluster and blare,
Whilst we still can pay seven per cent?

Disease has been rife at the East End of town,
And 'tis said that the blame rests on us;
But we scarcely need stay
This assertion to weigh,
Or its *pros* and its *cons* to discuss.
For what though the death-rate went rapidly up
As downwards our reservoirs went?
The fact still remains
That out of our gains
We can pay a snug seven per cent!

Yes, our business is done on a very 'cute plan,
And we play at a very safe game,
For, through frost or through drought,
Should our water give out,
Why, our customers pay just the same.
So whether we've water or not in our mains,
Our shareholders need not look wan;
Its flow, as they see,
Intermittent may be,
But their dividends *always* flow on!

A rather humiliating rebuff was administered to the Public Analyst for Shropshire, Mr. T. P. Blunt, in a prosecution for alleged adulteration of ground ginger at Newport last week. He certified that the ginger contained 25 per cent. of spent ginger, but he admitted that he had only made three previous analyses of ground ginger. On the other hand, the Lancashire County Analysts, who make hundreds of such analyses every year, certified that the ground ginger in question was absolutely free from spent, and they had applied the microscopical test—by far the best—which Mr. Blunt had omitted to do. The magistrates accordingly dismissed the case. It is necessary, I suppose, for an analyst, like everybody else, to acquire experience in his business, but he ought not to do this at the expense of tradesmen, and it is to be hoped that before he next brings a charge of adulteration, this Shropshire official will make sure that his analysis is correct.

There is a popular notion that a man cannot be punished twice for the same offence; but it is evidently a mistaken one, so far at least as the administration of the Fishery Laws in Ireland is concerned. At Newtownbarry a few weeks ago two summonses were heard against a man named Simmons for illegally attempting to take salmon with a "stroke haul." The first summons was issued at the instance of the landlord in virtue of his private right of fishery, and Simmons was fined £1. 10s. The second prosecution for precisely the same offence was instituted by the Fishery Conservators, and the defendant was mulcted in a penalty of £4 with £1 costs. Technically the Justices were bound to convict on this second charge, and £4 was the minimum penalty they could impose. They seem, however, to have been conscious of the injustice which the double punishment involved, and they recommended that the second fine should be reduced to the same amount as the first. This recommendation has been in due course submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, but he has refused to comply with it, the explanation of the refusal being, I am assured, that the Fishery Conservators were opposed to the reduction. Is this true? It certainly seems an extraordinary thing that the Lord Lieutenant should attach more weight to the views of the prosecuting authorities than to those of the adjudicating Justices.

Very cold comfort is given to the ill-used wife who asks the Barnet Justices to put in force the recent Act for the protection of married women. Last week a woman applied for a separation order on the ground of her husband's "persistent cruelty," the particular proofs of his cruelty on which she relied being that on two days in succession he turned her and her children out of doors, that on the third day he tore up her clothes and that on the fourth day he tried to strike her with a stick, scratched her face, threw stones at her, and once more turned the children into the street. She worked to support herself and the children, and she was afraid she would lose her place, as she had lost others, through her husband's conduct. The defendant did not appear to answer these allegations, but his absence did not matter. The Barnet Shallows believe in giving a husband plenty of rope before they pull him in, and the woman's application was dismissed with the consoling remark that it could be renewed if the cruelty was continued. While they were about it they might as well have told her precisely how long they expect a wife to endure such treatment before she is granted a separation order.

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As usual at this season, the country magistracy are applying themselves with much zest and determination to the punishment of all offences (or, for that matter, suspected offences) against the sacred majesty of the Game Laws. My Legal Pillory this week contains two or three cases which are fair samples of scores that are chronicled in the provincial papers. At Warwick a man has been sent to gaol for a month because "a net with two dead rabbits recently snared was found concealed by a tree that he was seen near," while at Ironbridge penalties amounting to £15, and I know not how much more for costs, were imposed on three men because one of the three had in his possession on the highway a net and four rabbits. The case at Dunfermline is contrasted with another in the same town, which shows that it is a far cheaper sport to beat and kick a wife, and, if that is not enough, two other women as well, than to trespass in search of game. There are plenty of other examples of misguided lenity in dealing with charges of violence and cruelty, those from Sheffield, Wakefield, and Burton being specially noteworthy. As to the sentences on the other side, those passed on two absconding paupers at Sheffield seem to me particularly foolish, as well as vindictive. Considering the length of time for which both men had relieved the ratepayers of the burden of their maintenance, it seems neither just nor politic to visit them with such heavy punishment for leaving the workhouse without notice:—

Dunfermline Borough Police-court. Before Bailie Rolland. James Johnston, convicted of assaulting his wife by dragging her about by the hair of the head and kicking her; also of assaulting two other women "in the same vicious manner." Fined £2.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Gillespie. Peter Robertson and Robert Adamson, convicted of trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £3. 1s. 5d. each.

Sheffield Police-court. Before Mr. S. G. Richardson and Dr. Hunt. Harry Thompson, convicted of assaulting Tom Gilbert. As complainant was going along the street he received a severe blow in the jaw, and on turning round to discover his assailant he was knocked down, and defendant, with others, kicked him all over the body and head. Subsequently he was subjected to similar ill-usage a second time. Fined 20s. and costs.

Sheffield Police-court. Charles Roynes, charged with absconding from the workhouse with Union clothing. He left the workhouse without leave in April, 1894. Twenty-one days.

George Glossop, charged with a similar offence. He absconded last January. One month.

Wakefield Police-court. Martin Gallagher, charged with assaulting Thomas Fallon. Defendant struck complainant on the head with a pair of tongs, inflicting two large wounds, from which blood flowed copiously. He became unconscious, and had to be taken to the hospital. Fined 25s. and costs.

Warwick Borough Police-court. Henry Green, charged with poaching. He said he was searching for mushrooms, but it seemed that "a net with two dead rabbits recently snared was found soon afterwards concealed by a tree that Green was seen near." There were two previous convictions. One month.

Aberdeen Police-court. Before Acting Sheriff Brown. Edward Finnigan, charged with assaulting J. Merson by seizing him three times and severely compressing his throat, knocking and pushing him about, beating him with a stick, throwing him to the ground and again beating him. Fined 30s.

Newton Police-court. Before Mr. W. J. Watts, jun., and other magistrates. Thomas Williams, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Albert Moore, a lad, charged with stealing twenty-two pears from an orchard. Ordered to pay the costs, £1. 14s.

Prince of Wales Hotel, Harrogate.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

Burton Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. T. B. Lowe, C. Harrison, and T. Turner. John Laban, butcher, charged with cruelty to a cow by starving it. Defendant bought the animal, which was in a very diseased and emaciated condition, for 13s., and then left it in a pen at the sale yard for three days without food or water. He said he bought the cow for pig meat. The Bench considered it a bad case. Fined £2 and costs.

Wem Police-court. Before Sir W. M. Honyman, Bart., and other magistrates. William Taylor, convicted of assaulting a man named Hamlet. Taylor struck complainant over the eye, knocking him down. Later on, as complainant was going home, he was waylaid and again seriously assaulted. He was left lying in the road, and his injuries required the attention of a surgeon. Fined 10s. and £2 costs.

Blackburn County Police-court. Before Messrs. Hanson and Noblet. Joseph Walmsley, convicted of assaulting John O'Donnell. Defendant struck complainant violently on the right temple and on the face, rendering him unconscious. His eye was blackened and cut, two teeth were broken, he was badly bruised, and he did not recover consciousness till next morning. Fined 20s. and costs.

Retford Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. G. Cutts and B. Haigh. Thomas Collingwood, charged with assaulting a boy named Vatcher, aged twelve. The boy was gathering mushrooms, when he was violently assaulted by defendant, who twice struck him on the arm with the handle of a scythe. The lad's arm was broken. Fined £2, including costs.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Colmore, Harris, Barnsley, Cadbury, and Green. Harry Diamond, convicted of assaulting Mary Jane Tootill. He cut her head open with a loaded and knobbed stick, and the Bench said it was lucky for him that the woman's injuries were not worse; such a weapon might have caused death. Fined 20s. and costs.

Burton Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. A. J. Coxon and T. Turner. James Gadsby, labourer, charged with stealing a cap value 1s. Twenty-one days.

Bridgwater Borough Police-court. Alice Osmond, charged with wandering abroad and being without visible means of subsistence. Two months.

Ironbridge Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. — Maw and E. W. Shorting. John Owen, William Owen, and Richard Jones, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being in possession of nets and rabbits. A net and four rabbits were found in Jones's possession. Fined £5 each and costs.

Chard Police-court. Before the Mayor and the ex-Mayor. Edward Tyrrell, a tramp, apparently about 70 years of age, charged with destroying his trousers in the casual ward at the workhouse. He said he did so because the trousers were so threadbare that he could not keep them together. One month.

Cheltenham Police-court. Before Major-General de Courcy Hamilton and Captain Willis. Peter Parker, charged with sleeping in a shed, having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Barnsley Police-court. Before Mr. F. H. Taylor and other Justices. John Paley, an old man, convicted of sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Southampton County Police-court. Before Sir O'Bryen Hoare, Bart., and other magistrates. George Edward Matthews, charged with sleeping out. One month.

Stoke-upon-Trent Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Leason, W. Kirkham, and A. Edwards. Enoch Hodgitt, charged with having attempted to steal sweets from an automatic machine. Fourteen days.

If the good people of Newbury duly pray, as doubtless they do, that the magistrates may be given "grace to execute justice," I fear they must be sadly disappointed with the answer to their supplications as it is exemplified in the acts of the Borough Bench. The other day three little girls, Rose Underwood, aged 12, Mary Jane Underwood, aged 11, and Winifred Bevan, aged 12, were brought before this Bench charged with stealing a bicycle. The bicycle was left outside a public house, and on seeing it Rose said to her companions, "Let us take the machine and have a ride upon it." They did so, and travelled a considerable distance, one riding and the others holding her up and pushing the machine along. After being out all night and getting drenched to the skin, they were met next morning by a policeman, Mary

Boot and Shoe Makers.—Major Howe & Co., 16, Coventry-street, W.; 60, Strand, W.; 13, Queen Victoria-street, City; 81, Gracechurch-street, City. (Klenrusha Polish.)

Jane still seated on the bicycle. Incredible though the statement may appear, it is nevertheless a fact that for this childish escapade Messrs. E. Harris, J. H. Mason, and J. Elliott, J.P.s, committed the delinquents to a reformatory for five years. A local paper solemnly affirms that "neither of the girls previously bore a good character," but I hope the trio of woodenheads who passed this sentence will save themselves the trouble of attempting to justify their severity by any such preposterous nonsense about the "character" of little children of eleven and twelve. Nothing can justify this treatment of a mere juvenile freak as a serious crime, and magistrates so palpably destitute of grace to execute justice would do well to resign the task to somebody equipped with the necessary sympathy and understanding.

Among all the different classes of employers, co-operative societies might fairly be expected to be first and foremost in recognising the duty of paying a living wage; but it would seem that some of them are, on the contrary, as determined and unconscionable sweaters as the most grasping of private capitalists. The *Scotsman* reports the disappearance of one Hunter, secretary to the Cowdenbeath Co-operative Society, Limited, whose books show defalcations to the amount of £5,000, and the astonishing statement is made that this official's salary was only £24 a year, though for many years past the secretaryship had constituted his sole employment. The fact that he was so miserably underpaid did not, of course, entitle this man to help himself to money from his employers' funds; but, at the same time, the Society cannot be acquitted of a heavy moral responsibility for his dishonesty. They ought not to have expected a man to fill a position of trust in which hundreds and thousands of pounds were passing through his hands for a beggarly wage of less than 10s. a week, and their complacent acceptance of his explanation that he was for all these years "making a good thing" by betting, only accentuates their folly.

Sundry correspondents have directed my attention to two recent cases at Newark, one before the County Bench, who committed a man for three months for an orchard robbery; the other before the Borough Bench, who fined a defendant £20 for stealing £1. 4s. 3d., belonging to a firm in whose employ he had been for about forty years. The former sentence seemed to me excessively severe, and I pilloried it last week. As to the second sentence, however, I by no means endorse the censures which have been passed on the Borough Justices on account of their lenity. If magistrates err at all in such a case, it is better that they should err on the side of mercy; but in this instance, having regard to the age and character of the defendant and all the circumstances, I do not see that any exception whatever can fairly be taken to their decision.

Better late than never. I am afraid it is only on this principle that I can offer my congratulations to the police on the conviction last week of three of the individuals who have so long been running the missing-word swindles. At the trial at the Central Criminal Court it was stated that these frauds had been going on since 1892, but that "the matter was first brought to light through the stopping by the Dutch police of a bag in transit, which contained 352 letters addressed to 'Arthur, Rotterdam.'" Indeed! Why, it has been "brought to light" in the columns of Truth scores of times during the past three or four years, and I have repeatedly pointed out that, though these swindlers were using addresses at Ostend, Middleburg, Rotterdam, and elsewhere in Belgium and Holland, London was the real base of their operations, and here they cashed their cheques and post-office orders, and printed and posted the papers with which the game was carried on. However, it is, after all, some satisfaction to know that three of them have now been laid by the heels, and the two men richly deserve the punishment of a year and ten months' hard labour which the Common Serjeant awarded them. I see that the prosecution put the prisoners' average weekly receipts at £360. This shows once more what a precious lot of jackasses there must be among the British public, for anything more transparent than the fraud by which these vast sums were obtained could scarcely be conceived.

I would recommend any one who may have been duped by the swindling advertisement emanating from Messrs. Mason, *alias* Smith & Co., of 145, Fleet-street, to follow the course adopted by one of my lady correspondents. This lady had sent to these people fourteen stamps for the instructions, &c., for the home employment advertised by them a day or two before my reference to the swindle. But directly her eyes were opened to the nature of the trick which had been played upon her, she wrote in no measured terms to Messrs. Smith & Co. demanding the immediate return of the money, and threatening, in the event of non-compliance with the demand, to place the matter in the hands of the police. Within twenty-four hours she received the fourteen stamps "from the Publisher," without a word of explanation or extenuation. I take this to be practically an admission of guilt on the part of Messrs. Mason-Smith & Co., and I would commend this view of the case to the proprietors of those newspapers which in spite of my repeated references to the subject persist in lending their assistance and their advertisement columns for the plundering of the public.

The unceremonious way in which the Continental police occasionally arrest private citizens is repugnant to British ideas, but it sometimes has its advantages. A Munich paper gives an example of this. A swindler, who had done a term of three years' imprisonment for some fraud worked by means of a newspaper advertisement, came out of gaol and commenced advertising again on similar lines. As soon as the advertisement appeared the police pounced down upon the man, and put him beyond the power of continuing his operations. An English swindler under similar circumstances, although the police might be perfectly aware of the nature of his game, would have had a free hand until some victim chose to incur the trouble and expense of prosecuting him.

Gratis and post free, very elaborately-illustrated Price Lists, showing exact sizes of Havana Cigars issued by the Havana Trading Association, 177, Piccadilly.—C. A. Carlin, Gen. Manager

On the authority of a Transvaal paper I learn that the rascal Goldstein, alias "Harry Roberts," as to whose whereabouts frequent inquiries have been made in Truth during the last two or three years, is at present a sojourner among the Boers. It is also reported of him that he was a cordial sympathiser with the plot against the Republic which culminated in the Jameson raid. What truth there may be in the latter allegation I do not know, but as it stands it is about the cruellest thing yet said respecting the organisers of the raid. Perhaps if the matter were represented to him in the proper light, President Kruger might be induced to hand over this conspirator to the British police, who have "wanted" Goldstein for some years.

Yet another ignominious exposure of a "thought-reading" humbug came off the other day at Sandown, Isle of Wight. An entertainer, calling himself Mr. Padey Pennington, has been giving a show there, in which one of the attractions was a "Miss Grosvenor," announced as being "one of the ten clairvoyantes of the world," and as being able to tell the past, present, and future while in an ecstatic state. These feats were accomplished by the time-honoured trick of getting the audience to write questions on pieces of paper, and supplying innocent-looking blocks for them to write on. The blocks, of course, contain black tracing paper, and after the questions have been written upon them they are all collected and removed to a back room for the "clairvoyante" to study at her leisure, before she goes into the ecstatic state, and delivers her oracular responses.

It seems that a gentleman named Boustead, who had interested himself in the entertainment, made a proposal that the blocks should be placed in the hands of a committee, upon which Pennington lost his temper and responded with various offensive personalities as well as incitements to some of the roughs in the place to turn out his interrogator. Mr. Boustead got out of the hall with some difficulty, and determined to expose the clairvoyante, which he did at the next night's entertainment, by getting possession of one of the blocks, ripping it open and displaying the tracing paper to the audience. He has since sent the block to me, and I have it in my possession. Pennington, like all of his class when tackled in this fashion, took refuge in abuse, and wrote an impudent letter to the *Isle of Wight Press*, announcing that Mr. Boustead would be arrested on a warrant the following Monday for stealing the cardboard block, and that an action for defamation was to follow. At the same time he took refuge in the silly pretence that he had never known how the clairvoyance business was done, adding that he had terminated "Miss Grosvenor's" engagement, and sent her back to Liverpool. I would respectfully suggest to him that a better way to rehabilitate his reputation would be to learn to keep his temper on the platform, and to be civil to his audience, however inconvenient their questions. These are the first qualifications of a showman.

Typewriters and Cycles for Sale or Hire. Great bargains in Standard Machines.—N. Taylor, Manager, 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

A feeble attempt has been made in the *Western Mail* to answer my remarks of last week concerning the Cwmavon Schools. The writer admits that my allegations "would, if true, prove a rather strong indictment against the voluntary school system as far as Cwmavon is concerned at any rate." He then ingenuously proceeds to corroborate, with one exception, every statement that I made. The one exception is that he says "the agitation is confined to some twenty or thirty men." As to that, my own information with regard to the general feeling among the workmen is far more likely to be correct than that of a journal making inquiries with the express object of defending the action of the employers. But the really important points to which I called attention were (1) that these so-called "voluntary" schools have been kept going by a system of enforced deductions from the wages of the men employed at the local tinworks, and (2) that on objection being taken to these deductions the manager issued a notice threatening that all who ceased to pay the school poundage would be charged increased house rents "to meet the school expenditure." The truth of both these statements is admitted. This being so, I see no reason whatever for modifying the opinion I expressed last week that the Tinworks Companies are making a most improper and tyrannical use of their position as employers and house owners to maintain these "voluntary" schools at the cost of the workmen. The object, of course, is to prevent the formation of a School Board, which would to a great extent shift the burden on to the Companies as the largest ratepayers.

The following Reuter telegram from Rhodesia, that appeared a few days ago, is suggestive :—

> Ndama's people, who refuse to surrender, declare that they prefer to see what the whites can really do, since any life is preferable to working in the mines.

Some time ago Mr. Rhodes made a speech, in which he said that the natives must not be allowed to live in reserves, as in this case they might become rich and refuse to work. The scheme of Company government seems to have been that a hut tax was to be imposed upon them, and that they were to be deprived of their cattle. This, it was thought, would force them to work for the white man at a low wage. That they should have rebelled against this usage, and that they should be unwilling to surrender unless in future secured against it, is hardly surprising.

Whilst we are in a state of indignation against the Turks for their treatment of Armenians we might do well to turn on a portion of that indignation against what is going on in Rhodesia. Every few days we hear of women and children being captured. Can anything be conceived more vile in a war against the former possessors of Matabeleland than to capture their wives and children in order to force them to lay down their arms? Then there is the condemnation to death of Makoni, as a rebel to our rule. The Matabele, rightly or wrongly, are fighting for their independence. Can we blame them for killing their prisoners, if we kill the chiefs that fall into our hands? Major Watts, it is said, is on his way with his witnesses to Cape Town under arrest. I trust that he will be severely punished, for

most unquestionably the sentence of death ought not to have been carried into effect before it had been considered by the High Commissioner. The unfortunate man was not, in any case, as guilty as were the Jameson raiders. The former was a brave man struggling to be free and fighting for the independence of his country; the latter were speculators who carried war into a neighbouring State in order to serve their own private ends.

It is telegraphed that the "colonists" of Rhodesia are of opinion that this infamous execution will lead to the surrender of the Matabele, and they are indignant at the High Commissioner objecting to it. These "colonists" would do well to realise that no one cares one brass farthing for their opinions. They consist in the main of gold speculators, liquor sellers, and the riff-raff of South Africa, and these sort of people would willingly shoot all natives who are not inclined to be reduced to servitude. The principal colonists have "claims" that they would convert into companies and thus sell to British investors. Any one, and anything, which interferes with this promoting of companies, more or less bogus, ought, in their estimation, to be suppressed.

SCRUTATOR.

WHAT WE CAN AND WHAT WE CAN'T DO.

FEW things have been more horrible than the Armenian massacres, and few things more foolish than the suggestions in respect to what should be done by us. "What should" must always be subordinated to "what can," and this those desirous of a remedy for the permanent maltreatment of Christians in Turkey should bear in mind.

The Turkish question has been before the world for many a year. For a long time the fear was that all Europe would be overrun by these Mahommedans. When this danger had passed, the fear was that one or other of the European Powers would lay hands on the Turkish territories, and against this contingency we have fought and intrigued. Mr. Pitt nearly dragged us into a war with the Empress Catherine of Russia, when that potentate acquired the Crimea from Turkey and threatened a further advance. When the outraged opinion of Europe forced the Turks to withdraw from Greece, the Duke of Wellington termed the defeat of the Turkish fleet through which this had been achieved an "unfortunate event." In 1829 the Russians tried to free the Danubian principalities from Turkish misrule; we did our best to prevent it. In 1854 we engaged with France in the Crimean War, because the Emperor Nicholas had claimed a Protectorate over the Christians of the Greek Church within the Turkish Empire. Our latest feat was to insist upon the Treaty of San Stefano between Russia and Turkey being torn up. Russia had driven the Turks out of Bulgaria, and they had agreed to grant practical independence, not only to the Bulgarians, but to most of the Christians living south of the Balkans. In addition to this, a sort of Russian Protectorate over Armenia was assured. To all this we refused to assent, and at Berlin a Treaty was substituted, which consigned once more the Christians south of the Balkans to Turkish tender mercies, and substituted for the right of Russia to interfere in order to secure good government in Armenia, the right of the European Great Powers to do so collectively. This action on our part, which Lord Beaconsfield termed "peace with honour," was all the more dishonourable as we obtained for ourselves Cyprus in payment for our exertions on behalf of the Sultan.

Thus it will be seen that, during the last hundred years, Russia has sought to free the Christians of Turkey from Mahommedan misrule, and we have done our best to retain them under it. That Russia has been actuated by motives of pure philanthropy is impossible. She has looked to her own interests; we have looked to what we deem ours. She has wanted to secure an outlet to the Mediterranean; we have endeavoured to prevent this by using the Turkish Empire as a barrier against her progress towards the South. Thus we have persistently sacrificed the well-being of our co-religionists in Turkey to what we have been pleased to regard as the exigencies of our policy.

What is the present situation? The Armenians have been massacred. But, although this has attracted our attention for the moment to them, it must not be supposed that the other Christians in the Empire are well governed. They are one and all treated as servile races. The Turks are the civil administrators, and alone are soldiers. The Christians are invariably despoiled and maltreated. Against the action of the Turks towards the Armenians, we have appealed to what we call (*lucus a non lucendo*) the European Concert. Nothing has come of this appeal, for the very plain reason that, in respect to Turkish affairs, the European Concert does not exist.

I do not believe that Russia desires to incorporate any portion of the Turkish dominions within her Empire; but she would bind Turkey hand and foot to her. There would be—if she attains her ends—a political union between the two Empires, in which the Turkish Sultan would occupy the position of the subordinate partner. In this way Russia would secure an outlet to the Mediterranean, and the Dardanelles would become as much a Russian strait as is the approach to St. Petersburg. Against this Russia would see to the fair treatment by her subordinate of the Christians under Turkish rule. What is the opinion of Europe in regard to this? We, and we alone, are opposed to it. Austria only of the Continental Great Powers would prefer the *status quo*; but she would make no objection to the change, provided that she received herself some little accession of territory in the neighbourhood of Bosnia.

We must, therefore, recognise the fact that the malgovernment of Turkey, with all its attendant horrors, has been, and still is, due exclusively to us. Lord Rosebery suggests that the solution is to be found in diplomacy. It is not. Diplomacy may perhaps bring to an end direct massacres, but it cannot change the state of things inherent in Turkish rule, theoretically under some sort of general European control, but practically under no

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

such control, because the European Powers are not agreed as to how, and with what ultimate aim, it is to be enforced. Others suggest that we should act independently of the Continental Powers, and send a fleet to Constantinople, in order to coerce the Sultan into good government. This would be impossible. Our fleet might run the batteries on the Dardanelles, and anchor in somewhat a dilapidated condition off Constantinople. But what then? We could not well bombard an open town, nor could we occupy it without having with us an army of at least 80,000 men, for it must not be forgotten that the Sultan has himself an excellent and numerous army. The appearance of the fleet would be followed by a general massacre of the Christians throughout the Empire. Moreover, I greatly doubt whether the Continental Powers would consent to these high-handed proceedings. They do not believe in our sincerity. They know that for years we have done our best to rivet the Mahommedan yoke on the Christians of Turkey. They have not forgotten our Cyprus transaction, nor that we are still in Egypt, although we pledged ourselves that our occupation would only be temporary, and that we are now engaged in extending that occupation along the upper valley of the Nile.

What, then, ought we to do? To recognise the fact that Russia ought to have an outlet to the Mediterranean, and that the sole mode in which we can secure the Christians in Turkey against Mahommedan misrule is to make it clear that we shall not oppose the practical suzerainty of Russia over Turkey. To this solution all the Continental Powers are agreeable. We alone are against it, although what harm it will do to us is by no means evident. Be this, however, as it may, either the Christians in Turkey will, as heretofore, be misgoverned, or Russia must be left to become the paramount partner in a close Russo-Turkish alliance. Our first step in this direction should be to break off diplomatic relations with Turkey, as we did when we sought to express our disapproval of the rule of King Bomba over Naples. Our second step should be to indite a despatch to the Continental Great Powers, informing them of our determination to have in future no part in a sham European Concert, but to leave the Turkish question to find its own solution free from any interference by us: this would practically mean that we trust that Russia and Austria would at once deal with it. The outcome would be that Austria would probably extend her frontier in the direction of Salonica; that the Sultan would remain a puppet at Constantinople; that the islands of the Levant, now belonging to Turkey, would be distributed amongst the Mediterranean Powers, and that Russia would be paramount in that part of European Turkey still remaining under the nominal rule of the Sultan and in Asia Minor.

To my mind nothing is more loathsome than hypocrisy. I believe that there is a strong current of public opinion amongst us against our "traditional policy" in respect to Turkey. So there was when the Bulgarian atrocities took place. Lord Beaconsfield stood firm to that traditional policy, and the political wiseacres in the Press applauded his action. But when a general election took place, this policy cost him his place. So now our statesmen declare their horror of the Armenian atrocities in well-balanced phrases. But their aim is to stand once again to this policy, and to maintain the Turkish Empire. I have pointed out how alone we can bring about what we declare is our dearest aspiration. That the Turk still misrules is due to us. That the Armenian atrocities took place is due to us. That Christians are misgoverned in European Turkey is due to us. That misgovernment, varied by an occasional outbreak of atrocities, will take place in the future, will be due to us, and to us alone. We must sacrifice our traditional policy to our sense of right, or our sense of right to our traditional policy. If we do the latter, we are—as, alas! in this Turkish matter we have been in the past—the most contemptible of hypocrites.

If there is one thing more certain than another, it is that Russia will eventually occupy such a position at Constantinople that Turkey, so far as regards foreign nations, will be to Russia what our protected Princes in India are to us. I hold that such a connection is only right and proper, and that in this way alone can this eternal Turkish question be set at rest. Supposing that the English Channel were a salt-water lake, landlocked at one end, and connected with the open sea by a narrow strait at the other, and that the shores of this strait were to belong to some weak Power, does any one suppose that we should consent to any Great Power of Europe meddling at the strait? We should insist on being paramount there. To where do the Dardanelles lead? To a lake which is practically Russian. Why, then, can we not at once recognise that the Dardanelles must sooner or later be, to all intents and purposes, Russian? The question is not whether they eventually will be, for they will; it is whether we are to put this off for a time at the cost of a possible European war, and of the certainty of further Turkish misgovernment and Turkish atrocities.

That the massacres of the Armenians have produced an honest outburst of indignation I am far from questioning. What I would have all who rightly feel indignant realise is that so long as the Turkish Empire exists subject alone to a general right of Europe to interfere, misgovernment must be the rule, and when one outbreak of fanaticism has spent itself, it will soon be followed by another, whilst we cannot alone interfere with any prospect of putting an end to this state of things. We may wish that it were otherwise, but wishing cannot alter facts. We must bring home to our minds that Turkey is to Russia much what Scotland was to England in the days of Queen Elizabeth. Just as that Queen would never allow either Spain or France to meddle with the affairs of Scotland on the plea of Roman Catholics being oppressed, so Russia will always set herself against any real interference on our part in Turkey on the plea of the Christians there being oppressed. Her doctrine is, and long has been, that she is the natural protector of these Christians, most of whom belong to the Church of the Russians, whilst her political aim has

always been to bring Turkey within the sphere of her political existence. We stepped in after the Bulgarian war to hinder the realization of these aspirations. Up to a point, we had Austria and France with us. Now, both these countries are on the side of Russia, and Germany is with them. The persistent craze that Constantinople practically in Russian hands would in some mysterious fashion prove injurious to us, blocks the way to the effectual ending of the long story of Turkish inhumanity. The Armenians are massacred, and will be massacred; the Greek Christians are ground down, and will be ground down, until we either free our minds from this craze, or are no longer prepared to use these unfortunates as mere pawns in our political game—a game, indeed, in which we have nothing to gain.

THE COUNTESS AND HER *CAVALIERE SERVENTE.*

A trial has just taken place at Rome which has excited the greatest interest throughout Italy. In Rome lives a Countess Collere. She is one of the Roman *grandes dames*, and she has been closely connected with the Court. For some time she has had a son of the late Prime Minister Crispi as her *cavaliere servente.* In April last year, she told Luigi Crispi that she wished to dispose of a casket of jewels. He said that possibly they might be bought for the Duchess d'Aosta, and she obtained them from the jeweller where they had been deposited for safe keeping. They were not sold to the Duchess, and on the 15th of the month Luigi Crispi was passing the evening with her. He told her that it would be dangerous to retain them in her house, and several times, according to her, he stated that he heard "noises," and suggested that they might be burglars who had got into the house. At a little after midnight, he wished her good evening, went down to the courtyard of the house, where his carriage was standing, and drove away. The Countess then went into her bedroom and undressed. As she was getting into bed she heard steps in the salon. Arming herself with a revolver, she entered the salon. There she saw a man escaping on to the balcony. Knowing that there was no exit from this balcony except through the salon, she locked the door and went down to the porter's lodge to bring the porter back to seize on the intruder. But there were two stairs and two separate doors to the house, and just as she reached the porter's lodge she heard the other door close, the man having crept along the front of the house by means of some projections on the outer wall, run down the second staircase, and thus escaped. The Countess reported what had occurred to the police. Luigi Crispi was examined, and said that he knew nothing about the matter, but the Countess wrote him a letter in which she implied that he was connected with the robbery. A few days later, a certain Cioffi called on her and told her that he could put her on the track of the robbers. On payment of 150 francs, he stated that he had two friends, Tito and Luigi Malpieri, who were brothers. They had told him that they held Luigi Crispi in their power, and in various ways they hinted that they had been employed by him to effect the robbery. The Countess by this time had come to the conclusion that the police were endeavouring to hush up the affair owing to the scandal that might accrue to the family of the Prime Minister. The Préfet of Rome was her cousin, and an ardent supporter of Crispi. He and his wife advised her to take no further steps. On this she dressed herself as a man and went frequently to see Cioffi at his house. Then she discovered that the brothers Malpieri were spending money largely, and accounted for it by having won a prize at the lottery, but that they had sold several stones, which she believed had been extracted from her jewels. When these facts were made public, the police were forced into taking action, and arrested the brothers Malpieri. The next event was that the Deputy Laurenyana, also a strong supporter and intimate friend of the Prime Minister, called upon her. He said, according to her account of the interview, that the jewels could not be restored to her, but that, if she would consent to hold her tongue, she should receive the equivalent for them in money; adding that, if she revealed this proposal, he would deny that it ever had been made.

The entire matter was referred to the law officers of the Crown, who, whilst Crispi was Prime Minister, managed to put off all action. After his fall there was an outcry for a trial, and the two Malpieris were put in the dock. Luigi Crispi is still abroad, but various other witnesses were heard. The Countess repeated her story, and the interest culminated when last Thursday the Deputy Laurenyana was heard. His evidence was remarkable. According to him he had had three interviews with the Countess; the first one at the request of Luigi Crispi. The Countess had explained to him that she had played on the Stock Exchange with Luigi Crispi, and that he still owed her 600 francs; that she was ruined, and that she wished the Prime Minister to make her a lady of honour and to purchase certain Etruscan tombs that were on her property for the State. He begged her to put this request in writing; but a Councillor of the Prefecture, who was present as a friend of the lady, advised her to write nothing. On informing an advocate of what had taken place, he suggested that the Prime Minister should at once be seen, and there was an interview between the Prime Minister, his son Luigi, and Laurenyana. The Prime Minister handed his son a pistol and advised him, if guilty, to shoot himself. But he replied that he was innocent. In cross-examination, Laurenyana admitted that he had asked the Countess whether she would take money for the loss of her jewels? Finally he was asked whether he thought that there had really been a robbery, to which he replied that he could not make up his mind. One of the Malpieris was found guilty of having been fraudulently in possession of stolen property, and condemned to a year's imprisonment.

Practically this judgment means that this Malpieri was in some way connected with the theft, and leaves it in doubt whether Luigi Crispi had employed him actually to steal, or had, with the assent of the Countess, given him a few stones from the jewels to sell, in order to convey the impression that there had been a robbery.

I have carefully read through all the evidence, and, like Laurenyana, I cannot quite make up my mind as to what occurred. What seems most probable is that Luigi Crispi did introduce Malpieri into the house to steal, that he has fled with the jewels, that Malpieri sold the few that were given to him for his services, and that the Countess, believing that the robbery had been committed by Luigi Crispi, sought to blackmail his father into the purchase of the Etruscan tombs, and her appointment as a lady of honour, on condition that she did not push matters further. The journals antagonist to Crispi are making a great fuss about the trial, and it seems pretty clear that, had Crispi remained Prime Minister, the case would never have come into Court.

SOME SAMPLES OF SHYLOCKISM.

For many years past I have made it one of my weekly tasks to expose the malpractices of the modern Shylock and warn the guileless against his machinations. I have the satisfaction of knowing that the seed I have sown in this field has been productive of some good fruit. It has, at any rate, rendered a considerable section of the public proof against the wiles of the most artful usurer, and directly or indirectly, also, it has helped to bring several of the fraternity to book in civil or criminal courts. Unfortunately, however, half-a-dozen fresh bloodsuckers spring up for every one who is sent to gaol or retires from the scene; and I should think the profession was never more full and never more active than it is at present. Certainly, I have never been so beset with communications from unappreciative recipients of their seductive promises of pecuniary accommodation. To notice all the rejected circulars that reach me in this way is quite impossible, but it may be useful to deal with a few which may be taken as fair samples of this kind of literature.

One interesting feature in the modus operandi of the advertising and circularising usurer is the skill with which he baits his hook for gudgeons of some particular profession or calling. The embarrassed clergyman, the impecunious doctor, the distressed agriculturist, are all tempted to accept loans from philanthropic capitalists bubbling over with sympathy for persons in their position. Judging from the amount of attention that is bestowed upon them, the clergy must be exceptionally amenable to this sort of blarney. One of the most importunate of their friends is the man Grunwell, who runs a usury shop at 40, Oxford-place, Leeds, under the specious title of the "Leeds and Counties Clerical Agency." His offer of "cash advances" is always accompanied by a page of "extracts from some of many letters" which purport to be testimonials to his kindness, courtesy, consideration, honourable and straightforward dealing, &c., &c., from rectors and vicars (all, of course, anonymous) who have had transactions with him. Even, however, if Grunwell has managed—as the notorious Shuckburgh of Bristol did—to inveigle or intimidate a few infatuated clergymen into singing the praises of his precious agency, the fact remains that he is a most rapacious and remorseless usurer, and I sincerely pity anybody who falls into his clutches. Another concern devoting special attention to the clergy is the so-called "Carlton Bank, Limited," which, besides doing the usual money-lending business, seeks to enlist the parson's services as a tout on commission among his parishioners. The circular containing this impudent and disgraceful proposal is, it would seem, still being distributed, though the universal resentment it has excited might well have convinced the Bank of the desirability of withdrawing it. The clergy are also greatly pestered by an individual with an address in the Haymarket, who disguises himself under the ingeniously suggestive title of "W. H. Smith & Co." As to the medical profession, their most insidious foe is a certain Sydney Bassett, of 285, Oxford-street, W., who makes his approaches in the guise of a disinterested friend. He has observed that "outstanding patients' bills are very seldom promptly met," thus "causing at times considerable inconvenience both to the new and old practitioner;" and, having "uninvested spare capital" he has benevolently resolved "to meet this emergency" by accommodating medical men with loans at "a nominal rate of interest." It is scarcely necessary to remark that any medico who is credulous enough to try Mr. Sydney Bassett's remedy for pecuniary "inconvenience" will find it in the end a good deal worse than the disease. There is a similarly alluring style about a circular which is being sent out broadcast to agriculturists by B. S. Thomas, of Oxford. This gentleman advises farmers and stock breeders that it would be to their advantage to hold over their produce for a time instead of selling at the present low prices. He recognises, however, that many are unable to do this without temporary financial aid, and so he has generously decided to come to their rescue by advancing any sums from £50 to £1,000 "at a very low rate of interest upon note of hand alone." Thomas is a new name to me, but from the character of his circular I have not the least doubt that any agriculturist in low water who resorts to him for help will soon be completely submerged.

The sharks who prey upon all classes of the community alike, one section not being enough to satisfy their voracious appetites, are too numerous to mention. It would be an unpardonable omission, however, to entirely pass over Isaac Gordon—the most irrepressible and the most unmitigated scoundrel of the lot. Gordon is the name by which his victims get to know him only when they are already securely within his grip. His headquarters are at 6, Livery-street, Birmingham, but he has branches or agents in London, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and possibly other places. At each address he has a different *alias*. In one town he is B. Edwards, in another James W. Ryland; and Williamson, Anderson, Grant, Armstrong, and Martin are also among the patronymics which this Polish Jew has assumed. Isaac's circular, like Joseph's coat, is of many colours, and it is addressed indiscriminately to all sorts and conditions of men and women. All are fish that come to his net; and the small are landed with as much zest as the big. His rate of interest ranges from so little as 100 to as much as 1,800 per cent. The latter was the amount he had exacted in a case which came before Sheriff Campbell Smith at Dundee the other day, the circumstances drawing from

the Sheriff the significant remark that "the business of a swindler was not half so lucrative or half so safe as that of a money-lender." There is another money-lender at Manchester who has just tried Gordon's dodge of dropping his own name in his announcements. I lately alluded to the newspaper advertisements of Mrs. Gertrude Hall, a lady of means with money to lend, at 26, Brown-street, Manchester, and suggested that, if there was any woman in the business at all, she was probably the decoy of some usury-monger in the background. So it turns out. "Mrs. Hall" is really, I am informed, Mrs. Hemmons, the wife of the man who was prosecuted at Manchester a few months ago for frauds by means of the preliminary fee trick, and who had the good fortune to be acquitted, the judge who tried him taking a line totally at variance with that which was adopted by another judge in the case of the notorious Pockett. But, notwithstanding his acquittal, Hemmons appears to have found it difficult to resume business at the old address and under the old style, and so he now puts forward his wife, or rather "Mrs. Gertrude Hall," as a decoy.

Many examples of the ruin and misery that are caused by these extortioners are published in TRUTH from time to time; and I may as well give here the two latest that have been brought under my notice. The cases are extremely sad ones, and not any the less instructive because the amounts involved happen to be small. The first occurred at Middlesbrough, the victim being a man named Wass. He borrowed £2. 17s., paid back £3. 5s., and was then committed to gaol by Judge Turner for non-payment of £2. 5s., the amount of the interest, with costs, which the money-lender still claimed. The result was that Wass's wife and four children at once became chargeable to the Middlesbrough Union. Apart from its interest as an illustration of the relentless rapacity of the usurer, this case is not without importance in connection with the complaints that have long been rife respecting Judge Turner's abuse of the process of committing people to prison for debt. The Lord Chancellor has now, I believe, promised to make some inquiries on the subject, and, from the case of this man Wass, it would seem to be high time that he did so.

In the other case the borrower was a female teacher employed by the West Ham School Board. She borrowed £10 from a Birmingham usurer named Henry Jones, agreeing to pay 240 per cent. interest and assigning a year's salary as security. On falling into arrear with one of her instalments she was so persecuted and frightened by Jones's representatives—the usurer himself is dead—that she suddenly disappeared and her family and friends have never since heard of her. The School Board were recently sued for the salary alleged to have been assigned to Jones, but Judge French dismissed the claim, with costs against Jones's executors, and stigmatised their conduct towards this unfortunate girl as infamous. But the average usurer cares nothing for the scathing censures which he constantly receives from most of the judges (misguided functionaries of the Turner type are happily rare); and he is equally impervious to the criticism of the public. Nor do the herd of simpletons who deliver themselves into his hands, like sheep, to be fleeced, appear to pay much heed to the warnings that are continually given. What is really wanted to deal effectively with this evil—and that it is an evil of the most serious and extensive kind nobody who has studied the question will deny—is some drastic amendment of the law which will have the effect of paring the claws of such birds of prey as the Gordons, the Grunwells, and the rest of them.

TINNED MELODRAMA FROM AUSTRALIA.

What unkind critics have called the Pecksniffian and Podsnapian gravity of Mr. John Coleman, when he addressed his Drury Lane audience, is merely a return to the old manners and customs of the theatre. It was an old-fashioned address by an old-fashioned actor. It reminds me of the days when a manager came, hat in hand, to the front of the footlights, and was at least respectful to the public before him. Nowadays, some of our managers, brimming over with conceit, and oozing out with self-importance from every pore, dash on to the stage on the slightest provocation, argue and chaff with the people in front of them, whom they evidently consider their inferiors, and bounce out their egotism and platitudes until this custom of licence has become positively nauseating. The penalty of praise, no matter whether just or unjust, appears to develop the "swollen head" fever to such an extent that anything like respect or deference is impossible. Let the impetuous hot-headed young managers take a leaf from the book belonging to Mr. John Coleman's charming library, and I think, on the whole, they will find the public far more attentive and appreciative by being courteously and gently addressed than being bombarded with foolish and irrelevant remarks and senseless arguments very *mal à propos*.

That the "Duchess of Coolgardie," played for the first time on Saturday night at Drury Lane Theatre, is a success goes without saying. And the reason of its success is obvious. The play has been constructed and written by experienced men, produced by experienced men, and acted by experienced men and women. The story is simple and human. The heroine, a rather perverse young lady, is suddenly introduced into the middle of a gang of Australian miners in a drinking booth, whither she has come to act as lady help—a euphemism in Australia for a barmaid. She is confronted by her lover of days that once were, who is on the search for gold out West, and who, in order to make matters hum a little more cheerfully, has taken a strong liking for "spiritual intercourse," and tosses off flowing bowls of brandy and whiskey *ad libitum*. The arrival of the new lady help, who is immediately christened the "Duchess of Coolgardie" by the entire community of gold diggers, awakens the thirsty hero to a sense of right and wrong, and he forthwith foreswears all alcoholic liquor for the future, but, as the unfortunate heroine is accompanied by a small child, he not unnaturally believes naughty things about her, and decides, notwithstanding all arguments, to let the canker gnaw his very heart-strings to pieces. Anon comes the villain, who has seduced the sister of the Duchess of Coolgardie,

and to whom, of course, the innocent infant belongs. The sisters meet; the betrayed lady, all sobs and tears, sighs out the fact that the villain has cruelly deserted his foolishly confiding mistress, when, hey presto! to the rescue comes a big, burly, sentimental gentleman, who seemed rather undecided as to his nationality. First of all he tried to be a Welshman, then he broke out into violent Scotch, then a bit of Old Ireland chipped off him, and in the third act we were given to understand he was a Yorkshireman, but he was least like this of all. Well, the hero discovers a gold-mine, and sells his nuggets for twenty-five thousand pounds, which he forgets to put in the bank until too late, and being rather nervous of carrying the notes about with him he confides them to the care of the seduced and deserted maiden, who declares she is the possessor of a real Chubb, and who is now beloved and consoled by the sentimental Yorkshire or mixed man. The transaction is, however, witnessed by the villain, who, in order to secure the treasure, pleads resurrected affection for his cast-off lady love. He is on the eve of winning the spoil, but is prevented by the enraged heroine, who sends her weak little sister back to her room like a naughty child, and gives the wicked man money to take himself off. This he does, but only for a time, mark you. He returns, murders his paramour, steals the money, and fixes his crime on an innocent man. This is so new, is it not? But murder will out! And out it does come in a splendid trial scene, which is carried on in a manner calculated to make the hair of every judge stand on end with astonishment, were it not for their wigs! But Hermann Vezin, the grave judge, or "Warden," seems to know how best to settle matters in this part of Australia, so the villain, hunted down by the vindictive hatred of a diminutive black boy, is run to earth, secured, but escapes. The last scene discovers the murderer flying from justice. He wants to hide! Where, oh, where shall it be? In the dining saloon? No, no not there; he will not have his goose cooked there, so he flies to the deserted shelter of a convenient conservatory. Enter hurriedly the excited heroine, bent at last on a reconciliation with her lover. Where is he? Take, oh, take me to him! But there is no need to take her, for this is his cue, and on he comes, travel-stained, weary, and in an all-over state of dilapidation, to learn that his sweetheart loves him and wishes him to take her to his manly bosom. The villain appears at the back, and is about to put an end to the hero, when simultaneously the little black boy prods him in the back with a penknife, and down falls villain, pistol and all. Virtue to the front, black boy at the back, harmony breathing over all!

Of Miss Hilda Spong, the new actress from Australia, nothing but praise can be said. Possessed of nature's choicest gifts, she came, she saw, yea, and verily, she conquered. The career of this charming and accomplished actress will be watched with keen interest. And what of Miss Laura Johnson, who suddenly bounded into fame as the impish rogue of a black boy named Wallaroo? The performance of this clever lady is at once fascinating and absolutely true to nature. Miss Johnson may have been allotted a part she appreciates, but it is extraordinary with what rare intelligence and poetic beauty she has imbued a character which, in the hands of a less artistic temperament, might have become boring and commonplace. Mr. Charles Glenny is seen at his very best as the mighty hero of the new Drury Lane melodrama, and acts with an intensity of power which belongs to him, and him alone. Mr. Vanderfelt makes the most of his villainous opportunities, and very able assistance is rendered by Mr. Laurence Cautley, Mr. C. Lowne, and Mr. W. Brunton. To Mr. John L. Shine falls the task to cheer and not inebriate, and it is needless to say that he avails himself of every possible opportunity. Miss Laura Linden, as the bonny Irish lassie, is all that could be desired. Mr. Hermann Vezin, an actor of dignity, charm, and power, brings all his fine style and presence to bear on a character which, if not quite worthy of him, at least adds materially towards the attractiveness of the play.

Go to old Drury and see for yourselves what experience, good acting, and common-sense can do. Mr. John Coleman is heartily to be congratulated on his most successful enterprise. The audience seemed disposed to wish him luck now, and in the future.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

M. FAURE'S NEW SUIT.

As the Imperial visit draws nigh, we hear more and more of approximative etiquette and sartorial display. M. Félix Faure now wants, sixty-six years after George IV.'s death, to figure as the First Gentleman of Europe. He also wishes to bring the Elysée, through a code of approximative ceremonial, into more intimate touch with the Courts of Europe. All innovations have their victims. "Approximation" has borne hard on the subaltern officers in the President's following at the grand manœuvres. The custom of having all the members of the escort at the President's table has been this time set aside. The line is now drawn at field officers. Captains and Lieutenants have to forage for themselves, and out of their own pockets. This form of approximation may perhaps serve as a leaven of discontent in the Army. It appears that "notes" have been sent from other Captains and Lieutenants to M. Paul Cassagnac, who is sure not to let them get worm-eaten in pigeon-holes. Approximative etiquette has had its effect in the President's costume. He is not entitled to a military uniform like his fellow rulers of the other States of Europe. But his tailor, bearing in mind that the Czar will enter Paris in the full-dress uniform of Colonel of Russian Hussars, has devised something to approximate. What do you think of a smart, handsomely-braided jacket, superfine in all its materials, a cavalry mackintosh for wet or cold weather, grey trousers the colour of an Italian officer's,

Maignen's Filter is the only one adopted after public competition by the City of Paris (10th July, 1896) see *Bulletin Municipal Officiel*, 30th July, 1896.—Full particulars from Maignen's Filtre Rapide & Anti-Calcaire Co., Ltd., 255, Regent-street, London, W.

bottes à l'écuyère with russia leather linings, and slightly creased like Charles I.'s? The "Cronstadt hat" is another compliment to Russia, and is of superfine felt, neatly bound and banded. It only wants feathers to debourgeoisise it. White gloves, supple and scented, give the finishing touch. A hand that may shake an Emperor's and hold the tips of an Empress's fingers surely ought to be gloved to perfection. The riding whip is an *objet d'art*, and carried with jaunty stateliness. Louis XIV. once—and the occasion was memorable—used his riding whip as a sceptre. An escort of generals, handsomely mounted, but on horses inferior to the chestnut charger of M. Faure, rode to right and left of him at the grand manœuvres. This was strikingly "approximative," and spoke to the eyes of 50,000 soldiers used to see Presidents rolling *en pékin* (civilian) in carriages at autumn manœuvres. Doubtless the carriages were drawn by artillery horses with artillerymen as postilions. All the approximation is intended to show the Russian friend *que la République est la meilleure des monarchies.* The groom that rode behind the President is simply an outrider of the Empire, with livery of a different colour. The bottle-green coat is now royal blue with red facings. The doeskins and top-boots are the same as we used to see when the Emperor and Empress drove in the Bois. The ladies at the Elysée are like the Archbishop of Canterbury's wife. They count not in the protocol. Still, we hear that it has been decided to "approximate" them. Their old cronies, of course, are furious to hear that they travelled the other day by special train from Havre to the Royal abode of Rambouillet, where they are to enjoy forest after sea air. This privileged mode of travelling has, as might be feared, aroused tempests of envy in all directions. But the vials of wrath will not be poured out until after the Czar leaves.

Thiers never gave a thought to etiquette, nor did Grévy, who had the good fortune to have for his Chamberlain, or Military Secretary, General Pittié. The General was a born troubadour. A more obliging person never lived. When he could not oblige, he still managed to send supplicants away delighted with him. He had a light way of dealing with questions of ceremony. He showed that he, personally, attached no importance to them. His poems were graceful and pervaded with sensibility. In approaching the President, to whom he also served as gentleman usher, his manner was deeply respectful; but the respect was that of a military man for his chief. Had not General Pittié died prematurely, Grévy would probably have only left the Elysée in his coffin. The person who served in Pittié's stead was General Bragère, a stick who went through the Polytechnic "refrigerator." He was overbearing, and thought that ceremonial and etiquette added to his own importance. Carnot took him on, and it was perhaps the only injudicious thing he did. MacMahon, who had the spirit and the training of a gentleman, only observed military rules of etiquette on grand official occasions. He had a high sense of dignity, personal and Presidential, but was none the less simplicity itself, unless in doing things handsomely. Carnot, though extremely simple and unassuming in private life, was a little ceremonious. Bragère made him appear more so than he really was, and brought Caran d'Ache and other caricaturists down on him. They wrongly made him out wooden or *un homme de zinc.* Nothing was farther from his thoughts than to approximate the Elysée to an Imperial palace. His impeccable correctness delighted the provincial bourgeoisie. His suavity made friends of all who approached him, and his deep-seated modesty disarmed envy.

M. Casimir Perier had a gentlemanly standard of his own, and never thought of approximating. His manner of receiving was good and quite natural. He knew exactly what to do, did it, and attached small value to what the Sir Oracles of the Protocol said—unless in his relations with Ambassadors.

Lady Isabel Somerset is at Marseilles with her friend Miss Willard, an interesting specimen of the "Western Woman." Lady Isabel went there to give material aid and sympathy to the Armenian exiles. I was prepossessed by her at the first meeting. She shows French blood in her well-set-up figure, upright carriage, broad though not inelegant shoulders, deep chest, neat waist, and her manner of wearing her clothes. The clothes were a tailor-made jacket of grey cloth, and a broad-brimmed hat with a white sprigged veil. The veil, however, did not hide at all the face, which is a most agreeable one, and worthy to be fixed on canvas by a great portraitist. Her dark, animated, and yet kindly eyes are French, with I know not what of English sense and sensibility. She is very much the lady in the soft self-restraint of her manners. Did she not show herself a practical woman in going, after she had visited the Armenians at a night asylum, and ordering for them all the bread that a bakery could furnish? Miss Willard is intensely original, fearless—as most original persons are—unconventional, and not uncouth. All her ideas are her own, though she is a singularly well-read person. She looks kindly. One is not afraid of her shrewd, perceptive glance, in which one can detect a gleam of fun.

Nothing more tormented Rénan than curiosity as to what the twentieth century was likely to bring forth. He, who believed so little, had utter faith in the march of science and progress of intellect. He did not see that science may march faster than the intellects of most people, and just do to strengthen the teeth and claws of beasts of prey in human guise. I fear that if Rénan could have seen some decades into the future, he might have read statutes to give over prisoners and paupers to vivisectors. There will be a good scientific excuse. Human diseases are not those of brutes. This thought strikes me as I reflect on the appalling indifference of Europe to the horrors of Armenia and Constantinople. What difference is there really between the motives of vultures and hyenas and those doddering Chancellors of the three Empires who snigger as the Sultan cudgels Lord Salisbury's dog Armenia? M. Faure is too much taken up with things sartorial and etiquettes to trouble

himself about the massacres. M. Hanotaux has been a good deal in the Levant—a bad training for the moral sense. He has also steeped his mind in the wicked doings of his idol, Richelieu. The lesson inculcated by his history of Richelieu is that the end justifies the means, though the end be to prey in the name of king or State. He has betrayed no compunction at the ghastly monster tragedies of Constantinople. *Chacun pour soi et Dieu pour personne!*

I suppose there must be writing on the wall that bodes no good, if we could only read it, for the twentieth century. The great sin of the French Republic is inconsistency, as the great blunder of the English public is to fancy England still a military power. France has supplied the Sultan with his actual head of the Police de Sureté. He was *lent* to the Sultan thirteen years ago by Comte de Montebello, now Ambassador at St. Petersburg. Up almost to the eve of the massacres he drew pay as an inspector of the detective force of Paris. Comte de Montebello and M. Lozé, now Ambassador at Vienna, can play into the hands of this *policier*. Imagine the fulcrum they and M. Cambon, Ambassador at Constantinople, have in him, and Nelidoff through them. He is prime favourite of the Sultan, whose fears he works on as he pleases. The Prefecture of Police manipulates also a great personage at Berlin, who lives in fear of its revelations.

The great cause of the massacres was to pay off Lord Salisbury for his peace-with-honour programme at the Congress of Berlin. The crowned Lohengrin who was so civil to Lord Salisbury before the Russo-French Alliance was concluded is now overawed by the situation it has given rise to. Elsa-Armenia may weep till the source of tears run dry before the Imperial Lohengrin will raise a finger to help her. If English emotion had brains behind it a nice trick might be played on Germany. Germans, it is said, are undermining British commerce, because their travelling agents are more fit and good linguists. There is a chance now for your manufacturers and merchants to cut out those Germans by employing polyglot Armenians as bagmen. Frederick the First did not go to war for the sake of the French Protestant refugees. He encouraged them to come to Berlin.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE following curious communication, dear Lady Betty, has been addressed to me by the Sultan:—

"Marmaduke. Praise be to Allah! You are a man of wisdom. Give me your ear. I have things of importance to impart, and I am sure that you will consider them with becoming attention.

"My son, what news is this? Are the Ingliz mad?

"Do the Ingliz take us for animals without understanding, or do they look upon themselves as the people of the day without compare, especially privileged to take the beards of mankind into their hands, and to do what they like with them?

"For centuries they have most rubbed their heads against the Imperial threshold, and they have most found favour in our sight. Now maledictions come from the lips of your countrymen in horrid succession, until the once mild and patient Englishman appears to have become more furious than a Mazanderan lion!

"How can I understand the humours of such madmen?

"Allah, the almighty and allwise, to some nations giveth wisdom, and to others folly!

"I am aware of the quarrels and makings-up of the various nations, of their jealousies and their hatreds, and particularly of their interested motives in their conduct towards me.

"They resemble the curs of the market, that howl at a hunting dog but dare not approach it.

"They are all infidels, my friend, and, by the blessing of Allah, will all grill in the same furnace.

"One of the most remarkable features of the Frank nations is their extreme desire to do us good against our inclination! Rather than not attempt it they put themselves to infinite trouble, and even do not refrain to run the risk of destroying each other!

"There is much to be got between the rival dogs.

"What is done, is done, and peace abide with it; but after all, I am a Mussulman and justice is due to me as well as to another. We are a nation whose warriors have made our name respected throughout the world, and burnt the fathers of the Franks wherever they could find them.

"No, no—we may eat, but we will not digest your insolence.

"The same powerful destiny which has led me step by step through the labyrinth of life will doubtless take me again by the hand, and perhaps at length, safely land me where I shall no longer be vexed.

"You, however, have been eating much abomination. You are in a difficult situation, and there are many who cast the evil eye upon you. Consider this: what well-fed hound ever went among wolves without being torn to pieces?

"Tell the Ingliz that if they will submit to become Mussulmans, and embrace the only true faith, they will immediately be like ourselves, their defilements will be washed clean, and they even may stand a chance of walking in the same storey of the heavens as the genuine children of Islam will in the world to come.

"I have spoken, and you are master to act as you please.

"May Allah keep you in peace and safety!

"Abdul Hamid."

* * * * *

"Newspapers all the world over are run principally for the purpose of making money. This explains the continual recurrence of newspaper war scares. Whilst the various Governments are peacefully arranging whatever trifling differences there may be between them, the newsmongers, ignorant of the real condition of events, to further their own ends, publish mendacious accounts which alarm those who have not the means of ascertaining the actual facts. There is no prospect of an immediate rupture with any European nation in connection with the Armenian difficulty. This is almost to be regretted, for it would be a curious historical circumstance were the Tsar to address a declaration of war against Great Britain from Balmoral!

"This is the keystone of the present situation. There may be much bluffing and much blustering, but there will be no blows. Whoever bluffs the most will obtain the most. Were the armies either of the German Emperor or of the Emperor of Russia to suffer a defeat or two, those sovereigns would speedily be driven from their thrones. In England you are more fortunate. Several serious defeats at the commencement of a campaign would only have the effect of substituting a Radical Ministry for the Conservative Ministry which is at present in power. All know this, from the most powerful Emperor to the least considerable Minister. But, of course, the newspaper men do not know these things, and, moreover, it is profitable to them to create excitement." Almost word for word the

foregoing remarks represent the opinions of one of the most prominent and powerful statesmen of the day.

* * * * *

Many will have read with especial regret the announcement of the death of Lady Vaux of Harrowden. The late Lady Vaux, as Miss Matheson, was a favourite companion of most of the prominent fashionable young men in London in the early and middle 'eighties. Much sympathy is expressed throughout the West End for Lord Vaux, who is now left in charge of three young children, the three co-heiresses to the Barony of Vaux of Harrowden.

* * * * *

Throughout the Diplomatic Service much satisfaction will be caused by the appointment of Mr. Le Marchant Gosselin to be Secretary of Embassy in Paris, to succeed Mr. Henry Howard, who has been promoted to be British Minister at The Hague. Rumours have recently been current to the effect that Mr. Gosselin was anxious to quit the Service, and as he is particularly popular with his colleagues, and is a valuable public servant, it is gratifying to learn that he will not yet retire. Mr. Gosselin will be promoted to the rank of Minister.

* * * * *

It was suggested in these columns last week that the British Government would do well to follow the example of the German Government in appointing several commercial representatives to different European countries. The authorities at the Foreign Office have decided to adopt the suggestion.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A LONG list of transactions on the Cesarewitch appears daily in the papers, but the betting has really been on a comparatively limited scale, one reason for the stagnation being the uncertainty which prevails as to whether Laodamia will start. There have been sinister hints that the mare will be withdrawn unless her owner is able to back her to his satisfaction. If Mr. Fulton has not already got his money on Laodamia, it is perfectly certain that he cannot now do so, and the sooner he recognises this fact the better. It seems, however, to be quite inconceivable that he can have failed to back Laodamia for the Cesarewitch before she ran for the Doncaster Cup, as he must surely have known that her victory in that race (which was so confidently anticipated) must inevitably make her favourite for this handicap. Laodamia has been managed with such provident perseverance that it is unlikely that her owner (being presumably a person of quick apprehension and clear intelligence) would throw away her excellent prospect of winning the Cesarewitch, inasmuch as her turf career is nearly over, and it is absolutely certain that she will never again have such a chance given to her. If Mr. Fulton has not backed Laodamia, he must have been singularly wanting in common-sense when he decided to run her at Doncaster, but in that case he can only make the best of the painful situation and run her for the stake, and for anything which he may be able to get on. It is a mortifying miscarriage of a great handicap coup if this is the position of affairs, but he cannot blame any one except himself. It is a case of he who runs may read with Laodamia after her running at Doncaster, and never has there been a better thing on paper. The doubts as to her Cesarewitch prospects are, of course, calculated to fill Cambridgeshire speculators with anxiety and perplexity. If the mare is withdrawn from the long handicap, will she "go for" the shorter race? If she were scratched to-day for the Cesarewitch she would at once become first favourite for the Cambridgeshire. Should she run for and win the Cesarewitch she will have 9 st. 9 lb. to carry in the Cambridgeshire, and would be meeting Champaubert at 8 lb. more than weight for age and Canterbury Pilgrim would have an advantage with her of 13 lb. On the other hand, supposing Laodamia merely to run well for the Cesarewitch, she would still be a dangerous candidate for the Cambridgeshire.

Count Schomberg is being steadily backed, but I cannot see this horse's chance; and Chit-Chat's prospect does not seem very brilliant after his hollow defeat at Doncaster, where he was perfectly fit. Portmarnock is very much fancied at Newmarket, and he is going well in his gallops, being just suited by the soft ground, but it will be prudent to leave Captain Machell's horse alone until the day of running arrives, as it is just possible that he may not get through his preparation, and the same doubt applies to Oleander and Contract, both of which animals are remarkably well handicapped. T. Jennings is sanguine of winning with Cypria, who, as a three-year-old, ran a deadheat with Red Eyes in 1893. Arlequin, one of the French candidates, has been well backed, and for good money.

Thais is, as nearly as possible, first favourite for the Cambridgeshire, but she certainly will not beat Canterbury Pilgrim at 1 lb., and I do not believe the Prince of Wales's filly can stay the course, for she was "all out" when she won the One Thousand over a shorter distance. Quarrel cantered away with the Caledonian Cup at Ayr last week, a victory which does not involve a penalty in the Cambridgeshire. On the previous day Quarrel was galloped at Newmarket (in the presence of Lord Rosebery) with Sir Visto and Avilion, and he then travelled all night to Ayr (a journey of fifteen hours), so that his race there was a most creditable performance. He is a greatly improved horse. He has been backed for the Cambridgeshire (8 st. 9 lb.) at 20 to 1, but it is quite likely that he will run for the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park (9 st.), and that Avilion will represent Lord Rosebery in the Newmarket race. Champaubert, who literally walked in for the Prix Royal Oak at Longchamps last week (beating all the best of the French three year olds) has been so freely backed for the Cambridgeshire that he is now first favourite, but this horse had much better be left alone for the present, as he has two engagements to fulfil in France before he comes over to Newmarket. He is a grand colt, and he would unquestionably have won the Grand Prix if he had been all right, but he was then suffering from cracked heels. Red Heart is being recommended as the "pick of the handicap," but the fact might be added, in order to prevent eager backers from being misled, that this horse has done no work worth notice for a long time past, and that he certainly will not be fit to run for the Cambridgeshire. It is, indeed, very doubtful whether Red Heart will ever stand a thorough course of training again. Regret is being mentioned in connection with the Cambridgeshire, but I have good reason to believe that the Duke of Westminster will be represented in the race only by Shaddock, who is to be specially prepared for it, and whatever beats him will win, taking a line through Labrador. Regret will be reserved for his various weight-for-age engagements at Newmarket, of which he has five, and he is also in the Liverpool St. Leger of £500, run on November 11. The Duke of Westminster, who is now deer-stalking at Loch More, in Sutherlandshire, will be at Newmarket for the Second October and Houghton Meetings, and his colours will be worth following during the next two months.

Odds were recklessly betted on Paris III. for the Ayrshire Handicap, and Lord William Beresford (who stayed at Eglinton Castle) went down to see the horse run, but he could not move in the heavy ground, and Noah's Ark (who was thrown in) won easily.

Lord Stanley's filly, Birch Rod, is a marvellously improved animal, and, as she is apparently still coming on, she must have a fair chance for the Duke of York Handicap. At Yarmouth Birch Rod won the principal handicap, run over a mile, in a common canter, and she was giving a stone to Welbeck, who was backed in preference to Labrador at Kempton Park in August, when he was meeting the Duke of Westminster's colt on precisely the same terms.

Ghislaine has been amiss, and it is unlikely that she will be able to run for the Duke of York Handicap, for which she is most leniently weighted.

It is probable that Prince Soltykoff will win the Autumn Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,000, which is run at Manchester on Friday, with his dark colt Filliford, by Sheen out of Dorothy Vernon, who is a very good looking and racing-like animal, but he is still backward, as he could not be trained on the hard ground, and was only put into active work after rain had fallen in abundance. If Filliford wins on Friday he will not incur any penalty for the Boscawen Stakes next week.

It has been stated that Victor Wild is not likely to start for the Cesarewitch, because he is being prepared to run for the Prix du Conseil Municipal, the fact being that Mr. Worton's horse is intended to fulfil both engagements. The Prix du Conseil Municipal has hitherto been run on the Sunday before the Cesarewitch, but this year the Newmarket October meetings have all been put back a week, so that there will be an interval of ten days between these two races. The Prix du Conseil Municipal (which is worth £4,000) will be run at Longchamps on Sunday, October 4, while the Cesarewitch is not decided until Wednesday, the 14th. The result of the French race will be eagerly awaited in England, as the running cannot fail to have an important bearing on both the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire, for Victor Wild, Omnium II., and Champaubert, are all to start, and if Mr. Worton's steed wins he would become first favourite for the big handicap at Newmarket, whereas if either of the French horses is successful, betting on the Cambridgeshire would be revolutionised. Here again we see another flagrant example of the muddy-minded folly of not having penalties for winners of weight-for-age stakes.

Twenty-one horses have accepted for the Prince Edward Handicap of £2,000, which is run at Manchester on Saturday, the distance being one mile. King Hampton, who was remarkably well in, has paid forfeit. The distance is too far for Raconteur. I am disposed to fancy that the race will be won by the Duke of Westminster's candidate, which will be either Rampion or Conroy. If the Kingsclere stable is beaten it will probably be by Troon, who has a better chance here than at Kempton Park. The Duke of Portland's horse has been going remarkably well in his gallops of late.

There will be some capital racing at Newmarket next week, and the disappearance from the scene of St. Frusquin and Galeazzo has considerably opened up a number of stakes at the October meetings which had appeared to be absolutely at the mercy of one or other of Mr. L. de Rothschild's colts.

Forty-three three-year-olds are left in for the Great Foal Stakes on Tuesday. £1,000 is nominally added to the race, but all the forfeits go to the fund, so that practically there is very little besides the added money to run for. The conditions of the stake should be revised. Let there be an entrance of £5, to be the only forfeit if declared, with a sweepstakes of £25 each for every horse left in afterwards. The list includes Santa Maura, Coylton, Serfdom, East Sheen, South Australian, Regret, Labrador, Conroy, and Red Ray. The Duke of Westminster's candidate ought certainly to win the race. The three-year-old heat of the Triennial (with £500 added) has thirty left in, and if Santa Maura can raise a gallop she will have no difficulty in winning now that St. Frusquin is out of the race. On Friday the Newmarket St. Leger will be won by either East Sheen or Nouveau Riche, as the best of Sir Horace Farquhar's pair can surely beat Drip. Regret cannot stay the course if the race is run at a fast pace.

Twenty-five four-year-olds are left in for the T.M.M. Triennial, but not more than five of these animals are now in training. Lord Derby will win with Dingle Bay (who is nominated by his breeder, Mr. D. Cooper), as Utica cannot stay the distance, and Marco is more likely to be kept for some handicap.

There are seven subscriptions to the rich Buckenham Post Stakes, which will be worth £1,500 if only three start. Each owner has three representatives, and brings one to the post. The only animal in the lot that has shown any respectable form is Lord Cadogan's Lowly, by Common out of Lonely (which is nominated by Mr. D. Cooper). M. Lebaudy has Rêve d'Amour (she is nominated by her breeder, the Duke of Beaufort), by Petronel out of Rêve d'Or. The Duke of Portland has Brilliana, by Sheen out of Atalanta (dam of Ayrshire and Troon), and Smean, who was at one time believed to be a smart filly. Of the Duke of Westminster's lot, Brooch and Delamere are not considered to be flyers, but Simoon, by St. Simon out of Shotover, had a great reputation early in the season. She went amiss in the summer, but if now all right Simoon ought to have no difficulty in winning this race. Prince Soltykoff may win the Granby Plate with Peacock, who ought to beat Cyrenian at the weights, and he will be in better racing condition than when Galtee More defeated him at Doncaster. The Boscawen Post Stakes of £600 may be left to the Duke of Portland and Prince Soltykoff, who ought to win with Filleford, who should beat either Lady Frivoles or Smean. One of the Duke of Devonshire's pair is the filly by Ayrshire out of Snood, and she will be worth looking after whenever she is slipped for a nursery. Mr. Russel has Riccarton, who is half-brother, by Galliard, to Whittier, but he does not seem to be a flyer. Lord Falmouth has two grandly-bred animals in Simmer, by St. Simon out of Dutch Oven, and a filly by St. Serf out of Jannette. It is strange that these two mares (the pair realised about £8,000 at the late Lord Falmouth's sale) have proved complete failures at the stud. There are thirty-six entries for the Hopeful Stakes, and Lord Durham should win with Hellebore, for I presume that colt can beat Berzak. There are thirty-nine entries for the two-year-old heat of the Triennial, including Pace-Egger, Lady Frivoles, Brigg, and the dark Rapallo. I shall plump for Brigg. The Rous Memorial (£500 added) has forty-one entries, and Goletta is sure to win if she is all right. The Rutland Stakes may be left to Berzak, who can certainly beat Stewarton.

When the final forfeit was declared last January for the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000, twenty-six horses were left in, but half of these animals might just as well have been withdrawn for all the chance they then appeared to possess, and an additional entrance of £52 (making £100 altogether) has to be paid on each animal which was not then struck out. The field next week may include Persimmon (9 st. 7 lb.), Kirkconnel (9 st. 13 lb.), Knight of the Thistle (8 st. 4 lb.), Laveno (9 st. 13 lb.), Bay Ronald (8 st. 1 lb.), Troon (9 st. 10 lb.), Sir Visto (10 st. 2 lb.), and Regret or Labrador (9 st. 1 lb.). Persimmon has not much in hand of Labrador on the Doncaster running, and if the Leger winner has gone off a little (which is exceedingly probable) he will be beaten by the Duke of Westminster's colt. It is probable that Troon will run well, for he is now apparently in much better trim than during the summer, and I expect him to prove the best of the four-year-olds, as Sir Visto performed badly in a trial last week, and he has been doing so little work that he will not be really fit next week, to which it must be added that Lord Rosebery's horse is certainly deficient in speed. The Prince of Wales is expected at Newmarket to see Persimmon run, and long odds will doubtless be betted on the Leger winner; but, all the same, it is very far from being a certainty that he will beat Labrador at 6 lb., or Knight of the Thistle at 17 lb. Mr. McCalmont's colt is now going very well indeed, and he has never been within measurable distance of proper racing condition until the present time. If Knight of the Thistle happened to win the Jockey Club Stakes, he would, of course, come to a very small price for the Cambridgeshire, in which race his weight is 7 st. 4 lb., and whatever he may do next week, I feel convinced that he will be the best of the Bedford Cottage lot for that handicap, and simpletons who have rushed upon Snowy Corrie may have substantial reasons for deploring their rash impetuosity.

A correspondent writes to ask me to take up a question already discussed in a paper exclusively devoted to sport,

and that is the revival of rowing at Westminster School. There is not an oarsman at either University, or on the Thames, who would not welcome a return to the old order. How few are the schools that can send out oarsmen! There is Eton, Radley, and Bedford Grammar School. It is left to the Universities to manufacture the rest out of such material as does not consider itself fitted to get its blue for Rugby or Association football. And every year, at both Universities, this mad craze grows, and the "Fresher" will rather watch the University playing some second-rate metropolitan club than make himself stiff and sore in a college tub. Let there be as many schools as possible at which rowing can be taught, and Westminster should return to her old traditions, and then her alliance with Eton and her right to membership of "Third Trinity" would not be the farce it is at present. How many years is it since an O.W. rowed in the Cambridge boat? It is absurd to believe that what Westminster could do in the past she cannot now do with a little energy and a little effort. Coaches would be needed. If there are no good ones among the masters, there are a number of Old Etonians who would lend a helping hand. While on the subject of school rowing it may be as well to mention that there is another school which in point of numbers and opportunities has unrivalled advantages in the way of rowing. That school is St. Paul's. The numbers of the school are enormous, and there are, to put it at a small estimate, one hundred and fifty boys between sixteen and nineteen. All of them cannot get their colours for cricket and football. The school is not a stone's throw from Biffen's at Hammersmith, and yet it cannot turn out a decent four, let alone an eight. As a scholarship manufactory the school cannot be beaten. But scholarship is not all that is required. In after-life a "blue," in addition to a good degree, is invaluable. The competition for a rowing blue is less keen than in any other branch of sport. Every school sends up its cricketers, footballers, and runners, but a good rowing "Fresher" is treasure trove, and he is bound to come to the fore. It is remarkable, therefore, that the High Master of St. Paul's, in many respects a shrewd business man, has not set his undeniable powers to work at the organisation of school rowing. As an advertisement a rowing blue would not fall far short of a Balliol scholar, and this may influence the authorities at Hammersmith.

Not very long ago a correspondent, who assured me that he was officially connected with the organisation of the Amateur Swimming Association in the North, was very angry because I did not see my way to accept his statement that, of all sports, swimming was the purest. Well, if he is right, I regret that its language is not of the same kind. For has not the Association's idol, who, under the ægis of Mr. Pragnell, was to have bathed in the Ægean Sea and braved the dangers of the Hellespont at the recent Olympic games, been suspended by the Northern branch for using naughty swear words at Nottingham? Now, if the behaviour of such a champion was so bad as to call for suspension, the fact in itself does not reflect great credit on the swimming world. At the same time, it would be unfair to condemn the sport because of such conduct on the part of one man. If, however, the statement made by the champion Tyers is true, then one's contempt for the Association cannot be too clearly expressed. Tyers says that he was not summoned to attend the meeting which considered his alleged misconduct, that he has never had an opportunity of meeting his accusers or rejecting their statements, and, as the pleader says in a slander-suit, he denies that he uttered or spoke the words alleged, and denies that the words alleged bear or are capable of bearing the meaning alleged. Perhaps my correspondent from the Mayfield S.C. can throw some light on the matter, and, as he is always so keen on reform, he might inaugurate a movement to give a defendant a right to be heard in his own defence, even if he is an amateur swimming champion.

Space prevents the Ravensbourne meeting being dealt with this week, but it was assured of success long before it was held. Heartiest congratulations to Green on winning the Championship of London for 150 yards and the Challenge Cup for the third year in succession. The cup thus became his property, and he generously returned it to the Pacific S.C. as a perpetual trophy. But, then, he is a member of the Otters S.C., the members of which in a quiet and sportsmanlike way do more for swimming than all those self-advertising blatant legislators with which swimming abounds. These challenge cups which become the winner's property have proved the curse of swimming, and Mr. Green cannot be too heartily thanked both for his swimming and his unselfish conduct.

Several letters have been sent me on the remarks I made last week as to the A.A.A. and the suggestions made as to cash prizes. With regard to the former, one writer declares that those who paid the suspended athletes have been punished. The only punishment is that Mr. Cooke, of Chelmsford, has been deprived of his position as local officer because some persons paid an athlete's expenses that he might run in that town. He appears to have been made a scapegoat, and on grounds that do not justify the punishment meted out to him. As the official report stated that several leading clubs were implicated, and as all the leading London clubs are either by election or *ex-officio* represented on the committee, it looks as though the judges or some of them might well have been in the dock. At all events, if the Amateur Athletic Association is to command any respect at all it had better give much fuller information than it has hitherto vouchsafed concerning this affair.

As was only to be expected, Bacon, with age greatly in his favour, had a ridiculously easy win in a four-mile race with Anstead. The winner strode home in his favourite style at the finish. The South London Harriers' meeting was spoiled by rain. In the level sprint Woodyatt had all his work cut out to beat Chambers by inches, and in the three-quarter mile race Bennett, of Portsmouth, was an easy winner, Butler being second, and Munro, with no training, third. Bennett has done some good times for the mile, and next year he should pull off the championship.

The lawn tennis season was wound up with two brilliant tournaments at Eastbourne and Brighton. At both places the play in the ladies' singles was very good. Mrs. Hillyard played very strong games against Miss Bidding and Miss Austin, and the latter played up admirably against Miss Cooper, the champion at Brighton, but could not repeat her success of the previous week. At both places Baddeley, the ex-champion, was in admirable form, and showed that his health was the chief cause of failure at Wimbledon. From the interest taken in these tournaments, there is no doubt that the croakers about the decline of tennis are still very much in the wrong.

Already keen interest is being taken in the position of League clubs. Derby County started so badly that it was quite a relief to their supporters to find them scoring freely against Wolverhampton. At the same time, the defence of their backs was anything but good. Everton have been doing great things, so that Aston Villa deserve every credit for beating them at Liverpool. The winner's defence was very good. Sunderland was once a strong team, but this year they are worse than last season, and Sheffield United had an easy win. In the second division Woolwich Arsenal are doing remarkably well. The London Caledonians were too good for Ealing, who need polishing up forward. Their goal-keeper showed considerable promise.

Another Irish grievance. Two Scotchmen, Messrs. Taylor and Anderson, fought out the final of the Irish Golf championship, and for the second year the former won. In a professional tournament there was some close play, and Herd won after very close games with Tingey, Vardon, and Sayers, who lost the match by weakness on the green. The Yorkshire Golf Union held a most successful meeting at Redcar. The team match was won by Wakefield by two strokes from Bradford.

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The excessive nervousness which has recently prevailed is at last passing off, the fact that the Directors of the Bank of England did not consider a further advance in the Bank rate necessary having had a soothing effect. Politics, too, appear to have been played for a great deal more than they are worth, and while a good many weak elements have been shaken out, it is also coming to be recognised that much of the recent fall in prices was due to the manipulations of the ursine party.

An All-Round Rally Due.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that there has been a rally, particularly in those markets in which the worst declines took place, viz., in Consols and Home Rails. The Mining department has not yet shaken itself free from the weakening influences, but both in the Kaffir Circus and in West Australians the intrinsic position is so favourable that a recovery must come about as soon as the public realise that they have been very injudiciously playing into the hands of the "Bears." They are already discovering this with reference to Home Rails, in which the recent relapse was altogether exaggerated. It is true that stock has come on the market which had been held with borrowed money, for the purpose of skinning the difference in the interest; but investors are commencing to absorb this at the lower level reached. In some instances, moreover, yields of nearly 4 per cent. are obtainable in Home Rails, such as Brighton "A" and "Coras," at present prices, and it is obvious that even a further rise in the Bank rate ought not to interfere with the value of such securities. It is different with Consols and with the other high-class investment stocks, which had attained an altogether impossible level. My readers will remember how reluctant I have been for some time to encourage them in placing their money in Colonial Government stocks, Home Corporation stocks, Prior Charges of Home Railways, and debentures of Industrial Companies, and how I have advised them to rather leave their money unemployed than to risk a considerable fall in capital value. It now transpires that many of these securities had also been run on borrowed money, so as to obtain the excess over the interest on the loan in the yield in dividends. There has been a very considerable shake-out in such stocks ever since the Bank rate was put up, and it is quite possible that the reaction which has taken place will make further progress. But this is no reason for a decline in the more speculative securities, the yield of which, although not quite so safe, is large enough not to be affected by even a further turn of the screw in the Money Market. On the contrary, as I have already stated, I consider that prices of the high-class investments should approach more closely to the hitherto neglected second and third-class stocks, and a fresh drop in the former might very easily coincide with a rise in the latter. It is difficult to predict the future course of Consols. The higher value of money ought to put them down, but the ever-recurring demand for the Sinking Fund and the Savings' Bank is a steadying influence. On the other hand, directly the political situation looks threatening operators still fly to the expedient of selling Consols as a hedge. In this way it is believed that a considerable "Bear" account has been accumulated, and, if monetary and political developments do not grow worse, the "Bears" of Consols will probably have a bad quarter of an hour at the end of September account. Be this how it may, it is hardly fair that Consols should altogether lead the other markets, as they are subject to influences which have not the same bearing upon other securities. I do not believe that the British Government will precipitate a European war in connection with Turkey, whatever measures may be necessary to modify the position in Constantinople, and as far as the recent reaction in the stock markets has been due to this apprehension, it must be considered as groundless. The American department has displayed great steadiness, owing to an improvement in the political situation in the States, and to the large shipments of gold which have been made from Europe. More of the precious metal will doubtless be required for the same destination, and a further rise in the Bank rate is not improbable, as the Directors of the Bank of England do not make the present rate effective. The strain has, however, been somewhat relaxed by the action of the Bank of France in allowing half a million of gold to be withdrawn for New York.

A Recovery in Home Rails.

A further fall in Home Rails on forced sales in connection with the mid-September settlement, and which was aggravated by heavy "Bear" selling, has been followed by a moderate recovery. How far the latter will continue must depend upon the future course of the Money Market, and upon Eastern politics. A reassuring point is undoubtedly the resumption of investment purchases, some of the pawned stock which has recently been thrown overboard having been picked up by small capitalists. Even the Heavies are from one to two points above the lowest. In their case, however, the yield even at present price does not exceed from $3\frac{3}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and this is not much of a margin should the Bank rate have to be further advanced. The more speculative stocks, on the other hand, ought not to be disturbed, even if the official minimum had to be raised to 3 per cent., for not only is it possible to obtain something like £3. 19s. per cent. in Brighton "A" and in Coras (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary), but future prospects of many of the lines, including the two just referred to, are in favour of still higher dividends. I am not surprised that South Western Deferred should have dropped, as their yield even now is only $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., while the Ordinary hardly give $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. The South Eastern Company is doing so well that the dividend on Dover "A" for the current half-year will doubtless show a considerable increase upon the corresponding half of 1895, so that the yield, which is at present only about 3 per cent., should become materially larger. This is, therefore, one of the best speculative purchases in this department. Next in order I place Caledonian Deferred and North British Deferred. Both lines are making great progress, and the recent reaction has put the stocks on a very moderate level. Metropolitan Districts have been the most active market in this department. They touched $33\frac{1}{4}$, and have reacted to $32\frac{1}{2}$; but strong financiers are at the back of the upward movement, and not only has a very large take-up occurred last settlement, but I hear that a great deal more stock will be lifted at the end of this account, and I have reason in every way to confirm the important statement which I was able to make last week. The great possibilities of the deep level scheme are also gradually being realised on the Stock Exchange, and we are apparently on the eve of a further important rise.

A Steady Yankee Market.

Yankee Rails have been steadier during the past week than for a long time, and they have been all the better for the absence of the violent fluctuations which so often characterise this department. The financial position in the United States has improved considerably, on continued large gold shipments both from London and Paris, and the movement is likely to continue in view of the very large excess of American exports of produce over imports. Cable advices, for instance, state that all the room on the regular ocean liners has been engaged for grain shipments until December, while the steamers running from Boston are full up until January. Although the New York Bank statement shows but a moderate improvement, the change has been in the right direction, and the Banks will be further strengthened by the large sums in gold now on the way. Another favourable development has been the end of the Southern rate war, and it is now announced that rates will

be restored by all the Roads on September 28. The Republican victory at the Maine State Elections appears to have been very sweeping, and has given fresh encouragement to those in favour of the gold "plank." The decision of Maine is distinctly important, as it represents that of a State possessing large and diverse interests in the marine, agricultural, lumber, and manufacturing trades. The issue of the Presidential campaign is, of course, not yet assured, but events appear to be making for a considerable Republican victory. With gold from abroad pouring in by the million; with cotton, corn, wheat, and other produce going to Europe in such quantities as to tax to the utmost the capacity of the Atlantic ports; and with the importation of merchandise falling off heavily, the "Bears" in Wall-street are certainly robbed of the material with which to engineer a campaign. On this side a good deal of public interest is beginning to be taken, and it is also currently reported that Addison Cammack, the great "Bear" leader, while ostentatiously selling in New York, has been quietly picking up large blocks of stock on this side. Milwaukee have been a very steady market, being quoted at about 73⅜, which is nearly the top price recently touched. Amongst other representative stocks, Louisville at 42⅜, and Denver Prefs. at 43⅜, are also but a dollar or so below the highest recent points. The end of the rate war should benefit Louisville considerably, and their quotation is kept down here chiefly by the very strong exertions of a big jobber, who is, however, increasing his "Bear" interest to such an extent that he may at any time be subjected to a squeeze. The very light rate on Louisville at the last settlement indicated considerable scarcity of stock, and the "Bear" position has since further increased. A good many of the low-priced stocks continue to be locked up by capitalists in the hope of a large profit to be realised after the Presidential elections, and in view of the very moderate range of prices there does not appear to be much risk in this policy. From New York a steadily growing interest in the market for American Railroad bonds is also reported. The bonds of the railroads which have passed unscathed through the last few years of depression are certainly good value at the present low level, and the properties already reorganised, or now undergoing rehabilitation, present many opportunities for satisfactory employment of capital; always providing, of course, that the Presidential Election in November will go the right way. Canadian Pacifics, after a reaction, have been put up again to close upon 60 by large German purchases; but Grand Trunks have been dull and inactive.

Foreigners and South Americans.

Considering the sharp spasms which have taken place in Home securities, partly on the fear of trouble in the East, the Continental Bourses have kept up very well; and foreign bonds, such as Italians, Spanish, and others of that ilk, have been remarkably steady. Even Turks are rallying again. In fact, the more sober-minded do not anticipate that the British Government will enter upon a course of adventures which, however chivalrous, would bring it into collision with the other great Powers. The journey of the Czar, moreover, continues to have a reassuring effect. Argentine Government stocks have reacted in consequence of a fresh rise in the gold premium in Buenos Ayres, and a very disagreeable impression has also been created by the inaction of the Argentine Government with reference to the City of Buenos Ayres Loan of 1888. In 1893 an "ad referendum" agreement, arranging for the obligations of the Banca Nacional, which had guaranteed the payment of the interest and principal of this loan, was signed, which was approved in May, 1894, and the "Procurador" reported to the Minister of Finance in March, 1895, that there was nothing in point of law and competence opposed to the sanction and approval of the scheme. Notwithstanding the promises made by various successive Ministers, the sanction of the Government was finally refused in January, 1896, and subsequent representations made to the Government have led to no result. It seems to be quite time that the Argentine Government should deal with this matter, especially as Dr. Romero (the Minister of Finance), in communications which he made in August, 1895, admitted the duty of the Government to conclude an arrangement for satisfying the bondholders' claims. Argentina will never be able to rehabilitate her credit if she does not see justice done in this instance. Brazilians have given way, and Uruguay bonds are also easier, although the remittances for the service of the debt continue to be made with great regularity. Mexican Sixes have been firm, and Peruvian Corporation stocks are hardly changed. Amongst the so-called rubbish stocks of the various South and Central American Republics, Honduras are easier at 5¼. That defaulting Republic, Costa Rica, has not yet made any effort to come to an arrangement with the bondholders.

The Kaffir Circus still in Suspense.

Any stick will do to flog a dog with, and when the surroundings are dark, and the public nervous, any false or unauthorised rumours will do the work of the "Bears," who have been very active of late in the Mining Market. An enterprising Pretoria correspondent sent the report that judgment had been delivered in favour of the African Gold Recovery Company in the well-known Cyanide patent suit in the Transvaal. This rumour, coming upon a market already weakened by previous unfavourable developments, had an appreciable effect, especially as it was accompanied by exaggerated estimates of the annual charge which would be entailed on the mining industry on the Rand by the royalties. Subsequent advices showed the whole of this to have been a myth, as the High Court of the Transvaal is not sitting and will not do so until October. Even if the Cyanide patent should be sustained in the Transvaal, the royalties would not exceed £100,000 per annum, an amount which would not make any great difference to the Witwatersrand mines. Another "Bear" trick was the publication of a long letter in the *Times* making an attack on the Barnato Bank. There was hardly anything new in all that was stated in this, and what was new was quite unimportant. Yet the strictures passed sufficed to knock down the price of Johnnies temporarily to 3 9/16, from which they recovered sharply to 3¾. The occurrence emphasises the remarks which I made last week as to the desirability of Mr. B. I. Barnato making a public statement with reference to the amalgamation of the Barnato Bank and other properties with the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Corporation, and to generally impart to the shareholders in his various Companies the information which he has been able to gather during his recent visit to South Africa. The only other doubtful point which remains is the fate of the proposed Sunday Closing Bill in the Transvaal, to which I have already referred. It is to be hoped that the rumours which are current, that it will be withdrawn, are well founded. As far as can be gathered the mining industry on the Rand is progressing very favourably, and further record crushings are expected for September. It is true that peace has not yet been concluded in Matabeleland, and after all the talk of a settlement with the chiefs in the Matoppo Hills, we now hear of a fresh ultimatum having been given to these threatening the resumption of hostilities in ten days. It is not surprising that under these circumstances Chartered shares should be flat; but affairs in Rhodesia have no direct bearing upon the Transvaal mines, which ought to shake themselves free from this influence. That Deep Level mines should still show weakness in view of the Geldenhuis Deep disappointment I can understand; but all the sound outcrop mines on the Witwatersrand mines are a good purchase, and so are the other substantial Transvaal mining and land shares. In fact, purchases at present quotations of the various shares mentioned by me a fortnight ago promise excellent results, whether they belong to the Barnato, Robinson, or other groups. Randfontein are recovering from the temporary depression, which was apparently due chiefly to a "Bear" attack, and the

Champagne.—Périn et & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

news from the various sub-Companies is certainly promising. Some very favourable developments on the Randfontein have just been announced, and the progress made, as well as the new discoveries, are so important that I herewith give the cable advices just issued by the Company *in extenso* :—

The Randfontein Reef has been struck throughout the whole length of Block B, the assays averaging 4 oz. 15 dwt. per ton. On Blocks C and D the reef is also being opened up, and has been traced as far as Block G. Porges Randfontein—The mill has just been restarted with forty stamps to set the plates, and on October 1 the full number of sixty stamps will be running. North Randfontein—This Company will commence crushing with sixty stamps about the end of October. Robinson Randfontein—The machinery is in course of erection. The reef has been well developed, and by the time the mill is ready to start there will be several levels opened up, and ready for stoping the full length of the Company's property—about 3,000 ft. The reef assays very high on this property. Block A Randfontein—The reef is being developed, and levels are being opened up throughout this property, which adjoins that of the Robinson-Randfontein Gold Mining Company, Limited. The assays average 4 oz. per ton, taken from forty-one samples. Mynpacht Randfontein—A shaft has been sunk on this Company's property, and drives are being made on the reef.

Woodstock (Transvaal) should also be bought. It is stated that the African Gold Properties will do well out of their investment in Landau's Colliery. The coal is said to be of an exceptionally good quality. The African Gold Properties is also largely interested in the Randt Gold Mining Company. Assays from the stone from the deepest level of this mine have given good results. A fair amount of business has taken place in Barberton Consolidated at from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$; and notwithstanding the general dulness, Transvaal Exploring have maintained themselves at 1. East Rands, Rand Mines, and Consolidated Goldfields, which I have repeatedly characterised as dangerous gambling counters, have again touched lower prices. Efforts are being made to explain away the unfavourable result of the August crushing of the Geldenhuis Deep, and the increase in expenditure is attributed to extra work underground by the preparations for running more stamps. But there is only to much reason to fear that this extra expense will continue, and the statement made in the cablegram that the cyanide precipitation is unsatisfactory is certainly not a "Bull" point, as it shows a difficulty of treatment not generally met with in the outcrop mines on the Randt. It is somewhat surprising that the Directors of Knights have not yet announced that the 30 stamps have actually begun working, and it would be desirable that some statement should now be made on this point, as the battery was to have commenced crushing in July last. It will be remembered that a further 60 stamps are to start on January 1 next. As development has been carried out on a large scale, this mine should not only increase the monthly output of the Rand, but also yield excellent returns to the shareholders. The shares are now quoted at $6\frac{7}{8}$-7, and are gradually recovering from the recent decline. Amongst other mines which will in future add to the output of the Transvaal is the New Heidelburg-Roodepoort Company, one of the Barnato mines, crushings on which are expected to commence at no distant date. I am not surprised that the London and Orange Free State Exploration Company should have declared a dividend of only 10 per cent., as far too sanguine hopes have been entertained with regard to this concern. I have to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the "Annuaire Français des Mines d'Or," which is the first mining manual published in the French language. It is compiled by Mr. Charles K. Westcott, of 12, Chaussée d'Antin, Paris, and should be a very useful *vade mecum* for our French neighbours. Diamond shares, too, have displayed dulness, although a moderate recovery was marked at one time. De Beers stand at $29\frac{3}{4}$, New Jagersfontein $9\frac{15}{16}$, Consolidated Leicester Diamonds $1\frac{15}{16}$, New Bulfontein $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Golden West Australia.

In the West Australian market it is also noticeable that comparatively insignificant events or rumours take an exaggerated effect, especially as strong efforts continue to be made by the ursine party to depress quotations. The circular of the Directors of the True Blue Gold Mine is certainly disappointing; but these shares had been put to an artificial premium altogether unjustified by prospects, and they were only "prospects." I have never recommended the purchase of these shares, as they appeared to me inflated, the stage which development had reached being altogether inadequate. In ordinary times such a solitary disappointment would not have had any effect, and even now there is no reason why this should unfavourably affect quotations of other groups which are doing well. Again, another batch of satisfactory crushings has come to hand, as will be seen from the following statement :—

	Tons of ore crushed.	Ounces of gold.	Assay of tailings per ton.
Ejudina	48	113	—
Great Boulder	668	2,338	—
Hannan's North	30	55	—
Hannan's Brownhill	214	836	34 dwt.
Mainland Consols	359	1,407	9 ,,
Mount Jackson...	135	150	—
Cue One...	270	309	—
Great Boulder Main Reef ...	205	444	—

The Mainland Consols crushing, more especially, was distinctly favourable, and ought to have created a stronger effect. It cannot be said that the small crushing of the Ejudina is satisfactory, after all the glowing statements which had been made in the early history of this mine. A most important cablegram was published in the *Financial News* of Friday last, giving the substance of an interview which the representative of that journal had at Perth with Mr. Charles Kaufman, the Consulting Engineer of the Whitaker Wright group. The statement which Mr. Kaufman, who is known as a very careful expert, made with regard to the Lake View Consols was more particularly encouraging. I may as well give the actual wording of his remarks :—

> We are developing the Lake View Consols in a most thorough and comprehensive way, and its possibilities are so great that I hardly like to put it into words; you might think I was romancing. But you have seen the telegrams I recently sent my Directors in England, which have been republished here. There is not a word in them I wish to qualify or take back. The mine is a wonder.

In another portion of the interview Mr. Kaufman distinctly reiterated his statement that the Lake View Consols was the queen of the Coolgardie goldfield. His statements, in fact, only applied to the Coolgardie goldfield, more especially to Hannan's, the White Feather, and the Broad Arrow, with regard to which he stated that they showed all the earmarks of permanence and success. He mentioned more especially the eight mines of the Whitaker Wright group, viz., the Mainland Consols (Murchison), the Golden Crown (White Feather), which will be the next to crush, and Paddington Consols (Broad Arrow), the next in line. At Hannan's he mentioned the Golden Treasure and Golden Group, concerning which I have already furnished particulars which show them to be exceedingly promising mines. Mr. Kaufman casually referred to the Wealth of Nations and Wealth of Nations Extended, on both of which he is, as I have already stated, constructing dams for the conservation of water. With regard to the cyanide process, Mr. Kaufman considered that it was indispensable, and that he looked upon the tailings of the slimes lying at the Lake View Consols, Great Boulder, and other mines as a very valuable asset. So far, this most encouraging report has had no special effect upon the market; but I have very little doubt that prices will eventually respond to the very promising position, and that the West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance Companies (the parents of Mr. Kaufman's group) will greatly appreciate in the near future. Another group which has been to the fore during the past week is that of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation. The interim report which has just been issued discloses a very satisfactory financial position, as shown by the fact that after two interim quarterly dividends at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum have already been paid, and provision

made for a large reserve fund and for the claims of the Founders' shares, a third quarterly dividend at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum is declared. The report also furnishes particulars of the large interest held by the Trust in the Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia. The Northern Territories Syndicate, Limited, in which the West Australian Joint Stock Trust has the largest share, has recently handed over to the Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia, Limited, six extensive groups of mines, from which, according to the report, during the last four years about a quarter of a million's worth of gold has been obtained by Chinese labour alone, with certain plant, machinery, and upwards of 25,000 tons of tailings. The report also deals with the position of the Associated Group of mines, with its properties in the Burbanks district, the Nil Desperandum mine, and a large group of mines in close proximity to the Mount Jackson mine, in which the trust holds an interest; and from all I can learn I anticipate a further advance in West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares, which are now quoted $4\frac{1}{8}$ premium. The West Australian Goldfields group has not so far braced up yet, and several of its shares have been the butt of "Bear" attacks. This has been specially the case with Hampton Plains, which have been sold down to 4, but have recovered to $4\frac{1}{4}$ on the publication of the Directors' report, which is very satisfactory. The accounts show a cash debit of £10,292; but on the other hand a credit share balance of £327,000, taking all the shares held at "par." A good many of these shares have been sold since March 31 last, to which the accounts are made up, so that there is also a much larger cash balance now. The Directors propose, as this is a Land Company, instead of paying a dividend, to repay 4s. per share on capital account—a very handsome distribution. The Company still holds 139,463 acres of most valuable land, and its possibilities are so great that an important rise is fully justified. West Australian Goldfields are lower at $7\frac{7}{8}$. With reference to the W.A. Venture Syndicate group, I am told that the accounts have arrived from the Colony, and show very satisfactory returns. This group, it will be remembered, is also interested in the Northern Territories scheme. The ursine party have also attacked West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation shares, which are lower at $1\frac{5}{8}$, while the Founders' shares have improved to 90; but I should not be surprised if the "Bears" were badly caught in these one of these days, especially as the reports with reference to the Company's present business and its Ore Atomic reduction process are very satisfactory. King of the West shares, during the recent depression in the Westralian market, have been exceptionally strong. This proves that the shares are well held, and that holders do not lose sight of the fact that the Company owns a large and well-developed property, with an exceptionally low capitalisation, in which a particularly large margin of working capital has been reserved. A Company on much the same basis, and dealing with a property in the Burbanks district, will shortly be offered for subscription under the title of "Burbanks Main Lode." The shares in the Great Reef Company and the Webster's Find are steady at 10s. An exceptionally good report is to hand from the Manager of Sherlaw's Gold Mine, which says: "Lease No. 190, where we struck the rich ore, is looking well. We are now about 12 ft. into this rich lode, 6 ft. wide, and the grade is, if anything, higher than when we first struck it. My samples—eleven in all—average 43 oz. fine gold and 57 oz. silver to the ton." A cablegram has been received from the Talisman Gold Mines, according to which the machinery was started on the 16th inst., and everything was working well. Hannan's King (Brownhill) have been firm at $1\frac{5}{8}$, with an active demand. Latest advices are to the effect that Mr. A. G. Burge has been specially appointed by the Board to take charge of the Company's property. A sample taken from the hard red clay met with in No. 2 shaft gave an assay of 3 per cent. in gold, which if confirmed would be extraordinarily rich. This mine is described by experts as one of the best in the district, and is believed to have both the Brownhill and Iron King reefs. Burbank's Birthday Gift have been steady throughout the surrounding weakness, and are quoted at $2\frac{5}{16}$, while Burbank's North stand at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. I hear that Mr. Burbanks has arrived in London, and will shortly make a statement on the mines with which he is more particularly connected. Gladiators have been firm at from 1 to $1\frac{1}{8}$. The last cablegram from Professor Nicholas states that the main shaft is now down 200 ft., and that the ground at the bottom of the shaft is becoming harder and darker, evidently closer to water level. I am told that amongst new West Australian Mining Companies will be the Champion Extended and Home Rule Gold Mines, Limited. This Company will acquire six gold-mining leases in the Nannine district, Murchison, Western Australia, altogether about ninety acres. As several of these adjoin the celebrated Champion Reef (Nannine property), and a considerable amount of development work has been carried out, this would appear to be a promising undertaking. From a West Australian source I learn that a rig of the Boulder Half-Mile South was attempted by means of the incorrect statement that the Great Boulder Lode had been met with in this property. The rumour so spread, however, proved false, and only shows how unscrupulous some people are. Fortunately, this is not a mine the shares in which are dealt in on this side. People have therefore not been caught in it as in the True Blue, for which, I repeat, I have fortunately never had a good word to say.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Under different surroundings the Indian section would probably have displayed a good deal of strength, and as it is, there have not been absent some favourable movements—Mysore Wynaad, for instance, improving, while Goldfields of Mysore are firm at 24s. On the other hand, Ooregum, Mysore Reefs, Nundydroog, and Coromandel are all easier. In Australian shares other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have been easier at $2\frac{11}{16}$, although the mine continues to do exceedingly well. Amongst Charters Towers mines, Mill's Day Dawn United and New Queen have advanced; but Day Dawn Block and Bonnie Dundee are down. A fall of $\frac{1}{2}$ in Mount Lyell is a development at which I am not surprised. Croydon Mines have been in favour on the wonderful results obtained by the Croydon Consols, the shares in which (5s. each, 4s. 6d. paid) have risen to 8s. 6d. In view of the excellent news from this mine, the shares of North Croydon Consols (which adjoins this property) have come into demand at 2s. 6d., and are likely to double their price. These are shares of 5s. each, with 4s. paid, and the capital is only £36,000. The property of the North Croydon Consols is called the "10 North Golden Gate," while that of the Croydon Consols (which immediately adjoins it) is the "8 North Golden Gate." There are two shafts, one being 128 ft. deep vertically to the reef, and thence some 90 ft. following down the lode on its underline. The other shaft is about 130 ft. deep, and has about another 70 ft. to go to intercept the reef on the line of the rich chutes of gold of the Croydon Consols. Should these chutes be obtained on the North Croydon Consols, these shares will doubtless take a jump. In the meantime, in the course of the development some 337 tons have recently been crushed for 463 oz. of gold. Other neighbouring mines are doing well. Thus the "8 West Golden Gate" has crushed 500 tons for 1,503 oz. of gold, and the "7 North Golden Gate" has crushed 721 tons for 1,776 oz. of gold taken from the reef 230 ft. deeper than where the Croydon Consols is working. New Zealand mines have shown dulness, under the lead of Taitapu, which have executed a further downward movement, in which they were accompanied by Waihi, Waihi Silverton, Waitekauri, Woodstock, &c. In the general foreign section dealings have been on a small scale, and Linares, Columbian Hydraulic, Pestarena, and La Yesca are lower, but De Lamar, Frontino and Bolivia

Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
Ernest Irroy & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

and St. John del Rey have improved. Grand Central (Mexico), after reacting to 2½ on realisations, are firmer at 2⅝ on the announcement that 130,000 dols. gold was produced from 3,125 tons of ore. The business of the Mines and Banking Corporation is quietly extending, and is stated to be of a good character. Strong efforts are being made in certain quarters to puff the San Miguel Silver Mines of Bolivia, and it is apparently proposed to introduce these shares on the London market. This is one of the instances in which operators and investors should most carefully inquire into the position of the property before embarking their money into it, as very often exhausted mines are thus temporarily galvanised into life again.

IN THE HAVEN OF LIQUIDATION.

A correspondent sends me a long letter complaining that, having invested some years ago in the Madras Presidency Goldfields, Limited, which was to work for diamonds in the Anantapur district of the Madras Presidency, he has never been able to obtain any further information about the concern since it went into liquidation in 1890 or 1891. The mine was closed and the plant sold, and the shareholders have never had any sort of statement of affairs, although it was generally supposed at the time that all the paid-up capital had not been spent, and that a small sum would be returned to the shareholders. Letters addressed to the Secretary in London were never replied to, and although this gentleman was appointed liquidator, my correspondent states that his last letter came back through the Dead Letter Office, with the statement that "the addressee had gone and no address was known." Subsequent inquiries resulted in the discovery that he had cleared off to the Colonies some three years ago, and that nothing was known as to how the affairs of the Company were wound up. My correspondent asks whether the above position of affairs is in harmony with British law, and whether a Limited Liability Company can be wound up in this hole-and-corner fashion without the shareholders being fully informed. Unfortunately, it happens only too often that a Limited Company, and especially a Mining Company, enters the haven of liquidation without ever being heard of again by the shareholders. A case in point, for instance, is the unfortunate Ida Gold Mining Company, which went into liquidation in 1893. It is true that a meeting was held in July, 1895, at which the liquidator, Mr. Harrison Smith (who had also been the Secretary) explained to the indignant shareholders that a return would probably be made to the shareholders of a small amount per share, although previously the hope of a considerable sum being returned was held out. Now more than a year has passed, and Mr. Harrison Smith, the liquidator, has made no sign. It seems to me that he ought to at least inform the shareholders, who were induced to put their money into this greatly mismanaged concern, of the result of the liquidation. It is really monstrous that such things can be allowed to go on by English law, and that in many cases in which the Directors succeed in quietly landing a mine in liquidation, nothing should ever again be heard of the concern, however discreditable had been its surroundings.

NEW ISSUES AND ENTERPRISES.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week :—

The Desirable Proprietary Gold Mines (W.A.), Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring seventeen mining leases situate near Lake Cowan, in the Norseman District, Western Australia, and ten acres of water site on Lake Cowan. The capital is fixed at £250,000 in shares of £1 each.

The extent of the property acquired by this Company is 84 acres, and the development that has already been done goes to prove that the reef runs through the whole length of the block, and varies from 2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. 6 in. in width. A 10-head battery is now at work, and additional steam power and machinery capable of working twenty more head of stamp have been erected, while water supply is ample. The first bulk crushings resulted in 686 oz. of gold being obtained from 317 tons. This venture promises well.

The London and Colonial Exploration and Finance Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of conducting the business usually carried on by an Exploration and Agency Company in all its branches in Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere, and transacting a general financial business. The capital is fixed at £150,000 in shares of £1 each. The present issue is of 100,000 shares.

MY LETTER BOX.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

GOVERNMENT, &C., BONDS.

N. F.—Yes, the new Uruguay loan is a satisfactory investment, yielding upwards of 7 per cent.

BANKS, TRUSTS, AND FINANCIAL.

J. S. C.—You ought to have withdrawn your application before you received an allotment, and I doubt if you can withdraw now; but, as requested, I forward the name of a firm of smart City solicitors in your envelope. *S. Q.*—I am strongly of opinion that it would be well to wait for some little time before re-investing the £9,300 in question, as the rising tendency of the Money Market may reduce the prices of some of the high-class investment stocks. *Mona.*—I am still of opinion, as expressed in previous letters, that it would be advisable for those who desire to invest in gilt-edged stocks to wait now, as the rise in the Money Market may eventually afford them an opportunity of obtaining such securities cheaper. *W. G., Settle.*—The inquiries which you say you enclose in your letter have not reached me. *Querist.*—I have been unable to discover what you mean by your remark; but even so high an authority as the one mentioned would not alter my opinion. *W. C. LL.*—Have nothing to do with this outside concern. *Newnham.*—The name of a respectable City firm of solicitors has been forwarded in your envelope as requested. *Sailor.*—I can only say to you as to others, that the present is a period of transition in high-class stocks, and trustees would do well to wait before investing at the present high level.

HOME RAILS.

Liverpudlian.—You should certainly hold your Scotch stocks and Dover "A." *Flageolet.*—Great Eastern are a fair investment; but I prefer Dover "A," which are more progressive, and yield a higher rate of interest.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN RAILS.

L. B.—I do not recommend Turkish investments of any kind (Nos. 1 and 2); but the Indian Debentures (3) are a good investment. *Gorrachie.*—I strongly advise you to keep your American bonds, Nos 1 to 6. Matters in the States are now improving, and even the Ordinary stocks have advanced considerably in price. *G. H. S., Manchester.*—How can I possibly tell you the result of the Presidential elections, which will take place in November next? Any one being fully assured of that would be able to make millions. Hold your Missouri, Kansas, and Texas; and if you wish to have a flutter in the better-class stocks, Louisville, Milwaukee, and Atchison Prefs. would be preferable. *A. A. 1, J. J. C., Santa Fé.*—As all the other Argentine lines are doing well, I should think that this railway will also fall into line. I certainly advise keeping the bonds. *H. F., Thirsk.*—It is quite impossible to trace articles in back numbers, such as you require. You ought to have filed your TRUTHS, in which case you would have had the information at hand. *V. C.*—I should say that it would be advisable to support the scheme.

MINING SHARES.

W. W. W.—Your mining shares Nos. 1 to 26 are a somewhat mixed lot; but this is not the time to sell, least of all South Africans. Hold for a rise, and another advance in Burbank's Birthday Gift is also expected. *D. H. H. W.*—A Committee of Shareholders has been appointed, and the old Directors turned out. This is all I can tell you, and you should write to the Committee of Shareholders. *Nicholas.*—1. Yes; you might as well clear your profit and reinvest in Golden Treasure and Golden Group. Transvaal Exploring are also promising. 2. There is no distinction. 3. Yes, fully-paid. *Nemo, Accrington.*—I think you can make a better investment than that in Nos. 1 to 4, by investing in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Kent Coast.*—The Kalgoorlie mine is supposed to be a promising undertaking, and I should not advise you to sell now. *Jewells.*—Why did you buy these South African shares? The concern is a very doubtful one, but I suppose it would be preferable to wait for the chance of a recovery. *L. E.*—Block B should be held for a recovery. *Lubricant.*—I do not think much of Bechuanaland Exploration, but think you had better hold now until the market recovers again. *Burian.*—With such low-priced shares I should not like to take the responsibility of advising you; they may or may not turn out all right.

I still think favourably of London-Continental Investment. I prefer Transvaal Exploring to the other shares. *Carousal.*—There is no option but to hold Nos. 1 to 10, as a recovery is quite on the cards. When that comes about you should at once sell out of Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, which are too highly speculative. *H. W., Leeds.*—1. A fair mining risk, but no catch. 2. Certainly hold Randfontein and buy more to average, if you can afford to take the shares up. *Parl.*—Burbank's Birthday Gift (1) is a good investment; but I do not particularly care for No. 1. *H. N., Manchester.*—1. The date of the meeting has not yet been fixed; I have repeatedly expressed a very favourable opinion of London and Globe Finance. 2. This does not apply in every case. 3. On the contrary, the news is very satisfactory. 4. Apparently not. Mr. Barnato ought really now, as I have urged in last week's issue, to make some general statement. *C. W. H.*—No particular reason for selling Nos. 1 to 5; but you might have got a higher price for No. 1, and generally you should keep to the golden rule "to clear good profits when you can do so." *Pontefrax.*—1. No fresh news is available. 2. Impossible to tell. 3. Certainly hold. *Sigma.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 to 3 on the chance of a recovery. *R. M. C.*—You should certainly hold Langlaagte Star for an improvement. The small decrease in the crushing for August was due to short supply of coal, which is now being remedied. *Rastus.*—I cannot advise you on this matter. A Committee of Shareholders has been appointed, and you should communicate with them. *Gold.*—I am glad to hear that you have done very well recently by following my advice. You should hold your shares Nos. 1 to 9 for an improvement; this is not the time to sell. *Constant Reader, Bradford.*—I do not care much for Apex. *Captain.*—No. 1 is a fair mining risk, and Nos. 2 and 3 should recover again. *Dingle.*—It is useless to ask such questions. Certainly when Chartered go higher you should sell out; but you must know my views of these shares. You might hold the others for a recovery, which is probable. *Pretoria.*—This is not a mine which I care about, neither is this the time to sell. You should await an improvement in the South African market, when these shares will probably rally again. I cannot reply by letter. *Abercorn (J. E. R.).*—I do not see how I can help you any further in the matter of the Abercorn Reefs. The shareholders should combine to appoint a committee to inquire into the matter. *Trilby.*—There is still a possibility of this mine coming right. *Barney.*—A fair mining risk, but no catch; I prefer Mysore Gold Reefs. *Meirion.*—There is no occasion to re-purchase these shares, but be satisfied with your nice little profit, and buy, as you propose, Golden Treasure and Golden Group instead. *Shahjehan.*—1. I am not so sure that such a high price will be reached, but the mine is certainly a most substantial one. 2. A good property. 3. Randfontein Estates should certainly be held. *Avondale.*—It is impossible to fix a figure at which to sell Chartered shares; no doubt there will be a fresh rig made, when you should take the opportunity to get out. Keep Nos. 1 to 6 for a recovery, which is probable. *Mariner.*—1. A fair mining risk. I do not like North Queensland Mines Agency. Write again to the Secretary for full information, which he is bound to give you. *Enquirer, Warwickshire.*—There is no option but to hold these Matabele shares until the market rallies again; do not sell in the present weak state of affairs. *Lowlander.*—No option but to hold after the heavy fall. *N. H., Whitehall Gardens.*—Many thanks for your long letter. I have no hostility to the Lisbon Berlyn, and hope that the Company will get out of its trouble; but you must admit that events have proved me right in advising people not to put their money into this concern. *Lindina.*—1. Yes; you should hold Burbank's Birthday Gift. 2. No. 3. Yes; Burbank's North and Burbank's Consols are a good purchase, and so are Gladiators. 4. Clear your profit and buy North Croydon Consols. See remarks under "Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines." 5. Yes. 6. Yes. *Novice.*—Yes; I mean that Hannan's Golden Treasure bid fair to turn out a second Lake View "Consols." The capital of Lake View Consols is £300,000. *Culdee.*—1. You should buy North Croydon Consols instead, which are only at 2s. 6d. Other low-priced shares like Nos. 2 and 3 I do not care for. Yes, Hannan's Golden Treasure (4) and Golden Group are a good purchase. You cannot go far wrong in Nos. 6-8. I do not care so much for No 9. Goldfields of Mysore (10) are a good purchase. Nos. 11-14 are fair mining risks. For choice I should select No. 13. *A Beginning Sarbut.*—You must forward your name and address in token of good faith (not for publication) before I can reply. *Tempest.*—In the first instance, you ought to number your inquiries. You do not, moreover, appear to read Truth regularly. To buy a lot of low-priced shares indiscriminately would only land you in trouble. You might buy North Croydon Consols, which are cheap at 2s. 6d., and instead of other shares mentioned you should make your selection from the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Bargad.*—1. Outside brokers. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. 2. Another outside concern, whose system is pernicious. 3. No. *Nemo, Bungay.*—North Croydon Consols are the best purchase. See remarks under "Indian, New Zealand, and other Mines." 2. Not very promising. *T. I. C.*—Nothing is known about this Australian concern in London. *R. A., Streatham.*—No. 1-3 are fair mining risks. Hold. *J. J. S.*—These comments are absurd, and do not alter my view. *Explorer.*—1. There is nothing against the stock-broker in question. 2. You are welcome to your opinion, and I will retain mine. 3. A rise is probable, if general conditions improve. *Syndicate.*—Very doubtful. *Thistle.*—A fair Australian Exploration Company. Hold. I know nothing of the rumour mentioned. *Bridon.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1 and 2. They are good mines and you might average. Hannan's Golden Treasure would be preferable to the other mine. *R. S. F.*—Yes, Gladiators at anything like 1 would be a good purchase. *Thrums.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares for a recovery. *Handscrew.*—Better join the reconstruction and sell after. No option but to hold Nos. 1-5 for an improvement. *J. McI.*—1. Lake View Consols, London and Globe Finance, and Hannan's Golden Treasure are all good investments. 2. No good. I am glad you did so well on my advice in London and Globe. *C. W.*—I have never recommended Golden Plums, and am not surprised at the decline in the shares. *Juggins.*—You are quite right, something ought to be done about Londonderry. No option but to hold the other mining shares. *W. S.* — Yes. North Croydon Consols look promising. *Delta.* Porges Randfontein are a fair mining risk. *Peter.*—The Menzies properties are not so popular as those at Hannan's. *Subscriber, County Armagh.*—1. No option but to hold. 2. Certainly hold for a recovery. 3. Yes. *Kildare Patey.*—1. Write to the secretary. 2. Yes, hold Western Australian Joint-Stock Trust shares for a rise. They are expected to reach 5. *Old Head.*—Leave these British Columbian ventures alone. *Kinsole.*—It will be preferable to join the reconstruction and sell after. The documents are returned. *Plen.*—1. No real reason. 2. A "Bear" attack. 3. Not yet. 4. Mainland Consols should be held. 5. Yes. 6. No option but to hold. *Freiston.*—Certainly hold Randfontein. The bonus in Porges Randfontein is expected next week. *A. G. E.*—The mines appear to be improving. *Golfer.*—I am glad to hear you did so well in Croydon Consols. You should now buy North Croydon Consols. 1. A recovery is probable. 2. A fair mining risk. 3. No, hold. 4. Yes. *A. B.*—A fair mining risk, but no catch. *A. H. M.*—No temptation to buy these. You can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *Beginner, Mountcharles.*—North Croydon Consols are preferable. My opinion of Hampton Plains is favourable. *E. C. H.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1-11 for an improvement. *S. E. M.*—1. No information available yet. 2. Write to the secretary. 3. Yes. 4. Yes. Lake View Consols are fully paid. 5. Yes. *X. Y. Z.*—For the purposes of your small trust of West Australians you might select Lake View Consols, Hannan's Golden Treasure, West Australian Exploring and Finance, West Australian Joint-Stock Trust, Hampton Plains, Gladiators, and Burbank's North. *F.H.*—No, I do not like Nos. 1-3. Hold Aladdin's Lamp for a further rise. *Midlothian.*—No option but to hold now, but it is not a promising mine. *P. D.*—I am glad to hear you are doing so well in Croydon Consols on my advice. Hold the other shares and consult my letter about other West Australians. See also reply to "X. Y. Z." above.

Industrial Shares.

Dublin.—Fair prospects. *T. S. B.*—I mentioned this matter in last week's issue, and cannot trouble any more about it. *Doubtful.*—I can hear nothing about this concern. It seems a great pity that you should go into such doubtful ventures. *Ell.*—This is a local concern about which I cannot obtain any information here, and I cannot, therefore, advise you on the subject. *Bushmills.*—A fair industrial investment, but no catch, as it seems to be over-capitalised. *G. N.*—I can but say that when shares in Industrial Companies reach so high a price it is quite on the cards that a fall will ensue. I do not like the White Lead Company in question. *Fras.*—I have heard nothing fresh about the defunct Stamp Distributing Company. *Dacre.*—No special reason has come to my knowledge; but matters in the United States are not very flourishing at present. *W. H. G.*—Having once taken the shares you must pay up your calls. If you did not do so your shares would be forfeited, and you would still be compelled to pay up the calls. I cannot reply by letter. *Shire River.*—No fresh news is available; but the enterprise in itself was sound, and ought to succeed. Its success must, however, depend upon events in Central Africa. *Weather Eye.*—I am obliged for your communication, and have in this issue conveyed your warning to readers of Truth. *Hard Savings.*—1. I never have liked the shares in this concern. 2. These ought to be safe enough. 3. A good investment. *R. J. R.*—No reason to sell. *X. Y. Z.*—I do not recommend the Aluminium Bicycle Company (Newcastle) or the other concern. You should be more careful with the investment of your money.

Mixed Investments.

Vinecroft.—1. Hannan's Golden Treasure are a good purchase, they are £1 shares. 2. Any stockbroker can buy them against the usual commission. 3. Nothing fresh is known; but to judge from the recovery in price, the prospects are somewhat better. *C. Jim.*—A. No; I do not advise purchase of these shares. B. I do not care to advise purchase of Preston-Davies' Tyre Company's shares. All your mining shares Nos. 1 to 6 should be held, although some of them are not well selected. *Multiplex.*—Hold your mining shares Nos 1 to 8 for an improvement. I do not advise purchase of Nos. 9 and 10. If you want to buy a very progressive Home Railway stock, purchase Districts. No. 11 is too speculative; but Nos. 12 and 13 are fair investments. *Sic Donec.*—You ought to number your inquiries. All the Mining shares should be held for an improvement, which is probable. No reason to sell the Tea shares just now. I cannot possibly tell you how high Hit or Miss will go. *Paris.*—1. Croydon Consols is an excellent mine and doing very well; but after the heavy rise it might be preferable to buy North Croydon Consols, which

are still very cheap. 2. With regard to West Australian mines, I refer you to my letter. North Croydon Consols is, of course, a very cheap share. 3. All the sound Witwatersrand Gold Mining shares are good purchases at present. 4. I do not advise purchase of these Industrial stocks at present as there is likely to be a decline. *Persimmon.*—The stocks mentioned by you are no catch, and you had better not buy them. You ought to number your inquiries. The Gold Lands Corporation is a promising Company. *Peter.*—No reason to sell the Bank shares. The Indian shares are a good investment. *Roberty.*—The Railway stock in question is very speculative. The Brownhill Proprietary is doing well; but the question of treating the slimes has yet to be got over. *Standard.*—1. Standard Bank of South Africa shares are a good investment, and so are the other Bank shares. 2. The fall in Mainland Consols is unjustified, as shown by the excellent crushing. I do not advise purchase of the Rhodesian shares mentioned. *Territet.*—1. No temptation to buy. 2. A fair investment. 3. Too dull and inactive. *Bolive.*—1. Yes, Johnnies are a good permanent investment. 2. Have nothing to do with the Ordinary stocks of this line. *Unicorn.*—The mine is a good one, and the proposed arrangement appears to be satisfactory, so that you had better fall in with it. 1. Quite high enough. 2. A fair investment. 3. No catch. 4. Dover "A," at from 102 to 103, are a first-rate purchase. 5. Metropolitan Districts will probably go to a much higher price, and they should be bought at once. 6. Yes. 7 and 8. I am not sufficiently informed on these points. 9. You have done quite right; hold Randfonteins for an improvement. I cannot reply by letter. *Spec.*—1. Hold the shares; they will recover again. 2. The French Dunlop Company is apparently doing well. 3. Instead of Croydon Consols, you might now buy North Croydon Consols, which are still very cheap. 4. I am not generally in favour of the so-called low-priced stocks; they are not always cheap; but I must refer you to my letter. *Meph.*—1. No reason to sell, as Bank shares generally have an upward tendency. 2. No catch as far as I know. *Anxious, Stoke Newington*—Certainly, hold Mainland Consols, Golden Crowns, and Austin Friars Syndicate, and buy more to average. I do not think much of No. 4, and have never recommended it. *The Seasons.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1 and 2; both are very promising West Australian mines. Certainly hold No. 3. The address of the office of Burbank's Consols is Copthall House, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C. *Hamish.*—1. No option but to hold. 2. After the reconstruction matters may improve. 3. I do not think much of these Tea shares. 4 and 5. Yes; every prospect of an improvement. *F. Ready.*—Your list of investments Nos. 1 to 25 is a mixed lot; but as most of them are West Australian and South African mines I should advise you to hold these for better times. I do not think, however, that your chances are so mournful as is represented in the daily paper in question, and which is not an authority on the subject. *B. J.*—1. I am not surprised that you received all the shares that you applied for in the London and Westminster Contract Corporation, but having once subscribed I suppose it will be better for you to await developments, as there is no market for the shares. 2. Take a good profit. Nos. 3 and 4 should be held for an improvement. 5. I do not like these shares. 6. Not now.

Various Investments.

With reference to Consols I have already made some remarks at the commencement of this letter. They fell at one time to 109½, and have since recovered to 110$\frac{5}{16}$. The future of Consols and of other high-class investments must depend upon the monetary and political situation. Silver has recovered slightly to 30$\frac{3}{16}$d., but there is very little strength in this market. No one is anxious to help the American silverites, who are therefore compelled to sell their product in a weak market. Rupee paper has also been dull. In the Cycle share market, Dunlop Deferred have improved again to 1⅝, but Beestons are lower at 3⅞. Grapplers at 1⅛ and Cycle Components at 4, mark a moderate improvement, while there has also been a better demand for Cycle Tubes at 1. Mexican Rails did not for some time continue their upward movement, the weakness of the other markets affecting them, but they appear now to be bracing up again. Brewery shares have been dull, and a decline has taken place in Allsopps to 172½, this being a highly speculative stock which cannot stand bad times. This also applies to such stocks as Coats, which had been rigged to an exceedingly high quotation. The following communication has reached me from Calcutta, and as it conveys a warning to investors, I give it publicity:—

I anticipate that there is to be a "rush" to London, taking advantage of the cheapness of money to foist on to the public by means of newly-named Joint Stock concerns, a lot of unsaleable tea gardens, now lying on the hands of tea agencies of Calcutta, also other properties which the banks would be equally pleased to be rid of. Messrs. ——— have bought up the best gardens, so there will be an endeavour to get rid of them to the anxious investor who becomes a slave of a flash prospectus—"where new clearings planted up" are added. The interests of tea cannot be worse served than by such worn-out properties being vamped up under new names. The truth is that over-production is the immediate danger to tea; unlike a manufactory that can close its works for better times, tea gardens cannot close, they must be worked and kept up, or are ruined. I would warn all capitalists and investors of this grave fact. Bengal has blindly added thousands of acres year by year, also Ceylon. Prices are down, and this year's crops will fall short. "Touch, nor handle not."

The communication is signed "Weather Eye"; but my correspondent furnishes me with his full address, and seems to be in a position to judge. He wishes me more especially to warn my readers against touching any Tea-share scrip, either belonging to Calcutta or Ceylon. Good gardens change hands freely, but bad ones are, according to him, floated on the Stock Exchange for "lambs and mannikins." With reference to my repeated warnings against syndicate touts, I may mention that the proprietor of Cameron, Muir & Co. (against whom I have so repeatedly warned my readers), viz., Henry Ungless, who traded also under other aliases, was on Wednesday last sentenced, at the Central Criminal Court, to eighteen months' hard labour, for obtaining credit to the extent of £20 without disclosing the fact that he was an undischarged bankrupt. These are the men who send out glowing circulars, claiming to make profits of from 100 to 200 per cent. for grateful clients.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE TURN OF THE LUCK.

It was night time in Stephen Ward, Guy's Hospital, and the long room, with its rows of beds, was silent, save for an occasional groan from some poor fellow in pain, or the light patter of footsteps as a nurse moved across the room.

By the side of bed No. 17 sat Sister Thorne.

A small lamp stood on the little cupboard, and she was anxiously watching the unconscious man as his face and hands twitched in fever.

It was a curious face, and well worth a few minutes of observation. His age might be forty-five, or perhaps fifty, and the hair, which had once been black, was now freely streaked with grey. The face was withered and weather-beaten, and the long furrows spoke of suffering, and perhaps a bad life. The grey beard had been cut short, and showed the outline of a heavy, vigorous jaw, whose power was contradicted, however, by a weak mouth, and the dark eyes had in them the eager, staring flash of delirium.

The sister—the best and kindest sister in Guy's—sat there hour after hour, waiting for the turn, wondering anxiously—none knew how anxiously—whether it would be for the better or the worse.

Sometimes she left him for a few minutes to go the round of the other beds—arranging the clothes of one, speaking a few quiet reassuring words to another—but always returning as soon as possible to No. 17.

He had been brought in by two or three rough, kind-hearted sailors, straight from a ship to the hospital, a spar having fallen on him during a severe gale in the Channel. One leg was almost crushed and three ribs were badly broken, and his injuries were so aggravated by insufficient attention on board that the surgeons gave little hope of recovery.

No letters were found on him, nobody claimed him as a relative or a friend, but the seamen who had brought him there came to the hospital from time to time to inquire after their mate.

At last the turn came. After dozing more peacefully for a few minutes, the man's eyes opened and the glare of delirium had gone.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

He looked first at the shaded light, then at the row of beds opposite, then at the sister who sat by his side.

He seemed puzzled, and put his hand nervously to his face, over which a twitch of pain passed.

"Come, that's better," said the sister; "you will soon be all right now."

He seemed more puzzled than ever, and raising himself slightly on his uninjured arm, looked anxiously round the ward.

"Don't try to move," she said, kindly. "You are in good hands. This is Guy's Hospital. You were brought here by some sailors from the *Cornflower*. We shall take great care of you. Now try to drink this."

She put a glass of soda and milk to his lips, which he sipped feebly, and then, apparently giving up the problem of trying to understand his surroundings, dropped back and fell into a quiet, healthy sleep.

When she resigned her post next morning to the sister who had charge of the ward during the day, Edith Thorne said to her:

"I think No. 17 has turned the corner. Look after him, won't you? I—I used to know him years ago."

Every few hours she inquired after the unknown patient, and learned that he was sleeping peacefully, only waking at intervals to take nourishment. Barring unforeseen complications, he was on the high road to recovery.

At night she again took her place, and after an hour or two of patient watching, he opened his eyes and spoke.

"Is that you?" he said.

"Yes, it's Edith—your wife. Are you better?"

"I suppose so. Am I very—shall I get over it?"

"Yes, I think you will now. But you mustn't talk, or worry yourself."

He closed his eyes obediently, and was silent for a few minutes.

"Why are you here?" he said, at last.

"I am a sister in the hospital."

"Were you with me last night?"

"Yes!"

"Ah! I thought so—then I thought it must have been one of the dreams, because you were not here during the day."

"I'm not on duty in the day this month, but I inquired after you from time to time. I wouldn't come in; I thought it better for you to be quiet."

"You inquired after me?"

"Yes, of course I did."

"Are you so very much interested in me? I've been a nice sort of husband."

"Don't let us talk about that now," she said, quietly.

"I wonder why it is?"

"What do you mean?"

"Why, people are so different. Look at me. Since that night I left you, fifteen years ago, I've been in every quarter of the globe, and I think I've been guilty of almost every sin it's possible for man to commit. Then look at your life. You always were good. Probably you've been all the better for the misery I have inflicted on you. Why is it? Why do you like to do what's right? Why do I like to do what's wrong? We were not so very different once. When we first married, we were fond of one another, and there was not such a very wide difference between us, yet what there was good in you has steadily increased—I can see it has in your face—and what there was of good in me has steadily diminished. Why is it?"

"Who can tell?" she answered. "We no more understand the growth of evil or of good in a man than we understand the growth of an acorn or a cherry-stone. Perhaps, after all, it depends on the healthiness of the mind as much as anything."

"I wonder you don't attribute it to 'faith,' or 'prayer,' or some such thing," he said, bitterly. "Women generally do."

He spoke contemptuously, as if her superiority were a personal offence.

"It may be that, too," she answered, in her usual tone. "I don't pretend to understand; but I still think the natural infirmities of the body must be considered."

There was a silence between them for a while, and then he began to tell her of his life. It was not a nice record, and he spared her nothing, seeming to take a gloomy interest in his own misdeeds. It was the nature of the man, too, that he should dwell on himself and his own troubles before he inquired after her happiness.

"You see," he concluded at last, "it was a good thing for you I left you."

She smiled good-temperedly.

"There doesn't seem to be much doubt about that," she said; "it's a dreadful history; but I feel sure different people will be judged by different standards."

"Let's hope so," he said, grimly, "or it will be bad for some. At any rate, Edith," he continued, more solemnly, "you are amply revenged for that blow I gave you. That is the thing in my life I regret most. Ever since then I've sunk lower and lower. It seemed as if nothing could stop me. If I tried to be respectable there was always something cropped up; and now, after all these years, ruined in body, mind, and soul, without a halfpenny in my pocket, I find myself in a London hospital, and the first person I see there is you."

"It is queer how things come round," she said.

"What a mad, drunken beast I must have been to do it. God knows I can't have been in my right senses, for in those days I hadn't got so low down as that at any rate. Did—did it hurt much?" he concluded, with a slight flush of shame on his forehead.

"I don't know," she answered, almost inaudibly; "I have forgotten all about it. Don't let us talk about that."

She always looked upon that last scene, and indeed the few years of her married life which she had spent by her husband's side, as a hideous nightmare.

At first they had been happy enough, then by degrees he had dropped into the habit of speculating, from that into betting and card-playing and late hours. On the whole he met with success, but it was a wretched life for her. The money, obtained easily, went as quickly as it came. Nothing would stop his foolish extravagance, and, it must be added, generosity. Then would come months of bad luck, when they could scarcely find sufficient money to keep tradespeople quiet, and meet necessary expenses. But economy was only followed by a fever of recklessness, and forced gaiety when the luck changed, and the young wife found that the periods of want were, upon the whole, happier than the times of plenty.

By degrees worse habits set in. He necessarily mixed with men of a low stamp, and constant association with them gradually undermined the better side of his character; he was frequently the worse for liquor, and was often away from home all night as well as all day.

Then followed an entanglement with a girl, the daughter of a publican, who had been well educated and should have known better. This soon reached his wife's ears, for in his drunken fits he was perfectly reckless what he did or said.

At last, one afternoon, after being away for two days, he reached home in a savage state of intoxication, and broke into a volley of coarse abuse. For once, she too lost her temper, and answered him with the scorn and contempt he deserved.

He looked at her for a moment in astonished silence. It was the first time she had rebuked him.

Then the devil awoke in him, and, with a brutal oath, he drew back his hand and struck her full in the mouth with his clenched fist.

From that moment, until he was carried half dead into the hospital, they had never met, and while he had been careering round the world, ruining himself and others, she, with the help of friends, had served as a lady probationer in Guy's, eventually rising to the position of sister.

And so the night slipped away in whispered conversation. She gave him a brief outline of her life from the time he left her, and he listened with closed eyes and an occasional catch in his breath like a sob.

Not a word of reproach crossed her lips, and she dwelt

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

as little as possible on the hardships she had gone through, for the life of a lady probationer is not by any means an easy one; but no man could have been more humiliated than he was.

"But this is my last night in Stephen Ward," she said at last.

"Why?" he asked, with a look of terror in his eyes. "You are not going to leave me, Edith?"

"I must," she said, quietly. "I have to change places with the sister in Philip Ward. For the next month I shall be on day duty downstairs. But, come, it's almost daylight, and I must leave you now; besides, it is time you went to sleep—you have talked far too much for a sick man."

"Shall I pull through this?" he asked, moistening his lips with his tongue.

"Yes, I think you will, but it will depend mainly on yourself; you must keep your courage up. I shall come to see you as often as possible."

"I shall pull through if I can," he said, "and if I do, Edith, I will devote what little life I have left to you. I won't ask you to live with me. I'll go out and work; but we can meet sometimes, and perhaps I may be able to do something. You—you won't mind, will you?"

There was an almost childish quaver of weakness in his voice.

"Of course not," she answered, brightly. "Who knows; perhaps this is a turn in the luck?"

It was one of his favourite expressions in the old days—"A turn of the luck!"

"Good-night, then—or, rather, good morning, for the day is breaking. God bless you!"

Then she kissed him on the cheek and went away to set about her duties.

During the next twenty-four hours he showed no improvement. The new sister, who, at Edith's request, gave him a great deal of her attention, seemed in some way to irritate him by her presence, for he spent the night in a state of fevered excitement bordering again on delirium.

Edith grew alarmed, and during the day made frequent inquiries. Then she decided to sacrifice her next night's rest, much as she needed it after a day in a large ward, and sit again by his bed.

But it was too late.

At eight o'clock in the evening a nurse came to her with a white frightened face.

"If you please, ma'am," she said, "have you heard about No. 17 in Stephen?"

"No; what is it?"

"He's been delirious off and on all day, as you know, but at about eight o'clock, when the lights were turned down for the night, he seemed to go quite mad all of a sudden, for he tore off all his bandages and——"

"Well," said Edith, impatiently.

"Before we could do anything he was gone!"

Edith hurried upstairs, but at the door of the ward she met the night sister.

"Have you heard about No. 17?" she said, with a queer look in her eyes.

"Yes, I'm just going in," said Edith.

"I wouldn't if I were you—it's all over; but I'm very sorry for you, my dear."

Something in the tone of the woman's voice made Edith look up quickly.

"What do you mean?" she said.

"It's so sad to lose a husband, isn't it?"

The two women faced each other with flashing eyes.

"What do you mean?" said Edith. "How—who are you?"

"Do you mean to say you don't know?" replied the other, with maddening composure. "It struck me," she continued, in reply to a puzzled look in Edith's eyes, "that it was so queer that fate should take him out of your hands and place him in mine. I don't think he liked the change," she added, bitterly.

"But I don't understand you," said Edith, thoroughly bewildered. "What have you got to do with it?"

"Only this," replied the other. "Fifteen years ago I was the 'other woman,' just as I am to-day!"

MUSIC.

A MUSICAL PHILANTHROPIST.

For many years past our old friend Mr. Lansdowne Cottell has been a musical philanthropist. He started his London Conservatoire of Music with the object of benefiting the human race, and he advertised free scholarships for students who were talented and poor. There is, I have no doubt, a good deal of profit to be made out of free scholarships, when you know how to do it; and at any rate the enterprise seems financially to have prospered. Not satisfied with this remarkable work, Mr. Lansdowne Cottell resolved to extend his philanthropy. For ten guineas a year "season tickets" were vended, entitling the holder, "subject to the approval of the director," to sing at the school concerts, and to place two students gratuitously in the Conservatoire, or one student who would be boarded and lodged gratuitously "subject to the rules and regulations of the Conservatoire," whatever they may have been. But philanthropy is a virtue which grows upon what it feeds; and three years ago a "Special Private Notice" in blood red ink was circulated to the effect that "Ladies and gentlemen to whom this form may be addressed," might have all these inestimable privileges at the ridiculously low rate of a guinea a year, or five guineas for life. To be able to secure board, lodging, and instruction for a child at the rate of a guinea a year seems to solve the problem, "What shall we do with our boys?" How it is done may be another matter. I have a few blank red-ink vouchers at the service of any one who would like to try.

Philanthropy is, however, from time to time, apt to break out in new places. No one would, I fancy, connect the following advertisement, which occasionally appears in the public prints, with Mr. Cottell and his London Conservatoire of Music in Porchester-road:—

> Gentleman's Son Required, just from school, of good address, and accomplished, to be trained to assist in private office and otherwise a gentleman holding high, prominent position; board, progressive salary; moderate premium.—Letters M., 62, Queen's-road, Hyde Park.

But the gentleman "holding high, prominent position" is, nevertheless, none other than Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, although, with the modesty which invariably accompanies true philanthropy, he advertises from another address—I believe round the corner. The advertisement was recently answered by a gentleman whom I will call Colonel X, and who, in due course, received the following characteristic reply:—

> 66, Porchester-road, Hyde Park,
> August 27, 1896.
>
> Dear Sir,—I require a young gentleman to train in my private office in my mansion above, to assist me generally in financial, editorial, secretarial, management and other work (a little knowledge of music or drawing would be an advantage). Good address and pleasing manners most indispensable. A salary, no doubt, can be fixed at once according to value of services. Only a nominal premium will be asked, according to period mutually agreed upon here, either Friday or Monday, 3 to 8, or Saturday, 12 to 3 p.m.
>
> A most delightful home is offered. The best society and unusual advantages.—Yours truly,
>
> Lansdowne Cottell, R.A.M., M.S.A., &c.

Here the incident terminated. The gallant Colonel apparently did not appreciate the generous offer of the "gentleman holding high, prominent position" with a "mansion above," but instead he sent the letter on to Truth. To me the advertisement was, of course, an old acquaintance. Two or three years since I dealt with a precisely similar incident, and I am informed by a gentleman who now holds a position in Truth office that about ten years ago, when he was a young man, he answered from the country a somewhat similar advertisement, and found that the advertiser was Mr. Lansdowne Cottell. Furthermore, here is yet another advertisement, published in the *Standard* as recently as Monday of this week, which advertisement, even if Mr. Lansdowne Cottell has not modestly concealed his identity under the initials

A Fair Beautiful Skin.—By washing with Sulpholine Soap the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion is ensured.

"B. B., 842," nevertheless emanates from "a gentleman holding high prominent position."

TO PARENTS.—Young Gentleman Required, of good address and accomplished, to train to assist, in office and otherwise, a gentleman holding high prominent position; board-residence; moderate premium; progressive salary.—Address B. B. 842, Standard Office, St. Bride-st., E.C.

This species of philanthropy (with "only a nominal premium") has therefore not only been going on for a considerable time, but is still in progress.

Although Mr. Newman's announcement that Wednesday is "the date of her Majesty the Queen's record reign" may not exactly express the writer's meaning, it is nevertheless quite appropriate that the fact that the Queen has reigned longer than any other monarch in British history should be celebrated by a performance at Queen's Hall of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise." The cantata itself, as everybody knows, was composed for the alleged fourth centenary of the invention of the art of printing; but the work has long been a favourite of her Majesty, who was one of the most enthusiastic patrons of its composer. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's "Rule Britannia" overture will also be in the programme, together with a "Coronation March"—why Coronation?—by Mr. Percy Pitt.

The Promenade Concerts at Queen's Hall had another leg up on Saturday, when Mr. Santley appeared for the first time. There was a very crowded audience, who warmly applauded the great English baritone's singing of Shield's old ballad, "The Wolf," and other songs.

A fortnight ago I spoke of the anomalous power exercised by the Archbishops of Canterbury in the conferring of musical degrees, and I gave an extract from the Archiepiscopal document which hitherto granted the degree. It appears, however, that in Dr. MacNaught's case there was a very sensible addition to this instrument. It now ran as follows:—

We therefore, in consideration of your having occupied with distinction and great serviceableness the position of Assistant Inspector of Music to the Education Department, on the recommendation of Sir John Stainer, M.A., Mus.Doc., D.C.L. Professor of Music in the University of Oxford, and Inspector of Music to the Education Department, and of Sir George Grove, D.C.L., LL.D., Director of the Royal College of Music, and Sir Walter Parratt, Mus.Doc., have judged it expedient that you, whose uprightness of life and purity of morals are manifest to us, be dignified by the degree of Doctor of Music, &c., &c.

Hitherto, I believe, the sole causes assigned in the Instrument for conferring the Canterbury degree of Doctor of Music were "uprightness of life and purity of morals." The change is an indisputable advantage; for it discloses the real and very sufficient reason for the granting of the compliment.

There has, it seems, also been a short addition even to the Instrument conferring degrees in Divinity, which are now granted "in consideration of your proficiency in study, uprightness of life, sound doctrine, and purity of morals." A quaint defence is likewise now added of the power assumed by the Archbishops, which, as I have already explained, is derived from the Popes of Rome, the Archbishops, as legates of the Popes before the Reformation time, claiming the right to license teachers. They now, however, claim "the power of conferring degrees and titles of honour upon well-deserving men, as by an authentic Book of Taxations of Faculties, confirmed by authority of Parliament, doth more fully appear."

Archbishops of recent years, of course, receive little of the sixty-guinea fee imposed on the new Mus.Doc. Cantuar. The Government, who wink at this old-world power, share in the "swag," the stamp duty alone on the Instrument being £30, while the Crown Office bags £5, and there are various other officials to pay. Although Sir George Grove himself was one of the signatories of Dr. MacNaught's application for the degree, he has stated his belief that the power held by Archbishops of Canterbury in this respect is anomalous. Yet it is only fair to say that the present Archbishop has never exercised it without taking every precaution that the honour shall be deserved. He is more careful in this respect than the Universities, who, as a rule, accept the bare opinion of their Professor of Music, and shower degrees broadcast over the Continent. The Archbishop, on the other hand, will not stir unless the application is signed by several musicians of recognised eminence.

A retirement from musical life when the powers are in their prime is rarely permanent. M. Lassalle is the latest example of this truism. He left the stage in order to become a manufacturer of cement, a calling which paid him better than singing. Now, however, he has repented, and has just signed a contract to appear under Mr. Maurice Grau's management in New York in the winter, and, I hope, in London next summer. Signor Tamagno, another operatic vocalist who was reported to have relinquished opera singing for the wilder joys of a cattle ranche out West, has likewise returned to the stage, and may very possibly take part in the coming autumn season at Covent Garden. That season, by the way, must be a short one, for the Covent Garden balls are announced to commence early in December.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You write me about the dreary drizzles you are having at home, and I reply, paraphrasing Mrs. Gamp, "Sich is the consequences of livin' in a island." A shower or two we have had, it is true, in the Pas de Calais, and a distant thunderstorm, but for the most part blue sky, sunny sea, and golden sands have been the principal items in our weather menu. We had a glorious drive to Montreuil yesterday, a very ancient town, with the enormously high walls still standing, and for the most part in perfect preservation. We drove through lovely sylvan scenery behind a pair of small Hungarian horses, who seemed to be on the most confidential terms with each other, willing little animals, with long tails, such as nature intended horses to have. Montreuil stands on a great height, and is still called "sur-mer," though the sea has long retreated from its ivied walls. We walked round the historic ramparts, and viewed from their immense and inaccessible height the ancient moat now utilised for gardens. Ivy and creeper have thrown a green mantle over the bareness of brick and stone, and the whole scene is now one of perfect repose. The town sleeps lazily in its old age after a lively, effervescent youth. Henry V. was there, but I have forgotten how he fared. I fancy he prudently retreated from the stronghold on perceiving its strength. Henry VIII. besieged it, but I don't think he took it. You may guess the antiquity of the ramparts from the fact that the town is now surrounded by a belt of splendid old trees which have grown from their arborial infancy on the slopes by which the summit of the walls is reached from the town; artificial slopes constructed at the same time as the walls themselves. Far below us, as we gazed downwards, wound the waters of our friend, the Canche, on which we gaze every morning at Paris Plage. From the height of the ramparts the trains approaching the town look like nursery toys, and a group of sheep under a tree were supposed to be ducks by one of the party, not famous for long sight.

Upon the hill-side across the valley we saw the Carthusian Monastery, the monks in which are bound by the vow of silence. Of all their great community only five ever speak, and then only what is absolutely necessary for carrying on the business by which the monastery is supported. There are large gardens in which every variety of fine vegetables and delicious fruits are grown. There is also a printing-press in the monastery, and here are printed the menus of the dinners and banquets given in Montreuil. The monks themselves, living on the coarsest and most meagre fare, must now and then, when producing these menus, remember the days of old when they, too,

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had their share of the flesh-pots of Egypt. Members of some of the oldest families in France, and some Englishmen of good birth, live there removed from the bustle of the world, self-doomed to "hard living" in their quest of "high thinking." How one hopes that they have not been disappointed after giving up so much. But I always remember, in such cases, the agonised look of miserable disenchantment on the face of the young monk in Doré's picture "The Neophyte."

Our party, being composed of healthy, happy, wholesome human beings who had forsworn none of the good things that kindly Providence has lavished upon a beautiful world, was soon conducted by our host to a marvellous old hostelry in the centre of the town, with a view to luncheon. Entering through the vast kitchen in the wake of our cicerone, we saw a picture that we shall for ever carry on our mental retina. Upon a background of tiled walls hung the innumerable items of a spotlessly clean and polished *batterie de cuisine*, chiefly consisting of copper vessels. Tending the great ranges were three or four women, one of whom, an aged dame of close on eighty, was the living image of the portraits of Dante. She was alive to her finger tips, in spite of her years, that old lady, and turned on us, when we entered, a look of mingled shrewdness and suavity—the courtesy of the typical innkeeper to the customer, but far removed from obsequiousness. She was full of dignity, as well knowing that she had the wherewithal to please our palates and recruit our energies after the long drive. And truly was she justified in this belief, for we were served with as perfect a little *déjeûner* as we have ever enjoyed anywhere.

It began with an original *hors d'œuvre*, to which Richard's Britannic instincts led him to tacitly object on the instant. The rest of us, however, being more free from insular prejudices, tasted and then enjoyed the mingled flavours of Bologna sausage and a melon, whose glorious sunset hues were in themselves a feast to the eyes. This was followed by kidneys *à la maître d'hotel* and then by *perdrix aux choux*.

Oh! that some English cooks I could name might have had a glimpse of that dish. Instead of the half-raw condition in which birds are too often sent to table in England, these were cooked to the most tempting tint of deepest brown, thoroughly done all through, and as tender as an infant mushroom, without being in the least dried up. A savoury omelette was the next item, and then came a delicious apple tart, from a *pâtisserie* in the town which enjoys a wide reputation all the country round. This, too, was brown and bonnie, unlike the pallid pastry which, by its very looks, so often suggests indigestion and its consequences upon the complexion.

Fortified and greatly cheered, we sat and listened to the rapid French of the Maire and Sous-Préfet of the district, who, much interested in Mayville and its prospects, were discussing them with bewildering animation together with our host and an English historian of Montreuil, who was eloquent as to the relics in an ancient church hard by.

Some one suggested that we should go to see them, but we all declined. I can't bear relics! And I more especially dislike them if they consist of human bones. Directly after lunch, too! Even an account of some wonderful jewels did not tempt us. So far as diamonds, rubies, and emeralds are concerned, we felt that we might individually apply the old couplet:—

> If they be not fair for me,
> What care I how fair they be?

As we drove back to Paris Plage we noticed how few, as compared with England, the children in the villages were. Instead of some score of shouting, sturdy boys and girls, there was merely a handful of little creatures, nearly all of whom had hair so fair as to be almost tow-coloured.

At Etaples we had a peep at a large room where some dozens of artists dine daily. The neighbourhood is full of them. They have adorned their salle-à-manger with all kinds of pictures painted on the walls themselves. I believe I saw one signed Dudley Hardy. Another was by Eugène Chigot, whose fine paintings of scenes on the Canche adorn the salle-à-manger of the Hotel Meurice at Boulogne. They might almost be called studies in sand-colour and black.

We go back to town to-morrow and I shall have oceans to tell you about comfortable autumn clothing next week.

Winifred sends me the following notes about the visit of the British Association to Liverpool:—

We hurried home from the holidays this year to greet the gathering of the British Association; all our domestic arrangements, in fact, have been regulated to suit the convenience of that august body. And not in vain, I must confess; for while we entertained them they instructed us — with what measure of success I cannot tell, since I am, as you know, of the strictest sect unscientific, and averse from anything savouring of "improvement of the mind." Dancing and diversion went hand and glove with disquisition and debate. There are those who declare that the science was considerably watered down by the "socials." However that may be, the mornings were devoted to lecture and discussion and the afternoons and evenings to garden parties, excursions, receptions, and the like mild dissipations. And truly the spectacle of the professors at play was a gratifying one. They unbent with the utmost *bonhomie*, and played as wisely, as ably, as completely as they had discussed the mighty problems of science. The Olympian airs of the morning, the solemn and portentous aspect of high noon, vanished in the evening before the fascinations of music and post-prandial cigars, and we are quite of the mind that those scientific lions, with their lists of degrees that make the alphabet small, were not so terrible after all.

Although our learned guests established themselves amongst us on the 16th, they were not formally welcomed by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress until the evening of the 17th, when a brilliant reception was held at the Town Hall, at which, I believe, three thousand folks attended. Our Town Hall is of very fair dimensions, but the powers that be had to enlarge their domains for the night by annexing the Exchange Newsroom, which is just over the way, so to speak. And by means of a covered passage, some charming music, and a capital supper, a few superfluous hundreds were wiled into the quarters where "merchants most do congregate" during business hours. It was all well worth seeing, I assure you. Our Lady Mayoress, the Countess of Derby, loves colour and light, and the supper rooms and ante-rooms bore the daintiest evidence of her influence in this direction. The flowers, the art decorations, the picturesquely grouped palms, the shimmering of many-coloured gowns, the glitter of jewels, all formed a really effective spectacle even to eyes *blasé* of such sights. The Countess was charmingly dressed in petunia satin, severely cut and decorated with jewelled passementerie. She had some handsome diamonds. Accompanying her, and evidently enjoying the scene of presentation, were Lady Alice Stanley, in a pretty frock of blue chiné silk; Lady Isabel Stanley, in her favourite costume of white satin and pearls; and Miss Henniker, a daughter of his Excellency of Manxland, I believe, who was gowned in pale blue with touches of pink. We were all much interested in a lady in amber satin, or rather in the magnificent diamond tiara she wore. It was a veritable crown, and doubtless occasioned innumerable pangs of envy. Mrs. W. B. Bowring, a former Lady Mayoress, had her gown of satin brocade arranged with a scarf of exquisite Brussels lace. Mrs. Campbell Brown had something lovely in satin and moire in broad stripes, and of sea-shell tints. I caught a glimpse of Lady Maclure in black, of Lady Pullar, Lady Ellison, Lady O'Hagan, with the Hon. Mary O'Hagan and the Hon. Kathleen O'Hagan, Lady Ommaney in black and white brocade, and Mrs. William Oulton in electric blue satin appliquéd with the filmiest, finest grass lawn. Mrs. E. K. Muspratt brought a party from Seaforth Hall. I begin to think that lace is as common as are diamonds in Liverpool. Every second matron one saw was literally swathed in exquisite old lace. Flowing scarves of point de Venise, fichus of Honiton, frills of Mechlin, and panels of Brussels point sometimes adorned, and frequently disguised, the handsomest gowns. Mrs. Bowes, the wife of the Japanese Consul, came in dark green velvet and diamonds; Mrs. J. W. Hughes had a striking dress of amber brocade—indeed, yellow, from the most uncompromising orange tints to the softest and most suggestive shade of primrose, appeared popular with both blonde and brunette.

The weather, again the weather, and evermore the weather! How fervently we all wished it—well, at Jericho, to put it mildly—on the day of Lady Derby's garden-party! A dull morning, a few bits of blue sky at noon, and some flashes of sunlight at three in the afternoon, along with hazy reaches of nebulous pinks and grey raised our hopes, and we set forth to

Hunting.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is produced by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Corsets built by Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

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Knowsley in high spirits and summer frocks. But the weather found us out and poured its disasters on us. We had indeed a glimpse of the wonderful avenues of Knowsley—those Gothic woodland aisles filled with soft chequered lights and shadows, and of lawns steeped in sunshine. But scarcely had we arrived when a rush of rain drenched the lawns, making them unsafe promenades for dainty bottines and frileuse and laced skirts But as the house, with all its superb historic treasures, was at the disposal of the guests, the interest of the afternoon never flagged. And were we not surrounded by a tranquillising atmosphere of music and flowers, picturesque groups of frocks, and a complete absence of formality. The savants were greatly to the fore, and we had further opportunity of watching science take its ease. The Countess of Derby wore a becoming shade of heliotrope cloth, with vest and revers of white chiffon and grass-lawn embroidery. Lady Alice Stanley was handsome in her blue and white dress, trim coat of light grey, and hat of black and pink, and Lady Isabel had dark-blue alpaca, relieved with blue and white trimmings. There were quite a number of chiné silk gowns with decorations of sable, from which I infer that silk and fur are among the modes to be. A lady in purple chiné silk had a full basqued coat of purple satin, the vest formed of cascades of lovely lace. The Ladies Wilbraham were in simple gowns, the one of white, and the other of mauve and white. Girls in spotted muslin and quaint, wide hats were numerous. How becoming are those decided contrasts of colour! Mrs. Willox, wearing a costume of black satin adorned with rose pink as to vest and bonnet, looked her best; another lady had a folded belt of vivid magenta with her moss-green gown. Lady Forwood's daughter was charming in blue-grey canvas with decorations of blue; and I caught sight of Mrs. Douglas Horsfall in a heliotrope gown with revers and vest of white; Mrs. Neale in an effectively cut coat and skirt of light fawn cloth; and Mrs. Alfred Mond in blue glacé silk with lovely lace.

What do you think of the "Function of certain Diagnostic Characters of Decapod Crustacea," and of a "New Genus of Schizomycetes, showing Longitudinal Fission," as subjects for lectures? Amanda went to hear them delivered in St. George's Hall, and has since been so strange in her manner.

Having had a present of a bag of filbert nuts, I tried to utilise some for a cream, the result was excellent. Here is the recipe:—

Take 8 oz. of filberts, weighed after they are shelled, blanch them to remove the skin and pound the nuts with 1 oz. of pounded sugar; put them into a stewpan with half a pint of milk, place the stewpan at the side of the stove for half an hour, then bring slowly to the boil. Strain the milk on to the beaten yolks of 3 eggs, add 4 oz. of fine sugar, return it to the stewpan and stir until it thickens; remove from the fire, stir in ¾ oz. of sheet gelatine, and leave it to cool. Whip half a pint of thick cream; mix it lightly with the custard, add a dessertspoonful of Maraschino or any nice liqueur, and pour into a fancy mould, which may be decorated with a few glacé cherries. When the cream is firm turn out and pour the following sauce round:—Blanch and pound 2 oz. of filberts, mix them with a gill of milk, twist a paper over, and allow them to stand for an hour; strain, mix the milk with 2 yolks of eggs and 2 oz. of pounded sugar, whisk the custard over the fire until it is frothy; remove and whisk until cold, then mix in 2 tablespoonfuls of whipped cream and a teaspoonful of liqueur.

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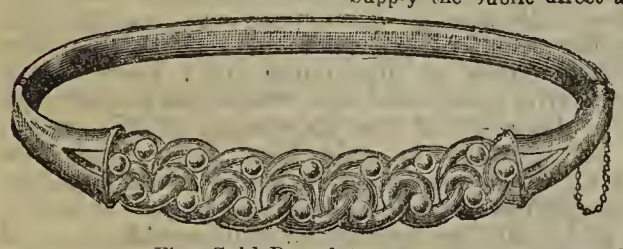

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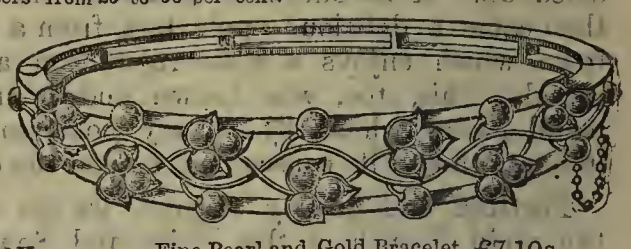

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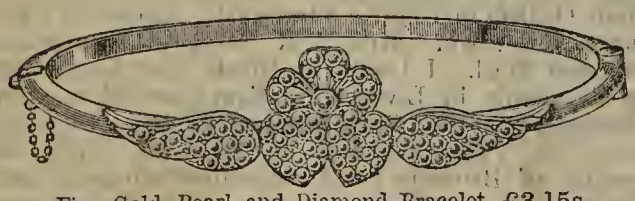

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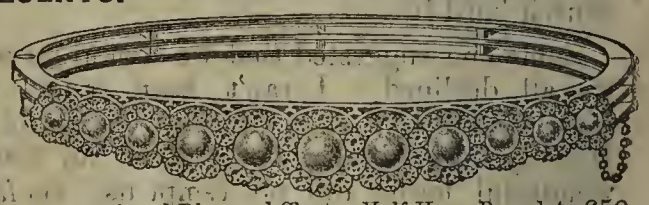

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The ORIGINAL and very much the LARGEST. Every window commands a view of the MOST MAGNIFICENT SCENERY in SCOTLAND. 500 feet above sea level. Pure, dry, bracing air. Extensive Pleasure Grounds.
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To prevent disappointment, address all communications—
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AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.—Lessees, the EXORS. of the late Sir AUGUSTUS HARRIS.—AUTUMN SEASON, under the Management of Mr. JOHN COLEMAN. Every Evening, at 7.30, THE DUCHESS OF COOLGARDIE, by Messrs. Euston Leigh and Cyril Clare.

LYCEUM.—EVERY EVENING, at 8,
CYMBELINE.
Iachimo..... Henry Irving.
Imogen..... Miss Ellen Terry.
Mr. Frank Cooper. Miss Genevieve Ward.
Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily, 10 to 5. Seats also booked by letter or telegram.

GAIETY.—Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDES.—ANOTHER GAIETY SUCCESS.—EVERY EVENING, at 8.15, a New Musical Play, in Two Acts, entitled MY GIRL, by James T. Tanner, Music by Osmond Carr, Lyrics by Adrian Ross. Box-office open daily from 10 till 6. MATINEE Saturday Next, at 2.30.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—A. & S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.—TO-NIGHT, at 8 o'clock, BOYS TOGETHER. Mr. William Terriss and Miss Millward; Mr. W. L. Abingdon, Mr. C. W. Somerset, Mr. Lulgi Lablache, Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. J. D. Beveridge, Mr. Oscar Adye, and Mr. Harry Nicholls; Miss Nesbitt, Miss Kate Kearney, Miss Alice Kingsley, &c.

SAVOY.—Every Evening, at 8.30, and Every Saturday Afternoon, at 2.30, THE MIKADO, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. At 7.50, WEATHER OR NO. Box-office 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.—R. D'OYLY CARTE, Proprietor and Manager.

VAUDEVILLE.—A. & S. GATTI, Sole Lessees and Managers. EVERY EVENING, at 9, a Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières, entitled A NIGHT OUT. Preceded, at 8.15, by PAPA'S WIFE, by Seymour Hicks and F. C. Phillips. Music by Ellaline Terriss. MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 3. Doors open 7.45. Box office open 10 to 10.

DALY'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. AUGUSTIN DALY.—EVERY EVENING, and SATURDAY MATINEE. Mr. George Edwardes's Company in THE GEISHA. The book by Owen Hall. Lyrics by Harry Greenbank. Music by Sydney Jones.

ALHAMBRA.—TO-NIGHT, Two New Grand Ballets, RIP VAN WINKLE and DONNYBROOK. Grand VARIETIES. Prices, 6d. to £3. 3s. Open 7.30. ALFRED MOUL, General Manager.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—EVERY EVENING, Two Grand Ballets, FAUST and LA DANSE. Great success. LUMIERE'S CINEMATOGRAPHE. GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Doors open at 7.30.

PALACE, Shaftesbury-avenue. — The HANDSOMEST THEATRE in EUROPE. The finest Variety Entertainment in London including the NEW SERIES OF TABLEAUX VIVANTS. Full Licence. Prices from 6d. Doors open 7.30.—Manager, Mr. CHARLES MORTON.

LONDON PAVILION.—TREMENDOUS PROGRAMME. Dan Leno, Vesta Tilley, Lucy Clarke, Fannie Leslie, James Fawn, Bessie Wentworth, Jolly John Nash, Tom White's Arabs, Jenny Valmore, Mdlle. Lalo, Nellie Navette, Ada Lundberg, The Kilpatricks, Passmore Brothers, Joe Elvin and Company, Walter Kino, Jenny Lynn, Northern Troupe, Constance Moxon, Albert Christian. The Sliding Roof off every evening. Prices from 1s. to £3. 3s. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open from 11 to 5.

TIVOLI, Strand, London.—Cool and Well Ventilated.—Open EVERY EVENING, at 7.45, and SATURDAY MATINÉE, at 2.30, with a STAR PROGRAMME, embracing every Artiste of note now in London — Manager, Mr. VERNON DOWSETT.

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EARL'S COURT.
Main Entrance:—LILLIE ROAD, WEST BROMPTON.
Indian, Cingalese, and Burmese Palaces and Shops.
Colonnades, Lakes, Jungle, Gardens, and Streets.
Artisans, Performers, and Illusionists.
Five BANDS.
Grenadiers. Coldstreams.
Venanzi's Orchestra and others.
Mr. Imre Kiralfy's Great Spectacle
"India."
1,500 Performers; 200 Chorus.
Two Performances daily, at 3.30 & 8 p.m.
IMRE KIRALFY, Director-General.
Open 11 a.m. to 11.15 p.m. One Shilling.

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Two 20-guinea Waverley Bicycles
Given weekly to passengers.

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PROMENADE CONCERTS.
EVERY EVENING, from 8 till 11 o'clock.
GRAND ORCHESTRA.
Principal Violin, Mr. ARTHUR W. PAYNE.
Conductor, Mr. HENRY J. WOOD.
To-night (WEDNESDAY), The Date of H.M. the Queen's Record Reign.
PART I.
1. "God Save the Queen," Sung by Audience and Choir.
2. Britannia Overture, A. C. Mackenzie.
3. Coronation March, Percy Pitt (Composed specially for the occasion).
4. Hymn of Praise (Mendelssohn).
PART II.
Popular Orchestral, Vocal, and Instrumental Selections.
Madame Fanny Moody, Miss Isabel MacDougall, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Charles Manners.
THURSDAY NEXT, POPULAR NIGHT.
FRIDAY NEXT, BEETHOVEN NIGHT.
ANIMATED PHOTOGRAPHS in Small Hall (6d. extra).
Admission 1s.; Balcony, 2s.; Grand Circle (Reserved), 3s. and 5s. at ROBERT NEWMAN'S Box-office.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S EXHIBITION, Baker-street Station.—Grand Historical Tableaux representing the Announcement to Her Majesty Queen Victoria of her Accession to the Throne, &c., &c. Portrait Models of Fowler and Milsom, Mrs. Dyer, &c., &c. The Actual Confession of Mrs. Dyer. Admission, 1s.; Extra Rooms, 6d. Open from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m.

THE CAPE COLONISATION COMPANY, Limited.

HOW TO MAKE AN INCOME-PAYING HOME.

The object of the above Company is to develop the resources of their estate, consisting of about 12,000 acres, situated in the far-famed Tulbagh district in the Western Province of Cape Colony, about 75 miles distant by rail from Cape Town. They are promoting the establishment of a successful colony. The estate has been surveyed and laid out in blocks of about 40 acres each, a number of which have already been sold. The purchase price of this land this year (with all water facilities) is £12 per acre, threequarters of which can remain bearing interest at six per cent. per annum.

In order to provide for the success of every colonist who has sufficient capital at command to be able to enter into this business, but has no practical knowledge of the work, the company have engaged the services of an efficient manager and a skilled horticulturist; and who will, if desired, plant, cultivate, and attend to the development of each client's farm for one year or more.

Thus any settler, provided he gives ordinary attention to the details of the work this company have undertaken for him, can obtain, under the guidance of a skilled specialist, that practical knowledge which is essential in the working to the best advantage of dairy and fruit farms.

THE CAPE COLONISATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Company undertake, if desired, to clear, plant, fence, supervise, and generally manage any holding. They guarantee that 90 per cent. of the trees and vines planted under the supervision of their staff grow to maturity, as specified in the agreement, a copy of which can be obtained on application. The company will manage the estate of any absentee at a charge of £1 a year per acre, and will also undertake to erect on the estate any houses for the residence of a settler, which can be chosen in London before sailing, with estimates given. They further undertake to purchase from a settler, at marketable prices, any approved dairy, farm, and orchard produce.

At the company's headquarters, at Seven Fountains, are the orchard and vineyard belonging to the company, and extensive creameries, packing houses, &c., will be erected as soon as necessary.

Steps are already being taken for the erection of a sugar beet factory, &c., and it is the intention of the company to promote milling and other industries.

THE CAPE COLONISATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Company solicit enquiries from families who are seeking a fresh start in life.

Young gentlemen who are looking for an opening in which to make their way.

Farmers who for years have been losing money in this country and would like to start afresh.

Retired members of the Military, Naval, and Civil Services, desiring to increase their incomes.

The delicate (those inclined to bronchial and pulmonary troubles) who need an avenue for making an income in a congenial climate.

The General Manager of the Company is going out at the beginning of October, and will be pleased to have the Company of any one who desires to avail himself of this opportunity of a fresh start in life in a new field.

All are requested to be good enough to place themselves in communication with the Secretary of the Company—

3, PANCRAS LANE, QUEEN STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

from whom full particulars and papers on all points can be obtained. Also the illustrated book on the subject, price 2s., together with a Manual of Practical Orchard Work at the Cape. Published by the Department of Agriculture of the Cape of Good Hope.

£4,500 WANTED (to pay out retiring sleeping partners, &c.), at reasonable interest, on good security, in an established manufacturing business in London. Will bear strict investigation.—Apply, A. H. HOLMES, Solicitor, 32, King-street, Cheapside.

ESTATES, AUCTIONS, &c.

ALDRIDGE'S.—The "OLD TIMES" VIRGINIA WATER 40 COACH HORSES will be SOLD by Messrs. W. & S. FREEMAN at Aldridge's, St. Martin's-lane, on Wednesday next, September 30. On view Monday. Catalogue forwarded.

ALDRIDGE'S. — The "CRITERION" SURBITON 25 COACH HORSES will be SOLD by Messrs. W. & S. FREEMAN at Aldridge's, St. Martin's-lane, on Wednesday next, September 30. On view Monday. Catalogue forwarded.

TO INVALIDS.—A LIST of MEDICAL MEN, in all parts, willing to RECEIVE RESIDENT PATIENTS, giving full particulars and terms, sent Gratis. The List includes Private Asylums, &c. Schools also recommended—Address, Mr. G. B. STOCKER, 8, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C.

PRINCE LINE.—EGYPT and the HOLY LAND.
CHEAP ROUND TOURS a Speciality. Fare £35. The only direct Line calling at Gibraltar, Tunis, and Malta on route.
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RIVER PLATE DIRECT (not calling at Brazilian Ports), the most direct and fastest Line. Fare 22 guineas.
Luxurious saloons and cabins and promenade decks, all amidships.
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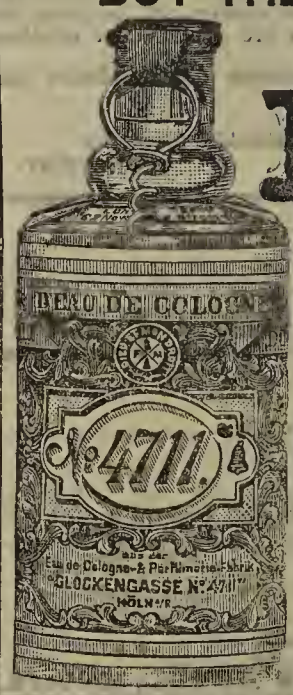

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Case of 6 Bottles, carriage paid, for 13s. or Sample Bottle, 2s. 6d. post free.

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TO BE SOLD AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

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Are delivered to the warehouse two or three times a week in all sizes, both in the old and new colourings.

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is often due to a bad soap.

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Is made specially for delicate, sensitive, irritable skins, and is scented with the most charming and innocent Perfumes.

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yields a profuse, cleansing, demulcent, lather, and tends to keep the skin soft and velvety, and the complexion beautiful and clear. Its use doesn't cost a farthing a day.

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About 150 AFFLICTED CASES, from all parts of the United Kingdom, are now seeking admission.
FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED to maintain the Elected Patients now under care and training in the Institution.
Cases on payments regulated by the Board received as soon as approved.
JAMES DOWNING, Secretary.
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GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL.
VERY POOR, FREE, and UNENDOWED.
The only Hospital available for a population of one million.
An urgent APPEAL is made for FUNDS to support the work of relieving 1,200 In-patients and 30,000 Out-patients annually.
Holloway, N. L. H. GLENTON KERR, Secretary.

LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.
ADDITIONAL HELP is urgently needed.
Scarlet fever and diphtheria are very prevalent. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by the Secretary at the Hospital.
MAJOR W. CHRISTIE.
Bankers—Prescott & Co., 50, Cornhill, E.C.

CANCER WARDS of the MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—35 beds devoted to Hopeless Incurable Cases.
A FUND of £12,000 is being raised for the purpose of erecting a separate BUILDING for the accommodation of the FEMALE CANCER PATIENTS hitherto located in the hospital, an improvement which is urgently demanded on the ground of the health, comfort, and convenience of the patients. Towards the cost of the new building the sum of £9,000 has been paid or promised, and an URGENT APPEAL is now made for the balance of £3,000 still required. Patients are admitted without letters or any recommendation, save that of necessity, and are permitted to remain until "relieved by art or released by death."—F. CLARE MELHADO, Secretary-Superintendent.

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DELICIOUS. WHOLESOME. REFRESHING.
Prepared in silver-lined pans. Highly prized by all. Flavoured with Ripe Fruit Juices.
Dr. GORDON STABLES, R.N. says:—'Jellies that really add to our health and luxury.'
GOLD MEDAL.
½-PINTS, 2½d. PINTS, 4½d. QUARTS, 8d.
S. CHIVERS & SONS, Proprietors of the First English Fruit Farm Jam Factory, Histon, Cambridge.
CHIVERS' PATENT CUSTARDS and BLANC MANGES—2d. and 3d. packets and 6d. boxes — two more delicious and digestible additions to the dinner and supper table. Made by simply adding milk and boiling.
CHIVERS' 1st PRIZE JAMS.
The Royal Commission on Agriculture, in its report (1895), says: "Messrs. Chivers' Factory at Histon . . is now well-known throughout the country for the excellence of its manufactures."
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ALL HEADACHES INSTANTLY CURED OR MONEY REFUNDED.
LEGAL GUARANTEE.
7½D. EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER, the most successful American remedy, is an effervescent powder, taken in water. If three doses do not cure any head-ache, no matter how caused, send the bottle to us, saying where obtained, AND WE WILL AT ONCE REFUND THE PRICE.
Trial Bottle, post free, 7½d. Larger Sizes, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Sold by many Chemists or obtained to order by almost all.
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INSIST ON FULL NAME—
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SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
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and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of
Himrod's Cure for Asthma.
Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.
Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS & CO., JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, Limited.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Capital of this Company has been increased to £300,000, and Shareholders are informed that they have the right of applying for 1 New Share in respect of every 14 Shares held by them on the 30th September, 1896, at the price of £5 per Share.
The whole of the issue of 20,000 Shares has been guaranteed at £5 per Share.
Applications will be received by the Company's Bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., 67, Lombard-street, London, E.C., not later than the 10th October, 1896.
Application forms and full particulars will be sent to registered shareholders, or can be obtained of the London Agents.
The TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 30th SEPTEMBER to the 6th OCTOBER, both dates inclusive.
By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, London Agents.
THOS. HONEY, London Secretary.
7, Lothbury, E.C.; September, 1896.

THE NEW RIETFONTEIN ESTATE GOLD MINES, LIMITED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be Closed from the 1st to the 10th OCTOBER (both dates inclusive), for the purpose of balancing the Share Ledgers.
By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, London Agents.
T. HONEY, London Secretary.
7, Lothbury, E.C.; 23rd September, 1896.

NEWHEIDELBERGROODEPOORT GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 1st to the 10th OCTOBER (both dates inclusive), for purpose of balancing the Share Ledgers.
By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, London Agents.
T. HONEY, London Secretary.
7, Lothbury, E.C.; 23rd September, 1896.

THE ROODEPOORT GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 1st to the 10th OCTOBER (both dates inclusive) for purpose of balancing the Share Ledgers.
By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, London Agents.
T. HONEY, London Secretary.
7, Lothbury, E.C.; 23rd September, 1896.

THE GOLDFIELDS OF LYDENBURG, Limited.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 1st to the 10th OCTOBER (both dates inclusive), for the purpose of balancing the Share Ledgers.
By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, London Agents.
T. HONEY, London Secretary.
7, Lothbury, E.C.; 23rd September, 1896.

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THE LARGEST & MOST CONVENIENT
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EASY CHAIRS EASY CHAIRS
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TO CHOOSE FROM.
THE FAMOUS "CHANCELLOR" CHAIR
Large, roomy, well proportioned, exceedingly comfortable upholstered in Dormouse cloth of any shade
50/-
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD LONDON

NO PROSPECTUSES ARE BEING PUBLICLY ISSUED, BUT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY, SOLICITORS, AND BANKERS

APPLICATIONS will be received up to FOUR o'clock p.m. on the 25th September, 1896.

A DEVELOPED GROUP of MINES, fully equipped, with 10-head Battery. 317 tons already crushed yielded 686 oz. of gold, and sample of tailings assayed 6½ dwt. per ton. Area of mining leases, 84 acres. 10 acres of water rights on Lake Cowan. Abundant water supply laid on from Lake Cowan to the battery.

THE DESIRABLE PROPRIETARY GOLD MINES (W.A.), LTD.

CAPITAL £250,000, divided into 250,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 190,000 Shares will be taken by the Vendors in part payment of the purchase consideration, and the balance, namely, 60,000 Shares (whereof 25,000 is apportioned to Working Capital), is now offered for subscription, payable: 5s. per Share on application, 5s. per Share on allotment, and the balance as and when required. Shares may be paid up in full at any time, entitling holders to participate in Dividends from dates of respective payments.

DIRECTORS.

R. V. Barrow, J.P., Director of Brookman's Gold Exploration and Finance Association of Western Australia, Limited.
A. J. Davis, Chairman of the Alliance Mining Company, Limited.
J. L. Strain, Chairman of New Coolgardie Gold Exploration and Finance Association (W.A.), Limited.
John Wilcox, Director of Hannan's Oroya Gold Mining Company (W.A.), Limited.
H. G. Campion, Chairman of Mount Reid Mining Company, Limited.

COLONIAL DIRECTORS.

Hubert Giles, J.P., Adelaide, South Australia.
Charles Angell, Adelaide, South Australia.

BANKERS.—Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall-street, and branches.
SOLICITORS.—Davidson & Morriss, 40 and 42, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—W. F. S. Armstrong, 34, Old Broad-street, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Gane, Jackson, Jeffreys & Wells, Chartered Accountants, 66, Coleman-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring seven mining leases, comprising 84 acres, situate at or near Lake Cowan, in the Norseman District, Western Australia, and also 10 acres of water site on Lake Cowan. The property is at present being worked, under the management of Captain Stephenson, by the Desirable Mining Syndicate. (No liability.)

The property has been reported upon by Captain Cornish, under date December 23rd, 1895, who after stating "These workings together with several costeen pits have proved the reef to run the whole length of the block, 15 chains, and to vary in width from 2 ft. 6 in. at surface to 3 ft. 6 in. at bottom of shaft" concludes his report as follows:

"The size, richness, and evident permanence of the reef, the amount of payable stone in sight. . . . . together with its many facilities for mining and milling, make this property, in my opinion, an exceedingly valuable one, one which, with economic management, cannot fail to pay handsome dividends."

The property has also been reported upon by Captain Morgan, Manager of Dr. Simon's mines at Norseman, who concludes his report, dated 2nd March, 1896, by saying: "Desirable property presents itself as a most promising group, and I have no hesitation in predicting that, by the aid of machinery, and in conjunction with systematical development and economical management, it will prove itself to be a highly payable concern."

A battery of 10 head of stampers, of the most modern construction, is now at work on the mine, and steam power and machinery capable of working an additional 20 head of stamps have been erected.

Advices from the mine show that nine shafts (the principal of which was 160 ft. deep on the 14th September) have been sunk on the property, and the reefs opened up in various directions, with the view of the most vigorous working of the mine.

The first bulk crushings of 317 tons gave, as a result, 686 oz. of smelted gold of good quality, with tailings in addition of a reported assay value of 6½ dwt. per ton.

Captain Stephenson has recently reported: "Ore in shaft is improving as it goes down. Full of visible free gold."

The property is reported to be well supplied with timber for mining and other purposes, and ample water is laid on from the Company's water rights in Lake Cowan for the purposes of the battery.

The property will be acquired by this Company as from the 19th May last, with the ore at grass, and gold obtained from the crushings, the Company paying the outlay and expenses as from that date.

The purchase price for the whole of the properties has been fixed by the Lake Cowan Syndicate, Limited, who are the vendors to and promoters of this Company, at £225,000, payable as to £25,000 in cash, and as to £190,000 in fully-paid shares of the Company, and as to £10,000 in cash or shares, or partly in cash and partly in shares, at the option of the Directors of this Company. 25,000 shares have been apportioned for working capital which, having regard to the fact that the mine is a developed one, with machinery erected and working, with water supply laid on from Lake Cowan, is deemed to be amply sufficient for all purposes

For contracts see prospectus.

Messrs. Strain, Wilcox & Campion are directors of Lake Cowan Syndicate, Limited, and will not act as directors of this Company until after completion of the sale.

The reports and contracts, together with a copy of the memorandum and articles of association, can be inspected at the offices of the solicitors to the Company.

Prospectuses can be obtained from the solicitors, bankers, and secretary.

London, September 21st, 1896.

This Form may be cut out, filled up, and sent with amount payable on application to the Company's Bankers.

APPLICATION FORM.

THE DESIRABLE PROPRIETARY GOLD MINES (W.A.), LIMITED.—Capital, £250,000, divided into 250,000 Shares of £1 each.—ISSUE of 60,000 SHARES at par, payable 5s. on application, 5s. on allotment, and the balance as and when required.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

No..... (To be retained by the bankers.)

To the Directors of the Desirable Proprietary Gold Mines (W.A.), Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £....., being the deposit of 5s. per Share on an application for ..... Shares of £1 each in the above Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less number allotted to me, upon the terms of the Prospectus, dated 21st September, 1896, and I agree to pay the balance as thereby required, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Shareholders in respect of such Shares. And I agree with the Company (as trustee for the Directors or other persons responsible) to waive any claim I may have against them for non-compliance, in the said Prospectus, with the 38th section of the Companies Acts, 1867, and acknowledge that the said Shares are applied for and taken by me on that footing. In the event of my receiving no Allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Occupation .....
Date ..... 1896.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

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FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

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THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.

Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

LANGLAAGTE ROYAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the DATE of the GENERAL MEETING to be held at Johannesburg having been ALTERED to the 29th October, the Transfer Books will be Closed from the 13th to 29th October, both dates inclusive, instead of from the 22nd September to 13th October.

By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT CO., LD.,
London Agents.
T. HONEY, London Secretary.

7, Lothbury, E.C.
18th September, 1896.

THE

JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.

DIRECTORS.

S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.

LONDON OFFICE.

ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The Subscription List will be Closed on Thursday, September 24, for Town, and the Following Day at Noon for the Country.
NO FOUNDERS' SHARES. VALUABLE OPTIONS ALREADY SECURED. ALL MONEYS SUBSCRIBED BECOME WORKING CAPITAL.

THE LONDON & COLONIAL EXPLORATION AND FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL £150,000, in 150,000 Shares of £1 each.—Present Issue, 100,000 Shares, of which 50,000 are to be allotted in payment for certain options and interests hereinafter mentioned, and the remaining 50,000 are now offered for subscription at par. Payable—5s. on application, 5s. on allotment, and the balance in calls not exceeding 5s. per Share, as and when required, at intervals of not less than One Month.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Sir SOMERS VINE, Kt., C.M.G., F.R.G.S., &c., 12, York Mansions, Barkston Gardens, S.W. (Chairman).
J. C. JESSON, Esq., New Park, Horsham, Sussex (Director of Burbank's Birthday Gift Gold Mines, Limited).
Sir EDWARD SULLIVAN, Bart., 32, Fitzwilliam-place, Dublin.
Colonel AUBONE GEORGE FIFE, 42, Jermyn-street, S.W.
R. WHIELDON BARNETT, Esq., M.A., B.C.L. Oxon., 1, Hare-court, Temple, E.C.
*MARK PARKER, Esq., 5, Buckland-crescent, Belsize-park, N.W.
*FRANCIS HART, Esq., M.A.I.M.E., 18, Wool Exchange, E.C. (Managing Director).

* Will join the Board after allotment.

Bankers.

LONDON: Charles Hopkinson & Sons, 3, Regent-street, Pall Mall, S.W.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: The Bank of Australasia.

Advisory Experts in Western Australia.—Captain Oats, M.E.; L. R. Menzie, Esq., M.E.

Solicitors.—LONDON: H. Percy Becher, Esq., 26, Bedford-row, W.C.; WESTERN AUSTRALIA: George Leake, Esq., M.L.A., Barrack-st., Perth (W.A.)

Brokers.

IN LONDON: Dean Swift & Co., 19, Old Broad-street, E.C. IN GLASGOW: Alfred Muir, Esq., 104, West George-street. IN LIVERPOOL: H. Lumby & Co., 26, Queen's-buildings, 13, Hackins Hey, Dale-street. IN DUBLIN: Edwards & Wheeler, 5, Westmoreland-street. IN BRISTOL: Betton, Sayce, Vaughan, & Co., 10, Clare-street. IN BRADFORD: Middleton & Fraser, 206, Swan Arcade.

Auditors.—Bolton, Pitt, & Breden, 140, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

Secretary.—Warwick W. Clarke, Esq.

Temporary Offices.—18, Wool Exchange, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of conducting the business usually carried on by an exploration and agency company, including the buying, developing, working, selling, acquiring options upon, and dealing in mines and other property and interests in Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere, the promotion of companies having similar objects, and the transacting of a general financial business.

Nothing has been more noticeable in the stock markets during the past two years than the marked success which has attended the operations of sound exploration and finance companies. Even before the value and permanence of the Westralian goldfields had been fully demonstrated, the shares of all the exploration companies brought out under sound auspices were quoted at substantial premiums, and handsome distributions of profits were made among their shareholders. Now, that it has been proved that the richness of the mines is not merely superficial, and that the reefs are true fissure lodes, increasingly payable as depth is attained, the disposition to invest in the securities of exploration and finance companies is more apparent than ever.

The appended table, showing the present Stock Exchange valuation of the shares of some of the leading South African and West Australian exploration companies, sufficiently indicates the lucrative character of this class of investment:—

Name of Company	Paid up per Share.	Approximate Price.
LONDON AND SOUTH AFRICAN EXPLORATION	£0 10 0	£15½
CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA	1 0 0	13
COLONIAL FINANCE CORPORATION	0 10 0	3¾
RHODESIA EXPLORATION ...	1 0 0	6¾
SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD TRUST	1 0 0	8¼
TRANSVAAL GOLDFIELDS ...	1 0 0	3⅜
ANGLO-FRENCH EXPLORATION	1 0 0	5 1/16
WEST AUSTRALIAN GOLD FIELDS	1 0 0	8⅞
WEST AUSTRALIAN EXPLORING AND FINANCE	1 0 0	4¼
LONDON AND GLOBE FINANCE	1 0 0	4½
WEST AUSTRALIA JOINT STOCK TRUST...	0 10 0	4⅞
CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND	1 0 0	4

It is only three years since Michael Hannan made his memorable find at Kalgurli, and, much as has been done since then, it is certain that Western Australia is as yet only on the threshold of her career as a great gold-producing territory. The practically unlimited extent of the auriferous area and the new and rich discoveries which are constantly being made show that there is still ample room in the colony for the profitable employment of capital. Excellent opportunities occur of securing valuable mining interests in return for financial assistance to prospectors and others who are unable to proceed with the development of their properties. Arrangements have already been made for the representation of the Company at Coolgardie, and it will consequently be from the outset in a position to take advantage of such openings as they occur.

It is proposed to secure options on mining properties in the Hannan's, Coolgardie, Menzies, and Kanowna districts.

The Company acquires, on favourable terms, firm options upon the following properties.

(1) 18 acres at Coolgardie, on the Lady Loch Main Reef. This property has been reported on by the well-known mining experts, Messrs. P. J. Robertson and Farquhar McKenzie. Mr. ROBERTSON states in his report:—

"In conclusion, I have no hesitation in recommending the property as a thoroughly genuine mining venture, and one from which good results ought to be obtained by judicious handling."

Mr. Farquhar McKenzie, M.E., after estimating a yield of 2 oz. of gold to the ton, says in concluding his report:—

"I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that with judicious management and development the property will be second to none in the Coolgardie district as a dividend-paying mine."

Mr. McKenzie's estimate of 2 oz. to the ton has been confirmed by a trial crushing of 10 tons taken 500 tons of stone at grass.

(2) 48 acres at Hannan's.—Mr. C. W. Scott, M.E., states in his report:—

"This property has a lode formation exposed on the surface 50 ft. in width, that will yield 1 oz. of gold per ton. . . . It is in a direct line of the best mines in Kalgurli, and I expect to see the same quality of ore as the Boulder has to-day when settled country is met with."

(3) 24 acres at Haye's Find. This property has been reported on by Mr. A. P. CHANDLER, who states that it adjoins one of the best-known mines—the Shares in which stand at a high premium—and that, from the geological formation, from surface indications, and from shafts that have already been sunk, he believes that the same lodes traverse this property as traverse the adjoining property.

Mr. Francis Hart, M.A.I.M.E., Author of the "Official Handbook to Western Australia," has consented to place his extensive knowledge of the colony at the services of the Company, and to act as Managing Director for a period of five years. Mr. Hart has been recently commissioned to visit the Westralian goldfields, and report on the mines, and his intimate acquaintance with the subject will prove invaluable to the Directors in considering the merits of properties placed before them.

The following properties have been placed with Mr. Francis Hart for disposal. The Company has the refusal of them upon the terms at which they are submitted to him, and will have also the refusal of all other properties that may hereafter during the term of his office as Managing Director be sent to him for disposal:—

(4) 72 acres at Hannan's, on the Corsair line.—Captain Oats, who has inspected this property, says in his report:—

"I have no hesitation in recommending it to the speculating public as a sound prospecting venture, well worth the expenditure of capital necessary to develop it."

(5) 36 acres at Hannan's.—This property has also been reported on by Captain Oats, who says in his report:—

"There is every probability that it will prove a valuable property when the numerous lodes traversing it have been thoroughly developed. . . . I can thoroughly recommend it to speculators as a safe mining investment, only requiring the expenditure of capital necessary to open it up in a practicable manner."

(6) 24 acres at Yalgoo.—This property adjoins the well-known Dollar Gold Mine, and has been inspected by Mr. J. S. Cape, M.E., whose report is being sent over. It is understood to be highly favourable.

(7) 24 acres at Menzies.—This property has been reported on by Herr Schlamm as one of great promise and exceptionally well situated, being only a mile and a-half from the Lady Shenton Mine, and on the same line of reef.

(8) 36 acres at Parker's Range.—This property has been reported on by Mr. William H. Nicholas, M.I.M.M., School of Mines, Ballarat, who states that a considerable amount of development has been done, and good payable gold found, and that after careful examination and sampling he can without hesitation give it as his opinion that the mine will prove an excellent investment, and with confidence recommend its purchase.

None of these properties will be taken over except on the advice of one or other of the Company's mining experts in West Australia.

The organisation of the Company being already complete, investors may embark their capital with the knowledge that there will be none of the delay in starting active operations which generally occurs in the case of newly-formed companies.

There will be no Founders' Shares, and, therefore, the whole of the profits will be available for distribution amongst the Ordinary Shareholders, subject to 10 per cent. thereof being set aside to create a sinking fund, until such fund amounts to the amount of the Capital paid up or credited as paid up from time to time, when the Capital so paid up or credited as paid up will be returned to the Shareholders.

It is not the intention of the Directors at the present time to deal with properties outside Australia and New Zealand. These countries are free from political and other disturbances such as those which have taken place recently elsewhere.

No cash whatever is to be paid by the Company in respect of promotion and registration expenses. The whole of the proceeds of the present issue will, therefore, be available for Working Capital.

The promoters stipulate for the allotment and issue to each of them of 25,000 fully-paid Shares in the Company, in consideration whereof they jointly undertake to provide the whole of the cost of the formation and registration of the Company, and severally to vest in the Company the interests and benefits hereinbefore specified.

Whenever it is practicable arrangements will be made, on the flotation of any subsidiary companies, or on the issue of new capital in any companies in which this Company may be interested, for the Shareholders in this Company to have a prior right to an allotment of Shares *pro rata*. Having regard to the premium at which so many mining shares stand, these rights should be of considerable value.

The following contracts have been entered into, viz.: A contract dated September 15th, 1896, made between Mark Parker, Esq., of the one part, and Warwick W. Clarke, Esq., as Trustee on behalf of the Company, of the other part, being the contract for the acquisition of the options upon the properties numbered 1, 2, and 3, and a contract dated September 15th, 1896, made between Francis Hart, Esq., of the one part and Warwick W. Clarke, Esq., as Trustee on behalf of the Company, of the other part, being the contract for obtaining the first refusal of the properties numbered 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and any other properties that may hereafter be placed in his hands for disposal. Certain other contracts (to none of which this Company is a party) have been entered into by third parties as to the formation of the Company and the subscription of Capital and otherwise, and as these contracts and agreements may constitute contracts within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, applicants must be deemed to have notice of the contents of them, and will be required and will be deemed to have waived particulars and specifications of any such contracts, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise, and subscriptions will be received on that condition only.

It is intended to apply in due course to the Committee of the Stock Exchange, London, for an official settlement in the Shares.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and of the Contracts above set out can be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Company.

Applications for Shares must be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and sent to the Company's Bankers with cheque for the amount payable on application. Should no allotment be made the deposit will be returned in full, and if the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for the balance will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment.

Prospectuses, with Forms of Application, can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or at those of its Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitor.

London, September 15, 1896.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

THE LONDON AND COLONIAL EXPLORATION AND FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL ... ... £150,000, in 150,000 Shares of £1 each,
Of which 50,000 are offered for Subscription at par. Payable 5s. per Share on Application, 5s. on Allotment, and the balance by Instalments of not more than 5s. at intervals of not less than One Month.

No.....

To the Directors of THE LONDON AND COLONIAL EXPLORATION AND FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—I hereby request you to allot me.....Shares of £1 each in the above Company, upon the terms of the Prospectus, and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I agree to accept the same, or any less number you may allot me, and to pay the further instalments thereon when due. I enclose a Cheque for £....., being 5s. per Share payable on application.

Full Name.....
Signature.....
Description.....
Address.....
Date.....1896.

THE

West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Ltd.

REGISTERED OFFICES:—FINSBURY HOUSE, BLOMFIELD STREET, E.C.

INTERIM REPORT.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

In accordance with the promise contained in their last circular, dated June 25, the Directors now beg to submit the following interim report:—

It will be remembered that the Company was incorporated in November, 1895, for the purpose of undertaking all the usual business of a financial corporation, but more especially in regard to the Colony of Western Australia, and, in the words of the original Prospectus, of "working in friendly relations with the principal corporations and houses engaged in West Australian mining." The Directors are happy to be able to state that in both respects they have been eminently successful. From the outset the resources of the Company have been fully and actively employed in various West Australian and other mining ventures, whilst the most cordial relations have been established with the leading corporations of a kindred character.

It is impracticable at this stage to give full details of many of the important undertakings in which the Company is concerned, but the following particulars of some of its principal investments will be of interest to shareholders:—

NORTHERN TERRITORIES GOLD FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA.—In view of the widespread interest which has been manifested in this undertaking the Directors think it desirable to give shareholders the following information:—

Shortly after the incorporation of the Company, the attention of the Board was directed to reports and returns of an extraordinary character respecting the auriferous wealth of a large tract of country situated in the Northern Territory of Australia, and immediately adjoining the northern boundary of the Colony of Western Australia. It appeared that for a distance of about 200 miles in a southerly direction from Palmerston, the capital of the Northern Territory, and for a breadth of from 50 to 60 miles—making a total area of between 10,000 and 12,000 square miles—there was a phenomenally rich gold-bearing formation, which had hitherto been worked in a spasmodic and unscientific manner chiefly by Chinese labour, but the returns were of such a character that, having verified their genuineness by a reference to Government records and other official sources, your Directors lost no time in securing options upon nearly all of the best developed properties. Shareholders will be able to form some opinion of the remarkable mineral wealth of the district from the fact that, notwithstanding the primitive and wasteful methods employed, a crushing of 10 tons from one of the properties gave the pheuomenal result of 3,000 ounces, whilst six crushings from the 150-feet level of another property gave the following returns:—

Crushings.	Tons.	Ounces.
No. 1	72	378
,, 2	119	402
,, 3	53	167
,, 4	12	60
,, 5	44	265
,, 6	30	190

The above results are independent of the gold left in the tailings, of which many thousands of tons are upon the properties. Samples of some of these tailings have recently been assayed, and have in some cases yielded returns at the rate of three ounces to the ton.

Having thus secured options over the best known portions of the gold-bearing region, and carefully studied reports of various Government officials and mining experts, your Directors came to the conclusion that the Northern Territory contained such great potentlalities of wealth as to justify them in directing the attention of other leading West Australian Financial Corporations to the subject, and seeking their co-operation with a view to securing for the Western Australian mining investors generally the first opportunity of participating in the development of a new goldfield so closely allied in both situation and character to the West Australian mines. Various meetings were held, and after the matter had been exhaustively considered, with the assistance of a large amount of eminent technical advice, your Directors were ultimately successful in effecting a great combination of West Australian interests for the purpose of taking up the options above referred to, and acting generally as the mining pioneers of the Territory. The combination comprised, in addition to the West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, such powerful Companies as the West Australian Gold Fields, Limited; London and Continental Investment Corporation of Western Australia, Limited; the West Australian Share Corporation, Limited; the Colonial Gold Fields, Limited; the Universal Corporation, Limited; the Gold Lands Corporation, Limited; the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation, Limited; and the "Venture" group of West Australian Syndicates.

These Companies, with others, constituted themselves into the Northern Territories Syndicate, Limited, and the necessary capital was at once subscribed for the purpose of completing the purchases of the properties over which your Directors had obtained options—with the result that the Syndicate has recently been able to hand over to the Northern Territories Gold Fields of Australia, Limited, six extensive groups of mines, from which, during the past four years, about a quarter of a million worth of gold has been obtained by Chinese labour alone, with certain plant, machinery, and upwards of 25,000 tons of tailings. The Syndicate has accepted the whole of its purchase price in fully paid-up shares of the Northern Territories Gold Fields of Australia, Limited, and has further subscribed the whole of the working capital; and the properties are now in course of transfer to the proprietary Company, which has secured the services of two very eminent engineers who have already commenced active operations with a view to the scientific development of the properties. In the meantime your Directors are happy to announce that arrangements are in progress which will give this Company, in conjunction with the New Zealand Joint Stock and General Corporation, Limited, and the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation, Limited, the paramount control of the whole scheme. Although up to the present the shares have not been placed upon the market, or offered to the outside public in any way, they are being extensively inquired for upon the London Stock Exchange and elsewhere. Fuller details will be made public at an early date, when, should it be decided to make a public offer of any portion of the Shares, your Directors will use their best endeavours to obtain a preferential consideration for applications from shareholders in the West Australian Joint Stock Trust and its sister Companies. Your Directors have felt that, having been the pioneers of the scheme, the above information is due to their shareholders, whom they feel they may congratulate upon the addition of such an invaluable asset to the Company.

THE ASSOCIATED GROUP OF MINES.—Shareholders will be aware that this group now constitutes a leading feature of the West Australian market. It comprises the Associated Gold Mines of Western Australia, Limited, the Associated Southern Gold Mines (W.A.), Limited, the Lake View South Gold Mines (W.A.), Limited, and the Lake View Extended Gold Mine (W.A.), Limited, all of whose shares stand at high premiums. A large number of other properties in the Hannan's district of Western Australia have also been secured and are in course of active development, with a view to the formation of several further extensions of the associated scheme. Your Directors were fortunate enough to obtain a substantial interest in the group upon terms which have already yielded the Company large profits.

In addition to its interest in the Associated Gold Mines of Western Australia, Limited, referred to in the original Prospectus, the West Australian Joint Stock Trust, in conjunction with Brookman's Gold Exploration and Finance Association of Western Australia, Limited, and the Associated Company, took an active part in the issue of the Associated Southern Gold Mines (W.A.), Limited, in which Company it is a large shareholder. Your Directors also have a large interest in the projected Associated Extensions, and are intimately identified generally with the group. The most excellent accounts are being received as to the progress of developments, and now that crushings are commencing upon the Lake View South Mine, and other machinery is in a forward state of erection, the Directors look for a considerable further appreciation in the value of their holdings and interest.

THE BURBANK DISTRICT.—The attention of the Directors was some months ago called to this district, and they acquired an interest in two properties almost adjoining the Burbank's Birthday Gift Gold Mine. They had reason to anticipate that this district was an exceedingly rich one, and the splendid reports now coming to hand from the Birthday Gift Mine, where 1,463 tons have now been crushed for a yield of 5,951 ounces (or an average of upwards of four ounces per ton), would appear to justify the opinion the Directors formed. One of these mines, Burbank's No. 1 West, has already been successfully issued, and the latest reports from the manager would appear to indicate that it will be not less valuable than the Birthday Mine. Crushings will commence during the present week. The other, Burbank's No. 1 South, which, according to Professor Nicholas, the manager of the Birthday Mine, is on the direct line of that Company's reef, will be issued during the present month, and, as in the case of Burbank's No. 1 West, shareholders in the West Australian Joint Stock Trust will have the first offer of the shares. The Directors regard their interest in these two Companies as likely to prove a very valuable asset.

NIL DESPERANDUM MINE.—This is a very promising property in the White Feather District, to which the attention of your Directors was attracted by the excellent news received respecting the developments of the White Feather Reward Claim, from which highly satisfactory crushings are now being sent. The Company was successfully floated under the auspices of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust in the month of February last, and work is now being pushed on with all speed with a view to the commencement of crushing. The property was acquired from an influential local syndicate, of which Sir William Robinson, late Governor of Western Australia, was a member, and is reported to be extremely rich, an opinion which is being fully justified by the progress of developments.

MOUNT JACKSON DISTRICT.—The Company is interested in a large group of mines in this district in close proximity to the Mount Jackson Gold Mines which was issued some time back by the West Australian Gold Fields, Limited, and also near the Victoria Gold Mine, another property of high repute.

OTHER BUSINESS.—The Company is in constant negotiation respecting a large amount of West Australian business, but the Directors think that the above particulars will be sufficient to indicate to the shareholders that the West Australian Joint Stock Trust is justifying the hope of its prospectus to take its place amongst the most active and enterprising of the West Australian Financial Corporations.

PROFITS AND INTERIM DIVIDENDS.—It will be within the recollection of the shareholders that two interim quarterly dividends at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum have already been paid, and in their last circular the Directors stated: "Having regard to the large profits the Company is making, and to the character of its principal assets, the Directors have no hesitation in stating that after making provision for a large reserve fund, and providing for the claims of the Founders' shares, shareholders may anticipate a continuance of these quarterly dividends pending the formal audit of the accounts at the close of the Company's financial year."

In redemption of this promise the Directors have now declared a third quarterly interim dividend at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum, whilst the continued appreciation in the value of the various shares held by the Company and their daily increasing market popularity constitute such a very large surplus after providing for the intended interim dividends, that the Directors anticipate being able at the close of the financial year to recommend the setting aside of a very large reserve, and at the same time carrying forward a sufficient amount of undivided profit to secure a regular continuance of these interim dividends.

FOUNDERS' SHARES.—The Directors have been approached with a view to a scheme for the conversion of the Founders' shares into Ordinary shares of the Company. They have not, however, yet arrived at any conclusion upon the subject, as the matter is one which requires careful consideration and would involve considerable legal formality. The Board, however, will favourably consider any fair and equitable proposal for merging the Founders' shares should it meet with the approval of the general body of members. In the meantime, the rights of these shares are being fully protected.

SISTER COMPANIES.—In view of the large amount of business before the Company and of the advantages already derived from active co-operation with other Companies, the Directors have welcomed the formation, under the auspices of one of their colleagues, who is also the largest individual shareholder in your Company, of the New Zealand Joint Stock and General Corporation, Limited, with which Company, so far as its West Australian business is concerned, your Directors hope to work in cordial relations. They have also arrived at a working arrangement with the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation, Limited, a Company formed in all respects on similar lines to the West Australian Joint Stock Trust, and which has already participated in most of the ventures in which it has been engaged. Your Directors regard the interchange and community of interest thus secured and the practical amalgamation of forces in business, requiring a large amount of capital, as of great importance, constituting, as it does, a still further guarantee for the successful carrying through of such operations as in your interest they may from time to time embark upon.

Signed on behalf of the Board,
JAMES JUDD, Chairman.

September 15th, 1896.

BUY FROM THE GROWER.

TEA MERCHANT
BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

TO HER MAJESTY
THE QUEEN.

LIPTON'S DELICIOUS TEAS

HAVE THE LARGEST SALE IN THE WORLD.

NO HIGHER PRICE. PER 1/7 LB.

APPRECIATED EVERYWHERE FOR THEIR DELICATE FLAVOUR AND EXQUISITE AROMA.

NO HIGHER PRICE.

THIS IS THE FINEST TEA THE WORLD PRODUCES.

PER 1/4 LB. RICH, PURE, AND FRAGRANT. PER 1/- LB.

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Pill to a dose of

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

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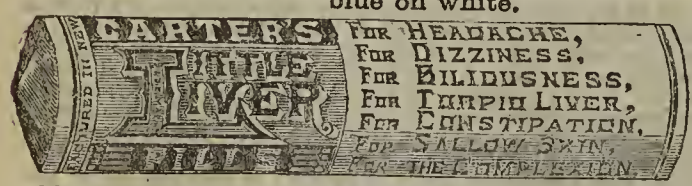
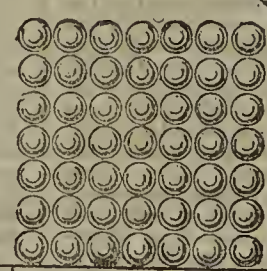
It is EXACTLY like this, only the wrapper is printed in blue on white.



The vial contains forty pills, and costs 1s. 1½d. at the Chemist's. This is cheaper than pennyworths of doubtfully compounded pills. It is but a trifle over a farthing a dose, for ONE PILL IS A DOSE, though they are so small that FORTY-NINE of them only measure one inch square.

Cure TORPID LIVER WITHOUT FAIL. SICK HEADACHE, MALAISE, DISTRESS FROM EATING, and SALLOW COMPLEXION promptly done away with.



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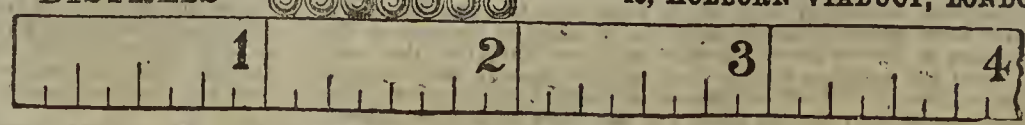

"BUT BE SURE THEY ARE CARTER'S."

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 917.—SHAKESPEARE ON THE MOTOR CAR.

VINDEX (real name and address will be given in due course)	£1 1 0
NIN-NIN " " " " "	£1 1 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

Now that the holiday season is nearly over and most people are at home again, an excellent way of passing the lengthening evenings may be found in dressing dolls for the coming TRUTH Show. Several thousands of dolls have to be dressed between this and Christmas, and they can be sent out at once to any ladies willing to dress them. The TRUTH Dolls are of two sizes, as in former years, and a number of prizes will be given as usual to the ladies who most distinguish themselves in dressing them. TRUTH Brooches will also be given to all ladies who dress a certain number of dolls. Full particulars as to the prizes will be published shortly.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

As stated last week, it has been found necessary to disqualify W. W. P. as prize-winner in this competition, it having turned out that one of the names suggested by him, viz, "Nestrum," was already borne by a horse in training. In these circumstances the prize will now be awarded to LE ROI, whose list of names is subjoined:—

LIST OF NAMES SUGGESTED FOR TWELVE YEARLINGS.

1. French Polish. 2. Stepping Stone. 3. Bastion. 4. Pinchbeck. 5. Benedictine. 6. Form-at-a-glance. 7. Assassin. 8. War Dance. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Escalop. 11. Spot Stroke. 12. Nunnery.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 915.

The prize in this competition has been divided between PERSIMMON and J. MCGRIGOR ALLAN for the following versions of the given French stanzas:—

How vain is life!
Of love a ray,
A little strife,
And then—good-day!

How brief life seems!
Of hope a mite,
A few short dreams,
And then—good-night!
Persimmon.

Our life is vain:
Love's short, sweet spell,
Hate's short, sharp pain,
And then—farewell!

Our life is short:
Hope's little light,
A dream's brief sport.
And then—good-night!
J. McGrigor Allan.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 918.

I should like to take a little longer time for consideration before awarding this prize.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 922.

There have been several TRUTH competitions in past years which have involved searching the works of our best-known English poets; and I have been often asked to give another of a similar kind. It is thought, then, that the following competition will afford an opportunity for that kind of quest which is evidently popular amongst many of the readers of these pages. The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered to the competitor who succeeds in

QUOTING FROM THE WORKS OF WELL-KNOWN POETS LINES IN WHICH THE SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK ARE MENTIONED.

As probably many competitors will succeed in finding seven passages containing the desiderated names, it may be well to add that in awarding the prize preference will be given to those competitors who furnish quotations from *well-known* poets. The seven quotations should also be taken, if possible, from seven different poets, who may be of any nationality, so long as the poems quoted are written in English. Only one quotation for each day is required, a full reference being given in each case to the poem from which the verse is quoted. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, October 5, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of VOX, winner of Prize No. 916, is William Vokes, Esq., 103, Elspeth-road, Clapham Common, S.W.

NEMESIS.—I will not overlook the fact you mention in your letter.

IVANHOE.—Yes, the quotation, "The ne'er yet beaten horse of Parthia," &c., should have been credited to you as well as to PAX.

ALICUJUS.—Thanks for your letter.

W. NORTON.—The lines on "Bishops on Bicycles" were not to exceed eight: you sent twenty.

MERRYTHOUGHT.—You build your contention on a baseless premiss.

NEMESIS.—Many thanks for your letter and the additional suggestions sent by you.

ARCH. GIBBS.—I regret that you are not satisfied with the conclusion arrived at.

IVY LEAVES.—I will not forget your suggestion.

J. M. M.—Many thanks for your interesting communication. I fail to see, however, how I can utilise it as the subject for a competition.

JUNO.—The small dolls are 12 in. high.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 919.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

RHYMED ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION "SHOULD A BISHOP RIDE A BICYCLE?"

Let bishops bike—what will it matter
If reverend cheeks blush rosier,
While boist'rous boys bawl "Whose yer hatter?"
Or "Who's yer bloomin' hosier?"
To nobler curves 'twill shape their calves,
In sounder health 'twill land 'em,
And time will teach their better halves
To join them on a tandem. Skriker.

Can respect for a bishop be felt by the pious
As he rushes down hill on a bicycle by us?
What should we think of a right reverend prelate
If he took to horn-blowing, or ringing his bell at
His scandalised flock? Or suppose that a peeler
Should "run in" the ecclesiastical wheeler
For furious riding! No; solemn and pious ease
Is suited to him who has care of a diocese!
Meerschaum.

Yes; leading on the narrow way
Is certainly their station;
But yet they should not trust for sway
To merely wind-inflation.

They must not "put on side," the wheel
Due counterpoise demands.
No "undue leaning" must they feel
When laying on of hands.
New Zealand.

Should bishops mount the gaysome wheel,
And "croppers" come, belike?
Or should the priestly bosom feel
No yearning for the "bike?"

Let bishop-scorchers scour the world,
Nor do the thing by halves;
They've reared the lambs within the fold,
Now let them train their calves. Darby.

Would he neglect his Church's rites?
Would he deny her teaching?
No; for the wheel which all invites
Exemplifies her preaching.

And we'll remember, when we see
His Lordship give a lurch,
The "bike" supplies a long-felt want
For chastening the Church! May.

The Church's Feasts depend, you know, in Calendar rotation,
Upon the Cycle of the Moon,* a nineteen years' rotation.
Now if the Church, as oft 'tis said, unto the Moon is like,
The overseers of the Church should likewise have a "bike."

To tend their flock in weal and woe the Bishops show devotion
(Although some rather tend to give their early friends promotion).
Then if beneath the weight of woe they overburdened feel,
May not they justly seek relief by mounting on the "wheel?" A. A. G.

*The Cycle of the Moon or golden number—see tables prefixed to the Prayer Book.

When princes, peers, and politicians,
Ride daily on the wheel,
To pious Mrs. G.'s traditions
Tis useless to appeal.

Let common sense, then, tell us whether
Bishops ought to bike;
Why, rhyme and reason cry together,
"By all means—if they like." Ex.

The motive that suggested the episcopal attire
Was to demonstrate that Bishops ought to cycle, and with ease.
That's why their shoes, their gaiters, and their breeches they require,
For they couldn't "bike" in trousers—they'd get baggy at the knees.

The apron, they foresaw, would polish nickel fairly well;
The "shovel-hat" they took but as a temporary wear;
That is to be abolished, and henceforth, I'm glad to tell,
The full-dress shape—three-cornered—will complete their lordships' gear. King Hal.

No reader of TRUTH would disparage
The Bishop, at cycling "au fait;"
Who gave up his horses and carriage
To give what they cost him away.

Methinks that St. Paul such a pastor
Would thus with encouragement greet,
"I wrought with my hands for the Master;
Do thou as good work with thy feet."
Birota.

How some the sane suggestion mock
In truth I cannot tell;
It will not shock but guide the flock
To hear the Bishop's bell.
No scorching prelate could I praise,
But this is clear as dawn,
Unless he strays from beaten ways
He cannot harm "the Lawn." Twins.

A bishop may ride on a cycle of steel
If he carefully chooses the orthodox wheel.
No Singer, or Dayton, or Humber belike,
Isaiah restricts him to one sort of "bike."
The prophet declares, and he's surely a guide,
That the Swift* is the cycle on which he must ride. Annan Academy.

* "We will ride upon the Swift," Isaiah xxx., 16.

Should Bishops ride on bicycles? Why, surely, if they like,
There seems no reason why their reverend lordships shouldn't "bike;"
Despite the old example—(you all know it, I suppose?)
'Twixt hands beside each other and at length before the nose.

Yet they must be staid in manner if to "biking" they aspire,
They're debarred from putting Sid(e) on, though acquainted well with Tyre;
But Dame Fashion surely meant them to, on bicycles, look neat
When she settled on their lordships' breeks and gaiters all complete. Godfather.

"Should Bishops bike?" This is indeed a poser,
And to the query I should answer "No, sir."
Let curates fly upon the tyre pneumatic
To tend the sick and comfort the rheumatic.
The rector, too, may sometimes join the number
Of those who tread their "Elswick" or their "Humber;"
But not the Bishop—no! the thought is torture—
His Lordship might in time become a scorcher!
Chelsea.

I fail to see why reverend sires
Should fear to mount pneumatic tyres;
Why those who peace and safety like
Should not enjoy a safety bike.
No! let each Bishop mount his Humber
Till all machines are counted lumber,
And steeds are ordered, winged and fair,
To Heaven the lawn-sleeved Bench to bear.
Arden.

Some say that the cycle is not for a Bishop to straddle,
That it becomes not his cloth nor his shanks;
That his dignity's much more imposing in saddle,
For thus with his equals he ranks.
But why should the Bishop not have his small pleasure?
He needs neither horses nor grooms as he goes;
And thus to the poor he can give in large measure,
And gout never troubles his toes. Culpepper.

Of rational costume I write—
A long frock coat, a collar white,
A low-crowned hat with curly brim,
It makes her look just like him.
A silken apron to the knee,
Smart shoes, and gaiters, all may see;
Well, truth to tell, 'tis something like
A blessed Bishop on a bike! Dot.

Answers have also been received from:—Francis, Roberto, Arch Gibbs, Frog, Edgware, Veritas, Ivy Leaves, Troyes, Marguérite, Penquin, Bimbo, Bootle's Baby, A. D. C., Canis, Iota, Jeff, Sol, North Pole, Dedun, Desmatrophy, Culpepper, Nemo, H. W. B., Theology, D. I., R. M., Alicujus, William J. J., W. G. B., Hunks, Philalectres, Dorset, Screen, E. J., Stadium, Con, Quid Nunc, Nitram, A. A. A. A., Mona, Megrah, Atra Cura, Ivanhoe, Monica, Qu'Appelle, Stultulus, Tay, Campbell, Go-ahead, E. Culverhouse, Anvil, Georgina, Forsan, Espérance, Pan, Wahina, Pax, Jep, Felsberg, May, Deadeye, Nocerb, Regate, Achilles, E. W. S. B., Effie, Samson, Pax Vobiscum, Society, Clear, Robin Adair, N. N. N., La Plata, Excelsior, Sol, Dandelion, A Wild Curate, Hub, Esperanza, Jacobite, Zero, Opera, Herpal, Ambrosius, Silidar, Meg, Songster, Nitram, Treeve, AAAA, Candlemas, Shamrock, Nemesis, Whig, Stephanotis, Fridaythorpe, Anvil, and J. McGrigor Allan.

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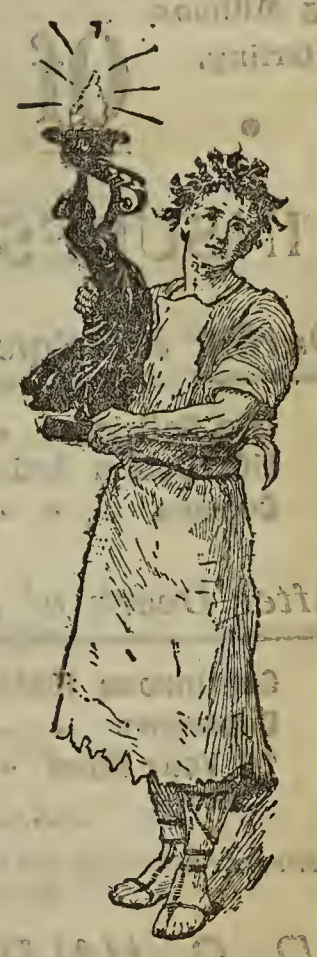

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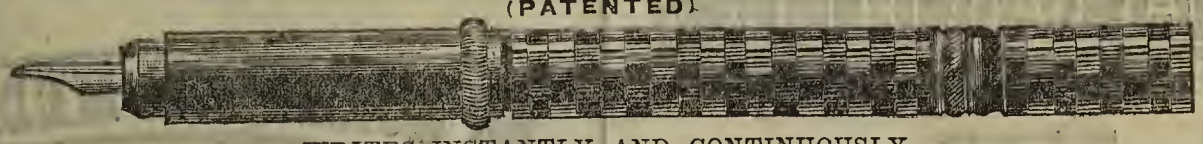

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1031. Vol. XL. Thursday, October 1, 1896. Price Sixpence.

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ENTRE NOUS.

TO THE QUEEN.

'MONGST those, your Majesty, who now lay tribute at your feet,
And with such pæans of applause your reign protracted greet,
There may be those who louder shout as they approach your throne,
But none, be sure, who wishes breathe more hearty than our own.

Some may be blessed with supple knees more prone than ours to bend,
Some may to wild hyperbole be more inclined to tend,
Some may more fulsomely proclaim the fame Fate on you showers,
But none can bring you votive verse that's more sincere than ours.

We would congratulate you, then, on living to attain
To such an epoch in so great and glorious a reign;
Gladly we hail the fact that you have sat upon your throne
Longer than any King or Queen our country yet has known.

But our congratulations must more warmly be express'd
When we remember your long reign has also been the best;
And when we gratefully recall the wisdom and the skill
With which you've based your sovereignty upon the nation's will.

Forsaking all the bad old paths our Kings did once pursue,
You have to England been as loyal as England's been to you;
Nor have you countenanced those new and ill-considered ways
With which some monarchs even now a Continent amaze.

You have been steadfast to your vows, good faith your arm has nerved,
From the straight path of rectitude your steps have never swerved.
Your country's good—'tis this has been the aim you've made your own;
The mire cast up by party waves has never smirched your throne.

When England spoke as with one voice, 'twas yours to pave the way
For those concessions which have made our land so strong to-day;
And in your proud position now this wholesome truth we see—
The Sovereign never is so great as when the people's free!

Dark shadows have at times obscured the sunlight of your life;
But comfort always has been near when griefs have been most rife,
And you have found when stricken most by harsh Bereavement's hand,
That sorrow is a link that binds yet closer Queen and land.

So, when that land has wounded lain by dire disaster torn,
Your kindly words of sympathy a prompt relief have borne.
No sobbing mourner ever yet appealed to you in vain;
When England's heart has thrilled with woe, your heart has throbbed with pain.

You've seen our Empire greater grow; far, far throughout the world,
You've watched the flag of England wave, by Britain's sons unfurled;
And, better still, it has been yours to aid the statesman's plan,
Which, by the passing of just laws, heralds new hope for man!

Hence 'tis with all sincerity your Majesty we greet,
And lay this tribute loyally and gladly at the feet
Of one to whom the love of all the land is doubly due—
As queenliest of Queens and yet as best of women, too!

The papers have been printing some sensational fiction about the Queen's eyes, one journal announcing that her Majesty is threatened with cataract. There is no foundation for these alarming statements. Professor Pagenstecker came a few weeks ago from Wiesbaden to Osborne to examine the Queen's eyes, and decided that there is no trace of any organic disease, but that a certain weakness of eyesight from which her Majesty

has recently suffered, is merely the effect of advancing age. The Queen has been much benefited by the treatment which Professor Pagenstecker recommended, and her new glasses enable her to read and write without difficulty.

The Princess of Wales, who left the Bellevue Pier, in the Sound, at four o'clock last Tuesday afternoon for Aberdeen, in the *Osborne*, had a very rough passage indeed across the North Sea, and the Royal yacht had never encountered worse weather. The *Osborne* arrived in Aberdeen Roads at four o'clock on Thursday morning, but the state of the tide did not allow of the yacht entering the harbour until one o'clock. Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark arrived at Aberdeen from Sandringham at seven o'clock, and at nine they went off to the *Osborne* in a tug boat, and remained on board until the Princess landed, and they all went on to Ballater by the afternoon train. The Princess and her party stayed at Balmoral to drink tea with the Queen, and then they drove on to Mar Lodge, where they are to stay for the next fortnight with the Duke and Duchess of Fife. This is the first visit of the Princess to Deeside since the autumn of 1894.

H.R.H. and the Princess of Wales are to arrive at Sandringham for the winter on the 30th, and they will entertain several house parties there during the ensuing six weeks. The Prince and Princess and Princess Victoria will be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough at Blenheim from November 23 till the 27th, when they are to go to Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen, returning to Sandringham on the 30th, as there will be a large shooting party at the Hall during the first week of December.

There will be no balls at Sandringham during the winter, but there is to be a lawn-meet of the West Norfolk Foxhounds at the Hall, with a hunt breakfast. It is probable that this function will be fixed for Tuesday, December 1, the Princess of Wales's birthday.

The King and Queen of Denmark, who have left Bernstorff on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland at their seat on the Traun See, near Gmunden, will probably pay a brief visit to England before they return to Copenhagen for the winter, in which case they are to be the guests of the Queen at Balmoral, and of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham, where they will meet the King of the Hellenes and his second son, Prince George, who are now in Denmark.

The Queen of the Netherlands is in delicate health, and she will leave the Hague early next month, with her mother, the Queen Regent, to spend a part of the winter in Italy, and they may possibly proceed to Egypt if the weather becomes cold.

Archduke Joseph of Austria with his wife, the Archduchess Clotilde, and their daughter the Archduchess Marie Dorothea, are to pay a visit to the Queen at Balmoral in the course of this month, after which they will be the guests of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham for a few days. Their Imperial Highnesses are coming to England to visit the Duc d'Aumale at Wood Norton, his seat in Worcestershire, where the Comtesse de Cases and her parents are now staying. The Archduchess Clotilde belongs to the Hungarian branch of the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha family. The Archduke Joseph is the richest member of the Hapsburg clan, excepting only his cousin, the Emperor Francis Joseph.

The Duke of Cambridge has been staying at Glenmuick House, Aberdeenshire, with Lord and Lady Glenesk, and at Drummond Castle, Perthshire, with Lord and Lady Ancaster, during his visit to Scotland. The Duke will spend a considerable part of this month at Newmarket, and he is to have several shooting parties at Six-Mile Bottom, where the Prince of Wales is to be his guest on the 12th, 18th, and 26th.

I had an amusing letter the other day from a gentleman who gravely suggested that the custom of walking backwards before Royalty was due to an instinct implanted in men by Providence. Owing to the wide publicity given to this suggestion in the columns of Truth, it has brought me another suggestion from a philosopher living in the Far East. This gentleman has seen, I imagine, much of savage life. His idea is that the custom of always turning the face towards Royalty arose in this way. The first kings were rulers of savage tribes, whose clothing was extremely limited, and rarely consisted of more than a scanty garment modelled on the primitive fig-leaf. When a subject thus apparelled had to present himself before Royalty, courtesy, not to say decency, would suggest that he should present to the Sovereign only that portion of his anatomy which was concealed by clothing. He therefore kept his back averted in approaching and retiring. Hence the walking backwards. I do not know what learned men may think of this theory, but it seems to me quite as reasonable as the one about the bees and their queen.

The papers persist in describing the Emperor Nicholas as a "keen sportsman," whereas every one knows very well that his Majesty cares nothing for shooting, and never goes out except upon quasi-State occasions, when he is obliged to take a gun as a matter of form. The Emperor has no pretensions to be even a tolerable shot.

The following curious communication was in my letter-box this morning. Its sender purports to be a newspaper correspondent or a detective—I am not quite sure which

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 854 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 859.
For Amusements, see page 853.
For Our Puzzles, see page 865.

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—and implies that the subjoined verses were picked up by him close to Balmoral Castle. It is against my rule to publish unauthenticated communications, but I am induced to make an exception in the present case, as the verses, whoever their author may be, appear to me to express a very innocent and natural aspiration :—

In a snug little cottage, not far from the Dee—
Alice and I and the Baby!
How happy we all should be able to be—
Alice and I and the Baby.
The demon of worry would then be appeased,
No longer by etiquette we should be teased,
We could do—only fancy!—whatever we pleased—
Alice and I and the Baby!
Alice—Alice—
Pines in a palace;
Here she'd be jolly and bubbling with glee.
Oh, why doesn't Fate, then, release us all three—
Alice and I and the Baby?

We could walk at our will over mountain and lea—
Alice and I and the Baby!
A detective no longer would pop from each tree
At Alice and I and the Baby.
By sentries and soldiers no longer beset,
We could live our own lives, and might even forget
The dynamite bomb and the Nihilist's threat—
Alice and I and the Baby!
Alice—Alice—
Pines in a palace;
How she would thrive if she only were free!
Oh why, then, won't Fortune the freedom decree
Of Alice and I and the Baby?

As we roamed through the heather or sat by the shore—
Alice and I and the Baby,
The smug Court officials no longer would bore
Alice and I and the Baby.
Five-sixths of our cares from our lives would take wing,
Nine-tenths of the load from our backs we should fling;
Oh, wouldn't we carol and wouldn't we sing—
Alice and I and the Baby!
Alice—Alice—
Pines in a palace;
She would be jolly enough by the Dee.
Yes, we *all* should be happy as happy could be—
Alice and I and the Baby!

A good deal of correspondence in defence of the West Indies as a health resort has been provoked by the paragraph on the subject which appeared in TRUTH a fortnight ago. I may mention more particularly an unqualified panegyric that I have received on the merits of Barbados, which the writer, after having wintered out of England for eleven years, describes as one of the healthiest spots to be found. There has, at any rate, been no authenticated case of yellow fever there since 1881. On referring again to the medical gentleman who originally raised the alarm on the subject, I am told by him that his remarks apply only to Antigua and St. Kitts, and from what he says I gather that the shortcomings of those places are due far less to Nature than to the defiance of the laws of health and common-sense by the inhabitants. The truth seems to be that the different islands vary considerably both in climate and sanitation, and that it is desirable for visitors to exercise discrimination. Personally, I know several people who have wintered repeatedly in Jamaica and Barbados, and who describe the West Indies as an earthly Paradise for winter quarters. Probably, with a little rational attention to sanitary requirements, all the islands might be made so.

It may be more to the purpose to utter a word of warning to English people contemplating a visit to Madeira, which is annually growing in favour as a winter resort. I hear from a lady who wintered there last season that typhoid fever was very prevalent during the winter and spring, and in March and April there were four deaths from it among English visitors in as many weeks—a very alarming proportion considering the number of English in the island. That the danger is not yet over is shown by the fact that one of the resident English doctors is only now recovering from an attack. The mischief is said to have been clearly traceable to the drinking-water, and as nothing has been done to remove the pollution, the moral would seem to be that water-drinkers should avoid Madeira for the present.

A bitter wail reaches me from a lady respecting the condition of the first-class waiting-room and the ladies'-room on the main-line platform at Liverpool-street Station. As a frequent passenger to and from the station she says she finds a seat outside on a luggage-barrow preferable to one in a place so badly ventilated and disagreeably overcrowded as the first-class waiting-room usually is, while in the ladies'-room, which can only be approached through the general waiting-room, the state of things is even worse. I feel sure it is only necessary to mention this complaint to ensure attention being given to the matter by the Company's officials.

If only half the schemes now projected are carried out next November the streets of London will look passing strange. The month of fogs and civic festivity will witness the authorised introduction of motor-cars in our midst, in celebration of which event a grand parade of horseless vehicles is being arranged, finishing up with a run to Brighton and back. Next we are promised a couple of lines of horseless omnibuses plying between Hammersmith and the Bank, one of these enterprising companies claiming to use an auto-motor costing only twopence a mile to work. And there are some hints that the privilege cab question, now exercising the minds of the London cab trade, is not unlikely to arrive at an unexpected and—to one side—disastrous solution by the substitution of the auto-motor for the horse and growler. However, we have survived more terrible predictions in the past—and the metropolis still stands where it did.

Apropos of the cab difficulty, a reader in the North of England asks me to call attention to the arrangement which some of the railway companies make for registering luggage from the starting-point straight through to the owner's address, and delivering it to him there.

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff

Whether all the railway companies do this I cannot say, but I suppose it is pretty well known that some of them do, though the arrangement, of course, only applies to London and a few large towns, and within a certain radius of the terminal station. It is a system, however, which, if generally carried out and properly brought to the notice of the public, ought to prove as remunerative to the companies as convenient to their passengers.

The National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery are no longer available to the public on Sundays. The reason appears to be the total absence of artificial light. It is admitted that the experiment of opening these galleries on Sundays during the past summer has been so successful that there is no question of the practice being continued next year. This being the case, the National Sunday League are inaugurating a memorial to the Trustees requesting them to take steps for enabling the rooms to be kept open continuously all the year round. A moment's reflection will show that the advantages held out for inspecting the National collections are much more likely to be sought after in winter than in summer, as holiday trips to the country and suburbs are then, as a rule, no longer indulged in, and the Trustees will do well to remember this fact, and act accordingly.

In this utilitarian age it is almost useless for Art (even with a capital A) to hold itself aloof from the enterprising advertisement agent. The sorrows of Sir Edward Arnold, made public by a willing Press, suggest an amount of innocence and confidence on the part of the poet which are immensely refreshing in these sophisticated days. It is true that in accepting a commission to supply a patriotic effusion upon a certain date Sir Edwin may have credited the purchaser with nothing more than an intense admiration for his poetic efforts; but, bearing in mind that the latest President of the Royal Academy was made by means of his picture, "Bubbles," to help swell the pockets of a soap-dealing firm, it would have evinced a clearer knowledge of the art of the advertising agent if salutary restrictions had been added to the original contract in the present instance.

An impression has got abroad—though how it can have started it is impossible to say—that the English play called "Caste" is a German play which Robertson translated and adapted to the English stage. This is wholly erroneous. "Caste" is an absolutely original play, and, as I said the other day, first appeared in the form of a short story in a Christmas book edited by Tom Hood the Younger, called "Rates and Taxes." It was the story told by the Poor Rate collector. The only play of the old Tottenham-court-road (Prince of Wales) series by Robertson which had something to do with the German stage was "School," and was suggested to Robertson after reading "Aschenbrodel" (Cinderella), by Benedix. But the plays are identical only in the merest outline. There is no affinity whatever in the literary style of Benedix and Robertson.

Mr. Underhill has undertaken to write the Life of Lord Leighton, whose collected "Discourses to Students of the Royal Academy" will be published in a few weeks.

My attention was called the other day to a case in which a gentleman who has several hundreds a year of his own, and whose parent's income is reckoned at thousands, holds an open scholarship at Oxford; and the correspondent who brought the matter to my notice suggested that some means should be devised by which the pecuniary benefits of scholarships should be reserved for men who are really in need of them, even if the mere honour was left absolutely open to competition among all sorts and conditions of men. This is a very difficult question. It would be easy enough, of course, to confine University scholarships to men of limited means; but everybody knows that the effect of this would be to place the holder of the scholarship under a stigma by branding him among his University comrades as a sort of confessed pauper. There is something, too, to be said in favour of leaving scholarships absolutely open regardless of the candidates' means, so that the poor man may win provided he is the best man, but not otherwise.

The only substantial argument, I take it, for attaching any sort of condition to the holding of a scholarship is that the moneyed man has an advantage over other competitors from the fact that as a moneyed man he has had the benefit of better schooling and coaching. In this respect there may undoubtedly be injustice in the fact of a rich man holding a scholarship, but it is a most difficult thing in any given case to say for certain that a scholarship has been really won by means of money and the advantages that money confers, rather than by superior industry or ability. It seems to me that the most you can justly do is to encourage men who do not want the money to resign their scholarships in favour of unsuccessful candidates, to whom the money would be of more consideration.

But, again, how is this to be done? You might allow a man to relinquish the emoluments and convert himself into an honorary scholar, and you might allow him to adorn himself with a gold tassel on his cap, or a blue ribbon in his button-hole, or make some other arrangement for advertising the fact that he is not only the winner of a scholarship, but such a wealthy man that he is able to refuse the pecuniary benefits attaching to it. But any such inducement, whatever its exact form, must be more or less an appeal to the snobbish instinct in man. Here and there, perhaps, you may find men who are not only clever enough or well-educated enough to win scholarships, but generous enough to hand over the profits to a poorer scholar who needs them more. But unless a man does the thing voluntarily and out of pure generosity, I do not see much good in either forcing or tempting him to do it.

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An appointment is to be made next Monday to the new Adam Smith Chair of Political Economy in Glasgow University, and there are six candidates. The salary will be £600 a year, and the post is to be held *ad vitam aut culpam*, and carries a retiring pension with it.

I have had several letters with reference to the recent article in TRUTH on "Board Schools for the Middle Classes," to which I may, perhaps, return hereafter. In the meantime, however, it is worthy of note that the Manchester School Board has apparently gone to work already very much on the lines which I recommended to the London Board. At Manchester the Board is running two, if not three, higher grade schools. In one of them, the Central Organised Science School, the fee is 7d. a week for children of ratepayers and 1s. 6d. for others, and the course of instruction embraces the following subjects:—Mathematics, chemistry, and physics (theoretical and practical), theoretical mechanics, manual instruction, art and mechanical drawing, French, English, book-keeping, and shorthand. Scholarships to this school are granted from the Elementary Schools. The scheme, therefore, seems to be in all essentials almost identical with the one I suggested for London, although I had no knowledge of it at the time of writing. What Manchester is doing, London ought to be able to do.

The following statement of the accounts of a so-called "voluntary" school is highly interesting at the present juncture. The school in question is the Stalmine British School, Poulton-le-Fylde, Preston, and these are the official accounts for the year 1895-6:—

INCOME.

		£.	s.	d.
To Balance in hand		21	17	8
,, Annual grant, Education Department ...		66	10	0
,, Fee grant		39	2	6
,, School fees		17	4	1
,, Books sold to children		2	12	10
,, Science and Art (Drawing) ...	£2 11 0			
From other sources	4 9 0			
		7	0	0
		£154	7	1

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
By Salaries of teachers...	115	7	7
,, Books, apparatus, and stationery ...	7	13	2½
,, Repairs to buildings / ,, Replacement of furniture	11	2	10
,, Rates, taxes, and insurance	1	8	0
,, Sundry expenses and postage	0	4	11½
,, Balance in hand March 31, 1896... ...	18	10	6
	£154	7	1

The item "other sources, £4. 9s.," represents the proceeds of school treats and interest from the bank. It will therefore be seen that the income of this "voluntary" school is entirely derived from the payments by the children and the Government, with the possible exception of some portion of a balance of £21. 17s. 8d. brought forward from the previous year. Whether any portion of this balance really represents subscriptions, I do not know; but it is clear from the accounts that there were no voluntary subscriptions of any kind towards the support of the school during the last educational year, and I am credibly informed that there are no regular annual subscribers of any kind. I am under the impression that a rateable proportion of the Government grant is forfeited when the voluntary subscriptions do not amount to a specific portion of the annual income. But how this rule is to be reconciled with the state of things shown by the above account, I fail to understand.

This particular school would seem to be a good example of the worst kind of voluntary school. By the trust deed the management is nominally in the hands of a committee of two-guinea subscribers, elected by the whole body of guinea subscribers. In point of fact, as there are no guinea subscribers, the committee elect themselves. From the above account, it would seem that none of the committee possesses the two-guinea qualification, and they have, therefore, no legal right to occupy their present positions. The school had last year ninety-eight children on the books, and an average attendance of seventy-seven, and an income of £140 is obviously inadequate to conduct it efficiently. A salary of £115 is divided between a master and a mistress, and these teachers have actually to provide out of that amount for coals, cleaning, and other incidental expenses. The school is under-staffed, inefficiently equipped with teaching apparatus, and the self-appointed committee, which consists chiefly of small farmers and tradesmen, have not the knowledge, nor probably the inclination, to remedy its shortcomings. They are perpetually quarrelling and dismissing their teachers, the master alone having been changed five times in about nine years. As might be expected, the Government Inspector's report is generally unsatisfactory, and though the teachers have to bear the blame for this, it is obviously no fault of theirs.

I do not suggest for one moment that this is in any sense a representative voluntary school; but I do say that there are scores of schools more or less like it all over the country; and the voluntary spirit which keeps such schools in existence is simply the desire of the ratepayers to save themselves the few pounds a year which they would have to pay for an efficient school, if a School Board were established. The sooner this form of voluntary school is exterminated the better it will be for the whole community.

It is to be feared that clergymen who have entered the Church through theological colleges are wretched scholars as a rule. The Bishops have lately found it necessary to insist on an entrance examination in general subjects

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before admission to a theological college can be granted, and the results have been decidedly startling. The requirements are almost ridiculously elementary: a couple of books of Xenophon's "Anabasis," some quite easy Latin, two books of Euclid, and so forth. Nevertheless, it is stated that a large number of candidates for Orders are so grossly ignorant that they have been unable to get through this exceedingly easy ordeal.

Mr. Balfour has two Crown livings now at his disposal—Beverston, Gloucestershire, which is worth about £400 a year, with residence; and Maker, Cornwall, of which benefice the net value is £215 a year, with house.

A memorial has just been addressed to the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, by certain Churchmen at Glasgow, impugning the propriety of the retention of the name of the Rev. A. C. Laughlin, as a member of the Foreign Mission Board of that Church. The objection is based on an incident alleged to have taken place when Mr. Laughlin held a charge at Ahmednugger, and it is suggested that the singling out of this cleric "for special honour in the above, as also in other ways, is a grave and increasing scandal amongst many members and friends of the Scottish Episcopal Church." Reference is probably made here to the fact of Mr. Laughlin having recently been given the charge of a Mission parish at Glasgow. Supposing that the allegation in the memorial is well-founded, it will be rather interesting to hear what the Primus has to say in reply. I should be the last to condemn a man for good and all on the strength of a single offence, or to deny him a chance of retrieving his reputation; but between giving him such a chance and "singling him out for special honour" there is a wide difference.

In common with those more immediately concerned, I am looking with considerable interest for the appointment of a new vicar of the parish of All Saints', Hatcham Park. This living is in the gift of the Haberdashers' Company, and among the candidates is a youthful cleric known to have influential relatives in that Company. There is an ample field for selection, one or two of the candidates being men who have been requested to allow their names to be sent in, and whose experience amply qualifies them for such a responsible post—the parish containing a population of 17,000, mostly poor. There are those who doubt the probability of the Haberdashers' Company acquitting itself satisfactorily of the trust vested in them. But we shall see.

The premature death of Archdeacon Favell is universally and deeply lamented at Sheffield, where he had passed his whole life, and he was beloved and esteemed by all classes and parties. Archdeacon Favell was a decided Low Churchman, but he was a wide-minded man, and displayed unfailing sympathy and tact in dealing with ecclesiastics and laymen of all schools of thought. It was justly regarded at Sheffield as a real scandal when the Simeon Trustees passed him over last year for the vicarage of Sheffield, in order to give it to a divine whose qualifications for the benefice could not be for a moment compared with his own. The Archbishop of York is understood to have shared the local sentiment on this subject, and he made such amends as was in his power for the reprehensible injustice of the patrons by giving Mr. Favell the Archdeaconry of Sheffield. The Archdeacon was a most zealous and successful parish clergyman an eloquent and interesting preacher, and an admirable public speaker. He refused three Colonial Bishopries.

The Church of England possesses a bright ornament and a notable Christian in the person of a reverend gentleman named Taylor, described as curate of St. John's, Stoneygate, Leicester. In view of the forthcoming Congregational Conference at that town, this cleric has warned his flock from the pulpit that for any of them to attend the meetings would constitute a heinous offence in the eyes of God and of the Established Church. The publication of this warning has brought to light other equally edifying pronouncements of the same gentleman upon "the sin of schism." Mr. Taylor is presumably a very young man, and it may be hoped that he will learn wisdom, not to say charity, as he advances in years. But a certain amount of responsibility for his indiscretions necessarily rests upon the Vicar who allows such a youth to bring discredit on the Church by his aberrations in the pulpit.

By the way, a striking commentary on the views of this Mr. Taylor, and other clerics of his kidney, is furnished by the fact that the service in the Presbyterian Church at Crathie was on Sunday last attended by the Queen, the temporal head of the Anglican Church, and the Czar of Russia, the head of the only Orthodox Church. Schism in excelsis!

Much surprise and regret have been expressed at Oxford in consequence of the announcement that Mr. Butler has resigned the vicarage of St. Mary, to which he was presented a few months ago by Oriel College, when Mr. Lang accepted the living of Portsea, in succession to the Bishop of Newcastle. The inconvenience of having the University church vacant at this period of the year is very great, and it may be hoped

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that a satisfactory appointment will shortly be arranged. St. Mary's is an historic church, but the value of the benefice is practically nothing.

The following amusing correspondence recently passed between a well-known London cleric and the vicar of a country parish. The London parson had been spending his holidays at a Vicarage in the West of England. Upon his return to town he received the first of these letters. After trusting that he would not be thought impertinent for writing in such a strain without having any sort of acquaintanceship with the gentleman he was addressing, the country cleric proceeded thus:—

> I was over at ——— the other day, and it happened in the course of conversation to be mentioned that the Rectory had been taken by Mr. ———; but that neither he nor any of his party had ever attended the parish church the whole time they were there; and that they played cricket and tennis most of the day. "The weaker brother," I suppose, might find Sunday cricket or tennis a rock of offence; but that, of course, is not my point. What I must confess did perplex me, was my friend's statement (made on the word of another) that you were never present at public worship during your stay at ———. I declared that I did not believe it, and that I would write to you and ask; because a wide-spread rumour of this kind is a really grievous stumbling-block to the work of the church in country districts. I am not a Puritan; scarcely, since I am a member of the E.C.A. Still, I must confess that to me, at all events, it would be a sin if I disobeyed the call to worship on the Lord's Day. . .
>
> I beg to remain, yours truly, ——

To this his London brother replied as follows:—

> My Dear Sir,—When I was a younger man I joined that most excellent of societies, the Anti-Poke-Your-Nose-into-Other-People's-Business-Association. I still belong to it; and I venture to recommend you, as well as your mendacious informant, to do the same.—Yours faithfully,
>
> ——.

It seems to me that in this instance the London cleric had the best of it.

A number of inquiries have been addressed to me during the last few weeks with reference to appeals that are being circulated on behalf of "St. Mary's Home, Broadstairs." As some of my correspondents have surmised, this Home is really one of the institutions conducted by the Kilburn Sisters, and was the scene of many of the occurrences some two years back which have brought such discredit upon the Sisterhood. There is nothing whatever in the appeals that are now being issued to indicate that the Home is in any way connected with the Sisterhood or the Church Extension Association; the circulars being simply dated from St. Mary's Home, Broadstairs, and signed "Eleanor Paget." This, it seems to me, is a piece of disingenuousness very much in keeping with many other proceedings of the Sisters on which I have already commented. An appeal of this kind is calculated to draw subscriptions from many people who certainly would not give if they knew that they were really sending their money to the Kilburn Sisters, and I cannot help thinking that this consideration has a good deal to do with the wholesale distribution of these particular circulars at the present juncture. At any rate, let the public clearly understand that St. Mary's Home, Broadstairs, stands on precisely the same footing as all the other homes and institutions conducted by the Kilburn Sisterhood.

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Lord Wolseley certainly does not forget his friends and supporters, and there seems ground for hoping that before long every member of "the ring" will be provided with desirable employment. Sir Baker Russell having been appointed to the command of the Bengal Army, the command of the North-Western District at Chester has been given to Major-General Swaine, who was Lord Wolseley's Military Secretary during the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, and who is one of his most intimate friends. There are several highly-deserving officers whose claims for this post are far superior to those of Major-General Swaine, who is certainly a favourite of fortune, as for more than eleven years he was pleasantly employed as Military Attaché at Constantinople and afterwards at Berlin.

The recent article in Truth on the case of Major Acheson has furnished the *Broad Arrow* with another opportunity of exhibiting its peculiar journalistic methods. It will be remembered that in dealing with Major Acheson's case I was careful to offer no apology for that officer's conduct towards Lieutenant-Colonel Bridge at Aldershot, nor did I in any way condemn Lieutenant-Colonel Bridge for the course which he took in reporting the occurrence. The article was designed to show, as I stated at the outset, how, when Major Acheson had given offence by his indiscretion on this occasion, advantage was taken of an unfavourable confidential report, which had been lying unnoticed at the War Office for six months, to demand his retirement from the Service. On this point, the whole point of the article, the *Broad Arrow* has not a word to say. The writer confesses, with ingenuous simplicity, that he knows nothing about the confidential report, and has not troubled to inquire into it. On the further suggestion that the real ground of complaint against Major Acheson at headquarters was the suspicion (unfounded) that he had written certain letters to a Service journal (not the *Broad Arrow*), the *Broad Arrow* is equally silent. It simply takes up the cudgels against that officer on the strength of his conduct in the particular incident at Aldershot which immediately brought about his resignation.

In regard to this, the *Broad Arrow* bolsters up its case by asserting as "facts" that "Major Acheson openly stated that he had expressed an intention to insult Lieutenant-Colonel Bridge, and he kept his word." I now have Major Acheson's authority for giving the lie direct to this assertion. Major Acheson denies that he ever expressed his intention of insulting Lieutenant-Colonel Bridge. As I have already said, I have no desire to extenuate his conduct, or to offer any apology for it. He went to the A.S.C. Mess at Aldershot with a feeling of resentment against the Lieutenant-Colonel. In so doing he was extremely indiscreet, and in giving visible expression to his feelings he was guilty of inexcusable conduct. But at the worst it was not conduct to justify the compulsory removal from the Army of an officer who had served eighteen years without a stain upon his

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or co

record; and that fact was recognised when the Commander-in-Chief fell back upon the confidential report as a ground for calling for Major Acheson's resignation.

The *Broad Arrow* drops sundry crocodile tears over Major Acheson's fate, and expresses extreme sorrow for him. It is a curious mode of expressing sympathy to blacken the character of a man, who has already been hardly used, by publishing downright lies about him. The *Broad Arrow* further affects reluctance to recur to the matter, and talks about having been forced to do so by the article in TRUTH. How forced? If the article in TRUTH imperatively called for an answer in the *Broad Arrow*, the points to be answered were—(1) The use of a stale confidential report which had no bearing upon the officer's character for the purpose of getting rid of him after the Bridge episode; and (2) the previous appeal to Major Acheson from the War Office to clear himself of the imputation of having expressed certain views in the *Army and Navy Gazette*. So far from having been forced to deliver its valuable remarks, the *Broad Arrow* seems to have gone out of its way to utter a slander, which, even if true, is no answer whatever to the TRUTH article.

I must congratulate the *Broad Arrow*, however, on one circumstance. In the same number which contains this reference to the Acheson case, I find that the same journal has been favoured with a letter from the Band of the Royal Dragoons in reference to a paragraph in TRUTH, and the contents of this document are paraded with great gusto. It is something so new to the *Broad Arrow* to pay the slightest attention to any communication received from the rank and file of the Army, that the Editor is quite right in making the most of his performance in this instance. Except for this, however, the value of his information from the Dragoons is somewhat discounted by the fact that it had been published in TRUTH three days previously. As I promised to do, I have made further inquiries into the statement originally furnished to me; and the result seems to show that it was either a practical joke at the bandmaster's expense, or the work of some enemy of that officer. I must therefore express my regret to the worthy bandmaster for any annoyance which may have been caused to him, and I hope that he will consider me innocent in the matter.

A story was told in TRUTH the other day of an officer, after gaining a commission from the ranks, being called upon to refund the gratuity of £5 which he had previously earned by a certain number of years' exemplary conduct. It turns out that there is nothing in any way unique in this example of official meanness; on the contrary, it seems to be simply the regular course of procedure, and several instances of the same thing having been done have since reached me. Whether prescribed by the Regulations or not, it is a monstrous thing that, when a man has earned a pecuniary reward by a certain period of good service, he should be called upon to refund the money because, by further good conduct, he has gained his promotion; and the thing is so manifestly unjustifiable, that I should hope that the first opportunity will be taken of amending the practice on the subject.

In response to my request for any instance of official meanness to beat the foregoing, the following case has been sent to me. In the last Afghan War a certain subaltern was severely wounded, and was awarded on the strength of his wound a gratuity of six months' *English* pay. The financial authorities, however, paid the sum in rupees, calculated at the exchange value of 2s. 0½d., the fact being that a rupee was worth at that time about 6d. less than that amount. The subaltern was, therefore, done out of something like £7 or £8 in English money. But this was not all. While he was lying wounded and helpless in hospital, his tent was struck by order of superior authority, and along with a number of others, was used to form a "traverse" as a protection against the enemy's fire. When the subaltern came out of hospital the "traverse" had been taken down, and his tent had disappeared beyond recovery. He applied for compensation through the proper channel, pointing out that, as he was lying wounded in hospital, it was impossible for him to look after his property; but the official reply was that the claim was inadmissible. These cases are not bad as examples of the manner in which the humbler grades of our warriors are treated by their superior officers; but I still think that the rule about the refunding of gratuities holds the record up to the present.

There is some grumbling at Spike Island, Cork Harbour, respecting the division of duty and extra pay between the three companies of Royal Artillery and the two companies of the Inniskillings, who at present form the garrison. The Artillery are 360 strong, but they only furnish three men daily for guards, while the infantry detachment of 130 have to furnish twelve. On the other hand, with two or three insignificant exceptions, all the berths carrying extra pay are occupied by N.C.O.s and men of the R.A. This does not seem a fair distribution of the kicks and halfpence of the garrison, and it might be well for the Commandant to see whether it cannot be altered.

In the course of some remarks on the Army Medical Department in TRUTH on September 10 it was stated that Surgeon-Major-General Taylor had recently inspected the establishment at Netley. Surgeon-Major-General Taylor now asks me to correct the statement, the fact being that he has not visited Netley since 1869.

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With reference to the case of Sergeant Roy, of the 4th Volunteer Battalion Scottish Rifles, I am asked by Colonel W. R. Maxwell to state that he resigned the command of the battalion in the November preceding the occurrence in question. I cheerfully acquit Colonel Maxwell of all part in this affair. But this in no way affects the merits of the case or the need of some official inquiry into the circumstances, and more particularly into the allegations that had been previously made by two N.C.O.s against the proceedings of the officer who *was* concerned in the incident.

The unmarried sergeants of the 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers have a little grievance in connection with their mess, which seems to deserve notice. While the majority of them were on furlough during August last, the mess account was allowed to get into debt to the extent of £2. 8s. How this happened while the numbers were so limited has not been explained; but at a recent mess meeting, when the matter was under consideration, it was decided to defray the debt out of a separate private fund to which all the sergeants, single as well as married, subscribe equally. It is certainly rough on the men who were absent at the time when the debt was incurred that it should have to be defrayed, either directly or indirectly, at their expense.

There seems to be a gallant non-commissioned officer now in the garrison at Barbados who is a sort of military counterpart of the "Lord High Everything Else" in Gilbert's "Mikado." This martial Pooh-Bah, who ranks as a staff quartermaster-sergeant in the Staff Clerk Section, Army Service Corps, is the senior clerk in the office of the Deputy-Adjutant-General. He next fills the office of acting garrison-sergeant-major. He is librarian of the garrison library. He holds some post connected with the Officers' Games Club; and, finally, he is a chorister in the Garrison Church choir. The last duty is, I take it, an honorary one; but I suppose that some sort of emolument attaches to all the others, and a combination of all these offices in a single individual looks somewhat unfair to the rest of the garrison, while it is not quite clear how the tenure of the post of garrison-sergeant-major by this particular N.C.O. is to be reconciled with the Regulations.

Mention was made in TRUTH about three weeks ago, of the report of a court-martial on Colour-Sergeant Young, of the West Yorkshire Regiment. This man was tried at York on a variety of charges, and was acquitted on all of them except one relating to a trumpery discrepancy of half-a-crown in his accounts, as to which the evidence seems to have been very inconclusive. Notwithstanding this, he was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of sergeant—the mildest punishment that could be imposed by the Court after having convicted him. The subsequent history of this case is instructive. As though in a spirit of vindictiveness at the failure of the charges levelled against Young, the sentence of the Court was followed by his being ordered to join the Home battalion of his regiment at Dover, at twenty-four hours' notice. On his arrival at Dover, the Adjutant took the earliest opportunity of giving him a hint that if he could not behave himself better there than at York, he had better clear out; and as the man, from his experience of the Army, knew that the hint boded no good to him, he decided to apply for his discharge, and has now left the Service. Young had served fifteen years, and for twelve of them as sergeant, during the whole of which time he had only two entries against him; but he returns to civil life with a qualified character of "Good," and the country loses a good soldier and an experienced N.C.O. I should like to know for what? Apparently for an open question about half-a-crown in a matter of account.

In regard to the foregoing case, it was pointed out to me the other day by an officer, that in the case of the conviction of an N.C.O. by court-martial, reduction is the mildest punishment which the court could impose; and that having felt it necessary to convict on the question of the half-crown, the court had no alternative but to reduce him; the fault, therefore, lies, not with the court, but with the officer who ordered him before a court-martial on insufficient grounds. So be it. I have no desire to lay the blame anywhere but in the right quarter; but whatever blame attaches to the officer who first sent the man up for court-martial must now be shared by the other officer who gave the hint which led to his discharge.

The following case is a good illustration of one of the hardships connected with the present system of competitive examinations. A boy fresh from school, the son of an old Army officer, and destined for a commission in the Marines, went up a couple of years ago to see what he could do, and qualified in all subjects, although his marks were not high. He did the arithmetic paper with great ease, and came to the conclusion that he would have no further difficulty with the subject. He then went to a crammer for a year, and had a further shot, with the result that he added over two thousand marks to his former total, but somehow or other he failed this time to qualify in arithmetic. After another six months he went up for his last attempt, and, to the astonishment of his tutor and every one else, was again disqualified in arithmetic. There seems good reason to believe that this misfortune was due either to excessive nervousness or unusual bad luck; and under the old system of a preliminary examination it could not have happened. Surely under circumstances like these, where a boy has already qualified once in a subject, and at subsequent examinations has obtained a high aggregate of marks in others, he might be provisionally passed on condition that he qualifies in his weak subject within a given time.

The last Woolwich examination afforded a fresh example of the injustice caused by holding the medical examination of cadets subsequently to the educational. A cadet, the son of a well-known Indian officer, after having seen his name announced among the successful

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candidates, and having enjoyed his triumph for three weeks, was disqualified at the medical examination on the ground of defective eyesight. I cannot express the hardship occasioned by such treatment better than in the language of the lad's father:—

> The present system is the most refined cruelty. At fifty we are inured to disappointment—not so at seventeen. And to publish a young lad's success far and wide, to allow him for three weeks to enjoy all that it brings, and then to snatch the prize from him, is a form of torture only justifiable by necessity. Where is the necessity?

Necessity there certainly is none; but there may be two reasons for the present system. One of them is that it saves a certain amount of trouble to the Medical Staff to examine only candidates who have passed their educational examination, instead of having to examine the whole body of candidates before the examination is held. This reason is an altogether insufficient one, and merely means that the Government sacrifices fairness and justice for the sake of a trumpery saving in expense.

The other reason is that the present system lends itself to the process of knocking out successful candidates after they have passed their examination, in order to make room for men who have failed to pass, but who have influence of one kind or another behind them. I am far from saying that the present arrangements were adopted in order to facilitate this iniquity; but there is a widespread suspicion that advantage is taken of the system for such iniquitous purposes, and cases have already been cited in TRUTH which lend colour to such suspicion. If Army examinations are to be above suspicion, no arrangement of examinations ought to be tolerated which is even capable of being abused for purposes of this kind.

As regards the question of eyesight, it strikes me that in nine cases out of ten it is most flimsy and insufficient ground for rejecting any candidate who has proved his fitness in other respects. The fact of a man having to wear glasses is no bar to his usefulness in any ordinary sphere of life, and, as long as a man can see with or without glasses well enough for ordinary purposes, I fail to see why he should not be considered fit to hold a commission in the Army. There is no necessity for officers to be first-rate marksmen, and even if there were, first-rate marksmanship is not incompatible with the wearing of glasses. The German army would be in a pretty state if it were suddenly deprived of the services of all its officers whose eyesight is at present defective; and what is good enough for the German army ought certainly to be good enough for the British.

Many of my readers doubtless saw accounts in the papers of the excellent work done by the Sussex armoured train under Colonel Boxall during the late manœuvres in the South-Eastern District. This train had its origin two or three years ago, as noticed in TRUTH at the time, in the experimental mounting of a gun upon a railway truck, for use upon the South Coast line; and the success of the experiment amply justifies the anticipation formed of its usefulness. I suppose there is no doubt that railways are likely to play a more and more important part in modern warfare, and as the military authorities have cordially acknowledged the success of Colonel Boxall's train, it is to be hoped that they will now give more attention than they have hitherto done to the organisation of this form of fighting machinery. It ought not to be left to the Volunteers to give the lead to the Regular Army in a matter of this kind.

A very practical step towards improving the lot of the veterans of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny has lately been taken at Bristol, by the formation of an Association which is intended to form a rallying-point for the old men, to provide them with a meeting place, to back and forward any claims they may have upon the Government, to give them financial and other assistance when practical, and to look after their widows and orphans when their time here is up. There ought to be many well-wishers of the Army who will be ready to give this Association the support it requires, and I should hope that its activity will not be confined to Bristol.

I would respectfully call the attention of the gallant officer commanding the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards to the following matter. In the battalion in question there is a certain corporal who has for some time past been engaged in organising "watch clubs" on behalf of a firm in the North. The "club" consists of twenty-five men, who each pay a shilling a week. Every week a watch is (or should be) allotted, until the whole twenty-five have had one. The objections to the system when worked in this way are obvious, and have been frequently pointed out. A man who undertakes an agency of this kind among his subordinates is under a direct inducement to abuse the authority entrusted to him, and even if he is ever so scrupulous in refraining from putting undue pressure upon his comrades, the men themselves are sure to feel that it may be more prudent on their part to patronise their superior's business undertaking than to incur his displeasure by holding aloof.

Moreover, not only is the thing bad in principle, but in the case of the 2nd Scots Guards, it appears to have been working exceptionally badly in practice; for I understand that the proper number of watches has not been forthcoming, and that the men have been unable to obtain either their watches or a refund of their money, while they are afraid to incur the corporal's displeasure by making any complaint on the subject. The system is so bad all round that I feel confident that, on attention being called to it, it will at once be stopped.

In reference to my repeated comments on the incessant recurrence of enteric fever among the troops at Dublin, I have at last received, from an official source, a communication which is of some interest. It is pointed out to me that there were, in the first week in September, 102 cases of enteric fever under treatment in civil hospitals in

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Dublin, and it is suggested that there are probably an equal number of cases under treatment in private houses. As at the same time, there were only two cases under treatment in military hospitals, among a garrison nearly 4,000 strong, the argument is that the barracks are no worse than the rest of the city. Before accepting this conclusion, it will be necessary to know whether there are always about a couple of hundred people down with enteric fever in Dublin at any given moment. Even if the town is really such a hotbed of disease, the question still remains how it is that the innumerable Boards that have been engaged almost every week for months past in inquiring into outbreaks in the barracks have not discovered the source of the infection, and supplied the military authorities with some means of dealing with it.

The other day a draft of recruits from the Depot joined the Buffs at Kilkenny. A few hours after their arrival a corporal came into the barrack-room with his coat off and asked one of them a question. The recruit answered "No," instead of "No, corporal," as the etiquette of the Service requires; whereupon he was marched off to the guard-room by the corporal (although, by the way, there was a sergeant in the room at the time), and was eventually awarded six days' C.B. for his "crime." An encouraging sort of experience for a boy just starting his soldiering! I suppose there lurks in some cloudy official minds an idea that loyal and obedient soldiers are to be manufactured by such a process, but it is a curious delusion for a rational being to entertain.

I am somewhat surprised to find that the Southsea Regatta Committee have taken no official notice of the statement which Mr. G. C. Vertue has published with regard to the recent race for the Queen's Challenge Cup for naval and private training ships. Mr. Vertue asserted, in effect, that the conditions of the race were this year so altered and arranged as to give the crew from H.M.S. *St. Vincent* an unfair advantage over the crew from the training ship *Mercury*; and, as I pointed out a fortnight ago, the charge is one which the authorities of the Regatta ought not to pass over in silence. If Mr. Vertue's statement remains unanswered, the public will be sure to infer that this is because it is unanswerable.

Some time ago attention was called in TRUTH to the fact that enterprising tradesmen at certain dockyard towns were able to obtain information of promotions before they had been officially announced, and to make use of this information for business purposes. The publication of this fact caused this leakage to be stopped, but apparently only for a time, for I hear from Devonport that the same thing has recently been occurring there. Petty officers at that port have lately had the news of their promotion to warrant rank conveyed to them by tradesmen several days before even the Commander-in-Chief at the port knew anything of the fact; and, as might be expected, a tradesman who comes with information of this kind to solicit an order for an outfit generally succeeds in effecting his purpose. There is reason to believe that the information is transmitted from London by telegraph, and the Admiralty ought to be able to discover the channel through which it flows. It is to be hoped that the matter will be thoroughly inquired into, for if information of this kind is sold—and, of course, it is sold—for one purpose, it may be for another.

The merciless severity of naval courts-martial received a further illustration the other day in the trial of a private in the Marines, named Burke, on a charge of striking a superior officer. The offence was not denied, but Burke pleaded in mitigation of punishment a set of extenuating circumstances, which it is inconceivable how any body of men nominally acting as a court of justice could refuse to take into consideration. The superior officer who had been assaulted was a Sergeant Hagan, and the prisoner detailed a long list of instances of the system of bullying and provocation to which the men under this sergeant had been exposed. On July 12 the sergeant had struck Burke, and Burke had returned the blow; the two men were separated by the bystanders, and the incident ended there. On August 3 prisoner asked Hagan to take him on the quarter-deck. Hagan refused and struck him (Burke) in the mouth. He subsequently apologised for this and requested Burke to let the matter drop, which Burke did. On August 28, Burke asserts, Hagan struck and knocked down a private in his (Burke's) presence. On the same day Burke returned to his ship from shore somewhat under the influence of drink. Hagan reported the circumstance, and, after being seen by the First Lieutenant and Doctor, Burke was sent below. The result of this was that Burke lost the leave for which he had previously applied, and on the way below with Hagan he gave vent to his resentment by striking the sergeant.

Now, two points are perfectly clear about this case: (1) that at the time of his offence Burke was excited with drink; (2) that he and the sergeant had frequently exchanged blows before, and that the sergeant had in previous cases given the provocation to such treatment. Burke put the case very forcibly in his defence:—

> I give these instances of the treatment to which we have been subjected not as an excuse for my offence, but beg to urge upon the Court that, having been accustomed to play roughly with the sergeant and receive rough treatment from him, I did not on the day in question sufficiently weigh the effects of my action. . . . I would beg the Court to consider that I did this not of any malice at all, but in a sudden fit of temper, hardly knowing what I did, but being greatly aggravated by the stoppage of my leave by a man who had treated me, and allowed me to treat him, with great freedom.

No impartial spectator will question that whatever the prisoner's offence, the chief blame for it lay with the sergeant, who had shown himself so entirely unfit for his position; or that the case was eminently one for imposing a mitigated penalty. The Court saw nothing of the kind,

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MORTLOCK'S China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

but sentenced Burke to eighteen months' hard labour, and dismissal from the Service—a punishment commensurate only with the most aggravated and inexcusable offence. The merciless and undiscriminating nature of this sentence is conclusively proved by the fact that a few days later a stoker of H.M.S. *Argus*, charged with the precisely similar offence of striking the officer of the watch, was sentenced —but not by a court-martial—to forty-two days' hard labour only. It is time that some strong means were adopted of teaching naval courts-martial the necessity of exercising some modicum at least of intelligence and justice in meting out their sentences, which at present throw into the shade the worst doings of Army courts, and the stupidest performances of the unpaid magistracy. In the present instance this might be well done by remitting some substantial portion of Burke's punishment.

A very painful sensation has been caused at Southampton by the death of a gentleman named D'Elboux, who has been for forty-four years in the local office of the Ordnance Survey as an engraver. Mr. D'Elboux is said to have been an engraver of exceptional industry and skill, and one of the last acts of the late director, Sir Charles Wilson, was to specially recommend him, with others, to the Board of Agriculture for an increase of pay on account of the excellence of his work. Of late years, owing to some failure of his eyesight, he has been unable to work so rapidly as of old, and in consequence of this he recently received notice from those in authority over him that unless the quantity of his work was greatly increased he would be subjected to a reduction of pay, and his pension would be in danger. The intimation preyed upon his mind, and is alleged to have been the cause of brain complications, from which he died. This, at least, is certain, that he died at the age of fifty-six, having never been absent from his work for a day from any sort of illness previously to his fatal attack. Mr. D'Elboux seems to have been vilely treated, and there ought to be some further inquiry as to where the responsibility for his treatment rests. I understand that not long since the engravers in a body presented some sort of memorial to the Director-General respecting their treatment, and it is not unlikely that proper inquiry will show that Mr. D'Elboux was simply the victim of a confirmed system of sweating.

Consternation and disgust have been excited throughout the Consular Service by the reported intention of bestowing the Consul-Generalship at Havre—one of the best posts in the Service—upon a gentleman from the Foreign Office who is a total stranger to the Consular Service, having been employed in the Librarian and Treaty Departments. Such an appointment would be a rank injustice to the Consular Service, in which the number of well-paid appointments is extremely limited, while the work in nearly every case is most arduous and responsible. The majority of the British Consuls abroad deserve very well of their country, and are of the greatest service to British merchants, and to Britons sojourning beyond the seas; and it will be a grievous wrong to all of them if one of the best-paid posts should be bestowed on an outsider with no claims of any kind to such a reward.

With reference to the recent complaint of an English firm that after writing to the United States War Department and forwarding English stamps for reply, they twice received answers in unstamped envelopes and had to pay for them at this end, one of my American correspondents points out that the omission may be excusable, because official communications in the United States are posted in office envelopes, which are always carried free without stamp of any kind. In posting such an envelope the clerk might either not notice the address, or overlook the fact that United States postal regulations do not apply abroad. If I remember rightly, the communication came in one of these official envelopes, so the excuse may reasonably be accepted. But apropos of this matter, I should very much like to know why on earth the various States of the Postal Union should not recognise one another's stamps in the country of posting as well as in that of delivering. Even if they have any good ground for declining to do this, why should they not exchange at their post-offices foreign stamps for local stamps of corresponding value? Or, failing that, why should not a Postal Union stamp be devised which would pass current in all States of the Union?

In spite of all the protests, censures, and mandates of the Local Government Board, the Helmsley Rural District Council still pursues the even tenour of its way, neglecting, deferring, or trifling with the performance of its duties as a Sanitary Authority in the manner I have so often described. It is now many months since a new drainage scheme for the town was adopted; but during all this time the only work done to carry it out has been in connection with the settling tanks and filter-bed on the river bank. The borough beck and the old drains and sewers remain in the shocking condition in which they were a year ago, when a serious epidemic occurred. The result, as might have been expected, is that typhoid fever has reappeared in the town, and at the last meeting the Medical Officer urged the Council to hurry on with the new drainage. But the Council is not the body to hurry on account of an outbreak of typhoid; and so it was merely agreed that the matter should stand over, "as the new scheme, when completed, would provide for all complaints." How long it will be before the scheme is completed seems to be regarded as quite immaterial.

Two other striking illustrations of the methods of this remarkable Council were given at the same meeting. Owing, apparently, to the objections of the Chairman (Lord Feversham), there is no licensed common lodging-house in Helmsley, and the nearest place of the kind is in a village four miles away. This establishment is merely a cottage containing two bedrooms and one living room, and the attention of the Council was directed to its dirty state and to the gross overcrowding which goes on, there being six permanent inmates, and at times as many as eighteen lodgers. The Council, however, find themselves unable to interfere, because they have omitted to exercise their statutory power of making by-laws for such houses. The other question was in reference

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to the salary of the Inspector of Nuisances. This officer's duties extend over a wide area of scattered villages, some of them sixteen miles or more from Helmsley; and he is at present paid £20 a year. Recognising that if such work is to be efficiently done it must be properly paid for, the Local Government Board have peremptorily called upon the Council to increase the salary (half of which is returned by Government). But the Council, after rejecting even a proposed increase of £5, have replied that they will consider the matter next year.

The point that most surprises me in these scandalous proceedings is the impotence of the Local Government Board in dealing with this obstinate and dunder-headed local authority. Time after time the Board has allowed itself to be hoodwinked or defied by the Helmsley Council; yet it still persists in sending admonitory letters, which are just as persistently disregarded. If the authorities at Whitehall have no effective means of compelling the fulfilment of their requirements, they would better consult their own dignity by giving up all attempts to reason with such hopeless subjects as the Helmsley Bumbles.

There are great complaints about the drainage at Ascot. Early in the spring a largely-signed memorial was presented to the Rural District Council asking that adequate steps might be taken to place the drainage of the neighbourhood in a satisfactory condition. The District Council (in accordance with the usual custom of such bodies) has so far taken no notice of this most reasonable request. It is stated that many residents dispose of the sewage by placing it on their gardens, and the result of this practice has been to cause a nauseous and most unhealthy smell, particularly in wet weather. Unless these matters are speedily and thoroughly reformed, Ascot will probably be visited by an epidemic of typhoid fever and analogous maladies.

I stated several weeks ago that Mr. John Skelton will shortly resign the office of Chairman of the Local Government Board for Scotland, which is worth £1,200 a year, and that he is to be succeeded by Mr. Anstruther, M.P. for St. Andrews Burghs. The proposed arrangement has excited a ferment among the Scotch Tories, who have protested vigorously against this desirable appointment being handed over to any Liberal Unionist, Mr. Skelton himself being a Tory, and it being consequently thought that the post ought to go to a member of that Party. It had been privately proposed, by way of a compromise, that the seat to be vacated by Mr. Anstruther should be offered to Mr. Gilmour, of Montrose, who is very popular in Fifeshire, and who has three times contested the Eastern Division of the county against Mr. Asquith. The rebellious Tories had sullenly acquiesced in this arrangement, but the Unionists, whose rapacity is really insatiable, insist upon getting both the place and the reversion of the vacant seat, and Sir Ralph Anstruther, brother of the sitting member, is to be their candidate. The Government Whips are now endeavouring to induce both these aspirants to withdraw, in order that the Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. C. S. Dickson) may stand for St. Andrews. The seat is not a "safe" one, for last year Mr. Anstruther's majority was under 200.

The inhabitants of London have, I think, but slight knowledge of the danger to which they are exposed by the inadequacy of the available public accommodation in the shape of infectious diseases hospitals. Although the fact has not, so far as I am aware, been noticed in the Press, the whole of the fever accommodation of the Metropolitan Asylums Board is at the present moment occupied, and in many districts fever cases are waiting their turn for admission to the Board's hospitals, and are in the meantime exposing the community to a constant danger of infection. I have this fact from a friend, one of whose servants suddenly developed scarlet fever a fortnight ago, and who found it absolutely impossible to get the patient removed from his house by the Asylums Board. Only after a lapse of a few days was a vacancy secured at the London Fever Hospital, and had the unfortunate householder been dependent upon the Asylums Board, the case would have had to be nursed to the end in his house. Although scarlet fever is very rife in London at the present moment, it cannot be said to have attained the proportions of a serious epidemic. Yet if our available hospital accommodation is exhausted under the present circumstances, what sort of position should we be in if confronted with some calamity such as a general outbreak of small-pox or cholera? The Metropolitan Asylums Board has money enough at its disposal, one would think. Does it want more, or is the present state of things merely a proof of the inefficient way in which it spends the money it has?

At a recent meeting of the Governors of an Irish Asylum, attention was drawn to the fact that the present head nurse, though she also fills the office of matron, and has admittedly saved hundreds of pounds by her skilful management, is actually being paid for the double duties less than half the salary which the former matron received. The lady superintendent of a hospital at Dublin tells me that this is by no means an exceptional case. It is now the custom, she says, for asylum authorities to engage only those women who have qualified for such appointments by training in general nursing, which means years of hard work, and it is equally the custom to offer these officers about half the remuneration their untrained predecessors received. Considering the laborious and responsible character of the duties, the pay appears to be, as a rule, very inadequate, and the authorities show a very mean and misguided passion for economy in expecting efficient and experienced servants to be content with such terms.

The agitation at Dudley with regard to overcrowded and unsanitary dwellings has at last compelled the Town Council to move in the matter. I cannot, however, congratulate them upon the first step they propose to take towards dealing with the frightful state of affairs in the slums of the town, which I described two or three

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months ago. The intention seems to be to spend, as a beginning, about £8,000 in buying up and demolishing the worst of the slum properties; but nothing is to be spent in erecting new workmen's dwellings. The natural result of this policy will be, of course, to gratuitously increase the value of the houses which remain, as well as to make the overcrowding more serious than before. It is, moreover, open to the objection that the selection and purchase of such properties will afford a most undesirable opening for municipal jobbery. A far better plan would surely be for the Council to spend the money in building houses of the class required, and at the same time to rigorously enforce the law for the purpose of closing all the existing rookeries which are unfit—as many of them are—for human habitation. The idea that municipal funds should be used solely to purchase these places is a preposterous absurdity, and the ratepayers of Dudley must be long-suffering indeed if they allow such a scheme to be carried out.

My reference in an article the other week to the condition of the water in the Marine Lake at Southport, has brought me several denials, but, with two exceptions, the letters are anonymous. To the latter I pay no attention, and with all respect to the writers of the others, I feel bound to say that at present I see no sufficient reason for doubting the statement which I published, and which emanated from a resident in the town, who is probably quite as deeply interested in its prosperity as any of my correspondents. If, however, the Corporation think fit to say anything on the matter, I shall, of course, be glad to give their views due consideration and publicity.

In an unguarded moment the Enniscorthy Town Commissioners some time ago decided to enforce the law with regard to street obstructions. A beginning was made by summoning some cart-owners for leaving their vehicles in the road, and the police were lately invited to report any other cases of obstruction to the clerk for prosecution. The police have accordingly just reported a number of shopkeepers and other persons for obstruction by placing their goods in the street, and among the principal offenders who were named were several of the Town Commissioners. This commendable impartiality of the police was more than the Commissioners had bargained for, and a private meeting was held to consider the situation. The members who had been reported are said to have threatened to resign if a majority of their colleagues authorised the clerk to prosecute them, and the matter was finally postponed for further consideration. No doubt the Commissioners have put themselves in an unpleasant predicament by making a rod for their own backs, but it will tax their ingenuity to evade the application of this rod without appearing to be guided by their own personal interests rather than those of the public.

The Solicitors' Benevolent Association furnishes one among many examples of that abuse of charitable funds which arises from the undue capitalisation of revenue. This Association, which annually holds a festival for the purpose of raising cash, and never fails to represent itself as greatly hampered in its work by lack of sufficient income to meet the calls upon it, is really accumulating year by year a considerable amount of surplus revenue, and possesses at the present moment invested capital to the amount of something like £50,000. The rate at which this accumulation grows may be seen from the fact that in the 1892 report the capital of the Association was stated to be £41,547, while in the report for 1894 the amount had grown to £45,250. At the last festival dinner it was officially announced that "in many cases where they gave relief the Directors would have gladly increased the amount, and would have been delighted to have relieved more fully, had they the funds." Such a statement is totally unjustifiable when vast accumulations of revenue lie at the disposal of the Directors, and every year shows an income exceeding the expenditure by thousands of pounds. This matter has been brought under my notice by a solicitor, who complains of the inadequate assistance given by the Association in cases of need; and as long as funds are being accumulated in this way those who suffer from the curtailment of the benefits of the Association have the most legitimate grounds for complaint.

As I have pointed out in connection with other benefit and relief funds, this system of capitalising revenue is unfair to subscribers as well as to beneficiaries. Take the case of a prosperous solicitor who, having made a fortune in the profession, leaves a bequest of a few thousand pounds for the benefit of men who have not been so fortunate as himself. The men whom he desires to benefit are presumably those of his own time and standing, among whom he has worked, and whom he knows, or who have known him. He is not thinking of generations of solicitors yet unborn. Neither, I take it, is it his intention—it certainly would not be mine—to benefit his distressed fellow-professional men to the mere amount of the 2½ or 3 per cent. per annum which can be obtained by the investment of the money. If it were, he could effect his purpose better by keeping the capital under the control of his trustees, and settling a certain sum per annum to be applied for the relief of necessitous solicitors for a certain number of years. It may be desirable for a permanent Benefit Fund of this kind to keep a certain reserve in hand in case of emergency, but the general principle on which it is administered ought to be that the whole amount subscribed from year to year is expended upon the objects for which it is given.

There seems to be more reason for impressing this consideration upon the Directors of the Solicitors' Benevolent Association, inasmuch as a resolution was actually passed at a general meeting, so far back as 1885, laying down that "having regard to the large accumulated funds belonging to the Society . . . . relief should be given on a more extensive scale than heretofore," and authorising the Directors "to expend the whole income of the Society from every source in

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the relief of necessitous cases." How this resolution is to be reconciled with the great accumulation of funds that has taken place since 1885, only the Directors can say.

The latest development of the Constantinople Consulate scandal is that a special judge has been appointed by the Foreign Office to try Mr. Henry Silley's action against Judge Tarring, and that a similar course has been taken in regard to the action of the Constantinople Building Society against Vice-Consul Sarrell. So far as they go, these are steps in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that they will conduce to the ends of justice. But in the present state of things at Constantinople, what may happen to anybody a few weeks hence is a matter of pleasing uncertainty.

Respectability seems to cover a considerable amount of brutality at Halstead. At the Petty Sessions last week, Harry Bunny was charged with assaulting his wife. Owing to his violence, she had obtained a summons against him and left his house; but he fetched her by force from the neighbour's, where she had gone for protection, and when he got her home again he proceeded to knock her down, beat her with his fists in the face and chest, and kick her in the stomach, notwithstanding the fact that she was enceinte. In the face of evidence to this effect, the magistrates suggested that the prisoner and his wife should see whether they could not live happily and comfortably together; remarking that, "as he was a respectable man, they were anxious not to ruin his character and prospects by sending him to prison, which would have been the proper sentence." It is highly desirable that magistrates should give due weight to an offender's previous good character, but it seems to me that they have given a good deal more than due weight in this particular instance. I wonder, too, whether they would have been so anxious not to injure his prospects, if instead of being guilty of a most ruffianly attack on his unfortunate wife the defendant had committed some petty larceny, or indulged in a little poaching.

Is it customary for County Court officers to be provided with handcuffs? There was a case at Manchester Police-court on Friday in which it appeared that a man named Donohue had falsely represented himself to a gentleman as a detective, and in support of his assertion had produced a pair of handcuffs from his pocket. The handcuffs bore the mark of the County Court, and the defendant explained to the Court that they were in his possession "in his capacity of County Court officer." Mr. R. A. Armitage, the Chairman of the Bench, expressed surprise that such an official as the accused should be in possession of handcuffs, and said that nobody outside the police force should be allowed to carry them. It is certainly difficult to believe that there is any necessity for equipping County Court officers with such things, and I hope his Worship's remarks will receive the attention of the authorities of the Manchester Court.

The choicest example of Justices' justice recorded in my Legal Pillory this week is that from the Southampton County Police-court. A tired and tottering old man takes the liberty of going to sleep under a hedge by the roadside. There he is discovered by a vigilant constable, and being absolutely destitute, he is locked up, brought before Mr. H. G. Willmer on the charge of wandering abroad and lodging in the open air, having no visible means of subsistence, and sentenced by that muddy-minded magistrate to seven days' imprisonment. To Shallows of the Willmer type few crimes are so heinous as that of being old, homeless, and penniless. I regret to have to pillory the learned stipendiary at Bradford with the Great Unpaid. When, however, a man is convicted of a piece of wanton cruelty which in the opinion of the magistrate himself would be most suitably punished by "a sound flogging" it seems a weak and impotent proceeding to let him off with a pecuniary penalty. The flogging of course could not be inflicted, but the brute might at any rate have been sent to gaol for a week or two. As to the rest of the list, I would particularly ask my readers to note the nice discrimination which the Paisley Bailies show in fitting the fine to the offence in cases of wife-beating. Thus if a husband only uses his fists and a poker he escapes with the payment of 10s. 6d.; but if he brings his feet as well as his fists and a leather belt into play he has to pay as much as 15s. The fists alone can doubtless be employed on a wife for 5s. or so:—

Wokingham Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. E. J. Gould, E. T. Phillips, and S. A. Hankey. George Joel Giles, a "general dealer," charged with assaulting his wife. He went home the worse for drink, knocked his wife down, knelt upon her, and beat her with his fists. The woman's face was very much bruised. Fined 10s. and costs and bound over.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. S. Oates, E. Bannister, E. L. Read, A. Connell, and W. Jackson. Charles Debnam, a well-known local boxer, and Gertrude Debnam, charged with assaulting Annie Genney. Complainant was attacked and ill-treated by defendants in the street, the man holding her while the female defendant struck her. Finally, the male defendant knocked Genney down, rendering her insensible. Fined 17s. 6d. each.

Darlington Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Bowman, C. G. Hoskins, E. T. Pease, and W. Hobson. Wm. Hymer, convicted of assaulting Annie Flood. He threw her out of his house into the street, and then picked her up and threw her forcibly to the ground again. Fined 20s.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Fisher. Joseph Haincy, charged with assaulting his wife by beating her with his fists and striking her with a poker. Fined 10s. 6d.

The same Court. Before Bailie Goudie. Robert Graham pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting his wife by striking her repeatedly with his fists and with a leather belt, and kicking her on various parts of the body. Fined 15s.

Plympton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. T. Mudge and C. E. Bewes. Henry Richards, a young seaman, charged with stealing a quantity of apples from an orchard. The prosecutor said he had no desire to press the charge, but he wished to check the pilfering of fruit. Fourteen days.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. T. Charlton, W. Jackson, W. B. Louth, C. Morton, E. Bannister, and S. Oates. John Smith, fishing apprentice from the Stockport Union, charged with disobedience by neglecting to go to sea. One month.

Faringdon Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Edwards and Mr. G. Liddiard. William Warner and George Brown, charged with trespassing in search of rabbits. Brown fined £1. 7s. 6d.; Warner, £2. 10s. 6d.

Crediton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. Davie, L. D. Montague, A. Gamlin, H. Elston, and C. Ireland. James Vinnicombe, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2. 2s. and costs.

Sturminster Newton Police-court. Before Mr. H. S. Bower and General Sir W. Parke. Edward Moore, charged with wandering abroad and being without visible means of subsistence. One month.

Bradford Police-court. Before the Stipendiary and other magistrates. William Thompson, coal hawker, and Fred. Ellis, greengrocer, charged with cruelty to a mare. Because the animal, which was aged and in poor condition, was unable to draw a heavily-laden cart up a steep hill, Thompson unmercifully thrashed her with a whipstock. Ellis also joined in thrashing the mare, and afterwards actually thrust the whipstock about eight inches up the animal's nose, causing it to bleed profusely. The Stipendiary said he deserved a sound flogging for his brutal conduct. Ellis was fined £4 and costs; Thompson, 10s. and costs.

Rochester Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Booth, V. Hills, J. Shaw, and Colonel Cooper. William Kitchen, dealer, charged with cruelty to two sheep. He bought the animals for 6s. each, and left them in a pen at the market without food or water for thirty-four hours. The superintendent of police said defendant constantly neglected the animals he purchased. Fined 4s. and 11s. 6d. costs.

West Bromwich Police-court. William Grice, convicted of assaulting Elizabeth Goodby. He beat her in a brutal manner, blackening her eye, and also kicking her while she was on the ground. Fined £2. 14s., including costs.

Southampton County Police-court. Before Mr. H. G. Willmer. George Richardson, described as an aged and decrepid man, charged with sleeping out and being without visible means of subsistence. A policeman found him asleep under a hedge at the roadside. He said he was tired and only took a rest. Seven days.

West Hartlepool Police-court. Isabella Wilson, charged with stealing a shirt from a clothes line. One month.

Market Drayton Police-court. Before Messrs. F. R. Twemlow, J. Wilson, and J. Lawton. Richard Hicks and Thomas Lightfoot, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found on the highway in possession of nets and poaching instruments. Fined £5 each and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Sir J. Smith and other magistrates. Edwin Booth, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Thornbury Petty Sessions. Before Admiral St. John and Mr. H. L. Hardwicke. Henry Casey, William Dix, and Ayliffe Carey, charged with poaching. Casey three months; Dix and Carey six weeks each.

There is something curiously suggestive about the results of three prosecutions for wasting water which were heard at Cardigan Police-court last week. The first defendant was a solicitor and magistrate's clerk, the second a borough magistrate, and the third a working man. In the solicitor's case the Corporation Water Inspector clearly proved that water was being wasted, but the defence was that the tap from which it was running was out of repair, and the summons was dismissed. The summons against the magistrate was also dismissed, apparently on the ground that the magistrates thought some other person should have been proceeded against. In the third case the inspector went to the back of the working man's house and found water running into a bucket which was overflowing. He could not say how long it had been so running, and the defendant's wife turned off the tap when her attention was called to it. The magistrates delivered a little homily on the importance of preventing such waste and fined the working man half-a-crown. So long as little incidents of this kind occur it is hard to disabuse people's minds of the idea that there is one measure of justice for the rich and another for the poor.

It is naturally with great reluctance that one ventures to criticise any decision of a Bench which has so distinguished a lawyer as Sir Edward Fry for its Chairman. Yet it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that a serious injustice was done in a licensing case which came before the Long Ashton Bench on Friday, when Sir Edward presided. The police objected to the renewal of a licence to Walter Stanley Rogers, an innkeeper at Nailsea, on the ground of his (alleged) misconduct with a domestic servant in his employ. Rogers denied the charge, and so did the girl; and the latter, in fact, applied at the time for an affiliation order against another man who had since absconded. On the other hand, no evidence whatever was produced by the police in support of their allegation. All that they were really able to say against Rogers was that he had kept the girl at his house after her child was born, and his explanation was that she was an excellent servant, and that he had a difficulty in replacing her, but that on hearing of the objection raised by the police, he had discharged her. On the strength of this objection by the police, and in spite of the superintendent's admission that, "with this one exception," Rogers had conducted his house satisfactorily for eleven years, the Bench refused to renew his licence. I see Sir Edward Fry announced this as the decision of "a majority of the Bench." Of whom the majority was composed was not, of course, revealed; but I should be indeed astonished if Sir Edward Fry was not in the minority. It seems incredible that he can have sided with the majority, for—unless the facts have been grossly misreported—the refusal of the licence was a most harsh and unjustifiable proceeding.

An extraordinary manifestation of landlordism was brought to light at Llanwrtyd Police-court the other day when a man and woman named Morris were summoned for obstructing a roadway by the erection of a fruit-stall. The prosecution was instituted by one Roderick, a factotum of the local territorial magnate, Mr. R. Campbell Davys. Under cross-examination Roderick seemed perplexed as to whether he had taken out the summonses as a member of the public, or merely as a servant, acting on the instructions of Mr. Davys; and he also declined to definitely say whether he regarded the roadway as public or private property. He admitted, however, that he had spoken of it to the defendants as Mr. Campbell Davys' land, and that by direction of Mr. Davys he had told them that they would be allowed to place the fruit stall there if they paid that gentleman a small sum per week as rent. Mr. Campbell Davys himself was afterwards examined, and in answer to the solicitor for the defence he surprised everybody who had followed the history of the dispute by at once acknowledging that the ground in question was not his private property but a public road. It is thus established that this landlord, through his agent, has been endeavouring to exact a rent for the use of what is, on his own showing, a public road!

As there had undoubtedly been an obstruction of the road, the Llanwrtyd Bench imposed a small fine on the Morrises. It further appeared, however, that before proceeding against the defendants by summons the witness Roderick, and a gamekeeper, had forcibly attempted to remove the stall, this being done, the gamekeeper said, by Mr. Davys' orders. The two men were accordingly charged with malicious damage to the stall and fruit, and the Bench mulcted them in penalties amounting to £2. 16s., at the same time pointing out that those who complained of the obstruction "ought

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not to have taken the law into their own hands." So far as can be gathered from the evidence, Mr. Davys was the only person who really "complained," and the fact that he is himself a magistrate—he is in the commission of the peace for three counties—makes the course which he adopted all the more amazing and reprehensible. I trust, however, that the check he has now received will teach this Welsh landowner to be in future a little more careful in his methods of asserting his rights or alleged rights.

I erred the other day in suggesting that the "Spanish prisoner" entertains an exceptionally low opinion of the intelligence of the natives of Britain. A letter since received from Paris reminds me that the trick is continually being tried in France, and, presumably, with a certain proportion of success; and before now instances have been given in TRUTH of the appearance of the "prisoner" in most quarters of the habitable globe.

For all this, the "prisoner's" appearance continues to be hailed in many quarters as a novel, if not inexplicable, phenomenon. A few weeks back the *Pioneer* of Allahabad discovered him. "It would be interesting to know," writes that journal, "whether more than one of our readers have lately received a begging-letter of a somewhat out-of-the-way character;" and it then proceeds to describe the venerable stock-in-trade and properties of the Spanish prisoner, and to gravely speculate upon the probabilities of its being a fraud. Sagacious *Pioneer!* Well may Anglo-Indians rejoice at the way they are served by their well-informed and up-to-date Press!

"Professional gentlemen" seem to have an unfortunate weakness for begging-letter writing. A hardened offender is a Mr. John Holroyd, whose address is Cold Wells Hill, Staniland, Halifax. This individual writes in one of his latest epistles that he is a Licentiate in Theology of the University of Durham, and has passed the theological portion of his examination for B.A., but, owing to a harrowing series of domestic afflictions, he has somehow been "painfully and grievously hindered" from passing the rest of his examination, and he now requires a little cash to assist him in the object of his desire. "Candidly speaking," he says, "I am entirely dependent upon the charitably disposed to help me." In this instance his candour seems to be perfectly truthful, for Mr. Holroyd has been writing begging letters for at least three years past. When, however, he goes on to assert that he has been promised ordination, in the event of his obtaining his degree, by no less than six Bishops, he is probably romancing, for he is a man forty-five years of age; and it is extremely doubtful whether his age, to say nothing more, would not be a bar to his ordination. It seems that he has been successful in getting money out of at least one noble lord, and that he has had a promise of financial assistance from the Dean of Edinburgh; and to this he appeals as evidence of his bona fides—a further proof, if any were needed, of the mischief which people of benevolent impulses do by bestowing their charity haphazard upon claimants of this description.

From the following advertisement which appeared last week in the *Scotsman*, it seems that Mr. James MacVeigh, of Dumfries, has discovered a new sphere of activity. Judging by MacVeigh's wholesale appropriations of other people's property in the literary line, and his attempts to dispose of such property by false pretences, I should certainly advise no one to pay him £5 for any £1 share on his representation that it is worth £20:—

> SOUND INVESTMENT.—A Gentleman, having a large interest in a first-class African and Australian Syndicate, would like to dispose of such interest, represented as it does in Deferred shares. Dividend just paid 25 per cent. for the half-year, with a large reserve carried forward. Price, £5 per share; worth £20. Apply to James MacVeigh, land agent, 25, Queen-street, Dumfries.

Somebody has sent me an extract from the *British Medical Journal*, in which it is reported that sixteen medical men at Weston-super-Mare have agreed to decline to meet in consultation, assist in operations, or administration of anæsthetics, or have any professional intercourse with "any medical man connected with medical aid and similar associations." It is added that "in the interests of humanity," the sixteen doctors will not refuse their advice to members of the association or other patients of the association medical officer "on the condition that he previously retires from the case." I presume there must be some exceptional local circumstances to account for the institution of this boycott against a member or members of the profession at Weston; but what those circumstances are does not appear in the resolution passed by the sixteen boycotters. Perhaps some of the medicos concerned will explain how it is that this much-discussed question of the relation of the profession to such associations has suddenly become so acute at Weston.

With reference to the martial exploits of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the following passage published by an Australian paper from a correspondent at Bulawayo is instructive:—

> One of our local editors appears to be under the impression that the Managing Director employs himself as a trooper, stands to arms at 4 a.m., and shoots at Kaffirs with the rest. But this is not so. The only shooting Mr. Rhodes indulges in is at the guinea-fowl, which on the Umguza are plentiful as Matabele, and more easily stalked. With a nice light spring waggon, good horses, a bucksail, which nightly is converted into a comfortable tent, a good cook, and rations which are not confined to a limited quantity of fifth-rate Boer meal and a piece of tough beef, Mr. Rhodes can to a certain extent be excused for preferring life in the veldt to living in Bulawayo.

So far from condemning Mr. Rhodes' sporting exploits, I should rather hear of his shooting guinea-fowl than shooting Matabele. But the question remains why he should be engaged on a sort of shooting picnic at the present time.

A further instance of the manipulation of South African news in the Rhodes interest was furnished by the accounts of the election of Mr. R. Solomons as member for Kimberley. This event was represented in a Central News telegram as conveying to the world "that Kimberley is anxious for Rhodes's reinstatement." Everybody who

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knows anything of South African politics will at once recognise this as an impudent perversion of the truth. At the last General Election in South Africa Mr. Solomons stood as an anti-Rhodes candidate; and his unopposed return now to the seat lately filled by Dr. Rutherfoord Harris has precisely the opposite significance to that assigned to it by the Central News correspondent.

LIVERPOOL—SEPTEMBER 24.

The warrior worn by many a fight had to his home retired,
There, 'mongst his household gods, to seek the rest he so desired;
There, 'mongst his books and friends, to pass the evening of his days,
Far from the strain and stress of strife and clash of party frays.

He from his bowed and weary frame his armour had removed,
Had laid the trusty sword aside that he so oft had proved;
And so had sat, his soul serene, to wait for life's slow ebb,
Whilst cross the vizor of his helm the spider spun its web.

But hark! what means that piercing shriek of danger and despair?
What is that piteous call for help that fills the Eastern air?
See! the old warrior hears the sound, he flushes at the cry,
And leaping to his feet again, wrath flashes from his eye.

His armour round his aged limbs with ardent haste he clasps,
His oft-proved sword, Excalibur, once more he sternly grasps.
"'Tis not," he cries, "for pelf or power, 'tis not for party gain;
A helpless people pleads for help—it must not plead in vain!"

And so he hastens to its aid, his soul within him stirred,
And trumpet-like, e'en as of old, his noble voice is heard;
Nay, 'tis with all the strength of yore he marches forth to fight—
"Justice!" his trenchant battle-cry; his watch-words "Truth and right!"

* * * * *

And who shall his brave course condemn? Who, in his inmost heart,
Does not applaud the strenuous way in which he's played his part?
Call him Quixotic if you will—Utopian if you can;
But don't deny that he is still a Great and Grand Old Man!

The following further letter comes from the correspondent at Constantinople whose letter on the late massacres I published a fortnight back. The writer is a very well-informed gentleman, and his statements respecting the attitude of the religious authorities are decidedly interesting at the present juncture:—

One of the notable instances out of many of a like nature in connection with the Constantinople massacres was the conduct of Khosrev Pasha, a General in the Army. His private residence is situated at Defterdar, on the Stamboul side of the Golden Horn, outside the walls. It is due to his prompt and plucky action that the Armenians round about his quarter were not pillaged and massacred. He held no military authority in the district in question, but on the mob gathering together he sallied out at once and ordered them to disperse; as they took no notice of his orders he promptly shot two of the rioters down, with the wholesome effect of dispersing the remainder. The police were then admonished by him, with the result that not a single Armenian was molested in that district.

Khosrev Pasha has since been denounced to the Palace as a partisan of the Armenians, and been placed under arrest, "pour encourager les autres."

In a former letter I mentioned that the Softas had condemned the massacres, as against the precepts of the Koran. The Ulemas (Doctors of Religious Law) are about to circulate a pamphlet containing sixteen Fetvas on the present condition of the Government and the conduct of the Sultan. The Fetvas, as is the custom, are put in the form of question and answer, and form as a whole a very strong indictment against the Sultan and his advisers. Questions and answers are given in Turkish, and each answer is followed by a quotation in original Arabic from the Koran, being the authority for the answer. The pamphlet begins by saying that, the contents being extracts from the holy book, they are sacred, and it therefore cannot be contended that any one in possession of the same can be guilty of a crime.

The strongest feature in it is the declaration if the Commander of the Faithful has been guilty of abuses and deemed unfit to reign, and the Faithful are powerless to remove him, then they may call in extraneous aid for that purpose, and that this act is perfectly correct and orthodox according to the quotation cited. This, no doubt, is meant to prepare the way in the minds of the Mussulman populace for the removal of the Sultan by foreign aid.

SCRUTATOR.

A FREE HAND FOR RUSSIA.

THAT Mr. Gladstone's attitude on the Eastern Question is both sound in itself and the only one consistent with our national interests and honour, I have always maintained. His re-appearance, therefore, on a public platform, not as the exponent of any sectional view, but as the spokesman of feelings now shared by men of all parties, is both a vindication of his own life-long policy, and a welcome sign that we are, as a nation, arriving at saner views of our position in relation to the Turkish Empire. As to the immediate mode of procedure there may be differences of opinion; but that the time has come for formally washing our hands of the present Turkish Government, all are now agreed.

Our position in respect to Turkey and Russia is this: We are one of the Great Powers, and the Great Powers claim a general right to interfere for the better government of Turkey whenever they can secure unanimity amongst themselves. The Great Powers have established the following rule in regard to the Dardanelles: No ship of war can pass through it. To this rule Russia has perforce assented. The Dardanelles form the only outlet to the open sea from the Black Sea, which waters the southern provinces of Russia. Her aim has therefore always been, and always will be, to convert the Black Sea into a Russian lake, open to the commerce and to the warships of all Powers in time of peace, but into which war vessels of any Power at war with her could only enter by forcing their way through the Dardanelles, whilst Russian war vessels might pass through. There is consequently a clear divergency of aim in regard to the relations of the Great Powers towards Turkey between Russia and us. We would have Turkey a barrier against Russia, and Russia would have her a barrier against us. Our traditional policy has been to maintain Turkish rule; the traditional policy of Russia has been to become the paramount partner in an alliance with Turkey which would bring her within the

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sphere of Russian influence, and place her in somewhat the same relation towards the paramount partner as Afghanistan is to us. In order to attain her object Russia has always sided with the Turkish Christians against their Mahommedan rulers, whilst we have always sided with the Mahommedans against the Christians in order to attain ours.

The Armenian massacres, which are the direct result of our insisting upon modifications in the Treaty of San Stefano, have awakened the English public conscience to the iniquity involved in our traditional policy. But this indignation will lead to nothing unless we are prepared to withdraw once and for all from that policy. We must let Russia have her way politically if the Turkish Christians are not to be permanently oppressed and occasionally massacred; and, for the life of me, I have never understood how we should be injured were Russia paramount in European Turkey and in Asia Minor. Is it likely that Russia will ever consent to anything which would permanently cabin, crib, and confine her power in the Black Sea, or to the establishment of any strong Government at Constantinople which would in case of war place the entrance to the Black Sea in the hands of a strong State that might side against her? Let us be fair. Should we do this were we in the place of Russia? Our action in regard to the Mediterranean shows that we should not. We are not a Mediterranean Power. Our only interest in that sea is that it forms the shortest roadway to our Eastern possessions. We have, therefore, solidly established ourselves on the western and eastern outlet. The Black Sea is not an international roadway leading from one part of the world to another. It leads to Russia alone, with the exception of the Danubian Principalities—a small and comparatively unimportant country without a navy. The grounds for Russia seeking to acquire a commanding position on the Dardanelles are far stronger, consequently, than those for our occupying Aden and Gibraltar and squatting in Egypt and on the Suez Canal. The former has always seemed to me to be nothing more than the reasonable wish of a man to have the key of his own house in his own possession, rather than entrust it to persons who might be inclined either to turn it on him or to use it in order to allow an enemy to get inside his house. I wonder what we should say to a European mandate forbidding our ships of war on our eastern and western coasts passing through the Channel. Yet this is tantamount to what Europe, instigated by us, has imposed on Russia. She may have ships of war in the Black Sea, but if she wishes to send a ship of war into the Mediterranean it has to come from the Baltic. Was there ever so preposterous a rule imposed on a Great Empire? And more preposterous than the rule is it for us to suppose that Russia will not endeavour to free herself from it.

Let us suppose that Russia were paramount at Constantinople, and were to replace there the European Concert which has proved to be no concert. Clearly in times of peace, the Black Sea would be as open to the commerce of the world as is the Baltic, and ships of war might enter then as they now enter the Gulf of Bothnia. In case of war between Russia and us our ships of war would not be able to enter the Black Sea, because the Dardanelles would be strongly fortified. But provided that we had in the Levant such a naval force as would justify us under present circumstances in entering the Black Sea, it is evident that this force would enable us to blockade the exit from the Dardanelles, and thus prevent any Russian fleet from emerging from the narrow strait. The sole difference strategically would be that the Russian towns and the Russian shipping in the Black Sea would be rendered less vulnerable to attack.

Russia has shown by the creation of a free Bulgaria that she has no desire to incorporate Turkish territory within her dominions. She has again shown it by the fact that she has not occupied Armenia in order to maintain order there, although no Great Power would have hindered her. Were she left to deal as she would with Turkey she would in all probability carve other Bulgarias out of European Turkey; leave Constantinople and Asia Minor to the Sultan, but insist upon the Armenians being fairly treated, and, so far as possible, upon reforms in the Provinces almost exclusively inhabited by Mahommedans; and buy off any opposition from Austria by giving her some increase of territory in Western Turkey, as, after the late Russo-Turkish war, she gave her Bosnia. Far from seeing harm in this, I see nothing but good.

Our course is therefore plain, if we are in earnest in our outburst of indignation against the Turk. We ought to break off diplomatic relations with Turkey, as I have repeatedly urged, and as Mr. Gladstone advised at Liverpool. We ought, further, to send a dispatch to all the Great Powers announcing that, as they have declined to join us in any force against Turkey, and as they object to our using force without them, we withdraw from the European Concert, and we leave it to the Continental Powers to act as they may deem best in securing to the Turkish Christians proper government. Practically this would give to Russia a free hand. Asia Minor and European Turkey would then form a federation of states, which would be politically bound to Russia; and if it be really our sole aim to ensure to the Turkish Christians a reasonable government, that aim would be attained.

As things now are, Turkey falls back on Russia when we seek to use pressure on her, and on us when Russia presses her. When Russia was freeing the Bulgarians, we constituted ourselves the guardians of Turkey: now that we would act against the Turk, Russia steps in as the friend of the Turk. Fuad Pasha, one of the ablest of the Grand Viziers, once explained to me this policy: "Turkey," he said, "is a chariot to which each Great Power has attached a horse. When one seeks to pull the chariot one way, we whip up another of the horses, which pulls the other way. Thus the equilibrium is maintained, and the chariot is not overturned."

No one has denounced more strongly and persistently than I have the very existence of the Turkish Empire. Our traditional policy in respect to that Empire has always been to me an abomination. In season and out of season I have protested against it. If I thought that

we could turn the Turk out of every province in his present dominions inhabited by Christians, I should be for turning him out, bag and baggage. I have no special partiality for Russia; rather, indeed, the reverse. I should prefer to see on the Bosphorus a strong Power independent of all other Powers. But I believe this to be impossible, whilst I do believe it to be not only possible, but certain, that if we only will frankly and fairly leave the solution of the question to Russia, the present state of things will be replaced by a far better state. In considering what territorial alteration can be made in Europe, we must never lose sight of geography, and of the aspirations of the State close to that in which the change is to be made.

Even if Europe were with us, and some sort of reforms in Turkey were decreed by a European Concert, these would be only paper reforms. The Turkish Army is recruited entirely from Mahommedans. A Mahommedan is the ruler of the country. His Ministers and their subordinates are Mahommedans. In their eyes the Christians of Turkey are mere pariahs, and pariahs who would be glad to overturn the rule of their Mahommedan masters. Europe is not at one in regard to the reforms that are needed. When all the Powers agree upon a reform, each separate Power is inclined to get on better terms with the Sultan than the others by secretly abetting him in rendering the reform illusory. Power, therefore, remains to the man who has the armed force and the administration in his hands. We complain of Russian intrigues: Russia complains of our intrigues. In the meantime, whilst the Great Powers intrigue and jealously watch each other, the Christians suffer, and in the very nature of things will suffer. I do urge upon all to look facts clearly in the face. Rightly or wrongly Continental Europe would give Russia a free hand; we alone with our traditional policy block the way, and this is as foolish as it is wicked, for our traditional policy is nothing but an endeavour to withstand what, sooner or later, must come, but which, thanks to us, will only be brought about after some great war.

The home of our traditional policy is the Foreign Office. Men may come and men may go; nations may rise and nations may fall; the relations between States and everything in connection with States may change; yet fixed and eternal, as though of divine origin, are the thoughts and the ways of that Office. No man who becomes its head can resist the *genius loci*. He succumbs to it. He is fossilised, like a branch exposed to the dripping of some fossilising stream. And, what is still more serious, the faith of the Foreign Office becomes the creed of the newspapers. Thus English public opinion and English administrative tradition react on each other. We are a powerful Empire, able and ready to defend ourselves against all attacks. But we are not the arbiters of the world. Europe has become a huge armed camp. We cannot impose our views upon foreign nations. On the sea we are strong; as a land Power we are weak, if called upon to send an expedition against any except savages armed with flint-guns and spears. This mastery on the sea leads to a general feeling of jealousy against us. We must accept it. But we must also bring home to ourselves the limitations that there are to our power. So vast are the armies of the Continent that, were we to send such an army as we could muster on a Continental expedition, it would be swallowed up, brave as the men composing it might be. Under these circumstances we should do well to keep clear of all such expeditions, instead of vapouring, as we are too much inclined to do about sending them. The Russians had to bring above 300,000 men into line to overcome Turkish resistance in Bulgaria, and even then the issue was long doubtful. How possibly can we seriously propose to send an army to vanquish Turkey, when that army would at most consist of 50,000 or 60,000 men? Still more absurd is it to suppose that with such an army we could vanquish not only the Turks, but the forces of one or other of the Great Powers acting with the Turks. These may be unpalatable truths, but none the less are they truths. The Athenians occupied in the then known world much the same position as we occupy in the world of to-day; they had a powerful fleet, and they were the masters of the sea. In an evil hour for them they took it into their heads that they could settle matters to their own satisfaction in Sicily, and their Jingoes, with Alcibiades at their head, induced them to send an army there. The wise counsels of Nicias and other men of sense were disregarded. What happened? The Spartans sent another army, and Spartans and Sicilians inflicted such a blow on Athens, that she never recovered it. History has a habit of repeating itself, when it does not serve as a lesson in the avoidance of error.

THE 4TH HUSSARS: A WAR OFFICE WHITE-WASHING.

The promised "personal inquiry" by the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General into the allegations respecting the treatment of subalterns in the 4th Hussars has now been completed, so far as Mr. Bruce's case is concerned, and the result is very much what has been already forecasted in these columns, and what was to be expected from the shape which the "inquiry" has taken. A letter has been addressed from the War Office to Mr. Bruce's father informing him that his son was required to leave the 4th Hussars "in consequence of his own misconduct and manifest unfitness for his position." As proofs, apparently, of this assertion, it is recited that Mr. Bruce was on one occasion censured for using abusive and improper language to a non-commissioned officer of another regiment; and that "upon another occasion he went into the Sergeants' Mess and drank with them after two of the senior sergeants had expostulated with him, and had endeavoured to dissuade him." Beyond these facts—that he once lost his temper at Bisley with a man of another regiment whom he considered addressed him improperly, and that he went (under circumstances of which he himself gives a different account) to spend half-an-hour in the Sergeants' Mess on Boxing Night—no evidence whatever is offered as to Mr. Bruce's "misconduct and manifest unfitness for his position." These two indiscretions are, therefore,

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solemnly offered by the Commander-in-Chief as reasons for depriving a youngster of his commission within about ten months of his having gained it—and this in the face of the allegations of the grossest misconduct which have been made against other officers of this regiment, and which remain to the present moment unrefuted and practically unchallenged.

The War Office letter next refers to the fact that "Mr. Bruce was, no doubt, unpopular with his brother officers;" but draws a distinction between this unpopularity and "the circumstances which led to his retirement," and asserts that "he had the fullest support from Regimental Authorities so far as he had a right to expect it." In my very first reference to the matter in TRUTH it was clearly said that Mr. Bruce, unlike his predecessor, Mr. Hodge, held his own pretty successfully against the boycott to which he was subjected. Nothing, therefore, turns upon this point; but whether this now admitted "unpopularity" had no connection with the summary process of chucking him out of the regiment on the trumpery grounds put forward by the War Office, must remain a matter of opinion, and one which will certainly not be disposed of by the official assertion that the two things were unconnected.

Next we come to the incident of the dinner at the Nimrod Club, on which the opinions of the War Office are so amazing that they call for reproduction:—

> It appears that some of the subalterns of the regiment invited your son to dinner when he joined, and advised him to join another regiment upon the ground that his means were insufficient.

This is a most loose and inaccurate account of what took place. Mr. Bruce was invited to dine at the Nimrod Club as soon as he had been gazetted and before he had joined. He was there informed that he was not wanted in the regiment; warned that his hosts had got rid of Mr. Hodge and would get rid of him; and told that if he did not make a graceful exit at once he would make a disgraceful one later on. The question of his income was raised, but it was not made the sole ground for the objection to him. The subalterns who made this objection had previously received some sort of official reprimand for their treatment of Mr. Hodge. They showed their appreciation of this by at once organising a formal demonstration of their intention to pursue a similar course towards the gentleman appointed by the War Office in Mr. Hodge's place. A more grossly insubordinate act it would be difficult to imagine. What has the Commander-in-Chief to say to it? Listen:—

> Such action on the part of Mr. Bruce's brother officers was certainly reprehensible, but it seems to have been really occasioned by a prejudice against him arising from reports which had reached the regiment as to his previous career, the alleged insufficiency of his means being put forward merely as a pretext.

Note the "but" in this monumental passage. The proceeding was reprehensible, "but" as the reason given was not the real reason, the War Office do not apparently consider that it calls for further notice. The wording of the passage obviously invests it with the character of an apology for this otherwise "reprehensible" conduct. As to the "reports which had reached the regiment," it will be noted that the War Office take care not to suggest that there was anything in these reports; they would stultify themselves if they did, for all necessary particulars about Mr. Bruce's previous career were in the possession of the War Office when he received his commission. And how had such reports reached the regiment? Apparently through the amiable young officer who took a leading part in the Nimrod Club function, and whose bearing throughout the proceedings is described by Mr. Bruce as most offensive and insulting. The simple truth of the matter is that this young gentleman and Mr. Bruce had been at Sandhurst together, where no great love had been lost between them. In this way "reports" had reached the regiment, and this was the kind of schoolboy tittle-tattle which was made the ground for organising the Nimrod Club demonstration. Such is the stuff which in the name of the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General is now put forward officially in extenuation, if not justification, of the conduct of the subalterns of the regiment in formally placing their veto upon a War Office appointment. A pretty exhibition, is it not? The rest of the letter is in the same strain:—

> The pressure of these young officers did not prevail, for Mr. Bruce did join, and would be in the regiment now were it not for his own misconduct. More than one of his brother officers are living comfortably in the regiment whose means are believed to be less than his were.

The drift of this is not very obvious. If the proceedings of the subalterns were wrong and insubordinate, or even "reprehensible," the fact that the man against whom they were directed declined to be intimidated does not alter their character, and the suggestion that it does, only accentuates the apologetic character of the document, as well as its argumentative weakness. The reference to the means of the other officers is of the same character. It carries on the same assumption that if Mr. Bruce's income was not the real objection, the objection and the manner of formulating it were excusable; and it is obviously a feeble attempt to rebut the prevailing opinion that, in palliating a proceeding of this kind, the War Office are pandering to the organised extravagance among officers which does so much mischief in cavalry regiments. We are to understand, in conclusion, that "under all the circumstances of the case, the Secretary of State for War is of opinion that no further action is required;" and that is all. Had the Secretary of State said in so many words that in his opinion it is a right and proper thing for every appointment to a regiment to be revised and passed or rejected by a meeting of the subalterns, and that any personal views on which the decision of the subalterns may be based will be complaisantly accepted at headquarters, he would hardly have expressed the state of the case more unmistakably.

To call the process by which this impotent result has been arrived at "an inquiry," is an abuse of language. When the cases of Mr. Hodge and Mr. Bruce were brought up in Parliament, certain counter-statements were made in regard to the second case. There was a direct conflict of facts upon certain points, and under these circumstances, a personal inquiry by the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General was promised to the House of Commons, and further discussion of the incidents in the 4th Hussars, which had assumed an awkward character

for the War Office, shelved. If an inquiry under such circumstances means anything, it means that the evidence on both sides will be heard, and that the truth, where there is a conflict of evidence, will be sifted so far as possible by the usual methods of examination and cross-examination. What attempt has been made to do this? Absolutely none. Mr. Bruce has not been heard (true, he was out of the country at the time, but he is even now on his way back), and the request of his father that he might be allowed to appear and cross-examine the hostile witnesses by counsel was not even deemed worthy of an answer. The "inquiry," therefore, resolves itself into this: that the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General have simply looked over the War Office version of the facts again, and possibly taken counsel with Colonel Brabazon and the other accusing parties, and have then furbished up the original decision into the document described above, and put it forth as the result of their personal investigation of the facts. Such a proceeding is a farce in itself, and, under the circumstances which led to it, an insult to the House of Commons. It leaves everything which was in dispute before in dispute still. It leaves the public to choose between the word of Mr. Bruce and the word of the non-commissioned officers on whose evidence he has been convicted, as to the true facts of the incident on Boxing-Night which led to the officer's arrest and resignation; and it deprives the reiterated references of the Secretary of State to the "misconduct" which alone led to Mr. Bruce's removal from the Army of all weight and credibility. There remains behind the still more important question of the result of the simultaneous inquiry into Mr. Hodge's case—by far the worse case of the two, and one which gives its whole colour and significance to the Bruce affair. At the moment of going to press I have received a copy of the War Office decision on this affair also. It appears to be, if possible, a more amazing and discreditable production than the other, but as it is too important to be dealt with off-hand, I defer any remarks upon it till my next issue.

THE SORROWS OF EASTBOURNE.

I regret to find that, notwithstanding my repeated protestations to the contrary, a good many people at Eastbourne still seem to think that, in commenting on the shortcomings of their water-supply, I have been actuated by some spirit of hostility towards the town. The *Eastbourne Gazette*, in its last week's issue, gave publicity to some communications which have passed between its Editor and myself on this subject, and I should wish to add a few words to what my Eastbourne contemporary has said, in the hope of avoiding any further misconception on the subject. By a curious coincidence, it happens that two members of the editorial staff of Truth have known Eastbourne from its earliest infancy, and, indeed, from their own infancy also, and the attractions of this most delightful of English watering-places have nowhere been more frequently celebrated than in the columns of Truth. Nothing that has appeared in these columns on the subject of the Eastbourne water supply has been prompted by anything but a desire that the best should be done in the interests of the town; although, as Truth has a circulation and interests in a large section of the globe outside Eastbourne, it is also necessary for me to have regard to the interests of the public at large, as well as of this particular watering-place.

What has happened at Eastbourne is this. More than a year ago complaints were made by visitors to the town that the water had for some reason become so much impregnated with salt as to be at times absolutely undrinkable. Shortsighted natives of the place might think that it was to their advantage to hush up this unpleasant fact and pretend that there was nothing the matter, but all experience shows that such hushing-up attempts are in the long run futile, and that the only effectual way of dealing with a difficulty of this kind is to face it energetically, and remove it at any cost. Out of tenderness to the town I refrained from saying anything on the subject until the Eastbourne season of 1895 was on the wane. By the time that I did make any remarks on the subject, the facts were public property, and it was inevitable that the matter should be referred in the London Press. Under these circumstances I sounded a note of warning to the Eastbourne people, and recommended them to remove the cause of complaint without delay, and to remember the terrible calamity which only a year or two previously had overtaken another Sussex watering place, Worthing. That the majority of the inhabitants, many of whom must have been far more inconvenienced by the state of the water than casual visitors, saw the necessity for plain speaking, I have not the slightest reason to doubt. But a certain section adopted the foolish policy of denying that there was anything wrong, even pretending that the defects of the water rendered it wholesome and palatable, and accusing me of going out of my way to injure the town. This may have caused me to retort with some acerbity; but in the end the Town Council took up the matter with commendable vigour, and resolved to promote a Bill for the establishment of a municipal water supply; and as it seemed to me that the local authorities were fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and were doing all that could be done, I let the matter drop.

It turned out, however, as it too often does in such cases, that the momentary scare produced only a transitory impression. The original intention of the Town Council was revoked—I understand at the dictation of a foolish and short-sighted majority of the ratepayers—and the worst results have followed. The Water Company were allowed to tinker up their defective wells in the cheapest and most inefficient manner, and to give out that the evil had been remedied. The evil was not remedied, the water remained as obnoxious as before, and naturally, when the summer came round and the town filled up with visitors, complaints on the subject became loud and deep. In such a state of things no personal tenderness for the place ought to pre-

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vent any journalist from doing his duty to the public by noticing the facts and censuring those who are responsible for them. If the town has suffered in consequence, the fault lies not with the journalist who does his duty, but with that section of the inhabitants whose misguided action has led to the nuisance remaining unremedied for something over twelve months. In regard to the facts of the case, I do not believe there has ever been the slightest room for doubt. A salt spring has made its way into one of the chief wells or reservoirs of the Eastbourne Waterworks Company, and the water has been at times so strongly impregnated with salt as to be in the highest degree unpalatable, and to many useless for drinking purposes. The proportion of salt may vary from time to time; its effect may not be injurious to health; there may even be some who find the taste of it rather agreeable than otherwise; but to the majority of people it is in the highest degree distasteful, and a large number of residents, as well as visitors, have for months past been buying distilled water at considerable cost for drinking and culinary purposes, while in the hotels aërated waters have been supplied free of cost for the use of those visitors who found the ordinary water undrinkable. The mere fact of private housekeepers and hotel-keepers incurring such an expense while paying water rates to the company is conclusive proof of the reality of the evil. On the other hand, it is equally certain that had the Waterworks Company faced the situation resolutely in the first instance, without regard to their dividends, the evil could have been remedied long ago. From the first it has been known that the supply of water derived from one spring at Holywell was perfectly pure and free from taint. This supply has within the last month or two been rendered accessible to a certain portion of the town, by the simple process of erecting stand-pipes along the main leading from this spring. I am further told by the Editor of the *Eastbourne Gazette*, that about five miles of new mains have been laid, which I understand are for the purpose of enlarging the area of this supply. But at any rate until quite recently the inhabitants could only avail themselves of this particular supply by fetching the water from the stand-pipes, which would in many cases be a distance of a mile or two. This particular remedy can, therefore, only be regarded as partial and inadequate. The Water Company, after their kind, proclaimed with a flourish of trumpets that in placing this supply at the disposal of a small section of the town they had done everything necessary, and had insured to all an adequate supply of pure water. But the truth is that they have merely shown that they had at their command the means of meeting the evil, at any rate to some extent, and that for a whole year they have absolutely neglected to utilise this means, until driven to it by an irresistible outcry. The whole business is a deplorable exhibition of that same indifference of a private water company to its duties to the public, when weighed against the interests of its shareholders, of which we have lately had so cogent a demonstration in the East End of London; and the moral of it is that the town, which is at present in the hands of these privileged monopolists, should deliver itself from their clutches by compulsorily expropriating them.

It would be highly interesting to know who constitute this offending Water Company. Being a private concern, incorporated by Act of Parliament, no return of its shareholders is furnished to Somerset House, and so utterly in the dark are the inhabitants of Eastbourne as to the identity of their oppressors, that I understand that even the Corporation officials cannot ascertain who the directors are. There is no doubt that his Grace the Duke of Devonshire is the chairman and presiding genius of the undertaking; and, in default of anybody else, the Duke is the individual who may be most fairly called to account for the present state of things. The Duke of Devonshire derives a princely revenue from his Eastbourne ground rents—a revenue derived neither from toiling nor spinning, nor even from his own prudent investment, but from the energy and foresight of his immediate predecessor in the title. Such a position confers its duties as well as its rights, and it is the obvious duty of the Duke, who to all appearance holds this Water Company in his pocket, to co-operate with the Corporation in whatever steps they may think necessary for improving the condition of the water supply.

For the present I have been asked to give publicity to the fact that, by reason of the arrangements above referred to, Eastbourne now has a sufficient supply of the finest and most palatable water available for the use of all visitors and residents. This supply is said to be equivalent to ten gallons per head per diem, and is apparently inexhaustible. I am very glad to make this fact known, and I trust that it will be duly noted by any who may have been scared away from the town by the defects of the ordinary water supply. At the same time, looking at the nature of the arrangements for bringing this water into use, it is impossible to consider that it affords a final solution of the difficulty; and it seems to be recognised in the town that some further supply will have to be introduced. After what has happened, I should think there can be no doubt about this. The proper course is for the Corporation to take the best advice as to where and how a sufficient new supply of satisfactory quality can be obtained, to obtain from Parliament without delay the necessary powers for the purpose, and to make an end once and for all of the company which has so conclusively demonstrated its incompetence, and its indifference to the welfare of the town.

"CYMBELINE" AT THE LYCEUM.

To prove how little the play of "Cymbeline" is read, one has only to listen to the remarks of Lyceum playgoers when they take up the playbill in the now bright, well-lighted, and redecorated theatre. "Dear me, what a pity," observed a young lady close to me, "Ellen Terry does not play 'Cymbeline' after all. They have put her down for Imogen." "Who is Imogen?" In spite of Shakespeare readings, high art academies and board schools, the vast majority

does not apparently know that Cymbeline was a King of Great Britain, when these estimable islands were in a very primitive state, and that this attractive sounding name should not be applied to one of Shakespeare's heroines. From the mere sound, I grant that Cymbeline ought to be a woman. But it is not the case. He happens to be a very burly, beefy man in the person of Mr. Macklin; and according to Mr. Alma Tadema, R.A., whose knowledge of history and archæology we are bound to respect, the early Britons of the first century were quite as civilised as the Romans who conquered them. The gifted Alma Tadema has dispelled all the false notions that we entertained about our "woad-painted" ancestors, who dwelt in caves and in a state of semi-savagery. King Cymbeline wears robes that would have been considered smart in the middle ages. His Queen is decked out in stuffs that might have been worn at the coronation of a French King at Rheims, and as to Imogen, her coloured patchwork garment is suggestive of extremely modern "Liberty." But it must all be right, because it is Shakespeare who has said it, and who, by the way, in chronology was often fatally wrong. He was a poet, and had a poet's supreme disdain for dates and historical accuracy. He borrowed an old tale from Boccaccio, and tumbled it into any mythical period that suggested itself.

I do not think that Cymbeline is much better or worse than the majority of plays by William Shakespeare. It is not so bad, at any rate, as to deserve the cheap and schoolboy criticism of a distinguished writer, who has been reported and applauded as a wit of the first order because he dubbed "Cymbeline" as "Haddon Chambers at his worst." Wit—so-called wit of this kind—is as intolerable as the forced humour of Sir Benjamin Backbite in "The School for Scandal." False and feeble epigrams are detestable, and if "Cymbeline" cannot be better described than that, they had better leave poor "Cymbeline" alone, for it is really a very good acting play; and Shakespeare wrote for actors and actresses.

Henry Irving probably selected the play for three very good reasons. First, he wanted to give Ellen Terry a kind of Rosalind part, she never having played Rosalind; next, he wanted to give himself a kind of Iago part, he having already succeeded as Iago. Last of all, he desired to employ the talent of Alma Tadema in suggesting what Italy and Britain were like in the first century. The box, or trunk, trick is a good melodramatic effect; the Fidele scenes were made for an actress of the temperament of Ellen Terry, and the Lyceum manager, who is great at surprises, and brilliant in everything, was able to "go as you please" with Iachimo, who might be made a champion villain, or a figure of infinite pathos and contrition. It all turned out well, as it ever does with the great diplomatist who rules the destinies of the Lyceum. The new Imogen was pronounced delightful, as she is. The new Iachimo was a curious *tour de force* and interesting at every point and in every sense. The new Alma Tadema scenic versions of the first century were spared, because Shakespeare started the inaccuracies that no student dared correct—notably the novel reading in bed by Miss Imogen, which is about as true to the Britain of the first century as the electric light. In fact, the whole thing was an emphatic success, and the crowning triumph came when the Bismarck of Wellington-street was able to mildly chaff the "unnecessary twaddle" talked by those who happen to know something of the genesis of "Madame Sans-Gêne," and also artfully again to postpone the Lyceum production of that excellent and interesting compound of Sardou and his predecessors. Many years ago there appeared under the Lyceum management of Fechter a standing advertisement which was unmercifully chaffed. It ran something like this: "Mr. Phelps and Mr. Walter Montgomery have been engaged and will shortly appear." Substitute Madame Sans-Gêne for Phelps and Walter Montgomery and we shall have history repeating itself indeed. But no one seemed to care very much for the "twaddle" that consists of the obvious fact that the first act of "Madame Sans-Gêne" is a word-for-word adaptation of an old one-act French play, "L'Ange du Cinquième Étage," well known on the English stage as "The Angel of the Attic." The twaddle went in at one ear and out at the other, and the sarcastic allusion to it fell dead flat when the popular Henry Irving announced that "Madame Sans-Gêne" would have to go back to her attic again, or possibly one floor higher, out on the roof, in favour of a grand revival of "Richard III.," which every one desires to see again. The opening scenes of "Richard" are among the very best things that Henry Irving has ever done. In fact, it was a magnificent performance all round when first presented, and age will have mellowed it. So, vastly interesting as Irving's Napoleon and Ellen Terry's Sans-Gêne would have been, we can wait for both with complacency until Richard III. and Lady Anne have once more passed before our delighted eyes. The appreciation of the public at the announcement of "Richard" was testified by round after round of genuine applause.

A GOOD MELODRAMA.

Pierre Decourcelle, Arthur Shirley, and George R. Sims at their very best—and there you find "Les Deux Gosses," otherwise the "Two Little Vagabonds." This admirable, human, and interesting play produced for the first time in England last Wednesday with such enormous success by Mr. Albert Gilmer owes its origin to the brilliant pen of M. Pierre Decourcelle, who is a nephew of D'Ennery, one of the greatest French dramatists of our time. In the able hands of Mr. George R. Sims and Mr. Arthur Shirley the French play has been most skilfully and carefully treated. The involved intrigue so dearly beloved by France's great nation is now less intricate, and the story is simplified, the plot is not so complicated, and the drama is thoroughly Anglicised. Directly the curtain rises we are thick in the plot at once. We do not want the hospital scene over here, with all its suffering inmates wailing over their numerous ailments, but in Paris it is quite another matter, life with them is so bright, so gay, that a little depression is an absolute necessity; it is the reverse over here, unhappily, as Messrs. Sims and Shirley have not been slow to discover. A jealous husband

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admirably played by Ernest Leicester, is suddenly confronted with the supposed treachery of his wife, Geraldine Oliffe, and in a fit of mad rage and fury, the wild Leicester tosses the baby boy he believes is "none of his" into the arms of a convenient gentleman, alias burglar, who comes in at the drawing-room window for the purpose of "going through" the house. Mamma Oliffe is naturally upset when she discovers her infant has gone heaven knows where, and declares until the boy is found she and Papa Leicester will never be friends again. Now, Mamma Oliffe's supposed treachery is caused by her having tried to shield Papa Leicester's sister, who is a highly respectable married lady, but who, alas! has had a past. Scene No. 2 discovers the "Two Little Vagabonds" hobnobbing over a wood fire and discussing cod-liver oil. No. 1, Kate Tyndall Vagabond, is a hale and hearty young fellow, with great aspirations to become a carpenter. No. 2, Sydney Fairbrother Vagabond, a pale consumptive lad, treats the carpentering idea with scorn, and declares a preference for the "smithy and the forge." One of these two pathetic boys is, of course, the missing kiddie belonging to Mamma Oliffe, and he has been reared as a thief and a regular "bad 'un." Enter wicked sister with a history; she is now a widow and on the eve of marrying the gentleman who endowed her with her past. She has no knowledge of the suffering her "naughtiness" has caused, as she has been apparently at some unheard-of spot for years, where no communication of any description ever existed. She is startled at the appearance of Mamma Oliffe, dressed all in black, who makes it a rule to come and pray once a year, on the anniversary of her wedding day, at the little church over the left where she was married. By the strange force of stage circumstances, Papa Leicester now appears, recognises the convenient burglar who comes in from the O.P. side, to whom he has confided his tender offspring, and offers him gold untold for the restoration of his son. He says he will return in half an hour with the money, and so he does, only to find Vagabond Kate Tyndall, his real child, has "hooked it," and, as business has not been up to much lately with the burglar man, he palms off Vagabond Sydney Fairbrother on to the easily gulled Papa Leicester. Of course, it all comes right in the end, Mamma Oliffe discovers her son in the charming little person of Vagabond Kate Tyndall, who comes to see his beloved pal Vagabond Sydney Fairbrother, who eventually dies, and leaves everything plain and straightforward, and everybody bathed in a sea of tears, and buried amid handkerchiefs white, handkerchiefs red, handkerchiefs of every colour and description. A more tenderly pathetic play it would be impossible to see, and it will appeal to the hearts of young and old alike. Its success was instantaneous, and never for an instant was there a doubt about it. The acting of Miss Kate Tyndall and Miss Sydney Fairbrother will be a welcome surprise to all. Never were two characters more charmingly or delightfully played—the one all fire, fervour, health, energy, and go; the other a broken-down, sick, and dying child. What a beautiful contrast, what a lovely, pathetic picture! The husband of Mr. Ernest Leicester was another careful study of human nature, and the wife of Miss Geraldine Oliffe was also charming. All the minor characters, notably Mr. Lyston Lyle, Miss Le Bert, and Mr. Edward Coleman, were well played, and helped not a little towards the success of the play.

Sagacious critics want to know what plays suit the people, and insist that the drama is dead, if not buried. Nonsense! The drama is alive and kicking, when it is attacked by healthy, human dramatists. The right way to success on the stage of every country is—the human heart. Theories and fads are all very well: practice and the study of human nature are better.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE CZAR'S FRENCH LODGINGS.

THE Czar will be hard to suggestionise if he does not leave France with his head full of French Charmers. It appears that there will be a Beauty Show at the Français and Opera the evening he and the Czarina go there. Invitations will be issued by the President, and he will take care to give the prestige of rank, fashion, wealth, and feminine loveliness to the soirées there. There is to be another Beauty Show, but of a more select character, at Versailles. The President at Rambouillet has got in with the territorial aristocracy of the county. It includes not a few young, pretty, and lively Duchesses, Marquises, and other ladies of quality. Old-fashioned French dances will enter into the after-dinner divertissement in the Galerie des Batailles, so called after all the big paintings of scenes of military carnage by Horace Vernet, Delacroix, Gérard, Ary Scheffer (of all others!), Schetz and Heim, two quite forgotten artists. The pavane and minuet will admit only of subtle coquetry and adroit challenges. Last week it was arranged to use the *Petits Appartements* of Marie Antoinette as a resting-place where the Czar and Czarina could shut themselves in for some hours. But there were too many sinister recollections connected with these rooms. It was feared they might throw the Czarina into a gloomy frame of mind and strike the public as of evil augury. So the Faure Family, we hear, are to repose in Marie Antoinette's apartments and their Imperial Majesties in those of Louis XV. This Czarsruhe is the product of a *galante* epoch. Of the ten or eleven smallish rooms it contains, seven were built, decorated, and fitted up under the auspices of Madame de Pompadour. In Louis XIV.'s time Madame de Montespan had her Bower (two poky rooms) in this part of the palace. She ascended and descended by the grand stairs known as *l'escalier des Ambassadeurs*, with which her lodgings communicated. What is now the King's Bedroom was, in her time, the billiard room of Louis XIV. There was a particular etiquette for billiard playing, which enabled him to call on her without the Court at once knowing all about it. In Louis XV.'s time the Favourite

The ONLY PALATABLE NATURAL APERIENT to take is "Franz Josef" Water, generally admitted to be the best Ten gold medals at World's Exhibitions. No household should be without it.

complained of the publicity of the Ambassadors' stairs, which, in consequence, disappeared. A private stair-way, a couple of little rooms, and a corridor replaced them. The King lodged the Favourite overhead, and the new stairs communicated with her lodging, which was also poky, and had low ceilings. Her power was made manifest in her châteaux, in the King's inner abode, and in the impetus she gave to Art. Evidences abound in the Louis XV. apartments of the glorification of gallantry in his reign, and of *l'esprit aimable* with which it became permeated. I use the word *aimable* as it is used here in speaking of Pompadourism, as a desirable ferment in a despotic monarchy.

That spirit hid chains in roses, and brought rustic subjects into harmony with *le style noble* of the Court. Its omnipotence was asserted in the deep carvings of the wainscotings in those Louis XV. rooms. They are an exquisite adaptation of the Grinling Gibbons' style. Even yet they are permeated with the life and gracefulness—and corruption—of French art in the eighteenth century. It seems a pity that those garlands and ornamental *motifs*, carved in high relief in the block, should have been painted. The white paint and touches of gilding make them less salient than if the wood were the natural colour. But everything was painted then. Cornice carvings of the Cabinet des Chasses represents Loves hunting somebody. The King is *implied* but not *expressed*. Respect for his regal character forbade him being represented, though Amoretti were the pursuers. This cabinet or room opens on a balcony looking on an inner courtyard. The monarch, his family, and courtiers used to go on this balcony to look by torch-light at trophies of the King's skill and daring as a hunter. The game was laid out in tableaux or still-life compositions. When stags had been hunted down and killed there was a *curée froide*. The *curée chaude* was reserved for Fontainebleau and Compiègne, where packs of hounds were let loose on live deer chained to stakes. A gilt door in the Cabinet des Chasses opens on another gilt balcony, ending in another door, which communicated with a smaller stair-way than that which led to De Pompadour's rooms. The latter even was thought too public. Louis XV. did not like to be shadowed by *policiers* acting as guardian angels, and so had a private-private stair-way made.

The Royal hunts helped to throw the King under the domination of *reines de la main gauche*. He came home tired, hungry, and often drenched, after chasing a stag. Wine was drunk as a pick-me-up. Madame de Pompadour got English Prime Ministers to send her butts of port and sherry. Courtiers were encouraged by that wicked old Marshal de Richelieu to help the effect of wine by lively talk. The hunting Loves on the cornice were no idle symbol. The captivated monarch showed his devotion for the Favourite by preparing tit-bits for her. A tiny range was set up for him, where he tossed pancakes, baked flaky *vol-au-vents*, became an adept in the art of making toothsome hasty dishes that met the caprices of her palate. There were *œufs brouillés*, with other dainties; *beignets* made with pineapples sent by the Duke of Newcastle from his hot-houses at Clermont; quails *en grillade*, stuffed *à la diable* with capsicums, and woodcock's trail; teal *sauté* in olive oil with olives was a Lenten delicacy. While the King became materialised, the mistress rose to goddess-ship. The greatest artists, as the Louis XV. rooms show, crowded *ex-voto* offerings on her altar. Art ran into innumerable channels. The more it utilised itself, the more it charmed. Chairs, tables, door-handles, fire-shovels, tongs, teacups, toilet vessels, stuffs for upholstery, for dresses, became exquisite masterpieces. The Czar and Czarina in their Versailles Rest will be surrounded with evidences of this diffusion of art. The artisan was elevated by the Beauty on the second floor of the palace into the transcendent artist. But the poor Queen? She was like a constitutional king—a figure-head. Her one duty to the nation was to give an heir to the throne. Poor thing! her life was too flat and formal for her to give a personal impetus of any sort.

The spirit of the eighteenth century seems yet to haunt the Czarsruhe at Versailles. One might fancy it still vitalising decorations, furniture, and portraits. What more alive, and yet more free from accentuation of liveliness, than Du Barry's bust? The neck is the poetry of matter. Strange that the two most exquisite necks of the last century should be doomed to the guillotine. Nattier and La Tour, portraitists of the Pompadour period, threw into the Princesses who will look down on Czar and Czarina in their Rest the spirit of their time. They seem only to need the opportunity to captivate Kings. One sees more than French vivacity in them. Their mother was a Pole. Mesdames l'Infante (the Duchess of Parma) and Adelaide are hung in the King's Saloon. They said of the former that she did not disdain to dally with Cardinal de Bernis, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Worse things circulated at Court about her and Adelaide. Michelet did not fear to set them down in black and white.

This too suggestive Czarsruhe was assigned to Grévy as a residence when he was President of the National Assembly and to his successors in that function. It is also the lodging of the Presidents of the two Chambers whenever they meet in Congress. Grévy, though not a superstitious man, fancied it haunted by naughty demons. He called it "une ermitage de St. Antoine." Curious that a Cythera created by Louis XV. should be the starting-point of Presidential reigns! No sooner is a President of the Republic elected than, setting out from La Galerie des Batailles, he proceeds to the Louis XV. in what state the Protocol allows. He is there received, congratulated and harangued by the Presidents of Congress who then and there subside into Presidents of the Senate. Grévy, Carnot, Casimir-Perier, and Faure observed this ceremonial. The excellent Félix Faure is said to imagine that he, through this consecration, succeeded to the Kings of France.

Does it seem to you the right thing for our bourgeois rulers to show off before the Czar and Czarina in the Palace of Versailles? If they meant treason to the Republic, I could imagine them properly doing so, or if their guest were, say, the President of the United States. To take him to feast there would be like taking him

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to picnic on a field of battle where his side had been victorious. Versailles is to republican Paris what York Town is to patriotic Americans. Its creator felt the spirit of Paris was uneasy, and entrenched himself at Versailles—the strongest military situation that there is relatively to the capital. Yet the spirit of Paris—expressing itself through a draggled, weather-stained, and starved crowd—was too much for the power that had its centre at Versailles. It is now to the Third Republic the electoral city, as Frankfort was that of the old German Empire. Taking the Czar there is really to *parler de la corde dans la maison d'un pendu.* I do not like the idea of the pensive lily-like Czarina, the daughter of the Princess Alice, being the tenant of such a Circe's den as *les Petits Appartements de Louis Quinze.*

Guizot was not a gossiping writer, but he liked to gossip in conversation. The Queen's sixtieth anniversary reminds me of a chat I had with him when she was going through France on her first visit to Baden-Baden. Guizot knew very well the Queen, Prince Consort, and most of their Coburg and Guelph relatives. He said on the occasion I recall that she was a delicate girl and of a pale complexion. Nobody could have thought she had a long life before her. King Leopold thought her chances of a long reign precarious. The person who had the strongest opinion on this subject was her uncle Ernest, who was always expecting to hear of her being struck down with a fatal illness. The wish was known to be father to the thought. After he became King of Hanover he wished with more ardour than ever. The first King of the Belgians told Guizot that until the Queen had several children he never felt easy in his mind about her, and thought that Bean was set on by some Hanoverian agent to give the Queen a mortal start, but not to shoot her. A son of the Queen of Hanover by her first husband kept Leopold informed of all the cabals at Hanover. He wanted to marry her, but his step-father was determined that she should not, because he wished her to die childless. How different her career from what her uncle presaged!

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

QUEEN VICTORIA, dear Lady Betty, is the greatest of England's daughters. Called upon to reign at the most difficult period in history—during the Great Reconstruction—by the exercise of sound sense, by strict adherence to constitutional principles, by her dignified conduct as a Sovereign, and her admirable behaviour as a woman, Queen Victoria has enabled the vast Empire over which she has ruled so long to become larger, stronger, and more prosperous than it ever was before, and the people who inhabit it more contented than they have been in the entire history of our nation. That is a glorious achievement!

Attention has been directed by the newspapers this week to the many marvels which must make the present reign memorable, but one circumstance, and that the most remarkable, no writer has mentioned. Queen Victoria is the only Sovereign that has ruled over Great Britain who has attained and retained the respect of all her subjects. Even more curious is it that, however much the various nations may detest England, every Court and every people entertain the greatest respect for Queen Victoria. Year after year we have much reason to be kindly disposed towards the French, because of the especially gracious reception which they accord to our Sovereign when she visits their country. To have ruled long is considerably a matter of accident; to have ruled long and well is particularly remarkable; but to have ruled long and well and to be respected by all classes of the community, and also by all the neighbouring communities, is an achievement which no Sovereign probably has ever before accomplished.

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It may be interesting at this moment to recall the great actors who have occupied the stage of life in England during this phenomenally long reign.

In literature there have flourished Southey, Campbell, Sydney Smith, Hood, Maria Edgworth, Joanna Baillie, Moore, Rogers, Charlotte Brontë, Hallam, Leigh Hunt, Macaulay, Archbishop Whately, Thackeray, Landor, Dickens, Grote, Lytton, Mill, Kingsley, "George Eliot," Disraeli, Lever, Matthew Arnold, Tennyson, Trollope, Browning, Froude, Ruskin, and Herbert Spencer. It is difficult to trace the cause or causes, but it is an unquestionable fact that since the seventies scarcely a great name has been added to the literary roll.

As regards music, the present reign is singularly poor. Whilst our neighbours were honouring masters like Mendelssohn, Chopin, Schumann, Rossini, Berlioz, Auber, Wagner, Verdi, Gounod, and Rubinstein, Balfe and Sir Arthur Sullivan are, perhaps, the most eminent composers we have had.

In art, there have been Wilkie, Etty, Turner, Martin, Mulready, Maclise, Landseer, Ward, Frith, Millais, Leighton, and Long.

Amongst the sculptors are Chantrey, Gibson, Foley, Stevens, Noble, Woolner, Boehm, the Thornycrofts, and Gibson.

Science has secured six great men—Faraday, Tyndall, Darwin, Huxley, Herschell the younger, and Lord Kelvin.

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There have been seven attempts made upon the life of the Queen.

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It is curious that the traditional dislike the French have for England has increased since the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1. Few seem to remember that in 1874 four ornamental volumes containing addresses and thanks from the principal towns of France for the relief given by England to the French after that disastrous campaign were presented to the Queen. These volumes contain 12,000,000 signatures, and inscribed upon the covers is the sentence "Britanniæ Grata Gallia." This gratitude appears to have been short-lived.

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As next week the Parisians are going to give an enthusiastic reception to the Emperor of Russia, the French nation may be opportunely reminded of the following coalitions which have been formed against France, in all of which Russia took a part:—

June, 1799. Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Naples, Portugal, and Turkey.

August, 1805. Great Britain, Russia, Austria, and Naples.

October, 1806. Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, and Saxony.

March, 1813. Russia and Prussia.

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As regards the present unreasonable war-scare, it may also be well to remember that both in 1877 and in 1885 the Reserves were called out in consequence of the prospect of an immediate war with Russia. We did not, however, come to blows, nor shall we now.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, HARROGATE.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

SPORTING NOTES.

A PROMINENT owner of racehorses, who is also a most successful breeder, has privately expressed his regret that the Princess of Wales' Stakes and the Jockey Club Stakes for 1899 should have filled, although, by the way, he has himself patronised both events. It is perfectly certain that a £10,000 stake for three-year-olds is quite out of place in July, and it is a pity that owners should be tempted to over-race their horses, but they are evidently unable to resist such baits. In 1893 Isinglass won the Two Thousand, the Newmarket Stakes, and the Derby, and then was given a rest until the St. Leger, and after Doncaster he ran only once more as a three-year-old, for the then existing Lancashire Plate of £8,000 at Manchester, when he was beaten by Raeburn, to whom he was giving 10 lb. This was the single blunder in the management of Isinglass during his racing career, for he ought not to have started at Manchester. However, this horse was not over-raced as a three-year-old, the result being that he won all the £10,000 stakes as a four-year-old. It is a flagrant fact that a Derby or Leger winner in training and in form as a five-year-old is now as rare a phenomenon on the turf as a phœnix or a unicorn. The career of Ladas was similar to that of Isinglass until after the Derby, when the fatal mistake was committed of training him for the Princess of Wales Stakes and for the Eclipse Stakes, instead of reserving him for the Leger, and the issue of this severe work was that Ladas never won another race, and, as a matter of fact, he was probably "settled" decisively when he ran third to Isinglass and Bullingdon at Newmarket. This year St. Frusquin has followed in the steps of Ladas, except that he won both his summer races, and that they brought his turf career to a sudden close. However, the practical lesson is the same, which is that horses cannot be treated as if they were made of iron, and that the result of the summer £10,000 races has been distinctly mischievous. If there could be a big stake for four-year-olds and upwards it would be a good thing indeed, but a subscription race of this kind would never fill. The Ascot authorities might, however, do something if they would convert the Hardwicke Stakes into a race of £5,000. Owners of good horses have really little temptation to keep them on the turf, as five-year-olds are carefully excluded from all the £10,000 races, and the only rich events open to them are the Ascot Cup (and how few horses can stay the course!) and the Hardwicke Stakes, of which the net value is not much over £2,000. One crack-brained scribe seems to have been thrown into paroxysms of delight at the success of the Newmarket events, and twaddles about the exciting and brilliant races in which they have resulted. As a matter-of-fact, since these events were started they have been failures as races to all intents and purposes, except on two occasions, when Isinglass defeated Bullingdon and Ladas in 1894, and last July, when St. Frusquin beat Persimmon and Regret. Last year only a mooncalf could pretend to regard with satisfaction the victories of such animals as Le Var and Laveno, who won simply because they had a great advantage in the weights. It seems to me that the Stewards might devote the money wasted on these races to a better purpose. Last year they cost the Fund £2,939, and the loss on this season's Princess of Wales' Stakes was nearly £2,000.

There are 217 entries for the Princess of Wales' Stakes, and 221 for the Jockey Club Stakes. The Duke of Westminster and Sir Tatton Sykes are the largest subscribers to both races, each having ten entries. Sir Tatton has engaged two of the yearlings which failed to sell at Doncaster, and eight foals now at Sledmere, which will be offered for sale next September. They include colts by Fernandez (brother to Isonomy) out of Wedlock (dam of Best Man), by St. Simon out of Mimi, by St. Simon out of Plaisanterie (this is an own brother to Childwick and Raconteur), by Royal Hampton out of Claribelle, by Marcion out of Marchioness, and by Orme out of Sibyl; and a filly by Bend Or out of Chrysalis (dam of Laodamia). It is odd, by the way that this mare has not been sent again to Kendal, the sire of the Cesarwitch favourite. The Prince of Wales has entered his foal Sandringham (brother to Persimmon) in both races. Mr. Cooper has a foal that is own brother to Floret, and I hope its turf career may be more prolonged and successful than was that of its sister. Mr. Fulton enters a foal by Kendal and Comedy, who won the Cambridgeshire in 1891. It is funny to find Lord Harewood entering a couple of foals in one of these races after the opinions on the subject which he publicly expressed on a recent occasion. Sir F. Johnstone has a foal by Royal Hampton and Thistle, dam of Common and Throstle. Sir J. B. Maple has nine entries, one of which is a filly foal by Orme out of Corrie Roy. Mr. J. C. Platt has entered six of the foals at Bruntwood, including an own brother to Saintly, a colt by Kendal out of Maid Marion, and a filly by Kendal out of the famous St. Marguerite, dam of Sea Breeze. The mare is now in foal to Isinglass. All the Duke of Westminster's four foals are by Orme, the dams being Ruth, Quetta, Vampire, and Jersey Lily.

Mr. Calvert has been exceedingly ill-advised in writing a very silly letter to the papers, in which he states that Chit Chat will not run for the Cesarewitch unless he can obtain a good jockey, and he writes to caution the public, "as support may be given to Chit Chat on the strength of rumours that have got about that N. Robinson or Fearis has been engaged to ride." Mr. Calvert must be a person of truly infantile ingenuousness if he really supposes that such "rumours" would lead any sane people to put money on his horse for this race. People have backed Chit Chat because they fancy his chance after his running in the Great Yorkshire Handicap at Doncaster, and Mr. Calvert desired to have the market to himself (and it has been openly stated that he complains of having been forestalled). His policy in letting the horse run a public trial at Doncaster was asinine and anserous, for it was inevitable that the public would at once jump in. One thing is certain, which is, that Chit Chat has a better chance in the two Newmarket handicaps than is likely to be given him again after his Doncaster performance, and I hear that Lord Durham scratched Drip because he felt convinced that she could not beat Mr. Calvert's gelding. I have no fancy myself for Chit Chat, being doubtful whether any boy whatever can do justice to the animal, as he wants a lot of riding, and I do not believe he has any chance of defeating Laodamia, Arlequin, or St. Bris.

The course at Manchester last week was like a swamp, and several horses which had been sent to the meeting returned home without fulfilling their engagements, in consequence of the utterly rotten state of the ground. Worse going never was seen, and the running should be entirely ignored. What with the killing of Troon and the accident to T. Loates, this fixture is likely to be long remembered, and unless the managers of the meeting can make better arrangements in several important respects, the majority of owners will be disposed to withdraw their patronage from Manchester.

I expressed the opinion last week that Prince Soltykoff's Filliford would win the Autumn Breeders' Foal Plate on Friday, and the colt was backed down to 11 to 8 in a field of ten, but he could not move in the mud, and was out of it before fifty yards had been traversed. Wreath Or (who had been well galloped at Newmarket) won very easily indeed, having started at the satisfactory price of 100 to 12. Filliford will probably compensate Prince Soltykoff for his Manchester collapse by winning the Boscawen Post Stakes of £600 at Newmarket if he can beat the Duke of Portland's candidate.

Some of the Duke of Westminster's two-year-olds were tried at Kingsclere on Friday, and Brooch, by Blue Green out of Ornament, did best in the gallop, but probably Blue Water (second) was giving her weight. Simoon, by St. Simon out of Shotover, was among the beaten lot, but I hear that this filly is to run for the Bretby Park Stakes at Newmarket on the day after the Cesarewitch.

It is incomprehensible why Count Schomberg has been

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backed so persistently for the Cesarewitch. M. Lebaudy's horse did not appear to have improved in any way when he was seen out in the summer, and, most assuredly, his public form does not justify the belief that he will win this handicap with 8 st. 4 lb. on his back. Count Schomberg's four defeats appear to have been forgotten by his infatuated friends, who would do well to study the horse's running, taken in connection with the form of the various animals which finished in front of him in those races. I hear that they are depending on a trial with Quilon, which will probably turn out to be utterly misleading. I am told that Mr. Fulton has £1,000 on Laodamia, and whatever beats her will win, if she comes to the post fit and well. Thais will not run, being in reserve for the Cambridgeshire, but she is more likely to win the Derby Cup. Portmarnock has been going much better since rain has fallen so copiously, and he will be well suited by the heavy ground. Arlequin is one of the very few animals in the race that can be thoroughly trusted to stay the course. Of course, his recent defeat in France is unworthy of notice, as he was similarly beaten last summer just before he came over to England, and he then cantered away with the Ascot Stakes. There can be no mistake as to the opinion which is entertained respecting Arlequin's Cesarewich chance by those who know most about the horse, as he has been very heavily-backed for good money, and is positively a much better favourite than he was before his defeat in France. St. Bris is very much fancied by clever people, and he has been backed by men who are always cautious in their transactions. The Cesarewitch betting, however, will not be on an extensive scale during the next few days, as people are waiting to see the result of the race for the Prix du Conseil Municipal on Sunday next. If Victor Wild should win this £4,000 stake, defeating the best of the French horses, he will, of course, become first favourite for the Cesarewitch, in which handicap his weight is 8 st. 13 lb. If, however, Champaubert is a real flyer, he ought to win the Prix du Conseil Municipal, and a victory in that race will make him a tremendous favourite for the Cambridgeshire. This short handicap will be, therefore, considerably affected by the running at Longchamps. Quarrel is now favourite for the Cambridgeshire, but this horse will probably run at Kempton Park next week, Lord Rosebery being represented at Newmarket by Sir Visto or Avilion. I stated last week that Knight of the Thistle will be the best of the Bedford Cottage lot, and the horse has since supplanted Snowy Corrie in the betting, having been backed down to 100 to 8, in anticipation of his defeating Persimmon to-morrow. All the papers plump in large letters for the Prince of Wales's colt for the Jockey Club Stakes, but I shall not be in the least surprised to see him beaten by both the Duke of Westminster's candidate and Knight of the Thistle.

I have received an interesting letter concerning the Doncaster sales from a correspondent who is a competent authority on the subject. I will deal with the matter later on, when the time comes to review the sales of the season.

Mr. Brassey was at Newmarket last week, and on Thursday he saw Pardalo win a trial over the R.M. distance, Bay Ronald being among the beaten lot. The horse is still backward, but he will win a race at one of the back end meetings if he goes on all right. Another trial over five furlongs ended in the easy victory of St. Agnese, who ought to win the next race for which she starts.

Red Heart has no chance for the Cambridgeshire, and if 25 to 1 has really been taken about the horse (as stated), the backers must either be idiots, or else their fancy for him must be founded in complete ignorance of his present condition. Red Heart went in a very stilted style in a gallop last week, and his fore legs were heavily bandaged. The chances are that he will not stand another preparation. Mr. Rucker, however, certainly ought to win a good handicap with King Hampton, and it is by no means unlikely that he will carry off the Duke of York Handicap.

I see it asserted that the withdrawal of St. Frusquin from the turf will leave the £10,000 stakes of next season "at the mercy of Persimmon." In any case, such a fanfaronnade would be decidedly premature, for there will be the three-year-olds to be reckoned with; but, as a matter of fact, Persimmon does not happen to have been entered for either of the Newmarket £10,000 races of 1897, his only engagements being the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot, the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park, and the Champion Stakes at Newmarket. Velasquez is also in the Eclipse Stakes, and so are Galeazzo and Goletta.

Next week there will be racing at Nottingham, Leicester, and Kempton Park, and at the last of these meetings there ought to be some excellent, and most interesting and important, sport.

The Imperial Produce Stakes of £3,000 was a great race last year, when Teufel beat St. Frusquin, also in 1894, when Sir Visto won, after a splendid finish with Float, and in 1893, when Matchbox just managed to defeat Son o' Mine, who has never since run within measurable distance of the form which he then showed. The prospect for next week, however, is not so promising, as the race seems to be at the mercy of Lord Rosebery, who has both Velasquez (10 lb. extra) and Chelandry (5 lb. extra) engaged. The filly has really earned the extreme penalty, but she has the advantage of a 5 lb. breeding allowance. This pair hold all the public lot quite safe, Lord Cadogan's filly, Lowly, and Cyrenian being, apparently, the best of them. As to the dark contingent, Mr. Houldsworth may run Rapallo, own brother to Laveno and Orvieto, and Lord Alington's Vesuvian, by Royal Hampton out of Fuse, has been much talked about. I shall be vastly surprised, however, if Lord Rosebery fails to secure the stake.

The Duke of York Handicap cannot be dealt with until next week, especially as not a single bet has yet been laid on it. A dangerous candidate has been removed by the disappearance of Troon, who had been going remarkably well in his gallops, and he is a great loss to the Duke of Portland's stud. It is probable that the policy of several owners whose animals are engaged both at Kempton Park and in the Cambridgeshire will be considerably influenced by the running at Newmarket and at Longchamps. Quarrel will be favourite if he starts (as is most probable), and Rampion must have a good chance. The handicap, however, is a "flattering" one all round, and would have done credit to the ingenuity of the late Mr. Frail. Bellevin is out of it with a penalty of 14 lb. for his victory at Manchester, which makes his weight 7 st. 10 lb.

An old cricketer wishes to bring two suggestions forward before the football season attracts all attention. One of his ideas deserves consideration, the other is utterly impracticable. He suggests that in the scores of cricket matches the position of the player who made the catch should be indicated. Thus s.s. Lohmann would mean caught by that player at short slip. The idea is a good one, as the reader could tell by the score alone a great deal about the facts of the game. I hope my correspondent will present this idea to certain enterprising daily papers whose object is to condense news, and then one may be pretty sure other journals will soon follow suit. At the same time he might urge secretaries on county grounds to hoist the number of the player making a catch on the scoring board, in addition to the numbers of the bowlers and batsmen, as is the case at present. The other idea is that the follow-on should be decided relatively, instead of absolutely, as at present. The state of the wicket is to decide the follow, the number of runs to be fixed by a committee of three from each team. Well, the wicket has enough to answer for already, and it is much better to let the rules, rather than the weather or the groundman, regulate the follow-on.

In more respects than one the great meeting of the Ravensbourne Swimming Club was decidedly interesting. It is impossible to have anything but admiration for a club that has done so much to promote sport among City trading houses, and which has, therefore, induced a number

of young men to take part in healthy exercise instead of squandering and frittering their time away. The members of clubs like these are the proletariat of amateur sport. The members of this very club have forced themselves into a high position among the legislative section of swimmers. Those members were particularly active in promoting the meeting, out of which the club was not going to make a penny. I see no reason to believe that it did make a farthing. On the contrary, it must have been very much out of pocket. But then it is very wealthy, and got a good advertisement, which will, no doubt, recoup the club indirectly. Too much importance need not be attached to its virtuous conduct in this respect. There was a huge handicap that secured 170 entrants. This success was achieved by giving a prize to every heat-winner and to each man swimming in the final, and fast-time prizes for English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh swimmers. Owing to a protest, Derbyshire, the scratch man, started in the final. If the protest is upheld he will get a prize for fastest time, another for being in the final, and another for winning his heat. Any scheme more conducive to pot-hunting it would be impossible to conceive. Any club with a big-enough pocket could do the same, and such prize orgies are obviously the worst possible thing for sport. A staple feature at most of these races is the prize for the fastest loser, or if two good men are swimming, then two pots are given. These prizes are clearly given as a solatium to the champions, who are lucky young men to be able to travel all over the country as they do. They are journeymen amateurs, and considering how pure amateur swimming is said to be, one can only regret that such a prominent club as the Ravensbourne, with officials occupying so prominent a position in the Amateur Swimming Association, should organise an event of the character that has been described.

The swimming, however, was very good. In the team race for City houses the Connaught were just first, while the finish for the club race was very close—all the men being close up, and Hodgson just winning. The international polo between England and Scotland was, as an exhibition of foul play, decidedly interesting. At Birmingham, the Manchester Osborne again won the Polo championship. Leicester, in the absence of Tyers from the opposing team were expected to have a good chance, but their play was not up to the mark. The Otters should have a most interesting meeting on October 6 and their recent veterans' race produced some good swimming, Blew-Jones, an old champion, doing remarkably well, and Brett just winning. At the Orion meeting Ealing won the team race. Craig, in attempting a high dive, struck the bottom and was fetched up insensible. These exhibitions are very senseless, and clubs should never sanction them under any pretext whatever. The Kent team were easily beaten by Surrey in water polo, and the Polytechnic Harriers wound up a soaking athletic meeting with a swimming handicap at Wembley, Allen just getting home first.

It will be necessary for Rugby footballers to bear in mind that at the recent meeting of the Union all case law was abolished, and that, therefore, all decisions on the rules which were not altered are no longer binding. This seems very ridiculous, but the point was expressly raised by a member, and it was decided as I have stated. The case raised was, I believe, on the decision that when a three-quarter impedes or obstructs another the scrimmage will be where the foul takes place and not where the scrimmage is being played as hereto predecided. It seems a great pity that with all the tinkering it goes in for, the Union still needs a satisfactory and grammatical set of rules. The case I have indicated will clearly work great hardship. Assume a scrimmage in front of goal. A defending wing three-quarter goes up to obstruct his opponent, and he gets a scrum near the touch line, which is just what his side would prefer.

Rugby football opened in London with a tough game between the Harlequins and Old Merchant Taylors. There were rumours of a split in the ranks of the former club, but so far as I can gather they are absolutely without foundation. They started the season with a win. The Old Boys show promise, and they are trying hard to work up the new and younger players, the old hands most chivalrously going to play for the second team, and in many respects setting an example which other clubs would do well to follow.

A correspondent from a German University, Marburg, emphatically repudiates all connection with the German Association football team that recently visited us. He says the South German and Berlin players knew nothing about it, and that they could give the team that came over here a good beating if it did not play professionals. The Berliners will not play with "pros." I did not know that football had so far progressed in Germany that professionalism had become an institution? I advise the Berlin men to play and beat the paid players.

What a topsy-turvy list is the first division of the League. Sunderland are firmly fixed at the bottom, and after their defeat by Burton are likely to remain there for a time. Everton visited the Villa, and reversed the former League verdict, while Derby County look as though they had quite returned to their old form, and Liverpool are still in the running for a good place. Woolwich Arsenal started off in a very half-hearted way against Notts County, and, although they warmed up at the finish, they had to put up with their first defeat this season.

Despite the weather the sport at the concluding meeting of the L.A.C. was remarkably good. Munro in the two miles won from scratch in excellent time, having been on the shelf practically all through the summer. In the half, Crowhurst, with eight yards, won in very good style, and Butler, at scratch, moved remarkably well. Of course the best event was the mile walk between Sturgess and Fenton, which the former just won in record time. Both men are to be congratulated on their brilliant display. It is with great regret that we have heard of the sudden death of Percy McDonnell, the Australian cricketer. How many yearned for such a dashing bat in the visitors team this summer. He could hit, and on bad wickets, too. Was it not in a test match at Manchester that he scored 82 out of 86 runs on a queer wicket? Only this summer at the Oval, a well-known cricketer said, "If McDonnell had been playing." That meant a lot when Hearne and Peel were making the ball do as they liked.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—I said last week that a further rise in the Bank rate was not improbable, as the Directors of the Bank of England did not make the 2½ per cent. basis effective, and, under all the circumstances, the advance to 3 per cent. has been received with very general satisfaction, as protecting the stock of gold here and assuring some kind of finality. I also stated last week that an all-round rally was due, as the ursine party had committed themselves very far in various directions.

When will the "Bears" be Squeezed?

The action of the Bank of England on Thursday was greeted by the Consol market with an advance, but the "Bears" have since been assiduously depressing Consols, and may be said to have temporarily regained control of the markets. In this they were assisted in the first instance by the execrable weather, the steady downpour having a depressing effect upon the minds of operators, and a direct weakening influence upon Home Rails. It is quite useless to attempt to prophesy on the weather in this country, but it is safe to predict that a few days of sunshine would furnish a great deal of support to Home Rails, in which the relapse has reached altogether unjustifiable proportions. Granting even that a good deal of stock held on borrowed money had to be sold, there was no reason for the heavy decline

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in the more speculative or higher yielding descriptions, such as Brighton "A," Dover "A," and the Scotch Deferred stocks, and I am still of opinion that a sharp recovery in these must come about sooner or later. Consols touched 109¾ on the advance in the Bank rate, but have since eased off to 109¼, strong efforts being made by the "Bears" to depress quotations, recovering, however, to 109½. In the absence of unfavourable political news and with the Consol settlement approaching, at which it is expected that a backwardation will be exacted from the ursine party, a sharp rally is quite on the cards. The political outlook has distinctly improved. Not only has the shrieking fraternity pretty well worn out its efforts at the various indignation meetings, but the view is spreading very generally that it is quite out of the question for England to intervene single-handed in Turkey; while, on the other hand, Lord Salisbury's interview with the Czar is not unlikely to lead to a more amicable understanding between this country and Russia. At all events, the fears of a European conflagration, upon which large sales were made on the Stock Exchange, may be dismissed as unfounded. There remains the monetary situation. It is not improbable that further amounts of gold will be shipped to the States, but there is nothing to indicate the withdrawal of any large sums for this destination; and the inquiry for gold for the Continent has subsided. For a month or two, therefore, the three per cent. Bank rate should suffice to protect the Bank reserve, and there is absolutely no reason why such a rate should militate against legitimate speculation. I again say that gilt-edged securities, which have been pushed up to an exaggerated level, such as British Corporation stocks, Colonial bonds, prior charges of Home Railways, and a number of industrial debentures, are likely to suffer further. But I can see no reason why the mining markets should be interfered with, and I still say that an all-round rally is due in these. The settlement has commenced most satisfactorily. Rates in Home Rails were light and in the South African and West Australian markets they were no higher than last time, while in several instances stocks were carried over at even, and backwardations exacted, thus showing not only that the account is greatly reduced, but that the "Bears" have committed themselves to a great extent. The position, in fact, has become much clearer, and, barring accidents, it is evident that the big financiers by a concerted movement could easily, in the near future, bring about a "Bear" skedaddle. In a time of nervousness all manner of unfounded rumours are set about, and during the past week the syndicate of liars has been particularly busy, one of its most astounding performances being a report that Sir Philip Currie had been assassinated by the Turks; but the power of the "Bears" for mischief vanishes with the calmer state of the public mind, and I should think, therefore, that such lies would not in future gain credence. American Rails have experienced a further important advance, and thus fully confirm the correctness of the view which I took about a month ago that a marked recovery would take place. Just as the weakness of the Yankee market has for a long time been a serious drawback, so the marked improvement in these stocks should act as an impulse and support for the other departments, and it is in my opinion only a question of time as to when the "Bear" squeeze will come about.

Home Rails.

Further realisations have been forced during the past week in the Home Railway market, and fresh declines have been brought about. I have already explained that, so far as the Heavies are concerned, I am not very hopeful of a marked recovery in these, as their yield is comparatively low, so that it is only in the fitness of things that prices should be affected by the rise in the Bank rate. Yet the further fall which has taken place does not exceed two points, and a firmer tone is again making itself felt. The more speculative stocks, and those yielding higher returns, should certainly recover their excessive relapse. I place in the first rank amongst these Brighton "A" and Dover "A." Deliveries of stock have depressed the former to 178, but when it is considered that at this price they yield approximatively 4 per cent. to the investor it will be seen that a recovery might easily take place. There is, of course, to be considered the effect of the execrable weather upon traffics, but so far returns have not suffered to any extent, and a change in the atmospheric conditions would doubtless make good the small decreases which have occurred lately. This also applies to the South-Eastern, which has a large traffic increase of £10,700 for the twelve weeks of the current half-year, and which is known to have greatly reduced its expenditure. As a most progressive stock, therefore, Dover "A" at the present quotation must still be considered a good purchase. Why the Scotch stocks should keep at so low a level it is difficult to understand. Traffics are keeping on about the same scale as last year, when the Companies were doing a very large business, and for the eight weeks of the current financial half-year the Caledonian has an increase of £13,092, the North British one of £16,119. Trade in Scotland is satisfactory, and the Caledonian is reaping considerable benefit from the Glasgow Central Extension. Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) at present price yield nearly 4 per cent. per annum, and the progress which is being made by the North British is such that a satisfactory dividend may also be looked for in the current half-year, so that North British Deferred will doubtless improve as soon as the surroundings become a little brighter. The most active market has been that of Districts, which have been taken up by several strong groups, and which at one time touched 33, reacting to 31½, and recovering to 33¼. It is no secret that several strong groups are now taking an interest in this line, and that the price would already have advanced to a much higher level were it not for the efforts which are being made to keep the quotation down by one of these groups in order to get hold of more stock. Directly this purpose has been accomplished, or perhaps sooner, we shall see an important advance, as there is not the slightest doubt that the deep-level express scheme will be carried out. Holders of Districts will, therefore, do well to stick tight to their stock. From reliable information I am able to state that, notwithstanding the further banging of the market by some of the professional operators, something like a quarter of a million stock is being taken up this or next account, good provincial brokers, as well as shopkeepers all over South Kensington now being buyers for investment. Small delays may occur in the carrying-out of the scheme; but the importance of the connection by express trains between the East and West is so great, that all possible despatch may be depended upon. I have on former occasions had to criticise certain actions of the somewhat old-fashioned District Board, but I am agreeably surprised at the alacrity and enterprise with which they have taken up this latest project.

The Yankee Market Buoyant.

There is no doubt that the financial position in the United States has greatly improved. In the first instance, the large gold shipments from Europe have strengthened the banks and the Treasury, and the gold movement is all the more satisfactory as it is not artificial, but based upon the large exports of produce from the States. In August last the exports of merchandise from the United States were 12,600,000 dols. larger than for the corresponding month of 1895, and there is, at the same time, shown a decrease in the imports of 21,650,000 dols. Thus the balance of trade is gradually working in favour of the United States, and to this must be added the cessation of indiscriminate sales of American securities by European holders. On the contrary, increased attention has been given by the public to the Yankee market here, and investors have been picking up small and large blocks to be locked up until after the Presidential election. The prospects of Mr. Bryan are distinctly growing worse, and

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it is dawning even upon many of his supporters that his preaching of silverism as a cure for every financial and industrial ill is delusive. McKinley's chances of a good majority are undoubtedly increasing. This may also be gathered from the deep impression which the Republican victory in Vermont has made. Some of my American contemporaries are quoting an old saying, that "as goes Vermont so goes the United States." Looking at it from an unbiased point of view there is good cause and reason for the enthusiasm and rejoicing manifested, as the voting in Vermont clearly indicates that the free silver heresy has not taken hold in the east to the extent generally supposed or claimed by the Bryan shouters. The State of Vermont—always Republican—generally casts about 56,000 votes, and elected its Governor in 1894 by a majority of about 27,000 votes. This year out of the same total number of votes it elected its Governor by a majority of 39,000 votes, thus clearly showing that at least 12,000 Democrats voted the Republican ticket. This is significant as indicating the trend of public opinion, and as such goes far towards reassuring the friends of and believers in the gold standard. In this market the advance has been general during the last few days, Milwaukee leading the way, as will be gathered from the following comparative list:—

—	Price Jan. 2, 1896.	High'st in 1896.	Low'st in 1896.	Sept. 18.	Sept. 28.
Atchison	14½	18 3/16	9	12	13½
Do. Five per Cent. Prefs.	22	23⅞	14⅜	17⅞	20¼
Atlantic Firsts	22	26 9/16	20	24¼	24¼
Canadian Pacifics	51¾	65⅛	51	59⅝	60¼
Central Pacific	15½	17½	13	14	14⅞
Denver	12⅜	14 11/16	10	11¼	12
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	37¼	42¾	44¾
Erie	14⅛	16⅛	11¼	13⅛	14⅝
Lake Shore	144	155	138	148	151
Louisville	44⅝	56¾	38⅞	42	43⅝
Milwaukee	69⅛	81⅝	61¾	72⅝	75⅝
Mis., Kan., and Texas	11¼	13 13/16	8⅞	10⅜	11½
Norfolk Pref.	8	14⅛	10⅛	13⅜	15
Nor. Pacific Pref.	12½	21⅛	14	20	22⅛
New York Central	98	101⅞	90¼	95	96
Ontario	13¼	16½	11¼	13	14¼
Reading	2	8 3/16	3⅛	8¼	9⅜
Southern Ordy.	8¾	11⅛	6⅝	7⅜	8¾
Do. Pref.	26½	34⅜	18½	21¾	25⅛
Union Pacific	4⅛	9¾	3⅛	5⅞	7¼
Wabash Pref.	15¾	20 3/16	12	14¼	15½

The rise in Milwaukee extends to three dollars, and the price is now thirteen dollars above the lowest this year. A strong "Bull" combination appears to have been formed, and the "Bears" are being badly squeezed. Louisville have also displayed greater strength, although curiously enough the tap always seems to be turned on here whenever the price touches 43½. Atchison Five per Cent. Prefs. have been particularly strong, and an improvement in Reading securities was one of the features. Messrs. Morgan are also apparently giving the stocks of the Southern Railway some support. I mentioned some time ago how capitalists were picking up blocks of low-priced stocks, in order to lock them up until after the elections. The course of Readings, Union Pacifics, Ontario, Atchison, and Erie during the past few months appears to fully justify the view then taken, as a general recovery has already taken place. Far be it from me to now preach a policy of daring and indiscriminate speculation. The result of the Presidential election after all cannot be altogether relied upon, and there must necessarily be temporary reactions. Those who wish to take a hand in Yankee Rails before November should avail themselves of such reactions to purchase, while selling again on an advance. This advice I repeatedly gave my readers of late, and those who have followed it intelligently have made money. Canadian Pacifics have derived some support from the improvement in the Yankee market, and Grand Trunks appear at last to be falling into line.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The feature in the Foreign market has been the withdrawal of the Spanish Quicksilver Loan by Messrs. Rothschild, their action causing a sharp fall in Spanish. It appears that the terms of the loan were not palatable to the underwriters, and the New Court firm therefore decided to postpone the issue. In this they doubtless acted wisely, as the surrounding circumstances were exceptionally unfavourable. It is reported that the Loan will be issued in October, and I have no doubt that on certain terms this will be possible, although it is only staving off the final collapse which must come in Spanish finance. Italians have been steady, and Turks are rather firmer, which is the best indication that matters in Constantinople are no worse. Argentine Government stocks are easier. There seems to be a hitch as regards the carrying-out of the unification scheme of the Argentine Debt. The 1886 and Funding Loans, for instance, which are specially secured on the Customs receipts, have a priority which entitles them to preferential treatment. The Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds have also a special security, and it appears that so far no negotiations have been set going with the financial houses here to obtain the assent of the bondholders to the unification. The bondholders obviously would expect a higher ratio of conversion to induce them to accept Four per Cent. Unified bonds instead. I see that the *South American Journal* suggests, on the authority of Mr. C. H. Sanford, that the above-mentioned loans should for a time remain in the same condition in which they now stand, and that the unification of the other national and provincial debts should be proceeded with. It is suggested that such a step would probably raise at once the market value of the junior securities and of the new Unified bonds, when Mr. Sanford believes that it would be possible to make better terms with the holders of the Preferred Loans. I must confess that I greatly doubt the efficacy of such an arrangement, as the new Unified bonds having the priority of the other loans before them would not stand in a satisfactory position, and the new security might thus be discredited to such an extent that the holders of the Preferred bonds would be all the more reluctant to convert. An absurd cable report has been published to the effect that the Argentine Government propose to buy up all the Argentine Railways. It will be interesting to know where the Argentine Government expects to get the money from to carry out such an operation. That Argentina will borrow again sooner or later I quite expect, and already the first indication of this is furnished by the proposed issue of new National Cedulas, a very unwise step from the point of view of Argentine credit. The various Argentine Railways are doing well, more especially the unguaranteed lines, the stocks of which have been in good request for investment. As regards the Debenture stocks of the guaranteed lines, I consider that the quotations have been carried high enough for the present. My readers are, of course, aware of the great disappointment which the traffic returns of the Western Railway of Santa Fé caused last year. Having made some inquiries into the present position I find that the aggregate receipts for thirty-eight weeks to September 19 of this year, in gold, amount to £83,080, while the aggregate receipts for thirty-eight weeks to September 21, 1895, amounted to £79,262. 17s. This year, therefore, shows an increase over last. I also learn that traffics have lately improved very much. Uruguay bonds have been dull in sympathy with Argentines, but the position in Uruguay appears to be quite satisfactory at present. Brazilians have also been dull, while Peruvian Corporation stocks have been steady, and Mexican Sixes continue to maintain a firm front. Venezuela have improved ½ to 40½, but there is no change in any of the rubbish stocks, with the exception of Honduras, which have declined to 5.

When will the Kaffir Circus Revive?

The South African market has continued during the past week in a state of suspended animation, and further reactions were brought about by the activity of the ursine party, which was supplemented by small realisations on

the part of holders who have been frightened out by the continued slump. They were wrong in thus being induced at the eleventh hour to part with their stocks at a sacrifice, for all the rumours which had been current of serious difficulties in the market appear to have come to naught, and the circumstances surrounding the South African Mining industry, on the contrary, are becoming brighter. Why in all conscience a 3 per cent. bank rate should be looked upon as a menace to the Kaffir Circus I cannot understand. I have explained *ad nauseam* that this advance in the bank rate only affects high-class securities which had been rigged to excessive prices, and I ventured to predict that contangoes at the settlement would be very little changed; and so it has happened. At the carry over, rates were no heavier than last settlement, viz., from 5 to 9 per cent., and a number of shares were finally arranged at even or at a slight back, thus showing that the account had been greatly reduced, and that a considerable amount of "Bear" selling had been indulged in. It is easy to argue from such an abnormal state of things, and from such a low level of prices, that unless any unforeseen event occurs, a strong upward movement is only a question of time, especially as the mining industry on the Witwatersrand and in the Transvaal generally is making satisfactory progress. The Volksraad, it is true, is engaged in not altogether satisfactory legislation, such as a stringent Press law, and measures against any further upheaval by Uitlanders; but as regards the mining industry, everything is being done to promote its progress. The Volksraad will adjourn for a month on Wednesday next, and it may be anticipated that the Sunday Labour Prohibition Bill will not be passed. On the same day the reduction of the wages of the natives engaged in the mines will take place, and thus the mining industry will obtain the benefit of large savings in expenses. Another circumstance which has an indirect bearing on the Transvaal mines is the surrender of the native Chiefs in Rhodesia. There is no doubt that the backbone of the rebellion is broken, and that there will soon be a return to the normal state of things in Matabeleland. This will be a relief to the people who did not heed my warning against Chartered shares, and are holders of these at from £8 downwards. I am not an admirer of Chartered, but I should not be at all surprised to see them rise to a higher level, as so many powerful interests are connected with them that it will be easy to put them up to 4, in order perhaps then to unload. I am more than ever disposed, now that the soundness of the market position is shown, to anticipate a strong recovery in sound Transvaal gold and land shares. The past account has been a disastrous one, heavy differences having to be paid; but there is very little stock about, and already a moderate improvement on the carry-over prices has been established. Provided no further political or monetary surprises come upon us, there should be a substantial improvement the moment the big financiers interested in South Africa give the signal; and I should think that, in view of the different big schemes which they have on the tapis, they would not be slow to read the signs of the times and give the "Bears" a lesson. I regret that Mr. B. I. Barnato has not yet given any indication of calling a public meeting in order to give some information regarding his visit to South Africa. In the depressing circumstances of late even the most favourable statements would probably not have had any effect, and it would doubtless be preferable for him to face shareholders now that the worst seems to be over and a solid basis exists for an all-round improvement. I persist in strongly advising my readers not to throw away their holdings of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Banks, and other shares of this group. I also consider Randfontein as most promising in view of the important developments I mentioned last week, and amongst other shares of the Robinson group I am in favour of Langlaagte Estate, Porges Randfontein, Block "A," Randfontein Mynpacht, Langlaagte Estate and Building Corporation, and Langlaagte Star. A sharp recovery should also come about in Knights, which have been unduly depressed. Whenever crushing commences with the new battery, a smart advance is expected. Other shares which could be picked up with advantage are Modderfontein Extension ("B"), Woodstock (Transvaal), Waterfall Estates, and Transvaal Exploring; while the whole list of sound Witwatersrand outcrop mines, such as City and Suburban, New Crœsus, Durban Roodepoort, Ferreira, Geldenhuis, Glencairn, Meyer and Charlton, New Primrose, Robinson, Simmer and Jack, Wemmer, Wolhuter, &c., are a good purchase. The increase of capital of the New Primrose of 20,000 shares, which are offered to the shareholders pro rata at £5, can be explained only on the supposition that the Directors will now carry out their intention of increasing the number of stamps from 160 to 200. That would be a very satisfactory development. That such dangerous gambling counters as Consolidated Goldfields, East Rands and Rand Mines, Limited, should have suffered in the recent depression is natural enough; and these are now but slowly recovering from the heavy fall. With reference to my remarks on the "Annuaire Français des Mines d'Or," Mr. H. Durrant writes that this is not the first mining manual published in the French language; but that the "Annuaire des Mines d'Or," of which the "Annuaire de la Finance" are the publishers, had preceded it. This I have herewith much pleasure in recording. The more *vade-mecums* of mines our French neighbours have, the better it will be for them, if they use these manuals intelligently. Diamond shares have also participated in the general weakness, but there has since been a moderate recovery. De Beers are quoted 29⅜, New Jagersfontein 9½.

Golden West Australia.

The absurdity of the scare which visited the West Australian market during the past week was sufficiently shown by the fact that there was no difficulty in connection with the carry-over, and that contangoes were no higher than at the previous settlement, viz., from 8 to 10 per cent.; while in some cases the existence of a large "Bear" account was shown by the disappearance of the rate, a backwardation being actually exacted in the case of Hampton Plains. According to a cablegram just received, one of the reefs recently discovered in "Block 48" of that Company has now been proved for a length of 2,000 ft., showing visible gold. A further reef (20 ft. in width) has been discovered on the same block. On "Block 59" yet another reef has been struck. On "Block 53" one of the reefs has been proved to a depth of 30 ft. by means of a shaft, the reef showing visible gold, and a drive is now being made through good ore. This latest information goes to prove that the property of the Hampton Plains Estates Company is highly auriferous, and presents great possibilities. Hampton Plains, with Lady Lochs and a few other mines, had chiefly served the "Bears" for raiding the market generally, the True Blue disappointment being also used as a handle. I have already stated that I have never held a favourable opinion of the True Blue, but as a solitary instance it ought not to be used for the purpose of depreciating the West Australian Goldfields as a whole. Plenty of large crushings are testifying to the value of the leading mines, and the news of further discoveries is most satisfactory. What may be the actual position at the Lady Loch Mine I do not know, but the manager, Mr. McCracken, who is now in this country, should know all about this, and the fact that the shares remain in the neighbourhood of 2 does not in any way confirm the rumours which have been so persistently set about by the "Bears" that the reef had pinched out. A very welcome feature, and one which will tend to steady the whole of the West Australian market, has been a sharp recovery in West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance shares. I stated a fortnight ago that, owing to the very satisfactory position of these two Companies, an important advance might be looked for. Unfortunately, the unfavourable surroundings of the markets prevented this anticipation from being at once fulfilled, and the "Bears" began to take liberties with the shares, with the result that there was a material decline, which was, however, recovered in

one day, the shares now standing at $4\frac{7}{16}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$. I again repeat that both these Companies have made huge profits, running into several millions. In reply to a number of inquiries I may also state that meetings of the two Companies will be held in December to confirm their amalgamation. The reports which will be issued before these meetings will contain the announcement of large dividends, and I again say that, disregarding temporary fluctuations, these shares are one of the best purchases in the market for an important advance. Both Corporations stand on the same basis, and the shares are intrinsically of the same value, although a difference is made in the market price, which should, however, gradually adjust itself. The consulting engineer of these Companies, Mr. Charles Kaufman, who is also, it will be remembered, engineer to the Lake View Consols, will shortly be able to personally confirm the views which he recently expressed in a cablegram concerning the Lake View Consols and the other mines of this group. Mr. Kaufman sailed from Western Australia last Saturday on a visit to England. His journey is of a purely private character, and for the purpose of an operation which he prefers to have performed here rather than in the Australian colonies. During his temporary absence arrangements have been made for the prosecution of the work in the various mines with which he is associated, and all of which are now sufficiently advanced and developed to allow of a short absence of the consulting engineer. This unlooked-for opportunity of meeting Mr. Kaufman will, on the other hand, be most welcome to the shareholders in the various Companies. As regards the Lake View Consols all reports both by mail and cable confirm the most favourable statements which have appeared. It is evidently a wonderful mine, which will become one of the largest gold producers in the world, and the shares should rise considerably above the present quotation of $7\frac{7}{8}$. I understand that the application to the Stock Exchange for a special settlement in Lake View Consols is being opposed in certain quarters, but it appears to me that there is no reason for delaying the date of the settling day as the share certificates are quite ready, and it would be in the interests of all parties were the Committee of the Stock Exchange to accede to the application at once. By the way, advices from the Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group continue most satisfactory, and on the slight reaction which has taken place a purchase would be very advantageous. In the depression which has been created by the recent "Bear" attacks prices have given way in many instances. In no case was the fall less justified than that in Hampton Plains, and the purely artificial nature of the decline is shown by the back, which was exacted at the carry-over. Should the general tone of the West Australian market become more favourable, I shall look for a very sharp advance in Hampton Plains after next Wednesday's meeting of shareholders. West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares have faced the depression very well, and are quoted $3\frac{3}{4}$ premium, and I have no doubt that they will promptly recover the reaction. West Australian Goldfields shares are still dull at $7\frac{1}{2}$. With reference to the West Australian Venture group I look for a distinct improvement in the near future, as very satisfactory advices have been received from its various properties. West Australian Gold District Trading Corporation Ordinary shares (in which a special settlement has now been granted) have reacted to $1\frac{1}{8}$, but the Founders' shares have advanced to 95, and there seems to be a corner in the latter shares which may put the price still much higher. King of the West shares have also maintained a firm front at $2\frac{1}{4}$, and although Burbanks have eased off, the news remains satisfactory. Hannan's King (Brownhill) at $1\frac{1}{2}$ have displayed great strength. Concerning the Gladiators Mine a very favourable cablegram has been received from Professor Nicholas to the effect that he has discovered a new reef in No. 5 shaft, 4 ft. wide, and valued at from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz. per ton. The original reef is also reported as well defined in No. 5 shaft., which is now down 42 ft. This is a very promising mine, the shares in which should experience a considerable rise. The Coolgardie Mint and Iron King has crushed 30 tons for 115 oz., and the tailings are estimated at 15 dwt. per ton. At Tuesday's meeting of the Rome Consolidated the chairman was able to make some satisfactory statements, according to which Professor Nicholas (who had originally reported on the mine) had sent further information fully confirming the views he expressed at the outset. Great objections are being raised both on this side and on the Goldfields to a proposal of the West Australian Government to make the railway to Menzies branch off from Southern Cross instead of Coolgardie or Kalgoorlie, and it is to be hoped that the project will be abandoned in favour of the continuation of the line from Coolgardie. According to cable advices, reports are current in Perth that the Great Fingall Reefs have again struck the reef, going $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to the ton. This would be very good news for the unfortunate shareholders, who have of late been in the dumps through the pinching-out of the veins. The West Australian Government is forthwith proceeding to carry out the water scheme and other public works, and according to a cablegram which has just come to hand, an additional loan of £3,500,000 is to be raised for the purpose, and there is little doubt that this would be very successfully floated. Mail advices from Western Australia are satisfactory in every respect, and rich discoveries in various directions are reported, notably at Dundas, where the Government engineer (Mr. P. C. Riches) reports having found a formation 600 ft. wide on the hill of the Empire claim, the property being described as showing fine gold all over. The West Australian papers are again full of favourable information with reference to the Lake View Consols. Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., had arrived in Perth, and after a short stay there proceeded to Coolgardie. The staff of the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, Minister of Mines, is at present engaged on the annual reports of his three departments, viz., Mines, Posts and Telegraphs, and Education, a work which must tax the energies of the Minister and staff to the utmost. Certain properties at Mount Sir Samuel, consisting of eight leases, amongst which are the Good Enough Lease, the Pick Me Up Lease, and the Van Guard Lease, are turning out very satisfactory, and a good deal of ore estimated at 2 oz. per ton is already at grass. Progress is also being made in the political situation in Western Australia. The second reading of the Amended Constitution Act, increasing the Legislative Council from 21 to 24, and the Legislative Assembly from 33 to 44, so as to give the Goldfields a larger representation, has been carried. As regards the mining industry it can be said that it is still growing, and there are now actually thirteen different goldfields in Western Australia. The first crushing of the Hit or Miss has just come to hand, and the yield of 240 tons crushed 403 oz.; while the tailings contain 324 oz., a total of 727 oz., or 3 oz. 10 dwt. per ton. I do not see how the "Bears" can make any capital out of such a result as this, and I quite expect that, notwithstanding their efforts to depress the market, they will eventually have to buy back the shares at a much higher price.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

In the midst of the general depression it was impossible for the Indian section to altogether resist the decline; but Nundydroog and Mysore actually marked a small improvement. On the other hand, Ooregum, Goldfields of Mysore, Champion Reefs, Coromandel, and Mysore West are all lower. In Australian shares, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp are again lower, for no other reason than that the "Bears" have attacked them. Amongst Charters Towers shares, Day Dawn Block and Day Dawn P.C. are lower, but Mount Morgan and Brilliant and St. George United are firmer. An attempt is being made to rig Crown Point, but this is not likely to succeed for the present. Croydon mines have been firm; Croydon Consols standing at 8s., while North Croydon Consols (concerning which I had some favourable

Brandauer's Circular-Pointed Pens. Neither scratch nor spurt. Glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Assorted sample box, 7 stamps, from the Works, Birmingham.

statements to make last week) have advanced to 3s. 6d., and look like going higher. A general fall is marked in New Zealand mines. Waihi, Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Woodstock, Waitekauri, and Waitekauri Extended are all lower. A New Zealand Company which is likely to create a good deal of stir is the Moanataiari Gold Mining Company, Limited, which has acquired a mine covering an area of about 95 acres, in addition to about 15 acres of foreshore for tailings. This mine is described in the experts' reports as not dependent on the permanency and payable character of only one or two reefs, for it contains no less than thirteen reefs. The engineers who have reported on the property on behalf of the United New Zealand Exploration, Limited, are of the highest standing — Mr. H. A. Gordon, A.M.I.C.E., F.G.S., having been for many years Inspecting Engineer to the Mines Department of the New Zealand Government; while Mr. James Park, F.G.S., was Director of the Thames (N.Z.) School of Mines. Instead of the present battery of forty stamps, which is antiquated, a powerful new 60-stamp battery is about to be erected; and, as this is a proved mine, very satisfactory results are anticipated. The capital consists of £200,000, in shares of £1 each, out of which £45,000 has been reserved for working capital. The £1 shares are still obtainable in the market at a small premium. In the general Foreign section, there have been improvements in Golden Feather, Pestarena, and Frontino and Bolivia. On the other hand, De Lamar, Burma Ruby, and Lucky Guss are all down. Grand Central (of Mexico) have also been quiet in sympathy with the general dulness, closing at $2\frac{9}{16}$. British Columbia is undoubtedly coming to the front, and from a report recently made by the Government Mineralogist for the Province, there is little doubt about the permanent character of the ore bodies in the Kootenay district and elsewhere. Amongst British Columbian Mines one of the most promising Companies is the Golden River Quesnelle, Limited, to which I have referred on a previous occasion. It will be remembered that this Company acquired the exclusive right to extract the gold and precious metals in the entire length of the South Fork of Quesnelle River and a portion of the main Quesnelle River, about nine miles and a half, in the district of Cariboo, British Columbia. Latest advices from the property are most satisfactory, and it is likely that the shares will rise to a considerable premium in the near future.

New Issues and Enterprises.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Champion Extended and Home Rule Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire and work six gold mining leases in the Nannine District, Murchison, Western Australia. The capital is fixed at £150,000 in shares of £1 each, of which £50,000 will be reserved for working capital.

The property acquired by this Company is situated in a well-known auriferous district, and comprises the Champion Extended, Marlow, Champion Extended West, North No. 1, North No. 2, and Home Rule, in all about 90 acres. Development work already done has proved that there is a large quantity of rich quartz on the property, and several well-known experts have reported most favourably on the prospects of the mines, while the assays are also very promising. This venture, I think, has a future before it.

George and John Nickson & Company, Limited.—With a capital of £120,000, in 12,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each, and 12,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each, this Company has been formed to acquire, carry on, and extend the well-known and old-established business of George and John Nickson & Co., of Liverpool, London, and Manchester, general produce, American and Colonial provision merchants, &c. The 12,000 Five per Cent. Preference shares, of which the vendors are prepared to subscribe one-third, are offered for subscription at par.

The Malay Peninsula Coffee Company, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring, as going concerns, certain coffee estates, situated in the protected States of the Malay Peninsula, and comprising about 10,000 acres of land, held on leases for 999 years. The capital is £100,000, divided into 50,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, and 50,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. Subscriptions are invited for the Cumulative Preference shares, and for 30,000 of the Ordinary shares.

The Wilsons and Furness-Leyland Line, Limited.—This Company has been formed by the co-operation of Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons, & Co., Limited; Frederick Leyland & Co., Limited; and Furness, Withy, & Co., Limited; for the purpose of establishing a first-class line of modern steamers, to form a regular service for the carriage of passengers and cargo between London and New York, and also to acquire the Furness-Leyland Line between London and Boston. The total capital is £550,000, divided into £200,000 of Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock; 15,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £10 each; and 20,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each. The Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock and the Preference shares are offered for subscription.

Bullock, Lade, & Co., Limited. — This Company has been formed to acquire the business of Bullock, Lade, & Co., merchants, distillers, and commission agents, of Glasgow, London, and elsewhere. The capital is £450,000, divided into Cumulative, Preference, and Ordinary shares.

This is a venture that may be termed "purely Scotch," and I think it had better be left to our friends over the border to supply the capital asked for.

Chandler's Wiltshire Brewery, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on Chandler's Wiltshire Brewery, Johannesburg, South African Republic. The share capital is £55,000, in addition to which there is to be £20,000 Debenture capital.

I cannot, in the face of the unsettled state of affairs in South Africa, advise my readers to place any money in this venture, notwithstanding the unusual recommendation given by a firm of Johannesburg accountants. Africanders may possibly see their way clear to take the whole of the issue. It is not much of a brewery.

The Reservoir Hub and Compounds Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the invention, together with the British and foreign patents, for improvements in ball-bearing velocipedes and other vehicles, and a reservoir oil-retaining and dust-proof hub. The capital is fixed at £100,000 in £1 shares, £30,000 being reserved as working capital.

This is an untried invention, and the mere expectation of experts that the Hub will be largely used is no guarantee that the business anticipated in them will actually take place. It will be as well to await the course of events. The capital also appears to be excessive.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

P. N.—Argentine Government stocks are a fair investment; but it might be advisable to wait for the measures which are about to be taken to bring about the unification scheme. Until that has been well engineered I do not anticipate any further material rise. *Olive.*—There is no objection to the Transvaal Five per Cent. Loan as an investment, and it might be advisable to make the exchange. *J. E.*—Amongst Mexican Government stocks the Six per Cent. Loan is, of course, the best, and amongst Chilians the 1886 Loan. *Hanno.*—High-class Home securities are still high, and I should advise you to wait. 2. Ditto. 3. An investment of the further sum of money in the new Uruguay Loan would doubtless be promising. *A. R. and Hornsey Rise.*—There is no reason for selling Guatemala bonds now, as under the new arrangement there is every prospect of the interest being duly paid.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Stocks.—A bad system; have nothing to do with it. *Koma.*—I advise you to have nothing to do with this outside concern; I do not like their system. *J. C.*—Hitherto, I have always understood that the outside firm in question fulfilled its engagements pretty punctually; and I should say that if your solicitor presses at once, you will get your money. You cannot be a regular reader of TRUTH or else you would remember that I always advise dealing through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Clumber.*—The address of the Newfoundland Colonisation and Mining Company is 97, Dashwood House, New Broad-street, London, E.C. Please say which Credit Company you mean. *W.B.J.*—I do not approve of the methods of this outside concern, and do not consider them reliable. Have nothing to do with them.

To Overcome Weakness.—Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic gives New Life, Appetite, Health, Strength, Energy. Cures Neuralgia, Indigestion, Pepper's Nerve Tonic. Debility. Kept everywhere.

Home Rails.

R. T. A.—The fall in the Southern Passenger stocks is altogether exaggerated; and I should consider Dover "A," as well as the Deferred stocks of the Caledonian and North British lines, an excellent speculative purchase. *D.S.*—It is a moot question whether the Heavies are not as high as they ought to be; but the Southern Passenger and Scotch stocks are undoubtedly a good purchase at the present level, and a few days of sunshine would certainly put up the price of Dover "A."

American and Foreign Rails.

A. J. B.—A. It is an extraordinary circumstance that this Argentine line is not making the same progress as the other railways in that country; but I think that its time will come. B. The present quotation is 40. *S. W. F.*—Speaking broadly, I do not like Spanish Railways. The country is not progressive, and under these circumstances you should take an opportunity of getting out. *E. D.*—Nothing is known with reference to the resumption of payment of interest on this Brazilian railway. But this is not so bad as the haven of liquidation into which the mining companies in question have disappeared. *New York.*—The American Railroad bonds Nos. 1 to 3 are good investments, and at present prices a purchase is promising. *F. B.*—If you wish to buy Nitrate Railway shares, you should purchase the Unconverted Ordinary shares, in which there is the freest market. *E. B. M.*—I do not advise investment in this stock. I do not suppose that you mean the bonds, which would be a good investment. *Sussex.*—1. Nothing has happened to depress Alabama Midland Five per Cent. bonds, except the political situation in the United States, and this is now improving. You should certainly hold your bonds, as a recovery is most probable. 2. I have not received any information lately concerning this.

Mining Shares.

C. F. F.—1. I do not like this concern. 2. Very doubtful. *Pizzicato.*—The London and Globe Finance Company is a very good undertaking, and has made large profits. I must leave it to you whether you will take your handsome profit in the shares mentioned next; why not buy North Croydon Consols instead? *N. W.*—I cannot tell you the date of the meeting. *Ajax, Bridgwater.*—A fair mining risk. *Nag.*—In the course of the next month or two it will be possible to form a more reliable opinion. *Perranzabuloe.*—You cannot expect a dividend on Randfontein yet. The Porges Randfontein bonus declared on these shares is payable next week. *Hyoscium.*—I do not care for the Arrow Brownhill. Holcomb Valley Prefs. should be held, *C. P.*—Yes, West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares are promising, and so are Croydon Consols and Hannan's King (Brownhill). *Markato.*—Yes, a fair West Australian investment company; but not one of the best. 2. No; you should now hold African Estates, and buy more to average. *J. C.*—I note what you say with reference to Abercorn Reefs; but it is for the shareholders now to take steps in the matter and form a committee. I have done my best. *J. S., Northampton.*—The West Australian Trading Corporation is doing well; and if the new gold extracting process turns up trumps there will be an important advance in the shares. I will do my best to give reliable information as soon as it is available. *Friday.*—Particulars of the report of the Hampton Plains were already given in last week's issue. As soon as ever the market generally improves, these shares should advance. The Menzies Golden Rhine is a promising company, and the shares should eventually come into demand. *E. R.*—The statements are absurd; you should hold your shares and not allow yourself to be frightened out of them. *Dowie.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are suitable purchases; but instead of No. 3 you might buy North Croydon Consols. I do not care so much for Nos. 4 to 6 now, and you had better make your selection from my letter. *T. T.*—1. Third-class. 2. Very doubtful. 3. Impossible to tell. 4. Yes. *Indiana.*—1. No; there is no reason for the fall in Hannan's Proprietary. 2. Hold for a good rise. *Pilgrimite.*—Nothing is yet known with reference to the first-named Company, neither do I know anything of the Anglian Mining and Finance Company. The other two shares are no catch. *St. George.*—The only shares amongst those mentioned by you which are worth buying, are Mainland Consols. Why do you not make your selection from my remarks under "Golden West Australia?" *D. W.*—Hold for an improvement. *N. D.*—No option but to hold Holcomb Valley Prefs. for the present. 2. Why do you act against my advice in buying Chartered shares at a high price; sell on a recovery. 3. No; have nothing to do with them. *Rio.*—I do not consider that your views are justified; but you must follow your own information. *Pagoda.*—No; the Goldfields of Mysore is not likely to pay a dividend in the near future, unless they sell a further block of their large property. *R. B.*—There is no difficulty in dealing in Gladiators. Your broker has evidently some reason why he does not want to make the purchase. *Insku.*—A. It appears to me that you are not entitled to the dividend. I cannot tell you anything about the man in question. *R. M.*—The Abercorn Reefs is registered on this side. If you wish to see your rights safeguarded you ought to put your shoulder to the wheel yourself. *S. P. W.*—1. I do not agree with your remarks concerning Mainland Consols. The two other shares should be held for the present. *Silk.*—These attacks are intended to frighten people out. Hold. *Perplexed.*—You had better accept the offer of the West Australian Gold Concessions. *John Barnes.*—Yes, I think you ought to agree to the amalgamation. *Sherwood.*—An irresponsible sheet, to which you should attach no importance. Hold your various shares for a recovery. I cannot tell you when the other Companies will pay dividends. *Warrant Officer.*—1. The price charged to you for Elmslie, Limited, was far too high. The price made in the market was $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$, and you ought not to have paid more than the higher price, while you might perhaps have got in at $\frac{3}{4}$, the middle price. 2. There is no other method. 3. I do not think you would gain. 4. Have nothing to do with this firm. *Androhan.*—1. No market for these shares. 2. I should prefer Hannan's Golden Treasure. 3. Hannan's King (Brownhill) are quoted $1\frac{5}{8}$. 4. I do not like them. 5. Sell on any recovery. *E. W., London, S.W.*—No option but to hold; there is no special reason for the fall. *Evertonian.*—No; the dividend is not due to you. *Z. Y. X.*—1. No option but to hold your mining shares A to F for an improvement, which is probable. 2. The bonus should already have reached you. 3. The bonus of Porges Randfontein shares for the Randfontein shareholders is expected this week. 4 and 5. Yes, hold. *W. O.*—No option but to hold. I mentioned these shares only the other day as promising. You do not appear to read my letter regularly. *Two Seas.*—No; these shares should be held. 2. The agents of the Company will doubtless give you every information. 3. No. *Prudent.*—No option but to hold these shares; the Company is in good hands. *Cestrian.*—No option but to hold these shares for a recovery, which is probable. *L. M., Northwich.*—Hannan's King (Brownhill) are a fair purchase. You must be aware that I always advise my readers to deal through members of the Stock Exchange only, and not to have anything to do with outsiders. This also holds good in this instance; be careful. I cannot reply by letter. *Phœnix.*—All your mining shares Nos. 1 to 8 should be held; this is not the time to sell. *Irishman.*—I can only repeat what I have already expressed, viz., that this is only a temporary slump which should pass away, and that prices will go better again. Hold. *Unicorn.*—I do not approve of the Broad Arrow Mine, and was always against it. Mr. Kaufman in his interview referred to the Broad Arrow district, which is quite another thing. *Walter.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 and 2, and there is every prospect of a recovery. I do not think much of No. 3, and do not care for No. 4 at all. *Memphis, Bristol.*—I still think that Holcomb Valley Prefs. will recover again; but what can you expect in the present state of the Mining market? This also applies to the other shares mentioned by you. *Springfield.*—I do not care for the Copper Company in question, and the shares are quite high enough. *Ignoramus, Teddington.*—1. This mine is not likely to crush for some time yet, and you will have to lock up these low-priced shares for a while. 2. I do not like the Great Coolgardie Mine at all, and have always said so. *Reuben.*—1. This is a matter for your solicitor to advise you upon. It is, of course, a great pity that you lost the cheque. 2. Certainly hold Randfontein for an improvement. *Novice B.*—The shares in question are a fair mining risk; but you did not buy them on my advice, and they are, of course, subject to the various accidents which may arise in the case of mines. So far, the information is not unfavourable. The low-priced South African shares should be held for a recovery. *Gerald.*—I do not recommend the purchase of the two shares mentioned by you. *Keble.*—1. Hold, and average when an opportunity offers to get in cheap. 2. Hold, but do not buy any more just yet. 3. No option but to hold; I do not think much of them. 4. Certainly not; leave these alone. *Croydon.*—1. I do not like Easter Gift, and am not surprised that they have declined. 2. I have never recommended North Boulder, and think they are too high. 3. Prospects appear to be fair; but the mine has still to make its reputation. 4. You certainly ought to be satisfied with what you have done in Croydon Consols; but do not forget to take your profit. 5. A fair mining risk at present price. *Investor, Halifax.*—I have never been in favour of Cassidy Hill; but Preece's Point should be held. *Bann.*—Hold by all means. There is every prospect of a recovery. *Mops.*—1. No option but to hold until the present slump in South Africans is over. 2. I have not changed my opinion. *W. J. N.*—These shares should certainly not be sold, as it is a promising mine. *Fin.*—This mine is doing fairly well, and there is no reason for selling out in a hurry. *Perplexity.*—1. Yes, the Ordinary shares of the West Australian Gold District Trading Corporation are very cheap, and should be bought at present price, which is fully justified, altogether apart from the new ore reduction process. 2. No reason to sell. *Lady Shenton.*—1. I have never advocated the purchase of Lady Shenton at the high prices you have paid for them, and I must leave you to take your own course in the matter, as you are obtaining information direct from the men connected with the mine. 2. Certainly hold Randfontein. This is a most promising mine, and when the slump in the South African market passes away, there will doubtless be a sharp recovery. *Wyndham.*—This New Zealand concern is very speculative, but has great possibilities. *E.H.D.*—You might sell these and buy Hannan's Treasure and North Croydons as you propose. *J.G.L.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 to 9; but amongst these I do not care much for Nos. 6 and 9. *Cornwall.*—In the present condition of the Mining market it is useless for you to think of selling any of your shares Nos. 1 to 16. Most

Maignen's Filter is the only one adopted after public competition by the City of Paris (10th July, 1896) see *Bulletin Municipal Officiel*, 30th July, 1896.—Full particulars from Maignen's Filtre Rapide & Anti-Calcaire Co., Ltd., 255, Regent-street, London, W.

of these are well selected; but I do not approve of Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 14. Still for the present you should hold all for a recovery. *Selurian.*—No; I do not advise purchase of the shares Nos 1 to 7 mentioned by you. You can do better by making your selection from my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Dongola.*—1. Hold Randfontein and Porges Randfontein. Also keep West Australian Exploring and Finance, and see remarks under "Golden West Australia." 3. You did not buy New Orions on my advice; hold for the present. 4. Yes. No option but to hold Nos. 5 and 6, although I never recommended the latter. *W. C. V.*—The best thing you can do is to communicate with your brother-shareholders, so as to take concerted action in the matter. *Redcar.*—1. You can only cancel an application for shares if you do so before receiving notice of allotment. In your case you have not apparently done this, which is much to be regretted, as the Company is not at all a desirable one. 2. Even if you forfeit the shares you would still be liable for the calls, unless you can prove misrepresentation, which means law proceedings. 3. You would have to consult a solicitor, and obtain the co-operation of other shareholders. *Lynn.*—No option but to hold. Do not, however, buy any more. *Victoria.*—I have no recent advices concerning this Company. *J. F.*—You will have been able to buy Hampton Plains since at your price, and it is not therefore worth while to enter into the dispute. I do not, as a matter of principle, recommend individual stockbrokers. I cannot reply by letter. *Ad Quod Damnum.*—You must have had good opportunities of realising profits in many of the shares Nos. 1-14. At present it is not the time to sell. You should await an improvement in the market. Take a fair profit on Nos. 10 and 16. *Firby.*—No reason to sell Transvaal Gold Exploration. *Alpha.*—No option but to hold No. 1-4 for an improvement. *A. E. H.*—It is a bad time to make sales, so that you had better put off the exchange. Lake View Consols are certainly very promising. *Rusty.*—The large majority of the shares, Nos. 1-22, mentioned by you are the reverse of promising, and I should advise you to have nothing to do with them. You should make your selection from the mines mentioned in my letter. *Domino.*—1. There has been a general decline. Hold for a recovery. 2. I know nothing against this mine. *Constant Reader, Independent.*—Certainly hold the mining shares. As regards the investment in safe securities, you had better wait, as the rise in the Money Market is likely to reduce the price of such securities. *L. C.*—No option but to hold No. 1-4 for a recovery. This is not the time to sell. North Croydon Consols at 2s. 9d. should suit you. *Q. C.*—1. A fair mining risk; I have heard no late news. 2. No particular catch. *Irishman.*—I can but again tell you to hold these shares. *E. L.*—Large new batteries have been erected, and a greatly increased output will be obtained presently. *T. W. P.*—No option but to hold all your shares, Nos. 1-12, for an improvement. *Ostend.*—1. Not yet. 2. Write to the Secretary, who will give you every information. *Greencliff.*—1. A good mining risk. Hold. 2. Do not sell now. 3. Yes. *J. S.*—I shall do my best to support the shareholders. *Persandum.*—I. Hold Hannan's Golden Treasure for an important advance. II. Ditto. III. Offer the property in the Northern Territory to one of the West Australian Exploring Companies. *S. A. P.*—I do not like the Faith Gold Mine. *D. H.*—Not dealt in on this side. *H. B.*—I do not hold a favourable opinion of this Exploring Company. *F. W., Leicester.*—Why do you deal with such Syndicate touts against all my warnings? You well deserve what you get. *Macbeth.*—No option but to hold these mining shares at the present time for a recovery.

Industrial Shares.

G., Wakefield.—A local concern, about which it is impossible to form a conclusive opinion here. *Zil.*—I do not like New Seddon Tyre shares, and have repeatedly said so. *Protection.*—There is absolutely no market here for the shares in sailing ships. It is purely a local market, as, indeed, you ought to know. *Mur.*—This is really quite an interesting legal point, and I should not care to decide whether you are liable or not. *Vinegar Hill.*—You cannot help paying up the calls in this motor-car Company, as you have been duly allotted the shares, unless you can prove misrepresentation in the prospectus. I do not like the concern, however. *R. J. W., St James's.*—I cannot reply by letter. 1. I do not care much for this concern. 2. I do not know anything of the man in question. *J. F. Y.*—I have always held an unfavourable opinion of Salt Union shares, and do so still. You can obtain a book containing the highest and lowest quotations, and other information, from Messrs. Mathieson, Copthall-avenue, E.C. *W. C. W.*—I have but a poor opinion of the Liverpool Warehouse Company. *Tighnaleigh.* The Brewery in question is only a second-rate one; but the adverse criticism does not appear well-founded, and the publication in question is quite unreliable. *Indigo.*—The Company appears to be in liquidation, and you should apply to the liquidator for information. *Bet.*—Yes. *Scottie.*—1. I do not approve of Beeston Tyre shares, and if you were a regular reader of TRUTH you would know it. 2. Neither do I approve of Puncture-Proof Tyre shares, and should not advise you to buy more to average; if you had read TRUTH regularly you would not have paid 35s. for them. 3. Altogether unreliable.

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Mixed Investments.

H. W. B.—You had better hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 6; although some of these were not bought on my recommendation, neither are they tempting. But this is not the time to sell such shares. *Hermes.*—I do not think much of your investments A and B, although the debentures C should be safe enough. Allsopps have fallen on the rise in the Money Market, and prices are, as you must be aware, very high at present. *Tony Lumpkins.*—1. No; I should not advise you to deal with this outside concern. 2. I do not recommend the investment. 3. I gave particulars of the present position of this Company in last week's issue under "Golden West Australia." *Scarborough.*—1. Certainly hold Barnato Banks for a recovery. 2. There is no inducement in doing so, unless the market goes up again. Hold Nos. 3 and 4 (Hannan's Napier) for a recovery. Woodstock, Transvaal (5), and Transvaal Exploring (6) are a good purchase. I do not like No. 7. *Bothwell.*—Nos. 1 to 3 should be sold on a moderate advance. *Bay Leaves.*—No reason to sell the Argentine Provincial Government bonds in question, and the Rails should also be held for an improvement. *Celt, Stirling.*—Nos. 1 and 2 should be held; but I do not think much of the Tea shares (Nos. 3 and 4). *Larry.*—All your mining shares, Nos. 1 to 3, are promising, and there is no reason to sell No. 4. *Marine.*—1. Yes, the South American Government bonds mentioned by you are suitable for permanent investment. 2. Yes; no reason to sell. 3. It would be preferable to await the further course of the Money Market. 4. Yes. *W. D.*—1. After the heavy rise in Rio Tinto I should not advise a purchase. 2. A fair mining risk; but crushing is not yet in sight. 3. Sell Milwaukee on a further advance. *J. W., Upper Tooting.*—I do not like any of the stocks mentioned by you for the purposes of investment. *Hew.*—1. A doubtful concern; no fresh news. I do not care much for Nos. 2 and 3, and No. 4 is over-capitalised; but Nos. 5 and 6 should be held for a rise. *Duffer.*—Under present circumstances I advise the holding of all your investments, Nos. 1 to 12. *A. P. H.*—Another transfer is required. *Apollo.*—This is not the time to sell mining shares such as your holdings B to M; keep these for an improvement, which will doubtless come about. No option but to hold A and N, which are apparently doing pretty well. O is very doubtful. *Efferent.*—1. High-class investments are gradually declining, and I should advise you to wait a little longer. 2. The Central Argentine Railway has just announced an interim dividend for the half-year at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. 3. Fair investments; but not particularly tempting just now, and hardly safe enough for you. *E. E. L.*—No option but to keep the first-named stock. I do not consider Atlantic First Leased Lines Rental Trust particularly tempting, and you can do better in other gilt-edged American Railroad bonds. There is no option but to keep London Bank of Australia shares until banking matters in the Australian Colonies improve. *Taffy.*—1. Hold the shares; but do not average yet. 2. Certainly hold London and Globe Finance, as this Company is doing exceedingly well. *Fibald.*—Your investments, Nos. 1 to 16, are well selected, and I see no reason for parting with any of them at present. *Queen.*—Certainly hold the mining shares Nos. 1 to 3. I have always expressed an adverse opinion of No. 4; but Nos. 5 to 8 should certainly be held, and Cycle Tubes (9) are very promising. No. 10 is no catch. *White Feather.*—1. Yes, you might as well take your profit of £100 on these, and reinvest in the new Uruguay Loan and in the American Railroad bonds mentioned by you. No. 5 would be preferable. *Hawthorn.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you there is no reason for selling Nos. 1 and 2. Hampton Plains (3) and Hit or Miss (4) should be held for an important recovery. Bayley's Reward (5) is a dark horse, and Elkhorns (6) I do not like. *E. T.*—1. Yes, Randfontein are a first-class speculation at present price. 2. The bonds, not the stock. 3. The new Uruguay loan should suit you, as it yields upwards of 7 per cent. per annum. *Faith.* 1. A fair mining risk. 2. No particular catch; you can do better in the shares mensioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." I should tell the Turkish bonds.

Various Investments.

I should like to add to my remarks with reference to Consols at the commencement of my letter that the position is altogether anomalous. Intrinsically they stand too high, but the supply in the market is so small, and speculators in other markets have taken such liberties with them, that we may look for some very sensational movements in the near future. It does not require much calculation to come to the conclusion that if the Government continues the purchases for the Savings Bank and the Sinking Fund, as it is bound to do, and speculators sell them short, there must be a rise. I think it is a most foolish proceeding for an operator in Home Rails or South Africans to rush into the Consol Market to sell a block

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directly some political news comes to hand, as one class of stock nowadays does not govern the other, and he may be caught both ways. Silver is slightly firmer at $30\frac{5}{16}$, but Rupee Paper is lower at $62\frac{1}{2}$, this being one of the stocks affected by the rise in the Bank rate. In the Cycle share market, Dunlop Deferred have given way to $1\frac{1}{2}$, the Preferred to $\frac{7}{8}$. Beestons, too, are lower at $3\frac{1}{8}$, and Grapplers have eased off to $1\frac{1}{16}$, Cycle Tubes to $\frac{7}{8}$. Mexican Rails show indications of a revival, the First Prefs. being firmer at $74\frac{1}{2}$. Allsopps have continued their downward course, being quoted only $167\frac{1}{2}$, this being one of the stocks which had reached an unduly high level. I have received an illustrated prospectus of the Glenshannon Distillery Syndicate, Limited, which is being sent out privately. It is headed with the glowing announcement, "An immediate profit of 100 per cent. with return of capital." The distillery is described as situated near Parsenstown, King's Co., Ireland; but no figures as regards previous profits are supplied. The rest of the prospectus consists of irrelevant statements, and quotations of shares of other whisky Companies. The shareholders will be entitled to receive for each £25-share held by them the sum of £25 in cash (being the return of their subscription) and a bonus of £25 in cash or shares in the Company now in course of formation. The only name which appears in the prospectus, and in the touting circular sent out at the same time, is that of H. Oxley (Secretary), apart from the name of a vendor, C. W. Frout, with whom Mr. Oxley has made a contract. If Mr. Oxley is associated with other respectable men in this matter, he might as well have mentioned them, and he ought to know that even fools would not risk their money in the hope of getting 100 per cent., unless they could make sure, by the examination of the figures relating to profits in previous years, that there is a chance of the proposed Company floating. Mr. John Lornie, of Kirkcaldy, N.B., is to the front with a new batch of circulars headed "Safe Home Investments," in which he booms a Company "largely engaged in the manufacture of cycles, arms, and ammunition," a somewhat curious combination. Who is J. Dobson, who sends out circulars for the proprietors of the "Retailers' Exchange," 7 and 8, Southampton-buildings, London, W.C.? Mr. Dobson has conceived the bright idea of uniting a thousand grocers into a Company, all of whom are to purchase one Founders' share of £1 each, "and a new and original method of capitalistic co-operation is to be inaugurated which is to beat the wholesale London tea firms out of the field." I am afraid that Mr. Dobson will not find sufficient *esprit de corps* amongst grocers to unite a thousand of them in support of his Company. "Another magnificent profit. Our system vindicated. Our critics convinced. Our clients' satisfaction acknowledged." This is the heading of the latest circular sent out by Frank Tarrant & Company, 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C. Frank Tarrant & Company have evidently surpassed themselves in their latest effort, as they boast of having closed their Metropolitan District "deal" at a profit of $587\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. within sixteen days. This is evidently a firm of philanthropists, as not only do they throw these splendid profits into the lap of the general public, but actually undertake to guarantee subscribers against any loss to their subscriptions *on their first transaction with them.* The latter part of this sentence is in very small type, so one may suppose that on the second or third transaction a loss is not improbable. In the meantime I have not yet heard from any one who has made these stupendous profits through Frank Tarrant & Co., but I should very much like to meet some of these individuals in the flesh. (By the way, this circular was sent to my private house and thus got at once to the right address.)—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

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QUEER STORY;

BELLAMY'S BIKE.

I RAN down one Saturday afternoon to see my friend Bellamy at Hampstead. Bellamy and I are both solicitors. We are fellow-clerks in a large City business. He has charge of the common law, and I of the conveyancing. But Bellamy is a luckier mortal than your humble servant; for, whereas I have little beyond my salary, Bellamy has a nice private fortune of some £12,000, inherited from his godmother. On the strength of this he has set up a neat little cottage at Hampstead, where he lives sumptuously *en garçon*, and often entertains his friends. Apparently he is a confirmed bachelor, and, from remarks which he occasionally let fall, I should imagine, also, a rather bitter misogynist. I guessed that he had had a disappointment. But he was a reserved sort of chap, and never talked about himself. So we, his friends, knew nothing for certain. However, on that afternoon, when I happened to be his only guest, certain circumstances induced him to unbosom himself.

It was fine August weather, and Bellamy suggested a walk. We strolled for an hour or so about the Heath; then, finding the heat rather oppressive, seated ourselves in the shade by the side of one of the roads which lead on to those suburban Alps from the south side. Lighting our cigars, we settled ourselves to contemplate nature and humanity—the latter distinctly predominating at Hampstead on that fine Saturday afternoon.

Throngs of people were passing along the road in front of us, some in vehicles, many on foot, most on bicyles. I didn't bike myself, and, like a superior person who had resisted a foolish craze, regarded all cyclists with sublime contempt. On this particular afternoon my contempt was mingled with a certain amount of pity as I saw so many of them laboriously toiling up the hill under an August sun; bent over their handle-bars like monkeys on sticks, their eyes set in a fierce and agonised stare, the sweat dripping copiously from their dust-begrimed faces. They all looked ridiculous. But by and by there came along a couple who, in this respect, beat the others hollow. They were a man and a woman, riding a tandem. The man was a thin, spare, slip of humanity, with a haggard face, now looking white from exhaustion, who was straining every muscle to force the machine up the hill. The woman was neither thin nor spare. On the contrary, she was as obese a specimen of womanhood as you would be likely to meet in a day's march. Her proportions were strongly emphasised by her dress—a tight suit of green rationals, which seemed to fit her like a glove and made her look unspeakably swollen and immense. For all the work she was doing, she might just as well have remained in petticoats, as though her feet were moving with the pedals, I could see that she was not exerting herself a bit, and was simply leaving her unfortunate partner to tug her up the hill. Poor beggar! How crushed he seemed, and how painfully "cooked!" And how his strained, agonised expression and clammy face contrasted with the air of easy enjoyment which sat upon the face of his fat and idle co-cyclist! I turned to nudge Bellamy, in order to call his attention to this grotesque pair. But I saw that he was already contemplating them.

"Pretty spectacle that!" he remarked to me, as soon as they had passed, flicking the ash off his cigar with his little finger.

"Very pretty!" I answered. "And very pleasant, I dare say—for the woman! As for the unfortunate man——"

"He deserves his fate," interposed Bellamy, quietly,

"Now, how do you know that, Bellamy?" I demanded of him.

"Oh, I know his history very well. I knew him once, and her, too," replied my friend, looking straight in front of him.

"You did? Is the lady his wife?"

"His mother-in-law."

"Poor devil!"

"Poor devil, indeed! Do you know, Mason, that *I* was nearly becoming that poor devil—once?"

"You? What do you mean?"

"What I say. I was within an ace of qualifying for the front saddle of that infernal tandem!"

"Still I don't quite understand."

"Well—to be quite explicit—that fat woman in the rationals was once on the point of becoming *my* mother-in-law."

"Good gracious! You were engaged to her daughter?"

"I was."

"And you broke it off!"

"She broke it off."

"It was a merciful escape!" I said, smiling, as my thoughts dwelt upon the fagged, perspiring victim on the front saddle of that heavy tandem, grinding laboriously up the dusty hill.

"It was!" assented Bellamy, with a fervent sigh.

He was silent for a minute or two after that, puffing vigorously at his cigar. Then he turned to me and said, half abruptly:

"It is rather a curious story. The whole thing arose out of a bike. Perhaps you would like to hear about it?"

"I should very much."

"All right: you shall. Here" (handing me his case), "take another weed. I shall tax your patience as a listener, I dare say. But I believe the story has its good points, and does not altogether lack interest. This must be my excuse for a rather lengthy narrative:—

"What I am going to tell you happened nearly two years ago. I was then just out of my articles, and had a berth with Skimples, in Old Jewry. I had not set up my little show at Hampstead then. In fact, my dear old godmother was still alive. And I occupied diggings in Camden Town, together with a fellow-clerk at Skimples' named Tom Wernham. Tom and I were good friends, and we got on together very well. He was a few years older than I was, and was several steps above me in the office; indeed, Skimples thought a good deal of him and paid him rather a high screw, which I believe he thoroughly earned, for he was very industrious and extremely capable and 'cute. There wasn't much fear of Tom bungling any matter that was placed in his charge. And we had matters at Skimples' which needed clever handling, too. We did a lot of company work there, and at one time or another were brought into contact with half the knaves in the City. But Tom Wernham was not often overreached. It wanted a very astute gentleman to get on the blind side of Tom. He was always asking for rises of salary, and always getting them. Skimples knew what he was worth, and would not have dreamed of losing him for a matter of £20 or £30 a-year.

"I rather envied Tom at that time. He had £9 a week, while I was only getting £4, and I wanted more screw then rather badly. The fact was, I was engaged to be married to an awfully pretty girl, and I was longing to set up in the wedded line—a step impracticable upon £200 a year. If you had seen Jessie Cufton, as she then was, you would not have been surprised at my wanting to hurry on our marriage. She was a most fascinating creature—melting blue eyes, golden hair, spotless complexion, button mouth, and all the rest of it" (Bellamy here gave a half-sarcastic, self-contemning sort of laugh); "and I was confoundedly afraid that she might perhaps be induced to throw me over for somebody else. I knew, you see, that her mother was hardly satisfied with my financial position and my prospects. And, of course, in these affairs mothers have to be reckoned with. Then Jessie, being so awfully pretty, was bound to attract attention from men; and—and—altogether I felt I should not feel quite sure of her until our marriage was an accomplished fact.

"I did everything I could to ingratiate myself with her mother, never losing a chance of doing the civil to the old lady. I was always asking her (and Jessie too, of course) to tea at our digs., taking them for picnics up the river; getting them tickets for the theatres, &c., and on these occasions I was most careful to make myself agreeable to Jessie's mother. Tom Wernham often accompanied us on our various expeditions, and I earnestly impressed on him to do the same. He was an obliging fellow and complied with my request in the most friendly manner. Indeed, he did me many a good turn by taking the old lady off my hands for a spell now and then, so that Jessie and I could enjoy our little snatches of love-making undisturbed.

"It was just then that I first took up biking: and I grew so awfully keen on the pastime that I used to go out riding nearly every Sunday, when the weather was fine. There was no outhouse, at our digs., in which I could keep my machine. I therefore had to billet him out at a neighbour's in an adjoining street, at the weekly cost of eighteenpence.

"Well, one Sunday—a day very memorable to me—I dressed myself in cycling costume and strolled round to the place where my bike was kept. I rang the bell of the street door. But, to my surprise, nobody came to answer it. I rang again. Still nobody came. I rang several times with no better result. Then I naturally became impatient, and seizing the bell-handle, made it peal time after time in succession. This at last produced some effect. An upstairs window was opened, and a red-faced man, in a nightshirt, thrust his head out.

"'What the divil are you afther?' he demanded, in a rich Irish brogue. 'Are ye troyin' to ring dhown the house?'

"'I've come for my bicycle,' I told him.

"'Your phwawt?' he asked, eyeing me suspiciously.

"'My bicycle!'

"'Divil a word have i heard about any bicycle!'

"'I keep mine here, I tell you. Isn't Mr. Nobes at home?' I inquired, naming the owner of the house.

"'Shure an he's nawt. He's out o'thown for the day; so's his woife and childer, and I'm left in charge.'

"'Well then, perhaps you'll come down and open the door, so that I can get out my bicycle!"

"'Misther Nobes made no mintion of a bicycle,' said the Irishman, without moving, 'and he gave me parthicular directions to let nobody in.'

"'But it's here, I tell you, and I must have it,' I persisted, beginning to grow annoyed with the fellow.

"'I'm thinking you'd better wait till Misther Nobes returns,' he said.

"'But you told me he was out for the day.'

"'Shure, and so he is.'

"'Well, I want my bicycle now—at once. Do you hear?'

"The obstinate ass only grinned at me provokingly, but neither answered nor moved.

"'Look here, you idiot,' I said, at length, losing my temper. 'Just come down and open the door.'

"When I addressed him thus, the expression of the Irishman's face instantly changed. Till then he had simply regarded me with an air of bland suspiciousness. But now the blandness vanished very suddenly indeed from his visage, and was succeeded by a glare of insulted and ferocious wrath.

"'Ijiot was ye afther calling me, ye spindle-shanked spalpane. Ijiot? Ye dirty bicycle thief. By the soul of my blessed mother, I'll not open the dhoor to ye this dhay; and if ye'r afther disthurbing me again, I'll call the p'leece to ye. Be off, ye nasthy snake.'

"With that he banged down the window and retired. To a disinterested onlooker the situation might have appeared rather amusing. I scarcely found it so. I wanted my bicycle very badly; and I did not at all relish being thwarted in my purpose by the idiocy of this Hibernian caretaker. Of course, I wasn't going to give in. I knocked and kicked at the door; I made the bell peal loud enough to rouse half the street, thereby gathering round me quite a crowd of spectators. But the Irishman was not to be drawn. At last, my patience becoming quite exhausted, I picked up a stone in the road and hurled it through the Irishman's bedroom window, shivering a pane of glass to atoms. This did rouse him.

He came to the window and damned me furiously in the vernacular, while I damned him back as furiously, but more refinedly, in the Queen's English. We each shouted louder than the other. It was a tremendous battle of epithets—a sort of wordy Donnybrook. I don't know how it may have been with the Irishman. But certainly I had never damned a man so completely and comprehensively before. There was some little satisfaction in this—the only satisfaction in that whole day's work.

"By-and-by a policeman appeared upon the scene.

"'What's all this about?' he demanded of me, as he forced his way through the ring of amused spectators, who were thoroughly enjoying our verbal prize-fight.

"'Take him in charge, constable, take him in charge!' shrieked my antagonist from the window. 'I give him into custhody. Take him away to the station.'

"'Never mind that fool,' I said to the officer in a low voice. And I hastened to explain the situation to him as briefly as possible, the Irishman, meantime keeping up a continuous yell of 'Take him in charge! He's a bicycle thief! Don't listen to him! It's all lies! I charge him with brawling and breaking me window, and desecrating the howly Sabbath,' and I don't know what else to the same effect.

"When I had finished my explanation, the constable scratched his head rather perplexedly.

"'The gentleman says you have his bicycle upon your premises,' he said to the man at the window.

"'Och! Divil a bit! It's all lies!'

"'You had better let him have it. The gentleman has a right to his bicycle,' said the constable, persuasively.

"'Shure and ye'll be saying next that he has a roight to throw stones through me window,' retorted the other, sarcastically.

"'Come! Come! You had better let the gentleman have his bicycle.'

"But it was no use. The pig-headed Hibernian wouldn't listen to the suggestion. He simply shrieked back orders to the constable to take me in charge, threatening 'by the soul of his blessed mother' to report him at head-quarters unless he did so. In the end, however, finding his words of no avail, he shut down his window with a savage bang, and withdrew from sight.

"'Can't we break open the door?' I said to the policeman.

"'Out of the question,' he answered, shaking his head.

"'Then what's to be done? Is that infernal mule inside to succeed in keeping me from getting out my machine?'

"'I'm very sorry, sir. I don't see what's to be done.'

"The constable, of course, was right. There was nothing to be done. And it resulted in my returning to my digs., defeated and raging.

"I poured the story of my wrongs into Tom Wernham's ear. Tom was awfully nice about it. He said he didn't see why I should be done out of my ride, simply because an addle-headed caretaker had been left in charge. He suggested that perhaps our landlady—who was well known in the neighbourhood—might be able to help us. Probably the Irishman was acquainted with her, and if she went round with me he might yield to her persuasions. So we summoned the landlady and invited her assistance. She came up in her kitchen dress, hot, breathless, and rather sooty. 'She was afride,' she said, when matters had been explained to her, 'that she couldn't possibly come with me herself. She was just cooking the dinner for four sets of lodgers. But' (a happy inspiration striking her) 'There was her daughter, Polly, now. The Irishman, unlesss he was much mistook, was Mrs. Nobes' brother, Patrick O'Scowle, and he would recognise Polly quite as easily as her. Polly was going out bicycling herself, but she believed that she hadn't yet started, and no doubt she would willingly run round with me. Would that do?'

"I thanked her, and said it would do very well. And the landlady went off to interview Polly. In a few minutes she returned with the intelligence that Polly was ready to start, and was, in fact, waiting for me at the front door. I went down and found the young lady outside with her machine. Her appearance rather startled me. Polly was a tall, handsome, red-cheeked wench, of the strapping order, who, under any circumstances, had the knack of looking somewhat fast and loud. But to-day she excelled herself. I saw, to my horror, that she was rigged out in bright blue rationals, and wore an enormous flowered and feathered hat which would have excited remark in the Old Kent-road. The idea of walking with her through our quiet suburban streets on Sunday was undeniably appalling; especially as my own cycling rig might lead to our being classed together as prospective partners in a biking excursion. However, having sought her assistance, I couldn't well refuse to avail myself of it; and we started off together, Polly wheeling her machine at my side.

"'I was goin' yer wy, so brought my jigger along with me to sive goin' back,' explained Miss Polly, affably. 'Chollie—e's my young man, yer know—lives just beyond where yer keeps yer jigger; and I'm a goin' on stright to join him. We've planned to ride out to 'Arrow to-day.'

"I said I hoped that they would have a pleasant ride, and talked as civilly as I could to the young woman. But the more I looked at her, the more her appearance appalled me. No girl ever needed petticoats more than Polly to keep her from looking repulsively vulgar—nay, absolutely indecent. I felt I should be truly thankful when our little business was over and she had gone on to join Chollie, in the ride to 'Arrow.

"Well, we soon reached our destination. The little crowd which had gathered to hear my altercation with the caretaker had by this time melted away. I was thankful for this. Heaven knows to what remarks my companion might otherwise have been subjected. She would have deserved them, too, right enough. Only I didn't wish that sort of thing to happen when she was associated with me. And I went up and rang the bell rather gingerly; not wishing, this time, to arouse the street. Nothing came of my ring, though I repeated it several times. I looked hopelessly at the rationalised Polly; and the rationalised Polly looked impatiently at me.

"'I sy,' she exclaimed. 'This is a bit too thin, yn't it? I carn't wite here till Doomsday. Let me call Mr. O'Scowle. He'll know my voice. Which is his winder? That one with the 'ole in the pine? Not mike too much noise. Well, yer carn't quite 'spect me to wike him up from here, by wisperin', can yer naow? . . . . Mr. O'Scowle! Mr. O'Scowle! Mi-i-ster O'Sc-Sc-owle!'

"But there was no answer nor sign on the part of the chuckle-headed idiot within.

"'Mr. O'Scowle! It's only me—Polly Jorkins. Kim and open the door to me, there's a dear.'

"Still no movement nor response.

"'Naow do—*do* come down and give the gentleman his bike. It *his* 'is. I can arnser for 'is bony-fidys. Kim along—kim along now—there's a disy. Daown't be a juggins. I carnt wite 'ere horl dy! I'm engiged to go out biking with my young man, and——'

"'Be good enough to let us pass, sir.'

"These words were spoken just behind me, in a very familiar voice, but with a cutting, withering intonation that positively sickened me with dismay. I started round, red-faced and flabbergasted, to find myself confronted by Jessie Cufton and her mother.

"'Allow me to pass, sir,' repeated the elder lady, icily.

"Her face was a thermometrical study. It must have registered at least 50 degs. below zero. Jessie's expression, if less frosty, was quite sufficiently so to numb me with a horrible coldness of dismay. In spite of my complete innocence, I fervently wished the pavement to open and swallow me.

"'Pray let me explain,' I began, quickly.

"'Don't insult us, sir, by speaking to us,' interrupted Mrs. Cufton, in an awful voice. 'Never speak to me or mine again, sir. Come along, Jessie!'

"With that, mother and daughter swept past me. I was too much paralysed to follow them—to attempt any further explanation just then. I was only conscious of one sensation—one intense, murderous wish that Polly Jorkins with her bike and her rationals, were at the bottom of the South Pacific.

"'Lawk naow!' tittered that young person, with the vulgarest of sniggers, 'blimed if I doawn't believe the lidies thought I was your mash.'

"I didn't answer her. In my then condition, I was unable to cope with her vulgarity. I simply stared, in moody silence, at the pavement.

"'Well, yer needn't tike on, so,' persisted Polly. 'Yer can mike it O.K. with 'em, carn't ye, by just explinin' matters? Not but wot,' she added, with another horrible snigger, 'there's them as would give a good deal to 'ave me tiken for their mash—and so I tell yer.'

"'Then, I think, my dear Polly,' I told her, as politely as I could, 'that you had better betake yourself with the least possible delay, to the society of those misguided persons.'

"This was the only reproof that Polly heard from my lips. I think the circumstance, in itself, speaks volumes for my Christian charity and self-control.

"I went back in a fearful state of mind, and poured my trouble into Tom's sympathetic ear. He was awfully concerned about it; actually offered to go as an ambassador to Jessie and her mother. I gladly embraced his offer; and he went. But he came back gloomy and crestfallen. It was no use at present, he said; the ladies were too much incensed to listen to reason. I should be wiser to wait a little before holding further parley with them.

"Next day, Jessie sent me back all my letters and presents, with a brief note terminating our engagement. I rushed wildly off to her; I was refused admission. I wrote pages of entreaty and explanation; my letters came back unopened. Thus our engagement was broken off. This may be called the end of Act I."

"And Act II.?" I ventured to hint, after he had sat silent for about a minute, watching the smoke of his cigar curling up into the still summer air.

"Act II.," he replied, "is a brief bye-act, dealing only with subordinate characters. A short time afterwards Polly and Chollie married upon a small business; and Mr. Nobes started a pony-trap. This circumstance is interesting because neither of the aforesaid parties had been supposed to possess a penny of capital."

"Do you mean to say——" I began.

"Act III.," he went on, not waiting for me to finish my query, "is also short and sweet. Skimples had no fault to find with me, but they suggested that I should look out for another berth. Thus Tom and I had to part company.

"Act IV.—even shorter and sweeter. Merely a matrimonial announcement in the *Morning Post*. Wernham-Cufton, &c."

"And Act V.?"

"You have yourself just witnessed it. Tom is the villain of the piece, and it is only in accordance with dramatic canons that Nemesis should overtake him in the last act. The *lex talionis* was never better illustrated. By bike he sinned; by bike his punishment has come."

MUSIC.

THE ARDITI REMINISCENCES.

THE veteran conductor, Signor Arditi, would have made his reminiscences more interesting if he had cut his anecdotes a little shorter, and spared his readers certain trivial details, which, as somebody has suggested, would not be of the slightest interest unless they were set to music. As it stands, however, the book contains an abundance of entertaining matter, and reflects much credit upon the literary ability of the lady who has edited it, Baroness von Zedlitz. For the omission of some of the best stories concerning himself, Signor Arditi is, of course, responsible. There is no reference, for instance, to that delightful little trip which Arditi took with Faccio, Mme. Valleria, and her husband through the Shakespeare country. They had driven Arditi to Warwick Castle and to Kenilworth, and along the valley of the Avon, and it was nearly six o'clock when they reached Stratford and took the weary old musician into the church to see the Shakespeare Monument. He did not appear to recollect the name, and Mr. Hutchinson volunteered to explain "Shakespeare, Romeo e Giulietta, Macbeth, Amletto, Falstaff." "Ah," exclaimed the conductor, a light evidently dawning upon him, "I understand. Ze librettist!" Some of the Rossini stories are the best. When Rossini was first introduced to Mme. Arditi, he exclaimed, "Now I know why Arditi composed 'Il Bacio' (the kiss)." Had he chosen to do so, Arditi might have furnished us with a good many interesting details concerning the later operatic days of Lumley and the earlier operatic career of Mapleson. He has a brief but capital account of the production of "Faust" in London, more particularly concerning the abbreviation of the final duet in the last act, to which Gounod at first would not consent. It seems also that the orchestra of Her Majesty's had the smallest possible opinion of the merits of "Faust," a fact which again shows what poor judges of music members of the band usually are. Arditi himself does not venture upon many opinions, but when he does he shows himself the very old stager. The statement, for example, "I have always declared that unless a musical work bears a cachet of excellence from abroad, it will probably be received in this country with reserve and even coldness at the outset," may have been correct thirty years ago, but it shows pretty plainly that the veteran has a wholly false idea of the present state of music in this country.

Now that Prince's Hall has been turned into a restaurant, a hall for smaller recitals and concerts is much needed. The upper Queen's Hall is extensively patronised for this class of entertainment, although to ladies and others it is a terrible pull up that apparently interminable flight of stairs. The public will, therefore, be glad to learn that Steinway Hall, which last year was in a rather shabby condition, has been renovated during the holidays. The artists' room has been almost rebuilt, and the hall generally, I am told, now looks very attractive. A new manager has likewise been appointed, in the person of Mr. J. R. Mackey.

Signor Mancinelli's "Hero and Leander" will be the principal novelty at the Norwich Festival next week. The vocal score has just been issued. I cannot now give a detailed account of it, but I may say that in the last act the partiality for extremely long solos shown in Mancinelli's "Isaiah" is again exemplified. Hero, sitting in the Maiden's Tower watching Leander swim across the Hellespont, has a soprano solo which occupies four and twenty pages of vocal score, and this is immediately followed by a duet for soprano and tenor occupying no fewer than thirty-four pages of score. This sort of thing at eleven o'clock at night is, no doubt, considered glorious from the pen of a Wagner, and I hope it will be deemed equally inspiring from that of a Mancinelli. The Maiden's Tower, by the way, is still in existence, but the Turks (another atrocity) have converted the ancient structure into a highly serviceable lighthouse.

The classical story of Hero and Leander has been slightly altered by Boito, and a new denouement has been provided. Considering, however, that the work is to be produced upon the stage at Covent Garden next season, the plot is a trifle thin. The High Priest of the Temple is in love with Hero, who refuses him. Accordingly he compels her to take the vows of virginity, and waits until he discovers Leander in the lady's room. Leander then jumps from the window and is drowned in the midst of a thunderstorm; whereupon, Hero falls down dead, and the wicked High Priest is really very sorry.

In reference to the Canterbury musical degrees, I can supplement my remarks last week by stating that the particular reasons for the granting of the degree are now invariably inserted in the document. Also, I learn that the Archbishop of Canterbury does not receive a penny of the sixty guinea fee in which the candidate is mulcted. As I mentioned last week, the Government themselves take more than half and the rest goes in fees to officials.

The death of the distinguished Wagnerian prima donna, Frau Klafsky, came as a surprise. The lady was only forty-one, and she had been engaged not only for the Abbey troupe in the United States, but also for a sub-

sequent season of German opera in New York under Mr. Damresch. She underwent some slight operation, but she really died of congestion of the lungs. She had a rather romantic life. She was the daughter of a poor Hungarian shoemaker, and was found by Herr Hellmesberger in the chorus in Vienna. Thanks to him, she was educated and brought up as a prima donna. Then, however, she married a rich Leipzig merchant and left the stage. A short time later she was a widow, and returned to the opera, where she successively married Greve, the baritone, and, after his death, Herr Lohse, the Drury Lane conductor. She was one of the greatest exponents of Fidelio since the death of Titiens, and she was also a gifted Wagnerian artist.

The veteran tenor Duprez, who died in his 90th year in Paris last week, has not been heard in England for upwards of half a century, when Bunn gave him the then extravagant salary of £80 per night to sing Arnold in "William Tell" at Drury Lane. Duprez was the original Edgardo in "Lucia" at Naples in 1835, but he retired from the operatic stage forty years ago and became a celebrated teacher. Among his most famous pupils were Madame Miolan-Carvalho, Madame Albani, the Sisters Devries, and Mdlle. Marie Marimon.

The beautiful fable that the ghost of Sir Augustus Harris has been seen at Drury Lane directing imaginary pantomime rehearsals from the proscenium box at the witching hour is a variation of a similar story told with better reason at Covent Garden after the death of Frederic Gye. The fireman was going his rounds at about one o'clock in the morning when he was amazed to see his old master, looking ghastly white in the half darkness, and standing at the head of the grand staircase where he had so often received noble guests. It was, of course, the Gye statue, which now stands on its pedestal on the half-landing at the Royal Italian Opera, but which, unknown to the fireman, had been brought in during the day. The fright of the man who so readily recognised the likeness of the great impresario was, at any rate, a compliment to the sculptor.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I promised to tell you about the new autumn fashions this week, and I find that, though this is supposed to be a time of deadly dulness in Chiffonland, there are plenty of novelties. The short, fluted basques are to give way to plain ones, only very slightly fulled, at least double their length. All open-fronted coats are to be worn with warm vests, often of fur. Double-breasted jackets are made either with straight or tight-fitting fronts, and the revers are cut so high as to afford ample protection to the throat and chest. I have seen several vests made of fine white cloth, sewed firmly down in fine pleats at the waist, and for some inches above it, but spreading out in most becoming fulness at the chest. These are made with collars of the cloth, so plain as to suggest that they are intended to be supplemented by bright-coloured ribbons. Double-breasted waistcoats are prepared for many of them, but there is nothing new about them.

The recent rain and wind have brought the picture hat into some disfavour. The frantic struggles we have witnessed on the part of girls who will wear big hats in a gale have been really laughable, and the strength of the language we have occasionally heard when a sudden gust has almost torn the straw or felt from its anchorage in the hair has been nothing short of surprising. Those who judiciously don neat cloth toques—and very becoming they are—have had very much the advantage.

The weather, in fact, has been inimical to dress of all kinds, and we have almost been brought to the point of envying birds their garb of feathers. And yet I should hate to have my toilette confined to a process of preening and pluming such as one sees a canary performing after its morning plunge in a saucer of water. But as to the difficulty of keeping dry and clean during the recent visitation of heavy floods and stormy winds, it is almost insuperable, even for men. What must it then be for the petticoated sex? Richard says he is sick and tired of changing his dripping garments and damp boots. As to us, we are for ever sending down consignments of coats, skirts, and boots to be dried by the kitchen fire. Poor Abigail is tired of brushing the mud off cycling skirts, the chosen garb of the girls and myself in our walks abroad. The royalties wear very high boots in muddy weather. I think we shall all have to follow their example. But they are rather expensive, I find.

We went all the way to Queen Victoria-street on Tuesday to the sale at the London Shoe Company, having read that satin evening shoes in all colours, perfectly fresh and unsoiled, would be sold at 1s. the pair. This was too good a chance to miss, so we defied the weather and set forth. Bee bought five pair, Clare seven pair, and I half a dozen, the greatest bargain we have ever achieved. We met several acquaintances there, bent on the same errand, among them that bright-faced, happy-hearted Peggy whom you liked so much when you met her in town last year. She had secured thirteen pair of satin shoes, pale green, pink, red, yellow, mauve, and so on, and was delighted with her purchase.

For evening dress, by the way, long sleeves of lace or chiffon, or other light, transparent material, made to fit closely to the arm and very fully gathered, are to be the fashionable wear. For dances, of course, there are short ones; but for dinner dress, except on occasions of immense ceremony, square bodices and long sleeves are correct. I saw one pair made of the finest and thinnest silk muslin, gathered closely and sewn over with a network of small pearls. This would be very becoming to a pretty white arm, I should fancy.

I see that a City dame has ordered for her own wear as a winter coat, a paletot of green cloth lined with pink brocade, and made with collar, cuffs, and revers of chinchilla, the last named reaching to the waist. Sounds lovely, does it not? Another of her garments is a black serge skirt with a double-breasted Eton jacket of caracul and sleeves of Russian sable. I wonder if I quite like that mixture?

Black satin is the favourite material for elaborate visiting costumes, weddings, and so on, as I fancy I told you before. I saw a sweet one on a girl last Sunday, when we were calling on some friends. The skirt was very full, but quite free from stiffening of any sort. The bodice was plain at the back except for a red velvet bow at the neck. In front it had three tiers down each side of the satin lined with scarlet velvet, and each caught back at the corner with a fine enamel button. This trimming was repeated on the sleeve, and, with a lining of red satin, gave it the look of having been slashed. It was simply sweet, that sleeve!

With this pretty frock was worn a hat of black velvet and lace with a black feather and a tall aigrette of scarlet flowers at one side, a blossom or two falling over the hair at the back.

Please note that there was *not* a waistband of scarlet velvet, an arrangement that is very rarely becoming, but a rather deep belt of plain black satin fastened with an enamel clasp that matched the lovely little buttons.

Cut velvets are to be in fashion again this season. Some of the colours and designs are very handsome. Imagine a green poplin ground with a raised design in blue velvet forming a check. One can imagine all sorts of combinations of green and blue for the bodice. For instance, the back might be of the same rich fabric as the skirt, and the front made with green velvet revers, a blue chiffon vest, and a deep belt of shot green and blue chené ribbon. Another lovely material has a design of dark mauve velvet

"Busvine's Cycling Skirt is the cleverest, smartest little garment that could possibly have been devised."—*World.* "Nothing looks neater than Busvine's Cycling Skirt."—*Sketch.* —J. Busvine & Co., Ladies' Tailors, 4, Brook-street, W.

Fashions up to Date.—An elegant and svelte figure is produced by the easy and perfect-fitting anatomical corset shaped by the experts, Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

flowers upon a light mauve cloth ground, with a little amber-silk worked in with the cloth in a series of square dots. This makes a very handsome dress material. We saw a skirt and cape of it in one shop, and for bodice a plain mauve silk, covered with black and écru lace, the sleeves being plain dark mauve cloth, with epaulettes of the dress stuff.

I am so glad linen collars and cuffs are in again. They are far more becoming than fal-lals of ribbon and lace, or cornery bits of embroidery turned down over a straight band of anything on earth. And then the double-barrelled kind that is now worn is so very easy to fix. One has only to pin the centre of the collar to the back of one's dress band and then fasten the little stud in front. The cuffs are equally readily arranged, and they look so neat and are so becoming to the hand. Shall I send you down a supply?

Did I mention that on Sunday, when we called on some friends, they gave us tea *à la Russe?* I suppose it was intended as a compliment to the Czar and Czarina on their visit to England. The samovar was of the true Russian shape and the tea itself was delicious—for a change! Long habit has, however, endeared to us our British tea, with its lump of sparkling sugar and spoonful of thick cream.

I have discovered that a lace fichu fills in to perfection the décolletée of an evening dress, and makes it just right for wearing at the theatre, provided that the sleeves are long enough to reach to the elbows. We are going to do some theatres this autumn, for fear the girls should get moped after their enjoyable wanderings in France, and in this unbikable weather. Besides, we might get moped ourselves. How tragic that would be! Town *is* dull. Hundreds of houses have their shutters up. And the liquid weather is sadly depressing.

We have already done one play, "A Blind Marriage," at the Criterion, and enjoyed a whole series of good laughs at the twins. The scene of the first part is laid at Monte Carlo, and Miss Kate Rorke wears a lovely evening gown, suitable to that picturesque and fashionable region. The skirt is white satin, painted round the front breadth with roses of every shade. The bodice was kilted white chiffon over rose-pink silk, with sleeves to match. Diamond buttons fastened it down the front.

There is a legend that His Satanic Majesty made three leaps from the Isle of Wight to the Devil's Dike at Brighton on the occasion of his first visit to England. The first of his jumps was on to the top of one of the range of the Southdown Hills immediately behind the beautiful valley of Ringley. Bowhill is the name of his momentary resting-place. The shock of the "thud" he made was distinctly felt at Selsey. So Kitty was told, on her recent visit to the quiet little place from whence come the lobsters for many a mayonnaise. Kitty brought home three or four crates of them, and sent us one, preceding it by half-an-hour to tell us all about the little fishing village at which she has been recruiting. It is not far from that dreary waste, Hayling Island, and has Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight to the west. Plenty of shipping of all kinds passes it. A mound near the old church celebrates an incident of the time of the Spanish Armada. But what interested Kitty far more than any historical associations was the apiary, with its hundreds of bee-hives. She has a weakness for honey, you know, and has brought home a large supply, a bottle of which she carried over to us. The bees feed principally on white clover, which gives the honey its peculiarly delicious taste. The proprietor is as great an authority on bees as Sir John Lubbock is on ants and spiders, and can tell how far they have travelled by the height from which they drop on the return home, laden with material. There is soon to be a branch railway from Chichester, eight miles away, and after that the little fishing village will be quite spoiled, and turned into the ordinary, every-day "seaside resort."

Bee is at the piano. She is singing a pretty song called "'Mid Fairest Flowers," by Charles Deacon. It is a rhapsodical description of a good and lovely maiden, written by Brice Fennell, and set to charming music. Cotsford Dick has never been happier in his choice of melody and skilful modulation of key than in his setting of "O Love of Mine." It is so delightfully singable. "God thought it Best," by Clement Scott and Lawrence Kellie, is of a more ambitious order and needs some skill in singing. It contains a charming phrase, the words to which it is set being—

"For me a very brief to-morrow."

An Organ Part accompanies this song.

I think Florence Marion Turner's "Time and I" a beautiful song. It is one of two that are published together. It is andante, and is full of feeling, suiting the harmonious words by Olive Molesworth. The second is "A Song of Spring," bright and merry, with the flutter of birds' wings and almond blossoms in it.

You can guess what sort of song "The Slump" is by its name. It is comically descriptive of the woes of a couple whose business half lost all his money on the Stock Exchange. The tune makes a good Barn dance.

"Souvenir d'un Bal" is a curious composition by Gounod, a setting of Theo Marzials' words done into French. Not a single rest or interval for the voice occurs during the first verse or the third. This makes it difficult and even a little monotonous, with all due respect to the genius of Gounod.

All these are published by Metzler & Co., Great Marlborough-street.

What do you think of the many memorials of the Queen's record reign that are now being offered to the public? The one that I like best is the portrait of her Majesty issued by the *Gentlewoman*. The picture is reproduced on satin from a well-known photograph by Walery, and will doubtless be highly appreciated by her Majesty's faithful subjects.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—There are points about having a cold at this time of year—not too bad a one, be it well understood. Then it may be classed with the luxuries of the season, with the difference that, unlike the others, it lies within easy reach of every one. Just a feeling of gentle languor without positive malaise; enough of a chill to entitle us, with a clear conscience, to the enjoyment of a day in bed; above all, enough appetite for the dainty delicacies of the invalid tray. In the calm warmth and comfort of our blankets, how superior we feel to the hustling, struggling world without. Like a sovereign enthroned above its petty cares, worries, and general solicitousness about everything. We have only one care, a delicious one—ourselves, our own personal comfort and well being. We are not well, and all the duties of life are merged in the duty of making ourselves so, of tenderly coaxing ourselves back to the normal condition. How delightful the rest from every one and everything; but most delightful of all, the way in which, having royally motioned the every-day working world aside, we may plunge into the ideal. In exchange for the one that we have shut out many world's lie before us, wherein to choose our wanderings. For the worlds of books are infinite. And what is there in Heaven or earth that the philosophy of authors has not dreamt and written of? The books to be read in bed are of the class "to be swallowed;" and how we swallow an interesting book, and how much easier it seems to find an interesting book under the circumstances! We don't want analysis or problems, or, least of all, pessimism. Our tastes grow simpler and more rudimentary. We want a good story—well told. The more story the better, and the less telling perhaps the better, too. Because we are so much at rest personally, it may be, exciting plots and adventures, romantic, mysterious, or blood-curdling, only pleasantly titillate us. What books for a day in bed are "Treasure Island" and "The Master of Ballantrae" and many of Stanley Weyman's. Of the older ones, what can beat the "Woman in White?" and are we not always ready to be thrilled again and again by the wonderful deeds of Athos, Porthos, and Co.? And what a climax to our content when the rain drives against the window-panes and the storm rages without! Our pleasures are not "weather permitting;"

Madame Oliver Holmes has just returned from Paris with all the newest fashions in Day and Evening Dresses, Mantles, Lingerie, and Millinery, which she will show on Monday, October 5th, and following days.—61, New Bond-street, W.

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in our security from disturbance we may pass by Nature's disturbance with a superior smile.

In Ireland of late, Nature—as, indeed, in most other places—has been doing so much that she has had the doing all to herself. The sudden onslaught of winter, when one is still actively engaged in outdoor pursuits of a summery kind, and still clad in a like class of clothing, is most disconcerting. Though garden parties seemed somewhat unseasonable last week, Lord Plunket, Archbishop of Dublin, gave one at Old Connaught, his house near Bray, in honour of his visitor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and several bishops who have also been in Dublin lately. Neither the house nor demesne of Old Connaught is picturesque, but the surrounding scenery is. A crowd of the elect of society and a strong clerical element were present. Dr. Benson is taking advantage of his visit to Ireland to do some touring, and while at Old Connaught made excursions to the picturesque spots of Wicklow. Dublin is still deserted, and will remain so until the end of next month, unless continued bad weather drives people from the seaside and country resorts. Lord and Lady Roberts and their daughters have been at Killarney and other places of beauty in the South of Ireland, Lord Roberts combining the business of military inspection, with the amusement of visiting the tourist resorts of his native land. The tourists have had a bad time lately, except those who enjoy Nature's boisterous moods. One hopes the hotels were satisfactory for those who have had to see so much of them. One hears that most of them now are, and many quite charming. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, on the way from their short visit to Lismore Castle, stayed at the Viceregal Lodge, which Lord Cadogan had placed at their disposal. The Phœnix Park is old ground to the Duke, who, as Lord Hartington, was Irish Chief Secretary for some time. The place has since had tragic associations for the family. The spot on which Lord Frederick Cavendish was murdered is straight opposite the drawing-room windows of the Viceregal Lodge, but at a considerable distance.

How silly the papers are over the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Russia to the Queen! They seem to riot in gush and servility. Just as bad in their foolish extreme as the French paper which calls the Russian Royalties "M. Nicholas Romanoff et sa femme." Don't you think the Wise man would be obliged, if he visited the world again, to leave the dictum unaltered, "The number of fools is infinite?"—Yours ever, CLARE.

I have a rather long recipe for you this week. It deals with calves' feet:—

Soak and wash a couple of calves' feet that have been scalded. Split them very carefully, and put them into a stewpan with a glass of sherry, a pint and a half of stock, an onion, a carrot, a bouquet of herbs, 4 oz. of parboiled streaky bacon, cut in slices, 6 peppercorns, a blade of mace, 2 cloves; cover with a buttered paper, bring to the boil, and remove to the oven to simmer for five hours. Then drain from the liquor and take out all the bones. Pound 6 oz. of scraped white veal, add 2 oz. of scraped fat bacon, 2 oz. of butter, and 2 oz. of panada, which is made by stewing about 2 tablespoonfuls of fresh breadcrumbs in some nicely-flavoured stock until it is a stiff paste. When the ingredients are thoroughly blended, add the yolks of 2 eggs, season with salt and pepper, and rub all through a wire sieve. Divide the forcemeat between the two feet, putting it well in the centre, and folding them over into a nice shape. Dip the feet first in beaten egg, then into breadcrumbs, place them in an omelette pan, and pour over about 2 oz. of dissolved butter; bake a golden colour in a moderate oven, basting frequently. Place the feet on a hot dish, and pour the following sauce round:—

Sweat 2 minced shalots, an ounce of minced lean ham, a minced gherkin, a sprig of thyme, and a little parsley in a stewpan with an ounce of butter until a delicate brown colour; mix in a tablespoonful of flour and half a pint of the stock the feet were stewed in, from which the fat has been removed. Allow the sauce to simmer half an hour, squeeze through the tammy, and return to the stewpan, adding a tablespoonful of tomato purée, a small piece of glaze, the juice of half a small lemon, a wineglassful of cooking sherry and a tablespoonful of chopped parsley.

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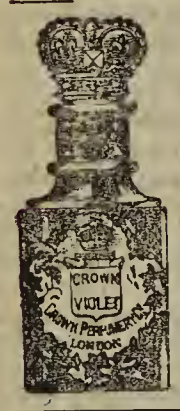

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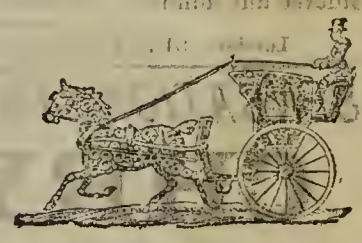

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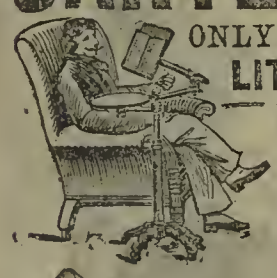

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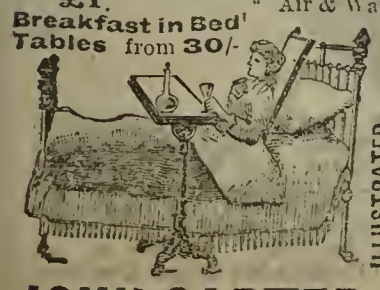

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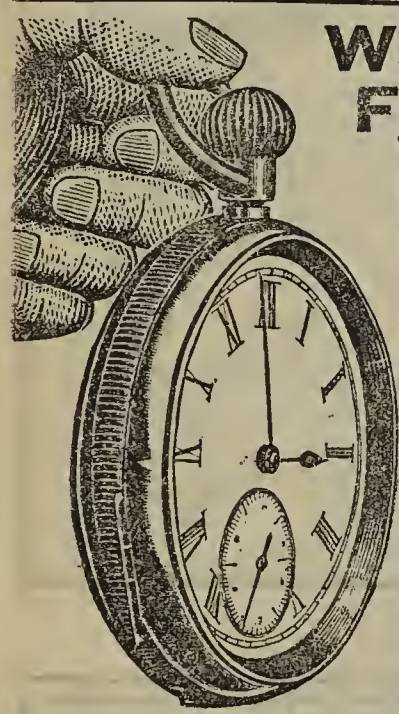

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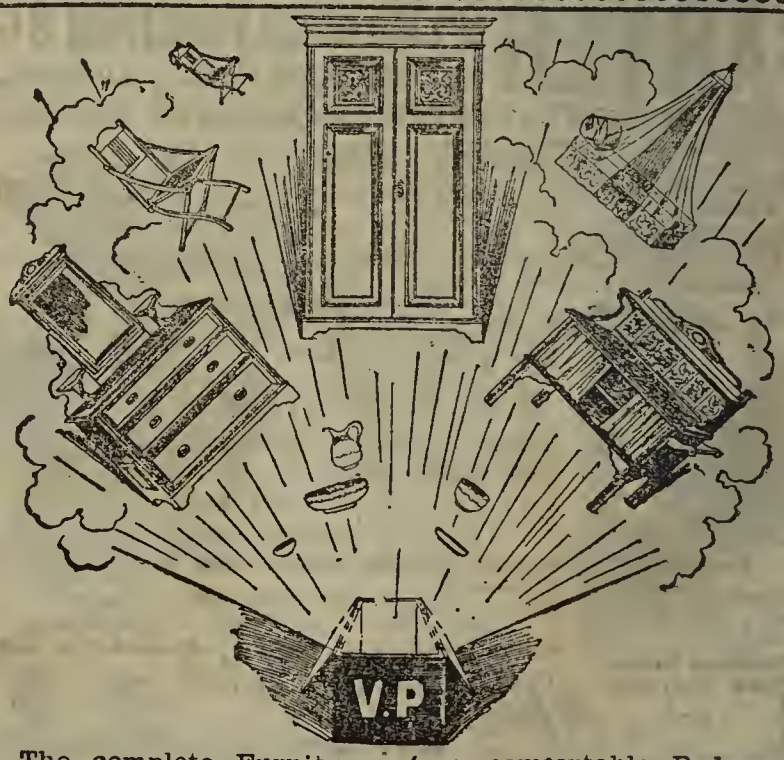

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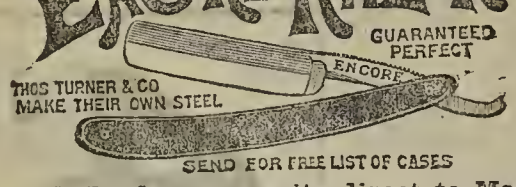

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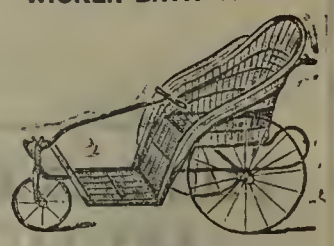

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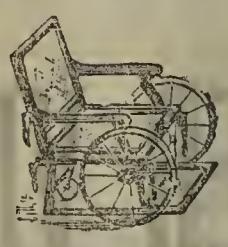

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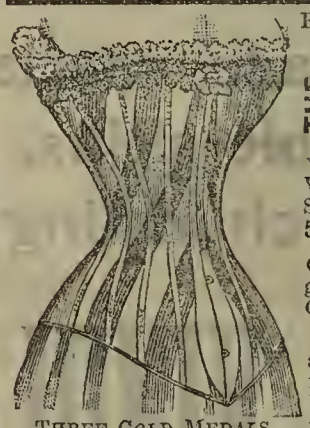

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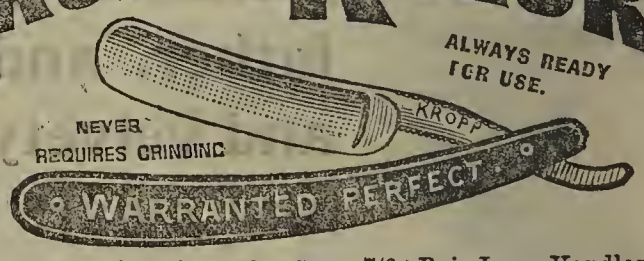

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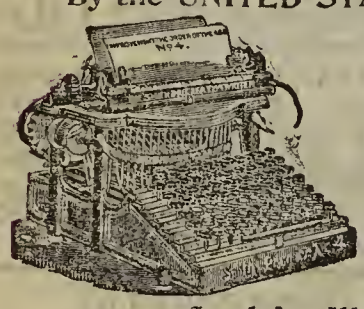
Smith Premier Typewriter

By the UNITED STATES WAR DEPARTMENT.



WASHINGTON, MARCH 27.
The War Department of the United States at Washington desired to purchase 150 typewriters, and established a board of experts to pass upon all the typewriters in competition, and after a thorough examination it was decided that the Smith Premier Typewriter, manufactured at Syracuse, N.Y., was the machine that stood the highest in point of improvements and mechanical construction, consequently the order for 150 typewriters was awarded to the Smith Premier Typewriter Company.—*New York World*, March 29.

Send for Illustrated Catalogue.

The Smith Premier Typewriter Co.,
14, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

BABY'S BOON.

Is RIDGE'S FOOD.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—

WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

THE
JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.
BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.
LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

CERTIFICATES FOR SHARES in the NEW BULTFONTEIN MINING COMPANY, Limited, issued under the terms of the circular, dated June 3rd, 1896, may now be obtained at the Office of the Company, 6, Drapers' Gardens, E.C.

September 25th, 1896. J. FITZPATRICK, Secretary.

The Subscription List will Open on Wednesday, 30th September, and Close on or before Thursday, the 1st October, at 4 p.m. for Town, and Friday Morning, the 2nd October, at 10 a.m. for the Country.

WILSONS & FURNESS-LEYLAND LINE, LIMITED.

(Wilsons' Line of Steamers, London to New York, and Furness-Leyland Line, London to Boston.)

The Directors of Wilsons & Furness-Leyland Line, Limited, invite Subscriptions for the Debentures and Preference Shares through their Bankers, the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate-street, London.

Total Share Capital and Debenture Stock, £550,000

Issue of

£200,000 4½ per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock at 105,

Issued in Multiples of £10, and redeemable at 110 per cent. at the option of the Company after 31st December, 1905, on six months' notice, and

15,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each, £150,000.

both payable 10 per cent. on application and by instalments set out in full prospectus.

Trustees for Debenture Stockholders.
The Debenture Securities Investment Company, Limited.

Solicitors to the Trustees.
Hunters & Haynes, 9, New-square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.

DIRECTORS.

Charles H. Wilson. Esq., M.P. (Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons, & Co., Limited, Shipowners, Hull, London, &c.). Chairman.
J. R. Ellerman, Esq. (Chairman of Frederick Leyland & Co.).
Sir Christopher Furness, J.P. (Chairman of Furness, Withy, & Co., Limited, Shipowners, Hartlepool and London).
Walter Glynn, Esq. (Managing Director Frederick Leyland & Co.).
Arthur Wilson, Esq., J.P., D.L. (Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons, & Co., Limited).

Bankers.—The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, London.

Secretary and Offices.—Mr. H. B. Roper, 38, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed by the Co-operation of Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons, & Co., Limited; Frederick Leyland & Co., Limited; and Furness, Withy & Co., Limited, for the purpose of establishing a first-class line of modern Steamers, to form a regular service for the carriage of passengers and cargo between London and New York, and also to acquire the Furness-Leyland Line between London and Boston.

In order to fully develop the business between London and New York, the Company will have five first-class Steamers working in the Line, of which they have arranged to build two modern high-class Steamers of great carrying capacity, with superior accommodation for about 120 first-class passengers, at a Capital expenditure of about £225,000.

Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons, & Co., Limited, Messrs. Frederick Leyland & Co., Limited, and Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., Limited, are building, at their own cost, three modern similar Steamers, of the highest class, to run in the Company's London and New York Line, giving the Company the agency profits, and thus establishing in connection with the Company's Steamers at the least a regular first-class weekly Line between London and New York.

The Company also acquires the business and assets of the Furness-Leyland Line, Limited, together with the valuable long leasehold premises, 38, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C., held at a ground rent, admirably suited for Shipping Offices, and the goodwill of that Company's well-established trade between Boston and London.

The Company acquires, for the London and Boston trade, the modern Steamers, specially built for the Transatlantic trade, "Georgian" and "Bostonian," built by Messrs. Harland & Wolff, Limited, the "Idaho," built by Messrs. Alex. Stephen & Sons, and the "Cambrian," now in course of construction by Messrs. William Gray & Co., Limited, all suitable for the trade.

By these contracts the Company will have at least a regular weekly service between London and New York for cargo and passengers, and also a regular weekly service between London and Boston.

The outlay of Capital represented by the Steamers to be run in the two Lines by the three Firms represents nearly £400,000, and this Capital outlay is in addition to the £200,000 of Ordinary Share Capital subscribed by the three Firms.

A Registered Mortgage upon the Steamers will be given to the Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders, as well as a floating charge on all other assets, and thus the security of the Debenture Stockholders will consist of the leasehold premises, 38, Leadenhall-street, the Steamers "Georgian," "Idaho," "Bostonian," "Cambrian," valued at, say, £285,000, and two new Steamers, to be specially built at a cost of about £225,000, or, together, say, £510,000, besides a floating charge on the Working Capital.

Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons, & Co., Limited, Messrs. Frederick Leyland & Co., Limited, and Messrs. Furness, Withy, & Co., Limited, are the Vendors to the Company, and they have fixed the price to be paid for the goodwill of the Wilson Line, as above mentioned, between London and New York, and for the goodwill, business, and assets of the Furness-Leyland Line, and the four modern Steamers acquired as above, at the sum of £327,500. These are taken over as from 15th October, 1896, from which date the profits will accrue to the Company, which profits the Directors estimate will (when the new boats for the New York and London Line are built and running in the line) provide for ample depreciation, and after paying Debenture and Preference interest leave an ample margin out of which dividends will be payable on the Ordinary Share Capital, none of which is offered to the public, but will be taken by the respective firms interested in the formation of the Company in equal proportions.

The Vendors will pay all expenses of incorporation, advertising, and other expenses, and all commission and brokerage up to and including allotment. No part of the Capital has been underwritten, and there is no promotion money.

For details of the Contracts entered into see full Prospectus.

A Stock Exchange quotation for the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares will be applied for in London and Liverpool.

Draft of the Trust Deed and the Articles of Association will be open to inspection at the Office of the Solicitors to the Company.

Applications for Debenture Stock or Shares should be made on the forms accompanying prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers.

Prospectuses and forms of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, the Bankers, and of the Brokers to the Company, Messrs. James Capel & Co., 31, Throgmorton-street, London; Messrs. F. W. Bentley & Co., Estate Buildings, Huddersfield; Messrs. E. W. Ingleby & Sons, Hull.

The Subscription List will OPEN on WEDNESDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER, and CLOSE on or before FOUR p.m. on FRIDAY, the 2nd OCTOBER.

THE MALAY PENINSULA COFFEE CO.

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - - - - £100,000,

divided into

50,000 Six per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, preferred both as to Capital and Dividend; and
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

Subscriptions are now invited for

50,000 Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, 30,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

PAYABLE AS UNDER—

2s. 6d. per Share ... ... on Application;
7s. 6d. per Share ... ... on Allotment;
10s. 0d. per Share ... ... One Month after Allotment.

20,000 of the Ordinary Shares, credited as fully paid up, will be taken by the Vendor in part payment of the purchase money.

DIRECTORS.

Sir ALEXANDER WILSON (Chairman of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.).
R. J. BOYLE, Esq. (Chairman of the Moabund Tea Company, Limited).
*D. M. LUMSDEN, Esq. (Chairman of the Port Dickson Coffee Company, Ltd.).
* Will join the Board after Allotment.

Bankers.

The London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, 5, Princes-street, London, E.C.
The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, London and Singapore.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Sanderson, Holland, Adkin, & Co.

Brokers.—Messrs. Cull & Daniell, Hatton-court, E.C.

Auditor.—W. A. Browne, Esq., C.A., 308, Winchester House, E.C.

Secretaries.—Messrs. George Williamson & Co.

Offices.—138, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring from 31st July, 1896, as going concerns, certain Coffee Estates, situated in the protected States of the Malay Peninsula, and comprising about 10,000 acres of land held on leases for 999 years, subject only as regards some portions to the usual clearance conditions.

The Grants and Leases are derived from the Rulers of the various States, and are in each case confirmed by the British Resident.

The lands forming the several Estates to be acquired have been specially and carefully selected with regard to their suitability for the growth of Liberian Coffee, for which the soil and climate of these States have been found eminently suitable, and a portion has been under Coffee cultivation for some 15 years. The area now under Coffee of various ages, as shown by the last cultivation report, aggregates 1,048 acres or thereabouts, of which 538 acres are in full bearing, 108 acres in partial bearing, and 402 acres young plants, which come into bearing in 1897 and 1898.

Further extensions are being put out, and large nurseries are available for future operations.

The crops for the year ended 31st October, 1895, amounted to 3,534 cwt. and those for the current year are estimated at 4,100 cwt., while for 1897 the crop is estimated by Mr. Bailey, a practical Coffee Planter of large experience in the districts, at 5,000 cwt. Mr. Bailey reports as follows:—

"The Estates are all in perfect order, and each one is managed by a good experienced man, visited by the owner, Mr. Hill. Assuming that the Estates are kept in the same state of cultivation for the years 1896-1897, I estimate the crop for 1897 as follows:—

Kamuning	2,000	piculs.
Welds Hill	700	,,
Klang and Evaleen	150	,,
Linsum	1,200	,,
Sliau	175	,,
	4,225	piculs=5,000 cwt.

"Mr. Hill has kept very complete records of the crop on each field of coffee for a number of years, and I have thoroughly gone into them and believe them to be correct, and I believe the above to be an ordinary and fair estimate for the year 1897.

"The Estates are looking healthy and well, and are kept in most excellent condition."

In 1898 a further substantial addition to the crop may be expected, and a progressive increase in subsequent years will accrue, not only through young plants approaching maturity, but from the further extensions above referred to.

The profits of the Estates for the year ended October 31st, 1895, as shown by the accounts, certified by Messrs. Cooper Brothers & Co., amounted to $58,688, equivalent at an exchange of 2s. 2d. to £6,350, and those for the year ending October 31st, 1896, are estimated at $64,074, on the basis of the prices actually obtained from sales to June 30th. At the exchange of 2s. 2½d., the latter sum is equivalent to £7,074 16s. 9d., equal to 6 per cent. on the Preference and 8 per cent. on the Ordinary Capital.

It has been the custom to close the financial year on 31st October, but as the Estates will be taken over as from 31st July, the accounts of the Company to be closed on the 31st October, 1897, will include the working of fifteen months.

Liberian Coffee is in growing demand, and finds a ready sale in the local market of Singapore, where it is largely purchased for America and the Continent. It is also in good demand in the London market.

A small annual revenue is derived from pepper, cocoa, tea, &c.

The total purchase price as fixed by the Vendors is £92,000, of which £72,000 is to be paid in cash, and £20,000 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares, the Vendor paying all expenses in connection with the formation of the Company up to allotment. The balance of £8,000 will be available for the further development of the Estates.

It is proposed to pay the Preferential dividend half-yearly, the first being payable on 1st May, 1897.

Mr. Thomas Heslop Hill, the principal proprietor of the Estates, has consented to undertake the management of the Estates for a period of five years, and the large stake he continues to hold in the property, together with his experience of the districts and as a practical planter, constitute a sound guarantee for efficient management.

Application will be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for an official quotation of the Preference Shares.

The following contracts have been entered into:—A contract between Thomas Heslop Hill and Thomas David Traill of the one part and Richard Blamey Magor as Trustee on behalf of the Company for the purchase of the Siliau Coffee Estate, dated 8th September, 1896. A contract between Thomas Heslop Hill of the one part and Messrs. George Williamson & Co. and D. M. Lumsden of the other part, dated 22nd September, 1896, with reference to assisting in the formation of the Company.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the offices of the Company, 138, Leadenhall-street, E.C., and from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers.

The above Agreements and also the Draft Agreement mentioned in the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Articles of Association can be inspected by intending applicants at the offices of Messrs. Sanderson, Holland, Adkin, & Co., 46, Queen Victoria-street.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus to the Company's Bankers, together with application money, cheques for which should be drawn to their order. If no allotment be made, the deposit will be returned to the applicant in full, and when the number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the further amounts payable on the number of Shares allotted.

London, September 24th, 1896.

The Subscription List Opened at Eleven o'clock on Tuesday, the 29th Sept., and will Close at Three o'clock on Friday, 2nd Oct.

George & John Nickson & Co. Lim.

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS.)

CAPITAL - - - - £120,000,

Divided into 12,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each and 12,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each.

As defined in the articles of association, the Preference Shares rank, as regards capital, in priority to the Ordinary Shares, and enjoy voting powers, and no debentures will be created to rank in priority to the Preference Shares without the consent of the holders of three-fourths thereof. The whole of the Ordinary Shares will be accepted by the vendors in part payment of the purchase money.

ISSUE OF CAPITAL.—12,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, of which the Vendors are prepared to subscribe for one-third (being the largest proportion allowed according to the Stock Exchange regulations), and the issue is now offered for subscription at par, payable as follows:—10s. per Share on Application, £1 10s. per Share on Allotment, and £3 per Share on the 1st December, 1896.

The business will be taken over by the Company as from the 31st March, 1896, and the first dividend on the Preference Shares will be paid on the 15th January, 1897, calculated from dates of the respective payments, and thenceforward quarterly on the 15th April, 15th July, 15th October, and 15th January.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN NICKSON, Esq., Roslyn House, Birkdale, Southport (Chairman).
GEORGE NICKSON, Esq., Inglewood, West Derby, Liverpool.
RICHARD WIGLEY NICKSON, Esq., Birkdale, Southport.
WILLIAM JOSEPH NICKSON, Esq., Birkdale, Southport.
(Members of the firm of George and John Nickson & Co.)
With power to add to their number.

Bankers—THE BANK OF LIVERPOOL, Limited, Victoria-street Branch, Liverpool; or their agents, Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, & CO., Lombard-street, London, E.C.

Brokers—Messrs. PARR & RAE, Queen Insurance-buildings, 10, Dale-street, Liverpool.

Solicitors—Messrs. EVANS, LOCKETT, & CO., 6, Commerce-chambers, Lord-street, Liverpool.

Auditors—Messrs. KNOX & HASSAL, Chartered Accountants, 6, Lord-street, Liverpool.

Secretary *(pro tem.)*—WILLIAM HALLAM.

Registered Offices of the Company—25, Victoria-street, Liverpool.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire, carry on, and extend the well-known and old-established business of George and John Nickson & Co., of Liverpool, London, and Manchester, general produce, American and colonial provision merchants, dried fruit, sundry and canned goods merchants, importers and exporters, brokers, and commission merchants, &c.

This business was established in the year 1837, and is now being carried on in the premises Nos. 22, 24, and 26, Stanley-street, and 25, Victoria-street, and at the works, Nos. 87 and 89, Great George-street, Liverpool; also in London and Manchester.

The profits for over twenty years, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of plant and machinery, &c., have averaged over 15 per cent. on the capital employed. The books of the trading for the last four years have been examined by Messrs. Knox & Hassal, of Liverpool, chartered accountants, whose report is as follows:—

Liverpool, 10th August, 1896.

We have examined the balance-sheet of Messrs. George and John Nickson & Co., of Liverpool, as on the thirty-first day of March, 1896, and we certify that after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, the assets of the firm, irrespective of goodwill, consisting of stock, book debts, cash, &c., fixtures, plant and machinery (the items of fixtures, plant, and machinery standing only at £1,662), show a surplus over the liabilities of upwards of £60,000.

We have examined the books and accounts of the same firm for the four years ended March 31st, 1896, and find that the annual average profits, after providing for all trade charges, and allowing liberally for depreciation in respect of plant and fixtures, amount to £10,538. The figures upon which this calculation is based are as follows:—

	£.	s.	d.
Profit for three months to 30th June, 1892	3,068	13	6
Profit for twelve months to 30th June, 1893.....	9,050	3	8
Profit for twelve months to 30th June, 1894.....	12,304	17	5
Profit for twelve months to 30th June, 1895.....	10,487	4	5
Profit for nine months to 31st March, 1896	7,244	3	10
Total for four years.....	£42,155	2	10
Average for one year	£10,538	15	8

We have had submitted to us the balance-sheets of the firm for the twenty years ended 31st December, 1892, and they present a steady and continuous growth of profits year by year at an average rate of over 15 per cent. per annum upon the capital employed.

(Signed) KNOX & HASSAL,
Chartered Accountants.

Taking the average profits as a basis, and allowing for the dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the £60,000 Preference Shares—say, £3,000—there would remain a large surplus, sufficient to pay 10 per cent. per annum upon the Ordinary Shares, and leave a substantial balance.

The business connections of the firm both at home and abroad are of a valuable character, and include direct and exclusive agencies for the sale of American and colonial produce, canned meats, &c.; also the selling on commission to the wholesale and retail dealers in the United Kingdom of the goods of American, Canadian, and other houses. The firm has also a very extensive, old-established, and increasing connection as dried fruit merchants and commission agents, and this portion of their business is steadily increasing. The trade marks and registered brands of the firm are extensively and favourably known throughout the trade. The firm is represented throughout the greater portion of the United Kingdom by a large staff of travellers and representatives, many of whom have been connected with the house for many years. There are many thousands of accounts open, the export trade for various specialities is extensive, and there is every prospect of a steady and satisfactory increase of the business, for which the capital will amply suffice.

The property to be taken over by the Company as on the 31st March, 1896, consists of the stock-in-trade, book debts, and general assets of the firm, amounting in value (exclusive of the goodwill) to £60,000 over and above the liabilities, which amount the vendors guarantee shall be realised by the Company in respect thereof: the goodwill of the business, the valuable registered trade marks of the firm (nineteen in number), and the fixtures, plant, and machinery at the works, 87 & 89, Great George-street, and at Stanley-street and Victoria-street, Liverpool, which have been maintained in a state of efficiency and all modern improvements added.

The price to be paid by the Company for the purchase of the business, goodwill, stock-in-trade, and general assets of the firm, has been fixed by the vendors at £120,000, to be paid £60,000 in cash, and £60,000 by the allotment of 12,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each, such shares being issued as fully paid-up.

In order to secure continuity of management the senior partner, Mr. John Nickson, and the other members of the firm, have entered into an agreement dated the 24th day of September, 1896, to act as the joint managing directors of the Company for a period of not less than six years.

The vendors undertake to pay all the expenses of formation of the Company.

The terms of sale are embodied in a contract dated the 24th day of September, 1896, and made between the members of the firm of George and John Nickson & Co., of the one part, and the Company of the other part.

The business will be taken over subject to all existing contracts. These are of the ordinary character, and necessary for the working of the concern, but including as they do numerous contracts with employees, customers, agents, consignors, and others, they cannot be specified. All or any of such contracts may be contracts within the strict interpretation of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, and applicants for shares will be deemed to have notice of such contracts, and to have waived further compliance with the provisions of such section in respect thereof.

No promotion money has been or will be paid.

It is intended to make application in due course for a quotation of the Preference Shares on the Liverpool Stock Exchange, and to adopt the Provisions of the Forged Transfers Act.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the accountants' report, and copies of the agreements referred to above, can be seen by intending applicants at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Applications for Preference Shares should be made on form accompanying prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, the Bank of Liverpool, Limited, Victoria-street Branch, their Head Office, and Branches, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., Lombard-street, London, E.C., and the London and Midland Bank, Limited, 52, Cornhill, London, E.C., and all its branches, with the amount of the deposit. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant. The failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Preference Shares may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and of the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditors of the Company.

Liverpool, 25th September, 1896.

LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE

INSURANCE COMPANY.

Invested Funds ... ... £9,067,182.

FIRE. LIFE. ENDOWMENTS. ANNUITIES.
Fire Insurances Effected on Most Favourable Terms.
Life Bonuses Large, either in Cash or Additions to Sum Assured.
Policy Holders incur no Liability of Partnership, and may so insure as to participate in NINE-TENTHS of the PROFITS of their class.
EQUITABLE RATES. MODERATE EXPENSES.
PLEASE APPLY FOR PROSPECTUS.
Head Offices: 1, DALE STREET, LIVERPOOL; 7, CORNHILL, LONDON.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

THE BUFFELSDOORN ESTATE and GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 1st to 9th OCTOBER, both dates inclusive, for purpose of balancing the London Share Ledgers.

By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED,
London Agents.
T. HONEY,
London Secretary.

7, Lothbury, E.C.
24th September, 1896.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "**Reinvest, London.**"
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

The Public Subscription List Opened on Tuesday, 29th September, 1896, and Closed the following day at 4 p.m. for London, and at 12 noon on Thursday, for the country.

THE CHAMPION EXTENDED AND HOME RULE GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

NANNINE, MURCHISON GOLD FIELDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - - - - - £150,000,

DIVIDED INTO 150,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.

WORKING CAPITAL, £50,000, £25,000 of which will be issued now, and £25,000 held in reserve for future issue.

60,000 SHARES ARE NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION, payable 2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in calls of 5s. each as required, at intervals of not less than One Month. The entire Cash Capital required by the Company (including £25,000 Working Capital) having been guaranteed by the Stanley Syndicate, Limited, and others, the Directors will proceed to Allotment on the closing of the Lists.

DIRECTORS.

Sir E. T. Gourley, M.P., Chairman (Director Lady Loch Gold Mines, Limited).
James Blackwood, Esq., Chairman Champion Reef (Nannine) Gold Mining Co., Limited.
Sir Leslie Falkiner, Bart. (Director United Rhodesia Gold Fields, Limited).
Major H. Slane Fleming (Director Hannan's Golden Treasure, Limited).
Walter J. Ruegg, Esq. (Director Mainland Consols, Limited).

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

Messrs. T. & W. Morgans, Broad-street House, London, E.C.

BANKERS.—The City Bank, Ltd., Threadneedle-street, London, E.C., and its Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Morten, Cutler, & Co., 99, Newgate-street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. F. R. Richardson & Co., 11, Copthall-court, E.C., and Stock Exchange.
Messrs. George Reavely & Co., 5, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Crewdson, Youatt, & Howard, 17, Coleman-street, E.C.
SECRETARY and OFFICES.—Mr. C. E. Wilkey, 43, New Broad-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire and work six Gold Mining Leases in the Nannine District, Murchison, Western Australia, known as the

Champion Extended	12 acres.
Marlow	12 ,,
Champion Extended West	12 ,,
,, ,, North No. 1	15 ,,
,, ,, North No. 2	12 ,,
Home Rule	27 ,,
Making in all	90 ,, or thereabout

Since February last active development work has been carried on under the supervision of Captain Osborne and J. F. Markes, F.G.S., Agent in Australia for the Stanley Syndicate, Limited. Several shafts have been sunk, and a very large quantity of rich quartz proved.

The Champion Extended and Marlow Leases adjoin the celebrated Champion Reef (Nannine) Property, which the Government Inspector of Mines recently stated to be the most valuable in the Murchison District, and according to the reports, the Champion Reef lode runs through four of these leases, viz:—

Champion Extended	12 acres.
Marlow	12 ,,
Champion Extended North No. 1	15 ,,
,, ,, ,, No. 2	12 ,,

On the Champion Extended West a separate reef has been traced, which appears to be trending into the Marlow Lease; the remaining 27 acres Home Rule Lease adjoins the Royal Consolidated Mine, which is south of and next to the Royalist. The reef through the Home Rule property is reported to carry in addition to its uniform value, shoots of rich quartz, in which the Gold is very coarse, and the Directors contemplate floating this as a separate Company later on.

The different leases have been reported on by the following experts:—

D. D. ROSEWARNE, F.G.S. (late Government Inspector of Mines of South Australia).
RICHARD PIPER, M.E.
CHARLES KIGBY, M.E.
CAPTAIN OSBORNE, M.E. (Manager of Champion Reef (Nannine) Gold Mines Company, Limited).
J. FRANCIS MARKES, F.G.S. (Agent in Australia for the Stanley Syndicate, Limited).

All of these reports are of a satisfactory nature, but are too lengthy to quote in full in the Prospectus. The following are extracts therefrom, and the originals can be seen at the Company's Offices.

Mr. ROSEWARNE, in his report on the Champion Extended, dated May, 1895, before development work was commenced on a systematic scale, says:—

"The size of the reef, ranging as it does from 10 feet to 3 feet, and the character of the enclosing rocks are guarantees of its permanence. In your claim, where the trenching is being done at present, there are five feet of solid stone, and it appears to widen out to the South. I need hardly say that small tests in gold mining are not reliable as actual values of the whole line of reef; in the Champion Reef however, the gold is very evenly distributed for a long distance, and in nearly every instance, where opened, good results have been obtained. I say this after a residence on the ground of over a month, and having watched the operations day by day."

CAPTAIN OSBORNE, who has been superintending the work, says in his reports, dated 16th and 17th June, 1896:—

(Champion Extended).—"This Property, consisting of an area covering 63 acres, is situated North of and adjoining the well-known Champion Reef Gold Mine, through which the Champion Reef traverses. In this connection it will be interesting to note that this Reef is so very consistent in its strike—coursing a distance of over a mile without a fault, and it is so well marked by numerous quartz outcroppings the whole length—'that he who runs may read' and mark its true and auriferous character. The Champion Line of Reef harmonizes with its striking appearance, gold being well, and fairly evenly distributed throughout its great length.

(Dennis Shaft).—"This shaft, situated about 80 ft. north of the Champion area, has followed the reef from surface to its present depth, 63 ft. The reef hereabout is 5 ft. wide, a dense body of quartz, free from any admixture of the bordering rock, being in places highly charged with iron pyrites containing free gold, while the pure quartz incloses gold in very appreciable quantity, and is easily detected without the aid of artificial agency. The whole body of the reef is of more than average quality, and gives assurance of permanency."

(Dunlop Shaft).—"The reef as shown in this shaft is of a most encouraging character, the quartz being very massive, and most interesting to mining men in the variety of its texture, structure, and diversity of its tints, while its gold-bearing properties are equal if not superior to anything yet found along the Champion Line. Only a few days since some of the most valuable stone was disclosed, the gold being heavy and thickly ribbed (a sample of which has just been despatched to London). I am disposed to conclude that this point is the most important yet exposed to view. I would therefore strongly advise deep development being pushed forward."

"A quantity of average stone extracted in sinking treated at the Nannine battery yielded free gold 17 dwt to the ton, while the tailings by assay showed 34 dwt. to the ton, a highly payable result, but I would here point out that the stone now at grass—(over 200 tons)—is, I believe, 100 per cent. better than that above referred to, and is a splendid object lesson indicating what the Champion Reef is capable of when judiciously operated on."

(Home Rule Lease).—"What is known as the Home Rule Reef is a continuation of that operated on in the Royal Consolidated. No more marked or better defined lode is possible, traversing the country rock with unbroken fidelity for at least two miles. Several attempts by miners have been made to develop the Home Rule line, but were always baffled by the influx of water at a shallow depth; the exceedingly rich specimen stone collected by miners and even aboriginals at various times along the whole line seems to me to be a reliable index of what may fairly be anticipated, when systematic development is proceeded with below water level, but which necessitates the introduction of an effective winding, pumping and battery plant."

"The abundant evidence of bold quartz croppings throughout the whole area, proclaims the lode persistent in strike and dip, and there can be no difference of opinion as to its permanency; while at several points the gold seen in the stone (a sample rich in gold forwarded to London lately) assures its auriferous character, and there is very forcible testimony as to the very profitable result awaiting extensive mining operations.

"I believe very strongly that the Home Rule line of Reef will develop one of the most extensive and highly payable Mines in Western Australia."

The Directors whilst not attaching great importance to the assays of picked stone, cannot help referring to the very remarkable results of the above-mentioned samples. They were sent to Messrs. Johnson, Mathey & Co., who assayed them as follows:—

Dunlop Shaft—Weight of Sample, 14 lb.; produce of gold, 750 oz. 7 dwt. per ton of 2,240 lb.

Home Rule—Weight of Sample, 16 lb.; produce of gold, 54 oz. 13 dwt. per ton of 2,240 lb.

A Cable was received from Captain Osborne on the 5th of June, 1896:—"Mine looks splendid; are getting splendid stone." On July 8th he cabled:—"New trench at a depth of 95 ft., water level, good battery stone. Dennis Shaft, at a depth of 90 ft., developed a fine ore body; ore of a fair grade, the reefs show visible gold. The northern boundary of the south drive, the grade is very superior. Home Rule surface workings have opened up a fine body of ore, unlimited, dollying well."

Mr. Markes cabled on the 16th July to the Stanley Syndicate:—"Champion Extended and Home Rule. Private letters Captain Osborne most encouraging—success now assured."

On the 29th of July, Captain Osborne reports by cable:—"Dennis Shaft—have driven along the reef for 12 ft. The reef is 10 ft. wide, shows a fine body of very superior ore. New Trench North Drive, 30 ft.: width not yet determined; good battery stone. Home Rule surface workings, good payable ore."

On the 20th August Captain Osborne reports by cable:—"Dennis Shaft—New Trench consistent in size, production, have opened up a fine body of ore. The reefs show visible gold. Home Rule surface workings most encouraging, expect to start milling on or about to-day."

On the 24th August Captain Osborne reports by cable:—"Dennis Shaft—South Drive, developed a fine ore body, width not yet determined, good battery stone. Now crushing ore. There are 5 shafts in the Mine."

On August 31st Messrs. F. W. Prell & Co. cable reporting that 24 tons of stone taken from five shafts and crushed at a neighbouring battery yielded 75 oz. of retorted gold, without the tailings or concentrates.

It is proposed to erect necessary machinery and to commence operations without delay, as the properties have had all the necessary development work done that is possible without erecting pumping machinery.

The Governor of West Australia (Sir Gerard Smith) at the opening of Parliament, on the 7th July last, stated that the Railway from Mullewa to Cue was being quickly constructed. He also stated that a Bill would be submitted to Parliament this session, authorising the extension of the Railway from Cue to Nannine, for which purpose, he said, funds were already available. This extension will bring the Railway close to the Champion Extended property, and will be invaluable, as it will materially lessen the cost of working the mines.

The Vendor, Mr. A. E. E. Rushall, has fixed the purchase price at £100,000, payable £15,000 in cash, and £60,000 in Shares, and the remainder in cash or Shares at the option of the Directors. The Vendor will pay all expenses of the Company up to allotment, and of the transfer of the property, with the exception of transfer duty and fees.

The following contracts have been made:—(1) Dated September 15th, 1896, between A. E. E. Rushall and the Company; (2) dated September 1st, 1896, between A. E. E. Rushall and W. J. Ruegg. Besides the above-mentioned there are other contracts to which the Company is not a party, made by or on behalf of the Vendor and others, with reference to the formation of the Company and subscriptions to its capital, which may be contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Applicants can have further information as to these contracts, but in any case will be considered to have had for all purposes full notice of such contracts, and to have agreed with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to have waived any fuller compliance with the said section in reference thereto.

Mr. Walter J. Ruegg, one of the Directors, being interested in the sale, will join the Board after allotment.

The full reports and contracts, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, may be seen at the Office of the Company's Solicitors.

Application for Shares should be made on the form accompanying prospectus and sent, with the amount payable on application, to the Company's Bankers.

If no Allotment be made the deposit will be returned in full, and if the Shares allotted be less than the number applied for, the surplus of the deposit will be appropriated towards the amount due on Allotment, and the balance (if any) returned.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company and from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers.

London, 15th September, 1896.

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original **NAVY CUT**

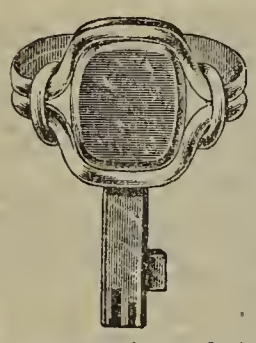
PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

A MASTER KEY

of this SIZE



Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

For Prices and Particulars apply to—

NEEDS & CO. *Late* **BRAMAH & CO.**

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks,

100, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

The Newest Materials in vogue this season will be found in the

Shawswater

DRESS FABRICS.

NEW CLOTHS AND NEW COLOURS IN AN EXTENSIVE ASSORTMENT.

OUR SPECIALITIES

For the present and coming Seasons comprise the following materials:

CURL CLOTHS.—In Coloured Ground, with raised Curl in Black, Figured, Striped, and Plain. In self-coloured Grounds, with Curl of same shade.

TWEEDS AND HOMESPUNS.—In fancy Heather grounds, with effect in contrasting Curl, plain surface Tweeds in Twills, &c., in newest shades. Durable Diagonals in a large and varied range.

CRAPE TWEEDS.—In fashionable mixtures, beautiful Greens, Petunia, Cardinal, Brown and Blue, blended with Black.

COVERT COATINGS.—In Greys, Heather effects, Blues, &c.

FANCY BLACKS.—With bright figured effects at prices to suit all purses.

CHEVIOTS.—In plain and fancy patterns.

SILK & WOOL MATERIALS.—In Tartans and figured effects; very lustrous. Suitable for blouses, &c.

SERGES.—We hold a high reputation for this class of materials, giving good value, at moderate prices.

New PATTERNS and STYLES are continually being added. Samples free on application to—

FLEMING, REID, & CO.

Worsted Mills, GREENOCK, N.B.

SINGER

Grand "Modèle de Luxe"

HIGHEST GRADE CYCLES ONLY.

Prompt Delivery may now be had.

SINGER & CO. LTD., COVENTRY.

LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

In Bottles, 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. Sold Everywhere. Over 4,000 Testimonials received from Medical Men.

Sole Manufacturers **COLEMAN & CO. Lim.** Norwich & London.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 915.—ENGLISH VERSION OF FRENCH STANZAS.

Persimmon (real name and address will be given next week)	£1 1 0
J. McGrigor Allan ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	£1 1 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE "TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.

As considerable doubt appears to exist on the subject, it may be well to explain that the Dolls to be dressed for the Truth Show at Christmas are of two sizes. The smaller-sized Dolls are 12 in. in height, and of these several thousands are still available. The larger Dolls are 39 in. in height, and as their wholesale cost is over half a guinea, it will be obvious that the available supply is more limited. The number on hand is, as a matter of fact, under a hundred, and it will be impossible to obtain more when these are gone, as the Dolls have to be specially made, and the manufacture occupies considerable time. These large Dolls, when dressed, form the most prominent and attractive feature of the Show, and ladies who may wish to assist in dressing them should apply for them as soon as possible, for the reasons given above.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 919.

A considerable number of stanzas which were actually in type had to be omitted last week at the last moment owing to a sudden demand made upon the Puzzle space. The Prize Stanza was, however, included amongst the few which were published, the successful competitor being Birota, to whom a cheque for two guineas will be sent in due course.

The Prize Stanza.

No reader of Truth would disparage
The Bishop, at cycling "au fait,"
Who gave up his horses and carriage
To give what they cost him away.

Methinks that St. Paul such a pastor
Would thus with encouragement greet,
"I wrought with my hands for the Master;
Do thou as good work with thy feet."

Birota.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 923.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

The Best Original Anagram formed out of the Thirty-eight Letters in the words "Abdul Hamid Khan, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire."

In making the anagram, which should be as far as possible of a topical character, all the letters in the given words must be used. Competitors may send in more than one anagram, but all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, October 12, at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Eve, winner of Prize No. 914, is Mrs Charlotte Pearsey, 4, Rock Park, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.

The Fishbite.—Your answer has reached me safely.

C. H. Southwell.—I thank you very much for the information you have sent me.

Dot.—I much regret the misprints to which you call attention.

Arch Gibbs.—You interpret the conditions a little too strictly, I think.

Roseland.—Your verse was one of several hundreds that were crowded out.

X. Y. Z.—Quite so; both the texts were sent by you.

J. O'F.—Thanks for your letter.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 920.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

DESCRIPTION IN RHYMED VERSE OF FAVOURITE WATERING-PLACES.

ILFRACOMBE.

To Ilfracombe I dedicate my lay,
Fairest resort for happy holiday.
Where cliff and cove, washed by the Severn sea,
Join sunny Devon's leafy lane and lea.
Here giant Capstone tempts to giddy height,
While smiling Tors with upward path invite,
And the fair harbour, crowned by Lantern Hill,
May be surveyed at ease by those who will.
The bather's rock-bound pool is soon descried,
Where he may plunge, nor heed the ebbing tide,
And the great bath for swimmers, standing near,
Has salt sea water running fresh and clear.
But those of urban tastes who love a town
Must climb the steep Arcade, and wander down
The High-street, with its shops and glittering wares,
Its rushing traffic and its donkey-chairs.
In the far distance Hangman rears his head,
While field and moorland at his feet are spread.
So go to Devon's fairest Ilfracombe,
Where roses scent the air and myrtles bloom.

Vivia.

WESTWARD HO!

"World without end," far as the eye can see
That roams it in a dumb felicity,
Cleaves with the swallow the divine abyss
Where sound meets silence in a rapturous kiss,
As proudly rolling o'er the yellow sand,
Old ocean, like a lover, leaps to land;
And the blest wanderer, afoot in Devon,
Soars to the very vestibule of Heaven,
While the soft glamour of old legend plays
Across the lawns where good red cattle graze,
Till he begins to dream of days of old
When the old sea dogs crossed yon sea for gold,
And wives and mothers watched with faces grey
The vessels vanishing across the bay.
O land of milk and honey, past compare,
Where rain or mist or cloud floats ever fair,
Where the infatuate "goffer" saves his soul
And his fair fame by landing in a hole!
Where from the pebble ridge, the venturous boy
Springs to deep water with a shout of joy.
Where here and there, at ebbing of the tides,
Her bicycle the manly maid bestrides,
And where the ghost of old Salvation Yeo
Haunts happy hunting grounds—'tis Westward Ho!

Fairy Kuowe.

BOURNEMOUTH.

Once Bournemouth was a pretty country side,
Its gravelled beach washed by a gentle tide,
With sloping hills and hollows all around,
Where rural peace and quiet a refuge found;
And a small brook down through the valley strayed,
Then, winding to the sea, its tribute paid;
But now the spoiler with the axe and pick
Removes the pine to raise his house of brick;
And speculating harpies, far and near,
Like carrion crows, are congregated here
To buy the land, and then in plots re-let
For any use, if they a profit get,
While bars and drug shops make an open show,
And doctors, thick as waves, the streets o'erflow;
And muffled invalids—a horrid sight—
With cans at mouth and nose in broad daylight,
Inhaling heaven knows what, still crawl along,
And in the gardens constitute the throng;
Where begging bands unearthly discord make,
And scare all choristers from bush and brake.

Rex.

BOURNEMOUTH.

Let Kentish Margate, 'Arry's favourite haunt,
Its chalky cliffs and healthful breezes vaunt.
Let Brighton, Empress of the Sussex coast,
Make the Pavilion of great George its boast.
To wond'ring eyes let fair Torquay display,
In Devon's favoured shire, its glittering bay.
Let Yorkshire's sturdy sons their voices raise
With one accord in queenly Scarborough's praise.
Let Norfolk point to Cromer and declare
No sea-side place has such salubrious air.
On bright Llandudno, from the sheltered side,
Of Penmaenmawr, let Taffy gaze with pride;
Yet I to none of these, whene'er I yearn
For Neptune's freshening breath, my footsteps turn,
But seek another place in which I find
The various merits of them all combined.
That place is Bournemouth, you who read these lines
Go scent, if yet you've not, its fragrant pines.
Stroll through its gardens, and you'll own with me,
It heads the list of places by the sea.

Apemantus.

BALLINTOY.

Ye, who would from the madding crowd seek peace,
Go, find it where the surges never cease,
Tossing and breaking with resistless force,
Changeful, mysterious, in their restless course,
And frowned on by those headlands looming high,
That echo ocean's plaint and sea-mew's cry;
Where there is no parade, no band, no pier,
No smart "At Homes," where tea and gossip cheer,
No golfing—here the ardent golfer thinks,
What is a wat'ring-place without its links?—
A haven where our mother Nature reigns,
And charms her children who have hearts and brains
To love such scenes as here may meet their eyes.
Afar, distinct tho' distant, Scotland lies,
While in the foreground rugged Rathlin's rocks
Show a bold front, which at the storm fiend mocks;
Near by Fairhead stands, solemn and serene,
While to the north Bengore's dark head is seen.
Here all who seek for health and purest joy
Come ye, and find them both at Ballintoy.

Bel Demonio.

NORTH BERWICK.

Across the "island-studded Forth" her eyes
Look out, and see the distant mountains rise.
The Lomonds of the kingdom clear and plain,
Beyond them, softly blue the Ochil chain;
And far away, almost beyond our ken,
The misty peak of some great Highland Ben;
These in the distance—and then close at hand
The finest links that golfer could demand.
You'll meet great statesmen as you play your round,
Ministers and ex-Ministers abound:
And silent members here find language fit
When struggling to "Perfection" from the "Pit."
Now golfers have the rocks, the sea, the sand,
But no parade, thank goodness, and no band.
For those who from the present fain would pass
Two ancient castles, and the mighty Bass,
Have each their story of a bygone day,
What more? Grand air and good hotels, and they
Who climb the Law's steep cone, on looking down
Can say, "North Berwick's but nine hours from Town."

Caudlemas.

FOLKESTONE.

Delicious Folkestone, peaceful and serene,
Where canst thou, Albion, show a fairer scene?
Where everything unites to charm the eye,
Which can be pictured from earth, sea, or sky.
In every breath health enters with the breeze
Which gladly sweeps o'er thy delightful Lees,
And e'en the waves which gambol on the shor
Forget their turbulence and cease to roar.
Gaze eastward first, across the glist'ning sl
Where Dover's cliffs in majesty are seen,
Then turn to westward, far as eye can r
That speck is Littleston—that white it
Look southward now, behold the Boa
Connecting England with delirious F
On those white rocks you may perc
Flash brightly forth the warning, mesis.
The caution giving—could it on
"Beware the dangers of the si
Delicious Folkestone, peaceful
Thou only art of Seaside pla

SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.

I love thy deep rock pools in ocean's tide,
Where 'neath the dense sea-wrack their treasures hide;
Bright shells, and seaweed fair on glittering sand,
Bestrew around thy jewelled foam-flecked strand.
Old Huntcliffe's rocky steep I love to climb,
And view his image mirrored in the brine,
Or watch the sea with angry foam lash high
His flanks, and listen to the sea-birds' cry.
How often with delight I've roamed thy dells,
The moorland near, ablaze with heather-bells.
The bubbling burn that round thee lingering flows,
Lends many a charm to grace thy wooded shaws.
To Skelton's woods, Upleatham's dale we'll drive,
And greet the spots where Bruce and Mowbray strive.
To Topping's height we'll climb, view Cleveland's vale,
See wide-extended range of hill and dale.
Through lucent air mark Cambria's rugged hills,
While Nature's ev'ry sight our bosom thrills.
Romantic, lovely, fair, yet wild thy range,
How little known to fame is passing strange.

Culpepper.

STRATHPEFFER.

Dear Sir, or Madam, or dear Demoiselle,
If you desire pleasure and health as well,
Then to the north of Scotland you should go,
Where fair Strathpeffer's healing waters flow.
A sweeter spot one scarce could wish to see,
Set in the midst of beauteous scenery;
There's moor and mountain, loch and waterfall,
With purest Highland air blowing o'er all.

* * * * *

At seven o'clock the piper's music shrill
Rouses all up, their duties to fulfil.
At half-past seven the band begins to play;
Then fairly starts the business of the day.
Each hurries to the pump-room for a glass
Of mineral water, served by Highland lass.
Then follow baths of sulphur, pine or mud,
To cure disease and purify the blood.
Of course there's golf and "byke"—*ça va sans dire*,
Good lodgings, and hotels with ample cheer.
Just try the Northern Spa, and you'll depart
Sounder in body, and more light of heart.

Meg.

HERNE BAY.

To thee, Herne Bay, this tribute I present,
Thou fairest spot in that fair county—Kent.
Though other towns more visitors may boast,
Or show a grander sea, a wilder coast,
A larger theatre, a longer pier,
Hotels as big again, and twice as dear,
Within this breast they ne'er can find a part,
For, sweet Herne Bay, alone thou hold'st my heart.

Thou kind physician that ne'er yet denied
Thine aid to those who in thy care abide,
No nauseous draughts thy pharmacopœia holds,
No boluses, or pillules cast in moulds,
Thy only medicine—a tonic wine
Fresh from the sea, with redolence of brine,
A wholesome, balmy, ozone-laden breeze
That gives to weakness strength, to suffering ease.
This, this dost thou right royally dispense,
Pure air and sweet; then, as to the expense,
'Tis next to nothing; one needs not to be
A multi-millionaire to dwell with thee.

Wars.

ST. PAIR, NORMANDY.

A tiny village on the silver sea,
Nestling 'mid orchards in fair Normandie.
On golden sands the happy children play
By the blue waters of St. Pair's fair bay,
Remote from fashion with its noise and glare.
We bask in sunshine and in breezes fair.
We watch the peasants, picturesque and neat,
Selling their wares in the one village street.
We see them pass along at early morn
O'er dewy meads and thro' the ripening corn,
To the old church that stands with open door,
And welcomes all within its precincts hoar.
We wade for shrimps, pick shells of ev'ry hue,
We bathe in water warm, and clear, and blue;
We climb to where the Crucifix looks down
On mighty ocean and on tiny town—
Symbol we see on ev'ry headland grand,
Reared by the fishers in this simple land.
Long may St. Pair remain from fashion free—
A gem uncut beside the silver sea.

Ivy Leaves.

WEYMOUTH.

Bright Weymouth has a quiet charm to lure,
The tourist back to breathe its air so pure.
The swelling downs girding its beauteous bay,
Whose waters are now sapphire, emerald, grey.
The sun seems lovingly to stay and hide
'Mid cove and cliff, when throbs the coming tide.
Ascend the Nothe, the harbour waters flow
Where grim and rocky Portland looms below.
The breakwater—more west the Chesil beach,
A fine *coup-d'œil*, far as the eye can reach.
Seaside amusements of all kinds are found,
And the band's daily concerts are renowned.*
Sometimes the harbour is alive with ships,
The Channel Fleet anchors from foreign trips.
This year some Russian ships and German came,
And now the *Foudroyant* sounds Nelson's fame.
Besides the trips by char-a-banc and boat,
Regattas bring swift yachts that gaily float.
Fair curves the bay, in coloured lamps soft gleam,
Making nights lovely as a faëry dream.

Esperanza.

* Sir J. Stainer, staying at the Burdon, signified his high appreciation of the performances.

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER.

Across the "silver streak" we sail to where,
Above the waters, stands Boulogne-sur-mer:
A town which rose to fame in Cæsar's day,
And Roman legions thundered on their way;
But yet their memory is not all forgot,
Their glory hovers still around the spot.
E'en now its soil betokens classic ground,
As curious relics of the past are found.
The ramparts, too, with age and tempest grey,
Seem even grander, lovlier in decay,
As if they still might Time's stern power defy,
And give to mortals immortality.

How chang'd the scene! the sands are all alive
With varied specimens of Nature's hive;
The bright Casino lures by night and day
Vot'ries to music—victims to the "play;"
The *voitures* rattle o'er the stony streets;
Brightness and laughter all around one meets;
While yet, as though to warm the wav'ring soul,
The dome of Notre Dame still crowns the whole.

W. M.

CONWAY.

Sweet Conway! with thy treasures old and new,
What charming picture opens to my view,
As, standing on an elevated ground,
I saw the stretch of scenery around!
Beneath me, in the foreground, lies the town,
O'er which the turrets of a castle frown;
Lo! what a mass of house-tops from my perch
I see, all clustering around the church.
A lovely cooling valley lies to right,
Its woods and streamlets seeming to invite
The weary traveller to a quiet rest,
Among the verdure on its peaceful breast;
And, lifted heavenward in the distance grand,
The frontier mountains of Snodonnia stand.
To left, a lucid, shining river gleams,
With little skiffs a-sailing down the streams.
And from the rocks, above the glistening sands,
A great iron bridge, o'er sea far-stretching, stands.
Beyond, the waste of shimmering ocean lies,
Beyond, again, the golden sunset skies.

Rugeley.

MARGATE.

O good old Margate! loved as when a boy
I stepped light-hearted from thy classic hoy,
Hailing the welcome sand and cliffs with glee,
Books shelved, school shunted, and the rover free!
If since those days thou'st suffered a sea change,
'Twas but to give thy charms a wider range;
Still is in Thanet Island of the blest,
For youth full freedom, for age perfect rest.
Here toilers of the desk, slaves of the mart,
Lay down their burthen with a thankful heart;
Nor welcomed less the stranger in thy gates,
Who comes in garb unknown to fashion plates.
Whom slumber soothes not, pleasure cannot please,
For thee is healing in the Channel breeze;
Wouldst "join the mazy dance" Halls by the Sea
And Cecil-square have open doors for thee.
Do flowers delight thee? Blooms for all who will
The summer garden of the Cliftonville;
And best and purest boon beyond compare
Is Nature's anodyne—the Margate air!

Merle.

TENBY.

Tenby! Tenby! Ten times your praise I sing,
By ten twice told now boldly will I cling;
Ozone and sunshine so intoxicate;
Right 'gainst your foes I hurl my scorn and hate.
Brit! Brit! Brit-annia! rules the mighty main!
High mount, your fort, St. Cath'rine's! I there strain
My sense of vision till the ocean vast
O'erwhelms me; and then playfully I cast
My query net, and ask, "Who owns these shores
These portals of the beautiful, and doors
Of gladness?" But with boat to Manobier
Let's go. Fine castle this! Grand ruin here!
Impressions lasting. Turn me round and reach
Penally; and lo! what a stretch of beach
Old Tenby does possess. The day to clinch
We pass along to gully, Water-Winch.
Hast heard of caves right clear away from land?
Thither we speed, the boat with practised hand
Goes in, and awe and admiration rise
As revel we 'midst Tenby's sights and skies.

Stephanotis.

RAMSGATE.

Hard by the Goodwin Sands our Ramsgate lies,
Fair cynosure of most East-enders' eyes;
Hither they flock, yet how they live or sleep,
Would puzzle mortals, and make angels weep.
From morn to dewy eve the sands they haunt,
The married guzzle, and the single flaunt;
Babies in arms, in chaises, all in tears,
Are here in thousands to confound the ears;
The children swarm, while parasitic things
Crawl, bite, and hop in worse than Highland flings.
To Pegwell, Broadstairs, Margate, vans are full,
As up the hill the wretched horses pull;
The boys are crammed, one shilling each the trip,
Dear, too, at that, when hearts are near the lip;
Starved donkeys gallop to the murd'rous thwack;
Poor goats must strain and tug till sinews crack;
Preachers, pianos, niggers, pockets ease—
Seaside would be no seaside without these!
While pseudo-yachtsmen swagger on the pier,
Thanking their stars the foreman isn't here.

Infelix.

TORQUAY.

Nymph of the golden west, with sparkling crest,
Perched on a pearly throne, so fair and lone;
'Tis thine rich gifts to pass unto the mass,
Who seek for health and tone within thy zone.
Like to the morning star thou shin'st afar,
To grace with beauty's smile our sea-girt isle;
Whilst fairy zephyrs are to thy bright car
Bound prisoners, the while hearts to beguile.
See how yon boundless sea loves liberty,
Its feathered wavelets meet around thy feet,
With wealth of jewelry enseaming thee,
While Neptune both doth greet with kisses sweet.
Beloved of all art thou! and liv'st, I ween,
Of all our Spas just now the peerless queen.

Balaclava.

BRIGHTON.

When dancing sunbeams on the water play
And tip with gold the waves to herald day,
With dewy freshness shines the pebbly beach
As far as Worthing or the eye may reach.
At midday, when the sun has topp'd the main,
Behold the mimes that struggle here for gain!
The sweating crowds that (thank the Lord!) don't stay,
And think they've come to spend a happy day,
Whose dress accentuates their faces mean;
For rank vulgarity now reigns supreme.

But autumn comes, and what a change is here;
'Tis then that Fashion's brightest stars appear.
When fog once more envelopes all the town
The "Queen" deserves her justly-earned renown,
And, rightly favoured by the sun, displays
Her beauty heightened by the cheerful rays.
Here anxious lords, by Party cares oppress,
And witty democrats enjoy their rest.
All bless the day that first their eyes set sight on
The Empress-Queen of Watering-Places, Brighton!

Boris.

Descriptions have been also received from—Warrior Marden, Arch Gibbs, Pax, Sunbeam, St. Neiac, Chantry Owl, Dead Eye, Lichfield, K Best M.A., Theology, Dorset, Qu'Appelle, Viva, Francis, May, Stadium, Woking, Berrie, Ars, Taffy, Towzer, Yachtsman, T. T. B., Mallow, Bunny, Che Sara, Sara Dolfus, D. Courtlands, Charlwood, La Reine, Mumbo, W. W. S., Georgina, Nurse, and J. McGrigor Allan.

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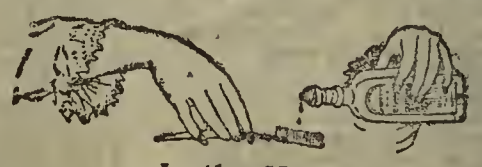

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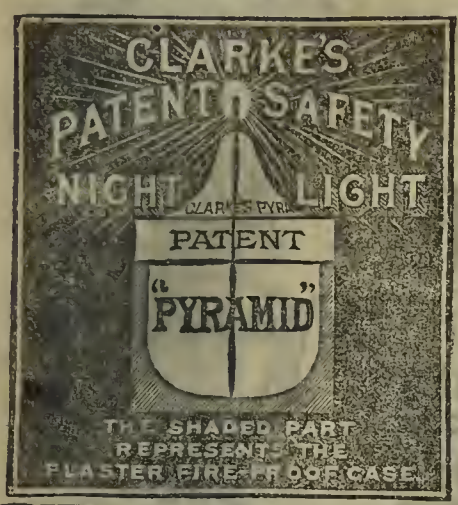

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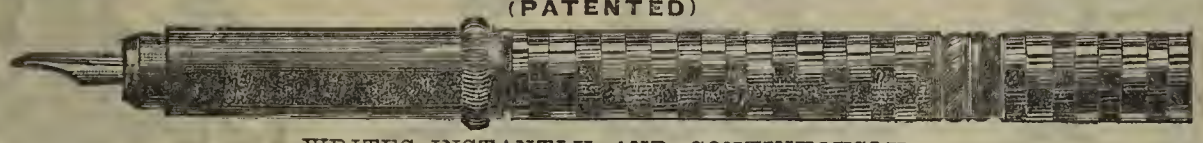

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to return to Windsor Castle from Balmoral on November 13 or 14, and on December 18 or 22 her Majesty will proceed to Osborne for two months.

A great deal of nonsense has appeared in the papers about Lord Salisbury's visit to Balmoral. He did not go as Minister in attendance, nor was he summoned in order "to discuss affairs with the Emperor of Russia." Whenever a Foreign Sovereign pays a visit to the Queen it is the invariable practice to invite the Prime Minister to Court to meet the guests as a matter of course.

The Prince of Wales, who comes to town to-morrow from Norwich, will be at Newmarket all next week, and also from the 26th until the 30th, when he goes to Sandringham. The week intervening between the Newmarket meeting will be spent at Wynyard Park, County Durham, when H.R.H. is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Londonderry, and the Princess and Princess Victoria are to meet him there on the 19th, coming from Balmoral.

During the first week in January the Prince and Princess are to pay a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland at Trentham Hall, Staffordshire. The Prince is to have a day's shooting in the Trentham coverts, and there will be a lawn meet of the North Staffordshire Foxhounds, the pack of which the Duke of Sutherland is Master. The Princess is to open a bazaar at Fenton, in aid of a local charity.

An imaginative "London Correspondent" states that the Prince of Wales won over £30,000 in bets and stakes last Thursday, and that the race was witnessed by one of the largest crowds ever seen at Newmarket. As a matter of fact, there was a remarkably meagre attendance, and the Prince's gains are represented by the value of the stake, *i.e.*, £8,990. H.R.H. had no bets on the race, and in order to have won the ridiculous sum mentioned it would have been necessary for him to risk more than £35,000, even supposing that any such sum could have been invested on Persimmon for the owner.

I see that a turf writer in the *Standard* predicts an unusually good entry for the Ascot Cup next year, on the ground that Persimmon is engaged for this event, and that "it may be expected that owners of good horses will esteem it an honour to contest this famous trophy with the Prince." If any considerable number of racing men are really so infatuated as to enter their horses for a race merely for the honour of running their animals simultaneously with one owned by the Prince of Wales, snobbishness is a more potent and widespread vice than I have hitherto imagined. But I quite admit that the opinion of the *Standard* on this point may be worth more than mine.

The Duke of Coburg, who has been staying for a fortnight at Bucharest with the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania, is to be at Darmstadt with the Duchess (who is at Rosenau, near Coburg) to meet the Emperor and Empress of Russia, after which he is going to Hinter-Riss, his beautiful domain in the Tyrol, for chamois shooting. The Duke is to arrive at Clarence House from Germany about November 16, and he will stay in England for a month. He is to visit the Queen at Windsor Castle and the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham, where he is to be a guest from November 28 until December 7.

I learn that the Duke of Connaught is to represent the Queen at the marriage of the Duc d'Orléans and the Archduchess Maria Dorothea, which is to take place at Vienna during the first week in November. The Duke and Duchess of Coburg are expected to be present at the wedding.

The Duke and Duchess of York are now settled for the winter at York Cottage, Sandringham, where they will receive a visit next month from the Duke and Duchess of Teck and Prince and Princess Adolphus. The Duke and Duchess of York will not be much at St. James's Palace next season, as they are to make Bushey Park their principal residence from Whitsuntide until the end of July. It will take a large sum to put

Bushey into proper repair, and the Office of Works are to complete their operations by the middle of May. As I have before said, it really does seem to me that the public ought not to be required to pay for the work at Bushey. The Duc de Nemours occupied this place by the Queen's "grace and favour" for forty-seven years, and his estate certainly should be liable for all the dilapidations.

No outlay troubles an Emperor of Russia, as he is not limited in his expenditure by a settled Civil List. Every rouble in the Imperial Treasury is supposed to be the Emperor's own property, and he draws on it *ad lib.*, besides his vast revenue from the estates, forests, and mines which pass with the Crown. During the Emperor's present tour his halts at Vienna, Breslau, and Paris are "Sovereign visits," and the Imperial gifts on leaving must be regulated by precedent. His visits to Bernstorff, Balmoral, Darmstadt, Coburg, and Schwerin are private, and therefore he can do as he pleases in the bestowal of presents and decorations. The gold and diamond snuff-boxes, which etiquette requires the Emperor to present to the chief officials of each Court he visits, are supposed to be worth £500 each.

If the Emperor of Russia failed to distinguish himself as a sportsman during his stay on Deeside, the Munshi Abdul Karim had a good day last Tuesday, when he went up the hill of Craig Gowan for a few hours, and returned in triumph with a roe deer, a hind, an immense fox, and two owls. It is not the usual practice to shoot hinds so early in the season, but the Munshi does not appreciate any such nice distinctions.

The Duke and Duchess of Teck are, the week after next, to be the guests of Mr. Arthur and Lady Clementina Walsh, at Warfield Park, Berkshire. On Wednesday, the 21st, the Duchess is to open an Art Exhibition at Bracknell.

I am sorry that a statement should have found its way into TRUTH a fortnight ago to the effect that the Duke of Cambridge was to pay a visit this month to the Duke of Grafton at Euston Hall. The announcement was manifestly erroneous, Euston Hall and the shooting being at the present time let to Mr. T. H. Pearson Gregory.

Lord Bagot's appointment as Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen, which has excited the fury of a number of Tory Peers, was made by her Majesty without consulting Lord Salisbury, in order to please Princess Louise. Lord Bagot was aide-de-camp to Lord Lorne in Canada, and some years ago Princess Louise induced the Queen to make him a Gentleman Usher, but he had to give up that post when he became a Peer.

Apropos of the Havre Consulship, I hear that President Faure expressed his desire to make Mr. Bernal, the late Consul, an officer of the Legion of Honour, and that the Foreign Office refused to allow the honour to be accepted. Why? On the face of it the refusal is gratuitously discourteous to M. Faure and the nation he represents, and churlish towards our own representative. Was it the work of Lord Salisbury, or of an officious underling?

Ireland is placed in a very peculiar position, at a time when Great Britain is full of effusive loyalty because the Queen has beaten the reigning record of all other British Sovereigns. Only twelve days of the longest reign in English history have been spent in Ireland by the Sovereign. Nearly thirty-five years have passed since her last visit to the country. The greater she is, and the more entirely worthy of the respect, affection, and praises of those over whom she reigns, the more poignant is the grievance that her Irish subjects have never been afforded the opportunity of knowing her. As if this were not enough, the Irish are generally accused of disloyalty, because they do not break forth into loyal effusiveness, which could be nothing but hypocritical on their part, under the circumstances. Surely the heart most hardened to Irish grievances must admit that there is here a legitimate grievance.

It is suggested that the grievance might be removed, and the record of the long reign made glorious for Ireland, as for the sister Kingdom, by the establishment of a Royal residence in the country. The time is favourable for this idea, and it would prove economical in the end, by lessening the acuteness of the Irish question, which in its acute phases becomes very expensive.

A third philosopher has favoured me with his theory touching the origin of the practice of walking backwards before Royalty. "I doubt not," he says, "that your correspondent is substantially correct in his conjecture that the practice originated among savage tribes; but I question whether it was prompted by a sense of decency. The truth I believe to be that the primitive Monarch, being sometimes of a hasty temper and often of a playful humour, was apt to take an undue advantage of his visitors when their backs were turned, and by keeping their faces towards him his subjects were in a better position to evade a parting compliment from the sovereign's toe or any missile which he might have handy." This theory is also plausible, but I must leave it to the learned to decide which side has the better claim to credit.

Mr. Froude's house at Salcombe, South Devon, is to be sold, and it is stated that Carlyle was often a guest there. As a matter of fact, Carlyle was never either at or anywhere near Salcombe in his life.

Bath House, Piccadilly, has again changed hands, for the third time during the last eight years. After the death of the late Lord Ashburton, Bath House (which is freehold) was sold to Mr. Henry Brassey, and when he died it was purchased by Baron Hirsch, whose executors have just disposed of the property to Mr. Wernher.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 920 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 919.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 919.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 929.

There was quite an exodus of Devonshire farmers last week, several well-known agriculturists having given up their holdings in the western county in order to take farms in Essex, Cambridgeshire, and Sussex. Two large farms on Lord Petre's estate, near Ingatestone, have been let to farmers who have for many years rented holdings in the neighbourhood of Exeter.

So far I have had no satisfactory response to the request I published a month ago for authentic information concerning the changes that are said to have been effected at Walmer Castle since Lord Salisbury became Lord Warden. It is true a local journal has expressed itself confident that "Lord Salisbury is not the man who would ruthlessly deprive the public of any privileges it has hitherto enjoyed, or prevent the patriotic from inspecting relics which are sacred to the nation;" but it is careful not to attempt a direct answer to such a specific question, for instance, as that relating to the Wellington room. Is this room still in the state in which it was some years ago decided to permanently preserve it; or has it been, contrary to the arrangement then made, wholly or partially dismantled, and utilised as an ordinary bedroom? I have heard various contradictory reports on the subject, and one of my correspondents is very confident that Lord Salisbury cannot have allowed the Wellington relics to be disturbed. But nobody seems to be in a position to speak with absolute certainty, for the simple reason that for some time past nobody outside the household has had an opportunity of seeing the room.

While this particular question as to the Iron Duke's room remains unsettled, my recent inquiry has brought me an interesting statement on another matter which has occasioned a good deal of talk in the neighbourhood. It is to the effect that soon after the appointment of the present Lord Warden five gardeners at the Castle were discharged, all of them being men who had been regularly employed by his Lordship's predecessors for many years past. One of the number was the head-gardener, a man who had worked at Walmer Castle—first under Lord Granville, and afterwards under the late Mr. W. H. Smith and Lord Dufferin—for a period of no less than thirty years. Another had been there for twenty-eight years, a third for twenty-five years, fourth (since re-engaged) for twenty years, and the fifth for nine years. With one exception, these men are not infirm or past their work, and there is naturally much speculation as to the reasons for such a wholesale dismissal of old servants. Walmer Castle is not, of course, on quite the same footing as a private residence, and it seems scarcely credible that Lord Salisbury can object to any burden which previous Lord Wardens have been willing to accept with that distinguished office. For my own part, indeed, I feel sure that he is not personally responsible for what has been done in his name. Then who is? Perhaps the correspondent who has so keenly interested himself in the defence of the Lord Warden in regard to the other matter will now turn his attention to this new question.

A fair correspondent asks to be allowed to plead the cause of the birds in the columns of TRUTH. She assures me that fashion has decreed that white plumes or ospreys are again to be generally worn through the coming winter, and she sends some verses of appeal to her fashionable sisters, which I have much pleasure in printing:—

A PLEA FOR THE BIRDS.

Does it never strike you, ladies,
As your plume-trimmed hats you buy,
That for each one of those feathers
Some maimed bird has had to die?
That for every spray-tipped bonnet
That so heedlessly you wear,
In an act of cruel slaughter
In effect you've had a share?

You may plead you didn't know it,
That, by Fashion's laws coerced,
You've unwittingly offended,
Have but thoughtless been at worst.
But, oh, surely now we tell you
What this feather craze implies,
It no longer will find favour
As it now does in your eyes.

When you know that birds are butchered,
By the thousand every spring,
Ere as yet their callow young ones
From the nest have taken wing;
When you know those helpless young ones,
Of their mother's care bereft,
To die slowly of starvation,
Are most mercilessly left;

When you know such cruel torture
Must too certainly be borne,
Ere the tufts prescribed by Fashion
Can on your new hats be worn;
Surely then, you, too, will join us,
Such a practice to deplore,
And will vow, for very pity,
You will feathers wear no more.

It is no great thing we ask you,
For still charming you would be
Though no heron's plume or osprey's
On your bonnets we could see;
But, indeed, if you continue
Still such plumage to esteem,
What has hitherto been thoughtless
Will intensely heartless seem.

Then your ears, we beg you, ladies,
To this prayer of ours incline,
And forthwith against a fashion
That is barbarous, combine.
Yes, speak out, as you are women,
And the welcome news impart—
Birds no longer shall be butchered
That your bonnets may be smart!

Mr. Allen, the proprietor of Astor House Hotel, New York, has been interviewed on the subject of the recent paragraph in TRUTH about the loss of an English traveller's luggage at that establishment. It may be remembered that the traveller in question alleged that Mr. Allen had promised to pay him 60 dols. for the loss he had sustained, and that, not being able to obtain the money, he recounted the circumstances to me, offering to present the money to the TRUTH Toy Fund if I could

WATER SUPPLY FOR MANSIONS, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to ALFRED WILLIAMS & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

induce Mr. Allen to pay up. Mr. Allen's version of the affair is thus given in the *New York Press* :—

About a year ago an Englishman was here for one night, paying 1.50 dols. for his room. When he went away he left a small satchel in the store-room. Several months afterwards he returned and got it. When he opened it he raised a howl that goods worth 60 dols. had been stolen from it.

Unless the contents were diamonds or gold bricks, the satchel was too small to hold anything worth that much. There was no evidence that the satchel had been tampered with, and all there was to prove the loss was the Englishman's word, and I did not believe him. At any rate, if I had wanted to, I could have charged him storage that would have equalled the amount he claimed. I haven't paid a cent, and I do not intend to, no matter how many free copies of London Truth I receive.

Mr. Allen is apparently afflicted with a defective memory. I have communicated with the owner of the luggage respecting the above statement, and he replies that there is not a word of truth in it, with the exception of the statement that he stayed at the hotel one night, and paid 1.50 dols. for his room. His visit took place not a year ago, but on January 12 last. He left in the store-room, not a "small satchel," but (1) a troopship trunk measuring 2 ft. 6 in. long by 2 ft. by 1 ft.; (2) a large-sized Gladstone bag measuring 24 in. by 15 in.; (3) a suit case, the measure of which he is unable to give at the moment, but which was of substantial size. He did not return "several months afterwards," but at the end of twenty-two days, *i.e.*, on February 4. He discovered then, as stated in my original reference to the matter on July 9, that both the Gladstone bag and the suit case had been cut open, and everything of value abstracted. The proprietor did not attempt to suggest, as he does now, that there was no foundation for the complaint, but asked his customer to estimate the amount of his loss, and although the gentleman was not able to see him again before he sailed for England on the following morning, he received from the hotel clerk an assurance that the amount claimed, 60 dols., should be paid. This gentleman is not now asking for the money for himself, but is merely insisting on his claim as a matter of principle, and there cannot be the slightest ground for questioning his veracity. I give Mr. Allen the benefit of the doubt as to his memory having played him false; but now that he has been plainly reminded of the full details of the occurrence, and his own inaccuracy on specific portions of his statements clearly proved, I trust he will put the matter right by paying over the money to the Truth Toy Fund, as he has been authorised to do. If he does not, I fear that English travellers may form not unreasonable prejudices against his hotel in future.

Leech pictured the Alderman at the Guildhall banquet addressing his lady friends with: "Now, gals, I've quite done. Can I get you anything?" But it would seem that even this exhibition of gallantry was out-done at the late banquet in the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, in connection with the meeting of the British Association. Some two hundred hospital nurses were paraded on this occasion to grace the feast; and I have it on the authority of one of them that, after having been in attendance for about four hours, they were dismissed without being offered so much as a sandwich!

Two serious complaints have been addressed to me by passengers who have just completed a co-operative educational yachting tour in the *Midnight Sun*, under the auspices of Messrs. Lunn & Perowne. Although I have had occasion to criticise Messrs. Lunn & Perowne's agency in connection with the Grindelwald Conference, I do not wish to take any hostile attitude towards them in the legitimate branches of their business; but it really seems to me that the allegations of these passengers call for notice. By their contract they were entitled to complete their voyage to Tilbury, but on arrival at Newcastle the work of coaling and of caulking the decks was taken in hand, with the result, as every one who knows anything about ships can judge for himself, that life was rendered intolerable for those passengers who remained on board. At Tilbury, notwithstanding that all the luggage had been passed by the Customs at Newcastle, a second examination took place, which detained the passengers for about three hours; in addition to which harbour dues of some kind were charged on landing, one passenger stating that she had to pay 7s. 6d. under this head, in addition to 4s. for porterage. Other complaints are also made about the price of liquors, the intolerable smells on board, and the scarcity of fresh water. To put it in the mildest way, it seems to be a case where explanation and apology, if not more substantial reparation, are due from the managers of the cruise.

Here is a new development of the cycle craze, which will come as a surprise to many. Broadcast over the country the worship of the wheel has left a golden shower behind it to benefit the populations of manufacturing towns; but now, according to statements which have not been contradicted, it has brought in grist to the mill of many an aristocratic dame and society beauty. In fact, it is confidentally asserted that astute manufacturers have employed high-born ladies to sell their machines on "the usual commission." I don't know that there is any crime in turning bag-man—I mean bag-woman—as a means of supplementing one's income, but, all the same, it jars a little upon one's susceptibilities to think that the gushing praises of a particular "bike" may have their origin in profit—perhaps at the expense of a little fibbing.

For the benefit of cyclists who are off to the Riviera for the winter, I have been asked to bring to their notice the advantages that may be gained by joining the "Touring Club de France," the headquarters of which are at 5, Rue Coq-Héron, Paris. This club confers on its members most of the advantages accorded to the members of the English Cyclists' Touring Club, with the addition of the right of free entry of machines into both France and Italy upon the simple presentation of the owner's card of identification at the Custom House — a privilege that will be regarded by many as alone worth the five francs subscription. English cyclists desirous of joining should address themselves to one of the *délégués* of the club in

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

this country, among whom are Mr. E. Freshfield, jun., 5, Bank-buildings, E.C., and Mr. C. F. Just, 17, Victoria-street, S.W.

Talking of bicycles, an alarming interpretation of the prevailing fashion was put forward the other day by the Rev. W. Robinson, of Christ Church, Plymouth. This reverend gentleman, like a good many before him, has come to the conclusion that the end of the world is at hand, and he bases this belief on a declaration of the prophet Daniel, that in the last time "many shall run to and fro on the earth." The prophet, it seems, when he wrote these words, had "bikes" in his eye, though why he should have spoken of men running to and fro on the earth when he really meant that they would go about on wheels, the interpreter of the prophecy does not explain. Those who are in no hurry for the Day of Judgment may console themselves with the reflection that, as the world has survived the invention of railways, which has certainly caused more running to and fro on the earth than anything else, it may also possibly survive the invention of "bikes." On the other hand, if the end of all things is drawing near, it will be a consolation to cyclists to know that wheeling is to be one of the features of the Millennium.

It is a strange thing to find people who have long resided in a particular West Indian island differing diametrically as to the sanitary condition of the place. The other day I gave, on the authority of a medical gentleman thoroughly familiar with the place, some unfavourable views on the healthiness of St. Kitts and Antigua. I was at once begged, from various quarters, to point out that St. Kitt's and Antigua do not, in this respect, represent the West Indies generally; and now I have a gentleman who has passed thirty-five years of his life in St. Kitts—thirty-three of them within a mile of Basseterre—assuring me that "this beautiful little town is one of the best kept and most clean throughout the West Indies." He enlarges on his reasons for this opinion, and states his belief that the four recent cases of yellow fever referred to by my first informant all arose out of one, which was imported, and not home-bred. It is perfectly impossible to arrive at any conclusion in the face of this conflict of evidence, and I can only pronounce, in the Scotch phrase, that the charge against St. Kitts is "not proven."

Lovers of animals are perpetually writing about the troubles and sufferings of the homeless cat in London, especially during the summer and autumn, when many unfortunate animals are left to live as they can while their owners are temporarily absent from town. A lady correspondent now complains that in St. John's Wood and the neighbourhood the usual army of these wandering and starving creatures has been largely augmented through the conduct of many of the inhabitants whose houses are being demolished for the new railway line, and whose cats have been abandoned to roam about the district, mangy and pitiable objects. If people cannot take the harmless necessary pussy away when they move, they might at least have the mercy to destroy her.

The following letter from "An Old Golfer" respecting the autumn meeting of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club will doubtless prove of interest to my golfing readers:—

The autumn meeting of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club last week was favoured by the first decent weather we have had in Scotland for months; from Monday onwards it was fine. The place was as full as ever, and though the gathering was not as cosmopolitan or representative as on some previous occasions—notably two years ago, when Mr. A. J. Balfour became captain of the club—yet many well-known people and not a few famous golfers came to grace the occasion. The businss meeting of the club on Tuesday was unusually important and well attended, and it is hoped that the result of it will be the formation of a joint committee of eight great clubs, to legislate on matters pertaining to the game. The lottery, held the same evening in the club, was a conspicuous success, Mr. Kermack proving himself an ideal auctioneer; while the comparative uniformity of the prices obtained, even by so persuasive a salesman, was the highest possible compliment to the handicapping of the committee. Wednesday—the medal day—was fine and bright, but the strong south-west wind interfered a good deal with the play, especially the putting. Sixty-nine couples played the medal round, and Mr. Leslie Balfour-Melville's score of 82—a very creditable one considering the weather—was unbeaten, Mr. Laidlay being nearest him with 83. The win was a most popular one.

The new picture called "Medal Day at St. Andrews," which will probably be bought by the Club, was on view all day in the reading-room, and was the subject of much comment. It shows forty or fifty figures—all portraits, most of them excellent, of more or less well-known members—ranged in various groups and characteristic attitudes in front of the club-house, while in the foreground Tom Morris is "tee-ing" a ball for Mr. A. J. Balfour. But, in spite of the almost startling clearness of the picture as a whole, and the striking accuracy of most of the portraits, it was criticised severely—perhaps too much so. One prominent figure in it undoubtedly represents a golfing celebrity who is not a member of the Club; the size of the club-house, shown as a background, is much exaggerated; and the fact that no female figures appear in the groups counteracts the impression of realism which the picture otherwise imparts—for never at any time on Medal Day is the terrace in front of the Club deserted by ladies. Still, the picture is a fine one, and deserves to hang—as no doubt it will—in the big club-room for which it was probably intended.

The dinner on Wednesday evening was a great success; it was held in the club house instead of elsewhere (as was the case last year) and it was exceptionally pleasant and amusing. Captain Baird Hay of Belton, the new Captain, spoke feelingly and well, and Mr. Oswald (the retiring Captain) who undoubtedly did good service during his year of office, succeeded admirably in effacing any unpleasant impression which may have remained of the dinner the year before. No autumn meeting at St. Andrews is complete without at least one exhibition game of billiards from Captain Wolfe Murray, and on Wednesday night he was at his best.

The advertisement of Mr. Andrew Lang's forthcoming biography of John Gibson Lockhart states that the work will contain correspondence with certain friends, but the names of Mr. Croker and Mr. Murray do not appear in this list. Lockhart and Croker wrote to each other regularly for more than a quarter of a century, and some idea of the interest and importance of their correspondence may be gathered from a few letters published in "The Croker Papers," A biography of Lockhart without his pungent correspondence with Croker and with the successive proprietors of the *Quarterly Review*, would certainly be a publication analogous to the play of "Hamlet" with the part of the Prince omitted.

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Winter Season, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

WILLIAM MORRIS:
DIED OCTOBER 3, 1896.

A many-sided artist he, a paradox, in sooth;
Rough and yet gentle, stern, yet kind, cultured and yet uncouth;
A sturdy Individualist in every act and deed,
And yet a staunch proclaimer of the Socialistic creed.

The misty days when might was right, and law a warrior's whim,
The lurid age of fire and sword, seemed glorious days to him;
And yet he strove to bring the world 'neath Socialism's sway,
And steep our many-coloured life in dull, depressing grey.

What as an artist he conceived, as politician he
Resolved, with enigmatic will, full soon should cease to be;
And did his best to overwhelm and lay in ruins drear
That radiant Palace of the Arts he'd worked so hard to rear.

A dreamer of Utopian dreams, out of his due time born,
There was but little that he touched that he did not adorn;
And we, remembering all he wrought life's beauty to enhance,
May surely at the faults he had with fitting lenience glance.

Rarely have such conflicting views been mingled in one mind,
But rarely were more varied gifts in one strong brain combined;
So let us praise him, now he's gone—as one sincerely can—
As Poet, Craftsman, Artist, and most thorough Englishman!

I hear that Mr. Brown, who has been instrumental in bringing to light so many papers from the Venetian archives which have given us an insight into matters connected with our own history, has recently come across a series of familiar letters written by a Venetian residing in London during the reign of Queen Elizabeth to his family, in which the every-day life of the Court is portrayed. I trust that they will soon be published.

Our sons and daughters have just been returning to school after the holidays, which explains, I suppose, the following plaintive epistle found in my letter-box last week:—

> Why is it necessary that children at public schools should require to take large hampers of food, jams, and cakes back with them after the holidays, and have such things sent to them during the term? Also, why should boys require to buy supplementary food for breakfast, &c., as seems almost invariably the case? This is a crying grievance, and ought to be inquired into, as the expense of board, &c., is quite high enough to justify parents in expecting their children to be well fed, which almost all boys in various schools agree is not the case.

It may be a crying grievance, but to my certain knowledge it has been crying ever since I went to school myself. It probably began when the first boy went to school, and I expect it will continue until the last one comes home. My answer to my correspondent's query would be simply that large hampers of more or less unwholesome food are *not* necessary to boys, either when they return to school after the holidays, or at any other time, and that it is entirely the fault of parents that a custom has grown up of supplying them from home with these delicacies. I am certainly not going to contend that jam and cakes, not to mention "relishes" at the breakfast table, are necessary articles of diet which ought to be included in the bill of fare of every school; and if fond mothers want their boys to enjoy such luxuries, it is far better that they should supply them at their own discretion. As to all boys "agreeing" that they are insufficiently fed at school, the mere fact that they do all agree on this point, while scarcely any of them ever show any visible signs of being under-fed, seems to me to prove that those parents who pay any attention to their lamentations are very foolish.

Of course, the remark in last week's TRUTH, that "clergymen who have entered the Church through theological colleges are wretched scholars as a rule," was meant to apply to those clerics who have not graduated elsewhere before entering such colleges. I trust that no one would read the remark in any other sense, but I have had a letter from Oxford suggesting that the words as they stand may convey a false impression to people who do not understand all the circumstances, and I therefore hasten to add this explanation. As I suppose nearly every one knows, a very large number of University graduates, many of them men who have gained the highest honours, go through a course at a theological college before ordination, and some of the theological colleges only admit University graduates.

Although the Trustees of the Campbell College, Belfast, still maintain a dogged silence in regard to the grave charges which have been made against the management of the College, the Principal (Mr. James A. M'Neill) has deemed it expedient to say something on the subject. I am sorry that I cannot congratulate Mr. M'Neill upon either the manner or the matter of his statement. He has issued it in the form of a circular addressed to the parents of boys at the school just before the commencement of the present term. The circular begins with the remark that "it recently became necessary to make some changes in the teaching staff." This is, to say the least, a somewhat disingenuous allusion to the fact that the three senior house-masters and four assistant masters had resigned rather than be parties any longer to the Principal's methods of carrying on the work of the school. Mr. M'Neill next refers to the "high moral character" of the new teachers in words containing an innuendo against the late masters, which he may possibly be called upon to retract or substantiate in a court of law. Proceeding to deal with a statement which the four assistant masters circulated respecting their resignation, Mr. M'Neill says:—

> I think it right to let you know that the four masters who have been named in the statement I have referred to only sent in their resignations after an assurance had been sought for from me that they would be retained on the staff after the holidays, and it was only when I could not see my way to do so, looking to the best interests of the school, that they resigned.

All the gentlemen concerned deny the accuracy of this version of the affair. They affirm, on the contrary, that they jointly resolved to resign for the reason I have indicated above, and that their resignations were in every respect spontaneous and unconditional.

Mr. M'Neill goes on to give an account of the resignation of the three senior House-Masters which is equally calculated to convey an erroneous impression of the circumstances. He adds :—

> I have endeavoured, under very painful and trying circumstances and much provocation, to part with the services of these masters in a way that would tend to do them least injury, but the persistency with which some persons, desirous only of injuring this College, have circulated misleading and unfounded statements, have (*sic*) convinced me that my duty to the College requires that I should make to the parents of our pupils the foregoing statement.

It is only in these vague terms that Mr. M'Neill notices the serious statements which the late senior masters published in a pamphlet when they severed their connection with the College last May. In justification of their own action, they described in detail the system on which the Principal conducts the school and the difficulties to which it has led, and the only conclusion which can be drawn from their statements is, that Mr. M'Neill, however well-meaning he may be, is entirely lacking in the experience, tact, and judgment which are required for the successful management of a large public school—in other words, that the rest of his qualifications for the office into which he was pitchforked by the trustees, are on a par with his grammar. The allegations in question are too definite, and in view of the position of the College too important to the public, to be curtly dismissed with a general contradiction by the party whose competence is impugned.

The extraordinary falling off in the number of pupils at the College affords in itself conclusive evidence of the loss of public confidence in the administration of the College, though, if necessary, other facts could be mentioned. Last Christmas there were 280 boys at the school. When the seven masters resigned, the number was reduced to 210; and it has now fallen to 154, of whom forty are scholars. It is said that one of the three trustees is fully alive to the gravity of the situation. Cannot this gentleman do something to arouse his colleagues to a sense of their responsibilities? If that is not possible, cannot the intervention of some superior authority be secured to put an end to a state of things which is being attended with such disastrous consequences to the most richly endowed public school in Ireland?

An event of immense significance in ecclesiastical history took place last week without being noticed by the London Press. Two important denominations in Scotland, the Congregational Union and the Evangelical Union, have taken a practical step towards the much-talked-of "Reunion of the Churches" by joining their forces. This step has been contemplated for many years, and even now has only been accomplished with some opposition from a section of irreconcilables in both Churches. But the amalgamation has been agreed to, although it will not formally take effect until January next. After this it should not be very difficult to arrange a union with all the Presbyterian churches in Scotland, except, perhaps, the Established Church, and even that could be accomplished by disestablishment. English clerics, who are continually talking about "reunion," and doing their best to make it impossible, should take note of this object-lesson.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is to preach in St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday, the 21st, at the annual festival service of the Guild of St. Luke. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will attend in State.

The parishioners of Kingswood (Wotton-under-Edge) are about to choose a new Rector in the place of the late Rev. J. F. Young, who held the living for more than thirty years. There are upwards of 200 candidates, although the value of the benefice is under £200 a year. This living has been in the gift of the parishioners since the reign of Charles II., and the deed which conveyed the patronage to them was drawn up by Sir Matthew Hale.

Last week the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Benson left Dublin for the North of Ireland, on a round of visits and sight-seeing. They stayed with Lord Belmore, where there was a party invited to meet them, and with Lord Macnaghten. The residence of the latter is in a wild situation, on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic, and not far from the Giant's Causeway and the flourishing tourist resort, Portrush. The Archbishop visited Londonderry and the places of historic interest connected with the siege for which it is celebrated.

The Canonry in Ripon Cathedral which became vacant several months ago by the death of Archdeacon Bardsley has not been filled up by the Bishop until the very last moment, for some reason or other. The stall has been given to Archdeacon Danks, who will presumably resign the rectory of Richmond, as his emoluments from his other preferments now amount to £700 a year. Archdeacon Danks went into residence at Ripon on Thursday, and he will be on duty there until January 1, so that his large parish will be left to the care of his curates for three months.

I am reminded by a local reader of TRUTH that the late Archdeacon Favell was appointed to the Archdeaconry of Sheffield prior to the appointment of the present Vicar to his living. It is therefore not true that the Archdeaconry was given by way of making amends to Mr. Favell for the conduct of the Simeon Trustees in passing him over. What is more probable is that in appointing Mr. Favell to the Archdeaconry the Archbishop gave a hint to the Trustees of the direction in which he thought their patronage might be most suitably bestowed, and in Sheffield the opinion is held that this step defeated its own object by putting up the backs of the Trustees, and leading them to select a candidate of their own.

The Primus of the Scottish Church has responded to the memorial, noticed in last week's TRUTH, on the appointment of the Rev. A. C. Laughlin as a member of

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

the Foreign Missions Board; and the reply is a truly edifying performance. The Primus first took refuge in the contention that as Mr. Laughlin had been appointed to an important mission charge in Glasgow, the Board were quite justified in electing him a member; and recommended the Glasgow memorialists to leave the matter in the hands of their Bishop. It was pointed out in reply to this that Mr. Laughlin was elected to the Foreign Missions Board three months before his appointment to the Glasgow Mission; whereupon the Lord Primus acknowledged his error, but professed his inability to interfere. The Bishop of Glasgow has already satisfied Glasgow church people that it is hopeless to appeal to him in this matter. Episcopacy, in fact, seems to be made of much the same stuff both in Scotland and England.

The death of Dr. Cazenove, who had been for eighteen years the Sub-dean and Chancellor of Edinburgh Cathedral, is much regretted in Scotland. Dr. Cazenove, whose career at Oxford was highly distinguished, was successively Vice-Provost and Provost of the Cumbrae Theological College for twenty-two years. He was decidedly the most distinguished divine in the Scottish Episcopal Church after the death of Bishop Wordsworth. He was an admirable preacher, writer, and speaker, a fine scholar, and a man of remarkably wide culture. He was Select Preacher at both Oxford and Cambridge.

A Yorkshire reader has been at the pains to send me a programme of an entertainment provided for the Bedale Church Choir, in which he seems to think there is something unbecoming; but, unless he means to suggest that those who sing in church on Sundays ought not to enjoy a supper, concert, and theatricals during the week—which I should be sorry to say myself—I don't quite see what he finds fault with. The only point that strikes me in the programme is the following comical announcement:—

> PRICES:—Tea, Reserved Seats at Entertainment, and *First Sitting at Supper 2s. 6d.* Tea, Second Seats at Entertainment, and *Second Sitting at Supper, 1s. 6d.*

Does the "second sitting at supper" pay less for having to wait, or for taking its chance of finding anything to eat?

In reference to my recent paragraphs concerning the Rev. Evan Jenkins, the *Derbyshire Times* confirms the statement that this cleric was for a considerable period in charge of the Parish of Wingerworth. "It is only fair to the Bishop of Southwell to state," adds my contemporary, "that he refused to license the said clergyman to Wingerworth, and that he was retained at Wingerworth in opposition to the Bishop's desires and in strict variance with the opinions of the churchwardens of the parish. His employment there was a grave scandal." Why, then, was he allowed to remain? Either the Bishop or the churchwardens could have prevented him from officiating if they had insisted upon enforcing the powers they possess, and the fact that they were conscious of the gravity of the scandal only makes it the more astounding that the man's engagement in the parish should have been tolerated so long.

It is gratifying to learn that the Rev. Mr. Taylor, curate of St. John's, Stoneygate, Leicester, has been effectively rebuked from his own pulpit for the narrow-minded and uncharitable sermon in which he advocated the boycotting of the services in connection with the meeting of the Congregational Union, and warned his flock that to enter a Nonconformist place of worship was a sin in the eyes of God and the Established Church. The next preacher from the same pulpit was, it seems, the Rev. J. Went, and this gentleman showed in the most unmistakable way his disapproval of Mr. Taylor's bigoted utterances. Not only did he do this in his discourse, but he took the first opportunity of going to a service in a neighbouring Congregational chapel, and the two churchwardens of St. John's also attended. It is to be hoped that the Reverend Taylor will profit by Mr. Went's precepts and example.

The following announcement in the *Belfast News Letter* conveys a novel and praiseworthy idea. I would suggest that if, whenever sermons were preached, collections were made on behalf of the sufferers, we should hear far fewer complaints about the emptiness of churches:—

> The Rev. Dr. Lynd will (D.V.) preach on the crisis in Armenia on to-morrow evening. Service at seven o'clock. *Collection on behalf of the sufferers at both services.*

A benevolent reader of TRUTH, having received from John James Jones particulars of Beach Rocks Home, at Sandgate, and an application form for the admission of a patient, tells me that he has been good enough to fill up this form with an application for a bed for the Editor of TRUTH. This is very kind of him, and I have no doubt that John James Jones will appreciate the joke. If I should ever want a bed at a convalescent home, however—which, I am thankful to say, I do not at present—there are many reasons why I should not select John James Jones's establishment for the purpose. For one thing, I should not feel altogether happy about the treatment I might receive under John James's roof; and for another, John James is by all accounts doing so well at Sandgate that I should be sorry to be numbered among those out of whom he makes such a good thing. For the latter reason, I should certainly not send any patient to Beach Rocks myself, so long as this pretended charity remains an instrument for the glorification of John James Jones.

I have received the following amounts towards this year's Toy Fund:—

B. S., 10s.; an Irish Girl, £2; Mrs. E. B., £2. 2s. I have also received a doll and scrap-book from Miss Potter, of Pau, France.

SUFFERERS from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprudel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and INGRAM & ROYLE, LTD., 52, Farringdon-street.

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, HARROGATE.—Finest position, facing the Stray. Redecorated and sumptuously refurnished. New management. Excellent stabling. Electric light throughout.

THE PICCADILLY ARIEL.

Where the Guards serve, there serve I.
Within th' Ashanti ring I lie,
There I couch and keep my eye
Where brevets, not where bullets fly,
After honours merrily!
Rapidly, rapidly shall I now soar
Over the hinges that swing the back door.

From a Stores price-list which has been brought under my notice, I learn that a General's superfine scarlet tunic costs £20. 4s., while the dress jacket of a second lieutenant in the Horse Artillery costs £23. 15s. 6d. If I ordered one of my clerks to appear before me in a garment costing about 20 per cent. more than my own Sunday clothes, I should at least think it incumbent upon me to apportion his salary accordingly. On the same principle I would suggest to the Commander-in-Chief that he should either cause the dress jackets of second lieutenants R.H.A. to be cheapened, or raise their pay to about 20 per cent. above that of a General. If the second lieutenants are consulted in the matter they will probably prefer the latter alternative.

The Depot of the Essex Regiment at Warley seems to furnish some good instances of the limpet-like manner in which some men manage to stick to their berths in these places. The sergeant-major, if I mistake not, has hardly done any service worth speaking of outside the Depot, and the story goes that his only foreign Service consists in his having sailed to India in the last troop-ship of one season, and returned by the first in the next. The Depot quartermaster-sergeant has also passed nearly the whole of his military career within the Depot, and has managed to gain—much to his credit, so far as it goes—a medal for long service and good conduct. There are one or two other men who seem to have put in an equal amount of Depot service. The great objection to this sort of thing seems to me to be that it must place the Depot completely out of touch with regimental manners, customs, and traditions. An establishment officered largely by fossils who have seen nothing of service beyond their own little circle, can be of very little value as a training-school for recruits. It is also highly probably that a sergeant-major who has seen practically nothing of regimental life will get on very badly with N.C.O.s joining the Depot from the Line battalions. Of this, I believe, proofs could be found at Warley.

A deplorable amount of crime has lately occurred in the 2nd Battalion Worcester Regiment, at Malta. Such offences as striking N.C.O.s, using insubordinate language, and destroying rifles, have been of almost daily occurrence, and at least one case has occurred of a man using obscene and insulting language to the C.O. in the orderly room. The General recently told the men through the C.O. that they were a disgrace to the Service, and apparently the battalion is in little short of a state of mutiny.

The cause of this state of things is not far to seek. On the arrival of the battalion in Malta in November, 1895, it was quartered in the Isola Gate Barracks, admittedly the worst in the island. It is the usual thing to move a regiment from these barracks as soon as an opportunity occurs, and it was expected that when the King's Royal Rifles vacated the barracks at Intarfa about two months ago, the Worcestershire Regiment would have been moved in. This expectation was disappointed, apparently in deference to the wishes of the C.O. and other officers, who objected to move because the Intarfa Barracks, although the best in Malta, are some miles distant from Valletta. It seems to be the story of the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment and the Portsdown Forts over again. The rank and file have signified their resentment by comporting themselves in the manner above described. This conduct is indefensible, but equally indefensible is that of the C.O. and officers in condemning the men to remain in their present quarters, and that of the General in deferring to their wishes. The battalion is now in such a demoralised state that the only chance of restoring discipline is to bring the men together in one barracks, under the immediate eye of their officers, instead of keeping them in a series of detached buildings. If some step of this kind is not taken, things are likely to go from bad to worse.

In reference to the assertion that on the conviction of an N.C.O. by court-martial, reduction is the mildest punishment which the court can impose, another military correspondent writes me that "though this opinion is very widely held, it is quite unfounded." In support of this contention he refers me to sections 19, 44, and 138 (3) and (4), of the Army Act, and it appears to me that he has the law on his side. Under these provisions court-martials seem to have the power to impose fines and stoppages of pay, and so far from reduction being the lightest sentence which could be awarded, either in the case to which I referred or any other, it appears that the court could order as little as the stoppage of a single day's deferred pay; in other words, a forfeiture of 2d. on the prisoner's discharge from the Service—about as near an approach to a nominal punishment as could well be devised.

The latest offence against military discipline and good order to which I have been introduced is that of yawning on parade. For this crime a man in the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment was lately called to account, and punished by being sent to join a squad of evil-doers, who were being punished for dirtiness by having to clean the equipment of men who were in hospital. When I have seen our friend Tommy Atkins being inspected on parade, and comporting himself as much like a wooden image as possible, while an officer looks into the condition of his buttons, the way he has brushed his hair, and other details of this description, I have often wondered what would happen if he were to sneeze at the critical moment. Now I know. It may be said that yawning is a matter more easily kept under control than sneezing. But I am not so sure about this. I am not always able to control it myself.

I understand that it is the practice in the Cork District for the canteen profits, which are divided every quarter, to be carried by the Commanding Officers to the regimental funds. This arrangement does not meet with

approval in the regiments so treated, and it is easy to understand the feeling. The regimental funds are administered at the discretion of the Commanding Officers, and the men are as a rule quite in the dark as to how the money is expended, and how far they benefit by the expenditure. The proper way to deal with all canteen profits is to carry them to the canteen fund, where the men can get the direct benefit from them, and see for themselves how the money is applied. I do not mean to suggest that the discretion of Commanding Officers in the administration of regimental funds is not, in the majority of cases, well exercised, but human beings occasionally lack discretion, and C.O.s are human beings.

Reference was recently made in TRUTH to some of the grievances of the men employed as draughtsmen at Chatham Dockyard. Apparently what was then said applies equally to Devonport, where the objectionable system of employing men permanently on the footing of temporary or acting draughtsmen is in full swing. It is one of the grievances of the men employed in this way that out of their exiguous pay they have to furnish themselves with pens, drawing pins, blackleads, and all the paraphernalia of their craft; and this state of things has recently culminated in their being called upon to buy their own Indian ink. It appears that a meagre supply of Indian ink was drawn last June, but owing to the heavy work that has been going on lately, the stock only lasted about three months, and a notification has now been issued that no more can be allowed, and that the men will have to furnish themselves with Indian ink for the rest of the year. This kind of cheese-paring passes, I suppose, at Whitehall for economy; but considering that My Lords manage to spend some nineteen or twenty millions per annum upon the Navy, and that their expenditure is marked on all points by muddling and extravagance, their conduct in calling upon underpaid men at the bottom of the Service to supply the country out of their own pockets with a few shillings' worth of Indian ink will strike most people as the meanest and most contemptible sweating.

I would advise the Admiralty to look at home, and see if they cannot do something to curtail the expenditure on ink, pens, and paper in their own offices. A pretty sensation would be caused in and around Whitehall if all heads and employees in Government Departments were required to supply their own writing materials. This country spent last year on stationery for Government purposes a little trifle of £627,337, and everybody knows that a substantial portion of this sum was utilised for the private purposes of Government officials. And yet here we have a poor devil employed in a draughtsman's office at Chatham or Devonport, at a few shillings a week, ordered to supply the office for eight months with Indian ink at his own expense!

A tradesman at Cape Town poured into my ear the other day a somewhat formidable indictment of the Cape Shipping Companies, on the ground of the excessive freights charged for merchandise between England and the Colony. I have made some inquiries into this matter, and although there appears to be no doubt that freights to the Cape are abnormally high, there seems to be one reasonable explanation of this in the fact that the exports from the Cape homewards are so limited that many steamers have to come home in ballast, so that the freight on the outward journey practically has to cover the two voyages. The gentleman who called my attention to the matter alluded to the rapid development of American trade to the Cape, which he attributed to the excessive freights charged by British Steam Companies. I cannot say what truth there may be in this, but the principal English Company repudiates the suggestion altogether, and asserts that its own freights are always adjusted to meet American competition. Possibly the development of American trade may be due to other causes than superior facilities in regard to carriage by sea.

The crew of H.M.S. *Hood*, who arrived at Portsmouth on September 20 in H.M.S. *Nelson*, were treated by the authorities, either of the ship or the port, with the most discreditable want of consideration. There had been a doubt as to whether they would be required to coal the ship before leaving her, but early on the Monday morning orders were given to return hammocks and mess gear, and to pack baggage, and generally to get ready for going ashore. This the men did, and, of course, dressed themselves in their shore-going clothes; but after the baggage had been inspected by the Customs officers, and some of it despatched to the railway station, an order was received to coal the ship before the crew left. The men had consequently to go to work on this dirty job, the nature of which every one who has seen it can realise, in their best clothes, the dirt being aggravated by the fact that it was raining hard at the time; and they ultimately left the ship wet to the skin, and in the condition of coal porters at the conclusion of a day's work. A pretty way, truly, of landing sailors in their native country after a long spell of foreign service! The Admiralty will share the blame of this proceeding if they do not order some inquiry into it, and severely reprimand the officer responsible.

Never has there been seen a more fortunate officer in the British Navy than Sir Michael Culme-Seymour. As Horace Walpole said of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, Sir Michael has fastened himself to the wheel of fortune, and he rolls along with it. It has been settled that in June next Sir Michael Culme-Seymour is to replace Sir Nowell Salmon as Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, this being the "blue ribbon" appointment of the Navy. This will be a pleasing wind-up to Sir Michael's Service career, following the Pacific command, the Channel command and, finally, the Mediterranean command, with the almost unprecedented favour of an extension.

The other day I received a letter from a Service correspondent in India—Heaven forbid that I should hint on what subject—the writer of which was in such mortal terror of any indication being given of

the source of the information he conveyed, that he even went so far as to adjure me, if I could not insure him against identification, to destroy his correspondence and forget all about it; while he implored me on no account to address a letter to him. Rather than run the risk of getting this nervous gentleman into trouble, I have made a bonfire of all his documents, and I only refer to the matter as an evidence of the deadly terror which officialdom manages to inspire in some of its subordinates. No wonder it is so difficult to get at the truth of what goes on in Government circles! The subjects of the Great Assassin, as I believe he is now called, could hardly entertain a more abject fear of their Sovereign.

On several occasions during the past two or three years I have dealt with the iniquitous system of coolie-recruiting for the Assam tea-plantations which is carried on in Bengal. My statements have always produced a crop of contradictions from parties more or less interested in the supply of cheap labour for the tea plantations, but, having perfect confidence in my sources of information, I have always refused to accept these contradictions. I am now able to quote an official document which proves up to the hilt the truth of everything that I have said on the subject. The writer is the Hon. Mr. Grimley, now, I believe, a member of the Viceroy's Council, and late Commissioner of Chota Nagpur, the district from which most of the coolies are obtained. The document is printed as an appendix to the report of the Indian Labour Commission. Mr. Grimley reminds the Commission of the representations he made to the Government of Bengal in 1890, when he pointed out that "cruelties, oppressions, and frauds" had sprung up which had turned the system of (so-called) free emigration into "nothing more or less than a form of slave trade." Free emigration, he wrote, at that time had not worked in the manner contemplated, "owing to a lawless body of men termed *arkatis*, who are frequently released convicts or men of doubtful character, who have seized the occasion, and, owing to the high bonuses which coolies command, have utilised it in enriching themselves while practising a species of slavery." Mr. Grimley goes on to state that, far from having been altered by what has occurred since 1890, his views have been confirmed by the multiplication and extension of the abuses to which he alluded. He submits to the Commission a detailed account by a missionary of some of the evils of the traffic, which he thus summarises:—

> Seduction of girls and women, married and unmarried, abducting, kidnapping, the disruption of family ties, the sale of sons by fathers, wives by husbands, brothers by brothers, the gratification of private enmities, the abuse of authority, as when a landholder or village headman gets rid of an obnoxious ryot, the corruption of the police, and the general lowering of the morality of all persons mixed up in the business of recruitment.

In the face of this statement by the late chief official in Chota Nagpur, what becomes of our proud boast that slavery cannot exist under the British flag? Here in India, in a district within a day's railway journey of Calcutta, is a slave trade which is allowed to continue year after year in spite of repeated protests and repeated exposures of its abominable character by the local representatives of the Bengal Government—I say representatives because I happen to know that Mr. Grimley is not the only responsible officer who has spoken out his mind on the matter. How much longer is the scandal to go on? I gather from the Calcutta *Statesman* that there is a prospect of some fresh legislation on the question, though that paper seems to doubt whether it will be adequate to the occasion. But after this last report by Mr. Grimley the Bengal Government will surely not dare to further delay the drastic measures which are required to put an end to this coolie-catching business and the atrocities by which it is attended. If they should so far fail in their duty, the House of Commons will have to be asked what it has to say to a state of things so disgraceful to British rule.

The *Madras Mail* has devoted an article to a recent paragraph in TRUTH respecting the telegraph office at Madras, but it has ingeniously, though not very ingenuously, refrained from answering the question which formed the gist of the paragraph. Although a great parade was made in the article of correcting my information, the facts seem, even from the statements of the *Madras Mail*, to be precisely as stated in TRUTH; that is to say, the Superintendent of the Madras Division and an Assistant-Superintendent are occupying rooms in the telegraph office, from which office the unmarried signallers were recently ejected. It is also stated, as I suggested, that they are there in the character of guests of the Superintendent of the office. They have been so residing now for some months, and up to three weeks ago there was no indication of their terminating their visit. The question, therefore, that now requires answering is whether these two gentlemen are at the same time drawing lodging allowance from the Government; and, if so, whether their so doing is considered by the Government compatible with their residing as guests, or any other character, in a Government building?

A Service correspondent sends me from India the following verses, which he states were found in sweeping out the Nowhereabad United Service Club. As they seem very much to the point at this moment, I am glad to assist in rescuing them from oblivion:—

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you're for!
Hanging on the breast so high,
Like a D.S.O. you lie!

When the blazing sun is gone,
And no battle has been won,
Then you show your brilliant light.
Just as if there'd been a fight.

Then the warrior in the park
Thanks you for your ribbon dark.
Could he pose as a hero,
If it weren't for you? Oh, no!

HEWETSONS, TOTTENHAM COURT-ROAD, LONDON, send their Illustrated Catalogue POST FREE, and it is acknowledged to be the best Furnishing Guide extant.

SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-street, London, for Shooting Gowns, Cawdor Capes, Travelling Ulsters, Jackets, Racing Coats, Carriage Rugs, Mauds, Shawls, and Scotch Tweeds. Patterns post free.

A lady asks me if I will not give my help in order to protect decent women from being annoyed by receiving, in open envelopes, offensive circulars such as one which she forwards. If the lady in question were a regular reader of TRUTH, she would know that I have been doing my best in this direction for years past. The only person, however, whose help in this matter can be really efficacious is the Postmaster-General, and I would strongly urge upon those who send me samples of this kind of literature that they should address themselves directly to the Duke of Norfolk. It is certainly a monstrous thing that while any ordinary individual who distributes by hand offensive advertisements is liable to penal consequences, the agents of the Postmaster-General should be free to deluge private houses with filth of this description. Are we really to take it that the Post Office and the Treasury between them consider the revenue derived from this traffic too valuable to be surrendered? It is difficult to see any other argument which can be used in defence of their obstinate refusal to take action in the matter.

Some there may be among the readers of TRUTH who think that I devote an undue amount of space to this question of postal advertisements. If such there be, I wish that they could see the heaps of objectionable advertisements of one kind and another which are forwarded to this office every week by the recipients. The law has just dealt with a gang of competition-lottery promoters who carried on their operations in Belgium. For all these men the Postmaster-General acted as agent for months and years after the nature of their circulars had been repeatedly exposed in TRUTH. He is still acting in the same way as the agent for innumerable gangs of turf-lottery swindlers who carry on their game from the same part of the world. There is but a slender difference between the form of lottery conducted by the men who were convicted at the Old Bailey a fortnight or so ago and the bogus turf gambling carried on by the advertising touts of Flushing, Middelburg, and other adjacent places. The Postmaster-General could obtain the power any moment he chose to refuse to carry circulars of this character; and, if he does not choose to do so, it seems to me that he must be considered as voluntarily acting the part of agent in every fraud committed by such means.

There is a Society of Public Analysts, which from its title would be taken to be a body of analysts holding public appointments. Can anybody tell me whether that is the basis of its constitution, or whether membership is conferred on men who are not public analysts? Also whether the admission or rejection of a candidate for membership depends purely upon the question of his professional qualifications, or whether it may be influenced by merely personal considerations on the part of a small section of the Society? In other words, are elections conducted on the lines which are usually observed in a professional organisation, or on those which are occasionally followed in social clubs? My curiosity in reference to the Society has been aroused, I may add, by a recent case which has been brought under my notice.

The stream of correspondence which I started some weeks back by an imprudent question about druggists' prices continues to flow in upon me. All sorts of explanations are put forward for the variation in prices at different shops. Here are a few to be added to those that I have previously noticed—(1) that some chemists employ highly qualified assistants and others illiterate ignoramuses, and that the wages paid by the former make it impossible for them to do business as cheaply as the latter; (2) that the druggist himself is often a highly skilled compounder, and is entitled to charge proportionately for his services; (3) that in "high-class neighbourhoods" the chemist has to pay proportionately in rent and rates, and must put up his prices accordingly, if the dwellers in such neighbourhoods desire the convenience of a high-class chemist's shop close at hand. And so on, and so on.

All these arguments may have truth in them so far as they go. But the unfortunate part about them is that they are directly at variance with the experience which prompted me to raise the question. If the difference in price is due to superiority of materials (as the *Chemist and Druggist* asserted the other day), is it credible that at a little chemist's shop in a country town you would find a better class of drugs than at a first-rate shop in a large seaside town; and does anybody believe that the Stores use a lower class of goods than either? Again, are the young-men assistants employed at the Stores less qualified for their work than the raw youth at the country druggist's? Finally, is it a fact that rent, rates, and taxes are highest in the little country town, lower at a fashionable seaside resort, and lowest of all in Victoria-street, Westminster? In every instance the argument used is directly at variance with notorious facts. It is strange that none of my correspondents seems to have thought of the explanation which strikes me as most plausible—namely, that the little country chemist has a monopoly and a small trade, and is consequently both tempted to put up his prices, and able to do it without risk to himself; whereas the seaside charges are kept down by competition; and the Stores, by reason of their enormous trade, are able to content themselves with a smaller profit than either. The truth of the whole matter I believe to be—and I say this after a good many inquiries into the subject—that the Stores' prices, allowing for good materials and all necessary skill in compounding, represent a very fair trade profit on the article sold, and that the other prices cited in my first reference to the subject represent an enormous profit, and are only to be defended on the principle that any tradesman is justified in charging for his goods what he finds he can get.

Among other things, I have learnt lately that in Austria there is a legal limit to the price of drugs. The legal tariff is fixed from time to time by the Guild of Chemists, and to charge more than the price

A Fair Beautiful Skin.—By washing with Sulpholine Soap the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion is ensured.

thus authorised is a penal offence. There may not be any need of such a regulation in London and other large towns, where there is plenty of competition, and cheap chemists as well as dear are to be found in most neighbourhoods; but something of the kind might be to the advantage of poor people who are at the mercy of chemists like my friend who charged 1s. 9d. for what the Stores sell at 10d. It may be true that there are certain drugs different qualities of which vary enormously in price; and I am assured that, in some cases at any rate, this difference in price represents a corresponding variation in the efficacy of the drug. But against this must be set another important consideration—namely, that many drugs lose their efficacy with age, from which it follows that all such drugs will probably be had in better condition from the chemist who does a large trade at low prices than from the small man whose prices are high, and whose stock is only replenished at long intervals.

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree?" is practically exemplified by the utterances of two of the professors deputed to deliver introductory addresses at the opening of this year's Medical Session. Whilst Mr. Morton Smale, at the Dental Hospital, waxes indignant over the fact that the British public is computed to expend two millions and a-half annually in patent medicines—otherwise secret remedies—Professor Martin confides to the students of the University College Medical School that, even at the present time, most of the treatment of disease is empirical, and adds that empirical knowledge should by no means be despised. Undoubtedly both these gentlemen are honest in their beliefs, and—up to a certain point—most thinking men will be with them, for it is just as ridiculous to condemn all advertised remedies *en bloc* as it is to imagine that there exists a specific capable of curing everything from cataract to corns.

We hear a great deal on the subject of dipsomania from the point of view of the sober, but the views of the habitual drunkard himself are not often made public, still less taken into consideration. Special interest, therefore, attaches to a correspondence that I have lately had with some inmates of a large home for inebriates in the West of England. At this institution the rule prevails, and is strictly enforced, that "no patient be allowed outside the grounds unaccompanied by an attendant." This rule is not universally adopted in homes of this description; and in two or three of the largest of these establishments it is the regular custom to allow patients to go out for certain periods on parole.

The desirability of some such relaxation is pretty evident. The first object of a home of this kind should be curative treatment, and treatment can be of little value which does not accustom the patient to the exercise of self-control in the presence of temptation. As long as he lives in seclusion, where no possibility of obtaining intoxicants exists, or is only allowed out under the supervision of an attendant who is virtually a keeper, no chance of acquiring such self-control presents itself. This is the view put forward by patients in the Institution above referred to, and it is argued with a clearness and force which entitle the opinions of the writers to respect. I am told, among other things, that in a recent case, where a patient was discharged at the end of his agreed year of residence in this home, he instantly broke down, and demonstrated that his year of treatment had been wasted by himself returning to the Institution, and begging to be taken care of until he could communicate with his friends. While in this condition, he was induced to sign away his liberty for another year—a proceeding which, under the circumstances, seems unjustifiable from every point of view. It is absurd to keep a man for a whole year and then turn him out without having made the slightest attempt to ascertain whether his cure has been effected, that is to say, whether he has acquired that degree of self-control which it should be the business of the doctor to develop in him. It seems to me that this is a matter on which general regulations for all inebriate homes might be made by the authority licensing such establishments.

In explanation of the present crowded condition of the Metropolitan Asylums Board's hospitals, I have it from a gentleman well conversant with the facts that this state of things is in a great measure due to the hospitals being used by many who ought not to be provided for at the expense of the ratepayers. A conspicuous example of this is afforded by the fact that a member of the Board has recently had two of his own children removed to one of the hospitals for treatment. Such abuse of public institutions is a gross scandal, demanding notice from the Local Government Board—especially when, as at the present moment, a large number of poor fever patients are being nursed in their own homes, at great peril to themselves and their neighbours, for want of public hospital accommodation. Hitherto, I have supposed that the worst fault of the Asylums Board was incompetence; but if dishonesty is to be added to it, we have got the Metropolitan Board of Works scandal over again.

The orders of the Local Government Board provide that, on admission to the workhouse, paupers shall be placed in the receiving-ward until seen by the medical officer, which is to be at the earliest opportunity. According to the report of the House Committee of the Blaby Guardians, a strict adherence to this rule in a recent case would have involved the detention of a woman of seventy-eight in the receiving-ward for five days, though she was suffering from senile paralysis. The doctor, it is alleged, was sent for three times, but he failed to attend, and it was by order of the matron that the old woman was taken to her proper place in the infirmary. The Committee make other charges of laxity and remissness in his duty against the medical officer, and unless some satisfactory explanation is forthcoming from him the matter ought to be brought to the notice of the Local Government Board.

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use

A year or two ago the Local Government Board issued a circular, which, among other reforms in workhouse management, strongly recommended the employment of trained nurses. In a lucid interval the Totnes Guardians fell in with this recommendation, and engaged such nurses through the offices of that admirable organisation, the Workhouse Infirmary Nursing Association. But the Guardians seem to have had a very imperfect conception of the proper duties of trained nurses, for besides attending to the sick and infirm paupers, they expected these officers to undertake such menial and not altogether pleasant work as admitting and superintending the bathing of female vagrants. The result has been that one after another five nurses have resigned within the past three months, and the Guardians have now resolved to again hand over the care of the sick to women who are not trained or certificated nurses. For the sake of the patients, I hope the Local Government Board will use its influence to prevent this backsliding on the part of the Guardians. The Board should make these Bumbles understand that workhouse nurses are not washerwomen, and the bathing of tramps is not their business.

The Ballinasloe Town Board have been greatly agitated over the visits of merry-go-rounds and similar sources of recreation to the town on the occasion of the annual fair. They had a discussion on the subject at their last meeting, one of the speakers deploring the fact that last year the proprietors of these concerns took £500 or £600 out of the town, and another hinting that such frivolous amusements must have a pernicious influence on the morals of Ballinasloe. But it eventually came out that the real objection to the merry-go-rounds was that they took people away from the public-houses. "It is a great loss," said a Mr. Meagher, "to the licensed traders; it is nothing to the drapers or grocers." Some members of the Board were apparently quite disposed to veto an entertainment of this or any other kind in the interests of the publicans, if they only had the power. Fortunately for the pleasure of the giddy-minded inhabitants of Ballinasloe, they are unable to do anything of the kind.

Much pain and indignation were caused among passengers on the Strood railway station the other day by the appearance on the platform of a convict, in charge of three or four warders, wrapped in a blanket, and apparently in a dying condition. The man was so weak that he could hardly stand, and he was carried across the line and into the train. The explanation given was that his time had expired, and that he was being conveyed to Portland in order to be formally discharged. If this was the case, it only makes the matter worse. The man was evidently not in a condition to be travelling at all, much less performing a long and tiring journey merely to satisfy the requirements of official red-tape.

The Brecon Guardians have been treating one of their officers with an amount of generosity which scarcely commends itself to many of the ratepayers, on whom the payment of the bill will devolve. Some time since the Guardians were reluctantly induced to hold an inquiry into certain complaints, which had long been rife, concerning the conduct of the workhouse master. They decided to merely caution the man, but the the matter got to the knowledge of the Local Government Board, and the Guardians were requested to forward a copy of the evidence which was taken. The request was not at first complied with; but upon its being repeated, the master sent in his resignation, and the Guardians accepted it. In view of these facts the action of the Guardians in granting this officer and his wife, the matron, a pension of £40 a year is decidedly open to criticism. There ought to have been a proper investigation by an inspector from Whitehall, and the question of the pension should have depended upon the result.

I trust that none of my readers and subscribers in the city of Gloucester will ever incur the misfortune of finding their houses on fire. Gloucester is in the position—it is to be hoped a unique one among cities of its class and size—of having nothing in the shape of a municipal fire brigade, and the only protection against fire which the citizens possess is that provided by the insurance companies. How this arrangement works in time of emergency was agreeably illustrated on a recent occasion, when a fire broke out in the neighbourhood of the town, and the engines of one of the insurance companies went to the rescue. On finding that the burning premises were insured in another company, the fire engines promptly turned back, concluding, I suppose, that the other office would do all that is required. From what I hear of the antiquated and inefficient character of the engines, it is not certain even if they had gone to work that any visible result would have followed. It will strike most outsiders as highly discreditable that such a state of things should exist in a large corporate town; but, at the same time, if the ratepayers of Gloucester prefer the chance of being burned to death in their beds to the certainty of an addition of a halfpenny or so to the rates, it is really their business more than anybody else's.

There has been a great outcry at Bury over the recent refusal of the fire brigade to go to the rescue in the case of a conflagration at a large mill outside the borough boundary. It seems that the Fire Brigade Committee of the Corporation have established a rule that the fire brigade shall not be employed outside the borough, except when called in by the owner of the property in danger. How far this rule is justifiable, may depend upon the circumstances of the case. There is, I take it, a question of payment at the bottom of it, but my impression, based on the practice in other places, is that the insurance companies, rather than the owners of the premises, are the people to pay for the services of the fire brigade in such cases.

In the Bury case, however, the owners of the property state that the fire brigade was called up first by the watchman on the premises, then by a messenger, sent by one of the principal men at the mill, and finally by the Chairman of the Local District Council. If none of these parties is considered to have authority to engage

the services of the fire brigade, the rules of the Corporation might just as well say at once that the brigade shall not go outside the boundary on any conditions. Fires at places of business occur, more often than not, in the absence of the principals, and to wait for one of these to give an express order for the employment of the brigade would generally mean the destruction of the premises. Any representative of the firm who happened to be on the spot ought to be considered empowered to call the fire brigade when wanted. There is, I believe, a large district, of a more or less urban character, and containing much valuable property, lying immediately beyond the borough boundary of Bury; and the moral of the case seems to be that this district had better take measures for its own protection in the case of fire. Possibly the rule of the Borough Corporation may have been intended to point this moral.

Some of the Edinburgh people are clamouring for pious representatives on their Town Council. This seems to be a recrudescence of the idiotic bray of half a century ago for "Christian representation for Christian constituencies," the main result of which was the rejection of Macaulay for Edinburgh in 1847.

The exposure of the iniquities of the Kilburn Sisters has deprived a great many benevolent people of a convenient means of contributing their cast-off clothing to the cause of charity. Many of my readers, therefore, will probably be interested to hear that the Hackney Vestry are appealing to the public for old boots and clothing, for the use of the unemployed attending their Labour Bureau in search of work. Mr. R. Taylor, chairman of the Labour Bureau Committee, who writes to me on this subject, remarks that in dealing with the unemployed difficulty, nothing is more sad than to witness the sufferings of the men in cold weather while waiting about for hours in hope of work with insufficient clothing. The Vestry have no power to provide the poor with clothes, but any private citizens who will come to the rescue will have the satisfaction of knowing that the clothing is given to those who really want it. There is no probability here, as there is at the Kilburn depots, of the clothes being sold to those who can afford to buy at an ordinary shop, and of the proceeds being applied to some purpose undisclosed. I should add that Mr. Taylor promises to acknowledge any parcels sent to him at 153, Mare-street, Hackney.

It is a beautiful and refreshing sight to see any citizen fighting hard for the privilege of being allowed to serve as a special juror. This impressive spectacle was witnessed last week at Stonehouse Petty Sessions. Somebody had cruelly objected to the inclusion of the name of Mr. Charles Curtis, managing director of a local firm of cloth manufacturers, on the list of special jurors, and Mr. Charles Curtis—in view of what follows I should perhaps say Charles Curtis, Esq.—appeared by his solicitor to maintain his right to that proud position. The arguments used on his behalf were in every way worthy of the occasion. Said his counsel:—

> He was the owner of Field House and grounds, and also possessed a large property at Cainscross, known as the Elmfield Estate. In addition, *he was entitled to be called an Esquire, which was another qualification, because he had with him an order of the Charity Commissioners designating him by that term.* . . . He was treasurer and trustee of the Cainscross Schools, a rural district councillor, a Delegate from Mid-Gloucester to the Western Union of Conservative Associations, one of the managers of the Randwick Schools, and Hon. Colonel of the Church Lads' Brigade. . . . On the question of Mr. Curtis being a merchant, he ought to say, perhaps, that in the City of London—a rather large place—he was elected Chairman of the Clothing Institution. . . .

Everybody will rejoice to hear that the possessor of this noble array of distinctions was decided by the Bench to be qualified to serve his country in the jury-box. When a man is not only an R.D.C., a D.M.G.W.U.C.A., and a C.C.I., but also a Colonel of the Church Lads' Brigade, and an Esquire by order of the Charity Commissioners, how any inferior mortal could have had the courage to suggest that he is not qualified to serve as a special juror passes my comprehension. If the result of this important case had been different, I should have recommended the gallant Colonel of the Church Lads' Brigade to come and take up his residence in town, where no living soul will ever object to his serving on a special jury whenever and wherever he pleases. On the other hand, it may be that an Esquire by order of the Charity Commissioners, Rural District Councillor, D.M.G.W.U.C.A., Honorary Colonel of the Church Lads' Brigade, and Chairman of the Clothing Institution, is a bigger man in his own village than he would be in "that rather large place," London.

Among the innumerable suggestions that have been made for the celebration of the Queen's record reign, I have seen none equal in boldness and originality to the proposal that a correspondent has just submitted to me. In all seriousness he argues that nothing could more usefully crown and commemorate the achievements of the present reign than the disestablishment of the amateur magistracy, whose shallow-pated incompetence has made them the despair of the nation and the butt of the satirist from the days of Elizabeth down to those of Victoria. Need I say that I cordially agree with this?

Particulars have been laid before me of a fatal miscarriage of justice which reflects great discredit upon several Scotch judicial functionaries, the Lord Advocate at their head. In November last a lad named James Hunter was charged with four others in the Sheriff's Court of Dumbartonshire with trespassing in pursuit of game. The four other lads were prepared to swear that Hunter was not with them on the occasion in question. That being so, the solicitor employed by Hunter's father to defend him applied to the Sheriff, Gebbie by name, that his client, who pleaded "not guilty," might be tried separately, so that the evidence of the other defendants, who pleaded guilty, might be available on his behalf. The Sheriff not only refused this application, but went out of his way to threaten that if the plea of not guilty

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on Hunter's part was persisted in, he might think it his duty to impose a fine, if not the full penalty, on all the defendants, instead of letting them off with an admonition, as he had otherwise intended doing. This is a good example of a judicial frame of mind to begin with.

The plea of "not guilty" was, nevertheless, persisted in. Two policemen and a gamekeeper, who were called as witnesses for the prosecution, swore that they had seen Hunter with the other lads on the occasion of the trespass. On Hunter's behalf a man named Paterson was then called, who swore that he, and not Hunter, was the fifth party who was with the other four defendants at the time in question. Notwithstanding this evidence —strong enough in all conscience to raise a strong doubt, of which Hunter was entitled to the benefit—all the defendants were convicted; and, while the others were let off with an admonition, Hunter was fined £1—an exhibition of judicial animus which formed a fitting sequel to the utterance of the Sheriff at the outset of the proceedings.

Hunter's father then obtained depositions from all the other defendants in whose company his son was alleged to have been, denying that he was with them on the day of the trespass. Evidence of several other witnesses was also obtained proving an alibi, in addition to the evidence of the witness Paterson given at the trial. In all, twelve witnesses were produced, who combined to rebut the evidence of the two constables and the gamekeeper as to the identity of Hunter. This irresistible case Mr. Hunter, sen., laid before the Procurator-Fiscal, and called upon him to prosecute the two constables and the gamekeeper for perjury. The Procurator-Fiscal declined to move. Mr. Hunter then determined to undertake a prosecution himself, but before he could do this it was necessary to obtain the consent of the Lord Advocate, and that functionary, before giving his consent, applied to the Procurator-Fiscal for a report on the facts. As a matter of course, the Procurator-Fiscal, who had himself declined to proceed in the matter, made an unfavourable report, and the Lord Advocate refused his consent. The last possibility, therefore, of rectifying the mistake made at the trial and relieving Hunter of the false charge made against him was thus barred. The performance of the Lord Advocate in referring the matter to the judgment of the Procurator-Fiscal, who had already given his decision upon it, is a solemn farce, which makes the law and its administrators ridiculous. The conduct of the Fiscal in refusing to prosecute can only have been prompted by a desire to shield the police from a charge against which they would have found it difficult to defend themselves. The conduct of Sheriff Gebbie is worthy of any judicial ignoramus among the unpaid magistracy, and the whole business is a satire on the administration of justice.

Hitherto I have looked upon our Game Laws as an unsurpassed monument of legislative ingenuity in the manufacture of offences and piling up of penalties. It seems, however, that the English Parliament has been beaten hollow by the Jersey States. Last week one Aimable Désiré Le Cocq was brought before John Vaudin, Esq., magistrate, at Jersey, charged with infringing "several articles of the law" by being found shooting on the property of Sir James Godfray about five o'clock on a Saturday morning. The only witness for the prosecution was a man employed by Sir James, and the accused called a witness to show that he was in bed at the time. But the magistrate said he must believe the evidence of "an entirely disinterested witness such as Sir James's servant," and he consequently found the accused guilty of the following offences:—(1) Shooting at a prohibited time, namely, before October 1; (2) shooting on a Saturday, *this being market day;* (3) shooting during the night, which might be understood to extend from nine p.m. to six a.m.; and (4) shooting without the necessary licence. For each of these four crimes a separate fine was inflicted, and in default of payment of the total amount of £4. 9s. 3½d., the accused went to gaol for eight days. I have come across many fearful and wonderful instances of Jersey law and magistrate Vaudin's justice; but I think this case fairly beats the record.

As to the way in which the English Game Laws are administered, an excellent illustration was given the other day at Wareham Petty Sessions. Two men named Harris and Greenslade were charged with night poaching, and three gamekeepers deposed that they saw the defendants in a field with a terrier dog, that they had bags in their possession, and that two rabbit nets were afterwards found on the ground. In cross-examination, each of these witnesses for the prosecution expressed the opinion that the defendants "were there for rabbits, and nothing else." The Chairman (Mr. J. B. Dugdale) "rather impatiently" asked what this mattered. The solicitor for the defence was constrained to point out that it mattered a great deal. As any magistrate fit for his position would have known, the second part of sec. 1 of the Act 9 Geo. IV., cap. 69, under which the charge was made, does not extend to rabbits, and if the defendants were only on the land for the purpose of taking rabbits they could not be rightly convicted.

To further enlighten the Bench, the solicitor quoted cases in which justices convicting in such circumstances have been mulcted in damages for false imprisonment. But the Wareham J.P.s are apparently a law unto themselves, caring no more for the words of an Act or the decisions of superior courts than they do for the evidence before them. The Chairman actually protested against the solicitor's quotation of cases as an attempt to intimidate the Bench, and, in flat contradiction of the statements on oath of the witnesses for the prosecution, their worships expressed their own opinion that the defendants were on the ground "for what they could get," and committed both of them to prison. There is to be an appeal to Quarter Sessions on behalf of Greenslade, and I shall be interested to see what their fellow-justices have to say to this extraordinary decision of the worthy Dugdale and his colleagues.

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Not before it was time, the *Glasgow Mail* has administered a vigorous drubbing to the local magistrates, and, indeed, the Scotch magistracy generally, for the monstrous lenity which they constantly show in dealing with violent assaults. But, as may be seen from my Legal Pillory every week, the failure to mete out just and salutary punishment for savage wife-beating and other outrages is not a peculiar characteristic of the Scotch Bailie. The English J.P. appears equally reluctant to visit such crimes with the imprisonment which they deserve, and it is certainly not for lack of encouragement if the offenders do not come to look upon their ebullitions of ruffianism as mere venial breaches of the law, which they are at liberty to indulge in whenever they please on payment of some more or less trumpery contribution to the borough or county funds. Unfortunately the magisterial stock of mercy seems to be exhausted by cases of this kind; at any rate, none is forthcoming for defendants convicted of poaching, petty larceny, and vagrancy by begging alms or sleeping out. In regard to the following list, I should explain that the case from the Sheffield Police-court has been included not because I take exception to the sending of the prisoner to a reformatory, but because I consider it a cruel and stupid thing to decree that he shall first go to gaol for a fortnight. Surely the worthy Chairman, as an M.P. himself, ought to know that an Act was passed three years ago for the purpose of putting an end to this preliminary imprisonment of candidates for reformatories :—

Glasgow Eastern Police-court. Before Bailie McKellar. Robert Hislop, charged with assaulting a man and woman named Charcot. Defendant went to the complainants' house, and brutally and unmercifully beat the woman, knocking several of her teeth out, and, on her husband going to her protection, he was also severely ill-treated. It seemed that Hislop was incensed with Mrs. Charcot because she had sheltered his mother-in-law, an old woman of seventy, for a couple of nights. Fined £2. 2s.

Glasgow Eastern Police-court. Before Bailie Walter Wilson. Robert Wilson, pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting his wife by beating and kicking her, knocking her down and dragging her about by the hair of her head. Fined £3 3s.

Barnsley Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Norton, S. Seal, H. Pigott, W. Ewart, and Colonel Neville. Edward Webster, miner, charged with assaulting Samuel Saxby. Defendant was brutally ill-treating an old man, and complainant tried to stop him. He then struck complainant on the back of the head with a poker, stunning him, and causing him to bleed profusely. The Bench said it was a very bad assault—there might have been murder. Fined 20s. and costs, or one month.

Govan Police court. Before Bailie Hutcheson. John Harkins, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her on the head with a poker, inflicting a large wound. The Bailie said the offence was a very serious one. Fined 21s.

Jedburgh Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Speirs. Walter Dryden and Joseph Park, convicted of being found on the highway, with two hares and four nets in their possession. Fined £5 each.

George Thomson and George Pirie, convicted of being found on the road with a stake-net in their possession. Fined £5 each.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. W. Jackson, C. Morton,— Louth and G. S. Letten. Henry Walter Izzard and James Brown, fishing apprentices, charged with disobedience by neglecting to go to sea. Izzard 14 days; Brown 21 days.

Barnsley Police-court. Before the same magistrates. George Brown, a wretched-looking old man, charged with begging. One month.

Clay Cross Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. B. M. Jackson, and other magistrates. Joseph Allen, convicted of sleeping out, and being without visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Mark Cross Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. L. Hogg, A. G. Watson, H. G. Dixon, and Sir J. Staunfeld. George Jabez Collins, aged 79, charged with stealing three rashers of bacon. Seven days.

Greenock Police-court. Before Bailie Watson. William Donnachie, charged with assaulting a woman by striking her on the face, knocking her down, and kicking her. Fined £2.

Barry Police-court. Before Major-General Lee, Dr. Trehearne, Messrs. J. P. Thompson, and W. W. Nell. William Bryant, convicted of cruelty to a horse. The animal, an aged brown mare, in a wretchedly emaciated condition, was found starving on a piece of waste ground, where she could obtain no food or water. Fined £2 and costs.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Colmore, Pollack, Hodder, Ludlow, J. F. Cartland, and Dr. Griffiths. Isaac Radford, charged with assaulting his wife. He dragged her about by the hair, knocked her down, and struck her on the head with a belt, inflicting a wound over the right eye. The constable who arrested prisoner said he behaved like a madman. Fined £2 and costs.

West Riding Police-court, Bradford. Charles Hainsworth, convicted of assaulting his wife. The woman said she had been persistently ill-treated, and on the occasion in question defendant attempted to throttle her, and threw her out of the house. Last June he was bound over for assaulting her, and he had been twice imprisoned for neglect of family. Fined £2 and costs, and again bound over.

Honiton County Police-court. Before Mr. J. Ashley. Frederick Hurford, charged with wandering abroad and lodging in an outhouse, having no visible means of subsistence. Twenty-one days.

Northwich Police-court. Thomas Young and Emmanuel Hankey charged with being found with fifteen rabbits and a number of nets in their possession. Fined £5 each and costs, and in default of payment committed for two months.

Wisbech Police-court. Before Aldermen Groom and Goward and Mr. W. M. Boulton. Samuel Neal, charged with absconding from the workhouse on June 8. Two months.

Bourne Police-court. Before Colonel Reynardson and other Justices. James Carrington, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Three months.

Needham Market Petty Sessions. Before General W. G. Martin and other Justices. Charles Maidwell, charged with poaching. He was found in possession of three nets, a ferret, and a rabbit. According to a letter from his employer he had been in regular employment since 1882. Two months, and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

Sheffield City Police-court. Before Sir F. Mappin, M.P., and Mr. W. W. Harrison. Frederick Abbott, a boy of 13, convicted of stealing 8s. 6d. belonging to his father. Fourteen days' imprisonment, to be followed by five years in a reformatory.

A shocking case of cruelty to a horse was recently brought before the Bristol magistrates, the evidence showing that the animal had been engaged to convey a party of men in a waggonette to Weston-super-Mare, and that it was kept without food for twelve hours, beaten and overdriven, with the result that it died from exhaustion. The driver was very properly sentenced to six weeks' hard labour, and a local correspondent suggests that if they had met with their deserts the half-dozen men who formed the party would also have been punished. In regard to one of them, who was summoned with the driver, it was urged that he "knew nothing about horses," and the charge against him was dismissed. I cannot but remark, however, that he and his companions must have been exceptionally dense and ignorant if they could not see that the wretched horse was being ill-treated; and the fact that, so far as the reports show, this ill-treatment was allowed to continue without a word of remonstrance from any of them, speaks badly for their intelligence and their humanity.

When I referred two or three weeks back to the case in which Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was fined at Burton for driving out with an unmuzzled lap dog in her carriage, I rather sympathised with the lady, though I did not see how the conviction could have been avoided. It would seem, however, that Princess Duleep Singh

pays scant respect to any regulation which does not meet with her approval, for she has now been summoned before the Swadlincote magistrates for a second similar offence committed the day after she was fined at Burton. However much she dislikes it, even the Princess Duleep Singh must be taught to obey the law, and, as she deliberately disregarded the first lesson which she received, the Bench might well have enforced the second by imposing a more substantial penalty than a fine of two shillings and costs.

Reginald Edmund Sandiland Savage should consider himself a very lucky person. He was charged at the Guildhall on Friday with frequenting several banks in the City for an unlawful purpose, and the evidence was to the effect that at several of these establishments he had endeavoured to cash a worthless cheque for £91. Originally a cheque for £1 had been given to him by some one, but after it came into his possession the amount was altered by the addition of the figure 9. It transpired that the prisoner is a retired Colonel, with friends in a good position, and on learning that a passage to South Africa had been booked for him, Alderman Truscott was kind enough to allow the man to go. Would the Alder man have been equally merciful if the prisoner had been some poor wretch without the advantage of being well connected? I hope he would; but I must confess that some of the sentences that are occasionally passed on such offenders at the Guildhall make me rather doubtful about it.

I find that an individual, or gang, going by the name of Linton, McKenzie, Dyer, & Co., of Adelaide-street, Charing Cross, is still circulating wholesale a pretended extract from TRUTH, implying that I have recognised the possibility of devising a system of punting at Monte Carlo which will yield 15 per cent. profit, and work uniformly. As I stated on a former occasion, this suggestion on the part of Linton, McKenzie, Dyer, & Co. is an impudent fiction. The paragraph from TRUTH which these people profess to quote on their circular, although the words used are garbled, conveyed precisely the opposite opinion to that which its reproduction on the circular is intended to convey. It was, in fact, a paragraph ridiculing the professions of a gentleman who professed to have discovered a system which would ensure the results mentioned.

Linton, McKenzie, Dyer, & Co. are one of the touting gangs who invite the public to trust them with cash for the purpose of working their own infallible system; and the fact that they use a gross misrepresentation of this kind in support of their appeals for money ought to be a sufficient reason with every intelligent person for not trusting them with a halfpenny on any account. The pretended extract from TRUTH on this particular circular occurs among a batch of quotations from different papers, including the *Financial News* and the *Daily Telegraph*, and it would not surprise me in the least to find that these journals are misrepresented in much the same way as TRUTH is.

No reader of TRUTH who profits by his study of these columns ever pays the traditional 3s. 6d. demanded by a debt-collecting solicitor, as the price of a request to settle his client's bill. I trust that this applies equally to similar demands when made by lay debt-collectors. A good instance of the latter kind is furnished by a legal friend of mine, who by an oversight had allowed a trifle of 4s. 6d. to remain overdue from him to a cycle company. The debt was placed in the hands of a well-known firm of collectors, who demanded 1s. 6d for themselves at the same time as the 4s. 6d. for their clients. The debtor sent with the 4s. 6d. a peremptory refusal to pay a penny more, and heard no more about the 1s. 6d. Nor will any one else who takes the same course. The proper person to pay a debt collector is the party who employs him. And he generally does.

Have F. Paynter & Co., of Albert House, St. Mary Church, Torquay, found imitators and competitors in their own town, or do they now run a second business as M. Truscott & Co., of Glendower, Tor Vale, Torquay? The latter, at any rate, are busily working the advertising dodge for which Paynter & Co. have long been notorious, and the *modus operandi* of the two firms, even to the wording of their advertisements and circulars, is practically the same. The dodge, as I have often explained, is to advertise that a weekly salary of 7s. 6d. or 10s. 6d. and upwards can easily be earned in spare time; and to ask those who respond to this attractive offer to remit 1s. 1½d. for "the necessary sample for the work." This consists of a rubber stamp, pencil, and penholder, and it turns out that the weekly salary is to be obtained by the sale on commission of similar articles. The whole thing is a gross deception, and it is mostly practised at the expense of necessitous individuals, who can ill-afford to throw away their money on the articles which they are thus beguiled into buying. To all who are so duped, I commend the course adopted by a recent applicant for employment to Truscott & Co., who at once returned the "sample" and demanded his money back, under a threat to expose their methods. Truscott & Co. deemed it judicious to comply with this demand, and if everybody who is tricked would deal with these gentry in the same way there would soon be an end to a game which, judging from the number of firms engaged in it, is at present extremely lucrative.

Another impudent trick is being worked by a man calling himself "The Advertisers' Association," of 7, Leicester-street, Southport, who advertises for "parties to distribute circulars; 10s. per 1,000 paid." This individual's system of "employing young men" is to befool them into the payment of an "initial fee" of 12s. 6d. for the privilege of membership of his precious association and an "outfit" consisting of a list of advertising firms, and 300 circulars and envelopes with which to solicit their orders. Anybody possessed of a modicum of intelligence would see through the swindle at once; but the supply of simpletons is so large that I dare say this "Advertisers' Association" is reaping a goodly harvest of twelve and sixpences.

By the way, I notice that the Commissioner of Police has just issued a caution to the public against a number of frauds, including specious offers of "home employment" and "sleeping partnerships" (in betting systems), various so-called puzzle competitions, and the transparent fictions of our venerable friend, the Spanish prisoner. It is very good of the Commissioner to give us these warnings, but would it not be more to the purpose to see whether some of the swindlers he refers to cannot be brought to justice? Take, for instance, the "home employment" business. For two or three years past I have been directing attention to the barefaced swindle, run by one F. J. Mason, of Oswestry, who has extensively advertised in all parts of the country his offers of "home employment for plain writers." He has been allowed to carry on his business with impunity in England, and it has been left for an officer of the Irish Constabulary to take proceedings against him, with the result that at Tobercurry Petty Sessions a few days since the magistrates committed him to the Assizes for trial. It is significant that since his committal Mason & Co., alias Mason, Smith, & Co., of 145, Fleet-street, who were engaged in precisely the same line, have suddenly suspended their operations, announcing that the worthless book of recipes, which was all their victims got for their shillings, is now out of stock. But though the Scotland-yard authorities have been forestalled by the Irish police so far as Mason is concerned, there are still plenty of rogues of the same class left for them to deal with.

The following advertisement recently appeared in the *Church Times*:—

> WANTED good LADIES' SCHOOL (within one hour Bournemouth) for orphan daughter (age 16) of medical man. £15 p. a. only can be offered. No other schools need reply.—A., 9, York-road, Tunbridge Wells.

No. 9, York-road, Tunbridge Wells, is the address of Mrs. A. M. Thompson, of whose history a full account was given in TRUTH of July 23. The lady is the widow of a medical gentleman at Beverley, who for about twelve years past has supported herself, and managed to educate and start her children in life, by systematic begging-letter writing. What may be the precise drift of the above advertisement it is impossible to say, but presumably it has some connection with the appeals which Mrs. Thompson has lately been making to the public for the means of educating the youngest of her daughters; and as several other advertisements from the same address have lately appeared in the same paper, it would seem that the proceeds of the begging-letter business are sufficient to provide the lady with ample funds for advertising purposes. It may, therefore, be desirable to warn benevolent people once again against encouraging Mrs. Thompson in any way, unless after the fullest and most satisfactory investigation of her claims to charity.

A reference in a recent issue of TRUTH to the operations of a turf-gambling tout named Miller, who asks for money to work what he calls his "Perfection" system, brought me, strange to say, two testimonials in favour of this Miller. The writer of one was a Mrs. Gibson, who wrote from 114, Wickham-road, Brockley, to inform me that she had been speculating under Miller's auspices for some time, and had every reason to be satisfied with the result. The other was from a Mr. H. B. Campbell, of Wadworth, Tick Hill, whose letter was to the effect that the "Perfection" system is so perfect that it can only come to grief in the event of such a continuous run against favourites as has only happened once in the last seven years. Unfortunately, Miller himself has inopportunely refuted this assertion. Last week he issued a circular to clients whose investments with him dated prior to September 15, notifying that "owing to the adverse run experienced since that date, the four sequences of capital have been lost." He does not say anything about the "adverse run" having but one precedent in the last seven years, nor has anything of the kind happened. The "Perfection system," in fact, has not broken down at all. Its "perfection," I take it, consists in its efficiency as a means of parting fools from their money, and in this respect it remains perfect to the last.

The Mr. Campbell quoted above kindly gave me his opinion that the writer of my last paragraph on Miller did not know what he was talking about. I happen to know one or two things, however, which Mr. Campbell may or may not know. One of them is that operators of the Miller stamp always make it a rule to pay one or two customers regularly, generally Army men or others in a good position, to whom they may refer any one who asks for proof of the genuineness of the thing. Whether intentionally or not, such people virtually act as decoys, and make a very good thing out of it. Another thing I know is that it is a common trick of the Miller fraternity to go on paying the winnings for a time, and encourage their victims to increase their stakes until they reach a big amount, much as you may see an operator at the three-card trick allow a greenhorn to win two or three shillings in succession, in order to inspire him with the confidence necessary to plank down a sovereign. It is when the stake has been increased to a substantial sum that your "Perfection" system generally comes to grief. This game the man Miller has played most successfully, women especially having been induced by regular remittances for a few weeks in succession (at the most, only a fraction of what they had themselves paid), to increase their investment, until as much as £100 in one case had been paid over. It is a self-evident absurdity to suggest that Miller could ever have invested on favourites the huge amounts he professed to be receiving, and any one ought to be able to see for himself that the whole business is a fraud.

There is an illustrated publication appearing once a month described as a "magazine" and "ladies' home review," which in its August issue devoted a column and a half to an advertisement of this man Miller, in what purported to be an editorial article on "The Perfection

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA, which refreshes and exhilarates.

HOT WATER instantly, night or day. EWART'S "LIGHTNING" GEYSER. Illustrated Price Lists, with particulars of patterns adapted for every purpose, on application to Department, EWART & SON, 346, Euston-road, London, N.W.

System of Investment." This article was of course only a paid advertisement—as to all appearance are all the other articles in the same number. But unfortunately there are only too many, especially among the readers of ladies' papers, who take for gospel whatever they read in this shape, and the people who put forward advertisements in this guise are even worse enemies of the public than any of the rogues or impostors whom they puff.

Meanness and stinginess are common human infirmities, but it is astonishing that so many people are ready to advertise their possession of these qualities in the daily papers. The other day an advertisement appeared in the name of Cooper, Lloyd, & Co., 156, Westminster Bridge-road, inquiring for a young lady for an office in Westminster. The young lady was to be employed ordinarily from 9.30 a.m. till 6 p.m., on Saturdays till 1.30, but on Wednesdays till 9 p.m., for which the salary offered was 7s. per week. Whether Cooper, or Lloyd, or "Co.," or any other party in the background is responsible for this offer, it speaks little for either his generosity or humanity.

There is another form of meanness which is constantly being gibbeted in the Press—that which shows itself in paltry rewards for the restoration of valuable property. A Cheshire paper records how a drayman recently picked up a cheque for £800, and put himself to considerable trouble in restoring it to the owner, when he was rewarded with sixpence. A lost cheque is easily stopped, and may not be worth much, and the owner of this particular cheque may possibly have thought that if the drayman had torn it up he would have done all that the circumstances required. But then why give him sixpence? If the man was entitled to any reward at all, he was entitled to something commensurate with the trouble he took to restore the cheque to its proper owner.

Now, I am far from saying that anybody, whatever his rank in life, is entitled to a reward for being honest enough not to appropriate valuables found by accident, and it is a difficult matter to say on what principle such rewards, if given at all, should be measured. But seeing that nobody is under any obligation to restore chance findings of this kind—for they can always be left where found, even if not appropriated—the finder has certainly a claim to a recompense for any trouble he takes; and gratitude, if not expediency, suggests that the reward should bear some sort of proportion to the value of the property. Otherwise, the finders of lost property can hardly be expected to go out of their way to restore it to the true owner. A familiar illustration of this is to be found in the Police Regulation with regard to property left in public vehicles in London, the rule being that the finder is allowed 10 per cent. on the value as assessed by the owner. Even this rule, however, does not preclude egregious manifestations of meanness in the owner's assessment of the value. I was once told by an officer at Scotland Yard that if he could buy all the lost property brought there at the price put on it by the owners, he would speedily become a millionaire. He gave, as an instance of this, a valuable pair of opera-glasses mounted in gold and mother-of-pearl, and worth several guineas, which had been valued by the owner at fifteen shillings. I am sorry to have to record that he added that ladies are the worst offenders in this respect.

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for Hewetsons' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—Hewetsons, Tottenham Court-road, London.

I recollect the possibilities of ramie as a raw material for textile manufactures being discussed thirty or forty years ago, but hitherto the cost of its preliminary manipulation and treatment has prevented the general utilisation of the fibre. It is now claimed, however, that all difficulties in regard to the decortication, ungumming, and spinning of the fibre have been overcome, and that there is at last a real prospect of ramie yarns being largely used in the production of various goods and fabrics. A demonstration of the new processes was given the other week at the mills of the Ramie Syndicate at Staines, and it is asserted that the only thing now necessary is to ensure a continuous supply of the fibre. This should not be difficult, as the plant can be easily grown in India, Australia, the West Indies, the Straits Settlements, and other British possessions, to say nothing of other countries, and with the substitution of a decorticating machine for manual labour, its cultivation promises to be highly profitable. The further development of the ramie industry will be watched with interest.

Consternation has been produced among the free and independent electors of the Borough of Douglas by the effect of an Act of the Manx Legislature which has lately come into force. With a view to promoting the prompt payment of the Borough rates, the Act provides that no person whose rates are not all paid up to date on August 25 shall be enrolled as a burgess for the ensuing year; and according to the *Manxman* the operation of this clause has resulted in the disfranchisement of about 700 voters, or nearly one-fourth of the entire number. To thus automatically deprive people of their civic rights without further notice or process, because rates just become due have not been paid on a particular date, would seem in any case to be a very strong measure, and it is certainly monstrous that such a thing should be done as it has been at Douglas without any effective steps being taken to warn the defaulting ratepayers of what was in store for them.

A contemporary, referring to the fact that Lord Cranbrook has just celebrated his eighty-second birthday, states that his lordship and the Duke of Rutland are the only members of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinets who have attained to a considerable age. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon might be added to the list, for he is in his seventy-ninth year, and his public life commenced in 1841 (at the same time as the Duke of Rutland's), when he was elected for West Sussex, and he sat for that constituency until he went up to the House of Lords in 1860. The Duke has been a member of five Cabinets. Lord Cranbrook's public life commenced in 1856, when he was returned for Leominster.

SCRUTATOR.

BLANK CHEQUES ON BRITISH CREDIT.

IT is all very well agreeing not to convert the Turkish troubles into a party question, but before giving Lord Salisbury a blank cheque, I should like to know how he intends to fill it in. When Lord Rosebery became Prime Minister, the Radicals handed over the conduct of our foreign relations to him, and they found themselves dragged through the mire of Jingoism. During the present conjuncture he has published two letters. In the first he blamed Lord Salisbury; in the second he lauded him. When the first was published, the Government organs sneered at him as the "nominal" Liberal Leader; on the publication of the second he became the "wise and prudent" Liberal Leader. What he thinks and what he writes in no sort of way binds Radicals. Their views are embodied in Mr. Gladstone's Liverpool utterance. There are, he has explained, three courses: (1.) Isolated action; this he holds under the present conditions of Europe to be impossible. (2.) European concerted action; this means doing nothing. (3.) To withdraw our Ambassador, and to announce that henceforward neither directly nor indirectly will we concern ourselves to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire. This third course should be urged by all who are ashamed of our having so long subordinated humanity to a policy as iniquitous as it is foolish.

I greatly doubt whether the Government is prepared to accept Mr. Gladstone's advice. It must be remembered that Lord Salisbury nearly dragged us into war with Russia in order to enable the Turk to retain under his rule several millions of Christians, who without us would have been free men to-day; and that he negotiated the treaty which gave us Cyprus as an acknowledgment of our services to the Sultan. Why should we expect him to have so modified his views that he is now prepared to give to Russia a free hand on the Bosphorus? Yet this free hand is what Mr. Gladstone's proposal comes to. Either Christians must be oppressed and often massacred, or we must cease to use the Turk as a barrier against Russian advance to the Mediterranean. The vast mass of the electors are for the latter alternative; our "Statesmen," it would seem, are for the former. They count upon the agitation against the Turk expending itself, and upon the Turkish Empire still remaining, thanks to their attitude, the disgrace and opprobrium of civilisation for many a year. It is to be regretted that Parliament is not sitting. Were this so, Mr. Gladstone's views might be embodied in a resolution and submitted to the House of Commons. The Government would then have to accept and to act on the resolution, or to vote against it. If it did the latter, all this nonsense about leaving everything in blind confidence to Lord Salisbury would be swept aside.

There has been of late a great deal too much of this leaving everything in respect to our foreign relations to some particular Statesmen. The House of Commons is the great Court of the nation. Its duty is to superintend and to control the Executive. In foreign affairs it has entirely abrogated those duties. The Foreign Secretary is always some Peer, and he does what seems best to him. Thus we are dragged into wars, treaties, and complications in regard to which the country has had no voice. In this Turkish matter the conscience of the nation has been aroused. Ninety-nine men out of every hundred amongst us would willingly agree that Russia should be paramount in the Balkan peninsula, rather than that we should impotently regret the fearful consequences of Turkish rule there. But these ninety-nine can do nothing but protest against a policy which sacrifices our honour and our good name to a traditional illusion that the safety of the British Empire is concerned in preventing Russia from ever obtaining a free access to the Mediterranean. Meetings are being held everywhere throughout the land. These meetings will be of no avail unless we make it clear to those in office that they are our servants, not our masters. The massacres will be stopped; the Turk will promise—as he has a hundred times already promised—to govern better in future; a few paper reforms will be published; and we shall be told that the cautious wisdom of Lord Salisbury has averted a crisis, which, &c. Again will Christians in Turkey be treated worse than dogs, and this state of things will go on until once more some outburst of fanaticism will lead to another agitation against our "traditional policy." I will have nothing to do with the "confidence trick." I trust neither Lord Salisbury nor Lord Rosebery, nor any other individual, be he Peer or pauper. Mr. Gladstone has expressed my views. I want effect to be given to these views.

It is sad to think of the strong and respected position that we might have occupied had it not been for the Jingo craze which has of late had full swing, because the Liberals, instead of counteracting it as they formerly did, have been fooled by false guides into becoming its ardent votaries. There is not a Power in Europe that does not distrust us since our Egyptian and Cyprus sharp practice. This, only a few months ago, we were called upon to regard as a cause of rejoicing. It was termed "splendid isolation." Our newspapers teem with self-glorification over our valorous deeds in slaying Soudanese, Matabele, and other Africans, whose ability to resist us is about on a par with those of the pheasants which are falling in their thousands before the guns of our sportsmen. We are expanding the area of the Empire in the jungles of Central Africa, and building railroads there, instead of improving our means of communication at home.

In the meantime, our exports are falling off to the great open markets of the world, because Germany and other nations devote themselves to extending their foothold in them, instead of wasting their means in the follies which we deem conducive to our honour and our glory. In the Mediterranean we act as though we could convert it into an English lake, although what profit we should derive from this neither we, nor any one else, can understand. Our expenditure upon armaments increases yearly, and we are told that a still further increase is needed. I am a believer in the necessity of our having a powerful and effective navy. But this, as it seems to me, we already have. I would have us in a position of effective

defence. But, on the other hand, I would have us neither directly nor indirectly meddle in what does not concern us. I would leave the great military Powers of the Continent to cut and carve out Europe as it may seem best to them. Our sole aim should be to keep clear of any war in which their rivalries may drag them.

So far as regards the integrity of the Turkish Empire, I should rejoice were the Turk cleared bag and baggage out of any portion of his dominions where he rules over subject Christians. If Russia, or if Russia and Austria, will undertake this clearance, Heaven forbid that we should hinder them! Nor can we have any legitimate cause for objecting to these two countries, or to one or other of them, replacing the Turk. I should deem it a cause of danger and embarrassment to us were we to secure further territory in the Levant. The less that we have to do with that corner of the world, the better it will be for us. Our action has maintained for years one of the vilest Governments that ever disgraced humanity. It is not necessary for us to move one ship, or to spend one pound, in order to put an end to this disgrace. All that we have to do in order to deprive the Sultan of all power for evil, is explicitly to declare that we shall view his downfall with the warmest approval, and that we shall seek in no way to profit by it. If our Government is not at one with us in this estimate of our duties, then we must replace it by another which, instead of defying, seeks to give practical effect to our will. Heart and soul every Radical should be with Mr. Gladstone.

THE 4TH HUSSARS SCANDAL:

THE SCANDAL STILL MORE SCANDALOUS.

The final decision of the War Office in the case of Mr. Hodge, of the 4th Hussars, is a matter of even greater public importance than that in the Bruce case. In order to appreciate this, it is desirable to remember the details of the complaint put forward by Mr. Hodge, senior, upon his son's evidence. Mr. Hodge joined the 4th Hussars in the beginning of February, and in the course of two months was literally and unquestionably bullied out of the regiment. The first intimation that the regiment did not want him was conveyed within a day or two of his joining, by a question put to him at mess as to where he intended to keep his hunters and racehorses. His reply, that he did not think his means would allow him to keep either, elicited from a captain who was present the remark, "Then what the —— did you join this regiment for?" and this seems to have been the signal for an organised attempt to make his life in the regiment intolerable for him. He was verbally insulted, and treated to spiteful ill-usage whenever opportunity occurred. His rooms were entered in his absence, the locks of his drawers and boxes forced, his property damaged, and his clothes torn up and burnt. Such methods of blackguardly persecution not achieving the desired result, he was taken out of bed at two o'clock in the morning by four of the subalterns, carried down in his night-clothes, forced into a horse-trough at one end, dragged under the cross-bars through its entire length, and pulled out at the other end, bruised, bleeding, and half-drowned. To enforce the lesson, it was repeated in all its details on the following night. He then took the advice of his father as to what he should do, and his father—himself an old Service man—came to Aldershot, and interviewed the Adjutant on the subject. The result seems to have been the cessation of the more violent forms of ruffianism, but these were replaced by a strict boycott, which was even more crushing. Mr. Hodge came home on sick leave, and his father states that he was completely broken down in health and spirit. There being apparently no hope for him in the regiment, and no possibility of redress, his papers were sent in.

That this, if accurate, is a shocking story, and disgraceful not only to the officers who took the lead in the persecution, but to all those who winked at or encouraged it, from the Colonel downwards, all who have read the original narrative in TRUTH have unanimously agreed. Unless it could be shown by adequate inquiry that these statements were untrue or overcoloured, there can be no difference of opinion among the public at large as to the necessity for the sternest repression of such misconduct. When the facts were first made public, it was pleaded on behalf of the War Office that they had no official cognisance of the facts—a questionable plea, seeing that Mr. Hodge's father had visited the War Office for the purpose of making the facts known, and had there an interview with two officials on the subject. But whatever this plea might have been worth in the first instance, it ceased to have any bearing on the case after a promise had been given to Parliament that the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General would themselves personally investigate the facts, and after Mr. Hodge's father had laid before the War Office a detailed statement of his allegations in pursuance of that promise. That being so, let us now see how the Commander-in-Chief, the Adjutant-General, and the Secretary of State for War have dealt with this case, after it had been thus officially brought to their cognisance.

To begin with, no shadow of an inquiry, in any sense deserving of the name, has taken place at all. Mr. Hodge, who, like Mr. Bruce, was away from the country at the time when the promise of inquiry was given, has had no opportunity of appearing in support of his statements, or of testing or answering any counter-statements that might be made by the men who drove him from the Army. The performance which the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General insult the public by calling an inquiry, consists in this case, as in the other, simply in collecting from the parties impugned whatever they have to say in their own defence, and offering these statements to the aggrieved parties as the result of an impartial investigation. Such a course must necessarily place the War Office in the position of an apologist for the misconduct which is complained of; but in this instance the apologetic attitude has been carried to lengths which involve the rulers of the Army in the grossest discredit. In order to show that I do

TYPEWRITERS AND CYCLES FOR SALE OR HIRE. Great bargains in Standard Machines.—N. TAYLOR, Manager, 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

not lightly use language of this nature in speaking of men in the position of the Commander-in-Chief and his colleagues, let me first ask the reader to look at the letter in which the War Office decision has been conveyed to Mr. Hodge, senior :—

War Office, London, S.W.
September 24, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd August.

The Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General have carefully inquired into the circumstances connected with your son's resignation of his commission in the 4th Hussars, and into the allegations as to his treatment by some of the Subalterns of the regiment.

Your son seems to have quitted England before or very soon after any complaint as to the reasons for his retirement from the Service was made, and it was therefore impossible to examine him, but enough has been elicited to admit of a decision being come to in the case.

Mr. Hodge seems to have been constitutionally unfitted for a cavalry officer. In the school, before his ride of recruits, he persistently refused to jump the bar, he held on to the saddle, cried, and finally refused to mount his horse. He also several times reported himself sick, when the medical officer could find nothing the matter with him.

It is clear that he was bullied by his brother Subalterns, and that he was the subject of some rough usage. There seems, however, to be no foundation for the allegations that this treatment was in any way due to the supposed insufficiency of his private means. It seems to have been due to the peculiarities referred to, and to the idea, not uncommon among lads of that age, that such faults can be corrected by such treatment.

This excuse is not one which the military advisers of the Secretary of State are prepared to accept. The Commander-in-Chief is fully prepared to put down bullying, wherever the existence of such a practice is brought to light, with a strong hand, and to hold officers commanding regiments responsible for the proper treatment of all officers subordinate to them.

In this case, however, the evidence does not point to any failure of duty on the part of the senior officers of the regiment.

It appears that when these practices were brought to the notice of the Adjutant of the regiment, he first expostulated with the offenders, and subsequently reported them to the Commanding Officer, who took instant steps to stop any such conduct and severely censured the officers concerned, punishing the ringleaders.

That his action was sufficiently drastic is incidentally shown by a letter from Mr. Bruce Pryce, the father of another officer in the regiment, who, writing in regard to his son's case, says that he was not ill-treated, because whenever such measures were mooted, the elder Subalterns refused to join "after what occurred in Hodge's case." (The inverted commas are his.)

Had Mr. Hodge not been unfortunately unfitted for the Service, there seems no reasonable ground for doubting that the interposition of the Colonel would have been sufficient to secure him fair treatment while he remained in the regiment; the action of the regimental authorities proved both the desire and the power to do this.

The Secretary of State for War does not consider that in the circumstances any further action is necessary in the case.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, G. Lawson.

In view of what follows, I shall confidently ask the public to join with me in pronouncing this letter the most disgraceful document of its kind ever issued from the War Office. It is disgraceful to everybody concerned in its production, first for its gross disregard of truth and its attempt to palm off as facts conclusively established mere *ex parte* statements entitled to no credit; and, secondly, for the shuffling and unworthy pretexts which are resorted to for refusing to take notice of misconduct the gravity of which is admitted. To begin with matters of fact, I will ask the reader next to look carefully at the following letter addressed to me by Mr. Hodge, senior :—

Duporth, St. Austell, October 2, 1896.

4th Hussars Scandal.—Hodge Case.

Dear Sir,—On July 3 I received a letter from the War Office asking me to formulate my charges, &c., &c. "When you have done this, you may rely upon the case being made the subject of a full and absolutely impartial inquiry."

Like a simpleton, I actually believed that an *impartial* inquiry would take place, and have remained at home for the last three months so as to be in readiness to give my evidence when required. Unfortunately for the country generally, but fortunately for the offenders and the ringleaders particularly, I have *not* been required, because this "absolutely impartial inquiry" has not taken place at all.

You will see by the letter to me from the War Office (which you now have) that the authorities do not intend to punish any of the offenders, for they consider the "drastic" measures taken by the Colonel at the time of the offences were sufficient. Now, I ask, what were these *drastic* measures that were taken? The War Office knew nothing of them; my son knew nothing of them; the Under-Secretary for War, by his statement in the House of Commons, knew nothing of them; but why? Simply because no drastic measures of punishment at all were awarded. They simply never existed, or they would have been reported by the Colonel to the War Office.

With regard to that portion of the letter from the War Office stating that my son, while in the riding-school "held on to his saddle, refused to mount his horse, and actually cried," I believe this to be an untrue statement, for it varies most glaringly from that made to me by the Adjutant when I had my interview with him. He stated to me, and this I am prepared to state on oath, that my son was "getting on well in the riding school and with his drills, and that he showed a good deal of pluck in his riding."

I have no reason whatever to doubt the word of this gentleman.

I fear that in future bullying and very questionable practices on the part of cavalry Subalterns will be allowed to go on unchecked as hitherto. For in this glaring case of bullying (with all its terrible after effects), which the authorities at the War Office now fully admit took place, there is not one word of regret; not one word of apology; not one expressed, or even implied, intention of punishing the offenders.—I beg to remain, yours very truly, Henry Hodge.

P.S.—In War Office letter, paragraph 3, it states, "Your son seems to have quitted England before or very soon after any complaint as to the reasons for his retirement from the Service was made, and it was therefore impossible to examine him," &c.

As a matter of fact, my son did not leave England for fifteen months after his retirement. Surely that was ample time for an inquiry. H. H.

Comparing these two documents, the following facts are clear :—1. The statement of the War Office that "the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General have carefully inquired" can mean nothing more than that they have obtained the answers of the officers of the regiment (the incriminated parties) to the allegations of Mr. Hodge, and have accepted their statements without giving Mr. Hodge any opportunity of replying, or testing the answers, even where they are grossly defamatory towards him. 2. The War Office has adopted and given currency to a gross slander on Mr. Hodge, obviously on the mere evidence of the men who, it admits, have already done him the foullest wrong. The evidence, indeed, in support of this slander is so rotten that the whole story about Mr. Hodge's cowardice in the riding-school is blown to the winds by the statement of the Adjutant to the father —a statement which was made immediately after the horse-trough outrage. Had the most elementary requirements of an "impartial inquiry" been observed, had even Mr. Hodge, senior, been allowed to hear what was said on the other side before a decision was arrived at, the Commander-in-Chief must have seen that, in the face of what had passed between Mr. Hodge and the Adjutant, the story would not hold water, and that to publish it on the authority of the War Office would only involve the War Office in discredit. However, the War Office have chosen to adopt this story and publish it, and the consequences must rest upon them. "Discredit," indeed, is hardly the word for the position, if, as few will doubt after Mr. Hodge's statement, the story about the riding school is simply a malignant invention. For note that, on the strength of this story, the War Office now actually pronounce Mr. Hodge to have been "*constitutionally unfitted for a cavalry officer.*" Constitutionally unfitted! Here is a lad who has

passed all the usual tests, including a strict medical examination. The War Office has granted him a commission after taking every recognised means to satisfy itself of his fitness to hold it. He serves for a few weeks only, almost from the first day of which his life is made a perfect hell for him; and now the heads of the Army, apparently in sublime unconsciousness that they stultify themselves in so doing, solemnly pronounce that he was "constitutionally unfitted" for the position to which they themselves appointed him. On what ground, pray? Apparently, in deference to the opinions of a handful of young officers, who stand charged with having driven this gentleman, by the most blackguardly ruffianism, into resigning his commission, and who pronounced him unfit for the regiment within a few days of his joining. It is true there is added to this another libel as to Mr. Hodge having reported himself sick and the medical officer being unable to find anything the matter with him. But the only person on whom this statement reflects, as the case now stands, is the medical officer himself. In his first letter to me on this subject, Mr. Hodge, senior, clearly stated that his son came home to him broken down in spirit and in health, and was *for three months subsequently* under medical treatment. Had the opportunity been given him, he could have supplied his own testimony as to his son's condition, fortified by that of the medical gentleman who attended his son during these three months. Without making the slightest attempt to obtain this evidence, but rather having adopted a course which ensures its being kept out of sight, the War Office pronounce this unfortunate officer guilty of malingering, and declare the man they had themselves appointed a few weeks earlier to have been "constitutionally unfitted" to hold a commission. The truth plainly is that if Lord Wolseley had investigated the facts of this case, as he pretends to have done, the question for him to consider would have been how it was that under these circumstances the medical officer to whom Mr. Hodge reported himself failed to see the conspicuous consequences of the treatment to which the lad was being subjected. The whole pretence that an "impartial inquiry" has shown Mr. Hodge to have been "constitutionally unfitted" for a cavalry officer is a piece of iniquity differing in kind, but not in degree, from the treatment which the man received while he was in the regiment.

Passing over for a moment the attempt—precisely similar to that made in the Bruce case, and made in utter defiance of the evidence—to get rid of the suggestion that Mr. Hodge's financial inability "to go the pace of the regiment" was a motive for the persecution, let us look next at the monumental passage, wherein the Commander-in-Chief professes to find no excuse for the treatment of Mr. Hodge, and to declare his determination to "put down bullying with a strong hand." Mr. Hodge, we are here told, was bullied; the excuse put forward for bullying him is one which the Commander-in-Chief cannot accept; his lordship is determined to put down bullying, wherever brought to light, with a strong hand; and what is the conclusion? That no further action is considered necessary in the case. Why? Because the regimental authorities have done everything that circumstances require. And what have the regimental authorities done? Censured the officers concerned, we are told, and punished the ringleaders. The censure, I have heard something of, but it is the first mention that has reached me of any "punishment," and what the statement now made means cannot be better indicated than in Mr. Hodge, senior's, own remarks upon it. Mr. Hodge tells us that his son, who remained in the regiment for some weeks after the time of this alleged punishment, never heard of the ringleaders having been punished. Mr. Bruce who did hear references to the Hodge case, never heard of this punishment. The Under-Secretary of State for War, when the matter was under discussion in Parliament, had never heard of it, although, as Mr. Hodge points out, the punishment, if administered, should have been reported by the Colonel. Will anybody believe, in the face of this, that any punishment deserving of the epithet "drastic" was really inflicted? Again, when was this "drastic" punishment administered? Apparently after Mr. Hodge, senior, came to Aldershot and interviewed the Adjutant. Did it do any good to Mr. Hodge? Not a scrap. True, it led to a cessation of the actual physical violence, but this was only succeeded by methods of torture more refined and more effectual, and by these means the desired result was attained of driving the victim to despair and resignation. All this followed immediately upon the precious "punishment" of the ringleaders, and we are not told by the War Office that this continuation of the persecution has been noticed, still less punished, in any way. Does Lord Wolseley seriously mean that the only form of bullying against which he is determined to use his "strong hand" is actual physical violence, and that every means of making a brother officer's life intolerable, short of brute force, is beyond his cognisance? If so, his declaration against bullying is mere trifling with the public.

But the climax of absurdity, I had almost said impudence, is reached when Mr. Bruce-Pryce is solemnly called as a witness to prove that everything the circumstances called for was done by the authorities in Mr. Hodge's case. This is, indeed, a master-stroke. It is perfectly true, of course, that no personal violence was seriously attempted against Mr. Bruce, just as it is true that it was dropped with Mr. Hodge after the horse-trough performance. There is little doubt that it was somehow brought home to the ringleaders in the attacks on Mr. Hodge's person and property that in the horse-trough business they had gone a little too far, and that if anything of that sort was repeated the consequences might be unpleasant for themselves. That much no one has ever questioned. But does that dispose of these two cases? In all seriousness, "the Secretary of State and his military advisers" seem to hold that it does. They appeal to the fact that a repetition of the horse-trough blackguardism was prevented, as proof that the regimental authorities did everything that was necessary; and they ignore everything which drove Mr. Hodge into resignation. When they came to the Bruce case they shut their eyes to the plain fact that notwithstanding

everything that had happened in the Hodge case, the offenders formed an insubordinate conspiracy to defeat another War Office appointment. The formal intimation conveyed to Mr. Bruce of the joint determination of his brother officers to "get rid of him as they had got rid of Hodge"—as insolent a defiance of superior authority as ever was perpetrated—is deemed unworthy of notice by the Commander-in-Chief and his colleagues; and they actually point with triumph to the fact that in the Bruce case the organised opposition stopped short of personal violence, as proof of the sagacity and success with which the "strong hand" had asserted itself in the Hodge case. Whatever else the heads of the War Office may be, they are not absolute fools, and such a perverse misconstruction of plain facts as this can only be attributed to a preconceived determination not to see the truth.

The only result is that a scandal which originally only affected certain officers of one particular regiment now involves equally the Secretary of State and his military advisers—first and foremost among them the Commander-in-Chief. In estimating the responsibility of these higher functionaries, the public has to bear in mind two considerations over and above the actual facts of the case. One is that the young officer who assumed the part of ringleader in the conspiracy to eject Mr. Bruce from the 4th Hussars belongs to an influential family, and that all the influence at his back has been used to prevent a reopening of the case, as I can testify from my own experience. The other consideration is that the officer who commanded the regiment at the time of both occurrences is an old personal adherent of the present Commander-in-Chief, and a humble member of the select band conveniently known in Service circles as "the Wolseley ring." That this officer's personal representations in regard to both matters have been accepted as a convenient substitute for the "personal inquiry" into the facts promised to Parliament, it is easy to guess from a perusal of the documents in which the War Office decision is conveyed. To considerations such as these—coupled with that evil tradition of the War Office, in accordance with which no decision once pronounced is ever modified by the light of fuller knowledge, unless in deference to superior force in the shape of a hostile vote, or the prospect of a hostile vote, in the House of Commons—is to be attributed the flagrant denial of justice and the dishonourable trifling with truth witnessed in the last words of the War Office on these two cases. Nor, from the public point of view, is the refusal to do justice the most serious aspect of the matter. Far more disastrous in its consequences must be the demonstration thus afforded of the readiness of the War Office to wink at a form of misconduct peculiarly odious in itself, and destructive of the best traditions of the Service. Lord Wolseley may prate as he pleases about his determination to put down bullying wherever brought to light with a strong hand. But the fact remains that in one of the most cruel and blackguardly cases of bullying that ever have come to light, he allows the offenders to go scot free, and invokes all the arts of the special pleader as an excuse for inaction; while to this it has to be added that, in the face of a proved and officially-admitted conspiracy among the junior officers of a regiment to force two officers in succession into resignation as soon as they were appointed by the War Office—a conspiracy persisted in notwithstanding official warnings—he declines to see any conduct worthy of reprobation, but rather goes out of his way to approve the personal antipathies by which this double conspiracy was prompted. It may be true that the officers implicated were influentially connected, and that the Colonel who, in the eye of the War Office, shares the responsibility for the result is fortunate in possessing the private ear of the Commander-in-Chief. But these are details which are not likely to be taken into account by the average rowdy subaltern. Every junior officer in a fast regiment may be expected to read the result as proof that the War Office will cheerfully accept the unpopularity of an officer with his comrades as a proof of his unfitness for a commission, and a justification of combined efforts to force him into resignation; and every Service bully will find in it a declaration that, short of such extreme measures as destroying a comrade's clothes and dragging him naked through a horse-trough, he is henceforth to have a free hand in dealing with an "unpopular" comrade. That seems to be the moral of the Hodge and Bruce cases as the Commander-in-Chief has left them.

TIPS AND TIPPERS.

The Paris *New York Herald*, when not engaged in conclusively proving that the Sultan is what Mr. Parnell would have termed a nice, kindly old gentleman, exceptionally fitted to take part at an Armenian tea-party, has been devoting itself of late to the question of hotel tips, and in order to elucidate the matter it has addressed a series of questions to the principal European hotel-keepers, many of whom have sent replies. It would seem that the Americans are strongly against these tips, but that they are more lavish in respect to them than other nationalities. The hotel-keepers a little evade the question of a charge for service in their bills, but they insist that every servant in their employ receives good wages, and they imply that this charge does not cover the wage. They believe that tips are the only way in which good willing service can be ensured, for without them their servants would be remiss. The scale of tips recommended varies. Some suggest that every guest ought to distribute 10 per cent. on the amount of his bill, some 5 per cent. For a family of two residing in a hotel, the proper distribution, according to most of them, is:—Hall porter, 5 francs; head waiter, 5 francs; chambermaid, 4 francs; table d'hôte waiter, 3 francs; boots, 3 francs; waiter bringing breakfast to room, 4 francs. But in some estimates the amount is considerably larger. Evidently, however, the tips of a person or of a family staying one night at an hotel would be proportionately a good deal higher. Say in the instance of a single man that the bill is 30 francs, and that the tips all told are 5 francs, this would be a good deal more than 10 per cent. on the amount of the former. I make it out that a hall-porter receives about half a franc per diem from each guest

in an hotel. Let us suppose a hotel with capacity to hold 300 guests, and where the average each day is 200. In this case the hall-porter would get 100 fr. per diem, *i.e.*, 37,500 fr. per annum. In this case it is difficult to believe that the proprietor does not share in the spoil, for obviously this is an excessive salary for a hall-porter. So, too, in regard to the head-waiter.

A country may change its laws, but countries will never alter what has become a universal custom. Therefore, it is a mere waste of time to protest against hotel tips, for they will always be given. The nuisance connected with them is, that no one exactly knows what to give and to whom it should be given, whilst it is troublesome to distribute them between half-a-dozen people. Some persons, too, will be more generous than others, and this also is not likely to be altered.

What I would consequently suggest is that the total amount of the tips should be handed to one particular person, and that this amount should be subsequently distributed upon some settled ratio amongst those who have, or who think that they have, a claim for them. This would save a world of trouble, and would be fair all round. It certainly does seem absurd that service should be charged in the bill, and subsequently paid for separately. I can remember the time when there was no such charge. There was an outcry for the charge being made in lieu of tips. To this the hotel proprietors naturally assented, knowing that the tips would still continue to be given. I never myself look into the items of a hotel bill; and whether the hotel keeper calls what I have to pay "room," or "service," or "lights," it is all the same in the end. But were I an hotel proprietor myself, I should make my charge inclusive, and "room" would include "service" and "lights." We hear a good deal about the appreciation of gold, but, as a matter of fact, hotel charges have gone up a full 30 per cent. since I first knew them. The hotels are, perhaps, better managed than they used to be, but as regards rooms and food there is not much change. In Paris the charge for "room" is about quadrupled. Probably the dearest hotels in Europe are those of Ostend. In both France and Belgium the hotels are about 20 per cent. dearer than in Germany and in Italy. In Switzerland, and notably in the hotels round about the Lake of Geneva, they are somewhat below the average European price, and there, except during the season, boarders are taken at an exceptionally low charge.

HAWTREY WITH AN ALIAS.

It seems that there is no particular lesson or moral to be deduced from "Mr. Martin," the new play produced last Saturday at the Comedy Theatre, and written by that extremely clever and unique actor-manager, Mr. Charles Hawtrey. Seriously considered, and from an artistic standpoint, it is not what you might call a brilliant triumph; but then nobody does think seriously nowadays, or if they do they are considered ridiculous, so doubtless "Mr. Martin" will be accepted for what it is worth. In this frivolous frame of mind let us see how he impresses the fribble. To begin with, Charles Hawtrey is Mr. Martin, or Martin Heathcote, or Turncote, or any other coat; in fact, anybody but Charles Hawtrey. He is not even a "sublime liar" this time, but a sort of American Anglicised cockney in a very dis-United State. Now, Martin-Hawtrey is introduced to us at a pal's rooms, where his host, one Lovell, is in the act of giving a supper to his *fiancée*, Maudie Vavasour Venne, from the "'alls," and a few other sister artistes with and without husbands. Their conversation is curious, and their manners somewhat low; but this sort of thing in these days appertains to high-class comedy. Lovell confides to the attentive Hawtrey that he is engaged to the fair Lottie; his parents know of his engagement, but hold! They do not know she is from the music-halls, and what do you think the naughty boy has told them? Why, that Maudie is a good little governess. At this juncture in comes Lottie from the supper-room to say she has to be off to do "a turn" somewhere—she doesn't say where—but will be back anon, and she skips away, having first given the audience several verses of her song, which, as she says, is "so old it may be new to some of them." It is, in fact, "The Young Man from the Country," which dates from Evans's about the year 1858. Then in comes a real American this time—none of your penny-plain-and-tuppence-coloured business, but a good sound American, with no nonsense about him, and an accent you could bang nails into. Well, this Yankee Brookfield is a desperate villain, a card sharper, and a low swindler, who brags that he can beat any one at the game of bluff, and is a past master at "Blind Hookey." The whole party, minus the hard-working Lottie, sit down to play a quiet little round of cards, and then the band begins to play. Brookfield fleeces the lot of everything, and his sly description of the "'cute little game" called "Blind Hookey" is intensely humorous. Just as Lovell has been rooked and ruined, back comes the fair Lottie from the variety show. She enters softly, nobody sees her, and she catches sight of the wily American, and, with a stifled cry of "My husband! My husband! Not dead, but all alive, oh!" down comes the curtain.

We are next taken on a visit to Lovell's papa and mamma, who own a heavily-mortgaged family estate, and a small, priggish young niece, who is also very rude, and wants a good slapping to bring her to her senses. Hawtrey, meanwhile, has promised to see Papa Kemble about Lovell's debts, and beg for a little on account. He arrives, and is taken for the American, who is also expected, as papa wishes to raise a bit on "his own," and the American has dangled before his greedy old eyes some wonderful bubble mine which is to pay a million per cent. dividend before any shares are even issued. The first cheque is handed over to the Cockney Martin, therefore, without a murmur, and is immediately posted to his friend Lovell. Then by some mysterious piece of luck Maudie Vavasour's Aunt Rose Leclercq is discovered on the premises, and then, strange to relate, down comes Maudie to confide the awful news to her convenient relative that her husband

is resurrected. Aunt Leclercq, a woman of good sound morals and common sense, urges entire secrecy about the affair as regards Lovell, to whom she is betrothed, and does not wince at the suggestion of bigamy. Lottie strongly objects to the idea of "doing time," and is delighted at the appearance of Hawtrey, who tells her of the cheque and the mistaken identity. Lottie says, "We are lost; the American may be here at any moment; it must be kept dark at all cost. Leave it to me. I will meet the bubble gentleman. He shall not resist my wheedling ways." Then papa and mamma come in and welcome Lottie, who has only popped in to consult Auntie for a moment, but has brought her luggage with her—she is evidently a quick-change artist—which is immediately sent for, and in a few minutes Lottie comes in dressed in her best black gown prepared for conquest and to waylay the American Brookfield, whose foot, or rather feet, are already on the stairs. What, Lottie! What, Charlie! But notwithstanding the relationship existing between them, Lottie tells her husband he must be Hawtrey for twenty-four hours; that is to say, until Lovell has received and cashed his father's cheque. Brookfield indignantly refuses. He says, "I am a man of honour." In fact, the patent swindler never could, and never will be, other than himself. Then Lottie whispers in his ear, "You must, or I'll denounce you!" "Do your worst," says the heartless Brookfield. "I defy you." "Auntie is in the next room," says Lottie. "Oh, is auntie here?" says Brookfield. "Why didn't you say that first? That puts an entirely new complexion on to the affair. You may rely on your request receiving the strictest attention," and off he goes to dress for dinner, leaving Lottie right centre of the stage and entire mistress of the situation. The unexpected arrival of young Lovell in the last act blows the whole concern, for of course when he enters he greets his pal as Martin Hawtrey, whereat papa demands an explanation, and is very angry indeed, and invites Lovell and Hawtrey to have it out in his sanctum sanctorum. The trio return, evidently refreshed by papa's frothy conversation, and Lovell, finding his *fiancée* is a very much married lady, seeks consolation from the priggish niece; and as there is nothing more to be done, most of the company retire to play a game of sixty up, and leave Lottie and Hawtrey to finish the play as best they can, which is real mean, as they might have seen it out to the finish.

Why Mr. Charles Hawtrey has suddenly wearied of himself and tried to sink his individuality under an assumed one is probably best known to himself, but I certainly prefer him as nature intended him to be; but possibly there are some of a different opinion. Miss Lottie Venne is clever in everything she does, but it is open to doubt if the pathetic stop quite belongs to her style; in the comic scenes she was charming. Miss Nina Boucicault made the most of a very small part, and everyone was sorry that there was not more for her to do. Mr. Charles Brookfield was admirable as the swindling American, and Mr. W. Lovell, Mr. William Hawtrey, and Miss Rose Leclercq all worked hard to make bricks with very little straw.

"Mr. Martin" is a clever piece of work, the dialogue is bright, and if there is not much plot to set you thinking, perhaps this is a fault on the right side. Nowadays people want to be amused and not sent home racking their brains to know the why or wherefore of some astounding social problem.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

POTEMKIN IN PARIS.

It was Potemkin-like of M. Jambon, the theatrical decorator, to cover the trees in the Champs Elysées with spring bloom in honour of the Imperial visitors. Jambon wanted the French capital to be "Paris-symbole." It was to give a message of joyous greeting. How better do so than with spring blossoms? October is supposed to say to Czar and Czarina, "You are welcome as the flowers of May, and here we are in bloom to make you feel so." The first impression is startling, but not unpleasant. If the Imperial guests remained a whole week, they would get tired of it, as we all get sick of an oft-seen *article de fantaisie*. And is not extravaganza in keeping with the Franco-Russian alliance? The wedding of the carp and rabbit was not more improbable. We should as soon have thought four or five years ago of fruit-trees blooming in October as of a dresser of skins receiving the Czar and Czarina in the name of France and in the palace of Louis XIV.

Since M. Jambon was about imitating Potemkin, he might as well have arranged to clear off the flowers on the last day of the Czar's visit, and replace them with cellulose fruits. This would have been a way of saying, "Time speeds so fast when we bask in the light of your countenance that a whole spring and summer seem to us but a few days." The fruits, with electric light glowing through them, would have been in keeping with the russet and golden hues of the foliage.

M. Jambon's wand has produced not only a tree covered with white blossoms in October, but it has also called forth flax-blue blossoms. Blue is a common colour in the wild and garden flora, but I cannot think of any tree that affects it. But why, since we admit the action of the wand, carp at this other wonder? The decorator wanted to pay a compliment to the Russian taste for crude colours in his Boulevard decorations. From the entrance of the Rue Royale to the Bastille there is a succession of lintels of a Russo-Japanese structure. They span the Boulevards. Their horizontal beams are adorned with a row of globes of a dull-gold hue. Other globes of sage-green and amaranth-red are arranged in three and four-leaved shamrocks and other patterns above the lintels. Festoons of others, all brightly coloured, and holding electric lamps, complete the adornment. The material on which the decorator worked is not glass, but cellulose. It looks dull in the day time, but lights up well. Fancy what a perspective burst on the eyes of the Imperial guests as they drove to the Opera House! They had first seen from a looking-glass pavilion at the Trocadéro a pyrotechnic Niagara. The great American

waterfall is below the level of the shores between which it falls. Its fiery and artificial prototype was as high above as the top of the Eiffel Tower. Statistics de-poetise. Why, then, say that the fire cascade had at the top a diameter in every direction of 40 mètres; that 15,000 double-detonating fuses shot skyward as the cascade descended; that 2,000 tricoloured "bombs" crashed; that a gigantic St. Nicholas, looking like moonshine, arose on the second platform of the tower, and that the booming of 1,000 heavy fort guns announced the presence of the Czar and Czarina? Otherwise prodigious were the fever, racket, impulsive folly, and human pressure in the elbowing, rushing, roaring crowd that wanted to catch a glimpse of the frail, nervous-looking Czar and the Czarina.

Protocolatry is now the state religion. It possesses the official world and has spread to the country. The other day a sub-Prefect who was giving a dinner-party nearly found himself without guests just as the dinner was about to be announced. He had invited the county councillors of his arrondissement, a general making a tour of inspection, and the head doctor of a hospital. When they had all met in the salon a Radical journalist who was also bidden entered. A Protocolater belonging to the county council went round asking his colleagues whether they would not retire. He put to them that they, as representatives of the people, had in a degree *sovereign* rank, because they were entitled to know beforehand what other persons the Prefect wished to ask. This view was shared by some. But the other councillors thought it would be better to ask their host to step aside and request him either to choose between them and the journalist. This was done. The sub-Prefect stood by his Radical guest. But being a clever man, he said, "I propose a course that will save the dignity of every one. You will find in the next room pens, ink, and paper. Draw up and sign a protest, which I promise to forward on to my chief. This will let off ill-humour and enable us to dine with a good appetite. Apropos, the dinner has been prepared by one of Chevet's best artists. The Radical is a good fellow, a Parisian, and quite a wit. He is likely to climb high, and I fancy is a man to court." The Protocolists consented, and the dinner passed off pleasantly.

The Czar's action has been rather to keep down than to foment Protocolatry. He is so high that he really can hardly attach importance to those molehills that seem mountainic at the Quai d'Orsay. It was his idea to bring the Parliament forward. Of course he does not come to France to express his admiration for the *chic* of this elderly climber, the historical talents of another, or the diplomatic zeal of a third. What he wants is to be in touch with the nation. Parties come and go, Presidents are broken like toys that have ceased to please, statesmen idolised yesterday may be pilloried to-morrow. But Marianne is always the brisk, courageous, hard-working, money-saving *Gauloise* who pulled France through twenty-six years ago.

The pictorial side of the Imperial visit may be spoken of as *la Russie à toutes les sauces.* The chromo-lithographers were divided about the colour of the Czarina's eyes. Some made them brown, some blue. The fair hair and beard of the Czar were a surprise. In his photos they came out black. We had him and her driving, walking, standing, sitting, and with the baby. They were given as they appeared at Moscow, Vienna, Breslau, and Copenhagen, where they were done with the other posterity of the King and Queen of Denmark. Their heads were served up in medallion engravings on menus; their likenesses were the culmination of a long line of dynastic portraits. By the way, why is it that the Catherines and Anne and Elizabeth were so full-bodied and jolly-looking, and the five last Empresses so very different? The widow of Paul I. looks, though stout, gnawed with discontent. Charlotte of Prussia (the first Alexandra) is, in her engraved portraits, only skin and bone. The wife of Alexander II. seems deeply melancholy, and has the sunken chest of a consumptive. The Dowager Empress's mouth shows material well-being, but the rest of the face shows nervousness and anxiety. Her figure remains neat and slender. The present Empress, it is remarked, looks in fragile health. She inspires great interest, and has a beautiful profile, to which the fullest justice is done by M. Chaplain, of the Mint, the author of the Nicholas-Alexandra medallion.

Last week the papers had, through an official telegraphic agency, a daily record of all the President's doings. We were told whom he had to lunch or dinner, what rides he took, what audiences he gave. Were there slopes at Rambouillet (a *ci-devant* Royal Castle where Francis I. died) we should doubtless have been informed how M. Félix Faure walked on them.

The cruel chaffing about things sartorial has brought back M. Faure to *l'habit noir*, or black swallow-tail. He wore it at Cherbourg, and wherever else he had to appear with the Czar. We are curious to hear what he will wear on horseback at Chalons. The Frenchman marries, buries, and feasts in the black swallow-tail. It is the evening dress of master and man, the symbol of equality, respectability, and monotony. *L'habit noir* is a fruit of the revolution that has conquered the world. One finds it in the dress-circle of theatres from Stockholm to the Antipodes. Wherever there is a modern hotel one sees it on the waiter's back. When a Turkish Pasha gives a dinner he expects his guests to come in the black swallow-tail and white cravat. The uppish French craftsman, who longs to figure as a bourgeois, wears the *habit noir* on his Sunday outings. M. Faure overrated his influence when he thought he was able to fling aside this sartorial despot.

The Marquis de Noailles, Ambassador to the Court of Berlin, a few days ago left the Castle, where he had been staying as a guest. He went thence on a visit to his nephew, the Duc de Noailles, at Maintenon. That seat of Louis XIV.'s elderly companion is not far from Rambouillet. The young Duchesse de Noailles is a sister of the Duc de Luynes, the Duc d'Orléans' devoted friend. The young Duchesse de Luynes is a

If you wish a good purgative drink the "Franz Josef" Aperient Water, the only PALATABLE NATURAL APERIENT, and the most popular of all Aperients.

daughter of the Duchesse d'Uzès, the great confederate of General Boulanger. This lady has been invited to join at the Opera House the Presidential and Imperial party in the State box. She will have some Royalist officers in attendance on the Czar and the Duc d'Aumale to sympathise with. The Duchess lent General Boulanger £120,000 on the Comte de Paris' bond. He promised to pay "when Monarchy was restored." After his death she appealed to his heirs for payment. But no single heir was rich enough to part with money. The Duc d'Orléans was willing to renew his father's promise to pay, with the same stipulation. One of the odd features of the Franco-Russian extravaganza is the Duchesse d'Uzès' figuring in the State box. Major MacMahon, Duc de Magenta, who acts as aide-de-camp to the Czar for the Chalons Review, is regarded by his Imperial Majesty as a connection. His wife, the Princess Marguerite de Chartres, is sister of the Czar's aunt-in-law, the Princess Waldemar of Denmark.

I had this from an American lady, who asked the Angel Gabriel to give her some insight into the Emperor William's thoughts. Said the Angel, who, like Satan, can quote Scripture:—"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with William, and the word was William." There was a long pause. "Anything more?' inquired the lady. "What more could there be?" replied the Angel.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE following distressing letter, dear Lady Betty, has been addressed to me by an eminent and friendly foreigner:—

"Sir,—I know many English men and women, and I like them very much. Nevertheless, I am aware that your fellow-country men and women are generally detested upon the Continent. This you have at last perceived, and you are unable to account for it.

"There is in your nation a distinct tribe consisting of several thousands of men and women who appear to have no settled homes, but ramble from hotel to hotel upon the Continent. These people, who are generally either tall and thin, or short and stout, carry with them insular prejudices which they have glorified into principles. They imagine that every foreigner is immoral, and that all foreigners are dirty; they regard all continental gaiety as being either undue frivolity or absolute unrighteousness. In fact, in the eyes of these aggressively superior persons all we foreigners are cigarette-smoking, soap-hating, scheming, unscrupulous, effeminate, sinful people; and they take considerable trouble to make us perceive that these are the opinions which they have of us.

"We may possibly be all this, but it is not unreasonable that we do not like being told so. Yet thousands, I might say hundreds of thousands, of your country men and women over-run the Continent, and by their every act continuously impress upon us that we are entirely composed of cigarette-smoke and sinfulness, whilst they are all beef, beer, Bible, and bull-dog. These people, moreover, are sour-tempered, unattractive-looking, ill-dressed, awkward-mannered persons who, by their appearance, aggravate the irritation which their mental attitude towards us creates. They dress as they never would dream of dressing in their own country. They wear large-checked suits, Tam o' Shanter caps, knickerbockers, and Heaven knows what other sartorial abominations! They walk in the middle of the roads—disdaining the common pavements; they disregard the customs of the various countries they visit, and even consider that they are above complying with the ordinary regulations of the local authorities. If taken to task for some offence against these, they threaten to direct the thunderbolts of Truth and the *Times* upon the officials.

"This, however, is not all. Even the best class of English men and women are habitually, though no doubt unconsciously, offensive. A British Peer or Peeress will almost invariably insist upon having a carriage reserved for his or her exclusive use when travelling upon the Continent. Many foreign magnates travel in England, but seldom do any of these refuse to mix with other first-class passengers. Some time ago a British Peer—a Baron—was travelling to Constantinople. It need scarcely be added that he had a special train for the purpose. Before he arrived at one of the capitals through which he had to pass a telegram was received ordering a special luncheon to be prepared for his lordship and his party. The public refreshment-room was at once closed for the occasion, and about twenty waiters were engaged at a moment's notice, each being provided with a new pair of white gloves! This particular Peer was not a great Duke, but merely a newly-created Baron! Our noblemen do not expect to be treated with this almost regal magnificence, nor, indeed, do yours when they are travelling in their own country.

"Please remember that there is scarcely a single foreigner between the two poles who has not at some time or other had his temper ruffled by the aggressively superior conduct of one of your country men or women. For the sake of the popularity, and even of the prosperity, of your nation, I would advise that a special Government Department should be founded to control your people when upon their travels, seeing that by their appearance, their manners, and their prejudices, they continually do so much to make the English detested.

"Diplomat."

* * * * *

A curious incident relating to the Venezuelan crisis has leaked out, and has caused much amusement. It will be remembered that when the crisis was most acute the American Government could not comprehend why no answer to their last despatch was received from Lord Salisbury. It appears now that the despatch drafted by Lord Salisbury was by some error placed in the Foreign Office bag addressed to China, and this in due course was delivered to our Minister at Pekin. When the responsible authorities at the Foreign Office heard what had happened, they were naturally dismayed, and the difficulty which first presented itself to their minds was how to make known to Lord Salisbury the awkward error which had occurred. However, it was useless to discuss the matter, so the person whose duty it was to speak to Lord Salisbury upon the subject lost no time before doing so. The best part of the story remains to be told. It is declared that when Lord Salisbury learnt what had occurred he burst out laughing and exclaimed, "I knew I should get into trouble over this Venezuelan affair!"

Time is the best diplomatist.

The story is given as it is told, but, of course, it is impossible to guarantee that it is true. It would be too good a joke if the Foreign Office authorities really did forward to Pekin a most important despatch intended for Washington.

* * * * *

The future of Boodle's Club must soon be decided upon. There are many who hope that the premises may be acquired by the Royal Yacht Squadron, in which case the club-house would become the London home of the members of the Squadron. Until now the members of the Royal Yacht Squadron have had no London house of their own, though their committee meetings have always been held at Boodle's. If the committee of the Squadron decide to establish an annex in London to their club at Cowes, the former will certainly be one of the most exclusive clubs in the West End.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE grievous collapse of Knight of the Thistle was the great event of last week. Newmarket people were perfectly infatuated about the horse, and good judges vowed that Persimmon could have no chance with him at the weights. Knight of the Thistle had been going finely in his gallops, and he had done well in a rough trial over the Cambridgeshire course, but in the race for the Jockey Club Stakes he made no show whatever. He has grown into a very handsome horse, and he is still capable of improvement, but if he showed his correct form on Thursday last, he cannot have a 1,000 to 1 chance for the Cambridgeshire. Sir Visto (who will also be benefited by a few more sharp gallops) gave Knight of the Thistle 26 lb. and an easy beating in the Jockey Club Stakes, but in the Cambridgeshire they will meet at 22 lb. It seems to me that Sir Visto has been rushed to a false price for the Cambridgeshire, as Persimmon literally won all the way on Thursday, and it is impossible to estimate the amount of weight the Prince of Wales's colt had in hand. The fact is that when a race is won in this hollow fashion it is all nonsense and rubbish to depend upon the placings of the beaten lot. It is as well that Persimmon is not likely to run again before Ascot, for some of his admirers are falling into a state of dangerous ecstasy on the subject of his merits; but then a number of enthusiasts are thrown regularly every season into frantic paroxysms of praise by the achievements of the horse of the year. It may be hoped that next season we shall see the Ascot Cup contested by Persimmon, Champaubert, and Velasquez, supposing that Lord Rosebery's colt trains on all right and wins the Derby.

The Kingsclere people appear to be floundering about without rudder or compass. Brooch had been so well tried that she was made a great favourite for the Buckenham Stakes, but never for a moment did she look like winning, and she certainly is not the stamp of animal to show to advantage in heavy ground. Blue Water must have gone off considerably during the autumn, or else she must have been giving Brooch an enormous amount of weight in the trial which this filly won. Then the Great Foal Stakes was nearly lost through the muddling pace, as Labrador, instead of coming along as best he could, was waited with, the result being that he was within an ace of being defeated by Serfdom. They really raced for only about three hundred yards. When a good stayer is running against animals which are comparatively deficient in stamina he ought most assuredly to force the pace, instead of puddling about, as did Labrador, the issue of such senseless tactics usually being that the good thing is beaten at the finish for speed. The capital blunder last week in the management of the Duke of Westminster's horses, which was patent to every rational spectator, was the selection of Regret to run for the Jockey Club Stakes in preference to Labrador. At Newmarket, in July, Persimmon gave 12 lb. and a beating to Regret, who was now meeting the Prince of Wales's horse at 6 lb., so he could have no chance unless he had made a prodigious improvement. It was alleged that Regret is now a different horse and decidedly superior to Labrador, but the irresistible logic of facts proves that this theory was all vapour and moonshine. Regret was never in it with Persimmon at 6 lb., whereas at Doncaster Labrador, running at even weights, made the Prince's colt fairly gallop. On the Leger running it is obvious that last week's race must have been a close thing between Persimmon and Labrador, and although the Prince's colt would doubtless have won, yet the Duke of Westminster's colours would have been carried more creditably than they were by Regret. The Kingsclere people have always been quite *entêté* on the subject of Regret, but surely it must now be recognised, even by his *quand-même* worshippers, that he cannot stay, and that even over his own distance (an easy mile at the outside) he is by no means an animal of superlative merit.

Hellebore won the Hopeful Stakes very cleverly from Berzak, as I had predicted would be the case. Lord Durham's colt bids fair to make a grand three-year-old, and it is greatly to be regretted that, by some inconceivable blundering, he should have been withdrawn from the Derby when the minor forfeit was declared, as also was Fiorini. Hellebore also paid forfeit for the £2,000 stake at Liverpool next July. Lord Durham has luckily left his colt in the Eclipse Stakes, and he is in the rich St. James's Palace Stakes at Ascot, the entry for which race does not include Velasquez.

Lord Durham had a great favourite for the Triennial in Not Much, a colt about whose excellence Newmarket people has been very eloquent, and so generously and extensively was he supported that odds were betted on him in a field of six. The winner, however, turned up in Santa Stella, who was not backed for sixpence. The filly is by St. Simon out of Star of Fortune, and Lord Derby gave 2,000 gs. for her at Newmarket last December.

It was announced in TRUTH shortly after Goodwood that Goletta would miss her Doncaster engagement (the Champagne Stakes) and be reserved for the Rous Memorial last Friday, which race she "just" won, after a desperate finish with Eager. Although odds were freely betted on the filly it was the general opinion of the Newmarket experts that the colt would win. I was also right in predicting the success of Berzak in the Rutland Stakes, and Stewarton had no chance with the American colt.

The Cambridgeshire will evidently be a very heavy betting race, and wise people will leave it alone until after the Cesarewitch. Thais is being zealously written up, but she certainly will not beat Canterbury Pilgrim at the weights, to which it may be added that the Prince's filly will probably fail to quite stay the course. Marco has been heavily backed, but there was literally nothing in his Triennial victory, as Dingle Bay, who is a slow beast, had to make his own running, so that Mr. Luscombe's horse was allowed to wait comfortably, and then beat the Ebor winner for speed. I cannot conceive why Marco was not sent to Paris to run for the Prix du Conseil Municipal, as he would have met the best horses with a great advantage in the weights. I do not anticipate Marco's victory in the Cambridgeshire, and, although he did win very easily last year, yet it must be remembered that there was not nearly so good a field as there will be on the 28th. The Irish are reported to have a real good thing in Winkfield's Pride, and after Bellevin's runaway victory at Manchester (when he was handicapped with ridiculous and reprehensible leniency) they ought to make no mistake. If Winkfield's Pride really means Bellevin at 6 st. 10 lb. he will be hard to beat. Shaddock, whose name does not figure in the betting, will as nearly as possible win the Cambridgeshire if he goes on all right.

I am not going to attempt a definite prediction for the Cesarewitch, writing ten days before the race is run. I do not fancy Chit Chat, who has been first favourite since her owner's very foolish letter was published. If this horse is, after all, ridden by Robinson and wins, then there will be vituperative cries from all quarters from infuriated backers who will profess to have been "stalled off" by Mr. Calvert's epistle. *Un père de famille est capable de tout*, said Talleyrand, and one may say the same of a "professional" owner of race horses. Mr. Calvert, of course, does not belong to this category, and no doubt he acted in accordance with bad advice in writing the letter which has been so severely criticised. In future he will do well not to concern himself about the operations of the public backers, who will not thank him if the horse loses, and who will overwhelm him with invectives if it wins. Laodamia is not doing an orthodox Cesarewitch preparation, but the mare does not require much work. There is no getting away from her Doncaster form, although people at Newmarket said that The Rush will beat her next week, as the Cup was a false run race. If it is true that Mr. Fulton requires a bet of 30,000 to 2,000 about Laodamia, the sooner she is scratched the better, for he might as well ask for the moon. I heard, however, a fortnight ago, from good authority, that he has £1,000 on the mare. Count

Schomberg seems to me to be decidedly overweighted. St. Bris is firm in the market, and he is much fancied by clever people, while, with Labrador in the stable, Porter should be able to estimate this horse's chance to an ounce. Portmarnock made many friends at Newmarket last week, and he gallops like a stayer. This horse certainly ought to run well. Of the Lordship Farm lot, I expect Corsican will prove the best, and shall not be surprised if this horse finishes in the first three if he comes to the post fit and well. Cypria is undergoing a thorough preparation of the old-fashioned sort, and she is one of the select band of starters that is at least sure to stay the course. Three years ago the mare ran a dead-heat for the Cesarewitch with Red Eyes, having 6 st. 5 lb. on her back, and now she has only 7 st. to carry. Nouveau Riche has been backed down to 100 to 8, but for this horse I have no fancy whatever, while his stable companion, Oleander, is not likely to start. Bournemouth has fallen lame, and he will not run. The Rush fairly walked away from Phœbus Apollo the other day in a smart gallop over the Cesarewitch distance, and there is no doubt but that Mr. Dobell's horse will beat many more than will beat him. Victor Wild will run well if he starts. It is said that Arlequin always runs best now on hard ground, in which case he is not likely to be suited by the Newmarket going next week; but, considering the fashion in which this horse has been backed, his supporters do not appear to have any qualms in connection with the state of the course. It is unlikely that there will be much more heavy betting on the Cesarewitch until after the race for the Duke of York Handicap on Saturday, and probably before the flag falls the market on this event will have been thoroughly revolutionised.

When the final forfeit was declared for the Imperial Produce Stakes at Kempton Park sixty-five two-year-olds were left in, but there is likely to be only a small field on Friday, although it is a case of paying £31 on each entry, run or not. Velasquez will not start, being in reserve for the Middle Park Plate, and Lord Rosebery will be represented by Chelandry, who went uncommonly well in her gallops last week, and she seems to be in excellent form just now. Lowly will not run again this season, and Vesuvian (who was expected to represent the Kingsclere stable in the race) is still backward. Cyrenian won the Granby Plate at Newmarket last week for Lord Londonderry; but he is not likely to beat Chelandry, running at weight for sex. Rapallo, the brother of Laveno, does not seem to be anything of a flyer, and I have heard nothing favourable of Brilliana (half-sister to Ayrshire and Troon, by Sheen), who is to carry the Duke of Portland's colours. I shall plump for Chelandry.

There will be a good field for the Duke of York Handicap on Saturday, and the race has really lost nothing by having the value reduced to £2,000 from £5,000. Last year this event cost the fund £3,100. Quarrel will run, and the course will suit him exactly, but I fancy that Lord Rosebery's horse must be now getting rather stale after all the work he has done this year. Marco, Shaddock, and Canterbury Pilgrim will not run, as they are all in reserve for the Cambridgeshire. Kirkconnel is very well in on his best form, but he cannot be trusted. Bellevin might as well run, even with his penalty, unless his party start Winkfield's Pride. Red Heart, who was the pick of this handicap, has been doing very little work, and the French mare Ghislaine, who was also thrown in, has been seriously amiss. The Tup ought to beat Quarrel on the Royal Hunt Cup running. Hebron ought to run well. Teufel is fancied, and it was over this course that he defeated St. Frusquin last year when in receipt of 10 lb., but the Rothschild colt ought to have won that race. I do not think it worth while to pay attention to the recent form of Teufel, having received a hint that he would improve vastly on these exhibitions in the course of the autumn. The Lombard will probably represent the Bedford Cottage stable, as Amphora cannot stay the course. His Reverence may run for the Duke of Portland, and La Sagesse is said to be a certain starter, but there was nothing brilliant in her Newmarket running last week. Lord Hervey was galloped on Friday and did well enough, but he is decidedly over-weighted. King Hampton is a tip for every short distance handicap that is run, and his day may have at last arrived, but he might give way to Red Heart, who would win in a canter if he was properly trained. Mr. Rucker's horse, however, cannot be fit, so one is obliged to put him aside, and I fancy that either Birch Rod or Rampion will be the winner. Lord Stanley's filly will show to advantage in the deep ground, for she is a powerful animal. The distance will just suit Rampion, who is now in good form.

There will be capital racing at Newmarket next week, and large entries have been obtained for the Nurseries and other handicaps, but the fields for most of the weight-for-age stakes are likely to be small.

There are thirty-six entries for the Clearwell Stakes on Tuesday, including Goletta, Filliford, Berzak, Berriedale, and the colt by Hampton out of Countess Lilian. I shall plump for Mr. de Rothschild's filly. The Bretby Post Stakes of £500 on Thursday may be left to the Duke of Westminster's candidate. There are twenty-five entries for the Prendergast Stakes, including Minstrel, Fiorini, Smean, Brigg, and Arc-en-Ciel. Lord Durham's colt ought to win this race if he is all right. There are 107 nominations for the Middle Park Plate, so that instead of the Jockey Club adding £500, there is a surplus of £35 from the entrances. The entry includes Wreath Or, Minstrel, Galtee More, Rapallo, Monterey, Cyrenian, Berzak, Smean, Brilliana, Velasquez, Chelandry, Goletta, and Filliford. It was expected that the Duke of Westminster would have a dangerous candidate for this race in either Orelio (brother to Ormonde) or Guernsey (by Bend Or out of Jersey Lily), but I hear that both colts want time, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether either of them will run this season. It would in any case be a wiser policy to reserve the most forward of the pair for the Dewhurst Plate, as Velasquez is not engaged in that race, and the selected one would have 7 lb. the best of the weights with Goletta. Mr. James is believed to have a smart filly in Catherine Luther (by St. Simon out of Heresy, by Hermit), who cost 3,800 gs. at Doncaster last year. Mr. M. Dawson's Sir Sydney (by Ayrshire out of Voisine) had a great private reputation at one time, but I have heard nothing of him lately. My own opinion is that Velasquez will win as easily as did St. Frusquin last year.

The Royal Post Stakes entry includes Safety Pin, Santa Maura, South Australian, Aureus, Regret, and Conroy, and the Duke of Westminster's candidate ought to win. This will probably be Conroy, who can easily beat Safety Pin. Lord Derby has four entries for the Newmarket Oaks, but Canterbury Pilgrim is not one of them. The list includes Drip, Burgonet, Miss Frazer, Snowy Corrie, Roquebrune, La Toison d'Or, Helm, and Jolly Boat. This race should fall to Helm, who has to give 5 lb. to Roquebrune. There are sixty-eight nominations for the Champion Stakes, and as there is an entrance of £15, the £1,000 which is nominally added all comes out of the pockets of the subscribers. The conditions (as in so many similar events at Newmarket) are in the greatest degree idiotic. This is a sweepstake of £50 each for starters only, but how much more attractive the race would be if it was made a sweepstakes of £50 each for every horse left in after the first Tuesday in the January before running. The entry includes Marco, Knight of the Thistle, Sir Visto, Roquebrune, Tokio II. (the Hungarian horse who was so heavily backed for last year's Cambridgeshire and who won the Baden Grand Prize a few weeks ago), Conroy, Labrador, and Rampion. There are neither penalties nor allowances in the race, and I shall predict the success of Sir Visto. Persimmon will not run for the Lowther Stakes (another event with most calf-headed conditions),

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

the entry for which includes Avilion, Utica, Shaddock, Rampion, The Quack, Butterfly, Bay Ronald, and Earwig. It is quite possible that Bay Ronald may win this race, as he has a considerable advantage in the weights.

The Amateur Athletic Association is no doubt thoroughly pleased with itself and at the same time overjoyed at the thought that it has dumbfounded those who have criticised adversely its conduct in not punishing the clubs who paid the new-fledged professional runners. One man was punished, Mr. Cook, the Association's officer for Essex. He paid Blair £3. Blair was pardoned, being young, and now Mr. Cook has been reinstated as officer, after apologising for his wicked ways and admitting the justice of his sentence. He had acted inadvertently. Perhaps the money had been received in the same spirit. In the meantime no official mention is made of a single club that has paid the unpardoned athletes. The A.A.A. and its officials are only stultifying themselves by their action. But perhaps this is too wide a condemnation. It is very judicious of the guilty clubs to let the innocent ones suffer with them. It is so sportsmanlike.

There is quite a crisis in cross-country running. The Southern Association has practically decided to have nothing to do with the National Championships unless the venue is in their district, owing to the discomfort and mismanagement that the competitors have to undergo when they are catered for by the North and Midlands. The majority of the runners come from the South, and while in some respects it would be a pity if the National Championships were abolished, it is scarcely a matter for astonishment that the South should act in the way that it has done. If each division were to hold its meeting, and then teams selected from the North, South, and Midlands were to compete for the championship, this would serve the purposes of a national meeting. It would be more easily managed, but then there would be no club champion as there is at present.

The big gates that have been drawn by Bacon in his recent matches with Anstead and Conneff show that people are genuinely interested in foot racing if they can get good sport for their money and a little betting thrown in. It is the provisions against betting that make the attendances at amateur meetings so small. At the same time the average "bookie" who intrudes is probably better outside than inside the enclosure. It is curious to note the extent to which different sports vary. Betting is rigorously suppressed by the Amateur Athletic Association. The Amateur Rowing Association holds its head high and scorns the morality of the cinder path, and yet over the University boat race there is always any amount of betting, and there is hardly an official of the Association who has not something on. In professional running this bar on betting does not exist. There is no reason why professional athletics should not be held in better esteem than at present. A decent programme with moderate stakes would probably attract people. But, unfortunately, the sport seems doomed to disappointment. Bacon met Conneff in a three-mile race. After a third of the distance had been travelled Conneff retired and Bacon strolled home in a time that the average University three-miler could have beaten with ease.

The visit of the Metropolitan Rugby clubs to the West last Saturday was not very successful. Blackheath were beaten by Bristol, and the Old Merchant Taylors by Newport. The latter result was not unexpected, but that the former should have succumbed is remarkable. The Heathens had to rely on an old-fashioned lot of forwards who, apparently, have not learned or else have forgotten the game. For it was forward that the westerners shone. It was interesting to see how Newport would get on without Gould, the inventor of the four three-quarter system. His absence will not make the difference to the game that many have anticipated. The clockwork-like game will be continued, but the players will be more liable to become demoralised when anything goes wrong now that Gould is absent. For he had learned to play under the old system, and therefore he was not wanting in individual play and resource when the occasion required. The London Scottish had not much to fear from the Nomads. But Campbell cannot often play, and Gowans and Gedge are only available in vacation, so that their outsides will be weak and their forwards will apparently show little improvement on last year. At present it looks as though the Harlequins and Richmond would be near the top of the tree. At all events honours are pretty certain to go to one of the leading clubs who, with fair outsides, play the old forward game. They must shove and be quick in dribbling, and able to pass amongst themselves. A pack of eight men coming along with the ball does far more damage than one man who receives the ball from a long pass can possibly hope to do. There is no need for Mr. Budd to press his idea that "kicking out" from a scrimmage should practically be declared to be illegal. A club that does not play this game, but teaches its forwards to carry the ball along with them, is bound to succeed. This play has been the secret of the success of Ireland and Scotland in International games, and it is to be hoped some Metropolitan clubs will profit by the lessons gleaned from these matches.

The Football Association, in its zeal for amateurism, has vetoed the organising and touring of scratch teams, and it is said that certain prominent amateurs are to come under its ban. How far this is aimed at the Corinthians it is not for me to say. But there is no doubt that the professional party in Association football literally hates the unpaid gentleman player, and will do everything it can to bring him into ridicule, hatred, and contempt. If, however, the Corinthian accounts are kept as carefully as they were a few years ago at the time a reference was made to them in these columns, when Mr. A. J. Hornby attacked the club, there is every reason to believe the attack will miserably fail. No doubt the attack is meant as a counterblast to the London Football Association's refusal to legislate for professionalism.

In the Association matches Sunderland at home went under to the Wolves after a rough game. Liverpool still show excellent form, and it required good play on the part of Everton to win. Storer played excellently in goal. There was a very fast game between Luton and Woolwich Arsenal, and there was very little difference between the play of either team. For Luton, Galbraith played grandly, and the team are to be congratulated on having played a draw. There was a very pleasant game between the Casuals and Ealing, for whom Chater made one or two good runs, but their opponents were too strong for them.

The Crystal Palace Cycling track should soon become popular with record breakers. Of course, Stocks is a brilliant rider, but he must have been helped by the track in beating Linton's records for an hour's ride. In fact, had not the pacing come to grief owing to accidents, he would most likely have done thirty-two miles in the time; as it was he did not far from thirty-one and a half miles. Only a few years back Cortis was the first to do twenty miles in the hour on the old Palace track. This was considered marvellous, but an intelligent policeman would have little difficulty in swearing a road scorcher was going at this pace nowadays. Bardsley was an easy winner in good time of the amateur fifty miles championship. Turning to walking, Sturgess has wound up the season in brilliant style in the Polytechnic walking handicap by cutting records from nine to fourteen miles. Considering that he has recently been training for only short distances, his feat was all the more remarkable. Amongst other walkers who did well were Dover and Goldsmith.

The death of Mr. Frank Playford, the veteran amateur oar, at the age of seventy-three, will be much regretted by oarsmen, and especially by members of the London R.C. His training days were marked by a routine of Spartan severity, and his long life is a good answer to those croakers who cry that those who love athletics die young.

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The "Bears" have had a foretaste this week of what is likely to happen to them in the more active period upon which we have now entered, always provided that no further unfavourable incidents come to their rescue. One of the circumstances which has acted favourably upon the markets was undoubtedly the more genial weather, and, although this cannot be relied upon to continue, it will doubtless have improved the traffics which are about to be announced.

A Moderate Improvement

has taken place in most departments, the other favourable features being greater ease in the Money market and more reassuring advices with reference to the Armenian question, the Czar's visit to Balmoral having tended to bring about a better understanding between this country and Russia as regards the policy to be pursued with regard to Turkey. The efflux of gold has for the time been stopped altogether, and not only has more Japanese money been released, but large dividend-payments are increasing the surplus funds, with the result that a distinct decline has taken place in the value of money. It is not to be expected that the Bank rate will be put down again in a hurry, but the scare about dearer money is completely exploded, and one of the first results has been a distinct recovery in all gilt-edged securities, from Colonial Inscribed stocks to Home Railway Prior Charges and British Corporation stocks. Consols, too, have displayed a much stronger tone, and had it not been for a large cash sale, which was made on Friday apparently for Continental account, we should already have had a higher price than 110⅜. In the absence of any further large cash sales, I quite look for a further advance, more especially as Government purchases for the Sinking Fund and the Post Office Savings' Bank cannot be much longer delayed. It is true that a moderate contango was charged at the Consol settlement, but this was caused chiefly by the delivery of some stock, for there can be no doubt that the "Bear" commitments are very large in consequence of the persistent sales which have been going on "as a hedge" for some time. The recovery in other gilt-edged securities is less justified, and seems to have gone quite far enough. My anticipation that Home Railway stocks would improve very considerably when once the weather and monetary position cleared up, has been fully realised, an improvement of from one to two points having been established all round the market American Rails have displayed great strength, as it is being realised more and more that the silver agitator Bryan will have no chance at the Presidential Elections. The financial position in the United States has also been greatly improved by the arrival there of large sums of gold, and there has been a growing disposition on this side to effect purchases at the present low level, the low-priced stocks finally coming into special demand. The Foreign market is not quite happy, the postponement of the Spanish Loan having caused great disappointment in Paris. In the Mining market prospects appear to be brightening. It is true that the Kaffir Circus has not maintained the temporary improvement which was established at one time, but the progress of the mining industry in the Transvaal is so steady that an advance in values cannot be far off. In West Australians the "Bears" are less confident, a batch of satisfactory crushings having again demonstrated the growing producing power of the West Australian goldfields, while many of the "Bear" rumours have been disproved. Barring accidents, in fact, the ursine party is likely to have a bad time of it in the near future. General trade is distinctly improving. One of the feathers that show how the wind blows is an all-round rise in freights and a considerable scarcity of tonnage. This is one of the surest signs of growing prosperity.

Rally in Home Rails.

As the fear of dear money and the unfavourable political outlook have put down prices of Home Railway stocks, it is only fair that the disappearance of these should act as a support to the market, more especially as Jupiter Pluvius has not been quite so much in evidence of late. The improvement has been most important in the Southern passenger stocks, Brighton "A" being up at 178¼, Dover "A" at 102¼. The latter stock more particularly showed great strength, which is not surprising when the large traffic increases and the savings in expenses are considered. The last weekly traffic of the South Eastern, showing an increase of £3,500, was particularly satisfactory. The Heavies are also from one to two points higher; but, as I have already explained, their position is not so promising, and the small improvement has already brought about realisations. A sharp rally has taken place in South-Western securities, and the Scotch section has displayed temporary firmness. Both "Coras" and North British Deferred are now quoted ex-dividend, the distributions having been more than recovered. But Caledonian Deferred ("Coras") at 57½ x.d., and North British Deferred at 44⅜ x.d., are still remarkably cheap, as there has been absolutely no reason for the previous decline, which was due entirely to the shake-out of weak "Bulls." Significant buying from the North has been noticed of late, and a purchase of both these Deferred stocks looks very promising. Metropolitan Districts have again been an active market, touching at one time 35, and reacting to 33¼. The market is still full of "Bears," who do not appear to realise that the new deep-level electric express scheme will altogether change the position. When they come to their senses, which will no doubt take place when the circular announcing the new scheme to the shareholders is issued in a few days, they will probably find the market many points higher.

The Yankee Market Broadening.

Yankee Rails, more than any other securities, have severe periods of depression, in the course of which operators become so completely disgusted both with the methods of American manipulators and with the shortcomings of the management of the Roads, that every now and then those who have been disappointed in this market vow and declare that they will never touch Yankees again. Rarely have these solemn vows been heard more persistently than during the protracted time of slump which has characterised the Yankee market as a consequence of the last financial crisis and the subsequent silver agitation. At one time, moreover, the outlook as regards the Presidential election was so dubious that inaction was doubtless the safest policy. A distinct change has come over the scene during the last few weeks, and strong manifestations of Republican strength at the various State Elections confirm the growing conviction that the victory of Mr. McKinley is practically assured. One of the most promising events was the immense Republican majority of 49,000 in the Maine State Election, which makes it certain that the New England States—with their thirty-nine electoral votes—will be for McKinley. According to the calculation made by one of my American contemporaries, which seems particularly well informed, it is almost certain that the same influences will give to the Republican candidates the other Eastern States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. There are thus five more States, having 89 electoral votes, making a total of 128 in the East. With this start McKinley would need only the votes of six of the central Western States to ensure his election—Illinois, 24; Indiana, 15; Iowa, 13; Michigan, 14; Ohio, 23; Wisconsin, 12. These States have 101 electors, which would bring the total to 229, or five more than are required for an election. This leaves twenty-eight from which to make up any possible losses. Counting Maryland, Michigan and Indiana as doubtful, the Republicans could look to making good their thirty-seven votes from other doubtful States, such as Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas and California, which have together seventy-nine electors. If this calculation be correct, as I believe it is,

the outlook for McKinley's election is reasonably certain; and this is, of course, the all-important influence as regards the market. If the Republican Party wins, the business of the country from one end of it to the other will, as Mr. Henry Clews puts it in his last circular, become so active as to fairly boil over; because the business-man everywhere would know that it means stability, as against what the election of Mr. Bryan would mean, viz., uncertainty for another four years. An all round advance in American Railroad stocks and bonds would be a foregone conclusion, and this would be far more important than the moderate recovery which has so far come about. It is not surprising to find that, with the improved outlook as regards the Presidential election, there should at last have developed in this country a disposition to buy American Railroad stocks. Not only are some of the jobbers, who had left the American market some time ago for the Kaffir Circus, returning to their old love, but there has been a fair amount of public buying, and business is distinctly broadening. It was quite refreshing to find the Erie king, who had held aloof so long, once again bidding for thousands. The rise has been most important in the stocks which I have pointed out for some time as the most promising—viz., Milwaukee, which are quoted 73 ex. the dividend of 2 dols., against 61¾, the lowest point this year; while Louisville at 44½ show a considerable improvement on the quotation of 39 which was marked only a few weeks ago. Denver Prefs., too, stand at 44¼, against 37¼, the lowest touched this year. Atchison Preference shares at 21⅛ also are materially higher. In Louisville there is still a considerable "Bear" account, which is likely to push the price up further; but now that the better-class stocks have experienced so great an advance, there is a growing disposition to buy the low-priced stocks, which can be had at almost knock-out quotations. The junior securities of the re-constructed roads, for instance, on which very heavy assessments have been paid, stand very little higher than the amount of these assessments; and it is argued with considerable force that there is practically no risk in purchasing these, with every prospect of large profits. Look for instance at the stocks of the Southern Railway, which has been placed upon a thoroughly sound basis by the payment of large assessments. In the first year after re-organisation the gross earnings were 17,114,791 dols., and the net earnings 5,141,615 dols. Deducting interest and other charges, a balance of 895,744 dols. remained, which was carried forward. In the second year, which ended on June 30, 1896, the whole of the system was operated so that further charges ranked for interest. Therefore, notwithstanding an increase of 2,000,000 dols. in gross earnings, the net surplus was comparatively small, and the surplus was only 556,478 dols., making the total surplus now standing to the credit of profit and loss 1,452,222 dols, which is available for the Preferred stockholders. This would be equal to 2½ per cent. on the Preferred, and as, when this consolidated system has been at work for a year or more, a considerable decrease in the expenses may be anticipated, prospects are distinctly promising. A small dividend on the Preferred stock is expected by the end of the year, and as Southern Preferred, which stood as high as 44¾ in 1895, are now quoted at only 26, they should be, under all the circumstances, a good purchase on the present reaction. Southern Ordinary, upon which also heavy assessments have been paid, are quoted at the nominal price only of 9, and this stock should certainly rise with the Prefs. Erie Prefs. and Ordinary are attracting a good deal of attention. For the seven months to June 30 the net earnings of the reorganised Company reached 4,195,000 dols., while prior charges and rentals amounted to 4,044,000 dols., so that the surplus profit was 152,000 dols. For July and August the net earnings amounted to 1,640,000 dols., and as the last quarter of the year is usually the best the result will be improved by the earnings during that period. Fixed charges are therefore provided for by the present earnings, and with the improved business to be looked for after the Presidential election, it is probable that a considerable amount will be available for a dividend on the First Prefs. As the *Statist* calculates, to pay 4 per cent. on the First Prefs., the net surplus available after paying fixed charges must amount to 1,200,000 dols. It will be seen that there is every prospect of a portion of this dividend being earned in the near future, and Erie Prefs. now quoted 33 are one of the best purchases in the lower-priced securities. Erie Ordinary have improved to 14¾, and there has been a large business in this favourite speculative stock. Considering that in the late reorganisation an assessment of 12 dols. was paid, this must be considered a promising speculation; and on these four stocks no fresh assessment need be feared. Another low-priced stock which is attracting attention, and may be suitable for a gamble, is Union Pacifics, which have been largely dealt in at 7. Two circumstances, by the way, should be borne in mind in judging the financial and commercial outlook in the United States. In the first instance the wholesale selling of American securities in Europe has come to an end, and moderate purchases have taken their place. Secondly, the rise in grain, and the shortage in wheat, &c., in a number of other countries, has enabled American farmers to realise a considerable portion of their stocks, which are being exported, and also tend to turn the balance of trade in favour of the producing country. The curious circumstance has arisen that in consequence of the failure of the crops in India, cargoes of grain are being despatched thither from California. There has also been an improved demand for American Railroad bonds, and there is no doubt that, as we get nearer the American Presidential election, these will recover a portion of the decline. On no account ought holders to sell now. Canadian Pacifics have improved to 60; and Grand Trunks have also recovered in sympathy with the American market. There was a traffic increase of £21,400 for the fourth week of September, which was, however, partly due to the fact that there was an extra working day this year as compared with last year.

Foreigners and South Americans.

Efforts have been made to bring about a recovery in Spanish, but without success. The disappointment about the postponement of the Quicksilver Loan is still very great, and the quotation has dropped to 61¾. Italians and Russians have also been weaker, and it does not look now as if the Paris Bourse could get up any special boom during the Tsar's visit to Paris. On the contrary, it is now being predicted that this visit will greatly interfere with dealings. Turks are not quite so firm as they were, although there is no really unfavourable news with reference to the Armenian question. Less attention has been paid to Argentine Government stocks. There is a complete deadlock with regard to the carrying-out of the unification scheme, and the large issuing houses are keeping aloof. The Argentine Government is now being urged in certain quarters to promulgate the scheme and leave the conversion optional, but this would be a very lame measure. The stocks of the Argentine unguaranteed railway lines have been firm on the satisfactory results obtained during the last half-year. We have now Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary at 137, Buenos Ayres Western at 12½, Central Argentine at 85½ x.d., Buenos Ayres and Rosario at 69 x.d. I have already stated that the Central Argentine has achieved better results than the Buenos Ayres and Rosario, and now we have the reports of the Buenos Ayres Western and Buenos Ayres Great Southern showing yet more favourably. The gross receipts of the Buenos Ayres Western for the year ended June 30 increased as much as £184,927, and as the working expenses have been reduced to 41,042, the net revenue is as much as £113,783. The Directors are therefore able to pay 6 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, as against 5½ per cent. last year, and 6 per cent. on the Deferred shares, which received nothing in the previous year. The Buenos

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Ayres Great Southern had an increase of £172,324 in gross receipts, for the year ending June 30, the net receipts showing an increase of £102,633, thus enabling the Directors to transfer £45,000 to the reserve fund, and to make up the ordinary dividend for the year to 5½ per cent. against 5 per cent. for the previous year. This is very satisfactory and fully confirms the anticipations which I expressed a year or two back when most of my contemporaries were urging the sale of all these stocks at bottom prices. Uruguay bonds are fluctuating within narrow limits, and they certainly deserve attention on the part of investors. The old loan stands at 49⅝ with the dividend to come off on November 1. The new loan has just received its quarterly dividend of 1¼ per cent., and stands at 67½ xd., being an excellent purchase. Chilians are somewhat steadier, and there really is no reason for anxiety. These stocks would have been stronger if the last loan had been better placed, but this will right itself in time. Mexican bonds have been strong as usual; and Mexican Rails have had a further advance, notably in the First Prefs. and Ordinary, an optimistic tone prevailing with regard to all things Mexican.

The Kaffir Circus.

Although the improvement in Consols and the decline in the Money Market caused a temporary recovery in South African shares, the improvement has not been maintained. It showed, however, that the "Bears" are very fidgety, and at one time quite a little skedaddle took place, which was, however, stopped by heavy Paris selling. Paris is, in fact, the weak spot, and whenever a little improvement takes place our French neighbours appear to be slipping stock. One of these days these taps will no doubt dry up; but in the meantime Paris is scared, and this is not perhaps surprising, as investors in France have chiefly been led to embark their money in a number of rubbish stocks foisted upon them by unscrupulous promoters, and also in those gambling counters against which I have so persistently warned my readers—viz., Chartered, Rand Mines, Limited, Consolidated Goldfields, and East Rands. It is now dawning upon them that they made a mistake in their selection, and that especially in East Rands they have embarked in a most undesirable security. As regards Rand Mines, Limited, it is no secret that during the recent slump a complete collapse was feared, and it is the talk of the market that M. Porges came over from Paris specially to support that stock, which might otherwise have crumbled away in view of the very unfavourable news with regard to the deep levels. Even now deep level mines are far above their real values, when the enormous difficulties of working at such a depth are considered. The position of the outcrop mines on the Rand is far more satisfactory. Yet the shares in these have fallen with the Deep Levels, and without any adequate reason. Matters must, of course, right themselves in the end, and now that the settlement has been got over without any of the disastrous failures which were predicted by the "Bears," while rates indicated a considerable short account, we may have an improvement any day. It may be gradual, as we cannot expect a boom at present; but it is only a question of a few months for that more important upward movement to come which is so fully justified by the position. The "Bear" points are disappearing one after the other. It had been predicted that the reduction of wages of the natives on October 1 would lead to disturbances. The cable news is to the effect that the reduction has been peaceably accepted by the "boys," and thus a very large saving in the cost of labour—viz., 33 per cent.—is effected. What that means is easy to calculate, as the cost of native labour on the Rand is estimated at £2,000,000 sterling. Even if the saving were only 25 per cent., this would mean half a million economised by the various mines, which is a very important item. Native labour on the Rand is very plentiful, partly owing to the rinderpest and the scarcity of mealies; while the beneficial effects of the Liquor Prohibition Bill will also tend to raise the working capacity of the "boys," who, after their drunken bouts, were often incapacitated for work for several days. The Press-gagging Bill is, of course, a most unsatisfactory development of Boer narrow-mindedness, but it does not affect the mining industry. A good deal has been made by the ursine party of a statement alleged to have been made in a libel action brought in Hamburg by Mr. Alfred Beit against the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, that Mr. Beit considered that certain of his projects directed against the Transvaal had only failed temporarily. The fine of twenty marks which was all the Editor of my German contemporary had to pay for libelling Mr. Alfred Beit by printing his private letters, will not prove much of a solatium for the latter, especially as it was accompanied by a pronouncement of the Court that the Jameson raid was an infamous and piratical act. But I completely exonerate Mr. Beit of any intention to execute another raid on the Transvaal. After the experience which he and Mr. Rhodes have had of this matter, and in view of the strong measures which the Boers have taken to be prepared for all eventualities, it is not likely that the excursion to the Transvaal will be repeated. Referring to the market movements in the various gold mining shares I may place on record that most of the improvements in sound Witwatersrand properties have been lost in sympathy with the fall in the gambling counters above referred to. Randfontein, of the Robinson group, have maintained a steady front at from 2⅝ to 2¾; and the moment a general upward movement takes place we may look for a sharp advance in these, and in the various sub-Companies of the Randfontein. Langlaagte Estate looks promising, and, for the matter of that, all the Witwatersrand mines, such as Knights, City and Suburban, Durban Roodepoort, Ferreira, Geldenhuis, Meyer and Charlton, Robinson, Simmer and Jack, Wemmer, Wolhuter, &c., are bound to rise to a higher level. The Barnato stocks were at one time much firmer, notably Barnato Banks and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares, but they reacted again with the general market. I again express regret at the absence of any public statement by Mr. B. I. Barnato with reference to the information he was able to gather on the occasion of his last visit to the Transvaal. It would have been far preferable if the measures recently taken for the increase of the capital of the New Primrose, and for the removal of a portion of the Glencairn battery to the Glenluce, had been foreshadowed and discussed before being sprung on the shareholders. I do not by any means wish to imply that the measures taken are not judicious, and in the best interests of the Companies; but shareholders now-a-days expect to be consulted and enlightened, and not to be treated as children. The same applies to the amalgamation of the Barnato Bank and other properties with the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Corporation. By the way the dividend-warrants on the latter have now been posted to the shareholders, and I should like to know when the market is going to settle the Porges Randfontein bonus of ¼, as these shares must now have arrived here. With reference to the Royal Sheba, my enterprising contemporary, the *African Critic*, states that having made inquiries on the spot with regard to the alleged crushings of 525 tons, yielding 118 oz. 2 dwt. of smelted gold in July, it has ascertained that instead of having crushed 525 tons only, the Company really crushed 1,208 tons. The average yield was therefore only 1 dwt. 22 gr. per ton, as against the stated average of nearly 4 dwt. 12 gr. per ton. This is so serious a charge, that the Directors of this concern ought to at once furnish an explanation. The announcement by the Geldenhuis Estate of a dividend of 2s. 6d. per share is satisfactory under all the circumstances, especially as a cash balance of £8,000 remains after making provision for the dividend; and present profits also appear to be good. To judge from the annual report of the New Modderfontein Company I do not see that the recent criticisms are altogether justified, as, according to this report, an average assay of 14 dwt. per ton has been obtained from the large body of ore now developed. Klerksdorp Estates have again suffered severely, and at

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one time were as low as 8s. 9d. on predictions that a reconstruction would be necessary for want of capital. This is now contradicted, but such contradictions generally end in the original rumour proving correct. Diamond shares have suffered in the general reaction, and are but little better for the week. De Beers are quoted at 28¾, and New Jagersfontein at 9⅜ xd.

Golden West Australia.

According to cablegrams just to hand, the revenue of Western Australia for the quarter ending September 30, amounted to £681,205, against £317,878 in the same period of 1895. The revenue for the month of September was £251,078, against £116,922 in September, 1895. The exports of gold in September from Western Australia are cabled as 35,301 oz., against 29,517 oz. in August. These are large figures, showing the great prosperity which the Colony has achieved. I have no doubt that they will be belittled by certain carping critics on this side who are out of the swim, and by some of the scribes in other Australian colonies whose intense jealousy leads them to make disparaging remarks on the West Australian Goldfields, even though they have subsequently to eat their own words. There was at one time persistent weakness in the West Australian market, which was fostered by various "Bear" rumours, amongst which was the report that a certain firm connected with West Australia was in difficulties. If this was so, the trouble has been arranged, and the market is now showing strong signs of recovery. Yet it cannot permanently recover if another big rush of new companies is attempted, and I wish herewith specially to warn promoters that they must not now again attempt to float dozens of new ventures dealing with undeveloped properties. The big dealers in the West Australian market have set their faces against these, and I am glad to see that one of the strongest groups in this department has expressed a firm intention not to bring out another new mine before the turn of the year. This, of course, means that those managing this group will develop the properties which they have acquired, and bring them to the point when they are ready to crush before appealing to the public, and this is what the investing public should demand in every other case. It will be very easy for them to impress this upon promoters by refusing to subscribe to new Companies which do not fulfil this requirement, and rather to devote their attention to the older Companies which already show results, or are about to crush, and in connection with which such a disappointment as has happened for, instance, with Hannan's True Blue need not be feared. Many of the mines recently offered are only prospects, and altogether unsuitable for flotation. After this brief digression, I return to the present position of the West Australian market. In the first instance, what the public very properly insist upon as the first condition is actual results. A number of very satisfactory crushing results have been announced this week, which I give herewith in tabular form :—

	Tons of ore crushed.	Oz. of gold.	Assay of tailings per ton.
Great Boulder	720	2,318	—
Lake View Consols ...	675	2,093	—
Mainland Consols ...	359	1,447	½ oz.
Lady Shenton	262	1,095	—
Hit or Miss	240	727	—
Great Boulder Main Reef	217	521	1 oz. 12 dwt.
Desirable Proprietary ...	100	214	—
Consolidated Murchison...	940	406	—
Glenloth	101	156	16 dwt.
Coolgardie Mint and Iron King	30	115	15 dwt.
Champion Extended and Home Rule	24	75	—

Five important crushings, those of the Great Boulder, Lake View Consols, Mainland Consols, Lady Shenton and Hit or Miss are very satisfactory. Mines which can produce such quantities of gold and give such a yield per ton, suffice to establish the fame of the West Australian Goldfields. It is satisfactory to find that several other new mines have commenced to fall into line with trial crushings, and amongst these the Desirable Proprietary and the Champion Extended and Home Rule deserve special attention. This should effectually silence the bilious talk of some of my contemporaries who have hitherto confined their attention to South African mines. Cable information reports very favourable developments in neighbouring mines of the Great Boulder, and there has also been a fresh batch of very satisfactory news concerning the Lake View Consols, the shares in which advanced at one time to 8, reacting to 7¾. The official application for a special settlement of these shares has now been made, and it is probable that it will be granted in the course of the present week. If so, you may look out for some lively dealings, for it is no secret that many thousands of shares in the Lake View Consols have been sold here against shares in the old Lake View Company, the certificates in exchange for which will not be available for another month. Mainland Consols are firmer at 2⅝, and if crushings continue at the present rate, they will very likely further improve. I retain my very favourable view of Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure, and there is little doubt that it will not be long before West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance will score an important advance on the present quotation of 4⅜ to 4½. The Hampton Plains meeting furnished an opportunity to Mr. Allen H. P. Stoneham to place the very favourable possibilities of these properties before the shareholders; and it is surprising that these shares should remain at 3 15/16, with 4s. per share to come off as return of capital. I may mention that a cablegram has been received confirming the discovery referred to as "Majors" at the general meeting. The information is to the following effect:—"Hampton Goldfields selection, 'Block 53.' Have struck rich ore on the 70-ft. level. The width of the reef is 3 ft., assaying 10 oz." The excellent Lady Shenton crushing should be of good promise to other ladies of the same family, notably Lady Lochs, which are firmer on the return of the financier who is closely connected with them. West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares have been fairly steady at 3¾ premium. The issue of a batch of reports of the West Australian Venture group is expected this week, and very satisfactory results are spoken of. A complimentary dinner was offered on Thursday at the Hotel Cecil to Mr. L. H. Goodman by the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation, of which he is managing director; Sir Malcolm Fraser, the Agent-General for West Australia, being in the chair. Some very interesting particulars were given of the progress made by this Company from small beginnings, and much interest was manifested in the dry-crushing process, the merits of which Mr. Goodman described in responding to the toast. Some very favourable news was also announced with reference to a gold property which the Company has acquired. I stated some time ago that Mr. Goodman had refused a service of gold plate in recognition of the services he has rendered to the Corporation, and it is satisfactory to learn that the sum in question is to be devoted to the establishment of a hospital in Coolgardie, for which the Hampton Plains Estate Company has generously provided a site free of expense. To judge from the talk in the West Australian market, there must be a great many "Bears" of the shares of the Trading Company, and, from what I can hear of the market position, I should not be surprised to hear of a very bad squeeze in the Ordinary and especially in the Founders' shares. Very favourable advices are to hand by mail from the Maritana Mine, which is shortly to be acquired by an English Company. According to my West Australian contemporaries, the property is opening out well since operations were resumed, and the main shaft (which has been sunk to a depth of 104 ft.) had passed through the rich western lode. The eastern lode, which is described at 13 ft. wide, is also opening up well, and there is a consensus of opinion among mining men that these two lodes and the middle reef will make into one big body at a depth. All three lodes are described as wide and rich, and as going down with every sign of permanency. The Maritana is therefore a proved mine, which, moreover, has an ample water supply; and under these circumstances it belongs to the more

desirable class of West Australian properties. I I notice that on the Board of the London and Colonial Exploration and Finance Company, Limited, is Sir Somers Vine. It would be interesting to know whether Sir Somers Vine had relinquished his connection with the Imperial Institute before going into West Australian exploring and finance. The reconstruction of the McCulloch's Coolgardie Gold Mines, Limited, is one of those disappointing events which have been pretty numerous in Western Australian mining, owing to the want of foresight in providing the necessary working capital. I may here remark that I have never seen my way to recommend this concern, which has certainly been very badly mismanaged, and the occurrence again points the lesson that it is important that investors should only put their money into Companies which are connected with strong groups, that know how to take care of their sub-Companies. Amongst undesirable West Australian mining Companies for which it is sought to obtain public support is the Chandler's Reward Gold Mines, Limited. The original reports appear to have been glowing; but the manager finally reported unfavourably, and so the curious expedient of offering a bonus of a fully-paid share for every two shares subscribed is resorted to. If the property is however so undesirable as to be unfavourably reported upon by the manager, even this bait is not likely to draw the much-wanted subscriptions. I have received several of the circulars which are being sent out by Henry Leaver, 23, Maiden-lane, Strand, London, in which that gentleman offers 200 fully-paid shares in the Mount Yagahong Gold Mining and Exploration Company, Limited, at par. I should say that these promiscuous offers are not likely to increase the value of Mount Yagahong shares. New high-class hotels are to be erected in Perth, Coolgardie, and elsewhere in Western Australia. It is hardly necessary to say that there is great need of better accommodation in that colony owing to the vast inrush of newcomers. In fact, I am informed that the shortcomings of the sanitary and other arrangements made for the comfort of visitors in the hotels in Perth beggar all description. I notice that one of the subjects to be discussed by the West Australian section of the London Chamber of Commerce this week is the suggestion that the West Australian Government should be asked to publish official returns of the goldfields, through their Agent-General here, monthly. I urged, in TRUTH of September 10, the desirability of the West Australian Government arranging for official returns to be made monthly by the various Wardens on the goldfields, under the superintendence of the Minister of Mines, and it is certainly advisable that so useful a measure should be introduced.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

It is hardly likely that the Indian mining section could flourish while all the other departments of the Mining market were in the dumps; but just at the last a recovery is marked, more especially in Mysore Gold, which now stand at the highest price recently touched—viz., $8\frac{7}{16}$. Champion Reefs and Nundydroog are also firmer. On the other hand, Mysore Goldfields are easier at $1\frac{1}{16}$, and are really a very cheap purchase, considering the great possibilities of the Company. In Australian shares, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have rallied to $2\frac{3}{4}$. The crushing, just announced, of 3,011 oz. is again very satisfactory. Charters Towers shares have been quiet, although Day Dawn Block have hardened. Mount Morgan, Bendigo, and Mount Lyell are lower. Croydon mines are on the up-grade. Not only are North Croydon Consols very strong at 3s. 9d., but Croydon Consols, which are now quoted 8s. 9d., appear to be on the eve of a further important improvement. A very favourable report for the period ending June 1 last has just been issued, according to which the crushings have realised the value of £16,759, giving an average of 2 oz. 16 dwt. 17 gr. per ton; while the latest returns have been much better than the first. The profit and loss account for the year showed a profit of £7,745, out of which £5,000 had been distributed as a first dividend of 3d. per share. But since June 1 very important crushings have taken place, larger both in quantity and in the ratio of gold obtained per ton, the total returns so far being thereby brought up to 23,859 oz. of gold. This allowed a further distribution of £5,000, or 3d. per share, to be made in August; but I understand that the further crushings are so large, and the yield so high, that within a short time a very large dividend (probably 1s. per share) will be declared. The average yield of gold per ton has been steadily increasing, the last returns showing $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to the ton. It will be seen, therefore, that even the present quotation of 8s. 9d. per 5s. share, 4s. 6d. paid, is exceedingly low, and it is not unlikely that Croydon Consols will double their present price in the near future. I may be allowed to take some credit to myself for having recommended these shares from 4s. 6d. upwards. As the North Croydon Consols immediately adjoins this property, the great improvement in the older mine naturally reflects upon the newer one, the shares in which are still at a very moderate level. In New Zealand mines a slight recovery is noticeable in Waihi; but nearly all the other shares in this section have been dull, London and New Zealand Exploration being more particularly flat. There has also been a relapse in Waitekauri, Woodstock, Hauraki, and Taitapu; while most of the low-priced shares too have suffered. This should be a warning to promoters not to force any more new issues on the market. I have to make a correction with regard to my remarks concerning the Moanataiari Gold Mining Company, Limited, in last week's issue. I stated that the capital was £200,000. This is the amount of the nominal capital, while the actual capital issue is £170,000, the remaining 30,000 shares of £1 each being held in reserve. The market is firmer at $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$. In the general foreign section improvements are marked in Tolima "A" and "B," and Pestarena; but there have been declines in Dolcoath, Richmond, Frontino and Bolivia, De Lamar, and Dickens Custer. Grand Central of Mexico have fluctuated somewhat; but the results for September were again very satisfactory, and it is likely that the shares will improve upon the present quotation of $2\frac{1}{2}$.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The New Beeston Brewery Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the Beeston Brewery Company, Beeston, Nottingham, and the licensed houses belonging thereto. The share capital is fixed at £280,000, in Ordinary and Cumulative Preference shares. In addition to this, it is proposed to issue £140,000 Mortgage Debenture stock, bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

This appears to be a compact Brewery, having all the requirements for carrying on a good business. There are eighty freehold and leasehold houses and other properties, situated in the towns of Leicester and Nottingham, while, according to the report of a leading firm of accountants, the trade has been steadily increasing from 1892-93, when the profits amounted to £13,755, to £31,123 in 1895-96. The latter amount would leave the substantial sum of close upon £15,000 for distribution amongst the Ordinary shareholders, and as profits are stated to have further increased during the past six months, these earnings can evidently be depended upon as a basis for future results It is satisfactory to find that the firm take a considerable portion of all three classes of securities.

British Dominions Exploration, Limited.—This Company has been formed to carry on operations as an Exploration and Finance Company. The capital is fixed at £250,000 in shares of £1 each.

In TRUTH of September 17 I drew attention to the registration of this Company, showing that it proposed to cover everything on the whole globe from the purchase of mines to the settling of land, the making of railways, &c., in a small or large way. I have since discovered that advance copies of the prospectuses have been extensively circulated, some of them being accompanied by a letter or circular from Mr. Mackusick, of

the Universal Stock Exchange, and others, by one from Dr. Aubrey, of Croydon—the author of a work on Stock Exchange investments. I presume that this attempt at a private flotation has not been successful, hence this appeal to the public. There is absolutely nothing else that the promoters have to offer for the sum they ask than an option of acquiring certain lands in Australia, and it is a puzzle to me how they have induced a noble lord, a baronet, and three other gentlemen to allow their names to be used or in any way to become connected with so doubtful a venture.

The Midland Fire Insurance Corporation, Limited.—This Corporation has been established to undertake all kinds of insurance business with the exception of Life. It is proposed to act independently of the Tariff Companies, and to rate each risk upon its own individual merit. The share capital is £500,000 in 100,000 shares of £5 each.

My Letter Box.

I am once again obliged to remind my readers that I can only reply to communications which are accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, not, of course, for publication, but as a token of good faith. All anonymous letters will be consigned to the waste-paper basket. Some delay must necessarily occur in answering questions which entail special inquiries, and it is, as a rule, not possible to attend in the current issues to communications which arrive after Friday. My correspondents will also greatly simplify my task by reading my weekly letters carefully through, as these frequently contain remarks on the very subjects on which information is sought. I again repeat that I can accept no fees for replies in "My Letter Box," and that I cannot undertake to answer by letter or telegram. I must also absolutely refuse to execute any orders for stocks or shares, or to act as an intermediary in any way. It is necessary to number the different stocks on which information is sought. The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

J. W. W.—Yes, the Chinese Loan in question seems to be well worth the present quotation. *Doubtful, Norfolk.*—If you are a holder of Rupee Paper, there seems to be no reason for selling at present. *O. S.*—There is very little difference between the two Chilian Loans in question. *S. N. P.*—Argentine Government stocks are fair value at present prices; but there is no temptation to buy until more is known about the carrying out of the unification scheme.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

C. W. A., Leicester, and W. H. V., Galway.—I cannot reply by letter. You cannot be regular readers of Truth, or else you would have heeded the many warnings I have given against having any dealings with F. Hemming Custance, the syndicate tout, 50 and 51, Lime-street, London, E.C. I specially referred to his having taken French leave in Truth of September 17. You have but yourselves to blame for being victimised. *Ashford.*—No; I do not advise this class of investment. *North Yorks.*—1. I do not like the "system" of this outside concern; have nothing to do with it. 2. I am very much against it. 3. No. *H. B., Leicester.*—I have repeatedly stated that I do not approve of "Our own investment system" of Douglas, Hungerford, & Williams, 5, Copthall-buildings, London, E.C. You should only deal through members of the Stock Exchange. *H. P. L.*—Many thanks for the information given concerning Frank Tarrant & Co. You will find that I have on many occasions referred to these syndicate touts in Truth, but I am making use of the information you send in to-day's issue. *A. B., Southport.*—I am not at all surprised that on answering this advertisement offering employment you received a batch of circulars inviting you to become an agent of the Provident Association of London. To all those who receive these circulars I offer Punch's advice to those about to marry—"Don't."

Home Rails.

W. A. C.—The best thing you can do is to buy more Caledonian Deferred stock to average. I am not so much in favour of Sheffield New. *T. W. L.*—No reason to sell; Home Rails generally are improving again. *H. S.*—I would not take profits in the Home Rails you mention yet, as a strong recovery is now on the way, and you will be able to very considerably increase your present profit of £600. *P. F.*—The best speculative purchases in the Home Railway market at present appear to be Dover "A," Caledonian Deferred (Coras), and North British Deferred. After the exceptional depression, there should be a marked recovery in these.

American and Foreign Rails.

R. P. O.—Amongst the better class American Rails a purchase of Louisville, Erie Prefs., and Southern Railway Prefs. would be advisable; and amongst the low-priced shares Erie and Union Pacifics. *A. M., Liverpool.*—Yes, I think it is advisable to deposit your bonds of the Leopoldina Railway with the Committee. Only by combination can useful results be obtained. *R. N., Bognor.*—You should certainly hold your Baltimore and Ohio Six per Cent. bonds of 1902. As the stocks have recovered, so will the bonds advance presently. *Salford.*—I have never advised the purchase of Grand Trunk Ordinary; but at present you had better hold. I do not recommend the exchange suggested by you. *Veritatis.*—You should insist upon the delivery of the Nitrate Railway shares bought by you. *A. B. C. D.*—Yes. *T. W.*—Yes, I strongly advise you to give your best attention to American Railroad bonds. There has been a heavy fall, and so far there has been but little recovery in sympathy with the stocks. *Donegal.*—These bonds have depreciated with the rest of the American market; you should hold for a recovery.

Mining Shares.

Heinrich.—The Secretary of the Murchison Diamond and Gold Company ought certainly to furnish to inquiring shareholders every information. *Indian.*—Hold your mining shares for a further recovery. An improvement cannot be far off, which will enable you to obtain a larger profit. *Rusticus.*—Yes, I think the time is favourable for the purchase of mining shares, and your list (Nos. 1 to 15) is a good one, and intelligently selected. I like more especially Randfontein (1), Lake View Consols (7), West Australian Exploring and Finance (8), Gladiators (10), North Croydon Consols (12), Croydon Consols (14), and Hampton Plains (15). *H. S.*—It is advisable to hold Glencairns. The information vouchsafed by the Board might certainly be more explicit, but the Glenluce is virgin ground, and the removal of the battery will doubtless prove beneficial in the end. *Newry.*—No option but to hold for a general recovery in the West Australian market, but instead of averaging in the same shares, it will be preferable to make purchases in other mines mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Pat.*—Hold the first-named shares and certainly Randfontein, the prospects of which are very satisfactory. *Amber.* — I should think it would be advisable to pay the call. As regards Abercorn Reefs I can only again insist that the shareholders should combine to obtain their rights. I cannot do it for them. *H. H. J.*—This Australian mine is certainly promising, but in view of recent developments Croydon Consols and North Croydon Consols are a far better purchase. *Flora.*—Apply to Elmsie Limited, Bloomfield House, London Wall, E.C. for a prospectus of the North Croydon Consols. Croydon Consols are on the eve of a fresh rise. See remarks under "Indian, New Zealand, and other Mines." *A. N.* — With reference to your proposed purchase of Mining shares I should think that Nos. 2, 5, 9, and 10, would be preferable. Instead of the others you can make a far better selection from my letter. *Neilson.* — I advise you not to buy any more Sheba Queen shares. This is an attempt to unload at 5s. *Camp.*—1. You should certainly hold your Randfontein for a rise, and buy more to average. After all, you have received a bonus of ¼, or 25 per cent. in Porges Randfontein shares. 2. No option but to do so. *H. E. W.*—1. I understand that the dividend on West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe will be considerably more than that mentioned by you. 2. The advance is expected to bring the shares close up to 7. *C. H. D.*—There is every prospect of a recovery in the shares Nos. 1-3 when once the rebellion is crushed, but sound Transvaal Gold and Land shares are distinctly preferable. I do not like Willoughby Consols. *L., Argyleshire.*—I cannot reply by letter. Instead of buying the shares Nos. 1-13, which are not by any means promising, you should make your selection from my letter, and before all not buy extremely low-priced mines, which are not generally the cheapest. *Midas.*—1. The general slump. 2. Write to the secretary. 3. Not yet; it is an Exploring and Land Company. 4. The address of the Harmony Proprietary is 3, Budge-row, E.C. 5. No. Amongst the shares mentioned under No. 6 I should prefer *d* (Preece's Point). You can do much better in Croydon Consols, North Croydon Consols, Gladiators, Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure than in the others named. *L. P.*—Yes, hold the shares for a recovery. *Robkery.*—Yes, African Estates should be held. Do not heed all the bearish talk. *Explorer.*—I am not in a position to express any definite opinion of this new mine which you say is about to be floated, but will give my view on its being brought out. As a general rule you can do better in established West Australian Companies than in doubtful new ones. Hold Burbank's Birthday Gift. Yes, you have done wrong not to have followed my advice to realise your profit in Taitapu at 3¾. London Paris Corporation is not one of my recommendations, but the shares are now very cheap. *Insider.*—1. Very doubtful. 2. This is perhaps going too far. *Mild Spec.*—No option but to hold on the chance of an improvement. *Burton.*—The Woodstock (Transvaal) is a very promising mine, and the shares will doubtless rise to a higher level. If you can afford it, you might average by buying more at present price. *P. R.*—Both mines are promising, and the shares should be held. *Ferns.*—Yes, you had

Charles Heidsieck Champagne.—Original Brand.—Extra dry or brut. Vintage 1889. *One quality only shipped.* To be obtained of all Wine Merchants and Stores.

better join the reconstruction. *Pettigrew.*—1. I do not advise you to speculate in the system of Douglas Hungerford and Williams. 2. No market for the shares just now. 3. No; you can do better by selecting your shares from my remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Fantail.*—There should be a chance for this mine now. (4). It will be advisable to hold all your shares for a recovery. *J. E. I.*—The Abbott's Gold Mine, Limited, has been very disappointing, chiefly owing to gross mismanagement and want of foresight, as is shown by the last report of the manager concerning the famine in "rope." *Plunger.*—Do not hold Nos. 1-3 too long, but sell on a recovery. You might buy yourself some Croydon Consols. *Fin.*—Yes, it it is advisable to join the reconstruction. *Brooklands.*—Certainly not. Hold for a recovery. *Chaffers.*—A fair mining risk, and likely to improve. *Jack and Jill.*—Yes, I consider the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation is apparently doing a very good business, and both the Ordinary and Founders' shares are likely to advance. *A. M., Shepherd's Bush.*—I am afraid that very little is being done in that quarter, and it would be advisable for the shareholders to move independently. *G. S. H.*—1. Not yet; but the decision is likely to be given soon after the reopening of the Law Courts. 2. I have not changed my view. 3. Yes. *Constant Reader, Constantinople.*—I do not advise purchase of Sheba Queen. *Beta.*—No reason for making the exchange. *Mancunian.*—Hold the Menzies shares, but do not buy any more yet. 2. A promising mine. 3. Yes, Menzies Crusoë should be held. *Philbush.*—I have no recent information on the Company. *A. I. Y.*—I cannot reply by letter. I do not believe in manipulation such as is proposed by the Kanowna Syndicate. The documents are returned. *Rod.*—No, I do not recommend purchase of London and West Australian Exploration at present. West Australian Exploring and Finance are far more promising. 2 and 3. Fair mining risks. *J. McI.*—1. No reason to sell. The Porges Randfontein mine has just commenced crushing. 2. I cannot exactly endorse this view. The Lake View Consols is already crushing and paying dividends, the other one is not. *Alma M. T.*—1. No option but to join. 2. Hold your True Blue; but do not buy any more. *S. H., Brixton Hill.*—You will do well not to have too much to do with low-priced South Africans. Randfontein, Langlaagte Estate, Barnato Banks, Modderfontein "B," Waterfall Estate, Knights, Hendersons, Oceana Consols, Lydenburg Estates, and Mozambique should suit you. *Inquirer, Exeter.*—Write to the Secretaries of these Companies. *Wilmslow.*—Hold Barnato Banks, and disregard such trash. No option but to hold the other shares for an improvement. *A. W. Z., Bury.*—I do not recommend purchase of Nos. 1 and 2. The shares in the North Croydon Consols are 5s., 4s. paid. *Somersetshire.*—1. The cause is the general slump. 2. Yes. 3 Yes, buy more to average. *Circle.*—I should prefer Hannan's Golden Treasure. *Robin.*—1. You should disregard these blackmailing criticisms. Whenever the slump is over all these shares will improve. 2. There is absolutely no market, and the concern appears to have disappeared. *F. Lewisham.*—Hold all your shares, Nos. 1-6 for a rise. They are all well selected. *Exploration, Peckham.*—Yes, I prefer West Australian Exploring and Finance shares to "Wags." 2. Yes, after a certain percentage is paid. 3. Yes, much higher. 4. That figure is likely to be attained. *Romeo.*—A fair mining risk. *Lismore, Stockwell.*—1. Very doubtful. 2. In such cases it is best to join the reconstruction and to sell after. 3. Ditto. *Scottie.*—I really cannot give you advice on this subject. I suppose your broker is old-fashioned. Hannan's Golden Treasure and North Croydon Consols are promising mines. *Armenia.*—I should not advise you to buy these shares. *Durham.*—1. I do not like this concern at all. 2. Hold for a rise. *Monkland.*—Yes. There is no option. *G. C. K.*—No option but to hold True Blue for the present, but I have never thought well of this concern. Hold Burbank's Birthday Gift and Burbank's Consols for a rise. *W. W. B.*—I do not like Spitzkop. *Kitty Flora.*—Nos. 1 to 14 are a very mixed lot. I do not like Nos. 3 and 14 at all. No. 13 is also doubtful. No. 2 should recover. The others are fair mining risks, but no particular catch. Nos. 4 and 5 are cheap and likely to advance. *Suburb.*—Hold Hannan's Mount Ferrum, Croydon Consols, Hannan's Golden Treasure, and North Croydon Consols. I do not care for Hannan's Find. Aladdin's Lamp are promising. *Churchgate.*—I do not like Golconda, but there is no option but to hold. Hold also West Boulder, Croydon Consols, and North Croydon Consols. I do not care for the other shares, which are very doubtful. *Lamplighter.*—Hold Transvaal Exploring, Hannan's Golden Treasure, Central and West Boulder for a rise. You ought to number the shares inquired about. No option but to hold the other shares, but do not buy more to average.

Industrial Shares.

Beta.—I do not think much of this concern, and there is no market yet for the shares. *Perplexed, Kirkcaldy.*—No particular reason for selling; neither do I think there is much chance of an improvement. *East Anglian.*—I do not like this concern at all, and have repeatedly said so. You do not appear to be a regular reader of Truth. *Colon.*—Yes, Dunlop Tyre shares are fully paid, and no further call can be made on them. You must take your own course with regard to a sale; but you must remember that it is always worth while taking a good profit when you can get it. *J. C.*—These brewery shares are a fair investment, but no catch. *M. E. V.*—I think these shares are quite high enough. *M. E. T.*—A small industrial venture with regard to which no reliable information is available; but I should not have advised the investment. I cannot reply by letter. *An Enquirer, Swansea.*—No; I would not like to make myself responsible for advice to speculate in this way.

Mixed Investments.

V. B. G.—1. A fair investment. 2. Somewhat speculative, but not an unsuitable investment. 3. I see no reason for selling Rupee Paper after the recent relapse. *X. Y. Z., Barnsley.*—No reason for selling your investments A to E. I do not like Stamp Distribution shares (F) at all, and, as far as I know, the Company is in liquidation. No reason to sell G now; and as regards H and I, you must know that this concern is in liquidation. *Appalachian.*—Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 5, Golden River Quesnelle are the best, the others are the usual mixed lot of mining shares, which should be sold on an improvement. *Engineer.*—No reason for selling Nos. 1 to 5 at present. Hold them for a recovery. I think No. 6 is a very doubtful concern, and I do not think much of Nos. 7 and 8. Nos. 9 to 11 are promising. I do not care much for Nos. 12 and 13, and I have repeatedly stated that I do not care for Empress of Coolgardie (14) at all. *X. Y. Z.*—Before I can answer your queries, you must furnish me with your full name and address as a token of good faith. *Aliquis.*—1. A fair investment. 2. I do not recommend these. Thanks for the circulars sent; you are quite right to consign such documents to the waste-paper basket. *Queensland.*—There is no fresh information to give as regards the Australian reconstructed banks; the process of recuperation is very slow. I do not advise investment in the other shares mentioned. *Derek.*—You should certainly hold all your American bonds and stocks Nos. 1 to 4; they are likely to improve. I do not think much of No. 5. No. 6 is a good property. Nos. 7 to 11 are Mining risks of mixed quality. The Highland Chief (12) is a good mine, and Nos. 13 and 14 are fair South African mines. *G., Bournemouth.*—I do not think much of No. 1, and as soon as you can make a profit on No. 2 you should take it. *A Poor Man.*—I certainly consider the Army and Navy Co-operative Breweries a very doubtful concern. Neither do I like the Finance Corporation of Western Australia; but there may be a chance for No. 5. I have certainly never advised investment in Rose of England Mines, but No. 1 is a fair mining risk. *Agricola.*—If you are a holder of Nos. 1 to 11, you should not sell them, as they will probably improve. I do not think much of No. 12. *Aquila Nera.*—No reason for selling any of your stocks Nos. 1 to 19. *Rabbie Burns, Paisley.*—1. A fair industrial concern. 2. There is no market for these at present. 3. At the next session of the Volksraad. 4. Impossible to tell. 6. Yes. 7. No. 8. There would no doubt be an improvement. 9. At present there is no likelihood of a further advance in the Bank rate. 10. I must refer you to my letter. *W. S. W., Fermoy.*—1. I quite agree with you that the Woodhouse & Rawson liquidation appears to take a very long time, and as a debenture-holder you ought to have had some results by now. You ought to combine with other debenture-holders to obtain some statement from the liquidator. 2. I am afraid you have no claim. *Grateful.*—1. Have nothing to do with this concern. 2. Yes. 3. A fair risk. *Scotia.*—I can but say that the best plan is to hold the shares for recovery. *C. E., Hull.*—1. I do not like these at all. 2. Sell on a recovery; but you ought never to have bought them. 3. No option but to hold. *A. R. H.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are fair investments. The New Uruguay Loan is a promising investment. Lake View Consols are likely to go much higher. East Wealth of Nations is a different Company to the Wealth of Nations Extended. *E., Leamington.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 and 2, and Nos. 3 and 4 should not be sold now. Also hold No. 5. *Gunner.*—No temptation to buy A and B. C are fair debentures. Canadian Pacifics (D) will no doubt move with the American market. E and F are promising debentures. *Roulette.*—1. This mine has been very badly managed, and the reef is said to have pinched out; but there is still hope. 2. No. *W. W., Liverpool.*—1. Yes. 2. Erie shares now stand at 14¾, and are a good purchase. *W. H. W.*—1. Yes, Readings are promising. 2. Yes. 3. No reason to buy now. 4. Have nothing to do with these outside brokers. *Celtic.*—1. Yes, the bonus on Randfontein having been deducted on June 16 last, and you having bought on June 10, you are entitled to the bonus of Porges Randfontein shares. 2. The bonus on Randfontein are precisely the Porges Randfontein rights, which are computed at ¼ per share. 3. Yes, Randfontein should be held for a rise, and you should buy more to average. 4. Impossible to tell. 5. I do not consider Cycle Components very promising. 6. Why do you not take your profit? 7. I do not like the Standard Oil Company of Galicia at all. 8. Yes, they should recover in time. 9. I have already expressed my opinion. *Clementina.*—In view of the rising tendency of the Money market I should advise you to wait with the investment of your £4,000, as a fresh decline in high-class securities is quite on the cards. You should hold Chilians. *M. E. A.*—1. I should say that under the circumstances the shares in this reconstructed Australian Bank should be held; in fact, there is no option but to do this. 2. You cannot obtain 7 per cent., such as in Uruguay bonds, with absolute safety. If these bonds were absolutely safe they would not stand at the present prices. *St. Helen's.*—1. There is no market

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Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

for the shares in Streeter & Company, Limited. 2. Woodstock (Transvaal) shares should be held for an important recovery. The price is now $1\frac{3}{8}$, and the mine is very promising.

Various Investments.

Under the influence of cheaper money and the brightening political outlook, Consols at one time advanced to $110\frac{5}{8}$, but subsequently reacted to $110\frac{3}{8}$, which must have been a great relief to the ursine party. I fancy, however, that their satisfaction will not last long, and that a fresh recovery to at least 111 is probable. Silver has been remarkably quiet, and there has been practically no change from the price of a week ago of $30\frac{1}{4}$d. Rupee Paper remains flat at 62. There have, on the other hand, been advances all round in high-class stocks, including India Stock, and Chinese stocks have also braced up. In Cycle shares very little business has been transacted. Dunlop Deferred remain at $1\frac{1}{2}$, but the Preferred are firmer at $\frac{15}{16}$. Beestons are somewhat better at $3\frac{3}{8}$, but Singer Cycles are lower at $\frac{7}{8}$, which is also the quotation for Cycle Tubes. Allsopps have been fairly steady, and have recovered to 170. There has been a sharp advance in Guinness Ordinary to 560. There is not wanting from time to time a crop of mushroom Companies in the City; but this is the first time I have noticed an appeal for subscriptions to a Company for growing mushrooms. Mr. S. Hardy has written very eloquent letters from Manchester, directing attention to the prospectus of the Manchester Mushroom Growers, Limited, in connection with which he guarantees a dividend of 5 per cent. for the first two years of working. As this has been an exceptionally prolific year for mushrooms, it cannot be said that this promotion comes at a very opportune juncture. Who are Bayliss & Bayliss, 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.? They are apparently circularising clergymen for the purpose of obtaining deposits for stated periods of six or twelve months. In one circular which is before me they call themselves "a firm of private financiers with a high-class financial connection, conducting a business with the best people on the lines of private bankers," and offer interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum payable monthly, for one year, on sums of not less than £50. In another circular they state that they are "prepared to take sums of £10 for one year (or more) on the following terms:—20 per cent. per annum, payable as follows:—Four quarterly payments of interest, and the principal at the end of one year." Whether the interest offered be 12 per cent. or 20 per cent., I would like to point out to the recipients of the polite invitations of Bayliss & Bayliss that high rates of interest are not compatible with safety. I have repeatedly referred to Frank Tarrant & Co., the syndicate touts, of 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., and to the large profits which they boast of obtaining for their clients. The last circular issued by them contained the statement that they had closed a Metropolitan District "deal" at a profit of $587\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. With reference to this boast, a correspondent writes to point out that it was quite impossible to have bought any large amount of Metropolitan District stock on September 1 at $26\frac{1}{2}$, as stated by Frank Tarrant & Co.; and it would be interesting to know what amount these people actually did buy. But more interesting is the statement made by my correspondent that, having an inquiry from a country gentleman, who, being hard up, was tempted by the circulars of these touts, he took the trouble to call at 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street. He could not find the name of the firm on the notice-board, and, on inquiry from the housekeeper, he learned that the name of Frank Tarrant & Co. was not known there, but that Tarrant & Co. had a small office at the top of the building. He went up to that elevated height, but found the office locked, and there seemed to be no one within. He again inquired of the housekeeper, but only elicited the information that the man and his clerk had been there that day between twelve and one o'clock. This, then, is the great firm of Frank Tarrant & Co., who boast of "Another Magnificent Profit. Our System Vindicated. Our Critics Convinced. Our Clients' Satisfaction Acknowledged."—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

A CURIOUS COUPLE.

LAST autumn, while on a painting tour in the West of England, it was my good fortune to be put in possession of a very remarkable item of local history. It struck me so much at the time that I determined—although far more expert with the brush than with the pen—to write it out with a view to publication, believing that the mere recital of the facts is in itself an interesting story, quite apart from literary skill or embellishment. I hope that those who read will endorse my belief, and, consequently, that they will overlook, on account of the story itself, that literary crudeness in the telling which no amateur can ever hope to avoid.

The village of R——, in which I was staying, and in which the remarkable events spoken of had occurred, is one of the quaintest little places imaginable. I find in "Kelly" that the population is 190. I should not have imagined it to be nearly so much. I suppose, however, that there are many outlying homesteads, some possibly miles away, which belong to the ecclesiastical parish, and that these contain a considerable fraction of the 190 souls. Certainly, the village itself—meaning the cluster of habitations which gathers round the church and forms the centre of its life and energy—can hardly contain a third of that number.

It is so small, and so out of the way, that you would never find it, except by accident. Indeed, it stands apart in some fields, absolutely concealed in a hollow, and is only approached on one side by a footpath (which, in the winter, is usually under water), on another by a cart-track of the rudest and roughest description. When you do arrive there, the first object to strike you is the church. About this church you will at once notice two remarkable features. The first, that it stands in the middle of a farm homestead, and cannot be approached without either going through the farmer's private garden or his cattle-yard; the second, that (tiny as it is) it is, nevertheless, the longest church for its width that you ever saw—rather resembling a long barn with a square chimney (for the tower is scarcely more imposing) perched upon its western extremity.

And yet there is something pleasing, something grateful to the eye in this grey, plain, disproportioned little structure. It seems to fit into its surroundings admirably: the farm yard, the cottages, the brook flowing just below, (they call it "the river" there, where everything is on so reduced a scale), the ever-present geese and sheep and cattle, and the perfect seclusion of surrounding pastures. Nothing but green whichever way you look. No houses (except the quaint little cluster round the church), no distant view; everything shut in by the slopes which skirt the valley; a complete environment of everlasting fields.

I have seen many churchyards. This one, lying begirt on all sides by the farm homestead, tiny, indifferently kept, shaded by many cypresses and a weeping ash, where scarcely once a year, perhaps, is the slumbering soil disturbed for a new grave, and where everything speaks of dreamy restfulness, this churchyard of R—— is the spot in which I myself would soonest choose to lie. One I knew who now reposes there—a former rector; the kindest, heartiest, tenderest, most beloved of pastors. Those who have since died in R—— have all wished to be laid near him. And now around him sleeps a little cluster of his horny-handed friends. A happy family! The whole churchyard is peaceful. But in that especial corner the peacefulness seems always most profound.

It was this rector's nephew and successor—for R—— has been a family living any time this two centuries past—to whom I am indebted for the following story. He often strolled out with me when I went to paint, and, while smoking innumerable pipes, told me many interesting local yarns. This one, however, the facts of which had lately come under his own experience, quite overtopped

all the others in strikingness and peculiarity. Here it is, substantially in my informant's words.

"You see that cottage over there?" he said, pointing to a dismantled hovel in the corner of the field where I had pitched my canvas.

I nodded.

"A most remarkable history is attached to it," he went on. "Not a legend, but a fact. Of this I can assure you, because I myself had a hand in finding it out. It centres round a certain couple who lived there—the most extraordinary old folk that I ever came across. I should like you to have seen them. I think you would have admitted them to be the ugliest pair in England, as they certainly were the most close and unfriendly. During the sixteen years that they lived in that cottage, they never once asked a neighbour inside."

"Umph! Hermits, indeed," I observed.

"Absolute hermits. There was, however, some slight excuse for their eschewing all outside company. Each suffered from a severe physical infirmity. The woman was nearly stone-deaf; the man was dumb. When they first came here—eighteen years ago now, I think—my uncle, who, as you know, was then rector, tried to find out what he could about them. He only learnt a little, and that little was nothing out of the way. It transpired that the man was an ex-sailor of the Royal Navy, who had lost his speech after a severe attack of yellow fever in the West Indies. He was now entitled to a pension, which he drew half-yearly, and which my uncle only knew about by the fact that the old fellow had to come to him periodically and get his papers signed. The woman was his sister, so she gave the neighbours to understand, and so also might have been inferred from a certain family likeness which was noticeable between them. She was a most ill-favoured hag: shrivelled, unkempt, and dirty beyond description. Although she then must have been nearer 70 than 60, her long, touzled hair was still as black as a coal, and hung in hideous untidiness about her hawk-like face, which, with its dark eyes, and its hooked proboscis, was most uncommonly forbidding. The poor people all pronounced her a witch; and, for that reason, gave her a wide berth. Probably the woman purposely encouraged the idea. For her great aim and object was, evidently, to be left alone.

"Although her brother's pension, amounting to about 1s. 11d. a day, was ample to keep two old folks decently, and even comfortably, in that cheapest of neighbourhoods, these two always gave the impression of being half-starved, and I do not believe that either of them purchased a new article of clothing the whole time they lived in R——. From this people began to infer that they were misers, and, as time went on, many things happened to strengthen the inference. All along they had discovered the greatest anxiety and apprehension when any one had tried to gain access to their hovel. Indeed, my uncle has often told me that the expression of the old people's faces when he called there, and one or other of them peered round the chained door at him, was really quite comical in its suspicious trepidation; and the older they grew, the more pronounced did their precautions to prevent outsiders entering become.

"At first they had sometimes ventured to lock up their house and make an excursion together into F——." (He named the adjoining market-town, which I will not further particularise.) "But by-and-bye they gave up such recklessness entirely, and whenever one of them went out, the other always remained on guard at home. The precaution was quite unnecessary. All the poor in the neighbourhood were by this time fully convinced that there was something 'unked' about them, and no one in R——, or for miles round, would have willingly crossed their threshold, even if the door had been left open. But these old misers were altogether too suspicious to reason, and seemed to live in an ever-increasing fear of having their privacy invaded.

"My uncle (as he himself told me shortly before his death) was greatly exercised about his two strange parishioners. Many rectors would have considered themselves absolved of all obligations towards people who not merely never attended church, but refused even to admit their clergyman into their house when he called. But that was not my uncle's way. Every poor man who lived in his parish he held to be under his pastoral protection; and he felt himself bound to look after his interests. In regard to these two old misers, however, it was difficult to know what was the kindest course. To let them live on in their present half-starved condition, and in that fearfully insanitary hovel, undisturbed, seemed no real kindness. And yet he was loth to set the parish or the sanitary officers upon their track. He held very strongly to the opinion that an Englishman's house—even if it be nothing better than a pig-sty—*is* his castle; and, in his heart, by no means approved of the wide compulsory powers then lately given to the local authorities.

"Besides, after all, what could such authorities do? Compel them to evacuate their miserable shanty, no doubt. But the old people would then simply change their local habitation, not their mode of life. And as regards starving themselves, not all the Boards of Guardians in Somerset could make people eat who did not choose to do so. It was possible, indeed, that they might be medically found of unsound mind; and, in that case, they could be removed to the workhouse infirmary or the county asylum. But even supposing that feasible, it was a course from which my uncle shrank. And the outcome of it all was that he let things remain *in statu quo*.

"When I succeeded him here, I went to call, now and then, on the old people; meeting, however, with the same treatment that my uncle had always experienced. Sometimes, they would not open the door at all; at others, they did so with the chain up, and conversed with me through a narrow aperture. In reply to my inquiries whether I could do anything, or give them any assistance, I always had a negative returned; until at last I gave up trying to make headway in so hopeless a direction, and left the two hermits pretty much to themselves.

"The man came to me regularly every half-year to get his pension papers signed; and I took advantage of these opportunities to give him some friendly advice, and to remonstrate with him on his folly in starving himself and wearing such inadequate clothing in the coldest weather. At first, I had made him a present of some old coats, trousers, and flannel shirts. But I soon gave up that, for he never wore them; and I formed the impression that he had probably converted them into cash. In fact, I asked him one day what he had done with them all. He only looked cunning, affected stupidity, and made some unintelligible signs. Despite his dumbness, he could make me understand things very well when he liked—especially anything connected with his pension papers. It was only when he did not wish to make himself understood that his signs had no meaning in them.

"In this matter of coming to have his papers signed, he was, as I have said, always absolutely punctual. On March 25 and September 29 he appeared at the rectory as regularly as clockwork, taking me on the way to F——, where he had to present his papers at the post-office. I always looked for him on the morning of those days, and always took the precaution to have my study windows wide open. The old man and water had long been mutual strangers, and the atmosphere which attended him was, to say the least, rather oppressive. When he was gone, I added to my disinfectant precautions with a strong pipe; and I can assure you that the foulest pipe in my rack d to be called into requisition. A sort of homœopathy, you see. However, this is by the way.

"He was always, as I have said, punctual in coming. And when one Michaelmas-day—it was just two years ago now—came and went without his putting in an appearance, I at once remarked it as a very noticeable circumstance. The next day I expected him—with opened windows—and the next, and the next; but he did not turn up. At length, after waiting a week, I felt sure that he must be ill, and went over to the shanty to inquire.

"I hammered at the door. Nobody answered. I hammered louder and louder, with the same result. In the end, as a last resort, I tried it. To my surprise, it was unfastened. I pushed it open and went in.

"I cannot tell you what my feelings were as I entered

that miserable sty. A more dismal, forlorn, and withal filthy hovel has surely never been inhabited by human beings. There was scarcely any furniture. The walls were black and covered with cobwebs, and simply alive with creeping insects; and the floor—well, I won't attempt to describe it. I think you could have cut the atmosphere with a knife, so thick and foul it was; and fetid, oh, insufferably fetid. It nearly poisoned me, and my first impulse was to beat a hasty retreat into the open. But a low moan from the corner attracted me. I looked; and there I saw a sight at once loathsome and pitiable.

"Crouching against the wall, upon the damp and mouldy floor, was a figure covered with an old sack. I went nearer. At first I could not see which of the two it was. But, on looking more closely, I made it out to be the old woman. She was almost naked, except for the covering of the sack; and one of her yellow arms, which lay exposed, looked unspeakably lean and shrivelled and weird. I also noted another point. The tangled black hair, which had always struck me so about her, was now betrayed as not being her own. It was a wig; half on and half off at that moment, giving her a fearfully grotesque appearance, and clearly revealing her bald pate, scantily fringed with a few wisps of grey hair, beneath.

"'What is the matter? Are you ill?' I asked, bending down, and speaking in a loud, clear voice; for I knew her to be almost stone-deaf.

"She stared at me with dazed, suspicious eyes, but said nothing; only moaned again.

"'Are you ill?' I repeated.

"Another moan.

"'Where is your brother?' I shouted. 'Has he left you alone?'

"She looked hard at me. I could see in her restless black eyes that this time she had caught the purport of my question.

"'Brother Tom?' she muttered.

"'Yes!' I roared. 'Where is he?'

"She looked at me very cunningly. Her eyes seemed to wake up and sparkle with an almost unnatural brightness.

"'Don't you know?' she gasped.

"I shook my head.

"'Well, you shall hear,' she went on. 'I'm just going the same way myself, and it's no use keeping secrets any longer. He's dead.'

"'Dead!' I exclaimed, supposing that her wits were wandering, for I had seen him at his hovel door less than a fortnight since. 'When did he die?'

"She gave a low chuckle.

"'Fifteen year ago.'

"Now, of course, I saw that she was raving. Her hawk-like eyes, fixed on my face in a most forbidding leer, at once read my thoughts.

"'No, I ain't mad. It's the truth. He died fifteen year ago, and I buried him myself under yonder hearthstone. Get them to dig it up, and you'll find his bones.'

"As she spoke, the hag clutched my sleeve, and half raised herself by a supreme effort. Her face wore a fiendishly exultant grin. Her whole expression was grotesque and repulsive. She leered into my face with a look that I can never forget.

"'Yes, yes,' she said. 'All true—all true. I hid it, and no one knew. *And*,' with a hideous chuckle, '*I've dror'd his pension myself for fifteen year!*'"

* * * * *

"And were her brother's bones found there?" I asked the Rector, in the course of a subsequent conversation on the subject.

"Yes. He had been buried scarcely a couple of feet below the surface. And in a hole in the chimney we found the miser's savings—more than £500 in gold and notes. It was paid over to Government, in return for the fifteen years' pension out of which they had been cheated."

"It was a wonder that no one found out the woman's dual personality."

"It was, indeed. But no one dreamed of suspecting. And the woman must have worked it very cunningly. The difference in her look with and without the black wig was quite remarkable. Then her brother's dumbness was a feature in her favour—no chance of being found out by the voice. Of course, to any one who had the smallest suspicion, the whole thing would soon have revealed itself as plain as a pikestaff. But no suspicion existing, I do not think that the real explanation was likely to cross any one's mind, and, as a matter of fact, it never did."

ART NOTES.

ARTS AND CRAFTS AT THE NEW GALLERY.

It is now several years since the members of the Arts and Crafts Society gave a public exhibition of their handiwork, but in the meantime, if one may judge by what is to be seen at the New Gallery, they have learned nothing and forgotten nothing. They still cling to those pre-Raphaelite forms and fashions which may be decorative, but are most decidedly uncomfortable, when applied to the uses of domesticity. For my own part, I must say that I do not care for high-art furniture. It may be all very well to look at in a museum, but who that appreciates cosiness and comfort would think of having it in one's own house? There are chairs at the New Gallery which give one the cramp to look at them. As well might one do a spell in "Little-Ease" at the Tower of London as elect to pass an evening in a full-blown "Arts and Crafts'" *fauteuil*. It is just the sort of chair to suit you if you habitually fall into the postures of the quaint angular figures in the Bayeux Tapestry and go through life in what Mr. W. S. Gilbert has called "stained-glass attitudes." But I should like to see an ordinary man trying to enjoy a cigar in Chair No. 207 in the catalogue, say, or taking his ease in Chimney-corner No. 294! It is possible that there may be those who can live up to such a household chattel as the iron four-poster exhibited by Mr. Robert Christie—which was happily dubbed "the ramrod bedstead" on press view day by one of the critics—but to the average spectator it appears about as inviting as an Inquisition rack, and not so well suited for a bedroom as for a torture-chamber. Look again at Mr. Bankart's "Larch Cradle" (No. 289), and you can scarcely fail to pity the child who is destined to be rocked in it, so cold, so bare, so uncomfortable does it look. On the other hand, it may be advisable to cradle the high-art infant thus; for this discipline in infancy may serve to prepare the æsthetic babe to sit later on with Spartan fortitude in those back-aching chairs and chimney-corners which seem to be *de rigueur* in the "Arts and Crafts'" household.

In addition to furniture, the "Arts-and-Craftsmen" exhibit paperhangings, dinner glass, gas-fittings, carpets, door knockers, books, tapestries, fenders, and many other kinds of domestic accessories, and in most of them the same fault is apparent. They may suit the faddish æstheticism of the few, but they do not satisfy the needs of the many, who would gladly welcome high art into their dwellings if it only adapted itself in a reasonable way to the manners and customs and requirements of the day. But it is futile to expect that the general public will buy books printed in such archaic type and with such an effusion of floreated borders and colophons that it is impossible to read what is in them; or that it will cover its walls with stiffly-posed figures of angular and emasculate knights and of sad-eyed, woebegone, and anæmic maidens; or that it will take kindly to sofas too decorative to lie on, and arm-chairs only fit to be exhibited as high-art curiosities in a glass-case at South Kensington. Decorative art has wandered too long in the pre-Raphaelite wilderness, and it is high time that it came out of that sterile waste, and made an effort to show that what is beautiful can be also appropriate to the age for which it is fashioned.

Perhaps the most important feature of the exhibition at the New Gallery is the specially gathered collection of drawings, studies, and paintings by the late Ford Madox Brown. These are to be seen on the walls of the South Gallery, and furnish a most interesting summary of the

life work of a most sincere, though much misunderstood artist. Looking at his work thus collected, one is inclined to believe that Madox Brown was "born too late into too old a world." His personality was clearly not a nineteenth century one. His inspiration was derived from the Middle Ages, and one who knew him intimately has well said that "his mind was almost Chaucerian, and his work mirrored his mind." Most assuredly he is not everybody's artist; but it is impossible to look at his cartoons and paintings without being impressed with the sincerity and individuality with which he lived his life and did the work that he felt he had it in him to do.

MUSIC.

MR. LANSDOWNE COTTELL AGAIN.

I HAVE received some interesting correspondence and other particulars in regard to the London Conservatoire of Music and its director, Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, a subject which I mentioned a fortnight ago. It will be recollected that a gentleman whom I then called Colonel X. answered an advertisement as follows:—

Gentleman's Son required, just from school, of good address, and accomplished, to be trained to assist in private office and otherwise, a gentleman holding high, prominent position; board; progressive salary; moderate premium.—Letters M., 62, Queen's-road, Hyde Park.

The mysterious M. proved to be Mr. Lansdowne Cottell. "R.A.M., M.S.A.," (whatever those inititials may be worth), who, in reply to an application for particulars, stated he required "a young gentleman to train in my private office, in my mansion above," adding that "a salary no doubt can be fixed according to value of services," and referring casually to "a nominal premium." Of late there have been several advertisements of a similar character in the *Standard* and elsewhere, a fact which seems to show that "Gentlemen's Sons" are for this sort of work at a considerable, rather than a merely "nominal," premium.

A reader of TRUTH has, in a letter rather too long to quote *in extenso*, described how the thing is done. This gentleman—who, with greater courage than some other newspaper correspondents seem to pluck up, gives his full name as Mr. F. E. Wood, and his address—answered one of Mr. Lansdowne Cottell's attractive advertisements last June. I cannot print the whole of his letter, but some extracts will serve. Mr. Wood says:—

I happened to be in London shortly after writing to the "mansion above," and to my surprise I received a letter at my hotel, generously informing me that the lodge of 66, Porchester-road, Hyde Park, adjoined the Royal Oak Metropolitan Station, and that M. would be glad to meet me in view to arrangements, on Thursday, June 9, 11 to 1, or 3 to 8, at that address.

Mr. Wood goes on to say that, after several knockings, he was ushered into the drawing-room, and after waiting half-an-hour a gentleman whose fingers were covered with rings entered. Mr. Wood explained he had come according to the letter, and the gentleman, who it appeared was no other than Mr. Lansdowne Cottell himself, replied that the scholarship depended entirely upon the ability of the candidate. For many years I may remark that advertisements have appeared in the daily papers offering "free" scholarships at this London Conservatoire of Music. Of these I shall have to speak later on. Mr. Wood continues:—

I told him that I had called with reference to the secretaryship and not the scholarship. He then informed me that his present secretary was rather indolent, and that my work would be to assist in correspondence and teaching, and also to take his place when he was visiting the other centres. He said I should have to learn his system of tuition, and that he taught only his own compositions at the Conservatoire. I then sat at an Ascherberg grand pianoforte which had seen better days, and played, and also read some of his music, accompaniments, &c. He asked me questions on harmony. I, of course, wanted to know if there was any likelihood of our coming to terms, and he told me there was. I asked him what salary there was, and he coolly told me that for the first three months or so there would be none, though after that I should begin at about 10s. per day. But the first three months would be taken up in giving me the necessary "professional style" and getting me "into" the work. The usual fees for resident students were £130 per annum, but, as I had shown such conspicuous ability they would be lowered to £60. He also informed me that I should have the benefit of attending all his concerts and meeting all the first artists of the day, combined with board and a highly aristocratic home. I said I would think over it.

The fact that Mr. Cottell, though "holding high prominent position," expected his secretary to give music lessons was apparently not objected to by the applicant. This particular duty is, I believe, not usually considered secretarial work, although I have no doubt I could mention more than one private secretary who would prefer it to the routine of political correspondence, particularly if the secretary's tastes were musical, and his pupils were ladies, young and well-favoured. From the point of view of the luckless pupil thus condemned to be taught by the "Gentleman's Son just from school" it is doubtless altogether another matter. It is also, of course, quite another question for the "Gentleman" whose son was so fresh from school. But the whole thing is obviously a trick to get paying pupils. The "progressive salary," in fact, vanishes into the thin air of the distant future. The preliminary fee is the bone which Mr. Lansdowne Cottell chiefly desires to pick. The usual fee is £130, but "for you" it shall be £60: perhaps for no better reason than an American assigned to a Scotsman who desired an extra discount. At any rate, instead of a "moderate premium" for "board and progressive salary," the unfortunate applicant is coolly told that he must pay, like a pupil, at the rate of £60 a year for the first three months. What happens after the first quarter I am, of course, not aware. But by the very frequent advertisements for gentlemen's sons, "to train to assist in private office and otherwise a gentleman holding high prominent position," most of us, I suppose, can guess.

Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, however, had not yet done with Mr. F. E. Wood. Mr. Wood "thought of it," as he was bidden, and apparently thought very little of it, for he wisely dropped the whole affair. Mr. Cottell soon afterwards enclosed him a ticket for a concert given by a certain Signor Massimo Massimi, who was announced, I see, as "Tenor, Italian Opera, Covent Garden," but with whose name I regret I am unfamiliar. This concert was announced to be held in the "Salons" of the London Conservatoire of Music. "Programme, price 6d." which I see on the top of one of these documents, is, of course, a mere detail. Mr. Wood did not use the ticket, and shortly afterwards he received another letter, written on the back of an old programme, and reading as follows:—

July 20, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I should be glad to know your decision now. I am filling all the vacancies, arranging salaries, &c. I rather expected to have seen you at the concert last Saturday.—Yours truly, LANSDOWNE COTTELL.

Still Mr. Wood, with true West Country caution, saved his postage-stamp and omitted to reply. He states:—

Shortly after this I received another letter (on the back of another old programme) informing me that if I would go the fee would be reduced to £30.

Not even this bait could catch the crafty fish from the West Countrie, and Mr. Lansdowne Cottell this time lost his £30. What Mr. Wood lost may be another matter.

I referred just now to the scholarships offered from time to time at the London Conservatoire. This little stroke of business is done sometimes by advertisement, sometimes, as I pointed out a fortnight ago, by circulars inviting "Ladies and Gentlemen to whom this form may be addressed" to become season-ticket holders, and to nominate "free" scholars. These season tickets nominally cost £10. 10s. a year, and entitle the holder to place two students gratuitously in the Conservatoire, or one student, who will be boarded and lodged gratuitously, "subject to the rules and regulations of the Conservatoire," whatever they may be. A "Special Private Notice" in blood-red ink was however a year or two ago circulated to the effect that "Ladies and Gentlemen to whom this form may be addressed" might have all these inestimable privileges at the ridiculously low rate of a guinea a year, or £5. 5s.

for life. As I intimated, there is no doubt a good deal of profit to be made out of free scholarships, when you know how to do it, and the *modus operandi* is disclosed to me by a gentleman who for obvious reasons does not desire his name to be mentioned, and to whom I therefore refer as Mr. F. This gentleman writes:—

With reference to your exposure of the London Conservatoire of Music, I state my experience with these people in case it may be of service to you. I called in answer to an advertisement for "amateur violinists, &c., to train for opera or concerts." On arriving at Porchester-road, the director, Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, heard me play, and said if I paid a guinea for a term's instruction I should then have two years' instruction free, subject to the rules and regulations. I enclose you the memorandum he wrote on an old envelope. After I had had a term, he gave me the form enclosed, and altered my ticket, as you see, to go on for another term.

The "form" in question is a printed document, announcing that "free instruction" is given in various subjects, that free students must attend regularly, take part in public or private performances when required, and pay 10 per cent. of any money derived from musical engagements for a period of two years. Then occurs this curious clause:—

All solo music necessary for study is supplied by the Conservatoire; but free students must defray the expense of the same by a half-yearly subscription of one guinea to the library, payable in advance.

Thus this unfortunate man was asked to pay a guinea for a term's "free" instruction and a guinea per half-year subscription to the library, plus 10 per cent. on engagements. The card which was given him as a sort of receipt for his money is now before me. It bears the curious inscription "London Conservatoire of Music Continental Solo Class." What may be a "Continental Solo" is a puzzle which Mr. Lansdowne Cottell alone can unravel. To resume Mr. F.'s narrative:—

The point I wish to draw attention to is the fact of not receiving this agreement until after having parted with a guinea. If I had seen it beforehand, I should never have gone in for it, as, reckoning four terms in a year, that would mean paying eight guineas for two years' tuition in the ordinary way, whereas, for "free" tuition I pay a guinea for the first term, plus four guineas to the library, and agree to give 10 per cent. of my earnings for two years. I would prefer paying for tuition.

Mr. F. continues at great length concerning some lessons which he alleges he had not had, owing to the fact that they clashed with the holidays. But the matter has little or nothing to do with the point in question, so I shall not deal with it.

The trick in these two cases seems to be identical. The bait is "free" tuition, or in the case of secretaryships "board and progressive salary." Instead, the candidate is told that he is not good enough yet, and therefore must have some preliminary training, and pay for it. Fees are supposed to be reduced, and when the gudgeon fails to bite, are further reduced—apparently upon the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread. But the idea is always the same, to secure some sort of payment for this alleged preliminary training, after which any man with a knowledge of the world may imagine what is likely to happen. The case of Mr. Wood is a particularly flagrant one. I should like to know what Mr. Lansdowne Cottell has to say about it, and also to hear from any of his pupils, or former secretaries, as to their experiences. I should also like to learn what the Duchess of Wellington, the Countess of Strafford, Lord and Lady Carrington, Sir W. T. Marriott, Canon Harford, Dr. Spark, and other ladies and gentlemen, whose names are in the circular before me lumped together as "Committee, Patrons, and Subscribers to the Concerts," think of Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, his Conservatoire, and the use made of their names.

The Crystal Palace Concerts started on Saturday, a full fortnight earlier than usual. The idea, of course, is to get a dozen of the twenty performances over before Christmas, so as to avoid the loss involved in concert-giving in the Sydenham suburbs after Easter. To my mind the better plan would have been to cut off four concerts and improve the programmes.

A nonsensical pamphlet has, by the way, been issued by somebody from the Crystal Palace Press threatening the discontinuance of the concerts unless they are better patronised. But considering the great competition in town—upwards of sixty symphony concerts are announced in the Metropolis before Christmas—strong programmes and fewer, though first-rate, performances are the chief essentials. To talk about the discontinuance of Saturday concerts is nonsense. They never did pay their way, and never were expected to. But they have always proved a valuable advertisement. They are an attraction to the Palace in the same sense that the unremunerative skating-rink and the Alhambra Court might be, and also they keep together the permanent orchestra, which plays daily at a salary which the members would not accept if the Saturday performances were abolished. The concert receipts have, I believe, fallen off only since the half-crown promenades were abolished, and season-ticket holders were charged extra for admission to the concert-room. If, as I gather from the official journal of the Orchestral Association, the famous orchestra is now to be reduced for the sake of saving a few pounds, the step may prove a very serious one to the Crystal Palace. This, when the late Weist Hill resigned his bâton owing to similar "economies," was the beginning of the end of the Alexandra Palace. In regard to last Saturday's programme, I am bound, however, to say that the orchestra was kept up to its full strength of ninety players, and that, apart from a certain occasional coarseness, the band was quite equal to its usual form. The chief novelty, a violoncello concerto by Herr Klughardt, of Dessau, however, proved to be an uninteresting work, the slow movement of which was the best.

The Sunday Concerts have indisputably injured the more expensive symphony concerts, for at marvellously cheap prices (from 3d. to 2s.) they give symphony performances with a good orchestra in the heart of London. It is true the thing is done by inducing the band to take reduced fees on the principle that they have no rehearsals; but to a certain section of the public the work of proper preparation apparently does not matter. Now, however, the competition is to be extended to every Saturday night during the winter, when Promenade Concerts, with "symphony" first parts of the programmes, are to take place at Queen's Hall. On Saturday nights, as a rule, London concert halls are closed, but Promenade Concerts always have flourished on that evening.

A delightful suggestion has been made by a professional musical paper that members of the Royal College of Organists should wear some distinctive-coloured tie. They have a hood and gown to wear indoors, at church, or wheresoever the spirit may move them, but some of the dressy members, it seems, hanker after a sort of undress uniform, and a particular coloured tie appears to hit the mark. It is only fair to add that this ridiculous proposal has been laughed out of argument by the majority of members, though if any youth of the R.C.O. wishes, for the benefit of the ladies in general, or of any lady in particular, to disport himself in Hyde Park in a hood of cerulean blue silk, lined with satin, there is no earthly reason why he should not do so.

It appears that there was a loss at the last Gloucester Festival of about £600; but, instead of calling upon the guarantors, the Stewards very wisely and properly took the amount out of the funds subscribed to the charity. They themselves were the largest subscribers, and why they should be expected twice to dip their hands into their pockets is not exactly clear. It will be interesting to know what course will be adopted by the stewards of the recent Festival at Worcester.

The Norwich Festival rehearsals have been going on from Thursday last week until Tuesday this. I must speak of the Festival next week, but whatever may be the artistic result, Mr. Randegger, the conductor, hardly had a fair chance. His friend Signor Mancinelli, for his "Hero and Leander," took from eleven to four of Monday, the only day allotted to full rehearsals, and Mr. Randegger was expected to prepare the whole of the rest of the Festival in the remaining four hours. The

Festival will be a financial success; though no one will be astonished to learn that the largest number of tickets have been sold for the performance at which the Prince of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York will be present. The audience will hear "The Rose of Sharon," but the city of mustard and boots, of starch and serge, will, of course, turn out wholly and solely to welcome the Prince. Royalty at a Festival is a sure draw.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I'm sorry that collars are to be so fearfully high again this winter. It gives such a choky look to so many women as to be quite distressing. Those with short necks when wearing them have to twist their heads round in a way that almost makes their eyes protrude when they wish to take a side view of things in general. And, after all, we seldom have such bitterly cold weather as to make these dread-nought defences really necessary.

The Queen, when giving permission for high bodices to be worn at her Majesty's Drawing Rooms on special application, worded it so that the "aged or infirm" were supposed to be the only privileged persons. I have always understood that, since then, there has been a wonderful falling off in the number of high bodices worn at Drawing Rooms. Perhaps if it were supposed that only the aged or infirm were to patronise high collars they would soon fall into desuetude.

I saw a sweet costume in Bond-street on Saturday, and yet it was simplicity itself. Black serge skirt. Bodice to match, with a black velvet vest, fastenings invisible. Black velvet collar, with a little old, creamy lace hanging out over it at the sides and back. Cherry-coloured velvet hat with white and black wings (pigeons') round the full crown. A most covetable little cape of dark blue cloth, with rows of stitching for sole finish, hung on the arm.

The black velvet vest was most becoming!

The Trocadéro, once a music-hall, is now opened as a restaurant, and we were among several hundreds invited on Saturday to inspect the magnificent decorations. The place is a dream of colour—a real feast to the eyes. I cannot describe the various rooms in detail. It would not interest you, and it would unduly tax my powers; but I should like you to see the wonderful frieze that runs round the entrance hall. I thought at first that it was a mosaic of coloured marbles, but found afterwards that the material is fibrous plaster modelled in relief, and enriched with bright colours and metals. The subject of the design is the Arthurian legend.

The grand restaurant is on the ground floor—a very fine room, with its sumptuous Eastern carpets and a gold gallery, one end of which, on Saturday, was occupied by a band. A Masonic Lodge with ante room is one of the features. The staircase down to the grill-room is lined with grey-green marble, white and light, looking like photographs of the sea on a bright, sunny, windy day. The grill is similar to the one in the House of Commons.

Cream colour and gold are the prevailing tints in the grand restaurant, the walls being panelled with English brocades from the looms at Spitalfields. Crimson draperies are, as you may imagine, highly effective against this background. We saw the great banqueting-room upstairs—what a dance one could have there!—and ascended even to the kitchens, which are at the top of the house, and where half-a-dozen *chefs* of various departments work in silence. Orders are transmitted without speech, the business of cookery being regarded as being too important for interruption. "Do not talk to the man at the wheel." That kind of thing, you know.

The orange globes of the electric light, and the beautiful flower decorations, consisting of Cape gooseberries arranged in hundreds of chalet-roofed rustic baskets, gave an Eastern look to all the rooms. What interested Richard very much was the new idea of having a table d'hôte wine list, and thus saving the guest the trouble of selecting his own wine. It accompanies the viands as a matter of course. For instance, the 3s. 6d. table d'hôte wine list allows each customer a glass of sherry, one of hock or claret, two of champagne, and a liqueur or old brandy with the coffee. For more money the wines will be of superior quality, and at the highest rate dessert claret and milk punch are thrown in.

Women ought to be all in favour of this new arrangement, as it tends to moderation in the consumption of wine. "May as well finish the bottle" has accounted for many a muddled brain.

What scenes the vestries of some of our churches witness! If any one had looked into one of them the other morning he would have seen a young man raging and almost tearing his hair, striding up and down the room, and using language that, though it may have been strictly ecclesiastical, was anything but saintly. It seems that at one or two churches in the West End a simple declaration of age on the part of the bride or her relatives is not accepted as sufficient. The register of her birth is required. For obvious reasons I suppress the names of these churches, for if you were to allow them to get abroad, the number of marriages at them would be very considerably reduced! Brides who had impressed their lovers with the idea that their age was—say nineteen—would avoid with extreme care a church which insisted on the production of documentary evidence to the effect that their summers amounted to twenty-six or twenty-seven.

The young man whose agitation I have been endeavouring to describe to you had wooed and won a bride, believing her to be just "sweet and twenty." The vestry clerk, well accustomed to the duty of enlightening prospective bridegrooms on the point, laid the copy of the certificate of baptism before him without a word—"Born March 16, 1867." He read it out with an upward, astonished rush of voice that ended in a sort of scream. He himself is just twenty-three, and had often dilated on the suitability of age between himself and his intended wife to certain friends who viewed the match with some disfavour.

What can a man do in such circumstances as these? If he is not very much in love, his first impulse is to tax the girl with deception and break off the match. But if he is a gentleman, he reflects that to do so would put her in a terrible position, and he can't bring himself to do that. Some of these disagreeably-surprised bridegrooms go straight to the fiancée's mother and give her an uncomfortable quarter of an hour. The mother is usually in the deception, you know, and has her falsified dates so pat as to be quite convincing should any small doubts have arisen on the question.

Girls whose names are in the Peerage cannot do much in the way of concealing their real age. Burke is too polite to give particulars, but Lodge goes into detail on these delicate points. Were it not for that, there might be considerable misrepresentation, successful too, for the open-air life led by girls and women nowadays conduces to clearness of complexion and the retention of youthful looks.

And what of the young man of whose particular case I have been telling you? I'm sure you want to know. Well, I'll tell you some day. Things are effervescent just at present.

You see, Amy, it is not only the disappointment of finding the girl ever so much older than was imagined, but there is the fact of discovering her to be insincere. It is not considered much of a fib, perhaps, to make oneself

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out younger than one's years, but if there is any true love in the matter it banishes falsehood. A girl who can deliberately tell untruths about her age will not find much difficulty in telling them about other things. Will she?

Madame Bluette has returned from Paris to 41, Green-street, Park-lane, with the latest fashions in millinery. You remember she sells hats and bonnets at 15s. each, well up-to-date in style. In fact, she may be called a reformer, for the prices of headgear are really terrible, as a rule.

Do you like geese? Try one this way:—

Remove the wings from a goose, which is ready dressed for the spit, then press into shape. Mince the liver (from which the gall has been removed) with 2 oz. of bacon, 2 mushrooms, and 1 oz. of truffles. Season with pepper, salt, and the leaves picked from a sprig of sweet lemon thyme. Dust in a little grated nutmeg. Add a lump of butter as big as a walnut; then mix altogether. With this stuff the body of the goose. Secure the ends safely, so that the stuffing may not escape. Set the bird before the fire, and well baste. When the goose is nearly cooked strew it all over with fine, well-spiced, bread-crumbs, and leave to brown. In the meantime, skin and mince a dozen shalots, put them into a stewpan with a gill of good stock. Season with pepper and salt. Then add a tablespoonful of ham cullis and the juice of a lemon. Let the whole boil one moment, then pour all on to the dish, lay the goose in the centre and serve. The French generally remove the wings from a goose before cooking, and reserve them for other purposes.

Legs of geese are excellent broiled like beef bones for breakfast:—

Place the goose legs in a jar. Covered entirely with fat, they will then keep any length of time. When required to eat, slightly fry them, to melt the fat, then dust well with cayenne, and set them on a gridiron over a clear fire. When broiled, arrange on a hot dish, squeezing over the juice of a lemon. Garnish with small cress. Serve very hot.

Soles, with sauce as follows, are to be recommended:—

Scale, draw, wash, and wipe the soles quite dry. Fry them to a brown colour. When done, drain. Now make sufficient stuffing to fill the number of soles required. Chop finely green onions, parsley, capers, and anchovies separately. Open, and bone the soles without disfiguring the fish. Dust over each pepper and salt. Then cover one half with the forcemeat. Brush over a little heated butter, and put the two halves together again. Arrange the fish on a buttered dish. Let all stew for ten minutes. When ready, squeeze over them the juice of an orange. Serve the soles in the same dish in which they were cooked.

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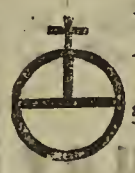

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BOURNEMOUTH.—HIGHCLIFFE HOTEL (first-class). Unrivalled position, West Cliff, full south. Splendid sea view. Most comfortable. Electric light. Table d'hôte (separate tables). Supplies from own Alderney Dairy Farm. Telephone 27.
JOHN KILNER, Proprietor.

BRIGHTON.—GRAND HOTEL.
Centre of Sea Front. Electric Light throughout.
NEW LIFT TO ALL FLOORS.
Inclusive terms if desired from 10s. 6d. per day.
For Illustrated Tariff apply to A. D. HOOK, Manager.

BRIGHTON.—BEDFORD HOTEL.—Old-established. Unequalled in situation; opposite West Pier. Spacious coffee and reading rooms; sea-water service; unequalled cuisine; great variety of excellent wines. Moderate tariff. Electric light in all rooms.
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INNS OF COURT HOTEL, Holborn.—A first-class Family Hotel, with 200 bedrooms, all modern conveniences. Electric lights, lifts, &c. Banquets arranged. The Central Hall is the finest and the Dining-room the pleasantest in London. Masonic lodge, public meeting rooms, &c. Table d'hôte, 6 to 8, 3s. 6d.—FRANK BLACKLEY, Manager. Inclusive terms from 10s. 6d. per day.

THE WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, facing the Abbey and Houses of Parliament. Every modern comfort and convenience. Reasonable tariff, and no charge for attendance. Telegrams "Hostelry, London."

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Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
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The PRINCIPAL and ONLY HOTEL facing the Sea.
Unrivalled sea frontage and open surroundings. Grounds five acres. Lawn Tennis Courts. Croquet Lawn. Large Swimming Bath. Elegant Lounge hall. 250 rooms.
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Sanitation Certified.

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Newest and best Hotel.
Delightful position, fronting the sea.
Terms most moderate.

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Large and high-class Hotel. Upwards of 200 rooms. Finest position in Buxton. Surrounded by own grounds of six acres. Ground-floor sitting-rooms and bed-rooms. Magnificent public rooms. American elevator. Table d'hôte at separate tables. Tariff, with plan of rooms and sketch map of Buxton, on application.
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Within three minutes' walk of the Albert Gate Entrance to Hyde Park and Tattersall's.

THIS **FAMILY HOTEL** is sumptuously Furnished and Appointed, and complete in every detail. There are many self-contained Suites of Apartments, ensuring the utmost privacy (each having a Bathroom), as well as Single Bedrooms.

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The splendid **COVERED WINTER GARDEN** (2,500 square feet in area) forms a charming lounge, an attraction which is not possessed by any other Hotel in London. The entire building is agreeably heated during the winter.

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(QUITE CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION).

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HOMES WITHOUT A HOUSEHOLD CARE.

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(BETWEEN MENTONE AND MONTE CARLO.)

FINEST SITE ON THE RIVIERA.

Re-opens on the 20th Nov. under the same Management.

Since last season the Hotel has been lighted throughout by electricity, re-decorated, and about 30 new rooms have been added.

Perfect Sanitation of Hotel and District. The Hotel has private Dairy and Laundry. Omnibus meets trains at Mentone.

Address—MANAGER, Cap Martin Hotel, Mentone.

LAS PALMAS. Grand Canary.—SANTA CATALINA HOTEL.—For all particulars as to routes, terms, &c., apply at London Office, the Canary Islands Company, Limited, 1, Laurence Pountney-hill, London. E.C. Golf links.

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HOTEL ROYAL.

Hotel of the Best Class. Established 50 Years.

200 Bedrooms (130 facing the sea). 24 Private Sitting Rooms facing the sea. Public Drawing and Reading Rooms.
Within 40 yards of Casino and Etablissement des Bains.
THE ONLY HOTEL IN DIEPPE WITH A LIFT TO EVERY FLOOR.
Electric Light. Telephone. Perfect Sanitation.
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HASTINGS.—ALBANY HOTEL (Robertson-terrace).—Inclusive terms from 2½ gns. upwards. Finest position on the whole sea front. Electric Light everywhere. Lift to all floors. Smoking room and all public rooms face the sea. Billiards. Special Notice! No charge for attendance is made. Visitors can bring their own wines; no corkage is charged.—C. A. SCHWABE, Manager.

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TO BE SOLD AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

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LUDGATE HILL.

PRICES ARE MUCH REDUCED, as not only is the Raw Material lower, but cheap freights and a low rate of exchange are at present in favour of buyers.

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Are delivered to the warehouse two or three times a week in all sizes, both in the old and new colourings.

ANY CARPET WILL BE SENT ON APPROBATION TO APPROVED CUSTOMERS.

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ESTATES, AUCTIONS, &c.

SATURDAY NEXT.

MAPLEDURHAM-ON-THAMES.

Notice of Sale of THE WARREN ESTATE.

MESSRS. SIMMONS & SONS are favoured with instructions to SELL by AUCTION on SATURDAY next, OCTOBER 10th, 1896, at TWO o'clock p.m. (weather permitting), in a large MARQUEE on the estate, or if weather unfavourable at the boathouse of the Caversham Bridge (Bona's) Hotel,

86 MAGNIFICENT SITES,

containing

110 ACRES,

Above and below "The Warren," with attractive Thames-side Frontages extending to half-a-mile, commanding the choicest river scenery, and within easy access of the important Reading Railway Stations.

This Property forms one of the most picturesque and valuable portions of the celebrated Mapledurham Estate, so long connected with the Blount family. It occupies a most commanding position on the banks of, and overlooking the Thames, and affords very extensive views of the picturesque river and landscape scenery, for which the neighbourhood of Tilehurst and Mapledurham is so justly renowned.

"The Warren," from which the Property now takes its name, is well-known as one of the loveliest spots in the Thames Valley. Through it extends the private carriage-way to Mapledurham House, to which many of the Lots have frontages. Below it the grass slopes extend to the river bank, providing the choicest sites for bungalows and boathouses, while above it overhangs the beautifully wooded cliff on the summit of which some of the grandest sites imaginable for the erection of first-class residences are to be found, to which an excellent approach will now be provided by the construction of the new roadway to be known as Upper Warren Avenue, the gradient in which will in no part exceed one in twelve.

Many of these grand sites have important river frontages allotted to them, and their equal for beauty, compactness, and convenience of position is not to be found in the whole length of the Thames Valley.

The important railway stations of Reading are within ten minutes' drive, whence London is reached in forty-five minutes.

The upper part of the property is divided into smaller choice residential sites, each of which possesses easy access to the river, with a right of way to the Estate landing place, which will be expressly reserved for purchasers of this property in a central and picturesque portion of the river frontage of the Estate as shown on the plan.

Two important residences, one above the Warren and another on the river bank, and also a picturesque boathouse and boat and summer-house have been erected in recent years on this estate, and afford an excellent illustration of the beauty of the land as residential sites.

The estate is situate in the parishes of Mapledurham and Caversham, in the county of Oxford.

A lunch will be provided at Bona's Hotel, at one o'clock. A steam launch will leave East's boathouse (by Caversham Lock) at 12.45 to convey purchasers to the luncheon and sale tent. Luncheon tickets to be obtained on application to the Auctioneers only.

Illustrated particulars, plans, and conditions of sale, may be obtained of C. E. HEWETT, Esq., Solicitor, Friar-street, Reading; or of the Auctioneers, Henley-on-Thames, Reading, and Basingstoke.

PEEBLESSHIRE.

ESTATE OF PORTMORE.

For SALE by SEALED TENDER Above £87,000.

Tenders to be lodged on or before WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 1896, at 12 o'clock Noon.

THIS MAGNIFICENT RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING ESTATE is situated *only 18 miles from Edinburgh* and 6 from Peebles, and within 2 of Eddleston Station.

The MANSION commands extensive and lovely views of the Eddleston Valley and the Peeblesshire Hills. It contains 19 Bed-rooms and Dressing-rooms, 5 Reception Rooms, spacious corridors, and suitable servants' apartments. There are excellent Stable Offices, good Gardens with Hothouses and Vineries, and other suitable buildings and appointments.

The ESTATE extends to about 9,600 Acres, of which about 800 are Woodlands. The remainder is chiefly Arable and Pasture Land of high quality, let at moderate rents. Most of the Farms carry Sheep Stock of an excellent class and recognised character.

The SHOOTINGS are well mixed, affording ample sport. There is TROUT FISHING on the Streams, and the FISHING in PORTMORE LOCH (a charming sheet of water, 2 miles in circumference) could be vastly improved if stocked with Loch Leven trout.

RENTAL (exclusive of the Mansion and the principal Shootings), £3,092. 12s.

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TO BE LET, FOURTH FLOOR, 169, Piccadilly, consisting of three rooms, at a rental of £40 per annum on a yearly agreement.—Apply, LADIES' AGENCY, 83, Ebury-street, S.W.

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TO INVALIDS.—A LIST of MEDICAL MEN, in all parts, willing to RECEIVE RESIDENT PATIENTS, giving full particulars and terms, sent Gratis. The List includes Private Asylums, &c. Schools also recommended—Address, Mr. G. B. STOCKER, 8, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C.

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"LANOLINE" Toilet Preparations "LANOLINE"

Darling Brand. from all Chemists.

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"Lanoline" Toilet Soap For Health and Beauty of the Skin. 6d. per tablet. 3 in a box 1s. 6d.

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HOW TO MAKE AN INCOME-PAYING HOME.

The object of the above Company is to develop the resources of their estate, consisting of about 12,000 acres, situated in the far-famed Tulbagh district in the Western Province of Cape Colony, about 75 miles distant by rail from Cape Town. They are promoting the establishment of a successful colony. The estate has been surveyed and laid out in blocks of about 40 acres each, a number of which have already been sold. The purchase price of this land this year (with all water facilities) is £12 per acre, threequarters of which can remain bearing interest at six per cent. per annum.

In order to provide for the success of every colonist who has sufficient capital at command to be able to enter into this business, but has no practical knowledge of the work, the company have engaged the services of an efficient manager and a skilled horticulturist; and who will, if desired, plant, cultivate, and attend to the development of each client's farm for one year or more.

Thus any settler, provided he gives ordinary attention to the details of the work this company have undertaken for him, can obtain, under the guidance of a skilled specialist, that practical knowledge which is essential in the working to the best advantage of dairy and fruit farms.

THE CAPE COLONISATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Company undertake, if desired, to clear, plant, fence, supervise, and generally manage any holding. They guarantee that 90 per cent. of the trees and vines planted under the supervision of their staff grow to maturity, as specified in the agreement, a copy of which can be obtained on application. The company will manage the estate of any absentee at a charge of £1 a year per acre, and will also undertake to erect on the estate any houses for the residence of a settler, which can be chosen in London before sailing, with estimates given. They further undertake to purchase from a settler, at marketable prices, any approved dairy, farm, and orchard produce.

At the company's headquarters, at Seven Fountains, are the orchard and vineyard belonging to the company, and extensive creameries, packing houses, &c., will be erected as soon as necessary.

Steps are already being taken for the erection of a sugar beet factory, &c., and it is the intention of the company to promote milling and other industries.

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The General Manager of the Company is going out at the beginning of October, and will be pleased to have the Company of any one who desires to avail himself of this opportunity of a fresh start in life in a new field.

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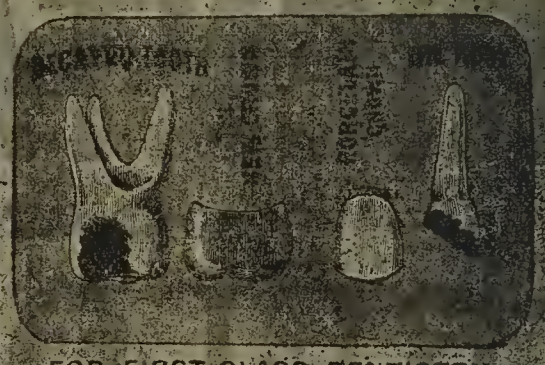

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PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

Is made specially for delicate, sensitive, irritable skins, and is scented with the most charming and innocent Perfumes.

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yields a profuse, cleansing, demulcent lather, and tends to keep the skin soft and velvety, and the complexion beautiful and clear. Its use doesn't cost a farthing a day.

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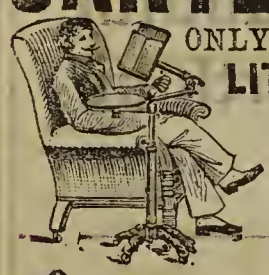

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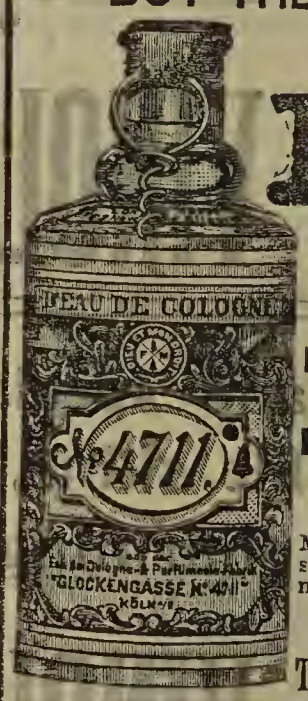

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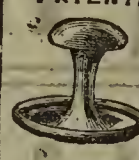

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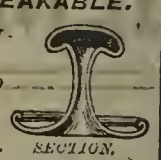

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WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

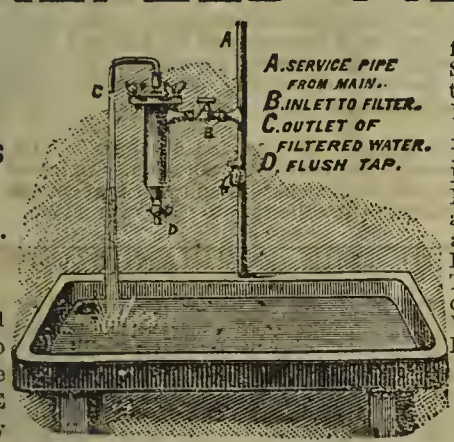
BERKEFELD FILTER

FOR THE

PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.

Can be Easily and Cheaply Fixed to the Service-Pipe of any HOUSE having ordinary pressure.

No Country House Should Be Without One.



In use in all the Principal Hotels. Simple in Construction. Most easily cleaned.

PRICE FOR FILTER AS ABOVE, 42s.
SMALLER SIZE, 25s.
For other prices see price-lists.

Offices and Show-Rooms:
The BERKEFELD FILTER Co. Ltd.
121, Oxford St., London, W.

NOTE.—Write for Copy of the Special Report to the "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL," Nov. 10, 1894, in which the BERKEFELD FILTER is specially demonstrated as affording COMPLETE PROTECTION against the communication of WATERBORNE DISEASES.

Supplied to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., and others too numerous to mention; THE HOUSE OF LORDS, and THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EPPS'S COCOAINE.

COCOA-NIB EXTRACT.
(TEA-LIKE.)

The choicest roasted nibs (broken-up beans) of the natural Cocoa on being subjected to powerful hydraulic pressure, give forth their excess of oil, leaving for use a finely-flavoured powder—"Cocoaine," a product which, when prepared with boiling water, has the consistence of tea, of which it is now, with many, beneficially taking the place. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

For ECZEMA and all Skin Diseases wash with this Soap.

DR MACKENZIE'S ARSENICAL SOAP 6d. & 1s.

Produces a lovely complexion, and cures Spots, Pimples, &c.

For ECZEMA and all Skin Diseases wash with this Soap.

DR MACKENZIE'S ARSENICAL SOAP 6d. & 1s.

Produces a lovely complexion, and cures Spots, Pimples, &c.

The most emollient and soothing Toilet Soap in the World for irritable skins. Madame ADELINA PATTI writes from Craig-y-nos Castle:—"I find Dr. Mackenzie's Arsenical Toilet Soap most excellent." Beware of the many imitations. Have Dr. Mackenzie's or none.

No more Indigestion!
No more Gout!
No more Weakness!

BY USING

VAN STEEN'S PEPTONISED ABSOLUTE SOLUBLE COCOA.

Delicious and Nutritive . . .

(Patent No. 23,503.)

The ingredients added to this "Pure Cocoa" are harmless, and so small in quantity that the taste is quite disguised, at the same time the process of peptonising is perfect.

The nutritive value of this Cocoa in conjunction with the quickness with which it is assimilated renders it of the greatest value to the chronic dyspeptic and the sufferer from the excess of uric acid, thus placing it in the highest rank of foods suited to those with enfeebled digestive organs and kindred ailments.

Sold only by DISPENSING CHEMISTS in pound tins at 4s., halves at 2s. 1d., quarters at 1s. 2d. One pound is quite sufficient for 160 cups.

This Peptonised Cocoa agrees with everybody even when ordinary cocoa disagrees.

Wholesale of Messrs. SANGER & CO., London; Messrs. EDWARDS & SON, London; Messrs. BARCLAY & SONS, LTD., London; Messrs. GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., Leeds; Messrs. EVANS GADD & CO., Exeter.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the
ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,
33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

TO INVESTORS AND INSURERS.

A NEW NON-TARIFF FIRE OFFICE WITH SPECIAL FEATURES.

The LIST will OPEN on Monday, the 5th inst., at 10 a.m., and CLOSE for London on or before 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 7th inst.; for the Country and elsewhere at noon on Thursday, the 8th inst.

THE MIDLAND FIRE INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of each shareholder is limited to the amount of his share).

Share Capital, £500,000, divided into 100,000 shares of £5 each. One-fourth of which has already been applied for.

The shares are issued at a premium of 5s. each to provide for payment of preliminary expenses, so that the Corporation may commence business with its capital intact.

The sum of 5s. per share payable on application.

The sum of 7s. 6d. per share payable, including half the premium, on allotment.

The sum of 7s. 6d. per share payable, including balance of premium, three months after allotment, and the sum of 5s. 0d. per share payable six months after allotment.

It is not anticipated that it will be necessary to call up more than £1 per share.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. Lord Hay of Kinfauns, Dupplin Castle, Perth, N.B.
G. S. Gulston, Esq., Woodfield, Pembroke.
Edgar Webster, Esq., Managing Director Wood and Ivery, Limited, West Bromwich; Chairman South Staffordshire Brickmakers' Association.
Frank Rigby, Esq. (Messrs. Wm. Rigby & Company, Stoke-on-Trent, Colliery Proprietors), The Lodge, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent.
Henry M'Dowell, Esq., Alford-street, Park-lane, W.; Oatlands Park, Weybridge.
James Edward Stone, Esq., of The Central Iron, Steel, and Tin Plate Company, Land Oak, Kidderminster.
John Edward Hodding, Esq., Anstey Grange, Leicester, Solicitor.
*Cecil Wagner Holmes, Esq., Croft, near Leicester, Managing Director Mutual Cycle Manufacturing and Supply Company, Limited.
Henry Webley, Esq. (of Messrs. P. Webley & Son, Weamen-street, Birmingham), 18, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.
Alderman William Baron, J.P. (Chairman Bradbury & Company, Limited), Rochdale and Oldham.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.

National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, London, Birmingham, and branches.

BROKERS.

London: Messrs. J. Silverston & Co., 27, Throgmorton-street, and Stock Exchange.
Liverpool: Messrs. Hook & Bradshaw, York-buildings, Sweeting-street, and Stock Exchange.
Manchester: Messrs. Joseph R. & W. P. Baines, Queen's-chambers, 7, Market-street.
Birmingham: Messrs. W. & F. Cuthbert, Colmore-row, and Stock Exchange.
Leeds: Messrs. J. Redmayne & Co., Albion-street, and Stock Exchange.
Oldham: Alderman John Hood, J.P., Clegg-street.
Bradford: Messrs. Middleton & Fraser, 206, Swan-arcade, and Stock Exchange.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Harrison & Davies, 30, Bedford-row, London.
H. S. Burbidge, Esq., Hatherton-chambers, Birmingham.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 58, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
Messrs. F. T. Murray & Co., Chartered Accountants, 7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham.

GENERAL MANAGER AND SECRETARY.

Thomas Gray Parkinson.

TEMPORARY OFFICES.

Winchester House, Old Broad street, London.

PROSPECTUS.

This Corporation has been established with the power to undertake all kinds of insurance business (except "life").

Fire insurance business at the present time is practically a gigantic monopoly in the hands of a comparatively small number of offices ruled by what is known as the "Tariff Committee."

This Committee arbitrarily fixes the amount of premium payable on each respective class of risk, without allowing each case to be dealt with on its individual merits, thus making the good risks pay for the bad ones.

The necessity for offices which will act independently of the tariff companies is strongly felt, as owing to the want of such an institution these companies have been enabled to greatly raise their rates and still further to augment their profits.

There is a strong feeling against the recent heavy increase in the rates charged by the companies working under the Tariff Committee. Investors can satisfy themselves that such rates are unwarranted by reference to the published accounts for the past eight years of the different offices in the "Insurance Directory Reference and Year Book for 1896."

It is therefore clear that the time is most opportune for the establishment of this Corporation, which will act independently, and it is confidently expected that the insuring public will largely avail themselves of the favourable rates and increased facilities which this Corporation will be prepared to offer them, and that a substantial and very remunerative business will be secured.

The Directors are of opinion that the following advantages can with prudence and safety be held out to insurers, which advantages will form the leading features of the Corporation, viz.:—

(a) The rating of each risk upon its own individual merits, which is impossible when working under a tariff.
(b) The issue of policies on non-hazardous property, renewable each sixth year free of cost, provided no loss has occurred in the preceding five years.

Since 1886, insurance offices have decreased in number, owing to amalgamations, while the value of insurable property has enormously increased. In London alone £763,347,236 was written by sixty-nine companies in 1887, while in 1894, although the number of companies had decreased by amalgamation to fifty-nine, the amount written had risen to no less a sum than £845,998,895.

It is a well-known fact that insurance companies are amongst the most successful of commercial enterprises, and the high premiums at which fire insurance shares stand at the present time is an absolute proof of the appreciation by the investing public of this class of security.

Applicants for shares are requested to note and compare the present value of insurance shares as shown in the following table, which is taken from the "Insurance Blue Book and Guide" for 1896 and 1897, and the Directors have every reason to believe that the shares of this Corporation will prove equally valuable.

Company.	Nom. Am. each Share.	Paid up in Cash each Share.	Dividend last Financial Year.	Latest Buyers price each Share.
	£	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1. Atlas	50	5 0 0	22 per cent.	27 0 0
2. Kent	50	12 10 0	65 per cent.	215 0 0
3. Law	100	2 10 0	35 per cent.	15 10 0
4. Liverpool, London, and Globe	20	2 0 0	80 per cent.	54 0 0
5. Law Union and Crown	10	0 10 0	45 per cent.	6 15 0
6. London and Lancashire	25	2 10 0	20 per cent.	18 5 0
7. Northern	100	5 0 0	45 per cent.	77 0 0
8. Norwich Union	100	6 0 0	65 per cent.	124 0 0
9. Royal	20	2 0 0	86 per cent.	54 0 0

It is anticipated that the income from the first year's premiums will not be less than £50,000, and this should show a profit sufficient to pay a satisfactory dividend, after setting aside a substantial sum for the reserve fund.

The writing of carefully selected fire risks is the most profitable branch of insurance business, and the returns of the existing companies are constantly and rapidly increasing.

The issue of the shares of this Corporation at a premium protects the whole capital of the Corporation, and thus affords an opportunity of creating a substantial reserve fund.

The head offices will be in London, and it is intended to immediately open offices in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Cardiff, Newcastle, Glasgow, and at such other places as the Directors may determine upon.

The shareholders' liability is limited to the amount of their shares.

The following contracts have been entered into:—

A contract dated the 12th day of August, 1896, between Thomas Gray Parkinson of the one part, and Cecil Wagner Holmes of the other part, whereby Thomas Gray Parkinson, manager at Birmingham for the Kent Insurance Company, one of the wealthiest and most successful offices, has agreed to take and pay for in full, two hundred shares of £5 each in the Corporation, and to serve the Corporation for a period of five years as their general manager and secretary, thereby assuring an immediate and valuable connection.

A contract dated the 12th day of August, 1896, between Charles Cottrell for and on behalf of the Corporation of the one part, and Cecil Wagner Holmes of the other part, under which the said Cecil Wagner Holmes undertakes to pay the charges and expenses incidental to the formation and establishment of the Company up to and including allotment, and guarantees that 20,000 shares shall be subscribed for, on the terms of the prospectus, by responsible persons.

The above-mentioned contracts, together with the memorandum and articles of association of the Corporation may be inspected at the office of the solicitors of the Corporation, and applicants will be deemed to have had notice of the terms of the said contract, and to accept allotment on that footing.

In addition to the contracts already referred to, there are agreements and arrangements with other parties relating to the formation and working of the Corporation, and to the subscription of a portion of its capital, and otherwise, to which the Corporation are not a party, but which may constitute contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Acts, 1867.

Applicants for Shares will be deemed to have full notice of such contracts and agreements, and to have waived their right to any particulars thereof, and to accept the above as a sufficient compliance with Section 38.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form enclosed, and sent with the deposit direct to the Corporation's bankers. In any case where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and should the number of Shares allotted be less than the number applied for the surplus deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment. Application will be made forthwith for a Stock Exchange settlement and quotation of the Corporation Shares.

Copies of the prospectus can be obtained at the offices of the Corporation, also from the bankers or brokers to the Corporation. Copies of the prospectus, memorandum and articles of association, and the agreements specified above can be seen at the offices of the solicitors to the Corporation.

October 5, 1896.

THE MIDLAND FIRE INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

APPLICATION FORM FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of The Midland Fire Insurance Corporation, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your bankers the sum of £ , being a deposit of 5s. per share on an application for shares of £5 each, in the above-named Corporation, I request you to allot me that number of shares, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon the terms of the Prospectus issued by you dated the 5th day of October, 1896, and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the shares so allotted to me; and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due in accordance with the terms of the Prospectus, together with the premium; and I agree with the Corporation as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable to waive any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said Prospectus with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
.....
Description .....
Date .....1896.
Signature .....

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—

WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.

LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM:—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.

£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.

£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.

£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.

13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."

Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.

Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

The NOTTINGHAM JOINT STOCK BANK, Limited, Nottingham.
The LONDON and MIDLAND BANK, Limited, 52, Cornhill, London; and at Leicester, Birmingham, Derby, and other branches, and
The BANK of IRELAND, Dublin, Belfast, and branches,
Are authorised to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS for the undermentioned STOCK and SHARES.

THE NEW BEESTON BREWERY COMPANY, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890. Share Capital £280,000, divided into

28,000 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each	£140,000
28,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each	140,000
	£280,000

In addition to which it is proposed to issue £140,000 Mortgage Debenture Stock bearing interest at the rate of Four per Cent. per annum. Power is reserved under the Trust Deed to make a further issue of £60,000, ranking *pari passu* with the present issue, for the purposes and on the conditions below mentioned.

The Debenture Stock will be redeemable on, or at any time after, 30th September, 1916, at the Company's option, on six months' notice being given, at the price of 110 per cent. It will (subject to an existing mortgage for £25,000, which, by the terms of the Mortgage Deed, cannot be repaid until the year 1905) be secured by a specific mortgage to the Trustees of the freehold and leasehold properties of the Company, and by a floating charge on the undertakings of the Company.

The unissued balance of £60,000 of Debenture Stock will only be issued for the purpose of paying off the mortgage referred to of £25,000, or for the purchase of additional properties, which will be included in the Trust Deed, and of the purchase price of such additional properties not less than two-fifths must be contributed out of funds other than the proceeds of the Debenture Stock.

Of the present issue, the Vendor takes in part payment of the purchase money £30,000 of the Debenture Stock, £30,000 of the Preference Shares, and £30,000 of the Ordinary Shares, leaving:—

£110,000 in Debenture Stock, £110,000 in Preference Shares,
£110,000 in Ordinary Shares,

which are now OFFERED for PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION: the Debenture Stock at 103 per cent., and the Preference and Ordinary Shares at par. The instalments will be payable as follows:—

	Debenture Stock. Per cent.	Preference and Ordinary Shares. Per Share.
On Application	£10 0 0	£0 10 0
On Allotment (including premium)	43 0 0	2 0 0
On 20th November	50 0 0	2 10 0
	£103 0 0	£5 0 0

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCK-HOLDERS.—The Western Trust, Limited, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

Samuel Theodore Bunning, Esq., The Brewery, Beeston, Nottingham (Chairman and Managing Director).
George Wigley, Esq., J.P., Warser Gate, Nottingham.
James Inglis, Esq., J.P., Norcott-court, Berkhampstead (Chairman, Inglis & Co., Limited).
Joseph Albert Arnold, Esq., Derby (Director, Eastwood, Swingler & Co., Limited).

BANKERS.

The Nottingham Joint Stock Bank, Limited, Nottingham, and Branches.
The London and Midland Bank, Limited, 52, Cornhill, London; Leicester, Birmingham, Derby, and other Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. W. Shakespeare & Co., 83, Colmore-row, Birmingham.
BROKERS.—Messrs. Linton, Clarke, & Co., Bartholomew-House, London, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Craig, Gardner, & Co., 41, Moorgate-street, London, E.C., and at Dublin and Belfast.
SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—Mr. John D. Robinson, The Brewery, Beeston, Nottingham.
TEMPORARY SECRETARY AND TEMPORARY OFFICES.—David H. Allan, 41, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire, carry on, and develop the business and the licensed houses, and other assets of the Beeston Brewery Company, Limited (which has a most successful trading record), and also to acquire the ownership of certain licensed houses, which have heretofore been supplied with beers from the brewery, under agreement.

The brewery is situated on a freehold plot of land immediately contiguous to the Beeston Station of the Midland Railway, to which it has a siding, thus enabling the beer to be easily and cheaply forwarded to Derby, Leicester, and the other important centres in the district. The town of Nottingham being only three miles from the brewery, the beer is sent there by dray. The water used is that of the Trent Valley, obtained from artesian wells on the Company's premises, and is similar to that used by the Burton brewers. The buildings are of modern structure, and well equipped with approved machinery and appliances, including pneumatic maltings, which are capable of making all the malt required by the brewery. Extensions (which are almost completed), for which the Vendor will pay, are being made to meet the rapidly increasing trade of the concern, and there is room for further expansion.

The brewery and other properties to be acquired by the Company have been valued by Messrs. Mason & Son, the well known brewery valuers, at £214,483, and the stocks, cash in hand, &c. amount to £28,000—making a total of £240,483.

The books and accounts have been examined by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, and Co., who certify as follows:—

"4, Lothbury, London, E.C., September 19th, 1896.

"To the Directors of the New Beeston Brewery Company, Limited.

"Gentlemen,—We have examined the books and accounts of the Beeston Brewery Company, Limited, at Beeston, near Nottingham, for the four years ending March, 1896; also the books and accounts of Mr. S. T. Bunning, whose licensed houses, &c., have heretofore been supplied with beer from the brewery, for the four years ending December 31st, 1895.

"After writing back all interest, which the capital of the new Company will render unnecessary, Directors' fees, income-tax, and Mr. Bunning's salary, but making due provision for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts, the combined profits (bearing in mind the fact that the Brewery year ends in March, and Mr. Bunning's year in December) were:—

	December.	March.	£.	s.	d.
For the year	1892 —	1893	13,755	2	0
do.	1893 —	1894	18,279	3	10
do.	1894 —	1895	23,771	8	10
do.	1895 —	1896	31,123	0	0

"We are, Gentlemen, your obedient servants,
"DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, & Co."

The trade for each of the years covered by the above certificate shows a very large increase over the preceding year, due to the largely increasing population of the neighbourhood, and to the acquisition from time to time of suitable tied houses, and for the period from 31st March, 1896 (the date when the last balance-sheet was made up), to the date of the issue of this Prospectus, shows a substantial increase compared with the trade of the corresponding period in the previous year.

Apart from any increase in the trade or profits (which the Chairman and the other Directors do not take into account), and taking the profits of the last year, after charging bad debts, and making ample provision for depreciation, &c., as certified by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co., namely— £31,123

The sum required to pay interest on the Mortgage and on the Debenture Stock amounts to	£6,600	
Dividend on the Preference Shares	7,700	
Management and Directors' Fees	2,000	
		16,300
Leaving a balance of available for dividend on the Ordinary Shares.		£14,823

It may be mentioned that nine-tenths of the trade of the Brewery is transacted with its own licensed houses, which gives stability and steadiness to the trade and profits. On March 31st, 1896, there was in stock eighteen months' consumption of hops bought at very favourable prices.

The Company takes over the brewery and properties as from September 30th, 1896, free from all liabilities save the mortgage already referred to, and the current trade liabilities, and also free from all preliminary expenses, which the Vendor pays.

The amount to be paid for the entire business and properties (under the below-mentioned Agreement, between William Harris, of the one part, and John D. Robinson, as Trustee for the Company, of the other part) is £420,000, payable as to £30,000 in Debenture Stock at par, £30,000 in Preference Shares, £30,000 in Ordinary Shares, and £330,000 in cash. Five per cent. interest on the purchase-money will be paid from September 30th, 1896, as from which date the Company takes over the business, to the date or dates of payments. The Vendor will also be entitled to the premium on the Debenture Stock.

Application will be made in due course to the Committees of the Stock Exchanges in London, Birmingham, and Dublin for a special settlement and official quotation for the Debenture Stock and the Preference and Ordinary Shares.

Applications for Stock and Shares should be made on the application form, and sent with deposit payable on application to The Nottingham Joint Stock Bank, Nottingham; or to The London and Midland Bank, 52, Cornhill, London; Leicester, Birmingham, and other Branches; or to the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, Belfast, and Branches.

If fewer Shares are allotted than are applied for, the balance of the deposit paid will be applied towards the amount payable on Allotment, and any surplus will be returned.

Full Prospectuses and Application Forms may be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers to the Company.

The Brewery, Beeston, Nottingham, 3rd October, 1896.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE
INSURANCE COMPANY.
Invested Funds ... ... £9,067,182.
FIRE. LIFE. ENDOWMENTS. ANNUITIES.
Fire Insurances Effected on Most Favourable Terms.
Life Bonuses Large, either in Cash or Additions to Sum Assured.
Policy Holders incur no Liability of Partnership, and may so insure as to participate in NINE-TENTHS of the PROFITS of their class.
EQUITABLE RATES. MODERATE EXPENSES.
PLEASE APPLY FOR PROSPECTUS.
Head Offices: 1, DALE STREET, LIVERPOOL; 7, CORNHILL, LONDON.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

THE
JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 919.—SHOULD BISHOPS RIDE THE BICYCLE?

BIROTA (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE "TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.

I am glad to say that applications for Dolls, both of the large and small size, have continued to come in, and the available supply has been appreciably reduced since last week. To prevent disappointment, therefore, let me again advise those ladies who may intend to dress Dolls for the Christmas Show to send in their applications at once. Especially, for the reason given last week, would I advise that applications for the *large* Dolls should not be delayed.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

I am sorry to say that it has come to my knowledge that LE ROI, like W. W. P., has included in his list of yearlings the names of two horses which are in training. It is, therefore, impossible, under the conditions of the competition, to award him the prize. I have accordingly made another selection, and to prevent further trouble and delay, have submitted it to a sporting friend, who has promised to let me know if the chosen list of names is in all respects in accordance with the conditions laid down when the competition was given. The result of my communication with him I shall be able to publish next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 918.

The result of this competition will also be announced next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 920.

The Prize in this competition has been divided between CANDLEMAS and IVY LEAVES, for their descriptions of North Berwick and St. Pair, published in last week's TRUTH.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 924.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST PROVERB, OR SENTENCE OF AN EPIGRAMMATIC CHARACTER, FORMED BY TAKING AND COMBINING SINGLE WORDS TO BE FOUND IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THIS JOURNAL. THE SENTENCES FORMED MUST NOT CONTAIN LESS THAN FIFTEEN WORDS, BUT MAY CONTAIN MORE.

The words used may be selected from any part of the present number, including the advertisements, Puzzle Pages, and the cover. Not more than one word is to be taken from any one line, nor must the last word of one line and the first of the next be chosen in succession. The proverbs or sentences formed may be adaptations of existing ones or entirely original. Competitors may send in more than one effort if they please, on condition that all answers reach me by the morning of Monday, October 19.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of VINDEX, winner of a half of Prize No. 917, is William Herbert Turl, Esq., 38, Hartington-street, Belfast.

*** The real name and address of NIN-NIN, winner of half of Prize No. 917, is Mrs. H. S Hardy, River View, Gilford, Co. Down, Ireland.

CULPEPPER.—In your excellent lines on Saltburn the word printed "Cambria's" should obviously have been "Cumbria's." I regret the misprint.

E. S.—Many thanks for your letter and its interesting enclosure.

ARCH GIBBS.—I am obliged to you for your notes. Such a competition as you suggest will, I hope, be given shortly.

COLIN.—I am glad you are able to join in the competitions again.

RUGELEY.—The fourth line of your description of Conway should have read "I *scan* the stretch of scenery around."

A. H. G.—Thanks for your note, which I received in due course.

ORLANDO.—You will see that I have adopted the plan you suggest.

E. D. W.—Such a competition as you suggest was given some years ago in these pages.

EAST ANGLIA.—I am much obliged to you for your letter.

FRANK.—The *nom de plume* fairly belongs to you.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 921.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

SENTENCES FORMED BY TAKING ONE LETTER FROM THE NAME OF EACH OF THE NINETEEN CABINET MINISTERS.

Recall our ambassador.—Dormer.
'Tis atrocious misrule.—Twig.
Lord, avenge Thy saints.—Felixicus.
Forget jealousies—act!—Fanchette.
Deposition and reform.—A. E. L.
"Teaching stern murder" (Shakespeare).—Aristarchus.
Woe! gigantic massacre.—In Dubiis.
1. Turn Röntgen on Sultan. 2. Sew the Sultan in a sack.—Deadeye.
How inhuman it is, Abdul.—Drallam.
1. Victoria shall defend. 2. Depose the blackguard.—C.
Let Britain act boldly.—Growna.
We must avoid rashness.—Table Round.
Have a big bit of Turkey.—Bootle's Baby.
Cowardice triumphant.—Alva Cura.
End Armenia's troubles.—Grow Pride.
Let Europe move united.—Society.
Now, yer devil, out yer go!—T. Aitken.
J. Bull! Carve the Turkey.—Snaggard.
End atrocious misrule.—C. M. P.
Unloose the dogs of war.—Serpent.
Ho, Europe! Awake—avenge!—Aswoe.
1. Depart! Bag and baggage. 2. England awakes to duty.—Excelsior.
Tremble, Arch-assassin!—Esperanza.
England stands aghast.—Semper Fidelis.
Britain helps the weak.—Chiripa.
Punish the guilty ones.—Jeff.
End the Sick Man's reign.—John Bull.
Abdul spots Armenians.—Rabelais.
Depose Abdul the cruel.—Alectum.
Nothing but bloody war.—F. Cole.
Abdul the mad Assassin.—B. W. F.
England contra mundum.—Rabelais.
Wipe him out, Salisbury.—Dulwichian.
Oh, Abdul, do be merciful.—MeW.
A disgrace to humanity.—Dulwichian.
Forbear, ere we make you.—Furious.
All great powers unite.—Jacobite.
Wo to the crown of pride! (Isaiah 28-1).—Phra.
Europe is discredited.—B. W. F. ... ...
Chuck Abdul the damned.—M'yes.
Delenda est—the Sultan.—Tyro.
Armenians cry for help.—Dogwoggin.
See the Reign of Terror.—M. S.
"Peace with honour" fled.—A. M. D. M.
Raging hell upon earth.—N. M.
Subdue and regenerate.—Amberboa.
By "Berlin" out of "Crimea."—Piffer.
1. Europe must interfere. 2. No more Turkish murder.—A. H. B.
Persist, but act warily.—Crescent.
Oh! Lord, avenge Armenia!—MeAnn.
Crush the Moslem power.—Hamlet.
Europe, crush the Fiend!—Wight.
We cry out for "vengeance."—Paddy.
Depose the vile wretch.—Apemantus.
Double our Navy at once.—Nodding Violet.
Riots call Power to war.—Pansy.
Really very unsettled.—Possum.
"All the while ran blood" (Julius Cæsar).—Euphane.
Bloodthirsty monster!—Mab's Cross.
The Berlin Treaty Hash.—Old Pensioner.
End the reign of terror.—Isinglass.
Depose the cruel fiend.—Poowong.
Now depose Abdul Hamid.—Fern.
The devil and all to pay.—Water-beetle.
Down with the Assassin.—Tily.
Let Russia and us end it.—Aidee.
Brutal reign of terror.—Tom.
Massacre and anarchy.—Tib.
Try war and bloodshed.—Mont.
England can't act alone.—W. Norton.
The cry goes up "How long?"—Bluejacket.
1. Abdul blushes in fear. 2. Touch Sultan means war. 3. Britain helps Armenia.—Funnybone.
1. Dethrone the Assassin. 2. Heaven defend Armenia.—C. A. Weir.
1. Rouse ye, Britons, rouse! 2. Cease the reign of hell.—Whitley.
1. Coerce the wily Sultan. 2. Stern pressure, not war.—Rifleman.
1. Eject Armenia's tyrant. 2. Act, England—do not talk!—Tura.
1. Dethrone the Assassin. 2. Rid thrones of tyrants. 3. Russia defend Armenia.—Impérieuse.
1. See to England's honour. 2. Stop all the massacres.—Svonok.
1. Pillory Abdul in TRUTH. 2. Make Gladstone Sultan.—C. J. S.
1. Sultan mocks at Europe. 2. Great delay, Turks slay. 3. Regular Gordian knot.—Teapot.
1. Sultan Abdul is doomed. 2. We must dethrone Abdul.—Ubique.
1. Revenge all massacres. 2. Punish miscreant Turk. 3. Europe against Sultan.—Roving Rabbit.
1. Armenia cries for help. 2. Europe must intervene. 3. End the Ottoman Empire.—Orlando.
1. Europe must intervene. 2. Coerce cruel Assassin.—Clear.
1. Confound the Assassin. 2. A masterly inactivity.—Penny.
1. Go, Europe, to the rescue. 2. Down with such tyranny.—Prak.
1. Armenia's great horror. 2. Better to reign in Hell. 3. Recall our Ambassador.—Tan Tun.
1. A Sultan outdoes a Nero. 2. A reproach to humanity.—Sira.
That Unspeakable Turk.—Alethera.
Bag and baggage policy.—Whiccalton and the Old Mole.
Rack a wretch to reason.—Vindictus.
The disgrace of Europe.—Silvanus.
Save the poor Armenians.—Enilorac.
Wring the Turkey's neck!—Edina.
Haste! Succour Armenia.—Albrighter.
Call for united action.—Kioskulos.
Smash Abdul the Damned.—Shamrock.
With one voice condemn.—Frank
Am I my brother's keeper?—J. A. Y.; Cothie, Greeba, and Cressingham.
Are Christians afraid?—Pop.
Europe must interfere.—Paul Ferrol.
1. Must we be led by Russia? 2. Why does England delay?—Cathie.
Turkey's Sultan, beware!—Virg.
Thou shalt do no murder.—Lord Howe.
Let Great Britain lead.—Sid.
1. We must not defy Europe. 2. Do not isolate England. 3. Win Russia to our views. 4. Send the British Fleet.—Cat.
No Jingoism, but action.—Aughnaskeagh.
A new policy essential.—Whig.
This sick man dies hard.—Beginner.
Act powers or ware end.—Imara.
1. Dethrone the Apollyon. 2. Crush Satan's antitype.—Sinkor.
Sultan confronts Europe.—Keilator.
1. Will England ever wake? 2. Craven Europe looks on.—Alpha.
Expose the wretch soon.—Faveran.
Englishmen! Duty calls.—Nednevo.
A very hopeless muddle.—Auntie Fish.
Beware of the Russians.—Shrimp.
Act more, talk much less.—Lady Dallia.

Crush Abdul the Damned.—H. E. G.
Woe to Ottoman misrule.—Doodles.
Maintain our prestige.—H. T. Emery.
A blot on civilisation—Ibis.
Diplomatic murderers.—Wanderer.
Depose mad Abdul Hamid.—A Novice.
Sunk in the pit they dug.—Nitram.
Abdul's Reign of Terror.—D. Mangen.
The Gangrene of Europe.—Redlands.
Depose a vile Assassin.—Larissa.
Let slip the dogs of war.—C. J.
Disgraceful to Europe.—Cromwell.
Protect the Armenians.—Æneas.
The Throned Assassin.—Qu'Appelle.
The Gangrene in Europe.—Jeffus.
Dethrone the Assassin.—Selward, Wight, R. C. Scott, Flatman, Melrose, Felixicus, Fanchette, Metchley, Cantab, Cholo, Keilator, Kodall, Cestrian, Tobacco, Almaviva, Zummerzet.
Down with the Assassin.—Tug of War, Arca, Orlando, Cathie, Felixicus, Emperor, Auntie Ray, Nedals, Cumbrian, Chronicle, Serpent, Corunna, Auspex, Meth.
The overthrow of Abdul.—A. A. G.
Send Turks home to Asia.—Selanidge.
Salisbury to the front.—T. Spencer.
Right Armenian wrongs.—Melrose.
The rich man's gasp.—Chica.
Close Turks' Colosseum.—Bel Demonio.
Disgraceful butchery.—Beth.
Let others begin first.—Spero
N.B. Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.—Nedals.
All muddlers together.—Inig.
A disgrace to humanity.—Stadium.
Turkish Delight—Blood.—Whitburn.
Hell let loose on earth.—Rewab.
Out damn'd spot! Out! I say.—Buckland.
Make an end of this evil.—Peter.
Let not yon despot live.—Kitty.
Succour the Armenians.—No Name.
Depose the fell Sultan.—Tenrab.
Big disgrace to Europe.—Lancaster.
Abdul, bankrupt, damned.—Theology.
Bag and baggage policy.—G. W. D.
Oh! massacre and rapine.—Echo.
The outcome of misrule.—Viva.
Take care the intruder.—Ubique.
Carve this "fowl" Turkey.—Queensholme.
Turkey's death warrant.—Pauvre Femme.
Sit tight and bide a wee.—Turf Topics.
Levy troops for Turkey.—W. A. M.
1. Why does England sleep. 2. Hell's regent's aureole.—Uncle P.
Europe's sick man fades.—Albrighton.
1. Tremble Arch-assassin.—Anon.
Shame that we don't help.—A Fargher.
Murder with dishonour.—Pop.
Avenge the Christians.—Grasmere.
Abdul's crown is doomed.—White Lily.
1. A Cabinet of Micawbers. 2. The result of Jingoism.—Cornubia.
1. Disraeli's evil legacy. 2. Repent Disraeli's sins.—Beaumont.
Shame on all assassins.—Fritz.
1. The man of sin prevails. 2. All Christendom unite.—Meg.
Depose the cruel fiend.—Poowong.
1. Now, Russia, do back us up! 2. Let Europe move united.—Woking.
Amputate the gangrene.—Kilburn.
1. Make the tyraut cringe. 2. Confiscate his harem.—Pilgrim.
Rescue the Christians.—Penelope.
Shame to all the Powers.—Chum.
1. A Satanic Orientalism. 2. England single-handed.—Hopeless.
1. End the Reign of Terror. 2. Ye emasculated Powers!—Springer.
Down unutterable Turk.—Dorothy.
In 'Arry's lingo, "Chuck him!"—Waggles.
The shambles of Europe.—Greeba.
1. State-aided slaughter. 2. Too many diplomatists.—Infelix II.
Go to! Dismember Turkey.—The Fishbite.
O, let Russia do her part.—Hibernian.
Eject Abdul the damned!—J. Riccalton.
1. It is a hard nut to crack. 2. Very awkward position.—Margaretting.
The gangrene of Europe.—St. Grogan.
Avoid isolated action.—Sheppey.
A fanatical despotism.—W. G. B.
Downright chaos there.—Edale.
Avenge poor Armenians.—Simplex.
To remove the Assassin.—Dry Monopole.
1. The Crescent must wave. 2. Let the powers combine.—Anvil.
1. 'Tis incipient anarchy. 2. A young Reign of Terror.—Lilian Holt.
1. Oh, Europe, heed the call. 2. Awake, old British Lion.—Pico.
Sultan gone mad, all but.—Schoolboy.
Assassination is rife.—Barossa.
Mind your own business.—Surgage.
Turn them out of Europe.—Olf.
Obliterate such things.—Pigtail.
"Villainy," strife, murder.—W. J. T.
Do right in spite of all.—Rector.
The Assassin's holiday.—Her Mit.
Dethrone the cruel cur.—Belcoo.
A desperate situation.—Y. X. S.
In ease with dishonour.—Nitram.
Men! Help the Armenians.—F. A. H.
Avenge innocent blood.—Jolly Wag.
Answer the cry for help.—Three-quarter Back.
Abdul Hamid a disgrace.—Cantal.
A regular hell on earth.—Signet.
Wars and rumours of war.—Mumps.
Displace the Assassin.—W. Richards.
Hang the Sultan at once.—Wilhill.
Unfit to rule an Empire.—Ludo.
The new Reign of Terror.—Pro Fonta.
Portion his dominions.—Kodak.
Send Abdul back to Asia.—The Oldmole.
Depose the human fiend!—Culpepper.
Lobanoff, mark thy work!—Nedals.
Drive out the murderer.—Auspex.
1. Send the Navy speedily. 2. Try a European Council. 3. Give Russia a free hand. 4. Co-operate with Russia.—Dormer.
1. Sultan must be removed. 2. Let Britain interfere.—Major Bunch.
1. A task for our Ministry. 2. Why not proceed at once?—Coloniensis.
1. Cut Cyprus convention. 2. Guard national safety.—Sinope.
Dethrone that vampire.—Wyalong.
The crime of diplomacy.—Hopeless.
1. Ho, Europe, awake, avenge. 2. Blood crieth for blood.
1. Now, Salisbury, advance. 2. Impotent England! What! 3. Confound it! depose him. 4. Let Abdul Hamid perish.—Nemesis.
Down with the deceiver.—La Flèche.
Ho! my name is Blue Beard.—Stephanotis.
1. The Powers must avenge. 2. Europe must intervene.—Cestrian.
In a storm on a lee shore.—Marplot.
Massacre of innocents.—Exotikon.
1. Hang the craven wretch. 2. Give Turkey autonomy.—C. Greengrass.
1. England's aid is wanted. 2. Then up, Guards, and at 'em!—Taffy.
We dare not and care not.—Nitram.
1. In jeopardy every hour. 2. It is worse than a crime. 3. Justice without mercy.—Cressingham.
Action minus hysteria.—Meth.
1. Armenia blocks the way. 2. Why does England delay? 3. Why should Turkey live?—Onaver.
Help Armenia to be free.—Bobs.
1. Drive Turk from Europe. 2. Divide Ottoman Empire.—Rauca Raiser.
1. The curse of the Powers. 2. Jealousy stops action.—E. R. S.
1. Down with Turkish rule. 2. Spare us from the Turks.—R. Reeves.
1. Let England do her duty. 2. Is it peace with honour?—Tee Cake.
1. Depose this Diabolian! 2. Padishah shall levant.—Treeve.
Make Russia our friend.—Malemax.
1. O most supine Ministry! 2. Turn Turk out of Europe.—Tobacco.
1. Why does Europe linger? 2. The Sultan's cup is full. 3. Action must now follow. 4. Withdraw our ambassador.—Nemo.
1. Depose the base Sultan. 2. Can Britons be passive?—Pokeha.
1. A shame to Christendom. 2. A disgrace to humanity. 3. Great Assassin, beware. 4. Stop Armenian murders.—Apple.
1. Hell's gates stand open. 2. Dissolution is at hand. 3. Let Christendom arise! 4. Is his mercy clean gone? 5. Come ye over and help us. 6. Arise, O God! judge Abdul. 7. Argumentus baculinum. 8. Per Augusta ad Augusta.—Lancelot.
1. Succour the oppressed. 2. Destroy the oppressor. 3. Crush the Unspeakable. 4. Christian Powers, rise! 5. Confound the Crescent.—Drynoch.
1. There's bound to be a row. 2. Touch and go with Abdul.—Selah.
1. Abominable and rotten. 2. Assassination is rife. 3. Anarchy is prevailing.—Redrob.
1. The Carnival of crime. 2. Down with the Assassin.—Quis.
1. Down with the murderer. 2. Confusion on the Turks.—Doubtful Jim.
1. Confusion and trouble. 2. Brave men, go and rescue! 3. Foul riot rides abroad. 4. Enigmas for statesmen.—Dove.
1. Leave the Ambassadors. 2. Retain the Ambassadors. 3. Russian Protectorate. 4. Beware, Shiekh-ul-Islam.—Koran.
1. Persuade Russia to act. 3. Force the Dardanelles. 3. Recall our Ambassadors. 4. Urge the Powers to move. 5. Send ultimatum at once.—W. Fawcett.
1. Turks must rule no more. 2. Massacre must be ended. 3. The sack for the Sultan. 4. Down with the Assassin!—Pivot.
1. Keep Britain isolated. 3. Sneak Constantinople.—Tim.
1. The new Reign of Terror. 2. Turkey an anachronism. 3. The shambles of Europe.—Peepy Snoozle.
1. Absolutely atrocious. 2. Desperately critical. 3. The national disgrace.—Mrs. Gerard M.
1. Depose the vile Sultan. 2. Salisbury checkmated. 3. English agitation bad.—Fabias.
1. Turkey outwits Europe. 2. Europe is set at naught.—Astra.
1. Not sublime any longer. 2. See the great Assassin. 3. Chaos reigns above all.—Southover.
1. Depose the arch-tyrant! 2. Disgrace to God and man.—Mabel.
1. Concert without music. 2. The Assassin's crutch.—Glenngie.
1. Oh, make a league with me. 2. My discontented peers! (King John, act iv., sc. 2).—L. Worman.
1. The very stones cry out. 2. Crowns of Europe, awake!—Green Apple.
1. Dethrone the Assassin. 2. Crush Abdul the Damned.—Mirse.
1. England can't act alone. 2. Armenians call in vain.—Mickey Doodle.
1. Dethrone the Assassin. 2. Imprison Mr. Gladstone.—Wicked Harry.
1. The Porte a gate of hell. 2. To Lords: "What thou doest do soon."—M. S.
1. Down with the Assassin. 2. Murderer of Armenians.—Black Prince.
1. Force the Dardanelles. 2. Crush Abdul the Damned.—Persimmon.
1. Oh, God! protect Armenia. 2. O! dethrone the Sick Man. 3. Who's "in-Sultan" the Turk?—Recontcur.
1. Crush the proud Sultan. 2. Down with the Assassin. 3. Change the vile system. 4. Depose the cruel ruler.—Pines.
1. Turkey must and will go. 2. Down with the murderer.—Drought.
1. Woe unto thee, O bad Turk. 2. Massacred by hundreds. 3. Pity now the Armenians. 4. Britons act not rashly.—Jersey.

TO INVESTORS.—STOCK CONVERSION AND INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN DEFERRED CHARGE STOCK).—Attention is drawn to the above Stock, which is quoted on the London and leading provincial Stock Exchanges. It receives for each year ending June 30th all dividends paid in excess of 5⅝ on an equal amount of London and North-Western Railway Ordinary Stock. Its last dividend was at the rate of One Pound Five Shillings Per Cent., which at the present price of the Stock—viz., 29 per cent.—YIELDS A RETURN OF FOUR POUNDS SIX SHILLINGS PER CENT., and EACH ADDITIONAL FIVE SHILLINGS PER CENT. PAID ON LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN ORDINARY STOCK WILL INCREASE THIS RETURN BY SEVENTEEN SHILLINGS PER CENT.
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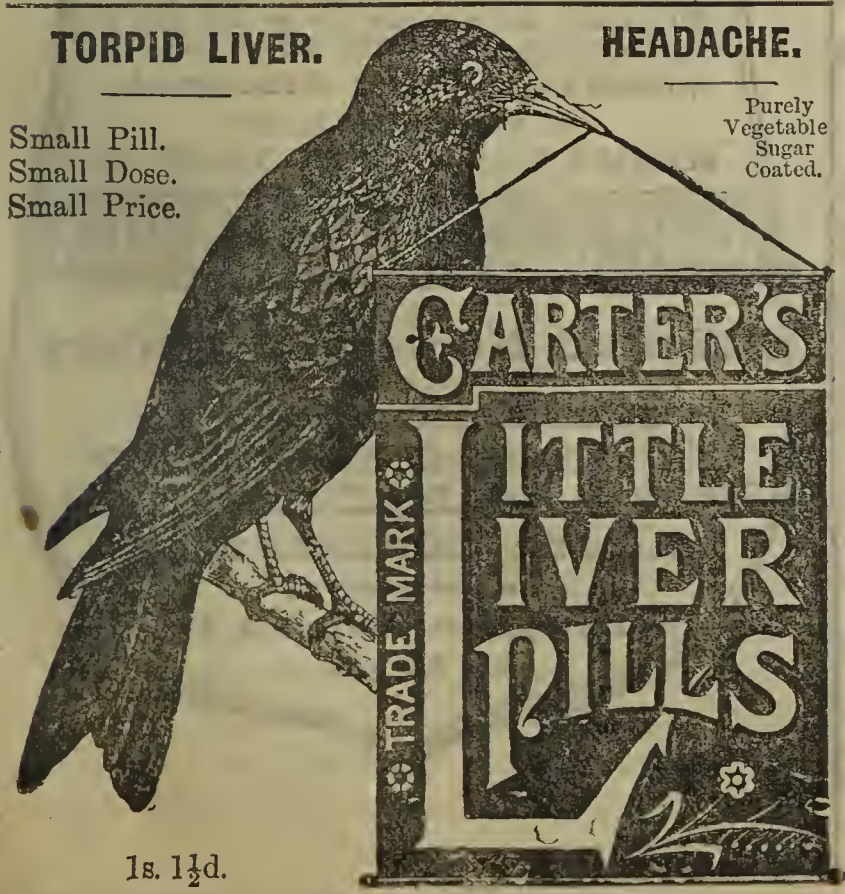

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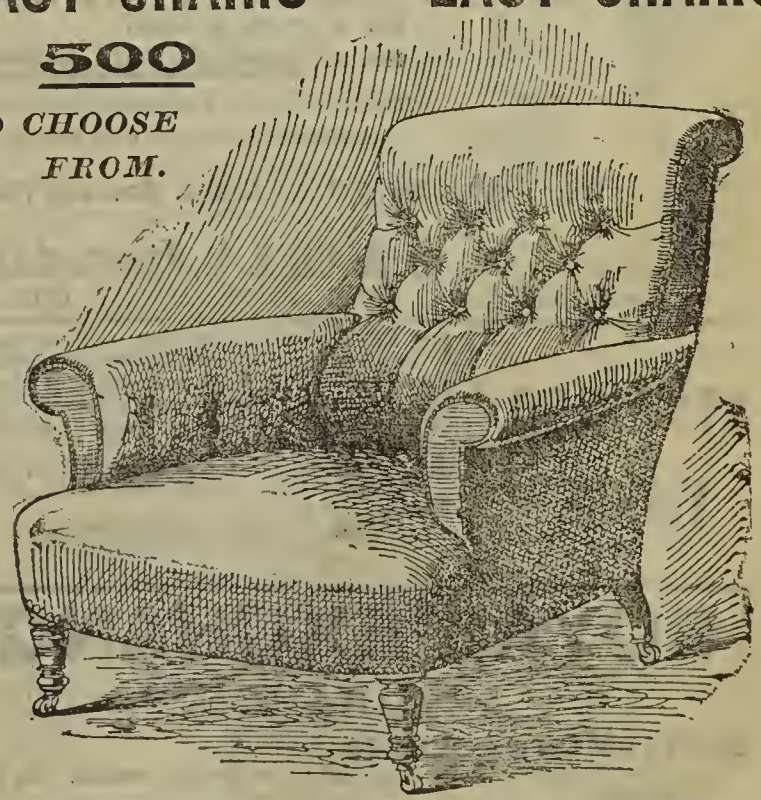

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• TRUTH •

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

It will interest those readers of mine who are preparing for the Truth Doll-Dressing Competition to learn that the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, of 112, Regent-street, have again presented a Lady's Gold Watch to serve as the First Prize in connection with the coming Show. Details of the numerous other prizes which are to be offered will be shortly published. Meanwhile, let me say that there are still Dolls, both large and small, available for early applicants. I would also mention the important fact that the Truth Toy Fund is now open.

The Queen is to hold a Council at Balmoral next week, when Parliament will be prorogued from the 31st. It is probable that the next session will begin on Tuesday, January 26.

It is announced that the Emperor of Russia has asked the Queen to pay a visit to St. Petersburg next year, and that her Majesty has accepted the invitation. There is not a particle of foundation for this statement, which is a pure and simple invention from beginning to end. The Queen would never dream of undertaking any such expedition for many reasons. A visit to the Court of Berlin has been due from the Queen for several years, but her Majesty has excused herself from going either to Coblentz or to Potsdam, on the ground of being unequal to the fatigues of the inevitable functions which she could not possibly escape. A trip to St. Petersburg, however, would be a far more serious affair, and it would, besides, involve a visit to Berlin or Potsdam. The thing is altogether preposterous and entirely out of the question.

A paragraph has been going round the papers which states that all the expenses in connection with the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Russia will be defrayed by the Queen herself. This is incorrect. Many years ago it was settled between the Queen and the Government of the day that her Majesty should not be asked to pay the expenses of any "political" visits of Foreign Sovereigns. As a matter of fact, the expenses of the Russian visit are to be paid by the country, and the charges will be included in the Foreign Office Votes, as has previously been done on similar occasions.

It is announced that the Emperor of Russia has been graciously pleased to bestow an Order which he has recently founded upon some hundreds of "journalists" of all countries, who were present at Moscow during the Coronation fêtes, and a number of these persons are to receive the medal of St. Andrew as well. I see it stated, with much apparent complaceney, that the Order of St. Andrew is "the Garter of Russia." This is true enough, but there is as vast a gulf between the Order of St. Andrew and the Medal of St. Andrew as there was between Dives and Lazarus. The Medal of St. Andrew is, in reality, a decoration which is bestowed in Russia upon a well-conducted Court footman, a tradesman who has given satisfaction, a forester who has managed a successful hunt, or any persons of analogous position whom it is desired to reward. An innocent foreigner often struts about with the medal of St. Andrew round his neck, thinking that he has been favoured with a first-class decoration, causing all Russians, and other persons *en connaissance de cause*, to laugh in their sleeves. Alexandre Dumas, the elder, once received the Medal of St. Andrew in return for a novel of Russian life which he had written, but hearing the real value of this decoration, he sent it back to the Imperial Chancellerie, with a politely-ironical letter, whereupon he received, with many apologies for the "mistake," the Order of the Wladimir.

A correspondent who often attends at Court writes:—

Apropos of the question of the walking backwards of certain officials at the Royal Court, whatever may be its origin, can any one suggest why it does honour to a Sovereign, who is also a human being, to have nature outraged by her officers? Human beings are fashioned for forward progression; they rebel against Nature's law when they reverse this method. The result of this rebellion on their part offers a degrading, ludicrous, and melancholy spectacle to all reasonable beings, amongst whom toadies can hardly be classed. Surely in the case in which the Sovereign is a very superior woman, and therefore possessed of the virtue of consideration for others, she must feel afflicted and full of pity for the elderly men who shuffle in front of her with the grotesque idea that they honour her by making themselves ludicrous. If backward-walking functionaries are necessary at a

Court, would it not be better that their places should be hereditary, when certain families might by heredity become endowed with the gift of walking backwards naturally?

The Prince of Wales is to pay a visit this month to Lord and Lady Warwick at Easton Lodge, their place in Essex, where they have just arrived from Scotland.

H.R.H., who is at Newmarket this week, comes back to town on Saturday, and on Monday he goes to visit Lord and Lady Londonderry at Wynyard, returning to town on Saturday the 24th, and going again to Newmarket on Monday the 26th. The Princess of Wales left Mar Lodge on Friday afternoon for Balmoral, where she is staying with the Queen for a few days before coming south.

Princess Louise, who has been paying visits since her return from abroad to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Wyndham at Clouds, near Salisbury, and to Lord and Lady Battersea at Overstrand, near Cromer, is going this week to Balmoral, where she will stay until the Queen comes South to Windsor next month, when H.R.H. is to take up her residence at Kensington Palace for the winter.

With reference to my recent paragraphs concerning Walmer Castle, I have now had another letter from the gentleman whom I mentioned last week as having constituted himself a champion of the Lord Warden. On previous occasions this correspondent has addressed me from the Continent, where he could only speak from second-hand information, but he has now returned to his home at Walmer, and since the departure of Lord Salisbury's family he has paid a visit to the Castle. In blustering and violent language, which does not in the least add to the weight of his testimony—rather the reverse—he contradicts the report as to the dismantling of the Wellington room, stating that the relics of the Duke are there still, and that (so he has been told) the chamber has not been occupied as a bedroom; but that Lord Salisbury has used it as his study. As to the grounds, it does not appear that any right of way has been closed; but it is nevertheless a fact that since Lord Salisbury became Lord Warden, new notices have been exhibited at one spot warning off the public. The most interesting and important of the questions to which I referred, however, was the wholesale dismissal of the gardeners formerly employed at the Castle, four of them having periods of service ranging from twenty to thirty years. This my correspondent shirks on the plea that it is "a private matter." Seeing that the Lord Wardenship is a public office, and the Castle public property, the plea is, on the face of it, absurd; and the fact is, of course, that the particulars I gave last week are perfectly correct. As I said then, I do not suppose that Lord Salisbury is himself directly responsible for the dismissal of these old servants, but somebody in his name has got rid of them for a motive which, in view of the circumstances, is not altogether creditable.

Englishmen are inclined, even when taking their holidays, to do like those that came before them. Each year those who are accustomed to take a trip abroad for a few weeks start in August, and "do" either Germany or Switzerland. It never seems to occur to them that they might go further without faring worse, and to this I ascribe it that so few push across—or rather through—the Alps to the Italian lakes. In the month of September the English there are few and far between, but Germans and Americans are as plentiful as sparrows in London. The former do not appear to have realised how easy it is nowadays to get to Northern Italy, nor how pleasant it is there in September. You may start from London at 11 a.m., and the next afternoon be in Italy; and the journey from Homburg and other places loved of English is far shorter. On arriving in Italy you will find yourself in summer—an English summer, when the English summer is over. This prolongation of warm, pleasant weather, the Germans have discovered, and the number of holiday-making Germans who profit by it is legion. Everywhere they are to be found about the Italian lakes, mostly enjoying themselves after the manner of enamoured Teutons, sustaining nature with huge meals, and murmuring to each other their appreciation of the scenery and of each other, hand locked in hand, or publishing their love to all the world in some similar fashion. When Providence created Germans, it endowed them with many solid qualities, but the sense of the ridiculous was not amongst them.

But to enjoy the Italian lakes it is by no means necessary to be honeymooning. What is there to do there? Nothing; and this is their charm. In this age of perpetual excitement, what more agreeable than simply to exist? There are mountains, but it occurs to few to climb them. There are no noxious waters to drink. Day succeeds day in the delicious monotony of doing nothing. In the morning you loll under trees, in the afternoon you loll in a boat, and in the evening you once more loll under trees. Newspapers tell you what is passing in the world of action, but no matter how stirring the events may be, you are only languidly stirred by them; they are, indeed, nothing but a far-off echo. In the long run this lotus-eating existence might pall, but for a month or so it is a grateful change.

I hardly know which I prefer—Como or Maggiore. The former is, perhaps, the more beautiful, but the mountains rise so abruptly from the lake, that there is a sense of confinement. On Maggiore the mountains are

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 986 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 984.
For Amusements, see page 985.
For Our Puzzles, see page 997.

Solution of Turkish Problem.—If the authorities at Constantinople would only supply themselves with that eminently soothing and strengthening liqueur, Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy, their difficulties would vanish, placidity of temper and the power of good government would follow as surely as the dawn succeeds the night. Sold everywhere.

at some little distance from the shores, and between them and the water there is a wide strip of hills and plains surpassing rich in verdure. The best place for a sojourn on Como is Cadenabbia, and the best place on Maggiore is Baveno. At each there is an hotel Bellevue, and both are excellent hotels. At Baveno those who are not entirely of the "do nothing" school may bicycle to their hearts' content, for the roads are excellent. A person might do worse than pass a couple of weeks in September at either. But if he is a bicyclist I would advise him to bring his bicycle with him, for those that can be hired in Italy are heavy and ill-made. As mentioned in last week's TRUTH, the members of the French Cyclist Touring Club may introduce their machines into Italy without the deposit of 40 francs. Surely the English C.T.C. might obtain the same concession. The latter would also do well to endeavour to come to some arrangement as to the carriage of cycles through Switzerland. At present it is extortionate.

The Carlsbad season is over now, but the following experience of some recent visitors to that spot is worth bearing in mind in the future. Three Englishmen took rooms at the Hotel Bristol. On their arrival the proprietor asked them if they had come "for the cure," and they replied that they had, wondering what else anybody should go to Carlsbad for. After a few days they were dissatisfied, and desired to move. Three weeks' rent was then claimed, on the ground that they had taken their rooms "for the cure," which meant, they were informed, three weeks. Recourse to law being threatened, they gave way and completed their "cure." Whether the law would have been on the side of the hotel-keeper I do not know, but as it is never wise to engage rooms off-hand at a strange hotel for a lengthened period, I should certainly advise no stranger to go to a Carlsbad hotel "for the cure."

With reference to what was said in TRUTH the other day about typhoid fever in Madeira, I have received a letter from Mr. William Reid, of Madeira, which, without disputing the facts, tends to show both that the authorities are awaking to the necessities of the situation, and that it is possible for visitors, with care, to avoid danger. He states that the Municipality are now inviting tenders for a new water supply, and that arrangements are being made for distributing a sufficient supply of water, of ascertained purity, through the street fountains, while other sanitary improvements are in contemplation. Meanwhile, Mr. Reid informs me that in the hotels with which he is connected the use of the water from the contaminated sources has been discontinued, and all the water is brought from a pure mountain source; while butter and milk are supplied from dairies, the healthiness of which is satisfactorily known. This will, I hope, go far to reassure visitors who desire to avail themselves of the well-known advantages of Madeira as a health resort.

MADAME BLUETTE's fifteen shilling Hats and Bonnets.—41, Green-street, Park-lane, W.

I am told, in regard to the lines on osprey plumage in last week's TRUTH, that milliners are now overcoming the scruples of conscientious lady customers by assuring them that the aigrettes they offer for sale are artificial. Let none of my lady readers salve her conscience with this fiction. These pretended artificial plumes have been repeatedly submitted to naturalists, who have pronounced them to be the genuine feathers of the female osprey, over which there has been so loud an outcry. I believe I am right in saying that nothing approaching to an imitation of osprey plumage has yet been manufactured.

A Sunday or two back a lady, who was taking a prominent part in an open-air musical service close to the National Portrait Gallery, was seen to have an aigrette of unmistakable osprey feathers in her bonnet. I agree with the correspondent who reports this fact, that it is a remarkable instance of the astonishing indifference of some women to considerations of this kind. An empty-headed "woman of fashion" who cares for nothing in regard to her clothes except that they shall look "smart," naturally takes no account of any suffering to her fellow-creatures or the brute creation, which the production of her adornment may involve; but one might hope for something better from a lady of a serious turn who can devote her Sunday evenings to efforts to evangelise the streets of London. I dare say, now, that this good lady, who carried on her head the proceeds of a whole nestful of slaughtered ospreys, would be in a state of uncontrollable indignation over the massacres of Armenians, though the Armenians are really massacred from religious or patriotic motives, and the ospreys in pure wantonness.

Apropos of starving cats, I am asked to mention that a line addressed to the Manageress of the London Home for Lost and Starving Cats, 80, Park-road, Haverstock Hill, N.W., will bring round a servant in livery for the removal of any "unwanted" pussy; or, if the distance is too far, a suitable box for the reception of the animal, the box being conveyed to and fro by Carter, Paterson, & Co. If the cat is really a stray one—a feline *bonâ-fide* traveller—the Home asks nothing for this accommodation beyond a voluntary donation at the discretion of the sender. Every effort is made to find suitable situations for the vagrants thus received, failing which, the surplus population is packed off three times a week to the lethal chamber at Battersea.

This Home also undertakes, for the modest charge of 1s. and carriage (or servant's fare if a man in livery is preferred) to fulfil the wishes of "owners wishing their pets humanely destroyed" ("mother and kittens counted as one"). I feel sure that many among my readers will be glad to avail themselves of this convenience, and the Home seems in every way an institution worthy of support. But I do hope—indeed I do—that this notice will not lead

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unprincipled parties to entice away the harmless necessary pussies of their neighbours, and send them off to the lethal chamber in charge of a man in livery.

Up to now the Cuban struggle for independence has aroused only a languid interest in this country, but the latest intelligence to hand bids fair to kindle—amongst a certain class—an eager desire to see the present dilatory efforts brought to a successful conclusion by either one side or the other. The fact is that the genuine Havana cigar will become a thing of the past, if the war is to be continued much longer; even if all differences were arranged within a year from now, it would be impossible to put in a new crop which could be available before the stock now on hand is exhausted, whilst under present circumstances there are no labourers to plant; and if there were, the insurgents would hinder their working, since the districts which raise the finest tobacco placed upon the market are entirely held by the revolutionary party. It is claimed for Havana that nowhere in the world can tobacco of equal quality be produced, but should this unhappy state of affairs go on much longer, it is to be hoped, for the sake of smokers, that this will be found to be fallacious.

I have been asked to raise my voice on behalf of the stake-net fishers of the Solway. I gather that, in consequence of the recommendations of the Fisheries Commission, new regulations are contemplated in the interest of the salmon fishery, which will have the effect of compelling the stake-net fishers to pitch their nets wherever they may be ordered, besides requiring them to deliver over any salmon or grilse found casually in their nets to officials appointed for the purpose. Personally, I cannot pretend to any knowledge of the rights and wrongs of the question, but it is alleged on behalf of the stake-net fishers that they are in the main bonâ fide fishers for white fish, and that to compel them to put their nets wherever an official orders them, rather than where their own experience teaches them to look for fish, will seriously interfere with their means of livelihood; while, at the same time, requiring them to hand over stray salmon or grilse to some representative of the law must be practically inoperative unless a whole army of police and watchers is to be employed to keep an eye on them. The latter point seems clear, for it stands to reason that if an official happens to be in the way when a salmon or grilse is caught, the fishermen will make him a present of the fish, and that otherwise they will not. It looks to me as if these men were to be unjustifiably harried in defence of the interests of more influential parties.

In a Maidenhead paper the proprietors of a local "high-class fish, game, and poultry establishment" advertise that they "will be pleased to hear from gamekeepers *and others* having game to dispose of during the ensuing season." A correspondent seems to think that the only "others" to whom the advertisement will appeal must be poachers; but I feel sure that this suggestion does an injustice to the firm in question, and certainly it fails to take account of one of the most marked characteristics of many modern sportsmen. The latter no longer dispose of the game they kill among their friends and their poorer neighbours and dependants and charitable institutions, but send it to market, and count the proceeds as so much towards the cost of their sport. Doubtless, gentlemen of this class are the "others" for whom this invitation in the Maidenhead paper is intended.

My opinion has been asked on the merits of the following dispute: During a controversy with the *News and Book Gazette* respecting the affairs of a trade organisation, Mr. G. J. Farington was challenged by that journal "to show during the last twelve months one issue of the *Gazette* which has stated anything in the editorial columns in connection with Union matters which has been untrue. If he can do so," added the *Gazette*, "we will pay over the sum of £10 10s. to any institution Mr. Farington likes to name." Mr. Farington promptly showed that in a recent issue the editor, in justification of one of his criticisms of the Union, had stated that the annual meeting in 1895 was held in Glasgow. This was incorrect, the meeting having been held in London. But, while admitting that it has made an "error," the *Gazette* declines to pay the £10. 10s. unless Mr. Farington will now furthermore point out "some unfair or untrue criticism." If this was what the editor required in the first place, he should have said so; but as it is, the exact terms of his challenge have been fulfilled by Mr. Farington, and the £10. 10s. ought to be handed over to the institution he names.

May I suggest to the Editor of the *Irish Times* that if he read Truth regularly he would be better qualified than he is at present for his position of a guide and instructor of his Unionist countrymen? He need not do violence to his feelings by perusing my political views; it will be sufficient for the present if he will study week by week such information as I can give him concerning frauds, impostures, and rascalities of one kind and another. By this means he will at least avoid such an ignominious exhibition as was presented to the world in the *Irish Times* last week by the publication of a solemn review, a column and a half in length, of "Professor" Garner's book on his pretended African discoveries. Everybody who takes the responsibility of publishing a newspaper ought to know by this time that this Garner is a rank imposter, and that his accounts of his performances in the jungle and elsewhere have been proved by unimpeachable evidence to be a pack of lies. To see an influential British newspaper seriously reproducing long extracts from these fictions, and commenting on them as though they were gospel truth, makes me blush for my profession.

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The custom of publishing advertisements of quack medicines in newspapers in the form of items of news or editorial matter "has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished," especially in the provincial Press. The readers of one of the leading West of England papers have had special ground for complaint in this respect during the last week, a flagrant puff of a much-advertised quack remedy being sandwiched in among news matter under the attractive heading, "Narrow Escape of a General's Daughter," and without a mark of any kind to denote that it is really a paid advertisement. The obvious object of the advertisers in such cases is to deceive the more ignorant of the public as to the true nature of a paid advertisement, by making it appear a statement for which the editor is responsible; and editors and proprietors who lend themselves to such deception obviously become parties to a fraud on their readers.

No. I certainly should not advise any of my readers who possess a literary turn to have anything to do with the "MSS. Supply Agency," King's-road, Brentwood, Essex. I give this advice not so much for the benefit of my readers as for the benefit of the agency. In consequence of inquiries that have been addressed to me on the subject, I sent down the other day to King's-road, Brentwood, and found that the MSS. Supply Agency consisted of a very young gentleman, who appeared to have started it in the bonâ-fide belief that he was going to benefit thereby both himself and the literary profession. In the circular that he had sent out, he said that he should give two and a half guineas for short stories, from one guinea to one and a half for interesting articles, and that he would buy poetry "according to length and quality." He was also prepared to send out a list of suggestions for likely articles at the price of 2s. 6d. He assures me that he really had intended to put capital into his agency, and buy MSS. "on spec" at the prices mentioned, with a view to reselling it at a profit in the market. If such is the case, I can only say that he ought to be deeply indebted to me for warning authors not to sell anything to him, for I am sure that, unless his capital is virtually unlimited, his enterprise, if persisted in, will speedily land him in the Bankruptcy Court.

Although Manning Press, the biographer of county nonentities, has lately been concealing his identity under an assumed name, in consequence of the inconvenient publicity accorded to him in TRUTH, Truman Press is still doing his best to maintain the family name and reputation. It appears that Truman is now engaged in an effort to induce all the fools in Surrey to pay him sums of nine or twelve guineas for the privilege of having their biographies and portraits inserted in a book which he is publishing by subscription. This is a trick on which Truman and Manning Press have been engaged for years, and as long as they can find idiots enough to keep the game going, no one can blame them for working it for all it is worth.

I should like to make it known, however, that people who want their biographies and portraits published can get it done on much cheaper terms than by giving one of the Presses an order for three or four copies of a three-guinea biographical work. My office-boy, who has a pretty literary taste, cultivated by carefully reading the proofs of TRUTH every week, tells me that he is quite ready to get up and bring out a book of this description at 2s. 6d. a head, if his clients will supply their photos and the necessary biographical materials. He proposes to do it in the Manning Press style. The first volume will be entitled "Middlesex Muffs," and will be followed in due course by "Nottingham Noodles," "Yorkshire Yokels," "Dorsetshire Dolts," and so on. He is a very deserving boy, and if he can add a few pounds to his income by ministering in this way to the vanity of his fellow-creatures, I shall be very glad.

A few months ago the *Pall Mall Magazine* amused the public by announcing its discovery of an unpublished sonnet by Wordsworth, which turned out to be simply a few lines from one of his best known works. Another literary mare's nest has been exciting some addle-brained admirers of Sir Walter Scott in the United States and in Scotland. A New York paper recently published a letter purporting to be written in 1823 by Scott to Samuel Warren, in which he gave a categorical denial to the rumour that he was the author of the Waverley Novels. Sir Walter's enthusiastic admirers, actuated by a zeal that is not according to knowledge, have been asserting that Scott could not have made a false statement, and that the letter is an impudent forgery, as, if it were genuine, it would not have been so long kept from the world. These worthy people will be dismayed to learn that the letter, so far from being new, as they ingenuously suppose, was printed by Warren himself in the preface to his "Miscellanies," a work which was published by Messrs. Blackwood in December, 1854. The book is now before me, and in Scott's letter (dated, "Abbotsford, August 3, 1823") he writes, "I am not the author of those novels which the world chooses to ascribe to me, and am therefore unworthy of the praises due to that individual, whoever he may prove to be."

The appointments recently made to the teaching staff of the new Northern Polytechnic, Holloway-road, have, I hear, caused a good deal of surprise and disappointment. Some time back the committee of the Highbury Institute, who have long carried on a similar work in the neighbourhood, had an interview with the Governors of the Polytechnic, when the latter agreed to purchase the apparatus of the Institute, and promised to give

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preference, as far as possible, to the Highbury teachers in forming the new staff. The teachers themselves waited upon the principal of the Polytechnic, and came away with the belief that they would be appointed. In the result, however, all the old teachers have been passed over, among them being one with eighteen years', and another with fifteen years' service, whose claims have been set aside in favour of new-comers to the district. If the Governors wished to have an entirely free hand in the selection of the staff for the Polytechnic they should have said so, but having entered into an understanding on the subject they ought to have adhered to it.

A curate writes:—

> No member of a Theological College, past or present, can help feeling hurt by the remarks made in TRUTH lately. The writer forgets that there are different classes in those colleges, and to attain a first, or even a second, requires close study, and ability certainly not below the average.

There is a good deal more to the same effect, which I need not quote. I have no desire to hurt the feelings of members of Theological Colleges, past or present. I doubt not that these Colleges have turned out, and are turning out, many learned men and accomplished scholars. But, looking at the results in the mass, I still question whether a good deal of inferior material does not find its way through the mill, and the original remark in TRUTH about the Bishop's requirements seems to me a fair one.

A friend of mine, who once had occasion to interview Archbishop Benson on a matter of business, told me that no one, meeting him for the first time, would have suspected the Archbishop of being half as deep as he was. That, I take it, was the secret of the late prelate's success through life, as well as in the last office he held. Beneath his singular suavity of manner and amiability of temper lay considerable astuteness, fortified by knowledge of men and affairs. The unkindest criticism ever passed on him has been that he was all things to all men; but this only means that he was a diplomatist rather than a statesman. He is not to be numbered among those Primates who have left their mark on the history of the Church by sagacity or force of character. But by universal consent he filled his post, never a less easy one than now, with conspicuous tact and discretion, and exemplary dignity. Not only did he make no enemies, but he won, as few eminent ecclesiastics have done, the affectionate respect of all parties in the Church—and of most outside it—and that without any compromise with his own sympathies and principles, which were, of course, strongly with the advanced High Church party. Episcopacy in the English Church seems to be becoming more and more of an ornamental institution, and, if that were its true place, Archbishop Benson might be regarded as an ideal Primate.

In private life the late Archbishop was the most genial and charming of men, and his conversational powers were exceptional. He was also an admirable preacher and speaker, and had very little of the "old schoolmaster" manner which was so conspicuous in Archbishop Tait. Universal sympathy must be felt for Mrs. Benson, who is a very clever woman, and had been a valuable helpmate to the Archbishop ever since he went to Wellington College in 1858. Benson was a born organiser and administrator, and his gifts were improved and developed by his Wellington College work. Indeed, he was clever beyond common at whatever he put hand to.

The papers are already speculating as to the succession to the Primacy. The Archbishop of York and the Bishops of Durham and Wakefield are all too old to be translated. The appointment will rest between the Bishops of Winchester, Peterborough, and Rochester. If Bishop Davidson goes to Lambeth, then the Bishop of Ripon will be offered Winchester.

No public man has lost ground in the popular estimation during the last few years half so much as the Bishop of London, and every one who remembers the furious clamour which arose from "loyal Churchmen" (*i.e.*, hot-headed fanatics) during the autumn of 1869, when Dr. Temple was nominated to the See of Exeter, must smile with contempt over the transformation in the views of that "Liberal" ecclesiastic, who might really be added to Sydney Smith's list of "right reverend renegades." At Shrewsbury the Bishop made his final plunge, by going over, bag and baggage, to the rate-aid party.

Canon Hawkins, who died last week at the age of ninety-six, had held the vicarage of Newport for more than forty years when he resigned it in 1882. He was highly esteemed by all classes in the town, and was for a lengthened period one of the most prominent, and most popular, and influential ecclesiastics in the Principality. Canon Hawkins was a clever and a sensible man, a hard-worker, a most independent thinker, and a hater of all shams and fads, while he was also most courteous, genial, and hospitable. He was the intimate friend and the constant and confidential adviser of Bishop Ollivant, who in 1862 gave him a residentiary stall in Llandaff Cathedral, which he held until his death. He was frequently consulted by the other Welsh bishops, and notably by Connop, Thirlwall, and Vowler Short. Canon Hawkins had a rich store of reminiscences of interesting people, notably of Bishop Copleston and Bishop Carey, for both of whom he had a great admiration, and he also saw a great deal at various times of Bishop Hampden and Bishop Monk. He was a tolerant and a wide-minded man, and thoroughly in sympathy with his distinguished colleague at Llandaff, Dean Vaughan.

In the course of his sermon before the Church Congress the Archbishop of York remarked that "there was certainly a growing opinion, in which he was bound to

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say that he largely sympathised, that a great readjustment of the general income of the Church must before long be undertaken." It is gratifying to hear of his Grace's sympathies in this direction; but I venture to suggest that pending the consummation of such a movement a great deal of good might be done by putting an end to some of the more glaring abuses which flourish under the existing state of things. There is, for instance, the case of one of the Archbishop's Suffragans, Bishop Blunt, who is also Vicar of Scarborough and a Residentiary Canon of York. What with his episcopal duties and his term of residence at York, he is necessarily absent from Scarborough for a very considerable portion of each year, and the work of his parish has to be delegated to curates. That this should be allowed year after year is a gross scandal, and the Archbishop could not give a more practical proof of his desire for reform than by exerting his authority and influence to prevent such an unfair combination of offices and emoluments in the hands of one cleric.

By the way, I am glad to see that a meeting in support of the objects of the Curates' Union was held during the Congress week. There were many clergymen who derided this organisation when it was established a year ago, but it has survived their criticisms, and, according to the report presented at Shrewsbury, has made very satisfactory progress. If it is only properly supported, the Union ought to be of great use to the unbeneficed clergy.

The discussion on "Church Discipline" at Shrewsbury was really very funny, as showing the grinding tyranny which clergymen would exercise over their congregations, if they could only get their own way. Here was actually Canon Gore demanding that a list of communicants should be kept in each parish, who would have privileges of representation (whatever that may mean) if they were regular in their attendance. It was also proposed to "excommunicate" persons who have been confirmed, if they are guilty of any misconduct. This would introduce the Presbyterian keeping-in order and systematic prying and spying, from which Scotch congregations have suffered so severely. Canon Gore also insists that clergymen who are loose in their doctrines should be banished, entirely forgetting that his own contributions to "Lux Mundi" would have caused him to be drummed out of the Church of England if only the severely orthodox party could have had their way. The fact is that when once a clergyman begins to look out for promotion he quickly recognises the necessity for modifying extreme practice and doctrine, and of generally drawing in, so far as not to be regarded as an irreconcileable.

Some pungent observations on the Scottish sanctimoniousness, particularly in regard to the Holy Sawbath, which goes hand in hand with the most greedy sweating, are sent me by a Glasgow correspondent. He refers as an illustration to one of the largest wholesale warehouses in that city where the clerks were lately kept at their desks from Friday morning till Saturday night with only short intervals for meals. There are plenty of unemployed clerks in Glasgow, and the managers of the establishment might easily have obtained temporary assistance, but they would never be guilty of the extravagance of paying for services which they can get done for nothing by a little determined slave-driving. As for the idea of letting the staff finish the work on Sunday instead of losing a night's rest, it could not be entertained for a moment. To the minds of truly pious persons like these sweaters, the breaking of the Sabbath is the one unpardonable sin. For the rest of the week they may commit every sort of oppression and injustice, but on the Sabbath they repair to kirk, and like, the Pharisee of old, thank God they are not as other men.

The Haberdashers' Company have appointed the Rev. D. A. Townend to the living of All Saints', Hatcham Park, thus accomplishing the job foreshadowed in Truth a fortnight ago. Mr. Townend is a gentleman just thirty years of age, who has been less than two years in priest's orders, and was only ordained deacon in 1893. It is no disparagement of him personally to say that under these circumstances he is not qualified to take charge of a large London parish, nor can there be any pretence for saying that he has given evidence of such qualification. It is impossible that he can have done so. His selection in preference to many highly-qualified, experienced, and deserving clergymen, is obviously due to family influence and private intrigue, and is a fresh proof of the unfitness of such bodies as the Haberdashers' Company to exercise any trust of this nature.

It is surprising what a lot of benevolent individuals there are ready to come to the assistance of the poor clergy who are suffering from the effects of agricultural depression. Even commercial agencies are offered to them by enterprising tradesmen. There is a Mr. Arrowsmith, who is in business at Basford, Stoke-on-Trent. He sends out a circular specially addressed to clergymen, containing his price-list of crockery, with special reference to the suitability of his goods for bazaars, school prizes, christening and wedding presents, and so on, and then he adds the following paragraph:—

> *It is impossible* for me to send a circular to every member of the community, and I have therefore adopted the expedient of addressing the principal clergy, knowing that they, more than any one else, know and are known by the people among whom they live. Should you, therefore, wish to have some circulars to place before any of your friends, I will send them with pleasure; and should the amount of orders received from your parish amount to £5, shall have pleasure in allowing you a *discount of 2s. in the £* on every £, as a contribution to any benevolent object that you may indicate, so that supposing you and your friends in the parish order say £10 worth, my contribution to be deducted from that sum will be £1.
>
> I think it will be worth your while to consider this, and I shall be glad to hear from you.—I am, Reverend and Dear Sir, yours obediently, J. A. Arrowsmith.

Why need the country clergy starve when they can supplement their spiritual office by touting for orders for houses of business?

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

A few weeks back I took the liberty of suggesting to the Rector of Little Oakley, Harwich, that he was doing a very unwise thing in bringing up his little girl, ten years old, to the begging-letter trade. It may be remembered that Miss Elsie Allen was writing a letter stating that she was ten years old, and begging people to help her collect £100 for her father's new church, or give her something for a bazaar about to be held for that object. It now appears that Miss Winnie Allen, aged eight, is also circulating a similar letter: in fact, the only difference I can see between the two is that Winnie, considering that she is two years the younger, writes a much better hand than Elsie. A good many people who have received these appeals seem to think that children might be better engaged than in sending out letters of this description, and I quite agree with them.

The man Edward Henville, who brings discredit on the Church of England by writing begging letters wholesale from the Rectory, Chipping Warden, is now begging for money to send his daughter to a lunatic asylum, for which purpose he requires, he says, £30 a year. I advise no one to believe these statements, or any others emanating from Henville, without independent testimony of their correctness. He is always trumping up some story about his children, who are by all accounts little better than he is himself; and if the daughter whom he is now trying to get into a lunatic asylum is the one who was before the public for another reason not many months ago, she is certainly no object for charity. I have sometimes thought that Henville himself would make a very good candidate for a lunatic asylum, and it is the most charitable view to take of his vagaries.

A Watford ratepayer writes to me complaining that Truth has been withdrawn from the Free Library there. As I have often explained, this is a kind of grievance which I am not personally anxious to get redressed, because it is obviously to my advantage that people who want to read the paper should have to buy copies for themselves, instead of seeing it at a free library. Still, it is the duty of the managers of such institutions to supply any journal which is in request among the readers, and if it be true, as is suspected, that the stoppage of Truth in this instance is the outcome of the resentment felt in certain quarters at some paragraphs which have appeared in these columns—one commenting upon the miserable pay of the assistant in the library, and others dealing with various local magnates—the fact is anything but creditable to the Committee.

I have received the following amounts towards this year's Toy Fund for providing toys at Christmas for the poor children in the London hospitals, workhouses, workhouse schools, and infirmaries:—M. E. W., £5; A. C., £2; Fredk. Gorringe, £5. 5s.; Major F. M. Drury, 10s.; Sir Joseph Sebag Montefiore, £5.

Carpet Beating Season.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Perhaps some of my Dublin readers can tell me whether there is any foundation for the following statement. I hear that while Lord Roberts and his family were at the Headquarters Block at the Curragh this summer, the drains were opened up, in consequence of the atrocious smells that pervaded the place; and it was then found that the pipes had been laid with a fall towards the hut, instead of away from it. If this statement be accurate, it is the most disgraceful piece of evidence that has yet come to light of the incompetence of the Royal Engineers in sanitary matters.

By the way, in reference to this matter a military correspondent points out to me a conspicuous flaw in the argument of the gentleman whose defence of the sanitation of Dublin Barracks was noticed in Truth a week or two back. It is this, that the cases of enteric fever in the Dublin hospital presumably come from the most unhealthy and crowded portions of the town, and that it is altogether unjustifiable to compare the sanitary condition of such districts with that of costly public buildings like the various barracks, inhabited by picked men, young and well cared for. Enteric fever, and other diseases of the same class, are dirt diseases, which may be expected in the slums, but ought not to be found in the Royal and other barracks, on the improvement of which vast sums of money have recently been expended.

Another correspondent asks why all General Officers Commanding Districts do not take advantage of Sect. 21, Par. 15a, Queen's Regulations, and permit the P.M.O.'s on the staffs to deal with sanitation, as other officers on their staff deal with their special branches. I suppose the reason is to be found in the impression prevailing throughout military circles that doctors know nothing about sanitary matters, and that the Royal Engineers possess on these subjects a wisdom approaching to omniscience. I will not go so far as to say that all Army Doctors could be safely regarded as sanitary experts, but I am quite sure that most of them know quite as much about sanitation as the Royal Engineers, to whom the sanitary arrangements are at present committed, and probably the majority know a great deal more. The truth is that our military administration is about fifty years behind the times on matters relating to sanitation, and some steps ought to be taken to place all such questions under the jurisdiction of sanitary specialists—whether Engineers or medicos is immaterial.

It will be interesting to know whether Lord Wolseley, during his visit to Portsmouth, has made any inquiries into the history of the recent attempt to keep the Wiltshire Regiment in the Portsdown Forts during the winter. It has already been mentioned in Truth that this attempt had failed, and the 2nd Wiltshire marched into Victoria Barracks, Portsmouth, a few days before Lord Wolseley's visit. The suggestions that have been made in regard to this matter are peculiarly discreditable to the officer chiefly concerned. It was alleged that Colonel Hayne had misled the General as to the prevailing feeling among his officers on the subject, and that he endeavoured

by such means to keep the regiment in the forts to suit the convenience of himself and one or two other officers, in defiance of the wishes and welfare of the whole of the rest of the regiment. Without endorsing this suggestion, I offered Colonel Hayne the hospitality of my columns to refute the allegation, if it was unfounded. Of this the Colonel has not availed himself, while, on the other hand, the remarks on the subject in TRUTH have been followed by the revocation of the General's previous decision, and the removal of the regiment into more suitable winter quarters. What is the conclusion?

In spite of the outcry raised on the subject the other day, the proprietor of the drinking bar off St. Martin's-lane, known as the Chandos Buffet, still maintains the obnoxious regulation by which men wearing the Queen's uniform are charged double price in the saloon bar. The latest victims of this regulation are a quartermaster-sergeant of the 6th Dragoon Guards and an N.C.O. of the 1st Life Guards, who, on walking into this bar the other day, were requested to step into another apartment, and told that they would be charged double if they remained there. In the case of a public-house little more than a stone's throw from Seven Dials there is not even the excuse for regulations of this kind which can be put forward in the case of the coffee-room of some country hotel. It is absurd to suggest that the sort of people who frequent the saloon bar of a place like the Chandos Buffet are morally or socially superior to warrant or non-commissioned officers in the Army. Regulations based on that assumption are an insult to the Army, and calculated to place a degrading stigma on soldiers in the eyes of their fellow citizens, and for this reason Licensing Justices ought to be empowered to put a stop to all such practices.

An amusing story is sent to me from a regiment in the Channel Islands, turning on the affectionate interest and sympathy lately felt with a colour-sergeant who had a bad illness, and had looked at one time as though he would be unable to complete his twenty-one years' service; and the sudden change of the sentiments of the man's comrades when he not only completed his twenty-one years, but proceeded to re-engage for another five. It looks as if this case were another example of the slackness occasionally shown in regard to allowing men to re-engage. At any rate, it is to be hoped that the colour-sergeant is now sufficiently recovered to be able to undertake some of the duty which seems for some time past to have been performed by his sympathetic comrades.

The Army Medical Staff sometimes have good cause to pray to be delivered from their friends. The other day the *British Medical Journal* published the lamentations of a correspondent who had noticed that, on the monument at Brighton, to the memory of the officers and men of the Royal Sussex Regiment who had perished in Egypt, "all the poor fellows whose names are recorded receive their army rank, except two medical officers, who are simply 'Dr.,' and of all things, their names are sandwiched between the lance-corporals and the privates." On which the *B.M.J.* gravely remarks that "the omission of their rank, and the place where their names are placed on the monument are sad incongruities." Far be it from me to extenuate any fresh slight to the dignity of the Army Doctor. I venture, however, to suggest to my contemporary and its correspondent that the letters "Dr." are, for once in a way, intended to denote, not a medical man, but a drummer.

A correspondent, whom I take to be an Army man, takes exception to what I said the other day about the desirability of holding the medical examination of cadets before the educational. His point seems to be that by spending a few shillings on taking a medical opinion beforehand parents can satisfy themselves as to the physical fitness of their sons, and so guard against the possibility of the lads being disappointed of their commissions after passing their educational examination. With all respect, I cannot endorse this view. Most fathers, one would suppose, already take medical advice as to the general soundness of their sons before going to the expense of having them prepared for Army examinations; and I can point to specific instances in which this has been done, and in which a youth has nevertheless been knocked out by the Army Medical authorities, in direct opposition to the opinions of several practitioners who had previously examined him.

Not only have instances of this sort of thing been referred to in TRUTH, but one or two of them have been so flagrant as to suggest doubts as to the bona fides or the competency of the medical boards. The Service journal which is chiefly devoted to carping at TRUTH waxed indignant the other day over the mere suggestion that the present system lends itself to abuse. I have only to say in reply that facts stand on record which neither that journal, nor any other apologist of official wrong-doing, could possibly explain away; and the suspicions to which I have alluded are widely shared in the Service.

With regard to eyesight, however, it would seem that the qualifications of candidates can be definitely ascertained before they are entered for examinations. I understand from another source that an official standard is now laid down for the guidance of medical examiners, which deprives them of the discretion they were formerly allowed. Every candidate can ascertain what the standard is, and any medical man can apply the test. There is no reason, therefore, why any candidate should be "spun" for defective eyesight after he has passed the educational part of the examination. The question still remains, however, whether the official standard is not unjustifiably high. I am disposed to think that it is.

Owing to other demands on my space this week, I am unable to deal at present with the large mass of correspondence addressed to me with reference to the 4th Hussars scandal. But I must lose no time in correcting one false impression which may possibly have been created by my remarks on this case. Towards the end of

my last week's article reference was made to what might occur in future in "crack cavalry regiments." Several military readers have protested against the implication here that the 4th Hussars is a crack cavalry regiment. "The crack cavalry regiments," writes an old officer, "are the 7th and 10th Hussars, and the 9th and 17th Lancers. They 'go the pace,' but, unlike the 4th Hussars, never speak of it." I only hope they have a different way of going the pace.

A Service correspondent sends me a comment on Major Acheson's case which seems very much to the point. If Major Acheson's discourtesy to Lieutenant-Colonel Bridge was so serious as it has been made out, why was he not placed under arrest, and the case brought before a military court? If this was not done, presumably it was a case in which an apology was deemed sufficient. In that case, why was an apology not accepted? The fact is, I suppose, that, after the Bridge incident was closed, somebody with a grudge against the Major thought that more might be made of it. The stale confidential report (which the War Office had never previously deemed of sufficient importance to call for any of the steps prescribed by the Queen's Regulations) was then dug up, and the two things put together as a pretext for calling for the officer's resignation. The motive behind it all is furnished by the demand made upon him a year or two previously to disclaim the authorship of certain letters distasteful to the ruling lights of his corps.

It has been represented to me that soldiers when employed for a long time as markers at rifle butts have a claim to some allowance for damage to their kits. In support of this, particulars are given me of the results to N.C.O.'s and men of three months' employment in this capacity at Kilworth, every man having virtually worn out three pairs of trousers, one kersey, and one pair of boots, not to mention damage to clothing from exposure in all weathers, the cost of making good the damage being estimated at £2 a head. The case seems analogous to that of men exposed to exceptionally hard wear during manœuvres; and it is only fair that whenever men are put on duty which involves extra wear and tear of clothing, some proportionate allowance should be made to them, either in cash or in kind.

In one or two recent letters that I have had from South Africa reference is made to a very severe bit of marching which the 1st Middlesex Regiment were put through a few weeks back. Starting about 10 a.m., the battalion was marched for fifteen miles with only two halts, under a fierce sun, and with the thermometer above 90 deg. in the shade, no water being obtainable on the way. On returning to camp, seven men were admitted to hospital, suffering with sunstroke and other consequences of the march; and a great many more were badly done up. I understand that one or two of the medical officers expressed the opinion that the work was unnecessarily severe, and it seems the more unjustifiable as the battalion had obtained a very good reputation for its marching when at Aldershot. The present C.O. was only appointed a few months ago, and it is to be hoped that this is not a sample of his discretion.

The Infantry and Royal Engineers stationed at Spike Island have other grievances against the Royal Artillery, besides the division of duties to which attention was called in TRUTH a fortnight ago. There is, it seems, a garrison canteen for the use of all the men of the garrison equally. A grant out of the canteen fund to the amount of 5s. per head has recently been made to each married N.C.O. and private of the Royal Artillery, for the purpose of stocking a piece of ground which the R.A. men are allowed to use for growing vegetables, &c. This money, therefore, though drawn from a common fund, is applied for the exclusive benefit of the Royal Artillery. The same remark applies to some recent grants that have been made for the purpose of sending an R.A. tug-of-war team to the Curragh Summer Sports, while recent sports at Spike Island, though termed Royal Artillery Sports, and as regards a large number of events reserved exclusively for the R.A., also received grants from the canteen fund. It appears that this garrison canteen is exclusively managed by Royal Artillery officers, and it seems to be looked upon as essentially a Royal Artillery concern. But this is clearly unfair to the other corps in the garrison. It may be added that the R.A. also enjoy an unfair monopoly of the various paid billets on the island.

Here is a further batch of minor military grievances which I commend to the attention of the various authorities concerned. The facts all speak, I think, for themselves, and all are deserving of notice:—

Depot, Essex Regiment, Warley.—A married man of the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment, with fifteen years' service to his credit, has just been turned out of comfortable quarters which had been allotted to him in barracks a fortnight previously, in order to make room for the *chef* of the officers' mess. The man's wife and three children are in consequence quartered in a couple of rooms a mile away. As the cook has no title either to free quarters or fuel allowance, this treatment seems very unfair to the soldier, and calls for some explanation.

Medical Staff Corps, Royal Infirmary, Dublin.—The other day a corporal belonging to the detachment at this station made a prisoner of an orderly for not complying with a certain order. Later in the day the sergeant-major made a prisoner of the corporal in respect of the same order, although the corporal explained that he had already preferred a charge against the orderly for the same reason. On the following morning the corporal attended at orderly room with his prisoner; whereupon the sergeant-major informed him that he was the man wanted and not the orderly, and told the orderly to go about his business. The corporal then went before the C.O., and was acquitted. He explained to the C.O. what had passed between himself and the sergeant-major, but no notice was taken of his statement. What authority the junior N.C.O.s can possibly be expected to have if the sergeant-major is left free to treat them in this way perhaps some one more learned than I in the mysteries of military discipline will explain.

2nd Somerset Light Infantry, Fort George, Guernsey.—The spectacle was recently witnessed of the band of this battalion performing in the public gardens under the conductorship of one of the band boys. The boy in question is the son of the bandmaster, and complaints are rife in the band as to his being excused parades and medical inspection, and enjoying other privileges denied to the other boys and bandsmen. It is probably inevitable that a bandmaster's son should enjoy a somewhat favoured position, but this certainly ought not to extend to his being allowed to publicly conduct a band containing many musicians of more than double his age.

3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade, Murree.—In this battalion it appears to be the practice not to issue any new clothing to men in their eighth year of service, if taking their discharge at the end of that time. In the case of the men who will be leaving this year, the grievance has been aggravated by their being required to furnish themselves with a new cap, which has been issued free to the rest of the battalion, the cost of this cap being

Rs. 1. 14a. 10p. It is certainly not the general practice among British regiments in India to allow the men no new clothing in their last year, and there can be no reason for a special rule to this effect in the Rifle Brigade. There are grievances enough already in connection with the detention of men in India beyond the period for which they have engaged, without this.

2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers, Chakrata.—A deficiency of Rs. 71 was lately discovered in the accounts of the supper-bar in connection with the branch of the Army Temperance Association in this regiment, the bar having been open only two months. On the matter being inquired into, the private in charge of the bar offered to make the deficiency good by paying Rs. 50 down, and the balance at the end of the month, if he was allowed to remain in charge. This course was adopted by Major Daniels, the President of the Temperance Lodge. At the same time the services of a lance-corporal, who had superintended the working of the Temperance Lodge, were dispensed with, and the whole management apparently left to the barman. Strange to say, at the end of the next month, when the deficiency had been made good by the barman, the month's accounts showed a loss of Rs. 120. on takings to the amount of Rs. 290. As all the principal articles sold are priced at a considerable profit on the wholesale cost, the management of the institution seems to call strongly for further investigation.

A monstrous decision was given by the Plymouth Borough Bench last week in the case of a private in the R.M.L.I., named Henry Parsons. He was charged with using obscene language, the only witness against him being a policeman. His defence was that the policeman had made a mistake, and that the bad language which he heard was used by another Marine, who was speaking to Parsons, and who was under the influence of liquor. Parsons bore two good-conduct badges, and one of his officers testified to the man's excellent character during the six years he had been in the Service. It was manifestly quite possible for even a policeman to have made a mistake in identifying the offender in a busy street at night, and, recognising this, the Chief Constable asked the magistrates to allow the defendant the benefit of any doubt that might exist. Notwithstanding this recommendation, the magistrates insisted upon convicting Parsons, and fined him 10s. 6d., the Chairman (Mr. Wills) remarking:—"When charged at the police-station you were not at all indignant, and took it as a matter of course." As a matter of fact, the constable had admitted that at the police-station Parsons told him he had "made a tremendous mistake," and "got the wrong man." What more would the sapient Wills have an accused person say or do when under arrest at the police-station? Does he expect a prisoner to storm and rage, and swear that he is innocent? It would seem so.

Can any of my Service readers assist a Naval "domestic" with advice as to the proper way (if any) to obtain his discharge, under the following circumstances:—The man joined in March last, as he understood, for six months. At the end of four months he had an offer of a berth from the shipping company in the service of which he had formerly been employed, and not liking the look of his prospects in the Navy, he applied for his discharge. This was refused. At the end of his six months he desired to apply again, but the president of the mess in which he was serving declined to sign the application, and he was not allowed to see the Captain on the subject. Domestics are not "continuous service" men—they join for a limited period. In the event of a man being refused his release at the end of his engagement, what is he to do?

It is no matter for surprise that the man referred to should be desirous of getting out of the Service—more especially when he has an offer of a good berth elsewhere. The "domestics" in the Navy are in many respects most unfairly treated. The fact of their being non-continuous service men means that at the end of every commission their pay ceases until they get another job—a condition for which, so far as I know, there is no parallel in any other branch of the Service. The pay is very poor—especially in the second and third classes—and no man can earn a good conduct medal, however good his character, until he has been rated for three years in the first class, when he may have been twelve or fourteen years or more in the Service. The worst grievance, perhaps, is the expense of the kit, which costs a man on first joining £6 or £7, or some four or five months' third-class pay. In principle the naval system of confining domestic service to a totally distinct class of men is an excellent one, and might, I think, be extended to the Army with advantage. But the way it is worked leaves much to be desired.

Further light is highly desirable on the process by which the verdict of the coroner's jury on the recent accident on H.M.S. *Blake* was quashed, with the result that Fleet-Engineer Burner, after a verdict of manslaughter had been returned against him, was left to be tried by court-martial. This court-martial has now resulted in Mr. Burner and Engineer Crichton (who was put on trial with him) being reprimanded and dismissed their ship. They were found guilty of negligence, as I understand it, in failing to replace the gauge-glasses of the boiler, which were defective and consequently failed to indicate the shortness of water which led to the explosion.

A strong feeling prevails in naval circles that the blame for this accident rested, not on Mr. Burner and his subordinate, but upon the Admiralty, and that it lay either in the understaffing of the engine-room or in the radical defects of the gauge-glasses. Had the question of Mr. Burner's negligence been tried in a civil court, this issue would have been investigated by a perfectly independent tribunal. Why was this course avoided, and the issue relegated to a Service court? The Crown Office would not have interfered to quash the verdict of the coroner's jury, unless at the instance of some party concerned in the result. No one in his senses will believe that it was done at the instance of Mr. Burner, who had nothing to expect from the trial of the charge of negligence by a packed tribunal of his official superiors, rather than by a jury of his fellow-countrymen. The inference is that the verdict was quashed at the instance of the Admiralty, with the view of bringing the issue before a tribunal under their own influence, and so making Mr. Burner the scapegoat of their own shortcomings.

This view of the matter will be strengthened by the utterances of the Service journal which invariably places its columns at the disposal of officialdom in emergencies of

this kind. Sillier stuff has rarely been put upon paper. I invite special attention to the concluding passage:—

In reality the gauges were not true, and expert evidence has decided that the engineer officers ought to have detected the error. The average engine-room artificer is, no doubt, quite competent to replace a gauge-glass, and we take it that the supervision of the chief engineer or one of his officers is all that is expected in these cases. . . . The reprimand inflicted was consequently warranted by the evidence. It is the fortune of war, and we hope Mr. Burner will soon obtain another appointment. *Meanwhile the "Blake" has been supplied with a more efficient pattern of gauge glass, and, judging from the evidence of the experts, it would be as well to supply the new type to the boilers of all her Majesty's ships.*

Here is the most direct and convincing admission that the gauge-glasses were of a defective type, and therefore that the ultimate responsibility for the explosion and loss of life rests with the Admiralty. The Admiralty have expressly confessed this by supplying the *Blake* with "a more efficient pattern of gauge-glass;" and the inspired apologist of officialdom himself accentuates the confession by recommending that the new glasses should be supplied to the whole Fleet.

True, "expert witnesses were agreed that this danger ought to have been detected"—in other words, that the rank and file ought to be more alive to the shortcomings of Admiralty appliances than the Admiralty themselves—but behind this again lies the other question alluded to above—namely, that the engine-rooms are so under-staffed that alertness to every possible source of danger is impossible. This question is of no less importance than that of the gauge-glasses, and it has been successfully thrust out of sight by the Admiralty tactics in dealing with the *Blake* case. A Naval Officer writing to me on this subject, before the court-martial, said:—

It is to a large extent a matter of luck that similar accidents to that on board the *Blake* do not occur more frequently. The *Blake* accident is a sensational example, but the evil at the bottom of it receives frequent illustration. For example, the "Senior" Engineer appointed to H.M.S. *Trafalgar* in May was invalided home in August, suffering from melancholia, the result of overwork and worry. Every one in the ship, including the Captain, blamed the Chief Engineer, *who has consequently been superseded.* Note, then, the position of a Chief Engineer in a ship. If he insists on work being done so as to ensure against the possibility of accident, he may find himself in the position of the late Chief Engineer of the *Trafalgar*. If, on the other hand, he trusts to luck to some extent, he runs the risk of finding himself in the position of Mr. Burner.

And when he has got into the position of Mr. Burner, and has been made by a Naval Court the scapegoat of Admiralty cheeseparing or blundering, he will have the comfort of reading in a journal, professedly representing the Service, that "it is the fortune of war"!

Very ugly stories are current in Dublin as to the behaviour of the crew of the Kingstown lifeboat one day last week, when they were summoned to the rescue of a party of men engaged in breaking up the wreck of the *Palma*—the ill-fated ship which has already been the occasion of one inquiry into lifeboat management. For some reason the lifeboat crew put back without taking the men off the wreck, and the boat was only launched a second time and the rescue accomplished under considerable pressure. Knowing by experience what a virulent outcry is always directed against any one who ventures to question the possibility of anything but disinterested heroism on the part of a lifeboat crew, I refrain from any comment on what took place until I have heard the official version of the facts. In consideration of this forbearance, I hope that Mr. Dibdin, who is always ready with a long letter when the Institution needs a spokesman, will let me know what the official version is, and I will then do my best to help the public to a just conclusion. Anyhow, I trust that the Executive of the Lifeboat Institution will thoroughly investigate the occurrence.

A parcel was recently posted at Bombay addressed to the Seychelles Islands, the postmaster having previously informed the sender that there was a parcel post from India to the Islands. The parcel did not reach its destination for upwards of three months; and inquiry then revealed that it had been first sent from Bombay to London, then returned from London to Bombay, and finally sent from Bombay to the Seychelles. The truth seems to be that the postmaster was mistaken in stating that there was a direct parcel post between Bombay and the Seychelles Islands, and the parcel was therefore sent to London on the chance of St. Martin's-le-Grand being able to dispose of it. But why, on being sent back from London to Bombay, it was not again remitted to London, and did not continue to travel on this orbit for all time, like a comet, is one of those Post Office mysteries which an outsider cannot solve. There seems, however, no reason now why the Indian Government should not send parcels direct to the Seychelles without the preliminary formality of sending them to London and back, as there is a regular line of steamers running between Bombay and the Islands.

Indian officialdom has hit upon a novel and highly ingenious dodge for negativing the benefits supposed to be conveyed by the Exchange Compensation Allowance. A man in the Civil Service was granted this allowance in the usual course, and drew it for some months. It was then suddenly stopped at the instance of an accounts official—an official, by the way, of lower grade than the one who originally granted the allowance—and the question of the right of the civilian to the allowance was referred to the Government. Over eighteen months have since elapsed without the Government pronouncing any decision, and in the meantime the victim remains deprived of his Exchange Compensation. An announcement recently appeared in the *Pioneer* to the effect that the Secretary of State could not deal with any of these cases at present, so that there is every prospect of the men whose allowances have been stopped in this way remaining out in the cold for an indefinite period. In regard to the gentleman whose case I refer to, there does not seem to be the slightest ground for raising any question. He was born and educated out of India, and no near relative of his has ever been in the country, so that none of the subtleties that have been raised over the question of domicile arises in his case. Apparently this is simply one more dodge on the part of the Indian Government for taking away with one hand what it gives with the other.

Hewetsons, Tottenham Court-road, London, send their Illustrated Catalogue post free, and it is acknowledged to be the best Furnishing Guide extant.

Respecting the death of Mr. D'Elboux of the Ordnance Survey at Southampton, I have received several communications which tend to aggravate the ugly aspect of the case. It seems that some new scale of measuring work and apportioning pay has recently been drawn up by a committee of Royal Engineer Officers, and, under this scale, a greatly increased quantity of work has been created. Mr. D'Elboux is not the only man in the office who has not been able to work up to the quantity required by the new standard, but this gentleman seems to have been an exceptionally conscientious and painstaking, as well as a very highly skilled worker, and probably the amount of work he put in was specially restricted from this cause. He was nevertheless informed on one occasion that he had only earned about a sixth of his salary, and this seems to have been the incident which preceded his breakdown in health. Its effect may have been aggravated by the nervousness and anxiety which have lately been created in the office by the frequent issue of orders and counter-orders, accompanied by threats of dismissal, reductions of pay, and all other devices which official tyranny can suggest for harrying the staff. The whole organisation and management of this office requires independent investigation. Grievances and discontent have been rife for several years past, but up to the present the complaints seem only to have resulted in chastisement with whips being replaced by chastisement with scorpions.

Some gentleman in the G.P.O. is highly indignant at my remarks on the misappropriation of stationery in Government offices, and writes to tell me that, so far from this being the case at St. Martin's-le-Grand, many of the staff have to buy their own ink, because that supplied by Government is too bad for use. I hasten to assure the clerks in the G.P.O. that my remarks were directed, not to St. Martin's-le-Grand, but to Whitehall, and other spots adjacent. I thought everybody knew that the sweating system prevails throughout the Post Office, except, of course, in a few cases at the top of the tree. Perhaps when the Admiralty orders a new stock of Indian ink for the draughtsmen at Devonport—as I should hope it will do after what has been said on the subject—the Duke of Norfolk will look into the quality of the ink supplied to his subordinates.

If the County Council desires to do a real service to London, steps should be taken to supplant the present steamboat service on the Thames. The service has now been stopped for the winter, presumably because the Victoria Steamboat Company cannot maintain it when the heavy summer traffic is at an end. But with a good municipal service, such as exists at Glasgow, a sufficient number of steamers might be maintained all the year round for the convenience of many who prefer that method of locomotion. Some time since the London Council constituted a Rivers Committee, which prepared a very elaborate scheme for a municipal service of river steamers, but for some occult reason it has never come before the Council. The Moderate members, I understand, have been influential in keeping it back, presumably because they do not wish to interfere with the monopoly of the Steamboat Company. But it is time London had a better service, and I would suggest that some one might ask for the production of the River Committee's report.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board were in trouble last week before Judge Lumley-Smith through the alleged negligence of the authorities at one of their hospitals in dismissing a scarlet fever patient before she had finished "peeling." The Board escaped a verdict on the strength of medical evidence, to the effect that this particular patient was either unusually dilatory in the peeling process, or carried it to unusual lengths. It would be well for the Board if they could now give some equally satisfactory answer to the allegation in last week's TRUTH respecting the abuse of their hospitals by members of the Board. Is there any pretext for denying the statement that a member of the Board—and a wealthy gentleman to boot—has recently had two of his children removed to one of the Board's hospitals? If the statement cannot be denied, and I am quite sure that it cannot without recourse to prevarication, the next question is, have the Board at large any consciousness that this sort of thing is improper and scandalous, and if they have, how do they intend to show it?

A medical man sends me an interesting letter on the subject of the abuse of the out-patient departments of hospitals. He quotes a statement to the effect that the proportion of out-patients to the population in the year 1892 was, in Dublin, 421 per 1,000, Liverpool 399, London 371, Edinburgh 371, Bristol 336, Birmingham 291, Manchester 249, Leeds 222, and Glasgow 139. These figures have been published by Mr. Henry Burdett, but while I have great respect for that gentleman's authority on such matters, I am rather inclined to think that somewhat liberal deductions must be made from the return on account of persons attending several different hospitals, or being registered more than once as out-patients at the same institution. Still, after discounting the statistics in this way, I agree with my correspondent that they point to a gross abuse of the free medical aid which is given in the hospitals in London and most large cities. There is little doubt that considerable numbers of these out-patients are persons who have no just claim whatever to relief at the expense of the charitable public, being perfectly well able to provide for their own medical attendance.

This was, I believe, very clearly proved by the results which followed the appointment of an inquiry officer at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. When this officer began his inquiries into the circumstances of the out-patients it was found that 40 per cent. of the persons who attended the infirmary were in a position to pay for their treatment; but after a time, the knowledge that such investigations were made was in itself sufficient to cause the proportion of undeserving applicants to fall to 6 per cent. Other remedies have been suggested, but on the whole such a system of inspection, carefully and sympathetically carried out so as not to deter genuine subjects

for relief from presenting themselves at the hospitals, seems to me to be the most effective way of checking the evil which has undoubtedly grown up through the practice of granting medical treatment at these establishments, practically without discrimination, to all comers. The present state of things is unfair to the public whose charity is misapplied, demoralising to those who take advantage of it, and unjust to the medical profession. Unfortunately, one obstacle in the way of reform is that the managers of hospitals appear to be impressed with the idea that the larger the number of the patients they relieve, out as well as in, the more liberally they will be supported, and so have become fearful of doing anything which will reduce the number.

The professional boycott which sixteen doctors at Weston-super-Mare have recently established against practitioners employed by medical aid associations is, I am informed, only an incident in a general movement, similar action having been taken in almost every part of the country. To justify this action a medical correspondent sends me an extract from an address by Mr. Victor Horsley. All that I find in it, however, is a denunciation of the "miserable man" who sells "his services and his honour" to a "so-called medical aid society;" and an attempt to show that there is a difference between a medical combination against such men and a trade union. "The trade union," it is said, "is founded solely for the benefit of the members of the union, and that benefit is to be obtained regardless of the cost to the public." Does not this precisely describe the position of these new medical combinations?

Mr. Horsley goes on to argue that the difference consists in the fact that "what we know as infamous conduct" is punished in the medical profession, but not in the trade union. Yes; but by whom is it punished? By the General Medical Council. And it is because this Council, the legally constituted body for such purposes, refuses to regard the acceptance of the medical-officership of a medical aid society as a professional offence that these private combinations of medical men are being formed to deal with it by a system of boycotting. How this can be held to be anything else than a form of trade unionism I fail to see. The refusal of the other doctors to consult with the medical aid society man is perfectly analogous to the refusal of unionist workmen to work with a non-unionist. For my own part I strongly approve of trade unionism—for trades. Whether this development of the system in the medical world is desirable in the interests of the public or the profession is another question.

For more than two months past the inhabitants of Sheerness have been suffering from a break-down of the water supply, which has varied intermittently from days of total failure, except for what could be delivered by water carts, to a service through the mains at diminished pressure for a longer or shorter (generally shorter) period daily. From a letter I have received, it appears that, in the first place, something went wrong with the pumping machinery at the well from which the town was being supplied. There is, however, another well which was formerly used, and if the District Council had only had the common prudence to keep this second source of supply in proper working order, and to provide adequate means of storage, the difficulty would have been easily overcome. They neglected to do this, and they furthermore showed a lamentable lack of promptitude and energy in carrying out remedial measures, with the consequence that the period of inconvenience and danger to the community has been unnecessarily prolonged. My correspondent urges that, in a dockyard town where considerable numbers of Government servants are compelled to live, it should be the duty of Government to see that they are not thus left at the mercy of blundering and incompetent local authorities. There is a good deal of force in this, and it is not in dockyard towns alone that such authorities need to be subjected to a sharper supervision from Whitehall.

Some amazing revelations have been made at a Local Government Board inquiry concerning the recent election of a poor-rate collector in the Skibbereen Union. It was conclusively proved that several of the Guardians had demanded or received bribes for supporting different candidates for the office, one member admitting that he asked £15 for his vote, another that he was paid £10, and a third that "his wife" received certain money in connection with the election, while two more "declined to say" whether they had or had not received £17 and £15 respectively for their votes. To do them justice, these gentry appear to have looked upon all this as quite legitimate and proper bargaining, and when canvassed by the candidates they made no attempt to conceal the fact that their votes were at the disposal of the highest bidders. In expressing the opinion that the evidence "discloses a state of corruption in the Skibbereen Union amounting to a public scandal," the Local Government Board is well within the mark, and it is to be hoped that the Irish Law Officers will institute a prosecution against such of the parties as have rendered themselves amenable to the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act of 1889. In any event, the Guardians who have confessed their guilt ought to be forthwith removed from office

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I am glad to see that the Eastbourne Town Council last week passed by a large majority a resolution to proceed next session with a Bill for acquiring the present waterworks, and providing a new permanent water supply. There could be, I should have thought, no question that this is the only solution of the recent difficulty; but, nevertheless, a mysterious body, known as the Ratepayers' Association, actually presented a resolution to the Corporation urging the postponement of the question, and expressing alarm at the growing municipal expenditure. How a further continuation of the postponement policy, which has been pursued with such disastrous results for the last twelve months, could improve the situation, or how those who suffer by the

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

growing expenditure of the Corporation would benefit by a course which would speedily reduce Eastbourne to a howling wilderness, only the associated woodenheads themselves can explain.

But there seems no limit to the short-sightedness and stupidity of some of the townspeople on this question. One worthy Alderman, who opposed the resolution, and a prominent licensed victualler to boot, actually contended that the Duke of Devonshire "has quite as much interest in the town as any of those present," and that the matter might therefore be safely left in the hands of the ducal water company. Is the Duke a penny out of pocket by anything that has happened in Eastbourne during the last twelve months? Would the Duke suffer if the town were deserted during the next three seasons? Does the Duke remit his ground-rents during bad seasons? If not, how can any person in his senses suggest that the Duke of Devonshire has the same interest in this matter as his unfortunate tenants?

The Southport and District Highway Board has once or twice come in for notice in these columns on account of its practice of giving the contracts for cartage to the chairman and other members. In the natural course of things the Board would pass out of existence next year in accordance with section 25 of the Local Government Act of 1894, the maintenance of the roads being then transferred to the District Councils. But it appears that in Lancashire (alone among English counties) there is a disposition to prolong the life of these old highway authorities, and the Southport Board have just been invited by the Clerk of the County Council to say whether they desire the Council to apply to the Local Government Board for an order further postponing the operation of the Act of 1894. Considering how comfortably they arrange things for themselves, it is hardly to be expected that the Southport Highway Board will be in favour of their own extinction; and it would be the height of absurdity for the County Council to attach any importance to their views on the subject.

I had hoped that I had done with the sanitation of St. Kitts, but the gentleman who first brought the subject to my notice returns to the attack, and, in the interests of truth, I feel bound to notice what he says. It comes to this, that though the main streets of Basseterre may give the idea that the town is "one of the best and most clean throughout the West Indies," the place is really a whited sepulchre, most of the houses having filthy and unwholesome appendages in the background, while in the slums matters are proportionately worse. Among many instances of the defiance of all proper sanitary regulations, I am told of milk-hawkers frequently keeping their store of milk "under the bed in a filthy negro hut." This is from a witness who has had special opportunities of observation, and who describes only what he has seen with his own eyes. Those residents who pride themselves on their "beautiful little island" will do well to take his warnings seriously.

Certain complaints that have long been current among the inhabitants of Seychelles have lately found expression in a pamphlet which sets forth, in the most unequivocal language, the alleged abuses and shortcomings of various departments of the administration. The administration of justice, in particular, is very severely criticised, and the Judge has issued a circular to a number of persons asking them to let him know whether they have received a copy of the pamphlet, as he is "desirous of ascertaining the extent of the publication" of these "serious libels on his official character." No doubt the Judge will feel it incumbent upon him to follow up his circular by further action, so that the truth or falsity of the statements in question may be properly tested. At the same time, the charges in the pamphlet are too grave and too wide-reaching to be satisfactorily met by any proceedings that may initiated by individual officials. The pamphlet is practically an indictment of the whole system of administration in the colony, and though it has been issued anonymously, it is an open secret in the islands that it has received the approval of many of the leading inhabitants. What they want is a searching inquiry by the Colonial Office into the condition of affairs in Seychelles, and it is to be hoped that such an inquiry will now be granted.

In speaking the other day of the excessive Treasury fees extorted on administration orders, in cases where the assets are limited, I did not exhaust the abuses connected with this mode of procedure. A gentleman in Lancashire, who is, I take it, professionally connected with the liquidation of insolvent estates, writes very strongly on the subject. It is a common thing, he says, for a debtor, against whom a judgment or a committal order has been obtained, to obtain an administration order, which at once stops all proceedings and defeats the creditors. The debtor will then pay little or nothing under the administration order, and when the proceedings have dragged on for two or three years, he gets it rescinded by the Registrar. In the meantime, he has been contracting fresh liabilities, and when they become acute he at once extricates himself by a fresh administration order, and so on. What little money the debtor ever pays under such circumstances goes, as I said the other day, to the Treasury, in the shape of costs, and the creditors rarely get a farthing, and have no means of putting pressure upon the debtor. "An administration order," writes my correspondent, "costs nothing, and thousands apply for and obtain such orders who never intend to discharge their liabilities. I myself know several who have had two or three orders against them, have never paid a penny, and have been defeating their creditors for years." The majority of such bogus applications would probably be stopped, if a substantial deposit were required from the debtor on his application. But the whole procedure in connection with administration orders calls for reform.

WATER SUPPLY FOR MANSIONS, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to ALFRED WILLIAMS & CO., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

The new Land Bill for Ireland supplied the legal profession, and landlords and tenants in that country, with very ample occupation for the long vacation. The consensus of opinion is, that even the longest of vacations does not afford sufficient time for the mastering of the Bill's intricacies. The Irish landlords have lost none of their soreness on the subject, especially their bitterness against the defections from their cause amongst Government officials. The party which put Lord Ashbourne in power would be only too glad to reverse the process now—a natural enough feeling, considering that he reversed the position held in the days when, as Lord Castletown said, Lord Ashbourne walked "shoulder to shoulder with the landlords."

During the hearing of a case at Swindon Police-court last week, the defendant's counsel, Mr. C. F. Gill, called attention to the fact that the magistrate's clerk had been acting as solicitor for the prosecution. This gentleman, it was stated, had obtained specimens of documents required for the purposes of the prosecution, he had given notice to produce documents for the prosecution, and he had actually briefed counsel for the prosecution. In his usual vigorous style Mr. Gill protested that it was "a monstrous condition of affairs"—that the legal adviser of the Bench should also act as the prosecuting solicitor; and, though the language was strong, I fancy it will be generally endorsed. One would think, indeed, that the incompatibilities of such a union of the functions of magistrates' clerk and prosecuting solicitor in the same person would be manifest to everybody concerned in the administration of justice. It transpired, however, that the magistrate's clerk had simply done what was customary in Wiltshire, it being the practice for magistrates' clerks in that county to take charge of police prosecutions, and nobody having hitherto objected to their doing so. Now that the undesirability of the arrangement has been pointed out, it is to be hoped that the authorities will put an end to it.

The ingenious and irrepressible Isaac Gordon has blossomed forth in a new character. Not content with the innumerable aliases which he already possesses, he has now converted himself into "The Midland Loan and Advance Company," under which designation, at 6, Livery-street, Birmingham, or any of his other addresses, he may be relied upon to fleece and ruin anybody who is unfortunate enough to fall into his clutches. One of the latest victims of this bloodsucker was a small farmer who appeared in the Chester Bankruptcy Court last week. He borrowed £30, and paid back £58. 10s., but the usurer still claims £40 more—a fair sample of Isaac's rapacity.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

In my Legal Pillory this week illustrations of magisterial lenity in dealing with savage assaults and gross cruelty are, as usual, contrasted with some samples of the harsh and vindictive sentences that are passed for such offences as poaching, vagrancy, and petty larceny. Perhaps the most familiar and conspicuous figures in the list are the Barnsley Bench, who have long borne the palm for exceptionally indulgent treatment of vicious brutes whose drunkenness and violence make them the terror of the neighbourhood. One of these Yahoos is convicted of an outbreak of ruffianism which he wound up with the customary kicking of the policeman who arrested him. It is his twenty-first appearance before the Court, but, nevertheless, he gets off with a paltry pecuniary penalty; while at the same time two men are committed to gaol for nothing more heinous than the so-called crime of sleeping out, "not having any visible means of subsistence." The case from Eccles is noteworthy not only on account of the severity of the punishment, but also because of the extraordinary valuation of the two turnips which the prisoners were charged with stealing. Did the prosecutor swear that these two roots were worth one shilling? If he did, all I can say is that he is a remarkably lucky farmer to be able to grow such turnips. I would also specially direct attention to the Game Law case at Leek. The magistrates who had heard the evidence were equally divided in opinion as to the justice of a conviction, but instead of giving the defendant the benefit of the doubt, they called in another magistrate, and by his vote a penalty of £4 was inflicted:—

Barnsley Police-court. Before Mr. H. Pigott and other magistrates. Abraham Dyson, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with assaulting a constable. Defendant used filthy language and was very violent, and on being arrested he kicked the officer several times about the legs and body. It was his twenty-first appearance at the Court. Fined 5s. and costs on the first charge, and 20s. and costs for the assault; in default six weeks' imprisonment.

Aberdeen Sheriff-court. Before Hon. Sheriff-substitute D. Duncan. William Robertson pleaded guilty to having assaulted his wife to the effusion of blood. Fined £1.

Doncaster Borough Police-court. James Wragg, charged with assaulting his wife. He seized her by the neck, struck her on the side of the head, and threw her into a corner of the room, afterwards striking her on the arm with a poker, and inflicting a large wound. Fined 10s. and costs.

Macclesfield Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Lockitt, J. Potts, and the Ex-Mayor. Alfred Smith, horse dealer, charged with cruelty to two horses in the fair ground. The animals, which were in poor condition, were tied to a post, and the defendant, who was drunk, unmercifully flogged them with a whalebone whip-stock, marking both on the backs and sides with weals, some of which were two feet long. The Bench characterised it as a very bad case. Fined 40s.

Barnsley Police-court. Before Mr. H. Pigott and other magistrates. John Lee and James Griffiths, charged with sleeping out. Lee fourteen days, Griffiths seven days.

Market Rasen Petty Sessions. Before Rev. W. W. Cooper, Messrs. G. J. Young, J.P., T. Nettleship, and H. W. Marriott. Samuel Ward Rogers, charged with sleeping out. One month.

Peterhead Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Crawford. John Harvey, charged with poaching. Fined £2. 10s.

Eccles Police-court. Henry Thomason and James Dobson, labourers, charged with stealing two turnips, valued at 1s., from a field belonging to a farmer at Winton. Defendants were seen to throw the turnips back into the field on the approach of the police. Thomason, who had been previously convicted, twenty-one days; Dobson seven days.

Leek Police-court. Before Mr. J. Robinson and other magistrates. James Ward, charged with killing game without a licence. He was seen to take a grouse out of a trap placed on his own land, near some oats. His defence was that he had set some traps under the oats to catch rats. The Bench were equally divided in opinion on the case; but another magistrate was called in from a second court, and the defendant was then convicted and fined £3 and £1 costs.

Dumbarton Police-court. Peter M'Manus, convicted of assaulting his wife on three separate occasions by beating her with his fists, and pulling her about by the hair. Fined 30s.

Alloa Police-court. Before Bailie Grant. Robert Easdale, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her about the face with his fists, blacking both her eyes and cutting her hand with a piece of crockery. Fined £2. 2s.

Coventry Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. C. J. Hill, J. Maycock, and T. G. Beamish. Edward Wilson, convicted of an unprovoked assault on Richard Muller. Defendant knocked complainant down and kicked him on the lip, rendering him unconscious. Fined 10s. and costs.

Blackburn Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. F. Thomas, W. Boyle, and H. Higson. William Ormerod, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, struck her in the face with his fist, pulled her out of bed, and dragged her about the room. There were previous convictions. Fined 20s. and costs.

Easingwold Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Strangwayes, Duncombe, Hawking, Hunter, and Coates. William C. Russell, Herbert Russell, Thomas Russell, and James Maw, charged with assaulting Tom Gibson. Complainant was knocked down and severely assaulted, receiving three wounds upon his head, which bled profusely. Fined £1 each and costs.

Alfreton Police-court. Before Messrs. James Oakes, J. Roberts, and J. Brown. Margaret Lowe, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a pawnshop. One month.

Boston Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. F. Harrison. John Smith and Ellen Mooney, charged with sleeping in the open air and being without visible means of subsistence. Twenty-one days each.

Knaresborough Petty Sessions. George Spink, Horace Hutchinson, and Quinton Hutchinson, charged with poaching. Horace Hutchinson fined £2; the others committed for a month each.

Congleton County Police-court. Before Mr. C. W. Hogg, and other magistrates. Walter Bailey, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined 40s. or one month.

Smallburgh Petty Sessions. Before Mr. George Walker. John Lee, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Leigh Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Tunnicliffe and R. T. Marsh. Mary A. Buckley, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Clitheroe Police-court. Joseph States, charged with stealing two boxes, valued at 1s., which he said he took for firewood. One month.

The punishment appears to have fallen on the wrong party in a case at Liverpool Police-court last week, when a driver in the employ of the Liverpool United Tramways and Omnibus Company was fined for working two horses in an unfit state. There was no question as to the cruelty, but the defendant was obliged to drive the horses that were supplied to him or lose his situation, and though he was no doubt technically responsible, a nominal penalty would have met the case so far as he was concerned. The magistrates in their wisdom, however, fined him 19s., though they were informed that besides having thus to bear the sins of the Company, he had been dismissed from their employment. It was asserted that the horses of the Company were generally in very poor condition, and that the local officers of the R.S.P.C.A. were doing all they could to secure an amendment. But for this purpose the punishment of the drivers alone is an absurdity and injustice. The best thing to do would be to get a director of the Company sent to prison, or, failing a director, one of the managers. This course was adopted some time ago in the case of a similar Company in the West of England, and since then I have heard no more complaints respecting the treatment of their horses.

A destitute woman called at Torquay Police-station the other evening and asked for twopence towards the cost of a night's lodging. Instead of directing her to the workhouse, the constable on duty locked the woman up for the night, and on the following morning Colonel Appleton, J.P., committed her to gaol for seven days for the offence of begging alms. This is a fair sample of the pitiless treatment such unfortunate creatures frequently receive in the country, and, in referring to it, a correspondent contrasts the grim attitude of the amateur magistracy towards the poor and distressed, with the sympathy and consideration which London stipendiaries daily exhibit in giving friendly legal advice or pecuniary assistance from the poor-box to deserving applicants. But, of course, nobody in his senses would dream of going to the Great Unpaid for legal advice, while to appeal for relief would be, in nine cases out of ten, a sure way of getting a spell of hard labour. The average Shallow may be benevolent enough in his private capacity; but somehow he seems to be possessed with the wooden-headed idea that his magisterial office requires him to be hard-hearted towards the homeless and the penniless, and there is no crime he is more prompt to punish than the crime of poverty.

A fine uncompromising sort of swindle is being carried on by a man called Berryman, who describes himself as "Agent for Feakes & Co., London, N.E." This man has been regularly advertising for some time past for persons to address envelopes, guaranteeing remuneration of from 6s. 9d. to 8s. per thousand. To those who reply he sends a request for 1s. to cover materials and instructions. When the 1s. is sent, he gives the victim instructions to write to large firms in his neighbourhood, asking them if they want any envelopes addressed. "Large firms," he says, "pay at the rate mentioned in our memo. When you require envelopes, apply to us; we can supply them at from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d. per thousand, carriage paid." Berryman is to be found in a house in a dirty little street off London Fields, and I trust it will not be long before the police look in upon him and put a stop to his little game.

The following advertisement relates to a trick very similar to the last mentioned. The advertisement has appeared lately in the *People*, and other papers:—

HOME SEWING.—Plain, easy work, forwarded through Parcels Post. £1 weekly earned. Persons required anywhere. Patterns and instruction book six stamps.—Wilby, Savile Town, Dewsbury.

Those who send six stamps in reply to this, receive from the said Wilby a small pamphlet entitled "How I make £55 a year by my sewing machine," together with a paper pattern of some garment. On inquiry about the "plain, easy work forwarded through Parcels Post," Wilby replies, "Read the book; it tells you how to dispose of the work per Parcels Post." This impudent trickster evidently thinks that, by forwarding a pamphlet and a paper pattern in accordance with the strict terms of the advertisement, he is keeping on the right side of the law; but I should think there can be no serious doubt that he is disposing of these articles by false

pretences. It would seem that with this means of livelihood he combines that of the ordinary advertising quack, for on the inside of the sewing machine pamphlet he advertises himself as a "specialist," and offers for sixpence his book on "Health and Beauty," and various recipes of the class which such quacks deal in.

Despite the recent conviction of one gang of Anglo-Belgian lottery-mongers, the game is not yet at an end. Circulars of the same old kind are now being widely distributed by a "Mr. Reginald Sidney," of 19, Rue Louise, Ostend. Strange to say, these circulars are posted in Bury St. Edmunds. Also, strange to say, there was at Bury St. Edmunds till quite recently an individual named Thomas Wilkins, or Wilkin, doing a large business in the missing-word game. Stranger still, Mr. Reginald Sidney's prospectus is almost word for word identical with that of Thomas Wilkins; while Wilkins's missing-word pools at Bury St. Edmunds have come to an end precisely at the time when "Mr. Sidney's" circulars began to be posted at the same town. I do not wish to jump at conclusions too hastily, but it seems to me that, with these facts before them, the police ought to have no difficulty in putting a stop to Mr. Reginald Sidney's little game.

In response to the request in TRUTH of September 17 for information as to the present whereabouts of Miss Brookes, alias Miss Lane, alias Mrs. Lyle, I have received information that this lady is to be heard of at 65, Fortess-road, Kentish Town. She has had letters sent to that address, and very possibly has been carrying on other swindles under cover of it. No. 65, Fortess-road, is a stationer's shop, kept by a Mr. J. J. Olive, and I have represented to this gentleman that he owes it to his fellow-creatures and the interests of justice to inform the public of the present address of the lady whose correspondence he has taken the responsibility of receiving. Unfortunately, Mr. Olive fails to see this obvious duty, and declines to state where the lady is to be found. Under these circumstances, I can only refer to him those who are at present anxious as to her whereabouts.

There seems some reason to believe that this Mrs. Lyle, or whatever her name may be, is the same swindler who at the beginning of this year was running the "Carlton Society," at 86, Bayswater Mount, Roundhay-road, Leeds, and subsequently at Gledhow-place in the same neighbourhood. She was then going under the name of "N. Lane." The "Carlton Society" was a swindle of the same class as the "Kensington Association" which was lately run by "Miss Brookes" from a bedroom in Acacia-place, St. John's Wood, which she occupied in the name of Miss Lane—that is to say, it was a "society" for the purpose of inducing people to pay subscriptions to Miss Lane on the chance of obtaining prizes in competitions, taking lessons by correspondence, and so on. "N. Lane," the Secretary of the "Carlton Society," is now wanted by the police, and I understand that she has already undergone a conviction. It seems desirable, therefore, that the police should put themselves in communication with Mr. J. J. Olive, who at present possesses the secret of the whereabouts of Miss Lane of the "Kensington Association."

The Rev. E. P. Barrett, of 121, Stockwell Park-road, S.W., whose name has been frequently referred to in TRUTH in connection with the plated goods swindle, has followed the example of so many other gentry of his kind, and is now seeking to hide his identity under the alias of the "Rev. J. Barnett." The Rev. J. Barnett's proceedings bear an even closer resemblance than his name to those of the Rev. E. P. Barrett. He lately swindled a lady by the trick described in TRUTH of June 4 of advertising a "set of the Waverley Novels, consisting of twenty-five magnificent volumes, and admirably bound in calf," and supplying instead a cheap modern edition in imitation binding, worth considerably less than the sum charged. Having brought off this *coup*, Barrett now sends the lady a price-list of his electro and cutlery goods, writing at the same time:—

> Under very exceptional circumstances, I have the articles mentioned in enclosed for disposal, and should take it as a great favour if you would look through the list, as I am very desirous of turning these things into money at once. The articles are all in perfect order and condition, are all either new or equal to new, are mostly extremely handsome, and could not fail to please. If you choose to purchase any I will let you have them at *one half* of the reduced prices named.

Of course the goods in question are the shoddy stuff which is disposed of by newspaper advertisements purporting to emanate from ladies, clergymen, and other private individuals anxious to raise cash. Barrett is one of the most active agents of the man Butler, the founder of this trade. His attempt to suggest that he is a clergyman, compelled to dispose of his property by force of circumstances, is distinctly dishonest, and it is high time that the police put a stop to the operations of all engaged in this swindling traffic.

A curious offer is made by some firm through the *Yorkshire Post* to any lad "wishing to improve his position." It takes the form of a berth as clerk commencing at a salary of £1 a week, and advancing by annual increments in the course of fifteen years to £2 a week, where it stops. If there are many who will jump at this chance of "improving their position," it does not say much for the general position of Yorkshire clerks at present.

Some of the shareholders of the Eastern Telegraph Company are anxious, I understand, to commemorate the services of the late Sir John Pender to submarine telegraphy. I would advise them to be careful that they do not make themselves and the object of their admiration

ridiculous. This anybody will certainly do who attempts to place Sir John Pender, Cyrus Field, or any other mere telegraph financier, on the pedestal which properly belongs, not to any capitalist or company promoter, but to the inventors and practical men who developed and worked out the idea—men like the late Sir Charles Bright, Sir Samuel Canning, or Sir William Siemens. We shall hear next that the company-mongers of the Railway Mania ought to be commemorated for their services in the development of our railway system rather than men like the Stephensons and Brunels.

The Government are being favoured with a most extraordinary run of Scotch patronage. A post of £1,000 a year at Edinburgh has just been filled up by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who now has at his disposal the Sheriffdom of the Lothian and Peebles, the Sheriffdom of Berwick, Roxburgh, and Selkirk, the Sheriff-Clerkship of Lanarkshire, and the Sheriff-Clerkship of Fifeshire, these four offices being worth altogether just £4,450 a year. A furious battle is quietly raging between the Tories and the Liberal-Unionists as to the division of the spoil, and it is the firm conviction of calm observers of the strife that these quarrels as to the distribution of patronage will before long cause a complete split between the two sections of the Ministerial awkward squad in Scotland.

The Secretary for Scotland has perpetrated a most outrageous job by appointing Mr. W. H. Hadow to be Prison Commissioner for Scotland, in the place of Mr. A. B. Bell. The post is worth £1,000 a year, and it was expected at Edinburgh that a professional gentleman, possessed of undeniable qualifications, would be appointed. Lord Balfour of Burleigh has audaciously passed over a dozen highly eligible candidates in order to appoint Mr. Hadow, whose qualifications may be represented by the figures 0 0 0. He has been an energetic Tory wire-puller at Edinburgh and elsewhere, and an indefatigable promoter of Primrose League absurdities; but these valuable services to his Party do not justify his being pitchforked into an important and lucrative office. It is not only Scotch Liberals who are indignant and disgusted, for their sentiments are fully shared by both Tories and Liberal-Unionists.

In order that any current event may yield its full measure of fruit to journalism as practised to-day, there must be something about it which affords an opportunity to the journalistic imagination. Thus, when the Czar came to England, the mere fact of his paying a visit to his wife's grandmother would have been but of minor interest, for very little was to be got out of a train leaving and entering a station, a Czar and his wife driving in a carriage, and a theatrical display of honest Scotch farmers masquerading in kilts, and passing themselves off as a mythical clan in some way connected with the Duke of Fife. The opportunity was, therefore, found in romancing as to what the Czar might say on the Eastern Question, and what the Queen and Lord Salisbury might say to him on the same subject. As the Czar was not accompanied by his Foreign Secretary, and as he seems to be a shy youth, knowing little of politics, but sufficiently intelligent to leave them to his Ministers, it was exceedingly improbable that any communication of importance would take place during his private stay at Balmoral. But to admit this would not have suited journalistic enterprise. Our newspapers had, before his arrival in England, explained to him what he ought to think and say on the matter, and during his stay they each day evolved from their inner consciousness what he had said. Those which did not indulge in this play of fancy, assured us that, having now perceived that the feeling amongst us in regard to the Sultanic atrocities was genuine, he would leave our shores so fully possessed of this knowledge, that the Russian policy would be changed, and that we might count upon him as a supporter of ours. I confess that I could not help asking myself how he would attain this knowledge by shooting stags—or, rather, as it would seem, shooting at stags — in the Highlands, and by embarking for France at Portsmouth, after passing from north to south in a railway saloon carriage.

Journalists were, indeed, fortunate, for on the departure of the Czar Lord Rosebery resigned. Since then the imaginative journalist has had a glorious time. Each day we have had the most wondrous details of what every one of any sort of importance says and thinks on the subject, the names of the communicative sages being for obvious reasons suppressed. What each journalist thinks himself is thus put in the mouth of some "leading member of the Liberal Party, whose name I am not at liberty to disclose." This probably will furnish him with pabulum until some new event provides him with a fresh field for his imagination.

There is a curious instance of special pleading in Lord Rosebery's Edinburgh speech. Turkey, he says, does not belong to us, therefore what right have we to make a present of it to Russia? But who ever suggested that we should do so? What those of us contend, who regard humanity as far above that policy which would consign millions to the misery of Turkish misrule, in order to secure to ourselves influence in a country which does not belong to us, is that we ought not to hinder Russia from bringing that country within the sphere of her political influence, and that, whether it be to our interest or not that the Sultan should exercise sway over subject Christian races, we will not move hand or foot to maintain that sway. The line of demarcation between Lord Rosebery and the Tories, and Mr. Gladstone and the Liberals, is clearly defined. The former would have us adhere to our old iniquitous policy of making the integrity of the Turkish Empire the key-note of our action; the latter would abjure this policy

The New Silk Waistcoatings for Gentlemen's Evening Dress and Morning Wear can now be seen at Ulster House, Conduit-street, W.

Winter Season, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

with shame and regret that we have so long practised it. So long as Lord Salisbury and the Turcophiles thought that the agitation on behalf of the Armenians would strengthen their hands, and enable us to perpetuate our influence on the Bosphorus, they encouraged it; but no sooner was the question clearly understood, and people realized that the only means to put an end to Turkish misrule was to give to Russia a free hand, than they belittled the agitation, and did their best to throw cold water on it.

I never have advocated our engaging in a war for the Armenians against the Sultan with Russia at his back, for the plain reason that I failed to see how we could effectively carry on such a war. From the commencement of these Armenian troubles—which have merely drawn attention to the normal misery of the Christian races under Turkish rule—I have always insisted that we, and we alone, were the cause of this misery, and that if only we would leave the matter in the hands of Turkey's neighbour, it would be brought to an end. This view is that which, I think, now prevails amongst Radicals; their duty is to force it on the Government. Unless they do, we shall have a few paper reforms published by the Sultan, and things will revert to the old groove. To every word of Mr. Gladstone's suggestions I adhere, and were Parliament sitting, I would formulate them in a resolution, and submit that resolution to the ordeal of a vote, in order that we might know who are with us and who are against us. Never has the aged veteran of the Liberal Army done a more useful service to the cause of political morality than when at Liverpool he laid down in eloquent words the line of action that we ought to pursue.

THE VIRTUE OF RESIGNATION.

Much had been written *pro* and *con.*; this fact, though, still remained—
So false a situation could not be for long maintained.
So rash a climb was bound to be succeeded by a fall:
Well, this same fall, by us foreseen, has come about—that's all!

In other words, the Earl himself, unable, it is clear,
To strive against a strain which had throughout proved too severe,
Has, by his voluntary act, most wisely put an end
To a chaotic state of things 'twas past his power to mend.

He for himself has recognised the truth of what we said
When, by an ill-timed *coup d'état*, his party first he led.
The scales have fallen from his eyes, and, clearly as can be,
He sees the things which for so long he'd strangely failed to see.

He sees the troops he fain had led, dispersed and disarrayed;
He sees the cause he should have helped, forsaken and betrayed;
He sees his bravest followers in dread disorder thrown;
He sees the foes he should have crushed yet more defiant grown.

He sees that e'en a chief possessed of more consummate skill
Could not, as falsely placed as he, have hoped his post to fill;
Nay, more, that if he would avoid disasters yet more dire
One course alone for him remained—to gracefully retire.

'Tis odd, perhaps, he took so long to recognise what we
Were able from the very first so readily to see;
But we would not be hard upon his errors in the past
Now that he manfully has done the proper thing at last.

Nay, let us rather now approve the willingness he's shown
By present firmness for a past of weakness to atone.
The time for stern reproof has gone, now that he spurns no more
The good advice to which he turned so deaf an ear before.

SCRUTATOR.

THE PASSING OF ROSEBERY.

MANY brilliant qualities, as I have often said, Lord Rosebery possesses. But those which go to make the Leader of a great political Party, Providence has not vouchsafed to him. He may know books, but he does not know men; he is nervous and depressed when confronted with difficulties; when he himself sees the goal he does not perceive the mode of attaining it; and the goal itself that he would attain is generally wrapt in mists which prevent others seeing it. It is always "I would," never "I will" with him. But even if all this were not so, he could not well be the Leader of the fierce and aspiring democracy of these isles, for by nature, by habit, and by association he is utterly at variance with it. A man who would drive fat oxen need not himself be fat; but the man who would lead Radicals must himself be a Radical. I have always been surprised that so clever a man ever allowed himself to drift into so false a position as that which Lord Rosebery has occupied since Mr. Gladstone's retirement. I take it that he hoped to create a Rosebery Party, without exactly knowing what the tenets of this Party were to be, beyond that he was to be its Chief, and that its one saving article of faith was to be blind confidence in himself. A sufficient number of Tories, Liberals, and Radicals were to profess this creed and thus to place him above the conflict of existing Parties. All minor differences were to be merged in the term "Roseberyite," though what he or any one else understood by the term I do not quite know. The times are out of joint for such a mentor to dominate a country. Bolingbroke had imagined such a patriot sage. Pitt, and in a lesser degree Palmerston, had to a certain extent embodied in action Bolingbroke's theories. In France it has had for its representatives the two Napoleons.

The General Election of 1891 gave Mr. Gladstone a small and somewhat doubtful majority. His one aim was to pass a Home Rule Bill, and his force as a

THE SANITARY ENGINEERING CO. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

Parliamentarian has always been that he has invariably subordinated everything to one particular issue, until he has succeeded in carrying it. The Conservatives urged in their organs the appointment of Lord Rosebery as Foreign Secretary, because he was even more of an Imperialist than Lord Salisbury. The appointment was made, although no two men ever differed more in regard to our foreign policy than Mr. Gladstone and his Foreign Secretary, in order that our foreign relations might sleep, and thus a clear field be afforded for Home Rule. When Mr. Gladstone resigned the Premiership, Lord Rosebery had in the House of Commons a small but ardent handful of friends, who devotedly intrigued to secure to him the succession. Their efforts, however, would not have succeeded, for most of them were uninfluential nonentities, had it not been that certain of Mr. Gladstone's colleagues suddenly declared that they would not serve under Sir William Harcourt, because, in his zeal for economy as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he had managed to offend their *amour propre*. To avoid, therefore, a break up of the Cabinet, Lord Rosebery became Prime Minister, although, had the selection been submitted to a meeting of the Liberal M.P.s, there would have been an overwhelming majority for Sir William; in part because he was believed to be a sound Radical; in part because he had fought gallantly during long years of Opposition, whereas Lord Rosebery had taken no part in the fray; in part because little was known either of Lord Rosebery's views, or of his ability to lead; and in part to a strong feeling that a Liberal Premier ought to be in the House of Commons. As Premier, Lord Rosebery disappointed his friends. Relieved from the controlling influence of Mr. Gladstone, he comported himself as an Imperialist with more zeal than discretion, for he one day advanced in order the next day to draw back. Whether he was for Home Rule or not, no one could tell. But he alienated those who were for it by announcing that it ought not to be carried by a majority in the House of Commons, unless there were also an English majority for it. In regard to the House of Lords, his utterances were even more ambiguous. He wished, he said, to reform the Lords, and without altering the composition of that Chamber, to make it a barrier against the will of the people as set forth by their elected representatives. How this was to be done he did not make clear, but, as he announced that his reforms were only to be carried into effect with the consent of the Lords themselves, it is evident that they would not have been of a very drastic character.

In his valedictory speech at Edinburgh last Friday, Lord Rosebery complains that the Liberal Party would not follow him, and that the position of a Leader without possessing the confidence of his followers is intolerable. I have no doubt that as Leader of the Liberal Party he was not on a bed of roses. But he should have remembered that he had become the Leader without the Party having been consulted, that he showed no special gift for leading, but rather the reverse, and that he was himself in direct antagonism to most of the traditions and the aspirations of the Radicals who are now the predominant partners in the Party. His view seems to have been that the policy of the Party was to be decided by him, and that the Party was to hear and to obey. The Radical view is that the Party collectively adopts principles, and that the only mission of the Leader is to give effect to them. The Party is the captain of the ship, the Leader is the man at the wheel who steers as the captain directs.

Difficult as the position was when Lord Rosebery was Premier, it became more difficult with him as Leader of the Liberal Party in opposition. This, as Lord Rosebery has himself explained, is the necessary consequence of the Leader not being in the House of Commons. During the last session his existence was absolutely ignored in the House of Commons, not only by the rank and file of the Party, but by his late colleagues. When the latter held private councils as to their course of action, he was not invited to consult with them. Some of them were hostile to any idea of his continued leadership, others, although they recognized that this leadership had proved a fatal mistake, held aloof from all expression of opinion, as they wished to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, until the event proved whether hare or hounds would have the disposal of office when the Liberal Party returned to power. Occasionally he made a speech in the Provinces, but these speeches attracted little attention. I am not, therefore, surprised that he has thrown up the sponge: The position, in fact, was untenable for a self-respecting man.

I gather from Lord Rosebery's speech at Edinburgh that the decision was taken rather from a general consideration of his position than from any great divergency of view with Mr. Gladstone and other Liberals on the Armenian question, although it was perhaps precipitated by this divergency. Mr. Gladstone has said that he does not urge that we should engage in a crusade against all Europe in order to secure good government in Turkey. His view is that we have been the mainstay of the integrity of that Empire, and that we should announce that we will be so no longer, but that if Turkey's neighbours wish to put an end to that rule, we will in no way interfere with them. Lord Rosebery's opinion is that we have so direct an interest in the maintenance of Turkish integrity that we claim that no attack should be made upon it by any Continental Power—but that we are ready to act in concert with Europe to reform the government of the Sultan. Mr. Gladstone has always been for this European concert. He is against it now, because he realises that we and the rest of Europe are not at one as to interference, and that consequently such concert merely means giving the Sultan a free hand to misgovern. In his remarks on our foreign policy, Lord Rosebery fell into a curious contradiction. Our foreign policy, he said, is to be above Party, *i.e.*, whoever is Foreign Secretary ought to be left a perfectly free hand to do as he pleases. But later on in his speech, he expressed approval of Mr. Gladstone having put himself at the head of an agitation against the Government of Lord Salisbury, when the Bulgarian atrocities took place and Russia interfered to put an end to them.

At Edinburgh Lord Rosebery alluded to Mr. Asquith as his successor, and Mr. Asquith responded to the compliment by urging his lordship to withdraw his resignation, and assured him, if he did so, of the united support of the Liberal Party. A similar advice and a similar assurance is, I see, given by some of the Liberal newspapers that have distinguished themselves by their subservient laudation of the late Premier, whilst the Tory organs, one and all, who only a few days ago were denouncing him as a hopeless idiot, now tell us that we ought to implore him on our knees to become once more our Leader, as he is the only Liberal in whom they have a vestige of confidence. All this is nonsense. Many Liberals accepted Lord Rosebery's nominal leadership as a dire necessity, and felt disposed to leave the future to deal with it, rather than provoke a crisis by overt action. But if the Parliamentary Liberals were called together to-morrow Lord Rosebery would have as little chance of being elected Liberal Leader as Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett. With us Radicals, who have always protested against his leadership, it is no question of personal antipathy. We wish Lord Rosebery all prosperity and happiness, but we believe, as we always have believed, that Democracy is cabined, cribbed, and confined by having as its head a great nobleman, without much Parliamentary experience, without any very definite opinions, and without a grim determination to trample under foot everything that stands in the way of Democratic advance. With us the future of Democracy is involved in this question of the leadership, and there is room for no compromise. Lord Rosebery has himself recognised that, with his political views, and with the impossibility of his being in the House of Commons, his leadership of our Party is impossible. I respect him for the frankness with which he has admitted this, and for his having, without consulting the toadies and waiters on Providence who had pinned their hopes of personal advancement on his continued leadership, acted upon a decision which does honour to his common sense and to his self-respect. "The honourable gentleman," said Mr. Disraeli once in the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. Bright, "cannot, say what he may, prevent me from having had the honour of having been Prime Minister." This proud position Lord Rosebery has held. It may be that he will once again hold it, but, if so, it will be not as Leader of the Radicals, but as Leader of a Party formed by a union of Conservatives and Whigs, with a common bond of action in resistance to that absolute and entire rule of the people by the people, which is involved in that blessed word, Democracy. The Earl of Warwick was the last of the Barons, and sincerely do I trust, in the interest of all those sweeping reforms that Radicals deem needful for the welfare of the community, that the Earl of Rosebery, clever and well-meaning as he may be, will be the last of the Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, and Barons, under whose leadership Radicals will allow themselves to be led to perdition.

In the Liberal Party, and especially in the Party as represented in the House of Commons, there are a considerable number of gentlemen who can hardly be called Radicals. Some of them have entered Parliament with a view to grinding their own axes, and they perch themselves on a fence, ready to come down either on the Moderate Liberal or on the Radical side, as each may in their estimate furnish the best ground. Amongst these you have the lawyer who wants to be a Judge—County Court if nothing better can be obtained—the very rich man who would be a Peer, the man who thinks that he ought at least to be made a Knight, the man who is desirous to obtain some sort of social recognition by being invited to the omnium-gatherums of the party entertainers; the man who hopes that he will become a paid deputy-mop-squeezer in a Liberal Administration, and the man in whom is strongly developed that essentially British malady of servile respect to all the Lord Tom Noddies that constitute "Society." Others there are, who are really Conservative in heart, and who have a sneaking love for all these political privileges that are the bane of our present Constitution. All these different categories are loud-mouthed at elections in the profession of the most ultra-democratic sentiments, but, now on this ground, now on another, they find means to evade voting on the side of their profession, or, if they do so, they look to something occurring to prevent the vote being anything beyond a pious opinion which is to have no practical result. To all these gentlemen a Leadership such as that of Lord Rosebery was a perfect godsend. They thought themselves safe from the realisation of their electoral promises, they hoped that the Liberal Party might possibly get once again into office by their opponents making mistakes, and by that "swing of the pendulum" which is the sheet anchor of the wire-pullers; and they expected that their personal advocacy of the man might be the casting of bread upon the waters, for which the man would in the fulness of time reward them. Now all this was very well when politics were but a faction fight for the spoil between two rival gangs. But, unfortunately for such calculations, amongst the large portion of the electorate, who care for neither of the gangs, it was not calculated to arouse enthusiasm, and my conviction is that it either would have ended in a Conservative majority at the next General Election, or in a victory by which Democracy would have gained nothing. At present, sincere Radicals have once again a chance to put an end to this barren folly. They must have a programme, and a drastic one, and they must take care that they are not jockeyed out of it by false friends and by private axe-grinders. With such a programme, it is possible that we may for a time be defeated, but at least we shall have something worth fighting for, and if we do achieve success, that success will mean something more than a shower of titles, and the noses of one gang replacing those of another gang in the public manger.

There can be no question as to Lord Rosebery's successor. Sir William Harcourt is the Liberal Leader

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in the House of Commons, and well and ably has he fought the battles of the Opposition. As a Parliamentarian he is head and shoulders above the other occupants of the front Opposition bench. This, I am convinced, is the view entertained by nine-tenths of the Liberal and Radical M.P.s. I see that Mr. Spence Watson has summoned a meeting of the National Liberal Federation, and that Mr. Evans, the Vice-President of the Association, has informed the Press that every Liberal Association throughout the country was true to Lord Rosebery. Apparently he arrives at this conclusion because no Association had informed the Association that it was not. The National Liberal Association is extinct as a factor in the Liberal Party. In times gone by it was an independent body, fairly representing Liberal thought. Of late it has been a sort of annexe to the wirepulling clique that affected to direct matters in Parliament-street with the same habitat and the same officials. The resolutions at its meetings were submitted to it ready-made, and no amendments were allowed. The delegates attending these meetings were in the main the selections of the subordinate local wirepullers, acting under the directions of Parliament-street. The few who were independent were perforce obliged to hold their tongues. This scheme of two persons in one and one in two, both the one and the two being the cleverest of wirepullers, disgusted the Radicals throughout the country, and no one cares one brass farthing what the National Liberal Federation may say or do upon any question.

I have a high opinion of Mr. Asquith, and I regard him as a most useful member of the Liberal Party. But I hardly see why he should be made the Leader of the Party because Lord Rosebery has recommended it. When Elijah went up to heaven, his mantle descended on Elisha, who was thus designated by the old prophet as his successor. But Lord Rosebery has not left us in a chariot of fire for Paradise. He remains with us, and possibly he contemplates again leading us. Mr. Asquith's selection has, therefore, a good deal too much of the warming-pan about it to be a suitable one. However, it is useless discussing it, for beyond a few Press men, and possibly a few of the little clique that intrigued for Lord Rosebery succeeding Mr. Gladstone, I doubt if it is deemed by any one within the area of practical politics.

PREMPEH IN PRISON.

The *Daily Telegraph* in a recent issue informed the British nation "that the deposed Ashanti monarch, Prempeh, has settled down quietly into the comparative retirement into which circumstances drove him, and is giving the British authorities no trouble." "The comparative retirement into which circumstances drove him" is good. A competent witness on the spot, whose statement is before me, asserts that "the King and his followers (including women) are confined in two rooms, measuring about 12 ft. square, in which all have to sleep indiscriminately without any provision for privacy or even decency." Imagine some superior authority, who disapproved of the manner in which the *Daily Telegraph* is conducted, marching down to Peterborough Court with a force of infantry and artillery, removing the editor and his staff to Holloway Gaol, and locking them up there with their female belongings, in a couple of apartments 12 ft. square, and you have a very close parallel to "the comparative retirement into which circumstances drove" the deposed Ashanti monarch. Were a subsequent issue of the *Daily Telegraph* to announce that the deposed editor was "settling down quietly" in his "comparative retirement," and "giving the authorities no trouble," it strikes me that my worthy contemporary would regard such expressions as ill-timed sarcasm. Anyhow, if he acquiesced cheerfully in the situation, he would be more of a philosopher than poor old Prempeh.

If the *Daily Telegraph*, or any one else, intends to suggest that Prempeh is in any way reconciled to his present position, the suggestion is absolutely false. The captive monarch has "settled down" to precisely the extent which any other prisoner settles down when clapped into gaol, but no more; and it is high time, notwithstanding the many sensational questions now occupying the Press, that the country gave some thought to his position and to his future treatment. Prempeh himself has put a forcible protest on record in the shape of a "humble petition," which he addressed to Mr. Chamberlain in July. A copy of this petition I have received through the instrumentality of Mr. Michael Davitt, who interested himself in the case of the Ashanti prisoners last session; and the document, although formally addressed to the Colonial Secretary, concerns the whole country, and ought to be publicly noticed. The case that Prempeh puts forward may be thus summarised:—

1. That in 1888 he was placed in the presence of British Commissioners on "the stool of his ancestors."

2. That from that day onwards he maintained friendly relations with the British Government until the beginning of the present year.

3. That since 1892 he has been in negotiation with the Government with the view of bringing himself and his dominions under the Queen's protection.

4. That for the purpose of furthering these negotiations he in the present year sent envoys to England.

5. That these envoys were officially informed that an expedition was about to be despatched to Coomassie, tha tBritish officers would accompany them back, and that if the King "offered no resistance the matter would be settled peaceably."

6. That the commissioners on their return informed him (Prempeh) that he was required to send three principal Chiefs to Prahsu to meet the Governor of the Gold Coast, make submission, and accept the British terms; and also to send two hostages for the observance of these terms, accept a British Resident, give a piece of land for the erection of a Residency, and pay the costs of the expedition.

7. That he thereupon sent the Chief, as required, to make full submission and accept the British terms, and also sent "two Princes of the Blood Royal," to be held by her Majesty's Government as hostages.

8. That all the persons so sent returned at the end of a week, and reported that Captain Donald Stewart informed them that the expedition would come to Coomassie in any event.

9. That he (Prempeh) next sent back the deputies and hostages, who returned reporting that they had been turned back and ill-treated by the British.

10. That he then despatched Prince Albert Ansah with a letter to Captain Donald Stewart, stating that he was prepared to accept all the terms notified by the Governor, and that he "*had made proclamation throughout his territory that all weapons should be removed to the interior, and that no resistance should be offered to the expedition.*"

The petition then recites the arrival of the expedition and the Governor, and the incident of the monarch's

submission "by removing his head-gear and sandals, and lowering his cloth, and by kneeling at his Excellency's feet." Then comes the following account of the circumstances of his removal and imprisonment:—

14. His Excellency then demanded the immediate payment of the balance of the indemnity imposed by the Treaty of Tomana of 1874, and of the expenses of the present expedition. Your petitioner replied that he was not prepared to pay such an amount at once, but offered such gold as he had in hand, amounting to 300 peregwins, equal to £2,670, and to pay the balance in one week, if time were allowed, and to give two hostages as security for the payment thereof.

15. His Excellency refused this proposition, and your petitioner with his mother, her husband, Kwesi Jembibi, Chiefs Ajiman, Asafu Bwatchi, Amankwetsu, and Subirri, all Princes of the Blood Royal; Apia, King of Mampon; Apia, Chief of Ofisu; Afranin, King of Ejisu; Ejakun, Head of the Royal Tribe; Akwaku, Chief Linguist; Kwaku Aurisu, Second Linguist; Bwatchi Atonsu, Captain of the Royal Body-guard, were made prisoners and subsequently brought to the coast under the guard of the British troops and lodged in the Fort St. George d'Elmina, where they now are.

16. Your petitioner begs to represent that he has offered no resistance to her Majesty's troops, has accepted the terms put forward by her Majesty's representative, and that he is prepared to pay the indemnity if allowed a reasonable time to collect the amount, but that he cannot arrange for the payment unless he is given opportunity to meet his Chiefs, which he cannot do as long as he is detained a prisoner.

That this petition recites the whole truth and nothing but the truth I should be sorry to assert. Although holding the opinion that the late expedition to Coomassie was a stupid and uncalled-for proceeding—except from the point of view of the various colonial and military officials who have profited by it—I do not shut my eyes to the fact that the British Government had certain grounds of complaint against Prempeh, which are ingeniously slurred over in the captive monarch's pleading. But treating the petition as an *ex parte* statement, certain points in it are beyond controversy. The chief of these is that the Ashanti King never from first to last manifested the slightest disposition to offer any forcible resistance to our demands on him. On the contrary, he sent his envoys to England with full power to concede everything reasonable, and they were treated as impostors. He met the advancing expedition with the fullest offers of submission, and never made the slightest show of resistance; but the force, nevertheless, pushed on to his capital and there inflicted upon him a humiliation, which could not have been more abject had he offered every conceivable defiance and insult to her Britannic Majesty and her Government. If it be true that the letter notifying his proclamation against the use of arms was delivered to the British Commander—and Prempeh states that his messengers informed him that the letter was duly delivered—the expedition is revealed in a more ridiculous light than ever before. Here we have it solemnly asserted by the sovereign on whom we were supposed to be making war, that he issued a Royal proclamation to his subjects to offer no resistance; and in order to make sure that no possible violence should be offered to the invader, actually ordered all arms to be sent into the interior. The British commander may have distrusted this statement, or may have preferred not to believe it. But the facts remain that Prempeh had up to that time done everything a monarch in his position could to declare his full submission; and, what is of more importance, that no resistance of any kind was ever offered to the British force from the time it started till the time it returned. I believe I am correct in stating that in the whole "campaign" not a shot was ever fired or a hostile force seen; and all the circumstances, therefore, tend to confirm Prempeh's statement that his subjects had been disarmed on the approach of the expedition. A more ignominious farce was never perpetrated in the guise of a military operation; and though no one questions that all ranks of the force did such duty as was required of them with loyalty and devotion, the distribution of honours and decorations for such service is calculated to deprive such rewards of all value in the eyes of soldiers who know what fighting is. Well may the men who have waited in vain for official recognition of their valour and sufferings in such arduous operations as those against the Kachin tribes in 1892-3, gnash their teeth over such a prostitution of military honours as the Ashanti decoration!

The other point brought out by Prempeh's petition is this: that the ostensible ground for making him prisoner and deporting him from the country after he had made submission was his failure to meet at once the demand for an indemnity; and that this course puts it entirely out of his power to comply with the demand. The official justification of the course taken will be, I suppose, that the King's professions of inability to meet the demand made were not believed; that he was supposed to possess treasure somewhere in concealment; and that it was expected that a term of imprisonment would cause the production of the cash—the same argument in effect as is applied in the County Courts, when a committal order is made against a judgment debtor who can pay and won't. But even in the County Courts, where procedure is often free and easy enough, some sort of "proof of means" is required before the committal order is made. The hastiest County Court Judge would hardly consign a debtor to gaol on the mere suspicion of the creditor that the defaulter had buried a bag of sovereigns somewhere in his back garden. What ground was there for suspecting that Prempeh had concealed treasure somewhere? Does that ground still exist? And is there any longer reasonable cause for supposing that imprisonment will cause the captive to disgorge? In the same paragraph from the *Daily Telegraph* from which I have quoted above occurs the following timely information:—

The impression that the ex-King had concealed the bulk of his wealth before the arrival of the Special Service Corps at Coomassie no longer prevails, and the Government officials believe that the collection which has been on view in this country comprised the whole of the so-called "treasure."

Very well. Then "the Government officials" have imprisoned Prempeh on false pretences, and they owe it to him and to the honour of the country to release him without further delay. Whether they ever had any reasonable ground for suspecting that Prempeh had "concealed the bulk of his wealth," is, I should say, doubtful. The equivalent of £2,670 sterling, which the ex-King says he offered to pay down upon the spot, is a fairly substantial sum for an African backwood potentate to have in his possession, and I question whether his name on a cheque or a bill would have been considered good for even that amount in the City of

London. If he only asked Sir William Maxwell for a week's credit, undertook to pay the indemity by that time, and offered respectable security for the payment—the British forces at that time holding his capital and his person at their mercy—it seems to me that his request was a reasonable one, which any civilised Power ought to have granted, and that his deportation and imprisonment on the mere suspicion of having concealed some of his assets were utterly unjustifiable from the first. By the way, it is alleged by those in Cape Coast Colony who have interested themselves on Prempeh's behalf that in the search for buried treasure the Royal graves were dug up, the bodies in them desecrated, and such valuables as they contained appropriated. If this was done, it was a gross outrage, dishonourable to all who authorised or took part in it, and indirectly reflecting a stain upon all of us. I trust that Sir William Maxwell and Sir Francis Scott, who are both, I believe, still in England, will be able to give some full and satisfactory denial of the story, and I shall be happy to assist in publishing the denial. But the fact that Prempeh was suspected of having concealed vast stores of wealth, and that this wealth has been searched for in vain, coupled with the exhibition aforesaid of loot in the shape of Ashanti valuables and antiquities, give sufficient colour to the allegation to entitle it to notice.

Very possibly Prempeh is not an ideal monarch, nor in all respects estimable as a man. "Stories, I know, are told not to his credit." Kings are, as a rule, unfavourable specimens of humanity; and an African King, living near enough to civilisation to have acquired many of our vices and to have formed a contempt for our virtues, is not likely to be an exceptionally attractive representative of Royalty. But there are certain rules of fair and honourable dealing which ought to be observed, even in our relations with African kings, and there are certain duties and considerations to be observed in all the dealings of a strong, civilised nation with a weak and barbarous one. It seems to me that Prempeh has been dealt with neither fairly nor considerately, and that our "prancing proconsuls," for their own honour and glory, have manufactured empty pretexts for subjugating him and his people. If all that is now required of him is money, it is clear that he cannot raise that money in a dungeon on the Gold Coast. He ought to be given, under proper security, a reasonable opportunity of putting himself in funds. If, on the other hand, the money is a mere pretext for deposing him in the British interest, he ought to be provided for properly, and not caged up with his household and relatives, male and female, in a couple of apartments—whether measuring 12 ft. square, or more. We have enough sins against African monarchs on our hands and consciences, without adding this.

DR. FOLEY FINDS HIS TONGUE.

On September 17, I published a full statement of a disgraceful case, in which a so-called "Dr." Foley, practising as a dentist in Westbourne-grove and other places, had charged a domestic servant £126 for two sets of artificial teeth supplied to her, and incidental work connected with fitting them. In a letter that I have now received from him, this Foley informs me that he has read my remarks "with astonishment." His astonishment must have stricken him dumb, for not till October 7—three weeks after the appearance of the article—did he sit down to write his reply. As I have quite made up my mind about this individual, I do not intend to waste my time and my readers' by going over the case again at any length. The only passage in his letter which I consider worth notice is the following:—

> In common fairness to myself I must ask you to give this explanation the same publicity you did the previous malicious mis-statements about myself and practice. This will allow the readers of your paper to form an opinion of the "Truth" of your article, and let them see how valuable your information is when distorted by you. Unless you do this and withdraw the offensive and malicious remarks you have made about me, I shall have no alternative but to proceed as advised.

It is a pity that Mr. Foley did not take advice as to how to proceed before he wrote me this letter. He makes certain statements in this document in defence or excuse for his charge of £126 for supplying two sets of teeth to this misguided cook. He says that the woman herself ordered two sets, that he did not know she was a servant until her employer called on him to refund the money, that she herself desired that each "case" (of which he had told her it would be necessary for her to have five) should be made in gold, that "the case was an exceptional one, requiring special treatment," and so on. That there might be no mistake about it, I have submitted this letter to the woman herself, and she absolutely denies all Foley's allegations, so far as they come within her personal knowledge. I have not the slightest doubt that she is speaking the truth, and I should not dream of accepting Foley's statement in opposition to her evidence. In this attitude I am fortified by what passed on the occasion when a representative of Mr. Foley waited on the cook's present employer, in response to the demand which had been made for a return of the money, under threat of legal proceedings. At this interview a third gentleman was present, who concurs in the account given me of what passed. The admissions of Foley's representative on this occasion are directly at variance with what Foley now asks me to believe, and the promise to refund £40 was made after it had been represented to him that dental experts had pronounced the charges monstrous, and without any reference whatever to the patient's means.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Foley's letter to me is obviously a tissue of fictions, and his impudence in writing as he does only aggravates his conduct throughout the case. Whether the "case was an exceptional one requiring exceptional treatment," is a technical question as to which I profess to know nothing. All I say is that the attempt to extort £126 out of a poor and ignorant woman was a downright swindle. If "Dr." Foley thinks that he can convince a jury to the contrary, I shall be very pleased to uphold my opinion whenever called upon, and

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

Messrs. Lewis & Lewis, of Ely-place, will answer on my behalf any further communications he may have to make. But until a jury has decided that he was justified in attempting to obtain this money, I shall not withdraw a word that I have said about the case.

"ROSEMARY."

Charles Wyndham's performance of the love-sick bachelor in "Rosemary" is one of the very best things of the kind that has been seen on the English stage for over a quarter of a century. I am not exaggerating at all when I deliberately say this. But I must preface what I intend to say on this point with one material suggestion. To me it seems that the performance is infinitely and incomparably better now than it was at the outset. Charles Wyndham was ill, nervous, harassed, and overworked when "Rosemary" was first produced. It was then the brilliant effort of a tired man. And to add to the difficulty, the last act—far too long at the outset—clogged the play. No one in the wide world wanted to see Charles Wyndham play an old man. It was hateful to the majority. He is young, and ever must be young, like the late Alfred Montgomery. But if the necessities of art required Charles Wyndham to be an old man, then the less of the old man the better. Critical hints on the first performance have been sensibly adopted, and we see as little of the senile Sir Jasper as possible. "All's well that ends well," and the delightful play "Rosemary" ends now as a dramatic poem should end, gracefully and with effect. But Charles Wyndham, invigorated with the mountain air of the Engadine and Scotland, is a different Charles Wyndham altogether from the Charles Wyndham who first created Jasper Thorndyke.

As played now at the Criterion, the performance is one of the most human, real, pathetic, and natural that the playgoer of present or past has seen. I speak by the card. Charles Wyndham in his various moods and periods has been compared to two great actors, two of the very best that the English stage has seen in the last half century. I allude to Charles Mathews and the elder Sothern—Edward Askew Sothern. The comparison was not at all inapt. Charles Wyndham in his first, early farce period had much of the mercurial spirits and intense vivacity of Charles Mathews. He possessed what Charles Mathews possessed—charm, grace, and a winning personality. The delight of the style of Charles Mathews can only be described in the words of the old playgoer, who saw him act one night and heard as he went out of the house that the reckless, delightful, devil-me-care actor had been declared a bankrupt. "That man a bankrupt!' observed the fine old playgoer. "Then it is a disgrace to England that she does not pay his debts." Such was the personal charm of Charles Mathews. Charles Wyndham possesses it all. I think his humour is more pronounced than that of his predecessor. Again, Charles Wyndham has been compared to the elder Sothern. The comparison is a natural one. I have seen and criticised all these actors, and I have a right to give an opinion upon them.

But Charles Mathews and Edward Sothern possessed a common failing. They could not touch the heart. No man or woman living ever shed a tear over the brilliant acting of Charles Mathews. It was the passion of Sothern's life to be considered a romantic actor, a kind of English Fechter, but he failed again and again. In romance he was hard, wooden, often ludicrous. His humour was delightful; his pathos execrable. He had every advantage in his favour, youth, good looks, a gallant bearing, every gift that Nature could give him. He was a lady-killer, but he could not make love—on the stage. His last act of "David Garrick," and the scene with Ada Ingot, left me with dry eyes, and I am a sympathetic audience in myself. My test of sympathetic acting is myself. I am the barometer. If the weather is set fair, or stormy, or much rain on the stage, it is registered on this piece of wood, mercury, and glass. When Charles Wyndham played David Garrick, he very nearly reached the pathetic stop—but not quite. It is the most difficult thing in the world to separate the pathetic situation from the pathetic actor. At a pathetic situation many an audience weeps, but the genuine tears come with the pathetic actor. At last, Charles Wyndham has touched the human heart. He came very near it in David Garrick—very near it, indeed, but did not quite reach it on the first night of "Rosemary." But now it has come full flood. There is no doubt about it, Charles Wyndham's scene of resignation, his duty scene of abandonment and honour with the frivolous little heartless coquette who has enslaved him, is the finest and most human scene enacted on the stage since Fechter played "Ruy Blas." "Hang your Frenchman!" some one will say. "Quote us an Englishman as a comparison." I will do so. Leigh Murray in the "Marble Heart." Wyndham is as fine in pathos and in art as Leigh Murray was as the love-sick, heart-broken sculptor in the "Marble Heart." I can give him no greater compliment. In accent, in tone, in human sympathy, and in nature, the English stage has seen few more beautiful things than Sir Jasper Thorndyke as now played at the Criterion. I ask myself if I am right, and cudgel my brains and memory. The Sidney Carton of John Clayton in "All for Her"—very beautiful. The George d'Alroy of Fred Younge—the original in "Caste"—an exquisite performance, indeed. But I throw in my vote for the Jasper Thorndyke of Charles Wyndham, for I have seen all these men, criticised all these performances, and am doubtless scorned and execrated as a mere *laudator temporis acti*. What nonsense! As if a Sarah Bernhardt cannot be as great as a Rachel! As if an Ellen Terry cannot outrun and out-match a Mrs. Jordan or a Peg Woffington! As if a Henry Irving has not done things greater and more artistic than a David Garrick or a Kean! As if Charles Wyndham cannot be a Mathews, Sothern, and Leigh Murray thrown into one! There is no past in dramatic art. It is all present and future. But those who have seen the past will not accept the present at its own valuation. They want the guarantee of their own experience.

The mere excellence of Charles Wyndham's Sir Jasper

absolutely puts the play out of balance. We who watch the scenes cannot conceive how a middle-aged bachelor who thinks, who dreams, who has studied women, can be caught by the mere beauty and innocence of a heartless and brainless little baggage. What is there in this silly little girl that would attract so deeply-thinking and observant a man? Possibly Nature will answer, Yes; such things do occur—they occur daily. Mere physical charm will upset the applecart of an Anthony, an Alexander, a Dante, or a Merlin. Be this as it may, the little English girl of the early nineteenth century could not have been more charmingly played than by Miss Mary Moore. She was, and is, delightful. She may have her views about the Anthonys and the Merlins, and her experience of life and its varieties, but she follows the authors' intentions to the very letter, and it is one of the best things this pretty actress has ever done. Nor should Mr. Jack Barnes be dismissed without praise. The old Professor is a fine, manly performance; in fact, "Rosemary" should not be missed. It is the best play, as a play simple and as an acted play, now to be seen in London.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH.

As the uncontrolled master of the Russian Treasury, the Czar is the richest man on earth. He rules a greater extent of territory than any other Sovereign. No other Court than his can show as much archaic or modern splendour. His army is actually, and his navy is becoming, the biggest that there is. As an international arbiter he becomes like the pointsman of a great railway junction. The inconsistencies and incongruities of his vast Facing-both-ways-Empire are harmonised by his absolute power. As Czar he is a perpetual Court of Appeal to the endless provinces and peoples under him. The Little Father can with a word right the wrongs his great administrative machine inflicts on them. The Czar directs the wills of nearly a hundred millions of Orthodox subjects. The whole moral force of the Greek Church in Russia is his to command. He is subject to the laws of nature, but art and science are constantly helping him to turn them. Were his baby to cry for the moon, opticians and astronomers could be used to bring it nearer to her. No human creature ever bore a greater weight of responsibility, national and international. The load is such that one might imagine he required the hearty spirits of a Jupiter, the resource of a Mercury, the callousness of a Saturn, and the broad shoulders of an Atlas to bear up against it.

Fancy our astonishment at seeing the Czar face to face, with a few millions of voluntary subjects about him; and these subjects, too, the heirs of all the ages, and the fine flower of Greek, Latin, and Christian civilisation! They had been suggestionised into subjection, just as Pan suggestionised armies to run away. The influences that brought them into a paroxysm of self-renouncement were various. Among them were—a rage to recover Alsace-Lorraine; a rage to be quits with Germany, which had grown too overbearing; and a rage to expand in Africa, Tonquin, and other outlandish places. But, more than anything else, there was this hidden reason: the Russian alliance was in 1891-92 the last card of Panama, and the discredited Panamists played it boldly and adroitly, and succeeded.

A friend writes from England:—"My eyes glitter with envy when I think how much you have seen of the most interesting pageant of modern history." My feeling was one of wonder at human nature. The "what went ye out for to see?" of the greatest and shrewdest Idealist, who had seen the Czardom of Tiberius, constantly rang in my mind. There was so very little in the outriders' carriages and four, the finery of the ladies, the uniforms and gold lace of courtiers and diplomats, who had eaten and drank too much, gambled too much, tricked too much, and kow-towed all their lives. What redeemed the show was the Czar and Czarina. But they did so in a way that nobody expected, and few valued. Long before the three days were over, I was ready to cry "Illah Allah," for there is no greatness to speak of short of *Allah*.

It will help your fancy to hear what manner of man the Czar is, and what a foil he had in M. Faure. The President stood between Nicholas and Alexandra as they descended from the palace on wheels at Passy railway to drive through Paris. The excellent President is pompous, portly, scrupulously attentive to externals, self-satisfied, likes to be thought a Lord Bountiful, and has lots of "side." The Czar has just body enough to maintain and sheathe a high-strung nervous system. One can hardly realise that he is he, so modest, quiet, and unaffected is his bearing. He is refined without being finical, delicate without effeminacy. Though extremely impressionable and emotional, he behaves like a man of a cold nature, and keeps under all circumstances a level head. Greek artists, orators, writers understood the beauty of restraint. This is a virtue that has become a second nature to the Czar. A French officer of his following, used to more demonstrative manners, thought he was made of ice. His rare smiles, he said, were pale and chill as polar sunbeams.

I do not share this opinion, and one way or another I saw a good deal of Czar and Czarina. French taste has been spoiled by the assumption by their *chic* people of the inflation, bounce, stagey *panache* of their public men. Spaniards would have felt the Czar's good form. Much of it was induced of course by education, but it seemed natural, and I thought, sweet as a field flower. It was modesty itself, unalloyed with shyness, and one thought the disposition must be obliging. Impossible to be more affable in an easy, quiet, thoughtful way. A pair of candid, kindly blue eyes bring him at once into touch with those who meet his gaze. They are full eyes, and a little like those of Alexander II., but do not, like Alexander's, express a mournful sense of solitude. The under-part of the face, however, shows the habit of reticence. The Czar's impressionable nerves are seldom without the curb. But he cannot when stirred prevent the nervous centres suddenly drawing to themselves all

the blood in his body; this makes his pallor striking, and brings on a state that ought to, but does not, make him quiver all over like a strongly excited thorough-bred horse. Doctors might say from this that he is a *case*. He is not. One detects no morbidness. His cool, collected manner excludes the idea that he is morbid. I should say he has good sense, ability to bend his mind to toil, and cleverness. The *mutin* nose gives the face a charming finish, quite unexpected in an autocrat. The Czar in mind and body takes after the Holsteins, who, since Peter II. and Catherine II. (first cousins), were five times in his genealogy. One sees a touch of this *mutin* nose in the otherwise Greek profile of Catherine; Paul I. had it to a caricatural degree; there is a trace of it in the King of Denmark, and its accentuation is one of the charms of his daughter, Marie Feodorovna. The French say it gives him an *espiègle* expression. A danseuse who figured in the pavane danced before their Imperial Majesties at Versailles, called the Czar's nose *un petit nez polisson*, by which she meant a darling little saucy nose.

I have spoken of the look of loneliness that gave a pathetic interest to Alexander II. One would have said that he never knew what it was to have a friend. The annual sojourn of the Czar at Fredensborg provided him any number of companions of his own rank and breeding. The Greece-Wales-Denmark-Cumberland cousins are now so many tribes of personal friends. The Czar seems to have had a heart as well as a head education, and to have plenty of human nature. Moreover, I imagine that he values most the heart-side of life. If I am not mistaken, he has already learned that Imperial station is not a bed of roses.

This French visit must influence the future life of the Imperial pair. The Czar is a great reader of French novels, plays, and essays, and prefers French pictorial art to any other. But he had not time to visit studios or show connoisseurship unless in his rush round the Louvre. The French showed the Emperor and Empress their best side, which is very charming, and his *sensibilité* charmed them. Of course he and the Empress drew charlatans, impudent tradesmen and women adventurers, male and female, and lunatics, as sugar draws flies. The begging letters, offers of service (mercantile), plans for making earth a heaven, solicitations to visit rare works of art (these were for the Czar) were endless. An inventor offered him for £80,000 a chemical secret that would enable him to destroy a whole army in a few minutes. But Cossack personal attendants, the faithful Danish dog and Russian greyhound, chamberlains and secretaries, formed an impenetrable barrier. Most Kings and Queens set great store on the sincere affection of their dogs. It is reposeful after the insincere cringing of courtiers, whom they must hold in suspicion. The Grand Duchess Olga has been guarded from her birth by a gigantic dog, as her grandmother, the Princess Alice was, in gilded cradle, by a Dandie Dinmont. The Imperial train provides a kennel for canine favourites, and a byre for three cows, which are carefully fed on green meat and exercised to keep them in health. The milk of the Grand Duchess's cow was at each milking microscopically tested. The doctor thought unboiled milk best for a baby.

Like his nose, the Czar's talk is piquant. But he does not seek to shine in conversation, and mistrusts literary effect in speeches. Do you not think that epithets and superlatives rob a ruler's public utterances of dignity? "I am that I am" is the essence of Czarism. This, at any rate, invests it with a kind of grandeur.

The uniform of Hetman of the Cossacks is a dressing-gown of soft cloth open at the sides of the skirt. It concealed, when the Czar was on horseback, the smallness of his figure. Carrying his head well, and broken from infancy to military discipline, he has a soldierly air in the saddle. We noticed what tiny feet he had, and somebody who often danced with the Dowager Czarina said they were a heritage from her.

Nicholas and Alexandra did not shine by the politeness of kings—punctuality. Fatigue was the excuse. They went at a pace of forty-eight hours in the twenty-four, and had to withstand sea-sickness, followed by intense excitement, racket, hourly anxiety for one another's lives, rushing from sight to sight, and holding all the time the candle to human vanity and folly. They had never had to face so many pairs of human eyes; and what sharp eyes, too! The idolatry of the crowds was far less great than expected, but still bewildering. What a sight it must have been to them to see a whole capital and a million of provincials there, ready to fling themselves at their heads, and cry, "Let us amalgamate our armies, nations, treasuries, and change the face of the world!"

But Nicholas II. has not a stomach for military adventure, and will prefer to play French potentiality as a diplomatic card. His high-strung nerves fit him for peaceful triumphs, and make the repose of home-life grateful. The Empress is not a vain, frivolous woman. She is a skilled accompanist, can play the hardest music at first sight, and could make a handsome livelihood as a pianist. Care was taken to provide her with a faultless grand piano—which she could have hardly used.

I do not see why the Empress—a thoroughly well-educated woman—should not wield an influence for good in all directions. The Russians are accustomed to exercise of power by Czarinas. Alexandra is said to wish with all her heart for peace to be preserved and for amity with her great relatives to be preserved. Her mother was a great sufferer from Prince Bismarck's war policy. At the close of the war of 1866 she called a daughter then born Irene, or Peace. She had a wretchedly anxious time when the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt was serving as a General in the invasion of France, and wore out her strength in ambulance nursing. The Czarina dates from 1872. I should not have known her from her photos. She must have sterling qualities which they do not even hint. The nose is like her mother's, and eyes and mouth like the Prince Consort's. The eyes betray standing anxieties, and the watchfulness of one who fears to blunder. They are fine eyes, of a blue that accords with a complexion fresh to the degree of ruddiness, and a matchless head of auburn (not red) hair. She was under all circumstances affable

and lively. I could imagine her taking the helm when waves ran high, and steering safely. She rather, I was told, feared French criticism. It has been entirely in her favour. The Empress looked her best, either simply dressed or *dans ses beaux atours*, with Crown jewels and rich brocades, with her bust rising above an embankment of flowers. She was thus at the Opera House and Français. All girlish characteristics have disappeared, and she is now a fine woman, with features denoting character, and yet delicately chiselled.

Marie Antoinette, whose rooms at Versailles the Imperial couple visited, had for a playmate a schoolroom companion of a German princess, who became Margravine of Hesse-Darmstadt. They corresponded until the Royal Family of France were imprisoned in the Temple. The Margrave was jilted by the wife of Paul I., whose first wife was the Margrave's sister. Thus Hesse-Darmstadt became a hidden link between the Hermitage and Versailles. The Margravine was a clever and able woman, and got Bonaparte to raise her little state to a Grand Duchy, with a population of 1,200,000. Alexandra has thus family associations with Versailles. Could M. Hanotaux have read what I wrote about Louis XV.'s rooms? Dubarry and Pompadour were hidden away, and a peerless Nattie's portrait of Madame Louise of France was set on an easel. She died a Carmelite nun. The floral decorations of these rooms were delicious. Orchids, white lilacs, and French roses predominated.

I thought of watchdogs in seeing the forty officials in charge of the Imperial train. They were literally single-minded. Their one idea was noiselessly to obey orders. I thought them highly picturesque. The Cossack personal attendants were picturesque in another way. The head nurse might, in worse circumstances, have been a lady-help. The baby is a wide-awake, fresh-faced little thing, and like the Edinburghs when they were her age.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

RADICALISM tempered by Rosebery, dear Lady Betty, was neither fish nor flesh. That curious condition no longer exists. The Dalmeny Humpty Dumpty, who was unable to decide whether to be a Radical or a Tory, has "had a great fall," and all the race-horses and all the ring-men "couldn't put Humpty Dumpty in his place again."

. . . . .

On Friday night, at Edinburgh, Lord Rosebery pronounced a powerful funeral oration over his political remains. In the course of this speech he declared that a Liberal Peer-Premier was like a man who had to ride a horse without reins. He omitted to mention, however, that in his case the horse was being saddled for another, but that he had leapt upon its back. To return now and complain that it was difficult to ride is sublime assurance. It would have been astonishing had it been otherwise.

. . . . .

The following passage occurs in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland:"—

"All right!" said the Cat; and this time it vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail and ending with the grin, which remained some time after the rest of it had gone.

"Well, I've often seen a cat without a grin," thought Alice; "but a grin without a cat! It's the most curious thing that I ever saw in all my life!"

Many of us have seen a Party without a Leader, but a Leader without a Party is indeed a most curious circumstance. That is precisely the condition which Lord Rosebery occupied.

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At the meeting at Edinburgh the persuasive and plausible Primrose sprayed his audience over with Rosebery water. The speech was skilfully prepared, and the manner of its delivery was irreproachable. It must, however, be remembered that, if there is now an Armenian question, Lord Rosebery is responsible for its existence. It is Lord Rosebery who created it. Moreover, it is an open secret that, for the sake of continuity, Lord Salisbury adopted the foreign policy of his immediate predecessors, and it is the grave faults in that policy which have caused the numerous difficulties that have recently occurred.

. . . . .

Lord Rosebery has been seeking for a long time for an opportunity to resign with dignity a position which was untenable. The movement organised to force the Sultan to abandon the policy of massacre presented a magnificent opportunity, and Lord Rosebery seized it without delay. Every English man and woman is horrified by the atrocious conduct of the Royal Ripper, but every reasoning or reasonable person scouts the idea of hazarding a European war to deliver the Armenians.

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The superstitious will be much alarmed when they hear of the two accidents which occurred in Downing-street on Saturday. That afternoon Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who had just arrived in England from America, hurried to the Foreign Office to confer with Lord Salisbury, the latter having come from Hatfield for the interview. After the conference Mr. Chamberlain called a cab and by some combination of circumstances this ran against the stone balustrade in front of the Privy Council Office and the horse fell into the area.

Presently Lord Salisbury entered his brougham, and as it was driven out of Downing-street the horse knocked down a boy! It is believed that the conference was held to discuss Anglo-American affairs. The superstitious may be expected now to watch the Venezuelan controversy anxiously.

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Twenty-six years ago the besieged Parisians were eating rats and dogs, were deposing their Emperor, and were devoting themselves to establishing a severe Republican system. Last week the guests of the President of the French Republic were eating "Blanquettes d'Ortolans de Landes," and "Faisans flanqués de Perdreaux sur Croustades," and the Parisians were welcoming the Emperor and Empress of Russia with frantic enthusiasm! The switchback of time develops many strange situations! The death of General Trochu, which occurred on the day the Emperor and Empress entered Paris, was an inopportune reminder of the misfortunes of 1870-1. From Trochu to Tsar what strange events have happened!

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It may interest those who are watching affairs in the East to hear that the Shah of Persia is suffering from an incurable disease.

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Some months ago it was announced in these columns that a syndicate had been formed to acquire Sheen House, near Richmond Park, with the object of forming it into a cycling club. Sheen House and its magnificent grounds have now been acquired upon a lease from Sir Harry Meux, and the club will soon be opened for the use of members. The cycle, like the carriage and the railway, has come to stay. It has frequently been pointed out in these columns that Londoners have within easy reach of every one of them a glorious park, to wit, Richmond Park, which except on Sundays few, if any, visit. The Sheen House Cycling Club is within fifty yards of the Sheen Gate of

Richmond Park, and as West End members are joining the club eagerly it is probable that at last this large and magnificent park will become a fashionable resort. A large sum of money is to be spent in furnishing Sheen House, which is to contain several public and private dining-rooms. Every conceivable improvement is to be added to the grounds, and the syndicate is determined to provide the best cooking at reasonable prices. The formation of the Sheen House Cycling Club was much discussed during the season, and therefore the syndicate starts active operations with the best advice, with general support, and with success assured. On and after November 14 an entrance-fee will be imposed.

* * * * *

A correspondent has sent me the following :—

"Bamborough Castle in Northumberland is being restored by Lord Armstrong, who has bought the property, and by providing buildings elsewhere has managed to obtain control of the entire fabric, the charity schools having been removed to the buildings already mentioned. It is said to be his intention to provide a sort of home of rest in the restored castle for literary men. The work is a colossal one, an army of workmen being employed to complete it. The restoration comprises a vast kitchen and banqueting hall to communicate with the ancient keep, so well known as a landmark, or seamark. On the whole the restoration is being judiciously carried out, although it must be added that the remains of the original castle were so scanty—with the exception of the keep—that it was not possible to do much harm. This is probably by far the most important work of restoration ever attempted in this country, and the spectacle of modern workmen, affiliated to trades unions, fashioning mediæval arrow-slits and building battlements is especially curious. The amount of money expended upon the work must be very great, and although operations have been progressing over a year, comparatively little progress has been made. The example of Lord Armstrong suggests a glorious opening for millionaires who have difficulty in spending their money, for there are many castles in ruins in England where a thorough restoration might be effected. Whether Lord Armstrong will assign rooms in Bamborough Castle to the literary men according to their merits—some in the barbican, some in the keep, some in the dungeons, and others slid down oubliettes, remains to be seen."

Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A MEETING of the Jockey Club is to be held at Newmarket this evening, when Lord Durham is to draw attention to the present unsatisfactory manner in which handicaps are made, and to move a resolution. The present system of handicapping is thoroughly chaotic, and during the last few months the sporting papers have been full of letters animadverting upon the flagrant inconsistencies of the officials, and the hugger-mugger fashion in which a great deal of their work is done. Lord Durham has already done good service as a Turf reformer, and, being a practical man, he is no doubt prepared with some reasonable plan for improving the present arrangements, as it would be of no use to inveigh against them unless he is prepared to suggest a remedy. The blunders in many recent handicaps have been so palpably egregious that one can only conclude that the weights are framed hurriedly and, as it were, with the left hand. It is eminently undesirable, for obvious reasons, that the whole of the great handicaps should be made by one man, the result being that the same mistakes are apparent in all of them. The handicapping of Bellevin at Manchester was perfectly ridiculous and could by no ingenuity be justified.

Although sixty-five two-year-olds were left in for the Imperial Produce Stakes at Kempton Park when the last forfeit was declared, and a subscription of £31 had to be paid on each entry, run or not, yet there were only nine starters on Friday, and the utterly uninteresting character of the race was proved by the fact that, while 7 to 4 was betted on Chelandry, the generous odds of 10 to 1 were offered, bar Lord Rosebery's filly, who, of course, won in a common canter. The running of Cyrenian was disappointing, as he had come to be generally regarded as a really smart colt. Sir Sydney (who has been sold by Mr. M. Dawson to Sir B. Maple) made an ignominious début, but he had been beaten in his trial, and was only started on the off chance. Why there was such strong fielding against Chelandry I cannot conceive, for there was nothing among the other starters to encourage the bookmakers in their hope of a turn-up. When the numbers were hoisted backers laid 5 to 2 on Chelandry, but before the flag fell 7 to 4 was being freely taken, and I believe that some people were able to get on at 6 to 4. Chelandry is engaged in the Middle Park Plate, but Velasquez is to represent Lord Rosebery in that race, and the filly will not be seen out again until the One Thousand Guineas, an event which at present looks like being a match between the Kempton winner and Goletta. Chelandry is in the Derby, the Oaks, the Coronation Stakes, the St. Leger, both the £10,000 stakes at Newmarket, and the Eclipse Stakes. If there was any betting on the Derby Lord Rosebery's pair would be first and second favourites. The filly has made a prodigious improvement during the last few months, but her owner ought to think himself vastly lucky in not having ruined her by the preposterous manner in which she was over-raced at Epsom on hard ground, and after her hard work at that meeting it was running a great risk to start her at Ascot.

There are 104 entries for the Middle Park Plate, but this also seems to be a "one-horse race." Orelio, the Duke of Westminster's dark brother to Ormonde, who is mentioned by some of the sporting papers as being likely to prove the most formidable opponent of Velasquez, will not run. He wants time, and it is doubtful whether he will be seen in public this season, but he may start for the Dewhurst Plate. The Duke's colt, Guernsey, and Lord Alington's fine colt Vesuvian, by Royal Hampton out of Fuse (who began the season with thirty-nine engagements), are also backward. Goletta had no chance with Velasquez at Goodwood, and here she will be meeting him on the same terms. Lord Rosebery's colt holds Berzak perfectly safe on the Doncaster running. Lowly will not run, and Wreath-Or, Sir Sydney, Santa Stella, Monterey, Smean, and Minstrel can have no chance. There was a great deal of talk in the summer about the high promise of Mr. James's 3,900 gs. filly Catherine Luther, but of late nothing has been heard of her; indeed, the high-priced yearlings of 1895 are not coming out well, in spite of the copious laudations of the people who make it their business to write up such stock. Nothing has yet been heard in favour of Mr. Bass's filly by St. Gatien out of Busybody, or of his 700 gs. colt by St. Serf out of Novitiate, dam of Marco. Sir J. Miller has three animals in the Middle Park Plate for which he paid upwards of £2,930 last year, and they have not yet distinguished themselves. Mr. J. A. Miller's 4,100 gs. filly by St. Simon out of Sterling Love has turned out a complete failure, nor have the animals for which Baron Hirsch paid such enormous prices done any good. It seems to me that Velasquez is quite sure to win the Middle Park Plate, and that Galtee More will probably finish second to Lord Rosebery's colt.

When writing last week about the Duke of York Handicap I predicted that either Rampion or Birch Rod would be the winner. The result was a veritable crash for the backers, as Chin Chin (25 to 1) won by a neck from Rampion (100 to 6), and the third was Amberite (33 to 1). Why such long odds were offered against the Duke of Westminster's colt it is impossible to understand. It was hard lines that Rampion should be just beaten by an animal to whom he was giving two years and 1 lb. The honours of the race certainly rested with the Kingsclere colt. There were eighteen starters, so the Duke of York Handicap has lost nothing in the way of popularity by having its value reduced to £2,000, for last year,

when it was a stake of £5,000, there were only thirty-three acceptances (this year there were thirty-five), and then seventeen started. Quarrel was very heavily backed, and he was evidently the great public fancy; but as I stated last week, Lord Rosebery's horse must now be getting rather stale, as he has been in active work since February. Ghislaine has been amiss, and she might just as well have remained at home. The magnificent odds of 50 to 1 were everywhere offered against her. She will probably win a race at Derby or at Manchester.

The last week has been fertile in tragical surprises for Cesarewitch speculators. Portmarnock's collapse was a great blow to the public backers, for he had been the original favourite for this handicap, but every one at Newmarket knew that there was a weak place in the horse, and although he had been going so well on the soft ground, few people there were surprised when they heard that he had pulled up lame after his trial. Cypria was beaten in a trial, and so also was Fiesole, while Arlequin has gone so badly in the betting as to make his supporters quake.

For various reasons speculation on the Cesarewitch has been on a comparatively limited scale, but the Cambridgeshire will be a very heavy betting race, and already there are a dozen most "genuine" candidates. Sir Visto is still favourite, but I do not fancy Lord Rosebery's horse at the weights, and shall not be surprised if Avilion ultimately turns out to be his best candidate. Marco, who will meet Sir Visto at even weights, has been well backed, and for good money. The Manchester and Derby exhibitions of Marco were most unsatisfactory, and he will certainly require to have "come on" very considerably in order to win the Cambridgeshire with 8 st. 10 lb., unless there is an adequate excuse for his dismal show in the Manchester Cup, when he started second favourite (thanks to the money of the gullish herd), and finished in the ruck, never having at any time been prominent in the race. Thais has been very steady in the betting, but I do not for a moment believe that the Prince of Wales's filly can beat Canterbury Pilgrim at the weights, and it is doubtful whether Thais can stay the course with a strong run race. Winkfield's Pride, the Irish colt, is declared to be an absolute certainty, and with 6 st. 8 lb. to carry he is most leniently treated. La Sagesse was withdrawn from the Kempton Park race in order that she might be kept for the Cambridgeshire, but she does not seem to have much chance. Omnium II. will, no doubt, beat all the top-weights if he runs. Kilcock, who figures at 20 to 1, is overweighted. Chit Chat and Laodamia are certain to be backed for the Cambridgeshire if they fail to-day. My own opinion is that whatever beats Shaddock will win. Nothing has been heard about Champaubert since his hollow defeat in the Prix du Conseil Municipal, but it is simply idiotic to pay the slightest attention to the in-and-out running of the French horses. It is a queer thing that M. Abeille's steeds appear to dislike winning exceedingly whenever they are favourites. At Longchamps Champaubert was dead beat after they had gone a mile, and so decisive was his sudden collapse that Cannon at once ceased to persevere with him. That Omnium II. ought to have won the Ascot Cup (for which event I gave him a plumper) was obvious enough to all who saw that race run, and now it must be universally acknowledged that M. de St. Alary's horse was most unlucky in being beaten. I hope that Omnium II. will be entered for next year's Ascot Cup.

Dosser, a colt belonging to Captain Machell, who has been a great tip for all sorts of races, won the Walton Welter Plate at Kempton Park on Friday, and he has not thereby incurred a penalty for the Cambridgeshire, for which race his weight is 6 st. 8 lb., but as the running makes him out to be only about 4 lb. superior to Welbeck he cannot have much chance for that handicap.

Spook won the Richmond Plate at Kempton, this being his first success since he carried off the Union Jack Stakes at the Liverpool Spring Meeting. Spook, however, would not have been successful but for the very palpable refusal of Bradwardine to try when the pinch came. The colt was favourite, and he looked like winning easily, but directly he heard the whips cracking he stopped hopelessly.

There are four foals by Ormonde now in the United States. He is also represented by one two-year-old (Orestes) and by one yearling, a filly named Rosamond, who is owned by Mr. Stamford.

It has been decided to start Persimmon to-morrow for the Lowther Stakes, and he ought to win that race, but it would have been a wiser policy to have "thrown up" this horse for the season after all the work he has done, and having regard to his very valuable engagements next year. I dare say Persimmon will be kept in work until the Houghton week, in order that he may run for the Free Handicap. If Shaddock starts to-morrow he will very likely beat Persimmon, who has to give him 4 lb.

Next week there will be racing at Newcastle (Gosforth Park), Gatwick, and Sandown Park. The fields at the Newcastle Autumn Meeting are almost exclusively supplied by the Yorkshire stables, and the most interesting sport will be at the two Southern fixtures. There are twenty-five acceptances for the Gatwick Handicap of £1,000, which is run on Wednesday, and Safety Pin and Prince Barcaldine are both very well in. The Sandown Foal Stakes of £2,000 would have been a certainty for either Galeazzo or St. Frusquin if those horses had kept on their legs. Thirty-three animals accepted for this race, and Lord Rosebery seems to have an excellent chance of winning with Avilion, who can surely beat Yorker, Conroy, Serfdom, and Lord Hervey, the only other animals in the list which have shown respectable form. It is unlucky for the Duke of Portland that he should have paid forfeit with His Reverence in January last. Avilion will not incur a penalty for the Cambridgeshire by winning this race. There is a huge entry for the Great Sapling Plate of £1,000, and Mr. A. James may win with Catherine Luther, the 3,900 gs. filly by St. Simon out of Heresy, as she ought to be able to beat Berzak and Eager at the weight if she has any pretensions to be really smart. There is also a large entry for the Hersham Plate of £500, including Berzak, who will win if he starts. If the American colt does not run, then Lord Derby may win with Crestfallen. There are twenty-seven acceptances for the Orleans Nursery of £500, and Wreath Or and Mohur are both most leniently treated. However, handicaps of all descriptions are very dangerous to meddle with at this period of the season, when many horses which have been cleverly "steadied" begin to discover an excellence of form which nobody who has watched their earlier running would have been disposed to credit them with.

PARSONS AND PROFESSIONALISM.

It would be impertinent and irrelevant in this column to touch either on politics or theology. But when priests and politicians intrude upon the sphere of sport then it is necessary to retaliate. Of course one knows that Mr. Rowland Hill, of the Rugby Football Union, is possessed of an undying hatred of the modern tendency to professionalism in sport, especially in football. One can respect, if one cannot altogether agree, with a man who expresses honest convictions in such a straightforward manner as he does. But why should a Church Congress afford a platform for such a theme? It was a trite saying of Thomasius, who warned the unlearned about putting their sickles into the field of dread theology. Why should the Church, then, put her sickle into the field of sport, unless it be to cut away the rotten growth and give the good seed room wherein to flourish? This should have been the reason that actuated the Congress in getting the services of Mr. Rowland Hill as a lecturer. Perhaps the organisers of the meeting thought that sport must be touched on because it is fashionable and attracts a lot of attention, and the Church must show broad-mindedness and review every aspect of our national life.

Whatever may have been the cause, there was the effect in the cheers of the Congress as Mr. Rowland Hill cursed the professional football-player, but then he had scarcely

such an assent to his wild crusade when he inveighed against the testimonial to Dr. Grace and the gate-money-making cricket tour of the Australians. Logic and consistency, he said, necessitated this further condemnation; but what do logic and consistency say to a presentation watch and chain for services rendered to sport, and to the tour of Rugby football players in South Africa, where the gate pays expenses? But I return to the professional football player. Poor fellow! he surely has enough kicks and bruises in his own game without being touched up by the ecclesiastical boot as well. He does not deserve to be cursed as he is cursed, and the fact that the members of the Congress cheered his assailant shows how utterly they fail to appreciate the good work that professionalism in football has done. The speaker instanced the Liverpool and Everton match, at which 40,000 people were present watching twenty-two paid players playing first-class football for all they were worth. That is to say, 40,000 people had open-air enjoyment for a whole Saturday afternoon at an entertainment that afforded a common ground for conversation and social intercourse. Where would those spectators have been with the time hanging heavily on their hands if they had not been there? The parsons always answer such a conundrum in a sermon by saying "In the pubs.," but not so bluntly. There were probably more men at that match than there were in all the churches in Liverpool the following Sunday. And yet the Church existed before the Football League. Of course, there are abuses in professional football, and so there are in the Church. But, to carry the war into the enemy's camp, in a football team one man is not paid a large income to do nothing whilst another is called on to bear the burden and heat of the fray at a starvation wage. Well-paid positions in a football team with no work cannot be had by any duffer who has money enough to buy them. A captain cannot jockey a friend into a good place. One man is not paid by several teams at the same time. There are no rich livings with nothing to do; there are no presentations and advowsons to be purchased; there are no pluralities; there are no tithes to be paid whether the payer is a churchman or not; and men get their positions on their merits. The increase of the popularity of football in the North and Midlands necessitated professional play. It was impossible to expect amateurism to flourish in the manufacturing centres. There was not enough material. These paid players give a large number of people healthy recreation, amusement, and excitement. It would be impossible to find vacant spaces sufficient for all these spectators to play football themselves. Nearly all of them, from one cause or another, could not play even as amateurs. Where there is good football there are sure to be a large number of minor organisations, which have sprung up as rapidly as mushrooms all over the kingdom in the last few years. The present popularity and interest in the Association game is almost wholly due to paid players. They have done a lot of good work and are entitled to be defended against such attacks as they were subjected to at an important gathering like the Church Congress. One must admit that the populace are in some cases too devoted to the game. Masters complain of men leaving their work to see matches played, and parsons complain when work is over that their churches are empty. But whose fault is that? It is pure stuff and nonsense to talk about sport for sport's sake, and ignore the money side of the affair. One might as well prate about religion for religion's sake and shut one's ear to the parson's appeal for funds. The monetary question is bound to make itself felt in one way or another. Blackheath is a prosperous football club because it has a good management, a good ground, and, above all, good "gates." In any amateur sport the money acquired is devoted to some club object. The cash benefits the sportsmen indirectly if not directly. The comfort of the members of the M.C.C. is enhanced by the gates at the cricket matches. The spectators at Queen's help to pay the shareholders a dividend. But the person who gets interest on his capital in this way is not a "pro," and yet he may live entirely on the profit drawn from sport. Why, then, should the professional, who is paid directly, be condemned? Abuses, as I have said, do exist, and it is very necessary to ensure that the interests of those who do not desire to be paid for playing football or cricket or taking part in any other sport should be protected. But if it is to be laid down that sport is only properly and honourably indulged in when the sportsman pays every expense, and gets no benefit, direct or indirect, from it, then sport becomes the privilege of millionaires, and the masses must be left out in the cold.

There are some fifty-three teams entered for Army Association football cups, and matches have been arranged between the Army and the Corinthians, London, Surrey, and Middlesex. It is to be hoped that Mr. Lowther, the energetic Hon. Sec. of the Army Football Association, will receive better support than he did last year in these Army matches. It is most unsportsmanlike not to support him with a representative team on the few occasions he mentions when he has to organise all the Cup ties.

A correspondent from Middlesex Hospital calls attention to the fact that their Rugby team was beaten by Lennox by thirty-seven points to nil, and he says that while the Rugby team is nearly defunct the Association is practically moribund. There is ample material for a really good Rugby team, and it is perfectly scandalous that a hospital which until recently did so well in the Cup ties should have come to such a pass as this. The present want of enthusiasm and *esprit de corps* reflects alike on the students and the authorities of the medical school as well.

Needless to say the swimming entertainment given by the Otters was a great success. The excitement over the team match between the club and the rest of London was intense. Cohen and Allason swam grandly at a critical moment, and the club well deserved its victory. It is all very well for some people to say that they could get another team to represent London that would beat the one chosen. It is extremely doubtful if this could be done, and if one or two who were originally invited did not see fit to accept they have only themselves to blame. The others may well be proud of the strength of their club. Their ornamental swimming was very clever, and Allason followed up Green's successes by winning the plunging championship, and cutting all records at the Lewisham baths. There is now a time limit of one minute for the plunge. The consequence is the take off from the board and the method of entering the water is much more carefully studied. The winner did over 73 ft. in the minute. The Cygnus Club had a very pleasant meeting, and both the club and open handicaps produced good finishes, Welch and Gammon being the winners.

Sheen House is to be converted into a cycle club. There will be a cement track and professional riders will race for the benefit of the members. If I am not very much mistaken the club and track will supply a want which is making itself felt. Cycling is now so popular that there are a class of gentlemen riders who would very much like to race. For reasons that need not be discussed they do not care about going about to bicycle meetings and being harassed by the vexatious regulations of the National Cyclists Union officials. At a club like the one that has been referred to it will be possible on a suitable track to organise regular race meetings irrespective of the N.C.U. If these races are started and properly managed, bicycle-racing will not long be confined to the class of racers to which it is at present. And so much the better for the trade. A correspondent says that in St. Petersburg there are few lady riders and every one has to pass a pretty severe test before getting a licence and a number. In Stockholm all riders wear huge numbers which are registered on the back of the saddle. He considers this is degrading and thinks it lowers a private rider to the level of a hackney cab. But the method is not without merits.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, sclicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Although a temporary improvement occurred at one time in the stock markets during the past week, it has not been maintained, several fresh unsatisfactory developments playing into the hands of the "Bears." It is true that the Czar's visit to Paris has come to an end without any hitch, and without any political incident which could give offence to the other Powers. It appears also that an understanding has practically been arrived at between this country, Russia, and France regarding the measures to be taken concerning Turkey, and all fears of the Eastern Question leading to an European war may now be dismissed as groundless. But there has unfortunately again been

A Crop of Untoward Incidents

which has for the time caused a fresh set-back in most of the departments. The Kaffir Circus is but slowly emerging from another scare, due chiefly to the discomfiture of a large French operator, whose account precisely in the dangerous gambling counters against which I have so often warned my readers, viz., Rand Mines, Limited, East Rands, and Consolidated Goldfields, has had to be closed. His stock has now all been taken over, and the position has also improved by an agreement come to amongst the leading South African millionaires to support their stocks simultaneously, and to prevent any further decline, thus counteracting the "Bear" tactics, which have depressed this market so much of late. Apprehensions are being entertained of a further rise in the value of money, owing to the renewal of gold shipments to the United States, something like a million sterling having already been despatched from London and Paris. It is not improbable that further amounts will follow, although it is not expected that the movement will assume very large proportions. The efflux of gold, while strengthening the position in the United States, is opposed to the recovery which had commenced in gilt-edged securities, and these are, as I have frequently remarked, still too high. In view of the splendid traffic returns, however, there seems to be absolutely no reason why moderately high rates for money should affect Home Rails; and there has been so much speculative selling of late, that the market position is distinctly better. In the Foreign Department the weakness of Spanish has been a feature; but this is, except in its bearing upon the Paris Bourse, of very little moment to English investors and operators, who have long ago parted company with Spanish. The crisis in Brazil, and the heavy fall in the bonds, is another incident which is not calculated to help South Americans generally; but it should not affect the rest of the markets. American Rails have at times been firm, and although a reaction has taken place, there is still every indication that McKinley will win the Presidential election. The last New York bank statement, moreover, proved much more favourable than had been anticipated, and with the assistance of the gold shipments which have just taken place it is quite likely that American Rails will brace up again. Considerable strength has during the past few days been shown by the West Australian department, in which three of the strongest groups have come to an arrangement under which they will defend their stocks against the attacks of the "Bear" party, who have been so busy of late. Another rush of Cycle Companies appears to be at hand, and against some of these investors will have to be very much on their guard. This, however, does not apply to the Clément, Gladiator, and Humber (France), Limited, which looks very promising, and is being piloted by the strong people who made the issue of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company so great a success.

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

Home Rails.

Moderate fluctuations have been marked in Home Rails. At the commencement of the week the publication of excellent traffics put prices up, while subsequently the renewed money scare caused a relapse. I can quite understand that the prior-charges, which had been rigged to so high a point, should give way on the resumption of gold shipments to the United States; but as the latter are not expected to assume large proportions, and as anything like a 3 or even 4 per cent. bank rate is not likely to hurt stocks yielding up to 4 per cent., and promising even a higher return in view of continued traffic increases, I look upon the fresh reaction as quite uncalled for, especially as there is very little floating stock about and investment purchases continue on the part of small capitalists. The settled weather at once stimulated traffics last week, and what could be more favourable than an increase of £61,000 for the week ending October 4 on the leading lines, in view of the fact that this comes on the top of good returns in 1895? Some of the most satisfactory increases were those of £3,513 of the South-Eastern, £5,446 of the North British, and £4,259 of the Caledonian; but some of the Heavies also show well, notably the North-Western. For the week ending October 11 another splendid traffic increase of £2,300 is shown by the South-Eastern. Present quotations of Dover "A," Caledonian Deferred (Coras), and North British Deferred are much too low, and should promptly give way to a recovery, especially as the "Bull" account has been greatly reduced. Efforts are being made to create public interest in Great Eastern by bucket-shop tips, but I consider Dover "A" far preferable to Great Eastern. Brighton "A" also look promising, as the coming season is expected to prove a good one, especially if more settled atmospheric conditions should be maintained. The Heavies have moved within narrow limits, and while the yields are not calculated to justify an advance, I hardly see any reason for any important fall from the present prices.

The District Manifesto.

The issue of a circular by the Metropolitan District Railway Shareholders' Association, giving full particulars of the scheme for a deep-level express service from Earl's-court to the Mansion House, will have demonstrated to the shareholders, and to the speculators in this stock, that this is a serious movement which will be carried out with energy, skill, and forethought. The circular states, first, that the scheme which has been unanimously approved by the Directors of the Metropolitan District Railway Company is for the construction of two deep-level tunnels for an up-and-down service of express electric trains between Earl's-court and the Mansion House, with an intermediate station at Charing Cross. Secondly, Sir Benjamin Baker, the engineer of the Company, foreseeing no unusual difficulties, and acting upon the joint instructions of the Company and the Association, is now preparing a survey and report on the lines in projection. Thirdly, the survey and report are expected to be completed and a Bill prepared for Parliament by November 15 next. The Association shows its thorough belief in the undertaking by advancing £1,000,000 sterling at 4 per cent. interest, non-accumulative, for the purposes of carrying out the scheme, and for the better equipment of the existing service; while foregoing interest on the advance until the existing £1,500,000 Preference stock is in receipt of its full 5 per cent. dividend. The Association also provides all the preliminary expenses and the statutory deposit to Parliament, against all of which services it stipulates for a deferred bonus of one-half the profits after the existing Ordinary stock has received a dividend of 5 per cent. The fact that the Association gives such excellent terms to the District Company should teach District shareholders that there is now a great future open for their stock. There can be, in fact, no doubt that the separation of the through traffic of the line from the ordinary accommodation trains will greatly increase its carrying capacity. It is not surprising that Mr. J. S. Forbes should have received the proposal warmly, as he has always looked to the Western extensions for

the future of the Company, and the possibilities of an express service in connection with the North-Western and Great Western are obviously great. Cheap mid-day fares will also attract additional traffic for the ordinary service. I am glad to see that it is also proposed to improve the accommodation, both as regards waiting-rooms and lavatories, at Earl's Court and the Mansion House, and that similar improvements, including refreshment-rooms, are to be carried out at Charing Cross; in fact, it is gratifying to see a very progressive spirit prevailing, which should work great benefits for the Company. According to the *Financial News*, the promoters point out that, "the existing capital being under £8,000,000 (actually £7,836,569), the new £1,000,000 would increase it by less than 12½ per cent., while the earning power of the Company might be increased by some £6,000 a week gross, or, say, by 75 per cent." Without entering into traffic estimates the details of which are not available, it is pointed out that if the net earnings of the District Railway could be increased by 75 per cent. sufficient would remain, after paying the full 5 per cent. on the Preference stock, and 4 per cent. on £1,000,000 of new capital, to pay close on 4 per cent. on the Ordinary stock. The "Market" seems to have been slow in realising the importance of this new departure. There used to be a principle upon which operators acted, viz., to buy Districts at about 25 and sell them again at over 30. But this is not applicable to the present case, when the important extensions, above referred to, are considered. What will probably appeal to the market more strongly will be the discovery, which they are about to make, that over £1,000,000 sterling of stock—out of a total of £2,250,000—has passed into the hands of one strong group, and that stock has been mopped up to such an extent that there is nothing left for them to play with. Under the circumstances, the present price should constitute merely the commencement of an advance, which may eventually put the quotation up to par.

Yankee Rails Fluctuating.

A great deal of strength has been displayed by Yankee Rails at times, and, although reactions occur every now and then, this market always braces up again. What troubles the other departments, viz., the resumption of gold shipments to the United States on a large scale is obviously a "Bull" point for the Yankee market. Another satisfactory development is the favourable nature of the last statement of the New York Associated Banks, which took the New York "Bears" by surprise. As one of my American contemporaries puts it, easy money, important gold imports, heavy grain and merchandise exports, and a sound money victory in November, are four "Bull" cards that can beat anything played against them. Including shipments from France, about one million sterling in gold has now again been despatched to the States from this side; and it would not be surprising if some more Australian sovereigns were to go direct from the colonies following the arrival at San Francisco from Australia of £500,000, which has been deposited in the Mint there. The situation is no way altered as regards the outlook for the Presidential elections, and New York is fully convinced that Mr. McKinley will be elected with a large majority. According to mail advices, Chairman Edward Lauterbach, of the Republican County Committee, who is perhaps in as good position as any one, and in fact better than many in New York, to accurately gauge political sentiment, in a public speech, claimed that the State and National tickets will win in New York by from 400,000 to 500,000 majority, and that the Republicans will elect nearly all the Assemblymen, and elect Thomas C. Platt to the United States Senate. It is also stated that Mr. Isidore Wormser at the Windsor Hotel, has offered to wager 5,000 dols. that Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan would give a majority for McKinley—all States together or separately, just as wanted. He was also willing to bet that New York city would give McKinley a handsome majority. Bets do not, of course, prove anything, but the statements mentioned show how strong the view is now in favour of a Republican victory. Of course, moderate reactions and setbacks must be expected, and are absolutely necessary for a healthy speculative situation; but as imports of gold, and exports of grain, cotton, breadstuffs, and merchandise continue, and mills and factories are resuming operations, it is evident that the commercial position is also improving. One of the most encouraging features is certainly the resumption of work by a number of industrial undertakings, from sewing-machine Companies to coke Companies, blast furnaces, hauling mills, &c. Milwaukee have not been strong of late, there having evidently been large realisations of profits, which leave the market somewhat weaker; but Louisville are remarkably strong, and maintain their price in the midst of weak surroundings. This is not surprising as the annual statement shows a large surplus, and a very sound position, altogether disproving the false reports which were disseminated by unscrupulous "Bears," of whom there are still many in this stock. I maintain the view that the junior securities in the reconstructed Companies, on which large assessments have been paid, may safely be bought, and that Erie Prefs. and Ordinary, and Southern Prefs. and Ordinary are, under the circumstances, a good purchase. A leading New York firm, in advising its friends to buy the low-priced stocks, expresses the opinion that whoever locks up an assortment of stocks selling below, say 15 dols., with no assessment pending, will one day within the next year or two have a profit of from 100 to 200 per cent. on his investment; and the firm adds to these Union Pacifics, as an assessment will not be finally levied by the Reorganisation Committee until an arrangement has been come to with regard to the Government debt. Canadian Pacifics are easier, and Grand Trunks are barely steady, the annual report not having been calculated to stimulate purchases. Another traffic increase for the first week of October is, however, promising.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The foreign market has been under the influence of a fresh collapse in Spanish, which are fluctuating with the varying chances of a new loan. Negotiations are known to be going on for such an issue, but a temporary relapse to 59⅝ on Saturday, from which there has been a recovery to 60, shows that prospects are still much involved. Investors in this country need not trouble themselves much about Spanish, to which they have given the go-by long ago; at all events, if they have followed my advice. Turks are slightly easier, Russians are firm, and Italians have been adversely affected by the collapse in Spanish. All these movements are of little direct interest on this side, but their influence upon the Paris Bourse must necessarily affect the London Stock Exchange indirectly. An unfavourable development, which has knocked down South Americans, has been the news of the outbreak of a financial crisis in Rio Janeiro. Brazilians have of course suffered most, a decline of from three or five points having been established in the various issues. I have not held a favourable view of Brazilian finance for some time, and for that reason have not seen my way to advise investment in the bonds. Argentine Government stocks have dropped a couple of points in sympathy. The matter of the unification of the debt has made no progress so far, but it is now reported that Dr. Pelligrini is proceeding to London on a financial mission, which probably refers to the unification scheme. Uruguay bonds are lower in sympathy with the general South American setback, from which Mexican Sixes have at last also suffered; but these are probably only temporary reactions, which should present an opportunity to investors to buy cheaply.

The Kaffir Circus.

A certain philosopher said that the greatest object in the universe is "the spectacle of a good man struggling with adversity," to which Goldsmith adds that "there is a still greater, which is the good man that comes to relieve it." These pronouncements seem at present to apply more especially to the Kaffir Circus. Far be it from me to say that the operators in the Kaffir Circus

are all good men, and still less to apply the term to all the South African millionaires; but there is no doubt that operators and investors in South African Mines have been manfully struggling against adversity, and I have now good grounds for saying that some of the leading millionaires connected with the Kaffir Circus are doing their best to relieve the trouble, not perhaps from philanthropic motives, but from an instinct of self-preservation. I stated last week that the real source of weakness in South African Mining and Land shares was the precarious position in Paris. A great many forced sales had already taken place, and finally a big plunger was in distress which called for special measures. His stock has been taken over, and an understanding has, I am told, been arrived at between the large financial houses connected with South Africa to simultaneously support their groups, not for the purpose of rigging the market, but in order to protect it against the inroads of the ursine party. The rumour of labour troubles in Johannesburg temporarily neutralised these efforts, but the reports have proved altogether exaggerated; and in view of the prevalence of the rinderpest, and the scarcity of mealies, the natives will not be able to give much trouble, especially as a fresh supply has been arranged for from the Portuguese territory. The September crushings were not as satisfactory as they might have been, amounting as they did to 202,561 oz., and showing, therefore, a decrease of 9,868 oz. on the previous month's return. It must, however, be considered that September was a shorter month, so that the difference is but small. The weakness chiefly centred in Chartered, Rand Mines, Limited, Consolidated Goldfields, and East Rands. The defaulting Paris speculator had apparently loaded up with the three last-named, and with De Beers. All manner of rumours were circulated with reference to the Consolidated Goldfields, amongst which was the report that the dividend would be passed. On this point, however, nothing is really known, the Directors not having met yet to consider their action. I cannot, however, see why the collapse in these speculative securities should affect sound Transvaal shares, declines in which are altogether unreasonable and uncalled for, and I strongly advise my readers to stick tight to their holdings, as the prosperity of the mining industry in the Transvaal justifies in every way a higher range of values than that now prevailing. Randfontein, more especially, should stand at a much higher figure; and so should the various Barnato stocks, which, however, are now showing a firmer front, as I understand that Mr. B. I. Barnato (in common with other South African magnates) is now determined to give the necessary support. With reference to the Royal Sheba, the *African Critic*, in quoting my remarks, suggests that now I have seconded the writer's demand for an explanation, the Directors will more readily accede to it; but so far no explanation of the alleged false return has been forthcoming. The *African Critic* furnishes some particulars of the Klerksdorp Reefs promotion, which it attributes to Mr. Mackusick, of the Universal Stock Exchange. The Klerksdorp correspondent of my contemporary states that as the Company's agent there has received no money on his demand for funds, the claims have lapsed back to the Government, and will be sold by public auction there within a month's time. This is also a matter upon which the fullest explanations ought to be demanded by the shareholders. A favourable development is the news that at the Glen Deep the deep level of the May Consolidated and the Glencairn main series has been cut in No. 1 shaft at about 920 ft. depth; but it was found to be split into two portions which are expected to unite. Advices from the Meyer and Charlton appear to be satisfactory, as the main-reef leader has been opened up in two levels, and samples taken over a width of 3 ft. in a winze sunk from the 5-ft. level were found to assay from 2 oz. to 3 oz. per ton. The shutting-down of the Stanhope battery has not come as a surprise upon me, and I have, in fact, always had a poor opinion of this property. It is quite time that Knights should recover again. The recent relapse was altogether unjustified, and should give place to a considerable improvement. These shares have only been knocked down in sympathy with others of the same group. On Wednesday next the first annual meeting of the Adler's Consolidated Mining and Land Corporation, Limited, will be held, and the Directors' report, which has just been published, shows very good results. The balance to the credit of profit and loss, after paying all expenses, amounts to £30,479, out of which the Directors propose the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. on the 213,000 shares issued, which would absorb £21,300, carrying the balance forward. It is satisfactory to notice that this profit has been earned without selling any of the properties of the Corporation originally acquired, and that the cash in hand at the end of the financial year (September 30) was no less a sum than £41,525. Beyond the profit carried to Profit and Loss there is a sum of £50,600 obtained as premium on shares issued, which is not divisible as dividend, but will form the nucleus of a reserve fund. Another pleasing point is the fact that this Corporation has been very prudently managed, and has to a considerable extent kept its assets liquid. The Transvaal Coal Trust pays no dividend for the past six months, at which readers of TRUTH will not be surprised. As regards the amalgamation of the Klerksdorp Gold and the Southern Klerksdorp Companies, it appears to me that it is only done for the purpose of obtaining the £40,000 which the latter Company has, while the Klerksdorp Gold Company is badly in want of funds. The news from the Barberton Estates and Gold Mining Company is very unsatisfactory, and altogether in contradiction to the sanguine predictions which were made by its promoters. The only redeeming point about this matter is that the shares are still chiefly in the hands of the vendors. The Bradbury Drill Sharpener meeting disclosed a very unsatisfactory state of things; but the Directors carried the day, although I am glad to see that they have been prevailed upon to make room for two new Directors, Messrs. Patterson and Marshall having resigned in favour of Messrs. Horsfall and Ranson, who were members of the Investigation Committee. This is the case of a very promising Industrial Company badly managed, and I hope that in future it will be carried out on a more satisfactory basis. I am glad to see that the works of the construction of the Pretoria-Pietersburg Railway have commenced, and also that the Government Railway Commissioner has approved of the specifications of the rails and rolling stock. It is important news for all those interested in the development of the country between Pretoria and Pietersburg, and in the Transvaal generally, as it is evident that the Government are trying to facilitate transport so as to counteract the rinderpest difficulty. It should be distinctly understood that this has nothing to do with the Silati Railway. Diamond shares have at one time been exceedingly weak, partly in connection with the forced realisations already referred to; and De Beers are much lower at 27⅛, New Jagersfontein at 8⅝ xd.

Mr. Barnato on the Position.

I have so frequently urged Mr. B. I. Barnato to give the shareholders in his group the benefit of the considerable amount of information which he has been able to collect during his recent visit to the Transvaal, that I notice with satisfaction that he has at last unbosomed himself in the columns of a new contemporary, the *South African Star*. It seems to me, however, that the statement which he has made has not received that publicity and attention on the part of investors to which it is undoubtedly entitled. I will therefore briefly recapitulate the various important points which he brought out when interviewed on that occasion. Mr. Barnato starts with a reference to the meeting authorising the amalgamation of the Barnato Bank and other undertakings with the Johannesburg Investment Company, which was unanimous; and he replies to the criticism as regards the

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amalgamation, that, owing to the tremendous expansion of business in the Transvaal, the Consolidated Investment Company was too small to do all the good business offered. Then the Barnato Bank came into existence, and he found subsequently that the two businesses clashed. Mr. Barnato's belief in the success of the amalgamated undertaking is boundless, and he calls it the biggest financial company in the world, and predicts that it will be one of the greatest successes. He relies for this success on financial business and on the administration of large landed estates. With reference to the financial business, he brings out the fact that advances on mining securities have been and will be made by the Company in Johannesburg at rates varying from 9 to 14 per cent., and that they have never made any bad debts. The Company will also be the agents for forty companies and landed properties, buying all their goods and charging them commission. But to the landed estate owned by the Company Mr. Barnato attaches most importance, as Johannesburg must expand. When last in South Africa he came to the conclusion that there never would be a resident population south of the reef, and that was the reason of his acquiring the Yeovil, Berea, and Doornfontein Estates, and a controlling interest in the Houghton Estate, also big tracts of ground between Orange Grove and Johannesburg. He estimates 12,000 plots of building land owned by the Company as being worth £72,000 a year for groundrents, to say nothing of sales, and he further reckons the market value at from £150 to £750 per stand. He also directs attention to the three big blocks of the Company in the centre of Johannesburg, and to other property at Johannesburg and Delagoa Bay. Referring to the mining properties, Mr. Barnato draws attention to the fact that they include mines in nearly every part of the country, a twentieth interest in the Jagersfontein mine, costing only £50,000, and the Leeuwpoort property, which cost £100,000, and brings in claim licences alone, some £10,000 a year. The 930 claims next to the Central Nigel will, according to the engineer's estimate, ultimately yield a profit of £1,350,000. I cannot possibly enumerate all Mr. Barnato's remarks on the various properties, but I may state with reference to the Glencairn and Glenluce that Mr. Barnato considers it a maiden property, that he obtained it with great difficulty, and that the directors took it upon themselves to carry the matter out without calling a meeting, as the delay would have meant a stoppage of development work for at least two months. I am glad to see, however, that Mr. Barnato, after recent experiences proposes, to call meetings before deciding upon any operations in future; and I think he will do well in thus taking the shareholders into his confidence. With reference to the Transvaal Government's action in guaranteeing the Wonderfontein scheme at £20,000 a year, Mr. Barnato thinks there is not the slightest occasion for the shareholders in the Johannesburg Waterworks Company to be alarmed, as to get water from the Wonderfontein they will have to pump it 1,100 ft. for fifty miles, and he calculates that the work of construction will take four years, and by that time Mr. Barnato is of opinion that their own freehold estates will be carrying a big residental population. With regard to the market outlook, Mr. Barnato emphazises the point that 1896 has been a very unlucky year of severe shocks. Since he has returned to England he has put a very large sum of money, something over a million, into the market, but he further brings out the fact that the bottom of the country has not fallen out, that the industry is still there, and that nothing short of a volcanic eruption will prevent its expansion. He also states that his firm owns one-half of the capital of the new Consolidated Company, that he is not selling a share, and that he has shown his own belief in the undertaking by giving the Company the option of selling to him 200,000 shares for £750,000, while professing himself prepared to give the shareholders a clear profit of one million sterling on the bargains he made for them when he was in Johannesburg. The very fact that Messrs. Barnato have guaranteed the new issue of Johnnies at $3\frac{3}{4}$ should show the shareholders that these shares are absolutely certain to return to that price at least, and they should under no circumstances throw them away at the present absurdly low quotation. What applies to Johnnies and Barnato Banks applies equally to the whole of the shares of the Barnato group. Under the guidance and with the support of the Johannesburg Investment Company, they will doubtless achieve renewed success in the next few years. Perhaps the temporary absence of Mr. Sol Joel and of Mr. J. Hays Hammond during the political troubles and their imprisonment may have somewhat interfered with the conduct of mining operations; but the present consulting engineer of the group, Mr. Starr, is a most reliable and experienced man, who will doubtless carry the various enterprises to a successful issue. Mr. Sol Joel, moreover, is returning at the end of this month to Johannesburg, there to represent the firm and to attend to the vast interests of the group; and I think that there are fair grounds for shareholders in the Barnato stocks to look hopefully into the future, notwithstanding the many ill-natured and no doubt partly-interested attacks which have of late been levelled against them.

Golden West Australia.

I am glad to be able to say that what has happened in the South African market is also coming about in the West Australian department—viz., that several of the large groups have realised the desirability of concerted action. I may say that I have myself been instrumental in influencing the decision in certain quarters. As a result I think that, barring accidents, the "Bears" will in future find that it will be extremely difficult to put down quotations of substantial properties owned by strong groups. Assisted as they were by so many surrounding circumstances, they have done their worst to wreck the West Australian market, but fortunately they have not succeeded, and this department is now strong enough to even display firmness when South Africans are under the influence of a pronounced slump. What I have said points, however, specially the lesson which I have repeatedly urged, that it is important to invest in West Australian Mining shares belonging to strong groups, which will take care that not only are the properties well developed and equipped with ample machinery, but also that the market will not suffer a sudden collapse through "Bear" attacks. Promoters will contribute much towards the future strength of this market if they will refrain from trying to float undeveloped properties; in fact, they ought to act on my advice and stop the issue of new Companies altogether. The news from Western Australia continues very satisfactory, both as regards new discoveries and crushings by older-established properties. During the worst depression in the South African market Lake View Consols were at one time knocked down to $7\frac{1}{4}$, but they have since rallied to $7\frac{3}{4}$; and this is certainly one of the properties in connection with which the "Bears" will never be able to score. By the way, Mr. Charles Kaufman will be amongst us in a few weeks, and he is so ardent an admirer of his pet, Lake View Consols, that we shall hear a great deal about this premier mine of Western Australia on his arrival. My prediction with reference to London and Globe Finance and West Australian Exploring and Finance is becoming true, these shares having advanced to $4\frac{5}{8}$-$\frac{3}{4}$. Had the surroundings been more encouraging these shares would already have stood much higher; but there is no doubt that eventually, and as we are nearing the announcement of the splendid results achieved by them, we shall see quite a jump in these quotations. Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group have been steady, but they ought to stand higher than they do at present. The "Bears" have been unable to make any further impression upon Hampton Plains, which remain at $3\frac{15}{16}$ with 4s. per share to come off, and will, as soon as a general rally comes about, bound upwards. I see that Mr. Allen H. P. Stoneham has addressed a circular letter to the shareholders of the West Australian Goldfields, Limited, the Hampton Plains Estate, Limited, and the West Australian Share Corporation, Limited, in which he argues (in reply to many inqui-

ries from shareholders) that there is absolutely no reason in the present depression of these shares. He enters fully into the various points, and comes to the conclusion that very few actual sales have taken place according to the Share Register, so that the marking-down of prices must be due to the action of those who wish to buy cheaper. His final remark, that "there never was a better time than the present for the purchase of shares in Companies which have overcome the initial difficulties, and are now on the eve of certain success," I fully endorse. In the shares of the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Association quite a lively struggle has been proceeding. At one time the ordinary shares were depressed to $\frac{5}{8}$, then they recovered to $1\frac{1}{8}$, but have again relapsed. All manner of rumours had been propagated, and it is difficult to see one's way quite clearly. The Founders' shares also fluctuated very widely, but I should not be surprised if at the special settlement at the end of the month a large "Bear" account were to be disclosed, and as there are only 5,000 of these, there may be some curious developments. By the amalgamation of the Golden Link, the Eclipse, Hesperus, and Great Boulder East Extended, a very important and promising combination has been formed. The properties owned by these four Companies comprise 95 acres, situated in the heart of the Hannan's district of Western Australia. Upwards of £200,000 additional capital has been subscribed, out of which £50,000 in cash is at once available, while £8,000 worth of machinery is already in Western Australia. A considerable saving in the cost of administration will, of course, be effected, as one Board of Directors will take the place of four; and other expenses should also be reduced. Under these circumstances, and in view of the favourable reports made on the different properties, the Golden Link Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited, should have a promising future before it. I have received a number of inquiries from shareholders in the Finance Corporation of Western Australia who complain of being kept in the dark by the Directors. I suppose that no favourable news is available, or else no doubt the Board would have published it quickly enough. I dare say that Lord Fingall is animated with the best intentions in proposing to hand over to the Londonderry shareholders his profits on the Londonderry deal by taking an interest in a new promotion, viz., the Australia United Mining Company, Limited. But it would have been preferable if the two Companies had not been mixed up, and if he had merely transferred the amount of his profit on the Londonderry promotion to independent parties to act for the Company. I do not for a moment doubt his bona-fides, but it is somewhat difficult to establish what the profit will be on such a transaction.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

The Indian mining section has shown dulness in sympathy with the rest of the Mining market, notwithstanding the excellent September returns. Mysore, Champion Reefs, and Ooregum have led the decline, and even the very cheap Goldfields of Mysore have further eased off, but an early rally is quite on the cards. In Australian shares, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp are somewhat easier at $2\frac{9}{16}$. In Charters Towers mines slight improvements are marked in New Queen and Brilliant, and St. George United; but Day Dawn Block are lower. Mount Morgan and Broken Hill Proprietary have also given way. Although no further advance has taken place in Croydon Consols, which stand at 8s. 6d., there is every reason to anticipate an important rise in these shares on the announcement of the substantial dividend of 1s. per share which I have already predicted. In New Zealand shares a slight recovery is marked in Waihi Silverton; but Consolidated Gold Fields of New Zealand are again very much lower, and there has also been a relapse in New Zealand Joint-Stock Trust, Waihi, Thames Hauraki, Kapanga, and a few of the other low-priced shares. In the general foreign department Rio Tinto have failed to maintain the highest quotation, notwithstanding the excellent interim dividend of 18s. per share; and copper shares generally are dull in sympathy with the rest of the international market. A rise in Frontino and Bolivia was almost the only favourable movement in this section. On the other hand, Burma Ruby, Golden Feather, Montano, Columbian Hydraulic, and De Lamar are all lower. On September 10 I asked the question as to who was behind the San Joaquim Gold Mining Company, Victoria, B.C., as the surroundings on this side did not by any means appear promising. I have not received any answer to this question; but a mining expert writes to me from Toronto stating that this property is in the Traill District of British Columbia, and is a prospect, not a mine. Although he does not condemn the property, it is evident that on the capitalisation of the concern as offered on this side, this would be a most undesirable venture. What chiefly concerns me in the Toronto communication is the complaint on the part of Canadian readers of Truth that their interests are not sufficiently represented in my remarks under the Mining market, and that I ignore more especially the Traill District of British Columbia, which has leaped into great prominence in America by reason of the rich gold deposits found there. I have not ignored British Columbia, as my correspondent will find on referring to recent issues of Truth; but there is great reason to doubt the bona-fides of certain of the British Columbian concerns which have been offered here, and although some of the developments in the district mentioned have been satisfactory, the time has not arrived to recommend indiscriminate investment in such concerns. My correspondent sends me a list of quotations of mining Companies taken from the *Toronto Star*, and also subjoins a list of the best properties according to his lights. But he really must excuse my not being able to place such a list before my readers, as at the present stage of development I am not prepared to incur so serious a responsibility. Whenever British Columbia, and the Traill district more particularly, is able to point to large crushings I shall not be backward in drawing attention to the results obtained.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Peabody and Berkshire Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire two gold mining properties known as the Peabody and the northern half of Berkshire, comprising about sixty-five acres in all, situated within two and a-half miles of a railway station, and about 200 miles of Melbourne. The capital is £100,000 in shares of £1 each.

Sir Christopher Furness, Westgarth, & Co., Limited.—This Company has been formed for acquiring the marine, general engines, and boiler manufacturing business of Messrs. Westgarth, English, & Co., of Middlesbrough. The capital is fixed at £250,000, divided into Ordinary and Preference shares of £5 each.

Considering the unsettled state of the shipbuilding trade just now, I hardly think this issue will meet with a favourable reception.

Dominion of Canada, City of St. Catherines, Ontario.—This is an issue of £75,924 12s. Four per Cent. Thirty Year Sterling General Consolidated Loan debentures to bearer of £100 each, with half-yearly coupons attached. The principal is repayable in London at par in 1926. The issue price is £102 per cent. Applications are to be made to Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., of Gresham-street, E.C.

Clément, Gladiator, and Humber (France) Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of amalgamating the French cycle businesses known as La Société des Velocipédes Clément, la Société Française des Cycles Gladiator, and the French business of Humber & Co., Limited. The share capital is fixed at £900,000 divided into 200,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and 700,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

The demand for cycles is still on the increase in *la belle* France, and by the amalgamation of these Companies a monopoly for this class of vehicles will practically be established in that country. The profits for the past two years have amounted for the two first Companies to over £87,000, while the vendor guarantees to the Company £80,000 as the profit for the year 1896. This is without taking into consideration the profits that may have

accrued in the past year, or which may accrue in future, to the Humber business. The issue is made under the auspices of the same strong group who so successfully brought out the Dunlop Company, so that there can be little doubt that this will be carried to an equally successful result.

The Golden Link Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of amalgamating and taking over as going concerns the Golden Link, the Eclipse, and the Hesperus Gold Mines and other Companies. The capital is £550,000, in shares of £1 each.

This is in my opinion a wise amalgamation of working mines, as the expenses will be considerably reduced, and there is a reduction of over £13,000 in the issued capital, upon which dividends will be payable. The new Company will also acquire upwards of £50,000 in cash and £8,000 worth of machinery, which is already in Australia, while the substantial sum of £200,000 will be in reserve for the acquiring of further properties and other contingencies.

The Tomingley Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire seven gold mining leases situated in the town of Tomingley, county of Narromine, New South Wales, of about 51½ acres in extent. The property is about 22½ miles from Narromine, from which there is a direct communication to Sydney. The capital is £110,000 in £1 shares.

I have carefully perused the prospectus and can see nothing in it that would be of any advantage to my readers. The property is very little developed, and the capital is, in my opinion, excessive.

Lady Hampton Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited.—This Company has been formed to purchase and work eighty acres of auriferous ground, about two and a half miles of the town of Coolgardie, Western Australia. The capital is fixed at £250,000 in shares of £1 each.

I have repeatedly cautioned my readers against investing in undeveloped properties. It is far better to look after those that are—or will in the very near future be—giving returns. The West Australian market at the present moment appears to be overdone, and it will be as well for promoters to give it a rest, and develop their properties while resting.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Liverpool Broker.—No reason to sell Chilians now; but as an investment a purchase of the new Uruguay loan would be preferable. *Frigate.*—No reason to sell Chilians of 1892.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Rollo.—I cannot make a sweeping statement like that you ask me to do. The Parent Company is well managed; but I should not recommend investment in all its sub-Companies. *J. W.*—I cannot reply by letter, and regret that it is impossible for me to recommend individual stockbrokers. *A. F.*—I should think that the coming issue of Six per Cent. First Mortgage Sterling Debentures of £100 each at par by the Mexican Cotton Estates should suit you for the purpose of permanent investment. The security is ample, and the surroundings are highly respectable. See remarks under "Various Investments." *Cheylesmore.*—With reference to the proposed investment of £10,000, I think it would be preferable to await the course of the Money Market before placing the same, as a rise in rates might assist you in obtaining gilt-edged securities somewhat lower than at the present range of values. *Erskine.*—Why not put your money into the new Uruguay Loan, which yields upwards of 7 per cent. per annum? The new Mexican Industrial First Mortgage Six per Cent. Debentures, which will be offered next week and are referred to by me under "Various Investments," should more especially suit you. *H. T. E.*—The same applies to this outside concern. *T. H. M.*—Yes, this is a good investment.

Home Rails.

H. W. B., Manchester.—A fair investment, but no catch. *A Constant Reader, Salisbury.*—The present quotation of the East London Third Debenture Charge is 6-11; but I do not consider a lock-up very promising. *Curator.*—Yes, hold Caledonian Deferred (Coras) for an improvement.

American and Foreign Rails.

Agra.—There seems to be every prospect of an improvement in Norfolk and Western Prefs. *Trefusis.*—1. There seems to be no fear of this. 2. I should not recommend a purchase of the other debentures now. *F. M. C.*—As far as I can ascertain, no fresh circumstance has arisen. *R. P., Manchester.*—Amongst the low-priced stocks some of the best purchases are Erie Prefs. and Ordinary, Southern Prefs. and Ordinary, and Union Pacifics. *J. M., Glasgow.*—No reason to sell Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Debenture stock. *Renfrew.*—You ought to have received your Atchison certificates. Apply to Messrs. Baring Bros. & Co. on the subject. I suppose that you deposited your shares. *H. E. W.*—1. You should certainly not sell these bonds now; the course of the American Railroad market will upon the whole apparently be upward. 2. You can make the change later on. *Rio Grande.*—It is a pity that you have to realise some of these bonds, and as No. 4 is least depreciated, perhaps you had better sell these.

Mining Shares.

Novice.—1. Hold; but do not buy more. 2. I must refer you to my letter. *T. W. D.*—I should advise you to hold Waterfall Estates for an advance by all means. *A. G.*—I do not like Steyn Estates (A). B is a fairly promising mine; but in view of the present state of the market you will have to exercise patience. *Rajputana.*—There is nothing new about Langlaagte Block B; the mine is doing well, and should eventually pay dividends. The fall in the price has been caused by the present slump. *R. W.*—I should say that the Nundydroog has the best prospects of the two mines mentioned. *W. C. W.*—After the heavy decline, it will be best to hold for a recovery. You have bought Consolidated Goldfields at over £16 and Chartered at £5, altogether against my advice; what can I tell you now? *Moscow.*—No option but to join the reconstruction and sell after. *Nemo, Belmullet.*—I do not advise purchase of Klerksdorp even at that price. *Interested.*—No option but to hold until the South African market generally improves. *Nella.*—I have always held a bad opinion of Broad Arrow Gold Mines, and have repeatedly said so. *New Club.*—Before the amalgamation of the London and Globe Finance and West Australian Exploring and Finance is carried out in a month or two large dividends will be paid on both. *Atho, Liverpool.*—I have always warned my readers not to embark in Dickens Custer. You cannot be a regular reader of Truth. *Nemo, Locherbie.*—1. The Hill End Consols is considered a promising mine. I do not like the other concerns. *Nix.*—I should think it would be wise to accept the shares, but you must take your own decision. *H. Co.*—Yes, you should hold Great Boulder South. Hampton Plains are very promising, and should be held. I do not accept any fee. *Jacobus.*—I do not like this concern at all. *Scipio.*—Write to the secretary for information. *State.*—No, I do not advise the purchase of Hannan's True Blue. *Hernica.*—1. Yes, a fair mining risk. 2. Ditto. *Audax.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares, No. 1 to 12, for an improvement in the Mining market generally. *Caldee.*—You have done right to buy Croydon Consols. This mine is doing remarkably well. Amongst the Companies mentioned by you I prefer London and Globe Finance (1), West Australian Exploring and Finance (2), and Randfontein (5). I should not advise purchase of the others. *W. A.*—No option but to hold for a recovery, but do not average yet. *Belshazzer.*—No particular temptation to buy Nos. 1 and 2 now. *Haco.*—This is not the time to sell your Mining shares, Nos. 1-7. Hold for a recovery. *F. S. R.*—1. A further advance in Croydon Consols is expected, in view of the early announcement of a 1s. dividend, or upwards of 20 per cent. in the 5s. shares, 4s. 6d. paid. No reason to sell Nos. 2 and 3. I still hold an unfavourable opinion of Lisbon Berlyn (4) and Barretts (5). No option but to hold No. 6. *Keynote.*—I advise you to have nothing to do with the Rip Gold Mining Company. *Vigo.*—A fair mining risk, but by no means a catch. *W. K.*—I see no particular reason for buying them now. *Arick.*—No temptation to buy Phœnix (1) or Nos. 2 and 3. You can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. 4. Hardly likely. *Dubious, Croydon.*—I. Yes, I expect an improvement both in Hannan's Proprietary and in Mysore Goldfields. II. As yet the position of Orion is much involved. III. They have recently acquired a further adjoining claim. Messrs. Elmslie & Co. will be able to give you all particulars. *Bonâ Fides.*—This is a bad time to sell New Jagersfontein. You had better await a general recovery in the Mining Market, which is, in fact, now in progress. *Evertonian.*—No, I do not recommend purchase of Montana. *J. A. O.*—I think that your most sanguine expectations will be exceeded by the London and Globe Finance and the West Australian Exploring and Finance, and you should hold for a further big rise. *Careful, Kirknewton.*—1. No doubt there is a connection. I should prefer W.A. Joint Stock Trust. 2. At a slight premium. 3. Yes, a fair purchase. *Yorks.*—All your mining shares should be held for an improvement. I do not, however, like the outlook of Cumberland Land. *Croydon Consols.*—I am glad to hear you are doing so well in Croydon Consols and North Croydon Consols on my advice. Your other shares should all be held for a rise. As regards other shares to buy I must refer you to my letter. *H. B., Hull.*—I do not see how you can do this. *Mars.*—Neither of the issues is particularly promising. *Celt.*—1. Impossible to give exact dates. If you are a shareholder write to the secretary. 2. I am unable to tell. 3. Shortly. *Cornubian.*—1. Yes, a good firm and members of the Stock Exchange. 2. London and Globe Finance are now advancing and are expected to go much higher. You should hold. 3. You should buy more Croydon Consols, the next dividend will be 1s. per share. 4. I am afraid you cannot do much in the matter of contangos with local firms, you should employ a member of the London Stock Exchange. 5. Hannan's Napier should be held. 6. Yes, hold Langlaagte Star. The tide

is turning. 7. No unfavourable news seems to hand. *Primrose.*—Certainly hold, and disregard such exaggerated statements. *Pembroke.*—No option but to hold your shares Nos. 1-10 for a recovery, when you should sell such as Dickens Custer and Brookman's Boulder. *Perplexity.*—It appeared at one time as if the settlement of the W.A. (Gold District) Trading Company had passed off satisfactorily, but the market is again irregular. It is, however, likely that the "Bears" will be caught. Hold both Ordinary and Founders' shares. *Sub, Newcastle.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. Ditto. *Plunger.*—No option but to hold all your shares, Nos. 1 to 6, for an improvement. You are quite right, sell Buffelskloof (7) and Flagstaff (8), and reinvest in London and Globe. *Archipelago.*—Do not go in for the so-called cheap shares. Amongst the mines mentioned by you I like only Nos. 4. I should prefer to advise West Australian Exploring and Finance, Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group, Gladiators, Randfontein, and Johnnies. *W. C. L. L.*—The most promising among the West Australians mentioned by you are Hampton Plains (1), W.A. Joint-Stock Trust, W.A. (Gold District) Trading Corporation, and Hannan's Golden Treasure. *Inquirer, Manchester.*—There is no market for Southern Klerksdorp. *Koma.*—1. A fair mining risk, but still somewhat undeveloped. 2. I have never said a word in praise of Hauraki Associated. 3. You can get separate Australian or South African mining guides through Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange, London, E.C. *Victim.*—Most of your mines are utter rubbish, and I can only advise you to get out of them if you can. *Eta.*—I think you have made a very good selection of mines Nos. 1-5, especially Randfontein and Johnnies. You cannot go far wrong in buying Hampton Plains, London and Globe, and W.A. Joint Stock Trust. *Rob Roy, Sunderland.*—I do not think you ought to go so heavily into one particular group. It would be quite enough for you to buy No. 2 in that group, and distribute the rest over some of the shares recommended above to "Archipelago." *Divi.*—I still am of opinion that the cheap mining share in question will eventually improve. Do not buy the other shares yet. *Butterfly.*—There is no option but to hold your shares Nos. 1-12, although the shares are badly selected. A recovery in the general mining market would help you to get out much better. No. 10 is a bad egg. *J. G., Birmingham.*—I have a very bad opinion of Monastery Diamonds and should advise you not to have anything to do with them. *Foko.*—Ignorant comment, which should be disregarded. A good many of your Westralians are well selected, and you should hold for a recovery. *Honeygate.*—Nos. 1-3 are fair Mining risks and should be held. I again say that I do not like Sam's Wealth of Nations, and I do not think much of the Ramage Syndicate, the shares in which are too high now. *Meph.*—(*a*) Write to the Secretary. (*b*) The report looks promising. No option but to hold *c*, *d*, and *e*. As regards your question *f* the order of merit should be No. 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10. *Lillium.*—No option but to hold your shares Nos 1-7, nearly all of which were selected against my advice, notably North Boulder, Norman Proprietary, and London and British Columbia. *Ajax, Plymouth.*—As a general rule, hold all Mining shares for a recovery, and certainly stick to Nos. 6, 7, and 8. The others should be sold on a recovery. *J. W. W.*—Yes. *E. Corner.*—I have ere this expressed an unfavourable opinion of the George Goch, and still do so. *H. W. B.*—Both City and Suburban and Simmer and Jack are cheap at present price. *Depressed.*—I still think it is advisable to hold, although Hannan's Golden Treasure are distinctly more promising. *A Shareholder.*—I have never expressed any favourable opinion of the Mount Malcolm Proprietary Gold Mines, and therefore cannot consider that it is my duty to give it special attention. The shareholders should, of course, oppose any such alteration, of the articles as are mischievous. *W. G.*—Yes; I advise you to keep your New Primrose. *John J. D.*—I do not recommend purchase of Nos. 1, 2, or 4 just now. Barnato Banks (3) are a good purchase. My view of Wealth of Nations has not changed, and the circular is promising. *G. S.*—1. Yes, hold. 2. A recovery is not improbable. 3. No. *J. R., Barnsbury.*—I cannot say that I approve of this purchase. *D. E. G.*—Yes; I still think that New Primrose. Glencairn, and Buffelsdoorn should be held for a marked recovery. *J. J. E.*—No reason to sell Mainland Consols (1) or Reine d'Or (2). Hold also No. 3. *Bradford.*—Hold Croydon Consols for a further important rise. *Beaulieu.*—1. You should make your selection from the shares mentioned in my letter. 2. The *Financial News.* 3. Yes; Uruguay are a good investment. *Indian Queen.*—1. Probably. 2. Write to the Secretary, and hold the shares. 3. Not just yet. 4. Five hundred dollars. 5. Yes; they are too low. 6. Yes, as there is a better market for them. 7. I cannot tell. 8. Yes, Mr. Charles Kaufman's presence in England in about a fortnight should be very important for the mines with which he is connected. *D. M. C., Kirkaldy.*—I have no special information as to the present position of Spes Bona. The Directors should give full information. *Trams.*—All the shares Nos. 1-4 are promising. I would not recommend purchase of No. 5 just now. No special reason as regards Nos. 6 and 7. The last-mentioned concern appears to be doing well now. *La Hechicern.*—Yes, it is the right title; £1 shares fully paid, present price $3\frac{1}{16}$, and suitable for permanent investment. *Howard.*—1. You should not sell during the present slump. 2. Not that I know of. 3. More than present price. 4. Hold. 5. Yes, eventually. *Fip.*—You should disregard such one-sided criticism. *Rob.*—1. No option but to hold for the present. 2. Eventually these should come right. Hold Nos. 3 and 4. No option but to hold Buffelsdoorn (5). No, I have heard nothing more as regards No. 6. *Disgusted.*—Lord Fingall's proposals will no doubt be made in due time, and must be awaited. As regards the other concern, I am afraid it does not look promising.

Industrial Shares.

Springfield.—A fair investment, but no catch. *C. M., West Norwood.*—Johannis Table Water shares are quite high enough. *Mrs. V.*—I regret for your sake that you should have invested in the Rosario City Improvements; but I do not see how I can help you at present. *E. T., Doncaster.*—No reason to sell any of your shares Nos. 1 to 8 just now; but I do not advise a purchase of A and B. *Ossian.*—Very little is known here about this Irish concern, and I should not like to advise you. *Coals to Newcastle.*—A fair investment. *D. B. S.*—I do not like your shares Nos. 1 to 3; you should take an opportunity to get out. *Imara.*—I do not like this concern at all. *South Kensington.*—It is very difficult to give advice upon this subject; but, upon the whole, I do not consider the proposal very favourable. *H. N. G.*—Yes; the Second Debentures under the circumstances are a very fair investment. *Glentana.*—Maple & Co. (1) is a good investment, and so is No. 2; but Nos. 3 and 4 are high enough, and newspaper shares like No. 5 are very speculative.

Mixed Investments.

W. N., Nottingham.—With reference to your holdings Nos. 1 to 7, I see no reason for selling Nos. 1, 3, and 4. The others I do not like, least of all Sam's Wealth of Nations. *Clarewin, Edinbro'.*—You should certainly hold Hannan's Golden Treasure (1) and Hannan's Golden Group (2). No reason to sell any of the other West Australian shares Nos. 1, 6, 9, 13, and 14. The South Africans, too, should be held now, as the market will, doubtless, improve. Sell No. 15 whenever you see a small profit. *T. D. C.*—1. No, not much; but the Bank is sound enough. 2. No; leave them alone. 3. High enough just now. *Ruby.*—I do not recommend purchase of the Music-hall shares Nos. 2 and 3; but Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are promising. *G. K. G.*—1. Quite high enough. 2. All depends upon whether you have reliable information from insiders. 3. No reason to sell. 4. These are also promising. *Garge.*—1. The exchange would be advisable. 2. A fair mining risk, but no catch. 3. Do not put too many eggs into one basket. *Atalanta.*—I do not advise sale of any of these shares at present; but if you must sell some you had better realise No. 3. *Yorks.*—1. It would, perhaps, be preferable to join the dissentient shareholders. 2. Ditto. *Tyke.*—A. Sell on an improvement. B. A fair investment. 3. Hold North British for a rise, and buy more to average. *R. M. H.*—1. The fear about Spanish Fours is that Spanish finance might break down altogether. 2. I do not advise investment in the Midland Fire Corporation. 3. No. *Cardiff.*—1. No market at present, and no option but to hold. 2. Quite high enough. *Brabant.*—1. Not just yet. 2. I cannot tell. 3. No reason to sell these Argentine Railway shares. 4. You must tell me what yield you require. *Thistle.*—1. I do not like these, nor No. 2. *Lland.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. No reason to sell now. Certainly, keep Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 7. No. 8 is a fair industrial concern, and you should also certainly keep Nos. 9 and 10. *Manchester Boy.*—1. I do not recommend investment in Colonial bonds and other high-class English securities just now, as they are likely to give way further. 2. The issue of Six per Cent First Mortgage Sterling Debentures of £100 each at par by the Mexican Cotton Estates about to be made is a first-rate Mexican investment, and I think should suit you. See remarks under Various Investments. *Peter Piper.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5, which are likely to improve. No. 4 should eventually go better. *Bookworm.*—It seems a pity to sell any of these stocks, but perhaps you had better get rid of No. 4, as you are bound to sell. No. 5 should recover again. *Ereunetes.*—1. I know nothing of the tea and coffee companies A and B, and should not like to commit myself to an opinion on the subject. 2. No option but to hold; they should improve further. 3. Fair prospects, no reason to sell. *R. H.*—1. Yes. 2. I do not like the Leeds Forge Company at all. 3. I do not think much of this Australian Mine. *Par.*—Golden River Quesnelle and Moanataiari are good properties. The shares in the former stand at a small premium, and in the latter at $1\frac{3}{8}$-$\frac{1}{4}$. Uruguay bonds are suitable for permanent investment. *X. Y. Z., Bristol.*—No special reason for selling Nos. 1 to 13. *Shilling.*—1. I quite agree with you that a meeting of the Troye Exploration Company should be held shortly, so that the shareholders should be enlightened as to the position. 2. The position of such Rhodesian Companies has of course suffered through the native insurrection; eventually they should go better. 3. I do not like Geldfontein Estates. 4. Not yet. 5. When the weak "Bulls" are all cleared out, South Africans are all likely to recover.

Various Investments.

Small fluctuations in the Money Market nowadays suffice to affect the gilt-edged class of securities, from Consols downwards, and the views entertained as to the future of the Money Market change from day to day. One day we are told that the Directors of the Bank of England will have to put the rate down again, the next

No aperient water can boast of such sure and beneficial purgative efficacy as the "Franz Josef." It was known on the Continent twenty years ago, and is now sold everywhere.

day, when a few hundred thousand pounds in gold are withdrawn, people already begin to talk of a rise in the rate to 4. This is really too absurd; a 3 or 3½ per cent. Bank rate will not hurt anybody, and I doubt greatly whether we shall see anything higher than this in the present year. Consols have reacted to 108⅞, and so far the sellers of the premier security have scored. Colonial Government bonds and India stock are falling away again, and I certainly think that a further decline in these, as well as in Home Railway Prior Charges, would be fully justified. There has been a fresh fall in silver to 29⅞d., and the word is now passed round that American holders will not sell below that price; but I should not like to pin my faith to that report, and personally I look for a further fall in silver on the discomfiture of Mr. Bryan at the Presidential elections. Rupee Paper has dropped to 60⅞, partly in sympathy with silver, but also on the failure of the crops in India. In Cycle shares a steady business has been transacted, and Beestons have improved to 4¼, most other changes being trifling. The strength of Dunlop Deferred at a substantial premium, however, has been a feature throughout, and is of happy augury for the success of Clément, Gladiator, and Humber (France), Limited, the issue of which is made under the same auspices, and which may be expected to be backed equally well. A point about the prospectus is that it is claimed that the profits of the two purely French undertakings will suffice to pay 9 per cent. on the Ordinary after payment of the Preference dividend, not reckoning the profits of the French Humber business. By the way, a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum has just been declared on Dunlop Deferred. Brewery shares have been quiet, and Allsopps have eased off to 167½, while Guinness Ordinary are quoted 540. There is not at present much prospect of active dealings in this class of stock. On the other hand I look for considerable interest being taken in the near future in Mexican industrial enterprises. Mexico is prospering in a remarkable manner, and has altogether risen superior to the silver trouble. Agriculture and commerce are expanding, and industrial undertakings follow in their wake. The exceptional promise of the position is illustrated by the splendid traffics of the Mexican Railway (Vera Cruz Line). I hear of the coming issue of Six per Cent. First Mortgage Sterling debentures of £100 each at par secured on a sound industrial undertaking, viz., the Mexican Cotton Estates. The issue will be made under influential auspices, and the great security of the debentures will be illustrated by the fact that the net profits are more than three times the amount required to pay interest on them. The prospectus will probably appear next Saturday, and my readers who are in want of a safe investment yielding a high interest should give it every attention. I may mention that the Resident Board of the Company in the City of Mexico is of a very high class, including, besides eminent merchants, two Directors of the Banco Nacional de Mexico, and two Directors of the Bank of London and Mexico. In reply to several inquiries with reference to Gray & Gilbert, Limited, a Company which was formed a short time ago for the purchase of several well-known wholesale and retail businesses, I should think that this undertaking has in it the elements of success. According to the reports of the accountants, the total average yearly net profit was £29,288, while the interest on the Six per Cent. Preference shares, and 10 per cent. on the Ordinary, amounts to only £14,000, so that a surplus of £15,288 is available for administration, reserve fund, and further dividends. Several of the circulars issued by Frank Barlow, Stock and Share Dealer, 7, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C., have been sent to me. In these the "puff preliminary" is given to a Company about to be launched for the purpose of rebuilding and running the Savoy Theatre of Varieties, Dublin. I know nothing of the prospective merits of this promotion; but I should think that such preliminary announcements addressed to complete strangers by outside dealers tend rather to damage a concern than otherwise. The coming flotation of the Bovril Company on new large lines has caused a sharp advance in the shares. I hear that a Company will shortly be formed for bringing out the Minerva Nailless Horse Shoe, which appears to have scored a considerable success in Germany, the shares in the German Company standing at a high premium. It is claimed that the new shoe is also being adopted in this country.—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

Brighton.—Norfolk Hotel.—This old-established Country and Family Hotel is in the best situation, and replete with comfort, style, and luxury.—Jules A. Creighton, Manager.

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QUEER STORY.

THE CANON'S CESAREWITCH.

SIR JOHN KENDRIC was not a man who had enjoyed particularly good luck upon the turf; and the general impression, in well-informed circles, was that he had now pretty well run to the end of his financial tether. He had started life with a large estate; and, when he first went upon the turf, had lavished huge sums in forming for himself an extensive and expensive stud. But though he purchased animals of the finest pedigree, and bred many youngsters of exceptional strain, his successes were not at all proportionate to his outlay; in fact, scarcely a season passed, at the end of which he did not find himself heavily out of pocket. Once or twice, certainly, his horses had done great things. It may be remembered how his famous colt, The Bishop, won the Derby, starting at a longish price; and how his filly, Sister Mary Martha, a few years later, upset all calculations in the One Thousand. But these were almost his only conspicuous successes. His other victories were scored in comparatively minor events, and were far from numerous even in those. The result was that the Baronet—at the time of which we write—was actually hovering on the verge of bankruptcy. His town house had been sold, his country estates mortgaged to the hilt, and he himself was compelled to retire into economical seclusion at his Wiltshire seat—which he had in vain tried to let, and where he lived in one wing of the house, with two or three servants, leaving the rest of the mansion to the bats, rats, and cockroaches.

Only one animal now remained to him of all his numerous stud. This was the famous mare, Sister Mary Martha, whom he still refused to sell, and whom he took down with him into Wiltshire. She was understood to be in foal to The Bishop. And Sir John cherished a lingering hope that her offspring might turn out to be a flyer, and in some degree help to recoup him for his many ruinous losses. His friends said that he was a fool to refuse £7,000 for the mare, as he had actually done; and some of them pressed him to reconsider his determination. Sir John, however, remained obstinate. He never did pay much attention to advice. It was not his way. He valued himself upon his own level-headed 'cuteness too much for that. And he was 'cute, not a doubt of it. If anything, perhaps he was too 'cute, for over-'cuteness frequently defeats itself by always pursuing tortuous paths; whereas it often happens that the straightest road is the one that pays the best to follow. Many such men are to be met with; men so addicted to cunning that the thing becomes a mania with them. This it had practically done with Sir John. It gave him more pleasure to land £10,000 by judicious jockeying than £20,000 by fair and legitimate methods. And no doubt this passion of his for sharp practice had as much as anything else to do with his failure upon the turf.

With the above weakness was linked, in his case, a strong element of superstition. Probably most gamblers have that quality more or less clearly developed in them, and in Sir John it was very conspicuous. While no material methods of compassing his shady objects were neglected by him, he paid the greatest heed to immaterial influences—to dreams, presentiments, omens, and such like; so much so as frequently to arouse the open ridicule of his

practical associates. But the Baronet pursued his way, as impervious to their ridicule as he was deaf to their advice. No amount of experience could teach him wisdom. Even when he stood on the verge of bankruptcy, he still clung to the belief that it only needed a little more perseverance in his favourite methods to ensure him ultimate success; and that after a steady course of failure through twenty years.

When Sister Mary Martha had been down at her owner's Wiltshire stables for a few months, the expected foal arrived. It was in the midst of surroundings by no means adequate to his strain and pedigree that this distinguished colt-foal was ushered into a troublesome existence. The greater portion of the stables had been shut up, and Sir John had only one groom—an old family servant—upon the premises. The Baronet himself took an active share in looking after the one or two horses that he kept there; and he, his groom, and a local vet. from Salisbury were Sister Mary Martha's attendants when her foal was born. The event created no sensation in the neighbourhood. The bumpkins in that out-of-the-world place knew little, and cared less, about turf intelligence. To them the circumstance that a son had been born to The Bishop and Sister Mary Martha was without importance. If Tummas Node's white zow had farrowed a dozen, or Bill Andrew's mottled hen had hatched fourteen out of a sitting of fifteen, it would have made more stir in the village. Amid such unappreciative surroundings was The Canon foaled.

This name (by which Sir John designated him within a few hours of his birth) was obviously appropriate. But it was not merely the appropriateness of the designation that had induced his owner thus to style him. Allusion has been made to the superstitious element in Sir John's character. To this, more than to anything else, the Canon owed his name. The extraordinary and wonderful good luck which had attended Sir John in the matter of the Bishop—(the story of whose Derby victory is too well known to need repetition)—had aroused in Sir John a sort of blind faith in ecclesiastical nomenclature. And that faith had been rather confirmed by the career of Sister Mary Martha. True, there had also been many examples among his horses which contradicted this idea. His The Dean, The Vicar, and The Archdeacon had all failed conspicuously. His St. Agnes and Mother Superior had turned out worthless, both in their turf and stud careers. But this did not put Sir John off the Church. His obstinacy was impenetrable. And if he once got a notion into his head, there it became a fixture.

The Baronet's friends, who had urged him to accept the offer of £7,000 for Sister Mary Martha, had reason, ere long, to plume themselves upon their own superior wisdom and foresight. The mare went through her foaling-time badly. For some weeks it was feared that she would actually lose her life, and though that catastrophe was happily averted, she only recovered with such loss of strength and condition as hopelessly impaired her value for sale or use. Sir John's friends opined that he must feel dreadfully "sick" over his own folly; of which—like all true friends—they took good care to give him frequent reminders. It was, however, characteristic of our Baronet never to admit himself in the wrong. He maintained, with unflinching persistence, that he *had* adopted the wisest course, and that The Canon would certainly far more than compensate him for losing £7,000 over Sister Mary Martha. The colt was as likely a one as he had ever seen, and it was odds on his turning out a flyer. His wise friends were altogether too previous. Let them wait a year or two, and then they would change their note.

That year or two went by. And, in the course of them, The Canon entered upon his turf career. He proved himself less of a treasure than his owner had prophesied; though more valuable than Sir John's friends had imagined probable. He was unquestionably speedy. In fact, at his own distance he could make a race of it with the best. But that distance was only about seven furlongs. He was utterly deficient in stamina. He could never stay a yard farther. At a mile and a quarter a hack would have beaten him. At a mile and a half he could not have given two pounds to a donkey. The result was that his field of operations was narrowly limited. He seldom failed to win in a T.Y.C. scramble. But in all the longer races he was hopelessly beaten. As a consequence, most of the richest events in the Calendar were out of his reach.

In this respect, he reproduced (to an exaggerated extent) the characteristic weakness of his dam, but differed entirely from his famous sire. The Bishop, as is well known, had stayed the Cup course at Ascot and won against a strong lot; but Sister Mary Martha had always cracked up if she were called upon to gallop more than a mile and a quarter, and was really at her best inside a mile. If The Canon had developed even that degree of staying power, he might have enjoyed a fairly brilliant career. But he proved himself incapable of it, cutting up so shockingly, whenever he was run beyond his distance, that no one ever dreamed of backing him for anything but the shortest races.

Here again Sir John Kendric showed a dense obstinacy that was quite remarkable in so 'cute a man. Though The Canon proved, time after time, his utter lack of stamina, his owner either could not, or would not, bring himself to realise it. He would persist in running him in races that were outside his distance; and when the colt failed, as in these events he did every time, Sir John always had some excuse to urge—the hard ground, the heavy going, bad judgment on the part of the jockey, an unfair start, and any number more such reasons, which were about as numerous, and as likely, as those of a recusant debtor. The baronet averred, and affected to believe, that a son of The Bishop could not be a non-stayer. He *must* have the grit in him, could it only be brought out. It was useless for his friends to argue and expostulate. Sir John took no notice, but went on in his obstinate way, messing the colt about in impossible races with a fatuousness almost past belief.

But the climax of his folly was reached, when he actually accepted, on behalf of his colt, for the Cesarewitch. The sporting world could hardly believe its ears when it learned the astounding intelligence. How could a horse for whom a Derby or a Leger course was half a mile too long be expected to negotiate the longer and more punishing Cesarewitch? The Canon should have been scratched a year ago. It was ridiculous, idiotic, to leave him in. Any bookie would be glad to lay 200 to 1 against the colt, and think he had favourable terms. Certainly, he was saddled by the handicapper with a merely nominal weight. But what of that? If he only had to carry a grasshopper, The Canon could never finish the Cesarewitch course. One explanation alone was feasible. Sir John must be going "dotty." No sane man could have acted with such inconceivable idiocy.

As a matter of fact, Sir John was not in the least "dotty," though his mad behaviour seemed to favour the contention. It was superstition, not insanity, which was guiding him in this matter. Some of his friends who remonstrated with him even more strongly than usual managed to elicit that much from the taciturn baronet. He was acting on a presentiment, fostered by some absurd dream, in which he had (visionally) seen his colt win over the long course at Newmarket. This dream had clearly taken a tremendous hold on him, despite its defiance of all physical possibilities; and neither reason nor ridicule could deter him from his fatuous folly in starting the colt.

"But, my dear John," said an intimate friend one day, speaking with excusable vehemence, "this presentiment of yours is all transparent bosh! A hedgehog could beat The Canon over the Cesarewitch course."

"You may have your opinion, but I have mine," said Sir John, obstinately.

"It isn't only my opinion; it's the opinion of every man on the Turf. You'll see that no single soul will dream of investing a halfpenny on The Canon's chance."

"There's one soul who will—myself. I shall back him for all I am worth."

"Psha! This is stark, staring madness. It is courting a smash!"

"I'm pretty near smashed already," answered Sir

John, smiling with provoking calmness. "And my one chance is to go nap. You may think me an idiot. Possibly I am; but I believe in dreams and presentiments, and I am convinced that I shall land the odds. Come, you are an old pal, and I should like to put you on to a good thing. Will you stand in with me?"

"No, thank you—not I!" said his friend, hastily. And he argued no more with Sir John. It was simply a waste of breath, he saw, to urge reason upon a man in his state—one who was simply inviting ruin to descend and overwhelm him.

The Baronet had for some years given up his professional trainer; the fees and expenses being heavier than he was able to meet. And he now set himself, with the aid of his experienced groom, to train The Canon for his Newmarket engagement. That he would turn out his colt in capital condition, nobody doubted. For Sir John understood this branch of the business as well as Porter or Dawson themselves. But no amount of condition could put stamina into a non-stayer, and the unanimous opinion of the whole racing world was that the owner of The Canon was simply wasting his time and skill on a hopeless horse. What a pity, they all declared, that Sir John should be the victim of this marvellous infatuation! If only he could have freed himself from his absurd superstition, he might even now, with his great natural shrewdness, have pulled himself round into a tolerable financial state. As it was, he was deliberately jumping over a pecuniary precipice. And the punters began to offer odds on his name appearing in the *Gazette* before Christmas. No one, however, could be found to take them. The certainty was too pronounced.

In due course, the day of the Cesarewitch arrived. Sir John's action had naturally excited widespread remark, and when the candidates for the big handicap turned out in the preliminary canter, The Canon was watched by the crowd with considerable interest. He was a beautiful colt, a pure light chestnut, and his glossy coat and general air of "fitness" showed him to be in the pink of condition. His action, also, was magnificent—the perfection of ease and grace. But that every one knew already, and what was the good of it to a non-stayer in such a race? There was no doubt how it would be. He would travel splendidly for six or seven furlongs; and then his bolt would be shot. Why, a common hunter would stand a better chance in the Cesarewitch than this showy, short-distance animal.

Such was the universal criticism. But Sir John, blinded by his infatuated superstition, never lost confidence to the last. His friends, who were standing near him, remarked the keen, excited look—the air of eager anticipation with which his face glowed as the flag fell to a fair start, and The Canon got well away. Most of them felt quite sorry for him—though he was far from popular even with his friends—when they thought of the inevitable disappointment in store for the eager, excited old man. It was only a matter of furlongs—a question of half-minutes—before The Canon would be out of it. Ah, there! He had already reached his distance; and that was a mile and a half from the finish. But, no. He was still going strong; no signs of flagging yet. Extraordinary, inexplicable! The mile was past, and The Canon was still in the race. But surely he must crack up in a few seconds! No! On and on! The devil! A mile and a half had been covered. The Canon still galloped as strong as any of them. Others began to flag—to fall out; but not The Canon. A mile and three quarters! Six were left in, and the Canon among them. Sir John's face was now stiff and tense as that of a statue; but his eyes burnt like coals in their hollow sockets. There was a dead silence along the whole course. Every eye was fixed on the light chestnut, who now held third place, and seemed full of running. Was Sir John a wizard? Had he bewitched his colt? Had Satan a finger in it? The distance! The Canon took second place.

Then a low murmur—a murmur of amazement—passed from lip to lip. The Canon was challenging the leading horse! For a hundred yards both ran neck-and-neck. Gameness alone kept them going. A loud shout went up. The Canon was the gamer. He forged ahead. The shout increased into a roar. The Canon had his opponent safe. He passed the judge's box a length in front. Sir John's face was a perfect blaze of triumph. He now spoke, for the first time since the start.

"By God! My dream—my presentiment! True! True! True!"

He staggered suddenly, and fell. The strain had been too much for him. They picked him up, with bloodless face and lips, in a dead faint.

* * * * *

Probably no horse's victory had ever quite so completely upset all calculations as that of The Canon in this Cesarewitch. And it is needless to say that it excited any amount of comment. People took different views. Some declared that the colt's reputation as a non-stayer had been artfully brought about by Sir John, in collusion with unscrupulous jockeys. But this, as all fair-minded men admitted, was an absurd contention. In the first place, the colt had more than once cracked up when ridden by jockeys who were above suspicion; and in the second, his failures had palpably been due to genuine want of stamina, and not to any "roping" or other unfair dodgery of that description. This view, therefore, could not be for a moment entertained. Others, the more superstitious, inclined to the belief that there *was* something miraculous in The Canon's victory, whether by the agency of God or devil. And the wiser, again, contented themselves with simply stating that Sir John was a very clever man, and that he had won a large sum over the race. But the means by which he had done it they frankly declared themselves unable even to conjecture.

It was not until many years later that the public learned the true explanation.

A country clergyman—incumbent of a parish on Salisbury Plain—was sent for late one night to the bedside of Sir John Kendric, who had been stricken with apoplexy, and whose life (so the doctor said) was now numbered by minutes. Almost with his last breath, the Baronet made the following remarkable confession:—

"Only the night before Sister Mary Martha's foal was born, I had a dream. I dreamed that—that she had foaled a colt with—with two heads; and that—that now one head seemed to vanish, now the other, and that then both would appear together; but only for an instant. The dream impressed me. I had always paid great attention to—to—dreams. And the—the—impression was strengthened when, next night, she—she—gave birth to twin foals. I—I—didn't know what I—I—meant to do. I had no fixed idea at that time; but—but—influenced by my dream, and—and—other inexplicable presentiments, I — I — suppressed the fact that twins had been foaled, and bribed the two other witnesses to hold their tongues. Then the dream and the presentiments began to explain themselves. The colts grew up as like as two peas. A vista of possibilities was opened to me; and when I found that one of the colts possessed exceptional stamina, while the other was entirely without it, I saw my way to—to—the fraud which I actually perpetrated. A week before the Cesarewitch I poisoned The Canon; and my man and I buried him in quicklime. This obliterated all evidence of my deception, and made discovery impossible. It—it—was The Canon's twin that won the race. I cannot die with this secret on my conscience. After I am dead, see that it is given to the world."

MUSIC.

THE NORWICH FESTIVAL.

THE Norwich Festival last week is, I am told, likely to figure out the most successful for many years. Royalty, of course, did something for it, and, indeed, there is not the slightest doubt that the audiences for the "Rose of Sharon" and "Fridolin" would hardly have been so large if the Prince of Wales, the Princess Louise, and the Duke and Duchess of York had not been present. St. Andrew's Hall, formerly the nave of a fifteenth-century monastery of the Black Friars, has 1,300 seats, and as the average

attendance last week was about 1,150 per performance, there is nothing to complain about. The Tuesday night of the Norwich Festival is, however, always the worst in point of view of attendance, and it is worth considering whether it would not be better to utilise that evening for further rehearsals.

Nearly all our provincial festivals suffer from want of proper rehearsals, but, as at Norwich Signor Mancinelli occupied nearly all the only available day with the preparation of his new opera-cantata, Mr. Randegger—who rarely gets a rehearsal at all at Queen's Hall, and therefore anticipated a treat—was vainly expected to prepare six full-size programmes between eight and eleven o'clock on the Monday evening. The band, however, struck after thirteen hours' hard labour, and the choir agreed to come on the following day, thereby tiring themselves out before the festival began. Another day's rehearsal would not have cost much, but at too many provincial festivals the music is starved for the sake of the "charity."

The three novelties at Norwich were Signor Mancinelli's "Hero and Leander," Mr. Frederic Cliffe's violin concerto, and Professor Stanford's choral piece, "Phaudrig Crohoore." The last emphatically achieved the biggest success. This rollicking Hibernian version of "Young Lochinvar," with its bustle and excitement, its wedding jig, which set every foot a-going, and its dash of pathos which comes so effectively in the burden, "An' the Green Grass is Growin' o'er Phaudrig Crohoore," will, beyond doubt, run like wildfire through the choral societies of the provinces. Of Mr. Cliffe's clever new concerto the second movement is the best; but the rest sadly needs compression. M. Tividar Nachez, who played it, seemed to be very nervous, and his immensely long cadenza, based upon materials which had nothing to do with the work itself, should be sacrificed without mercy. The efforts of the Prince of Wales during the final movement to consult his watch without appearing to do so, were as amusing as the alacrity with which, at the last beat of the bâton, his Royal Highness bolted for his return train to Sandringham.

Mancinelli's "Hero and Leander" is a curious mixture of styles, that of Boïto and the modern Italians predominating. Some of it is immensely clever, the orchestration, much of it of extreme difficulty, being most interesting. The chief defect, of course, is the ridiculous length to which certain of the numbers are drawn out. Mme. Albani, for example, sang for full seventeen minutes by the clock, during the time Mr. Lloyd was supposed to be swimming across the Hellespont; while the subsequent finely written and often passionate, though apparently never ending, duet of the forgetful priestess and her damp lover occupied the rest of the evening. One of the baritone solos also seemed as long as an after-dinner speech by Sir A. C. Mackenzie. The gems of the work are the delicious "Sea Shell" solo, splendidly sung by Mme. Albani, the setting of two Anacreontic poems (one, of course, is not enough for Dr. Boïto, the librettist) sung by Mr. Lloyd, the sailors' chorus, the Boïto-like fugal chorus, and the address to Venus sung by Mr. Watkin Mills in the scene in which Hero takes the vows of virginity. Whether in these days, when opera-goers demand a plot of fire, life, and action, this idyllic tragedy will pass muster on the stage remains to be seen. The work will if possible be mounted at Covent Garden next summer, although the bold statement of an evening paper, whose critic apparently was doing his first festival, that the opera will be sung by the De Reszkes and Melba is an absurd fiction. The De Reszkes have nothing to do with it; and in default of Mme. Albani, the heroine is likely to fall to the lot of Mme. Eames.

The matters of Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, his London Conservatoire of Music, and the "Free Scholarship" swindle, to which I referred in TRUTH of September 24 and October 8 have brought me a good deal of further correspondence. Some writers indulge in vague, and therefore useless, generalities or in mere criticisms of a system of "voice production" with which I desire to have nothing whatever to do. A correspondent, however, encloses one of Mr. Cottell's circulars giving a picture of the "Conservatoire" in Porchester-road. My correspondent declares "it is as much like my house as his." It really is a most wonderful picture, if only from the point of view of perspective, for the trees in the far distance are ever so much bigger than those in the foreground. The sketch shows a huge mansion with a gigantic conservatory, terraces, and a broad carriage drive. A serving man has just opened, for the entrance of a barouche and pair, with coachman and footman, a double gate which apparently looks out upon a moor. I do not notice Royal Oak station, which is stated to adjoin this fine property; but on the noble lawn in the foreground a dozen ladies are strolling or playing tennis. Small wonder that "gentlemen's sons, just from school," compete for secretarial posts in this Adamless Eden. A professional musician of forty years' standing, however, writes:—

> Five or six of my pupils have been taken with the advertised bait of "free" scholarships, and in each case it has come to the same thing—every possible effort to secure fees in advance. Outside of these I know of one case where the parents of a young lady paid 50 guineas for a year's board and lodging and free tuition, and she left the conservatoire after six weeks' residence. To try the thing more directly, I sent a lady pupil (whose name I give you in confidence) in May last to the so-called Manchester Branch with careful instructions as to her line of conduct. This branch is simply a room where any one can teach or practice on the organ for 9d. or 1s. an hour. I teach the organ there myself. Mr. Cottell comes once or twice a fortnight for an hour or two to receive victims. My pupil went by appointment and came away with the enclosed.

The enclosure is a printed form headed "Resident and Free Scholarships," and with the wonderful picture of the Porchester-road "Conservatoire," to which I have already referred. The circular states, "Candidates are eligible on approval as above, and are entitled, by personal production of this form, duly filled up, to private interview and examination free of fees." At the back of the form are the pupil's name, and the printed words, "Free scholarships. Not transferable," while in Mr. Cottell's hand is written, "Lessons at Manchester £5. 5s. to Christmas. Free in London, or resident scholarship value 25 gs. off year's fees. June 2, 1896, director, Lansdowne Cottell." Mr. Cottell seems to have a peculiar idea of the term "Free" scholarships, and if the word "free" have any meaning at all, the charge proposed is neither more nor less than an extortion.

My correspondent continues, concerning the lady in question, "She was also informed that she could have a free scholarship at the Conservatoire on payment of 60 gs. for board and residence. She came away saying she would think of it." Mr. Cottell, however, was not the man to let the chance slip. A few weeks later came a letter, dated June 8, now before me, from the Secretary, stating that he would be obliged by this lady's decision "in reference to studies as approved by the Director." The lady apparently did not reply, and accordingly, on September 10, Mr. Lansdowne Cottell wrote himself. The letter is headed, "Executive Department, London Conservatoire of Music, Hyde Park, W.," and (the italics are Mr. Cottell's) it ran:—

> I have a vacancy, ladies' resident department, I can now offer you (if you promise *10 per cent.* on engagements for three years) at *40* guineas, *one* payment *premium* for the year, and this includes board, residence, and musical training from three masters. We recommence Monday, the 4th inst.—Believe me, yours truly, LANSDOWNE COTTELL.

This, then, is Mr. Cottell's idea of "free" scholarships. One of my correspondents encloses me another circular of this London Conservatoire of Music, in which it is stated—

> Birmingham and Midland District Branch. At Messrs. Harrison's Music Warehouse, Colmore-row and Bennett's-hill. The Director receives intending students 3 to 6 p.m.

Mr. Percy Harrison, a gentleman well known in artistic and musical circles, may perhaps like to furnish some explanation. The list of professors given at the back of

this precious circular comprises several well-known names, besides others with which I am unfamiliar. Mr. Lansdowne Cottell himself, however is principal and is also a professor of solo singing. Mr. Louis Cottell is a professor of solo singing, also of guitar playing, also of mandolin and banjo playing, also of the French language, and also of English and comedy opera. The family, therefore, seem to be many-sided and well represented.

M. Colonne, the renowned French conductor, made his long-promised English début at Queen's Hall on Monday. M. Colonne intended to come here last year to direct an English orchestra, but he wisely postponed his visit until now, when he brought over with him from Paris his famous band of the Association Artistique. This orchestra has been in existence upwards of twenty years, and it is chiefly celebrated for its rendering of Berlioz and other French composers. On Monday, apart from the "Reformation" symphony of Mendelssohn, by no means so well performed as at the Crystal Palace, the programme included a movement from Charpentier's "Impressions of Italy," besides selections from Massenet's "Hérodiade" and Berlioz's "Faust." The last was by far the best, and it must have been sheer perversity of management (the fault is, I believe, M. Colonne's) which placed it last in the programme to play the people out. The Dance of Sylphs, and the "King of Thule" ballad, sung by Mdlle. Prégi, a light soprano new to this country, have rarely or never been more beautifully rendered here.

The Promenade Concert season closed on Saturday, but the concerts will now be continued by Mr. Robert Newman weekly on Saturday nights only. Next Saturday we are promised for the first time a hitherto unknown suite by Tschaïkowski.

Mme. Nordica will, after all, not be a member of the Abbey and Grau opera troupe in New York this autumn. According to the American papers, she asked £200 a night for forty performances. I really do not see why she should not get it, save upon the managerial axiom that a prima donna is rarely a profit in her own country. The Americans, however, are very naturally inquiring whether the fact of her being a fellow-countrywoman should prevent her from sharing in the rapid rise of operatic fees in the States. Mme. Nordica, who is now filling some valuable engagements in the provinces, proposes to go to America in a few weeks for a concert tour.

One of the big things of the coming season will be the appearance of a choir from Leeds, with the Mottl orchestra, for a performance, under Herr Mottl, of Beethoven's Choral symphony. The Choral finale in the greatest of all symphonies is generally very badly done in the Metropolis. With the assistance of the Yorkshire chorus, Herr Mottl ought, however, to secure a model—in other words, a Mottl—performance.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Niagara is to reopen for the winter skating on Monday next, Mr. Hwfa Williams having bought it. Sir William Call is to be manager. The whole place has been redecorated, and the restaurant will be open for dinners for the members of the club. There is to be skating on Sunday evenings as well as afternoons. We are going on the opening day, so I shall be able to describe it to you soon. The girls have been looking up their skates for it with great glee.

I have just seen a new and pretty gown at Oliver Holmes's. It was green cloth finished about the neck with wide bands of orange-russet velvet, and filled in with fulled black silk. This is a very new and pretty kind of bodice. The possibility of having any colour that suits one introduced in the silk at the neck enables one to wear a gown that would otherwise be very trying. Many rather sallow women delight in green, but cannot without injustice to themselves venture upon it without some such precaution.

Paris does not monopolise all dress cleverness. A perfectly sweet evening bodice shown us was designed by an English girl. And yet it breathed of Paris—that is, of smartness, modernity, and excellent finish. The little rucked bodice and gathered sleeves were in rose-pink crêpe de chine, the puffs of the latter being in the same material. But the bodice itself was almost hidden beneath a boléro of pink satin embroidered with black and silver sequins in a design of straying, wandering curves. A large knot of black satin ribbon held with a diamond button in the centre made a charming effect. Cream-coloured lace in a deep tone bordered the line of the boléro from the shoulders to the front. A group of mauve chrysanthemums on one shoulder, and tucked into the black satin belt at the side, completed a most covetable bodice. The skirt was plain pink satin.

A delicious dress for a young girl was in cream coloured silk barred with graduated lines of pale green velvet, the whole covered with a single veil of white spotted net (our old friend "point d'esprit" returned). A narrow tablier down the front had no veiling net and was bordered by lines of pale pink hawthorn. Knots of the light green velvet made a pretty finish down the centre. The bodice had a trellis of the narrowest velvet under a crossing piece of the point d'esprit with rows of velvet and bordered with a ruche of hawthorn. The sleeves were full frills of the spotted net over a tight sleeve with bands of green velvet. I wonder if I have made you "see" that sweet frock which some happy girl will wear at a dance, enjoying it all the more for the consciousness of looking well.

I did not forget that you want to know about smart winter coats, so asked to see the very latest and newest. One of these is made in palest grey caracul, fitting perfectly on the shoulders, but drawn in with some little fulness under a belt of pale grey cloth, sewn with silver. The revers are bright reddish mauve the tint of a scarcely ripe Orleans plum, and the space between them is filled in with a jabot of coffee-coloured lace. There is a very high and wide collar lined with the mauve velvet, and a short basque, rather full, but not fluted. The sleeves are modified "gigot," being full at the top and gradually growing narrow to the wrists. The belt is fastened with a handsome clasp, of amethyst and old silver, and smaller clasps on the revers serve to fold them across the chest when necessary.

Another very taking jacket is a Doucet model in black velvet, this being the very height of the fashion in Paris. The revers, like those of the grey caracul, reach to the waist, and are in chinchilla, with a jabot of creamy lace covering the interval between them. The bishop sleeves are finished at the wrists with fur, being caught in to the arms just above. The chinchilla can be turned back to form a cuff if liked, but in Paris the vogue is to wear them over the hand, which looks very small issuing from the thick fur.

Are you not glad that cashmere is in again? No other material falls in such inimitable folds. I was pleased to see a gown made of it, in the soft, double warp kind, among those just brought from Paris by Mme. Oliver Holmes. It was in heliotrope, and had the usual plain skirt. The bodice had a full front formed of one end of a white crêpe de chine scarf embroidered in a curious horizontal stitch in coloured flowers of arrasene. The rest of this scarf hung down at the left side over the skirt. The fronts of the bodice were edged with skunk, and touches of bright lilac velvet appeared at the neck and wrists. This lilac was not in a friendly tone with

"The ideal of what an English lady's dress ought to be—neat, sartorially faultless, with a grace of style all its own."—Extract from *The Daily Telegraph*, July 2nd, 1896, referring to a riding habit made by J. Busvine & Co., 4, Brook-street, W.

History of Feminine Costume. Tracing its evolution from the earliest times to the present. 38 illustrations. Price 6d. Published by Liberty & Co., Ltd., London and Paris. (To be obtained direct from the Publishers, at Regent-street, W., or from any of the principal Booksellers.) *"A most useful guide to ladies for the confection at home of exclusive and charming novelties in dress."*—Press Opinion.

the heliotrope, but though it jarred a little it was an item that gave a suggestion of Paris to the gown.

I am sending you patterns of Liberty's cashmeres, as you asked me to do. Are they not agreeably soft? And some of the mignonette shades are sweetly pretty. I have rather fallen in love with the nut-brown, No. 1,210. The Melrose cloths would be put down as hop-sack by the ordinary individual. There is a nice feuille morte among them. The Khush cloths are of the tufted order, with a camel-hair finish. There is a deep green that would make a jolly winter costume trimmed with skunk. In the same book of samples are wool crêpes in bright, light tints, suitable for evening dress. With disgraceful perverseness I have selected a sweet mouse colour as the prettiest among them. I can fancy it looking delicious with a lining of coral-pink poplin, vest and belt of the same, with braces of coral-pink ribbons, and revers of the same over velvet sleeves in the same bright colour. Dash in a little creamy lace, and there you have the gown of my heart!

Liberty's English silks and brocades are very tempting. Note the chené effects in the "Otley" and their soft, sweet tints. The "Ulrome" are in more decisive colours, such as turquoise, coral, applegreen, reddish mauve, and Chinese yellow. The "Thalia" brocades are capital for draping, and consequently suit the tea-gown very well.

I saw on a board near a certain church the other day the name of a club that struck me as being extraordinarily irreverent. This was it: "Holy Trinity Athletic Club." What do you think of it?

A nation of shopkeepers! The indictment appears to be a true one when even women of high rank descend to make money out of bicycling firms in the manner recently reported. One lady, unwilling to pay a high price, suggested that her riding a particular make of cycle would render it fashionable, and the firm, falling in with the idea, presented it to her. Another, finding that her friends accepted her recommendation to buy a similar machine to that she rode, bethought her to turn this into a matter of commerce, asking and securing from the makers a commission of 15 per cent. on all purchases influenced by her.

Nothing wrong in this, of course, but, somehow, it does not fit in with one's ideal of a true gentlewoman. Do you think it does? I am afraid the standard is gradually lowering. Curious examples are set in very high places, however, so that it is not, perhaps, surprising that the whole lump is leavened, right away down, as our Western cousins might express it.

Richard's sister, Helen, who lives in a sweet little place in Berkshire, having taken it for the usual "seven, fourteen, or twenty-one," has just had bicycle stables rigged up by Humphreys, of corrugated iron fame. We spent a couple of days there this week, and noticed that some of the wheel people were as careful about their steeds as though they had been made of flesh and blood. Most of them seemed to be particularly on their guard against the risk of their bicycles being ridden by others, or interfered with in any way. The cases were locked up each time we went in. And no wonder! Helen's friend, Mrs. Dunne-Browne, discovered that during her absence on the Continent her pretty parlourmaid had not only been wearing her gowns, but riding her bike all over the country. The most annoying part of this is that the girl is not very much unlike the mistress, being of the same height, rather similar colouring, and resembling her also in outline. Consequently, it is more than likely that some of her doings—which may possibly have been of the free and easy sort—may be ascribed to her employer. What complications may not ensue!

Scandal is such a rapid grower, you know. Jack's beanstalk was nothing to it. Our vicar, last Sunday, told us that men are worse sinners in this respect than women, and ascribed the frequency of such occurrences to the absence of duelling in this country. It is very certain that the law is a slow and cumbersome method of righting wrongs that one burns to adjust without delay. Every moment that one rests under a false suspicion seems a small eternity.

I saw that Mr. Commissioner Kerr, during a recent case, actually uttered from the Bench an opinion that it would have been well if a certain young woman had had a brother who would have used a thick stick on her behalf, applying it to some cowardly miscreant who had in some way injured her.

Would you like to know the size of the hat worn by Miss Kate James while singing a song called "The Matinée Hat," in "Lord Tom Noddy," at the Garrick Theatre? The crown is 10 in. high, the diameter 33½ in., and the circumference 3 yds. As it is white, and the trimmings are immensely high, you may imagine that the hat gives considerable point to the song.

Every woman in the Comedy Theatre wanted a cape like Miss Lottie Venne's in "Mr. Martin." It is a delicious little thing in mauve velvet lined with apple-green satin, and made with a high collar and stole ends of skunk. And her green cloth costume in the last act is also adapted to give rise to covetous sentiments. The seams are sewn with black, and the short coat is quite straight back and front, the latter being ornamented with oblong tabs in black, with a narrow white line round them. The high collar is lined with chinchilla. When "the glittering Star of Erin" takes this off she reveals a sweet little bodice cut away at the neck to show a double ruffle of pink silk made in chemisette style. The bodice is bordered round the shoulders with bands of black velvet edged with white, these bands not being put on in a straight line, but crossing each other obliquely in a new and pretty way. The rest is green cloth, and the sleeves are slashed with green velvet. Miss Isabel Bateman looked very pretty in a white dinner frock with a white chiffon ruffle round her neck, and in the first piece, "A White Stocking," Miss Elliott Page, proved what needs no proof, viz., how very becoming was dress in the Vicar of Wakefield days. The effect of a narrow band of coral-red velvet round her neck, and matching that with which her hair was tied, was very good.

Miss Rose Leclercq's Irish brogue seemed to cause herself so much amusement that she could not keep a grave face in the midst of all her scheming. But she should not say, "Ahr now!" The pleading, beguiling, coaxing, entreating of the Irish "Ah-h now" has the vowel long-drawn and very flat. But the rest of her brogue is lovely.

Have you seen any of the fine engravings in the "Book of Beauty," just published by Hutchinson & Co.? It is a quarto volume, bound in white and gold, and contains eighty or ninety portraits of some of the loveliest women in England. The book is edited by Mrs. F. Harcourt Williamson, and contains contributions in prose and verse from some of the originals themselves, their friends, and their admirers. The book is limited to four hundred copies, a few being sold at six guineas and the rest at five. The engravings are of such a costly character that the price must necessarily be high. The "beauties" start with the Princess of Wales, and there is a pleasant portrait of the Duchess of Fife and her two little girls. Those of the Duchess of Portland, Lady Powis, Lady Yarborough, and others are copies of Ellis Roberts', and have quite the Gainsborough look. Lady Deerhurst has the unique distinction of being praised by her mother-in-law in a few felicitous lines.

The sequence of the portraits has been carefully arranged, so that relatives are, so far as possible, grouped together. Lady Hood's portraits of her children face her own charming likeness on the opposite page. In the same way Lady Granby's counterfeit presentment is close to

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her sketch of her little girl. Lady Rose Leigh and Lady Dangan are together.

Is it invidious to select three or four that struck me as being the loveliest faces in the book? No, I think not, for I can leave it vague as to whether the superiority of beauty belongs to the originals or to the artists' skill. Well, then, I may place first Lady Helen Vincent, Georgina Lady Dudley, Lady Worcester, Lady De Trafford, Lady Naylor-Leyland, and Lady Eden. Whistler's portrait of Lady Archibald Campbell is included, and there are examples of Leighton, Millais, Sargent, Constant, Duran, Watts, Richmond, and Shannon reproduced in the finest photogravure, or printed on Japanese paper in proof and mounted on separate pages.

There are three boys represented in the "Book of Beauty"—little Lord Parker, and the youthful Anthony de Rothschild and Hugh Northcote. There are several children, and you would be delighted with the softness of the tinting in many of these. There is no real black, no staring white, only tones of cream and brown being included.

Just one recipe. Partridges larded and braised with celery sauce are a pleasant change:—

Take 3 birds for a dish, truss them into shape, and lard the breast with strips of fat bacon; put them into a stewpan with the trimmings of bacon, a little rough celery, an onion, a bouquet of herbs, about 6 peppercorns, 2 cloves, a blade of mace, and a little white stock, which must not touch the larding. Cover the birds with a buttered paper, replace the lid of the stewpan, and bring them to the boil on the fire; then place the stewpan in the oven to simmer for an hour and a half. Meanwhile, wash and shred 4 or 5 sticks of celery, blanch them in boiling water for ten minutes; strain, and put the celery into a stewpan with a piece of butter, a little salt, and the juice of half a lemon, cover closely and cook the celery on the side of the stove until tender, then rub it through the tammy or hair sieve. When the birds are done, remove them from the braise, glaze the larding, and keep them warm in the oven. Strain the braise into a basin, remove the grease, and thicken it with a piece of butter, kneaded with a tablespoonful of flour; stir it till it boils, squeeze through the tammy and return it to the stewpan to warm, adding the purée of celery, a gill of cream and salt and pepper to taste. Glaze the birds again, place them on a dish, with a large croûton of fried bread, cut in the shape of a cockscomb, between each, and pour the purée round.

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JAMES CREELMAN, the American War Correspondent, in his dispatch to New York, dated PORT ARTHUR, Nov. 24, 1894, writes:—

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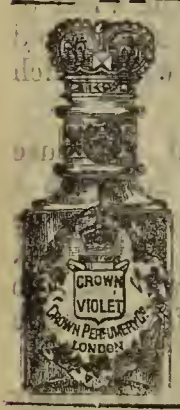

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The object of the above Company is to develop the resources of their estate, consisting of about 12,000 acres, situated in the far-famed Tulbagh district in the Western Province of Cape Colony, about 75 miles distant by rail from Cape Town. They are promoting the establishment of a successful colony. The estate has been surveyed and laid out in blocks of about 40 acres each, a number of which have already been sold. The purchase price of this land this year (with all water facilities) is £12 per acre, threequarters of which can remain bearing interest at six per cent. per annum.

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THREE PIANOFORTE RECITALS
(under the direction of Mr. Ernest Cavour),
at ST. JAMES'S HALL on
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, Oct. 29th,
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, Nov. 10th,
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, Nov. 20th,
at THREE O'CLOCK.
Erard's New Concert Grand, with Piano Resonator (Daniel Mayer's patent).
Tickets, 10s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., at Tree's; Chappell's; Lucas's; Newman's, Queen's Hall.
Concert Direction, Ernest Cavour, { London, N.W., 136, Adelaide-road. Berlin, N.W., Mittelstrasse, 23.

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EARL'S COURT.
IMRE KIRALFY, Director-General.
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LAST 2 WEEKS of Indian City.
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LAST 2 WEEKS of Artisans and Jugglers.
LAST 2 WEEKS of Great Ship Scene.
LAST 2 WEEKS of Devil Dancers.
LAST 2 WEEKS of New Cingalese Baby.
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Open from 11 a.m. to 11.15 p.m.
Admission, One Shilling! One Shilling!

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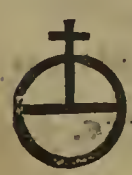

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Adapted by EDWARD ROSE from the novel by STANLEY WEYMAN.
The cast will include
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Mr. HAMILTON REVELLE. | Mr. J. L. MACKAY.
Miss FANNY COLEMAN. | Miss EVA MOORE, and
Miss WINIFRED EMERY.
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Imogen..... Miss Ellen Terry.
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MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 3. COMEDY.

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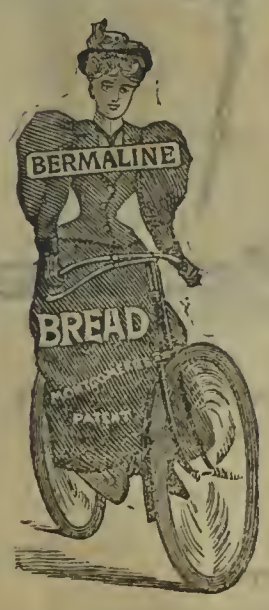

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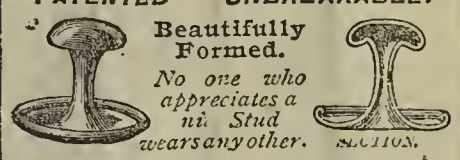

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4d. per Tablet. All Colours. Black, 6d. Sold Everywhere.

Sole Proprietors: THE MAYPOLE SOAP SYNDICATE, LIMITED,

98, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

A Bad Complexion

4d

is often due to a bad soap.

BLOTCHES ARE REPULSIVE, AND WILL MAR THE APPEARANCE OF ANY FACE. YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM WITH BAD SOAP.

PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

Is made specially for delicate, sensitive, irritable skins, and is scented with the most charming and innocent Perfumes.

PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

yields a profuse, cleansing, demulcent lather, and tends to keep the skin soft and velvety, and the complexion beautiful and clear. Its use doesn't cost a farthing a day.

4d

Vinolia is a Complexion Soap.

VINOLIA CREAM.—For Itching, Eczema, Face Spots, &c., 1/1½ and 1/9.
VINOLIA POWDER.—For Roughness, Redness, Toilet, &c., 1/1 and 1/9.

The "QUEEN" says:—"Few Silks can equal 'FAILLE INVICTA,' which is really a magnificent texture."

THE BEST WEARING FASHIONABLE **BLACK SILK**

THOROUGHLY TRIED AND RELIABLE.

REGISTERED No. 93,095.

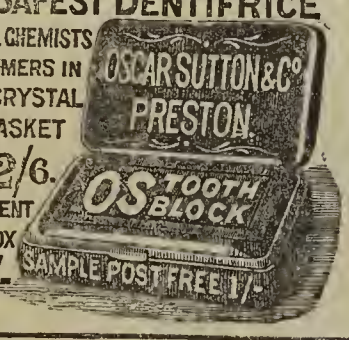
AT ALL SILK HOUSES.

"VANITY FAIR" says:—"I think nothing could be better than 'FAILLE INVICTA.'"

"MYRA'S JOURNAL" says:—"The 'FAILLE INVICTA' is fully recognised as the perfection of Black Silk."

BEST & SAFEST DENTIFRICE

SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS IN ELEGANT CRYSTAL TOILET CASKET PRICE 2/6. ALSO IN PATENT METALLIC BOX PRICE 1/-



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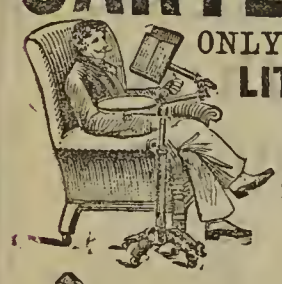

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INVALID FURNITURE. ADJUSTABLE COUCHES and BEDS from £1. 10/-

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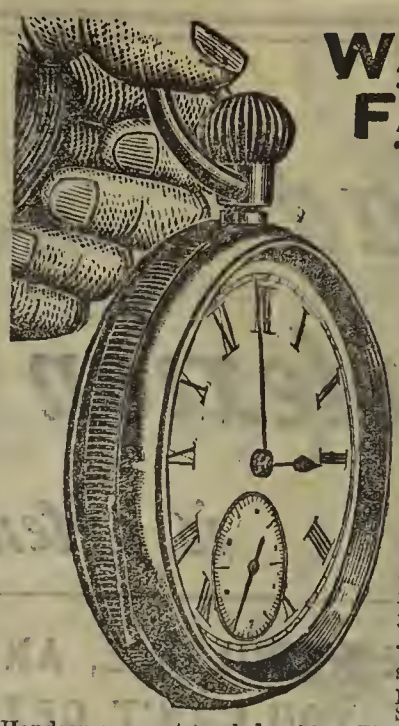

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DIRECT TO THE WEARER!

57/- THE **'COUNSELLOR'**

H. SAMUEL'S **KEYLESS ENGLISH LEVER.** A splendid Watch, highly finished interchangeable movement, with **15 JEWELS**; three-quarter plate, most accurately constructed; **CHRONOMETER BALANCE**; tempered hairspring; polished wheels and pinions: flat crystal glass front. In highly-finished close-fitting **SOLID SILVER** cases, hall marked. H. Samuel's price **£2. 17s.**; in **14-CARAT ROLLED GOLD** Case, consisting of two outer plates of 14-carat gold, lined inside with a case of specially prepared metal. Wears for years. H. Samuel's price, **£4. 5s.** Heavy 18-carat Gold Case, **£13**; **SEVEN YEARS'** warranty. **A MONTH'S FREE TRIAL.** Full amount returned if dissatisfied. **LARGE SAVING** on London prices. H. Samuel's "**ACME**" Sterling Silver Watches for Ladies and Gentlemen. Handsome, exact, and durable. Five years' warranty. Worth three guineas. H. Samuel's price **25s.** H. Samuel's New Improvements, protected by **HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT**, are only to be obtained in H. Samuel's Watches. Largest Sale! Highest Quality! Lowest Prices!

FREE. It will please you to read our new book (just published). Only necessary to send your **NAME AND ADDRESS**, and this handsome volume is despatched by next post. **CONSIDERABLE REDUCTIONS** effected by sending direct to H. Samuel for all requirements. Please say if we may have the pleasure of posting you this new book.

H. SAMUEL, *Lever Watch Factory,* **MANCHESTER.**

The complete Furniture of a comfortable Bedroom: Wardrobe, Dressing Chest, Washstand, 2 Cane-seat Arm Chairs, Chamber Service, Bed, Bedding, &c., folds into one small case measuring 6 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. Rigidity and appearance of glued-up Furniture. Patented all over the World. Invaluable to Colonists, Hotels, Officers' Quarters, Spare Bedrooms, Shooting Boxes, &c., &c. Suites at all prices, separate parts can be had. Obtainable at all Dealers or direct from

THE **V.P. FOLDING BEDROOM SUITE & FURNITURE CO., LIM.** 330, OLD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Clarke's "Pyramid" Night-Lights.

Single Wicks. In Boxes containing 8 Lights, to burn 9 hours; or 12 Lights, to burn 6 hours.

THE "BURGLAR'S HORROR."

Far, Far and Away the Best.

Should be lighted in a front and back room in every house as soon as it is dark.

N.B.—No paraffin or other dangerous material used in the manufacture. No water required.

"PYRAMID" AND "FAIRY" LIGHTS ARE THE ONLY LIGHTS THAT CAN SAFELY BE BURNED IN LAMPS.

Sold by all respectable Dealers everywhere. Manufactured by **CLARKE'S PYRAMID and FAIRY LIGHT CO., Ltd., Cricklewood, London, N.W.,** where all letters should be addressed.

Double Wicks. In Boxes containing 6 Lights and Glass, to burn 10 hours; or 10 Lights and Glass, to burn 6 hours.

HOW MR. HALL CAINE WROTE THE 'MANXMAN.'

"Yes, if the fact is of any consequence, you are very welcome to say that I wrote the 'MANXMAN,' with the SWAN FOUNTAIN PEN It has become quite indispensable to me. I can use it with ease and certainty anywhere and at any time, even in the dark, in bed, and on horseback."

We only require your steel pen to select a pen to suit you.

Complete Illustrated Catalogue sent post free on application to

MABIE, TODD, & BARD,

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FARADAY & SON's

Electric Light Fittings

NEW DESIGNS *for* SEASON '96

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NE PLUS ULTRA.

THE

'MUNSON'

Typewriter.

A WONDERFUL PIECE OF MECHANISM.

Made of the very finest hardened steel, combined with the best workmanship procurable. Does not contain a particle of wood, and has less working parts than any other standard machine on the market. Easy to learn, easy to write, and, above all, easily kept in thorough working order.

OTHER POINTS.

(1). Interchangeable type, by which 40 different styles can be written, including every European language, and time occupied in changing style of type five seconds.
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Used in the Government Offices and leading business houses in the civilised world.

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The "MUNSON" received the Highest Award, viz., GOLD MEDAL, at the World's Fair, Chicago, 1893.

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THE NORTH EUROPEAN CYCLE AND EXPORT COMPANY,

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Mülhens' "Rhine Violets"

F.M. TRADE MARK

DISTILLED FROM FRESHLY GATHERED RHINE VIOLETS.

A SCENT OF RARE FRAGRANCE.

A VERY ECHO OF NATURE.

CAUTION.

Owing to the phenomenal success of this popular Scent, some perfumers are offering essences of their own manufacture under the name of "RHINE VIOLETS." The public must not be deceived, but insist upon "**MULHENS'**" brand, which is distilled from the flower itself. Don't accept any bottle not bearing Ferd. Mülhens' name. This alone ensures genuineness. Ferd. Mülhens, of Cologne, is the originator of this exquisite perfume, and was the first to introduce it into England.

The Fashionable Press of London are unanimous in praise of it.

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- *per bottle.*

"Rhine Violet" Sachets, 2/6 each.
"Rhine Violet" Soap, 2/6 per tablet, or 7/- per box of 3 tablets.

Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes, or from

4711 Depot, 62, NEW BOND STREET, W.

TO INVESTORS.

STOCK CONVERSION AND INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN DEFERRED CHARGE STOCK).—Attention is drawn to the above Stock, which is quoted on the London and leading provincial Stock Exchanges. It receives for each year ending June 30th all dividends paid in excess of 5% on an equal amount of London and North-Western Railway Ordinary Stock. Its last dividend was at the rate of One Pound Five Shillings Per Cent., which at the present price of the Stock—viz., 29 per cent.—YIELDS A RETURN OF FOUR POUNDS SIX SHILLINGS PER CENT., and EACH ADDITIONAL FIVE SHILLINGS PER CENT. PAID ON LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN ORDINARY STOCK WILL INCREASE THIS RETURN BY SEVENTEEN SHILLINGS PER CENT.

The London and North-Western Railway traffic has increased by over £100,000 during the past 12 weeks, and there is thus every reason to anticipate an increasing dividend. No Home Railway Security yields so good an income return. The register of this Stock is kept by the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited.

WALTER F. GOODWIN, Secretary.

Offices of the Company, 12-13, Nicholas-lane, E.C.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
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Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
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BREAKFAST—SUPPER
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GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.
COCOA
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GOLD MEDAL
Health Exhibition, London.
BENGER'S
"Retained when all other Foods are rejected. It is invaluable."
—*London Medical Record.*
FOOD FOR INFANTS,
INVALIDS, AND THE AGED.
BENGER'S FOOD
is sold in Tins by Chemists, &c., everywhere.

Hunyadi János
BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.
25 Years Success in the United Kingdom.
Recommended and Prescribed by Medical Men Everywhere.

"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters."
—*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th, 1884.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK
VICHY CELESTINS Spring
Sold by all Chemists, Druggists, and Grocers throughout the Kingdom.
Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., 52, Farringdon Street, LONDON, E.C.

LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE
INSURANCE COMPANY.
Invested Funds ... ... £9,067,182.
FIRE. LIFE. ENDOWMENTS. ANNUITIES.
Fire Insurances Effected on Most Favourable Terms.
Life Bonuses Large, either in Cash or Additions to Sum Assured.
Policy Holders incur no Liability of Partnership, and may so insure as to participate in NINE-TENTHS of the PROFITS of their class.
EQUITABLE RATES. MODERATE EXPENSES.
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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.
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The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
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LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

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FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.
COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.
£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.
NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.
JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
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THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
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ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

DOMINION OF CANADA. CITY OF ST. CATHERINES, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO. Issue of £75,924 12s. FOUR per CENT. 30 YEAR STERLING GENERAL CONSOLIDATED LOAN DEBENTURES. In 759 Debentures to Bearer of £100 each and one of £24 12s. With Half-yearly Interest Coupons attached.

Principal repayable at Par in London, at the Bank of Montreal, 1st September, 1926. Interest Coupons also payable in London, at the Bank of Montreal, on 1st March and 1st September in each year.

Issue Price £102 per Cent., payable :—

£5	per Cent.	on	Application
10	,,	,,	Allotment
25	,,	,,	12th November, 1896
62	,,	,,	15th December, 1896
£102			

Subscribers will receive interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum from the respective due dates of the Instalments to 1st March, 1897, by Interest Scrip payable on the latter date, to be delivered with the Debentures.

The First undetached Coupon, for Six Months' Interest, will be payable on 1st September, 1897.

Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co. are authorised by the Corporation of the City of St. Catherines to receive subscriptions for the above general Consolidated Loan Debentures, and the Subscription Lists will be opened at their Offices, 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C., on Tuesday, 13th October, 1896, and closed at or before Four o'clock on Thursday, 15th October, 1896.

These Debentures are issued under authority and by virtue of an Act of the Legislature of Ontario, 56 Vict., cap. 79, entitled "An Act to consolidate the debt of the City of St. Catherines," and by authority of Bye-Law No. 1,019 of the City Council, duly passed, to provide funds for the sole purpose of redeeming and consolidating maturing bonds and discharging other indebtedness of the City on which a higher rate of interest is now being paid.

The above Act and Bye-Law provide that a special rate shall be levied in each year on all the rateable property of the City, in addition to all other rates, sufficient to pay the interest on these Debentures and to create a sinking fund for their repayment at maturity.

The City of St. Catherines, Province of Ontario, is situated in the Niagara Peninsula on the Welland Canal, which connects Lake Erie with Lake Ontario. It is the centre of the fruit producing district of Canada, possesses abundant water power, and is the seat of numerous industrial establishments, such as Flour Mills, Fruit Canning Factories, Saw and Axe Factories, Foundries, Planing Mills, Tanneries, Woollen Mills, Breweries, &c. It is lighted by gas and electricity, has good sewerage, and is supplied with good water by an effective system of gravitation.

The Bonded Debt of the City was by the above-mentioned Act consolidated at $790,000, and the Corporation has power under this Act to issue Debentures up to this amount. The present debt of the City is stated by the Treasurer to amount to $769,393·67 cents, and will not be increased by the present issue.

The total amount of rateable property according to the last revised Assessment Roll for 1896, amounts to $4,231,915.

The Revenue for the year 1895 was $121,595·97 cents.

The annual amount required to provide for Interest and Sinking Fund on the present issue is $21,937·58 cents.

The City is possessed of assets of about equal value to its total liabilities, consisting of Waterworks, Gas Stocks, School Buildings and Lands, Municipal Buildings and Court House, Fire Department, Parks, &c., some of which are of income yielding character.

The Waterworks system has cost to date $381,468·18 cents, upon which outlay the City now receives an annual revenue of 6 per cent.

The following Certificate has been furnished by Messrs. Bruce, Burton, & Bruce, Barristers, of Hamilton, Ontario :—

"Hamilton, Ontario,
"30th July, 1896.

"Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co.,
"99, Gresham-street, London, England.

"Dear Sirs,—We have examined Bye-Law No. 1,019, passed by the City of St. Catherines, on the 22nd day of June, 1896, authorising the issue of Debentures to the amount of $369,500, payable on the 1st day of September, 1926, with Interest thereon at the rate of Four per Centum per annum, payable half-yearly on the first days of March and September.

"This Bye-Law was passed under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of Ontario, 56 Victoria, Chapter 79, and is in accordance with the special provisions of that Act. In our opinion it is a good and valid Bye-Law and you may safely issue the Debentures authorised thereunder. The Debentures are 759 for £100 Sterling each and one for £24. 12s. Sterling, and together with the Coupons, are payable at the Bank of Montreal, London, England.

"Yours truly,
(Signed) "A. BRUCE,
For BRUCE, BURTON, & BRUCE."

The Statements in this prospectus respecting the City and its finances are based upon information supplied by the City Treasurer.

Applications on the form issued with the prospectus, must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent. on the amount of Debentures applied for, and be forwarded to Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and if a partial allotment is made the surplus deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its due date, all amounts previously paid will be liable to forfeiture. The instalments due on the 12th November and 15th December, may be paid on or after allotment, under discount at the rate of £2 per cent. per annum.

Application will be made in due course for a quotation for the Debentures upon the London Stock Exchange.

Copies of the Act of the Ontario Legislature and of the Bye-Law of the City of St. Catherines, authorising the issue of the Debentures, can be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Wilson, Bristows, & Carpmael, Solicitors, 1, Copthall-buildings, London, E.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

London, 10th October, 1896.

THE CENTRAL QUEENSLAND LAND CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Share Capital ..... £120,000.
4½ per cent. Debentures ..... 80,000.

The Directorate, awaiting the report of Mr. Harrie Wood (late Secretary for Mines, New South Wales) in connection with a recent discovery of gold on the Freehold Estates of the Corporation, will not be able to issue the Prospectus to the public until the 20th inst. Copies of the Prospectus, Maps, and Reports will be forwarded on application (by letter) to the Secretary, 33, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will be CLOSED on TUESDAY, 13th OCTOBER, for Town, and on WEDNESDAY for Country Applications.

THIS PROSPECTUS IS ISSUED BY THE MINES CONTRACT COMPANY, LIMITED, WHO GUARANTEE THE WORKING CAPITAL.

PEABODY AND BERKSHIRE GOLD MINES, LIM.

WANDILIGONG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - - - - - £100,000,
IN 100,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.

NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION ..... 40,000 SHARES.

Payable—2s. 6d. on Application ; 2s. 6d. on Allotment ; the balance in calls not exceeding 5s. per Share, and at intervals of not less than two months.

5,000 Shares to be held in reserve.

DIRECTORS.

Dr. Robert Farquharson, M.P., Director of Bovril, Limited.
Sir Walter Olivey, K.C.B.
J. H. Borrer, Esq., J.P., Director of Hannan's Sir John Forrest Gold Mines, Limited.
Charles Sidey, Esq., Director of Mount Usher Gold Mine, Limited.
Major J. F. Houstoun, of Clerkington, Haddingtonshire.

BANKERS—The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., and Branches

SOLICITORS—Messrs. Sheffield, Son, & Powell, 23, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C.

BROKERS—Messrs. R. E. Tomkinson & Co., 74, Cornhill, London, E.C.

AUDITORS—Messrs. Parkinson, Mather, & Smith, Chartered Accountants, 22, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C., and at 8, King-street, Manchester.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES—Mr. Frank Fuller, Tower-chambers, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire and work two Gold Mining Properties, the one known as "Peabody," having an extent of about 50 acres, and the other the northern half of "Berkshire," about 15 acres, adjoining, with all rights, claims, mill site, and water rights

The properties are advantageously situated, being within about 2½ miles of a railway station, and 200 miles from Melbourne, and according to the reports there is an ample supply of water and timber for all milling and mining operations.

The mines have been worked in a primitive way, but with the capital now to be provided, a mill can be erected, and a low level tunnel driven, which will intersect all the reefs about 150 ft. below the present workings, and do away with the sleighing and cartage of the ore to the custom mill, which is now necessary.

The "Peabody" Mine has been thoroughly well proved, having been worked on a small scale since 1861. For ten years, up to November, 1893, it was in the hands of two working miners, Messrs. Peter and Thomas Robertson (father and son). During the time they were the owners they took out gold to the value of over £10,000. Six reefs have already been cut and partially worked upon, the following being returns from some small crushings of ore made by Messrs. Robertson :—

674 tons yielded 1,414 oz. gold.
Some of the ore milled 4½ oz. gold per ton.

Since 1893 a considerable amount of work has been done, a tunnel having been driven 637 ft., which has cut the reefs worked in the upper levels. In the course of development small quantities of ore have been collected, and nine crushings made, in all about 445 tons, which yielded 726 oz. of gold, and realised over £4 per oz., the last crushing showing about 2 oz. to the ton.

Work has only been done on a very small part of the Company's property; the northern portion has not yet been touched, with the exception of slight surface workings.

It is believed that the reefs already found on the "Peabody" will run into the "Berkshire," which gives the properties an additional value, especially as they can be conveniently worked together. The new tunnel can be made in such a way that the mines will be drained, and the trucks run direct to the mill site, where it is proposed to erect a battery. All crushings in the past have been at a custom's mill, and the late owners are of opinion that a considerable percentage of the gold has been lost in treatment. The district is noted for the large output of gold in the past. The "Oriental" claim, which is situated next to the southern half of the "Berkshire," is said to have contained a reef 30 ft. to 40 ft. wide, and produced gold to the value of £750,000, to a depth of 200 ft. This line of reef enters the "Berkshire" property, and some of the ore taken has yielded as high as 5 oz. of gold per ton.

Mr. J. Macdonald Cameron, F.G.S., F.C.S., formerly Member of Parliament for the Northern Burghs, and now Deputy Master Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint, has made a most exhaustive report.

The properties have also been reported upon by Mr. T. G. Davey, F.G.S., &c., Mr. R. H. Rowe, Mining Engineer, and Mr. H. P. Richards, Mine Manager. Extracts from these reports are contained in the full prospectus.

Mr. R. H. Rowe, Mining Engineer, says in his report—

"I have been connected with quartz mining in the Australian Colonies over forty years, and since 1871 have been a mining manager. The opinion I have given on the 'Peabody' is not a scientific one, but that of a practical miner who is well acquainted with the characteristics of the quartz reefs in this district, having been mining here many years, and in my opinion the Peabody Mine will prove to be one of the best mining properties in this proverbially mining centre, and have very great pleasure in recommending it to investors."

The reports have been made for the Peabody Gold Mining Corporation, Limited, the former owners of the "Peabody" portion of the property, and the statements herein are based upon the said reports.

The purchase price of the properties has been fixed at £85,000, payable as to £55,000 in fully paid-up Shares of the Company, and the balance in cash or shares at the option of the Directors, leaving available 15,000 Shares to provide working capital, of which 10,000 Shares will now be issued, and 5,000 Shares held in reserve, as recommended in the reports.

The Mines Contract Company, Limited, are the Vendors and the Promoters of the Company, and will pay all expenses of and incidental to the formation of the Company up to and including the first general Allotment.

For particulars of Contracts, &c., see full Prospectus.

The Agreement and Memorandum and Articles of Association can be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company, and the reports, maps, plans, &c., may be seen on application at the Offices of the Company.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers and Solicitors, and of the Secretary, at the Offices of the Company.

THE

GOLDEN LINK CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - £550,000,

Divided into 550,000 Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORS.

SCOTT LINGS (Chairman), Reddish, Stockport (Managing Director Reddish Spinning Company, Limited).
ROBERT H. CROWDEN (of the firm of Crowden & Garrod), 62, Southwark-street, S.E.
W. LEIGH HUNT, 3, Great Winchester-street, E.C.
HENRY PHILLIPS, 83, Ashley Gardens, S.W.
*RICHARD J. JENKINS, J.P., C.E., of the firm of Messrs. Newton, Jenkins, & Co., Ormond House, Great Trinity-lane, E.C. (Director Eclipse Gold Mining Company, Limited).
*DOUGLAS A. ONSLOW, The Woodhouse, Upper Richmond-road, Putney (Chairman Great Boulder East Extended Gold Mine, Limited).
*MICHAEL TWEEDIE, 67, Redcliffe Gardens, S.W., Major-General R.A. (Chairman Hesperus Gold Mining Company, Limited, and Director Golden Link Gold Mining Company, Limited).
*Will join the Board after the Transfer to the Company, by the Vendor Companies of which they are respectively Directors, of the property and undertakings of such Companies).

Bankers.

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY, Limited, 75, Cornhill, E.C.
THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK, Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Solicitors.

GIBSON, WELDON, & BILBROUGH, 27, Chancery-lane, W.C.
JAMES & DARBYSHIRE, Perth, Western Australia.

Auditors.

FRANK DAVIES, MEREDITH, & CO., 95 and 97, Finsbury-pavement, E.C.

Secretary and Offices.

WILLIAM COOPER, 9 and 10, King-street, Cheapside, E.C.

This Company was formed for the purpose of amalgamating, acquiring, and taking over as going concerns as on the 30th day of September, 1896, the assets, undertakings, and properties of the following amongst other Companies :—

The Golden Link Gold Mining Company, Limited,
The Eclipse Gold Mining Company, Limited, and
The Hesperus Gold Mining Company, Limited.

The properties owned by these Companies comprise 95 acres, situated in the heart of the Hannan's District in Western Australia, and the two extreme properties are within twelve minutes' cycle distance of each other.

The Capital of the Company has been fixed at £550,000, with a view to the subsequent amalgamation and absorption of one or more other Companies in addition to the three above-mentioned (for the purchase of whose undertakings £238,227 only will be required), and to provide this Company with a further substantial sum for Working Capital.

The object of the Directors is to secure unity of management, and to effect a material reduction of working expenses, the saving which will be obtained by the amalgamation of the above three Companies in Directors', Auditors', and Consulting Engineer's fees, Secretarial and office expenses, being a very substantial sum estimated at some thousands of pounds per annum. In addition it is desired that the Shareholders should feel that this Company is being managed in their interests by a body of business men in whom they have full confidence; and, accordingly, it is provided in the Articles of Association of the Company that the Directors above-named shall only hold office until the statutory meeting of the Company unless confirmed in their office thereat.

In addition to the mining properties before referred to, the new Company will acquire from the above Companies, on the completion of the purchases with them, upwards of £50,000 in cash and about £8,000 worth of machinery already in Australia, besides other valuable assets.

The consideration to be given by this Company to the old Companies will be satisfied by the issue of 238,227 fully-paid Shares in this Company in place of 251,410, the present issued Share Capital of the old Companies.

Owing to the fact that a part of the assets of the Golden Link Company consists of a considerable number of Shares in the Hesperus Company, which Shares will become the property of this Company, so that it will not be necessary to issue any Shares in this Company in respect thereof, and owing to other arrangements which have been made by the Shareholders of the Eclipse Company amongst themselves, the following table shows the exact effect and operation of the amalgamation already carried out :—

	Present issued Capital.	Shares issued by New Company as purchase-money.
Golden Link Company ...	£90,000 ...	£112,500
Eclipse Company	80,320 ...	76,000
Hesperus Company	81,090 ...	49,727
	£251,410	£238,227

The immediate result of the amalgamation has been therefore, as is shown by these figures, a reduction of £13,183 in the issued capital of the Company upon which dividends will be payable.

Among the contracts entered into before the registration of this Company were four, all of which are dated the 24th day of September, 1896, and are made with William Cooper, as trustee for and on behalf of this Company, by the Golden Link Gold Mining Company, Limited, the Eclipse Gold Mining Company, Limited, the Hesperus Gold Mining Company, Limited, and Scott Lings, respectively, and since the registration of the Company these contracts have been adopted by it, and the bulk of the assets in England of those three Companies have been handed over to this Company.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company can be inspected at the office of the Company at any time during business hours during the week ending the 17th October, 1896.

The Company having gone to Allotment, and no Shares being offered for Public Subscription, this Notice is only intended for the purpose of giving Public Information.

The Prospectus is being issued simultaneously in England and France.

The Subscription List is NOW OPEN, and will CLOSE TO-DAY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 1896, for London and Country, and on or before SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th, for France.

Clément, Gladiator, & Humber (France)

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 *to* 1890. **LIMITED.**

SHARE CAPITAL, £900,000, Divided into 200,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, (preferential as to Capital as well as Dividend) **and 700,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.**

The above Shares are payable, 5s. on Application 5s. on Allotment, and the balance on the 12th day of November, 1896.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. Earl De La Warr, Chairman of The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd., Chairman.
The Hon. Derek Keppel, 53, Lowndes-square, London, S.W.
Henry Ernest Watson, General Manager of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co. (France), Ltd.
*Monsieur Adolphe Clément, Directeur de La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément.
*Monsieur A. Darracq, Directeur de La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator.
*Martin D. Rucker, Managing Director of Humber & Co., Ltd.
* Will join the Board after allotment.

BANKERS.

England—Lloyds' Bank, Ltd., 222, Strand, London, and their Agents in
Ireland—The Bank of Ireland, Dublin,
} and all Branches.

Paris { Applications will be received and receipts issued at the following Offices:— { 20, Rue Brunel. 18, Boulevard Montmartre. 19, Rue de Quatre Septembre.

SOLICITORS.

John B. Purchase, 11, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.
Arthur T. Ashwell, Nottingham.

BROKERS.

George Whitehead & Chown, 23, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.
W. Wilson & Son, 36, College Green, Dublin.
Henry Schuhmann & Cie., 56, Rue de la Victoire, Paris.
W. & F. Cuthbert, Colmore-row, Birmingham.
Arthur E. Blake, Prudential-buildings, Nottingham.

AUDITORS.—Mellors, Basden, & Mellors, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C.
SECRETARY (pro tem.).—S. Oxenburgh.
REGISTERED OFFICES.—28, Ely-place, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

OBJECTS.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of amalgamating, carrying on, and developing the well-known and flourishing French Cycle businesses as under:—

(1) La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément.
(2) La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator.
(3) The French business of Humber & Company, Limited.

The important amalgamation constituted by the union of these three great Companies will, it is believed, form one of the largest Cycle monopolies in Europe, and give to this Company an unequalled position in the Cycle industry of France.

PROFITS.—The turnover of the three Companies—La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément for the 19 months ending September 30th, 1895; La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator for the 18 months ending September 30th, 1895; and the French business of Humber & Co., Limited, for the two years ending August 31st, 1895—amounted to the sum of £602,807, whilst the profits for the same period of the two first mentioned Companies alone amounted to £87,001 3s. 6d.

The profits of the two Companies, La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément and La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator, for the year ending the 1st of October, 1896, are guaranteed by the Vendor to this Company at £80,000.

The results of the French business of Humber & Co., Limited, for the current year have not yet been ascertained, but judging from the turnover and the popularity of Humber Machines in France, the profits should be very considerable.

The profits of La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément and La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator, as guaranteed for the past year, were made without the aid of any of the advantages which must accrue from this amalgamation; and the following figures, based upon the Capital of this Company, are therefore eminently satisfactory:—

£200,000 Preference, 6 per Cent.	£12,000
700,000 Ordinary, 9 per Cent.	63,000
	£75,000

This calculation is made without taking into account any profits of the French business of Humber & Co., Ltd., which should materially increase the Dividend on the Ordinary Shares.

WORKING CAPITAL.—The operations of this Company will be of so extensive a character that a large Working Capital is, in the opinion of the Directors, essential. They have accordingly made arrangements which (with the accrued profits and reserve fund) will place at their disposal the ample sum of £150,000.

IMPORT DUTY.—A most important factor in estimating the future prospects of this Company is the question of import duty. This matter is now under the consideration of the authorities, and it is generally anticipated in France that the present duty on cycles will be largely increased. Any increase would materially bear upon the profits on French-made machines, and enhance the earnings of this Company by greatly reducing foreign competition.

MOTOR CARS.—A great feature for the immediate future is the new industry of Motor Carriages and Cycles. In the opinion of the Directors too much importance cannot be attached to this new industry, which at present is far more advanced and popular in France than any other country; and in order to fully develop this branch of the business extensive works will be erected at Levallois Perret.

Monsieur Clément was among the first to realise the great prospective value of this branch of the trade, and has at the present moment more orders in hand than he can execute.

The following is a short description of the businesses taken over:—

(1) LA SOCIETE DES VELOCIPEDES CLEMENT.

This business was established in 1875 by Monsieur Clément, who was practically the pioneer of Cycling in France, and to this gentleman was due the introduction of Dunlop Pneumatic Tyres into France, thereby giving a fresh impetus to an already important industry.

The business steadily increased, and in March, 1894, was formed into a Company constituted according to French Law under the style of La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément, and from that time has developed to such an extent that it is now unquestionably one of the foremost in France.

Monsieur Clément (the founder) has received at the hands of the French Government the high distinction of being the first cycle manufacturer to be decorated with the Legion d'Honneur, and the name of "Clément" in connection with cycles is known throughout France as "La Grande Marque Nationale."

This business is taken over from 1st of October, 1895, so that this Company will obtain the full benefit of a year's trading with profits estimated by La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément and guaranteed by the Vendor to this Company to amount to at least £40,000.

The works are situated in the Rue Brunel, Paris, and at Tulle (Corrèze), and are equipped with all the most modern machinery and plant sufficient to turn out at least twenty-five thousand machines yearly. The plant, machinery, and tools have been valued by Monsieur C. Bourdon, the well-known engineer of Paris, at £40,348 15s. 8d. The leasehold premises and buildings have been valued by Monsieur P. Collin, the well-known Architect of Paris, at £5,760.

Branch Depôts have been established at Madrid and Geneva, where a large and increasing business is in progress.

Agencies have also been established for the sale of Clément Cycles in every principal town in France, and also at St. Petersburg, Copenhagen, Milan, Athens, Brussels, Bucharest, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Buenos Ayres, Santiago, Constantine, Algiers, Sfax, Tunis, Alexandria, Saigon, Hong Kong, Port Said, and throughout the whole of South America.

The extremely valuable services of Monsieur Clément have been retained for the new Company, so that the organisation, which has hitherto been so successful, will be continued without interruption.

(2) LA SOCIETE FRANCAISE DES CYCLES GLADIATOR.

This business was established in 1891 by Messieurs Aucoc and Darracq at Pré-St.-Gervais, near Paris; and in 1894, owing to the extension of their trade, a Company was formed under the style of La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator.

The success of this Company has been phenomenal, as since its formation in 1894 its business has developed enormously, and earned a reputation unsurpassed in the trade.

Much of the credit for the excellence of workmanship and design for which "Gladiator" Machines are so justly noted is due to Monsieur Darracq, whose services have been retained on the Board of the new Company.

This business is taken over as from 1st October, 1895, with guaranteed profits of £40,000.

The plant, machinery, and tools have been valued by Monsieur C. Bourdon at £20,479. 12s., and the buildings and land by Monsieur P. Collin at £12,855. 12s.

The works where the famous "Gladiator" machines are manufactured are situate at Pré-St.-Gervais, Paris, and are equipped with the most modern machinery and plant necessary for turning out at least 25,000 machines each year.

This Company has also an extensive factory at Nantes capable of turning out 6,000 or 7,000 machines each year. These cycles have obtained a great reputation under the name of "Phebus."

This Company is recognised in France as well as in England as the pioneer of the quadruplettes and quintuplettes so extensively used on racing tracks.

Gladiator Cycles are now well-known in England, an Agency having been established in Oxford-street, London; and this year the much-coveted distinction of being the first to ride 30 miles in the hour was earned by Mr. Tom Linton on a Gladiator machine.

(3) HUMBER & COMPANY, LIMITED.

This Business has been established in France for several years, where, as in England, Humber Cycles have obtained a reputation second to none, and their sales by far exceed those of any other English manufacturer.

The Humber Head Depôt is one of the finest in Paris, and is situated at 19, Rue du Quatre Septembre, one of the busiest thoroughfares of the city.

Agencies for Humber Cycles have been established in the suburbs of Paris and in every important town in the Country.

The purchase price to be paid by this Company is £900,000, out of which the Promoter will provide a sum which (with the profits already accrued and reserve fund) will leave the Company a working capital of £150,000.

The Vendor will pay all expenses of every kind up to and including the completion of the purchase.

A London Stock Exchange settlement and quotation will be applied for in due course.

The Contracts entered into are as follows:—

1. Agreement dated the 11th day of July, 1896, and made between La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator of the one part, and Ernest Terah Hooley of the other part.
2. Supplemental Agreement to above dated 17th day of July, 1896, made between the same parties; and also an extract from the Minutes of the General Meeting of the said Société dated the 18th day of July, 1896.
3. Agreement dated the 8th day of August, 1896, and made between La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément of the one part, and Ernest Terah Hooley of the other part; and also an extract from the Minutes of the General Meeting of the said Société dated the same day.
4. Agreement dated the 6th day of October, 1896, and made between Humber & Company (Extension), Limited, of the first part; Humber & Company, Limited, of the second part; and the said Ernest Terah Hooley of the third part.
5. Agreement dated the 5th day of October, 1896, and made between the said Ernest Terah Hooley, as Proprietor of La Société des Vélocipèdes Clément, and The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company (France), Limited.
6. Agreement dated the 8th day of August, 1896, and made between the said Ernest Terah Hooley, as Proprietor of La Société Française des Cycles Gladiator, and the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company (France), Limited.
7. Agreement dated the 7th day of October, 1896, and made between Ernest Terah Hooley of the one part, and Robert Doncaster, Trustee for and on behalf of this Company, of the other part.

The businesses will be taken over subject to all existing contracts. These are of the ordinary trade character, and necessary for the working of the concerns, but, including as they do contracts with employees and customers and others, they cannot be specified.

There may be also other contracts relating to the formation of the Company, and subscriptions to the capital and otherwise, which may technically fall within Section 38 of the Companies Acts, 1867. Subscribers will be held to have had notice of all these contracts, and to have waived all right to be supplied with particulars of such contracts, and to have agreed with the Company as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable not to make any claim whatsoever, or to take any proceedings under the said section in respect of any non-compliance therewith.

Applications for Shares should be made on the forms enclosed, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, with the amount of the deposit.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance will be applied towards payment due on allotment, and any excess will be returned to the applicant.

Copies of the Prospectus, with Forms of Application for Shares, can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from their Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Contracts and Valuations specified above, can be seen at the Offices of the London Solicitor to the Company.

London, October 10th, 1896.

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

"The Distingué!"

WATERPROOF.

For all Weathers and all Wearers.

IN DRY WEATHER IT SERVES AS A MANTLE.
TO RAIN OR STORM IT OFFERS ABSOLUTE DEFIANCE.

Free from Disagreeable Odour. Perfection of Style and Finish.
Charming Patterns. A Perfect Waterproof Mantle.

TO BE HAD FROM LEADING DRAPERS, MANTLE HOUSES, &c.

Be careful to ask for "The Distingué," and see that every Waterproof has a Silk Label bearing the words "The Distingué," without which none are guaranteed.

Retailers can obtain all the Latest Novelties from the principal Wholesale Warehousemen in the United Kingdom.

CADBURY'S COCOA

Entirely free from added Alkali or any foreign admixture.

Absolutely Pure, therefore Best.

The Leading Doctors and Analysts, and the Medical Press, testify to the purity and superiority of CADBURY'S COCOA. The *LANCET* describes it as the "standard of highest purity at present attainable."

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 920.—DESCRIPTION IN RHYMED VERSE OF FAVOURITE WATERING-PLACES.

Candlemas (real name and address will be published in due course) £1 1 0
Ivy Leaves (real name and address will be published in due course) £1 1 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE "TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.

As will be seen by an announcement in another part of this paper, the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, of 112, Regent-street, have again presented a lady's gold watch, which will serve as a first prize for Doll dressing in the coming Exhibition. A statement dealing with the numerous other prizes, which will be presented by the Editor of Truth, will be printed in an early number. Meanwhile, there are still some dolls of both sizes available for early applicants.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 921.

I hope to be able to make an announcement in regard to this competition next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 925.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

The Best Rhymed Acrostic on "Victoria," having Special Reference to the Fact that Our Queen has now Reigned for a Period surpassing in Length that of the Reign of any Previous King or Queen of this Country.

The Acrostics, each of which must contain eight lines beginning with the letters in the word "Victoria," may be written in any metre which is in common use. All Acrostics must reach me by the morning of Monday, October 26, at the latest.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

The desiderated communication in connection with this competition has not yet reached me.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 918.

The Prize in this competition has been awarded to Vitio E. J., for the following text: "Let your moderation be known unto all men."—Philippians iv., 5.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name with the address of Birota, winner of Prize No. 919 is the Rev. C. C. Elcum, St. Agnes Vicarage, Liverpool.

Crux.—Your Cabinet Sentence: "Murder reigns supreme," did not arrive in time to be printed with the others.

Alicia.—I have received the further particulars sent by you.

Felicitas.—Your Cabinet Sentence: "Cut it up for Christmas," arrived too late to be printed with the others.

Rex.—I did not receive the first copy of the lines which you sent me on "Bishops and Bicycles."

Apemantus.—I regret the substitution of "sheltered" for "shattered" in your description of Bournemouth. The line should, of course, have read: "Shattered sides of Penmaenmawr."

*** The name of the winner of Prize No. 914, announced last week as "Mrs. Pearsey," should have been printed as "Mrs. Pearson."

Chica, Makmax, &c.—I have duly received your letters, and will attend to the requests contained in them. THE PUZZLE EDITOR

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 922.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

QUOTATIONS FROM WELL-KNOWN POETS CONTAINING THE NAMES OF THE SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

*** It having been impossible to examine the large number of lists which have been sent in, it is not to be assumed that the following answers are the best that have been received.—The Puzzle Editor.

Let me see—'twas on Saturday—yes, Dolly, yes, Moore, "The Fudge Family," x. But Isabel was glad when Sunday came, Wordsworth, "Michael." On the fus' Monday follerin' the 'tarnal allsmash, Lowell, "Biglow Papers," i., 4. To land each Tuesday from the rich Levant, Keats, "Sonnet to J. H. Reynolds." To marry Paris, Wednesday is to-morrow, Shakespeare, "Romeo," act iv., sc. 1. As thus, on Thursday there was a grand dinner, Byron, "Don Juan," xiii., 54. On Friday he died hard, Hood, "The Ghost."—Imsel.

The Sonday night, or day bigan to springe, Chaucer. "The Canterbury Tales," "The Knighte's Tale," line 1,351. You saw the man on Monday, was it? Tennyson, "Walking to the Mail," line 162. Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday came about, Byron, "Beppo," line 3. On Wednesday next, Harry, thou shalt set forward, Shakespeare, "King Henry IV., part I., act iii., sc. 2, last line but 8. Another was on Thursday brought, Wordsworth, "Goody Blake and Harry Gill," verse 14, line 7. Will, on a Friday morn, look pale, Scott, "Marmion," introduction to canto vi., line 162. That Saturday ye'll fecht him, Burns, "Invitation to a Medical Gentleman," &c., last line.—Abracadabra.

On Sunday Heaven's gate stands ope, "Sunday," George Herbert. 'Twas on a Monday morning, then, "The Battle of Sempach," Sir W. Scott. Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about, "Beppo," Lord Byron. On a Wednesday morn of St. Joseph's Eve, "The Blind Girl of Castel Cuillé," Longfellow. Another was on a Thursday brought, "Goody Blake and Harry Gill," Wordsworth. Whose Friday's fan was Enoch's ministering, "Enoch Arden," Tennyson. On Saturday we will return to France, "Love's Labour Lost," act iv., sc. 1, Shakespeare.—Whig.

He goes on Sunday to the church, "Longfellow," "The Village Blacksmith," line 25. Thou drank wi' Kirkton Jean till Monday, Burns, "Tam O'Shanter," line 28. "No more at nine I sup, Except on Tuesdays, Hood, "Remonstratory Ode (Whims and Oddities)" lines 111, 112. Fair, sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last, Shakespeare, "Merchant of Venice," act i., sc. 3, line 127 (Globe edition). Blessedest Thursday's the fat of the week, Browning, "Holy Cross Day," line 2. Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, Tennyson, "Enoch Arden," line 100. And so bifel (happened) it on a Saturday, Chaucer, "Miller's Tale," line 213. —Grow Pride.

While mine is a year that's all Sunday, Browning, "Pacchiarotto," line 8. What's that? You saw the man on Monday, was it? Tennyson, "Walking to the Mail," line 22. Why, then, to-morrow night, or Tuesday morn, Shakespeare, "Othello," act iii., sc. 3, line 60. On Wednesday next I shall set out. You know, Shelley, "Cenci," act ii., sc. 1, line 167. Of the red columns, where on festal Thursday, Byron, "Marino Faliero," act v., sc. 1, line 93. But, Lord, that Friday I was fou, Burns, "Holy Willie's Prayer," verse 9, line 3. Let me see—'twas on Saturday—yes, Dolly, yes, T. Moore, "Fudge Family in Paris," letter x., line 30.—Œdipus Junior.

Resort on Sundays to the house of prayer, Cowper, "Poem, a Hope." You saw the man on Monday, was it? Tennyson, "Walking to the Mail." Why, then, to-morrow night; or Tuesday morn, Shakespeare, "Othello," sc. 3. On a Wednesday morn of Saint Joseph's Eve, Longfellow, "The Blind Girl of Castel Cuillé." Blessedest Thursday's the fat of the week, Browning, "Holy Cross Day." Duly as Friday comes, though pressed herself, Wordsworth, "The Old Cumberland Beggar." That Saturday ye'll fecht him, Burns, "Invitation to a Medical Gentleman."—Myrah.

He goes on Sunday to the church, "Village Blacksmith," Longfellow. 'Twas on a Monday morning then, "The Battle of Sempach," Sir Walter Scott. On Tuesday, Rev. Mr. Mace will make me Mrs. Pratt, "There's no Romance in that," Hood. Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last, Shylock, "Merchant of Venice," act i., sc. 3, Shakespeare. Another was on Thursday brought, "Goody Blake and Harry Gill," Wordsworth. Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, "Enoch Arden," Tennyson. Inform him and storm him, that Saturday ye'll fecht him, "Invitation to a Medical Gentleman."—The Tishbite.

On Sundays preach and eat his fill, "Happy life of Country Parson," Pope. And here Saint Monday's worthy votaries live, "The Parish Register," Crabbe, p. 1, line 63. To land each Tuesday from the rich Levant, "Sonnet to J. H. Reynolds," Keats. Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last, "Merchant of Venice," act i., sc. 3, Shakespeare. Another was on Thursday brought, "Goody Blake," Wordsworth. Selde is the Friday all the weke ylike, "Knight's Tale," Chaucer, line 681. And that's the day that comes between the Saturday and Monday, "Sally in our Alley," H. Carey.—F. P. E.

Even Sunday shines no Sabbath day to me, "Prologue to the Satires," line 12, Pope. Thou drank wi' Kirton Jean till Monday, line 28, Burns. Why then, to-morrow night, or Tuesday morn, "Othello," act iii., sc. 3, line 69. On Wednesday morn of St. Joseph's Eve, "Blind Girl of Castle Cuillé," stanza i., line 6, Longfellow. Another was on Thursday brought, "Goody Blake and Harry Gill," Wordsworth. Will on a Friday morn look pale, "Marmion," introduction to canto vi., line 262. When Saturday night is market night, "Jenny," line 140, D. G. Rossetti.—Outsider.

He goes on Sunday to the church, "The Village Blacksmith," Longfellow. It left Vauxhall one Monday at noon, "The 'Monstre' Balloon," Hood. I remember it was a Tuesday, of all days in the year—"Mary, the Cookmaid's, letter to Dr. Sheridan," Swift. Shylock: Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last, "The Merchant of Venice," act i, sc. 1, Shakespeare. Thursday is the morn, the Ides of May, "The Sea Fight in XCII (La Hogue)," Glover. It fears me quite—its Friday night! and then Nell Cook hath power, "Nell Cook," Ingoldsby Legends, Barham. A Saturday and Monday, "Sally in our Alley," Carey.—Infelix.

Sunday comes apace: And kiss me, Kate, we will be married o' Sunday, act ii., sc. 1 (Petruchio in) "Taming of the Shrew," William Shakespeare. You saw the man—on Monday, was it? (James in) "Walking to the Mail," Alfred Tennyson. Come on Tuesday's coach through Glencoe (you have not seen it), vi., "The Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich," Arthur Clough. And now Ash-Wednesday came—that day but few to church repair, "The Three Graves," Samuel T. Coleridge. Blessedest Thursday's the fat of the week, "Holy Cross Day," Robert Browning. Each week duly as Friday comes, "The Old Cumberland Beggar" (The Period of Old Age), William Wordsworth. That Saturday ye'll fecht him, "Invitation to a Medical Gentleman to Attend a Masonic Anniversary Meeting."—Robert Burns.—C. M. P.

The children came each Sunday there, "In a Country Church," "Songs of Britain," Sir Lewis Morris. And now on Monday next at quarter night, "The Miller's Tale," "Canterbury Tales," Chaucer. But Tuesday night, last gone, in 's garden-house, act v., sc. 1, "Measure for Measure," Shakespeare. On a Wednesday morn of Saint Joseph's-eve, "The Blind Girl of Castel Cuillé," Longfellow. Come dine with us on Thursday next—you must, you know you can, "Nux Postcœnatica," "Humorous Poems," Oliver Wendell Holmes. It fears we quite—it's Friday night!—and then Nell Cook hath pow'r, "Nell Cook," "Ingoldsby Legends," Barham. And celebrate with shouts our opening Saturday, "Punch's Apotheosis," "Rejected Addresses," James and Horace Smith.—Musmé.

You saw the man—on Monday was it? Tennyson, "Walking to the Mail," line 22. Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about, Byron, "Beppo," canto i., line 3. On Wednesday next I shall set out, Shelley, "The Cenci," act ii., sc. 1, line 167. Another was on Thursday brought, Wordsworth, "Goody Blake and Harry Hill," v. 14, line 7. Will on a Friday morn look pale, Scott, Introduction to Canto VI., "Marmion," line 162. On Saturday we will return to France. Shakespeare, "Love's Labour Lost," act iv., sc. 1. Upon a simmer Sunday morn, Burns, "The Holy Fair," v. 6, line 1.—Verbum Sat.

Dosed with vile drams on Sunday he was found, Byron's "Hints from Horace," line 10 from the end. Thou drank wi' Kirkton Jean till Monday, Burns's "Tam o' Shanter," line 28. Even like the deeds that's done. On Tuesday last, Shakespeare's "Macbeth," act ii., sc. 4, line 13. Little doing—for sacred, oh Wednesday, thou art, Thomas Moore's "Memorabilia of Last Week," verse 8, line 1. On Holy Thursday to his city of Rome, Longfellow's "King Robert of Sicily," line 132. Duly as Friday comes, though pressed herself, Wordsworth "The Old Cumberland Beggar," line 38 from the end. On Saturday at night, Charles Mackay's "The Little Man," verse 1, line 6.—Isinglass.

Why such impress of shipwrights, whose sore task does not divide the Sunday from the week? Shakespeare, "Hamlet," act i., sc. 1. You saw the man—on Monday was it? There by the humpback'd willow, Tennyson, "Walking to the Mail." Next Tuesday (as towld in the playbill I mintion'd), T. Moore, "The Fudges in England." And now Ash-Wednesday came that day, Coleridge, "The Three Graves." Another was on Thursday brought, and ere the Sabbath he had three, Wordsworth, "Goody Blake and Harry Gill." Or, mind you fast next Friday, Browning, "Fra Lippo Lippi." Pray, Geromiro, is not Saturday an unpleasant day with those who have but one shirt? Longfellow, "Spanish Student," sc. 2.—Gollywog.

He goes on Sunday to the church, Longfellow, "The Village Blacksmith," verse 5. 'Twas on a Monday then, The corn was steep'd in dew, Sir Walter Scott, "The Battle of Sempach," verse 9. Will you vow to be safe from the headache on Tuesday, and think it will hold, Mrs. Browning, "Lord Walter's Wife," verse 7. Monday! Ha, ha! Well, Wednesday is too soon, Shakespeare, "Romeo and Juliet," act iii., sc. 4. Another was on Thursday brought, and ere the Sabbath he had three, Wordsworth, "Goody Blake and Harry Gill," verse 14. Or, mind you fast on Friday, Browning, "Fra Lippo Lippi," line 318. When Saturday night is market night everywhere, Rosetti, "Jenny," verse 11.—Beppo.

Her Bible on hot Sunday afternoons, "The Prelude," book iv., Wordsworth. 'Twas on a Monday morning, then, "Battle of Sempach," verse 9, Sir Walter Scott. Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about, "Beppo," verse 1, Byron. Little doing—for sacred, oh, Wednesday, thou art, "Satirical and Humorous Poems: Memorabilia of Last Week," Thomas Moore. That may be, must be, love, on Thursday next, "Romeo and Juliet," act iv., sc. 1, Shakespeare. Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, "Enoch Arden," Tennyson. Because I have heard it said that Saturday is an unpleasant day with those who have one shirt, "Spanish Student," act i., sc. 2, Longfellow.—Iris No. I.

Even Sunday shines, no Sabbath day to me, "Prologue to The Satires," line 12, Pope. And so ill in consequence all Monday, "The Promise of May," act iii., line 83, Tennyson. On Tuesday last, "Macbeth," act ii., sc. 4, line 13. On a Wednesday morn of St. Joseph's Eve, "The Blind Girl of Castel Cuillé," Longfellow. Another was on Thursday brought, "Goody Blake and Harry Gill," verse 14, Wordsworth. The other evening ('twas on Friday), "Don Juan," canto v., 33, line 1, Byron. Whereas Lord .... de .... left his house last Saturday, "Missing," verse 1, Moore.—Wyalong.

He goes on Sunday to the church, and sits among his boys, Longfellow, "Village Blacksmith," lines 25, 26. Thou drank wi' Kirton Jean till Monday, Burns, "Tam o' Shanter," line 28. Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about, the people take their fill of recreation, Byron, "Beppo," lines 3, 4. Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last, Shakespeare, "Merchant of Venice," act i., sc. 3. Blessedest Thursday's the fat of the week R. Browning, "Holy-Cross Day," line 2. Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, Tennyson, "Enoch Arden," line 100. Let me see—'twas on Saturday—yes, Dolly, yes, Moore, "The Fudge Family in Paris," letter x., line 30.—New Chum.

His Sunday garments hung, upon the self same nail, Wordsworth, "Margaret," line 446. And that's the day that comes betwixt a Saturday and Monday, Carey, "Sally in our Alley," lines 27 and 28. She would be there on Tuesday next at three, Clough, "Christian, the Lawyers 2nd Tale," line 58. And now Ash Wednesday came—that day, but few to church repair, Coleridge, "The Three Graves," line 67. 'Twas on a Holy Thursday, their innocent faces clean, Blake, "Holy Thursday," line 1. Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, Tennyson, "Enoch Arden," line 100. He sells she-flesh on Saturday, Scott, "Madge Wildfire's Sougs" (from Heart of Midlothian).—Hafiz.

No Sunday tankards foam, no barbers shave, Byron, "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers." Then drank wi' Kirton Jean till Monday, Burns, "Tam o' Shanter." Saying he last Tuesday wed his cook maid Molly, Barham, "My Letters." On Wednesday, when there's very few in loft or pew, Hood, "Ode to Peace." Sir, you will attend at twelve on Thursday, Crabbe, "The Patron." On Friday, too! the day I dread! Gay, "The Farmer's Wife and the Raven." On Saturday we will return to France, Shakespeare, "Love's Labour Lost," act iv., sc. 1.—Penny.

The finest Sunday that the autumn saw, Wordsworth, "The Brothers." Then drank wi' Kirton Jean till Monday, Burns, "Tam o' Shanter." Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about, Byron, "Beppo." On Wednesday next, Harry, you shall set forward, Shakespeare, 1 Henry IV., act iii., sc. 2. Blessedest Thursday, the fat of the week, R. Browning, "Holy Cross Day." Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, Tennyson, "Enoch Arden. On that first Saturday in May, Hood, "A singular Exhibition at Somerset House."—Prak.

Made nests inside men's Sunday hats, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," verse 2, Robert Browning. At gloamin'—shot it was, I trow, I lighted on the Monday, "Had I the wyte," verse 4, Robert Burns. Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about, "Beppo," I., Lord Byron. On Wednesday next, Harry, you shall set forward, "King Henry IV." Part I., act iii., end of sc. 2. She flirts as young, you mean. Why, if you had seen her upon Thursday night, "Aurora Leigh," Book IV., page 150, E. B. Browning. Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, "Enoch Arden," line 100, Alfred Lord Tennyson. He sells the flesh on Saturday, Scott, "Madge Wildfire's Song."—Bladud.

He goes on Sunday to the church, Longfellow, "The Village Blacksmith." Thou drank with Kirton Jean till Monday, Burns, "Tam o'Shanter." And saying he last Tuesday wed, "Ingoldsby Legends, My Letters." On Wednesday when there's very few, Hood, "Ode to Peace." Come dlue with me on Thursday next. You must, you know you can, O. W. Holmes, "Nux Postecœnatica." Duly as Friday came though pressed herself, Wordsworth, "The Old Cumberland Beggar." Or when blest Saturday prepares, Thos. Warton, "The Phæton."—Agricola.

Theer wur a lark a-singin' 'is best of a Sunday at murn; stanza viii., "The Northern Cobbler," Tennyson. The rest shall go by Monday's packet, Letter iv., in "The Twopenny Post-bag," Moore. And saying he last Tuesday wed, stanza xv., in "My Letters," (miscellaneous poems), T. Ingoldsby. On a Wednesday morn of Saint Joseph's Eve, line 6, Part I., of "The Blind Girl of Castel Cuillé," Longfellow. As thus: on Thursday there was a grand dinner, "Don Juan," canto xiii., verse 54, line 1, Byron. Will on a Friday morn look pale, "Marmion," introduction to canto vi., Scott. The only tie is the wage upon Saturday nights, "Grandmother's Teaching," stanza xiii., Alfred Austin.—Dinks.

His sermon for the Sunday, I suppose, "Tales of the Hall," Book zxii., Crabbe. 'Twas on a Monday morning, then, "Battle of Sempach," Scott. She would be there on Tuesday next at three, "Mari Magno," Lawyer's Second Tale, Clough. For Friday, Saturn, and Wednesday, "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry," Tusser. Join those who Thursday next meant to meet S., "Sludge the Medium," Browning. Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, "Enoch Arden," Tennyson. Now Ben he resolved one fine Saturday night, "Ben Bluff," Hood.—Phl.

Explained the case so well last Sunday, sir, Browning, "Mr. Sludge, the Medium." But if one wheel was juicy, you may lay your Monday head, Kipling, "Barrack-room Ballads, Snarleyow." I am to say that the wedding is finally settled for Tuesday, Clough, "Amours de Voyage," xii. Wednesdays and Fridays you'll observe from hence, Gay, "Trivia," act ii., line 419. 'Twas on a Holy Thursday their innocent faces clean, Blake, "Holy Thursday." Whose Friday fare was Enoch's ministering, Tennyson, "Enoch Arden." Now Ben he resolved one fine Saturday night, Hood, "Ben Bluff."—Mu.

That at the Lord's house, even on Sunday, 'Thou drank with Kirkton Jean till Monday, Burns, "Tam o' Shanter." Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday comes about, Byron, "Beppo." On a Wednesday morn of St. Joseph's eve, Longfellow, "The Blind Girl of Castel Cuillé." On Wednesday next, Harry, you shall set forward; On Thursday we ourselves will march, Shakespeare, "King Henry IV.," act iii., sc. 2. Once only when the flue took fire, One Friday afternoon, Young Mr. Long came kindly in And told me not to swoon, Tom Hood, "Number One." It is the day that comes between The Saturday and Monday, Carey, "Sally in our Alley." I spoke her praises to the moon, I wrote them to the Sunday Journal, Praed, "The Belle of the Ball Room."—Bird, Swansea.

Sundays the pillars are On which Heav'n's palace arched lies, George Herbert, "The Temple." They left Calais on Monday by steam, And landed to dinner at Dover, Macaulay, "An Election Ballad." On Tuesday, Reverend Mr. Mace Will make me Mrs. Pratt, Hood, "There no Romance in That." But Wednesday last at half-past ten You let the ragged gentlemen Smash all his Grace's glasses, H. M Praed, "Political Poems: Ode to Popularity." But what say you to Thursday, Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," act iii., sc. 4. Friday first's the day appointed, By our Right Worshipful annointed, To hold ourgrand proecession, Burns, "Invitation to a Medical Gentleman." You with the bean that I gave when we quarrelled, I with your marble of Saturday last. R. Louis Stephenson, "A Child's Garden of Verses: Keepsake Mill."—Bishop Q.

In addition to those already acknowledged, lists have been received from Bishop Q., Charlwood, R. E. B., Go-as-you-please, Hopetoun, Kingston, Jockey Club, Mrs. B., Queensholme, Mu, D. D., Linsfort, Beckenham, Almaviva, Sylvanus, Auriol, Greeka, Londoner, Zachie, Pelican, Cartex, Bus, M. P. B., Goodrich, Gozo, C. M. P., Cariad, Mrs. A., Meth, St. Miac, Arten, Don't Care, Entreja, Hacomaco, B. S., Harebell, Kioskulos, Ombra, Alph, J. McGrigor Allan, Drynoch, Pip, Tura, Ivy Leaves, Redlands, Colin, Honeymoon, Atin, Scotland Yard, Quien Sabe?, Pagan, N. E. R., Dahlia, Ixion, Bowzer, Newnham, Daffodil, Hamelin, Si je puis, Cupid, Hobbema, Albrighton, Prempeh, Mexic, Age, Bittersweet, Celice, Canopus, Pearl, Jeffus, Poopoo, Excelsior, Troy, Montanvert, July, M. A. P., Pennywog, Sophrona, Berrie, Lancelot, Grasmere, Pannal Ash, Ubique, Badebec, M. J. W., Artful Dodger, Jopa, E. Culverhouse, Opera, Jeffus, Incognita, A. D. R., Jacobite, Cork, Outis, Zac, E. R. Shilleto, Enilorac, Red Republicau, Omega, Seoul, Peeping Tom, Fairfax, Alison, M. E. E., Agenoria, Opera, Bramble, Qu'Appelle, Leaf Rule, Granite, Sal, Abracadabra, J. O. N., Mick, Rowena, Imsel, Whig, Grow Pride, Œdipus Junior, Myrah, The Tishbite, F. P. E., Outsider, Infelia, P. M., Musmé, Verbum Sat., Isinglass, Gullywog, Beppo, Iris No. I., Wyalong, New Chum, Hafiz, Penny Prak, Bladud, Agricola, Dacks, Phi, Bop, Bird Swansea, W. S. G., Aliela, Emma, N. W., Sally, Moo Cow, Hopper, King Réné, M. W. P. S., and Hood, Gallina, Powelchew, and Alicia.

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

A ROMANCING contemporary gives an elaborate account of how the news of the Primate's death reached Balmoral, which is a pure and simple invention from beginning to end, and, moreover, a singularly ill-concocted fiction. We are informed that the news arrived at Balmoral just before luncheon, and "the general sadness" at that meal convinced the Queen that something had happened. On being informed of the Archbishop's death, the Queen "at once entered the telegraph room and personally despatched her message to Mrs. Benson." What a passage of idiotic nonsense! The news did not reach Balmoral till late in the afternoon, and the Queen invariably lunches with the Princess Beatrice only, and never, under any circumstances, with the Household; so that her Majesty could have no knowledge of what was going on at that meal.

Important telegrams are not dealt with either at Balmoral or at any other Palace in the slovenly manner described, as they are opened by the private secretary, and delivered by him to the Queen herself. Her Majesty has not entered the telegraph office at Balmoral for many years. Her message of sympathy, which was despatched on Monday, was principally composed by Princess Beatrice. To any one who has any knowledge of the etiquette of our Court, there is something infinitely ridiculous in the idea of the Queen and Household sitting together at luncheon, and her Majesty addressing a peremptory question to the lady-in-waiting as to the contents of an official telegram addressed to the Queen herself.

On Saturday week the Lord Provost and several of the members of the Corporation of Edinburgh attended at Balmoral and presented the Queen with an address of congratulation on the marriage of Princess Maud of Wales and Prince Charles of Denmark. It was fully expected that the Queen would have knighted the Lord Provost; but her Majesty did not do so, much to the disappointment of some of the deputation. The Corporation party have been severely criticised in Scotland for their flagrant "desecration of the Sabbath," in driving on "the Lord's Day" across the hills from Braemar to Blairgowrie on their way back to Edinburgh. They encountered a frightful storm of sleet and snow in the Spittal of Glenshee, and, having left the carriages in order to view a waterfall, they nearly got lost in making their way back to the vehicles. The austere Presbyterians of Edinburgh declare that if this fate had befallen them, it would have been a "righteous visitation" for their misconduct in travelling on Sunday.

A short time ago the *St. James's Gazette* made itself supremely ridiculous by announcing that, on the day before the arrival of the Emperor and Empress of Russia at Balmoral, the Queen would observe the anniversary of the battle of the Alma by proposing two toasts (of Thackeray's "British Brandy and Water School") at her dinner-table. Now an egregious weekly journal caps this nonsense by stating that, on November 2, the Queen will have "a special select dinner-party," and celebrate the birthday of the Duke of Kent! Did ever any one out of Bedlam dream of "celebrating the birthday" of a relation who has been dead and buried for nearly eighty years?

It is probable that Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia will accompany the Empress Frederick to England next month. The Empress is to arrive at Windsor Castle a day or two before her birthday, which is on Saturday, November 21.

The Prince of Wales is to pay a visit, after the Newmarket Houghton Meeting, to Mr. and Mrs. William James, at West Dean Park, near Chichester, when he will have a couple of days' pheasant shooting in the extensive coverts on that estate. The first set of guests at Sandringham will be invited to arrive on Saturday, November 7, and there is to be a large shooting party during the following week.

Princess Louis of Battenberg is expected to arrive at Balmoral next week on a visit to the Queen from Darmstadt. Princess Louis and her children will proceed to Malta for the winter about the middle of November.

The Queen of Portugal is coming to England next month, after she has attended the wedding of her brother, the Duc d'Orléans, at Vienna. Queen Amélie will visit the Queen at Windsor Castle, the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham, and the Comtesse de Paris at Woodnorton, the seat of the Duc d'Aumale, near Evesham.

Lord Cadogan has not made himself at home in Ireland, nor filled the office of Viceroy with any enthusiasm. In fact, the rumour still persists that he is anxious to give up the post, and goes to the extent of designating his probable successor. The wish, no doubt, is father to the thought in Ireland, where it is rumoured that Lord Dufferin will probably be the next Irish Viceroy.

No Lord Lieutenant can have any social success so long as he persists in retaining the Household officials whom he is bound to change when he comes into office. The Dublin Castle clique is too strong for the strongest Lord Lieutenant. Its members are the Mayors of the Palace, in whose hands he is powerless. The most curious thing about this conduct of successive Viceroys is that the mismanagement by these officials of the business which is left in their hands is traditional. Each season at Dublin Castle provides a record-breaking list of social blunders and mistakes on their part.

There is no foundation whatever for the report that Lord Onslow "has been selected" to replace Lord Elgin as Viceroy of India, which is palpably ridiculous, inasmuch as Lord Elgin's term has still more than two years to run.

A distracted resident of Hereford-square, S.W., has sent me a lengthy epistle on the perennial question of the German-band and piano-organ nuisance, with which he appears to think his district is afflicted to an exceptional degree. He writes more particularly in the interest of the readers in the public library at the corner of Cranley-gardens, which, for two or three hours on two or three nights each week, is the centre of a perfect pandemonium; but the whole neighbourhood is suffering under this grievance, which, always hard to bear, has latterly become worse than ever, the ear-torturing performers coming oftener and staying later in the evenings than they were at one time content to do. There are few quarters of London from which similar complaints are not heard. The chief difficulty in dealing with the evil seems to be the disinclination of even the most long-suffering householders to go to the police-court and prosecute their tormentors in person, as they are at present required to do, and no doubt some fresh legislation on the subject is desirable. Why not, for instance, establish a close time for these itinerant musicians which would protect the public from their performances during the night at least—say between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.? But, meanwhile, those who are aggrieved must remember that it is simply a case of "help yourself, and the law will help you." If they will not help themselves, then, of course, they must put up with the consequences.

I have received the following letter from Dr. Lunn in answer to the complaints about the experiences of the passengers by the *Midnight Sun*. I have not had time to communicate with the passengers who made the complaint, but I cannot help thinking that they must, on their side, have something to say to the statement that they were advised of the intention to coal at Newcastle, and offered free railway tickets to London. As Dr. Lunn's statement stands, it seems to deprive the complaints about the coaling of all justification. I should like to have heard, however, whether notice of the intention to caulk the deck was given too:—

Dear Sir,—In your issue of the 6th inst. you criticise the recent cruise of the s.s. *Midnight Sun*, and think the management should explain certain matters, which I am glad to say are quite capable of satisfactory explanation.

1. The passengers were informed, a week before the cruise began, that the ship would have to be coaled at Newcastle, and were advised to return by train to London, and in order that they might do so *free of expense*, as the cruise commenced from Newcastle, we offered return tickets from London at single fares, paying the difference in the cost ourselves. Out of 170 passengers 140 left the vessel at Newcastle, expressing their keen satisfaction with the cruise. The remaining thirty came to Tilbury by sea in very bad weather, to our great regret.

2. Immediately after their return to Tilbury, I issued a printed circular to all the passengers, saying that we wished to pay the dock dues, and cheques were in their possession before your criticism on this point was published.

3. The charges on the wine card correspond to those which have been made by the owners of the vessel during the whole of the Norway Season, and are the ordinary charges on passenger steamers.

4. The sanitary arrangements are those of a first-class steamer.

The increasing success of these cruises is our best answer to the general criticisms contained in your paragraph.—Yours faithfully, Henry S. Lunn.

In reference to recent remarks in Truth on the cruelty involved in the production of the "aigrettes" or "ospreys" worn in ladies' bonnets, one or two naturalists are anxious to inform me that the bird whose plumage passes by that name is not an osprey at all, but a heron. Of this I am aware, and I suppose that the bulk of the public are aware of it too. But, as long as the plumage and the bird are generally known in the trade and among the trade's feminine customers as "osprey," it seems to me that one is more likely to be understood in talking about "osprey" than in talking about "heron." But whatever the name by which the birds are called, the facts remain the same.

A question which exercises me much more is the contention, which has been seriously addressed to me, that the destruction of the heron for the purpose of conversion into "osprey" is excusable, if not justifiable. I happen to have on my staff an enthusiastic angler. He can find no words strong enough to express his feelings about herons—"beastly poaching vermin that kill all your fish." I also have a long letter pooh-poohing the outcry about the horrors of the aigrette trade, and here, again, I find the heron charged with destroying the eggs and young of smaller birds. If the plume hunting is carried on as described, however, it is clearly vile cruelty, and it is no excuse for cruelly torturing one creature that the creature

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1056 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1055.
For Amusements, see page 1055.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1069.

itself preys on others. You would not teach your little boy, I take it, that he was justified in pulling the legs off spiders, and leaving them to die of starvation, because the spiders in turn catch and suck the blood of flies.

As for the angler, he is a pretty witness, certainly, to offer his evidence against the heron. The heron catches fish, and swallows them as expeditiously as possible, for its own living. The angler devotes all the resources of his intellect to tricking a wretched fish into swallowing a hook, hauls it ashore by this instrument of torture, and leaves it to flap itself to death, and all for what? For his own amusement, which he calls "sport," or to get a paragraph recording his prowess in the newspapers. This is the individual who calls herons "vermin," and thinks they may be rightly tortured because they eat the fish and so prevent his torturing the fish for his own amusement.

Red Deer.—The Carbery Hunt is anxious to dispose of two red deer which they have hunted for past two seasons; *must sell as they know this country too well;* no other fault.—Apply, Secretary of Hunt, Clonakilty.

The above appears in the *Cork Constitution.* It is one of the funniest side lights on the noble sport of hunting tame deer that I have come across. These two old stagers "know this country too well," and, I suppose, make the course a trifle too stiff for the noble sportsmen of the Carbery Hunt. If no offer has yet been received, let me suggest that the two knowing ones should be hunted in future with their eyes bandaged. That might improve the sport. Or why not make them carry weight?

In the window of a Worcester jeweller's shop there is now exhibited a large silver épergne, which was presented to the late Dean Yorke in 1874, by the congregation of St. Philip's, Birmingham, when he left that parish, on being appointed to the Deanery of Worcester. This article is for sale at a second-hand price, and it may be hoped that it will soon be purchased by some friend or relation of Dean Yorke's, as there is something rather ghastly in seeing presentation plate of this kind going begging in such a doleful fashion.

The Rev. Mr. Le Pla and the gentleman and two ladies named Reed, or Reid, of Clapton, are doubtless walking incarnations of all the virtues, but they possess between them a capacity for imagining evil, and placing an immodest construction on the most harmless acts and words of their fellow-creatures, which would do credit to the most abandoned and dirty-minded sensualist. A diagram representing two pairs of feet—one pair male and the other female—with a suggestion of intoxication about the one and of night garments above the other, fails altogether to convey to this pure-minded party the artist's idea of an interview between an erring husband and a reproachful wife, and tells no tale but an awful and immoral one. A light-hearted damsel comes up to the reverend gentleman, and begins to tell him a story; but he stops her at once, being convinced, out of the imagination of his cleanly heart, that if he had allowed her to go on, it would have been something which he ought not to hear. And then he solemnly comes before the Licensing Committee and produces this awful something, which he imagined himself, as evidence of the undesirable character of the other party, whom he would not allow to speak to him. The ordinary spectacle of a lady on the stage wearing "tights," which I suppose nine out of ten of us have beheld unmoved from the time of our first pantomime, has such an effect upon the feelings of one of the Clapton ladies that she is ready to swear that the "tights" were non-existent, and that she plainly discerned "the texture of the skin." It really looks to me as if Purity Associations exercise a far more demoralising influence than any public entertainment likely to be seen on this side of the Channel.

On the whole, the movement for purifying the music-halls, which started when the County Council was entrusted with the licensing functions, has done a great deal of good, and nobody has more cause to be thankful for it than the proprietors of music-halls. Since 1889 these institutions have taken an entirely new place among our social amusements, and every year their popularity with all classes of society increases. That being so, the enthusiasts for Social Purity would do well to beware of the danger of producing a reaction. Reaction there will certainly be, if Purity persists in making herself the laughing-stock of every individual with a laugh in him. It is to be hoped, therefore, that we have now seen the last of the attempt to regulate the entertainments of London on the principles of a tea-meeting at Ball's Pond.

The production of "The Sign of the Cross" at Boston the other day has evidently caused grave searchings of heart among the elect of the town, and the result was shown in the issue of a "Warning!!" to their Fellow-Christians by "The Open Air Mission." There have been those, Mr. Gladstone among the number, who have regarded "The Sign of the Cross" as a drama of a distinctly religious and edifying tendency; but the Boston Open Air Mission know better. They only see in the play a deeper and more insidious device than usual of the Enemy of Mankind for decoying the unwary soul to perdition, through the door of the playhouse. How deeply and intelligently they have thought about this subject may be judged from the following extract from their "Warning:"—

> Rationalism, with its higher criticism and unblushing infidelity, is also rampant in our midst, bringing in its train Worldliness of every description—Entertainments, Balls, Dancing, Dramatic Performances, Concerts, Nigger Minstrels, Drinking, Smoking, Billiards, Card Playing, Gambling, Bazaars, Decorative Festivals, Auction Sales, Intellectual Discourses, and sensual display of all kinds.

Here is a pretty catalogue of the temptations surrounding us! Nigger Minstrels and Harvest Festivals, Auctions and Intellectual Discourses all tarred with the same

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Fire Protection of Country Houses.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write Merryweathers, 63, Long-acre, London.

brush—simply so many inventions of the Devil! Where shall we be safe? Apparently only in an open air mission.

At the Richmond Theatre this week Mrs. Bandmann Palmer celebrates her one hundred and fiftieth impersonation of Hamlet. There is a good deal more of the woman than of the man in the hesitating Dane, and, although I never have had the chance of seeing Mrs. Palmer in the character, I can well conceive that so good an actress would make an excellent Hamlet. She ought to receive a medal from the Women's Rights Association for her gallant attempt to annex the part of the Prince of Denmark.

I have been taken to task by a gentleman interested in Irish newspapers for singling out the *Irish Times* for special condemnation over its review of "Professor" Garner's book. There are plenty of English newspapers, he tells me, that have made themselves equally ridiculous. Nobody can be expected to know everything that appears in every English paper. I can only say that when I find any English contemporary so lamentably ignorant of all that has taken place in regard to the exposure of this arch-impostor, I will gladly do my best to enlighten him. The only one I have come across up to the present time is the editor of the London *Echo*. On Saturday last that paper gave Garner the benefit of a prominent notice in its columns, and seriously recorded a number of his statements and pretended discoveries, without the faintest hint to the reader that Garner has been conclusively shown to be totally unworthy of credit in anything he says. I can understand that since the criticism I had to pass not long ago on the advertisements published in Mr. Passmore Edwards's journals, TRUTH has been under a boycott at the *Echo* office, but ignorance of TRUTH is no excuse. Garner was first exposed by a French traveller at a meeting of the Paris Geographical Society, and since then the matter has been widely referred to in the Continental and American Press, as well as in England. I hope we shall not see any more London papers reviewing Garner's book, and taking this charlatan seriously.

If any Parisian, not himself a journalist, were asked who is the cleverest journalist on the French Press, he probably would reply, "Rochefort;" and he would be right, if it be admitted that the cleverest man in journalism is he whose articles are the most appreciated by the readers of newspapers. M. Rochefort has published his memoirs, and we are asked, on the authority of a friend of his grandmother, to believe very extraordinary things in regard to Marie Antoinette and many others. The wife of Louis XVI., according to this gentleman (who incidentally explains that he was himself one of her lovers), had been seduced when a girl at Vienna by Cardinal Rohan. As Queen she was ready to sell herself to any one who would pay the price, and being anxious to secure the famous diamond necklace, she induced the Cardinal to obtain it for her. When the jewellers, who had been cheated out of it, made such a fuss that a public scandal was inevitable, she, the King, the Cardinal, Cagliostro, and Mme. de Lamotte arranged a comedy of a mock trial. They got hold of a girl—the Oliva of history—to admit that she had personated the Queen in an interview with the Cardinal, and it was agreed that she and all others should be acquitted. All this somewhat conflicts with the facts, that the Cardinal was, after a legal acquittal, banished to his diocese, and deprived of his post of Grand Almoner of France, and that Mme. Lamotte was found guilty and was publicly whipped and branded. Beyond the oral evidence of his grandmother's friend, M. Rochefort does not adduce one tittle of evidence in support of this new reading of history, but accepts it as proof positive.

On Napoleon, M. Rochefort is also in a position to relate some curious and novel "facts." When at St. Helena, the ex-Emperor addressed his condolences to Louis XVIII. on the death of the Duc de Berri, and when the Duke of Bordeaux was born, he sent that monarch his congratulations on the succession to the French throne being thus secured in the direct line of the Bourbons. All this M. Rochefort heard from his father. Why these documents, which would have about put an end to Bonapartism, were not published by Louis XVIII., M. Rochefort does not explain.

I have not often read a statement more extravagant than Mr. Clement Shorter's announcement at the opening of his work on the Brontë Family, that "in the whole range of English biographical literature there is no book that can compare in widespread interest with the 'Life of Charlotte Brontë' by Mrs. Gaskell." Certainly a Brontë enthusiast outdoes even a Scotch fanatic on the subject of Burns. Who would ever dream of seriously comparing Mrs. Gaskell's meritorious work with Boswell's "Johnson," or Lockhart's "Scott," or even with Moore's "Byron," or Trevelyan's "Macaulay."

With regard to the recent appointments to the teaching staff of the Northern Polytechnic Institute at Holloway, it would seem from a letter I have received from the Principal that there has been some misunderstanding. He states that there was no arrangement between the Governors of the Polytechnic and the Committee of the Highbury Institute, and that he himself merely informed the teachers at the latter institute that in the event of their qualifications appearing to be equal, or nearly equal, to those of other candidates at the top of the list, he personally thought it would be reasonable to give preference to the Highbury men, but that he could in no way bind the Governors by what he said. It also appears that in the result four out of the ten old teachers who were actually candidates have been appointed to posts at the Polytechnic.

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

So far back as April 16 I called attention to a very objectionable dodge of advertising a book published by Messrs. H. & C. Treacher, of Brighton. The dodge took the form of an advertisement requesting recipients of appeals for pecuniary assistance in all cases to communicate with "Graduate," care of Messrs. Treacher & Co. The result of such communications was the receipt of an advertisement of a book called "Detrimental Diffusiveness," published by that firm. Recently the advertisements of this same book, and of another by the same author, have taken a more objectionable form, clergymen of various denominations, who are appealing for funds, having been favoured with mysterious post-cards to the effect that after the statements in these books they need not be surprised if their appeals are unsuccessful. In one of the last of these post-cards the name of Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. is given as the publishers of the book to which attention is directed. A Glasgow clergyman, who complained to Messrs. Treacher of a post-card he had received, was informed in reply that the firm had taken steps to stop the annoyance, for which they expressed regret. But as this was in August last, and the annoyance still continues, the steps taken do not seem to have had the desired result. From what I know both of Messrs. Treacher and Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., I am confident that both firms will object as strongly as anybody else to this method of advertising their publications, and I hope that the result of these remarks will lead them both to put an extinguisher on the author, who is to all appearance suffering himself from a form of "detrimental diffusiveness."

A paragraph has gone round the papers which states that in 1868 Lord Beaconsfield nominated Bishop Wilberforce for the Archbishopric of Canterbury, but the Queen vetoed the appointment. This is absolutely untrue. In 1868 the Queen had decided that Bishop Tait should be the new Primate, and she announced her choice (which was a most wise one) when Lord Beaconsfield came to her at Windsor with his own recommendation for the vacancy, and his nominee was Bishop Ellicott, of Gloucester and Bristol. Then the Queen proposed that Wilberforce should succeed Tait in the see of London, and his claims for the promotion were undeniable. Lord Beaconsfield, however, would not hear of Wilberforce, and he proposed Dr. Wordsworth (then Canon of Westminster), or the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, the result being that Bishop Jackson was translated to London, and Wordsworth succeeded him at Lincoln.

In 1862, when Dr. Longley was promoted to Canterbury, the Queen urged the appointment of Bishop Wilberforce to the Archbishopric of York, suggesting that Arthur Stanley should replace him in the See of Oxford. Lord Palmerston, however, positively declined to sanction the arrangement, alleging that the one appointment would disgust half his party, while the other would alienate the other half. Palmerston had himself proposed two extreme Low Churchmen for the Archbishoprics—Bishop Baring, of Durham, for Canterbury, and Bishop Waldegrave, of Carlisle, for York, these, of course, being the candidates of Lord Shaftesbury, who was then his minister in such affairs. The Queen wisely vetoed both names, and the Archbishopric of York, having been refused by Tait, Bishop of London, was finally given to Dr. Thomson, who, only a year previously, had replaced Dr. Baring as Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

The Rev. J. H. J. Ellison, who succeeded Canon Gee as Vicar of Windsor and "reader" in the Queen's private chapel at Windsor Castle, is to be appointed Chaplain-in-Ordinary to her Majesty whenever a vacancy takes place. Mr. Ellison is a son of Canon Ellison, and a son-in-law of Archbishop Tait, and therefore brother-in-law to the Bishop of Winchester.

A fund has been started by the Bishop of Exeter for the augmentation of the poor livings in his diocese. A correspondent of one of the county papers points out that whereas Dr. Bickersteth has himself promised an annual contribution, not a farthing has been subscribed by the Dean and Canons of Exeter, either in their official capacity, or individually. This beggarly meanness is very discreditable to those fine dignitaries, who draw upwards of £6,000 a year for their own stipends, and the value of their prebendal houses is certainly not less than £800 a year besides. These stipends, moreover, are not of nominal amount, as at Salisbury, Ely, Winchester, Peterborough, York, Canterbury, and elsewhere. The Chapter of Exeter prudently surrendered their estate to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in return for fixed incomes, so they receive their full stipends in quarterly cheques on the Bank of England.

The case of Llanganten, where, as I recently explained, the vicar is left with a semi-starvation stipend, while the tithes from the parish are taken by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on account of a "suspended prebend," is, of course, only one example of a by no means uncommon scandal in the Church of England. A Somersetshire parson tells me that there are numerous illustrations of the same system of robbing Peter to pay Paul in that county, one of the worst being found in a parish of 1,500 or 2,000 people, where there is a hard-working incumbent whose income does not exceed £150 a year, if it is so much, while the Commissioners are appropriating a large portion of the funds of the suspended prebend for other places. My correspondent remarks that before money locally derived from a parish is alienated to other places unconnected therewith, the reasonable demands of the incumbent ought to be satisfied. That would be done if any regard were paid to the most elementary principles of justice and honesty

Solution of Turkish Problem.—If the authorities at Constantinople would only supply themselves with that eminently soothing and strengthening liqueur, Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy, their difficulties would vanish, placidity of temper and the power of good government would follow as surely as the dawn succeeds the night. Sold everywhere.

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

in the ordering and management of the financial affairs of the Church, but, unfortunately, these are principles with which ecclesiastical authorities too often appear to be unacquainted.

Another clergyman has brought under my notice the monstrous case of the Vicar of Lancaster's tithe. This vicar draws tithe from some fifteen townships under an Act of Parliament passed in 1824, when wheat was 96s. a quarter. The yearly sum payable to him was fixed on that basis, and remains unaffected by any fall, however great, in the price of wheat, so that this lucky vicar's present income from tithe is about four times more than it would be at the current depreciation. Another advantage which the special Act in question conferred upon the vicar was to relieve him of all trouble and expense in collecting the tithe. The inhabitants of each district elect two householders, who are bound, whether they like it or not, to undertake the collection, and the incidental expenses are borne by the township. Putting aside other questions, and looking at this impost solely from the Church standpoint, could anything more iniquitous be imagined? The Vicar of Lancaster has an income of £1,500 a year; in the same town is another parish, about half the size of his own, where the incumbent has to be content with £179. But the inhabitants of the latter parish are forced to contribute to the Vicar of Lancaster's £1,500, and so also are the inhabitants of a number of other parishes, some of them many miles away from Lancaster, and most of them with very poorly-endowed livings. There is, for instance, one distant scattered country parish where the incumbent's net stipend works out at little more than £3 a week, while from this same parish upwards of £80 a year is taken to swell the income of the Vicar of Lancaster. In view of such gross scandals as these, the Archbishop of York may well express the opinion that the time is arriving for a general readjustment of the income of the Church.

I am sorry that the inference should have been drawn from a paragraph in last week's TRUTH that I impute to the present Archbishop of York responsibility for the position of the Vicar of Scarborough as Bishop of Hull. It has already been mentioned in TRUTH that Archbishop Maclagan did not make Dr. Blunt Bishop of Hull and cannot remove him from the post. Nor is the Archbishop to blame for any of the pluralities enjoyed by this favoured Vicar. Archbishop Thomson, who gave him the Scarborough living, also made Dr. Blunt Rural Dean, Archdeacon, and Canon of York; and Archbishop Magee appointed him Bishop of Hull. The present Archbishop, in point of fact, has done something to reduce the dimensions of the scandal, for he succeeded in persuading Dr. Blunt to give up the archdeaconry. All I would suggest is that he might advantageously use his powers of persuasion a little further.

It is not surprising to read that the pastoral letter which has just been issued by order of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has evoked a chorus of protests. The meekest and most long-suffering of brethren could hardly fail to resent the arrogant and self-righteous tone in which this precious document lectures them on the duty of giving to the Kirk. Here are one or two edifying extracts:—

> There must be very few among us so pressed with temporal necessities as to be unable to help the cause of our Lord and Saviour. The destitute, of course, must be exempted, but no one is destitute who can afford to procure superfluities; and that much money is wasted by the poorest in the purchase of superfluities is proved by the shops that contrive to flourish among them. Even in the worst of times, except when there is rude interference with economic law, the bare means of subsistence may be obtained by honest labour, but now many gaieties and fancies have become necessaries in all ranks; and so just because we are squandering our earnings in personal indulgence and social extravagance, we have hardly anything to bestow upon the salvation of our fellow-men. Following St. Paul's example, we earnestly exhort you to bring your rendering to the Lord under a system controlled by the Holy Spirit operating through reason and conscience. It will restrain all reckless expenditure, and check those foolish extravagances upon which so much of domestic revenues are wasted.

It would be interesting to learn whether the Moderator who signs the letter, and the other high dignitaries of the Church of Scotland, practise what they preach. Are they content to live as "the poorest" do, even with their superfluities; and do they give everything beyond "the bare means of subsistence" to the Church?

Not only are the clergy invited nowadays to take up agencies for commercial firms, but they are also expected to act (from purely philanthropic motives) as intermediaries in recruiting canvassers for firms needing such work. The following is from a circular issued by Messrs. Richard Evans & Co., of Haydock, Lancashire:—

> REVEREND SIR,—We require in your neighbourhood a few canvassers for coal orders, whom we should pay by commission. The work can be undertaken in leisure hours, and would be a means of augmenting small incomes. It has occurred to us that there may be persons (both ladies and gentlemen), members of your congregation, who would be suitable, and would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity if brought to their notice. May we ask you, therefore, to be good enough to furnish us with the names and full addresses of such persons as you may think eligible?

This enterprising firm go on to allude to the gratitude which other parsons have expressed for such an opportunity of being of use to their parishioners. They do not say anything, however, as to their own gratitude for being thus relieved of the necessity of advertising for canvassers in every different parish.

The Vicar of Stratford-on-Avon again! This time his reverence, backed by the rest of the clergy of Stratford, has declined to attend the annual municipal banquet, because a Baptist minister was asked by the Mayor (himself a Baptist) to say grace at last year's function. If the vicar and his reverend brethren like to assert their dignity by going without their dinners, no one but themselves will be the worse, and the Mayor may save something. The Mayor might do worse than say grace himself this year, and use the witty formula, "Is there a parson present? The Lord make us truly thankful."

WINTER SEASON, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

A reverend gentleman named Hargraves, located somewhere in Pondoland, is employing the "snowball" idea to obtain prayers and cash at the same time for his missionary work. We have heard in this country of snowball letters designed to obtain a stated number of prayers on behalf of some particular object, but Mr. Hargraves—perhaps wisely—would like to have three stamps forwarded for each prayer offered up. He asks the recipients of his letter, besides contributing the prayers and stamps, to make and transmit two copies, and to continue the process until the number 1,000 is reached. As he should receive countless billions of pounds sterling long before the snowball has multiplied itself to that extent, I should think that there is no doubt that his enterprise, if successful, will lead to a marked extension of Christianity in Africa—always provided that this result can be achieved by collecting cash.

The Irish religious lotteries are becoming a downright scandal. This country is now being flooded with prospectuses and tickets in connection with a "Jubilee Bazaar and Grand Drawing for Prizes," which is to be held in the Rotunda, Dublin, for a religious charity on December 8, under the auspices of the Lord Mayor of Dublin. The first ordinary prize takes the form of shares in the Hibernian Bank to the value of £50, and in addition to this those who sell a certain number of books of tickets are offered bonus tickets with a chance of winning as much as £100 in cash. Why, in the name of wonder, should we employ all the machinery of the law to suppress lotteries in England, and then allow Irishmen to run enterprises of this sort for our benefit—or their own?

With reference to the proposed memorial to the late Sir John Pender, the secretary has written a letter to the *Times* asserting that it has been all along intended that the whole question of names should be gone into at the first meeting of the Executive Committee. If that is so, how came the official note-paper to bear the following words?—

Object:—To commemorate the inception and extension of submarine telegraphy, associated with the names of Sir John Pender, Sir James Anderson, and Mr. Cyrus Field.

People's intentions must be judged by their actions and language. It may be true that the present intention is as stated by the secretary; but in view of the above words it is difficult to believe that this has been the intention from the first.

I am asked to mention that the annual exhibition of the work of the London Needlework Guild will take place at the Imperial Institute, on November 12, 13, and 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The following amounts have reached me towards this year's Toy Fund:—Mrs. Russell Carew, £1; York and Ipswich, 10s.; Rifle, £1 (also £1 for Lady Jeune's Fund); Florence and Maud, 5s.

Every requirement for Furnishing tastefully at least expense is amply illustrated in the Galleries and Catalogues of HAMPTON & SONS, Furnishers & Decorators, Pall Mall East, S.W.

A curious ecclesiastical movement is, I hear, on foot in Ireland. Some genius belonging to the Disestablished Irish Church has been inspired with the idea that under the Disestablishment Act army chaplains have no business to be employed in Ireland. Counsel's opinion has actually been taken upon the subject, and I hear that it is in favour of the ecclesiastics' contention. The progress of the movement is watched with specially keen interest by the garrison of Dublin, who are specially afflicted by the sermons of one particular divine on the Army clerical staff.

Apropos of medical examinations for Army cadets, here is another case which shows the erratic way in which medical boards sometimes do their work. A young man who had qualified for a Cavalry commission was rejected by the doctors on the ground that his height and chest-measurement were insufficient. His father bestirred himself, and got permission for his son to have another chance. The youth was then put through a course of gymnastics, and by this means was sufficiently lengthened and widened to satisfy his next board. This time, however, the doctors discovered that he was defective in the matter of teeth, and once more he was "spun." This is very like a case mentioned in TRUTH a few months ago, where, after the adverse finding of one board had been refuted by the opinions of two eminent civil practitioners, an officer went before a special board, which disqualified him on the strength of another ailment, which the previous board had not discovered. It is a monstrous thing that a man should be permanently debarred from a career for reasons about which even doctors cannot agree; and most certainly when a man has been passed in every respect but one, and subsequently obtains a favourable verdict on this one point, he ought not to have new grounds for rejection trumped up against him.

I have expressed my doubts recently about the necessity for the strictness in regard to eyesight at present exercised in Army examinations. Some people do not agree with me on this point; but in the name of goodness how can any one justify the disqualification of an officer on the ground that his teeth are defective? He is not going to fight the enemy with his teeth. He does not want a complete set of natural teeth to enable him to lead his men, or give the word of command. If there is one direction more than another in which art is now able to supply the deficiencies of nature, it is in regard to teeth; and it is difficult to see a single reason which would make artificial teeth more inconvenient to an officer in the Army than they are to the hundreds and thousands of civilians who wear them without disadvantage of any kind. If anything, I should say that a man who goes into battle with a set of artificial teeth might have the advantage over a man equipped with his natural grinders, for in the event of a bullet in the mouth he would suffer far less pain, and the damage could be more easily repaired, or he might, for fear of such a mishap, take his teeth out before the battle commenced, and put them in

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his pocket. He would then be, in case of accident, at a still greater advantage over his brother officer who depended upon the teeth with which nature had provided him.

One of the "Service" papers got itself into a state of rapturous delight the other day over the "magnificent demonstration" accorded to Colonel Ponsonby on his taking leave of the 2nd Berkshire at Devonport. This magnificent demonstration was discovered to be a crushing answer to what has been said in TRUTH and elsewhere (including the House of Commons) as to the unsatisfactory condition of things in the battalion for some time past. Where the reports of what passed came from, those who published them alone know. Here is an account of the proceedings sent to me by an eye-witness, and it accords much more with the probabilities than the particulars supplied (officially, I suppose) to the War Office organ:—

> From the account referred to it would appear that the soldiers turned out to a man and cheered to the echo. What was the actual condition here? Simply and truthfully as follows:—
>
> Some time before the Colonel left it was known what time he would depart—1.15 p.m., in the day. The expressions I heard were entirely to the effect that it was a "good job, too," and the men had quite made up their mind to take no notice whatever of the event. Shortly before 1 o'clock, however, the men were warned to be on the parade-ground and cheer—cheers made to order. They were hunted (with threats of the guard-room) out to the parade-ground by the N.C.O.s, and the band was on the officers' mess verandah. When the Colonel appeared, the band, of course, struck up the regimental march past. The troops maintained a stolid and painful silence till the Colonel turned round and waved his hat, then a few slight, half-hearted cheers (led by colour-sergeants, &c.) were given by the half of the battalion nearest the departing officer, the other half being perfectly silent. As he walked away he shook hands with the band-master, the music changed to "Auld Lang Syne," and continued at that till he was out of sight. Then the troops returned to their now cold dinners.

I am glad to be able to add to this, however, that by all accounts there is every probability of a very different condition of things developing in this battalion under the officer now commanding. I trust that nothing will prevent its continuing to develop.

Two officers in the Bengal Cavalry returning to India recently as second-class passengers on a P. & O. ship, found one of the berths in their cabin occupied by a private soldier who was returning to Malta from furlough. The degradation of sleeping in the same cabin with this humble individual seems to have been too much for the fortitude of the two officers. They first tried, through the steward, to induce the soldier to give up his berth. Failing in this, they slept for two or three nights on the dining table in the saloon, after which the captain, taking pity on their outcast condition, installed them in a first-class cabin. Possibly I am wanting in a proper sense of the great gulf which separates a Cavalry officer from a private soldier, but it does seem to me that these officers cut rather a ridiculous figure in the story. People, military or civil, who cannot put up with second-class company should not take second-class tickets.

I am informed that, at last month's meeting of the sergeants mess of the Highland Light Infantry, a letter was read from the wife of the quartermaster-sergeant, who is reported to be interested in a stationer's shop just outside the barracks, and that in this letter the lady offered to supply the mess with the London dailies at a reduction of one half-penny off the price of each, and all sixpenny periodicals at a reduction of one penny. If this statement is accurate, it goes a long way to prove the justice of one of the objections made to shopkeeping by an N.C.O. or his wife. It is certain that the London dailies cannot be supplied at a half-penny discount except at a loss, and although sixpenny periodicals could be sold at fivepence, and still leave a microscopical margin of profit to the vendor, it would not pay any newsagent to supply papers on these terms, except from some ulterior motive. I have already contended that for a soldier on full pay to be keeping shop in a garrison town is an injustice to the other shopkeepers, who in their character of taxpayers contribute towards providing his army pay; and if this particular N.C.O., or his wife, is undertaking a "cutting" trade of the above description, it shows that they have an advantage in competition with rival traders in the same line of business. There ought to have been some official inquiry before this into the position of this non-commissioned stationer, and I trust it will not be much longer delayed.

The following strange tale of the Army reaches me from India on what seems to me unquestionable authority. An N.C.O. in a company of garrison artillery, stationed at Fort Delhi, extended his service in January last to complete his twenty-one years with the colours, on the understanding that the C.O. would recommend him for a furlough to England. The recommendation was given in due course, but the man was not able to leave, for want of a vacancy in a troop ship. In July the man renewed his application for the ensuing season, when the C.O. refused to recommend him, giving as his reason, so I am told, that the man had been too long in India, and was unfit for further service in the country. On the face of it, this would seem a very good reason for allowing him a change to England, and even if the C.O.'s view were that the man ought to leave India for good, and not for a mere temporary holiday, the least he ought to do is to take some steps for that purpose. But the most singular part of the story is that a man who was medically passed as fit for the completion of his twenty-one years only in January last should now be pronounced by his C.O. unfit to serve out his time in India. Either the C.O. or the medical officer who passed the man must be very much mistaken. As the N.C.O. in question is only twenty-eight years of age, is six feet high, and weighs about fourteen stone, while he is described by my informant as a man of robust appearance, it does not seem probable that the mistake was on the side of the medical officer.

The following extract from a military letter speaks volumes:—

> We have an Army Service Corps officer in charge of the barracks here, but *as he was only commissioned (from the ranks) last year*, he is not yet approachable by ordinary mortals.

About three months back I mentioned the case of a warrant officer of the Medical Staff Corps on a colonial station, who had managed to shunt the whole of his duties on to his juniors, with the exception of the pay and clothing. I now hear that this particular warrant officer

is an industrious, hard-working individual compared with a brother warrant officer in a station hospital in the West Indies, who has managed to get rid of the pay and clothing duty as well as all the rest. At this hospital the duties in connection with the medical store are performed by a clerk, those in connection with the clothing and equipment by a staff sergeant, and the pay duties by a sergeant. Such a state of things must be to a considerable extent the fault of the medical officer in charge.

The latest enteric fever inquiry board sat at Richmond Barracks, Dublin, on Saturday last, to inquire this time into the case of "Dr. Marshall," 2nd Scots Guards. I am afraid, as I told the *British Medical Journal* last week, that "Dr." in military usage stands for "drummer." If only a doctor had got enteric fever, there might be a chance of the inquiry producing some result—though a Colonel or a Major-General would be better still.

Some of the senior N.C.O.s on the Permanent Staff of the 4th Battalion Leinster Regiment are much exercised over an announcement that a vacancy, which will occur in two or three months' time, for a quartermaster-sergeant, has been promised to a colour-sergeant with over twenty-six years' service. There is a good deal to be said on behalf of the men who resent this arrangement. A man promoted after twenty-four years gains no increase of pay thereby, and at the same time stands in the way of other men obtaining an increase, as well as blocking promotion all down the line. In the most favourable circumstances it is difficult enough for a sergeant to obtain his full pension; and in what is nominally a short-service Army, there is something incongruous in allowing men, not only to hang on, but actually to gain promotion to the detriment of their juniors, after completing over five-and-twenty years' service.

Much comment has been excited by an advertisement which appeared the other day in the *Aldershot News*, emanating from the bandmaster of the Depot of the Hants Regiment, and asking for sergeants for the Permanent Staff of the Militia Battalion. I am only an ignorant civilian, and possibly this may be all regular and in the usual course. But I confess I should like to know why it is left to the bandmaster at a regimental Depot to advertise for sergeants for the Permanent Staff.

By the way, there is no more frequent complaint among N.C.O.s of the Militia Permanent Staff than their obligations in regard to unpaid recruiting. As it is clearly laid down that recruiting is part of the ordinary duty of the Permanent Staff, it cannot be said in this instance that the men are saddled with anything that is not in their contract; but a serious grievance is created by the conspicuous distinction between the position of paid and unpaid recruiters. On the one hand, paid recruiting is very good business for the men who get the job, a colour-sergeant employed on this duty drawing in pay and allowances an aggregate of about 6s. 2d. per diem, while a company-sergeant-major, with his additional pay, gets as much as 7s. 7½d.—a very handsome salary. On the other hand, recruiting duty imposes on a man the necessity of separating himself from his wife and family, or taking them with him at his own expense; and also involves a good many incidental expenses through moving about, and being out of doors in all weathers. It is therefore very natural that the unpaid recruiter should grumble at his own position when compared with that of his paid comrade, and that he should ask himself why this distinction is drawn. It is difficult to see any answer to this question, and it seems to me that it would be fairer to the men, and lead them to perform their work in a better spirit, if all engaged on this duty were paid on the same principle.

The European instructors of the Chinese troops appear to have a rough time of it, and they have been subjected to gross insults for endeavouring to enforce military discipline. A German officer, who was drilling a regiment at Nankin, near the Viceroy's yamen, having been struck from his horse with a spear, was then surrounded by the soldiers and most brutally ill-treated. He had a narrow escape of his life. The German instructors, (thirty in number) have all been withdrawn from Nankin, and they are now quartered in forts near Shanghai. The officer who was injured has received £1,000 as compensation, and his assailants have been severely punished. Experts declare that it is utterly impossible to make the Chinese army effective, as the troops know nothing of discipline, and they furiously resent any attempt to enforce it.

In a paragraph concerning the Thana Forest rules the *Deccan Herald* the other week mentioned that a collection of Kathodis, Thakoors, and other wild tribes, numbering nearly 4,000, had assembled at Thana and prayed the collector to cancel "the recently-published proclamation depriving them of their birthright to bring head-loads and carts of dead firewood from the forest, the sole means of their bare livelihood." It so chanced that in its next issue the same paper announced the net revenue from Indian forests during the past year as about 86 lakhs or about 4½ lakhs more than in the previous year. One would like to know to what extent this increase of revenue is attributable to such oppressive regulations as that against which the unfortunate denizens of the Thana Forest district appealed. From the policy which is being pursued it might almost be concluded that the extinction of these wild tribes is being aimed at; and a correspondent suggests that a paternal government might not only more speedily achieve this end but at the same time tap a further source of revenue by taxing rats and other vermin which constitute the principal diet of the tribes, so that they would then be cut off both from food and firing.

Why on earth do the Indian Army Regulations prohibit barbers, in company with shoe-blacks and polishers of arms, from entering the barracks of British troops? Native barbers, I believe, attend regularly on officers in their quarters, and if an officer can be shaved without any evil consequences by a native barber, it is difficult to see any reason why the same convenience should not be allowed to N.C.O.s and the rank and file, always provided they are in a position to pay for it. In point of fact, I am told that the

rule is to a great extent a dead letter, and that native barbers frequently do come in to shave Thomas, without doing him any serious injury; but every now and then the regulation is suddenly enforced, and Atkins is left to scrape his chin for himself as well as he can. Men are to be found in all stations of life who never can handle a razor with safety to themselves, and to compel such men to shave themselves may be only one degree removed from ordering them to perform the Happy Despatch.

The military authorities could not do a better service to the private soldier than by taking steps to stop the various tricks by which an improvident Tommy is at present able to obtain a cash advance, more especially in India. At many Indian stations a regular money-lending business, marked by all the worst abuses of the usury trade, is now carried on, partly by native traders who are privileged to do business with the regiments, partly by non-commissioned officers. At different times many instances of this sort of thing have been given in TRUTH, but here are a few more, which have a special significance, because they all come from one station, and therefore show what a regular organised business is done in this direction.

A man finding himself short of cash obtains from his squadron quarter-master-sergeant (this particular instance is taken from a cavalry regiment) an order for a suit, or some article of clothing. He takes this order to the regimental tailor's shop, and there discounts it in cash for about 75 per cent. of its face value. Nothing more occurs until, at the end of the month, he finds himself debited on his pay-sheet with the price of the clothing he is supposed to have had. In the regiment to which I am referring the current rate of discount on an order for a suit of blue serge, value Rs. 13, is Rs. 10 in cash. An order for a suit of khaki, value Rs. 6. 8 a., is discounted at Rs. 5, and so on. The rate of interest per annum represented by these figures is worthy of the most voracious shark in the usury trade. Native tailors who do minor repairs also advance small sums at corresponding rates of interest, charging the sum against the soldier's account under the head of repairs.

Again, a coffee-shop is kept by a native under the supervision of a lance-corporal. Credit is allowed to the extent of Rs. 6 per month, the idea being to enable a man to get a good supper, whether he happens to have the money in his pocket or not. Refreshments are obtained on credit by means of tickets obtained from the lance-corporal in charge, and these tickets are turned into cash precisely in the same way as the orders for clothing above described—that is to say, instead of serving a man with supper, the native manager gives him twelve annas in cash for a ticket valued at one rupee. The balance represents his interest on the advance for a month, or possibly only for a week or so, when the matter is settled up through the soldier's account. I may add that, as if such facilities for obtaining loans were not sufficient, there is a corporal in the regiment to which I am referring who does a regular money-lending business with his comrades at the rate of two annas per rupee per week. I am no advocate for grandmotherly methods of management, whether in public or private affairs, and if Tommy is such a fool as to sell a rupee at the end of the month for twelve annas to-day, he is the party most to blame. Some of the tricks above described, however, obviously involve a fraudulent misuse of official machinery, and I think there can be no question that such practices ought to be stopped.

Surely it ought to be a general rule in military hospitals that orderlies who contract enteric fever while nursing cases of this disease should not be subjected to loss of pay, or, at any rate, of their full pay. The matter is brought under my notice from Bermuda, where in twelve months four men out of a detachment of six contracted enteric fever while on hospital duty. All of these men, two first and two second-class orderlies, lost their pay for about ten weeks. If this is not done, it seems to me that these men ought to receive extra pay for the risk they ran, as I believe they do in "isolated" cases, enteric fever not being "isolated." Another complaint from Bermuda—I do not know whether it extends to other stations—is that orderlies in attendance upon such cases are not allowed to wear hospital clothing. There are strong objections against the men attending enteric-fever cases in their ordinary clothes, and I think those who understand the facts will readily admit this.

The paragraph in the Queen's Regulations which allows men who have completed eight years' continuous service abroad to register their names for transfer to the home battalion is, like a good many other kindred regulations, somewhat delusive in its operation. For instance, I have a case before me of a man whose service dates from September. The list being sent in to the Adjutant-General in July, this man will have completed eight years and ten months before his name gets on the register, and he will then have little chance of getting away from India before the following spring, when he will have completed nine years and six months' service. This Regulation was modified not long ago for the benefit of men re-engaging abroad, who had previously been liable to serve ten or even eleven years abroad before they could get away. I would suggest that it should be further modified to meet such cases as the one above specified. This could easily be done by allowing a man who would complete his eight years during the trooping season to register his name in advance.

I am glad to hear that the paragraph in TRUTH of the 1st inst. respecting the running of watch clubs by a corporal in the 2nd Scots Guards has had the desired effect, and the thanks of all parties are due to the Commanding Officer for the prompt notice taken of the matter. I mention this little incident for the benefit of any other regiments in which similar clubs may be conducted; for the system is a thoroughly bad one, and ought to be summarily suppressed whenever it is brought to light.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

Some remarks which seem well worth notice were addressed to me the other day in reference to the practice of officering Irish regiments exclusively with Englishmen. In a well-known Irish regiment now quartered in its native country, there is, I believe, not a single officer who can call himself an Irishman; and from various facts recited it would seem that there is, owing to this circumstance, a conspicuous lack of sympathy and touch between officers and men. Possibly, an English leaven in an Irish regiment might improve the quality of the whole lump, just as an English regiment may be improved by a little Scotch blood. A judicious blend of the nationalities generally produces a superior article. But when all the officers are of one nationality, and all the rank and file of another, the probability is that there will be no blend at all, any more than in a mixture of oil and vinegar. And that seems to be precisely the mischief in the regiment I have referred to.

There are a few more little military grievances which seem to deserve pillorying. The two matters reported from the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots are of special interest in view of a statement made to me that in the last six years only about six privates of this battalion have extended their service, and that something like 140 are leaving during the present trooping season. These figures dispose one to believe that there is some lack of consideration and judgment in the management of the regiment:—

2nd Battalion, Royal Scots, Mandalay.—In April, 1895, new tunics were issued to this battalion instead of the serge frocks to which the men were entitled under the existing regulations. This seems to have been done at the desire of the then Commanding Officer, who was displeased with the condition of many of the tunics in wear. The men were at the same time charged the difference in value between a tunic and a serge frock, namely Rs.4 9 a.; but were told that in the following year, when they would receive a serge frock instead of a tunic, the difference would be refunded. When the time came, however, for the issue of the 1896 clothing, the men were informed that new regulations had come into force, that no more tunics were to be issued, and that accordingly the men would receive neither tunic nor compensation. The result of this is that the greater part of the battalion, about five hundred of them altogether, who did not want a new tunic in 1895, are Rs.4 9 a. out of pocket—a good example of the results of the constant muddling and trickery that goes on over the clothing regulations in India.

In this same battalion, about two months ago, a man was sentenced by the C.O. to 168 hours' hard labour, and twenty-one days' C.B., on a charge of having annoyed a Nursing Sister at the station hospital by entering the compound of her bungalow, and looking in at her window. The man seems to have been punished purely on suspicion, and without any definite evidence whatever. Subsequently a guard of three men was placed on the Nursing Sister's quarters, and, although the lady who made the complaint had left the station, and her quarters had been empty for a fortnight, the guard was still doing this duty up to the time when the last mail left India, very much to the disgust of the men so employed.

Depot, Essex Regiment, Warley.—In this Depot there are, it seems, for some reason no paid lance-corporals. Several privates are therefore regularly doing corporal's duty without receiving extra pay, and the work imposed upon them is so heavy that it may fairly be described as "sweating." In several of the Depots there is a large staff of paid lance-corporals, and it would be interesting to know for what reason the work is at Warley thrown on private soldiers.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs, Kilkenny.—Several men of this battalion have lately been in hot water for not having the butt-plates of their rifles burnished. Official instructions have been issued (and I believe a copy of them is exhibited in most barrack rooms) directing that no hard substance of any sort is to be used in cleaning the Lee-Metford rifle. For the burnishing of a butt-plate it is necessary to use a steel burnisher, which is certainly a hard substance, and must, at any rate, wear away the plate in a very short time. The burnishing of the butt-plates in the 2nd Buffs is carried out under a regimental order, and it would seem to be worth the consideration of the authorities whether this order is consistent with the official instructions for the care and cleaning of the rifles.

Army Pay Corps, Woolwich.—For some unknown reason the corporals of the Army Pay Corps stationed at Woolwich are not allowed the privilege of wearing sergeant's stripes. This is allowed at Portsmouth and other stations, and, when it is allowed, the corporals are entitled to become members of a mess, a privilege which is highly appreciated. Surely there ought to be one rule in this respect for all stations.

Medical Staff Corps.—In June last an order was issued by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department that the duties of steward, compounder, storekeeper, &c., should be discharged by different N.C.O.s in turn, with a view to improving their general efficiency. At several station-hospitals this order has been absolutely ignored, and considerable curiosity exists among the junior N.C.O.s as to when it is to come into force, many of the men being as anxious as the authorities to extend their knowledge of their duties. It seems desirable that some reminder on the subject should be issued, or other steps taken to insure the order being carried out.

In reference to the Depot of the Essex Regiment, which again figures in my Military Pillory, I hear that some one in authority has adopted a curious method of marking his appreciation of my comments, each number of TRUTH containing an allusion to the Depot having had the passage cut out and abstracted before the paper was placed in the library. It would be interesting to know what the party who has adopted this method of censorship expects to gain thereby. The only result, so far as the Depot is concerned, is, of course, to accentuate the passage thus dealt with; while, as far as I am concerned, it leads to several copies of TRUTH being bought instead of one. If any Commanding Officer who resents TRUTH criticism would like to adopt the Russian plan, and have all the military comments blotted out of the papers before they are allowed to enter a regimental institute, I am sure that he is heartily welcome to do so, as far as I am concerned.

The story told by a man lately discharged from H.M.S. *Camperdown*, in the Mediterranean, is well worthy of the attention of the British public. The man in question, Charles Paine by name, has been in the Navy since October, 1881, and was serving on the *Camperdown* up to a few weeks back in the capacity of a blacksmith, with a second-class rating. In August last Paine lost a chisel, which he had made for himself for work in the barbette. He subsequently found it in the possession of another man, and repossessed himself of it. Being called upon by the boatswain to give it up, he maintained that it was his own, and the matter was reported to the Commander. On going before the Commander Paine explained that he had the best means of recognising the chisel, having made it himself, whereupon the boatswain, obviously conscious that the case looked weak, preferred a further charge against him of using improper language when interrogated about the chisel. Three witnesses, present at the time, were called on this point, and denied that they had heard any improper language; but, the boatswain having explained that the alleged words were uttered in a low tone of voice, the Commander sent the case to the Captain.

Paine seems then to have claimed a court-martial, but the Commander-in-Chief declined to order it—presumably on the ground that there was no evidence worthy of the name on which to try the man. The matter, therefore, came again before the Captain, and, on being asked whether he wished the evidence re-heard, Paine replied that he would leave it in the Captain's hands as it stood.

The same afternoon he was informed that his services were no longer required, and a couple of hours later he was put on board a cutter for conveyance to England. A more extraordinary example of justice as administered in the Navy I have never heard of. On the merits of the case, the evidence seems to have been wholly in Paine's favour; and even if that were not so, he was surely entitled to trial by court-martial before such an extravagant punishment as expulsion from the Service was imposed on him. Even had he been convicted by court-martial, a brief term of imprisonment would have been an adequate and legal sentence for his offence. As it is, without any formal trial, and with the evidence pointing entirely in his favour, he has been deprived of his berth after fifteen years' service, as well as of the prospective pension which he was within five years of earning. He has had nothing in the shape of compensation for such dismissal, and he is prejudiced in obtaining civil employment by a serious slur on his character. I respectfully suggest to Mr. Goschen and his colleagues at the Admiralty that this is another case calling at least for inquiry, and probably for redress.

The court-martial on the China station which has been trying Captain Hallifax and Navigating-Lieutenant Loane on a charge of negligence, arising out of the stranding of H.M.S. *Undaunted*, has resulted in the charge being found proved. The sentence was that Captain Hallifax should be "reprimanded," and Lieutenant Loane "severely reprimanded." It is interesting to compare this sentence with that passed by the *Blake* court-martial, where, although the charge of negligence was only found to be "partly proved," both prisoners were "severely reprimanded," and in addition dismissed their ship. Here is a heavier sentence given, not only on a charge which was merely "partly" proved, but also for a less serious offence, the negligence in the *Undaunted* case placing the ship and the lives of the whole crew in jeopardy.

By the way, in reference to my remarks last week on the *Blake* court-martial, I have received the following from a gentleman whom I think I am justified in saying is somewhat interested in the matter:—

> The Admiralty have recently adopted a new standard water gauge, which is being fitted to all ships as occasion arises. The fact that H.M.S. *Blake* has been fitted with a more efficient pattern of water gauge, does not, therefore, involve a confession that the previous pattern was in any way the cause of the accident. The defective state of the water gauge was the result of an act of stupidity on the part of the artificer, which, even if it has ever occured before, must be extremely rare. The same act of stupidity would have rendered inefficient any water gauge in the Mercantile Marine.

I do not quite see how this imputation of the whole blame to an artificer is to be reconciled with the finding of the court-martial; and my doubts on the subject are increased by the fact that a Service journal—which I hope it is not rash to credit with some amount of technical knowledge—has drawn from the accident the moral that the provision of the new type of water gauge should be hurried up. It may be true that the fitting of the new water gauge on the *Blake* "does not involve a confession that the previous pattern was in any way the cause of the accident," but it seems to me to suggest very strongly the inference that a more efficient pattern of water gauge would reduce the probability of such accidents in future.

One of the Cape Town papers has interviewed the local officials of the chief Steamship Companies in reference to the complaints of rowdyism among second-class passengers on voyages to the Cape, which I noticed on August 27. It is evident, however, that the representative of my contemporary must either have misapprehended the replies to his inquiries, or else he must have been deliberately misled. He reports, for instance, that the Union Office "emphatically declared that no complaints had been received." It so happens that I have now before me some correspondence which had passed only two or three weeks previously between the chief agent of the Union Line at Cape Town and an aggrieved second-class passenger. This man sailed by the *Goth* from Southampton as a third-class passenger, but on the voyage he changed to the second-class, paying the difference between the two fares. He asserts that he was subjected to most offensive treatment at the hands of two of his fellow-passengers, one of them using actual violence towards him, and that though the captain and officers were courteous enough, they failed to afford him proper protection. Having made inquiries, the chief agent at Cape Town, Mr. T. E. Fuller, wrote to him as follows:—

> I much regret that any incivility was shown you by your fellow-passengers; but as you say the officers of the ship behaved with the greatest kindness and courtesy, I do not consider we are in any way responsible for the same.

This shows a lack of appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of the company towards their customers which will not, I trust, be endorsed at headquarters. What Mr. Fuller euphemistically describes as "incivility" was, in reality, very disgraceful ill-usage; and it would certainly be an extraordinary thing for the managers of the line to take up the position that it is no concern of theirs to interfere in such matters, and that a passenger is to be left at the mercy of any cads and roughs who like to while away the time by insulting and annoying him. The statements that have reached me prove, however, that blackguardism of this kind is by no means uncommon on the Cape liners, and the captains ought to be instructed to deal with it more firmly than they at present seem disposed to do.

Many a time have I commented in TRUTH on the servile attitude of the Indian Press towards local officialism. Nothing that I may hear in this direction will come as news to me, but the following remarks of a journalist who has had considerable experience in India may interest some of my Indian readers, and goes far to justify what I have said on the subject:—

> Had you known the character of the ——, you would not have wasted so much attention upon it as you did in TRUTH of July 30. The —— is the most servile of a servile set. Its contributors are constantly cautioned to avoid all allusion to any matter, official or private, derogatory to officialdom. It will erase sentences and whole paragraphs out of narratives, law reports, and the like, even to the destruction of the sense, rather than bring embarrassment or unpleasantness to the household of any official in an exalted position. The same thing might be said, in a greater or less degree, of nearly all the leading Indian papers. As a class, they are not a medium for news, but for the suppression of facts and the fabrication of falsehoods. Each of the newspapers has a special correspondent at the Viceregal Court. When the Viceroy is at Simla these correspondents summer there. When the Viceroy travels, or comes to rest at Calcutta, they move in his train and settle

in Calcutta during the Viceregal stay. During the Simla season they convey little news regarding any of the important political, financial, and other questions of the day, but are invariably used by the various Members of Council and heads of departments as mediums for the promulgation of the official version of any abuse or scandal that may be exposed by a less favoured, and therefore "scurrilous," paper. The article on the "Invalid Trooping Horrors," for instance, on which TRUTH comments at such length, was more likely than not actually written at one of the military headquarter offices. For the rest, Indian newspapers are devoted to the social business of the season. Take up any of the leading journals for the six months from April to October, and you will find telegrams and columns of matter, not relating to debates in Council on any subject pertaining to the welfare and administration of the country, but to theatricals, balls, children's parties, picnics, pony races, dinners at the club, promotions and transfers of popular members of society, &c., &c. If the entire Indian Administration were an honest one, pandering organs of this class could not exist, because they would not be tolerated. As it is, they are subsidised with scraps of official news, and in every way patronised and encouraged in official circles.

The foregoing remarks explain very clearly the enormous volume of correspondence which reaches TRUTH Office by every mail from India. Anglo-Indians, civil and military, would not go to the expense and trouble of invoking the services of a London editor to let the light in upon the dark corners of Indian administration, if they saw any medium of independent and fearless criticism nearer at hand. I do not complain of this, and I am always glad to be of any service I can to my Indian readers; but it often occurs to me that there must be a great opening for a few really able, well-conducted, and honest daily papers in India.

By later Indian mails I have had particulars of some other cases bearing on the unreasonable delay of the Government in deciding cases referred to them as to the title of certain civilians to the Exchange Compensation Allowance. It was mentioned the other day how a man who had first been granted the allowance by one official, and then deprived of it by another official of lower rank, had been waiting for eighteen months for the decision of the financial authorities on his case, and could ascertain nothing but that there was no prospect of a decision being arrived at for many months more. There seem to be dozens of men in the same position, and some of them are struggling public servants with very exiguous incomes, to whom the cost of maintaining children in England at the present rate of exchange is almost ruinous. The least that the Government can do, if it has any serious doubts about the rights of these people to the allowance, is to appoint some special machinery for inquiring into and disposing of their cases.

Writing on the exclusion of native Government servants from the benefits of the Exchange Compensation Allowance, an officer of the Indian Medical Staff comments rather forcibly on the limitations of the benefits of the Indian Service Family Pension Fund. Every officer joining the military and medical Services is compelled to become a subscriber to this fund. The fund insures a pension in sterling to widows and dependants in case of premature death, but is entirely limited to that; so that if the subscriber survives his wife and settles his children comfortably before his own death he gets absolutely nothing in return for the thousands of rupees he will have subscribed. As the fund is very prosperous and the donations and subscriptions vary at present with the rate of exchange, it is suggested that at least the Government might allow the benefits of the Exchange Compensation Allowance to subscribers—that is to say, fix all subscriptions at a uniform rate of exchange—say 1s. 6d. to the rupee.

Only a few months ago great surprise was created among public servants in Ireland by the importation of a railway manager, Mr. T. Robertson, into the important and lucrative post of Chairman of the Board of Works. The soreness and disquietude which this appointment created have barely had time to subside ere Mr. Robertson has himself raised a fresh and more serious storm by bringing in another outsider to fill the newly-established berth of Assistant-Secretary to the Board. Whatever excuse there may have been for the selection of Mr. Robertson for the chairmanship, there is absolutely none for his bestowal of the assistant-secretaryship on one of his former subordinates on the Great Northern Railway. It is perfectly preposterous to suppose that in a large department like the Irish Board of Works (to say nothing of the general body of Civil servants in Dublin) men could not be found better qualified for such a berth than the whilom master of a country railway station. The appointment is, in fact, a job of the worst and most barefaced kind, and it is small wonder that it has produced a strong feeling of resentment and indignation among all grades of Civil servants in Dublin.

The following is one of the finest examples of Post Office intelligence that I have come across for some time. A certain noble Duke was away from London, and his town house, like those of most of the aristocracy, was in charge of the caretaker and the cat. A letter was sent from the Duke's country seat, addressed "The Caretaker, The Duke of ——, &c." This letter the Post Office neither delivered nor opened, but straightway sent it back again to the Duke's country seat, from which it had started. Whether the intelligent official who took this course supposed that the caretaker of the London house was, like the rest of his Grace's establishment, staying at the country seat, or whether no thought whatever was given to the subject, must be left to conjecture, but the second explanation is the more probable.

Gradually common-sense seems to be prevailing at Eastbourne. A public meeting held last week authorised the application of the Corporation to Parliament for powers to deal with the water supply, thus reversing the decision arrived at last year—and reversing it by a large majority. The opposition, who only mustered about forty or fifty strong, demanded a poll, which will have to be taken; but when the opinion of the whole body of ratepayers is obtained, I should imagine that the result will only be the more decisive.

SUFFERERS from all liver and gouty complaints, unable to visit the Spa, reap great benefit from taking the Carlsbad Waters or Sprüdel Salts (Löbel Schottländer, Carlsbad, on wrapper). Of all Chemists, and INGRAM & ROYLE, LTD., 52, Farringdon-street.

HISTORY OF FEMININE COSTUME. Tracing its evolution from the earliest times to the present. 38 illustrations. Price 6d. Published by LIBERTY & CO., LTD., London and Paris. (To be obtained from principal Booksellers or Publishers direct.)

Not a little of the fierce spirit of the Kilkenny cats appears to survive in the faction fights of the Kilkenny Corporation. At last week's meeting of this body there was a vigorous and prolonged exchange of compliments between the Mayor and Councillor O'Keeffe, "low coward," "dirty thing," "botheen boy," "bostoon," "common cur," and "lickspittle," being mild samples of the epithets which were bandied about. Becoming tired of mere verbal warfare, O'Keeffe at one stage of the proceedings seized the Mayor by the nose, and threatened "to tweeze it off," declaring that he was "a low scoundrel;" but his worship declined to be drawn into a physical encounter, and contented himself with calling his assailant a "low blackguard." Finally, during the Mayor's temporary absence from the council-chair, somebody put an empty beer-barrel in his chair, after which affront his worship adjourned the meeting. What sort of citizens must they be who select such rowdies as these for their municipal representatives?

I see it is announced that Lord Warwick has consented to serve as Mayor of Warwick for a third year. Without any desire to disparage his services, I should have been rather inclined to put the requisition to him to accept office again down to the spirit of snobbishness and toadyism which is, unfortunately, becoming so prevalent in municipal life, had I not chanced to receive a letter from a burgess of Warwick, which suggests a different explanation. The writer declares that his lordship has simply been made to serve the purpose of party wire-pullers, whose chief desire in getting him to accept the mayoralty a third time has been to thereby keep out of office a member of the Council whose claims could not otherwise have been decently overlooked, but who happens to be a Liberal. Lord Warwick himself was doubtless quite in ignorance of this.

One of the elective auditors at Manchester, Mr. Norbury Williams, has just published an account of what appears to be an exceedingly serious municipal scandal. During the past few years a vast expenditure has been incurred by the city in the construction of new main sewers, and the work has been placed by the Corporation in the hands of a number of contractors. The contracts were for the construction of sewers two bricks in thickness, but it has now been discovered that certain lengths of the sewers are only one brick thick, and that the work was otherwise "scamped." The sewers were built in tunnels, and it is alleged that warning was given to the contractor's workmen whenever the Corporation clerk of the works descended the shaft to the tunnel, and that for the deception of this official the bricklayers at once put a double ring of bricks on the part of the structure which was exposed to his view. There is said to be some inclination to hush up the scandal by referring the question between the Corporation and the contractors to arbitration. If, however, the facts are correctly represented, it is not at all a matter for arbitration, but one in which legal proceedings ought to be instituted against the guilty parties.

There was a somewhat acrimonious discussion at the meeting of the Portsmouth Town Council last week on the subject of free railway passes. Some time ago it was asserted that Alderman Abraham L. Emanuel had applied to the companies for free passes to London for deputations from the Improvement Committee of which he is chairman, and he explained through the local papers that this had only been done on two or three occasions. Last week Dr. Emmett asked certain plain questions, one being whether there were really but two or three occasions on which such passes had been received by deputations, and another whether Alderman Emanuel himself always paid the usual fares when travelling by the London and South-Western line. The Alderman in his reply waxed exceeding wrath with the gentleman who brought the matter forward, but he failed to give the desired information. At the risk of myself incurring the worthy Alderman's anger, I would suggest to him that this was a very unfortunate omission, and that he would do well to publicly answer the questions which were publicly put to him, or unfavourable conclusions may be drawn from his silence.

The Blaby Guardians cannot be congratulated upon the manner in which they have disposed of the complaints against the medical officer which, as I mentioned the other week, were formulated in a recent report of the House Committee. The doctor's reply was received and considered at the last meeting, with the result that the Board passed a resolution "expressing regret at his conduct in neglecting to attend the sick inmates of the workhouse in a more satisfactory manner." This is not a proper way of ending the matter, either from the point of view of the Board or from that of the officer concerned. If the charges of laxity and remissness in his duty which were made against him were not well founded, it was the duty of the Guardians to admit the fact. On the other hand, if the complaints were borne out on investigation, something more than a mere expression of "regret" was required from the Board.

At the meeting of the Elham Guardians the other day it was proposed that in future sick persons, on being admitted to the workhouse, should be taken direct to the infirmary, instead of being first detained in the receiving-ward. No reasonable objection could be urged against this change, which was suggested in consequence of two Guardians having happened to see a man almost in a dying condition ordered to the receiving-ward, where, but for their interference, he would probably have remained for some time. But certain of the Elham Guardians, mostly representing rural districts of the Union, make a point of opposing every reform, and, on a show of hands being taken, this proposal was declared to be lost. The mover, Mr. J. Jones, then demanded that the names of those voting each way should be recorded in the minutes, whereupon the opposition suddenly collapsed, and the proposal was carried. The opposing members, it would seem, were willing to defeat a humane and desirable proposal so long as there was no risk of their votes being called up in judgment against them, but not otherwise. A nice set of Bumbles they must be!

The important and lucrative office of Sheriff Clerk of Lanarkshire has been given by Lord Balfour of Burleigh to Mr. John Downie, a well-known Glasgow "writer," who has been for several years one of the leading Tory election agents in the West of Scotland, and rendered valuable assistance both to the present Lord Advocate and to his predecessor in the representation of Buteshire. This appointment has been received with vituperative yelpings by the Liberal Unionists in the north, who are furious at finding men of their own party systematically put aside by Lord Balfour in favour of Tories of his own particular persuasion. There is now much more bitterness between "Parliament House" Tories and Liberal Unionists than there has ever been within the memory of man between Tories and Liberals.

An anonymous solicitor writes me a somewhat singular letter on the subject of debt-collector's charges. He begins by telling me that he has not much time for writing to papers, or he would have written me long ago. He regrets to write anonymously, but nevertheless does it. At the end of two folios of MS. he tells me that if he had known how long his letter would have been he would never have begun it. And after all that, he stops to tell me in a P.S. that, on looking over what he has written, he thinks he might have done the subject more justice had he devoted more time to it. I think this is highly probable; and if my esteemed correspondent will wait till he has more time, and if he will, when putting his mature reflections into shape, pay me the compliment of trusting me with the important secret of his identity, as is required of all other newspaper correspondents, I shall be pleased to give him every attention. If I have to wait a few years before hearing from him again, I will bear up in the interval with such fortitude as I can command. Pending this further communication, I have only to say that my opinion about debt-collectors' charges remains unchanged.

A recent decision of the West Riding Bench at Pontefract in regard to a summons against the Rev. Bernard Speet, of Hemsworth, for cruelty to a dog, has excited much unfavourable comment in the district. It appeared that a policeman noticed a dog being dragged along the road beneath defendant's trap, to which it had been tied. The dog was dead, and all the hair had been rubbed off one of its sides; but, though the policeman called the defendant's attention to the fact, he drove on without saying anything. In defence it was stated that the dog was "all right" when it was first fastened to the trap, and that the cruelty was not intentional. Accepting this plea, the magistrates dismissed the charge. It seems to me that their worships took an unduly charitable and merciful view of the matter. For my own part, I should consider the fact of a man having tied a dog under his trap in this way as in itself primâ-facie evidence of cruelty, and most decidedly I should not be inclined to acquit anybody who persisted in driving on regardless of whether the animal was killed or not.

The London Hospital, E., Appeals for Subscriptions. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed

A lad named Seaman was recently fined £5 by Mr. Hopkins at Lambeth Police-court under circumstances which seem to call for very strong comment. Seaman, who is seventeen years of age, is a "property" boy attached to an entertainment called "Sedgwick's Ghost Illusion." One night a few weeks ago he inadvertently took away from the performance in his pocket a dummy revolver used in the performance. He happened to be showing this article to a friend in the Kennington-road, when he was "spotted" by an active and intelligent constable, who, finding on inquiry that he had no licence, reported the matter to the Inland Revenue authorities, who in due course summoned Seaman at the police-court. The manager of the show was present in the court to explain the circumstances, but without hearing him, and apparently without going into the merits of the case at all, Mr. Hopkins imposed this monstrous fine of £5 on a boy earning 10s. a week. A more monstrous sentence I have never heard of; for even if the law is in such a state of muddle that it requires a licence for carrying a dummy revolver which will not fire, the least that could be required under such circumstances would be a nominal penalty. It seems almost impossible that a stipendiary magistrate would pass such a sentence except under a complete misapprehension of the facts, and I hope that it is not yet too late for such a miscarriage of justice to be put right.

At Milnthorpe Police-court last week Sir Henry Bromley and his two sons, of Dallam Tower, were summoned at the instance of the Inland Revenue Department for using a gun without a licence. It was reported, however, that the defendants' cases "had been explained to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, who had accepted their explanations *and a substantial fine*;" and the Bench thereupon allowed the summonses to be withdrawn. If the offence was one calling for "a substantial fine," surely it ought to have been dealt with in the ordinary way by the magistrates; but in these matters there is evidently one law for the rich and another for the poor. Three working men who similarly offended would find any "explanations" to the Commissioners unavailing; they would have to make their defence in the police-court, and face the consequences of the publicity from which the authorities have attempted to shield Sir Henry Bromley and his sons.

In a recent Game Law case at Woodbridge Petty Sessions, one Noah Fisk was fined a shilling and ordered to pay the costs for killing a rabbit on some common land. The fine itself was moderate enough, but the costs with which the defendant was saddled came to no less than three guineas, so that the total penalty was altogether out of proportion to the offence. That the costs in such a prosecution at Petty Sessions should be piled up against the defendant in this extravagant fashion is a monstrous injustice, and I have an impression that the Home Secretary some three or four years ago issued a circular to magistrates condemning the practice. Clearly it would be well for Sir Matthew White Ridley to address another remonstrance to the Woodbridge Bench.

Pigeon-shooting is at the best a cruel (so-called) sport, but never have I heard of its being practised with such wanton inhumanity as in the case from Bradford which is recorded in my Legal Pillory this week, and most people will probably agree with me that if the Tong District Councillor and his companions had been given a short spell of imprisonment without the option of a fine they would have met with no more than their deserts. The other cases in the following list are mostly of a familiar type, and nobody can miss the significance of the contrast between the penalties for offences against the person and those for other and less heinous offences. I would, however, specially call attention to the sentences at Amersham and at Samford as illustrations of the harsh and vindictive spirit in which the county magistracy administer the Game Laws :—

Nottingham Police-court. Before Mr. W. Allen and Dr. Littlewood. Alfred Ordoyno, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with assaulting a policeman. Prisoner was thrashing a woman in the street, and on being arrested he violently assaulted the constable, kicking him in the face, and breaking his nose. Fined 20s. for the two offences.

Bradford West Riding Police-court. Before Mr. T. Peel and other magistrates. Isaac Foster (a Tong District Councillor), his son, Cain Foster, and Albert Senior, charged with cruelty to two pigeons. The pigeons were released from a trap with their legs tied to a piece of string, so that they could not escape, and bits of earth and stone were thrown to induce the birds to rise. Isaac Foster fired a gun and wounded the first bird, which was thereupon pulled back and replaced in the trap, after which Senior had a shot at it. The same performance was gone through with the second bird, and then a constable interfered. Fined 40s. each and costs, or one month.

Doncaster Borough Police-court. Thomas Cole, charged with cruelty to a horse by working it while in an unfit state. The animal was in a shocking condition, and a police witness said that he had never seen a worse case. Fined 2s. 6d. including costs.

Bury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. Meadowcroft and Byrom. Henry Mitchinson, charged with assaulting his wife on October 11 and 13. On the first date he thumped her in the face; on the second he knocked her down and struck and kicked her in a most brutal manner. A surgeon said the woman came to him partly covered with blood and suffering very great pain. She was extensively bruised about the right side of the face, her lips were cut, her arm and shoulder injured, and one of her ribs was partially broken. The Bench fined defendant 10s. 6d. for each assault, afterwards granting a separation order.

Needham Market Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. H. Tidswell, S. T. Harwood, S. A. Maw, General Phillipps, and General Martin. Arthur Garrod pleaded guilty to a charge of poaching. Two months and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

Amersham Police-court. Before Captain T. H. T. Drake and Mr. G. Weller. Arthur Wilson pleaded guilty to a charge of poaching, namely, taking a pheasant by night on land belonging to Earl Howe. The offence was committed on December 24, 1894, and defendant had now given himself up to the police, saying that "the affair" had been a great trouble to him, that he was at present in a good situation at Manchester, and that he would like to have the case settled. Fined £5 and 11s. 6d. costs.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Gillespie. Andrew Anderson and John Matthewson, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found on the highway with one partridge and some nets in their possession. Fined £2. 5s. 9d. each, or fourteen days.

Samford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. H. Berners, A. M. Bernard, T. S. Furniss, W. A. Elliston, Rev. J. H. Hocking, and General H. D. Phillipps. George Chaplin, William Hill, and Mark Salter, charged with poaching. The Deputy Chief Constable asked the magistrates to take into consideration that the prisoners used no violence, and, unlike gangs of poachers generally, had no stones in their pockets. Three months each (the maximum penalty for a first offence) and a further six months in default of finding sureties for their good behaviour for the ensuing twelve months.

Burnley County Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Baron and T. Thornber. John Lord, charged with an aggravated assault on his wife. The woman had separated from defendant owing to his ill-treatment. He went to the house where she was living, struck her on the breast, and kicked her on the legs with his clogs, severely hurting her. Fined 20s. and costs.

Pontypridd Police-court. Before Mr. T. P. Jenkins and other magistrates. Thomas Thomas and Richard Sims, convicted of assaulting a man named Burns. Prosecutor was struck on the ear, knocked down, and kicked in the eye, becoming unconscious, and losing a considerable quantity of blood. A doctor said Burns had a jagged wound on the left temple, 2 in. long and extending to the bone, and there were abrasions on the left ear and the back of the head. Fined £3 each.

Torquay Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. R. A. Clark, W. H. Lord, W. B. Smale, and W. Ball. Henry Sampson, charged with vagrancy by sleeping in an unoccupied house. Seven days.

Aylesbury Petty Sessions. Before Captain Terry and other Justices. William Saving, labourer, charged with stealing six hen's eggs. There was a previous conviction, but prosecutor did not wish to press the present charge. Six weeks.

Totnes County Petty Sessions. Before Captain Conran and other Justices. Hugh Pearse, charged with sleeping out, and being without visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Persons receiving communications from a Mr. Oscar Bartley, offering to obtain situations for them, whether in response to newspaper advertisements or otherwise, will do well to give him a very wide berth. This Bartley's game appears to be to answer advertisements, or to advertise on his own account offers of various situations which he states he is commissioned to fill up on receipt of a small fee by way of bonus for the introduction. In one letter which I have before me, written a few weeks back from 66, Devonshire-road, Mare-street, Hackney, Bartley states that he is commissioned to appoint a cook-housekeeper to a well-known gentleman in London, whose business he transacts, and he offers to bestow this valuable appointment for the modest sum of 5s., which, I am glad to say, he did not get in this instance. It is a simple, and, one would think, a transparent trick, but apparently Bartley is doing very well with it. He was at 66, Devonshire-road for two or three weeks, and received at that address a large amount of correspondence, of which a considerable proportion may be presumed to have contained remittances. He then removed to Omega House, Winchilsea-road, Tottenham, where he again received an extensive correspondence; and, doubtless, when parties who have paid him money become unduly pressing, he will remove to another address. If anybody who has been defrauded by this rascal would put the police on his track they ought to have no difficulty in catching him.

A trick essentially the same has lately been carried on by an advertisement which appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* and other papers, asking for a man at 35s. a week. This advertisement being answered, the following communication was received :—

328, High Holborn, W.C.

Sir,—Your references are satisfactory. You are accepted on condition that you send me a security, say one or two pounds. On receipt of same I will forward you on full particulars.—Yours truly, L. Young.

It would seem almost incredible that anybody could be such a fool as to send one or two pounds in answer to such a letter, but I fear there can be no doubt that money has been obtained by this simple trick, for on inquiring

Fifteen Shillings: Old Spiced Elderberry Wine prevents chills; delicious. 15/- per doz. reputed quarts. Carriage paid. Cash with order.—Carter & Co ld Refinery, Bristol.

at 328, High Holborn, I find that L. Young has already disappeared. It seems that a room, or, more strictly speaking, a cupboard, at the top of the house, was taken in that name for one week only. A young woman attended there daily, once or twice accompanied by a man, and at the end of the week the tenant departed. The handwriting of the above letter is almost indistinguishable from that of my old friend Stockham, the bogus house agent of Chancery-lane, but whether any conclusion is to be drawn from the resemblance I am unable to say.

There is a turf tout carrying on business at 28, Clapham Park-road, under the name of "W. Eustace." He begins his circular:—

Dear Sir,—This week your name, with two or three others, was incidentally mentioned to me with a recommendation to do you what good I could. I venture to suggest that you should place yourself on my private list, &c.

It would seem, however, that after the name had been given him, "W. Eustace" has entirely forgotten it, as well as the address. He has consequently been reduced to putting numerous copies of his communication into envelopes, addressed simply to "The Footman," and dropping them broadcast into the letter-boxes of houses in the neighbourhood of Eaton-square. Seriously, a man must be in the hope of dealing with an exceptional class of idiots when he can give himself away by beginning his circular with an obvious lie. In the course of the same document "W. Eustace" remarks, "For obvious reasons I do not advertise." For obvious reasons I think it better to give him this little advertisement gratis.

The man "Henry Miller"—a false name, of course—who did such a good business lately with his "Perfection System" of turf investment, is now under remand on a charge under the Betting Acts. There seems no reason why the indictment should be limited to this charge, and I would strongly recommend all those who have reason to complain of their dealings with Miller to place their cases without delay in the hands of the City Commissioner of Police, who is to be found at 26, Old Jewry, E.C.

In proof of what I said the other day as to the way in which Miller lured his victims on to their destruction, I may cite the experience of a gentleman in Berkshire. This misguided individual first invested £20 in the "Perfection System," and the "Perfection System" worked so perfectly that in the course of a few weeks the investor received regular weekly payments to the total amount of £15. 13s. At this point, like so many others who put their trust and cash in the "Perfection System," he was induced to entrust another £20 to Miller for investment. On this he received one weekly dividend of £1. 13. 6d., when the announcement came that the "Perfection System" had suddenly and unexpectedly gone wrong. Miller therefore netted £22. 13s. 6d. from this client alone. Well might he extol the virtues of the "Perfection System."

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Household Ammonia, which refreshes and exhilarates.

I have been making some further inquiries respecting the gang "Linton, McKenzie, Dyer, & Co.," who have been making free with the names of Truth and other papers on a circular inviting the public to subscribe money for working a patent system at Monte Carlo. The result of my inquiries is highly interesting. On several recent occasions, notably in Truth of October 1 and 8, my friend, Moses Moss, has dealt in his letter with a gang of Stock Exchange syndicate touts issuing circulars from 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street, in the name of "Frank Tarrant & Co." Some of my readers may remember that the last operation of these individuals took the form of a circular, in which they alleged that they had closed a Metropolitan District deal at a profit of 587½ per cent. The "office" occupied by these people at 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street turns out to be a small room at the top of the building, generally locked up, except at such times as "Tarrant & Co." call in search of letters from lunatics desirous of sharing in the next 587½ per cent. investment.

With tolerable certainty I can now say that Linton, McKenzie, Dyer, & Co., of 4, Adelaide-street, Charing Cross, are the same gang as Frank Tarrant & Co., of Bishopsgate-street. The "office" at 4, Adelaide-street is very similar to that at 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street. It is a room which was taken at the end of September, and a month's rent was paid in advance in lieu of references. Linton, McKenzie, Dyer, & Co. put in no furniture, and apparently only use the place as an address for receiving letters. I am sorry to add that letters are reported to come in freely, many of them being registered, a fact which tells its own tale. To any rational being who looks at the circulars in which the public is invited to subscribe either to Tarrant & Co.'s 587½ per cent. investments, or Linton, Dyer, & Co.'s infallible Monte Carlo gambling system, which can never fail to yield a 15 per cent. profit, it must appear simply inconceivable that sufficient fools can be found to keep such rascals alive and busy.

A warning was given in last week's Truth against advertisements issued by an individual describing himself as "agent for Feakes & Co.," London, N.E. By an accident, which I much regret, the name of this "agent for Feakes & Co." was given in the paragraph as Berryman. The only person of that name known to me is a highly respectable gentleman, and is certainly not to be found anywhere near London Fields. The party to whom my paragraph referred is to be found at 8, Trederwen-road, London Fields, and anybody inquiring at that address for "W. G. Feakes" will probably have no difficulty in discovering him.

Many ingenious reasons for their poverty are put forward by the writers of begging-letters, but I think the palm among them all must be awarded to the following. The writer signs himself Charles Leicester, and addressed his letter, some two or three weeks ago, to the

secretary of a Pall Mall club from 42, Norman-road, St. Leonard's-on-Sea :—

I am the only surviving son of the late Rev. Chas. Leicester, J.P., who was first cousin to the Right Honourable Lord De Tatley, member of your Club. Through the recent death of the third lord without issue, the peerage becomes extinct, and the entail cut off. I am left entirely without any friends or relatives to aid.

Then comes the usual harrowing tale of distress, concluding with a request to take tickets in a raffle for certain small pictures, valued at from one to two guineas apiece. The true reason for the poverty of this distinguished scion of the aristocracy is somewhat different from that assigned in his letter. A few years back he was employed as a sorter in the Post Office at Bath, at a salary of £72 a year, which he forfeited in the usual course, on being convicted and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment for stealing letters. When he had served his time he took to writing begging-letters from Brighton. (This, I may mention in parenthesis, was not his first effort in that line, he having practised begging-letter writing as far back as 1877, when he was living at Ryde, and had not yet entered the service of the Post Office). From Brighton he went to Hastings, where he had an engagement as a commercial traveller. This again terminated on his being convicted for embezzlement and getting another term of imprisonment. Since that he has lived exclusively by begging-letter writing. He encloses in his letter some particulars of the genealogy of the Leicester family, which, although in his own handwriting, he marks "Official Copy." Distinguished though his lineage may be, I cannot help thinking that a prison is the position in life which he is best fitted to adorn.

Some inquiries are being held by a Government Commission in Ireland regarding the working of various Loan Fund Societies. These societies were established under an Act of Parliament, and are ostensibly conducted on purely benevolent lines for affording temporary financial assistance to poor persons; but from the disclosures that have been made it would appear that some of them are little or no better than the ordinary usury shop. At Enniscorthy, for example, the Commissioners discovered that many borrowers had practically been charged for their loans at the rate of 50 per cent., and out of the profits thus acquired salaries were paid to officials and grants of money to the amount of £1,740 have been made to various local institutions. It is clear from this and similar cases that radical reforms are required in the management of these societies.

Before it is too late, I hope that some one will represent to the Central London Railway Company the inconvenience which may be caused by their giving the name of "Westbourne Station" to the station which they are now constructing in the Bayswater-road between Queen's-road and the Marble Arch. The name "Westbourne" is one of the most misleading geographical expressions in London, and straggles over a district two or three miles in diameter, beginning at the corner of Westbourne-street, Hyde Park, and extending to Westbourne Park Station and the confines of Kensal Town. To most Londoners the name "Westbourne" is chiefly associated with Westbourne-grove, but the station on the new line for Westbourne-grove will be the one at the corner of Queen's-road, and anybody going to the proposed "Westbourne Station" in search, say, of Mr. William Whiteley, would find himself or herself with at least a mile and a half to walk. The most accurate name for the station in question would be "Lancaster-gate."

What a strange infatuation it is which leads people to make public exhibitions of themselves by attempting to predict the incalculable vagaries of our climate! Some weeks back I cut out of a contemporary as a matter of curiosity a prediction of the weather for October, volunteered by a Mr. Hugh Clements. With all the cock-sureness of his class, Mr. Clements predicted :—

October will be on the whole a fine month. There will only be isolated showers during the first fourteen, and last nine days. The great feature of the month will be a very unsettled period from the 14th to 21st, with rain and wind of considerable force on the 19th and 20th. The maximum temperature will oscillate from a few degrees above 60 degs. to a few degrees below, &c., &c.

There is hardly a point in this prophecy which has not already been falsified by the result, and not one of the extraordinary features of the last three weeks' weather—the incessant rain, the almost unprecedented series of gales, and the cold snap on the 11th and 12th, when snow actually drifted an inch deep in Cornwall—has been foreseen by this prophet. Doubtless, however, Mr. Hugh Clements will be quite ready to predict the weather for November with equal confidence, and if he is not, somebody else will be.

Apart from the general inconvenience and discomfort to the public, it is amusing to watch the high-handed equanimity of the parochial authorities in the matter of the re-paving of Piccadilly. Neither Press notices nor indignation meetings have the slightest effect in expediting the work, which threatens, like the brook, to go on for ever; meanwhile it puzzles the ingenuity of the 'cutest West-ender to forecast the correct corner at which to drop on any given line of omnibuses, and reduces both the country-cousin and the intelligent foreigner to a state of absolute imbecility in their frantic efforts in this direction. We are undeniably a long-suffering people, but the resignation of the injured shopkeepers in this usually bustling thoroughfare, and the patient way in which they watch the Penelope-like proceedings of the operators, is really beyond all praise.

It will probably at first startle the Liberty and Property Defence League to hear that a wholesale abrogation of private rights in the ownership of land has just taken place under the sanction of the British Government. But no doubt Lord Wemyss and his friends will be reassured when I add that the owners in question are only black men—for that fact makes, of course, a vast difference to the justice and morality of the proceeding. This revolutionary measure has been carried out on the Gold Coast, by the promulgation of an ordinance which sets forth that no private title to land will in future be recognised as valid by the Gold Coast Government, unless such land

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was acquired through a Government office. According to a correspondent who has lately returned home from the colony, the effect of the enactment is to wipe out all private ownership, and to convert every rood of land in the country into the property of the Crown; and this notwithstanding the fact that private owners may for years have had their titles registered and confirmed in the local courts of the colony. Thus, if A wishes to purchase land occupied by B, a native, which for generations has been recognised as the property of B's family, A, instead of going to B, must now apply to the Gold Coast Government for the land. If my correspondent's interpretation of the new enactment is correct, it is pretty certain to give rise to the trouble and discontent which he predicts. The native's untutored mind does not grasp the idea that the colour of his skin justifies the confiscation of his property.

How easily people are fooled who wish to be fooled, and how very credulous is the Unionist Press! On Sunday a letter appeared in the *Observer*, purporting to be from Sir William Harcourt, expressing his deep love and affection for Lord Rosebery, and his regret that the Liberal Party had lost so able a Leader. The question why Sir William should have confided these regrets to a mysterious stranger, who wrote to him from Clapton, seems to have occurred to no Unionist Editor. On Monday morning they all published the letter, and made it the text for articles, in which Sir William was roughly handled, and the Liberals were called upon to revert to their allegiance to the candidate of the Unionists for the Liberal Leadership. In the evening of the same day it became known that the letter was a forgery. What next trick will the Unionist Press play in order to impose on us their candidate for our Leadership?

I wonder if any one believes all that he reads in newspapers. I used to believe about one-tenth, but each day I reduce my percentage of belief. There are, of course, Party organs that lie designedly. Generally the newspaper lie is merely an effort to be first in the field of sensation. Some newspaper reporter either abroad or at home is told an "undoubted fact" by one of those models of credulity that frequent coffee or pot houses. He at once telegraphs it to the newspaper or the Press Agency with which he is connected. It is published on the chance of its being true. Other newspapers repeat the information in order not to be behind-hand in the dissemination of news, and their leading-article writers, in want of a subject for their facile pens, indite the next day articles on it. The day following the lie is contradicted, and is replaced by another, which runs the same course. "Give us each day our daily lie" is, I take it, the prayer of most newspapers, for to them a daily lie is as necessary as daily bread is to their readers. Speaking broadly, in regard to these newspaper lies, a more thorough one may be purchased for a halfpenny than for a penny.

The New Silk Waistcoatings for Gentlemen's Evening Dress and Morning Wear can now be seen at Ulster House, Conduit-street, W.

If foreigners—as I am afraid that they do—judge us by our Jingo newspapers, they must come to the conclusion that a more despicable set of cowardly braggarts does not exist on the globe. A little while ago the Bobadils of the Press were angry with France, and they were all for an alliance with Germany. Then Germany angered them, and after renouncing all things German, they suggested to France that she ought to be our ally. Just now, as France and Russia seem to be the dominant factors on the Continent, they are almost on their knees to Russia, imploring her to take us into her good graces. Less than a year ago they were breathing fire and fury against the United States in respect to Venezuela, and vowing that rather than arbitrate as to the title of certain lands on which some English had squatted, and which Venezuela claimed, we would go to war with the Americans. Now it would seem, according to Sir Edward Clarke, that these lands really do belong to Venezuela, and he advises the country at once to assent to an arbitration, which he admits would go against us, rather than be forced to do this by the United States.

In the meantime, Mr. Curzon informs us that we are at present not going beyond Dongola in the Soudan, but that we intend to conquer the whole of that country by piecemeal, an advance each year being dependent on the amount that we can screw out of the Egyptians for the purpose. Never, he says, can we leave Egypt until the entire Soudan is conquered; although how far the territory going by that name extends southwards or eastwards, neither he, nor any one else can say. But when conquered, who is to administer it? The Egyptians, I apprehend. We, however, insist that the Egyptians cannot administer their own country without our aid. To conquer, therefore, the Soudan, and to educate the Egyptians into administering it, as well as their own country, will, I should fancy, take, on a moderate estimate, fifty years.

With this future before us, the following extract from a dispatch of M. Waddington to his Government, giving words used to him by Lord Salisbury, November 3, 1886, is interesting:—

> Those are greatly mistaken amongst you who think that we want indefinitely to remain in Egypt. We seek the means honestly to withdraw. The troops that we have there would be more useful in India. This is the opinion of our best Generals.

According to the pro-Turkish newspapers, the agitation on behalf of the Armenians is dying out. In this estimate I do not agree, and the demonstration at St. James's Hall ought to dispose of it. The feeling that we cannot, consistently with our honour and good name, condone such iniquities as have been practised by our ally, the Sultan, is as strong as ever. All are beginning to recognise that, whilst we might do more harm than good by isolated action, we cannot allow our "Statesmen" to make the integrity of the Turkish Empire our concern, but that we must be prepared to leave a free hand to Russia,

provided that she will take upon herself the duty of coercing the Sultan into humanity, even though the result should be her political leadership on the Bosphorus.

I have always said that we have only two alternatives: either to recognise this Russian hegemony, which is the necessary outcome of Russia's geographical position, or to let the Sultan have his own sweet will in his mode of governing the subject races in his dominions. All else is mere intrigue. What is the use of prating about a European concert when that concert has been proved merely to be one of doing nothing? The Turk will, I make no doubt, promise reforms; he will publish them but they will remain a dead letter. He only knows one argument—the stick. The only concert possible is an agreement that Russia shall be invested with this stick. To this France and Germany consent, and Austria is not in a position to dissent. We, and we alone, whilst professing the noblest and most generous sentiments, are intriguing to hinder it. Nothing is so long-lived as a traditional policy. For nearly a century we have made it our mission to bolster up the vilest Government that ever existed, because we regard its existence as necessary to our interests. That this is to our interests is taken for granted, although why it is has never been explained. Interest or no interest, however, the country is slowly coming to the conclusion that this subordination of humanity and right-doing to traditional policy must cease.

We are often told that Austria would never agree to the Dardanelles being practically in the hands of Russia, because this would possibly interfere with the free passage of her commerce viâ the Danube to the open sea. As a matter of fact, there is no such commerce. Why should Austria send goods down the Danube, through the Black Sea, to the Mediterranean? What would be the destination of such commerce? Whatever goods Austria and Hungary do send for shipment to foreign parts go by way of the Adriatic, reaching the ports of exit by railroad. Very possibly she would not be averse from becoming possessed of Salonica in the event of territorial changes in the Balkan peninsula, and, if so, what is the objection to her having Salonica? Austria has always been ready to be bought. Any latent opposition to Russian action in Turkey merely means that if there be such action she would expect some rectification of her Eastern frontier. Why not? Shall we be told that the interests of the British Empire forbid our assent?

The following is an extract from a letter which a gentleman at Constantinople has addressed to his English correspondents. It is of interest as showing the view which is taken of the situation by a competent and trustworthy observer on the spot, who is dealing mainly with the commercial and financial outlook:—

. . . All business is at a standstill, and the whole community depressed by a feeling of disheartenment and hopelessness. Already many shops (besides those owned by Armenians) have closed their shutters sooner than increase the load of debt which is weighing their properties down. The more wealthy members of the population are either preparing to leave the country or are living on their capital and waiting events. The business of the Banks is nil, and even the Administration of the Public Debt has announced that as a measure of economy the posts vacated by the resignation of the Armenian employees will not be filled up. The Government resources are completely exhausted, the Treasury empty, the taxes in great part unpaid, the Army has received no money for months, and even the Diplomatic salaries, which up to now have always been received punctually, have not been settled since last November. The Government must obtain money for the food of the Army, if for nothing else, and, putting aside the idea of another loan as impossible under the existing circumstances, funds can only be obtained by laying hands on the revenues ceded to the Public Debt and the guaranteed railways.

In a word, the position is hopeless in every way, the Government bankrupt beyond redemption, all security for life and property lost, business of every kind at a complete standstill, credit impossible, whilst the working power of the country has been weakened by the loss of some 30,000 Armenians (killed, imprisoned, and deported) who formed the most important and trustworthy part of the labouring class of the population.

The question follows: Can this state of things be allowed to continue and to grow worse from day to day? If not, how can it be remedied? The reply to this is simple. It can be remedied by a radical change in the Government, and this can only be effected either by the expulsion of the Turks and the assumption of power by a Christian people, or by a change of Sultan and an adequate European control supported by force. No half measures will be of any use, no promised reforms will restore confidence, no good laws (on paper) can give the security of life and property which is all that is wanted to turn this (at present) hopelessly bankrupt country into the richest and most prosperous in the world, in which hundreds of millions of European capital can be profitably employed and hundreds of thousands of the surplus population of Western Europe find lucrative work. . . . It is to be hoped that those who have influence with Lord Salisbury's Government will employ it in the endeavours to induce our Ministers to come to an agreement with Russia and France by which, mutual sacrifices being made, a good and stable Government under European control may be given to Turkey.

Is it not about time that public opinion should express itself on what seems to be going on in Matabeleland? Every week a telegram comes to say that the war is over, but the next day we hear of kraals being shelled or burnt. I presume that there are women and children as well as men in them, and that all indiscriminately are killed. Then we are told of women and cattle being taken prisoners. The idea of laying hands on the women and children of an enemy in order to force him into surrender is even more abominable than this shelling. If a "rebel" is executed, and the Imperial authorities object, at once the gold-seeking scum of Bulawayo utter loud protests against the objection. So far as I can understand what is transpiring, there is a deliberate attempt being made to kill off the Matabele, as though they were vermin, or to drive them out of the land, in order that prospectors may have an opportunity of wandering about in search of traces of gold on which to base some rotten Company by means of which investors at home are to be cozened out of their money.

"Rebels thanked Rhodes and Colenbrander profusely," says one of last week's telegrams from Bulawayo. Thanked them for what? Apparently for tricking them out of their country and independence, massacring them by hundreds with machine guns, robbing them of whatever they possessed worth stealing, driving them into revolt from sheer despair, and finally subduing them after a bloody war. If the "rebels" had anything else to thank Rhodes for profusely it is that, after finally subduing them, he has deigned to leave some of them alive. This thankfulness for small mercies may be touching, but it scarcly redounds so much to the credit of Rhodes as to be worth telegraphing to the London

SCRUTATOR.

OUR ONLY LEADER.

"DE mortuis nil nisi bonum." But then your friend ought to be safely soldered in his coffin, or enclosed in a snuff-box after cremation. Neither is the case with Lord Rosebery, and I should be sincerely sorry were it so, for I regard him as a most interesting personality, whilst the loss of that post-prandial oratory in which he excels would diminish our sum of pleasures. His henchmen have seized the opportunity of his retirement to inaugurate a Rosebery boom, and according to them the best proof that he is the only person capable of leading the Liberal Party is that he admits that he cannot lead it. When I remember that Lord Rosebery has always played the game of *nolo episcopari*, it looks to me as though the present aim of his henchmen is to make confusion worse confounded, in order that he may be induced (reluctantly, and under protest)—to deign to come forward once more as the Liberal leader, but invested with dictatorial power to do precisely what he pleases, much as Napoleon was acclaimed Emperor by his Pretorians on his return from Elba. It is needless to say that the Tory Press and the Tory Statesmen are for this restoration. Mr. Curzon assures us that he commiserates with the Party that has lost such a Leader, and urges us to implore him on bended knees to condescend once more to lead us. The *Times* would have us keep the post of Leader open, and leave the selection to the Queen —that Leader being, of course, Lord Rosebery—if ever we are so fortunate as to secure a Parliamentary majority. I am not disposed to accept my Leader either from the Queen, or from Mr. Curzon, or from the *Times*; indeed, the clearest proof that a man ought not to be my Leader is when Queen, Curzon, and *Times* unite in recommending him. To the "dilly, dilly, come and be killed," that the old woman addressed to her ducks, I turn a very deaf ear; indeed, there is, I believe, no evidence that even the silly ducks accepted the advice thus tendered to them.

There is one point in this question of Leadership that it may be well to clear up. According to the myth which is being hatched by Lord Rosebery's friends and by his Tory allies, he never received fair play from his colleagues, and Mr. Asquith goes so far as to urge those of them who meted out to the ex-Leader scant justice to eschew in future all personal rivalries and jealousies. What, however, are the real facts? When it was first bruited about that Mr. Gladstone was likely to withdraw from public affairs, all supposed that he would be succeeded by Sir William Harcourt, who had for many years been his chief lieutenant, and who had, in that capacity, done yeoman's service to his Party. Not so, however, thought Lord Rosebery's henchmen in the House of Commons. They were few in number, in position obscure, and mostly Scotch. But their zeal made up for their numerical and personal insignificance. All their efforts, however, failed to convince, so absurd was the idea of Lord Rosebery supplanting Sir William Harcourt deemed by the vast majority of the Liberals in Parliament. But suddenly, several of Lord Rosebery's colleagues announced that they would not serve under Sir William. For this they did not allege any difference of political opinion between him and them, but they put their refusal on the ground which actuated the friend of Dr. Fell towards that sage. It may be reasonably supposed that, with some at least of these gentlemen, this revolt took place in connivance with the Court, for although it had been for long the invariable rule that the Queen consults the outgoing Premier as to his successor, in this case Mr. Gladstone's opinion was not asked. Lord Rosebery was summoned to Windsor, and before the Liberals had awakened to what was transpiring, he was already Prime Minister.

The position of Sir William Harcourt was undoubtedly a difficult one. He had declared that he held to the Liberal doctrine that the Premier ought to be in the House of Commons. But it was obvious that, had this doctrine been acted upon, he would have been Premier. Had he, consequently, refused to serve under Lord Rosebery, he would have been open to the accusation that he had been influenced by a sense of personal grievance. He, therefore, remained Leader in the Commons and Chancellor of the Exchequer. He could hardly, however, have been expected to give an enthusiastic support to Lord Rosebery's foreign policy, for in regard to our foreign relations he had always been in accord with Mr. Gladstone. Nor can he be regarded as responsible for the general domestic policy of the Ministry; yet it was Mr. Asquith, not he, who openly sneered at it, as ploughing the sands of the sea-shore. What Sir William thought of it he kept to himself, and officially defended it. But in his own department he effected that Democratic change in the incidents of taxation which was the one bright spot in the career of the Rosebery Cabinet. Then came the General Election. The Party, as a Party, had no policy, and no words of light and leading were vouchsafed to it. An assurance had been given by Lord Rosebery that a resolution against the Lords was to be the rallying cry, but no such resolution saw the light. The Liberal ship laboured in the sea, without a pilot and without a rudder, waterlogged and helpless; with the natural result that the election was a crushing defeat. The majority that had a few years ago supported a Gladstone Cabinet was converted into a pitiable minority when asked to support a Rosebery Cabinet.

When the new Parliament met, Sir William Harcourt led the Liberals in the Commons. The Conservative Government had a majority of 150. But with these odds against him, and with associates around him who had shown that they were not his cordial supporters, he led the Opposition with such ability that, at the end of the Session, the Unionist Government was, by the admission of their most ardent friends, thoroughly discredited. To say, therefore, that Lord Rosebery had not fair play, and to imply that the attitude of Sir William towards him was the reason why

The ONLY PALATABLE NATURAL APERIENT to take is "Franz Josef" Water, generally admitted to be the best Ten gold medals at World's Exhibitions. No household should be without it.

he proved a failure as Premier, is really a deliberate perversion of fact. If ever a man sacrificed all thought of self to Party loyalty, that man is Sir William Harcourt. I say this with absolute indifference of judgment, for I by no means agreed in his course of action. I held, and I still hold, that he ought to have had the civic courage to risk personal imputations, rather than to have sacrificed, to the risk of incurring them, his own views upon our foreign relations, and that sheet anchor of all Radical progress—the absolute necessity of a Liberal Premier being in the House of Commons, if that House is to rule.

I have entered into these details, not because I hold a brief for Sir William Harcourt, but because I have a strong sense of fair play alike to friend and foe. But the question lies not so much in the past as in the present. I really care very little personally who may be the Leader of the Liberal Party, provided that the Leader be a sound Radical, a man of resource and experience, and that he be prepared to maintain, if necessary, the supremacy of the House of Commons in the Executive. I am for Sir William Harcourt, simply because he fulfils the above conditions, and because he is the Leader in the Commons. My doctrine has always been this: the House of Commons ought to be the centre of political gravity; whoever leads the Liberals there, is *de facto* the Leader of the Liberal Party; and in the event of the Party obtaining a Parliamentary majority, he, and he alone, should be called upon to form an Administration. If objection be taken to the individual holding this position by any members of the Party, then they should ask for a Party meeting, and there openly submit their objections. Lord Tweedmouth, in a speech last week to the Liberals of Falkirk, "urged them to allow the question of Leadership to be settled by the prerogative of the Queen when the time arrives." When I read this I asked myself into what depths of degradation the Liberal Party will be dragged, if they allow their principles to be provided for them by Peers. That the Sovereign may select as Premier any Court flunkey whom she pleases is theoretically true. But in our Constitution, theory and practice are seldom identical. By selecting its Leader, a Party nominates its candidate for the Premiership, and this nomination is officially ratified by the Sovereign whenever the Party has a majority in the Commons. A monarch is necessarily a Conservative. As Joseph II. of Austria said, "My trade is to be a King." If the selection of the Premier were left to the Sovereign, he would select, whenever his choice has to be amongst Liberals, not the soundest Radical, and the man most likely to give effect to Radical aspirations, but the Liberal who is the nearest approach to a Conservative, and who may be most counted on for his courtly subserviency. Nor, indeed, should I blame the Sovereign were he to do this, for he would be right in his estimate that Radicals are such utter fools in leaving the selection of their Leader to him, that it would be almost criminal to place the destinies of a country in the hands of any one of them.

Mr. Asquith, as well as Lord Tweedmouth, counsel us to have neither Leader nor policy, but to let the future shape out the one and the other. My reply is that, so long as there is a Liberal Leader of the House of Commons, there is a Leader of the Party. But even if this were not so, such a counsel of weakness would perpetuate intrigue, and make any efficient leading of the Liberals in the Commons well-nigh impossible. I was first returned to Parliament above thirty years ago, and I should be a very idiot if I did not know something of its ways. I never had a very high estimate of human nature, and my frequentation of M.P.s has not led me to alter this estimate. I make allowance for the fact that the performance does not look the same from the auditorium as from behind the scenes, and that although from the latter the moon may be a lamp, the trees pasteboard, and the beautiful heroine a rouged and wrinkled matron, yet it does not follow that the general effect from the auditorium is not effective. But still I am bound to admit that M.P.s are not angelic beings above all human weaknesses, but that they have their full share of them. They have their ambitions, and they are given to pin themselves to the coat-tails of this man or that man, in the hopes that if he becomes the dispenser of the loaves and fishes, their advocacy of his claims to the Leadership may secure them a crumb or a sprat. So long as it is indefinite who the "dispenser" will be in the event of victory, principle takes a back seat, and Party is a mere name for back-stair intrigue, with the result that there is not that united action for a common end that alone can ensure victory. We may deplore that this should be, but the fact remains. It is the natural outcome of uncertainty. St. Paul, no mean authority on such matters, realised this, and he deprecated its fatal effect on the Early Church, when he adjured Christians not to say "I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas."

I never have been for blind subserviency to Party, nor have I ever been prepared to sacrifice my Radical principles on its altar. But I have always been ready to yield on many minor issues and on mere questions of tactics, in order to secure unity of action for a common end. Tactically, I recognise that a Leader is absolutely necessary in order that there may be unity. Sheep without a shepherd are apt to stray: indeed, the idea of a shepherd is involved in the idea of a flock. If you want to carry water, you must have a jug. Is it, I ask, likely that the electors will ever have confidence in the ability of the Liberal Party to conduct the affairs of the nation, if they are so divided amongst themselves that they cannot even decide on who is to be their Leader? That Lord Tweedmouth and Mr. Asquith should have suggested this interregnum as a notable scheme of political wisdom, is to me inexplicable, unless they are so wedded to the Leadership of Lord Rosebery that they prefer that there should be no flock to lead, rather than Lord Rosebery should not be its shepherd.

Extract from a Lecture on "Foods," by Dr. Andrew Wilson.—"The consumption of cocoa happily increases year by year. I say 'happily' because, as tea and coffee are not foods, while cocoa is a true food, any increase in the national nutrition means an increase in the national prosperity. Winter, besides, is close upon us, and I advise those who are susceptible to colds to fortify themselves against chill by attention to their food. The easiest way of effecting this end for many is to substitute cocoa (Epps's being the most nutritious) for tea."

As regards policy, a programme is simply the honest enunciation of the main aims and objects of a Party. An electoral programme is different. It deals—or it should deal—alone with the particular issue on which the next election is to turn. With respect to the first, I want to know what will remain to us if our wire-pullers have their way? Disestablishment is to be dropped. Temperance is to be dropped. Peace and economy are to be dropped. Irish Home Rule is to be dropped. Payment of members is to be dropped. Drastic action in regard to the House of Lords is to be dropped. These wire-pullers and office-seekers are like the Russian mother who threw child after child to the wolves in order to reach her goal. But what would Democracy gain by the Liberal car passing the winning-post first in the electoral race if there were nothing on it but a dozen grooms, undecided which of them is to be the coachman, and with all the Radical freight scattered along the roadway? In Mr. Gladstone's last speech in the House of Commons, he said that, no matter what majority a Liberal Ministry may have there, it is stalemated by the legislative power of the Lords. If this be correct, and most unquestionably it is correct, our programme for the next General Election should be the removal of the obstruction which blocks the way to all else. But in this case we must at once nail our colours to the mast and rally public opinion to our battle cry. I do not believe that we are likely to reverse the verdict of last year by mere criticism of our opponents. All Liberal victories have been won on a specific reform, and after lengthy agitation for that reform. For the Conservatives a mere campaign of criticism is all very well, for their creed is that all would be for the best in the best of worlds, if only Radicals would cease to trouble; and after a period of activity there often comes upon a nation a desire for rest, which is the Tories' opportunity.

If really there is such a divergency of opinion between the majority of the occupants of the Liberal front bench and the Radicals, that united action only becomes possible by the latter allowing themselves to be sold into bondage, then it is full time for them to take separate action, and in this case they would carry with them the bulk of what is now the Liberal Party in the electorate. I deprecate this step so long as it is not forced upon us. But there must be a clear understanding that the Party as now constituted must not be a mere political sham, without a leader and without a policy; only held together by the hope of wresting from their opponents the basket containing the loaves and fishes. If the result of reconstruction of Parties be that Democracy is to remain for years in the desert, I prefer this to a victory which is no victory, and which drags us back to the days when politics were a struggle between Whigs and Tories, each seeking office, and each united in a determination to cajole or bully the Democracy into subserviency. I do not, however, believe that such a reconstruction will be necessary, if only Radicals will be true to their principles, and will insist that the present Liberal Party shall be true to them. I do not conceal from myself that, underlying all these personal squabbles that have landed the Liberal Party in the mire, there has been a deliberate endeavour on the part of some Liberals to arrest the progress of Democracy, and to say to its advancing waves, "So far and no further." This proved successful for a brief period, owing to the supineness of Radicals. But if Liberals have backbone, the Liberal Party may still be made a serviceable instrument for Radical progress. We may possibly lose the support of a few Whigs, who still hang on to the Liberal skirts in the hope of personal advantage, and in the expectation of tricking us into supporting the hoary abuses which they regard as the bulwarks of all sound government. Let it be with them as it was with the Liberal Unionists, let them openly join the ranks of our opponents, and we shall gain by losing them.

I have never understood personal animosity in politics; on the other hand, I have never understood personal likes being allowed to have any influence. To acclaim a man a Leader because you like him, or to refuse to accept him because you dislike him, is as absurd as to make the question depend on the colour of a man's hair. I believe in Democracy—thorough, uncompromising Democracy. Therefore I do my best to ensure its triumph; but I am quite ready to admit that those who do not are as worthy of respect as those who do. This kindly feeling towards them will, however, never prevent me from—as Dr. Johnson terms it—"downing" them if I can; nor are my feelings altered towards them if, in their endeavour to down me and those who agree with me, they represent us as the most noxious of political vermin.

THE WAR OFFICE AND THE 4TH HUSSARS.

Seldom has any incident in connection with the Army produced more general and unanimous indignation than the War Office treatment of the recent scandals in the 4th Hussars. This I say on the evidence of letters addressed to me from all branches of the Service, from officers of all ranks, both on the active and retired lists, and from dozens of civilians, some personally connected with the Army, others looking at the affair as more or less disinterested spectators. If I do not publish any of these letters verbatim, I beg the writers to believe that it is not from any want of respect for them personally, still less of appreciation of their sentiments or language; but merely because I think, where there is practical unanimity on all sides on every aspect of the case, the repetition of the same opinions in the words of any number of different correspondents, tends as much to weaken as to strengthen the effect of the facts. Substantially I can sum up the opinions of nearly every one who has communicated with me on the subject by saying that from beginning to end they are agreed that the treatment of Mr. Hodge in the 4th Hussars was disgraceful to the regiment, and in a degree to the whole Army; that in both the Hodge and the Bruce cases the War Office has shown an express desire to conceal the truth and protect the wrong-doers; and that the effect

"After having once used 'CEREBOS' I cannot endure the common table salt. Cerebos is so dainty, so fine, so dry, and never goes lumpy." All the best Grocers and Stores keep it. In large tins, 6d. and 1s.

of the two cases as they now stand is to destroy all confidence in the straightforwardness and good faith of the present rulers of the Army.

It is this last aspect of the matter which is now the matter of most public importance. Many of my correspondents dilate eloquently and pointedly upon the evils of bullying in the Service, the cruelty that has been in past times perpetrated in this shape, the necessity of stamping it out, if the Army—the Cavalry regiments more particularly—is to be considered a profession for gentlemen, and not a mere playground for the wealthy unemployed, or an easy path to social position for moneyed snobs. But on this much all parties are pretty well agreed. Even Lord Wolseley so far bows to the general opinion on this point as to season his pitiful apology for the bullying of Mr. Hodge out of the 4th Hussars with a pious declaration of his intention to "put down bullying with a strong hand." For the present, at least, the mere question of bullying is thrown into the shade by the revelation that has been afforded of War Office methods of dealing with Service scandals and abuses.

Look for a moment at what is beyond question and controversy in these two cases. 1. Mr. Hodge, on joining the 4th Hussars, is immediately informed, at the Officers' Mess, and in the most offensive terms, that if he is not in a position to keep hunters and racehorses he had no business to join the regiment. 2. From that moment a blackguardly persecution is directed against him, beginning with rough horse-play, proceeding to the destruction of his clothing and property, and culminating in his being dragged from his bed on two successive nights by four blackguards—probably half drunk—and forced through a horse-trough. 3. By these and other means, continued after the personal complaint of his father to the Adjutant, Mr. Hodge is driven into resignation. 4. Another cadet, Mr. Bruce, having been appointed in his place, the subalterns decide—apparently in deference to the personal sentiments of one of the youngest of their number—that he is not qualified to grace their select circle. Having done so they invite him to dinner, inform him that they have got rid of Hodge, and will get rid of him too if he joins, and recommend him to make a graceful exit now in preference to a disgraceful one later on. As a reason for this course they allege his inability to "go the pace of the regiment" on an allowance of £500 or £600 a year. 5. Undeterred by these threats, Mr. Bruce joins, and is subjected from the first to a sort of organised conspiracy to make life in the regiment impossible for him, stopping short only of personal violence. Having committed the two indiscretions, first, of swearing at an N.C.O. at Bisley, and, secondly, of going into the Sergeants' Mess on Boxing Night and drinking one glass of whiskey and soda, he is for the second offence brought before the General at the War Office, and, on the evidence of an N.C.O., directly traversed by his own statement, called upon to resign—this within nine months of joining.

All these facts, I say, are beyond controversy. They have been officially laid before the War Office for inquiry, and the War Office, while resorting to every artifice in order to minimise their significance, does not dispute one of them. As regards Mr. Hodge, the Secretary of State expressly admits that this gentleman was bullied by his brother officers. As regards Mr. Bruce, he does not deny the fact of the dinner, or the allegations as to what passed there. It is, therefore, admitted: (1) that Mr. Hodge was bullied into resignation by a systematic course of blackguardly cruelty and ruffianism, the equal of which has probably never before been recorded in the annals of the Army; (2) that, in spite of some sort of official reprimand, the same officers, having got rid of Mr. Hodge, at once formed an insubordinate conspiracy to get rid of his successor, and did their best to carry out their design, so far as was consistent with their own safety, until the Colonel of the regiment saved them further trouble by finding a pretext for making representations to the General which brought about the desired result. All this ng admitted, the War Office nevertheless thinks it "unnecessary to take further action" in regard to either case.

How is this monstrous conclusion justified? First, in the case of Mr. Hodge, by putting forward—without hearing him in his own defence, without even intimating to him or his friends that such imputations have been made against him—a vile slander, imputing to him cowardice in the riding-school and malingering; and by pronouncing him on the strength of this slander "constitutionally unfitted for a cavalry officer." No sooner are these allegations put forward than the first of them is conclusively disposed of by the evidence of Mr. Hodge's father, that a statement to the directly contrary effect had been made to him by the Adjutant of the regiment; while the charge of malingering is as forcibly answered by unimpeachable evidence that the lad's health was utterly broken down when he sent in his resignation. Further, the worthlessness of both allegations as an excuse for the treatment of Mr. Hodge is shown by the fact that the organised persecution was commenced within a day or two of his joining, and before he had had any opportunity of showing his "constitutional" fitness or unfitness. It is not too much to say that the publication of this slander in an official document, without an attempt to test its accuracy, and obviously on the evidence of the very parties whose conduct is impugned, is a proceeding grossly discreditable to "the Secretary of State and his military advisers," and in itself calculated to stamp their attitude as that, not of impartial judges, but of partisans. It is the more discreditable inasmuch as its introduction into the document is totally irrelevant and pointless. For the Commander-in-Chief cannot go the length of asserting that because the junior officers of a regiment find a man "constitutionally unfitted" for a commission they are justified in destroying his property and dragging him through a horse trough. His lordship has consequently in the next breath to admit that Mr. Hodge was bullied, and to pronounce the bullying inexcusable.

To justify himself for taking no further notice of this inexcusable bullying, the Commander-in-Chief then falls back on the plea that it was sufficiently punished at the time, and that the "drastic" measures then taken by the C.O. had the desired effect. In regard to this it is sufficient to repeat what has already been said in TRUTH,

that these "drastic" measures were of such a nature that Mr. Hodge himself, though he remained in the regiment several weeks afterwards, never heard of them; that Mr. Bruce, his successor, never heard of them; that up to last June the War Office itself never heard of them; and that no living soul, beyond the parties immediately concerned and the writer of the War Office apologia, knows to this day what they were. If the War Office is so satisfied that exemplary punishment was awarded, let it inform the public what the punishment really was, and leave the public to decide whether it was "drastic" or not. That these "drastic" measures produced no result beyond the cessation of actual personal violence, is conclusively shown, first, by the fact that the persecution of Mr. Hodge was afterwards continued by other means until the desired result was produced; and, secondly, by the fact that, as soon as Mr. Hodge was got rid of, a similar conspiracy was organised against the gentleman appointed by the War Office in his place. And be it remembered that the first step taken by Mr. Bruce was to report to the Adjutant the whole facts respecting the ultimatum delivered to him, so that the authorities had, from the first, official notice of the deliberate intention of the subalterns to repeat towards Mr. Bruce the conduct by which they had got rid of Mr. Hodge. For the Commander-in-Chief to contend in the face of these facts that adequate and effectual punishment has been administered, and that the result shows that no further action is necessary, is an insult to the intelligence of the public, and on a par with his heroic declaration (while inventing excuses for winking at the most outrageous case of bullying ever brought to light) that he is determined to put down bullying with a strong hand wherever its existence is proved.

Further, in estimating the culpability of the War Office in these two cases, it has to be remembered that there is another charge against the same parties which has been handled at headquarters with the same matchless partiality and levity. I refer to the turf scandal in the same regiment. The facts in this case were that in the race for the Subalterns' Cup at Aldershot in 1895, an unknown horse was surreptitiously substituted for an outsider named Surefoot. The supposed Surefoot, starting at odds of 6 to 1, won the race, defeating the favourite, Lady Margaret, who had been extensively backed at the price of 6 to 4 *on*. The substitution of an unknown horse for Surefoot had been arranged among the officers who had horses in the race, and may have been known to other officers; but it was never publicly announced, and Lady Margaret was heavily backed by those who were not "in the know," and who consequently lost their money. These facts, being officially brought to the knowledge of the War Office, were referred by them to the Stewards of the National Hunt. The Stewards of the National Hunt, having investigated the case, disqualified all the horses which had run in the race from future races under National Hunt rules; and their decision then came again before the War Office for consideration. Here again the War Office decided, to use the familiar official formula, that there was no necessity for further action, on the ground that the parties to the transaction acted in bonâ-fide ignorance that they were doing anything at all irregular or questionable. The child-like innocents, thus assumed to be unaware of what any casual visitor to a racecourse could see for himself by the light of nature, were men owning and running racehorses, habitually frequenting race meetings, and as familiar with turf usage as might be taken for granted in the case of officers in a cavalry regiment which prides itself on "going the pace." If anybody can seriously believe that this decision on the part of the War Office was arrived at honestly and in good faith, he must be as simple and child-like as the War Office assumes the subalterns of the 4th Hussars to be. Beyond that he could hardly go.

The subalterns whose horses ran on this occasion were Messrs. Barnes, Savory, Francis, Spencer Churchill, and Walker. Of these Messrs. Barnes and Savory assisted just previously in the dragging of Mr. Hodge through the horse trough. The whole five of them took part in organising the dinner at the Nimrod Club a few weeks later, when Mr. Bruce was invited to hear that he was not wanted in their distinguished regiment. Barnes seems to have been prevented from actually attending the dinner, but the invitation was sent to Mr. Bruce in his name. Perhaps the finest stroke of irony in the whole business is that these choice spirits actually took upon themselves—apparently on the strength of some schoolboy tittle-tattle retailed by one of their number—to decide that Mr. Bruce, whom the majority of them had never seen, was not a gentleman qualified to grace so select an assemblage as the Officers' Mess of the 4th Hussars. At the very time when this precious gang met to inform Mr. Bruce the 4th Hussars really could not have him, five of them (including the ringleader) were fresh from the coup which resulted in the defeat of a hot favourite by the last outsider in the betting, and two others had just been treated to what the Commander-in-Chief facetiously calls "drastic" punishment for that extremely gentlemanly and honourable exploit, the horse-troughing of Mr. Hodge. And, to crown the whole thing, the War Office, in its final pronouncement on the Bruce case, solemnly takes its cue from these accomplished judges of all the proprieties, and pleads on their behalf that in vetoing Mr. Bruce's appointment they were acting upon "reports" which had reached the regiment concerning that gentleman. Fancy the heroes of the Hodge outrage and the Surefoot coup shuddering over these "reports," and deciding that they really could not do violence to their feelings by associating with such an ineligible comrade! When Lord Wolseley was casting about for pretexts for washing his hands of the 4th Hussars scandals, I really wonder it did not occur to him to suggest that, in intimating to Mr. Bruce that he was not quite up to 4th Hussars form, they were really paying him about as pretty a compliment as he need have desired. That, now, would have been something like an unanswerable argument.

When one looks at the utter imbecility of the War Office reasoning, the retorts to which it lays itself open

at every point, and the mockery of holding out such a performance as the result of an honest and impartial attempt to arrive at the truth and do justice, one can only marvel how men like Lord Wolseley, Sir Redvers Buller, and the Marquis of Lansdowne can ever have allowed themselves to drift into such a humiliating position. But there the matter stands, and it only remains for the public to form its own conclusions and for Parliament to ratify them. As regards Lord Lansdowne, it is difficult to credit that a man who has had a large experience of public affairs and of administrative business, and who has quite recently filled in succession such offices as those of Governor-General of Canada and Viceroy of India, can have had any personal part in this pitiful transaction. Lord Lansdowne must know what is meant in law and in the daily business of life by an impartial inquiry into any doubtful matter of fact, and he would presumably have too much regard for his own reputation to spontaneously offer to the public as an impartial inquiry such a contemptible farce as has been performed in this instance. Lord Lansdowne did not offer to conduct this inquiry himself, and it must be presumed, until the contrary is shown, that he has played a purely formal part in authorising the despatch of the two letters from the War Office. At the same time, Lord Lansdowne has to remember that he is the party primarily responsible to Parliament for all military proceedings transacted in his name, and that one of the reasons for having a civilian in this position is to put a check upon the high-handed, rough-and-ready administrative methods which commend themselves to military men. It is on Lord Wolseley, however, and Sir Redvers Buller that the brunt of this scandal must fall. Whatever ability these two officers have shown in other work which has fallen to their lot, in this instance they have lamentably failed in everything that is required of men in their position. Having undertaken, as the result of a Parliamentary debate, to conduct a personal inquiry into the whole facts of these two cases, they have shirked their undertaking and taken refuge in a proceeding for which the term "inquiry" is a grotesque misnomer. In place of impartial investigation, they have contented themselves with hearing and adopting *ex parte* statements. They have employed none of the usual means for testing evidence and eliciting truth. They have put forward as their own findings on questions of fact statements which will not bear a moment's investigation. Where gross wrong and injustice have already been committed, they have aggravated the wrong by making official documents the vehicle for open slanders or veiled innuendos against the complainants, and this without a shadow of justification. Worst of all, they have, by these and other equally discreditable methods, palliated and extenuated, not in one particular, but in instance after instance, conduct disgraceful to officers and gentlemen, subversive of all discipline, and prejudicial alike to the good name and the well-being of the whole Army.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

"CASTE" REVIVED.

The remarkable performance of Mr. John Hare as old Eccles in Robertson's masterpiece known as "Caste"—a performance, by the way, that will be seen at the Lyceum on Saturday afternoon, by the gracious wish of Sir Henry Irving, for the last time before Mr. Hare starts on his second American tour—has very naturally drawn attention to the old play which, as now acted, is as fresh as ever. Attention has recently been directed also to the fact that the scenario of "Caste" is contained in a volume of Christmas stories published by Groombridge & Sons, Paternoster-row, in 1866. The book is called "Rates and Taxes, and How they were Collected." It was edited by Tom Hood the younger, and his fellow-contributors were T. W. Robertson, W. S. Gilbert, W. J. Prowse, Thomas Archer, and Clement Scott. Robertson's story was called "The Poor Rate enfolds a Tale," and here we find the exact plot of the play, now known as "Caste," with some slight alterations in dramatic movement and nomenclature. In the story, Polly Eccles is the heroine, *known in the play as Esther Eccles*, whilst the Polly of the play is Jenny, who talks exactly as Polly does in the play. The hero in the book is Ensign Daubray not D'Alroy, and he visits the little house at Stangate:—

"The young man was ushered into a room where there were three young ladies, all with dark shiny hair and large eyes; one was mending a pink silk stocking, another was covering a tiny canvas shoe, and the third was recumbent on a dusky sofa, deep in a well-worn and unpleasant-looking romance. The fair young hostess snatched a basin containing vegetables from the table and disappeared, saying, as she returned,

"'You mustn't see what we have got for dinner, or you'll be as wise as we are.'

"'What are you going to have for dinner, Jenny?' the young man asked.

"'Find out,' was Miss Jenny's reply.

"'I wish you'd ask me to dine with you,' said the young soldier.

"'Oh no!' Jenny pursed her lips and shook her head. 'You're too grand for us; you'd be wanting two sorts of puddings and all sorts of things. Then you'd eat too much.'"

Here are the descriptions of Ensign Daubray (D'Alroy) and Captain Swynton (Hawtree) which almost exactly tally with the reading of those characters by Fred Younge and S. B. Bancroft:—

"Ensign Daubray was twenty-three years of age; stood 6 ft. 2 in. in his stockings, and in his saddle weighed over sixteen stone. He was of one of the first families in England. His father was dead, and his mother, who had been a great beauty, and was in her age hook-nosed, majestic, and terrible, had married a second time, and she ruled Lord Clardonax as tightly as she had ruled Fairfax Daubray. She was a haughty, irascible old woman, who knew no law but her own will, and whose pride of birth and family was French, and pre-revolutionary French. Ensign Fairfax Daubray was a fine young fellow, high-hearted and broad-chested, single-minded and straightforward, and not particularly bright. He had a vacant expression of face, which fact, joined to the possession of a tongue either too broad or too thick for his mouth, made him seem stupid. He was fond of field sports, had been reared to regard his lady-mother with a superstitious sort of awe, and was a very quiet, well-disciplined young man.

A Fair Beautiful Skin.—By washing with Sulpholine Soap the natural tint and peach-like bloom of a perfect complexion is ensured.

"Captain Swynton was Daubray's senior by about six years. There was a suspicion of trade in the family of the gallant captain, which he endeavoured to stifle by professing a contempt for commerce that would have been exaggerated in a duke. He was a sort of mild *roué* and amiable worldling, with a considerable capacity for misconduct, and a fair share of good nature and kind-heartedness. He was never known to do anything exactly noble, nor had he been discovered in the execution of anything particularly mean. He expressed openly and with perfect sincerity his regard for number one, and thought all men should seize every opportunity for self-advancement. He was a good-tempered man about town, who would leave the society of a baronet for that of a lord, unless the baronet happened to be very rich and influential; would drop a viscount for a marquis, and the marquis for a duke. In whatever society he found himself he invariably addressed his conversation to the most important person present, and was considered among his set a very nice, gentleman-like fellow."

The description of old Eccles and the Eccles family is pretty accurate also:—

"The history of the Eccles family was by no means singular or romantic. Of the pre-nuptial antecedents of Mr. and Mrs. Eccles nothing is known. Mr. Eccles had been a mechanic of some sort or other. Mr. Eccles was either overproud, or possessed of mental attributes too high for his station in life—for he would not work. As all men of active minds must find some occupation to interest and amuse them, Mr. Eccles took to drinking, a pursuit which he varied at tolerably regular intervals by beating his wife.

"The poor woman eked out a scanty livelihood by letting off a portion of the house in Stangate, and by her needle. She gladdened Mr. Eccles's home by four pledges of mutual affection—all of the female sex. While the fourth was still a nursling, Mrs. Eccles did the very best possible thing she could do under the circumstances—she died—leaving Mr. Eccles a disconsolate widower with four children.

"The measure of Mr. Eccles's grief may be best judged by the copious means he took for banishing recollection. He wept tears whenever he alluded to his late wife in the presence of a person of sympathetic mind and hospitable intentions. 'Polly,' sobbed and hiccuped Mr. Eccles, 'my eldest gal, is now my only consolation—she takes after her poor mother, which is a comfort to me.'

"And Polly, who was barely nine years of age, took after her mother, and nursed her baby sister, and washed and combed her other little sisters, and waited on her father, and was abused and beaten by him. It was a horrid thing, as Mr. Eccles often remarked, to have ungrateful children."

And here also is a distinct foreshadowing of "Caste":—

"Ensign Daubray was naturally very much shocked at the first sight of Mr. Eccles, and it required all his love to make him remember that so damaged a parent was his Polly's misfortune and not her fault. Mr. Eccles was a dirty-looking old villain, with the flavour of last night's tap-room strong upon him. His address was unpleasing, fawning, and sham-propitiatory. Daubray saw the blackguard under his too civil, over-deferential manner, and wondered why for the sake of his own comfort he (Eccles) did not wash himself oftener. The girls considered their father a good average sort of parent; a little tipsified, but that they were used to; and certainly somewhat eccentric, which was proved by his frequent personal castigation of his daughters—Polly, as the oldest and most habituated, being his favourite for punishment; but a very clever man for all that, and who could have done wonders—had he liked."

And this is how the story ends:—

"And what became of Old Eccles?"

"Don't know," was the reply. "He went somewhere—to the bad, of course, in a general sort of way."

In the story the hero is shot in the Crimea, his wife dies of a broken heart, and the child is adopted by Lady Clardonax, with, for its guardian, Major Swynton, who "returned to England with one of his coat sleeves empty."

The Eccles of John Hare is the best that has yet been seen; as good, in fact, as his original Sam Gerridge, which could not be beaten, though his own son plays it very cleverly, and with rare humour. Hitherto the representatives of old Eccles have dragged the comic scenes, and particularly the soliloquies; but Mr. Hare quickens them, to the great advantage of the play. Miss Mona Oram, who plays Esther Eccles, is a pretty girl and a promising actress, but it is a difficult matter to follow brilliant originals.

Few better English plays have been written since Boucicault's "London Assurance," which is fifty-five years old, and "Caste" will live longer than any of the best problem plays ever conceived.

"ALL COULEUR DE ROSE!"

The enterprising young managers of the Haymarket Theatre have, with rare tact and cleverness, exactly hit the right nail on the head. They have recognised the spirit of the times. It is no use arguing and saying *I* do not like this, and *I* do not like that: the public knows precisely what it wants, and the public will have what it wants or nothing. Managers, when they produce failures, always blame the public; the public turn their backs on the managers. Mr. Edward Rose has managed to infuse into his dramatic version of Mr. Stanley Weyman's novel a charm and interest, which will very probably astonish and delight the author of the book; for be it undersood "Under the Red Robe" is certainly neither the most exciting nor the most eventful of Mr. Weyman's works. The story is full of possibilities, but the opportunities seem somehow to have escaped notice. The book looks to the outsider as containing material for a one-act play, no more. Be this as it may, Mr. Edward Rose has certainly made the most of the situations afforded to him, and the play presented last Saturday for the first time received the marked and enthusiastic approval of a very select and experienced audience.

Mr. Herbert Waring, the tender-hearted villain-hero of this modern romance, appeared rather nervous at the outset; he seemed to say to himself, "It is this hat that makes me such a blackguard," so he kept throwing it about at odd corners of the stage, where it was picked up first by Miss Coleman, who placed it carefully on the table; then by mysterious hands at the wings, who seemed quite sorry such a nice hat should be so mercilessly chucked about. However, as the play proceeded, Waring forgot all about his head-dress, and acted as only Waring can. Miss Winifred Emery's character is also rather of an uncertain, "first she would, and then she wouldn't" type; but this clever lady is certainly seen to great advantage in the new play, and to her credit be it said, the part is one teeming with difficulties which she attacked boldly and fearlessly, the end being that Miss Emery's perform-

ance of Renée de Cocheforêt is delightful, womanly, and full of grace and charm. The Cardinal Richelieu in Mr. Rose's play does not tax the energies of Mr. Sydney Valentine, but what little he has to do he does well, and his picturesque appearance is a study to be remembered. One of the best acted characters in this romantic story is played by Mr. Bernard Gould, who, as the rough, honest Lieutenant, who determines to have justice at any price, acted splendidly, and struck exactly the right key at the right moment; in fact, he is really the hero and best fellow in the play. Miss Eva Moore is prettily confiding as the poor little love-lorn wife, and wins the sympathies of the audience immediately. Mr. Cyril Maude acted so humorously and quaintly as the vacillating Captain Larolle, that one and all expressed their regret when he was so rudely rolled over into the precipice by the gentleman who had been so cruelly robbed of his power of speech.

Mr. Frederick Harrison and Mr. Cyril Maude are sincerely to be congratulated on their clever management. The Haymarket Theatre is entirely redecorated and refurnished; it is bright, it is pleasing to the eye, and every seat is luxuriously comfortable. There was not one single discordant note to mar the success of last Saturday's production of "Under the Red Robe," and there is no reason why this play should not achieve the same triumph as the "Prisoner of Zenda" at the St. James's. The public taste is in the direction of philosophic romance. It is a romance of the Zenda pattern, full of brightness, life, and interest. Those who have read Mr. Weyman's novel will, of course, go and see Mr. Rose's romance at the Haymarket, and those who have not read the book or seen the play will be wise to do both. In fact, at this most popular playhouse everything is at present—and long may it remain so — *Couleur de Rose!*

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE Czarina, in giving her impressions of Paris at Darmstadt, is reported to have spoken of the universal enthusiasm as never to be forgotten. She wondered what it may not rise to when the Czar and herself have paid some longer visits. Is this a time to remind her of the Spanish proverb that advises us never to return to a house where we have been splendidly received? "Grandmamma" could have told her at Balmoral of a reception far more brilliant, bewildering, and enthusiastic. How many people are there now living who witnessed the Queen's triumphant drive in 1855 from the Western Railway terminus to St. Cloud? I have only met two. One is an old lady, widow of a French General who was then serving at the Palace as Master of the Household; the other is Sir Charles Dilke. The old lady tells me the Queen wore a white silk dress with blue satin *bretelles*, and a white silk *capote* trimmed with pink roses. She was flushed with excitement, as was the other day her Imperial granddaughter. People noticed that she had *le geste large* in bowing to the public, and was allowed by the Emperor, who sat facing her in the carriage, to do most of the bowing. The Prince looked cold and *un peu gêné*. How could he be otherwise? He had to be polite, and yet he must have felt that he was to show consciousness that the roar of acclamation kept up the whole way was meant chiefly for the Queen. But there were compensations. Another lady, who was in the Pontoise station when the train was being shunted, tells me that all the grand people of the Seine-et-Oise were admitted there by tickets issued by the Prefect of the Department. The Royal party was in a saloon carriage. Napoleon III. drew his Royal guests to the window. There were two chubby children—a boy and a girl. The boy was in a Highland dress and the image of good humour. The Queen was in her white and blue gown and bonnet, with the Prince at her side. All the ladies cried, as if with one voice, "Regardez donc le Prince-Epoux. Mais quel bel homme! Mon Dieu, qu'il est beau!" They quite forgot that the Royal party were not a show. It is to be feared the Queen heard the chorus of admiration the Prince Consort's good looks called forth. She seemed for a moment out of countenance, and then drew back as far as she could.

The first Sir Charles Dilke was in 1855 a Commissioner at the Universal Exhibition, which was the occasion for the Queen's visit. His son, the present baronet, then twelve years old, was taken by him everywhere. They drove in the line of the Royal procession from St. Lazare to St. Cloud. There were 120,000 soldiers under arms lining the road the whole way. All that rank, fashion, riches, and a well-dressed population could furnish in the way of a multitude was behind them on the footway. There was unreserved enthusiasm. Nor was it an enthusiasm of "suggestion," got up by papers acting on secret bargains. The working classes (what a happy time!) never looked then at a paper. Novelty and novel influences, with some other causes I shall presently touch upon, made the Queen's visit to Paris the greatest street function of the century. What more startling antithesis could there be than a very genuine friendship, paraded before the world, of the niece of the Prince Regent and the nephew of Napoleon? A war that they waged in partnership had brought them together. But their meeting seemed the preface of at new era of peace and generous internationalism.

France and England were then revelling in the wealth of the still fresh railway evolution, from which too much was expected. The gold of California and Australia had been flowing into both countries. Paris was so rich and brilliant that Hyde Park could not touch the Champs Elysées and the Bois in the show of faultless equipages. Every Englishman was thought a *milor* or a millionaire. The submarine Dover-Calais telegraph was scarcely four years old. Beautiful women of no birth, whom enormously rich Englishmen had married for love, came to shine at the Imperial Court. There was a rage for *belles miladys* and *jolies meeses*. Paris did not dream

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

that England contained any number of those well-meaning, uninteresting persons who now come in "personally conducted" droves as trippers, to put up at cheap hotels and bargain and push their way in bad French. An intellectual class reigned over French intellects. It was formed of men who had been ambassadors or diplomats in England, who had a Whig reverence for the English Constitution, English Liberalism, and English comforts, and were enamoured of Scott, Byron, and Dickens. They had their whiskers trimmed *à l'Anglaise*, corresponded with Lady Waldegrave, spoke English, and tried to secure rich English girls for daughters-in-law. One heard as much English as French at Guizot's soirées and in the editorial room of the *Débats*. Léon Say was an English Liberal. *Le Siècle* swore by Stuart Mill. M. Dupont White, Mme. Carnot's father, was furnishing that paper with translations from Mill's works. Persigny was an out-and-out Anglomaniac. De Flahault, a great man at the Imperial Court and a son of Talleyrand, had married, when a much younger man, a Scotch peeress in her own right, who had the most agreeable house in Paris. Railways so far had only facilitated relations between French and English of the right sort. The idea grew up that, the more both people knew of each other the deeper they would fall in love. They could only gain by borrowing of each other. Frenchmen tried to like weak, lukewarm whiskey, pickles, and mustard, and gin as the post-prandial *petit verre*. They knew nothing of the ways of English "Society." English governesses, nurses, and nursery arrangements were honestly admired. The governesses and nurses were highly paid. Miss Shaw was in readiness to be the angel of the coming Prince Imperials. Mr. Gamble was practically Master of the Horse and ruled over the Imperial mews.

The Empress spoke English better than French, and had received all her school education at Clifton. Not one of those mischief-making journals who were so near dragging Lord Rosebery into a war, was then in being. Even Lord Henry Seymour had been idealised by French pens. Eugène Sue had served him up to the readers of "Les Mystères de Paris" as Rudolph, Prince of Gerolstein. The late Duke of Hamilton's father was a Society king, and his sons were petted by the Empress as the only cousins of the Emperor in whom she could take a pride. Miss Skittles was beginning to be talked of as a power in the world. She had been imported by General Fleury with a number of English and Irish horses. Cora Pearl's red hair, falling over her shoulders, and her figure in the saddle were attracting the envy of the Court ladies. Millionaires strove to buy, at no matter what prices, Bonnington and Morlands. Every freshet of feeling, every fad of fashion, every social or literary influence; made for the enthusiastic welcome that the Queen received. Those who most hated the Empire agreed to hail her as she drove to St. Cloud. The effect of that visit greatly facilitated the negotiations for the Cobden-Rouher treaty of commerce. The Imperial Government did not get up the show, except so far as soldiers, illuminations, and flags went. The Emperor certainly had had no means to suggestionise, because nobody but officials read the papers that took their orders from the Government. He could not have made thousands and thousands of ladies pay £20 or £30 apiece for places on stands in balconies. France poured out spontaneously all that gives her highest distinction before the Queen.

Typewriters and Cycles for Sale or Hire. Great bargains in Standard Machines.—N. Taylor, Manager, 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

Lady Seton, and some other subscribers to Truth, have written to know whether they can get copies of the Nicholas-Alexandra medal, by Chaplain, struck at the Mint in presence of their Imperial Majesties. One might now almost as well wish for the moon. But nine impressions—three in gold, three in silver, three in copper—were taken. The gold ones were given to Nicholas, Alexandra, and M. Faure; the silver to the Empress-Dowager, the Grand Duchess Olga, and Mme. Faure; and the copper to nurses. Model and mould were broken.

Some ladies—evidently Equal Righters—reproach me with having last week devoted far more space to the Czar than to his consort. I did so for obvious reasons. He was born and brought up to inherit the Crown of All the Russias. The smallest accident might have prevented her from sharing that crown. He is also a more complex person than the Czarina. Indeed, he is singularly involved. And yet the sum-total of the maze of involutions is simplicity. He is not a man to be painted in strong colours and bold strokes. The Czarina is in some respects a blank page. Her ready flush, free motions, and onward impulse as she moves show Guelph impetuosity. She is easy to read, and affords pleasant reading. The grandmamma's example and her own companionship with her brother in his sports and exercises have helped to make her what she is. The Czarina and the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt were constantly together after her sister Irene's marriage. A girl who is the comrade of a high-hearted youth becomes fearlessly sincere. She and he were a good deal with the Empress Frederick, whose place in the Taunus Hills is a German Balmoral, though the castle looks like a Berlin palace with a great central dome. Her Imperial Highness has not *chic*. She does not need it. Her day dresses were changed rather often, and too visibly new—that is to say, they were hardly a part of herself. She has a white neck, free from every kind of disfigurement. Why, then, wear those very high collarettes invented for Princesses who must muffle up to hide scars and cicatrices? We thought the white boa of ostrich feathers—worn the first day—extravagantly fine. *Elégance* keeps clear of the phenomenal. Nor were the collarettes light enough for Parisian taste. One of them was of pale yellow faille, pinked, and so high as to hide the back of the head. It was worn with a pelerine of crape, fan-pleated over satin, the colour of a ripe pumpkin or very deep orange. A thread of gold beads marked each pleat. The combination would have suited a bold, black-eyed luscious Oriental beauty or gitana. I can add nothing to what I said last week about features, hair, expression. But I may now say that her Majesty has the hearty laugh when amused of

the Prince of Wales. She and the Czar laughed like a pair of children at the points of Réjane and Coquelin. She must have thought Réjane beautifully dressed, for she eyed her all over. Depend upon it, she will adopt in a modified form the seventeenth and eighteenth century costumes that she saw at Versailles. It was noticed that her voice was full and mellow and the Czar's low and sweet. A French attendant says that the Czar only hints his wishes, and is easy to serve. Both Czar and Czarina were delighted with M. Faure. He was not a bit touchy. This enabled them to use their eyes in all directions, whilst he entertained them with his conversation.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE following announcement, dear Lady Betty, was made in a provincial newspaper :—"During his temporary retirement Lord Rosebery intends to cultivate his voice."

I am in a position to supplement this interesting information. The ex-Liberal Leader is now practising the well-known song—

"'Tis the last Rosebery of summer
Left blooming alone."

. . . . .

His short career, however, must necessarily remind many of this epitaph :—

"It is so soon that I am done for,
I wonder what I was begun for."

. . . . .

The political attitude of Lord Rosebery has been prophetically described by Lady Dufferin in the "Lament of the Irish Emigrant" :—

"I'm sitting on the stile, Joey,
Where we sat side by side."

* * * * *

A correspondent has addressed the following letter to me :—"Sir,—Last week I advertised for a servant, and only one applicant favoured me with a call. The spirit of sarcasm then prompted me to advertise for a 'lady scullery-maid.' The next morning nearly two hundred women applied for the situation! One of these stipulated that she should be permitted to have two evenings 'out' a week, as she was 'anxious not to drop entirely out of society!' Another very civilly informed me that if she accepted the situation my wife and myself must not expect to be recognised by her in public!—Carlton Club."

As a pendant to this letter, it may be observed that the post of secretary to the Turf Club having recently become vacant, six hundred applications were tendered for the appointment! There appears to be too much education and too little energy.

. . . . .

Another correspondent writes :—"Has not the time arrived when the grotesque procession of the Lord Mayor should be abandoned? He is the king of commerce; the chief magistrate of the richest and greatest city in the world. Is it not a grave scandal that so important an official should commence his reign by parading through the streets accompanied by allegorical cars? These processions have long ago ceased to be picturesque, and only the riff-raff of the town assembles to see them pass. Moreover, the traffic is seriously disturbed by closing important thoroughfares for several hours on Lord Mayor's day, which entails a considerable loss to the community, whilst causing much inconvenience. Every ancient custom is not necessarily worthy to be perpetuated. Our forefathers burned heretics alive. This may have been a particularly picturesque proceeding, but in these matter-of-fact days such an exhibition might interfere inconveniently with business.—Ex-Sheriff."

The writer of the foregoing letter merely reproduces the thoughts that are in the minds of all sensible persons. These processions are not ornamental, useful, or enjoyable, and they are certainly undignified.

* * * * *

There is much grumbling with regard to a subject which has already been commented upon in these columns. Many collectors of pictures and of works of art have received letters asking them to lend their treasures for exhibition at a private gallery. Why should any man in his senses lend his pictures to the proprietor of a private gallery for the latter to make money by exhibiting them? The majority of those who possess works of art do not object to lend them occasionally for public exhibition, or to assist some charity, but it is sheer impudence for A to expect B to lend him pictures in order to pocket the profit upon the transaction himself. Supposing A were to ask B to lend him £1,000 to invest for six months in some perfectly safe undertaking, so that A might make 4 per cent. upon the £1,000 belonging to B, what would B do? This, however, is precisely the same thing as when the proprietor of a private gallery asks a collector to lend him his art treasures for the former to exhibit for his own profit. There are many other objections to the proceeding, but these need not be specified for the moment.

* * * * *

Eighty-three candidates applied for the appointment of Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Twelve of these have been selected for further consideration, and in due course the number will be reduced to either two or three, when the names of the latter, together with their qualifications for the post, will be submitted to the London County Council, which will then decide between the rival candidates. It is supposed by those who have the means of forming an intelligent opinion upon the subject that the appointment will be given to a naval man. The majority of those who have experience in the matter of the Fire Brigade declare that the training in the Navy is best suited to fit a man for this post. It would be much regretted by Londoners generally if, after the appointment of Chief Officer had been held by one man for thirty years, it became subject to frequent changes.

* * * * *

Candidates for the Diplomatic Service have a grievance. Some few years ago Lord Rosebery and Sir Philip Currie decided to make shorthand writing a voluntary subject in the examinations for this branch of the public service. So severe is the competition, however, that no candidate can afford to ignore it, and it is therefore, for all practical purposes, compulsory. As a matter of fact, shorthand, though very useful in almost every profession, is of no use whatever to a diplomatist. The latter cannot take notes of conversations with statesmen in the barefaced manner that journalists do; nor can Ambassadors dictate their despatches, which have to be carefully thought out sentence by sentence. Lord Dufferin is the only British Ambassador who up to now has dictated despatches to a shorthand writer. He contracted the habit when he was Viceroy of India, and it may be added that he revised these despatches so often and altered them so considerably that he rather lost than gained time by the operation. The most celebrated crammer for the Diplomatic Service is opposed to the introduction of shorthand in these examinations, and several of the authorities at the Foreign Office strongly object to it. Type-writing, on the contrary, is being generally adopted by diplomatists, some of the younger members of the Service being especially facile in manipulating the machine. Almost all the despatches are now type-written, with the exception of those to be submitted to the Queen, who has given particular instructions that type-written documents should not be presented to her, as her failing eye-sight makes it difficult for her to read them.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Cesarewitch is a race of which backers will long retain a dismally distinct recollection. The scratchings and unsuccessful trials were really on a wholesale scale during the last ten days. I twice warned my readers that Portmarnock might not stand a thorough preparation, and advised them to leave him alone until the day of running. The collapse of The Rush was quite as disastrous, and a great deal of "public" money was lost over Victor Wild, whose value has been considerably depreciated by the muddy-minded policy which has been pursued with him. Phœbus Apollo proved a wretched substitute for The Rush, and the numerous friends of Nouveau Riche were soon out of their suspense. I never could understand how any rational being could fancy this horse after his running with Labrador at York, and it is now certain that he is deficient in stamina, and Son o' Mine is another starter who had no pretensions to stay this course. Cypria, who was started just on the off chance, in spite of her having done badly in a trial, was beaten hopelessly after a mile had been traversed. The most amazing feature in the betting was the craze for Vanguard, who broke down when running in this race three years ago, and he has never been seen out since. Vanguard was the final tip of all the "sharps," and he was actually backed, and by "astute tacticians," down to 16 to 1, the woeful result of all the crack-brained folly being that his chance was fully disposed of quite two miles from home. I was always of the opinion that Count Schomberg was decidedly overweighted, and especially as it was obvious when this horse was seen out in the summer that he had neither grown nor improved in any way. After the race for the Doncaster Cup I predicted that whatever beat Laodamia would win, and if St. Bris had been out of the way Mr. Fulton's mare would certainly have come in first. The heavy ground stopped her. I announced on October 1 that Laodamia had been backed by her owner for £1,000, and why there should have been so much subsequent fussing and manœuvring in the market it is difficult to understand, but if Mr. Fulton desired to hedge his money he had every opportunity to do so. I wrote of St. Bris that he was much fancied by clever people; but it is a veritable leaping in the dark to support a horse for the Cesarewitch which has never been tried to stay the distance, and one certainly was not encouraged to depend upon the Kingsclere stable, after its numerous and egregious blunders in the various three-year-old races of the season. I pointed out a fortnight ago that a perfectly insane mistake had been made in starting Regret for the Jockey Club Stakes, instead of Labrador, and after the running in the Champion Stakes it must be palpable to every one that this view is correct. Labrador defeated Sir Visto every bit as easily as did Persimmon, running over the same course and on the same terms.

Knight of the Thistle is evidently a preposterously over-rated colt, for in the Select Plate Macbriar gave him a stone and beat him by a head after a splendid finish. The Cambridgeshire backers of Mr. McCalmont's beast may look upon their money as gone, for next Wednesday Knight of the Thistle will have to give Macbriar 3 lb.! Mr. Brassey also gave the ring a good turn in the Lowther Stakes, and for which Earwig and Rampion were great "pots," but Bay Ronald walked away from them, and Avilion made such an exhibition of herself that she can have no chance for the Cambridgeshire. It was a great mistake to have struck Bay Ronald out of the Cambridgeshire, in which handicap he had only 6 st. 7 lb. to carry.

The two-year-old racing was much more exciting than could have been expected. The result of the Clearwell Stakes was disastrous to backers, Goletta and Berzak running a dead heat, and long odds had been freely betted on the filly, but her supporters really got off lightly, as in another two strides the colt would have won. Simoon won the Bretby Stakes, in accordance with my prediction, but her owner was very lucky, as Simola really ought to have carried off the race, but she is apparently a jade. The defeat of Velasquez in the Middle Park Plate was the great tragedy of the week, but, with the ground a swamp, and Lord Rosebery's colt manifestly unable to move freely, it was astounding that backers should have been such infatuated moon-calves as to plunge recklessly on Velasquez, who was apparently regarded as an absolute certainty, and those superlatively prudent people who only have two or three bets a week on carefully-selected good things were putting their money down. Velasquez appeared a lamentable object as he floundered down to the post, and Lord Rosebery was very ill-advised in starting the colt. He has very small feet, and he is not a powerful colt. It will never be safe to trust him on heavy ground. On Friday Velasquez was literally never in the race, which Galtee More won all the way, and, indeed, Mr. Gubbins's colt is just the stamp of animal to show his best form in deep ground, and he seemed to delight in the mud.

Gulistan has been prepared to run for the £2,000 three-year-old stakes at Sandown Park to-morrow, and he ought to win this race, although he will not be really quite fit, as there is only Serfdom to beat and he has a trifle the best of the weights with Lord Londonderry's filly.

There has been a great deal of speculation on the Cambridgeshire, which will be a very heavy betting race. It is wonderful how many horses are strongly fancied for this handicap, and it will be a very much more interesting race than the Cesarewitch in all respects. Laodamia (6 yrs., 8 st. 9 lb.) has the same weight which she carried as a three-year-old, when she ran very prominently in the race which Molly Morgan won. That Laodamia will not disgrace herself is certain, but I do not fancy she is going to win. It seems to me that if Omnium II. (4 yrs., 9 st. 1 lb.) comes to the post fit and well he will beat all the top weights, and whatever beats the French horse will win. Omnium II. is a real flyer, and he has fine speed, in addition to abundant stamina. He ought unquestionably to have won the Ascot Cup, and I hope that he will run for it again next year. Of course it may be true that Pas de Danse (3 yrs., 6 st. 10 lb.), the stable companion of Omnium II., is better at the weights, in which case the race will assuredly go to France. The market transaction must after a few days discover which is to be the trusted one, and my own very decided opinion is in favour of Omnium II. I have no fancy for Thais (3 yrs., 8 st.), as the manner in which she finished for the One Thousand makes me feel very doubtful whether she will stay the course, and if Marsh's stable is to carry off this race the winner will be the French mare Ghislaine (5 yrs., 7 st. 9 lb.). Canterbury Pilgrim (3 yrs., 8 st. 1 lb.) will certainly defeat the Prince of Wales's filly, who, moreover, is not at all likely to have any chance with Shaddock at even weights. The Kingsclere horses are to be tried this week, and I shall be vastly surprised if anything in the stable beats Shaddock (3 yrs., 8 st.), although some people fancy that St. Bris (3 yrs., 7 st. 7 lb.) will prove the best of the lot, but then Mr. Lowe's colt is surely held safely by Laodamia. I have reason to believe that Shaddock is really much better than Labrador. Chit Chat's defeat in the Cesarewitch gave infinite satisfaction to every one except the backers of the colt. He has since been well backed for next week's race, and it is asserted that he would have won the Cesarewitch at the Bushes, which is all fiddle-faddle moonshine, as St. Bris had the race in hand at that point. I have not the least fancy for Chit Chat (3 yrs., 6 st. 5 lb.) nor for Kilcock (4 yrs., 9 st. 4 lb.), who cannot stay the course. Any sane person who backs Marco (4 yrs., 8 st. 10 lb.) after his ignominious defeat last week, must surely think he "knows something," as this horse is obviously held safe by Shaddock. Winkfield's Pride (3 yrs., 6 st. 10 lb.) is reported to be an Irish good thing, but the Kempton running of Bellevin appears to have discouraged his friends. La Sagesse (4 yrs., 6 st. 10 lb.) won last year's Oaks, and her stupendous degeneration since that achievement is proved by the fact that this year's Oaks winner is made to give her 19 lb. La Sagesse has been going remarkably well in her gallops of late, and she

went particularly well last Wednesday over the Cambridgeshire distance with S. Loates on her back. Her stable companion, Roquebrune, need not be thought of, as she has fallen lame again. Macbriar (3 yrs., 7 st. 1 lb.) is an awkward horse for a boy to ride, and Red Heart (4 yrs., 7 st. 13 lb.) will not be properly fit. This horse is more likely to win a good handicap at one of the "back-end" meetings—probably the Derby Cup. Victor Wild (6 yrs., 9 st. 9 lb.) is held perfectly safe by Omnium II., and Count Schomberg (4 yrs., 7 st. 10 lb.) has no chance after his last week's exhibition, while Teufel (3 yrs., 6 st. 7 lb.) will probably fail to stay the course. Champaubert (3 yrs., 8 st. 8 lb.) is a certain starter, but he cannot beat Omnium II. Lord Rosebery's lot are to be tried this week, and I expect that Quarrel (5 yrs., 8st. 9 lb.) will prove the best of these, but he is not likely to win. My own fancy is for Shaddock and Omnium II., but this race should be left alone until the day of running, as much may depend upon the state of the course.

There are sure to be large fields at Newmarket next week, particularly for the handicaps of all classes and for the selling races, and backers will do well to exercise extreme caution in their transactions, as there are likely to be many petrifying upsets of recent public form; and if the ground is even more heavy than it was last week (which is exceedingly probable to be the case), it will be an affair of heads and tails in most of the events.

There are thirty entries for the Criterion Stakes on Tuesday, and, in the certain absence of Velasquez, this race will fall to Goletta, who should decidedly be able to beat Eager. There are fifty-four entries for the Cheveley Stakes on Wednesday, including Berzak, Smean, Jaquemart, and Arc-en-Ciel, and the American colt will win. For the Dewhurst Plate there are seventy-three entries, including Minstrel, Filliford, Falkland, Berzak, Smean, Goletta, Simoon, and Guernsey. It is unlucky for Mr. Gubbins that he did not enter Galtee More for this race. Of the public lot I would prefer Berzak, who is a better stayer than Goletta, and he may very likely be reserved for this race. There may, however, be some trials in the course of the next few days, the results of which will change the aspect of the Dewhurst Plate. Catherine Luther (the 3,900 gs. yearling by St. Simon out of Heresy) may be galloped, and so also may the Duke of Westminster's Orelio, brother to Ormonde. If Orelio is still backward, then Simoon will no doubt be the best from Kingsclere.

There are twenty-two acceptances for the three-year-old Free Handicap (A.F.), which will be one of the most valuable races of the week. The list is headed by Persimmon (9 st. 3 lb.), and St. Frusquin (9 st.), then comes Galeazzo with 8 st. 6 lb. In the absence of these horses it is highly probable that Jolly Boat will win this race for Lord Zetland, if she can beat Bay Ronald.

Naturally, my remarks last week about parsons and professionalism have brought down upon me a certain number of hostile critics who ask how it is possible to justify professionalism, having regard to the recent suspension of the Reading F.C. and Mr. Roston Bourke, who, to prevent the Reading F.C. being disappointed in a match, played certain men as honorary members of the Holloway College F.C. That the sentence in this case is due to the fact that the London Football Association has refused to allow professional teams to play in its competitions there can be little doubt. It is also hinted that the Football Association is going to attempt methods of coercion. Be this as it may, and reprehensible as such conduct may be, it has nothing to do with the attacks made on men because they play football or cricket for money. It was pointed out in the article referred to that it was extremely important that the interests of those who do not play football for payment should be carefully protected. The present position of the London Football Association is due to the fact that twenty years ago, amateurs did not realise how imperative it was to secure such protection and so prevent themselves being swamped by the paid player. The thanks of all Rugby players are due to Mr. Rowland Hill and others, for the energy and foresight they exhibited in protecting amateur Rugby players. The Rugby Union had been founded and organised by those who had no desire to be paid for playing the game. When the North had to declare itself professional after an unsportsmanlike attempt to veil the true character of its methods, by saying that only broken time was paid for, then the Rugby Union once and for all declared itself for amateurism and scouted utterly the miserable subterfuge of broken time. The professionals had no difficulty in organising themselves. Not only was there the old system of the Rugby Union, but there were the more modern methods of Association football, with its league and cup-ties inmumerable, both great and small, from which they could adopt all that seemed best for their own development. There is ample room for both to flourish. But it requires a much older and more experienced body to guard the interests of the amateur than those of paid players, where commercial principles can be brought into play. The consequence is that to-day the Rugby amateur finds his position strong and powerful. This result is due to Mr. Rowland Hill and others. In Association football the amateur finds his interests being more and more pushed into the background. Unfortunately for him, the Football Association recognised professionalism. But that is no reason why his interests should be allowed to drop altogether. Nor is there any legal or moral reason why the parent body should compel minor organisations that owe it allegiance to provide cup-ties and organise competitions for professional clubs when such events and such organisations have been strictly confined to amateurs. The amateur strength lies practically in the metropolis, where some association is necessary to foster and protect it. The impossibility of the unpaid player competing succeesfully against the "pro" has been clearly shown by the fact that the Football Association has started the amateur cup. The Association in its chief competitions has therefore recognised the necessity of dividing the two classes of players. On the same principle it should recognise the same necessity in minor events, and as a mere matter of policy, apart from all questions of justice and fairness, it should be extremely cautious about interfering with those few minor competitions which are exclusively devoted to the amateur interest. But to go a step further; it is extremely unfair to force the professionals upon a purely amateur body whose interests in the cups and competitions are vested. Even in the South the professional party is quite strong enough to look after itself without pot-hunting on the amateur preserves. It would no doubt be beneficial to their "gates" if they could meet some of the amateur clubs in these competitions. If they are so anxious to fight them for a cup, let them start a cup open to both classes. In a multitude of cup ties there is money.

At last Sunderland have scored a victory. Against Liverpool they put on three goals in the first half, and then only won by four goals to three. The figures are given because they clearly show a terrible falling off in the play, and an inability to keep up high pressure all through, and when the game gets tiring the defence is weak. These facts show the need for some strong organiser to take the team in hand. Marlow played up remarkably well in the heavy ground against the Caledonians. They soon attacked, and Ellerton and Davis were very busy, while Murison alone of the "Calies" forward seemed able to do anything when they found themselves beaten. It was very creditable to Ealing, a genuine amateur team drawn from a single suburb, to make the good fight they did against Lincoln city. Chater was decidedly good forward, where the players in their anxiety to combine and pass accurately, keep the ball too long. The halves were not very good, but Wills in goal was decidedly good. There is no reason why the club, which is well managed, should not have a brilliant future. The Casuals put a

Fifteen Shillings: Old Spiced Elderberry Wine prevents chills; delicious. 15/- per doz. reputed quarts. Carriage paid. Cash with order.—Carter & Co., Old Refinery, Bristol.

very hot team in the field against Middlesbrough, and simply had matters their own way from start to finish.

It is only fair to Middlesex Hospital to say that although they scratched last Saturday's match, they will play every game on the card, instead of scratching all matches till the middle of November, when four or five of their best players will be available for the first time this season, owing to exams. I am very glad some energy is being thrown into the game, and the Hospital is therefore likely to go forward. It showed good sportsmanship on the part of Blackheath to allow a substitute to play for Crimp, the Old Merchant Taylor half, when he broke his collar bone. This accident necessarily weakened the Old Boys, who had been playing a strong defensive game. The Heathen forwards require a lot of polishing up. The Scottish effected a pleasant surprise against Kensington. Their forwards are playing better than many anticipated, and the outsides have pace and can score. St. Thomas's should have a good team. They started well against Richmond, but subsequently the combination of their opponents' outsides was too much for them. Ashford played a good game. The slippery ground spoiled the match between Cooper's Hill and the Harlequins. Todd scored the only point for the college, which will have a dangerous team this year. Croydon are going very strongly, and the decisive way in which they beat the R.M.A., Woolwich, showed their combination at its best. Flint showed excellent pace on heavy ground, and scored twice. The Newport outsides showed that they needed Gould in their match with Cardiff. Thomas, their back, played a splendid game. Cardiff attacked desperately, and were rather unfortunate in having a try scored against them by their old club mate Pearson.

A recently-tried action between a man named Green and the Dunlop Tyre Company revealed a curious state of morality on the part of the company. Briefly, an agent of the company swore that he engaged Green at 10s. a week and a couple of sets of tyres a year and reasonable expenses to ride as an *amateur* for the company. The National Cyclist Union, perhaps getting wind of what had happened, refused to license the rider. Hence the trouble that arose. The fact that the company allowed its conduct to be exposed in court shows that the prick of a sporting conscience cannot puncture the commercial spirit of the company. It is scandalous that a rich and powerful company should indulge in such malpractices. There is no doubt that any minor maker and his goods would be barred altogether for similar conduct. It is hopeless to expect any fairness in amateur riding when a company like the Dunlop connives at such trickery. Whether the N.C.U. will have the pluck to tackle the Dunlop people remains to be seen.

It is very much to be feared that Bacon will not find professional running a very lucrative game. It is no fault of his that his matches with Conneff have been such miserable fiascos. After his opponent's wretched display in the three miles, it was hoped he would make a better show in the mile, and to judge by the newspaper reports of the training this was bound to be the case. But Bacon played with his opponent. He let him make the pace, or rather the trot, and taking the lead a hundred yards from home won hands down in 4 min. 35 sec. Downer's race with Mills was a very different story. The ex-amateur had three yards in 150, and was never pressed. He ran right through in fine form. It is a pity he was not on the same mark as Mills. The sprinters will find more opponents than the long distance men. Amongst amateurs, Monro appears to be blessed with perpetual youth. To follow up his recent brilliant running, he has won the Lea Harriers annual Epping walk with two minutes' start. It was a sealed handicap, and he was only beaten by the holder, Zuttner, for first place by a hundred yards. All the walkers started together, and he was second. The Southwark Harriers, who won the South of the Thames Cross-country Championship last year, have been admitted members of the Southern Counties Cross-country Association, although they do train within four miles of Charing Cross.

A correspondent considers the suggestion of a veteran cricketer that the position of the fielder should be given in the score-sheet an admirable one. He further suggests that, if the idea is carried out, the fact of a batsman playing on should be mentioned, and also the name of a fielder who throws a man out. Mr. C. E. Green well deserves the dinner that is to be given in his honour by the Essex County Cricket Club. He stood by the Club in the perilous times, and now that its position is assured his efforts deserve recognition. The out-fielding at Leyton, however, will never be good so long as football is played on the ground. The need for good class football grounds round London is very pressing, and both the Football Association and Rugby Union ought officially to take up the matter and see what can be done.

The Billiard Season has just begun. Spiller and Dawson showed rather in and out form. After a bad start the former pulled himself together and proved that he has a great future before him. Time made the game a draw. Roberts began the winter more brilliantly than he has for some time, and his play against Peel would lead one to expect some phenomenal work before the spring comes.

An Old Westminster boy, who is the father of a Westminster boy, begged me to continue to urge the desirability of the school returning to rowing once again. There is, however, now no need to do so, for he has kindly sent a note saying that at a meeting of the school debating society a motion by Mr. More, captain of the cricket club, that rowing should be revived at Westminster was carried by acclamation. At Cambridge there are some really good Freshers, and Adam Bell, the President, is to be congratulated on having stronger material to hand than any of his predecessors for many a long year. There is Dudley Ward, the Eton seven, Guinness, the sculler, and several other Etonians, including Goldie, son of the old stroke who stopped the previous run of Oxford wins. May the omen be a good one! In the Fours the Hall have Bell, Bieber, and Fernie, but they seem to lack pace. "Third" have Barber, D. Ward, Guinness, and Brand. They should stand a good chance of winning if they have some good coaching. A little of Muttlebury for a week would work wonders. Caius, unfortunately, have none of their victorious crew left. The new men though light, should be capable of making a very fair crew.

With reference to the report that Mr. R. C. Lehmann is going to coach Harvard, I may say that the matter is not yet settled, but that it is highly probable that he will accept an invitation that has been extended to him to coach Harvard for a race in America at the end of June next. Obviously the Harvard men pay no attention to the Press blackguarding of English sportsmen which the *Niagara* yachting incident recently raised.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

My dear Ben,—It cannot be said that the position of the markets has in any way improved during the past week. It is true that the settlement passed off without the crop of failures which had been looked for, but there is no doubt that a great deal of hidden trouble has been shown to exist by a persistent stream of sales of South African shares, which clearly indicate forced closing.

A Disastrous Settlement, and After.

Many circumstances have contributed to render the mid-October settlement, which has just been got over, a very disastrous one for all but the ursine party. The chief spot of weakness was the South African department, in which sales have again been pressed for Paris account, while here, too, there has been a great deal of forced closing of the accounts of operators who could not pay their differences. Three or four jobbers were helped over, and at one time when the Consolidated Goldfields dividend was announced, it looked as if the market would

rally again. A resumption of sales, however, shows that all the weak elements have not yet been eliminated. The account is certainly much reduced, and as soon as the remaining weak accounts have been liquidated, the market should be ready for a sharp recovery, the mining industry in the Transvaal itself being in a satisfactory position. The more general trouble is the continued efflux of gold to the United States and the further rise in the Money Market. The action of the Directors of the Bank of England in not raising the rate last week to 3½ per cent. is being criticised in some quarters, as it may now render an advance to 4 per cent. necessary; but it seems to me, to use a vulgar phrase, that this is as broad as it's long, for the gold taken by the United States would have had to go there anyhow, that country being in a position to draw supplies from us as the balance of trade is in its favour. This circumstance, and the growing certainty that the sound money party will carry the election, have acted as a support to the American market in the midst of gloomy surroundings. Home Rails have been affected by the dear money "bogey," but have shown strong rallying power, and will doubtless present a firm front again as soon as the Bank rate has reached a point from which no further rise is to be feared. Even now it may be said that a 4 per cent. Bank rate is fully discounted in the various markets. The weakness of Spanish, and a sharp spasm in Ottoman Banks, were features in the foreign market; and South Americans generally have again reacted, the Brazilian trouble having made this department rather nervous. Comparative firmness has been displayed by West Australian mines, although a few disappointing developments have also arisen in this section; but as compared with the excellent results obtained quotations have now reached a moderate level, and the market will doubtless go ahead again in the near future. In the Industrial department promoters still show a good deal of activity. A Coventry Cycle Company is shortly to be floated, and I shall have something to say on this promotion in next week's issue. An important conversion will be also that of the Bovril Company, which will be undertaken by Mr. E. T. Hooley, of Dunlop Tyre fame.

Home Rails.

Had it not been for the nervousness concerning the Money Market, Home Railway stocks would probably have marked a distinct recovery, notwithstanding the continuance of unsettled weather. Market conditions are certainly more favourable, as the settlement showed a considerable reduction in the account open, rates being consequently very light. The fact that in spite of the attentions of Jupiter Pluvius a considerable traffic increase was shown for the week is certainly encouraging, and distinctly points to an improvement in trade still being in progress. The continued efflux of gold has, however, had a depressing influence, and so we see Brighton "A" again at 175¼, and Dover "A" at 99¾. The latter, I repeat, are in a most promising position in view of the steady progress made by the South-Eastern line, which showed again a traffic increase of £626 last week, notwithstanding the unfavourable atmospheric conditions. Although a Bank rate of 4 per cent. would, on the face of it, hardly justify present quotations of the Heavy stocks, their comparative scarcity at the settlement indicates that investment purchases have counteracted speculative realisations, and I doubt very much whether bonâ-fide holders will be inclined to part with their stocks, in view of the difficulty of finding suitable investments of equal safety and promise. The bucket-shop tip to buy Great Eastern has not caught on this time, and the price is back at 101⅜. The Scotch stocks, after a distinct rally on purchases from Glasgow, have become easier; but I still maintain that Caledonian Deferred (Coras) and North British Deferred are excellent value at present quotations, whatever temporary rise may occur in the Bank rate. Metropolitan Districts have again touched 34, and stand at 32⅜. A certain amount of stock has been delivered at the settlement, and a large take-up has further reduced the amount available in the market. The strong group who have taken this market in hand may at any moment engineer an important advance, and shareholders will do well to stick tight to their holdings, which should materially appreciate in capital value in the near future. An agitation has been initiated on the Stock Exchange in favour of dealing with the various classes of the Ordinary stock of the Sheffield Company, and a memorial has been addressed to the Company in favour of modifying the division. At present £100 Ordinary stock is divided into £50 Six per Cent. Preferred and £50 Deferred. The memorial urges that powers should be taken next session to split the Ordinary stock into £100 Three per Cent. Preferred and £50 Deferred, and to duplicate the amount of the existing "B" stock. There is something to be said in favour of the contention of the memorialists that an English Railway stock bearing 6 per cent. interest is altogether out of date, and that a 3 per cent. stock would command a relatively higher value than a 6 per cent. stock.

Yankee Rails.—On the Eve of the Election.

Indications have multiplied during the past week that the Presidential elections, which will take place in the United States in a fortnight's time, viz., on November 3, will result in an overwhelming victory for McKinley and the sound money party. According to news cabled from New York from the most reliable sources, the view which I took about a month ago will therefore be fully borne out. The estimates which I gave some time back have been more than confirmed by the statements made by Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the National Republican Committee, which have been transmitted by cable. His view is that the election of Messrs. McKinley and Hobart to the Presidency and Vice-Presidency respectively is an accomplished fact. Mr. McKinley, he says, will receive 270 electoral votes and Mr. Bryan 110. Six States, having 67 votes are doubtful. The probabilities, however, all indicate that these 67 votes will go to the Republicans. Senator Quay adds:—"Two hundred and seventy votes are now assured to Mr. McKinley. This is the *status* to-day. We have the election and will hold it. Our present effort in the West is to this end only. The Opposition has abandoned the East." In addition to the improving political position the American market has been affected by the large gold shipments which have again been made to the States. These have caused weakness in the other markets, but were of course a "bull" point for Yankee Rails. There is, moreover, every prospect of their continuing, as the United States are in a position to draw all the necessary supplies of the yellow metal which they require from Europe, owing to the remarkable proportions which their exports to this side have attained. These again exceeded the imports during September by over 34,000,000 dols., grain shipments forming a very important item. Poor crops in Europe, and the complete failure of crops in India, have brought great relief to the American farmers, and tended considerably to help the finances of the country. Nor is it likely that gold shipments will stop after the election of McKinley as President. It is true that goods from Europe will probably be hurried forward to the States in order to escape the Protectionist tariff which will follow McKinley's victory; but on the other hand European investers and operators will take back some of the hundreds of millions of American securities which they returned to the Yankees during the last three or four years owing to financial crises and the fear of the country going on a silver basis. Simultaneously there will be created a demand for stocks and bonds, and American hoards of gold will be released. The real rise in Yankee Rails should, therefore, commence with the Presidential elections. Under these circumstances, any one investing in well-selected American Railroad stocks should have an excellent prospect of making a large profit. Personally I incline to the low-priced stocks, such as Erie Ordinary and Prefs., Southern Ordinary and Prefs., Denver Prefs., Norfolk Prefs., Atchison Prefs., &c., which are likely to yield large

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

profits, while the risk is minimised. Louisville and Nashville have displayed a very strong front, and both as regards this road and the Southern Railway the announcement that the Seaboard Air Line will restore rates, not only within the jurisdiction of Judge Speer, but outside of it, has steadied the market for these stocks. There have been a good many "Bull" tips on Readings. As an American contemporary puts it, the price should advance, say the people who are "working the deal," because of the foreclosure sale, and to encourage the payment of future assessments. This with propriety might be called a negative "Bull" argument, as it really means the more you put in the less you take out. Efforts to advance Reading in the recent past have not been successful, because there always seemed to be an unlimited supply of the stock for sale whenever the price showed signs of strength. There will have to be a change in this state of things before Readings can score any important advance. Canadian Pacifics have reacted to 58⅜, partly in sympathy with the American market, partly on a bad traffic return, and there is no doubt that the rise in the German Bank rate has had a considerable effect, support for this stock having of late come almost entirely from Berlin. By the way, I have received another communication from Vancouver, B.C., which was written at the time when a huge strike of the Company's telegraphists and station-masters (the two offices being combined at most stations) was in progress, and with one or two exceptions every man was on strike between Montreal and Vancouver. The interruption of business on Canada's one highway is described as most disastrous by my correspondent, who is much opposed to the Canadian Pacific owing to the monopoly possessed by the Company, which he complains it does not use for the benefit of the country. My correspondent also mentions that the Canadian Pacific hope to obtain by money grants or by State Guaranteed Loan at a low interest no less than 5,000,000 dols., in order to facilitate the building of a new railway link in British Columbia through the Rockies and East Kootenay. This line would shorten by some 300 miles the trans-Continental route of the Canadian Pacific, and would tap at about the Crow's Nest Pass some of the finest coal measures of the world, while, of course, serving the new goldfield. What the writer more particularly insists upon is that the new branch should not pass uncontrolled by the State under the management of the Canadian Pacific, so as not to place Western Canada still further at the mercy of a single Board of Railway Directors. The Grand Trunk meeting passed off satisfactorily. The statements made by the President, Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, and by the Vice-President, Mr. Joseph Price, were not calculated to arouse any enthusiasm; but the contention of the President that, with the triumph of sound financial principles in the United States, there will be a large revival of business, which will restore a great measure of prosperity to all the railroads of North America, may be accepted as truly describing the position. A reconstruction need not be feared at present, and Sir Charles Wilson held out the hope that when the Company had fully earned its fixed charges, with a fair prospect of continuing to earn them, some steps might be taken to deal with the accumulated deficit in conformity with precedence. Mr. Joseph Price established an interesting point with reference to the difference between an American mortgage and a Canadian debenture. In the case of the former it is a mortgage upon the *corpus* of the property, which can, if the interest is not paid, seize the *corpus* and sell it, and assess the junior securities. On the other hand, Canadian debentures are mortgages merely upon the income of the property. You cannot sell the property, and you cannot therefore assess the stockholders of the Grand Trunk Railway. This ought to relieve the minds of a good many holders of the junior securities of the Grand Trunk, some of whom have recently put this very same question to me.

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Foreigners and South Americans.

As Paris is the real seat of the present disturbance in the Kaffir Circus, it is a foregone conclusion that interbourse securities should also have been flat. The discomfiture of a large speculator closely allied to leading financial firms, who have more than once helped him over the stile in the past, has apparently been followed by several minor collapses in South Africans, and to these troubles have to be added the precarious outlook for Spanish finance, and a spasm in Turks and Ottoman Banks. Spanish have now dropped to 57¾, and it is a wonder to me that with all the ill-fortune of the wars in Cuba and the Philippine Islands, they do not stand much lower still. The only chance of floating a loan successfully would be some success of the Spanish arms, and that seems to be as far off as ever. Other interbourse securities have suffered in sympathy, although Italians keep fairly steady. The scare in Ottoman Banks was caused by a rumour that a call would be made, which has, however, been officially denied. As a matter of fact, the decline in South African securities, in which that institution is heavily interested, and the precarious situation in Turkey, sufficiently account for the relapse. South Americans continue on the down-grade, chiefly under the influence of the adverse news from Rio de Janeiro, Brazilians having suffered a further fall. Argentines rallied at one time, but are again lower. The action of the new Mayor of Buenos Ayres in stating that in view of the condition of the municipal finances, he would have to suspend the service of the Debt, has made a very disagreeable impression. It is true that both President Uriburu and Dr. Romero, the Minister of Finance, have given assurances that the service of the Municipal Debt will be maintained; but there is evidently something wrong in Buenos Ayres. Dissatisfaction is also expressed that no effort is being made to carry out the unification of the Debt. It is evident that unless special steps are taken to obtain from the issuing houses in London some agreement as to the conversion, nothing will come of the matter for the present. Mexican Sixes and Uruguay bonds have eased off, although both these classes of securities deserve the attention of investors. Venezuela have improved on the reports that an agreement has been come to between this country and the United States on the boundary dispute.

The Kaffir Circus still Nervous.

The features of the mid-October settlement were heavy differences which have unfortunately had to be paid by speculators, and a largely reduced account; so that, notwithstanding the rise in the value of money, rates were easier than at the previous carry-over. The untold woes predicted by the "Bears" did not come about, and there was a comparative absence of failures which would be very encouraging, if it were not unfortunately an open secret that a number of jobbers have been helped over the stile, and that some of the brokers have not received their differences from a number of operators. Then, again, Paris is still on the selling tack, and the weak elements there have not been altogether eliminated. It is again that unfortunate and dangerous quartette of gambling counters, viz., Chartered of South Africa, Rand Mines, Limited, Consolidated Gold Fields and East Rands, which have accentuated the fall, and which are really at the bottom of the collapse in Paris. Unfortunately, so many people both here and in France have been tempted into these speculative stocks, that their discomfiture must necessarily affect those sound Transvaal gold mining shares which I have recommended to my readers. But I may place on record that ever since Chartered stood at 8½, Rand Mines, Limited at 45, East Rands at 12½, and Consolidated Gold Fields at 19, I have persistently, warned my readers to give them a wide berth; and now Chartered stand at 2 $\frac{7}{8}$, Rand Mines, Limited, at 24¼, East Rands at 4 $\frac{15}{16}$, and Consolidated Goldfields at 10⅝. The Consolidated Goldfields dividend, at the rate of 15s. per share on the Ordinary shares, making, with the interim distribution already made, 25s. per share for the year, proved more favourable than had been anticipated; but even the effect of this announcement was speedily lost in the

stream of fresh sales which were forced from Paris. By the way, I do not consider the fact that the dividend was announced only after the carry-over had taken place, and some more unfortunate speculators were weeded out, as at all creditable; and it is to some extent a melancholy satisfaction that the insiders who bought on the eve of the announcement owing to privileged information did not reap any benefit, at least for the present. The results shown by the Consolidated Gold Fields Company are satisfactory in one respect as bearing upon the general outlook, and showing that considerable profits are still being made. The mining industry, moreover, in the Transvaal is progressing satisfactorily, and that is, after all, the chief point. As I anticipated, the strike of natives in the Witwatersrand mines was unimportant and confined to a few mines only, while latest advices are to the effect that the "boys" have returned to work. Another "bogey" which has been raised during the week has been the Sunday Closing measure; but latest advices are to the effect that the batteries will not be interfered with, and according to the assurance given by Mr. Joubert, the Minister of Mines of the Transvaal, he will make strong efforts on behalf of the Transvaal mining industry in the forthcoming November session of the Volksraad, and he seems sanguine of success. As the Boers have spent large sums on armaments and have thus greatly reduced their surplus, it is not likely that they will in any way injure that industry from which they draw their large revenue. It may be assumed that the crushings in the present month will be satisfactory, and the amount should be swollen by several new mines which have not of late been working. The Glencairn has of course stopped for some time, but, as I have already stated, the Porges Randfontein has re-commenced crushing. Knights have, moreover started crushing with sixty stamps, and thirty stamps have, been added to the ten previously at work on the Ginsberg. Either during this month or in November the Bonanza will have twenty more stamps at work, and in November the Van Ryn will commence crushing with eighty new stamps. Later on, end of the year, of course, a number of other stamps will be added, amongst which are no fewer than 140 stamps of the New Kleinfontein; and there will also be running in the more immediate future batteries of the New Spes Bona, the Glencairn, the North Randfontein, the Robinson Randfontein, the Van Ryn West, and the Paarl Central. We may thus look forward to gradually and surely increasing returns, and that these will finally have their effect upon prices in the Kaffir Circus cannot be doubted. The question is only when the weak elements are sufficiently shaken out for the big financiers to be able to give the market a permanent lift-up, which I am assured they are prepared to do. Knights have again been knocked about in sympathy with the gambling counters, and have fluctuated widely. There is absolutely no reason for the fall, and latest advices are satisfactory in every respect. I have already referred to the fact that the new battery is now at work. According to the mail information now to hand from Johannesburg, dated September 28, at that time already the 60-stamp mill was up and ready for the ore, whilst the foundations for the remaining sixty were nearly finished, and erection was being hurried on. It was hoped that the Siemens-Halske cyanide process would be completed by the end of September, and it was therefore expected that October would see production in full swing. The developments since July, at the rate then obtaining, should have amounted to some 40,000 tons; but the satisfactory work of the new compressor drill-plant has materially added to this rate, and a progressive increase may now be looked forward to. In this position there is certainly no reason for the relapse. Woodstock (Transvaal) have faced the surrounding weakness remarkably well, and are firm at $1\frac{3}{8}$. They are in the hands of a strong group, and, what is more, the news from the mine is exceedingly satisfactory. The position of the New Primrose is distinctly better, the main and middle reefs having been opened up to the twelfth level, while the North reef has also been cut. Results of the October crushings of the Porges Randfontein should also prove satisfactory and the new heavy stamps will doubtless give a good account of themselves, especially as the reef is rich. The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Corporation has secured the issue of another loan of £50,000 of the Johannesburg Sanitary Board. It is evident, therefore, that business is going on while the market price is being depressed, and some day not far off there will be a sharp recovery in Johnnies. With reference to the Niekerk Gold Mining Company, the manager has forwarded to the Board assays by Mr. G. B. Frood, of Klerksdorp, certifying samples from No. 3 shaft as 2 oz. 2 dwt. 9 gr., and 2 oz. 17 dwt. 9 gr. It cannot be said that the statements made at the meeting of the African Gold Recovery Company were at all encouraging to the shareholders. The Company is engaged in very costly legislation, and it is needless to repeat that the rumour that a decision had been given in its favour by the Transvaal Courts was altogether unfounded. As regards the cyanide patents, the news that the application to amend the patent in New Zealand has been refused, although notice of appeal has been given, is also distinctly unfavourable. The Siemens-Halske electrical process for the treatment of tailings, moreover, is apparently making good progress on the Rand. Diamond shares have also been in the dumps, as so many holders of gold shares have also an assortment of diamond shares. De Beers are quoted $27\frac{1}{4}$, New Jagersfontein $8\frac{5}{8}$. New Bultfontein have been a steady market at $1\frac{3}{8}$, and I understand that another dividend announcement will shortly be made, this Company doing very satisfactory work.

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Household Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

Golden West Australia.

There have not been wanting disappointing incidents in the West Australian department; but upon the whole the news is excellent, and a number of mines will shortly fall into line with crushings. Developments on existing properties are also reported upon favourably, and as illustrating the progress which is being made by the leading mines I herewith give again the table of crushings from my contemporary the *West Australian Review*, brought up to mid-October:—

The Record of the Leading Mines.

Mine.	End October.	End February.	Mid-June.	Mid-October.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Great Boulder	19,328	30,134	46,924	70,113
Bayley's Reward	53,726	54,391	54,491	55,080
Lake View	8,826	10,723	15,126	24,299
Murchison New Chum	12,071	16,536	17,364	17,364
Consolidated Murchison	10,770	12,167	14,180	17,005
Mainland Consols	8,250	8,500	8,500	12,606
Star of the East	11,879	11,879	11.879	11,879
Londonderry	8,000	9,365	9,754	9,754
Ivanhoe	1,619	2,799	4,123	8,718
Hill End	3,033	7,426	8,178	8,178
Burbank's	—	2,077	3,351	7,216
Golconda	3,271	4,167	5,933	6,907
Emerald Reward	5,636	5,716	5,785	5,785
Totals	146,409	175,880	205,588	254,904

It will be seen that the Great Boulder and the Lake View both make a splendid showing, and with reference to the Lake View I may state that it will not be long ere the new batteries will bring up the output to a very large figure. The Mainland Consols is also showing well as a regular producer, and so are the Ivanhoe and Burbank's Birthday Gift. Market movements have partly been affected by renewed efforts of the "Bears" to depress quotations, but they have not succeeded to any extent, and prices even of the higher-priced shares may be said to have reached a very moderate level. The Great Boulder is again to the front with a crushing return of 709 tons for 2,031 oz., and there is certainly nothing in this yield to justify the decline to $6\frac{1}{2}$ which has taken place. From the Burbank's Birthday Gift mine a cable report is to hand, stating that a sample from the last tailings gave 30 dwt.

per ton, which is very satisfactory. Good general progress is also being made, according to the same cablegram which was despatched by Professor Nicholas. The Professor, too, cables with reference to the Gladiator Mine that the main shaft is down 216 ft., and that water is increasing. In No. 5 shaft, at a depth of 55 ft., he describes the reef as well defined, 5 ft. wide, and assaying 2 oz. per ton. I maintain my favourable view of Gladiators, of Burbank's Consols, and Burbank's North, all of which are under the management of Professor Nicholas. On the Lady Shenton developments are also favourable. The face is now in a large body, rich quartz stopes showing the usual first-class ore. One of the disappointments was that with reference to the Hit or Miss. A cablegram was received from Mr. J. Wilson Archibald, according to which, although the estimated valued of the ore is 3 oz., it is not possible to get out more than 20 dwt. through crushing. He, therefore, advises stopping the battery, and adding at once six pans and a tailings pump. It is evident, therefore, that, according to the Manager, the ore requires special treatment, the same as is the case with the Hannan's Brownhill; but it is strange that he did not find this out long ago. A heavy fall in the shares has taken place to $\frac{7}{8}$, but as apparently only a delay of a few months will be caused shareholders ought not to throw away their holdings. The West Australian Exploring and Finance group have as usual shown a strong front, amidst somewhat discouraging surroundings. Both London and Globe Finance and West Australian Exploring and Finance are not at the highest prices touched, but are still quoted $4\frac{5}{8}$ to $4\frac{7}{8}$; and I have not altered my opinion as to the important advance which must eventually take place. The Lake View Consols mine is doing well, and the approaching visit from Mr. Charles Kaufman, who has arrived in Paris, will no doubt afford an opportunity for the shareholders to learn from his own lips how valuable is their mine. Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group have continued firm, and whenever the West Australian market takes a turn these should improve. Mr. Allen H. P. Stoneham's letter to the shareholders of the West Australian Gold Fields, Limited, the Hampton Plains Estate, Limited, and the West Australian Share Corporation, Limited, to which I referred last week, has created a favourable impression. It is true that West Australian Gold Fields have eased off to $6\frac{1}{2}$; but Hampton Plains are firm at $3\frac{3}{4}$-$\frac{7}{8}$, and the position of this Company is so promising that the shares will doubtless promptly recover the return of 4s. per share, which will shortly be deducted. In reply to several inquiries, I may mention that amongst the Stoneham group the following Mining shares appear to me specially suitable for investors, as being at moderate prices and likely to advance considerably, viz., Great Boulder Main Reef 10s. shares fully paid at $1\frac{3}{16}$, Mawson's Reward £1 shares at $\frac{15}{16}$, White Feather Reward £1 shares at $1\frac{15}{16}$, Cue No. 1 £1 shares at $\frac{9}{16}$, and Mount Margaret £1 shares at $1\frac{1}{2}$. Any one making up a little trust of these Mining shares should have an excellent chance of reaping a considerable profit. I should also think that Lady Shenton, Robinson, and East Murchison will give good accounts of themselves. Further fluctuations have taken place in West Australian (Gold District) Trading shares; but after the severe relapse the trend of prices seems to be in the upward direction, the Ordinary shares being quoted $\frac{5}{8}$, the Founders' shares £35. A cablegram from the general manager in Western Australian, announcing a number of further agencies taken over by the Company, is as follows:—"Purchase completed Moylan's business, Fremantle, embracing following agencies: Gilbey's wines and spirits, Bass's bottled ales and Guinness's stout, Bulldog brand bottled by Porter, Apollinaris, Geisler champagne, Bernard Scotch ale, Misa sherry, Antonio-de-Silva port—all colony monopolies." Golden Link Consolidated have been largely sold against the old shares, the price having receded to $\frac{5}{8}$; but a recovery is probable when the sales come to an end. From the Londonderry we have at last a favourable cablegram stating that the main shaft is down 320 ft., that quartz is coming in from the east, which is, in all probability, the main reef, and that the gold-bearing quartz is of better quality than that at the last level. If one could be sure that the management was now in good hands, this cablegram would be exceedingly promising; for it should not be forgotten that many experts who have in the past been on the property are still retaining the view that the Londonderry will, after all, prove a paying mine. I mentioned last week that Lord Fingall had made a new departure with reference to the disposal of his promotion profits out of the formation of Australia United. I am informed that Mr. Myring is also acting up to his promises, and there is still a very strong hope that, when the matter comes before the court, the late Colonel North's proportion of profits will be ordered to be devoted to the object for which the Colonel intended them, viz., to recoup the Londonderry shareholders. There is therefore a good deal of hope for the Londonderry, and shareholders will do well not to throw away their holdings, even though the sanguine anticipations entertained on the formation of the Company cannot be fulfilled. The news from the Murchison New Chum, conveyed to the shareholders at last week's meeting, was by no means comforting. Efforts are being made to get upon pay ore again, but for the present the reef seems to have pinched out. I have to announce the fact that the London and Colonial Exploration and Finance Company, of which Sir Somers Vine was to be the Chairman, was stillborn. The subscriptions were so meagre that the Directors are about to return the money. It is evident that the name of Sir Somers Vine is not one to conjure with.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Although the surroundings are generally very unsatisfactory, the Indian section has braced up again, and the favourable September results would certainly justify a further improvement. Nundydroog have advanced, and Mysore Gold are firmer on the declaration of a dividend of 7s., which, with the dividend of 6s. already declared, makes 13s. per share for the year. It is not surprising, therefore, that Mysore Gold should stand at $8\frac{13}{16}$. Goldfields of Mysore are firmer at 21s., and it must not be forgotten that the cyanide process is now at work there, so that at the end of the month we may expect some very favourable news, which might put up the price very considerably. In Australian shares other than West Australian Aladdin's Lamp have at last advanced to 3, the excellent returns and dividends beginning to tell. Amongst Charters Towers shares, an improvement has occurred in New Queen, Mill's Day Dawn United, and Bonnie Dundee; but Day Dawn P.C. are lower. The Croydon Goldfield is getting into high favour, on the splendid results obtained by the Croydon Consols. The following reports have been received by Elmslie, Limited:—By mail—"Clean-up of 265 tons gave gold of gross value of £3,998. 11s. 8d. Output of ore is now too much for the ten head of stamps." By cable, October 12—"New 15-head battery up on Company's mine now started, and running very well. Crushing regularly; 1,200 tons of ore at grass, and large output weekly. Expect to pay dividend in November of 1s. per share—60 per cent. per annum." Thus the 1s. dividend which I predicted three weeks ago is now officially declared to be assured, and it is not surprising that the shares have advanced to 10s. 6d., with every prospect of a further important rise. North Croydon Consols have also improved to 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. According to latest advices, the shaft is now down about 150 ft., and should cut the Croydon Consols lode at about 200 ft. In New Zealand mines declines are marked in Taitapu, Hauraki, Kapanga, and Waitekauri Central, but Thames Hauraki, Woodstock, and Waitekauri have improved. Business in this section is, however, on a small scale. In the general foreign section Rio Tinto have fluctuated, being adversely affected by the weakness of the Paris Bourse. De Lamar, La Yesca, and Burma Ruby have advanced, but St. John del Rey, Palmarejo, Frontino, and Golden Feather are

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

lower. Grand Central (Mexico) have been distinctly firmer, after the temporary reaction caused by the special settlement.

An Easy Way to Speedy Fortune.

The above is the title of a pamphlet issued by Cunliffe, Russel, & Co., of 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris, in which this firm advocates the purchase of Foreign Lottery bonds, which they describe as "good, sound, and perfectly safe securities, not generally accessible to British investors, but which are great favourites on the Paris Stock Exchange." I have frequently explained that these bonds in many cases are in the receipt of only very small interest, that in others they receive no interest whatever, and that their chief attraction is the element of chance introduced by the drawings of the bonds. Now and then a holder may have the good luck to have one of his bonds drawn, but the motto of Cunliffe, Russel, & Co., "An easy way to speedy fortune," is in no way justified. At all events that enterprising firm do not by any means facilitate the acquisition of a speedy fortune by others by the methods they employ, whatever effect these may have on their own fortune. Curiously enough my attention has just now been drawn to the doings of this firm by the letter of a correspondent, who evidently wanted to do them a good turn. This communication was as follows:—

> In 1892 I attacked Cunliffe, Russel, & Co., of Paris, in your columns—it is only fair that I should call your attention to a creditable showing in their last pamphlet. They ask £122 15s. for a set of six different City of Paris Lottery Bonds. On inquiring at my brokers I find that they would cost me (with brokerage) £122, so that for 15s. one gets the lists of drawn bonds twenty-four times a year besides special advices of drawings.

This apparent conversion of one of my correspondents to the view that Cunliffe, Russel, & Co. are philanthropists struck me as so strange, that I forthwith investigated the latest circulars of that firm. I am sorry to say that the result is not so satisfactory as my correspondent, from motives best known to himself, apparently wished to convey. It is true that the price quoted by Cunliffe, Russel, & Co. for City of Paris bonds pretty closely approaches the market price, but I have never in the past noticed any great discrepancy regarding the quotations of these bonds in that firm's circulars. The fact is that there is a considerable market in these, so that it would presumably be somewhat dangerous to quote excessive prices. The result of a comparison of the quotations of Cunliffe, Russel, & Co. with the actual market prices in Paris, as supplied to me by a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, will be gathered from the following little table:—

Bonds.	Market Price in Paris.	Price quoted by Cunliffe, Russel, & Co.
Ottoman bonds	£4 0 0	£9 0 0
Panama, ,, ...	5 17 6	8 0 0
Congo ,, ...	3 7 6	5 10 0
Servian ,, ...	2 17 6	4 10 0
Paris, 1869 ,, ...	17 15 0	18 5 0
,, ,, 1886 ,, ...	16 7 6	17 15 0
Combination of 3 bonds ...	13 5 0	22 0 0
,, 4 ,, ...	16 2 6	26 0 0
,, 7 ,, ...	30 0 0	50 0 0
,, 14 ,, ...	60 0 0	100 0 0
,, 27 ,, ...	116 7 6	200 0 0
,, 69 ,, ...	289 7 6	500 0 0

The combinations of bonds consist of precisely the bonds on which Cunliffe, Russel, & Co. levy a very heavy profit, viz., Ottoman, Panama, Congo, and Servian bonds, and, looking at the enormous profit added to the market prices of these, it strikes me as not improbable that the smallness of the extra charge made on the City of Paris bonds is merely an amiable little trick to make the other bonds go down at the high prices. The remark has also been made to me that it is difficult to understand how Cunliffe, Russel, & Co. can sell genuine Paris 1875-76 bonds, with October 15 coupon attached, at £23, as offered in their circulars. Again, the statement made by them that every bond of the Ottoman loan of 1870 must draw at least £16 is incorrect, as the Turkish bonds are only paid at 58 per cent. of the nominal amount. Thus, a bond drawn of frs. 400 is only paid with frs. 232, or about £9. 2s. 6d. This, however, merely by the way. The comparative table drawn up by me shows that "the way to fortune" is not exactly made easier by the philanthropists of the Place de la Bourse, and that any one desirous to make his or her fortune in this way had better buy the bonds in the market through some other channel.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Central Queensland Land Corporation, Limited.—This Corporation has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the practical monopoly of land in the district of Gladstone, Port Curtis (Central Queensland). The capital is fixed at £120,000 in shares of £1 each and 1,600 4½ per cent. Debentures of £50 each.

The property now owned by this Company is of large extent and is in a rising and promising position, Port Curtis being considered one of the finest harbours on the coast of Queensland. Sufficient land is already let to pay the Debenture interest twice over. The present issue is for the purpose of acquiring further blocks of land, which will, in the natural course of things, greatly increase in value. This Company has, I think a promising future before it.

Worsley's, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the whole of the businesses of the vendor, a furnishing contractor, of Manchester, Bradford, and London. The share capital is £75,000, divided into 3,750 Seven per Cent. Preference and 3,750 Ordinary shares of £10 each.

I cannot see anything very enticing in this issue. The item of profit, estimated at £1,500, from "increased discounts obtainable from the larger purchasing power of the Company," must be rather problematical. It is not likely to be made if the business merely continues to yield present returns. Should these fall off there would be no chance of such additional revenue. I think investors can do better in other concerns.

Harmsworth Brothers, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing and carrying on the business of Periodical and Magazine Proprietors, Publishers, and Printers, founded by Mr. Alfred C. Harmsworth, and now known as Harmsworth Brothers. The capital is fixed at £1,000,000 divided into 500,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and 500,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The present issue is of the preference shares.

The Bagot Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire the patent rights for England and elsewhere of an improved pneumatic tyre, a detachable puncture proof band for use with pneumatic tyres, and an improved non-return lock valve to use with pneumatic tyres. The capital is fixed at £200,000 in shares of £1 each.

I understand that the great point of the tyre is that it will not slip whether half or fully inflated, and that it is only half an inch on the ground. This latter advantage reduces the liability to puncture to a minimum, and increases the speed, especially on inclines. As regards the possibility of puncturing, this is also provided against by the second patent, the detachable puncture-proof band. There seems to be good reason to believe that the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company will adopt a conciliatory attitude towards this new Company, and will certainly not attack it, while the fact that the Bagot Company may prove a serious competitor renders it not improbable that some agreement between the two Companies will eventually be arrived at. Under these circumstances, investors in the Company would obviously have the chance of seeing the shares at a considerable premium, whenever some such arrangement is come to.

The Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo.—This Company was formed in 1890 to acquire and develop the Tlahualilo Cotton Estates, situate in the Laguna District in the State of Durango, Northern Mexico, together with the franchises, concessions, water rights, &c. This is an issue of £350,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each at par.

This may be considered a sound industrial undertaking. The share capital is £286,000, while undivided profits to the extent of £119,372, and temporary loans amounting to £62,920 have been expended in developments, making in all an invested capital of £468,292. The property is large in extent and situated in a healthy and temperate climate. The profits in 1895-6 amounted to

£64,512, or three times the amount required to pay the interest on the sum required, while the temporary loans are to be repaid out of this issue, thus strengthening the financial position of the Company. Some further remarks upon the Mexican industrial outlook will be found under "Various Investments."

Sumatra-Singapore Coal Company.—This Company has been formed to acquire concessions and work coal deposits in a large tract of land in the province of Indragiri, Sumatra. The capital is £60,000 in £1 shares.

There is nothing in this venture to recommend it to English investors. No work appears to have been done on the property, except the prospecting for the purpose of the Prospectus, and it will be as well to wait until the property is properly opened up.

The City of Birmingham Tramways Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring tramways in the City of Birmingham and neighbourhood, and for development of the system within that area. The capital is fixed at £1,000,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each.

The fact of the inhabitants of Brum allowing two promoters from Canada to step in to engineer this venture does not speak much in its favour. It is well known in the town that the tramways have not been the financial success expected, and there does not appear to be any fresh inducements for investors to subscribe to this concern.

William Cory & Son, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire, amalgamate, and carry on as one concern the English businesses of Messrs. W. Cory & Son, Lambert Bros., D. Radford & Co., Beadle Bros. Limited, J. and C. Harrison, Green, Holland & Sons, Mann, George & Co., and G. J. Cockerell & Co., Limited, coal factors, coal and coke merchants and contractors, lightermen, &c. The share capital is £2,000,000, divided into 170,000 Five per Cent. Preference shares of £5 each, and 230,000 Ordinary shares of a like amount. The present issue is of 170,000 Preference shares, and £800,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock at £103.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

A Bondholder of Costa Rica and Argentina.—The Argentine unification scheme is now awaiting any measures which may be taken by the Argentine Government to make it effective. It is supposed that Dr. Pelligrini has left for London on a financial mission. It is in the first instance necessary that the financial houses connected with the Customs Loans should be settled with as to the figures at which these will rank in the conversion. As regards Costa Rica, I have done my best to impress upon that defaulting Government to come to a settlement, but there is nothing for it but patience. *Chin Chin.*—A fair investment. *Mona.*—I cannot understand your talk. I have been perfectly correct in anticipating a relapse in gilt-edged securities, and I look for a further decline. On the other hand, the more speculative stocks are more promising, and I do not for one moment share your opinion that Bryan will be successful in the States. *Archipelago.*—1. I do not advise investment in Portuguese, more especially now that Brazilians have collapsed. The financial position in Brazil has for some time been very bad. 2. Very speculative, but promising. 3. No understanding has so far been arrived at. 4. Yes, it would be advisable to make the exchange. 5. The Argentine Funding Loan.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Anxious, Belsize-road.—You might put the money into the new Uruguay loan and into the Mexican Cotton Estates Six per Cent. First Mortgage Sterling Debentures referred to by me last week under "Various Investments." This would give you even a better return than you ask for. *A. M.*—You do not appear to be a regular reader of Truth, or else you would know that I have already plainly stated that I do not approve of the system of the "Monaco Secured Deposit Co-operation." I advise you to have nothing to do with it. *R. D., Lymington.*—In the matter of touting circulars it is always necessary to be cautious. I have the very worst possible opinion of the attempt to interest the clergy in the English Church and General Permanent Building Society. *Femme.*—I do not advise investment in undertakings of this kind which are formed for the benefit of the clergy. *Tarts.*—As requested, I forward in your envelope the name of a smart firm of City solicitors. These outside brokers should be at once compelled to pay up. *G. J. R. M.*—I advise you to have nothing whatever to do with the outside concern in question. *W. B. M.*—I cannot advise on the solvency of stockbrokers. *Springfield*—There appears to me no reason for present uneasiness; but I do not think that these bank deposits are very satisfactory. It is preferable to invest the money in sound securities. *Oscar.*—These German lotteries are bonâ-fide, but the money generally sticks to the fingers of the intermediaries, and I do not recommend this sort of gamble. I cannot reply by letter. *J. A., Dublin.*—Have nothing to do with these outside dealers; you will only lose your money. *A. H.*—You cannot be a regular reader of Truth, or else you would know that I do not advise dealings with syndicate touts such as J. Edwards & Co., of Talbot House, Arundel-street, W.C. *Inquirer, Barnard Castle.*—One of the leading Australian banks. No reason for anxiety.

Home Rails.

A Poor Man.—I am not an admirer of Great Northern "A" stock, as there is absolutely no speculative market in it, and therefore it is not a stock to speculate in. After the heavy fall you had better hold. *S. N.*—Certainly hold Dover "A" and "Coras."

American and Foreign Rails.

Alabama.—Yes, Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold bonds are suitable for permanent investment, and should be held. *J.T.F.*—I think that the investment in all these stocks would be rather risky, considering you want your money back in February or March. Uruguay bonds would be profitable, or the Six per Cent. debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates. *L.H.*—No reason to sell any of the three bonds in question. The Grand Trunk Company is apparently turning the corner.

Mining Shares.

Bristol Blackboy.—I am afraid that this is a very doubtful venture, and I do not look for an early improvement. *Excelsior.*—1. I have repeatedly stated that I do not like Empress of Coolgardie. 2. I do not think much of Brownhill Proprietary. 3. Hold for an improvement. *J. McI.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you Hannan's Napier (4) are the most promising. With reference to the others I must refer you to my remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Virtute Viresco.*—I should advise you to keep the Indian gold mining shares Nos. 1 to 3 for a rise. You should certainly keep Randfontein, and buy more to average. West Australian Exploring and Finance (5) will go much higher, and you should buy more. North Croydon Consols (6) are promising, and so are Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (7). I do not think much of Bantjes (8), and do not like No. 9. *Breffini.*—1. I should advise you to leave Sheba Queens alone; they are being promiscuously offered by outside dealers. 2. Very doubtful. 3. Waterfall Estates should be held for an advance. 4. Only if they pay at least 10s. in the £. *Douglas Dick.*—I do not see how I can help you. It is for the shareholders to take the necessary steps. *Tim.*—It seems to me that the Freehold Goldfields of Queensland, Limited, is a very doubtful concern; and as I have never recommended it I can only return you the document. *Woodcock.*—1. Yes, I still think that Hendersons will recover again, and you should hold for a more important improvement. 2. No reason to sell any of the shares mentioned under this number. *G. J. M.*—I can only refer you to my remarks in last week's issue, under "Mr. Barnato on the Position," and I advise you to hold your Johnnies. *Cigarette.*—The remarks made in last week's issue, under the heading of "Mr. Barnato on the Position," will answer your question. *Falcon:*—There is a fair prospect that something will be done for the Londonderry shareholders by Lord Fingall, Mr. T. H. Myring, and the executors of the late Colonel North. Hold your shares. *S. W. J., Surbiton.*—Hold West Australian Exploring and Finance (1), and buy more, as a big rise is coming. This also applies to No. 2 (London and Globe Finance). Nos. 3 and 4 are promising, and so is No. 6 (Hampton Plains); hold for a rise. No. 5 is a fair investment. *Salpinx.*—1. Lake View Consols look very promising, and are likely to go higher. 2. The dividend on the new shares has yet to be declared. 3. Yes, permanently. *Anxious, Pall Mall.*—The future of this mine will more or less depend upon the results obtained from the Wealth of Nations, the adjoining property. *Brixtonian.*—I should think that it would be advisable to hold the first-named shares, and also the others, for an improvement. You should number your inquiries in future. —*H. G., Harlesden.*—I must leave you to take your own decision, as I should not care to accept any responsibility in the matter. *Benachie.*—No option but to hold your mining shares Nos. 1 to 5 for a general rally; although I do not like Sam's Wealth of Nations (1) or Consolidated Gold Trust of London, Paris, and Brussels (5) at all. *C. H. D.*—I should think that Goldfields of Mysore ought to reach a much higher price. *Leominster.*—A is a fair mining risk, but I do not think much of B. *Harvey.*—If you are a shareholder you must have received the circular of the Directors of the Wealth of Nations mine, and thus can form your own opinion. *Corrigenda.*—No option but to hold both shares for a rise. *E. L. R.*—A promising Mining Company; hold for an advance. *Technical.*—I do not advise purchase of Sam's Wealth of Nations, and have repeatedly said so when the shares were at a higher level than they are now. *E. L.*—You should not take these shares up, as they can be bought much lower in the market. *Mersey Tunnel.*—1. The office is at 2, Birchin-lane, London, E.C., and the agent is Mr. T. H. Roberts. 2. Yes. 3. The Holcomb Valley will come along in time. *Constant Reader, Constantinople.*—(i.) These shares have fallen in

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sympathy with the general slump, and should be held. (ii.) This means "ex rights." (iii.) Nothing but the general depression. (iv.) Not yet. *Golf.*—A fair mining risk, but you could have sold at a very high price. *Medicus.*—No reason to sell your mining shares; hold, and buy more Johnnies to average. *Doubtful.*—Hold, but do not buy more to average. *Mines.*—I do not advise purchase of most of the low-priced mines, Nos. 1-18, mentioned by you. Nos. 10 and 11 might perhaps do, but you can make a far better selection from my letter. For instance, Hampton Plains, Mount Margarets, Mawsons, White Feather Reward, Cue 1, and Great Boulder Main Reef are promising amongst West Australians, and amongst South Africans Langlaagte Estate, Randfontein, and Johnnies. *Fiat Lux.*—No reason to sell as already mentioned by you, but do not average yet. London and Globe and West Australian Exploring and Finance will go much higher. *Sigma.*—1. Yes, at about par. 2. Hold Randfontein, and buy more to average. *Redcar.*—I do not approve of the West Australian Minerals and Finance Company. Of course, if you do not pay calls on shares they are liable to forfeiture. *Aliquid.*—You should hold your West Australian shares Nos. 1-4 for a recovery. Thanks for your information as to Day. *Anne Barnum.*—If you are a holder of Wentworth Proprietary, you had better hold now. *Inflator.*—1. Better join the reconstruction, and sell after. 2. Hold for a recovery. 3. Eventually something will be done for this Company. Probably another property will be given to it. *Expectation.*—It has not yet been distributed, and evidently it is advisable to await better times. *Glencar.*—No option but to hold; it is a promising Company. *Allowance.*—1. Yes. 2. Yes, eventually. 3. One of these days. No option but to hold Nos. 4-9 until the depression passes from the Mining market. 10. Yes, London and Globe Finance are a good purchase for a rise. *P. W.*—No option but to hold through the prevailing depression. *Wat.*—Yes, amongst the shares mentioned you might buy Barnato Consols (1), Buffelsdoorn (2), Randfontein (3), Glencairn (7), and Langlaagte Star (8). Hold Woodstock (Transvaal) for a rise. *Crampton.*—1. London and West Australian Exploration shares are not one of my recommendations; but when Mr. Moreing returns they should recover. 2. No, hold Randfontein. *Tyke.*—1. Hold for a recovery. 2. Quite so, but I never recommended North Boulder at the high prices. I am glad you made so handsome a profit on my advice. *D. L. R.*—Yes, buy more to average. Langlaate Star. Hold the other shares. *Richard K.*—1. Hold, but do not buy more to average. 2. Hold for a rise. *R. M. S.*—The position is somewhat doubtful, but I think you should hold. *Mons Meg.*—1. No, crushing is not yet so far advanced, but prospects are excellent. Hold Hannan's Golden Treasure and Group. 2. No reason to sell. Hold Gladiators (3) for a rise. I do not think much of Nos. 4 and 5. *Surveyor, Clapham.*—1. Hold these West Australian shares for a rise. 2. No option but to hold for a recovery. 3. Hold. *Tadpole.*—I. Hold Barnato Consols, and disregard all the irresponsible talk. The general depression is responsible for the decline. II. Yes, certainly hold. *Y. J. T.*—Be careful and deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Cotton.*—Hold all your shares Nos. 1 and 2. The uncertainties of mining apply, of course, to No. 3. Please yourself. As regards No. 4, I still retain very favourable views of Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group. 5. The explanation has been fully made in the financial papers. Croydon Consols are up at 10s. 6d. now. *Croydon.*—1. Hold for the present; you will no doubt get a better price eventually. 2. Not yet. 3. Yes, certainly hold Oceana Consolidated. 4. As a matter of principle I cannot recommend individual stockbrokers. *J. McI.*—No, I do not consider Nos. 1-3 worth buying now. You can do better by making your selection from the shares mentioned in my letter. *S. W. J.*—A fair mining risk, but no catch. *Coalville*—1. A promising Company; hold. 2. A fair mining risk. 3. Johnnies, Barnato Consols, Randfontein, and Langlaagte Estate. *Millhead) Glasgow.*—You must be aware that I have warned my readers often against East Rands and Anglo-French Exploration. There may, however, be a recovery. *Hopeful.*—I cannot advise on the solvency of stockbrokers. I repeat I do not like the Broad Arrow Mine. The other shares should be held on the chance of a recovery. *Puzzled.*—1. The position of the Hit or Miss Mine has been fully explained by the Directors. 2. Not yet. 3. Yes. 4. No, I do not approve of Lisbon-Berlyn. Leave Nos. 5-8 alone for the present. *Luke.*—No option but to hold both shares for an improvement, which is probable. Thanks for the compliment. *Burgess.*—1. You will have read the report of the meeting, at which full information was afforded. 2. I do not care for the Scottish Colonial. *Halifax.*—1. Hold Barnato Banks, and buy more Johnnies' Consols. to average them. 2. No. 3 and 4 should be left alone. *Cat.*—One of these days they will no doubt recover. Hold.

Industrial Shares.

J. B. 5.—A fair investment, but no catch. You ought to be able to hear more about this local concern in Glasgow. *Boss.*—Very speculative, but promising, especially now that the full licence has been granted. *Hew.*—Yes; you had better sell at once, and clear your profit. Other opportunities are now cropping up. *W. H. Lennox.*—I cannot give you any information about the Wallis Chlorine Syndicate, Limited, and it is not a Company in which I should advise investment. *Brum.*—This is a local Irish concern, about which no information is available here. Write to the Secretary for information. *Poor Widow.*—Bovril might be advisable as a very promising, if speculative, investment, but not the other share. *Layer.*—1. It boots not to speculate on such possibilities. The Silverites are not likely to win. 2. No. *Cool Comfort.*—Unless you can prove legally misrepresentation in the prospectus you cannot avoid the calls. It means going to law. It is a great pity that you did not heed my warning about this concern.

Mixed Investments.

Pearl.—All your mining shares, No. 1 to 5, are well selected, and should be held for a rise. You should also certainly hold the American bonds, as matters in the States are shaping themselves favourably. *Border.*—1. No; I do not like the New Beeston Cycle Company at all. 2. No; I do not approve of the Midland Fire Insurance Corporation, or the policy adopted by it. *R. S. P.*—You have bought British Chartered shares of South Africa altogether against my advice, but I think at present you should hold them for a recovery. This also applies to the other shares mentioned. *G. R. J.*—Some of the industrial shares held by you, especially No. 4, are very speculative. The others might be held for the present, and on No. 7 (Bovril) you will no doubt make a large profit. Sell No. 9 when you have a fair profit. *E. L.*—Please note in future that I cannot answer two letters in the same week. Amongst the mining shares mentioned I consider Langlaagte Block B and Langlaagte Star the best purchases. Instead of the other mining shares, you will do well to consult my remarks under "the Kaffir Circus" and "Golden West Australia." Dover "A" are a far better purchase than Great Eastern. *Inkstand.*—I should advise you to have nothing to do with Sheba Qeeens. The railway line in question has not yet been finished, and unless you can get the shares at a low price I advise you not to buy them at present. *Bart, Bournemouth.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you there are a good many which I should not have advised you to buy; but in the present condition of the South African market it would be better to hold all for a recovery and then to consider which to sell. The industrial shares Nos. 1 to 3 are no catch. *A. B., West Hampstead.*—I do not think the time to average Perus has come yet, neither do I recommend a further purchase of the mining shares at present. *Navy.*—1. I do not think much of the bank shares in question, although they are fair value. 2. Perhaps you had better hold for the present. Hold also the mining shares, which should recover. You will find all these mining shares quoted in the *Financial News*; the daily papers pay very little attention to them. *Ilex.*—No particular reason to sell No. 1, but you might perhaps clear your profit on No. 2. Hold Nos. 3 and 4. The charge made for selling Great Eastern Railway stock is monstrous, and you should not submit to it. There is no book of the kind. *Kent.*—Prospects are fair, but all depends upon the issue of the Presidential elections in November. You can insist to see the register of shareholders at the offices of the Company, on proving that you are a shareholder and on payment of a small amount. *R.I.*—No reason to sell the American Bonds No. 1 now. 2. Nothing is known here about such American Savings Banks. *R.A.*—1. Only if you can obtain inside knowledge of their business. 2. No, I do not advise purchase of Chartered of South Africa shares. *Tyre.*—1. The business was taken over after the publication of the prospectus. I have made no favourable statement on the Company, and do not expect a rise as yet. 2. No option but to hold for a recovery. *Naddah.*—1. No option but to hold the Mining Shares. 2. Buenos Ayres Western Deferred are a fair investment. 3. High enough. *A. E. B.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 and 3. I do not think much of Nos. 2 and 4. *Rimrod.*—1. You must tell me what class of investments you require and what yield. 2. A fair investment. *Larochc.*—1. A fair security but no catch. 2. This Chinese loan is a good investment. *Hibernian.*—1. No, leave them alone now. 2. Yes, French Dunlops are a good investment. 3. Knights and Langlaagte Estate are promising. *A. T. C.*—1. No fresh information available, but you should hold. 2. I do not like it at all. *Harp.*—No reason to sell Nos. 1 and 2. I should not buy No. 3 just now. No. 4 is a fair investment; Nos. 5 and 6 had better be held now. *Rednorth.*—No reason to sell No. 1, although it is a fluctuating business. Sell Nos. 2 and 3. I do not like Van den Bergh Margarine. No option but to hold the mining shares Nos. 5-7. *Johnnes, Clifton.*—It is a pity that you did not sell out of the Diamond shares when I advised their sale at the time they stood at a high price. I will see if I can do anything in the matter. *Heaton.*—I see no special reason for selling the Debenture No. 1. All your Australian and South African Mining shares are well selected and are bound to rise to a higher value. Hold for a recovery.

The Tricks of the Syndicate Touts.

The proceedings in the Bankruptcy Court are sometimes exceedingly instructive, and they were so more particularly on the occasion of the public examination of James Pickup Law, who once upon a time carried on the business of a Syndicate tout at the Clock House, Arundel-street, Strand, London, W.C., under the name of J. P. Law. I repeatedly warned my readers against having any dealings with this person, and how fully justified these warnings were is proved by the admissions of the bankrupt, whose liabilities were £5,085 against assets of £12. He says that he started at the suggestion of W. E. Ungless, who provided £30 capital, and who, by the way (as my readers

are aware), was also the proprietor of that notorious syndicate-touting shop of Cameron, Muir, & Co. Ungless was a few weeks ago sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to eighteen months' hard labour for obtaining credit to the extent of £20 without disclosing the fact that he was an undischarged bankrupt. What I am more particularly concerned with in the present instance is the admission of James Pickup Law that when they obtained clients by advertising and circularising, no stock was actually purchased, and the cover which was sent was simply placed to their banking account. As a matter of fact, no syndicates were ever opened, although the circulars sent out by the firm advised the purchase of certain stocks in anticipation of a rise. In a few instances their advice proved to be good, and as a result they were hard hit themselves. They had only the cover to fall back upon to pay the differences, and their only chance of making a profit was when their advice proved to be bad. These candid admissions only bear out what I have always said about these syndicate touts. Whether the stocks in which they pretend to open syndicates go up or down, they never buy or sell. They simply pocket the subscriptions, and if the stocks go down they inform the subscribers of the fact that the money has been lost. If the stocks go up they do not pay up, and if the clients press them they go into the Bankruptcy Court. But this is not all; James Pickup Law also admits that, "relying upon human nature," they allowed a man to win at first in order to make him increase the amount of his stake. This is an old dodge which I exposed some years ago under the heading of "Confessions of an outside Broker." Is it necessary to again warn my readers against the clumsy dodges of these syndicate-touts? It is, of course, impossible that TRUTH should reach every foolish country investor, but I am surprised that sometimes even readers of TRUTH should ask me the question whether they should deal with certain syndicate touts, and what I thought of their circulars. Surely they need but read my article to know that all these tempting circulars ought to find their way into the waste-paper basket, and that the syndicate tout should be avoided like the pest!

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

The further hardening of the Money Market, which will probably be followed by an advance in the Bank rate this week, has naturally affected gilt-edged stocks adversely. In the first instance Consols have suffered, declining to 108. Indian Three and a Half per Cent. stock has followed with a decline to 116½, the Three per Cent. stock to 106½. Colonial bonds and British Corporation stocks are following suit, and I should not be at all surprised if this decline should make further progress. It would certainly be more justified than any further relapse in the second and third-class stocks, which, while more speculative, have all along remained at proportionately much lower levels. Silver has recovered slightly to 30$\frac{1}{16}$d., but a further fall seems quite on the cards, as the Silverites in the United States are expected to come a cropper. The prospective famine in India is also an unfavourable point. Rupee paper has lost ⅞ at 60, for similar reasons. In Cycle shares a fair amount of dealings has taken place, and Beestons at one time touched 5⅛ on rumours of another big deal, but have now reacted to 4⅝. Dunlops are firmer, the Deferred being quoted 1⅜, but the Ordinary remain at 1¼. Humbers are the turn easier, the Ordinary at 1$\frac{7}{16}$, the Prefs. at 1$\frac{1}{16}$. Cycle Tubes remain at ⅞, but Cycle Components have been somewhat firmer at 3¾. A considerable amount of dealings have taken place in Clément, Gladiator and Humber (French), Limited, dubbed by the market Gladiators, at ⅛ to ¼ premium, and a fresh advance is looked for. Brewery shares have been inactive. Allsopps have declined to 167½, and Guinness' Ordinary to 520. I see that the shareholders of Gray & Gilbert, Limited, are offered the return of their money by the Directors, and they have thus the choice either to keep the shares or not. I referred last week to the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo, the prospectus of which has since been placed before the public. It will be gathered from the same that the issue of £350,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £100 each at par is amply secured, the profits shown for the year ending May 31, 1895, being £54,860, and £64,512 for the year ending May 31, 1896; whilst the amount required to pay interest on the Debentures is only £21,000, thus leaving a very large margin. With the further development of the Estates, and the additional working capital provided by the present issue, it is anticipated that the annual revenue will be increased to upwards of £100,000. This is not an unreasonable estimate, as Mexico is making marvellous progress. A perusal of a book recently published, under the title of "Mexico, Its Progress and Commercial Possibilities," by E. J. Howell, F.S.S., will strengthen the view which is gradually gaining ground that Mexico is preparing for one of those sudden leaps into prosperity which happen to young nations in the New World at certain periods of their existence. Mr. Howell mentions the important fact that no class of the Mexican population, from the poorest Indian to the most important capitalist, wishes for anything but public order and peaceful business. President Diaz has outlived his most serious opponents, and his firm and equitable rule has created a position of great stability; while public security is assured, not only by the peaceful disposition of the inhabitants, but also by the great efficiency of the "Rurales" (or Country Mounted Police). The country is so fertile that, with an improved system of farming, an almost fabulous amount of produce could be raised. More especially would the further development of the cotton industry, which is aimed at by the Company under review, be fraught with the happiest results. The principal manufacturing industry of the Republic is the making of cotton cloth, mostly "Manta," a coarse, unbleached cotton cloth. Hitherto large imports of raw cotton have taken place, the quantity for 1894-5 having been about 40,000,000 lb. It will be seen, therefore, that there is a very solid basis for such an enterprise as the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo. With reference to the Bovril deal, it has since been announced that Mr. Hooley's offer of £2,000,000 for the business and assets of the Company has been accepted by the Board, and that a deposit of £100,000 has been paid. It is understood that Mr. Hooley proposes to make an issue of Debenture, Preference, Ordinary, and Deferred stock, and I have heard the figures given as follows:—Debentures (carrying 4 per cent. interest), £500,000; Preference shares (carrying 5 per cent interest), £500,000; Ordinary shares (carrying 8 per cent. interest), £750,000; and Deferred shares, £750,000; the total capitalisation of the new Company to amount to £2,500,000. The three first-named issues would absorb £105,000 per annum at their fixed rate of interest, and as the Bovril Company is stated to have paid last year a profit of £150,000 net, it will be seen that there would be a considerable surplus for the payment of dividends on the Deferred. The success achieved by the Bovril Company in the past is certainly marvellous, and the formation of this new Company under somewhat sensational circumstances should tend to give Bovril a fresh gratuitous advertisement of no mean value. I also hear it whispered that Mr. Hooley has made a very large contract with one of the most important retailing firms for the disposal of the product of the new Company. With reference to the Minerva Nailless Horseshoe, to which I briefly referred last week, it is stated that it has been tried in the German army for a year with the best results, and that a very favourable report has been presented upon it to our own Army authorities by Lieutenant-Colonel Graham. It is also claimed that the new shoe is being adopted by the Glasgow Corporation and the Great Northern Railway, and that it is to be tried in her Majesty's stud. If the shoe does all that is claimed there should be a great future for it. J. Edwards & Co., stock and share dealers, Talbot House,

CYCLING SUITS are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

Arundel-street, London, W.C., are again to the front with their invitations to "operations for the rise;" and even in these times of depression on the Stock Exchange they boast of having obtained still further profits for their clients. They claim that they had an operation in Central Argentines, going from March 12 to October 10, and that the net profit was 74¼ per cent. This was evidently a very lengthy "operation," and I should like to meet with some one in the flesh who has received these profits from J. Edwards & Co. The Maypole Soap Syndicate, Limited, is sending out circulars in which it is stated that the Directors propose to sell the business and undertaking to a larger Company to be formed; but as it will be necessary for the Board to spend several thousands of pounds to advertise the new prospectus, they have decided to issue First Mortgage Debentures to the amount of £5,000. I do not know anything about the Maypole Soap Syndicate, Limited, but so far it does not appear to have achieved such a success as to justify a new capitalisation of £100,000. The appeal is hardly one that is likely to be responded to by the public. I hear that the Kidderminster Brewing and Malting Company is about to be offered to the public under the auspices of an influential Board of Directors headed by Sir Frederick Seagar Hunt, Bart., M.P. The acquisition by an English Company of the Dumont Coffee Estates, to which I referred a few weeks ago, seems to have been received with mixed feelings in Brazil. The *Journal do Commercio*, the principal daily newspaper at Rio, regrets that so fine a national property should go into foreign hands. The *Rio News*, after stating that "the Fazenda Dumont is one of the most valuable Coffee Estates in Brazil," goes on to point out that the attraction of more foreign capital to the country is just what is wanted.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY;

LORD PETERSFIELD'S PUMPS.

YOUNG Viscount Petersfield was remarkable for three things: his intense bashfulness; his indecision of character; and his abnormally small hands and feet. Of the two former qualities he had the grace and the sense to feel ashamed. On the latter he particularly prided himself. And his friends used to remark, with considerable amusement, how he would try to make his hands and feet look even smaller than they were by forcing them into gloves and shoes at least a size too tight. It was obvious that he usually walked in pain, and that his fingers, when gloved, were incapable of any manual exercise. For the rest, he was a quiet, unobtrusive young man, who had the mildest tastes, kept very much to himself, and did not in the least know what to do with his fine income. If he had been born only to a small competency, he would doubtless have been much happier than he was in the possession of £25,000 a year. The cares of his estate and rank merely worried him, and caused him to be run after by Society, of which he would far rather have been quit. He liked nothing better than to be left alone. And the assiduous attentions of the fair sex, to which he was perpetually exposed, kept him in a state of constant discomfort. Not that he was a misogynist, or, indeed, the reverse. On that score he was simply neutral. But his intense bashfulness made it a positive pain for him to associate with any woman. And this it was that led him to avoid the sex as much as possible.

Of course, he was the most eligible of bachelors. Equally of course, he was being everlastingly stalked by husband-hungry mammas and daughters. But they could make nothing of him. Their most sirenic efforts simply frightened him. The abandon with which they threw themselves at him and almost proposed to him confused and distressed his bashful senses beyond expression. Other men would have given their eyes for the tremendous marks of favour which he received from pretty girls. He would have given his eyes—nay, even his hands and feet, which he valued far more—to have been exempt. But exemption was impossible. He was young; single; a viscount. He had £25,000 a year.

One autumn, three or four years ago, Lord Petersfield went down into Sussex to stay with his friends, the Wentwarps, at Wentwarp Hall, a very fine old country seat. Sir John Wentwarp had been a great friend of his father's; and the intimacy between the two elder men, cut short by death, had been partially renewed between the baronet and his deceased friend's only son. This was chiefly why Lord Petersfield went to stay there, to please Sir John, and as an act of duty to his father's memory; for he cordially detested making one in a house party, although, to be sure, he liked all the members of the Wentwarp family well enough; and if he had to visit anywhere, he would have chosen their house in preference to most others. For one thing, they understood his character, and did not worry him with excessive hospitality. And then, for another, the daughters of the house, Mabel and Maud—very pretty girls, too, by the way—did not run after him or make eyes at him. They were simply friendly and cordial towards him, and treated him with just that amount of attention that an amicable politeness required.

But then, of course, there were the other guests, and it was ten to one that he was persecuted by some of these. On the present occasion, when he arrived at Wentwarp, he was greatly dismayed to find that almost his two worst *bêtes-noires* in Society had been asked there to meet him. These were old Lady Slanderson and her daughter Julia. He detested and feared them both from the bottom of his heart; and had run from their relentless pursuit through a whole season. Nothing could deter the mother. Nothing could put the daughter off. However distant, however unfriendly he showed himself, Lady Slanderson remained cordial and *empressée*; Julia made eyes at him just the same. The hounds were in full cry, and there was no checking them.

As soon as the Viscount found that these two ladies were staying in the house, he decided to cut his visit short, and to leave as soon as he decently could. But it was, of course, impossible for him to do this just immediately (on account of his worthy host and hostess), and he resigned himself to the prospect of two or three days' stay under the same roof with his obnoxious pursuers. Much, however, can happen in two or three days, and in these two or three days certain things happened which were attended with certain results.

The event round which everything centred—a trifling event, too, in itself—occurred at dinner on the second night of his visit. And it arose out of the poor Viscount's infirmity—his weakness for tight shoes. May it serve as a warning to others who have the same besetting sin!

Now Viscount Petersfield had contracted a deplorable habit of easing his pinched toes by kicking off his pumps, during the progress of dinner, and only resuming them just before he had to jump up in deference to the rising of the ladies. On this particular occasion, he made no exception to his usual habit. He had enjoyed the dinner more than he had expected, because both Lady Slanderson and her daughter were several places removed from him, and also because he sat between two ladies whose company he did not dislike, viz., his hostess, whom he had taken in, and her elder daughter, Mabel. He was even rather sorry when he saw Lady Wentwarp preparing to make the signal, and he had to feel for his vacant pumps. He found them and got them on in time—Phew! Certainly they were abominably tight! When he stood up and moved back the adjacent chairs, they really did hurt him unmercifully. They seemed to throw him forward on his toes, too, in a way to which he was not accustomed. Hilloa! What was this? He looked down at his feet. A throb of deep annoyance, of dismayed embarrassment shook him. Only as the last fair diner swept past him, on her way out, did he realise that his toes were being tortured in a pair of lady's shoes.

They were high-heeled, of black satin, with large rosettes and silver buckles. He had no difficulty in

recognising them. They were Mabel Wentwarp's. Then he saw how it was. An embarrassing accident! An unintentional exchange! The young lady must have kicked off her shoes also, and meaning to resume them, have unknowingly resumed his instead. And so she had gone off to the drawing-room in his pumps, and he was left to make what shift he could with the black satins and rosettes. Here was a pretty predicament for a bashful Viscount!

He sat hastily down again, and thrust his feet well under the table, devoutly hoping that none of the other gentlemen had caught sight of the black satin shoes. An ordinary man would, no doubt, have been merely amused at the *contretemps* and have regarded his position as a very good joke. My lord Viscount, however, saw nothing at all jocular in his accidental annexation of the lady's shoes. The fact was, his sense of humour was almost as conspicuous by its absence as his bashfulness by its perpetual presence. And if he ever did see a joke, it was certainly not on those occasions when he himself happened to be a victim of it. He now began at once to think how he could get rid of the high-heeled satins, before they were "spotted" by any of the other guests.

After carefully considering the matter in his extremely agitated mind, he decided that his best course was to slip away, on some pretext or other, while the gentlemen were still smoking their cigarettes; then to hurry upstairs to his bedroom and exchange the satins for a second pair of pumps, which he remembered that he had, fortunately, brought with him. As his chair happened to be close to one of the exit doors of the dining-room, he believed that he could retire without his feet being noticed. And once out of the dining-room, there was little further danger. Of course—for none of these matters escaped his anxious thoughts—there would still be before him the task of restoring the black satins to Miss Mabel. But that was a less pressing and immediate necessity; for the young lady had doubtless, ere this, discovered her mistake, and changed his shoes for a pair of her own. Having decided on this line of action, he murmured—with a very red face—a few excuses and apologies to his host, and then performed a skilful and speedy exit, with so much rapidity as to make it impossible for the black satins to have been seen. But the shoes hurt him so confoundedly as he began to hurry in them, and altogether rendered walking such an intolerable torture, that no sooner did he find himself safely on the staircase, than he had them off, took them in his hand, and ran quickly upstairs in his stocking-feet.

Now as he passed, with rapid and nervous stealth, along the corridor which led to his room, he happened to notice that one of the bedroom doors on the way stood open. He recognised whose room it was. It was Mabel Wentwarp's. He had often seen her go in and out. And seeing that the chamber was in darkness and evidently empty, it flashed across him that here was a grand opportunity of restoring the young lady's shoes to her, without difficulty or embarrassment. In an instant he had popped them safely inside the door of her room, and was proceeding with a lighter heart towards his own apartment at the end of the passage. He was glad that the open door had made that bright idea occur to him. It relieved him of an embarrassing duty, to which he had looked forward with distressing apprehension.

On reaching his own room, he turned up the gas, and was about to hunt out his second pair of pumps from a cupboard, when his eye fell upon his best pair—the pair which Mabel Wentwarp had appropriated—standing in a conspicuous position by his dressing-table. The discovery caused him a start of surprise; but with the surprise came a definite sense of relief. He saw how it was. Miss Mabel, having discovered her mistake, had had the promptness and delicacy to replace them thus in his room. It was certainly most tactful and considerate of her. No doubt she had done it to spare both him and herself an uncomfortable explanation—an embarrassing re-exchange. The most distressing consequences of the *contretemps* had thus been obviated. He blessed the young lady's nous and his own discretion, as he hurried down again to the dining-room in his own best pumps.

When they joined the ladies, Lord Petersfield still, however, felt rather nervous, in case any of the fair guests might have shared Miss Mabel's discovery about the exchange of shoes. But he was soon set free from anxiety on this point by Miss Wentwarp herself, who, taking the opportunity to approach him as he stood for a moment alone, murmured, with a blushing, down-cast look:—

"I found out our little mistake, Lord Petersfield, and I at once restored your property to your room. Ssh! No one knows anything about it. Ah!" (turning her eyes down upon his varnished toes). "I see that you have already reclaimed your own!"

"A thousand thanks! I found them in my room. And I have already restored your property," replied his lordship, also blushing.

"That is good of you! And how merciful that our ridiculous mistake was never discovered. We are fellow-sinners, it seems, Lord Petersfield!"

What reply the Viscount would have made, or whether in his confusion he would have found words for any reply at all, cannot be determined. For, at that moment, Julia Slanderson swooped down upon her prey, and to his great annoyance, forcibly annexed him for the rest of the evening.

Next morning after breakfast, the unfortunate Viscount noticed that this persistent young lady was still hovering on the pounce; and not meaning again to be caught by her, he evaded her at the expense of some skill, and slipped off into the dampest and most secluded portion of the garden to enjoy his cigar alone. The morning was chilly, and occasional heavy showers were falling; so that his lordship would much have preferred the cosiness of the smoking-room. But the smoking-room was no safeguard against Miss Julia, who frequently invaded it, and there took a whiff at a cigarette herself. Therefore, our poor hunted Viscount felt that, on this damp morning, the garden and a macintosh were his only resource.

But even so, he was destined to have his solitude invaded. Not, however, by Julia Slanderson. It was Mabel Wentwarp who startled him by suddenly appearing at his side. Her face was white and distressful. Her eyes, he noticed, were bright with unshed tears. As she spoke, it was evident that she could scarcely restrain the sobs which were audibly rising in her pretty throat.

"O, Lord Petersfield!" she exclaimed. "Forgive my intrusion, but I saw you come out and I have followed you, because I—I—have something I—I—must tell you."

"I—I—trust there is nothing the matter!" remarked his lordship, looking embarrassed, and conscious of a vague sense of alarm.

"I—I—cannot deceive you. A great deal is the matter. And—and—it has all arisen out of our—our—foolish mistake last night."

"Eh? What? I—I—thought we—we—had managed that—that—affair all—er—satisfactorily," ejaculated the Viscount, looking very confused and apprehensive.

"So did I. But it appears that we were mistaken. I—I—have just had a dr-dreadful interview with—that—that—odious Lady Slanderson!"

"The dev—oh, I beg your pardon. But—but—do you mean to say that she discovered our—our—mistake?"

"Worse than that," murmured Mabel, in a voice of most pitiable distress.

"How do you mean? What do you mean? I—I—don't understand," queried his lordship, nervously.

"She—she—thinks that she has found out some—something dr-dreadful about us."

And poor Mabel, unable to restrain her feelings any longer, began to sob.

"Oh dear! Pr-pray don't distress yourself, Miss Wentwarp. It—it—whatever it is—can surely be nothing to—to—make you—cr-cry like this?"

"It can: it is!" sobbed poor Mabel. "O, Lord Petersfield, I—I—don't know how I shall tell you the—the shameful things Lady Slanderson said to me. But—but—

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in justice to you, as well as to myself, I must. . . . . It—it—seems that she was up-upstairs last night, at—at a most unfortunate moment, and that—that—she saw me sl-slip out of your room—without my shoes on!"

"Good Heavens!" gasped his lordship, in a tone of evident dismay. "What a——"

"And also," Mabel went on, hurriedly, as if anxious to finish her painful disclosure, "She waited up there, spying, in the dark, and saw you slip out of my room—without your shoes on!"

"But, surely," began Lord Petersfield, whose face was now nearly as white as Mabel's, "she——"

"I—I—told her the truth," interposed the girl; "I explained everything. She—she—scoffed at my version. 'She had the sense,' the false, cruel creature told me, 'to put two and two together,' and—and—she said she would—would—'publish the scandal to the four winds of heaven.' O, Lord Petersfield! What is to be done?"

"I will tell her. I will corroborate your statement," exclaimed the Viscount in an agitated voice.

"I said that you would," sobbed poor Mabel, hopelessly, "and she said that you were—an—an—interested party, and that she should not think of believing you."

"But, surely," stammered Lord Petersfield, who was naturally in a great state of mind, "people will accept our version rather than that of this vile old scandal-monger!"

"Alas!" sobbed Mabel, "I wish I thought so. You see, Lord Petersfield, I cannot help recognising the very unfortunate state of appearances. This is what Lady Slanderson will say—and it sounds unhappily plausible. She will say that if—if—we had—any—anything to conceal, we should, of course, be ready with an explanation, and that even at that, our explanation is lame and improbable. Besides, I know that dreadful woman too well to suppose that she will only confine herself to what she actually saw; she will enlarge, and exaggerate, and—and tell l— falsehoods, until —— Oh, I had rather have died than have had this happen! I—I—shall be r-ruined and disgraced for ever. I—I—shall never be able to hold up my head in Society again!"

"Oh, come, my dear Miss Wentwarp! It cannot surely be so bad as that," expostulated his lordship, with a confused, distracted air. "We must find some way to stop that—that—lying woman's mouth. To——"

"There is no way to shut it," groaned the unhappy young lady, despairingly. "I am a girl, Lord Petersfield, and my character is hopelessly compromised. If I had been a man, now——"

"What is to be done? How can I save you?" broke in the Viscount, wringing his hands, and evidently at his wits' end with dismay. "How—how—foolish I was to—to—enter your room—to——"

"And I to enter yours. But what is done is done!" said Mabel, checking her sobs, and speaking with solemn desperation. "I am prepared to face the worst!"

The Viscount was silent for a minute. A sudden idea, borne of the circumstances, had flashed across his mind. He had never thought of Mabel in this light before. He would not have done so now, unless the situation had forced it on him; but as he looked at her pretty, woeful face, he realised that it was not such an unwelcome light in which to think of her after all. In an instant (as shy men will) he had blurted out his mind, though rather enigmatically.

"My—my—dear Miss Mabel. I—I—might, for all that Lady Slanderson knows to the contrary, have—have—acquired the right to—to—take your—your—slippers to your room."

"I—I——What do you mean, Lord Petersfield?"

"Why," replied his lordship, blushing and stammering, "if I were—were—engaged to be married to you, Miss Mabel, it w-would make a—a—difference—wouldn't it?"

"Oh no, Lord Petersfield! Not that! Not that!" she cried, starting away.

"Couldn't you s-stand me at—at—any price, then?" gasped the Viscount, painfully mortified.

"Oh, yes. I—it was not that. I should—I mean I could not let you s-sacrifice yourself to—to—save my reputation."

"It wouldn't be much of a sacrifice," said his lordship, with an admiring glance at her fresh young face. "Do you know, I am rather glad now that this—this—unfortunate situation has opened my eyes? It—it—shows me something I didn't realise before. I—I—— Oh, Mabel, will you?"

These things have a way of happening suddenly. And it now happened suddenly that Mabel Wentwarp found herself enfolded in Lord Petersfield's mackintosh cape.

* * * * *

"He is a noble man, mamma," said the newly-engaged girl to her mother a few hours later. "He—he—says he didn't realise that he loved me till this morning. And I did not realise that—that—I loved him. If I had, I would n-never have played that horrid practical joke upon him about his—his pumps. But when he—he—sp-spoke to me, I knew in a moment that—that—I did love him; and that it had been cruel—shameful of me to carry on the j-joke this morning, simply to embarrass him. You will—will—never tell him that I meant it, originally, for a stupid hoax, will you, mamma dear?"

Lady Wentwarp smiled and kissed her.

"Don't be afraid of that, Mab. Your old mother will not give you away. It was a risky sort of joke, wasn't it? Though it has had the happiest results, as it seems to have opened both your eyes."

"An interchange of shoes resulted in an interchange of hearts," murmured Mabel, smiling with roguish happiness.

"Yes, Mab. But be careful, in this instance, not to hazard a re-exchange. Lord Petersfield's heart is worth a good deal more than his pumps."

MUSIC.

MORE ABOUT LANSDOWNE COTTELL.

I AM still in receipt of plenty of correspondence concerning Mr. Lansdowne Cottell, his London Conservatoire of Music in Porchester-road, his "free" scholarships, and his "salaried" secretaries. Some of these letters I cannot notice, and I must beg my correspondents to stick to facts, if possible supported by documents (of which there seem to be plenty), and to be as brief as practicable. Firstly, however, let me deal with a communication which I have received from Mr. Percy Harrison, of Birmingham. Mr. Harrison, in reply to my suggestion for an explanation why "Messrs. Harrison's Music Warehouse" was given as the address of the "Birmingham and Midlands District branch" of this precious "Conservatoire," writes:—

> I do not quite understand why any explanation at all is needed, either from my firm or myself, nor do I concede the right of any one to ask for it, as regards our having let to a professor of music for teaching purposes a room which some time ago we built specially for that purpose. Except from an article I happened to see in TRUTH a week or two ago (I do not remember the exact date), I know of nothing to the discredit of Mr. Cottell, who has always fulfilled his business obligations to ourselves faithfully and promptly. As a matter of fact, however, we have from the commencement of his tenancy objected to the mention of our name upon Mr. Cottell's prospectuses in such a manner as might possibly give the impression that we were in any way connected with the Conservatoire ourselves; not that I know of anything to the discredit of the Conservatoire, but simply that we did not think it was fair to other professors of music also using our teaching rooms, and some few months ago we asked Mr. Cottell to terminate his tenancy for the reason that we found that, notwithstanding an alteration in the address of the Birmingham branch upon a new issue of prospectuses (made at our request), the old prospectus was still somehow or other in circulation. Mr. Cottell does not now, therefore, give lessons at our warehouse.

Such pastoral simplicity from the Midlands will surely elicit admiration. Mr. Cottell's methods of doing business are perfectly obvious, and whether or not Mr. Harrison "concedes the right" of any one to ask for explanations, he has only himself to thank if the honoured name of himself or his firm is mixed up with these shady transactions. What on earth the punctual fulfilment of "business obligations to ourselves," or, in other words, the payment to Messrs. Harrison of some sort of rent,

has to do with the matter I cannot in this case understand. Rent would, I am sure, have no weight whatever with a house of so high a character, so high, indeed, that before the name of his firm was mentioned in connection with an enterprise such as that of Mr. Cottell, Mr. Harrison would have been wise to have made some inquiries. Mr. Cottell's newest circular, which has been sent to me, contains among the "branches" the announcement, "Birmingham, Messrs. W. S. Riley & Sons, Corporations-treet," the circular adding, "The director attends the branches for the examination of candidates for resident and other scholarships." What say Messrs. Riley & Sons? Another correspondent writes:—

Your correspondent Mr. F. was quite correct in his explanation of the "free" scholarships of the London Conservatoire of Music, though the *modus operandi* varies in accordance with the musical knowledge of the applicant. In my case introduction was made through an advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph* in which "Vocalists with experience were required for chorus in an opera which has been successfully run for some time," &c., &c., and my "free" education was to be given owing to my voice not being set, my age being but seventeen. Needless to say, after I had paid 31s. 6d. for the quarter's tuition, my indignation was very great when I found I was to pay another guinea for the music library, although I had had only three pieces of music while I had this "free" tuition. Two out of the three pieces paid for out of the library fund can be bought from any music dealer for a penny. With reference to Mr. Wood's application for secretaryship, the only secretary I knew was Mrs. Lansdowne Cottell.

Another gentleman writes at considerable length that he also answered these advertisements twelve or fourteen years ago:—

Mr. Cottell then advertised, as he has done recently, that free tuition would be granted for talent, &c. I stated I played the flute, and was granted an interview. This partook somewhat of the nature of an examination, which apparently was satisfactory. I was then asked for a guinea, which was called the library fee. I paid it, but all the tuition I received was this. An aged professor was engaged, who taught nearly every instrument under the sun, and we—that is to say, those who had entered under similar conditions to myself—were given about ten minutes once a week. The only music I received was one exercise. I was asked if I would join the orchestra at another guinea. I demurred, and said I would like to hear the orchestra first, but Mrs. Cottell informed me that this was quite against the rules. . . . I saw Mrs. Cottell one evening, and asked to see Mr. Cottell, as I was not satisfied with the tuition I had received. She tried to put me down in a very high-handed manner, but I persisted, and when I eventually did see Mr. Cottell he accused me of being insulting to his wife, and tried to wave me out of the room. I, feeling very much annoyed, gave him a piece of my mind, and threatened to write to the Press, when his manner entirely changed.

Another correspondent writes apropos to the advertisements for secretary, and upon which question I may have something more to say shortly:—

I can quite confirm what your correspondents tell you about the above benefactor. The first time I saw his advertisement three years ago I jumped at it, with the usual result, that the salary disappeared and the qualifying period became an urgent necessity, with a premium. Of course, I backed out, but I received numerous packets and advertisements from him after my application. Since then I have noticed his advertisements in the *Times* and other papers. About a year after my application I answered him again to see how the game was. He was evidently on the same tack, and still very deficient in note-paper, his correspondence being limited to odds and ends.

These examples of my correspondence will doubtless be instructive to the public and, possibly, also to that unsuspicious gentleman, Mr. Percy Harrison.

Two more Festivals took place last week, and both might have been more successful had they been held in September instead of October. The September Festivals are usually profitable; but to clash in October with the London concert season and with numerous performances given in the country is surely foolish on the part of Festival committees. The Sheffield Festival was, however, a new affair, and was limited to a couple of days without novelties. A choir of about 300 voices, picked from four times that number of Yorkshire singers, was the chief item of interest; and it was, indeed, quite the best chorus of the present year's festivals.

At Bristol they are congratulating themselves that there will be little or no call on the guarantors—a fact which will interest those luckless individuals far more than the general public. Bristol is not likely to do much better while it confers the pride of place upon German vocalists who know little of English oratorio, and while it cannot more judiciously choose its novelties. The Festival was held too late in October, and the programmes were of preposterous proportions. Evening concerts nearly four hours long are a gross absurdity either at festivals or anywhere else, and, indeed, as a matter of fact, not a single night's programme at Bristol last week was finished, it in every case being necessary to strike out two or three items in order to get the affair over before the last train started for the outskirts. The choir singing here, indeed, was the biggest attraction, particularly in Brahms' noble "German Requiem" and Parry's "Job." Of the novelties Gounod's "Requiem" was the feeblest. It is quite "old man's" music, and, although very simple and melodious, it would have been better for the composer's memory if a festival production had been avoided. It is essentially a work for the Church The curious mistake was made by nearly all the London "specials" who went down to Bristol to do this work (although it is only fair to say that the "specials" were chiefly deputies, most of the critics remaining in London for the Colonne concerts) that while Gounod was playing the Requiem over at the piano on October 15, 1893, he suddenly died; the date, it was expressly pointed out, being exactly three years to the day before the production of the "Requiem" at Bristol. As a matter of fact, Gounod died on October 18. Three days before, it is true, he was seized with one of his numerous fainting fits, although I do not suppose that the "Requiem" had anything particularly to do with it. Professor Prout's organ concerto, produced, it seems, in Bristol twelve years since, was played by Mr. Riseley. Those who think Professor Prout a rampant Wagnerite, which he is not, may be interested to learn that the concerto in question is more or less Mozartian. A clever setting was introduced by Mr. Miles, a local musician, of Coleridge's "Hymn to Sunrise," about as unfit for musical treatment as any poem I know. Mr. Miles is a pupil of Dr. Hubert Parry—a fact which his music sufficiently indicates. A short scena, entitled "Siddartha," by Mr. Roeckel, was well sung by Mr. Andrew Black, although otherwise it did not make any particular impression. It rained pretty persistently through the week—a fact upon which one of the "specials" seems greatly inclined to impute blame to the Festival Committee.

An enthusiastic amateur, Mr. A. Morten, writes me in laudatory terms, which I am sure are well deserved, of the performance recently at the Crystal Palace by Mr. Manns' permanent orchestra of six of Beethoven's symphonies; in the "Eroica," he adds, "the wondrous Marche Funèbre literally wringing drops of blood from the hearts of the sensitive." If Mr. Morten is right in his use of the word "literally," the case, I fear, is one for the coroner.

The Colonne season ended on Saturday afternoon, and the band three hours later left for Brussels, where I hope they will have better programmes, and, consequently, better luck. The British public nowadays demand a specialty. Wagner and Beethoven are the specialty of Richter, Wagner of Mottl, and so forth. M. Colonne's specialty is Berlioz, for the only two works which he gave by Wagner showed that he is by no means in sympathy with the Bayreuth master, while his rendering of Beethoven's C minor symphony could have been bettered at many a London concert. But in Berlioz M. Colonne is a truly great conductor, and we shall all hope to hear the more neglected works of this much-neglected French master when the Châtelet Band next returns to us.

Just as the Colonne Orchestra started for Brussels on Saturday night one of the players discovered that he had left his viola in a cab. His grief was very touching, and mingled with it was a sort of half-suspicion that his carelessness was mainly due to the traditional perfidiousness of Albion. The instrument in its case was, however, at

once taken to the station by a scared cabman, who declared that it looked like a baby's coffin, and might frighten his missus. The sovereign reward which the cabman received will, when put into the bulkier form of francs, doubtless still more frighten the French viola player, and when he is invited to pay the amount, will convince him that there is something else to be avenged than Waterloo.

Although I was not astonished to read in a halfpenny paper on Saturday that M. Colonne was "the founder of the famous Berlioz cycle"—the writer apparently labouring under the impression that this is a new grade of wheel—I confess it rather startled me when I read in my *Pall Mall Gazette*, apropos of the Archbishop's memorial service at Westminster Abbey, that "Dr. Purcell was at the organ." We have only recently celebrated the bi-centenary of Purcell's birth, and if we could only catch the veteran in his old place in the Abbey, an interview would settle the question which has so long estranged Professor Bridge and Mr. W. H. Cummings, out of which particular window Purcell was looking when he died. Then the *Pall Mall* gentleman—an able writer, who forgot how dangerous it is for a layman to meddle with musical criticism—went on to say:—"The beautiful hymn by Dean Milman, 'Brother, thou art gone before us,' was sung to Bridge's version, which is shorter, and in many respects more beautiful than the setting by Croft." Poor old Croft lies buried in the Abbey since 1727, of a chill contracted at the coronation of George II. The anachronism is almost as funny as the hopeless blundering of the Festival preacher, who eloquently descanted upon the feelings of Handel when he first heard the Baal choruses in "Elijah."

Senor Sarasate drew an enormous audience to the Crystal Palace on Saturday, his only appearance with an orchestra this season. He played Mendelssohn's concerto in his old and almost perfect style, taking the final movement, indeed, about as rapidly as it could be taken. Dr. Richter has returned, and on Monday gave his first concert at Queen's Hall. Unfortunately the three Dvorak novelties could not be heard this autumn, as the Bohemian composer is making some slight alterations in the music. Beethoven and Wagner are, however, the best draws for Richter, and the present series promises to be worth a pile of money. The performance on Monday of the prelude to the third act of "Die Meistersinger" was one of the finest amateurs have heard for many years.

The Sunday concerts began for the winter last Sunday, and the Lord's Day Observance Society will doubtless be interested to learn that in about a dozen concert halls and Town Halls in various parts of London the audiences aggregated some fifteen thousand people. A new Festal March for organ, entitled "Illogan," by Mr. H. C. Tonking, had a capital reception at the Albert Hall; while for "The Golden Legend," at Queen's Hall, more than five hundred people failed to gain admission to this crowded building. I marvel how much longer the absurd fiction will be continued of considering these popular Sunday concerts illegal.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Most of the new hats are worn over one eye, and they are most becoming. A black felt that we saw at Clematis's, in Maddox-street, was trimmed with pale blue velvet in tall loops and bows, and a miniature hedge of feathers, green and white. Another, with the brim in black velvet, had a high crown of white satin, veiled with a transparent embroidery in pink and green chenille and sequins. A plume of cocks' feathers gave the necessary touch of height, and there was also a black gauze ruche. Very picturesque was a green beaver hat in the Marie Antoinette shape, the high crown being embroidered with "pines" in cashmere tints and gold, and the whole trimmed with sky-blue velvet and a flat bow of chinchilla. A rose pink felt hat was trimmed with black velvet lace and three or four plumes of the bird of Paradise, with their lovely curves dyed black. Capes and boas to suit the headgear were strewed about, and Lilla, who was with us, tried almost every one of them on. She bought a delicious toque for wearing at Niagara. The crown is white satin, studded with emeralds and diamonds, the trimming consisting of green velvet, sable, clusters of violets, and black feathers. For church wear she also purchased a bonnet, with the quaintest little upright "curtain" at the back in dark green velvet. The bonnet itself is in wavy lines of green and gold embroidery, with bows of emerald green velvet, and a little sable introduced.

Evening dress is to be beautiful this season. You would agree with me if you could see some of the lovely dresses that Russell & Allen have prepared for dinner, ball, play, and reception. Mr. Augustine Joyce is a colourist, both born and made, and his effects are always excellent, and, at the same time, subordinated to the becoming, this, after all, being the great thing. Fancy a brocade with ground in a tone of delicate ivory, the skirt arranged in a very deep flounce, in itself making quite two-thirds of the length, and put on straight round with a thick cord. The design of the brocade consists of clusters of golden wheat ears glittering with a satin sheen. The flounce is cut out in curves all the way round, and edged with small ruches of yellow chiffon. Under the flounce are glimpses to be seen of a yellow chiffon petticoat, with rows of ruching to match. The bodice is turned back from the front in small rolled revers, edged with more narrow yellow ruching. Between them falls a plastron of bright turquoise velvet, wide at the top and falling loosely in a point at the waist. This is embroidered with silver, diamonds, and turquoise exactly matched to the tint of the velvet. You can imagine the effect of this bit of brilliant blue with the yellow and ivory of the brocade. The sleeves are made of folds upon folds of soft yellow chiffon with the arm showing just a little bit between them.

And here is another delicious evening gown. The skirt is pink satin, with soft pink roses outlining an imaginary tablier in front and forming drooping curves all round. From the highest point where the vandykes meet there is a little falling drapery of pink chiffon, tassel-shaped, and caught near the top with a diamond buckle. The front of the bodice is all soft chiffon barred across with narrow bands of pink satin embroidered with silver and finished with bows of pink and silver. Round the shoulders are more pink roses, the petals soft and loose, and guiltless of green, like those on the skirt. There is, however, a wide green sash floating out over the skirt at the back and edged all round with pink chiffon. This sash begins in folded flatness at the back of the arms and meeting at the waist under three or four loops, some pointing upwards, some downwards, but all held in place by a sweet little waistband of pink satin and silver. The sleeves are satin puffs veiled by a double frill of pink chiffon, edged with narrow, but very full, pink ruches.

Have I mentioned epaulettes of roses and a spray of silver dog roses in front? Don't you admire that gown?

And here is a black satin, skirt plain, and bodice with a vest of creamy embroidered net, drawn down to a point in front, and given a pinky warmth by the introduction of a little pink chiffon behind it. The epaulettes are a considerable feature, being made in the shape of revers in gold lace embroidered with turquoises and black velvet. A narrow black velvet ruche makes a softening line round the shoulders, and the bodice is finished with black satin at the waist.

Both smart and chic is a white satin, with a high bodice of cream-tinted lace made full in front under a bow of narrow turquoise velvet caught with a large steel buckle.

"The Riding Habit has a perfectly shaped skirt and a beautifully moulded bodice, cut as only Busvine of Brook-street can cut."—*The World*, July 22nd, 1896.

HUNTING.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is produced by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Corsets built by Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

A similar buckle fastened the wide, folded band of blue velvet at the waist. But the sweetest touch was a dainty little zouave of the turquoise velvet, edged with silver, and sewn with turquoises, and made quite short. In front it curved round and away again, leaving the full lace front uncovered, with its runnings of white satin baby ribbon. The long, tight sleeves were covered with lace under lace epaulettes, with narrow satin ribbon run through.

I am afraid my description has scarcely conveyed the subtle charm of this quiet but most effective bodice.

For a girl, what could be prettier than a white satin, the bodice trimmed with fine lace laid over pink chiffon, and embroidered in silver and brilliants? The sleeves are soft billows of pink chiffon, and the front of the bodice is all pink softness veiled with the jewelled lace. The bodice is cut out in heart-shape in front, and a design of lily of the valley embroidered in silver and tied with a diamond bow follows the curved outline.

A high dinner bodice was in bright pink silk with black chiffon lightly frilled over it, very narrow, hemmed frills crossing it, each headed with jet sequins. The sleeves were veiled with black net appliqué with white lace and brightened with jet.

A smart bodice of this kind could be worn with a black skirt or a pink, according to occasion, and would therefore prove extremely useful. A band of pink and one of white satin were folded round the waist as a finish, and the lace on the chest and shoulders was transparent. The skirt was in pink veiled with black chiffon and trimmed with a full flounce of the same headed with jet sequins. Another love of a bodice was in black satin and bright apple-green. It was made with a zouave and had little bands held with rows of small diamond clasps. And a third was made of white embroidered lisse kilted and finished with a group of yellow satin bows on either side of the front, also a belt of the satin.

Some lovely embroideries were among the sights we saw in that happy half-hour. One was in palest green satin with butterflies in their natural colours wrought in beads, the satin between them being studded with diamonds and silver sequins. Another was in white satin with a design of narrow black lace appliqué upon it in the shape of immense bows, the curves of which went rippling round the skirt. A huge turquoise clasp held the centre of each bow, and the lace was everywhere outlined with jet and steel sequins.

And with a last bit of embroidery, intended for the skirt and bodice of a dress, my list closes. On white satin, it consisted of pink coral, pearls, and diamonds, worked together in a design so light and graceful that the very architecture of it was a pleasure to the eye. Rising in tiers of perpendicular lines, wide at the base and becoming more and more slender as they became higher, their airy lightness of effect was conspicuous.

Do not you always find the selection of a dress for a fancy ball a brain-racking problem? I do; there are so many characters one thinks about, and it is so difficult to make up one's mind which will suit one best. I am, therefore, thankful to Messrs. Debenham & Freebody for bringing out a new and improved edition of "Fancy Dresses Described." The volume gives you a vast array of costumes to choose from, but the lucid description of them by "Ardern Holt" (Mrs. Carson), together with the advice she gives and the numerous illustrations in colours and black and white by Miss Lilian Young, greatly simplify your task. The edition just published has been brought up to date, and is practically a new book.

Do you wear fringe nets? We find them a grand institution in this damp weather It is pleasant to be able to go out without a veil, and one cannot well do this unless one wears a net, for it is extremely disagreeable to feel the fringe growing gradually more and more beyond control. The nets are made of human hair. I cannot imagine how the peasant women of France can manage to net them without breaking the delicate material.

Some girls pin them on too tightly and give a precise and formal look of stiffness to the top of the head, instead of the light softness that should be the ideal. We often wonder what we should do without them.

Maud's baby is such a darling! She is immensely delighted with it, and her dear little face wears a chronic smile of joy and happiness. Motherhood has deepened the expression of her eyes. As to Charlie, it is funny to see him trying not to look pleased when we are all worshipping the baby. He is five months old now, and has just had a new winter pelisse, a sweet thing in cream-coloured plush, with a collar of white Thibet goat. In his white felt hat, with its ostrich plumes and silk pompons, he is a delicious little scrap. Clare and Bee pay him daily visits, and are intensely gratified when they manage to evoke a toothless smile from him. The deep solemnity that invariably follows this relaxation amuses me immensely. Surely that tiny morsel can scarcely realise already the impending woes of human existence?

Are you going to learn to play the bagpipes? It seems it is the fashionable thing to do. After the tum-tum of the banjo comes the skirling of the Celt. By the way, I wonder if there is any philological connection between the word Celt and "kilt"?

Though I have Scotch blood in my veins, I must admit that there are times when I do not love the bagpipes. Out of doors and a long way off there is something pleasing about their barbaric music, and no one who has not heard pipers play "Lochaber no More" and "The Flowers of the Forest" could imagine what depths of pathos they can express. But in a room, however large, the bagpipes are enough to drive anybody mad.

I don't think I shall learn to play them!

Just fancy how one would have to blow out one's cheeks in order to elicit the due amount of skirling; and then it would be quite unorthodox to make the music without doing a sentry-go up and down the room. What a ridiculous figure one would cut! But if it is to be the fashion, little will people reck of that!

Niagara reopened on Monday afternoon. We went, and found a full attendance, in spite of the weather, which was dismal, dark, and dreary in the extreme. It was a delicious contrast to come in from the murky greyness outside to the warmth and brightness of the corridors, with their thick, soft carpets, and coloured lights. There was, as usual, some excellent skating, and we noticed some very sweet frocks. One was brown, with a wide, folded belt of green velvet. A too delicious cape was in black velvet, with a deep flounce of chinchilla over wide embroidered lace. We saw also a chinchilla coat with black velvet sleeves which pleased us mightily. The prices of admission are unaltered, but non-skaters are admitted in the afternoon on payment of half-a-crown apiece. Books of tickets are to be had at reduced rates. We intend to go very often, as it is all so bright and festive. There are to be four fancy balls, the dates of which are not yet fixed.

Clare sends me the following:—

Dearest Madge,—At this season, when life is not being "rushed," but rather, as some think, allowed to stagnate, there is time to practise the almost lost art of thinking. Especially if one be in a quiet country house where the older fashion prevails of leaving the men in undisturbed possession of the right to slaughter, and the women to their own devices. One cannot talk all day; less now than at any other time of the year, for, by the usual irony of fate, the dearth of materials to make conversation is greatest when the need for them is most. A kind of lethargy seems to fall on society with the fall of the leaf, gossip grows fitful and thin, even scandal languishes. One topic of conversation alone does not fall away, but quite the contrary; the weather nobly does its best to make up for all other deficiencies. It comes amongst us in every variety of rampant mood, forcing our attention by its destructive

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vagaries; blowing down trees, destroying gardens, and hurling winter into our midst, whilst we are still fondly nursing hopes of a possible St. Martin's summer.

Perhaps the sea, which we are in sound of here, made us pensive, or the roar of the wind in the trees, and the swish of the rain through the air. We all began to think, more or less, but decidedly more than at any time before during the year. Some were only thinking out their coming toilets, and some their winter plans, but others, taking a wider range, applied themselves to thinking out life in general. As the result of our reflections, we were all agreed that if we only did think occasionally we should not take life so "rushingly," nor swallow our enjoyments so quickly one after another, that we cannot really taste any one of them. Somehow or other, every one who is any one now, is called on to do a great deal more than a man's or woman's work in the day, and, of course, we all follow suit. In fact, only the working man, with his limit of hours, has leisure.

What a record the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Russia to France supplied! On reading all that they did in a few days, with no more than the usual amount of hours, one was almost obliged to think that Royal nature must be superior to mere human nature. One is glad for the sake of the Royal pair—not to forget the baby too—and somewhat for our own sakes also, that they have disappeared into private life out of the columns of the daily papers. Poor Dr. Benson! He wanted a greater holiday than his visit to Ireland gave him. He had had too busy a time here between business, social engagements, and sight-seeing.

Dublin is now beginning to fill again, but it is not announced when the Lord Lieutenant will return to the Viceregal Lodge. It is usual for the Chief Secretary to occupy his residence in the Phœnix Park from November till the meeting of Parliament calls him to London. Probably Mr. Gerald and Lady Betty Balfour will soon arrive there. Lady Betty was an ardent cyclist last year; the roads in the Phœnix are very good and very extensive, and much patronised by cyclists in general. The "bike" has conquered the world, but there remains yet the weather and the mud for it to conquer. The cyclist is just as sensitive to wind, in his own way, as the seaman in his. Breezes find him out, of which the pedestrian is happily unconscious—adverse winds in especial. Is it not the curious case with every cyclist that no matter what point of the compass he may be turned to, the wind has a knack of being in his face? In its future developments one wonders if the bicycle will be able to get across country. Then, indeed, the horse would be in a parlous way. Meanwhile, the hunter maintains his position unshaken. The gathering together of mighty hunters is already beginning in Meath. Amongst the new arrivals in the county this season are Lord and Lady Downshire. Lord Downshire does not live much at his family place in the County of Down, but he has the taste for the horse of most of his countrymen, and appears in Ireland usually for the Horse Show week, and such-like high festivals of the animal. The races at Tullow, County Carlow, were very successful last week and were patronised by the elect of the county, Mr. J. Doyne dispensing hospitality after a most generous fashion. The weather, though cold, had calmed down from the boisterous mood, so disturbing for out-of-door pastimes.—Yours ever, CLARE.

I am compelled, dear, to hold my recipes over until next week.—Your loving cousin, MADGE.

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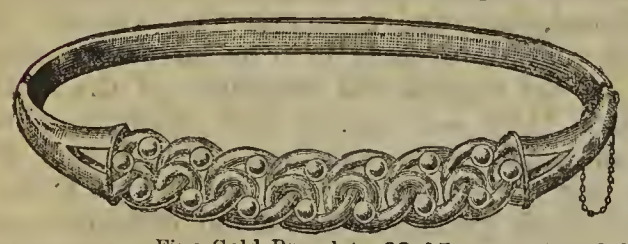

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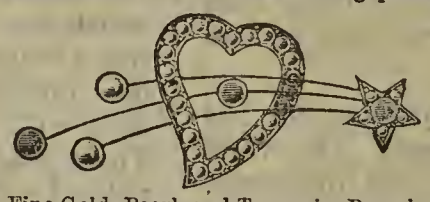

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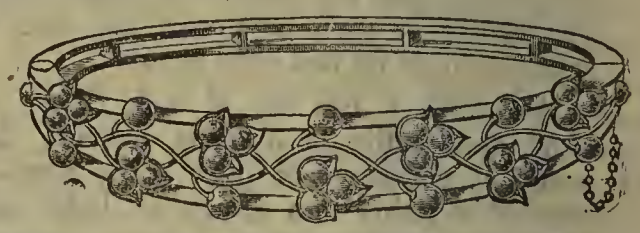

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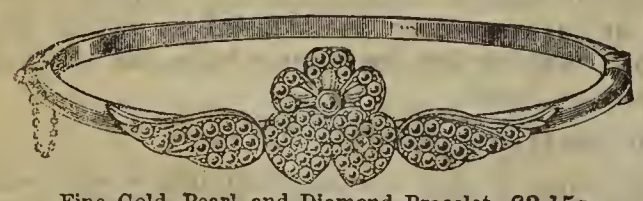

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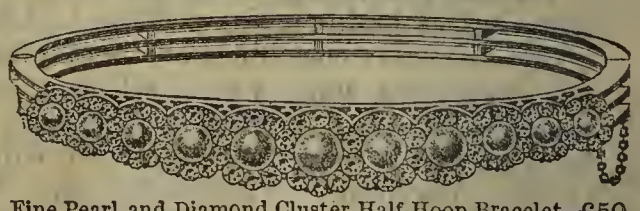

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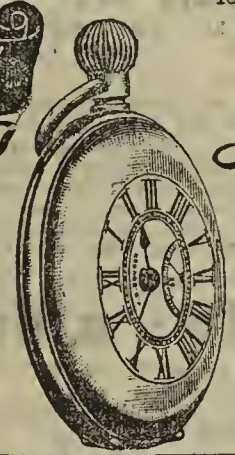

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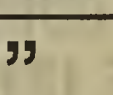

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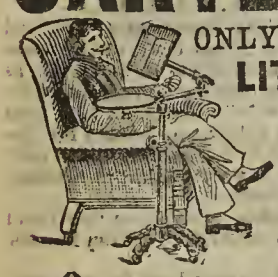

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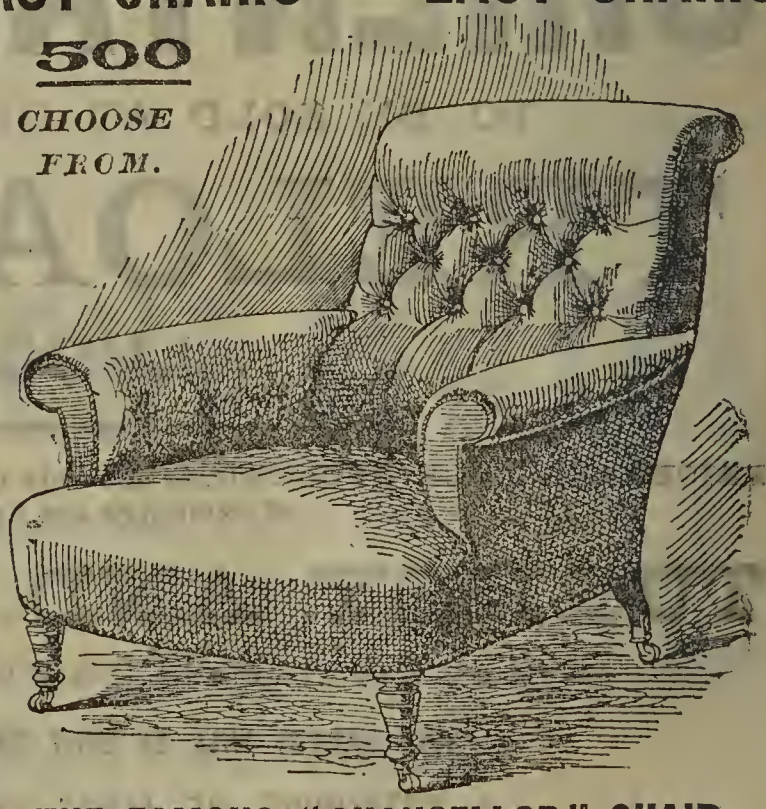

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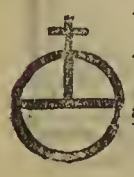

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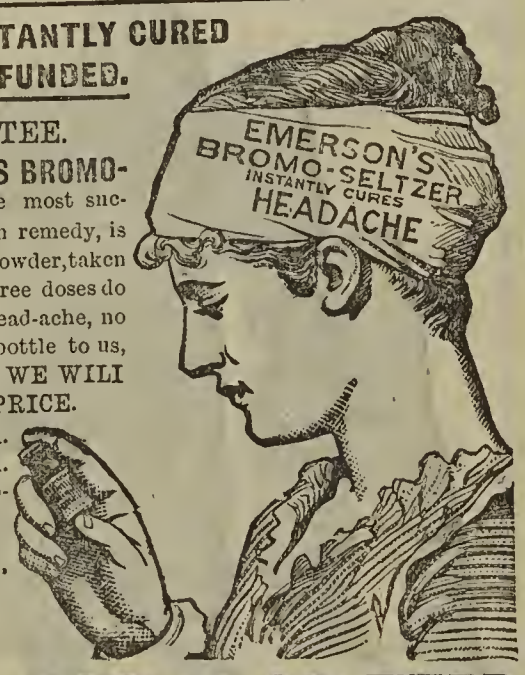
INSIST ON FULL NAME—



EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS & CO., JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE

JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.
BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.
LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will OPEN on MONDAY, the 19th day of OCTOBER, 1896, and will CLOSE for both Town and Country on WEDNESDAY, the 21st day of OCTOBER, 1896.

THE MEXICAN COTTON ESTATES of TLAHUALILO, incorporated in 1890, under the Stock Companies Statutes of the Republic of Mexico, as the COMPANIA AGRICOLA, INDUSTRIAL Y COLONIZADORA DEL TLAHUALILO, LIMITADA, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA of the CITY of MEXICO.

London Agency: 20, Threadneedle-street, E.C.

Share Capital, $2,600,000, equal to	£288,000
Undivided Profits expended in development	119,372
Temporary Loans expended in development, to be repaid out of the present Issue	62,920
Total Capital already invested	£468,292

(Exchange take at 26 4-10d.

ISSUE of £350,000 SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES of £100 each at par. The Debentures will be to bearer with option of registration at the Company's Office in the City of London, and will be secured by a registered First Mortgage in favour of Trustees, upon the landed properties, fixed plant and machinery, water rights, franchises, and concession below specified. They are redeemable out of the profits of the Company by annual drawings commencing October 1st, 1901, at £105 per Debenture, or by purchase in the market under that price, under the operation of an accelerated Sinking Fund below mentioned. Any Debentures not so redeemed will be repaid at £105 per Debenture, on October 1st, 1916. The Company also reserves the power to pay off all or any Debentures at £110 per Debenture, at any time after October 1st, 1901, on three months' notice.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

Howard Potter, Esq., Messrs. Brown, Shipley, & Co., Founders'-court, E.C.
The Lord Welby of Allington, G.C.B.
Henry P. Sturgis, Esq., Director London and Westminster Bank, Limited.

The LONDON BANK of MEXICO and SOUTH AMERICA, Limited, are authorised to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS for the above ISSUE of DEBENTURES at par, payable as follows:—

On Application	£5	per Debenture.
On Allotment	£15	"
On November 16th, 1896	£25	"
On December 10th, 1896	£25	"
On January 11th, 1897	£30	
	£100	

Payment in full may be made on Allotment, under discount at the rate of Three per cent. per annum.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer, with Coupon attached for the interest up to 1st April, 1897, calculated from the due dates of the instalments, will be issued in exchange for the Allotment Letter as soon as possible after payment of the instalment due 16th November, 1896.

The debentures with coupons attached, payable in London in sterling on 1st April and 1st October in each year, will be delivered in exchange for the fully-paid scrip on the 1st April, 1897.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company was formed in 1890 to acquire and develop the Tlahualilo Cotton Estate, situated in the Laguna District, in the State of Durango, Northern Mexico, together with the franchises, concessions, water rights, &c., thereto pertaining.

The total area of its properties (which are held in fee-simple, under registered titles), according to the Engineer's report, is about 135,000 acres, of which approximately 122,000 are alluvial lands.

About 66,000 acres are now developed and producing net profits as shown below. The principal object of the present issue of Mortgage Debentures is to enable the Company to complete, without further delay, the development and equipment of the remaining 69,000 acres.

The condition of Mexico itself, as to its finances, internal development, and security, is one of increasing prosperity, and its promise for the future is bright and encouraging.

Fuller particulars of the properties will be found in the statement of Mr. James Brown Potter, enclosed with the full Prospectus.

Copies of the Engineering and other Expert Reports can be obtained on application at the Bankers, Solicitors, and Stockbrokers, below mentioned.

The accounts of the Company, since its incorporation, have been submitted to Messrs. Herman Lescher & Co., Chartered Accountants, of 6, Clement's-lane, E.C., whose certificate appears in the full Prospectus.

The net profits for the year 1894-5 amounted to £54,860 3s. 6d., or considerably more than twice, and those for the year 1895-6 to £64,512 3s. 3d., or more than three times the amount required to pay the interest—£21,000—on this issue of debentures, and it is anticipated that with the further development of the estates and the additional working capital provided for by the present issue the net annual revenue will be largely increased.

As additional security for the Debenture Holders the Company will covenant with the trustees to apply its net revenue in each year, after payment of interest on the Debentures and before payment of any dividend on its share capital, to the following purposes.

1. To providing a Sinking Fund, in accordance with the Trust Deed, for the redemption of the Debentures by drawings at £105 per cent., commencing 1st October, 1901, or by purchase in the market under that price as set out in the draft Trust Deed.
2. To setting aside Five per Cent. of the net profits as a reserve fund.

Applications for Debentures should be made on the form accompanying prospectus, and forwarded to The London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited, No. 144, Leadenhall-street, E.C., with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

Full prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from The London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited, 144, Leadenhall-street, E.C.; from W. H. Morrison, Esq., Founders'-court, E.C.; and from Messrs. Laurence, Sons, & Gardner, 13, Copthall-court, E.C.

London, 15th October, 1896.

TO INVESTORS.

STOCK CONVERSION AND INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN DEFERRED CHARGE STOCK).—Attention is drawn to the above Stock, which is quoted on the London and leading provincial Stock Exchanges. It receives for each year ending June 30th all dividends paid in excess of 5% on an equal amount of London and North-Western Railway Ordinary Stock. Its last dividend was at the rate of One Pound Five Shillings Per Cent., which at the present price of the Stock—viz., 29 per cent.—YIELDS A RETURN OF FOUR POUNDS SIX SHILLINGS PER CENT., and EACH ADDITIONAL FIVE SHILLINGS PER CENT. PAID ON LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN ORDINARY STOCK WILL INCREASE THIS RETURN BY SEVENTEEN SHILLINGS PER CENT.

The London and North-Western Railway traffic has increased by over £100,000 during the past 12 weeks, and there is thus every reason to anticipate an increasing dividend. No Home Railway Security yields so good an income return. The register of this Stock is kept by the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited.

WALTER F. GOODWIN, Secretary.

Offices of the Company, 12-13, Nicholas-lane, E.C.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.

13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: "**Reinvest, London.**"

Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.

Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

In view of the few Shares now available, all applications opened on 22nd October will be dealt with in strict order of priority, the right, however, being reserved of allotting only half the Shares applied for, should such a course be deemed advisable.

THE ACQUISITION TRUST OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED, of 33, St. Swithin's-lane, and ELMSLIE, LIMITED, Blomfield House, London Wall, now invite Subscription for 400 Four and a-half per Cent. Debentures of £50 each at £52. 10s., and 24,000 Shares (in terms of the Prospectus) out of a full issue of 120,000 Shares, the balance, viz., 96,000, having already been allotted. The Subscription closes at Four p.m., Wednesday, 21st October.

THE CENTRAL QUEENSLAND LAND CORPORATION, LIMITED, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL £120,000, divided into 120,000 Shares of £1 each, fully paid.

DEBENTURES: 1,600 Debentures of £50=£80,000 bearing interest at Four and a-half per Cent. per annum.

Present issue of 400 Four-and-a-half per cent. Debentures of £50 each at £52 10s.; 24,000 Shares of £1 each at par, payable as follows;—

	Debentures. £ s. d.	Ordinary Shares. £ s. d.
On application	12 10 0	0 5 0
On allotment	40 0 0	0 15 0
	£52 10 0	£1 0 0

The Debentures will be terminable in ten years, redeemable after five years on six months' notice being given, at the rate of £55 for each £50 Debenture.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE-HOLDERS.

A. Cotterell Tupp, Esq. } One to retire on appointment of a
P. G. Spence, Esq. } Debenture-holder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

A. Cotterell Tupp, Esq., I.C.S., F.S.S., Chairman (late Accountant-General to the Government of India; Director Imperial Western Australian Corporation, Limited).
P. G. Spence, Esq. (Messrs. Spence, Wallis, & Co., 17, Pinpot-lane (Chairman, Duckwari (Ceylon) Tea Company, Limited).
C. T. Elmslie, Esq., Assoc. Inst. Min. & Met. (Chairman of "Elmslie, Limited." & "Croydon Consols").
L. F. Sachs, Esq. (Chairman of the Acquisition Trust of Australia, Limited).
Sir Raymond West, K.C.I.E., Deputy-Chairman

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Sutton, Ommanney & Rowdall, 3 & 4, Great Winchester street, E.C.

BANKERS FOR DEBENTURES.—The National Bank of Scotland, 37, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, E.C.

BANKERS FOR SHARES.—Bank of Scotland, 19, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

MANAGING DIRECTOR.—J. Y. Foote, Esq., Gladstone, Queensland.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Mellors, Basden, & Co., 33, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Mr. Thomas Haydon, 33, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Corporation has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the practical monopoly of land in the rapidly rising district of Gladstone, Port Curtis (Central Queensland). The present extension of the great Railway System of Australia (now in course of completion) should speedily convert this natural Port into the leading commercial City of Queensland—a Colony which bids fair to take a premier position amongst British possessions.

As a matter of fact, Port Curtis (Gladstone) is not only the finest harbour on the entire coast of Queensland, but ranks as a Port only second to Sydney Harbour, admitted to be the finest in the known commercial world.

Throughout Australia, the establishment of a new Port has invariably been attended by a large increment in the value of real estate in its vicinity.

In every case the enormous rise in value was attributable to the opening of railway communication.

The Central Queensland Land Corporation is now possessed of certain valuable blocks of Freehold Estate, with frontage to the Main Railway Line, and within two miles of the Municipal boundary of the town of Gladstone, the aggregate area of the land being 3,159 acres, the whole of which the Directors believe to be well adapted for the purpose of cutting up into suburban residential blocks, orange groves, farms, and areas suitable for manufactories, all such divisions of the land being certain to command a very high price in the near future.

To avoid increasing the present share capital, it has been deemed advisable to make provision for the issue of debentures not exceeding £80,000, the proceeds of which will be exclusively devoted to the acquisition of freehold estate, which is computed to bring in a net rental in excess of the interest payable on the debentures. These debentures will, in addition, be secured on the land which has already been paid for out of the capital of the Corporation.

The time for completion of the contracts for carrying the Main Trunk Line of Australasian Railways into the town of Gladstone is fixed for July, 1897, but it is more than probable the contractors will have the line opened for traffic some months sooner. Information recently received by cable from the Agent of the Corporation at Gladstone, and from other independent sources, already discloses considerable improvement in the business prospects, the value of real estate "progressing by leaps and bounds." It appears to be only a fair and reasonable assumption, considering what has happened at similar ports on the introduction of railway communication, that in four years from the commencement of traffic the realisable value of the land alone (not including mining rights) will be not less than £200 per acre. If the land be cut up into suitable blocks for residential purposes, suburban town allotments, &c., there is but little doubt the above estimate may be largely exceeded; and, indeed, it is impossible to calculate the probable future value of these holdings.

Quite enough has been adduced to indicate the nature of this Corporation, as constituting an investment, rather than a mere speculation. The following, however, may be briefly noted:—

1. The Title Deeds of the property have been conveyed direct to the Corporation, and are deposited with its Solicitors.
2. Each Shareholder is at once practically seized of an individual interest in 3,159 acres of Freehold, and any further acquisition of Real Estate.
3. After payment for the Shares there is no further liability, direct or indirect.
4. Taking the known increment of value on land contiguous to the present Ports of Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville as a basis for calculation, there are fair and reasonable grounds for believing that the area of land possessed by this Corporation, within a few years from the present period, will attain an average value of at least £200 per acre.
5. The recent discoveries of Gold reefs running through the freehold present large possibilities of profits in the future.
6. With the complete issue of Shares—independently of Debentures—the position of the Corporation is as follows—It is possessed of Real Estate aggregating 3,159 acres Freehold Land; several valuable "options"; and about £11,000 Cash in hand for future Investment.
7. The steady increment in the value of Queensland Coast lands makes the Shares and Debentures of this Corporation a safe investment, commending itself to Trustees, and those who wish provision made for children. As a vehicle for speculation or gambling it possesses no attraction.

Copies of the Agreements, and of the Debenture Trust Deed and Form of Debenture, together with the Certificate of Title to lands belonging to the Corporation, can be seen at the Offices of the Corporation, and of the Solicitors to the Corporation.

For Contracts, Reports, Maps, &c., see full Prospectus.

Applications for Shares or Debentures may be made on the forms accompanying the Prospectus and forwarded to the Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application, or by letter direct to the Secretary of The Acquisition Trust of Australia, Limited, 33, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C., or of Elmslie, Limited, Blomfield House, London Wall, E.C.

Copies of Full Prospectus, with reports, maps, and photographs, may be had on application to the Secretary, 33, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C. or from Elmslie, Limited, Blomfield House, E.C.

The List of Applications will Open on Wednesday, the 21st Oct., and Close on or before Friday, the 23rd Oct., 1896, at 4 p.m. for Town, and Saturday, the 24th, at Noon, for the Country and Abroad.

WM. CORY & SON, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL, £2,000,000,

Divided into 170,000 5 per Cent. Preference Shares of £5 each, and 230,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each.

Issue of 170,000 Preference Shares of £5 each,

Of which one-third will be taken by the Vendors, the balance, 113,340, being now offered for Subscription,

And Four per Cent. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK amounting to £800,000 at 103.

The Preference Shares are entitled to a Cumulative Preferential Dividend of Five per Cent. per annum, and are Preferential both as to Capital and Dividend.

The Debenture Stock will be issued in multiples of £10, and will be redeemable at £108 per cent., in whole, or in part by drawings, at the option of the Company at any time after December 31st, 1906, on six months' notice. The Stock will be secured by a Trust Deed providing for a first mortgage to the Trustees of the freehold, copyhold, and various leasehold properties, and for a floating charge on the steamers, steam-tugs, sea-going lighters, and barges, and on all the movable plant, stock, book debts, and other assets of the Company. But the Company is not to be at liberty to create any charge on its steamers or other vessels, lighters, barges, or shares in ships or in shipping, or other Companies, so as to rank in priority to, or equally with, the Debenture Stock, or to charge any of its other assets comprised in the floating charge, so that more than £50,000 at any one time shall rank in priority to, or equally with, the Debenture Stock. The Stock will be transferable in multiples of £10, and will be registered in the books of the Company. Interest will be payable half-yearly on the 1st April and 1st October in each year. The Company reserves the right to purchase the Debenture Stock in the market, for the purpose of redemption and cancellation only.

The Vendors reserve to themselves the right to take up to one-third of the Debenture Stock at the issue price, and have agreed to take one-third of the whole Preference Share Capital in part payment, in either case, of the purchase price, this being the largest proportion allowed by the Rules of the Stock Exchange to applicants for an official quotation.

The Ordinary Shares are not offered for subscription, the Vendors taking 170,000 shares in part satisfaction of the purchase price, the remaining 60,000 shares being reserved for future issue as required.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Issues of Debenture Stock and Preference Shares are payable as follows:—

	Debenture Stock.	Preference Shares.
On Application	**10 Per Cent.**	**£1 0 0**
On Allotment	**43 ,,**	**£1 10 0**
On Dec. 1st, 1896	**50 ,,**	**£2 10 0**

Trustees for the Debenture Stock Holders.
SIR JAMES JOICEY, Bart., M.P., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
J. FENWICK FENWICK, Esq., 57, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

Solicitors to the Trustees.—FRESHFIELDS & WILLIAMS, 5, Bank-buildings, London, E.C.

DIRECTORS.
CORY F. CORY-WRIGHT, J.P., D.L. (Wm. Cory & Son), Chairman.
F. D. LAMBERT, J.P. (Lambert Bros.), Deputy Chairman.

*GILBERT ALDER, Junr. (Lambert Bros).
CHAS. BEADLE, J.P. (Beadle Bros., Ltd.).
A. C. CORY-WRIGHT (Wm. Cory & Son).
F. C. DOBBING, J.P. (Wm. Cory & Son).
W. J. FRANKS (G. J. Cockerell & Co., Ltd.).
*HENRY GAMMAN (Wm. Cory & Son).
S. K. GEORGE (Mann, George, & Co.).
*J. C. HAMILTON GREIG (Beadle Bros., Ltd.).
CHAS. W. HARRISON (J. & C. Harrison).
*F. A. HARRISON (J. & C. Harrison).
F. S. HOLLAND (Green, Holland, & Sons).
*F. R. PELLY (Mann, George, & Co.).
*H. G. RADFORD (D. Radford & Co.).

* Managing Directors.

Bankers.—THE LONDON & COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED, 21, Lombard-street.

Brokers.—LINTON, CLARKE, & CO., Bartholomew House, E.C.

Solicitors.—DEACON, GIBSON, MEDCALF, & GODDARD, 8 and 9, Great St. Helens, E.C.

Secretary and Registered Offices.—JAMES J. WHARTON, 52, Mark-lane, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF BUSINESS.

This Company has been formed to acquire, amalgamate, and carry on as one concern, from the 1st October, 1896, the English business of the following firms:

Messrs. WM. CORY & SON,	Messrs. J. & C. HARRISON,
,, LAMBERT BROS.	,, GREEN, HOLLAND & SONS,
,, D. RADFORD & CO.,	,, MANN, GEORGE, & CO.
,, BEADLE BROS. LIMITED,	,, G. J. COCKERELL & CO. LIM.

The businesses thus amalgamated are those of Coal Factors, Coal and Coke Merchants, Coal Contractors, Lightermen, Owners and Dischargers of Steam Colliers, Sea Going Lighters, and other vessels.

The extent of these businesses is shown by the fact that the combined firms deal in one or more ways in their English businesses alone with over 5,000,000 tons of coal, coke, and patent fuel per annum (according to the certificate of Messrs. J. Dix Lewis, Cæsar, & Co.), from which they derive some or all of the profits arising from the several operations of carrying, discharging, lightering, selling, &c. About six per cent. of the certified tonnage has been handled in different ways by two firms, and the tonnage so handled has been credited to each such firm in arriving at its aggregate tonnage. The tonnage certificate of Messrs. J. Dix Lewis, Cæsar, & Co. is as follows:—

85, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

To Wm. Cory & Son, Limited.

We have examined the books of the following firms, viz.:—Wm. Cory & Son; Lambert Bros.; D. Radford & Co.; Beadle Bros., Limited; J. & C. Harrison; Green, Holland, & Sons; Mann, George, & Co.; and G. J. Cockerell & Co., Limited; and we have ascertained that the tonnage of coal, coke, and patent fuel handled by them (excluding all foreign business) for the three years 1893, 1894, and 1895 has been 15,328,150 tons, showing an average of 5,108,717 tons per annum. For the period of six months ending 30th June, 1896, the tonnage has also been at the rate of over 5,000,000 tons per annum.

J. DIX LEWIS, CÆSAR, & CO., Chartered Accountants.

Signed this 24th day of September, 1896.

WM. CORY & SON, LIMITED.—*Continued.*

All the firms have been established for many years. The firm of Wm. Cory & Son was founded nearly a hundred years ago, and has always held the leading position in the trade. This firm was one of the first to bring coal by steamers to London, and the first to discharge the cargoes by mechanical appliances.

The working of the several businesses together as one undertaking should secure the fullest possible advantage from the special facilities which the individual firms possess for the economical handling of coal, and the efforts of the management will be directed to the cheapening of coal to the consumer, the past experience of the firms proving that cheap coal and larger tonnage are more profitable than high prices.

An extensive and valuable retail trade in house and other coal by trucks and vans is secured to the Company by the inclusion in this amalgamation of the businesses of G. J. Cockerell & Co., Limited, and D. Radford & Co.; further, Wm. Cory & Son bring with their other assets the business of the Sea Coal Co., and Lambert Bros.' assets comprise the old-established business of Davey & Son, of Blackfriars.

No Colliery or Mining risks are taken over, nor does the Company take over the Foreign and Export Departments of the combined firms from the existing coal ports of Great Britain, the Vendors remaining at liberty to carry on this foreign and export business. The trade thus excluded forms no part of the annual tonnage mentioned nor contributes to the certified profits.

The Board of the Company is composed of representative members of each of the amalgamating firms, with whom for years past the practical management of the respective businesses has rested, and the Company will have the benefit of their combined experience, and should secure the continuity of their business connections. The Company also retains the services of those employees of the amalgamating firms whose assistance the Board consider will prove of material value to the Company.

ASSETS.

Included in the assets to be taken over by the Company are:—

- Freehold Wharves at Erith, known as "Beadle's Wharves," having a deep-water Discharging Pier, Four Steamer Berths, and several miles of Sidings for making up trains for delivery on to the Railways South of the Thames.
- Thirteen Freehold, Copyhold, or Leasehold Wharves on the Thames.
- Two Floating Derricks moored in the Thames for unloading steamers, fitted with sixteen hydraulic cranes and complete Installation for Electric Light.
- Leasehold Jetties, fitted with twenty-six Hydraulic Cranes, at the Victoria Docks, Albert Docks, and Tilbury Docks, for unloading steamers.
- Engineers' Shops at Charlton and Erith, and Barge-building Works at Charlton and Brentford.
- Forty-two Coal Depots in London and Suburbs.
- Four Floating Tug Coaling Stations at Charlton, Silvertown, and Gravesend.
- The entire interest in eighteen Steamers, the controlling interest in four Steamers, and a large interest in eleven others, the total carrying capacity of these steamers being about 42,000 tons.
- Shares in Steamship and other Companies.
- Eleven Sea-going Lighters.
- Twenty-one Steam Tugs and Four Steam Launches.
- About Twelve hundred Barges, of a carrying capacity varying from 50 to 200 tons each.
- Two thousand five hundred and sixty Railway Wagons, subject to deferred payments on a portion of the Wagons as mentioned in Mr. Ball's certificate below.
- Horses and Vans.

VALUATIONS.

The Valuations mentioned below have been made in pursuance of the instructions of the amalgamating firms.

The Freeholds, Leaseholds, Wharves, Depots, Derricks, and fixed machinery have been valued by Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, & Co., who certify as follows:—

11, Billiter-square, London, E.C.

To Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son, Limited, October 5th, 1896.
52, Mark-lane, E.C.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your instructions, we have attended at the various properties on which the businesses of Coal Factors and Merchants are carried on by Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son; Messrs. Beadle Brothers, Limited; Messrs. Lambert Brothers; Messrs. James & Charles Harrison; Messrs. G. J. Cockerell & Co., Limited; and Messrs. D. Radford & Co.; and have made a Survey and Valuation of same, together with the fixed plant, machinery, and fixtures.

The properties include freehold and leasehold wharves at Blackfriars, Erith, Dartford, Vauxhall, Nine Elms, Battersea, Wandsworth, Pimlico, Victoria and Tilbury Docks; barge-building shops and engineering works at Charlton and Brentford; two floating derricks at Charlton, and numerous railway coal wharves and sidings.

We are of opinion that the present fair value as a going concern of the above mentioned freehold and leasehold premises, together with the whole of the fixed plant, machinery, and fixtures, is the sum of three hundred and thirty thousand one hundred and seventy-two pounds (£330,172).

These figures are exclusive of any value for goodwill, and although in the coal trade it is a well-known fact that continuous occupation of a wharf or premises necessarily attaches to the property a certain proportion of the goodwill of the business, we have not allowed anything under this head, but have valued the properties on their respective merits.

We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
FULLER, HORSEY, SONS, & CASSELL.

The barges, coal vans, horses, and loose plant have been valued by Messrs. Horne, Son, & Eversfield, who certify as follows:—

Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son, Limited.
85, Gresham-street, E.C., October 7th, 1896.

Gentlemen,—We hereby certify that we have made a valuation of the steel and iron and wooden lighters, horses, vans, and loose plant belonging to the following firms:—Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son; Messrs. Beadle Bros., Limited; G. J. Cockerell & Co., Limited; D. Radford & Co.; J. & C. Harrison; Lambert Bros.; Green, Holland, & Sons; Mann, George, & Co.; and are of opinion that they are worth, to a going concern, the sum of Three Hundred and Eleven Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty-nine Pounds (£311,339).

We remain, yours faithfully,
HORNE, SON, & EVERSFIELD.

The steamers, tugs, lighters, investments in shipping properties, and shares in Companies have been valued by Messrs. Bayley & Ridley, and Flannery, Baggallay & Johnson, who certify as follows:—

9, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.
October 9th, 1896.

16, London-street, Fenchurch-street, London, E.C.

Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son, Ltd., 52, Mark-lane, E.C.

We have carefully considered the value of the shipping and other properties, of which detailed lists accompany this certificate, belonging to the following firms:—William Cory & Son; Lambert Bros.; D. Radford & Co.; Beadle Bros., Limited; J. & C. Harrison; Green, Holland, & Sons; Mann, George, & Co.

After careful examination of steamers, steam tugs, and sea-going lighters, the entire interest of which is to be transferred to the Company, and considering Balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts of the steamers of other Companies, in which this Company acquires from the firms mentioned, various interests specified in the accompanying lists, we are of opinion that the value of the properties so to be acquired is as a going concern, but without any allowance for goodwill, three hundred and sixty-two thousand three hundred and seventy-nine pounds (say £362,379).

GEO. BAYLEY & WM. RIDLEY,
FLANNERY, BAGGALLAY, & JOHNSON.

The railway wagons have been valued by Mr. Edwin Ball, of the North Central Railway Wagon Works, Rotherham, who certifies as follows:—

Clifton Cresent, Rotherham.

To Wm. Cory & Son, Limited.

I have valued the 2,500 railway wagons belonging to the firms of Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son; Lambert Bros.; D. Radford & Co.; Beadle Bros., Limited; J. & C. Harrison; Green, Holland, & Sons; and Mann, George, & Co.; and hereby certify that the value of the same is £84,331 (eighty-four thousand three hundred and thirty-one pounds); and from this amount must be deducted the sum of £22,256 outstanding in respect of accruing deferred payments to be made on some of the wagons under the agreements under which they have been hired with the option of purchase.

The nett value of the wagons, therefore, is at the present date £62,075 say (sixty-two thousand and seventy-five pounds)

Dated this 25th day of September, 1896.

E. BALL.

In addition to the assets comprised in the above Certificates the Debenture Stock will form a floating charge upon the current book debts for the time being of the Company, and upon its stock, additional plant, working capital, and other assets. It is estimated by the Directors that the aggregate value of these items will not be less than £500,000, of which at least £150,000 will represent cash provided for the purchase of additional plant and the working capital of the Company. Neither this figure of £500,000 nor the sums mentioned in the above Certificates include any value for the goodwill.

PROFITS.

Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co., 4, Lothbury; and Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, & Co., 54, Gresham-street, have examined the books of the eight firms for the last seven years, and they certify as follows:—

To the Directors of Wm. Cory & Son, Limited.

Gentlemen,— London, E.C., October 14th, 1896.

We have examined the books of the following firms:—Messrs. Wm. Cory & Son; Lambert Bros.; J. & C. Harrison; Beadle Bros., Ltd.; Green, Holland, & Sons; D. Radford & Co.; Mann, George, & Co.; G. J. Cockerell & Co., Ltd., for a period of seven years, the last year's accounts ending in nearly every case on 31st December, 1895: and we report that, after excluding all charges for interest and management by the partners, we find the aggregate profits of the Home Trade to have been in each year as follows:

1889	...	£165,935	11	10	1893	...	£162,272	16	8
1890	...	197,420	6	0	1894	...	106,932	16	0
1891	...	130,117	18	11	1895	...	110,741	16	8
1892	...	127,741	0	8	or an average Annual Profit of £143,023 3 9				

Before arriving at the above results, we have made provision to the best of our judgment for depreciation, and wear and tear of steamers, tugs, barges, railway wagons, and plant.

We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, & Co.
PRICE, WATERHOUSE, & Co.

The Annual Profits above certified have been sufficient in each year to pay 4 per cent. on the £800,000 Debenture Stock, 5 per cent. on the £850,000 Preference Shares, and to leave an average yearly balance of £68,523 3s. 9d.

RETURNS FROM ADDITIONAL PLANT.

Subsequently to the period covered by the Certificate of Profits, additional plant, included in the assets above specified, and consisting of new steam colliers of the most modern type, sea-going lighters, powerful screw steam tugs and iron and steel barges of large carrying capacity, has been acquired by some of the Vendors. It is anticipated by the Directors that the introduction of this plant will effect a substantial increase in revenue.

PURCHASE PRICE.

The aggregate purchase price of the goodwill, assets (other than existing book debts, cash balances and stock), and undertaking of the English businesses (as on 1st October, 1896) of the eight amalgamating Firms, who are the Vendors to and the Promoters of the Company has been fixed by them at £2,374,000. The said price is to be satisfied as to £674,000 in cash, as to £850,000 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares of the Company, as to £283,300 in fully-paid Preference Shares of the Company, and as to the balance (subject to the provisions of the Agreement) in cash, the Vendors having an option, however, of taking at the issue price one-third of the Debenture Stock as fully paid in part satisfaction of this balance. The Stocks of the Vendors are to be taken over by the Company at their cost price. The Company does not take over the book debts and cash balances of the Vendors on the 1st October, 1896.

The Vendors pay all the expenses of the Registration and formation of the Company, and the issue of the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares to the public, including all valuations, printing, and advertising, and they will also bear the whole cost (including stamp duties) of the conveyance to the Company of the whole of the assets and the charges thereon in favour of the Trustees for the Debenture Stock holders.

Quotations in the Official List of the Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course for Debenture Stock and Preference Shares.

Applications for Debenture Stock and Preference Shares should be made on the forms accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, the London and County Banking Company, Limited, 21, Lombard-street, London, or any of their branches, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and where the amount of Debenture Stock or the number of the Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render the previous payments liable to forfeiture.

The following Contracts have been entered into:—Between Cory F. Cory-Wright (acting under and in pursuance of the Amalgamation Agreement and Supplemental Agreement specified below) of the one part, and the Company of the other part, dated the 16th day of October, 1896, for the sale and purchase of the businesses. The Amalgamation Agreement and an Agreement Supplemental thereto, are respectively dated the 27th day of August, 1896, and the 14th day of October, 1896, and each of such Agreements is made between Cory Francis Cory-Wright, Arthur Cory Cory-Wright, Frederic Croutel Dobbing, Henry Gamman, and Dudley Cory-Wright of the 1st part; Francis Devereux Lambert, Richard John Lambert, Newton Dunn, and Gilbert Alder, Junior, of the 2nd part; Herbert George Radford, Arthur Lock Radford, and Alfred Radford, of the 3rd part; Beadle Brothers, Limited, of the 4th part; Charles Willis Harrison of the 5th part; William Miall Green, Francis Stanley Holland, and Charles Henry Holland, of the 6th part; William Woodham Mann, Sydney King George, and Frederic Raymond Pelly, of the 7th part; G. J. Cockerell & Co., Limited, of the 8th part; and the said Cory Francis Cory-Wright of the 9th part. The profits of the Vendors' English businesses between the 1st October, 1896, and the date of the Contract for sale are excepted from the sale, but the Vendors have agreed to hand over such profits to the Company, and they will be treated as part of the profits for the current year.

There are also numerous trade Contracts entered into by the various firms in carrying on their businesses, the benefit of which will accrue to the Company, and the Vendors have entered into Contracts relative to the formation and public issue of the Company, and the guaranteeing of such a sum of cash as is required for the necessary cash payments and the provision of the working Capital. Such contracts or some of them may be Contracts within Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Shares must be deemed to have had full notice thereof, and to have waived any further disclosure of all such Contracts, and to have agreed with the Company as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable not to make any claim whatsoever or to institute any proceedings in respect of any non-compliance with the said Section or otherwise.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, the draft trust deed, the original valuations and certificates and the above-mentioned Contract of sale and purchase may be seen at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the offices of the Company, and at the Bankers and Brokers.

Dated October 16th, 1896.

The LIST will CLOSE at or before Four o'clock WEDNESDAY, the 21st October, 1896, for Town, and at or before Four o'clock THURSDAY, 22nd October, 1896, for the Country.

The Bagot Pneumatic Tyre Co. Lim.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £200,000,

In 200,000 Shares of £1 each,

All of which are now offered for Subscription in order to provide the purchase consideration payable to the vendor, and £75,000 working capital. Payable—5s. on Application, 5s. on Allotment, 5s. one month after Allotment, 5s. two months after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Aylesford, Packington Hall, Coventry, Chairman.
The Right Hon. The Lord Raglan, 8, Chesterfield-street, W.
Colonel F. C. Keyser, C.B., 38, Moorgate-court, E.C.
*M. Ernest Cuenod, 3, Rue Laffitte, Paris (Paris Delegate of the Touring Club of France).
Lieut.-Col. H. Seymour Blaydes, 24, Stafford-terrace, W.
Captain Arthur H. L. Bagot, 18, Cheniston-gardens, Kensington, W.

*This gentlemen, having an interest in the Patents, will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.

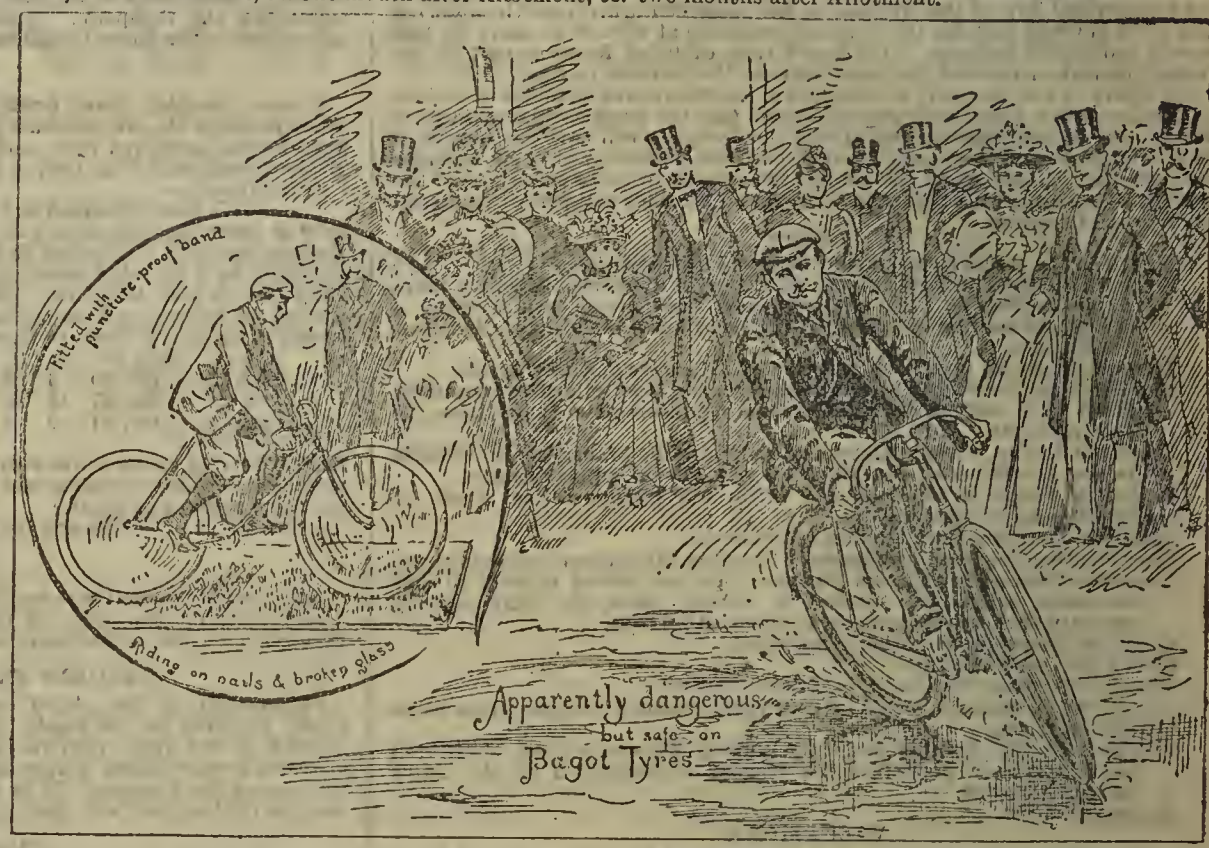
England—Lloyds Bank, Limited, 222, Strand, London, and their Agents in
Ireland—The Bank of Ireland, Dublin, And all Branches.

GENERAL MANAGER.—J. Davenport Siddeley.

BROKERS.

George Whitehead & Chown, 23, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.
D. D. Bulger, 16, College-green, Dublin.
W. & F. Cuthbert, Colmore-row, Birmingham.

The Directors of this Company, guided by the reports of eminent practical experts, and by the results of actual tests and trials, are of opinion that the "BAGOT PNEUMATIC TYRE" is in essential respects superior to all other pneumatic tyres in the market.



PUNCTURES AND SIDE SLIPS PROVED TO BE THINGS OF THE PAST BY THE BAGOT TYRE
(This sketch of the trial tests appeared in a London Weekly).

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to purchase and acquire the Patent Rights, both for England and elsewhere, and to manufacture, grant licences, work and trade in respect of:—

1. An Improved Pneumatic Tyre for use with the wheels of velocipedes and other vehicles;
2. An Improved Detachable Puncture-proof Band for use with pneumatic tyres;
3. An Improved Non-return Lock Valve for use with pneumatic tyres.

The first invention consists of a detachable indiarubber tyre, or covering, constructed upon an entirely new principle of layers of rubber of graduated degrees of vulcanisation. It is claimed that this new principle, in conjunction with an equally novel form of "tread," secures, without any increase of selling price or weight, the following among other salient advantages and improvements, viz.:—

1. A normal tread, greatly narrowed and permanently retained.
2. A perfect immunity from side-slipping.
3. Reduced liability to cut or puncture.
4. Increase of speed, resiliency, and durability.
5. Much less splashing or clogging of mud.
6. The use of a deeper cushion of compressed air under the wheel.

The second invention consists of a readily detachable puncture-proof band of novel construction, applicable to almost every form of pneumatic tyre.

The third invention consists of a non-return lock valve of novel and simple construction, which has been proved by practical experience to be much easier to manipulate than other valves.

The Bagot Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited, has entered into a contract with a Company holding a licence granted by predecessors in business of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited, for the manufacture and sale of Pneumatic Tyres, under which contract the Company holding the licence has agreed to supply the Bagot Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited, with Pneumatic Tyres manufactured according to the Patent No. 6,513, of 1896, and having wired attachments manufactured under the above-mentioned licence.

The consideration for all the Patent Rights for the United Kingdom and abroad in respect of the above-named inventions has been fixed by the vendor at £125,000, payable as to £40,000 in cash, and as to the balance in cash or shares at the option of Directors, leaving £75,000 available for working capital.

The contract of sale provides that the vendor pays all preliminary expenses of this Company (except registration fees and stamps and stamp-duty on the purchase contract) up to and including the first allotment of shares.

Copies of the Prospectus, with Forms of Application for shares, can be obtained at the Registered Offices of the Company, or at its Bankers', Brokers', and Solicitors'.

A FEW PRESS OPINIONS.

The *Sporting Life*, June 6th, 1896.

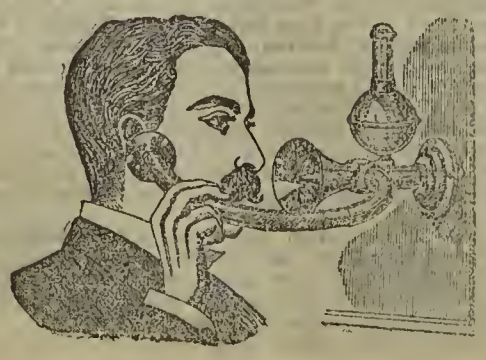
"A New Tyre.—Yesterday a new pneumatic tyre was tried. It is called the 'Bagot.' Some interesting tests were made in the riding school of Singer's establishment on the Holborn-viaduct. The floor was wetted and otherwise made greasy and slippery. A rider made eight and ten-foot circles on this substance, and there was not the slightest semblance of slipping. Then an ordinary tyre was tried, and this showed unmistakable symptoms of side slipping. One of the severest tests that the tyre was subjected to was the riding over a board upon which pieces of broken bottles and wire nails had been fixed. The tyre bounded off these things, leaving not the slightest semblance of puncture."

The *Daily Mail*, June 6th, 1896.

"Besides riding 'The Bagot' Tyre on the road, I yesterday had an opportunity of seeing it tested under singularly unfavourable circumstances. Mr. Bagot has invented a puncture-proof device, which can be fitted to his tyre if necessary, and on this occasion this was placed inside the outer cover. Then the tyre was ridden some forty or fifty times over a board studded with nails and pieces of broken glass, and not once did the air escape. The tyre was afterwards run through water, and when it emerged, and ran on asphalte, those present were able to see how very narrow the tread of 'The Bagot' really is."

WHAT IS IT?

Why, an ATTACHMENT TO A SPEAKING-TUBE by means of which you can carry on a sustained conversation and need only have one instrument for 6 or 8 Tubes.



Of all Speaking Tube Fitters, or THE HOMACOUSTIC SPEAKING TUBE CO Show Rooms:—6, Bruton-street, New Bond-street, W.

THE LEOPOLDINA, &c., BONDHOLDERS' COMMITTEE hereby give Notice that BONDS of the following issues—

1	Leopoldina Railway	6 per cent.	Loan 1884	for	£500,000
2	do.	5	,, 1888	,,	£2,000,000
3	do.	5	,, 1890	,,	£1,150,000
4	Macahé & Campos	5	,, 1888	,,	£800,000
5	,,	5	,, 1889	,,	£500,000
6	Rio de Janeiro & Northern	6	,, 1887	,,	£250,000
7	do. Grao Pará Divn	5	,, 1888-1890	,,	£1,350,000

will only be received upon the terms of payment originally fixed, viz.: 2s. 6d. per £100, by the Committee's Bankers, Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, E.C. on or before the 14th November next, after which date the terms of deposit will be reconsidered and due notice given.

The Committee's Certificates, issued in respect of bonds deposited, are now quoted in the Stock Exchange Official List.

By order,
E. J. LAKE, Secretary.

66, New Broad-street, London, E.C.
October 9th, 1896.

Ask Your Grocer
FOR
HELM-COCOA.

The List is NOW OPEN, and will CLOSE on WEDNESDAY, the 21st inst., for Town and Country.

HARMSWORTH BROTHERS, LIMITED

(*Incorporated under the Companies Acts*, 1862 *to* 1893.)

CAPITAL - - £1,000,000,

Divided into 500,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, and 500,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each (the whole of which are taken by the Vendors).

Issue of 500,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each.

The Preference Shares will be entitled to a fixed Cumulative Preference Dividend of 5 per Cent., payable half-yearly, and will rank as to Capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The books will be made up to 1st November in each year. The first Interim Dividend will be payable on 1st May, 1897, and will be calculated from dates of payment.

The Shares will be payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application; 5s. per Share on Allotment; 12s. 6d. per Share on 1st December next.

The whole amount may be paid on Allotment, and in that case it will rank for Dividend from date of payment.

The Articles of Association provide that no debentures can be created without the consent of three-fourths majority of the holders of the Preference Shares present in person or by proxy at a meeting specially summoned for the purpose, and that after payment of the Dividends upon the Preference Shares, there shall be set aside annually the sum of £10,000 to a Reserve Fund, until that sum amounts to £100,000, and thenceforward £5,000 a year until the same fund amounts to £200,000, the sums set apart to be invested in securities authorised by the Articles of Association; and it is also provided that in the event of a sale of the undertaking to another Company, the Preference Shareholders will be liable to redemption at the rate of 25s. for each £1 Share held.

DIRECTORS.

ALFRED C. HARMSWORTH (Chairman).
HAROLD HARMSWORTH.
CECIL B. HARMSWORTH.
R. LEICESTER HARMSWORTH.
HILDEBRAND A. HARMSWORTH.
} Directors or Shareholders in the Vendor Companies.

BANKERS.—Messrs. COUTTS & CO., 59, Strand, London, W.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. NICHOLSON, GRAHAM & GRAHAM, 24, Coleman St., London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. TURQUAND, YOUNGS, BISHOP & CLARKE, 41, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

E. LAYTON BENNETT, F.C.A., 55 & 56, Bishopsgate St., Within, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—Messrs. JAMES CAPEL & CO., 31, Throgmorton Street, E.C.

SECRETARY & OFFICES—Mr. J. SMALL, 24, Tudor Street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

THIS Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing, carrying on, and extending the business of Periodical and Magazine Proprietors, Publishers and Printers, founded by Mr. Alfred C. Harmsworth, and conducted by him and by Mr. Harold Harmsworth on behalf of Answers Publications, Limited, and three private concerns carried on as limited companies, and known as the Geraldine Press, Limited, the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, and the Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited.

The proportions to which the several businesses have attained, and the inconvenience of carrying on what is practically the same business by four separate Corporations, have induced the present proprietors to amalgamate the whole in one concern and make the present issue.

The Company will acquire the leasehold premises in Tudor Street and Whitefriars Street, with the extensive and complete printing plant and machinery thereon, the stock of paper owned by and the book debts owing in the above businesses, the goodwill of Answers Publications, Limited, the Geraldine Press, Limited, the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, and the Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited, including the following fourteen well-known and highly successful Periodicals and Magazines, originated by Alfred C. Harmsworth:—

"Answers," "Home Chat," "Forget Me Not," "The Sunday Companion," "Sunday Stories," "The Marvel," "The Boy's Friend," "Home Sweet Home," "Chips," "Union Jack," "Comic Cuts," "Comic Home Journal," "The Wonder," and "Pluck."

The total circulation of the above weekly publications considerably exceeds 3,000,000 copies per week.

The Company will also acquire the goodwill of Messrs. Harmsworth as Publishers of Periodicals and Magazines, other than newspapers of a political character.

The business was originally established by Mr. Alfred C. Harmsworth in 1888, when "Answers" was first produced. Since that date the business has grown by rapid strides, and has now reached its present commanding position, and, it is believed, will increase largely in the future. Mr. Alfred C. Harmsworth at an early date associated with himself in the management his brother, Mr. Harold Harmsworth. The other Directors have for some time been actively engaged in the management of various branches of the business. Mr. Alfred C. Harmsworth, Mr. Harold Harmsworth and the other Directors will act as Managers of the Company without remuneration, they being content with the dividends anticipated to be received on the Ordinary Shares of the Company, the benefits from which will almost entirely accrue to themselves.

The business has been built up and strengthened by the establishment from time to time of new periodicals, and it is intended to adopt that practice in the future, as occasion may seem favourable. Messrs. Harmsworth have entered into an Agreement with the Company not to start or be interested in any Periodical or Magazine except for the benefit of the Company, but they reserve to themselves the right to continue to conduct the political Newspapers in which they are at present interested, or to conduct or acquire an interest in any newspapers of similar character.

Messrs. Harmsworth have never published a Periodical or Magazine which has not proved a success, and every Periodical or Magazine, as well as each branch of the businesses now to be acquired by the Company, is earning a handsome and increasing profit.

In the year 1893 Messrs. Harmsworth started a Printing business, which is included in the present purchase by the Company. This business now produces thirteen of the periodicals to be acquired by the Company. The profits of the printing business alone have been considerable, and the profits made by the periodicals themselves have also been enhanced thereby. The valuable printing plant and machinery so acquired is considered to be the most complete of its character in the United Kingdom.

Mr. E. Layton Bennett has audited the books of the several businesses purchased from their inception, and the following Certificate by him shows how remarkable and continuous has been the success attained:—

Bishopsgate House, 55 and 56, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.,
To the Directors of Harmsworth Brothers, Limited. 15th October, 1896.

Gentlemen,—I have continuously audited the books of Answers Publications, Limited, the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, the Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited, and the Geraldine Press, Limited, since their inception, and I beg to certify that the net profits for the three first-named Companies during the four years ending 31st March, 1893, amounted to £78,951; but, owing to the fact that each Company was started at different periods from 1888 to 1891, it would be a matter of difficulty to give the net profits for a specified financial period.

I also beg to certify to the net profits for the three financial periods ending 31st May, 1896, and for the three months ending 31st August, 1896.

In each financial year the accounts of Answers Publications, Limited, were made up to the 31st May, while those of the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, and Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited, were made up to 31st March in 1894, and 31st May in the two subsequent years. The trading account of the Geraldine Press, Limited, commenced after 31st May, 1894.

The profits of the first three Companies for the financial year 1893-94 were	£59,185	15	0
The profits of the four Companies to 31st May, 1895 (which included 14 months' trading in the case of the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, and the Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited) amounted to	73,271	7	1
The profits of the four Companies for twelve months to 31st May, 1896, were	107,120	0	3
And for the three months ending 31st August, 1896, were	31,727	15	8

The above net profits have been arrived at after charging all outgoings for working expenses, depreciation on machinery, plant, &c., and also the whole cost of establishing new periodicals, but is exclusive of income tax charged in each year.

Yours faithfully,
E. LAYTON BENNETT.

The Books for the last three years have been examined by Messrs. Turquand Youngs & Co., and they have given the following Certificate:—

41, Coleman Street, E.C., 15th October, 1896.

To the Directors of Harmsworth Brothers, Limited.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the books of Answers Publications, Limited, the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, the Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited, and the Geraldine Press, Limited, for three financial periods up to 31st May, 1896, and for the three months to 31st August, 1896.

In each financial year the accounts of Answers Publications, Limited, were made up to 31st May, while those of the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, and the Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited, were made up to 31st March, 1894, and 31st May, in the two subsequent years. The trading account of the Geraldine Press, Limited, commenced after 31st May, 1894.

The profits of the first three Companies for the financial year 1893-4 were	£59,185	15	0
The profits of the four Companies to 31st May, 1895, which included 14 months trading in the case of the Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, and the Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited, amounted to	73,271	7	1
The profits of the four Companies for 12 months to 31st May, 1896, were	107,120	0	3
And for the three months ending 31st August, 1896	31,727	15	8

The above profits are stated before income tax is charged.—Yours faithfully,
TURQUAND, YOUNGS, BISHOP & CLARKE.

The above figures show that the clear net profits, after deducting all outgoings for working expenses, depreciation of machinery, plant, &c., and also the whole cost of establishing new periodicals, have amounted during the last financial year to £107,120 0s. 3d., thus being more than four times the sum required to pay the Preference Dividend, while for the past three months of the present financial year the net profits have been at a still greater rate, viz., £126,911 per annum.

The Preference Shares now offered for subscription are Cumulative as to Dividend and Preferential as to Capital, and it is provided by the Articles of Association that no Debentures or Debenture Stock can be created without the consent of a three-fourths majority of the holders present in person or by proxy at a meeting specially summoned. The Preference Shares, will, therefore, practically be a first charge upon one of the most successful and progressive businesses in the United Kingdom. The Preference Shares will be liable to redemption as provided by the Articles of Association.

The holders of Preference Shares will not be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Company unless the Preference Dividend shall not have been paid, or unless a matter directly or indirectly affecting their interest as against any other class of shareholders or in respect of any proposed Debenture issued be under discussion, but they shall have no power to vote upon a proposal involving the redemption of their shares, provided the proposal secure to them the payment of 25s. for each £1 share held.

The Company will take over the businesses as going concerns as on the 1st day of November, 1896, together with the stock in hand and book debts, the Vendors paying the liabilities. A sufficient working capital will thereby be provided; but in view of further extension of the business, a sum of £25,000 will be set aside out of the present issue as additional working capital.

The purchase price has been fixed by the present Owners of the businesses who are the only Promoters, at £975,000, of which £475,000 will be paid in cash and the balance by the allotment of the whole of the Ordinary Shares credited as fully paid up.

The following Contracts have been entered into, all dated the 16th day of October, 1896:—between (1) Answers Publications, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part; (2) The Pandora Publishing Company, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part; (3) The Periodical Publishing Corporation, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part; (4) The Geraldine Press, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part: and (5) Alfred Charles William Harmsworth, Harold Sidney Harmsworth, Cecil B. Harmsworth, Robert Leicester Harmsworth, and Hildebrand A. Harmsworth, of the one part, and the Company of the other part. The Company acquires the benefit of the existing contracts entered into by the several Vendors in the ordinary course of business, which are too numerous to specify. Subscribers will therefore be deemed to waive the insertion of the dates and names of parties to such contracts and any further compliance with section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than herein appearing, and applications for shares will only be entertained on that footing.

The Vendors, who are the only promoters, will pay all expenses relating to the formation of the Company up to the allotment of Preference Shares, and Messrs. Harmsworth, on behalf of the Vendors, have entered into arrangements or contracts accordingly with various persons, and the waiver mentioned in the last clause must be deemed to apply to such arrangements and contracts.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the above-mentioned Contracts, and the Auditors' Certificates may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

Application will in due course be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange to grant a settlement and quotation.

Applications for shares should be made on the accompanying form, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. Cheques should be made payable to Coutts & Co. If the number of shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment. When no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and forms of application will be found in the current number of "Answers," or may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

Dated 15th October, 1896.

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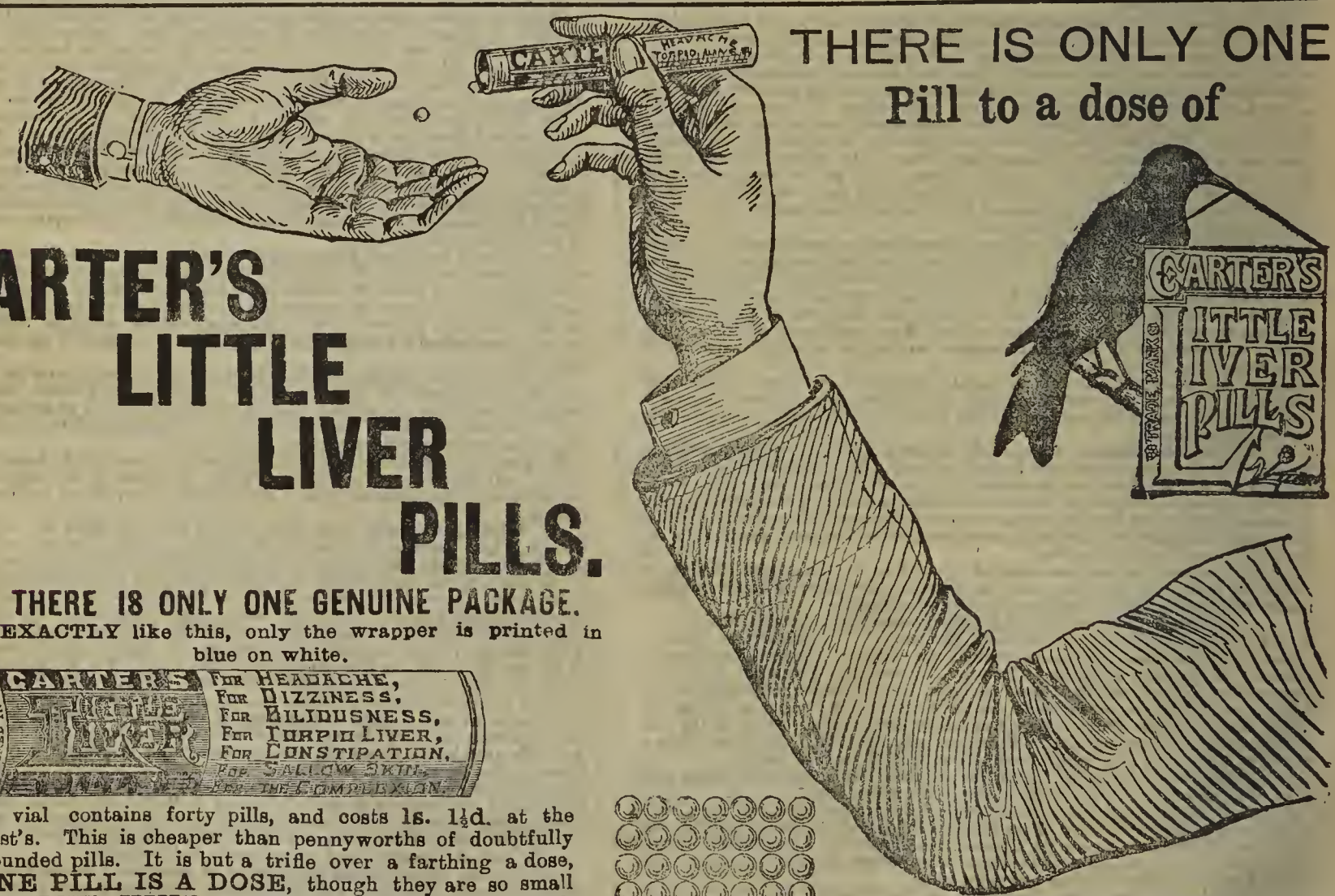

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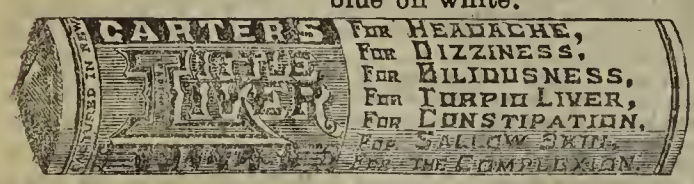

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OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts-Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. Competitors must on no account change their noms-de-plume they have once assumed.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 918.—TEXT FOR SERMON TO CYCLISTS.

Vitio (real name and address will be given next week)	£1 1 0
E. J. (real name and address will be given next week)	£1 1 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE "TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.

To prevent any misunderstanding on the subject let me state here that the Truth Show at Christmas will, as usual, comprise Home-made Toys of all kinds as well as Dressed Dolls. It is hoped that the supply of the former will show no falling-off either in number or variety. From the first Home-made Toys have formed a most interesting feature of the Truth Shows, and this year a table will be specially devoted to their exhibition. Experience has taught us that no toys are more warmly welcomed at the Hospitals and Workhouse Schools of the Metropolis than those which have been both designed and made by the donors. They are frequently stronger and more fitted to withstand the wear and tear of the Workhouse School and Hospital Ward than the more fragile articles of the Toy-shop. As to the description of the toys required there is literally no limit to the variety which may be sent. Model Toys of all kinds, Mechanical Toys, Dolls' Houses, Wheelbarrows, Scrap-books, Games—are but a few of the things which may be sent. Out of the numerous valuable prizes which will be awarded in connection with the Exhibition a fair proportion will be given for the best Home-made Toys.

Our last stock-taking shows that there is still a supply of dolls left of both sizes: though the number is now considerably reduced. The large dolls, it may be repeated, are about 39 in. high and the small ones 12 in. Contributions to the Fund for the purchase of the 25,000 new Toys, which will be required for the Christmas distribution are earnestly requested.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 921.

It may be well to explain on what principle the subjoined award is made. In dealing with the numerous answers received, it was found necessary to classify to some extent the various kinds of sentences which were sent in. In the first place it was thought well to eliminate those which merely announced a fact such as "'Tis atrocious misrule," "A very hopeless muddle," &c. Then came the very large class of sentences which addressed declamatory advice to the Cabinet of a kind that must be considered impracticable, to say the very least. Under this heading came the very numerous sentences of the "Dethrone the Assassin!" "Eject Armenia's tyrant" description. These duly eliminated, there still remained many sentences in which the advice addressed to the Cabinet was of a more discreet and less declamatory kind, and from this residuum the Prize sentence was selected, viz., that sent by Dormer, "Co-operate with Russia," a piece of advice which the trend of public opinion shows has not been without its weight with her Majesty's advisers. It may be mentioned that several other competitors sent sentences which expressed more or less directly a similar view of the situation, but it was considered that Dormer's expressed it most neatly, and the Prize has therefore been awarded to him.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 926.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

The Best Original Conundrum of a Topical Description.

By the word "topical," it is meant to imply that the riddles must refer to some subject of current interest. Competitors are not limited to one conundrum, but must in no instance send in more than five; and in all cases the answers should accompany them. It would be well, too, for the answers to be so written that they can easily be detached from the questions for convenience of printing. All conundrums must reach me by the morning of Monday, November 2, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Candlemas, winner of a half of Prize No. 920, is Miss K. M. Loudon, Springbank, North Berwick, N.B.

Hibernian.—There is good reason for the suggestion you make, and I thank you for your letter.

Chica.—Quite so. Your sentence should have read "The Sick Man's last gasp."

Gallina, Impérieuse, and Powelchere.—Your answers to Puzzle No. 921 arrived in good time.

Pig Tail.—I have noted your correction.

Orlando.—I much regret your mistake, the more so as I fear it must entail disqualification.

Sandades.—Will you let me have your present address, with a view to the setting to music of the words of the song written by you for this page about a year ago?

Apostrophe.—You will find your anagram included.

Qu'Appelle.—Many thanks for your letter and the suggestions it contains. It was thought best, after due consideration, not to make a second competition out of No. 922.

Makmax. — I now quite understand the genesis of your *nom de plume*, and hope there will be no further misprint of it.

La Flèche.—There was insufficient space to print all your answers. Four sentences, however, were duly received from you.

Musmé.—Many thanks for your note.

Pelican.—The omission of your sentences was not intentional, as they were certainly quite up to the average merit of those published.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 923.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL ANAGRAMS MADE OUT OF THE THIRTY-EIGHT LETTERS IN "ABDUL HAMID KHAN, SULTAN OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE."

All hope to end him—that mean, bad, infamous Turk.—M. S.

Ah! inhuman monster, but apt fool. Hated like mad.—Prak.

O, mark that inhuman, hateful man, steep'd i' blood!—Hobhima.

Lo! a brutal fiend that took human shape 'mid men.—Pigtail.

If on a bad path he must amend. O, talk not; rule him!—Chica.

1. A Turk? Apt fame! D—n him, he'd outboom Satan in hell! 2. He's a bold inhuman Turk. Let an apt fate doom him. 3. Fie upon that Turk! Do, Allah, send him a tomb! 4. To arms! Abate him! Put an end to him, eh? Do all "funk"? 5. O, let him be a mark to "pot" at, and hush fume in land.—Wahrheit.

Inhuman despot that maketh Armenia bloodful.*—Tarbox.

* Bloodful is given in Webster's "Dictionary," as used by John Marston, the dramatist, who died 1633.

Timid Europe, funk not that bad man. Oh! shame all.—Treddust.

Named A. H. K. Then abolished. Mutual profit to man.—Spero.

1. Help! Faith's bondmen moan out. I made a Turk halt. 2. Help! Faith's bondmen moan. I made a Turk to death.—Esperanza.

1. Help Armenia? No doubt amidst that humane folk. 2. A foul tale! Up, bid that Mahommedan throne sink. 3. Humane folk! Do help amain that moribund state. 4. Must a bad Turk damn hope? Fool, annihilate them!—Excelsior.

A shame of Europe, and that man, but don't kill him.—Cumbrian.

1. Oh! Oh! Defeat the Turkish madmen, all put han on him. 2. Ah! hold pen! take this madman unfit to rule a mob.—Taffy.

1. In truth a hot Mohammedan, if "unspeakable" dolt. 2. Think not about help as a lift, rude Mohammedan.—Nodding Violet.

Allah put out his torn fame and make him to bend!—Almaviva.

Oh, Mab? Annihilate the foul Turk—madman, despot?—Tip.

1. Make I not a full madman, that Europe doth banish. 2. Ho! stop it, bad Turk. Fall, thou inane Mohammedan. 3. So mad that Khalif. Up, then, mute Armenian blood.—Liwslly.

1. Hope thou that famed Balmoral unites mankind. 2. Let a man unmask him, a fiend that poureth blood. 3. Armenian blood maketh foul this untamed path. 4. Lament! a fiend that maketh blood pour is human.—Jagger.

O! the humble diplomat funks that Armenian ado.—Nibliek.

Do man paid fleet. Abolish Mahometan. Hunt Turk.—P. O'Donnell.

Halt, utter fool; amend, O bad man—take, puuish him.—H. O'Donnell.

RHYMED SOLUTION.

Hulk! deem'd the bau
Out from Malta into Ispahan.
Rabelais.

1. A fool made to insult mankind, ah! thump the Bear. 2. Hunt, baulk Armenia's old foeman, put him to death.—Stadium.

1. Thus rapine, death to all but of Mohammedan kin. 2. Fire upon kith, man! Death to all but Mohammedans. 3. Ha! let them talk mad. Duu'no, but I spoof Armenia.—Selah.

A Kurd in falsehood blameth human temptation.—Brugeoise.

1. A lost, bad man, unfit to rule. Oh! take and hemp him. 2. He is mad, that man; but do help out Armenian folk. 3. Ah! no talk, man. I depose that foul brute. Damn him!—Ruff.

1. Oh, help thou dumb Armenia to make a final staud! 2. Oh, let a final triumph make a sotted mob unhand! 3. Summon help! Annihilate that too bad-famed Turk! 4. A mild, broad hint: I take that one foul pest humau. 5. Oil-flame! That inhumane bankrupt's death-doom (see Mikado). 6. Help mankind. Aim at foul brute, and shoot at him. 7. On him! Make that fatal Sublime Porte unhand.—Kiburn.

1. Mean infidel! No hopes to maul that mad Turk! Bah! 2. Oh, dam! Kill no Armenians, but O, defeat that hump. 3. All shake that bad man out. No end for him. Time up! 4. Don't harm them at all, but make up. If so? I had none. 5. Aha! I do not mean to kill, but hamper them. Sad fun! 6. Oh! humble a self-opinionated Turk. That mad man! 7. Oh, man! humble that false, opinionated, mad Turk. 8. That Turk is a mad fool! Let him be open and human. 9. Kill, profane, maim them dead! But hast thou? Anon.—Artemus.

Allah abandon him, the Turk, a most impudent foe!—Bowzer.

Ah! bad Turk! end that shameful, open immolation.—Parrot.

1. O, but mark! note it! death and shame fall upon him! 2. Infamous mad Turk! Loathe him; beat, and help not! 3. O, the plain madman! death lurks about him often.—Burgage.

1. Ultimatum—uot faked—anon. Oh, Padishah, tremble. 2. Hot ultimatum anon (no fake). Padishah trembled.—Kate.

O, thou fat, blind, mad Mahometan, "Tekel Upharsin!"—Langlands.

N.B.—"Tekel Upharsin"—the writing which appeared on the wall to Belshazzar to warn him that he was weighed in the balance and found wanting, and that his kingdom should be divided aud given to others (Daniel, c. v., v. 25).

Let them at him hot, unaided—no Balkan map for us!—La Plata.

1. Up! O, kill the bad, mad, inhuman foe! A monster that! 2. Up! to kill that bad, inhuman foe! A mad monster he!—Ignotus.

1. Armenia holds main Bank, put them to foul death. 2. Hum! If help not at hand, must take Armenia blood. 3. Hold! Both at fault, don't make me punish Armenia. 4. Hold! Both make Armenia at fault; don't punish me. 5. Armenia fool. Hunt them to death up mid Balkans.—Mineing-lane.

1. Armenian folk put to death! Shout and blame him! 2. Faith, I open death on all but Mahommedan Turks.—Jam Dash.

Mind, Armenians' blood maketh up that one fault.—Georgina.

Stamboul men plan death; doth make houri faint.—Goak.

1. Bah! The "lame" nations. Hope to a mindful, mad Turk. 2. Ah! blame the nations. Mindful hope to a mad Turk!—Edina.

Hah, foul morn; to Hades! Moan: "I repent it." Dumb talk!*—Coalheaver.

* Lauguage universally spoken on the Greek Kalends.

1. Europe's bound to hit that man and make him fall. 2. At a harem, mob a hell-fiend and put knouts to him.—Horace.

1. Hated man to seek fatal triumph in human blood. 2. Ah! see that madman triumph taken in foul blood. 3. Taken in blood—ah! see that foul madman triumph. 4. Maketh hell on earth; bad, admit? No—put infamous.—Rose Island.

Path of Armenia? But to kill th' unshackled demon.—Biddy.

I think that a bland Mohammedan flouts Europe.—Whig.

1. Foil that able inhuman Mahomedan despot Turk. 1. Foil that brutal inhuman despot and make home.—Tura.

Help me, thou Nation, strike out bad, half mad mau!—Harebell.

1.—Kill that inhuman brute of a Mahommedan despot. 2. From Armenian Revolutionary Committee to W. E. Gladstone: O, Bill, dispose that fat inhuman Mahommedan Turk.—Redlands.

Help on and admonish a foe, that immutable Turk.—Citronella.

Dark fame put on this name; all bound to hate him.—G. H. Redhead.

1.—Untie that bad Mohammedan knot. Our help fails. (Message from England to Russia, giviug Russia a free hand.) 2. Ah! Find Utopia! Let Mohammedans turn to Keblah. 3. Bide a moment, Kharput. Lo, thou shalt find a name. 4. Mount and at him. Post him a defaulter ou Keblah. 5. Ah! An unfortunate, bold, made mistake to help him.—V.H.S.

For no man maketh a bullet to put in his mad head,—Waterloo.

1. Lop Armenia to death? Think shame, doubtful man. 2. The man hath a mania for blood; sum up; end it, Kelt. 3. Inhospitable madman! Fouud out; hear them talk. 4. Look, Austin hath damned the limp brute of a man. 5. Half the nation immolated! Shame upon bad Turk.—Bishop Q.

But not up of Mohamedan that killed Armenians.—Noiram.

That hateful monster, make a dip in human blood.—R. Menian.

No talk of the maimed and the slain! But, oh, up, arm!—Melanethon.

Oho! That's a brutal man, do let me up aud knife him.—Quien Sabe.

Armenia hot-bled to death must pain human folk.—J.B.H.

No talk of the maimed and the slain! But, oh! up, arm!—D. M. Strong.

Let* them at him hot, unaided: No Balkan map for us.—La Plata.

*Russia and perhaps Austria too.

But, Ho men, if madman had to kill Europeans.—Cumbrian.

Think of bald death! Armenia must moan out "Help!"—S. A. H.

Oh, shame! A Turk? No man, apt fiend. I doubt them all.—Avis.

Fie! The inhuman madman Turk leaps at hot blood.—Helen Macgregor.

Aim most of all to ban the d—— Turk. Heed human pain.—Water Beetle.

But, oh! pathos, tufted Mahomedan kill Armenia.*—Pelican.

* Turks and Armenians wear the fez with tuft or tassel on it.

A child hearing that hundreds of Armenians were slaughtered at their own door-steps, exclaimed:—"Pa! Inhuman beast kill hundred, foot-mat at home."—Pelican.

I am mad, make half upset, and rub in hot on the lot.—Clarion.

La! Think of Armenia. Up! Blot out the damned sham.—Bootles' Baby.

1. Hateful man! But mark, I opine he dooms that land. 2. Baulk pet aim of hated man; ruin land; shoot them.—Possum.

Bad—oft inhuman to Armenia—must help take hold.—Bird, Swansea.

Stop, heal that barren, foul-mouthed, mad "manikin."—Jin.

Men! haul demon forth, map out his land, take a bit.—Greeba.

1. On a man-hunt, that mad Turk. See him lap blood. Fie! 2. See the mad Turk on a man-hunt lap blood. Fi! at him! 3. A tame-man hunt. Mark the hound, it laps blood. Fie! 4. In human shape a mad Turk, at bottom fiend o' hell. 5. Nature, half bloodhound. I'm that man-ape. Kismet! 6. Blood-stained Turk, half-human ape, at him! (Not me!) 7. Ah! a pot-hunt of tame man, rabid hounds meet, kill! 8. Dash that unmentionable Turk imp, a mad fool he!—Baritone.

1. A bad unfortunate. Men plot his death. Hail M'Kom! 2. Let blood punish that man—hated of Armenia! M'Kee.—Lierre.

1. Oh! not a man, but a deaf monster. Ah! up! Let (s) kill him! 2. A fiend in human shape! Hum! All, make to trot!—bolt!—E. N. S.

1. That loose Turk Mahommedan. Bar! Put an infidel. 2. That infamous Turk, he'll be made hop damnation."—Exactly.

1. Tom, Paul and E. Daniel, of Bath, shot him; mean Turk. 2. Ben, oh Paul! He, Tom, that fine old Turk is a madman. 3. Paul R—t, and Maud H—t, met the foolish man on a bike. 4. O Paul! Emma shot behind that fine old man, a Turk.—Luda.

1. O pooh! if a damned Turk hunts tame men, all habit. 2. A fiend am I? Pooh, Turks hunt tame men, all do it, bah! 3. O, Allah! "a damned Turk," if I pot-hunt tame men. Bosh!—Dandelion.

1. Make this abandon'd potentate fall. Humour him! 2. Europe should make that bad man flit. On! Tan him.—Baba Jujube.

1. "Self (add mammon)!" Hath it not hit European baulk? 2. Oh, taint (Mammon and self)! It hath baulk'd Europe! 3. Link, Europe, humble this madman, and that afoot! 4. Hot Dardan main's a fount meet to help him baulk. 5. All Europe's mob think that faded atom inhuman. 6. "Self," and to it "Mammon," hath baulk'd European hit. 7. Tsar, bethump that fool, mad, inhuman, done, alike! 8. "Self (Mammon and I)!" Doth that hit European baulk?—La Pata.

1. Put motto of mau: "Ah! but he had killed Armenians." 2. That "sad" inhuman man of Europe, bad to kill them.—Londoner.

1. Oh, dont! Eh? I am a Turk! Eh? And at Stamboul I pen L.F.M. (Ifes for Ministers). 2. Oh! Pooh! B.F.M. (bold Foreign Ministers take and send the liar an ultimatum). 3. Ultimatum? Oh, fops! Boh! Take, man, and end the liar.—Stephanotis.

1. Doom to an empire! Ah! but shame that fall unkind. 2. Lo! Must thou take land; brief pain, Mahomet hand!—Tamarisk.

1. That man of lust and blood; make him rue the pain. 2. Do "hot-pot" the dull inhuman beast; make a firman (firm 'uu).—Nitram.

Oh, depose that mad inhuman Kalif, brutal to men.—Aletheia.

Not Europe, but man's anathema oft had killed him.—Apostrophe.

1. Abdul Hamid a disgrace. 2. Dethrone the Assassin.—Cantab.

O Ham! Be a man to hunt—kill—that demon of despair.—R. S. B.

The bloated Mahometan Faun-Kaliph rots in mud.—Agatherion.

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to TRUTH, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* TRUTH, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

ONE of the functions at Buckingham Palace during the festivities of next June will be a Diplomatic and Official Court, which the Queen is to hold in the ball-room, for the reception of a large number of personages "of light and leading" who will be invited by the Lord Chamberlain. It is highly probable that this Court will be an evening function, instead of being held in the afternoon.

The *Gaulois* is not the sort of journal where any rational being would seek for correct information as to the arrangements and projects of the British Court. But the evening papers ingenuously printed on Friday an extract from their Paris contemporary, stating that "all Sovereigns and Chiefs of States" will be invited to London next June for the Court festivities. There is no foundation whatever for the statement, which is a pure invention. No "Sovereigns and Chiefs of States" are to be invited, and it is utterly untrue that either the German Emperor, the Emperor of Austria, or the Czar are then coming to London, but they will be represented by members of their respective families. In this respect the precedent of 1887 is to be followed.

The Prince of Wales is staying at Newmarket until Friday. The Princess has gone to Sandringham until November 23, when H.R.H. and the Prince and Princess Victoria are to proceed to Blenheim on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, whose house-party will include Lord and Lady Londonderry, Mr. Balfour, Lord Curzon and Lady Georgiana Curzon, Lord Chesterfield, Lady Randolph Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. George Curzon, and Mr. Chaplin.

All the arrangements of the Prince and Princess of Wales for Sandringham hospitalities and country-house visits depend upon the health of Prince George of Hanover, eldest son of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, who is in a very dangerous condition.

Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark are to reside at Appleton House, near Sandringham, until the second week in December, when they will proceed to Copenhagen for a stay of several months.

The Duke of Coburg, who is to arrive at Clarence House this evening from Darmstadt (travelling by the Ostend route), will proceed to Sandringham on November 7 on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales, and he is to stay in England until the end of next month.

A contemporary referred the other day to Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (who has been entertaining the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at his country seat in Hungary) as the next heir to the throne of Coburg and the large settled estates which appertain to it, failing the Hereditary Prince. As a matter of fact, the next heir is the Duke of Connaught, then his son Prince Arthur, then the Duke of Albany, and only on the failure of the English male line would Prince Philip succeed.

The Duchess of Connaught, who has been suffering severely from rheumatism, is at present undergoing a course of massage at Dresden, where she will stay for three weeks in order to complete her cure.

Prince Christian, who has been in Germany for nearly three months, returned on Saturday to Windsor from visiting the German Emperor and Empress at the Neue Palais, Potsdam. Princess Christian, who has been for some time staying at Cumberland Lodge, had previously been joined by Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein from Balmoral, and by Prince and Princess Aribert of Anhalt, from Dessau.

A writer in America, discoursing on the results o inter-marrying, gives an appalling list of the diseases and deformities with which various members of European Royal Houses are afflicted, owing to this cause. From mere facial deformity up to insanity, there is scarcely any distressing affliction with which humanity is

afflicted which does not find a place in the list. Very possibly this catalogue may be incorrect, but experience unquestionably proves the fact that there is a degeneration in Royal families. To a certain extent this may be due to intermarriages, but I suspect that it is still more due to the species of cult that is paid to Royalties from generation to generation, and which must in the nature of things weaken their intellectual fibre. Nothing can be more mentally injurious for a man than to have all his wishes anticipated by a crowd of sycophants, and through life to find all agreeing with him with whom he is brought in daily contact, instead of being subjected to the discipline involved in social equality. Just as we have lost the tails that were the appendages of our primeval ancestors because gradually the habit of wagging them fell into disuse, so all mental virility gradually disappears from those families that are long regal, because they have no opportunity to exercise it.

Mr. G. Balfour arrived last week at the Chief Secretary's Lodge, Phœnix Park, where he will stay for some time. Business is slack at Dublin Castle, as it is everywhere at this season. An Irish Secretary, however, is never in danger of incurring any evil that might result from "idle hands." Mr. Balfour is a close attendant at his office in Dublin Castle. Before the Phœnix Park murders and the disturbed years in Ireland, the Chief Secretary's Lodge used to be, with the Viceregal Lodge and the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, the leading social centres of Irish Society. It was the usage to give the balls and entertainments at the Chief Secretary's Lodge before those of the Castle season began, and generally before Christmas. Of late years Chief Secretaries have given up the lighter official duties of ball-giving, and dinner parties have been the only form of entertainment patronised by them. Mr. A. J. Balfour, during his tenure of office in Ireland gave one large ball. It was not held in his official residence, but in Dublin Castle, the Lord-Lieutenant lending St. Patrick's Hall for the occasion.

Lord and Lady Dufferin have returned to Ireland to take up their residence at Clandeboye, co. Down, from which, except for an occasional short visit, they have been long absent. Lord Dufferin's return is being celebrated by a public banquet in Belfast. Lord Dufferin was unable to be present at the conferring of the degrees of the Royal Irish University, of which he is the President, last week. Mr. C. Redington, the Vice-President, took the leading part in the ceremonial, and made an excellent speech. This University boasts a large number of girl graduates. The Princess of Wales on her last visit to Ireland received the musical doctor's degree, one of her prettiest photographs representing her in the academic dress of the Royal University.

The "Kingdom of Kerry" went through many vicissitudes in old historic days. Another army of invaders is likely to sweep over it soon, bringing prosperity, however, in their track. Cyclists have found out Kerry. This most picturesque county possesses admirable roads; the hotels, too, are excellent, and demonstrate the fact of the great progress made in the Irish tourist industry. The weather, unfortunately, this year cut short the tourist season, but Ireland was not more unlucky in that way than many other countries.

There is at least one advantage of being in the sere and yellow leaf. A good deal of the forgotten past is remembered. It may surprise the Navy League, whatever that League may be beyond being decorators of Trafalgar-square on the anniversary of Nelson's victory, that British patriotism, more generous in words than in cash, declined to find the money to complete the Trafalgar monument, and that this so shocked the Czar Nicholas, when he visited the Queen in 1842, that he provided it. I shall have a higher opinion of the League when I hear that its members have subscribed the amount necessary to build a battleship, instead of the more modest sum requisite to put a British garland round the Russian monument to the British hero.

I am no great believer in the celebration of victories, unless it be a dinner or something of that sort amongst the survivors. The tendency of such functions is to perpetuate ill-feeling between nations. We all know what happened at Trafalgar, and we are proud of the pluck of our sailors. But why swagger about it? What should we say to a Scotch commemoration of Bannockburn, or a Dutch celebration of the burning of Chatham, or a Boer national festival to keep alive the memory of Majuba Hill?

If we must have celebrations of this kind, it would be better, I should have thought, to keep the day on which we made peace than the day on which we defeated the enemy. By celebrating the Treaties of 1815 or 1856 we should be reminded not only of our victories and sacrifices, but of the results, if any, which we gained by them. Better still would it be, as a philosopher suggests to me, to celebrate the achievements of peace, or any events which have tended to promote international friendship, such as the opening of the first railway in England, the passage of the first steamboat from England to France, or the signing of the first Arbitration Treaty between England and America.

Lord Rosebery, who is going abroad for the winter and spring months, has been staying in Kent with Lord Gerard at Eastwell Park, near Ashford; and with his cousin, Lord Stanhope, at Chevening Park, near Sevenoaks. Lord Rosebery has just obtained leave from the Court of Session to disentail his family estates in the counties of Edinburgh and Linlithgow.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1124 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1126.
For Amusements, see page 1125.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1137.

Intending purchasers of American Organs should inspect the new models which Messrs. Metzler & Co., Great Marlborough street, have just received from the factory of Mason & Hamlin.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mary Caroline Duchess of Sutherland and Sir Albert Kaye Rollit, M.P.

On the occasion of Sir W. MacCormac's election as President of the Royal College of Surgeons, a number of his friends in London resolved to show their regard for him by having his portrait painted for presentation to the Queen's College, where he was educated, at the celebration of its jubilee next year. The project was warmly taken up by former students of Queen's College and former pupils of Sir William's. A Committee was formed, with the Marquis of Dufferin and Sir D. Barbour as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Sir J. Dick, M.D., as Hon. Treasurer, and arrangements for the sittings were completed, when they had to be put off by Sir William's sudden illness. He is now out of danger, and it is still hoped that the portrait may be ready by January, when the jubilee celebrations at Belfast are to take place. The Hon. Secretary of the Committee is Mr. J. Andrew Strahan, 3, Brick-court, Temple.

I see it stated that the International Sleeping Car Company is making its arrangements for the winter. I would make this suggestion to them. They have a sleeping car between Bâle and Calais and vice versâ. But a considerable number of people go on from Bâle to Lausanne, en route to Geneva or to Territet, which latter place is every year cram-full of English. It is possible to leave the sleeping car at Dellemont and to take a train that reaches Lausanne at about 8 a.m. But to do this it is necessary to get out of the sleeping car at about 5 a.m. Therefore most of the passengers go on in the sleeping car to Bâle, wait there an hour, then take a train that brings them to Lausanne at about one o'clock. Why not, then, once a week let the sleeping car run from Dellemont on to Lausanne? I have often used the Bâle sleeping car in winter, but very seldom is it above half full, mainly, I imagine, because English go to all parts of the Lake of Geneva viâ Paris. This is the quickest route at present. But it is a disagreeable one in winter because there is no sleeping car; passengers are changed about from carriage to carriage *en route*; and very often owing to the snow, the French train is delayed for hours.

A second suggestion that I would make to the Sleeping Car Company is, that the designer of the cars should devote his energies to find some way to make separate compartments for one person; or, in default of this, that the Company should come to some arrangement with the Continental Railway Companies by which a person wishing to be alone should be able to be so on reasonable extra payment. As it is, not only has he to pay for two berths, which is reasonable, but also for two railroad fares, which is unreasonable. It is disagreeable to be boxed up for a night in a sleeping berth with some perfectly unknown person. I once found myself in a sleeping car with an unknown lady—not in the bloom of youth. She glared at me, and asked me whether I contemplated going to bed. I assured her that this was my intention; on which she said that she could not be a witness to anything so indecent, and vanished—where I never knew. I sympathised with the lady, but why had I taken a berth? Certainly not to sit up all night.

I see that a fashionably-dressed widow has been committed for trial on the charge of stealing some plated candlesticks from the Colwyn Bay Hotel. I know nothing as to her guilt or innocence, nor if I did should I make my views public, as the case is *sub judice*. But the defence urged was a curious one. She was a Lady of the Manor in Salop, and she had recently presented a clergyman to a living. That a Lady of a Manor or the patron of a living should be above all suspicion of breaking the law is, indeed, a curious assumption.

At Leopardstown Races last August a lady picked up a five-pound note, and promptly handed it to an R.I.C. man, who was on duty, giving him at the same time her own name and address. A few weeks later she wrote to the Commandant at Dublin to inquire what had become of the note. The answer was that no owner had come forward, and that by law the note would remain in the hands of the police for twelve months, when it would probably be paid over to the Chancellor of the Exchequer under the provisions of 37 & 38 Vic., cap. 80, sec. 9. This section is as follows:—

> Where any money shall be found and delivered to a constable, then at the expiration of twelve months, during which no owner thereof claims the same, it shall be lawful for the Inspector-General to pay over the amount] thereof to her Majesty's Exchequer.

If her Majesty's Exchequer comes into any appreciable sum by the operation of this statute, it proves that either the Irish are an exceptionally honest race, or that the provisions of the law are very little understood.

One of the saddest cases I have heard of persecution by street musicians is that of a gentleman in the West End, whose misfortune it was to live next door to a lady who made a point of giving a shilling to every organ-grinder who struck up at her house. For a long time the victim suffered in silence, until he was driven to the verge of insanity, when he organised a regular system of raiding the organ-grinders—he or his butler, or both, lying in wait and dashing out upon each musician that appeared, like Miss Trotwood and her maid swooping on the donkey-boys. Every sufferer will be pleased to hear that at the end of a month the raider found that no organ-grinder entered the street. He also reports, and the fact should be recorded to the credit of the organ-grinding fraternity, that though they occasionally abused him, the musicians never failed to decamp when ordered and he never once had to invoke the assistance of the police. Really, it seems to me that householders have the remedy in their own hands, and if the nuisance flourishes it is only because the vast majority do not feel it sufficiently to take the trouble to stop it.

There is one way, however, in which I think the strong arm of the law might reasonably limit the organ-grinding nuisance. That is, as I remarked last week, by enacting

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a close time for organs. If street music were only permitted, say, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the affliction would be deprived of the worst part of its sting, which I take to be the striking up of a barrel organ in your neighbourhood at 10 or 11 p.m. An enactment of this kind would only be a statutory limitation of the hours of labour, and as such should be welcomed by organ-grinders themselves. Let us, then, unite in a movement to secure a twelve hours' work day for organ-grinders and a twelve hours' night's rest for ourselves.

About six months ago I took the liberty of pointing out to Captain Walford-Gosnall the desirability of issuing some detailed report and accounts in connection with the Mount Maskall Home for Horses, of which he is the proprietor. As the Captain makes up his accounts from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, and is therefore very probably engaged at the present moment on his new balance-sheet, it seems a good opportunity to remind him of this advice. The last statement of account issued, dated up to September 30, 1895, bore no auditor's signature, and no indication as to who was responsible for it. It acknowledged receipts to the amount of £284. 1s. 4d., of which £251. 18s. 10d. came from subscriptions and donations, the remainder being made up of payments for horses accommodated at the Home. The working expenses, included £60. 7s. 6d. for "corn, hay, and pasturage," £72. 16s. for "men's wages," and £91. 18s. 11d. for "incidental expenses." No information was given as to the number of distressed horses relieved, so that no means were afforded of judging how far the subscriptions had been wisely and economically administered; but the expenditure of £91 on printing, stationery, stamps, &c., in connection with so small an undertaking, does not suggest the most favourable conclusions as to the Captain's administrative abilities. Seeing, too, that the horses are received on the Captain's own farm, and that he is ostensibly performing this work out of charity, the charge for "pasturage" also seems to need explanation. I trust that in the forthcoming balance-sheet all these points will be satisfactorily explained.

I have just been informed of a sequel to the remarkable story of landlord tyranny on the part of Mr. J. T. Mills, J.P., at Hillborough, Norfolk, which I published on September 10. It may be remembered that Mr. Mills was accused of having threatened to dismiss a man and woman whom he employed as caretakers at Hillborough Hall if they ventured to allow their daughter, a girl about to be discharged from a lunatic asylum, to live either at the Hall or at any house in the village of Hillborough. The latest development of the affair is that these people have received notice to quit, and I hear that on inquiring the reason they were told to ask the Editor of Truth. This would seem scarcely credible if it were not for the insight into Mr. Mills' character as a landlord and employer which has been afforded by his previous proceedings. I invited him before to favour me with any explanation he might care to give, but he made no response, and I do not suppose that he is likely to accept a similar invitation now, though, if he will, my columns are at his disposal. If, however, it is a fact that these poor people have been turned adrift owing to the paragraphs which appeared in Truth, I beg to assure Mr. Mills that he is doing them a grievous injustice. Personally I do not feel much sympathy for them, for it seemed to me that they showed a lamentable lack of natural feeling and affection in their servile observance of the behests of their employer in regard to their unfortunate child. But it is only right to say that they were not my informants, and that I have not at any time had any communication with them.

Since the outcry which was raised two or three months back, it has seemed as though the threatened interference with the public right of access to the Giant's Causeway had been discreetly abandoned. It turns out, however, that instead of going on with the proposed erection of railings and barricades (which would have been promptly demolished) the company, which claims to have acquired the Causeway, is suing three individuals for trespass and the whole question will be fought out in the Court of Chancery. This is, after all, the best way of settling it, and the Defence Committee which has been formed will, doubtless, be backed up with ample funds in their efforts to maintain the rights of way which the public have enjoyed at the Giant's Causeway from time immemorial.

I must apologise to the Carbery Hunt, individually and collectively. It turns out that the two tame deer advertised for sale because they "know this country too well," are not complained of for making the course too stiff, but on the contrary, because they have developed too great a fondness for the Queen's highway. Now that they have got to know the roads, the two sagacious beasts find the going so much more comfortable that they absolutely decline to strike across country. I don't blame them, especially when they find that the hunt has no fancy for a canter along a few miles of turnpike road. There is a little point that I should like to know now, however, and that is why this particular failing of the two animals was not mentioned when they were offered for sale. Did the vendors seriously suppose that there are some hunts which would prefer a couple of deer warranted never to run off the road? If such can be found, that will be the hunt for me when I take up this noble sport.

An idea, which may commend itself to sporting circles, has occurred to me in this connection. Why should not some bicycle club purchase these two discarded roadsters from the Carbery Hunt and organise a Bicycle Deer Hunt? Many suggestions have been made for the utilisation of bikes for hunting. Here is a chance which may not occur again.

A Yorkshire farmer has lately had an agreeable experience of the eccentricities of the English land system. Some time after taking possession of his farm he received a demand from an office in London for payment of his

"Hotel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

share of a "fee farm rent," or Crown rent, chargeable upon an estate of which his holding formed part. He had heard nothing of any such charge when taking the farm, and on requesting an explanation, he was informed that the charge was part of an ancient Crown rent upon all lands of this particular township, which had been sold by auction by virtue of 22 Charles II., cap. 6, with all the rights and powers of recovery attaching to it, and had thus passed into the hands of the present owner. The solicitors having charge of the matter professed their ability to prove the regular collection and payment of the rent for the last 200 years. They asserted a right to collect the whole of the rent due, which seems to have amounted to three years' arrears, at the rate of £16. 15s. 2¾d., per annum, from any individual properly liable, but they very considerately agreed to accept from this particular tenant an apportionment of the rent, amounting to 7s. 8½d. per annum, or £1. 3s. 1½d. for three years.

To anybody of antiquarian tastes this survival of an ancient Crown rent upon freehold property may be a highly interesting fact; but the unfortunate farmer, not being an antiquary, regarded the claim as an impudent imposition, and has been doing his best to ascertain whether he is justified in resisting it. I should think that it might be a troublesome matter for the owner of such a rent to prove his claim in a court of law; but whether it may be worth anybody's while to contest his rights over a question of 7s. 8½d. per annum is a different matter. It is a monstrous thing, however, that a demand of this nature should be sprung upon a struggling farmer without his having any previous knowledge of the existence of the charge, and the incident helps to show how many musty relics of feudalism still require sweeping away from our land system.

Although not entertaining an exalted idea of the wisdom and knowledge of the Press, I confess I am astonished at the ignorance of current events revealed in some of the notices which are appearing of "Professor" Garner's book. To the instances already mentioned in Truth may now be added several others, notably a review which appeared in the *Globe* of October 19, where several of Garner's most impudent fictions respecting his doings in Africa are reproduced, without a hint that the whole story has been impugned on indisputable testimony. In view of these lamentable displays of ignorance, I will take the first opportunity I can find of looking into Garner's precious volume and comparing it with the evidence of other parties as to his African adventures.

Few critics have come in for more criticism than Mr. Clement Scott, and of late he has been belaboured with greater vehemence than usual. That this hard usage has not damaged him very seriously, however, may be judged from the fact that the proprietors of the *Daily Telegraph* have now made arrangements to retain his services exclusively for that journal. If this arrangement is satisfactory to both parties, it should also be highly satisfactory to the numerous rising lights of dramatic criticism, who will find vacancies thus opened in the profession. The only parties who have cause to be dissatisfied are the various editors who thus find themselves deprived of Mr. Clement Scott's incomparable services.

In reference to the impudent post-card advertisements of a work called "Detrimental Diffusiveness" and another work by the same author, Messrs. H. & C. Treacher, of Brighton, write me that these advertisements have been issued entirely without their sanction, and that they "have obtained an emphatic undertaking that nothing of the sort shall be done again." I trust that this undertaking will be observed; but, from what I hear of him, the author of these works is rather a difficult gentleman to suppress.

There must be an amazing number of obscure individuals yearning to see particulars of their lives in print, judging from the number of people engaged in ministering to this form of vanity. The labours of the Presses, Manning and Truman, are familiar to the readers of Truth, but there is a gentleman named G. R. Hatton, of Fleet, Hants, who is conducting the manufacture of biographies on a scale which throws Manning Press into the shade. Mr. Hatton produces every month a publication called the *Biographer*, which in each issue puts forth full particulars of the parentage, education, and mode of life of at least ten or a dozen individuals of whom nobody but their next-door neighbour has ever heard. The scale on which Mr. Hatton is now going to work may be judged by the fact that he appears to be making his way steadily through the London Directory from A to Z and inviting every individual whose name he finds there to furnish particulars of his career for the benefit of the *Biographer*. This I infer from the fact that for two or three weeks past he seems to have been steadily working his way through the letter "B" in the Directory. Three weeks back he was at "Ba," he then got to "Be," and last week he was at "Bo." Mr. Hatton attaches no pecuniary condition to the publication of your biography, in which respect he has an advantage over the two Presses. I take it that he relies for his remuneration upon every client voluntarily giving a large order for copies of the *Biographer*, and distributing them among his admiring friends. This is, of course, legitimate business, if you can make it pay, but I would advise those who suddenly receive a post-card from Mr. Hatton, inviting them to supply data to the *Biographer*, not to feel unduly elated at the compliment paid them.

With regard to the remark in last week's Truth on his Preface to "Charlotte Brontë and Her Circle," Mr. Clement Shorter points out that in the same paragraph in which he spoke of the "widespread interest" of Mrs. Gaskell's biography, he admitted that, intrinsically, Boswell's "Life of Johnson," and Lockhart's "Life of Scott," are more important works. His point is that "widespread interest" can only be measured by sales, and that any bookseller can show that Mrs. Gaskell's "Life of Charlotte Brontë" has had a more extensive

Water Supply to Country Houses.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—Merryweathers, 63, Long-acre, London, W.C., & Greenwich, S.E.

sale than either of the above-mentioned books, or than Moore's "Byron," or Trevelyan's "Macaulay." On the relative literary merits of these works he disclaims having given any opinion.

A volume of the correspondence of Lord Blachford is to be published this week. Better known as Sir Frederick Rogers, he was for a long time permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the intimate friend of many celebrated men, notably Mr. Gladstone, Cardinal Newman, Bishop Wilberforce, and Dean Church. Lord Blachford was an advanced High Churchman, and he took a keen interest in the Oxford movement, and was one of the founders of the *Guardian* newspaper. Sir Frederick Rogers was raised to the peerage by Mr. Gladstone in 1871, and he died in 1883.

The new buildings of the Sarah Acland Home, at Oxford, will be opened next May by the Prince of Wales. When Sir Henry Acland resigned his office of Regius Professor of Medicine, a large sum was presented to him as a testimonial, and he is devoting the money to the enlargement of the Home which was founded as a memorial of his admirable wife.

Twelve months ago 734 freshmen came into residence at Oxford at the beginning of the University year, but this term there are only 621. This is a serious decline, which has been felt in nearly all the colleges excepting Worcester (where there is a considerable increase) and Christ Church, which has gained eleven, but last year "the House" suffered a heavy fall. Balliol and Magdalen have both fallen, and, in spite of Mr. Gladstone's support of the non-collegiate system, there are eleven fewer of these students than there were a year ago. The most popular colleges at Oxford just now are Keble, Christ Church, New College, and Exeter.

Bishop Temple's translation to Canterbury would seem to have been prompted by the rule of contraries. The late Archbishop was before all things courteous, mild-mannered, and conciliatory; his successor is conspicuously brusque, high-handed, and overbearing. If Lord Salisbury's selection was not prompted by the desire to have an Archbishop as different as possible from the last, the appointment must then be taken as a recognition of Bishop Temple's right-about-face on the Education Question, and his activity in support of the Athelstan Riley movement, and of the abortive Education Bill of last session. Doubtless, the most potent motive was that of putting the Church's most prominent fighting man in the position where he can best render support to the Government in their next legislative effort on behalf of Church Schools.

Whatever qualifications Bishop Temple might have had for the Primacy twelve years ago are now more than counterbalanced by his age. To appoint any man, however hale and vigorous, to an administrative post of such weight and difficulty within a few weeks of his seventy-fifth birthday is undesirable on every ground, and more especially for the bad example thus set to the innumerable prelates and incumbents who are to be seen sticking to their posts for years after their powers have failed. Dr. Temple's abilities as a ruler and organiser are denied by no one, but his work both at Exeter and in London has been marked by conspicuous blunders, and his jobbery has been a scandal. It is to be hoped that he will at any rate not carry with him to Canterbury his free-and-easy ideas as to the use of parochial endowments for lightening the burdens of Bishops without reducing their emoluments.

That the Bishop of Rochester's claims to the Canterbury vacancy should have been passed over will surprise no one in view of his present state of health. But the prelate whose advancement would undoubtedly have been viewed with most approval by clergy and laity is the Bishop of Peterborough, who adds to many of the best qualities of the late Archbishop great force of character, a highly dignified presence, and a considerable reputation as a scholar; while he has twenty years advantage of Dr. Temple in point of age. His appointment to the vacancy at London would be the best and most popular that could be made.

If the new Archbishop were desirous of inaugurating his Primacy with a generous and graceful act, he could not do better than take some steps to secure permanently to the use of the public that portion of the Lambeth Palace Grounds which Archbishop Benson allowed to be used for cricket, donkey shows, and other popular purposes. This piece of ground is of no use to any Archbishop, and would form a public park in a district where such a thing is badly wanted.

The *Croydon Advertiser and Surrey County Reporter* cannot be congratulated upon some of its references to the death of Archbishop Benson. Could anything be in more execrable taste than the following remark?—

> The death away from Addington has, of course, deprived the neighbourhood of some excitement, and at least one good tradesman in Croydon of an excellent contract and advertisement. I need not specify to what or whom I refer.

Half-a-dozen different statements respecting the profession of Archbishop Benson's father have appeared in the various papers, and not one of them is correct. Mr. Edward White Benson was a consulting and manufacturing chemist, and a man of considerable ability. When the late Primate was born, his father was superintendent of the Stoke Prior Works, near Bromsgrove. Some few years afterwards Mr. Benson removed to Birmingham,

To Overcome Weakness.—Pepper's Quinine and Iron Tonic gives New Life, Appetite, Health, Strength, Energy. Cures Neuralgia, Indigestion, Pepper's Nerve Tonic. Debility. Kept everywhere.

Extract from a Lecture on "Foods," by Dr. Andrew Wilson.—"The consumption of cocoa happily increases year by year. I say 'happily' because, as tea and coffee are not foods, while cocoa is a true food, any increase in the national nutrition means an increase in the national prosperity. Winter, besides, is close upon us, and I advise those who are susceptible to colds to fortify themselves against chill by attention to their food. The easiest way of effecting this end for many is to substitute cocoa (Epps's being the most nutritious) for tea."

having been appointed manager of some large white-lead works, and his son was then sent to the Birmingham Grammar School, of which Dr. Prince Lee (afterwards Bishop of Manchester) was headmaster, and when Bishops Lightfoot and Westcott were pupils there.

Archdeacon Sinclair is to be the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday-afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during November, replacing the Suffragan-Bishop of Stepney, who has probably been on duty there for the last time.

According to the *Birmingham Post*, there is an egregious instance of clerical charity and good feeling at present on view in the parish of St. Luke's, Headless Cross. The curate of this parish so far forgot the dignity of his cloth as to fall in love with and marry the daughter of a farmer in the neighbourhood. He was compelled by the Vicar to resign his appointment, and has been interdicted by the Rector from doing duty. Last Sunday evening there seems to have been a disgraceful scene at the evening service, and the Vicar is reported to have been howled at and hissed on leaving the church. Unless there is a good deal more behind than the public is yet aware of, his reverence seems to have richly deserved this treatment.

The Rector of Little Oakley, Harwich, thinks that if the circumstances were better known, neither I nor any one else would censure the appeals of his little girls to raise money for the rebuilding of the parish church. I have no objection to make the facts better known. Mr. Allen says :—

> When I came to this parish (nearly three years ago) I found the church in an almost ruined condition, and the upper part of the tower had been taken down, as it was considered unsafe. At first it was proposed to restore the old building, but after consideration it was resolved at a parish meeting, as the present church is at the extreme corner of the parish and away from the people, to provide an entirely new one. But this is a small village of poor people. How are we to get £1,600? Though we are doing all we can, it is quite beyond us.

The way this strikes me is that it is a disgraceful thing to a religious community like the Church of England that it should have no common central organisation for preserving the fabrics of its buildings; and that, by reason of this, little village churches should be left to tumble down, unless rectors and vicars are disposed to go cadging all over the country for the means of keeping the walls and roof of the House of God in their places. It is an incidental result of this deplorable state of things that the two little daughters of the Rector of Oakley are sending out their begging-letters. I don't wish to be hard on an incumbent who is so circumstanced, still less on his children. But I should never have heard of these letters if a good many people had not thought that little girls of eight and ten might be better employed than in writing begging-letters, and that view I rather share.

In a printed appeal which he has issued on behalf of the parochial funds, the Vicar of Scarborough remarks that "in this immense parish of 16,000 residents, it is found impossible to carry on the many and varied institutions and associations by means of offertories and subscriptions." I am astonished that the Vicar should have the temerity to place such stress on the size of his parish and the vast amount of work it involves. By doing so this pluralist himself brings out more palpably than ever the scandal of his conduct in leaving his parish to the care of an inadequate staff of curates for month after month each year while he is in residence as a Canon at York or fulfilling his engagements as Suffragan Bishop of Hull.

The Vicar of Stalham, Norfolk, in a recent issue of his parish magazine, wrote about "the gross misrepresentations and exaggerations" which had been published in reference to the condition of the churchyard, and went on to say that additional burying ground would be required "five or six years" hence. There have been no "misrepresentations and exaggerations" in the statements on the subject which have appeared in TRUTH, and the vicar's idea that the existing disgraceful state of things can be allowed to continue for five or six years longer has just been rudely dissipated by one of his ecclesiastical superiors. On Friday last the Archdeacon of Norwich made a careful inspection of the churchyard, with the result that he advised an immediate enlargement, pointing out that unless this were done some other authority might move in the matter. There is now, therefore, a prospect of an end being put to the sickening and disgraceful spectacles which have been witnessed every time a fresh grave has been dug in this overcrowded burial ground.

No one would wish to say a word in disparagement of the Liberator Relief Fund, but the managers can hardly be congratulated on the economical way in which their work has been accomplished. The accounts for 1895, recently issued, show subscriptions during the year to the amount of £13,917, of which £1,888 has gone in administrative expenses. Printing, stationery, postage, and the issue of circulars have cost no less than £1,312, besides which there is an item of £187. 10s. 9d. for "advertising," and £261. 10s. 6d. for "clerical assistance." Of course, advertising and circularising are the chief means to success with a fund of this kind, and the handsome sum already collected shows that these means have not failed in the present case. But 3s. 6d. for advertising and office expenses out of every guinea subscribed is a large order.

I have received the following amounts towards this year's Toy Fund for providing the children in the London Hospitals, Workhouses, Workhouse Schools, and Infirmaries with toys at Christmas :—G. B. Hingston, £1 ; B. S., £1 ; G. P., £5 ; Mrs. E. Phillips, £1. 1s. ; Miss Fleetwood Wilson, £5.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says : "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

WINTER SEASON, 1896.—How can last year's Scalskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W

In connection with the War Office treatment of the 4th Hussars scandals, the appointment of Captain the Honourable F. R. W. de Moleyns to the command of the Police Force in Mashonaland and Matabeleland is of considerable interest. Captain de Moleyns was Adjutant of the 4th Hussars at the time of the horse-troughing of Mr. Hodge and the ultimatum delivered to Mr. Bruce. He had been fully informed of the treatment of Mr. Hodge, if he did not know it already, by that unfortunate gentleman's father, and he was also acquainted by Mr. Bruce of what happened at the Nimrod Club within a day or two of that occurrence. He has been succeeded in the Adjutantcy by Mr. Barnes, one of the four gallant horse-troughers of the Hodge incident, and the gentleman in whose name the invitations were sent out to the dinner organised to inform Mr. Bruce that he was not considered a fit person to join the 4th Hussars. So far, therefore, from these incidents having in any way damaged either Captain de Moleyns or Mr. Barnes, it would seem that they have rather tended to advance them in the profession. I hope we shall not hear of the horse-troughing of any Mashonas or Matabele under the De Moleyns regime. There has been quite enough ruffianism in that part of the world already.

The following story from India is full of instruction, both for the public and for Army men. At a large station in the Madras Presidency a soldier was tried a few months ago by a Regimental Court-martial, and was awarded a very light punishment. The C.O. of the Regiment then addressed the following memorandum to the President of the court, having previously expressed himself verbally to the same effect to the two junior members:—

> With regard to the sentence, I consider it a wilful attempt to undermine my authority, and a direct defiance of my orders. *It ought to have been clear to any one that this man was sent for trial in order that he should be awarded a heavier punishment than I could give him summarily.* It was no question of sifting evidence. The prisoner's guilt was clear.

Note here the frank declaration of this officer's original views on the subject of trial by court-martial. The Regimental Court-martial exists, in his opinion, not for the purpose of administering justice as an independent tribunal, but for the purpose of registering convictions previously passed by the C.O., and awarding a heavier punishment than the C.O. himself is empowered to do by law and military regulations.

This view has actually been endorsed by the General, with what consequences to the three officers composing the court may be imagined. At the request of his colleagues, the President of the court took the opinions of the senior officers on the station as to his duty in the face of this extraordinary reprimand. By their advice he wrote, reminding the C.O. of the oath that the members of the Court had taken, maintaining that they had conscientiously observed it, and requesting that the censure might be withdrawn. The matter then went before the General, who informed the President that his letter to the C.O. was "mere casuistry," and that he entirely agreed with the C.O.'s remarks, at the same time accentuating them by expressing his own opinion that the three members of the Court had violated their oath simply to curry popularity with the men. In the letter in which the General subsequently pronounced his decision, he further accused the President of influencing the junior members of the Court in such a way as to undermine the C.O.'s authority. This expression of opinion, unsustained, of course, by any proof or reason, was the very precise opposite of the facts, the truth being that the unfortunate President had personally been in favour of a very severe punishment. In order to relieve himself of the monstrous imputation thus cast upon him, the President requested his C.O. to call for a statement from each member of the Court of the grounds on which the punishment had been based. This, however, the C.O. refused, retorting on the President with a reference to the oath taken by the members of the Court —the same "casuistry" which the President himself had been rebuked for using — and at this point the matter has dropped.

Few more extraordinary incidents than this have ever been recounted in TRUTH. Here we have three officers, appointed and sworn to duly administer justice, and then treated as offenders themselves, and visited with a double dose of official censure, because their view of the requirements of justice differs from that of their C.O. This censure is meted out blindfold, and without any attempt to discover what part each individual member of the Court has taken in the sentence, and the heaviest measure of blame falls upon the officer who in point of fact was innocent of all responsibility for the sentence. By virtue of the convenient confidential report system, all three of these officers are liable to be permanently damaged in their careers in consequence of the incident; and, so far as I can see, the only chance any of them has of retrieving his reputation and reinstating himself in the good graces of the authorities, is to try and get on to another court-martial, and impose the very heaviest sentence known to the military code, regardless of the nature of the offence, or the prisoner's guilt or innocence. And, after all this, we are sometimes asked to regard courts-martial as tribunals incapable of doing injustice!

It was announced the other day that Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton has been granted a six-months' extension of his appointment as Deputy A.A.G. at Portsmouth, "*as compensation for the time lost* while absent on active service in Ashanti." "Time lost," it doubtless was in one sense, and money lost, too, but not from the point of view of an officer who has been allowed to count the time as active service and has been rewarded by a decoration from the Queen. Less favoured officers may well resent an extension of Staff Service under such circumstances.

Is there a rule that officers in colonial military employment return to their regimental duties after five years, or resign? If so, why have the War Office broken their rule in the case of Major Moore of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, who has been on special service on the West Coast of Africa since February, 1890? This inquiry is

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, E., APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed

of special interest to those who have been doing Major Moore's regimental work for nearly seven years without his being seconded.

With reference to the grievance of the 2nd Royal Scots over their clothing, Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison, who commanded the battalion till June, 1895, sends me a letter, from which I give an extract below. If it is really the case that every man who had to pay Rs. 4 9a. in 1895 had received that sum by way of compensation for a deferred issue in 1892, there is an end to the matter. But this account of the affair does not square with the statement to which I gave publicity last week, that, when paying in 1895, the men were told that the money would be refunded in 1896. But I do not wonder that soldiers, or anybody else, should get bewildered over the subtleties of the Indian clothing issues, for I am bound to say it is as much as I can do myself to follow these mysterious complications. This is what Colonel Morrison says:—

The facts are as follows:—On the arrival of the battalion in India from Malta early in 1892 the men were entitled to a new doublet, but as they are little worn I applied for serge frocks in lieu, which application was granted, the men getting compensation for their difference in value then and there. By 1895 many men had outgrown their doublets and some had worn them out. Having reason to believe doublets would be discarded, I put off getting new ones till ordered to do so. Any man who has had to pay R 4. 9 a. in 1895 for difference of value of clothing received this sum in 1892, so is by no means a sufferer by the transaction; while, on the other hand, many a man whose time expired, or was sent home in 1894 and 1895, received in lieu of a doublet (which would have been of no use to him) the sum of R 4. 9 a. and a serge frock, which latter, if this change of issue had not been made, he would have to have paid for out of his own pocket.

As an example of the methods by which the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton has been managed of late, the following statement is of interest. It has been the practice for some time past of a prominent official to hold about once a week a sort of conference of the men under him for the purpose of lecturing them on their duties, explaining the various orders which have lately fallen in showers upon the Office, instructing the men in their work, and so on. As many as seventy men have been known to be summoned from their work to attend these discourses, and they have been in attendance on an average for about half an hour each time, and this has been going on since February, except during the lecturer's holidays. Hardly the way, one would think, to expedite the business of a large Department.

Here are a few extracts from an anonymous communication addressed to me on the subject of the Ordnance Survey. If this is designed to show that the civilians in the Department are viewed in a friendly and sympathetic spirit by their military superiors, I am sorry to say it fails to carry conviction to me. The reader can judge for himself:—

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton,
October 23, 1896.

Go it old father of lies! You are doing splendidly. . . . You are a d—— cur to go about slandering the officers of the Survey the way you are doing. Do you know that the man you are trying to make a martyr of had four times as much pay as a sergeant of Engineers? . . . If they are not satisfied with their position why do they not leave? Nobody wants them here. The R.E.s could carry on the work better and more economically without them. But they are naturally a discontented, lazy lot of devils, and since they have come over you, and got you to print their lies in your rag of a paper, they think they are to carry everything before them and clear out the R.E.s . . . Take my advice, and shut up, and leave the officers to manage their own business, which they can very well do without any of your d—— interference. If you don't, you will find yourself in the wrong box presently.—Ordnance Survey.

A pleasant-mannered sort of man to work under! I like, too, his notion of the R.E.s being able to manage any business "better and more economically" than anybody else.

The other day a civilian who had business at the Depot at Dorchester, noticed another individual in civilian garb walking about, and apparently in authority, and on making inquiries found that he was the sergeant-major, who had been disporting himself in mufti since about ten o'clock in the morning. The civilian writes to ask me whether this is the usual practice at Depots. I know so little about these matters that I can only refer my correspondent to the C.O., or perhaps to the editor of one of the Service journals.

A notice was, I understand, published in Camp Orders at Kilworth, that, on the camp breaking up, the credit balance would be divided among the members of the mess. Whether any attempt has been made to carry this out, I do not know, but in one battalion at least the sergeants who were at Kilworth have not received a halfpenny. The mess subscription at Kilworth was sixpence a day, and the sergeants got little more than their ordinary rations; so it would seem that there ought to be something substantial to divide. Who is responsible for this state of affairs?

I am pleased to have received from the Depot of the Essex Regiment an authoritative reply to various remarks upon that establishment that have appeared in Truth during the last two or three weeks. But with all respect, I cannot say that the reply disposes of all the points raised. In regard to the statement as to the sergeant-major and quartermaster-sergeant having passed practically the whole of their Army life at the Depot, I am now told that they are both in the prime of life and excellent officers. I have not questioned that; but it seems to me—speaking with humility, as an outsider—that a man who has put in the whole of his service at a Depot must have had a very limited and one-sided Army training, and that it is desirable to have at Depots men who have done a full share of regimental service. It is denied that these two men do not always get on well with N.C.O.s from the Line battalions; but I must say that I think I have some evidence to the contrary.

Again, with regard to there being no lance-corporals at the Depot, the answer is that the C.O. can have an establishment of either 40 privates, or 28 privates and 12 lance-corporals, and that with the approval of the General he finds it best to have 40 privates. The question remains, however, whether the privates find it best. I originally put the case from the point of view of the privates, who have to do lance-corporals' work in addition to their own,

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—10, Gt. Portland Street, W. Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

and get no extra pay for it. The C.O. and the General may think this the best of all possible arrangements, but I cannot quite admit that this settles the matter. The statement, on the other hand, as to TRUTH being mutilated, seems to have been an exaggeration, as I am assured that this only happened once, and that it was then at once reported by the librarian, and a new copy provided. There remains only one other point—the allegation as to a married private being turned out of his quarters to make way for the cook of the officers' mess. It is denied that such a thing has happened, and I place the denial on record; but, as my information was very precise, it is necessary to make some further inquiry.

I pilloried last week a grievance of the corporals of the Army Pay Corps at Woolwich, who complain that they are denied the privilege of wearing sergeants' stripes, which is allowed to men of the same rank in the corps at other stations. Apparently the grievance only extends to the juniors, and I hear that the privilege has been promised to the rest on their completing two years' service as corporal. It seems, however, that there is another side to the question, for no sooner had my remarks gone to press, than I came across a growl from a corporal in another departmental corps at Portsmouth, complaining that the A. P. C. corporals there should be allowed to wear stripes and otherwise enjoy the privileges of sergeants. I have an idea that the A. P. C. corporals are not the only men in the Service who are allowed to wear stripes and belong to a sergeants' mess, but it is pretty clear that there ought to be some general rule throughout the Service, for whether the privilege is allowed at one station or in one corps only, it is bound to create jealousy and discontent among other corporals who are not equally favoured. If the system works well, or is considered desirable in one case, it must be equally so in all.

Although Mr. Charles Dibdin has not seen fit to favour me with any communication on the subject of the behaviour of the crew of the Kingstown lifeboat on a recent occasion, I am glad to see that an explanation has been given on behalf of the crew in the Dublin papers. The point of the explanation is that the crew really did go up to the wreck on the occasion of their first expedition, and not seeing any one on board, and not getting any reply to their shouts, they put back again. As this is corroborated by the two men who actually were on the wreck, and who state that they were prevented by the high sea then running from leaving the cabin, where they were at the time when they heard the lifeboat men hail them, it seems to absolve the crew from any suspicion of having failed in their duty.

Before Admiral Field, M.P., and other Justices at Gosport Police-court last week, a writer employed in the Gun Wharf, named J. P. R. Morris, was charged with assaulting his wife and bound over to keep the peace. The evidence showed that the defendant, who had been drinking, caught his wife by the throat and tried to strangle her and also threatened to cut her throat and to gouge her eyes out. "A nice man for a writer, no mistake," observed Admiral Field. "Such a man ought not to be in Government employ. I have only to raise my little finger and he would be turned out." As, however, the Admiral did not raise his finger, I venture to raise mine. I would suggest to his superiors that this drunken reprobate is anything but a credit to the Service, and that unless he mends his ways the Service would be well rid of him.

To make the fact that a man's long and faithful services have entitled him to the maximum pay for his work a reason for dismissing him is, indeed, hard lines; but, according to a memorial that has been addressed to Lord George Hamilton, this is the practice pursued with regard to the humbler employees on the Indian North-Western State Railway. The memorial is on behalf of one Sharkey, late an engine-driver on this line, who, after nearly sixteen years' service, has been discharged on the ground that, a reduction of the staff being necessary, the head of his department desired to retain "cheaper and younger hands instead of the older on maximum pay." I fear it is hopeless to expect the Secretary of State to interfere for the redress of the grievance of this particular individual, but the injustice of the policy described might, at any rate, be pointed out to the management of this State Railway. How would the system be relished, I wonder, in the higher branches of the railway service?

Concerning the objection of certain tribes in the Thana district of the Bombay Presidency to the abolition of the privilege of collecting dead wood in the Government forests, a late Revenue officer writes me that "it is only fair to the forest officers to say that this has not been done until the time was fully ripe for it, nor without the advice of Revenue officers whose function in relation to forests in the Bombay Presidency is to see that human interests are not subordinated to those of vegetables, of whatever size and value." He goes on to state that the tribes have greatly improved in condition during the past ten or twelve years, and that the abolition of this privilege will be for their benefit. It may be so, but the paragraph I quoted from the *Deccan Herald* last week shows that the tribesmen themselves unfortunately do not see it in that light.

Very gloomy private accounts have reached me of the failure of the food crops in the North-Western Provinces and a large area of Central India, and a scarcity such as has not been experienced for the last seventeen or eighteen years seems inevitable. Judging, however, from what has appeared in the daily papers, the Indian Government are confident of their ability to avert such frightful consequences as marked the famine of 1877-8, and the vast development of artificial irrigation and railway communication since that time is a decidedly reassuring feature in the situation. One can only trust that the confidence which is expressed in the present means of coping with such a difficulty will be justified by events; and

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SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

meanwhile the following extracts from one of the letters I have received—written by an English lady—may be profitably pondered by everybody interested in the condition of our Indian fellow-subjects:—

Now, we are not responsible for the bad seasons, but we are responsible for the enormous taxes—for the 4,000 per cent. on salt, and for the heavy taxes on every article of food and clothing, whereby we habitually keep the poorer classes of India at the level of the barest subsistence. Thousands upon thousands of them never get more than one scanty meal per day. . . . . We have been reproached with our famines. It has been said that famine marks our rule—and justly, for though we cannot help the failure of the crops, we can help the state of the people, and we can stop export in time. But what are we doing? We have "ceased to augment" the Famine Insurance Fund—that is the Parliamentary phrase for borrowing from that "sacred trust" to pay for Chitral—so making food pay for powder! We confessed to actually *borrowing* from that Fund, but it has been represented that the borrowed sums have been partly repaid. But how about the "non-augmentation?" And how about export? If in the spring Giant Famine leaps upon us, every ear of wheat exported will appear to be what it is—the life of a man. . . . . Our taxes have so sapped the very life of the people that they have no reserves of any kind against the evil day—no reserves of money, and, what is worse, no reserves of physical vitality. They can but just keep themselves alive at the best. When famine comes they perish with a frightful promptitude—as did the Irish from the selfsame cause in 1847. It is for this reason that any refusal or delay on our part to face the reality of the danger is so criminal.

A clerk of the second division, higher grade, employed in the P.O. Savings Bank Department is threatened with compulsory retirement under somewhat peculiar circumstances. Entering the Department in 1870, as a boy clerk, he was promoted step by step to the second class. For twenty-three years without a break he received an annual increment of pay, but it was stopped in 1894, and none has since been granted to him. The reason assigned for the stoppage was that he was incapable of controlling subordinates; but from the persistency and severity with which he has been criticised and harassed, and shifted from duty to duty, it looks as though there was a deliberate desire to get rid of him. It seems that if a man's increments are withheld on the recommendation of his superiors for three years, the Treasury then inquire why his services should any longer be retained. That course has been adopted in this instance, with the result that the clerk in question is likely to be shortly superannuated, though he is not yet forty-three years of age.

Far be it from me to contend that increments should be automatically granted to a Civil servant year after year without regard to his merits or competence, or that he should be retained on full salary when he is proved to have become inefficient (though, to be sure, this is what not unfrequently happens). There appear to be good grounds for thinking, however, that the clerk concerned in this case has not had fair and considerate treatment. In the first place, nothing beyond the vague complaint on the original stoppage of his increment has been brought against him, and in regard to that he was condemned unheard, while subsequently everything possible was done to prevent him earning a good report. Assuming, as one is bound to do, that he deserved promotion to his present grade, it is, to say the least, singular that his alleged inefficiency should only have been discovered after he had served several years and received several increments in that grade. But even if it be granted that he is not worthy of any further advance of salary, why should the extreme step of pensioning him off be taken? Although it is the practice of the Treasury to make the inquiry referred to above—a practice which apparently places every member of the staff completely at the mercy of the chief—it by no means follows that a man is sent about his business when his promotion is checked. It would be absurd, indeed, if it were so, and there are several examples to the contrary in the same Department. Finally, if there is no prospect of this clerk serving satisfactorily in his present position, the regulations permit his transfer to some other Department, where he might possibly have a fairer chance. Why is he not given this chance?

There is, furthermore, a legal aspect of the case which requires attention. It is understood that if this clerk is retired it will be under Clause 2 of the Superannuation Act of 1887, which empowers the grant of a retiring allowance to Civil servants who are removed from office for inefficiency. But, he comes under the Act of 1859, which provides that no allowance shall be granted to a person under sixty years of age, except upon a medical certificate of mental or bodily infirmity, and Clause 10 of the Act of 1887 expressly declares that that Act shall not in any way interfere with the existing interests of any Civil servant then holding office. In view of this reservation, it is difficult to see how the latter Act can be applied to this case.

How is a householder, when he shuts up his house and goes away from town, to communicate with the party left in charge? The action of the Post Office in such cases has rendered this a serious question. In last week's TRUTH reference was made to the case of a distinguished Duke, who sent a letter to the caretaker of his London house, which the Post Office simply returned undelivered and unopened. Two or three other cases of the same kind have now come to light. One of them recently occurred in the case of a letter addressed to a house in Cumberland. From an official communication in relation to this case, I gather that the Post Office only re-directs letters where a house is empty, and that consequently if a notice for re-direction of letters is given, that house is assumed to be empty until the notice is cancelled. If, therefore, any person goes to reside there in the interval, he (or she) can receive no letters, all communications addressed to the house being re-directed and forwarded in accordance with the re-direction notice. Some modification of this regulation seems desirable in the interests of common-sense and public convenience.

Apropos of the recent appointments to the Irish Board of Works, I am reminded that, whereas fifteen years ago the Board was an exclusively professional one, there is now no member of it with any technical knowledge, except in the matter of railway management. At the time mentioned, the Chairman was a Colonel R.E., with two civil engineers for colleagues; now you have a railway manager, a barrister, and a Treasury clerk. It is quite in accordance with official traditions in such matters that, while the Board has thus deteriorated as

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regards the technical qualifications of its members, the salary of the Chairman has "appreciated" from £1,500 to £2,500 a year.

Apparently, as a set off to this uncalled-for increase of expenditure at the top of the tree, the travelling allowances to surveyors and inspectors under the Board have been reduced from first to second class fares, and their maintenance allowance from 5s. to 3s. 6d. per diem. Give the head of the department another £1,000 a year, and knock 5 per cent. off all the men drawing less than £150. That seems to be the only principle of economy understood at present in any public office — civil or military.

A gentleman living at Chelsea tells me that hope revived in his breast on seeing the paragraph in TRUTH a fortnight ago in reference to the Thames steamboat service. He begs me not to drop this subject until something has been done to give London a really comfortable and efficient steamboat service. Gladly would I do anything in my power in this direction. We have one of the finest rivers of any city in the world, and probably nowhere else in the world is there such an enormous population ready to avail itself of a properly-organised system of river traffic as can be found between, say, Hammersmith and Woolwich. On both sides of the river thousands of people travel to and from the City every day by crawling trams and omnibuses, or unsavoury underground railways, who would infinitely prefer to travel by river if the steamboats met their requirements equally well. How is it that no practical attempt has ever been made to bring this line of communication into use?

I am told that, in great part, the fault lies with the heavy dues to which steamboat companies are subjected. In other words, the Thames Conservancy has killed the goose for the sake of the golden eggs. There may be something in this, but not everything. There has never yet been on the Thames—I mean, of course, above bridges—a fleet of swift, comfortable, and punctual steamers, and until an attempt has been made to run such a line, and has been attended with failure, I, for one, shall refuse to believe that such an enterprise is foredoomed to failure from the heavy dues imposed by the Thames Conservancy. What is first wanted, I take it, to ensure success is that a passenger should be able to get from Hammersmith to Westminster, or from Chelsea to the City, at least as quickly as by omnibus, and that he shall be able to rely on doing so at stated times in the morning and evening. If he could do this, and were offered, in addition, a comfortable seat in the open air in fine weather, under cover in wet, and in a well-warmed saloon in winter, with an opportunity also, perhaps, of getting his breakfast or his tea *en route*, I believe that he would, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, prefer a steamboat to any other means of conveyance, and that a company providing these attractions could quickly obtain a sufficient number of season-ticket holders to ensure the enterprise against failure.

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Up to the present time the ordinary Thames steam boat has been a reproach to our civilisation, worse even than the London growler. It has undergone scarcely any change in the way of improvement since the time when steamboats were first invented. It has been uniformly dirty, ugly, ill-found, slow, uncomfortable, unpunctual, and everything bad. Let any enterprising company with sufficient capital at its back, and sufficient intelligence at head-quarters to meet the requirements of the public, embark in an enterprise of this kind on the lines of the steamboat services in Paris, or on some of the American rivers, and I prophesy that it will be able to pay respectable dividends to its shareholders, as well as its fair contribution to the public expenses of river management, in the shape of Conservancy dues.

It is curious to watch the infatuation of the wire-pullers who are actively directing the present cab-drivers' agitation. They must long since have recognised that the sympathies of the public are not with them, and that they are fighting a losing game; but, most extraordinary of all, they appear to be utterly careless of the fact that in less than three weeks' time an opposition will be possible which may completely revolutionise the whole trade. And not only possible, but remarkably probable, if, as it is confidently asserted, the London Electric Omnibus Company are only waiting for November 14 next—the date at which the new Act for motor vehicles comes into force—to commence active operations.

To supplement a note I published the other week, a ratepayer at Sheerness thinks it should in fairness be mentioned that the breakdown of the water supply in that town has been in a large measure due to the efforts of the Council to supply the dockyard authorities with water when the latter's own well was under repair, the consequent extra strain upon the municipal spring having caused the "blow" of sand which resulted in the choking of the pumps. It is, however, but cold comfort to the domestic consumer, whether he is a private individual or a Government official, to know that the origin of the trouble was a desire to assist the dockyard authorities; nor do I see how this exculpates the municipal authorities from the criticism they have received for failing to keep their old well in working order and for dilly-dallying with the difficulty when it first arose. My correspondent seems, indeed, to appreciate this, for he expresses the hope that the "rub" I gave the Council will do them good.

Here is cause for a legitimate agitation, which I shall only be too glad to forward to the best of my power. The Abney Park Cemetery Company are proposing to acquire forty acres of land in close proximity to Hampstead Heath. Now Hampstead has come to be recognised as one of the playgrounds of London, and—in the eternal fitness of things—it would be out of place to tone down its mirth by the addition of a burial ground; equally it might be expected to jar on the

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feelings of the mourners were they compelled to carry out the last sad offices to the accompaniment of a Bank-holiday celebration. In addition to which, there is a saddening influence inseparable from these huge graveyards which every one should do his best to remove from "'Appy 'Ampstead"—unless, indeed, there is a conspiracy to reverse this exuberant title. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the agitation against this project will be unanimous and powerful.

At the last meeting of the Knaresborough Guardians much gratification was expressed at the fact that the cost of maintaining the paupers in the workhouse had been reduced from £6·7 per head in 1891 to £3·7 per head in 1896, or, in other figures, from 4d. and $\frac{7}{10}$ths of a farthing to 2d. and $\frac{8}{10}$ths of a farthing per day for each person. I can well understand the pride and delight with which Bumbles of an economical turn of mind contemplate these proofs of their cheese-paring capacity. But what about the paupers? I should much like to hear how they fare on twopence and eight-tenths of a farthing per day; also whether it is proposed to continue the cutting down of expenses until they come to live, like chameleons, on air.

The Local Government Board have at length made an impression, though only a very faint one, on the minds of that dense and self-willed body the Helmsley Rural District Council. One of the numerous questions on which the Council has been setting the Board at defiance is in regard to the salary of the inspector of nuisances, the Council declining to pay more than £20 a year, and the Board expressing the opinion that this amount should be more than doubled. The last letter from Whitehall was couched in such peremptory terms that Lord Feversham was constrained to advise the Council over which he presides "to meet the Board in some way if they could." The Council did not relish the idea, but, after many lamentations, they resolved to increase the salary to £25 a year, which still leaves it at an amount utterly inadequate for the proper inspection of the widely-scattered country district over which the officer's duties extend. Having grudgingly made this paltry concession in the matter of the salary, the Council seem to have thought they could safely put aside other and more vital questions of sanitary administration, but whether the Local Government Board will be so easily appeased remains to be seen.

The residents of Goff's Oak, near Cheshunt, have been considerably disturbed by the establishment of a private fever hospital in the middle of the village. A schoolmaster at Waltham Cross has, it seems, taken a cottage at Goff's Oak, which he intends to use for the isolation of any cases of infectious disease which may occur in his school, and the first patient he sent there was a pupil suffering from scarlet fever. It is only natural that the inhabitants should object to this importation of disease into the village, but it appears that the District Council, whom they memorialised on the question, have no power to interfere, and I do not suppose that the Local Government Board or any other authority can help them. Apparently the only course open to them is to appeal to the good sense and feeling of the schoolmaster, who might surely just as easily select some isolated house for his purpose as one in the middle of the village.

Some strange disclosures have been made at an inquest on the body of a female patient at the Norfolk County Asylum at Thorpe. The woman had been an inmate of the institution for more than four years, and she died two days after she had been delivered of a still-born child. Dr. Thomson, the medical superintendent notified the death (as he was bound by law to do) to the coroner, but when in due course that functionary and the jury assembled, it was found that the body had been removed to the woman's home fifteen miles away, and that even after the coroner's notice of his intention to hold an inquest had been received at the Asylum, a certificate for the burial had been sent to the deceased's parents. The superintendent's explanation was that he thought it a case in which an inquest would prove unnecessary, and that the certificate was despatched in "the usual course of business." But these proceedings, as the coroner hinted, certainly gave colour to the idea that there was a desire to get the body buried out of the way.

It also transpired that Dr. Thomson, without waiting for the consent of the relatives or the instructions of the coroner, had himself made a post-mortem examination of the body before its removal from the asylum. In the circumstances the jury very properly demanded a further examination by an independent medical man; and in consequence the further fact was elicited that the deceased woman's heart and womb had been despatched by Dr. Thomson to a professor at Edinburgh University. These organs were returned, and as the result of the independent examination which was made the jury found that the woman's death was due to exhaustion occasioned by mania and childbirth, adding a strong censure of the manner in which the body had been dealt with, and of the reluctance which had been shown in giving information. This verdict is satisfactory as far as it goes, but there is one most important aspect of the scandal which it leaves untouched. Not a word is said as to the disgraceful circumstance of this poor lunatic's condition—in fact, the coroner and jury seem throughout the inquiry to have entirely overlooked the point. It is to be hoped, however, that it will not escape the attention of the Lunacy Commissioners. I should think, indeed, that the revelations just made, combined with those at an inquest a few months back, will convince the Commissioners of the desirability of holding a thorough inquiry into the general management of the Thorpe Asylum.

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What with the anomalies of "Crowner's quest law" and the vagaries in which coroners and their juries occasionally indulge, I do not wonder that people sometimes have misgivings as to the utility of many of the inquests that are held. Such misgivings have been awakened in the mind of a Dorsetshire correspondent by a study of the reports of various local inquiries, the conclusion to which he comes being that juries in his part of the country are so self-opinionated that they prefer to guess for themselves at the cause of a sudden and mysterious death without calling for any expert opinion whatever; while, if medical evidence does happen to be tendered, they think nothing of brushing it aside in favour of some wild and ignorant theory of their own. One of the cases my correspondent mentions is that of a recent inquest at Shipton Gorge concerning the death of a farmer's daughter. The doctor who had attended her, said that death was probably due to disease of the heart, whereupon the jury, by some occult process of reasoning, at once arrived at a verdict of "Death from natural causes—probably perforation of the stomach." With a jury of the mental calibre of these beef-witted bumpkins the holding of an inquest is indeed nothing better than a legal farce.

On the other hand, it must be admitted that the Coroner's Court often serves a useful purpose, particularly in the ventilation of public scandals. There was an instance at an inquest at Belfast the other day, when an incidental reference to the accommodation for prisoners at the police station gave the coroner an opportunity of calling attention to an official report on the subject which has long been before the City Council. Here are some passages from this document:—

> There are only twelve cells, arranged in three tiers, and the upper tier is used only as store-rooms. More than a hundred prisoners are often shut up in these cells. The air is indescribably foul. The cells are dirty, and we saw vermin crawling up the walls. An open grating is the only means by which air and light can enter. The heating apparatus is useless, and neither pillow nor rug is provided for the prisoners. What the condition of the unfortunate creatures must be confined in winter weather in unheated cells, open to the air, without covering, may be imagined, but cannot easily be described. Each cell contains a closet, in a hopeless condition of dirt and decay. These closets are only flushed once a day, when the prisoners leave the cells. The large cell contained, when we visited it, no less than sixteen prisoners, huddled together, without light or heat, without a seat of any description, and breathing air of a character that baffles description. Not one of the cells was properly washed. The drainage is as bad as bad can be. The soil-pipe leading from the upper cells is broken. The fall is so bad that the drain-pipes are unable to carry their contents away. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising to know that the place is swarming with rats.

It seems almost incredible that such a state of things can exist in a civilised city, and especially in the city of Belfast, which is always so loud in its protestations of superiority to mere Irish towns like Dublin and Cork. But according to the coroner, the above scathing exposure and condemnation of the police cells was embodied in a report of a committee of the Corporation twelve months ago, and up to the present "nothing but talk has been done." Perhaps the City Fathers of Belfast are hoping to kill off the criminal population by cold and disease.

The fishermen of Gourdon are up in arms against a new scale of harbour dues which it is sought to exact from them on behalf of Mr. Farquhar, the "superior" of this Kincardineshire village. It appears that the laird's claim is made under an Act of Parliament passed over fifty years ago, and long fallen into desuetude. While willing to pay reasonable charges, the fishermen contend that those now imposed are altogether excessive in view of what is paid elsewhere and the inferiority of the harbour accommodation at Gourdon. The legal right of the proprietor to levy the dues has been affirmed in the Sheriff Court, but the fishermen have adopted a scheme of voluntary taxation among themselves in order to raise a fund for fighting the matter out in the Court of Session, and, if necessary, carrying the appeal to the House of Lords, which has decided against the harbour proprietors in more than one similar case. The dispute, however it may end, affords a fresh proof of the anomaly and undesirability of leaving the control of such harbours as that at Gourdon in the hands of a private proprietor.

One of the usual edifying public inquiries into a child's knowledge of the nature of an oath was conducted by Mr. Littler, Q.C., on Saturday. This is what transpired:—

> Mr. Littler: Do you understand the meaning of an oath?—Yes.
>
> Tell me what taking an oath means.—To tell the truth.
>
> Do you know whether anything happens here or hereafter to those who have taken the oath and say that which is false?—Yes.
>
> What does happen?—No answer was made to this, and Mr. Littler said he was of opinion that the girl did not understand, and therefore could not be sworn.

As the little girl could not answer the question, I would suggest that Mr. Littler himself should tell us what happens to people under these circumstances. Had I been in the little girl's place I should have said that so far as "here" is concerned, nothing ever happens to them, so far as I have seen; while, as to "hereafter," if the Chairman of the Middlesex Sessions can say for certain what will happen, I wish he would let me know.

To prove how little happens here below to those who commit perjury, I would call as a witness Colonel Howard of the Stratford Bench. In connection with a case before him last week, Colonel Howard remarked that for six months he had been observing with astonishment the perjury which, he was perfectly convinced, was going on in that court, and he went on to warn all witnesses who appeared in the court that he was waiting for an opportunity to commit some one for perjury. "If necessary," he added, "he would pay the expenses himself." The gallant Colonel's sentiments do him honour, but I would advise him to think twice before throwing away his money on any such Quixotic enterprise. I was once led to undertake a prosecution for perjury, and I had to pay the expenses myself—up to the point when the Public Prosecutor relieved me of the costs—but nobody else but myself suffered, although it was a case in which the verdict of a previous jury was equivalent to a finding that perjury had been committed. The present law on the subject of perjury is nothing but a protection to perjurers, and that is the reason why the offence is so freely committed, and always with impunity. I am afraid that, as to what will happen hereafter, the majority of perjurers are in the same state of mind as Mr. Littler's little girl—they either don't know or don't care.

On September 24, I commented in strong terms upon the conduct of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Bench in heavily fining the landlord of the Cumberland Arms, and endorsing his licence for supplying drink to a drunken man, notwithstanding the fact that all the witnesses for the prosecution, as well as those for the defence, positively swore that at the time he was served the man in question was sober. The publican appealed to Quarter Sessions last week, and, as I anticipated, the Recorder at once quashed the conviction with costs against the magistrates, adding that "There was no evidence whatever that the man was drunk when he was in the public-house." A more flagrant and apparently wilful miscarriage of justice has rarely been perpetrated, and the names of the woodenheads responsible for it ought to be forthwith removed from the Commission of the Peace.

In the administration of the law at Kidderminster it seems to be thought that a warrant is a legal instrument for the arrest of somebody, but that who that somebody may be is quite immaterial. If an information is sworn against A, B's name may be afterwards substituted for A's in the warrant, and finally C may find himself taken into custody in virtue of the same document. This appears to have been done in a case which came up at Worcestershire Quarter Sessions last week, and I am pleased to notice that the Chairman, Mr. Willis Bund, did not mince his words in the lecture he addressed to the magistrates' clerk on this illegal and outrageous proceeding. Were he on a jury in a case where such a course was pursued the Chairman would, he said, give damages in four figures. The aggrieved party will, indeed, be foolish if he does not take this hint, and bring an action for unlawful arrest.

About a year back (November 21, 1895) some comment appeared in TRUTH on an action brought by a dairyman against the Rev. G. H. Tovey for goods supplied to his wife and family during his absence in America. The action was tried in Bournemouth County Court, and resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, against which there was an appeal to the High Court. This appeal resulted in a new trial being ordered by the Divisional Court, and the new trial, which by special order of the Court took place in Westminster County Court, ended last week in a verdict for Mr. Tovey, the defendant. In view of the remarks made in TRUTH at the time, it seems only due to Mr. Tovey to state that the final result of the proceedings is to show that his conduct throughout the business has been of the most honourable kind, that he has been struggling for years past under great disadvantage to do his duty to his creditors and to his wife and family; and that his wife had incurred fresh debts, notwithstanding his repeated injunctions against the pledging of his credit. The parties, to my mind, who come worst out of the business are the Bournemouth jury who—misled apparently by trade prejudice—gave so unjust a verdict in the first instance.

Sheriff Grahame, of Perth, seems to allow a good deal of latitude to the peculiar humour of intoxicated natives of those parts. The other week a German visitor was taking a run on his bicycle between Perth and Crieff when he was stopped by two men who produced knives, demanded money, and terrified him into handing them 3s. 6d. It was stated that the men were under the influence of liquor at the time, and thereupon the Sheriff treated the affair as "a drunken frolic," and found the charge of robbery not proven. I do not know whether the worthy Sheriff is himself a cyclist, but if he is and two men chance some day to serve him as this foreigner was served, will he take an equally light view of the matter? I rather fancy such a personal experience would modify his views with regard to drunken frolics.

Sir Arthur C. Stepney, Bart., has written an extraordinary letter to the Home Secretary complaining of the reign of lawlessness in Llanelly, and impugning the administration of justice by the local magistrates. He advocates the appointment of a stipendiary magistrate, and if he had confined himself to this point he would have had my sympathy, for that is a step which in my opinion would be vastly to the advantage of every town in the country. But Sir Arthur goes on to make a fierce and sweeping attack upon the character of Llanelly. According to his account "life, limb, and property are endangered," and the town presents "a state of affairs strange and seldom seen in civilised countries." This alarming communication was referred by the Home Secretary to the Carmarthenshire Joint Standing Committee; and at a meeting of that body last week the Superintendent of Police at Llanelly presented a report dealing in detail with the statements made by Sir Arthur in support of his allegation. The report, confirmed by the testimony of several prominent citizens of Llanelly, proved to demonstration that the state of things pictured by Sir Arthur Stepney has no existence whatever outside his own excited imagination; and the Committee adopted a strong resolution expressing surprise and indignation at his charges.

It is not at all astonishing to learn that this attempt to defame the town is keenly resented by the inhabitants. So far from Llanelly being given over to violence and criminality, the exact contrary is the fact. Statistics show, indeed, that no industrial centre in the kingdom is more free from the stain of crime; and as the Committee suggest in their resolution of protest, the breaking of a few street lamps, and damage done to an empty house, for which Sir Arthur Stepney or his agent neglected to provide a caretaker, are utterly insufficient grounds for his monstrous indictment of a whole community. The strange thing is that Sir Arthur should have been so ill-advised as to indulge in this bitter diatribe against a town of which he has so little personal knowledge. It is true that he has ample proof of the industry of Llanelly, for it has swollen his rent-roll in the neighbourhood to something like £35,000 a year. But he is an absentee landlord, spending much of his time in roaming to far ends of the earth, and, as a correspondent remarks, is doubtless better qualified to speak of the condition of Kamschatka or Timbuctoo than of the town from which he derives his income.

Rarely has my Legal Pillory contained more striking illustrations of judicial ineptitude in fitting the punishment to the crime than those which I give this week from various Courts of Quarter Sessions. The palm must be awarded, I think, to the Recorder of Cork, whose sentence on the woman O'Neill, in particular, shows such unbridled ferocity that I trust it will be at once brought to the notice of the Lord Lieutenant for revision. Apparently Mr. Neligan, Q.C., considers that because this poor old woman of eighty has spent a great part of her life in gaol it is his duty to see that she dies there; though if the truth as to her history were made known it would probably be found that she has been more sinned against than sinning. There are two other noteworthy items from Ireland—the monstrously harsh treatment of some lads for pilfering from an automatic machine at Dublin, and the equally monstrous lenity of the Bench in a case of cruelty at Mallow. I would also call attention to the penalties imposed on a labourer and a doctor respectively for similar offences at East Penwith, and I should like the Luton Bench to explain how, except by a contemptible quibble, they can justify the conviction of a man in receipt of a military pension for being without visible means of subsistence:—

Cork Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder, Mr. J. C. Neligan, Q.C. Jeremiah Collins, convicted of assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, knocked his wife down, kicked her, and broke her arm. This was the prisoner's fourteenth conviction. Twelve months.

Robert Brady, convicted of wounding James Hegarty. Prisoner stabbed Hegarty in the region of the heart, puncturing his left lung. One month.

John Brady pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife. The woman's skull was fractured in two places. Bound over.

Portsmouth Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder, Mr. G. D. Warry, Q.C. Henry Herbert Moorse, convicted of maliciously wounding his wife. The medical evidence showed that besides cuts and bruises she had two of her ribs broken. Three months.

West Kirrier Petty Sessions, Helston. John Faull and his wife, charged with assaulting John Perry, aged 72. The male defendant, who has lost his left hand, struck complainant on the head with the iron ring which was screwed to the stump of his arm, knocking him down and cutting his head, which bled profusely. He then knelt on complainant's chest and beat him about the body with the ring, while the woman tore out his whiskers and gave him a black eye. The assault was entirely unprovoked. Faull fined 10s. and costs, and his wife 5s. and costs.

Somerset Quarter Sessions. Albert Whitlock, convicted of indecently assaulting a girl aged eleven. Six weeks.

Cork Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder. Annie O'Neill, a woman, 80 years of age, pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of trousers from a shop. The Recorder said she had spent forty years in gaol. Three years' penal servitude.

Ellen Flynn pleaded guilty to stealing a shawl. There were five previous convictions. Three years' penal servitude.

Patrick Callaghan, convicted of stealing a basket containing five dozen eggs. Three years' penal servitude.

Portsmouth Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder. Mary Ann Stevens, charwoman, convicted of stealing a sheet, value 1s., and a brush, value 1s. 6d. There were previous convictions, including two sentences of penal servitude by the same Recorder. Three years.

Luton Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Alderman Bird) and Mr. J. Higgins. William Ivory, an Army pensioner, charged with sleeping out and being without visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Condover Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. M. Hulton-Harrop, J. P. Smith, and T. Corbett. John Jones, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Somerset Quarter Sessions. Joseph Ball, convicted of wandering about without visible means of subsistence. Six months.

Old Spiced Elderberry Wine prevents chills; delicious winter beverage. 15/- per doz. reputed quarts. Carriage paid. Cash with order.—Carter & Co., Old Refinery, Bristol.

Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. S. G. Stopford Sackville and other magistrates. Charles Henry Peacock and John Henry Betts, policemen, convicted of wilfully inflicting bodily harm upon Harry Bevan, a navvy, at Brackley. The constables found Bevan sleeping out near a watchman's fire on the new railway works, and beat and kicked him in the most brutal way, inflicting injuries which for a time placed his life in danger. Peacock three months, Betts four months.

Pollokshaws Police-court. Before Bailie Leishman. Hugh M'Manus pleaded guilty to assaulting Elizabeth M'Gill. He met her in the street and, without any provocation threw her down, struck her in the face, and kicked her on the body and legs. He afterwards went to her house and struck her violently on the face and body, rendering her unconscious. The girl had previously refused to keep company with him. Fined £2.

Mallow Petty Sessions. Before Mr. R. E. Longfield and other magistrates. Patrick Mahony and his wife, charged with ill-treating and neglecting a child, the daughter of the man and stepdaughter of the woman. The child had been very badly used by both defendants, and the woman, besides severely beating her, had put her hand in the girl's mouth and torn the inside of her cheeks with her nails. The case against the male defendant was adjourned, and the woman was fined 1s. and 15s. costs.

Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions. Before the same Bench. William Blunt, a poor, shivering old man, charged with vagrancy, after previous convictions. Four months.

Richard Egan, aged 63, pleaded guilty to night poaching. Ten months.

North Holland Quarter Sessions. Before Col. Moore. Reuben Garwell, charged with stealing a duck. Twelve months.

Clitheroe County Police-court. Before Col. Starkie, Col. Turner, Major Parker, and Mr. H. H. Stuttard. John Westall, James Mason, Thomas Thomas, John Brierley, and John Sharples summoned for poaching. They chased a hare, but did not catch it. Brierley fined £1 and costs, Thomas and Mason £2 each and costs, Westall and Sharples £5 each and costs.

Dublin Southern Division Police-court. Before Mr. Byrne. William Murray, James Montgomery, Stephen Carr, each 12 years of age, Patrick Higgins, aged 13, and John Higgins, aged 15, charged with stealing sweets from an automatic machine. They got the sweets by putting pieces of cardboard in the slot. Murray, Montgomery, and Carr seven years each in a reformatory, Patrick Higgins six years, and John Higgins four years.

East Penwith Petty Sessions, Camborne. Before Messrs. W. Rabling, H. T. Broad, T. Moore, and A. E. Permerdan. Richard Henry Williams, labourer, pleaded guilty to a charge of trespassing in pursuit of game. James Mudge, doctor of medicine, was convicted on a similar charge of trespass. The labourer was fined 5s. and costs; the physician, 1s. and costs.

The rule limiting the number of advocates at the Guernsey Bar to six has just been abolished by an ordinance of the Royal Court; but, as anybody acquainted with the management of affairs in the Channel Islands would guess, this step is not the outcome of a disinterested desire for reform. "The delicate question was," says the *Guernsey Times*, "how to admit another relative to the Bar while at the same time effectually excluding the hated English." The ordinance accomplishes both objects at one stroke, for while throwing open the Bar to another member of the ruling family of the Careys, the ordinance closes it to English barristers by requiring, as a preliminary qualification, five years' residence in the island. It is suggested by a legal correspondent that this latter provision of the ordinance is *ultra vires*, but I doubt whether the attractions of a practice in the Royal Court of Guernsey are sufficiently great to make it worth the while of English barristers to test the point.

It must be an edifying spectacle to see a police officer instructing a magistrate in the proprieties of judicial conduct. This is what happened during the hearing of a summons at Dewsbury West Riding Court the other day, when the superintendent was impelled to ask if it was right for a magistrate to cross-examine witnesses for the prosecution and partly adjudicate upon a case, and then

slip off the Bench and enter the witness-box to give evidence for the defence—evidence which, as it turned out, was irrelevant and inadmissible. The Chairman admitted that it was "an extraordinary thing to do," but the J.P. in question, Mr. J. Brearley, did not at the moment seem to understand that there was anything objectionable or unbecoming in his procedure, though, I trust, he now knows better. As one of the new *ex-officio* magistrates, he has at any rate the excuse of being a novice at the business of administering justice, which is more than can be said for many of the Great Unpaid whose blunders are brought to my notice.

Judging from an incident that occurred at the Yarmouth Police-court the other day, the Clerk to the Justices there must be a very arrogant and ill-behaved official. A Jew entered the witness-box as the prosecutor in a case, and desired to be sworn on the Old Testament alone, instead of the volume including the New Testament which was presented to him. "I have no other," said the Clerk, "and if you decline to be sworn on that, the case cannot proceed, and I cannot help you." Such a remark ought, of course, to have been rebuked by the Magistrates, but apparently they stand in awe of their clerk, for they meekly concurred in his suggestion that the charge should be struck out. The Jew had, I take it, a perfect legal right to be sworn as he wished, and it was the duty of the Court to provide an Old Testament for the purpose. Even if it were not a matter of legal right, however, his religious scruples should have been treated with respect, as they would be in any properly-conducted court.

What is the relationship? At an inquest on an infant in the Shoreditch Coroner's Court the question arose what had been the relationship of Louisa Mercer to the deceased infant. Louisa Mercer said, on being asked whether there was any, "You see there was, and there was not." Eventually it came out that the second wife of the father of Mrs. Mercer's husband was stepmother to the infant's father's mother's sister: but whether this constituted relationship between Mrs. Mercer and the infant, or not, neither Coroner nor any one else in the Court could make out.

Miss Nellie Lane, alias Lloyd, alias Hamilton, alias Merton, alias Morris, was brought up at Portsmouth on Saturday, on a charge of fraud arising out of the brief career of the "Carlton Society" at Leeds. This is the matter which has several times been referred to in TRUTH, and as Miss Lane is now under remand, I can say nothing more about it at present. I may mention, however, that I have had a visit from an officer who has the case in hand, and there is now no possible doubt that Miss Lane, alias Lloyd, alias Hamilton, &c., &c., of the Leeds Carlton Society, is identical with Miss Lane, alias Miss Brookes, alias Mrs. Lyle, of the St. John's Wood, "Kensington Association."

Reference was made in TRUTH of the 8th inst. to an "impudent trick" run by somebody calling himself "The Advertisers' Association," and using the address "7, Leicester-street, Southport." The trick seems to have been in one sense more "impudent" than I suspected. No. 7, Leicester-street, Southport, is the residence of a gentleman occupying a good position in the Post-office, and, of course, above all suspicion of any connection with such a swindle as that which I have described. It appears that he lent his house to some relatives, equally above suspicion, during September. Neither he nor the temporary occupants of his house had ever heard of the "Advertisers' Association" until they saw TRUTH of October 8; and all the light they can throw on the matter is that during the time the house was thus let, a large number of letters or circulars addressed to somebody unknown arrived there, and that an individual unknown also called on two occasions, asked for the circulars, and took them away. I have before me a whole batch of printed matter issued in connection with the Advertisers' Association, and bearing the address, "7, Leicester-street, Southport," all over it. To all appearance the perpetrator of this swindle, knowing by some means that the owner of the house was temporarily absent, actually had the audacity to use this address, print it on all his advertisements, circulars, and stationery, and then call and possess himself of the resulting communications, in the manner above described! If that is the correct explanation, it is about the most impudent thing of its kind ever done.

In connection with the man Miller, whose true name appears to be Hamblyn, reference was made in TRUTH recently to a brazen puff of the "Perfection System of Investment" in a monthly journal. The publication in question calls itself the *West End Magazine*, and its connection with Miller would be enough in itself to stamp it as a disgrace to journalism. The article on Miller in the August number was actually reprinted in September, with the addition of no less than six columns of anonymous letters purporting to be written by people who had trusted Miller with their money, and were highly delighted with the result. It was only a week or two after this outrageous puff that Miller informed all his clients that their money was lost. This *West End Magazine* is not sold by Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son or any ordinary newspaper agents, and appears to be got up expressly for circulation through the post by the individuals who advertise themselves in it. It is therefore not a journal or newspaper in the ordinary sense of the word, but a mere advertising sheet. Doubtless Miller took enough copies of the September issue to pay the whole expenses of the thing for the month, and those who took his money lent themselves to the perpetration of one of the most impudent swindles ever run. The October number has not yet made its appearance. Is this fact in any way due to the abrupt termination of Miller's career?

A gentleman who has suffered many things at the hands of competition mongers and turf touts in consequence of having his name and address published as the winner of a prize offered by a weekly paper, asks me to use my influence in stopping the publication of the names and addresses of those who win such prizes. There is no doubt that circularising swindlers of all

classes pay special attention to those whose names are published in this way, but I do not see in what other way newspapers can give unimpeachable evidence that the competition is genuine, and the prize duly awarded. All I can say is that ladies and gentlemen who do not wish to place their names and addresses at the disposal of any advertiser who wants to send them a circular, had better not enter for newspaper competitions. After all, the inconvenience thus caused is no worse than that which follows from the registration of a shareholder's name at Somerset House. Anybody who has ever had the misfortune to get on to the register of a mining Company will know that as soon as his name is registered he becomes a butt for the promoters of every speculation that is floated.

Let me warn all persons afflicted with deafness against responding to any advertisements emanating from one "Thomas Kempe," of Cathedral Offices, 41, St. Andrew's-hill, E.C. This man pretends to have a permanent cure for deafness. A gentleman in the North, who had been entrapped by means of an advertisement, was weak enough to send him in July last the sum of £1. 2s. 9d. He heard nothing more of Kempe, who failed to answer several letters, and then he communicated with TRUTH. I sent a representative to "Cathedral Offices," who, after two or three fruitless visits, found Kempe on the spot. Kempe admitted the receipt of the money, but said that he had been away for his holidays, and would make inquiries as to whether the goods had been forwarded. He was to let me know the result, but did not do so until he had been written to again, when he stated that he found that there had been an accidental oversight in this particular case, but that he had now forwarded his remedy to the gentleman who complained. I wrote to the gentleman in question to ascertain if this was true, and he replied that he had received nothing from Kempe. I have made some further attempts to interview Kempe, but he is never to be found at his office, and it does not seem worth while to waste further time over him. He may be an honest man, but after this experience I could not recommend any one to take the fact for granted.

Latest from Reuben May. In one of his appeals this worthy quotes a letter purporting to have been written to him from the United States, and headed with the following text:—

> Let Reuben live and not die; and let not his men be few.—Deut. xxxiii., 6.

Up to the present Reuben has certainly managed to live very successfully, and I fear that his men—which, I suppose, means his subscribers—have certainly not been few. But whether this result is due to Providence or some other agency I should be sorry to say.

The following is an interesting explanation by Richard Banner Oakley of the circumstances under which he came to be convicted, and to undergo a term of penal servitude. The letter was written to a noble duke, who had been invited to become a patron of the "Road and Path Cycling Association," and who had, much to his credit, declined that honour, and mentioned at the same time that if the reason for his refusal were required, he should be pleased to state it. In reply to this Oakley sent a pamphlet which he has issued under the title of "*The Times* and the Co-operative Credit Bank," proving, apparently to his own complete satisfaction, that he was wrongfully convicted, and that the *Times*, to which his exposure was in great part due, is one of the most dishonest and despicable of journals. With the pamphlet he sends a letter, from which I take the following passage:—

> I will conclude by asking your Grace one question. Supposing that your Grace and your friends had been living—say, in the Wild West of America—and had deposited your moneys in a local bank there, and that one fine day, without a moment's warning, the bank had been invaded by a band of desperadoes, the manager gagged and bound hand and foot, the safe opened with dynamite, the contents carried off, and what valuables were not carried off destroyed, the manager himself being kidnapped and detained in captivity for five years; would you say that the manager should henceforth and thenceforth be unfitted for human society? Yet this is, as nearly as possible, a parallel case with that of the Co-operative Credit Bank and myself.

From this it would appear that his prosecution in connexion with the Co-operative Credit Bank was a proceeding exactly on all-fours with the "holding up" of a bank in a Western State, and that the police who arrested him, the judge and jury who tried him, and the officers of the Crown who kept him in durance, are exactly equivalent to a band of desperadoes on a freebooting expedition. I am curious to know whether this is the sort of argument by which other eminent persons in the religious and social world have been induced to become patrons of Mr. Oakley's "Road and Path Cycling Association."

With reference to the begging-letter writer, Charles Leicester, the only surviving son of the Rev. Charles Leicester, and first cousin once removed to the late Right Hon. Lord de Tatley, I learn that the address, "42, Norman-road, St. Leonard's-on-Sea," from which this worthy indites his epistles, is the address of a reading-room, where letters are received at a charge of 1d. each. Leicester is said to be a constant visitor to the room in question, and to receive many letters there, some of them registered. Those who know him read the paragraph in last week's TRUTH with surprise, as he is to all appearance a respectable, well-dressed man, bearing about him none of the signs of either his present or past vocations. I can only hope that, in the course of his visits to the said reading-room during the past week, Leicester has had an opportunity of noting the remarks about him in TRUTH, and that they may lead him to shift the scene of his operations, if not to adopt a more respectable means of livelihood.

There is an advertising loan-monger carrying on business in Conduit-street under the name of Parmer. The following story ought to serve as a warning to needy men against any dealings with him or others of his class—though I confess that warnings in this respect seem to be rather thrown away. An Army officer in temporary difficulties applied to Parmer for a loan of £100 for one month. After one or two interviews, at which he was foolish enough to let Parmer know that he wanted the money urgently and that secrecy was essential, he was induced, in the presence of Parmer and his clerk, to sign a promissory note for £160 for one month, after an attempt had actually been made by Parmer to put the amount at £200. Parmer gave his cheque for £100 and sent his clerk with the client to cash it, on the pretence

that the bank might hesitate to give the money to a stranger. The clerk handed in the cheque and received the money, which he forthwith put into his own pocket, and then informed the astonished client that before he handed it over he must first go down to the *Times* office, to look through the file of the paper and see if the client had ever been made a bankrupt. The officer was wise enough to stick to him, and they went to the *Times* office together, where the clerk merely put his head inside the door and came out again, with the remark that he did not see his friend there. The officer then demanded that the money should be handed over at once, under threat of calling a constable, upon which the clerk wanted to know what he was going to get for his trouble, and, taking advantage of the obvious reluctance of the client to have a scene in the street, eventually extorted £6, which he called his commission, but which I should call blackmail.

There had been a verbal promise when the note was given that Parmer could renew it when due, if desired. But this promise was, of course, repudiated, and at the end of the month payment of the full £160 was demanded, under threat of a summons. An offer of £130 made by the client was refused, and eventually the whole £160 was extorted. Practically, therefore, this misguided gentleman paid £66 for an advance of £94 for one month. How many hundreds per cent. per annum that amounts to I will leave the reader to work out for himself. This man Parmer advertises in the *Morning Post*, through which medium the officer in question was entrapped. I would suggest to Sir Algernon Borthwick, who is a very honourable gentleman, that he might, without detriment to himself, decline to become a party to any such rascality by refusing to publish the advertisements of men like this Parmer.

Judging by other newspaper advertisements, the people who patronise quack medicines must be far and away the most gullible section of the public, not even excepting patrons of "system" betting touts and outside brokers. One of the comic weekly newspapers, which makes a specialty of the most objectionable class of advertisements addressed to ladies, has been publishing for months past an advertisement of a Mrs. W. Moore, of the Borough-road, who professes to have a never-failing, absolutely permanent, fat-reducing medicine. By way of testimonial to the virtues of this remedy, Mrs. W. Moore publishes a letter addressed to her from 74, Ondine-road, Peckham, and signed "Very gratefully yours, E. Mostyn." In another column of the same paper appears an advertisement headed "Eyelashes," and stating that "lovely long eyelashes are made to grow like magic by using my Egyptian cream." The advertiser in this instance is "Mrs. Maitland," of 74, Ondine-road, Peckham. During the last week or two it seems to have occurred to one or other of the advertisers—if there is really more than one—that this reappearance of 74, Ondine-road in the two advertisements was a little thin; so the testimonial of Mrs. Mostyn to the virtues of Mrs. Moore's fat-reducing medicine is now dated from Marlborough Villas, Ondine-road. Perhaps I am of an abnormally suspicious disposition, but I should myself consider these two advertisements quite sufficient evidence to satisfy any reasonable being that Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Mostyn, and Mrs. Maitland are all one and the same person.

A sort of appeal *ad misericordiam* has been addressed to me by the man Wilby, of Savile Town, Dewsbury, whose swindling advertisement was noticed in TRUTH a fortnight ago. The announcement suggests that Wilby wants people to do home-sewing ("plain easy work, forwarded through Parcels Post") by which £1 weekly can be earned; but those who swallow the bait and forward the six stamps for which he asks, only get in return a paper pattern and a small pamphlet purporting to show how such profitable employment can be secured. In his letter to me Wilby descants upon the difficulties he has met with, states that he only makes 24s. a week as an insurance agent, and pleads that what he has done has been with the "one desire to keep his family together." But laudable as the end he has in view may be, it does not justify the means of augmenting his income to which he resorts by publishing this announcement. He seems, indeed, half inclined to admit as much himself, and if it be true, as he alleges, that the business "scarcely pays him," he ought to have no hesitation in dropping it. I strongly advise him to do so, or "the anguish of body and soul," which he says he has suffered through my strictures, may yet be intensified by more unpleasant attentions from another quarter.

When some few weeks ago I expressed in an unguarded moment a desire for enlightenment as to the reason for the incomprehensible variations in chemists' prices, I had little idea that I was stirring up such a hornets' nest. For a full month I was bombarded with letters from all parts of the kingdom, more or less tending to prove that a chemist is quite justified in charging what price he likes for the drugs he sells. I waited till the storm had slackened, and then I endeavoured to make my peace. The only result has been to draw down upon me once more a torrent of correspondence. I really cannot argue this question any further. Let it be understood that no chemist in England, unless it be the "store price" man, agrees with my views, and I think I have done all that can reasonably be expected of me in the interests of justice. I am sure my readers must have had enough of chemists' prices, and I know I have.

One of the druggists who have written to me—and he writes very sensibly—suggests that I should do better to turn my attention to the various phenomena connected with the prices of butchers, drapers, or any other tradesman. After my recent experience I certainly shall do nothing so rash. There is one point, however, which I think should be remembered in favour of the chemists, namely, that for every chemist who makes his fortune out of the public there are probably a hundred butchers who perform the same feat.

C *

In some lucubrations that he contributes to a provincial weekly, under the heading of "Philosophy in Slippers," a Mr. J. F. Nisbet moralises on the subject of wife-beating. Who this Mr. Nisbet may be I know not, and the announcement that he is the author of "Insanity and Genius" fails to enlighten me. But it has been said that "great wits are sure to madness near allied," and, possibly labouring under the delusion that the converse must also be true, Mr. Nisbet seems to be seeking a reputation as a small wit by an assumption of moral aberration. He poses as the champion of the wife-beater, and deprecates my advocacy of the more severe punishment of that amiable character. "I doubt whether wife-beating," he writes, "appears in the same light to the lower classes by whom it is practised as it does to their betters. Let us not forget that the working man has a difficulty in finding words that adequately express his meaning, that he has very little fluency in domestic argument. . . . ." I should not have thought so myself, but let that pass. Mr. Nisbet proceeds: "There is only one argument that he can employ effectively, and which his wife understands—about which, in fact, there is no ambiguity at all—and that is a blow." And this is Philosophy in Slippers! If it be a fair specimen of the article, I fancy the author is more likely to be looked upon as a slippered pantaloon than as a slippered philosopher.

I see that the Chartered Company of South Africa are about to issue 650,000 new shares at a premium of 100 per cent. What may be the assets? A right to the ownership of a country on condition of bearing all costs of administration, which right is already mortgaged heavily for debts. As yet no paying gold has been found in it, and it is worthless if gold be not found. For agricultural purposes it is not climatically attractive to Europeans, and the rinderpest has got so into the ground that it is doubtful whether during the next two years any cattle can live there. The European population in the whole country does not number at most above two or three thousand, mainly spiders waiting for the flies who decline to come. Apart from debts, the issue of 650,000 shares will have to share in any prospective dividends upon above two million shares, almost all of which have been issued gratis to the promoters of the Company. No one knows when the present native war will end, or what it will cost to end it, nor what indemnity the Company will have to pay for the Transvaal raid. A Committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to inquire into all matters connected with the Company, and it is by no means impossible that it will report that it has forfeited its Charter and all ownership in Charterland. Under these circumstances, if fools are found to take up this new issue of shares at 100 per cent. premium, I can only say that fools are plentiful.

The Sultan of Turkey is suffering in public estimation owing to his not having been up to date in his mode of dealing with the Armenians. He ought to have granted to a few of his favourites a concession of Armenia, and allowed them to convert this concession into a Limited Liability Company at a profit of some millions to themselves, which was to be extracted from the pockets of credulous investors under the auspices of some Pasha who had become allied with the Ottoman Imperial family by marriage. Then the Company might have, with a view to civilising the inhabitants of this Chartered Land, laid hands on the property of Kurds and Armenians, and when they objected to this, it might have killed many of them, on the plea of being rebels, and converted the rest into slaves, after burning all their villages. If Armenia were found not worth the outlay involved in this mode of improving its inhabitants off the face of the land, or forcing them to work for their oppressors, the Company might have sought to annex some neighbouring province. I am glad that the Sultan was not sufficiently wide-awake to European public opinion to adopt this course. If he had, and if the Company had interested a sufficient number of our eminent financiers, society pets, and fine ladies, in its success, he would have been able to massacre every Armenian; whilst, far from being blamed for it, he would have been acclaimed a patriot and a philanthropist. Great personages would have resigned their membership of any club which had the temerity to blackball him; great ladies would have lauded him to the skies; and he would have been fêted at the Mansion House.

The *St. James's Gazette* despairingly gives the following figures for the British Navy and those of the combined Navies of Russia, France, Germany, and Austria:—

	Great Britain.	The Allies.
Line of Battle Ships	75	134
Cruisers	126	113
Coast Defence	53	78
Torpedo Flotilla	291	774

These figures, says the *St. James's Gazette*, are alarming. They seem to be very far from correct, but that circumstance is less noteworthy than the evidence afforded by the *St. James's Gazette* that our Jingoes, no longer content with insisting that we ought to have a fleet larger than those of any two other Powers, would now have us bring into existence one larger than the fleets of all the other Powers combined. This would double the expenditure on the Navy, and would, indeed, if we were determined, regardless of cost, to keep up this game of beggar-my-neighbour, probably treble it, for other Powers would at once increase their Navies. And yet, looking at the progress of science, some discovery will doubtless one day be made—a submarine boat, or an aërial machine, or an infernal machine of some kind—which will revolutionise all naval warfare.

In the meantime, whilst we are building ships, and putting our Naval expenditure on a permanent war footing, the Germans are cutting us out of the open markets of the world by greater intelligence at the game of commerce. If we spent more on technical schools and

History of Feminine Costume. Tracing its evolution from the earliest times to the present. 38 illustrations. Price 6d. Published by Liberty & Co., Ltd., London and Paris. (To be obtained from principal Booksellers or Publishers direct.)

less on armaments to enable us to defend all the useless territory that we are perpetually grabbing, we should become richer, wiser, and happier. Our special want just now seems to be commercial travellers able to speak the languages of the countries where they seek for orders, and to distinguish precisely what their inhabitants want. I would rather see a Commercial Travellers' School established by the Government than hear of their building a dozen more battle-ships.

Judging by Lord Rosebery's speech at Colchester, he has come to the conclusion that the Tory Party is to be his oyster in the future, and he contemplates bidding for its Leadership by out-Jingoing Lord Salisbury. As he would, I think, be the right man in the right place, I sincerely trust that he will succeed. Honestly, I seriously believe that there is the making of a Conservative Leader in him. He is a nobleman, and the genuine article; not an ennobled rich man. He is passing wealthy, and by marriage he is connected with the City. He stands well at Court. He is, so far as form goes, an excellent speaker, and his ambiguities in respect to political matters may be ascribed to his having been in a somewhat false position as a Radical Leader. As a writer, he is very much above the ordinary run of Lords with a fad for publishing their lucubrations. He is a past master of banter, and in his social relations he is reputed—I believe with justice—to be eminently agreeable. He is a patron of British sport, and has won the Derby. In home politics I do not think that he has greatly compromised himself as a Radical. He has never professed any zeal for such reforms as one man one vote, or payment of members, and although he used to be hyper-fervid for the taxation of ground values, he never broached the subject when he was in a position to give the matter practical effect. He is not an ardent Home Ruler, and would do nothing until the whole of England declares for it. Although he would reform the House of Lords, he deems any reform to which their lordships would not assent to be revolutionary, and more than this no Conservative can ask. He has never stated his views in regard to temperance.

On foreign policies his record is unimpeachable. When Liberal Premier, he brought us, as he has informed us, within twenty-four hours of a war with France about some dispute connected with that Siam frontier that at one time greatly exercised our Jingoes, but which they have now forgotten. He forced on us a railway to Uganda by informing his recalcitrant colleagues that he would resign if they did not agree to our wasting a few millions on it. He diligently occupied himself in pegging-out claims for futurity in tropical Africa where no European colonists can thrive, and he paved the way for the Soudanese expedition by incidentally announcing that the whole of the upper valley of the Nile in some mysterious fashion belongs to us.

I fail to see how Lord Rosebery's reply to Mr. Courtney is any reply to the comments of that gentleman on the Colchester speech. Mr. Courtney had urged that we should withdraw from Egypt, as we were there in defiance of our pledges to Europe, a position which necessarily shook European confidence in us. Replying to this suggestion, Lord Rosebery said that the policy of Mr. Courtney is one "well known in the police-courts," called the "confidence trick," which "consists of two parties, the simpleton and the knave," by means of which "the knave walks off with the property of the simpleton." Lord Rosebery now says that Mr. Courtney distorts a humorous allusion in saying that this parallel implies that Egypt is our property, and that the Great Powers are knaves. But what other inference can be drawn? There are two persons, a knave and a simpleton, in the parallel. If we are not the knave, then the Great Powers must be. The knave "walks off with the property of the simpleton." What property? Egypt. Obviously, therefore, Egypt is deemed by Lord Rosebery our property, otherwise where would be the point in the parallel? But, further on in his speech he makes it still more clear that he regards Egypt as our property. Referring again to Mr. Courtney's suggestion, he says: "You have a mighty Empire on your shoulders; you can, in order to inspire confidence in others, peel from it province after province, and hand it over to those who regard you with suspicion." What other conclusion can any one draw except that, in his lordship's opinion, Egypt is a British Province; for the discussion turns on Egypt, and on nothing else? Oysters, we are told nowadays, sometimes are productive of typhoidal symptoms; but they do not, like wine, cause mental obfuscation. Lord Rosebery clearly meant what his words imply, but, when the meaning is pointed out by Mr. Courtney, he falls back—not for the first or the second time—on a denial that they can bear the only interpretation possible. What I would ask Lord Rosebery, were I Mr. Courtney, would be to explain to us, in clear words, without humorous allusions, what are his views in regard to our occupation of Egypt.

SCRUTATOR.

HOW ELIJAH'S MANTLE WAS STOLEN.

I HAVE come across many Radical M.P.s, and I have found none who do not hold that Lord Rosebery's Leadership was a serious impediment to democratic advance. That the Leadership of Sir William Harcourt creates wild enthusiasm amongst them, it would, perhaps, be exaggeration to assert, but they stand to the principle that the Leader in the Commons is *de facto* the Leader of the Party, and that the Leader of the Party must be Premier whenever the Party has a parliamentary majority. From this position, present and prospective, there is no desire to oust Sir William. This is the view taken, I think, by the Radicals in the consti-

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tuencies. Lord Rosebery never "caught on" with them; his Leadership was sullenly acquiesced in, and all the efforts now being made by his devoted friends to perpetuate the vacancy until he is good enough to condescend to fill it have fallen flat.

When Mr. Asquith tells us that the whole Liberal Party regrets Lord Rosebery's resignation, he expresses, consequently, only his own views and those of a few. Any Liberal Association is ready to speed the parting guest with a few complimentary phrases; but between this and a wish to renew an experiment that has already proved so fatal in its results, there is a wide difference. This, I am informed, is the attitude of most of the organs of provincial public opinion. The suggestion put forward that Sir William should be allowed the privilege of leading the House of Commons without leading the Party when in opposition, in order that the prerogative of the Queen to select a Premier may be reserved to her, is too obviously a scheme to place the Liberal Premiership in the safe keeping of some Court-appointed Peer, and too contrary to the most elementary notion of all popular rule, to command assent; nor is the Peer Premiership further recommended to Radicals by the fact that it is supported by the entire Unionist press on the ground that Radicals are socially, intellectually, and morally such a contemptible collection of waifs and strays, that they need the controlling leadership of some noble Rehoboam to give them even an air of respectability, and to save the country from being ruined if they have a majority.

When Lord Rosebery was made Prime Minister it was diligently put about that Mr Gladstone had nominated him to the Queen as his successor, and that, consequently, to disapprove of the selection was to disapprove of Mr. Gladstone. Elijah had, we were assured, handed his mantle to Elisha, and it was for us to transfer our allegiance to the new prophet. It is now admitted, however, that Elijah had no desire to relinquish his mantle, but that it was transferred to another proprietor against his wish. Lord Rosebery, in fact, became Prime Minister by the decision of the majority of his colleagues, which had in some mysterious and backstairs mode been communicated to the Queen. The true facts that led to Mr. Gladstone's withdrawal from public life have never been told. He wrote from Biarritz to say that the condition of his eyes would necessitate an operation, which would render it impossible for him to attend during some weeks to public business; he therefore adumbrated his resignation of the Premiership. When he returned to England, no overture was made to him to lay up for a brief period, and he found himself in a minority in his own Cabinet as to the amount of public money to be expended on the Navy. Perceiving that the House of Lords was either vetoing or emasculating all the Liberal measures passed in the House of Commons, he proposed to his colleagues a dissolution, and an appeal to the country against the Lords under his leadership. This was declined, on which he placed his resignation in the hands of the Queen, who cheerfully accepted it, and, without asking him who should succeed him, at once sent for Lord Rosebery. It will be seen, therefore, that the Liberal Party has had to thank the majority of Mr. Gladstone's last Cabinet for depriving us of the invaluable services of that trusted veteran; for preventing an appeal to the country on the action of the Lords; and for the dreary ploughing of the sands of the sea that made the Party ridiculous in the sight of men and angels; as well as for having sacrificed that keystone of Liberalism, the presence of the Liberal Premier in the House of Commons. Certainly few men have ever been privileged to perform such valuable services to their political opponents. There may possibly be worse Governments than that of a little oligarchy of wire-pullers and place-hunters; but a more contemptible Government cannot well be conceived. It would be interesting to know who were the majority who insisted on a Peer being the Premier. Was it not that three or four refused to serve under the Commoner, and that the others, fearing a general break up of the happy family, knocked under to this menace? Thus three or four persons, by sacrificing principle to personal jealousies and animosities, ruined a great historical party. Really, if we are to perpetuate this scheme of Party Government, we ought to regard as the perfection of statecraft the revolutions engineered by eunuchs and such like statesmen, by means of which, in Oriental palaces, one Sultan is smothered and another put in his place.

So far as the Leadership of the Liberal Party is concerned, I regard the matter as practically settled. It will be the Leader of the Commons, whoever that Leader may be. Those who are opposed to the actual occupant of the former post must, if they would effect a change, fight in the open, instead of intriguing with the Court, the Peers, and the Tories to effect their purpose. Their course is simple: let them summon, if they please, a Party meeting, and depose Sir William Harcourt; but, if not prepared to do this, let them loyally accept him. My own conviction is that we might go further and fare worse. I support him because he is the Commons Leader, and shall continue to do so until either he ceases to be it or until he renounces the Radical creed. If the Leader in the Commons happened to be Mr. J. Morley or Mr. Asquith, or any other of Mr. Gladstone's lieutenants in the Commons, I should in the same fashion support him, so long as he did nothing to conflict with Radical principles.

We want a definite Leader and a definite electoral programme. But without sound organisation, the best of Leaders and the best of programmes will not assure us the victory. Our organisation is rotten to the core. It has lapsed into a ring of wire-pullers, seeking to dictate to all local Liberal Associations in regard to men and measures, as though they were children. This has deprived the Liberal Party of that vitality without which it cannot

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thrive, with the result that the most energetic workers either have lost all zeal, or have separated themselves from the Party, and thus local associations, deprived of their best elements, have become mere whited sepulchres, controlled and dominated by some wire-puller who is the agent of the centralisers. Against all this I have always protested, because the Liberal Party can only hope for success when organised upon popular lines. As soon as Parliament meets it is to be hoped that action will be taken to alter the present state of things.

Whether with the best of Leaders, the best of battle cries, and the best of organisation, we shall win the next General Election, I do not know; nor can any one know. What we have to do is to try to win, and to adopt the means that will make victory possible. We must, too, take good care that, if we do win, we shall pull the chestnuts out of the fire for ourselves and not for others. At the last General Election I confess that, what seemed to me to be a certainty of defeat, did not disquiet me. Indeed, to be perfectly candid, I was glad when we were defeated, for we were on the wrong path, and I thought it full time that we should be awakened to this by some clap of thunder. The Radicals are to the official Liberals as ten to one in the constituencies, and are like the subjects at an hypnotic séance. An attempt was being made, with a certain measure of success, to make them believe that the luke-warm and muddy water which was being served out to them was the pure water of Democracy undefiled. May the experience of the last Election prove useful to us! We shall be the silliest of fools if we do not profit by it, or if we allow a noisy claque, and an insignificant clique, once more to lead us to perdition.

SERVICE MEN, BEWARE!

The relations between "Service" journals, more particularly as represented by the *Broad Arrow*, and the military and naval authorities have been the subject of many adverse comments in Truth. As a rule, the occasion for such comment has been the championing in such journals, and more particularly in the *Broad Arrow*, of the cause of Officialdom as against that of individual victims of official oppression and injustice. But there have not been wanting indications that the part thus undertaken — ignoble and contemptible as it must appear in the case of a journal posing as the representative of the general interests of the Service—has not been confined to the mere acceptance of a brief for the War Office or the Admiralty. In more than one instance officers have had reason to believe that where they have themselves attempted to use these journals, the *Broad Arrow* more particularly, for the ventilation of Service opinions on questions either of public or professional importance, the confidence which they have reposed in the Editor has been violated by the disclosure of their identity to superior authorities desirous of ascertaining it. That such things have been done has hitherto been merely a matter of suspicion, though of very strong suspicion; but I am now in possession of evidence which directly implicates the Editor of the *Broad Arrow* in the perpetration of this form of ignoble treachery. In saying this I make what I consider, and what I believe the public will consider, a very grave imputation upon the conduct of a brother journalist, and I will therefore give such facts as are sufficient to enable the *Broad Arrow* to meet and refute this charge, if it can.

About a year ago a discussion arose in the *Broad Arrow* on a technical question affecting a certain department of military administration. Several officers, specially familiar with the subject under discussion, contributed their views in letters to the *Broad Arrow*, signing their communications with *noms de plume*, but, in accordance with the invariable rule of journalism, giving their names to the Editor confidentially, in token of good faith. From the nature of the case, it followed that the views expressed by some of the writers were distasteful to the official heads of the department concerned. By some means the officer at the head of this department became aware of the names of the writers of all these letters. This is proved by the simple fact that he made no secret of his knowledge. He boasted that he knew the writers, and justified his boast by mentioning several names correctly. Further, and this is the blackest spot in the business, this officer openly stated that he had his information from the Editor or proprietor of the *Broad Arrow* personally.

Now these facts I have on evidence which is not open to any question. If I do not clearly specify the names of the parties and the nature of the circumstances, it is only because I do not wish to walk in the footsteps of the *Broad Arrow*, by enabling the military authorities for a second time to identify officers who have communicated with the Press. What I have said is sufficient to enable the Editor of the *Broad Arrow* to recognise the transaction to which I refer, and to meet the accusation against him, if he is in a position to do so. But what explanation he can give I am at a loss to imagine, unless by imputing untruthfulness to the officer who has stated that he had the information from him. This much, at any rate, is certain—that the names of those officers who had written to the *Broad Arrow* were divulged to the military authorities. That information can only have come from some one in the office of the *Broad Arrow*. The Editor of that publication may deny that he personally communicated the information. In that case it will be a question between his assertion and that of an officer whose honour and integrity are, so far as I am aware, irreproachable. But even if such a denial be made on the part of the Editor, the ugly fact remains that information communicated to the Editor privately and confidentially, was, by some one connected with the paper, disclosed to the military authorities. Whatever, therefore, Mr. Burgess Short may say for himself, the imputation is unanswerable so far as his journal is concerned.

The character of this act will be self-evident to every man of honour; but in the eyes of journalists of all

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

classes it will appear in a special degree dishonourable. If there is one rule of conduct which every editor of a respectable journal holds sacred, it is the obligation to respect, at whatever risk to himself, the confidence of those who communicate with him confidentially. An editor is under no obligation to publish a confidential communication, but if he elects to do so, he binds himself, as an honourable man, to the conditions on which it is placed at his disposal. Newspaper proprietors may differ as to the precise length to which they are bound to go in protecting a correspondent or informant, where third parties have legal grounds for complaint against any statement so communicated. Speaking for myself, no consideration, short of irresistible compulsion in the interests of justice, would ever induce me to disclose the source of any information, when I have once taken the responsibility of publishing it, unless it could be shown that I had myself been wilfully and dishonestly imposed upon; and I believe that in saying this I am not going beyond the rule which would be accepted by the proprietors of every leading English journal. But in this instance there is no question whatever of the extent to which the obligation may go in extreme cases. This is a case in which the Editor of the *Broad Arrow*, or those for whom he is responsible, have deliberately and wantonly betrayed the confidence reposed in them. This they have done, not under any necessity, compulsion, or even pressure, but voluntarily, and for no reason—unless to serve their own private ends. I have questioned before now the right of the *Broad Arrow* to the character it claims of an organ of the Military and Naval Services. A journal has, to my mind, no right to the title of "Service" journal, which, whenever there is a conflict between the dogmatic decrees of officialdom and the interests of the Service at large or of its individual members, invariably constitutes itself the mouthpiece of officialism and the apologist of tyranny and injustice. But if any man has a fancy for such dirty work as that, he has a right to undertake it, just as he would have to lick the Commander-in-Chief's boots if he thought the pay good enough. A journalist is, of course, within his right, if he so pleases, to place his columns, for any *quid pro quo*, at the absolute disposal of the War Office or the Admiralty, and to act as a semi-official penman while posing as an organ representative of the Services. But it is not within the right of any journalist who assumes to represent the Services to invite—expressly or impliedly—members of the Services to communicate with him in that character, and then to run round to the first official who may disapprove of what has been published with a list of the names of those who have accepted his invitation. This is an act of the vilest and meanest treachery.

AN M.P. FOR THE JUBILEE HOSPITAL.

Another "special and urgent appeal" is now in circulation on behalf of the Queen's Jubilee Hospital, Earl's Court. It states among other things that this institution "is the only free general hospital which is situated in the midst of a large and indigent population." This statement will strike many as a startling one, and I have it from one of the first living authorities on the Metropolitan hospital system that it is an absolute falsehood. Can anything be more discreditable than that such a statement should go forth in a document appealing for money, and bearing among other names that of the Rev. W. R. Mowll, Vicar of Christ Church, Brixton, as chairman of the Board of Management? Even this, however, is but a small matter by comparison with the long series of scandals in which the Queen's Jubilee Hospital has been involved by the connection of Mr. R. F. Benham with it; and I earnestly hope that no living soul will be so foolish as to contribute to the funds of an institution with such a disreputable history.

With this same appeal there is being circulated a "Report of the speech delivered by W. Hayes Fisher, Esq., M.P., Junior Lord of the Treasury, at the first annual sports in aid of the Jubilee Hospital." In this speech Mr. Fisher passes a most glowing eulogy upon the work of the hospital, while commending it to the consideration of the benevolent. Far be it from me to criticise too severely the artifices by which an M.P. is compelled to woo his constituents. Necessity makes politicians acquainted with strange bedfellows. But when a Junior Lord of the Treasury extends his patronage to a gentleman of Mr. R. F. Benham's reputation, he ought at least to know what he is doing, and I cannot seriously believe that even the member for the borough would have appeared in public as the champion of the Jubilee Hospital, had he taken the trouble to master the true history of that institution since Mr. R. F. Benham and his brother first set it going in 1887. Nor can Mr. Fisher say in defence of his ignorance that he is concerned, not with the past history of the institution, but with its present work. What Mr. Benham and the Jubilee Hospital were in the beginning, such they are now. I would remind Mr. Fisher, and any others who may think that the scandal is a thing of the past, that only within the last few weeks the termination has been witnessed of one of the most discreditable incidents in the entire history of this disreputable institution, and this incident dates only from the present year. Here is an outline of the facts for Mr. Hayes Fisher's consideration.

A few months back a Mrs. McKinnell, who has been hand in glove with R. F. Benham for many years past, was soliciting subscriptions for the Jubilee Hospital. One of her letters was addressed to a gentleman well known for his sympathy with and services to hospital work in London. This gentleman replied by referring the lady to the unanswered charges in TRUTH against Benham in connection with the Jubilee Hospital finances. One of these charges was that in the course of the long years during which Benham had been posing as a munificent benefactor to the Hospital, he was really in an impecunious condition, as most conspicuously demonstrated by his failure to settle up a matter of a few pounds, due from him to the representatives of a poor patient, of whose will he had got himself appointed executor. By way of answer to this charge Mrs.

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McKinnell forwarded to the gentleman from whom she was soliciting subscriptions a copy of a letter written to Mr. R. F. Benham by a solicitor named Baker. This letter had obviously been given to her by Benham for the purpose of being used in this way. Now let us look at the history of this letter.

Baker, who wrote the letter, was the solicitor who had been employed to recover from Benham the money which he had received as executor of his dying patient. Baker's character may be judged from the fact that the little money he did recover from Benham he failed to account for until his clients brought an action against him through another solicitor. A balance of the money due from Benham never was recovered, and Baker clearly knew this, as he had actually made an attempt to attach the money on his own account in satisfaction of his costs. This was the state of things in May, 1895, when Benham's relations with the Jubilee Hospital were brought under the notice of the General Medical Council. A few days before that inquiry—obviously with the purpose of getting rid of one of the strongest points against him—Benham went to Baker, and by some means which must be left to the imagination obtained from the solicitor a letter certifying that "to the best of his (Baker's) remembrance and belief," all the money due from Benham in his character of executor had been paid up by him. This statement must have been false to the knowledge of Baker, who wrote it, because, as I have said, he had actually made an attempt to attach on his own account the money still remaining due from Benham; and, besides, he had in his possession all the papers relating to the case, and had therefore no occasion to trust to his "remembrance and belief." That the statement was also false to the knowledge of Benham, who obtained it for his own purposes, goes without saying. This, then, is the letter which was at the beginning of this year given by Benham to his friend Mrs. McKinnell for the purpose of influencing the judgment of a gentleman who was hesitating about subscribing to the Jubilee Hospital after what he had read in TRUTH.

It should be added that when this letter was brought to my knowledge, I at once took steps to have Baker's conduct in writing it brought before the Council of the Incorporated Law Society. The matter was in due course threshed out before the Council, and I believe that the Incorporated Law Society would have dealt with Baker upon it, but for the fact that they had already investigated another charge of professional misconduct against him, on which they had decided to apply for his expulsion from the profession. On this other case, Baker was struck off the rolls only a few weeks ago, and by this fact, and this alone, he was saved from an adverse decision on the Benham-McKinnell letter.

These facts alone should be sufficient to satisfy any one of the justice of my observation that Mr. Benham and the Jubilee Hospital are to-day precisely what they always have been. Here we see in 1896, after the exposure of all the past scandals connected with the institution, a deliberate attempt by Benham to impose on the public and obtain subscriptions for his hospital by means of a document which he knew to be false, which the man who wrote it knew to be false, and which had been obtained in the first instance for the purpose of imposition. In spite of all this, and of all that has gone before it, Benham retains his prominent position in connection with the Jubilee Hospital, and those who have throughout acquiesced in or connived at his proceedings, evince no desire to relieve the institution of such a scandal. The charitable public have, for the most part, realised the character of the concern, and ceased to contribute to it. Thus deserted, Benham has thrown himself upon the support of the working classes of the surrounding districts, who know nothing, and so far as I can see (for some of them have been to TRUTH office to interview me on the subject) care nothing, as to Benham's character or past performances. By means of street processions, public meetings, and Trade Union collections, it is now sought to keep alive an institution with so disreputable a history that the ordinary subscribing public will have nothing to do with it; and some show of popular interest and enthusiasm having been thus excited, the M.P. for the borough is easily induced to identify himself with the proceedings. Although not of his political complexion, I do not wish in this connection to interfere with Mr. Hayes Fisher in any steps he may take for catching votes. But it will be my duty to prevent him from simultaneously catching subscriptions from unsuspicious people of benevolent impulses. I trust, therefore, that Mr. Fisher's advocacy will be taken for what it is worth, and nothing more, and that the charitable public will continue to abstain from all support of Mr. Benham's hospital, so long as Mr. Benham and his past associates remain connected with it.

"SAUCE PIQUANTE" AT THE ROYALTY.

Sauntering about town the other day I encountered a delicate odour of spice scenting the atmosphere around Dean-street, Soho, and as I drew near the Royalty Theatre its pungency grew stronger, and at last its attractive power proved so alluring that I felt myself compelled to enter the little playhouse to discover the cause of this decidedly fascinating perfume. Once inside the door of the theatre, although occasionally the hot and highly-flavoured ragout for the moment stuck in my throat, and burned, I found, when once I had swallowed the dainty morsels, digestion was comparatively easy; nay, more, I felt irresistibly interested in the wicked manœuvres of M. Feydeau's Palais Royal hero. Verily the French author possesses a perfect genius for intrigue, and never was it carried to such a pitch of elaborate detail and open suggestiveness as now. The subtle aside, the sly wink, and the knowing cough are all put on one side, and a broad blue line is substituted instead; but perhaps this is because people are not so quick at grasping a situation or catching a joke as they once were. An American comedian, was once asked how he liked to act before an English audience, and he replied:—

> Well, see here, they may be a darned clever nation, but I guess they ought to have a bell rung to show 'em where the laughs come in.

Anyhow, there is no reason for bell-ringing any more; in fact, one scene in the new farce at the Royalty evidently

so shocked the stage manager that he hastily lowered the curtain before the act was over, and now I want to know, and am burning with curiosity to know, what I have missed. But oh! terror of terrors, could that same stage manager have suddenly caught the eagle eye of the "licenser of plays" from the stalls?

The plot is Parisian to the very backbone. A confiding, tender wife is suddenly transformed into a demoniacally jealous virago by the discovery of a certain volume of notes made by her first husband, whom she fondly believed to be a model of propriety and a faithful better half. This choice literary work contains all the most outrageous schemes by which he succeeds in hoodwinking his unsuspicious little wife. The present husband is informed what an innocent creature the lovely Ellis Jeffreys is; and conceive his horror when he discovers she is, thanks to her late husband's book of "useful information," up to every "little dodge" on the face of the earth. She bribes the maid to bring her all Fred Terry's letters; he, good boy, goes one better, doubles the bribe, and gets his correspondence delivered safely. Fortune has bestowed on this handsome libertine the gift of hypnotising, and this he turns to some account by using its influence on his now ever-suspicious wife. Evening after evening the poor deluded Ellis Jeffreys is "willed" to pose herself gracefully on a comfortable sofa, where, reclining on most becoming brocaded cushions, she rests peacefully whilst her faithless lord goes out "on the spree," and returns to give three whiffs on the snow-white brow of the fair Ellis, which awakens her to love and life once more.

Anon enters Weedon Grossmith from Venezuela, disguised as a gay Lothario. He loves madly, desperately, but in a sad, forlorn sort of way, the magnetic gentleman's wife In a weak moment Fred confides the secret of his "little dodge" to Weedon, who wakes the "entranced lady" up and bids her sham by-by once more, which she does, and overhears, to her horror, a scene between her guilty spouse and an outraged husband, who has just caught Mr. Fred trying to hypnotise the wife of his bosom. Subterfuge is useless. Lies are of no avail. The book containing the record of 360 intrigues does not contain this, henceforth she knows of 361, and this dodge fairly "takes the biscuit." At last an idea strikes Ellis: she, too, will confess to deception and fraud—she, too, will own to a lover: why not? "I am quite as fascinating as Fred, if not quite so experienced;" so she owns to her perfidious husband that she not only received a lover during his absence, but more, that she liked it! "I'll not believe it," says Fred; but yes, it is, it must be true, for here is a waistcoat buckle sticking to the balcony railings. "And now to meet the man without the buckle." He is "raked up" in the person of the gardener, who is secretly married to the lady's maid, and is in the habit of paying his respects to his "old woman" on the strict Q.T. Fred asks to be forgiven, Ellis owns to having resorted to a little ruse, Weedon returns to Venezuela, and Mr. Maltby goes back to the arms of his unmagnetised wife.

Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy has gone as near the precipice as wisdom and decency permit, in fact he was on several occasions within an ace of toppling over, but Miss Ellis Jeffreys pulled him back just in time. Feydeau and French farce are at present all the rage! Next, please! Who has bought "Le Dindon," and who is going to produce it?

"LOVE IN IDLENESS."

Mr. Edward Terry is a genuine comedian with a delightful style, and in the new play Mr. E. J. Goodman and Mr. Louis N. Parker have fitted him like a glove. They know the actor's quaintness, they appreciate his delicacy of touch, and they have, in Edward Terry, established the true meaning of "serio-comic" acting. Very rarely do we find plays so well conceived and so well constructed as this. Its only fault is that perhaps it is too delicate and dainty for an age as robust, as rough, and, I may add, as cynical as this. The affectation of the moment is to sneer at sentiment, to laugh at love scenes, to roar at an honest kiss on the stage, and to pretend that human nature is all wrong. The plot of the new play is very true, very human, very simple. A man who has been disappointed in the one great passion of his life, who loves a woman and loses her, drifts into inertness, lassitude, nothingness. He is discovered when the curtain rises with his handkerchief over his eyes dozing in a pretty, flower-scented garden. This fatal habit of procrastination not only ruins the life of the hero of the play, it does grievous harm to those who are dear to him and are attached to his genial, sunny nature. So this dreamy, dozy man stirs himself to action. And when he does act he makes more mistakes than when he was inert. But he happily succeeds in winning back the love of the good woman he has lost, and having secured that, he goes to sleep again in the same dreamy old summer garden.

Had the play been written by a French dramatist, it would be overladen with praise and quoted as "an idyll." "Sweethearts" and "Sweet Lavender" do not contain better dramatic material. But as ill luck will have it the play comes when sentiment is a bad dramatic bargain. We shall get round to it again in time. Romantic drama is at present in the ascendant. That style of entertainment will have its little day. And then we shall get back to "Caste" and "Sweet Lavender." As I have said before, the flowret is perhaps too delicate and sensitive for the rough keen air of a modern theatre. It suggests a scenario rather than a play. It wants filling out, writing up and elaborating. But such as it is, there is charm in every scene, thought in every character, and I hope that Mr. Goodman and Mr. Parker will work together again, and give to the stage plays as sweet and sincere as "Love in Idleness." There must be hundreds of playgoers who find more delight in the gentle tone of such a play as this than in the unbridled lubricity of the last sensation from the Palais Royal in Paris. The one makes people think and pause. The other makes them draw back and look askance.

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

SNOBS AND SNOBINETTES.

I NEVER until last Thursday knew of a current boulevard subject being discussed at the yearly meeting of the Academies. The innovator was one of the Forty, M. Jules Lemaître, critic, novelist, dramatic author, and one who manages to keep pace with the time. His subject was "Les Snobs et le Snobbism." Thackeray would have said that M. Lemaître knew nothing about it. Though the meaning of snobbism has changed since his time, I think that M. Lemaître has extended it overmuch. Does it not, in English at any rate, mean a vulgar fellow who tries to hide his coarse grain and want of gentlemanly education by affecting fashionable airs, and attaching more importance than is meet to externals? In the sense attached to it by M. Lemaître, any Society affectation is snobbish. It is snobbish to be in ecstasies about a painter because he may happen to be on the crest of the wave. Snobs cast flowers before the actress or singer honoured (or dishonoured) by Royal attentions. In short, being time-serving for the sake of being in the swim is snobbish. Snobbism is to polite good manners what Ritualism is to hoary Roman orthodoxy. It looks merely to the outside of the platter, and parrots the criticisms of the right sort of people. Under no circumstances can it be a medium for a quickening spirit. All snobs are as dull as ditch-water. The Morphine Club is a natural effect of French snobbism. There rich snobs can find refuge from their own and their fellow-snobs' dulness.

M. Jules Lemaître, had he lived at Bath when it was the fashionable resort of England, would have classed Beau Nash as a snob, though he was a singularly clever man. Perhaps Beau Brummel and his Fat Friend were snobs, and the latter the more snobbish of the two. The brilliant Academician seems bent on giving "le snobbism" a place in the French Dictionary. He speaks of the word as of recent coinage; but he says that the thing is of old date. The Hôtel de Rambouillet appears in his discourse as a centre of snobbism, and Madelin and Cathos as *snobinettes*—a word entirely coined by M. Lemaître. When Corneille went out of fashion, the literary snobs, he said, lauded Racine. Another generation of snobs were for Locke's Philosophy, and were Anglomaniacs. They were followed by snobs who worshipped sensibility and nature at the altars of Rousseau and Bernardin St. Pierre. The rusticities of the Trianon were the snobbisms of a charming young Queen. The snobs of Optimism, who saw no faults in human nature, hatched the Reign of Terror.

According to M. Lemaître, there can be charming snobbism. I am sorry never to have found it. Has any one ever felt at ease with a snob, or felt at home in his house? Is there any rest for soul or eye in a snob's drawing-room, or even in a snob's library, however well the bookshelves are furnished? I know a snob who has all the higher shelves furnished with false backs that look like real volumes in expensive binding. Is it possible to read with any pleasure in a room where there is such a constant reminder of insincerity, and the wish to dazzle one's neighbour by false pretences? The owner of these false book-backs might have bought a glorious library with all the money he pays the *Figaro* and *Gaulois* to advertise his dinners, at which he generally manages to have prize guests with resonant names. The business of his life has been to be mixed up and confounded with such people. To do him justice, he does not require to be fed on flattery—an appetite now common to millionaire snobs and snobesses.

Have you remarked how nervously alert the snob who rolls in riches is for signs of admiration from his guests when he gives a feast? The late Baron H. used to give in the smoking-room cigars that cost 25 fr. apiece. If the smoker did not go into ecstasies, he would say, "Take another. You will not get as good a one at home," and then he told what they had cost him.

Baron B. has a portrait gallery of sirens in whom he took, and takes, an interest. He borrowed the idea from the Warblers' Portrait Gallery of the late King of the Netherlands, to which the late M. Chaplain contributed so many paintings. Chaplain was also painter in ordinary to Baron B. for his Sirens' Gallery. This snob, who has the virtue of being shrewd and amusing, entertains his guests with oral biographies of the beauties hung there. Here is a specimen monograph: "That's la Vicomtesse de Porto Vecchio, otherwise Catelina. I married her off to young Maison, of the Banque Saharienne. The *dot* was the directorship of the bank and—well, I must not tell, lest I should be taxed with wanting to dazzle people with the sum of money given with the place, to say nothing of the house they live in. You know the house. Prince Roland wanted to buy it, before he built the palace he now lives in. Catelina led a stormy life before I fell in with her. She says she's the daughter of a Grand Duchess who went from Biarritz on a romantic excursion into Spain. Catelina was one of the consequences of the trip. She was put out to nurse at St. Sebastian, and was forgotten by father and mother. When she grew up she went to sell fish at Bordeaux, and got into the hands of a dealer in beauty. Her local fame became great. Queen Zenobia, in passing through, heard of her. She is more like a fatted rhinoceros than a woman, and knows it. In despair at her own face and unwieldy figure, she passionately admires clean-built beauty in others, as some people admire Greek sculpture. She is as much interested in a Hebe or a Venus as in an Adonis or an Apollo. Queen Zenobia gloated on Catelina, took her by the hand, made her a wardrobe woman, and bought for her a Pontifical title. What was more valuable, she obtained for her the power to deal with State contracts and concessions. This is why I knew her. We did business together for some time before Zenobia quarrelled with her and got the privileges withdrawn. Catelina is a wonderful hostess. One sees in her manners at table the blood of the Grand Duchess. Hasn't she also an imperial temper? It grew too strong for me, and I was very glad when I could marry her off handsomely."

The late Comtesse de Paiva, afterwards Countess Henkel-Donnersmarck, must have been an arrant snob. Her grandeur froze most of the *beaux esprits* who used to

go to her dinners. A state of perpetual admiration was required. They were not bound to admire her, if they admired her ceilings painted by Baudry, the *repoussé* handles of the vermeil forks, the old Dresden Chelsea, and Sèvres plates on which the dinner was served, the toy lap-dogs, the onyx stairs, the oak buffets, credences, and what not, carved in the round, in the block. There can be no rest for the eye or spirit in a snobbish drawing-room, where each object is meant to force notes of admiration from the guests. However exquisite the cuisine, the dishes somehow are unpalatable. Snobs at bottom have no opinion of themselves, and this M. Lemaître forgot to say. They are like a child that takes no pleasure in being noisy when alone.

He also ignored the *snobinette* who would pass at the expense of others for a Lady Bountiful, and who gets in with people of the right sort at fancy fairs for charitable purposes.

There being no Emperor and Empress of Russia to occupy ourselves with, Paris has been busy with the Ste. Beuve mystery, and the letters of George Sand to Doctor Pagello. There is a mysterious something in the Hugo—Ste.-Beuve correspondence. There can be no doubt that Mme. Victor Hugo is the person of whom poet and critic speak. She was then quite a young woman, and very beautiful. Spanish beauty was at that time the fashion in the studios, and she was said to look like a Spaniard. She died a few years before the break up of the Empire. I quite remember her. She had *beaux restes*, but I do not think she could ever have had a face to captivate an experienced person. Victor Hugo married her soon after he left school, and Ste. Beuve was a very young man when he fell in love with her. And did he fall in love with her? He says in his jottings: "Je n'ai jamais aliéné ma volonté et mon jugement, hormis *une fois* dans le monde de Hugo, et par l'effet d'un charme le plus puissant et le plus doux, celui qui enchaînait Renaud dans le Jardin d'Armide." The famous critic did not know what sentimental love was. He attempted to enact romances with a strong-minded, artistic, free-love Princess, who filled one of the very front places in national and international society; he was *l'ami* of George Sand, of Louise Colet, and another very beautiful literary woman, who ran away from school in 1848, with the chaplain, to marry him. She afterwards got Jules Favre to plead that there was no marriage, because the Concordat admitted the rule of ecclesiastical celibacy. There were a few others who shone in society. Ste. Beuve quarrelled with them all. They were too refined for him, and he feared to shock them. The Princess returned, but as a lay Sister of Charity. He was never in love with any of them.

Ste. Beuve was a sandy-haired man, with a phenomenally thin beard and rather swinish cheeks. He had a pair of small, blue, shrewd, scrutinising eyes, in which there was a deal of mental expression, but no other. Not a gleam of sentiment ever passed over the face. He liked his food, his wine, and an educated female (I won't say woman) as a *tête-à-tête* in a restaurant. I dare say he would have liked the companionship of an unaffected woman of mind, if he was sure she would let him alone. He delighted in that of George Sand when she was too busy with other men to fall in love with him. Ste. Beuve was an appraiser. He went deep down into motives. There was more than a touch of suspicion in the character. When he knew Victor Hugo, the poet was very keen to win fame and independence. He had married a dowerless girl, who had quickly brought him four children, and who was not loved enough to prevent him loving others. Nobody better understood than Victor Hugo to what a degree the "suggestion" of critics can influence the sale of books. He saw in Ste. Beuve, whose kind of intellect did not make him a rival, a means to fame—for fame did not come at once even to Victor Hugo. He wished to be released from passionate matrimonial love. A sense of justice made him think it right to release his wife. He must have noticed how she and Ste. Beuve seemed to understand each other, and being a just man, he gave her a letter of licence. The correspondence, and the impressions at the time of mutual friends, lead up to this conclusion. Ste. Beuve may not have cared to go on with a flirtation that had no longer the charm of being clandestine. He would have thought that to do so after the letters he had received would be to reduce himself to a *cavaliere-servente* for the husband's convenience. There could have been no more selfish man. His pleasures were so purely cerebral as to make him not companionable, except with men as clever as himself. He was also a book-worm, and liked a silent, solitary house.

Victor Hugo was not *l'ami* of Mlle. Juliette at the time of the Ste. Beuve correspondence. But there were already other *amies*. Mlle. Louise Bertin simply adored him. She was strong-minded, musical, and enthusiastic about "Notre Dame de Paris," which she made the subject of an opera. Her father was the great Bertin, the founder of the *Débats*. He also could place a nimbus round the poet's head. Louise Bertin never married, though suitors crowded around her. Victor Hugo may have thought of devoting himself to her as an affinity, and in a manner that would cause no scandal, while Ste. Beuve was taking care of Mme. Victor Hugo. I saw Mme. Victor Hugo in Jules Simon's drawing-room. We were there for, perhaps, half an hour before those we called on entered. The whole time she was wrapped up in her thoughts and speaking to herself. She did not notice that I had entered the room. The face, even then, when I knew little of types, struck me as being Irish; the sad, brooding expression was certainly Irish. She was a Breton. I believe that she did not know how to humbug the genius to whom she was bound. Mlle. Juliette did; she swayed him for more than fifty years, and witnessed at his side, in the avenue called after him, his eightieth birthday celebration. On that occasion all Paris came to pile flowers before his house. Juliette predeceased the poet. She died of an internal cancer. The most intensely beautiful work of art I think I ever

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saw was a small portrait of her by Bastien Lepage, taken just before her death. Not to bother Victor Hugo, she kept her sufferings to herself, until the disease too unpleasantly declared itself for her to hide it any longer. She was sly and artful, but had great qualities.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

PORTLAND-PLACE, dear Lady Betty, is the Paradise of the severely commonplace. It is composed of very large houses, mainly inhabited by very little people. This week the attention of the world has, however, been directed upon Portland-place, for it was discovered that the members of the Chinese Embassy had kidnapped and were detaining a certain Sun Yat Sen. In the street, Dr. James Cantlie, the friend of the captive Chinaman, was singing, with Wordsworth, "All things that love the Sun are out of doors." In the Embassy the Ambassador was repeating to himself the words of Himmelszelt: "Even though the cloud veils it, the Sun is ever in the canopy of heaven." The latter line very poetically describes the position of the unfortunate Sun, for he was being detained under lock and key in the garret!

"Solem quis dicere falsum audeat?" asked Virgil, which, translated, means:—"Who dares call the Sun a liar?" After many centuries the question has at last been answered, for Sir Halliday Macartney emphatically declares that the account given by Sun Yat Sen of his capture is altogether false! Sun has been released, however, and the curtain has fallen upon the comedy.

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To approximately match this incident it is necessary to go far back into history. Christina of Sweden in 1657, when staying at Fontainebleau, seized Monaldeschi, her equerry and lover, and had him beheaded. Cardinal Mazarin, who was then in power, objected very strongly to the proceeding, but as Christina had cut the head of the unfortunate man off, no useful purpose was to be gained by discussing the merits of the matter.

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Much nonsense has been published in the newspapers with regard to the privileges enjoyed by Ambassadors and Ministers and their suites. According to international law only the members of an Embassy or of a Legation enjoy these privileges, but this concession does not in any way permit them to ignore the laws of the country to which they are accredited. A foreign diplomatist when at his post cannot be touched by the law which governs the people of the particular country to which he is accredited. This privilege, however, does not permit him to commit breaches of the law. The Chinese Ambassador had no right whatever, according to international law, to detain the person of Sun Yat Sen. It has been argued that Sir Philip Currie, our Ambassador at Constantinople, did much the same thing when he recently gave his protection to a Turk whom the Sultan wished to arrest. In Turkey, however, the Powers have certain rights of jurisdiction, called "Les Capitulations," which they do not possess in other countries. The action of the German authorities in Zanzibar a few weeks ago has also been quoted as a precedent. Zanzibar, it must be remembered, however, is a semi-savage place, which is practically a no-man's land as yet. Besides, there is no doubt that the Germans did not act within their rights upon that occasion, but the matter was of such small importance that it was unnecessary to press the point.

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Sir Halliday Macartney has had some curious experiences during the time that he has been attached to the Chinese Legation in London. One day, when the war between China and Japan was at its height, an inventor called at Portland-place. The visitor had a marvellous compound which he declared would at once destroy the Chinese Army, and his only reason for proposing to sell the secret to Sir Halliday was that he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Japanese. Having been informed that, under these circumstances, it was a pity that he had called at the Chinese Legation instead of at the Japanese Legation, the inventor departed with many excuses.

A week later, however, he returned. Since his last interview, it appeared, he had diligently studied the merits of the dispute between the two nations, and his sympathies had, in consequence of the additional knowledge of the facts which he had thus acquired, been transferred to the Chinese! Would Sir Halliday Macartney purchase the secret of the compound? The secret has not been sold yet.

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The Royal Academicians will meet on November the 4th to elect a President to succeed the late Sir John Millais.

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The Winter Exhibition at Burlington House will probably consist entirely, or almost entirely, of pictures and sketches by the late Lord Leighton. Many persons interested in art have written to the authorities at Burlington House suggesting that the works of the late Sir John Millais and the late Mr. Richmond should be exhibited at the same time. There are several objections to this proposal. First, the pictures and sketches by Lord Leighton, it is considered, will fill the space usually utilised for the Winter Exhibition. In the second place, it might give an opening to undesirable criticism were the works of these artists, who have died so recently, exhibited side by side.

The English world of art has suffered severely during the past few months. No fewer than six of our foremost artists have died during that period—to wit, Lord Leighton, Sir John Millais, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Armitage, Mr. du Maurier, and Mr. William Morris.

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Two magnificent pictures—one by Sir Thomas Lawrence, the other by Constable—are to be disposed of on Thursday, when Mr. Henry Lumley will sell by auction the contents of No. 2, Great Stanhope-street, May Fair. The first is a three-quarter length portrait of the beautiful Miss Clements, the second a "Dedham Vale."

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The promoters of the Bachelors' Club, the most successful venture of its kind of this generation, originated the system of inviting members to join the club at the time that it was being formed. This innovation succeeded admirably. The committee of the Piccadilly Club decided some months ago to extend their premises, and taking the system adopted by the promoters of the Bachelors' as their pattern, invited a small number of well-known men to offer themselves as candidates for election. Three-fourths of these accepted the offer! This again proves that new departures in the management of club matters succeed which a quarter of a century ago would probably have failed. A new generation has developed new circumstances, and these require new treatment.

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The unexpected magnitude of the enthusiasm which the celebration of Trafalgar Day evoked should make it certain that the recently founded "Navy Employment Agency" will meet with general support. The Agency has been formed for the purpose of finding employment for discharged seamen and others of the Royal Navy of unquestionably good character, and to bring employers of labour in touch with a means of finding men admirably fitted for situations of trust. It is managed by a committee of the Castaways' Club, which is composed entirely of executive officers who have resigned their commissions in the Royal Navy. The office of the Agency is at 9, Craig's-court, Whitehall.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

Old Spiced Elderberry Wine prevents chills; delicious winter beverage. 15/- per doz. reputed quarts. Carriage paid. Cash with order.—Carter & Co., Old Refinery, Bristol.

SPORTING NOTES.

I SEE that Laveno is mentioned as likely to win one of the "back-end" handicaps. Mr. Houldsworth's colt did badly at Newmarket the other day in a trial with Coylton, who won easily, and that the "form" of the gallop was contemptible is proved by the fact that the three-year-old ran nowhere for the Gatwick Handicap last Wednesday, although he had a very light weight to carry. In the aforesaid trial Ortolo was beaten off, and he is evidently a very bad colt, and was a pretty sort of beast for people to include among the promising Derby outsiders.

It has been necessary to stop Roquebrune in her work again, and I hear that Sir James Miller will probably send her to the stud. She might very likely have won the One Thousand and Oaks if she had gone on all right, but it may be hoped that the comparative failure of her Turf career will be compensated for by some successes at the stud, where she ought certainly to do well, considering her grand "running" pedigree, by St. Simon out of St. Marguerite.

Mr. Phillips has removed his breeding-stud from Leybourne Grange to Myton, the late Major Stapylton's place in Yorkshire. Kent seems to be quite played out as a horse-breeding county. Great things were formerly accomplished by the late Lord Falmouth at Mereworth, and by Sir Joseph Hawley at Leybourne; but of late years no winners of any note have come from either place. The present Lord Falmouth's stud has, indeed, proved a complete and ignominious failure, although neither money nor trouble has been spared to obtain success. Mr. Phillips would have acted more wisely if he had got rid of his present stud altogether, and then started afresh with a new lot of mares.

The entry for the Champion Stakes at Newmarket (1898), which race closed last week, ought to be studied carefully, as valuable hints may be gathered from it as to the prospects of the present lot of three-year-olds and two-year-olds. Persimmon is not entered, and indeed the only three-year-olds in the list are Bay Ronald, Macbriar, and the American colt, Diakka. Among the two-year-olds are Velasquez, Galtee More, Crestfallen, Minstrel, Brigg, Kilkerran, and the American filly, Sandia. There are fifty entries, and thirty-six of the animals engaged are yearlings. One of them is Mr. L. de Rothschild's Isabina, own sister to St. Frusquin. As to £1,000 being "added" to the race, as is audaciously announced, no less a sum than £750 is got back at once in entrances!

Red Heart has been a persistently written-up candidate for the Cambridgeshire, but I pointed out weeks ago that this horse had been doing no work for a long time, and that he could not possibly be got fit in time to have any chance of winning at Newmarket. A number of people, however, have continued to recommend him, being apparently perfectly infatuated on the subject. He was galloped on Thursday at Newmarket over the Limekilns mile, and he was badly beaten before half the course had been traversed. Red Heart, as I long ago stated, is desperately groggy, and after his ignominious exhibition in this trial it is highly improbable that he will ever win back the outrageously extravagant sum (5,100 gs.) which was paid for him last summer at the sale of Colonel North's stud.

The Duke of Westminster's Orelio, the dark brother to Ormonde, was beaten in his trial at Kingsclere last week, and he can have no chance for the Dewhurst Plate. Orelio wants time, and I should fancy that his début will be postponed until next season. This colt is very heavily engaged as a three-year-old, and besides being entered for all the classic stakes, he is in the various £10,000 races, in which he would have a considerable advantage in the weights with the best animals of both ages.

Another dark two-year-old which did badly in a trial last week was Catherine Luther, the 3,900 gs. filly by St. Simon out of Heresy. She is a racing-like animal, but is never likely to distinguish herself much on the Turf.

The Tuesday after the Houghton Meeting is an important nomination day, and nearly thirty events at Newmarket will then close and name, including the Middle Park Plate and the Dewhurst Plate for next year, and the Two Thousand Guineas and the One Thousand for 1898. It is really quite exasperating to find that the Newmarket authorities are still content to puddle along fatuously with the same utterly idiotic and calf-headed pecuniary conditions for all their races. If they were not obstinately regardless of the signs of the times they would surely recognise the urgent necessity for root and branch alterations in the conditions of such events as the Middle Park Plate. How can owners be attracted by a stake of £30 each, £20 forfeit, with an entrance of £5, which entrance, of course, makes up the £500 which is nominally added? Here we have an immediate liability of £25 on each nomination. The £5,000 stake at Sandown Park costs only £43 for a starter, and by declaring forfeit less than four months before the race is run an owner can get out for £22. The Middle Park Plate has been greatly injured by the far more popular £3,000 stake at Kempton Park, which is run a week before the Newmarket event, but why do not the Jockey Club make their race a subscription event of £5,000, to enter as foals, and let them change the Dewhurst Plate into a Produce Stake of £5,000 on the lines of the Sandown Park race. It is absurd that this week's event should continue to be known as the Dewhurst Plate, a name for which there is not a particle of justification, as there is no affinity with reason in thus commemorating the turbid career of Mr. Gee's long since forgotten stud. Why not call it the Peel Plate or the Falmouth Plate? The Two Thousand and One Thousand are kept on as sweepstakes of £100 each, half forfeit. Why cannot the Jockey Club convert the Two Thousand into a subscription stake of, say, £8,000; and, in the event of any deficiency, they could economise by abolishing the manifestly superfluous Newmarket Stakes, an event which ought never to have been started, and it has since been a regular drain on the fund, without any compensating advantage whatever.

The Champagne Stakes at Doncaster closes this week, with the same miserably parsimonious conditions, as the minor forfeit is still grabbed for the fund. What, however, is quite extraordinary is the limpet-like pertinacity with which the managers of the meeting stick to their insane arrangement of not having any penalties for winners, the result of which foolery was that at this year's meeting the once great race dwindled down to an uninteresting match. If Velasquez had carried 10 lb. extra for his Ascot and Goodwood victories there would, no doubt, have been a dozen starters, but owners were naturally shy of meeting Lord Rosebery's colt at even weights.

A weekly journal announces that "for next year" the Prince of Wales has a brother to Persimmon, named Sandringham, "of whom great things are expected." If the writer of the rubbish had taken any pains to ascertain the truth on the subject he would have discovered that Sandringham is a foal, so that he cannot run for eighteen months to come, at the very earliest. "For next year" the Prince has a half-brother (now two-year-old), by Donovan, to Persimmon, who is a failure, and a half-sister to Persimmon, by Surefoot (now yearling). The same romancing paper states that Lord Rosebery has "in store" for next year's Derby and Oaks a brother to Sir Visto and a sister to Ladas. No such animals are in existence. Velasquez is half-brother to Sir Visto, by Donovan, while Chelandry is half-sister to Ladas, by Goldfinch.

There was a magnificent finish for the Sandown Foal Stakes of £2,000, there being five heads between the leading lot, and as they all swept past the judge, apparently in a line, it seemed impossible that he could separate them. Lord Hervey, who had been reserved for this race, started favourite, but ran very badly. Gulistan, who was perhaps short of work, was just beaten by Chiselhampton, to whom he was giving 17 lb., and behind them came Conroy, who had 21 lb. the worst of the

weights with the winner. Red Heart won this race last year, and what a certainty it would have been on this occasion for either St. Frusquin or Galeazzo if they had kept right! The winner is owned by Lord Stanley, but he was entered by his breeder, Mr. J. S. Harrison, who gets £250 out of the stakes.

The official Free Handicap for two-year-olds, which race is run on Friday, is a most fantastical production. Galtee More is estimated to be 2 lb. the superior of Velasquez, and it would be interesting to learn by what principle the individual who framed these weights has been guided. A fortnight ago Velasquez would certainly have been placed 10 lb. above Galtee More, who, however, beat Lord Rosebery's colt in the Middle Park Plate by six lengths! Under these circumstances, it is palpably preposterous to pretend to make out that there is 2 lb. between the pair! The handicapper has got into worse shoals and quicksands by his treatment of Wreath Or, who is placed 8 lb. above Flying Colours. On the day these weights were published Flying Colours gave 27 lb. to Wreath Or at Sandown Park, and beat him very easily. There is a mistake of considerably over two stone in the handicapper's calculations. Not less flagrantly absurd is his treatment of Lord Londonderry's smart colt Cyrenian, who is thrown in with 7 st. 1 lb. Surely this animal's form at Newmarket must have been overlooked. Simola is made to receive 7 lb. from Simoon, but it was clearly apparent to all beholders that at Newmarket the other day she could have defeated the Duke of Westminster's filly had she been disposed to do her best, and they were then running at even weights. This handicap is altogether a most slovenly piece of work. It ought to be a good thing for Cyrenian if he runs, and he has no other engagement this week. The Heath House stable has another leniently treated candidate in the Duke of Portland's Lady Frivoles, who did well in a trial last week.

To-morrow at Newmarket the Free Handicap Sweepstakes, which will be one of the richest races of the week, should be won by Bay Ronald or Jolly Boat. The Dewhurst Plate looks good for Berzak, as he will outstay Goletta over this course. The Duke of Westminster will run Simoon, but it is to be feared that she is no flyer.

On Friday Laodamia ought to be able to defeat Canterbury Pilgrim for the Jockey Club Cup. If, however, Major Egerton's estimate of the pair is correct, Lord Derby's mare will win, as she will have a stone the best of the weights, whereas in the Cambridgeshire Laodamia has to give the Oaks winner only 8 lb. If these mares should be the worse for their exertions this afternoon, then Lord Zetland can win with Jolly Boat, and it is certain that she can stay the course. In any case, the Jockey Club Cup will be a much more interesting race than usual. During the last twelve years there have been three walks over, and on the other nine occasions there were only twenty-four starters altogether. There ought to be penalties and allowances in this event. It would have been a practical walk over for St. Frusquin on Friday if he had kept on his legs. There is a very good entry for the All Aged Stakes, and Grig or Kilcock ought to win. Falkland may win the Houghton Stakes, in the absence of anything smart from the dark lot. The Old Cambridgeshire Handicap has obtained forty-four acceptances, and I shall plump for Ghislaine, as this event ought to be a good thing for the French mare if she goes for it.

Lord Lonsdale intends to resign the Mastership of the Quorn Hunt in April next. He complains, not only that the subscription is altogether inadequate, but also that some subscriptions which have been promised are never paid, and this is certainly an intolerable state of affairs.

The Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association has committed an act which reveals its methods in a singularly chaste and honourable manner. The blatant legislators of the A.S.A. are for ever telling us that the object of the Association is to teach swimming to all classes, from lords to gutter children, as well as to control amateur sport. Anybody who had not water on the brain would not fail to see that the two objects were bound to come into antagonism. For instance it was palpably absurd to hold amateur competitions amongst poor board school children, and to expect to excite enthusiasm by such means amongst that class of learners. Last week was fixed for the seventh annual Victoria meeting to be held at Peckham. The promoters of these meetings are interested in giving free swimming to board school children, who do not receive money but clothes by way of prizes, while amateurs have other events for themselves. For six years have these meetings been held. The seventh was duly advertised at the Peckham baths, a lengthy programme published, and all arrangements made as on previous occasions. Within eight hours of the time actually fixed for the commencement of the competition, the Southern Committee of the A.S.A. forbade the meeting, because the Association's permit had not been obtained. In other words, those who were working for these poor board school children had not paid the requisite fees to the A.S.A. In previous years no permit had been required. If there was to be any change, surely the hon. sec. of the A.S.A., Mr. Pragnell, who so often tells me by post of his extraordinary and superhuman exertions to get a swimming bath for London, or some other authority, could have taken care to inform the organisers of the meeting that they must get a permit, instead of acting as the Association did, and successfully stopping the meeting at the last moment. To call the action mean, unsportsmanlike, and despicable is to put one's opinion mildly. These precious Associations seem to think they have nothing to do but to show their omnipotence in the most disagreeable way possible. Whether they act in the interests of sport, or to gratify a personal pique, is utterly immaterial. The school children were done out of their treat, and the honour of the Association was saved. A fine notion these children will have of this sportsmanlike Association. It would have been just as well, and, indeed, far better for the best interests of swimming, if the meeting had gone through, and the prohibition had been consigned to the waste-paper basket.

Last week I stated that the Southwark Harriers had been admitted to the Southern Counties Cross-Country Association. Previously they had been excluded because they practised within four miles of Charing Cross. Their admission is conditional on their runs being confined to certain streets. This was, no doubt, done to save the dignity of the Association in admitting the winners of the South of the Thames Championship, which was run over a genuine cross-country course last year. At the same time I should not be content if I were connected with the Southwark Harriers, unless absolute freedom were granted. The police are able to look after the streets without the interference of the Association, which might just as well regulate the length of a man's stride as the place where he should train. At the present time the neighbourhoods of Piccadilly-circus and the Strand offer facilities for cross-country practice which no other town in England can give. One cannot cross a street without jumping a dyke or wallowing through mire. These are the delights of the cross-country athlete, and it is flying in the face of the vestries for any cross-country association to boycott these eligible districts.

Oxford has not such an influx of good oarsmen as in recent years, but Tinné and Warre are quite good enough names. For the fours there are practically only two crews, New and Magdalen, in which latter crew Gold, being the only capable steerer has to row two, and Carr is stroking. The crew goes very well, as also do the holders, New, with all last year's crew. As to the prospects of the University crew, all last year's Blues but Sherwood are in residence. At Cambridge the Hall four is going fairly well, but Fernie's stroke is scarcely lively enough. Adie, the late senior wrangler, and now fellow of Trinity, finds quite enough to do in stroking a crew of Anaks who move slowly over the face of the waters. Third are not well together, Guinness having been away through ill-health, and stroke rather upsets the crew by suddenly putting in half a dozen more strokes than he has rowed the previous minute. A well-known rowing editor is

almost in hysterics over college oarsmen competing in coast regattas, and he triumphantly points out that to get a voucher on a tradesman for a prize is illegal under A.A.A. and A.R.A. rules. He will be shocked to learn that at Cambridge, for all sports except the University and Freshmen's sports, and also for College rowing prizes, vouchers are given. He will be still more horrified to learn that it is only within the last eight or nine years that rowing prizes in test tubs and the like have ceased to be paid over in cash.

Middlesex Hospital have every reason to be satisfied with their decision not to scratch their matches. Their forwards played a really good old-fashioned game against Ealing. The two teams in the tight were nearly equal. But the hospital men shoved well, broke up the scrimmages, and carried the ball before them with sharp rushes and dribbles. Their outsides were worth nothing, and the forwards—of whom Baker and Whiteside were the best—not only saved, but won the game, for the Ealing forwards can only play the heeling-out, scratchy game, and a fair lot of three-quarters were quite upset when they found a real rushing forward game being played. Now to turn to bigger events. The result of the match between Oxford University and the London Scottish was a great surprise. The latter team has not shown anything like such good form this season. The weather made the ground a forwards' day, and the Scotch forwards, lead once more by MacMillan, the old International, played in finer style than they have done for the last twelve months. They had all the best of the earlier part of the play and Campbell was within an ace of scoring. The University pack was very disappointing, as they had managed to give a fair show against Cooper's Hill whose forwards are very fine but outsides weak. The defence of the Scotchmen was very good. Cambridge have started by running up huge scores against Guys and the Harlequins. The pace of the University outsides was too great for the visitors, Mackie scoring three times. On paper the Light Blues must be a very hot team, for the Harlequins have been doing very well in town, while Guys have given the Old Leysians a bad beating. By the way, the University has now its own football ground, and subscriptions are wanted from old Association and Rugby blues to pay off the heavy charges. The weather prevented any really good outside play between Moseley and Blackheath, and it is to be hoped that the forward work of the Heathens will improve.

If the London Football Association has forbidden clubs affiliated under its rule to play clubs that do not belong to that body it has been guilty of a suicidal policy, which is only paralleled by the threat of the Football Association to force the first-named organisation to recognise professionalism. It was a great pity that the ground was in such a bad state at the Queen's Club for the match between the Corinthians and St. Bernards. The former on a fast ground would have given any team a good game. As it was, towards the finish the men were played out, and so the Scotchmen won, although they had frequently to kick out of touch to prevent the attack succeeding. The Caledonians had bad luck in losing a man against Cambridge. They were badly beaten, but the game was very fast, and the crowd was delighted when Murison deposited the University goal-keeper Lawrence and the ball in the net at the same time. Burnup played a good game, but the University defence wants strengthening.

The Hurlingham Polo Committee have drafted a set of rules which are rather comical. The great trouble is the height of ponies which was limited to 14 hands until this year. This rule was so diligently observed in the breach that the limit was raised to 14·2. By these rules the limit is to be 14·2 and all ponies are to be registered, but, and this is the ridiculous part of the rule, all ponies that have played in the champion, Inter-regimental, County Club and other important tournaments are to be registered without measurement. Those who have disobeyed the law are therefore carefully exempt from any penalty and can continue to ride horses of 15 hands.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The hope which I expressed last week, that after the very severe shake-out which had taken place the markets would improve generally, has to some extent been borne out by last week's events. First and foremost, it is a satisfactory feature that the nervousness with regard to dear money has disappeared, and that even the rise in the Bank rate to 4 per cent., instead of causing a relapse, actually stimulated a moderate recovery.

Improving Markets and Four per Cent.

Apparently the public are becoming used to the higher Bank rate, and when the advance was announced some of the "Bear" operators bought back, as they, no doubt, came to the conclusion that dear money had been worked for all it was worth. Home Railway stocks have displayed a remarkably firm tone, and generally mark advances for the week, notwithstanding the unsettled state of the weather. The fact is that there are distinct indications of an improvement in trade, while advices with reference to the iron and steel and shipbuilding industries in the North are most favourable. The fall in gilt-edged stocks has been arrested, and it looks almost as if the present were a good opportunity for investors who wish to place their money with complete safety to get in, as, after all, present quotations of such securities are lower than they have been for some years. The course of the Money Market in the near future still depends upon the extent of gold shipments to the United States, but the impression is gaining ground that there will probably be a pause in this movement, as gold now despatched cannot reach New York until after the Presidential elections take place on November 3. Momentous issues are at stake in connection with the choice of the future President, touching European interests almost as much as American; but, whatever be the result, an end will be put to the present period of uncertainty. A fresh rise has been established in American Rails, which would make further progress if Mr. McKinley were to be elected with an overwhelming majority. Even in that case, however, we need hardly look for any further large gold shipments from this side, as considerable sums of the precious metal, which are at present being hoarded in the States, would be released, and large shipments of European manufactures would be hurried forward for the purpose of evading the Protectionist tariff which a McKinley Government would have to introduce. Should by any chance the Silverites triumph, gold would probably at once return to this country until Mr. Bryan's silver experiment had been proved the disastrous failure which every well-informed financial authority is predicting. The European Money Markets under these circumstances have a brighter future before them, and it is not improbable that a 4 per cent. Bank rate will suffice to protect our reserves, while it is quite on the cards that circumstances will arise which may bring about a reduction before the end of the year. Foreigners have experienced a series of spasms during the past week, especially Spanish and Turks, but these stocks are subject to special influences just now, and holdings of English investors are comparatively small. South Americans have rallied; but the most important feature was a distinct improvement in the Kaffir Circus, in which the wholesale realisations have at last come to an end, and good buying has been noticeable at various times. The settlement is causing a temporary suspension of such purchases, but there seems to be every prospect that the improvement will make progress in the new account. West Australians have been subjected to determined "Bear" attacks; but with the receipt of crushings from the hundreds of new batteries which are now being erected this market will no doubt experience a strong revival. Industrial ventures of proved standing continue to find favour with the investing public, and the issue of the Swift Cycle

Company, Limited, which is being made under Mr. E. T. Hooley's auspices, will be followed at the commencement of November by the same gentleman's new Bovril flotation. Cycle shares generally are distinctly in the ascendant, and with good reason, as the next cycling season is expected to be a brilliant one, there being, so far, not the slightest indication that the popularity of the cycle is on the wane.

Rally in Home Rails.

What I have anticipated for some time is at last coming about. Realisations of Home Railway stocks have come to an end, the speculative account is reduced to a minimum, and a strong rally is in progress; and all this notwithstanding the wretched weather conditions. There are, of course, several favourable influences. To begin with, traffics are on a large scale, and distinctly point to continued improvement in trade, the returns even for last week, which was especially favoured by the attentions of Jupiter Pluvius, showing an increase of £15,000; while for the sixteen weeks of the current half-year an increase of £722,000 is shown. The prosperity of the shipping trade, the rise in freights, the advance in iron and steel, and the booking of further large orders by the shipbuilding yards, are all circumstances which point to greater prosperity in the near future; and now we have also most optimistic reports from Scotland, which have been accompanied by buying orders from Glasgow of the Scotch Deferred stocks. It is obvious that there is a very large margin for a rise in these. Notwithstanding the recent advance, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) only stand at 57⅝, as against the highest price of 64½ which has been touched during the present year. North British Deferred at 45⅜ compare with a price of 53⅝, the highest of 1896. Yet both Companies have fulfilled all reasonable expectations, and for the twelve weeks of the present financial half-year the North British has an increase of £23,836, the Caledonian one of £18,652, to show over the very large figures of 1895. Coras have received a dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. for the first half of the financial year, and will probably get 2½ per cent. for the second half, if not more, on which basis they pay upwards of 4 per cent. per annum. The Heavies have also braced up, quotations for the week being from one to three points higher; and there has also been a recovery in Brighton "A" and Dover "A" to 176 and 100¾ respectively. The latter price is, however, still exceedingly low for Dover "A," considering the excellent traffics, which show a total gross increase of £11,498, the last weekly increase having been as much as £1,254. Great Eastern have moved slowly at about 102½. I wonder, by the way, whether Lord Claud Hamilton (the Chairman of the Great Eastern) will succeed in coaxing the shareholders of the London and Blackwall Railway Company into adopting his view, that they should exchange into Great Eastern Four per Cent. Debenture stock, or, if preferred, into a new Three per Cent. Rent-Charge stock? Personally, I do not see why this exchange should not be made, and I should like to know the reason why the Board of the London and Blackwall Company, or Mr. F. W. Haigh, its Chairman, refused to entertain the proposal. Metropolitan Districts have been a quiet market, the group who have control of this stock having rested on their oars, pending some important developments which are at hand. The "Bear" attack which has just been made can only have a temporary effect, as the prospects of the new deep-level scheme are exceedingly promising. Sir Benjamin Baker has reported very favourably. Not only are there no engineering difficulties to be surmounted, but he suggests that the line should be constructed on a gradient between Gloucester-road and Earl's Court, so as to run at the latter station on a level with the existing District line. This will enable the present traffic from Wimbledon, Richmond, Ealing, &c., to run through, only necessitating a change of engines at or outside Earl's Court-station, and of course means that a large number of trains tapping other lines can be run through to join the new express service. It is calculated that, under these circumstances, the new line will more than double the present capacity of the Company. A meeting is to be held at an early date for authorising the necessary preliminary steps.

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

Yankee Rails—McKinley or Bryan?

I shall not be able to address you again, Ben, before the Presidential elections in the States are over, and I am not therefore going to prophesy so close to the actual event, which takes place on Tuesday, November 3. It is, however, a satisfaction to me that I have so far guided you successfully, and that I was justified in taking the favourable view I did a month or two ago, by following which you have been able to benefit through a very important advance in American Rails. I am still hopeful as regards McKinley's victory; but after the important rise in quotations, and in view of the uncertainty which must obviously remain to the last, I should think that it will now be advisable to go slowly. After all, the news which we receive by cable from New York is somewhat biassed, as not only the Cable Companies, but most of the newspapers in the eastern States, are under the control of the sound-money men. I am not exactly afraid that Mr. McKinley will be defeated, but he may not be elected with that large majority, without which it will be very difficult to break the power of the Silverites in Congress; and it will, moreover, be necessary to introduce some sound financial reforms in addition to retaining the gold basis. That the Silver men are making desperate efforts to get in Bryan is undoubted. By the way, I have received a pamphlet entitled "Elementary Facts bearing on the Silver Question, with Suggestions as to their Present Significance," published in Denver, Col., which is accompanied by a line "From an Englishwoman, who has lived many years in Colorado, during which time she has been a constant reader of Truth." She suggests that this pamphlet may be of some interest, "and thinks that it certainly contains much that would make the writer of the articles on the above question more tolerant of the other side." The pamphlet which my countrywoman sends is a digest of the well-known Silver heresies prepared for consumption by the working-men; and I am sorry to tell the lady that it is not such as to convince any one that the Silver basis would be advantageous for the United States. The triumph of Silver would mean disaster for the Americans in the first instance, and would eventually bring about a great financial crisis in the States. For this country it would mean considerable losses to investors in American securities, and the effects of a convulsion in a country with which we are closely connected by trade and kinship would be unfortunate; but the blow would chiefly be struck at the best interests of the United States. English capital would be withdrawn from that country, and gold would be returning to this side. I do not, however, wish to speculate on events which I hope will not come about. The advance in breadstuffs has certainly been a most powerful ally for Mr. McKinley, and is making converts of the farmers, whose politics are chiefly guided by their pockets. The great rise in wheat has been of enormous importance to the United States, and is really to a considerable extent responsible for the recent gold shipments from this side. Some rather curious arguments are being published on the other side with reference to cotton. Some far-seeing stock operators are stated to be reducing their lines of stocks in anticipation of a dull and narrow market for some time to come, and have gone into cotton, which they believe will now become active and advance. Apart from the strong statistical position of the staple these believers in higher prices base their operations on the outcome of the Presidential election. Their argument is that no matter who is chosen, cotton will go higher. Should McKinley be victorious the result will be general business activity, if not a boom. This will naturally have the effect of increasing the demand for cotton goods, which in turn will start in motion every spindle in the country, and, as mills are not over well supplied, prices will appreciate. In the event of Bryan's election, the advance in the

premium on gold, which every one looks for, is bound to cause cotton to rise, as that staple is influenced more by the demand for gold than any other American product—in fact, it is called a gold staple. Some very sanguine Yankee prophets, in fact, predict that cotton, in the event of Bryan's election, will jump 3 cents a pound. The publication of the annual report of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company disposes of all the adverse rumours which have been current regarding its financial condition, and which I emphatically contradicted at the time. Louisville and Milwaukee have led the recent upward movement, and will probably be the most active stocks after the Presidential elections. Atchison stocks have also come to the front, especially the Prefs. By the way, complications have arisen owing to the non-issuing of Atchison common stock. The by-laws of the Company provide that the Directors shall be elected to serve for different periods, so that there will never be a complete change in the directorate at one time, one-third of the number to be elected for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years. The present Board of Directors was elected by the Reorganisation Committee to serve for one year. It was proposed to elect Directors according to the new by-laws at the annual meeting of the Company, to be held at Topeka, December 10, but the delay in issuing the common stock will prevent this, and in consequence a special meeting of stockholders will be called in advance of the annual meeting to amend the by-laws, so that the present Board of Directors will be re-elected to serve for one year, the division of the Board to be into three classes, to be made next year instead of this year. As the common stock of the road cannot be issued, owing to the Atlantic and Pacific injunction, it cannot be voted by the stockholders who really own it. The Reorganisation Committee who still control the present common stock could vote it, but consider that it would be assuming too much responsibility to elect Directors for three years; hence the plan to lay the matter over for one year. American Railroad bonds have been a quiet market, and no particular improvement is expected until the elections are over. The explanation is simple enough. People who hold uninvested funds, which they wish to place into gilt-edged stocks, would obviously await the upshot of the elections, as they would only consider bonds quite safe in case Mr. McKinley were elected. Then, again, after election it is safe to predict that money can be invested to a much better advantage. Although a few forced issues still are coming out, it is not until next month that any great movement is expected in this line. Then, without question, many millions of dollars' worth of choice securities will be issued, which will make a much better variety for the buyer. Canadian Pacifics have recovered slightly, but the last traffic was unsatisfactory, and there is a disposition also in this instance to await the result of the elections. A moderate improvement has occurred in Grand Trunk stocks. The traffic return for the third week of October, showing an increase of £9,936, was not unsatisfactory; but it will be time enough to put up the junior securities when McKinley has been elected.

Foreigners and South Americans.

Amongst interbourse securities interest has chiefly centred in Spanish, which have again fluctuated widely, and after dropping below 57, have recovered to 58. When everything looked very ominous, and the "Bears" were heavily committed, the report was started that a railway loan would be concluded, and that the Banque de Paris had already received back a portion of its last advance, whereupon a sharp rally ensued, followed by a reaction. The financial position in Spain is, of course, as bad as it can be, but I should not be at all surprised if that country were once again helped over the stile, in which case there would be a fine "Bear" squeeze. Turks have declined, which is not surprising, as the latest expedient for raising the wind, viz., an increase of taxation, will probably do more harm than good. South Americans have steadied somewhat, and Argentines have displayed greater strength, although no fresh development with reference to the unification of the debt has to be reported. There is a rumour that an attempt will be made to do something for Buenos Ayres Cedulas, by a conversion in the ratio of three to one into the bonds of the Province bearing Five per cent. interest. It is difficult to see, however, where the money for the service of this new debt would come from. The shrinkage in Brazilians is still going on, and Mexicans are slightly easier. In their case, however, a recovery is practically certain. Uruguay bonds are improving again, the Old Loan being quoted 48⅝, the New Loan 67. Peruvian Corporation stocks are practically unaltered; but amongst the so-called rubbish stocks, Honduras are ¼ lower, notwithstanding the talk about some proposal of the Honduras Government for settling the debt on a low basis. Costa Rica "A" and "B" have fallen two points, and it is disgraceful that the Government of that Republic has not yet purged itself of its default. A satisfactory feature is the renewal of the pooling arrangement between the various Mexican Railways, which has caused a rise of 3 points in the Mexican Railway (Vera Cruz Line) First Prefs. Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds have also improved a point. It is not surprising that the Mexican Railway has had enough of the rate war, and I have always condemned the rupture of the pooling arrangement. I do not even now understand why Mr. H. Goschen inaugurated his accession to the Chairmanship in this most undesirable manner.

The Kaffir Circus—A Brighter Outlook.

It is a long lane that has no turning, and it was a foregone conclusion that the peristent and indiscriminate sales of South African Mining securities must come to an end somehow. The turning point has now come, and after another shake out, which brought prices almost to the lowest level touched, a sharp improvement has set in, and the very fact that a moderate rally has held in the face of the settlement is of good omen for the new account, in the course of which well-informed authorities anticipate a further marked recovery. With the forced sales by discomfited speculators there have also been contracted very large "Bear" commitments, and sooner or later this position must result in a squeeze. I repeat that the outlook of the mining industry in the Transvaal is very satisfactory. The question of Sunday labour is expected to be solved in a manner favourable to the industry, and nothing is heard any more of the strike of natives. The troubles in Rhodesia are practically over, and the uncertainty with regard to the Chartered Company has been put an end to by the announcement of a new issue of Chartered shares. It is proposed to create one million new shares, but for the present to issue only 500,000, which are to be offered to the shareholders pro rata (one to every five shares) at the price of £2. Three hundred thousand shares are guaranteed at £2, the guarantors receiving the option, in lieu of commission, to take up 150,000 of the reserved shares within a year at 2¾. A meeting of shareholders will be held on November 6. It is understood that a large portion of the money raised will be applied to railway extension. I am not an admirer of the Chartered Company; but speaking from the market point of view I should think that the shareholders will not hesitate to subscribe for their proportion of the guaranteed shares, considering that the present price is 2⅜. The steadying of Chartered shares would doubtless have a favourable effect upon the rest of the market, and even such gambling counters as Rand Mines, Consolidated Goldfields, and East Rands are showing signs of recovery. As a great many "Bear" sales have undoubtedly been effected in these, a temporary rally would not be at all surprising, especially as the East Rand Company has withdrawn for the present the proposed issue of new shares. My readers will, however, do well to confine their purchases to sound Witwatersrand gold mines and well-established land companies, and I have little doubt but that a purchase now made of the following shares will within a month or two yield excellent results:—Langlaagte Estate at 4⅞, New Primrose at 4¾, Glencairn at

2½, City and Suburban at 4⅛, Robinson at 8⅜, Wolhuter at 5¼, Randfontein at 2⅜, New Johannesburg Consols at 2 5/16, Barnato Consols at 2 1/16, Buffelsdoorn at 2¼, Langlaagte Royal at 1 9/16, Henderson's Estates at 2¼, Lydenburg Estates at 1⅜, Oceana Consols at 1 5/16, Mozambique at 1 7/16, Modderfontein "B" at 1¼, Waterfall Estates at ⅝, Woodstock (Transvaal) at 1⅜, and Knights at 5⅜. A selection from this list would at present prices be very promising for a successful operation. I cannot, however, too much impress upon my readers to buy only such shares as they can take up and pay for. Recent events in the Mining Market have shown how dangerous it is to run such shares speculatively. Altogether irrespective of intrinsic values, shrinkages have occasionally to be faced, and those who have paid for their shares will be able to weather the storm, and will eventually not only see their money back, but also make a profit in the end. It is stated that Messrs. Barnato Brothers have now floated the Lindum Gold Mining Company with a capital of £500,000, the properties consisting of 84 claims of the old Lindum Gold Mining Company, 154 claims of the Sexagon Syndicate, the mynpacht (about 130 claims) formerly belonging to the First Netherlands Transvaal Gold Mining Company, and 142 claims of the Chester Van Dyk Syndicate. It is a low grade proposition, and it is claimed that the Horsham Monitor reefs pass through the Lindum properties. The annual report of the Black Reef Proprietary Company is very disappointing, and so far no tangible result has been obtained. The same applies to the results as yet achieved by the Western Molyneux. At the statutory meeting of the Cataract Barberton Gold Mining Company, Limited, satisfactory statements were made by the Chairman, Mr. Edward Rawlings. A shaft is about to be sunk to a depth of 100 ft., and then a cross-cut is to be made to strike the lode. A very satisfactory circumstance is that a considerable sum of money—viz., £20,000—is in hand for working expenses. The property consists of 150 claims, and the outcrops of two well-defined quartz reefs have been traced for a long distance. An important and favourable point, as affecting all the mines in the Klerksdorp district, is the resolution come to also by the Klerksdorp Chamber of Mines to enact the reduction of native wages as already in force in the Witwatersrand district. As this reduction will come into force on November 1, cheaper working is assured from that time. This applies amongst the better-known mines chiefly to the Buffelsdoorn Estate, Palmietfontein, Niekerk, and Africander. The latest performance of the Kaffir Consolidated Investment and Land Company is a circular puffing Bantjes. It would be interesting to know what other business this Kaffir concern is doing. With reference to the Langlaagte Star a good deal of "Bearish" talk has been committed to paper lately; but I warn shareholders not to be influenced by these obviously interested paragraphs. It is quite true that in the western part of the Langlaagte Star property a dyke has been met with, and as it was doubtful to what depth it extended, and it would have taken a longer time to pierce it, the Directors very properly decided upon developing the eastern portion of the mine, in which there is no dyke and the ore is richer, while keeping ten to fifteen stamps running. By December next sufficient better-class ore will have been developed in the eastern portion to again run the whole of the sixty stamps, and it would be the greatest folly for Langlaagte Star shareholders to throw away their shares on the present "Bearish" talk. By the way, the position in Paris has undoubtedly improved, and I have it on very good authority that no further large blocks have to be liquidated. Whatever weakness yet remains in Paris is due to the relapse in Spanish and Turks, our mercurial French neighbours being moved to sell almost everything, when a severe spasm occurs in some of their securities. Once the Paris liquidation of the end of the month is completed, we may look for better things from that quarter. I may mention, moreover, that orders which were sent for large amounts of shares of a certain group during the last few days could not be executed at anything like the present prices; and the brokers entrusted with the orders returned them with the remark that in order to obtain such blocks of shares the limit would have to be raised from ¼ to ½. I understand that the accounts of the Robinson Bank for the year ending September 30 have now been made up, and that the Paris Directors—who have been over here for the purpose—are well satisfied with the same, and with the promptitude with which the accounts have been struck. A meeting will be held in London on November 10, when results will be announced which may, under the circumstances, be considered satisfactory. With reference to the labour question in the Transvaal, too, I have received further encouraging information. The rinderpest has so strong an influence upon native labour that any amount of the latter is now obtainable, and it is anticipated that a further reduction in native wages—on the top of the recent reduction—will be enforced. It may further be stated that, most of the heavy work on the mines having been got over, the cost of white labour will now also be reduced. Thus the mining industry on the Rand is now in a better position than it has been for many years. Diamond shares are also likely to recover with the gold department, and De Beers have already rallied to 28, and New Jagersfontein to 9. Another reconstruction is looming in the distance for the St. Augustine (Diamond) Mine. I have always held a poor opinion of this concern, and the shareholders can now again sing "Oh Du lieber Augustin!"

Golden West Australia.

There is absolutely no reason for the "Bear" attack which has been made on certain West Australian gold mining shares, and I have no doubt that this department will experience a strong rally after the carry over. In this market the speculative account is quite small, the shares being generally taken up and paid for; and the curious fact has been ascertained that, notwithstanding the declines which have taken place in various directions, hardly any shares, or only small amounts, have passed through the transfer offices of the Companies; so that there have not been sales of real stock, but speculative commitments have been entered into by the ursine party, who will, no doubt, in due time have to suffer for their audacity. I showed last week that some of the leading mines are making excellent progress, and as hundreds of batteries are being sent out or are in course of erection in Western Australia, we shall by and by receive such increasing returns of actual crushing that even the greatest unbelievers will be convinced. It is much to be regretted that a daily contemporary, which ought to have known better, viz., the *Daily Chronicle*, should have given currency to the suggestion put forward by jealous Melbourne papers that the returns of gold of certain West Australian mines is unreliable. The sweeping condemnation indulged in by my contemporary is altogether absurd. The *Melbourne Age* only mentions one Company, and alleges that of a parcel weighing 400 oz., and telegraphed as such to England, 390 oz. had been discovered to be iron, and only 10 oz. gold, at the Melbourne Mint. My Australian contemporary ought certainly to publish the name of the mine, and the absurdity of accusing all West Australian mines of such practices is fully demonstrated by the fact that the Lake View Consols Company has announced that the August production of gold of 1,508 oz. realised as much as £3,615, or £4. 3s. 9d. per oz. This means that it is nearly pure gold, the price for which is £4. 5s. per oz., and very much finer than the Witwatersrand or other Australian gold. Too much importance need not, however, be attached to the lucubrations of an ignorant or biassed critic. Sensible men are, on the contrary, now realising the great future of the West Australian goldfields; and I am glad to see that the *Statist*, which has hitherto been in a hesitating frame of mind, is waking up to the magnitude of these fields. In its current issue my contemporary publishes a very useful table of crushings and average returns from each field. I suppose very few people had any idea that the English-owned Companies had this year crushed 133,378 tons of ore for a yield of 337,380 oz. of gold, or an average of 2½ oz. to the ton. This is no trial crushing, and such

results are bound to tell in the long run. It is people's ignorance of such facts as these that make them doubtful of the wealth of Western Australia. The following is an extract from a letter, dated September 25, which has just reached me from a man of high position in Western Australia, who is certainly not given to be over-sanguine :—

The opening of the railway to Kalgoorlie marks another forward step in our progress. I was more deeply impressed with this mining centre (if possible) than with Coolgardie, but perhaps this was as much as anything else due to the absolutely different nature of the gold formations which it was my privilege to inspect, Kalgoorlie gold being mainly found in soft decomposed schist, very friable and tender compared with the hard quartzes I saw at Coolgardie. I fear you would think I was exaggerating if I endeavoured to estimate the amount of payable "formation" in sight; but I cannot conceal my conviction that the leading mines cannot possibly be worked out for fifteen to twenty years, and if they improve below the 300 ft. level, or are even maintained at their present productive ratio, who shall estimate their possible period of profitable existence? Great discoveries of water are recently reported, and more will be made as time proceeds under careful scientific search, nevertheless the Government water scheme is at this present juncture wise and prudent from every point of view.

The declines have been pretty well distributed over the whole market, but they are not important, and would be soon wiped out by comparatively small investment purchases. Great Boulder, in fact, are already rallying at about $6\frac{3}{4}$. West Australian Goldfields are quoted at $6\frac{1}{2}$, and West Australian Joint Stock Trust, after reacting, are up again at $2\frac{3}{4}$ premium. A further sharp relapse in West Australian (Gold District) Trading is being slowly recovered, the Ordinary shares being quoted $\frac{1}{2}$, the Founders' shares 17-20. West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance have at one time touched $4\frac{3}{4}$-$\frac{7}{8}$, and have reacted to $4\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{3}{4}$; but nothing has happened to change the splendid position of these two Companies, which will announce very large profits in December next. With reference to my recommendations of last week, I am glad to notice than an excellent crushing of 193 tons has been announced from the Great Boulder Main Reef. The ore yielded 400 oz. per ton, and 1 oz. 8 dwt. was left in the tailings. If these returns continue, as I am assured they will, the price cannot long remain at the present low figure of $1\frac{1}{16}$. Another recommendation was Robinson Gold Mines, now quoted $\frac{7}{8}$, which I stated would give a good account of itself; and this is confirmed by a cablegram to the effect that a new reef has been cut, and that the mill is running day and night. The mill at Mawson's Reward has also been started, and the fortnightly reports continue very good, the shares standing at $\frac{7}{8}$. White Feather Rewards have held their ground well all through, being quoted $1\frac{15}{16}$, and no one disputes the value of this mine. An attempt was made to bang Mount Margarets, but no liberties were allowed, and I am sure that better prices will be seen in both these mines as soon as the markets generally brace up. Mount Margarets are now quoted $1\frac{3}{8}$. Since I mentioned East Murchison favourably, the highly satisfactory report of the Warden to the Minister of Mines has been published. There appears to be no doubt that this is a good mine and well equipped, although the shares stand at only $\frac{3}{4}$. Hampton Plains are a mystery. Further splendid information was sent out to the shareholders this week, but the effect (which should in ordinary times have put life into the market) was nil. The truth is when people are nervous they will sell something. Presently, however, I have no doubt that it will dawn upon investors that they are allowing a splendid opportunity to slip by in not buying Hampton Plains at this moderate quotation. In addition to the mines just mentioned, Cue No. 1 at $\frac{9}{16}$ also deserve every attention. I have just had a chat with Mr. Charles Kaufman, the consulting engineer of the West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance groups. He was good enough to show me some of the splendid specimens which he has brought home with him, more especially from the Lake View Consols, Mainland Consols, and also from the Wealth of Nations. Mr. Kaufman's enthusiasm with reference to the Lake View Consols is unbounded. He says that there is at present enough rich ore in sight to account for the whole of the capitalisation at the present quotation; and although crushings yield only about 3 oz. to the ton, in the last tailings there were 2 oz. 6 dwt., and he is of opinion that the next tailings will assay even more. The present old 20-stamp battery will, of course, be kept going; but by the time the further new 20-stamp battery is erected, there will be sufficient water to run this also, while it is the intention to eventually put up from eighty to 100 stamps more. Mr. Kaufman reiterates his view that in all his experience he has never met with so splendid a mine as the Lake View Consols, which is the pick of the West Australian goldfields, and the shares in which ought to be worth two or three times the present price of about 7. As regards the Mainland Consols, he is of opinion that with the ten stamps now going it is doing as well as any one could expect; and when the thirty stamps are working he will have sufficient water from the Day Dawn to run these also. The new 20-stamp mill of the Paddington Consols is expected to be complete by the end of the year; and for this, as well as the Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure, he also predicts a very prosperous future. I must confess that the strong and confident views which Mr. Charles Kaufman expressed on the whole of the group of mines referred to have impressed me most favourably, and confirmed me in the opinions I have so frequently put forth, viz., that shareholders should stick to their holdings in anticipations of much higher values.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

The Indian gold mining section should be closely watched, especially now that the October crushings are nearly at hand. There has, however, been a moderate decline in some of the leading mines, Mysore being quoted only $8\frac{1}{16}$, Champion Reefs $7\frac{1}{2}$, Coromandel $2\frac{3}{16}$, Nundydroog $3\frac{7}{16}$. The dividend of 2s. per share declared upon the latter is, however, in every respect satisfactory. Goldfields of Mysore are firmer at 21s. 6d. In Australian shares, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp are firm at 3. There has been a decline in Mount Lyell to $7\frac{3}{4}$, and lower prices are also quoted for British Broken Hill and Mount Morgan. The Aladdin's Lamp Mine commences its new year in the same satisfactory manner in which it closed. According to the return just received for the last three weeks, 1,198 oz. of approximate value of £4,400 have been produced, equal to an earning of 5 per cent. for this period. A further dividend of 10 to 15 per cent. will shortly be declared. In Charter Towers shares, Mills's Day Dawn United, New Queen, and Day Dawn P.C. have eased off. Croydon Consols have maintained a firm tone at from 10s. to 10s. 6d., and North Croydon Consols stand at from 3s. 6d. to 4s. In New Zealand mines, a further relapse has taken place in Taitapu, Waihi Silverton, New Zealand Joint Stock, Waitekauri Extended, and a number of others; the only advance being marked in Hauraki and Royal Oak. Towards the last, however, a better feeling has sprung up for New Zealand mines, and advices from that Colony are distinctly encouraging. It is understood that Mr. Cecil Hartridge, who owns a large interest in a number of New Zealand mines, is about to proceed to New Zealand to personally inspect the properties. Thither also Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., is wending his way, after having made an exhaustive tour over the West Australian goldfields. I hear that another group connected with New Zealand is about to float the Royal Standard Special Claim in the Hauraki Goldfields, covering an area of 100 acres. This property is stated to be traversed by two very large and important reefs, while another valuable one is being opened up, and other good reefs are expected to be struck. Assays of six sealed samples yielded from 1 oz. 12 dwt. to 9 oz. 9 dwt. per ton. There are also great natural facilities, and a magnificent water right has been acquired. Out of the capital of £200,000 the sum of £55,000 is reserved for working capital, and the issue will be made publicly in the near future. In the general foreign section, Rio Tinto have had their ups and downs again, but are very firm at the last at $24\frac{1}{4}$. Columbian Hydraulic have improved; but De Lamar, Burma Ruby, and Argentine Concessions are lower.

Grand Central (of Mexico) have been steady at 2¼. I am asked to state that Messrs. Atkinson & Dresser, solicitors, 30, Finsbury-circus, London, E.C., having been consulted by one of the shareholders of the United Exploration and Investment Company, Limited, who feels that he has been badly treated, have invited the shareholders to attend a meeting to be held at their offices on Wednesday, the 28th inst., at three o'clock, for the purpose of taking counsel together as to the best course to be adopted for the protection of the interests of those shareholders who are not connected with the promotion of the Company. Advance copies, for private circulation, are being sent out of the Cripple Creek (Bull Hill) Finance and Development Company, Limited, the capital of which is to be £160,000, and which is to be a parent Company. The fact that these prospectuses are being sent out by the Underwriting Bureau, Limited, of which R. B. Oakley is Managing Director, is, however, likely to militate against the success of this concern.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Burbank's Main Lode, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and further develop two Mining Leases, known as the "Baby Block" and "Bullara Block," situated at Burbanks, 4½ miles south of Coolgardie, Western Australia. The capital is fixed at £65,000 in shares of £1 each, of which 32,500 shares are set apart to provide working capital.

This property, which is 36 acres in extent, is situated in a proved gold-bearing district. The price paid for it is very moderate, while the provision made for working capital should be ample for the development and working of the mines. The management is placed in the hands of Professor William Nicholas, who has proved himself a capable man, and the prospects point to its becoming a fair mining venture.

The London Woollen Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the business known as the Wood-street Clothing and Woollen Warehouse, Limited, carried on at Little Love-lane, Wood-street, E.C., and to further develop and extend the same. The capital is £80,000, divided into Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each.

Norton & Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on the business of Norton & Company, furniture manufacturers, cabinet-makers, general furnishers, &c., now carried on by Mr. John Norton in Corporation-street, Cannon-street, and Fore-street, Birmingham. The capital is £100,000, divided into 60,000 Six per Cent. Preference and 40,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. £10,000 out of the Preference issue will be provided for additional capital.

The Swift Cycle Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring as a going concern the whole of the assets and undertaking known as the Coventry Machinists' Company, Limited, carrying on business at Cheylesmore and Little Park-street, Coventry, and London, with agencies in the principal towns of Europe, Australian continent, India, the Cape, and South America. The capital is £300,000, divided into 100,000 Six and a Half Per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, and 200,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. There will also be issued 750 Six Per Cent. Mortgage Debentures of £100 each.

This Company has taken over the business of the Coventry Machinists' Company, Limited, one of the oldest firms in the cycle trade. The trading account for the past year shows a profit of over £50,000, which will admit of a 15 per cent. dividend on the Ordinary shares (after all the Preference and Debenture interest has been paid), and leave a substantial balance to be carried forward. The vendor guarantees a sum of £20,000 as additional working capital, and the assets amount to £131,000, after allowing a large sum for depreciation. The orders at present in hand exceed those of last year by 5,329 machines. I think a business progressing at this rate promises well.

The Universal Medicine Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to purchase the patent rights and formulas of several patent medicines belonging to the Hawker Medicine Company, of Canada. The capital is £60,000.

This is, in my opinion, an impudent attempt to float a Company to acquire the right to sell what is called a patent medicine, of which little is known in this country. I should like to know also why, if the medicines have made a reputation in Canada under the name of Hawker, the promoters should see any necessity for changing the name. Several of the diseases they profess to cure are already covered by well-known patent medicines that have a very large sale. I cannot see that there is any room for another "Richmond" in the field of cure-all panaceas, especially when he changes his name.

Burgon & Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the business of Burgon & Company, Teamen, Grocers, &c., carried on at Leeds and elsewhere. The capital is fixed at £75,000, divided into 7,500 Six per Cent. Cumulative shares of £5 each, and 37,500 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

Yorkshire people are considered, and no doubt are, very canny, and the promoters of this concern probably well know this; but I cannot think they are very wise in asking general investors to subscribe to a venture, the capital of which could be subscribed fifty times over in Leeds alone, if there was anything really good in it.

Yates's Castle Brewery, Limited.—Share capital £250,000 in £10 shares. This Company is an extension of Williams, Yates, & Company, Limited, and the Castle Brewery, Ardwick, Manchester.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

M. I. W., Brighton.—No; I do not advise purchase of Consols (Goschens) yet, and also think that Local Loans may experience a further set back. *Secundus.*—I look upon the present financial position in Rio de Janeiro as very precarious; but I hardly like to advise you to sell after the heavy fall. Possibly there may be a slight improvement, which will enable you to get out better; but I have for some time been adverse to these bonds. *Vido.*—I should consider the new Uruguay Five per Cent. Loan, at 67, preferable to the old Loan.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Brabant.—Had you not better await the result of the American Presidential elections? If these are favourable, you can get more than the return you require in perfectly safe high-class American Railroad bonds. *Miss E. H., Ealing.*—Your experience is only that which all bondholders in the Provident Association of London have to undergo. The advantages claimed for it by the persons who run the concern are altogether delusive. I have, however, so frequently expressed my opinion on this matter, that if you are a regular reader of TRUTH, you should have steered clear of this "Association." *Ardnagros.*—All the firms mentioned by you are either syndicate touts, or touts for obtaining subscriptions to various "systems" of gambling at Monte Carlo. Have absolutely nothing to do with them, and read the remarks in last week's issue under the heading "The Tricks of the Syndicate Touts." *S. M., Northwich.*—I do not care much for the London and Westminster Contract Corporation; you had better stick to one of the strong groups. *Miss C. M. H.*—I repeat what I have so frequently expressed, that these German lotteries are not actually frauds, but that the money generally sticks to the fingers of the intermediaries, who are extremely shady. *F., Newcastle.*—1. No; I do not consider this a sound insurance office, and have several times said so. 2. This is a question which you must decide yourself. 3. Ditto. *T. S. C.*—No; I do not consider that you can depart from the trust deed so far as to obtain a four per cent. yield. Yes, as to the last question. *Mansfield.*—You cannot obtain this return at present with safety; but the rise in the Bank rate may bring about a further decline in gilt-edged securities.

Home Rails.

P. F.—Stick to your Dover "A" and Coras. They will improve directly the monetary position becomes clearer. *Debenture Holder.*—I have not spoken unfavourably of this concern, and should advise you to hold the Debentures by all means.

American and Foreign Rails.

Hermes.—A. Central Argentine Ordinary stock was always one of my recommendations when the price was much lower, and I advise you to hold. B. A fair investment, but no catch. Why do you not write to the Secretary of the Buenos Ayres and Ensanada Port Railway, he will furnish you with the traffics. C. A fair investment, but high enough just now. *Ruffian.*—You should hold your Wabash Debentures now. There is every prospect of a rise in Yankee Rails, and this is not the time to sell. The Argentine stocks Nos. 1 and 2, into which you propose to exchange, are no catch. No. 3 are cheap enough.

Mining Shares.

Candace.—Henderson's Estates is a promising Company, and you should buy more to average. They are now recovering in sympathy with the rest of the market. *Arthur.*—The first-

mentioned shares were quoted 2¼ on that date. There is no option but to hold the other shares. *Lex.*—I do not like the concern mentioned by you. *M. B. B.*—The following are the quotations asked for:—1. 1⅛. 2. 1 15/16. 3. 11/16. 4. ⅝. 5. ⅝. 6. 1¼. You should hold all for an improvement. Croydon Consols should be bought at once, as a large dividend will be paid next month. *W. G. H.*—I am pleased to learn that you have done so well in Croydon Consols. As regards the slump in Kaffirs and Westralians, as you have taken up your shares you can afford to await the recovery which is already in progress. The last-mentioned Company is fairly promising. *Aaron.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I prefer Randfontein (3). Yes, you might average Londonderry. *Frisco.*—1. No; I do not recommend purchase of the shares of the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation. 2. A fair mining risk; but there has been some curious weakness of late, and it would be advisable to wait. 3. No. *Star.*—No, you had better buy the old shares in the market. *Croaker.*—Sell on an improvement. *Stroud Green.*—Amongst your shares Nos. 1 to 9, I like London and Globe Finance (9), Aladdin's Lamp (3), and North Croydon Consols (8) best. The others should, however, also be held for an improvement. *G. C., Norwich.*—The Buffelsdoorn Gold Mining Company is very promising, and you may safely buy the shares. *Birkdale.*—1. A further rise in Croydon Consols is looked for. 2. No dividend is as yet in sight, but the shares are likely to improve when the reef is struck; you seem to have got in very high. *Alpha.*—All your mining shares Nos. 1 to 20 should now be held, as the market generally is improving. *Anxious, Llandudno.*—Hold all your shares, more especially African Estates and Leicester Diamonds, which are expected to go higher. *Patience.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I prefer London and Globe (2) and Randfontein (3). *Ralph.*—They are £1 shares, and a good investment. *Dum.*—No very recent information, and no catch. You can do better in the West Australian market. *Itchiban,*—No special reason for this depreciation, and it is understood that a very favourable report is about to be issued. *Airdrie.*—I do not recommend purchase of these shares. They are low-priced, but not cheap. *Sardine.*—I am glad to hear that you have upon the whole found my advice very valuable; but I am sure you must have done well in getting out of your Chartered, which are now quoted only 2¼. Your list Nos. 1 to 25 is a good one, and the shares are very well selected, and with the recovery which is now in progress you should reap excellent profits. I should think that Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 18, and 19 could with advantage be averaged, if you could afford to take the shares up and pay for them. *Hainault.*—I do not think much of Nigel Extension, and the other Company mentioned looks doubtful. *Sherwood, Mansfield-road.*—I have fully explained the position of Glencairns in previous issues. These, as well as Langlaagte Star, Langlaagte Estate, and Randfontein should be held for a recovery, which is already in progress. *Nugget.*—As far as I can judge at present, I do not like this new Australian Corporation. *M. D., Hailsham.*—No, this mine has not declared a dividend owing to the disturbed state of the Transvaal; but at the end of the present period of six months a distribution will no doubt be made. *Q. E. D.*—After the heavy fall you had better hold these shares. *H. A. L.*—No option but to hold these shares, and you should buy more to average. This mine will come right again. *Ansioso.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, only No. 5 are tempting. Instead of buying the others, you can do much better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Toby N.*—All these Companies are promising, and the meetings will be held at no distant date. *Ignoramus, Guernsey.*—No option but to hold. With the quelling of the insurrection in Rhodesia a recovery should come about. *Anxious One.*—Hold African Estates, and buy more to average. *St. Fort.*—This concern is not of good standing, but Johannesburg Consols are likely to mark a further advance. It is, however, useless to buy Johnnies at 3¾, at which they are guaranteed by Messrs. Barnato, when you can buy them in the market at about 3. As regards your inquiry about the Preference shares, these are obviously safer than the Ordinary shares. *Mugwumps.*—These shares are very cheap, and should be picked up; the fall was due to the general depression. *Wexford Oyster.*—1. Keep your East Rands for an improvement, and then sell; but do not average. 2. Randfonteins are a good purchase. 3. Amongst South Africans, you might buy Woodstock (Transvaal), Waterfall Estates, Langlaagte Estates, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, and Barnato Consols. *Dilatory.*—It is very difficult to advise on the future course of Consols, which depends upon factors that cannot at present be sufficiently gauged. Your mining shares, Nos. 1 to 3, should be held for a rise, and I still recommend Croydon Consols. *Tikoos.*—1. I do not think much of Exploring Land and Minerals. 2. Hold for a recovery. 3. Adler's Consolidated is a promising Company. 4. Hold these. 5. I have never been in favour of Bayley's Reward, but hardly advise selling at present price. 6. Not now. *Caledon.*—Hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 5 for a rise. They are well selected, and should reach a much higher level. As regards Nos. 6 to 10, you might put some of the money into No. 8. The others are not promising, and you can do much better by acting on my advice under the "Kaffir Circus" and "Golden West Australia." *W. K.*—1. As you are a holder keep these for a recovery, which is not improbable. 2. Amongst West Australians, Great Boulder Main Reef 10s. shares fully paid at 13/16, Mawson's Reward £1 shares at 15/16, White Feather Reward £1 shares at 1 15/16, Cue No. 1 £1 shares at 9/16, and Mount Margaret £1 shares at 1½, are an excellent purchase. *Deep and Flat.*—1. About six months ago. 2. Obviously not yet. 3. In six months. 4. Certainly, Hannan's Golden Treasure is an excellent investment. *Mysore.*—1. No foundation; the Company is promising and should do well in time. *Anxious.*—No particular occasion for selling now. *A. S. B.*—These are adverse comments which cannot be relied upon; you should hold. *Nelson.*—1. Hold Modderfontein for a rise, and buy more to average. 2. Yes. *Nyfnyc.*—I do not like the surroundings of this concern, but I do not see how you can resist payment of the calls. *Persandum.*—1. Take a good profit when you can get it. 2. No. *Bay Charmer.*—1. This mine is apparently doing well now, and the shares should certainly be held. 2. Hold also Atchison shares, which are recovering again with the rest of the Yankee market. *Deposit.*—As a general rally is in progress, you should hold your East Rands for a recovery; but it is a great pity that you bought these at so high a price altogether against my advice. Randfontein are still worth buying, and you should hold Nos. 1 to 5. *Perplexed, Dover.*—No option but to hold these shares, which are likely to further improve. *C. H. C.*—Randfontein Estates and Johnnies should suit you. *A. G. L.*—West Australian Exploring and Finance are still a good purchase, and so are the other shares mentioned by you. You might well spread the money over these. *Beta.*—I still look for a recovery. *Braille.*—The shares mentioned by you are promising. I cannot tell you yet what the dividend on London and Globe Finance will be, but it will be a good one. *M. G. G.*—Your shares Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5 are well selected; but I do not like No. 4. *Jacobus.*—Advices from the Robinson Mines of West Australia are favourable, and you should hold. *J. B. B.*—1. These West Australian mines should recover. 2. Not yet. 3. Not exactly. *Maida.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. I do not think well of these. 3. Neither do I like this concern. Hold Hampton Plains and Grand Centrals. *A. D.*—1. You had better hold the shares. No option but to keep Nos. 2 to 5, which are well selected. The London and Globe Finance report will be issued in December. *Scipio.*—No recent information available. *M. O.*—It is understood that the North White Feather Consolidated Gold Mines is developing favourably, and you should hold the shares; you must, of course, pay the call of 2s. 6d. just made. *Nimrod.*—No reason to sell now; on the contrary, this is the time when South African shares should be held. I do not care for the W. A. Minerals and Finance Company. *Fin.*—A. No reason to sell; a recovery is not improbable. B. Amongst the shares Nos. 1 to 6, I consider Preece's Point (1) and Komata Queens (5) the most promising. *Sic Donec.*—1. It has taken a long time to obtain returns from this mine. 2. You must not expect dividends yet. *J.B.*—The Company has evidently not been so well managed as it ought to have been. *Jub. Con.*—You have done right in holding the shares through the slump; they are now in the course of recovery. No reason to sell your various Croydon Mining shares. *J.P.*—1. You have been wise in not having anything to do with this person. 2. I think you may safely hold Croydon Consols for a further important advance. 3. You had better take your profit on a portion of these shares. 4. You will have to wait a little with regard to these shares, but they are sure to come to the front, and will eventually go to 2 or higher. 5. No reason to sell Wealth of Nations; when the water difficulty has been got over they will rise considerably. 6. I do not think much of these, and have no new information with regard to Nos. 7 and 8. *Briar Pipe.*—1. Hold the shares for a rise. 2. All these shares should certainly be held for a rise. *Surveyor, Clapham.*—You are quite right to buy W.A. Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance, and I have always said so. *H. E. W.*—I maintain the view which I have already expressed. *Sigma.*—There has been a general decline in Nos. 1 to 3; but they should now be held for a recovery. *Prosen.*—1. No option but to hold for a recovery. 2. Yes, White Feather Reward should be bought to average; this is a very promising mine. *S. H., Brixton Hill.*—There has been some weakness in this group, which has brought about a relapse in the shares. There seems to be no option but to hold for the present. *Mystified.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. I do not like the Jackson Goldfields. 3. No. 4. No. 5. I do not like the Darien Gold Mines at all, and have always said so. 6. I do not care for Bayley's Reward shares, and have never expressed a favourable opinion. *Zulu.*—You should hold these shares; they will recover again. *Kent.*—No option but to hold the shares in question; they will recover again. I do not recommend the purchase of Brownhill Great Southern. The report is returned in your envelope. *Oulton Low.*—1. No option but to hold these South African shares; they should recover again. 2. A fair mining risk, and advices are fairly encouraging. *Teddie.*—A promising Company; hold. The shares have fallen in the general depression. *A. Y. Z.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I like Nos. 6, 1, and 9 best. As regards the others, you can do better by following my advice under the "Kaffir Circus."

Industrial Shares.

Veritas, Belfast.—1. I do not think much of Cecil Hotel Prefs. 2. Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Preference shares are a good investment. *Wexford.*—There is no reason for any decline in French Dunlops. They should be held. *Ivan.*—Prospects seem to be fair; but there is no temptation to buy just now. *T. E. C.*—1. Nitrate prospects are not very flourishing at present, and the Liverpool, Limited, has not escaped either. 2. No; too speculative. *Wulstan.*—No recent news is to hand; but you should certainly hold, as the position in the United States is improving. *Brush.*—I think it will be better to hold, and sell on

a recovery. *E. C. C.*—1. Certainly not; the system is utterly rotten. 2. By all means hold Cycle Tubes for a rise, which is not far off, and buy more to average. 3. No; but Gladiators (Clément, Gladiator, and Humber—France) Ordinary are at present likely to go much better. 4. Bagot Tyre and French Dunlops are also promising. I do not care for the other shares mentioned by you. *Edington.*—The Company is doing fairly well, and the shares are quoted ⅛. *Nil Desperandum.*—I do not see any reason for your indignation, and as you have the option of getting your money back, you should ask for its return. *J. A. B.*—1. I advise you to have absolutely nothing to do with this concern. 2. No; amongst Cycle shares, I should prefer Gladiators (Clément, Gladiator, and Humber—France) Ordinary shares. *Scarborough.*—I have no special information with reference to the business of Hobbs, Hart, & Co.; but if the concern does not pay any dividends, it would be advisable that the shareholders should unite to obtain some information as regards the position.

Mixed Investments.

Nemo, Exeter.—1. A fair investment. 2. Yes; the New Incandescent Gas Lighting (Sunlight Patent) Company appears to be a promising speculative investment. *Gas.*—1. A fair security. 2. I have repeatedly stated the security which is behind these. 3. Ditto. Amongst the shares Nos. 4 to 9, I prefer Nos. 4 and 8. *Sherwood.*—1. A fair investment. 2. Why did you not take my advice to sell Hit or Miss at about 1½. At present I distinctly say hold. *Verax.*—1. No; you can do much better in other West Australian shares mentioned in my letter. *M. C., Kensington.*—You had better keep your stocks Nos. 1 to 5, as they are likely to improve. *Rusticus.*—1. After the heavy fall I think it will be advisable to hold these bonds. 2. Hold Metropolitan Districts by all means. *Anxious Inquirer, Wolverhampton.*—Hold Dover "A" by all means; they have already recovered, and there is every prospect of a further improvement. 2. Also hold Croydon Consols and North Croydon Consols. These mines are doing exceedingly well, and, as you are doubtless aware, a dividend of 1s. per share will be paid on Croydon Consols in November. *X. X.*—1. Yes; as the interest is guaranteed by the Transvaal Government, this is a fair investment. 2. No reason to sell Buenos Ayres Great Southern. 3. Argentines are likely to eventually improve; do not sell now. *Nick o' Lass.*—A. A fair Industrial investment. The Mining shares Nos. 1 to 9 should undoubtedly be held now that a recovery is in progress; also Nos. 17 and 18. Take a fair profit on Nos. 10 to 16, when you can get it. *A. W. Z., Bury.*—Hold all your Mining shares Nos. 1 to 6 for a rise. Amongst these North Croydon Consols (4) and Cue 1 (6) look very promising. No temptation to buy No. 7 just now, and No. 8 is highly speculative. *Circle.*—1. I repeat that I do not like the surroundings of this concern. 2. The present price is 101-3; and dividends are payable on November 1 and May 1. 3. New Zealand mines are likely to come to the front again; hold. *Financier.*—1. Hold Londonderry shares, and see remarks in last week's issue under "Golden West Australia." 2. Yes. *D. C. S.*—You have done exceedingly well in buying Croydon Consols and North Croydon Consols, and these must already show you a considerable profit (Nos. 1 and 2). No reason for selling Nos. 3 and 4 now, neither is it necessary to sell Palace shares now. *Cestreham.*—I am glad you did so well in Croydon Consols on my advice, but these shares will go still much higher. I dare say you will get a better profit on the Cycle shares Nos. 1 and 2 in the near future, as a strong upward movement in this section is probable. 3. Hannan's Brownhill Central are no catch. 4. A fair investment. 5. I do not like these at all. *Antoinette.*—1. No option but to hold Langlaagte Star; they are recovering again, and will go much higher. 2. Hold. 3. Certainly hold these shares, they are now improving. 4. Nothing is known yet. 5. This mine will no doubt recover again. *New Comer.*—You should hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 7, 9 and 10 for a rise now, which is already in progress, and average if you can afford to take the shares up. I do not think much of No. 13, and the Cycle shares, No. 8, I have never recommended; but they may have a chance now. If you hold Nos. 11 and 12, you should see them improve in the near future. I do not advise any exchange in your holdings at present. *Ajax, Newport.*—An outside broker, who very frequently does not settle up promptly. If you cannot obtain your money or stock, you should employ a solicitor at once. New Primrose are likely to advance. Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary stock is a good investment. *Imperial, Ipswich.*—I see no reason for selling any of your investments Nos. 1 to 6 at present; await a better opportunity. *K. O. P.*—I quite agree with you that you should get out of your holdings Nos 1 to 3, but the present seems to be a very bad time, and I should advise you to hold for a recovery. *Leo. M.*—You have invested in Nos. 1, 3, and 7 entirely against my advice; what do you want me to tell you now? When you get a good profit on the Dunlops (Nos. 4, 5, and 6) you should take it. West Australian Exploring and Finance (9) should be held for a further rise. 10. What nonsense! If you cannot buy the Barnato Banks, you can purchase the new Johnnies Consols, which is the same thing, as this Corporation have taken over the Barnato Bank. *Bolive.*—1. Cycle Tubes are likely to improve. 2. A fair mining risk. 3. I do not advise purchase of De Lamar. 4. A good West Australian Trust Company. 5. Yes.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

Various Investments.

The Money Market has hardened, and gilt-edged stocks were at one time considerably affected by fears of a rise in the Bank rate, Consols touching 107⅜, but when the announcement of a 4 per cent. rate was actually made a general rally ensued, the event having been fully discounted. Consols are up again at 108¼, and Three and a Half per Cent. India stock has improved to 117. Colonial bonds and British Corporation stocks show some irregularity, but there has not been much of a further fall. Silver is unchanged for the week at 30 1/16d., and Rupee Paper has recovered to 61½. In Cycle shares a more active market has to be reported, and it already looks as if a period of increasing business were at hand in anticipation of an excellent cycling season next year. Dunlops have improved to 1 7/16 for the Deferred, and Humber Extensions have been steady at 1⅜, while an improvement to 4 has occurred in Cycle Components. The chief relapse is marked in Beestons, which have dropped to 4¼, notwithstanding the report that a new big deal was on hand, and that a fancy price had been offered for the shares. A very active demand has set in for Gladiators (Clément, Gladiator and Humber (France), Limited), applicants for shares not having by any means received their full allotments, and the Ordinary have now advanced to ¼ to ⅜ premium. Bagots have risen sharply to ⅝ premium, the new Company having been well received; while there is a whisper that this Company will eventually be taken over by the Dunlop. I also hear that the debenture-issue of the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo has met with a favourable reception on the part of the public. I have received a communication from Mr. C. G. Champion, notary public, of 17, Ironmonger-lane, E.C., informing me with reference to my remark concerning the Savoy Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, that his clients (the purchasers of this undertaking) were in complete ignorance of the statement made by me, and that the only knowledge they have of Frank Barlow and his circular was that contained in Truth. I have much pleasure in publishing this statement; but this makes the action of Mr. Frank Barlow, stock and share dealer, 7, Leadenhall-street, E.C., all the more strange; as in his circular he went into the minutest particulars concerning the flotation of the new Company, of which he stated the capital at £40,000 in Ordinary shares, the vendor taking £8,000, leaving £32,000, which it was fully expected would be applied for two or three times over. Mr. Barlow also mentioned that in making applications for shares he would advise his clients to apply for 25 per cent. more than the number required, as he could not guarantee applicants the full number of shares applied for. The circular concludes by stating that the solicitor for the vendor was Mr. C. G. Champion, and that the architects were Mr. Crewe and Mr. J. J. Farrell. It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Barlow has received many cheques as deposits in respect of shares in the Savoy Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, which he invited when sending out his circular by appending the following form:—

Oct. , 1896.

To Mr. Frank Barlow,
Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

Dear Sir,—I, the undersigned, agree with you, that in the event of the incorporation of the Savoy Theatre of Varieties, Dublin (hereinafter called the "Company") and the prospectus of the Company being issued in the form finally approved by the Board of Directors, I undertake at or before the first allotment to apply for £ shares of the Company, and for that purpose I beg to enclose you my cheque for £ , being a deposit of per cent. in respect of such shares, and I hereby request that you will make application for shares on my behalf forthwith, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me.

Ordinary Signature .....
Name in full .....
Address .....
Occupation .....

J. Edwards & Co., stock and share dealers, Arundel-street, W.C., are now to the front with their October

circular, which contains a list of twenty-four "operations" successfully closed in 1896, and numerous extracts from letters received from clients, all of whom express themselves gratified at the results obtained for them. Unfortunately, only the places where these clients reside are mentioned. These testimonials would gain very much in value if the names and addresses of the fortunate clients were published, and I repeat that I would like to meet some of the lucky people in the flesh who have obtained large profits from J. Edwards & Co.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

A CAMBRIDGESHIRE FORECAST.

"MR. CHIVERS, Sir, the guv'nor wants to speak to you."

I was thus addressed by our office-boy, as I sat in my small sanctum, correcting a big bundle of proofs for our next issue. I held, at that time, an appointment on the staff of *The Beyond*, the well-known weekly organ of the spiritualistic movement, and I thought myself not a little privileged to serve under the famous Mr. X., who was then editor.

Unlike many of our contributors, who wrote for their bread, without having the smallest faith in the occult views which they so sedulously promulgated, I firmly believed in psychical and spiritualistic phenomena; and on that account, chiefly, I had gained the particular esteem of our celebrated editor, who was himself an ardent apostle of the same views. Being, in addition, a man of great ability and fine business powers, he had worked up *The Beyond* to a remarkable pitch of success, and had really made spiritualism "catch on"—a fact which our constantly-increasing circulation abundantly proved.

There was, indeed, no doubt that our paper had by this time achieved a position, of its kind, unique; or that Mr. X. enjoyed a reputation and a standing which placed him on a level with the most famous journalists of his day. No doubt he was fortunate in the times on which he had fallen. Society just then was in a mood to be fascinated with the mysteries of psychical phenomena. And the public, following Society, developed quite an eager interest in the subject. The reports in *The Beyond* evoked many communications from our numerous readers, and we, on the staff, were always busy sifting and examining the many wonderful cases which were submitted to us. Mr. X. would never report any case until he had satisfied himself of its authenticity. In so doing, he spared neither trouble nor expense. He took care that even the most sceptical should not find a handle against him; and that, however much they might differ from his inferences, they should not be able to upset the facts and data upon which these inferences were based. It soon, therefore, became recognised that the cases reported in *The Beyond* could not be treated as mere vulgar inventions, and that, as far as external facts went, it was seldom possible to discredit them.

On receiving Mr. X.'s message from the office-boy, I at once repaired to his room.

"You'll excuse my interrupting you," he said, as soon as I was fairly inside, "but I want you to undertake a rather important commission for me."

I asked him what it was.

"To attend a sale at Messrs. Blanks' rooms this afternoon," he told me, naming a prominent firm of West End auctioneers.

"Do you wish me to buy something for you?"

"Yes, if you please. I would go myself, but I have particular reasons for not doing so, which I will explain to you. Did you ever hear of Mad Langley?"

"Yes. A sort of modern Jeremiah, wasn't he? I believe I have read of him. But surely he died many years ago."

"About twenty. He made some stir—you may have heard—in the early sixties by his sensational prophecies. Now, however, most people have forgotten him. But a few of his Sibylline leaves are still about, and are rather valued as curios. I have two of them myself."

"Are any of these to be offered for sale at Messrs. Blanks?"

"Entre nous, yes; but without the knowledge of the auctioneers or of the public."

I looked puzzled at that. It sounded decidedly enigmatical.

"See, here," explained Mr. X., producing a sale catalogue, and turning over the pages till he came to one which he had scored on the margin with red pencil, "you observe this lot—No. 119—described as an assorted packet of curious old documents, some of them containing valuable autographs. Well, my attention has been called to this bundle by an obliging stranger, an autograph-collector, who examined it, with a view to purchase. He very kindly wrote me on the subject, saying the autographs therein contained were worthless, and that he should not make a bid; but that there was one rather curious document in the lot—of no real value—which might, however, be interesting to me, as it was rather in my line; and that, if I cared to have it, probably I might pick it up for an old song. I wrote and thanked him for his civility, and went and had a look myself. I was very glad that I had done so. The document is far more valuable than he supposed. It is one of Mad Langley's prophecies."

"And he did not recognise that?"

"Evidently not. You see the thing has no signature; and nothing, except the handwriting, to show by whom it was penned. If it had not been that I am thoroughly conversant with Mad Langley's caligraphy, I myself should have been equally ignorant."

"And to what does this prophecy relate—may I ask?"

"You shall see when you bring it back," replied Mr. X., with an air of suppressed excitement. "In the meanwhile, what I wish to impress upon you is, that I must have that document for *The Beyond* at any cost. But, naturally, I would rather get it cheap, if I can. That is why I wish you to attend the sale instead of me. I should probably be recognised, and they might set some one on to run me up. You, however, will be unknown; and can just pose as a stranger who has dropped in casually, on the chance of picking up a bargain."

"At what hour is the sale?"

"It begins at three. But, of course, this lot may not be offered until some hours later."

"And to what figure am I limited?"

Mr. X. took out his cheque-book, wrote out a cheque, and handed it to me.

"There," he said, "you can cash that at the bank on your way. It is for fifty pounds. But I do not imagine that you will need a quarter of it. Indeed, if—as I hope—no one else has recognised Mad Langley's production, you may get the lot knocked down to you for less than fifty shillings. However, I must secure it, in any event; and so I wish you to have a liberal margin of money."

"Very well," I said. "Then I am to pay the full purchase-money on the spot, and bring the lot away with me?"

"Yes, if you please. And I need not say that you should avoid, as far as possible, any appearance of keenness in the matter."

"I have attended sales before," I said, laughing. "And I believe I can be trusted to keep my head."

Three o'clock found me at Messrs. Blanks' auction rooms. The sale began pretty punctually; but there were many lots to be disposed of; and mine was not put up till nearly six. Some one made a bid of ten shillings. I increased it to eleven. The other man went to fifteen. I topped him by half-a-crown—making my bid as hesitatingly and indifferently as I could. My opponent bade a sovereign, and I made it a guinea. Thirty shillings. I bade thirty-one and six. He jumped to two pounds. I made it guineas. He seemed to be getting keen. He went to three pounds. I again made it guineas. And so we went on and on, until we soon found ourselves in the tens, and then in the twenties. From the determination

with which my opponent was bidding, I had no doubt that either he—or his employer—were possessed of the same knowledge as Mr. X., and that he meant, if possible, to secure the lot. He grew rather annoyed with me, I thought, as I kept raising him time after time—bidding guineas against his pounds.

Then he made a big jump.

"Thirty pounds," he bid.

"Guineas," said I.

"Thirty-five pounds."

"Guineas."

"Forty pounds."

"Guineas."

He hesitated a moment, glaring at me fiercely; then he threw up the sponge.

"Forty guineas—gentlemen. Going—going—" said the auctioneer. Down came the hammer. "It's yours, sir."

I waited till the sale was over, paid my money, and possessed myself of lot 119. It was quite a small bundle and went easily into my hand-bag. As I was leaving the sale room, my opponent—a shrewd-looking old fellow with a hooked nose and a pronounced stoop—came up and accosted me.

"Ah!" he said, with a nod of his head. "You've paid a heavy figure for that little bundle of paper."

"Not much heavier than you were willing to pay," I retorted.

"May I ask whether you were buying for yourself?" he said, peering at me with keen inquisitiveness.

"Really, sir," I told him, "I must decline to gratify your curiosity."

"Ah, well! No offence, young man, no offence. But as I could not get that document myself, I should be glad to know that it has fallen into appreciative hands."

"You may rest easy on that score," I replied, as I turned away.

His words confirmed me in the opinion which I had already formed—viz., that he too was in the secret of the Mad Langley document. But I must say, I wondered that either he or Mr. X. should be willing to pay so much money for it. Of course, I had not then seen the document. And when, on my return to the office, my chief selected it from the bundle, and handed it to me for perusal—with a keen, excited expression upon his face—my surprise at his setting so high a value on the prophecy was not, at first, diminished.

The paper was yellow, and the ink brown, with age; it bore the following inscription:—

"I was at Newmarket this afternoon and saw Persephone win the Cambridgeshire. A good race. The mare won by sheer gameness. Sir George is to be congratulated on this turn in his luck."

"I see nothing prophetic in that," I ejaculated. "It simply reads like a note from a diary."

"Exactly," responded Mr. X., with great impressiveness. "But a diary *of the future*, not of the past. Mad Langley's prophecies always ran in that form. He imitated it, I believe, from the Book of the Revelation. You have not remarked the date, written small in the bottom left-hand corner. What do you make it to be?"

"October 24, 189—," I spelt out. And then I exclaimed, with a sudden rush of amazement, "Why that is to-morrow."

"Just so. You are no racing man, I believe—are you?"

I shook my head.

"Well, just look here," he said, handing me a newspaper. "That, as you see, is to-day's *Daily Telegraph*. Read out the headings of the first column on the third page. Have you found it? Well?"

I read out the following:—

"'Eve of the Cambridgeshire.

"'Probable Starters and Jockeys:

"Then the Cambridgeshire is to-morrow?" I ejaculated.

"Precisely. But reserve your full measure of surprise until you have read the list of probable starters. What is the third name there mentioned?"

I cast my eye down the paragraph and read this:—

"Sir George Pilcher's Persephone—S. Turner."

I felt quite dazed with astonishment. For the minute I could find no words.

"Ah!" said Mr. X., whose eyes seemed to burn with a scarcely suppressed excitement. "Now you see something prophetic—eh? Or does it not strike you as marvellous that a man who died twenty years ago should have named—I will not say the winner, for I cannot say that yet, though I am convinced that Persephone will win—but the favourite, and the favourite's owner, in this year's Cambridgeshire?"

"Are you—you—sure that this is a genuine production of Mad Langley's!" I stammered.

"I would stake my life upon it! I know his handwriting well. If you come home with me to-night, I will show you other specimens of his writing, which will convince you beyond a shadow of doubt. No! This thing is no forgery. It is indisputably genuine. I can now do what I have been longing to do for years—give to the world a remarkable and striking instance of prophetic power, which is absolutely irresistible. I shall publish this document in our next issue."

"By that time," I said, "the Cambridgeshire will have been run."

"Yes; and Persephone will have won it," exclaimed my chief, excitedly. "It will only need that to make it the most complete and extraordinary case of foresight that has ever been known. Even as it stands now, it is a phenomenal instance. I am indeed a lucky man to have picked up this document."

I went home with him later to his private house. He showed me two of Mad Langley's prophecies which he already had in his possession. I compared the handwriting of these with that of the Cambridgeshire document. That it was identical was obvious at a glance. I noticed, however, that the two other prophecies referred to far more sensational events. The one, a disastrous war with the United States; the other, a successful mutiny in India. Both these calamities were to burst upon England during the month of December in this present year. I shuddered as I read them. If he had shown such accuracy of detail in his Cambridgeshire forecast, who could say what significance was to be attached to these more terrible prophecies? And if, to complete it, Persephone won the race to-morrow, those other prophecies might well, indeed, inspire alarm.

I waited, next afternoon, for the news from Newmarket, with an eager anxiety that that of no desperate plunger on the race could have equalled. As soon as I heard the boys in the street vociferating—"Special edishun—hall the winners!"—I rushed out and bought a paper. My heart seemed to stand still as I turned to the stop-press telegrams, and, under the head of Cambridgeshire, saw printed, at the top, the name Persephone.

* * * * *

In the next issue of *The Beyond* we published a full account of this extraordinary and miraculous affair, and printed a facsimile of the Mad Langley prophecy. It naturally produced an immense sensation. Some of the sceptics, it is needless to say, tried to ridicule and discredit the whole affair, but we soon silenced them by the incontestable proofs which we were able to bring forward. First, there was the original MS. of the prophecy, which we willingly produced for the inspection of any bonâ-fide inquirer, and the genuineness of which none of the many who came to see it could seriously dispute. The handwriting was so obviously that of Mad Langley. Nor was this all. Mr. X. was at great pains to trace, as far as possible, the history of the famous document. And his inquiries resulted in further corroborating its authenticity. Messrs. Blank, at our request, gave us the name of its former owner, and we at once applied to him for any information that he might be able to afford. He was an idle, careless young swell (we ascertained), who had been driven to sell most of his family effects by financial difficulties. As to the Mad Langley prophecy, he could not say very

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

much. Indeed, he had scarcely taken the trouble to more than casually inspect the bundle of papers, comprised in lot 119, before it was sent to the auctioneers; though, as far as he recollected, there was "rather a rummy old document" among them which said something about the Cambridgeshire. He supposed that his uncle, Major Q., who had collected the papers, must have included it among the others as a sort of curiosity. His uncle had died intestate, and he had succeeded to his property as heir-at-law. But he had been on bad terms with the old gentleman, and, during his later years, had hardly spoken to him. He did know, however, that his uncle had, many years ago, lived at Balderstone, in Essex. This was a very significant fact. Balderstone was the village in which Mad Langley had spent the last decade of his life.

We published a full report of all this in *The Beyond*, and invited our readers to communicate to us any information bearing on the matter, of which any of them might be possessed. In this way we arrived at another link in the chain of evidence. For half a dozen different persons, who had been connected with the village of Balderstone in the early sixties, wrote to us independently, saying that Major Q. and Mad Langley had been on intimate terms for some years; indeed, that during the latter part of the madman's life, no one else from outside had been allowed to enter his house. Thus, as far as circumstantial evidence could do it, the authenticity of the document was fully established.

In the same issue of *The Beyond*, in which we printed a full report of this evidence, with the greatest possible detail of name, place, date and circumstance, we also published fac-similes of the two other Mad Langley prophecies, which Mr. X. had in his possession. The effect produced by them upon the public mind has never been equalled in the annals of such forecasts. For published as they were upon the top of the Cambridgeshire prophecy, which had been so literally and wonderfully fulfilled, they commanded a widespread credence, extending to many level-headed persons, who were ordinarily the reverse of superstitious. And I have no doubt that even of those who scoffed at the prophecies most loudly, and affected to account for the Cambridgeshire fulfilment as a mere coincidence, not a few felt secretly uneasy about the two impending disasters which Mad Langley had foreshadowed.

I cannot adduce a more striking and a more practical proof of the genuine belief inspired by these prophecies, than the state of the Stock and Share Market during the subsequent month. This (as the simple result of a prophecy) was as unparalleled as it was significant. Try how our enemies would to discount the fact, and assert, as they did, that the uneasiness on 'Change arose from other causes, they could not deny that Indian and American securities were particularly affected by it. I have not now the quotations of that date to hand; but if I had, I could name more than fifty instances, in these two markets, in which first-class bonds depreciated during that November 10 to 20 per cent. In fact, some of the smaller men were actually ruined by the quasi-panic.

One afternoon towards the end of November, Mr. X. came into my sanctum, looking very worried and depressed. I saw at once, from his demeanour, that something disagreeable had happened. He shut the door behind him and flung himself into an easy chair.

"Chivers," he said, "I've been fooled—ridiculously, idiotically fooled. I shall throw up the editorship."

"For heaven's sake, don't dream of such a step as that. What is the matter? What has happened?"

"That Cambridgeshire prophecy—a fraud—a forgery," he answered, in a hoarse voice.

"A forgery? Why, we proved its authenticity," I gasped. "It cannot be a forgery."

"But it is, for all that. There *was* an original Cambridgeshire Prophecy by Mad Langley, in lot 119, when it went to the auctioneers. But between the time when it arrived there and the time when I inspected the papers, the real one—an utterly false and fatuous forecast, no doubt—was abstracted, and a forged one substituted."

"Impossible! who has told you this?"

"The very man who bid against you at the auction."

"What? An old fellow, with a hooked nose, shrewd eyes, and a pronounced stoop?"

"Yes, yes. That's the man. He, too, has been duped by the forger, though not in the same way as we have. He has been swindled by him out of a promised reward for his services, and he has made his revelation to me with a view to revenge. Not that either of us is likely to secure that, for I understand that the villain has some time left the country."

"But—but—why did he bid so high against me?"

"Ah! That was the artfulness of it. The whole fraud has been managed with a perfectly diabolical ingenuity, and this is only one of a dozen other carefully elaborated touches. He was put up to bid simply as a blind—for the purpose of adding verisimilitude to the thing—of finally confirming my confidence in the genuineness of the Mad Langley document. As a matter of fact, this was unnecessary. But you can easily see the extreme cleverness of the dodge."

"Good heavens!" I ejaculated. And then, after a pause, I added, "But it may all be a lie. Have you made any investigations?"

"A few, with the result that my informant's story is shown to be only too accurate," said Mr. X., wretchedly.

"But what was the motive?" I exclaimed. "Surely it was not worth while to run such risks for a matter of forty guineas?"

"Ah! you do not understand. If my information is correct, not forty guineas but four million, more likely, will have hung upon this gigantic swindle, into the service of which I have been so humiliatingly pressed. The forger was employed by a gang of brokers—I gather—with a view to big operations in the Indian and American markets. And the worst of it is, we shall probably never be able to put our hands upon these prime movers. Curse Mad Langley! Curse the whole business!" ejaculated Mr. X., with vehemence.

Further inquiries made it tolerably certain that the above solution was correct. It was impossible not to be struck by the astuteness and ingenuity with which the fraud had been carried out, even taking into consideration the luck that favoured its originators in the victory of the Cambridgeshire favourite. What the profits gained by them amounted to, I cannot say. But they must have been enormous. And the cup of our chagrin and humiliation was filled by the discovery that they had covered their tracks so artfully that we had no chance of putting salt upon their tails. None of these scoundrels was ever brought to justice.

MUSIC.

WHAT A BARREL ORGAN COSTS.

THE brief reference in Truth last week to the woes of the distracted resident of Hereford-square and other long sufferers from barrel organs reminds me that chance recently placed in my way many interesting particulars as to the cost of these instruments of torture, and the approximate profits which they earn. It seems that of late there has been a "slump" in the music of the streets, and the takings have dropped considerably. It is, of course, possible that recent discussion has opened the eyes of the British householder, who now knows his legal powers, and refuses any longer to be blackmailed by the grimy sons of Italy. The hired dancing children, who so affected M. Paul Renaud, and the grown-up damsel who displayed her faded lingerie to the music of the piano organ in the public streets seem also to have disappeared, owing, perhaps, to a hint from the police. At the seaside resorts, I am told, organs have been plentiful enough, but in London they are now mostly to be found outside the public-houses. I am also informed that there is a good deal more of the English element among the organ grinders

than there used to be a few years ago. This is not surprising considering the small sum now necessary for the stock-in-trade of the musician of the street. Twenty years ago the organs were mostly owned by five padroni, each having from thirty to one hundred men, each man either hiring the organs at from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day or sharing the takings with his padrone.

Nowadays there is still a good deal of hiring going on, but many of the grinders are proprietors of their own organs. I have before me a price-list of these machines, the cheapest of which is one of twenty-four notes, playing eight tunes. I have deducted the trade discount, which is frankly stated, and I find this instrument can be had for £12, while, like everything else in these advanced times, it can be purchased on the three years' hire system. The ordinary piano organs are, however, a trifle larger. One in Italian walnut inlaid case, with thirty-three notes, playing eight tunes, would come to about £17. 10s.; while another, with thirty-five notes and nineteen visible pipes, playing eight tunes, is 20 gs. This seems to be the largest size that is made, and it is pretty easy to perceive that when the instrument is let out at 15s. a week, a padrone must make a pretty considerable profit out of it. Indeed, I am told that although there has been more than one failure of recent years among the barrel-organ makers, thereby showing that there is a considerable cutting of prices, yet that nobody ever heard of the bankruptcy of a padrone. The chief expense after the organ has first been bought, lies in the change of tunes. Each barrel contains eight or nine tunes, and new barrels cost from £4 to £4. 10s. a piece. The grinder is extremely particular as to his choice of tunes. The highest priced instruments, so far at any rate as the cost of hiring is concerned, contain the latest examples of art from the music-halls. These are intended to be played in front of public-houses, where I learn that, beyond all question, the organ-grinder reaps his largest harvest. Whether there is any affinity between beer and the barrel organ, or whether it requires a certain amount of alcoholic stimulant or deadening of the senses to thoroughly appreciate this ear-splitting instrument, I am unaware. On the other hand, dance tunes go down best in the middle-class neighbourhoods, where the organ-grinder now depends upon the generosity of servant-girldom, rather than on the more precarious income derived by blackmailing the irate British householder. In these middle-class streets indeed, a monkey for the delectation of servants and of children at the parlour or nursery window is a valuable adjunct to the music box. The older barrels, when the tunes have become too hackneyed even for the London street organ, go into the provinces. The fiction that the barrel organ is the orchestra of the gutter children, has long ago been exploded. The Italian grinder, like his British colleague, is actuated by the commercial rather than the philanthropic spirit, and he certainly will not waste his time in the poverty-stricken courts and alleys, where pennies are as scarce as cowslips on Cornhill.

The fact may not be generally known that we owe the barrel organ primarily to the Church. Towards the end of the last century barrel organs were indeed very largely used in church services. In those days organists were few, and large barrel organs, set to hymn tunes and psalm chants and sacred melodies, were cheaper and more reliable. There was a famous barrel organ in Fulham church in the second half of the last century made by Wright, founder of the pipe organ building firm of Robson. Then, again, there was a celebrated organ built for Viscount Kirkwall, and the still more famous "Apollonicon"—a gigantic barrel organ with 1,900 pipes, costing £10,000, and occupying five years in its construction. This instrument, which amazed the last generation, was exhibited until it was broken up in 1840, the material then being used for Church organs. The barrel organ of the streets was unknown until the early part of the present century, when the old-fashioned instrument standing on a sort of crutch stick began to be manufactured by a miscreant named Hicks, whose name will go down to a nervous posterity with the anathemas of every one possessing delicacy of ear. There is said still to be an export of barrel organs to the West Indies and to Brazil, but in every European country except England barrel organs are either absolutely forbidden or their players are under severe restrictions.

The proposal to organise a season of opera at Easter at Drury Lane has fallen through. It is an open secret that Mr. J. M. Glover, the conductor and partly the composer of that curious *pot-pourri*, "The Little Genius," was intimately associated with the out-of-season operatic enterprises of the late Sir Augustus Harris. Mr. Glover, it seems, has command of the necessary capital, and was willing to take Drury Lane for a six-weeks' season of English opera at Easter, and Covent Garden for a similar term in the autumn. He has, however, been unable to secure either house, and thus, with the exception of the grand season, opera is likely to vanish from the London stage. Whether it will very greatly be missed is altogether another matter; although some of our more youthful mentors are never tired of telling us that cheap opera is the one thing that is wanted.

The suggested autumn season of Italian opera, which was officially announced from Covent Garden, fell through, because the Italian speculators, as I understand, did not plank down the necessary guarantee. The nonsensical proposal to hire the house for promenade concerts to a German band has likewise collapsed, and the Fancy Dress Balls will begin on the 18th prox. On Lady-day the Harris régime at Covent Garden will come to an end, and for the summer season, at any rate, the house will pass into the hands of a syndicate of the subscribers, with Earl de Grey and Mr. Higgins at their head. These gentlemen will have the use of the Covent Garden scenery, dresses, &c., and will also acquire the valuable wardrobe and paraphernalia used in opera by the late Sir Augustus Harris. The De Reszkes will, of course, be the stars of the season. According to present arrangements, Mme. Melba, who asked £240 a night, will not return, and this may possibly lead the way to the most welcome re-appearance of Mme. Calvé, who was much missed last year. Mme. Nordica will also be a member of the troupe, and will play Brunnhilde to the Siegfried of M. Jean de Reszke. M. Edouard de Reszke, who is by no means a "quick study," is willing to undertake Wotan in only one of Wagner's operas, but M. Jean de Reszke hopes to appear both as Siegfried and Siegmund. Madame Eames will also be a member of the party, and will in all probability play in Mancinelli's opera, should that work be produced, the role of Hero, which was created by Madame Albani at the Norwich Festival. The De Reszkes, Calve, Eames (with Mr. Edward Michael, her manager), and nearly all the American contingent sail for New York in the course of this week.

M. Colonne, possibly owing to his ignorance of our language, seems to have formed a wholly erroneous idea of the causes which led to his non-success in London. He says he looked through the criticisms of Lamoureux's band, and found complaints made that his rival had tried too much Wagner. Consequently he avoided Wagner as much as possible, and he thinks for this reason he has been severely criticised. M. Colonne is entirely mistaken. The chief complaints made against him were that he vainly attempted to popularise some of the thinnest and weakest works of the modern French repertory, now, thanks mainly to the absurd adulation of the French Press, some of the feeblest music in the world. Instead, M. Colonne should have dosed us with Berlioz, a composer in the interpretation of whose works he is indisputably great.

Mr. Eugene d'Albert drew to the Crystal Palace on Saturday an enormous audience which overflowed from the stalls to the rarely-filled orchestra. It is a pity he did not play better music than his own second concerto; for whatever his executive merits may be, Mr. d'Albert is not a heaven-sent composer. The best thing he did was Liszt's "Napoli," after a very brilliant performance of which he for an encore gave Chopin's "Berceuse." M. Delafosse has returned, this time bringing with him the

Belgian violinist, M. Ysaye, at a cost, it is said, of eighty guineas a night. M. Delafosse is best in his quieter moments, for the ways of the new and vigorous school sit awkwardly upon him. Dr. Richter has had a successful provincial tour, the least happy, perhaps, in Glasgow than elsewhere. On Monday he was back again in London, and introduced for the first time Dvorak's latest orchestral ballade, entitled "The Golden Spinning Wheel," a long drawn-out work on an impossible subject. Fancy a modern composer trying to depict in abstract music the antics of a spinning wheel, whose whirl is understood to describe to a king the perpetration of a horrible murder. And imagine a symphonic poem supposed to tell us how the limbs of a martyred young lady were collected, and she was restored to life and the royal marriage bed. Music has no doubt made great strides, but of this sort of nonsense it is incapable. There was, however, an enormous audience who thoroughly enjoyed a practically perfect performance of Tschaikowsky's "Pathetic" symphony.

His many friends will heartily congratulate the well-known Hungarian violinist, M. Tividar Nachez, upon his betrothal to Miss Emily, the only daughter of Mr. Benjamin Shaw, J.P., of the Manor House, Ferriby, Yorkshire. The two, indeed, have been engaged for some little time, and the wedding, which will be a quiet one, will take place from the house of the bride's father in Yorkshire, on Thursday next week.

I have received several more letters in regard to the Lansdowne Cottell business. Most of them must wait, but a communication from Mr. Percy Harrison, who I regret to learn is ill in bed, need not be delayed. Mr. Harrison desires to repeat that his only connection with Mr. Cottell was the letting to him of a room for the purpose of giving lessons, and he repels the contention "that because we let a room to Mr. Cottell and other professors of music for teaching purposes we have been mixed up with their transactions, with which, as a matter of fact, we have nothing more to do than you have." It is not worth while to further argue the matter, the more especially as Messrs. Harrison's connection with Mr. Cottell has ceased, and the honoured name of Harrison can no more be used in connection with the Portsdown-road Conservatoire. I may, however, point out that the actual announcement of Mr. Cottell ran as follows:—"Birmingham and Midlands Districts Branch, at Messrs. Harrison's Music Warehouse, Colemore-row and Bennett's Hill." This, it is perfectly obvious, is a good deal more than a mere address for giving music lessons. Mr. Harrison adds:—

> Failing his—Cottell's—reply to and satisfactory refutation of the very serious charges you have brought against him, I should certainly not now be disposed to accept Mr. Cottell as a tenant, but at the time we did so, we neither knew, nor heard, of anything against him.

Mr. Cottell's new Birmingham address, as I have already stated, is Messrs. Riley, Corporation-street. I have not yet heard from Messrs. Riley, and my other correspondents on Mr. Cottell's matter must please wait until next week.

The Carl Rosa Company have not yet found a London theatre, and are hardly likely to do so for a short season at Christmas. The idea of St. George's Hall is, of course, nonsense. Nevertheless, some of the Carl Rosa people still hope to secure a house for evening operatic performances, which, after the New Year, would be very welcome. Why, by the way, do they not postpone their visit until Easter—a far better period of the year than the pantomime season, and when Drury Lane, at any rate, would be open to them? Mr. Crotty, for a long time one of their principal baritones, came out on Monday at the musical halls as a singer of patriotic songs. Mr. Barton McGuckin, long their principal tenor, started on Saturday with a company for a concert tour in Ireland.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

Dearest Amy,—I have never seen London in such a condition of simmer and bubble as it was on Trafalgar Day. The streets were crammed with pedestrians, at least half of whom seemed to be from the provinces. I was in Regent-street with Bee and Clare at about half-past three, but was very glad to get out of it again. The usual rule of the road, by virtue of which people keep to the right, was utterly ignored, and the seething mass of humanity kept getting itself into knots just like a stream bubbling over stones and swirling round in eddies. The bonnet shops were surrounded by crowds of women three or four deep, all a-gaze. Could we have seen into their brains we should have had the mental picture of each spectator imagining her own face in the particular bonnet she had selected as the prettiest.

The Lord Mayor's ball at the Mansion House to the provincial mayors had taken place on the previous evening, and that would account for the presence in town of numerous visitors from the country. It was a most extraordinary state of affairs, and Nelson would have wanted to dance a breakdown if he could have seen the tremendous commotion he caused.

The girls and I had the idea to go and see the Column itself, but as it was shared by some millions of our fellow-creatures, we promptly abandoned it, and turned in instead to look at Peter Robinson's newest and sweetest brightest of evening cloaks.

Lilla went with us to choose one. She would go as far as £20, she said to me as we entered, and I whispered back again, in Mephistophelean accents, "Then it will cost you £35 at least." We looked at an imposing array, panoramically displayed before us on the shoulders of girls so tall and graceful that it involved quite a sum of mental addition to fancy Lilla in the same garments. The brocades in this year's mantles are rich and handsome, the designs large and striking. One exquisite pattern of brocade shows a pale blue background with natural-looking bunches of white ostrich-feathers scattered over it. Each bunch is tied with silver ribbon. Another is of cream-coloured brocade with the design in long-stemmed roses, tied with a bow-knot of pale pink ribbon. The new printed velvets are also much in vogue for opera wraps. The floral designs appear as if painted upon the velvet, and are exquisite in their colour combinations. Plain velvets are also much used, but they serve more as a background for the beauty of their costly trimmings.

Guipure lace, with the design picked out in jewels, adorns many of the newest cloaks, and rare old laces are appliqué upon the opera capes as a trimming. Jabots of lace wander down the front of many of the new circular wraps, and also in frills, making a soft outline for deep fur collars. The very wide circular opera cloaks, with their many gores, have perhaps a gleaming line of jewels down every gore, or a tiny jabot of lace, or a dangling mass of small fur tails, or a soft band of feather trimming. A few of the most costly brocade opera mantles have the design picked out with jewels which produce a most brilliant effect. Magnificent buttons are seen on them, but these are more for ornamentation than use. Some of these buttons are hand-painted miniatures of much beauty.

One of the newest opera wraps looks like an exceedingly wide circular, with a deep square-shaped collar, which shows a drooping tendency at the shoulders. Delicate creamy-white brocade is the material, with a large feather design in yellow. The feathers was tied with gold ribbons, and the deep cape-like collar, edged with a flounce of old lace, fastens at the points with large yellow rhinestones. Around the neck is a high standing collar of real yellow feathers, soft, beautiful, and becoming. This gorgeous wrap is lined throughout with wadded yellow satin.

"The Riding Habit has a perfectly shaped skirt and a beautifully moulded bodice, cut as only Busvine of Brook-street can cut."—*The World*, July 22nd, 1896.

Something new and striking was an empire cape made of brocade, delicate green in colour, wrought with a conventional design in gold. The brocade hung in graceful loose folds from a brilliantly-jewelled band which outlined the yoke. This band was of gold-woven cloth studded with varying shades of green stones. The short yoke and large bishop sleeves were of black velvet. The cuff which finished the sleeve was a novelty well worth describing. It was a large pointed gauntlet, cut in tabs, which were joined by tiny gold clasps. A very high Medici collar of black ostrich tips completed this novel mantle.

Many of the fashionable theatre capes and cloaks are made this year with the historical Marie Antoinette hoods. A charming little one made of old rose and white matelassé cloth has three short capes and a piquant Marie Antoinette hood lined with a becoming shade of pink satin. Opera capes which hang perfectly square in Henry II. fashion are also much in vogue. Both ermine and chinchilla are used extensively as a lining for the most costly ones. In fact, nothing is too luxurious in the way of an evening cloak.

Lilla's choice fell upon a half-length cloak of chiné brocade lined with ermine and trimmed with skunk and imitation old lace. Such a perfect imitation was the latter that it would take in any one but an expert. It is a most delicious piece of finery, and I don't mind admitting that I felt some emotion akin to grief in not being able to have it for myself. It is hard to see the object of one's affections bestowed upon another and a thicker woman than oneself. That mantle would, I know, be happier with me.

I think I told you some time since that there has been active rebellion going on for a considerable time against the tyranny of white satin and orange blossoms as a bridal livery. Several brides have revolted and chosen materials of a soft, light, and aerial character. On the 30th, at St. Mary's, Cadogan-street, Miss Cara Batten is to be married in a perfectly sweet gown made of fine white muslin over satin in the old-fashioned Empire style. As she is a pretty girl, and very young, she will form an excellent object-lesson in the newer and less trying style of wedding dress. The bridegroom, Mr. Austin Harris, has two very well-known men for brothers: one is Mr. Walter Harris, a great explorer and Eastern traveller, who has written interesting books on his wanderings; and the other Mr. Clement Harris, who has attained some reputation as a musical composer and executant.

The weekly Associates' Teas are to be resumed at the Royal School of Art Needlework this autumn. Last Thursday Countess Grosvenor and Mrs. Percy Wyndham were the hostesses, and on other days the teas are to be given by the Dowager Lady Churchill, and Elizabeth Countess of Winchilsea and Nottingham.

Miss Mary Moore looks so deliciously pretty in the dancing curls of her early Victorian coiffure in "Rosemary" that it would not be surprising if it should become fashionable in a modified way. There is no doubt that dressing the hair close to the eyes improves their appearance immensely, making them look large and bright, and at the same time softening their expression.

I fancy I know why the Royalties, Duchesses, and so on, have been so bent on seeing the "Duchess of Coolgardie" at Drury Lane. There were some well-known faces in the wedding scene at the close, and at least one of the actors is very well known in Society. The Duchess of Coolgardie has some distinguished bridesmaids, and their white and yellow gowns are very becoming.

The members of the New Victorian Club were "at home" to their friends on Wednesday evening last, when the Club premises, situated at 30A Sackville-street, were opened for the first time under the new management, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The Club, which is the last addition to the number of ladies' clubs in London, meets the much-felt want of many ladies who require some *pied-à-terre* where they can go whilst up in town for a day's shopping, and where, if they wish to stay, they can obtain bedrooms at a small charge. It is open to both town and country members.

You know how soon silk petticoats wear out? Aggravating things they are, for directly one has become accustomed to them, and on perfectly friendly terms, the silk slits in horizontal lines, and the next phase is ruin and despair. Mr. Charles Lee, of Wigmore-street, has brought out skirts of shot moire which overcome this disadvantage by being made of a material that resembles silk, but is much more durable. There are white silk ones for evening wear. We saw these things when we went to buy warm stockings. I am afraid we are extravagant about this dress item, for none of us can bear darns. Nor do we like very thick stockings, so we spent some time in choosing. The girls chose some broad-ribbed Angola for cycling. By-the-way, we saw some open-work cashmere stockings, intended for those who cannot wear cotton. Good idea, isn't it?

The new shades in gloves are dove, pearl, champagne, string-colour, biscuit, drabs and mushroom, and tan. For evening wear there are all pale colours, and black gloves are again to be much worn with evening dress.

Fancy playing the "Dead March" in *Saul* on a banjo! I came across it in a selection of music for that lively instrument. Can you imagine the deep boom of the thrilling cannon note produced on the frivolous strings of the "nigger" melodist's favourite tum-tum! I have often tried to think of the converse of "breaking a butterfly on a wheel," and here it is.

Christabel writes me from Rome:—

It would be impossible to imagine dresses more beautiful than those made by Worth for Maria Pia, Dowager Queen of Portugal, to wear at the various ceremonies and fêtes in honour of the marriage of her nephew, the Prince of Naples, with Princess Hélène of Montenegro.

For full-dress day toilette a rich white satin ground is covered closely with a pattern in Genoa velvet comprising all the shades of grey, from the palest up to iron grey. The bodice is high at the back and pointed, the front is draped with folds and opens over a white satin waistcoat, softened with rich Brussels lace falling over it, and four diamond buttons seem to fasten the folds on the shoulder; the skirt is round with a double pleat, forming a tablier in front.

Another lovely day dress is of Indian lampas, the shade called violette de Parme, with a spiral pattern formed of sprays of roses; a broad stripe embroidered with amethysts forms quilles on each side of the skirt, which is made with a demi-train. The bodice is pointed, made high at the back, and cut with a low square in front, some fine old point lace forming a half ruff; the lace as well as the bodice is worked with amethysts, and bouquets of violets are studded about in the lace. The sleeves are very long, open or slashed at the top of the arm and filled in with point lace, set with amethysts to match the bodice.

A morning dress has a lilac satin ground shot with silver, with a pattern in white nacre velvet in relief; the design is very large, and takes up nearly the length of the skirt, which is trained at the back, and the front is covered with sparkling diamond embroidery. The pointed bodice is in the Louis XV. style, and round the low neck is a pointed scallop of diamond embroidery on tulle; Alençon lace glittering with diamonds forms an ample berthe, held up at the shoulders with bouquets of orchids set in the lace.

The dress for grand official ceremonies and full Court attire is simply splendid, and is composed of white damas, with a Renaissance design of branches of laurel leaves interlaced. Here and there where the sprays meet there is a little crown embroidered in gold, diamonds, and topazes. The skirt is open on the left side all the length, and shows an under-skirt of gold guipure closely worked with jewels, and bordered with white feather trimming. On the right side the skirt opens only about half a yard high, but of course revealing the same under-skirt. The white damas bodice has a chérusque (or Valois ruff) of Renaissance gold lace, set with diamonds round the shoulders and bust, and a tuft of white feathers on each shoulder.

The Court train to wear with this is white velvet with the same pattern of laurel as on the skirt, and also the same embroidered and jewelled crowns at the intersection of the sprays. This train is four and a half mètres long (about five yards), and will be worn from the shoulders, coming from under the chérusque. It is lined with royal purple velvet, which is turned back over the train about a hand's breadth, and on this is laid Renaissance gold lace, jewelled, and with an edge of diamonds.

It has been remarked over and over again that, for Autumn and Winter wear, a lady never looks better and more suitably clad than in a Redfern Gown. Messrs. REDFERN'S New Models are now ready. Inspection invited.—26, Conduit-street, W.

FASHIONS UP TO DATE.—An elegant and svelte figure is produced by the easy and perfect-fitting anatomical corset shaped by the experts, Mesdames SYKES, JOSEPHINE, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 289, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

Eight large tufts or bunches of white ostrich feathers are placed at intervals round the train with diamond bows to fasten them. It is, indeed, a really royal and regal dress. The Dowager Queen is a very fine-looking woman, with a good figure, and will show it off well. For several years I have seen the many beautiful dresses sent to her by Worth, but on this occasion he has surpassed himself (if possible). Such taste and harmony of shades—and, as a rule, Maria Pia very wisely does not launch into colours, but prefers the soft tints of grey, mauve, purple, and lilac, mingled with black and white.

Here are the recipes I promised you. I think you will like this way of serving partridges with French plums :—

Having plucked and cleansed a couple of partridges, remove the breast-bone, working from the neck, fill the cavity with forcemeat, to which add a couple of chopped French plums, a tablespoonful of chopped ham, a dessertspoonful of chopped parsley, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Truss the birds into shape and put them into a stewpan with a sliced onion, two slices of fat bacon, and 1 oz. of butter; fry the birds briskly until they are slightly browned. Then add 2 tablespoonfuls of flour, a pint of stock, a bouquet of herbs, a ripe tomato, 6 peppercorns, a blade of mace, 2 cloves, and a gill of claret; stir until boiling, then place the stewpan in the oven to simmer for an hour and a half. Now take the birds from the braise, remove the string, cut them in halves, and keep them hot on the rack. Skim every particle of grease from the braise, and rub it through the tammy. Return the sauce to the stewpan with the birds to warm, season with salt and pepper and a teaspoonful of lemon juice. Arrange the halves of partridges in a circle in an entrée dish, pour the sauce over, and fill the centre with a compôte of French plums, which have been stewed in a little claret.

Fritters of pheasant livers and mushrooms make an admirable dish for breakfast :—

Wash and take off the gall from about 6 livers, and stew them in a little good gravy for fifteen minutes, adding a shalot stuck with a clove, 4 peppercorns, a blade of mace, a sprig of parsley and thyme, and a slice of lean bacon. When the livers are done drain them on a cloth. Make a batter with a tablespoonful of flour, an egg, a teaspoonful of salad-oil, and a little cold water. Dip the livers one at a time in the batter, and fry by immersing them in hot lard; drain on a paper and arrange them in a pyramid on a dish with a border of mushrooms, to prepare which pare 7 or 8 large mushrooms and lay them, gills upward, on a buttered stewpan; season with salt, pepper, a scraped shalot, a little chopped parsley, and a few drops of lemon-juice; put a small piece of butter on each one, replace the lid, and cook them about ten minutes on a brisk stove. Dish each mushroom on a round piece of buttered toast.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

With the Japanese Troops.

JAMES CREELMAN, the American War Correspondent, in his dispatch to New York, dated PORT ARTHUR, Nov. 24, 1894, writes:—

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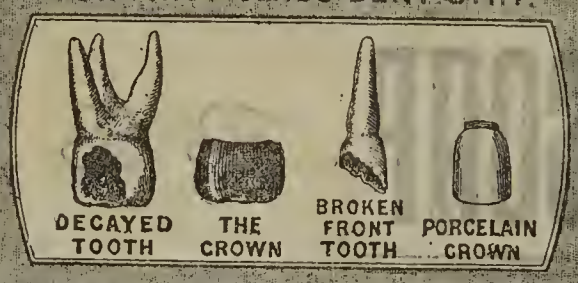

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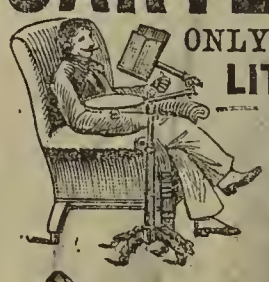

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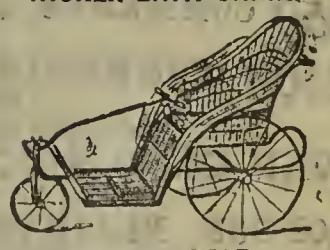

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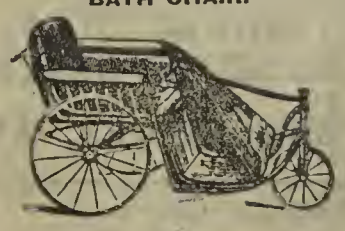

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PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. Cozens Smith, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

THE

JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.

DIRECTORS.
S. B. MARSANT (Chairman).
Jno. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.

BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.

LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2464, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken, either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45 Dale-street, Liverpool.

£20,000 cash subscription has been guaranteed.

BURBANKS MAIN LODE, Limited,

COOLGARDIE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862-1890.

CAPITAL £65,000, divided into 65,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 32,500 Shares are set apart to provide Working Capital. 42,500 Shares are now offered for Subscription. Payable 2s. 6d. on application, 5s. on allotment, and the balance as required by calls of not more than 5s., at intervals of not less than one month.

DIRECTORS.—M. W. Colchester Wemyss, J.P., Director of the African Gold Properties, Limited, and Mines and Banking Corporation, Limited, Chairman; Captain Gordon Carey, Director of the London and West Australian Syndicate, Limited: Charles Marcus W. estfield, Salutbury, Upton Clapton, N.E.; *S. C. Hunt, Director of the Australian Search Syndicate, Limited.

* Will join after allotment.

BANKERS.—Parr's Bank, Limited, Bartholomew-lane, E.C.; Mines and Banking Corporation, Limited, Finsbury House, Blomfield-st., E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Williams & Neville, Winchester House, E.C.

BROKER.—G. C. Howard, 16, Tokenhouse-yard and Stock Exchange, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Parkes Bros. & Co., St. Mildred's-court, Poultry, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—C. F. Wainwright, F.I.S., Bank of Scotland Chambers, 20, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

LOCATION.—This Company has been formed to acquire and further develop two mining leases, numbered 2,985 (24 acres, known as "Baby Block"), and 2,986 (12 acres, known as "Bullara Block"), making a total area of 36 acres. The properties are situated at Burbanks, 4½ miles south of Coolgardie, and in the vicinity of the property now being worked by the well-known Burbanks Birthday Gift Gold Mines, Limited, and immediately adjoining the property of the Burbanks North Gold Mining Company. The blocks "Baby" and "Bullara" have been secured by the agent of the Vendor Syndicate after very careful examination, and after developing the properties by actual work.

TIMBER AND WATER SUPPLY.—There is ample supply of timber. There is a good site for a water reservoir, and an extensive catchment area. Professor Nicholas cabled on the 2nd October, "Water plentiful supply."

ASSAYS.—The following is a copy of the assay certificate of four samples of stone taken from the properties, and submitted to Mr. R. A. Rusha, A.O.S.M., Assayer and Metallurgist. Hunt-street, Coolgardie Gold Field, July 15th, 1896.

Sample No.		Assay on dried material. Gold—per ton.	oz.	dwts.	grs.
1870.	IBO.	Ironstained Quartz	5	19	5
1871.	IIBO.	Ironstained Quartz with country matter ...	0	11	10
1872.	IIIBO.	Ironstained Quartz with country matter ...	12	9	21
1873.	2.	Quartz	1	4	12

REEFS.—There are three separate quartz reefs showing an average of over 2 ozs. of gold per ton, and all in a direct line with those of the famous Burbanks Birthday Gift, and a continuation of that property's valuable lodes. These reefs are likely to get richer as greater depth is attained. One reef is traceable from Burbanks Birthday Gift main shaft through the Bullara and Baby leases, being a true fissure vein. This belt of country in which the reef occurs is one of the most auriferous zones in or around Coolgardie. Four shafts have been sunk on the properties. No. 1 and No. 2 are on the Bullara lease, and No. 3 and No. 4 are on the Baby lease. The lode was struck in No. 1 shaft at 73 feet, and at a depth of 86 feet is 6 feet in width. The Eastern Reef at a few feet from the surface has increased in width from 1 foot to 4 feet. A cable dated 2nd October from Professor Nicholas stated that No. 1 shaft is down 102 feet.

REPORTS.—The properties acquired by this Company have been recently reported upon by Professor William Nicholas, F.G.S., Lond., Manager of Burbanks Birthday Gift Mines, and Consulting Engineer of Burbanks North Gold Mine; Mr. W. H. Berryman, Manager of Tindails Coolgardie Gold Mining Company; Mr. E. Herbert Becke, M.E., Metallurgist; Mr. C. Cullen, Mr. F. O. F. Roose, Consulting Mining Engineer. Full copies of these reports can be obtained from the Secretary on application.

Professor Nicholas says: "The reefs are in a direct line with those of the Burbanks Birthday Gift Gold Mines, Limited. I consider the mine has excellent prospects before it."

Mr. W. H. Berryman says: "Taking into consideration the splendid position occupied in relation to 'Burbanks Birthday Gift,' the magnificent prospects of the latter mine, the extensive area of the leases under report, the abundance of timber, the anticipated supply of water, and the last and greatest consideration, the body and thickness of the stone (as proved by several assays taken), I have no hesitation in saying you have acquired a very valuable property, and one from which judicious handling will obtain highly payable results. I have much pleasure in recommending the 'Baby' and 'Bullara' Gold Mines as a sound mining venture."

Mr. E. H. Becke says: "From data I have supplied, I am firmly under the opinion that the property is a most valuable one, and will eventually turn out equally rich as Burbanks Birthday Gift, and it is simply a matter of depth to prove the actual value of the property. Therefore, I have no hesitation in recommending this property to the public as a bona-fide venture, and under skilled management, good machinery, and working capital, am thoroughly confident of the mine turning out one of the most valuable properties in Western Australia.

Mr. C. Cullen says: "From what I have seen and what I know of the country, it will be a great surprise to me if this mine does not equal or even surpass those in its vicinity. I would further advise your sinking a deep shaft near your northern boundary, as on adjacent properties there are shafts sunk in good formations, showing with ordinary reasoning that your reefs go right through your property."

Mr. F. O. F. Roose says: "It is unquestionably one of the most valuable properties to be secured, being in the heart of some of the most prosperous gold mines of the fields, and weighing the important circumstance that the Burbanks line of reef traverses the entire length of the Bullara property for a distance of 2,244 feet, and the enormous body of ore of a highly payable and permanent character to exist at depth, I have the utmost confidence in recommending the property as a mining venture of undoubtedly high value."

Mr. Roose writes under date 25th August, 1896: "I find the reef, cut at 73 ft. depth, continues to remain in the shaft to the depth of 86 ft., where the lode measures 6 ft. in the width, this being the same reef as that in Burbanks Birthday Gift, and is equally as rich in gold. The Eastern Reef, which was disclosed in places on the surface by means of open cuttings, was scarcely a foot wide. By going down to the depth of about 18 ft., the reef has increased in thickness from 1 ft. to 4 ft. I need hardly say I am delighted with the result, and that no words of mine or any other mining engineer in Western Australia can but say you have the next finest property to the Burbanks Birth-day Gift."

The reports of the above well-known experts afford reliable evidence that the reef now being so successfully worked by the Burbanks Birthday Gift traverses the whole length of the properties. The Burbanks Birthday Gift Gold Mines, Limited, have recently crushed 1,500 tons, with a yield of 6,248 oz. of gold, or an average of 4 oz. 3 dwt. 7 gr. per ton, exclusive of tailings, worth about 1½ oz. of gold per ton, and the £1 Shares are now quoted 21-16—2 3-16.

MANAGEMENT.—A cable has been received from the Agent of the Vendor Syndicate stating that Professor Nicholas has been appointed Manager of this Company's property.

CAPITALISATION.—The Directors would point out the moderate capitalisation of Burbanks Main Lode, as compared with the neighbouring Companies.

	Price paid by Company.	No. of Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Provision for working capital.
Burbanks Birthday Gift Gold Mine ...	£125,000	40	£3,125	£25,000
Burbanks North ...	£75,000	24	£3,125	£25,000
Burbanks Main Lode	£32,500	36	£902	£32,500

Another favourable feature of Burbanks Main Lode is that one-half the capital is set apart for working. The Directors intend to rapidly push on developments and commence crushing at the earliest possible moment.

TERMS OF PURCHASE.—The Australian Search Syndicate, Limited, as vendors, have fixed the consideration to be paid by the Company for the purchase of the properties at £32,500, payable as to £10,000 in cash, and £22,500 in fully-paid shares. This will leave 32,500 shares for providing working capital.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the Bankers, Broker, Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company. October 21st, 1896.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will OPEN on WEDNESDAY, the 28th day of OCTOBER, 1896, and will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, the 30th day of OCTOBER, 1896, for both London and the Country.

Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, Manchester, London, and all Branches, are authorised to receive Subscriptions for the under-mentioned Issue of Preference and Ordinary Shares.

YATES'S CASTLE BREWERY, LIMITED.

SHARE CAPITAL:—

15,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each ...	£150,000
10,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each...	100,000
	£250,000

The Preference Shares are entitled to a Cumulative Preference Dividend of Five per Cent. per annum, and rank as regards Capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The Preference Shares are also entitled in a distribution of assets in priority to the Ordinary Shares to a premium of £1 per Share.

DEBENTURES AND DEBENTURE STOCK:—£175,000.

The above £100,000 Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures and also £75,000 Four and one-half per Cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock are reserved to be exchanged for like amounts of similar Debentures and Debenture Stock held in the old Company of William Yates & Company, Limited, of which this Company is a reconstruction.

£50,000 of the Preference and £33,250 of the Ordinary Shares will be reserved for issue to members of William Yates & Company, Limited, in part payment of purchase-money.

Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, and The Adelphi Bank, Limited, are authorised to receive Subscriptions at the price of £11 per Share for the Balance (£100,000) of the above £150,000 Preference Shares, and at par for the Balance (£66,750) of the above £100,000 Ordinary Shares, payable as follows:—

PREFERENCE SHARES—£1 per Share on Application; £2 10s. (including premium) on Allotment; £2 10s. on 31st December, 1896; £2 10s. on 28th February, 1897; £2 10s. on 30th June, 1897.

ORDINARY SHARES—10s. per Share on Application; £2 on Allotment; £2 10s. on 31st December, 1896; £5 on 28th February, 1897.

DIRECTORS.—William Clark Yates (Chairman), Caton Green, Lancaster; H. Stubbs, Camp Hill Hall, Nuneaton; A. N. Wyatt, Managing Director, Castle Brewery, Ardwick; (Directors of William Yates & Company, Limited); Alan J. Sykes (Sykes & Co., Limited), Edgley, Stockport.

BANKERS.—Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, London and Manchester; Adelphi Bank, Limited, Manchester, Liverpool, and Branches.

SOLICITORS TO THE VENDOR COMPANY.

Lycett & Co., Chancery Place, Manchester.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.

Grundy, Kershaw, Saxon, & Samson, 31, Booth-street, Manchester.

BROKERS.—W. I. Carr, Sons, & Tod, 2, Royal Exchange-bldgs., London, E.C.; J. Scholes Walker & Co., 7, Pall Mall, Manchester; F. W. Bentley & Co., Estate Buildings, Huddersfield.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.—Charles S. Owen, Castle Brewery, Ardwick, Manchester.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is an extension of William Yates & Company, Limited, Brewers, The Castle Brewery, Ardwick, Manchester. The business has been and is a most successful one, and it is now proposed to carry on the business on a broader basis, and to acquire further properties as opportunity offers.

This Company will acquire the following valuable properties, viz.:—(a) The Freehold Brewery and Land, with fixed plant, cooperage, workshops, offices, and stabling; (b) 98 Freehold and 11 Copyhold Fully Licensed and Beer Houses; (c) 11 Long Leasehold Fully Licensed and Beer Houses, having upwards of 60 years to run; (d) 55 Fully Licensed and Beer Houses, held on short leases and yearly tenancies; (e) A number of Freehold shops, houses and cottages, and Leasehold cottages and shops, all of which adjoin the Brewery, or the licensed properties above-mentioned.

Messrs. Ashworth, Mosley, & Co., Chartered Accountants, Manchester, whose Certificate is appended, have audited the Accounts of William Yates & Company, Limited, since October, 1893, and certify that before deducting interest the net profits since that date have been as follows:—

For the 2 years and 9 months ended June 30th, 1896, £63,118. 10s. 8d., or a yearly average of £22,952 3 10

For the 9 months ended June 30th, 1896, £21,169. 2s. 1d., or at the rate for a complete year of 28,225 9 5

The proceeds of this issue will provide the Company with £77,000 beyond the means at the disposal of the old Company, from which the Directors expect an increase in the net profits.

The price at which the business and assets of the Company, as existing on September 30th, 1896 (from which date the transfer is to take effect as a going concern), are to be taken over, is £172,725, subject to the new Company taking over the existing £100,000 5 per cent. First Mortgage Debentures and £75,000 4½ per cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock, and discharging all the other debts and liabilities of the old Company existing at that date, but reserving to the old Company the balance of profits carried forward in revenue account for the year ended September 30th, 1895, and the profits for the twelve months ending September 30th, 1896, less the interim dividends declared and paid for the half-year ending March 31st, 1896. The old Company also in addition receives the premium on the Preference Shares. The price is payable as to £83,250 by the issue as fully paid of the £50,000 Preference Shares, and £33,250 Ordinary Shares, reserved as above-mentioned, and as to the balance in cash.

The old Company pays all the expenses of forming and registering this Company, and carrying out and completing the sale, including the costs of conveying the properties, stamp duties and fees, printing and advertising, accountant's charges, remuneration to the solicitors (as to which a contract, dated the 5th day of October, 1896, has been made between the old Company and the two firms of solicitors before-named, under the Solicitors' Remuneration Act, 1881), and commission for guaranteeing the subscription of the £100,000 Preference Shares, and part of the Ordinary Shares now offered.

The following agreements have been entered into:—

(1) An agreement dated the 5th day of October, 1896, and made between William Yates & Company, Limited (the old Company) of the one part, and John Stubbs, for and on behalf of this Company, of the other part, and a modifying agreement, supplemental thereto and made between the same parties, dated the 13th day of October, 1896.

(2) An agreement dated the 21st day of October, 1896, adopting the agreement of the 5th day of October as modified by the agreement of the 13th day of October, 1896, and made between William Yates & Company, Limited, of the 1st part, the said John Stubbs of the 2nd part, and this Company of the 3rd part; and

(3) An agreement dated the 19th day of October, 1896, and made between the said William Yates & Company of the one part, and The Brewery Purchase and Improvement Company, Limited, of the other part, guaranteeing the subscription of the Capital as before-mentioned.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers of the Company.

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF MESSRS. ASHWORTH, MOSLEY & CO., CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, MANCHESTER:— "15th October, 1896.

"We have acted as Auditors of William Yates & Co., Ltd, since October, 1893, and we certify that the net profits of the Company for the two years and nine months ended 30th June, 1896, were £63,118 10s. 8d. showing an average of £22,952 3s. 10d. per annum, and that for the nine months ended 30th June, 1896, they were £21,169 2s. 1d., or at the rate of £28,225 9s. 5d. per annum."

"These results are after charging the Profit and Loss Account with, in our opinion, proper depreciation of Brewery Buildings, Plant and Machinery, and after writings off in connection with short leaseholds.

"No deduction has been made for Interest on the Debentures and Debenture Stock, or for Interest on Mortgages, and we have excluded a charge of £1,000 per annum, which had been debited against profits in connection with the expenses of the Debenture Issue, but which will not be a charge against the profits of the proposed new Company. The Interest on the Debentures and Debenture Stock amounts to £8,375 per annum. The dividend on the Preference Shares in the new Company will amount to £7,500 per annum.

"(Signed) ASHWORTH, MOSLEY & CO."

The List of Applications opens on Monday, 26th October, and will be closed on or before Wednesday, 28th October, for Town, and the following day for the Country.

NORTON & CO.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

LIMITED.

SHARE CAPITAL, £100,000,

Divided as under :—

£60,000 6 per Cent. Preference Shares of £1 each

(out of which £10,000 will be provided for Additional Working Capital), and

£40,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

The £60,000 Preference Shares are now offered for Subscription, and are entitled to preference, both in respect of Dividend and Capital.

The Vendor takes the whole of the Ordinary Shares in part payment of the purchase-money.

The Preference Shares now offered for Subscription are payable—

2s. 6d. on Application.
7s. 6d. on Allotment.
10s. one month after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

GEORGE W. GROSVENOR, D.L., J.P. (Chairman, Woodward Grosvenor & Co., Limited, Carpet Manufacturers, Kidderminster), Broome House, Stourbridge.
T. ERNEST POLDEN (Chairman, Royal Palace Hotel, Limited, Kensington, and Director, The New Grand Hotel, Birmingham, Limited.)
*JOHN NORTON, Managing Director, Corporation-street, Birmingham.

*Will join the Board after Allotment.

Bankers.—LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED, New-street, Birmingham, London and Branches.

Solicitor.—FRANCIS REDFERN, Colmore-row, Birmingham.

Auditors.—DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, & CO., 4, Lothbury, London, E.C.

Brokers.
LUMSDEN & MYERS, 18, Finch-lane, Threadneedle-street, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.
W. & F. CUTHBERT, Colmore-row, and Stock Exchange, Birmingham.

Secretary (*pro tem.*)—ROBERT MURAS.

Registered Offices.—19, Corporation-street, Birmingham.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on the business of Norton & Company, Furniture Manufacturers, Cabinet Makers, General Furnishers, Carpet Factors, Upholsterers, and Decorators now carried on by Mr. John Norton upon extensive and commodious premises in Corporation-street, Cannon-street, and Fore-street, Birmingham.

The business has been established for a period of over forty years in the city of Birmingham. It was for many years carried on by Messrs. Marris & Norton, and it has an extensive and lucrative connection in the Midland Counties and London, in the furnishing, decorating, and equipping of residences, hotels, theatres, and other buildings of every kind, whether public or private.

The spacious fire-proof warehouses and show-rooms are on one of the best sites for business in Birmingham. They have been valued by the well-known firm of Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis, Clark, & Co., and the following is their report:—

"29, Fleet-street, London, E.C.
"6th August, 1896.

"To the Directors of NORTON & COMPANY, LIMITED.

"Survey and Valuation of Premises situate in Corporation-street, Fore-street, and Cannon-street, in the City of Birmingham, as now in the occupation of the well-known firm of Upholsterers and Art Furnishers, Messrs. Norton & Co., and as shown by the Plan and described in the Schedule attached to this Report.

"Corporation-street is the main business thoroughfare in Birmingham, extending from Stephenson-place and New-street Station to Lancaster-street and the Aston-road. In consequence of its central position, not only with regard to the several Railway Stations, but also to the Commercial Institutions and Municipal Buildings of the City, it has a great commercial value, and is looked upon as the best situation for any trade or financial establishment of importance, and it is seldom that so large an area as that occupied by Messrs. Norton's premises can be obtained. They are held under an Indenture of Underlease for a term of 66¼ years, from the 29th September, 1889, at a Ground Rent of £1,400 per annum.

"Having regard to all the circumstances, we are of opinion that these premises are worth the sum of Forty-two Thousand Pounds (£42,000).

"Farebrother, Ellis, Clark, & Co."

The books of the firm have been investigated by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co., Chartered Accountants, London, whose report is as follows :—

4, Lothbury, London, E.C., September 2nd, 1896.

"To the Chairman and Directors, J. Norton & Co., Limited.

"Gentlemen,—We have examined the Books of J. Norton & Co., Furniture Manufacturers, &c., of Birmingham, with a view to ascertain the profits for the 3 years, from May 1st, 1893, to April 30th, 1896. In consequence of Stocks not having been taken during the period, we have given such detailed and laborious care to the preparation of these accounts, that we are able to certify in our judgment that the net profits of the period have been £28,800, or an average of £9,600 per annum. We believe the business is a good and sound one, and that if Stocks had been taken, the effect would have been to show increased profits.

"We are, Gentlemen,
"Yours faithfully,
"DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, & CO."

The Vendor has contracted to pay all the costs, charges and expenses of, and in connection with the Company down to and including allotment, and the cost of the transfer of the properties to the Company. The purchase price for the Business Premises, Stock-in-trade and Goodwill is the sum of £90,000, payable partly in cash, and partly in fully paid up Ordinary Shares of the Company.

The working capital will amount to £25,000, of which £15,000 will be Stock-in-trade guaranteed by the Vendor and the remaining £10,000 in cash.

The purchase by the Company is to take effect as from the 31st October, 1896.

The net profits of the business as certified by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co. are sufficient to pay the dividend on the Preference Shares, and to leave £6,000 available for dividend on the Ordinary Shares, management expenses, &c., as will be seen from the following figures :—

Average net profits for the last three years	£9,600	0	0
Deduct 6 per cent. Interest on £60,000 Preference Shares	3,600	0	0
Leaving a Surplus of ...	£6,000	0	0

It will be seen that, apart from goodwill, the Company will have the following assets :—

Premises, as valued by Messrs. FAREBROTHER, ELLIS, CLARK & CO.	£42,000	0	0
Stock-in-trade	15,000	0	0
Cash	10,000	0	0
	£67,000	0	0

The Directors have arranged with Mr. Norton to occupy the position of Managing Director for a period of three years, from October 31st, 1896.

The following contracts have been entered into :—

(1) A contract dated the 15th September, 1896, and made between John Norton, of the one part, and Richard Robert Weston (the vendor to the Company), of the other part, and an agreement dated the 20th day of October, 1896, endorsed thereon, between the same parties.

(2) A contract dated October 21st, 1896, and made between the said Richard Robert Weston of the one part and the Company of the other part.

The above-mentioned contracts, together with a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and the certificates of the Valuers and Accountants, can be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Company.

Other agreements or arrangements have been entered into by the Vendor, to which the Company is not a party, with reference to the promotion of the Company and the guaranteeing of its Capital and the application or distribution of the profits, arising from the promotion of the Company, which may constitute contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for shares shall be deemed to have notice of the existence of such agreements, and to have agreed with the Company as Trustee for the Directors and others to waive their right, if any, to particulars thereof, whether under the said Section, or otherwise, or to any further compliance with the said Section than is contained in this Prospectus, and subscriptions will only be received and allotments made on that footing.

It is intended to apply for a settlement and official quotation for the shares of the Company on the London and Birmingham Stock Exchanges.

Applications for Preference Shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company with the amount of deposit.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares is less than the number applied for, the balance will be applied towards payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Copies of the Prospectus, with Forms of Application for Shares, can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from their Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, or Auditors.

October 21st, 1896.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will be CLOSED on or before FRIDAY, the 30th inst., for Town, and SATURDAY, the 31st, for the Country.

THE LONDON WOOLLEN COMPANY (Limited).—

Formed to acquire the business of the Wood-street Clothing and Woollen Warehouse (Limited).—Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.—Capital £80,000, divided into 40,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, and 40,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

In addition to the above, the Directors OFFER for SUBSCRIPTION £40,000 FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK, secured by a First Mortgage on the Leasehold Premises transferred to the Company, and by a floating first charge on the undertaking and general assets of the business. The Debenture Stock, which will be issued in any multiple of £10, is payable 10 per cent. on Application, 40 per cent. on Allotment, and the balance one month after Allotment.

The Preference and Ordinary Shares are payable as follows:—

On Application	2s. 6d. per Share.
On Allotment	10s. 0d. „
One month after Allotment	7s. 6d. „

Or Shareholders may pay up in full on Allotment, the Shares ranking for dividend from date of payment.

The Debenture Interest will be payable quarterly, on the 1st February, 1st May, 1st August, and 1st November. The first will be paid on 1st February, 1897, and calculated from the date of payment of the various instalments.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE-HOLDERS.

Allan Field, B.A., LL.B., 17, Chester-terrace, Regent's park, N.W.
Howard C. Morris, C.C., 2, Walbrook, E.C., and 20 Collingham-gardens, S.W.

DIRECTORS.

D. H. Evans (D. H. Evans and Co, Limited), Oxford-street, W.
Thomas Donne (late proprietor of the Don Association of Woollen Manufacturers, Holborn-viaduct, Cheapside, &c.), Oakland, Castle Hill Park, Ealing.
Alfred Aurelius Clark, 7, Caledonian-road, N., and 9, Cavendish-square, W.
Alfred Hillier Abbott, 70, Watling-street, London, E.C.
*James Dovey Goslin, 1, Little Love-lane, Wood-street, London, E.C., Managing Director. (*Will join the Board after completion of the purchase.)

BANKERS—The Bank of England, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
BROKERS—G. H. and A. M. Jay, Stock Exchange, and 17, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.
SOLICITORS—Nash, Field, and Co., 12, Queen-street, London, E.C.
AUDITORS—Chatteris, Nichols, and Co., Chartered Accountants, 1, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.
SECRETARY—J. Fletcher.
REGISTERED OFFICES AND WAREHOUSES—1, Little Love-lane, Wood-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the well-known old-established and prosperous business known as the Wood-street Clothing and Woollen Warehouse (Limited), carried on at the extensive and well-adapted premises situated at Little Love-lane, Wood-street, London, E.C., and to further develop and extend the same.

PARTICULARS OF BUSINESS.

The business, which has been established upwards of a quarter of a century, was originally conducted as a private concern, but was, for convenience, registered in 1890 as a Joint Stock Company, the proprietor holding practically the whole of the Share Capital. It has now been decided to carry on the undertaking as a public company, and to give the numerous customers and others an opportunity of participating in the profits of this lucrative concern.

The business chiefly consists of the manufacture of ready-made and bespoke men's clothing, which is supplied to retailers all over the United Kingdom. About two years ago a department was added for the supply of juvenile clothing, and it is intended to largely extend this branch of the business, for which the Directors are informed there is ample scope.

The premises occupied by the Company (which are fitted with all the necessary appliances for carrying on the trade) consist of two warehouses in Little Love-lane, Wood-street, Cheapside, London, E.C., connected by fireproof compartments, and constructed at considerable cost, the main warehouse consisting of five floors fitted throughout with a Waygood's lift of the latest construction (erected in 1894). The rear Warehouse contains four floors with a Waygood's lift (erected last year). The dock for receiving goods is also fitted with a lift and hoist for loading, worked by an 8-horse-power Crossley's gas-engine in excellent condition, and there is also good strong-room accommodation.

There are commodious Sale and Show Rooms (where the Company employs upwards of 120 cutters, warehousemen, and clerks) for both men's and juvenile trade, and a special feature of the business is the Bespoke Department, in which the Company is acknowledged to be the leading house in the trade for high-class goods.

PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED.

The business is conducted with the best class of customers, and is of a very safe nature, as is amply proved by the fact that while the sales for the past 5½ years amount to £660,790 1s. 6d., the total bad debts have been only £1,277 10s. 2d.

The premises, which are most substantially constructed, are held on lease for 80 years, from 24th June, 1888, at a rental of £1,200 per annum, which lease has been valued by Messrs. S. Walker and Runtz, the well-known surveyors and valuers, of Moorgate Street, London, at the sum of £18,000 0 0

While the other assets which are included in the purchase price to the Company at 9th June, 1896, from which the Company takes over the business, consist of stock (after writing off depreciation), valued at 31,499 0 0
Book debts (after deducting discounts) 40,731 13 2
Balance at Bank of England, bills receivable, trade fixtures, &c... 4,538 16 11

Making the total assets to be transferred to the Company..... £94,769 10 1

while the liabilities amounted to only £30,396 17s. 5d.

Out of the present issue an additional £5,000 will be available for working capital, giving the Company a total working capital of upwards of £50,000.

The Company has a large and sound clientèle in the trade, and there is hardly a town in the United Kingdom in which it has not a representative. The customers number many hundreds, and it is proposed to make a liberal allotment amongst them in order to ensure their active co-operation in increasing the turnover of the Company.

VALUER'S REPORT.

The following is a copy of Messrs. S. Walker and Runtz's valuation of the lease:—

22 Moorgate-street, London, E.C., July 27th, 1896.

To the Directors of the Wood-street Clothing and Woollen Warehouse (Limited), 1 Little Love-lane, Wood-street, E.C.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with your instructions we have made a survey of the business premises No. 1 Little Love-lane, Wood-street, in the City of London, situate in the centre of the drapery and clothing trades.

The premises comprise a substantially-erected warehouse of seven floors with a handsome stone front, and a four-storey warehouse in the rear communicating therewith, containing the following accommodation:—

On the Fourth Floor—A large stock-room and cutting-room.
On the Third Floor—Trimming and cutting-room and office.
On the Second Floor—Ware-room and office, with a ware-room in back building approached by corridor.
On the First Floor—A large and handsome show-room, buyers'-room and office, with ware-room in back building approached by corridor.
On the Ground Floor.—Show room and office, workpeople's entrance, with entering room and packing room in building in rear.
In the Basement.—Stock room, receiving room, lift from street, and lavatories, with stock room in building in rear.
Sub-Basement.—Packing room, engine room, strong room, and goods lift from street.

Each building is fitted with a lift from basement to top floor, and they are well lighted front and back; the whole of the before-mentioned premises are in the occupation of the Company.

A further portion of the premises, approached by a separate entrance from the street, comprising:

On the Second Floor.—Stock room;
On the First Floor.—Show room;
On the Ground Floor.—Wareroom and offices, with basement and sub-basement, and lift from street, are let on lease to Mr. A. O. Aldwinckle, for a term of seven years from Lady Day, 1895, on the following terms: the first year £500 per annum; for the second and third years £650 per annum; and the remainder of the Lease £700 per annum. Landlord paying all rates and taxes.

The before-mentioned property is held by lease for a term of 80 years, from the 24th June, 1888, at a ground rent of £1,200 per annum. We are of opinion that the leasehold interest therein is worth the sum of Eighteen Thousand Pounds (£18,000).—Yours faithfully,

S. WALKER and RUNTZ.

ACCOUNTANTS' CERTIFICATE.

The books of the firm have been carefully kept and have been regularly audited by Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols, and Co., the well-known Chartered Accountants, who have given the following certificate:

1, Queen Victoria-street, Mansion House, London, E.C., 27th July, 1896.

We have for some years past annually audited the books of the Wood-street Clothing and Woollen Warehouse (Limited), and certify that after adjusting the accounts in conformity with the rent now payable by the Company, and allowing for a sinking fund to be invested at 3 per cent. per annum, so as to provide for the extinction of the lease, the following were the net profits (including rents received) for each of the undermentioned years, and for the period from the 16th November, 1895, to 6th June, 1896. These results are arrived at after deducting depreciations and bad debts, but without charging Directors' fees or income tax.

	Sales. £	Net profit. £ s. d.
For the year ending 14th November, 1891	121,821	8,139 15 8
„ „ „ 1892	118,738	7,569 12 2
„ „ „ 1893	115,001	6,605 7 7
„ „ „ 1894	110,744	5,380 9 2
„ „ „ 1895	123,498	8,521 13 10
From 16th November, 1895, to 6th June, 1896 (six months and 20 days)	70,984	6,036 16 5
		£42,253 14 10

or £7,601 1s. 10d. per annum.

The annual bad debts have averaged less than a fourth of one per cent. upon sales.—We are, yours faithfully,

CHATTERIS, NICHOLS, & Co., Chartered Accountants.

PROFITS.

From this it will be seen that the average net profit for the last five-and-a-half years is £7,601 1s. 10d. per annum, while the profit for the period from 16th November, 1894, to 6th June, 1896 (18 months 20 days), is £14,558 10s. 3d., or at the rate of £9,371 17s. 7d. per annum.

Taking this figure as a basis for future earnings, and without allowing for any increase which it is only reasonable to assume, the following result is shown £9,371 17 7

To pay 4½ per cent. on £40,000 Debenture Stock will require	£1,800 0 0	
To pay 6 per cent. on £40,000 Preference Shares will require	2,400 0 0	—£4,200 0 0
Leaving a balance of.....		£5,171 17 7

available for dividend on the £40,000 Ordinary Share Capital, and for Directors' fees, &c

LATEST PRICES OF SHARES OF SIMILAR COMPANIES.

The following premiums at which the shares of sound industrial companies stand show the favour in which they are held by investors:

D. H. Evans and Co. (Limited)	£1 Ordinary shares are quoted at	£2½ ex div.
„ „	1 Preference shares are quoted at	1½
„ „	100 Debenture Stock is quoted at	114
Harrod's Stores (Limited)	1 Ordinary shares are quoted at	6
John Barker and Co. (Limited)	1 Ordinary shares are quoted at	3
„ „	5 Preference „	7
Thomas Wallis and Co. (Limited)	5 Ordinary „	14
„ „	5 Preference „	8
T. R. Roberts (Limited)	1 Ordinary „	2½
J. R. Roberts (Limited)	1 „ „	2
Jones and Higgins (Limited)	1 „ „	2½
Maple and Co. (Limited)	1 „ „	3½
Spencer, Turner, and Boldero (Limited)	5 „ „	9½
Charles Baker and Co. (Limited)	5 Preference „	8

CONTRACTS.

The purchase price has been fixed by the vendor, who is the promoter of the Company, at £115,000, payable as to £38,000 in cash, £40,000 in cash or debentures, or part cash and part debentures, and the balance in cash, shares, or debentures, or partly in either, at the option of the directors.

The business will be taken over by the Company from June 6, 1896, and the shareholders will receive the full benefit of the profits from that date.

Mr. Goslin, who has been associated with the business for the past 26 years, has agreed to act as Managing Director of the Company for at least seven years on terms very favourable to the Company, and the whole of the present staff will be taken over by the Company, thus ensuring a continuance of the system which has brought the concern to its present successful position.

The following contracts have been entered into:—Contracts dated 11th July, 1896, and 5th August, 1896, between J. D. Gosling of the one part and T. J. Ford of the other part; contract for sale and purchase, dated 15th October, 1896, between the said T. J. Ford of the one part and J. Fletcher, as trustee on behalf of the Company, of the other part; contract for securing the services of Mr. Goslin as Managing Director, dated 22nd July, 1896, and made between J. D. Goslin of the one part and T. J. Ford of the other part.

Application will be made to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for a settlement.

The original certificates of the auditors and valuers, the above-mentioned contract for sale and purchase, and copies of the memorandum and articles of association can be seen by intending applicants for shares or Debenture Stock at at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and where the number of shares allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Applications for shares or debentures should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, or on that at foot, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and of the Bankers and Brokers.

Dated 22nd October, 1896.

This form should be filled up and forwarded, together with cheque or cash for the amount payable on application, to the Bank of England, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

THE LONDON WOOLLEN COMPANY (Limited).

To the Directors of the London Woollen Company (Limited),

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your bankers the sum of £ , being a deposit of

2s. 6d. per share payable on application for Ordinary Shares of £1 each.
2s. 6d. per share payable on application for Preference Shares of £1 each,
10 per cent. payable on application for £ Debenture Stock in the London Woollen Company (Limited), I request you to allot me that number of Shares, or amount of Debenture Stock, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number or amount that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus and Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company. I request you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the shares or stock so allotted to me, and I undertake to pay the further instalments upon such allotted shares or stock as and when the same become due.

Ordinary Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Address.....
.....
Description.....
Dated ....., 1896.

If you desire to pay in full on allotment, sign the following:—

I desire to pay in full on allotment ....

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

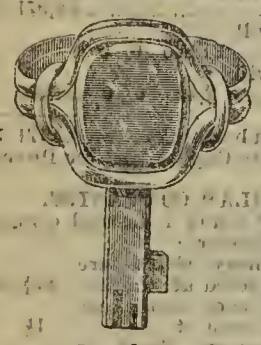
The Original

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

A MASTER KEY of this SIZE



Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

For Prices and Particulars apply to—

NEEDS & CO. *Late* **BRAMAH & CO.**

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks,

100, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

ROAD SKATING.

Practising Saloon for Ladies

With Lady Attendant.

It only requires a little practice on the NEW RITTER ROAD SKATE to enable anyone who has never had on a pair of skates to attain proficiency, and be able to skate on the roads at any speed up to 16 miles an hour.

CAN BE SEEN AND TRIED AT THE

ROAD SKATE CO.'S Show Rooms

271, OXFORD STREET, W.

SINGER

Grand "Modèle de Luxe"

HIGHEST GRADE CYCLES ONLY.

Prompt Delivery may now be had.

SINGER & CO. LTD., COVENTRY.

LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

In Bottles, 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. Sold Everywhere. Over 4,000 Testimonials received from Medical Men.

Sole Manufacturers **COLEMAN & CO. Lim.** Norwich & London.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14 letters.

9. Competitors must on no account change their noms-de-plume they have once assumed.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 921.

Dormer (real name and address will be printed in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE "TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.

It is intended to publish next week full particulars as to the Prizes which will be awarded in connection with the coming Truth Show. As has already been announced, the First Prize for the Doll-Dressing will be a Lady's Gold Watch kindly presented by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, of Regent-street. It may be mentioned also that Truth Brooches will be given to all ladies dressing a certain number of dolls. The supply of the latter has now grown appreciably small, and applicants who desire to participate in the competition should make early application for the dolls, large or small, or both, which they may require.

It is necessary to repeat that the Truth Toy Fund for the purchase of 25,000 new Toys for the Hospital and Workhouse children of London, is now open, and that subscriptions are urgently needed in order that the Christmas Distribution may be carried out in its entirety.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 910.

This competition has been productive of exceptional trouble and delay through the failure of many of the competitors to strictly observe the conditions laid down when it was first announced. There is, let me add, some excuse for the many offenders, inasmuch as I believe they offended unwittingly against the given instructions. They were unaware of the fact, that is to say, that their lists contained the names of horses in training, which names had been expressly tabooed. The result has been, as many readers of this page will be aware, that two competitors announced as prize winners have been in succession disqualified on the above account. Warned by this double experience, I have submitted several other lists chosen by me as specially good ones to the scrutiny of a sporting friend, who has informed me that these also are disqualified for a similar reason, viz., the inclusion amongst them of names already borne by horses in training. In this way at least half a dozen of the best lists have been necessarily adjudged ineligible. In the end, however, I have been able to find a list of names amongst which there is none borne by a horse at present in training, and the prize is accordingly awarded to Analyst for the following twelve names:—

1. French Polish. 2. Mountaineer. 3. Goldseeker. 4. Fortification. 5. Panacea. 6. Repartee. 7. Desperado. 8. War Song. 9. Golden Pippin. 10. Pearl Barley. 11. Grace Darling. 12. Succour.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 922.

After taking into full account the conditions laid down when this competition was announced, it has been decided to award the Prize to Hopetown for the following quotation. I would, at the same time, congratulate the many competitors who succeeded in finding seven quotations on their patient and successful research.

The Prize Quotations.

1. The very brightest Sunday autumn saw.—Wordsworth, "The Brothers."
2. You saw the man—on Monday was it?—Tennyson, "Walking to the Mail."
3. Some weeks before Shrove Tuesday came about.—Byron, "Beppo," stanza 1.
4. On a Wednesday morn of St. Joseph's eve.—Longfellow, "The Blind Girl of Castel Cuillé."
5. Blessedest Thursday 's the fat of the week.—Browning, "Holy Cross Day."
5. But L——d! that Friday I was fou.—Burns, "Holy Willie's Prayer."
7. When Saturday night is market night.—Dante G. Rossetti, "Jenny."

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 923.

The Prize in this competition will be awarded next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 927.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who best succeeds in writing

The Words of an Original Song Suitable to be Set to Music, and not Containing more than Twenty-four Lines in all.

In case a refrain is used in the song the lines in it need only be reckoned once should they be identical at the end of each verse. Any metre which is suitable for music may be used, and the song may be grave or gay, sentimental or humorous. All songs must reach me by the morning of Monday, November 9, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Viti, winner of a half of Prize No. 918, is Miss Frances E. Palmer, Hillsyde, Seaton, Devon.

White Lion.—Your anagram, "A marked man! up to his flat teeth in human blood," did not reach this office in time to be published with the other specimens.

Hibernian.—I have made the desired substitution.

Arturus.—There is not time, I fear, for such a competition as you suggest. The appointment may be made any day.

Viti.—Your *nom de plume* was published as "Vitio" in mistake. The names should have read "Viti and S.J."

Wings and Old Peter.—Your anagrams on "Abdul Hamid" arrived too late to be printed with the others.

Imara.—Thanks for your letter.

Heron.—I think you may fairly claim your *nom de plume*.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 924.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

PROVERBS OR EPIGRAMMATIC SENTENCES MADE BY TAKING WORDS TO BE FOUND IN THE NUMBER OF "TRUTH" DATED OCTOBER 15.

*** Each competitor has sent with the sentences published over his or her name references to the pages and columns, &c., from which the words composing it were taken. It has been thought unnecessary, however, to publish these references save in a few of the earlier "Specimens."

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

1. If you court a young woman, and you are won, and she is won, you will both be one.

If (p. 910) you (p. 906) court (p 869) a (p. 896) young (p. 896) woman (p. 909) and (p. 900) you (p. 907) are (p. 902) won (p. 898) and (p. 902) she (p. 896) is (p. 907) won (p. 869) you (p. 907) will (p. 888) both (p. 881) be (p. 879) one (p. 897).

2. The person who can least spare it is often most willing to give others a piece of his mind.

The (p. 929) person (p. 886) who (p. 887) can (p. 918) least (p. 873) spare (p. 886) it (p. 927) is (p. 928) often (p. 923) most (p. 921) willing (p. 871) to (p. 922) give (p. 895) others (p. 925) a (p. 924) piece (p. 885) of (p. 926) his (p. 920) mind (p. 874).

3. There is a time when nothing may be said, a time when something may, but no time when all things may.

There (p. 897) is (p. 885) a (p 897) time (p. 885) when (p. 897) nothing (p. 906) may (p. 869) be (p. 869) said (p. 870) a (p. 871) time (p. 870) when (p. 871) something (p. 888) may (p. 872) but (p. 885) no (p. 873) time (p 870) when (p. 890) all (p. 894) things (p. 874) may (p. 874).—Lancelot.

The best plan is, as the common proverb has it, to profit by the folly of others (by Pliny the Elder)

The (p. 873, line 5, col. 1) best (p. 873, line 37, col. 1) plan (p. 912, last line but one, col. 1) is (p. 912, last line but five, col. 1) as (p. 913, line 12, col. 1) the (p. 913, line 5, col. 1) common (p. 897, line 1, col. 2) proverb (p. 929, see puzzle 924) has (p. 929, see puzzle 910) it (p. 929, see puzzle 910, line 3) to (p. 926, line 8, col. 1) profit (p. 926, last line but three, col. 1) by (p. 929, puzzle 924, line 2) the (p. [illegible], puzzle 924, line 3) folly (p. 917, review of "In the Valley of Tophet") of (p. 895, line 25, col. 2) others (p. 895, last line but nine, col. 2).—Bladud.

Young men think old men fools and old men know young men to be so. (Quoted by Camden as a saying of one Dr. Metcalf.)

Young (p. 894, col. 2, line 24) men (p. 873, col 1, line 14) think (p. 889, col. 2, line 32) old (p. 894, col. 2, line 22) men (p. 897, col. 2, line 31) (fools p. 887, col. 2, line 21) and (p. 869, col. 1, line 2) old (p. 909, col. 1, line 11) men (p 883, col. 1, line 35) know (p. 887, col. 2, line 25) young (p. 896, col. 2, 3rd line from bottom) men (p. 877, col. 1, 7th line from bottom) to (904, col. 1, line 30) be (p. 879, col. 2, line 11) so (p. 897, col. 1, line 52).—Excelsior.

The man who says there is nothing new under the sun will change his opinion when his wife next asks him to pay her bill for millinery.

The (p. 869, col. 1, line 1) man (p. 885, col. 1, line 33) who (p. 911, col. 1, line 28) says (p. 870, col. 2, line 32) there (p. 869, col. 1, line 33) is (p. 869, col. 1, line 41) nothing (p. 877, col. 1, line 40) new (p. 872, col. 2, line 29) under (p. 881, col. 1, line 56) the (p. 870 col. 1, line 1) sun (p. 927, col. 2, Sun Insurance advertisement) will (p. 869, col. 2, line 44) change (p. 894, col. 1, line 8) his (p. 879, col. 1, line 3), opinion (p. 873, col. 1, line 39) when (p. 870, col. 1, line 26) his (p. 909, col. 2, line 3) wife (p. 885, col. 2, line 35) next (p. 891, col. 1, line 73) asks (p. 880, col. 1, line 1) him (p. 883, col. 2, line 7) to (p. 912, col. 1, line 2) pay (p. 869, col. 1, line 36) her (p. 914, col. 1, line 3) bill (p. 894, col. 1, line 24) for (p. 911, col. 2, line 3) millinery (p. 914, col. 1, line 6).—Almaviva.

Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to see the sun.—(Ecclesiastes xi., 7.)

Truly (Cottell's letter, 911) the (p. 875, second line) light (p. 895, Paris Notes, twenty-third line) is (p. 869, first line) sweet (p. 914, Recipe for Cooking Goose) and (p. 869, first line, second column) a (p. 871, first line) pleasant (p. 900, second column, third paragraph) thing (p. 872, first column, ninth line from bottom) it (p. 873, second paragraph, first column) is (p. 872, sixteenth line) for (p. 872, second line from bottom first column) the (p. 873, sixth line) eyes (p. 913, Girls' Gossip, fifth line) to (p. 912) see (p. 913, second column, fourth line from bottom) the (p. 913, second column, first line) sun (Sun Life on cover).—Forget-me-not.

Is it not peculiar that rogues, imposters, offenders against the laws find at last a grave-stone signed by —Truth?

Is (p. 869, col. 1, line 17) it (p. 869, col. 2, line 6) not (p. 870, col. 1, line 4) peculiar (p. 870, col. 2, line 5) that (p. 871, col. 1, line 10) rogues (p. 887, col. 1, line 29) imposters (p. 888, col. 1, line 8) offenders (p. 893, col. 1, line 58) against (p. 893, col. 2, line 35) the (p. 894, col. 1, line 2) laws (p. 894, col. 1, line 8) find (p. 896, col. 1, line 36) at (p. 897, col. 2, line 20) last (p. 899, col. 1, line 41) a (p. 907, col. 2. line 6) grave (p. 908, col. 1, line 59) stone (p. 909, col. 1, line 21) signed (p. 909, col. 2, line 38) by (p. 910, col. 2, line 12) — (p. 911, col. 1, line 20) Truth (p. 911, col. 1, line 38).—Impérieuse.

We have every right to make war in a good cause, we have no right to make peace for a vile policy.—Makmax.

(N.B.—All the words in the foregoing will be found in page 929, except "right" and "make," which occur on page 930.)

Call no Peer a happy man until he has gone over to the great majority.—Imsel.

A public man should have a public mind, or private ends will be served at public cost.—Pierepone-te.

A Radical Premier wins the approval of his party but three times—on his appointment, on his resignation, and on his death.—Rewob.

1. Out of experience, effort, and thought comes knowledge, achievement, and act. 2. Out of need, failure, and error comes desire, success, and fact.—Sulbor.

Women have more force in their countenance than we have in our laws, and more power in their crying than we have by our argument.

What I wanted to send, but could not find the words for it, was the following:—"Women have more strength in their looks than we have in our laws, and more power in their tears than we have by our arguments."—Hibernian.

In the concert of Europe it is a condition that there shall be no solo on the programme.—Bowzer.

Young men think old men are fools; but old men know that young men are.—Scotus Viator.

For age and want save while you may, no morning sun lasts a whole day.—Pigtail.

1. You should never put your foot one step further forward than you can keep it down. 2 The best way to keep great acts in memory is by refreshing them with new ones.—Echo.

1. All men love truth; the majority of men prefer truth to be on their side. 2. Truth does not always call for accuracy of detail, but in giving a right impression. 3. Knowledge is a step which few may climb, while duty is a path which all may walk. 4. Justice is like the kingdom of God: it is not with us as a fact, but it is within us as a great desire.—Granite.

One man can take a horse to the water, but any number can't make him drink.—Rich Man.

What pain to the father of falsehood to look at all the people racing to try and obtain the prize from TRUTH! But if there were no prize would they run as fast?—Christie Dean.

The World has charm for us all in youth, but our older judgment asks for TRUTH.—W. G. B.

We are inclined to over-estimate the effect of opposition to truth, simply because opposition makes itself heard, whereas conviction comes home without any loud outcry (adaptation from Eliza Cook's journal).—Dry Monopole.

It is necessary to know a great deal, but it is well to be careful to whom we open our mind (this proverb is original).—Rex.

As the light of a single star is a relief to the dull appearance of midnight, so is one act of charity to the meanness and narrow-mindedness of uncouth humanity.—La Plata.

Lord Bacon says: If a man look sharp and intelligently, he shall see fortune; for though she be blind, she is not invisible.—Iota.

He that would put on a public gown must first put off the private person (Old proverb from Maunder's "Treasury of Knowledge."—Gervase.

Beauty is truth—truth beauty; this is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.—Heron.

TRUTH, with clear eye and strong hand, has seen and put down many a crying grievance.—Irma Lee.

1. A wit in his own eyes is often a fool in the eyes of the world. 2. You must be content to lose a fly if you mean to catch a trout.—Viva.

There is a journal called TRUTH, which desires to make men and women as good as itself.—Londoner.

HONESTY.

1. Pay your debts when they fall due,
In paying them, yourself pay too;
Your purse is then no empty net,
Freedom it holds—no dun, no debt.

FRIENDSHIP.

2. Join your china end to end,
But a broken friendship who can mend.

DEMOCRACY.

3. Trades' unions are death to many a score,
But union is strength, if righteous, 'tis sure.
4. The houses of the great now empty lie.
Rich folks creep in, they fatten, then die.
5. Are the friends of our age the friends of our youth?—St Miac.

Shame the devil by telling truth; tell truth and shame the devil. O, while you live tell truth. (Henry IV., act iii., sc. 1, Part I.)—Don't Care.

As now, thanks to "Truth," our Rosebery is "off,"
Will "Truth," from his well, himself fill the trough. Nitram.

A bird in the ladies' new bonnet is seen, but not in an osprey's nest.—Pansy.

1. When gold untold
Shall reign supreme,
Then poverty
Will be its queen.
2. Toady the great,
Spurn equal and mate.
Then when you die
All eyes will be dry.
3. If labour fights capital for undue pelf,
She cuts her own throat to destroy herself.

TRUTH.

4. A lie that is told,
A life to save,
Will lay its honour
In early grave. St. Miac.

1. Said Kity to a reverend Dean,
"What reason can be given,
Since marriage is a holy thing,
That they have none in Heaven?"
"They have," says he, "no women there."
She gives him quick reply:
"Women there are, but I fear much
They have not any priests."
(Not original.)

2. A blind man cannot judge of colours, but Truth, though a blind woman, can see through all others.—Das Ding.

Benevolent readers of TRUTH, support and give assistance to the TRUTH Toy Show; and make many a poor miserable hovel into sunny happy homes.—Granite.

The Sultan turned round, and he looked bright and jolly
As he winked at the concert in note and words spoken,
While Europe appears to endorse the great folly
Of "working the pump while the leakage runs open" Sceptic.

To die be given us, or to attain!
Fierce work it were to do again.
Eiffel Tower.

In a great country of the East,
Its Sultan see, a worse than beast—
Bloodthirsty monster, devil-man,
Peer him, Satan, if you can!

N.B.—The exigencies of the competition are trying. If I had been warranted in putting the above as follows it would not have been so bad:—

At Yildiz Kiosk in the East,
The Sultan sits in shape of beast;
Dame Europa's bogie-man,
Match him, Devil, if you can! Rick.

When exhausted with barren toil, or harassed by a sense of failure and disappointment in the eager struggle to get hold of TRUTH, we may turn for relief and amusement to the consideration of one of the many less important, but still attractive and interesting, puzzles invariably suggested for solution in that excellent paper.—Orlando.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 925.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ACROSTICS ON THE NAME OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

*** As there is some available space a first selection of "Acrostics" is published below. THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

Victoria's reign——
In British hearts, I ween,
Comes there to-day the will, with might and main,
To sing, as ne'er before, "God Save the Queen."
On no head has a crown
Rested so nobly, brilliantly, so long:
In virtues none has won so great renown,
Assisting Right and putting down the Wrong
Malignant.

Vested and throned with inherited glory,
Islands the jewels that shine in thy crown,
Cold were the heart that could reckon thy story
Trite in the telling, or free from renown;
Only ungenerous tongues can deny thee
Regnant, the honour that comes at thy call,
In the kings' line there are few that come nigh thee,
And at the last thou excellest them all.
Imsel.

Victoria, thou whose reign has been
In deeds more glorious than its peers,
Covering a greater span of years
Than that of English king or queen,
Oh, may'st thou long be spared in love,
Ruling a people richly blest
In thee their Sovereign; till, at rest,
A nobler crown is thine above.
Toomevara.

Veiled in the glory of her years, she reigns,
Incomparable; evermore maintains
Crown'd dignity and matchless queenly grace.
To none has been vouchsafed so long a space,
On England's long-enduring Throne, and none
Ruled wiselier. Victoria has won
Immortal honour, and the world's acclaim;
Ages will own the lustre of her name.
Maison Blanc.

Victoria! We're proud of our noble Queen,
India's Empress and ruler thou also hast been;
Cheer, boys, for one so mighty and grand,
Thou having reigned longest over our land.
O, Monarch, still further may thou sit on the throne,
Ruling with justice as hitherto shown.
Imperial Majesty, before thee I bend,
And trust God may guard thee safe to the end.
Carlos.

Virtue enshrined thee from the first, oh Queen!
In courtly pageant and domestic scene,
Crowned by thy people's love; no trace of stain
To mar the beauty of "the longest reign."
Others have ruled us over fifty years;
Ruled none so feeling for our joys and tears.
In far-off times shall memory on this day
All hearts arouse to greet thy longest sway.
Tulip.

Vanquished, O Edward, lies thy haughty head:
In truth, old Henry, thou art very dead:
Comes a more happy reign, of larger space
Than Farmer George's of the heavy face.
Once the Great Sun-King, 'mid his subjects' tears,
Ruled wretched France for over seventy years:
In milder regence may our Queen outstay
All Louis' seven decades of decay.
Beaumont.

Venture a prayer for Britain's Queen,
India's Empress, and mother of men
Certain a record, it is, I ween,
To rule for fifty years and ten.
On that anniversary day in June
Remember the good she has wrought,
In Royal and the home commune,
All bear fruit, to the wisdom fraught.
Londoner.

Victoria! whom God long preserve,
India's Empress, Britain's Queen,
Caressed in love, thy country serve
Through years that ne'er thy sires have seen!
Our good Queen Bess, than whom kings none
Reigned greater, or with keener sight,
India ventured, Armada won,
As glorious shadows of thy might.
Nitram.

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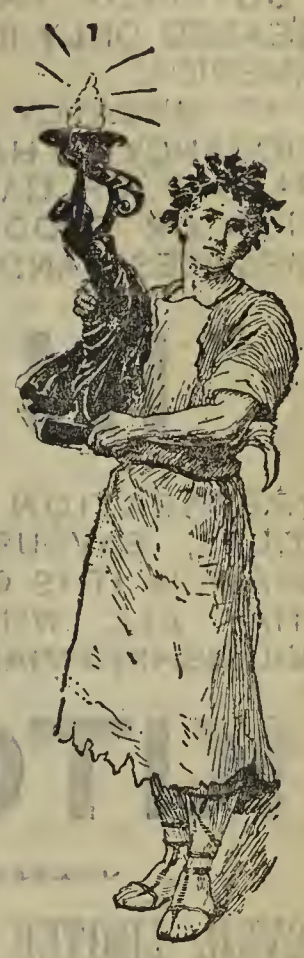

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to return to Windsor Castle from Balmoral at the end of next week, and during her Majesty's five weeks' residence there a succession of dine-and-sleep guests will be entertained by her Majesty, including Royalties, Ambassadors, Ministers, and a few unofficial personages.

I stated some weeks ago that the Queen has proposed to have the Thanksgiving service next June in St. Paul's Cathedral, a piece of news which appears to have reached the daily newspapers only within the last few days. I understand that the project has been abandoned, in consequence of the utter impossibility of the Queen ascending the long flight of steps by which the great west door of the Cathedral is entered. It is therefore probable that Westminster Abbey will be the scene of the service, as in 1887, for the Queen can there pass from her carriage into the nave, and thence into the choir, without having to encounter a single step.

A lot of the most idiotic nonsense has been printed about the Council which the Queen held at Balmoral last week. It was stated that a special train would not be run from London because the proceedings at the Council would be formal, and only Privy Councillors now in Scotland would be summoned. A special train has never been run in connection with a Balmoral Council, and at all these functions the proceedings are invariably of the most purely formal character. It seems to be supposed that a Council is a scene of debates and discussions, whereas everything is strictly regulated by etiquette, and the business goes like clockwork, being simply routine work. No Privy Councillors were summoned, as there were two already at Balmoral, and the Duke of Fife always comes over from Mar Lodge on these occasions in order to form a quorum. The *Pall Mall Gazette* announced that the Duke of Devonshire was going down to Balmoral to the Council, which was a pure invention, and then it stated that Lord Cross would "preside," as he was the Minister in attendance on the Queen. Is it really supposed that any one except the Sovereign could "preside" at a Council?

The Duke of Coburg, who is now at Sandringham, will pay a visit next week to Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney at Didlington, their fine place near Brandon, when there will be a large party to meet him. There is some of the best shooting in Norfolk on the Didlington estate, which comprises upwards of 10,000 acres.

I learn that the Duchess of Coburg and Princess Beatrice, who are now at Darmstadt, will join the Duke next week at Clarence House, and that on the 16th they are all going to Windsor Castle for a few days on a visit to the Queen.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who are to arrive at Buckingham Palace on Friday, the 14th, from Germany, will go next day to Windsor Castle, on a visit to the Queen until Monday the 16th, when they are to proceed to Henley Park, near Guildford, where they will be the guests of Lord and Lady Pirbright until Friday, the 19th, when they are to return to Bagshot Park for the winter.

I announced several weeks ago that the Duke and Duchess of York are to pay a visit during the winter to the Duke and Duchess of Portland at Welbeck Abbey, Notts. Their Royal Highnesses are to be the guests of the Queen from Saturday, December 12, until Monday, the 14th, at Windsor Castle, and on leaving the Palace they will proceed to Welbeck, travelling from King's Cross to Worksop. There will be three days' shooting through the famous preserves on the Welbeck estate, and there is to be a lawn meet of the Rufford Foxhounds at the Abbey during the Royal visit, which will terminate on Saturday, December 19.

Colonel Byng and Major Legge are to be the Equerries-in-Waiting on the Queen during November. Colonel Byng is in the vicinity of Balmoral, and he will return to Windsor with the Queen. Major Legge's duty is to begin on the day of her Majesty arrival at Windsor.

All the Royal residences on Deeside have been "lent" by the Queen during the present autumn. Abergeldie Castle is occupied by Lord and Lady Carrington, Birkhall House by Lord and Lady Clanwilliam, and Abergeldie Mains by Colonel Henry Byng and Miss Byng.

Lord Cadogan has publicly announced that he does not intend to resign the Viceroyalty of Ireland, and the announcement has been received in Ireland with a moderate enthusiasm, in marked contrast to the feeling displayed on his assumption of the office more than a year ago. Lord Cadogan speaks of the onerous duties and high responsibilities of the post. As in his case they seem to allow of a "season" in London, an autumn in Scotland, attendance at most of the race meetings in England, and, in fact, the ordinary routine of a nobleman's life, his views on the subject of hard work are somewhat unique.

Ireland, being forsaken by—and taxed for—Royalty, wants above all things in a Viceroy one who will be an Irish Viceroy first and an English nobleman afterwards. Lord Cadogan has not entered into the spirit of his place, as some of his predecessors did. The marriage of his daughter in London was undoubtedly felt as a slight in Dublin, and, rightly or wrongly, Lord Cadogan was credited with having submitted in too courtierlike a spirit to having the Dublin Castle Season curtailed because Royalty was in mourning. In fact, Lord Cadogan has yet to prove himself the man for Ireland.

The Lord-Lieutenancy of Anglesey, which has become vacant by the death of Mr. Richard Davis (who sat for the county in several Parliaments), will be given to either Lord Anglesey or Sir Richard Williams-Bulkeley.

The Dowager-Duchess of Leeds was a clever and a very amiable woman, and her death is sincerely lamented by a very large circle of friends. The late Duchess should be honourably remembered for her untiring and practical zeal in the cause of popular education. She took the greatest interest in all the schools on the Duke's estates, and delighted to assist in the teaching of the children. For many years the Duchess maintained at her own expense an excellent school at Hackforth for the Hornby estate children, and she was an active member of a local School Board. The Duchess had been in failing health since the sudden death of her husband about a year ago. She was beloved by all classes in the Bedale district of Yorkshire.

I want to know why, when the amount paid on a person's will is announced, we are only told what was the extent of his personalty? The Estate duty is paid upon a specific sum, which is made up of personalty and realty. It is true that the calculations by which the two items are respectively arrived at are not the same, and the payment of realty may be deferred; but this does not alter the fact that the amount paid, or to be paid on the two jointly is known.

A correspondent writes:—

I am sure that your suggestion to the Sleeping Car Company to allow their Bâle car occasionally to run to Lausanne, would prove remunerative to the Company. It ought to go to Bâle and Lausanne, viâ Dellemont, on alternate days; or, as I presume that it would have to go back the way it went, it ought to go one journey back and fro to Lausanne, and the next one back and fro to Bâle. This would not inconvenience the Bâle passengers, on the return journey to Calais, for as it is they are not allowed to go to bed before reaching the frontier, which is only a few miles beyond Dellemont. There is a large inflow of English to the shores of the Lake of Geneva, and by the alteration suggested they would use the car far more than they do at present. I have always wondered why this has not already occurred to the Company.

It may interest the passengers by the train de luxe to the Mediterranean to know that the reduction in price inaugurated this year is due to the action of Lord Salisbury. He, as is known, has a villa at Beaulieu, and he betook himself to his villa with his family. He subsequently wrote to protest against the exorbitant charge, pointing out that he got better accommodation when going to Scotland, for an extra charge of five shillings.

The International Sleeping Car Company need not go far for a hint as to the best way of providing single sleeping berths. I do not know Sweden, but a traveller in that country tells me that on one of the Swedish lines a sleeping car is constructed with a compartment for two beds, which can be divided off when required by a sliding door or partition, leaving a compartment on each side quite big enough for all practical purposes. The sliding door can be fastened on each side, so that privacy is insured. Had such a convenience been provided by the International Sleeping Car Company, the poor old lady, whose story I told last week, would not have had to fly from my presence. By closing the door and bolting it on her side, she could have guarded herself effectually against the possibility of beholding me in my night attire.

From another correspondent I hear that no lady need now travel under apprehensions of being outraged by the spectacle of a male creature like myself putting himself to rest in a sleeping car. For long past, I am given to understand, the officials have been most particular in relegating ladies travelling alone to compartments for *dames seules*. "In fact," says my informant, "in the height of the season a single lady, or, for the matter of that, a single gentleman, cannot always obtain a berth, although there may be a vacant one in the car."

Among much correspondence that I have received in reference to the recent expression of my views on "Tips and Tippers," a specially interesting communication comes from a Continental hotel-proprietor who started in life as a waiter, and who has travelled enough to have a considerable knowledge of hotels as a guest. With such a range of experience a man should know the subject from every point of view. He tells me, in the first place, that all efforts on the part of hotel-keepers to suppress

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1192 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1191.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1190.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1205.

tipping have been failures. A notable attempt in this direction was made by a combination of Swiss hotel-keepers in 1870. They decided to double all wages (which had previously been fixed on the understanding that they would be supplemented by tips) and to forbid tipping. The only result, however, was that the proprietors paid double wages, and that the tipping went on as before, so the arrangement naturally collapsed. My informant, indeed, tells me that it has been maintained to this day at the Lucerne Schweitzerhof, but I fancy this will be news to many visitors to that hostelry.

It is, of course, idle to suppose that tipping can ever be suppressed—whether by the action of hotel-keepers or anybody else. It is far better to recognise the system openly. This might be done to a certain extent by hotel-keepers issuing a scale of tips for the guidance of those guests who might desire to give them, while notifying at the same time that no servant is authorised to demand them. The correspondent to whom I have referred above points out that visitors frequently expect hotel servants to do work for them which lies outside their ordinary duty. Ladies, he says, are in these days more and more given to expect the chambermaids to act as ladies' maids. He tells me of one instance in which an English family wintering at Grasse persuaded the floor-waiter to sit up three nights a week with their invalid son, and in other ways gave much extra trouble, and yet after a long stay left without giving the waiter or any other servant a shilling. This is a sort of meanness of which a certain proportion of the travelling public are sure to be guilty, and there is no reason why hotel-keepers should not protect their servants against it, by giving notice that servants required to do any work outside their regular duty have a right to expect remuneration for it.

The philosophy of tipping I take to be this: that a tip is a payment for something additional in the way of civility, attention, and usefulness, over and above what is included in the man's contract with his master, or his master's contract with you. If you expect hotel servants to go beyond the mere literal performance of their duties, to be civil, attentive, useful, and anxious to please on all occasions, you must reward them for this. By the same rule, you have it in your power to punish them when they have failed to show an obliging spirit by withholding your reward. But as long as an hotel servant goes out of his way to make you comfortable, he has a right to expect recognition of his efforts. He is not a philanthropist. Whatever he does is in the way of business, and the man who refuses to recognise this is a churlish curmudgeon, who only deserves the barest and meagrest performance of the servant's contract.

Those of my readers who bike—and is there one among them who does not?—may be glad to hear of the arrangements which the Westminster Cycle and Auto-car Company offers for their convenience. This Company is ready not only to stable, clean, lubricate, and repair cycles, but by arrangement with the District Messenger Company is ready to fit you up a call-box, which will enable you to have your cycle brought round or fetched away by merely ringing the bell. At 10s. 6d. per annum for use of the call, and 1s. 9d. per week for all other services, these are luxuries which will probably be widely appreciated, especially by ladies.

The following letter was lately received by a gentleman who had rented a shooting in Scotland, and whose name had probably become known to the writer of the letter through that circumstance. The writer is a Mr. Charles E. Hope, and his address is at 61, Bedford-road, Ilford:—

> SIR,—In the midst of your shooting festivities may I ask you and your friends to remember another who is in the very deepest distress, &c., and almost unable (through no fault of his own, but the rascality of others), to get bare necessaries.
>
> I am a professional gentleman, without an office at present, and (as for the next twelve weeks or so it is the Long Vacation) most gloomy outlook. I am trying to get a clerk's place, but unfortunately my clothes have got so mean-looking it is very difficult to make oneself presentable. Just now, unless I can immediately find a friend to assist one with a little, I am afraid it means not only the loss of my last few sticks, but absolute ruin. My wife and family and myself have lately been living upon the proceeds of my law books, &c., &c.

It would be interesting to know how many shooting tenants have received similar communications from Mr. Hope during the present season, and how much he has obtained by means of such letters. So far as I can learn, he is not a very deserving object of charity, nor is his account of himself strictly accurate. A representative whom I sent down to interview him learned from his wife that he was trying to raise money to open an office, which certainly does not tally with his suggestion that he only requires the means of making himself respectable in order to obtain a position as clerk.

Prince Christian has consented to accept the office of President of the Royal Counties Agricultural Society for next year, when the Society's Show is to be held at Reading.

With the return of winter, evictions have been resumed on the estate of Sir John Orde in North Uist; but, so far, the humane work has not made much progress. According to a report in the *Scottish Highlander*, the sheriff's officer and his assistants succeeded in clearing one house of its occupants—a man and three or four ill-clad children being thrust out shivering on a bitterly cold evening, and left without a place to shelter them from the weather. But on three succeeding days the evicting party were unsuccessful, the houses which they intended to attack containing invalids, and the demeanour of the crowd making it unsafe to proceed to extreme measures. The paper I have mentioned denounces Sir John Orde's proceedings in some very strong language; and as to the callous and abominable cruelty of these evictions which he is carrying out, or attempting to carry out, there can scarcely be two opinions. What is being done is, however, in perfect keeping with the character this exemplary specimen of a Highland landlord has long borne.

In referring last week to the portrait of Sir W. Mac Cormac, which his friends are having painted for presentation to the Queen's College, Belfast, I forgot to mention

HISTORY OF FEMININE COSTUME. Tracing its evolution from the earliest times to the present. 38 illustrations. Price 6d. Published by LIBERTY & CO., LTD., London and Paris. (To be obtained from principal Booksellers or Publishers direct.)

that the painter commissioned is Mr. H. Harris Brown. Many will remember his portrait of Dr. Mandell Creighton in the Academy, which most of the critics, my own among the number, pronounced to be one of the best portraits of the year.

I wonder that no American supporter of Mr. McKinley has called attention to the fact that the ancestors of the inhabitants of the United States insisted, nearly a thousand years ago, on their monarchs pledging themselves not to do what Mr. Bryan puts forward as a remedy for all the ills of mankind. Under William the Conqueror and his son, William Rufus, the Kings of England claimed the right to debase the coin, and a shilling was paid by each hearth every three years on condition that they did not use this prerogative. This tax—which was practically Royal blackmail paid to prevent the Sovereign from swindling—was abolished by the Charter of Henry I. If really the owners of silver mines are so powerful in the United States as to oblige all to contribute to them, it would be far better for the inhabitants of the United States to follow the example of their ancestors and to pay "moneyage," as it was called, in order to induce them to forego this debasement of coin.

The betting on the candidates has been one of the most remarkable features of the American Election contest. In the following circular, issued by a well-known New York publishing house, betting is combined with business in a highly ingenious fashion:—

October 14, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,—The business depression is lifting. Confidence is becoming stronger every week. Perhaps your business needs to catch some of this improvement.

The enclosed announcement of the Christmas number of the ——will point the way to wide awake advertisers.

To convince you of our confidence that the cause of Sound Money will win, Free Silver be defeated, and that improved trade conditions will follow, we repeat our offer of last month; to insert your advertisement in our Christmas number, going to press October 22, and make no charge for the same should the Free Silver candidate for President be elected in November.

Scores of advertisers have accepted this proposition. Will you be among them?—Yours very truly, &c.

I do not wish to be outdone by an American publisher, and, as I am about to publish a Christmas Number myself, I make all advertisers the following offer. Should the present Government be turned out of office, and a Radical Government, with Sir William Harcourt at its head, be installed in its place before January 1, I will return the payments made for all advertisements ordered from this date to be inserted in my Christmas Number. This offer, however, is to be void should my solicitors advise me that it is a breach of the Corrupt Practices Act.

The British Art Students' Club, 17, Rue Bréa, Paris, will be glad to receive old copies of TRUTH, or any other papers or magazines, if any of my readers can spare them. The club is by no means a wealthy one, and is an institution of great use, especially to lady students in Paris. Any papers which may be sent should be addressed to the Directrice, at the club.

The following epistle has been sent to me:—

The *Hertfordshire Standard* and *St. Albans Citizen*.
St. Albans, October 27, 1896.

SIR,—On page 937 in your issue of TRUTH for the 15th inst. you refer to the book-publishing department of my business, and in reply I desire to call your attention to the full statement, together with a challenge to you, which I have printed in the last number of my *Hertfordshire Standard*.—Yours, &c.,
TRUMAN PRESS.

Unfortunately I do not take the *Hertfordshire Standard* regularly, but somebody has forwarded me a cutting containing what I suppose to be the "full statement," and "challenge" to which Mr. Truman Press refers. From this I conclude that Mr. Truman Press is suffering under an acute form of mental disturbance, accompanied by halucination. He says that I have accused him of indulging in "some sort of trade trick in connection with his publication of various biographical works," and he suggests that the trick charged against him is that of charging £3. 3s. for a book which can be got up at 2s. 6d., and he accordingly delivers me his challenge to produce a similar book at 2s. 6d. a copy. Nothing to the effect suggested, or capable of that construction at all, has appeared in TRUTH respecting Mr. Truman Press. The reference to this gentleman in TRUTH of October 15 was as follows:—

It appears that Truman is now engaged in an effort to induce all the fools in Surrey to pay him sums of nine or twelve guineas for the privilege of having their biographies and portrait inserted in a book which he is publishing by subscription. This is a trick on which Truman and Manning Press have been engaged for years, and as long as they can find idiots enough to keep the game going, no one can blame them for working it for all it is worth.

To this I added that my office-boy contemplates publishing a volume of biographies "in the Manning Press style" at 2s. 6d. per head, beginning with "Middlesex Muffs," to be followed by "Nottingham Noodles," "Yorkshire Yokels," and others in the same well-known style. If, therefore, Truman Press wants to challenge anybody, he should address himself to my office-boy. He would do better, however, to encourage a brother biographer by sending the boy half-a-crown, together with his own portrait and a few facts about his life; in which case the lad will get to work as soon as possible on a volume to be entitled "Hertfordshire Humbugs." Seriously, the only imputation that has been made against Mr. Truman Press in TRUTH is that he trades upon the vanity and simplicity of nonentities desirous of immortalising themselves, and unless he can show that this is not the case, he had better hold his peace.

Talk about Mrs. Malaprop's nice derangement of epitaphs! Why, the good lady cannot hold a candle to the gifted journalist whose scholarly essays illumine the editorial column of the *Leamington Advertiser*. The other day he based his leading article on the announcement that the Mayor had presented a mace to the Leamington Corporation. Having sagaciously remarked that such an emblem of "administrative pomp and dignity. . . . . strengthens pusilanimous power in the eyes of the populace," the writer gracefully passed on to a dissertation on the subject of maces, which would, he considered, "be particularly malapropos to the present occasion."

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

Here are a few gems which, though detached from their setting, give some idea of the dazzling brilliance of the whole composition:—

The word mace is derived from a word in the ancient Volapucke language which signifies in our vocabulary "social sovereignty;" and the mace is found as the symbol of authority in all quarters of the globe, "from Greenland's icy mountains" in the North to the more fertile provinces of their immediate antipodes. The oldest mace in the British Museum is one supposed to date back to the beginning of the first Roman Empire, when King Rameses Primus occupied the throne of Cæsar. . . . Every schoolboy knows why Cromwell bade his Ironsides to "take away that bauble"—because for the time being the mace had ceased to represent the power of the young Pretender. . . . In addition to its historical connection with Cromwell's accession to the throne, it was, historians tell us, the identical mace with which Richmond split Wat Tyler's skull when he tried to stab Richard III. on Hampstead Heath. In literature the mace is often introduced. Shakespeare uses the word as an alternative for sceptre in his fine apostrophe to his great patron Queen Anne:—

> And thou great Anna who three realms doth grace
> Do'st dext'rous wield thy "lingerie" and "mace."

Shakespearean students aver that the mace referred to here was the sceptre which Her Majesty was fond of carrying about; while the old-fashioned word "lingerie" was commonly used at the time by Shakespeare and "other" courtiers as a comprehensive term for various other items of the Sovereign's queenly regalia.

Was there ever such a progeny of learning?

The selection for the Presidency of the Academy seems to lie between Mr. Val Prinsep and Mr. Briton Rivière, with a slight shade of odds in favour of the latter. If I were an Academician I should vote for the former, because, in choosing a President I should make my vote depend upon my opinion as to who would best fulfil the duties of the post. Mr. Rivière may be a good speaker, and may be able to represent art well in its social relations; but whilst his is a case of "may," Mr. Prinsep's is a case of "is."

Now that a prelate about to enter his seventy-sixth year has been appointed to the Primacy, it may be hoped we shall hear no more of the proposed "reform" in retiring parish clergymen at the age of seventy, which has been of late in much favour by a number of Bishops, notably by "my lord of Exeter," who appears to have overlooked the fact that he has himself celebrated his seventy-first birthday, and yet nobody has heard a hint that he intends to resign. If there is to be a measure of this kind for the "working" clergy, its provisions, most assuredly, will have to be extended so as to take in the "upper" clergy. Bishops are as subject to the infirmities of old age as any other men, and, as strength decays, they come to be governed, as are other men, by members of their family (male and female), or by any persons who undertake their work or minister to their daily comforts. Such cases lead to an inconveniently capricious administration of the diocesan affairs, and to systematic jobbery in the dispensation of patronage. Sydney Smith declared that, as the mind of the prelate decayed, he had seen "wife bishops, daughter bishops, butler bishops, and even cook and housekeeper bishops." In the present reign there have been several cases when it was notorious that the diocese was ruled by the female members of the aged prelate's family.

The New Silk Waisteoatings for Gentlemen's Evening Dress and Morning Wear can now be seen at Ulster House, Conduit-street, W.

The Bishop of Worcester has an eye to business even in the midst of his lamentations over the death of Archbishop Benson. Bishop Perowne proposes that the memorial to the late Primate should take the form of a fund for endowing the new See of Birmingham. There is no chance that this ridiculous and very impudent project will be adopted, as it would practically be more of a benefit for the Bishop of Worcester than anything else, and he alone would profit by it. There is no necessity whatever for a division of the diocese of Worcester, which was thoroughly and admirably worked by the late Bishop Philpott, and now the labours of his successor have been considerably lightened by the appointment of a Suffragan, who holds one of the best livings in Birmingham. Bishop Philpott was able to manage the diocese single-handed, because he lived at home and devoted himself entirely to his proper business; whereas there are many prelates who spend a full third of the year away from the sphere of the work which they are so generously paid to perform. Bishop Perowne's own pecuniary contribution towards the division of his diocese is mean in the extreme. He now gets £5,000 a year, and if the See of Birmingham were started he would be relieved of the heavier half of the diocese. The Bishop, however, offers only one-tenth of his stipend towards the endowment of the proposed new See. Why the Bishop of the lighter half of the present diocese of Worcester should in future get £4,500 a year, while his "brother" of the new and much more laborious See of Birmingham is to receive only £3,000, I fail to understand.

I read with alarm letters in the *Times* last week, one from the Rev. R. Jamblin, the other from the Rev. N. J. Devereux, of Hoxton, which seemed to suggest that an Archbishop of Canterbury has more to do than one mortal can possibly accomplish, and that he ought to be relieved of some of his duties. Can it be, I thought, that he is beginning already, and that this is the first hint of schemes to relieve Canterbury of its archiepiscopal functions, and hand them over to archiepiscopal curates (paid by somebody else), in the manner so successfully carried out in the diocese of London? However, I was somewhat reassured by the latter part of Mr. Devereux's letter, in which he suggested that, as the first step to the proposed reform, Addington Park should be sold in building lots, and a commodious residence at Canterbury be taken for the Archbishop in its place. This does not sound like Bishop Temple at all.

Seriously, it is a welcome sign of the times to find a clergyman arguing, as Mr. Devereux does, that, while the country clergy are starving in all directions, bishops should not be provided with a minimum income of £3,000 per annum, in order to enable them to keep up "palaces;" and urging that Addington Park, Lambeth Palace, Fulham Palace, and London House should at once be sold off, and the proceeds put to some useful purpose. When my vote is required for any purpose of this kind, it may be counted on for certain. I only wish that I saw a chance of living till the time when it is asked for.

Canon Eyton has replaced Sub-Dean Duckworth as the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at Westminster Abbey, and he will be on duty there until December 1. The Bishop of Stepney (Dr. Brown) is to preach at the morning service next Sunday on behalf of the East London Church Fund.

Somebody asks if I can explain the meaning of this note on a printed paper announcing a series of services at Christ Church, St. Leonards-on-Sea:—"The Lord Bishop of the Diocese grants a Dispensation from Abstinence on Friday, November 6, to all who shall take part in the services of that day at Christ Church." Really, it is impossible for me or any body else to account for all the vagaries of the High Church clergy. In this instance, however, it is possibly thought that the services will be of so exhausting a nature that those taking part in them would not be able to get through the day without recruiting their energies.

A resident in Exeter calls attention to an extract from the "Exeter Diocesan Calendar," dealing with "Dean Boyd's Exhibitions for sons of the Clergy in the Diocese of Exeter." It is there stated that "by the Dean's will, no candidate is eligible whose parents have an income exceeding £500 per annum," and among the exhibitioners is Mr. N. W. A. Edmonds. Am I right in supposing that this gentleman is a son of Canon Edmonds? The Canonry held by Canon Edmonds is worth £1,000 a year, and, as has already been explained in TRUTH, the Exeter canonries, unlike so many others, are not depreciated in value in consequence of the agricultural depression. Is there any proviso in the Dean's will which makes others than the children of parents whose income is less than £500 a year eligible under any circumstances? If so, it would be well that this proviso should be made public, for to state that the Exhibitions are limited in this way, and then to enumerate among the Exhibitioners the son of a man worth at least £1,000 a year is calculated to suggest unfavourable reflections.

It is a gratification to me to find myself in agreement with Lord Salisbury on any matter, and most of all on one relating to the Church. This is my proud position on the occasion of Bishop Creighton's translation to London, which, as remarked in last week's TRUTH, is the best and most popular appointment that could have been made. The new Bishop of London is a scholar and a gentleman, a man of wide sympathies, and few prejudices, and it may be predicted of him that he will rule his new diocese wisely and firmly without giving offence in any quarter.

By the way, in speaking last week of the "Bishop of Rochester" as having been disqualified for the Primacy by the present state of his health, I was, of course, guilty of a slip of the pen, as I trust every reader will see for himself. The Prelate I had in my mind was his Lordship of Winchester, late of Rochester.

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for HEWETSONS' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—HEWETSONS, Tottenham Court-road, London.

Miss Florence Firmstone, of Winchester, I am sorry to find, remains unconvinced by my criticism of her indiscriminate appeals for shillings to help people in whom she is interested. So far is she from being convinced, that she now makes the fact that she has obtained shillings from people in previous instances, the ground for appealing to them for "just one shilling more." Two recipients of this appeal write to me, quite independently, that if they had known that they were thereby incurring a fresh solicitation, they would have resisted Miss Firmstone's blandishments in the first instance. For this reason I think it well to let those who have not given the lady their first shilling know what may be the consequence of so doing.

In TRUTH of September 17 appeared some remarks on letters emanating from Mrs. Mary E. Eyres, of Lincoln, who when she sees a man's death in the paper, writes, through her daughter, to his widow to offer mourning collars and cuffs, together with profuse expressions of sympathy. On October 28 the Vicar of St. Botolph, Lincoln, wrote to tell me that I "ought at once to contradict the statements respecting my parishioner, Mrs. Eyres, in a late issue of TRUTH." Why I should contradict them I do not see, as neither the vicar nor any of the friends of Mrs. Eyres who have written to me on the subject suggest that my statements were in any material respect untrue. In the paragraph in question I expressed my doubts as to the accuracy of Mrs. Eyres' account of her family history, and these doubts have been set at rest by the information since given me, which shows that Mrs. Eyres is a lady in reduced circumstances, and that her representations as to her position are true. All that I said beyond this was that the system of offering sympathy and soliciting orders at the same time is "offensive and impudent," and to this opinion I adhere.

I have much pleasure in making known a very generous offer made by a lady residing at Weston-super-Mare. This lady, who lives in a large house facing the sea, is desirous of receiving, at her own expense, a few children of professional men or others of the middle-class who are in need of change of air, and whose parents are not in a position to send them to the sea-side. The lady in question is both fond of children and experienced in their management in sickness and in health, and she will also, to the best of her ability, look after their education as well as their health. The only limitation she makes to her offer is that she cannot take infectious or other serious cases. She does not wish to have the children at Christmas time, but she could take two or three at once until the beginning of December, and some more early in the New Year. I doubt not that many will be found only too glad to avail themselves of such generosity, and any desirous of doing so should address the Rev. Ll. Baldwyn, Weston-hill, Weston-super-Mare.

The following amounts have reached me towards this year's Toy Fund:—Jonathan, 8s.; Capt. D. H. Colnaghi, £1; M. C., 10s.; H. A. H., 10s.; P. C. J., £1.

The recent appointment of the son of Sir Ralph Knox to the Army Service Corps is one of the most flagrant and iniquitous War Office jobs that have been perpetrated of recent years. I believe I am right in saying that this young man has again and again failed to pass into the Army both by the ordinary entrance and through the Militia, and there is not a single precedent for the appointment of a Militia Subaltern to the Army Service Corps. It is true that when the Corps was originally constituted, Militia Officers were made eligible for commissions in it, but this was only done from a doubt as to how far Regimental Officers would volunteer for service in the Corps. That doubt has been set at rest from the first by the fact that an abundant supply of Regimental Officers has always been forthcoming. At the present moment there are something like two hundred officers, who have held commissions for years, in the Army awaiting admission to the A.S.C., and their claims are all set aside in favour of the son of a War Office official who has conclusively demonstrated his inability to obtain an Army commission. Rarely have the interests of the Army and of the taxpayers been more shamelessly sacrificed to personal considerations and private influence; and from the taxpayers' point of view the scandal is the more flagrant, inasmuch as the official who thus uses his influence to advance his family at the public expense is the head of the financial administration of the Army, and the man of all others who ought to be above suspicion in such matters.

A slashing article (No. 2) on Artillery Organisation written over the signature "Another Officer" in the current number of the *United Service Magazine* is from the pen of a well-known writer, who is also the intimate friend and adviser of the Commander-in-Chief. According to the writer's view, the Royal Artillery is a hotbed of smothered discontent and crime, due to the tyranny of its commissioned officers. If a tenth part of the statements made in the article are true, the Royal Regiment, instead of being reformed, ought to be straightway disbanded.

The following case may be interesting to the officer who wrote the other day to tell me that any parent can easily satisfy himself as to the probability of his son passing the Army medical examination, by previously taking the opinion of his family doctor, or some other private practitioner. A retired officer, who is bringing up his son to his own profession, had him examined by Sir James Paget, Sir Joseph Fayrer, and the then President of the Royal College of Surgeons, who unanimously pronounced him perfectly fit for the Army. The lad had had a fall from his pony when a child, and had sustained a slight injury to his arm, which appears to have prevented him holding it in a certain position, but he was a man of sound physique, a first-rate shot and tennis-player, and had won two cups at Harrow for jumping and running. There would, therefore, seem to be not the slightest reason why he should not have been passed into the Army. The father, however, hearing that of late every pretext had been taken for rejecting candidates, managed, by a little diplomacy, to obtain the opinion of an Army doctor, who was in a position to speak with authority. From this doctor he learned that his son would certainly be rejected, and the young man had accordingly abandon the profession, to preparing for which he had already devoted much time and money. This case itself is one of some hardship, but it is insignificant beside many in which candidates have been prepared for, and have passed their educational examination, only to be rejected on some trumpery medical pretext; and it shows that under ordinary circumstances the mere opinion of a civil practitioner is of no value whatever for ascertaining the probable decision of an Army Medical Board.

A sergeant, R.H.A., writes as follows from Aldershot:—

Dear TRUTH,—I wish you would bring to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief how hard it will be on non-commissioned officers of the horse and field artillery if his present proposal to separate the mounted from the dismounted branches is carried out.

Hitherto we N.C. Officers of the mounted branch have had a fair share of appointments as master gunners and district officers. If the separation is carried out these appointments will be given exclusively to N.C.O.s from the "foot" artillery, and we shan't get a chance.

I am writing as much in the interest of the Service as of the N.C.O.s of horse and field artillery, as it is admitted that the best master gunners and district officers come from the mounted branch of the regiment. An N.C. officer of "foot" artillery spends most of his time in boating, fishing, bathing, playing with position finding instruments in cells, and other similar sedentary pursuits. After ten or fifteen years of this kind of life, he loses his energy, figure, and military spirit, and it is notorious that he contrasts unfavourably with his smarter and more active brother in the mounted branch.

I hope, therefore, you will bring our case to notice, as, if the scheme is carried out, there will be no openings for commissions left for N.C. officers who, like myself, have worked hard to obtain our first-class certificates of education in order to qualify for commissioned rank.

If my correspondent's description of the "foot" artilleryman's life is accurate, considerable extra expense must be incurred by Mr. Fleetwood Wilson's department in providing suitable clothing to cover the "figures" of these portly warriors. But what I take special note of is, that the Aldershot sergeant differs from his officers who are always pressing on my attention the necessity of the step which he deprecates. I hear a great deal about this question from the officers, but I should like to hear more about it from the point of view of the 32,000 N.C.O.s and men who are enrolled in the ranks of the Royal Artillery.

A number of N.C.O.s and men of the 1st Dorsetshire Regiment, who had applied for transfer to the Home battalion, have just been refused. Something like thirty had put down their names, and less than half these have been allowed to go. Their grievance is aggravated by the fact that the men selected, or at any rate two sergeants out of the number, have not been selected by seniority. The battalion completed its eight years' foreign service last February, and several among the N.C.O.s who applied for transfer have done considerably more than that period of foreign service. Doubtless there are practical difficulties in the way of allowing these men to come home; but I cannot help thinking that it ought to be within the power of our military organisers to arrange matters so that no man should be kept more than nine years abroad against his will.

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA, which refreshes and exhilarates.

As the public has been much exercised of late over the neglect of old and disabled soldiers, the following case should attract attention. On December 25, 1894, Lance-Sergeant C. Lynn was invalided out of the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment on account of varicose veins contracted through service in India. At the time of his discharge he was within forty days of completing the service which would have entitled him to a pension of 1s. 5d. per diem for life. Had he been allowed to reckon two years which he had served as a boy, he would have earned his pension long before his discharge, he having enlisted at the age of fourteen years and ten months. In the first instance Lynn was awarded a life pension, and one quarter's pay at the rate of 1s. 5d. a day was paid to him. He was then informed that, owing to his being forty days short of the qualifying period, he could not have a life pension. His pension was at the same time reduced to 11d. per diem for one year, at the expiration of which, after medical examination, it was continued for six months longer. It was then stopped. There is no ground for saying that he is incapacitated in any way, but the withdrawal of the life pension under such circumstances is an act of great harshness and injustice. The man was invalided against his own wish. He was naturally anxious to stay on until he had at least completed his remaining forty days of qualifying service. The most rigid stickler for economy will hardly deny that a point ought to be strained in his favour.

I hear now that some London publicans are refusing to serve Volunteers in uniform. My informant, who is a man in the Scottish Rifles, was absolutely refused refreshment in a public-house in Swallow-street, of all places, on returning from some night operations at Caterham. This is the *reductio ad absurdum* of the boycott of soldiers at public-houses, for the same man would be allowed to drink a glass of beer in his civilian capacity who is refused it during the brief period when he dons his uniform. In this instance the publican seems to have absolutely refused to serve the customer, not content with merely relegating him to one particular bar. This, I take it, is perfectly illegal, and I would suggest that the London Scottish should enforce the law against this publican, or, at any rate, bring the matter before the notice of the Licensing Justices.

Here is a suggestion which I offer to Army reformers. It is that all soldiers should have some special garments, overalls, or something of that kind, for fatigue work which involves any special damage to clothing. I offer this suggestion as the result of the innumerable complaints which soldiers send to me of the hardship of having to pay for clothes damaged in fatigue duty of one kind or another. In the King's Own Regiment, now at Malta, I am told that nearly 500 men have, during the last month or so, been put down for khaki trousers, at their own expense, in consequence of the damage to their clothing by the dirty fatigue work which they have had to perform. In addition to the ordinary work, I understand that a number of men are told off each day to work for seven hours at the aërated-water machine, at which their clothing often gets seriously damaged. For work of this kind the men should be provided with aprons, or some other protection to their clothes, such as is worn by workmen in civil life. It seems to me that here is an opportunity, by the exercise of a little common sense and forethought, to practically put several pounds a year into Atkins's pocket, without taking it out of any one else's—unless it be the tradesman's who at present gets the orders for the new clothing.

An inquest was held the other day on a patient (Private McGuiness, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers) at the Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham, who had died from an overdose of medicine, to which he had helped himself. The verdict was "Death from misadventure," but it seems highly doubtful whether the jury would have contented themselves with this finding if they had had the whole of the circumstances before them. From evidence furnished to me, but not produced at the inquest, it appears that at the time when the unfortunate soldier got up and helped himself to the medicine which killed him, one N.C.O. and eight men of the Medical Staff Corps staff at Fort Pitt were absent from the hospital, and engaged in gardening operations at the new quarters of the officer commanding No. 10 Company. This was not an isolated occurrence, a fatigue party from three to eight strong having been similarly engaged every day for a fortnight before the fatality. One of the men thus employed should by rights have been in charge of the cupboard containing the medicine which McGuiness swallowed, but on being taken off duty to go gardening, the man had handed his keys to the wardmaster, who unquestionably had more duties on his hands than he could possibly attend to. In this state of things, the unfortunate patient—knowing apparently that it was time for his dose, and no one being at hand to give it him—got up and helped himself to six ounces of a mixture intended for another patient, and marked in one ounce doses. Not a word about the gardening was allowed to transpire at the inquest, and the local military authorities, with that adroitness in dragging a red-herring across the scent which seems to characterise military authorities, have actually put a dispenser under arrest on a charge of making the fatal mixture too strong. I trust that what I have now said will be the means of putting the Director-General on to the right scent, and that he will follow it up until he has got the whole of the facts about the employment of M.S.C. men in the C.O.'s garden, and the bearing of it upon the fatality at the hospital.

In my Military Pillory this week I give the place of honour to a little incident at Limerick, which illustrates a point that I have often argued. Why any one should advertise the fact of a recent bereavement by bedecking his person and stationery with black I do not know; but it is a custom prevailing among all classes, and many seem to derive some strange consolation from it while their grief is still in its heyday. If the custom is recognised in the Army—as it is by allowing officers to wear

OLD SPICED ELDERBERRY WINE prevents chills; delicious winter beverage. 15/- per doz. reputed quarts. Carriage paid. Cash with order.—CARTER & Co., Old Refinery, Bristol.

mourning bands—surely the recognition ought to extend equally to all ranks. A driver in the Royal Artillery may feel just as much grief as a major for the loss of his father, and is probably just as desirous of showing respect for his parent's memory. The black button with which the offender contented himself in this instance is not a very obtrusive symbol of affliction :—

11th Field Battery, Royal Artillery, Limerick.—A driver in this battery lately lost his father. He subsequently appeared on duty with a minute piece of crape over one of the buttons of his serge. The crape was immediately spotted by a major, who ordered the man to remove it at once. The major was of course only performing the strict letter of duty, but most people will probably agree that he would have performed it better had he managed not to see the button.

2nd Wiltshire Regiment, Portsmouth.—The married N.C.O.s of this battalion are highly indignant over an order requiring them, when on their turn of duty as orderly or waiting orderly sergeant, to live and sleep exclusively with the company in which they are doing such duty. Under ordinary circumstances, this means separation from their wives and families for a week, but, owing to the furlough season and the dearth of N.C.O.s in the battalion, some of the 2nd Wilts men have lately been on duty for as long as eleven days at a time, during which period they are forbidden to live in their own quarters, a hundred yards or so off. This order professes to be a re-issue of one enforced many years ago in India; but it seems doubtful whether there is any precedent for the issue of such an order in England.

R.A. Barracks, Maryhill, Glasgow.—Some time back an order was issued that all N.C.O.s and men not on the married establishment were to go out of barracks as soon as possible. There were then in the battery stationed at Maryhill Barracks three sergeants, one bombardier, and two drivers, not on the married establishment, and also one private of the Medical Staff Corps. The two drivers and the M.S.C. man were promptly ejected, but not so the N.C.O.s. The bombardier has since filled a vacancy on the married establishment, but two sergeants still remain who are not on the establishment. If the order is to be over-ridden in favour of anybody, equity suggests that it should have been in favour of the men who can least afford to pay house rent.

Royal Irish Rifles, Aldershot.—At Ramillies Barracks—possibly in other Aldershot barracks also—the allowance of oil for each lamp is two pints per week, issued on Mondays and Thursdays. The allowance is entirely inadequate, and does not keep the lamps going for more than four nights, the men being consequently left in utter darkness for the remaining three nights, and having sometimes to prepare themselves for parades under these conditions. Although this grievance is reported from the Royal Irish Rifles, it is probably experienced in some degree in other barracks, and why gas is not in general use at Aldershot is a mystery which only the wiseacres at the head of our military arrangements can solve.

2nd Cheshire Regiment, Buttevant.—There has been no meeting of the sergeants' mess of this battalion for several months past. Whose business is it to see that the regulation on this subject is carried out? Complaints of a similar nature are continually forthcoming from one regiment or another, and it is clearly absurd to make a regulation requiring a monthly meeting unless some means are provided for enforcing it.

Donegal Artillery, Letterkenny.—The sergeant-major here (a Militia N.C.O. of over thirty years' service) is at present holding the following posts, several of them carrying extra pay:—Canteen manager, canteen accountant, canteen treasurer, librarian, and caretaker of officers' mess and quarters. A sergeant of the same corps acts as recruiting sergeant (permanent), pay sergeant, canteen cashier, and tailor—the tailoring and accoutrement mending alone being worth from £15 to £20 a year. This pluralism is obviously most unfair to the rest of the permanent staff, and, in the case of some of the posts held by the sergeant-major, seems difficult to reconcile with the regulations.

1st Wiltshire Regiment, Karachi.—Complaints are again rife in this battalion of men being put on grass-cutting fatigue. The matter was referred to in TRUTH a few months back, and the practice was immediately stopped. This clearly shows that such work is not considered desirable, and it is to be hoped that steps will now be taken which will effectually prevent its repetition.

The *Civil and Military Gazette* of Lahore, referring to the issue of the Ashanti decoration, writes:—

In the name of Thomas Atkins and Jack Sepoy, may we remind a munificent Government that the medal for the relief of Chitral has not been issued, or, we believe, even struck? It is now a year and five months since Chitral was relieved, &c.

As there seems now little possibility of any Chitral medal being issued, I would ask those who took part in the Chitral campaign to look at the article in TRUTH of October 15, containing ex-king Prempeh's letter to the Commander of the British forces. They will see from this that not only did Prempeh offer before the expedition started to make his submission and give hostages for his good faith, but he met the expedition with a letter informing the officer commanding that he had ordered his subjects to offer no resistance to the British forces, and had disarmed them in order to make sure of this order being carried out. When the soldiers who endured the perils and hardships of the Chitral campaign understand this, I feel sure that they will be the last to wish for anything in the shape of a decoration in recognition of *their* services.

When anybody at the War Office seriously devotes himself to the improvement of the supply of raw material for our army, the first thing he will do is to take steps to improve the position of the Volunteer Cadet Battalions. Of the utility of these corps there can, I think, be no question, whether looked at from the point of view of the boys who are enlisted, or from that of the Regular Army, to which each battalion is certain to supply a considerable number of recruits. At present the support of this most useful work is largely left to private benevolence, and in most cases this benevolence is chiefly that of the officers themselves. As the result, most of these corps are in a languishing condition for want of funds, and their utility is greatly restricted.

Some attention was drawn to the subject the other day through the final demise of the 1st C.B. East Surrey Regiment, and I believe there are many similar battalions in London which are kept alive with the greatest difficulty. Nor does this remark apply to London alone. I was earnestly entreated a short time back to invoke public sympathy on behalf of the 1st C.B. Norfolk Regiment. During the time that this corps has been in existence over two hundred boys have passed out of it, of whom 20 per cent. have joined the Regular Army, Militia, or Navy, while 25 per cent. have gone into the Volunteers. Yet this corps is saddled with a debt of about £350, incurred in training the lads, for which the officers are personally responsible, and it is a disgraceful fact to every one but the officer concerned that the late Adjutant was driven into bankruptcy in consequence of his liability for the debts of the battalion. Apart from their military value, Cadet Battalions are of the greatest service in supplying boys when they leave the public elementary schools with wholesome discipline, healthy recreation, and interests which will save them from the dangers of running wild in the streets when they are not at work. The 1st C.B. Norfolk Regiment has its mess-rooms, provided with games and newspapers for winter evenings, its football, cricket, and swimming clubs, besides the parades, drills, marches out, and field days, which are in a great measure an amusement to the lads. Anyone can see for himself the social value of such an organisation, and any one who subscribes to keep such a corps afloat is a public benefactor.

Epps's Cocoa is always found grateful and comforting both for breakfast, supper, and luncheon. It is sold in packets & ½-lb. tins, and labelled "James Epps & Co., Ltd.," Homœopathic Chemists, London.

A brother tax-payer wrote to me the other day deprecating the issue of the Lee-Metford rifle to Cadet Volunteer Battalions. So far as I know, the new rifle has not yet been issued to these corps, but from a recent order published in one of them, it seems that the Cadets are to have them as soon as the other Volunteers have been armed. There are, of course, two sides to the question; but seeing that a great many boys pass through Cadet Corps who do not take up Volunteering permanently, I question whether the money of the tax-payer might not be better spent than in arming them with Lee-Metfords, especially in view of what I have just said as to the impoverished state of many battalions. A substantial capitation grant would help more towards the efficiency of most battalions than the same money's worth in magazine rifles. My own opinion is that such grants should be made annually to every Cadet Battalion which is in a fairly efficient condition.

About three years ago Mr. James Stevens left £50,000 to the Lifeboat Institution on the condition that twenty boats, with his name upon each, should be placed round the coast. In less than six months all these boats could be built, but I have not yet heard of one of them being on the coast. How many are placed, and what is being done with the money?

This reminds me to ask once more what has become of the bequest of Mr. Berridge of £200,000 for the advancement of sanitary science? The money was placed in the hands of trustees, and it seems to me full time that they should render some account of their stewardship to the nation, to which the bequest was made.

With regard to the recent complaints of rowdyism on Cape steamers, I have had a communication from the secretary of the Union Line, pointing out a mistake which was inadvertently made in my last paragraph on the subject. It seems that the statement I quoted from one of the Cape papers gave the result of inquiries at the London office of the Company—not, as I supposed, at the Cape Town branch. The correspondence which was going on between an aggrieved passenger and the agent at Cape Town had not at that time reached the office in London, and nothing was known there of the complaints. There seems to be no question that the passenger referred to had good cause to complain of his treatment at the hands of certain of his fellow-passengers, at any rate prior to his transference from the third to the second class. Judging, however, from the thoroughness with which the matter has been investigated, the Company fully recognises that it is its duty to protect its customers from such molestation and persecution, and no doubt a little firmness on the part of captains and officers will in future keep turbulent and insolent parties in order.

A characteristic correspondence has taken place between Whitehall and the widow of the late Mr. D'Elboux, of the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton, the discreditable circumstances attending whose death have already been detailed in TRUTH. Mrs. D'Elboux made an appeal to the compassion of the Treasury, pointing out that her husband had served beyond the time qualifying him for pension, and that his death (which left his family destitute) was due to the harsh and inconsiderate treatment he had received in the office. The Treasury replied that the appeal had been forwarded to the Board of Agriculture. The Board of Agriculture next told Mrs. D'Elboux that the case did not come under the Superannuation Acts, and in reply to her complaints about her husband's treatment, delicately hinted "that for some time past your husband's physical powers were unhappily not equal to the adequate discharge of the duties entrusted to him in the Service, with which he had been so long and so honourably connected." Mrs. D'Elboux's answer was straight and to the point:—

> If my late husband was unequal to his duties, why was he not recommended to retire on his pension that he had earned by his forty-three years' faithful service, instead of being goaded on to do his work faster?

To this the Board discreetly replied that "they can add nothing to their previous letter." For once in a way, a Government Office really finds itself at a loss for an answer.

The place of Financial Secretary to the Post Office which Mr. Algernon Turnor has just resigned, is worth £1,500 a year. There is a good deal of speculation as to whether the promotion will go "in the office," or whether the Duke of Norfolk will pitchfork some outsider into the post, as was done by Lord Beaconsfield in 1880, just before he resigned. Mr. Turnor, who was a clerk in the Treasury, had been Lord Beaconsfield's private secretary for six years, and he desired to provide for him, and this was the method adopted. It was a very nice arrangement for Mr. Turnor, but was far from being acceptable to the secretarial staff at the Post Office, as it had been reasonably expected that the vacancy would be filled up by promotion in the ordinary course.

Commencement of term at Cambridge has been signalised by the discharge of a flood of obscene literature upon this University by a quack doctor in London, a large proportion of these things being sent to freshmen. This is a matter in which the University authorities might well take action, and no one is in a better position than they are to put the pressure upon the Postmaster-General which is required in order to stop the circulation of all such filthy garbage through the post. I would again suggest to head-masters of public schools that they should combine with the college authorities at Oxford and Cambridge in some action of this kind.

The other week a branch of the Postal Clerks' Association was established by the staff at Cardiff Post Office, one of their number being appointed as secretary. It so happened that his annual increment of salary had become due to this clerk on the day he was selected as secretary of the branch; but two days later he was handed an official paper dealing with his work during the preceding twelve months, and challenging his claim to the increment. Whether this was an instance of cause and effect or merely a coincidence can only be

FIRE PROTECTION OF COUNTRY HOUSES.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, London.

guessed, but it has a decidedly suspicious and ugly look in view of the facts—first, that the Association got itself disliked by those in authority at Cardiff through bringing certain irregular promotions in that office to the notice of Lord Tweedmouth's Committee; and, secondly, that in the attempt to stop the increment of the secretary of the new branch, there has been a marked departure from the usual practice, which is to challenge such increments about a fortnight before they become due, not two days afterwards. In these circumstances the Postmaster-General would do well to make some inquiries before acting upon any recommendation from Cardiff in regard to the clerk in question.

With reference to the hard case of a Savings Bank clerk, which was dealt with in last week's TRUTH, I hear that instead of being compulsorily retired on a pension he has now been transferred to another branch of the G.P.O. This was the course I advocated, and I am glad to know that it has been adopted.

I wish that the clerk at the G.P.O., who wrote to me the other day anent the hardship of having to buy his own ink, could see a list furnished to me of the material which a sub-postmaster has to supply his employers with in the course of a year. It is so short a time since I went in detail into the treatment of sub-postmasters, that I hardly feel justified in devoting more space to the subject now; but for the credit of us all, I trust that the recent departmental inquiry will lead to some genuine and practical attempt to improve the sub-postmaster's position. To keep a man in a responsible official position working seven days a week, and often one or two nights as well, on a beggarly wage of a few shillings a week, and then to compel him to provide, not only clerical assistance, but notepaper, string, sealing-wax, and other office material, is a disgrace to a wealthy country.

Some time back, reference was made in TRUTH to the inadequacy of the Parcel Post arrangements at Ryde. A resident in that town now informs me that a week or two ago he saw a postman delivering parcels from a hand-cart, with a sack-load of parcels on the top of it. During the absence of the postman, these parcels were, of course, left quite unprotected. For the Post Office to conduct its business in this careless way, seems to be no better than taking advantage of the Postmaster-General's legal immunity from unpleasant consequences in the event of the loss of goods entrusted to him.

During the year ended September 30 the Corporation of Glasgow spent exactly £3,393. 13s. 10d. in deputation expenses; that is, in sending its members to London and elsewhere on various municipal purposes. The expenditure of so formidable a sum of money in twelve months has naturally created great indignation, which is increased by the fact that last year the expenditure on deputations was only £1,336, the increase this year being, therefore, fully £2,000. The most extraordinary item in the account is a sum of £612 for the visits of a number of Councillors to Coventry, Bristol, Brussels, Hamburg, Berlin, Hanover, Dresden, Budapest, Vienna, Milan, Genoa, Paris, and Rouen, to inquire into the use of mechanical motors for tramways. On one of these trips four members of the Council and three officials went on what has proved so far an abortive mission, when, if it were necessary to send so far, one competent expert could have done the work far more satisfactorily and for far less money.

Perhaps I did an injustice to the Belfast Corporation in the suggestion I hazarded last week as to their reason for maintaining the cells at the police-station in such an indescribably foul and insanitary condition. A report just presented by a Special Committee of the Corporation shows that the condition of the cells is really only in keeping with the condition of a large part of the city, and it may possibly have been felt that it would be absurd and inconsistent to provide a few score prisoners with advantages in the way of pure air and sanitary surroundings which are denied to many thousands of the population outside. The report enumerates various causes of the high death-rate in Belfast "to which municipal responsibility directly extends," among them being the erection of thousands of houses—many quite recently—on insanitary sites; the continued existence of slums that have been condemned as unfit for human habitation; the inadequate supervision exercised over the construction of streets, sewers, and drains; the number of open sewers, cesspools, and other nuisances; and the "feeble and ineffectual" administration of the Public Health Acts. All these matters are dealt with in detail, and the whole document constitutes about the most damning indictment of a municipal body that I have ever read.

I do not quite see where the profit of the Railroad Companies comes in under the privileged-cab system. The law recognises the station as private property, and therefore the law is with the railroads. But I should say that the law would be fairer if it laid down that wherever a cab sets down it may take up. As a matter of fact, there often is an absence of cabs at a station. The railroads say that their system secures good cabs and honest drivers. I have found the dishonest cab-driver the rare exception, but I think that it will be admitted that these exceptions are encountered as much amongst cabmen hired at stations as elsewhere. On the whole, therefore, I am inclined to think that those who use cabs would gain more than what they may lose were there free trade at the stations.

To say, however, that a service of private omnibuses is not useful at stations is nonsense. Many families prefer a commodious omnibus to being stuffed together in a cab. The omnibus, moreover, carries far more luggage than the cab. But what I should like to see is the introduction of the American system of delivery. There, a tin disc bearing a number is slipped by means of a loop on each article of the passenger's luggage, and he receives discs bearing the identical numbers. Whilst on the train an employee takes these

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

counter-discs and writes down the address to which it is wished that the luggage should be sent, and it arrives at its destination not many minutes after he does. It is true that the employee can walk in America through the train when in motion to collect discs, and that here he cannot. But this might be met by the counter-discs and the addresses being taken on the arrival of the train by some employee on the arrival platform.

A more suicidal policy than that adopted by those who are responsible for the present agitation in the cab trade can scarcely be imagined. From the outset the public have looked on at the dispute with the most languid interest; but if, figuratively speaking, they are now to be employed as battering-rams wherewith to demolish the gates of privilege erected by the different railway companies, it will not be long before they declare most emphatically against the cabman and his ways. The threatened step of a general strike, if carried out, will place the coping-stone of folly upon the present edifice of blunder. A (the cabman) quarrels with C (the railway companies), and, in order to enforce his argument, falls foul of B (the public), turning him from a passive spectator into an active opponent. Can anything more idiotic be well imagined?

The inhabitants of Aldershot are being urged by the *Aldershot News* to sign a memorial to the Lord Chancellor in favour of the appointment of resident civilian magistrates for the town. Such an addition to the Bench is certainly required, for at present there is not a single permanent acting magistrate living in the Aldershot district; and, what is more, the justices who come into the town to attend the Petty Sessions are all of them retired military officers. Considering that the urban district of Aldershot has a population of 15,000 exclusive of the camp, it is ridiculous to suppose that there is any difficulty in finding gentlemen qualified for appointment; and apart from the public convenience of having magistrates resident in the town, it is highly desirable that a civilian element should be introduced. No Bench ought to be confined to members of one particular class, and from all that I see of military tribunals nothing could be more unsatisfactory than a Bench constituted like a court-martial.

The great Sangster case, which has excited general attention in Scotland, was decided last week by the Court of Session, and the judgment will meet with universal approval. Captain Sangster was drowned while bathing in Loch Carn, and the General Accident Assurance Corporation refused to pay the amount of the policy, on the ground that either he had committed suicide, or had incurred an obvious and unwarrantable risk. The Court has unanimously decided against the Corporation. Captain Sangster was in good health and easy circumstances, and there was not a particle of probability in the theory that he committed suicide, while it would be preposterous to forbid a person who is insured to enter deep water although a good swimmer. If Captain Sangster's representatives had been poor people, they would, no doubt, have lost the amount of the policy, from financial inability to fight a costly and protracted battle in the Law Courts.

A very unjust piece of jobbery has been committed by the Secretary of State for Scotland in the appointment of Mr. Andrew Rutherford to the post of Sheriff of the Lothians and Peebles. Mr. Rutherford has been Sheriff-Substitute for fourteen years, but his colleague, Mr. Hamilton, has held his appointment for exactly double that time, having been appointed in 1868, besides which he had acted as Sheriff-Substitute for two years prior to that date. Throughout that time Mr. Hamilton has been most indefatigable in his attention to his duties, and there is not a shadow of reason for the appointment of his junior over his head, unless it be private or backstairs influence.

Is it possible that the amateur magistracy are not always entitled to their familiar designation of the Great Unpaid? I ask the question because a county J.P. of thirty years' standing informs me that it is not unusual in his part of the country for a magistrate to demand a fee of a shilling for witnessing the signing of a document which requires to be so certified by a magistrate. He wishes to know whether there is any authority for making such a charge, and I shall be glad if any of my legal friends can enlighten him and me on the point.

A correspondent who sees a good deal of the proceedings at Lambeth County-court sends me some notes and reports showing the salutary methods which Judge Emden adopts in dealing with extortionate claims by Messrs. Shylock & Co. According to my correspondent, his Honour has become a perfect terror to the members of the tribe in his district, thus setting an example which some other County-court Judges would do well to emulate. There is, unfortunately, great diversity of practice among these functionaries. In some courts the usurer is encouraged and emboldened by the readiness with which his exactions, however preposterously extravagant they may be, are enforced. In others—and I am glad to add the Lambeth Court to the list—the Judges take a broader view of their duty, and, even if they are obliged to give judgment for some rapacious and unscrupulous Shylock, so order it that he will get his pound of flesh only in minute instalments, spread over a long period.

One of the magistrates has written to me in reference to a case of cruelty to a child at Mallow Petty Sessions which I pilloried last week. He says the child was no doubt harshly treated, but explains that it was on account of the extreme poverty of the parents that the small fine of 1s., with 15s. costs, was inflicted, and that in addition to this penalty the stepmother was put under a rule of bail. I am also informed that the magistrates subscribed a small sum to keep the child in the care of a relative until she could be sent to an industrial school. I willingly give publicity to this statement, but I feel bound to add that this magisterial compassion for poverty would impress me more if it were not almost exclusively reserved for persons convicted of offences of violence and cruelty. It never, or hardly ever, comes into operation in cases of petty larceny, poaching, or vagrancy.

In my Legal Pillory this week I give some further specimens of the justice dispensed at Quarter Sessions, together with the usual array of cases from the police-courts. Throughout the list the contrast between the punishment meted out for offences against the person or cruelty to animals on the one side, and for offences against property or the Game Laws on the other, speaks for itself; and the only point to which I would specially refer is that mentioned in the report from Hayward's Heath. It will be seen that, in addition to sentencing a man to a month's hard labour for poaching, the Bench ordered him to find sureties for his good behaviour, or, in default, a further six months' hard labour. The Clerk remarked that "the Act left the magistrates no option;" and it is true that it does not if their worships decide to demand sureties. But they are not, of course, under any obligation to make this part of the sentence, and it seems to me a monstrous thing that they should elect to do so, the result being that the defendant in question will have to serve seven months' imprisonment for an offence for which one month was more than enough:—

Preston Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. H. W. Worsley Taylor. Peter Caffrey, charged with unlawfully wounding Joseph Patten. Prisoner kicked prosecutor in the ear, splitting it, and otherwise injured him. One month.

Preston Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. H. W. Worsley Taylor. George Murphy, an old man of 69, charged with begging, after previous convictions for vagrancy. Twelve months.

Bucks Quarter Sessions. Jesse Brooks, convicted of indecently assaulting a girl aged nine years. Three months.

Bucks Quarter Sessions. Henry Fletcher, convicted of stealing two blouses and two silk skirts. Six months.

Hamilton Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Davidson. William Jackson, convicted of culpable homicide. He assaulted his infant son by knocking his head violently against a wall, fracturing his skull, and beat him with his fists. The child died immediately afterwards. Previously convicted of wife assault. Twelve months.

Durham Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. J. Lloyd Wharton and other magistrates. Thomas Gage, charged with shopbreaking. Five years.

William Smith, charged with stealing a quantity of lead. Five years.

Inverness Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Blair. James O'Neill, convicted of culpable homicide. He threw a man violently on the kerbstone, causing his death. One month.

Leeds Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. J. E. Barker, Recorder. Henry Birch, pleaded guilty to stealing an overcoat. Four months.

Grimsby Police court. Before Aldermen Jackson, Dobson, Louth, and Smethurst, and other magistrates. Edward Jacob Jarrod, charged with assaulting Gertrude Harrison. He knocked her down, hit her on the face, and kicked her on the hips, thigh, and abdomen. Fined £1. 1s.

Grimsby Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. Appleton, Recorder. Charles Rushby pleaded guilty to stealing three haddocks. Three months.

Beccles Police-court. Before Messrs. B. G. Freeland, W. M. Crowfoot, J. S. Crisp, and C. Smith. Samuel Roofe, charged with poaching. Two months.

Accrington Police-court. Before Messrs. R. H. Rowland and W. Ratcliffe. William Westwell, convicted of an aggravated assault on his wife, who had been living apart from him. He knocked her head against a wall, tripped her up, and whilst she was on the ground he kicked her on the head and lower part of the body. He afterwards jumped on her and she became insensible. Fined £2. 10s. and costs.

Hayward's Heath Police-court. Before Major-General Pemberton and Mr. R. Caffyn. Thomas Ront, labourer, charged with poaching. One month, and a further six months in default of finding sureties not to offend again for a year. Prisoner said he did not know of any sureties. The clerk said he would have to remain in prison if no sureties were found; the Act left the magistrates no option.

West Bromwich Police-court. George Scarrott charged with cruelty to a donkey. He stabbed the animal several times in the inside of the mouth, badly lacerating the tongue and making it bleed profusely. Fined £1. 15s., including costs.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. Before Captain Carthew, Colonel Whitbread, and Hon. W. Lowther. John Wolton charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £1. 19s. 6d.

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Wakefield. Before Mr. W. Sheepshanks and other justices. George Taylor, convicted of unlawfully and maliciously wounding his wife. Three months.

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Wakefield. Before the same justices. Benjamin Lockwood, aged 63, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Six months.

Hatherleigh Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. M. Veale and E. J. Oldham, Colonel Arnold, and Mr. Thomson. W. C. Blatchford, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her on the face and head, blackening both her eyes, and then proceeded to kick her. She had frequently been ill-treated, and applied for a separation order, which was granted. Fined 5s.

Newbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. E. Harris, J. Absalom, and J. Elliott. A man and woman named Hindle, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop door. One month each.

Exmouth Police-court. Before Mr. C. A. Langton. Ambrose Timerick, charged with sleeping out. Prisoner seemed to be in a very bad state of health. Three days.

Beverley Police-court. Before the Mayor, Dr. Calvert, and Alderman Sample. William Pickering pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife. He gave her a black eye, and threatened her with a knife. It was his twelfth appearance at the court. Fined 10s. and costs.

Doncaster West Riding Police Court. George Smith, labourer, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2.

I am not sure whether I understand the decision of the Queen's Bench Division in the organ-grinding case, but if I do, it is nonsense. As I read it, you may order an organ-grinder to desist from grinding, but must give him your reason for so doing. It is not said that he is to be the judge of the sufficiency of the reason, nor is it even said that the reason given must be the true one. The giving of a reason, therefore, seems to be a senseless formality, and, so far as I can see from the Act, it is the Judges, and not the Legislature, who have introduced this absurdity into the law. I read somewhere the other day, that England is the only civilised country in which organ-grinding is not regulated by law. If so, we are bound to regulate it in our own defence, or we shall become the prey of all the outcast organ-grinders of the rest of the world. As the first step in that direction, I adhere to my favourite remedy of a "close time" for grinding.

It is an agreeable change to hear of a Bailie talking such good sense from the Bench as Bailie Chisholm did at Dalkeith the other day on the occasion of a number of boys being summoned for playing football in the street. No doubt this is a source of annoyance, but in Dalkeith the juveniles who indulge in games in the streets have the excuse that there is nowhere else for them to go, the town being without any public park or recreation-ground. It seems from the Bailie's remarks that the landed proprietors refuse "either for love or money" to sell a field for the purpose, and though the question has been agitated on and off for the past fifty years, the municipal authorities cannot screw up their courage to exercise their compulsory powers for acquiring land. As the Bailie suggested, it is really therefore the landowners and the authorities who are to blame for the nuisance which is caused in the streets, and it is a pity they cannot be prosecuted and fined instead of the poor children.

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A very extraordinary course has been adopted in the case of George Young, formerly an attendant at Gateshead Workhouse, who was convicted of a grave crime at Durham Assizes last November, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. After this man's conviction, information came to light in regard to scandals at the Workhouse, which led to an investigation by the Local Government Board. The disclosures which were then made convinced many persons that Young had been the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice, and steps were taken to bring the whole of the facts under the notice of the Home Secretary. The result is that Young has now been released on a ticket of leave which will keep him under the supervision of the police for more than nine years to come. Sir Matthew White Ridley's decision is utterly illogical and indefensible. If Young was guilty of the heinous crime with which he was charged he deserved the ten years' penal servitude, and the Home Secretary ought not to have set him at liberty. If, on the other hand, he was wrongfully convicted, or even if there is any doubt in the matter, he is clearly entitled to a free pardon. It would appear that the Home Secretary has taken a middle course because he is not convinced one way or the other; but, if that is his view, surely the accused should have the benefit of the doubt.

Last week two men named Charles Wright and Robert Warrington were charged at Sleaford Petty Sessions with poaching, the evidence showing that they were found with a net in which one rabbit had been caught. Neither defendant had ever been summoned before for any offence whatever, and each has a large family dependent upon him. But the magistrates, Messrs. H. Smith and J. A. Cole, look upon any violation of the sacred rights of the game-preserver as the most heinous of crimes, and so, notwithstanding the fact that it was a first offence, these two men were committed to gaol for a month's hard labour, with a further six months if they fail to find sureties for their good behaviour. This shameful sentence has aroused a strong feeling of indignation in the neighbourhood, but I do not suppose it will cause a moment's uneasiness of conscience to the two Dracos who passed it. The Smiths and Coles of our enlightened rural magistracy think it quite in the natural order of things that two respectable workmen should be sent to gaol, and their wives and little children left to starve, all on account of one paltry rabbit.

Equally scandalous in its way was a decision of Sheriff-Substitute Buntine in a case at Stirling Sheriff Court the other day. Three young men were charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. There was no question that they trespassed in the walk they took, but that in itself is not a crime; and the only evidence—save the mark—that they were in pursuit of game was that they each carried a catapult. This sufficed, however, for the Sheriff-Substitute, and he mulcted each of the accused in a penalty of £1. 19s. 8d. Apparently any youth who possesses a catapult in the Stirling district renders himself amenable to the Game Laws.

I would call the attention of the Blackpool police to a man named C. H. Nevill, who seems to be carrying on at Oxford-road in that town a game very similar to that of Henry Miller, late of High Holborn. Nevill is another of the infallible system men. In a case which I have before me he received £20 from a client in September, and never paid a farthing, or sent in any account until October 8. He then forwarded an account, showing a small profit in favour of the client up to September 24, when the system, as usual, began to go wrong, until by September 28 the losses had swallowed up the £20 and the small profit as well. In forwarding the account Nevill wrote:—

> If you will look on page 23 of my book you will there find there was three losing weeks last year, and we have had the same this. It certainly was unfortunate for you it should happen the first week you started. Had you recommenced again last week, as I asked you, on £20 there was a profit of £4. 8s. . . . . If you will only start again at once, I am confident that before Christmas you will be more than pleased with my system.

This is the story of Miller and all the rest of this fraternity over again, and if the law can touch one, there can be no reason why it should not hit them all.

Can anything be more anomalous than that "astrologers" should be prosecuted and sent to gaol in one town and be allowed to advertise their business without interference in another? The other day, one of these fortune-tellers got three months' imprisonment at one of the Police-courts. As against this, "Madame Sinclair," of 89, Victoria-street, Bristol, advertises in country papers under the head of "astrology," and undertakes to tell anybody's fortune, fortunate seasons, ruling planets, &c., for twelve stamps and a stamped envelope. Similar advertisements may be found in hundreds of papers. On what principle do the police wink at them?

With reference to the begging-letter writer Charles Leicester, first cousin once removed to the late Right Hon. Lord de Tatley, the Honorary Secretary of the St. Leonards Mechanics' Institute, where this man has been having his letters addressed, writes to inform me that the committee have requested Leicester to discontinue having his letters addressed to the Institute. Leicester is not a member of the Institute, but had been using it as a member of the public on payment of one penny. The Secretary adds to the information I gave last week that this man was known as a regular reader of TRUTH. I hope that he has profited by what he has read there during the last two or three weeks.

A few months back I referred to a new terror in store for subscribers to charities in the shape of a book entitled "The Charitable Ten Thousand." The book is avowedly nothing but a list of regular subscribers to charities, compiled for the purpose of assisting all seekers after

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subscriptions in the pursuit of their prey. Finding that the book is being extensively pushed, and that the original price of 10s. 6d. had been raised to one guinea, I sent a representative to interview the author respecting his sinister enterprise. He is an elderly individual named Grant, and appears to be a genial cynic. He made no attempt to disguise the character of his work, and was proud of its success. Owing to its having gone off so well, he had thought it advisable to put the price up, and the result had justified his anticipations. I gather that he possesses an extensive and peculiar acquaintance with the business of subscription-hunting, and congratulates himself on his skill in utilising the humbug of philanthropy for his own ends. He related with obvious enjoyment how he had put into his little list all against whom he had a grudge. The Charity Organisation takes an uncharitable view of Mr. Grant, so down went all the subscribers to the C.O.S. among "The Charitable Ten Thousand." Grant is now running an "Anti-Liberation Society;" and all those of his subscribers who have got into arrear with their subscriptions have been enrolled for their sins in Grant's "Ten Thousand." These facts will doubtless be of interest to purchasers of the volume—especially those who have come in at the one guinea tariff.

This is not Mr. Grant's first effort at exploiting the charitable. Many years ago he started a "Charity Protection League," for the purpose of protecting the public against the Charity Organisation Society, and "saving the London hospitals." He seems to have carried on the League quite single-handed, and himself acted as committee, honorary secretary, and treasurer —no doubt with a view to saving expense. To what extent the public supported this enterprise he has never made known. He does not seem to have extinguished the Charity Organisation Society, but as the London hospitals are still safe, while Mr. Grant himself is still living and prospering, and is in a position to sell lists of ten thousand substantial and reliable subscribers at a guinea the list, the "Charity Protection League" cannot be held to have existed in vain.

I was asked the other day if I knew anything about the "Women's Trading Guild," prospectuses of which had been received by some few readers of TRUTH. It was the first I had heard of the Guild, but in searching for further enlightenment I came across an amusing story. The Guild is the latest idea of a gentleman who has a fad for starting co-operative schemes, and who has succeeded in spending a good deal out of his own pocket without succeeding in putting very much into other people's. He advertised for ladies who would interest themselves in a work of this character. To him came a Miss Ella Wilson, of 34, Corinne-road, Tufnell Park, N. Miss Wilson was full of enthusiasm for the idea, and she, like Ko-Ko, and Mr. Grant of the Charity Protection League, "had a little list"—a list of benevolent persons whose support and cash could be almost counted upon for certain. The benevolent founder of the "Women's Trading Guild" at once saw the importance of enlisting Miss Ella Wilson's services, and employed her to send out circulars to all the benevolent people on her little list. That is how so many of my readers came to receive prospectuses of the "Women's Trading Guild," with a nice little covering letter from 34, Corinne-road, Tufnell Park, signed "Ella Wilson."

The next development of the story is highly interesting. Reference was made in last week's TRUTH to the arrest of Miss Nellie Lane, alias Lloyd, alias Hamilton, alias Merton, alias Morris, alias Brookes, alias Lyle, of the Leeds "Carlton Society," and the St. John's Wood "Kensington Association." "Ella Wilson" is another alias of this Protean damsel, and she was actually arrested at 34, Corinne-road, Tufnell Park, where she was living under that name. The circulars which she had issued from that address for the "Women's Trading Guild" only produced one answer, Miss Ella Wilson's "list" proving less efficacious than she had represented it, and I understand from the promoter that the Guild has in consequence perished still-born. The only lady, in fact, to whom this philanthropic effort on behalf of the sex proved of any service was the enterprising sample of womanhood now under remand at Portsmouth. I did not ask the benevolent founder of the Guild what he paid her for the use of her list and the work of sending out the circulars. I had not the heart.

Owing, I suppose, to the attention I have lately devoted to the subject of chemists' and druggists' prices, I have been introduced to the sad story of an Irish apothecary, who started in business in England without ascertaining whether his Irish qualification was sufficient to legally justify him in so doing, and has, in consequence, been prosecuted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Being interested in this subject, I sent down to make some inquiries of the Pharmaceutical Society in London, as to their reasons for refusing to recognise the Irish qualification. They tell me that, in their opinion, the Irish examination is an insufficient test of a druggist's qualifications for dispensing work, and that they consequently do not recognise licentiates of the Irish Pharmaceutical Society. This really seems to me to be another grievance from Ireland, not so much from the point of view of the Irish chemist as from that of his customers. Is an Irishman's internal economy less precious in the eyes of the law than that of an Englishman or a Scotchman? Is a pill or a draught good enough for him which would not be fit for an Englishman or Scotchman? If not, I do not see why the qualifications for a dispensing chemist should be lower on the west side of the St. George's Channel than on the east.

One of the arguments invariably put forward by the agricultural section in this country is that the low price of wheat is responsible for, or, at any rate, commonly attended by, general depression in trade, and consequently bad times for the working classes. At the present moment there is a boom in wheat, and prices are

higher than they have been for many a long day, with the result that the bakers have seized such a favourable opportunity to advance the price of bread. But the question to which I should like to receive a satisfactory reply is, why should the baker be permitted to take advantage of the rise without being compelled to reduce his prices on a fall? The price of wheat has been abnormally low for a long time until just now, but the price charged for the loaf has practically never varied for the benefit of the poor. I am utterly opposed to State interference with the methods of private trading, but when the "staff of life" is in question, I do not think that the fraternity of bakers should be permitted to have everything entirely their own way.

A Scottish life office in London, in a circular describing the business it transacts in connection with reversions, writes:—

> It may be useful for you to know that we are ready to consider proposals for *insurances against issue.*

Doubtless many will find it useful. But how is it done?

A little matter for the head officials of the South-Western Railway. There is a gang of platelayers who work chiefly in Honiton Tunnel. They used to receive one shilling per week more than their neighbours working in the open air. Recently, the latter have had a rise of one shilling, but for some reason it has not been granted to the Honiton Tunnel men. Many months ago they sent in an application through the proper channel, backed by their inspector, but, having received no answer, they conclude that it has never got as far as headquarters. Has it?

We often talk about "buying a man at our price and selling him at his own," but I doubt very much, if it came to a question of fixing an actual sum, whether we should be "in it" with that interesting tradesman—the brigand—who, "by strict attention to business," appears to flourish upon Turkish soil. The last victim to the lawlessness of that portion of Europe is Captain Marriott, of the Norfolk Regiment, who was annexed by these enterprising gentlemen whilst on a shooting expedition in the vilayet of Aidin. But, however gratifying it may have been to this officer to learn that he was actually considered worth £15,000, it must be much more satisfactory to him to find that his market value has already gone down one-third, and I should say that, sinking all ideas of vanity, he would be only too glad if his captors announced that "no reasonable offer would be refused."

The English in British Guiana do not seem satisfied with almost dragging us into war with the United States to defend certain outlying districts that they insist belong to the Colony, but which, Sir Edward Clarke says, do not. At present these wily Colonials have announced that, unless we come to their aid, their sugar industry will have to be abandoned. The aid that they suggest is that we should all agree to pay them 3d. per pound for their sugar, although it can be bought elsewhere at 2d. per pound. Under these circumstances, they will have to give up the growing of sugar cane. As a matter of fact, there are very few English in British Guiana, and, as the place is situated in the tropics, the work is done by coolies. Sanguine indeed must the few hundred sugar planters be if they suppose that any one is likely over here to pay a tax on sugar, in order that these few hundred may make money by employing coolies to till the sugar cane for them.

In his interesting account of the lines on which Mr. Bright prepared his speeches, Mr. Chamberlain might have added that he wrote out and read a great portion of them. In his best days he used to stand, when delivering them, with a large number of pages of paper in his hand, and he put by his side each page when he had exhausted it, making no sort of concealment. I remember once talking to him in the House of Commons smoking-room about "notes" a little before he delivered one of his most admired speeches. He had his "notes" before him, and, as an illustration of his mode, he handed them to me. There were passages fully written out, which I afterwards heard him read verbatim. A man, he said, has no right to make a speech in the House of Commons without careful preparation.

Mr. Disraeli, who, like Mr. Bright, could make debating speeches without notes, used generally to learn by heart the speeches that he delivered at public meetings. He would have down the gentleman who habitually reported them to Hughenden and make the speech to him, which the reporter took down in shorthand. When delivered, the reporter had the speech before him, and he used to say that Mr. Disraeli hardly altered in the delivery a single word. Lord Randolph Churchill also had this gift of memory. He knew a speech by heart by writing it, nor did he require to go over it after writing it, so sure was he of his memory. Talking once with him about this gift, he read to me an article in the *Times*, then handed it to me, and repeated it almost without a single fault. The late Lord Derby used to read all his speeches. Not only did he write them, but he had them printed before delivering them, and copies were almost invariably sent beforehand to the Reporters' Gallery. I once saw one of these printed documents. It struck me that Lord Derby had a very curious idea of what was likely to produce laughter, for after phrases which certainly did not seem calculated to make any one laugh, he had interpolated the word "laughter." The late Lord Leighton used to learn by

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heart his orations at the Royal Academy dinners. He used to say that he could see the manuscript before him, and that, as he spoke, he in his mind's eye turned over the pages.

Speaking last week to his brother Scots at Stirling, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman denied that the selection of Lord Rosebery as Premier was due to any exercise of Court influence. How, then, was it that the Queen did not consult Mr. Gladstone as to his successor according to usage, and how was it that she did send for Lord Rosebery, who was not even the Liberal Leader in the House of Lords? The Conservative newspapers urged that he was the most fitting man to succeed Mr. Gladstone as Liberal Premier, but obviously the most fitting man in their estimate was the man least likely to allow the Liberal Party to fall into Radical hands. Are we, therefore, to understand that the Queen acted on this advice, and that it was in no way conveyed to her that some of Mr. Gladstone's late colleagues wished that his lordship should be sent for to the Palace? The world, it used to be thought, rested on a tortoise, but it was vainly asked on what the tortoise rested. Who was the tortoise on which Lord Rosebery's selection rested?

Sir Henry goes on to explain that a Leader of the Liberal Party is not chosen by the Party, and to prove this he instances the case of Lord Hartington, who, he says, on Mr. Gladstone announcing his retirement from public affairs, was only elected Leader of the Party in the Commons. But he forgets that Lord Hartington, by this election, became the Leader of the Party. When the Tory Government was placed in a minority, the outgoing Premier advised the Queen to send for Lord Hartington, because he was the Liberal Leader, and entrust him with the formation of a Liberal Ministry. This she did. Lord Hartington, after some negotiations advised her to send for Mr. Gladstone. His personality was so overwhelming, and the desire of every Liberal that he should resume the Leadership so strong, that he undertook the task of forming an Administration. But the Queen fully recognised that he could not be asked to do this, before the offer had been made to Lord Hartington, as Leader of his Party, because he was its Leader in the Commons.

When history comes to be written—if ever truly—it will become clear that Lord Hartington's leadership was an attempt by the Whigs to oust Mr. Gladstone, and that it failed because the latter was supported by the Radicals. Writing of this episode, Archbishop Magee says:—

"Gladstone has helped himself back into the running for the Premiership; but he has done so by more than ever committing himself to the Radical programme, and so disorganising the Liberals, whose Whig section is still powerful, and still distrusts him.

According to the *St. James's Gazette*—an evening newspaper which I am in the habit of reading, because it not only gives me a good epitome of the day's news, but expounds the Tory and the Jingo view on politics, often with considerable ability and always with frankness—Mr. Gladstone declines to be drawn on General Gordon, "the man whom he deliberately sacrificed and disgracefully abandoned," for the same reason that Bill Sikes would have preferred to keep silence on certain transactions in his life. Now, there is a good deal to admire, and a good deal to regret in the career of General Gordon. But, in any case, Mr. Gladstone neither abandoned him nor sacrificed him. Gordon was sent to Khartoum to evacuate the Soudan. Instead of doing this, he declared war *proprio motu*, and shut himself up with all the Egyptian troops that he could get hold of in Khartoum. Mr. Gladstone, being Prime Minister, gave Lord Wolseley a free hand, and put at his disposal the force that he deemed necessary to bring back from Khartoum Gordon and his followers.

A correspondent writes:—

May we not expect next year to read something like the following in the Jingo newspapers:—

"After yesterday, an invitation to lecture at the Imperial Institute will be regarded as an insult by every self-respecting Englishman. A Mr. Draper had been invited to deliver a lecture there upon the Geology of China. It would seem that this Draper had been residing in a town on the coast of China. A band of British pirates had attacked it, but, after killing many of the natives, they had been captured by the Chinese Police and handed over to the British authorities, by whom they were condemned to a term of imprisonment. Mr. Draper, who had been long engaged in business in this Chinese town, had joined with its inhabitants in resisting these miscreants.

"This fact is enough to brand the lecturer as a traitor to the English name, for it would appear that many of our most honoured noblemen and financiers advanced money to purchase the piratic vessel, and were to share in the booty that it was hoped would accrue from the venture. The audience, consisting as it did of the élite of Society, greeted Mr. Draper with a storm of indignation. They shouted 'traitor' and 'renegade' at the top of their voices. The lecturer was unable, notwithstanding the efforts of the chairman, to obtain a hearing. A Mr. Hart said that he wanted to know what sort of a geological formation was a person who took up arms against his countrymen. A Mr. Rogers observed that he had not the pleasure to know such a cur and a boaster as the lecturer. This caused violent scenes, and the chairman declared the meeting at an end. Cheers were then raised for the British Empire and the captain of the pirate craft, and the Union Jack was waved, and the proceedings concluded. We learn without surprise that some of our cosmopolitan contemporaries discern no impropriety in the presence of a renegade Englishman on the platform of the Imperial Institute. The 'Little Englander' may be the right man in the right place, when he appears before some meeting of Radicals and other such vulgarians, but if he dares show his face again in an Institute under Royal patronage and where society delights to congregate to enjoy the amusements of a music-hall, he must understand that he will do it at his peril. The shouts that drowned the voice of the renegade Draper, and the abuse that was launched against him by the patriots Hart and Rogers, are signs of good omen. They show that, however the commonalty may be led astray by false guides, the heart of Society beats true.

"We understand that next week there is to be an entertainment at the Institute, at which Miss Lottie —— will appear in her inimitable song and red petticoats. Mlles. Vesta, Violet, Peggy, and Polly will dance an Imperial Institute version of the cancan, several members of the Primrose League will perform on the banjo, the mandolin, and the Jew's harp, and the Poet Laureate will recite his inspiriting and patriotic 'Jameson's Ride.' Fellows on this unique occasion will not be admitted free, and will only be allowed to introduce a friend on payment of one guinea. Entrance by the side door only."

Some calculator added up the number of Dervishes who had, according to the newspapers, been killed during our Suakim military operations. I forget what the amount was, but I remember that it

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was considerably more than the entire inhabitants of the Soudan. So now, if I am to believe the telegrams from Rhodesia, more natives have been either slain or have surrendered than were supposed to have existed in the whole of Charterland, and yet it would seem there are plenty left to be killed or captured. I suspect that these "surrenders" have a good deal to do with the gang of promoters of the Chartered Company having found themselves obliged to underwrite a large issue of shares at a premium of 100 per cent. If they cannot catch all the Matabele and the Mashonas, the report that they have done so may serve to catch investors for these shares.

I asked last week what we should say to a Boer celebration of Majuba Hill. I am told that such a celebration takes place annually, and that "Majuba Day" is a general holiday throughout the Transvaal. "It causes," says my informant, "much friction with the English population." So I should imagine, and what my correspondent says on the subject tends to justify the remarks I made about the celebration of victories generally. The Boers have a right, of course, to celebrate the battle which won them their independence, but they would do better to bury the hatchet. That is the policy which I recommend to all disputants when they have had their fight and settled their differences.

A Liberal paper considers that it has convicted me of inconsequence because I said last week, when speaking to my constituents, that the people ought to choose their Leader, and, later on, that Sir William Harcourt was my Leader. How, it asks, can the people elect their Leader? What I contended for was, that the Leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons is, *de facto*, the Leader of the Liberal Party, because he has become Leader of the House of Commons by the selection of the Liberal Members of that House, acting in their capacity as Representatives of the Liberal electors. As Sir William Harcourt is, with the approval of every Liberal in the House of Commons, the Leader there, it logically follows that he is my Leader so long as I am a humble unit in the Party. How by this I lay claim to be a "Grand Elector" I fail to see. Far from it, I modestly accept a principle which secures to the Party that its Leader shall be in the House of Commons, and which, so far as is possible, puts the question of Leadership outside all personal rivalries.

The same journal complains that I, being on the Committee to inquire, *inter alia*, into the origin of the Matabele war, stated that "events had shown that I was right in putting down the Matabele war to Stock Exchange interests." I said this again and again in Parliament, before I was on the Committee. Why, then, should I unsay it now? I am open to alter my views if the contrary of this can be shown by inquiry; but until shown, I retain my opinion, just as Mr. Wyndham, who is on the Committee, retains, I presume, his opinion that the Transvaal raid was a laudable undertaking.

A leading Liberal writes:—

The Unionist Press almost every day tells us that Harcourt acted so unfairly towards Rosebery that he has lost the confidence of all Liberals, and that the Liberal Party will lose all claim to respect if it fails to induce Rosebery to lead it again. The latter suggestion I hardly think is likely to conduce to the end desired, for if—as I believe—we are not ready to accept a Leader selected by the Queen, we are still less likely to leave the selection to our political opponents. But I deny absolutely that Harcourt acted unfairly. You gave last week a perfectly true account of what led up to Rosebery's Premiership. Mr. Gladstone did offer to continue to lead the Party if an immediate dissolution was agreed to, and his colleagues refused to accept his further Leadership under this condition. A few of the Cabinet did refuse to serve under Harcourt, and this led to the majority expressing their personal preference for Rosebery. Thus the cabal of a minority succeeded, because the majority was faced with a split in the Cabinet, if it did not knock under to it. The Queen did not consult Mr. G. as to his successor as was usual under the circumstances, but sent for Rosebery. If Harcourt had declined to serve, the position of the Party would have been seriously damaged. He, therefore, consented to remain as Leader in the Commons; but the policy and the tactics of the Cabinet during the last Session of the late Parliament were not his, except in regard to the increase in the Death Dues, which he was only allowed to insert in his Budget in consequence of a threat of resignation. What the Cabinet that had rejected him as Leader decided, he did his best to carry into effect in the Commons. When this policy culminated in defeat in the Commons, and, subsequently, in the country, a letter of Rosebery's was circulated, in which the late Premier declined any further political connection with Harcourt. The position, therefore, was this: Rosebery was the titular Leader of the Party; Harcourt was the actual Leader of the Party in the Commons. If at any time the Party secured a Parliamentary majority, Rosebery as Leader would have been called upon to form a Government, and he had announced that in this case, his first step would be to cashier Harcourt. How, under these circumstances, could Harcourt consult with Rosebery in respect to the management of public business? What he did was all that he could do. He led the House of Commons with marked ability, and consulted with the leading gentlemen seated with him on the front Opposition bench, every one of whom is now on the best of terms with him.

I agree with you that we ought to rally to the doctrine that the Leader in the Commons is the Party Leader. To have a man recognised by the Party as Leader is the only way to get out of back stairs intrigues, and so long as they last, the Party will be without cohesion. I am convinced that the large majority of Liberals in the House are prepared to recognise Harcourt as Leader, whilst, from all that I hear, the Liberals outside the House are strongly for his Leadership. They never rightly understood why he was ousted from the Leadership on the resignation of Mr. Gladstone in favour of a peer, who had struck no roots in the country. The Party machine did its best to create a Rosebery boom, but failed, and the result of his Leadership to the Party is not exactly likely to convince men that his selection was a wise one. It was, in the opinion of most Liberals, tainted with intrigue, and the conclusion in the minds of most Liberals was, that it had been an attempt on the part of the Court and of the aristocratic wing of the Party to convert Liberal officialism into a colourless Whigism, differing in very little except in name from the political creed of our opponents.

SCRUTATOR.

WHAT IS THE EASTERN QUESTION?

WHAT is the Eastern Question? It is a struggle by Russia to have the key of the door to the Black Sea, either in her own hands, or in the hands of some Power over which she exercises paramount influence, and by us, who would have the key, nominally in the hands of all European Powers, but, practically, in our own, in order that Russian war vessels in the Black Sea may be confined to that sea, and that, in the event of our being at war with Russia, we may be able to undertake military operations against the Russian towns on that sea. Our object cannot be secured without giving the Sultan of Turkey a free hand over the Christian races in his dominions. Only by sacrificing the well-being of these races, and subjecting them to the most terrible misery we

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have, up to now, attained it. Wherever Russia sought to emancipate them, we stepped in to prevent their emancipation, and on the last occasion that we acted as a police force for the Sultan, we entered into an engagement to defend his Empire by force of arms if attacked by Russia, for which we received Cyprus.

At length public opinion amongst us, influenced by the accumulation of horrors that have been committed by the Sultan on the unhappy beings whom, in pursuit of our policy, we have handed over to his tender mercies, has been aroused, and has loudly declared that it will no longer allow our "Statesmen" to disgrace us by such a negation of humanity. Unless, however, the pressure is kept up on these "Statesmen" I fear that under some specious guise they will revert to their iniquitous policy.

What, then, should be our course? To see clearly what it ought to be, the facts with which we have to deal must first be realised. The Black Sea is a land-locked lake, communicating with the Mediterranean by a long narrow passage. The shores of this lake mainly belong to Turkey and to Russia. Consequently, the only way in which the Ports of Southern Russia can obtain an exit to the high seas is by way of the narrow exit. This exit is in the hands of the Turks, and, geographically, Russia is the only country that can weigh with sufficient force on the Turk to oblige him to govern with humanity the Christian races subject to him.

If, therefore, we wish cruelties that are a disgrace to the entire world to cease, we must give to Russia a free hand to act. The Cyprus Convention must be abrogated, and the inhabitants of Cyprus must be allowed to decide on their own future destinies; Turkey must be recognised as within the sphere of Russian influence alone; and, as a necessary consequence, the exit from the Black Sea must fall under Russian military influence. This would not prevent its use by other Powers in times of peace, whilst *per contra* the Russian Black Sea fleet would have a right to enter the Mediterranean, like our own. To this solution of the Eastern Question all the Continental Powers are agreed. Austria is the only one that would prefer the *status quo*, but the assent of Austria is to be bought by some rectification of her eastern frontier, and, even if this were not so, she is powerless to hinder anything which may meet with the approval of Russia, France, and Germany. This approval is due in part to the conviction that the solution is the only natural one, and in part to the objection that the Continental Powers entertain to the habit which we have developed of treating the entire Mediterranean as though it belonged to us. I have never heard any ground alleged to show that the solution would in any way harm us. The only reason for our opposition is that it has long been our traditional policy to hinder any approach on the part of Russia to the Mediterranean, and that every country is inclined to adhere to its traditional policy without weighing its merits and demerits.

When the position of things on the Black Sea is thus regulated, it will be necessary for us to consent to a European regulation of our position in Egypt. My objections to our occupation of Egypt are twofold. 1. We are there in defiance of our pledges to Europe that the occupation would only be temporary, and this brings our good name into discredit, for the grounds that we allege for remaining there may be equally alleged at any time in the next hundred years. 2. This occupation, far from being an advantage to us, is a serious danger. The shortest road to our Asiatic dominions is viâ the Mediterranean. Were it not for this, we should have no more concern with that sea than with the Baltic. At the western exit we have the fortress of Gibraltar. At the eastern exit we have solidly established ourselves at Aden, for the Red Sea is practically a prolongation of the Suez Canal. In the event of a great maritime war, we therefore could close the eastern exit to the ships of the enemy, and, if we are masters of the high seas, we could also, thanks to our possession of Gibraltar, close the western exit to the enemies' ships, sending all our commerce to the East by the alternative route of the Cape. We might or we might not endeavour to hold the Mediterranean. I believe that the opinion of tacticians is that we should do well not to attempt to do so. But whether we do, or whether we do not, it is evident that a small British force occupying Egypt would be a source of weakness rather than of strength to us. It would compromise the question whether it would be tactically wise to hold the Mediterranean, and, if we did hold it, Egypt would be defended by our Navy, and would not depend upon this small army, which could not well be increased because we should want our troops elsewhere. Therefore, I entirely agree with Mr. Courtney. that we should do well to come to some arrangement with Europe in respect to Egypt.

The only reply, so far as ever I can see, to men like Mr. Courtney, who would have us put some limit to the enormous responsibilities that we are every year augmenting, is vague abuse. They are dubbed "Little Englanders," as though the British Empire were so little that to rest satisfied with it is mean and contemptible, They are called foolish, ignorant, and traitors to the honour and glory of the country to which they belong. And yet the views which they uphold are those on which the Liberal Party acted for many years: they were entertained by the idiot Bright, the imbecile Cobden, and the traitor Gladstone. Only a very short time ago, they were articles of faith in the creed of every Liberal in the country. I have no more doubt that they will once more become popular than I have of my own existence. Every country has its fits of Jingoism. The Athenians had such a fit when they rushed into the Sicilian expedition that ruined them. The French had an attack of it when they shouted *à Berlin*, and lost Alsace and Lorraine. These fits fortunately are eventually temporary in their nature. I am inclined, indeed, to think that the nation is beginning to recover from the very sharp attack of this malady,

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from which it has been suffering. The military gentlemen on the war path, the financiers who hope to profit by every annexation, the fools who rejoice in their folly and call on the world in arms to come on in order that we may have an opportunity to show the metal of which we are made, still beat the big drum; but their appeals and their outcry are losing their effect. Vainly the Press Jingo wields the drum-sticks, and curses all who dare to differ from him. A more silly, swaggering, blustering creature than this Press drummer never existed. His ignorance in all matters appertaining to our foreign relations is positively phenomenal, and this is only equalled by his conceit in himself. One day he throws down the gauntlet to America, another day to France, another day to Germany, and another day to all three. When he is not swaggering he is cringing. If he finds that a foreign country is not frightened by his blatant abuse, he humbly turns to the Power that he has reviled on the previous day, and proposes to it our alliance. When the annexation of some territory is announced he is happy, although the territory may be a worthless acquisition, and he explains that, in laying hands on it, we have been actuated by no sordid greed, but by an anxious wish to better the lot of its inhabitants, for the more selfish is the aim, the more is it concealed under a plea of universal philanthropy. Now he is thirsting for some tropical jungle in Africa where white men cannot live; now for a Pacific island, the savage natives of which can only exist by eating each other; now for some region of eternal snows in Asia. Nothing satisfies his strange earth hunger; one annexation is made a plea for a further one. But if any other country follows our example, he denounces it, as though it had committed a crime towards humanity. The Press Jingo always reminds me of a magpie. There is the same irrational and pernicious greed, and the same solemn air of being the wisest of God's creatures.

This sort of gassy vaunting fool has always existed in every nation and in every time. In England, the good sense of the nation has usually kept him down, but since the Liberal party was tricked into adopting the foreign policy of its opponents, he has raved without restraint. If we are to accept him as our guide, philosopher, and friend, and to act as he would have us, some great disaster is before us. This is why I have so persistently protested against the capture of the Liberal Party by the Jingoes, and this is why I would have Liberals return to the old faith, of which Mr. Gladstone was the most honoured exponent. If we rest satisfied with what we have got, if we cease to meddle in matters that do not concern us, if we hold to our plighted word instead of glorying in violating it, we may rest assured that no foreign country will seek a quarrel with us. At the bottom of these endeavours to embroil us with all foreign nations, and to treat the world as though it were our oyster, is the hope that the country will be diverted from all internal reforms, and that the advancing wave of Democracy will be arrested. The device is old and stale, but unfortunately it too often succeeds. There is nothing against which Radicals should be more on their guard than against the Jingo red herring.

This red herring has always been a potent arm of defence in the hands of the classes. Again and again, when the Radical pack has been in full cry, and the quarry has been almost within their jaws, they have allowed themselves to be drawn aside by a herring. When, however, their opponents do not provide them with one, there is considerable truth in the sneer of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, that they are "like a pack of young hounds straying over a great woodland, each hunting his own cub." It would be well, indeed, if all Tory cubs were run down and destroyed, but it is certain that this can only happen if they are dealt with one by one, and if the House of Lords, which is the drain in which they take refuge when pursued, is well and securely stopped.

THE *BROAD ARROW* AND THE ARMY.

In last week's TRUTH I charged the *Broad Arrow* with a gross offence against the *lex non scripta* of journalism, as well as against the code of honour prevailing among gentlemen in all professions. The allegations were given in sufficient detail to enable the facts to be at once identified by those familiar with the case. The *Broad Arrow* in its last issue answers the indictment with the following paragraph:—

> TRUTH's two columns of abuse of *The Broad Arrow* may be answered in half-a-dozen words. TRUTH's story is an absolute fabrication.

To this off-handed dismissal of the subject the rejoinder may be almost equally brief. The story thus declared to be an absolute fabrication rests on the statements of three officers holding Her Majesty's commission. The army and the public have, therefore, to choose between the veracity of these officers and the assertion of the *Broad Arrow* that they have fabricated, and, it might be added, circulated the story. If the editor and proprietor of the *Broad Arrow* prefers to leave the matter in this position, I have no objection.

I would only add to this that in the following article the reader may see for himself on what slender grounds the editor of the *Broad Arrow* is capable of pronouncing a statement to be a "fabrication," and of "giving the lie direct" to those whose assertions are not to his taste.

THE OTHER CAVALRY SCANDAL.

On July 2 some particulars were given in TRUTH of a story in circulation in Service circles in India respecting the bullying of a subaltern in the 20th Hussars, then stationed at Mhow. The story was told apropos of the 4th Hussars scandal, and as evidence of the need for some exhaustive inquiry by the War Office into the subject of bullying in Cavalry regiments. Briefly, it was that a subaltern, a few days after joining the 20th

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Hussars, was taken by a party of his brother officers to the riding school, forcibly put on a horse barebacked, and made to gallop round the school, while his tormentors laid their whips across him until he was so seriously injured that he subsequently had to go on the sick list, notwithstanding threats of the unpleasant consequences that would follow if he disclosed what had happened to him. In mentioning this story I did not take upon myself the responsibility of guaranteeing its accuracy in all particulars; but I stated that it was current in India and so far believed that an officer of another regiment, stationed near the 20th, had communicated it to an officer in London, who had in turn repeated it to me, as a matter calling for explanation or denial from the regiment if untrue, and for notice from the War Office if substantially accurate.

The publication of this statement in TRUTH very speedily brought from India further evidence, which seemed to show clearly that substantially the story *was* true. Nor did I for some time receive anything in the shape of an authoritative contradiction. In the last week in August, however, the following letter reached me. I reproduce it *verbatim* in order to explain the action which I have taken in regard to it:—

Mhow, C. I.,
1 Aug '96.

SIR,—I have just seen your paragraph headed more Cavalry rufianism in which you make a vain attempt to mix my Regt up.

I thought you were more a man of the world than to allow yourself to be caught by the tittle tattle that goes about. You know for certain it is third hand and for all you know it might be as it has turned out to be a grossly fabricated story which does not in the very least concern you. I hope you will inform your informant that for the future he better mind his own business and not be made such an ass of for the future. I take the matter up as the subaltern in question is in my squadron and the makings of a very smart Cavalry soldier. Any treatment he has had from the hands of his brother subalterns has only tended to improve him if possible and he is perfectly capable of taking care of himself. If busy bodies only leave the subalterns of the XX Hussars alone they are quite capable of looking after themselves and are now as happy a crew as could be found in any Regiment.

Yrs faithfully
H. BEAUCHAMP Major
XX Hussars.

From the language, spelling, and general literary style of the above letter, I could hardly doubt that it was a hoax, designed to throw discredit upon Major Beauchamp and the 20th Hussars. Before dealing with it, therefore, in TRUTH, I wrote to Major Beauchamp, requesting him to let me know whether he had really addressed such a letter to me. I have now received his answer. He says that the letter is genuine, and explains the delay in replying by his having been away on leave. The above document, therefore, must be now taken as the official reply of the 20th Hussars to the ugly story which was told in TRUTH of July 2.

As regards the form of the letter, I do not desire to say much. A man may be a good officer and a brave soldier, and yet not be much of a hand with his pen; although I am bound to say that, judging from my own extensive experience of the British Army, soldiers of the present day, even down to the last recruit enlisted from the Board School population, write as a rule as good letters as men in any other walk in life. But the substance of Major Beauchamp's letter is of more importance than the form, and the only remark I will make upon his language and literary style is that, in view of what follows, they are not without significance as evidence of the "tone" prevailing in this regiment. The Major, it will be seen, after a few preliminary sarcasms which are unworthy of notice, tells me that the story about the treatment of a subaltern in his regiment is "grossly fabricated." Having done so, he proceeds almost in the next sentence to talk about "the subaltern in question" in a way which clearly shows that the gross fabrication has, at any rate, enough foundation to enable him at once to identify the victim of the alleged outrage. In the next sentence we get a little farther, for we find that "the subaltern in question" has been subjected to "treatment" of some kind "from the hands of his brother subalterns," that this treatment has "tended to improve him if possible," and that he is now "perfectly capable of taking care of himself." While, therefore, characterising the story as "grossly fabricated," Major Beauchamp clearly shows that there *was* foundation for it, and absolutely refrains from any attempt to explain what the foundation for the story was, or how much of the statement in TRUTH he really intends to deny. I think every reader will agree that such a disclaimer is most unconvincing and unsatisfactory, and that if this is all that can be offered in the way of denial or explanation by the 20th Hussars, the regiment would have done better to keep silence.

It is not worth while to discuss this singular document further, because since the first reference to this case I have obtained evidence which places the matter on a totally different footing from that on which it was left in TRUTH of July 2. It was there given, as Major Beauchamp observes, at third hand. I have now testimony of a direct character, of the value of which I am satisfied; and I have no hesitation in saying that the statement as to the bullying of this subaltern in the 20th Hussars in TRUTH of July 2 was, in all material respects, true. In two particulars only does it require correction, namely, that the incident did not take place in India or at the time alleged, but at Colchester just before the regiment went abroad. This correction has obviously no bearing upon the gravity of the facts, and in no way alters the effect of the story. I should also state that from the evidence which I now have it would appear that, when they took their victim to the riding-school, the officers concerned had sufficient regard for themselves to bolt the door. What, therefore, actually occurred inside can only be known by the evidence of their victim and themselves. But this much is certain: that the luckless subaltern was ridden round the school until he got a bad fall, and was picked up insensible, and that he was on the sick-list for some weeks afterwards with a bad knee. I have also good reason to believe that the story came to the ears of Lord Beaumont, then commanding the regiment, and that

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he at once had the offenders before him, and delivered to them a reprimand and a warning, which had the effect of keeping them quiet for the rest of the time that he remained with the regiment. Unfortunately, that was only a few weeks. If I am in any way misinformed as to this last point, I trust that Lord Beaumont will not hesitate to tell me so, for his evidence, either one way or the other, has now an important bearing upon the story. Whatever Lord Beaumont may or may not have done, however, I assert that the foregoing is the truth about the "treatment" which Major Beauchamp alludes to as having been received by this young officer from his comrades of the 20th Hussars, and these are the exact particulars, so far as they can be known by others than the parties immediately concerned, of what the Major describes as "a grossly fabricated" story.

So much for the statements which appeared in TRUTH of July 2. But this particular incident in the riding school at Colchester is merely one in a long series. Since the 20th have been in India the same sort of thing has gone on, and, from such evidence as is forthcoming, it would seem that the regiment has a record for this period unparalleled in the annals of the Army. In view of what I have now learned, it is easy to understand how stories to the detriment of the 20th have reached other regiments, nor is it to be wondered at if, among so many incidents of a similar character, some confusion of dates and places should have arisen. The persecution of the unfortunate subaltern who figures in the Colchester riding-school affair appears to have been kept up systematically from the time Lord Beaumont left the regiment, and without the faintest shadow of justification. The favourite form of pastime was that of dragging him from bed in the middle of the night and knocking his property about. I am told that he has more than once gone to the quarters of married officers in the garrison at Mhow either for protection, or to escape the ordeal of appearing in his own mess. One of the incidents which occurred at Mhow is fully on a par with the riding-school affair at Colchester. On this occasion the same subaltern was taken out of bed at night, made to put on a pair of drawers, and, thus habited, taken out and put on a horse without stirrups. A large bonfire had been lit in the compound, and over this the subaltern was made to jump, in the presence of an admiring crowd of natives, including all the syces of the regiment. It had doubtless been expected that he would get a fall, but he managed to stick on his horse, and being thus disappointed of their fun, his tormentors then took away the saddle and made him jump the bonfire bare-backed. This also he succeeded in doing without accident, the truth being, as I am informed on very good authority, that the young man is an excellent rider, and not only has in him, as Major Beauchamp puts it, "the makings of a very smart cavalry soldier," but is a much better rider and officer than the majority of his amiable comrades. There is no doubt that this long course of persecution, as in the case of Mr. Hodge and Mr. Bruce, was carried out with the express intention of driving the victim out of the regiment, and I am told that on various occasions when he was ill-treated he was told that he had better resign. On one occasion he actually took steps to obtain a transfer, notwithstanding which the bullying still continued.

The humility and degradation thus imposed upon a brother officer in the presence of natives will strike all Army men who know India as a far worse piece of ruffianism than the performance in the riding-school at Colchester; but even this can be capped from the recent history of the 20th Hussars. One night, after mess, a young officer who had only just joined was actually made to don the clothes of one of the native waiters, turban included. He was then made to go behind the scenes, and bring out drinks to his brother officers as they reclined in their chairs. Not satisfied with this, his "comrades" then made him go to the hut of one of his own native servants, knock at the door, and, when the native opened it, salaam his own servant. This ceremony can only have been devised, as every Anglo-Indian will admit, for the purpose of subjecting the victim to the very lowest degradation that ingenuity could devise. The men who could expose one of their brother officers to such humiliation in the eyes of all the native servants and hangers-on of the regiment must be utterly devoid of all sense of what is due to their own profession and to the honour of their countrymen in India. The proceeding is, in fact, an insult to the whole Army, and stamps the men who could perpetrate it as utterly unfit to hold the Queen's Commission.

With regard to the ill-treatment of the particular subaltern who figured in the Colchester affair, I am told that the responsibility is in no way confined to the junior officers of the regiment. In proof of this, the victim once made a complaint to a senior officer of the regiment, who pretended to listen to him, and then actually went and gave him away behind his back, with the result that on the very same night he received a further castigation. This is only what might be expected, for it stands to reason that such outrageous blackguardism as that described above could not possibly have gone on, as it did for many months, without the knowledge of some at least of the senior officers, more especially if it be true that a severe warning had been given to these subalterns by Lord Beaumont before he left the regiment. Let there be no attempt, then, in this case, on the part of the War Office, to suggest, as in the cases of Messrs. Hodge and Bruce, that the victim of this persecution received all the protection and support which he had a right to expect from the senior officers of the regiment.

It is, I hope, unnecessary for me to say that in publishing these facts I have no intention of suggesting that they represent a state of things prevailing to any considerable extent in the Army. On the contrary, I am confident that nine out of ten, or ninety-nine out of a hundred British officers who read these statements will agree with me that the men who could perpetrate such

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blackguardly brutality are a disgrace to the Service, and that for the sake of the whole Army such practices require to be exposed, punished, and suppressed. I would again repeat that it was in consequence of the indignation and disgust which the story of the riding-school incident created in other regiments that the attention of TRUTH was originally called by an Army man to the doings of the 20th Hussars. I am told that for some time past the 20th have enjoyed an unenviable reputation both in Service and civilian circles, and a witness, to whom I am indebted for much interesting evidence, remarks that nothing could be more significant than the general feeling which prevailed in the garrison at Colchester towards the officers of the 20th, as compared with the popularity of other cavalry regiments which have recently been stationed at the same place. The truth seems to be that in some few cavalry regiments, owing probably to the peculiar circumstances under which commissions in the cavalry are obtained, a few unmannerly bullies, or wealthy and ill-bred snobs, get the upper hand, and set the tone to the whole regiment. A strong C.O. will keep such gentry in check and redress the evil; but a man who either does not see what is going on, or thinks more of his own popularity than the interests of his juniors and the reputation of the regiment, lets things take their course. Then follow such results as the horsetroughing of Mr. Hodge, the riding-school affair at Colchester, or, perhaps, the most detestable incident of all, the salaaming of a native servant by an officer of the 20th Hussars at Mhow.

It seems incumbent on me, before leaving this subject for the present, to make some reference to an article devoted to the TRUTH allegations about the 20th Hussars which appeared on the 29th ult. in the *Broad Arrow*—the journal whose title to speak as an organ of the Service I dealt with last week. I should have referred to it sooner, but it was not brought to my notice until the greater part of the present article was in type. The editor of the *Broad Arrow* is good enough to inform his readers, almost in the words of Major Beauchamp, that the story originally told in TRUTH "is a downright fabrication, a wicked falsehood." He also has the assurance to represent himself as having hoped that I "should condescend to investigate the veracity of my information" and offer a full apology, and as having been disappointed in this hope, although he has "allowed ample time for its fulfilment." His consideration in thus allowing me time to fulfil the duty which he has allotted to me has been entirely misplaced, for, as I said some time ago, there is no probability that I shall ever be guided by his views or hopes in editing TRUTH, and it is a pity that he did not say what he has to say about the 20th Hussars when I invited him to do so many weeks back. The reader will judge, from what has been already said, that I have lost no time in "investigating the veracity" of everything that has reached me in relation to this matter, and in point of fact I have been continually in communication with various witnesses in India from the middle of July until last week. The result is now seen. I fear that the result will lead to some further disappointment in the office of the *Broad Arrow*, and that the expected apology from me will now appear more remote than ever; but this is hardly a matter about which anybody outside the office of the *Broad Arrow* will seriously trouble himself.

The *Broad Arrow* professes to have made "full inquiries" into the story told in TRUTH of July 2. It would seem that its ideas on the subject of a "full inquiry" appear to be on a par with those prevailing at the War Office, which it so ably represents. Before he has read the result of this precious inquiry very far, the reader learns that the source of the *Broad Arrow's* knowledge is an "informant who inhabits a bungalow adjacent to that occupied by the alleged victim," and who "had never heard anything about the matter until he read it in TRUTH." This informant apparently has been conducting the *Broad Arrow's* "full inquiries," and he reports the following incident as the possible foundation of the riding-school affair which he had read about in TRUTH:—

> About the end of March last some of the subalterns of the XXth repaired to a bungalow inhabited by four of their number, one of whom was the "last-joined subaltern." The time was after mess, and we are prepared to admit that in the intervals between songs, &c., the "last-joined subaltern" was induced to distinguish himself. It was in fact suggested that he should ride his pony over two low mud walls in the compound. The youthful warrior readily assented, and indeed, instead of being "flayed" by his brother officers, we have only too good reason to believe that he fleeced them of several sovereigns in consequence of his success. Arrayed in his pyjamas, jack-boots, a blazer, jersey, &c., the "last-joined subaltern" mounted his pony, cleared the walls in fine style, and returned to finish the evening, after having raised himself considerably in the already favourable opinion of his brother subalterns by his pluck and good horsemanship. In short, he seriously accepted a challenge only given in joke, won his money, and has been happy ever after.

It seems hardly necessary to discuss this anecdote seriously in view of the full information of the riding-school story and the other incidents from the recent history of the 20th Hussars which I have recorded above. The *Broad Arrow's* veracious informant is, from the fact of his occupying the next bungalow, and from his intimate knowledge of the facts, presumably an officer of this gallant regiment, and this presumption is strengthened by the similarity of the language used in describing "the last-joined subaltern" to that used by Major Beauchamp in the letter printed at the beginning of this article. Very possibly the incident which this witness describes actually took place, though I take the liberty of doubting whether, even then, the description gives an accurate and unvarnished report of all the circumstances. But an incident that occurred at Mhow last March cannot have given rise to the allegations now made as to what took place in the riding-school at Colchester. The officers of the 20th, when they read the original story in TRUTH, must have well known that the circumstances alluded to had taken place in England and not in India. In putting forward the above statement, therefore, through the *Broad Arrow*, they are obviously taking advantage of the inaccuracy as to date and place in the story which first got about, and endeavouring to mislead the public by representing this story as an exag-

SPA WINTER SEASON.—Balmy climate. Only 12 hrs. from Lond[illegible]. *Cercle des Etrangers*, with every Monte Carlo attraction, always open. Hotel tariff from 10fr. per diem. Address, Jules Crelay, Sec.

gerated and distorted version of a totally different incident. Very possibly they, or their Press representative, will now seek to represent the *Broad Arrow* narrative as the true explanation of the bonfire-jumping business at Mhow. But this again will not do, for the simple reason that the victim of the bonfire-jumping pleasantry was not in March last "the last-joined subaltern," but the same officer who had been ill-treated in the riding-school at Colchester, and on other occasions. I doubt whether he was even "the last-joined subaltern" at the time of the Colchester affair. The only "last-joined subaltern" who figures in the direct evidence which I now have is the youngster who was dressed in mess-waiter's clothes and made to salaam his own servant. Perhaps the *Broad Arrow* may be disposed to make its "full inquiries" a little fuller by ascertaining from its informant in the next bungalow to the last-joined subaltern what is the official 20th Hussars' version of the mess-waiter incident. It will be interesting to know; but whether any one outside the regiment will swallow information supplied from that quarter is a different matter.

The only significance of the ignominious attempt that has been made to dispose of the riding-school story lies in the evidence it affords that the officers of the 20th are prepared to stick at no subterfuge or misrepresentation to escape from the ugly charges made against them. For this I am prepared. My witnesses on the spot tell me that point-blank denial is the answer which has been given locally to the original TRUTH article, and they add, what I can readily believe, that since that article reached India, a complete change has come over the manners and customs of the regiment, the bullying and other cognate forms of blackguardism have disappeared like magic, and that the subaltern who had previously been the butt of all his brother officers, has suddenly found himself the most popular individual in the regiment. This may account for the flattering allusions to the "last-joined subaltern" in the *Broad Arrow* article, and to the "subaltern in question" in Major Beauchamp's letter to me. One has seen this sort of thing among schoolboys, when an unpopular individual who has been persecuted to the point at which the intervention of superior authority is threatened, suddenly finds himself the recipient of the most flattering attentions from his late tormentors. Everybody knows how much all this is worth.

The point, then, is, not what is the present state of things in the 20th Hussars, but what it has been any time since the regiment was at Colchester. This is not a matter which can be settled to the satisfaction of the public by a newspaper controversy. In view of the grave allegations now made against the conduct of numerous officers in the service of the Queen—and made upon direct, trustworthy, and authoritative evidence—it becomes the imperative duty of "the Secretary of State and his military advisers" to intervene in the matter. A full and exhaustive inquiry ought to be ordered, into all that has gone on in the 20th Hussars for the last year or two—an inquiry not conducted by inviting the officers implicated to furnish explanations, and then putting forth these explanations with the War Office imprimatur as established and unanswerable facts—but an inquiry in a judicial form, at which all the evidence available will be heard and properly tested on both sides, and at which some officer shall preside who can be trusted to look into the case from an independent standpoint, and with a desire, not to whitewash an ugly scandal, but to arrive at the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Three months ago I should have said that Lord Wolseley was the man to insist upon thrashing the matter out in this way, and administering a lesson which would put a stop to Service blackguardism once and for all. If he understands his duty to the Army and to the country, he will take this course now. But after the lame and impotent conclusion arrived at in the case of the 4th Hussars scandals, the public may well feel a doubt as to whether there is any form of misconduct on the part of "officers and gentlemen" at which the War Office will draw the line.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE FRIENDLESS KAISER.

THE Emperor and Empress of Russia rusticated a good deal at Darmstadt. One of their rustic pleasures was to roast potatoes in embers in the pinewoods, and to gather and cook mushrooms. The species of mushroom was the *cèpe*, which one can now have à la Bordelaise in Paris restaurants. But I fancy the august couple cooked them in thick cream in a pie-dish after the Russian manner. Their Imperial Majesties must have annoyed the German Emperor by not returning home by way of Berlin. He had set his heart on having them at Potsdam. The Grand Duke of Hesse delights in bothering the Kaiser, now that he sees the hand of President Faure and Nicholas II. clasped above the Reich of 1871. The work of Prince Bismarck is falling to pieces, and Russia is regaining her old footing in the smaller States of the Fatherland.

Russian patronage from the accession of Catherine II. to the death of Alexander II. meant brilliant matrimonial settlements for the daughters of those German Princes who accepted it, and openings for their younger sons. Servitude for servitude, they liked the gilded and garlanded chains of St. Petersburg better than the undisguised iron of Berlin. In making Copenhagen his summer home, the late Czar suffered the old German ties to relax. But his son intends to pass his holidays with his wife at Seeheim, as his grandfather used to spend his at Jugenheim, which was farther from the Grand Ducal capital. Darmstadt has now a young and lively Court. The Grand Duke was never studious. He went to a Hessian University, Giessen, where he did pretty nearly what he liked. His father was indulgent to the degree of weakness, and would not suffer any of his children to be curbed by governor or governess. Any of them who had serious tastes might follow them; those who had not might go in for amusement. The girls were in a groove formed by their incomparable mother; the son was not. He is, without being clever, a pleasing,

companionable person, light-hearted, still youthful in feeling, and good-natured, unless when he wants to tease. The teasing propensity has now an Imperial butt. The six children of the Princess Alice have been at heart with the Empress Frederick in her bitter trials. The Grand Duke is one of those who hold that the Emperor, before dismissing Bismarck, should have consulted every German Prince.

In all Germany the Kaiser has but two friends—the Grand Duke of Baden and the King of Saxony. But as they are old he may soon find himself friendless. The Courts of Bavaria and Würtemberg are sullen. German Princes have all at once become sensitive about their prerogatives. Guelph feeling is not dead in Hanover and Brunswick, and will be fomented. People there would rather have Guelph Courts than Kriegsdirektors. The Hesses, Oldenburgs, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin revert Russia-wards. M. Hanotaux has permeated his mind with the instructions of Richelieu and Mazarin to their agents at the Congress of Westphalia. These diplomats were to magnify Particularism, reduce the Empire to a mere title-giving shadow, help to frame an unworkable bund, and do their utmost for the possession by France of the left bank of the Rhine. They had thus all the German Princes save the Hapsburg Emperor with them. The Berlin Kaiser, while the great Eastern and Western Powers are closing round him, amuses himself by proving to the world his universal genius. He has found in the Yellow Terror, to which he gave pictorial expression, an excuse for making up to Nicholas and the plutocracy of all countries. But they think they can hold down the "perturbators of order" without him. If they encourage him to make war on Socialism, it is to leave him friendless in Germany. They think his message to President Kruger has alienated the snobocracy and other 'ocracies in England. The Netherlands will not hear of a German Prince as a suitor for their Queen, and rather favour the third son of the Crown Prince and Princess of Denmark—who are very much in the Russian sphere of influence. There is a Prussian Princess at Athens, but, as she embraced the Greek religion without asking the Kaiser's leave, they were not for some years on speaking terms, and there is still unpleasant coldness. M. Cambon has reported to his chief that the family photos sent from Potsdam to the Sultan are of no account in his eyes. Like all Turks, he is quick to understand financial advantages; and these Russia offers him. Sweden lives in terror of being dragged into hot water by an Imperial visit. The Seeland part of Denmark is now a citadel, and full of hostile feeling towards the Reich. Italy complains that the Emperor's visits and military requirements have ruined her. She has accepted her future Queen from the hands of the Czar Nicholas, who was, as he did not take her himself, in honour bound to find her a crown matrimonial. He slipped into the bridegroom's palm £80,000, and gave the bride a tiara and earrings, bought in Paris for £40,000.

One can hardly wonder at Prince Bismarck feeling exasperated. How reckless and ruthless he was in trying to undo the effects of the Treaty of Westphalia and to set Germany on an independent footing! He sees the edifice he hastily nailed together going to pieces. In 1851 Persigny was sent on a secret diplomatic mission to Berlin. The King of Prussia, whom the Nicholas of that day held in leading strings, asked the indiscreet friend of Louis Napoleon to dinner. His Majesty at table was seized with a sneezing fit. He tried to keep it down. "Sneeze away, sire!" cried Persigny. "France is no longer under Louis Philippe. The balance of power in Europe is restored. Yes, sire, you may now sneeze as much as you like, without having to ask the Czar's leave." May we live to see the Kaiser ask of both Nicholas II. and M. Faure *la permission d'éternuer?*

In the hurry of the Czar's visit I had not time to speak of the death of Mme. Delpeuch, wife of the Postmaster-General, and niece of the late M. Spuller. She died of a malady brought on by suddenly hearing of M. Spuller's death. He had been a most considerate and generous uncle to her and her sister. Mme. Delpeuch was unaffectedly good. Her head remained unturned on the high peak to which the play of political parties raised her husband. He is one of three brothers, all distinguished men. I live in the same house with their mother—the widow of a country doctor. My flat is, relatively to hers, large, and has the greater advantage of facing a park. She is attended by a *femme de ménage*, who comes in to cook and do housemaid's work. The old lady is worshipped by her sons, with whom she takes turns in dining three times a week. Each of them would like to have her living with him, but she is attached to her plain ways. However, she has some fine dresses, which she wears at their grand dinners. Every morning she goes, with her basket on arm, to the market. Her conversation is interesting, her amusements little feminine handicrafts and reading. The old lady has a choice library, and is never tired of the great authors. Would you find a woman like this in England? One might in Scotland. No nation in the world owes so much to her women as France. Mme. Delpeuch has no idea what a great woman she is, but her sons have, and feel what a debt they owe her.

Lady Henry Somerset wins the gratitude of the Armenian world as Notre Dame de Bon-Secours. She has just opened the door of Castle Garden, New York, for the four hundred Armenians whom she sent from Marseilles. They were refused admittance because they had not £10 a-piece to show. Lady Henry and her friend, Miss Willard, overcame the surly Cerberus who kept them in the ship. The former thought of appealing to the higher reason and heart of the American nation at a public meeting in England against the Cerberus. But her eloquent cablegram did the work. The hapless four hundred were thus released from the horrors of a crowded steerage, and free to join relatives settled in the States. Otherwise they must have been tossed back to Europe.

Lady Henry Somerset has distinct French traits of

character. She would look simple in silks and satins and elegant in a cotton gown. Her *instinct d'élégance* is perceptible in her whole person. She has the decision of clear ideas, astonishing energy, and can, like the Gauloises of old, put her shoulder to the mud-embedded chariot wheel. In speaking of her work at Marseilles last September, I said she had a French great-grandmother. I now find that the Cocks family, of whom the late Earl Somers was the head, were originally Lecocq—a Gallic name truly. Lady Henry is very much her father's daughter. He, too, had marked French characteristics, was more brainy than muscular, and had *esprit*, ready tact, and lively and obliging manners. No picture dealer could take him in. He greatly added to the artistic wealth of Eastnor Castle. Each addition harmonised with treasures that had been accumulating since the great Chancellor Somers began to furnish Reigate Priory. He was a great admirer of Watts, who did portraits for him of Lady Henry and Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, when they were children.

In former times passengers to Gloucester by the Great Western Railway had to stop at Swindon long enough to lunch at the station. Lord Somers often went to and from Eastnor Castle and often tried to have meals at Swindon, but was forced to leave off trying. There were then no Spiers & Pond contractors. In one of his halts he was given a veal pie in a turret of crust as hard as any tower at Eastnor. He thought he had seen the pie before, and in vain endeavoured to cut into the pie-crust wall. A merry thought came into his head. The Earl had a quantity of gummed labels for curios in his pocket. He gummed one of them on the bottom of the pie and left. A fortnight later he returned, ordered the same lunch, and found the label on the bottom of the turret that was set before him.

The Queen of Portugal is sure to be used as an advertisement for the Pasteur Institute. She went the other day to that establishment for the sale of germs, toxins, vaccines, and what not. In handling the tubes of toxins she committed herself to the opinion that Dr. Roux's horse serum is a sovereign cure for diphtheria. It takes seven years of the hardest study in Paris before a medical student is qualified to speak on so grave a matter. The Queen of Portugal has attended clinical lectures and acquired much useful knowledge in doing so. But could her studies be anything but superficial? She is too well off for strenuous and long-sustained application; and then she has to discharge regal, maternal, and social duties, that take up much of her time. Some of the greatest medical authorities in France are not sure about the Roux serum. The Queen of Portugal must be as tall as her grandmother, the late Duchess of Orleans. She is fine-looking and has at once a handsome face and good countenance. But the smile reminds one of the Duc de Nemours. It has, however, only just escaped being a rictus. The Portuguese expect their Queen to be an *anjo de bondade*, or angel of bounty. Maria Pia never put on the character, but was charitable. Queen Amélie likes to earn the name. Her charities, coming out of her own fortune, represent personal sacrifices.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Government has decided, dear Lady Betty, to abandon Cyprus. The island will not be returned to Turkey, nor will it be transferred to any other Power, but arrangements are being completed, the object of which is to give Cyprus to the Cypriots, the European Powers undertaking to respect its independence. The announcement of this arrangement, together with the details of the agreement, will be officially communicated in due course.

The British Government took over Cyprus when the former was suffering from temporary theatrical insanity. The transaction flattered the ignorant and thoughtless portion of the British public, whilst that which was not ignorant and was thoughtful did not attach any importance to it. The possession of the island does not add to the strength of this country, but might, under certain circumstances, be a source of weakness. The Government must be congratulated, therefore, on having decided to take a step which may materially benefit the nation.

* * * * *

The following letter has been addressed to me:—

"SIR,—I have been visiting a friend in Shropshire who does not permit his guests to give money to his servants. He declares that he pays his own servants for the work which they do for him, and that if he occasionally requires them to exert themselves more than usual he expects to pay them for these extra services, and would be much ashamed were his guests to do this for him. The example of my friend, and the reasons he gives for his conduct, are so admirable that I think it will be for the common good that the public should be informed of them. I am a younger son, possessed of a very limited income, and my only holidays are those that I take when I visit some of my friends in the autumn. Most of my hosts send their carriages to the local station to meet their rich or married guests, but they order a cab to meet the impecunious detrimental, who, of course, has to pay the fare! Incidentally, may I ask, why is every country-house four miles from a station? The rich married people bring their lady's-maid and valet; the impecunious guest has to be attended to by one of the servants of the house. It follows, therefore, that he must give ten shillings to this particular servant. The butler must also receive a piece of gold, and the house-maids expect to find a few shillings left in the bedroom for their benefit. With regard to the keepers the amount of the fee differs. Some are not contented if they receive less than five pounds. Before visiting the friend, whose generous conduct I called attention to in commencing this letter, I went for the regulation three-day stay to a well-known house in Shropshire, and my expenses upon that occasion amounted to a few shillings less than £10, counting, of course, cab-fares at both ends, the railway-fare, and fees! At that rate, the hospitality of my friends, if I fully availed myself of it, would more probably effect my ruin than will my own prodigality. ADMIRALTY, WHITEHALL."

It takes much criticism to destroy custom. Otherwise the abominable system of giving fees to the servants of the host would long since have died out. There was a time when our ancestors gave money to the servants as they left a house after having dined there. This custom, fortunately for us, has been discontinued, and it is to be hoped that the one referred to in the letter published above will soon be abolished.

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The death of Dr. George Harley will be much regretted by many who suffer, or imagine that they suffer, from complaints of the liver. The late Dr. Harley was the recognised authority in London upon diseases of that organ, and his opinion on these and many other abstruse questions of medicine was as much valued in Germany as it was in this country. A short time ago he caused a violent controversy to arise upon the subject of dry champagne. He maintained that dry champagne was injurious to all, especially to those suffering from the liver,

owing to the dry flavour being produced by an acid fermentation. Dr. Harley considered that the sweeter kinds of champagne, drunk by the French, were more wholesome, or, to be accurate, less injurious. He will be regretted by many patients, for he was an amiable as well as a learned man, and the members of the medical profession suffer by his death the loss of a colleague who was much respected by them.

* * * * *

The last days of October and the first days of November have together produced an especially uneventful week. In times of abnormal dulness that particularly depressing institution, the Imperial Institute, may always be relied upon to supply matter for reflection. It is unnecessary to discuss here the merits of the circumstances involved in the Draper dispute. The Imperial Institute was founded by the Prince of Wales for a good purpose, but unfortunately the interested opposition of its enemies in the City, and the misplaced confidence reposed by the Prince in a gang of incompetent men, are hastening it to an inglorious end. The Institute should have been the heart of our vast colonial system, with its arteries and lesser nerves distributed throughout every part of the Empire. As it is, the Institute is little better than a semi-bankrupt concern, the main purpose of those who control it apparently being to entice shillings and sixpences out of the pockets of the public to keep the buildings out of the clutches of the Official Receiver. It is understood that the Prince of Wales now recognises that something should be done at once to rescue the Institute before the last spark of life is extinguished in it. If the rumour is true, it is shortly to be expected that the management of the Imperial Institute will be thoroughly overhauled; that more judicious and energetic action will be taken in the future than has been the case in the past; and that, instead of being a bad imitation of a polished Cremorne Gardens, it will presently become a prosperous, useful, and powerful instrument for the development of our immense colonial resources.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Cambridgeshire victory of Winkfield's Pride was a genuine *coup* of the old-fashioned sort, of which even such dexterous tacticians as Lord George Bentinck, General Anson, or Mr. Frederick Swindell might well have been proud. The whole business was planned and executed with consummate dexterity, and Mr. Basset really appears to be as clever in dealing with his horses as was his predecessor at Tehidy, Lord de Dunstanville, in the management of his mines. The fact that Mr. Sullivan's steed would be a dangerous candidate for the Cambridgeshire was notified in TRUTH several weeks before the race was run, and on October 15 I wrote—"Winkfield's Pride, the Irish colt, is declared to be an absolute certainty, and with 6 st. 8 lb. to carry he is most leniently treated." Winkfield's Pride had been quietly backed ever since the weights appeared at outside prices, and after Bellevin's victory at Manchester, any decided movement in his favour would have brought him up to a very short price in the betting. His party, however, were too clever to proceed in this jolter-headed fashion. Bellevin was ostentatiously announced to be much fancied at Kempton Park, when he ran nowhere (there was no such preliminary trumpeting before his success at Manchester), and then it was given out in a vague way that Winkfield's Pride would not do after the other colt's defeat. The horse went down steadily in the betting, until the tide of his unpopularity set in with such force that the bookmakers offered against him as if he were dead. The climax of all this bedevilment came at Sandown Park five days before the race was run, when 200 to 1 was vainly offered against the colt. The sporting papers marked him as a doubtful starter, and one writer put forth an elaborate dissertation upon the event, in which Winkfield's Pride was never mentioned at all! After people had arrived at Newmarket, however, the money was being piled on the horse, and, indeed, he was being backed all over the country, the commissions being apparently unlimited, so his rise was much more sudden than his downfall, and he finally became first favourite. A bet of £20,000 to £2,000 was taken in one hand at Newmarket on Tuesday night. It is impossible to reconcile Winkfield's Pride's runaway victory at Newmarket with some of his previous form, but there is no excuse for the handicapper's ridiculous leniency towards him, as he was treated as if he were a very moderate colt, whereas his two-year-old running proved him to be an animal of high class. As a matter of fact, however, another stone would not have stopped him on Wednesday, for he won in a common canter, and had the race well in hand the whole way from start to finish. He is a remarkably good-looking colt, thoroughly racing-like, and a fine mover, with strong limbs and capital feet. The handicapper ought not to have dropped him from the 7 st. 11 lb., which he carried at Manchester in May, and the 7 st. 4 lb. which he was given in the Stewards' Cup, down to 6 st. 8 lb., as he was manifestly backward when he started on those occasions. The fact is that the handicapping of Bellevin at Manchester and of this colt at Newmarket were fatuity of the most desperate kind, which cannot possibly be justified. Omnium II., who is a grand horse, was chopped at the start, and he was only beginning to get into his stride when Winkfield's Pride was passing the winning-post.

I hope Omnium II. will be entered for next year's Ascot Cup, which race he would have won cleverly this year if he had been well ridden. French jockeys usually do badly over the Ascot course, and their horses have been "just beaten" there, when subsequent running clearly proved that the defeated steed must have had a stone in hand. Laodamia has grown into a splendid mare, and what a career she would have achieved if she had belonged to such an owner as the Duke of Westminster; but she has been pertinaciously and idiotically muddled and messed about from first to last. How well she ran as a three-year-old in the Cambridgeshire, with 8st. 9lb. on her back; and in that same season she was positively let off in the City and Suburban with 6st. 7lb.; but she did not start. Marco looked well, so did Shaddock and Quarrel; but La Sagesse and Victor Wild did not please the critics. Victor Wild goes to the stud now, and it is unlucky for his owner that he was not withdrawn from the turf several months ago. I would wish to caution my speculative readers against paying the slightest attention to the placings, as the race was really a procession from the Bushes, and as Winkfield's Pride had everything beaten even before that point was reached, most of the runners were judiciously eased, as there was nothing to be gained by persevering. Laodamia was ridden out because she had been well backed for a place; but let nobody be gulled into believing that Yorker would have been the winner if the Irish colt had been out of the way. The most wonderful feature about the history of Winkfield's Pride is his breeding. Winkfield is own brother to Morion, and having ricked his back, was sold by the Duke of Devonshire to go to Ireland for £15, while the dam is an own sister to Son o' Mine, that was weeded out of Lord Durham's stud because she was half paralysed. Under such circumstances the "scientific" breeders must have been pretty well petrified by the colt's runaway victory.

Anything more utterly muddy-minded and puzzle-pated than the conditions for the Old Cambridgeshire Handicap could not be imagined by the most depraved understanding. The result of the unpardonable blundering of the officials concerned was that Winkfield's Pride incurred only a 3 lb. penalty for his victory on Wednesday, and the bookmakers seemed to be crazy when they were content to take 2 to 1. The Irish horse won easily,

OLD SPICED ELDERBERRY WINE prevents chills; delicious winter beverage. 15/- per doz. reputed quarts. Carriage paid. Cash with order.—CARTER & Co., Old Refinery, Bristol.

Yorker again being second. Ghislaine, Bridegroom, and Pas de Danse, who were among the beaten lot, are all likely to win races during the next month. It is to be hoped that the conditions of this event will be revised before next season. There has never been anything, even in the "Calendar," so thoroughly asinine as the arrangement by which the winner of the Cesarewitch has to carry 14 lb. extra, the winner of a handicap of £450, 10 lb. extra, but the winner of the Cambridgeshire only 7 lb. more than it carried in that race! The force of folly could no further go.

Every one at Newmarket had become infatuated about Thais, who ran just as I had predicted would be the case. It was palpable to all beholders of the race for the One Thousand that Thais was "all out" to win, and that in another three strides she would have been beaten by Santa Maura. How, therefore, in the name of common-sense, could the Prince of Wales's mare be expected to win over a longer distance with a heavy weight on her back and the certainty of a fast-run race all the way?

There is only a poor entry for the Manchester November Handicap, and none of the events at that meeting have done well. The fact is that in wet weather the course at Manchester is thoroughly rotten, and the tragedy of Troon has aroused dismal recollections of the mishap to St. Angelo, so that owners do not fancy the meeting, particularly at the end of November. The entry has fallen from fifty-two last year to only thirty-six, and there is nothing remarkable about the "class" of the animals in the list.

One remarkable feature about this year's Cambridgeshire was the unbounded confidence of at least half a score of owners, the consequence being that the betting all round was much heavier than last year, and several horses were backed on the day before the race to win vast sums without their being brought up to short prices. There were some seven candidates which "could not lose," according to their friends, and this state of affairs greatly facilitated the manœuvring operations of the party connected with the winner. The money won has gone into few hands, and the result of the Cambridgeshire will stimulate speculation over the Liverpool Cup and other handicaps of the next month.

That the majority of backers are mooncalves of the type of Panurge's sheep is a flagrant fact, of which conclusive evidence was afforded at Newmarket by the rush to back Regret for the Limekiln Stakes. The horse looked ailing, and he went very badly before the race when proceeding to the post. He soon put the silly herd of plungers out of their suspense, for he was never fairly in the race at any part of it, being apparently unable to go the pace, which was a fast one, as Utica made running as hard as she could go. Balsamo again disappointed his friends, and Bay Ronald won as easily as when he carried off the Select Plate. After the previous form of Mr. Brassey's horse, it was astonishing that he should have been so entirely neglected by backers, for offers of 10 to 1 and 100 to 8 were everywhere to be heard. Bay Ronald however, cannot be trusted, as on his recent form the Free Handicap should have been a good thing for him, but he never showed prominently. It is, perhaps, as well for backers that this colt did not accept for the Cambridgeshire, as he then would have been heavily backed after his running during the Second October week. Gulistan, who was, no doubt, benefited by his severe race at Sandown Park, won the event very easily indeed, and it was worth £1,450. Thais was backed for a great deal of money, but she never had a chance with Mr. de Rothschild's colt, and the course was again too far for her. I may take credit to myself for having been alone in pointing out that Thais would fail to stay the Cambridgeshire course, and it may be hoped that next season she will be kept within her best distance, which is probably six furlongs. Gulistan had no chance with Canterbury Pilgrim in the Jockey Club Cup, and the bookmakers were insanely generous in asking for a mere shade of odds about the Oaks winner. A horse ought not to be asked to run three races within a week.

Oakdene, who just beat Goletta for the Criterion Stakes, having 8 lb. the best of the weights, will be worth looking out for at Ascot next year, as he is exactly the stamp of colt to show his best form up a hill. The best animals which ran in this race (so far as the future is concerned) are Mr. Baird's Honfleur, by Galopin out of Fleur de Marie, and the Duke of Westminster's Rust, half brother, by Blue Green, to Tarporley. Let a note be made for next year of this pair, as if they go on well they will certainly distinguish themselves. Oakdene has been tipped for a score of Nurseries, and people are wondering why he did not win before last Tuesday, when he was not backed for sixpence. I fancy there was but little merit in the Criterion victory, as Goletta showed, when she ran with Berzak in the Clearwell Stakes, that stamina is not her strong point, and here she was running over a most tiring course.

Vesuvian was mentioned by me months ago as being one of the best looking and most promising two-year-olds in the Kingsclere stable, and that a high opinion was entertained of this colt as a yearling is proved by the fact that he began this season with thirty-nine engagements. Vesuvian won the Dewhurst Plate very easily indeed, although manifestly backward, and if he trains on all right he will make a grand three-year-old. The Derby will certainly not be a "one-horse" race next year, as was so prematurely asserted a few weeks ago. Vesuvian is a powerful racing-like colt, and capable of great improvement. He won his race like a really good colt, and he was considered to be too backward to run up to the form which he had been credited with at Kingsclere. Berzak has probably had enough of racing for this season, and it was a great mistake to start Goletta again after her defeat on Monday, as she clearly wants a rest, and in my opinion we have already seen the best of this filly. Blue Water disappointed the Kingsclere people in the Free Handicap, which was one of the most valuable races of the week, being actually worth nearly £1,500. Flying Colours also ran very badly, as she had appeared to have an excellent chance after her easy victory at Sandown Park. Melfitana, who won this race, is an Italian-bred daughter of Melton. Orelio, the brother to Ormonde, made his long-expected début in the Houghton Stakes, and he was very heavily backed, but not so much by the stable as by the public. He is a great baby of a colt, and it is a pity that an animal so ridiculously backward should have been uselessly knocked about by being sent to Newmarket and raced in his present condition. Orelio may make a good three-year-old, but if the Derby of 1897 goes to Kingslere, it will be through Vesuvian. Cortegar is a very nice filly, by Galliard, and she ought to do well in the future.

The "back end" period will now set in with severity, and until the season closes at Manchester on the 28th we shall have the usual huge fields of very moderate horses at every meeting, with heavy betting, and constant and crashing upsets of public form.

There should be some interesting sport at Northampton to-day and to-morrow, at Gatwick on Friday, and at Hurst Park on Saturday. This week is certainly split up sufficiently, and trainers and jockeys will be in a state of chaotic confusion by the time it is over.

Next week is given up to Lewes (two days) and Liverpool, which is absurdly and unreasonably dragged over four days, although three would be amply sufficient. The Liverpool St. Leger of £500 will probably be won by Lord Stanley with either Melange or Chiselhampton, in the absence of Regret, who went home lame from Newmarket.

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

The weights for the Cup were published on Friday, but all prudent people will leave this event alone until the day of running arrives. I shall next week attempt to predict the winner.

London Rugby football is about as badly managed in the way of fixtures as possible. Last Saturday there was not a big match in the whole of London. The only important fixture was that between the Harlequins and Rosslyn Park at Richmond. It was a very close and exciting game, and the Rosslyn forwards kept their form all through, and Cobb and Gibbon did a lot of work. Leake and Wells practically won the game for the Harlequins. The return of Turner among the Croydon outsides will materially strengthen the team, which is doing remarkably well. Kensington have shown such improved form this season that a draw was most satisfactory. Turning to the Universities, the Oxford outsides are playing a great game, and as they have a lot of pace this enabled them to give the Old Merchant Taylors the worst beating they have ever had from the Dark Blues. But the Old Boy forwards, although they have nothing like the physique of the men a few years back quite held their own. Balfour, when the Fours are over, may give up the river, and in that case his return to the scrimmage would be most valuable. Forward play will decide this year's match at Queen's, and unless Cambridge brightens up a lot, last year's victory will not be repeated. The Richmond forwards quite held their own, the Light Blues not having the ghost of a notion of shoving, and although the Londoners scored a narrow win, it must be borne in mind that the Light Blues have a great reputation. Richmond is now playing up to its old form and Schwarz is useful at half. By the way, Thomas's place-kicking for Cambridge is very accurate. Judging by the forward play at both Universities, it looks as though the scrappy heeling-out game was being played at the Public Schools without the slightest attention being paid to genuine rushing and shoving. Blackheath went down to Newport, and any doubt they may have felt as to the effect of the absence of A. J. Gould from the team has been set at rest. The visitors were outplayed forward, half, and three-quarter. Fegan made one strong run and scored. The curious thing is that the Welsh style, which is so successful in club games, is useless for International matches.

On some golf-links up north there were several greens which could not be seen when the approach was played. In order that those behind may know when the players on the green have holed out, a whistle is blown by a caddie. The whistle is attached to the flag in the hole, and the caddies nearly slaughter each other to get the right to blow. That is the only objection, which could be obviated by a rule that the winner's caddie blows, and if the hole is halved each can have a turn.

With the progress of golf a new species of player is developing. He is not a pot-hunter. He goes one worse than that. His methods are particularly his own. He is a sort of golfing bandit. He has a club handicap, but just as he is getting about half limit or a little under, he retires from club competitions. His play in these events has reduced his strokes to twelve or fourteen. There he remains for ever. He gets men to play him for half-crowns or golf balls on handicap terms. Naturally he wins from the unwary. He explains, when he is inclined to be very confidential that, perhaps, his handicap ought to come down, and it is paraphrasing his remarks to say that he finds this style of play is more paying than entering for club prizes and sweepstakes. No one takes his handicap down. The wary fight shy of him. He is a peculiar study. He does not want the meagre half-crown, but he has an insatiable greed for victory. Like a spoilt child, he cannot endure to be beaten, and so to satisfy this peculiar craving he plays games in this peculiar manner. He will return from such a game when he wins as elated and triumphant as if he had won an amateur championship. Defeat will make him wretched and despondent. His language towards the links, his clubs, his caddie, and his play will be choice and varied. He will swear he will never golf again. He is not a pleasant man to play with, and the only way to deal with men of this class is for the Handicap Committee to take the bull by the horns, and reduce the player's strokes when it is evident that he has much improved in his play, and yet fails to enter for any competition, success in which would entail a reduction. There is nothing unfair in such a proceeding. It would be ridiculous for a handicapper to give a man who once had twenty yards in a quarter the same start when he knew he was doing the distance in fifty seconds. The same principle should apply to golf handicaps, and if it did one would hear less of the pot-hunter or the bandit.

If half that one hears is correct there are likely to be grave complications in the Association football world before very long. The governing body of Association football has prohibited any private individual getting up a team to play any club without its permission first being obtained. The reason for the rule is that some persons are said have organised such teams, to have obtained a "gate" guarantee from the club that has been played, and to have failed to account satisfactorily for the money so obtained. In other words, the organiser is alleged to have put the balance of the money, after paying expenses, into his own pocket. Those who do not comply with this rule are, it is rumoured, to be expelled from the Association. That the rule is, in fact, aimed at certain persons who have taken a prominent part in amateur football, and who have made nothing out of the game, there can be no doubt. In order to test the validity of the rule, a gentleman who has arranged to take a team to play a well-known amateur club, is going to do so without first getting that permission. I doubt very much if he is wise in acting in that way. If the evil suggested does in fact exist, then there can be no doubt of the reasonableness of the rule; and even if amateurs legislated for themselves instead of being under the control of a professional body, they would have to make some such rule. It is simply puerile to talk about going to law in the event of expulsion following such a breach of the regulations. The position would be very different if an application were made and permission refused. Then no one could object to the match taking place without leave being granted. All the organiser of the team has to do is to make his request when he arranges the match. There could be nothing worse for amateur football than to make a test case out of straw.

While the Corinthians did not put such a strong team in the field, the Army had a better one than last year, and a fairly interesting game was the result. During the greater part of the game the Army had the worst of it, but Reilly in goal saved magnificently. Collier and Burnup did a lot of work forward, and C. B. Fry's excursions in Rugby football have not marred the vigour of his play. The London Caledonians boast that they get the best gate of any amateur club in the south, and they are probably right. At all events, they had a big gate to see their match against Oxford, when they played the same team as they had done against Cambridge. On this occasion their forwards were better, and the halves did not show such a marked desire to feed the opposing backs. The consequence was the Calics just won after a fast game, the Oxford forwards lacking combination, but then they have had practically no time in which to combine. The qualifying rounds for the Association Cup draw their weary length along. It is extraordinary that so much enthusiasm should be evinced about the results of games when the winners have as much chance of being in the final as they have of flying. No doubt the fact that the competing clubs are divided into local districts has a good deal to do with this keenness. In the League matches last Saturday the results were remarkable. Not a single home club scored a win, there were four drawn games, and in the other three games the visitors won. The finest performance was that of Preston North End, who simply romped round the Blackburn Rovers.

In billiards, Roberts finished up the match against North with as fine an exposition of play as one could wish. On the last day he practically monopolised the table, and rushed home an easy winner. Peall's display

against Diggle was very poor. Mannock was quite outclassed on his handicap by Stevenson, who showed some pretty play.

In Richardson, a Shrewsbury Freshman, Cambridge have a promising cross-country runner, whom the President of the Athletics will do well to look after for the three miles at Fenners. The Essex Beagles walk was won by Fenton after a good race with Dover, while several other clubs had spins preparatory for coming races. Cross-country running seems to be flourishing in the south.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—By the time this reaches you the momentous issue as regards the Presidential elections in the United States will have been decided, and you will then be able to form a more correct estimate of the course of the Stock Exchange in the near future. In the meantime, the prevailing state of uncertainty has been utilised by the ursine party for the purpose of an attack, which has resulted in

An Absurd Panic in Kaffirs.

The "Bears" no doubt calculated upon the disinclination of operators to increase commitments before Tuesday's elections had cleared the outlook; but even granting much nervousness on that account, it is difficult to see where all the sales of South African gold and land shares came from. There was no doubt a certain amount of forced closing, and sales were also pressed in connection with the Paris settlement; but I am assured on good authority that there are no more big blocks to come on the market for French account, and I can only suppose that the unscrupulous action of the "Bears" in setting about all manner of false rumours had a good deal to do with this final slump. It is perhaps a melancholy satisfaction to me that the chief trouble arose precisely in those stocks against which I warned my readers many and many a time when much higher, viz., Rand Mines, Limited, East Rands and Consolidated Goldfields; but even these have now touched a level at which it would be insane to press sales, while a sharp recovery is quite on the cards whenever the sinister forces which appear to be at the back of this movement are so inclined. Unfortunately, the collapse in the three above-mentioned securities has affected the shares of sound outcrop mines and substantial land companies; but this can only be a temporary development, and if holders sit tight, they will see their property again increase in value. West Australians have naturally been affected in sympathy with South Africans; but in their case there is even less reason for the setback, advices from the goldfields in that colony being very satisfactory. It boots not to say much concerning American Rails pending the elections, but there are evidently a great many people in New York who feel certain of McKinley's victory. Wall Street has been buying largely, and has again raised prices all round, while prominent bankers promptly took measures to stop a money squeeze, which was imminent. If McKinley should gain a sweeping victory, it is probable that the tension in the Money Market, both in the States and here, will be relaxed, as large amounts of hoarded gold will be liberated on the other side of the Atlantic. After a temporary reaction, Home Rails are distinctly better again; and the more favourable atmospheric conditions should help the traffics of the Southern Passenger lines considerably. Whatever way the American elections may go, I should think that Home Rails supported by improving trade will advance further. Nervousness concerning the issue in Washington has caused a good deal of selling of South American stocks, certain operators taking the view that if Bryan came in there would be general chaos. I do not anticipate any such thing, but the strong view thus taken in some quarters has to be reckoned with. Speaking generally, I should think that in the course of next week, when the elections are decided, and the Paris Bourse has got over its settlement, the tendency on the Stock Exchange will improve. Panic, at all events, should be guarded against. How unreasoning it is cannot be better illustrated than by the fact that while a few months ago scare followed after scare on the position in Turkey, people do not trouble themselves any more about this, except perhaps holders of Turkish stocks. There are strong indications that the Industrial market will receive increased attention on the part of the public. Not only is business in the cycle department more active, but the demand for brewery shares is again reviving, and such undertakings as Bovril are much in favour.

Home Rails.

Although the settlement disclosed considerable scarcity of Home Rails, and light rates were the order of the day, nervousness with regard to the American Presidential election at one time brought about a relapse, from which however the market has already shaken itself free. As speculative holders have pretty well cleared out, and stock generally is in strong hands, there appears to be no reason for anticipating any further realisations; and whatever may be the result of the elections, Home Rails can hardly fail to be benefited. If Bryan should come in, people won't buy American Rails, and will turn all the more readily towards Home Rails for investment and speculation. If McKinley wins, the effect on the market generally can only be favourable; but to this must be added the improved condition of trade in this country, which is shown by the reports from all quarters, and which is also illustrated by continued favourable traffics. An increase of £30,500 for the past week has raised the total increase for the past half year to £753,000. The North Western traffic increase of £8,101 for the week, and that of £7,362 of the North Eastern, were the most favourable; but the South Eastern also showed remarkably well with a considerable increase, which came on the top of good traffics last year. The returns of the Scotch lines continue most satisfactory, and the increase of the Caledonian for the thirteen weeks now amounts to £20,170, that of the North British to £26,770. The fact is that trade in Scotland is altogether on the boom, manufactured iron and steel being in great demand; while large orders are still being distributed for new ships, quite a flood of which have come to the Clyde firms at gradually rising prices. Engineers are reported to be running double shifts, and locomotive engineers have many months' work on order. No wonder, then, that at last large buying orders for Caledonian Deferred and North British Deferred are arriving from the North; and I confidently look for a considerable further advance in Coras (Caledonian Deferred), now standing at 58⅝, and North British Deferred, now quoted 46½. Equally promising are no doubt Brighton "A" at 177, and Dover "A" at 101¼. The Brighton season will, according to all accounts, be unusually brilliant, and London-by-the-Sea is filling fast. The South Eastern is doing even better, and its traffics show great elasticity, having hardly been interfered with by the recent unfavourable weather. Neither should it be forgotten that, both on the Brighton and South Eastern Deferred stocks, a considerable dividend has already accrued. The Heavies have displayed a firm front, and are again a point or two higher, North Eastern being the favourite owing to the flourishing condition of the shipbuilding and iron trades. Metropolitan Districts are recovering from the recent reaction, which was brought about by an exceptional occurrence. It is no secret that one of the members of the Syndicate, which has taken up the deep-level scheme, although he had passed his word not to part with his stock, "ratted" in a somewhat unscrupulous manner during the mid-October account, and delivered at the end of that account £175,000 stock to his astonished associates. One would hardly have thought that even an enterprising jobber, as he is, would go so far; but upon the whole the syndicate are to be congratulated that he "ratted" at that time,

and not later on, his place having now been more worthily filled. Of the stock bought during the past account something like £60,000 has not yet been delivered, and it is evident that a "Bear" squeeze is quite on the cards. It has been rumoured that a delay would take place in consequence of the much regretted illness of the Chairman, Mr. J. S. Forbes, who returned to town on Wednesday last for the purpose of attending the Board meeting, but was unable to do so as he has been confined to his bed ever since. This, however, I understand, will not put off the carrying out of the scheme, which is being pushed forward with the utmost despatch by the solicitors, engineers, surveyors, and Parliamentary agents engaged in it.

Yankee Rails and the Presidential Election.

I am not going to prophecy at this time of day what will be the upshot of the Presidential election on November 3. When this letter reaches you the die will be cast, and one of the most important decisions in the history of the United States will have been taken. When one reads of such demonstrations as the monster parade of 125,000 sound-money men in New York on Saturday, one cannot help thinking that the good sense of the American people will triumph; but our Yankee cousins are a tricky lot, and I would not stake too much on their supposed good sense. At all events I was fully justified in advising caution when writing last week, and the sharp break in American Rails which took place a few days ago confirmed the view which I have taken. There has since been a considerable recovery, and prices are higher for the week in many instances, and several dollars above the lowest touched during the last few days. It will be of interest to again place before my readers a comparative table from which the highest and lowest quotations touched during the present year, and the prices for the past and present week will be gathered:—

—	Price Jan. 2, 1896.	High'st in 1896.	Low'st in 1896.	Oct. 23.	Oct. 31.
Atchison	14½	18 3/16	9	14⅜	14¾
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	22	23⅞	14⅜	23¼	23
Central Pacific	15½	17½	13	14⅞	14¾
Denver	12⅜	14 11/16	10	12⅛	12⅛
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	37¼	44⅜	44¼
Erie	14⅛	16⅛	11¼	15	15⅛
Do. First Pref.	23	42	22⅞	34¾	33
Lake Shore	144	155	138	151½	151
Louisville	44⅝	56¾	38⅞	46⅞	47¾
Milwaukee	69⅛	81⅝	61¾	75⅛	75
Mis., Kan., and Texas	11¼	13 13/16	8⅞	11⅝	11¼
Norfolk Pref.	8	15⅛	10⅛	16⅜	16⅛
Nor. Pacific Pref.	12½	22⅝	14	22⅝	22½
New York Central	98	101⅞	90¼	96	96
Ontario	13¼	16½	11¼	14½	14⅜
Reading	2	10 11/16	3⅛	13	13⅝
Southern Ordy.	8¾	11⅛	6⅝	8⅞	9
Do. Pref.	26½	34⅜	18½	26½	26
Union Pacific	4⅛	9¾	3⅛	8⅞	8½
Wabash Pref.	15¾	20 3/16	12	16¼	16¼

There has been a further advance on Tuesday and quotations will obviously undergo considerable modification according to the result of the elections. Should McKinley be elected with a sweeping majority Yankee Rails will doubtless experience a sharp advance and a temporary boom. A small majority for McKinley would leave matters very much where they are; while Bryan's victory would bring about a disastrous slump in Yankee Rails, which need not, however, necessarily affect other stocks. There is no doubt that a good many railroads have effected every possible economy for the last few years, buying nothing that could be dispensed with or postponed. With McKinley's election by an adequate majority, all the roads would at once begin to improve the condition of their properties because they would be satisfied that they would be safe; and this of itself would set many industries going. Then again, there is no doubt that of the ten millions of gold which were shipped from this side a considerable sum is being hoarded and would be released. A well-informed American authority, moreover, estimates that money to the extent of 200,000,000 dols. is at present being kept back unemployed in the United States, all of which would come out seeking investment if sound money was assured; while, on the other hand, European capitalists would again employ their money in the States, and American stocks would be bought on this side. Neither should it be forgotten that the advance in wheat and in grain generally has been of inestimable value to the American farmers, who are now enabled to make large purchases against the produce which they have sold at materially better prices than they could hope for at one time. The grain movement over the Railroads has assumed enormous proportions, and a car famine has already been created. The Chicago freight yards are full of loaded cars, and elevators everywhere are rapidly filling up. Grain shipments from all points in Kansas and Missouri to the gulf ports are described as being larger than ever before, and at Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth, they are stated to be heavier than for years. The announcement that rates on grain will be restored from November 2 will also ensure larger profits to the Roads. Then, again, it must be considered that trade has been pent up of late in view of the uncertainty of the elections. Business thus is waiting, because the changes threatened are so serious that men are willing to face what they consider a certain but moderate loss, rather than risk the incalculable consequences possible. Canadian-Pacifics, after declining, have also recovered in sympathy with Yankee Rails, and both these and Grand Trunks would undoubtedly be greatly benefited by the triumph of McKinley, just as they would greatly suffer should the opposite prove the case.

Foreigners and South Americans.

Interbourse securities have been a very chequered market during the past week, as the Paris Bourse maintained a very gloomy tendency, and suffered from periodical spasms in South Africans, in Spanish, and in Turks. The talk about an internal loan in Spain does not look very promising; but there are also rumours that the Banque de Paris is likely to grant another loan, so as to provide some much-wanted funds for the empty Spanish Treasury. I should not be at all surprised if, notwithstanding their reverses in Cuba, Spain were to be helped once more over the stile, in which case the "Bears" might be seriously squeezed; but eventually the financial collapse must undoubtedly come. Turks have given way, but are not altogether at the lowest. The Turkish Government is in serious financial troubles, and politics in Constantinople do not look flourishing; but somehow or other the markets are not nowadays affected to any extent by the Turkish position. A sharp fall in Portuguese is by no means encouraging, and seems to foreshadow some disagreable surprise from that quarter. Argentines experienced a setback in sympathy with the other markets, but they are now recovering again. Some spasms also occurred in speculative Argentine Railway stocks, due to the action of several large operators, who closed their account in South Americans for fear that in the case of an unfavourable result of the American elections these might also be affected. Upon the whole, however, matters Argentine are looking more promising, as the rise in wheat must greatly benefit that country. Brazilians suffered another sharp drop, from which they are but slowly recovering. Mexican Sixes and Uruguay bonds, on the other hand, have shown a firm front. Costa Rica "A" have declined another point to 24, and so far no further news has unfortunately come to hand as regards the settlement of the debt. Honduras bonds have hardened to 5½, on the talk of some proposal on the part of the Honduras Government through a personage who has arrived here with powers to negotiate. At best, however, the proposal is likely to be a poor one.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS—ANOTHER SPASM.

I was mistaken last week when I took the view that the long-continued slump in the Kaffir Circus had come to an end, and that the persistent and indiscriminate sales of South African mining securities would not be repeated. After a temporary recovery, a renewal of sales—accompanied by all manner of adverse rumours—brought down quotations of the gambling counters, to which I have repeatedly referred as more especially dangerous, to the lowest point as yet reached, Consolidated Gold Fields being at one time down to $8\frac{7}{16}$, East Rands to $4\frac{1}{4}$, and Rand Mines to $21\frac{1}{2}$. There may have been some substratum of truth in a few of the "Bear" points, by which it was sought to bang the market. For instance, it is quite possible that some Paris operator was in trouble, and it would not be surprising if a certain noble lord had had to close his account with a loss of £20,000; but subsequent events have proved that all the more important reports which were set about were absolutely baseless. Thus it was hardly likely that the Consolidated Goldfields' Directors had, as was alleged, reconsidered their announcement of a dividend of 15s., when they sent out the report making the official statement on Friday. The further rumour that President Kruger was fixing a quarrel upon the same Company was equally absurd, as Oom Paul has repeatedly declared that he does not wish to make the innocent shareholders in Transvaal Companies suffer for the misdeeds of others. A satisfactory statement which he made to Reuter's Agency with reference to the Bewaarplatsen, and which has been promptly confirmed by a decision of the Volksraad, moreover, does not bear out the allegation that the Boers want to worry the English Companies. The often repeated story of the withdrawal of Mr. Alfred Beit from the firm of Wernher, Beit, & Co., has also been contradicted. It boots not to repeat all the unfavourable rumours with which the air was filled at one time. Suffice it to say that, as far as I have been able to learn, none of these were true. The report again found credence that some of the big South African financiers had combined to make a "Bear" attack upon South Africans. That, too, does not seem likely, as it would be altogether opposed to their interests to entirely freeze out investors, and thus kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. That the Deep Level shares should have suffered severely I am not surprised at, and as the Rand mines are chiefly interested in these, the drop in the latter would thus be explained. I have never held a favourable opinion of the Deep Levels, but it is but fair to say that the reports with regard to some of these were false, as the mines in question had not begun to crush yet. In fact, the Exploration Company makes the official statement, as representative of some of the properties affected, that only two or three of the Deep Level mines have as yet reached the stage of crushing, and that nothing in the results obtained in those cases at all warrants the reports in question. By the way, the East Rand Company is, after all, going to make a new issue of shares. At the meeting to be held on December 14, the capital of the Company will be increased by 100,000 shares, which are to be offered to the shareholders, *pro rata*, at $4\frac{1}{2}$, at which they are said to have been guaranteed. A recovery has since set in in the shares chiefly attacked, Rand Mines being quoted $23\frac{1}{4}$, East Rands $4\frac{5}{8}$, and Consolidated Goldfields $9\frac{1}{4}$; but these prices are still in strong contrast with the prices touched last year, viz., Rand Mines, 45; East Rands, $12\frac{1}{2}$; and Consolidated Goldfields, 19. Nothing has demoralised the Kaffir Circus more than the disastrous result of the speculation in these three gambling counters, with which operators here and in France have been extensively saddled at high prices. They are responsible chiefly for recent scares, and it is most unfortunate that, regardless of intrinsic merit, the sound Witwatersrand gold shares should also suffer in sympathy with them. I cannot refrain from again pointing out that it is merely market conditions and scares which have brought about the fall in these, and that intrinsic merit must eventually prevail. Again let me beseech my readers not to speculate in South African mines beyond their means, and not to buy more than what they can take up and pay for. Whoever acts on this principle will in the end escape all loss, and in most cases reap a good profit. I gave last week a list of promising Transvaal properties, and I adhere to the view that any one who can afford to buy at present prices, or to average at the present level—always provided that he takes the shares up—will come right in the end. Many of the high-class Witwatersrand mines have now arrived at prices on which they yield good returns on the money invested. It may be safely assumed that, in view of the ample supply and lower cost of native labour, dividends similar to those earned in 1895 may again be looked for—that, for instance, Langlaagte Estate will again pay dividends at the rate of 40 to 50 per cent. per annum, New Primrose 50 per cent., Durban Roodepoort 60 per cent., Crown Reef, 100 per cent. Why, then, should these shares stand at only $4\frac{5}{8}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ for Langlaagte Estate and New Primrose, $6\frac{1}{4}$ for Durban Roodepoort, or $9\frac{5}{8}$ for Crown Reefs? I have taken these four mines at random, but the case of all sound Witwatersrand mines is similar, and the prices have perhaps only fallen because, not being able to sell their rubbish, operators have had to part with their good stocks. Again, several of the leading mines, such as Knights, have recommenced crushing with large batteries, and thus are on the eve of proving their large producing power again. Concerning the annual report of the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa it may be pointed out that a much larger proportion of the assets is now represented by Deep Level properties than before, and although favourable reports by Mr. John Hays Hammond and Professor Becker on the future Deep Levels are subjoined, this feature is not encouraging for those who do not view Deep Levels in the same rosy light. The large interest in Simmer & Jack (715,000 shares at $4\frac{1}{2}$ £3,215,000) is, of course, a valuable one, but the Company has sold other valuable assets, such as 25,000 De Beers and 50,000 Village Main Reefs, and it has also saddled the public with a good many Deep Level shares. The annual report of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company furnishes little fresh information, as the figures were available a month ago. The fact which appears from the accounts, that the securities are written down to the market value on June 30, and that the accounts, therefore, show a loss which has not yet been realised is satisfactory, and huge profits amounting to nearly £600,000 are shown to have been made on mining properties and shares, while profits from commission, interest on loans and revenue from house and landed properties have largely increased. After paying 25 per cent. dividend, the large balance of £331,686 is carried forward, out of which £250,000 is to be placed to reserve for the purpose of equalisation of dividends. In view of the disastrous period covered by the report, this result must be considered distinctly satisfactory. The meeting of shareholders of the Chartered British South African Company, on Friday the 6th inst., to authorise the new issue, of which I have already furnished particulars, is being looked forward to with considerable interest. I am glad to see that the Committee of the Stock Exchange propose in future to fix the carry-over quotations in the mining market officially. As this duty was formerly undertaken by certain firms of jobbers who were not exactly the most disinterested persons, this is a step in advance. But let us have also a properly drawn making up list to take the place of that hitherto issued by Messrs. Mathieson. The following communication reaches me from Johannesburg:—

Johannesburg, October 3, 1896.

It might be as well if you were to sound a note of warning respecting the many Transvaal coal ventures which will shortly be brought before the British investor. There is a perfect scramble here just now for anything in the shape of a coal farm, whether it be good, bad, or indifferent. I presume the most will be made of the recent coal famine here, but as that arose principally through the lack of railway facilities, it cannot be used as an argument for opening more pits. There is only a very

CYCLING SUITS are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

limited demand for coal at present, and the collieries already working are well able to keep pace with it. The cost of transport only, from most of these new concerns to the gold mines at Johannesburg, will amount to over 20s. per ton, so that a good price must be obtained before even this can be covered, and as steam coal is now selling at about this figure, the prospects are not encouraging. Most of the coal is also of an inferior quality, and not fit for marine or export purposes, so that it must all be used locally, and any little extra quantity raised naturally tends to glut the market.—I am, &c., COAL.

I do not anticipate that we shall see a rush of Coal Companies in the present state of the Kaffir Circus, but it may be as well to sound the warning which my correspondent "Coal" writes to convey. Diamond shares have, of course, suffered with the rest of the market, but all these are now recovering under the lead of De Beers, which are quoted 27¼. New Jagersfontein have maintained a very firm front at about 9.

GOLDEN WEST AUSTRALIA.

The West Australian market, which had so far resisted the effect of the surrounding gloom remarkably well, has also been affected by the complete collapse in South Africans; but the despondency and the "Bearish" talk are even less justified in this case than that in South African shares, for there can be no doubt that the West Australian goldfield has a remarkable future, and that a large yield of from 2 oz. to 5 oz. of gold per ton will be obtained from it for many years to come. In fact, a return of 2 oz. or 3 oz. of gold per ton would be quite sufficient to ensure very profitable working; but as an eminent engineer, who has recently returned from Western Australia, argues:—"You in London expect too much from us, considering that the goldfield is a new one, and that means of communication are very difficult. Hundreds of batteries are on the way to the various mines, and many thousands of tons of machinery are encumbering the ports and railways. Give us six months' time, and you will find that the leading mines will respond most satisfactorily by a large and increasing output." I would advise my readers to exercise some of that patience without which no "adventurer in mines" can expect to make money. I grant that mining Companies have been rushed forward too quickly, and before many of the properties were sufficiently developed; but there are already many large mines producing excellent results, and more will fall into line every month. I have repeatedly urged that new flotations should be stopped, unless the mines are ready to crush, and this view is evidently being enforced by the present state of the market. Ignorant critics, and pronounced pessimists, should be confronted with the statement that English-owned West Australian Companies have this year crushed 133,376 tons of ore for a yield of 337,380 oz. of gold, or an average of 2½ oz. to the ton, and this in the infancy of the goldfields, and without reckoning the gold to be still extracted from the tailings, for the working of which arrangements are now being made. I am glad to say that most of the readers of TRUTH are taking a very sensible view of the position, and are ready to exercise that patience which is the highest quality of a mining investor. This brings me to the criticisms of a person who has sent me a long letter in which he takes the view that I have been deceived by those connected with certain Westralian Companies, notably Hampton Plains. I cannot, of course, control the general drift of the markets, and I am unable to guard the public against scares; but I have convinced myself that those controlling the destiny of the Hampton Plains have not sold a single share, and have been buying largely of late; while there can be no doubt as to the intrinsic merit of the Company, except on the part of those who are wilfully blind. It is evident, however, from the remarks of this particular correspondent, that, for reasons best known to himself, he wishes to run down the West Australian goldfield altogether, and, under these circumstances, time only can decide between him and those who have carefully studied the whole position, and are therefore in a better position to judge than a flippant critic of "Bearish" propensities. When I last wrote on Lake View Consols they were quoted 6⅞; they have since touched 7¾, and, although they have reacted, I should not be at all surprised that before the special settlement is fixed in about three weeks' time they will again reach a high quotation. It is, of course, not possible for one section of the Mining market to display strength while the other is suffering from an attack of abject panic. Under this influence London and Globe Finance and West Australian Exploring and Finance have also reacted to 4⅜-½; but these Companies' shares have strong backers, and, what is more, the Companies' results to be announced next month, and the dividends to be declared, will be such as to justify the important advance which I have anticipated for some time. Great Boulder have also fluctuated, but upon the whole have preserved a firm front at 6⅜. The production for the fortnight ending October 26 has been announced as 2,142 oz. from 710 tons. It would not be easy to find on any other goldfield three such mines as the Lake View Consols, the Great Boulder, and the Ivanhoe. This is what a well-known engineer told me the other day; but he says the Lake View Consols is the best of them all. I hear, by the way, that Mr. Charles Kaufman is engaged on a report on all the properties controlled by the London and Globe and West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporations, and that when completed it will be sent to all the shareholders. Hit or Miss shares have recovered to 1⅛ on a cablegram stating that a partial clean up of 116 tons crushed (assay value, 2 oz. 8 dwt.) gave 157 oz. of refined gold, the tailings assaying 8 dwt. The engineer adds that the difficulties have been overcome, and that a gradual increase in the returns may be expected, 20 stamps being now running. As so much has been made of the Hit or Miss disappointment by the "Bears," this must be considered as encouraging. From the Wills Consolidated a cablegram has been received stating that 10,000 tons of ore are available for treatment. Samples from different parts of the mine average 1 oz. 10 dwt. In the incline shaft the ore is stated to be worth 5 oz. 10 dwt. per ton. The first annual report of the Directors of the West Australian Venture Syndicate, to be submitted to the meeting on the 6th inst., shows a net profit of £104,089, of which £37,965 is realised cash profit. In addition to the interim dividend paid in October last (when the whole of the Ordinary capital then paid up was returned) a payment of 5s. per share on 39,450 Ordinary shares and of £24. 13s. 1½d. per share on 400 Founders' shares is now recommended, making £34,725 returned to the shareholders, while the large surplus profits are kept in hand. The Menzies Mining and Exploration (O'Driscolls) Corporation announces that crushing was started on October 26. This, by the way, is the eighth Menzies Company which has entered the list of producers. The mill of the Black Flag Proprietary Company will start on the 14th inst. With regard to the Mona Gold Mine Company, Limited, the following is a copy of a cablegram received from Messrs. H. J. Saunders & Co, dated October 29:—"Have struck the lode No. 1 shaft 100-ft. level, 3 ft. in width; samples assay 6 oz. per ton; reef promising further improvement in width." Another dead set has been made against Hampton Plains, but one of these days the "Bears" will have a rude awakening. On a moderate estimate the shares are worth double the present price, and as Mr. Allen H. P. Stoneham pointed out at last Monday's confirmatory meeting, three important discoveries have been made since the previous meeting. It is also most satisfactory to learn from him that the Coolgardie Waterworks Company, which takes its water from the Hampton Plains Estate, will in five weeks' time be able to pump 100,000 to 150,000 gallons of water per day into Coolgardie. West Australian Goldfields have also been raided by the "Bears," but are recovering again at about 6. Considering the Company's large and valuable interests and the comparatively small capital, these shares will doubtless command a much higher price when the present attempt to disparage the

IRROY'S Champagne. VINTAGE 1889. Carte d'Or. Extra sec.
IRROY'S Champagne. VINTAGE 1889. Carte d'Or. Brut.
ERNEST IRROY & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

West Australian goldfields passes away. In this respect, I am glad to notice the manly and intelligent defence of these goldfields in the *Sunday Sun*, by Mr. Michael Davitt, M.P., who speaks with some authority, having been in Western Australia a year ago. I wonder what the much reconstructed Golden Leaf, Limited, has made out the interest it obtained in the Kinsella Gold Mines, Limited, considering that the last-named shares are now almost valueless, and whether it will fare better with the Salisbury Murchison since promoted by it. Some interest has of late been taken here in the General Gordon Mine, a Colonial flotation with a capital of £125,000 in £1 shares. This mine is situated in the north-west of Ranowna, or White Feather. Rich ore has been disclosed in the prospector's shaft assaying anything between 5 and 150 oz. of gold to the ton. At greater depth, ore of an assay value of 3 oz. to the ton has been struck, and a ten-head battery is nearly ready for crushing. The mine is held in high esteem in the colony, where the £1 shares, 7s. paid, stand at a considerable premium, and now that a London register has been opened, active dealings in the shares are looked for here. The Hampton Gold Hill Mines, Limited, announce to the shareholders that after long negotiations they have succeeded in securing for the Company a property consisting of two mining leases in the Kurnalpi district, which has been very favourably reported upon by Captain Oats and Messrs. Bainbridge, Seymour, & Co.; 90 per cent. of the purchase price being taken by the vendor in fully-paid shares. Working capital to the extent of £20,000 has been provided, and the 10s. shares fully paid at 3s. 6d. look very cheap. A cablegram, which has just been received, furnishes excellent news with reference to the Lady Shenton. The battery started on September 29, and the clean-up on October 29, after 356 hours' run, yielded 1,264 oz. from 300 tons of ore. This is even better than the previous crushings, and brings the total so far crushed from the Lady Shenton up to 1,114 tons of ore for 4,415 oz. of gold. The mine is thus bearing out the statement made by Mr. John Girdwood in a communication to the press, according to which all the previous rumours about the pinching-out of the reef are unfounded; and the mine is in a better position than it ever was before. This shows how false are most of the rumours which are being set about regarding the West Australian mines.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

With such surroundings as I have discussed under "The Kaffir Circus," it was not likely that the Indian section should show strength, and, especially in the case of Ooregum Prefs., a considerable decline is marked; while Mysore Gold—notwithstanding a dividend of 7s.—are lower at 7½ x.d. There has also been a set back in Champion Reefs and Nundydroog; but Coromandel are firmer; and there has also been some demand for Goldfields of Mysore at 21s. Amongst Australian mines, other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have eased off to 2¾, although another dividend is in sight. Mount Lyell are somewhat firmer at 7⅞; and in Charters Towers' Mines, Mill's Day Dawn United, New Queen, and Day Dawn P.C. have hardened. British Broken Hill, however, are lower. Croydon Consols have been firm at 10s. 6d., and North Croydon Consols at 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. A cablegram has been received, according to which 211 tons have been cleaned up for 880 oz. of bullion on the Croydon Consols, making 1,253 tons, with a yield of 6,607 oz., the approximate value of which is £20,000. All this has been obtained since the last dividend was paid, and it will be seen therefore that the dividend of 1s. per share (on the 5s. shares, 4s. 6d. paid) which is to be distributed during the present month, is practically in hand. On the North Croydon Consols the shaft has now been carried down to 170 ft. It is expected to strike the Croydon Consols lode at about 200 ft. New Zealand shares have moved irregularly, a fall in Waihi Silverton, Waitekauri, and New Zealand Joint Stock being offset by advances in Taitapu, Komata Reefs, and Preece's Point. In the general foreign section, Rio Tinto have experienced a sharp rise on French support. There have also been improvements in Frontino and Bolivia, Montana, and Linares, but Tolima "B," Richmond, and Banner Gold are lower. A steady business is passing in Grand Central at about 2¼. From the Golden River Quesnelle Mine a complete report has now been received, dated October 3, according to which good progress is being made with the construction of the race way and the dam, all facilities being at hand for the economical and thorough completion of the work.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Washington Music Hall, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the freehold property known as the Washington Music Hall, Battersea, S.W., together with a gymnasium and the Royal Standard and Washington Saloon public-houses adjoining, with the licences, fittings, scenery, &c., &c. The capital is £55,000 in shares of £1 each.

Any one who reads this prospectus carefully through will wonder that, while the estimated value of the premises fittings, stock-in-trade, &c., is put down at £72,500, the vendor should be willing to accept £70,000, payable in such a manner as to leave £5,000 working capital. There must be some reason for this reduction, and it would be as well to have this fully explained before investing any money in the concern.

St. James's Restaurant, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the St. James's Restaurant, Piccadilly, and 69 and 70, Regent-street, with the leases and the whole of the furniture and other appointments upon the premises, for the purposes of the business. The capital is fixed at £107,000, divided into 11,400 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each, and 50,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

The excessive capitalisation does not make this appear a tempting venture.

Chicago Edison Company.—This is an issue of 1,200,000 dols. First Mortgage Five per Cent. Thirty-year Gold bonds, redeemable at the option of the Company, on six months' notice, in 1911, or any year thereafter. The principal and interest are payable to bearer in United States gold coin free of United States taxes. The London Scottish American Trust, Limited, of 75, Lombard-street, E.C., offer the above bonds for sale at the price of £217 per 1,000 dols. bond.

Cave, Austin, & Co., Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and amalgamate the businesses of wholesale and retail grocers, tea dealers, provision merchants, wine, spirit, and beer merchants, &c., carried on by Mr. A. J. Cave, Messrs. A. J. & C. H. Cave, J. & A. Austin, Limited, and Mr. James McCabe, in London and elsewhere. The capital is £130,000 divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £1 each.

Victorian Gold Estates, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and develop as a parent Company an extensive mining property, comprising about 9,000 acres, situate on the great Basaltic plain, in the county of Talbot, province of Wellington, in the colony of Victoria, Australia. The capital is fixed at £350,000, in shares of £1 each, of which 125,000 (including £100,000 for working capital) are now offered for subscription at par.

The property acquired is most extensive, and comes before the public under powerful auspices, viz., the London and Globe Finance and West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporations, who have guaranteed the whole of the cash capital required. This, of course, is a new parent Company, which will have ample opportunities of forming subsidiary enterprises, and the reports of the experts are most emphatic as regards the auriferous value of the property. The small amount of cash consideration required by the vendors, viz., £25,000 out of the total capital of £250,000, is illustrative of the confidence felt as to the prospects of the undertaking.

The Collingwood Goldfields, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing leases containing 398 acres of auriferous properties situated in Collingwood Golden Bay, New Zealand, and known as the Golden Gulley, Quartz Ranges, and Appos Flat, and also to acquire all the water rights included in that tract of country covering an estimated area of 30,000 acres. The capital is £150,000 in shares of £1 each, of which £50,000 is to be reserved as working capital.

The British "Pattison" Hygienic Cycle Saddle Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the British patent, together with all improvements since made by the inventor relating to improvements in saddles for cycles and other like vehicles. Capital, £100,000 in £1 shares.

Not being a cyclist, I will not venture to say whether

this saddle is good or not, but the estimated future business, as well as the profits, are extremely roseate for an invention comparatively untried, while the purchase-money is, in my opinion, most excessive. I look upon this as a very doubtful venture, and one that had better be left alone.

The Rosser Cycle and Vehicle Brake Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and take over as a going concern the business of the Ajax Cycle Company, carried on by F. W. Rosser at Ferns-road, Stratford, London, E., and the letters patent for an improved brake pan, or shoe, for road vehicles, engines, &c. The capital is £50,000 in shares of £1 each.

This venture is promoted by the Investors' and Contract Agency, Limited, and the purchase price is, in my opinion, out of all comparison with the—presumed—advantages offered. Improvements in brakes will, no doubt, still be discovered, and more than one may be found to supersede this in its utility; investors, therefore, had better be cautious in dealing with this issue.

The Insurances Corporation, Limited.—This Corporation is formed with the object of carrying on every class of business taken by Insurance Companies (except life assurance) on the principle of underwriting or re-insurance. The capital asked is £1,000,000, in shares of £10 each.

This Corporation purposes simply to cover ground already looked after by existing Insurance Companies, and in which there is a very keen competition. I cannot see any prospects of a remunerative return for a Company of this description for a long time to come.

The Sydney Gardens Hotel (Bath).—This Company proposes, with a capital of £40,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each, to acquire the Sydney Gardens Estate in the city of Bath, for the purpose of erecting a hotel with all modern advantages. There is also a Debenture issue of £10,000 in 200 Four per Cent. Debentures of £50 each, which together with the Ordinary and 3,000 Preference shares are offered for subscription.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

A. G. Tirol.—I do not see any reason for exchanging from one series of Turks into another. *Impecuniosity.*—A fair investment; but of course subject to any future wars which might arise between Japan and other countries.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

W. G., Hull.—I have repeatedly given my opinion on the "system" of Douglas, Hungerford, & Williams, and advise you to have nothing to do with it. *Mrs. J. S., Romford.*—If you are coming up to London periodically, why not take a small safe at the City Safe Deposit, 13 and 15, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.? The rentals are £1 1s. and upwards per annum, and you would always have access to the documents when you want to cut the coupons off. The arrangements are such that the safety of all articles is absolutely secured. *H. G. F. S.*—Try the Scottish Widows' Fund and the Royal Exchange Assurance office. *R. A. F. K.*—I have repeatedly warned my readers against colonial land and mortgage Companies of this class, and advised sale of these particular shares long ago. Yet it might be advisable to hold now. *P. B, Bolton.*—You cannot be a regular reader of Truth, or else you would know that I do not approve of "our own investment system" of Douglas, Hungerford, & Williams. Obviously, these gentlemen are not philanthropists, and you must be aware that I have for years carried on a campaign against syndicate touts. *Mrs. M.*—The name of a smart firm of City solicitors, who will assist you in recovering your money from a well-known outside broker, has been forwarded in your envelope at your request. *Liverpudlian.*—The issue of Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo has been well received, and the bulk has been applied for. You will, however, still be able to pick up a few thousands at par (£100) if you act promptly. You can buy these either through a broker or through Mr. William Morrison, Founders'-court, Lothbury, London, E.C. *J. T.*—You cannot be a regular reader of Truth, or else you would know that I do not advise dealing with these syndicate touts, and am constantly warning people against them. Also see remarks under "Various Investments." *Violet.*—I quite agree with you that it is a bucket-shop swindle; but I have been warning people for many years past against these people, and do so in almost every issue of Truth. *A. C. B., Sunderland.*—I am glad to hear that so far you have received your money from these syndicate touts. That these people will continue to act as philanthropists for you is not likely, and if you wish to learn anything more about the practices of such outside dealers I refer you to my article in Truth of October 22, under the heading "The Tricks of the Syndicate Touts." *F. W. W. D., Perthshire.*—I am sorry to hear that you have lost money through Kynnaston, of 114, Fenchurch-street; but I have so often warned people against the syndicate touts that I am surprised that, if you are a regular reader of Truth, you should have been caught by such people. *Devonian.*—The two first-mentioned offices are wealthy American Companies, and if McKinley should be elected by a large majority there can be nothing against their standing.

Home Rails.

J. H. W.—Yes, there appears to be every prospect of Caledonian Deferred Ordinary and North British Deferred recovering to the figures at which they stood a few months ago. Both Companies have never been in a better position than they are now. *Guardian.*—I see no particular reason for selling at present.

American and Foreign Rails.

E. E. L.—I cannot really advise you in the matter. You should try and find the numbers of the bonds held by your late father. *Jumbo.*—1. The reorganisation has not yet been taken in hand, but will, no doubt, be promptly proceeded with after the Presidential elections. 2. As far as I can learn, yes.

Mining Shares.

Plym.—You must have bought the Transvaal Gold and Exploration shares before the amalgamation with the Lydenburg Mining Estates, and the shares in the new Company—which is now known as the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates—have not yet got a settlement. That is what you are kept waiting for. *Dinah.*—1. A mine with considerable possibilities, if the Sheba Lode is struck. 2. Hold for the present. *W. X. Y. Z.*—Have nothing to do with this concern, or else your second state might be worse than your first. No option but to wait. *X. W.*—Promising Companies; but of course it is impossible to say if they are safe for a substantial rise. Hold for the present. *Golf.*—No option but to hold now. *Lucy.*—The present is the worst possible time for selling South African shares. If you are able to hold for another month you will doubtless get much better prices. *Sigil.*—These West Australian Companies are doing fairly well, and there is no reason to sell. There has been a good deal of realising by nervous holders, which accounts for the relapse. *Thistle.*—Yes, I still consider that the Company is promising, but I do not advise a purchase of the Founders' shares at present. You know all about the Wealth of Nations from the circular recently issued; hold. *W. H., St. John's.*—No option but to hold your Mining shares Nos. 1 to 3. *Drummer.*—1. No option but to hold for a recovery. 2. Hold, but do not average yet. 3. Ditto. *Merman.*—Yes, you might safely put some money into W.A. Share Corporation and W.A (Gold District) Trading Corporation at present prices. *Inner Temple.*—1. The Menzies Golden Rhine is promising, and the other shares, Nos. 2 to 7, should also be held for a recovery. *S. H. G.*—The prospects of this Company are very good; but the South African market generally is so weak that these shares have suffered. *Dante.*—I gave particulars of the present position of the New Primrose in Truth of October 1, and have nothing to add to it. The only thing you can do is to hold for an improvement. This also applies to New Crœsus. *Kandy.*—Hold Nos. 1 to 3 for a recovery. *Terrier.*—No option but to hold; a recovery will doubtless come along in time. *W. H. S.*—This market is at present very weak, but in time you should be able to get out of your shares. *Gemini.*—Block 50 Hampton Plains is doing well, and I see no reason for selling now. The shares have only fallen in sympathy with the rest of the Mining Market. *Mining, South Wales.*—1. Yes. 2. This is not the time to sell Mining shares such as those held by you A to G; hold for a recovery. I do not think much of No. 4. *Taffy.*—Why do you not write to the London Secretary of the New Bultfontein, 6, Drapers' Gardens, London, E.C. *S. X.*—These shares have only fallen in sympathy with the rest of the South African market. They should be held for a recovery. *Rod.*—London and Globe Finance should be held for an important advance. Hold the other shares, but do not average yet. *Irishman, Paris.*—The mine is being developed, and the information is favourable; but as with other West Australian mines some patience is now needed. *A. C., Mullingar.*—No option but to hold the shares, Nos. 1 to 5, for a recovery. *Herby.*—You went into these shares at the wrong time, and bought at the top. There is no option now but to hold until the market generally improves again. *Novice, B.*—No option but to hold. *Roland Hope.*—In the present condition of the Mining Market there is nothing to be done but to hold the shares, Nos. 1 to 7, for a recovery. The slump is altogether unjustified, and you, apparently, have plenty of time to turn round, as you do not require the money until next May. *Hyson.*—1. Yes, I think if you proceeded against this outside broker through a sharp firm of City solicitors they would very likely pay up before the matter would get into court. 2. Of course, not too much time should be lost. 3. If you send me a stamped addressed envelope, I will forward the name of a smart firm of City solicitors. *Martinmas.*—I think there is every prospect of this Company taking a turn for the better, and you should hold now. *Gladiator.*—Gladiator Mining shares should be held. The fall is unjustified. *Thane.*

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

—I do not advise purchase of the shares Nos. 1 to 6 mentioned by you. You can do better in those recommended in my letter. *N. M. S.*—1. I do not see how you can get out of the matter. 2. Hold; but do not buy more to average yet. The Lake View Consols, which is a very rich mine, is one of the best purchases in the market. *J. B. T.*—1. You may congratulate yourself on having sold East Rands at 6⅝; they are now 4½. 2. My contemporary is not always right. 3. I do not care for these. 4. No. *Leontodon.*—Fair mining risks; but I do not advise purchase just now. *Agnew.*—Hannan's Proprietary Development is a good property, and the price has only fallen in sympathy with the rest of the market. Hold. *Pym.*—No option but to hold these shares; they are likely to recover. *Buffles.*—Yes, you should hold these shares. *West Cheshire.* — Yes, present quotations are tempting for the formation of a small trust in South Africans and West Australians. Amongst your list Nos. 1 to 16, the following are the most suitable:—Langlaagte Estate (1), Randfontein (3), Knights (5), Johannesburg Investment (12), W. A. Exploring and Finance (15), and London and Globe Finance (16). *Inquirer, Scarborough.*—1. No; I do not advise purchase of Lady Bess. 2. I am glad you are doing so well in Croydon Consols; you should hold for a further rise. 3. No option but to hold for a recovery. 4. I advised sale of these when higher. At present hold, but do not average. 5. No; I do not advise purchase of Campana. *Mine, Cork.*—No; I do not advise purchase of these shares. You can do better in those recommended in my letter under the "Kaffir Circus" and "Golden West Australia." *Pioneer.*—This has been a very disappointing mine, and the present weakness in the South African market is an additional drawback. I can only advise you to do the best you can. The documents are returned. *Ferrum.*—No option but to hold your shares Nos. 1 to 8 for a recovery. *Argon.*—1. I stated the position of Langlaagte Star in TRUTH of October 29. 2. I referred to this matter in TRUTH of October 15. The business is a good one, but it has been badly mismanaged. 3. Yes; no option but to hold. *W. M., Hampstead.*—You are both unfair and impertinent; and what you say about the West Australian market shows that you are either altogether ignorant of the position, or else that you are a confirmed pessimist. I am content to let time prove that I am taking a correct view of the position in Western Australia, which is based upon information carefully collected, and confirmed by the best authorities. You pick out a few disappointing mines. What do you say of Croydon Consols? *Chercheuse.*—1. No option but to hold now. 2. Yes. *Arthur.*—I can obtain no more information on this point. *Veritas Floreat.*—Great Boulder Junction Reefs stand at 1⅛. I am glad to hear that you have done so well in Croydon Consols; thanks for the compliment. *Cripple Creek Pioneer.*—This is not the time to sell. You should hold for a recovery, although some of the shares mentioned were not well selected. *Anonymous.*—I cannot attend to anonymous letters. All communications must be accompanied with the names and addresses of the writers as a token of good faith. *Allowance.*—Nos. 1 to 4 are fair mining risks. *Cardiff.*—You should consult a solicitor. *B. H. W.*—1. The occurrences in connection with Westralia, Limited, are certainly very reprehensible; but what is to be done if the shareholders will not take an interest in the matter and enforce their rights? 2. The W. A. Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance Corporations' meetings will be held in December. *Investor, Sunderland.*—Amongst the shares mentioned Nos. 1 to 10, I consider Langlaagte Star (3) and North Croydon Consols (6) the best purchases at present prices. *Pavo.*—No reason for selling Johannesburg Water. I do not like the other Company at all. *D. J. A.*—There is nothing for it but to hold your shares Nos. 1 to 10 for the recovery, which must come about sooner or later. *K. L.*—You certainly ought to have received the scrip long ago; why not apply direct to the Company. *F. P., Tetbury.*—Your talk is too absurd to be reasonably discussed, and you will find in the end that I am right. *C. F., Ealing.*—No option but to hold for a recovery. *Beginner, Lancashire.*—You had better make the investment in question in West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance, which are more stable than the others. *Scarboro'.*—I have not heard of the amalgamation. Your shares, Nos. 1 to 6, should be held for a rise. *H. R. H.*—A low-priced share, which may eventually come to the front again. *L. H.*—Under the circumstances there is no option but to hold all the shares. With reference to the August crushings of the Lake View Consols, there is a clerical mistake. It should be that 1,508 oz. of gold was realised at £6,315, or £4. 3s. 9d. per ounce. *T. W. G.*—You will find some particulars with regard to the General Gordon Gold Mine under "Golden West Australia." *N. W. F.*—I think you had better hold your North White Feather Reward shares and pay the call, as the news from the property is favourable.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Flint.—1. A fair investment; but I do not look for much of a rise for some time to come. 2. No. 3. The dividend is to be paid on the Deferred shares. *C. J. S., Clapham.*—Impossible to tell just now. The nitrate trade is now in the dumps. *A Constant Reader, Cirencester.*—If this is stipulated in the articles of association the Company would have a right to do so; but you might remonstrate with the Secretary on the point. *Doubtful, Dorking.*—I do not think much of these Hotel shares. *E. P. Reading.*—Write to the Secretary of the Company. *Depressed.*—Why do you deal with these outside brokers? You will never be treated properly by them. You should close your account at once. I have returned the documents. *H. T. G.*—Yes, the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo Six per Cent. Debentures at par (£100) are an excellent investment, and you cannot do better. *Rona.*—1. I have no favourable opinion of this concern. 2 and 3. No. *Nemoni.*—I am afraid that the electrical shares in question are not promising, and I have never thought it advisable to recommend them to my readers. *H. S. B.*—I cannot answer generally; you must tell me what particular Company you refer to. *J. F. P.*—A fair investment, but no catch. *J. C. B., Edinburgh.*—I know nothing of the concern in question, which seems to be a small Liverpool business. On the face of it, I should certainly have nothing to do with it. *Stoneycroft.*—I have repeatedly warned my readers against United Alkali shares, and do so still. You cannot be a regular reader of TRUTH or else you would not have bought them. *A Small Investor, Beeston Hill.*—All depends upon the issue of the Presidential elections in the United States. If this is satisfactory, everything in that country will take a turn for the better. *Teufel.*—I do not consider Dock stock progressive in present times, and do not advise the investment. *Hew.*—The middle price on October 17 was $\frac{15}{16}$; but obviously you would only be able to sell at a fraction lower owing to the jobber's turn.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Clio.—1. No option but to hold. If the American Presidential elections turn out all right there will be a general recovery. 2. Certainly hold West Australian Share Corporation shares, which is stated to be doing very well. *Munro.*—1. This is not known yet. The office is at 14, Regent-street, London, S.W. 2. Certainly hold Buffelsdoorn. 3. I do not like Simpson's Lever Chains, and said so when the price was much higher. 4. I do not think much of these. 5. No. 6. It might be worth while to hold for a possible recovery. 7. Possibly, when this Company is doing well. *Bull with Sore Head.*—1. I gave the latest information with regard to Langlaagte Star in last week's issue under "The Kaffir Circus," and strongly advise you to hold these and all the other shares in question. There will be eventually a sharp recovery. *W. P. E.*—No particular reason to buy this Railway Scrip, and I do not advise purchase of Cycle Components. I should think that Gladiators and Bagots are better worth buying. *Q. E. D.*—1. I have repeatedly stated that I do not like this West Australian Finance Corporation. 2. I certainly advise holding Metropolitan Districts for a permanent increase in capital value. 3. No reason to sell now. *W. T. H., Cork.*—1. From all I can hear this Company is doing well. 2. I do not like Hall Mines, and have repeatedly said so. *Eager.*—No particular reason for selling these bank shares; but you might have a very good chance of a comparatively quick profit by investing in Randfontein as proposed. *King.*—1. I can hear nothing of the Mammoth Gold Mine, and have a poor opinion of it. 2. The mine seems to be a good one, but the management is very bad; write to the secretary. 3. I should say there is every prospect of a recovery in these Indian mining shares. 4 and 5. Yes, subject to the issue of the Presidential elections *Westralia.*—Some of the stocks mentioned by you are very promising; but you might as well make your investments in mining shares from my recommendations under "Golden West Australia" and "The Kaffir Circus." Chilians (14) are a good investment. *Molly.*—1. No reason to sell Canadian Pacific Debenture Stock now. Neither is there any reason for selling Nos. 2 and 3, which will, however, depend upon the result of the Presidential elections. With regard to No. 4, I must refer you to my letter. 5. High rates of interest are not compatible with safety; and the fact that this institution closed its doors some time ago illustrates this remark. *A. X., Enquirer.*—I do not see that you can get any redress; but in future deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange, and not through outside brokers. The South African shares should be held now. You certainly ought to have bought your Hit or Miss at a lower price than that charged to you. Amongst the other shares mentioned by you, Great Boulder Proprietary (3) and Nundydroog (4) are the best. *Nemo Black.*—You should hold all your Home Rails for a rise, as these are well selected; and there is no option but to keep the South Africans for the present, and also the Americans now that the Presidential elections are at hand. If you run shares in the market, you cannot claim to see the stocks. I cannot advise upon the solvency of stockbrokers; but the man in question is an outside broker, and I advise you to deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. *G. T.*—I do not think this a very good security for the amount. *Carlo.*—I must refer you to my letter, and you must make the selection yourself. *Trustic.*—1. You might hold for the present, as the Caledonian Railway is doing well. 2. Yes, I think they will eventually go better. 3. Colonial bonds and British Corporation stocks would give what you require. *Collingwood.*—After the heavy fall you should hold now; a recovery is probable. *Sapientia.*—1. Hold the Argentine Railway Debenture stocks Nos. 1 and 2; and there is no reason for selling Chilians (3) now. No. 4 is a fair investment at present price, and I have never thought much of the Electrical shares (5), and do not do so now. No. 6 had better be held now. *Shamrock.*—1. A fair West Australian mine. 2. I do not think much of this cable property. 3. Fair value; but, if you have a profit, take it. *Perambulator.* — 1. I have never had a good opinion of Richmond Consolidated, and have not now. 2. No catch. *Desirions.*—Amongst your shares, Nos. 1 to 9, the Americans should now be held to await the issue of the

Presidential elections. No reason to sell the tea shares or the mortgage debentures (6); and it is not the time for selling the others. Do not buy yet. *H. P. L.*—1. Yes, Bovril shares are likely to advance: I gave full particulars of the new Company in TRUTH of October 22 under "Various Investments." 2. A fair investment. 3. A mining property; you cannot say that any mine is absolutely safe. 4. A fair mining risk. 5. No particular temptation to buy these. *Irishman, Strabane.*—The decline in these shares is so completely unfounded that there is no option but to hold. Both are doing exceedingly well, and this refers to all your mining shares. *L. S. D.*—1. Yes, the new Uruguay Loan is a fair investment, yielding upwards of 7 per cent. per annum. 2. You might mix these with the Six per Cent. Debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo at par (£100). *Spec.*—1. The slump in the South African market is so general, that everything is affected. There is no option but to hold, although you should never put too much money into one particular mine. 2. There is likely to be a rally in these. *Country Lad.*—I do not think much of No. 1. Sell No. 2 on a rise. No. 3 is a promising New Zealand mine. No. 4 will probably come along again when the rising in Rhodesia is over, and there is no option but to hold No. 5. *Dungarvan.*—I do not think much of the tea shares Nos. 1 and 2; but No. 3 is a promising investment, and No. 4 is also doing better now. *A. W., Birmingham.*—1. You can make your selection from my letter. 2. No reason to sell Slaters now. 3. Amongst these Preece's Point are the most promising; but you can do better by following the advice given in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *H. I. M.*—You have done quite right to buy yourself the Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo at par. They are a good investment. With reference to your further proposed investment, Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold Bonds would be very suitable, and you can safely buy these the moment you hear that Mr. McKinley has been elected to the Presidency of the United States.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

The Bank of England has at last taken the step which I advised some time ago, viz., to borrow on Consols and other securities so as to make its rate more effective. If this had been done a month earlier it would have been much better, but it is not too late now. The hardening of the Money Market has not done any harm to high-class securities, as it is not expected that money will become any dearer, and should Mr. McKinley be elected President of the United States a good deal of hoarded gold will be released. Consols have advanced to 108½, and 3½ per cent. India Stock has improved to 117½. British Corporation stocks and Colonial bonds have been fairly steady, and it is evident that, barring accidents, the present level is a pretty safe one for investors. Under these circumstances, those who have hitherto held back in the hope of lower quotations of gilt-edged securities, might now proceed to make their investments. Silver has marked very little change for the week at 30d., and Rupee paper has advanced nearly a point to 62½. Cycle shares have, upon the whole, improved, and at times a good deal of activity was shown. The Swift Cycle Company appears to have met with a favourable reception, more especially in Dublin, where the shares are quoted at ⅛ premium; and I quite look for a further improvement, in view of the very moderate capitalisation, and of the favourable outlook for the cycle trade generally. Gladiators have been largely dealt in, and the Ordinary are firm at ¼ premium. Rumours continue to prevail that the Bagot Company will be taken over by the Dunlop. At one time these shares rose to 1¼ premium, and even now are in demand at ⅞ premium. Beestons have declined to 4, and Cycle Components are down to 3⅝ x.d., but Dunlop Deferred are in good demand at 1 7/16. With reference to the Nitrate Railway, I understand that a movement is going on for the appointment of a committee of investigation, which, under all the circumstances, appears to be advisable. The Debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo has met with a good reception, and, as they pay 6 per cent. interest, those who have picked these up will make a safe investment, combined with a high yield. Bovril shares have advanced to 5, and so eagerly have these been mopped up that there is very little supply left in the market. I hear that the issue of the new Bovril Company will be made in a fortnight's time, and there is very little doubt that not only will the public receive the Company exceedingly well, but that the shareholders in the old Company will also be anxious to convert. Frank Tarrant & Co. continue to send out glowing circulars in which they invite subscriptions for their "special joint deals," while boasting that they have closed their "Spanish special joint deal" at the magnificent profit of £118. 2s. 6d. net on every £30 subscribed. They allege that they sold Spanish on October 6 at 61⅝, and were able to repurchase on October 20 at 57¼. Now is it at all likely that Frank Tarrant & Company are such philanthropists as to allow their clients to participate in the profits made in a blind pool of this kind? This is evidently the opinion of a correspondent, who sends me a copy of the letter he has sent to Frank Tarrant & Co. in reply to their circular:—

> Keep your circulars till they are applied for—they are a nuisance. I pay no attention to "touts." In transacting Stock Exchange business I employ a broker I know, not a strange "tout." If you can really make such enormous profits, stick to them; never give them magnanimously to strangers, and be content with a modest 10 per cent. commission. You are either very generous or very foolish. Did you see the TRUTH items about your firm recently? If false, why don't you prosecute the paper for libel?

I wish that all readers of TRUTH took so sensible a view of the doings of the syndicate touts. Instead of this, I continue to receive absurd inquiries from people who wish to know whether they should deal with these people! J. Edwards & Co., stock and share dealers of Talbot House, Arundel-street, London, W.C. are to the fore with another boastful circular concerning "Operations successfully closed" in 1895 and 1896. They also append numerous complimentary extracts from customers—without their names and addresses—merely mentioning the various cities and towns; as a correspondent points out, "Irishmen don't appear to swallow the bait," as no extracts from clients residing in Ireland are published, a fact upon which the denizens of the Emerald Isle are much to be congratulated.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY;

MARY JANE'S MOLAR.

"NOW then, Master Dick, be off now, do. I can't let you stay here worritin' all the morning; and me so busy, with a lot of company coming to-day, and a big dinner to get ready. Besides, you know your mamma doesn't like your being in the kitchen, and she'll only scold me, if she finds you here. Now do be off!"

"Ah, you're such an old duck, Mary Jane, that I can't tear myself away from you—not even to oblige the mater."

"Go along with your nonsense, Master Dick!"

"'Tisn't nonsense, Mary Jane. I think you're the most nailing cook I've ever seen. I say, do let me have one of those meringues."

"Indeed I can't, Master Dick. They're for the dinner to-night."

"Oh, just one! It will never be missed out of all that lot."

"I tell you, Master Dick, I can't."

"Oh, come now, Mary Jane, don't be hard on a fellow. I am such dead nuts on meringues. I tell you what it is. Exchange is no robbery. If you'll give me a meringue, I'll give you—a kiss."

"Well, I never! What next, I wonder, Master Dick?"

"You used to like kissing me before I was ten, and went to school—when I struck against it. Now I'm thirteen, I guess you'd like it better."

"Indeed, Master Dick," laughed the cook, a buxom young woman of thirty-five or so. "And what makes you guess such rubbish as that?"

"'Tisn't rubbish; it's fact," answered Dick, with a knowing wag of his curly head. "The older a fellow gets, the more the women want to kiss him, you know."

"Heart alive, Master Dick, what things you do say!"

"Ah, I haven't been all these years in the world for nothing, Mary Jane. And I just about know the ropes, I tell you. When a fellow's a nipper—that is till he's

about ten, you twig—the women kiss him. But when he grows up a bit, they get shy and expect him to kiss them. What's more, they're beastly sick if he doesn't; though they sham not to be. They are so jolly artful."

"A pretty character to give us! And at your age, too! I never did."

"It's true, though, ain't it? Come along now, you old brick of a Mary Jane. I'll give you one kiss, and you'll give me two meringues in exchange, won't you?"

"There now, Master Dick. Have done! Have done! You took me so by surprise or I'd never have let you! And you shouldn't be so rough! There! See what has happened."

For in the course of the brief struggle which had occurred, a small white object had fallen to the floor from Mary Jane's mouth and rolled under the dresser.

In an instant, Dick had pounced upon it and picked it up.

"Moses!" he exclaimed, as he held it between his thumb and finger, and scanned it curiously. "A double-tooth. Is it a real 'un, Mary Jane?"

"Give it me, Master Dick. No; it isn't. I paid for a set of ten at the rate of a pound a-piece. And I shouldn't wonder if you haven't broke it."

"Seems all right, I think. I say, what a rum looking beggar it is. What's it made of? How did it manage to come out?"

"Lor, sir, how inquisitive you are. It had worked loose in the plate. I meant to have it fixed in next time I went into the town. But give it me, do!"

"Right you are. But just hand over those meringues. Three? Thanks, awfully. You are a brick. Here's the grinder. I say, I'll stand the damage. Oh, goodness! That's the mater coming! So long!"

And mischievous Master Dick disappeared through the back door into the garden.

Mary Jane just had time to arrange her cap and slip the tooth into her pocket, before her mistress entered the kitchen.

"I just came back, cook," explained the lady, "to say something that I quite forgot when I was giving my orders after breakfast. I think I told you that Miss Startivant was coming to-day?"

"Yes, ma'am," said Mary Jane, assuming a rather wooden expression. Miss Startivant was her mistress's aunt; a rich, but miserly old maid, who often stayed there, and, as often, omitted to "remember" the servants. It may easily be guessed, therefore, that she was no favourite with the worthy folk below stairs.

"What I forgot to order for this evening's dinner," continued her mistress, "was a plum tart. My aunt is particularly fond of plum tart. You had better send out into the garden for some of those fine Orleans plums. And I hope, cook, that you will be careful to make your very lightest crust. Miss Startivant is most particular!"

"Very well, ma'am," replied Mary Jane, looking still more wooden.

"That is all then, I think. I told you about the meringues, didn't I—and the grouse, and the veal, and the toasted cheese? You will be careful about the toasted cheese—won't you? It is another favourite dish of Miss Startivant's, and she is accustomed to splendid cooking at home."

"I'll not fail to do my best, ma'am," said Mary Jane.

Her mistress had hardly gone, before Harriett, the head-housemaid, looked into the kitchen.

"So that old skimp of a Startivant's coming to-day," she remarked, with a sniff.

"Yes; and I've got to make a special plum tart, with my very lightest crust, all in the old cat's honour," said Mary Jane, with sarcasm.

"And I've had particular horders has to the shaking up of her bed," said Harriett. "Ugh! I'd like to shake her up. And if it wasn't for my own credit, she should have her bed all clinks and lumps—that she should!"

"And if it wasn't for my credit," chimed in the cook, "she should have a crust to that plum tart as 'ud give her a pain in her chest for three days."

"Of course, we can't blame missus for making a fuss with her," pronounced Harriett, with magnanimous fairness.

"Certainly not. Missis is her only niece, and looks to the future. I'd do the same, if I was in her place."

"So would I; but 'tisn't only the old cat's stinginess that makes me mad with her. It's her nasty affected ways. Did I tell you how I catch her, last time she was here, posing and sniggling in front of the glass in the drawing-room, when she thought she was there alone, just before dinner one night? Oh, it was 'orrid! And her all false, too; 'air, colour, teeth and all."

"I can well believe it, 'Arriett. She's always tryin' to pass herself off for young; and making up to be sweet and bewitchin'. There's that Mr. Lemaine, now, that missis has asked here to please 'er. It's downright scandalous how she runs after him. Quite immoral, I call it."

"So do I. Well, I must be off to see about shaking up that bed," said the housemaid, turning away.

"And I must be getting the plums for that tart," said Mary Jane; adding to herself, with a toss of the head, as she went, "Best Orleans plums, indeed? If I had my way I'd make it of the greenest damsons I could find."

About half an hour later, as she was returning from the garden with her pie-dish well filled, she again ran up against Master Dick. Dick himself had been in the garden annexing a few apricots and peaches, to take the sweet taste of the meringues out of his mouth; and also, as he had explained to the incensed gardener who caught him *flagrante delicto*, because fruit in the morning was so jolly wholesome for a fellow. It was altogether so novel a thing for Master Dick to take his stand upon dietetic principles that the gardener was momentarily nonplussed; and the young gentleman had slipped safely away with his pocketful of spoils before the other had fairly recovered from his surprise.

"Hilloa! Mary Jane!" exclaimed Dick, "what ripping plums! They are our best Orleans—ain't they? You're never going to put them into a tart?"

"Missis have give special horders hon the subjeck," replied Mary Jane.

"Oh, I know why that is. It's all because that greedy old Aunt Matilda is coming to-day. The mater always kills the fatted calf for her. Blowed if she's worth it, though. She's never tipped me so much as a thin 'un, ever since I've known her."

"Lor, Master Dick, ain't she really now? And you're not the only one she's forgot to remember, neither."

"She's as rich as Crœsus," grumbled Dick. "She could sport me a flimsy, and never miss it."

"Ah well, Master Dick. Everybody has their way. And partin' ain't her way. That's the fact."

"I shouldn't altogether mind if she was to choke herself with one of those plum-stones," said Dick, piously. And then he added, "'Tisn't so unlikely either. She's awfully keen on her grub. Feeds in the most horrid, greedy way. It is quite disgusting to see her."

This remark came rather strangely from a young gentleman whose own appetite was nothing if not voracious; and who, moreover, had just now, within an hour of a phenomenally hearty breakfast, polished off a trifle of three meringues, and a dozen or so of wall-fruit. But Dick was sublimely unconscious of any inconsistency.

"Tummas have said the same thing, sir," replied Mary Jane, "and Tummas have lived in the genteelest families."

"It doesn't matter to Thomas so much as it does to me," observed Dick, with a critical, superior air. "She isn't Thomas's aunt. She is mine; and whatever she does reflects itself on me, so to speak. When Jones minor was staying here last Christmas, I was quite ashamed of introducing him to Aunt Matilda. A fellow's relations have no right to give him away. Well, I'm off now for a ride on my bike. Mind you make that tart as beastly as possible. You might use salt instead of sugar, or cayenne instead of spice."

And with this undutiful suggestion, Master Dick strolled away.

"By Jove!" he muttered to himself, as he got out his

bicycle, "a sov or two would come in handy just now. There's that fifteen bob I owe at the tuck-shop, and ten more to Saunders major; and my sub to the Footer Club. I wish I could squeeze the oof out of Aunt Matilda. But there's no chance, worse luck. Hang it! What's the use of an aunt if she don't tip a fellow? She don't deserve to have a nephew at all."

"Now, Dick," said his mother, to her mischievous son, in the course of the afternoon, "do be a good boy while your Aunt Matilda is here; and do be civil and polite to her. Last time she was staying with us your rude behaviour towards her distressed me extremely."

"All right, mums," answered Dick, with a quite unexpected cheerfulness of acquiescence. "I'll do the civil to Aunt Matilda this time. I'm beastly sorry I was so rude to her before."

"That's a good boy! And mind, at meals, for instance, that you're ready to jump up and get auntie anything she may want. She thinks so much of that sort of thing."

"Never fear, mums. I'll keep my optics open. I'll sit next her at dinner, to-night, if you like; and then I shall be able to wait on her better."

"Will you really, Dick?" said his mother, delighted at the readiness with which he acceded to her suggestions.

"Y-e-es—to please you, mums, dear. It'll be awful slow for me. But, for your sake, I'll do it."

"Thank you, Dick; you dear, affectionate boy. Come here and let me kiss you."

Dick submitted to his mother's embrace, with considerable qualms of conscience. She was certainly the sweetest, most unsuspicious of women. It would be a shame to deceive her; and yet the idea which he had in his mischievous young mind was awfully droll—irresistibly amusing. He didn't think he could resist it; in fact, he was sure he couldn't. And it would serve Aunt Matilda right—the mean, shabby creature. It was, even, a duty to punish her for her stinginess; an act of virtue, of high morality. He must not shirk it. It would be as bad as funking at football, or taking a licking from Jones minor. No, he must go through with it, like a man.

It was with some such argument as this that Master Dickie silenced his conscience. Coming from him, it was almost as good as his enunciation of the dietetic properties of peaches in the morning. However, it answered its present purpose, which was all that was required of it; and his mind was made up to persist in his scheme.

Aunt Matilda arrived at six o'clock, with two enormous boxes, swathed in wrapping, and innumerable smaller impedimenta. Thomas, the footman, had, with much reluctance, to carry the larger luggage upstairs; Harriett, the housemaid, conveyed the smaller parcels with no better grace. When they were out of hearing of the unwelcome visitor, they expressed themselves about her in no complimentary terms.

"This here's what might be called gratooitous labour," said Thomas, panting under the larger of the boxes.

"And called gratooitous 'cos there ain't no gratooity connected with it," observed Harriett, perpetrating a pleasantry.

"I've always been used to ladies," remarked the footman.

"Any one could see that with half an eye, Tummas."

At dinner that evening, Dickie, in accordance with his expressed resolve, seated himself next to Aunt Matilda. He was a very gentlemanly boy—when he cared to be so—and his air and manners were taking and agreeable. To-night he was on his very best behaviour. He conversed with Aunt Matilda in a modest deferential way that pleased her mightily, and caused his mother to beam and smile approval upon him. He would scarcely let Thomas wait upon his aunt. Did the worthy lady seem to be wanting anything—bread, salt, sugar, wine, what not? Dickie was on his feet in an instant. Aunt Matilda waxed quite gracious at his attention. She thought to herself what a wonderfully improved boy Dickie was! "And all went merry as a marriage bell," until the arrival of the puddings.

"Now, aunt," said the lady of the house, "Let me send you some of this plum tart? Cook remembers how you appreciated her plum tarts on former occasions, and she has made this one in your especial honour."

"Thank you, my dear, thank you; I will take a little."

"There's no cream, mother," said Dickie, looking round at the sideboard, "and plum tart is nothing without cream. Hadn't Thomas better fetch some?"

"Yes, dear, certainly. Thomas, just tell cook to send in some cream, at once, please."

"All right," added Dickie; "you see about the cream, Thomas. I'll hand auntie her tart."

And he sprang to his feet and took up the plate, which his mother had loaded with the purple, juicy plums.

"Crikie! How hot the plate is!" exclaimed Master Dick, setting it down hastily on the sideboard, at the back of his mother. And then he went round for his napkin, and with its assistance conveyed the plum tart safely to his aunt.

"I hope you haven't burnt your fingers, my dear," said Miss Startivant, affably.

"Oh, nothing to speak of, aunt, thank you."

By that time Thomas had returned with the cream, to which, as to all her favourite dainties, Aunt Matilda helped herself generously. She then attacked the luscious mixture on her plate. Dickie kept his eye upon her, as though anxious to anticipate any want of hers that might arise. Indeed, he seemed so intent on being polite to her in this respect, that he forgot other requisites of politeness, and stared at her rather unduly. A lady eating plum tart would probably prefer not to be looked at at all. The process of disgorging the stones—a harmless necessary process—can scarcely be performed gracefully. This plum tart was full of stones, of which Miss Startivant duly got rid and ranged them along the side of her plate. But at last she came to one which appeared to cause her some peculiar trouble and embarrassment. She put it into her spoon in the ordinary course, and laid it on the plate; then, however, she suddenly gave a start, half made a grab at it with her thumb and fingers, looked nervously round, and, seeing Dickie with his eyes turned her way, hastily thrust her spoon over the plum-stone and laid it down. A minute later, Thomas came and removed her plate. Aunt Matilda looked round with an anxious, uncertain sort of expression on her face, and seemed about to call him back. Her niece noticed it.

"I beg your pardon. Hadn't you finished, aunt?" she exclaimed.

"I—oh yes, thank you, my dear. Quite finished—quite finished," said Miss Startivant, hastily.

But something had clearly upset her; and she was distrait and cross for the rest of the evening. Even to Mr. Lemaine she scarcely made herself so gracious as usual.

Next morning, when his mother had gone off to attend to the housekeeping, Dickie found his Aunt Matilda alone in the drawing-room. He approached her with rather a mysterious air, and, putting his hand into his waistcoat pocket, drew something carefully forth between his thumb and finger.

"Oh! Aunt Matilda," he said, in a low, confidential voice, "here's some property of yours. I—I—saw you shed it last night, you know. Of course, I said nothing about it, with other people there. But I got it back from Thomas directly after dinner, and here it is. Only Thomas and I know anything about it, and I made Thomas swear to hold his tongue until after I had seen you."

As he spoke, he handed his aunt a very fine specimen of a porcelain molar tooth.

Miss Startivant thrust it away from her with an almost hysterical scream.

"It's not mine—not mine. You d-don't suppose that I wear false teeth, you stupid boy!"

"Oh, I say, aunt," ejaculated Dick, evidently incredulous. "I—I saw it come out of your mouth."

"Yes—yes. But it was among the plums in the tart. It was, indeed. You believe my word, don't you, Dick?"

"Of course I do, auntie," said Master Dick, sweetly;

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"and as the tooth ain't yours, I must try to find an owner elsewhere. There's Uncle Edward out in the garden! I'll go and ask him whether he dropped it into the tart."

"No; no! On no account," interposed the lady, quickly.

"Well, here's Mr. Lemaine just coming in now. We'll ask him whether he——"

"Certainly not, Dick. Are you mad? Put the tooth away at once."

And then she added, suddenly changing her tone, and speaking coaxingly, "The tooth isn't mine, but—but—it's such an—an—indelicate thing to—to—keep exposed. Do put it back in your pocket. And you won't talk about it, Dickie dear, will you? Promise me."

"Oh! I won't talk about it. But I'm not certain of Thomas, you know. Thomas is a dreadful chap to let out secrets—a regular sieve. Of course," he added, generously, "if I hadn't spent all my pocket-money, I'd manage to ensure Thomas's silence for you, auntie. But I'm so stony broke just now——"

"I certainly shall not pay him any money," interrupted Miss Startivant, freezing up instantly at the mere suggestion of such a thing. "I would never bribe a flunkey, especially as the tooth has nothing to do with me."

"No! I'll tell Thomas that. But Thomas is an awful unbeliever—a regular infidel. It's because he's such a fibber himself, I suppose. He's a splendid servant; but he has no principles; the mater says so. He's capital company, all the same. Mr. Lemaine tells me that when he's up valeting him, he keeps him amused all the while by——"

"What would Thomas want to hold his tongue?" interrupted Miss Startivant, with a sudden change of tone.

"Hum," said Dick. "I don't know. I'll go and ask him. But I'm afraid he's awfully grasping, auntie, dear!"

* * * * *

The grasping Thomas stuck out for five pounds—and got it. At least, he didn't get it. He only got a sovereign. Mary Jane had the same sum for the loan of her molar. The other three pounds were not accounted for. But when Dickie went back after the holidays, he paid his account at the tuck-shop; his loan to Saunders major; his sub to the Footer Club. He also stood a supper of sweet-stuff to his whole dormitory.

MUSIC.

THE MILLENARY "MIKADO."

THE "Mikado," one of the most popular of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas in the provinces, in America, and more particularly on the Continent, has, of course, been performed a good many thousand times in various parts of the world. The Dutch know it as "Het Mikado"; it has been given all over Germany; in waltz-loving Vienna it disputed pride of place with the operas of Johann Strauss; and three years ago, at the Unter den Linden, Berlin, Sullivan was immensely disgusted to find Nanki-Poo played by a lady, who eventually became a member of his company, and who, indeed, was no other than Frau Ilka von Palmay. In the course of its merry career, it must have extracted some hundreds of thousand pounds from the public to the artists, some of the money, no doubt, adhering en route to the pockets of the authors and the management. In London it reached its thousandth representation about a month ago, when both its authors were holiday-making. It was not, therefore, until last Saturday that the feast could be kept. A pity it was that Mr. D'Oyly Carte, who has been so intimately connected with this form of art, was then too ill to be present to personally receive congratulations; but Mr. Gilbert was on the stage, and Sir Arthur Sullivan in the orchestra, while an attempt was made to convert the house into a sort of Japanese theatre by handsome hangings of Liberty silk, festoons of chrysanthemums, and Chinese lanterns. The opera has often been better played, for the artists of 1885 are now eleven years older than they then were, and, with one or two exceptions (the most brilliant being Mr. Passmore, a most amusing buffoon, who is cast for Mr. George Grossmith's old part of the executioner, Ko Ko), the new-comers are scarcely equal to their predecessors. Still, although every joke is now a "chestnut," and the tunes have been whistled by street-boys innumerable, the "Mikado" holds its own as the most attractive of the Gilbert and Sullivan series. Whether it will ever have an equally profitable successor remains to be seen, although in point of fact the result of "The Grand Duke" showed pretty plainly that the public interest in such things is not so keen as it once was.

The Savoy school of opera, as best represented by the "Mikado," has despite the cheap sneers of the now almost-forgotten Sir George Macfarren, enjoyed a long life. Old playgoers will recollect that it was called into being owing to the inanities of French opéra bouffe. That silly style of after-dinner entertainment, as faked by Farnie and illustrated by damsels in tights, superseded those effervescent parodies which Offenbach started but could not keep up, even as "La Grande Duchesse" and "Orphée aux Enfers" superseded the old burlesques of the school of James and Thorne, Rogers and Clarke, the music of which was borrowed from grand opera or the music-halls. Mr. Gilbert himself tried this burlesque work in his version of "Robert the Devil," produced in the early days of the Gaiety, but he soon dropped it when "Trial by Jury" and "The Sorcerer" sounded the advent of topsy-turveydom. "Gilbert and Sullivan" was, at any rate, a welcome relief from opéra bouffe, and Gilbert's paradoxes and Sullivan's refined melodies have delighted a whole generation. What form of post-prandial amusement fickle fashion may next adopt, belongs to the realm of prophecy. There are indications that so-called musical comedy is fast pegging out, and in some quarters there is a talk of trying to revive French comic opera. Meanwhile, at the Savoy they are preparing the new opera by Messrs. Lohmann & Burnand and Sir A. C. McKenzie, which is said to be a mixture of the comic and the more serious elements.

The Hanley Festival, a two days' affair held last week, was chiefly notable for the production of a new cantata, entitled "King Olaf," by Mr. Elgar, of Malvern, a gentleman who so far differs from the majority of his fellow composers, in that he possesses both ability and money. Why he took up such a subject as "King Olaf" is not quite clear. Olaf was a Christian who declined to turn his cheek to the smiter, and had his own ideas concerning the best methods of a religious propaganda. Matrimony and the sword were his chief arguments, but baptism to the Christian faith was in his eyes a necessary preliminary to marriage. This worthy King, a creation of Acworth and Longfellow, summoned the Norwegians to Nidaros to witness his conversion. The principal feature of the ceremony was the destruction of Odin's idol, shattered in twain by a blow from Olaf's sword. Ironbeard, the chieftain, intervenes, but is killed for his pains, the Christian king thus ridding himself of a future father-in-law likely to prove disagreeable.

Olaf, following out his theories, thereupon marries Ironbeard's daughter, Gudrun, previously, of course, having her baptised. But Gudrun loves her father's memory, and Olaf, not unjustifiably startled, on waking, to discover her bending over his sleeping figure with a dagger in her hand, very prudently sends her about her business. This, I suppose, is the earliest mention in the Saga of a Christian divorce in Scandinavia. Then comes one of the best numbers of the cantata, the choral ballad set to Longfellow's lines, in which the appearance at the feast of the one-eyed Odin is described. King Olaf, having got rid of Gudrun, next makes love to ex-Queen Sigrid. That lady has no objection to share his throne, but declines baptism, whereupon Olaf, with even less than usual of the gallantry of the period, strikes her on the cheek with his iron glove. His next lady-love is Thyri the Fair, who married King Burislaf, but left him after a week and a day. Thyri is introduced, among other reasons, in order that she may take part with Olaf in a melodious love

duet, set to lines by Mr. Acworth. But Nemesis is at hand, and the Danes, stirred up by the jealous Sigrid, make war upon King Olaf, who is killed in a naval battle. This work, with the "Golden Legend," the "Hymn of Praise," Barnby's "The Lord is King," Beethoven's choral symphony, and "The Spectre's Bride," made up the programme of the Festival. The North Staffordshire choir is a very good one, and music is indeed extensively cultivated in the Potteries.

I mentioned last week that Madame Melba will not be a member of the Covent Garden troupe next year. The statement, however, that her contract has been "cancelled" is a fiction, for no contract was ever signed, because the parties could not agree upon terms. There may, in fact, be several changes at Covent Garden next season, and at present there is some doubt about the reappearance of M. Alvarez. There is, however, yet plenty of time to settle matters, and the noble and legal personages who have assumed the direction of the Opera have, I believe, already made several continental trips new-artist hunting.

M. Jean de Reszke and the Comtesse Mira de Maille de la Tour Landi resolved, after all, not to wait for the Papal dispensation, and were duly united by civil marriage in Paris last week, two days before the great tenor left on Saturday for the United States. This will probably imply the retirement of M. Jean de Reszke, at any rate, within the next two or three years. He has at present arranged nothing beyond Covent Garden next summer, although at the time he left Paris he was in negotiation with Frau Cosima Wagner to appear as Siegmund and Siegfried in the projected revival of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" at the Bayreuth cycle August 2 to 5. If, indeed the tedious rehearsals which Bayreuth thinks necessary can be avoided, the matter will probably be arranged, and the one-pound seats in the Festspielhaus will then run up to a big premium.

Dr. Richter, in a most interesting conversation reproduced in last Sunday's *Sun*, has exploded the nonsensical theory of the alleged universal employment of the French pitch. In Glasgow, Leeds, and elsewhere, Dr. Parry and Dr. Stanford are doing their best to induce the authorities at great expense to have the organs altered to the diapason normal, on the plea that this has been adopted by every Continental nation. The direct contrary seems to be the case. Dr. Richter truly points out that the French pitch is not used at all in the majority of continental countries. It is in fact confined almost exclusively to France, Belgium, and Spain, while the greater musical nations, such as the Germans, Austrians, Russians, and most of the Italians use the Vienna pitch, which is exactly a semi-tone lower than ours. It is so easy to transpose the exact semi-tone that the awkward French pitch has wisely been discarded in favour of that of Vienna. If Dr. Richter makes any change here in the pitch at all, it will most likely lie in the adoption of the pitch of Austria and Germany, although to have three different pitches will make confusion worse confounded. Those who have at so great an expense altered their concert organs to the diapason normal will probably before long regret their precipitancy.

Dr. Richter made his final appearance here on Monday and afterwards left for Vienna. He had a splendid programme at Queen's Hall, including Beethoven's choral symphony and some of Wagner's most popular works. The concert season, indeed, has begun with a vengeance, and there are now about five and twenty performances a week. Last week the "Creation" opened the year's business at the Albert Hall, Professor Bridge then making his début as conductor. He is far better at the work than the late Sir Joseph Barnby, who, indeed, of recent years, took things a great deal too easily. Herr Balling has once more introduced the viola alta, an enlarged tenor violin, which was tried at the Crystal Palace by its inventor, Herr Ritter, a few years ago. At the Crystal Palace on Saturday a good performance of Sullivan's "Golden Legend" drew a big house. Mr. Bispham introduced at St. James's Hall on Saturday three of Brahms's new and so-called "Serious" songs, one founded upon a text from the Apocrypha contrasting the death of the rich and of the poor, being a deeply impressive piece of music. I should like to hear it sung by an artist of the rank of Mr. Santley. Señor Sarasate on Monday started his violin concerts, so popular with the fair sex. He won his chief success less in the classical works than in his own "Airs Ecossais."

It will have been noticed that a great many new performers of various sorts and grades of merit are being brought over from the Continent. They can hardly be said to be in search of British gold, for the majority of them pay for their introduction here. The dodge is either to induce them to defray the expense of a recital—about £25—or to join with others in a sort of omnibus concert, each new artist then being required to take a certain number of tickets. It is for this reason that the phenomenon is occasionally witnessed of a not very interesting performance, given by some utterly unknown people, attracting a large audience. The seats which have been paid for by the artists are of course distributed gratuitously, to the delight of the deadheads and to the considerable profit of the manager. The average continental artist nowadays seeks not so much money, as a London reputation, before he or she returns to the Continent.

The Barnby Memorial Concert, of which there had been some talk, has practically been abandoned, so far, at any rate, as the Albert Hall is concerned. Indeed, as a matter of fact, in these cases it is very necessary to strike the iron while it is hot, and a Barnby concert at this late hour would hardly pay its expenses. The Barnby Subscription, which now amounts to £1,300, will doubtless be increased, but the Corporation of London have already voted £500 to Lady Barnby and £200 to the children. Moreover, the Royal Choral Society have raised among themselves a private subscription, which has paid for the bronze bust of Barnby, now placed in the Albert Hall lobby. They have also resolved to spend £50 of the money on a monument over the grave, which at present is merely turfed, and the balance will be handed over to the children.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Perhaps there is something to be said for the paradox which brought about the conversion of the Jew Abraham in Boccaccio. Having made a pilgrimage to Rome to see the source and sun of Christian light and heat, and found there the Borgias at the height and in the depth of their orgy of infamous power, he argued that only omnipotence could keep a Church so governed on its legs, and forthwith became a Christian. "The Memoirs of the Cardinal de Retz" (1) would be an admirable work to put into the hands of a heretic of the Jew Abraham's turn of mind in order to ensure his conversion to the true Church. It is hardly too much to say that the three Cardinals who figure in it, and commit remorselessly every crime in the calendar, are, from a Christian standpoint, ideal scoundrels. De Retz himself, however, was such an exceptionally good priest according to the standard of the day, that Louis on his death-bed commended him to his Queen for promotion to the Archbishopric of Paris on the grounds that he had once refrained from violating a young girl who was in his power, and that he had once shown magnanimity in a duel. That he deserved this

(1) "Memoirs of the Cardinal de Retz." Containing all the Great Events during the Minority of Louis XIV. and Administration of Cardinal Mazarin. Translated from the French. (London: H. S. Nichols & Co.)

(2) "Memoirs of the Court of Marie Antoinette." By Mme. Campan. With a Biographical Introduction from "The Heroic Women of the French Revolution." 2 vols. (London: H. S. Nichols & Co.)

(3) "Isn't it Wonderful?" A History of Magic and Mystery, by Charles Bertram, together with his Reminiscences. With Numerous Illustrations by Phil May, A. C. Corbould, Bernard F. Gribble, and other artists. (London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.)

(4) "The Enemies." By E. H. Cooper. (Westminster: Arch. Constable & Co.) Price 6s.

(5) "Handy Reference Atlas of the World." Edited by J. G. Bartholomew, F.R.S.E., F.R.G.S., &c. Fifth Edition. (London: John Walker & Co., Limited).

commendation may be inferred from his reflections and resolutions upon his appointment to the Archbishopric :—

I considered that the strictest morals are necessarily required in a bishop. I felt myself to be more obliged to be strictly circumspect as my uncle, who had preceded me in the see, had been very disorderly and scandalous. I knew likewise that my own corrupt inclinations would bear down all before them, and that all the considerations drawn from honour and conscience would prove very weak defences. At last I came to the resolution to go on in my sins, and that designedly, which, without doubt, is more sinful in the eyes of God, but with regard to the world is certainly the best policy, because he that acts thus always takes care beforehand to cover part of his failings, and thereby to avoid the jumbling together of sin and devotion, than which nothing can be more dangerous and ridiculous in a clergyman. This was my disposition, which was not the most pious in the world, nor yet the wickedest, for I was fully determined to discharge all the duties of my profession faithfully, and exert my utmost to save other souls, though I took no care of my own.

Need I say that memoirs, written in a spirit of such candour by a man of such historical importance and experience as Cardinal de Retz, are of singular interest? Even more interesting, perhaps, to those who are not sated with the subject will be Mme. Campan's "Memoirs of the Court of Marie Antoinette" (2), with a biographical introduction from the "Heroic Women of the French Revolution." The hapless Queen was heroic at least in her death.

Nothing in her life became her like the leaving of it.

Whether, however, she was in her life the heroine Mme. de Campan describes is a different and doubtful question. But what question in history is not doubtful? Here is Cardinal de Retz's interesting confirmation of the famous saying about the necessary falsehood of history attributed to Walpole, but originally President de Thou's :—

Upon the whole Turenne and I could not help making this reflection that what we read in the lives of most people is false. We were both grossly mistaken—I, for supposing him to be frightened; he, for thinking me calm and undisturbed.

What a mysterious figure, for example, does the Man in the Iron Mask make in history? Only, I believe, because of a foolish preference for the mysterious in human nature. According to these Memoirs of Marie Antoinette, he was a man of no importance who did not even wear an iron mask! He was a Piedmontese, who was transferred with the transfer of the Governor from the prison of Pignerol to that of the Bastille. And the story of the mask probably arose from his Italian habit of wearing under a blazing sun a mask of velvet, and showing himself thus shielded upon the terrace of his prison. Even the celebrated silver plate, which was said to have been thrown by him from his window, was so thrown by another prisoner from another prison in the time of Cardinal Richelieu! In truth, the presumption is against the marvellous in history, not merely or even chiefly because of its intrinsic improbability, but because of the insatiable and indiscriminating appetite of human nature for miracles and for mysteries, which the historian at once shares and panders to. It was the same De Thou (who anticipated Walpole in the aphorism against the credibility of history) that wrote "Populus vult decipi; decipiatur." This should have been the motto of Mr. Charles Bertram's autobiographical account of his career as a conjuror, "Isn't it Wonderful" (3), in which he kills the goose with the golden eggs by explaining as well as describing his principal tricks. Alas! his explanations are as disillusioning as marriage, according to Congreve's cynical couplet :—

Women are like tricks by sleight of hand,
Which to admire, we should not understand.

What a comparatively poor piece of business, for instance, even "The Vanishing Lady" trick appears when the whole apparatus is shown you in diagrams! "I have," writes Mr. Bertram, "performed in the course of the same evening before the sandwich-board men and at Marlborough House"—to the credit at once of his art and of his heart: yet, considering the vast numbers of interesting people of all ranks he has met, his experiences are disappointing. The chapter entitled "Some Incidents" was hardly worth printing, while the mysterious M. Charlier, who disappeared as unaccountably as "The Vanishing Lady," is the only personage that interests you in the chapter, "People Whom I have Met." I have not been fortunate in the only novel I have read of late, "The Enemies" (4), in which a minx marries a prig to their mutual misery.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

P.S.—If you want a handy atlas you cannot do better than get the new edition of Mr. J. G. Bartholomew's (5). I do not know what your experience may be, but mine is that a big atlas is really of little use, or rather little used, owing to its cumbersomeness. This volume, however, gives a great many maps and a great deal of information in a surprisingly compact and convenient form, and for all ordinary purposes it is just as good as the larger works.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Now that the season for fancy balls is close at hand, the picturesque dresses worn by Miss Winifred Emery and Miss Eva Moore at the Haymarket in "Under the Red Robe" will very certainly be often taken as models. Renée de Cocheforêt's first gown is simply sweet. It is fashioned from old-world brocade of the softest and richest sort, the colour a pale and tender yellow, the square tabs of the period being piped with claret-colour, and the bodice relieved with touches of the same. The bodice is cut low, and a necklace of large jewels, besides a smaller one, is the only supplementary covering of the neck. The addition of a small cloth cape to walk abroad in, is more for ornament than warmth, since the only portion of it that approaches the chest is the cord that fastens it. The grey felt hat, uptilted at one side and adorned with large feathers, is a very telling headgear.

Miss Eva Moore is the sweetest picture of a mournful and devoted wife, in her pale blue cloth, tabbed with silver, and relieved with cherry colour. Her fair curls are arranged Henrietta Maria fashion, and she is such an all-round pictorial success that her portrait should be taken in front of a looking-glass, so as to give the back view as well.

I enjoy a good audience as much as I enjoy a good play. Don't you? The Haymarket was crammed the night we were there, and some lovely gowns were worn. One was rose-coloured broché, with a black satin bodice, finished with a folded drapery of red velvet round the shoulders. There was not a scrap of other trimming, and, indeed, it would have been worse than irrelevant, obscuring the fine lines of a splendid figure. Another gown was white chené silk with clusters of pale flowers brocaded on it. The bodice was chiefly lace, and had only one sleeve, the other being replaced by many folds of lightsome lace, held, apparently, by one big diamond clasp at the top of the arm. The other arm had an elbow sleeve of pink satin ending in a fold or two of black velvet. A large knot of black velvet held the lace in the middle of the bodice, and from it rose the loveliest pink chrysanthemum with petals "wide dispread."

I fell in love with a cape that sat in front of me. It was ermine, lined with rose-coloured brocade, and bordered with sable down the fronts and round the collar. Such a delicious thing! Another delectable garment was an ermine tippet, with a deep point at the back, a very high collar, and long stole ends in front, each furnished, I noticed, with a small pocket made of gathered lace, drawn together with elastic. This struck me as an admirable idea, for it took up no room and yet afforded an asylum for the poor banished and hunted handkerchief, disallowed a home by tailors and dressmakers.

The "pottihaffy" accounts for only one pocket. I *think* I noticed—yes, I'm *sure* I noticed—something in the other. Guess what it was? Of course you are right. A powder puff.

BEAUTIFUL DRESSES FROM PARIS, together with the newest fashions in Mantles, Lingerie, and Millinery are to be seen at MADAME OLIVER HOLMES, 61, New Bond-street, W.

So far as I can understand, Prince's Skating Club, at Knightsbridge, opened this week, is not available for any but members. The ladies on the Committee include the Marchionesses of Lansdowne, Londonderry, and Granby, the Countess of Minto, who skates so beautifully, Lady Ribblesdale, Mrs. Asquith, and Miss Balfour, with many others. The ice is made by Stoppani's patent, and is similar to that of the Paris Palais de Glace. The season does not end till Easter, and the club is open to members every day, including Sunday, from 9.30 a.m. till 7 p.m., as well as three nights in the week from 9 to 11.30. Men members pay a subscription of 10 gs. for the season, ladies 8 gs., non-skaters 3 gs. There is to be no entrance fee for the first 500 members.

Redfern has some very tempting gowns in his show-rooms just now, both for evening and day wear. Bee is having a coat made there, and while she was being tried on Clare and I had a good look at the "pretties." Think of a cape with a yoke and collar of white caracul bordered with an inch-wide band of black, the cape itself consisting of black caracul set in very full to the yoke. Such a comfortable garment, and yet so smart. A theatre coat in black brocade, with a design of coloured rosebuds strewn over it, was made with a large hood lined with sable and a high collar of the same fur. The sleeves were very large and full, so that the most extensive dress sleeves could be packed away inside without the smallest injury.

But at the moment we were more interested in warm afternoon dresses. The newest of the models were displayed on dolls, and how the fingers of the workgirls could get round such tiny pleats and folds I cannot think. One of these little figures was invested with a gown of rough red cloth, the skirt trimmed with three graduated rows of black braid, and the bodice opening over a vest of red silk, with relief of black braid. A brown cloth dress had two divergent lines of black braiding down the front breadth of the skirt. The bodice was exactly in the form of a mess jacket opening over a full red velvet vest. The sleeves, nearly plain, were finished with braid at the wrists.

Brown and red are both very much worn, and are very fashionable in combination, as you will gather from these descriptions.

A dress entirely brown was made with a tucked chemisette of brown chené silk, with tight rucked sleeves of the same, frilled down the outer seam. This could be carried out in any colour. Would it not be nice in deep prune colour and rhododendron pink?

So becoming, "don't-cher-know?"

Quite in your style was a seal sack coat with pleats down the back, beautifully cut, and hanging closely in to the figure in a way that embellished it exceedingly. It had full, wide sleeves. It was most insinuating; and almost equally persuasive was another in blue cloth, double-breasted, and with revers and collar of astrakhan. It was braided in military fashion across the fronts, and braid was carried down the seams at the back and finished with the usual trefoil. The sleeves had also lines of braid down their whole length and trefoils at the wrist.

Smart, dear, so smart. And is it not the clear duty of every woman to be as smart as circumstances will permit?

I know you will eagerly answer in the affirmative.

The Prince of Wales was at Miss Cara Batten's wedding, which was a very smart one. St. Mary's, Cadogan-street, was decorated with tall palms and tropical plants for the occasion, and the bridesmaids, pretty girls, wore most becoming dresses of mignonette-coloured Roman satin, with hats to match, and lovely bouquets of shaded chrysanthemums. The bride was a sweet little girlish figure in her white muslin Empire robe, and she looked quite lovely, carrying her sheaf of snowy lilies under the pure white veil. She answered the responses in a clear, high voice like a child's, and indeed she is little more. Her mother wore a handsome gown and cape of mouse-coloured velvet trimmed with Russian sable, a toque of mauve velvet, to the tint of which her bouquet of orchids was exactly matched. I noticed Lady Granby, wearing brown and a cape of mirror-grey velvet or plush. Sir Edward Lawson talked to Mrs. Robert Webster, who had a green cape and a very wide black velvet toque with a large jewelled clasp resting on the hair in front.

Have you ever noticed the mean way in which some women's skirts cling in at the heels? There is something so ugly about it that the word "squalid" seems to me to be the only one to express it. I fancy that it has some connection with overfed ankles. Let me know if you have ever observed the phenomenon, and what you think about it.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Amidst the old institutions which the changes of these progressive days threaten most seriously, "Home" stands out prominently: the old home idea that was the peculiar pride of dwellers in the British Isles. Do you remember the lines by some well-known poetic admonisher of youth—Watts, I think—enjoining "peace at home, Where sisters dwell and brothers meet"? Many homes have already completely changed all that; it is no longer a case of sisters dwelling and brothers meeting under the family roof-tree. Modern sisters are no more stay-at-home than their brothers; the development has been considerable since the days when "my lady" surrounded by her maidens, sat working tapestry in her bower; the spinning wheel has gone into the hands of the "collector," the needle and thimble seem likely to follow suit and to pass into the category of curios in a not very distant future. The subject was forcibly brought before me through observation of the daughters of the house in which we were staying last week. All daughters are more or less new nowadays. There was none of the less about Betty and Gwyn. They were distinctly the new products of these, the real old times. "The girls are never at home," their mother said plaintively. "Just like the boys! I don't see them from morning till night," which was indeed the case. Fifty miles of cycling a day—these girls thought nothing of it—did not leave much margin for home pursuits, and then there were the serious claims of hockey and golf, to say nothing of football. The weaker sex, indeed! That idea, too, must change, like all the others. Weakness was the very last thing one thought of in looking at these clear-eyed, straight-limbed maidens, fresh of complexion and vigorous of movement, who, starting from home after an early breakfast were only back in time to dress for dinner, and to eat it, too, with the appetite begotten of a long day's exercise in the open air. It is just the same with girls of a serious turn; they are at colleges, classes, schools, studios, anywhere but at home. Soon, whether homely or not, there will be no such deserted place as home. Fred says they are all rapidly becoming either cripples' homes or homes of rest for the aged. One wonders if the domestic virtues have a future. Will the forsaken household gods turn, in their abandonment, to thoughts of vengeance?

Dublin is rapidly filling for the winter; the opening of the Law Courts has brought all the leading legal officials, not, all—as in former days—into the town, but within reach of it. The Lord Chancellor continues to reside at Howth Castle about nine miles distant from Dublin, whilst the Lord Chief Justice, going further afield, is settled at Castletown, co. Kildare, for the winter. He was quite as prominent a figure on the opening day of the Kildare Hunt as on the opening day at the Four Courts, filling his seat in the saddle with the same graceful ease with which he fills his seat on the Bench, report says. The working of the new and intricate Land Act is an absorbing topic in the country just now. Was there ever such land as that of our island? So difficult to handle, to manage, to settle! All my life long there has been, at ever lessening intervals, a new Land Bill for Ireland. Talk of the new woman, her difficulties and dangers, her arts and crafts! She is not in it with the new Land Bill. Not in it for causing heart-burnings, dissensions, and conflict of opinions, or for general intractability and unmanageableness. How simple was the "good old plan" of seizing property and holding it by brute force. If it was simple for the ancestor, however, it has turned out very complex for his descendant, in this country, at least.

Lord and Lady Dufferin have been receiving a very warm welcome back to their home in the county of Down. Did you read Lord Dufferin's most interesting speech at Belfast? Is he not a charming speaker? And always an Irishman, who resists, as so many of our countrymen who attain distinction do not, the temptation of belonging to any other nation. How monotonous it would be if all in these islands were English, instead of having three distinct nationalities to create variety—or more than three, counting the inhabitants of Wales and Man, as distinct from the English.—Yours ever, CLARE.

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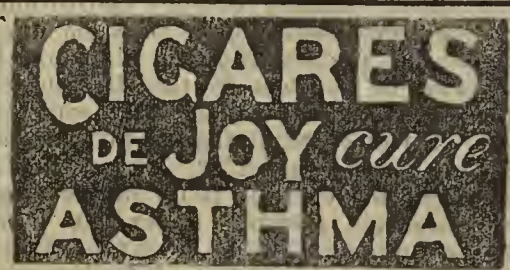
I have just read in an American paper that five o'clock tea in England is now a substantial meal, and that salads are a favourite dish at it. One of these salads is described as consisting of tomatoes, cucumbers, and bananas sliced together and dressed with cream and lemon juice. I wonder if it would be nice?

But what *will* they say about our meals next? Some months ago I saw in a States paper that in English country houses there are seven meals a day served, inclusive of an early cup of milk with scones, followed by a regular breakfast at nine, lunch at eleven, dinner at one, a glass of wine and slice of cake at four, tea at six, and supper at nine. I fancy this would considerably astonish the inmates of every country house in the British Isles.

This chartreuse of partridges is not difficult to make, and is an excellent way of using up old birds:—

Truss a couple of partridges into shape and braise them. Meanwhile, boil a quantity of evenly-cut strips of carrot and turnips; they must not be overboiled. Line a plain round mould with buttered paper, then line the interior with the carrots and turnips, making them fit closely together. Take a large savoy cabbage, parboil it for ten minutes in plenty of salted water, drain and squeeze dry in a cloth; now put it into a stewpan with 2 or 3 slices of parboiled bacon, an onion and some good stock, cover with the lid, and allow it to stew gently for three quarters of an hour. Then drain the cabbage free from stock and grease and chop it finely, line the mould very carefully with a layer of the cabbage, put the breasts and wings of the birds, cut into neat joints, in the centre, filling the crevices with the cabbage, put a layer of the cabbage on the top, twist a buttered paper over and bake the chartreuse in a slow oven for half an hour. The liquor from the braise must be strained and thickened with a dessertspoonful of potato flour. When it boils, strain and season with salt, pepper, a spoonful of tomato purée, a squeeze of lemon juice, and a tiny piece of anchovy butter. Turn the chartreuse on to a dish and pour the sauce round.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.



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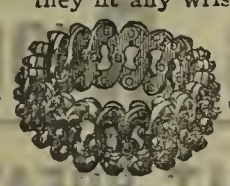

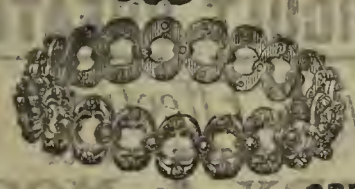

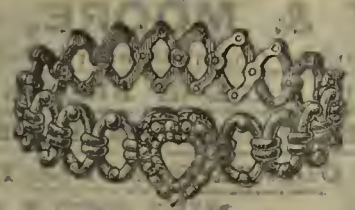

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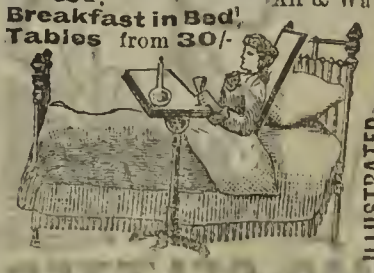

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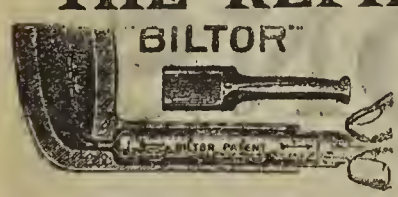

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HELM-COCOA.

BABY'S BOON.

Is RIDGE'S FOOD.

SPHAGNOL PEAT.

Smokeless and Sanitary Fuel.

Price—1,000 LOGS FOR 20s.

SPHAGNOL.

Carriage free four miles from Charing Cross, or to any Railway Station within fifteen miles,

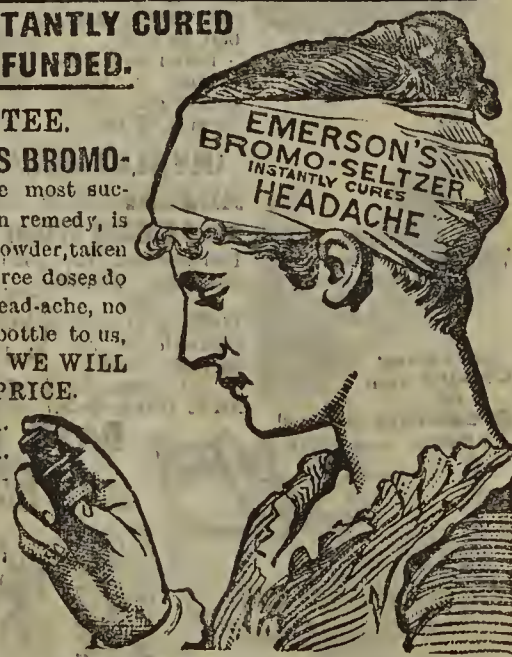
Sole Agents—CHAMBERLAIN & CO., 10, HART STREET, BLOOMSBURY, W.C., *one minute from Mudie's Library*

ALL HEADACHES INSTANTLY CURED OR MONEY REFUNDED.

LEGAL GUARANTEE.

7½D. EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER, the most successful American remedy, is an effervescent powder, taken in water. If three doses do not cure any head-ache, no matter how caused, send the bottle to us, saying where obtained, AND WE WILL AT ONCE REFUND THE PRICE.

Trial Bottle, post free, 7½d. Larger Sizes, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Sold by many Chemists or obtained to order by almost all.



EMERSON DRUG CO., Ltd.
46, Holborn Viaduct
LONDON, E.C.

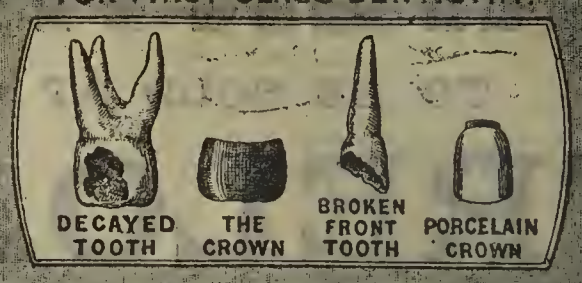
INSIST ON FULL NAME—

EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER

AMERICAN TOOTH CROWN CO.,

24 OLD BOND ST., W.
50 & 52 LUDGATE HILL, E.C.

FOR FIRST CLASS DENTISTRY.



Decayed and broken-down teeth should not be extracted. They can be saved for many years by skilful crowning and filling at moderate and fixed fees. Experts in all methods of dentistry in attendance daily.

Descriptive book post free on Application to the Secretary at either Address.

NO FEE FOR CONSULTATION.

WARMTH WITHOUT WEIGHT.

Guaranteed Non-Shrinking.

"Australlama"

THE PERFECTION OF

Woollen Under-wear

For Ladies, Gentlemen & Children

SCOTCH { AUSTRALIAN WOOL AND INDIAN CASHMERE } MADE

ILLUSTRATED PRICE LIST & SAMPLES POST FREE FROM THE SOLE MANUFACTURER.

Greensmith Downes, Edinburgh.

Asthma, Bronchitis,

DIFFICULT BREATHING,

Promptly & Effectually Relieved

BY THE USE OF

SAVORY & MOORE'S

DATURA TATULA.

Cigars and Cigarettes—Boxes, 3s., 6s., 8s., and 15s., Tobacco—Tins, 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and 18s. For Non-Smokers, Pastilles and Powder for Burning and Inhalation—Tins, each containing a censer for burning, 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s.

SAVORY & MOORE, London.

And of Chemists everywhere.

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

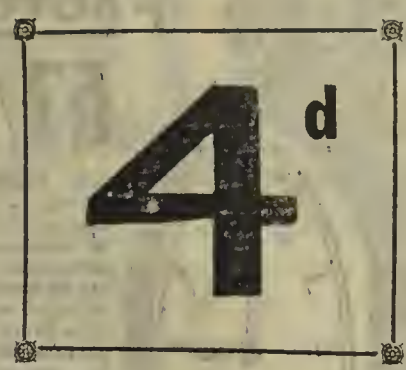
and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS & CO., JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

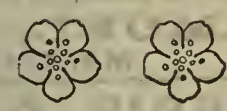
A Bad Complexion



is often due to a bad soap.

BLOTCHES ARE REPULSIVE, AND WILL MAR THE APPEARANCE OF ANY FACE. YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM WITH BAD SOAP.

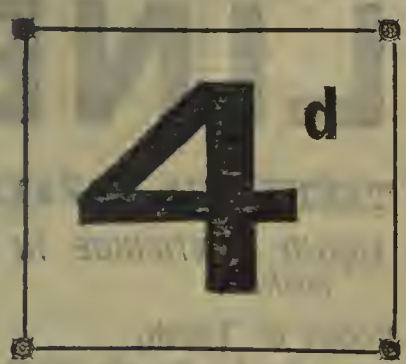
PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP



Is made specially for delicate, sensitive, irritable skins, and is scented with the most charming and innocent Perfumes.

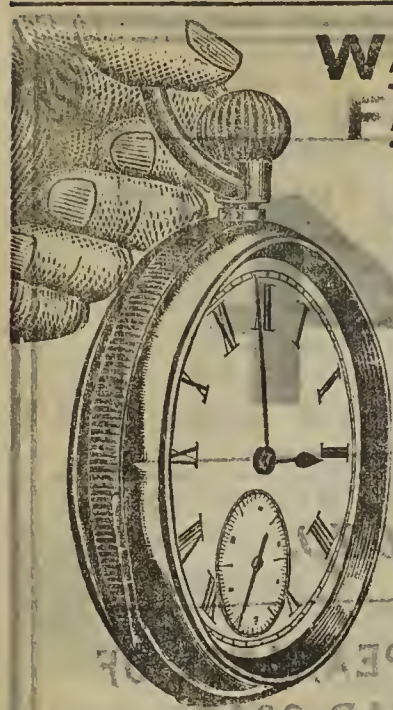
PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP

yields a profuse, cleansing, demulcent lather, and tends to keep the skin soft and velvety, and the complexion beautiful and clear. Its use doesn't cost a farthing a day.



Vinolia is a Complexion Soap.

VINOLIA CREAM.—For Itching, Eczema, Face Spots, &c., 1/1½ and 1/9.
VINOLIA POWDER.—For Roughness, Redness, Toilet, &c., 1/1 and 1/9.



WATCHES FROM THE FACTORY BY POST

DIRECT TO THE WEARER!

57/- THE 'COUNSELLOR'

H. SAMUEL'S **KEYLESS ENGLISH LEVER.** A splendid Watch, highly finished interchangeable movement, with **15 JEWELS**; three-quarter plate, most accurately constructed; **CHRONOMETER BALANCE**; tempered hairspring; polished wheels and pinions: flat crystal glass front. In highly-finished close-fitting **SOLID SILVER** cases, hall marked. H. Samuel's price **£2. 17s.**; in **14-CARAT ROLLED GOLD** Case, consisting of two outer plates of 14-carat gold, lined inside with a case of specially prepared metal. Wears for years. H. Samuel's price, **£4. 5s.** Heavy 18-carat Gold Case, **£13**, **SEVEN YEARS'** warranty. **A MONTH'S FREE TRIAL.** Full amount returned if dissatisfied. **LARGE SAVING** on London prices. H. Samuel's "**ACME**" Sterling Silver Watches for Ladies and Gentlemen. Handsome, exact, and durable. Five years' warranty. Worth three guineas. H. Samuel's price **25s.** H. Samuel's New Improvements, protected by **HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT**, are only to be obtained in H. Samuel's Watches. Largest Sale! Highest Quality! Lowest Prices!

FREE. It will please you to read our new book (just published). Only necessary to send your **NAME AND ADDRESS**, and this handsome volume is despatched by next post. **CONSIDERABLE REDUCTIONS** effected by sending direct to H. Samuel for all requirements. Please say if we may have the pleasure of posting you this new book.

H. SAMUEL, *Lever Watch Factory,* **MANCHESTER.**

EPPS'S COCOAINE.

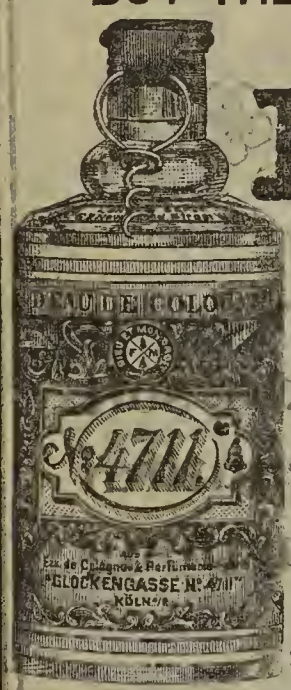
COCOA-NIB EXTRACT.

(TEA-LIKE.)

The choicest roasted nibs (broken-up beans) of the natural Cocoa on being subjected to powerful hydraulic pressure, give forth their excess of oil, leaving for use a finely-flavoured powder—"Cocoaine," a product which, when prepared with boiling water, has the consistence of tea, of which it is now, with many, beneficially taking the place. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

BUY THE

4711 Eau de Cologne



IT IS THE BEST GENUINE, STRONGEST, MOST LASTING, MOST REFRESHING AND INVIGORATING.

CAUTION. — Be sure and insist upon MULHEN'S **4711** Brand, as inferior makes are sometimes offered. Refuse all substitutes. Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes.

Case of 6 Bottles, carriage paid, for 13s. or Sample Bottle, 2s. 6d. post free.

The 4711 Depot, 62, New Bond St. W.

THE ALBEMARLE CYCLE CO.,

291, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.,

Are the West End Agents for the

'Necec' CYCLES,

ON WHICH M. DIAKOFF WON THIS YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Highest Grade Machines.

Reasonable Prices.

CALL AND SEE OUR STOCK BEFORE DECIDING ON YOUR MOUNT.

ILLUSTRATED LIST SENT POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

ALSO AGENTS for the "EAGLE," one of America's Best Cycles.

FOR YOUTHFUL APPEARANCE. BEAUTIFUL HAIR.

IMPERIAL HAIR DYES &c

ONE LIQUID.

No. 1.—Black.
No. 2.—Dark Brown.
No. 3.—Light Brown.
No. 4.—Golden Brown or Auburn.
No. 5.—Pure Golden.
No. 6.—IMPERIAL HAIR GROWER.

Harmless, Perfect, Permanent, and Odourless. A Medical Certificate with each bottle.

2/6, 3/6, 5/- & 10/6 (Secretly Packed).

ESTABLISHED 1868. **J. BRODIE,** 41, Museum-st. London. ONCE TRIED, ALWAYS USED.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,

33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World. 2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

MAYPOLE SOAP

Patd.

FOR HOME DYEING.

Won't Wash Out or Fade

For DYEING SILKS, SATINS, COTTONS, FEATHERS, LACE GOODS, &c., &c.,

Such as Blouses, Dresses, Underlinen, Ribbons, Children's Frocks, Pinafores, Lamp Shades, Silk Scarves, Handkerchiefs, Gentlemen's Shirts, Lace Curtains, Silk Gloves, Stockings, Antimacassars, Toilet Mats, Shawls, &c., &c., &c.

MAYPOLE SOAP (PATD.)

4d. per Tablet. All Colours. Black, 6d. Sold Everywhere.

Sole Proprietors: THE MAYPOLE SOAP SYNDICATE, LIMITED,

98, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

No more Indigestion!
No more Gout!
No more Weakness!

BY USING

VAN STEEN'S

PEPTONISED ABSOLUTE

Delicious and Nutritive . . . **SOLUBLE COCOA.**

(Patent No. 23,503.)

"The only beverage that can safely be taken at every age of life, at any time of day, and in any state of health."—Dr. BRIDGER.

The nutritive value of this Cocoa in conjunction with the quickness with which it is assimilated renders it of the greatest value to the chronic dyspeptic and the sufferer from the excess of uric acid, thus placing it in the highest rank of foods suited to those with enfeebled digestive organs and kindred ailments.

Sold only by DISPENSING CHEMISTS in pound tins at 4s., halves at 2s. 1d., quarters at 1s. 2d. One pound is quite sufficient for 160 cups.

Wholesale of Messrs. SANGER & CO., London; Messrs. EDWARDS & SON, London; Messrs. W. SUTTON & CO., London; Messrs. BARCLAY & LYNCH, London; Messrs. GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., Leeds; Messrs. EVANS GADD & CO., Exeter.

PUREST IN ENGLAND.

BOURNE TABLE WATERS

SODA, SELTZER, LITHIA, POTASH, LEMONADE, GINGER ALE, ETC.

Supplied in 6 Dozen Cases Carriage Paid by

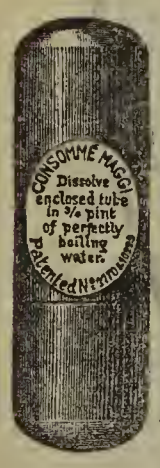
Analysis, &c., on Application.

R. M. MILLS & CO., BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE

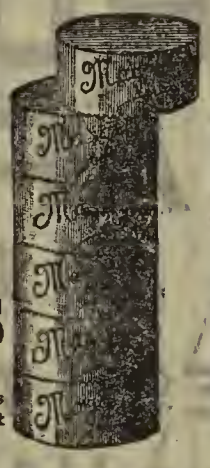
West-End Agents, **WHEATLEY & SONS,** 24, South Audley-street, W.

City Agents, **RAE & CO.,** 6, Railway-place, E.C.;
And of all CHEMISTS, WINE MERCHANTS, &c.

Time, Trouble, and Expense saved in Households by the use of



Maggi's



CONSOMMÉ. In Gelatine Tubes. Boxes containing 10 Tubes, 1/8; Post Free, 1/10½.

FRENCH SOUPS (33 Varieties). In Packets of 6 Tablets each Packet 1/4; Post Free, 1/7.

THE QUEEN, December 7th, 1895, says:—"The only preserved and condensed Soups that require nothing but a certain proportion of water to produce a bowlful of perfect Consommé."

OF ALL GROCERS AND ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN.

AND OF THE SOLE AGENTS—

COSENZA & CO., 95 & 97, Wigmore-st., London, W.,

Where the Consommé and Soups may be tasted daily.

Free Demonstrations in the use of these soups are held frequently, for which cards of invitation will be sent on application to 95, Wigmore-Street.

Toilet "Lanoline" For Delicate and Sensitive Skins. 6D. AND 1S.

"LANOLINE" Toilet Preparations "LANOLINE"

from all Chemists.

Dartring Brand.

Wholesale Depôt:—67 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.

"Lanoline" Toilet Soap For Health and Beauty of the Skin. 6D. PER TABLET. 3 IN A BOX 1S. 6D.

The Colonial Goldfields, Limited, 70, Cornhill, E.C., invite Subscriptions for the present Issue of Shares.

The Lists are now open, and will close for London, on or before Wednesday, the 4th November, and at 4 p.m., on Thursday, the 5th idem for the Provinces.

THE COLLINGWOOD GOLDFIELDS, LIMITED, NEW ZEALAND.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL £150,000,
In 150,000 Shares of £1 each.
Working Capital £50,000,
Of which £25,000 are now offered for subscription.
The Vendors accept Shares only in full payment for the properties.

Issue of 25,000 Shares,

Payable—2s. per Share on Application, 3s. per Share on Allotment, and the balance as may be required in calls of 5s. each, and at intervals of not less than two months.

DIRECTORS.

Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibbers, Director White Feather Reward, Limited.
Roland G. Hill, Esq., Chairman Taitapu Gold Estates, Limited.
J. Lletget-Sarda, Esq., Director of the Anglo-French Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.
Walter Holdsworth, Esq., Director Big Valley Creek Gold Mines, Limited.
*George Beetham, Esq., Director New Zealand Pioneers, Limited.
*Arthur Feli, Esq., Director London and British Columbia Goldfields, Limited.
*Being interested as Directors of the New Zealand Pioneers, Limited (the Vendors), will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.—Union Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Cornhill, E.C.; The Bank of New Zealand, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Maddisons, 1, King's Arms-yard, E.C.; Messrs. Fell & Atkinson, Nelson, New Zealand.

BROKERS.—London, G. H. & A. M. Jay, 17, Old Broad-street, E.C.; Edinburgh, P. Maxton Cunningham, 60, George-street; Cardiff, Godfrey & Laws, 12, Mount Stuart-square.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Monkhouse, Stoneham, & Co., 28 and 29, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—Mr. W. R. Foster, Dashwood House, New Broad-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to purchase leases of 398 acres, 1 rood, 8 perches of auriferous properties situated in Collingwood Golden Bay, New Zealand, and known as Golden Gully, Quartz Ranges, and Appos Flat. And also to acquire all the water rights included in that tract of country embraced by Clark River, Slate River, and the Great Boulder Lake, covering an estimated area of 30,000 acres.

A reference to the map accompanying the Prospectus shews that the property lies to the east of the well-known Taitapu Gold Estates, Limited.

The extreme wealth of the alluvial tracts in this part of the Island of New Zealand has been established beyond question.

It is thus essential to the successful working of the leases to be acquired, that extensive water rights should also be secured. This has been done, and the Company will not only possess unrivalled powers for working its own leases, but will also obtain the practical monopoly of the water power in the entire district, thereby securing a double source of income.

Mr. Geo. Beetham, a Director of this Company, and also of the Taitapu Gold Estates Company, and of the Para Para Sluicing Company, is now on his way out to New Zealand and will at once arrange for the commencement of operations.

The first rush for gold in the Collingwood district was about the year 1860, when Professor Von Hochstetter, the well-known geologist, was specially deputed to thoroughly test and examine the entire area. He made numerous and careful tests which led him to believe "that the surface gravels were auriferous to an average depth of one yard for an area of 30 square miles, and that each cubic yard of gravel contains five shillings worth of gold. The computation on this basis promises a yield of £22,500,000."—(Hoch. New Zealand p. 106. Eng. Trans.)

Professor Hutton, referring to one of the leases to be acquired by this Company, speaks of it as "the wonderfully rich deposits at Golden Gully due to the denudation of the schist on which they rest," and he claims the schist as the source of the heavy deposits of quartz pebbles that form the auriferous wash.—(Geol. Rep. p. 152.)

The rush of gold-seekers that followed is well known. All these men—locally known as "hatters"—worked single-handed, without any capital beyond the possession of a brawney arm, and without any more scientific knowledge than to discern gold when washed. As a consequence, although near £1,000,000 worth of gold has been obtained in the Collingwood district, the Government Director of the Geological Survey of New Zealand, Sir James Hector, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., officially recorded recently that he had "visited these goldfields on many occasions during the last 20 years with a feeling of surprise that such enormously rich finds should have been made in the early days, and that they should not have been followed up. . . Want of concentrated energy and capital, in order to secure sufficient water supply to enable the modern methods of mining to be adopted, has seemed to me the chief difficulty and it was with great interest that I lately took the opportunity of re-examining a property there on behalf of the Para Para Sluicing Company, which seems to be the first effort that has been conceived of the right method of working for the proper development of the district." "It was at Golden Gully that the first important discovery of gold was made, and from the report the richness of the claims was most remarkable. The sinking was only 5 feet deep, and I found the area worked was only about 50,000 square yards. This gives about 100,000 loads. From this area in a few months 40,000 ounces of gold was obtained, or at the rate of nearly ½ oz. to the load. Patches of the ground were, however, so rich that the yield was frequently 1 oz. of gold from a single dish of stuff."—(Geol. Rep. 1891, p. 11 et. seq.)

Special Reports for the Vendor Syndicate were submitted by Mr. A. McKay, Assistant Government Geologist; by Mr. Robert Hay, the very well-known Mining Engineer; and by Messrs. Washbourne & Adams, men who have for years been prospecting and mining in New Zealand.

These may be thus summarised:—

1. That alluvial gold exists beyond question in the leases acquired by this Company, viz., in Golden Gully, Quartz Ranges, and Appos Flat.
2. That the acquisition of water rights for hydraulic sluicing is a *sine qua non* to success.
3. That these water rights are those embraced by Clark River, the Slate River, and Great Boulder Lake, being those to be purchased by this Company.
4. That with simple storm-water sluicing astonishing results have been and are being attained by men working single-handed, and in the most primitive fashion, the Miner Cooke being an instance, who from less than half-an-acre has, it is stated, over a period of years extracted gold to the estimated value of £5,000.
5. That a working capital of £25,000, employed with reasonable prudence, would suffice to carry the necessary water power to the auriferous deposits.

As an evidence of the belief of the Vendors in the undertaking, the Directors would point out that the price to be paid to the Vendors is solely in fully-paid Shares of the Company. All costs of acquiring the leases and water rights, the numerous important reports from scientific experts, the cost of prospecting and of promotion and flotation of this Company (with the exception of brokerage, registration, and legal charges) is paid for and included in the Share consideration. With the above exception the entire capital now applied for will be devoted to working expenses.

The contract, reports, maps, and specimens of gold from the property, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association may, while the lists are open, be inspected by intended applicants for shares, at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Applications for Shares should be forwarded to the Company's Bankers or by letter direct to the Secretary, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application.

Prospectuses may be had of the Bankers, Brokers, and of the Secretary of the Company.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will be OPENED on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 1896, and CLOSED on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 1896.

CHICAGO EDISON COMPANY.

Capital Authorised $6,000,000
Capital Issued $4,973,437.50

FIRST MORTGAGE FIVE PER CENT. 30-YEAR GOLD BONDS, dated July 1st, 1896, due July 1st, 1926, but redeemable at the option of the Company, on six months' notice, on April 1st or October 1st in the year 1911, or any year thereafter. Interest payable April 1st and October 1st; first coupon due April 1st, 1897. Principal and interest payable to bearer in United States gold coin of or equal to the present standard of weight and fineness, free of United States Government, Illinois State, or municipal taxes.

The LONDON SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST, Limited, 75, Lombard-street, London, OFFER for SALE $1,200,000 of the above BONDS at the price of £217 per $1,000 Bond, payable as follows:

On Application..... ... £10
On 16th November, 1896 ..£207 = £217.

Payment of the final instalment may be deferred until any date or dates not later than 1st February, 1897, Interest from 16th November, 1896, being charged at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

At this price the Bonds yield over 4½ per cent. per annum interest after allowing for redemption at par in 1911.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE CHICAGO EDISON COMPANY ARE—

Samuel Insull, President.
J. W. Doane, President Merchants Loan and Trust Company.
Byron L. Smith, President Northern Trust Company.
R. C. Clowry, Vice-President Western Union Telegraph Company.
Erskine M. Phelps, of Phelps, Dodge, & Company.
Robert T. Lincoln, formerly United States Minister to England.
Anthony F. Seeberger, Treasurer World's Columbian Exposition, 1893.
A. A. Sprague, of Sprague, Warner, & Company.
E. L. Brewster, of E. L. Brewster & Company, Bankers.
Joseph Leiter.
John J. Mitchell, President Illinois Trust and Savings Bank.
Lambert Tree, formerly United States Minister to Belgium and Russia.
F. S. Gorton, Secretary and Treasurer, Chicago Edison Company.

TRUSTEES FOR FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS.—The Merchants Loan and Trust Company (Chicago).

The above bonds were purchased last July by the London Scottish American Trust, Limited, for themselves and others, subject to inquiry as to the statements made regarding the earnings of the Chicago Edison Company, its title to the subjects mortgaged, and the nature and capacity of the property and plant. This inquiry was conducted on behalf of the purchasers:—

(a) As regards the accounts of the Company and the results of the last two years working by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, & Co.

(b) As regards the titles and franchises of the Company by Mr. W. H. Swift, counsellor at law, Chicago, the mortgage and bonds being adjusted and approved by him.

(c) As regards the character and capacity of the property and plant by Mr. Horatio A. Foster, member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

These reports being satisfactory the purchase of the bonds was concluded, and they are now offered for sale.

Full prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the London Scottish American Trust, Limited, 75, Lombard-street, London, E.C., or their brokers in Scotland, Messrs. Bell, Cowan, & Co., 22, St. Andrew's-square, Edinburgh.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Chicago Edison Company is incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois to supply electric light and power in Chicago.

Dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum have been paid in cash since the year 1889 upon the capital stock issued. The amount of stock now issued is 4,973,437.50 dols., the market price of which is 117 per cent.

Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, & Co.'s report is appended to the full prospectus. From this it will be seen that the net earnings for the year ending 31st March, 1895, amounted to 531,020.37 dols. The maximum amount of Bonds which can be issued without further extension of the Company's property is 3,500,000 dols., the full interest charge upon which is only 175,000 dols.

The reports of Mr. Swift and Mr. Foster are too lengthy for publication, but copies of them may be seen at the Office of the London Scottish American Trust, or of the Brokers in Edinburgh.

Mr. Foster in his report values the property and plant, exclusive of goodwill, for which a large amount was paid in the case of one Company absorbed, at	$6,204,107
To which must be added the amount available for extensions out of the proceeds of the present issue	640,000
Present Valuation.....	$6,844,107
Present limit of issue.....	$3,500,000

Provision has been made out of the proceeds of the Bonds now offered to repay the only Prior Lien Bonds outstanding, amounting to £205,300.

Applications will be received by the London Scottish American Trust, Limited, or their Bankers, the Royal Bank of Scotland, St. Andrew's-square, Edinburgh, 123, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, and Branches, and Messrs. Melville, Fickus, & Co., Limited, 75, Lombard-street, London.

November 2nd, 1896.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

LIST of APPLICATIONS will OPEN on WEDNESDAY, the 4th day of NOVEMBER, and CLOSE on WEDNESDAY, the 11th day of NOVEMBER, at 4 p.m.

THE SYDNEY GARDENS HOTEL (BATH), LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies' Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Shares.

CAPITAL £40,000, Divided into:

4,000 Cumulative 5 per cent. Preference Shares of £5 each ranking preferentially to the Ordinary Shares as regards both Capital and Dividend...	£20,000
4,000 Ordinary Shares at £5 each	£20,000
	£40,000

In addition to which will be issued 200 4 per cent. First Mortgage Debentures of £50 each.

The Debentures and Ordinary Shares, and 3,000 of the Preference Shares are now offered for subscription, payable as follows:—

Preference and Ordinary Shares 10s. per Share on Application; £1. 10s. per Share on Allotment, and the balance when required at intervals of not less than Three Months. Debentures £5 each on Application; £5 each on Allotment, and the Balance by equal payments of £10 each on the 25th December, 1896, and 25th March, 24th June, and 29th September, 1897.

DIRECTORS.

Alfred Deedes, Esq., Frenchay Manor, Near Bristol. The Honourable Charles Holmes à Court, The Elms, Stone, Falfield, Glos.
Major C. H. Simpson, 15, Queen-square, Bath. Percy K. Stothert, Esq. (Stothert & Pitt, Limited), Bath.

CONSULTING DIRECTOR:—Mr. H. R. Grover, Manager of the Ilfracombe Hotel, Ilfracombe.

BANKERS:—Stuckeys' Banking Company, Limited, Bath, and all their Branches.
Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, & Co., Lombard-street, London.

SOLICITOR:—Mr. William Henry Brown, 49, Corn-street, Bristol.

AUDITORS:—Messrs. Ham, Dennehy & Butcher, Chartered Accountants, Bath and Bristol.

SECRETARY:—H. C. Wansbrough, 4, St. Stephen's-chambers, Baldwin-street, Bristol.

REGISTERED OFFICES:—35, Milsom-street, Bath.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire the centrally-situated Freehold Property in the City of Bath known as the "Sydney Gardens Estate," comprising extensive tastefully laid out grounds, containing some of the finest trees in the country; the spacious and substantially-erected building known as the Sydney College, with Entrance and Gardeners' Lodges, Tennis Lawns, Paddock, &c., the whole having an area of between NINE and TEN ACRES.

On this site, which faces Great Pulteney-street, and which for the purpose has few superiors in the Kingdom, it is proposed to erect from the designs of Mr. J. S. Whittington, of London, a commodious residential hotel of the highest class, fireproof and replete with every comfort and convenience which modern requirements demand or science can suggest, one of the principal features being private suites of rooms, and a complete system of Medical and other Baths.

The want of additional high-class Hotel accommodation at Bath is severely felt, as that which at present exists is found to be entirely inadequate, and, with one exception—and that some considerable distance from the City—all the Hotels abut on the streets, and have no grounds of any description.

The Licensing Justices of Bath have already agreed to grant a full License on completion of the Hotel in accordance with the Plans deposited with them.

In addition to the above the Company will acquire 14 valuable building sites, each 40 feet by 100 feet, or thereabouts, which, in the event of the land not being required, should command good prices. These building sites, if covered, would in no way interfere with the Hotel or the Gardens.

The Directors have been fortunate in securing the services, as Consulting Director, of Mr. H. R. Grover, for many years past the Manager of, and a considerable shareholder in, the well-known Ilfracombe Hotel. Under Mr. Grover's management this Hotel has maintained its high reputation as a first-class property, paying substantial dividends.

Especial care will be taken in the selection of an experienced Manager.

Space has been reserved at the rear of the Hotel, and communicating with the grounds, for a Winter Garden. Nothing of the kind exists in Bath, although with a Winter season the accommodation is much required.

The Directors invite attention to the very moderate capital and firmly believe that the Sydney Gardens Hotel will, by supplying what is admittedly much required, meet with liberal support, and be the means of attracting those, who, in its absence, go elsewhere. They are advised by a well-known expert that a Dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary Share Capital may be confidently anticipated.

The Property is Freehold, but subject to an Annual Ground-rent of £156. 16s.

Messrs. Alexander, Daniel, Selfe, & Co., of Bristol and London, have valued the property to be purchased at the sum of £9,160. The Vendor pays the whole of the expenses of formation and registration of the Company up to the first Allotment. No promotion money has been or will be paid, nor will any part of the Capital be underwritten.

Provisional Contracts have been entered into and Tenders received, by which the Property can be purchased, and the Hotel built in strict accordance with the deposited plans, furnished and appointed ready for the reception of visitors for a sum not exceeding £40,230, thus leaving a balance of £4,770 for working capital and contingencies, in addition to £5,000 worth of Preference Shares to be called up as and when required.

The valuation of Messrs. Alexander, Daniel, Selfe, & Co., the report of Messrs. Powell & Powell, and particulars of the only known contracts entered into, are fully set forth in the Prospectus. Mr. Titt's estimate of income and expenditure can be seen at the offices of the Secretary.

Full prospectuses, with plans of the property to be acquired, views of the ground, and sketch of the proposed Hotel, with architect's description of same, can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. H. C. Wansbrough, 4, St. Stephen's-chambers, Baldwin-street, Bristol, Messrs. Ham, Dennehy, & Butcher, Chartered Accountants, Bank-chambers, Bath, or Albion-chambers, Bristol, from Messrs. Stuckeys' Banking Co., Limited, Bath, or either of their branches, or from Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, & Co., Lombard-street, London.

The Articles of Association, and the contracts referred to above, may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Company, Mr. W. H. Brown, 49, Corn-street, Bristol.

Dated, November 3rd, 1896.

BARNATO BANK MINING and ESTATE CORPORATION, LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Shareholders of above are requested to deposit their old certificates, on or after MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1896, for exchange into new certificates of the JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, Limited, or same will be forwarded by post on receipt of the old certificates.

By Order,
J. TUDHOPE, Liquidator.

5, Lothbury, E.C., October 30th, 1896.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.

Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST WILL OPEN AND CLOSE ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 1896, FOR BOTH LONDON AND THE COUNTRY.

Mr. REGINALD A. F. MURRAY (Government Geologist to the Colony of Victoria), in concluding his Report (which accompanies this prospectus), says :—"I have therefore no hesitation in strongly recommending the exploitation of the ground referred to as a most soundly legitimate Mining enterprise . . . . . Bearing in view the immense yields from the Berry group of Mines on the same system, and the great length thereon occupied by you, I feel assured that there is in your ground sufficient to afford highly payable results and rich dividends to several large Companies for a great many years.

The whole of the Cash Capital required, including £100,000 Working Capital, has been guaranteed by the Corporations making this issue.

The London and Globe Finance Corporation, Limited, and The West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation, Limited, offer for Subscription the undermentioned issue.

Victorian Gold Estates, Ltd.

(VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.)

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - £350,000,

In 350,000 Shares at £1 each,

of which 125,000 Shares (including 100,000 for Working Capital) are now offered for subscription at par, payable—5s. on application, 5s. on allotment, 5s. January 7th, 1897, and 5s. March 9th, 1897.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick, Warwick Castle, Warwick (Chairman).
Leonard Fawell, Esq., Director London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company (London Board).
George Leveson-Gower, Esq., 14, South Audley-street, W.
Henry Pelham-Clinton, Esq., representing London and Globe Finance Corporation, Limited.
Tyndale White, Esq., Director Lake View Consols, Limited.

LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD IN VICTORIA.

Sir William A. Zeal, K.C.M.G., President of the Legislative Council, C.E.; Director of The National Bank of Australasia; The Australian Mutual Provident Society; and The Metropolitan Gas Company.
The Hon. Duncan E. McBryde, M.L.C., Chairman Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited (N.S.W.)
The Hon. J. A. Wallace, M.L.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEER AND GEOLOGIST.

Reginald A. F. Murray, Esq., F.G.S. (recently Government Geologist for Victoria), Melbourne.

CONSULTING ENGINEER AND MINING SUPERINTENDENT.

Henry Gore, Esq., C.E., M.E., recently President of Mine Owners' Association of Victoria; Chairman of Ballarat Prospecting Board, and late M.L.C. for Wellington Province, Ballarat.

BANKERS.

Prescott, Dimsdale, Cave, Tugwell, & Co., Limited, 50, Cornhill, London, E.C.; The Union Bank of Australia, Limited, 71, Cornhill, London, E.C. (Bankers in the Colony).

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Williams & Neville, Winchester-house, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.
Messrs. Malleson, England, & Stewart, 46, Queen-street, Melbourne, Victoria.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Ford, Rhodes, & Ford, 81, Cannon-street, E.C.

SECRETARY & OFFICES.—William B. Mitchell, Esq., 77, Bishopsgate-street, Within, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire and develop, as a parent Company, with a view to resales to subsidiary Companies, an extensive Mining property, comprising about 9,000 acres, situated on the great Basaltic plain, between the Tallaroop, or Deep Creek, on the west, and the Loddon River and Joyce's Creek on the east, in the parishes of Moolert, Rodborough, Barringhup and Tarrangower, County of Talbot, Province of Wellington, in the Colony of Victoria, Australia.

This extensive mining area, which has been reported on by the eminent authority, Mr. Reginald A. F. Murray, F.G.S. London (Government Geologist of the Colony of Victoria, who has agreed to resign his official position and act as the Company's Consulting Engineer and Geologist), and also by Mr. Henry Gore, M.E. and C.E. (who has been actively and officially connected with mining in that district since 1858, was, until recently, Member of the Legislative Council for the District, and who has agreed to act as the Company's Consulting Engineer and Mining Superintendent), is a continuation northwards, extending from 7 to 9 miles in length, by from 1½ to 2½ miles in width, of the well-known auriferous Deep Lead belt known as the Berry Leads, from which gold to the value of over Four Millions sterling is stated by the above experts to have been won by the Berry group and adjacent Mines.

In addition to the Berry Lead, there are several others coming in from both east and west, notably the Hepburn Home Paddock Lead and the Rocky on the east, the Australasian and its tributaries on the west. The whole of these must ultimately junction with the Main Trunk Lead coming from Ballarat, and extending through the Dowling Forest Estate, picking up the Midas Group of tributaries on its way, passing to the east of Clunes, through the parish of Tourello on to Glengower (where the Clunes tributaries join), and junctioning at some point before reaching Bucknall's Estate bores, with the leads previously described.

The course of these gold leads has been conclusively traced and proved by two series of Government borings, and the Bucknall Estate bores, which have proved most unmistakably the course of the deep ground and the most certain evidences as to the existence of a great main lead throughout the entire length of the properties to be acquired by this Company. The greatest depth shown by these bores was from 270 to 300 ft., and the heavy gravel and boulder wash up to 6 ft. in thickness over a breadth of several hundred feet. Mr. Murray, in testifying to this, in his Report states that there can be no other possible outlet for the ancient channels of deep leads than through the area to be acquired by this Company; and proceeds :—

"It is, therefore, no mere conjecture, but a matter of absolute certainty, vouched for by geological conditions and the result of actual experiment, that the main trunk lead system, made up of the combination of the above-mentioned leads, cannot do otherwise than pass through your ground, which, as shown on the plan, must contain a length of at least seven miles on the course of that main lead, besides a considerable length of a large tributary lead corresponding to the Loddon river, which comes in from the eastward, and joins the main trunk lead in your ground." (*Vide* Report.)

And, speaking of the Berry Leads, he says :—

"There is no doubt in my mind that the unexplored alluvial deposits on the further continuation northward in strike of that auriferous belt throughout the whole length of your area will prove equally rich; . . the auriferous value of the Lead system along its course is shown by the fact that its bed rock throughout is the continuation in strike of the Great Ballarat and Creswick auriferous belt of rocks hidden by the basalt, and consequently the leads during this formation derive their gold supply from local sources or matrices in these rocks all along their courses. . . . Recent developments in the advance mines on the Berry system have so stimulated enterprise, and established confidence in the wealth of the Lead system, that nearly, if not quite, all the available ground on the Deep Creek and Loddon Valley lead system is either taken or is being taken up for deep Alluvial Mining for 20 miles ahead of the most gold-producing mines."

He further states :—"Mining can be carried on in this portion of Victoria under most favourable conditions and most economically, as the Castlemaine to Maryborough Railway Line passes through the property, so that machinery, timber, and other supplies can be readily delivered on the ground at moderate cost."

Mr. Murray concludes his Report as follows :—

"I have, therefore no hesitation in strongly recommending the exploitation of the ground referred to as a most soundly legitimate mining enterprise. . . . Bearing in view the immense yields from the Berry Group of Mines on the same lead system, and the great length thereon occupied by you, I feel assured that there is in your ground sufficient to afford highly payable results and rich dividends to several large Companies for a great many years."

The Special Reporter of the *Melbourne Argus*, under date October 4th, 1895, refers to this lead in the following terms :—

"An auriferous lead, or the ancient bed of an old river system, which has proved to be the richest deep alluvial goldfield in the world, is one to awaken both curiosity and interest. Such has been the record of the leads that find their source from Spring Hill, situated two miles to the north-east of the township of Creswick."

Victoria has already produced gold to the value of over £240,000,000 sterling, and still holds the premier position in Australasia as a gold producer, the annual returns (which are steadily increasing) continuing to be in excess of any of the other colonies. — *Vide* Victorian (Government) Year Book, 1894, page 778.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. GORE'S REPORT.

My knowledge of the locality under review, and of the whole of the district, ... extends from the year 1858 up to the present time.

The source of the now famous Berry Lead was discovered in Lewer's Freehold on the northern slope of Spring Hill; . . . . From this source down to the Berry Consols Extended Claim, a distance of over eight miles, there has not been one failure in any of the claims on the lead; . . . . The gold won from this area has realised nearly 4½ millions sterling, and the dividends and royalty to nearly 2¾ millions sterling. Shafts are now being sunk on a continuation of this lead north, the trend having been proved, by a series of bores, to pass . . . . through the entire length of your property. . . . In addition to the Berry lead, there are several others coming in from both east and west, notably the Hepburn Home Paddock Lead and the Rocky on the east, the Australasian and its tributaries on the west. The whole of these must ultimately junction with the Main Trunk Lead coming from Ballarat, and extending through the Dowling Forest Estate, picking up the Midas Group of tributaries on its way, passing to the east of Clunes, through the parish of Tourello on to Glengower (where the Clunes tributaries join), and junctioning at some point before reaching Bucknall's Estate bores, with the leads previously described.

It will be seen that the whole of the lead system . . . . must pass through your property from south to north, a distance in a straight line of about seven miles, but allowing for the usual sinuosities of leads, the actual distance will be about nine miles. As to the auriferous washes proving payable when reached, the past history of the Ballarat Mining District goes to prove that wherever alluvial washes are met with running north and south with the quartz lodes (as this channel does) they are highly payable, and the statistics of Mining in Ballarat District, as far as can be gathered under the conditions stated, show that the profit to be obtained is about 40 per cent. over and above all costs of getting. . . .

Looking at this property from an investor's point of view, it may be noted—

(1) That it contains undoubtedly at least nine miles of the Main Trunk Lead (besides tributaries yet undiscovered).

(2) That the value of the alluvial washes included in your property, taking the Berry and Australasian leads as a basis, must be enormous and run into many millions sterling.

(3) That in addition to the value of the lead system above referred to, the quartz lodes, which undoubtedly traverse the property, must be taken into account, and judging by the results of the Band and Albion Company, Star of the East, Prince of Wales and Bonshaw, Last Chance, Llanberris, and other companies at Ballarat, all of which are now working the quartz lodes (after the leads which proved highly payable had been exhausted) with very satisfactory results; in fact the gold won bids fair to eclipse the alluvial returns. These mines are still producing gold, and will probably continue to do so for many years to come. These claims are on the same zone of country as your property, and the conditions similar. It is therefore difficult to say what length of life can be given to it, but taking the Llanberris noted above, which has been working on the lodes for over 30 years, and is still in its infancy, some estimate

VICTORIAN GOLD ESTATES, LIMITED, *continued.*

may be formed if account be taken of your large area as compared to the Llanberris holding of 30 acres.

In conclusion, I can strongly recommend this Property as a sound mining investment, believing, as I do, that with sufficient capital provided for its development, together with careful and efficient management, it cannot fail to be highly profitable to those who acquire an interest in it.

The property will be held under Leases from the Government of Victoria under the provisions of Part 2 of the Mines Act, 1890, at a nominal rental of 6d. per acre per annum without Royalty, for terms of 15 years renewable.

The Directors are glad to announce that the services of Mr. Reginald A. F. Murray and Mr. Henry Gore as Consulting Engineers and Geologist and Mining Superintendent respectively have been secured for this Company (the former gentleman having agreed to resign his position with the Government), and consequently Mining operations will be conducted under the best supervision.

WORKING CAPITAL.—The Government, in undertaking to issue the Leases, has stipulated that £80,000 shall be available as Working Capital. £100,000 has, however, been guaranteed by the issuing Corporations (including compensation estimated not to exceed £3,000 payable to owners).

PURCHASE CONSIDERATION.—This has been fixed by the Vendor, Mr. Abraham Kozminsky, at £250,000, payable as to £25,000 in cash and the balance in Shares of this Company.

The preliminary expenses of the Company to allotment will be paid by the issuing Corporations.

The following Contracts have been entered into, viz.: two dated the 15th May and 13th July, 1896, respectively, and made between the Vendor of the one part, and Frank Douglas Phair, as Trustee for the Company of the other part; one dated the 23rd June, 1896, and made between the London and Globe Finance Corporation, Limited, and the West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation, Limited, of the one part, and Reginald Augustus Frederick Murray of the other part; one dated the 21st day of August, 1896, and made between the last-mentioned Corporations of the one part, and this Company of the other part; one dated the 21st day of August, 1896, and made between this Company of the one part, and Henry Gore of the other part; one dated the 15th May, 1896, and made between the Vendor of the one part, and the London and Globe Finance Corporation, Limited, of the other part; one dated the 1st October, 1896, and made between the Vendor of the first part, the last mentioned Corporation of the second part, and the West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation, Limited, of the third part. These, with the original reports, plans, and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors of the Company, Messrs. Williams & Neville, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

The London and Globe Finance Corporation, Limited, and The West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporation, Limited, being interested in the purchase, Mr. Henry Pelham-Clinton will not join the Board until after allotment and completion of the purchase.

Copies of the above-mentioned reports, and of Mr. Murray's report to the Government, accompany the Prospectus, and the original or a duplicate of the latter, together with Government geological plans (showing the course of the lead throughout the whole length of the property), may also be seen at the Offices of the Agent-General for the Colony of Victoria, 15, Victoria-street, Westminster.

Applications for Shares must be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company together with the amount payable on application.

Where no Allotment is made, the deposit will be returned to the applicant in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on Allotment.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Office of the Company, or from the Solicitors and Brokers.

November 2nd, 1896.

Applications for Shares can be made upon the following Form if filled in, cut out, and sent with cheque to the Bankers.

No.....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

VICTORIAN GOLD ESTATES, LIMITED.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF VICTORIAN GOLD ESTATES, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—

Having paid to your Bankers, Messrs. Prescott, Dimsdale, Cave, Tugwell, & Co., Limited, 50, Cornhill, London, E.C., to the account of VICTORIAN GOLD ESTATES, LIMITED, the sum of £....., being a deposit of Five Shillings per Share on..... Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept and pay for the same, or any less number, upon the terms of the Prospectus dated the 2nd day of November, 1896, and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

Must be written Distinctly.

Ordinary Signature.....

Name (in full).....

Address (in full).....

.....

Profession or Occupation.....

Date.....1896.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—
Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

THE
JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.
BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.
LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,500,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men, and it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.
NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment COMPANY, LIMITED.

REPORT of the DIRECTORS, submitted to the Shareholders at a Meeting held in the Board Room, Colonnade-buildings, Fox-street, Johannesburg, on Monday, September 28, 1896, at 2.30 p.m.

The Directors submit herewith the Balance-sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Company for the year ended June 30th, 1896, showing a balance of profit, including the amount carried from last account, of £531,186. 3s. 7d. This result has been arrived at after writing down the assets, where necessary, to the market value of the day. Since then the value in many cases has improved. An interim dividend at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum was paid to December 31st, 1895, and the Directors have declared a further dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, together absorbing £199,500. This leaves a balance of £331,686. 3s. 7d. to be carried forward. The Directors propose to place £250,000 of this amount to a separate reserve account by way of creating a dividend protection and equalisation fund.

Bearing in mind the conditions existing in Johannesburg at the end of last year and during the first six months of the present year, and the consequent stagnation in business and depreciation in values, the Directors consider the net result of the year's working to be very satisfactory. These adverse conditions have now passed away.

Since the close of the year covered by this Report the Founders' Shares in the Company have been extinguished in accordance with arrangements already sanctioned by the Shareholders, and to do so the Capital of the Company has been increased to £850,000, of which 15,236 Shares are held in reserve.

The figures of the accompanying accounts show a marked growth in the business of the Company, which is still capable of great expansion. Some valuable fixed properties have been acquired during the year, and the full development of the real estate assets of the Company is being pushed forward. One large building has been completed and readily let at good rentals, and others are in course of erection, or about to be commenced. The business of receiving deposits and of making advances on first mortgage is also being cultivated within the limits of safety and profit. The administration of the mining department of the Company's business has been strengthened, and the number of Mining Companies for which this Company acts as secretaries has greatly increased.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting convened for this day, following the present meeting, resolutions will be submitted to the Shareholders for the adoption of certain provisional agreements between this Company and (1) the Barnato Bank, Mining, and Estate Corporation, Limited, and (2) the Johannesburg Waterworks, Estate, and Exploration Company, Limited, and for the further increase of the capital of the Company to £2,750,000 by the issue of 1,900,000 Shares of £1 each for the following purposes:—

	Shares.
To acquire the assets of the Barnato Bank, Mining, Estate, and Corporation, Limited, at the ratio of five Shares for eight Bank Shares	1,503,125
To acquire certain freehold and leasehold properties from the Johannesburg Waterworks, Estate, and Exploration Company, Limited, at the ratio of one Share for three Waterworks Shares, but without extinguishing the latter	133,333
To acquire the assets of the Houghton Estate and Gold Mining Company, Limited, at the ratio of one Share for three Houghton Shares	17,429
To acquire the Yeoville Estate from the Johannesburg Building and Estate Syndicate, at the ratio of three Shares for four Syndicate Shares	24,750
To acquire the remaining Shares not already in the hands of this Company of the Johannesburg Market Concessions and Buildings Company, Limited, and the Central Commercial Buildings Company, Limited	21,504
	1,700,141
New issue to be offered to the Shareholders of the Company at 75s. per Share, at which price the issue is guaranteed free of any commission or option by Messrs. Barnato Brothers...	200,000
	£1,900,141

The above figures represent the number of Shares to be issued in exchange for the outstanding Shares of the Companies absorbed after deducting this Company's present holdings in these Companies. The cost of these holdings will in future be treated as a portion of the cost of the properties acquired. The excess of 141 Shares over the 1,900,000 above quoted will be taken from the existing reserve Shares, leaving 15,095 Shares in reserve.

The amalgamation with the Barnato Bank, Mining, and Estate Corporation, Limited, has been decided upon to remove what would have been a formidable competitor in business; and, among its other advantages, it secures to this Company the undivided influence and support of Mr. B. I. Barnato and his firm, and of the large and important interests which he controls. The assets of the Bank include very valuable Mining and landed properties and interests, and large holdings in the De Beers and Jagersfontein Diamond Mines, and in the best Gold Mining and other Companies in the Transvaal.

The purchase of the Yeoville and Houghton Estates has already been effected, and when the above amalgamation is completed this Company's holding of real estate will be the largest and most valuable in Johannesburg, yielding a large present revenue, and, by the judicious expenditure of capital, capable of almost indefinite increase, both in value and yearly returns. The Company will own, in addition to its properties in the best business parts of the town, some thousands of eligible building sites in the most popular residential quarters in Johannesburg, which are at present in great demand, and daily increasing in value. The Directors have the pleasure to report to Shareholders that the present asset of the Company in real estate in Johannesburg has just been valued by Mr. H. J. Morkel, Sworn Appraiser and Valuator, at the sum of £623,400. These properties now stand in the books at £208,381. 13s. 6d. only, showing a profit of £415,018. 6s. 6d. The balance of the amount of £269,941. 15s. 3d., "Investments in Real Estate," appearing in the Balance-sheet is represented by the Company's valuable property in Austinfriars, in the City of London, taken at the cost price of £61,560. 1s. 6d.

The premium of £2 15s. per Share on the 200,000 Shares to be issued to Shareholders, amounting to £550,000, will be carried to the Reserve Fund, increasing that Fund to £950,000, exclusive of the Dividend Protection Fund of £250,000, or £1,200,000 in all; and as a value of £4 per £1 Share has been taken as the basis of the issue of Consolidated Investment Company's Shares in the above purchases, a very large sum should accrue to the Reserve Fund from this source when the assets acquired are taken over and embodied in our accounts. With the Capital and Reserve Fund now contemplated, this Company will stand at the head of Financial Companies in South Africa in the magnitude of its Shareholders' funds.

With practically unlimited capital at its disposal, the Company will be able to take up, or negotiate and float, Government, municipal, and other public loans, or Debenture issues, and to undertake any other important banking or financial business.

In these and the other operations of the Company the Directors in Johannesburg are greatly assisted by the powerful support and co-operation of the influential London Board of the Company, with Sir W. Lawrence Young, Bart., as Managing Director. The Directorate will be further strengthened by the addition of Sir Charles Jessel, Bart., John Stroyan, Esq., and W. Garland Soper, Esq. (the last of whom will represent the Shareholders of the Johannesburg Waterworks, Estate, and Exploration Company, Limited), who will join the Board after the Annual General Meeting.

The Directors regret that they have lost the services in Johannesburg of the General Manager of the Company, the Hon. John Tudhope, who has removed for a time to the London Office. Mr. J. A. Hamilton, lately an inspector of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, and Mr. Harold F. Strange have been appointed Joint Managers, the former in special charge of the Financial Department of the Company's business and the latter of the Mining Department. Mr. G. W. Starr, as Consulting Engineer, continues to give his undivided attention to the business of the Company, and Mr. R. Pizzighelli has been appointed Surveyor to the Company during the past year. Both gentlemen are assisted by an efficient staff.

Messrs. J. P. O'Reilly and John Munro, and Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols, & Co., the Company's Auditors in Johannesburg and London respectively, retire from office, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

By order of the Board,
H. M. NOBLE, Assistant-Secretary.

BALANCE-SHEET as at June 30, 1896.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

Capital	£800,000					
Less Reserve Shares	2,000					
		£798,000	0	0
Reserve Fund		400,000	0	0
Moneys on fixed deposit and on loan		1,000,884	17	8
Bills payable and other liabilities		417,583	9	9
South African Trust and Finance Company, Limited (for balance of purchase price of assets in suspense)		56,239	17	10
Balance Profit and Loss (after payment of interim dividend to December 31 last, amounting to £119,700)		411,486	3	7
		£3,084,194	7	11

ASSETS.

Cash on hand and at Bankers	£90,773	0	5
Loans on Market Securities in London and in Johannesburg ...	359,747	3	5
Loans to Mining Companies	597,139	6	7
Sundry Debtors	118,398	8	1
Investments in Real Estate	269,941	15	3
Investments in Mining Properties	86,734	2	4
Investments in Stocks and Shares, including Municipal Bonds and Shares in Mining, Financial, and other undertakings ...	1,487,536	8	5
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, 15,000 issued Shares to be delivered to the South African Trust and Finance Company, Limited, as part of balance of purchase price of assets per contra	37,500	0	0
Machinery and Mining requirements in stock and in transit ...	33,350	17	3
Office Furniture, Fittings, and Instruments	3,073	6	2
	£3,084,194	7	11

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT (last Financial Year).

DR.			
To dividend to Shareholders registered July 31st, 1895	£157,600	0	0
Reserve fund	400,000	0	0
Balance to this year's accounts as below	396,429	4	10
	£954,029	4	10
CR.			
By balance carried forward June 30th, 1895...	£954,029	4	10
	£954,029	4	10

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, July 1st, 1895, to June 30th, 1896.

DR.						
To Directors' fees				£3,468	15	0
Salaries, including Auditors' fees				25,566	12	10
Interest and exchange paid				17,271	10	4
Establishment charges, including rent and taxes, insurance, stationery, printing, and advertising				8,737	12	1
Balance	£531,186	3	7	531,186	3	7
Less Interim dividend at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum to December 31st, 1895 ...	119,700	0	0			
Leaving as per Balance-sheet	£411,486	3	7			
Proposed to be appropriated as follows:—						
Income reserve account	250,000	0	0			
Dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum to June 30th, 1896	79,800	0	0			
Carried forward	81,686	3	7			
	£411,486	3	7			
				£586,230	13	10
CR.						
By balance from last account				£396,429	4	1
Gross profits for the year ended June 30th, 1896, after valuing Securities in hand at Market price				189,801	9	0
				£586,230	13	10

"We have audited the accounts of the London Office of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, and found them correct. We have also verified the Share Certificates and other Securities.

"CHATTERIS, NICHOLS, & Co.,
"Chartered Accountants.

"London."

"We have audited the accounts of the Johannesburg Office of the Company and found them correct, and they and the accounts of the London Office are properly incorporated in the above Balance sheet and Profit and Loss Account. We have also verified the Securities at Johannesburg.

"J. P. O'REILLY and J. MUNRO, Auditors.

"Johannesburg, Sept. 23rd, 1896."

The Subscription Lists will open Monday, November 2nd, 1896, and close for both London and Country applications at or before 4 o'clock on the following Thursday, 5th November, 1896.

CAVE, AUSTIN, & CO., Ltd.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - £130,000,

Divided into

80,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	£80,000
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	50,000
	£130,000

The whole of the Ordinary Shares will be taken by the Vendors on account of purchase consideration.

The Preference Shares will rank in priority to the Ordinary Shares both as to Capital and Dividend. The Articles of Association provide that no Debentures can be issued without the consent of three-fourths of the Preference Shareholders in General Meeting.

Issue of 70,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares,

Payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment, and 10s. per Share on December 15th, 1896.

The balance of 10,000 Preference Shares will be reserved for future issue, to provide additional Working Capital for the extension of the Company's businesses.

DIRECTORS.

ARTHUR J. CAVE, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Chairman.
CHARLES H. CAVE, Eastbourne.
JAMES McCABE, 7, Idol-lane, City.
} Present Proprietors of Businesses to be transferred.
ALFRED AUSTIN, Lewisham.
CHARLES STAMP, Lewisham.
} Directors of J. & A. Austin, Ltd., ditto.
EDWARD JOSEPH MANSFIELD, Amberley House, Norfolk-street, Strand, London.
EDWIN UNDERWOOD, J.P. (E. Underwood & Son, Limited), Brentford, Middlesex.

Bankers.—LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C., and Branches.

Solicitors. — WILLIAMS & NEVILLE, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

Auditors.—WOODTHORPE, BEVAN, & CO., Chartered Accountants, Leadenhall Buildings, London, E.C.

Secretary (*pro tem.*)—S. R. B. BRANSBY.

Registered Offices.—Leadenhall Buildings, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to acquire and continue, under one amalgamation, the following well-known businesses of Wholesale and Retail Grocers, Tea Dealers and Blenders, Provision Dealers, Wine and Spirit and Beer Merchants, and General Purveyors, hitherto carried on by Mr. A. J. Cave, Messrs. A. J. & C. H. Cave, J. & A. Austin, Limited, and Mr. James McCabe, with a view to their profitable extension under combined management:—

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA— Cave's Stores. * 15, Grand Parade, *† 41, Marina, *† 11, London-road, and 22, 24, & 26, Norman-road (Cash Supply Stores), *† 64, Eversfield-place (Magasin de Comestibles), 16, Grand Parade (Auctioneers and House Agents), HASTINGS— *† 12 and 13, Castle-street, Bottling Vaults, Priory-street,	A. J. CAVE.
EASTBOURNE— * 112, South-street, * 114, South-street, Warehouses, Cornfield-lane. BRIGHTON— Cave's Oriental Café (late the Mincing-lane Tea & Coffee Co.), 181, Western-road.	A. J. & C. H. CAVE.
SUBURBS OF LONDON— *† Lee Bridge, Lewisham, *† 33, High-road, Lee, 53, High-road, Lee, 55, High-road, Lee, * 266, High-road, Lee, *† Kent House, Lee Green, †† 74, Rushey-green, Catford, 134, Rushey-green, Catford, *† 162, Rushey-green, Catford, †† 9, Montpelier-vale, Blackheath Village, * 98, High-street, Eltham, †† High-street, Sidcup, Warehouse, 1, Lewis-grove, Lewisham, * 80, East Dulwich-grove, Dulwich, * 199, Brockley-road, Brockley,	J. & A. AUSTIN, Limited.
LONDON— The Lindoo Valley Tea Co., 10 & 11, Cross-lane, City, James McCabe & Co., Wholesale Tea Blenders, 7 & 8, Idol-lane, City,	JAMES McCABE.

* Off Licences.
† Gilbey's Agencies.
†† Wholesale Beer and Wine and Spirit Off Licences

The various businesses, most of which are old established, are admirably situated in populous leading thoroughfares in the best districts, where they command a high-class trade which cannot fail to increase under the combined direction of the present proprietors, and the favourable position of Messrs. Cave's establishments in the most popular watering places on the South Coast, may be expected to attract the customers of the London businesses when visiting there, and thus add materially to revenue.

The advantages of such combinations, when placed under the experienced practical control of those having substantial share interests at stake, and possessing the necessary knowledge of the requirements of each business, cannot be overestimated, and in these respects the administration of the Company is regarded as peculiarly adapted to successful trading.

The purchase will comprise the freehold and leasehold premises, goodwills, licences, trade marks, stock-in-trade (taken at cost), plant, fixtures, fittings, horses, vans, book debts, and general effects, as from the 30th June, 1896, and possession will be taken immediately on completion of the purchase. The book debts are guaranteed by the Vendors.

The freehold and leasehold premises, trade fixtures and fittings, plant, horses, vans, &c., have been valued at £30,449. The following is a copy of Messrs. Edwin Fox & Bousfield's report:—

99, Gresham-street,
London, E.C., 27th October, 1896.

To the Directors of CAVE, AUSTIN, & Co., Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with your instructions we have inspected the several freehold and leasehold properties situate at Idol-lane, in the City of London, St. Leonards, Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton, Lewisham, Lee, Blackheath, Eltham, Catford, Dulwich, Sidcup, and Brockley, comprising offices, sample rooms, shops, warehouses, stores, dwelling accommodation for assistants, and stabling, as described in the annexed Schedule.

We are of opinion that the value of the Premises is seventeen thousand six hundred and seventy-nine pounds (£17,679), for the purpose of the Trade as a going concern, based upon the profits, as reported by Messrs. Woodthorpe, Bevan, & Co., and Messrs. Broad & Wiltshire, and that the Freehold Interest in No. 64, Eversfield-place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, is of the market value of four thousand pounds (£4,000).

The trade fixtures and fittings, plant, horses, vans, &c., are estimated by the owners at the value of eight thousand seven hundred and seventy pounds (£8,770), and this sum appears to us to be fair.

We are, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
(Signed) EDWIN FOX & BOUSFIELD.

The total profits, as certified by Messrs. Woodthorpe, Bevan, & Co., Chartered Accountants, and Messrs. Broad & Wiltshire, the well-known trade valuers, amount to £7,098 0s. 2d., after providing for all trading expenses, bad debts, and depreciation of leases, including the salaries payable to the five Directors, while acting as Managers, leaving an excess of £3,598 after providing interest, viz., £3,500 on the present Preference issue, and which is capable of considerable increase when the present amalgamation has been effected.

The purchase consideration to be paid for the freehold and leasehold premises, licences, trade marks, goodwills, plant, fixtures, and fittings, stock-in-trade (at cost), book debts (guaranteed), and effects, has been fixed by the vendors at £118,315, payable as to £68,315 in cash, and the balance of £50,000 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares.

No promotion money has been or will be paid, nor has any part of the Capital been underwritten, and the Vendors will pay all the preliminary expenses of the Company to the first allotment.

The Assets of the Company will comprise:—

Freehold and Leasehold Premises ...	£21,679	See Messrs. Edwin Fox & Bousfield's report.
Plant, fixtures, fittings, horses, carts, furniture, and trade effects	8,770	
Stock-in-trade	21,173	Taken at Cost.
Book Debts	15,442	Guaranteed by Vendors.
Total assets available for the security of Preference Shareholders, in addition to goodwills and cash working capital	£67,064	

The Working Capital will comprise the stock-in-trade (taken at cost), guaranteed book debts and cash, representing a total of about £38,300 in addition to which £10,000 Preference Shares have been reserved for future issue.

Messrs. Arthur J. Cave, Charles H. Cave, Alfred Austin, Charles Stamp, and James McCabe have agreed to serve as Directors and Managers for five years, but will not act in the former capacity until after allotment and completion of the purchase.

It is intended to make Application to the Stock Exchange at an early date for a settlement and quotation of the Preference Shares.

Applications for Preference Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus and sent to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the remaining payments. The failure to pay any future instalment on Shares allotted when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained at the Companies' offices, or at any of the Stores to be acquired, or from the Bankers, Solicitors, or Auditors.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

Direct from the Greenock Mills

WOOLS

There are other good knitting wools, but none are better than those of **Greenock** Manufacture. These Knitting Wools are suitable for all kinds of knitting, and will be found to be of good quality, combined with low prices. We do not manufacture low-priced goods in order to quote low prices, but our stocks are made up only of standard and reliable makes, which we sell at very moderate prices, because our exceptional position of Spinners and Manufacturers dealing direct with the consumers enables us to do so. A Knitting Instruction Book gratis on application.

WOOLLEN UNDERWEAR

All our goods are made from specially selected wools **spun to wear,** and we supply UNDERGARMENTS for LADIES, GENTLEMEN, BOYS, and GIRLS, in all thicknesses at most moderate prices, direct from our own factory.

DRESS GOODS

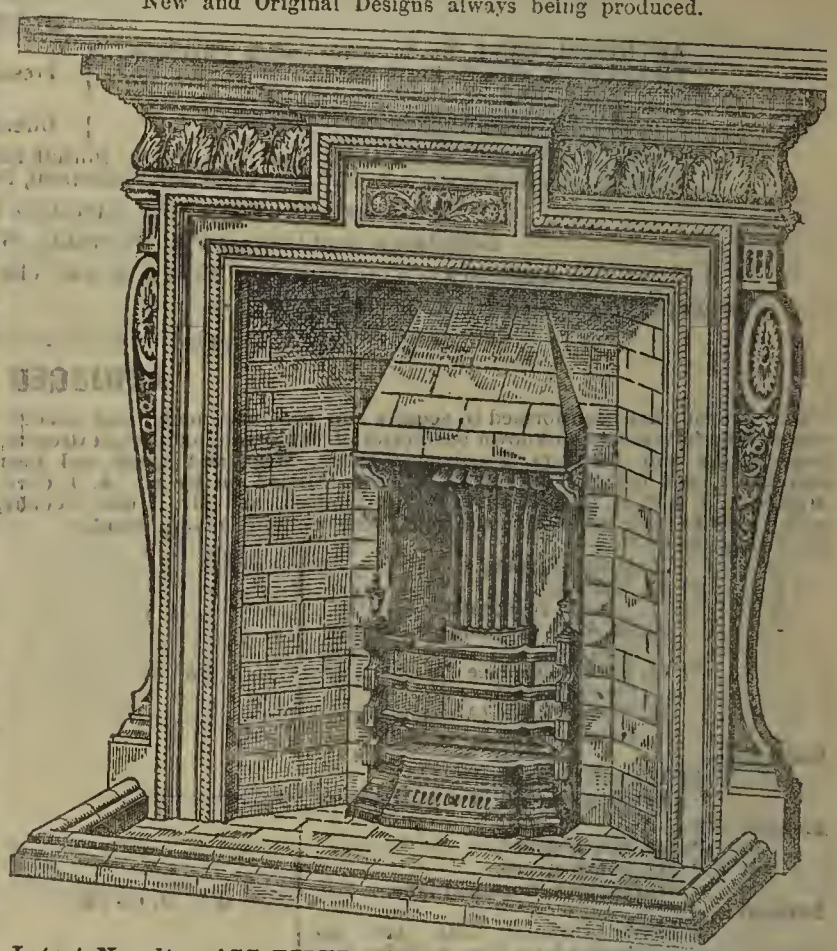
The newest materials for the present and coming season will be found in the "SHAWSWATER" DRESS FABRICS. Our specialities comprise the following materials in NEW CLOTHS and NEW COLOURS of an extensive assortment.

CURL CLOTHS, TWEEDS & HOMESPUNS
CRAPE TWEEDS, COVERT COATINGS,
FANCY BLACKS, CHEVIOTS,
SILK & WOOL MATERIALS, & SERGES.

Samples of all our goods are supplied Post Free on approval to any address.

FLEMING, REID, & CO.,
The Worsted Mills, GREENOCK.

BARNARD, BISHOP, & BARNARDS
LIMITED.
ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED
SLOW COMBUSTION, OR, COUNTRY PARSON'S STOVES.
New and Original Designs always being produced.



Latest Novelty—**ALL-TILED CANOPY STOVE**, as Illustrated, No. 667,
"THE IDEAL." (*Design Registered.*) Fitted with our well-known Patent Norfolk Fire Basket.
Brass Vases to Bar Frame, Ventilating Ash Pan, &c.
This Stove, when made up in 6 in. × 2 in. brickettes as shown, in whole colour, as Teapot Brown, &c., has an exceedingly quaint and attractive appearance.

PRICES—

34" wide × 36" high, 13" fire...	£4 12 6	39" wide × 36" high, 18" fire...	£4 17 6
36" " × 36" " 15" " ...	4 15 0	42" " × 36" " 21" " ...	5 0 0

Mantel, Hearth, &c., extra.
93, QUEEN VICTORIA ST., LONDON, E.C.,
And NORFOLK IRONWORKS, NORWICH.

CADBURY'S COCOA

Entirely free from added Alkali or any foreign admixture.

Absolutely Pure, therefore Best.

The Leading Doctors and Analysts, and the Medical Press, testify to the purity and superiority of CADBURY'S COCOA. The *LANCET* describes it as the "standard of highest purity at present attainable."

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 910.—NAMES FOR TWELVE YEARLINGS.

ANALYST (real name and address will be given in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 922.

QUOTATIONS FROM THE POETS CONTAINING THE NAMES OF THE SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

HOPETOUN (real name and address will be given in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—THE "TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.

Space is at a premium this week, so I am unable to publish the detailed notice as to the Prizes which it was intended to print in this number. Let me say, however, in answer to numerous inquiries that have been addressed to me, that it is certainly the intention of the Editor of TRUTH to award, as usual, a number of prizes for the best-dressed dolls and most notable Home-made Toys in the Show which is to be held at Christmas. The prizes will probably take the form of various useful articles made of, or mounted with, silver, and varying in value from five pounds to fifteen shillings. TRUTH Brooches, a specially-designed reminiscence of the Show, will also be given to all ladies who dress a certain number of dolls. I would also again remind the friends of TRUTH that the Show will be, as on all former occasions, one of Home-made Toys as well as of Dressed Dolls. Home-made Toys of all kinds are always most acceptable, and a certain proportion of the prizes will be divided amongst those who contribute them. Dolls of both sizes may still be obtained on application.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 923.

The Prize in this competition for the best anagram made out of the thirty-eight letters in the words "Abdul Hamid Khan, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire," has been awarded to TARBOX for the following anagram;—

"Inhuman despot that maketh Armenia bloodful."

It may be added that the word "bloodful" is to be found in Webster's Dictionary.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 924.

The Prize for this competition has been divided between LANCELOT and BOWZER for the following sentences:—

The person who can least spare it is often most willing to give others a piece of his mind.—Lancelot.

In the Concert of Europe it is a condition that there shall be no solo on the programme.—Bowzer.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 928.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who best succeeds in writing

FOUR LINES OF VERSE, TWO OF WHICH MUST END IN THE WORDS "SYRINGE" AND "PICKAXE."

In other words, they are required to find rhymes for the two words mentioned above. The four lines may be written in any metre that is in common use, and in adjudging the prize regard will be had not only to the excellence of the rhymes provided for the given words, "Syringe and Pickaxe," but also to the neatness of the way in which they are introduced. The order of the two words may be altered, and competitors are at liberty to send in more than one attempt, if they please. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, November 16, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The address of J. McGrigor Allan, Esq., winner of a half of Prize No. 915, is Myrtle Villa, Vernon-road, Sutton, Surrey.

*** The real name, with the address, of DORMER, winner of Prize No. 921, is J. D. Pierce, Esq., 14, St. Andrew's-square, Manchester.

F. P. E.—There is certainly point in your suggestion. I may say, however, that the prize-winner anticipated such an objection as you urge by sending an alternative quotation for "Tuesday."

HOLLY.—Many thanks for your suggestion.

V. H. S.—I have noted the correction.

THEOLOGY.—Thanks.

ESPERANZA.—Thanks for your note as to your anagram.

EZACKLY.—I am obliged to you for your note.

STEADY.—Your excellent suggestion shall have my early attention.

ST. MEIAC.—I have read your sympathetic lines with much interest.

IOTA.—Your name was omitted by an oversight, which I regret.

COALHEAVER.—I have made a note of the point.

RABELAIS.—Your "Quotations" arrived quite safely, and should have been acknowledged. The suggestion you so kindly make had not occurred to me. Many thanks for it.

P. M.—The blame was not yours. In your MS. the word printed "kicked" is written "kick'd."

E. J.—I am obliged to you for your letter.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 925.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

RHYMED ACROSTICS ON "VICTORIA."

THE TWILIGHT OF A RECORD REIGN.

V anquished every regnal record! Give the record
unto her!
I n the realms of far hereafter who shall be her
vanquisher?
C an the years that roll before us in their misty
depths contain
T ithe of all the power and grandeur of our Ladye's
record reign?
O nward! cry the voices, onward! Onward!
Whither? Onward! Where?
R end the curtain of the future! Nay, the Epoch
cries, forbear!
I n the West a dying spleudour lingers o'er the
sunset skies.
A fter that—the purple twilight and the peace of
Paradise. Scrivener.

"AND HE THAT WEARS THE CROWN IMMORTALLY LONG GUARD IT YOURS."

V aried in race—one in our loyalty!
I udeed to thee all honours appertain;
C rowned—wedded—widowed—sacred sympathy
T aught through deep sorrow. Linking the
strong chain
O f sixty years ever more lastingly.
R ight firmly knit by this our longest reign
I n England's heart of hearts, thy throne has been
A s queenly woman—and most womanly Queen!
Addie.

V ictoria! Called so early to a crown,
I n girlhood's trembling morning unawares,
C alled to a crown—to wield in childish hand,
T hat sceptre which implies a thousand cares.
O h, how far back, how dim that day must seem!
R oyalty has burdened thee for three score years.
I n sorrow and in joy, in tempest and in gleam,
A nd nobly wearing all that age still nobly wears.
Eavesholm.

V arious the monarchs that have worn the crown,
I n this our land of freedom and renown;
C ruel and base was many a kingly heart,
T o few 'twas given to act a Royal part.
O f our own gracious Queen we all can say,
R evered the world throughout has been her sway;
I n length her reign's more honoured than the rest,
A s she has all surpassed in all that's best.
Idris.

V ivat Regina! Thus her people prayed
I n days long past, when at sweet seventeen
C rowned with time-honour'd pageant and parade,
T he Nation gladly welcomed her as Queen.
O urs in these later days to bless her reign,
R ecord unrivalled in our history's page;
I llustrious Queen and Empress, ours the gain,
A nd thine the Majesty from youth to age.
Prak.

V ictoria, Queen and Empress, hail!
I n graces, noblest of thy line.
C ertain, all British Sovereigns fail
T o show a record grand as thine
O f bounteous years and length of days,
R enowned for progress, life serene
I n all this realm. Our thanks we raise,
A nd ever pray "God save the Queen!"
Holly.

V ery long and very great
I s thy reign, oh Queen;
C rowned with honour's gracious state
T hou hast ever been.
O 'er this realm's remotest parts
R ests thy happy spell;
I n our loyal, loving hearts
A lways shalt thou dwell.
M. F. Walker.

"V ictoria R." the Royal maid by right assumed,
I n this century's youth of thirty-seven;
C rowned Queen when next June's roses bloomed,
T he nation's boon from gracious heaven.
O 'er longest reign—now sixty years—
R ejoice right loyally! For she has been,
I n all that "lovely and of good report" appears
A truly just, kind, sympathising Queen.
Hepatica.

V ain were the task in eight short lines of verse,
I mperial Queen, thy virtues to rehearse;
C hoose we instead to scan in briefest thought,
T he wondrous changes sixty years have wrought.
O ld England's children feel they owe to thee
R iches and honour, peace, prosperity;
I n longest reign the realm has ever seen,
A nd raise the strain, "Long live our gracious
Queen!" Nodding Violet.

V ainly, great Queen, should we reiterate
I n varied phrase, how long thy reign, how great,
C ould we not show thou hast a fairer claim
T han length of years to an undying fame;
O f all thy glories this, the brightest far,
R espect for law has been thy guiding star;
I nstinctive loyalty to Freedom's cause
A nd love of right have won the world's applause.
Aquila.

V ested with royal and imperial power,
I llustrious virtue still her noblest dower;
C rowned by her people's love as she hath been,
T hroned in their hearts as Woman and as Queen,
O ur Sovereign's reign stands out beyond the rest,
R ecorded as the longest and the best.
I n England's great historic roll of kings
A round no other name such lustre clings!
Novella.

V ictoria, Queen and Empress, greatest of thy
Royal line,
I n peace or war, upholder of thy people's rights
divine;
C rowned with a loyal nation's love, by Heaven
supremely blest,
T hy reign in England's annals ranks the longest
and the best!
O f sorrows deep and lasting, good Queen, thou'st
had thy share;
R elentless fate on Royalty lays burthens hard to
bear.
I n peace may we for years to come enjoy thy rule
serene,
A nd in the twentieth century sing, as now,
God save the Queen! Marplot.

V ictoria, by all
belOved! most surely not in Vain,
I s thy name
writ in cur-
rent thoUght, more permanent than Ink.
C ould democra-
tic power foRge a stronger, firmer Chain,
T han the love
which makes
co-cQual all loyal men who Think?
O 'er us to rule
long years we
trUst, loved, honoured, and Obeyed,
R enowned in
this, that,
most revEred, thine is the longest Reign;
I n peace may
all thy days
be spEnt, no ills thy realm Invade,
A nd when at
length life's
journeys eNd, thy soul true bliss Attain!
A. A. G.

V ictoria! Victrix over land and seas,
I s there no empire which thou rul'st, save these?
C onquerors before thy time have won the fame
T hat conquerors crave—yet left an unloved name:
O, thine it is true loyalty to own:
R everence and love alike safeguard thy throne;
I ts record longest that our land hath seen;
A nd still the prayer ascends, "God save the
Queen." Litra.

V ictorious kings since Cressy's glorious day,
I n war's renown have made our country great,
C heck'd tyrants' schemes, and brought the proud
to bay,
T orn bold oppressors from their kingly state.
O ur honour'd queen, a kindly empire sways,
R etaining still our prestige on the main,
I n sixty years we've learn'd to love and praise
A glorious record and a record reign. Goak.

V ictorious years, most glorious years, have marked
her spreading reign,
I n unique majesty she stands 'moug England's
royal train;
C ontinuous good her rule has shed, her rule the
brightest, best,
T he longest and the strongest in our "island
story" blest.
O, spotless is her simple throne, and stands
sublimely sure;
R ight was the might, the ruling light, that made
her reign secure;
I ncrease has blest her prudent hand; all nations
do her bless;
A nd her people rejoice with deed and voice in her
reign of righteousness. Job.

V irtue may grow in cultured soil,
I t sometimes thrives 'midst want and toil;
C are cannot dim its brightness pure,
T hough malice frown, its smile is sure;
O ur own loved Sovereign wears its crown,
R efleeting her long reign's renown;
I n every British home is seen
A ffection for a virtuous Queen.
Dualwor.

V ictorious is Victoria! Lo,
I s it not right it should be so?
G ame hard-faced Mary, dealing death,
T hen came blue-nosed Elizabeth;
O f Anne, of all, what care have I?
R ather I turn me loyally
I nstead to her who stands above
A ll these in wisdom and in love.
Persius.

V irtues luminous enshroud
I n glamour bright our Empress Queen.
C ountless blessings have endowed
T he longest reign our land has seen.
O ver sixty glorious years,
R ecording progress, culture, pow'r,
I n th' expanding Empire, rears
A nation's love! Victoria's dow'r!
Ritas.

V aliant and mighty kings of yore have stood
I n England's throne, and fought their country's
weal!
C alled forth, in all her glorious womanhood,
T o rule an Empire, and its discords heal;
O rdained to hold her sway o'er Britain's realm
(R uling with wisdom, purity, and love),
I n length surpassing all who held the helm,
A waits she here the "fuller life" above
Nika.

V irtue and valour shall ever uphold thee,
I ndia's Empress and Queen of our land,—
C rowned in our hearts, with our love we enfold
thee;
T hus round thy throne in a phalanx we stand.
O nly to Una in thought we compare thee,
R uling the lion, thy hand on its mane.
I nto the fold of the Lamb it will bear thee,
A fter the longest and worthiest reign.
L. P. P.

V ain a monarch's praise to sing,
I f length of years were all the theme;
C rown may ill become a king.
T hrone its tenant ill beseem.
O Britons, let Victoria's name
R esound abroad while time shall last!
I n length of years, might, honour, fame,
A ll reigns by hers have been surpassed.
Collis.

V ictoria now all our monarchs surpasses
I n length of her reign, and good name with "the
classes;"
C ontent to be Queen, without very much ruling,
'T is thus she has kept our affections from cooling;
O n every occasion she 's played well her part,
R evealing a tact which has won each one's heart;
I n fact, we this truth would most willingly own:
A woman can, more than a man, grace a throne.
Almaviva.

V is the very best queen we have known;
I the improvement the nation has shown;
C is the care of her people she takes;
T is the time that her reign longest makes;
O is for old, but an age that endears;
R is for rule which gives near sixty years;
I ls the infinite worth she displays;
A the Almighty who lengthens her days. Rex.

V ivat Regina! Through nigh sixty years
I mperial stay of Britain's Empire vast,
C rowned ere yet life's early spring had passed;
T ruly by heaven upheld 'mid joy and tears.
O n every ear Victoria's record rings,
R esounding through the realms her rule hath
bless'd;
I n British hearts, by every tongue express'd,
A rise "Te Deums" to the King of kings.
Georgina.

V ocal with praise of threescore years near-past.
I mperial, regal excellencies of our Queen
C ommand our homage from the first to last,
T racing the history how her life hath been!
O n throne of majesty the seat hath ta'en,
R alsed on the summit of a people's love,
I mmense her influence, unmatched her reign;
A s all ranks justly in their places move.
Philalethes.

V ictoriously indeed hath our beloved Victoria
reign'd;
I n England none hath sceptre sway'd so long, or
so unstained.
C ome, then, ye English people all, in loyal love
agree,
T he best hath reigned the longest time, and
reigned right royally.
O ur Sov'reign Lady now hath reached her sixtieth
crowned year;
R uled hath she for the right alway; in ev'ry word
sincere,
I n life, upright and pure is she, in all her dealings
true;
A nd unto her, our Queen, is our devoted service
due. Elm.

V ictorious—yes—through three-score chequered
years,
I n maiden, married life, in widow's tears;
C ast upon billows that might wreck a throne,
T o helm the State through storms and straits
unknown.
O thers have ruled the land, but only thou
R eign'st in men's hearts, and shalt for aye as now.
I n days of strife and wild rebellion's flame,
A word shall quell the storm—Victoria's name.
Fred Cassock.

V ictoria, Queen, a name without a stain,
I count thee happy, not because thy reign
C laims to be longest, but because thy fame
T o ripe old age is cherished still the same
O f all thy subjects as in earlier years;
R eady to share thy people's hopes and fears;
I n all things faithful, mother, wife, and friend,
A nd monarch, may God bless thee to the end.
E. C. D.

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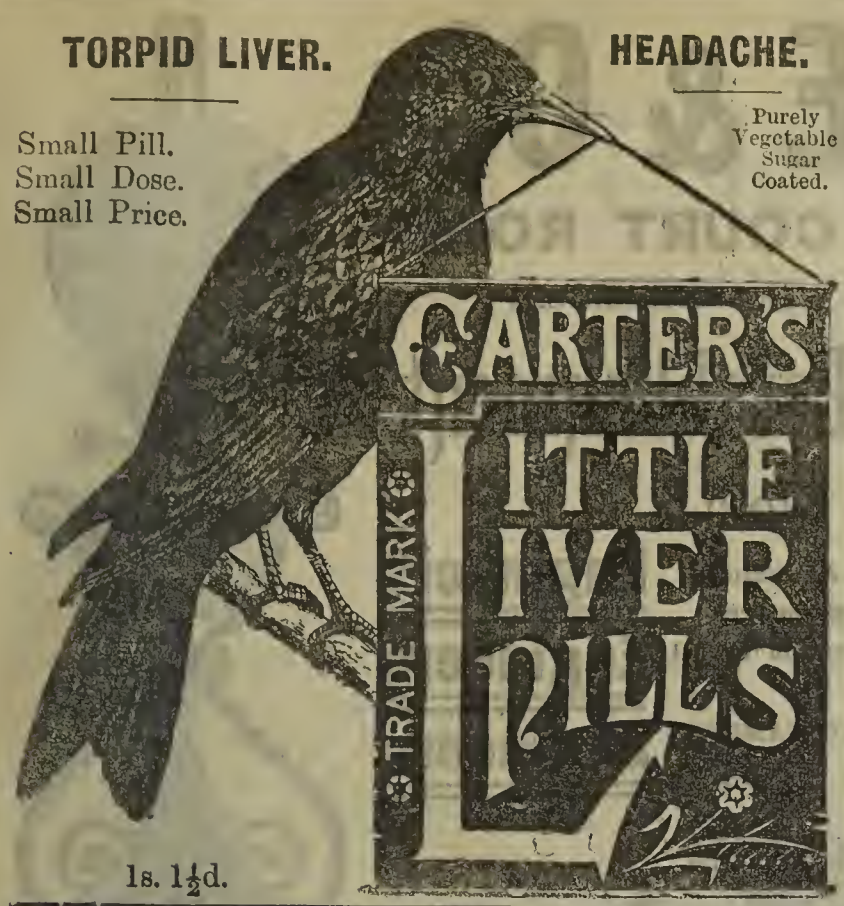

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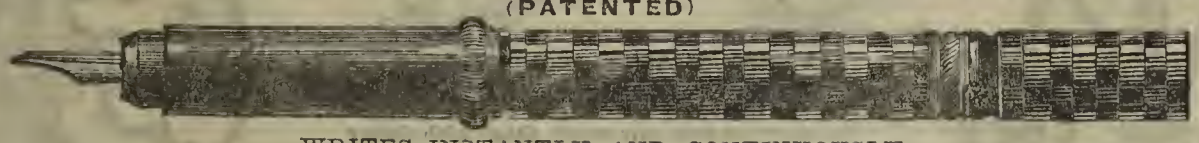

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• TRUTH •

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

I HAVE just had a census taken of the Doll population remaining in this office. The enumerators' returns show that the exact number is 478, made up of thirty-one large dolls and 447 small ones. At present these waxen young ladies are only clad in a frail garment of white tissue paper, and it is absolutely essential that they should be more fully and fashionably attired if they are to take part in the Truth Show at Christmas. Who, then, will help to dress them? If ladies will remember what the date now is, they will, I am sure, lose no time in acquainting me with their willingness to assist in this rather pressing matter.

During the Queen's five weeks' residence at Windsor Castle, Lords Kintore, Lawrence, and Bridport are to be successively the lords-in-waiting, and Captain Drummond Colonel Browne, and Sir Edmund Commerell will be the grooms-in-waiting on her Majesty, and Ladies Ampthill, Downe, and Antrim are to be the ladies-in-waiting.

A romancing weekly journal announces that during the Queen's residence at Balmoral she has taken "the greatest delight" in watching "the merry cycling parties of Princesses which have started daily from the castle." A pure fiction; for there have been no "cycling parties" whatever, and no Princesses have been staying at Balmoral who would be likely to take part in anything of the kind.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, who are staying at West Dean Park, near Chichester, on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. William James, are expected at Marlborough house on Saturday afternoon. They will spend next week in town, and are to pay a visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle. On the 23rd, the Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria go to Blenheim on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough until Saturday, the 28th, when they are to return to Sandringham, where there will be a large shooting-party during the following week, the guests being invited from Monday, the 30th, until Saturday, December 5.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania and the Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha have arrived at Vienna from Bucharest, on their way to Darmstadt and London. The Crown Prince Ferdinand and the Crown Princess Marie are to stay with the Duke and Duchess of Coburg at Clarence House, when they are in London, and they will visit the Queen at Windsor, and the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham, while they are in England. They are to spend Christmas at Coburg with the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and will afterwards visit Berlin and Sigmaringen before returning to Bucharest.

The Duke of Coburg, who was staying last week at Sandringham with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and who is now the guest of Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney, at Didlington Hall, Norfolk, will pay a visit next week to the Queen at Windsor Castle, and he is to have a day's shooting in the Great Park with Prince Christian. The Duke is to arrive at Plymouth on Tuesday, the 24th, for a stay of three days, and he will shoot at Mount Edgecumbe with Lord Mount Edgecumbe, and at Langdon Court with Mr. Cory. The Duchess of Coburg and Princess Beatrice are to arrive at Clarence House on Friday from Germany.

The Duchess of Albany, who returned on Friday to Claremont from visiting the Queen at Balmoral, will go to Cannes in January for three months, accompanied by her children.

An eye-witness of the occurrence tells me that when the Queen of Portugal attended the Pasteur Institute for the first time—her intention of so doing not having been previously signified—she entered the operating-room in company with two French peasants and an English costermonger. Doubtless it will be a proud day in the lives of those peasants and that costermonger. The Queen, however, does not seem to have been so pleased with her company, for on her subsequent visits special arrangements were made for her Majesty's reception in a private room.

▲

Dublin is now filling for the winter season, which, so far as concerns the weather, has come very punctually. The prophets are usually busy at this time with prognostications regarding the coming "season." The experience of last year, however, keeps them discreetly silent at present. Whether or not there is to be social prosperity for Dublin in the coming year has been left to the future to disclose. Lord and Lady Cadogan, who are still paying visits in England, are not expected in Ireland until the end of the month, when they will, as usual before Christmas, reside in the Viceregal Lodge. The vacant ribbon of St. Patrick has not yet been bestowed. For the credit of the Order, it is hoped in Ireland that Lord Roberts will be the new Knight, and not some one among the "Hottentots," who may specially have gained favour in high places.

The Chief Secretary and Lady Betty Balfour, with their family, are residing at the Chief Secretary's Lodge. This official residence is situated in the centre of the Phœnix Park, more than a mile distant from the entrance gates on the Dublin side. It commands an extensive view, in front, of the valley of the Liffey and the range of Dublin mountains, the historic "Fifteen Acres" occupying the immediate foreground. On some of the very occasional flying visits paid by Royalty to Ireland, members of the Royal family have planted trees in the pleasure-ground of the Chief Secretary's Lodge. Lady Betty Balfour gave a children's party on the last day of the month to celebrate the festival known in Ireland as "Holy Eve," and in Scotland as "Hallowe'en." The feast is celebrated in both countries by the consumption of apples and nuts, accompanied in Ireland by the "barm-brack," a large cake of the currant-bun class, which on "Holy Eve" always contains a ring.

Major Somerset Maxwell, who has succeeded his uncle as Lord Farnham, is well known and popular in Irish Society. He is the son of the youngest of seven brothers, several of whom succeeded each other in the title. One of them, when Lord Farnham, together with his wife, was killed in the great accident to the Irish mail, which took place many years ago at Abergele in Anglesea. Lord Farnham is an amateur actor of much merit, and has constantly appeared in public performances in aid of charities. He has also been prominent in the landlord defence organisations. His wife is a daughter of the late Lord Headfort.

The death of the Protestant Bishop of Killaloe was even more sudden than that of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The sad event was rendered tragic by the death of his wife almost at the same time. Dr. Wynne's kindly disposition and liberal mind made him popular with all classes and creeds in his diocese, and the funeral of the Bishop and Mrs. Wynne was attended by a large number of the Catholic clergy of the neighbourhood

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1262 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1261.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1263.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1273.

Mr. George Anderson, who died last week a tMel. bourne, where he held the office of Master of the Mint for ten years, was for several Parliaments one of the most zealous and prominent Radicals in the House of Commons, where he sat for Glasgow. Mr. Anderson had a keen scent for all kinds of abuses, and he enthusiastically supported Sir George Trevelyan's proposals for military reforms, which ultimately led to the abolition of purchase in the Army. He was one of the very few Liberal members who in those days had the courage to oppose Royal grants.

The late Mr. George Lane-Fox was a good specimen of an antiquated type of country gentleman. He passed the whole of his life in Yorkshire, merely paying an occasional and always brief visit to London, and he never left England. He was a most generous and considerate landlord, and took an active personal interest in the management of his large estate. Mr. Lane-Fox was Master of the Bramham Moor Foxhounds for forty-eight years, and he hunted the country most admirably. While fond of shooting, he was strongly opposed to the excessive preservation of game which is now so common, and he insisted that it was the duty of landed proprietors to cut their coat according to their cloth, and to live as much as possible on their estates. He was a Tory of the type of Vivian Grey's Sir Christopher Mowbray, who "had no idea of 'liberal principles,' or anything else of that school," and who for half a century "supported in the Senate, with equal sedulousness and silence, the Constitution and the Corn Laws."

It may be of interest to note, however, that in one matter even Mr. Lane-Fox was influenced by reforming ideas. This was on the subject of funeral reform. He was a personal friend of the late Lady Georgina Milner, who always strove to influence all around in this direction. At Mr. Lane-Fox's funeral there was no hearse, and no sombre trappings. His body was borne to the grave by old servants, and in spite of the unpropitious weather, the mourners followed the coffin on foot.

The house at Bramham, which was built by Lord Bingley during the reign of Queen Anne, was burnt down many years ago, and it has never been rebuilt, The park, which is one of the finest in England, and grandly wooded, covers 2,000 acres, and the famous gardens and grounds extend over 120 acres. They are the best examples of the old French style in the country, and the avenues, tall hedges, and *allées vertes* are very beautiful.

A reader in Chelsea tells me that although every householder may have the remedy for the organ-grinding nuisance in his own hands, the same remark does not apply in the case of those who live in flats. He gives a melancholy account of his experiences in endeavouring to "move on" a wandering minstrel who had struck-up outside his own block of flats at the

WATER SUPPLY TO COUNTRY HOUSES.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, London, W.C., & Greenwich, S.E.

cheerful hour of 11.20 p.m. Of course, a resident in a flat has the same rights as the rest of the community, although he may not feel so sure of his ground as the owner of a house, when he objects to an organ-grinder playing outside his windows. But it ought not to be necessary for any private citizen to expose himself to annoyance by attempting to stop a street organ at 11.20 p.m. The law should absolutely forbid street music at such an hour, and I would suggest to all sufferers that they should unite in agitating for the legal limitation of hours on organ-grinding. Why is there no Anti-Organ-Grinders' League? I could point to a dozen far less useful organisations now in existence.

I used to think that the last place that a sensible man would wish to go to was the North Pole, particularly as no one seems to reach that strange goal, although what he would see there, if he did, beyond snow and ice, I do not know. But I have entirely altered my mind since I have heard what an amount of money may be got by trying to get there. Dr. Nansen received £1,000 for his telegram to the *Daily Chronicle*, and £4,000 from the enterprising proprietors of that journal for his article. His book in English is sold for £10,000, and he is to receive £5,000 for the Norwegian edition. This totals up to £20,000, and to this may be added the French and German editions, which will probably bring in nearly the same amount.

The Editor of the *Leamington Advertiser* asks me to state that the humorous "Mace" article from which I gave some extracts last week was inserted by a *locum tenens* in his absence. From his asking this, I gather that he is not altogether happy about the article; but, speaking for myself, it struck me as a very original and spirited composition, and if I had such a writer on my staff I should do my best to encourage him, though I don't know that I should leave him in absolute control of the office in my absence. Mark Twain describes somewhere how, while serving his literary apprenticeship, he undertook on an emergency to edit an agricultural journal. It is no disparagement of Mark Twain to say that he did not distinguish himself more conspicuously in that position than my Leamington contemporary's understudy.

Mr. Augustus Hare's record of thirty-six years of his own life, in three huge volumes, is really a monument of egotism. The volumes are full of queer family incidents, and one of the very strangest relates to the birth of the author. Mrs. Augustus Hare, who was a widow and childless, offered to adopt her sister-in-law's infant, to which the mother replied, "My dear Maria, how very kind of you! Yes, certainly, the baby shall be sent to you as soon as it is weaned. And if any one else would like one, would you kindly recollect that we have others!"

The *Daily Mail*, with its enormous sale, must have cut into the circulation of some of the London penny morning papers. But it is not likely that any of them will meet this by reducing their price to a halfpenny. With the amount of paper which they give, this, indeed, would be impossible. Some of them advertise a daily circulation of 250,000. The loss of a halfpenny per copy would consequently amount to above £160,000 per annum. Twenty years ago, the penny hardly covered cost of paper, ink, and machinery. But since then paper has fallen 50 per cent. in price. Still the profit is not anything like one halfpenny per copy. By the way, it is rumoured in the journalistic world—I know not with what truth—that it is intended shortly to convert the *Daily Mail* into a Limited Liability Company.

Proportionally there is no great town in the civilised world that has so few daily morning papers as London. This is due to the large expenditure involved in starting one, for the yearly expenses of a London paper are more than double those of a paper in any other European capital. A very large portion of these expenses, as well as profit, has to come out of the advertisements, and advertisers are, for reasons best known to themselves, very slow in giving their patronage to a new paper. Any one contemplating starting a London paper must be ready to lose £30,000 or £40,000 per annum for the first two or three years, and then it is a very open question whether he will have turned the corner.

Of weekly papers, new ones are started almost every day, but I believe that it is a statistical fact that only about five per cent. survive. I should put the total copies printed per diem of the London morning papers at about a million. Of these about 10 per cent. would be returns, *i.e.*, copies not sold, which would make the daily circulation 900,000. Of the penny dailies, the *Times*, *Standard*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Morning Post*, and *Morning Advertiser* are Conservative; the *Daily News*, Liberal; and the *Chronicle*, Radical.

Mr. Poynter's election as President of the Royal Academy was received with more surprise than enthusiasm by the A.R.A.s, waiting for the news like Peris at the gate of the Paradise they hope one day to enter. He is a painter at most of respectable merit, nor was he supposed (erroneously, perhaps) to possess the gifts requisite in a President. The election, it is said, was due to the "old gang," who look with some jealousy on the younger Academicians, by whom they have been somewhat supplanted in public favour. Mr. Poynter is Director of the National Gallery. This is an appointment that is held for five years with a salary of £1,000 per annum. As President of the Royal Academy, he will have a salary of nearly £1,000 per annum in addition.

Next week Mr. Poynter is to be received by the Queen at Windsor Castle, when he will be knighted by her Majesty, who is to invest him with the chain which is the badge of office worn by the President of the Royal

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

Academy. Mr. Poynter's election must be particularly pleasing to Lord Wharncliffe, who possesses a number of the new President's best works, which are at Wortley Hall, near Sheffield.

Professor Ryle's election to the presidency of Queens' College has caused great surprise at Cambridge. It is a very rare, if not an unprecedented, event for the Fellows of a College to elect as their head a man who has no connection of any kind with the society. The real truth is that the income of Queens' College has been so much diminished by agricultural depression that the stipend of the President has been considerably reduced, and it is now barely sufficient to enable him to live in the lodge, and show the hospitality which is expected of him. Professor Ryle's stipend will be increased by the income which he receives from his Chair, which he will continue to hold. Professor Ryle is a very clever man, and popular in the University, and he may be trusted to avoid mistakes in his government of Queens' College.

The Oxford elections to the Hebdomadal Council resulted in a victory for the Academic Liberals. The great and highly-significant feature of this election was the unexpected defeat of Mr. E. T. Turner, who had sat on the Council as a Tory of the old Oxford type for more than thirty-five years. Since his defeat, Mr. Turner has announced his intention of resigning the Registrarship of the University, which he has held for twenty-six years. This has become an important and laborious office, and it may be hoped that Mr. Turner's successor will be an energetic and thoroughly practical man of business.

To complete the farce of the rectorial elections at the Scottish Universities, it only needs that the election of Mr. Chamberlain in preference to Mr. Birrell at St. Andrews, and of Lord Balfour of Burleigh against Mr. Haldane at Edinburgh, should be capped by that of the Marquis of Huntly at Aberdeen in opposition to Professor Murison. On what grounds Lord Huntly should be chosen for such a position it is difficult for an outsider to discover, but from some of the election proceedings I gather that his lordship is being commended to the favour of the electors, on the two-fold ground of his social position and his personal appearance. It is somewhat a set-off to the social position of a peer, however, to find him defendant in an action by the most notorious of living usury-mongers, Isaac Gordon; while against his lordship's personal attractions may be set the fact of his having five years ago promised a contribution of £600 in annual instalments to the University Buildings Extension Fund, no portion of which has yet been paid. Handsome is that handsome does.

One of the papers grumbles at the promotion of Bishop Creighton to the See of London because his career had been "purely academical" until he succeeded the late Archbishop Magee at Peterborough. As a matter of fact, the new Bishop of London held the College living of Embleton, Northumberland, for nine years, and he was widely known as being one of the most hardworking and most successful parish clergymen in the county. Dr. Creighton's labours at Embleton were viewed with marked approval by Bishop Lightfoot, who made him a Rural Dean, and by the present Bishop of Chichester, who appointed him to be one of his examining chaplains.

The vicarage of Kensington, which has become vacant by the promotion of Mr. Carr Glyn to the See of Peterborough, is worth about £1,000 a year, with house, and is in the gift of the Bishop of London, but on the present occasion the presentation passes to the Lord Chancellor, and not to the Crown, as has been stated. It was Lord Cairns who presented Mr. Carr Glyn, in 1878, when the present Archbishop of York became Bishop of Lichfield. Archdeacon Sinclair, the predecessor of Dr. Maclagan at Kensington, was one of the divines nominated by Lord Palmerston for the See of Worcester when Bishop Pepys died in 1861, but the Queen chose Dr. Philpott, who was a great favourite with Prince Albert, and had refused the Deanery of Ely in 1859.

It is gratifying to find that at least one prelate shares the views I expressed last week as to the proposal for the compulsory retirement of parish clergymen at the age of 70. The Bishop of Sodor and Man was the only member of the English Episcopal Bench who declined to join in the appeal to the Premier to make the Benefices Bill of last session a Government measure, and he has now explained that the consideration which above all others weighed with him against the Bill was the one-sided character of the compulsory retirement clause. "If aged and infirm incumbents are to be made to retire by the Bishops, surely," says Dr. Straton, "some one else should be appointed to compel aged and infirm Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, Archdeacons, and Canons to retire likewise." When the Bill comes up again next session, the opinion of the new seventy-six-year-old Primate on this point ought to be peculiarly interesting.

While admitting that the system which heaps several offices on one man should be condemned, the *Eastern Morning News* wants to know why TRUTH should be "so down upon the Bishop of Hull, as though he were a greater sinner than all the other Canons at York?" This is easily explained. It is not, of course, in ignorance of the fact that there are plenty of other pluralists that I keep pegging away at the case of Dr. Blunt. I do so because, as a clergyman who is at one and the same time Bishop of Hull, Residentiary Canon of York, and Vicar of Scarborough—the latter office in itself sufficient to tax the energies of any man—he happens to be a particularly prominent offender; and in any matter of this kind I prefer to tackle prominent offenders before dealing with the small fry. In short, I use this Bishop-Canon-Vicar as one of the "horrible examples" of a scandalous system.

I see that the Curates' Union has addressed as letter to the Bishop of Rochester protesting against the outrageous job which the Haberdashers' Company lately perpetrated in conferring the living of All Saints', Hatcham Park, upon the Rev. D. A. Townend,

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a youthful cleric who was only ordained three years ago. With this case the Union couples another equally scandalous appointment in the same locality, the Rev. E. J. Kennedy having been presented by the Church Patronage Trustees to St. James's, Hatcham, though he has actually not yet completed two years in holy orders. Score of similar jobs have been exposed and pilloried in these columns during the past few years, and it is now the fashion to condemn them at all Church Congresses and Diocesan Conferences, but it is not in the least likely that they will ever be stopped by the mere force of public opinion. What is wanted is a change in the law which will make it impossible for a cleric to be beneficed until he has put in some reasonable period of service—say, five or seven years—as a curate.

In reply to a remark made in TRUTH a fortnight ago upon the ratio of expenses to receipts in the Liberator Relief Fund, Mr. Stockwell Watts, the honorary secretary, sends me a very long letter, which he can hardly expect me to publish. The sting of my paragraph, Mr. Watts justly remarks, was in the statement at the end of it that 3s. 6d. out of every £1. 1s. subscribed had gone in office and advertising expenses; and Mr. Watts now denies that this statement is accurate, and asserts that only 2s. 10d. out of every £1. 1s. subscribed has gone in working expenses, and that this covers the whole cost of administering the Fund, and not merely "advertising and office expenses." As I said the other day, no one can wish to say anything to the detriment of the Liberator Relief Fund, and for this reason alone I think it very undesirable to enter into any argument with Mr. Watts upon the figures. I am quite ready to let the expenses stand at 2s. 10d. in the guinea instead of 3s. 6d., and I fully admit that a fund of this size can only be raised by a very large expenditure on advertising. Mr. Watts says that the recent paragraph in TRUTH has already caused some subscribers to stay their hands. In that case I can only say that the subscribers must be very timorous and hypercritical people. I need hardly say that I would gladly do anything in my power to increase the flow of subscriptions to the fund, and that the only object of my remarks was to suggest to the executive the advisability of a little more economy in the management. As the only visible result of my efforts up to the present time has been that Mr. Watts has compiled and printed a twelve-page pamphlet entitled "An Open Letter to the Editor of TRUTH," I fear that my efforts are likely to do more harm than good.

I asked in last week's TRUTH whether the "Mr. N. W. A. Edmonds," who figures in the *Exeter Diocesan Calendar* as one of Dean Boyd's exhibitioners, is a son of Canon Edmonds. It now appears that there is no exhibitioner of this name, and that, by a printer's error, Edmonds has been substituted for Edwards. This disposes of the question at once, and I am sorry that it should have been raised.

The following amounts have reached me towards the TRUTH Toy Fund:—Marie Joshua, £2. 2s.; C. W. L., £1; J. P. M., £2. 2s.

Sir Herbert Kitchener will not meet with a cordial reception at the War Office. The military authorities are simply furious at the preposterously large number of officers who have been "mentioned" in connection with the Dongola expedition. It was formerly the rational practice only to "mention" officers who had really distinguished themselves in some very special manner, but of late years despatches have contained literally dozens of names; and Lord Wolseley himself has been a great offender in this respect. Not one-third of the officers "mentioned" in Sir Herbert Kitchener's despatches can possibly receive the promotion which in the old days would have followed as a matter of course; so the invidious task of selecting a few names from the legion who have been recommended will be thrown upon the military authorities, who are decidedly annoyed at the folly and absurdity of the commander of the expedition in allowing his satisfaction with his subordinates to carry him to such extravagant lengths.

One of the most interesting letters that have reached me in reference to the recent TRUTH articles on the 4th Hussars, deals with the extravagance resulting in cavalry regiments from the presence of the "moneyed snob" element. Nowhere is this so apparent as in the expenditure on polo ponies in India. My correspondent tells me that some years ago, owing to the number of ponies kept by officers of some regiments, and the enormous prices given for them, poorer regiments were unable to compete, and many officers were compelled to give up the game. The extravagance reached such a height that at one time officers in many regiments were giving more for their polo ponies than for their chargers, and it was no uncommon thing to see the sowars better mounted than the officers themselves. This state of things led to the interference of Lord Roberts, at the time he was Commander-in-Chief, but from what I can make out, his interference by no means extinguished the evil.

No one will be surprised to hear that regiments where this sort of spirit prevails among the officers do not always show up well on field service. The correspondent to whom I have referred above writes:—

> I remember during the Afghan campaign of 1878-80, my regiment of Bengal Cavalry was brigaded with a regiment of British Cavalry. We found it to be a case of like master like man. The British regiment lost the whole of its baggage twice through sheer carelessness, the two occasions being in rapid succession. Consequently a large part of my regiment had to be employed practically as a rear-guard for the British regiment, the carelessness of which was so disgusting that our C.O. himself complained to the General that his men were so tired with this particular work as to be unfit for their regular duty.

The writer of the above goes on to suggest that if room must be made in the Service for those scions of the plutocracy desirous of distinguishing themselves by holding the Queen's commission, they should be confined to the Volunteers or the Militia, where officers are wanted, and where money would often be useful. I

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

doubt if they will do much good anywhere, but they are certainly not wanted where there is a chance of their ever being called out on active service.

I would ask, in connection with this subject, whether it is recognised as the proper thing at the War Office that certain cavalry regiments should keep packs of hounds. At the present moment two regimental packs are kept, if not more, one at Norwich and the other at Ballincollig; and, as I understand the existing state of things, any cavalry regiments which are sent to these stations have to take their share of keeping up the packs. There was an article in a sporting paper the other day on the "7th Dragoon Guards Stag Hounds," and it appears from that article that the 7th not only keep a pack of stag hounds, but "from twenty to thirty deer." If the latter information is correct, it seems to show that the thing is done in the most extravagant style possible, and no one can wonder that subalterns joining cavalry regiments have to be put through a cross-examination as to their private means before they are welcomed with open arms by their brother officers. If it is worth while to insert a paragraph in the Queen's Regulations on the subject of regimental entertainments at race meetings, the keeping of regimental packs of hounds certainly seems worthy of notice.

In reference to the article on the 20th Hussars in last week's TRUTH, I regret that, when dealing with the action of Lord Beaumont on the occasion of the riding-school incident, I had forgotten the sad accident which led to Lord Beaumont's death within a few months of his leaving the regiment. Everything, however, that has reached me up to the present time tends to confirm the absolute accuracy of every statement respecting the 20th in last week's TRUTH, and I have little doubt that Lord Beaumont did have the subalterns before him and reprimand them as alleged. That he would have done so, had the facts come to his knowledge, there can be no question, for he was, by general consent, an excellent officer, and a just as well as a good-hearted man.

The War Office have taken a most extraordinary step in allowing Major H. Montgomery Munby to retain his commission in the Leeds Engineers Volunteers after the circumstances attending that officer's bankruptcy. Major Munby was junior partner in a firm of leather merchants who failed some months ago, the creditors having refused all attempts at arrangement in consequence of their opinion of the manner in which the business had been conducted. In the course of the bankruptcy proceedings it has been proved that Messrs. Munby, whose assets showed a deficiency of £6,756 on liabilities to the amount of £10,990, had been insolvent for the last ten years, and it was clear that they must have known the fact. Major Montgomery Munby had had the cash-book and ledgers under his control for the last eight years of this period. Among business men in Leeds—and it may be added among the officers of Major Munby's regiment—there is only one opinion on the facts, and it is an open secret that the Major's retention of his commission has been allowed in opposition to the official representations of the Commanding Officer. The truth appears to be that potent political and religious influences have been brought to bear on Major Munby's behalf, and that to such considerations the War Office has sacrificed the interests of the regiment and the credit of the Volunteer force generally. Scarcely a week seems now to pass without some similar exhibition of partiality and corrupt motives under the present *régime* at Whitehall.

One of my Army readers asks me to draw attention again to the many instances to be found in the *Army List* of undue prolongation of Staff appointments. He comments especially on the case of a lieutenant, who got his first commission in 1888, and has held an appointment as A.D.C. in India since 1889—over seven years. In the case of subalterns, such prolongation of Staff appointments is specially objectionable, for it prevents them acquiring any proper knowledge of regimental duty, and ever developing into really efficient officers. The friends of Lord Wolseley were in hopes that when he took the chief command of the Army he would make a clean sweep of abuses of this kind, but, like many others, this hope has not been fulfilled.

The present rule that a Militia candidate for the Army, if over twenty-two years of age, must have completed three annual trainings sometimes works very unfairly. For instance, a candidate twenty-one years of age goes up in September and is ploughed. In the ordinary course of things he could have another shot in March, but he happens to pass his twenty-second birthday in the interval, and, consequently, must go through a third training before he is eligible. He thus loses six months, just at the age when he can least afford it, and, as far as I can see, that must be the result of the rule in nine cases out of ten.

I have received the following letter from an officer to whom I wrote asking for his views on the question of Artillery organisation:—

> The War Office proposal is merely tentative, and I doubt whether Lord Wolseley, in whom, as you know, I have implicit confidence, will consent (when he has considered the question in all its bearings) to make the drastic change which has been urged upon him by a clique of dissatisfied artillery officers. The garrison artillery is doing very well, and is as efficient as it ought to be The danger is lest it should be made too comfortable, and draw away young men (tempted by the bait of high pay and soft billets) from learning their duties as soldiers in the field. We must remember that our real lines of defence are our ships, and the country is spending large sums of money every year to prevent any risk of these lines being broken through. At present artillery officers are taught their duties in the field, and are then sent to the forts for a period of time, but they are required to be ready to go back into the field should war break out. I do not think the Commander-in-Chief will change this system, and forego the advantage of keeping a reserve of officers always ready for reinforcing the field army. The men of the local volunteer artillery are now sufficiently trained to occupy the coast forts in case of war.

I am afraid my friend has greater confidence in Lord Wolseley than I have. I know nothing about his proposal

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to reorganise the Artillery, but, like all his proposals, I am pretty sure its ultimate result will be to increase the Estimates. Lord Wolseley must not, however, expect any blank cheque in this matter. There is quite enough spent on the Navy, without spending money at both ends —on ships that will have to do the work and on forts and garrisons which only exist to quiet "old women's fears."

A Subaltern, R.A., writes as follows:—

In your last issue you made reference to the "portly warriors of the foot artillery." Let me assure you that this question of undue physical expansion is by no means confined to the rank and file. There are few officers in the garrison artillery, in and above the rank of major, who would not benefit by a course of anti-fat. It is not their fault, but misfortune—the distressing symptoms referred to being an inevitable outcome of the sedentary existence to which they are doomed. But worse even than this is that their minds also run to fat, insomuch, that to refer to them as "scientific officers" is merely to indirectly panegyrize adipose tissue at the expense of truth. Indeed, the only circumstance that prevents them becoming the veritable laughing-stock of both the Army at large and the fishing-smacks which occasionally pass their way is that, under the present organisation, they are periodically removed from their casemates—on trollies, or by means of other mechanical appliances, in the use of which they are popularly but fallaciously supposed to excel—and transferred bodily to the horse and field. There, under more active conditions, they are once again bumped into shape, and the moribund "military spirit" gains a fresh lease of life.

I have received several other letters on this weighty question, as well as on the attitude of Royal Artillery N.C.O.s towards the mooted reorganisation, but I am compelled to hold them over till a future issue.

I hear that the recent references in TRUTH to the practice of allowing corporals in the Army Pay Corps to wear stripes, and enjoy some of the privileges of sergeants, have been followed by a War Office circular directing attention to the Queen's regulations bearing on the point. I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing the text of the circular, but I trust that it will lead to some uniformity of practice, which seems to be the principal thing desired. I need hardly add that the appearance of the Army Pay Corps in the columns of TRUTH has brought down on me another budget of complaints about the slowness of promotion in this Corps, and it would be a good thing from every point of view if the War Office would devote a little attention to this subject also. There has recently been one promotion from the third to the second division, and this is actually the first since the formation of the Corps. There are several ways in which the block of promotion might be relieved, but I have not the space to go into them again now.

By the way, with regard to the question of the A.P.C. corporals, the following suggestion is made to me by one who has been through the mill. At present a corporal, after two years in the A.P.C., has his pay raised from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per diem. It is suggested that when a corporal becomes eligible for this increase of pay, he should be appointed provisionally as an unpaid lance-sergeant. As he cannot get his increase of pay without a special recommendation, it would follow from his getting the increase that he is a deserving man for promotion. As most of the corporals in the Army Pay Corps have previously served for several years in the same rank before they were transferred to the Corps, they seem to have a very good claim to some indulgence of this kind.

I have had to send a special copy of TRUTH to Letterkenny this week in consequence of last week's issue having been placed in the sergeants' mess of the Donegal Artillery with page 1149 removed. Any one may see by reference to page 1149 the probable reason for this mutilation. As I have said on previous occasions, this method of advertising an allusion to any particular military establishment in TRUTH is quite unobjectionable from my point of view; but what anybody else expects to gain by it I am at a loss to understand.

A very anomalous state of things exists at present in regard to the respective rates of promotion in the two branches of the A.S.C. So far as I understand it, there are a certain number of sergeant-majors in the Transport branch who are unqualified for further promotion, and who are allowed to block the promotion of all the men below them in the Transport branch, all vacancies for first-class sergeant-majors and commissions being filled up by men from the Supply branch. At the present time there are men in the Transport branch duly qualified in every respect for promotion, who have held the rank of company sergeant-major for six or seven years, while cases have recently occurred in the Supply branch of men being promoted from sergeants to warrant rank within three months. The average service of warrant officers in each branch at present is about eleven years in the Supply branch and sixteen in the Transport. These figures sufficiently show the reality of the grievance, and it is one which could be very easily remedied.

From all parts of the country complaints reach me about the change that has been introduced among the sapper farriers in the Royal Engineers, who are, I understand, all to become in future mounted men, which only a few of them have been up to the present time. What may be the precise nature of the arrangement proposed to the hitherto dismounted men, I am not sure that I clearly understand; the accounts, for instance, sent to me from Aldershot and the Curragh differing very materially. But one thing is clear, that while the men who are offered the chance of becoming mounted farriers are given something which looks like an increase of pay, the net result is that they will in many cases be worse off than at present. For instance, every unmounted farrier at present receives in pay of rank 2s. 1d., and in engineer pay 1s. 8d. per day, total 3s. 9d., and it is proposed to convert such men into farrier corporals at 2s. 4d. per day all told. Again, as corporals, the men will have increased messing expenses to meet, and one man at the Curragh calculates that whereas he is now drawing, as a sapper

Intending purchasers of American Organs should inspect the new models which Messrs. METZLER & Co., Great Marlborough-street, have just received from the factory of Mason & Hamlin.

WINTER SEASON, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

farrier, 14s. 1½d. per week, as a corporal under the new arrangement he will only get about 11s. net. As an alternative to accepting this arrangement, the present company farriers have been told that they will have to leave the farriers' shop and return to duty, forfeiting all the chances of promotion which they have gained up to the present time. It seems, therefore, that the new scheme is practically equivalent to an enforced reduction of pay all round. What excuse can be offered for this proceeding?

The shifting of the quarters of the Military Knights of Windsor every time the quarters of a Knight on the Upper Foundation fall vacant is an unnecessary and costly proceeding, which might be abandoned with advantage to all parties. At the present moment an officer who was appointed to the Lower Foundation five months ago has not yet come into possession of his quarters, and is not likely to do so until after Christmas, owing to the promoted Knight whom he will replace being kept out of *his* new quarters by the painters and decorators; while, as soon as this last Knight has removed, the quarters he vacates will have to be overhauled in their turn before the new Knight can enter them. The changing of quarters is an expense to the Knights themselves, and throws on the Office of Works the necessity for doing up the rooms twice where once should be sufficient; and there is nothing gained by it, for the Lower Foundation quarters are in point of accommodation decidedly superior to those of the Upper Foundation.

Here is another little light on the question of officers' servants in the Army. It has reference to the great difficulty which such men find in the way of improving their position. I am told that it is no infrequent thing when an officer's servant has been recommended to the Colonel for promotion to lance-corporal, for the C.O. to consult the master in the first instance, and to be guided by his wishes in the matter. Officers naturally object to part with a good servant, and it consequently follows that the better servant a man is, the less chance he has of rising in rank. My informant states that, in his experience, he has known more than one instance of an officer's servant, who has been thus done out of a chance of promotion, deliberately committing some offence for the purpose of getting returned to duty, and thereby so blackening his own character that his last state is worse than his first. I can hardly believe that the majority of officers would stand in the way of their servants' advancement; but this is a world in which many people consider themselves before their fellow-creatures, and I do not think it ought to be in the power of any officer to virtually veto his servant's promotion from personal motives.

Great inconvenience is, I hear, being caused by the delay in issuing the new Infantry Drill Book. In the case of young officers at the schools of instruction the consequences are something more than inconvenient, for they are practically expected to make bricks without straw; and I believe several cases have occurred in which men have been unable until the last minute to get hold of the text-book in which they were expected to pass, and have failed in their examination in consequence. Some few copies of the book have been in the possession of C.O.'s and others for some time past, and there is no reason why the book should not have been issued long ago. Is it the War Office or the Stationery Office that is to blame?

As I have more than once had occasion to say before, I do not sympathise very deeply with many of the complaints of soldiers against the new route marching regulations. Soldiers have got to learn how to march, whether they like it or not, and the efforts he has made to improve the marching in the Army are among the best things Lord Wolseley has done since he came into office. But here and there it seems to me that the thing is overdone. I have been studying the regulations just issued in the 2nd Battalion of the Buffs for the season 1896. From this it appears that extra marching practice is to be given once a week to all who suffer from sore feet, all who feel tired and fall out, and all who are recommended for extra practice by their company officers. Extra marching is hardly likely to cure sore feet, or to prevent a man from being so done-up that he has to fall out. And allowing a company officer to recommend a man for extra marching every week is practically giving him a very simple and convenient way of inflicting a punishment for any reason which seems good to him.

Again, on the occasion of a route march by the 1st Suffolk last week, the canteen followed the battalion with a load of beer and mineral water for the sergeants, but nothing at all for the men, who had to stand and look on while their betters refreshed themselves. It is a common practice, I believe, for a cart to follow with eatables and drinkables for the whole of the rank and file, and I think few will question that if any one on the march is allowed refreshment, all should be. A distinction of the above kind is not likely to make the men take more kindly to their marching.

I pillory below a few more minor military grievances. The attention of the authorities is specially requested to the question of the clothing of one squadron of the King's Dragoon Guards. This is the old story of men having to bear the cost of special damage to their clothing incurred during the manœuvres. It was suggested in last week's TRUTH that soldiers should be provided with some special dress when engaged on exceptionally dirty fatigue work, and on the same principle it seems at least desirable that, when turning out for manœuvres, they should wear their very oldest clothing. In the present instance, I understand that the King's Dragoon Guards started for Canterbury in their best serges, which were practically ruined in a heavy fall of rain during the second day the regiment was on the road, the men having been allowed to get wet through before they were ordered to put on their cloaks. At

SPA WINTER SEASON.—Balmy climate. Only 12 hrs. from London. *Cercle des Etrangers*, with every Monte Carlo attraction, always open. Hotel tariff from 10fr. per diem. Address, Jules Crehay, Sec.

any rate, there is no reason why one batch of men should be treated differently from all the others in the regiment:—

King's Dragoon Guards, Colchester.—Since their return from the late manœuvres at Canterbury, a large number of men belonging to the A Squadron in this regiment have been put down for new serges, costing 11s. 6d. each, to replace those which they had worn out during the manœuvres. They had gone to the manœuvres in their best serges, and several men had drawn new ones, to which they were entitled, for this purpose. The clothing of the whole regiment seems to be very much in the same condition, but only one officer commanding a squadron has thought it necessary to have his men's clothing renewed.

1st Suffolk Regiment, Aldershot.—In one of the companies in this regiment there is a good deal of growling over the delay on certain recent occasions in paying the men. A week or two back the company had been ten days without pay, although the money had been drawn in good time from the safe in the guard-room. The delay is attributed to the fact that the officer responsible generally has an athletic engagement at the time he ought to be paying the men. Far be it from me to discourage athletics, but duty should come before pleasure.

2nd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.—In order to keep up a string band in this battalion, £2 out of the £5 paid for each performance goes to the band fund, which has benefited in this way to the extent of £104 during the last year. Another pound out of each £5 goes to the bandmaster, and the balance to the men, the result being that each first-class performer has received £3. 8s. 7½d. for fifty-two performances, while the bandmaster gets £52. Whether it is desirable or not that a string band should be maintained, it certainly ought not to be maintained at the expense of the other bandsmen.

Fort Napier, Pietermaritzburg.—Complaints are made about the way some of the patients have recently been treated in hospital at this station by the orderlies, or one particular orderly, of the M.S.C. on night duty. In the early part of September a patient died from dysentery, and it is alleged that he had not been attended to between 2 a.m. and 5.30 a.m., when he was found to be dead. Other allegations are also made respecting the treatment of this particular patient, and it might be well if the authorities were to make full inquiries among the men who were in hospital at the time.

I am compelled to repeat, specially for the benefit of my military correspondents, that it is useless to send anonymous communications to TRUTH Office. A good many letters have reached me during the last fortnight which relate to matters deserving of notice, and which might just as well have been authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers; but unless these are given I absolutely decline to make any inquiries into the matters referred to, or to take any notice of the communications. Let me also take this opportunity of again impressing upon my correspondents, especially those in the Army, the desirability of curtailing the length of their communications. I have dozens of documents on hand now which I fear it will be impossible for me to wade through this side of Christmas. As I have explained before, the shortest letters always receive the first attention.

By one of those accidents which will occur even in the best regulated newspaper offices, it was stated in last week's TRUTH that there had been no meeting of the sergeants' mess of the 2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment for several months. This was an entire mistake, arising from the misunderstanding of a communication from a military correspondent. The irregularity in question occurred elsewhere—it is not necessary now to say where—and had no reference to the 2nd Cheshire.

The English engineers and crew of a ship which sailed from Greenock a year or two back under the Turkish flag, lately had an experience which should be a warning to Englishmen how they take service with the Unspeakable Turk. The ship sailed in the first instance for Jedda. She coaled at Port Said, where the firemen were all paid off and dismissed, for having insisted on their wages being paid up to date before touching the coal. Having filled up her bunkers, the ship proceeded on her voyage without paying the bill, but she came to grief somewhere in the Red Sea, and had to return to Suez to be docked and repaired. On the completion of the repairs, the ship was served with a writ for the coals taken on board at Port Said, and writs were subsequently issued on behalf of the ship's chandler, the firm who executed the repairs, and the crew. She was then "cried" at the mixed tribunals, and as the owners did not appear, she was eventually sold to a Constantinople firm. The money is now in court, and, considering the extent of the claims, there is very little probability that the humbler claimants will get anything substantial out. Neither engineers nor crew have received any wages since the end of 1894, and the chief engineer, who remained on board till August, 1895, has about £200 due to him. I do not know what the law as to the rights of the officers and crew of a ship may be in foreign countries, but it ought to be a clearly recognised rule that they have the first claim upon a ship, and English engineers and seamen ought to be warned against taking service without some security of this kind.

The return presented by the Admiralty shows that our Navy is superior to those of any two other Great Powers, and that our present rate of building as against theirs will maintain this superiority. This, as I had understood it, was the aim of our naval enthusiasts. Not by any means. They now contend that this superiority ought to be crushing, and consequently demand that we should increase the number of ships to be built. I wonder that they do not realise the self-evident fact that, if we do this, so will other countries, and that, consequently, relative strength will remain the same. What I gather our naval enthusiasts want is that we should have such a naval force that, in the event of our finding ourselves at war with any two Powers, we shall be able to sweep their navies from the ocean, either by sinking them, or by shutting them up in ports, and then that our commerce shall pursue its avocations on the high seas as though there were no war. I question whether the absolute certainty of this would be desirable, for a certain risk in the result of a war has a very calming effect on our "splendid isolation" dolts. But certain I am that, when the whole thing resolves itself into a question of cash, foreign Powers will also spend cash to prevent their commerce, their colonies, and their ports being at our absolute mercy whenever it may seem good to us to go to war. What has always struck me as the culminating absurdity of this scheme, however, is, that it is dependent for its success on our only being at war with two Great Powers. Supposing that success solely depends upon strength of naval armaments, and we were at war with France and Russia, Germany would be the master of our

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destinies; for by throwing its fleet into the balance on either side it would ensure to that side the victory.

It does not take much to hurt the dignity of our Orientalised Anglo-Indian officials. At a place called Ajmere, in Rajputana, a party of gentlemen, accompanied by a lady, entered the Railway Church, and, coming in late for the service, went up to the front pew before they could find a vacant seat. This turned out to be the seat regarded by the Commissioner, a gallant Colonel, as his own private preserve. His Highness, coming in a little later, had to take another seat. One of the intruders was a local police official. He was subsequently ordered to attend before the Commissioner in uniform, and was rebuked for his presumption in taking the Commissioner's seat, and in addition to this the parson received a hint that he should rebuke the other offenders. The parson's reply put rather a different complexion on the outrage, for it was to the effect that the Commissioner had no absolute right to the seat in question, his predecessor in office having expressly refused to have a seat reserved for him in a free church The parson might appropriately have pointed his answer with a reference to the scriptural condemnation of those who insist on having the chief seats in the synagogues.

The Secretary of State for India has entered into an arrangement with Messrs. Carter, Beal, & Co., the well-known firm of seedsmen, to forward to India about £10,000 worth of root vegetable seeds, in order to avert the coming famine. These seeds are already on their way to India, and they will arrive just in time for sowing. I trust that there will be no hitch in their immediate distribution.

An official, kindly enlightening me as to the reason why only personalty, and not realty, is mentioned in the published statements of the amount at which wills are proved, tells me that it is because the Probate Registries have only to deal with personalty, and that they merely collect the duty on realty for the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. These facts I understood before, but they do not to my mind amount to a reason. Duty is now paid on the whole estate, and if one portion of the amount on which duty is paid is made public, all should be.

At Cardiff Post-office a scheme is on foot for the establishment of a Telegraph Messengers' Institute, where the youths employed as messengers will be provided with means of wholesome recreation. This is in itself a very laudable project, but it will be a pity if it is allowed to absorb all the reforming zeal of the Postmaster. A cursory examination of the room allotted for the use of the postal and sorting clerks as their combined kitchen, retiring, and dining room ought to convince him that something also needs to be done on their behalf. The room in question is a basement cellar, with a window opening on to a walled-in yard containing the sanitary conveniences of the establishment; and improved accommodation would be greatly appreciated by the staff, who have to eat their meals in this den.

What I said last week respecting the circulation of obscene literature among undergraduates at Cambridge applies equally to Oxford, save only that it is a different member of the quack fraternity who is chiefly devoting his attention to the sister University. These two pernicious rascals appear to have divided the two ancient seats of learning between them, and they are both alike in paying their attentions specially to freshmen, being presumably supplied with lists for that purpose. The solicitude of the Universities for the morals of their alumni is well-known, and I would suggest that this is a matter deserving the attention of the Proctors. Were a joint deputation of the Proctors of Oxford and Cambridge to address the Postmaster-General on the subject, I do not see how he could refuse to take the steps necessary for suppressing all such abuses of the Post Office.

The Lord Mayoralty is a survival, and by no means a survival of the fittest. His mission is to give dinners, and he is generally rewarded with a Baronetcy. Why he should go fooling about in the Law Courts on the day of his inauguration few know and none care. But if the procession is to continue, it ought to be a good deal less theatrical, and less devoted to a warlike demonstration, than was the case yesterday. The cars representing past triumphs of our arms over Europe and present triumphs over African savages are entirely out of place in a civic march, besides being in themselves supremely ludicrous. I have seen many of these civic processions in Germany. It never occurred to any one to appeal through them to martial enthusiasts. Each trade had its car; war shone by its absence.

With reference to a recent paragraph concerning the Mayoralty of Warwick, I have received a letter denying that it was with any political motive that Lord Warwick was requested to accept the office for a third year. According to the writer's account, the action taken was "purely personal," and the Liberal member whose claims have been passed over is indebted for the slight rather to a cabal among his own political associates in the Council than to any hostility on the part of his political opponents. If this version of the affair is correct, some of the Liberal members of the Council have treated their colleague in a very shabby and discreditable manner.

The election of Mr. G. H. Long as Mayor of Windsor on Monday was the outcome of a most contemptible piece of party manœuvring among the Tory members of the Corporation. There was, on the face of it, something strange about the appointment of a gentleman who was not a member of the Council, and who only recently resigned the Town Clerkship on the ground of age and infirmity, seeing that in view of the celebrations of the Queen's record reign the Mayor's duties during the ensuing year are likely to be more than usually onerous, and

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seeing, too, that for something like four centuries the Windsor Corporation have never gone outside their own body for a chief magistrate, the explanation of this departure from established custom is that the Tories were determined by hook or crook to keep out of the chair Mr. J. T. Soundy, the Councillor who was next in order of seniority for the office, and who happens to be an active leader of the Liberal party in the borough. This object has been attained by pressing Mr. Long into the position; but not without causing a strong outburst of indignation, which found expression at a crowded meeting of the burgesses last week.

I trust that the question whether building and other operations are more cheaply done by a Board of Works, representing those who provide the money, or by a contractor, all wages paid being Trade Union wages, will be carefully threshed out by the London County Council, and that all data to elucidate the issue will be forthcoming. No particular principle is involved in it: it is one of figures, and whichever is the cheaper is the better for the ratepayer without being worse for the worker. As I understand it, the complaint of some of the members of the Council against the Works Committee is this. An estimate is made by the Committee in regard to the cost of any public work that is to be executed. Estimates are then obtained from contractors. Thus, what it would respectively cost to execute the work by the Committee or by a contractor can be judged. Now, when a builder tenders for a contract, he naturally sends in a low price, so as to cut out competitors. If the contract is not altered in course of construction, he generally makes nothing by it. His hope, therefore, is that it will be altered. It is asserted, I know not with what truth, that in some of the larger works undertaken by the Committee, alterations were made which reduced their cost, whilst smaller works were not altered. The latter cost more than the estimate, and this loss was made up by the reduction of estimated cost on the larger undertakings, this reduction being the result of reduction of building material, labour, &c., employed in these constructions. Whether this be so or not I do not know, but it certainly is capable of proof one way or the other.

Another complaint is that, on the total expenditure of cost, there is no deduction for depreciation of plant or for general office expenditure. Again, I say that I do not know whether these statements are correct. But if these depreciations and expenditure are not charged they certainly ought to be. As regards the former, any builder who keeps his accounts accurately, enters against himself, in his yearly balance sheet, an item varying from 10 to 15 per cent. on value of plant, and this represents what he considers to be the depreciation during the year.

When the German Emperor visited Aldershot in August, 1893, a sum of £39 was expended by the Local Board on flags and decorations. The item was surcharged by the auditor, who refused to allow such expenditure out of the rates. An active correspondence has since been proceeding on the subject, with the result that at last week's meeting it was announced that the Local Government Board have decided to allow the amount. It would be interesting to learn upon what principle the Whitehall authorities have acted in coming to this decision, which certainly will not meet with the approval of a great majority of the ratepayers.

A growl reaches me from a resident of Eastbourne in reference to the decision of the Town Council to continue the licensing of a slaughterhouse in Bourne-street, which is situated in a crowded neighbourhood, next to some parochial schools, and which has been condemned over and over again by the Medical Officers of Health. There was some proposal at first for the purchase of the land by the Corporation, with a view to closing the slaughterhouse, but the majority of the members seem to have regarded the amount asked for compensation as excessive, and so the licence is to be renewed. Why the Municipal authorities should be called upon to pay compensation for the removal of an undoubted public nuisance I fail to see; and it would be interesting to know what is the exact legal position of the Council in the matter, especially if it be true, as stated, that they have once refused to license the slaughterhouse referred to on account of its unsanitary condition. However this may be, there can be no question that, in a town like Eastbourne, a public abattoir should be established and all private slaughterhouses done away with.

Next Saturday will see the re-introduction of the motor car into this country. Sixty years ago—perhaps on the theory of the survival of the fittest—it failed to commend itself as a necessity to our forefathers; it will be interesting, therefore, to note whether, by the aid of increased scientific knowledge, it will command to-day the success denied to it earlier in the century. In celebration of the new Act, the Motor Car Club has arranged a trip from London to Brighton, at which between fifty and sixty of these horseless vehicles will be paraded. The start is to be from the Hôtel Métropole on Saturday next, at 10.30 a.m., the procession proceeding at a slow pace across Westminster Bridge to Brixton, from which point each will take its own route to the first halting-place, Reigate. After lunch the journey to Brighton will be resumed, and a public dinner is to be given at the Hôtel Métropole there at half-past seven the same evening.

An English resident in Geneva pulls me up for having said that in winter there is no sleeping-car on the Paris-Geneva route, and that passengers are changed about from carriage to carriage *en route*. "It is true," he says, "that there is no sleeping-car, but there are through first and second class carriages to Geneva by the train leaving the Gare de Lyon at 9.10 p.m." He is right. And I also was right, for I was speaking of the journey to Lausanne, not merely to Geneva.

Apropos of the tipping question, one of my readers informs me that at two large hotels in Berlin tipping is absolutely forbidden. Printed notices to this effect are hung in all rooms, and in place of tips to the servants a charge is made in the bill, varying from 5 to 12 per cent.,

according to the amount. My informant states that the system has given perfect satisfaction to the servants, and I suppose that it may be taken for granted that it gives satisfaction to the guests. The experiment might be worth trying in other hostelries.

I am told by a spectator that the Clerkenwell Sessions Court, when Mr. and Mrs. Castle were being tried, was crowded with wealthy American and Hebrew sympathisers. When the magistrates retired to consider the sentence, a few were for a heavier one than that inflicted, and a few for letting the lady off. Had she been, however, let off on the ground of mental infirmity, she would have been no gainer, for she would have been sent to a criminal lunatic asylum, as this since 1883 is the law. The sentence seems to me to have been a light one, considering the circumstances. Her room was, it was stated, so full of stolen articles that it looked like a museum. Medical specialists were called to show that she was suffering from what they termed "a peculiar disease," sometimes taking the form of kleptomania. I am no believer in this disease, for it only seems to attack rich persons, but, if it really does exist, I am sure that the punishment of every person caught stealing whilst suffering from it will have a very deterring effect upon its spreading. "Thank God," observed some wealthy person, "that we live in a country where there is one law for the rich and another for the poor, notwithstanding the attempts of those accursed Radicals to alter so proper a state of things." I wonder what would be said if we were to read in a newspaper that William Sikes had pleaded guilty to various burglaries accompanied with violence, and that, medical witnesses having stated that he was suffering from a peculiar disease sometimes taking the form of knocking persons on the head in dark corners and rifling their pockets, he had been sentenced to three months' imprisonment without hard labour, the learned Judge observing that, "the consequence of the sentence would be well weighed elsewhere, and that any danger to the life or intellect of the interesting invalid would be immediately attended to."

What is it that leads to a person having very hazy notions between *meum* and *tuum*? It is a desire to become possessed of something of value without giving an equivalent for it. An infant stretches out its hand to grasp everything that catches its fancy, and having laid hold of it, howls if it be taken away. The idea of the individuality of property is not innate in human beings. It is acquired, in part by the notion which is inculcated that it is wrong and discreditable to steal, in part because a punishment is affixed to stealing. Sometimes the desire of acquisition outweighs all else; sometimes that desire is subordinated either to respect for the moral law, or to the fear of consequences. But there is no greater mistake than to suppose that rich men do not steal. The records of trials show that often a man, who is so wealthy that he does not know how to spend the money that he has, tricks and cheats and lies, in order to get more. So, also, it is with women. All large retail establishments, such as Stores, lose a considerable percentage by the pilfering habits of the well-dressed women who frequent them. In one sense, all crime is a disease, for it denotes a want of balance in the brain; but to say that any one who allows this want of balance to impel him to lay hands on other people's property ought not to be punished, is to say that all law-breakers ought to be sent to lunatic asylums instead of prisons. Equally absurd is it to insist that, if those who steal because they are in want ought to be sent to prison, those who without being in want steal, ought, if convicted, to get off scot free.

Mrs. Castle has got off cheaply. When we are told that imprisonment for three months, without hard labour, will affect her health, this seems improbable, for I gather that she has been travelling about Europe, and, except in the matter of stealing, her health was that of any one else. Probably regret for what she has done, or from what has come of her doing it, will weigh on her spirits; but this is precisely the state of mind that imprisonment is intended to produce in a prisoner, and if this regret really causes her to be ill, she will be transferred to the prison hospital, where she will be cared for. I believe she is already there.

All connected with this Castle case is remarkable. The Castles, husband and wife, came over to Europe with a son and a letter of credit of—I believe—£800. Many of the objects found in Mr Castle's trunks had been stolen at Vienna. How in the world were the Custom Houses passed on their journey to England? One would have thought that the officers would have been surprised to find a large number of opera glasses and fans. On arriving in England the family, husband, wife, and son, occupied one room at the Hotel Cecil. Here again one would have supposed that the husband would have been surprised at a collection of goods, which are stated in the trial to have converted the place into a museum, appearing in this room, and at the additions which were frequently made to the collection. The child, it would seem, generally accompanied his mother when urged by her "peculiar disease" to betake herself to a shop in order to pilfer. This child saw nothing.

But an even more remarkable case was tried last week. A lady had been at a hotel, and when she was going away the chambermaid missed some plated candlesticks. On lifting a trunk belonging to the lady she heard a curious jingle. Suspecting this to be caused by the candlesticks, she informed the manager, and the trunk was searched. Inside were the candlesticks. The defence was that the lady was the lady of a manor, the patroness of a living, and the tenant of a flat in London which was lighted with electricity; and these facts convinced the jury of her innocence. I make no doubt that the finding of the jury was right. But as candlesticks do not usually betake themselves of their own accord into a trunk, it is interesting to speculate how they got there in this instance. It does not seem to be suggested that

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any servant at the hotel was suffering from any "peculiar malady" which obliges its victims to hide candlesticks in the trunks of departing guests. I have therefore come to the conclusion that it must have been a ghost or a spook, or whatever the visitants from another world are called, that are so lively at spiritualistic séances and such-like occult gatherings. It is true that I had not until now believed in these visitors. But, like every other person of sense, I am always open to be convinced by evidence, and what other possible hypothesis is there to account for the transference of the candlesticks to the trunk? I feel, however, that society owes a debt of gratitude to this spirit for having rendered it impossible that any living creature should be punished for the freak of a ghost. The spirit might have put the money of the guest into the pocket of the chambermaid. If it had been found there, the unfortunate and innocent girl would have been sent to prison. Instead of this, it put the candlesticks in the trunk of a lady of a manor, the patroness of a living, and the tenant of a flat lighted with electricity. It knew that no jury would suppose it possible that she could have stolen the candlesticks. Therefore there was no risk of an innocent human creature being punished for the foolish joke of a freakish ghost. And things turned out as the ghost anticipated.

On the day following Mrs. Castle's sentence, Alped Parhams, 54, needlewoman, and Henrietta Stewart, a governess, were convicted at the Clerkenwell Sessions of stealing a fur necklet hanging outside a shop. There seems to have been no previous conviction against these poor women. The former was sentenced to nine months' hard labour, the latter to six months'. When the governess heard her sentence she fainted. No medical experts testified to these women being kleptomaniacs; no suggestion was made by eminent counsel that they would suffer in health by being confined in a prison; the wealthy did not sympathetically crowd the Court to testify their regard for them. The needlewoman and the governess probably had been engaged in a long and bitter struggle to keep life within them for many a day. In a fit of desperation they may have laid hold of the wretched fur necklet to exchange it for food. No one pitied them. No one has signed a petition to the Home Secretary to shorten their sentences. Their trial and their conviction were hardly noticed in the newspapers. What matters it how a poor fainting, friendless governess, or a half-starved needlewoman suffers? Give them hard labour, Mr. Judge, and plenty of it. Impudent hussies! not to know that they ought to obey the moral law not to steal, rather than the natural law not to starve. What if their health is injured by prison discipline? Let them die! In so well ordered a country as ours there is no place for them. Let Mrs. Castle out of prison, Sir Mathew White Ridley. She moved in "the best circles;" she had no need to steal. But do not reduce the sentence on the needlewoman and the governess by a single day. The "best circles" know them not. They were poor and helpless, which, in the opinion of all self-respecting persons, are themselves crimes.

The New Silk Waistcoatings for Gentlemen's Evening Dress and Morning Wear can now be seen at Ulster House, Conduit-street, W.

The kleptomania nonsense is on a par with a story told by M. Rochefort in his Memoirs:—

> I was accosted one day in Oxford-street by a venerable, long-bearded compatriot, who confided to me his distress. He had just arrived in London, he said, after having escaped from France, where he had been condemned as an Anarchist, and he was without funds.
>
> "Ah!" I replied, "for some article in a newspaper, or for a speech at a public meeting?"
>
> "No," he answered; "because I had effected a social reclamation on a watch."
>
> He had kept the watch, so that society had not profited by this social reclamation.

In these Memoirs there is much interesting information about that political refugee, Cornelius Herz, who was so long dying of anxiety because he could not be moved from Bournemouth to London to meet a demand for his extradition by the French Government, owing to a complication of diseases which only rendered it a question of days when he would, by a higher Power, be extradited from this planet. According to M. Rochefort, Herz had been the associate of several of the political personages concerned with the Panama swindle; and he had used this position to blackmail them, until one of them, in despair, had committed suicide. When in London, he had managed to make the acquaintance of Rochefort, who was then denouncing the Panamaists, and had told him that a concession for a tunnel under the Channel was about to be granted, which would be worth untold money. He offered to give him a share in this, and to repurchase it at once of him for £12,000, provided that he suspended these attacks. Subsequently, when at Bournemouth "dying," Herz sent his daughter's governess to Rochefort to offer, if he would visit him at Bournemouth to put in his possession two trunks containing all the secret documents connected with the Panama scandal. "All that came," says M. Rochefort, "of these communications was the conviction that Herz was shamming illness, and my diagnosis proved correct, for no sooner did the English tribunals decide that he did not come under the extradition law, than the dying man cheerfully embarked for the United States, having, with all the patience of a Jew, played for a year a comedy of dying."

The clamour that was raised in some of the English newspapers on behalf of Herz is only one more proof that when men have plenty of money, especially if they are Jews—a nationality very fully represented in the Press—a "sympathy boom" is generally worked for them, no matter what they may have done. It is really becoming more difficult for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich Jew to enter a prison. I am curious to know the present condition of Herz' health in his American retreat. We had many eminent physicians making affidavits that he could not be moved from Bournemouth, and that even the possibility of his having eventually, if cured, to have his case judicially inquired into was so agonising, that this was accelerating his progress to the grave which was yawning for him. What do these eminent experts say now?

The following letter has been sent to me with reference to a question asked in last week's TRUTH, and I think it better to let the learned writer expound his opinions in his own words. I hope that what he says will be a warning to those J.P.s who were reported to me last week as having been regularly in the habit of taking fees for witnessing signatures to documents. On principle I should think there can be no question that the views expressed below are correct. A Justice of the Peace is an honorary official, and has no more right to be paid for one part of his duty than another :—

4, Paper-buildings, Temple.
November 5, 1896.

The Editor TRUTH.

MAGISTRATES AND THEIR FEES.

SIR,—Referring to and commenting on a paragraph in this week's issue of TRUTH, in which (on the authority of a Justice of the Peace of long standing) it is stated to be a not unusual circumstance for justices to demand a fee of one shilling for witnessing signatures to documents, the signing of which, in order to be valid, requires to be certified by them;

After careful research I am of opinion that such a practice is in no instance based upon law, nor has it any implied legal sanction, and must therefore be considered as a system of exaction not only unauthorised by any special enactment, but contrary to the whole spirit of the legislation which treats of the appointment and jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace.

By various Acts of Parliament magistrates are authorised to regulate scales of fees, but these are invariably to be paid to their clerk, and when collected they have no individual interest in them.—Yours faithfully, WYATT PAIN.

County Court Judges have been frequently accused in these columns of abusing their power of committing for debt by making committal orders on insufficient evidence of means, whereby the process of the Court is converted into a means of squeezing the debtor's friends, by leaving them to choose between paying his debts or letting him go to prison. The County Court Judge at Ramsgate has been in times past, I am told, a conspicuous offender in this respect, at any rate where people of humble station and limited means have been concerned. His Honour, however, has now suddenly developed a surprising affection for the strict letter and spirit of the law.

One Captain William Crawshay has just been sued in his Honour's court for a little matter of £35. 18s., owing by him to an unfortunate woman who keeps lodgings at Ramsgate, for the board and lodging of himself and wife and baby, from January to March last, and for the keep of the baby during a further period of two months, during which the child was left with the plaintiff after the parents' departure. The lodging-house keeper had trusted the Captain to this extent on the representations of the gallant officer and his wife that he was one of a family of millionaire coal-owners in South Wales, which, in point of fact, he is. There was no defence to the action, and on Wednesday last Captain Crawshay appeared in answer to a judgment summons. He is described as a fashionably-dressed young man, distinguished by an extremely high shirt-collar, a beautifully-dressed moustache, and an eye-glass. Questioned as to his means, he admitted that he had settled a reversion of £2,700 upon his wife, and that he was the only son of a lady with an income approaching £1,000 a year; but he also stated that he (like his father) had never followed any occupation, and that at the present moment he had no means whatever. Upon this, the judge refused to make any order, and, technically, I suppose he was right. But his decision is quite inconsistent with those he has repeatedly given in the case of humble individuals who are not members of millionaire families, and who are unable to appear in court in fashionably-cut garments and high shirt-collars. Unless, therefore, his Honour is about to alter his general practice, the conclusion will certainly be that the distinction which our law draws between the rich and the poor extends even to insolvent judgment debtors.

By the way, it would be interesting to know where this destitute officer, who has been living for two or three months at the expense of a poor seaside lodging-house keeper, obtained the means of appearing in court in his fashionable clothes and his conspicuous shirt collar. Assuming that some friend, other than a confiding tradesman, has supplied him with these luxuries, I would suggest to this friend that the generosity would have been better exercised in paying the Captain's debt to his landlady. Justice and generosity might thus have been combined. The party who supplies an absolutely impecunious individual with fine clothes, is in a measure responsible for the credit which his imposing appearance enables him to obtain.

All the tricks and abuses that I have heard of in connection with Service examinations are put into the shade by an audacious fraud which was brought to light at Dublin a few days back. An examination was being held for the post of Head Constable in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and a candidate who answered to the name of Sergeant Patrick Lennon aroused the curiosity and envy of the other competitors; first by his extremely youthful appearance for a man in the rank of sergeant, and then by the remarkable facility with which he got through his work. It was not, however, until it was noticed that this individual had toe-caps to his boots that he was really suspected of being an impostor. The rest of his get-up was perfect, his uniform fitting him without a flaw; but toe-caps, it seems, are a form of foot-gear entirely inconsistent with constabulary custom, and when they were spotted inquiries were made, which revealed the fact that the wearer was not the sergeant whom he had for three days represented himself to be. He turned out to be a young man named Conway, and he is said to have admitted that he had several times personated policemen at examinations before, and that he had likewise "performed a similar duty for gentlemen competing for the Customs, Excise, banks, and local breweries." Conway has been fined £5 for personation, and after this exposure the examining authorities for the Customs, Excise, and Constabulary may, I suppose, be trusted to see that he gets no further chance of exercising his abilities in this direction. The strange thing is that they should have hitherto apparently made the way easy for such a deception by requiring no proof of a candidate's identity beyond his own statement when asked his name in the examination room.

SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

In the following instalment of my Legal Pillory the magisterial attitude towards offenders against property and offenders against the person respectively is strikingly exemplified by the Chairman of the Liverpool County Quarter Sessions. "Determined to put down all ruffianism," he passes a sentence of four months' hard labour for a murderous and unprovoked assault. This is apparently considered very exemplary punishment for such a crime; but how far it falls short of what is constantly meted out for trumpery thefts is shown a little later in the same Court, when a woman receives nine months for purloining a pair of boots. Even if the woman had been previously convicted—a point on which the newspaper report is silent—a reversal of the sentences in these two cases would surely have better satisfied the requirements of justice. It is noteworthy, by the way, that while great weight is always attached to previous convictions for larceny, poaching, and vagrancy, those for acts of violence and cruelty are generally ignored, as they seem to have been in the following cases at Harrogate, Thirsk, and Bingley. I would also call special attention to the action of the Oldham Bench, who, after a temporary improvement, appear to have fallen back into their old practice of dealing summarily with cases of outrages on children which ought to be remitted for trial at Quarter Sessions or Assizes. To let off a vile scoundrel who commits such a crime with two months' imprisonment is a gross travesty of justice:—

Liverpool County Quarter Sessions. Before Sir William Forwood. James Carlon and Patrick Carney, convicted of wounding Thomas Cooper. Prisoners committed a savage and unprovoked assault on Cooper, Carney kicking him about the head, while Carlon bit him several times on the ear. He was picked up bleeding profusely, and had to be carried into a neighbouring house for the night. The Bench said they were determined to put down all ruffianism of this kind. Four months each.

Glasgow Central Police-court. Before Bailie Walter Wilson. Robert Lamb, a strongly-built man, charged with assaulting Helen Bryson. He bit her nose, causing it to bleed, and leaving the marks of his teeth, and then knocked her down and jumped on her. Fined £3. 3s.

Bingley Police-court. David Martin, charged with cruelty to a pony. He beat the animal unmercifully with the stock of a whip for a distance of about half a mile. Fourteen previous convictions, including one for cruelty. Fined 20s. and costs.

Harrogate Borough Police-court. Before Mr. I. Pickard and other magistrates. Thomas Wardman, cab proprietor, charged with cruelty to seven horses by starving them. The horses were left for days with scarcely any food, and were found in a stable in an emaciated condition, tearing down the manger and boarding, and gnawing the wood. Defendant had been twice previously convicted of cruelty. Fined £3 and costs.

Liverpool County Quarter Sessions. Before the same Bench. Annie Whittaker pleaded guilty to stealing two boots. Nine months.

Enoch Nyatt pleaded guilty to stealing a jacket and a shirt. Six months.

Glasgow Northern Police-court. Before Bailie Thomson. John Burns, charged with stealing a shirt from a clothes-line. Fourteen days.

Grimsby Police court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Christopher Steel, William Henry Jordan, and Arthur Dean, fishing apprentices, charged with neglecting to go to sea. Fourteen days each.

Barnsley Police-court. Before the Mayor (Alderman Woodcock) and other magistrates. Frederick Booth, charged with stealing a beer glass from a public-house. Fourteen days.

Exmouth Police-court. Before Mr. C. A. Langton. William Burns, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Thirsk Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. G. E. Lasselles, M. Cadle, E. R. Turton, J. T. Hansell, F. E. Walker, Major Mott, and Major Bell. Henry Nelson, senior, convicted of assaulting Charles Tetley. Without any provocation, defendant hit complainant on the face and brow with his fist, knocking him to the ground, where he kicked him. There were sixteen previous convictions against defendant for assaults and other offences. Fined 20s. and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Boam, W. Heathcote, R. Russell, and S. Whitaker, Joseph Cresswell, senior, and Arthur Cresswell, charged with assaulting Leonard Kirkland. They knocked complainant about in a brutal fashion, rendering him unconscious for an hour. Joseph fined 40s., and Arthur 20s. and costs.

Handsworth Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Tangye, J. B. Clarke, and J. E. Clarke. Oliver Morris, convicted of assaulting Harry G. Jackson by striking him on the forehead with a loaded stick, inflicting a severe wound. The Bench characterised the assault as serious in the extreme. Fined £2. 12s., including costs.

Walsall Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Noake and G. Gill. William Hogan, convicted of assaulting Henry Parker. He seized complainant by the throat, which he violently compressed, and threw him down on a heap of bricks, where he was found some time after, unconscious and covered with blood and dirt. Fined 20s. and costs.

Oldham Police-court. Before Mr. A. Crompton and other magistrates. Charles Smith, an elderly man, charged with indecently assaulting a girl aged ten. The Chairman said prisoner's name had been mentioned in connection with similar cases, but the Bench would deal with it as a common assault. Two months.

North Riding Police-court, York. Before Messrs. James Melrose, R. Hill, S. Hornby, and W. A. Wood. John Bean and his sons, William and Arthur, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having in their possession a partridge and two nets. Nothing was found in the actual possession of the defendants, but it was alleged that one of them was seen carrying a bag which was afterwards discovered on the ground, and which contained a partridge and nets. John and William fined £3 each and costs; Arthur £2 and costs.

Mansfield Police-court. Before Alderman Blake, Messrs. R. M. Dodsley, W. W. Hall, C. Musters, R. Alcock, and Dr. Nesbitt. Isaac Chandler, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a net and a rabbit. Fined £2. 2s.

Hanley Police-court. Before Messrs. M. Huntbach and W. Brown. A. Hancock, charged with stealing an overcoat from a shop door. Six weeks.

Kinross Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff-Substitute Johnstone. Andrew Watt, convicted of trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2. 15s., including costs.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Police-court. Before Messrs. T. P. Heath, R. B. Mellard, and J. Hand. Martin Jordan, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Two months.

Hove Petty Sessions. Before Mr. F Barchard and other magistrates. Alice Bott, a girl of eighteen, charged with embezzling £3. 16s. 7d. belonging to a laundry company in whose employ she had been for two years. The prosecutors asked the Bench to deal as leniently as possible with her. Two months.

The Lord Chancellor is busily packing the borough magistracy in his old familiar style, occasionally throwing in a solitary Liberal with a big batch of Tories for the sake of appearances, but more often than not leaving his jobbery quite naked and unashamed. Worcester has been favoured with one of his more indecent exhibitions of partisanship, every one of the six individuals whose names have just been added to the Commission of the Peace for the City being a Conservative. To remonstrate once more with Lord Halsbury on this flagrant abuse of his authority as magistrate-maker would be a mere waste of words. I would, however, venture to suggest that he should make a few independent inquiries among well-known local members of his party before he adopts any list which may happen to be submitted by some wire-pulling clique. In connection with these appointments at Worcester he appears to have been

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

betrayed into mistakes of omission and commission which a Conservative correspondent tells me have excited considerable wonder and soreness in Conservative circles in that city.

Does a dead pheasant really cease to be game in the view of the law in such circumstances as those related in the following case at the Hundred House Petty Sessions? A boy of fourteen was summoned for taking a cock pheasant without a game certificate. The defendant's father is the freeholder of some land adjoining a game-preservers' estate, and on this land a rabbit-trap was set. A game-keeper noticed a dead pheasant in the trap, and, after an hour's watching, saw the boy take the bird away. The solicitor for the defence contended that in these circumstances the dead bird belonged to the freeholder, that it was not game within the meaning of the section under which the proceedings were instituted, and that the boy could not therefore be convicted. It was asserted that the Judges had over and over again ruled that dead pheasants so taken were not game; but the magistrates were unconvinced by the authorities cited, and imposed a fine. The solicitor asked that a case should be stated, and the opinion of a Divisional Court on the subject would be of interest. It is a decidedly curious point.

The Recorder of Hastings gave an astounding exhibition of his quality as a judge at the last Quarter Sessions. Three boys were indicted for attempting to steal sweetmeats from an automatic machine, and the jury found them guilty, but recommended them to mercy, expressing the opinion that the machines were a great temptation to lads. In spite of this recommendation the Recorder sentenced each of the prisoners to one month's imprisonment, to be followed by five years in a reformatory. The Chief Constable had given one of the boys a bad character, but as to the other two nothing had been said; and, apparently, it was only after he had passed these monstrous sentences, and after the prosecuting Counsel had joined in an appeal to him to make some distinction between the three cases, that the Recorder thought of making inquiries on the subject. The result was that he subsequently revoked the sentences on two of the lads, and dealt with them under the First Offenders Act; while the third is now doing the months' imprisonment, which the Recorder seems to imagine will best prepare him for a reformatory. Such blundering, slipshod, haphazard methods of dispensing justice are to be expected on the part of the Great Unpaid; but one has a right to look for something better from a learned Recorder. One might also suppose that such a functionary would not commit the mistake of giving a youth a term in gaol as a preparation for a reformatory—an absurd and pernicious practice which is now generally discredited, and which is no longer legally necessary.

Thanks to the complaisance of the daily Press, the trade in bogus secondhand plate still goes on as merrily as ever, and an endless variety of dodges is resorted to in order to deceive the purchasers as to the character of those with whom they are dealing. Here is a good example, taken from the *Liverpool Courier*:

> IMPORTANT.—A valuable Silver-plated Tea and Coffee SERVICE, comprising tea, coffee, sugar, cream, magnificent design, cost £14. 14s.; offered for £2. 7s. 6d.; never been used; approval free. Mrs. Butler, 4, Grand Parade, Brighton.

The imposing address, Grand Parade, Brighton, is an establishment styled "Thurman's Temperance Hotel." Nobody of the name of Mrs. Butler has been there recently, but there was a man named Butler staying in the house last week. A man named Butler, as those who read my exposure of this traffic will remember, is also the founder of and principal operator in the bogus second-hand plate and cutlery line of business. Whether the above advertisement emanates from him, or from one of his agents, is not really of any consequence. The offer of a new tea and coffee service, value £14. 14s., for £2. 7s. 6d. is obviously a fraud, and now that the character of these advertisements is so well known, it is an astonishing thing that respectable newspapers continue to publish them.

From time to time, I continue to receive through readers of TRUTH in the medical profession, a large number of the circulars of Sydney Bassett, of 285, Oxford-street. According to his own account of himself, this worthy has been living for thirty years past by advancing money to medical practitioners upon outstanding bills, for payment of which they do not care to press their patients. Such is my respect for the medical profession that I do not believe this statement. If Bassett does much business with doctors, the probability is that his clients are some of the struggling men who are unable to get a footing in the present overcrowded state of the profession; and on that view of the matter his circulars ought to be an awful warning to young men who contemplate entering themselves as medical students. It would seem that their ambition to practise upon the suffering members of the community is not unlikely to end in their being practised upon themselves by the advertising usurer.

I have been making some inquiries about another of the Miller fraternity, who was lately carrying on a similar game in the name of Walter Lees, from 118, Fleet-street. A confiding countryman, who asked my advice about his case, had been backing horses through this Lees for some weeks last summer, and had always been called upon to pay whenever there was a balance against him. When, however, the amount showed a few pounds in his favour, Lees was taken ill, and became unable to attend to business. He has now disappeared from 118, Fleet-street, and, strange to relate, has omitted to leave his address. I am not an Anti-Gambling Leaguer, and I trust that I am not unduly wanting in sympathy for the misfortunes of my fellow-creatures; but I must say that the victims of the Millers and Leeses do not seem to me to deserve much pity.

One of my readers, who has lately been blessed with an addition to his family, sends me samples of the literature forwarded to him by post on this auspicious occasion, some addressed to him, and some to "the nurse." Prominent among the collec-

tion is, of course, the usual money-lender's circular, represented on this occasion by an offer from "Maile & Co." to afford any "temporary accommodation" of which the proud parent may be in need. The indecent haste with which the money-lenders gather round the happy father of a family on these domestic occasions suggests very painful reflections. I suppose that they would not be in such a hurry to offer their services unless they found that they were frequently required. I would suggest to those who take an interest in the thrift question that they should obtain statistics showing the number of parents who are obliged to have recourse to the advertising usurer every time an addition is made to the stock in their quiver.

My opinion has been asked on the following point of club management; but the writer does not give the name of the club:—

For a long time at this club poker has been played for very small stakes—in fact, a limit of 5s. rise only—but it has on one or two occasions interfered with the accommodation of some dozen of whist and piquet players, who frequently play for stakes amounting to some hundreds of pounds, more or less, in a weekly settlement. They reported the poker playing to the Committee, who have felt bound, under the rule forbidding games of hazard, to forbid the game of poker, thus depriving some fifty or sixty members of what is, as played there, a perfectly harmless amusement.

Can you let me know if there are any decisions (*legal*) as to poker being a game of hazard, also, if there are or are not many clubs where, under a proper limit, so as to prevent any possibility of what is real gambling, the game is permitted.

I think I am right in saying that poker has never come before the law courts in this country. What may have happened in the land of its birth I cannot say. From what I remember, however, of the arguments when the question, what is a game of hazard, last came before the courts, I should not think the Judges would have much difficulty in deciding that poker comes under this heading. Whether there has ever been any decision on piquet I know not, but at a guess I should think that piquet would be classified with whist as a game of skill—especially if the Judge who had to decide the point happened to be a piquet player. As to the other question, I have seen poker played in a club of good repute, but I cannot say in how many clubs it is permitted. Perhaps some of my readers may be able to offer evidence on the point.

In the above case it seems an absurdity that whist and piquet for high stakes should be permitted, and any mere game of chance, kept within suitable limits, forbidden. You may gamble as recklessly on a game of skill as on a game of chance, and if the object is to keep down gambling, it seems to me that a club committee should rather look to the amount of the stakes, whatever the game, than to subtle legal distinctions between games of skill and games of chance. That is the principle, so far as I know, in decently-conducted private houses, and I do not know what more you can require in a club.

Election literature is much the same at all times. At the Election that has just come off at Bradford, the Unionist papers have described Captain Greville as little less than an angel personally, and little less than Cicero oratorically; indeed, starting with the latter opinion of his oratory, it was difficult to go beyond it; but the Unionist papers succeeded in this, for each day their reporters announced that there was an improvement in the quality of his orations. On the other side, Mr. Billson was held up as a combination of Alcibiades in appearance, Solon in wisdom, and Methuselah in political experience, uniting the fire of youth with the caution of age. To see either of them, according to their respective newspapers, was to love him; to talk with either of them was to adore him. And yet, now that the election is over, no one will think of offending the modesty of either of those gentlemen by such extravagant laudation. Mr. Billson I always found a very pleasant and unassuming civilian gentleman, and Captain Greville is, I make no doubt, an unassuming modest military gentleman.

Tennyson's "immortal" lines—

> One life, one flag, one fleet, one throne,
> Britons, hold your own,

have had, it is stated, "a prominent place in the mural literature." Tennyson wrote much that is beautiful and much that is silly. I should place the "immortal" lines in the latter category. What they mean, I do not know. Did the late Poet Laureate imagine that we are going about the world in search of a cat's lives, a dozen flags, a dozen fleets, and a dozen thrones, with a reckless disregard of the expense involved in this multiplicity of luxuries?

There may be many lines more poetical than the following, but there are none which contain more solid good sense:—

> Statesmen that are wise
> Take TRUTH herself for model.

On Thursday last there was a significant passage in one of the *Times'* leaders, being a *communiqué*, which ought to have excited more attention than it seems to have received:—

On the other hand, the public, always keen to note indications of the opinions held by responsible Ministers, must be warned against what would be the very natural mistake of supposing that they have gained, from communications that have appeared in our columns, authentic information concerning the opinions of the Prime Minister. . . . It would be particularly unfortunate were the Convocation of the two Provinces, who hold their joint meeting to-day, to assume that the opinions expressed by Lord Cranborne and Lord Hugh Cecil are those of their distinguished father. . . . But, as things stand, it may be useful to issue a warning which is of general application, and by no means confined in its scope to the question now under discussion.

The truth is that Lord Salisbury has been obliged to take steps to make it understood that Lord Cranborne and Lord Hugh Cecil are not speaking on his behalf when they express their views on the Education question, as some of their recent utterances have given great offence to certain Cabinet Ministers. At the Church House meeting on Thursday Lord Cranborne confidently told his father's colleagues, Lord Cross and Lord Cranbrook, that they merely represent old-fashioned Conservatism. Lord Cranborne is really a wild bull of Bashan on the subject of rate-aid, for he has become a desperate reactionary, and appears now to sit in the House of Commons merely as the complaisant representative of the Episcopal Bench. At this meeting the warnings of practical men, such as Lord Cranbrook and Lord Cross, and Sir John Kennaway (than whom no more staunch Churchman can be found in the House of Commons) were not only disregarded but derided. Lord Cross was perfectly correct in his view that many people would positively refuse to pay a denominational rate.

Lord Crewe, following in the steps of his brother peer, Lord Tweedmouth, has contributed his views upon the situation. His lordship informs us that we ought not to trouble ourselves about the Leader of the Party, but make ourselves worthy of a Leader. At present, therefore, it would appear that we are unworthy, and that we are to remain in this condition until we amend our ways. Fancy an army being told that it is not to have a General at its head until it is worthy of one! How are we to prove our worthiness? As I understand it, by not venturing to presume to select a Leader, but by professing our willingness, in a humble and servile spirit, to accept the Leader that Lord Crewe and his brother peers will kindly appoint over us, and who will take good care that we do not stray into Radicalism. St. Denis managed, according to the legend, to walk about with his head under his arm; but even this Saint did not wait for some archangels to select a head for him after his own had been severed from his body. Why do the Peers not themselves act on this singular doctrine of fitness, and, having first cut off their own heads, send their bodies to legislate for us? But, when I think of it, there might be some advantage to us in such a House of Lords, for hereditary mummies without heads would be less harmful to the community than peers alive and kicking.

That the Peers who are good enough to call themselves Liberals have not only heads, but heads provided with extremely voracious mouths, the following estimate of the amount of public money which they received for their services under the last Liberal Government pretty clearly proves. The *point d'argent, point de Suisses* reads so far as our Party is concerned, *point d'argent, point de Pairs.* On a division in the Lords at most forty Peers voted against Lord Salisbury; this, therefore, is the strength of the Liberal Party in the Lords. Amongst these forty, the following retaining fees were distributed:—One Lord Chancellor, £10,000; one Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, £20,000; three Secretaries of State, £15,000; one Lord of the Admiralty, £5,000; one Under-Secretary, £2,000; one Lord Chamberlain, £2,000; one Lord Steward, £2,000; one Master of the Horse, £2,500; one Master of the Buckhounds, £1,500; one Treasurer, £904; one Captain of Gentlemen at Arms, £1,200; seven Lords in Waiting, £4,914; total, £67,018. One, therefore, in every two Liberal Peers received on an average about £3,000 per annum, or, taking the whole number of Liberal Peers at forty, their valuable accession of strength to the Liberal Party was counted to them for righteousness to the tune of above £1,500 each. Comment is needless.

A correspondent writes:—

Last week's TRUTH contained a statement that immediately after the General Election, Lord Rosebery caused to be conveyed to Sir William Harcourt that his lordship would not in future act with him. If so, what is the meaning of the persistent statements of Lord Rosebery's friends that Sir William did not consult with him? They have not, it is true, been made by Lord Rosebery himself, although his Edinburgh speech certainly conveyed that impression; but they are being made both by the Unionist Press and by certain Liberal newspapers. Let us have the facts. This would be only fair alike to Lord Rosebery and to Sir William Harcourt. If Lord Rosebery did convey this intimation to Sir William, how could the latter consult with him? Here we have an intimation from an ex-Peer Premier, still the official Leader of the Liberal Party, that, although retaining the Leadership, he will not act with the Liberal Leader of the Party in the House of Commons. What did he expect Sir William to do? To resign the Leadership in the Commons, although not one person contested his fitness for it either in that House or in the constituencies? This decree of ostracism privately pronounced by Lord Rosebery against the Party Leader in the Commons, without Commons or electors being consulted, is the most astounding exercise of dictatorial power that ever Leader has claimed. It reduces all belonging to the Party, except himself, to the merest ciphers. In his Edinburgh speech Lord Rosebery said that when a Peer is Premier, the Commons Leader must be to him as one Siamese twin was to his brother! Who, then, was the gentleman with whom he proposed to enter into twinship? Was there to be no Leader in the Commons until this twin was discovered? The whole thing is so extraordinary that it almost transcends belief.

To this my reply is that, extraordinary as the "whole thing" was, it did occur as my last week's correspondent stated. Lord Rosebery did convey to his late colleagues an intimation that he would not in future act with Sir William, and I challenge denial from any one of his late colleagues. After this announcement it is evident that the relations between the Leader of the Party and the Leader of the Party in the Commons were necessarily more like those between the brothers Cain and Abel than those between the joint twins of Siam. But where was the fault?

I never prophesy unless the event is sufficiently far off for the prophecy to be forgotten if it proves erroneous. But I never had the slightest doubt that McKinley would be elected President of the United States, so soon as I read that the odds were four to one on him in the betting. In America, the electoral art is reduced to such a science that it is pretty well known who will win before the contest, and when money is freely bet at high odds on a candidate the result is a foregone conclusion.

If Mr. Bryan had been wise he would have gone for bimetallism, if it so pleased him, but have left indefinite the ratio to be established between the two metals. His ratio simply meant the right of all to repudiate one-half of his obligations without this bettering any one in the future. But the victors would do well to realise that, apart from all questions of bimetallism, there is a strong and growing feeling in America against the huge accumulations of capital in the hands of individuals, obtained by means of trusts which are in reality monopolies, and by gambling in the cogged dice of railroads. All this can only benefit the few at the expense of the many, and in the long run the many will use their power, unless remedy be afforded to this pernicious state of things. A greedy plutocracy, unsupported by an armed force, cannot long hold its own against the rights and the well-being of all.

I am by no means certain that had I been an American I should not have voted for the Democratic ticket, had it not been that I regard all tampering with the coinage of a country as injurious to all, and that it does not strike me that Mr. Bryan is up to Presidential mark. As a rule, whenever the success of a candidate at an election is received with acclamations by the Stock Exchange, this is proof positive that his defeat would have been more desirable. The dollarocracy of America is its worst product. Its members have literally nothing to recommend them. The odds are that either they or their parents have acquired huge fortunes by means most questionable. As a rule, they are ignorant

and vulgar, building big houses in order to dazzle by giving in them ostentatious entertainments; buying pictures for which they only care because they have been acquired at high prices; selling their souls to anyone who will enable them to hobnob with royalties, and their daughters to any one who will confer a title on them; despising their own country and its institutions, and regarding themselves as in every respect superior to others on account of their dollars. If the United States is not to become a mere plutocratic oligarchy, the power of these worthies, which has increased, and is increasing, must be very greatly diminished.

A letter has appeared in the *Times* signed "Will Mashonaland," which territorial appellation denotes personally the Bishop of the Church of England in that country. "Will Mashonaland" points to the fact that 300 lonely graves throughout Rhodesia testify to the indomitable courage of those who took part in the Matebele wars by their silent eloquence, and he suggests that the English public should, as a testimonial to these heroes, subscribe £6,000 to be spent in enlarging a church at Fort Salisbury and another at Bulawayo. In the first Matabele war recruits were obtained by the Chartered Company offering in "black and white" loot if the raid proved successful, and these "loot bonds" were a matter of sale and purchase. Naturally, this tempting offer of loot attracted all the riff-raff of South Africa, and those who were slain in fighting the Matabele—about one to every hundred of the latter—would indeed be surprised at their "heroism" being commemorated by the adornment of churches of the Church of England, rather than by that of pot-houses. If I remember rightly "Will Mashonaland" has been the apologist of the raiders in the Transvaal. We shall next have him asking us to subscribe to erect a church in Johannesburg to the memory of the piratic expedition of the men who, like that "British nobleman" of former days, Orton, alias Sir Roger Tichborne, are "languishing in a British prison." Far better employed would "Will Mashonaland" be in preaching in his church, or his cathedral, or whatever he may call the building in which he officiates, the practice of the precepts of Christianity towards the unfortunate natives of the country over which he exercises episcopal sway. No, I do not contemplate subscribing one farthing to converting churches into monuments to those who engaged in an undertaking which was a disgrace to us as a nation.

I have always regarded with the profoundest contempt the valorous knights of the Middle Ages who, sheathed in armour of proof, careered about a battlefield, clashing their swords against each others' mail-coats, and slaying the infantry with about as much danger to themselves as a wolf incurs when it mangles a flock of sheep. This is very much the same feeling that I have for the "heroes" who, with arms of precision, engage in expeditions against Africans armed with spears or matchlocks. In Africa it is deemed a crime to sell to natives gunpowder, but those who have thus deprived them of the power of resistance are excessively proud of their exploits in killing them. I should as soon admire Jack Ketch for his heroism in tying a rope round a man bound hand and foot and hanging him. I believe that this is the estimate entertained of our warriors in Africa by all soldiers except the few who have joined them in the hope of personal advantage to themselves. What happened when the Jameson raiders encountered men with equal arms? Before one single officer amongst them was even wounded, they ignominiously surrendered.

Mr. Selous has just published a book on the war that has raged in Rhodesia. The action of the natives in rising against their good kind conquerors was, he says, unaccountable. I should have thought that the treacherous conquest of their country, the stealing of their cattle, and the insults and ill-treatment that they suffered from the gold-seekers and Company-promoters in their attempt to convert them into serfs, would furnish motives for the outbreak. Some of these "pioneers" were killed by the natives. This, says Mr. Selous, awoke the most bitter wrath in the hearts of all who looked upon them, Englishmen and Dutchmen alike vowing a pitiless vengeance against the whole Matabele race, and in effecting this vengeance they seem, according to him, to have been more savage than the savages. Thus he describes what followed after an engagement in which the natives were worsted:—

> *Væ victis!* Woe to the conquered! Woe, indeed! for amongst the men who took part in the pursuit of the Kaffirs on this, to them, most fatal day were many who, maddened by the loss of old chums foully slain in cold blood by the natives, were determined to use their opportunity to the utmost to inflict a heavy punishment for the crimes committed, while all were bent on exacting vengeance for the murders of the European women and children who had been hurried out of existence during the first days of the rebellion. Once broken, the Kaffirs never made any attempt to rally, but ran as hard as they could, accepting death when overtaken without offering the slightest resistance; some, indeed, when too tired to run any farther, walked doggedly forward with arms in their hands which they never attempted to use, and did not even turn their heads to look at the white men who were about to shoot them down.

And further on, without a word of protest, he cites as follows, from the account of a fight furnished to him by an officer stationed at Bulawayo:—

> There is a good deal to be said in favour of fighting when the state of affairs is such as you can go out after morning coffee to a certain find, with every chance of a gallop and a kill, and return to a late breakfast at, say, 2 p.m.

Whenever we do go to war let us hope that, for the sake of our good name, hostilities will be limited on our side to regular soldiers. They do not shoot down unresisting men, nor do they rejoice in being able to commit a few murders after their breakfasts in order to work up an appetite for luncheon. Judging by the account of the deeds of the "avenging crew" of Company-promoters, whose exploits are lauded by Mr. Selous, it is horrible to think of the hideous barbarities that must have been committed on those unfortunate Mashonas and Matabeles, who were risking their lives in order to secure that independence of which they had been most unjustly deprived.

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Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who appears to be hovering about Rhodesia, seeking in every way to draw attention to himself, whilst his instruments in the Transvaal raid are doing their time in prison, contributes an item of news which ought to make the veriest Jingo blush. Last week he telegraphed that Captain Ferreira, with thirty-five burghers, made an attack on Pampi's kraal. The kraal was captured and burnt, thirty-one of the rebels being killed. The enemy fled to the caves, which were blown up. When the French, after annexing Algiers, were engaged in war with the natives under Abd-el-Kadir, certain Arabs were smoked to death in some caves into which they had fled. Public opinion in every European country, including France, denounced this mode of warfare. The indignation of the English journals I well remember. But what difference is there between smoking out Arabs in a cave in North Africa and blowing up Kaffirs in a cave in South Africa? Talk of the rage of a lioness deprived of her whelps! It is nothing in comparison with the rage of Company-promoters when deprived of the opportunity of adding to their store of promotion-profits by black men impudently imitating that quality which white men honour under the name of patriotism.

How contemptible is the fuss made over Mr. Rhodes's heroism on the occasion of his famous palaver with the Matabele chiefs is further shown by a letter which lately appeared in the *Cape Times*. The writer of this letter, who signs his name, describes how, in 1879, the present Cape Premier, Sir Gordon Sprigg, advanced unarmed to confer with the chief Morosi, when that rebel was holding a fortified mountain, and defying the force of the whole Colony. The parley took place within point-blank range of the walls of the rebel fortification, and the writer remarks that "had the natives chosen to act a treacherous part, nothing on earth could have saved Sir Gordon Sprigg and his companions." This narrative is confirmed in a letter written to me by an officer who was present at the time of Sir Gordon Sprigg's parley with Morosi. The same officer tells me that in 1878, during the campaign in the Transkei, Colonel Eustace, now Civil Commissioner of the Mosselbay district, advanced many miles into the heart of the enemy's country, accompanied only by a native interpreter, to discuss terms with the rebel chief in the midst of his own followers. These acts, both performed at far more personal risk than Mr. Rhodes's much-puffed indaba, were scarcely put on record at the time, and have certainly not been made the subject of any personal advertisement. Why the difference in the case of Mr. Rhodes? Is it possible that an exhibition of personal bravery on his part is considered such an extraordinary occurrence?

In the account of the late indaba which appeared in the *Times* of Monday, it is amusing to observe how Earl Grey, who succeeded Mr. Rhodes as the representative of the Chartered Company in Rhodesia, appears to act as a humble clerk to that gentleman; and we are solemnly informed that when Mr. Rhodes promised some of the Indunas horses, they bestowed on him the honorary appellation of "Buffalo." But what I want to know is, what is the position that Buffalo Rhodes occupies in the Government of the country?

Heaven forbid that I should trench on the province of my esteemed friend Mr. Moses Moss, but I cannot help observing that the shareholders of the British South Africa Company are about as silly a body of men as ever mistook bits of glass for diamonds. Their shares are, in my opinion, worth at an extravagant estimate about 1s. per share. In the last year, their intelligent Directors have spent the £500,000 they had in hand, and £1,500,000 which they have raised by debentures. They anticipate a further expenditure of £1,000,000 before next September, and therefore they propose to issue 500,000 shares at a modest premium of 100 per cent. £300,000 of this amount had been underwritten, the consideration being that the underwriters should be entitled to take 150,000 of the shares of the next issue at a premium of 175. This arrangement was voted down by the shareholders. Had I been one of them, I should certainly not have taken a single additional share even at par, and I should have welcomed any body of men willing to underwrite a fresh issue at the premium demanded, on the conditions explained to the meeting last Friday. What I should, however, have moved, would have been (1) that the opinion of counsel be taken whether the Directors are personally liable for all expenditure incurred by the Company in connection with the Jameson raid, and the Matabele outbreak, which was the direct consequence of that raid; (2) that Messrs. Rhodes, Beit, and other promoters of the Company be invited to restore to the Company the one million shares which they presented to themselves after the conquest of Matabeleland; (3) that in the event of any of the said Directors having sold any of their shares, they be called upon to return to the Company the amounts for which they were sold; and (4) that in place of the said one million shares, the promoters be given Deferred shares, only entitled to share in dividends after 10 per cent. had been paid each year on the Ordinary shares of the Company.

I cannot say that I am particularly sorry for the dolts who purchased the shares of the Company at a premium of 700 or 800 per cent. But I should have thought that their losses would have taught them wisdom. There seem to be about 2,000 Europeans in Rhodesia, financially hanging on by their eyelids in hopes of something turning up to their advantage. It is pretty well admitted that there is no paying gold in the country, and its climate seems to preclude all idea of its becoming a home for European agriculturists. It is inhabited by savage races, by no means disposed to accept the Company's rule. Whatever cattle there were appears to have been

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destroyed by the rinderpest. At the present price of the shares, the capital on which dividend has to be earned is, including the new issue, six millions; and there are debentures out to the amount of £1,500,000. What human being can suppose that, when administration and interest on debentures are provided for, there will remain anything for dividends on the shares?

A Russian friend of mine writes:—

Before Russia undertakes to look after the well-being of the Christians in Macedonia and Asia Minor she must have a clear understanding that this mission is undertaken with the full approval of Europe. At present these Christians are placed under the protection of all the Great Powers; England has also a separate Treaty with Turkey guaranteeing the latter the integrity of Armenia; whilst by a clause agreed to at the Paris Congress that met after the Crimean war the Russian vessels of war are not allowed to enter the Mediterranean from the Black Sea. I have no doubt that the English people are just now in accord with Mr. Gladstone as to the English policy towards Turkey, but we Russians cannot forget what the English rulers did when we had sacrificed above 50,000 men to emancipate the Christians in Turkey, and had made a treaty with that Power which would have secured good government to those of them who were, like the Bulgarians, fully emancipated. Will England agree that Russia is to be invested with a Protectorate over the Christians in Macedonia, and over that portion of Asia Minor in which the Armenians mainly reside; and to her Black Sea fleet having the right to free exit and entry into the Mediterranean? As regards this latter point, Russia has no objection to all other Powers having the same right of exit and entry to that sea, and she would agree that no vessel of war of any Power might, without the assent of the Sultan, remain between Gallipoli and the Black Sea, longer than the time required to effect the passage. I have reason to believe that no Continental Power is opposed to the above arrangement. What says England? If she were to agree, you may rest assured that the Armenians and the Macedonian Christians would henceforward be safe in life, limb, and property. So long as she does not assent, you will never persuade the world that your Armenian meetings are anything more than a mere flash in the pan, or that you are not determined, as heretofore, to sacrifice humanity on the altar of your traditional policy.

SCRUTATOR.

CHURCH AND SCHOOLS.

THE advocates of voluntary denominational schools would have the State place them in such a financial position as to be able to compete successfully in efficiency with Board schools. At present both schools equally receive a subvention from the State, but excess of expenditure over this subvention is drawn in the Board schools from the rates, and in the voluntary schools from private subscriptions. As more money is derived from rates than from subscriptions, it follows that the voluntary schools are not as efficient as the Board schools. The former demand, therefore, that either the voluntary schools should receive a contribution from rates, or, if not, that the State subvention should be larger to them than to the Board schools. As regards popular control, they vaguely state that voluntary schools are prepared, as a *quid pro quo*, to submit to a larger measure of popular control; but when they condescend from generalities to particulars, this additional control vanishes into thin air. Their schools are to retain their present managers, who are to appoint the masters, and the tenure of office of these masters is to depend entirely on the managers. "Let me," said some sage, "make the songs of a country, and I care not who makes its laws." In the same fashion, it may be said, "Let me appoint the masters of schools, and I care not who makes its rules." Those who are, speaking broadly, for denominational schools almost entirely supported by the community are members either of the Church of England, or of the Church of Rome; those who are opposed to this scheme are mostly those who do not belong to either of these Churches. The latter hold that, whilst it is the duty of the community to provide schools for secular education—free and obligatory—all religious instruction of children is the affair of their parents and pastors.

Personally, I am, so far as State aid is concerned, a Secularist. Regarding, as I do, the connection of any Church with the State as an abuse, I am, of course, against the country being called upon to pay for the inculcation of the tenets of any religious sect. I see no more reason why the teaching of arithmetic, &c., should be coupled with that of dogmatic religion than that religion should be deemed a necessary ingredient in a course of gymnastics, or in learning the trade of a shoemaker. But I find myself one of a community where these sound views do not command general assent, and where large numbers—whether they be the majority or minority being doubtful—are of an opposite opinion. As a practical man, consequently, I am prepared to compound with those who disagree with me, provided that they are reasonable, for I prefer that all children should be educated, even though the education may include any religion which is based on morality, to their growing up without any education.

What, then, would I suggest? The population may be roughly divided between urban and rural. The urban has non-denominational schools under Boards, and denominational schools under managers, so that parents in towns can choose to which they shall send their children. The rural has only denominational schools, and these in almost every case are Church of England schools. Therefore, in towns, I would have Board and denominational schools supported by the rates, but the latter under popular control in everything except as to what appertains to religious teaching. This would, as now, be limited to certain fixed hours. The master of a denominational school would be proposed by the popular authority, and, if approved of by the managers, he would be appointed. Where popular authority and managers could not agree, the appointment would lapse to the Education Department. In rural parishes the position is, however, different, and therefore requires to be dealt with in a different fashion. There is no room there for a Board and a denominational school, and the latter occupies the ground already, this denominational school being, as I have already said, almost invariably a Church of England school. To this school all are obliged by law to send their children. Clearly, if we are to consent practically to support these schools, no matter whether this be done by State or rate aid, we must take the greatest care that the money be properly expended, and that any parent objecting to the teaching of the Church of England shall be able

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to send his children to the school, without their coming directly or indirectly under the influence of that Church. The only way to secure this is to create Boards all over the country, whose business it would be to see to proper expenditure of funds, and also that in denominational schools children of parents who are not members of the Church of England are not only able to benefit by their secular teaching without any admixture of religious teaching, but also that they are protected from any of the indirect modes that now too often prevail, by which a distinction is made between the children who share in the religious teaching and those who do not, to the disadvantage of the latter.

Those in favour of an increase of public money being granted to voluntary schools are divided as to the source from which the money is to arise, some being for rate aid, others for tax aid. If there is to be money granted, I think that I should prefer that it should come from the rates. Rates being levied directly, and taxes indirectly, there is a tendency to applaud all subventions in reduction of the former at the expense of the latter. But as taxes weigh more heavily against the poor man than rates, I have always been against these subventions. Moreover, whilst I am for no stint in the provision for a free education for all, the money for this is more likely to be carefully and economically spent in a locality when it comes out of the pockets of that locality, and the outlay is under local control. Many contend that the area of a village is too small to form a Board district, and they assert that villagers are not sufficiently intelligent to act on a Board I question both these propositions. Another opinion is that it is a mistake to directly elect a School Board, but that it should be a Committee of a Town Council in towns, and the Parish Council in villages. I have no strong objection to this myself, for I am no believer in a multiplicity of separate local authorities. On both sides of the question, there is, however, a good deal to be said. A good many villages are so poor that, left to their own resources, they could not, even with the present fixed State subvention, provide money for an efficient school by means of a rate. This might be met, as it is in several of the American States, by having a general county educational rate and a local parish rate. Subventions would then be made from the county rate to exceptionally poor school districts. We should then have a State subvention, a county subvention in exceptional cases, and a local rate. But my main aim would be to secure popular control over education. Without this, and with almost all the schools belonging to one powerful sect, every sort of abuse would creep in. For this we must fight, if we find ourselves unable to divorce the community from all connection with denominational schools. In towns, I am not afraid of undenominational schools holding their own, and, as a parent can there send his child to one of these schools, he is under no individual grievance, if those who prefer denominational schools send their children to them. But in rural districts there is just now a determined effort on the part of Churchmen to lay hands on the education of the rising generation. This we must resist to the best of our ability. If there is only to be one school, and that a school of the Church of England, in the villages, we must insist that this school shall, except during the hours allowed for religious instruction, be to all intents and purposes a secular school, and that the parson of the village shall have, *quoad* parson, no more authority there than any other inhabitant. A time will, I hope, come when the Church of England will be disconnected with the State, and when the sound principle will prevail, that the State has no more to do with the religious instruction of children than with the colour of their hair. But it is evident that this time has not yet come. Therefore, until it does, we must make the best of a bad job, and so soon as we have a majority make a good job of it.

The meeting of Convocation last week to formulate its orders to the Temporal Government in regard to the "rights" of Church schools was not of great importance, owing to its being a case of *tot homines, tot sententiæ.* After squabbling with each other for a couple of days the Convocation could only agree that "voluntary" schools must be supported by the community, but that the community must be allowed only to exercise over them the most illusory control. The whole proceedings carry us back to the days when the Church claimed sway over the souls, the bodies, and the goods of all in the country, and I am only surprised that the presiding Archbishop was not directed to excommunicate all who venture to question the pretensions of the Assembly to have the education of all children placed under the control of the Church, the funds being levied indiscriminately from all who pay either rates or taxes.

THE CASE OF MAJOR BRITTAN.

As though anxious not to be outdone by the War Office, the Admiralty has just accomplished on its own account an exhibition of the spitefulness and tyranny of officialdom, which forms a fitting supplement to the glaring instances of injustice in the sister Service lately brought before readers of TRUTH. I refer to the circumstances under which Major C. J. Brittan, R.M.L.I., has been deprived of his appointment of Staff Officer of the Plymouth Division Royal Marines. At the outset it should be understood that Major Brittan is an officer of eighteen years' service, recognised by those under whom he has served as a man of exceptional smartness, zeal, and ability, and, I believe, universally popular with his brother officers. He held for five years the post of Adjutant at Chatham, and is described to me by one who knew him there as having shown himself "an excellent Adjutant, smart and keen, and an enthusiast at his work." He was appointed Staff Officer of the Plymouth Division some two years ago, and has discharged his duties there without reproach until the events which I am about to relate.

It is the custom at the Royal United Service Institution, as my Service readers are aware, for a gold medal to be offered every year for the best essay on some subject, the subjects being naval and military in alternate years. After the prize has been awarded, a discussion on the best

essays is held at the Institution. This year it was the turn of the Navy for a gold medal, and the subject of the prize essays was the following question: "In view of the changes which have taken place in the composition of fleets during the present century, what system of entry, training, and distribution is best calculated to ensure an efficient body of officers and men of all branches for a peace and war establishment?" Three of the essays were set down for discussion at the Royal United Service Institution on May 1 last, the Earl of Hopetoun in the chair. It may here be mentioned that prior to this discussion at the United Service Institution an informal meeting of officers of the Plymouth Division had taken place, with a view to considering the points raised by the prize essays, and the line to be taken in the interests of the Royal Marines in the discussion at the Institution. Major Brittan was present at the informal meeting at Plymouth, and subsequently came up to London to take part in the discussion. The remarks which he made may be found reported in the Journal of the Institution. He addressed himself more particularly to the position of officers of the Royal Marines on board ship, and their relations with their brother officers of the Navy, and with their own men under such circumstances. As many of my readers are aware, these are matters in regard to which some considerable dissatisfaction exists throughout the Royal Marines, and the disadvantages and disabilities to which these officers are subjected when embarked, have been, at different times, discussed in Parliament and elsewhere, including the columns of TRUTH. They are obviously as legitimate matters for discussion at a Service club as any other point in connection with the question set as the subject for the prize essay; and they were dealt with in Major Brittan's speech with conspicuous moderation.

It would seem, however, that some one present—presumably one of that school of naval officers who lose no opportunity of teaching the Marines their proper place—felt aggrieved at the suggestions made by Major Brittan for enlarging the responsibility and authority of Marine officers on board ship, and accordingly brought the Major's remarks under the notice of the Admiralty. I understand that an official was soon afterwards sent round from the Admiralty to the Royal United Service Institution to try and obtain the transcript of the shorthand writer's notes. This he failed to do, and it follows that in the proceedings which they subsequently took the Admiralty must have been acting upon some private report, and presumably a report from memory, of the Major's words. It was alleged against Major Brittan that he had remarked in the course of his speech that in what he said he represented the views of his brother officers, No such expression occurs in the official report as published in the Journal of the United Service Institution. But these alleged words were connected by the Admiralty with the information which they had somehow obtained as to the preliminary gathering of officers at Plymouth, and a Board of Inquiry was ordered to inquire into what was described as insubordinate conduct. The result of this inquiry was that the Colonel Commandant and Major Brittan were reprimanded by order, the former for allowing the meeting of officers of his Division at Plymouth, and the latter for his speech in London.

This is merely the first act of the drama. It is not the habit of officialdom to allow an officer whom it has once accused of hurting its dignity to escape with a mere reprimand. At the inspection by the Board of Admiralty in 1895, Major Brittan had availed himself of the recognised custom of the Service, in order to make certain representations in regard to the grievances of officers of the Marines to Earl Spencer, then First Lord, and, after an interview with the First Lord, he was directed to put down his statements in writing, and forward them to the Admiralty through the regular official channels. This he did, as many have done before him, and with as little result, no answer of any kind being returned. Prior to the 1896 inspection, in view of the fact that a new First Lord was to appear on the scene, Major Brittan sent a letter through the usual official channel, asking whether any reply had been received to his letter of the previous year. This was, I believe, before the incident at the United Service Institution. No answer was given to the Major's second letter, but, after the prize essay discussion, the correspondence was raked up, and seems to have been made the ground for some additional charge of insubordination. At any rate, on this pretext, without being given an opportunity of saying a word on his own behalf, Major Brittan has been deprived of his post of Staff Officer at Plymouth, and sent on foreign service.

The facts of this case speak for themselves, and, as regards the part played in them by the Admiralty, it is the worst case of its kind, so far as my knowledge goes, that has ever been recorded. Instances enough and to spare have occurred in which My Lords have thrown their cloak over officers in a subordinate position who have been guilty of acts of injustice or tyranny towards their juniors. In quite a recent case we have seen the Admiralty shamelessly uphold one of the most iniquitous court-martial decisions ever pronounced, and the iniquity even carried to the length of the First Lord being put up in the House of Commons to bolster up the decision of the court by making statements which had never been proved in evidence, and which could have been refuted in a moment by anything in the shape of a judicial inquiry. But in the present instance the Admiralty themselves have taken the initiative in wrong-doing, and the motives by which they have been inspired are only too clear. The Royal Marines, although the public well know and appreciate the efficiency and value of the corps, are a sort of Cinderella in the Service. The more ill-conditioned of their comrades in the Navy are jealous of them, and affect to despise them; and this feeling is notoriously strongest among the higher ranks of Naval officers, whose views are more directly represented at Whitehall. The real offence of Major Brittan, it is easy to see, is nothing in the nature of insubordination. He has uttered not a word disrespectful to any superior officer or authority; he has done nothing in any way contrary to the letter or the spirit of Service Regulations;

neither directly nor indirectly has he been guilty of any act which could tend to relax the bonds of discipline. But he has presumed, being no better than an officer of Marines, to express at a meeting in a Service club the opinion that the present position of officers of Marines when on board her Majesty's ships might be improved with advantage to the Service. The mere utterance of this opinion is treated as a sort of *lèse-majesté* against the Naval element, to which the Royal Marines are at present subject; and for this high crime and misdemeanour all the resources of official machinery are invoked to exact summary punishment. I have had experience enough of official methods to know how doubtful it is that any exposure of such iniquity in a newspaper, or any comment which a newspaper may make upon it, will induce the individuals responsible for such proceedings to change their attitude. But the supreme head of our naval administration is a civilian, and one of the reasons for having a civilian in such a position is to hold in check such professional jealousies and prejudices as appear to have had full play in this particular instance. For that reason, it is to be expected of Mr. Goschen, who may be presumed to have little or no personal knowledge of the facts of this case, that he will yet inform himself more fully of the circumstances, and take some steps to repair the evil that has been done. The public will, I am confident, agree that for an officer of eighteen years' excellent service, an officer who has always borne the very highest character for zeal and ability in his profession, to be subjected to official reprimand and degradation on such flimsy pretexts as those that have been trumped up against Major Brittan is an intolerable outrage which ought not to be tolerated.

THE MUNCHAUSEN OF MONKEY-LAND.

Those who remember the exposure in TRUTH of the elaborate imposture carried out by the American "Professor" Garner, in connection with his famous expedition to Gorillaland, will find in the book which he has just published the fullest confirmation of everything that has been said or suggested about him in these columns. Although this work does not profess to be devoted exclusively to Garner's experiences in the cage which he erected in the African jungle, they naturally occupy a considerable place in the volume. The reader is told in the preface that "the favourable conditions under which the writer has been placed in the study of these animals in the freedom of their native jungle, have not hitherto been enjoyed by any other student of nature." In Chapter II. a full description of the cage is given, with photographs. Chapter III. contains a detailed description of the hero's life in this marvellous habitation. Later chapters contain casual references to observations on various apes alleged to have been made from the cage; and when, towards the end of the book, we get to the subject of gorillas we are favoured with detailed accounts of certain interviews with these beasts which Garner held from behind the bars. If, therefore, Garner had anything to say in answer to the imputations that have been made on his veracity, or if he could produce a single fact calculated to suggest that he did really live in this cage for upwards of 100 days—as he has asserted, and now asserts over again—it might be looked for in this book as a matter of course.

It will be looked for in vain. In the description he gives of life in the jungle at Fernan Vaz—or Ferran Vaz—there is not a word which might not have been as easily and graphically penned by any one who had resided, as Garner undoubtedly did, in comfortable quarters at a mission station, and passed a few hours in excursions into the forest. It is admitted, however, by all his critics that he really did spend two or three days and nights in the cage (accompanied by a native boy), and, granted this much, there is no difficulty in accounting for the presence of such little local colour as he has contrived to infuse into his account of his experiences. For the rest, the book will be searched in vain from cover to cover for evidence of one single observation or discovery of the slightest interest from a scientific point of view, which the writer himself has made during his pretended sojourn of over three months "in the heart of the primeval forest" (p. 20), under conditions which "have not hitherto been enjoyed by any other student of nature." The primary object of his expedition, the gorilla, is dealt with in three chapters of the book (XIV., XV., and XVI.). The first of these chapters deals generally with the habitat and physiology of the beast, the second with his "habits;" and, so far as I can discover, there is not a fact in the whole of the two chapters which can be recognised as the result of the writer's personal observations, unless it be his very full and interesting account of the screaming of gorillas by night, which, I suppose, there is no doubt that he has really heard. In the third of the gorilla chapters (No. XVI.) he gives some account of a young captive gorilla, which he says he kept for a time in his cage, but which died prematurely. This is followed by brief memoranda of the occasions on which he saw other live gorillas from his cage, and if he had said "at different times twenty-two gorillas came and looked at me and walked away," he would have given the reader just as much information as is conveyed in the six or eight pages devoted to this portion of his experiences. A curious point in this connection is that he takes a page and a half in telling how he succeeded in making a gorilla take his own photograph, describing the picture which he thus obtained; but though the book is freely illustrated with pictures of Garner himself under all circumstances, with pictures of scenery, pictures of natives, and pictures of apes in all attitudes—down to that of a chimpanzee riding a tricycle in the Manchester zoological garden—that supremely interesting picture, the photograph of a gorilla at home, taken by himself, has not been considered by the great exploiter of gorilladom worthy of reproduction.

There is another and still more curious omission under the head of gorillas. Shortly after Garner's return to the United States in March, 1894, an interview with him was published by the *New York Recorder*. In this occurred the following, among other statements:—

> Professor Garner did not find his cage a complete protection against the attacks of gorillas, *but it was strong enough to keep them at bay until he could shoot them.* . . . .

Strange to say, not a word about the attacks of the gorillas on the cage, nor the shooting of the beasts by the "Professor" while held at bay, appears in Garner's present volume. On the contrary, he describes the gorillas as decamping almost as soon as they caught sight of him, and he gave a similar account of them in his lecture in London on his return. What is more, in connection with the famous visit of "a huge female gorilla," carrying her infant on her back—which we now learn lasted "about four minutes," though it takes two pages to describe, and has already furnished nearly a column of copy (and a picture) to an American newspaper—Garner tells us that he was sorely tempted to shoot his lady visitor, but restrained himself because he was afraid of frightening away others—for which reason also he "had refrained from firing his gun anywhere within a radius of a mile or so of his cage." All this is obviously inconsistent with the story of his shooting down the gorillas. In one place, the reader is presented with a plate illustrating the skulls of ten gorillas, with an account of the history of each. Six of them belong to the Liverpool Museum; others were picked up by Garner in Africa; but not an allusion is made to the skulls, or any other portions of the anatomy of the ferocious beasts which would have demolished the cage, and the Professor too, had he not shot them down while the bars held them at bay. No one who reads the book can doubt that the story of the attack by the gorillas on the cage is a pure invention. Was the story invented by the *New York Recorder* or by Garner?

I do not propose to waste my own time, or my readers' with any further discussion of this precious book. What I have said will be sufficient to show that it is in keeping with all that is known about the author, outside his own romancing statements. Let me put side by side with his own account of the cage performance the evidence of others who were on the spot. This is Garner (p. 20):—

> I selected a place in the heart of the primeval forest, erected my little fortress, and gave it the name of "Fort Gorilla."
>
> In the latter part of April, 1893, I took up my abode in this desolate spot, and began my long and solitary vigil.
>
> My sole companion was a young chimpanzee that I named Moses, and, from time to time, a native boy, as a servant. . . .
>
> In this novel hermitage I remained for the greater part of the time *for one hundred and twelve days and nights in succession*, watching these animals in perfect freedom following the pursuits of their daily life.

Now, what are the facts as testified by other witnesses? Six months after he had landed in Africa, the interval having been spent in enjoying the hospitality of traders in other parts where gorillas are unknown, Garner arrived at Fernan Vaz, and took up his quarters in the French Mission at that place. This was on April 25, 1893. The "desolate spot" which he selected for the erection of "Fort Gorilla" was about fifteen minutes' walk from the Mission, and within sound of the convent bells. He did not "take up his abode" in the "fort," but merely paid occasional visits to it. He spent two or three nights there, never without the boy, and by the testimony of his companion, they thought they heard gorillas while there. He enjoyed at the convent "a good bed and a good table," and paid his attentions freely (as the missionaries state) to the mission claret. He was under agreement to pay to the mission five francs a day for his board and lodging, and when he departed in August he was indebted to his hosts to the amount of 500 francs—representing his bill for 100 days. He was unable to discharge this debt, and gave the missionaries a document binding himself to discharge it "on arrival of remittances from England or America." Up to a year and a half later his promissory note remained unpaid, and to the best of my belief Garner still remains indebted to the missionaries for his keep during the whole period which he professes to have spent in his famous cage.

These facts are established (1) by the evidence of traders and others on the spot, who saw through Garner, and communicated with me before his return to England; (2) by that of the French traveller Dybowski, who went over the same ground immediately afterwards, took the statements of the missionaries, and of the boy who had been with Garner in the cage, and denounced Garner as an impostor at a meeting of the French Geographical Society in Paris; and (3) by the direct evidence of the head of the French Mission in the letter addressed to me, and published in TRUTH of February 27, 1894, together with a copy of Garner's promissory note, of which I have a photograph now in my possession. These facts have been published, and have stood unanswered for years. Garner has been questioned on them by representatives of the American Press, and has only answered by calling M. Dybowski a "second-hand clothes dealer," the missionaries "Jesuits" (which they are not), and by announcing his intention of coming to England to pull my nose—a promise which, like that to pay the missionaries for his 100 days' keep, he has up to the present time made no attempt to carry out.

It may seem almost incredible that there should be any occasion to repeat to-day the story of this humiliating exposure. The publication of Garner's book, however, has revealed the fact that to this moment numerous instructors of the public in the British Press remain absolutely in the dark as to Garner's true character. Journals of light and leading in London and the provinces—conspicuous among them such papers as the *Globe*, the *Daily News*, the *Spectator*, and the *Liverpool Post*—have seriously reviewed the book, and retailed Garner's fictions to a credulous public, without a hint that the whole story of his adventures among the gorillas has been proved to be a piece of impudent humbug. Such an exhibition is pitiful, and to those journalists who feel any pride in their profession, humiliating as well, but it may have one satisfactory result. Should this ignorant trumpeting lead to any considerable sale of the book, assets will be realised which will at least suffice for the discharge of the debt which Garner left unpaid when he bade adieu to monkey-land. I would recommend the too-confiding missionaries at Fernan Vaz to at once sign judgment in this country on Garner's unpaid bill, and attach the proceeds of his book in the hands of Messrs. Osgood, McIlvaine, & Co. That will not only be an act of justice to themselves, but will set at rest for ever the question where Garner really spent those hundred days and nights.

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NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATEST THING IN ANTI-FAT.

DOCTORS are finding out that fair patients, who have not been some time in training, should not take cycle rides of 200 or 300 miles. One may say of cycling, "Chi va piano, va sano." The very long ride on the "bike" is disastrous to any skin not in the most healthy state. It may even spoil a good skin by overtaxing its power as an organ of elimination. It is no paradox to say that the more we live the more we die daily. Death shadows life, not only around, but in us. In living, we kill ourselves piecemeal; the dead matter turns to virulent poison. It kills as certainly as arsenic when we cannot speedily throw it off. Great exercise, by making the flame of life blaze brighter, deepens the death shadow.

Intensity of life and the perpetual motion of childhood subject the child to the usual "diseases of infancy." They are as the safety-valve. When we are young and strong, the dead matter is not allowed to accumulate. It falls from us like water from a duck's back, but as we advance in years of *indiscretion* the skin becomes less fit for its work, and the pleasures to be found in long and vigorous spells of exercise too dangerous. I often thought that those long rides by mountain, moss, and moor of the Prince Consort at Balmoral in 1861 were the cause of the low fever that killed him. Sir Richard Wallace was another instance of the mischief of multiplying millionaire enjoyments by great exercise. For fifteen years after Sir Richard came into the great Hertford fortune he kept on yachting and mountain climbing as if for a wager. When he got to the top of a mountain, or when his yacht scudded across blue water, he was as hungry as a hawk. He could eat often and with appetite, though nature kept warning him, by the failure of his teeth, to avoid tough food, and, indeed, any heavy feeding. So the death shadow grew blacker and blacker. He had aches all over, and at last became a martyr to gouty rheumatism. Inflammatory crises became more frequent; he went off in one of them—prematurely, I believe—for he was intended by nature to live to extreme old age.

A special treatment for victims of the "bike" has already sprung up. Of the medicinal part I am ignorant, but I know that the Russian bath, hot drinks, and lying in a heated bed are among its features. Not a few cases of typhus have been traced to long cycle tours. No doctor objects to the use—only to the abuse—of cycling. That darling of lady patients, Dr. Lutaud, prescribes moderate and regular cycling in his anti-fat treatment. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt is alive to the advantages of his regimen. The Lutaud dietary is five spare meals or "snacks" a day. Why so many? To prevent craving for much food at a time. Taking five meals a day, one is never very hungry. One is allowed at the first breakfast, between seven and nine, 1½ oz. to 2 oz. of meat, and the same weight of toast, with no butter, and a cup of unsweetened tea. At lunch, between eleven and one p.m., meat according to appetite. It may be supplemented with an egg, poached or boiled, and cheese. The toast is again kept under 2 oz. For drink a cup of tea without milk. A light afternoon refreshment is taken of biscuits and a small glass of madeira and tea (unsweetened). Dinner between seven and eight, with no soup. Fish, meat, salad, celery, may be eaten heartily, but not *ad libitum*. From 1½ oz. to 2 oz. of boiled vegetables are allowed. Toast as at lunch, and a dessert of juicy fruit sparingly taken. Drink confined to a small glass of Bordeaux or Burgundy. The fifth meal is served between eleven at night and one in the morning. This is a time-table for society or stage people alone. It consists of cold lean meat or fowl, one biscuit, and a glass of madeira. Should thirst be very great, the patient (is it a patient?) rinses her mouth and moistens her lips. In no case should much drink be taken with or just after a meal. The best way to banish tormenting thirst is by the use of the vapour bath, followed by a douche. The hydro part of this treatment is most important, inasmuch as it stimulates the skin, opens pores, and throws out toxins.

Actresses are invariably prescribed Swedish gymnastics. So are Society ladies—if young enough to practise them with safety. This exercise is alternated with cycling and special massage. Being a mere laic, I do not venture to deal with iodides, extracts, bitters, cream of tartar, and what not, administered to the inner woman who wants to win back a sylph-like figure. Besides, what might not be a strong dose in the heavy, soporific English climate, might be an overdose in France. Temperaments have also to be considered. A lymphatic blond needs more help from the chemist than a lively brunette.

The fear of fat was the standing terror of actresses and models for the nude until the doctors saw the professional advantage of studying its treatment. You can improve a lean figure for stage purposes, but there is no way of hiding superfluous fat. Indeed, the fat woman is at her worst when elaborately dressed, and at her best in a rich, plain, well-cut gown, with a few large and magnificent jewels. The actress threatened with obesity can now follow an anti-fat regimen without resorting to the weakening Marienbad waters, or neglecting her theatrical work. But it is better not to throw any great strain on the brain while a dietary that excludes copious drinks is being followed. Toxins following on brain waste are the worst of all, and are best got rid of by non-alcoholic drinks.

Dr. Lutaud is a Parisian Lawson Tait; the friend in need of the fashionable ladies; has a gentle, soothing way of gaining their confidence, and, indeed, of "confessing" them. Like his British confrère, he has frolicsome spirits and both wit and drollery. The spirits are catching. Of the intrinsic merits of his anti-fat treatment I have no doubt. But could his lady patients undergo it were it not for his power to cheer them up? It is not enough to prescribe a treatment to patients who have been spoiled by fortune, and are in a state of almost Oriental torpor from the load of flesh which, as Falstaff puts it, is a frailty the more. It is here that the Lawson-Tait manner and power to enliven and "suggest" comes in. The Doctor is looked to by the

patients to brace up their wills. They are glad to repeat their visits. Of course, poor things, they feel awfully low and depressed in the early days of the "cure." But when the mirror tells the flattering tale that bulk decreases without the skin becoming loosened in consequence, hope rises. The length of the treatment is long enough for the formation of dietetic habits that are helps to the triumph of the angel nature latent in all women.

Fat has sad disadvantages. The fat woman can never get a ready-made garment wide enough to fit her. She is in the way in a brougham, passes with difficulty to a place in the pit or balcony of the theatre, or at the far end of a pew already nearly filled. Cycling is, in her case, doubly dangerous. She hates to walk, she would be absurd on horseback. Her corsets are quickly shapeless and worn out; and what article of dress is more expensive than a well-made corset? But there are compensations. The nerves of the fat woman are muffled up. If good-natured, she becomes a delightful, indolent, hospitable soul, never worrying about trifles, easy to please, domestic, and glad to see happy faces round her. The late Mme. Alboni became an angel of kindness as she increased in flesh. Towards the end of her life a wide arm-chair was too narrow for her use, and a sofa hardly wide enough.

The photos of the new Duchesse d'Orléans are on sale all over the town. She is no chit, no insipid, blank schoolgirl, but looks *une femme faite.* The Hungarian surroundings in which she spent the eight-and-twenty years of her life have apparently influenced her character. She looks enterprising, shrewd, mettlesome and—must I apply such a word to a born Archduchess?—jolly. The strongest women of the Imperial family belong to her branch. They are the Queen of the Belgians and the Archduchess Elizabeth, mother of Queen Christina. It was rather daring of the Duchesse d'Orléans to don the closed or regalian crown at her wedding, which, be it remarked, took place at the Hofburg in the presence of the Emperor Francis Joseph and of a Court which more than any other attaches great importance to points of ceremonial. The wonder is that the Emperor suffered this outbreak of French royalism under his roof. He possibly was influenced by the Archduchess Elizabeth, the member of his family to whom he is most attached. She is, on account of Cuba, most anxious for an Orleanist restoration in France. The French are after Morocco. The Cuban insurrection, by wasting the strength of Spain, will, by and by, facilitate a French expedition to Tangier. I am not sure that a Bourbon restoration in France would release Queen Christina from any of her anxieties. French kings of the Bourbon lines were utter Jingoes. Louis Philippe was none the less a Jingo for trying to pass for a man of peace. It is not known that he had struck a bargain in 1847 with the Emperor Nicholas. France was to have the south side of the Mediterranean, including Tripoli, and the west bank of the Rhine; Egypt, as an overland route to India, was to be neutralised; and Russia was to do as she pleased with the rest of the Turkish Empire, save in the Holy Land. The Revolution of 1847 upset this arrangement.

The Queen of the Netherlands is under the wing of her judicious mother at Corbière, a quiet place in the hills above Aix and near the rack railway. The waters there are calming and a remedy for atony of the digestive organs. Queen Emma has begged the local authorities to make no fuss about her daughter.

Monsignor d'Hulst, Rector of the Catholic University and member of the Chamber of Deputies, who died on Saturday, was handsome, smooth, polished, and thought to resemble Queen Marie Amélie. He was curiously like her grandfather, Francis of Lorraine, Emperor of Germany, and had her long thin figure. His mother was one of the captivating persons in the Queen's circle whom the late Duc d'Orléans was known to admire. She could not but have returned his admiration, for he was reputed, and I dare say was, irresistibly seductive. However, Maurice d'Hulst, who was almost the same age as the Duc de Chartres, was nursed on the knees of Marie Amàlie, who, after her eldest son's tragical death, became wrapped up in Maurice. He was taken to Clermont, and kept there with the other grandchildren until it was time for him to go to a French school. The day he received the tonsure was spent by the ex-Queen of the French at Clermont in thanksgiving in her oratory. Monsignor d'Hulst was permeated with the Orleanist propensity for hair-splitting and mental reservation. He had an almost Royal air—much more so, indeed, than any of Marie Amélie's sons. But it might have been due to unconscious imitation in childhood. His long priest's gown fell exactly in the same straight lines as her robe. Right-thinking and aristocratic society admired and caressed him. He was, directly he entered the Church, cried up, in opposition to Monsignor Bauer, as a paragon of eloquence and *distinction.* I heard him at the first grand Joan of Arc service in the Cathedral of Orleans. He was then Canon of St. Denis, and was named by Bishop Dupanloup to eulogise the Maid. How little he understood that glorious wench! She was pared and smoothed down by him into the semblance of an amateur *fille du régiment.* A lady, meaning to praise him, asked me whether I did not think the Abbé d'Hulst's discourse *très comme il faut.* I did.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

SOME years ago, dear Lady Betty, when certain matters connected with an important branch of the Public Service were being severely commented upon in TRUTH, the chief of the Department which was being attacked, wrote to me asking that I should call upon him. I did so, and he immediately handed me all the private papers relating to the business. "Read these," he said: "of course the contents are not to be made public, but as I am in complete accord with the Editor of TRUTH upon this subject, I wish you to be in possession of the real facts of the case, and to communicate them to that gentleman so that he may not weaken his endeavour to remedy a serious evil by publishing erroneous matter." Having read the papers, I promised to perform the mission that had been entrusted to me, but, as my friend saw me out into the passage, he added, "Mind, it may be my duty to contradict officially in Parliament every word which appears in TRUTH. Good-bye."

Last week I began my letter to you with the following words :—

"The Government has decided to abandon Cyprus. The island will not be returned to Turkey, nor will it be transferred to any other Power, but arrangements are being completed to give Cyprus to the Cypriots, the European Powers undertaking to respect its independence. The announcement of this arrangement, together with the details of the agreement, will be officially communicated in due course."

This information has, as it was certain to be, been officially contradicted. Bearing in mind, however, the interview which has been described in the first paragraph, I do not attach the slightest importance to the contradiction, nor do those whose position enables them to know the real facts of the case. An official contradiction is now equivalent to the conventional "Not at home" which servants are instructed to say to unwelcome or inopportune visitors. In the course of the next three or four months, it may be necessary to recall the emphatic denial which has been authoritatively communicated to the Press, and to make clear the difference which exists between the words "accurate" and "authoritative."

* * * * *

That the members of the Royal Academy have elected Mr. Poynter to be their President has given satisfaction to the majority of those who took interest in the matter. Several writers have suggested in the newspapers that Mr. Poynter should now resign his appointment of Director of the National Gallery. Mr. Poynter has no intention whatever of doing this. His colleagues at the Royal Academy, when discussing the merits of those who were considered to be suitable for the post of President, carefully considered the circumstances that Mr. Poynter was not a rich man, and that it might seriously embarrass him if he were obliged to resign the appointment in question. With full knowledge of all the facts, they decided to elect him, and the matter was, therefore, settled before he was called upon to preside over that body. As Director of the National Gallery Mr. Poynter receives £1,000 a year, whilst the salary attached to the post of President of the Royal Academy is some hundreds. In his latter capacity Mr. Poynter will have to spend considerably more than he receives, and under the circumstances it would be suicidal upon his part to resign the better paid post.

* * * * *

Unless unforeseen events occur, Mr. Walter Armstrong, the Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, is almost certain in due course to succeed Mr. Poynter as Director of the National Gallery in Trafalgar-square. In these days, the expert connoisseur of pictures knows so much more about them than the artist does, or can do, that the latter cannot expect to compete with the former in the matter. In this form of knowledge Mr. Armstrong towers head and shoulders above his contemporaries, and it is admitted on all sides that if the office of Director of the National Gallery becomes vacant in the near future, it will be for the good of the collection that he should be appointed to the post.

* * * * *

The Royal Societies' Club, in St. James's-street, which was opened nine months ago, is about to further justify its existence. Dr. Nansen, the celebrated Arctic explorer, is to be entertained at dinner at the Club on Friday, the 5th of February, by the members and committee of that institution, and it is hoped that in his after-dinner speech he will give his first sketchy account of the memorable voyage. The full account will, of course, be reserved to be delivered on the evening of the following Monday, when Dr. Nansen will describe his experiences before the members of the Royal Geographical Society and their guests, which gathering is to take place at the Queen's Hall.

* * * * *

The simultaneous deaths of the Bishop of Killaloe and his wife, which occurred last week, have almost a counterpart in the deaths of Lord and Lady Rivers, who died within a few hours of each other. The Lady Rivers in question was the eldest daughter of the first Lord Granville.

* * * * * *

The "Jerningham Letters," which have recently been published, edited by Mr. Egerton Castle, are composed of extracts from the letters of Lady Jerningham and her daughter, Lady Bedingfeld, who were attached to the Court in the two previous reigns, and from those of other writers connected with these families. To those like the Howards, the Throgmortons, the Peters, the Carys, the Blounts, the Dillons, and the numerous others who are inextricably connected with the two families, the Letters may have interest, but they can scarcely be expected to entertain the general public. A circumstance related in the diary of Lady Bedingfeld concerning the Lady Howe of the day, however, deserves to be reproduced :—

"The Queen thinks Lady Howe odd in manner, saying and doing just what comes into her head. Her Majesty gave me a singular instance, viz. :—Once going with the king (*William IV.*) and Lord and Lady Howe in the carriage, Lady Howe being tired put her two feet up without ceremony on her husband's knee who sat facing her. The Queen could not help laughing at the oddity of the thing and Lord Howe's extreme embarrassment. This, however, was not all, for she put them out of the window, paying no sort of attention to Lord Howe's signals of distress, but saying: 'What do you mean by shaking your head?'"

A modern King of England driving through the streets with the legs of a Lady-in-Waiting dangling out of the window of his chariot, like a couple of Lord Mayor's maces, is too funny an incident to be left unrecorded.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

ST. FRUSQUIN is going to the stud, and his fee will be 200 gs. In my opinion Mr. de Rothschild would have acted far more wisely if he had given this horse a year's rest. St. Frusquin has been worked very hard indeed for two seasons, and it is unfair to rush him off to the stud without giving him time to recover. The same idiotic course was adopted with Common, who had been much more tenderly treated on the turf, for he never ran as a two-year-old, and he started only four times as a three-year-old, but he has been a complete failure as a sire, the winnings of his stock being under £1,000. Common will very likely do better before long, as he comes of a breed which requires time to develop, but his case ought to serve as a warning against the increasing and pernicious practice of sending young horses to the stud directly they have done with racing.

The authorities at Ascot are going to increase the added money by £3,000, but the additional sum to be given might just as well be shovelled into the Thames for all the good it will do the meeting if it is to be squandered in the manner proposed. The Cup, which already has an endowment of £3,000, is to get an additional £1,000. This event certainly does not require more money, nor is

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it in the least degree likely that the alteration will increase the entries or bring out a larger field. So exceedingly few of the horses now in training can really stay a Cup course that long distance events are not likely again to become popular until the reckless over-racing of two-year-olds, which is now so scandalously common, has been prohibited. It is absolute nonsense and rubbish to give more money to the Alexandra Plate and Ascot Stakes. By far the best arrangement would have been to convert the Hardwicke Stakes into a £5,000 race. There ought to be a really valuable stake at Ascot for three-year-olds and upwards over a mile and a-half, as the Hardwicke has languished dolefully since the £10,000 race at the Newmarket First July Meeting was started.

Florizel II. cannot be trained again, his race at Ascot having settled him, so he goes to the stud, and his fee will be 100 gs., which is twice too much, when his performances come to be calmly considered. He will stand at Newmarket.

Fifty-one horses have been handicapped for the Derby Cup of £2,000, and on this occasion Winkfield's Pride's merits have been fully recognised, for he has 8 st. 7 lb. to carry, being made the equal of Champaubert, and 4 lb. better than Shaddock. It seems to me that that race will be a good thing for Ghislaine (7 st. 10 lb.) if she runs. Whittier, who was so much fancied in the spring for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap with 8 st. 10 lb., now has 8 st. 2 lb. The Duke of Devonshire will very likely win the Chesterfield Nursery of £1,000 (for which race there are forty-nine entries) with the filly by Ayrshire out of Snood.

It must be admitted that the starving policy which the Jockey Club have always followed in respect of the stakes at Newmarket is justified by its success, so far as the principal events are concerned. Ninety-seven yearlings were nominated last week for the Two Thousand of 1898, and there are ninety-two yearling fillies entered for the One Thousand. This year the respective numbers were ninety and ninety-two, and for next year they are seventy-six and eighty-four. The subscription is a wonderfully large one, considering that there is not a farthing of added money, and the sweepstakes is £100 each, £50 forfeit, so that if one of the yearlings engaged dies the day after entry there is a liability of £50. The Prince of Wales has patronised both races, his single entry for the Two Thousand being Ormathwaite, by Orme out of Marguerite, and he has three fillies in the One Thousand, including Azeeza, half-sister, by Surefoot, to Persimmon. The Duke of Westminster and Mr. W. P. Thompson are the largest subscribers to the Two Thousand, each with five entries, and next comes Prince Soltykoff with four, and then the Duke of Portland, Sir Tatton Sykes, Mr. Rucker, Sir J. Miller, Sir Blundell Maple, Mr. Brassey, Mr. McCalmont, and Sir R. Waldie Griffith, with three each. The Duke of Westminster and the Duke of Portland have five each in the fillies' race, and next come Mr. W. P. Thompson and Sir Blundell Maple with four each. The Middle Park Plate has 110 entries, which is a very large number considering that the liability is £25. The £500 nominally added to the race is got back by the entrances, and there will be a surplus of £50. The entries for the other events are quite up to the average of recent years, and the Limekiln Stakes appears to be the only race which has not filled. I do not wonder at its failure, considering the idiotic pecuniary conditions. There is a good entry for the Dullingham Plate, which will be run at next year's Second July Meeting, and among the three-year-olds which have been engaged are Roquebrune, Jolly Boat, Knight of the Thistle, Chit Chat, Balsamo, and South Australian. No fewer than eighty-seven foals have been entered for the Bedford Plate of £800, which is run at the Second Spring Meeting in 1898. This is the race in which Isinglass made his début. Mr. Lorillard has entered seven animals bred in the United States, and he is the largest subscriber, Mr. Botterill coming next with six. Mr. D. Cooper has an own brother to Float, and Mr. McCalmont has a colt by Deemster out of Virgin Queen. Sir Blundell Maple's lot of five includes a filly by Royal Hampton out of Priestess. The Duke of Portland has a filly by Morion out of Semolina, and one of Lady Stamford's is a half sister to Kirkconnel, by Juggler. There is an excellent entry of mares for the Column Produce Stakes, to run at the Craven Meeting, 1900. The Duke of Portland is giving the Australian horse Carbine every chance, both Memoir and Mowerina (dam of Donovan) having been sent to him. Mr. L. de Rothschild's lot includes Isabel (dam of St. Frusquin), who, of course, was again sent to St. Simon. Lord Durham has Primrose Day served by Marcion, and Bellatrix by Orme. Lord Derby has Bridget served by Orme, and Travancore by Sheen. "Mr. Jersey's" Lady Rosebery has been sent to Ravensbury, and Sir J. Miller's Thebais to St. Simon. Mr. Platt's lot of seven includes St. Marguerite, served by Isinglass, and Lonely by St. Simon. Mr. Rose has sent Arcadia to St. Simon, and Lorette to Bonavista.

Sir Blundell Maple has sold Kirkconnel to Count Lehndorff, and the horse is going to join the Prussian Royal Stud at Graditz.

There was no racing last week of any general interest. Sardis, who has repeatedly been fancied for important handicaps, carried off the Great Tom Stakes at Lincoln, defeating two great "pots" in Court Ball and Birch-rod. At Northampton the principal handicap fell to Mr. L. de Rothschild with Rodomont, who had previously been a winner over this course.

The Duke of Portland's colt Chancery did well in a gallop at Newmarket the other day, and he is very likely to win a race at Derby.

At last year's Newmarket Winter Sale the preposterous price of 1,650 gs. was paid by C. Morbey for Solaro. I pointed out at the time that there had never been a better sold horse, and the subsequent course of events has proved the correctness of my opinion. Solaro has never won a race, and Mr. Morbey, finding him a useless possession, has presented the beast to J. Cannon.

Twenty-three horses have accepted for the Liverpool Cup, of which three are in Marsh's stable, and three other trainers are doubly represented, so there is not likely to be a large field, although some fifteen horses have figured in the betting. The early speculation on such a race as this, represents, however, merely the harum-scarum fancies of eager backers, whose impetuosity to get on these supposed good things is only equalled by their ignorance respecting both the condition of the animal to which their money is entrusted and the intentions of its owner. There will no doubt be plenty of betting on the day of the race. Regret must be getting stale by this time, after all the work he has done this season, and if he does succeed in winning a race at Liverpool it will probably be the St. Leger, which is run this afternoon. Royal Corrie is the other Kingsclere candidate, but he needs a man on his back. Ghislaine will probably be reserved for the Derby Cup, Balsamo running for Marsh's stable on Friday. Avilion cannot stay the course, and Count Schomberg, the nominal favourite, is a beast that has proved a veritable quicksand for the money of his infatuated friends. Contract has gone utterly to the bad, but his stable-companion, Stowmarket, is much fancied at Newmarket, and it will be remembered that Mr. Barnato's horse showed good form over this course last March, when he won the Spring Cup. Diakka (the American colt) ran very badly at Lincoln, and, after her performance in the Great Tom Stakes, Birch Rod does not seem to have much chance for Friday's event. Phœbus Apollo has lost his form, at least for the time, through the idiotic blunder of training him for the Cesarewitch, by which his speed has been impaired, while he has not gained in stamina. Gulsalberk, winner of the Irish Derby, is very well in, and so is Dremnakeever, a son of Kendal, who has also shown good form in Ireland. Telescope and Earwig, having several times ran badly when backed, I shall be surprised if the race goes to Stanton. Chit Chat ought to run well if he

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goes for this race. Paris III. can have no chance after his doleful exhibition at Northampton, and he is not likely to run. I shall throw over all the fancied candidates, and shall plump for Roughside.

A special meeting of the members of the Jockey Club is to be held at Lord Derby's house in St. James's-square on Monday, December 7, when the Stewards will propose certain very important alterations in their Rules of Racing, which deal with the matter of handicapping. The reforms which have been decided upon are of a practical and drastic character, and I shall discuss them before the meeting takes place. Lord Durham has earned the gratitude of the Turf by drawing attention to the present defective and chaotic system of handicapping.

The result of the Fours at Cambridge can only be described as pre-eminently satisfactory and encouraging. Last year it will be remembered that there was a great improvement in this event, and my University correspondent at once prophesied that the University race would be a hard tussle. In a four good watermanship as well as oarsmanship is essential, and if there are good College fours the President has not to go far to select his material for the University crew. Third Trinity were undoubtedly a good four, although the fact that Guinness could only train for eight days before the race hampered them a lot. At the same time, under the most favourable circumstances, they could hardly have hoped to beat the Hall, who had as good a crew as they had eight or nine years ago when they won the Stewards at Henley. This is saying a great deal, and as there were three old Blues in the crew there is little doubt that the bowman, Campbell Muir, will succeed Hope in that position. The Emmanuel men were very smart with their hands, and Pearson has a good record. The L.M.B.C. crew were fairly fast but steered badly. "First," as usual, were disappointing, and cling pertinaciously to their worst faults, except Adie, who has improved a lot. He now weighs thirteen stone and a half. On his present form he would have been invaluable in the middle of the boat with Guinness. Unfortunately, he is off to India. Bell has a great prospect of pulling off the race, and every one will wish him the best of luck. He has begun well with his College four, and Mr. Trevor Jones may well be proud of his success as coach.

In the *Granta* this week there is an article on the Cambridge Mission in South London, and the writer argues against the necessity for the appointment of a clerical head of this University Mission, which is to take over Trinity-court in Camberwell, hitherto organised by Trinity men. The conclusion of the article is too good to be lost. The logic is delightful, and the argument unique. Dealing with the population in South London the writer concludes, "They take a vast interest in Cambridge goings-on; in the cricket season they know all the scores, and in the winter they know, or think they know, who is going to get his blue at "Rugger" or "Soccer," and *for the last seven years have lost large sums over the boat race.* We have a reputation to keep up in South London, and so we ought to send them some one who is somebody, not any one who is anybody." Surely a missionary from the Anti-Gambling League will at once be added to the staff of the Trinity or Cambridge Mission. Most old University men will consider that so far as the boat race is concerned the University reputation in South London cannot be a very popular one, and the sooner it is lost the better. I advise the South Londoners to take odds if any one is prepared to back Oxford with seven old Blues in residence. There will be plenty of time to hedge, and a really good chance of making up for the previous losses.

It is a very good thing that the Croydon and Old Merchant Taylors teams are good friends, otherwise there would have been very little left of either of the teams or the referee at the end of the match at Richmond. The refereeing was at times almost farcical, and the Referees' Association will have to be a little more careful in the officials it sends out. There was a roar of laughter from the supporters of one team to whom an offside was awarded when the opposing team claimed and ought obviously to have had it. In the second half less than twenty minutes was played, the referee first saying time was up, and then explaining that it was too dark to play on. The game itself was chiefly forward, and the halves had a fine outing offside at times.

The absence of their best halves and Bunting at three-quarters weakened Richmond a good deal in their match with Oxford, who have improved a lot forward since they played the Scottish. But they did not last all through; and this was why Richmond scored twice in the second half. At the same time, their outsides are a splendid lot of players. The halves are much better than last year, and Baker keeps the three-quarters together, while Smith is the best back in the United Kingdom. Their admirers say they are the best outsides since the days of Wade's team, and they are not very wrong. But the defeat of Richmond was not the only startling result of Saturday's play. At Blackheath the Scottish were victorious, and the result was due to greatly-improved forward play. Macmillan was playing again, and the history of the match against Oxford was repeated. He made the team as no other man could have done. He was always on the ball, and collared like a terrier. The Heathens were playing Kendall at three-quarter. He has been playing for Rosslyn Park very successfully for several seasons. Why he has changed his allegiance it is not for me to inquire. At the same time, players do not leave Blackheath to play for Rosslyn Park, and most people would prefer to see a leading club like Blackheath supplying vacancies from men who have been born and bred in the club, instead of recruiting from other leading metropolitan clubs. Some good play by Bennett outside was responsible for the win of Kensington over St. Thomas's, while the wet ground and the weakness in attack of the three-quarters prevented Cooper's Hill from doing much against St. Bart's. The play in the match between the Midlands and Surrey was most disappointing. Forward the teams were fairly equal, but the Surrey outsides were outclassed and outpaced in every way. Their attempts at passing were puerile, and their endeavours to tackle childish. It was a miserable display.

The outcome of the agitation about professional cricketers in the summer has certainly borne fruit. Yorkshire is making arrangements to pay the men during the winter, and Warwick is apparently going to do the same thing, and has engaged several promising players. Certainly it is very unwise to expect a player to put by for the winter out of four months' earnings. Very few men are so frugal, and if the pay is a little less during the summer, and regular during the winter, it will be much better for the men. They will be better provided for and less likely to abandon a county in whose employ they are. It would be as well if all the counties could arrange some such system, but, of course, the wishes of the "pros" would have to be ascertained.

The Manchester Touring Association has been started to supplement the work of the Cyclist Touring Club in that district. The subscription is only a shilling a year, and its object is to look after the interests of riders as to railway and other charges, to secure accommodation in villages and other places, to get local authorities to improve roads, and to arrange for boys to clean members' machines. I shall be interested to hear how the association succeeds. Some such body is needed in every district. It can look after local needs, and bring pressure to bear for local improvements and reforms, and in every way supplement and support what is practically the parent organisation, that is, the C.T.C.

One is waiting patiently for the heading in the paper "A Beak and his Bike." A popular metropolitan magistrate, who is an enthusiastic cyclist, has narrowly escaped the honour. His story of how he crept into a provincial town without a light one evening is very amusing; and on another occasion he was wheeling his

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machine at the edge of the footpath, as the road had been repaired in such a way as to invite punctures. A local Bumble remarked, "Do you know, sir, I could summon you?" "Yes, I know you could," said the magistrate. His graceful submission to local dignity saved him. I should very much like that magistrate to deal with those blackguards who, in Brixton the other Sunday, caused innumerable punctures by putting a plentiful supply of boot-plates with the sharp nail sides upwards in the road. Not only were the bicycles injured, but it was a cruel thing for dogs and horses.

Mr. Roston Bourke, who was recently suspended by the Football Association, has taken a peculiar course. He recently published his version of the case, and on his statement, he appeared to have been badly, if not improperly, treated. Since then he has taken counsel's opinion, which he has published. His counsel have advised that he has not been suspended, because the body that suspended him had no power to do so, that the publication of the report of the commission and the decision of the committee is libellous, and that Mr. Bourke may await with confidence any proceedings that may be regularly taken against him, and in the meantime he may act as though no suspension had taken place. I have briefly summarised the opinion, but no one can attach much value to any opinion unless one knows the facts on which it is based. If it is perfectly correct, then he has his action for libel. But for a man to publish his counsels' advice broadcast is a peculiar way of vindicating his character, which is not nearly so effective as a writ. It appears to be fashionable to act in this way. The cabmen did so; but the immediate consequences were not pleasant.

At the Crystal Palace very few spectators came to see the Association match between the Wolves and Small Heath. As nothing depended on the result, the play was of the holiday description. The public expects this, and stays away. The only way appears to be to give the winners a bonus. But this they might agree to divide. Perhaps a good League match might be played there, and such an event would draw. The Cambridge University team still pursues its victorious career. But its victory over a strong Old Carthusian's team will not enhance its reputation for combined play. However, it showed that it could win when combination is at a discount and each man plays for himself. A few years ago Oxford failed because it had not this very useful capacity. In the League matches, Liverpool had their revenge against Sunderland, the winning forwards playing a good combined game. In other club games, Oxford had an easy win against the Old Foresters, and the London Caledonians had a weak team which could not do much against the 3rd Grenadiers, whose combination is very good.

At Cambridge on the first day of the Freshmen's sports the only good performance was the mile, which was won fairly easily by Graham, from Rossall, while Toppin, of Clifton, was second. The winner is comparatively new to the path, and, if he takes care of himself, he should be a useful runner. The South London Harriers race for the Hibbs Challenge Cup produced a good race, and Hibbs was successful. The handicapping in a four mile run, for which a large number of the Tee-to-tum members turned out, was very good. Hammond got home first, and ten out of a field of forty-five finished in the first minute.

There is little doubt that cycling will be even more popular next year than it has been this, and bicycle gymkhana and musical rides are pretty sure to become increasingly fashionable. With this latter prospect in view, Major Walter Wingfield has compiled a book, with diagrams and drawings, for the assistance of those who get up, or take part, in such entertainments, the work giving full instructions for the performance of a number of rides and evolutions, and for the arrangement and carrying out of a bicycle gymkhana. The title is "Bicycle Gymkhana and Musical Rides."

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Last week I wrote to you on the eve of the Presidential elections, and now I am happy to be able to place on record that these resulted in a sweeping victory of McKinley and the sound money party. Thus, with one stroke, the whole financial position is changed, and instead of having to look forward to possible disaster, we are now on the eve of what should prove a period of exceptional prosperity—at all events, as far as finance and trade in connection with the United States are concerned. But the influence of the Republican victory in the States will not stop short there, but should benefit our industries and our stock markets generally. In fact, we have already

A General Upward Movement,

not only in Yankee Rails, but also in Home Railway securities, in Consols and other gilt-edged securities, and in a portion of the Foreign market. How absurd the boast of the Silverites was, that they were certain to carry the election, can now be realised; but Bryan does not take his defeat badly, and his cablegram to McKinley is a dignified one, viz.: "I hasten to extend my congratulations. We submitted the issue to the American people, and their will is law." Precisely! And I am glad to see that the American people have decided in favour of honesty and of the fulfilment of all just obligations as against repudiation. The effect of the elections has been instantaneous, and not only were larger orders for manufactured goods at once telegraphed from all parts of the States to Europe, but mills, factories, and iron-works are being re-opened all over the country, and the hoarded millions are coming out, now that the bogey of free coinage, and of the upheaval of the masses against the classes, has been laid. Upon Home Rails the McKinley triumph has also acted instantaneously, and a general advance is marked, which will doubtless make further progress. Another favourable point is the satisfactory manner in which the Paris end of October settlement has passed off. This has already been felt in a rise in Interbourse Securities, and should react even more strongly upon the South African market, the recent weakness in which was chiefly produced by the indiscriminate selling of French holders. Indications are multiplying that an important recovery in the Kaffir Circus is close at hand. West Australians, which had hitherto resisted the surrounding weakness remarkably well, have shown a good deal of irregularity, and in some cases have given way owing to absurd and ignorant comments on the West Australian Goldfield which have appeared in certain periodicals. Advices from the colony are, however, very satisfactory, and with the receipt of further crushing results from a number of new mines, a recovery will no doubt come about. The industrial department has again displayed much strength, and as we approach the opening of the cycling season a strong rally is looked for in the Cycle section of the Stock Exchange. One of the most curious features, and a favourable one, is the disappearance of all nervousness with regard to the Turkish Question. A year ago Lord Salisbury was listened to with rapt attention and grave misgivings when he explained the position of this country as regards the Sultan at the Guildhall Banquet. This year no one troubled himself much about

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

what he said, for the very good reason that it is known that France and Russia had agreed upon a policy which is practically following the lines marked out by English statesmen. With the fear of financial disaster in the United States removed, with the chances of any disturbance in the monetary markets greatly lessened, with a strong impulse to all our industries, as far as they are drawn upon for American supplies, and with a much clearer political horizon, there should now be excellent prospects for British trade and commerce, and for a general revival in the Stock Markets.

Home Rails Buoyant.

A series of important advances has taken place in Home Railway stocks, chiefly in connection with the Presidential elections in the United States. We have done without American purchases of our manufactures for so long a time, that the receipt of important orders from that quarter has given an unusual impulse in many branches of industry. It is true that the election of McKinley means a return to a Protectionist policy; but at the outset there will be a rush of imports to the States, in order to anticipate the tariff. American houses had allowed their stocks to run down exceptionally low, under the apprehension of a possible Bryan victory. Now that all doubt is removed, these stocks are being replenished. It is, moreover, conjectured that McKinley will probably be satisfied to raise the tariff only so far as to cover the deficit in the National Treasury; and from all accounts he is himself so highly gratified by the enthusiastic support given to his cause in this country, that England at all events may be satisfied that no specially hostile legislation against her will be attempted. Traffics for the past week of Home Rails show an increase of £50,000, and the total receipts of fifty-six Companies for the first fourteen weeks of the half year are now more than £800,000 higher than for the corresponding period of last year. Business with the States may be expected henceforth to add its stimulating influence. The Board of Trade returns for October just issued show an increase of £2,716,000 or 7⅝ per cent. in the imports, and a decrease of £173,869 or ¾ per cent. in the exports. The latter decrease is chiefly due to a decline in the exports of woollen and worsted to the United States, which had been very largely shipped to that destination in October, 1895. The most important improvement has taken place in Brighton "A," which are up at 181¾, and thus fully bear out the favourable view which I have for some time taken of this stock with its large amount of accrued dividend. Dover "A," so far, have not risen beyond 103½; but the South-Eastern is doing remarkably well, and the last working statement for the four weeks ending October 17 shows an increase in net receipts of £2,035. It is true that expenses have risen £1,258, but this is not surprising in view of the execrable weather which prevailed during that period. Dover "A" should certainly for the current year receive from 3¼ to 3½ per cent. dividend, and so favourable are recent developments that a further increase in dividends might, barring accidents, be looked for next year. Chatham stocks have also hardened, the Ordinary now being quoted 17¾. The Heavy division is again from one to three points higher, the latter advance being marked in North-Eastern, which have been in special favour in view of the flourishing condition of the shipbuilding trade. The strongest advance has, however, taken place in the Scotch section. Caledonian Deferred (Coras) and North British Deferred at 61½ and 49¼ respectively show a rise of three points for the week. I have explained for some time that the position of these lines has never been better. The Caledonian has now for the fourteen weeks of the current half year an increase of £23,569, the North British one of £31,662, while trade reports are in every respect satisfactory. There is quite a boom in the iron and steel trade, further larger orders have been placed for ships, and railway material for the Colonies and India is being heavily exported; while the revival in the United States also promises large purchases in the other industries. With increasing dividends in view, therefore, I quite expect a further important upward movement in both the deferred stocks. A correspondent, who has repeatedly written to me with reference to Coras, Vestas, and Ayrshires, and has, upon the whole, proved very correct, sends me a further forecast as follows:—

> For the current half-year, judging by traffics so far published, I estimate that the London and North Western will pay ½ per cent. more than in 1895 (last half-year); Great Western, ½ per cent. more; Berwicks, ¼ per cent. more; Midland, ¼ per cent. more; Glasgow and South Western, ½ per cent. more. The results for the whole year will work out:—L. & N. W., 7⅛ per cent., which at present price of 198 gives £3. 12s. per cent.; G. W., 6⅛ per cent., at the present price of 174 gives £3. 11s. per cent.; Midland, 5¾ per cent., at the present price of 165 gives £3. 10s. per cent.; and Ayrshires, 5¼ per cent., at the present price of 134 gives £3. 19s. per cent. The Glasgow and South Western stock is therefore £10 to £12 too low as compared with the others, and is a sound investment security. Besides, there is always the prospect of this stock being divided, which would further enhance the market value, say, £10.

My correspondent is evidently very much prejudiced in favour of Glasgow and South Western. I have nothing to say against this stock, except that there is no free market for it in London, and that anybody who desires to speculate in Scotch stocks here had very much better back Coras (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary) or North British Deferred, which are in every respect promising. Further attempts have been made by the "Bears" of Districts to throw doubt on the success of the deep-level express scheme. The latest stratagem resorted to was the publication in the *Times* of an alleged scheme for constructing a new underground electric railway from Cannon-street viâ the Strand and Piccadilly to Hammersmith, which was estimated to cost from £3,000,000 to £3,500,000. In view of the enormous cost of the expropriations which would have to be made in a part of London where house property stands at the highest possible price, six or seven millions would, no doubt, be the minimum at which such a scheme could be carried out. The names of the philanthropists, who are supposed to form the syndicate, are, unfortunately, not given. As the scheme could never pay, I assume that it will be relegated to oblivion after it has done service as a "bogey" to District shareholders. A few small speculators in Districts may have been frightened out, but it is a preposterous device, and the body of big shareholders, who have made up their minds to carry the new express scheme, are not likely to be caught with such chaff. I hear that everything is progressing favourably with the scheme.

Yankee Rails after the Victory.

I cannot help saying a word as to what might have happened, if, unfortunately, Bryan and the Silverites had been victorious. All our stock markets would have received a severe shock, and some big American houses would have had all their work cut out to keep afloat, while, instead of smiling faces in the American market, and a rise of from three to eight dollars, we should have experienced a fall of from five to twenty, and a general panicky feeling all round. No wonder that some of the wealthy men connected with the United States sat up all night on Tuesday until their cables came to hand, bringing the reassuring news. Hardly ever has such excitement been witnessed in the long-neglected Yankee Market as on Wednesday morning. Both brokers and jobbers were at their posts before ten o'clock, and a seething, pushing, and shouting crowd, reinforced from all parts of the "House," was competing for every kind of Yankee stock, from Southern Ordinary

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

Solution of Turkish Problem.—If the authorities at Constantinople would only supply themselves with that eminently soothing and strengthening liqueur, Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy, their difficulties would vanish, placidity of temper and the power of good government would follow as surely as the dawn succeeds the night. Sold everywhere.

to Milwaukee, and from Erie to Louisville. The prices of some of the stocks jumped from five to seven dollars from the previous closing quotations, large orders being received not only from the country but also from all parts of the continent, while American buyers, too, were in the market from the outset. It was not surprising that after this boom a reaction should have set in on profit-taking, more especially as various cablegrams were subsequently received from the United States representing McKinley's victory as less complete. This attempt to belittle the success of sound money did not however prevail for any length of time, as the Republican majority proved very much larger than most people had anticipated; and a majority for sound money is also assured both in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. Under these circumstances, it is most probable that early legislation will take place in the direction of currency reforms, such as are urgently required, and were repeatedly advocated by President Cleveland. The fact that withdrawals of gold for the United States have ceased would lead one to suppose that this movement would not be resumed, more especially as the hoarded gold—which I put in recent comments at a minimum of ten millions sterling—may now be expected to be released. I also explained last week, on the authority of an American banker, that funds to the extent of 200,000,000 dols., which had been kept back unemployed from fear of an adverse result of the elections, will now come out seeking investment; and there have evidently been large purchases by the American public ever since the elections were decided. How exactly the balance of trade will adjust itself in the near future it is difficult to tell. It has to be considered, in the first instance, that grain shipments to Europe continue, and also that Europe is again buying American securities, and the latter movement will doubtless assume large proportions, as many of the millions of European capital, which were withdrawn during recent years, will be reinvested in the States. On the other hand, large shipments of goods will take place from this side, and the rush of such orders will, doubtless, to some extent counteract the above influences. As regards the recent rise in wheat, it may be mentioned that in September and October it extended to twenty cents, apart from a further rise which has since taken place. It is calculated that on a crop of 450,000,000 bushels this advance represents 90,000,000 dols., and as at least 200,000,000 bushels of this wheat are still in the hands of American farmers, the latter have in two months become richer by 40,000,000 dols. By the way, it may be recollected, as an American contemporary points out, that the American "Bull" market of 1879 derived no inconsiderable part of its force from the sales of wheat abroad in that and in the preceding year. The total exports of wheat from the United States in 1877 were about 36,000,000 bushels. In 1878 they increased to 66,288,655 bushels; in 1879, to 116,802,333 bushels, and in 1880 to 144,838,237 bushels. This large increase was due to crop failures abroad. Consequently, the reports of crop shortage this year in Russia, India, and Australia, coupled with the rise in wheat, suggest the possibility of a recurrence of the effects as well as of the conditions of the 1879 period. Exports are already materially in excess of last year, and the engagements of freight room point to a continuance of the movement. The effect of an average advance of even 20 cents a bushel on the large stocks in first hands cannot fail to be important on account of the buying power afforded and its bearing upon railway tonnage of merchandise which may be anticipated. It has been said repeatedly in the last few years that there could be no general "Bull" market in the States with agricultural products, and particularly wheat, at the prices prevailing. If this argument has been sound, the converse would seem to be equally true.

NOTICE TO CONNOISSEURS OF FINE DRY CHAMPAGNE.—PÉRINET & FILS' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

The advances which have taken place during the week will be gathered from the following table of quotations:—

—	Price Jan. 2, 1896.	High'st in 1896.	Low'st in 1896.	Oct. 31.	Nov. 9.
Atchison	14½	18 3/16	9	14¾	16⅞
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	22	23⅞	14⅜	23	27¼
Central Pacific	15½	17½	13	14¾	17⅛
Denver	12⅜	14 11/16	10	12⅛	13⅜
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	37¼	44¼	47½
Erie	14⅛	16⅛	11¼	15⅛	17⅞
Do. First Pref.	23	42	22⅞	33	39¾
Lake Shore	144	155	138	151	156
Louisville	44⅝	56¾	38⅞	47¾	53⅞
Milwaukee	69⅛	81⅝	61¾	75	81⅝
Mis., Kan., and Texas	11¼	13 13/16	8⅞	11¼	14⅝
Norfolk Pref.	8	15⅛	10⅛	16⅛	19⅛
Nor. Pacific Pref.	12½	22⅝	14	22½	26⅛
New York Central	98	101⅞	90¼	96	99¼
Ontario	13¼	16½	11¼	14⅜	16¼
Reading	2	10 11/16	3⅛	13⅝	16¼
Southern Ordy.	8¾	11⅛	6⅝	9	11¼
Do. Pref.	26½	34⅜	18½	26	31½
Union Pacific	4⅛	9¾	3⅛	8½	12¼
Wabash Pref.	15¾	20 3/16	12	16¼	18¾

Notwithstanding the rise which has already taken place in Milwaukee, this stock is likely to lead the market in the near future. It is no secret that a much higher dividend would have been paid last time but for the uncertainty of the Presidential elections. I again remind my readers that for the year ended June 30 last the Milwaukee Company earned very nearly 8 per cent. on its stock, although paying only 4 per cent. for the above-mentioned reason It is anticipated that for the current year the Milwaukee will pay at least 6 per cent., in which case a rise to 100 would be fully justified. The Grangers generally, in fact, in view of the enormous tonnage of grain which is now passing over them, are doing remarkably well, and the grain deliveries in Chicago continue to break records. Railroad freights have, moreover, been advanced since the commencement of the month, so that the outlook for the future earnings of the Granger Roads is particularly bright. Louisville will no doubt also improve, and with regard to the Southern Roads generally it may be said that the rate wars which have prevailed amongst them for so many months have been settled, so that business will now be conducted on a more remunerative basis. Erie Prefs., which I recommended strongly in September, have scored one of the most important advances, being now quoted at 39½, and Southern Prefs., which I also strongly recommended, have improved to 30¼. Southern Ordinary, which I recommended at 8, have also gone ahead to 11½, while Atchison Prefs. are one of the most promising stocks. Union Pacifics have advanced sharply on the statement that there is every prospect of the funding of the debt of the Pacific Roads being authorised by Congress. The measure would be certain to pass in the next Congress, but it is now reported that the present Congress will already take the matter in hand. Under these circumstances, Union Pacifics at 11½ are still a good purchase, and it is not surprising to find that Northern Pacific Prefs. have had a substantial rise to 26. While dealing with this Road I should like to point out specially that Northern Pacific Four per Cent. Prior Lien bonds, which yield at their present price 4¾ per cent. per annum, are, under all the circumstances, one of the cheapest of well-secured bonds, to which I refer further on. Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have advanced in sympathy with the Yankee market. It is but fair to assume that both these Companies will largely benefit by the revival in trade in the United States. Canadian Pacifics have moved up to 61, and Grand Trunks Guaranteed are better at 42½. More especially would it seem that the various Grand Trunk Debenture issues deserve every attention, now that the Road is apparently turning the corner.

AMERICAN RAILROAD BONDS.

Now that the ghost of free silver has been laid, and sound money has triumphed in the United States, it is advisable to look through the list of American Railroad

bonds, many of which had fallen considerably on apprehensions that McKinley might be defeated. The fact that honesty has gained the day in the States, and that thus the payment of bonds and of interest is assured on a gold basis, places American Railroad bonds again amongst the safest and best-yielding securities; and in order to guide my readers in the selection of these, I give herewith a little table of gilt-edged bonds, together with some of the more speculative description, from which they could make a very good selection :—

Description of Bonds.	Interest.	Date of Redemption.	Price.	Yield, allowing for accrued interest, and redemption at par at maturity.
	Per cent.			£. s. d.
New York and Putnam, guaranteed by the New York Central	4	1993	108	3 15 9
Mohawk and Malone 1st Mortgage, guaranteed by the N.Y. Central	4	1991	107	3 17 0
Manhattan Consolidated Mortgage	4	1990	98	4 5 3
Erie Railroad Prior Lien	4	1996	95	4 10 0
Northern Pacific Prior Lien	4	1996	88	4 15 0
Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis General Mortgage	4	1993	85	4 18 6
Lynn and Boston First Mortgage	5	1924	104	4 16 6
Louisville and Nashville General Mortgage	6	1930	117½	5 4 2
Philadelphia and Reading Gold	4	1958	84	5 3 4
Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé	4	1989	82½	5 4 5
Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company, 1st Mortgage	5	1926	102	5 6 6
Lehigh Valley Coal Company 1st Mortgage	5	1935	97	5 10 2
St. Paul's Street Cable Cons. Mortgage	5	1937	97	5 9 6
Southern Railway 1st Cons. Mortgage	5	1994	94	5 12 8
Minneapolis Street 1st Cons. Mortgage	5	1919	96	5 12 6
Alabama Midland 1st Mortgage	5	1928	94½	5 10 6
Chesapeake and Ohio General Mortgage	4½	1992	76½	6 5 0
Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo 1st Mortgage	6	1922	102	6 0 7
Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Cons.	6	1918	85	8 7 0

The list is a varied one, from the very best gilt-edged to high-yielding speculative bonds, and my readers will thus be able to make their own selection. I would mention, with reference to the Lynn and Boston First Mortgage Five per Cent. bonds, that the capital of this Company consists of 1,200,000 dols., while the earnings are equal to 15 per cent. on this amount, out of which dividends of 8 per cent. are being paid on the Ordinary stock. The traffics have kept up exceedingly well, notwithstanding the serious period through which the United States has passed, and from January 1 to August 31 the net profits amounted to 423,000 dols., against 411,000 dols. for the same period of last year. As the total authorised issue of Debentures is limited to 5,379,000 dols., it will be seen that this mortgage is amply secured. With reference to the St. Paul's Street Cable Company, it may be mentioned that the 7 per cent. Preference dividend is being regularly paid by the Twin City Company which owns this road, and that the returns from January 1 to August 31 were 734,000 dols., against 714,000 dols. for the same period of last year. The Minneapolis Street First Consolidated Mortgage bonds are in a similar position, so that the yield of £5. 12s. 6d. may be considered satisfactory. Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds at 94 yield an excellent return. It is true that the Company is now in the receiver's hands, but there appears to be no fear that these bonds will be defaulted upon. They are secured by a collateral of the Six per Cent. First Mortgage bonds of the Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Railroad, a line 263 miles in length, which connects the Baltimore and Ohio system with Chicago. It is stated that this 6 per cent. interest is being earned; but in view of the importance of the line to the Baltimore and Ohio system, default need in no case be apprehended. With reference to the Baltimore and Ohio reconstruction, there is no doubt that the altered state of affairs in the United States will greatly help this, and generally benefit the issues, for which I had on former occasions a favourable word to say. The Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo First Mortgage bonds are also guaranteed as to interest by the Baltimore and Ohio Company. They used to stand at 120, and are therefore at present at a very low price. This road forms part of the main connection to Chicago. The total issue is of 2,400,000 dols., and a Second Mortgage debt of 4,000,000 dols. (Consolidated), have been created to re-pay the Baltimore and Ohio for its advances. The amount required to pay the interest on the Six per Cent. First Mortgage bonds is only 144,000 dols.; while the net earnings of the road for the fiscal year ending June 30 last were 301,000 dols. Of the Alabama Midland I need but say that the fall in these bonds has been altogether unjustified. Both principal and interest are guaranteed by the Savannah, Florida and Western, and there is no doubt that they will shortly take a big jump. The Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee Consolidated Six per Cent. Mortgage bonds yield a very high return, and are, of course, somewhat speculative; but they are guaranteed by the Grand Trunk, and it seems hardly likely that they will be defaulted upon now that the Grand Trunk Company is turning the corner. Northern Pacific Prior Lien Four per Cent. bonds call for special notice. With a yield of 4¾ per cent., they must be considered a very safe investment. The Company has been reconstructed, large assessments have been levied upon the prior securities, and the earnings of the road are such as to fully secure the interest on the Prior Lien bonds. Many of the bonds mentioned in the above list are from 5 to 20 points lower than they were before the silver trouble arose; while nothing has really happened to depreciate their value.

Foreigners and South Americans.

At last the Paris Bourse has apparently retrieved its position, and the fact that the end of October settlement has passed off without any catastrophe, and showed upon the whole a greatly reduced speculative account, is calculated to create a more hopeful view as regards the future. Spanish have again been thrown about by speculators, but even these at last mark a recovery on the low quotation of the beginning of the week, being quoted 57½. Turks are also firmer. Not that the financial position of Turkey has at all improved, but the nervousness with regard to a fresh outbreak in Constantinople has worn off. Italians have also hardened, and Ottoman Banks have been put up to 11¼. After declining, Argentine Government stocks have improved, and there has also been a slight advance in some of the Argentine Railway stocks, chiefly on the favourable announcement of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, which is about to pay a dividend on its Preferred stock. Irresponsible rumours with reference to a revolutionary outbreak in Monte Video caused a temporary relapse in Uruguay, which should, however, be promptly recovered again. Brazilians are slightly better, and Mexican Sixes are firm. A rise of two points has also taken place in Western Railway of Santa Fé bonds, owing to the improved prospects of this Company, the quotation now standing at 47.

Incipient Improvement in the Kaffir Circus.

Mysterious rumours and still more mysterious sales again prevailed at the commencement of the week, but while the latter have not been explained yet, the former are certainly exploded; and it goes without saying that they originated on the "Bear" side. At first the report was set about that the Transvaal Government intended to carry out a political coup, and to denounce the London Convention. This rumour has done service to the "Bears" over and over again, and was as false as the further report that the decision in the cyanide case had been given in

favour of the MacArthur-Forrest people. As a matter of fact, it has turned out exactly the opposite. The patents have been declared invalid, so that a great incubus is removed from the Transvaal mining industry, which will benefit the Witwatersrand mines to the extent of upwards of £500,000 per annum, apart from the possible recovery of royalties illegally collected in the past. Favourable news is also conveyed by cablegrams from the Pretoria correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, who states that the Volksraad has authorised the railway from Machado to Pilgrim's Rest, via Lydenburg, and that the Portuguese Government has issued a licence to supply native labourers to the representatives of Mr. J. B. Robinson, and of the Chamber of Mines. What with the reduction in the cost of native labour and the coming reduction in the expense of white labour, together with the ample supply of natives now available, the mining industry of the Transvaal has not been in so promising a position for years; and the only cloud on the horizon is the Sunday labour question, which is, however, expected to be settled in favour of the industry. When all these various "Bear" rumours were shown to be false, there were several important rallies, especially after the news of the success of McKinley in the States came to hand; and had it not been for renewed sales, which could not again be traced to any particular source, there would have been a marked upward movement. As it is, the highly speculative stocks which have all along served as footballs for the market, show an advance, Rand Mines being quoted 23¾, East Rands 5, and Consolidated Goldfields 9½. There are also indications that we shall in the near future see a different state of things, and that the market, after the persistent shake out, will at last take a decided turn upwards. Intrinsic merits must after all prevail against market conditions, which can keep prices back only temporarily, and I therefore anticipate an improvement in all the sound Transvaal Mining and Land Companies. Let me again briefly mention such of these stocks as appear to me more particularly tempting as a purchase, especially in case any of my readers would like to average their holdings, viz.:—Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, City and Suburban, Robinson, Wolhuter, Randfontein, New Johannesburg Consols, Barnato Consols, Bufflesdoorn, Langlaagte, Royal Henderson's Estates, Lydenburg Estates, Oceana Consols, Mozambique, Modderfontein "B," Waterfall Estates, Woodstock (Transvaal), and Knights. The new battery of the Witwatersrand Company (Knights) was started on October 10, and, according to cablegrams just to hand, 6,042 tons yielded 1,970 oz. of gold from crushing, or 6·52 dwt. per ton, to which 3½ dwt. from tailings will have to be added. For a first crushing this is satisfactory, as the plates of new batteries always absorb a good deal of gold. The Heidelburg Roodepoort Company commenced crushing with sixty stamps on the same day (October 10), and it is also stated that the Ginsberg Mine started twenty stamps of its new battery of thirty stamps on October 10. At the meeting of the Chartered Company the shareholders decided to subscribe for the new issue of shares themselves, and refused to authorise the proposal of the Directors that a syndicate should guarantee the shares against an option on 500,000 shares at 2¾. Whether this will prove a satisfactory arrangement from a market point of view remains to be seen. In the meantime, Chartered shares are pretty firm at 2⅜. The Robinson South African Banking Company has made a profit of £434,636 in the first year of its existence on a capital of £3,000,000, which would appear to be a very satisfactory result considering that the period covered was a very stormy one. The Ordinary shareholders receive 6 per cent., so that a balance of £256,076 is left to be dealt with further. £25,607 of this, or 10 per cent., is placed to reserve, while the Deferred shares receive 20 per cent., or £51,215. The Ordinary shares now receive 4 per cent. more out of the balance of the surplus, which brings up their dividend to 10 per cent. for the year, while a sum of £60,213 is carried forward. The assets, in cash, native gold, short loans, and Consols, of £1,228,967 are most substantial, and the other investments amount to £1,633,131. By the way, I think that the campaign which the *Financial News* is conducting against mine registrations in Johannesburg is a very sensible one. So many instances have happened in which a promoter registers in a Company in the Transvaal, acquires a number of claims, capitalised at a very heavy figure, and then merely introduces the shares on this side at a heavy premium, taking care to "make a market" for them. When the shares are all marketed at a high price, they in many instances keep on dropping to a low level, when the ingenious promoter comes in again and repeats the operation. Meetings in Johannesburg of Companies owned on this side are equally objectionable. These meetings should be held in London, so as to ensure all necessary questions being answered and full information given to the shareholders, who ought, moreover, to have the control of the undertakings. I hope that the Committee of the Stock Exchange will give its attention to this movement, which could not, of course, be retrospective, but conditions ought to be laid down for future creations of Companies. It should be pointed out, as stated in a second circular issued by the Directors of the Glencairn Company, that the whole hundred stamps of the Glencairn will be added to the sixty stamps of the Glenluce, and that therefore 160 stamps will be at work by March next. The Langlaagte Estate battery is now being brought up from 160 stamps to 200, and the latter number will probably be crushing in another month's time. Diamond shares have been dull with gold shares, but are also bracing up again, De Beers being quoted 29½, New Jagersfontein 9⅜.

Golden West Australia.

The weakness of the South African market has also reacted upon West Australian Mines, with the result that the tone has been somewhat irregular. But while in some instances declines are marked, there have not been wanting improvements, and amongst others Lady Shentons have been very firm on the satisfactory crushing. Quite a dead set is being made against some of the West Australian shares, and a large "Bear" account is being accumulated. Ignorant scribes avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain a short-lived advertisement by hostile comments upon the goldfields of Western Australia; but there is every prospect that the absurd and interested criticisms will be disproved by the course of events. This should especially come about through the increasing number of mining Companies which are coming forward with crushings. The following table contains the particulars of crushings which have come to hand during the week, amongst which are trial crushings of mines which have not hitherto been turning out gold:—

—	Tons of ore crushed.	Oz. of gold.	Assay of tailings per ton.
Hannan's Brownhill	254	686	—
Ivanhoe	230	801	—
Lady Shenton	300	1,264	—
White Feather Reward	150	299	—
North Boulder	133	332	—
Consolidated Gold Mines —Coongarrie Mine	102	165	—
Menzie's Crusoe Gold	520	1,137	7 dwts.
Menzie's Gold Reefs Proprietary	180	314	11 dwts.
Menzie's Golden Age	50	350	—
Maori, Menzie's	45	90	—
Sir John Forrest	28 & 13 cwt.	34	—

The Menzies district is beginning to show very well, as will be seen by the crushings of the Lady Shenton, the Menzies Crusoe, Menzies Golden Age, and Menzies Gold Reefs. As so much has been said about the Lady Shenton and the Menzies Mines, I may as well give particulars of

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the crushings of the former mine which have so far taken place :—

	Tons.	Oz.
July 9	55	269
August 11	250	695
August 12	10	138
September 3	237	954
October 1	262	1,095
October 29	300	1,264
	1,114	4,415

As "Bear" operators had set about the report that the reef had pinched out, this will show how false these rumours were. I am inclined to attribute more importance sometimes to the views of an intelligent man, who is not a mining engineer, than to those of the experts, when visiting a new goldfield; and I, therefore, reproduce from a West Australian source the statement which was made by Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P. (a member of the London Stock Exchange), who recently visited Western Australia, at an entertainment in the parlour of the Mayor of Perth, given on September 29, at which were present the Premier, Sir John Forrest, Sir George Shenton, the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, Minister of Mines, and Mr. Alexander Forrest. Mr. Faithfull Begg expressed his views in a very favourable sense. In offering an opinion about the country he did not profess to speak from the point of view of a mining expert, as he had had little or no practical experience of mining. His were the opinions of an independent person, endeavouring, from a business standpoint, to determine what the state of the case was. His great trouble since his arrival in the colony had been that he had discovered the absolute impossibility of seeing more than a fraction of what evidently was the auriferous area of Western Australia. From Coolgardie he passed by way of 25-Mile to 42-Mile, thence to Broad Arrow, White Feather, and down to Hannan's. From there he journeyed in a south-easterly direction to Mount Monger, and back by way of Bulong, lastly travelling southward as far as Norseman. He had come absolutely to the conclusion that the richness and extent of the gold-bearing areas of this country were enormous, and that there would be occupation for a large population throughout all parts of the colony for very many years to come. It is also satisfactory to learn that the Premier, Sir John Forrest, has informed the London Chamber of Commerce, through the Agent-General, that the labour question will receive every attention, as the West Australian Government is anxious to give reasonable assistance to the mines in every respect. With reference to the Menzies Crusoe, it should be mentioned that further important developments have taken place, a new lode having been intersected from which two samples assayed 19 oz. per ton. These shares are now quoted about $\frac{7}{8}$. From the Menzies Consolidated advices are to the effect that both on the "Princess Eva" and "Princess May" claims the lode assays 2 oz. per ton, while on the "Royal Group" the average of eight assays was 3 oz. $11\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. per ton. Menzies Mining and Exploration (Menzies O'Driscoll) stand at $\frac{3}{4}$, and in view of the Company's large interests in Menzies properties, a rise in the shares is quite on the cards, now that the district is going ahead. West Australian Goldfields have been quiet at 6, and continued "Bear" attacks have been made on these shares; but there is little doubt that as soon as a general rally comes about these will again lead an important improvement. The Cue No. 1 Mine, which belongs to the West Australian Goldfields group has now also entered the list of producers, as will be seen from the above list of crushings. These shares are worth taking up at their present quotation of $\frac{1}{2}$. The White Feather Reward crushing above referred to was reduced by the circumstance that the stamps could not run full time owing to repairs to the boilers. This mine has now crushed 2,548 tons for 5,332 oz, an average of 2 oz. 1 dwt., and it will be seen that the last crushing again works out to about 2 oz. to the ton. White Feather Reward shares are now quoted $1\frac{15}{16}$, and are likely to go considerably higher. Other promising mines still at a moderate level are Mawson's Reward at $\frac{15}{16}$, Robinson at $\frac{3}{4}$, and East Murchison United at $\frac{7}{8}$. Hampton Plains have again been raided by the "Bears," but after a temporary decline they have experienced a strong rally to $3\frac{1}{2}$, and in view of the very favourable advices from the various properties of the Company, an important advance would be fully justified. Mount Margaret are quoted $1\frac{7}{16}$. General Gordon shares have been dealt in at £2 per 20s. share, fully paid. From the Gladiator Mine advices are to hand stating that the reef in No. 5 shaft is valued for the full width of 3 ft. at 2 oz. of gold per ton. These shares have advanced to $\frac{15}{16}$. Progress is being made at the Armadale, as a cablegram has been received stating that the cyanide plant has been delivered at the railway station at Fremantle. Favourable advices are to hand from the North White Feather Consolidated. According to the mail advices the reef which the manager is at present working shows good gold. In fact, all the different reefs found in the mine seem to carry more or less gold. The Lake View Consols is again to the front with a satisfactory crushing, and the cablegram adds that all developments are opening out splendidly, and the experimental cyanide plant has proved a great success, so that the tailings are now about to be treated. These shares have fluctuated between $7\frac{1}{8}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$, and, in view of the high opinions which are expressed by all experts who have inspected the mine, there is no doubt that it is one of the richest—if not the richest—on the field. Amongst the same group there has been a setback in West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance; but this is due to "Bear" sales, and there is very little doubt but that the ursine operators will be very badly caught at no distant date. West Australian Joint Stock Trust have given way to 2 premium, but the sales were not apparently of real stock, and a recovery is probable. At Friday's meeting of the shareholders of the West Australian Venture Syndicate the Chairman, Mr. W. P. Orriss, was able to point to a very satisfactory position. The net profit has reached the substantial figure of £104,098, and, in addition to the interim dividend already paid, there will be a further distribution of 5s. per share, making a total dividend of 20s. per share. After paying the dividend on the Founders shares, the balance of £69,364 was carried to reserve. When it is considered that this result has been obtained with a capital of less than £25,000, it is evident that the shareholders have cause for self-congratulation. The famous Bayley's Reward, for which I am glad to say I never had a favourable word to give, has now been reconstructed under the name of Bayley's United Mines. The change of name alone will not, of course, render the concern a prosperous one; it also requires better management, and miner-like development. Burbank's Birthday Gift at one time rose to $1\frac{7}{8}$, but are now easier again at $1\frac{5}{8}$. Burbank's Consols and Burbank's North, both at a slight premium, deserve every attention as possessing the Burbank's lode. I feel inclined to agree with the remark of the *Australian Mail* that the Directors of the Blackett's Claim, Limited, in sending out the share certificates of the reconstructed Company, might have informed the shareholders as to what is being done on the property. This has been a silent mine quite long enough. Great Boulder Proprietary shares are firm at $6\frac{1}{2}$. It is worthy of mention that with the last 5s. dividend, this Company has now returned 24s. in dividends on each share of 20s. I wonder whether the persons who are touting privately for subscriptions for the Great Northern Boulder Mines, Limited, have succeeded in getting any of the public in. The capital is so excessive, and the property is so little developed, that the concern ought to be severely left alone.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

So far there has been no rally in Indian gold mining shares, the surroundings being too depressing. Prices, however, close above the lowest, Ooregum Prefs. being quoted $3\frac{1}{2}$, ditto Ordinary $2\frac{7}{8}$, Champion Reefs $7\frac{1}{2}$, Mysore $7\frac{1}{2}$, Nine Reefs 5s. 9d., Nundydroog $3\frac{7}{16}$. In Australian mines, other than West Australian mines, Aladdin's Lamp have been steady at $2\frac{3}{4}$. British Broken Hill have improved, but Broken Hill Proprietary are lower. In Charters Towers shares, Mill's Day Dawn United and

Brilliant and St. George have hardened, and there has also been a rise in Day Dawn Block. Mount Lyell are slightly easier. In Croydon properties, Croydon Consols remain firm at from 10s. to 10s. 6d., and the dividend of 1s. per share is about to be declared. North Croydon Consols are steady at from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. In New Zealand shares a very dull tone has prevailed, and dealings have been on the smallest possible scale. Thames Hauraki are firmer at $1\frac{1}{16}$, and Hauraki and Waitekauri are the turn better, but New Zealand Joint-Stock, Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Waihi, and Taitapu Estates are all lower. In the general foreign section, Rio Tinto have fluctuated widely on rumours which have partly been contradicted again, that the splitting scheme had been abandoned, and that the Spanish Government was going to tax either copper or the Rio Tinto Company. After touching $25\frac{3}{16}$, the shares are now quoted $24\frac{3}{4}$. Burma Ruby are firmer, and there has also been an improvement in Banner Gold and Pestarena, but Dorics are easier, and hardly any business has been transacted in other shares in this department. Grand Central (Mexico) are quoted $2\frac{1}{8}$.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week :—

The Mikado Gold Mining Company, Limited.—This is promoted by the South African General Development Syndicate, for the purpose of acquiring three locations in the auriferous district of Lake of the Woods, near Rat Portage, Ontario, Canada. The property is about 100 acres in extent, with a title direct from the Government, and free from all royalties and restrictions. The capital is £45,000 in £1 shares.

The New Townend Brothers, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern the business of Townend Brothers, Limited, cycle manufacturers, carried on at Far Gosford-street and Paynes-lane, Coventry. The capital is £80,000, divided into 20,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and 60,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

When will the issue of new cycle Companies cease? The boom in this industry seems to have had the effect of making every cycle manufacturer fancy his own particular goose a swan. The capital in this case is far too high in proportion to the business done.

Howell's Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited.—To acquire three Freehold and Leasehold Properties, of about sixty-nine acres in extent, situated in New South Wales, is the object of this Company. The capital is fixed at £150,000. The vendors take 50,000 shares in part payment of the purchase money.

From the report there appears to have been a quantity of gold taken from these properties by former owners. I think it will be as well to wait and see if there is any payable quantity left before investing in this concern.

The Whangamata Proprietary, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and develop, or otherwise deal with, gold mining and other properties in New Zealand. The capital is £200,000, in £1 shares, of which amount £50,000 are appropriated for working capital.

It is proposed by this Company to acquire and develop mining property in New Zealand, but the only thing the promoters can place before investors is a contract for three mining leases of about 300 acres, in the Hauraki Goldfields, New Zealand. These, of course, have to be developed and worked, or disposed of, and it is too soon to say if this can be done successfully.

The Cornbrook Brewery Company, Ltd.—The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, London, Manchester, and branches invite applications for £140,000 Four and a Half per Cent. prepetual first Mortgage Debenture stock at the issue price of £105, of the Cornbrook Brewery Company, Manchester.

This may suit those who are enamoured of Brewery Debenture stock, but I do not think the security sufficient for the amount asked.

Starley Brothers and Westwood Manufacturing Company, Limited.—With a capital of £110,000 in £1 shares, and a Debenture issue of £50,000, this Company proposes to acquire two businesses carried on by Starley Brothers, of Coventry and London, cycle manufacturers, and the Westwood Manufacturing Company, Limited, of Birmingham and Coventry, manufacturers of cycles and cycle fittings.

It will be as well for investors to carefully investigate new cycle Companies before investing in them. Many are no doubt floated on account of the successful issues that have lately taken place, but the sum asked for this undertaking is far too large, and the Ordinary shareholders may have to wait a long time for any return.

The Perseverance Rewarded Gold Mine (N.S.W.), Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £112,500, in shares of £1 each, to acquire and work the gold mine known as Mount Stuart, but now named the Perseverance, situated about one mile from Stuart Town Station, New South Wales.

One hundred and twelve thousand five hundred pounds for twenty-four acres of mining land, and that but little developed, is to my mind altogether excessive, and I should advise intending investors to think twice before embarking in this venture.

The Australian Cycle and Motor Company, Limited, capital £75,000 in 75,000 shares of £1 each, has been formed to acquire and carry on agencies in the Australasian Colonies for the sale of cycles, cycle components, motors, horseless vehicles, incandescent lights, &c.

The British Electric Traction Company, Limited, with a share capital of £600,000 divided into 30,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 30,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each, is formed under the auspices of the Electric and General Investment Company to acquire the business of the British Electric Traction (Pioneer) Company.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

Government, &c., Bonds.

N. F.—While I should not advise purchase of Brazilians, I do not think there is any hurry to sell, especially as they leave you a heavy loss.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Miles Olim.—You will find that I have already criticised the Cripple Creek (Bull Hill) Finance and Exploration Company, which is being circularised by the Underwriting Bureau, 11, Queen Victoria-street, of which R. B. Oakley is manager. Have nothing to do with it, or with the "Road and Path Cycling Association," of which Oakley also appears to be the guiding spirit. *Adam.*—Very little market in these stocks, and I do not advise the investment. *Romford-road.*—I am sorry it is not possible for me to give you a firm for transacting your business. *Once-Bitten.*—Have nothing whatever to do with Frank Tarrant & Co. I have repeatedly explained that dealing with such syndicate-touts will only land you in loss. *Twice-Shy.*—It is not advisable to invest in this concern; such profits cannot be legitimately made. See remarks under "Various Investments."

Home Rails.

Molar.—1. The Scotch stocks are likely to rise considerably in the near future, and I should, therefore, in your case defer the exchange. The Bank shares are promising. 2. Yes, South-Eastern Deferred may be safely held permanently; they are a promising speculation. 3. Yes, prospects are undoubtedly favourable. *Canterbury.*—Yes; Coras (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary) are a first-class speculative investment. Hold also Dover "A" for an important advance.

American and Foreign Rails.

On a Stick.—Outside dealers; be very careful. Yes, Union Pacifics, Southern Ordinary, and Central Pacifics are a good purchase now that McKinley has triumphed; but I look for the most important advance in Milwaukee. *Hornsey Rise.*—Certainly hold the Ordinary stock, which ought to have a good chance now. *Florence Anna.*—Better wait now. *Sculptor.*—You ought already to have received the transfer, but I suppose you are dealing with a respectable firm, who are members of the "House." The Debentures in question are to be converted into Four and a Half per Cents., and arrears of interest paid at the end of the year. Those not assenting to this arrangement will be paid off in cash. *H. E. W.*—Although Reading First Incomes are now 7 dols. higher than when you last wrote, I still advise holding. The United States are on the eve of a great outburst of business and the Reading line should be greatly benefited. *Bey.*—Hold your Atchison Prefs. The same applies to this stock as to Readings. *T. S. C.*—Grand Trunk Ordinary is a wild cat stock, the purchase of which I have never advised. Yet now that matters are improving in the States the Grand Trunk will also benefit, and you should be able to get out at a much better price. *Kinsale.*—Hold on to your American Rails for an important further advance. All your stocks are rising. See remarks under "Yankee Rails—After the Victory." *R. S. O.*—The best American Railroad stocks to buy are Milwaukee, Louisville, Atchison Prefs., Union Pacifics and Southern Ordinary. As regards bonds, I am giving a selection of "Gilt-edged and Speculative American Bonds" in to-day's issue.

Mining Shares.

B. B., Scaforth.—I certainly advise holding Nos. 1, 3, and 4, in which a recovery will no doubt come about. *A Reader, Glos.*—The mine is considered to be a good one, but it has not commenced to crush yet. There is nothing for it but to wait patiently. *Greta.*—1. I do not like the Electric Light shares. 2. I understand that the London and Globe Finance dividend will be declared in December. 3. You will doubtless get some news as soon as the war in Rhodesia is quelled finally. 4. I still think well of these. *Muskeg.*—Keep all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 10 for an improvement; No. 11 is a rotten concern; how could you have gone into it? *C. F. P.*—The article in question in the *Nineteenth Century* contains a gross distortion of facts, and these assertions will be absolutely disproved by the course of events in Western Australia. *D. O. T.*—1. A fair mining risk; you had better take them up. 2. No reason to sell. 3. Hold these also. *Royal Navy.*—I cannot reply by letter, but should advise you to hold your shares for a recovery. *Kendrick.*—1. On the 10s. paid. 3. "Bear" pressure. Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group are, I am told, doing very well, but they have not reached the crushing stage yet. 5. I do not advise selling Buffelsdoorn. 6. Not yet. 7. Impossible to tell. 8. Not exactly. This should only apply to future registrations. *Senex.*—I do not approve of all your investments Nos. 1 to 4; but you should now hold them for a recovery. The publication in question is an outside broker's circular, and absolutely valueless. "*Holcomb Prefs.*"—Hold for a recovery. *Bamaro.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares; but some are badly selected—notably, Faith, St. Agnes, and St. Augustine. *Orphan.*—There is every prospect of a recovery; hold. Amongst Nos. 1-5, London and Globe (2), Croydon Consols (4), and Hampton Plains (5) are the most promising. *D. K.*—The name of a respectable firm of City solicitors is furnished at your request. *J. Bull.*—The remarks of this bucket-shop keeper are valueless. Do not allow yourself to be frightened out of your shares. *G. W. F.*—A fair mining risk, but no catch. I do not like the United Gold Reefs. *Hesper.*—1. Hold for a recovery. 2. No. 3. Randfontein, Wags, West Australian Exploring and Finance, London and Globe, and Glencairn are all promising. *Theta.*—Yes, a meeting must be held once a year. Write to the secretary. *King Lear.*—Yes. There is no reason for the decline. Write to the secretary. *Porcupine.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1-5 for a recovery. This is not the time to sell. *Clio.*—You should hold all your mining shares Nos. 1-7 for a rise. Certainly hold Hannan's Golden Treasure. *Sigil.*—Yes, a good Company. *A. S., Albemarle-street.*—Hold Johnnies for a recovery. *P. E. H.*—Hold, but do not average yet. *Sidney.*—No option but to hold your shares for a rise. You should have received the Porges Randfontein bonus on Randfontein by now. Randfontein are very promising. There is nothing against the commission charged on the small transaction. *Cymro Bach.*—I do not see how you can get out of the call! *H. W. B.*—Not yet, but certainly hold for a rise. *Stoney.*—You will have to convert the Barnato Banks into new Johnnies. *Dissatisfied.*—The matter looks strange. You should insist upon the transfer of the shares. Are your brokers respectable and members of the Stock Exchange? *H. S., Hull.*—Hold your South African shares Nos. 1 and 2 for a rise and disregard such trash. *Novice B.*—Hold your shares for a rise, but do not buy more yet. *Theta.*—I fancy the best thing to be done is to join the reconstruction and sell after. *Friable.*—A fourth rate publication to which you should attribute no importance. The Company is doing well, hold. *R. B. B.*—Hold Langlaagte Royal for a recovery. I do not think very favourably of the Telegraph shares. *Cestrian.*—I cannot explain the discrepancy. No option but to hold your mining shares. *J. P.*—1. Croydon Consols should be held for a further rise. The actions of vendors are sometimes very strange. 2. No temptation to buy yet. *Very Green.*—Hold, but do not buy any more. *W. J., Belfast.*—The future of Oceana Consols is promising. *Crewash.*—A. No; I advise you to have nothing to do with the Mammoth Collins Gold Mine, of Arizona. B. Yes, I have a good opinion of the Victorian Gold Estates; the capital does not appear to be heavy in view of the large extent of the property acquired by the Company. C. These are only lower in sympathy with the West Australian market, and a recovery may be looked for. *Inquirer, Birmingham.*—The Company is in its initial stage, but may eventually do well. *Martian.*—These shares are no catch. *Juvenus.*—I have an unfavourable opinion of the La Campana Gold Mining Company. *Dacca.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares, Nos. 1 to 8, for an improvement. You might average Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8; but only if you can take up and pay for the shares. *Liffey.*—No option but to join the reconstruction and sell after. *Londoner.*—1. Yes. 2. Certainly hold. 3 and 4. Yes. *Persimmon.*—1. A call on the North White Feather Consolidated Gold Mines has now been made, and it is understood that this mine is progressing well. 1. Of course you will have to pay the call. 2. No catch. 3. Gold Lands Corporation at $\frac{1}{8}$ premium are a good purchase. *Rejected.*—I have an adverse opinion of the London and Coolgardie Explorers. *Forfar.*—Hold your shares; you will eventually see the price improve again. *H. B., Newcastle.*—Your list Nos. 1 to 6 is a very mixed one, and you can do better in the shares recommended in my letter. *A. O. L.*—Have nothing to do with Mr. W. Hunt, of 11, Earlsfield-road, Wandsworth, London, S.W., as far as the Transvaal-Westralian Gold Concessions is concerned, whose shares he is trying to unload upon the public. *Enaf.*—Hold Explorers' Finance shares. *Hard-up.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. I do not think well of these. 3. A good property. 4. At this rubbish price it might, perhaps, be worth your while to buy a few. Hold Barnato Banks, an improvement will no doubt come about in time. *Miranda.*—I do not take a favourable view of this New Zealand Company. *W. H., Edinburgh.*—I do not recommend a purchase of Nos. 1 to 5. You can do better in the shares recommended in my letter. *Pembury.*—I do not see any reason for selling these shares, least of all on this bucket-shop circular. *Natal.*—No option but to hold the shares. *Ibycus.*—1. The Glencairn Company has now been amalgamated with the Glenluce Company, and in the commencement of the new year these combined mines should begin yielding a very large output. 2. Buffelsdoorn Estates should also come to the front again. *Constant Reader, Constantinople.*—1. Write to the secretary. 2. Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I should prefer Randfontein and Glencairn. 3. No reason to sell Sheba. *Max, Reading.*—I think you can do better by following the recommendations in my letter. *Lombard.*—No option but to hold no 1. No. 2 are likely to improve, although you must know that I do not like this concern at all. 3. It might be useful to average. 4. No option but to hold. 5. A fair mining risk.

Industrial Shares.

A. Z. X.—Yes, this Debenture stock is a good investment, and of course precedes the Preference and Ordinary stocks. *W. W.*—Nos. 1 and 2 are somewhat speculative; but promising. No. 3 is a fair industrial investment. *Arauco.*—I hardly think it advisable to buy these bonds now; you can do better in American Railroad bonds, which you will find referred to under the "Yankee Market," and which may now be considered as quite safe. *Mexican Investment.*—Yes; the Six per Cent. Debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo are a good investment at about par. *Boswell.*—1. Very speculative. 2. A fair investment, but no catch. There is no market for the first mentioned Debentures; second ditto stand at 102-4. *Markato.*—The first-named Preference shares are perhaps a fair investment, but the element of speculation largely enters into it. 2. W. Cory & Sons, Limited, Ordinary shares are no catch. *W. B. T.*—There appears to be every probability of the Bagot Tyre Company being acquired by the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company; but I cannot, of course, guarantee this. If this arrangement should come about, the shares will doubtless reach a much higher premium. *M. B. C., Recluse.*—1. Impossible to tell; this is a most speculative industrial concern, about which no information is available. 2. A fair investment. 3. I am afraid that this concern is not likely to prosper. 4. I do not wish to express an opinion. *Halifax.*—1. I do not care for the Rudge-Whitworth Cycle shares. 2. The Ordinary shares stand at $\frac{13}{16}$. 3. No recent dividend. 4. Impossible to tell. *Ajax.*—I should prefer the Swift Cycle Company as an investment. *H. S. B.*—Your experience just shows how necessary it is to discriminate in industrial ventures. Yet I should not advise you to sell out now, as there is many a chance yet of a recovery. *Pegasus.*—Such publishing Companies are subject to great fluctuations of trade, and the investments would be exceptionally speculative. *Tasmania.*—A fair investment; hold. *Z. Z.*—1. Not yet. 2. Write to the secretary. The rumoured issue of the great Biscuit amalgamation has been contradicted. *Wexford Oyster.*—1. Write to the Secretary of the French Dunlop Company for information. 2. No. 3. I should not advise purchase at this premium at present. Amongst Cycle Companies, Gladiators and Bagots are at present the best purchase. Cycle Tubes, at $\frac{7}{8}$, are also promising, as the extensive new factory will be ready in a month or so. *Victoria X.*—As far as I can see, you cannot refuse to pay the call, as, if you were to do so, your shares would be forfeited, and you would still be liable for the call. *Bap.*—I have not a favourable opinion of Premier Cycle shares. *Hew.*—The market is limited in these shares, and I dare say that the price was the best that could be got for them. There is no official quotation for the shares.

Mixed Investments.

L. F. T.—There is nothing against the investments Nos. 1, 2, and 5; but the others are not desirable, and you will do better by investing in American Railroad bonds, which are now quite safe after the McKinley victory. *Patimo.*—1. No; deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. 2. One of the more respectable kind of outside dealers; but not above reproach. 3. No. 4. Effingham Wilson, of Royal Exchange. 5. The *Financial News.* *R. B., Limerick.*—If you have a good profit on Nos. 2 and 7, you might as well take it; but No. 3 should be held, and there is no reason to sell Nos. 5 and 6 now. I do not like Grapplers (1) or Hall Mines (4). *Omega.*—Hold the West Australian mines; they should improve again. I do not think much of the Gas stock; but there is no reason to sell the Electric Light or Industrial shares. *Nunquam.*—Apply to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co. for the information you require. With regard to the Mining market, I can but confirm the remarks in my letter. Sooner or later, an important recovery is certain to set in. *J. H. S.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I should only recommend the purchase of No. 7. All the others are very speculative, and you can do better by consulting my letter. *R. J.*—1. A recovery is expected. 2. Ditto. 3. You must await a decided turn in the South African market. 4. Ditto as regards West Australians. 5. I do not like New Beestons. *Paris.*—1. A fair mining risk, but I prefer Croydon Consols or North Croydon Consols. 2. One of the best. 3. Yes, as to New Primrose. 4. Impossible to tell. 6. American Railroad bonds should suit you. 6. A fair industrial investment.

Alkelda.—1. Under present circumstances there is no option but to hold all South African Mining and Land shares, and you might safely average; also hold No. 2. I am glad you are doing so well in Croydon Consols on my advice. *Cuckoo.*—1. A fair West Australian mining venture, but there are other promising mines of the kind and it would be preferable not to put too many eggs into one basket. The industrial shares referred to are likely to improve. *LL.D.*—I. Enough has been taken up of the capital to assure profitable working. The Debentures are, as you say, well worth picking up. II. I do not think favourably of this. III. A fair investment. *Llandudno.*—Yes, Mexican Cotton Estates, Six per Cent. Debentures at 100 are a first-rate investment. *Rebecca.*—1. No reason to sell these Cycle shares which are above the ordinary run. 2. The Nitrate industry should recover again, and the Company in which you are interested is one of the best. 3. Hold; prospects are excellent. *Bert.*—Amongst the mines mentioned have nothing to do with Nos. 1 and 2. On the other hand Croydon Consols (3) are a good purchase. You will find other suitable mines under "Golden West Australia." I should prefer Jays (5) to No. 4. *Ned.*—1. A second-class office. 2. Not much prospect of a further rise just now. You got in too high. *T. R., Shepherds Bush.*—It might be worth while to join the reconstruction, so as to be able to sell on better terms after. The industrial stocks mentioned should be held. I cannot reply by letter. *Triston.*—I think that your intention to spread the money over the Uruguay Loan, London and Globe Finance, and West Australian Exploring and Finance is a good one. No objection to the Music Hall shares. Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo Debentures are a safe investment, yielding a high return. *Harold.*—1. A fair industrial investment, but no catch. Hold Nos. 2 and 3 *Baalbec.*—1. There may be a possibility of getting better out of this industrial investment by waiting a little longer. 2. Langlaagte Estate shares at $4\frac{3}{4}$ should suit you. 3. Hold. 4. Make your selection from the American Railroad bonds mentioned in my letter. *L. K. R. I.*—You cannot do better than put best part of your £5,000 into American Railroad bonds, as per table published to-day in my letter. Nos. 1 and 2 are very speculative. Amongst the Mines mentioned I consider Knight's (10), Langlaagte Estate (11), Hampton Plains (13), and Aladdin's Lamp (17) as very promising. Certainly hold Erie for a rise. No reason to sell No. 14, although you have a good profit. The Company (No. 15) will probably not get its concessions renewed, hence the decline. 16. No. *Motto.*—I think the Great Horseless Carriage Company (1) is exceedingly risky, and this also applies to No. 2. I feel sure the ideal carriage of the future has not been invented yet. I do not like Nos. 3 and 4, and against all these concerns unfavourable comments have appeared in these columns. The same applies to Nos. 5, 6, and 7. No reason to sell French Dunlops (8); but I do not think much of No. 8. I do not think well of the New Zealand Company in question. The papers are returned. *Dugdale.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 13; they should recover again. No. 14 is no particular catch.

Various Investments.

The victory of McKinley in the States has not yet brought about much change in the Money Market, rates in which have been firm; but the fact that large sums of hoarded gold will be liberated in America rather points to the cessation of gold shipments from this side to the States; and while an early reduction in the Bank rate is not probable, it looks as if the present moderate value of money would be maintained. The favourable issue of the Presidential elections has had a hardening influence upon all gilt-edged securities, Consols advancing as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 111. India Stock is also firmer; and there has been a general advance of from one to two points in Colonial bonds and British Corporation stocks, which bears out the view which I took last week, that it was no use holding back any longer in the hope of lower quotations of gilt-edged securities. Investors should, however, consider whether it would not be more advantageous to them to give the preference to sound American Railroad bonds, which, now that the American people have declared in favour of a gold basis and honesty, again form an excellent investment, quite as safe as many other so-called gilt-edged stocks, while a much higher yield is to be obtained, as will be gathered from the table which I have inserted elsewhere. Silver dropped sharply on the news of the discomfiture of the Silverites, but has since recovered again to $29\frac{15}{16}$d., while Rupee Paper is firm at $62\frac{7}{8}$. Cycle shares have been steady without much change in quotations, and it is probable that this market will become more active as we approach more closely to the opening of the new cycling season. Dunlop Deferred have been steady at $1\frac{3}{8}$, which is also the price of Humber Extensions. Cycle Tubes are firmer at $\frac{7}{8}$, on statements that the large new factory of this Company is almost ready for working. Cycle Components are quiet at $3\frac{7}{8}$; but in Gladiators a considerable business is being transacted at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium, while Bagots are firm at 1 premium. An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Nitrate Railways has been called for the 19th inst., when the Board will very properly place before their constituents the prospects and position of the Company, which have of late been much discussed. Amongst high-class investments, the Debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates, of Tlahualilo, may be still recommended as a good investment yielding 6 per cent., and standing at about par I hear that the new Bovril Company will see the light of day at the end of next week, and there is little doubt that the shares will rise to a premium. There has been considerable activity amongst American Brewery shares, prices having favourably responded to the election of Mr. McKinley, and, with the improved conditions of trade which will result from the more settled state of the currency, these industrial undertakings should materially advance, so that a higher range of prices may be looked for in the near future. I hear very good accounts of the St. Louis Breweries, the profits of which for last year are expected to be between £210,000 and £220,000, or, after paying the Debenture and Preference interest, equal to over 8 per cent. on the Ordinary shares for the year. An interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. was paid in June last. The Preference shares at $10\frac{5}{8}$, therefore, seem a sound, permanent investment, yielding 8 per cent.; while there is still a considerable margin for improvement in the value of the Ordinary shares, which at their present quotation of $6\frac{5}{16}$ give a handsome return. An Ordinary share which stands in much the same position as the St. Louis Breweries Ordinary shares did eighteen months ago (when attention was drawn to them in these columns, and they could be bought at a little over half the present prices), is that of the Milwaukee and Chicago Breweries, of which I hear favourable accounts. They are to be purchased in the region of $3\frac{1}{2}$, and might easily double in value within the next eighteen months. This Company owns the celebrated Valentine Blatz Brewery of Milwaukee. To those investors who require a high return, and at the same time have the experience of the last six years to guide them, the Ordinary shares of the Springfield Breweries are very tempting. This Company has paid regular dividends of 9 per cent. each year since its inception, besides accumulating considerable reserves, and at $8\frac{1}{2}$ the shares yield nearly $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the investor. The Eight per Cent. Preference shares at $11\frac{1}{2}$ return nearly 7 per cent. A curious development of syndicate business is contained in circulars issued by the Co-operative Traders' Association, of Albert-buildings, 68, Great Tower-street, London, E.C. This "Association" boasts that its great feature is the utter absence of the gambling interest; yet it states that the "October trading has resulted in a profit of 6 per cent.," which is at the rate of 72 per cent. per annum. Subscriptions of £10 each are now invited in the well-known syndicate-touting style. How exactly the profits of the Traders' Co-operative Association are arrived at is not explained, beyond the statement that they are made in commercial commodities. But I do not think that this concern has made out such a case as to render it at all advisable to invest money in it. The Underwriting Bureau, of which the well-known Richard Banner Oakley is the prime mover, is now to the front with puffs and prospectuses of the Anglo-Continental Motor Carriage Company, Limited. This in itself appears to be a very speculative concern, and I should like to know whether the Earl of Westmorland, the Earl of Limerick, and the other directors are aware of the fervour with which R. B. Oakley is inviting people to underwrite the shares, for which he offers a commission of 10 per cent. in cash and 10 per cent. in shares? This prospectus is being sent out together with circulars of the "Road and Path Cycling Association," which has already been referred to by me in TRUTH, and which is also one of Oakley's bantlings. I say emphatically, have nothing to do with either of these concerns!—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

THE SANITARY ENGINEERING CO. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country

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QUEER STORY.

BOGER'S BANQUET.

LATE in the afternoon of November 10, 189—, a merry group of youngsters was gathered round the fire in one of the cosy smoking-rooms of the Mutton Chop Club, engaged in the consumption of much tobacco, and the perpetration of unlimited gossip. The Mutton Chop is a fairly well-known club; and, of its sort, it has an established, albeit a Bohemian, reputation. It is frequented chiefly by those members of the literary and artistic professions, who are not big enough guns to put up for more famous institutions, and also by a considerable sprinkling of the Junior Bar. An insignificant entrance fee and a moderate subscription bring it within the range of most purses. Not that it is a club to which election is a mere matter of nomination; still less, a club which is under the degrading necessity of having to cadge for members. As a club for small guns, the Mutton Chop holds its head high. The lesser artillery of letters and the drama are well satisfied to print "Mutton Chop" upon their visiting-cards; for, according to a certain standard, it stamps a man select; and it is something to be select—even among pop-guns.

The group of men gathered round the fire on this particular afternoon were all unmistakably jolly pop-guns; as was evinced by the good-humoured chaff, the playful banter, the merry jests, that were freely bandied between them. And presently they fell to discussing a subject in which the whole group seemed to take a lively interest.

"Any one seen old Boger?" remarked one.

"No; I don't think he has shown up here to-day," said another. "Beastly shabby of him, too. He must know that we are all spoiling to hear how he fared at the Guildhall feed last night!"

"Why the devil did they invite him?" propounded a third man.

"A compliment, my dear fellow. Boger hasn't set the Thames on fire But he's a good workman—we all know that. And those articles of his in the *Weekly Wirepuller*, cracking up the Corporation and the City Liveries, attracted a good deal of attention in certain circles. They *were* able articles, too. Never read a weak case more forcibly presented. You'll see. They'll do something for old Boger!"

"Hope they will. The poor beggar needs it. A man with his talents ought to be raking in the oof; yet somehow he never manages to rise above starvation pay. Utterly deficient in commercial instincts, I suppose!"

"Yes," chimed in another. "He's always in a chronic state of hard-uppishness. Often has to cadge on his Uncle for a dinner, I'm told."

"Wonder so shy and sensitive a man has the face to beard the avuncular dragon! Good old bashful Boger!"

"Expect he enjoyed the fizz last night," added some one else, chuckling. "Boger loves his liquor, eh? Good old bibulous Boger!"

"Eke did enjoy the turtle. Boger hath a capacious waistcoat. I'fecks. He will, in truth, be a liveryman to-morrow. Good old bilious Boger!" said a theatrical gentleman, then just rising into fame as an interpreter of Shakespearian clowns.

"Hem! Corporations to the Corporation, eh?"

"Ha! ha! ha! What a sore point—if, indeed, the word may be used of so obtuse a thing—what a sore point is that self-same corporation to the worthy Boger. He walks leagues every day in his efforts to train it down; and is awfully sick because it obstinately refuses to shrink."

"Yet why should he be sore about it? For my part, I should be proud to present such an imposing front to my fellow men. Still, as you say, it is an awfully tender subject with him. I have learnt that—to my cost. You know what a gentle, inoffensive, good-natured creature he usually is. Well, only yesterday I chaffed him about his tummy. By Jove! you should have seen how he lost his wool. I thought he was going for me, so I prudently decamped."

"I heard a story about him, to the same effect, last week," struck in somebody, "from old Shearman, the tailor. He was measuring Boger for inexpressibles, it seems, and in the course of doing so he punched Boger rather unduly—as our friend thought—about the lumbago regions.

"'What the deuce are you up to?'" says Boger. 'I'm a tryin', sir,' says old Shearman, 'to find the small o' your back.'

"'And by Job, sir,'" old Shearman told me, 'Blowed if Mister Boger didn't fling hisself straight out of my shop in a reg'lar tantrum, saying he'd see me damned before he'd give me another order, and that he'd half a mind to knock my blooming head off. And yet I hadn't meant no offence. Not that it matters to me very much, for Mr. Boger's custom scarcely runs to one soot a year, and he don't always pay for that.'"

"Yes; no one can call Boger a dressy man. Yet I think—poor old chap—he's awfully sensitive about his shabby clothes, and his poverty. Can't bear to think that they are noticed. I wonder what sort of figure he cut at the Guildhall last night."

"Yes; I wonder. I——"

"I say, you fellows," suddenly chimed in another man, who was skimming an evening paper, with his back turned to our group. "I say! Just listen to this. By Jehosophat! Well, I never!"

"What's that?"

"Why, old Boger—well, here *is* a go. But just listen."

All turned their attention eagerly to the speaker, who, in an excited and impressive voice, began to read aloud as follows:—

SINGULAR CHARGE OF THEFT AGAINST AN AUTHOR.

At the Mansion House Police Court this morning, Walter Boger, described as an author and journalist, was charged before Alderman Sir Benjamin Bucksmith with the theft of a table knife. Mr. Halwood, who appeared to prosecute on behalf of Messrs. Alder & Co., the well-known refreshment contractors, said that the charge was a somewhat singular one The defendant Boger was present, by invitation, at the Lord Mayor's banquet, at the Guildhall, last evening, and was noticed by one of the waiters to take up a table-knife, belonging to the prosecutors, and to secrete it in the tail pocket of his dress-coat. The waiter at once communicated this to the manager, who kept his eye on Boger, stopped him as he was leaving the banqueting-hall, and questioned him on the subject. If he had acknowledged the theft, or given some sort of reasonable explanation, the matter might have gone no further. But his answers, on being interrogated, were so shuffling and unsatisfactory, that the manager thought it his duty to call in a constable and give the defendant in charge On his being searched at the police station, the knife was found in his pocket; and also upon his person was discovered an envelope containing several pawnbrokers' duplicates. They bore the name and address—clearly fictitious—John Smith, Kensington; and—what was particularly significant—one of the duplicates related to a parcel of forks, knives and spoons, pledged a few weeks previously with Messrs. Trepill, in the Borough.

In the light of this discovery, Messrs. Alder & Co. had thought it incumbent on them to press the case—which, in other circumstances, they would have been loth to do.

Witnesses were then called in support of the charge, who bore out counsel's opening statement. The defendant, who appeared much distressed and to feel his position very acutely, called no witnesses, but protested his innocence of any intentional theft; said that he meant to replace the knife, but forgot, after all, to do so. He entreated the Alderman not to convict him.

The Alderman: "But why did you take the knife?"

Defendant made no audible reply.

The Alderman: And how do you account for these pawnbrokers' duplicates being found on your person?

Defendant: I swear they do not belong to me. I never knew that they were in my possession. I was utterly astonished when they were found upon me at the police station. I have no idea how they came there.

In the end, the Alderman, after descanting on the sadness of seeing a man like the defendant in so degrading a position, remanded him for a week, in order that the police might investigate the matter of the pawnbrokers' duplicates. He would accept defendant's recognisances in £100, and two sureties in £50 each, for his reappearance. Sureties not being forthcoming, defendant was removed in custody. We understand, however, that an hour or two later the necessary sureties were found, and that the defendant was liberated on bail.

The reading of the above account evoked loud expressions of amazement from our whole group of listeners.

"Good God!" ejaculated one.

"Who the deuce would have thought it?" cried another.

"Impossible!" exclaimed a third.

"There must be some mistake," said a fourth. "Boger a thief! It is out of the question."

"If he was going to steal at all, he would surely have gone for the spoons or forks," pronounced another.

"Well, I simply don't believe it."

"But here it is—in black and white," rejoined the reader of the paragraph.

"He didn't even deny that he had sneaked the knife."

"Those pawn-tickets look deuced fishy."

"Of course, the fellow is notoriously hard up."

"He often doesn't know where to turn for sixpence."

"I tell you there's some confounded mistake."

"I'll stake my head on Boger's honesty."

"He couldn't have done it."

"He did it, though."

"It's a clear case."

"Hang it all, you fellows! Don't turn on a friend the moment he is accused!"

"Rot! The accusation has been clearly brought home to him."

"I bet you it will all be explained satisfactorily."

"I bet you it won't."

"Take me in a fiver?"

"Yes."

"The committee will have something to say to this."

"They will indeed. We don't want thieves in the Mutton Chop."

And so this discussion raged for an hour or so, until one more urgent and interesting demanded the attention of the disputants. It was by that time close upon eight o'clock. The discussion of our friend's misfortunes is, beyond measure, attractive, but even that pales in attractiveness before the discussion of our daily dinner.

* * * * *

On that day week, when the unfortunate Boger surrendered to his recognisances at the Mansion House, quite a little crowd of his acquaintances was present in court. Boger appeared in the dock, looking thoroughly harassed and miserable. And when, on casting a furtive glance round the court, he caught sight of so many familiar faces, his distress and confusion became quite pitiable to witness. Sensitive and painfully shy under any circumstances, he was now—as could be clearly seen—scarcely able to support his position. His face was as white as a ghost's. He stood trembling in every limb. It seemed to his friends, also, as if a week's anxiety and suspense over this humiliating charge had done for poor Boger what no amount of training and exercise had been able to accomplish, and that the very ample lines of his expansive figure were palpably less full, round, protrusive. Solidity, weight, bulk still remained; vast, indeed, and excessive for the average man; but for Boger, a mere, shrunken relic; lean, shadowy, immaterial.

"By Jove," whispered one of his acquaintances to another, "Old Shearman would not have to punch for the small of Boger's back now."

"No, indeed. He has quite a waist, has he not? But, I say! The poor devil does look ill. I feel awfully sorry for him. I can't believe that he committed such a paltry theft—unless, perhaps, he was drunk."

"Umph. The finding of those pawn-tickets upon him looks jolly rum. Still, I admit it was hardly worth while to sneak a dinner-knife."

"H—sh! They're beginning."

Mr. Halwood, who again appeared for the prosecutors, had now risen to address the Bench.

"I wish to say at once, your Worship," he said, "that, since the last hearing of this case, information has been obtained by the police which throws a somewhat less serious complexion upon it. It will be in your Worship's recollection that, at the last hearing, pawnbrokers' duplicates were produced which had been found on the defendant, one of them relating to a packet of spoons, forks, and knives pledged with Messrs. Trepill, in the Borough, in the name of John Smith. In fact, it was owing to the production of these tickets that your Worship ordered a remand. (The Bench nodded.)

"Well, the police have carefully investigated the matter of these duplicates; and I am bound to tell your worship that, as far as they go, the defendant stands completely exonerated. Not only were the goods not pawned by him at all, but there is every reason to suppose that he was speaking the truth when he asserted, at the last hearing, that he was quite unconscious of having the tickets in his possession. The police have discovered the gentleman who did pledge the goods to which the duplicates relate. And not only that. But this gentleman, when asked how the pawn-tickets could have come into Boger's possession, was able to suggest a possible explanation. Under stress of circumstances, he had, some weeks ago, sold his dress suit to a second-hand dealer. And it might have happened—he said—that Boger had purchased the suit. He referred the police to the dealer in question. The result, your Worship, has been to prove, conclusively, that the defendant Boger did hire that very dress suit from this dealer on the afternoon of November 9 last. I need hardly point out the significance of the date."

A murmur of surprise was heard throughout the court; even the worshipful alderman's eyebrows were raised in well-regulated, magisterial astonishment.

"Under these singular circumstances," continued counsel, "taking into consideration that nothing whatever has transpired against defendant's previous character, and that the theft with which he stands charged is utterly insignificant, my clients have no desire to press the case. I may also add that if the defendant had frankly explained, at first, what the police have since discovered about the dress suit and the pawn-tickets, this prosecution would never have been instituted. I confess I am utterly at a loss to comprehend his inexplicable behaviour in concealing these facts, which he must have seen would tell immensely in his favour. It is even possible, your worship, that, if he can now be induced to speak, he may be able to explain his theft of the knife no less satisfactorily. But, however that may be, my clients feel that defendant has been more than amply punished by this exposure for appropriating the knife; and they are anxious, with your permission, to withdraw from the prosecution."

As counsel resumed his seat, a murmur of applause was heard in the body of the court, where Boger's friends were congregated.

"Silence! silence!" exclaimed the Bench. "This court is not a place of public entertainment. I do not see, Mr. Halwood, how I can, with propriety, accede to your request. The case has gone too far for the prosecutors to withdraw. But I am so far in agreement with you, that I shall be willing to impose a nominal penalty. First, however, I had better hear what the defendant has to say for himself." (To defendant). "Do you wish to offer any explanation?"

It had been observable that, during counsel's speech, Boger had seemed deeply confused and embarrassed; and that the hue of his countenance had changed from an ashy pallor to a blushing and fiery crimson. He clung to the front of the dock for support as he replied to the Alderman, and his words came out in hurried, nervous snatches.

"Your Worship!" he gasped, "I—I—have been a damned—oh! I beg your Worship's pardon—a confounded fool."

A slight titter was head at the back of the court. The Bench did not rebuke it; for the Bench itself had some difficulty to preserve a due gravity of demeanour. Boger's appearance at this juncture was particularly, though unintentionally, comic.

"Your—your—Worship! W-what counsel has said ab-bout the dress-suit and the pawnbrokers' duplicates is perfectly true. I—I—ought to have explained that when I was charged at the police-station. But I was confused and—and frightened, and—and—ashamed to confess" (poor Boger was now blushing to the roots of his hair)

METZLER & Co. have just issued Editions, with English and French words, of Gabriel Fauré's beautiful Songs, including "Les Roses d'Ispahan" (Persian Roses), now being sung by Mlle. Landi.

"that I was too—too—poor to have a dress-suit of my own."

It was to the credit of the public in court that no one laughed now. Although the circumstances were so ridiculous, there was a genuine touch of pathos in Boger's distressed confession that appealed to everybody.

"A false shame! A false shame," murmured the Bench, encouragingly.

"I—I—your Worship—so much has come out, that I may as—as well admit the rest. The truth about the knife was—was this, your Worship. The—the—hired waistcoat was too—too" (Boger was nearly crying) "too tight for me" (Audible titters in court). "Towards the middle of dinner it—it—grew tighter than I could bear" (The tittering increased. Even the Bench was severely masticating the magisterial lip). "I—I—tried to loosen the—the—back strap. I—I—found that the—the buckle had come off, and that the—the straps were tied in a G-G-Gordian knot. I was—was—afraid that the buttons in front would burst, your Worship, and so I—I—stealthily used the k-knife to cut the strap; and—and—seeing a—a—waiter looking at me, and being ashamed of his finding out what I was doing, I just s-slipped the knife into my tail-pocket, your Worship, and——"

Boger never got farther than that. The tittering in court here swelled into a huge guffaw, that could not be repressed. The Bench itself gave up biting its lip, lay back on its judicial throne, and roared till the tears ran down its august cheeks. Counsel, solicitors, warders, officials, police, and public, all joined in. Before it was over, there was not a pair of sides in court that did not ache.

When, at length, silence—the silence of complete exhaustion—was restored, the Alderman spoke. His voice was weak and feeble, his red cheeks still wet and streaky.

"You are discharged. But I would caution you for the future to be more careful; and, next time you are dining out, to regulate your waistcoat-buckle before you start. Next case."

MUSIC.

HOW COTTELL'S CONSERVATOIRE IS WORKED.

I HAVE already printed a great deal of correspondence connected with Mr. George Cottle (or, to give him his higher sounding and more up-to-date professional name, Mr. Lansdowne Cottell) and his London Conservatoire of Music, while a mass of other evidence, much of it a mere repetition of the sort of thing which has already appeared, has also reached me from various sources. Now, therefore, would seem to be the time to sum up the case—to show exactly what the London Conservatoire of Music is, and how the whole thing is worked. I have been particularly assisted in this by some correspondence which has been placed in my hands, and in which Mr. Cottle, or Cottell, very frankly discloses the whole game.

Mr. H. C. Hamman, who is a Master of Arts of Oxford, seems last July to have seen one of Mr. Cottell's precious advertisements for a secretary. Mr. Hamman, of course knowing nothing about the Conservatoire, wrote for particulars, and Mr. Cottell replied on July 8 as follows:—

DEAR SIR,—I require a young gentleman *to train in my own way*, so as to be able in a short time to undertake my duties here, also at Manchester, Birmingham, &c. (must not object to travel). To suitable candidate I offer the most delightful home with board and unusual advantages. I shall require a small premium for the period arranged, as I should have to pay my masters to teach the system adopted. There is also the whole routine of the business department to learn. The position open is very unique. Good conversational powers are imperative, my receptions require good management. There is every opportunity of working up to a very good salary. I am here Thursday and Friday till 9 p.m., Saturday till 3.—Yours truly,

LANSDOWNE COTTELL.

Mr. Hamman, M.A., seems to have been under the impression that a tutor or professor was required. But Mr. Cottell undeceived him in the following letter, the italics, of course, being his, not mine:—

DEAR SIR,—My advertisement was not for a professor, but for a youth to be trained *to my own original system*. I have *fifty* professors now at work, but I have *not one* who can do my work at the branches of the Conservatoire. I am sorry to find so many clever men content to *sniggle* for such poor pay as the profession offers generally. Here it is quite different. A few minutes chat would soon prove my ideas are right. Come to the concert and ball here on Saturday and judge for yourself.—Yours truly,

LANSDOWNE COTTELL.

Mr. Hamman, who, by the way, resides at Andover, still did not bite, whereupon Mr. Cottell wrote, much to Mr. Hamman's disgust:—

July 20, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I shall be pleased to appoint you music examiner to the Conservatoire at Andover, giving you the power to award scholarships.—Yours truly,

LANSDOWNE COTTELL.

This ended the correspondence so far as Mr. Hamman was concerned, for a man of honour and a member of the University clearly could have nothing to do with so miserable a business. Indeed, Mr. Hamman's honest contempt for Mr. Cottell and his Conservatoire was great, for as he rightly points out, "As I sent no references and had no interview he had no means of knowing whether I could discriminate between a sharp and a flat." Mr. Cottell's terms—and these are very important as showing exactly what the Director of the London Conservatoire of Music means by "Free" scholarships—are in Mr. Cottell's handwriting as follows:—

"According to your judgment and ability, scholarships are awarded by paying one, two, or three terms' fees, as per prospectus, free after for two years. If very talented free at once, subject to rules. Resident scholarships for ladies, value fifteen to twenty guineas, deducted from yearly fees. Gentlemen, value twenty to fifty guineas yearly off. Erase director from form and insert your own name. Liberal commission to you 10 to 20 per cent.

The "terms" were characteristically written on half a sheet of note paper and inclosed were a number of Mr. Cottell's precious circulars announcing "free" scholarships, though it will be perfectly obvious that, with the exception to the "very talented, free tuition, subject to rules" (rules which as we have seen imply "library" and other fees), there was not the slightest intention of issuing really "free" scholarships at all.

Here I may mention that Mr. Cottell has been for very many years a teacher of music, so that he is old enough to know better. The process of evolution from schoolboy to "gentleman holding high prominent position" appears to have been as follows:—In 1853-4 I find "George Cottle" among the list of "Present students" at the Royal Academy of Music. He then started for himself, and in the "Musical Directory" as far back as 1857, when, by the way, his name was still spelt "G. Cottle," he was announced as "Principal of the College of Music, 2, Liverpool-street, N." The germs of the "Conservatoire" idea thus appear early. In the Directory of 1861 the name is spelt "G. Cottell," and the address is 2, Keppel-street, Russell-square, W.C., while in the following year "G. Cottell" holds forth at "37, Torrington-square and Ramsgate." In 1864 the address is Monmouth Lodge, Monmouth-road South, Westbourne-grove, and there is no mention of the "College of Music." In the Directory of 1867—and I have taken these at random—there are two initials, and the name is "G. L. Cottell," Norfolk House, Norfolk-road, Bayswater, while in the following year I find the gentleman a teacher of the pianoforte at the "Bayswater Academy of Music, 11, Chepstow Villas." In 1875, we are down again to "G. Cottell," and the address is Lyndenhurst, Abbey-road, N.W., and here in 1876 for the first time the professional name seems to have blossomed forth as "Lansdowne Cottell." In 1886 the address was 12, Westbourne-park, but for the first time in the "Musical Directory" of the year 1888 (though I dare say the concern was really started at an earlier date)

The ONLY PALATABLE NATURAL APERIENT to take is "Franz Josef" Water, generally admitted to be the best. Ten gold medals at World's Exhibitions. No household should be without it.

we have the address, "Lansdowne Cottell, Director London Conservatoire of Music, 66, Porchester-road, Hyde Park, W.," where the business is still carried on.

An old-established Professor of this sort should, it might be thought, be able to conduct his business on other and straighter lines. At present, however, and if I may rightly gather from the mass of correspondence, a good deal of which I have published, the revenue of the Conservatoire may be divided under four heads—the first, that gained from "Gentlemen just from school," who want to become "private secretaries;" secondly, the takings from members of learned and other societies, who are pestered by the "private secretaries" aforesaid to become "annual subscribers" at the trifling discount of 90 per cent.; thirdly, the residential "free" scholarship holders, who, of course, to an individual pay their footing; and, fourthly, the "free" scholarship holders without residence, but who, nevertheless, as we have seen, have to pay their way in some form or other. In short, although little fishes doubtless are sweet, when big fish avoid the net; yet without money, and despite subscriptions and "free" scholarships, you stand no more chance of gratuitous training at Porchester-road than of free board at a West End hotel.

First I must deal with the subject of the secretaries. An enticing advertisement is issued, the *Standard* and *Daily Telegraph* being apparently the journals most frequently read by such gudgeon. The advertisement runs more or less as follows:—

Gentleman's son required, just from school, of good address and accomplished, to be trained to assist in private office and otherwise, a gentleman holding high prominent position. Board, progressive salary, moderate premium. Letters, &c.

As numerous letters to TRUTH have shown, those who answer are, as a rule, informed that they need musical training and must pay for it. Or, as Mr. Hamman was told, they must pay to be taught to take the director's place while he is away and also on tour, for Mr. Lansdowne Cottell has also "branches" in Birmingham, Manchester, and elsewhere. The Birmingham "branch," as we all now know on the word of that respected but deeply deceived gentleman, Mr. Percy Harrison, merely consisted in the hiring of a room for teaching purposes at so much an hour or day. In this connection I may mention a good story, for which, however, I cannot personally vouch. Mr. Harrison, it is told me, has decorated his teaching room with pictures of Madame Patti and other eminent artists, and Mr. Cottell, in order to encourage a new candidate, would proudly wave his hand towards the portraits with the off-hand remark, "These people are all earning a very good living." The provincial "branches" used chiefly for the examination of new "free" students, are, I learn, an important feeding-ground for the Conservatoire.

The "small premium" asked from the "youth just from school" is supposed to pay for the musical tuition without which no private secretary to this "gentleman, holding high prominent position," could possibly be considered completely equipped. Many parents, I dare say, like the French gallant in "The Gay Parisienne," are sceptical, and, "scenting a little mices," refuse to have anything to do with the affair. But every accepted secretary has to pay down a certain sum. Mr. Leo C. Glyn, of Aldeboro', writes me that he was asked for £60, and on his refusing such a position by letter, he received a postcard from Mr. Cottell generously offering to halve the premium. Indeed, as little as £30 a year has been accepted. The "secretaries" certainly have some sort of musical tuition, either by Mr. Cottell himself or by some other teacher, but their principal duty is to write letters to members of various learned societies and others, begging these confiding prople to subscribe for season tickets at the trifling discount of 90 per cent., with the right of nomination for free scholarships. The following is the "common form" of letter, and unless the "Committee" consist of Mrs. Lansdowne Cottell, who is admitted by everybody to possess a will strong enough for half a dozen committees, the thing is a self-evident sham:—

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee to solicit the use of your valuable name as Patron of the Conservatoire. There is no liability attending same. Upon receiving your consent, I shall have much pleasure in forwarding you a ten-guinea season-ticket, or a life member's, the only charge being the stall-keeper's, as per enclosed form. An early reply will be much esteemed.—Yours obediently.

CHARLES LONG, Secretary.

If Mr. Cottell thinks this sort of thing the proper work at which to put a young fellow fresh from school, and whose character is left to be formed by this "gentleman holding high prominent position," I do not believe any decent parent or guardian will agree with him. The begging letter dodge is, I should imagine, the very last thing in the world to which any right feeling man, responsible for the care of youth, would set these lads to work at. They are required to sign the name, "Charles Long, secretary." Whether there ever was such an individual as "Charles Long" at the Conservatoire, I have not the remotest idea. But there is certainly no "Charles Long" now, and the name is a pure myth. The circulars, which are widely distributed, and are marked "Special Private Notice," state that—

It was decided at the last meeting of the committee that in order to make the advantages of the Conservatoire still more widely known, a limited number of 10 guinea season-tickets should be presented to members of the Society of Arts, the Royal Geographical Society, and others to whom this form may be addressed. To defray the stall-keeper's fees for numbering and reserving seats, postage, &c., one guinea will be the only charge for one year or 10 guineas for a Life Governor's ticket.

Another slip states:—

The committee dinners will in future be held in the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant. Free invitations and dates of same will be duly forwarded to season-ticket holders.

Whether the free dinner has been a profitable bait or not, I am, of course, unaware. But Mr. Cottell clearly has missed a chance in not addressing his invitations for these gratuitous banquets to the members of the Corporation of London, who are the best people in the world to appreciate and the best qualified to criticise them. The following is another circular, which is sent to professional and other people who advertise in the daily papers:—

The above advertisement will be inserted one year in the London Conservatoire of Music prospectus, and in every concert and opera programme given by the Conservatoire during the period, for half a guinea inclusive. Three years' insertion for the price of two. Advertisers are entitled to two admissions for every concert and operatic performance. Cheques or postal orders should be crossed Union Bank of London, and sent to Charles Long, Secretary, London Conservatoire of Music.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Cottell does not neglect many methods of raising the wind. And he expects and instructs all these circulars to be addressed and sent out by those "gentlemen's sons just from school" who have paid a premium "to be trained to assist in private office or otherwise a gentleman holding high, prominent position." Whether, if he knew the real facts, any parent or guardian would be willing to pay Mr. Cottell a premium for his ward to graduate in this extremely shady class of business my readers can judge for themselves.

The next source of Mr. Cottell's revenue is the residential students. These, I am afraid, must have fallen off a little of late, for at present the London Conservatoire of Music boasts of only ten all told, and for some, the time is up a few weeks hence. Seven of them are ladies, some of them from the provinces, Manchester, apparently, being a particularly favoured spot in this respect, though if I may judge from the "free tuition" advertisement issued from the London Conservatoire and inserted in the Leeds *Evening Post* last Wednesday, the hard-headed Yorkshiremen are to furnish the next fishery. There is, of course, no need to go into further details in regard to this branch of the subject, for the letters I have published show pretty plainly the system adopted. Advertisements are issued offering "free" scholarships. Here, for example, is one of them from the *Daily Telegraph* as recently as Saturday last:—

Musical Vacancies, for rising talent.—The London Conservatoire of Music, Porchester-road, Hyde Park, affords free tuition, resident scholarships, concert, and other introductions.—Forms for London, Manchester, Birmingham, branches, prospectus, opinions of the principal London papers recording the concerts and successes during the last twenty years, post free, Sec. Single artistes or complete programme provided for concerts, operas, &c., at the shortest notice.

I have not yet been able to discover any one fortunate enough, or perhaps sufficiently talented, to secure this "Free tuition resident scholarship." In each case the formula appears to be the same:—You are certainly very talented, or you have a remarkably good voice, but you are not sufficiently advanced for the "free" scholarship, and you must therefore pay one, two, or three terms, as the case may be. Indeed, Mr. Lansdowne Cottell's own letter to Mr. Hamman, which I have quoted above, shows pretty well the whole scheme. In other cases Mr. Cottell declares that the musical tuition shall be free, but you must pay for board and residence the reduced fee of so-and-so, or *vice versâ*. As to the system of tuition adopted at the London Conservatoire of Music, I do not think it advisable or necessary to enter into the matter at all. Upon such a point there is, of course, always much to be said on both sides. It should, however, be stated that the majority of the imposing list—some sixty professors—given in the prospectus seem to be quite unknown to the students. Mr. Cottell himself teaches singing, and his son, Mr. Louis Cottell, comes on Thursdays for a busy day. Mrs. Cottell, senior, is a sort of general manager, and Mrs. Louis Cottell is down as a teacher of French. Mr. J. Barrett is a painstaking teacher of singing, and Messrs. Marchbank and Hornsby of piano and harmony. As to Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Plowitz, Signor Tito Mattei, Mr. Jewson, Mr. T. Harper, and others whose names are printed in the list, I have not yet been able to discover that they have a class.

The last source of revenue is the ordinary outdoor student. Of these there are beyond doubt a considerable number, Thursdays being the busiest days, while, although despite all that has been printed and said upon the subject, Mr. Cottell's examination Wednesdays are, I learn, still largely attended. Here, again, the correspondence which I have already published will show what, as a rule, is the plan adopted. Sometimes the pupil will have to pay one term, after which tuition is free, sometimes a short lesson is given gratuitously, but there are library music fees, &c., to pay, "in accordance with the rules of the Conservatoire." "Free" tuition, in the sense that an ordinary person will understand the term, *i.e.*, gratuitous instruction without charge for rising talent is, I believe, quite unknown, or at any rate, I have not been favoured with a single example of the sort.

Beyond much doubt, and, in fact, I have heard it from more than one source, the school is largely recruited, particularly so far as secretaries and residential students are concerned, thanks to the imposing list of eminent names given under the title of "Committee, Patrons, and Subscribers to the Concerts." This is a very omnibus sort of description, but as the character of the Conservatoire and its system of business should now be perfectly obvious, I will venture to ask the following ladies and gentlemen whether they countenance the use of their names in this connection. Among them are Lord Carrington, Lord Battersea, Sir N. de Rothschild, the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Sir W. T. Marriott, the Hon. Dudley Leigh, Sir Albert Altman, Canon Harford, Prebendary Moore, the Duchess of Wellington, the Countess of Strafford, Lady Carrington, and Mrs. Ronalds. Unless they are prepared to countenance Mr. Cottell's proceedings, these ladies and gentlemen should withdraw their names without delay.

The De Reszkes have now arrived in New York, and M. Jean de Reszke has officially intimated to the management that he finds the preparation and rehearsal of two new Wagnerian operas too much for one season. Accordingly "Die Walküre" will be postponed, and he and his brother Edouard will appear as Siegfried and Wotan in "Siegfried," to the Brünnhilde of Mme. Melba, that lady being replaced in London by Mme. Nordica. For the London season in place of Mme. Melba in such parts as Juliette, Mr. Grau has engaged Mme. Frances Saville, the Australian soprano who a year or two ago sang with the Carl Rosa Company in the provinces, and has since successfully appeared in Paris and elsewhere.

The concerts of the week have been a good deal too numerous to be dealt with in detail. Rarely have we had so busy an autumn season, and I am bound to add that the public seem to have come well up to the scratch, and that most enterprises which deserved it have paid remarkably well. Dr. Richter has now left us, but Señor Sarasate has resumed his violin chamber concerts, and on Monday the season of Popular Concerts commenced, Joachim's pupil, Mme. Soldat, who has already played here being temporarily leader of the quartet. Mr. Eugene D'Albert will appear next Saturday. He occupied St. James's Hall last Saturday with his "Only pianoforte recital in London" this year; but it was so largely attended that another concert devoted to the works of Beethoven will be given on Tuesday week. The Ballad Concerts have commenced at both Queen's Hall and St. James's Hall. The wealthy firms of Boosey and Chappell are here in rivalry, to the immense delight, of course, of the artists. Mr. Boosey relies largely upon ballads old and new, while Messrs. Chappell go in heavily for instrumental solos and recitations, Miss Lily Hanbury being the reciter last week. Amongst the most successful débutantes of the week was Miss Katie Goodson, a young lady who studied for many years at the Royal Academy of Music under Mr Oscar Beringer and the late Mr. Walter Bache, but who since has been at Vienna under Leschetitsky. She is a most promising young pianist. At the Crystal Palace on Saturday Mlle. Chaminade was the star, and besides her exquisitely pretty orchestral suite "Callirhoë" she played her Concertstück, which she introduced at the Philharmonic eighteen months ago. Mr. Robert Newman's Promenade Concerts are doing remarkably well, and here next Saturday for the first time will be given one of Dvorak's new symphonic poems.

The veteran Mr. Sims Reeves, who has just returned from his first visit to the Cape, will within a week or so be off to the United States for a tour which may possibly extend to Australia. I imagine the occasion to be unique in which a famous English tenor has made his first appearance in America in his seventy-ninth year.

A testimonial is about to be presented to Mr. George Riseley, conductor of the recent Bristol Festival. Mr. Riseley, who is a native of Bristol, has spent practically all his life there, for as a child he was a choir boy in the Cathedral of which he is now organist.

I regret to hear of the serious illness of Mlle. Sofia Ravogli. She was announced to appear at a provincial concert last week, but Mlle. Giulia telegraphed that her sister was seriously ill with peritonitis, and that she herself was quite prostrated with anxiety.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY.—Does the first touch of frost make you shrivel and feel small? I feel certain that my fine brain and large heart are no bigger than *petits pois* when it is as cold as it is to-day. I tried to converse with a Frenchman, whom I met this morning, and found that all I had once known of his language had completely congealed. It is disagreeable to find oneself without words and standing mute with heaps to say and no means of saying it.

The fact is, I am not happy when I'm cold, but there are compensations in the brightness of the sunshine, the cheery look of the blue sky and the beauty of the Turner sunsets that we so often see in London.

And the Christmas shows are actually beginning already. We have had invitations to inspect the Christmas stock of more than one enterprising and extremely previous tradesman who has evidently determined that panting Time shall toil after him in vain.

I wish Christmas would keep in its proper place. There

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is a sense of dislocation conveyed in the way it hangs out over not only its own entire month but over November as well. It is unsymmetrical. It is a wen-like protuberance. It is like a scaffolding on a church. It resembles several disagreeable things, and I sincerely wish that some one would disperse its over-development, trim it neatly back to its due proportions, and deftly knock it into position with the mallet of common-sense.

For it is not Christmas the festival that is in this way unduly enlarged and prolonged, but Christmas the commercial opportunity. The apotheosis belongs to the "milch cow," not the "goddess."

Have you seen the descriptions of the new Duchesse d'Orléans' diamond crown? It is high, and is entirely made of magnificent brilliants. In the centre rises the Bourbon lily, three of the leaves bent down and one erect, this last consisting of an immense diamond. Smaller lilies form the rest of the regal crown.

Her bridal dress must have been superb. It was cloth of silver, with the Bourbon lily glittering all over it in raised gold. She is tall, dark, and handsome, and, I believe, just twenty-nine.

I have seen some most delightful evening gowns at Nicolle's, in their new premises over Lewis's, the jeweller, at 192, New Bond-street. I wish I knew where to buy poetic ink, for I should like to dip my pen in a fount of poesy in order to do justice to such sweet creations.

Try to imagine a beautifully-fitting dress of pure white satin lined with bright rose-pink silk which shines through the satin, and makes it look like a seashell in the sun. Does not Tennyson somewhere describe this luminous effect of pink seen through white?

> A lily that the sun looks through
> And a rosebud leans upon.

Well, dear, the skirt, fitting tightly above, has a very deep flounce, also in white satin, lined with rose-pink and hemmed with narrow black velvet, a little of the pink showing above it, and looking like a fringe of stray petals. This deep flounce was bordered with a narrow frill of the white, lined with pink and bordered with black. The bodice had perpendicular lines of the black velvet both in front and at the back, and the sleeves shared in the apt arrangement which had at once the result of making the figure look slender and heightening the effect of the white and pink. A frill of the pink-lined satin, edged with its line of velvety black, crossed the shoulders bretelle fashion, but, instead of going to the waist at the back, the frill formed a kind of hood along the top of the bodice, a new and very graceful idea. A band of black velvet finished the bodice at the waist, ending in a bow with one pointed end standing up, the other down.

Now have you seized all these points and conjured up the lovely dress before your mind's eye? Then promptly add an all-enveloping circular cloak, made of similar satin and also lined with deep rose pink throughout. Border it with a frill like that on the dress, and add a dark fur boa round the neck.

And here is another chef d'œuvre for your inspection: It is an evening dress of pale blue satin, the skirt made perfectly plain but bordered with a band of rich, dark-brown fur. One side of the bodice, back and front, is in the blue satin veiled with tinsel net, embroidered with silver flowers. The other side, crossing on the blue in a diagonal line, is in amethyst silk enriched with an embroidery of point lace, pale blue and gold, and edged with the brown fur. The sleeves are full frills of the tinsel net over a close undersleeve bordered with a band of fur.

A cape-cloak of mauve mirror velvet, brocaded in gold and silver and lined with quilted blue silk, was bordered with dark brown fur and, above it, with a trimming of real Maltese lace. There were also a collar and yoke of the fur. Do you find these covetable at all?

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And what is your opinion of a turquoise velvet Russian jacket for theatre wear? It is half length, the deep basque being full only in the centre of the back. It is edged with dark mink, like the jacket itself, which has for front a wide and slightly-full piece of ivory satin, all being high to the throat, and held in here and there with bands of pearl and gold embroidery, one of which formed the belt, visible at the back over the turquoise velvet, and in front over the ivory satin, but passing beneath the fur-trimmed edges of the jacket. The collar was simply a band of the pearl and gold embroidery.

The sleeves were sweet. The long ones underneath were white satin, and over them hung round velvet half-sleeves almost to the elbow, plain and not very full, a border of fur finishing them off.

Do you remember my telling you that some courageous ladies had started an agency at 83, Ebury-street? You will be glad to hear that their enterprise has been rewarded by a considerable share of success. They are particularly fortunate in letting people's furnished houses and flats for them when the owners wish to leave town. The consequence of this is that they have always a long list of available houses and rooms sent in to them; and ladies writing up from the country can have their choice of flats and houses ready for occupation at rentals from three guineas to twenty per week.

It is so convenient, too, to be able to engage servants at the Ladies' Agency. Should you know of any one who wants to live in town for a few weeks, don't forget the number—83.

Many of the Christmas and New Year greeting cards are extremely dainty and refined, both in design and colouring. We sent for a box of Parkins & Gotto's, and have made our choice in good time, before all the world rushes in and makes everybody wildly busy. We have developed a little social conscience among us, and we pet and foster the tender plant in every way, seeing how many people go through the world, leaving a trail of inconvenience wherever they pass. Women who order gowns at the last moment are among the worst exponents of evil wrought by want of thought, but even in the matter of greeting cards it is well to allow plenty of time to every one concerned. So we have chosen our little pink card with its golden merry-thought and spray of mistletoe and some simple words of goodwill. You would delight in a sweet pale grey-green card, with a small satin panel in the centre, on which two tiny fluffy birds are portrayed perched on a sprig of almond blossom, and nestling close up to each other for warmth. I divine the east wind in that picture! You would also like a white card with embossed edges, with a few primroses painted on it in relief, in their natural soft yellow. There is a racing card, with horses and jockeys; and a skating card, with a good study of old-world costume, both masculine and feminine; while hunting people are well catered for. Among the more fanciful devices are gold bees, a lovely spray of blackberries in high relief, a strikingly attractive fancy sketch with life-like eyes, much better on tinted paper than on white, and a truly Scottish design of purple thistles and "Auld Lang Syne."

Mrs. A. B. Marshall's fourth annual Cookery Exhibition, with wedding breakfast and ball supper display, is fixed for December 17 and 18, at Queen's Hall, Langham-place. It is in connection with her special grand ball supper and wedding breakfast lesson to be given in the class-rooms of the School of Cookery, Mortimer-street, on December 15 and 16. There are several prizes offered, both money and medals, and I must manage to go, and tell you all about it. Mrs. Marshall's own pupils take a prominent part in the exhibition.

Christabel writes from Paris:—

DEAR MADGE,—I saw some lovely dresses just before they were packed and sent off, made by the Maison Vignon, 182, Rue de Rivoli, for the Duchesse de Chartres, to wear at the various ceremonies in honour of the marriage of the Archduchess

It has been remarked over and over again that, for Autumn and Winter wear, a lady never looks better and more suitably clad than in a Redfern Gown. Messrs. REDFERN'S New Models are now ready. Inspection invited.—26, Conduit-street, W.

Marie Dorothée and the Duke of Orleans. The dress worn at the *dîner intime* (all these toilettes are regulated by court etiquette) was silver grey satin, the long trained skirt quite plain, the bodice high, and the sleeves long, but over the front of the bodice and skirt fell a wonderful drapery of tulle, spangled with diamonds. Pearls were worn as ornaments with this dress.

The dress worn at the gala was in a beautiful shade of yellow, the tint called *jonquille* here. Like the preceding, the skirt was trained but quite plain, and all the ornament was placed on the bodice, which was extremely rich, the low front being closely embroidered with turquoises, and slightly pointed, the back rather higher, and all round the neck and shoulders was a stole (like a flat boa) of blue fox, which in front formed a border to the turquoise embroidery, slightly drawn to the right side. The ends fell on the skirt nearly to the ground. The sleeves, which ended at the elbow, had two large puffs of the satin, finished with a band about an inch and a half wide, worked with turquoises like the front, and below this fell a deep ruffle of lace. Diamond ornaments were worn with this handsome gown.

The dress worn by the Duchesse de Chartres at the marriage was extremely handsome. It was vieux rose velvet, the skirt trained like the others, and the low bodice closely covered with silk embroidery of lilac and mauve tinted flowers and green leaves, united by a narrow ribbon of silver embroidery about a third of an inch wide with Louis XIV. knots here and there; the short sleeves were embroidered to match. A most splendid piece of lace like a veil began at the back of the low bodice and fell over the long skirt like an upper train, and almost entirely veiled the back. It was of point d'Angleterre, and excessively handsome, but the effect was rather heavy on the vieux rose to my idea; a continuation of this lace came round the shoulders and draped them and the front, and was caught up with diamond ornaments. On the skirt also the lace was draped with a velvet chou with a diamond centre. With this a diadem of diamonds was worn, and a superb necklet of the same jewels sewn on velvet.

The Queen of Portugal wore at the gala or theatrical performance a dress of blue and white damas, with large Pompadour bouquets. Round the trained skirt was a border or wreath of variegated roses. The bodice, cut low in the Louis XIV. style, had a deep falling collar of guipure embroidered with pearls and diamonds over rose-coloured velvet, with bouquets of roses and feathers on shoulders and in front. With this was worn a most lovely opera cloak of pale pink miroir velvet, lined throughout with sable, and sables (whole) forming the pelerine, with rich lace below.

The Archduchess Marie Dorothée (la fiancée) wore pink moire brocade at the gala, the bodice embroidered with pearls, and quantities of lace falling about the bodice. It is singular, this custom of young fiancées to wear pink for the ceremonies preceding their marriage whether it suits them or not. Blonde or brune, it does not matter; pink is orthodox, and pink it must be.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

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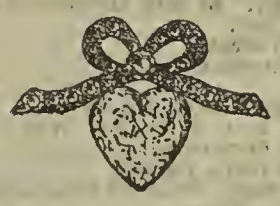

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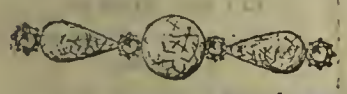

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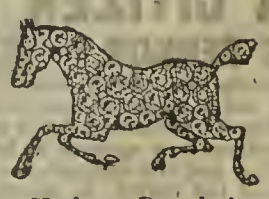

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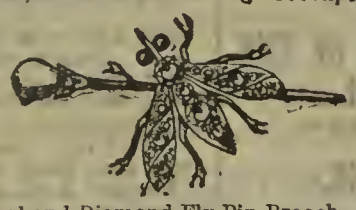

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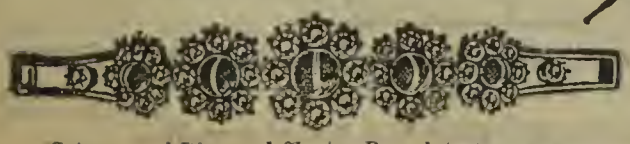

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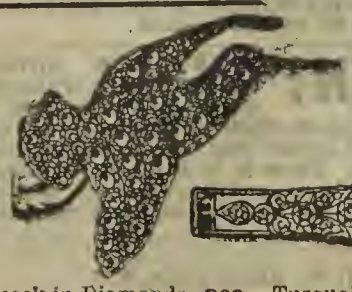

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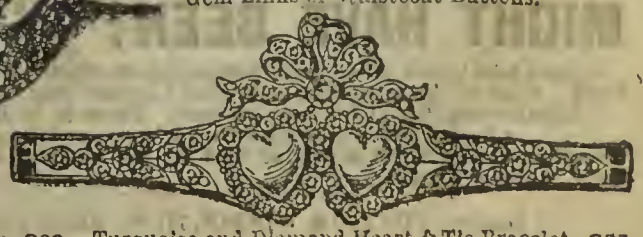

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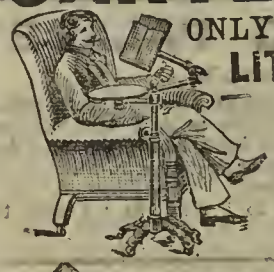

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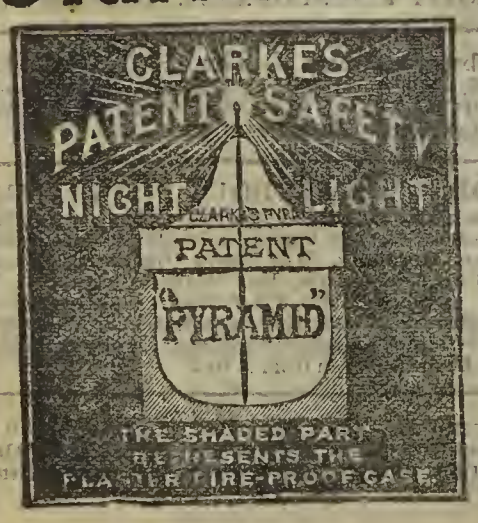

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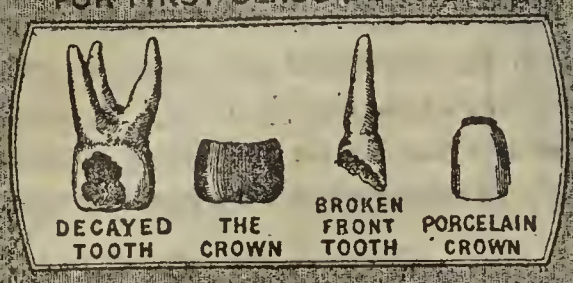

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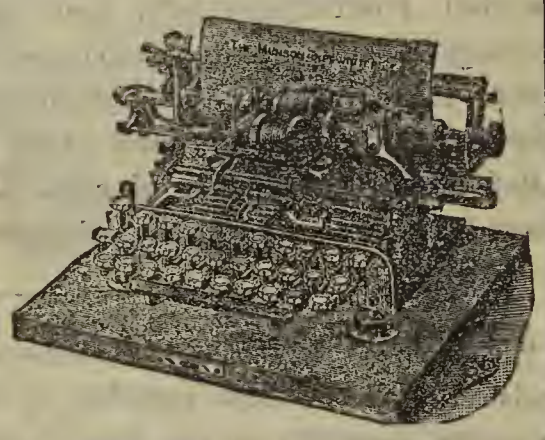

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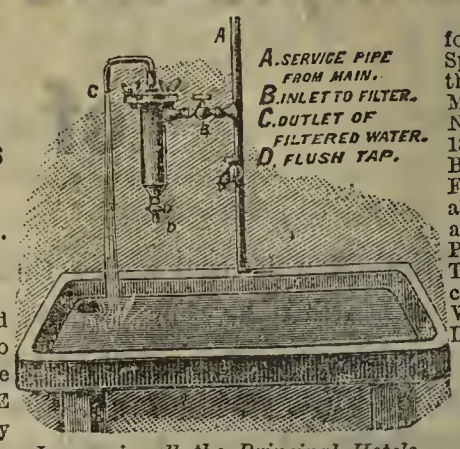

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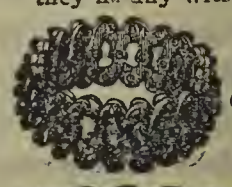

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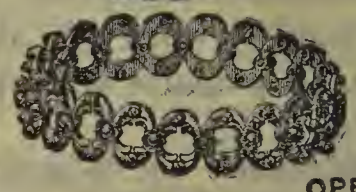

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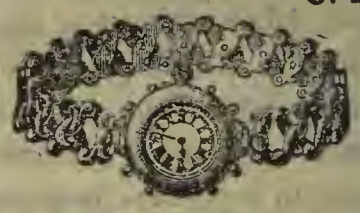

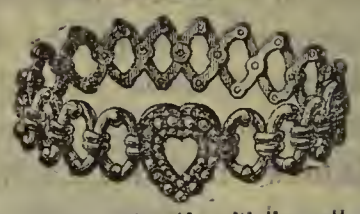

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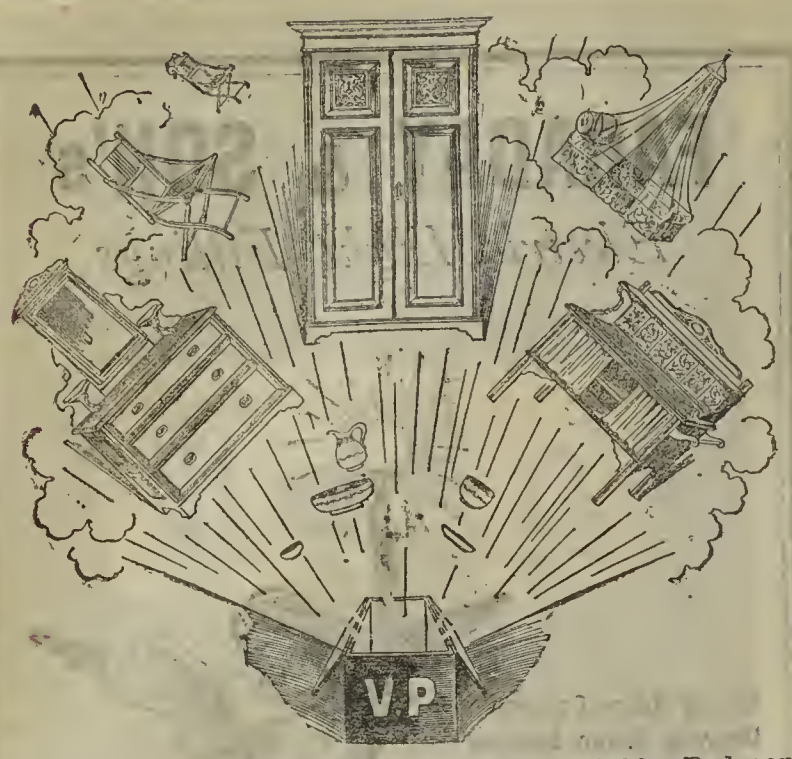

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"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters." —*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th, 1884.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE
JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.
BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.
LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

The List will open on Thursday, the 12th inst., and close on Saturday, the 14th inst., at 12 noon, for both Town and Country.

Subscriptions are invited by the following Companies:—

The Crown Exploration Company, Ltd., The West Australian Goldfields, Ltd., The London and Western Australian Exploration Company, Ltd., The West Australian Share Corporation, Ltd., The Scottish Colonial Goldfields, Ltd., The Colonial Goldfields, Ltd.

The Company will commence business upon existent orders for 2,500 Cycles.

THE AUSTRALIAN CYCLE & MOTOR CO., LIM.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - - - - £75,000,

In 75,000 Shares of £1 each.

ISSUE OF 75,000 SHARES AT PAR, payable 5s. on application, 5s. on Allotment and the balance as required in Calls not exceeding 5s. per Share, with intervals of not less than two months between each Call.

50,000 Shares will be appropriated for providing Working Capital.

DIRECTORS.

William Calcott, Chairman (Managing Director, Calcott Bros. Limited, Coventry).
John Boyd Dunlop (Inventor of The Pneumatic Tyre, Chairman of Todd, Burns, Ltd., Dublin).
Thomas Bayliss (Managing Director of Bayliss, Thomas, & Co., Ltd., Coventry).
Charles Heyland Fox, Assoc. M.Inst.C.E. (Director of W. Pope & Sons, Engineers, Slough).
William J. Stoneham (Legal Manager in Western Australia of Colonial Goldfields, Limited, and Blocks 40, 45, 50, Hampton Plains Estate, Limited).
Edward Whitten Rudd, Managing Director, Melbourne, Australia.

BANKERS.

London: London and South-Western Bank, Limited, 170, Fenchurch-st., E.C.
Australasia: The Bank of Australasia, Melbourne and Branches.

BROKERS.

London: Faithfull, Begg, & Co., Bartholomew House, E.C.
Edinburgh: Hardie & Turnbull, 42, George-street.

SOLICITORS.—Burn & Berridge, 11, Old Broad-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Monkhouse, Stoneham, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 28/29, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C.

SECRETARY (*pro tem.*)—Percy H. Sainsbury.

OFFICES—Worcester House, Walbrook, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on Agencies in the Australasian Colonies for the sale of Cycles, Cycle Components, Motors, Horseless Vehicles, and Incandescent Lights, &c.

A business of this description has been successfully managed for the past five years by Mr. E. W. Rudd, and, he having now secured the Sole Agencies of the Manufacturers set out below, it is proposed to further develop the business with all the benefits of his connection.

The Company proposes to acquire the Sole Agencies for Australasia of the following well-known Manufacturers of Cycles and Cycle Accessories:—

The New Premier Cycle Co., Ltd., Coventry. Makers of Premier Cycles.
Calcott Bros., Ltd., Coventry. Makers of Calcott and XL Cycles.
Bayliss, Thomas & Co., Ltd., Coventry. Makers of Excelsior Cycles.
The Sparkbrook Manufacturing Co., Coventry. Makers of Sparkbrook Cycles.
Miller & Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Makers of Lamps and Components.
Joseph Appleby, Ltd., Birmingham. Makers of Albert Humber Chains.
The Universal Cycle Fittings Co., Ltd., Birmingham. Makers of Cycle Sets and Parts.
Robert Bunting & Sons, Sheffield. Makers of Rims, Spokes, Files, Nipples, &c.
The Simpson Lever Chain, Ltd., London. Makers of Patent Chains and Cycles.

In addition to the Agency of The Simpson Lever Chain, Ltd., which is considered a valuable one, this Company is also making arrangements for the control of two further important inventions by Mr. W. S. Simpson, who will shortly be introducing them to the Cycling Public.

A provisional Contract has been entered into relating to the Agency for Chainless Bicycles, known as the "Acatène," already well-known in France, for their sole representation in Australasia.

WHOLESALE TRADE.—Mr. Rudd's lengthy business experience in Australasia has been the means of his securing a large and healthy trade connection, and, at the present time, he has in hand orders for 2,500 cycles in addition to extensive orders for component parts.

RETAIL TRADE.—The retail trade will be conducted in the same manner as it has been carried on by him during the past three years.

It is proposed to open immediately Distributing Centres in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Perth, thus enabling the Company to secure a fair proportion of this season's trade, which is just about opening, and also to establish Sub-Agencies from each centre to work the respective Colonies.

CYCLE POST AND EXPRESS.—In Australia the advantages obtained through the use of the Cycle have rendered it almost a necessity, and for the last two years the "West Australian Gold Fields, Limited," has relied, to a large extent, on Cycles for the carrying of their Mails to and from outlying districts. A Cycle Express Service has been in operation in Western Australia for a long time past, and the demand for the service has been very great, and will no doubt increase to all outlying districts untouched by the railway, such as Kurnalpi, Yerilla, Mount Margaret, Mount Malcolm, Menzies, Lake Way, Lawlers, &c.

The Company's Managing Director has obtained from the men who are riding in the Post and Express Service the fullest information relative to machines suitable to their requirements. This information, together with the reports and experience he has received from the miners—who do most of their exploring on the Cycle—has induced him to have a machine designed especially for this purpose, which it is believed will supersede most of those in use on the Gold Fields, and a further increase of trade therefrom is anticipated.

COMPONENT PARTS.—It is intended to open a Cycle Components Agency (wholesale) for the sale of all parts of Cycles, including complete sets of Fittings, Lamps, Bells, Saddles, Bags, Tubes, Tyres, Spokes, Gear Cases, Pedals, Novelties, &c. In addition to which a large assortment of Messrs. J. B. Brooks & Co.'s Saddles will be stocked. The Company will be in a position to carry a complete stock, and to quote such prices to the Cycle Trade, that Manufacturers, Repairers, and Retailers will find it distinctly to their advantage to purchase from the Company rather than experience the four to six months' delay now incurred by purchasing from England direct.

MOTORS.—The Company proposes to acquire the complete patents for Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania, for THE KANE-PENNINGTON OIL MOTOR, and to secure the Agency of one of the Motor Carriages, which has stood the test of actual work in Europe, viz.:—"The Anglo-French Oil Motor."

In a little time this trade, embracing as it does the Mining Districts of Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, and Tasmania, should be most remunerative, more particularly from the fact of the Company being the first to introduce Motors in the Colony. Specially designed Motors are to be constructed to suit the requirements of the Gold Fields, and the issuing Companies are prepared to place orders when such machines are ready.

To work in conjunction with the Motor branch of the Business, the Sole Agency has been secured for THE COIL CLUTCH & PULLEY COMPANY, Ltd., Makers of Lindsay's Improved Self-Adjusting Coil Friction Clutches, which range from 2 to 2,000 horse power, and are in active use.

INCANDESCENT LAMPS.—Incandescent burners have recently been introduced into Australia, and most satisfactory sales have already been effected in Melbourne and Sydney, but the great bulk of gas consumers are still unacquainted with the virtues of the Incandescent Light. This business can be satisfactorily carried on in conjunction with the Cycle business at the various Depots and Sub-Agencies.

The Agency of "The New Incandescent (Sunlight Patent) Gas Lighting Company, Limited," has been secured.

The Company has already a number of applications for Sub-Agencies from various parts of the Colonies.

Mr Rudd, whose services the Directors have been fortunate to secure as Managing Director, has been the most successful business man in the Cycle Trade in the Australasian Colonies, and, having regard to this fact and to the fact of the splendid combination of Agencies which has been arranged, and from careful estimates which have been made, the Directors, who are almost all closely identified with the various branches of trade which the Company has been formed to carry on, believe that large profits will result. The profits made for the last twelve months by the Company of which Mr. Rudd was the Manager were, it is believed, such as would pay 14 per cent. on the Capital of this Company. An additional 3,000 Cycles could have been sold during the year, if the manufacturers had been in a position to deliver.

The following Contracts have been entered into by Mr. Rudd, and are to be transferred by him to the Company, viz.:—

Between	The New Premier Cycle Company, Limited, Dated the 16th day of October, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	Messrs. Calcott Brothers, Limited, Dated the 20th day of October, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	Messrs. Bayliss, Thomas, & Company, Limited. Dated the 5th day of November, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	The Sparkbrook Manufacturing Company, Limited, Dated the 26th day of October, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	Messrs. Miller & Company, Limited, Dated the 2nd day of November, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	Messrs. Joseph Appleby, Limited, Dated the 5th day of November, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	The Universal Cycle Fittings Company, Limited, Dated the 20th day of October, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	Messrs. Robt. Bunting & Sons, Dated the 20th day of October, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	Percy Tilt Letchford (as Trustee for the Company therein mentioned), Dated the 3rd day of November, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	The New Sunlight Incandescent (Sunlight Patent) Gas Lighting Company, Limited, Dated the 5th day of November, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	The Coil Clutch and Pulley Company, Limited, Dated the 5th day of November, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.
"	The Simpson Lever Chain, Limited, Dated the 5th day of November, 1896.	and Edward Whitten Rudd.

The price to be paid by the Company has been fixed by the Vendor, Edward Whitten Rudd, at £25,000, which is to be satisfied at the option of the Vendor in Cash or Fully-paid Shares, or partly in Cash and partly in such Fully-paid Shares.

The Vendor will pay all expenses of and incidental to the promotion and formation of the Company up to and including the first allotment.

A Contract has also been entered into, dated 6th November, 1896, and made between Edward Whitten Rudd of the one part, and Percy Hamilton Sainsbury as Trustee for the Company of the other part.

The above-mentioned Contracts or copies thereof, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitors.

The Vendor has entered, or may enter, into agreements and arrangements with third parties, with respect to the issue of the Company and the guaranteeing of the subscription of a portion of the Capital of the Company, to none of which the Company is a party. Applicants for Shares will be deemed to have had notice of their nature and contents, and to have waived their right (if any) to any particulars of these agreements and arrangements, whether under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying prospectus and forwarded to the Company's London Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. In cases where no allotment is made, the amount deposited on application will be returned, without deduction. If the number of Shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the payment on allotment so far as necessary, and any balance will be returned.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

November 10th, 1896.

The List of Subscriptions opens on Wednesday, the 11th, and will close on Friday, the 13th November, 1896, for both Town and Country.

THE

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL = = = £600,000,

Divided into 30,000 Six Per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 30,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each.

The Directors have power to raise on Debentures any amount not exceeding half the subscribed Capital for the time being. It is intended that in all future Issues of Capital the then existing Shareholders will be preferentially considered.

Issue of £300,000, in 30,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each at par,

WHICH ARE OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION ON BEHALF OF

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION (PIONEER) COMPANY, LIMITED,

BY

THE ELECTRIC AND GENERAL INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED,

1 & 2, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Payable— 10s. on Application,
£2 0s. ,, Allotment,
£2 10s. ,, 15th December, 1896.
£2 10s. ,, 15th February, 1897.
£2 10s. ,, 15th April, 1897.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Sir Chas. Rivers Wilson, G.C.M.G., C.B., Chairman.
The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire, Director of the City of London Electric Lighting Company, Limited.
The Hon. Sir Charles Wm. Fremantle, K.C.B.
J. S. Raworth, M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer and Joint Manager of the Brush Electrical Engineering Company, Limited.
Emile Garcke, M.Inst.E.E., Director of the Electric and General Investment Company, Limited, Managing Director.

} Directors of the British Electric Traction (Pioneer) Co., Limited.

SOLICITOR.
Sydney Morse, Assoc. Inst. E.E., 4, Fenchurch-avenue, London, E.C.
BANKERS.
Parr's Bank, Limited, Bartholomew-lane, London, E.C.
BROKERS.
Foster & Braithwaite, 27, Austin Friars, London, E.C.
AUDITOR.
Fred. W. Smith, F.C.A., 20, Basinghall-street, E.C.
SECRETARY.—J. Vincent Kitchener.
REGISTERED OFFICES.—1 and 2, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

FORMATION OF COMPANY.—This Company is formed under the auspices of the Electric and General Investment Company (on lines similar to those of the City of London Electric Lighting Company), to acquire the business of the British Electric Traction (Pioneer) Company, which has a subscribed Share Capital of £50,000, and was established to develop Electric Traction in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, with a view to the formation in due course of the present Company.

PROGRESS OF ELECTRIC TRACTION.—The advantages of electric traction have been demonstrated on the Continent of Europe as well as in America, and are now recognised in this country, as is evidenced by the installations at Bristol, Coventry, Douglas, Dublin, Hartlepool, Leeds, Liverpool, Staffordshire, and other places. In the United Kingdom the total length of tramways of all kinds at date of last Board of Trade returns was 982 miles, of which only about 60 miles are electrical, whilst in the United States there are at least 9,000 miles of electrical tramways in operation, and in the State of Massachusetts having an area and a population only about one-fifteenth of the United Kingdom there are over 1,000 miles of electrical tramways.

VIEWS OF MUNICIPALITIES.—Various Municipalities and Tramway Companies are giving the adoption of electricity for the working of Tramways their consideration, and the extracts from Official Reports accompanying this Prospectus show the favour with which Electric Traction is regarded, and bear testimony to the superiority and greater economy of electricity as compared with horse power.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT.—The Light Railways Act, which received the Royal Assent in August last will greatly facilitate the operations of this Company.

TERMS OF PURCHASE.—By Contract dated 5th November, 1896, made between the Pioneer Company and this Company, the latter agrees to purchase the entire undertaking and assets (other than uncalled capital) of the Pioneer Company, at the price of £25,000, being equivalent to a return to the Pioneer Shareholders of their paid-up Capital of £4 per Share on 5,000 £10 Shares with a bonus of £1 per Share. This Company also undertakes to discharge the contracts and engagements of the Pioneer Company, which include a liability of £10,000 to the Electric and General Investment Company for benefits acquired from that Company by the Pioneer Company on its formation. The Agreement also provides that each Pioneer Shareholder shall be entitled to an allotment of Ordinary Shares in this Company equal to the number of shares held by him in the Pioneer Company.

ASSETS AND INTERESTS ACQUIRED.—Among the assets so acquired by this Company are the interests of the Pioneer Company in the following:—

A Provisional Order confirmed by Act of Parliament, authorising the construction of Electric Tramways from Oldham through Ashton-under-Lyne, Audenshaw, and Denton to Hyde, a distance of about eight miles.

A Provisional Order, also confirmed by Parliament, authorising the construction of 12½ miles of Electric Tramways at Stoke-on-Trent, Hanley, Burslem, and Tunstall, in the Potteries.

A contract with the North Staffordshire Tramways Company for the electrical equipment and subsequent working of that Company's tramways at present worked by steam, and a contract with the Brush Electrical Engineering Company for the supply and erection of the necessary plant.

An Agreement with the Corporation of Longton for the use of the existing Tramways in the Borough of Longton, and for making extensions.

An Act of Parliament for the construction of Electrical Tramways from Kidderminster to Stourport.

A Provisional Order confirmed by Parliament for extensions of Electrical Tramways at Hartlepool.

Parliamentary and other cash deposits made under the before-mentioned Acts of Parliament amounting to £6,433.

An Agreement for a licence for the United Kingdom for the use of a surface contact system of Electric Traction under the patents of F. C. Esmond, and improvements thereon patented by the Pioneer Company and its Engineer.

SOURCES OF PROFITS.—The operations of this Company will comprise the formation of subsidiary Companies to construct and work tramways in various localities; the building and operating of new lines and extensions of existing lines under provisional orders and other powers (some of which have already been secured and others are in course of negotiation), and also contracts to work lines by electric power at a fixed rate per car mile. From these and other sources the Directors believe that large profits will be realised.

MANAGEMENT.—The services of Mr. E. Garcke, Managing Director of the Pioneer Company, have been secured by this Company for a period of three years, under a contract between him and this Company, dated 5th November, 1896.

CONTRACTS.—Copies of the two above-mentioned Contracts, which are the only ones entered into by this Company, and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company can be seen at the Offices of the Company.

PIONEER COMPANY'S CONTRACTS.—The Pioneer Company has, in the course of its business, entered into various contracts, the benefits and obligations of which pass to this Company, and as these contracts may technically be contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, applicants for shares shall accept this notice of such contracts as sufficient, and shall be deemed to have agreed with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any further compliance with such Section with reference thereto.

APPLICATIONS FOR SHARES.—Applications for Shares must be made on the Form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company with the full amount of the deposit. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full; and where the number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the available balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

An official quotation for the shares will be applied for.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, the Brokers, the Electric and General Investment Company, and at the Offices of the Company.

9th November, 1896.

THE MIKADO

GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIM.

LAKE OF THE WOODS, ONTARIO, CANADA.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - - £45,000,

In 45,000 Shares of £1 each,

Of which 15,000 Shares are for Working Capital.

DIRECTORS.

Colonel ENGLEDUE, Chairman, South African General Development Syndicate, Limited.
ARTHUR J. WEBER, Director King of the West Gold Mining Company, Limited.
L. H. MATHER, of Mather & Crowther, Limited.
JAMES REID, Chairman International Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited.

SOLICITORS.

MAYO & CO., 10, Drapers'-gardens, E.C.

BANKERS.

THE AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

C. F. McNICOL, 79, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

The South African General Development Syndicate, Limited, were the promoters and Vendors to the Company, and took the whole of the purchase price in fully paid shares, and subscribed the necessary cash working capital. Therefore, this notice is not issued for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions for Shares, but

SIMPLY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION.

The property is situated in the auriferous district of the Lake of the Woods, near Rat Portage, Ontario, Canada, now becoming known as one of the richest and most promising mining centres in the world.

It consists of three locations—D 147, D 148, and D 149, in all about 100 acres. The title is perfect, and direct from the Government, free from all royalties and restrictions.

The following are a few extracts taken from the Report made upon the property by Mr. Robert H. Ahn, Manager of the Dominion Gold Mining and Reduction Company, who is reputed to be one of the most reliable mining experts in the district :—

"The ore deposit occurs in a quartz vein varying in width, but which in the parts already stripped shows to be about six feet wide. This vein can be traced across the three locations."

"The vein has been stripped for a distance of 150 feet, and shows a considerable amount of free gold in places. A number of assays have been made, which have given astonishing results, and taking an average of the whole we have near $500 (or £100) per ton."

"There are small seams running through the veins which are possibly decomposed pyrrhotite and some galena. This material, when assayed separately, gave results of over $2,000 (or £400) per ton, though it showed no perceptible traces of free gold."

"From the amount of work done on the vein it is a little difficult to fully determine its true position and character, but that there exists a large and rich body of ore there can be no two opinions."

"There is abundance of wood now standing on the property, which will supply all that may be needed for buildings and fuel for many years to come, and the water supply is inexhaustible; and the property is reached by steamer (a distance of 30 miles) from Rat Portage, a station on the Canadian Pacific Railway."

The South African General Development Syndicate, Ltd., before purchasing the property, deputed its Chairman, Colonel Engledue, to visit and report upon it, who, after a thorough examination, sent the following cable from Toronto, dated 6th July, 1896 :—

"Mikado—Reef formation now exposed 350 feet—five samples of ten hundredweights each taken from the outcrop of the lode have yielded per ton of 2,000 lbs.—1 oz. 17 dwts., 10 oz. 15 dwts., 5 oz. 13 dwts., 2 oz. 16 dwts., 2 oz. 10 dwts. gold—Large ore body, 30 feet wide, the deposit can be worked as an open quarry. Believe it to be exceedingly valuable. Purchase should be completed.—Engledue."

Samples taken from the mine were subsequently assayed by Messrs. Johnson, Matthey, & Co., on the 21st July, 1896, and resulted as follows :—

Sample No. 1.—	2 oz.	3 dwt.	12 grs.	gold,	5 oz.	5 dwts.	silver.		
2.—	16 ,,	16 ,,	—	,,	4 ,,	10 ,,	,,		
3.—	7 ,,	1 ,,	12 ,,	,,	1 ,,	12 ,,	,,		
4.—	5 ,,	16 ,,	6 ,,	,,	1 ,,	15 ,,	,,		

Per ton of 2,240 lbs.

The purchase was completed on the 26th July, 1986, a Manager was engaged and despatched forthwith, and on the 12th September the first crushing was made at the public mill, Rat Portage, of 102 tons of 2,240 lb., which yielded 417 oz. smelted gold. A second crushing of nineteen tons resulted in a yield of 110 oz., and the tailings were estimated to carry 2 oz. 14 dwt. per ton.

LATEST NEWS ABOUT THE PROPERTY.

Mr. Ahn, writing on the 9th Oct., 1896, says :—

"The holders of stock in the Mikado will do well to hold on for some time yet, as I feel safe in stating that you have a richer property than you anticipated, and there are, I understand, several other veins on the property equally as rich as the one now being worked; and I have no doubt that when the property has been thoroughly prospected still further finds will be made, as I know that in some of the adjoining properties there are some good veins, which, if they continue their present strike, will pass through the property held by yourselves."

Colonel Engledue, who has paid a second visit to the mine, cabled on the 13th October, 1896 :—

"Mikado making good progress. Number of tons of ore on the dump 400. Estimate value, $20,000 (£4,000). Struck new vein; believe it to be exceedingly valuable. Contains visible gold; present width 4 feet, running parallel with Mikado vein."

And in a letter dated 14th October, 1896, he says :—"The mine is looking first-rate and is a phenomenal property."

Sir James Grant, K.C.M.G., thus speaks of the Mikado and district. See *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 14th October :—

"The most attractive points to day as regards mineral development are Ontario, Rainey River, Lake of the Woods, Manitoba, and British Columbia. All these districts are attracting the attention not only of Canadian and British, but of other European capital. Many mines during the past 12 months have been put into operation. Amongst the most celebrated is the Sultana, Lake of the Woods district, which produces an average output of from $2,500 to $3,000 in gold bricks a week, and that from a depth of only 300 feet, the returns having so far improved as the mine has been opened up. The Mikado, from 120 tons passed through the reduction works at Rat Portage during the last few weeks, has given a return of $7,000 in gold, without taking into consideration the concentrates, which will increase the general average.

"These are only two mines, and there are many others now in operation, and it is estimated by Mr. Ahn, M.E., who operates the reduction works at Rat Portage, that, whereas the general percentage of gold is about $12 per ton,

"In this region it runs as high as nearly double that value."

Sir James Grant goes on to say :—

"The veins in this (Lake of the Woods) district are quartz of a continuous character, well defined, and averaging in width from 3 to 15, 20, and 30 feet, and mining can be carried on with the utmost facility.

"The future of this section of the country will doubtless be a great one, inasmuch as it is easily approached by railway. There is an ample supply of wood and water, differing in this respect from Australia and South Africa.

"The mines can be operated summer and winter, food supplies are cheap, and labour can be obtained at a very moderate rate. Altogether these various favourable circumstances conduce very materially to the present bright outlook, and the mines are paying splendidly, every one that has been tried."

There is now a full staff of men on the Mikado. Work is proceeding vigorously, buildings have been erected, the main shaft is being rapidly sunk, and preparations are in progress for the erection of a crushing plant.

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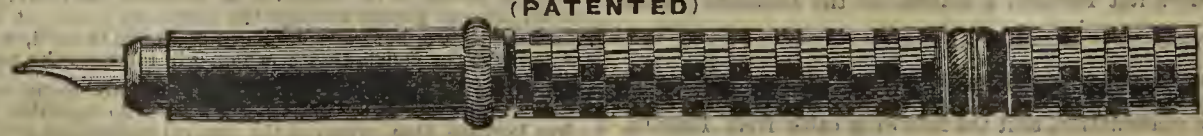

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE No. 923.—ORIGINAL ANAGRAM ON THE LETTERS IN "ABDUL HAMID KHAN, SULTAN OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE."

TARBOX (real name and address will be given in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 924.—PROVERBS, &c., FORMED FROM WORDS IN "TRUTH" FOR OCTOBER 18.

LANCELOT (real name and address will be given in due course) £1 1 0
BOWZER (" " " ") 1 1 0

"TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.—SPECIAL NOTICE.

IN accordance with a previous announcement, and for the special information of those who may be taking part in the Doll-dressing Competition for the first time, full details are appended of the system on which the numerous Prizes are given in connection with the Show. Many readers will remember that a new method of awarding them was adopted several years ago. It had previously been the practice to give one series of Prizes only, and this plan had naturally led to some difficulty in classification, and, in order to prevent any recurrence of this, it was decided to divide the Dolls, for the purpose of judging their relative merits, into three distinct classes. This plan has worked so satisfactorily that it is proposed to again adopt it this year. There will therefore, in connection with the next Show, be three series of Prizes—the first for single Dolls, dressed with exceptional taste and skill and novelty of design; the second for the more striking groups of Dolls; and the third for those larger collections of Dolls, containing fifty and upwards, in the dressing of which any special qualities, such as neatness, variety, durability, &c., may have been exhibited. Thus there will be three First Prizes awarded, probably of equal value, one for the best exhibit in each class, together with numerous other Prizes of smaller value, the exact number and worth of which must necessarily depend on the size to which the Show attains. It is still a little too early to state specifically what these Prizes will be, but they will, speaking generally, consist of useful articles made of, or mounted with, silver, of values varying from five pounds to fifteen shillings. It may also be said that the TRUTH brooches, of which upwards of 100 were distributed last year, proved very popular, and similar mementoes will be again presented at Christmas to all ladies who have dressed a certain number of dolls.

THE HOME-MADE TOYS.

It will not be forgotten, it is hoped, that the Annual TRUTH Show consists of Home-made Toys, as well as of Home-dressed Dolls. The former have always been a most prominent and interesting feature at successive Exhibitions; and it is trusted that there will be no falling-off in that respect this year. The space for exhibiting them is ample. The Home-made Toys may be of any kind—dolls' houses, model toys, movable and mechanical toys, &c., &c. Scrap-books are also in great request at the Children's Hospitals. Prizes will be given, as usual, for the best of the Home-made Toys. It may be well to repeat that there is an urgent demand existing for Home-made Toys of a simple but strongly-made description. Such Toys as will survive the wear and tear necessarily associated with their constant use by a number of children are particularly wanted; and it is hoped that the supply will be found not inadequate to the widespread demand which has been referred to.

And last, though by no means least, there is the all-important question of the TRUTH Toy Fund. The Dolls which are dressed for the Christmas Show, and the Home-made Toys which are sent in amount in all to about 5,000; but when it is remembered that the children to whom the Christmas distribution is made number upwards of 25,000, it may well be asked, What are these among so many? It is, therefore, absolutely necessary, if the usual distribution is to take place this year, that at least 20,000 new Toys shall be purchased. And for this purpose a very large sum of money is needed. Will, then, the readers of TRUTH make the special effort which is required to raise this amount? Upon their answer depends, it need scarcely be added, not only the success of the coming Toy Show, but the happiness of the many thousands of poor children who have learned to associate Christmas with the generosity, which has not hitherto failed them, of the readers of TRUTH and their friends. It may be added that a small stock of dolls, both large and small, still remains on hand, and these, it is hoped, will be applied for at once by ladies willing to dress them.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 925.

The Prize for the best Rhymed Acrostic on "Victoria," having special relation to her Majesty's long reign, has been awarded to SCRIVENER for the following lines:—

THE TWILIGHT OF A RECORD REIGN.

V anquished every regnal record! Give the record unto her!
I n the realms of far hereafter who shall be her vanquisher?
C an the years that roll before us in their misty depths contain
T ithe of all the power and grandeur of our Ladye's record reign?
O nward! cry the voices, onward! Onward! Whither? Onward! Where?
R end the curtain of the future! Nay, the Epoch cries, forbear!
I n the West a dying splendour lingers o'er the sunset skies.
A fter that—the purple twilight and the peace of Paradise.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 929.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week to the competitor who is most successful

IN ANSWERING CORRECTLY THE FIRST THIRTY OF THE ORIGINAL TOPICAL CONUNDRUMS PRINTED BELOW.

Marks will be awarded for any replies that, in the opinion of the Puzzle Editor, fairly answer the given riddles, even though the said replies are not identical with those provided by the authors of the conundrums It may be added that in case any of the authors of the first thirty riddles enter for this competition, no marks will be given them for the answers to their own conundrums. All lists of answers must reach this Office by the morning of Monday, November 23 at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of PERSIMMON, winner of a half of Prize No. 915, is Edward Burke, Esq., Greyfort, Clonmel.

*** The real name, with the address, of BIROTA, winner of Prize No. 919, is the Rev. Chas. C. Elcum, St. Agnes Vicarage, Liverpool.

*** The real name, with the address, of IVY LEAVES, winner of a half of Prize No. 920, is Mrs. Edgar Browne, 29, Rodney-street, Liverpool.

*** The real name, with the address, of HOPETOWN, winner of Prize No. 922, is Miss Emily G. Hart, Craigmillar, Scalby, near Scarborough.

GREYFORT.—Many thanks for your letter. I have written to ANALYST on the subject of it.

MRS. BUCHANAN.—Your Acrostic arrived too late for publication with the others.

BIDDY.—I had discovered the misprint before you wrote.

E. F. C. M.—No, such a contribution as you describe would not be eligible for this competition.

APOSTROPHE.—I am much obliged to you for your letter, and have inserted the conundrum.

CUMBRIAN AND MAKMAX.—Many thanks for your letters.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 926.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL TOPICAL CONUNDRUMS.

*** Answers to the Conundrums printed below will be published in due course.—THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

1. If Lady Godiva lived in these days, how would she ride through Coventry?—A See-man.
2. What remark would an excited Anti-Episcopalian be likely to make to the new Primate?—Rabelais.
3. What is the difference between the Millennium and a lawsuit about a horseless carriage?—Claymore.
4. Why is Armenia ever likely to be a land of discord?—Malignant.
5. Why, in a revolution, would Edison be neutral?—Malignant.
6. Why does the English Embassy at Paris consist of clever men at the present time?—V. H. S.
7. Why does the Sultan of Turkey drink sour milk?—Wild Thyme.
8. Why can't a member of the Navy League be awfully wicked?—La Plata.
9. How does the cab strike in London benefit pedestrians?—La Plata.
10. Why is England, in her dealings with Armenia, like a person afflicted with gout?—Clarion.
11. Why was it likely that Röntgen should discover the X rays?—Apostrophe.
12. What is the difference between the Sultan's Government and the British Parliament?—Apostrophe.
13. Why is the Soudan to be envied by every housewife?—Nedals.
14. Why has our campaign against the Mahdi been of a purely friendly character?—Merle.
15. When were the other Great Powers convinced that England's attitude was a purely selfish one?—Merle.
16. Why is Sir H. Macartney a bad navigator?—Merle.
17. Why is Sir William Harcourt like the Channel of Constantinople?—Eboracum.
18. Why is John Bull doomed to have a poor Christmas dinner?—Eboracum.
19. Why is the Bishop of London like a homeward-bound traveller in the Suez Canal?—Eboracum.
20. Why did the late Church Congress in Shrewsbury go off so well?—Cæsar's Corner.
21. How do loyal Britons prove that they prefer wet weather to dry?—Mrs. Buchanan.

22. What reason would you give that the Czar is a Mahommedan?—Hibernian.
23. What game should Li Hung Chang play, and why?—Hibernian.
24. Why will Sir John Gorst never be a learned Minister?—Hibernian.
25. What is the difference between the Nelson statue and the *Times* on Lord Rosebery?—Co.
26. Why is the Chinese Legation like a Cockney on the spree?—Fathead.
27. Why can the Princess Helène never be a great traveller?—Almaviva.
28. What racial mistake was made by the Chinese Embassy?—Cortex.
29 Why is what a poor workhouse child may get at Christmas like old brown windsor soap?—Cortex.
30. Why does the Chinese Legation in London resemble the North Pole?—V. H. S.
31. What do readers of TRUTH know of Mr. Labouchere's floral tastes?—L'Amour.
32. Why is it like carrying coals to Newcastle to send the present Bishop of London to Canterbury?—L'Amour.
33. How were the gardeners informed of the Archbishop's death?—Echo.
34. At what time during his expedition to the North Pole did Nansen most resemble a saucepan?—Echo.
35. How did the Chinese Legation resemble an eclipse?—J. McGrigor Allan.
36. Why is the Ottoman Empire like a neglected dairy?—Felixicus.
37. When are shareholders in public Companies most interested in the latest scientific discovery?—Pelican.
38. What is the best trade for an Armenian?—Pelican.
39. Why was it impossible for the Czar to come to a private understanding with the President of the French Republic?—Bowzer.
40. Why has the German Emperor latterly combined the characteristics of a roué and of an old woman?—Bouzer.
41. Why must Canterbury be conceded the foremost position in constructive architecture?—Per Ardua.
42. Why does a frown on the brow resemble a well-known play now being acted?—Bootle's Baby.
43. In what five letters of the alphabet would you remonstrate with a cabman violently on strike?—Bootle's Baby.
44. What better instance is there of Lord Nelson's courage even than those given by his biographers? Isinglass.
45. Why is the new Archbishop of Canterbury like a popular work?—Mick.
46. Why might the Shah of Persia be annoyed if he came to London?—Risk.
47. Why is the Liberal Party like a port of call for steamers, &c., which has been damaged?—Shamrock.
48. Why is the new Her Majesty's Theatre now a building, with scaffolding round, like a certain French *mot?*—Arch. Gibbs.
49. What is the Sultan's favourite drink?—Londoner.
50. When do men most object to women?—Apostrophe.
51. Why is Europe to-day like a gourmand at Christmas?—Immortal Will.
52. What slight differences do you find between the Irish poet, Tom Moore, and the British politician who lately resigned a leadership?—Stephanotis.
53. Why do the Liberal Party at present resemble the rose tree and gooseberry-bush at this time of the year.—Cumbrian.
54. Why is the Dongola expedition like the mouth of a kitchen chimney?—Nitram.
55. Why would Russia be justified in making war against the Turks?—Hamlet.
56. Why has Queen Victoria been the cause of a general bad year?—Chance.
57. Why should Mons. Eiffel be compared with the Czar and Li Hung Chang?—Ubique.
58. What is the difference between the Derby Stakes and Lord Rosebery?—East Anglia.
59. Why did Lord Rosebery resign the Leadership?—Truth.
60. If the palace of the Sultan is bombarded, what will be the result?—Serpent.
61. Why is the present century like 2348 B.C.?—Viva.
62. On what city of the ancient world are the eyes of the present generation universally directed?—Felsberg.
63. What is a timely dish to set before Dame Europa?—Owlet.
64. How does this delay in settling the Venezuelan dispute accord with the subject of the controversy?—Esperanza.
65. What river in Scotland reminds one irresistibly of a horse-trough, and why?—Aquila.
66. Why did Lord Rosebery resign?—In Dubiis.
67. Why is the dockers' agitation such a bitter pill?—Sol.
68. Why should the Sultan try to improve himself in French?—Irma Lee.
69. Why was Tynan like one in England who, expecting a change of food—from beef to poultry, was deprived of the same by France's shortcoming?—Felixicus.
70. Why are the electric rays of the new photography like two people agreed?—Echo.
71. What is the difference between the action of the present Government with regard to the Turkish crisis and the convict Jabez Balfour?—Snibor.
72. Why do sporting men as a rule prefer Rosebery to Sir William?—Glenugie.

Other Conundrums have been received from Torchlight, L'Amour, Per Ardua, Glenugie, Bootle's Baby, Mick, Shamrock, Londoner, Nedals, In Dubiis, Jeff, Aquila, Isinglass, Felsberg, Jap, East Anglia, Chance, Nitram, Cumbrian, Hycus, Examen, Excelsior, Apostrophe, V. H. S., Rabelais, and others.

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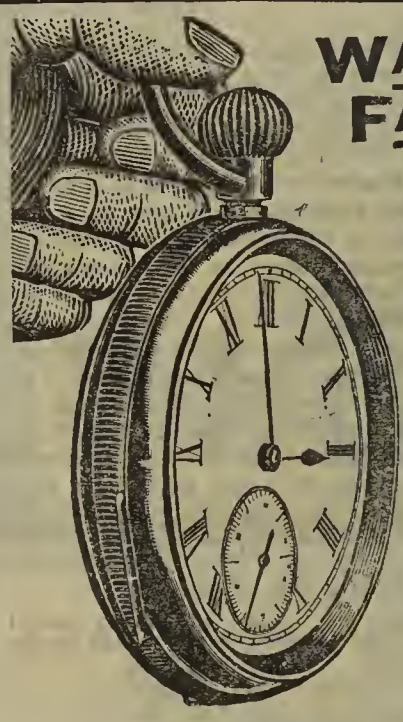

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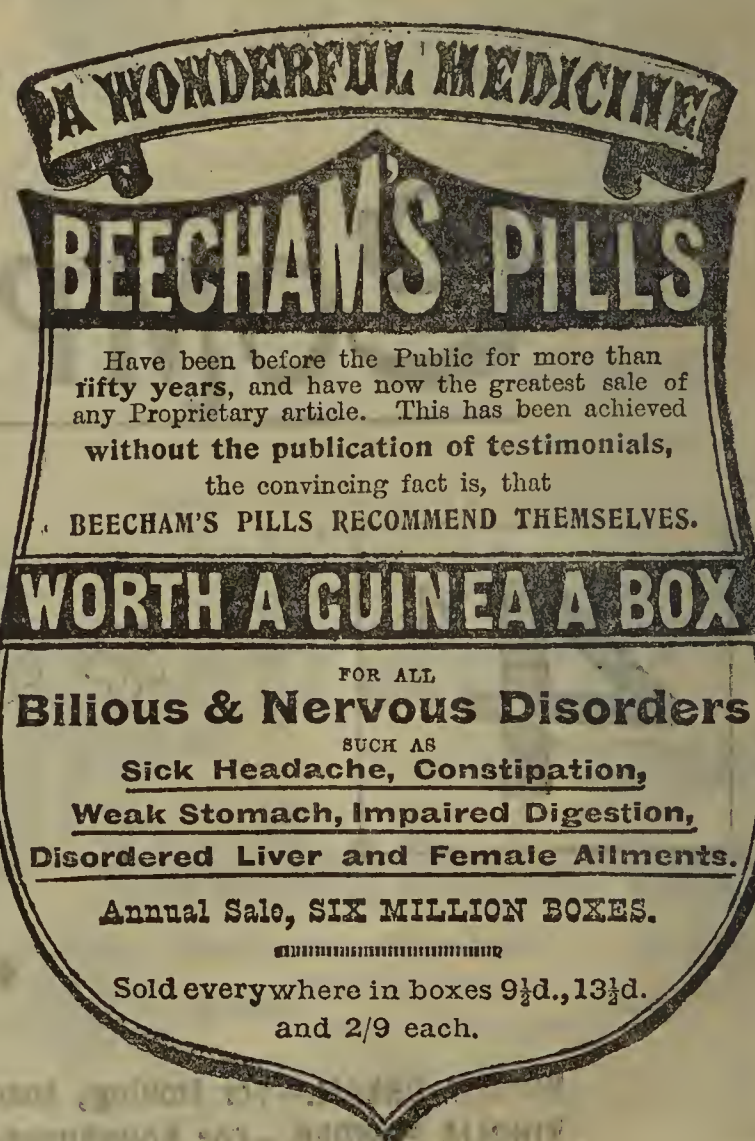

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TRUTH

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Offices, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I HAVE a very pleasing announcement to make. The Royal Albert Hall has again, in the most generous manner, been placed at my disposal for the Truth Toy and Doll Show, by the executive. Their kindness is no trivial matter, for it implies the handing over of the Albert Hall to Truth for a whole week. The preparations for the Show, and the packing up and distribution at the close, will occupy four days; and the public exhibition of the Dolls and Toys will, as usual, occupy two, viz., Wednesday and Thursday, December 16 and 17. I would particularly ask ladies who are working for the Truth Show to note the above date, as it makes it absolutely necessary that all Dolls, Home-made Toys, &c., intended for exhibition, should be received at this Office not later than noon on Saturday, December 12.

During the past week I have received additional returns from certain Metropolitan Hospitals and Workhouses, which make it certain that the number of dolls and toys required for distribution at Christmas will be considerably larger than last year. This increase has been chiefly caused, I regret to say, by the continued prevalence of fever in London. The Children's Wards in the Fever Hospitals are crowded with little patients as they have rarely been crowded before, and the appeals I have received in consequence are pathetic in their earnestness. Dolls, it seems, are in special request amongst the girl patients during the tediously protracted period of their convalescence. In the exceptional circumstances, I have thought it right to obtain an additional supply of dolls, both large and small, feeling sure that there will be volunteers ready to dress them for the special purpose I have mentioned, even at this comparatively late date. I should very much like to be assured during the ensuing week that my faith has not been without justification.

I need scarcely point out that the state of affairs I have mentioned will involve a corresponding increase in the total amount required for this year's Truth Toy Fund. So far, subscriptions have been coming in but very slowly.

A Primrose lady has made the following suggestion to me. Brooches and medals are given each year to the members of the League, and the old ones become consequently out of date. Why not send these old ones to Truth in order to distribute them with toys amongst the workhouse and hospital children? Why not? I am not myself a member of the League. If, however, any of those who are, like to send their old brooches and medals to me, they shall be distributed; nor shall any of the children be asked what are their politics, for, as I hope I need hardly say, there is nothing political in the Truth Christmas Toy Fund. It may be, however, that children receiving Primrose brooches or medals will receive a bias in favour of the political Party to which they owe them, and thus be led in later years to become Conservatives. Well: I am ready to run this risk. The brooch would be in the hand, the Conservative in the bush.

The Queen is to leave Windsor Castle for Osborne on Friday, December 18, and her Majesty will reside in the Isle of Wight until about Tuesday, February 16, when she is to return to Windsor, and stay there until her departure for the Riviera, which will take place during the second week of March.

The Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria returned on Saturday evening to Sandringham from visiting Mr. and Mrs. William James at West Dean Park, near Chichester, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark came back with them and proceeded to Appleton House. The Prince, who came to town with the Princess, stayed at Marlborough House over Sunday, and he is now the guest of Sir Horace and Lady Farquhar at Castle Rising, near Lynn, and goes to Sandringham on Friday. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria are to pass through town on Monday on their way from Sandringham to Blenheim, where they will be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough until Saturday, the 28th, when they are going to Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen until Monday, the 30th.

The Duke and Duchess of York, who are to reside at Sandringham until the end of January, when they will come up to St. James's Palace for the season, are to pay visits during the winter to the Queen (at Windsor Castle next month, and at Osborne in January); to the Duke and Duchess of Portland, at Welbeck Abbey; to Lord and Lady Howe, at Penn House, Bucks; and to Lord and Lady Alington, at Crichel Hall, Dorsetshire.

After an absence of six weeks, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught have returned from Germany, and they will now reside at Bagshot Park for several months, except for occasional visits to the Queen at Windsor and at Osborne. The Duchess has been much benefited by a three weeks' course of massage treatment at Dresden. The Duke of Connaught and Prince Christian will have several shooting parties in Windsor Great Park during the next few weeks.

The Duke and Duchess of Teck are to leave Richmond to-day on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Westminster at Eaton Hall, Cheshire. Princess Mary returned to the White Lodge on Friday from visiting the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort at Stoke Gifford, near Bristol.

Empress Frederick, who was to have arrived on Friday at Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen, is staying at the Château of Rumpenheim, near Frankfort, with her youngest daughter, Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse, who was very ill for some days after her recent accouchement. The Empress has changed her plans, and she will go direct to Berlin on leaving Rumpenheim (after a brief visit to the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden at Karlsruhe), and is to stay there until the end of January, when she will come to England for a few weeks to visit the Queen at Osborne and at Windsor Castle. The Empress Frederick's long-contemplated visit to Rome and Naples will take place in March and April next.

The Duc d'Aumale is to arrive, the week after next, at Wood Norton, his seat in Worcestershire, where he will entertain a large family party during his stay in England. The Duc d'Aumale, the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans, and the Comtesse de Paris will pay visits to the Queen at Windsor Castle, and the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham. The Duc d'Orléans has not hitherto received much notice from the Royal Family, and he has never been invited either to Windsor or to Sandringham, but now that he is so eligibly married, and presumably *rangé*, he is to be taken into favour at Court.

On Tuesday next Lord Lawrence and Colonel Browne are to replace Lord Kintore and Captain Drummond of Megginch, as Lord and Groom in Waiting on the Queen, and they are to be on duty until December 7, when Lord Bridport and Sir Edmund Commerell will succeed them.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1330 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1329.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1331.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1341.

Every one was ready to congratulate the Queen on having attained the fiftieth year of her reign; but what an orgie of flunkeyism was that Jubilee year! And now we are threatened with another outburst of servility from every creature who fancies that it is almost getting into good society to suggest in print some tomfoolery as an evidence of his loyalty. An influentially-signed proposal has been put forward that the recognition of the Queen having reigned for sixty years might take the form of a fund raised by public subscriptions to endow in perpetuity the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses. By all means. Money could not be better applied, for the Institution, with the small means now at its command, does a vast amount of good. I should, however, be glad to hear that the recognition will begin and end with this, and that all moneys which it is proposed to devote to "fuss and feathers" will receive so far better a destination.

Before the new Lord Mayor came into office the inspired paragraphist gave us to understand that his lordship was going to signalise his mayoralty by raising a fund to pay off the debts of all the hospitals, as a memorial of the Queen's sixty years' reign. It would seem that the Lord Mayor has now thought better of this project. The hospital scheme struck me as rather a wild and impracticable one, however well-intentioned, and I hope we have now heard the last of it.

The case of Dr. David Johnston, Professor of Biblical Criticism at Aberdeen, who has been required to resign his chair by the University Court, came before the Queen at the Council which her Majesty held the other day at Balmoral, and it has been referred to a Special Committee "of Lords of the Council" for consideration. Professor Johnston has been requested by Sir Charles Lennox Peel (Clerk of the Council) to present his petition on the subject not later than Wednesday next, and the case will be settled at the Council which the Queen is to hold early next month at Windsor Castle. If Scotch Professors are to be forcibly retired because the conceited prigs of students are not pleased with their lectures, it will not be easy to find competent men to fill the Northern Chairs. It has been said that a dead set was from the first made against Professor Johnston, because he was appointed by Sir George Trevelyan, and is believed to be a man of decidedly Liberal principles.

Lord Caledon has been given the vacant ribbon of the Order of St. Patrick. He is an Ulsterman, and not known in Ireland outside the circle of his friends. No doubt he will wear the ribbon and star as gracefully as most other Irish Peers, but the distinction they may bestow on him will be the only distinction in the case. The Order of St. Patrick has nothing national—in the general acceptation of the term—about it, but the name. It is, nevertheless, a pity that it should be given as a Court favour, since it appertains to Ireland, a country which the Court ignores. The pity is still greater when there are available Irish noblemen who, besides receiving distinction from the Order, would bestow distinction upon it by being added to the ranks of its Knights.

Sir Edward and Lady Ermyntrude Malet, who are staying at Latimer, Bucks, on a visit to the Duchess Dowager of Bedford, will be the guests of the Queen at Windsor Castle, and of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham, before they leave England to pass the winter and spring months at their villa on the coast of the Riviera, near Monaco.

Lord Fitzhardinge made a speech to his Gloucestershire tenantry at Berkeley the other day, in which he stated that five or six years' income of the estates would be required to pay the various duties. He had been told that he must buy the deer and pheasants. The herd had been in the castle park for seven hundred years, and he was asked three shillings each for 7,000 pheasants, but refused to take them over on such terms, and he made another offer to the trustees, which had been accepted. Lord Fitzhardinge announced that he would keep up the buildings on the estate, and would continue the schools and his brother's pensions. He wanted to explain his position, as he had been overwhelmed by applications from all quarters for subscriptions for different objects.

I have no special feeling of like or dislike towards a horse. My sentiments towards him are those that I entertain towards a pig or a donkey, or any other useful animal; nor have I ever understood why any one should be deemed the better man because his affections are centred upon a horse. The object of a carriage is to convey people and goods. That carriage is to my mind the best, that, at the least cost, adequately fulfils this object. If motors, by all means let us have motors. Last Saturday I betook myself to Westminster Bridge to see the procession of these vehicles on their way to Brighton. I was disappointed. No one yet seems to have grasped the fact that there must be a new departure in their form. Judging from those in the procession their makers have simply sought to make them as like carriages drawn by horses as possible. Apart from form, the lighter ones seemed to vibrate greatly. By my side stood a talkative lady, whose acquaintance I had not previously enjoyed. "If the people inside of them were cream," she said, "they would be butter before they got half way to Brighton." I suggested to her that the petroleum cars smelt unpleasantly. "Stink," she said, "is the word for them;" and it certainly was.

By the way, a friend of mine, learned in all connected with electricity, tells me that a primary battery has been discovered of such potency that—to use his words—a big ship will be able to go to America with its motive power enclosed in a jam pot. The discovery was made accidentally by two Scotch boys, and has been taken up by several Scotchmen of large means and of considerable business experience.

A correspondent sends me what purports to have been his experience of Saturday's historical progress of the motor cars to Brighton. The conclusion he arrives at is certainly a pessimistic one — unduly so, I should say. The truth probably lies about midway between his sombre account and the *couleur-de-rose* descriptions by some of the more sanguine motorists:—

"TO BRIGHTON."

BY A CONVERTED MOTORIST.

(*With apologies to Mr. R. G. Knowles.*)

I've just arrived from Brighton—*by train*—
Saturday's ride nearly turned my brain;
I rode down on a motor-car,
Rumble, gurgle, jostle, and jar—
I went off at ten-thirty, proud,
Cheered and chaffed by a mighty crowd;
I arrived at six-fifty—cowed;
Oh! I'll never "mote" down any more
To Brighton,
To Brighton—
(Our first stand-still
Was on Brixton-hill);
To Brighton,
To Brighton—
Oh! I'll never "mote" down any more!

Never was I in so damp a scrunch,
Never had I such a fight for lunch;
Never have I known the mud so thick,
Never have I felt so much of it stick;
Never have I been so loudly cheered,
Never have I been so rudely jeered,
As when we into a coal-cart steered;
Oh! I'll never "mote" down any more
To Brighton,
To Brighton,
Through rain and through slush,
With a nerve-shaking rush,
To Brighton,
To Brighton—
Oh! I'll never "mote" down any more!

Motor cars may have come to stay,
But not in *my* coach-house, any way.
I hate their jolt and I hate their smell,
I hate their hideous shapes as well;
And when I resolve to seek again
London's suburb upon the main,
I'll go by coach, or I'll go by train,
But I'll never "mote" down any more
To Brighton,
To Brighton.
I'll go on my "bike,"
Or I'll walk, if you like,
To Brighton,
To Brighton—
But I'll never "mote" down any more!

As the Lord Mayor's Show does not go round the streets of Westminster, I did not have an opportunity of seeing it myself, but I gather from the reports that in the allegorical car that represented Dongola, the place of honour was occupied by a figure symbolical of my friend Tommy Atkins, while the Egyptian Army was apparently represented by men leading the horses of the triumphal car, and dressed like "syces" or native grooms. Considering that the Egyptian troops, as all the world knows, have borne the brunt of the Dongola campaign, and have fought well on every occasion, this seems a pitiful way of exalting our own warriors at their expense. It is only in keeping, however, with the usual custom in such matters. An officer reminds me, apropos of the Lord Mayor's Show, how in the Chitral spectacle, at Olympia,

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all the fighting was represented as being done by white soldiers, while the native army, which really formed the bulk of Colonel Kelly's force, and certainly did all the hard work and fighting, was represented by a few men in puggaries with black faces, who marched in the rear of the procession. This sort of thing seems to me calculated to make us very contemptible in the eyes of foreigners.

Let me warn my lady readers to be careful in these advanced days how they make appointments to interview servants anywhere except in their own houses. A lady friend of mine in Sussex, whose address ought certainly to have been a sufficient guarantee of her respectability, made an appointment to interview a servant in search of a situation in the waiting-room at Brighton Station. Imagine her feelings on receiving the following post-card :—

MADAM,—I write to decline the situation, as I do not aprove (*sic*) of meeting ladies in waiting-rooms.

M. T.

My friend has taken the rebuke to heart, and will be more careful in future.

The following epistle puzzles me. In what way is the wearing of fur or feathers inconsistent with humanity? Is it inhuman to kill animals in order to use their skins for clothing? If so, we must forswear the use of leather as well as that of fur and feathers, and I must request "the lady who presides over the fashion department" to refrain from describing boots and shoes, not to mention gaiters and travelling bags. Not only this, but if we may not kill animals for their skins, we clearly must not kill them for food, and my "Madge" must forswear beef and mutton as well as fur and feathers. Until I know what it is likely to lead to, I think I had better not interfere with "Madge" :—

DEAR SIR,—Would it not be more consistent with the humanity towards animals expressed in other portions of your paper if you requested the lady who presides over the fashion department to refrain from describing articles of dress trimmed with fur or feathers?

Forgive my abruptness, but it is difficult to combine brevity with civility, and believe me, faithfully yours,

LIZZIE J. CHADWICK.

The Editor of TRUTH.

The Show of Chow Chows and Foreign Dogs, which was such a remarkable success last year, has now become an annual institution, and the next show will be held at the Royal Aquarium on December 8—10. Those desirous of further information can obtain it from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. R. Temple, at 66, Carlisle Mansions, S.W.

A movement is on foot to establish a new club a Bournemouth, and judging from what has been heard in times past about the cliquishness and snobbishness that have flourished in the old institution, it would seem that there is plenty of room for the new venture. It is not altogether certain, however, from the prospectus that the new club will exactly supply the want. The promoters describe their undertaking as a "second club for gentlemen," and then go on to specify the following as eligible for membership :—"(1) The clergy, barristers, officers in the Civil Service, officers in the Army, Navy, Militia, and Yeomanry, either on the active or retired list; (2) Private gentlemen resident in Bournemouth or its neighbourhood." Is it to be understood from this that while the clergy and barristers are admitted, other professional men, *e.g.*, doctors and solicitors practising in the town, are to be excluded; and that while the rest of the Services, including even the Yeomanry, are eligible, the line is drawn at Volunteer officers?

How comes it that no annual revenue and expenditure account of the Imperial Institute has ever been published? One of the Fellows has lately been endeavouring to obtain information on this subject. Being able to extract nothing from the officials beyond the meagre financial statements in some of the annual reports, he made inquiries of Messrs. Lovelock, Whiffen, & Dickinson, the accountants to the Institute, who informed him that they have annually audited the books of the Institute and prepared a balance-sheet. What becomes of this balance-sheet after the auditors have prepared and delivered it? There can be no question that it ought to be issued to the subscribers, and the Institute being a public concern I venture to think that it ought also to be published.

I have received a great many letters calling in question my statement that the President of the Royal Academy receives nearly £1,000 per annum. It is by no means easy to find out what he does receive, for everything in connection with the Academy's accounts is kept a dark secret by the Academicians. But it is the general opinion that, one way with another, the late Lord Leighton received from the Academy about £1,500 per annum. I do not know that there has been anywhere published of late years any account either of the invested funds possessed by the Academy, or of its income, which seems to be derived partly from interest on investments, and partly from entrance money to its exhibitions. In 1859 there was a general abstract published of the accounts for that year and the previous ninety-one years. The total amount received during this period was £384,480. 11s. 1d.; the total expenditure, £279, 98[illegible] 11s. 5d.—leaving a balance in favour of the Academy of £104,499. 19s. 8d. Its invested funds then amounted to £122,600. Since then this latter item must have very largely increased.

Last week I published the explanation of the editor of the *Leamington Advertiser*, that he was away from the office when the remarkable article on the Corporation mace appeared. Anxious that the paper should get full credit for the humour it displays, one of the editor's admirers now favours me with some cuttings from back numbers of the *Advertiser*, which show that the

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dissertation on the mace was by no means a first or solitary effort of the same journalistic genius. In particular, a leading article on "The Troubled East," which was published on October 1, is fully up to the high standard of the delicious composition which I quoted the other week. I suppose, therefore, that my friend the editor is not infrequently absent from his post.

There was a trial before Mr. Justice Cave last week, which, if correctly reported, shows what is the profit of the shareholders of the *Times*. Mr. Adams bought 1-14th of 2-3rds of 1-9th of 2-16ths (or $\frac{1}{1512}$) of the *Times*, from Mr. Brodie, for £353, on the assurance that this minute share was worth about £25 per annum. According to him, after he had purchased the share, he found it only to be worth £17 a year. On this he asked for damages. The jury assessed the damages at £65. Assuming this share to be worth £18 per annum (which seems about the average value), it is clear that the net dividend on all shares is £27,216. Mr. Adams, believing it to be worth £353, paid for it 14·1 years' purchase. The jury valued it at £288, which, taking the annual return at £18, would be sixteen years' purchase, making the *Times* worth £435,456. This, however, does not quite correctly, I believe, represent value, for Mr. Walter, as printer, derives a large profit on an old contract. This contract, in point of fact, represents what may be called Preference shares, whilst those of the shareholders may be termed Ordinary shares, the value of the *Times* being the sum-total of both.

By the way, in mentioning the *Times* last week among the London penny dailies, I was merely guilty of a slip of the pen. The *Times* is not to be obtained anywhere, as far as I know, at the price of one penny. I take this opportunity of thanking the numerous journalists and private correspondents, whose acuteness has enabled them to detect the error and enlighten me on this point.

M. Rochefort appears to be in error in the statement, which I quoted last week from his Memoirs, that Cornelius Herz has departed to the United States. I hear from good authority at Bournemouth that he is still confined to his room in that town. In justice to the medical men who have at different times reported upon him, it should be added that Dr. Fraser, who has been in attendance upon him throughout, pronounces his condition unchanged, while Dr. Brunton, on a recent visit, found him to be in a critical condition, and forbade him be moved. One of the correspondents who have communicated with me on this subject opines that I will "gladly make this correction." But why I should experience pleasure in recording Mr. Herz's distressing condition I do not know. I have no admiration for the man, but if he had sufficiently recovered to travel to America, I should not have been sorry.

A new scheme for encouraging "games" has just been adopted at St. Paul's School, which might be well worth imitation in other large day schools. The school has been divided into five sections, each of which has one half holiday a week to be devoted exclusively to games. The games, whatever they may be, are, I believe, compulsory, a call-over being held at the conclusion of the play. One of the great disadvantages of day schools is the difficulty of getting boys to play cricket, football, &c., systematically. The St. Paul's School system will, no doubt, overcome this difficulty effectually, and it cannot fail to add to the prosperity and reputation of the school.

In regard to a suggestion my sporting contributor made a few weeks ago, that St. Paul's School ought to take up rowing systematically, I hear that the school authorities are most favourable to the idea, and that the only difficulty in the way is one of £. s. d., considerable capital being required to start a boat club. Probably, if the fact is once made known that there is a large contingent of modern Paulines yearning to convert themselves into "wet bobs," there will be plenty of old Paulines and others ready to contribute towards the founding of a boat club. But it would probably do much to encourage benevolence in this direction if the boys now in the school gave some practical evidence of their aquatic tastes. It is easy enough to hire boats on half-holidays, and I cannot help thinking that if there were any rowing talent in the school, it would not wait to show itself until a boat-house had been built, and an expensive stock of rowing craft laid in.

In spite of the curious facts referred to in last week's TRUTH, Lord Huntly has been re-elected Lord Rector of Aberdeen University. A correspondent on the spot suggests that the consideration which probably weighed most with the electors was that if his lordship were ejected now, the last hope of getting the £600 which he promised five years ago would be destroyed. In view of the appearance of Isaac Gordon on the scene, it would seem that the hope must be at the best but an exiguous one; but Lord Huntly has a wealthy relative, and probably so long as the promised subscription comes, the canny Aberdeen electors do not mind whose pocket it comes from.

A curious story used to be current at the Education Office with reference to the circumstances under which Dr. Temple first entered the Church. The Archbishop-designate began life as an examiner in the office of the Committee of Council on Education, about the time when Kneller Hall was originally started as a training-school for masters of workhouse schools. A clergyman of the Church of England was required for the post of principal, and it was commonly believed by his contemporaries that young Mr. Temple was induced to take Orders quite against his own inclination, to increase his qualifications for this appointment, which in due course he obtained. Certain it is that the future Archbishop became a deacon in the same year in which the training

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school was founded by a minute of the Committee, and he had duly proceeded to priest's orders by the time the school was opened. The appointment was worth £800 a year and a house. When the school was closed, Mr. Temple went back to the Education Department as an inspector of schools.

Here is another story about the Archbishop-designate, related by one who was a witness of the incident. With regard, however, to the remark in the first sentence, it is only fair to recognise that Dr. Temple may well have changed his opinion on this point, as he has upon others :—

What will devout Churchmen think of an Archbishop who does not believe in the devil, for this is Dr. Temple's position, unless he has changed his mind since he came to London? On one occasion, when Bishop of Exeter, he was holding a confirmation at St. Andrew's, Plymouth, at which service the young people promise among other things to renounce the devil and all his works. The devil, Dr. Temple was careful to explain in his rasping voice, meant evil things, which hardly tallies with his predecessor, St. Dunstan's, experience. And so we arrive at the latest conundrum for the clergy:—What is the difference between St. Dunstan of Canterbury and the Archbishop-designate? The one disposed of the devil with his tongue, and the other with his tongs.

Apropos of the remarks in last week's TRUTH upon the probable attitude of Dr. Temple towards the question of the retirement of aged parish clergymen, "A Country Parson" sends me the following lines :—

"You are old, Dr. Temple," the Editor said,
"And a Benefice Bill is in sight,
Yet they made you our Archiepiscopal head—
Do you think at your age it was right?"

"Inferior clergy," the Bishop replied,
"Must retire when their faculties wane;
But a Bishop, no matter how aged, may claim
Promotion, again and again!"

Dr. Temple and the new Bishop of London will do homage to the Queen at Osborne early in January, and they will be enthroned directly afterwards, the Primate in Canterbury Cathedral, and Bishop Creighton in St. Paul's Cathedral, where the Bishop-designate of Peterborough is to be consecrated on St. Paul's Day, Monday, January 25.

I am greatly amused at a paragraph in the *Liverpool Courier*. It states that the brewers' organisations are "perfectly quiescent" over the appointment of Dr. Temple to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, because "they feel the fullest confidence in the Primate's predominating common sense." "The great brewers," it continues, "are by no means alarmed by the appointment." This is very gratifying. The next thing will be a proposal to add an additional Article to the thirty-nine Articles to which all clergymen of the Established Church have to swear, setting forth the belief of the Church in the virtues of brewers, and in their right to make huge profits by the sale of beer.

In connection with the recent appointment of juvenile vicars at All Saints', Hatcham Park, and St. James's, Hatcham, my attention has been called to the presentation about a year ago of the Rev. F. A. Pring to the living of St. Luke's, Deptford. At the time of obtaining his preferment this gentleman had only been a few months in priests' orders. The parish of which he was put in charge contains a population of about 13,000, and the result of this and the other appointments is that three adjacent parishes in South London, a district in which the work of the Church is peculiarly heavy and difficult, have been entrusted to the care of three priests, all of whom have held their orders less than three years. One who is well qualified to speak on the subject, from the point of view of the interests of the Church, describes the state of affairs thus created as "heart-breaking."

It is a noteworthy fact that all these three appointments have been made by trustees, and this fact accentuates the notorious truth, that Church patronage is even less safe in the hands of a body of trustees than in those of an individual private patron. The latter may possibly be to some extent amenable to his own conscience and to public opinion; but a body of trustees have no corporate conscience, and apparently no individual regard for any opinion that may be formed of their corporate acts. The question, indeed, of patronage must always be a hard nut for Church reformers. The Bishops, like trustees and corporations, have shown their unfitness to exercise patronage, by habitual and bare-faced jobbery. The principle of election by the parishioners has been discredited by innumerable scandals. Probably the only satisfactory way to overcome the difficulty would be to appoint in each diocese a standing patronage board, which should be largely reinforced for the purpose of each election by the churchwardens and other official representatives of the parish concerned.

A telephone has been placed in the pulpit of St Michael's, Chester-square, in order that Canon Fleming's sermons may be heard by inmates of the hospital, and by subscribers who are unable to come to church. Canon Fleming has just resumed his duties at St Michael's, having returned to town after his annual three months' residence at York.

While the Bishop of Worcester warmly supports the preposterous scheme for endowing a bishopric at Birmingham, which would relieve him of the heaviest portion of his diocesan labours, he does not hesitate to ruthlessly upset a modest proposal for the advantage of a poor country incumbent. It seems, from a statement in the *Birmingham Gazette*, that a movement was on foot for building a house and otherwise improving the position of the Rector of North Piddle, his income being only £90 a year, without a residence. When about £900 had been promised for this purpose, the Bishop took it into his head that the benefice had better be united with that of Upton Snodsbury, a parish two or three miles away. Both incumbents objected to this proposal, and so did the parishioners of North Piddle, but the Bishop insisted upon having his own way, and obtained an Order in Council uniting the two benefices.

Last April the Rector of North Piddle accepted another ving, and under the Order the union of the parish with pton Snodsbury should then have taken effect. But e Vicar of Upton Snodsbury refuses—as he always said would do—to recognise the arrangement, neither ceiving the stipend from North Piddle, nor accepting y responsibility for the spiritual welfare of that parish. he consequence is that for months past North Piddle s been disgracefully neglected, two Sundays in October d the first two in November passing without any rvice whatever at the parish church. For this scandal e Bishop is clearly to blame. Even if the amalgamaon of the two livings is desirable, it could very well ve been postponed for a time; and his lordship's highnded and pig-headed action in forcing the matter rough at once, in the teeth of the opposition of the two rsons and the parishioners, is wholly inexcusable.

How these Christian ministers love one another! ere was a very pretty example of this at the meeting the Cockett School Board at Swansea last week, when e Rev. John Davies (Cadle), a Nonconformist minister, d the Rev. D. Roderick, Vicar of Cockett, railed at ch other for all the world like a couple of angry old sherwomen. "Blackguard" and "big liar" were ong the choice remarks that Davies addressed to derick, while the latter mainly contented himself th taunting references to "the Cadle divine," is being, for some reason, a most exasperating rm to apply to Davies. At one point the two verend gentlemen appeared likely to get from words blows; but, instead of engaging in a bout of ticuffs, they seem to have proceeded to give each other rd knocks in their native Welsh, though owing to the porter's unfortunate ignorance of the vernacular, the ecise form of their exchanges of civilities through this edium could not be recorded. It is stated, however, at "tarw" and "asyn," which mean respectively bull" and "ass," were among the words which Davies ployed towards Roderick; and I dare say the Welsh guage was perfectly adequate to the occasion. The ifying effect which this display of clerical clapperwing must have upon the local public, and especially on the young people whose education is entrusted to e Cockett School Board, goes without saying.

An edifying story of religious intolerance is sent me by gentlemen who has been staying at Dunmore East, a all watering-place on the Waterford coast. It seems at during a severe gale last month three fishing-boats re destroyed, two belonging to Protestants and the ird to a Roman Catholic. All three fishermen were dered destitute by the loss, and a subscription was sed for their relief. The distribution of the money s entrusted to the Vicar and the curate; and ing without the faintest sense of Christian charity, e two ministers calmly proceeded to divide the whole ount between the two Protestant fishermen, leaving not a penny for the Roman Catholic sufferer. Comment upon the conduct of these reverend bigots is needless; but it is satisfactory to add that a Protestant lady took the lead in getting up another subscription on behalf of the unfortunate Roman Catholic fisherman.

A Roman Catholic priest, writing from the provinces complains of the conduct of an individual at Westminster Abbey, alleged to be a plain-clothes constable. The priest, when going round the chapels with a friend, unattended, was followed by the constable, told that he had better have a guide, and, finally, was refused permission to enter one of the chapels, the constable planting himself before the entrance, and ordering the visitor to join a party that was going round under the guidance of a verger. It seems pretty evident that this functionary must have exceeded his duty, and he ought to receive a hint to that effect. The reason for having a plain-clothes man on duty, I take it to be that the public are free to walk about by themselves (when they have paid their sixpences), and that it is necessary to have some one to see that this freedom is not abused. If people are only to go round in a "school" under the command of a verger, there is no occasion to have a constable there at all.

There is, to my mind, something specially obnoxious in training children to cadge for money, however laudable the object. Just at present the portraits of C. E. Perry (aged 14), A. P. Perry (aged 13), and E. J. Perry (aged 10) are being scattered all over the kingdom at the head of an appeal beginning, "We three Lynn boys have made up our minds to try hard to get 10,000 ladies and gentlemen to send us 10,000 shillings to pay off the debt upon the Lynn Young Men's Christian Association." Trying hard they certainly are, for if the lady or gentleman appealed to does not respond with a shilling, at the end of a fortnight the "three Lynn boys" follow up their picture with a printed postcard, reiterating their request. Now, it must be perfectly obvious that the three children are not the real authors of these appeals. They are simply the stalking-horses of some sturdy beggar in the background, who has devised this novel and striking form of advertising the needs of the charity. How does the trick differ from that of the mendicant parent who, instead of begging himself, sends out his child, barefooted and dirty, to work on the feelings of the tender-hearted?

Many months ago reference was made in TRUTH to a "snowball" which was vaguely stated to be designed to benefit the "Children's Penny Dinners," the lady to whom the money was to be sent being a Miss Effie Joseph. The history of this snowball furnishes a remarkable instance of the folly of this method of collecting money. Before the thing had gone very far, the promoters saw their mistake, and endeavoured to stop it. For that purpose I gave them the best assistance I could in TRUTH, but the snowball has gone on rolling, as snowballs invariably do, and I have just come across a fresh letter written in connection with it by Miss Davey, of Lynton, Devon. Miss Davey's letter

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is numbered "No. 36," but I should have thought that, from the time that the ball has been rolling, it ought to have got far beyond that point before now.

A praiseworthy attempt on the part of some of the Executive of the Hospital Saturday Fund to do away with street collecting in connection with that charity, has unfortunately been frustrated. A meeting of delegates from the various committees was recently held to consider the question, and although it was pointed out that these collections had never fulfilled expectations, whilst they unquestionably lowered the tone of the movement, a motion for their discontinuance was eventually lost. The opponents of this sensible suggestion appeared to consider that the tone of the street collection would be at once raised if the collectors were, "as far as possible, to adopt the dress of hospital nurses," and wear on their sleeves a red cross of the ambulance description. I have so frequently expressed an opinion that all street collecting should be forbidden, in the first place as contrary to the law, and, secondly, as entirely opposed to the best interests of charity, that I can only regret the adverse decision in the present instance.

Commenting on the recent appointments of Mr. Alderman Wethered, of Cheltenham, and Mr. Philip Bagenal, Mr. Chaplin's private secretary, to Local Government Board Inspectorships, a professional paper remarks :—

> It does not seem that acquaintance with Poor Law administration, or special aptitude for Poor Law management, has been considered in the past any qualification for these particular duties. The Inspectors are chosen as educated and intelligent men, and, *after a few years' practice, they become conversant with their duties, and, as a rule, perform them very well.*

What a pretty theory of public appointments! In place of promoting men in the service thoroughly familiar with the work, you job in "educated and intelligent men" from outside, and congratulate yourself and the public if, "after a few years' practice, they become conversant with their duties," and, "as a rule, perform them very well!" As to what it costs the public to pay for the educational process, and how the duties are performed while the officials are engaged in learning them, you observe a discreet silence.

It is not, however, true, as the same journal suggests, that the system of jobbing outsiders into these berths is the traditional one. In 1895 Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, as President of the Local Government Board, said in Parliament :—

> During the last twenty years the officers appointed have almost without exception held office as assistant inspectors, and have thus obtained experience in the inspection of workhouses and the other duties which devolve on an inspector.

Mr. Chaplin's system, therefore, of selecting "educated and intelligent men," totally ignorant of the work (*e.g.*, his own private secretary), is a departure from the general practice of the last twenty years.

The smoking-concert at Queen's Hall to-morrow (Thursday) evening in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society will be an unusual brilliant entertainment. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Coburg have promised to attend, and among other guests will be the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Speaker, the Lord Mayor, and innumerable other notabilities.

As winter is coming on I venture to call the attention of my lady readers once again to the Westminster Needlework Society, which meets every week within a stone's throw of TRUTH Office at the Westminster Town Hall, and eventually distributes the products of its industry in the shape of gifts of clothing among the destitute poor of Westminster. Both subscribers and workers are urgently needed to extend the operations of the Society, and those of my readers who cannot help in the one way may possibly be able to in the other. Mrs. Langston, of 65, Warwick-square, S.W., the President of the Society, will gladly give any further information that may be desired.

I am asked to mention that a sale of needlework, in aid of the fund for building an annexe to the Cheyne Hospital for Sick and Incurable Children, will be held at the hospital in Cheyne-walk on Wednesday and Thursday in next week. The extension of this hospital has peculiar claims on the benevolent, as it was primarily undertaken for the purpose of affording to the nurses who have been on night duty bedrooms where they can sleep during the day.

One of the institutions in London that spends the money confided to it with most advantage to those concerned is Nazareth House at Hammersmith. There are six hundred poor persons in the home (old men and women, unable from age to work, and orphans and other children, who for one reason or another are cast upon the world). All these are absolutely dependent upon what the charitable give, and I am asked to urge that the Home should not be forgotten at Christmas.

The following amounts have reached me towards the Toy Fund for providing toys at Christmas to the poor and sickly children in the London Hospitals, Workhouses, Workhouse Schools, and Infirmaries: — A. E., £1; Dorothy, Petronel, and Patricia, £3. 3s.; Admiral, 10s.; Marie Corelli, £5. 5s.; Gwendoline W., £1. 1s., also £1. 1s. to Lady Jeune's Fund; Norwood, 10s.; Mrs. R. J. Neild, £1. 1s.; V. Whyte, 2s.; Sir Henry Hawkins, £3. 3s.; E. Wigram, 5s.; Sir Horace Farquhar, £3. 3s.; J. W. T., £5; Sir George Lewis, £5; Lady Lewis, £5; Mrs. Waugh, £2. 2s.

I have also received from the collections taken on board the steam yacht *Midnight Sun* £5 towards Lady Jeune's Fund.

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Lord Lansdowne is the Secretary for War, and he is ıpposed to be under the Duke of Devonshire, who has ndertaken to keep his eye on the Army and Navy 'epartments. But, in reality, it is said that Lord ansdowne is but another name for Lord Wolseley, the ommander-in-Chief. Be the respective relations between ıese three gentlemen what they may, however, the out-ɔme is that more money is to be asked for the Army next ession, if the War Office has its way, and against this ir Michael Hicks-Beach has already registered a protest. he argument urged at Bristol for this further expendi-ıre is that additional money has been given lavishly to ıe Navy, and that consequently it is full time that the rmy should have its share in the golden shower. I ıould have said rather that if we have a superlatively rong Navy, this is a reason for being satisfied with the rmy as it is. The House of Commons is gradually being duced to that tax-collecting machine that the Germans ɔmplain that their Reichstag has become. There the mperor carries his edicts for additional expenditure; ere it is the House of Lords. Lord Beaconsfield pro-aimed that the heads of the two great spending Depart-ents—the Army and the Navy—should be in the ouse of Commons. Now the Army is entirely nder the control of the House of Lords, and so ng as this is the case the House of Commons should ıpport the Chancellor of the Exchequer in declining to ɔte more funds for its increase. Speaking broadly, the ısiness of a Commander-in-Chief is always to ask for ore money; that of the War Secretary always to refuse ; and that of the House of Commons always to support im in this refusal.

Apropos of the appointment of Sir Ralph Knox's son the Army Service Corps, a military correspondent nds me the following letter:—

DEAR TRUTH,—The officers of the Army Service Corps have ɔod reasons, as you say, to resent the appointment of Mr. nox to a commission in their branch of the Service. Taking is fact in cognisance with the War Office decision in the cases Messrs. Hodge and Bruce, what steps would the A.S.C., in ɔur opinion, be justified in taking, in order to get rid of young r. Knox? Do you think that we ought to at once ask him to nner, and inform him that he is not wanted in the Army ervice Corps, and that he had better make a graceful exit ɔw, instead of a disgraceful one later on? Or should e allow him to join without protest, and then take the rliest opportunity of breaking open his rooms, making bonfire of his clothes and furniture, and then putting m through a horse-trough in his night clothes? How many mes do you think he should be put in the horse-trough in order insure his prompt departure from the Corps without making necessary for the War Office to interfere? We remember, of urse, Lord Wolseley's declaration to Mr. Hodge *père* that he determined to put down bullying with a strong hand, and course we should not like to do anything which could be con-rued by the War Office as bullying.

his is a rather delicate point, on which I do not like express too confident an opinion. There seems to be doubt upon the decided cases that the treatment ıggested could be carried out without any fear of ıpleasant consequences, but I do hope that the Army ervice Corps will not think it necessary to put Mr. Knox to a horse-trough. It is true that his brother officers ıve the best possible grounds for objecting to Mr. Knox's appointment, the War Office itself having several times found him to be unfitted for a commission in the Army. But I trust that the desired result may be obtained without resorting to horse-troughs.

Another spasm of disgust has been caused in military circles by the announcement that Colonel Dundas, at present A.A.G. in Dublin, is to be transferred to Gibraltar as A.A.G. on the expiration of his Dublin appointment. The announcement is made with all appearance of authority, but it points to a job so atrocious as to be almost incredible. Reference to the "Army List" shows that with the exception of two brief periods, in all only about two years and a half, Colonel Dundas has held one staff appointment after another continuously from 1874 down to the present time. As if this were not a sufficient share of the plums of the Service, he is to be rewarded with a further period of Staff Service at Gibraltar, regardless of the claims of officers who have long since earned a reward of this kind. Though very possibly he has performed the office and routine work in connection with his different appointments with all credit, Colonel Dundas has never achieved distinction of any kind, and his sole claim to the appointment now to be conferred upon him is the personal friendship of the Commander-in-Chief. If Lord Wolseley goes on like this, he will soon beat all existing records in Service jobbery.

A case which occurred some little time back in India illustrates very forcibly the danger of placing the professional reputation of one officer at the mercy of the opinion of another, as is done in the confidential report system. As most of my military readers are aware, the C.O. of an Indian Cavalry Regiment is somewhat in the position of a contractor under Government for the mounting, equipment, &c., of his men, and by reason of this system, considerable differences of detail exist in the arrangements relating to the internal economy of different regiments. Some time back Brigadier-General H——, after inspecting a regiment of Bombay Cavalry, and reporting favourably on its general condition, found fault in his report with the system of accounts, purchase of remounts, feeding, equipment, and other matters, and also expressed an opinion that the C.O., Colonel S——, was not suited for further military employment, unless on remount duty. Colonel S—— argued the various points. The Brigadier-General had, among other things, recommended the adoption of a system of accounts in force in another cavalry regiment. The Colonel, anxious to oblige, made inquiries respecting this particular regiment, and found that its finances were in a very unsatisfactory state, whereas his own were in excellent order. He requested the Brigadier-General to forward the whole correspondence to head-quarters, whereupon the General, apparently conscious that he had made a mistake, suggested that the correspondence should drop, and offered, if this were done, to recommend the Colonel for an extension of his command.

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There can be little doubt that in this case the one officer made his unfavourable report on the other, simply because he failed to appreciate a system that was new to him, and of which he knew absolutely nothing, and his report seems to have been a mere expression of a hasty personal opinion, which he himself saw was unjustifiable when he came to argue the matter out. In this particular instance the Colonel thus reported on was disqualified by the age rule for an extension of his command, but the unfavourable report might have been, and, I believe, has been, sufficient to prevent him obtaining further military employment. There are dozens of men in the Service who have been far more seriously injured by such reports, and all on account of mere personal fads or prejudices.

London publicans are not alone in their refusal to serve soldiers in uniform. Several flagrant cases have occurred at Glasgow, where a St. George's Cross publican—the newspapers seem chary of publishing his name—refused in one evening the pipe-major, two corporals, and a sergeant-major of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and a private of the Medical Staff Corps, all of whom are stated to have been perfectly sober. The sergeant-major, incensed at being refused, took care to procure evidence on the spot that he was perfectly sober, and then reported the occurrence to the Commanding-Officer at Maryhill Barracks. The following morning a garrison order proclaimed the public-house in question "out of bounds," that is, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are prohibited from visiting it; a somewhat unnecessary proceeding in the case of a publican who has let it become known that he does not want soldiers in his house. It is said that he has even refused to serve Volunteers. The Adjutant of the regiment intends to lay the facts before the Town Council, but that body is powerless to deal with the licence as long as the house is maintained in an orderly manner. The only reason which the publican has so far vouchsafed is that on one occasion some men belonging to the regiment raised a disturbance in his bar.

I have received a number of letters from N.C. Officers of the "foot" Artillery who are prepared to measure their waists against "R.H.A.," or any other wearer of the yellow jacket, and prove their claim to smaller girth-dimensions from the size rolls in Mr. Fleetwood Wilson's office. Passing, however, from this weighty side issue to the main complaint of "R.H.A." regarding the share of warrants and commissions which would fall to the mounted branch of the Artillery in case of reorganisation, if I am to judge by the following extract from a letter from Gosport, he and his mounted friends have more than their share at present:—

> A little calculation shows that the mounted men have one warrant to every two staff-sergeants, and two commissions to every five, and the dismounted men have one warrant to five staff-sergeants, and one commission to every six. Can it be wondered that the N.C. officers of the mounted branches dislike the idea of separation?

The same correspondent continues as follows:—

> I have served for over twenty-one years in Field, Mountain, and Garrison (ten years in the latter), and, speaking from a personal experience, which I doubt "R.H.A." possesses, I can say that, although the gunners in the mounted branches may, as a rule, be smarter-looking than their confreres of the "foot," the N.C. officers of the latter are quite equal to any horse artilleryman in appearance (always remembering that "fine feathers make fine birds"), and, on an average, far above him in education and intellectual capacity.
>
> As regards the easy times his brothers in the garrison artillery have, I would invite "R.H.A." to visit them in Dover, Portsmouth, or Plymouth and try and learn something of the garrison artillery manual, or if he is too hard worked by day let him study in the evenings the history of the Royal Regiment; he will find that the "foot" artilleryman has done *well* whatever work has been required of him, in all parts of the globe, even to manning horse, field, and mountain batteries, and has never failed, and it is to him chiefly that the honour is due of having earned for the regiment the motto "Ubique."

Quite so, but this hardly justifies my correspondent's plea in another part of his letter for what he calls "separation," seeing that "foot" artillerymen have always distinguished themselves when employed as mounted men in the field. My knowledge of a technical question of this kind is limited, but after spending fifty millions on ships I shall be very much surprised if the gallant garrison of Gosport are ever called upon to fire a shot.

Looking for the moment beyond the rival claims of N.C. Officers to commissions, as I understand the matter, the War Office propose to lock up thousands of highly-trained men in useless forts on shore, when we have not enough men to man the ships already built. Surely the science and ability which my correspondents affirm they possess would be better utilised afloat, or at any rate in the field, than wasted in casemates on land. I was glad to see Sir Michael Hicks-Beach rounding on Lord Lansdowne at the Dolphin Society dinner last week, and insisting on the primacy of the Navy in Imperial defence:—

> With the Navy in times past we have swept the seas, and when the seas were swept we were safe at home. This should be our policy in the future, and circumstances would compel future Governments to continue the same policy. I must say, speaking as a humble civilian, that there seem to be ways and means of increased efficiency and increased economy in our Army expenditure, and that view I commend to my right hon. colleague.

Though my limited space prevents the publication of all letters from N.C. officers, I am very glad to receive them as expressing their views on this or any other question.

Readers of Truth, especially those connected with the Army, may possibly have received during the last year or two piteous appeals from an individual representing himself as having served in the Crimea and elsewhere, taken his discharge after twenty-one years' service, and being now in the last stage of distress through illness. The appeals have been usually signed "Thomas Clark," and give particulars of the writer's regiment and the names of officers he served under, though these details may possibly have been varied in different cases for the benefit of the particular officer to whom the letter is written. The peculiarity about these appeals is that they purport

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Winter Season, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

to be authenticated by a testimonial signed "J. C. Lawrence," written on paper bearing the printed address "75, Fetter-lane, Fleet-street, E.C.," and deposing to the virtues of "Clark," whom "Lawrence" states that he has employed for five years.

The true character of these appeals will soon be publicly demonstrated, for I am glad to say that the gang who have been working it are now in the hands of the police. The address, 75, Fetter-lane, is a mere "accommodation" address, where letters are taken in, and the fact of the operators going to the expense of having stationery printed with such an address shows the systematic way in which they have been working the trick. As it is certain that many people have been imposed upon by the veteran "Clark" and his kind friend "Lawrence," it is much to be desired that any who have received letters from these worthies (whether they have answered them or not) should at once communicate with the City Commissioner of Police, Old Jewry, E.C. Incidentally, I would remark that the case illustrates afresh the need of giving the police some control over the "accommodation address" business.

A gunner in the Royal Artillery at Chatham was recently sentenced to five days' C.B. for a trifling offence, and at the same time was sent out to a fort in the Medway, with instructions that he was to be allowed no privileges of any kind, and to be employed on no work at which he would receive extra duty pay. It is generally understood that this punishment has been imposed on the suspicion that the gunner supplied information to TRUTH respecting the messing of the detachment, which was noticed in these columns some two months ago. If that is the real motive, a more outrageous piece of injustice has rarely been committed. The gunner in question has eight years' service, and at the time of his being brought up for the minor offence above mentioned (that of being a few hours absent without leave) he had actually been for six years clear of an entry in his defaulter sheet. It is pretty evident, therefore, that this man has been subjected to a vindictive persecution from some motive quite apart from the only offence of which he has been proved guilty, and there ought to be some further inquiry into his case.

I was once severely rebuked by a Service journal for passing a wholesale criticism on the arrangements for military funerals in India. But reports still come to hand from various parts of India of cases in which these arrangements are deplorably defective. On the occasion of a funeral at Rangoon of an Artilleryman, who had lost his life by an accident, matters were so contrived that the funeral party, including the band, arrived on the scene some time before the grave-digger, and had to stand for over an hour while the grave was being dug. As the band had been in attendance an hour before the procession started, they were dismissed by the time the grave was completed, and took no further part in the proceedings. Surely it would not be a difficult matter to arrange things better than this.

For the hundredth time I would ask whether anything could be done to redress the grievance which has been created by allowing second-class passages to Army schoolmasters when on board ship. As soon as ever the trooping season comes round I begin to hear growls from other N.C.O.s of corresponding rank against this indulgence being granted to schoolmasters and refused to other men in Class 16. There are, I know, some very strong reasons in favour of keeping sergeants with their men on board ship, but these reasons do not apply to every N.C.O. travelling by sea, and there are many cases in which the indulgence granted to schoolmasters might be extended to others of the same class without harm to anybody.

It is satisfactory to know that the exposure in TRUTH of the horrors of the Invalid Trooping Service has not been altogether unfruitful. The Indian Military Authorities have just issued two orders, which are obviously attributable to the TRUTH articles. The first requires that in future extra accommodation shall be provided for invalids on the troopships, by allowing to seven sick the space which would be allotted to nine healthy men. The second orders that, "owing to certain allegations," officers in command of troops on board transports are to report upon the accommodation for the sick on their ships. It would also appear from the first of these orders that the number of invalids in any given ship is in future to be limited. All this is satisfactory as far as it goes, because it indicates that even the Indian Government is to some extent amenable to criticism; but it is little more than tinkering at a system, which, in my opinion, requires root-and-branch reform. After what has appeared in TRUTH respecting the difficulties of providing proper accommodation and diet for invalids on board ordinary troopships, there can be no question that the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty is the construction of hospital ships for the express purpose of the Trooping Service. An impoverished and famine-stricken country like India cannot be expected to undertake this expense, and I suggest that it is the duty of the Admiralty and the War Office to provide the requisite accommodation.

By the way, I would respectfully suggest to officers who report under the above orders upon the accommodation provided for the sick on each voyage, that they should furnish (of course, confidentially) a copy of their reports to the Editor of TRUTH. This will do more than anything else to insure their observations receiving proper attention at the military headquarters.

An envelope sent to me from India tells a curious tale of Post Office blundering. It was posted at Calcutta, addressed legibly enough to a gentleman on board the "Pilot Vessel *Fanny*, Sandheads," Sandheads being at the mouth of the river, and as well known in Calcutta as the Nore is in London. The postmarks show that the

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA, which refreshes and exhilarates.

letter made its way in the first instance to Cowes—some intelligent Post Office man apparently thinking that Cowes was the most likely place in the world to find a pilot cutter. From Cowes it was sent to Stranraer, whence it found its way to a place called Sandhead—a better shot than the last, but still many thousand miles out. The letter then went on to Larne, and from Larne to Belfast, where the postal authorities gave the job up in despair, and sent it back to the dead-letter office in Bombay, whence it was returned to Calcutta. The entire journey lasted from March 3 to August 7.

Cannot the high contracting powers who belong to the Postal Union agree amongst themselves to dispense with the words "Post Card" upon private cards sent abroad? At present the regulations require that private cards should have these words above the address, and cards not bearing them are liable to be charged as letters, and possibly returned. If all the countries of the Postal Union are agreed as to the size and shape of private cards, there seems no reason why any card which can be used in one country should not be available for international purposes.

The last few weeks' experience of those who have been compelled to reside in the West End of London must have proved in the most conclusive manner the urgent necessity which exists for constructing subways—at least under the leading thoroughfares of the metropolis. No sooner has a street been re-laid with wooden blocks on a good solid concrete foundation than a trench is forthwith opened in it for gas-pipes, electric wires, or hydraulic tubes, and so sure as the footways have been newly asphalted, so certain is it that the level surface will be immediately broken up for similar reasons. The construction of subways was one of the first London improvements which occupied the attention of the London County Council, but in this, as in other cases, definite action was delayed, partly by the party which is ever on the watch to resist any extension of the activity of the Council, and partly by fear of the outcry which immediately follows on every addition to municipal expenditure. If, however, the various Companies owning underground works could be made to bear their proper share of the cost, the construction of subways might be made a remunerative outlay rather than an addition to the ratepayers' burdens.

Surely the pertinacious harassing of the inhabitants of Portsmouth by the Government is not a punishment for their presumption in returning two Liberals to the House of Commons, both last year and in 1892! The military authorities appear to spend a considerable part of their time in devising schemes to worry the inhabitants and injure the town. It was actually proposed to destroy Southsea Pier, and considerable closed areas were to be established, but, luckily, the Board of Trade have refused to sanction the obnoxious by-laws. What will be the next project to alarm Portsmouth?

There is generally a good deal of the obscurantist about Bumble, but at Falmouth he seems to be rather more benighted than usual. A Commissioner in Lunacy, Mr. Frere, recently inspected the local workhouse, and directed attention to various shortcomings in the treatment and accommodation of the imbeciles, one fact which he mentioned being that the window in the women's sewing-room is so high that the inmates cannot see out of it. The cruelty of penning these poor old creatures in a dreary den with no outlook will be apparent to anybody of average intelligence and sympathy, and it is only fair to say that some of the Guardians concurred in the Commissioner's condemnation of the arrangement. But the majority of the Board, in their wisdom and humanity, came to the conclusion that an alteration of the arrangement was "not desirable," as they feared that if the women could look beyond the walls of their work-room they would "waste their time!" To try to reason with these beetle-headed persons would indeed be a waste of time. I am surprised, though, at their lack of fellow-feeling for the imbeciles, and I fancy their ideas would undergo a change if they were compelled to pass a few days in such a room as these afflicted women occupy.

The Bridgend Guardians have had under investigation the case of an unfortunate girl named Williams, who, though she was in a delicate state of health, was allowed to leave the workhouse and tramp to Cardiff, where she died a few days afterwards. Before her death Williams made a statement to the effect that the matron at Bridgend told her that that was not her parish, and that she was to take her clothes and make her way to Cardiff. Although the matron denied this, she admitted that she informed the deceased she must "either do her work or get her clothes and go out." It was suggested that the deceased was insubordinate; but if she was, the matron's was not a proper method of dealing with her, and it is pretty clear from this officer's own version of what occurred that Williams was not treated with the sympathy which should have been shown to a girl in her condition. In the sacred cause of "discipline," however, the Chairman exhorted the Guardians to exonerate the officers of the workhouse from all blame, and a majority of the Board proceeded to do so. There seems to be an idea at this Board that under no circumstances should any reflection be cast upon the management of the workhouse, and only a short time ago the Chairman succeeded in hushing up a disgraceful scandal in connection with the sick wards.

Yet another ugly Poor-law story comes from Ireland. Bridget Reid was a patient in the infirmary at Edenderry Workhouse, and the Medical Officer directed that she should not do any work beyond helping to keep the ward clean. The Master, however, insisted upon giving her other work, and, on her refusing to do it, she was prosecuted at Edenderry Petty Sessions for refractory conduct. The doctor certified that she was not fit to attend the court, but nevertheless, in her absence, the magistrates condemned her to two months' hard labour,

nd the police removed her from the infirmary to the rison at Tullamore, where she is now serving the sentence. A more infamous example, both of Bumble's inhumanity nd Justices' justice, has rarely occurred, and I trust it vill receive the prompt and serious attention of the Local Government Board at Dublin.

After the enthusiasm about the Emperor of Russia's visit to Scotland has quite passed away, there comes the *mauvais quart d'heure de Rabelais*, when the bills have to be dealt with. At Leith there is much discontent at the arge outlay which the ratepayers have to defray. There s particular grumbling at an item of £33 for "new official robes supplied to the Provost."

Four cases of diptheria, three ending fatally, have ately occurred at Branston, near Lincoln, under circumtances which point to the conclusion that the outbreak vas due to some infected clothing having been brought to he village from a house at Lincoln where two children had died of the disease. The medical officer reported hat there was "some suspicion" as to this being the ause of the cases at Branston, but that the sanitary officials at Lincoln stated that the house there was twice disinfected and that "whatever clothing was taken was wice washed before being sent to Branston." In view, however, of the strong *primâ facie* evidence that this lothing was *not* disinfected, and that, in consequence, hree lives have now been lost, the matter ought not to be allowed to drop with this official explanation. If the hings were removed without being thoroughly disnfected, somebody must have acted with culpable and almost criminal negligence or recklessness, and the uthorities responsible for safeguarding the public health gainst such dangers should make it their business to find out the guilty party.

In the Bristol Town Council a member who is elected not as a Liberal or a Conservative, but as an Independent, s evidently very much like a fish out of water. Such a representative was returned by the ratepayers of Clifton at the recent elections, but at the meeting of the Council ast week it transpired that his name was omitted from the list of nominees for every one of the numerous committees of the Corporation, the explanation of this being that the list was agreed upon by a Tory caucus and a Liberal caucus, and that consequently a member owning allegiance to neither Party in municipal affairs, was left out in the cold. In the end two or three members offered to make way for the Independent on committees for which they were proposed, and so the difficulty was surmounted. But the system pursued in this Council seems a very undesirable one. Surely the proper method—the one adopted, I know, in some municipal bodies—is to delegate the nomination of committees to a selection committee representing all parties and interests, whose duty it should be to see that each member is appointed, regardless of his politics, to the committee or committees where his services are likely to be most useful.

A droll incident marked the first meeting of the Town Council at Todmorden, which place has only lately been elevated to the dignity of a municipal borough. Part of the business was the election of six Aldermen, and the inexperienced councillors filled up the papers and handed them to the Mayor, under the impression that the votes would be kept secret. To their confusion, however, the Mayor read out the lists, and it was then found that, out of the seventeen members taking part in the election, eleven had voted for their own appointment as Aldermen. These new Todmorden Councillors clearly have a good conceit of themselves.

"I wish," writes a correspondent at Bournemouth, "you would draw attention to the large number of infant deaths attributable to the practice of sleeping young babies in the same beds with their parents." To enforce the moral, the writer sends me the report of a recent inquest in connection with a fatality of this class. There is not much occasion, I should imagine, for me to "draw attention" to the subject, for the evil is notorious, and has been a matter of frequent public comment. My Bournemouth friend goes on to suggest means by which mothers can avoid the risks of this practice. But he overlooks the most serious question—namely, whether there is nothing worse than carelessness or indolence at the bottom of the evil. Twenty years ago I had a conversation on the subject with one of the most experienced London coroners. "I hold about four hundred inquests," he said, "every year upon children who have been overlain or suffocated in bed, and more than three hundred of them are downright murders, though, of course, no one can prove it." I do not suppose that the total number of deaths has decreased since this was said, nor the proportion of murders to accidents.

In answer to my inquiry, "Why is there no Anti-Organ Grinders' League?" I am told that the "Association for the Suppression of Street Noises" is virtually such an organisation. This Association, of which the Hon. Sec. is Mr. Charles Fox, of 104, Ritherdon-road, Upper Tooting, has been directing its efforts to the support of Mr. Jacoby's Bill, and its only fault seems to be that it has not yet made quite enough noise on its own account. Who fights street noises should himself be noisy. The Hon. Secretary tells me that a fund is now being raised to test the question whether a piano-organ is not a "noisy instrument" under the Metropolitan Police Act, and the effect of a decision of this question in the affirmative will be to throw upon the police, instead of the householder, the onus of suppressing the nuisance. It sounds like a satire on our law and lawyers that there should be any room for doubt on the point. If the piano-organ is not a noisy instrument, where, outside Pandemonium, is such an instrument to be found?

THE BATHS OF BATH.—Nauheim or Thermalsöolbad treatment. Owing to the great success of the treatment the Corporation have just doubled the accommodation. Good hotels. Band daily.

Five Deputy-Lieutenants for the City of Edinburgh were appointed last week by the Lord Provost, and four of them are Tories! Even supporters of the Ministry at Edinburgh have blushed over this audacious piece of political favouritism.

It would seem that Peers are bought and sold on the Stock Exchange like shares in mines and such-like securities, and they go up and down in the market according to supply and demand. The Committee of the Stock Exchange has had before it the case of a member of a firm of brokers, who provided two Earls as directors for one of the cycle companies recently floated. The broker had received £5,000 from the promoter for procuring them, and this amount he retained himself. His partners, on the other hand, claim that in the bargain he was acting for the firm, and that the sum total ought to have been placed by him to the credit of the firm.

I should not have thought that any Peer was worth 5,000 farthings as a Director of a company, for there is no reason to suppose that he has any special knowledge of business, which is not possessed in at least equal degree by those who are not Peers, and the glamour of an aristocratic flavour would, one would imagine, hardly, in the present day, lead persons to invest in a company's shares. But what singular persons these Peer Directors must be! Evidently they want money, or they would not become Directors. Why, then, do they not insist on the price paid for them finding its way into their own pockets? Only a week or two ago, the promoter of a company soon to be launched, offered a go-between a commission of £2,000 if he would obtain as one of its Directors a Duke with whom he was connected. The Duke, however, being a wise man, declined to have anything to do with the company. But what a light does all this throw upon the expedients to which Peers out of elbows and their friends are reduced, as well as on the utter flunkeyism of the country! Women love titles, and I am not surprised at the daughters of millionaire Americans bartering themselves and their dollars for titles. But that any human being should give his money to some speculative company because a Peer is amongst its directors is really a reflection upon that human being's sanity. Yet promoters probably know their own business, and when they give thousands of pounds for a Peer's name, they have doubtless taken stock of the servility of investors, and only bestow these amounts because experience has shown that their outlay will prove remunerative.

It would seem that not only does a Peer become a legislator as soon as he attains the age of twenty-one, but that when under that age, even the younger son of a Peer has to be fed on magnums of champagne, and that if his parents decline to provide him with this beverage, he may order it from any wine merchant, in which case his parents have to pay the bill. I presume that this view of the law is based upon the fact that, when the bees are in want of a queen, they bring one into existence by feeding an ordinary grub with a peculiar food, and that champagne is supposed in some mysterious fashion to fit a youth to fulfil legislative duties, if he ultimately inherits them. But I wonder what would be said if the father of a working man were sued by a publican for unnumbered quarts of beer that his child had drunk on credit, and if a jury were to decide that the father was responsible for the debt, because beer is a necessary with which, like clothes and bread, all children should be provided by their parents, as tending to produce bone and muscle.

So Mrs. Castle has, as I anticipated, been let out of prison. The Home Secretary has acted on the doctrine that there are a certain number of ladies, not mad enough to be put in asylums, but afflicted with a malady which impels them to pilfer. "Everybody in America," I see it stated, "feels relief." I should hardly imagine that the American shopkeepers are included in this "every one," for now that it is recognised that these interesting invalids can steal without fear of punishment, the malady under which they suffer will probably assume an epidemic form. I may, at least, express a hope that American ladies thus afflicted will not visit this island, but will confine their raiding to the shops of their own countrymen. This, however, is hardly probable, for with us there is not only one law for the rich and another for the poor, but one law for American ladies and another for English women.

It has been authoritatively stated that Mr. Castle is a man of vast wealth. I have my doubts about this. Wealthy Americans are rather lavish in their expenditure when on a trip in Europe. But Mr. and Mrs. Castle, together with their son, aged about twelve, all pigged together in one room in an hotel, which was a remarkable arrangement—even if they had not been possessors of great wealth. And this room seems to have been further encumbered by the proceeds of Mrs. Castle's larcenies, so that, as stated during the trial, it looked more like a museum than a bedroom. Should this reach the eye of any Californian, he will do me a favour, if he will let me know whether Mr. Castle is as wealthy as we have been asked to believe. In the meantime, I would suggest to that unfortunate husband that he would be wise to separate his son from his mother; for this child must have perceived what were her habits, and it is to be feared that, if left with her, he will catch the remarkable malady with which she is afflicted.

There is a peculiarly piquant circumstance in connection with the disappearance of the late Assistant Official Receiver for Chester and North Wales, one Hugh Roberts, whose affairs are now in the hands of his own Bankruptcy Court as those of an absconding debtor. During his official career this Mr. Roberts was always distinguished for the remorseless severity with which he gibbeted Shylock & Co., the malpractices of the notorious Isaac Gordon in particular coming in for the most unsparing exposure and denunciation at his hands. Before quitting the country, Roberts seems to have been inspired with the idea of spoiling the Israelites

in the same manner in which the Israelites formerly spoiled the Egyptians. This he did by applying to Isaac and others for loans, which the usurers readily granted at a very low rate of interest, supposing, of course, that they would thereby secure a useful friend at court. Their rage on learning that he had suddenly bolted with the money, some hundreds of pounds, which they so confidingly and hopefully advanced him, must, indeed, have been pleasant to witness; and though in other respects Roberts's conduct is open to strong censure, I do not think people will judge him very harshly in regard to this little matter.

A little hint that I gave to the medical profession last week in connection with the circular of Sydney Bassett should be enforced by the reports that have appeared of the bankruptcy of Mr. Dawson, a doctor lately practising at Walton-on-the-Naze. It seems that Mr. Dawson left London and went into practice at Walton on account of his health, and was put to some expense in so doing. In this position of affairs he received, as I suppose most doctors do, a circular from the Clerical and Medical Bank, Bristol, which is an alias of the notorious Shuckburgh of the same town. In a weak moment Mr. Dawson had given Shuckburgh a promissory note for £65, but all he received in cash was £46. 10s. He understood from Shuckburgh's agent, who carried out the transaction, that the terms were to be repayment at the rate of £2 a month; but after a couple of months Shuckburgh demanded payment of the whole loan, and when the debtor instructed a solicitor to defend the proceedings which were taken, it was speedily discovered that there was nothing on paper as to the repayment of the loan by monthly instalments. The only result of the debtor's attempt to defend the action was to increase his liabilities and expedite his bankruptcy. Shuckburgh, it will be remembered, makes a special feature of assisting medical and professional men in times of adversity. And this is how he does it.

For some reason the money lenders seem just now to have marked the doctor for their own. In addition to Sydney Bassett and Shuckburgh, there is a man calling himself "Richard Pelham," of Whitcomb-street, W., who is issuing a special lithographed circular for the benefit of the medical profession. It is small wonder to see the eagles thus gathered together in view of such advertisements as the following, which appears in the current number of the *British Medical Journal*. It might throw a useful light on the present condition of the profession if Mr. Fisher Hall would let the public know precisely how many applications have been received in response to this magnificent offer:—

ROYAL SOUTH HANTS INFIRMARY, SOUTHAMPTON.—Assistant House-Surgeon; must be qualified and willing to engage for six months, *at end of which period a gratuity of £10 will be given if found satisfactory.* Applications to T. A. Fisher Hall, Secretary, by November 18.

SPA WINTER SEASON.—Balmy climate. Only 12 hrs. from London. *Cercle des Etrangers*, with every Monte Carlo attraction, always open. Hotel tariff from 10fr. per diem. Address, Jules Crehay, Sec.

There is a special interest at the present moment in the reports of the proceedings in the bankruptcy of Lieutenant Roderick B. Webb, of the Royal Dragoons. This gallant officer, who got his commission in 1889, has managed since that date to run up unsecured debts to the amount of £11,623, and he is in the proud position of being able to offer his creditors assets amounting to £725. It appears that he has enjoyed an income of £720 a year all told, so that he would have seemed to be living for seven years at the rate of about three times his income. His own statement is that his insolvency is due "to living beyond my means and payment of excessive interest on borrowed money." In other words, he has been "going the pace of the regiment" (and possibly a little beyond it), and Shylock has done the rest.

One of the creditors of Mr. I. H. Fisher, late of Commercial-street, Spitalfields, sends me the final statement of that gentleman's trustee in bankruptcy. The document tells rather a curious story. It seems that the creditors rejected an offer of 2s. 6d. in the £, being determined to have the debtor's blood, even if they got no dividend. They accordingly made Fisher a bankrupt, and then prosecuted him, with the result that he got twelve months' hard labour. Some of the bankrupt's goods had been concealed under the charge of a relative, and the trustee next proceeded to seize these goods. This led to the trustee himself being involved in an action for illegal trespass, in which a verdict was recovered against him. Very naturally, the result is that the bulk of the assets, which only amounted to £606, have been swallowed up in litigation; and the creditors, whose little bills amounted to £5,573, get nothing. They seem, however, to have had some fun for their money, and it is not often that bankruptcy proceedings yield even as much as that.

A J.P. writes expressing his disgust at the severity with which some of his brethren treat offences against property, and asking me to pillory a poaching case at Wigan County Police-court last week. Four men were convicted of poaching and committed to three months' hard labour each, one of them also getting another month for assaulting a gamekeeper. In addition to this sentence — in itself severe enough in all conscience — each of the accused was ordered to find sureties for not so offending again for a year, and in default they will have to undergo a further six months' imprisonment each; so that, as my correspondent points out, these men are to be punished twice as heavily for being unable to find bondsmen as for committing the offence with which they were charged. This power of calling for sureties in such a case is one of the most iniquitous provisions in the whole series of the special laws that have been made for the benefit of the game-preserver, and there is none which magistrates use more oppressively. It practically enables them to double, or for a first offence treble, the maximum penalty for the crime of poaching.

The Paisley Bailies have often figured in my Legal Pillory, owing to their excessive tenderness in dealing with wife-beaters, but I fancy they must now have resolved to turn over a new leaf. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and after the sentence of three weeks' hard labour which Bailie Bell last week passed on a woman for giving her husband two blows in the mouth, it is impossible to believe that he or any of his colleagues will ever again have the temerity to let off men with the trumpery fines which have hitherto been imposed at Paisley for infinitely worse outrages on wives. In the following list I give the usual illustrations of such inadequate penalties in cases of assault and cruelty, the failure of the Greenwich Magistrate to inflict a term of imprisonment for most brutal ill-treatment of a child being particularly conspicuous. As to the cases on the other side, the monstrous sentences on girls, both first offenders, at Cork and Midhurst, should be at once brought to the notice of the Lord-Lieutenant and the Home Secretary respectively. Do the Midhurst Shallows really suppose that six weeks' prison life, even with the special attention of the chaplain, is likely to amend the ways of a wayward girl of sixteen?

Harleston Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. S. Holmes, A. Taylor, and J. Pipe. Joseph Gillman, labourer, charged with assaulting George Gardener. Complainant, who appeared with his head bandaged, said defendant struck him on the head with a stick, causing a severe wound. Fined 5s. and 11s. 6d. costs.

Grimsby County Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Bennett and W. Grant. Harry Ernest Cook, convicted of assaulting his wife. He struck her on the face and head, and kicked her in the stomach. Fined 5s. and costs, and bound over.

Pollokshaws Police-court. Before Bailie M'Farlane. James Green pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife by knocking her off the chair on which she was sitting, and dragging her across the room by her hair. Fined 30s.

Blackpool Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. Fisher, H. Buckley, L. Whittaker, R. B. Mather, and J. Cardwell. Edward Butterworth, cab proprietor, charged with cruelty to a horse by neglecting to supply it with food. The animal was found lying helpless in a hollow in a field, and one side of its face was described as "in a pulp," caused by its struggles to rise. Information had been given to defendant, but no effort was made to move the horse. Fined 20s. and costs.

Greenwich Police-court. Before Mr. Kennedy. Edwin Hanham, charged with ill-treating his son, aged 11. He beat the boy with a dog-whip, administering forty blows on one occasion, and the child's body was described by a doctor as "one huge livid mass of bruises." It was stated that one of the dog-whips which defendant employed on his son was loaded at the handle, had a long lash, and was knotted. Fined £20 and costs.

Harleston Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. William Brighton, labourer, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having a hare in his possession. Fined 10s. and 13s. 6d. costs.

Ardrossan Burgh Court. Two vagrants, named Welsh and Hardley, and John Murphy, a seaman, charged with appropriating to their own use a cloak which they found on the beach, and pawned for 2s. Ten days each.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Bell. Mary Tonnar, charged with assaulting her husband by striking him two blows on the mouth. Twenty-one days.

St. Augustine's Petty Sessions. Joseph Henry Griffiths, charged with trespassing in search of rabbits. Fined £2.

Llanfyllin Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. R. Jones, T. K. Perrott, and T. Gill. Isaac Lewis, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Dursley Police-court. Charles Summers, labourer, charged with trespassing in search of game. Committed to prison for one month.

Midhurst Police-court. Before Mr. G. H. Drew and Colonel Lascelles. Bertha Boniface, aged 16, charged with stealing a five-shilling piece belonging to her father. She refused to return home, and a constable informed the Bench that she had "been very reckless of late in her conduct." Six weeks' hard labour, the magistrates remarking that they would write to the prison chaplain to do what he could for her.

Selkirk Police-court. Before Bailies Hardie and Smith. James Baillie pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife by seizing her by the hair, dragging her about, and striking her with his fists; also to committing a breach of the peace. He had been previously convicted. Fined £1 and bound over.

Huddersfield Police-court. Before Mr. F. Greenwood and other magistrates. Henry Dyson, convicted of assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, thrashed his wife, turned her and their child out of the house, and threatened to cut her heart out if she returned. She had been repeatedly ill-treated, and a separation order was granted on the ground of persistent cruelty. For the assault defendant was fined 5s. and costs.

West Hartlepool Police-court. Jane Ann Carter, charged with vagrancy by fortune-telling. A policeman was concealed in a house where she was expected to call, and after watching her profess to tell the fortunes of the occupant of the house and his wife, the officer took her into custody. One month.

Cork Police-court. Before Mr. Mayne, R.M., and Alderman Flavin. Anne Summers, domestic servant, charged with the larceny of a number of articles belonging to her employer, a clergyman. The stolen property had been restored, and the prosecutor did not wish to press the charge. It was the girl's first offence. Three months.

How difficult it is to instil into the minds of some of the amateur magistracy the most rudimentary notion of judicial duty has been strikingly shown by certain justices of St. Ives. At the Brewster Sessions in 1895 these gentlemen voted for granting a licence to a new hotel belonging to a Company in which they had been shareholders. Just before the sessions they took steps to transfer their shares to their wives and families, and, in their unsophisticated way, they seem to have thought that this transparent device would safely get them round that awkward legal corner with regard to magistrates adjudicating in any matter in which they are directly or indirectly interested. It is hardly necessary to say, however, that the moment the case came before a Divisional Court they were rudely undeceived, the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Wright promptly quashing the licence. But these St. Ives justices were too obtuse or too self-opinionated to learn anything from the decision of her Majesty's judges. At the Brewster Sessions in August, 1896, another application was made on behalf of the same hotel, and once more the justices in question voted for the granting of the licence, with the result that they again invalidated the proceedings, and Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Wright last week quashed this second licence. It seems to me that the Lord Chancellor ought to follow up this judgment by removing from office the J.P.s who persisted in adjudicating a second time in a case in which the High Court had held that they were biassed.

It is a pity, by the way, that the stringent rules against interested magistrates adjudicating in licensing business cannot be extended to other matters, more especially the Game Laws. At Lancaster County Petty Sessions the other day a solicitor objected to any magistrate belonging to the local Poaching Prevention Society sitting to hear a case in which the prosecution had been taken up by that organisation. It is reported that the Bench "ignored the objection," though surely nothing could be more unjust and indecent than the presence of such magistrates on the Bench. To my mind, indeed, it is an outrageous thing that any justice who is a game preserver should adjudicate in any Game Law case, whether he is a member of a prose-

cuting society or not. Here and there a fairly impartial man may be found; but the vast majority of game preservers are swayed by the strongest and most obvious prejudices against all who violate, or are even accused of violating, the cult of the sacred bird; and as my columns constantly show, they use their powers in the most relentless manner for the benefit of their own particular interests. I may be told that if game preservers are disqualified no magistrates will be left to try poaching cases in many country districts. Very likely this is so. But the fact only helps to emphasise the necessity of breaking down the system under which the county benches are filled almost exclusively with men of one class.

Some time ago I mentioned the hard case of a tailor's assistant at Douglas who was sued by the Douglas Corporation for £8. 2s. 6d. for the treatment of his child for a period of seven weeks in the municipal fever hospital. The Deemster gave judgment against the defendant for £6, and he subsequently offered to pay off the debt by weekly instalments of 2s. 6d. In the circumstances the Corporation might well have shown such a small amount of consideration for the unfortunate man as would have been involved in the acceptance of this offer; but they, or the official who conducts such business on their behalf, refused to listen to the proposal, and without any previous warning, the defendant was served with an order which, but for the assistance of his employer, would have resulted in his immediate imprisonment. The Corporation appear throughout to have behaved in a very oppressive manner, and after this man's experience, parents in Douglas will probably be very slow to send sick children to the fever hospital unless they are absolutely compelled to do so.

It is a rare thing for magistrates to lay themselves open to adverse criticism on the score of lenity in dealing with a charge of robbery, but the quality of mercy certainly seems to have been somewhat strained in a case at Northallerton Quarter Sessions the other day. For some time the police had been receiving complaints of cattle-stealing at Scorton, and a few weeks back they traced the theft of a heifer to a butcher named Joseph Peacock, who took the animal from a field, slaughtered it, and concealed the skin, after which he offered to help the owner in making inquiries for the missing beast. Peacock admitted his guilt, and a clergyman and a churchwarden were called to testify to the good character he had borne, the former mentioning that the prisoner attended his church, and was a member of the choir and a bell-ringer. The Bench expressed the hope that "the charge would be a serious warning to the prisoner," ordered him to pay part of the costs, and discharged him under the First Offenders Act. This was a singularly lenient method of dealing with a serious, deliberate, and crafty robbery, and it stands out in strong contrast to the frequent refusals of the magistracy to give the benefit of the Act to first offenders convicted of simple and trumpery thefts. But, of course, the latter have not all of them the advantage of being church-goers, choirmen, and bell-ringers.

One of the touts employed in beguiling and bullying ignorant servant-girls into the purchase of extravagantly priced articles on the instalment system has had a lucky escape from condign punishment at Cambridgeshire Assizes. He was indicted for threatening a girl, and thereby inducing her to sign a paper in order that the same might be used as a valuable security, with intent to defraud. It seemed that he asked the prosecutrix to buy a Bible for 50s., and that on her refusing he said something about fetching a policeman, and by means of this and other threats so frightened her that she signed the form which he produced. The prisoner's counsel took the objection that this paper was not a valuable security, but only an order for goods, and Baron Pollock held that the objection was good, the accused being accordingly discharged. Seeing that such "orders for goods" frequently suffice to enable firms engaged in this sort of business to obtain judgment against their deluded customers in the County Court, I should have though that the document might fairly have been deemed a "valuable security"; but as this is not the judicial view of the matter, it is to be hoped that whenever another case of the kind occurs the charge will be differently framed so as to avoid any technical difficulty in securing a conviction. Meanwhile I fear that the result of the prosecution will encourage these canvassing pests in their impudent and unscrupulous impositions upon an ignorant and easily terrorised class of people.

Just a year ago I called the attention of masters of houses to the operations of a firm styling themselves "Howard & Co.," of 611, Chiswick High-road. These people were then cadging, by means of area-gate touts, to induce servant-girls to give orders for forty-five shilling watches worth about sixteen shillings apiece, and "small Bibles" at the same modest price. Howard & Co. are still at the same game, in all parts of the country, and the latest feature in their business is the employment of female touts. I have just heard of a case at Great Malvern, in which a woman tried unsuccessfully to book an order from a servant-girl, after which Howard & Co. had the impudence to send one of their watches to the girl, and when she returned it by registered letter they denied receiving it, and delivered the usual threats of proceedings if the girl did not pay up. It is high time that the itinerant touts who work for all firms of this character were brought under the same regulations as pedlars and hawkers. The mere fact of their having to take out licences would probably suffice to put an end to the game.

There is a firm styling themselves "J. B. Dent & Sons," of 189, Blackfriars-road, and Imperial Buildings, Ludgate-circus, who have at different times been introduced to the readers of TRUTH in connection with the

business of getting "watch clubs" started by foremen in houses of business, N.C.O.s in the Army, and others in a position to exercise pressure upon their subordinates. When referring to their doings, I have expressed surprise at the appearance of the name of "Dent" in this connection. It turns out, however, that the name is merely an assumed one. The founder of the business of J. B. Dent & Sons is, I understand, a retired N.C.O. named Bryan, and his object in converting himself into "Dent" is sufficiently obvious.

Lately "J. B. Dent & Sons" have been soliciting orders from wholesale firms for advertisements in their "Illustrated Wholesale Price List of Goods," stating in their letters that they have taken over the business of "The Universal and Industrial Manufacturers Supply Association, at Commerce House, Blackfriars-road." On their stationery J. B. Dent & Sons describe themselves as "Watch and Chronometer Makers to Her Majesty's Army, Navy, India and Colonies" (*sic*). The chief foundation for this statement is probably the watch clubs business above mentioned. They also state that they are makers to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a statement which I take the liberty of believing to be a fiction. Another paragraph on their notepaper states "that the Kew Royal Observatory have awarded J. B. Dent & Sons, makers to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a first class certificate for excellence of workmanship and accuracy of performance in watches." This high-sounding announcement simply means that J. B. Dent & Sons have obtained a certificate which anybody can obtain by sending a watch to be tested at Kew. The same notepaper is plentifully adorned with the Royal Arms and Seal of the Admiralty, and a whole gallery of prize medals. Among the latter is the prize medal of the London Exhibition of 1862, which was held, roughly speaking, about twenty years before "J. B. Dent & Sons" came into existence. From these facts, all persons whom it may concern will be easily able to estimate for themselves the character of "J. B. Dent & Sons."

On August 13 I reprinted a paragraph from a previous issue of TRUTH respecting the appeals to charity circulated through the post by an old lady named Annie Labone, of 36, Fowler-street, Liverpool. It may perhaps be remembered that Mrs. Labone is, in her own words, "an old lady whom the Lord has heavily afflicted," and on the strength of her afflictions she hopes you will purchase recipes for cough mixtures, cures for rheumatism, lemon and potato cheesecake, or Grantham gingerbread. She also manifests a praiseworthy interest in the souls of those whom she addresses, by enclosing tracts suitable to the comprehension of children and adults. I stated that those who received Mrs. Labone's appeals would do well to hear what the Charity Organisation Society have to say about her before sending her any money, and I further stated that she had been in the begging-letter business for over thirty years. This was on August 13. A couple of months later Mrs. Labone wrote me a very long and confidential letter, chiefly taken up with distressing particulars of her bodily ailments, which make, if possible, more unpleasant reading than her begging letters, and she also asked me for the name and address of the writer of the paragraph, in order that she might write an explanatory letter to him. "Yours seems," she wrote, "a very nice, interesting periodical, and I shall have much pleasure in drawing my friends' attention to it." After these flattering expressions I felt it my duty to show what Mrs. Labone had written to the writer of the paragraph in question, but I am sorry to say that he still remains of the same opinion respecting this lady.

Although Mrs. Labone states in her letter that the only time that she ever collected cash was once when she went round with a book on the occasion when the congregation of her church desired to present their pastor with an Easter offering, and although she tells me that she never collected money on behalf of herself, I find that she is one of the very first operators in the begging-letter line who ever came under notice in TRUTH. Within a few months of the foundation of this journal (August 2, 1877) Mrs. Labone received an article all to herself; and it is, indeed, strange, therefore, that she should only have discovered what a nice, interesting periodical TRUTH is in October, 1896. It is true that in those days she was not collecting money for herself, but for a lady named Martin, who was alleged by Mrs. Labone to be suffering from the same distressing ailments which are now so graphically described by her in her own case. A great many of the statements which she then made on behalf of Miss Martin did not bear investigation, and for her own sake I would fain hope that the same may be the case with her account of her own afflictions. If not, then I think that the fact of her having fulfilled in her own person all that she ascribed to Miss Martin twenty-five years ago, would make a very nice moral tale for one of her own tracts.

I gave, a fortnight back, the history of a queer transaction in which a money-lender calling himself "Parmer," of Conduit-street, was concerned. It is a fact worth mentioning that a visitor to Parmer's office not long ago recognised there an individual whom he had formerly known by the name of Nicholls. The said Nicholls used to carry on business under that name at Savoy House, Strand, and under that name served a term of eighteen months' imprisonment for swindling by means of the preliminary fee trick. Whether Nicholls took any part in the transaction that has been described in TRUTH, I cannot say for certain; but his presence in Parmer's office ought to be an additional reason against the insertion of Parmer's advertisements in the *Morning Post*, or any other respectable journal.

Circulars are being sown broadcast from 9, Cathedral-street North, Prince of Wales-road, Norwich, by a usurer's tout signing himself "H. F. Harvey." These

circulars begin with the statement that "several sums of money have been placed at his (Harvey's) disposal for investment by trustees," and go on to talk about the advantages which the said Harvey offers "to clients who cannot afford to pay the exorbitant fees and charges of professional lenders." "H. F. Harvey" is the *nom de guerre* of Joel Ford, a pestilent usury-monger in Gower-street, or of his agents in different parts of the country. Circulars in the same name have been issued in the last year or two from addresses at Exeter, Salisbury, Kingston-on-Thames, Peterborough, Lincoln, and other places. Occasionally "Harvey," alias Ford, addresses tradesmen with the information that he "has had several years' experience in the private financing of some of the largest tradesmen in London." At other times he tells agriculturists how he has "had considerable experience of over thirty years in the private financing of some of the largest farms in the home counties," and insidiously suggests that farmers should avoid the necessity of realising produce at the present depressed agricultural prices by availing themselves of the services of the "private financier." That no statement is too extravagantly mendacious to be used by this harpy in deceiving his victims may be judged by his present assertion, that he is using trust funds, which have been placed at his disposal for investment. Heaven help the struggling tradesman or farmer who falls into the clutches of such an unscrupulous blood-sucker!

Yet another new dodge of the money-lending tout is revealed by the following letter. It was addressed to an Irish gentleman. He has, he says, never communicated with Messrs. Browne & Co., nor was he aware of the existence of that firm:—

Strictly private.] 48, Darlan-road, Fulham, S.W.
October 31, 1896.

SIR,—I trust you will pardon the liberty I am taking in addressing you, but I have been for years confidential clerk to Messrs. Browne & Co., solicitors, 44, Bedford-row, with whom I understand you are in correspondence. Although I am doing this without any knowledge of my firm, I beg to say that if you desired an advance of from £500 to £1,000 for three or six months, entirely upon your promissory note, I could arrange the matter for you *immediately*.

It would not perhaps be necessary for you to come to town so long as you gave me your bank's agent here, that your signature might be verified; but if you could make it convenient to come to town, so much the better.

If you would kindly send me a wire to my private address the matter shall have my best attention, and you can rely upon the strictest secrecy.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A. W. KING.

Apropos of money-lenders, a correspondent asks me whether I cannot "squelch" Jackson, of Duke-street. If I knew of any means of "squelching" any of these gentry, I should not be long in doing it; but how far Jackson is from being "squelched" at present may be judged from the fact that he last week favoured one of my staff with a circular offering "accommodation." It seems that Jackson has been delivering a special batch of circulars this last week in the Inns of Court. Is it possible that even in the headquarters of the Law are to be found pigeons waiting to be plucked?

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, E., APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed

A fine swindling trade seems to be carried on at present in second-hand grandfather's clocks, oak-bureaus, and similar articles. The leading operator in this line calls himself "E. Reeves," and has been advertising lately from the address, "St. Stephen's, Norwich," or, "The Bungalow, St. Stephen's, Norwich." His usual trick seems to be to advertise the clock, or whatever it may be, at a certain price, and to demand half this price as a deposit before the article is forwarded. As soon as he has got the deposit, he invents some excuse for not forwarding the clock until the balance is paid. If the victim pays up the balance, a rubbishy article of no value is forwarded to him. If he objects to pay the balance, he gets neither goods nor deposit. An action has recently been brought against Reeves in the Norwich County Court by a gentleman who had purchased, on the strength of an advertisement, a grandfather's clock, and after Reeves had for some time evaded service of the summons by betaking himself to Belgium, judgment was eventually obtained for the full amount and costs.

In another recent case a lady at Warley has had a similar experience. She was induced to pay Reeves a deposit of £1 for the purchase of a bureau, which had been advertised in the *Exchange and Mart*. She offered to deposit the balance with the *Exchange and Mart*, but Reeves would not assent to this, and insisted on having the money direct. The lady had the bureau inspected by a representative of the *Exchange and Mart* in the neighbourhood, who pronounced it to be a perfect fraud, and not worth buying at any price. Upon this the lady demanded her money back under the threat of a summons, and on October 26 Reeves returned the money relieving his mind at the same time by sending with it an abusive letter. In this letter he made a sarcastic reference to the people who patronise the *Exchange and Mart*, remarking that it was a paper which he would carefully avoid. The truth is, I believe, that Reeves has been on the "Exclusion List" of the *Exchange and Mart* for years past, and it was only by an accident that his advertisement got into the paper now.

There are many other similar cases against Reeves, who has been the subject of frequent inquiries addressed to the Norwich Police. It will be remembered that not many weeks back a lady named Dring, of Boston, Lincoln, was prosecuted at the North London Police-court, for obtaining money under false pretences, she having failed to forward the grandfather's clock for which the money had been paid. It is a highly remarkable fact that when Reeves, of Norwich, was sued in the County Court above-mentioned, he attempted to get the judgment set aside on the ridiculous plea that his address had been wrongly given, as he did not live at "The Bungalow," Norwich,

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

but at 6, William Bank, Boston. Strange to say, 6, William Bank, Boston, is the address of Mr. W. Dring, and of his wife, Rebecca, who is also in the grandfather's clock business, and who had such a narrow escape at the North London Police-court. It seems to me possible that had the connection between the Drings and Reeves been known at the time of that prosecution, the course of events might have been different. The establishment described as "the Bungalow," is, I understand, a building in a slum known as Hunt's-yard, and leading off St. Stephen's-street, Norwich. One of the grandfather's clocks which had been supplied by Reeves was valued by an expert at thirteen shillings, the price which Reeves himself had obtained for it being £3. Reeves has continued advertising in the *Standard* and other papers within the last two or three weeks, and it seems to me high time that his advertisements were excluded from respectable journals.

Since I referred the other day to a man named Thomas Kempe, of Cathedral Offices, 41, St. Andrew's Hill, who advertises an infallible remedy for deafness at the price of £1. 2s. 6d., Kempe has forwarded to the gentleman whose case I mentioned what he is pleased to call his "treatment." The gentleman, in his turn, has forwarded the goods to me. They comprise two bottles of lotion and a small glass inhaler. An expert to whom I have submitted them reports that the whole consignment might be sold at a handsome profit for half a crown. Considering, therefore, that Kempe can make a profit of something over £1 out of every victim whom he entraps, it hardly seems worth his while to run the risk of unpleasant complications by sticking to the money and refusing to forward the goods. There is no doubt, however, that he adopts this method of increasing his profits, for I have just heard of a case of an Indian gentleman who, more than six months ago, paid Kempe 16s., and has not up to the present time succeeded in getting anything whatever for his money. Kempe was at that time established at Victoria Chambers, 19, Southampton Buildings, Holborn, and on inquiries being made at that place on behalf of the aforesaid Indian gentleman, it was found that Kempe had departed, leaving no address. Those who are in search of him had better try Cathedral Offices, 41, St. Andrew's Hill, E.C., though it is no very easy thing to find him even there.

I wonder how much success has attended a circular that has just been sent out by the "Editor of the *Social World* newspaper, Limited." This individual appeals to London and provincial editors to supply him with copy, and invites them to sign a contract binding them to reprint in their own journals any of their contributions which he may publish, mentioning at the same time the *Social World*. A copy of the reprint is to be sent to the Editor, and unless the contribution is reprinted in this way the contributor is not to be paid for it. In other words, the journalist who contributes to this publication is also expected to advertise the paper, and his remuneration is to cover not only the contribution, but the advertisement. Unless I am very much mistaken, the gentleman who evolved this original scheme is my old friend Manning Press. When that fact is known, I doubt whether it will increase the desire of provincial journalists to avail themselves of the offer thus made to them.

Once again I have been asked for information respecting Mr. John Martyn, of 64, Albert-road, Dalston, N.E. Mr. Martyn's line of business is the circulation of satin book-markers, with legends printed upon them, which he asks the public to buy out of charity. I believe the statements he makes are substantially true, but it appears that he has been getting a living by this means for a good many years past, and no one quite knows what his living is worth. It is therefore very doubtful whether he has any real claim to charity, or any better right to ask people to buy his goods out of sheer benevolence than any shopkeeper in London.

Can any of my readers at Dawlish give me any information about a certain Mr. M. A. Yonge, of that town? This gentleman recently inserted the following advertisement in the *Manchester Guardian*:—

> Secretary companion (gentleman) wanted: educated, refined, unmarried; liberal progressive salary; all expenses paid; cash deposit guaranteeing fidelity indispensable.—Woodbrook, Dawlish.

A gentleman at Manchester, who answered this advertisement, was informed by Mr. Yonge that his business was a financial one, bill-discounting principally, and that it was carried on at Monte Carlo, whither he would require his secretary to accompany him. The "cash deposit" required was £200, carrying interest at 4 per cent., and Mr. Yonge declined to accept a fidelity guarantee in place of the deposit. Although he selected Manchester for his advertisement, Mr. Yonge was not disposed to pay travelling expenses from that town to Dawlish for a personal interview, which in one case he invited himself. There is much about Mr. Yonge's business and correspondence on which further information would be interesting. Perhaps he has obtained a "secretary companion" by this time, in which case I only trust that the secretary likes his place.

In the early part of this year I had to inform Mr. R. L. C. Morrison, of Greenhill-avenue, Tenby, that he was not justified in inviting my junior clerk to sell to him all the old post-cards, envelopes, and newspaper wrappers to be found in this office. I have now been asked to convey a similar intimation to Mr. Morrison on behalf of a firm in the City, to whose junior clerk he has just issued a similar invitation. Mr. Morrison, as I pointed out when I last referred to him, is a postage-stamp dealer, and he appears to address himself to clerks in offices where there is likely to be a large foreign correspondence, in the hope of picking up old foreign stamps among the waste-paper which he offers to buy.

The New Silk Waistcoatings for Gentlemen's Evening Dress and Morning Wear can now be seen at Ulster House, Conduit-street, W.

Employers, therefore, who take any interest in keeping their employees honest, and in preventing them from being subjected to the temptation of disposing of what does no t belong to them, will do well to see that the clerks are not customers of Mr. Morrison.

The way we advertise now. A potato grower calmly forwards a circular, of which one page is devoted to business in the shape of a price list, one page is occupied by his own portrait and autograph, one page by an acrostic on his own name, one page by a few biographical notes on his life for the last fifty years, while on the outside is the modest request, "Kindly hand to a friend at afternoon tea." If cheek, as many believe, is the royal road to success in the world, this potato man ought to get on.

Here is another device in advertising. The lady who received it (lithographed) never heard of Grace H. Johnston :—

The Brantingham, Wednesday.

DEAR FRIEND,—Have you been thinking naughty things of me?

In passing the ——— Theatre yesterday I was reminded of my promise to send you word where I had my lace curtains cleaned.

It was at ———.

I have had my laces done up there for many years, and have always found the work very satisfactory.

Hoping you are quite well, I am, very sincerely,

GRACE H. JOHNSTON.

P.S. I have forgotten the number of ———, but it is almost directly opposite the ——— Theatre.

I see that it is denied that Mr. Martin White, the member for Forfarshire, is about to resign. He is a sound Radical, and his views as to Church Disestablishment in Scotland are strong, for he has embraced every opportunity to carry the war into the enemy's camp. Were he to resign, the electoral contest would be an interesting one, as Forfarshire is in politics what Cleopatra was in love—of infinite variety, one election generally reversing the verdict of the last. Much would depend on whether the farmers are in the main breeders or graziers, for the legislation of the last session favoured the former at the expense of the latter.

A correspondent writes :—

I have not often seen in print more preposterous nonsense than the statement, made last week in the *St. James's Gazette*, in a rambling, scrambling dissertation entitled "The Unleadable Party," that "the death of Lord Grey in 1845 left the Liberals practically leaderless during the space of two years." Lord Grey retired from public life when he resigned the office of Prime Minister in July, 1834. Lord Melbourne succeeded him as Prime Minister, and his colleague in the leadership of the Party was Lord John Russell. In 1843 Lord Melbourne's health failed, after an attack of palsy, and Lord Lansdowne became the leader in the House of Lords. In June, 1846, one year after the death of Lord Grey, the Liberals came into office with Lord John Russell as Prime Minister and Lord Lansdowne as Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords.

I have received a vast number of letters suggesting that Lord Rosebery's communication to Sir William Harcourt, declining all further political connection with him, should be made public. It certainly ought to be. When the Leader of the Liberal Party writes a letter for circulation amongst his former colleagues announcing that he will have nothing to do with the Leader of the Party in the Commons, this can hardly be deemed a private document; least of all when his friends, taking advantage of the letter having only been privately circulated, insist that the Commons' Leader was a species of traitor to the Party Leader because he did not after that missive take counsel with him. Whenever the public is appealed to on a personal issue involving the government of the country, the public has a right to have before it all the facts that are needed in order to form a proper conclusion.

Mr. Morley and Mr. Asquith both made very sensible and practical speeches last week; and at once the Unionist newspapers proceeded to jeer at them because they were cheerful. They ought, it would seem, to have appeared in mourning, as undertakers engaged in burying the Liberal Party, and to have asked gods and men to forgive them for ever having had anything to do with such a moribund concern. And yet, it is as certain as anything well can be, that one day the Tory reaction will be outdone by the Radical reaction. I am not for waiting supinely until the tide turns. We must give the Democracy something to fight for. With a good Leader and a good cry, I see no reason why we should not win the next General Election. Amongst gamblers, it is said, that a good winner is more rare than a good loser, for winners are too apt to be puffed up, and to show it offensively. The same may be said in politics. I never yet came across such a boasting, swaggering crew as the Tory journalists. Talk of beggars on horseback! Never were such prancing beggars known. It really becomes the duty of all who have any respect for that old virtue, modesty, to put them in their proper place. And what is that place? Cursing, snarling, and cowering under the hoofs of the good horse Democracy.

I cordially agree with Mr. Morley's suggestion that Peers should be allowed to give up their right to sit in the House of Lords, and, having done so, that they should become eligible to be elected members of the House of Commons. This would only be fair, if the view of Mr. Morley and of the Radicals is carried out, that a Ministry must be a Committee of the House of Commons, in the sense that its members must be selected from the People's House. In the last Parliament Mr. Curzon and others brought in a Bill to enable Peers to be elected to the Commons. But it found small favour with Radicals, because it allowed a Peer to seek election, and, if not elected, to revert to the House of Lords.

Last week I gave a list of the Peers who received official salaries in the last Parliament dependent upon the tenure of office of the Liberal Party. Exactly one half of all Liberal Peers were salaried. This can hardly be termed selection of the fittest for posts of profit and responsibility. Had I my way, the next Liberal Premier should compose his Administration exclusively from the Commons. A Bill passed in that House should be sent up to the Lords, and the sole argument for its passing there should be that, having received the assent of the People's Repre-

sentatives, it ought to become law. Were this done, and were any lord allowed to give up his rights of peerage, should he wish to take part in public affairs, the House of Lords would fall into such ridicule and contempt, that no self-respecting man would wish to remain in it.

As for the Peers titles, they may keep them. If it makes a man happy to be "milorded" by his servants, Heaven preserve me from denying him this pleasure. Far from it, I would give any one a right to become "my lord" on payment of a reasonable sum to the Exchequer, and, on the same lines, all who are "my lords" might become "his grace." This was the view taken of titles by Cavour, who submitted to the Piedmontese Parliament a proposal to sell the title of Count to all aspirants for 10,000 francs. And as with titles, so I would deal with ribbons. If any fool can be found ready to pay for the privilege of hanging a yard or two of coloured ribbon round his person, I would make money by gratifying this singular craze.

I am surprised that in all the letters that are published regarding the Education controversy, no allusion is made to the reason why the politicians of the Unionist Party are not likely to agree to voluntary schools being aided from rates. This is that rates are derived from direct imposts, and taxes from indirect, whilst Unionists have always insisted that rates weigh unfairly in their incidence on agriculture. Many people are so silly as to imagine that when rates are reduced by the simple expedient of increasing taxes, it is as though money were rained down from Heaven like manna, instead of coming out of their pockets. No political Unionist would dream of imposing new rates. To give an additional amount from the Exchequer to localities which have voluntary and no Board schools is, in reality, a direct incentive to localities to prefer the former to the latter. It amounts to telling all that, if they have only voluntary schools, they will be relieved of the obligation to be rated for education; and this is precisely the aim of those who would prefer voluntary to Board schools, and who understand the right mode to give effect to their preference.

In theory, a voluntary school is one which is a secular school, except during a brief period each day which is spent in inculcating the tenets of the particular sect to which the school belongs. In practice, it is a school where, in season and out of season, it is sought to bring up children in those tenets. Theoretically, secular education is the major, and religious education the minor. Practically, it is the reverse. In most rural districts the schoolmaster is a lay curate of the clergyman of the Church of England who is the rector or vicar of the parish. In Italy, religion is allowed to be taught on only one day of the week in schools maintained by the State. Why should not this plan be adopted in regard to our voluntary schools? In this case all those not agreeing with the particular tenets taught would not send their children on that day. About fifty years ago I was at Eton. All the masters were clergymen of the Church of England. The religious instruction that they vouchsafed to me was a Greek Testament class on Saturdays. The cleric who conducted this class never entered into theological issues, and generally confined himself to sneering criticisms on the Greek of the Evangelists.

Lord Hugh Cecil has put the case of the Church of England in respect to education very fairly from the Churchman's standpoint. The problem that the Government has to solve is, he says, "What does the Church of England want?" Having discovered this, it is to grant to that Church what it does want. In days long past the Roman Catholic Church was the Established Church of England, and it wanted a great deal. It wanted a recognition that the Pope was the Suzerain of England; that priests could not be tried by the law of the land; that the property of the Church should not be liable to taxation; and many other things of a like character. It was only by the persistent opposition of our ancestors that these "wants" were not permanently incorporated in our laws, and in no Catholic country now does the Roman Church put forward such pretensions. But with the property of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England seems to have inherited the idea that the mission of the Government is to give it what it wants. Just now it wants to be provided with the means to bring up children in its tenets. If we admit this, I wonder what next it will want?

The Venezuela arrangement is very different from what the Jingo Press demanded when first the United States interfered in the matter. I heartily congratulate Lord Salisbury on having been able to sweep aside all the rabid bluster of his followers, and having assented to a settlement based upon common sense and justice. But since his Mansion House delivery, I have been amused at watching how the Tory newspapers have been eating their past swagger, and trying to show that everything is precisely as they had always wished it to be.

On two points Lord Salisbury refused to allow even discussion: (1) The right of the Americans to interfere. (2) The arbitration west of the Schomburgk line; and his newspapers announced that, rather than yield on either, we would meet the world in arms. As a matter of hard fact, he has—most wisely, I think—given up both these points.

I cannot say that I think that our present habit of beslavering one Power when we are angry with some other is very conducive to our dignity. When the Triple Alliance between Russia, Germany, and Austria was formed, Lord Salisbury, in announcing the fact, said that it was "glad tidings of great joy." When Russia withdrew, he was induced to make vague promises to

Italy, at the request of Bismarck, to induce that Power to take the place of Russia in a new Triple Alliance. But no sooner do Russia and France make an alliance than Lord Salisbury begins to gush over Russia. All this renders us contemptible in the eyes of Continental Europe. Its countries, differing as they may amongst themselves, agree in objecting to our perpetual interference in matters that concern them rather than us. If we can only realise this, and act upon the principle that, so long as no one attacks us, we shall remain friends with all, instead of reviling our neighbours one day and grovelling at their feet the next, we shall best consult alike our honour and our interests.

A characteristic movement is now on foot for obtaining the release of Dr. Jameson and his fellow-prisoners. Petitions praying for their release have been placed in various hotels in different parts of the country, including Dublin. This is an old dodge for obtaining signatures on a large scale at a moderate expense, and doubtless it is anticipated that among the hotel-frequenting classes a large proportion of sympathisers with the imprisoned raiders is likely to be found. When, however, the petition comes to be presented, it is desirable that the signatures should be weighed as well as counted. The petition states, as one of the grounds for release, that, owing to the prisoners having been accustomed to an open-air life, their health is likely to be impaired by confinement in gaol. On the same argument, all the poachers at present in prison, and not a few of the burglars, and other representatives of the "dangerous classes," ought to be released at the same time as Dr. Jameson and his colleagues. Those of Dr. Jameson's friends who are still at large would do well not to make him and his companions ridiculous by these whining pleas for mercy. I have no vindictive feeling towards Dr. Jameson myself; on the contrary, I sympathise with him more than most people, for I believe him to have been to some extent the deluded victim of a more astute conspirator; but, having played the game and lost, he must pay the stakes.

Lord Lonsdale's defence of the Emperor William in his speech at Whitehaven has excited so much attention that his other remarks on the Transvaal raid appear to be in danger of being overlooked. What he said, however, was very much to the point. "When," Lord Lonsdale observed, "people told him that Jameson and Rhodes deserved the Victoria Cross, he had answered that they really deserved six months' imprisonment and the 'cat' just as much as the man who broke into a bank and stole bullion." Lord Lonsdale further expressed the opinion that "great blame attached to the Chartered Company," a view which will be shared by all competent and candid critics.

A "prominent member of the Chartered Company," I see, airs the opinion that the Chartered Company has practically purged itself of the raid, and that if some of the servants of the Company, acting without authority, undertook an unlawful expedition, the shareholders should not suffer. This idea of non-contributory responsibility will hardly hold water. Mr. Cecil Rhodes had a power of attorney giving him full authority to act for the Company in South Africa; Dr. Jameson was its administrator in Rhodesia. Certainly, if the telegrams which were produced at the Cape Parliament inquiry are authentic, and I have seen no doubt thrown on their authenticity, Mr. Rhodes and Dr. Jameson did confederate together with certain persons in Johannesburg to levy war against the Transvaal, and the troops of the Company were collected by them for this purpose. Whether Mr. Rhodes decided at the last moment to defer the expedition or not, has nothing to do with his liability for conspiring to bring together troops to take part in it. As well might it be said that, if A were to place B with explosives and matches close to a rick, A would escape liability if he sent at the last moment orders to B to put off the firing, and B did not attend to them. The British Government is responsible to the Transvaal, the Company to the British Government, and, I should say, Rhodes, Beit, Jameson, and Co. to the Company.

Again I say, far be it from me to hazard an opinion on the ups and downs of the Stock Exchange, for this I leave to my estimable friend Mr. Moses Moss. But I cannot help smiling at the manner in which the silly shareholders of the South African Chartered Company have been caught, owing to their robust credulity. They refused to allow an arrangement to be entered into, by which the greater portion of the new issue of their Company's shares was to be underwritten. The old shares then stood at a premium of 150 per cent., and the shareholders thought that they saw their profit in taking the new shares at a premium of 100 per cent., being under the impression that what they obtained for £2 they would at once be able to sell for £2. 10s. They failed, however, to realise that the premium is a nominal one, and that, were a large number of shares offered for sale, no one would buy them; for the very simple reason that no one not already a shareholder of the Company would dream of investing in its shares.

One day last week, it was authoritatively stated in the papers that President Kruger had made demand for an indemnity of £1,000,000. The next day this was met by an announcement that the President had seized the present moment to put forward this claim in order to prevent applications for the new shares. As a matter of fact, he has never formulated the amount of his demand. But I am bound to say that I think that £1,000,000 would be a moderate indemnity, in view of the fact that the Transvaal was invaded by the

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armed force of the Company, and that this caused loss of life and property, as well as a great disturbance of public order. But how does it affect the value of the shares of the Company, whether the demand be made at present or a little later on?

Apart, however, from this indemnity, the notion of the shares being worth a premium of 100 or 150 on their face-value is so utterly absurd, that those who pay this for them, only show into what abysmal folly a sanguine mind can fall. A coloured gentleman wrote to me last week to tell me that he wished to dispose of a gold mining land on the Gold Coast, and to sell certain mahogany lands in that part of the world, in order to carry out the intentions of H. M. Emmil Gnow, King of Eastern Massau, under a deed poll of this Majesty, who unfortunately is dead. I should as soon think of giving a large sum for these mahogany lands, as of becoming an investor in the shares of the Chartered Company, even if the latter were to be purchased at par. People are apt to think that these shares must be valuable, because they have been owned by eminent financiers, but it is forgotten that these eminently astute gentlemen got these shares for next to nothing, and made their profit by selling them to fools at a premium of 700 or 800 per cent.

The *Bechuanaland News* is not particularly complimentary to the European element in the Protectorate, judging by a copy dated October 10 that has been sent to me. The Protectorate, it says, has become "the Alsatia of all the light-fingered gentry of South Africa." The description is probably applicable to many of the Europeans in Rhodesia as well as in Bechuanaland. But reading on, I find that all this indignation is due, not to the evil habits of the Europeans, but to the reins being in the hands of Lord Rosmead, a "venerable, silly old gentleman, who is grasping and jealous of power." The charge against him seems to be that he is protecting the natives against these light-fingered Europeans. Sad, indeed, to relate, this "venerable, silly old gentleman" has established a native police force, "for the express purpose, it would seem, of insulting any white man or woman bold enough to ask them a civil question." The next thing that we shall hear is, that the Chartered Company has invaded Bechuanaland to defend the wives and children of the Europeans there from the savage Bechuanas. Possibly the letter, asking the Chartered forces to interfere—as was the case with that of the Johannesburgers—has already been manufactured, and is kept in the archives of the Company ready for use. Khama, it will be remembered, was only saved from the devouring zeal of the Chartered philanthropists by coming over to England and pleading his own cause.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

SCRUTATOR.

THREE LITTLE ENGLANDERS.

THE three persons in the country who are the most strongly desirous that we should bring our occupation of Egypt to a speedy close are Lord Salisbury, Mr. John Morley, and myself. The first has, again and again, called attention to the dangers involved in this occupation. But Lord Salisbury has to reckon with his Party, and he dares not run openly counter to the howling Dervishes of Jingoism, who would have us not only remain in Egypt, but add also to our possessions in the Upper Valley of the Nile. Mr. John Morley has been even more outspoken than Lord Salisbury in his objections. But he was the representative of Home Rule in Lord Rosebery's Cabinet, and in his anxiety to ensure that the Cabinet would not throw over Home Rule, he condoned for a time Lord Rosebery's Egyptian policy, which was to convert temporary occupation into permanent annexation. I am but a humble soldier in the Radical Army, and have had to subordinate my views on this matter to no such exigencies. I represent the opinions of the rank and file of the Radicals, being one of the rank and file myself; therefore, as an unattached patriot, in season and out of season, have I denounced our occupation of Egypt.

Events move so swiftly that what occurred fifteen or sixteen years ago is almost forgotten, and the field is left open for romance. It is therefore desirable that the search-light of truth should dispel the mists beneath which the Jingo Press would conceal the truth. The Khedive Ismail borrowed large sums of money, and thus accumulated a vast debt against Egypt, that country having received about £20 for every nominal £100 of its indebtedness. So long as Ismail could borrow to pay interest on these usurious loans, he was represented by the money-lending fraternity as a most enlightened Prince. They continued to buy his bonds cheap and to sell them dear to fools. But when this remunerative trade became impossible, he was denounced by them as a rogue, who refused to meet his engagements. French and English interference took place, not with a view to benefit the Egyptians, but in order to force them to pay the usurious interest on the Ismail debts. Ismail protested that they could not pay without being crushed by the burthen. He was at once got rid of, and his son became Khedive. A joint control over the finances by France and England was established. At that time there was a sort of Egyptian Parliament. This Parliament asked that the salaries of a herd of European harpies, who were the employees of this dual control, should be submitted to it in the Budget. The new Khedive assented. But both France and England protested. Hence the Arabi outbreak. England undertook to suppress it, and in so doing burnt down Alexandria and slew many Egyptians. France had declined to join in these high-handed proceedings. Egypt consequently was occupied by England, on an express pledge to Europe that the occupation was to be temporary. An Egyptian Government was to be formed, and

so soon as it got into working order we were to withdraw. We have remained there ever since, on the plea that the Egyptians are not fit for self-government, notwithstanding their protests, and the protests of Europe. At present our Jingoes contend that we have done so much for Egypt that we have created for ourselves a right to remain there for ever; or, in other words, that, having got hold of the country in the interest of financial sharks, on a pledge not to remain there, we may treat these pledges as piecrust.

Thus interest is made the test of honour. One of the main articles of the Jingo faith is, that the honour of the country is not concerned in keeping its plighted word, but that it is concerned in retaining any territory which it occupies, no matter under what pledges of withdrawal that occupation may have arisen. This is a new code of morality, but on the low standpoint of mere expediency, I venture to submit (1) that a country suffers from acting upon it, just as an individual would suffer in his business relations were he to make it his rule of conduct; (2) that in the particular case of our conversion of a temporary and conditional occupation of Egypt into annexation, whatever our loss of credit may be from lying, it is not balanced by any direct and immediate advantage accruing to us from so doing. This has long been the opinion of our leading Statesmen, and in order to bring this home to all, I give the following extracts from their public utterances, merely prefacing them with the admitted fact that, in 1887, Lord Salisbury did himself negotiate a treaty of withdrawal with the Porte, which, if the Porte had not refused to ratify it, would have already brought our occupation to an end:—

February, 1883:—

Sir Stafford Northcote complained that the Government was indefinite in regard to the time that the occupation would last. Lord Hartington, replying for the Government, said that the time was more likely to be six months than half a century.

March, 1883:—

Lord Dufferin, then British Commissioner in Egypt, wrote that "the permanent occupation of Egypt being contrary to the repeated declarations of H.M. Government, it is not an idea to which I can give the slightest sanction."

March 3, 1883:—

An order for withdrawal was issued, when Mr. Gladstone said: "This is a subject for congratulation, as it will offer a new testimony to the world that we have been in earnest in the declarations that we have perpetually made."

February, 1884. Lord Derby:—

"From the first our intention has been to withdraw our force as soon as circumstances allow. We wish to help Egypt out of her troubles, but we do not wish to turn Egypt into a British dependency. We have always looked forward to the time when our powers should end. Is it your proposition that the sacrifices of Egypt entitle her to claim exclusive influence in Egypt? We went there, having made a solemn declaration to Europe that we did not intend to do what you now ask us to do. We made that declaration in the name of the English Crown, and with the authority of the British Parliament."

June 24, 1884, Lord Granville to French Ambassador:—

"H.M. Government is willing that the withdrawal of the troops shall take place at the beginning of 1886. At or before the expiration of the occupation, H.M. Government will propose to the Powers and to the Porte a scheme for the neutralisation of Egypt on the basis applied to Belgium."

December 17, 1886, Lord Lyons to French Minister of Foreign Affairs:—

"H.M. Government is anxious to be relieved of the burthen which was entrusted to them by the occupation of Egypt."

January 27, 1887. Lord Salisbury to Lord Lyons:—

"The object which the Powers of Europe have in view, and which it is not less the desire of H.M. Government to attain, may be generally expressed by the phrase, the 'neutralisation of Egypt.' But it must be neutralisation with an exception designed to maintain the security and the permanence of the whole arrangement. This was the right of re-entry to which France had assented."

November 3, 1886. In a despatch of M. Waddington to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which he relates a conversation with Lord Salisbury, he quotes the following observation of the latter to him:—

"They are greatly mistaken amongst you, who think that we want to remain indefinitely in Egypt. We seek the means honestly to withdraw. The troops that we have there would be more useful in India. This is the opinion of our best Generals."

When the Treaty with Turkey, which was not ratified by that Power, was signed, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, the British negotiator, wrote:—

"The drain on the military and financial resources of England rendered it most desirable that an end should, as soon as possible, be made to a position of so delicate and dangerous a character. In time of peace it would have exposed her to constant jealousy and danger; in time of war, it would have been a weak point."

To the despatch from which the above is an extract, Lord Salisbury expressed his assent.

June 10, 1887. Lord Salisbury:—

It was not open to us to assume the Protectorate of Egypt, because H.M. Government had again and again pledged themselves that they would not do it.

December 20, 1888. Mr. Goschen:—

We are pledged before Europe not to occupy Egypt permanently. I say distinctly that we do not look upon the occupation of Egypt as strengthening the position of this country.

August 20, 1889. Lord Salisbury:—

To say that, in spite of all we have said, we will declare our stay in Egypt permanent, would show an insufficient regard to the sanctity of the obligations which the Government of the Queen have undertaken, and by which we are bound to abide.

1891, Mr. Gladstone:—

Our occupation of Egypt is an embarrassment and a weakness.

February 10, 1892. Lord Granville:—

Our occupation is fraught with great advantage to that country, the long continuance of which is, however, fraught with great disadvantage to our Empire.

Lord Salisbury, in reply, said:—

This constitutes a sound and orthodox statement of the view that has always been held on both sides.

Of all these eminent gentlemen, Lord Salisbury has been, it will be seen, the strongest in his declarations that we are most desirous to leave Egypt, not only because we are pledged to this, but because our occupation is a danger and weakness to the British Empire. It is to be noted that, during all the time that we have been there, not one Statesman until the present year remotely hinted that, before leaving, we must subdue the Soudan. Our Soudan expedition has, indeed, been obviously undertaken to furnish us with a new plea to continue our occupation, as well as to enlarge its area. To tell Europe that we only remain in Egypt because the Egyptians are not yet fit for self-government, and then to insist that we must remain there, not only until they have learnt to govern themselves, but also to govern a huge province inhabited by men who loathe them, is really the very cynicism of hypocrisy.

This hypocrisy is, in truth, the worst feature in our Egyptian "grab." In past ages there have been signal instances of bad faith in the dealings between nations.

But they were openly and avowedly done in defiance of all moral law, and I know of no case in which they were accompanied, as in that of our action in Egypt, with such paltry and contemptible pretence of the loftiest and most disinterested motives. For my part, I respect Lord Charles Beresford far more than I do the "sand the sugar" humbugs, who affect honesty in dishonesty, who when they lie, call God and man to bear evidence to their love of truth: and who when they rob pretend they are despoiling their victims on broad principles of philanthropy. Lord Charles Beresford—a rough and ready sailor—with a frank disregard of all except the accommodating ethics of the Norse freebooters from whom our ancient families glory to have descended, sweeps away all these cobwebs of complacent sophistry. We have, he says, got into Egypt, no matter how. It is a rich land, and one which may prove useful to us. Therefore, let us, without further subterfuges, annex it. *Beati possidentes.*

As to Lord Salisbury's foreign policy in respect to Turkey, if it means—although obscured by a firework of jokes and grandiloquent fustian designed to tickle the ears of City Aldermen and such-like beings—that he repents of all the follies into which he allowed his better judgment to be betrayed by that Oriental Jingo, Lord Beaconsfield, and that he is prepared to leave Russia to reduce the Sultan to a state of vassalage, in which the scoundrel will only continue to occupy his throne, provided that his power for evil over the Christians inhabiting his dominions be reformed out of existence, this unquestionably is a step in the right direction. But I prefer the clear policy of Mr. Gladstone, which is to withdraw from any European Concert, which, directly or indirectly, implies that we accept any share of responsibility for allowing the Sultan to have the shadow of the shade of authority over his fellow human beings; and to declare that never will we, as in the past, move hand or foot to hinder any one from bag and baggaging him and his Pashas off the face of the globe. We must remember, however, that Lord Salisbury has to reckon with the blatant dolts who support him in the House of Commons, and in the Press; and so long as he continues on the right path, we must extend a helping hand to him. What I fear, however, is that he will not be allowed by his own Party to give effect to his own views, and that we shall drift back into our old traditional policy of making the integrity of the Ottoman Empire the keynote of our Eastern policy, no matter what iniquities may be the consequence of this policy. There are in Lord Salisbury two men—one a man of common sense, whose opinions upon our foreign policy are identical with those of Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Morley, and others, who are termed, in the slang of Jingoism, "Little Englanders"; the other a man who is the Leader of a Party, the majority of whose members are almost as silly as Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett. The sensible Hyde is often obliged to vapour as the foolish Jekyll. And, unfortunately, our late titular Leader is, if possible, more of a Jingo than "Sir Bartlett," so that Lord Salisbury has found himself not only surrounded by Jingoes, but faced with political opponents who have made themselves the allies of the advocates of this pernicious heresy, instead of combating it. Now, however, it is to be hoped that the Liberal Party will henceforward remain true to the principles of Mr. Gladstone, and that an end has been made, once and for all, to the doctrine of continuity in folly and crime.

THE 20TH HUSSARS.

As was to be expected, a great deal of correspondence has been addressed to me with reference to the article in TRUTH of November 5 on certain doings of the officers of the 20th Hussars in England and in India. I beg to thank my correspondents one and all, especially those who have contributed new facts deserving of attention. In view of what I now learn, it would be an easy matter to amplify considerably the indictment contained in my last article. Possibly it may yet become necessary to do so. For the present, however, I prefer to let the case stand on the facts which I published a fortnight ago, because these are facts in regard to which the military authorities can, if they so please, obtain for themselves all the evidence which has been communicated to TRUTH, and decide the issue—supposing the TRUTH allegations to be denied—judicially and decisively. In what has already been said the 20th have enough to answer, in all conscience, and the first question is when and how their answer is to be called for.

If I am rightly informed, the Commander-in-Chief in India has already had his attention called to the matter, and the action to be taken will rest with him in the first instance. Before all things it is to be hoped that Sir George White will profit by the blunders of Lord Wolseley and Sir Redvers Buller in their recent treatment of the 4th Hussars scandal. We have seen what a War Office "inquiry" meant in that instance. The allegations in that case had been made in TRUTH obviously on the authority of the relatives of the two officers whose treatment by their comrades was in question. To silence an awkward discussion in Parliament the Under-Secretary for War promised that the Commander-in-Chief would make a personal inquiry into the facts, and see that justice was done. Beyond inviting the fathers of the two officers concerned to put their complaints into writing, Lord Wolseley made no pretence of hearing their side of the case, or allowing them to substantiate their assertions, or to test those made in reply to them. The "inquiry" which followed consisted in obtaining from the officers whose conduct was impugned their answers to the allegations against them. On those answers, letters were written to the two gentlemen who had been invited to formulate their complaints, informing them that their sons were clearly unfit for the Service, and that though the Commander-in-Chief could not officially approve of the means taken to get rid of them, he fully approved of the result thereby attained, and was not disposed to interfere with it. A grosser travesty of justice than this pretence at an "inquiry" has never been perpetrated. Those who know Sir George White assert that he is not the man

to deal with an ugly scandal in that way. Such assertions do not impress me too deeply, because those who knew Lord Wolseley asserted, with just as much confidence, that he would be the last man to condone such detestable misconduct as that which marked the bullying of Mr. Hodge out of the 4th Hussars. Functionaries in high places not unfrequently disappoint their admirers when it is a question between performing an unpleasant duty, to the possible displeasure of influential personages, and getting out of the difficulty with a bucketful of official whitewash. However, I am ready to believe the best of Sir George White until the contrary is proved, and I think I have given him in this instance an excellent opportunity of showing what he is made of. If he honestly desires to arrive at the truth, assuming that the TRUTH allegations are denied, he can have no difficulty in doing so, if he goes the right way to work. The allegations respecting the persistent ill-treatment of the particular subaltern who was the victim of the outrage in the Colchester riding-school cover a considerable period of time, and relate to matters which are within the knowledge of numerous witnesses, besides the officers of the regiment. The latter observation is particularly true of the disgraceful incident in which this subaltern was made to ride his horse over a bonfire in the compound, and also of the still more abominable performance when another subaltern was made to dress up as a native waiter and salaam his own servant. In any genuine inquiry into these circumstances, not only will all the officers be examined who have been at Mhow during the last twelve months, and have been in a position to know what has been going on, but also all the syces, mess-waiters, and other native hangers-on of the regiment, who are alleged to have witnessed the worst of the incidents that have been described. I would also point out to Sir George White that, for the reasons mentioned in my last article, any attempt on the part of the subalterns who have been thus bullied to extenuate the treatment they have received must be taken subject to considerable discount. The incident in the Colchester riding-school does not, I take it, come within the purview of the Indian authorities. That concerns the War Office, and I shall be rather surprised, after what I hear as to the late Lord Beaumont's action in the matter, if the War Office has not already some official information on the subject.

On one point, at any rate, let there be no mistake, either in Whitehall or in India. There will have to be a real, business-like investigation of this case sooner or later. Accounts have yet to be settled with Parliament over the empty farce which has been offered in fulfilment of Lord Wolseley's pledge to inquire personally into the 4th Hussars scandals. Whatever view may be taken of that case, it is not likely that the House will again allow itself to be bamboozled by any such subterfuge; and if a full and satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming by such time as the question is raised, the House will have to consider the advisability of adopting means of its own for getting at the whole truth. The question at issue is not limited to the conduct of one or two officers on this or that occasion. It touches the general state of discipline and *esprit de corps* in several cavalry regiments, and, indirectly, the honour and credit of the whole Army. The time for trifling with the question and burking investigation is passed, and the military authorities will best consult their own interest and that of the Army by recognising this at once, and dealing with the matter spontaneously in such a way as will satisfy the public.

LEIGH SAMPSON ON A NEW TACK.

The man of many aliases, best known as Leigh Sampson, has just adopted a new trick. It is one familiar to readers of TRUTH in connection with the operations of the Californian "buried treasure" swindlers, Captain MacVeigh, of Dumfries, and others. He writes a letter addressed to some likely man whose death he has seen announced in the papers, intimating that he has completed a commission given to him and is ready to deliver the work. This letter is, of course, expected to fall into the hands of the representatives of the deceased gentleman, who, it is hoped, will tumble to the suggestion, and purchase the work which the deceased is supposed to have ordered. Sampson's letters, of course, have reference to pictures which he professes to have painted, but which in reality he has bought of one or other of the artists who have worked for him for many years past. He carries out the trick with all the ingenuity and plausibility which have marked his previous efforts in the character of the impecunious and struggling artist. Here are a few samples of his correspondence. It will be seen that he writes in the name of "A. Clark," one of the many aliases under which he has attempted to conceal his identity during the last few months. The first letter is written to a clergyman in the West of England who had died some two months previously:—

100, Disraeli-road, Putney, London, S.W.
September 17, 1896.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—I have lately removed here, and I respectfully beg to inform you that the drawing in water-colour you saw some time ago is now finished and awaits your final approval; the price being, as aforementioned, ten guineas (£10. 10s.).

Illness and trouble have prevented my writing earlier.

I have not framed it, but it is mounted and looks, I think, both artistic and pretty.

Will you kindly say when I may have the pleasure of sending it? I can do so without further delay.

With much respect and many thanks for your past great kindness, I beg to remain, Reverend and Dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

A. CLARK.

This letter, of course, as Sampson had expected, was opened by the son and executor, who wrote to inform "A. Clark" that his father had died. Sampson then penned the following communication:—

100, Disraeli-road, Putney, London, S.W.
September 23, 1896.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—It is with deep and sincere regret I read your kind favour. Your father was one of the kindest of gentlemen, and his generosity and benevolence to me have laid me under a debt of gratitude I shall never discharge.

When I last saw him, now some time ago, he was especially cheerful and kind, and I little thought when I bade him good-bye it would be for the last time.

I shall never forget him!

I trust you will not think me selfish when I add that I have another reason to regret his death, and that is the water-colour

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drawing he saw and ordered to be finished has only just been completed.

I have been long ill from a weak action of the heart, and now even am far from well.

This illness has prevented me from working, and I am constantly attacked.

I have a large family to support, and I am as poor as a man can be and live. Hence I was looking forward to the pleasure of selling your lamented father the drawing mentioned, and I would humbly make a respectful appeal to you to examine it.

I am sending it down with this letter enclosed carriage paid to your address. I call it "When Autumn Leaves are Falling: Scene near Manningtree, N.E., Essex."

The price of ten guineas (£10 10s. 0d.) is low when the quality and finish of the work are considered. I shall be profoundly grateful and obliged did you, in my anxious and unhappy circumstances, decide to honour me by retaining the drawing yourself. I can safely say it is worth the small price asked.

I do not ask charity and I could never accept it, seeking solely to sell the work.

Earnestly hoping for a favourable reply, I beg to remain, Reverend and Dear Sir, yours respectfully and faithfully,

A. CLARK.

The picture referred to was sent with this letter, and the gentleman who received it replied to the effect that he was sorry the picture had been sent, and that he did not want it. The truth, fortunately, was that he had a pretty shrewd suspicion as to Mr. A. Clark's identity. Consequently, although Sampson wrote two further letters offering to alter the picture (meaning thereby that he would have it altered by one of his "ghosts"), insisting that he had had the commission from his correspondent's father, and making touching references to the deceased gentleman, he utterly failed to impose upon his correspondent, and his letters in due course found their way to TRUTH Office.

Those who have seen my previous exposure of Sampson, and who know how the same trick has been worked by other swindlers, will hardly need further evidence that Sampson's story about the commission, and his pathetic allusions to his deceased patron, are a tissue of impudent lies. But, if such evidence were required, I have it in the simple fact that the executor of another gentleman, recently deceased, has also sent me a letter of Sampson's, word for word identical with the first letter printed above, except only in the omission of the word "Reverend," the gentleman addressed in this case not being a clergyman. In all probability Sampson has sent out many other letters in identical terms. I only hope that he has not succeeded in imposing upon anybody So far as readers of TRUTH are concerned, there is, I imagine, little chance of his having done so; but for the sake of those who have not seen my articles, I take this opportunity of mentioning again that the writer of the above letters, by whatever name he calls himself, is one of the most indefatigable and audacious imposters now at large. He has no right to the title of an artist, and he is totally incapable of producing anything that could be sold as a picture. He is simply a swindling picture dealer, whose true name seems to be Levi Sampson, who buys pictures of unknown artists at two or three guineas apiece, and unloads them on the public by every conceivable trick and subterfuge that ingenuity can suggest. He has been at this game for five or six years past, and he has now been so fully exposed that I hope it will not be long before he meets with the reward which he so richly deserves.

THE SANITARY ENGINEERING CO. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

AN OVERLORD OF HELLS.

THE roulette table which under Royal auspices sprang up in the Ostend Casino has, phylloxera-like, spread all over Belgium. I am constantly receiving prospectuses of municipal hells founded, or about to be founded, in that country. I have just had a gambling-house prospectus from Erquelines, the first town beyond the French frontier on the old road of invasion from Germany by the Sambre. The idea of the promoters of this concern is to bleed Monaco. There is the Monaco roulette table—that is thirty-six numbers and one *zéro*, *rouge*, *noir*, *pair*, *impair*, *passe*, *manque*, &c. Persons admitted to the tables must first be elected members of the "club" which runs the roulette. But as forms of admission are sent in all the prospectuses, and handed about by touts, some of my friends get prospectuses both at their offices and their houses. The profits must be enormous. I should like to have a talk with the King of the Belgians about them. He, you know, will not only be soon a neighbour of the Prince of Monaco, at Beaulieu, where he has bought a tremendously valuable property, but wants to be his *émule*. The Erquelines Casino has no expenses worth talking about. Unlike the Monaco Company, it has not to pay a huge royalty to any Prince. It claims to offer all the advantages of Monte Carlo, has the climate, has the greater advantage of being only three hours from Paris, and is sure to have crowds of small business people going there from Saturday to Monday. As it is near Liége and Spa, gamblers who go to Erquelines in summer can make nice little tours in the picturesque Walloon country, or recruit at mineral springs. The Casino was opened the other day. A big military personage, who is also a civic magnate, took the chair as Honorary President at the inaugural dinner. He wore the Star of Leopold on his breast, and made an enthusiastic speech about the glowing prospects of the commune. French gold was to stream in here. This caused a scandal, and the worthy officer found he must, ostensibly at any rate, drop the hell. He resigned the honorary chairmanship on the ground that *sa bonne foi était surprise*. Poor innocent being! In a prospectus that I received long before the dinner, his name appeared in full under a flaming chromo-lithograph of the roulette table. At Spa, certain amounts have to be paid to the Municipality, and coals have to be distributed to the poor in the town by the proprietor of the hell. But I am told that this financier boasts that his own net profit averages £80,000 per annum.

The King of the Belgians is fond of money. How could the son of Leopold I. and the grandson of Louis Philippe be anything else? It is a mistake to imagine that he has lost by the Congo Free State. He has found in it great pecuniary advantage. To enable him to "cap" Monaco, the people about Court are trying to secure for him a gambling monopoly in Belgium. They have secured the help of the Belgian Senate. Were he not willing to discharge the function of General Manager of

the Belgian casinoes the movement would not now be on foot. The excuse for trying to invest him with a casino royalty is "public morals." Why not at once set up Falguères' nude *danseuse*, exhibited at the last Salon, as the Goddess of Chastity?

Gambling, I have said, began at the Ostend Casino. I have compared it to phylloxera. The King's adroit friends compared it to a leprosy. They got up an outcry against foreign casinoes, or casinoes managed by foreigners with an eye to attracting French players. The agitation was treated seriously. At any rate, the Belgian public were led to think so. It was referred to the Senate, which named a Select Committee to inquire into the alarmist complaints. I can fancy the members winking at each other, like the augurs in Couture's painting. After taking evidence in the usual way, but with more celerity than one might expect of a Select Parliamentary Committee, they have let the cat out of the bag. They judge that the suppression of casinoes would be too abrupt a measure. It would, besides, interfere with vested interests, private, municipal, and other. What they propose is that the King should be made "Overlord" of all public gambling-houses. A Royal functionary should act as his delegate. The doors of casinoes would be thrown wide open like those of the Palais Royal hells in the days of his Majesty's great-grandfather, Égalité. The butcher, the baker, the candle-stick maker, the workman, might enter and play. No more need for the formality of election, which costs 20f. This fig-leaf would be torn away, and the character of the casino would be bare—naked as the *danseuse* aforesaid, with the hidden ears. And still there would be more than a grain of hypocrisy. Louis Philippe offered Royalty to the revolutionists of Paris as *la meilleure des Républiques.* The Select Committee of the Belgian Senate would enable the King to collect gambling-house gains—"to do good to the working-classes." Is not this Socialist philanthropy up to date? But there may be a French side to the question. The drain of money, it is expected, will be from France. May not France think it better to direct the stream from Belgium by turning, say, the palaces of Versailles and Fontainebleau into open casinoes, and building a grand hell on the site of La Cour des Comptes? Or may she not treat Belgium as a European plague-spot particularly dangerous to France, and annex her? What an elusive thing progress is, and how often delusive!

England cannot do too much, short of going to war, to help the Armenians. As a cheap substitute for war I should not object to a grant to take that industrious and clever people to some of our over-sea dominions. That horror of horrors, the agreement of Foreign Ministers to purchase the silence of the Press in regard to the massacres, is depressing when it is not maddening. I can almost admit extenuating circumstances for a Sultan cooped up with three or four hundred wives, ignorant as owls, and with those fat and beardless creatures, in men's clothes, who surround him. The worn-out, wretched being remembers how Abdul Aziz was "suicided" and Murad locked up. He trembles for his luxuries and his safety, when tricky diplomats, or their agents, thrust bogies before his eyes. Pilate was not so guilty as the Sanhedrim who frightened him into signing the Crucifixion warrant. I dare say that Herod, in ordering the Massacre of the Innocents, was worked upon by goading agents of crafty Augustus, who wanted to turn the Jews against him, and make him the more a tool of Rome. But what I cannot understand is the unanimity of the Continental Press in keeping silence. I was told the other day by an Englishman that when certain journalists go to a certain Foreign Office, they are, one by one, shown into a room where they find sums of money on certain tables. They know they are expected to take the sums, and take them. But to avoid an improbable charge of theft, each asks a secretary who is looking on, "Is this for me?" "Yes." And without more ado, he pockets the money and the insult. The journalists, after this, one at a time see the great man or his secretary, and receive the cue — it may be to persevere in ignoring the massacres, or in bothering Salisbury, or in backing up some international expedient or nostrum. I can understand this being true to the letter. I know that my informant is truth itself, and I know who his informant is, and so can understand silence, but hardly unbroken silence.

Voltaire scouted the story of the Massacre of the Innocents. No contemporaneous writers, except the tax-collector, St. Matthew, ever mentioned it. I used to wonder whether Voltaire might not be right, but no longer do. Were England submerged, there would be no European newspaper record of the Armenian atrocities, unless in *La Justice*, and that paper cries in the desert, because the shout of "English agent" was raised three years ago against Clémenceau. To be sure, there are the speeches delivered the other day in the Chamber by MM. Jaurès and Comte de Mun. But here, again, Voltairian incredulity might find scope. The Comte spoke one way and voted the other, without an apparent excuse. We who are behind the scenes know that he wanted to please the clergy, who are secretly for Armenia; but that the Méline Cabinet French Ministers think it safe to keep on the course Prince Lobanoff marked out until the Czar is settled in his winter-quarters. A future Voltaire may say: "This explanation will not do. France at all times prided herself on the international generosity of her policy. Her Republican Government was based on Liberty, Fraternity, Equality, and for the whole world if possible. Nobody was more versed in her diplomatic traditions than M. Hanotaux. France was a protectress of the Sultan's Christian subjects. In his answer to the Jaurès speech he is so much behind the question that it is no answer. One must suppose that Jaurès was telling rhetorical lies, and that, as he was a very able man and a desperate, daring Socialist, Hanotaux did not dare to contradict him flat. He kept tacking about and neither saying Yes or No."

Another difficulty for the future Voltairian will be how to reconcile the story of the massacres with the facts. He will say: "The massacring Sultan is supported by

a humane and enlightened Republic and three most civilised and Christian Emperors. One of the Emperors is the head of the Lutheran Church in Prussia; he professes to have a religious afflatus, communes with his own soul in Luther's room at the Wartburg, acts as a chaplain on board the Imperial yacht, and, though treating God as a junior partner, reverences His name. Another Emperor is 'most Apostolical;' he is good, kind, just as anxious as M. de Mun to please the Pope, and is no friend of Turkey. The third is the head of the Greek Church, God's anointed, and sincerely religious. Visiting irreligious Paris, the first thing he did was to go and thank God publicly for having brought him in safety there. The policy of his House has never varied. It is to cast the Turks out of Europe. It is possible that one or even two of these Powers might not have felt a lively interest in the Armenians. But one cannot believe they were all in a conspiracy of silence to stifle their cries. Their peoples would have cried 'shame!' treated them as a gang of malefactors, and hurled them from their thrones. Another point. Do you for a moment fancy that Berlin, Vienna, or Paris editors would have let English confrères monopolise such splendid 'copy' as the massacres afforded? Journalistic enterprise was at its zenith in 1896. Telegraphic wires then flashed night and day descriptive reports of every kind of event that met the taste of readers hungering for sensations. There was a fortune in the news of wholesale massacres. Sharp Continental editors would not have cast away the opportunity. Old files of English papers, it is true, reek with massacre. But the English were a nation of shopkeepers. Newspaper readers in England wanted horrors. The supply was equal to the demand, and was served up hot and hot. It is clear that there were no massacres of any consequence."

A fancy fair will be held on December 3 in the drawing-rooms of Mrs. Henry Drake, 45, Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, in aid of St. George's Jubilee Church, Rue Auguste Vacquerie. Mrs. Drake's flat is a charming specimen of a West-End Paris residence. It is sure to be filled with *la crême de la crême.* I am interested in St. George's Church, because an admirer of Mrs. Washington, the Chaplain's wife. She is clever, active, very pleasant to talk to, and really kind. Mrs. Washington is like a judicious mother to English girls here who invoke her help in their troubles. Her charitable action is so controlled by good sense that harm never comes of it. What is more baneful than ill-directed charitable impulse?

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

ENGLISH men and women of to-day, dear Lady Betty, appear to have noticed as an altogether new circumstance that we are not a popular people. The following extract, quoted from a letter written at Berne at the commencement of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1, will show that the English were hated as much a quarter of a century ago as they are now:—

"It maddens me to hear Americans, Prussians, and French speak of the English. The first say, 'We long to whip them;' the second, 'When we wish to reduce England to the rank of a third-rate Power we can do it;' and the last declare that when they 'Conquer England' they 'will change this, that, and the other.'"

The English are no more unpopular now than they have been at any time in the history of our race.

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Some years ago it was maintained in these columns that a volume entitled "The Curiosities of Christie's," if compiled with intelligence, would be entertaining and interesting. The members of the firm of Christie & Manson have, during the autumn months, considerably enlarged their celebrated auction-rooms in King-street, St. James's, and when the sale season reopens in a few days those who frequent the rooms will notice with pleasure the improvements that have been effected. In the new exhibition gallery which has been built, a singularly interesting picture now hangs upon the eastern wall. The picture, which was painted by Gonbraud in 1829, represents the sale of the "Snake in the Grass," by Sir Joshua Reynolds, when the Angerstein collection was disposed of—an occasion which is especially memorable, as it was then that the foundation of the National Gallery in Trafalgar-square was laid. On the easel is the "Snake in the Grass." The auctioneer is James Christie, the second head of the firm, and in the foreground are Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Angerstein, Mr. Disraeli—father to the late Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Allnutt—grandfather to the late Lady Brassey, Lord Stafford, Rogers the poet, Lady Morgan, and many other celebrities of the period.

The most important sale of the season of 1897 will take place in April, when the magnificent galleries of pictures collected by the late Sir John Pender will be dispersed. The finest pictures in the collections are "Mercury and Herse," "The Pictures of Bellini Carried to the Church of the Redeemer at Venice," and "The Wreckers," all painted by Turner; "The Proscribed Royalist," painted by the late Sir John Millais; "The Heights of Surennes," painted by Troyon, and "La Gloria," by John Phillip. The latter work should certainly be acquired for the new Tate Galleries, and it is probable that it will figure in that collection.

In 1894 Sir William Agnew compiled a magnificent catalogue to the collections of the late Sir John Pender, which were hung in Arlington-street and at Foot's Cray. Only a hundred copies of the catalogue were printed, and as they contain admirable platinotype reproductions of the finest pictures in the collections the value of the work is considerable.

Amongst other remarkable sales that are to take place during the forthcoming season are those of the fine collection of English mezzotint portraits and other engravings formerly belonging to the late Lord Bessborough, and the collection of modern pictures and works of art gathered together by the late Mr. Henry Jenkins, one of the partners in the Lion Brewery. Besides these, there will also be sold a considerable portion of the property formerly in the possession of the late Sir John Millais.

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The Colonial Office has lost a valuable official by the retirement of Mr. Frederic Fuller, who has resigned on account of ill-health, after having served the community for thirty-four years. Mr. Fuller was for some years private secretary to Sir Robert Herbert and to Sir Robert Meade, and was known to the public for his work in connection with Australasia, and more particularly as regards the colonisation of the Western Pacific, as to

SOLUTION OF TURKISH PROBLEM.—If the authorities at Constantinople would only supply themselves with that eminently soothing and strengthening liqueur, GRANT'S MORELLA CHERRY BRANDY, their difficulties would vanish, placidity of temper and the power of good government would follow as surely as the dawn succeeds the night. Sold everywhere.

CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

which region he spoke with authority. Mr. Fuller attended the International Congress, held in London some years ago, on behalf of the Colonial Office, which assembly it will be remembered he addressed.

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The death of Mr. Roger Eykyn, which occurred on Saturday, is much to be regretted, for the late Mr. Eykyn was a well-known man in our generation—generally popular and especially amiable. In the City he was much respected; in the West End he was much liked; and whilst he sat in the House of Commons he made many friends amongst all parties. Mrs. Roger Eykyn, his second wife, who was a daughter of the sixth Lord Vaux of Harrowden, died last year.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

SIR VISTO has been the conspicuous failure of the present year among the older horses, and his career has been analogous to that of Silvio, who never won a race after his St. Leger victory, although he was in training as a five-year-old. His collapse was the more disappointing inasmuch as he appeared in the spring to be one of the most improved horses in training, and he was very much fancied for the Ascot Cup. He goes to the stud, his fee for next season being 50 gs., and he will stand at the Durdans, near Epsom, where he was bred.

The Duke of Westminster is going to "weed" his stud by getting rid of Conroy and Rampion at Newmarket next month, and he has sold Helm to go to Germany. It is probable that the Duke will also dispose of some of his two-year-olds, which have proved a disappointing lot this season. The Eaton yearlings, however, are a splendid team, and they ought to bring Orme to a high place in next season's list of "winning sires."

Vesuvian, the winner of the Dewhurst Plate, who will be one of the winter favourites for the Derby, has been nominated for nearly all his engagements by Sir Frederick Johnstone; but Lord Alington has a half share in this colt, who was bred at Crichel. Vesuvian commenced the season with nineteen engagements for 1896, of which he fulfilled only one. He has twenty engagements for next year and 1898.

I pointed out after the Newmarket Houghton Meeting that Regret must be in great need of a long rest, considering all the hard work he has gone through this season, both in public races and in private trials. It was a stupid blunder to send Regret to run at Liverpool in his present palpably stale condition. This horse has been by turns extravagantly praised and outrageously abused during the last seven or eight months. The fact is that he cannot stay a yard beyond a mile, but the Kingsclere people, with a truly asinine pertinacity, have gone on running the horse over longer courses. The climax of this calf-headed policy was the monstrous mistake of starting him against Persimmon for the Jockey Club Stakes, instead of Labrador. It may be hoped that next season this dolefully mismanaged horse will be kept to his own proper distance. Some writers, however, are perfectly infatuated about Regret, and when the weights for the Liverpool Cup were published these addleheads declared that he was the pick of the handicap, although the distance is three furlongs beyond his course. Whatever Regret may have achieved at Kingsclere over a mile, I am quite sure that both Shaddock and Labrador are considerably superior to him over any longer course. Next year Regret is entered for both the £10,000 stakes at Newmarket, but he need not be thought of seriously in connection with either event. If the Duke of Westminster is well advised he will have him prepared for the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, which is the only one of his engagements which he seems to have any chance of winning. Regret is just the sort of horse to win the Royal Hunt Cup or the Stewards' Cup if he were reserved for a handicap.

There was an interesting race on Thursday for the Great Sefton Steeplechase, and the betting was very heavy between Rory O'More and Alpheus, who had 6 lb. the worst of the weights with Mr. Hibbert's horse, and who won very easily at the finish. Waterford, who was not backed for sixpence, fell. It is not often that two Grand National winners are to be found in the field for this race. Rory O'More is a good horse over this distance, but he cannot stay the Grand National course. Wild Man from Borneo was obviously backward, and Stratocracy is another of the starters that will see a better day. He is a very promising young horse, and ought to win many good races for Lord Cadogan if he goes on all right.

I see that Orelio is mentioned as likely to turn out a Derby colt next year. It may be hoped that no backer will be so idiotic as to be gulled by any such expansive nonsense into backing the brother to Ormonde, either for the Derby or any other race. Vesuvian is not only the best, but also by far the most promising two-year-old in the Kingsclere stable. Orelio may turn out a useful three-year-old if he trains on all right, but I do not believe he will ever be in the first class. He will probably be a second edition of Le Var, and might follow in that animal's steps by winning a £10,000 stake, thanks entirely to having so much the best of the weights.

The Prince of Wales has no sister to Thais, whose only relative is the two-year-old Oakdene, winner of the Criterion Stakes, who is her half-brother, by Donovan. Poetry, their dam, was barren last year to Kendal, and a few months ago she died at Sandringham with her foal by St. Serf, the sire of Thais.

Next week will be occupied with Warwick and Manchester. Prudent people will leave alone the November Handicap until the day of running, which is Saturday, the 28th.

Keelson, who discovered himself to be an inveterate rogue early in the season, made a successful début as a hurdle-racer at Hamilton Park last week, and he bids fair to develop into a fine jumper. He is now the joint property of Lord Zetland and of Mr. Cunningham, who has trained him for his new kind of work at his place in Roxburghshire.

The Liverpool Cup was a most unsatisfactory race, and there never was a more fortunate winner than Count Schomberg, who was all the rage in the betting at the last, exactly like Winkfield's Pride just before the start for the Cambridgeshire. Birch-rod would have won with a clear course, for she was going better than anything when she fell, and Count Schomberg certainly would not have beaten her. M. Lebaudy's horse showed that he had not forgotten his cross-country work at Auteuil, as he cleverly jumped Lord Stanley's prostrate filly, and but for his readiness he would undoubtedly have fallen down over her. The "placings" need not be regarded, as Count Schomberg had practically won the race after he escaped from the scrimmage. Royal Corrie ran well enough to justify the belief she will win a race before the season closes. Stowmarket was the great Newmarket tip, but he ran very badly indeed. It is certainly hard upon T. Loates that he should meet with another serious accident so soon after the Manchester disaster, but it may be hoped that he will have a speedy and complete recovery.

The statement, which has gone all round the papers, that Mr. Sullivan won £40,000 by the Cambridgeshire victory of his horse, Winkfield's Pride, is a ridiculous romance. Mr. Sullivan only bets in moderate sums, and his winnings were really under £3,500.

There are sure to be large fields at Derby, a meeting which usually proves a veritable Moscow campaign for backers. The Chesterfield Nursery of £1,000 has obtained twenty-six acceptances, out of an original entry of forty-nine, so the subscription already amounts to £505, and if there are twenty runners the Fund will get an additional £200. The weights have been raised 10 lb. My own opinion as to this race is that the Duke

of Devonshire will win with the filly by Ayrshire out of Snood, although she is not mentioned by any of the sporting papers. She is also in the Friary Nursery on Friday. If the Snood filly is beaten for to-morrow's race either Greystone or Longest Reign may be the winner. There were fifty-one entries for the Derby Cup of £2,000, and thirty horses have been left in, the list being headed by Laodamia (9 st. 7 lb.), who won very easily last year with 8 st. 9 lb. on her back. Then Laodamia came out perfectly fresh, but now she must be tolerably stale after having been in severe training for several months, and having run for such races as the Doncaster Cup, the Cesarewitch, and the Cambridgeshire. Laodamia, however, is such a good mare that nobody will be surprised if she repeats her victory of twelve months ago, and if at the last she is backed in earnest, as was then the case, nobody who speculates on the race should let her run loose. The Rothschild stable will be represented by Imposition, who ran remarkably well in the Cambridgeshire for about three-quarters of a mile. Court Ball and La Sagesse are both fancied at Newmarket, but Sir James Miller's mare ran very badly in the Cambridgeshire. Lord Cadogan's horse is thrown in with only 7 st. 3 lb. to carry, and he has already shown good form over this course. Lord Ellesmere is to run Miss Frazer, who did well in a gallop at Newmarket last week, and she is sure to win a race either at Derby or at Manchester. Marco seems to have lost his form, although he looked so well on the Cambridgeshire day; but there have been mysterious whisperings that this horse might have a resurrection. Conroy may run well, and so also may Birch-rod if she is none the worse for her accident on Friday. Lord Hervey is apparently well in on his best running, but Lord Ilchester's colt is very uncertain, and I hear that he is believed to be inferior at the weights to his stable companion Miss Fraser. Bellevin seems to have quite enough weight if he showed his true form at Kempton Park, but his running there revealed a vast change for the worse since Manchester. Melange is put out of court by his penalty for winning at Liverpool, for it is out of all reason to suppose that he is 16 lb. superior to Birch-rod over this course. Ghislaine, who appeared to be the pick of the handicap, ran miserably at Liverpool. The distance is not far enough for Carlton Grange, and Amphora ran a perfect wretch last week. Everything in the race depends upon a good start, and it is decidedly not an event for any reckless speculation. I am most disposed to fancy either Court Ball or Sati.

Athletic sports are now in full swing at both Universities. Oxford appears to have the pick of the freshmen. Thomas, the Welsh champion, is probably overrated, and I should not be in the least surprised to see Jordan beat him handsomely in the sprint, while in the quarter the Old Blue is, of course, an entirely different class. By far the most promising freshman is Munro, from Repton. He carried off the Queen's open sprint with a long start easily, and in his College sports (Wadham) he ran out the quarter inside fifty-one seconds. He appeared to finish very strongly, and, naturally had no one to pull him out. In the Queen's sports Newton, the Rugby blue, showed up in the sprints. At Cambridge, Harrison, of Jesus, is showing very great promise as a sprinter. He won the open two hundred handicap in the Freshmen's sports easily, and simply romped home in the Corpus open sprint. He will have to start from scratch in future. In the Freshmen's sports Pilkington did very well. His best performance was over the hurdles, and with practice he should not have much difficulty in getting his blue. In the quarter Davison ran in a most promising manner, but it is doubtful if he will be as good as recent University runners at the same distance. In cross-country runs the South London men scored an easy victory at Oxford against the University team, Sanders running remarkably well. At Cambridge, the Blackheath Harriers were beaten. The University runners, Gibberd and Cook, had a close run for first place, while Richardson, the Freshman, of whom a great deal was expected, went dead lame. The United Hospitals and Lea Harriers had a pleasant invitation five miles run at Chingford, which was won by Barron of Guys.

With Guinness laid up, a number of very second-raters have taken their chances for the Colquhoun Sculls at Cambridge. The Cam is not as inviting as the Isis, and perhaps this may account for the fact that so few men go in for sculling. In the clinker fours there was some admirable racing, and a large entry, which was a very satisfactory feature. Peterhouse thoroughly deserved their win, as they had had some hard racing in the earlier rounds. There can be no doubt about their pluck and staying powers. Brickwood and Payne, three and stroke, are both fair weights, and they should be well worth a little care. The Caius men almost won the final. They were a light crew, and their stroke, Kellie, rowed admirably. At Oxford, the University fours were practically decided in the first heat, when New and Magdalen met. The former showed up much better in the race than in practice, and Whitworth stroked them admirably, keeping very long and regular, and the whole crew got on well to the work at the beginning of each stroke. He might very well have got flurried, for the pistol missed fire and his opponents got much the best of the start. It is, by the way, very rough luck for Whitworth that there is Gold to stroke the University eight. Crum, of course, rowed well, and his steering alone made up for any loss at the start. Gold was rowing two in the Magdalen boat as he had to steer. But he is a better stroke than steerer, and although Carr did his best he is not the same class of stroke as Gold. As an example of high-class rowing the race was well worth seeing. In the final Warre stroked the Balliol men well, but they were out-matched.

The Rugby match between London and the combined Universities was won simply by the play of Wells and Cattell at half. Wells has never played such a fine game. He made his openings when and where he pleased, and simply smothered the opposing halves. The Metropolitan forwards were rather heavier, and so had the best of the scrimmages. The University men quite failed to play up to their reputation, and neither Unwin nor Bell were any good. Judging by the play against Blackheath, Oxford have a lot to learn forward, and those enthusiasts who have been ascribing merits to the whole team which only belong to the outsides, have found themselves wrong. Blackheath, on a wet ground, won solely on their forward play. The Old Leysians did remarkably well to draw against the Scottish with a strong team playing. It was a hard game from start to finish, and it is one of the best performances they have done for a long time. The Old Merchant Taylors were not so fortunate against Coventry, to which town they only took a weak team. But they showed a very strong defence, and it was not until the last few minutes that they were beaten. Rosslyn Park fell all to pieces before Croydon with a heavy lot of forwards, and for the winners Ridge played a fine game, one of his tries being gained after a splendid dribble. Richmond were again in form, and gave Liverpool a bad beating, which was very satisfactory, as the forwards had hard work, owing to the state of the ground.

The London Charity Cup Ties produced some good Association football. Ilford were without their full strength and found Ealing much too strong for them, the Ealing forwards, especially Chater, playing a good game. The Casuals, with nine men only, were much too strong for the 3rd Grenadiers, thanks to the play of Fernie and Collier forward. Clapton were rather fortunate against the Caledonians, as they scored twice from free kicks. At Queen's Club, Sunderland and Corinthians drew a fair crowd, and it was the good shooting of the amateurs that enabled them to win. The "pros," on the other hand, messed about in front of goal, and so gave Lodge and Oakley plenty of time to get round and tackle them. The visitors' backs and halves played a strong, though rather energetic, defensive game at times. In the

League matches, Liverpool continue to go very strongly. Although away from home, they drew with Preston North End, their forwards being particularly good, and Trainer's goal-keeping alone saving the home team from defeat.

A brief trip to the North or Midlands makes one realise how keen is the interest in Association football. The competitions opened by various papers for their readers to prophesy the result of matches are extraordinarily popular. The betting, though in small amounts, is very extensive, and one wonders how men can find time to take such an interest in a game. Nor is the knowledge merely on paper. The spectators' criticism of the play is sound and accurate to an astonishing degree, although partisanship runs very high. As an intellectual ideal this form of amusement is not very high. But, then, it gives thousands of people a common fund of amusement the merits of which they are all able to comprehend. They have no time to busy themselves with things they do not understand. Imagine what social problems might be stirred if our huge manufacturing population in the North and Midlands were suddenly bereft of its football. The blank would have to be filled. Football now fills it, and the future Green, in his history of the English people, will have to deal with football as an important factor in national life and character.

The finish of the billiard match between Roberts and Stevenson was peculiarly exciting, as the last-named player nearly caught his opponent napping, and played a finish worthy of the champion himself, for he put on two big breaks, one of 401, the other of 254. Stevenson has never shown better form before. Peall, in an uninteresting match with Spiller, scored an easy win.

Taylor, the late golf champion, being employed at Wimbledon, there was little difficulty in arranging a match with White, at Mitcham. A very good game resulted. Taylor, whose approach play was deadly, was four up at the end of the first round, but this lead White reduced by some fine play, especially on the green. At the last hole Taylor was dormy one, and only won because White just failed to bring off an eight yard putt.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—There has been nothing striking in the changes which have taken place in the Stock Markets during the past week. Increased stiffness of money has prevented any further upward movement in Home Rails, and generally put the brake on; but now that the settlement has been well got over, rates are easing off again. The syndicate of liars has again been very busy, and operators are so nervous that even the most unlikely rumours find credit temporarily.

The Syndicate of Liars at Work.

So far, all the adverse rumours have been contradicted, and there have not been wanting favourable developments, which in ordinary times would have given the signal for a strong improvement, but which, under present circumstances, are allowed to pass without affecting the markets. The "Bears" in New York were more particularly busy in propagating rumours of a coming war between the United States and Spain on the Cuban question. This canard has been finally disposed of by contradictions both from American and Spanish sources. The Kaffir Circus was disturbed by circumstantial reports that President Kruger had made a demand for an indemnity of one million sterling upon the Chartered Company. This news also proved false, and it is hardly necessary to point out that the "Bear" prophecy which was made a few weeks ago, that the Transvaal Government would throw up the London Convention on the 14th inst., may now also be relegated into the category of exploded rumours. Yet the South African market is still in the dumps, and speculators and holders have, without rhyme or reason, again been throwing their shares upon the market. Those who are doing so now will, I feel sure, be sorry for it afterwards, as the mining industry in the Transvaal is in a better condition than it has been for many a year, and the present weakness is entirely attributable to market conditions. It is impossible, under the circumstances, to exactly predict when a lasting recovery will set in; but that this will come in time cannot be doubted. The same view applies to the West Australian department. The industry in the colony is developing quietly, but steadily. Batteries are going up in all directions, and the time is not far off when numerous crushings will tell their tale, and confound the adverse critics, who are doing their best to belittle the goldfields of West Australia. To holders of all mining shares, carefully selected, I would give the strong advice to sit tight on their holding, and not to play into the hands of the "Bears." The Home Railway market has resisted the weakening influence of a harder Money Market remarkably well, and in several instances improvements have to be recorded. There is no doubt about the improvement in trade, which thus forms a sound basis for the advance in stocks, and the comparatively easy rates which prevailed at the settlement show that stock is by no means plentiful. American Rails have maintained the higher level, established with the election of Mr. McKinley as President, remarkably well. There have been temporary set-backs, but the active American list always seems to come up smiling again, while a considerable demand has arisen for Railroad Bonds. Amongst Foreigners the tone has been firm, even Spanish being quoted above the lowest, while South Americans have been fairly steady. The Industrial section has worn an active appearance, and will probably be further enlivened by the issue of the Bovril prospectus, which is anticipated at the end of this week. Cycle shares have been steady, although the volume of business has been restricted. A strong effort is evidently about to be made to inveigle the public into all kinds of motor-car enterprises dealing with this new means of locomotion, and the procession to Brighton under the auspices of Mr. H. J. Lawson, promoter in chief of horseless carriages, appears to have been intended to fan the flame. I should like to remind my readers that already ten Companies, with a total capital of £2,500,000, have been started for this purpose, and that many of the patents for which large sums are being paid will probably prove worthless, or be superseded by improved inventions. I need but remind the public of what happened at the time of the electric lighting boom, and how few of the patents then exploited for huge amounts have ever paid the shareholders a farthing dividend. Granting that there is a considerable future for the autocar, it must be borne in mind that the survival of the fittest will apply more especially in this case, and that much of the capital which is now being provided by a sanguine public will be irretrievably lost. The motor car demonstration of last Saturday was in many respects a failure, and has brought the defects of the present types of motors into strong relief.

Home Rails Still in Favour.

While there has been no further sensational upward movement in Home Rails, this market has displayed remarkable strength; and the settlement has passed off without any hitch, rates being comparatively easy, as a good deal of stock had apparently been mopped up by investors. Nor is it surprising that the public should again show a partiality for these stocks, as traffics are very satisfactory, and there is every prospect of a further increase in the near future. The dividend period, moreover, is drawing near, and in the case of the Deferred stocks, notably Brighton "A" and Dover "A," large dividends have already accrued. The last weekly traffics showed

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

splendid increases, the Brighton return being £2,349, the South Eastern £4,052, larger than last year. Brighton "A" will doubtless receive at least 7 per cent.; and, therefore, at the present price of 181½, yield nearly 4 per cent. per annum on the investment. Dover "A" should receive from 3¼ to 3½ per cent., and the line shows such remarkable progressiveness that the distribution should be again increased next year, even though the present quotation of 103⅛ does not yield more than about 3¼ per cent. Investors are content to lock the stock up in the hope of higher dividends. It certainly is cheaper than Great Eastern Ordinary, which at the present price of 107¾ will hardly yield more than 2¾ per cent. A considerable amount of business has been transacted in the Heavy stocks, Midlands more particularly coming into favour, and showing a rise of two points; but at the present level of quotations purchasers of the Heavies cannot look for more than a yield of 3½ per cent. Special attention should be paid to the Scotch Deferred stocks, in view of the continued boom in Scotland, developments in the iron, steel, and shipbuilding trades there being quite phenomenal. Efforts have been made by professional "Bears" to put these stocks down by spreading reports as to coming labour troubles, which have, however, been grossly exaggerated. Smaller weekly traffics of the Caledonian and North British lines were also trotted out as a reason for the decline, the Caledonian having a decrease of £2,256, the North British one of £1,595; but this was evidently an exceptional occurrence due to special circumstances. This is what my Glasgow correspondent writes on the position:—

> I believe the deficit this week in traffics is due to some clearing of sidings or other technical matter. I do not know whether the arrangements will be complete this week or next. When they are the traffics will again be large. There is a good deal of "Bearing" here—professional, I believe; the ordinary investing public believe (rightly, as I think) that Coras and North British Deferred are two of the best stocks going. Do not anticipate strikes; we really, *sometimes*, can arrange our affairs in the North without them.

I see that the *Glasgow Herald* takes the same view of the position as I do, with regard to the labour troubles. My contemporary states that there is nothing in the announcement that the engineers on the Clyde are moving for an advance in wages to create the alarm that has prevailed. Under the agreement that exists between the employers and the men, one month's notice must be given of any change desired on either side. Negotiations will follow thereon, and there is no reason to fear that matters will not be duly adjusted. Scotch Railway stocks, however, were banged as if a dispute were to be inaugurated to-morrow. At anything like the recent rate of increase, Caledonian Deferred will receive for the present year a distribution of 2½ per cent., and would therefore yield upwards of 4 per cent. to the investor at the present price of 60¼; and the increases in North British have been so persistent that a considerable improvement over the previous dividend may be looked for, thus showing the present quotation of 48⅛ to be very low. Metropolitan Districts have suffered from realisations. There has been a want of harmony amongst those chiefly concerned in the new deep-level scheme; but it would be a thousand pities if so excellent a plan were again put off, and I consider that it is the duty of the District Board to push it on most energetically, and, in case of need, to take the initiative themselves.

The Yankee Market Broadening.

The feature of last week's dealings in Yankee Rails has been considerable public buying, accompanied by an extension of the demand for the low-priced stocks. Hitherto, Milwaukee and Louisville had chiefly made the running; but now the market is distinctly broadening, and dealings have taken place in every one of the low-priced stocks; amongst which, by the way, Norfolk and Western Prefs., Southern Ordinary, and Union Pacifics have had more than their share. There have at times been moderate set-backs, but the declines have been promptly recovered; and it almost looks in the case of Milwaukee and Louisville as if special efforts had been made in New York to put down prices in order to come in at a lower level. This policy has so far been unsuccessful, as whenever Milwaukee reached about 80, and Louisville about 53, a sharp recovery ensued. Developments generally in the United States have been most satisfactory since the McKinley victory, and have exactly followed the course which I foreshadowed. Factories, mills, and ironworks are being reopened in all parts of the country. Trade is improving all round, and the hoarded gold is being released; while money is coming forward for investment, and rates are declining. The New York Bank statement showed very favourable changes, notably an increase in specie of 8,270,000 dols., and in net deposits of 15,920,000 dols. Loans and discounts, with an increase of 3,230,000 dols., show that accommodation is now again being more liberally given by the Banks. The "Bears" did their best to force a temporary relapse by predictions of trouble between the United States and Spain over Cuba, but this bogey has now been laid; and on the other hand the Venezuelan question is in a very satisfactory course of settlement. When it is remembered how disastrous a scare was caused last year by the Venezuelan incident, it is easy to draw the lesson to take such reports a little more coolly than the Stock Exchange generally does. As regards the future of American Railroad stocks, I should think that the course of prices will be distinctly upwards; although a higher level will not probably be obtained without occasional set-backs. As the fall has been very general, so the improvement should extend over the whole list, not forgetting Atchison Prefs., Denver Ordinary and Prefs., and Erie. The sharpest advance will, however, probably take place in Milwaukee, in view of the large surplus of profits available, which will enable the Company to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. in the near future. The situation is very graphically described in the November circular of the well-known banking firm of John H. Davis & Co., New York, which was drawn up soon after the Presidential elections. The circular lays special stress on the fact that mills are starting up on every hand, that American farmers are tens of millions better off than they were a few months ago by reason of the great advance in wheat, oats, &c.; on the enormous tonnage in sight for the railroads; on the smallness of stocks in the hands of merchants, ensuring large calls upon manufacturers; and on the certainty that the next Congress will maintain a sound financial policy. Messrs. Davis & Co. consider that the United States stand at the threshold of a period of national prosperity, and record the fact that manufactories long closed are opening their doors to thousands of skilled workmen, and that the execution of orders contingent upon McKinley's election will give employment to labour, trade to the merchants, and tonnage to the railroads. This is how they conclude their introduction:—

> In the financial market we have a solid foundation for trade and profit. We have absorbed hundreds of millions of home stocks and bonds which Europe sold when she had doubts of our ability to pay as good money as we had promised. Now Europe will want these same securities at higher prices. Hoarded capital will come out. Interest, dividends, and rents are better assured. The great spurt in prices at the Stock Exchange on the morning after election was indicative of the radical change in the financial atmosphere. The sudden advance was too rapid to last, but that we shall soon begin a steady appreciation of market values we fully believe, and the year 1897 will present a cheerful contrast to that of 1895.

With reference to the Northern Pacific Company it may be stated that the reorganisation carried out by Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. was very drastic, including as it did, assessments of 10 dols. on the old Preferred and 15 dols. on the Common bonds; the bond issues having to accept new Preferred stock as part payment of their interest in the new Company. A considerable amount, viz., 25,000,000 dols. of Prior Lien bonds, and 4,000,000 dols. of General Lien bonds, have been reserved for new construction, &c.; and of the Prior Lien bonds, 1,500,000 dols. a year only may be used, while the

Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
Ernest Irroy & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

fixed charges have been kept at a moderate figure, viz., 6,052,000 dols., as against an available income of 7,527,000 dols. It is estimated that this would be equal to 2 per cent. on the Preferred stock, after providing for the bonds. Of the Prior Liens the total amount is 105,000,000 dols., the interest on which is 4,200,000 dols. The proceeds of land sales up to 500,000 dols. per annum are, moreover, to be applied to purchasing the bonds in the market for cancellation until the quotation exceeds 110. Northern Pacific Four per Cent. Prior Lien bonds at 88 are, therefore, a gilt-edged security, yielding 4¾ per cent. per annum. My remarks of a week ago with reference to American Railroad bonds have brought me several inquiries, to which I will briefly reply. In answer to one correspondent, I herewith give the earnings of the Alabama Midland for September, 1896, viz., gross, 62,624 dols., against 51,067 dols. in 1895; net, 17,770 dols., against 10,213 dols. in 1895. Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold bonds are, as my readers will remember, guaranteed as to the capital and interest by the Savannah, Florida, and Western. That line earned a gross income in September, 1896, of 274,310 dols., against 260,123 dols. in 1895, and a net income of 77,917 dols., against 66,107 dols. in 1895. It should be remembered that the Alabama Midland requires only about 12,000 dols. per month to pay the interest on their bonds, and that ever since 1890—when the Company was taken over by the Savannah, Florida, and Western—very large expenditure has been made upon the road, which had to be charged to earnings, as the capital account is closed, and the interest on the bonds was paid by the Savannah, Florida, and Western, under its guarantee. The physical condition of the Alabama Midland is, therefore, now very much better than it was when it was taken over, and the security of the First Mortgage so much improved, while the earnings of the railroad are now showing its value. Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold bonds have advanced to 96, at which they yield £5. 8s. per cent., and are still an excellent purchase. With reference to the Lynn and Boston bonds, I have received the following communication from an Edinburgh correspondent :—

> May I suggest, as the complement of your remarks in TRUTH of November 12, on Lynn and Boston bonds, and as showing their steadiness as a security, that you should state next week that the Company has paid 8 per cent. on its Ordinary stock *sixteen years in succession*, and is now in a better position than ever to maintain that rate? The prospectus, and also the Stock Exchange Year Book, state that 8 per cent. has been paid since 1880.

My correspondent is quite correct in his statement, and I give the benefit of his remark to other investors. Lynn and Boston Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds are now quoted 102½ x.d., at which they yield just 5 per cent., being dollar bonds. In reply to several other correspondents, the best plan of investment in American Railroad bonds is undoubtedly to make up a small private trust, spreading the money over half a dozen bonds. In addition to Northern Pacific Prior Lien bonds, yielding £4. 15s. per cent.; Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold bonds, yielding £5. 7s. 6d. per cent.; and Lynn and Boston Five per Cent. First Mortgage bonds, yielding £4. 9s. 6d. per cent., such a trust might include New York and Putnam Four per Cent. bonds at 108, yielding £3. 15s. per cent.; Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds at 95, yielding £5. 9s. per cent.; Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo First Mortgage Six per Cent. bonds at 103, yielding £5. 16s. 6d. per cent.; and Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Consolidated Six per Cent. bonds at 86, yielding £7. 12s. 6d. per cent. The average return on this investment would be about £5. 8s. per cent. per annum. Grand Trunks have improved on the view that the changed outlook in the United States will also benefit the Grand Trunk lines, and the Prefs. are now up to 33¾, the Guaranteed at 42¾. Canadian Pacifics are, however, easier at 60¼.

NOTICE TO CONNOISSEURS OF FINE DRY CHAMPAGNE.—PÉRINET & FILS' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

FOREIGNERS AND SOUTH AMERICANS.

There has been a more confident tone in interbourse securities of late, and although Spanish are still fluctuating with every fresh rumour, they are above the lowest at 57¾, and were practically unaffected by the wild reports with reference to possible trouble with the United States. Italians have improved to 88⅞, on the conclusion of peace with Abyssinia. Turks are distinctly firmer, chiefly on the view that as the European Powers are working in concert, there is no fear of any disastrous results; but I should think that they are a dangerous gambling counter to hold. Ottoman Banks shares have shown a firmer tendency, but South Americans generally have been very inactive. The financial collapse in Brazil is an unpleasant feature, which brings other past South American financial troubles to mind again, and the position was aggravated by the illness of the President of Brazil, Dr. Prudente Moraes. The Vice-President has now taken over the reins, and it is reported that the President's health is improving. Argentine Goverment stocks are steady, and the gold premium in Buenos Ayres is very little higher at 182½. Until the Argentine Government proceeds to carry out the unification of the debt, however, I do not look for much of a rise in these stocks. Urugnay bonds have recovered slightly, the Old Loan being quoted 48, the New Loan 66, and Mexican Sixes show a firm tone. The outlook concerning a settlement of the Colombian Debt does not appear to be rosy. If, as is stated, the representative of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, who was recently sent to Bogotà to try and obtain a settlement, has not yet been able to notify any favourable development, it will probably be too late for matters to be arranged by the present Congress. I never expected any serious result of the Honduras negotiations, and it looks as if these were off again.

THE KAFFIR CIRCUS.

It is time to enter a strong protest against the wholesale throwing away of South African Gold Mining and Land shares, which has been going on for some time. It is surprising how holders of such shares can play into the hands of the "Bears" to such an extent. It is true that there has been some excuse for the uneasiness of English holders owing to the *sauve qui peut* which has prevailed in Paris, French investors and speculators having displayed an altogether childish tendency to get rid of their holdings at any sacrifice. Whenever our French neighbours have got over their attack of nerves, there will come about, barring accidents, a more lasting improvement; for all the weak elements on this side have been pretty-well shaken out, and it would require only a determined lead on the part of the big financiers to stop sales and induce a moderate amount of investment buying at the greatly reduced level. This is the market position, and the power of the ursine party merely rests upon the absurd nervousness of operators, which renders them susceptible to all the false rumours which may be propagated. Of these we have had an unusual number of late, the efforts of the syndicate of liars culminating in the report that the Transvaal Government had made a claim for an indemnity of £1,000,000 upon the Chartered Company in connection with the Jameson raid. I have not the slightest doubt that some claim will eventually be put forward, but the onus of providing the sum finally fixed upon will fall upon the originators of the raid, Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Beit, and not upon the shareholders in the Chartered Company. In any case, the Chartered troubles have absolutely nothing to do with the position of the gold mines in the Transvaal, which is inherently strong. The political position also is not by any means worse, as had been represented in some quarters; and President Kruger himself, in a statement to the Pretoria correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, made the remark that there was no intention to trouble about alterations in existing conventions. Concerning the indemnity, the President stated that the amount to be demanded would be a reasonable figure, and that there was no other desire on

his part than to finally settle this disagreeable matter with the friendliest feelings. It looks, therefore, as if the Chartered raiders would get off with a very much smaller bleeding than they could have hoped for at one time. Recent events confirm the statement made to me by one of the South African millionaires, who is in touch with the Transvaal Government, and to whom President Kruger cabled on his repeated appeals in favour of the mining industry, that there was no need for alarm—that everything would come right. The decision of the Volksraad on the Sunday labour question bears out this promise, and now that the Witwatersrand Mines have cheap and plentiful labour, and are relieved from the Sunday labour trouble, there is nothing to affect the industry, apart, perhaps, from the dynamite monopoly and some scarcity of water which prevails. Latest cablegrams state, however, that rain is expected to fall at an early date, the atmosphere being charged with moistness. The October crushings were not quite so large as those for September, amounting to 199,899 oz., against 202,561 oz.; but the small difference is accounted for alone by the smaller output of the New Primrose, which was reduced by a stoppage caused by the short supply of water. With the Mining industry thus placed upon a sound basis, the incubus of cyanide royalties removed, and ample and cheap labour, I cannot but think that the time for a recovery is not far off; and I still consider the following stocks as very promising at the present reduced prices:—Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, City and Suburban, Robinson, Wolhuter, Randfontein, New Johannesburg Consols, Barnato Consols, Buffelsdoorn, Langlaagte Royal, Henderson's Estates, Lydenburg Estates, Oceana Consols, Mozambique, Modderfontein "B," Waterfall Estates, Woodstock (Transvaal), and Knights. With reference to the assets of the Robinson Bank, I have to add to my remarks of last week that in addition to the figures given of £1,228,000 in cash, native gold, Consols, &c., other investments of £1,633,131. In addition, there are £284,368 in bills of exchange purchased and current, and £617,173 in bills discounted for and advances to customers; the total assets figuring up to £3,767,906. At Monday's meeting of shareholders statements were made by Mr. J. B. Robinson which should have a reassuring effect upon the whole of the South African market, if only people would get over their unreasonable nervousness. By the way, I am informed that Mr. J. B. Robinson will leave on the 28th inst. for South Africa. This journey is to be undertaken partly owing to the illness of Mrs. Robinson, who requires a change of climate, and will reside on Mr. Robinson's estate near Cape Town. Mr. Robinson himself will go straight through to Pretoria, and there have interviews with President Kruger and other leading Transvaal statesmen. That all his influence will be brought to bear in favour of the mining industry in the Transvaal goes without saying, and he will also be able to give special attention to all the various Mining Companies with which he is connected, so that his journey will doubtless be fraught with good results for the shareholders in these undertakings. By the same steamer Mr. Sol Joel will return to South Africa, and he will have an important task before him in looking after the interests of the various Barnato Mining and Land Companies. At the meeting of the shareholders of the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, the various speakers, including the Chairman, did their utmost to reassure investors in this Company and in the Deep Levels, but to judge from the tone which has since prevailed in the market they did not make much impression upon the public. All the same, I think that the selling of Consolidated Goldfields is now being overdone, the quotation having dropped ex. the dividend of 15s. to £8. Very severe comments are being made on the proposed juggle between the East Rand Company and the H.F. Syndicate, and the opposition is waxing so strong that it will probably have to be abandoned. As regards the new issue of Chartered shares, it seems doubtful whether the shareholders who objected to the arrangement with the Syndicate in connection with the option at $2\frac{3}{4}$ will take up all the shares, although the news is generally more favourable. The decision of the Transvaal Government to construct a railway from Machadodorp to Pilgrim's Rest, viâ the town of Lydenburg, is of great importance to the various Land and Mining Companies, which have already been formed. It need hardly be pointed out that cheaper carriage of coal and material generally will be of vast benefit to the mines. The Transvaal Exploring Company has issued a very exhaustive Directors' report and accounts to the shareholders, a meeting being called for the 20th inst. for the purpose of obtaining an authorisation for an increase of the capital of the Company. A credit balance is shown of £85,738, and although it chiefly consists of shares, the result must be considered distinctly satisfactory. The Company owns many valuable interests and claims in progressive districts of the Transvaal, which should especially be benefited by the extension of the railway system in the South African Republic. The total issue of capital has so far been only £142,000, and it is evident that a further considerable sum could be utilised with great advantage in the present position of affairs. At their present price of $\frac{5}{8}$ these shares appear to be at a very moderate level. At Tuesday's statutory meeting of the Oceana Consolidated Company, Mr. Henry Pasteur was able to state that the amalgamation of the old Oceana, Africana, and Austral-African Companies has been duly completed. The new undertaking is of great importance, as it not only possesses extensive farmlands and mineral rights in the Transvaal, but has also a large stake in Central Africa in connection with the Katanga Company and on the Zambesi. Oceana Consols are quoted at only $1\frac{3}{16}$, but will doubtless reach a much higher value in the near future. The Directors of the Woodstock (Transvaal) Gold Mine are sending a detailed report to their shareholders, from which it is evident that very important work is in progress. There is a full supply of native boys, and the necessary European miners are also at work. The sixty-stamp mill will be erected in a very advantageous position, and the whole of the ore will be brought to the mill by a short aërial ropeway. The first twenty heads of stamps are being erected, and the working of the property will take place on most economical lines. In No. 1 Block the 400-ft. level has been driven a total distance of 591 ft., of which 193 ft. have been on the strike of the reef. No. 1 shaft has been sunk 197 ft. on the reef, and equal progress has been made in the other blocks and shafts. The Sybil North-west drive has been driven on the reef and strike of dyke, and the north lode has been found to be 12 ft. wide. A considerable quantity of ore is at grass, and early in the new year crushing on a large scale will commence with what should prove very favourable results. The £1 shares at $1\frac{1}{4}$ are, therefore, a very promising lock-up. Diamond shares have also fluctuated, but upon the whole a firmer tone has been shown, and De Beers are quoted at $29\frac{1}{4}$, New Jagersfontein $10\frac{1}{8}$. An expression of opinion is made by the *South African Financial Record* that there is nothing in the rumours that the De Beers Company is likely to acquire the Jagersfontein mine. Jagersfontein is in the Free State, and the De Beers' Directors know only too well that if they bought up the mine the Free State Government would at once defeat the policy of regulating the output by making the condition that the mine should be worked for all it is worth.

Golden West Australia.

The condition of the West Australian market remains the same. A few more ignorant critics have misrepresented the goldfields of the colony, and a few more nervous holders have sold their shares; but the news from the goldfields is encouraging, good work is being done in all directions, and crushings will in the near

Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society.—Special Notice.—Participating Assurances (by annual payments) effected before the 31st December, 1896, will rank for Six Full Years' Bonus Additions at the next Periodical Division of Profits. To secure this advantage application should be made to any of the offices or agencies of the Society without delay.—London: 28, Cornhill, E.C., and 5, Waterloo-place, S.W.

future assume much larger proportions. While some disappointments have occurred, especially in connection with mines against which I have repeatedly warned my readers, many other properties are turning up trumps; and in Coolgardie the water difficulty is likely to be overcome even before the Government scheme is carried out. As nothing but actual crushings will apparently allay the present nervousness, I again give the results which have come to hand during the past week:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per ton.	Assay of Concentrates per ton.
Lake View Consols	704	2176	25 dwt.	—
Great Boulder	718	2158	—	—
Cue One	300	226 & 14 dwt.	3 dwt.	5 oz. 10 dwt.
Consolidated Murchison..	530	290	—	—
Coolgardie Mint and Iron King	60	154	13 dwt.	—
Murchison Gift	83	332	—	—
Consolidated Gold Mines of Western Australia (Coongan Mines).....	508	515	—	—
Ejudina.....	150	262	—	—
Florence	100	108	8 dwt.	4 oz.
North-West Australian Goldfields	114	170	—	—

The result of the Lake View Consols crushing is distinctly satisfactory; and if these shares have reacted to 6-6½, this has chiefly been caused by the statement that the settlement will take place at the end of the present month. Now that realisations by holders who do not wish to take up their shares have come to an end, we may anticipate a sharp recovery, as the news from the mine is most satisfactory. With reference to the Mainland Consols, I learn that it has been decided to put up a new thirty-stamp battery, and to bring the water from Day Dawn. This will entail some extra expense, which should, however, be fully justified by results; and those who ought to know tell me that there is no fear of these shares falling much below the present quotation. The Consolidated Gold Mines of Western Australia is to the front with a crushing of 515 oz. from 508 tons from the Coongan mine, which is a good deal better than the estimate of the manager, which had always been of 15 dwt. per ton only. The Coolgardie Mint and Iron King has screwed out a crushing of 60 tons for 154 oz., but it is to be hoped that larger crushings will now take place. The Great Boulder is keeping up its average, and the shares are quoted 6$\frac{1}{16}$ x.d. London and Globe Finance and West Australian Exploring and Finance are steady at 4. In reply to various inquiries, I am able to inform my readers that the meeting of shareholders of these two Companies will take place on or about the 20th of next month. An excellent position will be shown, and a large dividend will be paid. Those who are able to take their shares up and pay for them can hardly do better than in these two Companies. There is little change in the various Menzies Companies, amongst which Menzies Mining and Exploration (Menzies O'Driscoll) stand at $\frac{5}{8}$, Menzies Crusoe at $\frac{3}{4}$, Menzies Consolidated at $\frac{11}{16}$; but all these shares deserve attention in view of the favourable developments which have of late taken place on the Menzies Goldfield. West Australian Goldfields are still being raided by "Bear" operators and stand at 5$\frac{7}{8}$, but whenever any improvement in this group comes about, they will not be slow in responding. The same applies to Hampton Plains, which were notoriously scarce at the last settlement, a backwardation being paid; yet the ursine party are still occasionally depressing the same, and the price fluctuates between 3$\frac{3}{8}$ and 3½. The shares of the Cue No. 1 Mine, to the crushing of which I drew attention last week, are quoted at ½, and these as well as Florence (a crushing from which mine will be found in the above list) at $\frac{13}{16}$, Lady Shenton at 2, White Feather Reward at 1$\frac{15}{16}$, Great Boulder Main Reef at 1⅛, Mawson's Reward at $\frac{15}{16}$, Robinson at $\frac{3}{4}$, East Murchison United at $\frac{3}{4}$, and Mount Margaret at 1$\frac{3}{8}$, are cheap shares which should be picked up at present. The news from the Mawson's Reward is very satisfactory. According to a cablegram, the ore body continues to improve in quality; 112 ft. have been driven on the 87-ft. level in No. 2 shaft. The level is now 100 ft. below the surface outcrop. The gold is very fine, but well distributed. In the south drive the reef is reported to be 12 ft. wide, with good quartz. With reference to the Hannan's Lode, a cablegram states that the lode shows a marked improvement in No. 1 shaft. General Gordon Mines are still quoted at 2. The North-West Australian Goldfields are to the front with a crushing of 170 oz. of gold from 114 tons, which is more satisfactory than had been anticipated; and these shares, which have hitherto been only a nominal market, have experienced a revival at $\frac{11}{16}$, which is still so cheap that a purchase might be advisable. Hit or Miss have rallied to 1⅛-$\frac{3}{16}$ on the statements at the meeting. Burbank's Birthday Gift are quoted 1$\frac{9}{16}$, and these shares, as well as Burbank's Consols, at ⅛ premium, and Burbank's North at ¼ premium, appear to have a satisfactory future before them. They are under the management of an excellent expert, Professor Nicholas. West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares are quoted at 1⅞ to 2 premium. There has been a severe shake out, and holders should certainly now stick to their shares. From the Hannan's Napier a cablegram has come to hand stating that the shaft has reached a depth of 132 ft. The Golden Plum has come to grief, and as I foreshadowed at the very outset on the publication of the prospectus, it has not proved a plum for the shareholders, the shares now standing at a rubbish price. It is, however, out of the question for the detractors of the West Australian goldfields to make capital out of this collapse; and as the concern was badly conceived at the outset, repeated warnings against it appeared in my columns and in those of my contemporaries. The same remark applies to the World's Treasure, another mine which has now collapsed, and against which I have always warned my readers. According to the *West Australian Review* these shares have been very largely placed in Paris, and even the advertising agents, Messrs. Dalziel, who circulated the prospectus, were good enough to underwrite 500 shares. This is a concern which was started under South African auspices. From the Western Australian Cement Proprietary Leases an excellent report has been received, showing that the work of development is proceeding apace. The special settlement of the Golden Links has been postponed until further notice, owing to the fact that the certificates are not ready. It is time that the authorities of the Golden Link bestirred themselves to comply with the requirements of the Stock Exchange. I am glad to see that some of the shareholders are moving in the matter of Waldon's Find Gold Mines, which has hitherto been a silent mine. Why do not the Directors issue regular reports?

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Indian gold mines have also suffered to some extent by forced realisations, more especially of Mysore Gold, which are down to 7¼, and Champion Reefs, which are quoted 7$\frac{5}{16}$. I suppose that this is owing to the necessity in which holders of unmarketable shares found themselves of throwing over some of their sound securities. Coromandels are also easier, thus showing that my advice to clear profits on these on the recent rise was fully justified. Balagats are lower at 1s., but I have never trusted these. In Australian mines other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamp have eased off to 2⅜ for no particular reason that I can discover. In Charters Towers shares Mill's Day Dawn are lower, and Day Dawn P.C. and New Queen have given way. Broken Hill Proprietary are dull at 47s. 6d., and one of the few shares which have improved is Mount Lyell. A very firm tone has prevailed for Croydon Consols, on a cablegram from the mine, according to which a further satisfactory crushing has taken place, and stating that the declaration of a dividend of 1s. per share will be made on the 26th inst. North Croydon Consols are quoted from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. In New Zealand shares, the only favourable feature has been a rise in Waihi, which have advanced to 6⅞, apparently on some scarcity of stock. On the other hand, Waihi Silverton, United New Zealand,

Hauraki, and Waitekauri, are all lower. Well selected New Zealand properties are, however, still finding favour. I referred in my letter of October 25 to the Royal Standard Mine, which is situated on the east coasts of the North Island, in the Hauraki district. A working capital of £30,000 has now been subscribed privately, and many people closely connected with New Zealand have taken an interest in the mine, which they expect to prove one of the most successful undertakings in New Zealand. The vendors have taken the whole of their interest in shares. In the general foreign section, Rio Tinto have again fluctuated, but the price has settled down to about 25½ in anticipation of the meeting. De Lamar, Burma Ruby, Frontino, Springdale, and Banner Gold are all lower. Grand Central Mining are firmer at 2¼. Major C. F. Buttle, late R.E., 70, Temple-chambers, London, E.C., is again to the front with his puffs of the Great Work Tin Mining and Development Syndicate, Limited, in which he states that "the honesty of the intention of the Company is guaranteed by merely mentioning the names of the Directors:—Lieut.-General McLeod Innes, R.E., V.C.; Major-General R. J. C. Marter; Colonel William Carey, R.A., C.B.; and J. Halcrow, Esq." I have the very worst opinion of this enterprise, the mine to be acquired not having been worked for many years, and there being very little chance of its ever being made to pay. My advice to investors is, not to listen to the blandishments of Major Buttle.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Paquin, Limited.—Subscriptions will be received on Saturday next, November 21, for this Company, which has been formed to acquire as a going concern and extend the prosperous business of Messrs. Paquin & Co., the well-known ladies' dress, robe, and mantle makers, Rue de la Paix, Paris. The prospectus states that the marvellous success of this business, as shown by the accountants' certificate, has induced the proprietors to resolve upon a further important extension by opening a branch establishment in the West End of London, and suitable premises at 39, Dover-street, Mayfair, W., have been acquired on very favourable terms. The capital consists of £500,000, divided into 50,000 Cumulative Six per Cent. Preference shares of £5 each, and 250,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 83,333 will be allotted in part payment of the purchase price; the remaining 166,667 Ordinary shares and 50,000 Preference shares, including £100,000 which has been guaranteed for working capital exclusive of stock, are now offered for subscription.

This business has long been known as one of the largest and best houses in Paris, and there can be very little doubt but that the London branch will become equally popular. The firm are noted for their excellent workmanship and fit, Paquin French models being also much in request here. The vendor shows his confidence in the success of the business by not only taking over 80,000 Ordinary shares in part payment of the purchase money, but by agreeing to deposit a further £75,000 in Consols and French Rentes with Parr's Bank to secure the payment of the 6 per cent. dividend on the Preference shares for the next five years. The profits will, no doubt, be greatly increased by the opening of the London branch, and it is evident from the past results that a substantial dividend on the Ordinary shares may confidently be looked for.

Campbell, Praed, & Co.—A Company has been formed to acquire the brewery business of Messrs. Campbell, Praed, & Co., of Wellingborough. The share capital is £100,000, divided into 10,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each, of which 9,993 shares are taken by the vendors as part payment. The present issue is of £100,000 Four per Cent. Perpetual First Mortgage Debenture stock at the issue price of £105 per cent.

London Electrical Cab Company, Limited.—With a capital of £150,000, in shares of £1 each, this Company is formed to place on the streets of London electrically propelled cabs to supersede those at present in use.

These are early days for a Company to be promoted, with this amount of capital for what is, at present, an imperfect invention. Improvements are sure to be made that will, it is hoped, prevent the break-downs and sundry unexpected stoppages of motor cars that occurred on Saturday last in the experimental run to Brighton. The result of that expedition is not likely to infuse any great desire into investors to place their money in this industry at the present juncture.

Ridgways, Limited.—This Company is formed to carry on the tea business of Ridgway & Co., and those carried on by them under the names of Stock & Co., G. R. Chamberlain, Pegram & Co., and Chaloner & Co., tea merchants. The capital is fixed at £380,000.

I cannot see anything tempting in this traffic in businesses for the purpose of amalmation and turning them into a Company. It will probably pay the promoters, but I should be loth to recommend it as an investment. Moreover, why are the trading and profits of the businesses that have been contracted for not given separately?

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Taffy.—There was a rumour of an insurrection in Monte Video, which is contradicted. There is no other reason for the weakness of Uruguay bonds, which is, however, disappearing. *Lone Lady.*—A good investment; but if you are likely to require the money, you had better realise your profit. *D. W.*—Transvaal Five per Cent. Government stock is a good investment, and there is no reason to sell. "*Jusc.*"—The finances of this colony will probably improve in view of the gold discoveries, and it would be advisable to hold now.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

J. T., Huddersfield.—As requested, I forward in your envelope the name of a smart firm of City solicitors. *F. P. C.*—This only applies to Chartered banks, upon which shareholders are liable for an extra 100 per cent. of their holdings. I cannot reply by letter. *Clementina.*—You cannot get this yield in Home Railway securities with safety. Do you wish to go as far afield as South American Railway debentures? *T. T.*—An outside concern; you should deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Honest Dick.*—Outside brokers; it is preferable to deal with members of the Stock Exchange only. *Loi.*—Why do you not mention the name of the stock when making such an inquiry? The whole matter does not depend upon the signature of the transfer at all; but upon the time when you bought the stock, and when it was quoted ex dividend. *Motto.*—Be very careful; such "protection" is sometimes the very reverse. *Perplexed, Chatham.*—Outside dealers; have nothing to do with them—you are almost certain to lose your money. *Fire.*—A fourth-rate concern. In the case of insurance you should only deal with first-class societies. *Investor, Norwich.*—It is a third-rate office.

Home Rails.

F. S. N.—Hold your Dover "A" and Scotch stocks for a further improvement. *B. J. R.*—I should certainly prefer South-Eastern Deferred (Dover "A") to all the other Home Rails mentioned by you. *T. W. L.*—No reason to sell this Home Railway stock at present. As regards a further investment, South-Eastern Deferred should suit you. *M. D.*—No fresh news is available, but I still think that the matter will go through. I am glad to hear that you did so well in Louisville and Caledonian on my advice. No reason to sell Coras.

American and Foreign Rails.

Glasgow.—1. Yes; Alabama Midland Gold bonds are an excellent investment. 2. The price is now 94½. 3. They are quoted in the Official List of the London Stock Exchange, and the last coupon was paid on November 1, the next being payable on May 1. *R. H. B.*—Certainly hold your American Railroad bonds. Present conditions are favourable, and an advance is expected. *X. L.*—A fair investment; but I do not advise putting so much trust money into one particular bond. The proper thing would be to form a kind of trust, for which I would propose the following list of American Railroad bonds:—New York and Putnam Four per Cent. bonds at 108, yielding £3. 15s. 9d. per cent.; Alabama Midland First Five per Cent. Mortgage bonds at 94½, yielding £5. 10s. 6d. per cent.; Northern Pacific Prior Lien Four per Cent. bonds at 88, yielding £4. 15s. per cent.; Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds at 94, yielding £5. 8s. 10d. per cent.; Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo First Mortgage Six per Cent. bonds at 102, yielding £6. 0s. 7d. per cent.; and Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Consolidated Six per Cent. bonds at 85, yielding £8. 7s. per cent. The yield on your £20,000 would thus be £1,125 per annum, an average of about £5. 13s. per cent., and would certainly be safer than the investment in one particular bond, such as proposed by you. *Aylmer.*—You should certainly hold Erie for a considerable advance, which should come about in due time. *Aldine.*—Apply to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., Limited, 8, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Household Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

Mining Shares.

Cosmos.—Certainly hold your Mining shares for a recovery, and buy more to average if you can afford to take them up. *Ajax, Bridgwater.*—1. No reason to sell. 2. There has been a general "Bear" attack. 3. This is not the time to sell West Australian shares. *G. W. S.*—I certainly would not advise you to increase your holding of No. 2, which are quite high enough; and instead of buying more of Nos. 1 and 2, you will do well to make your selection from my letter. *G. W. J.*—1. You ought to have seen the last report of the shareholders' meeting; there is no fresh news. 2. No option but to hold; but do not average yet. 3. Keep these. 4. Crushing will not commence for a month or two. *Unfortunate Speculator.*—No option but to hold. *Reward.*—I have never recommended Bayley's Reward; but after the reconstruction it might be advisable to keep them. *Hard Cheese.*—I have heard nothing to alter my opinion of Hannan's Golden Treasure and Golden Group; but the general weakness of the Mining Markets has put prices down. If you hold, you will see your money back and a profit. *C. F. E., Kent.*—No option but to hold your shares, Nos. 1 to 11; they should recover again. As regards No. 11, what you mention must be an interested attack. *Dundalk.*—Possibly the West Australian mine acquired by this concern will prosper; but it is too early to form an opinion. *Technical.*—No particular temptation to buy these now; you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. *M. M.*—I do not recommend a further purchase of these shares yet, which should, however, be held for an improvement. *R. and C., Paris.*—French holders are chiefly to blame for the present collapse in the Mining Market, and there is nothing for it but to hold these shares. *Enniskillen.*—No reason to sell at present. *P. B., Tuam.*—I cannot help you in the matter, as the shareholders will not help themselves. I cannot reply by letter. *W. R. S.*—No option but to hold for a recovery in the Mining Market. *L. E. O.*—I do not like this mine at all, and should not advise you to put more money into it. *Orillia.*—The business is a good one, but it has been mismanaged. There is no alternative but to await developments. *XXX.*—If you are a holder of the shares Nos. 1 to 3, you must just keep them until a revival sets in. *Didegmus.*—I gave full particulars of this mine some time ago, and there is no option but to hold, as no doubt the mine will retrieve its fortunes. *Kinnigillion.*—No particular temptation to buy these Indian Mining shares; they are quite a toss-up. *Scotty, Glasgow.*—I do not advise a further purchase of these New Zealand shares. *Irish Reader, Newry.*—Stand where you are. *Inquirer, Banbury.*—No option but to hold the South African shares; they should recover again. *X. Y. Z., Co. Durham.*—The rumours about political trouble in the Transvaal are unfounded, and matters on the Witwatersrand are really improving. The West Australian mines should also be held, although some of these were badly selected, and against my advice. *Archibald Arrowsmith.*—I do not think much of the first-mentioned shares. I am glad you did so well in Croydon Consols on my advice. *W. A. J.*—In such cases it is always advisable to join the reconstruction and sell after. *Aliquis.*—1. Yes. 2. Ten per cent. was paid a month or two ago; but as regards No. 3, another dividend will not be paid for a year. *Sweet Hope.*—Hold; but do not average yet. The time will no doubt come when this can be done with advantage. *J. G. M.*—These anticipations with regard to the Chartered Company are quite absurd, and such an extravagant rise is altogether out of the question. *W. H. S., Gateacre.*—No option but to hold your Mining shares for the present; this is not the time to sell. *Glyn.*—1. The mine is doing well; but apparently further money will be spent to increase the battery power. 2. I expect an improvement. 3. No. 4. Not yet. *C. A. R.*—Randfontein Estates should suit you at the present low price. *Puzzled, Douglas.*—No option but to hold for an advance. *Jim.*—1. Arizona Copper shares are quite high enough now. 2. Not an investment, but a speculation. *Non-Speculator.*—At present prices all the shares mentioned by you would be suitable for investment, and they are all £1, fully paid. I also refer you to my letter. *Re-deal.*—Hold all your shares for a recovery; this is not the time to sell. Hold Nos. 14 and 15 also, but do not average the latter yet. *P. M. L.*—1. The New Bultfontein is a very promising diamond mine. 2 and 3. Yes. *W. A. Trader.*—No option but to hold. *A. R. E.*—1. It is a great pity that you ever had anything to do with the Hannan's Virginia Gold Mining Company, and it looks like throwing good money after bad. 2. Hold Randfontein for an improvement. You ought to have received your bonus in Porges Randfontein. 3. Not yet. 4. Certainly hold. *H. K. W.*—There is nothing new to tell about this mine. All Mining shares are at present under a cloud, but they will doubtless recover again. *Unfortunate.*—1. A strong "Bear" raid is being made against this group. Hold by all means. 2. Every chance. 3. No. 4. No. 5. Yes. There is no reason why No. 5 should not come right again. *West York.*—Your selection, Nos. 1-9, of South African and West Australian shares is a good one, and you should hold. *Atalanta.*—The publication in question is quite irresponsible. Hold your shares until the "Bear" raid passes over. *Leo.*—A meeting will doubtless be held shortly. *Unlucky Star.*—I am sorry you were disappointed in Balaghat, but this never was one of my recommendations. I must leave you to take your own decision. *Dingle.*—Yes, you will do quite right to average S.A. Gold Trust and Barnato Consols. *Pym.*—The consequences of some weak "Bull" selling and a "Bear" raid. Hold. *Fernfield.*—You should hold all your shares Nos. 1-9. *S. C. G., Clifton.*—No option but to hold the mines, and average c, e, and g. You can make your selection for a speculation with £600 from my letter. *Herbert.*—Yes; buy more to average Langlaagte Star. *Cheshire.*—Hold for a recovery. It is a good selection. *Top Sawyer.*—1. A promising little gamble. 2. A fair mining risk, but I prefer Croydon Consols (3). I consider No. 4 as promising. *Architect.*—No, I do not recommend purchases of Kathleen, Kathleen Crown, or London and New Zealand Exploration (1-3) at present. You can do better by following the recommendations in my letter. 4. Yes. *Eisen.*—1. A fair mining risk. 2. Ditto. 3. Yes. 4. Perhaps, some day; but I do not like Elandsfontein No. 1. *Oxonian.*—1. An improvement is probable. 2. No option but to hold. 3. Hold, and buy more to average. I am glad you are doing so well in Croydon Consols on my advice. *Crater Bairn.*—Hold Balkis Land. *Heathen.*—Certainly hold both shares Nos. 1 and 2. *Mislead.*—1. The Glencairn will be crushing with the full power of its batteries in March next. 2. Yes. 3. Write to the London agents. *South Luipaards.*—Await the course of events. *Cadzow Forest.*—1. When matters in Rhodesia settle down there should be a chance. 2. I can but judge from the reports, which are generally reliable. *Interested.*—An altogether unreliable stock. Do not allow yourself to be frightened out of your shares. *T. G.*—Yes, I think it is a good time to average Randfontein, Langlaagte Estate, Johnnies, and Glencairn. Better leave Chartered alone. It was a bad move of the shareholders. *Kaffir.*—No option but to hold and pay the call. *Sitting Bull.* A strong "Bear" raid has occurred, and a recovery is probable. *H. E. W.*—Certainly hold London and Globe Finance shares and see remarks under "Golden West Australia." *J. S. W.*—No need to go to the *Yorkshire Post* for information concerning Western Australians. There is very little market for these shares, and you will have to be patient. *G. A. E.*—Johnnies will recover again, when the present scare in the Kaffir Circus is over. *Sugarloaf.*—You had better hold all the shares for a recovery. *Jock of Norfolk.*—You should hold Nos. 1-9. Chathams are a fair gamble. *Still a Holding.*—I have always expressed an unfavourable opinion of Golden Plums. Do not buy any more, even at present low price. No, it is a one-sided opinion which you should disregard. Hold. *W. B., Peckham.*—The Balaghat is an unfortunate and much reconstructed concern. I have always held an unfavourable view, and do not see how I can help you. *Inquirer, Cumberland.*—Hold London and Globe and Explorers Syndicate. *Ealing.*—The Company may come right again. *Abercorn.*—The shareholders should unite against this atrocious swindle. I cannot reply by letter. *Remedy.*—Certainly hold Randfontein for a recovery. *J. K., Cork.*—No option but to hold your shares, Nos. 1-4. *D. J. A.*—I do not like the West Australian Mine Owners Exploration Syndicate. How could you take shares in it? *Continue.*—Yours is but the experience of every one else, and you cannot help it. *D. M. B.*—Get out of the concern if you can. *Silly Kid.*—Very probably you will on your figures again by next March. *J. J. S.*—Glad to hear you are doing well with North Croydon Consols on my advice. I do not advise purchase of Nos. 1 and 2, but No. 3 is promising, and do not sell your Buffelsdoorn now. *Lincoln.*—1. No option but to join the Bailey's Reward reconstruction, but do not buy more to average. *Vinegar Hill.*—I do not advise the purchase. 6. A recovery is probable. 7. No, you can do better in other shares mentioned in my letter. 8. Hold.

Industrial Shares.

Flint.—No; I do not advise purchase of Pegamoid shares, which are highly speculative. *H. B., Leicester.*—Nothing is known here about this provincial tramway, and you should inquire in Blackpool. I am not enamoured of the Tower Company. *Impransus.*—Why did you not make this inquiry before? What use is it for you to refer to a purchase made on July 10, 1895? You ought never to have bought these Brush Electric shares, of which I have always expressed an unfavourable opinion. *Celtic.*—It seems to be a fair investment; but I am not sure if this kind of shipping shares will improve in value. *Trood.*—There is no market for these steel tube shares, and I have never recommended the investment. You ought to have asked me before buying the shares. *W. G., Accrington.*—I cannot reply by letter. I am glad you made money on my advice. Why did you not limit your broker as regards the sale? It is quite true that they were 1¼ premium at the close of the market on Wednesday; but they dropped back again. Nothing has happened to bring about a change in the position, from the information which I have received through other quarters. *Cyclist.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I do not like any, with the exception of Swifts (7) and Humbers (2). *Dundrum.*—Highly speculative; I do not advise the purchase of these cycle shares. *F. J. W.*—It is a great pity that you ever went into this doubtful concern, which is quite hopeless. *Tame, Uxbridge.*—Not much of an investment; such publishing companies are very speculative. *Finn Barr.*—You ought to have sold sooner. It is a fair investment; but I do not anticipate much of a rise at present.

Mixed Investments.

A. J. M.—Amongst the shares mentioned by you Mexican Sixes are the best stock; the others are quite high enough. In future, you should number your inquiries. *Hornblower.*—There is no option but to hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 17 for a

rise. Many of these are badly selected, and bought against my advice, but all should recover from the present level. *M. R.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, Randfontein (1) and Hannan's Proprietary (2) should be held. I do not think so much of Nos. 3 and 4. I do not at all approve of the outside concern to which you refer, and have repeatedly said so. You should deal only through a broker who is a member of the Stock Exchange. *Dora.*—1. No reason to sell now. 2. There is not much chance of a payment on the Second Prefs. yet. *D. C. P.*—You do not send your full name and address in token of good faith. When you do so, I will reply to your inquiries. *Enquirer, Co. Armagh.*—1. I do not approve of the mining and finance Company in question. 2. No; far too risky. The Bovril issue, however, is likely to go exceedingly well. *K. B. A.*—1. My information is, I believe, reliable. 2. What does it matter if some obscure paper makes an attack upon some particular mining section? 3. Impossible to tell; when the general market revives. *B. H. R.*—You cannot do better than make your selection from the American Railroad bonds mentioned in last week's issue, which are the best form of investment with proportionate safety. I certainly would not like to advise you to put your money into London and St. Katherine's Dock Ordinary shares. I cannot reply by letter. *Eta.*—1. Hold; they will recover again when the West Australian market generally revives. 2. Better leave this lottery alone. *Unicorn.*—There is no option but to hold your mining shares for a recovery. I do not think much of the Apollinaris Trust. Swifts should be held for a rise. *Nemo, Upper Norwood.*—Hold your mining shares. You might also safely risk holding the Home Railway stock (3). *Cavalry.*—1. I should think that the dividend will come in time for you. 2. Quite high enough. *East Dulwich.*—1. There is still a prospect of an arrangement being come to with regard to these Argentine bonds, and you had better hold. 2. Jones & Higgins shares are quite high enough. As a matter of principle, I do not recommend individual stockbrokers. *Fastnett.*—Hold the mining shares Nos. 3 to 5, but do not average yet. There is also no reason to sell the others. *Justice.*—1. Hold for a recovery. 2. No reason to sell; the market is sure to turn again. 3. Good prospects; but always take a profit if you can in these times. *H. I. M.*—Obviously, in order to obtain so high a yield you must be prepared to run some risk. If you want to be quite secure you must be satisfied with some such bonds as Alabama Midland Five per Cent. Gold bonds. The Uruguay Loan, however, should suit you. *Nemo Black.*—It is impossible to tell exactly to what prices Home Railway stocks will rise; but I look for a further improvement in this department. You have bought Consolidated Goldfields and East Rands entirely against my advice; but it would be preferable to keep all your mining shares now, this not being the time to sell. For the rest, I must refer you to my letter. *Centaur.*—1. You will find some particulars with reference to Northern Pacifics in to-day's issue. 2. No reason to sell your Brewery shares.

Various Investments.

The strength of Consols has not been quite maintained, and the quotation is again lower at 110½ for the account; but gilt-edged securities generally have been in good request, and an appreciable amount of business has resulted in British Corporation stocks and Colonial Government bonds. Home Railway Prior Charges have been neglected, many investors apparently substituting gilt-edged American Railroad bonds for them, which they can do with safety, now that the sound money party in the States has triumphed. Silver has further declined to 29⅞d., but Rupee Paper has advanced to 63½, and there is a talk of the possibility of gold shipments to India should the exchange further rise. On the other hand, withdrawals of gold for the United States are evidently over, and it is quite on the cards that the Money Market will ease off a little. Rather stiff rates were charged in connection with the settlement, but short money is now more plentiful. In Cycle shares but a moderate business has taken place, and prices are slightly easier. Dunlop Deferred are quoted 1$\frac{5}{16}$; the Ordinary, 1$\frac{3}{16}$; Humber, 1$\frac{7}{16}$; the Extensions, 1⅜. A considerable demand has been experienced for cycle tubes up to $\frac{15}{16}$, and Grapplers are quoted 1⅛; but Singer cycles are easier at $\frac{13}{16}$. Transactions of considerable extent have taken place in Gladiators at $\frac{3}{16}$ premium, and in Bagots at $\frac{15}{16}$ premium. Swift cycles have also come into some demand at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium. Bovril shares have been a strong market, and have risen to 5⅛, very little stock being left in the market. The prospectus of the new Company will be published on Monday, October 23, and the capital will be, as I stated on October 22, £2,500,000. I understand that the prospectus will show the progressive nature of the business, and the Board will be a very strong one, and will be composed of the following gentlemen:—The Right Hon. Lord Playfair (who has been closely identified with Bovril, Limited, for several years), Mr. J. Lawson Johnston (the inventor of Bovril), Mr. George Lawson Johnston, F.R.G.S., Sir Edmund Commerell, Sir Francis Knollys, G.C.M.G., and Mr. Andrew Walker (who has long been connected with the Bovril enterprise). I understand that it is intended to form a number of sub-Companies, and the profits for the past year are variously estimated at from £150,000 to £200,000. On this point the prospectus will no doubt give full particulars. The fact that Bovril is sold by nearly every grocer, store, chemist, confectioner, and publican in the kingdom, besides being retailed at the railway refreshment buffets throughout the world, shows that there is still a great future before it. Under the circumstances, I should think that there is every prospect of the shareholders in the old Company taking a very considerable proportion of the shares in the new Company. In American Brewery shares investment purchases are being made, more especially in Milwaukee and Chicago Ordinary and Prefs. in Springfield Ordinary, and in St. Louis Ordinary and Prefs. the position of which I explained last week. I see that the *New Saturday* goes in very strongly for criticising Mr. H. J. Lawson's promotions, and amongst these my contemporary specially refers to the Great Horseless Carriage Company, Limited, which was one of his principal achievements, having been floated in May last with the enormous capital of £750,000. It will be interesting to watch whether the *New Saturday's* predictions will be borne out by events. The price paid by the Great Horseless Carriage Company for the motor patents supplied by Mr. Lawson was £500,000, half in cash and half in shares; and as the public at the time appear to have very generously responded to the prospectus, Mr. Lawson's responsibility to them is certainly a very heavy one. "We predicted McKinley's election as President of the United States with the consequent boom in American Railway shares closing our 'Louisville and Nashville' deal at a profit of 762½ per cent. within fourteen days," say Frank Tarrant & Co., 70 and 71, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C. As the enterprising Tarrant & Co. have made such large profits for their clients, they have undoubtedly also secured a fortune for their own account, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that they will retire from business and discontinue pestering absolute strangers in all parts of the country with their touting circulars. All the same, I should like to meet in the flesh any one who has received this magnificent profit of 762½ per cent. in Louisville and Nashville from Frank Tarrant & Co. It is years ago since I conducted an inquiry into the affairs of the Royal Liver Friendly Society of Liverpool, the result being that the Society was rescued from a very precarious position, and worked gradually into a thoroughly sound financial condition again. I am sorry to see, from a circular which has reached me, that there is renewed strife amongst the members. This circular, which has been sent out by Mr. J. J. Winters, speaks of a crisis in the Committee of Management of the Society, the complaint being that there is ceaseless bickering amongst the members of this Committee. The charge is also made that, after an error had been pointed out, an inaccurate balance-sheet had been issued. I daresay that there are two sides to the question, and I shall be glad to hear from the management of the Royal Liver Friendly Society what they have to say for themselves.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

BOB JIFFINGHAM'S ENGAGEMENT.

WHEN that wealthy and rather reckless young fellow, Bob Jiffingham, got himself engaged to Maggie Pillkins, daughter of the Piccadilly tobacconist, so famous for his excellent Havannahs, all his friends said what a confounded fool he was. Bob was not, perhaps, quite a gentleman by breeding, as he certainly was not by birth, being the son of a successful, but decidedly vulgar, curio-dealer, who had raised himself to affluence by a very particular genius in faking. Still, Bob had been well educated, had acquired such polish as public school and 'Varsity life could impart; and, above all, had succeeded, at the age of twenty-three, to the paternal shekels. With these advantages, he might easily have married well; might even have allied himself to a noble family, and have risen in time to be one of the aristocracy of the land. His folly, therefore, in engaging himself to the daughter of a common tobacconist, and thus ruining all his better prospects, was little short of criminal.

Maggie Pillkins, too, had nothing to recommend her, except the one point of good looks. She was fast, pert, slangy; she had the commonest ideas about things in general, and—worse than all—spoke with a Cockney accent. She had flirted for several years behind the counter, and had been in the habit of lighting cigars for masher customers, with whom she would exchange incessant salvoes of loud and spicy chaff. When she became engaged to Bob, he stipulated that this sort of thing, and, in fact, serving in the shop at all, should henceforth cease. His wishes were complied with. But the tone acquired by the damsel behind the counter was not to be obliterated. She remained just what she was—the sow's ear, out of which Bob's father himself (that prince of fakers) could never have manufactured anything distantly resembling a silk purse.

Bob, however, had fallen in love with her bright eyes, which, it cannot be denied, were particularly fine, and was suffering from the blindness incident to that condition. It never occurred to him that Maggie might have been simply attracted by his wealth; and that, as far as his person was concerned, she perhaps valued him at a lesser price than she set on one or two of her more vulgar, and therefore more congenial, admirers. But these things never do occur to rich young men. They always believe that they are loved for themselves. Herein is a difference between the sexes. For rich young ladies always suspect that they are loved for their money. It is one more instance—if instance were needed—of the superior cuteness of the fair sex; one more explosion of the fallacy, which (Heaven knows why) has long associated the ladies with innocence and trustfulness.

Bob then was very deeply in love with Maggie; and, so far from being ashamed, was actually proud of her. He was always taking her about with him, and lost no opportunity of introducing her to his friends. These were mostly of the male kind. The ladies in Bob's circle showed no inclination to become acquainted with Maggie. You could not blame them. Maggie, even when on her best behaviour, was dreadfully loud and vulgar. Her shrill, harsh voice and cockney accent jarred in a truly painful manner upon sensitive ears. It was a wonder that Bob himself was not disgusted by it. But then Bob, being in love, was no doubt deaf as well as blind; and, for any sign that he gave to the contrary, might have considered Maggie's tones to comprise all the most dulcet harmonics of the scale.

When the engagement had lasted for five or six months, Maggie's father, whose feelings were something less delicate than the flavour of his Havannahs, suggested one day to Bob that there was no particular reason for deferring the marriage. Bob cordially concurred. He said that he had, for some time, intended to press Maggie to name a date, but that he had been waiting to arrange certain rather worrying little matters of business before doing so. Maggie's father hoped that nothing serious had happened. "Oh, no," said Bob, "nothing very serious; nothing but what was easily capable of adjustment." Maggie's father looked rather inquisitive, and threw out feelers for more precise information. The young man, however, was evidently indisposed to talk about it, and took the first opportunity of turning the conversation into other channels. But his uneasy manner made an impression on the tobacconist, who decided that he would make a few inquiries, and, in the meantime, keep his eyes open. It was certain that for some weeks Bob had been rather depressed, and not quite himself. Was it possible that he had been wasting his fortune in gambling, speculation, betting, or anything of that sort? Hardly likely, indeed. Bob appeared to have no predisposition that way. Still it could not hurt to institute a few inquiries, and this he—the Havannah seller—would make it his business to do.

Bob escaped from his prospective father-in-law as soon as he could, and went upstairs to join Maggie, whom he heard singing one of her favourite music-hall ditties in the best parlour overhead.

"Hilloa, boy," she exclaimed, as he entered, twisting herself round on the music-stool to face him. "Glad to see you, by the piper! It's jolly slow up here by myself! You look a bit down in the mouth, too. Nothing wrong, I hope."

"I'm feeling rather seedy; that is all, darling," he replied, stooping to kiss her fondly. "But I have arranged a little outing, which, I am sure, will do us both good. Are you game, Maggie?"

"Rather! Just about. I'm spoiling for a spree. What is it?"

"I want you to come to a little dinner in my rooms this evening, and to go to the Gaiety afterwards. I have asked a few friends to join us; and my aunt, Mrs. Sheldon, will be there to play Propriety."

"Oh, stow propriety!" cried Miss Pillkins, with a half-petulant shrug of her ample shoulders. "We're properly engiged, aren't we? And you can tike me out, I suppose, without outriging Mrs. Grundy's susceptibilities? Well, at any rite, I'll come. Pa's just stood me a new evening gaown, yellow satin with red bows. Suits me a treat, I can tell you, boy. The modeest says she never sor anything so stylish."

"Ah, my darling, you would make any gown look stylish," said Jiffingham, admiringly.

"Oh, gao on! But who's to be there this evening besides Aunt Propriety?"

"Mervyn and Anstey—you've met them, haven't you?—and a friend of Mervyn's, whom he particularly wishes to bring. He is over from Ireland, staying with Mervyn. I don't know him myself, except by name. He's a swell—Lord Portmasherry, eldest son of the Earl of Bantry Bay. But Mervyn says he's a real good fellow, and some of the best company in the world."

"Oh, snikes! A live lord!"

Maggie Pillkins trembled with pleasurable anticipation as she spoke.

Bob laughed good-humouredly.

"My dear girl," he said, "lords are just like other men; often not so good. I may add that the greatest ass I have ever met is a Marquess. Titles ain't what they used to be, you know. Money is the go nowadays."

"Hasn't Lord Port—what's his name—got money, then?"

"Oh, yes. He's rich enough. Luckily for them, the family have large estates in England. Their Irish property ain't worth an old hat. But now, darling, let me hear you sing the 'Coster's Serenade.' I've been a bit worried to-day with business, and I want something to soothe me."

Miss Pillkins sang the song required with realistic effect. Also others of the same class and tenor. Bob sat on the sofa and listened, with half-closed eyes. There was no doubt that he looked rather depressed. When, at length, Miss Pillkins rose from the piano, he asked her to come and sit beside him on the sofa, which she did. Maggie was not (to use her own expression when talking to her girl friends) particularly "nuts on the spooning part of an engigement," still, as she phrased it, "you

have to tike the rough with the smooth, and the billings and cooings along with the stitus and the oof." So she came and placed herself beside Bob on the sofa, submitting her waist to his arm and her cheek to his frequent salutes.

To-day, Bob was more than usually tender and affectionate. He addressed Maggie by every endearing term in Cupid's vocabulary, especially harping upon the possessive adjective of the first person and its many synonymous alternatives. At length, he said, suddenly:

"Maggie, darling, you will always be my own, will you not?"

"Of course, boy. Why need you ask?"

"I mean you'll stick to me, through thick and thin, whatever might happen? Nothing shall hinder you from marrying me—eh, Maggie?"

"What do you mean, boy? What's likely to happen?" inquired Miss Pillkins, half sharply.

"Oh, nothing—nothing," answered her lover, with a suppressed sigh. "At least nothing serious. But I like to hear from your own sweet lips that you will always be true to your Bob. And you will, will you not?"

"Ra-a-ther. What d'ye tike me for?" was Maggie Pillkins' not too romantic reply. And then she demanded of him, with a rather suspicious look: "But you're keeping nothing back from me, are you, boy?"

"No, no, darling. It was only my fun. We love one another too well for any concealment, don't we, Maggie? Well, I must be running away now. I have an appointment in the City this afternoon. Good bye, my own little girl. I shall send the brougham to fetch you at seven o'clock."

"Thank'ee, boy. So long!" said Miss Maggie, kissing her hand to him as he bowed himself out.

The brougham arrived at the appointed time, and duly conveyed Maggie Pillkins to Jiffingham's rooms in St. James's-street. The other guests had not arrived, except Bob's aunt, Mrs. Sheldon, an amiable, good-natured old lady, who could not have been rude to any one, and who welcomed her nephew's fiancée with a quite effusive cordiality. Shortly afterwards Anstey turned up, and then Mervyn, accompanied by the "live lord," Viscount Portmasherry. In spite of Bob's assurance that "lords are just like other men," Maggie found herself watching this titled guest with a sensation of pleased curiosity. She saw a handsome, well set-up young man, of agreeable manners and aspect, who appeared anxious to make himself as pleasant and friendly as possible. He was not at all like the Viscounts of whom she had read in novels—pale, languid, and of well-bred hauteur. On the contrary, he was sunburnt, athletic, hearty, and most affable. At dinner, where he sat opposite to Maggie, he enjoyed his food with no suspicion of languor, and cracked jokes all round in the friendliest manner. Altogether, he was the most affable of Viscounts. Maggie thought him really delightful.

Anstey occupied a seat on one side of Maggie and kept up a running flow of conversation with her, which somewhat took her attention off the Viscount.

"Poor Bob looks rather worried, doesn't he?" Anstey remarked, confidentially, in the course of his remarks.

"Yes; I think he does. He tells me that he is a bit seedy. However, I expect he'll soon be all right agine."

"It has been rather a harassing time for him lately, of course."

"Has it? Why?"

"Oh, this confounded South African business. The rebellion in Charterland, and all that, you know."

"I didn't know Bob had friends engiged in it. He never taold me so," answered Miss Pillkins.

"Ah—I didn't mean that. I was referring to the Hottentot market?"

"What's that?" inquired Maggie, not in the least understanding his phrase.

"Why, the mining shares, and all that sort of thing, you know. Gone down with a bang. Regular slump. I advised Bob not to touch 'em. But he would do it."

"Do—do—you think, then, that Bob has been dropping oof?" she asked, with sudden interest, as she recalled her lover's rather mysterious words to her earlier in the day.

"Think? But has not Bob told you?"

"He has told me nothing," answered Maggie, with an aggrieved air.

"Ah, well; then perhaps I ought not to have spoken. I didn't know it was a secret. No doubt he'll tell you shortly. In the meantime, don't say anything about this to Bob, please, Miss Pillkins . . . Hilloa, there's Mrs. Sheldon making the signal to you. How quickly time has gone."

They had a very pleasant evening at the theatre. Maggie's annoyance with, and anxiety about, Bob (which Anstey's words had awakened), was soon forgotten in the pleasure which she derived from Lord Portmasherry's polite attentions. His conversation was certainly charming and his manners most agreeable. He was too polite to engross her attentions all the while that they were at the theatre; still, he talked to her a great deal, and showed by his glances that he decidedly appreciated her charms. Probably, he did not intend to treat her with more than the ordinary homage that every pretty girl has a right to expect. But Maggie's head was in a fair way to be turned by it, and she went home to her father full of the delightful Viscount.

She saw nothing of Bob for the next few days. He wrote twice to explain his absence, saying that he was greatly occupied by pressing business in the City. But on the following afternoon, while out shopping in Bond-street, she happened to meet Lord Portmasherry, who stopped and politely offered to accompany her for a short distance on her way. Nothing loth, she accepted his offer, and spent a most agreeable half-hour in his company. When they parted, his lordship hoped that they might soon have the pleasure of meeting again, and asked her whether she often shopped in Bond-street in the afternoons. "Yes," she answered, "very often;" and, as if to substantiate her statement by her acts, she repaired thither on the very next afternoon. By a curious conjuncture of circumstances, she again fell in with the Viscount, who again accompanied her in her walk. This time, when they parted, he was bolder. He asked whether he might be allowed to call upon her in Regent-street. After some slight hesitation, she gave him leave.

He took advantage of this permission to come and see her next day. When he found himself alone with her in the best front parlour, his manner, for the first time, became awkward and constrained. He talked stupid commonplaces with a vague and distracted air, like a man who has something weighty on his mind and is very ill at ease. At length, however, he shook off his constraint, as if by a great effort, and broke out impulsively:

"Miss Pillkins—I—I—cannot—cannot help it. You—you—must not think me impertinent. But I—I—wish to know the truth. Is it—are you—you engaged to be married to Mr. Jiffingham?"

"Yes," faltered Maggie, in a low voice. "But—but——"

"Then," exclaimed his lordship, rising from his chair, and looking very pale and miserable, "I must leave you at once, Miss Pillkins, and not see you again. I—I—have always been a man of honour, and—and—I will not forfeit that title now; as forfeit it I must if I remain any longer in your presence. Good-bye, Mag—Miss Pillkins, good-bye!"

He moved towards the door as he spoke. Maggie Pillkins watched his retreating form with disappointment—with dismay.

"Oh, stop—stop, my lord!" she gasped, agitatedly.

He came back at the sound of her voice.

"What do you mean?" he demanded, almost fiercely.

"I—I—*am* engiged to Mr.—Mr. Jiffingham. But—but—oh, haow can I tell you?—I have—have—long thought that—that—we are ill—ill-suited—to—to—each other, and—and—I have been meaning—to—to—put an end to it for some time."

"Is this the truth—the Gospel truth?" he exclaimed, in a voice hoarse from suppressed excitement.

"Yes—yes. I—I——"

"And—and—" ejaculated the Viscount, bending forward and scanning her face eagerly. "Do—do—I—read your looks aright, Miss Pillkins—Maggie? Oh, for

God's sake do not tell me that I am mistaken. Do—do—you—love *me?*"

"You are not mistaken—I do love you," replied Maggie, hanging her head in sweet confusion.

In an instant his lordship was at her side, and his arm was round her waist. She let him embrace her—passive, unresisting. She laid her head upon his shoulder, and ever and anon, as they sat together on the sofa—the seat which she and Bob had so often occupied—she murmured in his ear sweet confessions of love and devotion.

After awhile Lord Portmasherry said, "Maggie, my own, I—I—you are still—still engaged to Mr. Jiffingham, you know. And until you have openly broken off with him, I have no right, as a man of honour, to—to—claim you as—as—my promised wife. Will—will—you sever your engagement with him at once?"

"Yes; that I will, boy!"

"Will—will—you—write him a letter, giving him his congé now? I—I—wish to see your father, and to have our engagement recognised by him before I leave you this afternoon. And that I cannot do until you have taken steps to break with Mr. Jiffingham. Come, darling; come, Maggie, my pearl, I am in such a hurry—so jealous—so eager. Do not deny me! Come! Write the letter now, my queen of girls, and I will help you with it. Will you, sweet?"

"Right y'are, boy," answered Miss Pillkins with alacrity.

* * * * *

"So you've got the letter, all right?" said our old friend, Mr. Hydenseke to Bob Jiffingham. "And my little plan has turned out successfully. Now mind, Mr. Jiffingham, if any difficulties should arise, you simply stick to the authorised version of the affair. And you, Mr. Mervyn, of course, you've been simply imposed upon—as others have been—by a scamp of an adventurer, who has been passing himself off as Lord Portmasherry. In fact, if I were you, in order to give the thing more colour, I should just write a letter to the daily papers, warning the public against that impostor. By the way, you will be glad to hear that the young man sailed for New Zealand yesterday, with his £1,000.

"And you will be glad to hear," answered Bob, with a grin, "that the said £1,000 represents my entire loss over the—hem—Hottentot slump!"

MUSIC.

THE BOOM IN ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS.

THE fact that so many concert managers this autumn are speculating in orchestral concerts implies something more than that these gentry are performing their accustomed evolution of following each other like sheep. It means that symphony concerts are paying. Even at the Crystal Palace where the management, vicariously, and through the mouth of a writer whose very name is unfamiliar, seemed inclined to hoist the white flag, business is progressing gloriously. It may, of course, be true that large houses do not always mean commensurately large net profits, for in these commercial days, stars like Sarasate are fully alive to the virtues of "sharing in the gross" receipts. But the Henschel concerts, despite injudicious management in the drawing-up of the programmes, are doing well; the Lamoureux concerts have a big subscription and in fact upwards of eighty London orchestral concerts were announced between October and Christmas, more perhaps than can be heard in any other European capital the year round. Indeed, in some of the supposed "musical centres" of Europe, orchestral music is either strangely neglected, or is much mismanaged. It seems a ridiculous thing that four and sometimes five symphony concerts clash with one another in Paris on Sunday afternoons, while the rest of the week is left to comic or other operas and is altogether blank so far as orchestral performances are concerned. In Berlin orchestral concerts are more numerous, although this week there are only two as against eleven in London, while in Vienna they are comparatively few, the most important being the ten given during the season by the Austrian Philharmonic Society under Richter. At Leipzig, too, the Gewandhaus Concerts are only once a week. In fact, nowhere are there anything like the number of orchestral performances that we are hearing in unmusical London this winter. Every Saturday here there are the afternoon concerts at the Crystal Palace and the evening performances at Queen's Hall. On Sunday there are always two and sometimes three orchestral performances, while this week the Lamoureux Band play daily at Queen's Hall, and the autumn fixtures likewise comprise the concerts given by Mr. Henschel and by numerous amateur bands, some of them, such as the Stock Exchange and the Strolling Players, quite equal to the average professional orchestras, and a good deal better than certain of them who are compelled to grope about in the endeavour to hit upon the French pitch. Then there are the orchestral concerts given by the Royal Academy and the Royal College students, the Westminster Orchestral Society, the Imperial Institute band, the Royal Amateurs, and numerous others.

It might be expected that under such circumstances, and in accordance with the ordinary laws of supply and demand, the salaries of the players would have gone up. But, as a matter of fact, the tendency is to lower the fees. The ordinary rank-and-file at orchestral concerts are supposed to receive a guinea each, this including one rehearsal, while all other rehearsals are paid for at half rates. At the Sunday concerts, however, the bulk of the band accept half price on condition that they shall not be bound to attend any rehearsal at all. The half-price system has started the ball, and, as the alternative to a permanent orchestra, further reductions are threatened. According to a complaint which I see in the Gazette of the "Orchestral Association," itself a sort of trade union for the higher-class bandsmen, Mr. Newman has sought to engage his orchestra for the Saturday night concerts "at terms which work out to a fee somewhat lower than the usual concert terms." This seems to have aroused the sorrow rather than the anger of the Association, although I am bound to say the proceeding appears to me to be strictly in accordance with the time-honoured commercial law of a reduction on taking a quantity. Before Mr. Newman started his Saturday night concerts, that evening was to bandsmen practically a blank, so that, even if they have been asked to accept a reduced fee, they have not much to complain about.

The fees of members of British orchestras are, in fact, the highest in Europe. When there was a suggestion to take a dozen of Dr. Richter's best players to Bayreuth last summer, special terms were settled by Frau Cosima Wagner for the London men, who, however, to their astonishment found that the offer amounted to only £25, for that which, with rehearsals and travelling, was practically a five weeks' engagement, with the privilege of paying their own hotel bills at Bayreuth. This was the highest sum paid at the Festival, and the pecuniary preference thus offered to mere Britons so angered the Germans that the idea of bringing players from London had to be abandoned. Elsewhere on the Continent it is a comparatively frequent thing for the leaders to receive about £2 per week, and the rank and file half that sum, or less. It is for this reason that orchestral concerts can be given so much more cheaply abroad than in London. That the fees here will ever be greatly reduced is, however, unlikely. The total annual earnings of an orchestral player are not what might be called a South African fortune, and although some of the performers eke out their incomes by teaching, the work is hard and not too remunerative.

The worse feature of the orchestral situation lies, perhaps, in the annual output from our academies of dozens of girl players, despite the persistent refusal of conductors to engage women for the band, although some of those very conductors earn their money by teaching

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girls. Under these circumstances it seems a wicked waste of time and money to spend such large sums on the orchestral education of ladies. At the Guildhall School alone there are upwards of 100 girls being taught the violin or some other orchestral instrument. There are also many lady students of these instruments at professional colleges like the Royal College and the Royal Academy of Music, although the authorities know perfectly well that when the girls' education is finished there is not the slightest hope of any one of them being able to turn her talents to account. It may be that conductors are right in preferring male players. But if this be the case, teachers, whether "Principals" or subordinates, are indisputably wrong in encouraging girls to waste their time and their parents' money upon a branch of art which, as a means of livelihood, is absolutely useless, and is, in fact, debarred to them.

Mr. Faber has resolved to purchase the operatic stock in-trade of the late Sir Augustus Harris, and for the whole of Harris's costumes, scenery, &c., he, it is understood, will pay rather over £7,000. The stuff will be added to the wardrobe and scenic collection at Covent Garden, of which Mr. Faber is ground lessee, and thus our principal opera house will exclusively possess the materials for mounting any one of something like 120 operas by giving the indefatigable and trustworthy Mr. Morse a few hours' notice. This will place in the hands of Covent Garden a complete monopoly of opera, for the manager of any other theatre will be compelled to go to the expense of painting special scenery and providing new dresses for any work he desires to mount.

We have only had telegraphic accounts of the newspaper controversy in New York between M. Jean de Reszke and Mme. Nordica. It seems to have been pretty brisk while it lasted, and it no doubt arose from the discussion as to the preference shown by the American public for foreign artists. Mme. Melba, it is said, is paid something like three times the fee of an American prima donna. Whether the journalistic warfare will interfere with the arrangement by which Mme. Nordica will sing Brünnhilde in London to the Siegfried of Jean de Reszke, next year, remains to be seen. The Covent Garden syndicate, however, has just effected two important engagements. The first is that of Mme. Frances Saville, who succeeded Mme. Melba as principal concert soprano in Australia, and who has since been under the same instructress, Mme. Marchesi. Unless her portraits unduly flatter her, Mme. Saville, who in private life is known as Mrs. Rown, is a woman of great beauty, and she brings an excellent Paris reputation. The other engagement is that of M. Van Dyck, who sang here six years ago, and who will now replace M. Alvarez. There is also some talk, but at present only a talk, of the engagement of Signor Tamagno, who, at any rate, proposes to be here in the course of the summer.

In one of the advertisements which I quoted last week from the *Daily Telegraph* as to Mr. Lansdowne Cottell's London Conservatoire of Music occurred the following line, "Opinions of the principal London papers recording the concerts and successes during the last twenty years, post free." Upon this point I have received a cutting from the *Era* of the 31st ult., concerning that which the reporter, in his most luxuriant vein, calls "a brilliant assemblage last Saturday night in the concert-room of the London Conservatoire." The musical portion of the notice commences thus:—

A mazurka, by Wicniawski, for violin and pianoforte, was the first item of the concert. Mr. F. Rubenius and Mr. J. W. Norton were the performers, and were greeted with cordial applause. Several pianoforte solos and duets were given. In one of the latter Miss Lansdowne Cottell joined Mr. R. Halton Pearce with complete success, the music being from Brahms and and Moszkowski. It was interpreted with adequate skill. Miss Cottell afterwards played her father's clever pianoforte piece called "A Sea Song."

I am informed by two people who really were present that neither Mr. Rubenius nor Miss Cottell took part in the concert, and that, although their names were down in the programme, the works announced for them were omitted. If this be the case, it will pretty plainly show the exact value of appreciative notices of this character.

The centenary of Schubert's birth is to be celebrated at the Crystal Palace, where Schubert has always been held in high honour, several of his works having, indeed, been performed there for the first time in England, and in one or two instances for the first time in Europe. There are to be two special Schubert concerts at the commencement of the spring season. No doubt also there will be Schubert programmes at the Monday Popular Concerts; but elsewhere, down to date, the centenary seems to be overlooked.

I must run very rapidly through some of the more important concerts of the week. At Queen's Hall on Saturday night Dvorák's symphonic poem, "Der Wassermann," was produced for the first time in England. No doubt it is a clever piece of workmanship, but the attempt to illustrate the repulsive story of a wicked sprite, who, to revenge himself upon his wife, decapitates his baby, and throws the headless trunk at the cottage-door of his mother-in-law, is, happily, impracticable in music. Surely there are more pleasant Bohemian national stories than this for Dr. Dvorák's acceptance. At the Crystal Palace, and also a few days later on at the Lamoureux Concerts, M. Vincent D'Indy's symphonic poem, "The Enchanted Forest," was produced. This is a light and agreeable piece, though quite of the French school of eighteen years ago. That the music has little or nothing to do with the story of Uhland's ballad, which narrates how the wood elves enticed away a party of knights and sent their leader to an almost everlasting sleep, is hardly the fault of M. Vincent D'Indy. Mr. Henschel at his first concert produced Smetana's so-called symphonic poem "Richard III." The performance was rather rough, and, indeed, Mr. Henschel this year has been very unwise in placing his principal novelties at the end of the programmes, when his band and the audience alike must be tired. Whether the "Richard III." of this symphonic poem is the Crook-back of Gloucester or some local monarch I am unaware. In either case, however, it matters little.

Perhaps the most interesting of the chamber concerts of the past week was that given by Mr. Gompertz, who produced Professor Stanford's new quartet in D minor. Here, curiously enough, both in a much too long slow movement and in the finale we have decided reminiscences of Irish tune, as though, indeed, as somebody said, the ghost of Shamus O'Brien had wandered through the quartet. Mr. Eugene D'Albert drew a big audience to the Popular Concerts on Saturday, when he played Beethoven's "Sonata Appassionata." Another clever pianist, Miss Aus der Ohe, a former pupil of Liszt, came out at the Henschel Concert, but she will be heard to greater advantage in a recital or a chamber programme. Mr. Luard Selby, at his concert, brought out a cleverly-written duet sonata, for pianoforte and violin.

I am glad to hear better news of the health of Miss Sofia Ravogli. This young lady, shortly after her arrival with her sister, Giulia, a few weeks ago to fulfil some concert engagements in England, was seized with typhoid fever, and lay at death's door. There is now reason to hope that she will recover. On the other hand, I have bad news of the once eminent operatic tenor, Signor Italo Campanini, who is at his native Parma, suffering from a malady which the doctors declare quite hopeless. However, Campanini is a man of only fifty, and, as he is in the full vigour of ripe manhood, I trust the reports are exaggerated.

MORTLOCK'S China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

TYPEWRITERS AND CYCLES FOR SALE OR HIRE. Great bargains in Standard Machines.—N. TAYLOR, Manager, 74, Chancery-lane, London. Established 1884.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Both by association and by derivation an idyll has a right to be something pastoral or poetic, something ideal, delicate, and dainty; but Mr. Baring Gould's "Dartmoor Idylls" (1) are for the most part earthly, sensual, and gross. What is there idyllic, for instance, in the ideal joys—either of earth or heaven—depicted in "Goosie-Vair?" A bridegroom on his wedding-day is most of all enchanted with the goose of the bridal feast, and on each succeeding anniversary of this happiest day and dinner of his life he recalls the memory of its bliss by smoking sage and onions in his pipe. At his death his brother-in-law forced between the teeth of the corpse a pipe charged with sage and onions, in order that his sister, at the Resurrection, should have the happy surprise of recognising her husband through the delicate aroma of these condiments. Nor is the humour of these idylls more ethereal. A minister, in preaching against a Romish cross which had stood immemorially upon the moors, declared that Apollyon not only sat upon it, but curled his tail about it, and so emphasised by pulpit-thumping the statement that "he would have made his audience jump like fleas" if they had not been either asleep or thinking of their dinners. Next day he set forth to uproot the cross with his own hands, but had to take refuge upon it from a mad bull:—

"Depart, son of iniquity! Beast of Abaddon! I anathematise thee! Go far from me!" shouted the man, curling his long legs round the cross. "Oh, my gracious! he has twisted his horns in my tail!" He meant the tails of his long black coat. "You foul spirit!" shouted he, "I'll tell Butcher Edgcombe of you. I'll ask him to strike you between the horns with his axe. I'll order a round out of you, I'll have it salted, I'll eat it—I will, and enjoy it too!"

If fun must be made out of a man in a frenzy of terror, it surely ought to have been of a kind less forced and foolish than this. The fun of "The Sorrows of a Golfer's Wife" (2) is at times a little heavy-handed. A butler who hands round golf-balls at dessert by mistake, and a cook who intentionally serves them up in a pie, are not exquisitely humorous conceptions. The real fun of the novel is unconscious—the tragic horror of the little spit-fire of a wife at her husband's iniquitious absorption in golf. In all other respects she admits him to have been the kindest and most generous husband in the world; but his absorption in the game is so insupportable to her that she runs away from home on the eve of her confinement, at the risk and almost at the cost of her life! The only adequate treatment of such a case would be the feminine prescription, "She wants a good shaking." I must say, however, that, though your sympathies are out of tune throughout with those of the author, the novel is bright and readable. You will remember, perhaps, how charmed I was with "Eyes Like the Sea" and with "Timar's Two Worlds," and you will understand, therefore, the eagerness with which I opened "Black Diamonds" (3) by the same author. Well, it also is a fine novel of its romantic kind, but it is not to be compared in art or in interest with either of its predecessors. Its hero is too heroic, and too conscious also of his heroism, while the narrative of his exploits is too discursive.

"Look round you from this hill!" he cries to the girl to whom he is proposing. "Everything that lives in this valley owes its breath to me; every blade of grass has to thank me that it is now green. Hill and valley know that, under God, I have saved them from destruction. I have acquired a million, and I have not despoiled any one. With every penny I receive a blessing. In the palace of the prince, and in the cottage of the widow, I have dried the tears of despair. My name is spoken of with admiration all over the globe, and yet I have hid myself *here*, not to be troubled with their praises. I do not care for praise. The most lovely of women has smiled on me and loved me, but she was not of *my* world. My world is within me, and into that inner world of mine no one has ever entered, no one *will* ever enter *but you!* Speak, Evila! Answer me. Will you try to love me?"

This was all true, no doubt, but he was hardly the man, and it was hardly the moment to proclaim it. You are presumed in proposing to be thinking of the lady's perfections rather than of your own, and Evila's record was as noble of its kind as his. The fine portrait of Maurus Jokai with the orders on his breast—which forms the frontispiece of the novel—enhances the humour of the conclusion of the catalogue of honours heaped upon the hero:—

The simple villagers of Bondavara prayed for him night and morning; and when the first train steamed out of the station the locomotive bore his name. It was only God's providence that preserved him from receiving "an order."

No one can charge "The Last of the Haddons" (4) with forgetting how Christian a grace is humility, since self-effacement of the most Apostolic kind is the moral of the story. To say the truth, I felt in reading it a little like one of the unworthy souls in Swedenborg's other world, who, bored to death by the company of archangels, slips out of it at the first opportunity. All, or almost all, the characters are of the straitest tract pattern, and recall those silhouettes of my youth—square-cut, black, formal, and showing only a Sunday side face. It would be just the book for a Sunday-school prize, though even Sunday-school readers would resent the extreme propriety which prevented the last of the Haddons marrying her priggish "affinity," Robert Wentworth. From "The Last of the Haddons" to "The World's Great Snare" (5) is a far cry indeed. Every ingredient that has ever gone to the brewing of a melodrama has been flung into Mr. Phillips Oppenheim's cauldron to "make the gruel thick and slab." In every chapter almost you have a scene like that in which the heroine saves her own virtue and her lover's life by shooting her would-be ravisher:—

He laughed—a long hideous laugh which seemed to find a hundred strange echoes as it rolled away across the plain. Still she stood like a marble figure. Too late he stopped short, sobered by that strange set look in her ashen face—too late, for her hand had stolen out of the bosom of her gown. There was a flash, a loud report, and with a curse which twisted his lips and left them apart for ever, Dan Cooper threw up his arms, and rolled over like a log.

But it is such uncommonly appetising melodrama of its fiery-seasoned kind, that your interest is kept breathless from the first page to the last.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN

(1) "Dartmoor Idylls." By S. Baring Gould. London: Methuen & Co. Price 6s.
(2) "The Sorrows of a Golfer's Wife." By Mrs. Edward Kennard. London: F. V. White & Co.
(3) "Black Diamonds." By Maurus Jokai. London: Jarrold & Sons. Price 6s.
(4) "The Last of the Haddons." By Mrs. Newman. London: Jarrold & Sons. Price 3s. 6d.
(5) "The World's Great Snare." By E. Phillips Oppenheim. London: Ward & Downey, Limited.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—They have such lovely things just now at the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company's showrooms at 112, Regent-street. We went to get some Christmas presents to send to friends in India and Africa, and, as one is permitted to look at everything there without being bothered to buy, and all the articles are marked in plain prices, we enjoyed ourselves extremely. One of the first things that caught my eye was a pansy carried out in opal matrix, with a diamond in the centre and small gold leaves on a golden stem. A new design in bracelets is certain to be popular. The twisted gold bangle has a circular gold pendant in which the stone of the month is set, so that birthday gifts can have a peculiarly appropriate significance in this way. For instance, a girl born in July has the ruby for her lucky stone. The emerald belongs to May, and both sapphire and diamond to April. The bangles are

BUSVINE'S New Styles of Ladies' Fur-trimmed Cloth Jackets are separately designed and specially modelled to suit each particular figure.—Sketches by post, 4, Brook-street, W. "Positively moulded to the figure by the skilful hands of BUSVINE."—*Queen.*

sure to take, especially as the date or name or monogram can be inscribed on the reverse of the circle. Other bracelets, also novel in design, have alternate cluster and chain in jewels and gold, the former consisting of rubies and diamonds, emeralds and diamonds, sapphires, pearls, or all diamonds. A most lovely girdle made of many strands of fine pearls is finished at the ends with tassels of pearls caught into a calyx of gold, one of them set with diamonds and rubies, and the other with diamonds and sapphires. The girdle can also be used as a necklace, twisted twice round the neck. and the tassels falling in front. It is a beautiful and graceful piece of jewellery. A necklet for a young girl is in fine pearls with a delicate little pendant, the centre of which is a turquoise surrounded by diamonds.

Muff-chains are always acceptable presents, and the Goldsmiths have plenty of new patterns prepared for the season of gifts. One in gold and pearls and diamonds has the latter set open, so that they are visible on both sides. Some are enamel; others have stained cornelian, green or blue, or the plain gold cornelian which has become so fashionable of late. These stones are cut in two and divided by a rondel of white topaz. This is the new way of treating them. A bicycle brooch has the wheels surrounded by diamonds. Very jolly they look, too. Diamond-headed side combs are in more ornate designs than they have been. Some we saw were most attractive, being in a pattern of leaves and buds, the points rising higher in the centre than at the sides. Opals are growing steadily in favour, and will soon be among the most fashionable stones. A magnificent necklet has five enormous opals set in diamonds in such a way that the various portions come apart, forming brooches. The workmanship of this is intricate and admirable. I admired the wrong side of it for a long time. The mounting is all done in England, I am glad to say.

You would have delighted, as we did, in the beauty of a dog-collar of large pearls, ranged in five rows and most exquisitely matched. Diamonds, in a design of Staffordshire knots forming a trellis work, separate the pearls at intervals, keeping them in position and adding to their softness the contrast of their glittering splendour. Long strings of pearls are now in demand, it seems. One we saw, fifty-four inches long, was a lovely thing. Some of these strings cost as much as £7,000. The new diamond brooches struck us as mightily attractive. One is a Louis XVI. scroll, with small pendent brilliants that quiver always, thus adding to the effect of the jewels themselves. Another is heart-shaped, a copy from the antique; and a third is merely a Virginia creeper leaf in diamonds. A comet in brilliants is another novelty. Gold brooches are in the form of a flight of swallows, dragon-flies, merrythoughts, with an emerald or a diamond lighting them up; golf irons, with a jewelled grasshopper perched on it, pearl and diamond flies on a "knife-edge" gold pin, and so on. If you want to know the prices of all these pretty things, you must send early in December for the catalogue, which will be ready by the first of that month.

Aunt Tabitha has been spending a few days with us. She has favoured Richard with some of her usual strictures on things in general. Chronic disapprobation of everybody and everything is her moral atmosphere.

She reads her Bible daily, goes to church regularly, and performs the usual duties of the Christian; but she has no true Christianity within her, no loving-kindness, no pardon for faults, no excuses for sinners. Her heart must be a flint. To suffering that is brought before her ken she is sympathetic enough. But to all the great world beyond the range of her vision, she is adamant. Condemnatory of every one, she forms her harsh opinions without sufficient data, but never alters them.

Is she very unusual? I fancy not. There are men and women who are always mentally "'eaving 'arf bricks" at the community. Self-constituted censors, they dislike this, hate that, can't understand the other, and have no patience with something else. I think my poor old aunt represents a rather numerous class.

You should hear her about the New Woman. She has quite a gift in "slinging epithets." She never sees a girl on a bicycle without remarking "forward minx" in more or less audible tones, and during her visit our moral cowardice was such that we hid away our bicycles in simple fear of what she might say about us. Deceptions of this sort never answer, as you must have discovered for yourself ere now; and on the very last evening of her stay Richard suddenly said, at dinner, "Well, girls, what have you been about all the afternoon? Been biking?" You never saw such guilty faces as suddenly blossomed into blushes round the table. Aunt Tabitha looked sharply up from her curry, and, without the smallest error, read the whole situation at a glance. She is a little bit afraid of Richard, so she only sneered and uttered a horrid little "Hee-hee!" at the time. When we went to the drawing-room Bee and Clare disappeared, and I heard a smothered titter from one, "Poor Madge!" from the other.

Oh! it was "Poor Madge," I assure you. That terrible old woman said awful things. She spoke of knickerbockers as if the wearing of them was the first step on the road to perdition. "But we *always* wear skirts!" I cried. "What does that matter? You know you've got those horrid things on underneath!" was her senseless answer.

"You wouldn't have us wear petticoats on a bicycle?" I asked, and her reply was,

"I wouldn't have you adopt any form of amusement that is inconsistent with the wearing of petticoats!"

Did you ever? She made me think of the woman who had never taken a bath because she was too modest.

Aunt Tabitha was delivering herself at her topmost screech, when the door quietly opened and Richard came in. He stood for a moment unseen by her, and then suddenly disappeared, with a face of dismay, and with such remarkable alacrity and promptitude, that I could not help laughing. This drove the poor old girl simply furious, and she soon grew so exhausted that she had to go to bed.

Then it was my turn to scold, and I arraigned Richard and the girls with a charge of cowardice when they came softly in, apologetic and deprecatory. I don't want Aunt Tabitha to stop here ever again. She would make an ideal representation of the Goddess of Acrimony.

* * * * *

The sash has come back to stay. Out of place as it is on an afternoon winter costume under a warm coat, it is yet seen on three out of every four smart walking dresses. Wide and long, it is occasionally more of an embarrassment than a decoration.

Brown and mauve are the favourite contrast in millinery. I think I like it, but not when the tint of mauve is too vivid or when there is too much gold in the brown. I saw a very sweet toque the other day in mauve velvet with shaded mauve chrysanthemums and brown feathers for trimming. With it was worn a brown veil. You know, I suppose, that veils of mauve and violet tulle are worn again. They are far from being universally becoming, but those whom they do suit they embellish marvellously.

Have you seen the new mahogany hair yet? It is funny to observe the change into something rich and strange that is coming over the heads of our acquaintances just now. Some of them are in a transition stage, the hair being on its way to the new colour, but not yet arrived. Other heads have achieved it, and the owners have usually found an elaborate make-up necessary if

History of Feminine Costume. Tracing its evolution from the earliest times to the present. 38 illustrations. Price 6d. Published by Liberty & Co., Ltd., London and Paris. (To be obtained from principal Booksellers or Publishers direct.)

Hunting.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is produced by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Corsets built by Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

they would avoid looking ghastly from the contrast of pallid skin and mahogany locks. One or two of our friends, halting midway between two opinions, who have abandoned the idea of dyeing to so deep a tone, show the most extraordinary mixture of light and shade. Altogether, the new dye has been already prolific of amusement to us, and we are still awaiting developments.

What a saving of time, trouble, and money it is to be content with Nature's own colour schemes in hair, on cheeks and brow, to say nothing of outline. Many a smart woman might paraphrase Wolsey's famous speech, and wish she had paid as much attention to her soul as she had done throughout life to her body. It would be a better investment.

I love portraits and miniatures. They are, in one way, better than the originals, for one can have a good stare at them without the embarrassment of being caught in the act of gazing. Of course, this is enjoyable only when the portrait is a good one. At the Grafton Galleries, the exhibition that opened on Friday affords some excellent opportunities for this amusement, and I had a good look at the Prince, as portrayed by Mr. A. Stuart-Wortley. He has a nice face, and but for the retreating forehead that, in common with all his brothers except the Duke of Coburg, he has inherited from his father, he would have a very intellectual head. There is some tendency to heaviness at the back, but H.R.H. is an immense improvement on the Georges. A century of civilisation might have intervened between grandfather and grandson. Little Lady Marjorie Cochrane's lovely face has been charmingly depicted by Mrs. Waller. She is the youngest daughter of the Earl of Dundonald. Mr. Ellis Roberts' portrait of the Duchess of Sutherland has a splendid position on the dais, near the Duke of Portland and his stepbrothers, and the pretty Countess of Dalkeith in white satin and a summer hat. Near these a group of portraits of the Millais family enchain the attention. The artist's likeness is by G. F. Watts, R.A., but all the rest were painted by the adoring husband and father himself.

Gustave Courtois' "Girl in Red" piques the curiosity. One would like to know all about the owner of that gentle, lovely face and delicate figure, with the white arms and refined hands. The "red" consists of a Japanese embroidered robe, turned back with sky-blue at the neck. Mr. William Stott's depressing picture of his father and mother reappears in this exhibition. I am told that it is very clever. I had a long look at Mme. Sarah Grand. I should never have suspected her of the "Heavenly Twins" if I had not known that she wrote the book. She has none of the characteristics of the rebel or the fighter.

Why should Miss Emma N. look so different in her dressing-glass and out of it, as she does in 163? Before referring to the catalogue, I guessed Lady Ulrica Duncombe's portrait to be that of her sister, the late Duchess of Leinster. It is a lovely profile likeness by Lady Granby.

One could spend a week among the miniatures, so fascinating are they, but to enjoy them properly they should not be taken after the pictures; so we intend to go and see them some other day, and "do" them thoroughly.

In a short time Cosenza begins to give at his premises in Wigmore-street demonstration lessons on soups and sauces. Admission is free by invitation-cards, which can be procured by applying to the firm. I think I intend to go if I can make time, and expect to become very clever in these two branches of cookery in consequence.

The annual sale of work in connection with the Ladies' Work Association at Craven-terrace, Lancaster Gate, is to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 1 and 2, at Spencer House, St. James', by permission of Mr. B. I. Barnato. It opens at half-past two each day, and lasts till half-past six. This Society does so much good in relieving poor gentlewomen by enabling them to find a market for their work, that you must ask all your friends who will be in town that day to go and buy something.

It has been remarked over and over again that, for Autumn and Winter wear, a lady never looks better and more suitably clad than in a Redfern Gown. Messrs. REDFERN's New Models are now ready. Inspection invited.—26, Conduit-street, W.

Clare sends the following from Dublin :—

DEAREST MADGE.—The beginning of November is essentially a "shopping" time. The occupation which is usually our pastime and recreation becomes then a necessity, and by being turned into a duty assumes a stern aspect. For the thing which must be done is very different—even when it is the same thing—from what we may do or leave undone, according to the dictates of our own sweet wills. No one can question that the getting of a winter outfit is a very serious matter, and one which grows in seriousness each year, with the need of a special costume for each special fad and occupation which we take up. The cycling, the hockey, the golfing dresses are late additions to our wardrobes. If our costumes continue to increase at the rate of the last few years, a wardrobe room must join the box room as a necessity in every house. Even without specialities, what a task the outfitting of oneself is for the winter. Everything to be new, or at least renewed, which is still worse. Hats, bonnets, mantles, dresses, &c. The strain on the strongest taste for dress is so severe that the most ardent enthusiast of the clothes cult runs a risk of being satiated with its rites. One thinks with envy, in the whirl and worry of the winter shopping, on the robin of the poet, who gets a "fuller crimson" on his breast—it might as well be "vest"—only in the spring. Of all the wearisome occupations in the world, can any compare to the fitting on of clothes? Were I a personage, I should certainly have the operation done by deputy. Not that the highest lady in the land does this. Apropos of this subject, Court etiquette, always very curious, seems to surpass itself. When the Sovereign is being fitted it is not according to etiquette for her to directly address the fitter or be addressed by her; communications have to be made through the lady-in-waiting, who is present. Can anything be more idiotic? A revision of Court etiquette to make it more conformable to average human society and modern ideas would be a good work by which to celebrate the record reign.

Last and not least serious in the business of the winter outfit is the element of uncertainty which the weather of these climes introduces. The same risks attend our investments as attend those of the Stock Exchange: if we buy for a fall, there may be a rise, and vice versâ. The furs, which, to go by the American prophets, would be the only wear for the coming winter, may be made impossible by a season of mild mugginess, such as not seldom visits us.

Dublin is still socially stagnating. The world which amuses itself is engaged in outdoor pastimes, chiefly hunting, especially in the neighbourhood of Dublin. The capital is within easy reach of the meets of the Meath, Kildare and Ward Union hounds, which gives the hunting man—including woman—ample opportunity. A new feature of the meets is the large attendance of cyclists. As yet they do not go across country, but a time will probably come when a further development of cycle science will enable them to do so.

Last week the flagstaff at the Viceregal Lodge still stood up bare against the wintry sky. Lord Cadogan had not yet returned to resume the burthen of "onerous duties and heavy responsibilities" which he seems to think rest upon his shoulders. By the way, here, in Ireland, we wonder what they are, and, furthermore, who it is that bears them, whilst the Irish Viceroy goes his calm round of English country visits. What a different time our Lord-Lieutenant has from the Viceroys of India and Canada. How they must envy him his frequent holidays, and smile at his idea of hard work. The newspaper which is, what one may call, the inspired organ of Dublin Castle, announced last week that the coming season "would be, if possible, more brilliant than the last." A season which was half a mourning one and curtailed of a fortnight! How sad for us that "if possible," who have allowed ourselves to expect better things than a mourning season gave. And what a descent from the "brilliancy" of the inspired prophecies which heralded Lord Cadogan's reign. If only we had a Viceroy who would seriously devote himself to promoting the "Society" industry in Dublin, how advantageous it would be for trade.

A good many shooting parties have been going on through the country. Lord and Lady Portarlington have been entertaining at Ems, Lord and Lady Rosse at Birr Castle, and Lord and Lady Carew had the Count of Turin staying with them in the county of Wexford, and, of course, a party to meet him.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Here are the recipes I promised you. This is a delightful way of dressing a young hare with cream sauce :—

Take a young, full-grown hare and prepare it for roasting. Lard the back thickly with strips of fat bacon. Tie a greased paper over it and roast it before a brisk fire, basting very frequently. Now take the hare from the fire, remove the paper, and put it in the oven to dry the larding, glaze it lightly with thin glaze and serve it on a dish with groups of French beans, cut in diamond-shaped pieces, boiled and tossed in a stewpan with salt, pepper, and a few drops of lemon juice. Serve cream sauce and red-currant jelly in separate boats. To make the sauce: Put a

gill of thick cream and 2 oz. of butter into a stewpan and stir it incessantly over the fire until quite hot, but it must not be allowed to boil.

The remains of a dish of jugged hare make a delicious purée :—

Pick out every particle of bone, and pound the meat with the sauce until it is a pulpy mass ; warm it in a stew-pan and rub through the tammy, add sufficient stock to make the desired quantity of soup, and stir over the fire until quite hot, but on no account allow it to boil. Season, if necessary, with salt, cayenne pepper, lemon juice, and half a glass of port wine, and serve with dice-shaped croûtons of fried bread on a separate plate.

This is a very old recipe for "Clear Hare Soup." It is lovely. An old hare will answer the purpose admirably:—

Having skinned and paunched the hare, reserve the blood, remove the fillets and place them aside for the quenelles, cut every particle of meat from the carcass and chop the bones ; put them into a stewpan, with the flesh of the hare cut into fine dice cover with cold water, bring slowly to the boil, skim thoroughly, and simmer for six or seven hours, adding an onion stuck with two cloves, a stick of celery, a carrot, a blade of mace, 6 peppercorns and a piece of lean ham. When the soup is sufficiently boiled, strain it through a cloth and return it to the stewpan with the white part of a couple of sticks of celery previously cut into strips 1 in. long and ⅛ in. thick and parboiled in salt water for ten minutes ; simmer the soup for half-an-hour longer, then add a glass of port wine, a pinch of cayenne pepper, a squeeze of lemon juice, and the quenelles. Put the blood of the hare into the tureen, pour in the soup, stir, and be careful that it does not curdle. The soup should be served immediately. To make the quenelles, put 3 parts of a gill of the hare broth into a stewpan, stir in about 1 oz. of bread crumbs, and simmer until it is a stiff paste, pound the fillets, add 1 oz. of butter and the prepared panada, pound again until the ingredients are well blended, add an egg, season with salt and pepper, rub through a wire sieve, and mould into quenelles with two teaspoons. Blanch them in a small quantity of boiling stock.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

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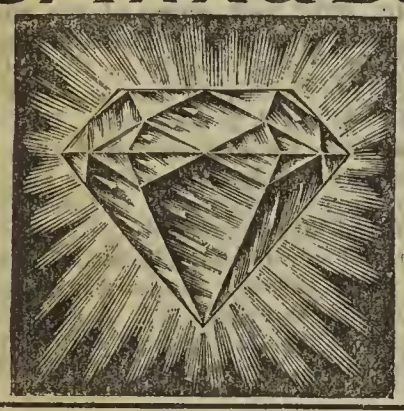

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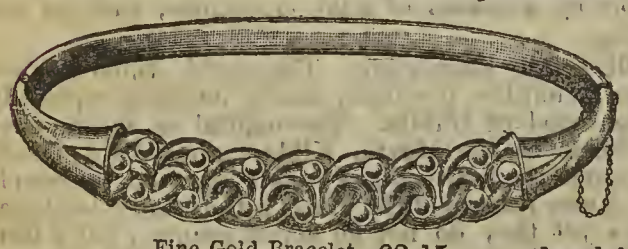

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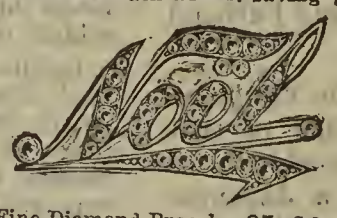

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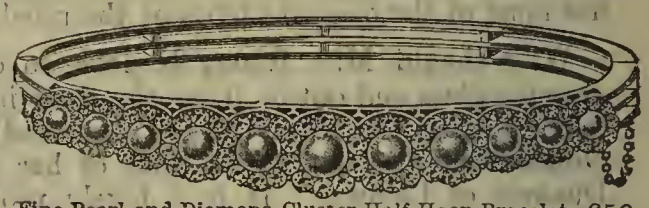

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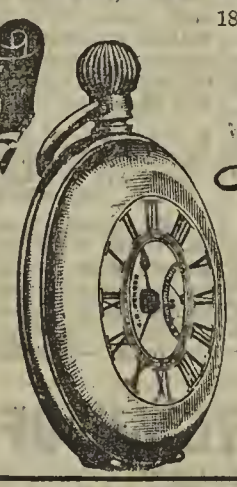

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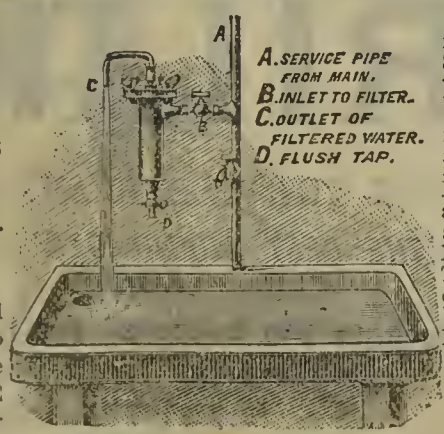

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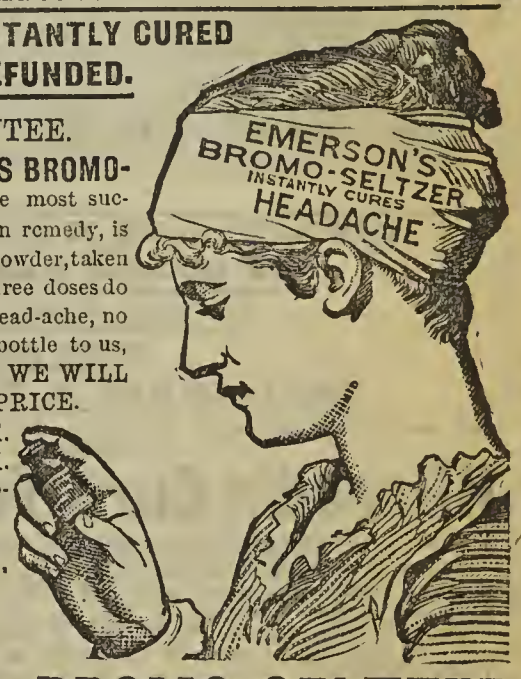

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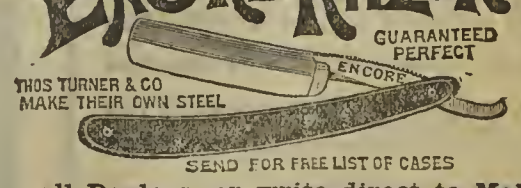

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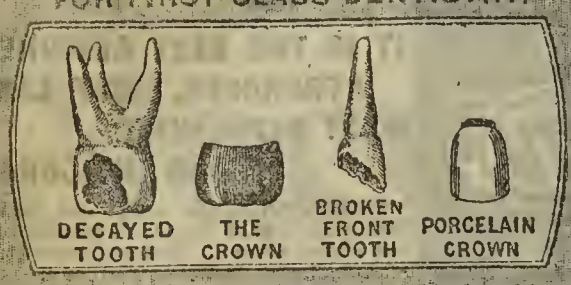

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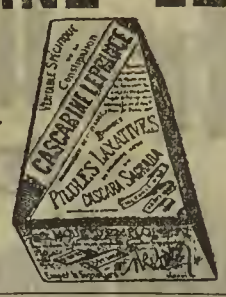

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THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS & CO., JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

For ECZEMA and all Skin Diseases wash with this Soap.

DR. MACKENZIE'S ARSENICAL SOAP 6d. & 1s.

Produces a lovely complexion, and cures Spots, Pimples, &c.

For ECZEMA and all Skin Diseases wash with this Soap.

DR. MACKENZIE'S ARSENICAL SOAP 6d. & 1s.

Produces a lovely complexion, and cures Spots, Pimples, &c.

The most emollient and soothing Toilet Soap in the World for irritable skins. Madame ADELINA PATTI writes from Craig-y-nos Castle:—"I find Dr. Mackenzie's Arsenical Toilet Soap most excellent." Beware of the many imitations. Have Dr. Mackenzie's or none.

Asthma, Bronchitis,

DIFFICULT BREATHING,

Promptly & Effectually Relieved

BY THE USE OF

SAVORY & MOORE'S

DATURA TATULA.

Cigars and Cigarettes—Boxes, 3s., 6s., 8s., and 15s., Tobacco—Tins, 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and 18s. For Non-Smokers, Pastilles and Powder for Burning and Inhalation—Tins, each containing a censer for burning, 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s.

SAVORY & MOORE, London.

And of Chemists everywhere.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,

33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

A Bad Complexion

4d

is often due to a bad soap.

BLOTCHES ARE REPULSIVE, AND WILL MAR THE APPEARANCE OF ANY FACE. YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM WITH BAD SOAP.

VINOLIA

IS A

COMPLEXION

4d

SOAP.

VINOLIA CREAM.—For Itching, Eczema, Face Spots, &c., 1/1½ and 1/9.
VINOLIA POWDER.—For Roughness, Redness, Toilet, &c., 1/1 and 1/9.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE
JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.
BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.
LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.
NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, and CLOSE on or before THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 1896, for both town and country.

CAMPBELL PRAED & CO., LIMITED, BREWERS, WELLINGBOROUGH.—Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.—Share capital £100,000, divided into 10,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each.

ISSUE of £100,000 FOUR PER CENT. PERPETUAL FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK at the price of £105 per cent., payable as follows:—

On Application,	10 per cent.	
On Allotment,	45 ,,	(including premium).
On 17th Dec., 1896,	50 ,,	
	£105	

The stock will be transferable in multiples of £5, and will be registered in the books of the Company. The interest will be payable half-yearly on the 31st March and 30th September in each year.

The first warrant will be issued on the 31st March, 1897, and will be for the amount of interest accrued from the dates on which the several instalments fall due.

The Company is at liberty to create and issue further Debenture Stock not exceeding £50,000 ranking *pari passu* with the stock now offered, provided further properties suitable for the purposes of the Company, worth at least twice the nominal amount of such further stock (and not purchased with the £20,000 cash, part of the proceeds of the present issue, which will remain with the Company), are added by way of first mortgage.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK-HOLDERS.
The Right Hon. the Viscount Dungarvan.
Mackworth Praed.

DIRECTORS.
Campbell Praed, Praed's Brewery, Wellingborough.
Herbert B. Praed, 29, St. James'-place, London, S.W.
W. K. D'Arcy, Stanmore Hall, Stanmore.
Herbert Sartoris, Weekly, Kettering.

BANKERS.
Lloyds Bank, Limited, 222, Strand, London, W.C., and all Branches.
The Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, Wellingborough.
SOLICITORS.—Nicholl, Manisty, & Co., 1, Howard-street, Strand, W.C.
AUDITORS.—Edwin Belfield & Co., Chartered Accountants, 57, Moorgate-street.
SECRETARY (*pro tem.*).—Andrew Barr.
REGISTERED OFFICE.—Star Chambers, 30, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire as from 30th September, 1896, the brewery business of Messrs. Campbell Praed & Co., at Wellingborough. The business is a very old-established one, and Mr. Campbell Praed, who has managed the business for the last 18 years, has consented to act as Managing Director for the term of five years.

All mortgages and liabilities existing at the date above-mentioned will be discharged by the vendors, and the vendors will pay all costs and expenses of and incident to the formation of the Company and the present issue of Debenture stock.

£20,000, part of the proceeds of the present issue of Debenture stock, will remain with the Company for further development and working capital.

The assets of the Company will comprise the Freehold Brewery, Storehouses, Stables, Freehold Trade Houses, &c., &c., which, with £20,000 cash (part of proceeds of present issue), are valued at a total of £158,698.

The assets will also comprise seven Trade houses held by the firm on lease or under tenancies, and the general goodwill of the business mentioned in the report of Messrs. Collins, Tootell, & Co., Brewery Valuers and Accountants, but not included in the valuation.

The First Mortgage Debenture stock will be secured by a First Mortgage to the trustees for the Debenture stockholders of the whole of the Company's freehold and leasehold properties and fixed plant, and by a floating charge upon the other property, and the undertaking of the Company.

Messrs. Edwin Belfield & Co., chartered accountants and brewery valuers, report that the profits of the business including rentals have been as follows; For the year ending 30th September, 1894, £8,869. 6s. 7d.; 1895, £10,561. 6s. 2d.; 1896, £12,904. 0s. 4d.

Giving an average for the three years of £10,778. 4s. 4d. per annum. To which must be added the interest or profit to be derived from the £20,000 cash above mentioned.

The interest on the £100,000 First Mortgage Debenture stock will only amount to £4,000.

Application for Debenture stock should be made on the form accompanying the full prospectus, and forwarded with a cheque for the deposit to Lloyds Bank, Limited, 222, Strand, London, W.C., or any branch of Lloyds Bank, Limited, or to the Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, Wellingborough.

Full prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained from the Bankers or Solicitors, or at the offices of the Company.

November 14th, 1896.

No.....

This form is to be filled up and forwarded entire, with cheque for the amount of the deposit, to Lloyds Bank, Limited, 222, Strand, London, W.C., or any of their branches, or to the Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, Wellingborough.

CAMPBELL PRAED & CO., Limited.
Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.
FORM OF APPLICATION FOR FOUR PER CENT. PERPETUAL FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK.

To the Directors of Campbell Praed & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £ as a deposit of £10 per cent. on £ Four per Cent. Perpetual First Mortgage Debenture stock, I request you to allot me that amount of such Debenture stock, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller amount that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Company's prospectus, dated 14th November, 1896, and to pay £45 per cent. on allotment, and £50 per cent. on 17th December, 1896, as provided by the prospectus.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date 1896
Signature .....

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

The List of Applications will open on Saturday, the 21st November, and close for London and Country on or before Tuesday, the 24th November, 1896, at 4 p.m.

PAQUIN, LIMITED,

3 & 5, Rue de la Paix, Paris, & 39, Dover-street, London, W.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - £500,000,

Divided into

50,000 Cumulative Six per Cent. Preference Shares of £5 each; the Dividend of six per cent. per annum will be guaranteed for five years by the deposit with the Bankers of the Company in London of English Consols and French Rentes of £75,000 value.

250,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which 83,333 will be allotted in part payment of the purchase price; the remaining

166,667 Ordinary Shares and 50,000 Preference Shares,

Including £100,000, which has been guaranteed for Working Capital, exclusive of Stock,

ARE NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION.

Payable as follows:—Preference Shares: £1 per Share on Application, £1 per Share on Allotment, and £3 on the 28th December, 1896. Ordinary Shares: 5s. per Share on Application, 5s. per Share on Allotment, and 10s. on the 28th December, 1896.

The Preference Shares will be entitled out of the profits to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July in each year. Payment of the Dividend on the Preference Shares has been guaranteed for five years; they will also be entitled to rank in respect of Capital on the Property and Assets of the Company in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The first Dividend will be calculated from the dates of the Instalments.

After payment of 6 per cent. dividend on the Preference Shares, 20 per cent. of the surplus net profit will be set aside for the formation of a reserve fund, until the same, together with the Working Capital, shall reach the sum of £250,000, or equivalent to the full amount of the Preference Share Capital.

The Preference Shares will be the first capital charge upon the undertaking, and no Debenture Debt or Mortgages will be created unless authorised by a resolution of three-fourths of the Shareholders at a special meeting.

DIRECTORS.

J. BARKER, J.P. (John Barker & Co., Limited), Chairman.
A. J. NEWTON, J.P., Chairman Harrod's Stores, Ltd.; and J. R. Roberts' Stores, Ltd.
JAMES BAILEY, M.P., Director D. H. Evans & Co, Ltd; and Spiers and Pond, Ltd.
PAUL BERNHARD (Bernhard, Carpentier & Co., Bankers), Paris.
ISIDORE PAQUIN, Managing Director, Rue de la Paix, Paris.

Bankers.—PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, Bartholomew-lane, E.C.

Brokers.—JOHN PRUST & CO., 37, Throgmorton-street, E.C.

Solicitor.—ALFRED R. GERY, 2, Vere-street, Oxford-street, W.

Auditors.—CHATTERIS, NICHOLS, & CO., 1, Queen Victoria-street, E.C

Secretary (pro tem.) **and Offices.**—THOMAS NEVELL, 1, Leadenhall-buildings, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern and extend the prosperous business of Messrs. Paquin & Co., the well-known Ladies' Dress, Robe, and Mantle Makers, Rue de la Paix, Paris.

The marvellous success of this business, as shown by the Accountants' certificate, has induced the proprietors to resolve upon a further important extension by opening a branch establishment in the West End of London, and suitable premises at 39, Dover-street, Mayfair, W., have been acquired on very favourable terms.

The history of this business is probably one of the most remarkable ever told in connection with industrial successes.

The firm of Paquin & Co., as at present constituted, began business in 1891 on a very moderate scale, with a working capital of less than £8,000, with which, owing to the exceptional ability and taste of both Mr. and Madame Paquin, profitable results were obtained even during the first year's working, so that after providing for Mr. Paquin's personal remuneration, the balance-sheet for

1891 showed a net profit of	Francs	15,803	(£632)
1892 ,, ,, ...	,,	96,854	(£3,874)
1893 ,, ,, ...	,,	315,828	(£12,633)
1894 ,, ,, ...	,,	821,053	(£32,842)
1895 ,, ,, ...	,,	1,170,994	(£46,839)
whilst for 1896 the net profits are estimated at about	,,	1,500,000	(£60,000)

The books and accounts have been verified by Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols, & Co, Chartered Accountants.

During the first nine months of 1896 the turnover was 31 per cent. greater than during the corresponding period of 1895; Mr. Paquin therefore confidently expects that the net profits for 1896 will show a corresponding increase.

Taking, however, the net profit at only £60,000 a year as a basis, there will be required to pay:—

6 per cent. Dividend on the Preference Shares ...	£15,000
10 per cent. Dividend on the Ordinary Shares ...	25,000
Total	£40,000

leaving a surplus of £20,000 for reserve, bonus to Mr. and Madame Paquin, and additional dividend on the Ordinary Shares above 10 per cent.

It will thus be seen that the present net income covers the amount required for payment of dividend on the Preference Shares about four times over.

The subscription of a part of the present issue has been guaranteed by the Directors and the Vendors' friends, sufficient to secure the £100,000 cash payable on account of purchase-money, and the £100,000 for working capital.

Complete prospectuses, containing information respecting contracts entered into, will be advertised in Saturday's daily papers, and can be obtained, with forms of application, from Parr's Bank, Limited, Bartholomew-lane, E.C.; or at the offices of the Company, 1, Leadenhall-buildings, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

London, 18th November, 1896.

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

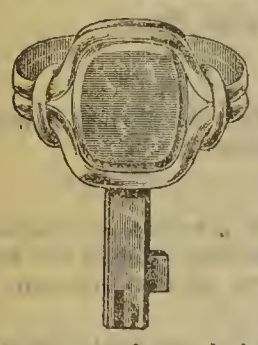
The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

A MASTER KEY



of this SIZE

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

For Prices and Particulars apply to—

NEEDS & CO. *Late* **BRAMAH & CO.**

Sole Manufacturers of the real Bramah Locks,

100, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

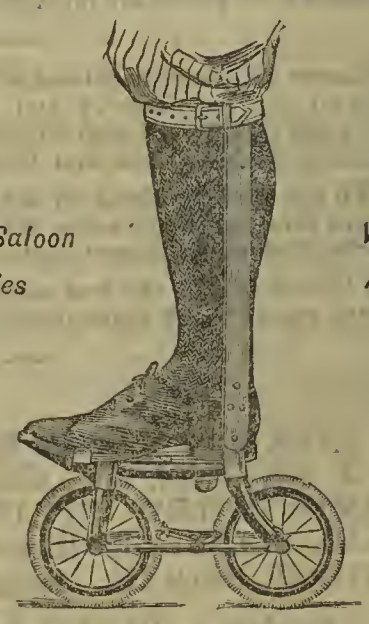
BRAMAH JEWEL SAFES,

BURGLAR AND FIRE RESISTING, SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.

Specialities in fitted Suite Cases and Dressing Bags, Jewel Cases, Despatch and Deed Boxes, Bramah Street Door Latches, with small keys, Bramah Padlocks for Bicycles, with Leather-covered Chains, &c. &c.

NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES POST FREE.

ROAD SKATING.



Practising Saloon for Ladies

With Lady Attendant.

It only requires a little practice on the NEW RITTER ROAD SKATE to enable anyone who has never had on a pair of skates to attain proficiency, and be able to skate on the roads at any speed up to 16 miles an hour.

CAN BE SEEN AND TRIED AT THE

ROAD SKATE CO.'S Show Rooms

271, OXFORD STREET, W.

SINGER

Grand "Modèle de Luxe"

HIGHEST GRADE CYCLES ONLY.

Prompt Delivery may now be had.

SINGER & CO. LTD., COVENTRY.

LONDON: 17, HOLBORN VIADUCT.

In Bottles, 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. Sold Everywhere. Over 4,000 Testimonials received from Medical Men.

Sole Manufacturers **COLEMAN & CO. Lim.** Norwich & London.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 925.—ACROSTIC ON "VICTORIA."

SCRIVENER (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" DOLL AND TOY SHOW.—SPECIAL NOTICE.

In the last number of TRUTH an important notice was printed as to the Prizes to be given in connection with the coming Show. It may be well to remind those ladies who are dressing dolls that it will be necessary for the latter to be returned to this office by the middle of December at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 926.

The Prize in this Competition will be awarded when Competition No. 929 is decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 930.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for—

THE BEST SUGGESTION OF A NEW ROUND GAME SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Competitors will please make their details of the suggested games as brief as possible, taking care, of course, at the same time to make them intelligible. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, November 30, at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of ANALYST, winner of Prize No. 910, is C. H. Southwell, Esq., 94, West-street, Boston.

*** The real name, with the address, of VITI, winner of a half of Prize No. 918, is Francis E. Palmer, Esq., Hillsyde, Seaton, Devon.

*** The real name, with the address, of BOWZER, winner of a half of Prize No. 924, is A. H. Barron, Esq., Cheam, Surrey.

NITRAM.—I have no objection to the proposed change being made.

KOORAH.—Your letter was delayed in its transit to me, or I would have answered it before.

EBORACUM.—Your points shall have my consideration.

NEW ZEALAND, PANSY, and LADY ALICIA.—Your conundrums arrived too late to be printed with the others last week.

CULPEPPER.—I have received your amended line.

PETO and LITTLE OXENHOLD.—I am obliged to you for your letters.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 927.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL SONGS SUITABLE TO BE SET TO MUSIC.

THE BLACK PITCH.*

"Oh! wild is the night," said the Maid of Ross,
"My heart grows faint with fear;
Oh! is it the light from your castle height
That flames thro' the darkness rear?"
"Not far need we ride, my bonnie bride,"
With a scornful smile, said he,
But his face grew white as he clasped her tight
And kissed her tenderly.
"Oh! haste, oh! haste," cried the Maid of Ross,
"For near lies the 'Black Pitch' land—
I fear the place of the lawless race,
The hated gipsy band;
And when I rule in your castle home,
And you my pride shall be,
With sword and scout you'll drive them out
For love of me," said she.

. . . . . .

Then down he stepped to his horse's side,
And bared his breast to his bonny bride—
"Take, take my sword and do the thing,
For *I* am the 'Black Pitch' Gipsy King!"

* An old gipsy camp near Warwick.

Dulce.

TO CYNTHIA.

What time the stars, like silver lamps,
In heaven begin to burn,
My thoughts, as sunflowers to the sun,
To Cynthia's fairness turn.
When sweet the nightingale begins
His song where joy is pain,
Her voice takes up my 'plaint of love,
And sighs it back again.

What time the moon in crescent fair
Doth rise to mourn the sun,
What time the rose's flowers are bowed
In slumber every one.
I gaze on Cynthia's hazel eyes,
Twin lakes of love, and dare
To hope, because my question finds
Its answer written there.

Unsigned.

LOVE THE SORCERER.

If Wizard Love my friend would be,
And heed my earnest call,
His mantle might he lend to me—
Invisible to all;
So whereso'e'er my darling strayed,
By moor or meadow green,
Secure in magic cloak arrayed,
I'd watch her steps unseen.

And Love to me might lend perchance
His magic mirror rare;
Within the glass need I but glance
To see my darling there;
By magic aid to compass space,
To gaze o'er land and sea,
Afar to where, with raptur'd face,
She smiles, and thinks of me.

And Love his magic power might wield
A wishing-cap to frame;
The secret to mine eyes revealed,
One wish alone I'd claim.
With magic pace to speed amain
(Eyes shut and heart afire!),
Far, far, o'er shore and sea to gain,
The Land of "Heart's Desire!"

Vallima.

THE BELFRY TOWER.

Recitative.

The loud-toned chime, from out the belfry tower,
Proclaims to all around the vesper hour;
Its mighty tones peal thro' the evening air,
And call the passer-by to praise and prayer,

Air.

A little child creeps to the old church door,
And gazes at each one who enters there,
His clothes are ragged, and his feet are sore;
His eyes are hollow, and his young head bare.
Too grand a place, he thinks, for such as he
To dare to enter 'midst the well-dressed throng;
And so he listens long and eagerly,
While loud on high the choir send up their song—

Father of Heaven, Creator blest,
Give weary ones eternal rest;
On rich and poor Thy blessings pour,
And teach us humbly to adore.

The music fills his heart with rapture sweet,
And makes him long within the church to pray;
Thro' all his frame the little pulses beat,
And urge him on to join the people gay.
It is for all men, be they old or young,
To praise their God thro' all the ages long—
And so one more is brought in heart and tongue
To join in singing with the choir their song:—

Father of Heaven, &c.

J. C. Crawford.

PLANTATION SONG.—"THE HAPPY DAYS OF YORE."

Dinah, I am sittin' by my lonely cabin door,
In de shadow of de ole 'simmon tree;
They say de sun's declinin', they say de stars am shinin',
But, honey, 'tis your face alone I see.
Now you're gone, my gentle Dinah, in de fields of light to dwell,
I think I see you on de shinin' shore;
For I loved you, O my Dinah, more than words can ebber tell,
In de bright and happy days that are no more.

Dinah, I am lookin' at de cradle and de chair
Dat am empty—and I brush away de tear,
They say de coons am hummin', they say de banjo's strummin',
But, honey, 'tis your voice alone I hear.
Since you've gone, my gentle Dinah, in de fields of light to dwell,
I think I hear you singin' on de shore;
And I miss you, O my Dinah, more than words can ebber tell,
For I loved you in the happy days of yore.

Dinah, O my Dinah, gone for ebber from my side,
With de picaniuny sleepin' at your breast;
De days am dark and dreary, my life am sad and weary,
And I'm lonely since you both have gone to rest.
I am longin', gentle Dinah, in de fields of light to dwell,
Where you're waitin' for me on de shinin' shore;
For I miss you, O my Dinah, and dis broken heart can tell
How I loved you in de happy days of yore.

Georgina.

FASCINATION.

"Les yeux bleus vont aux cieux
Les yeux gris vont au Paradis,
Les yeux verts vont Enfer."

The eyes I love are blue, are blue,
Truth dwells within, they're heaven's own hue
The eyes I love.

The eyes I trust are grey, are grey,
Fringed with dark lashes, like a winter's day
The eyes I trust.

The eyes I fear are green, are green,
Their light unholy—what those glances mean
I fear.

Dear eyes of blue,
Oh! tender eyes of grey,
The eyes I loved, and trusted, yesterday—
But those that hold me now,
With glittering sheen, are green, alas!
Are green, are green.

Queen Anne.

TAKE-IT-EASY LAND.

There's a land apart from this world unblest,
Whither fancy shall serve as guide;
Where men for a while find peace and rest,
And lay all their cares aside.
Once a day you can visit this realm of bliss,
And the way, as I understand,
Is across the deep, in the vessel of sleep,
To Take-it-easy Land.

'Tis the fairest land that was ever seen,
And its sky is always blue,
And nobody asks you where you've been,
Or what you are going to do.
You can lie on the shore, and dream all day,
By a pleasant sea-breeze fanned;
Too quick, they say, time flits away
In Take-it-easy Land.

Then, come, let us leave this world of strife,
With its endless toil and worry,
Where only a few know the joys of life,
And the rest but its maddening hurry;
Let us hasten away to the Slumber Sea,
Let the boat of sleep be manned,
And, nodding slow, away we go
To Take-it-easy Land.

Wandering Jew.

THE OLD LOVER AND THE NEW.

In the good old days that the simple lays
Of our fathers celebrate,
Now in language terse, and anon in verse,
Improper for me to state,
'Twas a common thing for a knight to bring
And lay at his lady's feet
The great big head of some monster dread—
Moustaches and all complete.

Singing, "Lady, thou at whose shrine I bow,
The chiefest of devotees,
Of thy slave dost ask the valorous task
Of the ancient Hercules;
That 'twas he who slew the Hydra, you
Of course with delight have read,
And like him I have lopp'd and cropp'd and chopp'd
Off many an ugly head."

It may now be said that there is no head
Good enough to decapitate,
So the only deeds that a mistress needs
Are the deeds of a fine estate;

Neither heart nor soul but a long rent-roll
If the lover his own can call,
He may win and wear his lady fair,
With never a head at all. Waynflete.

MIDLOTHIAN'S FAIREST DAUGHTER.

In blithesome mood, from wynd and street
I once was wont to sally,
And westward wend with willing feet
My way through yonder valley.
'Twas sweet to hear adown the dell
The music of Leith-Water,
For on its smiling banks did dwell
Midlothian's fairest daughter.

Ah, me! the fond enchantment now
Has vanished from the scene,
Nor bluer is yon Pentland brow
Than other hills I ween.
Now many a stream more blithely flows,
Than flows the sad Leith-Water;
Midlothian's vale no longer knows
Midlothian's fairest daughter.

What scenes the loveless oft despise,
Thou, Love, canst clothe with splendour,
And beautiful to lovers' eyes
The grimmest wild canst render;
Since thou couldst paint the Pentland chain
And tune Leith's laughing water.
O why, O why, couldst not retain
Midlothian's fairest daughter.? Collis.

A SLUMBER SONG.

Close, lovely eyes, that dark lashes shade
With a shy, imperious air;
Close on the world that her love has made
As blithe as herself, as fair
As the pearly cheek where the blush still lies.
Close, lovely eyes!

Part, lovely lips, whence the dear words well,
That live in her tender soul;
Part, that her breath, in its fragrant swell
May reach to the rose, its goal.
As one pink leaf from another slips.
Part, lovely lips!

Curl, lovely hair, on the pillow spread
In a wonderful golden mist;
Curl round the nestling, wayward head
In the ringlets and tendrils you list.
To touch the glitter I hardly dare!
Curl, lovely hair!

Rest, lovely life, through the dark, soft hours
That woo you from day's long joy;
Rest, like the breezes and birds and the flowers,
From your beautiful, bright employ,
Till I claim you back with a kiss, sweet wife!
Rest, lovely life.
Koorah.

THE DESERTED DAMSEL.

(For a Sullivanesque strain.)

You silly little maiden with the tears upon your cheek,
I really wonder whether you've been weeping for a week.
Are you mourning for a lover who is fickle, do you say?
Come dry your pretty eyes and put your handkerchief away.
But since your sorrow shows a bit
Put powder on your nose a bit
(I know the habit grows a bit)
To hide from the inquisitive and interfering eye
Your nasal rubicundity,
With cynical profundity
Make mock o' love your one ditty,
And probably you'll get a satisfactory reply.

But, after all, supposing that the Johnny doesn't choose,
I warrant there are dozens who will step into his shoes.
So, pretty one, remember, be as merry as you can,
'Tis the proper hunting humour, when the quarry is a man.
And mind whatever checks a sigh's
The best of mental exercise;
But if to too complex a size
The list of your adorers should unhappily attain,
Then curl your pretty fringe and see
Your cheeks a proper tinge, and see
You set to work with stringency
To captivate a party who is likely to remain.
Twins.

Songs have been received from:—Burgage, W. M., Vailima, E W. S. B., R. Martin, Fidelc, Irma Lee, Collis, Lichfield, Libra, Grasmere, Lloyd Wollen, Emily, Bowzer, Espoir II., Septuagenarian, Twins, E. L. T., Miriam, Laurista Carlud, Baritone, Jeff, Henriette, Stephanotis, Little Oxenbold, Jap, Luda, Rugeley, Sol, Alison, Yiezil, Farlewell, Miriam II., Oom Paul, Queen Anne, Kathleen, Ethmold, W. Wynn, Winifred H., North Countrie, Esperanza, P. J. Dear, Koorah, Warrior, Maiden, Malaprop, Clewe, Eglantine, Venture, Tapch, Clara, Rex, Pan, Relwof, Rouge Gorge, Islander, Wandering Jew, Datis, Lady Alicla, Iota, Forget-me-not, Pansy, Rev. J. C. Crawford, Norfolk, Scandeus, J. McGrigor Allan, Free Lance, Matches, Jeannie, Pando, A. Parker, Espoir, Culpepper, Lethe, Georgina, Janet, Dulce, Waynflete, Ottile, Bird, Swansea, Ina, Sylvanus, Rekrap, Peto, Ethelon, Phyllis, Pivot, Noiram, Pelican, Ivy, Leaves, Bird, Swansea, Autumn Crocus, Canaker, Almaviva, Rob Roy, David, Sergeant, Emla, Ash, Christie Deas, B. E. R., Ermengarde, K. M. B, W. J., C. C., R. R., Leeda, Lancashire, W. C. H., Pastry, Salop, R. Rob, Nadejdo, Gurkha, C. D., Kingston, C. A., W., Coalheaver, Londoner, St. Neiac, Malignant, E. Bowcher.

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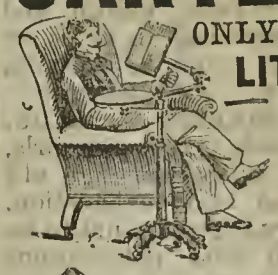

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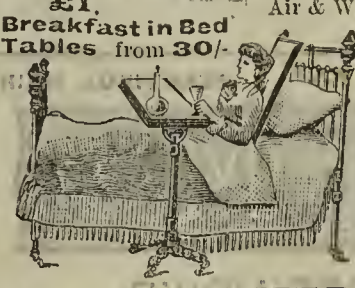

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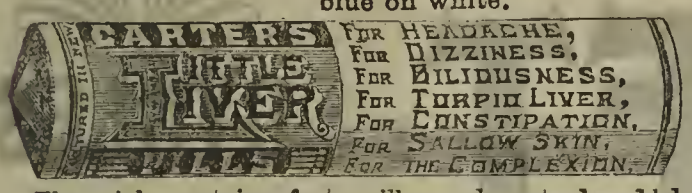

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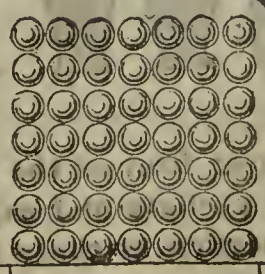

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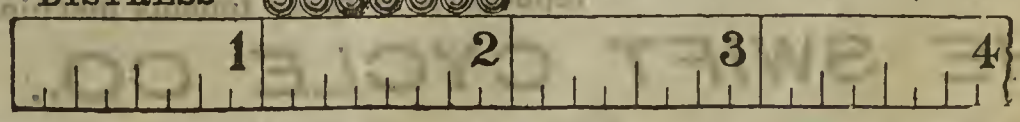

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1039. Vol. XL. Thursday, November 26, 1896. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

The Twentieth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

LIHUNGISMS,

Will be published on

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

It will be profusely illustrated by Mr. R. A. Brownlie and Mr. Roland Hill.

The illustrations will include FOUR DOUBLE-PAGE CARTOONS and TWO SINGLE-PAGE CARTOONS (printed in colours):—

1. Checkmate.
2. Right *v.* Might.
3. Changing the Leader.
4. Motormania.
5. A Good Joke. *(From Mr. Cecil Rhodes' point of view.)*
6. A Good Joke. *(From Dr. Jameson's point of view.)*

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE Queen is to hold an Investiture of the Bath, the St. Michael and St. George, and the Indian orders before the Court leaves Windsor for Osborne, and several individuals will then be knighted. There will also be a Council, when Parliament is to be called for the despatch of business.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria are to pay a visit shortly to Lord and Lady Derby at Knowsley Park, Lancashire, where Princess Louise is this week a guest. The Prince and Princess of Wales will entertain a shooting party at Sandringham next week.

The Crown Prince of Denmark and his eldest son Prince Christian, who are staying at Gmunden with the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, are to arrive in London next week on a brief visit to England. They are to be the guests of the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House, and of Prince and Princess Charles at Appleton, and will also pay a visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle. The Crown Prince and Princess Christian will be accompanied on their return to Copenhagen by Prince and Princess Charles, who are to reside there in the new Palace of the King of the Hellenes, who has placed a large suite of apartments at their disposal.

I was amused to read in a morning paper last Wednesday, under the heading "In Society," that Princess Henry of Prussia and Princess Irene, sisters of the Empress of Russia, are to proceed to St. Petersburg in January for a fortnight. As a matter of fact, Princess Henry and Princess Irene are one and the same individual, and it so happens that H.R.H. is not going to St. Petersburg in January, but she is expected there about the end of March, in order that she may be with the Empress when her accouchement takes place, that event being due in April.

The Emperor of Austria must regret that he conferred the Order of the Golden Fleece upon the Duc d'Orléans with such precipitation, as there has since been a prodigious hurly-burly at the Court of Vienna, and the ruff-and-farthingale coteries, who are there all-powerful, are horrified at the discoveries which have been made. A Knight of the Golden Fleece must produce an unimpeachable pedigree for eight generations, and that number of his ancestors must have been Roman Catholics. It was imprudently taken for granted that there would be no flaw in the credentials of the Duc d'Orléans. Imagine, therefore, the consternation of the Austro-Hungarian aristocracy on learning, not only that the grandmother of the Duc d'Orléans (Princess Helen of Mecklenburg-Schwerin) lived and died a Protestant, but also that her ancestor, the Regent Orléans, married Mdlle. de Blois, an illegitimate daughter of Louis XIV. and Mme. de Montespan! If the Duc d'Orléans is to remain a Knight of the Golden Fleece, the statutes of the Order will have to be altered by the Emperor Francis Joseph, for his creation is invalid, as he is doubly disqualified.

Some of the German newspapers are commenting, with much asperity, on the fact that a second-hand bookseller at Frankfort is reported to be offering for sale a presentation copy of "Deutsche Gedenkblätter, 1870-71," a book written by the late Empress Augusta, and published by her in aid of the Patriotic Women's Aid Society. This

copy was given by the late Empress to the Queen, and it contains the following inscription:—"To my dear Victoria, from her faithful sister, cousin, and friend, Augusta." It would be interesting to learn how on earth this book ever came into the hands of its present possessor. One can only suppose that it must have been stolen out of the library at Windsor Castle.

Colonel Davidson and Colonel Carington are to be the Equerries-in-Waiting on the Queen during December, replacing Colonel Byng and Major Legge.

A contemporary thinks it necessary to warn "the public" that they should "hold their hands" until the Queen has intimated her wishes "as to the direction which the offerings of her loyal subjects in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of her illustrious reign shall take," and so forth. It seems to me that the floridly-worded caution is quite superfluous, for, although appeals are numerous, there does not seem to be any corresponding eagerness on the part of the "loyal subjects" to respond to them. Considering the desperate determination with which subscriptions were whipped up all over the country for Jubilee memorials only ten years ago, it cannot be reasonably expected that there will be a repetition of the lavish generosity of 1887. On that occasion the Royalties were all crazy about the Imperial Institute, and the vast sums of money which were so insanely squandered on that fantastical scheme might just as well have been shovelled into the Channel, for all the benefit that any section of "the public" has derived from it. My own opinion is that there will be no general disposition on the part of the "loyal subjects" to contribute "to some great national object," in addition to their own celebration of the anniversary.

The fact is that people are getting utterly sick and tired of the incessant demand for subscriptions for anniversaries, memorials, monuments, distressed foreigners, and church and charitable objects. Whenever an individual of the very slightest eminence in any walk of life now dies, some bustling, jobbing, self-advertising person appeals to the public to provide a memorial for the deceased, which usually takes the form of a fund on behalf of some object in which the person in question is interested.

By the way, I have been consulted by a professor in the North of England as to the best means of stopping the flow of appeals for a proposed "Public testimonial to Mr. Mark H. Judge." Perhaps if I suggest to the honorary secretary of the movement that he has done his duty when he has sent five or six of these appeals to the same individual, this hint will have the desired result. My correspondent suggests that if Mr. Judge is entitled to a testimonial, Professor Corfield, the honorary secretary, may eventually become entitled to one for his energy in puffing the movement.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1398 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see page 1396.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1397.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1413.

Lord Cadogan returned to Ireland early last week from England, and took up his residence at the Viceregal Lodge, to be joined there later on by Lady Cadogan. This week Lord and Lady Cadogan are spending in the South of Ireland with Lord and Lady Dunraven at Adare Manor, co. Limerick. A great ball, "to have the honour to meet their Excellencies," will be given by Lord and Lady Dunraven on Friday night. On such an occasion it is customary in Ireland for military guests on duty in the country to wear uniform. Etiquette does not require those who are on leave to do so. Adare Manor is a modern Tudor house, but within the demesne there are several beautiful and picturesque ruins, the most interesting being those of the Franciscan Friary, dating from the fifteenth century, and of Desmond Castle, the keep of which still stands surrounded by a moat. There are still, unfortunately, more ruins to be seen in Ireland than any signs of coming prosperity.

Malta is filling for the winter season, though the weather is still hot. The Governor, Sir Arthur Fremantle, and all the leading officials have returned. Sir Michael Culme Seymour, on his return with a portion of the Mediterranean fleet from the East, gives up his command. Sir J. Hopkins, his successor, is expected this week in the island. Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg will again be in Malta for the season with their family. General Lord Congleton will also be there with Lady Congleton, as he is retaining his command. Although Malta has not been so much frequented since the "discovery" of Cairo, it is a very pleasant place to winter in, especially for those who are sociable rather than delicate. It is unique in one way, being one of the few resorts of the kind where a surplus feminine population does not prevail, but contrariwise.

The Lords of the Admiralty paid a short visit of official inspection to several places in the South of Ireland last week. Mr. Goschen afterwards went to stay with his daughter, Mrs. Roche, who resides in the county of Cork. Mr. Roche is a brother of Lord Fermoy's, another of whose brothers entered Parliament last year under the auspices of one party of the Irish Nationalists.

In reference to a recent remark of my correspondent, "Marmaduke," respecting the Queen's alleged aversion to type-written documents, I am credibly informed that a number of type-writers are in use in the Royal Household, and that a large quantity of type-written correspondence and documents passes before the notice of her Majesty. As this is a question of historical accuracy, I should add that my informant is the managing director of the company which supplies type-writers to the Royal Household, but I feel confident that I am only complying with the tacit desire of this gentleman in refraining from mentioning the name of his company.

WATER SUPPLY TO COUNTRY HOUSES.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, London, W.C., & Greenwich, S.E

Mr. Farquharson, of Laughton, who died last week at the age of ninety, was one of the most popular landlords in Dorsetshire, and quite the last of the old school of squires in that county. He was the eldest son of Mr. J. J. Farquharson, who for many years hunted the whole of Dorsetshire, with two packs of foxhounds, at his own expense. Mr. Farquharson was a country gentleman of the best type, and a great favourite among all classes of his neighbours. He was a Tory, and was long Chairman of the Dorsetshire Conservative Association. He was the founder of the first Dorsetshire cricket club.

I am asked to mention that a ball in aid of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will be held in St. Martin's Town Hall on Tuesday, December 15, the Countess of Ancaster, Lady Halsbury, the Countess of Iddesleigh, and Lady Mathew being among the patronesses. The Hon. Mrs. Stephen Coleridge, 7, Egerton Mansions, S.W., will supply tickets or further information.

Prior to the smoking concert of the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society last week, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Coburg, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and other notabilities who attended the concert, were entertained at dinner by Sir James Blyth, at 33, Portland-place.

"Can you tell me," asked a correspondent the other day, "whether it is no longer considered bad form to converse in a loud tone about one's private affairs in public places, and in the hearing of strangers?" I never pose as an authority on "the manners and tone of good society," but judging from the number of well dressed people whom one hears addressing their conversation to the world at large on railway platforms, in railway carriages, and in the streets, I conclude that the answer to my correspondent's question must be in the negative. Our forefathers certainly considered it the mark of a cad to shout out private conversation in public for the benefit of every chance hearer, but this is one of the matters in which, I take it, we have entirely abandoned the opinions of our ancestors.

So far as I am able to judge, indeed, it seems to be deemed specially becoming to advertise one's private affairs in this way whenever it is possible to introduce into the conversation the names of titled or distinguished personages, whose acquaintance the speaker is privileged to possess. The other day I was seated in a railway train, while a gentleman on the platform was discoursing with another in the carriage about their mutual affairs. At the last minute, just as the train was moving off, the speaker on the platform called out, "Please remember me very kindly to HER LADYSHIP." The last two words were shouted out at the top of the speaker's voice as the train moved off, the intention being, so far as I could judge, that they should be heard, not so much by the individual addressed, as by all those who were assembled on the platform to see the train off. As we departed I doubt not that we left the crowd gazing in admiration at the gentleman who was thus able to send his compliments to a "lady of title." One hears this sort of thing so often from people who are evidently moving in exalted circles, that I humbly conclude that it is now considered to be "good form."

This reminds me of a grievance which was brought under my notice the other day by a lady, namely, the lamentable need of some better method of marking the gradations of rank among the wives of titled men. The title "Lady" may mean anything, from the wife of a descendant of one of the barons of the Magna Charta, to the wife of a country mayor who got a knighthood last week—two points as wide asunder as the poles. It is a distressing thing to think of all the ladies between the top and the bottom of the social ladder being lumped together under one label without the slightest mark of the innumerable steps which separate them. What the remedy should be, I am not prepared to state; but it seems to me a question which the Primrose League ought to take up, and with a Conservative majority of one hundred and fifty in power, there ought to be no difficulty in providing effective measures of relief.

To be really in the charmed circle, nowadays, or to appear to be so, a person must not only know the titles borne by the great ladies, but also their Christian names. They are spoken of in familiar conversation as "Jenny," and "Polly," &c., and to this is sometimes added the lady's title, and sometimes it is left out. Thus, for instance, Lady Bareacres, would not be spoken of as "Lady Bareacres," but as "Polly Bareacres," or as "Polly," *tout court*. Only the other day I found myself thrown in the company of a lady, recently admitted (she is really) into the inner circle. It was all the time, "Jenny this," and "Polly that," much as it used to be in my young days in the now defunct Argyll Rooms.

In view of the approach of Christmas, a gentleman owning a country-house in one of the home counties is desirous of putting forward, through the columns of TRUTH, a suggestion for the benefit of other owners of country houses. Having been a traveller himself, this gentleman is much exercised about the forlorn condition of those strangers within our gates who are condemned to spend Christmas in hotels—more especially those who hail from the United States and the Colonies. So strong is his feeling, that he is prepared to receive four travellers of this class as his guests for three days at Christmas-time, and he thinks that there will be other owners of commodious country houses ready to follow his lead when the idea has been suggested to them. If such there are, Heaven forbid that I should stand in their way. There is not so much open-handed generosity of this kind now prevalent that one is called on to throw cold water on it. But I must confess that I don't feel quite so sanguine about my friend's idea as he does himself. Even he recognises that somebody must be found "to take the position of M.C., and be the medium

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

of introducing those who would be eligible guests to those who would open their doors to them." How this indispensable individual is to be found, I confess I do not see, nor how he is to be responsible for the "eligibility" of all the floating population of the London hotels at Christmas-time. It is a responsibility that I should be sorry to undertake myself. Fancy the position of an "M.C." who had introduced Mr. and Mrs. Castle to a Christmas house-party!

Even granted the "M.C." and the satisfactory introductions, how many people are there who care about the risks of entertaining chance strangers of whose tastes and dispositions they know nothing? Only a few weeks back, in connection with the question of entertaining strangers for congresses, tennis tournaments, and other gatherings, I made the remark that most people would rather contribute to an entertainment fund than put up in their own houses people whom they don't know, and whom even the introducers don't know. And I fancy that the people who are most likely to take this view are the people who have tried the experiment of dispensing promiscuous hospitality, and are not altogether pleased with the result.

Henry Carey is supposed to have written the words of "God Save the Queen." They are—as words—not much above the ordinary trash which is dished up in a libretto to serve as a medium for music. But they have been sung so often that they have a quaint, old-world flavour of their own. It would seem that of late various divines, with more zeal than poetic genius, have been adding verses to the old jingle, which they practise on their congregations. Against all such additions I register a protest. If it pleases them, by all means let them write a new hymn to celebrate the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign; indeed, I suppose that the Poet Laureate will deem himself bound to do so. But they must not add one line to "God Save the Queen." They might just as well publish a new edition of the Gospels with a few verses of their own in mediæval English. Here is an effort which is due to the Vicar of Kew, and which was sung a short time ago in Kew Parish Church "at a service at which the Duke of Cambridge was present":—

Thanks for the sixty years,
Ripened hopes, scattered fears,
England has known.
Dark clouds have fled away,
Dawn has led on to day,
Love is our monarch's stay,
God bless her throne.

Poorer verse I seldom have read. By "scattered fears," the gifted author probably means that fears have been scattered and have vanished; but grammatically the words mean that we are thankful for fears having been scattered, *i.e.*, spread, like "ripened hopes," over the sixty years that the Queen has reigned. What "dark clouds" have fled away? Did ever "dawn" not "lead on to day"? The "stay" in the last line but one is evidently dragged in because it rhymes with "away" and "day." "God bless her throne" is not to be compared to "God bless the Queen." The first is personal, the second is impersonal, and, as Napoleon said, a throne is four pieces of wood covered with velvet. If, when a Sovereign is popular, a verse to the glorification of the Sovereign is to be added to the National Anthem, this certainly opens a wide field, for it equally follows that, if a Sovereign is unpopular, a verse would have to be added not precisely to the Sovereign's glorification.

I am always grateful to the ladies and gentlemen who read TRUTH, and then send me lessons on English grammar, founded upon supposed errors that they have discovered in these columns. But I do not know that the result is always equivalent to the trouble taken by my instructors. For instance, a lady who signs herself "Americaine," takes the following sentence from last week's TRUTH, "One of the correspondents who have communicated with me opines, &c.," and tells me that if "opines" is in the singular number, the first verb should be "has" and not "have." I do not know anything about American grammar, and it is some time since I went to school, but the rule which I was taught was that a verb personal agrees with its subject in number and person. In the sentence quoted, the subject of "opines" is "one," and as "one" is certainly singular, "opines" must be singular also. Another rule that I learned was that the relative agrees with its antecedent in number, gender, &c. In the same sentence the antecedent of "who" is "correspondents." "Who" is therefore plural, and, by the rule that I quoted first, should have a verb in the plural following it. However I am no bigot, and I shall be very glad to reconsider my views if any one can show cause why these rules should be altered.

The interesting information was last week furnished to the readers of several daily papers, that "the Poet Laureate has been salmon-fishing in the Tweed, in the Lennel Water belonging to the Earl of Haddington, and the Sprouston Water belonging to Mr. Charles Balfour." The origin of this announcement appears to be a paragraph issued to the press by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., of which I have a copy before me—although by some oversight the information was not sent direct to this office. It is quite a new departure for the publishers of a poet—and a Poet Laureate, too—to stimulate interest in the bard by advertising his private movements. But I take it that this step has been thought desirable in view of recent comments on the silence of the inspired writer. He could not write, evidently, because he has been out fishing. For my part I am only sorry that we are so near the end of the angling season.

WINTER SEASON, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

It is a fact worth notice, that the Southampton Art Society has just been holding an exhibition of sketches and drawings by the late Mr. Walter D'Elboux, and I understand that the exhibition has been highly successful, many of the pictures having been sold. Mr. D'Elboux, it will be remembered, is the gentleman who, after forty years' connection with the Ordnance Survey Office, recently died from an illness which was undoubtedly brought about by his receiving notice that if he could not work faster he would lose his berth.

In reply to the remarks in last week's TRUTH on rowing at St. Paul's School, I have had a letter from the captain of the School Rowing Club, which shows that plenty of evidence exists of the aquatic tastes of the present generation of Paulines. Although the club has not a local habitation and craft of its own, it is regularly in evidence on the river on holidays, has its regular races, and has furnished representatives to College eights and the University Trials. I remarked last week that if the existence of rowing talent was shown in this way, the funds for a boat-house and boats might be expected to follow. Now that the facts are known, I can only say that I hope my prediction will be speedily justified.

There has been a great deal of grumbling lately in Coventry and the neighbourhood against certain incidents connected with the management of the Coventry Grammar School, and the time seems to have arrived when the trustees of the school should intervene actively in what is going on. One of the most extraordinary of these incidents is the expulsion of a boy at the beginning of the present term, who had actually left the school at the end of the previous term. The boy had been treated in a very conspicuously unfair manner by the head-master during his last term in the school, and the pretext on which his formal expulsion was recorded was a most flimsy and insufficient one. The result of the boy's expulsion is that he was disqualified for an exhibition, and it is not to be wondered at, under all the circumstances of the case, that local opinion should see in this result the motive of the action taken.

A further matter for dissatisfaction is that the exhibition just referred to has been awarded to a boarder who is in no way connected with either the town or the county, but belongs to a very well-to-do family at Brighton. The exhibition in question should, by the terms of the foundation, be given to a "poor scholar" belonging to the county of Warwick or the city of Coventry, provided that a competent candidate is forthcoming, and there seems to have been at least one in the present instance. The truth seems to be that it has been the policy of the present head-master to convert the school into a boarding-school rather than a local grammar school, and that the preference thus given to a boarder is a result of this policy. The head-master has even gone so far as to receive girls as well as boys as boarders in his official residence. In another recent case a musical scholarship was awarded by the head-master, not to the boy whom the examiner placed at the head of the list, but to another boy who was placed fourth; but whether this step was taken for the benefit of one of the boarders I do not know. I understand that there has also been some difficulty between the head-master and the governors over the head-master's refusal to give any particulars of the expenditure of a sum of some £842 paid to him for salaries of masters. There seems, therefore, ample ground for calling upon the governors to assert themselves.

The Ford Lectures on English History are at last an accomplished fact at Oxford, after much delay and a great waste of money. Professor Rawson Gardiner has been appointed the first Lecturer, and he has wisely chosen a subject on which he is thoroughly qualified to speak with authority—the life and work of Cromwell. The Lecturer, who is to be elected every year, is to receive £100, and he must deliver six lectures. No Lecturer is eligible for re-election until four years have elapsed from the date of his appointment.

Canon Newbolt is to be the Canon-in-residence and Sunday-afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during December, replacing Archdeacon Sinclair.

A correspondent writes:—

The *St. James's Gazette* relates a story of how the new Primate, having "entered a popular service in an East-end church," sang during a hymn "lustily, but not in tune," and was thereupon told to "dry up" by a working man. Like nearly all the other stories of the same kind which have been going about lately, this is a very venerable anecdote. The incident to which reference is intended to be made occurred early in Bishop Temple's Exeter episcopate (about 1871), at Brixham Church, in South Devon.

Lord Halsbury has made an excellent appointment to the living of Kensington. Canon Pennefather's Church views are similar to those of the present Vicar—the Bishop-designate of Peterborough—and he is an excellent organiser and administrator, fond of hard work, and an enthusiastic advocate for popular education. Canon Pennefather has been for some time Chairman of the Newcastle School Board, and at the last election he was returned at the head of the poll. He is widely known as being one of the most popular and most successful parish clergymen in the North of England. He is also an admirable preacher.

It is untrue that Mr. Gladstone offered the Primacy to Dean Vaughan in 1882, after Dean Church had refused to leave St. Paul's. Dean Vaughan would, no doubt, have reached Lambeth had he wished for such promotion, but, long before Archbishop Tait's death, he had deliberately

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W. & F. THORN'S SPECIALITY.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

put away from himself the great places of the Church of England. In 1856, Macaulay wrote: "The sooner Vaughan is made a bishop the better;" and Lord Palmerston offered the distinguished ecclesiastic mitre after mitre, including the see of Durham when Bishop Villiers died in 1861. Dr. Vaughan, however, had quite made up his mind that he would not accept a bishopric. Mr. Gladstone gave him the Mastership of the Temple in 1869, which was a piece of preferment that exactly suited him.

The Bishop of Hereford has given some excellent advice to young ladies. He warns them—and especially those of the upper middle class—not to ape men's manners and fashions, for men's waistcoats on women are a mistake in the opinion of all men. They are in mine. A woman dressed as a man is, to my eyes, just as objectionable a sight, as a man dressed as a woman. This may, perhaps, be unphilosophical, and due to an artificial association of ideas, but so it is, and if girls have any wish to find favour in men's eyes they would do well to consult men's prejudices.

Apropos of the reference to Westminster Abbey in last week's TRUTH, a lady who visited Ripon Cathedral the week after the harvest festival had been held there, sends a curious picture of the state in which she found the church. Dead greengrocery seems to have been hanging about in all directions; while the font, the niches in the choir, and other prominent spots were adorned with old medicine bottles, empty pickle-jars, and cheap flower-pots, which had contained the decorations. As this state of things was noted on a Monday morning, it would seem to follow that the Sunday services must have been held with the church in this condition.

I am asked to call the attention of my readers to the annual sale of work under the auspices of the Ladies' Work Association, which is to take place at Spencer House, St. James's, on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 1 and 2. This Association is of great service to numbers of ladies of limited means, and its sale last year at Stafford House realised about £400. If the amount could be doubled this year, the money would be well spent.

These amounts have been sent to me towards this year's Toy Fund:—

M. H., 10s.; B. A., £3; H. W. P. H. and M. H. G. H., £1. 1s.; A Friend (Windermere), 10s.; Mrs. Hugo, 7s. 6d.; G. L. (Camden-square), 2s.; Cecil Clarke, £1. 1s.; Mrs. Arlosh, £2. 2s.; J. M., £2. 2s.; C. M. Y., 10s.; J. W., £1; Gerald, 10s. 6d.; Muriel, 10s.; Winifred, 10s.; Jimmie, 10s.; Derrick, 10s.; Harold, 10s.; Col. St. Maur-Wynch, £2. 2s.; Geo. Bolton, £1. 1s.; A. N., £2. 10s.; L. J. F., 5s.; E. F. G. Hatch, £2. 2s.; R. B., 5s.; J. H. L., £5; Mrs. Alfred Mond, £2. 2s.; Viscount Oxenbridge, £2; W. W. £2; Lionel H. Lemon, £1. 1s.; Lady Diana Huddleston, £1. 1s.; C. Lord, £3. 3s.

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

The following important military intelligence reaches me from a correspondent in whose information I place the greatest confidence. Before publishing his statements, I thought it my duty to remind him of the terms of the Official Secrets Act, but he replies that he is willing to take his chance, on my undertaking to conceal his identity at any cost, which, of course, I gladly give. In the present critical condition of foreign politics, it seems to me possible that this disclosure of the important changes in contemplation in our armaments may have an important effect upon the European situation. At any rate, it will teach foreign Powers that our War Office, under its new and gifted head, is fully alive to the requirements of the times:—

The country will learn with satisfaction that the new mess jacket, the recent announcement of which by the authorities was hailed with national acclamation, was but an instalment of the important military reforms about to be introduced by the present Commander-in-Chief.

It is now confidently anticipated that the infantry full-dress tunic is shortly to be made double-breasted instead of single-breasted, as at present, and it is not impossible that a new button may be designed for this article of equipment. It is further reported that the whole question of regimental facings is about to be subjected to a comprehensive revision.

A correspondent of the *Army and Navy Gazette* very happily suggests that the Foot Guards should wear stripes instead of mere cords down the exterior seam of their pantaloons. It is, moreover, whispered in circles likely to be well informed that, in lieu of ostrich plumes, peacock's feathers are shortly to be adopted for the Highland bonnet. It is also confidently announced that the Royal Welsh Dragoons are not to be deprived of their piebald horses.

From several quarters I hear that there is a chance of the Government "doing something"—something in such a connection being, of course, £. s. d.—for the Cadet Volunteer Battalions in the course of next session. If Lord Lansdowne's threatened demand for more money for the Army were limited to this item, few objections to the vote would be heard from any quarter. Money spent in this direction is quite as much educational as military expenditure, and, as educational expenditure, is far more sensible than a good deal that goes under that head at present. The boys in these corps get a definite training for one profession, and learn habits which will be of use to them in any walk in life; and what is, perhaps, of most consequence of all, they are placed under discipline, and provided with healthy occupation, just at the time when they are most likely to fall victims to the influences of the public-house and the street corner. A more useful way of spending public money, whether it comes under the Army Vote or the Education Vote, I can hardly imagine.

As I said the other day, all of these Corps are greatly hampered in their work by want of funds, and the funds that they have are chiefly derived from the charity of private individuals, those who have to dip their hands most deeply into their pockets being usually the officers, who are already devoting their time and labour freely to the interests of the Corps. As the result of what was said in TRUTH on the subject, I have been asked to give publicity to the financial distress of many different battalions. This I cannot possibly do, but I

SAVOY HOTEL, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

may take as a representative case a battalion which has special claims on Londoners, the 1st Cadet Battalion of the King's Royal Rifles. Probably a good many readers of TRUTH have seen something of these boys under canvas in their summer camp at Eastbourne, on the cliff just under Beachy Head. The last balance-sheet of the battalion shows that the year's expenses amounted to some £1,550. Towards this, £906 had been provided by private subscriptions, and the Commanding Officer had given £100. Further sums had been raised by subscriptions and other payments of members, &c., but there was a deficit on the year of £123 odd, which the Commanding Officer had had to advance. Such a state of things is altogether wrong. I would not say a word to discourage private subscribers from devoting money to such an excellent purpose, but the Government ought to bear a handsome share of the expense, and the least that it could do would be to provide every such corps with uniforms and with an office. In the case of the 1st C.B. King's Royal Rifles this would mean a grant of something under £500.

Much dissatisfaction prevails among the "ranker" officers in the Army Ordnance Department at the failure to promote men from the Assistant to the Deputy-Commissary rank under Article 21 of the Royal Warrant of June last. Four such promotions ought by this time to have taken place, and although the establishment of Assistant-Commissaries was fixed by the Royal Warrant at thirty-four, it would seem that there is an intention to maintain it at thirty-eight, notwithstanding that there are actually fifteen vacancies in the next higher rank. If the object of this evasion of the Warrant is the saving of a few shillings per week in pay, the trick is a peculiarly shabby one—perpetrated, as it is, at the expense of the men who can least afford the loss. If that is not the object, then the officers who are performing duties intended to be performed by the rank above them should be allowed the pay attached to the duty, even if they are denied the rank.

A recent general order notifies the promotion of Conductor Alfred Stoddart, of the Bengal Commissariat Department, to Deputy Assistant Commissary, for services on the Pamir Boundary Commission. This promotion accentuates the failure of the Government to recognise the services of the subordinates of the Commissariat and Transport Departments in the Chitral Campaign. As has already been pointed out, a number of such men were specially recommended for recognition, and no branch of the Service contributed more to the success of the expedition. From the fact, however, of a Commissariat conductor having now been promoted for services rendered subsequently to the campaign, it can only be concluded that the Government intend to ignore all recommendations for earlier services. Taking this circumstance with the apparent intention not to issue a medal, the Chitral force has been conspicuously badly treated.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C., entirely dependent on voluntary support, urgently requires help. Liabilities, £11,000. No investments.

The time seems to have arrived for the British Government to take some action upon the repeated miscarriages of justice reported from Malta, in cases where native magistrates have to adjudicate between their own countrymen and Britons. The *Malta Chronicle* of November 13 contains the latest report of this kind. A cab-driver named Zammit was charged with having revenged a grudge against the British Army by slashing a corporal and an acting sergeant-major of the garrison with his whip. The sergeant-major witnessed the assault on the corporal, and stopped the cab, whereupon he was assaulted in turn. He secured the driver with the assistance of four other soldiers who came up, and when the case came into court the evidence against the prisoner was irresistible. He was convicted and fined 10s.

A counter charge of assault which the cabman had preferred against the soldiers was then heard, and on this the sergeant-major was convicted and fined £1, the corporal being acquitted, and the four privates reprimanded. This decision is transparently unjust, for the conviction of the cabman is utterly inconsistent with that of the sergeant-major, who had only interfered because he saw the assault on the corporal, while the four privates, who were reprimanded, had only interfered when the sergeant-major called them to his assistance. The crowning iniquity of the whole thing, however, is the fine imposed on the sergeant-major—double the amount imposed on the Maltese. The latter was actually excused by the magistrate on the ground that he "had acted under the influence of uncontrollable passion," an expression which ought in itself, apart from any other circumstance in the case, to be accepted as conclusive proof of the magistrate's unfitness for his position. Possibly, of course, the report may not have done justice to the magistrate in every particular; but at least this is a case which the Government ought to inquire into.

One of the books of Irish lottery tickets now scattered broadcast over the country has been addressed to "The Sergeant-Major" at the Depot of one of the Northern districts, and in all probability to others also. The promoter of this lottery is the Rev. D. O'Hara, of Kiltimagh, co. Mayo, and he sends with the book of tickets a letter begging the sergeant-major to dispose of them among the men under him. As an inducement to do this, a "free complimentary ticket" is offered for each book disposed of. The sergeant-major showed his appreciation of the compliment by sending letter and tickets to TRUTH, and I hope his sentiments will be shared by any others who may receive similar applications. It is, I fancy, an open question whether, in soliciting people on this side of St. George's Channel to sell lottery tickets, Irish priests are not inciting them to a direct breach of the law; but, whether that is so or not, there can be no question that in trying to get warrant or non-commissioned officers in the Army to induce the

WATER SUPPLY FOR MANSIONS, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to ALFRED WILLIAMS & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

men under them to buy tickets, or anything else, their reverences are tempting such officers to abuse their authority.

Why should a candidate for Sandhurst who is examined at Wellington College be charged fees to the amount of £4. 5s. while the fee for examination in London is £2? Part of the extra fee, to wit 25s., goes, I understand, to the school authorities for the use of the examination room, but even this seems an unjustifiable tax, and it still leaves an additional sum of £1 to be explained. What is the explanation?

Below I pillory a further batch of minor military grievances, several of which seem to be of more than local interest. I am particularly impressed with the story from the 2nd East Yorkshire Regiment, which, to an unsophisticated civilian mind, seems to point to a system of sweating the mess-caterer which is unfair to him and disadvantageous to his customers. How is the man expected to make this surplus? Honestly or dishonestly? And, whether honestly or dishonestly, how can the surplus possibly come to the same amount within a penny every month, regardless of the amount of business done? It looks to me as if the man were expected to "make" something as a matter of course, and were simply required to refund a fixed sum out of his makings. If that is the idea, it is as bad as it can be, and I do not understand how any C.O. can countenance it. The state of things respecting promotion in the 2nd Gloucestershire is also interesting, from its bearing on the relations of the linked battalions. The grievance is likely to be aggravated shortly, as the 1st Battalion is about to move to India, and will probably shed another batch of N.C.O.s, on medical grounds, before it sails. It would seem to be desirable, for the sake of this battalion itself, that some of the old N.C.O.s at home should have a chance of transferring themselves, if they desire it. Finally, I would express a hope that something may be done for the M.S.C. men who have been in the Soudan, for their work has been exceptionally arduous:—

2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, The Curragh.—The sergeant who acted as caterer to the sergeants' mess here last month was called upon to pay a surplus of £1 over and above his cash takings. He replied that he had not made any surplus, beyond a small quantity of ale, value about 5s., to be returned to the contractor. As he persisted in declining to pay over the surplus which he had not made, he was made a prisoner and brought before the officer temporarily commanding on a charge of neglect of duty while caterer of the sergeants' mess, and in due course he was "severely reprimanded" for this neglect of duty. It seems to have been a practice in the battalion to call on the caterer to pay in a "surplus" of £1, but no order to this effect appears in the rules of the mess, nor is it notified to the caterer on taking over his duties.

1st Battalion Leinster Regiment, Tipperary.—In this battalion the married sergeants are prohibited from undertaking the duties of sergeants' mess caterer. At this they feel aggrieved, and their grievance was aired at a recent mess meeting, when a proposal that the C.O. should be asked to admit married N.C.O.s to this office was brought forward, but was apparently vetoed by the sergeant-major. There does not seem to be any rule in this battalion requiring the caterer to hand over a surplus, and possibly if there were, the views of the married N.C.O.s might undergo a change. But on the assumption that the caterership is a post worth holding, and that the perquisites are recognised as legitimate, the exclusion of the married N.C.O.s hardly appears justifiable.

In the same battalion a man is at present to be found who combines in his own person the duties of orderly-room clerk, librarian, savings bank clerk (both carrying extra duty pay), and paid recruiter. Here, again, there seems to be a little too much monopoly.

2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, Plymouth.—In this battalion only one corporal has been promoted to sergeant in the course of two and a-half years, and it is calculated that at the present rate of promotion nearly a century must elapse before the last-made corporal will get his promotion. The cause of this state of things is the undue importation of sergeants from the 1st Battalion. A number were left behind, and taken on to the strength of the home battalion, when the 1st Battalion went abroad, and many more have since been sent home, either to join the 2nd Battalion or to fill Militia and Volunteer vacancies, to which the 2nd Battalion have also a claim. The last-joined sergeant from the 1st Battalion has only $5\frac{2}{12}$ years' service, while the four senior lance-sergeants of the 2nd Battalion range from eleven to seventeen years. The obvious remedy would seem to be to give some of the junior N.C.O.s of the 2nd Battalion a chance of transferring to the 1st.

4th Battalion Derbyshire Regiment, Normanton.—A colour-sergeant on the Permanent Staff of this battalion appears to be exclusively engaged upon the duties of barrack-gardener, having done no regimental duty this year except during his annual training. He is a man of some twenty-three or twenty-four years' service. Would it not be better, under such circumstances, to pension him off, and let him then do a little odd jobbing as gardener if his tastes run that way, while filling his place on the staff with a man who can devote himself to military duty?

Donegal Artillery, Letterkenny.—The customers of the regimental canteen here complain that butter is sold at 1s. a lb., while an equally good article can be obtained in the open market at 8d., or under. The contract appears to be in the hands of the sergeant-major's wife, and, possibly, if it were put up to competition, the grievance would be remedied. There is no Canteen Committee in existence. Why not?

Medical Staff Corps, Cairo.—Of the men of this corps who took part in the Dongola Expedition a few are now to be allowed to return home, but only those who have completed five years' service in Egypt. Practically all the men attached to the Expeditionary Force—there being only one exception—have been over three years in Egypt. They have wound up this service with a summer campaign in the Soudan, in which there has been a great deal of sickness, including a serious outbreak of cholera. There is a strong feeling among them that all might, under these circumstances, be allowed to come home, and the public will probably share this feeling.

A very voluble correspondent—one of those whose letters I have to keep by me for two or three weeks before I can find a chance of reading them—expounds to me at length the necessity for rejecting candidates for the Army who are not completely furnished with teeth. After telling me the probabilities that a man who has lost two or three teeth before he is out of his teens will be "during the greater part of the rest of his life" so distracted by toothache as to be unable to sleep, and incapacitated for his duties, while his digestion and power of speech are sure to be impaired, he draws the following appalling picture of the possible loss of a British Army through an officer's false teeth:—

Thirdly. Let us suppose that the candidate has lost all his natural teeth, and that he is supplied with a complete set of artificial ones. Now most people in such a case are compelled to remove their teeth at night-time, for the sake of cleanliness, to avoid swallowing their teeth during sleep—a comparatively frequent accident—and to prevent the gums from becoming tender. Moreover, most people when their teeth have been thus removed, find difficulty in properly articulating their words. Now, suppose such an officer to have been present during the last Soudan campaign. A sudden sandstorm in the middle of the night overturns tent, officer, and the precious teeth, and the latter, with other of his belongings, are scattered over the desert, and buried beyond recall in its sands. At the same time the alarm is raised that the enemy is at hand. The unfortunate officer—perhaps an officer of high rank—mumbles out his commands, which are misunderstood by his orderly; as a consequence, confusion reigns supreme, the camp is rushed by the enemy, and all these disasters are caused by a sandstorm and a set of false teeth.

After this I trust that no time will be lost in examining the grinders of every officer in the Army above the rank

No aperient water can boast of such sure and beneficial purgative efficacy as the "Franz Josef." It was known on the Continent twenty years ago, and is now sold everywhere.

of subaltern, and packing off every Colonel and General who is found to have any false ones. A mere examination of the mouths of cadets before they receive their commissions is no guarantee for the safety of the nation. There must be an annual dental inspection for all ranks, or we shall be involved in a gigantic catastrophe.

On February 1 last, a private of the 2nd Middlesex Regiment, at that time with a detachment at Satara, had the misfortune to kill the master-cook of his detachment. It seems to have been a pure accident. The cook was very drunk, and the private, who was acting as cook-orderly, had reported him for misconduct. The cook made a movement as though he were about to attack the orderly, and the latter, thinking prevention better than cure, gave him a back-handed blow which caused him to reel and fall. In falling, the cook sustained an injury to his head, which, probably complicated with his drunken condition, prevented him from ever getting up again. The soldier was then brought before a native magistrate, committed for trial on a charge of culpable homicide, and eventually acquitted. I have never killed a cook myself, though I have occasionally felt tempted to do so; but I can understand that the position of anyone who has had an accident of this kind is a little awkward. In this case, when the soldier rejoined, native feeling in the place was very strong against him. Relations also seem to have been strained between him and his comrades, who had not subscribed a halfpenny towards his defence. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the cook-slayer should have applied to be transferred to another battalion. After much delay this request has been refused. I must say that I should have thought that it is a case in which the man ought to have been allowed to shift his quarters, and it is difficult to believe that the circumstances were fully understood by the authorities when they refused his request.

Mr. Charles Dibdin, the secretary of the Lifeboat Institution, is not usually backward in noticing any criticism of the Institution, but so far he has not favoured me with an answer to my inquiry of November 5 respecting the Stevens bequest. I asked what was being done with the £50,000 which the late Mr. Stevens left three years ago on condition that twenty lifeboats bearing his name were placed round the coast. But while no reply has been forthcoming from Mr. Dibdin, I see that Mr. A. J. Boyle, the organising secretary, has been making some observations on the subject to a meeting at Swindon, where attention had been directed to my paragraph. What he said was so remarkable that I think it best to quote his own words:—

> Although Mr. Stevens died in 1893, the affairs of his estate were not settled till a year later, and even then it was not possible for the Institution to take a large portion of the invested money. Besides, there were other legacies and gifts which the Institution had under consideration prior to this, and these matters required a good deal of attention. He was convinced that the public would consider it a great waste of charity if the money was spent in placing boats on the coast where their services were not likely to be wanted. Under these and other circumstances, it was some time before the Institution could get to work. However, the first boat in connection with Mr. Stevens's bequest was now being built, and would be placed at Port St. Mary. The Institution's difficulty was not so much in getting money to build boats, as in finding sufficient funds to maintain those they already had.

The inference most people will draw from the organising secretary's statement is that, so far as the building of new boats is concerned, the Institution really has more money than it knows what to do with. I should, however, like to hear from Mr. Dibdin himself whether this statement is to be accepted as an authorised official explanation of the extraordinary delay that has occurred in giving effect to the wishes of the late Mr. Stevens.

On the other hand, what Mr. Boyle means by suggesting that the Institution has a difficulty in finding sufficient funds to maintain its existing fleet, he alone can possibly explain. As has been pointed out in TRUTH and elsewhere, the income of the Institution has for years past largely exceeded its expenditure, and a very handsome capital has been created by the accumulation of the annual surpluses. In 1894 over £74,000 was put by in this way. I venture to suggest again to the officials of the Lifeboat Institution that it is time that this fiction about the Institution's financial difficulties was abandoned.

The Governor of Ceylon has occasioned much disquietude among the mercantile community at Colombo by his recent action in regard to a case of embezzlement. Cases of this kind have been uncommonly numerous at Colombo, and, owing in part to the indisposition of employers to prosecute, and in part to the vagaries of the law, scarcely one of the offenders has been punished. In the case referred to, however, a clerk named H. W. de Silva was convicted by the local magistrate and sentenced to a month's imprisonment, and, on appeal, the Supreme Court confirmed the conviction and sentence. Then the Governor stepped in with his prerogative of pardon, and the prisoner was released, on the ground of his previous good character. I am myself all for the merciful treatment of first offenders, but in this particular instance due weight appears to have been given to the character of the accused in the original sentence, and the remission of the punishment was an excess of mercy which is likely to have a mischievous effect on employees with an inclination to be dishonest. It is, too, decidedly calculated to encourage employers in the policy of letting such crimes pass with the dismissal of the culprit, which has already been pursued by many defrauded firms at Colombo.

There seems to be no end to the shabby dodges to which the Indian Government is prepared to resort in its present financial extremities. Prizes are offered to soldiers in India who pass certain examinations in Oriental languages, the prizes being money grants increasing with each standard passed. An inquiry was recently made of a responsible official in Burmah whether two standards could be passed at once, and the reply was in the affirmative. Accordingly at the half-yearly examinations in June last two candidates from a regiment stationed at

Rangoon presented themselves for the elementary and lower standards in Burmese. They duly passed, and thereby became entitled—if they were allowed a prize for each standard—to prizes, in the aggregate, of Rs. 540 each. The Controller of Military Accounts, however, raised an objection to paying the full amount, and when the successful candidates appealed to the previous official declaration on the subject, a circular was issued laying down that men who passed the two standards at once would forfeit the lower prize of the two that they had won. Finally, by this piece of *ex post facto* legislation, the two successful candidates were deprived of the reward for passing the elementary standard, amounting to Rs. 180 each. It would be difficult, surely, for any Government to resort to meaner trickery than this.

A conflict is at present going on between the Treasury and the Post Office respecting the place which Mr. Algernon Turnor has just resigned. Mr. Hanbury considers that there is no justification for appointing another Financial Secretary at the Post Office with a salary of £1,500 a year. The Duke of Norfolk wishes the place to be retained, having, no doubt, a nominee in his eye. As I have said before, the duties ought to be divided between two of the well-paid officials in the department, who could perfectly well undertake them. The Treasury will, of course, win the battle if Sir Michael Hicks Beach supports Mr. Hanbury, whose zeal for economical reforms is by no means to the taste of jobbing Ministerialists.

There never has seemed to me to be any great principle involved in the question, whether a public body should do its own building work directly, or through a contractor. The entire issue is one of £. s. d. The work, it is said, is scamped by the contractor. But, if so, this is the fault of those whose business it is to see that it is not scamped. The real issue, therefore, before the County Council is, which system is the cheaper. The Council has now data on which to arrive at a just conclusion. As a rule, the man who gets a big contract cuts things so fine that he does not count on a profit, unless he can get alterations whilst the work is progressing. I am inclined to think myself that contracting is the better plan, provided that no changes are made in the contract, and that there is close supervision as to material and work. But I am quite open to correction if it can be shown by figures that I am wrong.

In reply to a note in TRUTH two or three months ago, the Town Clerk of Totnes assured me that the Corporation have provided a drainage system for the town in accordance with the plans of the Local Government Board. If the system is satisfactory, as I was led to understand, the authorities will now have time to turn their attention to other matters, and, judging from a statement which has just been published by the Vicar of Totnes, they would do well to begin with the question of the housing of the working classes. It is alleged that nearly all the poorer inhabitants of Totnes have to live in dark, miserable passages, a few feet wide, into some of which a ray of sunshine never enters; and so inadequate is even this kind of accommodation, that, according to the Vicar, the borough exhibits "some of the worst cases of overcrowding it would be possible to imagine." The plea has been raised that there is no land in Totnes on which to build new houses; but, in view of the fact that the area of the borough is 1,500 acres, while the population is only 4,000, it is difficult to believe that this objection is well founded.

There is a duly constituted Sanitary Authority for the village of Mogerhanger, but, like many such bodies, it is peacefully slumbering while the people whose health and lives it is supposed to protect are being stricken down by a deadly disease. Ten months ago typhoid fever broke out in this Bedfordshire village, and it is still claiming victims. More than fifty cases, several ending fatally, have occurred among a population of 400; but still no real attempt is made to deal with the cause of the mischief, the responsible officials apparently considering that their duty begins and ends with the distribution of a little disinfectant now and then, and the carting of fever-stricken patients to a place some miles away. Sanitary Authorities have before now been mulcted in heavy damages for illnesses and deaths brought about by their negligence. But then it is the ratepayers who have to pay the damages, and it seems to me that a far more salutary course in such circumstances would be the indictment of the delinquents for manslaughter.

About eighteen months ago Sir George Trevelyan, then the Secretary for Scotland, was induced to inquire into the threatened eviction of some crofters at Kinrossie, Perthshire, with the result that the landlords (the Messrs. Nairne) were prevailed upon to withdraw the notices. In answer to Mr. A. C. Morton, Sir George stated in the House of Commons that the matter had been settled, the arrangement being that the crofters should give up some land but retain their cottages and garden ground. Although there may not have been a legally binding agreement, this was looked upon as a permanent settlement; and much indignation is therefore expressed at the announcement which has just been made that the lairds have given notice to one of the crofters and his mother, an old woman of seventy-six, to give up their cottage (built by the woman's late husband) and garden at once. The son, it seems, is a member of the local School Board and the Parish Council, and probably his votes and conduct in these capacities do not meet with the lairds' approval. This, at any rate, is the reason popularly assigned for the eviction; and, if it be true, the Messrs. Nairne will be able to plume themselves upon the accomplishment of a peculiarly mean and shameful act of landlord tyranny and injustice.

The *Scots Magazine* says, "Fallen Angels" is a very clever, ably-written, ethico-religious work." 5th thousand now ready. 8vo, pp. 260, cloth, 2s. 6d., post free.—GAY & BIRD, 22, Bedford-st., London.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.—Charity Bazaars and Committees will hear of something to their advantage by applying to The Normal Powder Syndicate, Ltd., 38 & 39, Parliament-st., Westminster, S.W.

A very good suggestion was made to me the other day for dealing with lady thieves of the Castle type. It is that, if kleptomaniacs are suffered to be at large, it should only be on their relatives becoming sureties for their good behaviour. For the protection of the community thieves and lunatics are placed under restraint. It is, therefore, illogical to leave a thief at large on the ground that she (or he) is also a lunatic. The interest of society requires that a kleptomaniac should be placed under restraint, just as much as a homicidal maniac. There would be, however, no objection to leaving such a maniac at large, if those who desired her (or his) freedom would undertake to indemnify any party who might suffer by her idiosyncrasy. Such an arrangement would be perfectly fair to the relatives, who could then take their choice between letting the afflicted party go to a criminal lunatic asylum, or continuing to enjoy her society—at their own risk.

I have not seen the report of the case, but a correspondent tells me that, simultaneously with the conviction of Mrs. Castle, a shop-lifting case was tried before Mr. Plowden, in which a husband and wife were jointly charged, and in this case the wife, apparently to her own astonishment, was discharged, on the ground that she was presumed by law to have acted under the influence of her husband. The husband was, in due course, convicted and sentenced. Considering that in the Castle case the husband was living with his wife, in a room which was literally packed with the proceeds of his wife's larcenies, I should have thought that the legal presumption of the husband's complicity would have been even stronger in this instance than in the other; and the different result arrived at in the two cases only makes it more clear that there is one law in this country for rich Americans and another for poor Englishmen. Is there any reason why, if the wife is a kleptomaniac, she should be less under the influence of her husband than if she were sane? If there is, every male thief would do well to insure against the risks of his profession by providing himself with a kleptomaniac wife.

In reference to the remarks made in last week's TRUTH as to the statistics of infanticide by "overlaying," a gentleman who claims to have made a study of the subject tells me that in London there are about 800 deaths per annum from this cause; in Liverpool over 200; and in the whole of the United Kingdom about 3,000. To these figures have to be added the deaths of a considerable number of diseased infants, who are more or less suffocated, but whose deaths are certified as arising from some specific complaint. "Probably," says my informant, "one is within the mark in saying that 4,000 babies are thus killed annually, and at least 3,000 of these are victims of murder or manslaughter—murder where the deed is intentionally done, manslaughter where it arises from drunken carelessness." These are ugly facts, if facts they be, and I suspect that there is not much exaggeration about them. What does the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children say on the subject?

Frauds by professional men seem to have been unfortunately common in Scotland during the past few months; and in almost every instance the offender has managed to escape from justice. In connection with the recent disappearance of Mr. Arthur Sturrock, a lawyer and banker at Kilmarnock, who is alleged to have swindled his clients to the tune of from £40,000 to £60,000, the Glasgow *Daily Mail* accuses the authorities of "wilfully and of purpose" permitting the offender to slip through their fingers. This is a grave charge, but I hear from a local correspondent that it is regarded as true in Kilmarnock, and that the absconding criminal is believed to owe his good fortune in getting away to the social position and rank of his family and friends. I trust, however, that the authorities will yet be able to dispel these pernicious notions by bringing back Sturrock and placing him in the dock.

In the last year of his late Majesty, King William IV., an Act was passed making it illegal, under a penalty of £50 for each offence, to publish any advertisement, or other notice, relating to the drawing in a foreign lottery, or the sale of tickets for such a lottery. Is not this Act still in force? Its operation was temporarily restricted by a statute of 8 and 9 Victoria, which granted relief to newspaper proprietors in respect of actions commenced before the passing of that Act, but, so far as I can learn, the original statute of William IV. remains in force to the present day. I call attention to the matter, because it has lately become the practice of provincial newspapers to publish advertisements of the Hamburg lotteries, and not only to publish the advertisements, but to stimulate the gambling propensities of their readers by editorial references to the lotteries. There seems a chance here for Mr. Hawke and the Anti-Gambling crusaders to do a really good and useful stroke of business.

For the present, the lines of the Anti-Gambling League can scarcely be said to have fallen in pleasant places, and their recent abortive effort to interfere with the renewal of the licence to Alexandra Park for its racing meetings may possibly help to convince some of the less bigoted of their supporters that their crusade against the liberty of the subject will never be popular with the average common-sense Briton. The League does, in fact, "protest too much," and like all thick-and-thin partisans ruins its own case by trying to over-prove it. Racing undoubtedly has its shady side, and weak-minded or unprincipled characters form a large portion of its following; but all unprejudiced men see that the evil is not one to be put right by any amount of grandmotherly legislation.

In response to inquiries from various parts of the country as to where it is that J.P.s have been in the habit of charging fees for witnessing statutory declarations, I think I may say, without any breach of confidence, that these fee-pocketing unpaid ones are to be found in the county of Cornwall. As the county is of

RIVIERA.—Magnificent Building Sites at Beaulieu, facing the sea, to be Sold.—Apply, TERSLING, Mentone; KURZ, Agent, Beaulieu; SHERRY, Raymond-buildings, W.C.

some extent, I would recommend any one in search of the wrong-doers to make a start in the neighbourhood of Newquay. In saying this, however, I must not be taken to suggest that the thing has never been done elsewhere.

Apropos of J.P.'s and statutory declarations, there is another point worthy of notice. Such declarations are chargeable with a stamp duty of 2s. each; but I have it on the authority of a notary public in the North of England that in practice declarations made before magistrates are never stamped at all, and a clerk in the Inland Revenue Office has stated that he has never even seen one of the forms of declaration under the Act of William IV. It is so novel, if not unprecedented, to discover any source of revenue which has escaped the eagle eye of Somerset House, that I feel sure that after this allusion to the matter very few declarations will be allowed to go unstamped in future.

There was an acrimonious dispute between the Lincoln Magistrates and Judge Shortt on Monday week concerning the use of the Sessions House. His Honour had appointed that date for the monthly sitting of the County Court, but on his arrival he found the Magistrates already in possession of the Sessions House for the adjourned hearing of some cruelty case. Their worships refused to budge, and his Honour refused to sit elsewhere, the upshot being that the whole of the County Court business was adjourned till December 7. As there were 120 plaints, in addition to forty judgment summonses, entered for hearing, the adjournment must mean loss and inconvenience to some hundreds of litigants, witnesses, and lawyers; and for this the Justices are to blame. It could only have been by inexcusable bungling that their special sitting clashed with the County Court, which is always fixed some time beforehand.

Last week a man named Phillips, of Union-street, Stonehouse, was sued in the Totnes County Court by Lord Churston for damage done by posting handbills on gates and fences. Judge Edge, who tried the case, gave judgment for £2. 2s. and costs, and remarked that if any other similar case was brought before him he should award "exemplary damages." This is the man Phillips, calling himself an "Australian herbalist," whose objectionable advertisements, and still more objectionable methods of disseminating them, were noticed in TRUTH in August last, and great credit is due to Lord Churston for the trouble he has taken in bringing the man to justice as well as to the Judge for the timely warning he gave to advertisers of this class. A gentleman living near Torquay tells me that the roads in that neighbourhood are polluted in all directions by offensive advertisements of one kind or another. Are the Devonshire police still unaware of the terms of the Indecent Advertisements Act?

A very lame and impotent verdict was returned at an inquest at Barry the other day respecting the death of a boy of fifteen named Britton. His body was found in the bulkhead wing space of the ballast tank of a steamer which was being repaired in Barry Graving Dock; and the evidence showed that the poor lad was almost continuously employed there for nearly thirty-four hours between Sunday night and Tuesday morning; that, thoroughly worn out, he fell asleep at his work; and that, nobody knowing (or troubling to see) what had become of him, the manhole doors were closed, and he met a horrible death by drowning. So little impression did this tragic story make upon the jury that they contented themselves with a verdict of "accidentally drowned," and an expression of opinion that the deceased was employed for an excessive number of hours. It was said that the foremen were not aware he had been at work so long; but it is nonsense to suppose that a youth of fifteen would slave away for thirty-four hours at a stretch of his own accord. Somebody caused him to do so, and thereby caused his death, and it was the duty of the jury to bring home the responsibility for what happened to the right party or parties.

At Ramsgate a few weeks ago the County Court Judge refused to make a committal order against a certain Captain Crawshaw, described as a fashionably-attired individual, and a member of a family of millionaire coalowners, who had run up a bill of £35 with a poor lodging-house keeper. In commenting on the case, I mentioned that his Honour had the reputation of exercising his power of committal readily enough against people of humble position and limited means. He gave a remarkable proof of this at his Court at Folkestone last week. There were fourteen judgment summonses, but none of the defendants could claim to be connected with millionaires, or appeared in Court arrayed like a person of wealth and fashion. The majority of them, indeed, were only labourers, and all were poor; and so in the short space of eighteen minutes the judge disposed of the whole fourteen, no fewer than twelve being committed to prison. It is incredible that proper evidence as to the means of each of these unfortunate men can have been given in the time his Honour allotted to the business; but that is apparently a matter of no importance where really poor debtors are concerned.

The Rector of Headley and his parishioners appear to have a very cool method of disposing of other people's rights and privileges. On the road from Leatherhead to this village there is an obstruction to vehicular traffic consisting of some gates across the highway. As the outcome of some negotiations with representatives of Headley the owner of these gates has consented to their removal if a public right-of-way across another portion of his property is given up. This right-of-way is mainly, or entirely, in the parish of Leatherhead, while the gates are in the parish of Headley; but the inhabitants of the latter place do not seem to have regarded these facts as any bar to their title to enter into such a bargain, and at a meeting last week, with the Rector in the chair, they resolved that the arrangement "be accepted." I imagine, however, that the inhabitants of Leatherhead and the general public also will have something to say before their right-of-way is thus abolished for the benefit of Headley.

In my Legal Pillory this week a correspondent has supplied a couple of cases from Swansea which, though somewhat out of the ordinary run of those I give in this column, nevertheless afford an interesting object-lesson in Justices' justice. The law with regard to the sale of loaves by weight is, of course, designed for the protection of the whole community, but if any distinction at all is made in dealing with offenders, surely it should be in the direction of punishing most severely a tradesman on whom the poor rely for the full measure of their daily bread. The Swansea Solons, however, take the opposite view, and fine the baker whose trade is with well-to-do people twice as heavily as the baker whose business is done among the poorer classes. As to the rest of the following list, the contrast between the pecuniary penalties on the one side for brutal assaults, and those on the other side for vagrancy, poaching, and petty larceny, speaks for itself. Although the newspaper report says nothing on the point, I shall possibly be told that the prisoner at Liverpool Assizes was an old offender; but even if he was, five years' penal servitude was an excessive, not to say ferocious, sentence:—

Doncaster County Police-court. James Cain, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home the worse for drink, struck his wife and knocked her down, and kicked her while she was on the ground. A few days before he had given her two black eyes, and she asked for a separation order on account of his persistent cruelty, but the Bench refused it. Fined 40s. including costs and bound over.

Bradford Borough Police-court. William Hainsworth, a powerful-looking fellow, charged with assaulting his wife. He gripped her by the throat, threw her down and jumped on her, twice repeating this treatment, and in addition striking her on the head with a bottle. She was in a delicate state of health. Fined 10s. and costs and bound over.

Southampton Police-court. Before Mr. G. P. Perkins and other Justices. Francis Applen, convicted of assaulting Emily Scott, a woman with whom he cohabited. He struck her a heavy blow on the forehead with a poker, inflicting a wound which necessitated her detention in the infirmary for several days. There was a long list of previous convictions. Fined £2 and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Isaac Brindley, convicted of assaulting Elizabeth Orme. She interfered for the protection of another woman whom defendant was assaulting, whereupon he struck her violent blows on each eye and in the mouth, and kicked her. Her injuries had to be treated at the infirmary. Fined 20s. and costs.

Hull Police court. Before the Stipendiary. James Meir, convicted of assaulting Tom Harland. The magistrate said the facts disclosed a very serious and cowardly assault, which was absolutely unprovoked. Fined 40s. and costs.

Doncaster County Police-court. C. Wastnedge, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined 40s. and costs.

Bervie Police-court. Before Provost Gibb. Henry Wood and George Grant pleaded guilty to a breach of the peace. Wood fined £1 and bound over, Grant fined £3.

Stone Police-court. Before Messrs. R. P. Copeland, J. Bourne, W. Kirkham, and W. Thompson. Samuel Grattage, George Moore, George Cooper, and John Cooper, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of seven rabbits, two nets, &c. Fined £5 each and costs; in default, two months each.

Hastings Borough Police-court. Before Alderman Bradman and Councillor Huggett. Thomas Deadman and Louis Alfred Dunk, lads, charged with being in possession of some empty beer bottles, supposed to have been stolen. It was alleged that the bottles were taken from the back premises of an hotel. Dunk, fourteen days; Deadman, seven days.

Darlington County Police-court. John Green, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. The prosecutor asked the Bench to be lenient. Fined £2 and costs.

Driffield Police-court. Henry Levitt, charged with stealing one onion. One month.

Long Ashton Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Gibbs, E. J. Swann, C. Hill, F. Weatherly, J. Bourne, and Major Thorne. Frederick Howell, charged with poaching. Three months.

Wimborne Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Churchill, Major-General Truell, and other justices. Harry Jenkins, convicted of an aggravated assault upon his wife. Although the woman was enceinte, defendant struck her several blows with his fist, knocked her down, and afterwards turned her out of the house for the night. He had previously ill-treated her. Fined £1 and 8s. costs, and ordered to pay his wife 6s. a week.

Lichfield City Police-court. Before Messrs. A. C. Lomax and T. Walmsley, Michael Toatland, charged with assaulting Jane Warwick, a widow, with whom he lodged. He knocked her down and kicked her, giving her two black eyes. He had assaulted her several times before. Fined £1. 1s. 6d., including costs.

Liverpool Assizes. Before Mr. Justice Bruce. Richard Jones, found guilty of robbing Griffith George Owen, of 2s. He was acquitted on a charge of using personal violence. Five years.

Swansea Police-court. Before Mr. J. Coke Fowler and other Justices. Henrietta White, summoned for selling bread otherwise than by weight. A loaf was found to be 2 oz. 10 drms. short of 2 lb.; but defendant said it was sold at a halfpenny under its proper price on that account. Defendant, whose business is among middle-class people, was fined 20s. Josiah Williams, whose business is in a very poor neighbourhood, was summoned for a similar offence, a half-quartern loaf proving to be 4 oz. short of its proper weight. He was fined 10s.

Peterborough Police-court. Before Lieut.-Col. Strong, Messrs. J. H. Beeby, W. Beaver, W. E. Welby, W. R. Cliffe, J. T. Miller, and Rev. W. Hopkinson. Thomas Bawber, charged with sleeping out. Twenty-one days. William Rogers, and Samuel Travis, charged with wandering abroad without having any visible means of subsistence. Twenty-one days each.

Keswick Police-court. Before Messrs. J. J. Spedding, R. D. Marshall, J. Langham, and T. Carrick. William Watson, labourer, Keswick, charged with vagrancy by sleeping out. Fourteen days.

What next? At Hull Police-court last week, a working glazier named Bennett was fined 5s., including costs, for cutting a pane of glass upon his own premises on the Lord's Day. This seems to be a new departure in Sabbatarianism, for there is a broad distinction between a man opening a shop, or otherwise carrying on his trade in public on a Sunday, and his doing work privately in his own house. In the latter case, the enforcement of the Act amounts to as gross and intolerable an interference with the liberty of the subject as could well be conceived. I suppose that under the Act, as thus interpreted, people can be fined for writing letters on Sunday in their own studies or parlours, and I tremble to think of the quantity of fines which I have myself incurred at different times by inditing paragraphs for TRUTH on the Sabbath Day, as, I regret to say, I have sometimes done during the last twenty years. It stands to reason that such a law can only be enforced by the most detestable system of espionage, and it would be interesting to know how the police who gave evidence against the defendant in the above case came to see him cutting the pane of glass, and who set them on thus to spy on a man's actions in his own house. We hear a vast outcry about State interference with private individuals in matters where large numbers desire such interference. Is there a single rational being who considers that in a nominally free country, freedom of conscience and individual liberty should be infringed to the extent shown in this case at Hull?

That a prisoner should be kept in gaol for five months awaiting his trial is a scandal to the administration of justice which I thought was no longer possible. It is what happened, however, in the case of a man who was

convicted at Exeter Assizes last week on a charge of stealing a letter—a crime which the Judge considered would be sufficiently punished by four months' hard labour. Quarter Sessions were held a week or two after the accused was committed by the magistrates, but owing to a stupid provision in the Act with regard to such offences against the Post Office, he could only be tried at Assizes, and so, as he was unable to procure bail, he had to undergo the five months' preliminary imprisonment. Yet, while a Court of Quarter Sessions is debarred from dealing with the simple theft of a letter, it has jurisdiction in the gravest offences, short of murder, against the person. Could anything be more absurd?

Should the fact that a man has been a poacher deprive him of the redress which he would otherwise obtain for an illegal seizure of his property? I can understand game-preserving magistrates answering the question in the affirmative, but it is certainly astonishing to find a County Court Judge doing so. This is what Judge Steavenson practically did at Whitehaven last week, when one Robinson, who had been convicted of poaching, sued the prosecuting game preserver for the return or the value of a rabbit-net which had been seized and detained. His Honour admitted that the Act under which the poaching prosecution took place did not allow of the forfeiture of the net, and that he was accordingly bound to give judgment for the plaintiff. He did so, however, by assessing the value of the net at 1d., ordering the defendant to pay that amount into Court, or, as an alternative, to give up the net, and depriving the plaintiff of costs. He further directed that this judgment should not take effect for six years, his object being, he said, to give the plaintiff "time for repentance, and to turn his attention to earning an honest living." What had Judge Steavenson to do with the fact that the man was (or had been) a poacher? His duty was to give him the full redress to which he was legally entitled for the wrongful seizure of his property, and to deliver such a judgment as he did was to abuse the power with which he is entrusted.

Among the cases down for trial at Glamorganshire Assizes last week was one in which Mrs. Edwards, the wife of a clergyman, living near Bridgend, was charged with ill-treating her child aged two and a half years. In defiance of the direction they received from Mr. Justice Mathew, and much to the astonishment of everybody who heard or read the evidence when the accused was before the magistrates, the Grand Jury threw out the bill. I am credibly informed that they did this after taking a vote on the question, and that the reason which the majority urged for ignoring the bill was, in effect, that they should give the woman another chance. If that is so, the Grand Jury were guilty of a scandalous violation of their duty, and it is a pity the matter was not brought to the notice of the Judge. Their function is simply to say whether there is or is not a *primâ facie* case against a prisoner; and to allow any other consideration to enter into their decision is utterly wrong and indefensible.

On two or three occasions I have referred to a charge of assault which a girl named Newman preferred against Dr. Joseph Dawson Crawford, of Liverpool, and which was dismissed by the Birkdale Bench, with the object (as Mr. Justice Cave has since said) of "hushing up the affair." Last August Newman brought an action for damages against Crawford at Liverpool Assizes, but, unfortunately, the jury were unable to agree to a verdict. The action was re-entered for trial at the Assizes last week, but it did not come into court, and I am told that in the Cause list it was marked "settled." The terms of the settlement have not found their way into the local papers, though, considering the nature of the case and the position the defendant occupies, it is certainly desirable that the facts should be made known.

Apropos of Messrs. Howard & Co., of 611, Chiswick High-road, the Chief Constable of a provincial town has handed me a batch of correspondence showing the way firms of this character do business. A new feature in one of the cases to which these papers refer, is that when a servant girl, who had been saddled with a Bible, on the instalment system by the usual method, attempted to get out of her bargain, a letter was written to her, purporting to have come from the female tout who had booked the order. The said female writes thus—regardless of punctuation:—

> DEAR MADAM,—you did not ought to have been surprised to have bible when I told you that I would bring it myself sometime that afternoon you know you are getting me into serious trouble and I am stopped from doing any more buisness (*sic*) until this is cleared up why dont you be a girl to your word and keep the Book the subscriptions are very easy if I hear of any more about this I shall have to come from London with secatary (*sic*) which will make a lot of trouble for you. . . . .

The girl did not pay up, and the lady did not come up from London with the "secatary." Then Howard & Co. try the old trick of the bogus County Court notice. What an empty attempt of intimidation this is may be judged from the fact that, in three successive months, they send three of these notices as each fresh instalment becomes due, notifying each time that proceedings will be taken without further notice, unless the amount due is paid by a specified date. The amount, so far as I have heard, has never been paid, and apparently Messrs. Howard & Co. thought it prudent to avoid any further steps. Possibly this result may have been brought about by the fact that the Chief Constable of the town had himself, a few months previously, written to the firm, stating that he had had complaints about their canvassers. I can only say again that it is a great pity that the police do not have power to stop the operations of these canvassers altogether.

Evidence continues to accumulate from all quarters of the swindling character of the "grandfather's clock" trade carried on by the man, Reeves, and others, from Norwich or Boston. In cases in which the clock has been

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for HEWETSONS' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—HEWETSONS, Tottenham Court-road, London.

sent, it seems always to have proved a worthless bargain, one victim having had to spend 19s. 6d. on it before the works would move at all. In cases where the clock has not been sent, the inference, so far as Reeves's intentions go, is to much the same effect. A clergyman who had seen Reeves's advertisement wrote offering to pay for carriage and packing if the clock were sent on approval, and to buy it if it answered to the advertiser's description. This offer was not good enough, and Reeves declined it. It is a pity that all would-be possessors of grandfather's clocks have not been equally cautious.

The trade in bogus second-hand plated goods, about which a good deal has been said at different times in TRUTH, seems to be extensively combined with a similar trade in shoddy furs. Here is an example of the sort of advertisement by which this business is run, this particular extract being from the *Western Morning News*—for these people look for their victims in all parts of the kingdom:—

SEALSKIN CAPE. — Lady offers exquisite SEALSKIN CAPE, measures 4 yards round, richly satin lined, finest quality, perfectly new, and faultless Paris model; immediate cash required; accept £5, worth 20 guineas; muff to match, 12s. 6d. Bolanski, 52, Hugh-street, Pimlico, London.

52, Hugh-street, Pimlico, is one of the addresses from which the shoddy plated goods business used to be worked, and I said a good deal about a lady hailing from that address in my articles on the plated goods swindle two or three years ago. A lady who had the goods "on appro." found that the "exquisite sealskin cape" was in reality what is known as "electric seal," a trade name for rabbit-skin dyed to resemble seal. So far from being cheap, the price asked, £5, is considerably more than the market value of the article offered. Those, therefore, who see fur goods advertised in this way will do well to take professional opinion upon them before purchasing.

Reference has been made in TRUTH before now to a usury shop carried on at 1, Bedford Circus, Exeter, under the name of "Gordon & Gordon." A standing advertisement of this establishment states that £3 will be lent for 4s., or £10 for 13s. 4d.; but that this is a mere trap is pretty clearly shown by the subsequent terms of the advertisement, which state that the £3 is to be repayable by twenty weekly instalments of 4s., or the £10 by twenty repayments of 13s. 4d. In other words, the borrower of £10 for twenty weeks has to pay £13. 6s. 8d. by weekly instalments. The rate of interest per annum which this transaction represents is something enormous, but even this is insufficient to satisfy the rapacity of the blood-sucker who runs this place. A working-man, after being laid up by an illness, borrowed £10 of "Gordon & Gordon" some few months back, and found, after foolishly signing a paper without reading it, that he had to pay back a total of £15. 9s. What rate of interest per annum this represents on instalments of 13s. 4d. per week, I should be sorry to state, but it must be a good many hundreds per cent. This particular business at Exeter used to be run under the name of "Fielding." The name of "Gordon & Gordon" was adopted a few months ago. Whether Isaac Gordon has anything to do with it, I cannot say, though it is difficult to understand how any-body whose name was not Gordon should adopt for the purpose of the money-lending business a name of such evil repute.

The individual who calls himself "Edwards & Co.," of 17, Sackville-street, seems lately to have been discharging a regular broadside of circulars at officers of H.M. Navy, offering, in his enthusiasm for the Naval Service, to advance them almost any amount without security. It may interest "Edwards & Co." to know that a considerable proportion of his circulars have come back to TRUTH office from the different ships which have been favoured with them. Fortunately, Naval officers are under less temptation than Army men to raise the wind by selling themselves to the Shylocks of the West End, and long may they continue so!

The truth seems to be that the "fraternity" burst into activity all round at this time of year—probably in anticipation of the "festive season" and the little bills which accompany the festivities. There is a usurer's tout in business in Piccadilly under the name of "James Wilton." His circulars have been returned to this office by the dozen during the last week, and I should imagine that they have been sent out by the ton. A specially strong complaint about them is made to me by one of the Oxford Heads of Houses. If we cannot put a stop to the circular nuisance altogether, might we not enact that there should be a close season for money-lenders and a few others of the more obnoxious touts?

A lady living in the West End begs me to "expose" the gang now carrying on the rubber-stamp trick at Torquay under the name of "Truscott & Co." My dear Madam, if exposure in TRUTH would stop this or any other swindle, all the "Truscotts" in the trade would have retired from business years ago. Such people look for their victims among those who do not read TRUTH, and they are assisted by obliging newspaper proprietors who persist in publishing their advertisements, regardless of anything TRUTH may say. It was only on October 8 that I pointed out that "Truscott & Co." were carrying on the business hitherto associated with the name of "Paynter & Co.," of the same town, and I mentioned at the same time that, under pressure, Truscott had in one instance disgorged his ill-gotten gains. Everybody, therefore, who reads TRUTH is already forewarned and forearmed.

I have been asked to express an opinion on the following advertisement and upon the article advertised:—

THE "SUN"
INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT
IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY EVERYONE WHO HAS SEEN IT TO BE BY FAR THE BEST AND MOST PERFECT
INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT
EVER INTRODUCED.

NO MANTLE REQUIRED!

NO CHIMNEY REQUIRED!

NO SMELL. NO SMOKE.
NO DANGER.

It can be instantly attached to any ordinary gas bracket or chandelier by anyone, and is equally suitable for private houses, shops, factories, warehouses, halls, hotels, &c., &c.

Having been asked the question, I must say that the

above eulogy does not convey a very accurate idea of the article. The contrivance, which is sold at 3s. 9d., is a small paraffin lamp, attachable to the side of a gas jet, and so arranged as to combine the flame of the lamp with that of the gas. It is, therefore, not an incandescent lamp at all, and it strikes me as highly dangerous; while any one who would consider it "suitable" to attach to his chandeliers or gas-brackets must be a person of singular taste. As the thing is made and sold at Liverpool, and orders are solicited by post, I strongly advise an inspection before purchase.

Apparently one of the chief results of the idiotic "Made in Germany" Act is to render importers of foreign goods specially anxious to pass themselves off as British manufacturers. Here is a good example:—The label round a match-box, extensively sold in London and the provinces, bears a sort of trade-mark in the shape of a sailor's head, with the legend "England's Heroes," and the following inscription in red and black letters:—

MANUFACTURED BY MARTIN HARRIS & CO., LTD., STRATFORD, LONDON, E.
Support English Workpeople only by using English-made matches.

This covers three sides of the box. The fourth is covered by a piece of sanded paper to strike the matches on. Remove this paper and you find underneath the further still more interesting notification:—

"PRINTED IN GERMANY."

That is how you "support English workpeople only."

One of the letters in which Mr. "J. R. S. Gaskell" (whose real name will be remembered by many of my readers) solicits orders for a Royal pedigree has been sent to me by a gentleman to whom it was addressed, with an inquiry as to the writer's bona fides. In his letter Gaskell thinks, but is not quite sure, that he can trace the gentleman's descent from the Kings of Scotland, and from a hint which he drops, I gather that the recipient of the proposal contemplates suing Gaskell for libelling him by suggesting that he is of such disreputable origin. As to Mr. Gaskell's bona fides, I cannot say anything; but from what I am told, I believe there is no obstacle in the way of tracing any of our pedigrees back to Royal ancestors. For reasons which there is no necessity to go into, the greater part of the population, if they only knew it, have a drop or two of Royal blood somewhere in them, though respect for the memory of their ancestors may make them reluctant to blazon the fact abroad.

Mr. R. L. C. Morrison, of Greenhill-avenue, Tenby, writes with reference to a paragraph in last week's TRUTH about himself, that he is at a loss to understand my remarks, as he has issued none of the circulars there mentioned since February last, when attention was called to them in TRUTH. On looking further into this matter, I find that I have done Mr. Morrison an injustice, and that the circular I referred to was actually sent out in January last, though for some reason it was only brought under my notice a fortnight ago. Mr. Morrison is, therefore, entitled to full credit for having seen that the circular was open to objection, and having promptly discontinued it. And I hope I am also entitled to some credit for having brought him to this conclusion.

No. I draw the line at the following question. Up to a point I do not mind drawing upon my vast stores of information for the benefit of readers of TRUTH who desire enlightenment; but I do not happen to know the number of acres of land in Yorkshire, and I have not time just at present to count the letters in the Bible:—

Will you kindly answer through your "Answers to Correspondents" whether there are more acres of land in the county of Yorkshire than there are letters in the Bible? Please give figures to "OXFORD."

The Ladies' Dress Association, Limited, a year or two ago removed from Jermyn-street to New Bond-street, very much against the wish of a good many shareholders. The results, as set forth in a report just issued, are highly interesting. The report states that a large number of new customers have been obtained at Bond-street, but, unfortunately, most of the old customers have disappeared. Consequently, the returns have fallen off, until the Directors have come to the conclusion that the concern had better be wound up. The accounts appended to this report show that the Association started its last financial year with a debit balance of £10,724, and that this has increased during the year to £14,108. The most promising assets in hand appear to be £100 odd in Consols, and £600 odd in New Zealand stock, and I should certainly think that the shareholders would do well to secure this modest sum for themselves, if they can, while it remains intact.

A sort of Trade Union of our Liberal Peers seems to have been formed to look after the £70,000 which is divided amongst them whenever the Party is in office, and in consideration of which they are prepared to remain Liberal, in order to prevent the Party from becoming a social Alsatia, or a danger to all those privileges and abuses that Radicals would sweep away. Never does one of these Peers shed the light of his eloquence upon a meeting without bewailing that a Peer is no longer the Party leader, and expressing his hope that we shall again recur to this dispensation. A week ago there was a meeting in Bucks of some Liberal Association. It will be remembered that not long ago a certain "Earl of Buckinghamshire" recanted the error of his ways and joined the Liberal Party. Very few had ever heard of this Earl's existence, but we were called upon to rejoice over this important addition to our forces. At once the Earl was rewarded by being appointed a Lord-in-Waiting,

SCOTT ADIE, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns

Intending purchasers of American Organs should inspect the new models which Messrs. METZLER & CO., Great Marlborough-street, have just received from the factory of Mason & Hamlin.

with a salary of £700 per annum for doing nothing. This practical Peer attended the Liberal meeting in Bucks, and the grateful creature began, in the usual Peer way, to deplore the change in the Leadership. No one is a prophet in his own land, and the Earl of Buckinghamshire is not one in Buckinghamshire. His observations were met with loud cries of "Oh, oh!" amid which the Lord-in-Waiting subsided.

A correspondent reminds me that the catalogue that I gave the other day did not exhaust the list of the perquisites of Liberal Peers under the late Government. To the items I gave there has to be added yet another sum of £2,000, paid to Lord Breadalbane, as Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland—this bringing the total up to about £70,000.

The War Office proposes, the House of Commons disposes. If Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Brodrick think we are going to vote £5,000,000 for coaling stations next year because we voted that sum for ships last year they are counting without their host. It is time to stop this Box and Cox policy of Imperial defence. The War Office has quite enough to do with its own affairs without suggesting expenditure which the Admiralty has never asked for, and does not want. As in 1805, so now, the country looks to its Navy for defence, and it is the business of the Admiralty, not of the War Office, to provide for this.

The Italian Government has most wisely recognised the absolute independence of Ethiopia, and further agreed that, until the definite delimitation between its African Colony and Ethiopia, any territory that it may not wish to occupy will revert to Ethiopia. I congratulate the Abyssinians on having by force of arms secured their independence. If Italy is wise, it will reduce the area of its territory on the Red Sea to one port, and make that a free port.

One of the pleas put forward by our Government for its Soudan raid was that it was designed to aid Italy in her war against Abyssinia. We had, with that benevolence which characterises our dealings with property that does not belong to us, made over to Italy Kassala, as its occupation was believed to be likely to aid her in her military operations against Abyssinia. I presume that this town will now be evacuated by Italy. What, then, is to become of it? Are we to send troops to garrison it? Surely we might learn a lesson from Italy, and ourselves enter into a treaty with the ruler of the Soudan, recognising its independence, and establishing friendly commercial relations with him. This has never even been attempted. Because the Egyptians once occupied the Soudan, and, as Gordon said, made it a "hell on earth," we have treated it as belonging *de jure* to Egypt, and as ours because Egypt is ours, though what advantage we hope to derive from possessing a desert, with a few uncultivated oases in it, no one has ever explained.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, E., APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed

On all statements that I see in the newspapers in regard to matters outside the "four seas," my belief is becoming less and less. Last week we were informed by one or two veracious organs of public credulity that an arrangement was under consideration by the Great Powers, according to which each Power was to appoint one of the Turkish Ministers, and, in consideration of the Sultan agreeing to hand all authority over to this menagerie, the Powers were to guarantee a Turkish loan of five millions. I am told that this wondrous scheme was hatched in the Ottoman Bank, and launched as a trial balloon. But the Bank itself would do well, instead of furnishing schemes for the better government of Turkey, to amend its own ways. It took the lead not long ago in a huge speculation in South African mining securities, which ought to have been entirely outside its functions.

I am not a Crusader. I do not, like Mr. George Russell, wish to take action to establish the Christian religion in Constantinople any more than I would have us seek politically to establish it through the length and breadth of our Indian Empire. What I want is that we should give over consinging to permanent misgovernment the races subject to the Turk in the Balkan Peninsula and Asia Minor for some fancied advantage to ourselves. It is admitted at present, that we could not single-handed, and with Continental Europe against us, engage in a crusade for this purpose, and that, owing to a variety of circumstances, Russia is the only Power through which the salvation of these races can be worked out. If Lord Salisbury frankly accepts this view, then by all means let us leave his Government to carry it out. If not, let us agitate against him.

Zeal is always commendable, although it has become a proverb that excessive zeal is apt to be compromising. The business of a London correspondent of a provincial newspaper is to provide news, but the correspondent of the *Western Morning News* not only provides it but makes it. The public, he says, is soon to be placed in possession of the history of the quarrel between Lord Rosebery and Sir William Harcourt, as the entire correspondence relating to this quarrel, which extended over the whole period of Lord Rosebery's Leadership, is to be published. The correspondent is not at liberty to reveal its exact nature, but he vouchsafes the statement that there is a rod in pickle for Sir William which will make his chance of continuing to lead the Liberal Party improbable.

I think that the correspondent would have some difficulty in revealing the nature of this extensive correspondence, for the very simple reason that it does not exist. As I have already stated, the entire correspondence consists of (1) a letter written after the election of the new Parliament, by Lord Rosebery to one of his late colleagues, a copy of which was, I believe, forwarded by Lord Rosebery himself to Sir William, after it had, by his request, been shown to the other members of the defunct Cabinet, and (2) Sir William's reply. In Lord Rosebery's letter he is understood to have declined to have any further political connection with the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, although alleging

no reasons for this decision. I never heard that there was any particular secret made of the matter, and certainly a very large number of members of the House of Commons have been long aware of what had taken place. How this is likely to render the continuance of Sir William as Leader of the Liberal Party improbable I entirely fail to understand, unless his autocratic dismissal from the post of Liberal Leader in the House of Commons, without even consulting his late colleagues as to this momentous step, is to be deemed a ground for his dismissal by the Liberal Party from its Leadership. Obviously, the declaration that Lord Rosebery would have no further political connection with Sir William was tantamount to his dismissal from the Leadership in the Commons, so long as Lord Rosebery was the titular Leader of the Party, for how possibly could it be supposed that the one could remain Party Leader and the other Commons Leader, if the first declined all political connection with the second? If the letter did not mean this, it is for Lord Rosebery to explain what it did mean.

I cannot vouch for the truth of the following, but I am told that, when Sir John Willoughby received an intimation that he had forfeited his commission for having taken part in the Transvaal raid, he wrote a letter to the War Office, in which he said that, for the first time, an officer had been dismissed from the Queen's Service for having carried out the wishes of his superiors, and that whilst, so far as regarded himself, he should have had to resign his commission, as he was engaged in business matters to which he wished to devote himself exclusively, he yet felt it his duty to state that he had informed the officers engaged in the raid who were his subordinates, that it had been undertaken with the approval of the authorities. I presume that Sir John will be one of the witnesses before the Parliamentary Committee; if so, and if he really did write any such letter, his explanation of it will be interesting.

For Dr. Jameson I have somewhat of a weakness. He has always seemed to me an honest, dunderheaded, Dugald Dalgety, thoroughly loyal to the hand that fed him. I, therefore, am sorry to see in the newspapers that he has undergone an operation, and if, really, his health is seriously endangered by confinement after it, he ought to be released. As for the other Raid prisoners, who, we are told, are suffering from want of exercise, I see no reason why they should not, like many other prisoners, be furnished with an opportunity for exercise, if they think that this will conduce to their well-being; but to talk of their being let out of prison because they do not find themselves so comfortable there as outside is nonsense. Of course they do not; if they did, where would have been the point of imprisoning them?

At it again, as I anticipated when I heard that we were soon to have Mr. Rhodes with us. That great patriot has, according to the veracious scribes who have fulfilled their mission in Rhodesia by keeping his name well before the public, taken part with Lord Grey and Mr. Colenbrander in some meetings with the natives. We are now told by the newspapers that have taken up his cause here that he has "been the man in the gap," and that "in spite of official lukewarmness and the hostility of powerful enemies, he has wrested as from the fire the raw material of what will one day be a great province," and that this "is in itself sufficient to ensure the implacable hostility of the Little Englander;" but "he has been placed in power by a force even stronger than that of Sovereigns or Governments—the force of necessity." Well, well!

A correspondent writes from Capetown:—

We are desirous here to know what is intended to be done if Mr. Rhodes is proved before the British Parliamentary Committee to have provided, with other Company financiers, the means to invade the Transvaal. You English must not make the mistake of supposing that the ridiculous telegrams that you get from South Africa, and which are published in your newspapers, represent public opinion. Opinion here is entirely adverse to Mr. Rhodes, except with those who have made money, or who hope to make money, by his speculations. The Dutch population of the Cape is not hostile to the British Empire, but it consists of men of the old Puritan type, and they are with President Kruger, because they consider that the raid on the Transvaal was a disgrace to everybody concerned in it. If Mr. Rhodes is found guilty, they insist that the British Government shall take some action. If it does not, British rule will be regarded as synonymous with protection to evil-doers in high places. We, as you know, have already had a Committee, and no one reading the evidence placed before it can doubt that Mr. Rhodes was the prime mover in the raid.

We also want to know what is to be done about the Chartered Company. We were not asked our opinion when the Charter was given to it. But we think that, if the Company abused the Charter, and made it serve as a means to attack a neighbouring State, it ought to be set aside, or, anyhow, that all Sovereign power should be taken from the Company. Rhodesia is a fever-infested country, where Europeans will never be able to settle. Paying gold is a myth. Reef gold has never proved a paying speculation, except in the rarest instances. Even supposing the railroad through Rhodesia were made, how would this help the mines, almost all of which are situated at an enormous distance from the line of railroad? Everything connected with Rhodesia has been humbug. Young sprigs of your aristocracy came out to prospect for mines, their expenses being paid by syndicates. They lived gloriously, quaffing the best brands of champagne. Some of them got concessions and claims, and a few of these were brought out in London as companies. Now most of the sprigs have left for other parts. There are not now above 2,000 Europeans in the whole of Rhodesia, and most of these are whites who either cannot get away, or who make a scanty living by selling spirituous liquors, when they are not drinking them. The rinderpest has destroyed all the cattle; the natives are not really subdued. The Administration, with the armed force that it will be necessary to have to maintain order, will cost £100,000 at the very least. The interest on the debentures of the Company will amount to £50,000. These two items will never be covered by revenue. The country cannot be made a paying concern. The costs of administration cannot be covered. This we know, and for this reason we are not going to take it over as a gift. If you like to allow a Company, with Dukes at its head, to fool credulous people out of their money, and to spend this money in keeping up a financial farce, do so. That is your affair, not ours. But we demand that, if there be evidence to show that Rhodes and the Company were concerned in a raid which has put back the clock in South Africa for many a year, the Imperial Government shall take over all administration of Rhodesia. It may either pay itself, or make the Company pay in consideration of the commercial advantages that it obtained through its Charter, but which events have proved to be, as we all expected here, worthless. Rhodes and his friends did their utmost to make us believe that they were acting with the concurrence and connivance of Mr. Chamberlain. They went about after the failure saying that he must take care, or they would split on him. All this, I dare say, was bluff, for this has been their chief stock-in-trade. But if they and their Company are not made responsible for all responsibility that can be affixed on them, every one here will be inclined to think that, in some way or other, they have the Imperial authorities in their power, and can blackmail them by threats of disclosures.

This is all very well, but the Cape Colony is the predominant partner in South Africa, and should declare its willingness to take over Rhodesia. The Charter prac-

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tically gave the Chartered Company certain rights in regard to land and minerals in that country, on condition that it paid all administrative expenses. The Cape Colony should undertake administration, leaving to the Company its land and mineral rights so long as it paid into the Cape Treasury the cost of administration. I believe these rights to be absolutely worthless, but evidently the shareholders of the Company do not, otherwise they would not retain their shares when they might sell them at 100 per cent. premium. They, therefore, could not complain of any such arrangement, for commercially their position would not be changed. As regards Mr. Chamberlain's complicity, I do not believe in it. I should say that he would be the very last man to put himself in the hands of Mr. Rhodes; nor do I precisely see what advantage he would have expected to derive by pulling the chestnuts out of the fire for him. I understand that Mr. Stead is about to publish a Christmas number, "proving" that Mr. Rhodes is the most virtuous of patriots, and Mr. Chamberlain the Archfiend, who pushed him into an enterprise and then deserted him. But Mr. Stead is avowedly an ardent admirer of Mr. Rhodes, and, of course, his pamphlet will necessarily be an *ex parte* statement based on a foregone conclusion drawn up by a clever journalist. I trust that he will not fail to let us know what Miss Julia Spook thinks of the whole matter.

SCRUTATOR.

THE DEMOCRATIC MOTOR-CAR.

THE Unionist Leaders are, one after another, thanking Heaven that the destinies of the country have been entrusted to their immaculate hands, and that the Radicals are but a shattered remnant; indeed, if these Heaven-sent Ministers are not prepared to recognise that all is for the best in the best of worlds, it is because their Parliamentary majority is so large that, like an over-inflated balloon, it may one day burst. Unfortunately, they are strong, and we are weak; but let us hope that things will now mend.

They will not, unless Radicals gain experience by adverse fortune. If they repeat the errors of the past, these errors will produce the same results. When the Liberal Unionists left the Liberal Party, I rejoiced. In the main they represented the old Whig element, and when they found that they were no longer the dominant factor in the Party, they gravitated to the Conservatives, with whom their views had for long been more in harmony than with the Radicals. The only seceder whom I regretted to lose was Mr. Chamberlain, because he was really a Radical, and is not only an able debater, but a man of resource and action. Relieved from the paralyzing dead-weight of these Whigs, I hoped that a stalwart Radical policy would become that of the Party. Alas! I was disappointed. No sooner had Mr. Gladstone withdrawn from the Leadership than we found that the drift was backwards. The Whig Rump that still adhered to the Party managed to get the upper hand in its councils, and this Rump became our masters. All who refused to bow down before it were dubbed traitors, and the Party fell into the hands of a band seeking to retain office by the very simple expedient of either toning down, or acting counter to, every principle that had been supposed to form a portion of the Radical creed. Occasionally some of these principles were trotted out in orations, but all idea of acting on them was put aside. We know to what this led: to a more crushing defeat than has been inflicted on any Party during the present century.

This Whig Rump is now discredited, and for the nonce it is relegated to a back seat; but it has been scotched, not killed. It still exists, and it has not yet abjured the hope of being able once more to bring us under subjection to it. Its members would have us believe that the Liberal Party is in the dust because it has been too Radical, and that the only way to achieve a triumph at the next General Election is to place ourselves under the guidance of the Rump. Rather than such a barren triumph, I should prefer defeat. But I entirely deny that the course which these gentlemen suggest would be crowned with success. When first I sought the suffrages of my fellow-citizens, Lord Palmerston was Prime Minister. Artizans and labourers were without votes. On all domestic issues Lord Palmerston was a Conservative, and a much less advanced Conservative than are those who profess this faith to-day. Abroad he was fond of meddling, and he had formed a sort of alliance with the Liberals in every Continental country. His aim was to grant as little reform as he possibly could at home, and yet to pass as a Liberal by supporting all Liberal movements abroad. In regard to the abolition of Church rates, the only domestic reform that was before the country, Lord Palmerston, although declaring on all occasions that he wished to put an end to them, took very good care not to do so, lest he should be forced into further reforms. The Government was essentially aristocratic. Who were to be Ministers, and what these Ministers were to do, were decided in London salons. Against all this, Mr. Bright and other Radicals vainly protested. The two Parties had very little to distinguish them one from the other. Radicals regarded both as the common enemy. Our Whig Rump would, if it could, bring us back to those days. But the electorate is very different now from what it then was. The Liberal Party has now to look for support to the masses. The moneyed classes have gone over to the Conservatives; so have the "respectabilities," as they are called, under which term is included every snob who looks up to all whom he considers socially above him, and looks down on those he deems socially below him. Aristocracy, plutocracy, and snobocracy have joined hands against us. So long as we do not frankly throw ourselves on the masses, show them that there is a difference in acts as well as in words between us and the Conservatives, there is little probability of our ever obtaining a Parliamentary majority, unless it be owing to the faults of our opponents, in which case even with a majority we shall be powerless. The Whig remnant that still clings to us is a curse to us. It makes all true Radicals suspicious of us. They prefer the genuine and honest Conservative to the

Conservative masquerading in Liberal garb—in words, Radical; in action, Tory.

The present Conservative Government has a majority of about 150 in Parliament, or, excluding the Irish, its majority is a good deal over 200. Wisely, from its standpoint, it diverts attention from domestic reforms by a militant and aggressive policy abroad. At home, its main object is to rob the many for the few. Last year it was the turn of the landlords to be given our goods; next year it is to be the turn of the Church of England. Sir William Harcourt's increase of the death dues has given the Government many millions to play with. The Unionists regard these millions as booty that has fallen into their hands. Their only trouble is as to its apportionment.

Now, I would ask any sane Radical fairly to consider what would be the result of the Liberal Party, as at present constituted, winning the next General Election. We should, it is true, be saved from open robbery for a brief period. But a Liberal Administration would be stale-mated in all legislative progress by the Lords. Once again, we should plough the sands of the seashore, until this wondrous folly had so outraged all men of sense, that we should find ourselves discredited and again in a minority. We have about forty Peers who vouchsafe their support to us, so long as we eschew all drastic Democratic legislation. These, as before, we should reward by distributing about £70,000 per annum amongst them. A certain number of wealthy men, who had contributed to the Party chest, would be made Peers or Baronets; a certain number of editors and wirepullers would be made Knights; a certain number of persons would be made Magistrates; a certain number of lawyers would get Judgeships and other legal pickings; and a certain number of ladies would obtain tickets for the Royal Enclosure at Ascot. But how would this advance Democracy?

It cannot be too often repeated that Mr. Gladstone closed his great patriotic career by a speech in which he declared that, although he had an assured majority in the House of Commons, he was powerless, because of the House of Lords; and, further, that he offered to remain in public life if a dissolution was assented to, and the question put to the constituencies whether the country would any longer submit to so degrading a servitude. Had this course been taken, the Liberal Party, freed from aristocratic trammels, would now have been in power. Until it will face this issue it must either be out of office, or, if in office, remain powerless for good. This is why I would have this made the one issue, all else being set aside until this reform is carried. If the Lords are minded to meet in their chamber, and to indulge in twaddling orations, by all means let them, provided that this twaddle does not prevent a Bill passed by the House of Commons becoming law during the Session in which it has been passed. Some Radicals may be anxious for one thing, others for another thing. But is it not idle folly for Radicals to dispute amongst themselves on this or that, so long as neither this nor that can become law? If the Radicals throughout the country are really in earnest, they will declare, by means of their Associations, that a change in the composition of the Legislature must be our battle cry, and that all who decline to fight for what is our irreducible minimum, be they Peers or be they Commoners, will do well to withdraw from the Liberal Party.

This revolution—for a revolution, I admit, it is—never will be accomplished unless all Radicals are not only in earnest, but subordinate for the moment all other issues to this one. Some Radicals are for one reform, some for another. But is it not silly folly to dispute what the Party ought to do on a variety of issues, so long as it is powerless to do anything? The House of Lords is the key of the enemy's position. If we destroy it, then we can hope for Democratic legislation; then alone will self-government be a reality both in the Legislature and in the Executive. Raze the fortress of privilege to the ground, or convert it into a ruin in which a few crows croak, but can do no more, and we shall have struck a death-blow to our opponents, from which they never will recover.

I know that it is said that all this endeavour to alter our legislative institutions is not in accordance with the spirit of modern Democracy, which should concern itself alone with those social problems that would secure to labour in farm and factory the means to emancipate itself from grinding, grovelling, and degrading poverty. A few days ago I was looking at a motor car stuck fast in the street. There was not enough motive power to turn its wheels. Of what use was this car? What would have been thought if the car had stuck fast, not only because its motive power was defective, but because a number of persons were using their strength to act as a drag on the wheels; and if it had been explained that these persons were possessed of an hereditary right to perform this silly work, and that they were paid for it by the owners of motor cars? This is really the case with our Legislature. If the Democratic car is to move onwards, not only must it have sufficient motive power, but its motor must not be at the mercy of men who have a right to hang on to its wheels. If we do not recognise this, we are either the veriest of humbugs or the dullest of fools.

"SOLDIER AN' SAILOR TOO."

In his latest volume of Barrack Room Ballads, published in "The Seven Seas," Mr. Rudyard Kipling sings of the virtues of "'Er Majesty's Jolly—soldier an' sailor too;" and the poet's tribute to this hero is entirely in accordance with the public sentiment in regard to the Royal Marines.

An' after I met 'im all over the world, a-doin' all kinds of things,
Like landin' 'isself with a Gatlin' gun to talk to them 'eathen kings;
'E sleeps in an 'ammick instead of a cot, an' 'e drills with the deck on a slew,
An' 'e sweats like a Jolly—'Er Majesty's Jolly—soldier an' sailor too!
For there isn't a job on the top o' the earth the beggar don't know, nor do—
You can leave 'im at night on a bald man's 'ead, to paddle 'is own canoe—
'E's a sort of a bloomin' cosmopolouse—soldier an' sailor too.

If anybody had asked me my opinion about the Marines, I should have endeavoured to say something

to very much the same effect in my own feeble language. In fact, the Marines present themselves to me as the type of what a British Army should be—always ready to go anywhere and do anything, *per mare, per terram.* It is a pity we cannot limit ourselves to an Army of "'Er Majesty's Jollies," who would be quite capable of defending the Empire wherever or whenever it might be in danger, and would at the same time be quite useless for purposes of aggressive warfare.

Whatever may be the opinion of the public, however, or the opinion of a poet like Mr. Kipling, the merits of the Marines and their value as a fighting force have never received any adequate official recognition from the rulers of the Army and the Navy. From the time when the "Maritime Regiment" was first raised, under that martial and patriotic monarch King Charles the Second, down to the present moment, the Marines have been systematically slighted, and relegated to a subordinate and inferior position by the side of the Army and the Navy. Instead of being honoured as "soldier and sailor too," the Marine has been treated as a sort of maid-of-all-work in the Service, to be always kept at the hardest and dirtiest work, to be awarded the maximum of kicks and the minimum of half-pence, and to be snubbed where others are favoured with honours and rewards. The other day we were celebrating the Battle of Trafalgar. Who has ever heard or thought of the Marines in connection with that epoch-making event? Yet the Marines furnished to Nelson's fleet ninety officers and about 3,600 men, one-sixth of the total force engaged; and, what is more to the point, they numbered one-fifth of the total killed and wounded. And how were their services on this occasion recognised? By conferring the brevet rank of Major upon the Captain of Marines of the *Victory.* Amid all the honour and glory which followed the greatest naval victory in English history, that was the sole mark of official favour bestowed upon the Marines. And this is a fairly representative instance of the manner in which the force has been treated throughout recent Naval history.

The case of Major Brittan, fully described in TRUTH a fortnight ago, is the latest example of the attitude of the Admiralty towards the Marines, and as bad an example as can be found. It is in this light that I desire to press the case upon the attention of the public. The crime of Major Brittan, the crime for which he has been summarily deprived—without trial or opportunity of defence — of his appointment at Plymouth, and banished to a foreign station, is that he dared on two occasions to urge that the dignity, rights, and responsibilities of officers of Marines should be enhanced in certain particulars. He was guilty of no irregularity in so doing. On the first occasion he laid his complaint before the First Lord in accordance with the rules and traditions of the Service. On the second occasion he spoke at a Service Club, temperately and discreetly, in the course of a discussion in which all ranks and branches of the Service were taking part, and all sorts of views were being expressed. The changes which he advocated have been on many occasions mooted in Parliament and the Press, and, as regards one of them, a half-hearted declaration in favour of it has been made in Parliament by a former First Lord. Nor can it be said that, in making these suggestions in the way he did, Major Brittan was exclusively agitating on behalf of his own class, for the case which he made out can be rested quite as much upon public as upon professional interests. The iniquitous and arbitrary method by which the Admiralty have marked their resentment of Major Brittan's efforts is at once a matchless example of the abuse of official power from purely vindictive motives, and of the determination of the present rulers of the Navy to "keep down" the Marines by every means at their disposal.

It is too early, as yet, to predict what may be the upshot of this disgraceful proceeding, so far as Major Brittan himself is concerned. But, whatever the result to that officer, his experience ought to bring home to all who take an interest in the Navy the necessity for those reforms, the advocacy of which has cost him so dear. These reforms are so simple and reasonable that a civilian will find it difficult to understand the wrath which they have inspired in the august bosoms of "My Lords." One of them is that when an officer or man of the Royal Marines is tried by a Naval court-martial, an officer of the Marines shall be a member of the Court In the case of a charge against an officer, this is nothing more than a claim to a modified instalment of the right of every subject to be tried by his peers. In the case of a charge against an N.C.O. or private, it merely means that the officers to whom the prisoner is subject shall not be excluded from a voice upon his trial. It must obviously tend to impair the dignity of officers of Marines, and to weaken their authority over their own men, if the moment they embark they are subjected to the stigma of being disqualified to administer justice, and are required to leave any charge which they may prefer against their men to be dealt with exclusively by officers of a different branch of the Service. The whole case is aggravated by the fact that martial law forms a part of the study of Marine officers, and not of that of Naval officers; while on shore, a Marine officer is competent to sit on any court-martial—even that of a soldier—and only incurs his disqualification when he embarks. The present state of things is so indefensible that Lord George Hamilton, when at the Admiralty, expressed his disapproval of it in Parliament, but he had at the same time to admit that his Naval colleagues were of a different opinion—a clear proof, if proof were needed, that the prejudice of Naval officers, and that alone, stands in the way of this just and reasonable reform.

Again, a still heavier indignity is imposed on the Marines by the regulations which prevent a Marine officer taking command of a combined force of seamen and marines on shore, even when his relative seniority would entitle him to it. He may be specially ordered to take

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such command, but he has no right to it; and, so far as I can see, the effect of the present regulations is that a Lieutenant-Colonel of Marines, landed with a mixed force for operations on shore, would, in the ordinary course of things, be under the command of the youngest midshipman of his ship, should that youth be landed at the same time in command of a naval contingent. This is not only an indignity, but it is downright folly. The Marines are specially trained for service on land, and whatever necessity there may be for subordinating them to the naval executive on board ship, common sense suggests that when land operations have to be undertaken the work should be entrusted to officers specially qualified for it. Imagine a rule providing that when a military force is embarked on one of H.M. ships, the officer commanding the troops should also have the right to take command of the ship, if his relative rank entitled him to that position. Such an anomaly would not be more absurd than the present regulations in regard to the position of Marine officers in operations on shore.

There are various minor grievances which came under notice in the discussion at the United Service Institution which led to Major Brittan's downfall, notably certain marked discrepancies between the pay and allowances of Marine officers and their comrades of corresponding rank in the Army and Navy, but the foregoing are the most conspicuous, and serve best to illustrate the true character of the Admiralty attack on this officer. It cannot possibly be suggested by any disinterested party that, in advocating the removal of such anomalies and disabilities, either in his official representations to the First Lord or in his remarks during the discussion at the United Service Institution, Major Brittan was guilty of anything in the nature of insubordination. The head and front of his offending is that the reforms he suggested are distasteful to the senior officers of the Navy, and specially offensive to the dominant clique at Whitehall. That a mere Major of Marines—albeit an officer of eighteen years' exemplary record, popular with his own comrades, and highly valued by all under whom he has served should dare to suggest any single step which would elevate the position of the Marines in relation to Naval officers, is in the eyes of the ruling party an outrage on constituted authority. The mere fact of the Lords of the Admiralty taking this view, and enforcing it by an arbitrary and vindictive punishment is the best proof of the justice of Major Brittan's contentions, and of the necessity for radical changes, not merely in the relation of the Marines with their Naval comrades, but also with the Admiralty itself. At the root of every grievance of which the Marines complain lies the inadequate representation of their Corps at headquarters. Without any disparagement to the officer at present filling that post, a Deputy-Adjutant-General of Marines at the Admiralty is in no position to take up a strong stand on any question affecting the interests of his department, and it is only in the natural course of things that he should become, as he has become, a mere passive instrument in the hands of My Lords. My own opinion is that an officer of Marines should have a seat on the Board of Admiralty, and that his presence there would be of great service to the public as well as to his own Corps. At any rate, whenever the War Office and the Admiralty are turned inside out, as they are bound to be before many more years are past, the Marines should, as a matter of course, receive a direct representation on the body which controls the Navy. In the meantime, the man who must be looked to for the redress of their grievances is the First Lord himself. Mr. Goschen can carry out all the reforms that have been suggested above, and can even right the personal wrong that has been done to Major Brittan, if he chooses to assert himself. The question now is whether he will do so, or whether he will content himself, like Lord George Hamilton, with an indolent confession that he appreciates the justice of the case for the Marines, but is not prepared to do justice at the cost of a conflict with his Naval colleagues.

HOLLOWAY SANATORIUM AGAIN.

It must not be supposed from the fact that several months have elapsed without any reference in these columns to the Holloway Sanatorium, that the scandals connected with the management of that institution are exhausted. Anybody who forms such a delusion may be quickly undeceived by reference to the last Annual Report of the Lunacy Commissioners, which has just been issued as a Parliamentary Blue Book. Several pages of the report are devoted to the inquiry which the Commissioners undertook about a year ago into the TRUTH allegations respecting the management of the Holloway Sanatorium. This inquiry was discussed very fully in TRUTH when the result of it was made known. There is some further correspondence between the Commissioners and the Sanatorium Committee given in the Commissioners' Report, and it is worthy of attention; but for the moment its interest is entirely overshadowed by the extraordinary story the Commissioners go on to tell of the very latest of the Holloway Sanatorium scandals. Here is the story.

It appears that in 1892 a female patient was "sent out on trial," which I take to be a description of the boarding-out system that has been so much in favour with the Managers of the Sanatorium. In April, 1893, this patient died, but the fact was not discovered by the Sanatorium authorities. A year later, April, 1894, the name of this patient was included in the annual statutory returns of the Sanatorium authorities to the Lunacy Commissioners, and was accompanied by a full and detailed description of the then condition of the patient, who, in point of fact, although the Sanatorium authorities were not aware of it, had then been in her grave for twelve months. The Commissioners quote from the report of the Sanatorium authorities on this patient such expressions as that she was "melancholic, believes she has ruined the world," was sparely nourished, no physical sign of disease, and still of unsound mind, and a proper person to be detained under care and treatment." All

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this, mind, is an official report made to the Lunacy Commissioners under the provisions of an Act of Parliament, and the patient thus reported upon had died somewhere outside the Sanatorium about twelve months previously. A year later, April, 1895, and two years after the same patient's death, her name was brought before the Committee of the Sanatorium for an extension of her leave of absence, which leave was solemnly granted. Not till August, 1895, do the Sanatorium authorities seem to have become aware that the woman was dead. They then, as in duty bound, sent notice to the Lunacy Commissioners, and the result was that inquiries were made which elicited the above facts. The Commissioners remark:—

These facts were considered by us to be so serious, especially in their relation to the "special reports and certificates" for the patients generally, that we felt that we had no alternative but to place them before the Solicitor to the Treasury. After careful consideration, however, he was of opinion that the statements in the Report, although evidence of great carelessness, were not "wilful misstatements" within the meaning of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and did not, therefore, afford ground for prosecution.

All the facts, however, were at once laid before the Sanatorium Committee by our Board, and a strong letter of remonstrance was addressed to the Superintendent, from both of whom we received such explanations and apologies as were possible. The Committee subsequently made very proper special regulations, which will, we hope, render the repetition of such an occurrence impossible.

The first reflection which occurs upon the foregoing remarks is that the decision of the Solicitor to the Treasury seems to reduce the provisions of the Lunacy Act to a mere dead letter. If the officials responsible to the Lunacy Commissioners for all the patients in an Asylum can deliberately trump up a report, giving a detailed description of a patient who has been dead for a full twelve months, and if the rendering of such a report to the Commissioners, does not amount to a "wilful misstatement" which can be treated as a penal offence, it is difficult to see under what circumstances such an offence could be committed. The report was a misstatement, and a misstatement of the grossest kind—in fact, an absolute invention of the doctor who wrote it. It must have been wilful, because a man cannot sit down and write a detailed description of the present condition of a patient who died twelve months ago, except with a deliberate intention to deceive. If I were to write a paragraph for publication in TRUTH, stating that I had seen Queen Anne riding in Hyde Park on a bicycle, and that her Majesty showed no physical sign of disease, no one, I take it, would question that this was a wilful misstatement on my part, because it could not possibly be an accidental mistake. Not a bit less wilful is the statement in this report of the Holloway Sanatorium to the Lunacy Commissioners. And the Commissioners showed that they took that view of it by laying the circumstances before the Solicitor to the Treasury. If deliberate fabrications of this kind can be introduced into official reports with impunity, there is clearly no security for the accuracy of any statements which may be presented to the Lunacy Commissioners under the Act.

What, however, is to my mind of more consequence still is the additional evidence thus offered of the utter recklessness which has for so long characterised the management of the Holloway Sanatorium. In former articles in TRUTH I have multiplied instances of carelessness almost *ad infinitum*, but I cannot remember one of them which reveals more strikingly than this, the frame of mind in which Dr. Philipps and his assistants have been in the habit of going about the discharge of their duties. I take it that the return in which this romantic fiction occurred was signed by the Superintendent of the Sanatorium. Possibly the details respecting the different patients may have been compiled by an assistant medical officer, but at least Dr. Philipps must be held accountable for the absolute ignorance thus revealed respecting the condition of one of the patients on whom he professed to be reporting. He does not know, or his assistants do not know, and apparently none of them care, whether the patient is alive or dead; and in this state of blissful ignorance they cook up or put their name to a purely imaginative description of the patient's condition, purporting to be the result of the personal observations of one or other of them upon the woman. And this is the way in which returns to the Lunacy Commissioners have been compiled at the Holloway Sanatorium. I would ask any impartial reader, in view of such a revelation, what possible value can be attached to any statement emanating from Dr. Philipps, or any one under his command?

Again, what an interesting side-light we have here upon the amount of supervision that has been exercised over the out-patients of the Holloway Sanatorium. This is one of the subjects on which a good deal has been said in TRUTH. My readers may remember some of the evidence given as to the neglected condition of boarded-out patients, and their practical freedom from all supervision and control on the part of the Sanatorium authorities. Nothing, however, that has yet come to light gives so clearly an insight into the true state of the case as this incident reported by the Lunacy Commissioners. Here we have a patient who is actually dead for two years before the Superintendent of the Sanatorium becomes aware of the fact, and to save themselves the trouble of ascertaining for themselves how this patient is getting on, the officials of the institution actually fabricate from their own imaginations a graphic description of her condition for the benefit of the Lunacy Commissioners. Nor does it end with the officials. The very Committee of the Sanatorium, the body that has presumed to tell me that I have done the Institution a great injustice, and which has pronounced its solemn absolution on Dr. Philipps for all the sins imputed to him in TRUTH, knows so little about the condition of the boarded-out patients, that it actually grants an extension of leave to one of them two years after she has been laid in her grave.

The Lunacy Commissioners are men of sanguine disposition. Notwithstanding all that they have seen by their own inquiries into the various scandals at this institution, notwithstanding the strong censure which their last committee passed upon the Superintendent, they still "hope" that by reason of special regulations which the Sanatorium Committee have recently made, the repetition of such an occurrence will be rendered impossible. Being myself of a less sanguine disposition,

I do not share this hope, and I shall be much surprised if it is shared by the public. Occurrences such as that above described, and many other of the occurrences which have happened at the Holloway Sanatorium, are not to be suppressed by any rules or regulations that can be put on paper. When an official in a responsible position can laugh at an Act of Parliament and trifle with the public authority appointed to carry the Act out, he is not likely to show much more respect for any rules that may be formed by the committee of amiable gentlemen who imagine that they govern Holloway Sanatorium. Rules and regulations, whether made by Parliament or by a private committee, are worth nothing if you have no sense of honour and personal responsibility among those who are charged with carrying them out. It is the conspicuous absence of these qualities among the executive officials at the Holloway Sanatorium that has been at the root of all that has gone wrong there during the last ten years, down to the bogus report on which the Lunacy Commissioners vainly endeavoured to induce the Treasury to base a criminal prosecution. Neither is it likely, after the success with which the Superintendent has managed to keep his place in the face of scandal after scandal of a similar character to the above, that any material change will ever occur in the principles or the spirit in which the Sanatorium is directed, so long as this gentleman retains his position.

"THE WHITE ELEPHANT" AT THE COMEDY.

"If Pot says so, Pot lies," was all that Dr. Johnson could be heard to mutter when told of the solitary admirer of his tragedy. Now Pot was a critic, and Pot had professed to think that "Irene" was the first masterpiece of the ages—an opinion from which, as the Doctor foresaw, the ages have dissented. I am sure, or at all events I hope, that Mr. Carton and Mr. Charles Hawtrey would be of like words and mind with the lexicographer, if I professed to rejoice with them that did rejoice (tumultuously) over the former's piece at the latter's theatre on Thursday night; but, as it happens, I have no intention of professing anything of the kind. "A White Elephant" is *not* a masterpiece—is, indeed, not even a very good thing of its kind. There are good things in it: observation, some witty lines, and an adroit handling of the characters, while the "confounded imbroglio" which one of its characters complained of, if intricate, is also ingenious. But the conclusion of the whole matter is wrong somehow and disappointing. It is not the "complete thing" which Hazlitt's companion called the fight between Bill Neate and the Gasman. For one thing, its vitality is not sustained. The motive of a farce may be old, but, from the time the curtain rises until the curtain's lamented fall, it must be a career of vivacity, or age can wither that farce, and will; and Mr. Carton's farce, unhappily, like Talleyrand, suffers from an intermittent action of the heart. One applauded this and that, and laughed here, and again there, on Thursday night, but the fun and life were not kept up. The farce is at its best in the last act, which, as a distinguished critic has remarked, is rather too late in the play to save it. Vivacity reserved to the end will not animate the whole, or one's impression of the whole, like the omnipresent savour of onion "in the capacious salad bowl." One misses the onion—that is the truth. Again, Mr. Carton has mingled his farce with comedy, as a sect which Mr. Weller eyed with disaffection used to combine woodcuts with moral instruction. The sect in question flourished for a time on the mixture, but a play thus concocted appeals to different, scarcely to congruous, appetites. There is an inconsonancy and the inconsonancy is emphasised by the conduct of two of the actors playing comedy, and excellent comedy—to the farce of their fellows.

But all this is reviewing "at lairge," as the Scotch Laird swore; let us get on to our Elephant. Mr. Ogden was a tea merchant, and possessed (1) a smart wife—the eponymous White Elephant—the daughter of a hundred Earls—Miss Compton. He had also, among other things, (2) a daughter of his own, Miss Nina Boucicault; (3) a country house; (4) a town house, with capital oak furniture in the hall; (5) a sister, a maiden lady no longer young, but kittenish, if one may speak so of a maiden lady no longer young; (6) a confidential clerk, a detestable person but an able, and of an extreme intelligence and sharpness of countenance, only rivalled in the butler of a very distinguished and dear Statesman, and (7)—a Past. The tea merchant is played a great deal too well for his deserts and too delicately for the piece by Mr. Charles Brookfield. Now, Lady Gwendoline, the smart wife—and a lady entirely, amiable, well bred, and stupid—had a cousin, Mr. Stacey Gillam, without whom "no divorce case was complete"; while the daughter, Miss Boucicault, had a subterranean fiancé, whose suit as that of the "lurking" son of a gentleman who had been preferred to himself by the voice of local liberalism, Mr. Ogden discouraged. The town house, to complete this list of attributes, possessed a housekeeper, formerly a servant in Lady Gwendoline's family, and represented to something like perfection by Mrs. Charles Calvert. It is love that makes the play go round, so Miss Ogden determined to elope with her young man, when, as a natural consequence, her aunt, the tea merchant's sister, arranged to surrender her fair self to the honourable protection of Sir ——'s butler at the same hour. Lady Gwendoline was made the confidante of the first couple, at whose wedding she benevolently promised to assist, unknown to the tea-man; but, fortunately for the third act, the other pair excluded her from their confidence. On the day appointed for these elopements enter Mr. Stacey Gillam, alias Mr. Charles Hawtrey, a guest under sired of Ogden, but his wife's true ally and kinsman, and Mr. Somebody or Other, Ogden's uncle, bearing on his person such undeniable gout and such a knowledge of cattle-breeding as adds new laurels to the distinguished clan of Kemble. Lady Gwendoline had, of course, to get to town that night or break her word to her stepdaughter, while as for the intellectual head clerk, "faith unfaithful kept him falsely true," like Lancelot; he had to make the same journey, or else be untrue to his employer's sister, and merely faithful, instead, to his employer. They both

naturally sought the man of the world's advice, Mr. Stacey's to wit, than whom where could they have found a better? Unfortunately they both told their tale in terms ambiguous. The butler borrowed his £5, the necessary sinews of elopement, easily enough; Lady Gwendoline readily, though not as readily, obtained her cousin's promise to squire her up to town, but—and here perhaps is the best instance of Mr. Carton's ingenious play-craft—Mr. Gillam was left persuaded to the deadly view that they meant to elope with one another. It would be rank ingratitude to reveal the natural consequences. How Mr. Stacey, drugging Uncle Kemble, gets to London and Mr. Ogden's house with his fair charge—the first innocent perhaps, the moralist will note with a sigh, who had ever travelled clandestinely under that sinner's escort; how Mr. Ogden comes back from his political meeting with his father-in-law, Eric Lewis—an excellent study in polite selfishness—to find his wife and daughter flown, and a quite idiotic though graceful explanation from his Gwendoline, and then starts with his noble relative in pursuit of her ladyship and Stacey; how, meanwhile, the sister Ogden-that-was and her husband (who, though on pleasure bent, had as frugal a mind as Mrs. Gilpin) sought a free breakfast table *chez* Mr. Ogden's housekeeper; and how they all met in the Ogden town house to the graduated horror of the housekeeper—is not all this to be seen at the Comedy Theatre? One must add, however, that Mr. Ogden's Past and Mr. Gillam's fiancée, as coincidences would have it, were none other than one and the same person. When this lady walked on under a strong, but not perhaps convincing, American accent about the end of the piece, she was received with enthusiasm, and deserved it, since, off the stage, she is Miss Lottie Venne. Miss Venne is always a welcome apparition. As for Lady Gwendoline and her Ogden, Miss Compton and Mr. Brookfield were either too good or too bad for the piece. Thackeray, somewhere, fancifully comparing the great novelists to boys in a public school, in which he himself, so he said, was a junior boy, says of Laurence Sterne that he is at once so naughty and so talented that he deserves a gold medal and a whipping. Mr. Brookfield seems to me to deserve both. His Ogden is a delicate and delightful bit of acting; the walk, the voice, the phrases approach perfection, but they belong to some distinguished Parliamentary barrister, not to the tea-merchant of farce. Miss Compton plays the good-natured, well-bred woman of the world, as she exists in the world. She simply is Lady Gwendoline, although there are some absurd little solecisms in her speech for which the author, not she, is probably responsible. Her final "g's" are orthodox in their omission; but when, to take a tiny instance parenthetically, did you ever hear such a woman say "I beg pardon" for "I beg

His / Your / Her / Their } Pardon"?

Still, Lady Gwendoline is pure comedy. Mr. Hawtrey is more frankly farcical, though one fears that the reason may not please him. There is a crude remark of Mark Twain's about a class whom it would be flattery "to call immoral." I would not confess to harbouring any sentiment so crude about Mr. Hawtrey, who remains the most fascinating of comedians; but if Mr. Gillam designs to remain a person without whom no divorce case is complete, he really must—well, take care of his figure. To be sure, George IV. was a Fat Adonis, but the principle is a wrong one.

It will be seen, in a word, that one regards the new piece at the Comedy as a mixture. The White Elephant, take it as a whole, is a deserving animal, but its knee does tend to go "out," like that of his Lordship, Lady Gwendolen's papa. There are pearls in it; but, like those "Orient pearls at random strung," which Dickens was asked to criticise, there is "too much string."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE ROYAL ELOPEMENT.

DONA ELVIRA'S elopement was the most natural thing in the world. She inherited the flush of high adventurous spirits and romantic hopefulness in which her father and mother were twenty-six years ago. They then believed they were going to win back the crown of Spain, and were plunging into the Basque enterprise that so nearly enabled them to succeed. The first wife of Carlos was, like the rest of her family, under the illusion that France was about to restore to her uncle, the Comte de Chambord, the throne his grandfather lost. Elvira was born at Geneva in 1871, between two adventurous journeys of Carlos and Margarita into the north of Spain. That capital of Calvinism was then filled with French and Spanish Legitimists, elated with the Royalism of the Versailles Assembly, and the difficulties in which Don Amadeo found himself at Madrid. The romantic Princess was the third of five children, four of whom were girls. She had reached, for a Bourbon, the very advanced age of twenty-three when Carlos made a love match in marrying Bertha de Rohan. It was selfish of a widower to bring in a young and handsome wife among four mature daughters, who could not hope to be mated suitably to their high rank as they were without large dowries. They saw Carlos the slave of Doña Bertha. He was master of the great fortune he inherited from his mother, the Archduchess Beatrice, and his aunt, the Comtesse de Chambord. The fortune of their mother was also considerable in the hands of one person, but what was it among five? It came partly from her mother, the Duchess of Palma (a daughter of the very romantic Duchesse de Berry), and from the Comte de Chambord. Consequently, Elvira's heritage of money was slender. But the heritage of inclinations was a fatality. She had to live in luxury and idleness at Venice, Viareggio—an Italian Arcachon—and Rome, where she was under the wing of the Princess Camillo Massimo and the Archduchess Alix. Her great occupations were music—which is so enervating when practised in an amateurish way—and reading old family records and correspondence.

An ancestress who stirred her imagination was

the Duchesse de Berry. This Princess, when the mother of two children almost in their teens, and engaged in arousing Royal sentiments in La Vendée to civil war heat was seriously engaged in an amourette. She subsequently was able, when the consequences of this affair were undeniable, to get a Sicilian diplomat, Count Lucchesi Palli, to come forward as their author. He was far from Royal, but was not a low fellow. The daughter, born when the Duchess was in the Château de Blaye, with General Bugeaud as her gaoler, was, on growing up, married to the Duca della Grazia, and became mother of the Princess Massimo aforesaid, whose husband claims descent from Fabius Cunctator.

Doña Elvira had intended editing memoirs left by her mother, justifying the romantic adventures of the Duchesse de Berry. The Princess was in a dangerous state of mind when Don Carlos, wishing to redecorate his Venetian palace, summoned there a Roman painter, Focchi. Given age, heredity, and romantic bent, a love affair was inevitable. Focchi, it appears, is a handsome man of thirty-five. His having a wife and children is a detail which a George Sand or a mediæval Court of Love would not have taken into account. The Princess became a prey to gloom, and showed other signs of unhappiness. But the cause of her depression was not at once suspected. When it was, she was sent to Rome, but did not recover there. Her state did not improve at Viareggio, where she stayed at the villa of her uncle, the Duke of Parma. The 60,000 francs (not 300,000 francs), that she took when she had arranged to run away to France, were her own. There was great chuckling among the Orleanists when the news of her elopement was made public. Their papers gave it as "sure to be denied." Don Carlos has done what was best under the circumstances, in writing a letter to his "children," by which he means the French and Spanish Legitimists, to announce "the death of an unfortunate soul." His letter is dictated, one can see, by strong feeling. It aims at no literary effect, but, having the terse eloquence of emotion, and being in good form, is literary, nevertheless. What a strange thing human nature is! There is not an Orleans Prince who would not have done better than Carlos for four motherless daughters, the eldest of whom is now twenty-eight. And still there is not one of them who could dip his pen in his heart's blood, as Carlos has done, to write a letter, noble in tone, without a flat word, or the slightest offence against delicate taste or parental feeling.

On the Continent great latitude is allowed to married or widowed Princesses. I have spoken of the Duchesse de Berry. She so looked and behaved that every man she talked to fancied she would be an easy conquest. The late Queen Christina fell in love with Muñoz before she was a widow, and, when a widow, had him cooped up in her palace. She just missed eloping before she was married to Ferdinand VII. Victor Emmanuel exiled a widowed member of the Sardinian Royal family from Turin, because she had a weakness for the brother of a Genoese pharmaceutical chemist. It was not long after the deaths of the Queen-mother, Queen Adelaide, and the King's brothers, whose medicines were compounded by the Genoese. The exile, however, outlived the disgrace. The Princesse Mathilde married at a Paris mairie the late M. Poquelin, a painter of enamelled porcelain. As Society was not obliged to take official notice of the marriage, it did not object. He continued to keep up a house of his own, and played the part, not of husband, but *empressé* and discreetly devoted friend of the Princess. Mme. Renan thought the arrangement ideal, as the artist was rich, gentlemanly, and not an old man.

A curious arrangement was entered into in our time by the Sovereigns of a great German State remarkable for their high tone and religious feeling. The husband had married entirely for State reasons, for he was deeply in love with a very high-born lady, but not his equal. He esteemed the wife he took, but felt that any warmer feeling than friendship was impossible. Divorce would have shut her out from the high station she had hoped to fill, and would not have enabled him to marry according to his wishes. A separation of which the public was to know nothing was agreed upon. All the *convenances* were to be observed. The loved lady died. Her illustrious lover fell back on the friendship of an unambitious, unaffected, and good-looking fräulein. His wife sought the friendship of a Frenchman of distinguished education, whom she named her librarian. She wore black clothes for some years in private after his death. The next friend was her reader, also a Frenchman. He had literary tastes, and has written a life and personal recollections of his patroness. They are to appear when she is dead.

Cardinal Hohenlohe's family are disappointed at his having bequeathed all his fortune to his secretary. This lucky person is a cleric. The Villa d'Este, where the Cardinal lived rent free, will be tenantless. Its owner, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, intends never to go there as long as there is an Italian Court at the Quirinal. The Villa d'Este afforded Mansard and Le Nôtre ideas for the Château of Versailles. Cardinal Hohenlohe could only occupy a wing. This villa was built by the Cardinal Ferrara, well known in French history for the missions he accomplished in France. One was to obtain the hand of Renée of France for the Duke of Ferrara. He crowded his villa with busts and statues taken from the adjacent Villa of Hadrian. Michael Angelo called the Fountain of Pegasus "the Queen of Fountains." It is crumbling away, for the Cardinal was too impatient to let it be made in marble. He created a fund to keep up the villa and gardens. The avaricious Duke Hercules III. of Modena got hold of this capital. He sent part of the statues to Modena and sold the others to England. The sulphurous waters near the villa were prescribed for the Archduke Francis Ferdinand. He refused to take them there, and had them bottled and sent on to him to Austria.

The coming Sarah Bernhardt festival will more than console the actress for the ruffling neglect she met with at Versailles when she went there to recite before the Czar and Czarina. Versailles was not built for monster

fin de siècle fetes. And yet it is such a palace of big distances that an army of servants is wanted to prevent confusion. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt found nobody to receive her. She expected that some grand member of the President's household would be in waiting where she was to alight. She had no idea where she was to dress. When an usher was found, he could not tell her. In running about to see, she fell in with her rival, Réjane, who was just as much at sea. Danseuses in their every-day clothes were practising their steps to keep themselves warm until a *porte-danseuse* could find their dressing room. These hitches surmounted, the stage queens found that every one neglected them. Réjane, however, forgave the Presidential Party. She understood that a real Empress of Russia was, under the circumstances, more interesting than she or Mme. Bernhardt could be. So she kept her head, was mistress of all her resources, and scored a great success. The more famous actress was too much ruffled to be at her best. Feeling this, and annoyed at seeing all eyes turned on Czar and Czarina, she only recited Sully-Prudhomme's verses. When she was to advance a second time to recite Victor Hugo's she was not to be found. Towards the close of the entertainment the Czar expressed a gracious wish to compliment her. A plausible fib was invented to excuse her absence. She had gone back to Paris. But as time pressed for the Imperial pair to depart for Chalons, they had no opportunity to know this. They still believe she lost her way in a labyrinth of stairs and passages.

I rather like the idea of the Poets at the Sarah Bernhardt festival feeding her nostrils with more delicate incense than they burned before the august Russian idols. As there was a medal minted in honour of Czar and Czarina, so another, not less valuable, will be struck in honour of the theatrical queen. Roty, the sculptor, is charged to execute the model. Mme. Bernhardt will participate with the Poets in the festival. She will come forward in a series of characters in which she was at her best, leading off with Zanetto in Coppée's "Un Passant." As Zanetto, she was exquisite. It was her first success, and I dare say the one that best pleased her. She owed nothing to the ignorance or lion-hunting instincts of audiences, to ovation committees, impresarios, puffs, and Press "suggestion." I never cared much for her in her subsequent "creations," save in "L'Étrangère." Her triumphs at the Français, as Mrs. Clarkson in that play, were a good deal due to her thin figure and the straight folds of her dress. Full busts and dome-shaped petticoats were fashionable from the time the Prince Imperial was expected, in 1855, almost to the fall of the Empire. The dressmaker of a slender dame used at least two sheets of wadding and a quantity of horsehair each time she made her a modish dress. This artificial fulness ended by palling on the eye. People were sick of it. Sarah Bernhardt came forward with clinging clothes when the reaction was at its height. She was the first to drape as with a winding-sheet. Her manner of dressing delighted. What delighted more was that the line of beauty was neither in her body nor her clothes, but in her motions. They contrasted harmoniously with the straight lines of her skirts—and with the magnificent fleshiness of Mlle. Croizette, who played as Duchesse de Septmonts in "L'Étrangère." Each actress set off the other. Croizette took people by storm, Sarah by insinuating feline graces. She is not good in violent effects, and overdoes langour, but is always marvellous as a courtesan or *intrigante*.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

DEAR LADY BETTY,—It is announced this week that a National Railway Museum is to be founded. There is much that may be said in favour of the scheme. There is considerably more, however, that may be said in favour of founding another museum, which would be immeasurably valuable to the end of time.

Certain instruments called the "Animatographe" and the "Cinématographe" have recently been devised which reproduce incidents precisely as they occur. At one of the music-halls, for instance, the recent coronation of the Czar is reproduced, the action being throughout accurate in every detail. The apparatus used resembles a dark lantern, but the slides are composed of a combination of numerous instantaneous photographs of the incident. The result of this contrivance is that an occurrence, however long it may last, or however complicated it is, may be reproduced an indefinite number of times precisely as it took place. It will be apparent to all that a museum containing a collection of slides which faithfully record and reproduce the most important events would have unusual historical value. Had the "Animatographe" or the "Cinématographe" been invented in the reign of Charles the Second, and had a national collection of slides been commenced then, we could now have reproduced for our benefit scenes from the Great Plague, the Great Fire of London, the Executions of Catholics, the Battle of Blenheim, the Battle of Trafalgar, and the Battle of Waterloo, all of which would be very valuable; for they would enable us not only to understand those events better than we do, but they would give us pictures of the customs and costumes of those times which could be relied upon.

In a few months from now the Queen will probably visit Westminster Abbey in state to be present at a thanksgiving service to commemorate the fact that her Majesty has reigned a longer period than any other British Sovereign. The Queen will be surrounded on that occasion by most of those who are making the history of the period, the names of several of whom will be remembered during many generations. Such an incident deserves to become the commencement of the Animatographe Museum. It is possible that Mr. Gladstone will again make a memorable speech, and it is unnecessary to say that an exact reproduction of that celebrated orator as he is addressing a public meeting would greatly interest vast numbers of those who are to come after us. It would indeed be difficult to over-estimate the value of such a museum, and it is to be hoped that, now that the obvious suggestion has been made, some will come forward who, either by their energetic co-operation, their perseverance, or by pecuniary assistance, will succeed in founding the Animatographe Museum.

There are some who will argue that the instrument is not yet sufficiently perfected for such a museum to be founded. The answer to this is simple. No doubt important improvements will be discovered, but, as it is, the results are sufficiently clear to reproduce incidents, and, meanwhile, historical events are occurring which, if not recorded by the "Animatographe," will be lost to posterity in the best form which they can be handed down for the moment.

Another possible development of the "Animatographe" does not seem to have been thought of. Why should not a Company be established to supply instruments

and slides at a subscription of, say, ten guineas a year? Thus a subscriber in a country house would receive slides daily or weekly of the principal incidents which have recently occurred throughout the world, and by merely passing these through the instrument he could reproduce the incidents precisely as they had happened. "Animatographe" reproductions of the Armenian massacres would have horrified the whole of Europe. "Animatographe" reproductions of incidents which have occurred in the Matabele war might have had considerable influence upon public opinion; and clandestinely taken "Animatographe" photographs of work at certain Mashonaland gold mines might save speculators large sums of money. Indeed, if carefully managed, the Animatographe might easily be made to compete seriously with the illustrated papers, unless the proprietor of one of them adopts the idea, and adds this instrument for the use of those subscribers who are rich enough to afford it.

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The letter "R" appears to have an unfortunate influence upon South Africa, for that country has suffered terribly through Rhodes, raiders, and rinderpest.

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It was announced in these columns several months ago that Mr. Henry Austin Lee had been appointed to succeed the late Sir Joseph Crowe as Commercial Attaché for Europe to reside at Paris. For some inexplicable reason the appointment was not gazetted until Tuesday last. The long delay in doing that encouraged certain writers to contradict "officially" the statement made in TRUTH.

Another announcement made in these columns some weeks ago was also contradicted—and has also been verified. It was stated that the winter exhibition of the Royal Academy would consist exclusively, or almost exclusively, of works by the late Lord Leighton. That this is to be, was officially announced on Friday. It is true that when the announcement was made in these columns Mr. Poynter had not yet been elected President of the Royal Academy, and the Academicians had not themselves decided what the winter exhibition should consist of. That has nothing to do with the matter. The old journalism was the journalism of the day before; modern journalism was the journalism of the day after; and the "new journalism" is journalism several months in advance.

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Many will regret to hear of the death of Sir Benjamin Richardson, which occurred suddenly at his house in Manchester-square on Sunday morning. The late Sir Benjamin was a well-known physician, who possessed considerable literary talent. About twenty years ago his description of "Hygeia," an imaginary City of Health, created a great stir, and there is no doubt that it much helped the hygienic movement which is now occasionally pushed to extremes in certain directions. The description was particularly fascinating, and resembled in some ways the imaginary productions of Jules Verne. There is this in the present generation which is especially curious: a quarter of a century ago men and women were retrospective readers; they read the celebrated works of those who had come before them, and were almost as well acquainted with those things which had attracted attention in the previous generation as those were who formed part of it. The men and women of to-day appear to have no time to read anything but newspapers and the latest book of the hour; their ignorance of the works, plays, music, and events of a quarter of a century before is amazing. This reflection occurred to me when remembering the excitement caused by Dr. Richardson's description of Hygeia, and comparing that with the almost complete ignorance of it shown by the majority of even the well informed who belong to the generation of to-day.

The late Lady Huntingtower, who died on Friday, was the mother of the present Lord Dysart. In the early eighties Lady Huntingtower entertained much in London, and, being witty, very amiable, and not worldly, she soon became a general favourite.

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I have been asked to call attention to the "Children's Happy Evenings Association," an admirable institution which was founded seven years ago for the purpose of bringing to the children of the poor some of the pleasures which help to make the young life of the children of the rich so delightful. The Association, which began its good work in a small way, has prospered so well and has become so popular, that over six thousand children are entertained every week at thirty-five centres, and many more wish eagerly to have the same advantages extended to them. We are entering the children's month, and it is to be hoped that, if for no better reason, for the great affection the prosperous have for their own children, they will help to give a little pleasure to those of the poor. Lady Jeune, Lady Cadogan, Lady Jersey, and the Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal have written to the papers a joint letter, appealing for assistance for the Association, and they hope that for so good a purpose many will send small offerings to Miss Edith Heather-Bigg, the Honorary Secretary, 14, Radnor-place, Hyde Park, or to Sir Herbert Stephen, the Honorary Treasurer, 4, Paper-buildings, Temple.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

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SPORTING NOTES.

WRITING a fortnight ago about the weights for the Derby Cup, which had just been published, I expressed the opinion that this race "will be a good thing for Ghislaine if she runs." Ghislaine started at 16 to 1, and was beaten by a short head, but it was impossible to fancy her after the wretched manner in which she had run at Liverpool. It is a pity that the French mare had not been kept for her Derby engagement, but Lord W. Beresford's stud does not seem to be cleverly managed, and it is difficult to understand the object of starting both Ghislaine and Diakka at Derby. Winkfield's Pride started a great favourite, and he ran well, considering his weight. Birch-rod is a very unlucky mare, for she was shut in hopelessly, and all her jockey's efforts to get through were unavailing. La Sagesse was very much fancied just at the last, as she was supposed to have come on a good deal since the Cambridgeshire, and she ran well in that race for a long way.

The most notable feature in the Ascot November entries is the success of the three-year-old stakes for 1898. The Prince of Wales's Stakes has risen from forty-six and forty-nine entries to sixty-six, and the Ascot Derby from thirty-five this year, and the same number for next year, to fifty-one. On the other hand, there is a slight decline in the New Stakes entry, which, however, numbers 116, and all the leading owners have subscribed to the race. The fact is, that the value of the New Stakes and of the Coventry Stakes ought to be considerably increased, and this will have to be done if these races are to hold their own. When there is a stake of £5,000 at Sandown Park in July, non-betting owners will not care to run their horses for a race of less than £2,000 in June. Each of these stakes should have £2,000 added money, and the sweepstakes should be of £25 each, £10 forfeit if declared by the last Tuesday in March. The Biennial of 1897-98 has obtained seventy-nine entries, as against eighty-two for this year and seventy-one for last year. It is a race of £10 each, with £500 added, and in this case, too, the added money should be doubled and the sweepstakes changed to £20 each, £10 forfeit if declared by the last Tuesday in March in each year of running. The New Biennial (1897-98) has obtained forty-one entries, which is about the average number of late years. No fewer than thirty of the animals engaged in this race are yearlings, and among the eleven two-year-olds are Hellebore, Eager, Flying Colours, Sandia, Sauce Tartare, Canonbury, Lady Frivoles, Melfitana, and Perseat. There are seventy-seven entries for the Hardwicke Stakes, three-fourths of

which are yearlings. Not a single four-year-old has been engaged, and only six three-year-olds, including Bay Ronald, Gallinco, Melange, Roquebrune, and South Australian. Neither Persimmon, Labrador, nor Canterbury Pilgrim has been engaged. Of the two-year-olds in this race the most notable are Brigg, Cortegar, Glencally, Smean, and Crestfallen. Considering that this is the richest race of the year for four-year-olds and upwards (except the Ascot Cup), it is in the highest degree unsatisfactory that no four-year-olds should have been entered and so few three-year-olds, while none of the crack two-year-olds of the season have been engaged. Of course, as I have before pointed out, the wind has been taken out of the sails of this race by the £10,000 stake at the Newmarket First July Meeting, and if that event were not in existence no doubt another score of two-year-olds would have been entered here. The fact is that the conditions of the race must be changed unless it is to sink into contempt. The added money should be doubled (£4,000 instead of £2,000), and the sweepstakes should be £50 each, £30 forfeit if declared in the January before running, or £10 only if declared twelve months before running.

The two-year-old events at Epsom, which also closed the other day, have done astonishingly well, considering the miserably meagre amounts which are given to these races, and indeed it is most discreditable that the Stewards of the Jockey Club do not insist upon a definite sum being added. I hear Epsom is the richest meeting in the country after Ascot, and it is managed with flea-skinning parsimony in this important department. Three events have just closed for next year's meetings, to which £900 is nominally added. The amounts which will be really drawn from the fund for these races is, however, only £325, the rest being contributed by the owners by means of entrances.

There are thirteen subscribers to the Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes at Goodwood (1898), which race will be worth £2,600. The Prince of Wales has engaged his foal Sandringham, own brother to Persimmon; while Lord Rosebery has a half sister to Ladas, by Sheen; and one of Sir B. Maple's is a filly by Orme out of the famous Corrie Roy.

Two stakes at Baden Baden close on Tuesday next, which I strongly recommend to the notice of owners, not merely on account of their value and very fair pecuniary conditions, but also because it does not usually take a flyer of the higher class to win at German meetings. A horse which would be Gulliver in Brobdingnag at Newmarket becomes transformed into Gulliver in Lilliput at Iffezheim. The Baden Grand Prize of £5,000 (besides a gold cup, value about £500, given by the Grand Duke) is a weight-for-age stake, with penalties and allowances, for now yearlings and upwards, to be run in August, 1898, the distance being one mile and a half. The Iffezheim Foal Stakes, of £4,000 and a piece of plate, is a race for now foals, to run at three years old, the distance being one mile and a half, with penalties and maiden and breeding allowances. There are generous bonuses for the breeders of first and second and third horses. The Baden Grand Prize will be, as a matter of fact, the richest race run in Europe during 1898 for five-year-olds and upwards.

The Stewards of the Jockey Club must have felt depressed when they considered the financial result of their £10,000 races. The Princess of Wales's Stakes cost the Newmarket Fund £1,994, and £2,377 had to be drawn for the Jockey Club Stakes. It is probable that there will be a still larger deficit over these two events next year. The fact is that they would obtain just as large subscriptions, and would excite quite as much interest if they were stakes of £5,000 each, of which sum not less than £4,000 should go to the winner.

Messrs. Tattersall's winter sales at Newmarket are to be held on Tuesday, December 8, and the three following days. The catalogues are already full. Some good bargains have been picked up at all these sales. The great catch there last year was Quarrel (who was then known as Tarrare), who was bought for Lord Rosebery for 670 gs., and he has since won the Royal Hunt Cup, and several other valuable races.

When writing last week about Silvio, I stated that he never won a race after the St. Leger, which was a mistake. I had intended to say that Silvio never won an important race. As a three-year-old he was beaten by Springfield for the Champion Stakes, and as a four-year-old he had no chance with Verneuil in the Ascot Cup, while as a five-year-old Isonomy defeated him for the Vase at Ascot, and Chippendale beat him for the Hardwicke Stakes. He was defeated also for the Stockbridge Cup, and for the Bunbury Stakes at Newmarket, Phœnix being his conqueror on the last occasion. Silvio ought to have won the Hardwicke Stakes, and there was a secret history of that race, as he was really defeated because Archer had deeply offended Fordham, who rode Lancastrian, and he so managed matters that J. Osborne got first run with Chippendale, who afterwards won the Cesarewitch. The *Sporting Times* is of the opinion that Silvio "did some of his best work" after his Leger victory; but the fact is that when crediting him with having defeated Petrarch, Verneuil, and Hampton at Newmarket, it is absolutely necessary to bear in mind that the running of those horses was sometimes decidedly eccentric. The *Sporting Times* is correct in considering the Vase form with Isonomy as Silvio's best running, for he was giving 7 lb. to Mr. Gretton's steed, who was then regarded as a mere handicap horse, for odds of 9 to 4 were actually betted on Silvio. Isonomy had commenced the season by being defeated for the Newmarket Handicap by the American horse Parole, who in the following week won the City and Suburban and the Metropolitan. Isonomy ran a lazy race for the Vase, and Cannon had to rouse him; but this did him good, and two days later he simply walked in for the Gold Cup.

The Midland Counties Handicap at Warwick this afternoon will probably be won by the Duke of Westminster's hitherto disappointing colt Rampion, who most assuredly ought to have carried off the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park. Easter Gift, who won this race last year, is decidedly well in; and Palace Gate will have an opportunity of showing whether her friends were justified in asserting that she ought to have won the Liverpool Cup.

Twenty two-year-olds have been left in for the Lancashire Nursery of £500 at Manchester to-morrow, and History or Palm Oil ought to win. There are seventeen acceptances for the Lancashire Handicap of £1,000 on Friday, and Easter Gift is again leniently treated; but St. Jarlath should be able to win this race, for which Yorker will probably be a hot favourite.

A large number of important races at Sandown Park close on Tuesday next, including the Sandringham Foal Stakes of £2,000 for now foals, to run as three-year-olds. The conditions of this event are nonsensical, as there is far too much cutting up, only £1,500 being given to the owner of the winner, unless he happens to be also the nominator (*i.e.*, breeder), in which case he would get £1,750. There is also the Sandown Foal Stakes of £2,000, an event with similar conditions, but to be run in October instead of June. The great race, however, is the Century Stakes of £10,000 for now foals and yearlings, to run at four and five year old, in April, 1900. The distance is two miles, and if the "executive" obtain 250 entries for so heavy a subscription race over this distance I shall be vastly surprised. It would have been much wiser to have made the course one mile and a half. The conditions are very fair, and if such a race can succeed at all this one certainly ought to; but among the comparatively few old horses now in training how very few have any pretensions to stay two miles.

Last year there were sixteen runners for the Manchester Handicap and in 1894 twenty started, but on the present occasion there are positively only fourteen acceptances. Dinna Forget and Winkfield's Pride are both overweighted, and the Derby running of the Cambridgeshire winner was not encouraging, as he was backed in earnest there, and here the course might be too far for him.

Spook is fancied at Newmarket, but he does not look like beating Bowline at the weights. Chit Chat is the nominal favourite, but the early betting on such events is all moonshine, and no sane person will invest a sixpence on the race until the numbers are up. Chit Chat means Laodamia at an impossible weight, nor do I see how this animal is to beat Telescope, who is thrown in. At Doncaster Telescope finished in front of Chit Chat, having 9 lb. the worst of the weights. Now the three-year-old has to give Mr. Singer's horse 10 lb., and this great difference ought to make it a certainty that Telescope will prove the better of the pair, even allowing that Chit Chat was not ridden out in the Great Yorkshire Handicap. Telescope's form has undoubtedly been very bad since he astonished every one by running second to Sir Visto for the St. Leger, but he certainly has a great chance in this race, for "class" is not prominently represented, and he has a ridiculous weight. Swaledale has won a number of races in moderate company. Dunrobin has long been talked of as a likely animal to win a good handicap, and he has certainly tried the patience of his friends very highly. The French horse, Epicharis, has shown good form and he is sure to stay the distance. If this animal is backed in a genuine way at the finish he will be very near winning, and I certainly do not believe that Chit Chat could give him 6 lb. Phœbus Apollo can have no chance on his recent running. There will be no really reliable betting on this event until the numbers are up, and it is usually a most disastrous race for backers.

Mr. Lehmann is in America. He crossed before the McKinley tariff imposed a duty on foreign oarsmen. The Press has turned its attention to the history of his life. The *New York Herald* has discovered that "he is the best man of his type in England—that is a type of amateur who, after taking his University degree, maintains himself by coaching College crews. He is a professional coach." This is the consequence of having entertained the Oxford crew in training and built Fieldhead, his house at Bourne End, to accommodate an eight. The ingenious biographer may rest assured that he is utterly wrong. The gentleman pro. is not known in rowing, and no one is ever paid a farthing for coaching an amateur crew. Mr. Lehmann, strange as it may seem, does not get a cent. for crossing the Atlantic. In old days professional watermen used to coach College crews at Oxford. But the old order is long since changed. To a certain extent it is gratifying to find our superiority in rowing so far recognised that the American Universities have had to become our pupils instead of our mentors. At the same time, many would prefer that we should keep our style to ourselves. The two American eights, Cornell and Yale, have shown the perfection to which a wrong style can be brought. The same perfection with the long stroke rowed at Henley would be certain to take the Grand to America. Unless Mr. Lehmann's powers as a coach have been belied, he has brought that event within a very measurable distance. When America triumphs at Henley, his services will not be forgotten—by British oarsmen, at all events. How far they will be grateful to him is another question. In the meantime, it may be as well to say that there is no foundation for the rumour that Mr. Trevor Jones, the other Cambridge coach, is going over to teach Yale. Cambridge University is not a universal coach provider.

The finish at Cambridge of the Colquhoun Sculls was very exciting, Gould, who alone had intended to meet Guinness, just beating Howell, who had only recently taken to sculling. The latter spurted marvellously in the long reach, and finished with great strength. The trial eights have been shifted about in a peculiar way. The apparent object seems to have been to give a number of men a trial which they did not require. However, they are settling down at last, and yet their composition does not give satisfaction. For some strange reason Barber, the Third Trinity stroke, has not been given a trial. Last year my Cambridge correspondent called attention to his merits. This year there is a strongly expressed feeling at the University that he should be given a trial. There is plenty of time to put things straight, but if the Light Blues muddle away their chances of success at Putney there will be a bigger row than there was a few years ago. However, this is not likely to happen, as the President is keenly alive to his onerous duties. The Oxford trials are very fair, and one or two men are promising, more especially Harrington, of Exeter, a heavy weight, who is well worth looking after.

The Rugby team at Cambridge is a very hot one, and will on its present form beat Oxford. The Light Blues never gave Blackheath, on the Rectory Field, a single chance from start to finish. Bell and Jacobs simply played with Cattell and Livesey at half, and gave their three-quarters innumerable chances. The Blackheath defence was good, Bond and Russell doing a lot of work, and saving frequently just on the goal line. The home forwards screwed well, and if they had broken up and dribbled away they would have gained a lot of ground. But they stood and looked at the 'Varsity halves picking up the ball. Latter and Fegan muddled the ball frequently at three-quarters, and the outsides passed even worse than they did last year. In fact, Blackheath makes no attempt to learn to pass. To turn to the Cambridge team. The forwards approach the best modern type to a great extent. They do not, like the Welsh men, leave all the passing to the outsides. They play with the outsides. They are always on the ball, tackle well, and every man knows what to do with the ball when he gets it. In fact, their passing was one of the features of the game. They dribbled well, too, and gave evidence of being able to shove, but they could not screw a bit, and again and again let their opponents wheel them. However, they quickly got round and saved themselves. The outsides were well together, and gave a really good example of the passing game, the chief feature being the way in which the wings passed inside when nearing the touch line. Mackie saved any rushes and fed his wing well, while Pilkington ran well and never lost his head. Their place-kicking was weak. The Dark Blues did not do very brilliantly against the Harlequins, who started off without Wells, as he lost his train. It is a pity that the ground at Richmond is so heavy. The result is that the club outsides scarcely get a good chance. Richmond put a very strong team in the field against the Scottish, who showed admirable defence, but the Richmond outsides, with the two Biggs playing, had the pull of them. The Scotchmen were beaten, and on form the winners should beat Blackheath. The Old Merchant Taylors were so upset by scoring three times in the first twenty minutes against the Old Edwardians, that they did nothing afterwards. However, they managed to win. Amongst schools the Haileybury team is very highly spoken of, the three-quarters being particularly good. But their forwards are scarcely heavy enough, and this may account for the fact that Dulwich just beat them after a very close game.

Those whose lot is cast in athletics will be thankful to Mr. A. J. Balfour, M.P., for his speech at Edinburgh in opening a bazaar to raise funds to provide a suitable cricket and football ground for the University. He scoffed at those who regarded athletics as a parasite on education, and maintained that a suitable opportunity and provision for athletic sports were not luxuries but necessaries for University life. It is just as well that the relations of sports to education should be clearly understood. So many people imagine that everybody at a University worships the athlete only. Naturally he is better known than the man who only reads for his degree. Every

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CHINA AND GLASS. — Messrs. GOODE, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

Undergraduate can understand a good bat, but few appreciate a Senior Wrangler. Edinburgh badly needs a sports field. The University is not nearly so closely in touch with Oxford or Cambridge as Dublin, whom the Light Blues meet both in cricket and football. No doubt this will be remedied in a few years.

Oxford is again agitating for the abolition of the hammer in the sports. Certainly a good opportunity presents itself, for Cambridge is suggesting that the event shall now be contested under the rules of the Amateur Athletic Association instead of the peculiar conditions that have always been applied to the inter-University event. Hitherto one argument has been that in abolishing the event a long list of historic records are at once buried. It is a flimsy argument, for the records are, excepting Hale's, very poor. If the event is contested under new rules, the old records are buried in just the same way. At the same time, the attitude of Oxford is not consistent. While there is a winning hammer thrower in residence the Dark Blues do not press a change which a large number of people would welcome. In the Oxford freshmen's sports the only good times were done by Thomas and Munro in the hundred and quarter.

The appeal of the Reading F.C., which had been suspended owing to Mr. Bourke's having brought a so-called Holloway College team to play it, resulted in a heavier fine, but the suspension was withdrawn. The club admitted it was wrong and probably Mr. Bourke will reconsider his position, having regard to the facts that have been brought to light. It is said that the Association is angry with Mr. Jackson because he did not ask leave for his teams to play the Universities. I intimated a few weeks since that the question would be tested in this way. The defence is understood to be that the Universities are not affiliated clubs, and certainly the Association will do itself no good if it interferes with them. While on the subject of University Association football it is as well to point out that the practice of members of a University team giving their services to other teams during term is not to be commended. For instance, Burnup, the Cambridge Captain, and Alexander, go to play for the Corinthians when the University has a match on. In no other sport would this be tolerated. Imagine Bell, the Rugby Captain, trotting off to play for Blackheath, or even Burnup batting for Kent when there was a match at Fenner's. If Association football is worth a blue, then the team must be regularly supported.

The price of crack league players is going up. Everton have offered West Bromwich £500 for a back, and the offer has been refused, while £250 has been paid for a reserve centre forward because there are so few in the market. As for minor deals, they are of daily occurrence. These heavy prices make one realise that there is quite a market in human flesh. It is a modified form of slave trading. In the league matches Bolton accomplished a fine performance in beating Preston on the losers' ground. G. O. Smith, the Old Carthusian, played a remarkable game for the old boys against the Old Westminsters. His side won by six goals to four, and he scored each goal and hands and offside prevented him adding two more when he had sent the ball into the net. His play was all the more wonderful, for he was not well backed up by the other forwards.

Where one person went five years ago ten now go to the Stanley Cycling Show at the Agricultural Hall. In the form of the bicycle there appears to be a temporary finality, but in minor matters there are important novelties. There is a white metal which will not rust, and an apparatus to bring a bicycle to a standstill without compelling the rider to get off. This will be invaluable in traffic, and should be detachable. There is also a new band-brake.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Sensational movements have taken place during the past week in the Kaffir Circus, and the latter has therefore to an unusual extent influenced the rest of the markets. It looked at one time as if a complete collapse in South African shares was coming about, and there were again indications of that same mysterious selling from Paris, which has for some time been upsetting all calculations. Then came a sudden rally, and the improvement has continued ever since. It has indeed been

A Week of Drastic Changes.

Now that it is possible to lift the veil which has for some time hung around the market position in South Africans, there is no longer any difficulty in explaining the *malaise* from which we have been suffering. The affairs of two dealers in the South African market have for some time given rise to apprehensions. Both had amassed considerable fortunes during the time of the South African boom, one being credited with having at one time been possessed of £400,000, the other of £150,000. The amounts which both were to the bad this week were comparatively moderate; but while the more important and more popular member of the "House" was helped over, the other was "hammered." Their positions chiefly in connection with the special settlement in the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates have, however, already been taken over by some of the large financial houses. Nor was this trouble responsible for all our recent calamities. It is no longer a secret now that most of the large blocks, which have of late been thrown on the market from Paris, were held by the near relative of a leading financial house, who has now and then distinguished himself by reckless plunging. He seems to have held an enormous load of South African shares, and, although very wealthy, was finally obliged to let go. His losses are estimated at a million and a half sterling, yet it must not be understood that he has absolutely come to grief, as he appears to be still a rich man. For market purposes, however, he has at present disappeared from the scene, the last of his account having been closed on Wednesday. The initiated began to buy on Thursday, and an important recovery is now marked all round, which is expected to make further progress after the settlement. These events fully bear out the views which I have repeatedly expressed, that the intrinsic position of the Transvaal mining industry was satisfactory, and that the depression was merely due to market movements brought about by a speculative collapse. The "Bear" account which had accumulated remains, however, and the incident on Friday on the Paris Bourse, when false rumours were spread that Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, the head of the great firm in France, had died suddenly, shows to what shifts the ursine operators are reduced. West Australian gold mines have also been depressed in sympathy with the Kaffir Circus, and at one time the "Bears" seemed to have it all their own way; but with the recovery in South Africans this section also rallied under the lead of a sharp rise in the West Australian Exploring and Finance group. Home Rails had been temporarily affected by nervousness concerning the Mining Market, and also by absurd anticipations that the Bank rate might be raised, of which there was absolutely no chance. They have now braced up again, and look like going better, traffics remaining on a very large scale. Foreigners have also been firm, and South Americans are the turn harder. The only weak spot is curiously enough the American market, in which realisations and "Bear" pressure have caused a moderate setback. The position in the United States is however so promising, that a great improvement cannot fail to come about. The Industrial department has shown great strength, the issue of Bovril, Limited,

more especially, causing much activity. The flotation of this new Company has, as far as I am able to judge, proved a great success.

Home Rails.

A temporary setback was caused in Home Railway stocks by anxiety in connection with the collapse in South African mines. Then, again, there are always some quidnuncs who are prophesying dearer money, and who actually predicted an advance in the Bank rate last Thursday. These prophets were evidently altogether ignorant of the position, as by the rise in the American exchange all prospects of gold shipments to New York have disappeared, while money is so cheap in Paris that many financial operations are carried out there instead of in London. There is a small demand for gold for Russia, which has, however, been satisfied in the open market, and apart from the requirements of the Stock Exchange in connection with the present settlement, nothing is known of any special demand for gold upon the Bank of England. When the mistake was discovered an improvement took place all round the market, which has not, however, been altogether maintained in the case of the Heavy division, which has been somewhat affected by the fears of a rise in wages and of shorter hours to be conceded to the employés. For the week, therefore, a fractional decline is shown, which has also extended to Great Northern Deferred and South Western stocks. The Southern Passenger stocks have again been bought by investors, who are attracted by the excellent takes, and Brighton "A" have moved up to 181 on very encouraging advices with regard to the Brighton season. Dover "A," after a relapse, are also firmer. The position of the South-Eastern Company is indeed a most promising one, and not only has this line of late shown exceptional elasticity in traffics, but further progressive measures are now announced, so that it is evident that a great change for the better has taken place in the management since the Watkin régime passed away. In the ensuing session of Parliament the Board propose to ask for further powers, which cannot fail to benefit both the Company and the travelling public. Amongst the measures that are proposed are the widening on the north side of the viaduct running for somewhat over a mile from London Bridge towards New Cross, and the construction of another line a little below Corbet-lane, gradually ascending until it crosses the East London Railway, passing over the riverside goods line of the Brighton Company, and then joining the present South-Eastern line at Ralt-street, which is close to New Cross. The projected extensions will give the South-Eastern Company two complete sets of rails instead of only one independent line. By another widening of the same line the Company will be able to make provision for some of the up morning trains, which stand idle during the day, until they are required for the late afternoon and evening traffic; and when the widened line from Cannon-street is completed, trains on their arrival in the morning will be shunted direct on to the sidings until they are again required. There is no doubt that the great facilities and quicker service which the South-Eastern will thus be able to provide will be highly appreciated by travellers over the line. The traffic to Tunbridge Wells and Hastings is also to be expedited, and there is little doubt that these progressive measures will find their expression in increased dividends. Great Easterns, after reacting, have advanced to 107⅜, and Chatham Ordinary have also come into favour at 18⅛. The tendency has, however, been strongest in the Scotch section, in which best part of the recent relapse was at one time recovered, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras) touching 60½, and North British Deferred 48⅝. A reaction has since set in on renewed rumours of labour troubles. Advices with regard to Scotch trade, however, continue most favourable, and large traffic increases of the leading lines are anticipated; while, on the other hand, there is every indication that any serious labour difficulties will be avoided. There is, in fact, no reason why Coras should not rise to 65, and North British Deferred to 55. The opening of a portion of the East and West Coast Railway from Lincoln, tapping the coal district of Chesterfield, was one of the features of the week, and it is hoped that the Great Eastern will benefit thereby.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra See, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

The Metropolitan District Bill.

It is satisfactory to find that Mr. J. S. Forbes, the Chairman of the Metropolitan District Company, and his co-Directors have sufficiently recognised the importance of the proposed deep-level electric scheme, as to smooth over minor difficulties and proceed with the Bill in Parliament, the official notice having appeared in the Press. The Bill authorises "the construction of a railway or subway, commencing in the parish of St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, in the county of London, by a junction with the Earl's Court and Mansion House line of the Metropolitan District Railway, at a point 50 yards or thereabouts, measured along that line in a north-easterly direction from the eastern face of the bridge carrying Knaresborough-place over that line, and terminating in the parish of Holy Trinity-the-Less, in the City of London, under the Mansion House station of the above-mentioned railway, at a point 16 yards or thereabouts measured in a westerly direction along the line of that railway from the eastern end of that station." It is not necessary for me to enter into further particulars, as the Bill is based upon Sir Benjamin Baker's report, which I have already fully discussed; but I may add that power is also taken to enable the District Railway to work its existing lines by means of electricity. I may further mention that the Whitechapel and Bow Railway Bill, which is also advertised, should prove of advantage to the District Company, if proceeded with. It provides for a line to be constructed from the District Railway at St. Mary's Station, Whitechapel, to the London and Tilbury Railway close to Bromley. The local traffic which may be expected from this thickly-populated district should greatly benefit the District Company; and although an independent Company has initiated the project, it is believed that people largely interested in Districts are at the back of it. Thus District stockholders have a brighter future to look forward to, and it is not surprising that upon the publication of the scheme a sharp rise to 29 took place, reacting again slightly. But the present is a comparatively low price, when it is considered that the quotation quite recently advanced to 35 when the new scheme was first mooted; while now it is certain to be carried out as the Bill is not likely to meet with any serious opposition. As there is a considerable "Bear" account, a further improvement in Districts is looked for; and a favourable sign is also a rise in the Five per Cent. District Extension Prefs. to 100½.

The Yankee Market.

Although advices from the United States continue most satisfactory as regards the revival in trade and industry, a moderate reaction in the active list of American Rails has to be recorded under the lead of Grangers. It appears that shipments of grain have fallen off somewhat, owing to the desire of farmers to await still higher prices; and this has temporarily caused a decrease in traffics. But the railroads are certain to participate to a considerable extent in the revival which is now in progress; and the fact that factories are opening and working full time, that the reduced stocks are being replenished, that gold is no longer being hoarded but is gradually reaching the banks, while money is becoming quite easy, will not fail to influence the carrying business. It always takes some time before traffics really show the effect of a revival in trade, but in a few weeks' time there should be ample signs of such. As regards the Tariff Bill which will have to be introduced, there are welcome indications that a compromise will be effected between the Republicans and the Sound-money Democrats; so that only a moderate advance in duties, sufficient for revenue purposes, will be enacted. Then the currency question will have to be dealt with, and from all accounts there is a

strong determination to grapple with this, and to introduce suitable reforms. In the meantime, although the New York exchange has advanced, there is no prospect of any gold shipments from the States to Europe. The pause in grain shipments is only temporary, and a resumption of the grain movement would, in fact, suffice to prevent gold shipments for some time to come. In the meantime, the position of the New York Associated Banks has again improved, the last statement showing an increase in the deposits of 21,937,000 dols. Upon the whole, any one buying Milwaukee, Louisville, Atchison Prefs., Denvers, Union Pacifics, Southern Ordinary, and Norfolk Prefs. on reactions is pretty certain to make good profits. I should also think that the very low-priced Texas "B" would have a chance again, as in the many consolidations which will yet have to be effected the Alabama, New Orleans, and Texas Road should find some suitable place, and any one picking up Texas "B" at about ¼ cannot go far wrong. In order to show at a glance the changes which have taken place during the week, I give herewith the following comparative table:—

—	Price Jan. 2, 1896.	High'st in 1896.	Low'st in 1896.	Nov. 13.	Nov. 23.
Atchison	14½	18 3/16	9	16⅝	15⅜
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	22	23⅞	14⅜	26⅞	24⅝
Canadian Pacific	51¾	65⅛	51	60½	58¾
Central Pacific	15½	17½	13	17⅝	16½
Denver	12⅜	14 11/16	10	13⅝	12¾
Do. Pref.	42¾	51⅞	37¼	47	45⅞
Erie	14⅛	16⅛	11¼	17¼	16⅜
Do. First Pref.	23	42	22⅞	38¾	37¾
Lake Shore	144	155	138	156	155
Louisville	44⅝	56¾	38⅞	53	51⅛
Milwaukee	69⅛	81⅝	61¾	80	77¾
Mis., Kan., and Texas	11¼	13 13/16	8⅞	14⅞	14
Norfolk Pref.	8	16¾	10⅛	19⅝	18⅜
Nor. Pacific Pref.	12½	23⅛	14	27⅞	25¾
New York Central	98	101⅞	90¼	99¼	98
Ontario	13¼	16½	11¼	16¾	16
Reading	2	13 15/16	3⅛	15¾	15⅝
Southern Ordy.	8¾	11⅛	6⅝	11¾	10⅝
Do. Pref.	26½	34⅜	16⅜	33⅛	30⅛
Union Pacific	4⅛	9¾	3⅛	11⅝	10⅛
Wabash Pref.	15¾	20 3/16	12	18¾	17¼

American Railroad bonds have been pretty largely dealt in, and are again meeting with favour on the part of investors. There has been a fair inquiry for Alabama Midland First Gold bonds, and the First Terminal Gold bonds of the Baltimore and Ohio, the latter recovering to 93, at which they are still very cheap. In reply to a number of inquiries as regards the selection of bonds for investors for investment, I refer my readers to the selection given in reply to "E.M." under "Banks, Trusts, and Financial," and to "Bristol Reader" under "American and Foreign Rails." Canadian Pacifics have declined in sympathy with the American Market, and Grand Trunks have also fallen slightly; but these are probably only temporary movements.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The Paris Bourse has of late been so completely under the influence of the South African collapse that a much better tone is expected to prevail now that the affairs of the large French operator already referred to have been settled. Another favourable factor has been the conclusion of peace between Italy and Abyssinia, which has put up the price of Italians to 90⅛. Turks, too, have hardened, and, although no one believes in the Sultan's promises of reforms, it is recognised that he is doing his best to prevent any further outbreaks just now. Spanish are still suffering from the uncertainty as regards Cuban affairs. The internal loan has been an exceptional success, and thus the evil day is once more staved off, while a considerable "Bear" account is one of the market influences. Ottoman Banks are slightly firmer, chiefly on the recovery in South Africans. South Americans have moved irregularly, but Argentine Government stocks are slightly firmer on the action of the Argentine Senate, which has adopted ex-President Pellegrini's motion in favour of the adoption of measures for assuring the integral service of the debt from 1897. Dr. Romero, the Minister of Finance, declares that the country will not be able to undertake the full service of the integral debt, and it is now expected that if this motion is proceeded with Dr. Romero will resign. At all events, the unification scheme will evidently be shelved for some time to come. Affairs in Brazil are still in an unsatisfactory state, but the bonds have recovered slightly. Uruguay bonds are slightly easier, the Old Loan at 47⅜, the New Loan at 64; while Mexican Sixes are well maintained. Colombians receded to 19½, and recovered to 21½ on the announcement that the proposed settlement is now being discussed by the Colombian Legislature. Costa Rica "A" and "B" have also given way, in the absence of any steps taken by that disreputable Republic for purging itself of default.

Sharp Fluctuations in the Kaffir Circus.

I entered a protest last week against the wholesale throwing away of South African mining and land shares, and I warned holders of such shares not to play into the hands of the "Bears." I also strongly advised purchases on the reaction in a number of shares, either for new investment, or for averaging holdings; and any one who on Wednesday, when my letter was published, followed my advice, will have reason to be satisfied, for on Thursday the recovery commenced, and prices are now from ten to thirty per cent. higher than they were during the scare which then prevailed. Now that the accounts of the two members of the Stock Exchange, who were in trouble, have been closed, and the affairs of the great Paris speculator are settled, we may look for better times, always provided that no fresh accident should occur. But I wish to again explain that the position of the mining industry of the Transvaal is better than it has been for a long time, and that apart from some scarcity of water, which will however pass away in the near future as the rainy season is due, there is nothing to account for the present low level of prices but the unfortunate market position. But after the gigantic shake-out which has taken place during the last few months, and which has culminated during the past week, the market is now considered by good judges as in a thoroughly sound position. I have also been greatly pleased to find from numerous inquiries, which have reached me last week, that my readers are adopting the very wise course of averaging their holdings. I advise such a policy obviously only where investors can take up their shares and pay for them, as the speculative running of mining shares should under all circumstances be avoided. A great deal has been said as to the great South African financiers not supporting their particular groups. This may have been the case with the great houses which are controlling the Consolidated Goldfields and the Rand Mines, while in the case of East Rands the proposed objectionable arrangement with the H.F. Syndicate has partly caused the slump. But from positive proof which I have seen, it cannot be maintained that either the Barnato group or the Robinson group have not been supported. It is true that when the huge blocks of shares from Paris were thrown upon the market prices were temporarily allowed to drop; but as soon as there was an indication that this stream of selling had ceased, steps were taken to help the market. There is yet an event to come off, which may temporarily affect the market, viz., the official presentation of the claim by the Transvaal Government for an indemnity on account of the Jameson raid. As it has to come, I should say that the sooner it is made the better; and I am, therefore, glad to learn on good authority that this indemnity claim will be made within the next few days. The amount to be claimed will not be a million sterling, neither will it be as small as has been suggested in some quarters. It will consist of real outlay only, and will be comparatively moderate; but ten thousand horses will not draw the figure from me. I suppose that the claim will be put forward to the British Government, and that the promoters of the raid will eventually pay it. At all events, there is no wish on the part of the Transvaal Government to cause any political friction, and all that

has been said of late on this head may be dismissed as unfounded. Finally, the position may be summed up as follows:—There is plenty of native labour now available, and, in fact, starving Kaffirs are arriving at Johannesburg from the north of the Transvaal and from elsewhere, the rinderpest and the scarcity of mealies being the cause of their destitution. Then, again, the Sunday labour question has been settled satisfactorily, and new stamps are going up in all directions. Thus, in the near future we shall see a great expansion on the Rand, and an increasing output. When these visible signs of returning prosperity appear, holders of South African shares will be glad to have stuck to them. Concerning the new Chartered issue, it remains to be seen how many shares the shareholders will apply for; and as the result is about to be announced, I will not prophesy. Of the shares which I mentioned last week as very promising at the reduced prices, which should be bought to average, Langlaagte Estate declined during the slump to 4, and have since recovered to $4\frac{3}{8}$; New Primrose dropped to 4, and now stand at $4\frac{3}{8}$; Glencairn, which had fallen to 2, are now up again at $2\frac{7}{16}$; City and Suburban are now quoted $3\frac{7}{8}$, after touching $3\frac{3}{8}$; Robinson are up at $8\frac{1}{4}$, after touching $8\frac{1}{16}$; Johnnies Consols fell to 2, and are up at $2\frac{9}{16}$; Barnato Consols declined to $1\frac{7}{16}$, and recovered to $1\frac{7}{8}$; Buffelsdoorn touched $1\frac{9}{16}$, and recovered to 2; Henderson's Estates fell to $1\frac{7}{16}$, and recovered to $1\frac{5}{8}$; Lydenburg Estates, after touching $1\frac{1}{16}$, are up at $1\frac{3}{16}$; Knights fell to $4\frac{3}{8}$, and are up again at $4\frac{3}{4}$; Randfontein fell to $1\frac{3}{4}$, and are now $2\frac{3}{8}$; and so on. Modderfontein "B" have been somewhat firmer at about 1 to $1\frac{1}{16}$ on the further list of assays which has come to hand from the property, which is distinctly better than the previous ones. At a depth of 20 ft. in No. 2 shaft the reef, 6 in. wide, assayed 1 oz. 11 dwt. per ton. At the depth of 40 ft. the reef, 12 in. in width, assayed 1 oz. 3 dwt. to the ton, and other samples assayed from 19 dwt. to 1 oz. 19 dwt. per ton, only two samples assaying as low as 4 dwt. and 5 dwt. 12 gr. As the annual report showed much lower assays, this new development throws quite a different light upon the Modderfontein Extension property, and when it is considered that the price has stood at $4\frac{15}{16}$ in 1895, when the value of the mine was not yet proved, it would appear probable that in the present recovery these shares should go very much higher. Glynn's Lydenburg Company reports improved assays, but the working capital appears to be exhausted. A correspondent writes to point out that the Directors of Westralia and Randt, Limited, are issuing advanced prospectuses in which they ask for further capital at par, while volunteering the statement that in a few days they will make a public issue at 5s. per share premium. My correspondent wants to know whether I consider it right that the prospectus should bear at its head the fact that a dividend of 50 per cent. was declared on October 12, when only a scrip dividend was actually distributed. I agree with my correspondent that the Directors should state frankly that this was a scrip and not a cash dividend. This concern appears to be affiliated with the West Australian Minerals and Finance Company, which is also dealing in scrip dividends. Puffs are being circulated of the Kruger Syndicate, and endeavours are made to place shares at £3 each. To those who contemplate buying these shares I give *Punch's* advice to those about to marry—Don't. Woodstock (Transvaal) at $1\frac{1}{4}$ deserve attention. The circular recently issued, of which I gave particulars last week, has, as was to be anticipated, created a very favourable impression, and the mine will enter the list with large crushings early next year, and doubtless prove a dividend-payer. A fresh strike of high-grade ore in the Sheba is also promising for the Woodstock. Diamond shares have not been affected to the same extent as gold shares, and De Beers, after declining, have recovered to $29\frac{1}{4}$, while New Jagersfontein are quoted $10\frac{7}{8}$. New Bultfontein have recovered to $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Golden West Australia.

This has also been an eventful week for West Australian gold mines from the market point of view. I have for some time drawn attention to the "Bear" raids which have been made on various properties, and to the absurd articles running down West Australian gold mines published in some of my contemporaries, and which doubtless brought about some selling on the part of real holders, while assisting the ursine party. The same tactics were again apparent at the commencement of the week, and every effort was made to depress prices in sympathy with the slump in South Africans. But a smart recovery has since taken place, and the tone of the market is distinctly better. A determined "Bear" raid was made upon the West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance group, with the result that at one time the shares of the two parent companies fell to $3\frac{1}{2}$, while Lake View Consols were sold down to $5\frac{1}{2}$. Those in control of the group at first gave the "Bears" plenty of rope, and then they proceeded to punish them. The issue of a circular of the two Companies to the shareholders explaining their very satisfactory position, sufficed to put up West Australian Exploring and Finance to $4\frac{1}{4}$, and London and Globe to $4\frac{5}{16}$, while Lake View Consols recovered to 8. I may extract from the circular the statement that, as both Companies had large transactions in the shares of the Lake View Consols, Limited, and the Stock Exchange Committee have delayed the special settlement in these shares until December 2 (by which time the last of the Colonial certificates will have arrived in this country), the Directors will close the books for this year on December 31, instead of November 30, in order to bring all these operations into the accounts for the current year, to which they belong. In the meantime, the Directors give an estimate of the results achieved, which are eminently satisfactory. They state that the assets of the Companies will not fall short, if anything, of one million sterling each, or five times the capital of the respective corporations. The Directors also make a most favourable statement as regards Lake View Consols, which they calculate are worth £10 per share alone on the value of the ore already in sight, which is estimated at £3,000,000 sterling. Particulars of fourteen assays made by Mr. Callahan, the superintendent, are given, ranging from 1 oz. 12 dwt. to 25 oz. 6 dwt.; while Mr. Charles Kaufman, the consulting engineer, states that these assays, which average somewhere about 9 oz. to the ton, are not from selected ore but from bulk samples and mill tests. By the way, so much has recently been said by biassed critics on the possibility that the West Australian gold reefs may not go down, that recent developments with reference to the Lake View are of special interest. Mr. Charles Kaufman, the consulting engineer of the Company, undeterred by these pessimistic utterances, made arrangements to obtain machinery for sinking down to 1,500 ft. So far they have sunk 25 ft. below the recent workings, and the first result of this policy is most promising, as conveyed by a cablegram just received from Mr. Callahan, the engineer in charge of the mine, who states that in No. 2 shaft, 25 ft. below the 200-ft. level—which is called the sulphide zone—he has struck the reef, which has an average value of 35 oz. to the ton, the average width of the reef there being 8 ft. In addition, Mr. Callahan cables that he has discovered a large percentage of tellurium, which gives 39 per cent. of gold. Further information is to hand that the 20 stamps of the new mill will be ready for crushing within sixty days, and I understand that the output will then be so much increased that a yield of £25,000 per month will regularly be obtained, to be increased to £50,000 a month when the further twenty stamps are erected. As additional water is procured, and Mr. Charles Kaufman says that there is no difficulty in obtaining it from the lake, additional stamps will be erected, and those who ought to know say that the output in the near future will exceed

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that of any mine in any country. This important news should not only bring about a further rise in Lake View Consols, but should affect West Australians generally most favourably, as it points to altogether unhoped-for developments in the Hannan's goldfield, at all events, at further depth. The London and Globe Finance circular also announces that proposals for the consolidation of the West Australian Exploring and Finance and the London and Globe Finance Corporations will be submitted at the meeting, and that it is proposed the consolidated Company shall bear the title of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, which, the circular adds, will become an issuing house second to none in the City of London. In reply to some inquiries with regard to this proposed consolidation, I may mention that the profits of both Companies for the first year of their existence have been the same, within £1,000 of each other. The capitals of both corporations are £200,000 each, out of which both have 195,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The London and Globe Finance has, in addition, £5,000 in 100,000 Deferred shares of 1s. each, while the West Australian Exploring and Finance has £5,000 in 5,000 Deferred shares of £1 each. When the amalgamation is carried out, it is proposed to split the 5,000 Deferred shares of £1 each of the West Australian Exploring and Finance into 100,000 shares of 1s. each, so that both will be on the same basis. With reference to these Deferred shares, I shall be able to give some further information in next week's issue. Austin Friars Syndicate £1 shares have recovered to $1\frac{3}{4}$. I understand that the position of these shares is also very strong, as they have benefited equally with the other parent Companies of this group, and at the present price they are considered, by those best able to judge, an excellent purchase. The "Bear" attack was simultaneously made upon the other shares of the group, all of which have, however, now recovered, Mainland Consols being quoted $1\frac{7}{8}$, Paddington Consols $1\frac{3}{16}$, &c. A desperate raid was also executed against West Australian Goldfields, and although they are now firmer at 6, this is still an exceedingly low price. Hampton Plains, after touching lower prices, are quoted $3\frac{1}{4}$, which is equally low; and any one picking up these shares at anything like the present quotations will do well with them. The low-priced shares have not been so much affected by the "Bear" raid, but they are nevertheless worthy of attention; thus, for instance, Cue No. 1 at $\frac{1}{2}$, White Feather Reward at $1\frac{1}{2}$, Great Boulder Main Reef at $1\frac{1}{2}$, Mawson's Reward at $\frac{15}{16}$, Florence at $\frac{13}{16}$, Robinson at $\frac{3}{4}$, East Murchison United at $\frac{13}{16}$, and Mount Margaret at $1\frac{3}{8}$ are all worth picking up. A group which has of late also suffered from "Bear" attacks, but which is likely to show a considerable rally in the near future, is that of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust. I understand that this parent Company has made such excellent profits that another interim dividend of 100 per cent. will be declared almost immediately on the Ordinary shares, which stand at only 2 premium, after having touched 4 premium, and are therefore good for a considerable rise, this being the fourth quarterly dividend at the rate of 100 per cent. per annum, so that the whole of the paid-up capital is returned. The Founders' shares some time ago stood at £60, and are now quoted only 35-40; but these will also receive a considerable distribution, and are therefore likely to go ahead again, especially as the large sum of £200,000 has been placed to reserve, in addition to these dividends. The establishment of such a reserve fund is doubtless very satisfactory, and I hear that it is intended to build this up still further. Affiliated with this Company is also the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation, the Ordinary shares of which stand at 1 premium. In reply to a correspondent who had inquired about an undesirable Company with a similar title, I should like herewith to point out that this is not the same Company. On the contrary, as it works hand-in-hand with the West Australian Joint Stock Trust, it may be expected to produce similar excellent returns. A number of crushings have come to hand from the West Australian Goldfields, which I herewith give in tabular form:—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Mainland Consols ...	236	1,050	5 dwt.
East Murchison United ...	447	827	—
Consolidated Murchison ...	587	202	—
Great Boulder Main Reef ...	206	310	26 ,,
North Boulder	105	238	14 ,,
Burbank's North	100	190	—
Menzies Mining and Exploration (Menzies O'Driscoll) ...	150	153	10 ,,

It will be seen that the East Murchison United crushing has been very satisfactory, both as regards quantity and yield, and this will evidently be one of the more important West Australian mines. The Great Boulder Main Reef crushing is also satisfactory, more especially as 26 dwts. per ton is left in the tailings. The crushing of the Menzies Mining and Exploration (Menzies O'Driscoll) is fairly satisfactory, but this will evidently be a low-grade mine. The same applies with additional force to the Consolidated Murchison, the yield of which is very low. The Mainland Consols crushing is in every respect satisfactory, the yield being nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton. The Burbank's North crushing, at the rate of 38 dwts. per ton is also favourable, and advices from this property are encouraging. This trial crushing was only from the lode in the upper levels above 45 ft., and it is reported that the lode in the lower levels near Burbank's boundary dips north and grows richer. These shares at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium, and Burbank's Consols at par, are worth picking up; and Burbank's Birthday Gift are also a good purchase. Some dealings have taken place in Rome Consolidated Mines, which have improved to 11s., as the new work of development—which has recently been started under the advice of Professor Nicholas, F.G.S.—is stated to be very promising; while fresh discoveries in other parts of the mine are being foreshadowed. It is very much to be regretted that the Coolgardie Mint and Iron King is not proceeding with crushings. They have at last screwed out a small crushing of 60 tons, and seem to be chiefly occupied with disputes. Surely there must be some way of settling these, and of going ahead with the work! The shareholders ought to bestir themselves, and look into affairs. From the report of the statutory meeting of the Great Boulder Junction Reefs, it appears that up to the present time only 10s. per share has been called up, and that there is no probability of the balance uncalled being required for some time to come. The Company is now in legal possession of the property, which comprises thirty-nine acres, and development work is proceeding vigorously under the superintendence of Mr. Zebina Lane. The completion of the railway to Kalgoorlie will, of course, greatly favour this mine, as it reduces the cost of the transport of machinery, &c. These shares, now quoted about $\frac{3}{4}$, are, under the circumstances, likely to come into favour. Great Boulder Proprietary have fluctuated somewhat, but are again firmer at $6\frac{5}{16}$. I am not generally on the side of the "Bears," who usually fully deserve what they get; but the rig in Lady Hampton Consolidated is too outrageous, these shares having been run up to as high as £300 against the dealers who have taken liberties with them. The Committee of the Stock Exchange have now postponed the special settlement under December 28. Lady Shenton are comparatively firm at 2, while Lady Loch have receded to $1\frac{1}{2}$. Ivanhoe, on the other hand, are firm at $9\frac{7}{8}$. Some time ago I urged the West Australian Government to make arrangements for officially collecting the monthly results of the crushings on the goldfields, and then to announce them officially with the totals through the Agent-General here. So far nothing appears to have been done; but it is now stated that a bureau will be established by a combination of West Australian Companies to furnish these particulars and other information concerning the goldfields. It is a great pity that the West Australian Government has not thought fit to undertake this matter;

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but I still hope that the Minister of Mines will do his best to accomplish this very desirable object.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

A better tone has prevailed in the Indian section notwithstanding the surrounding weakness, and Mysore Gold have improved to $7\frac{5}{8}$, while Ooregum Ordinary are firmer at $2\frac{13}{16}$, and Coromandel have hardened to $2\frac{1}{8}$. Goldfields of Mysore, too, have come into some demand, being quoted 20s. 6d.; but the sale of a portion of the property should justify a much higher price. Nundydroog, Mysore Wynaad, and Mysore West are easier. Amongst Australian shares other than West Australian, Broken Hill Proprietary have improved to 51s.; but Aladdin's Lamp are easier at $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Wentworth are weak at $\frac{9}{16}$. Amongst Charters Towers shares Brilliant and St. George have declined; while, on the other hand, Croydon Mines are firm, Croydon Consols having improved to 10s. 6d. to 10s. 9d. The 1s. dividend will be declared in a few days. North Croydon Consols are in good demand at 3s. 6d. In New Zealand shares an improvement has taken place in Taitapu on the satisfactory statements at the meeting, the quotation now being 3. At the meeting of shareholders of the Taitapu Gold Estates on Friday last very satisfactory statements were made by Mr. Roland G. Hill, the Chairman of the Company. Mr. Hill stated that some very favourable arrangements have been made with certain powerful Syndicates and Exploration Companies to explore the properties of the Company at their own expense and to pay something considerable for the privilege of doing so. These Companies have already located a number of claims, on which they are bound under their agreement to spend a certain sum of money monthly in developing. On the Golden Ridge, the Company's own proprietary claim, good work has been done, and certificates of assay are wonderfully rich. For instance, 1 cwt. assayed by Johnson, Matthey, & Co., yielded as much as 109 oz. of gold, another $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. yielded 70 oz.; $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. returned 23 oz., and so on. A 20-stamp battery is now on the way out, and provision has been made for a further twenty stamps to be erected. The great bulk of the gold-bearing formation on the estate lies between the Paturan River and the Big River, covering an area of 43,000 acres, all of which is considered to be auriferous. The Chairman also stated that he had inspected over 1,200 reefs in New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia, and in no case did he come across such a rich, strong, and extensive shot of gold, in a reef situated in favourable country, which has not been of a permanent character. Should the Taitapu Goldfield prove of a permanent character, as is foreshadowed by the experts, the price of Taitapu Estate shares would experience a most important advance upon the present quotation of 3 per £1 share. There has also been an improvement in Komata Reefs, Woodstock, and Hauraki; but Consolidated Goldfields are lower. With reference to the Royal Standard Mine, which I mentioned last week as having been privately subscribed, I may give here some further particulars. The capital is £200,000 in £1 shares, of which 50,000 shares are available for providing a working capital of £50,000. The Royal Standard Special Claim, which has been acquired by the Company, is situated in the Hauraki Goldfields, and consists of 100 acres. The prospectus states that the property is traversed by two very large and important reefs, while another valuable reef has been partly opened up. Assay reports of six sealed samples contained an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton, while another batch of samples yielded from 2 oz. to 13 oz. of gold per ton. The natural facilities in water power and fuel are very highly spoken of by the experts. In the general foreign section there has been a rise in Montana and Linares; but Burma Ruby, Banner Gold, and La Yesca are lower. Copper shares have been quiet, but steady, Rio Tinto being quoted $25\frac{3}{16}$. Grand Central have improved to $2\frac{1}{2}$ on influential purchases. Some transactions have taken place in the Cripple Creek Gold and Exploration, Limited, a Company which owns mining claims and concessions in the Cripple Creek district, more especially two valuable claims known as the California Lode and the Oregon Lode. Upon these favourable reports have been made by well-known experts, and as the Cripple Creek district has of late come very much to the front, it is probable that these properties will also give a good account of themselves. The capital of the Company only amounts to £50,000 in 5s. shares.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Bovril (British, Foreign, and Colonial), Limited.—With a capital of £2,000,000 in £1 shares, divided into 500,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares (preferential as to capital as well as dividend in priority to the Ordinary and Deferred shares); 750,000 Seven per Cent. Ordinary shares (preferential as to dividend in priority to the Deferred shares); and 750,000 Deferred shares. This Company has been formed to acquire the whole assets of Bovril, Limited, manufacturers of food specialities and the well-known fluid beef, Bovril.

This is an issue that is likely to go well with the public. The Company take over the whole of the assets of Bovril, Limited, an enterprise of world-wide reputation. The business during the past few years has annually increased, and the profits for the year ending June last amounted to the sum of £88,789, and from the progressive results, and the daily increasing business, it is anticipated that the net profit for the first year of the new Company will at the present rate of increase approximate the sum of £150,000. It is also proposed to push forward the foreign and Colonial trade, as well as to increase the number of agents in this country, by which means a large addition to the present returns may be looked for. It is further proposed to sell portions of the rights to subsidiary Companies for operations abroad, a substantial offer having already been received, which is now under consideration. The parent Company, however, propose reserving the sole right of manufacture. This will, of course, mean a further increase in the revenue of the Company, besides the sums that will have to be paid for the concessions. While the Ordinary and Preferred shares will undoubtedly form a steady investment, the Deferred shares are more speculative, but will, if the anticipations of the prospectus are realised, receive very substantial dividends.

The Anglo-Swedish Steel Tube Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, working, and extending the tube-making business of Messrs. Smallwood & Co., of River-street, Birmingham. The capital is fixed at £75,000, in shares of £1 each. The present issue is of 60,000 shares at par.

Fisher & Company, Limited.—Lloyds Bank, Limited, is authorised to offer for subscription £100,000 Four per Cent. Debenture stock of this Company at the price of £104 per cent. The stock will be secured by a first mortgage of the freehold property of the Company, and a floating first charge on the undertaking and general assets of the Company. The share capital is £120,000, divided into 6,000 Five per Cent. Preference, and 6,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each, the whole of which are retained by the vendors.

The Savoy Palace of Varieties, Dublin, Limited.—For the purpose of acquiring the property formerly known as the Grafton Theatre, together with the licensed premises adjoining, situate in South Anne-street, Dublin, this Company has been formed with a capital of £60,000, in shares of £1 each. It is proposed to convert the property into a large and commodious theatre of varieties.

Triticine, Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire the undertaking of Messrs. Harry Goodall & Sons, millers, of Castleford Mills, Castleford, Yorkshire, with the business of "Triticine" food in connection therewith. The capital is £100,000, in £1 shares.

The commodity dealt in by this firm is a food called "Triticine." The prospectus states that it has earned a wide reputation, but I must confess I have not heard of it before, and, considering the enormous competition for this description of article, I cannot advise an investment in this concern.

Australasian Gold and Finance Corporation, Limited.—Formed with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, this Company proposes to carry on the ordinary business of a financial, mining and industrial organisation, more particularly in connection with the Australasian Colonies.

As I have before stated, the number of Companies carrying on this kind of business is so large that I cannot

consider the prospects of this venture at all promising. The prospectus contains a list of quotations of the shares of various similar Companies, which have been much earlier in the field and with which this new concern cannot expect to compete, and I cannot, moreover, compliment the compiler of this list upon his accuracy, as he returns the Founders' shares of one of these Companies at nearly ten times their present value.

The Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings Company, Limited.—Messrs. Barclay & Co., Limited, invite subscriptions to 20,000 Preference shares of £5 each.

Torrington and Okehampton Railway Company.—This Company has been formed to construct and work a railway about twenty miles long, from Torrington Station, on the North Devon line of the South-Western Railway, to the junction with the main line of that railway, near Okehampton Station. Issue of £250,000 in 25,000 shares of £10 each.

The Sheffield District Railway.—This issue is for the purpose of making a short line of nine and a half miles in length to run from Brighton in Derbyshire to Attercliffe, Sheffield, by which a new and independent access will be created for the Great Northern, Great Eastern, and Lancashire and East Coast Railways to the City of Sheffield. The capital is £400,000, in 40,000 shares of £10 each.

Bellevue Proprietary, Limited.—With a capital of £160,000 in £1 shares, of which 40,000 shares are to be reserved for working capital, this Company proposes to acquire the "Bellevue" and "Isidore" claims, containing about 41 acres, situate at Mount Sir Samuel, in Western Australia.

My Letter Box.

I am once again obliged to remind my readers that I can only reply to communications which are accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, not, of course, for publication, but as a token of good faith. All anonymous letters will be consigned to the waste-paper basket. Some delay must necessarily occur in answering questions which entail special inquiries, and it is, as a rule, not possible to attend in the current issues to communications which arrive after Friday. My correspondents will also greatly simplify my task by reading my weekly letters carefully through, as these frequently contain remarks on the very subjects on which information is sought. I again repeat that I can accept no fees for replies in "My Letter Box," and that I cannot undertake to answer by letter or telegram. I must also absolutely refuse to execute any orders for stocks or shares, or to act as an intermediary in any way. It is necessary to number the different stocks on which information is sought. The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

R. N. F.—You had better await developments with regard to the unification scheme. At present a dispute is going on in the Argentine Chambers. *E. M. L.*—No reason to sell these Argentine Railway Government Guaranteed bonds; they will move up with the rest of these stocks.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Manor, Cardiff; A.A., Nelson; E. E. B., Camberwell.—You cannot be regular readers of TRUTH, or else you would know that I have repeatedly criticised "Our Own Investment System" of Douglas, Hungerford, and Williams. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. *E. M.*—You cannot do better than invest the £6,000 safely and profitably in gilt-edged American Railroad bonds, of which I gave a list last week, and I herewith repeat same:—New York and Putnam Four per Cent. bonds at 108, yielding £3. 15s. per cent.; Alabama Midland First Five per Cent. Mortgage bonds at 96, yielding £5. 7s. 6d. per cent.; Northern Pacific Four per Cent. Prior Lien bonds at 88, yielding £4. 15s. per cent.; Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds at 95, yielding £5. 9s. per cent.; Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo First Mortgage Six per Cent. bonds at 105, yielding £5. 17s. per cent.; Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Consolidated Six per Cent. bonds at 86, yielding £7. 12s. 6d. per cent.; and Lynn and Boston Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds at 102½ x.d., yielding £5 per cent. An average return of about £5. 8s. per cent. could thus be secured; and to these bonds you might add the Six per Cent. First Mortgage debentures of the Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo at par. *J. G. H.*—This is an insurance office under the guise of a friendly society; but I do not consider that it offers the guarantees which can be obtained from English life offices, and I advise you to have nothing to do with it. *W. S., Leicester.*—This is one of the wealthiest American offices; but, of course, it is a question for your own self whether you will insure in an American or an English life office. *F. S., Manchester.*—Have nothing to do with outside concerns of this class, but deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Captain D. S.*—I do not think that the outside broker in question will let the matter go into court, but you ought to immediately employ a solicitor, and I have at your request forwarded in your envelope the name of a smart firm of City solicitors, who will also advise you with reference to your other queries. *M. G.*—As requested, I have forwarded in your envelope the name of a smart firm of City solicitors. *Progress.*—I really cannot advise you as to the raising of capital in this manner. Neither can I place you in communication with a financier. *Bruaich, Glasgow.*—One of the wealthiest American life offices; but in the case of the policy in question you must be quite sure that you do not default, as otherwise you will forfeit your payments. The policies are right enough, but in that case I believe there is no surrender value.

Home Rails.

F. Q., Liverpool.—The South-Eastern is undoubtedly one of the most progressive lines; see remarks under that head. Dover "A" is a good purchase. *Southerner.*—Yes, Coras are a good purchase. There seems to be very little fear of labour troubles coming to a head in Glasgow. *Correspondent.*—I have dealt with your argument under Home Rails; but I do not agree with you. On their present position I consider Dover "A" far preferable to Great Eastern.

American and Foreign Rails.

A. B., Huddersfield.—Your securities are well selected. The American Railroad bonds and stocks are well secured, and you should hold all, as they are likely to improve. *W. L., Abingdon.*—You should certainly hold your Baltimore and Ohio South Western Gold bonds; they will recover to your purchase price again. No reason to sell the other American Railroad stocks now. *C. E. B.*—1. This Argentine Railway is doing well, and there is a prospect of the Preference shares receiving a gradually rising dividend. 2. No option but to hold. *Verax.*—Yes. *Doubtful.*—All your American and South American stocks should be held for a rise. Even as regards the Brazilian Railway Debentures (5 and 6) negotiations are going on which may result in some satisfactory arrangement. *C. L., Manchester.*—You should certainly hold Ontario and Missouri, Kansas and Texas. Both are likely to further improve. *J. N.*—I do not think there is any such fear. *E. I. R. C.*—Although you have a mixed lot of American Railroad stocks and bonds, I advise you to hold all for an improvement, which cannot fail to come about if you have patience. *W. H. N.*—Baltimore and Ohio Four and a Half per Cent. Terminal bonds are now quoted 90-93, and are steadily recovering. The position of this bond is a good one, and you should hold for a marked recovery. *R. T. E.*—Yes; Texas "B" should also come to the front again. They are greatly neglected, and are now obtainable at about ¼, at which they should be picked up. *Bristol Reader.*—The sum of money in question might well be spread over the following securities, which will yield an average return of about £5. 8s. per cent.:—New York and Putnam Four per Cent. bonds at 108, yielding £3. 15s. per cent.; Lynn and Boston Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds at 102½ x.d., yielding £5. per cent.; Northern Pacific Four per Cent. Prior Lien bonds at 88, yielding £4. 15s. per cent.; Alabama Midland First Five per Cent. Mortgage bonds at 96, yielding £5. 7s. 6d. per cent.; Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds at 95, yielding £5. 9s. per cent.; Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo First Mortgage Six per Cent. bonds at 105, yielding £5. 17s. per cent.; and Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Consolidated Six per Cent. bonds at 86, yielding £7. 12s. 6d. per cent. *Sigma.*—You are right. There is a distinct difference between an outside broker who allows his clients to deal on the tape with him at a cover and the syndicate touts of the "Tarrant" type. But I do not think that you will get any change out of the former. It is true that your risk is limited; but they generally manage to run you off before you can obtain a profit, if not the first time then the second time; and although it is somewhat difficult to obtain your profit (if made), they soon let you know when your cover is gone.

Mining Shares.

Miss S.—1. It would be preferable that the syndicate should take the new Chartered shares, as that is likely to work the market. 2. Doubtful. 3. Johnnies at the present low price should certainly be held. No option but to hold Nos. 4 to 6. *Peter.*—1. No, there is no mysterious trouble to come out in South Africa, and, now that the clouds are clearing off the Kaffir Circus, you may safely buy 1,000 Johnnies, as you propose. 2. Opportunities in the South African market are at present exceptional, and I do not think so much of the Chinese loan. *Telepathy.*—No, I do not advise the cycle shares Nos. 1 or 2; Gladiators and Swifts are preferable. No temptation to buy the West Australian shares Nos. 3-5, least of all the latter (Sam's Wealth of Nations), against which I have always warned my readers. The concern has now come to the end of its tether. *J. M.*—Certainly hold Johannesburg Consols. They are now recovering from the slump. *Medicus.*—Certainly you must exchange your Barnato Bank shares for Johannesburg Cons. Investment, which are now quoted 2½, and are likely to further recover to a very considerable extent. For eight Bank shares five Johnnies are given. *Asculap.*—Yes, these shares are a fair mining risk. They are £1 shares, fully paid. *H. R. R.*—No catch; you had better make your selection from my remarks under "The Kaffir Circus." *R. D. R.*—I cannot

recommend individual stockbrokers as a matter of principle. Neither can I reply by letter. *Y. F.*—1. The Golden River Quesnelle is a promising mine, and the shares should be held for a rise. 2. I do not think much of the London and British Columbia Company. 3. Certainly hold Randfontein for an important rise, and buy more to average, if you can afford to take the shares up. *Droylig.*—Yes, hold Langlaagte Star for a recovery. I do not think much of the Tararu Creek Gold Mining Company. *Memo.*—No reason to sell now. *Dolphin.*—Yes, New Crœsus should be held for an improvement. This is the time to average if you can afford to do so. *East Somerset.*—All your mining shares should be held. They should go much higher in the recovery which has commenced. You should ignore the publication in question; it is quite irresponsible. *H. T.*—Hold New Primrose, and buy more to average if you can afford to take them up. *Shahgeton.*—I am afraid that the advent of better times must be awaited before any such development can take place. *H. T. B.* and *R. P.*—The conduct of the Directors in the Abercorn Reef and Umtoli Companies in suing for the recovery of the calls after forfeiture of the shares is disgraceful. Why do not the shareholders combine and turn them out, so as to save what is left? *W. C., Lewes.*—Hold Nos. 1-3, Langlaagte Block "B," New Crœsus, Knights, and Randfontein for a rise, and buy more to average if you can afford to do so. No. 4 you should simply hold. *Interested.*—Hold all your Mining shares Nos. 1-6, and average Nos. 4 (Lydenburg Estates) and 6 (Langlaagte Block "B"). *Svenir.*—Mainland Consols are doing excellently, and you should hold for a rise. *Spartan.*—How could you buy Cons. Goldfields at £12. 10s. contrary to all my warnings? At present hold for a recovery. *Francis.*—1. In such cases it is usually advisable to join the reconstruction and sell after, as otherwise your shares are forfeited. 2. Very speculative. 3. A further rise in Croydon Consols is anticipated. 4. Yes, when the depression in the South African market comes to an end. *Transvaal.*—You are quite right, this is the time to average, and you should certainly hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 11. Those which are best to average are Barnato Consols (1), Buffelsdoorn (3), Glencairn (5), Hendersons (6), Johannesburg Investment (7), Langlaagte Royal (8), Lydenburg Estates (9), New Primrose (10), and Randfontein (11). *Outsider.*—You will change your opinion very soon. *J. McI.*—I do not think that the West Australian Mines Nos. 1—3 are particularly promising. You can do better by following the advice given in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Still Hopeful.*—These shares have declined in sympathy with the general depression in South Africans. At present you should hold for a recovery. *Vara.*—I am afraid you cannot resist the calls; but you should certainly insist upon information from the Secretary of the Diamondfontein Estates. *H. M.*—The circular in question was not enclosed in your letter. What did it refer to? *J. L. M.*—I suppose that the New Primrose will pay the next dividend at the end of December. *Flat Broke.*—With the exception of Nos. 7-9 your shares are promising enough, and, as a recovery is now in progress, you had better hold. The document is returned. *Sailor.*—No option but to hold for a recovery, which is already in progress. *Oxon.*—The Lake View special settlement is to take place early in December. I am glad you have done so well on my advice. *Mine.*—I do not recommend purchase of any of the low-priced shares Nos. 1-6. You can do better by following the advice given under "Golden West Australia." You might take in the daily financial papers or the *Citizen* (weekly). I am glad to hear that you are doing so well in Croydon Consols and North Croydon Consols on my advice. *Mysore.*—Yes, you might sell the Debenture stocks and bonds in question, and average your South Africans (Randfontein, Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, and Buffelsdoorn). No reason to sell Croydon Consols yet. *Nemo, Newmarket.*—Yes, Hannan's Props. should be averaged; but I do not think so much of the others. You can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." Hold Nos. 1-5. *British Dominions.*—I expressed an unfavourable opinion of the British Dominions Exploration Company at the outset. If matters are as you state the subscriptions ought to be returned. If you will send stamped and addressed envelope I will forward name of a smart City solicitor. *Nutcracker.*—Not amongst the better class West Australians, and at present no option but to hold. *Pantile.*—Nos. 1-3, 7, 8-10, are well selected West Australians. I do not like No. 4, 5, or 6. *Trilby.*—1. Hold Randfontein for a rise, and buy more to average. 2. Yes. *Condor.*—Why do you not write to the London agents for information. *Solicitous.*—On a "Bear" attack London and Globe Finance dropped to 3½, but are up again at 4⅞. Hold by all means. There is every prospect of a good profit. No option but to wait about the Railway stock. *Mallow.*—1. Yes, you ought to average both New Crœsus and Randfontein. *Duballow.*—I have never held a favourable view of the Hall Mines. *Zeta.*—1. There was a speculative collapse which has brought the shares down. Hold after the heavy fall. *T. E. P. Co.*—There is no option but to hold the Mining shares now that the slump is over. Why did you not work with the committee of the Beaconsfield Diamond Mine? *George.*—The only reason is the general slump. Hold. *H. C. C.*—You bought Sam's Wealth of Nations entirely against my advice. I do not see how I can help you now. *D. J. A.*—If the subscription to the West Australian Mine Owners' Exploration, Limited, was so small as you state the Directors had no business to go to allotment. You should insist upon this. *Meirion.*—1. No option but to hold. 2. Randfontein should be held for a rise, and you might buy more to average. 3. A fair mining risk. *Bootle.*—The Randfontein has distributed a large bonus in Porges Randfontein shares only a month ago. *Carlo.*—I think you might distribute the £2,000 over Croydon Consols, Aladdin's Lamp, West Australian Joint Stock Trust, and London and Globe Finance, all dividend paying. I do not like your West Australian selection at all. *W. A. M.*—You have no option but to exchange your Barnato Banks for Johnnies. *Valentine.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 and 3, but I never recommended them, and have always warned my readers against Sam's Wealth of Nations (2), now brought up for want of capital. *Leicester.*—No option but to hold. *Mock.*—1. Yes, hold Hannan's Props., and buy more to average. 2. A fair Indian mine, but no catch. *Viking.*—You will be quite right to buy Randfonteins. No doubt the Robinson Banking Corporation, of Princes-street, London, E.C., will let you have distinctive reports of the two Companies. *Lindum.*—1. I have always warned my readers against Tetuans. 2. Yes, hold Burbank's Birthday Gift. 3. A fair purchase. 4. A fair mining risk. 5. Cue I. yes, not the others. 6. No catch. *Tent.*—No option but to hold. *Exeter.*—All your West Australians, Nos. 1 to 3, should be held for a rise; they are well selected. Hold also Nos. 4 and 7. I do not like No. 5, and do not advise purchases of No. 6. *A. B. C.*—My opinion is favourable. *Guidance.*—No option but to hold all your Mining shares, Nos. 1 to 9, for an improvement. I cannot tell you about the dividends. The shares to be averaged are mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Mary L.*—Yes, West Australian Joint Stock Trust shares are good to hold.

Industrial Shares.

Jai-Pur.—I do not like this brewery, but there is no fresh news. *O. C.*—I do not advise investment in the Motor-car Companies which are at present being started; see remarks in last week's issue. *H. H., Tiverton.*—I do not see how I can help you in the matter, and perhaps it would be best to close with this offer. *Garryowen.*—A fair investment, but I would not buy just now. Amongst cycle shares, Gladiators and Bagots are the best purchase at present. *G. T. F., Interested.*—Before I can reply to your queries you must send your full name and address in token of good faith, but not necessarily for publication. *Kildare St. Club.*—Very speculative. *Rustic.*—1. It is impossible to tell when the dividend on City of London Electric Lighting Ordinary will be announced; they do not look very promising just now. 2. Hold for a recovery. 3. The dividend is a good one, but the shares are also quite high enough. *Markato.*—The shares mentioned by you are speculative industrial investments of fair promise. The shares No. 3 are not on the market. *Britannia.*—1. A promising cycle investment. 2. Likely to recover; hold. *Shaky.*—I am sorry that I cannot help you to dispose of your cycle patent. *A. S., Highbury.*—Most of your shares Nos. 1 to 5 were not bought on my recommendation; but, upon the whole, I think you will do well to keep them, as the prices are likely to recover. *Proconsul.*—1. Yes, the Bovril Company is likely to do well, and you should apply for the shares. For choice, the Deferred are likely to see the highest premium. 2. Amongst Cycle shares, Gladiator Ordinary at ⅛—¼ premium, Swift at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium, and Bagots at 1 premium are preferable.

Mixed Investments.

Staploe.—I should think that you had better buy American Railroad bonds, of which I gave a list in last week's issue. This would certainly be a safe way of profitably investing from two to three thousand pounds. As regards the Simmer and Jack Mine, the shares are certainly very cheap, and worth buying. *Ereuneter.*—1. These Brewery Debenture stocks are at present very high. 2. Not tempting. 3. Yes; Swift Cycle shares at the present quotation of ⅛ premium are very promising. *Jack.*—No reason to sell any of your stocks Nos. 1 to 6 now. *H. W. N., Derby.*—I do not think much of your Mining shares Nos. 1 and 2. Neither do I care much for the Industrials Nos. 3 to 6, none of which are of my recommendation. *Debonnaire.*—A very fair investment for £4,000, which you should hold. *Paris.*—1. Argentines are not expected to advance at present until something is done with reference to the unification scheme. 2. Yes, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment are an excellent investment at the present low price. 3. Possibly, as banks generally are doing well. 4. No. 5. I do not advise this form of Companies. *Sca.*—No option but to hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 9 for an improvement. *Stuart.*—Hold all your shares for a rise. *Industrious, Manchester.*—Yes, the Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent Loan is a good purchase. In view of the war in Cuba, the position of the United Railways of Havana is too much involved. *Fritz.*—A purchase of Nigel (1) and of Grand Trunk Four per Cent. debentures (3) would be promising; but I do not like Nos. 2 and 4. *Speculator, Dublin.*—A. I have no doubt that Argentine Northern Central Government Mortgage bonds will improve with other Argentine Government stocks. B. I have no information about these stores. *M. S. H.*—1. Yes, I should prefer Dover "A" as an investment. 2. A good American Railroad bond. 3. These stand at 102-106, and should be held. 4. I have not much of an opinion of this Brazilian Railway Debenture stock. 5. The new Uruguay Five per Cent. Loan is, if anything, better than the old loan, and is quoted 64. *Greeshop.*—1. The Lady Bess (W.A.) is not yet proved, and I do not advise a purchase. 2. No; I do not advise a purchase of Chartered shares, and have never done so. In fact, I recommended selling ever since they were about 9 and they now stand at about 2. 3. Yes; the new Bovril Company is very promising,

and you cannot do any harm in applying for these; the best chance of a big profit is in the Deferred shares. 4. No; I do not like Starley Brothers and Westwood at all. 5. Swift Cycle shares should be held for a rise. 6. Hold Bagots; they are now at 1 premium, and likely to go better. 7. Yes. *Torquay.*—A dollar bond is payable as to principal and interest in dollars, and there is a slight advantage in the yield owing to the difference in the exchange. The Nobel Dynamite Trust does not pay interim dividends. *Nemo, Upper Norwood.*—Yes; I should certainly advise purchase of Randfontein (5) in the first instance, and also of No. 1. Instead of buying the others, you can do better by following the recommendations in my letter under the "Kaffir Circus" and "Golden West Australia." *Albion.*—It is quite right that brokers through whom you resell what you have bought do not charge a second commission, whether this is done the same day or not, as long as it is effected in the same account. The Brewery debentures are now quoted 113, and I see no reason why you should not take your profit. Harrod's Stores are a good investment; but you will do even better by putting your money into Paquin, Limited, about which, living in Paris as you do, you should know everything. Americans are likely to go much better, and you should certainly not sell now. I do not recommend Eastern Bank shares, and there is no such bank as you mention in South Africa. *Chance.*—I do not advise purchase of Colonial Government bonds at present prices. If you want to purchase Home Railway stocks I should think that Brighton "A," Dover "A," Caledonian Deferred, and North British Deferred would be the best to buy. *R. W. Piccadilly.*—This Argentine Railway bond should improve in the near future; and New Crœsus are so cheap that a purchase could not hurt you. *Hall.*—I do not advise purchase of Manchester Ship Canal Debenture stock or of the Midland Railway of Western Australia First debentures; but I think the £1,000 could be invested with better advantage in the gilt-edged American Railroad bonds mentioned under "American and Foreign Rails" in reply to "Bristol Reader." *F. P. H.*—The shares in the Investment Company might be held for the present, and there is no reason for selling the Brewery stocks. *Clanry Newry.*—The South African shares should come right in time, and you should sell the Cycle shares when you see a good profit. *D. C. P.*—1. Instead of buying these West Australian shares you can do better by following the advice given in my letter. 2. If you have a profit you might sell. 3. I must refer you to my letter. *H.L.N.*—1. Certainly; why do you not buy American Railroad bonds from my list? 2. A fair investment. 3 and 4. No catch. 6. Yes, Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo Six per Cent. debentures are a very good investment. 7. A fair Industrial risk. 8. I do not like these. 9. Speculative, but promising. *Rio.*—1. I do not think it advisable to sell the Industrial shares now. 2. South Africans are likely to recover again, and you should hold. 3. Certainly hold your American Brewery shares. *Screen.*—1. No reason to sell Bank shares now, these institutions are doing well. 2. Yes. 3. A fair investment; but speculative, as all publishing Companies are. 4. You should again average Randfontein, which are improving. *Walmer.*—No; I have always expressed an unfavourable opinion of Qu'Appelle Long Lake Sakatchevan bonds, and do so still even at this price. 2. A fair industrial investment, but I do not advocate purchase of the Ordinary. 3. No; leave Salt Union alone. 5. No. 6. No. *Club.*—1. The speculator who controlled the shares has come to grief, but the enterprise is stated to have done well. Hold. 2. I do not advise the investment. Be careful not to be caught in the motor-car craze at the present moment. *Steel.*—1. Hold the American Rails. 2. I do not consider the Brush Electric Company promising. 3. Hold. 4. No catch. *Wilts.*—1. Yes, hold New Primrose and Glencairns, and buy more to average. 2. Yes, you might average now West Australian Share Corporation. 3. Gladiators and Bagots are a good purchase, and amongst the general Industrial section more particularly the new Bovril Deferred.

Various Investments.

Consols, after declining to 110, have recovered to $110\frac{3}{4}$ for the account; and a good deal of quiet investment buying has again taken place in other gilt-edged securities, including American Railroad bonds. Silver is practically unchanged at 30d., and Rupee Paper has given way to $62\frac{1}{2}$. All the talk of gold shipments to India has, however, so far come to naught, and as further withdrawals of gold for the United States are altogether stopped by the rise in the American exchange, money is distinctly easier. In Cycle shares a moderate business is passing, but changes are unimportant. Dunlop Deferred are quoted $1\frac{3}{8}$, the Ordinary $1\frac{3}{16}$, Humber Extensions $1\frac{3}{8}$. Singer Cycles are the turn firmer at 1, and Cycle Components are quoted $3\frac{7}{8}$. The fact that the Singer Cycle Company, on which the proprietors guaranteed a profit for the first year of £55,000, shows an actual profit of £79,000, and pays a 10 per cent. dividend, should be encouraging to investors in Companies with which Mr. E. T. Hooley is connected. In Gladiators dealings are taking place at $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{16}$ premium, while Bagots have advanced to 1 premium. $\frac{1}{16}$ is still the quotation of Swift Cycles. The Stanley Show, which has just been opened, shows an unusual absence of startling noveltics, and it is evident that some kind of finality has at present been reached in the matter of cycling inventions. This should be favourable for the existing Companies, and amongst these especially for those who are manufacturing articles of well-established reputation, such as the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company, the Gladiator Cycle, the Humber, the Swift, and the Bagot Pneumatic Tyre. The event of the week in the Industrial department is the issue of the new Bovril Company, which has, I understand, been very favourably received. Old Bovril shares are very strong at $5\frac{1}{4}$. Dealings are already reported in the new Bovril shares, the Ordinary being quoted $\frac{1}{8}$ premium, the Deferred about $\frac{1}{8}$ premium, and the Preferred $\frac{1}{16}$ premium. I hear that the issue of Paquin, Limited, has been largely over-subscribed. The Ordinary are quoted at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium, the Prefs. at $\frac{1}{2}$ premium. In Brewery shares, Allsopp Ordinary are easier at 168, but Guinness remain at 440; while American Brewery shares are inactive. At the Nitrate Railway meeting long explanations were furnished by the chairman, Mr. R. Harvey, which dispelled some of the charges which had been brought. It is satisfactory to find that the Board have themselves proposed that a committee be appointed to confer with the Directors as to the past administration of the Company and its present position and prospects, this committee to have power to appoint expert assistance, and to have access to all the books and documents of the Company. It may now be hoped that good will come of the agitation which has of late arisen. A correspondent sends me circulars, which are being distributed wholesale by Mr. W. Haynes Gibbs, hon. secretary of the Incorporated Association of Her Majesty's Warrant Holders, Limited, 119, Pall Mall, London, S.W., in which he gives particulars of an amalgamation of Callard, Stewart, & Watt, Limited, bread and biscuit bakers, &c., and recommends the shares as a good investment, as the Company *almost* guarantees $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. My correspondent would like to know what commission Mr. Haynes Gibbs is going to get for his trouble in circularising his warrant-holders!—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

BOY'S LOVE.

Of the thousand and one touching scenes that are enacted in Merrie England every day, I suppose that we Lunacy Commissioners come across as many as most. And I doubt not that if any man, who has served the Government in this capacity, were to relate the more striking of his experiences, in a sympathetic manner, he would command a large circle of interested readers, and would surely draw tears from even the least emotional among them. I do not, however, remember that any Lunacy Commissioner ever has published such a volume; and I suppose the reason is not far to seek. A constant course of practical routine, of dry statistics and calculations, of what I may call the work-a-day business of lunacy, unfits a man to regard these experiences from an emotional or pathetic aspect, and tends to make him employ his leisure thoughts upon subjects as far as possible removed from those of the shop. While, even if it were otherwise, the obligations of professional secrecy would be a formidable barrier to the successful treatment of such a theme.

At times, however, a case arises attended with features that cannot fail to excite strong feeling in the most hardened professional bosom. It is a case of this nature that I now set myself to relate; and I do so the more readily because there is no fear, in the present instance, of my causing pain or distress to any person concerned. If, therefore, I shield myself under cover of misleading names and dates, it is rather as a conventional formality than as a precaution that is in any degree requisite.

At a distance of time—which I will call five years ago—my business duties took me to inspect a well-known asylum in the West of England. Dr. X., the head of the establishment, was an old and valued friend of mine, and I was pleased that my apportionment of circuit should happen to include his institution. A Lunacy Commissioner's visits are not always pleasant to himself. He is by no means invariably welcomed by the heads of asylums, and when he has to find fault—as find fault he often must—they frequently retaliate upon him by all sorts of petty impertinences. But, of course, I had nothing of the kind to expect at Dr. X.'s asylum, not merely because he was a personal friend, but also because he fulfilled his duties to all his subordinates and patients with a considerate thoroughness that, in his case, rendered our periodical visitations a sheer formality. That Commissioner must have been captious indeed who could find faults to gird at in Dr. X.'s institution. I have known many excellent heads of asylums who do their work conscientiously and well, but never one who took more personal part and interest in the management of his patients. His system was one of wise and consistent kindness, and he saw that his staff of nurses and attendants conformed to it. I do not say that he never had recourse to severity. In his, as in all asylums, there were some cases in which severity alone was possible; but he made these cases very much the exception. It was, he said, his settled conviction that, in nine cases out of ten, kindness answered the best.

Without offering any opinion upon this principle as one of general application, I may assert that my friend effected at least as many cures as any of his contemporary experts, and that he made the sad lot of his incurables—who were, of course, the great majority—more tolerable and comfortable than it could have been in any other asylum. I think that the claims of these poor creatures are often lost sight of, and that whereas the curative treatment of the curable is always being pressed forward, the palliative treatment of the incurable remains very much at a standstill. There is a prevalent notion that if you give food, and clothes, and lodging to an incurable lunatic, that if you provide him with a few stereotyped amusements and occupations, that if you guard him against harming himself or others, you are doing all that is possible to alleviate his lot. But I am sure that this is a mistake. There may be—there are—those whose insanity makes them insensible of any comforts save the most material. But there are also those—and they no small proportion—who are intensely susceptible of a higher kindness and a loftier consideration; men hungry for sympathy, yearning for comprehension; men in whom their disordered intelligence diverts, but never dries up, the stream of human affection, and who, having this affection judiciously fostered, instead of discouraged, receive an unspeakable mitigation of their sufferings.

I do not say that this is always possible. But I know that it is often so, and that it is attended with happy results. My friend Dr. X. has proved it conclusively, and in his asylum far fewer cases of hopeless misery among the incurables are to be met with than in any other of the same size. I only hope that his system may spread; that the rule of stern repression in asylums may become less the rule; that the larger and kindlier spirit, to which the present age is moving, may extend itself further into our treatment of lunatics. In other departments of medical skill; in prison management; in dealings with the outcast and unfortunate; in the relations of employers and employed; drastic measures have long been replaced by gentler and more conciliatory methods. In our asylums, too, this wholesome change has been in part affected. But I long to see what is now in part become entire; to live till the day when the dry pack and the padded room shall be nearly as obsolete as the stocks or the pillory—obsolete, not at the risk of giving frenzied madmen a dangerous freedom, but because a better, a more considerate, system shall have made these frenzied cases almost non-existent.

On this particular occasion of my visit to Dr. X., I arrived at the asylum overnight, and my friend hospitably put me up. Next morning, after breakfast, I strolled round, accompanied by Dr. X., on a tour of inspection, knowing, however, very well that it was simply a *pro formâ* affair, and that I should find everything about the asylum in a satisfactory and efficient state. On previous visits, I had noticed how much Dr. X. had done to make his patients calm and contented, by humouring their many foibles; and on this occasion I was more than ever struck by the careful, discriminating way in which this system was being carried out, and by the favourable results which evidently arose from it. No doubt, a man devoid of unusually sound judgment would soon find himself in difficulties, if he adopted such a system. But Dr. X.'s judgment was so reliable, his shrewdness so keen, his sympathy so remarkably in touch with his patients, that he knew just where to apply, and just where to avoid, his plan of humouring, and it was seldom, indeed, that the event proved him to have been injudicious.

It was a fine August morning, and most of the patients were out in the beautiful grounds attached to the asylum. I knew many of them, from previous visits, and not a few came up and welcomed me with effusive cordiality. They seemed pleased, also, to see the Doctor, and I thought that some of them regarded him with quite affectionate eyes. This, in itself, spoke volumes for the success of his régime—for that the head of a large asylum has gained the love of his unhappy patients is the most convincing proof of his efficiency that could possibly be adduced.

Most of the unfortunate men were strolling about in an aimless way; a few were walking fast, as if their life depended on their covering five miles in the hour; a few others were gardening; and some few were sitting on the seats. But it is to one patient only that I wish to draw particular attention. He was in a retired corner of the grounds, quite by himself. The nook in which he had ensconced himself was very picturesque and charming. It was an opening in the midst of shrubs, some score of yards square, laid out in an old-fashioned border, rich with a mixed profusion of old-world flowers. At the back grew tall hollyhocks, sun-flowers, golden-rod, and evening primrose; and in the front, the lowlier, but not less lovely, darlings of a by-gone age. I am a herbaceous enthusiast myself—a floral antiquarian—a botanical tory; and I noted, with delight, that all my favourites were represented. Yes, here they all were. Columbine, Sweet-William, Mary-bud, Canterbury-bell, fritillary, London pride, Solomon's Seal, white and yellow alison, or, as the cottagers more prettily call it, garden-gate; and creeping-jennie, and bachelors' buttons. Aye, and those dear, delicious herbs, recalling the fragrant memories of my sunny childhood, balm, and marjoram, and lemon-leaf, and old-man, or boy's love, as village maidens would ather know it.

And on his knees, weeding the border, pausing ever and anon to survey his labours with a proud and tender glance, I saw the gardener of this fairy plot. How lovingly his eye lingered on the flowers; what fond delight beamed in his approving smile! It was not till we had stood watching him for some minutes that he became aware of our presence. Then he looked up.

"Well, Doctor," he exclaimed, "and how do you think my garden shows to-day?"

"Beautiful! Beautiful, my dear sir!"

The poor fellow's eyes sparkled with pleasure at that.

"I am glad you think so," he said. "*She* is coming this afternoon, you know."

"Ah! So she is," replied my kind-hearted companion, nodding.

"And she is sure to be pleased with my flowers—she *must* be pleased—eh, Doctor?" inquired the patient, eagerly and anxiously.

"Not a doubt of it. It is a foregone conclusion."

The unhappy man heaved a deep sigh of contentment and relief.

"Thank God for that, Doctor. I have arranged them just as she likes them—haven't I? And there is plenty of boy's love—isn't there? She has always been so fond of boy's love. Ah! Doctor, boy's love is a rare plant to last."

"To be sure it is."

"Yes; nothing can kill it when once it has taken root. Heat won't kill it. Frost won't kill it. Wet won't kill it. Drought won't kill it. Weeds won't kill it. Neglect won't kill it. After a hard winter, Doctor, when every other plant in the border has been killed, I've known boy's love to be the only one left standing. How lonely, how desolate it looked next spring. But it seemed proud of its endurance, too. A true perennial!"

He sighed, murmured something that I could not catch, and applied himself again to his weeding. The Doctor and I passed on to another part of the grounds.

"Poor fellow!" said my companion, as we walked away. "The old story—a disappointment in love."

"I guessed something of the sort. What were the particulars?"

"Nothing out of the common. Some girl, to whom he was deeply attached, threw him over and married another man. He is peculiarly sensitive, and his reason gave way under the shock."

"He seems happy enough now."

"Yes. Very different from what he was when he first came here. He was then one of our worst and most melancholy cases. It was only by accident that I found out the means to make him happy and contented."

"How was that?"

"One day the head gardener came and complained to me about him. It appeared that he had taken a spade from one of the tool-sheds and started digging up the turf of a small lawn, in that very corner where we have just left him. I went to stop him in his work of destruction. I found two of the attendants already dragging him away by force, and the patient struggling, protesting, swearing in the most frenzied manner. I bade them let him go, and asked him what he wished to do, and why he had been digging up the turf. He explained his object to me in a torrent of eager words. He asked my leave to execute it with painful anxiety and excitement.

"He said that her garden—the little garden which she so dearly loved—had all been turfed over and spoiled. That the old-fashioned border, which had always been her favourite, was entirely done away with. And now she might come back any day—and what would she think? What would she feel? He knew exactly how the border had run; in what way it had been planted. Might he not be allowed to cut it out again as it was? To replant it with all the flowers and herbs which she had loved so well? He pleaded so pathetically, that I could not find it in my heart to refuse him. I gave him leave. I told the gardener to supply him with all the tools, the plants and seeds, that he might ask for. The poor fellow seized my hand and kissed it in passionate gratitude. Then he took up his spade and set to work at once. The result of his efforts is what you have just seen."

"Poor creature! Poor, faithful creature," I murmured.

"I dare say you noticed that little rustic summer-house," the doctor continued. "He built that, too—exactly like her summer-house, which (so he fancied) had been pulled down. On fine days, he is happy gardening; on wet days, he is happy sitting in that summer-house, looking at his border. He is always expecting her. Of course, she never comes; but he is always expecting, therefore always happy. Indeed, I have known many, many sane people who find far less pleasure in their life than he," added the good doctor, with a sigh.

And then we went on to talk of other matters.

* * * * *

In a round of absorbing duties and visits, I soon forgot the episode of this poor patient and his little garden; and it might, by this time, have slipped from my memory altogether, if it had not been recalled to me a year or two later by a rather remarkable occurrence.

In the course of my annual holiday, I happened to pay a brief visit to some old friends—whom I had not seen for quite a dozen years—at their home in Wiltshire. The father of the family had been a college chum of mine, and during his lifetime, I had been to see him tolerably often. But after his death, my visits to his family became less frequent, and at last ceased altogether; not owing to any difference or coldness, or, indeed, from any purpose or design; but simply because domestic and business ties happened to draw us in opposite directions.

When, however, during my holiday, I found myself staying within a few miles of the place to which my old friend's widow and daughters had moved, I took the opportunity to call upon them and resume our acquaintance. They were pleased to see me, and pressed me to spend a few days under their roof—an invitation which I readily accepted. Only two of the daughters were then at home, May, the youngest, a pretty and vivacious girl of eighteen; and the eldest, Helen, a widow of six month's standing, who had returned to her mother's roof upon the death of her husband. When I had last seen Helen, she was about the same age as May was now, and equally bright and vivacious. It seemed to me, therefore, very strange and sad to see her in widow's weeds, and to note the melancholy sorrow all too evident in that once lively, girlish face. I naturally assigned this melancholy to grief for her dead husband; not knowing, then, that her union with him had been unfortunate, and that his death had come to her as a welcome relief. However, in the course of my visit, my eyes were opened to the real secret of her grief.

I remember the occasion well. On the first morning of my visit, I rose early and took a stroll round the garden while the dew of the summer dawn was still white upon the grass. I had not expected to find anyone about at such an hour, except, possibly, the gardener, and I felt some suprise, when, in a remote corner of the garden, farthest from the house, I came upon Helen. She wore a holland apron and gardening gloves, and was busy snipping off the dead flowers in a long border with a pair of scissors.

She started at the sound of my footsteps on the gravel; then came forward and offered me her hand.

"You are busy betimes," I said.

"Yes," she answered. "I do not sleep well, and gardening is the occupation that I love best. I am often here earlier than this. This is my own particular little garden. No one else is allowed to touch it. How do you like it?"

"It is quite a little fairy-land," I said, as I looked around me.

Then something seemed suddenly to strike me. I had seen this tiny floral paradise before. Yes! yes! That rustic summer-house; that line of rose-trees; that long, old-fashioned border, full of hollyhocks, and golden rod, and pinks, and columbine, and balm, and boy's love—yes; I had surely seen it before! And then I remembered where. A sudden sense of interest, of excitement, of eager curiosity, made my heart throb.

"You—you—are fond of these old-fashioned flowers?" I asked her, looking down into her face.

"I love them. I care for no others."

She spoke almost passionately.

"And I love them, too," I said, still regarding her attentively. "Partly for themselves; more for their associations."

She trembled, and turned away her face.

"Ah, God!" she murmured, in a low voice. "Their associations!"

Then she exclaimed, with quick, nervous energy:

"Mr. Lascelles, you have heard? You know? Some one has told you?"

"No," I answered, "no one has told me. But I think I can guess. Shall I try?"

"If you like," she replied, her voice sinking to a whisper.

"I think it all began with the growth of a boy's love," I said.

Her face flushed crimson on the instant. A violent tremor shook her frame. She clasped her hands in a tense, excited gesture.

"You—you—*have* been told!" she gasped. "This is no—no—guess-work."

"I have been told nothing," I repeated. (I never stopped to consider the wisdom or the kindness of speaking out. I was acting under an impulse which

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entirely controlled me.) "But I have seen something, and have drawn my conclusions."

"Have seen something? What? Where? I do not understand. Explain!"

"A little garden, the counterpart of this. That same summer-house filled up the corner. The rose-trees ran just so, and along one side there stretched a border of exactly that size and shape—full of the same dear, old-world plants. There they grew—the hollyhocks; the golden rod; the creeping-jennie; the columbine; the sweet-william; the Canterbury-bell. But the gardener's favourite, above them all, the plant which he loved and prized the most was—boy's love."

She stared at me with a dazed, bewildered air. Her eyes were fixed on mine. But she did not speak.

"Every day," I went on, "when it was fine, he weeded and tended his plants; and when it was wet, he sat in his summer-house and watched them. His one thought was that they might be trim and ready against the arrival of—some one; some one whom he always expected; some one who never came."

She put her hands to her face. She uttered one low, gasping cry.

"You—you—have—seen—*him*."

Then she tottered, fell forward, and if I had not caught her in my arms, would have lain prone and fainting on the gravel.

* * * * *

The last scene of my story was enacted a week later. With the consent, and, indeed, with the approval of Dr. X., it was arranged that I should take Helen over to the asylum, and that she should be allowed to see her faithful gardener, who had been waiting for her so long. I was present at the interview. I shall not easily forget it.

When he saw Helen, he started. He turned very pale. He trembled all over. Then he shaded his eyes with his hand, and half-closed them, like one coming out of darkness into a strong light.

"How do you find your garden?" he asked her, in an uncertain, wavering voice.

"George! George!" was all she could find to say; but in her utterance of the name throbbed a world of pathos.

"After you went," he continued, still speaking in a low and dreamy tone, "ruthless hands made havoc of your garden. But I restored it just as it was—just as you—had—had loved it. I renewed the border myself. I replanted all your favourites as they had been before. And I said to myself that, when you came back, you should never know the difference. Was I right, Helen? Do—you—see—any—change?"

For answer, she stretched out both her hands to him. He took them eagerly, yet tenderly. It seemed to me that his eyes were less hazy now; that they had grown more used to the strong light.

He loosed one of her hands, still retaining the other, stooped down, picked a spray of boy's love, and handed it to her.

She took it and placed it in the bosom of her dress. He uttered a joyous cry, and bending forward, clasped her in his arms. I caught a glimpse of his face at that supreme moment. I needed no better assurance. I saw, in an instant, that what I had scarcely dared to hope had come about—that Helen and daylight were restored to him together.

MUSIC.

THE LAMOUREUX FESTIVAL.

M. LAMOUREUX last week brought his band from Paris, bombarded London with half a dozen concerts, and called it a "Lamoureux Festival." People have varied ideas of what a "musical festival" consists. Some think it means a week of oratorios, Masses, and Stabat Maters sung by provincial choirs. My musical critic labours under the impression that it implies a special fee of (as he suggests) twenty guineas per diem, plus travelling and hotel expenses; and he is immensely sarcastic at the idea that anything at Queen's Hall can rightly be described as a "musical festival" at all. He believes there is also a "festival" at Canterbury which has mostly to do with cricket, and one at the other Archiepiscopal city of York which has to do with church choirs. But both are intimately connected with "special" fees and hotel expenses, whereas he now hears of neither, although last week the day and night celebrations in which Mr. Robert Newman revelled, almost implied the necessity of his taking up his quarters temporarily at the Langham.

M. Lamoureux's own notion of a "festival" was the production of certain flimsicalities of modern musical France, interspersed with much Beethoven and Wagner. If now I may judge from some of the examples of modern French music produced at Queen's Hall last week, the Frenchman of to-day, like the Englishman of the last generation, would seem to take his pleasures sadly. The music, when it left the well-beaten French track of muted violins, cymbals, and harp, and developed a "programme," was usually of a most lugubrious character. M. Dubois, for example, in "Frithiof" depicts the enforced separation of two lovers, the lady being afterwards married to a king thrice her age, whereupon the hero, partly by accident, partly in revenge, sets the local temple on fire. M. Vincent D'Indy, in his "Enchanted Forest," tries to describe in the orchestra the adventures of a knight, who, after successfully evading the wiles of certain forest elves, drinks some enchanted water which sends him to sleep for a prolonged period. Sceptical stipendiary magistracy was obviously unknown in that enchanted forest, or the water might have been tested for its alcoholic strength. M. Chevillard did not disclose the particular story of his "Symphonic Poem," which some have imagined is a love idyll, while others affect to believe that it deals with the wanderings of a prophet in a desert. "Programme" music, indeed, is apt to be extremely disappointing unless the composer betrays the secret of his plot. M. Chevillard is M. Lamoureux's son-in-law, which partly accounts for the production of his "Symphonic Poem" in a country that has plenty of mediocrity of its own. M. Bourgault-Ducoudray in his "Rapsodie Cambodgienne" has sought to describe the overflowing of a Nile-like Cambodian river for the purpose of irrigation, though how on earth this sort of thing can be illustrated in a modern orchestra is not at all clear. All these compositions are more or less to pattern, and, in fact, the style of modern French music shows little or no diversity. The best production of the week was the Symphony in D minor of the late César Franck, which is extremely ingenious and effective, though a good deal more German than French.

The Lamoureux audiences, except on Saturday afternoon, were not large. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons it is true the 5s. gallery was filled, mainly by ladies, for men on weekday afternoons have other business to attend to. But even in the evenings the stalls showed many empty benches, and Mr. Robert Newman has now to consider whether the high prices he has adopted can be maintained. A Richter, we know, can do it; but then he does not offer up the sacrifice six times in a week. Indeed, although the experiment has twice been tried, it is obvious that people will not pay 12s. 6d. to hear M. Lamoureux, while Mr. Wood plays to shilling and Mr. Randegger to sixpenny audiences. In Paris, I believe, M. Lamoureux charges 4 francs, or little more than three shillings, for his best seats, and he gives his French friends far better concerts, including choral works, full programmes of the music of Berlioz, and performances by eminent soloists, M. Paderewski taking part in two of the Parisian concerts last season. In London there are no soloists, and the tickets run up to 12s. 6d. each. Why London should always be expected to pay so much higher prices than any other city for an almost exactly similar entertainment is not exactly obvious.

The Lamoureux orchestra has, however, won a well-deserved artistic success, and for much the same reason as the Colonne band did earlier in the autumn. To compare the French orchestras with the bands which Richter, Mottl, and Levi conduct in London would be utterly unmeaning and illogical. The Frenchmen come here after

an enormous number of rehearsals in their native land. Their chief merit is a species of military precision and that ensemble which is to be gained only by frequent rehearsal and long practice together. The performance, when once it is perfected, rarely or never varies. The reading of a symphony this year will be practically the same as its interpretation next season. The same points will be made, the same details observed. Richter and other imported German conductors are granted only a couple of London rehearsals with a resident orchestra, but they manage to bring out effects in some instances just as well, in others worse, and in many cases even better, while they show a degree of individuality and intellectual variety which are wholly absent from the French concerts. The Parisian wood wind is extremely good, but the brass is coarse, and the violins—perhaps because they are playing to the low pitch—entirely lack the resonance of the Richter or the Crystal Palace fiddles. Despite the beautiful rendering of the "Eroica," of the "Parsifal" prelude, and of certain French works, there was nothing during the whole Lamoureux week equal to the Richter reading a short time ago of Tschaikowski's "Symphonie Pathétique" or of Beethoven's Choral symphony. On the other hand, M. Lamoureux showed that he is one of the few Frenchmen who have a genuine grasp of the Wagnerian ideas. M. Lamoureux proposes to return with his band in May. He will do well then to produce some more important French works than he has yet tried, and also to bring his prices down to a reasonable figure.

It is said that nearly 20,000 persons attended musical entertainments of various sorts last Saturday, but the biggest audience was drawn by Madame Patti, who, in luxuriant voice, then gave her only concert this season at the Albert Hall. Mr. Percy Harrison was the speculator, and he must have rubbed his hands at the balance-sheet. Madame Patti sang no fewer than seven times, including "Tacea la notte" from "Trovatore," Mozart's "Voi che sapete," the Gounod-Bach's "Ave Maria," and a group of popular ballads, before, after many recalls, she appeared in her carriage cloak as a strong hint of immediate departure. The songstress is remaining in London for a few days, but she will not sing in public again this year.

The concert which marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society was almost a private gathering. It was a smoking concert, attended, of course, exclusively by men, and both the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh made speeches, which (musical critics not, as a rule, being shorthand writers) have been reported according to the taste and fancy of the hearers. No one, however, was more amused than the Prince of Wales himself at the slip which his Royal Highness made, in referring to the Royal Amateurs as "The Royal Agricultural Society." But his reference, as a sign of the advance of musical taste, to the enormous number of concerts now given weekly in London (this week they are at the rate of seven per diem), was very warmly cheered.

Mr. George Cottle (or Lansdowne Cottell) despite much that has been said about him and his London Conservatoire of Music by various correspondents in TRUTH during the past few weeks, seems to be emulating the sagacious attitude of Brer Fox in the story-book, who "lay low and said nuffin." So certain steps are, I learn, to be adopted in the hope of loosening his tongue. One of those who have paid Mr. Cottell money proposes to demand it back, and, on refusal, to place Mr. Cottell in such a position that he will be able to tell his own story in the witness-box. Meanwhile my reference from the Cottell prospectus to Mr. Blumenthal as one of the teachers of the pianoforte at this precious "Conservatoire," has brought me a very proper letter from the well-known composer, Mr. Jacques Blumenthal. It is, of course, possible that the "Mr. Blumenthal" of Porchester-road may be another gentleman; or, like the "Charles Long, Secretary," he may be altogether a myth. But in either case, the only Mr. Blumenthal known in musical life, and to the "Musical Directory," writes me as follows from the Hotel Bristol, Cannes:—

> I have just seen the article in your issue of November 12, in which you mention my name as being printed in the list of teachers at Mr. Cottell's Conservatoire of Music. Will you allow me to say I had never heard of Mr. Cottell before reading about him in TRUTH, and I have certainly never given to him, nor to anybody on his behalf, authority to use my name in reference to his Conservatoire.

Perhaps now I shall hear from M. Riviere, Mr. Plowitz (Cavour), Mr. Jewson, Mr. Maycock, Mr. T. Harper, Dr. J. M. Bentley, and others mentioned in Mr. Cottell's "List of Professors;" and more particularly from Mrs. Ronalds, Lord Carrington, Lord Battersea, Sir N. de Rothschild, Lady Carrington, the Duchess of Wellington, the Countess of Strafford, Canon Harford, Sir W. T. Marriott, Lady Altman, Lady Miles, Lady Jane Kenny-Herbert (to say nothing of Messrs. Riley & Sons of the "Birmingham & Midland Districts Branch"), whose names, announced in various ways in the most recently issued prospectus, undoubtedly form an incentive to join the "Conservatoire." These ladies and gentlemen, who have hitherto kept a silence which may be misunderstood, will doubtless be glad to explain the exact extent of their connection with Mr. Cottell's Conservatoire, concerning which a tolerably full account was published in TRUTH of November 12.

The British printer has much to answer for. Every one, of course, has heard of Berlioz's "L'Enfance du Christ." In M. Lamoureux's first programme it was printed "L'Enfant du Christ." When Mr. Robert Newman read it, I am told the telephone wires nearly melted.

The great tenor, Signor Campanini, who has had a long illness, has just passed away at his house at Parma at the age of 51. Twenty years or more ago Signor Italo Campanini was considered one of the greatest tenors in Europe, and as the original Don José here in "Carmen," Faust in Boito's "Mefistofele," and Sir Kenneth in Balfe's "Talisman," he won a high reputation; being then somewhat prematurely hailed as the legitimate successor of Mario and Giuglini. When he made his début at Drury Lane in 1872 he, indeed, had a beautiful voice and was an interesting actor, but throatiness and the American climate ruined his once noble organ, so that when he returned to England a year or two ago he was little better than a wreck of his former self. He was, however, a careful man, and I understand left a considerable fortune.

Mr. Sims Reeves in a letter to the evening papers on Monday, denied that he is ill, and declared that South Africa had added years to his life. He, however, was certainly unable to appear at Queen's Hall on Sunday week, and again last Saturday. Some people have, by the way, questioned my statement that the grand old tenor is in his seventy-ninth year. This is not surprising, as the vocalist himself is doubtful on the point. In "The Life of Sims Reeves Written by Himself" (London: Simpkin Marshall & Co., 1888), page 15, he says, "I was born October 21, 1821, at Shooters' Hill. My father was a musician." In "My Jubilee," by J. Sims Reeves (Simpkin Marshall & Co., 1889), he says in December, 1839, "I had just entered upon my eighteenth year," which would make 1822 the year of his birth. The following certificate, however, speaks for itself:—

Page 241, No 1,925, Baptism solemnised in the Parish of Woolwich in the County of Kent in the year 1818:—

When baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.	Abode.	Qualification or profession.	By whom the ceremony was performed.
1818, Oct. 25 born Sep. 26	John, son of	John and Rosina Reeves	Newrd.	Musician in the Royal Artillery.	H. Fraser

It struck me that perhaps there might be another son of "John Reeves," who died, the name being afterwards given to a younger son. I have, therefore, had the register searched till the end of 1823. The only children, however, are Mary Jane, daughter of John and Rosina

Reeves, born July 31, 1816; John, of same parents (the present vocalist), born September 26, 1818; William Henry, of same parents, born January 3, 1821; and Harriett, of same parents, October 20, 1822. The extra name "Sims" is, I believe, an artistic flourish. Young Reeves' name appears as a treble (his father was bass) in the chorus at a concert given at the Royal Artillery Chapel, Woolwich, December 23, 1834. That, as a bridegroom of twelve months and a happy father, he in his seventy-eighth year made a successful début as a tenor vocalist in South Africa, beyond doubt constitutes a record. That (whether owing to matrimony, matured paternity, or South Africa, or a combination of all three) many years may really be added to his life, we will all sincerely hope.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We went to the Grafton Gallery, as I told you we meant to do, and spent a couple of delightful hours among the miniatures. Daylight should be chosen for this. When the gas is lighted there are dazzling *reflets* which make it difficult to see well. This is the first Exhibition of the Society of Miniaturists, which was founded in May, 1895, under the Presidentship of Lord Ronald Gower. The Loan Collection is, of course, the most interesting section. There are numerous Cosways, with their marvellous flesh tints and speaking, almost living, eyes. Case E, lent by Baroness Burdett-Coutts, is one of the most interesting. The first of these is a miniature of her sister, Mrs. Trevanion, which bears a striking likeness to herself. Among Bone's Enamels, in the same case, is a fascinating likeness of Mary Queen of Scots; one, very much the reverse of fascinating, of Prince Charles Edward, and a very disillusionising portrait of Sir Francis Chantrey, the sculptor. A rosy-cheeked child in a pretty velvet frock is now the unfortunate Empress of Mexico, distraught and world-weary.

The beautiful Gunnings always disappoint me. The type of loveliness seems to have altered since their time. No doubt there is a fashion in that as in all things else. Lord Byron's mother interested us. She was not beautiful, perhaps not even pretty, but her expression was both sweet and bright. John Horne Tooke, M.P., "divine, philologist, and political writer," looks it all. I should not have enjoyed a tête-à-tête with that gentleman. On the reverse of Lady Charlotte Murray's miniature is Beethoven's monogram, set in brilliants. Count D'Orsay and Lady Blessington are appropriately near each other in the case lent by Mr. Whitehead. Charles Dickens, by an unknown artist, is delightful. He is Arthur Pendennis as well as himself. The Ancaster ivory box is lent by Lady Ancaster. It contains several family miniatures by Cosway, some of the finest specimens of his work. They are set in gold and enamel. Several other miniatures are set in pearls and some in brilliants.

The modern miniatures, together with some of past generations, are on the walls. R. Curzon Poultney has scarcely done justice to the beauty of Lady Essex, Lady Annesley, Lady Londonderry, and Lady Ormonde. Miss H. Meyers represents Mrs. Pat Campbell as frightened to death over something, and wearing a startling look of terror.

Bee was sadly disillusioned by a portrait of Hamlet, fat and greedy looking, with several chins. Soper's "Première Danseuse," in enamel on gold, shows the dancer within a space measuring about an inch and a half by an inch. But still more wonderful, in this particular, is the set exhibited by Mr. A. Chantrey Corbould. A pack of hounds and their huntsman are depicted streaming along on a surface of about a square inch and a half. On a flattened bullet is painted a landscape with windmill in the distance and a cow in the foreground. The Brighton coach and team of six horses are painted on a space of two inches by one and a half; and on the top of a soda-water cork is a horse's head and shoulders, evidently a portrait.

The Hon. Mrs. Norman Grosvenor shows a beautifully finished miniature, executed by herself, of Lady Morpeth.

The Duke of Cambridge has lent a frame of five Cosways, including miniatures of George IV. and William IV.

I saw a truly delicious evening cloak in a West End shop window yesterday. It was pale green cloth, very long, and bordered with ermine down the front. It had a collar of the fur, of course. I *believe* I saw an evening gown with huge paniers in the same window, but it was only a fleeting glimpse I had from a hansom, so I cannot be sure. The paniers are not unpicturesque when well arranged and not too large—and don't they make the waist look small? "Why, considerable," as Laurel would say.

Miss Lottie Venne makes a delightful American in "A White Elephant" at the Comedy. The way she holds out a little black-gloved hand and says "Shake!" is quite lovely. Her audacious colour-scheme, including the Red Elphberg hair and a bright scarlet velvet gown, answers admirably, by the way.

The sweetly pretty frock Miss Nina Boucicault wears in the first act has made Bee and Clare both long for one like it. It is made of pink chiffon, and falls in soft folds with no horrid stiffening or arbitrarily managed flutes or anything. Are you not tired of having your skirts stiffened? I have struck at last, and most peremptorily decline even a single inch of horsehair.

I suppose, in the days of Gretna Green the mantua makers used to compose "Elopement Costumes" just as often as the orthodox bridal white. If not, they missed a chance that their successors of the present moment would not let slip. The costume in which Miss Boucicault elopes—"bolts" she calls it—is quite too sweet. It is mauve cloth with touches of chinchilla about the coat, and a toque of mauve velvet with a chinchilla brim. It is neat, business-like, smart, and most becoming.

Miss Compton's teagown, of the palest pinkish mauve, is also very covetable, as well as her ulster of box cloth with its beaver collar.

I see that the papers say the farce is badly constructed. Well, dear, we must all be badly constructed too, for we laughed more than we have done for a long time over it. How can Mr. Kemble manage to keep up that snore without choking?

Poor old St. George's! It has been so long the Temple of Hymen, and has grown so tired of the overwhelmingly numerous weddings of the last twelve months that it tried hard to cremate itself last week. Without its tower it looks very dissipated and unkempt. It is curious that it should have suffered disaster contemporaneously with the removal of Hanover Chapel in Regent-street, is it not?

And was it not fortunate that the registers were not destroyed?

I see that Paquin is being turned into a Company, and is about to open a branch in Dover-street. I was so surprised to find, in reading the prospectus, that the firm is only six years old. It has come to the front most wonderfully in that short time. For a gown, mantle, or bonnet to be signed "Paquin" is a guarantee of good style and smartness. Our London modistes delight in securing Paquin models, and pay huge sums for them. This, let me tell you, is the best criterion of success in the great world of chiffons. Richard says that the new Company is making liberal arrangements for the staff to

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take shares, so as to give them an interest in the concern. This answered splendidly in another great Paris house.

I enjoyed myself very much on Friday morning on the stage of the Lyceum Theatre at the sixth annual meeting of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, a society that has grown into a most valuable and beneficent organisation. There was an enormous attendance of members, the immense stage being filled with rows four deep of visitors, and the stalls were half full as well. The centre of the stage was left free, in order that the occupants of the latter might be able to see the proceedings.

Miss Fanny Brough, President, and Mrs. C. L. Carson, Hon. Sec. and Foundress of the Guild, occupied seats behind a most business-like table, covered with formidable documents. In a comfortable chair hard by sat Miss Ellen Terry, with a great basket of chrysanthemums for company. "Imogen" had promised to give away the prizes, and she looked charming in her quiet black gown, with its soft, cream-coloured front, and a black hat that hid too much of her face from the eager spectators. When Miss Brough commenced proceedings with the one word, "Ladies!" she pronounced it with such remarkable energy that every one burst out laughing. She was looking very jolly in a grey tailor-made, with a red tie, red hat, and cocks' feathers. She begged of the speakers to be brief, and was herself a pattern of succinctness. Mrs. Carson then read a most satisfactory report, detailing the work done through the year, and the number of persons practically helped in various ways. The agreeable fact of a substantial balance at the bank was also noted, and, only for the pathetic sadness of the Hon. Sec.'s voice when referring to two fatal cases that had occurred in the hospital, the whole report would have been rose-coloured. The usual votes of thanks all round were proposed and seconded, the speeches being short and to the purpose. Mrs. Theodore Wright spoke alliteratively of the "brand-new Bee babies" for whom the fairy godmothers worked, and Miss Vane Featherston referred to the poor dressers and cleaners who had to stand all the evening after a hard day's work, and were often obliged to trudge home at night for want of the money to pay their fare. The babies of these poor souls would fare hardly if it were not for the kindly offices of the Guild. Mrs. A. Drinkwater told us about a box that had been started by Mrs. Carson to receive the penny fines imposed upon members who talked scandal. That box pined away, and died for want of nutriment. Only one miserable little penny was found inside it. Mrs. Albert Barker spoke of the kind-heartedness of the Country Bees, who give an afternoon in every week to the work of the Guild, though often tired enough with long journeys and much packing and unpacking. Miss Kate James mentioned that some of the most beautiful of the sewing was done by "dear old Mrs. Brough," grandmother of the President, and ninety-three years of age. Mrs. Clement Scott, replying to Mrs. Oscar Beringer's speech, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Press, was very bright and amusing. She spoke of the value of a little compliment and flattery in encouraging one's work, and described the English system of journalism as the most upright, honourable, and admirable in the world. A funny story was told by Mrs. Gordon Ascher about the father of one of the "Guild babies" who, in writing to announce its arrival, concluded by generously sending his love to all the ladies on the Committee. Miss Annie Hughes and Miss Gertrude Kingston were both eloquent in their praise of the hon. sec., who calmly ignored all laudation, her whole charitable soul being bent on the determination to give 400 Christmas dinners to the poor souls who need them. Directly she had expressed this wish, Miss Ellen Terry passed her a slip of paper promising £10, Lady Cook sent another promising ten guineas, and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree a third, offering £5.

It was a pleasure to see the hearty way in which Miss Terry entered upon the business of giving the prizes. She prefaced it by a little speech in which she congratulated the Guild on its splendid work as detailed in the report, "so prettily read by Mrs. Carson that she could get an engagement at the Lyceum any day," and envied the workers one and all. She herself was ashamed of having done no sewing, but would try to be better in future. She wished she might have had a badge herself, but felt great pleasure in being asked to give them away. This she proceeded at once to do, and when a recipient was found to be hemmed in at the back, Miss Terry impulsively crossed the stage with her peculiarly graceful swiftness and soon extricated her. Miss Fanny Brough, in returning thanks to Sir Henry Irving, said, "We all love him!" upon which Ellen Terry significantly remarked "Ahem!" making everybody laugh, and soon after the formal proceedings were over. A very informal crush of members round the President's table followed, in the midst of which we found our way to "the front" again, after gazing at the scenery on that historic stage.

I have received the following chatty letter from Frances, who is, as usual at this time of year, at Brighton:—

DEAREST MADGE,—I have delayed writing you from my ever-favourite Brighton until our winter season had really thoroughly commenced. Not only has it now begun, but we are, as a matter of fact, well into the very middle of it. At first it looked as though we were going to be disappointed once again, but I am thankful to say that the clouds have rolled by, and all here is bright sunshine, not only socially, but atmospherically, for though we do occasionally have dull days, of late we have been most fortunate in the weather. I read in the papers the other day that you Londoners had occasionally one and a-half to two hours sunshine during the day. Here we generally get it for at least six hours daily.

The hotels at the moment are crowded out, especially the Métropole, which is still the favourite, though both the Norfolk and Bedford hold their own with their own.

Taking a walk on the King's-road you would not think that cycling was less popular with Society as some people say it is; but, then—don't be cross—our bikers are not your bikers. Londoners who used to do the Park only played at the game of cycling. Our bikers go in for long country rides, and not merely content themselves with what I may call the swagger part of the amusement. Talking of cycling, the question of cycling dress is to us an all-important one. I looked in at Busvine's, when in London the other day, and saw their specialties in this direction. They are really cycling habits, and, being Busvine's habits, I need not say anything more about them. They set as well on a bicycle as their safety habits do on a horse, but there is, fortunately, a little more of them. One constantly gets off a bicycle, not so off a horse. We have, however, our local bicycle costumiers in Messrs. Barrance & Ford, who have hit off the happy medium of providing one with a costume that is most convenient and suitable and neat for bicycling in, and yet, at the same time, not unsuitable or inconvenient or conspicuous to walk in. We went out, by the way, on our bikes some ten miles to meet the motor cars on their journey to Brighton, but the less said about that well-advertised fiasco the better. Some day we shall doubtless have horseless conveyances, but before they become really popular they will have to be very different vehicles from those that honoured us with their presence.

The best piece of local news is, that we have a new regiment stationed here, and it is already exceptionally popular in the town with all classes; and so it should be, as it is, to a great extent, in fact, as well as in name, a Sussex regiment. It glories, too, in a really first-class band, which plays three mornings a week on the lawn at Hove, thus giving an excuse for us to show off our own new autumn costumes, and also an opportunity to criticise those of others, especially those of our dearest friends. But besides the regimental band, amusements are well provided for us. Mellison's skating rink is open, and on Saturdays he has the Guards and other bands down from London to enliven the proceedings. Concerts are numerous, and so are balls to be. The theatre always has an attractive London company, sometimes two, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. And as to fancy fairs and bazaars, well—at Brighton they are always with us. We are just in the midst of one on behalf of the Brighton Church Schools; but the attraction in this direction is to be an Exhibition and Sale of Irish Industrial Manufactures, which is to be opened by the Duchess of Connaught on Thursday, December 10. Judging from the list of patrons and the enthusiastic manner in which it is being worked, the exhibition ought to be a great success.

Then, last, but not least, the Brighton Harriers have taken a fresh lease of life, under the new mastership of Mr. Howard Welch, who is evidently determined to show good sport. Not altogether a bad programme, is it? But this will be considerably

It has been remarked over and over again that, for Autumn and Winter wear, a lady never looks better and more suitably clad than in a Redfern Gown. Messrs. REDFERN'S New Models are now ready. Inspection invited.—26, Conduit-street, W.

added to, provided two "ifs" behave as they should behave. The one is mine, the other is Charlie's. Mine is "if" the weather will only keep fine and bright. Charlie's is "if" the mining market will only pull itself together, and show a little more life and go. I know the value of my "if," so far as the success of the season is concerned. Charlie, however, says it is not "in it" with his. I, of course, must take his word for this, as, unfortunately, or, perhaps, fortunately, I know nothing about such a market as the mining market—the only market we have down here being for the sale of fruit, flowers, and vegetables.

Will write again soon.—Yours affectionately, FRANCES.

Here are two nice recipes. Pheasant livers with fine herbs are a delicious breakfast dish :—

Take half a dozen fresh livers, wash and remove the gall, dry them in a cloth, season with pepper, and toss them in a little flour; fry a chopped shallot in a sautépan with a piece of butter, then put in the livers and sauté them quickly, putting them into a gill of hot brown sauce as they are done; add a tablespoonful of chopped parsley, a sprig of chopped thyme, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Stick a dish with a border of triangular-shaped pieces of fried bread, using a little white of egg and flour to make them adhere, put the livers in the centre and serve very hot.

Game soup à l'Imperial is really excellent :—

Remove the fillets and scrape the flesh from the bones of 2 or 3 old birds, either pheasants, partridges, or grouse; chop the bones, and put them on the stove in a stewpan well covered with stock or water; add a bacon bone, an onion, and a carrot; bring them to the boil, and allow them to simmer for five or six hours. Then strain the stock, and remove every particle of grease. Pass the meat from the legs of the birds, with the trimmings of the breasts, through the mincing-machine, and put it into a stewpan with the whites of 2 or 3 eggs, and half a pint of cold water. Mix thoroughly, add the stock, and stir until boiling; add 4 or 5 peppercorns, a blade of mace and a bouquet of herbs. Allow the soup to simmer for an hour, then strain through a cloth. Meanwhile the fillets of the birds must be made into forcemeat, by pounding it in a mortar, adding a tablespoonful of cold, stiff bread sauce, 1 oz. of butter, and an egg; season with salt and pepper, rub through a wire sieve, then mould into small quenelles with two teaspoons, blanch them in the oven in a little stock, drain on a cloth, and add them to the soup, with the boiled carrot, cut into rings, at the moment of serving.

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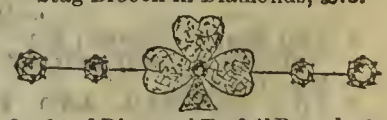
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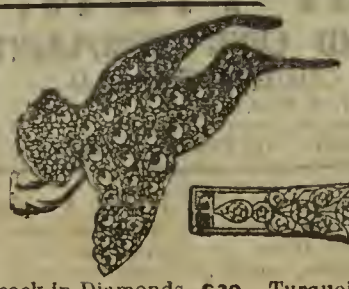
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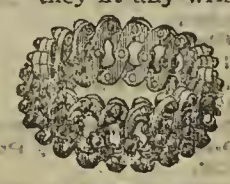

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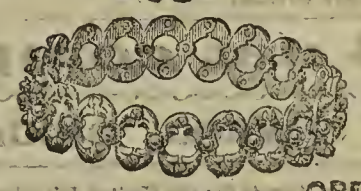

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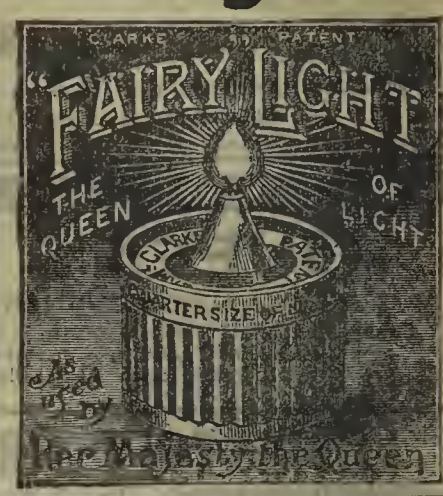

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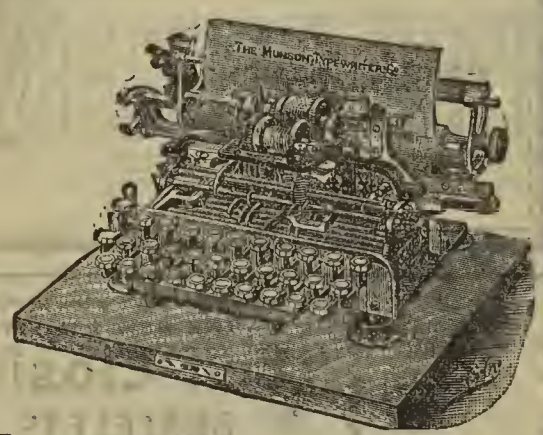

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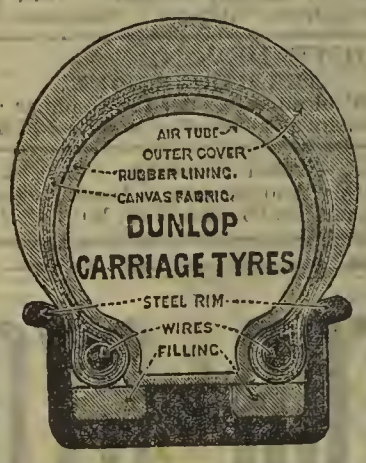

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Corpulence is a disease of assimilation.

It comes, not like dyspepsia, from undigested food, but from food digested in the wrong way.

This ill-digestion produces unhealthy fat, instead of healthy blood and muscles.

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We can, by the use of Kutnow's Improved Effervescent Carlsbad Powder, set up a brisk, healthy condition of the digestive functions, and stimulate the liver and kidneys to a proper state of activity.

Thus the corpulent, by the aid of Kutnow's Powder, may nourish the active functions of the body, and work off surplus fat and other adipose matter by a healthy method.

The drowsy and indolent habit of the system will thus vanish, and give place to renewed healthy activity.

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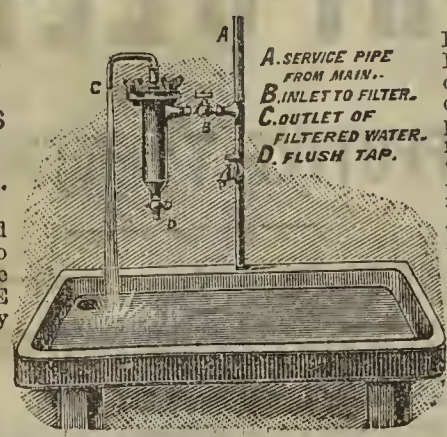

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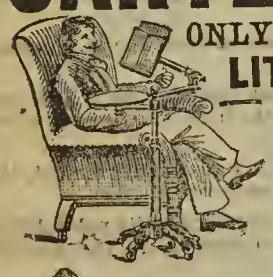

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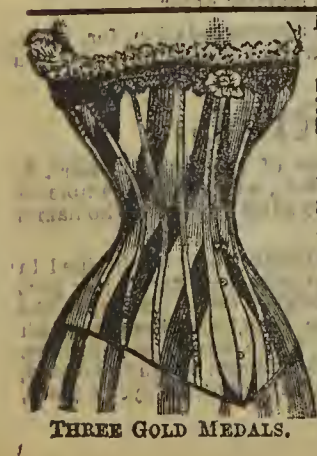

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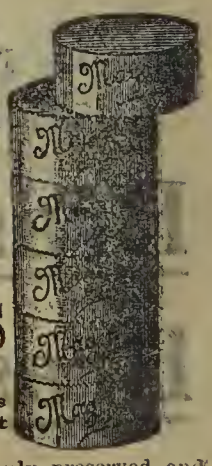

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CLARK BROS., SCOTCH TWEED MANFCTRS., CALASHIELS, N.B.
Agents Wanted. Please mention this Paper.

ASK FOR
DR. RIDGE'S
The Perfect Food for Children and Invalids.
Patent Cooked FOOD.
CAUTION. All the Genuine Packets and Canisters are enclosed in White Wrappers, the words DR. RIDGES' PATENT COOKED FOOD are printed boldly thereon, so that none need be deceived or mistaken.
PREPARED AT THE ROYAL FOOD MILLS, LONDON, AND SOLD RETAIL BY ALL LEADING CHEMISTS AND GROCERS THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM.

Hunyadi János
BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.
25 Years Success in the United Kingdom.
Recommended and Prescribed by Medical Men Everywhere.

"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters."
—*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th, 1884.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

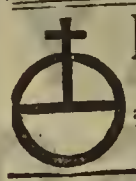
CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

21/- 21/-
THE "CHELSEA" DINNER SERVICE.
Groups of Flowers in Electric Blue on Ivory Ground.
"Cottage Set," as pattern (50 pieces) 1 1 0
Intermediate Set (70 pieces) 1 17 6
Full Set for 12 persons (108 pieces) 3 3 0
If for the country, 1s. 3d., 2s., & 2s. 6d. extra for package.
DINNER, DESSERT, BREAKFAST, AND TEA SERVICES.
ALFRED B. PEARCE,
39, Ludgate-hill, London.
Established 1760.

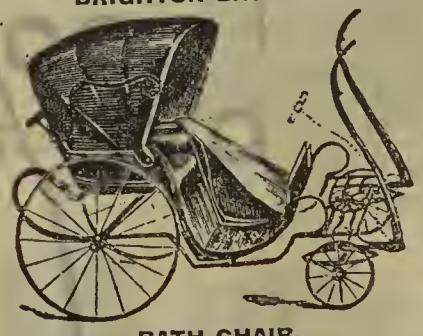
THE
'QUEEN' FAN
FIRE-LIGHTING

Lights a clean bright fire in a few minutes without wood. Saves time, labour, worry, and money. Will light 30 fires at the cost of 1d. Blows a dead fire into life at once. Will last a lifetime.
14 Days' Free Trial allowed.
Delivered free in United Kingdom with Japanned Cover, 15/6; with Embossed Brass Cover and Brass Handle, 21/- Please mention this Paper. Full particulars post free from CHERRY TREE MACHINE CO., LTD., CHERRY TREE, BLACKBURN.

GOLD MEDAL
Health Exhibition, London.
BENGER'S
"Retained when all other Foods are rejected. It is invaluable."
—*London Medical Record.*
FOOD FOR INFANTS,
INVALIDS, AND THE AGED.
BENGER'S FOOD
is sold in Tins by Chemists, &c., everywhere.


LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.
This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.
Sole Consignee, W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

ALFRED CARTER, LIMITED
47, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C. (*ONLY ADDRESS*).
INVALIDS' MECHANICAL FURNITURE, BATH CHAIRS, &c.
Maker and Inventor of VIADUCT AMBULANCE LITTER, *used all over the World.*

BRIGHTON BATH CHAIR.

SPINAL AND BATH CHAIR COMBINED.

WICKER BATH CHAIR.
BATH CHAIR.

PERAMBULATORS.
(*New Designs for 1896.*)
SELF-PROPELLING AND CARRYING CHAIR COMBINED.

ALFRED CARTER, Ltd., 47, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.
Illustrated Catalogue Post Free. No connection with any other Firm

THE TWO MOST FASHIONABLE PERFUMES.

MÜLHENS' RHINE VIOLETS

CAUTION.

Owing to the phenomenal success of this popular Scent, some perfumers are offering essences of their own manufacture under the name of 'RHINE VIOLETS.' The public must not be deceived, but insist upon 'MÜLHENS" brand, which is distilled from the flower itself. Don't accept any bottle not bearing Ferd. Mülhens' name. This alone ensures genuineness. Ferd. Mülhens, of Cologne, is the originator of this exquisite perfume, and was the first to introduce it into England.

The Fashionable Press of London are unanimous in praise of it.

Distilled from freshly gathered Rhine Violets.

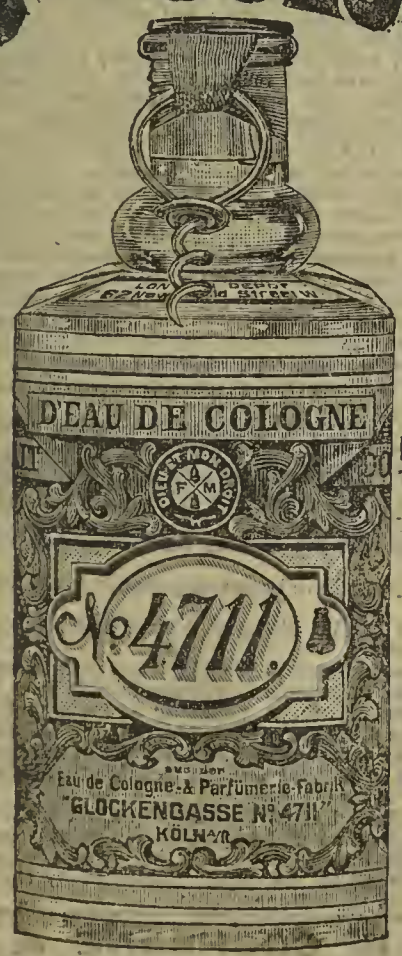
A VERY ECHO OF NATURE.

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- per Bottle.

RHINE VIOLET SACHETS, 2/6 each.

RHINE VIOLET SOAP, 2/6 per Tablet, — or — 7/- per Box of 3 Tablets.

MÜLHENS' EAU DE COLOGNE



It is the Best Genuine, Strongest, most Lasting.

Most Refreshing and Invigorating.

SAMPLE BOTTLE post free for **2/6**

CAUTION.—Be sure and insist upon MÜLHENS' 4711 BRAND, as inferior makes are sometimes offered. Refuse all substitutes. Of most Dealers in first-class Perfumes.

Case of 6 Bottles sent Carriage Paid for 13s.

4711 Depot: 62, NEW BOND ST., LONDON, W.

SPHAGNOL

ENGLISH PEAT

SMOKELESS AND SANITARY FUEL

Price—1,000 LOGS FOR 20s.

TRUTH says:—"I have burnt the blocks on the top of a coal fire, and I find that the peat seems to act as a smoke consumer."

Send order, or write for leaflet.

Sole Agents—CHAMBERLAIN & CO., 10, HART STREET, BLOOMSBURY, W.C.

(One minute from Mudie's Library).

CORALLINE TOOTH PASTE.

Keeps the Teeth WHITE and SOUND.

A Delicious DENTIFRICE.

ROBERTS & CO.,

Foreign and English Chemists,

LONDON— 76, NEW BOND STREET, W. *Post Free,* **2/6** **PARIS—** RUE DE LA PAIX, 5.

Sample Box sent free on receipt of post card.

SEVENTH COMPETITION

A LADIES GOLD WATCH WITH ANY SINGLE INITIAL IN REAL DIAMONDS ON THE BACK

To the competitor whose selection of six most popular Books of English fiction (written during Queen Victoria's Reign), most closely corresponds with the list shown by the majority of votes. Competitors may send as many selections as they wish, but each must be accompanied by the wrapper off either the penny or twopenny tins in which Buttercup Metal Polish is sold by Grocers, Oilmen, &c., and forwarded by December 22nd in an envelope, marked plainly outside, No. 7, to the CHISWICK SOAP CO., Chiswick, London, W., whose decision is final. Result in *Daily Graphic, Standard,* and *Daily Mail* of December 30th.

BUTTERCUP METAL POLISH is unsurpassed for imparting a brilliant and lasting polish to BRASS, COPPER, or STEEL, &c.

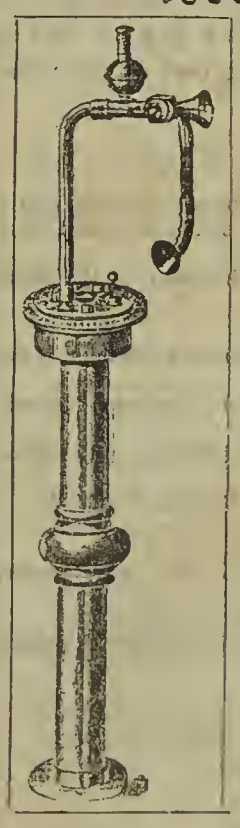
FOR COMPLAINTS of the STOMACH, LIVER, etc., DRINK

VICHY CELESTINS Spring

Sold by all Chemists, Druggists, and Grocers throughout the Kingdom.

Sole Importers: INGRAM & ROYLE, Ltd., 52, Farringdon Street, LONDON, E.C.

THE HOMACOUSTIC.



WHAT IS THE HOMACOUSTIC?

THE HOMACOUSTIC is a contrivance connected with Speaking Tubes, which entirely supersedes for indoor purposes not only the Telephone, but all other existing arrangements for indoor inter-communication.

THE HOMACOUSTIC

Is Automatic, not Mechanical. Once fixed always in Working Order. Its first cost is its last cost.

WITH THE HOMACOUSTIC

There is no blowing into pipes. The automatic whistle is always in position. One speaks and listens at the same time. The tube is closed when not in actual use. Ordinary speaking tubes can be utilised.

ONE (No. 4) HOMACOUSTIC

Places the speaker in communication with any Number of Rooms

THE HOMACOUSTIC

Is of special value and inestimable convenience not only in business establishments, but in all Private Houses.

The Homacoustic Saves Time, Temper, and Trouble.

For Detailed Particulars, Copies of Testimonials, &c., write to the MANAGER.

THE

Homacoustic Speaking Tube Co.'s

Show Rooms:

6, BRUTON ST., NEW BOND ST., W.

The LIST will open on THURSDAY, November 26, 1896, and close the next day for Town and Country.

The

Sheffield District Railway

Company.

(Incorporated by special Act of Parliament.)

Under powers given by the Act it has been arranged that the line shall be worked by the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway Company for 50 per cent. of the gross receipts, and the Great Eastern Railway Company are authorised by an agreement which is scheduled to the Act to subscribe for £50,000 of Ordinary Shares.

CAPITAL - - £400,000

In 40,000 Shares of £10 each.

Payable, 10s. per Share - - on Application,
£2 10s. „ - - on Allotment,

and the balance as required for the Works, at intervals of not less than two months in calls of not exceeding £2 per Share.

The London and Midland Bank, Limited, of 52 Cornhill, E.C., Sheffield, and Branches, are prepared, as Bankers to the Company, to receive Subscriptions for 35,000 of the above-mentioned Shares (the remaining 5,000 being reserved for the G. E. Railway Co.)

The Four per Cent. Debenture Stock of the Company to the authorised amount of, but not exceeding, £133,330 will hereafter be offered for subscription *pro rata* amongst the Shareholders of the Company (other than the G. E. Railway Co.) at par. The Four per Cent. Debenture Stock of the L. and D. Railway Co. is now selling at from £120 to £125, that is to say, about 25 per cent. premium.

The Company have power under their Act, subject to the subscription of the prescribed proportion of Capital, to pay interest during construction out of capital at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum upon the amount from time to time paid up on Shares. This power will be exercised. Subscribers may pay in full in advance of calls; such payments will bear interest at the same rate.

DIRECTORS.

EMERSON BAINBRIDGE, Esq., M.P., Nunnery Collieries, Sheffield, and 4 Whitehall-court, S.W. (Chairman of the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway), Chairman.

Lord Claude Hamilton, St. Ermin's-mansions, S.W. (Chairman of the Great Eastern Railway Company).

ir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, M.P., 3, Park-place, S.W.

W. Bromley Davenport, Esq., M.P., Capesthorne Hall, Cheshire (Director of the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway).

Robert A. Hadfield, Esq. (Chairman Hadfield's Steel Foundry Company, Limited, Hecla Works, Sheffield).

Arthur Tredgold Lawson, Esq., Weetwood Grange, Leeds (Director of the Great Eastern Railway Company).

Septimus H. Ward, Esq. (Chairman S. H. Ward and Co., Limited, Sheffield).

BANKERS.

The London and Midland Bank (Limited), 52, Cornhill, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Devonshire, Monkland, Davies, and Sanders, 1, Frederick's-place, London, E.C.

Messrs. Busby, Davies, Sanders, and Co., Chesterfield.

ENGINEERS.

Robert Elliott Cooper, Esq., 8, The Sanctuary, Westminster.

John Wilson, Esq., Liverpool-street Station, E.C.

SECRETARY and Temporary Offices.

C. R. Davies, Esq., 48 and 49, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

Prospectuses and forms of application for Shares can be obtained at the Offices either of the Company, or of the Bankers or Solicitors, or from the Brokers of the Company, Messrs James Capel & Company, 31, Throgmorton-street, in London, Messrs. Barber Brothers & Wortley, in Sheffield, and Messrs. Fielder & Abercrombie, in Manchester.

London, November 19, 1896.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—

WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

THE CAPE COLONISATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

HOW TO MAKE AN INCOME-PAYING HOME.

The object of the above Company is to develop the resources of their estate, consisting of about 12,000 acres, situated in the far-famed Tulbagh district in the Western Province of Cape Colony, about 75 miles distant by rail from Cape Town. They are promoting the establishment of a successful colony. The estate has been surveyed and laid out in blocks of about 40 acres each, a number of which have already been sold. The purchase price of this land this year (with all water facilities) is £12 per acre, threequarters of which can remain bearing interest at six per cent. per annum.

In order to provide for the success of every colonist who has sufficient capital at command to be able to enter into this business, but has no practical knowledge of the work, the company have engaged the services of an efficient manager and a skilled horticulturist; and who will, if desired, plant, cultivate, and attend to the development of each client's farm for one year or more.

Thus any settler, provided he gives ordinary attention to the details of the work this company have undertaken for him, can obtain, under the guidance of a skilled specialist, that practical knowledge which is essential in the working to the best advantage of dairy and fruit farms.

THE CAPE COLONISATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Company undertake, if desired, to clear, plant, fence, supervise, and generally manage any holding. They guarantee that 90 per cent. of the trees and vines planted under the supervision of their staff grow to maturity, as specified in the agreement, a copy of which can be obtained on application. The company will manage the estate of any absentee at a charge of £1 a year per acre, and will also undertake to erect on the estate any houses for the residence of a settler, which can be chosen in London before sailing, with estimates given. They further undertake to purchase from a settler, at marketable prices, any approved dairy, farm, and orchard produce.

At the company's headquarters, at Seven Fountains, are the orchard and vineyard belonging to the company, and extensive creameries, packing houses, &c., will be erected as soon as necessary.

Steps are already being taken for the erection of a sugar beet factory, &c., and it is the intention of the company to promote milling and other industries.

THE CAPE COLONISATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Company solicit enquiries from families who are seeking a fresh start in life.

Young gentlemen who are looking for an opening in which to make their way.

Farmers who for years have been losing money in this country and would like to start afresh.

Retired members of the Military, Naval, and Civil Services, desiring to increase their incomes.

The delicate (those inclined to bronchial and pulmonary troubles) who need an avenue for making an income in a congenial climate.

The General Manager of the Company is going out at the beginning of October, and will be pleased to have the Company of any one who desires to avail himself of this opportunity of a fresh start in life in a new field.

All are requested to be good enough to place themselves in communication with the Secretary of the Company—

3, PANCRAS LANE, QUEEN STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

from whom full particulars and papers on all points can be obtained. Also the illustrated book on the subject, price 2s., together with a Manual of Practical Orchard Work at the Cape. Published by the Department of Agriculture of the Cape of Good Hope.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "**Reinvest, London.**"
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.

Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

BARCLAY & COMPANY, Limited (Gosling's Branch), 19, Fleet-street, E.C.
BARCLAY & COMPANY, Limited, 54, Lombard-street, E.C., and all Branches, INVITE SUBSCRIPTIONS for the undermentioned PREFERENCE SHARES.

THE METROPOLITAN INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS COMPANY, Limited.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, whereby the liability of a shareholder is limited to the amount unpaid on his shares.

ISSUE of 20,000 PREFERENCE SHARES of £5 each.

DIRECTORS.

John Tryon, Esq., 1, Stone-buildings, Lincoln's-inn, Chairman.
Robert Charles Ponsonby, Esq., 1, Great George-street, Westminster.
Harold Fisher Smith, Esq., 34, Avenue-road, Regent's Park.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited (Gosling's Branch), 19, Fleet-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Tribe, Clarke, Painter, & Co., 19, Coleman-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND GENERAL MANAGER.—Lindsay S. G. Young, Esq.

REGISTERED OFFICE.—Connaught-mansions, 34, Victoria-street, S.W.

Barclay & Company, Limited, invite Subscriptions for 20,000 4 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each in the Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings Company, Limited, at the price of £5. 5s. per share, payable:—

£1 on application; £2 on allotment; £2. 5s. one month after allotment.

The Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings Company, Limited was incorporated in the year 1886 for the purpose of providing dwellings for the working and other classes, with a nominal capital of £100,000 in 20,000 shares of £5 each, now fully subscribed and paid up.

The nominal capital of the Company has been recently increased to £200,000 by the creation of the Preference Shares now offered for subscription.

The Company owns the undermentioned property, which has cost it upwards of £196,000, the freeholds and long leaseholds of over 800 years unexpired having cost upwards of £116,000, and the remaining leaseholds upwards of £79,000.

FREEHOLDS.

Holbein House, Sloane-square, S.W.
Holbein-buildings, Sloane-square, S.W.
Victoria House, South Lambeth-road, S.W.

Note.—Holbein House and Holbein-buildings are subject to rent-charges amounting to £815 per annum, terminating in 1985.

LONG LEASEHOLDS.

	Years unexpired.
St. Alban's-buildings, Gray's-inn-road, E.C.	979
Duncan-buildings, Gray's-inn-road, E.C....	880
Royal Mint-square, Cartwright-street, E.	880

OTHER LEASEHOLDS.

Cranbrook-mansions, South Lambeth-road, S.W.	98
Athole-mansions, South Lambeth-road, S.W.	97
Albert-mansions, South Lambeth-road, S.W.	96
Ponsonby-buildings, Blackfriars-road, S.E.	88
Jubilee-buildings, Waterloo-road, S.E.	74
Mowbray-buildings, Red-cross-street, Borough, S.E.... ...	68
Chapter Chambers, Chapter-st., Westminster, S.W.	65

The above properties are of the rental value of upwards of £24,000 per annum.

In respect of leaseholds for less than 100 years, a Redemption Fund is provided out of revenue.

The above properties are subject to mortgages for £91,259.

It is proposed out of the proceeds of the present issue to pay off all these mortgages, with the exception of two affecting Mowbray and Jubilee-buildings, for £8,659 and £6,400 respectively, bearing interest at the respective rates of Three and a Quarter and Four per Cent., and which, being repayable by instalments over a long period, are kept on foot so that they may be gradually paid off out of the moneys from time to time set apart for the purpose of the Leasehold Redemption Fund.

The balance of the proceeds of the present issue remaining after paying off the mortgages above mentioned and expenses of issue will be applied in the purchase or erection of further property.

The Preference Shares will rank in priority to the other shares of the Company, both as to dividend and return of capital, and as the value of the Company's property (after deducting the two mortgages of £8,659 and £6,400, but including the value of the property to be purchased as above-mentioned) will not be less than £200,000, it will be seen the Preference Shares of the Company offer a most desirable investment. The Company has since 1890 regularly paid dividends on its capital at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and for the four years prior to that date dividends varying between 4½ and 5 per cent.

The income which will be available for payment of dividends on the Preference Shares, without reckoning the income to arise from the investment of the balance before mentioned of the proceeds of the present issue, is not less than £10,000 per annum, while £4,000 only is required to pay the annual dividend on the Preference Shares.

The Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Non-Cumulative Preference Stock of the Artisans, Labourers, and General Dwellings Company, Limited, stands at 135. The equivalent price for 4 per Cent. Stock would be 120, equal to £6 per £5 share.

Applications for shares should be made upon the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, together with the amount payable on application.

If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned without deduction, and where the number of shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment.

Forms of application for shares may be obtained from the Company's Secretary and Bankers.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and of the resolution creating the Preference Shares, may be inspected at its registered office, Connaught-mansions, 34, Victoria-street, S.W.

November 18th, 1896.

THE

JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.

DIRECTORS.

S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.

LONDON OFFICE.

ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining. Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

The List of Applications will be OPENED on TUESDAY, the 24th NOVEMBER, 1896, and CLOSED on THURSDAY, the 26th NOVEMBER, 1896.

Issue of £120,000 £4 per Cent. Debenture Stock.

FISHER & COMPANY, Limited

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893),
KETTLEBROOK PAPER MILLS, TAMWORTH.

SHARE CAPITAL, £120,000, divided into 6,000 Five per Cent. Preference Shares of £10 each, and 6,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each. All the Preference and Ordinary Shares are retained by the Vendors.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED, is authorised to offer for subscription £100,000 Four per Cent. Debenture Stock of the above Company, at the price of £104 per Cent., being part of the above issue, the remainder being retained by the Vendors.

The Debenture Stock will be secured by a First Mortgage of the Freehold Property of the Company, and by a floating first charge on the undertaking and general assets of the Company, and will be issued in any multiples of £100.

The Debenture Stock Trust Deed will contain, in addition to the usual conditions, a provision that if the Auditors of the Company, at the request of the Trustees, certify that the value of the Company's Assets, including goodwill as a going concern, as stated in the accounts audited by them, is less than 50 per cent. in excess of the amount of the Debenture Stock, the Stockholders may require repayment.

The Debenture Stock will be redeemable at the option of the Company either in the whole or in part, upon the Company giving six calendar months' notice of its intention to redeem. If such notice shall expire before the 1st January, 1916, the redemption price shall be £110 per cent.; if such notice shall expire at any later period the redemption price shall be £105 per cent.

Payments for each £100 of Debenture Stock to be made as follows:—

£14 on application,
£20 on allotment,
£70 on the 31st December, 1896.

£104

The interest will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July in each year, and a proportionate part of the first half-year's interest, calculated from the dates of payment of the instalments, will be paid on the 1st January next.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

Sir Cecil Pery Van Notten Pole, Bart., Todenham, Moreton-in-the-Marsh.
Sampson Samuel Lloyd, Esquire, Janoway Hill, Woking.

SOLICITORS FOR THE TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

Wragge & Co., Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. Sydney Fisher. | Mr. Henry Fisher.
Mr. William Dobson. | Mr. Fredk. W. Dobson.
Mr. Albert G. Dobson.

BANKERS.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, London, Tamworth, and other Branches.

SOLICITORS FOR THE COMPANY.

Sanders, Smith, & Parish, Colmore-row, Birmingham.

AUDITORS.

Fisher, Randle, & Fisher, Chartered Accountants, Waterloo-street, Birmingham

SECRETARY.

Albert G. Dobson.

REGISTERED OFFICE.

Kettlebrook Mills, Tamworth.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the well-known and old-established business of Paper Manufacturers carried on successfully for many years by Messrs. Fisher & Co., at the Kettlebrook Mills, Tamworth.

The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendors at £240,000, payable as to £100,070 in cash, as to £20,000 in Debenture Stock, and as to the balance by the allotment to them of the whole of the Ordinary and Preference Shares except the Seven Ordinary Shares subscribed for by the Subscribers to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company. The Assets taken over by the Company provide a very ample Working Capital.

The Members of the late firm will act as Directors of the Company, and the management of the business will be continued as in the past.

The Freehold Mills, Works, Cottages, Offices, and adjoining Dwelling Houses, Lands, and Properties of the Company, occupying an area of about 60 acres, at Kettlebrook, near Tamworth, with the machinery, plant, and trade utensils, have been valued by Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons, & Cassell, of 11, Billiter-square, London, E.C., on behalf of the Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders, and their Report, which appears in full Prospectus, states that the present fair value as a current going concern of the before described Freehold Paper Mills, Dwelling Houses, &c., together with the fixed plant, machinery, and fixtures, loose tools and utensils, driving belts, rolling stock, &c., is the sum of One hundred and forty-five thousand and thirty-eight pounds (£145,038).

These figures are exclusive of any value for Stock, Stores, Book Debts, Patents, Water Marks, or Goodwill.

The books of the business have been periodically audited by Messrs. Fisher, Randle, & Fisher, Chartered Accountants, Birmingham.

Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, & Co., Chartered Accountants, London, acting on behalf of the Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders, have also made a special investigation of the books of the firm for the five years ending 30th June, 1896, and they, in conjunction with Messrs. Fisher, Randle, & Fisher, have furnished a joint Certificate:—That the Profits of the said business (after providing for depreciation on Buildings, Plant, and Machinery) have been in each year for the past five years to the 30th June, 1896, more than sufficient to have paid the 4 per cent. Interest on a Debenture Issue of £120,000, a dividend of 5 per cent. on an issue of £60,000 Preference Shares, and a dividend of 10 per cent. on an Ordinary Share Capital of £60,000.

Full prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Office of the Company, or at the Offices of the Bankers or Solicitors.

November 20th, 1896.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The Subscription List will close on Wednesday, the 25th day of November following.

The necessary amount of capital having been already guaranteed, the directors will proceed to allotment immediately upon the closing of the lists. All applicants, however, will receive a strictly pro-rata allotment.

THE SAVOY PALACE of VARIETIES, DUBLIN (Limited).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893, whereby the liability of shareholders is limited.

Share Capital, £60,000, divided into 60,000 shares of £1 each.

ISSUE of 55,000 SHARES, payable 2s. 6d. on application, 7s. 6d. on allotment, and the balance in calls of 2s. 6d. per share monthly. £5,000 will thus be reserved for future issue if necessary for additional working capital.

In addition to the above shares are offered £10,000 of 5 per cent. Floating Mortgage Debentures of £5 each, to be secured by a first charge on the company's property and a general charge on the floating assets of the company, redeemable at 5 per cent. premium by annual equal drawings extending over a period of 10 years from January 1st, 1897, or earlier, at the company's option. Payable £1 on application, £1 on allotment, and £1 per debenture monthly. These debentures will be secured by a trust deed.

DIRECTORS.

Andrew Beattie, Esq., J.P., T.C., Grafton-street, Dublin, Director of Provincial Tramways Company (Limited) and Barnsley Brewery Company (Limited).
Alderman Daniel Burke, 50, Lower Baggot-street, Dublin.
D. C. Mercer, Esq., Copthall House, London, E.C.
Alfred Robyn, Esq., White Lodge, 323, Seven Sisters-road, London, N., Chairman Finsbury Estates Company (Limited).
John G. James, Esq., Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, N.

Bankers—Ulster Bank (Limited), Dublin, Belfast, and Branches; Parr's Bank (Limited), Bartholomew-lane, London, E.C.

Solicitors—Charles Goble Champion, 17, Ironmonger-lane, London, E.C., and Eastbourne; Charles Gamble, 39, Fleet-street, Dublin.

Architects—Bertie Crewe, Esq., Savoy-mansions, London, W.C.; James J. Farrall, Esq., 6, Westmoreland-street, Dublin.

Auditors—Messrs. A. P. Duggan and Co., Chartered Accountants, D'Olier-chambers, Dublin; Messrs. W. Williams and Co., Chartered Accountants, Bush-lane House, Cannon-street, E.C.

Secretary—S. Langston Faddy.

Offices (pro tem.)—Copthall House, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C.; D'Olier-chambers, Dublin.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring under exceptionally favourable circumstances the well-known and exceedingly valuable buildings, formerly known as the Grafton Theatre, together with the licensed premises, 32, 33, and 34, South Anne-street, and premises adjoining, in South Anne-street, Dublin, and to convert the same into a large and commodious theatre of varieties. The premises are situated in close contiguity to Grafton-street, the leading thoroughfare in Dublin, in the centre of the city, and are held under leases dated respectively 1st of February, 1868, the 25th of June, 1872, 10th March, 1868. Part of these premises are held for a term of 999 years from 1891, the rest of these premises are held as to part for 35 years from 1884, and as to the remainder for 61 years from 1867; certain negotiations are now pending for the purchase of some of the adjoining premises, towards the purchase-money of which the vendor has agreed to contribute £5,000, and negotiations have also been entered into to extend the two above-mentioned short terms to periods of 250 years each, rendering them practically freehold, subject to a moderate rent, which is substantially only a ground rent.

The new theatre is to replace the old hall. It will be in every respect more commodious than any similar place of amusement in Dublin, and will be upon the most recent improved principles. It will be of fireproof construction throughout (including a fireproof stage curtain), and will be lighted by electricity. The stage will be large enough for the production of ballets and dramatic sketches.

The plans for the re-building have been prepared by Mr. Bertie Crewe and Mr. J. J. Farrall, whose long experience and recognised professional ability fully qualify them to deal with an important undertaking of this description.

The theatre will be of noble dimensions with an imposing frontage in South Anne-street, about 20ft. from Grafton-street, the principle thoroughfare in Dublin. The interior will be handsomely decorated, and the furnishing and upholstering equal to any place of amusement in England. The directors call the attention of investors to the dividend paid by the Star Theatre (Limited), Dublin, which is the largest paid by any variety theatre out of London, also to the dividends and the market price of variety theatres generally, as given below (approximately), which prove them to be the best investment of the day.

Name of Company.	Nominal value of Shares.	Amount paid per Share.	Market value.	Dividends paid.
1. Star, Dublin	£1 0 0	£1 0 0	£1 17 6	17½ p. c.
2. Empire, Cardiff	5 0 0	5 0 0	6 15 0	10 „
3. Empire, Edinburgh	5 0 0	5 0 0	8 1 3	10 „
4. Empire, Glasgow	5 0 0	4 0 0	6 5 0	10 „
5. Empire, Sheffield	5 0 0	5 0 0	8 15 0	10 „

The directors would point out that in addition to the receipts from the theatre itself and bars, an additional source of revenue is derived from the public portion of the licensed premises, to which is attached a full wine and spirit license.

The directors have every reason to believe that the gross income derived will be equal to over 15 per cent. on the entire share capital of the company, after deducting interest on debentures, office working expenses, and placing a substantial amount to the reserve fund.

The directors, themselves practical men, both in catering, victualling, and entertainment business, have secured, for a term of three years, the services of a capable manager (who will hold a substantial interest in the company), under the supervision of Mr. Mercer, who has had several years' experience in theatrical matters.

The purchase price has been fixed by the vendor at £60,000, payable in cash or partly in cash and partly in shares and debentures, at the option of the directors, in consideration of which he undertakes—

1. To re-build and convey to the company the complete buildings, fitted and furnished in accordance with the plans and specification of the company's architects.
2. To pay the architects' fees.
3. To clear the ground-rent from the time of taking possession to the completion of the purchase.
4. To discharge all expenses in connection with the promotion of the company up to allotment.

This will allow £5,000 for working capital. This amount is considered ample for all purposes. Should, however, the necessity arise for further working capital, the sum of £5,000 has been reserved for future issue.

For Contracts, &c., see Full Prospectus.

The memorandum and articles of association and copies of the said agreement, and all other documents, can be inspected by intending subscribers at the office of the solicitors of the company in London and Dublin.

Applications for shares or debentures may be made by letter direct to the Secretary, or on the form below, and forwarded with the deposit to the company's bankers.

In any case where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and when the number of shares allotted is less than that applied for the surplus will be credited in reduction of the further amounts payable on the shares allotted.

Application will be made to the London and Dublin Stock Exchanges for a settlement in due course.

London, November 21, 1896.

The Subscription Lists will Open on Monday next, the 30th November, and Close at or before Four p.m. on Thursday, 3rd December.

The London and South-Western Railway Company agree to work this railway at 50 per cent. of the gross receipts, after deducting Government Duty as stated in the agreement, and to carry by the Torrington and Okehampton Railway all traffic to or from places south and west of Okehampton, from or to places on the Torrington and Okehampton Railway, or places beyond, as far as, and including Fremington.

TORRINGTON & OKEHAMPTON RAILWAY CO.

Incorporated by the Torrington and Okehampton Railway Act, 1895.

Share capital, £250,000, in 25,000 shares of £10 each.

Borrowing Powers, £83,333.

The liability of the shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares.

ISSUE of £250,000 in 25,000 SHARES of £10 each, payable as follows: 10s. on application; 30s. on allotment; the balance in calls of not more than £2 each, of which due notice will be given, with an interval of not less than three months between each call.

Interest during construction is authorised to be paid at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum, by Section 51 of the Torrington and Okehampton Railway Act, 1895, subject to the provisions contained in that Section, and interest will be paid accordingly.

As soon as £6 per share has been paid up, the shares may, by resolution of the shareholders, be divided into Preferred and Deferred half-shares.

DIRECTORS.

J. B. Barrow, Esq., J.P., Park-avenue, Bedford.
A. G. Duncan, Esq., J.P., Bideford.
R. Dymond, Esq., J.P., Bideford.
J. H. Lockley, Esq., Littleham, Bideford.
G. M. F. Molesworth, Esq., J.P., Westward Ho!
Wilson Hoare, Esq., Commons, Northam.

BANKERS.—Barclay & Company, Limited, Lombard-street, London, E.C.; The Devon and Cornwall Bank, Limited, Plymouth, and all its Branches.

CONSULTING ENGINEER.—Sir Benjamin Baker, K.C.M.G.

ENGINEER.—Jas. T. Jervis, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., 9, Victoria-street, Westminster.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Fowler, Perks, & Co., 9, Clement's-lane, London, E.C.; Messrs. Doe & Lawman, Great Torrington and Bideford.

BROKERS.—Messrs. A. S. G. Graves & Co., Cushion-court, Old Broad-street, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange; Messrs. Westlake & Son, George-street-chambers, Plymouth; Messrs. W. Mortimer & Son, 14, Bedford-circus, Exeter.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—W. B. Ellis, 28, Victoria-street, Westminster.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to construct and work a railway 20 miles 4 furlongs 2½ chains in length, commencing by a junction with the North Devon Line of the London and South-Western Railway at Torrington Station, and terminating by a junction with the main line of that railway from Exeter to Plymouth and North Cornwall, a short distance from the Okehampton Station, with running powers into the same station, and the use of that and Torrington Stations.

An agreement, which the Directors consider to be favourable to this Company, has been entered into between this Company and the London and South-Western Railway Company, whereby the London and South-Western Railway Company contract that immediately upon the completion and opening of the railway they will efficiently work the railway at a fixed percentage of 50 per cent. of the receipts. The 6th and 8th sections of the working agreement are as follows:—

"6. From and after the completion of the railway, so as to be approved by the Board of Trade and by the engineer of the working Company as fit for opening for public traffic, in conformity with these articles, and subject to the execution and completion of any such additional works as provided in Article 3, the working Company shall exclusively, and in perpetuity, work and equip with all the rolling stock and locomotive power, tools and stores adequate and proper or required by the working Company, and shall exclusively manage, work, man, and maintain the same, and the works and conveniences thereof, including the special works, at their own expense (but subject and without prejudice to the obligation of the owning Company under Article 5), and so as fully and fairly to accommodate and develop the traffic, both local and through, and shall at all times use the railway so as fully and fairly to develop the traffic of the district; and shall at all times carry by the railway all traffic to or from places south and west of Okehampton from or to places on the railway, or places beyond as far as and including Fremington."

"8. The gross amount of all the tolls, fares, rates, and charges from time to time payable in respect of the railway and the traffic thereon and received by the working Company shall be divided between and belong to the two Companies in the following proportions:—

"First.—The working Company shall retain out of such gross amount the Government duty from time to time payable, and such sum or sums as shall be equal to fifty per centum of such gross amount in any half-year after the deduction therefrom of the Government duty.

"Second.—The owning company shall, subject to the payments to be made by them as hereinbefore provided, have the balance of such gross amount, which shall be paid half-yearly to and belong to them each half-year ending, as the case may be, on the 30th day of June and the 31st day of December, and such half-yearly payment shall be made not later than the 1st day of September and the 1st day of March in each year."

The effect of this agreement will be that from the day of the opening of the railway for traffic the Company will be entitled to a net revenue.

The following is believed to be a fair estimate of the earnings of the Company, viz.:—

60,000 passengers		£9,000
Proportion on through passengers and goods from L. and S.W. system (through passengers 120,000)		16,000
20,000 tons of through coal, manure, and goods to and from Okehampton and stations beyond		6,150
15,000 tons of coal, manure, and goods to intermediate stations, including cattle, sheep, and all general goods		3,000
30,000 tons clay, bricks, pottery, &c.		3,500
Parcels		1,500
		£39,150
Less working expenses, 50 per cent.	£19,575	
Less Government duty, say	250	
		19,825
		£19,325

or over 7½ per cent. on the amount now offered for subscription.

A contract for the construction of the railway has been entered into with Messrs. Topham, Jones, & Railton, a well-known firm of contractors, who are at present constructing railways for the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company, and also important works for her Majesty's Government.

Application for Shares should be made to the Bankers of the Company, Barclay & Company, Limited, London, or to The Devon and Cornwall Bank, Limited, Plymouth, or any of its branches, on the form enclosed with Prospectus, accompanied by a deposit of 10s. per share. Should no allotment be made, the deposit will be returned in full, and if a less number of shares than are applied for be allotted, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment, and any surplus will be repaid.

Interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum will be chargeable on calls in arrear, and the full amount can, if desired, be paid on allotment.

Copies of the Act of Parliament, the working agreement with the London and South-Western Railway Company, the contract for construction above referred to, can be seen at the offices of the solicitors, and a contract, dated the 17th day of November, 1896, made between the Company of the one part and C. E. Bott of the other part.

Copies of the Prospectus and Forms of Application for shares may be obtained from the bankers, brokers, and solicitors of the Company, and at the Company's offices.

London, 23rd November, 1896.

A DIVIDEND AT THE RATE OF TEN PER CENT. PER ANNUM GUARANTEED FOR TWO YEARS.

The LISTS will CLOSE on WEDNESDAY, the 25th day of NOVEMBER, 1896, for both town and country.

THE ANGLO-SWEDISH STEEL TUBE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.)

Capital £75,000, divided into 75,000 shares of £1 each, 60,000 of which are now offered for subscription at par, the balance of 15,000 being reserved for issue in part payment of the purchase money, payable—

2s. 6d. On application.
7s. 6d. On allotment.
10s. 0d. One month after allotment.
£1

The original proprietor of the business is so fully satisfied as to the future prospects of the undertaking that, in addition to guaranteeing a two years' dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum as above-named, he has agreed to take £15,000 of shares in the Company in part payment of his purchase money.

DIRECTORS.

Col. William Cox (Director of Cox Brothers & Holland, Limited, Birmingham).
W. B. Kirsop, Newcastle-on-Tyne (Northern Manager Raleigh Cycle Company, Limited).
Col. Fred. Hill, Director William Bown, Limited, Cycle Components Manufacturers, Birmingham.
George H. Cammell, J.P., Brookfield Manor, Hathersage, Sheffield.

BANKERS.—Lloyds Bank, Limited, Colmore-row, Birmingham; 222, Strand, London, W.C., and their Branches and Agents.
SOLICITORS.—Walker & Rowe, 8, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.
BROKERS
Birmingham: H. & H. Fitter & Co., 128, Colmore-row.
Manchester: J. C. Brister, 24 to 26, Examiner-buildings.
Liverpool: Hook & Bradshaw, 4, York-buildings, Sweeting-street.
AUDITORS.—Sharp, Parsons, & Co., Chartered Accountants, Birmingham.
SECRETARY (pro tem).—W. H. Sinclair.
REGISTERED OFFICES.—29, River-street, Birmingham.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring, working, and extending the well-known tube making business of Messrs. Smallwood & Co., situate at River-street, Birmingham, together with the freehold properties, works, machinery, plant, and stock-in-trade.

The plant, which, for the most part, has been specially designed and made for the business by the well-known firm of engineers, Messrs. Samuel Fisher & Co., is entirely modern, designed upon the latest improved principles, and specially adapted for the expeditious and economical production of the very best class of tubes.

The Company also acquires 18 freehold dwelling-houses and cottages adjoining the works which return a gross rent of £190 per annum.

The tubes manufactured by the firm have obtained a wide reputation for strength, excellence, and durability.

Under the terms of the agreement the original proprietor, Mr. Smallwood, is bound to erect a new mill upon the Company's property, such works to be built upon the most approved lines, and fully fitted with modern machinery for tube production. The plans for these works have already been approved, and operations are to be at once commenced.

That the business to be acquired is thoroughly sound and capable of great possibilities as a dividend-paying concern may be gathered from the fact that (as appears from the subjoined certificate of Messrs. Sharp, Parsons, & Co., Chartered Accountants, Birmingham) the net profit, before allowance for depreciation of plant, machinery, &c., or any charge for Mr. Smallwood's services as Manager, for the nine months ending 30th September, 1896, amounted to £12,182 6s. 9d., or at the rate of £16,243 2s. 4d. per annum.

120, Colmore-row, Birmingham, 29th October, 1896.

To the Directors of the Anglo-Swedish Steel Tube Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—We have examined the books of Messrs. A. Smallwood & Co., River-street Works, Birmingham, for the nine months ended 30th September, 1896, and certify that the net profit shown therein amounted for that period to £12,182 6s. 9d., or at the rate of £16,243 2s. 4d. per annum. This is before making any allowance for depreciation of plant, machinery, &c., or any charge for Mr. Smallwood's services as Manager.

(Signed) SHARP, PARSONS, & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

The enormous appreciation of the shares of tube companies may be seen by a glance at the following table:—

Name of Company.	Class of share.	Amount called up.	Closing Price, Oct. 27. 1896.	Premium.
British Tube Co., Ltd.	£10	£10	£19 10 0	£9 10 0
Climax Weldless Tube Co., Ltd.	£1	£1	£1 15 0	15 0
Perfecta Seamless Tube Co., Ltd.	£1	£1	£1 13 6	13 6
Reliance Tube Co., Ltd. ...	£1	12s. 6d.	£1 5 0	12 6
Rose Tube Co., Ltd.	£1	£1	£1 19 0	19 0
Star Tube Co., Ltd.	£1	8s.	£2 0 0	£1 12 0

The enormous profits realised in the cycle and allied trades are too well known to need comment.

Application for shares should be forwarded to the bankers of the Company, together with the amount of the deposit, payable upon application.

Copies of the prospectus, with forms of application for shares, may be obtained at the offices of the Company, or from their bankers, brokers, or solicitors.

Birmingham, 19th November, 1896.

No.....

THE ANGLO-SWEDISH STEEL TUBE COMPANY, LIMITED.
Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.
FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES OF £1 EACH.
Issued at par.

To the Directors of the Anglo-Swedish Steel Tube Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your bankers, Lloyds Bank, Limited, or their branches or agents, the sum of £..... being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share on an application for..... shares of £1 each, in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of shares, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon the terms of the prospectus, and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted shares as the same shall become due; and I agree with the Company, as trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive notice of any contracts not specifically mentioned in the prospectus, and any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said prospectus with the requirements of sec. 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
.....
Description .....
Date .....1896.
Signature .....

All cheques to be made payable to the bankers.

United States of America.

CITY OF DULUTH, STATE OF MINNESOTA.

Issue of 1,106,000 dols. Five per Cent. Gold Bonds,

In Bonds to Bearer of 1,000 dols. each. Payable July 1st, 1926. Interest Coupons payable half-yearly, 1st January and 1st July in each year.

Both Interest and Principal payable in Gold Coin of the United States of America of the present standard of weight and fineness at the American Exchange National Bank, in the City of New York.

Issue Price 112 per Cent., or $1,120 for each 1,000 dollar Bond. Calculated and payable at Par of Exchange ($4,86.65) or £230. 3s. for each $1,000 Bond.

Payable:—£25 per Bond on Application
50 ,, Allotment
155 3s. ,, 5th January, 1897.
£230 3s.

At the Rate of Exchange herein adopted the Sterling par value of each $1,000 Bond is £205. 9s. 9d.

At the price of issue, and on this basis the Bonds yield, including the redemption of the premium, £4. 5s. 7d. per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly.

The First Coupon for Six Months' Interest will be due 1st July, 1897, but Interest Warrants will be sent to Allottees, payable on the 2nd January, 1897, at the National Bank of Scotland, Nicholas-lane, London, E.C., representing Five per cent. per annum, accrued on the Application and Allotment instalments from their respective due dates.

Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., will receive applications at their Offices, 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C., for $1,106,000 Five per Cent. Gold Bonds of the City of Duluth as above described.

The Subscription Lists will be opened on Wednesday, the 25th of November, 1896, and will be closed at or before 4 o'clock on Friday, the 27th of November, 1896.

The Bonds are issued by the City of Duluth pursuant to the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to define the boundaries of and establish a Municipal Government for the City of Duluth," passed by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, approved March 2nd 1887, and Acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, and to a vote of a majority of the legal voters of the said City, and Ordinances and proceedings of the Common Council of the said City as required by law.

The Bonds are designated "Water and Light Bonds," and are issued for the purpose of providing funds for the erection of a Water Plant to be owned by the City.

Besides forming a part of the bonded indebtedness of the City to which by the terms of the Bond the full faith and credit of the City are pledged for the payment of Principal and Interest, they will have a special lien upon all Water and Light appliances and structures of every kind erected, owned or purchased by the City as provided in the Act and set forth in the Bond.

The general indebtedness of the City in limited by Statute to 5 per cent. of the assessed valuation of the property within the City, but this limitation is exclusive of the special indebtedness of which the present issue forms a part authorised for Water and Light purposes.

The City of Duluth, situated at the head of Lake Superior, is one of the large and rapidly growing Cities of the North-west, and forms one of the most important Ports on the Lake.

The Congress of the United States has recently authorised the Secretary of War to enter into Contracts for the improvement of the harbour and the entrances thereto at a cost not exceeding $3,080,553, in addition to the sums already appropriated for the same purpose.

The Clerk of the City has furnished the following Certificate:—

"City of Duluth, Minnesota,
"October 27th, 1896

"Real Valuation, estimated		$88,500,000
Assessed valuation, 1895		41,013,263
Bonded Debt	$2,042,250	
Present Issue, Water Bonds	1,106,000	
Total		$3,148,250
Sinking Fund	$47,186.42	
Population State Census, 1895		59,396

"There has never been a default in the payment of principal or interest.

"I hereby certify that the above statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) "C. E. RICHARDSON,
"City Clerk."

Seal of the City of Duluth

The following figures extracted from a recent publication and confirmed by Cable direct to Messrs. Coates, Son & Co., by Mr. Brace, the Secretary of the Duluth Chamber of Commerce, show the growth of the City and its trade during the past ten years:—

		1885.	1895.
Population		13,355	59,396
Assessed Valuation		$6,515,210	$41,013,263
Arrivals and Departure of Lake Vessels ...		906	12,066
Freight Shipped	tons	655,599	4,110,433
Grain Receipts (Head of Lakes)	bushels	14,869,675	77,428,074
Iron Ore Shipped	tons	255,484	3,177,218
Timber cut	feet	160,000,000	494,500,000

Applications on the form issued with the prospectus, must be accompanied by a Deposit of £25 per Bond on the amount of Bonds applied for, and be forwarded to Messrs. Coates, Son and Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and if a partial allotment is made the surplus deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its due date, all amounts previously paid will be liable to forfeiture. The Instalment due on the 5th January, 1897, may be paid on or after allotment, under discount at the rate of £2 per cent. per annum.

Application will be made in due course for a quotation for the Bonds upon the London Stock Exchange.

Copies of the authorising Acts above referred to can be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Wilson, Bristows, & Carpmael, 1, Copthall-buildings, E.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

London, 23rd November, 1896.

THE LISTS WILL OPEN ON THURSDAY, THE 26th NOVEMBER, 1896, AND CLOSE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY

THE FORREST AUSTRALIAN CORPORATION, LIMITED,

INVITE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR SHARES OF

Bellevue Proprietary, Ltd.

(WESTERN AUSTRALIA).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL £160,000, in 160,000 Shares of £1 each, 40,000 of which are for Working Capital.

Applications are now invited for 40,000 Shares at par, payable—2s. 6d. on application, 2s. 6d. on allotment, and the balance by calls of not more than 5s., at intervals of not less than one month. Applications for over 18,500 of the Shares uow offered for subscription have already been received from Western Australia, and others are expected. The Directors undertake that not less than 30,000 Shares will be allotted for Working Capital at the first general allotment of Shares.

The right of prior allotment to Forrest Corporation Shareholders is reserved.

DIRECTORS.

H. W. LOWE, 7, East India Avenue, E.C., Director London and Continental Investment Corporation of West Australia, Limited.
JAMES McKILLOP, M.P., Polmont Park, Stirlingshire, and 67, Jermyn-street, S.W., Director James Nimmo & Co., Ltd., Glasgow.
J. C. JESSON, Moorgate Court, E.C., Director Burbank's Birthday Gift Gold Mine, Limited.
W. D. CAIRNEY, 45, West Nile-street, Glasgow, Director United Australian Exploration, Limited.
H. J. ETHERINGTON, Clarendon House, Willesden Lane, N.W., Director Bendigo Goldfields, Limited.

Managers in West Australia.—The Forrest Australian Corporation, Limited, St. George's Terrace, Perth, W.A.

Bankers.

The Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard-street, E.C.; its Head Office, Edinburgh, and Branches in Scotland.

Brokers.—Messrs. Pritchett & Young, Hercules-passage, 54, Threadneedle-street, and Stock Exchange, E.C.

Solicitors.—Messrs. Vallance, Birkbeck, & Barnard, Lombard House, E.C.

Auditors.—Messrs. Monkhouse, Stoneham, & Co., 28 and 29, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C.

Secretary and Offices.—F. L. WILMOT, Finsbury House, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purposes indicated in its Memorandum of Association, and in pursuance thereof will acquire certain Western Australian mining leases or claims known as the "Bellevue" and "Isidore," containing about 41 acres, situate at Mount Sir Samuel, one of the newer gold mining districts north of Lawlers.

The Forrest Australian Corporation, Limited, who make the issue, have, since their incorporation in May last, in conjunction with Messrs. Forrest & Co., of Perth, examined a large number of mining propositions, and though not anxious to invite subscriptions at the present period, the Corporation did not feel justified in declining the above property in the face of the four extremely favourable Reports, including that of Mr. F. H. Backhouse, hereinafter referred to, and more particularly as it was intimated to them that a large part of the present issue, if made, would be taken up in the Colony itself.

Full copies of the Reports accompany the Prospectus, and point to the Bellevue lease as of very exceptional value.

From the Report of Mr. J. M. Rogers, M.E. (Hampton Trust, Limited), dated 17th August, 1896, confirmed by Mr. F. H. Backhouse (West Australian Gold Fields, Limited), after personal examination, it appears that on the Bellevue lease a shaft has been sunk 52 feet to fresh water, and drives north and south on the course of the lode put in at this depth, that the reef is nine feet wide, and is traceable through the entire length of the Lease (13 acres), and that there is another reef which should junction in depth with the main lode before referred to, and further increase the value. Mr. Rogers further states that after thoroughly sampling the main lode its fair average value is 4 oz. 18 dwt. per ton, and that in the winze sunk 13 feet at the bottom of the north drive, and therefore the deepest part of the Mine, the stone is still improving and going close to 20 oz. per ton. He also says of the main lode:—

"It is the finest looking reef I have yet seen in Western Australia, not equalled in any part of the world I have seen for gold bearing. . . . In my opinion the reef is a permanent one, and will in depth open out into a splendid body of rich stone. . . . . I can thoroughly recommend this property. . . . I cannot speak too highly of it."

The above strong opinion is, as before stated, absolutely confirmed by Mr. F. H. Backhouse.

Mr. Glanville, M.E., says:—

"Having had 34 years' mining experience I can recommend this property as being one of the best that has come under my notice."

Mr. Bizant, M.E., says:—

"Of the (about) 150 samples taken by me from all parts of the lode, not in one instance have I obtained less than four ounces per ton, and I can safely say that 60 per cent. of my samples average over eight ounces per ton. These samples were taken by me in a thoroughly practical manner, namely, by boring in the lode from two to five feet in depth. . . . During my 30 years' mining experience in every part of Australia, I have not seen anything to approach this mine for richness or quantity of ore. . . . There is every facility at hand for working the mine, fresh water is obtainable in abundance, and timber suitable for mining purposes and fuel is in great quantity."

With regard to the Isidore property, Mr. Bizant states that:—

"It is developing satisfactorily, although not quite so rich as the Bellevue."

Having received the above Reports, the Forrest Corporation then instructed their own Mining representative (Mr. T. B. Birkbeck) to examine the property, and have received the following cable Report, dated 15th October, 1896;—

"Have examined as requested. I can strongly recommend Bellevue. Have driven upon the vein a distance of 130 feet. Ore in sight amounts to 5,000 tons. Assay value 3½ to 4 ounces per ton. Quite satisfied good mine."

A careful perusal of the full Reports appended hereto is recommended, and having regard to the statements therein, as to the abundance of ore, water, and timber, and to the ability of the Forrest Corporation to put a competent staff on the Mines at once, there appears to be no reason why this property should not be making regular and good returns within a reasonable time. The crushing plant has already been ordered.

The large applications for Shares in this Company already received and still being received from the Colony seem to show that the favourable opinion of the Directors of the Company and the Forrest Australian Corporation, Limited, as to the value of the property has received confirmation of a most convincing nature.

The Forrest Australian Corporation, Limited, who pay all the expenses up to allotment (except the Company's legal expenses); have fixed the purchase price at £120,000, payable £110,000 in fully paid-up Shares of the Company and £10,000 in cash.

The following Contracts have been made:—(1) dated 28th August, 1896, between Messrs. S. P. & I. S. Emanuel, of Perth, W.A., and the Forrest Australian Corporation, Limited, for the acquisition of the property; and (2) dated 24th November, 1896, between the Corporation and E. E. Collins, as trustee for this Company, for the re-sale thereof at a profit.

Besides the above there are other Contracts, to which the Company is not a party, with reference to subscriptions to its Capital. Applicants for Shares can have further information as to the dates, parties, and contents of these; but, in any case, will be considered to have had, for all purposes, full notice thereof, and to have waived any fuller compliance with Section 38 of "The Companies' Act, 1867."

Copies of the above Contracts (1) and (2) and the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be seen by intending subscribers, who are deemed to have notice of the contents thereof, at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Messrs. Lowe & McKillop are Directors of the Forrest Australian Corporation, Limited.

Applications for Shares should be made on the accompanying form and forwarded to the Company's Bankers with a remittance for the amount payable on application. If the number of Shares allotted be less than that applied for the surplus will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment and any balance returned.

Prospectuses and Application Forms may be obtained from the Bankers and at the Offices of the Company.

London, 24th November, 1896.

The Subscription List is Now Open, and closes on or before Wednesday, the 25th November, 1896, for Town, and on or before Thursday, the 26th November, 1896, for Country. One-third of the Debentures and one-third of each class of Shares will be reserved for the Shareholders in the Old Company (Bovril, Limited), provided application is made on the special forms supplied to them for this purpose.
Thereafter, as far as possible, a PREFERENTIAL ALLOTMENT will be made to all Wholesale and Retail Dealers in the Company's Products.

BOVRIL (British, Foreign, and Colonial), LIM.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL - - £2,000,000,

Divided into 2,000,000 Shares of £1 each, as follows:—

500,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares (Preferential as to Capital as well as Dividend in priority to the Ordinary and Deferred Shares)	£500,000
750,000 7 per Cent. Ordinary Shares (Preferential as to Dividend in priority to the Deferred Shares)	£750,000
750,000 Deferred Shares	£750,000
2,000,000	£2,000,000

DEBENTURE STOCK.

Issue of £500,000 4½ per Cent. Debenture Stock, to be issued and transferable in amounts of £10 and multiples thereof, redeemable at the option of the Company, at £105 per cent. upon giving six months' notice.

The Debenture Stock will constitute a first charge on the undertaking of the Company and will be secured by a Trust Deed.

The Interest will be payable half-yearly on the 30th day of June, and the 31st day of December, the first proportionate payment to be made on the 30th day of June next.

Issue payable:—	Per Share.	Debenture Stock.
On Application	5s.	25 per Cent.
On Allotment	5s.	25 ,,
On 19th December, 1896	10s.	50 ,,

Trustees for Debenture Stockholders.
His Grace The Duke of Somerset.
The Right Hon. Earl de la Warr.

Directors.
The Rt. Honble. Lord Playfair, G.C.B., LL.D., Chairman (Chairman of Bovril, Limited).
J. Lawson Johnston, Vice-Chairman (Vice-Chairman of Bovril, Limited).
Viscount Duncannon, C.B. (Director of London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway).
Sir Edmund Commerell, V.C., G.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet.
Frederick Gordon (Chairman Gordon Hotels, Limited).
Robert Farquharson, M.D., M.P. (Director of Bovril, Limited).
G. Lawson Johnston (of Bovril, Limited).
Andrew Walker, Managing Director (Managing Director of Bovril, Limited).

Bankers.
Lloyds Bank, Limited, 222, Strand, London, and any other Branches.

Brokers.
London: George Whitehead & Chown, 23, Bucklersbury, E.C.
Edinburgh: A. H. Robertson & Seater, 31, St. Andrew's-square.
Glasgow: Donald & Co., 104, West George-street.
Dublin: Daniel D. Bulger, College Green.
Liverpool: Hook & Bradshaw, 4, York-buildings.
Manchester: Staveacre & Walton, Haworth's-buildings, Cross-street.
Oldham: John Hood, 42, Clegg-street.
Preston: Arthur Westworth, 129a, Fisher-gate.
Birmingham: W. & F. Cuthbert, 79, Colmore-row.
Stafford: George Dean, 9, St. Mary's-grove.
Newcastle-on-Tyne: J. Straker Wilson, 23, Grey-street.
Barrow-in-Furness: George H. Huthwaite.
Sheffield: F. E. & S. Smith, 1, George-street.
Nottingham: Bromley, Cunliffe, & Co., Queen-street.
Bradford: John Gurney, 29, Kirkgate.
Leeds: Hirst, Turner, & Tennant, 5, East Parade.
Cardiff: E. B. Sims, 59, Mount Stuart-square.
Norwich: J. H. Hatch, Victoria Chambers.

Solicitors for Bovril, Limited.
Neish, Howell, & Macfarlane, 66, Watling-street, E.C.

Solicitor for the Company—Arthur T. Ashwell, Nottingham.

Auditors—Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 58, Coleman-street, E.C.

Consulting Chemist—Wm. Harkness, F.I.C., F.C.S., Government Analyst.

Secretary (*pro tem.*)—W. A. Harris (Secretary, Bovril, Limited).

Registered Offices—30, Farringdon-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

OBJECTS.—This Company has been formed to acquire the whole assets of the highly successful commercial undertaking of Bovril, Limited. The business comprises the manufacture and sale of various popular food specialities, the most important of which is the preparation of Fluid Beef known all over the world as "Bovril." Bovril is prepared by a process which secures for the extract a great amount of nourishment, the sustaining properties of which are valuable to young and old, to the healthy as well as to the invalid. It combines the qualities of a food, a beverage, and a restorative. It is equally valuable for culinary purposes and for the sick room, and is, moreover, an article of unique dietetic value, enjoying the support and obtaining the recommendation of the medical faculty. Whether for brain workers or for those engaged in physical labour Bovril acts as a wholesome and stimulating support as well as a restorative, without producing any of the injurious reactionary effects of alcohol. The Company, it will be perceived, acquires a commercial enterprise of proved financial success, and the exclusive use of a name which is a household word. It is universally recognised that an established trade name—as in the case of Bass's Ale, Guinness's Stout, Coats's Thread, Colman's Mustard, or Huntley & Palmer's Biscuits—is a commercial asset of the highest possible value.

BUSINESS.—Some idea of the extent of the business may be gleaned from the fact that upwards of 100,000 retail establishments in the United Kingdom alone are at present selling the Company's products; in addition to which "Bovril" is sold at most of the important Hotels and Restaurants, and at Refreshment Buffets on the following Railways in Great Britain:—

London and North-Western, Great Western, Midland, Great Northern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and South-Western, Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, London, Brighton, and South Coast, South Eastern, Metropolitan, Metropolitan District, London, Chatham, and Dover, Cheshire Lines, North British, Cambrian, Manchester South Junction and Altrincham, West Lancashire, Mid-Wales, Southport Extension, Great Northern, Ireland.

"BOVRIL."—"Bovril" is supplied to most of the Hospitals and Infirmaries, and similar Institutions in the United Kingdom. The British Government have recognised its value, and supplies have been furnished for recent campaigns, including the Chitral, Ashantee, and the Soudan Expeditions. The requirements of British and Foreign Governments for Campaigning Foods have received special attention, and Bovril, Limited, has recently produced preparations which have proved eminently suitable for the purpose. It is expected that this branch of the business will shortly become one of considerable importance and profit. These foods have been tried in active service and have gained unqualified praise. The Company's products have also been used in the Nansen, Jackson-Harmsworth, and Wellman Arctic Expeditions.

PROFITS.—These facts furnish adequate proof of the value of the "Bovril" preparations from a general point of view, and of the commercial importance and stability of the Company. It is considered undesirable, for trade reasons, to disclose the actual amount of the sales; but the following certificate deals with the figures during the past three years and part of the current year:—

58, Coleman-street, London, E.C.,
16th November, 1896.

To the Directors of BOVRIL (British, Foreign, and Colonial), LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,

We have continuously Audited the accounts of Bovril, Limited, from the date of the foundation of the Company in the year 1889, and we certify that the net Profits of the last three years before charging Interest upon Debentures have been as follows, viz.:—

For the year ended 30th June, 1894, £21,822.
,, ,, 1895, £57,605.
,, ,, 1896, £88,789.

We further certify that the sales for the year ended 30th June, 1894, exceeded those for the year ended 30th June, 1892-3, by ... ... 15·42 %
The Sales for the year ended 30th June, 1895, exceeded those for the year 1892-3, by ... ... 52·32 %
The Sales for the year ended 30th June, 1896, exceeded those for the year 1892-3, by ... ... 105·90 %
And that for the four months ended at the 31st October, 1896, the sales exceeded those of 1892-3, at the rate of 166·81 per cent., which sales contain nothing but current orders supplied in the ordinary way.

We are, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servants,
JACKSON, PIXLEY, BROWNING, HUSEY, & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Looking to the progressive results shown in the Accountants' Report, and the daily increasing business, it is anticipated that the net profit for the first year of the New Company will approximate the sum of £150,000. This estimate is based on the assumption that the present rate of increase in the sales is only maintained, whereas for many reasons it may be confidently expected still further to advance. Great as are the sales of "Bovril" they are capable of greater development. The business has hitherto grown with such rapidity that the attention of the Management has practically been confined to its extension in the United Kingdom, although the nucleus of a substantial trade has already been formed in the Colonies and several foreign countries. One of the chief purposes of this Company is to enlarge the area of its operations abroad, and, if desirable, to sell portions of its rights to subsidiary Companies with this object. A substantial offer has already been made for certain of these rights, and it is now under consideration. It is not intended to part with any such privileges without reserving to the parent Company the sole right of manufacture. The beneficial effect of such an arrangement would be threefold, namely:—

1. A substantial capital payment to the Company;
2. An expansion of the Company's output and profits; and
3. Freedom from responsibilities in connection with the management of foreign business.

It is reasonable to assume that as a result of this policy of extension, coupled with the growing popularity of "Bovril" at home, the output will be much larger in the future, and the profits will be proportionately increased. There is practically no limit to the development of business in a commodity of such high repute and proved excellence as "Bovril," which has already established its superiority, and is every day growing in favour and securing for itself a wider range of customers.

DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT.—As a guarantee that the same commercial ability and enterprise which have led to the existing satisfactory results will be continued under the new Company, it may be stated that the Board of Directors includes several of the gentlemen who have successfully controlled the business in the past. Lord Playfair, who was the Chairman of the old Company, is one of the highest scientific authorities on the subject of Dietetics. Dr. Farquharson, M.P., an original Director, Mr. J. Lawson Johnston, the Founder of the business and Vice-Chairman of the old Company, and Mr. Andrew Walker, Managing Director since its formation, will act in similar capacities in the new Company. The large and efficient staff of the old Company is being retained, so that the business will be conducted as heretofore, and will go on without any interruption whatever.

PURCHASE PRICE.—The Purchase price is fixed at £2,500,000, payable in Cash, Shares, or Debentures, or any of them, at the option of the Directors; but the Vendor reserves the right of taking at least one third of the Deferred Shares in part payment of the Purchase Price. For this sum the Company acquires the business as from the 1st day of July, 1896, and the purchase comprises the whole assets of Bovril, Limited, including Goodwill, Trade Marks, Patent Rights, Freehold and Leasehold Property, Plant, Machinery, Office Furniture, Fittings, Stock-in-Trade, Advertising Material, Book Debts, Cash in Hand and at Bank, Contracts and Privileges of every description pertaining to Bovril, Limited, together with the profits accrued since the 30th June, 1896.

WORKING CAPITAL.—The Directors are satisfied that the large stock and cash in hand and at the Bank, including the profits which have accrued since June 30th, 1896, and which, in the ordinary course would have been distributed in dividend, will provide sufficient working capital.

PROPERTY.—The Freehold and Leasehold Properties include the Company's Warehouses, Head Office, and Branch Offices below referred to, together with the important site in Old-street, London (partly Freehold and partly Leasehold,) recently acquired by the Company for the purpose of erecting a new Factory and Warehouses, rendered imperative by reason of the rapid growth of its trade. The Head Offices of the Company are at 30, Farringdon-street, E.C., and the Warehouses at 63 and 64, Bath-st., City-road, E.C., Featherstone-st., E.C., and Shepherdess-walk, E.C.; besides which there are Branch Offices at Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Glasgow, Hull, Liverpool, Leeds, Dublin, Belfast, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Brussels.

In addition to these Branch Offices, the Company has established working Agencies in New York, Paris, Vienna, Frankfort, Munich, Carlsruhe, Stockholm, Christiania, Lausanne, Seville, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Fremantle, W.A., Auckland, Christchurch, Tasmania, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, East London, Durban, Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Rangoon, Singapore, Chili, Peru, Buenos Ayres, Canary Islands, Hong Kong.

PREFERENTIAL ALLOTMENT.—To Shareholders of "Bovril, Limited."—One-third of the Debentures and one-third of each class of Shares will be reserved for the Shareholders in the Old Company, "Bovril, Limited," whose names were on the Register on the 16th November, 1896, provided application is made on the Special Forms supplied to them for this purpose, and the Directors will endeavour as far as possible to make to such applicants a *pro rata* allotment according to their respective holdings in "Bovril, Limited."

To CUSTOMERS.—After the Shareholders in the old Company, the customers of the Company will as far as possible receive a Preferential Allotment. Applications from Customers must be made on forms marked "Customer," which will be supplied for this purpose.

The Vendor will pay all expenses of every kind up to and including the completion of the purchase.

A London Stock Exchange settlement and quotation will be applied for in due course.

Copies of the Prospectus, with Forms of Application for Shares and Debenture Stock, can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, or from their Bankers, Brokers, or Solicitors.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Contracts, and Certificate specified above, can be seen at the Offices of the Company.

London, November 21st, 1896.

10/6 THE "PELICAN" SELF-FEEDING PEN 10/6

(PATENTED)

WRITES INSTANTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY.

Has Extra Large Reservoir of Ink. Secure against Leakage in any position. Flow of Ink regulated with the Greatest Nicety. POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, FITTED WITH SPECIAL BARREL PEN in 14-ct. GOLD, IRIDIUM-POINTED. Also

THE "NOTA BENE" STYLOGRAPH OR FLUID PENCIL

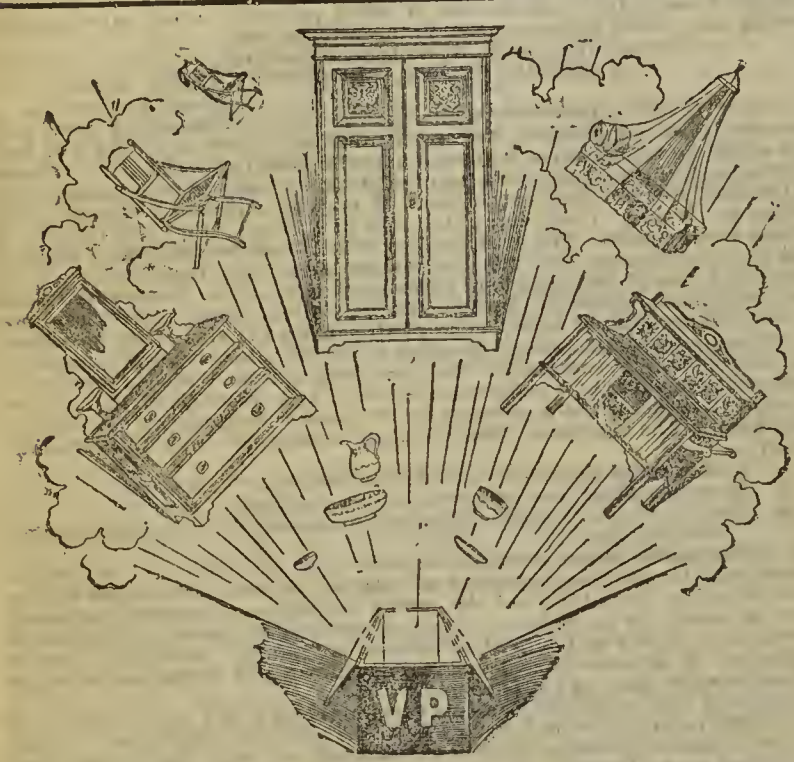
(PATENTED)

5/- 5/-

IS READY FOR INSTANT USE, WITHOUT ANY ADJUSTMENT. MAY BE CARRIED IN ANY POSITION, WITHOUT FEAR OF LEAKAGE.

POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, WITH NEEDLE, SPRING, & NOZZLE, MADE OF THE PRECIOUS METALS.

Sold by all Stationers. Wholesale only by the Sole Manufacturers, THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. Ltd., Bunhill Row, London, E.C.



The complete Furniture of a comfortable Bedroom: Wardrobe, Dressing Chest, Washstand. 2 Cane-seat Arm Chairs, Chamber Service Bed, Bedding, &c., folds into one small case measuring 6 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. Rigidity and appearance of glued-up Furniture. Patented all over the World. Invaluable to Colonists, Hotels, Officers' Quarters, Spare Bedrooms, Shooting Boxes, &c., &c. Suites at all prices, separate parts can be had. Obtainable at all Dealers' or direct from

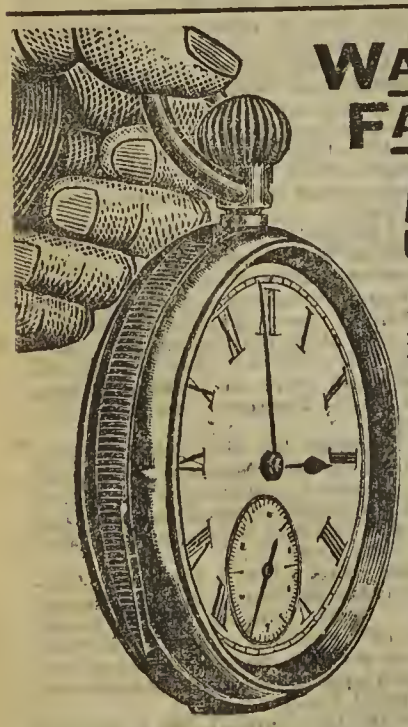
THE
V.P. FOLDING BEDROOM SUITE & FURNITURE CO., LIM.
330, OLD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Genuine Old Welch Dressers

(Inlaid and Carved Oak), from £6. 10s.

ILLUSTRATED PRICED CATALOGUES POST FREE.
ALL GOODS CARRIAGE PAID TO ANY STATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

HEWETSONS,
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, London, W.



WATCHES FROM THE FACTORY BY POST

DIRECT TO THE WEARER!

57/- THE 'COUNSELLOR'

H. SAMUEL'S KEYLESS ENGLISH LEVER. A splendid Watch, highly finished interchangeable movement, with 15 JEWELS; three-quarter plate, most accurately constructed; CHRONOMETER BALANCE; tempered hairspring; polished wheels and pinions: flat crystal glass front. In highly-finished close-fitting SOLID SILVER cases, hall marked. H. Samuel's price £2. 17s.; in 14-CARAT ROLLED GOLD Case, consisting of two outer plates of 14-carat gold, lined inside with a case of specially prepared metal. Wears for years. H. Samuel's price, £4. 5s. Heavy 18-carat Gold Case, £13, SEVEN YEARS' warranty. A MONTH'S FREE TRIAL. Full amount returned if dissatisfied. LARGE SAVING on London prices. H. Samuel's "ACME" Sterling Silver Watches for Ladies and Gentlemen. Handsome, exact, and durable. Five years' warranty. Worth three guineas. H. Samuel's price 25s. H. Samuel's New Improvements, protected by HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT, are only to be obtained in H. Samuel's Watches. Largest Sale! Highest Quality! Lowest Prices!

FREE. It will please you to read our new book (just published). Only necessary to send your NAME AND ADDRESS, and this handsome volume is despatched by next post. CONSIDERABLE REDUCTIONS effected by sending direct to H. Samuel for all requirements. Please say if we may have the pleasure of posting you this new book.

H. SAMUEL, *Lever Watch Factory,* MANCHESTER.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

The "QUEEN" says:—"Few Silks can equal 'FAILLE INVICTA,' which is really a magnificent texture."

THE BEST WEARING FASHIONABLE **BLACK SILK**

THOROUGHLY TRIED AND RELIABLE

REGISTERED No. 93,095.

AT ALL SILK HOUSES.

"VANITY FAIR" says:—"I think nothing could be better than 'FAILLE INVICTA.'"

"MYRA'S JOURNAL" says:—"The 'FAILLE INVICTA' is fully recognised as the perfection of Black Silk."

OUR PUZZLES.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

It will have been seen from the announcement made last week that the coming Show is to be held at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL on December 16 and 17. This is excellent news, for experience has shown what an excellent place for such a purpose the Albert Hall is. It, however, now becomes more than ever necessary that the number of Dolls and Toys shall show no falling off. An unprecedently large demand for dressed Dolls exists at the Children's Hospitals this year, and it is to be hoped that no patient little sufferer will be disappointed. A few more Dolls, both large and small, still remain on hand, and can be sent at once to any ladies who may be willing to dress them by the middle of next month.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 927.

The Prize in this competition has been divided between QUEEN ANNE and J. C. CRAWFORD, whose songs were printed in TRUTH last week.

I hope to be able to print a further selection of Songs in the next number of TRUTH.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 931.

Every one agrees that the shapes of the Motor cars which are at present to be seen are unspeakably ugly; but no one seems ready to suggest what form they ought to take. Perhaps our Puzzle competitors can give some useful hints on the subject. At all events, the usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST SUGGESTION AS TO WHAT THE SHAPE OF THE MOTOR CAR OUGHT TO BE, DUE REGARD BEING PAID TO BOTH ELEGANCE AND UTILITY.

Competitors will please make their suggestions as briefly as possible; and take care that all answers reach me by the morning of Monday, December 7, at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of E. J., winner of a half of Prize No. 918, is E. Jenner, Esq., 1, Inkerman-road, N.W.

*** The real name, with the address, of LANCELOT, winner of half of Prize No. 924, is C. Douglas Rosling, Esq., Horwell School, Launceston, Cornwall.

*** The real name, with the address, of TARBOX, winner of Prize No. 923, is the Rev. A. Cyril Pearson, Springfield Rectory, Chelmsford.

*** The real name, with the address, of SCRIVENER, winner of Prize No. 925, is F. Percy Noble, Esq., Precentor's Court, York.

PHILALETHES.—Thanks for your note.

BLANCHE AUDLEY.—Your song arrived too late.

EAST ANGLIA.—Your letter shall have my immediate attention, and I thank you for sending it.

C. E. B.—I have passed your letter on to the Editor.

MISTLETOE.—The words "syringe" and "pickaxe" had to rhyme with two other words.

NEW ZEALAND.—It was a rhyme to both syllables of "syringe" that was wanted.

GO-AHEAD.—I have shown your P.S. to the Editor.

R. MARTIN.—Your alteration has been noted.

SIR P. FELIS.—It was impossible, I regret to say, to print your song.

APOSTROPHE.—The Printer's Devil is not always so black as he is painted, or perhaps I should say not so black as he looks.

W. W.—I am sorry to say that your "Early Springtime" arrived too late.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 928.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

STANZAS CONTAINING SUGGESTED RHYMES FOR "SYRINGE" AND "PICKAXE."

Negations, in some English words, upon the prefix *ir* hinge—
E.g., "an ir-religious man," an ir-receptive syringe.
Scotch reader, dinna look sae blate, 'twould need a moral pickaxe
To plant my quip within your pate—a heavy, sharp, and thick axe! Eboracum.

1. Brave Abyssinia, with its Menelik axe,
Will join the Christian miner with his pickaxe.
The faith that once did on great Vladimir hinge
Burns brighter played on by the Moslem syringe.

2. Stage villains in the fifth act must at Virtue's footstool kir-r-inge,
And die shot by a Derringer as harmless as a syringe,
Stage miners show stage nuggets unearthed by the stage pickaxe,
And upas trees have been hewed down by Gladstone's idyl*lic* axe.

3. What if the laws of Moses did on frankincense and myrrh hinge,
Pure gems of truth immortal sprung from the Prophet's pickaxe.
Niagara's mighty cataract was once but as a syringe,
College dons remind the boys of this when hammering in their "hic hacs." Marplot.

An incident of the storming of the Bank of England by the mob during the bread riots of November, 1904.

Bill* burst the locks with dynamite injected through a syringe,
The roughs then hammered at the door with boulder, crowbar, brick, axe;
Until the trembling gate but hung suspended by a mere hinge,
And then a rebel smashed it down with blows of sturdy pickaxe. Scrivener.

* His ancestral name was Sikes.

"Avaunt!" the actress cried, "I'll make you c— ringe—!"
His fear was great, he seized near by a thick axe.
Her murd'rous weapon was—a garden syringe,
And his (between ourselves) a cardboard pickaxe. Malignant.

To twist poor Reason thus on *her* hinge
Is what the Romans called *pervicax*.
I find few English rhymes for syringe,
And not a blessed one for pickaxe. Rabelais.

PUPIL.

1. My lord's fair curls, my lady's fringe,
Bowed to the Revolution's quick axe,
And streets ran blood, as from a syringe,
That would not hide till turned by pickaxe.

PRECEPTOR.

2. A stammerer might make fringe into firinge.
I pass the Revolution's quick axe—
But can't you find a better rhyme to syringe
While coupling it to one with pickaxe?

NOT BY RUDYARD KIPLING.

3. It's Lombard-street to a China iringe,
A race'orse against a lot of sick 'acks,
Ses 'Arry, E squirted like a syringe
When 'is fancy stuck in the mud like a pickaxe. Norfolk.

HOPELESS AGITATION.

1. You might sooner cleanse th' Augean stalls with a common penny syringe,
Or clear away the Balkans with a Brummagem pickaxe,
Than right Armenian wrongs with words, and make the Powers stir in j-
Udgment on the Turks' misrule and political nicknacks.

REPAIRED ROADS.

2. The cyclist skims along the streets with spinning wheels that whir in j-
Ust the way we know so well when main-springs break in tick-tacks;
The hind wheel squirts his back with mud as if it were a syringe,
And he blesses vestrics, workmen, roads, steam-rollers, and pickaxe. A. A. G.

Just cut your bloomin' stick, ax
My pal to lend no syringe,
But bring his bloomin' pickaxe
To loosen down this 'ere 'inge. Camoens.

'Twere enough to make Old Nick ax
What the deuce will rhyme with pickaxe?
But on that, and also syringe,
The fate of TRUTH'S guineas here hinge. Aletheia.

The Lord Mayor's show. Procession of firemen with felling hatchets and hose-reel. Father, and son pick-a-back.

"Look! Teddy, thim's miners wi' pickaxe,
An' gar'ners from Kew wi' syringe."
"Sure! daddy, it's only a 'stick' axe,
Ye're teazin' or gwine off yer 'inge." Caledon.

"To ease the hinge of hunter's watch, would Mary use a syringe?"
To which did Mary prompt reply, "A feather, were it *her* hinge,
And oil must be the medium used, more potent than a pickaxe,
To lubricate the rusty joints of hunter or of sick hacks." Robert Martin.

Moll told to the beak how Bill put down his pickaxe
And squirted suds at her from out of a syringe,
And gave her, when falling down, kick upon kick-'acks,
And tore out her hair, which he called her fi-ringe. La Plata.

He mispronounced meringue as meryngе,
Thought the seringa was a syringe;
And when I said, "Come! what's a pickaxe?"
Replied "It is a sort of thick axe." Kingston.

All tools, from a carpenter's plane to a syringe,
Our soldiers should handle, as well as a quick axe,
For facts on which battles like Tel-el-Kebir* hinge
Are often the outcome of shovel and pickaxe.

* The correct pronunciation is with the accent on the last syllable.—Aimavi a.

If you cannot to some brain a lever de rire hinge,
Here's a plan that's as sharp and as short as a quick axe—
If the person is deaf, squirt it in with a syringe!
If the person is dense, drive it in with a pickaxe! Oom Paul.

While sprinkling some plants with my old garden syringe
I found a door-hinge and a joiner's light, slick axe;
The lady next door claimed the former as *her* hinge,
The latter I swopped for a strong, useful pickaxe. Shamrock.

A lady buys a blackthorn stick, a door-hinge, and a pickaxe,
And takes them to an outhouse where she kept a leaky syringe;
Now, in a tearing rage, she, with the "pick" her blackthorn stick hacks;
Anon, with the same weapon she attacks and batters *her* hinge. Shamrock.

TANTÆNE ANIMIS CŒLESTIBUS IRÆ.—Virgil.

Maud entered her garden, her flowers to syringe;
Her husband had injured one with a pickaxe.
Her temper, serene sometimes, turned on a queer hinge—
Maud made Hubby feel how severely a stick whacks. J. McGrigor Allan.

THE MARTYR.

"My fate," he said, "does not on judgments here hinge,
Nor dies my cause with fail of henchman's quick axe;
My blood may flow as if pressed from a syringe,
But Truth you bury not with spade and pickaxe." Maison Blanc.

Last September clumsy workmen "played old Harry" with my thick Ax-
Minster carpet, dropping on it bricks and mortar, spade and pickaxe;
'Twas past repair; you might as well try quenching fire with a syringe,
Or, as Polonius suggested, catching woodcock with a sp(i)ringe. Whig.

The navvy aloft with a swing wields his pickaxe;
The gard'ner on insects full drives with his syringe;
The hewer can't work when his "Davy" a wick lacks;
His wife says the hinge on his lamp-door is *her* hinge. Culpepper.

Yesterday we did inter Inge—
Some one killed him with a syringe.
We no more shall see him stick hacks,
Rendered powerless by his pickaxe. Felixicus.

This is mischief, I aver—hinge
Off my house-door with a pickaxe
Has been broken, and my syringe
Has been found between the brick-hacks. Felixicus.

You axe how it did occur, Inge?
Why, he struck me with a pickaxe,
And then soaked me with a syringe.
I don't know—you'd better Dick ax.
Felixicus.

I will give, without demur, hinge,
Greenhouse door, and garden syringe
For that very little pickaxe
You picked up between the brick-hacks.
Felixicus.

She stammered and was deaf; said the doctor, "Try a syringe."
But "oh!" she cried, "I cannot, 'twill wet and spoil my fringe."
Then in rage she stamped about and knocked down all the nick-nacks,
And chipped off bits of statuettes with the gardener's pickaxe. Risk.

The safe defied Sikes to get at the nick-nacks
Within it; he tried both with jemmy and pickaxe.
Said he, "'Taint no good; with a squirt or a syringe
I might as well try to get open this 'ere 'inge."
Cradle.

Of getting your guineas my hopes, my dear sir, hinge,
On clearing my brains by a strong mental syringe;
Each effort I make, my poor cranium, so thick, racks,
I'd more easily earn the amount with a pickaxe.
New Zealand.

Said Lord Dundreary, "If I had a squiringe,*
I'd souse that fellah wielding such a quick axe."
The man on whom he wished to use the syringe
Was damaging his stone wall with a pickaxe.
Excelsior.

* Combination of squirt and syringe, à la Dundreary.

When roads unrolled disturbed by pickaxe
Indent your tire with stone and brick hacks,
In vain your hopes you will, I fear, hinge,
When miles from home, upon your syringe.
Kilburn.

In Scottish head with hypodermic syringe
We might, perhaps, a joke or story queer inj-
Ect, were not its armour plating thick, acc-
Essible to nothing but a pickaxe.
Kilburn.

O, Captain Wells! type of sad sighs and sick achs,
Could thy syringe my love's fire inj-
Ure, or thy fireman's pickaxe? Kilburn.

Pickaxe and syringe, syringe and pickaxe!
I must find you a rhyme—though my brain too thick cracks;
Though a god vainly wooed hollow-hearted syringe,
Aid the lyre of us mortals who lowlier cringe.
Musafir.

Quoth John, "There's something wrong with hose and syringe
Used on this Turkish plant—perhaps some queer hinge
Wants oiling. Stay! dead branches need a thick axe."
"Lop not," said Bill, the gardener, "where's your pickaxe?" Vivia.

Angelina, leave thy nick-nacks
Ere torrid suns thy ros'ry singe;
Fieldward Edwin strides with pickaxe,
Grasp thy hose and ply thy syringe!
Co.

The curling fern I sprinkle with my syringe,
The verbena, and the creeper climbing thick, acc-
Epting for its home the grotto ne'er inj-
Ured yet by mason's chisel, saw, or pickaxe.
Antique.

Believe me, dear TRUTH, that your effort to stir ing-
Genuity up for a neat rhyme to syringe,
My unfortunate brain, till it really is sick, racks;
And I can't dig one out, unless armed with a "pickaxe. New Zealand.

Said an Irish professor, collector of nick-nacks,
Intensely I long for a primeval pickaxe;
And sure for a genuine prehistoric syringe,
To my bitterest rival and foe I would c-r-r-ringe.
Aquila.

Upon a fair maid's verdict two lovers' hopes, *sir*, hinge;
One deftly waters plants and shrubs with a large syringe.
The other one, with a pick, the earth around quick hacks.
Who'll win? 'Knight of the syringe or knight of the pickaxe? Tommy Atkins.

MOLLY'S INVITATION.

Said Molly to Mike, "Put away that ould pickaxe,
Your trowel, and spade, and that splashering syringe:
I'm going with Betty to town for some nick-nacks,
A ribbon and hairpin or two for my fir-ringe."
K. W.

In London's Tower I saw the cruel quick axe,
That cut short noble lives—less base the pickaxe
Which crushes lifeless stones with noise and whirringe,
Scattering them wide, like water-sprays from syringe. Esperanza.

On our letters of old we used often to nick wax
With a crest well impressed—say an anchor or pickaxe,
And if deaf we had sometimes recourse to a syringe,
The wax to relax; oh! the thought makes me c-r-r-ringe. Pelican.

We are asked to make sense out of nonsense, and to furnish a rhyme for syringe;
Why not ask us to find out the use of a gate that has got ne'er a hinge?
Then, again, we are asked to discover a rhyme for a navvy's pickaxe,
So I'll go to my room and look over a box where I keep some nick-nacks. Pelican.

Deaf? Wax in ears, doctor said, fetch a syringe;
Out ran the nurse for it, her name it was Birringe,
Came back, in a joke, with the garden pickaxe,
Said, this will be best to break up the thick wax.
Aquila.

An elderly gentleman proposes to a young lady, who does not take the matter seriously. Scene:—A greenhouse, with vines, &c. The new hinges of the door attract the lady's attention at the eventful moment.

"Ax, Ma!" she said—"O! that's a nicer (h)inge—
Ax, Ma! You darling old stick, Ax!
Those vines have fly; so give me my syringe,
There, stupid, by the big pickaxe."
Gylippus.

The gate was jammed! No oil, no syringe
Had I, and so I used a pickaxe.
It opened, but I left a queer hinge,
And, I must own, a very sick axe.
Trocar.

THE FAITHLESS FRAULEIN: OR, THE PICKAXE AND THE SYRINGE.

Maximilian swore to make her cringe,
Dug her grave with spade and pickaxe;
But the maid, with pail and syringe,
Cooled the rage of love-sick Max.
Waynflete.

Old Mo.'s in the shop, if you're seeking nick-nacks.
Do your door need a knocker or hinge?
His stock is most varied—pot, pan, or pickaxe,
From a bicycle to a syringe. Waverley.

EUROPA LOQITUR.

O Sultan, see my nick-nacks,
Warships, shot, shell, and Derring-
Ers, coffin, spade and pickaxe!
Your country needs a syringe.
Myrah.

How oft on solemn things doth something queer hinge!
A man was hacked to *pieces* with a pickaxe.
The doctors tried transfusion with a syringe,
They failed; and some one on his tomb did stick *Pax*. Enyap.

Will you please, my ear to syringe?
From the clock I hear no tick-tacks;
Did you say "'Twas gone to Gorringe?"
I can't even hear that pickaxe.
Qu'Appelle.

I have a lamp, but it a wick lacks,
So it gives no more light than a pickaxe;
It's about as useful as a broken syringe,
Or a prison door, minus lock or hinge.
Lord Howe.

See how the sturdy rustic whacks,
The frozen pond with sharp pickaxe;
Then see him weakly quickly cr-r-ringe,
When the water spurts as from a syringe.
Llwslly.

To make a Scotchman humorous, the surgeon, bold, quick acts,
Putting humour in Scotty's head by means of a pickaxe;
And, as on his being successful, his name and fame, sir, hinge,
He injects humour in his blood, by means of a syringe. Tommy Atkins.

Answers have been received from: — Truth, Eglantine, Lyswys, Felixicus, Iota, Go Ahead, Selah, Felsberg, Noel, Heurteloup, Leveuball, Aquila, La Fleche, Llwslly, Crofter, New Zealand, Silver Mell, J. McGrigor Allan, Cast'ecomer, Broad Yorkshire, Salop, Lauriston, Philalethes. Troy, Mistletoe, Bobbins, Thirty Six, Maison Blanc, Tommy Atkins, Pluto, Senex, Antique, Xid, Tucharn, Co, Cradle, Emerald, Charles Harebell, Jingle, Scrivener, Jap, La Plata, Kingston, Venture, Blanche, Audley, Fritz, Christie Deas, Lloyd, Woss, Oom Paul, Fiurnus, Whig, Almaviva, Snooker, Plaitch, Bel Demonio, Joan, Porridge, Orlando, Henriette, Ace of Clubs, K.W., Jeannie, Camoens, Waverley, Erico, Black Poodle, St. Neiac, Turbox, I Fortunatu, Eromdarb, Nusskirk, Norfolk, Mr. Perrott, A. T. Bennett, Tristran, Lord Howe, Dan, Plumepierre, J. T., Coalheaver, Gylippus, Relwof, Cottager, Alastor, Gervase, M. Campbell, Lawson, Trocar, Waynflete, E. J., A. A. G., Tibicen, Hammond, Krukatoa, Risk, W. Todhuan, January, Viva, Esperanza, Excelsior, Toomevarn, Chilperic, Derfla, Culpepper, Aidee, Shamrock, Rex, Cortl au, Qu'Appelle, Marplot, Oceanian, T. Pot, M C D., Kilburn, E. E. B., Dosser, Holly, Gravella, Myrah, Edgcome, Syringe, Clou, Antelope. Carlos, Noiram, A. A. A. A. Fennytone, W. G. B., Ethmoid, Yiezil, Skye, Carfax, Tulip, Pentland

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1040. Vol. XL. Thursday, December 3, 1896. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

The Twentieth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

LIHUNGISMS,

IS READY THIS DAY,

(Thursday, December 3.)

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

It is profusely illustrated by Mr. R. A. Brownlie and Mr. Roland Hill.

The illustrations include FOUR DOUBLE-PAGE CARTOONS and TWO SINGLE-PAGE CARTOONS (printed in colours):—

1. Checkmate.
2. Right *v.* Might.
3. Changing the Leader.
4. Motormania.
5. A Good Joke. *(From Mr. Cecil Rhodes' point of view.)*
6. A Good Joke. *(From Dr. Jameson's point of view.)*

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

My faith in the kindness of the fair readers of Truth has been again abundantly justified. A fortnight ago I had to announce that, in consequence of the crowded state of the Fever Hospitals, the demand for dolls would this Christmas be greater than ever; and I added that a further supply had therefore been obtained. The whole of this supplementary consignment has been since applied for by ladies who have undertaken to dress the dolls in time for the Exhibition at the Albert Hall on the 16th and 17th inst., and I must sincerely thank all those who thus came so promptly to the rescue.

So far, then, so good; but the rest of my tale this week is not so encouraging. Those who are labouring with their brains and fingers to make the Truth Show a success are doing their duty most generously, but few of those who usually put their hands in their pockets to ensure the completeness of the Christmas distribution of Toys have as yet done so. Subscriptions are coming in with exceptional slowness; a state of affairs all the more disquieting when it is remembered that the demands made this year by the Hospital and Workhouse authorities are unprecedentedly great. It is now December 3; on the 16th the Show opens at the Albert Hall. If, then, that Show is to assume its usual proportions it is absolutely necessary that the Toy Fund shall have reached a total of £1,000 in the course of the next ten days. Toys cannot, unfortunately, be evolved for the occasion from one's inner consciousness. They have to be bought in the open market for hard cash, and it is high time, I may add, that they were purchased.

The matter is, indeed, such an easily intelligible one that there is no need to multiply words about it. On the one hand, are the twenty-nine thousand children eagerly awaiting their Christmas Toys. On the other are you, the readers of Truth. I am simply the medium of communication between you and them. What is your message to be?

The following amounts have been received since the previous list:—

C. A. R. Hoare, £3; Friends at Cromer, 3s. 6d.; M. S. B., Brighton, 5s.; Lady Lucas, £1. 1s.; Capt. W. Luard (in foreign notes), £2. 11s. 7d.; G. J. J., £2. 2s.: U. S., £1; E. G., £1. 1s.; G. and A. H., 10s.; R. and E. H. B., £3. 3s.; A. H. H., £2. 2s.; T. K., £2; Four Children P. L. A., £4. 4s.; Mrs. L'Amy, £1; L. H. P., 10s.; Vernon and Bertie, £1: Hibernian, 5s.; Dresden, £1. 1.; Emmie, £5; Myfanwy and Vera, 10s.; S. S., £5; H. J. M., £3; R. G. H., 2s. 6d.; Constance Gertrude Duke Scrivener, £1; James Britten, £1. 1s.; A. Bachelor, £2. 2s.; In Memory of Mrs. F. J. Horniman, £10; Adolph Hirsch, £10; W. B. Cregoe-Colmore, £10. 10s.; Reginal Ward Poole, £1. 1s.

It is not surprising that Prince Bismarck's revelations of secret history are exciting both annoyance and apprehension at our own Court. The Queen and Prince Albert corresponded for many years very confidentially, respecting all political and family affairs, with the late Emperor William; and it is understood that most of their letters, either original or copies, are in the possession of Prince Bismarck, who was allowed to deal as he pleased with all the late Sovereign's papers, both during his lifetime and for more than a year after his death.

There is to be a great gathering of the Royal Family at Osborne about the middle of January, when the Battenberg Memorial Chapel in Whippingham Church is to be dedicated by the Bishop of Winchester.

It was a mistake for the Queen to invite Mr. Bayard to dine and sleep at Windsor Castle on "Thanksgiving Day," when the American Ambassador had an official engagement in London; but it is stupid ignorance for an evening journal to blame the Lord Steward for the blunder, Lord Pembroke having no more to do with the affair than the

Lord Chancellor or the Bishop of Oxford. These invitations are sent out by the Master of the Household, and the Corps Diplomatique are summoned to the Palace according to a regular rota.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria, the Duke and Duchess of Coburg, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Louise and Lord Lorne, the Duke and Duchess of York, and the Duchess of Albany, are to be the guests of the Queen at Windsor Castle from Saturday evening, the 12th, until after luncheon on Monday, the 14th. On the 14th at eleven o'clock, the Queen and the Royal Family are, as usual, to attend a memorial service in the Frogmore Mausoleum, which will be conducted by the Bishop of Winchester and the Dean of Windsor, while the hymns and anthem are to be sung by the choir of St. George's Chapel.

The Duke and Duchess of Coburg are to leave Clarence House towards the end of next week for Coburg, where they will entertain a family party during the Christmas holidays at their place in the town. The Duke of Coburg is going to the South of Europe in February for a couple of months, and the Duchess will then pay a visit to her eldest daughter, the Crown Princess of Roumania, at Bucharest.

The *St. James's Gazette* announced last week the impending betrothal of the King of Servia and Princess Alexandra of Coburg. The story was manifestly a mere fabrication for obvious reasons, to which may be added the trifling fact that Princess Alexandra was married about seven months ago to the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg.

I hear that the Duke of Fife is to figure in the New Year's-day list of honours, when he is to be created an extra Knight of the Garter, and he will be granted a special remainder, under which his principal titles will pass to his eldest daughter, in default of male issue.

The Duke of Cambridge is going to the Riviera early in January, and he will probably pay another visit to Egypt, returning to England at the end of April. A weekly journal states that the Duke is allowed by the Queen to occupy Gloucester House rent free. As a matter of fact, Gloucester House is not a Crown residence, but it is the private property of the Duke of of Cambridge, as it was bequeathed to him, with its contents, by his aunt the Duchess of Gloucester (Princess Mary), who died in 1857.

Up to the end of last week the Military Knights of Windsor on the Lower Foundation had not received the modest dole due to them on Michaelmas Day. Such dilatoriness in dealing with men who can ill afford to wait for their money is in the highest degree reprehensible. Who is the culprit, and what is his excuse?

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1466 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1464.
For Amusements, see page 1465.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1485.

Lord Bridport and Sir Edmund Commerell are next Tuesday to replace Lord Lawrence and Colonel Browne as Lord and Groom in Waiting on the Queen at Windsor Castle, and they will be on duty until the 22nd, when they are to be succeeded by Lord Ranfurly and Lord William Cecil, whose attendances last until January 5.

A correspondent points out that, whatever the rules of the Order of the Golden Fleece may be on the subject of every knight producing a Roman Catholic pedigree for eight generations back, it is quite certain that this rule has never been observed in practice. Among reigning European Sovereigns who wear the Austrian Order are the Emperor of Russia, the German Emperor, the Kings of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Bavaria, Greece, and Saxony, and the Sultan of Turkey. The Prince of Wales also holds the Order. From this it is clear that in practice the Order is not limited to Roman Catholics, nor even to Christians.

Lord Caledon must have been astonished to read in a contemporary that he "has been elected a Representative Peer in the place of the late Lord Limerick." Lord Caledon has been an Irish Representative Peer for more than nineteen years. Lord Limerick was never a Representative Peer, for he sat in the House of Lords as Baron Foxford, a United Kingdom Peerage, which was created in 1815.

Yet another addition is made this week to the ever-increasing list of first-class West End hotels. The old Coburg Hotel, at the corner of Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, which disappeared a few months ago in the course of the improvements being carried out on this part of the Duke of Westminster's property, has now risen again in a palatial style, and is to be opened to visitors to-day (Wednesday). The new Coburg is externally quite in keeping with the splendid architecture which is making Mount-street one of the handsomest thoroughfares in London; and internally it offers everything in the way of taste and luxury that Messrs. Maple & Co. can supply, or that princes and millionaires could ask for.

The Brighton and Rottingdean Seashore Electric Railway has at last been opened to the public. If not quite what the Chairman claimed it to be, "the eighth wonder of the world," it is sufficiently curious to elicit a vast amount of speculation—principally as to its use. On going aboard the one car which constitutes the train, and, is capable of accommodating some 150 passengers, it is absolutely impossible to determine whether one has undertaken a land journey or a sea voyage, and this perplexity will haunt the average passenger during the whole hour of his transit to and from Rottingdean, unless, being of a nervous temperament, *mal de mer* should definitely settle the question for him. Brighton, in fact, is the gainer of another sensation which may be placed in the category of Great Wheels, Eiffel Towers, &c.

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

Women are wonderful beings when they associate themselves together. There is a Ladies' Cyclist Association, the members of which seem to have enforced a dress upon all connected with it. They were to be skirtless. Against this rule the minority has now objected, and successfully. Vainly the Secretary complained that "skirt riders are narrow-minded." The Association has had to allow those of its members who please, to wear the badge of narrow-mindedness. I really believe that, if women were to obtain votes, elections would turn upon some question connected with petticoats or bonnets; nor would they be contented with sumptuary laws in regard to their own dress, but they would insist on all men arraying themselves in some particular garb as a condition of voting for them. I tremble for my trousers; for the Highland costume is picturesque, and possibly I might be called upon by ladies of my constituency to don it.

A correspondent at one of the London clubs thinks that if I were to draw attention in TRUTH to the cruelty resulting from the use of bearing reins, it would do something towards lessening that cruelty. Evidently this gentleman is not a reader of TRUTH, or he would know that no subject has been more frequently dealt with in these columns; and also that my efforts have not been altogether in vain. There is plenty of room still for improvement in the prevailing fashion, but so far as I can judge, there is a growing opinion against bearing reins, and I trust it may continue to grow.

A year or two ago I took up the matter of the Royal Buckhounds in TRUTH, for I have always thought that anything with less of the redeeming features of sport than to cart a tame deer to some spot, turn it out, hunt it with dogs, and having hunted it down, put it back in its cart for another day's "sport," cannot well be conceived. When I was engaged in this crusade, I received many letters assuring me that the deer liked being pursued by dogs, although how the animals conveyed their singular idea of pleasure to the writers of the letters was not explained to me. Now that the Bishops have joined the crusade we may hope that the cruel tomfoolery of this Royal Hunt will soon cease.

The country unquestionably pays the costs. The salary of the Master of the Buckhounds (£1,200 per annum) is always enjoyed by a nobleman, the occupant of the post changing with a change of Ministers; besides this, there are salaries to huntsmen, whips, and others, the purchase and keep of horses and hounds, &c. I should suppose that the total outlay must be about £3,000 per annum. This is defrayed, it is true, from the Civil List. But when the amount needed to maintain the Sovereign was investigated, in order to arrive at the total necessary, this expenditure was included in the estimate. Strictly speaking, therefore, if the Civil List were relieved of this charge, the List should be reduced by the amount of the charge on it. I do not, however, think that this point is worth raising, in view of the desirability of this pack of hounds being discontinued. Her Majesty, therefore, would be the gainer through its abolition of £3,000 per annum.

It is suggested by the Bishops that the quarry should cease to be a deer, and should henceforward be a red herring. But the idea, as an attribute of Majesty, of the Sovereign keeping a lot of dogs to run after a red-herring, is childish. As a matter of fact, the question can be raised on the Estimates. The salaries of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests are voted each year. These Commissioners have the administration of the Crown Lands, and they present a detailed account of the receipts and expenditure of their departments each year. Generally in this account one of the items of expenditure is the maintenance of the Royal Kennels at Ascot, in which the deerhounds are lodged. It is open, therefore, to any M.P. to move a reduction of the salaries of the Commissioners, explaining that this is done in order to raise the question of the abolition of the Royal Hunt.

The Master of the Buckhounds enjoys the privilege of giving tickets for the Royal Enclosure on Ascot racecourse. It is the dream of every woman, who is struggling for social recognition in the charmed circles of fashion, to get into this Enclosure, and to condole with her friends who have failed to obtain the entry. To be the angel at the gate of this Paradise, with power to exclude or to admit the Peris disconsolate outside, adds, doubtless, an additional charm to the £1,200 attached to the Mastership. Moreover, the Master is part of the pageant of the Royal procession up the Ascot course. Arrayed in all his glory, and seated on a fine horse, he precedes the outriders to the carriages, filling all spectators with admiration for him and his horse. Lord Coventry, the Master of the Buckhounds, insists that there is no cruelty involved in the Royal pack. He would be more practical were he to explain why he should receive £1,200 per annum for occupying his post. If really we wish to encourage hunting by means of a subsidy, most sportsmen would agree that fox-hunting is more sportsmanlike than chasing a tame deer, and that consequently a subsidised pack of foxhounds, with the best huntsman of the county as their master, would be better than subsidised deer hounds with the mastership given to a Peer, who, beyond voting for his Party, has never done any political work, good, bad, or indifferent.

One man's meat is another man's poison, and this holds equally true in respect to amusements. There are three pleasures that I have never understood, (1) to go to a large public dinner, and, after eating much, to listen to many speeches; (2) to go to a large evening party, struggle up stairs, hang about for half an hour in a crowd, and then to struggle down stairs; (3) to stand at some

FIRE PROTECTION OF COUNTRY HOUSES.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, London.

point and to shoot down tame pheasants that are put up by beaters. They are respectively an abuse of eating, of social intercourse, and of sport. Last week the Prince of Wales and a select party visited Blenheim. The *Daily Graphic* favoured us with sketches of the sport. In one the Prince is shooting pheasants, in the other rabbits, and the Duke of Marlborough is at his side superintending the slaughter, arrayed in the garb of the circus gentleman who converses with the clown and receives the lady in his arms, when she leaps from her horse after jumping through hoops. In one "shoot" 2,000 pheasants were slain. And this is called sport! For my part I regard the poacher who goes forth in the dark with a dog, and comes back with a few pheasants, as much more of a sportsman than the battue shot.

Probably the majority of English Judges know more of law than of the "De Imitatione Christi," but Mr. Lawson Walton, before explaining to Judges what the book is, would do well to acquire a little more knowledge of it than he seems to have. "It is," he said, in the case of Lady Scott, "part of English literature." He might just as well have claimed Homer as part of English literature. Thomas à Kempis, its supposed author, was born in Kempen. He passed almost his entire life in an Augustinian monastery in the diocese of Utrecht, and died there in 1471. The second supposed author was John Gerson, Chancellor of the University of Paris; the third, John Geson, an Abbot, and the respective claims have been the subject of numberless disputes among the learned. It has remained for Mr. Lawson Walton to claim the book as a part of English literature. I am curious to know whom he regards as its author. A foolish claim to the authorship was once put forward for Hilton, an English monk, but this has been long abandoned.

Sir Edward Poynter is to be entertained at dinner this (Wednesday) evening by the Royal Societies Club, among the guests expected being the Danish Minister and representatives of the United States, Italian, and Swedish Embassies, Cardinal Vaughan, Sir Edwin Arnold, and a large contingent of Royal Academicians, including Messrs. Alma Tadema, Thorneycroft, Goodall, Mac Whirter, Orchardson, Solomon, and Richmond.

In reference to some remarks in last week's TRUTH on the opposition to the Alexandra Park licence, Mr. John Hawke, of the Anti-Gambling League, tells me that although the petition had of necessity to be drawn in form as a petition against the licence, the only object of it was to obtain a condition controlling the ready-money professional betting. "Our respect for the liberty of the subject," writes Mr. Hawke, "always has stood and always will stand in the way of any thought on our part of obtaining or using legal enactments against individual betting, however much we may regret its prevalence." This will be good news to many betting men.

Mr. Hawke also tells me that his Society has already stopped some of the advertisements of foreign lotteries which were mentioned in last week's TRUTH, and that they will be prepared to deal with any others which may be brought to their notice. I suppose, therefore, that I was right as to the law on this point. Can anybody enlighten me on another point under the Lottery Acts which I raised last week—namely, whether it is legal to sell in this country tickets for a foreign or Irish lottery?

TO THE "QUIET SUNDAY SOCIETY."

O members of the "Q.S.S.,"
  We duly note the ardent labours
By which you're seeking to secure
  A "Quiet Sunday" for your neighbours:
But, granting quiet is a boon,
  Why strive you to restrict to Sundays
What's good for Fridays, Saturdays—
  For Thursdays, Wednesdays, Tuesdays, Mondays?

The striking clocks that clang the hours
  When most of us are wooing slumber;
The whistles shrill which call for cabs
  In such an aggravating number;
The barking dogs that bay the moon,
  The crowing roosters which be-*speak* day,
Are bad enough on Sunday, true—
  But are they less so on a week-day?

Quite recently you pounced upon
  A milkman who, despite your warnings,
Persisted in his strident cry
  Of "Milk below!" on Sunday mornings.
So far so good; but we submit
  That needlessly your aims you fetter;
If only you would farther go.
  You'd do a very great deal better.

Milk's a necessity of life,
  Nothing can fitly supersede it;
There's not a day throughout the year
  That equally we do not need it.
So, if on week-days it is right
  That milkmen at our door should bawl it,
It follows, past all argument,
  It's right on Sundays, too, to call it!

But if there be no actual need
  For milkmen, when they milk deliver,
To herald their approach with cries
  Which cause the sensitive to shiver;
'Tis surely weakness to attempt
  To silent these, our noisy brothers,
On one day only of the week,
  And let them shout on all the others.

Quiet has no especial claim
  To be reserved for Sunday piety;
So, amplify, we pray of you,
  The *raison d'être* of your Society.
Widen its present narrow scope,
  And earn all London's warmest gratitude,
By taking for the time to come
  A much more comprehensive attitude.

Resolve, in short, to claim as yours
  A more alluring appellation,
Achieving future triumphs as
  A "Quiet Week Association;"
Nerved by a seven-fold confidence
  To make a most determined raid on
All sorts and kinds of needless noise,
  Whatever be the day 'tis made on.

"Sabbath desecration" and "Lord's Day observance" appear to have been the burning questions at the Scotch municipal elections, and if the silly bigots of the north

were to have their own way, it is clear that there would be neither trains, trams, omnibuses, nor cabs to be had on Sundays, and public parks, and even gasworks, would be rigorously closed.

Last week the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury went through the ridiculous and contemptible farce of formally electing Bishop Temple to the Primacy. These reverend dignitaries, having prayed to Heaven for guidance in their choice, proceeded, as a matter of course, to elect the prelate whose name had been sent to them by the Crown. The whole function is a queer jumble of mummery and profanity. If the Dean and Chapter had been left to themselves, it is absolutely certain that Bishop Temple would not have been their choice; so that the result of the heavenly guidance is that they have made an election which they do not really approve of. A Dean and Chapter cannot refuse to elect the divine whose name is sent to them without incurring the very gravest penalties, so there is really no affinity with reason in the function, and it only goes on because it provides fees for a number of clerical and lay officials. In 1847 the Church of England protested *en masse* against the appointment of Dr. Hampden to the See of Hereford, and when the Dean informed Lord John Russell (Prime Minister) that he would oppose the "election," he was warned against breaking the law, and Prince Albert actually urged Lord John to prosecute Dr. Merewether for contumacy.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* informed its readers last Thursday that Dr. Temple "will shortly pay homage to the Queen, and at the same time be sworn of the Privy Council." As a matter of fact, Dr. Temple has been a member of the Privy Council for nearly twelve years, for he was sworn in directly after his appointment to the See of London. The Bishop of London is a Privy Councillor *ex officio*. Dr. Temple is to "pay homage" to the Queen at Osborne during the first week in January, at the same time as the new Bishop of London. This ceremony cannot take place until after both elections have been formally confirmed at Bow Church. Dr. Temple will vacate the See of London on the 22nd, and any preferment in the gift of the Bishop, which may fall vacant after that day until Bishop Creighton has done homage, will pass to the Crown.

An Archbishop of Canterbury has to pay out nearly £900 in fees before he can be enthroned. The Officials of the Board of Green Cloth, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, the Clerk of Parliament, the Auditor of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, and the doorkeepers of the House of Lords all profit by a vacancy in the Primacy. No sooner are these cormorants satisfied than a new Archbishop has to pay a very large sum as security for the library and heirlooms at Lambeth Palace.

By the way, the office of Secretary to the Board of Green Cloth is to be vacated at the end of the month by Mr. Thomas March, who is retiring after sixty years' service in the Household. This place, which is under the Lord Steward, is a sinecure, with a salary of £1,200 a year, and it will probably be abolished by the Queen, in which case the amount which will thus be saved out of the Civil List ought to be returned to the Treasury.

The Rev. Archibald Campbell, minister of the parish church of Crathie, and the Queen's Domestic Chaplain in Scotland, has been compelled to resign his charge, on account of ill-health. Dr. Campbell is a great favourite with the Queen, and the manse at Crathie, the parish in which Balmoral is situated, is full of tokens of the esteem in which he has always been held by her Majesty and other members of the Royal Family.

Dean Pigou has also been seriously ill, and is still confined to his room at the Deanery, Bristol. It is unlikely that he will be able to attend to any duty again before the New Year.

A curious state of ecclesiastical affairs is just now to be seen in the parish of Walsoken, in Norfolk. Since the beginning of November, the rector, the Rev. John Young, has ceased to officiate in the parish church, and his place has been taken by a curate, who, on his arrival, publicly informed the congregation that he had been sent by the Bishop to minister to their spiritual wants for an indefinite time. In the meanwhile, the rector has, I understand, betaken himself to a building in a remote corner of the parish which has not been used, at any rate for religious services, for a long time past, and there he is conducting divine worship. An incident in which the Rector of Walsoken was concerned came under notice in Truth on April 16 last, in connection with a public apology which the rector had offered, under pressure, to a gentleman residing in the neighbourhood. It is generally understood that the arrangement above described is the result of further pressure which the Bishop has brought to bear in order to terminate an ecclesiastical scandal, and, if that view of the matter is correct, Bishop Sheepshanks deserves all possible praise for the tact and success with which he has handled the matter.

After all the ecclesiastical trumpeting about the brilliant success of the Shrewsbury Church Congress, it must be a direful disappointment to the guarantors to find themselves called upon to pay five shillings in the pound. The practical lesson for the managers of such assemblies is that places should be selected where there is a suitable hall for meetings, instead of it being necessary

Winter Season, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

Borwick's Baking Powder. Pure & wholesome, assists digestion.
Borwick's Baking Powder. Guaranteed to be free from alum.
Borwick's Baking Powder. It has the largest sale in the world.

to build one. Next year's Church Congress is to meet at Nottingham under the presidency of Dr. Ridding, Bishop of Southwell.

The gentleman who sent me a story of "religious intolerance" from Dunmore East, which appeared in TRUTH of the 19th ult., does not seem to have fully investigated the facts. The Rector of Dunmore East informs me that the fund which was referred to was started by a gentleman for the relief of two Protestant fishermen, who had lost their boats in the gale, and that it was only when the committee met that the case of a Roman Catholic fisherman, whose boat had been sunk but raised again, was brought forward. It was then decided by the Committee that the fund could not be legitimately applied to this fisherman's case, whereupon a Protestant lady, who was on the Committee, undertook to make a special collection for this fisherman, to which the Rector himself, and his curate, as well as other Protestants, subscribed. This statement seems to dispose entirely of the suggestion that sectarian considerations prompted the decision that was arrived at; and I am glad to hear from the Rector that no distinction as between Protestants and Catholics has ever been made in his parish in relieving cases of distress.

One of my lady readers is very indignant at the presumption of the Bishop of Hereford in dogmatising upon female costume. She is of opinion that the real cause of the episcopal censure is not his lordship's objection to feminine "waistcoats," but jealousy of their adoption of "bishop's sleeves." If ladies, she says, ought not to imitate masculine garments, neither ought bishops to imitate those of the other sex. On this ground she calls on his lordship to give up his apron. If he can answer this argument, he is a clever bishop.

Porkopolis again! It seems that the degrees of the Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis are not only being retailed by the London agency of that firm, but also by representatives in the provinces, and I have just come across a circular in which the Rev. S. Horn, of 29, George-street, Manchester, is the advertised representative of the business. The Rev. S. Horn seems to have lately removed from Manchester, and his present address is 23, Fishergate, Preston. Who is the Rev. S. Horn, and what is his agency worth? It may be useful to remind Lancashire people that the degrees that this reverend middleman sells are not University degrees at all, but merely bogus titles and distinctions, manufactured by a degree-factory in Chicago, which, if I am correctly informed, has not even a building of its own. No doubt most of those who buy these degrees do so with a deliberate intention of imposing on other ignorant people. But a certain number of the purchasers are themselves ignorant simpletons, who believe that they are getting a genuine University degree for their money, and it is as well that they should be undeceived on this point.

I have always been opposed to the imposition of religious tests on candidates either for the public service or private employment. After what has just happened at Macclesfield, however, I feel that as an employer of journalists myself I may have to modify my views. It appears that the chief reporter of one of the local papers has held various offices, including that of deacon at the St. George's-street Baptist Chapel. Recently he considered that his pastor had directed a personal attack at him in a certain sermon. He demanded an explanation, and found that the head and front of his offending in the eyes of the reverend gentleman was that he had been seen both at the theatre and the circus. He pointed out that his duties necessitated his attendance at all kinds of places, but this only seems to have convinced the intelligent and liberal-minded pastor that the profession of journalism was incompatible with membership of his church, and, on his proposition, the reporter's name was formally expunged from the church roll. Now, as it sometimes happens that I have to send members of my staff to places which, I dare say, even the Rev. Mr. Hobby would consider more iniquitous than a theatre or a circus, it will behove me to see that I never engage a Baptist. I should not object to him as a Baptist. But I could not possibly incur the responsibility of getting such an employee excommunicated by his pastor and fellow church members, which is apparently what would happen.

Some year or so ago, I called the attention of my readers to the work of the National Food Supply Association, which is engaged in supplying cheap meals on vegetarian principles in poor districts during the winter. The balance-sheet for 1895 shows a deficit of £322, and I dare say that when this fact is known there are many who will be ready to put the Association in funds for its work during the coming winter. For those who are so disposed I may mention that the office is to be found at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street.

A considerable amount of correspondence has reached me with reference to the allegations in last week's TRUTH respecting the management of Coventry Grammar School. It is also right to say at once that in some of the communications addressed to me all the allegations are either denied or explained away. In view of this conflict of evidence, I have thought it necessary to communicate with my original informant before dealing further with the matter in TRUTH. Should it turn out that my original information cannot be sustained, I need not say that I shall have great pleasure in giving full publicity to the other side of the case.

SPA WINTER SEASON.—Balmy climate. Only 12 hrs. from London. *Cercle des Etrangers*, with every Monte Carlo attraction, always open. Hotel tariff from 10fr. per diem. Address, Jules Crehay, Sec.

Epps's Cocoa is always found grateful and comforting both for breakfast, supper, and luncheon. It is sold in packets & 1-lb. tins, and labelled "James Epps & Co., Ltd.," Homœopathic Chemists.

At last I have come across a little military grievance which I am confident, will receive the deepest attention from the Commander-in-Chief and his colleagues, as soon as they hear of it. A Militia officer is in the greatest difficulty over the proper interpretation of the alterations in dress and equipment issued with Army Orders June 1, 1896. Here are some of his difficulties: (1.) When giving elaborate instructions respecting the trimming of mess jackets, why do the authorities say nothing about waistcoats? Is the trimming of these to be as heretofore, or is the white piping to replace the pre-existing lace, as on the jackets? (2.) When regiments which wore the roll collar before the present pattern mess jacket was introduced" are told that they "may revert to their original pattern," what is meant by the original pattern? Does it refer, as the context would seem to imply, to the shape of the collar only? or does it allow of the re-introduction of the various coloured facings which were abolished some fourteen years ago? and does it allow, as some regiments have decided, the use of "silk-cord shoulder cords" and slash cuffs on the sleeves? The urgent necessity for the elucidation of these points may be judged from the fact that the Colonel of one regiment is in absolute doubt on the subject, while at the same time "two of the best known London military tailors" have given their professional opinion that the details of the new mess kit rest with commanding officers! It is an awful thing to think of our military authorities being all at sixes and sevens on an important question of this kind, with all sorts of foreign complications looming on the horizon. Small wonder that foreign States consider that we have ceased to be a military Power. There is only one comfort for patriots in the face of this state of things. The authorities have invented a new helmet, "with a little button on top," in which Thomas Atkins ought to look like the great Panjandrum himself.

The most unqualified condemnations are passed by Indian Cavalry officers upon the new Cavalry Drill Book. Here are a few sample criticisms extracted from letters that have reached me:—"Full of inaccuracies, ambiguities, and omissions;" "only the old drill book imperfectly edited;" "only partially intelligible when studied side by side with the old book;" "the flood of 'corrections and emendations' that must inevitably follow will only make matters worse;" "as a monument of the incompetence, or carelessness, of the compiler, it is perhaps unique." Why was this book issued? It seems to be the general opinion that it was not required, and it has apparently created an infinity of trouble and perplexity in drilling native regiments.

The explanation of the additional fee for examination of boys for Sandhurst at Wellington College, as compared with the same examination in London, appears to be very simple. Examinations are held at provincial centres—whether Wellington College or anywhere else is immaterial—on condition "that a fee of £22 to defray the minimum extra cost involved by provincial examination be paid by the centre." In addition to this the fee for examination at a provincial centre is £3 as against £2 in London. The authorities, therefore, in any local centre, say Wellington, have to levy a charge of £22 on the candidates, in addition to the extra fee of £1 a head. Whether the Civil Service Commissioners are justified in charging these amounts for the privilege of being examined locally, may be open to question. But undoubtedly the local examinations have advantages from the point of view of candidates—or, perhaps I should say, of their parents—which are worth paying for.

An inquiry was addressed to me the other day from a station hospital in Wales as to whether a medical officer has any constitutional right to inform a private of the Medical Staff Corps that he is a "barbarian," a "scoundrel," and a "d——d fool." Not finding anything in the Queen's Regulations which confers such a right upon Army doctors, I suggested to my interrogator that his best course would be to complain to his Commanding Officer. He replies that the officer in question was his Commanding Officer. What am I to tell him now?

One of my military readers asks me why no appointment has yet been made to the vacancy for a sergeant-major in the 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, which has been open since the death of the last sergeant-major in August, 1895. The question appears reasonable, inasmuch as there are non-commissioned officers in the 1st Battalion and the Depot, to say nothing of the 2nd Battalion, fully qualified for the post. I feel sure that the real answer is, that the authorities are waiting till some unqualified N.C.O., on whom they have their eye, has succeeded in qualifying himself. This I say, not because I know anything whatever of the facts, but because I have heard of so many cases where such vacancies have been kept open for this purpose. It occurs to me that if a battalion can get on without a sergeant-major for a year and three months, there cannot be any good reason why the vacancy should be filled up at all.

A statement, commented upon in TRUTH a fortnight ago, that the Board of Trade had decided to disallow the proposed War Office regulations for artillery practice in the Solent, would seem to have been premature. At any rate, no official information on the subject had been received at Portsmouth up to the end of last week. The Board of Trade, however, will certainly show a lamentable indifference to local interests if they allow these regulations to pass on the information at present before them.

The Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce has been moving the Board for a further inquiry at Portsmouth before the case is finally disposed of, and the grounds for this request are extremely strong. It seems that at the inquiry which actually was held, Sir George Nares, the Board of Trade representative, refused to receive

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evidence as to the damage which the proposed rules would inflict upon the trade, passenger traffic, and general interests of Southsea and the vicinity, as health resorts, as well as upon the danger and alarm which might be occasioned to residents. Yet at the adjourned inquiry which took place in the Isle of Wight, these points were gone into. From the correspondence that has passed, it would seem that the Board of Trade question the legal admissibility of evidence under these heads. In that case they ought not to have gone into it at the Isle of Wight inquiry. But it seems a monstrous thing that such a question should be decided without full weight being given to every possible interest affected, and it is difficult to believe that Parliament so intended. It will strike most people as strange that an inquiry of this nature, in which the interests of the public and the Service are at issue, should be entrusted to a Service man at all.

The attitude of the Naval and Military authorities towards the Marines has been conspicuously exemplified in the distribution of honours for the Dongola operations. In June last, in response to a telegram from Sir H. Kitchener, an officer and nine N.C.O.s of the Royal Marine Artillery were sent out to Egypt, to drill Egyptians, and to command the Nile gunboats The Sirdar especially asked for Marines, and named the officer whom he wanted. The party were engaged at Wady Halfa all through the hot weather in repairing the gunboats, getting together the armament, and drilling the Egyptian crews. Only when all these preliminaries were over did Commander Colville and three other naval officers come out and endeavour to get the command of the river operations—a kindly endeavour which was, I believe, frustrated by the Sirdar himself. Yet when the operations were over Commander Colville got his promotion and a C.B., and another of the Naval officers a D.S.O., while the Captain of Marines, who had been in charge of all the hardest and dirtiest work, received no recognition of any kind. So it has been throughout the whole history of this invaluable Corps.

A further incident in Major Brittan's case which has come to my knowledge serves to accentuate the vindictive spirit in which the Admiralty have behaved towards that officer. It appears that after he had been appointed to the *Rodney*, on his deprivation of his post at Plymouth, he endeavoured to negotiate an exchange, in order, if possible, to avoid the expense thrown on him by having to leave the country at a moment's notice. The Admiralty, however, refused to sanction the exchange, thus clearly proving that, not content with ousting Major Brittan from his berth, they were determined to banish him to a foreign station. All this without preferring any formal charge, without trying him, and without giving him the slightest opportunity of defence. Could there possibly be a more unscrupulous and tyrannical abuse of power?

It is impossible for me to devote further space to Major Brittan and the Marines at the present moment, but the many correspondents who have addressed me on the subject may rely upon it that I shall not lose sight of their communications. I may mention, however, that I have been corrected over the statement that the Captain of Marines of the *Victory* received a brevet majority after the battle of Trafalgar. My corrector states that the Captain of Marines on board the *Victory* was Captain Charles Adair, who was killed in the battle. I still believe it to be a fact, however, that the services of the Marines at Trafalgar were recognised by the award of a brevet majority to one officer present, although I cannot say at the moment who this officer was.

The mysterious disappearance of the British Consul at Madeira continues to exercise the British colony at that place. On the arrival of the Training Squadron at the island last month, the Consul failed to pay the usual official visit to the Commodore, who declined to receive an official visit from the Vice-Consul—virtually a clerk in the Consular office. This is only in keeping with the custom of the Consul for many months past, he having paid no official visits of any kind, and the whole business of the Consulate having been performed by the Vice-Consul. When, some six months back, I commented upon the official limitation of the hours of labour at the Consulate to two and a half per diem, I was rebuked for want of sympathy with the Consul in a domestic bereavement which he had sustained. If, however, this bereavement still incapacitates the Consul from attending to his duties, the question arises whether this incapacitation may not be permanent. This again suggests the further question, why, if for an indefinite period the whole work of the Consular office can be efficiently discharged by a Vice-Consul at £100 a year, need we pay a Consul £700 a year to do it?

Still the war between direct employment and employment through a contractor rages at the L.C.C. as though some vital principle were involved. I am myself a Progressive, also a London ratepayer. I want good work for my money, a fair wage to those employed, and, under these conditions, proper economy in expenditure. Assuredly, with the data in hand, a Committee might arrive at some definite conclusion between the two systems. If work is scamped by a contractor, this is the fault of those who employ him. It is stated that contractors' work in regard to sewers was scamped at Manchester. But I should have thought that every one knew that underground work should not be allowed to be covered before being passed. A certain amount of work has been done under the Works Committee of the L.C.C. The first thing is to arrive at its cost, including central expenses and depreciation of plant. This assuredly cannot be difficult. What it would have cost, if done by contract, is a more difficult problem; but the difficulty is not insuperable. To this would have to be added the cost of thorough supervision by architect, clerks of

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works, &c. Having arrived at these facts, then the cheaper system should be adopted. If in either case the worker has the same—*i.e.*, the trades-union—wage, his position is not altered, whether he be employed by the Works Committee, or by a man contracting to do the work of the Council.

There are so many men nowadays ready to contract, that I doubt whether contractors could form a ring. Assuming that the Works Committee spends in building, &c., £300,000 per annum, even three per cent. net profit would be £9,000, and there surely are many respectable men engaged in the building trade who would not despise this solatium. Competition would keep down profits. Moreover, the fact of contracting for the Board and giving it satisfaction would be a very considerable advertisement. Contractors vary: some make money, others lose it. This is because the first are men who thoroughly understand how to buy material and how to manage their business. Now, I very much doubt whether a Board of well-intentioned amateurs, with a manager under them getting £700 per annum, has this knowledge, for it is by no means possessed even by all who make building their trade.

An interesting comparison might be drawn between the so-called "scandals" in the County Council Works Department and the much more real and substantial scandals which have been exposed in the work of the Royal Engineers. Readers of TRUTH will remember that, in connection with the reconstruction of the Royal Barracks at Dublin, a little matter of some £50,000 mysteriously disappeared, and has never yet been accounted for. On this fact being brought to light, the Inspector-General of Fortifications, the head of the department responsible for the job, was made a K.C.B. Considering that it has been clearly proved that not a half-penny has been misappropriated in the County Council Works Department, that nothing has taken place beyond a mere transfer of items to equalise the profit and loss account on different jobs, and that all the officials who resorted to this financial hocus-pocus have been dismissed from their posts, or otherwise punished, the contrast between these two cases is fully significant enough. Equally significant is the fact that while the *Globe* and other Tory papers have been for weeks in a state of hysterical indignation over irregularities in the Works Department which have not cost the taxpayer a halfpenny, not one of these journals has ever thought fit to allude to the blundering incapacity of the Royal Engineers, through which the country has been robbed to the tune of at least £50,000, and goodness knows how much besides.

I hear from a source that has never proved inaccurate up to the present moment, that the practice which has got the County Council officials into so much trouble has been habitually resorted to on jobs executed by the Royal Engineers. As one instance, it can be proved that in barrack building in one of the colonies, under the Imperial Defence Loan, materials ordered and paid for in respect of one building have been systematically used for others. In one case, through the bungling of an officer in charge of the works, telegrams had, on two occasions, to be despatched to England for bricks and cement for building operations in the Indian Ocean. On this same station, one building which was to have cost under £5,000, actually cost £5,500. Another on which £500 had to be spent, cost £800. I do not know whether anybody was made a K.C.B. on the strength of these transactions. Perhaps the Editor of the *Globe* will be able to enlighten us.

As I expected, the Leatherhead Urban Council has refused to fall in with the modest proposal of the Headley parish meeting that a right of way over a footpath in Leatherhead should be surrendered in return for the removal of some gates across a road in Headley. Having taken a proper and sensible view of their duty in this matter, the Council might now usefully turn their attention to the right of way across Woodlands Park. A local resident tells me that a row of iron posts, intended to carry wire fencing, has been erected across a footpath there, and the Council would do well to interfere before this fence is completed. This would be far better than leaving it to the public to demolish the obstruction.

About £9,000 has been obtained towards the £12,000 needed for securing the enlargement and preservation of the public ground in Aldersgate, near the General Post Office, which has come to be familiarly known as the Postman's Park. It would be a great misfortune if the opportunity of adding to this pleasant garden in the City were lost, and I hope the appeal which the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Botolph are making for the money still required will be successful.

A parish meeting was held at Feniscowles, near Blackburn, last week, to consider what steps should be taken respecting the issue of writs by Sir William Feilden for possession of the parish school. No rent has been paid for the school for sixty-two years and the buildings have been maintained and improved at the expense of the parishioners. It was decided to pay the rent demanded by the owner of the estate, this being the only alternative to giving up possession of the school.

The Corporation of Richmond seem to be a set of incorrigible vandals. All visitors to the town will remember the holly hedge which runs along the front of the Terrace, separating it from the meadow below. The Corporation have now evolved a scheme for removing the central portion of this hedge, and substituting a monstrosity of their own invention in the shape of an iron railing. The hedge was an appropriate rural feature in the landscape, and had the advantage of not obstructing the view from the Terrace seats. Although ragged in places, it only needed banking up at the roots and replanting here and there in order to preserve it intact.

The New Silk Waistcoatings for Gentlemen's Evening Dress and Morning Wear can now be seen at Ulster House, Conduit-street, W.

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

But the opportunity of destroying a natural growth and substituting a piece of "ornamental" ironmongery is more than suburban Bumbledon could resist.

Bailie Pollard, of Edinburgh, may be a very good Bailie, but he does not know his own countrymen. At a public dinner the other night he was so ill advised as to attempt a good-humoured joke—what in South Britain we should call a bit of "chaff"—at the expense of a brother Bailie from Portobello. Portobello has been amalgamated with Edinburgh, somewhat against its own wishes. And Bailie Pollard's little joke (prefaced by the flattering remark that the Portobello members were as sensible as any on the Council) was to the effect that he had particularly noticed one of his Portobello colleagues "amalgamating" at lunch time, and that "amalgamation" seemed to agree with him. By this time the facetious Bailie doubtless regrets his witticism. A solemn letter has appeared in the local Press, signed "G. Balfour, C.," lecturing Bailie Pollard on his lack of breeding, and haughtily recording that "I resent, on behalf of myself and amalgamation colleagues, the unseemly remarks which fell from Bailie Pollard." It is a peculiarity of some Scotchmen not only to "jock wi' deeficulty," bu also to take a jock wi' deeficulty.

The sorrows of Eastbourne were further aired at a meeting which took place the other day, to consider the desirability of raising a fund to advertise the town. The fact, of course, which the town is most anxious to advertise is that it now has an unimpeachable supply of good drinking water. The chief difficulty in the way seemed to be the question whether this fact really is a fact; and the true state of the case was only too clearly indicated by the Medical Officer of Health, who, while stating that the Holywell water is excellent, observed that it could hardly be described as a "supply." As soon as Eastbourne is itself again in the matter of water, I, for one, shall be delighted to advertise the fact quite independently of any fund that may be raised for the purpose; and as the townspeople are now doing everything in their power to provide drinkable water, I trust that the day when I can truthfully do so is not far distant. The manager of the Queen's Hotel stated at the recent meeting that from the moment when TRUTH made unpleasant remarks—"attacked" was his expression—about the local water supply the hotel business began to fall off. I can only tell him that when the proper time arrives I will do my best to send his customers back, and will set the example by coming myself among the first.

Some time ago I drew attention to the sweating of the assistants in public libraries. The Leeds Public Library was, if I remember rightly, one of the institutions which I mentioned in this connection; but from a remarkable incident which has just been brought under my notice it is evident that the Committee there, unlike most bodies of the kind, do not content themselves with practising their economies on the junior members of the staff. This year they seem to have thought they would like a slice out of the Chief Librarian's salary, and, accordingly, when that official applied for his usual month's holiday, it was granted with an extraordinary addition to the resolution, ordering him to take "leave of absence for the following two months without salary." To treat an official of many years' service and high reputation in his profession in this way is, I should think, almost unprecedented.

Sir Robert Edgcumbe read to the Dorset Field Club the other day a highly edifying paper on the arms of the town of Dorchester and the county of Dorset, from which it appears that the ancient arms of Dorchester are often grievously misrepresented, while the county is in the painful position of having no arms at all. In this condition the county seems to have adopted the plan of the various *nouveaux enrichis* whose misdeeds have been exposed by that acute writer "X," of the *Saturday Review*; that is to say, the County Council invented arms for itself in the shape of "three full-grown but emaciated lions." The Councillors might as well have done the thing in style while they were about it, and engaged three lively unicorns at the same time; but the idea doesn't seem to have occurred to them. Sir Robert Edgcumbe explains to the County Councillors the course they should adopt if they want a respectable and genuine article; but I think they would do far better to apply to the eminent artist who has been designing arms for some of our rising families in the pages of *Punch*, and who seems to me to have a far truer appreciation of the possibilities of heraldry than anybody at the Heralds' College.

A lawyer who has been reading my remarks on the "necessity" of champagne for Peers' sons when under age, corrects me as to the liability of parents for "necessaries" supplied to their "infants." He writes:—

> The rule on this point was laid down by Lord Abinger in Mortimer *v.* Wright (6 M. & W., 482), as follows: "In point of law a father who gives no authority and enters into no contract (*i.e.*, of agency) is no more liable for goods supplied to his son than a brother, or an uncle, or a mere stranger would be."

If this is so, many fathers will probably be pleased to hear it. The law, however, has a knack of discovering "implied" contracts where an ordinary mortal might not suspect their existence.

The old magistrates and the new do not seem to get on very well together at the Dewsbury West Riding Police-court. Those of the old order are rather inclined to ignore those who sit by virtue of their office as Chairmen of District Councils, and last week two of the latter publicly protested against a decision which had been given without consultation with them. By doing so they caused an unseemly scene, but still their protests appear to have been quite justifiable. The magistrates who have been elected have just as much right to a voice in the decisions of the Bench as the magistrates who owe their seats to social or political influence, and the sooner the latter recognise this the better for the dignity of the court and the administration of justice.

The *Scots Magazine* says, "Fallen Angels" is a very clever, ably-written, ethico-religious work." 5th thousand now ready. 8vo, pp. 260, cloth, 2s. 6d., post free,—GAY & BIRD, 22, Bedford-st., London.

The Winter of 1896. The CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, Shadwell, E., Appeals for Donations and New Annual Subscriptions. At the present season funds are most urgently required.

A shocking exhibition of magisterial ferocity in dealing with juvenile offenders was given at Rhyl Police-court last week. Three boys, named Williams, Mellor, and Owens, and aged twelve, thirteen, and fourteen years respectively, were convicted of breaking into a school (which, as a matter of fact, they entered through an open window), and stealing a quantity of books, pencils, and other articles, and 5s. 9d. in money. It was admitted by the police that "there was nothing against Mellor and Owens," and if the Rhyl Justices had had an atom of common sense, to say nothing of compassion, these lads would have been discharged under the First Offenders Act. What Messrs. W. Wynne and R. M. Hugh Jones did, however, was to sentence Mellor and Owens each to one month's hard labour. As for the third culprit, Williams, it seemed that he was birched last February for a petty theft, and so, in consequence of his "previous conviction," this child of twelve was committed for six weeks' hard labour; while, to round off their performance, the Dracos who passed these monstrous sentences actually took credit to themselves for their "leniency." A firm of solicitors at Rhyl has brought the case before the Home Secretary, on behalf of the widowed mother of the boy Owens, and I have little doubt that Sir Matthew White Ridley will at once order the release of all three prisoners. If the Lord Chancellor would at the same time erase the names of Messrs. Wynne and Jones from the Commission of the Peace it would be a decided gain to the interests of justice.

There was a poaching case at Bromyard Petty Sessions last week which, for more reasons than one, calls for special notice. To begin with, the prosecuting gamekeeper, before giving his evidence, handed a letter to the Bench which the Chairman partly read and then tore up. Subsequently the Chairman mentioned that this letter was from Sir Francis Winnington, the gamekeeper's employer, and that it was "a most improper communication." What the purport of the letter was the Chairman did not indicate, but it must have been something highly reprehensible to evoke his strong condemnation of his brother magistrate, Sir Francis, and it is a pity the latter's conduct was not under the notice of Mr. Justice Hawkins, who might have been relied upon to give him a lesson which he would not have forgotten in a hurry.

That the letter was not exactly favourable to the defendant, Joseph Smith, a farmer on Sir Francis Winnington's estate, may, I think, be safely inferred from the circumstances of the case. Smith was charged with "taking game by night" on the estate, but it appeared from the gamekeeper's statement that the offence took place at 5.30 in the evening, only five minutes after sunset. To call this night poaching was too much even for the Bromyard Bench, and the charge was reduced to one of trespass in pursuit of game. It was then proved that Smith had shot a pheasant, but it appeared that he gave it up to the gamekeeper, and his defence was that he mistook the pheasant for a wood pigeon. In the dusk such a mistake is not incredible. But, as a matter of course in a Game Law case, the Bench, instead of giving the defendant the benefit of any doubt which might exist, fined him £2 and costs. Apart from Sir Francis Winnington's letter and the Justices' decision, there are one or two facts in connection with this case which, though they have not been mentioned in the newspaper reports, deserve the fullest publicity. Mr. Smith, the defendant, is a farmer who was born on Sir Francis Winnington's estate, and who has lived there all his life. He has held his present holding of between 300 and 400 acres for six years, and though the farm abounds with game, there has been no complaint against him before. In the present instance he apologised to the agent for shooting the pheasant, and offered to apologise to his landlord, but the latter refused to see him. It was, indeed, considered too serious a matter to end with an apology, or even with a prosecution, for, incredible as it may seem, I am informed on good authority that, after his unfortunate mishap with the sacred bird, Smith was at once called upon to pay up all arrears of rent before the usual audit, the result being that he has had to arrange a sale of his stock by auction. If this be true, a more amazing example of the lengths to which the game-preserving mania will carry a landowner, even in these days of agricultural depression, has rarely been recorded.

Considerable surprise was, I am told, excited at the Liverpool Assizes by the youth of one of the gentlemen sworn on the Grand Jury. The young man in question presumably possesses the necessary property qualifications, but on the Grand Jury people naturally expect to see men of mature judgment and experience, and the inclusion of a stripling not long past his twenty-first birthday is a curious and undesirable innovation. It is suggested that this juvenile grand juror was indebted for the compliment of the summons to the fact that his father this year fills the office of Chaplain to the High Sheriff. Doubtless the reverend gentleman, however, would rather have had his son spared a compliment which involved his introduction to the details of a good many vicious stories which could scarcely benefit the mind of one of his age.

With reference to the rejection of the bill at Glamorganshire Assizes against Mrs. Edwards, the wife of a clergyman who was charged with cruelty to her child, a correspondent gives me another account of what transpired in the Grand Jury room. He states that there was actually a majority of the Grand Jury in favour of returning a true bill, but that it was considered this majority was not sufficiently large, and so the minority were allowed to have their way. However this may be, it seems to be a fact that the Grand Jury did not confine their attention, as they ought to have done, to the question whether there was a *primâ facie* case against the accused, and in throwing out the bill in defiance of the direction they received from Mr. Justice Mathew they were guilty of a grave dereliction of duty.

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Perhaps the most surprising and inexplicable item in my Legal Pillory this week is the sentence of two months' imprisonment which was passed on an old man at Kent Assizes. I never could see either reason or justice in visiting an attempt at suicide with a term of imprisonment, as though that would be likely to reconcile the accused to life; and in this particular instance the age of the prisoner and his state of mind at the time ought surely to have saved him from punishment. Why could not the poor old fellow have been handed over to the care of his friends, or, if he has none, why not have sent him to the workhouse? In the remainder of the list there is little or nothing to call for special comment. It shows how leniently such offences as brutal assaults on wives or gross acts of cruelty to dumb animals are treated in comparison with the crimes of poaching, vagrancy, and petty larceny; but this is only the topsy-turvy administration of justice to which we have long been accustomed from our enlightened magistracy:—

Fife Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Henderson. Robert Seath, junior, grocer, pleaded guilty to an outrageous assault on a passenger in a railway carriage. He kicked the prosecutor in the ribs, and pushed his head through the window, whereby he was severely cut and injured. Fined £1. 10s.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Alderman H. H. Bemrose and Messrs. Stokes and Williamson. William Kniveton, convicted of assaulting his wife. She said he struck her in the face, blackening her eyes and knocking her down, and after attempting to strangle her, turned her out of the house. Fined 5s. and costs.

Horncastle Police-court. Before the Rev. Canon Wright and the Revs. J. Graham and W. O. Massingberd. Alfred Drewery, butcher, summoned for working a horse whilst it was in an unfit state. The animal, an old pony, which had been bought for 17s., was in an emaciated condition. It suffered from severe "mattering" sores, and altogether was in a totally unfit state for work. Fined 10s. and 7s. costs.

Edinburgh City Police-court. Martin White, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her on the head and face with his fists, and kicking her on the body. She was in an advanced state of pregnancy. Fined £3.

Coventry Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. T. G. Beamish, C. J. Hill, J. B. London, and J. Maycock. Charles Ward, convicted of assaulting John A. Parkinson. Defendant struck complainant on the head with a poker, rendering him insensible. Fined 20s. and costs.

Broughty Ferry Police-court. George Croll pleaded guilty to assaulting a girl. It was a bad case, defendant having followed the girl, violently seized hold of her, and attempted to stifle her cries by placing his hand over her mouth. Fined 40s.

Fife Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Henderson. Thomas Batchelor Baxter, moulder, pleaded guilty to poaching. Fined £2.

Burnley Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder. George Greenbank, convicted of stealing eight eggs from a garden. Three months.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Alderman J. P. Doherty and Mr. G. B. Unsworth. Thomas Holdridge, charged with wandering abroad and lodging in the open air, and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Thorpe Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. Canon Norman, Rev. A. Page, Mr. E. K. Norman, and Colonel Davis. William Cooper, summoned for using a gun to take game without a licence. A constable and a gamekeeper swore that he shot a pheasant. For the defence three witnesses who were with Cooper denied that he had a gun or killed a pheasant. Fined £10 and £1. 4s. costs.

Lexden and Winstree Police-court. Before Mr. J. Bateman and other magistrates. John Page, charged with absconding from the workhouse. Fourteen days.

Newbury County Police court. Before the Mayor. William Saunders, charged with vagrancy by sleeping out. Seven days.

Salisbury County Police-court. Ernest Judd, charged with poaching. Three months.

Kent Assizes. Before Mr. Baron Pollock. Edward Cottrell Burfield, aged 66, pleaded guilty to attempting to commit suicide by hanging himself. It was stated that he had met with reverses which had affected his mind. Two months.

Leamington Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Caroline Roe, a maiden lady, charged with cruelty by starving four cats, which were kept in an outhouse for ten days whilst the defendant was out of town. The cats when found were mere skeletons and could scarcely crawl. Fined £1. 1s.

Cardiff Police-court. William Mortimer, convicted of cruelty to a dog. He was leading the dog by a strap, and witnesses saw him swing the animal in the air and kick it in a brutal manner, after which he banged its head against some boards. Fined £3 and costs.

Plymouth Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Wills and J. Cumming. Ellen Wood, wife of a pensioner, charged with stealing ½ lb. weight from a shop. She had been previously convicted of drunkenness and larceny, and it was stated that her craving for drink had been her ruin. Three months.

Temple Cloud Police-court. William Huish, an old man, summoned for stealing 20 lb. of hay. Twenty-one days.

Petworth Police-court. Before Messrs. Henry Upton and J. Osmaston. Alfred Denyer and Wm. Shotter, charged with poaching. Two months each.

I have received a letter from the foreman of the coroner's jury in respect to the paragraph in last week's TRUTH concerning an inquest at Barry, questioning the accuracy of my version of the facts of the case, which was based upon a local newspaper report. The main point was that the deceased, a boy of fifteen, had been at work for nearly thirty-four hours between Sunday night and Tuesday morning, when he was drowned. To this my correspondent replies that the lad had only been at work on his last job ten or eleven hours; but it is admitted that he had been engaged on other jobs at the same works from midnight of the previous day. It is said that he "voluntarily" worked on during the second night, and that he would not have been allowed to do so if it had been known he had already done "two shifts." The foreman thinks that if I had been present at the inquest I should have come to the same conclusion as the jury. I do not think so. It would take a good deal to convince me that this boy of fifteen worked through one night, the next day, and a second night of his own free will, and without any one in authority knowing anything about it.

With reference to the stamping of statutory declarations made before J.P.s, a country solicitor informs me that such declarations are exempt from stamp duty Another legal correspondent complained to me the other day that Justices of the Peace should be allowed to take statutory declarations at all, and thereby interfere with the perquisites of notaries public and commissioners of oaths who have to work hard for their living. If, however, it is really the case that all declarations before Justices are exempt from stamp duty, I take it that the intention of the Legislature was to provide a means of making such a declaration free of all costs. In that case we have a further argument against the practice of J.P.s charging fees for witnessing such declarations.

My note of last week with regard to the practice of Newquay J.P.s in charging fees for witnessing statutory declarations, has brought me a letter from Mr. M. Williams, the senior magistrate resident in the town. It seems from his statement that in 1892 the magistrates of the division decided to demand any fee which might be payable for "performing any magisterial act," and to pass

CARPET BEATING SEASON.—The *Queen* says: "A good place to send carpets to is the Compressed Air Carpet and Tapestry Cleaning Company, Brook Green, Hammersmith, W. Dust blown out. No beaters used." To prevent deception carpets cleaned by this process bear the Trade Mark on the back.

RIVIERA.—Magnificent Building Sites at Beaulieu, facing the sea, to be Sold.—Apply, TERSLING, Mentone; KURZ, Agent, Beaulieu; SHERRY, Raymond-buildings, W.C.

on such fee to the clerk, in order that he might account for it to the county treasurer. In a circular issued at the time, the clerk stated that "a fee of 1s. is payable for every oath and declaration, except it be to obtain pay, pension, or allowance from Government, a friendly society, or charitable fund." Mr. Williams explains that his invariable custom has been "to keep a small wooden box in a drawer of his writing-desk into which he drops every shilling received by way of fee;" and when a few shillings are thus collected he hands them to the clerk. Mr. Williams is, of course, only able to speak for himself, but I hope it may be taken that other magistrates pursue the same course, and that the Great Unpaid, either at Newquay or elsewhere, have not been pocketing for themselves fees to which they are not entitled.

Miss "Nellie Lane," the damsel who has been before the readers of TRUTH for several months past under different aliases, and in connection with the "Carlton Society" of Leeds, and the "Kensington Association" of St. John's Wood, was last week convicted at Winchester Assizes, and sentenced to three years' penal servitude. The most remarkable point about the case was the accommodating spirit manifested by his Lordship (Mr. Justice Wills) in passing sentence. Three years' penal servitude was the first decision. The prisoner, however, begged so strongly that it might be made five years, that his Lordship obliged by making it five. The ground of the prisoner's request was that as a five years' convict she would be better treated, and would be "sent to a refuge when she came out, and not be thrown upon the world." After her removal, however, some kindly gaoler seems to have disabused her of this idea, and presently she was brought back into court, gravely informed his Lordship that she had been under a misapprehension, and begged him to "make it three years again." The Judge, whose anxiety to comply with the wishes of convicts is as rare as it is commendable, at once made it three years again.

The jury, in returning their verdict in this case, expressed a belief that the "Carlton Society" was originally started with honest intentions. Where they got this idea I do not know. The truth seems to be that since she came out of prison a few months ago, this young woman has simply been living on her wits, and she has shown that her wits are very considerable. A remark which she made to the detective who arrested her is very significant, and may entitle her to some sympathy. "When I went to Woking Prison," she said, "I was an innocent woman. When I came out, I knew everything" —meaning, I suppose, everything bad. This may account for her anxiety not to be "thrown on the world" when she has completed her present sentence. She is only twenty-four years of age now, decently educated, and lady-like, and if any benevolent lady accustomed to such cases would take her in hand in three years' time, it would be an act of true charity.

THE BATHS OF BATH.—Nauheim or Thermalsöolbad treatment. Owing to the great success of the treatment the Corporation have just doubled the accommodation. Good hotels. Band daily.

The man Bennett, who was fined at Hull the other day for the awful crime of cutting a pane of glass in his own workshop on a Sunday, was brought up again last week on another charge of the same gravity. It then transpired that the man was actually a Jew. This illustrates the Lord's Day Act in a more odious light than ever, for this statute is actually being used for the purpose of the most intolerable form of religious persecution, that of enforcing upon a member of one religious community the observance of the ordinances of another. How we continue to tolerate the existence of such a scandalous law in this age I am at a loss to understand.

A monstrous decision was given by two Swansea Magistrates the other day in a case in which fifty-three tin-plate workers were sued by their employers for leaving their work without due notice. It seemed that the contract with these defendants had been repeatedly changed, but latterly they were working under a twenty-eight days' notice, and when a strike was resolved upon they handed in such a notice on the first Monday in the month. It is the usual rule in the trade for twenty-eight days' notice to begin on that day; but at the end of the month it transpired that there was a special contract at these particular works requiring that the notice should be given on a Saturday before noon. The employers who made this stipulation had never brought it to the individual attention of the men. On the strength of it, however, they took proceedings, and though no loss had been occasioned by the technical irregularity in the notices, the Bench ordered each defendant to pay £2 damages and 7s. costs—a total of £124. 11s. A nominal penalty of a shilling or so would have amply met the case, and the award of heavy damages against these working men was grossly unjust. Matters of this kind ought not to be left to the Great Unpaid—especially when, as in this instance, the chairman has been himself engaged as an employer in the trade affected by the dispute.

The Thomas Kempe who has been lately referred to in TRUTH in connection with his advertisements of a cure for deafness appears to be no better than a systematic, thoroughgoing swindler. I hear of one case after another in which he has taken people's money, and failed for months and months to forward anything whatever in return. To facilitate this game, apparently, he does his advertising chiefly in regions at such a distance from London, that his victims are not likely to trouble him personally, or to incur the expense of legal proceedings. I mentioned the other day the case of a Hindoo gentleman who had been thus defrauded. A similar tale is now told by a resident in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Fortunately, TRUTH circulates quite as widely as Kemp[illegible] advertisements are likely to do, and it may be hoped [illegible] after this those provincial and colonial journals th[illegible] been publishing his advertisements will rather [illegible] to be to put their readers on their guard against th[illegible]

WATER SUPPLY FOR MANSIONS, &c.—Artesian B[illegible] Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—St[illegible] and ments to ALFRED WILLIAMS & Co., 39, Gt. Easter[illegible]

An itinerant quack, calling himself "Dr. Maloney, physician and surgeon, of Melbourne," has lately been giving free entertainments in the North of Ireland and Scotland, by way, apparently, of decoying the public into his "private consulting-room." Is this the Australian legislator of the same name and profession, who was referred to in TRUTH of August 27 in connection with his recent tour in India? If so, it will no doubt interest the police to know whether he still has on his staff the still more notorious quack named "Richard," whose history was told in TRUTH a year or two ago, who was exposed at Manchester, and who subsequently fled the country. In his flaming advertisements "Dr. Maloney" omits to specify the particular seat of learning from which he holds a diploma, and this is another point on which information would be interesting, especially, I imagine, to the medical authorities in all parts of the United Kingdom.

The enterprising Ernest Day evidently does not keep a list of his victims. A lady in Yorkshire, who was induced by him some four or five years ago to buy for two guineas a worthless print of a supposed ancestor, has just received another letter from him offering another portrait of the same individual. Of course, Day makes his second attempt in precisely the same terms as the first, writing on mourning edged paper, stating that he has just come into the portrait through the death of a relative, and that "straightened circumstances" compel him to part with it, &c. The fact that this scamp has now been playing this game for five or six years past, in precisely the same form, and that he continues to make it pay, notwithstanding incessant exposure, does not speak very highly for the intelligence of the class on which he preys.

In response to an inquiry in TRUTH of the 19th ult., I have received some interesting information concerning Mr. M. A. Yonge, or Young, of Woodbrook, Dawlish. It seems that in May last this gentleman professed himself desirous of obtaining a partnership, and for that purpose placed himself in the hands of an agency in London. He then described himself as prepared to invest up to £10,000 in "a sound manufacturing or trading business," and as having been many years in the United States, Australia, and South Africa. The £10,000 he stated to be locked up in South African securities, which he did not wish to disturb unnecessarily, and he therefore attached to his requirements the peculiar condition that he must be allowed six months' preliminary investigation of the business, by being employed in it for that time at a rate of remuneration to be agreed upon. Any party to whom such a proposal was made would naturally (unless partially imbecile) require on his side proof of Mr. Young's bona fides, or at least of the existence of the £10,000 which he was to invest if suited. In one instance an attempt was made to obtain something of this kind from Mr. Young, but without success. It is, to say the least, singular that a capitalist who was anxious to invest £10,000 in a sound manufacturing business in May, and who did not wish to disturb his investments till fully satisfied about the concern, should be in October engaged in a business of a financial character at Monte Carlo; and, putting all the facts together, I should advise extreme caution in all dealings with Mr. M. A. Young.

For the information of heads of convents in Ireland and any one else whom it may concern, I may mention once again that "the daughter of the late gifted Thomas McNevin" is a very doubtful object of charity. This lady, as many of my readers will remember, is exploited by a Mr. Hubert de Burgh, who has been for years writing begging-letters on her behalf from 38, Great Charles-street, Dublin. The letters are almost always in the same form of words, recapitulating the sorrows of the daughter of the late gifted Thomas McNevin, more especially in the death of "her talented little girl." Why a lady should require assistance in cash to-day because her little girl, however talented, died two or three years ago, Mr. de Burgh wisely refrains from explaining. With equal wisdom, he omits from his letters any mention of the fact that he is himself the half-brother of the daughter of the late gifted T. McNevin, and that they both reside in the same house. He has been able, unfortunately, to impose on the benevolence of a few well-known Irishmen, and he uses their letters as passports to the confidence of others, who might otherwise be on their guard against him.

De Burgh is now devoting himself specially to the Irish convents. In writing to the "Reverend Mother" of one such institution, he encloses a letter received from another convent with a donation of 5s. Inquiry was very wisely made from this convent as to what they knew about Mr. de Burgh, and it turned out that all they knew was that De Burgh had written to them a similar letter, enclosing a sympathetic note received, with a donation of £1, from a third convent. A better instance could not be found of the truth, on which I have so often insisted, that every person who encourages a begging appeal by sending money without due inquiry thereby facilitates the entrapping of another victim. "One fool makes many."

The latest thing in quack advertising is the distribution of the cards of a female quack doctor from house to house by women disguised as hospital nurses. My information on the subject comes from the Southern suburbs, where a householder complains that his daughter, opening the door in answer to a double knock, had this card put into her hands. The card is really an order form, to be filled up and posted; which being done, the advertiser offers to send her invaluable pamphlet "in sealed letter, post free." It strikes me that, if the card be read with the pamphlet, it amounts to a breach of the Indecent Advertisements Act, and that those who are annoyed in this way should put the police on the track of Madame ——'s "hospital nurses."

RTSMEN DECLARE "Normal Sporting Powder" best of all.
E CARTRIDGES GRATIS.—The Normal Powder Syndicate,
liament-street, London, S.W.

SURPLICE SHIRTS for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—SAMPSON & Co., Shirt Tailors, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Lists forwarded.

I am glad to find that the proprietor of the "Sun Incandescent Gas Light" has had his attention called to the remarks upon his advertisement in last week's Truth. In writing from Liverpool to inform me of this fact, he asserts that there is no danger whatever in the use of the lamp, which may be his opinion, but is certainly not mine. He also justifies the use of the term "incandescent," by referring me to the etymology of the word. If it comes to that, every light produced by combustion is an "incandescent" light, and this particular contrivance is just as much, and just as little, an incandescent light as an ordinary gas burner or oil lamp. As, however, the term "incandescent" has come to be specially applied, more particularly in regard to gas lighting, to one particular type of burner, I remain of opinion that the application of this term to the mere combination of a gas and oil flame is misleading.

There is but cold comfort to the lover of the incomparable oyster in the report from the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, recently made public. The same risks are pointed out, and it is shown that the public health is placed in jeopardy when oyster-dealers, for the sake of plumpness, place oysters in the mouths of fresh-water creeks in close proximity to sewers. Various places round the coast are indicated whence oysters should never, on any account, be consumed; but unless some one will get a law passed that each oyster-shell shall be distinctly marked with the place of its birth, the adventurous consumer can only go on doing what he has practically had to do any time this last five years, and "chance it." Some day the long-suffering bivalve may succeed in thoroughly clearing its reputation, and then the nervous portion of the community will have an opportunity of recouping themselves for so many years of enforced abstinence.

It is a silly thing of foreign countries to enable us, by means of bounties, to have sugar at 1½d. per lb., whilst their own countrymen have to pay about 5d. for the same amount; but it is not for us to complain of a system that saves a few pence to every working man in the country, and makes us the chief manufacturers of sugared confectionery in the world. With their mania, however, for insisting on the inhabitants of these isles taxing themselves for all who live out of them, our Jingoes would have us exclude all bounty sugar, in order that the sugar-planters of the West Indies may be in a position to oblige us to buy their sugar at a higher price than what we have to pay for bounty sugar.

These West Indian sugar-planters have old-fashioned machinery, and they employ coolie labour. They have been to the population of the West Indies much what our landlords have been to us. Where the profit to us would come in, by our paying more for sugar in order to benefit them, does not quite appear. The West Indies have been going down hill ever since slavery was abolished there. This is in the main because it costs so little to obtain the necessaries of life that the negroes are disinclined to work. One would really suppose, from the nonsense that is written, that these favoured climes could bring nothing but sugar into the market.

"Last week," writes a correspondent, "Truth told us that the Poet Laureate was fishing in Scotland. This week, I read, he has been making speeches in Kent at a Volunteer prize distribution Yesterday he was reported as having been half drowned in the Tweed, but this, fortunately, turns out to be a false report. Well I, for my part, do not think that we have any reason to blame Mr. Austin for his recent proceedings, and I address him the following lines to encourage him to go on fishing in the Tweed rather than in Helicon, and to induce him to allow his harp to remain on the willow tree where it has so long been hanging":—

TO OUR DUMB POET LAUREATE.

Still, Alfred, anything but verse
Thy errant fancy chooses;
Still any task save poesy
Thy fickle taste amuses.
Thy lyre in silence on the wall
Depends from this or that peg;
Thy bays, already somewhat sere,
Hang limply from a hat-peg.

Thy Muse, deserted, calleth thee,
Unkindest of seceders;
But deaf to her, thou writest still,
The heaviest of "leaders."
The Empire biddeth thee arise
And set thy harp ting-tangling;
But in effect thou say'st, "Go to!
I'm far too busy angling!"

The Court bespeaks thy fluent lays;
Thou grantest ne'er a token;
The Czar arrives, the Czar departs,
Thy silence is not broken.
For sounding great St. Jingo's praise
Chance after chance arises—
But thou to East Kent Volunteers
Distributest their prizes.

Yet think not, Alfred, that the world
To me seems sad and hollow
Because thou yieldest up to Mars
The gifts vowed to Apollo.
No, no; since thou in "Jameson's Ride"
Attained to such sublimity,
I view your silence as a bard
With perfect equanimity.

'Tis better thou wert dumb by far
Than that, whilst England wonders,
Thou should'st effusively repeat
Thy recent rhythmic blunders.
'Tis better thou should'st fail to earn
Thy not too lavish salary,
Than that thou should'st defile thy harp
By "playing to the gallery."

The office of Librarian at the House of Lords will become vacant in a few weeks by the retirement of Mr. Pulman, who has held this post for thirty-five years. The salary is £810 a year, with an excellent official residence. The post is in the gift of the Lord Chancellor, and it may be hoped that it will not be jobbed away, as Mr. Parker, the Assistant Librarian, has an incontestable claim to it.

The Salisbury Liberals will do well to be on the alert, as it is probable that Mr. Hulse will resign his seat before long. Mr. Alhausen has just taken a house in The Close at Salisbury, and it is understood that he is to be the Tory candidate whenever the seat is vacated.

Duveen Bros., Old Bond Street.—The most unique Collection of Old Nankin Blue and White China and Coloured Porcelains ever exhibited in London.

In a clever and amusing speech at Edinburgh last week, Lord Rosebery deplored that there were not more M.P.'s who followed in the steps of "Single-speech Hamilton." But Hamilton gained the sobriquet of "single speech" because he only made one good speech. He made others in the House of Commons, and then having become Irish Secretary, with a seat in the Irish House of Commons, his speeches were legion. Hamilton himself wrote a book upon Parliamentary eloquence, in which he embodies a number of recommendations to those who would gain the ear of the House. I remember reading the book years ago. His suggestions are in the main tricky.

Sir Robert Reid has made two suggestions: (1) that the differences of opinion which Lord Rosebery asserted existed between him and Sir William Harcourt, and which led him to throw up the Leadership of the Liberal Party, should be explained; (2) that in future the Leader of the Party should not be selected by a little clique, but by the entire Party. As regards the first, let us have by all means the letter which Lord Rosebery wrote to Sir William, stating that he would have no further political connection with him, together with Sir William's reply. The latter has been attacked for not acting with Lord Rosebery. It is only fair, therefore, to him that these letters should be published, and that Lord Rosebery should supplement them by explaining what were the divergencies of opinion that led him to pursue this course.

At things now stand, it is difficult for the Party to form any conclusion as to relative blame. It can only do this when in possession of facts. As regards the second point, I—and I believe that most Radicals are of the same way of thinking—will acknowledge no one as Leader who is not in the House of Commons, because it is the corner-stone of the Radical faith, that the Radical Leader should be in the People's House. I recognise Sir William Harcourt as my Leader, because he is the Leader of the Liberal Party in that House. If no Liberal proposes that he should cease to lead there, this is reasonable proof that all Liberals are for his retaining that position—a position which, as I have said, involves, or, rather ought to involve, the Leadership of the Party and the call to the Premiership should a Liberal Cabinet be formed.

The *Daily News* suggests that the selection of its Leader by a Party is a "big question, involving many considerations;" and falls back upon the doctrine, that the Queen sends for a leading man in the Party that obtains a majority, and desires him to form a Cabinet. If he is not the right man in the right place, and if he cannot get what the *Daily News* calls "Cabinetable" persons to serve under him, the Queen entrusts the formation of a Government to some one else. This is all very well, but it throws the right of selection upon these same "Cabinetable" persons, and, as all takes place in a hole-and-corner fashion, the door is thus left open to personal intrigues and rivalries.

When a political Leader has been long at the head of a Party, and he is a man of commanding personality, people trouble themselves very little about his colleagues. Most of them are merely his clerks, and, provided that they have the average amount of common sense, no one cares who they are. This was very much the case at the time when Mr. Gladstone withdrew from public affairs; more, indeed, the case than is usual, owing to the previous withdrawal of the Liberal Unionists. In his Cabinet there were, at most, three to whose views the Party or the country paid any attention. These official Brahmins took upon themselves to ostracise their best known colleague, and to exalt to the Premiership a Peer, differing in many of his opinions from the Party that he was invited to lead. Obviously, this was an abuse, and the subsequent General Election proved that it was not only a crime but a blunder. The Executive has increased, and is increasing, in power; so is the autocratic power of the Premier in the Executive. Every day, therefore, it becomes more necessary for those who do not believe in governing classes to take the selection of the Premier out of the hands of a few official Brahmins. Human nature is much the same with these exalted beings as with other folk. Their tendency must always be to select as Leader a man who leaves them a free hand in their Departments; who is not likely to replace them; and who is rather a Whig than a Radical. The man, said a Greek sage, who loses his liberty loses half his virtue. And it may be said that, as a rule, a man who has been in the bonds of officialdom loses a large percentage of his Radical fibre. So it always has been, and so it always will be.

Lord Grey's letter respecting the proposed action of the Chartered Company in regard to its future attitude towards natives is sound in theory. But in practice I doubt whether the Aborigines' Protection Society will be satisfied with it. The aim seems to be to force the natives to work in mines, and this is to be attained by imposing on them a hut tax, which is to form the basis of a revenue, not only to meet expenditure, but to pay interest on the huge, and mainly bogus, capital of the Company. They are to be protected in each district by Native Commissioners, but the Commissioners are to be appointed by the Company. Now, I do not see why the natives should pay any hut tax, certainly not one that is in excess of the amount expended on and for them in each district. The Commissioners ought to be appointed by the Imperial authorities, if they are to serve as a protection to the natives. The world's history has been one long record of white men striving to make black men work for them.

But the letter is mainly interesting as an indictment of the policy pursued by the Company towards the natives, and goes far to justify their uprising. The *Times*, in commenting on it, doubts whether Lord Grey's action is wise in remedying the former state of things by going back to native rule, because it may encourage the natives, should they deem themselves

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-street, London, for Shooting Gowns, Cawdor Capes, Travelling Ulsters, Jackets, Racing Coats, Carriage Rugs, Mauds, Shawls, and Scotch Tweeds. Patterns post free.

If you want to entirely Furnish your House or select any article of Furniture or Carpet, &c., send for Hewetsons' Illustrated Priced Catalogue.—Hewetsons, Tottenham Court-road, London.

again maltreated by the Company, once more to rebel. I sincerely trust that, should they be again maltreated, they will again rebel. In this way alone do men secure themselves against oppression and injustice on the part of their rulers.

Lord Grey says that the revenue is coming in well, but this revenue seems to be mainly derived from the sale of stands, *i.e.*, town lots. Taken with the fact of there being only 1,800 Europeans in the country, and many, as Lord Grey says, having already left it, whilst others contemplate doing so, this seems on the face of it remarkable. We have had many tricks played by the financing gang at the bottom of all the transactions of this wondrous Company, and as they will have to provide revenue unless they throw up the sponge, it would not surprise me if they were not the purchasers of these stands, with a view to counteract the impression that the game is up. Whoever yet heard of town lots going up in a place the population of which cannot be more than 1,000, and which is daily diminishing, whilst the supplies of cash that have been poured into it are cut off, and famine and ruin are threatening?

As I said last week, if Dr. Jameson's life is endangered by his imprisonment, he ought to be let out. But it is obvious that unless doctors are prepared to certify to this, he must remain in prison. I certainly have no personal feeling against the Doctor; indeed, so far as I understand the matter, he simply obeyed orders, and has been made a scapegoat for others, who are far more guilty than he is, and who are still at liberty. To say, as Mr. Dicey does in the *Observer* that the Doctor is eating his heart out because he wants to get back to Rhodesia, may be correct, but this would hardly serve as a ground for letting him out of prison. His evidence will be valuable before the Committee of Inquiry, and if he be set free on doctors' certificates, he ought to pledge himself not to leave England until that evidence has been forthcoming.

All sorts of rumours are current as to the course contemplated by Mr. Rhodes and others connected with the Transvaal raid. The latest is that certain persons sent to the Cape cablegrams conveying to Mr. Rhodes that Mr. Chamberlain approved of the contemplated movement. But this is nothing new to those who have been interested in getting to the bottom of what transpired. It has long been known what these telegrams were, and by whom they were sent; indeed, it would not entirely surprise me, were the cablegrams themselves produced before the Committee of Inquiry. That they were sent there is no doubt. But that really Mr. Chamberlain either knew of the contemplated raid, or approved of it, is a very different thing. Many were interested both here and in South Africa in producing this impression, in order to meet objections to the raid being undertaken without the knowledge of the Imperial authorities, and it is quite conceivable that these cablegrams were forwarded in order to meet those objections without Mr. Chamberlain having uttered one word of approval, or, indeed, knowing that a raid was contemplated.

I should have thought that I had always expressed my views so openly in respect to the Chartered Company that I should be free of any charge of hinting them. These views have been derived from the perusal of the official documents which have been published. I am open to evidence in correction of these views if it be forthcoming, and if it be trustworthy, for my object is to elicit the truth. It is absurd to suppose that the friends of Mr. Rhodes may use a complaisant Press to propagate the grossest misconceptions, in order to deceive public opinion, and that I, as a journalist, have not a right to rectify these misconceptions. Just now I am attacked, because I stated in TRUTH that certain cablegrams had been sent from London to South Africa, implying that Mr. Chamberlain was not only cognisant of the raid before it took place, but that he encouraged it, and that in doing so I "want to put a spoke in the wheel of Mr. Chamberlain."

As I have said already, I do not believe that Mr Chamberlain had anything to do with the raid, or knew that it was to occur. I several times expressed my admiration in the House of Commons of Mr. Chamberlain's action, and so far from believing that these telegrams represented anything that he ever said, I am convinced that they did not. But this does not alter the fact that the telegrams were sent, nor does it alter the fact that Sir John Willoughby did write to the War Office, asserting that he took part in the raid because he had reason to believe that the Imperial authorities approved of it. As to what took place in the interview between Mr Rhodes and Mr. Chamberlain I know absolutely nothing. My reason for believing that Mr. Rhodes threatened to round on Mr. Chamberlain if he did not take care is, that this is vouched for by a Conservative member to whom the observation was made, and who is a man of the highest honour.

The attempt of all these baffled conspirators to compromise Mr. Chamberlain is one of the worst features in their conduct. When Mr. Chamberlain went over to the Unionists, I used language in regard to his action not precisely complimentary; I did so mainly because he would insist that he still belonged to the Liberal Party. When he squarely joined Lord Salisbury, and accepted office under him, I uttered no word of protest, because any one has a right to alter his political opinions, and, as a necessary consequence, his Party. As a colleague of Lord Salisbury, I recognised that his action in regard to the Transvaal raid, under exceptionally difficult circumstances, was able and honest, although in taking the course that he did he had what is called "society" against him. I said so then, and I say so now.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

SCRUTATOR.

LIBERALISM AND LIQUOR.

THE licensing of public-houses is in the hands of magistrates, who are appointed either by the Lord Chancellor or by the Lords-Lieutenant of counties. Neither in towns nor in rural districts have the inhabitants more right to do anything connected with the liquor traffic, than if they lived on the planet Mars—a planet where, according to recent discovery, all are so much occupied with the difficulties of obtaining water, that they have no time for much else. On the liquor question there are two phases of thought amongst Radicals: some regard it as a duty of every one to do his utmost to hinder the sale of spirituous liquor in his locality; others do not hold with this, but agree that all in connection with its sale should be under the control of the inhabitants of the locality. As an advocate both of temperance and of local self-government, I hold that the latter is the better line to follow. We may approve or disapprove of the Local Veto Bill of last Parliament, but after the result of the last General Election, we can hardly deny that it does not command the support of the majority. Practically, that Bill gave every rural parish and every ward in a town the right to prohibit by plébiscite the sale of liquor within its area. But there are very few parishes or wards in which such a prohibition would obtain the needed two-thirds majority of ratepayers—therefore the Bill, although legalising a principle, would have been almost everywhere a dead letter; whereas a Bill vesting the full control of the liquor traffic in the hands of ratepayers would be far more effectual in the interests of temperance. The strongest argument, however, for the latter course is that the first cannot be carried, and the second might be.

To say that drinking is not productive of great evil is to deny a self-evident fact. My own impression is that spirits, unless taken in very small quantities, have an injurious effect upon the system of those who imbibe them. The coats of the stomach soon acquire a craving for strong drink, and no sooner has the effect of one glass evaporated than an internal gnawing is felt that calls for another. The habit may not be harmful for a considerable time, but in the end it is. The case of beer, however, is different. Beer in moderation does no one harm. An excess of it, however, produces drunkenness. Spirits and beer, therefore, taken in excess, result in drunkenness; but spirits taken habitually weaken the system, which beer does not. A man would be wise, consequently, to eschew spirits entirely, and, if he cannot limit himself to a moderate amount of beer, to abstain altogether from it. I am inclined to think that temperance would gain, were its advocates to preach the doctrine of no spirits, and moderation, rather than total abstention from all alcoholic drink I have passed years in Germany, France, and Italy in the course of my life. When first I knew these countries, beer was drunk largely in Germany, and wine in France and Italy, but very little spirits in any of them. Now, however, in parts of Germany and in France there is a very large consumption of spirits, and this has become in towns so universal a habit that both the German and the French races are deteriorating. In northern Germany spirit-drinking is far more general than in southern Germany. In Bavaria it is rare, but the quantity of beer consumed there is enormous. I never saw that it did any harm, for a more manly, vigorous race than the Bavarians does not exist, and very rarely is a drunken man to be seen. The Bavarian pot contains about two-thirds of an English pot. The brewers' men are stalwart giants. Each of these men has a right to seven pots per diem. But as a rule this does not suffice, and most of them buy about three more. They are never drunk, and they are as healthy and long-lived as others. I forget what the average consumption of beer of each individual is, but it is far higher than with us. One reason, perhaps, why they can drink with impunity so much is that the beer is brewed in a different way from that in use in England; with the result that, although its alcoholic strength is about equal to ours, the effects of the alcohol are reduced; the only ill-effect, indeed, being that it makes those drinking it very fat. Men, women, and children really seem to live on beer in Munich, without getting drunk, and without harm. What people elsewhere spend on food, they spend on beer, which they insist is liquid food of the most nourishing character.

But in considering the question, we must not lose sight of the fact that many amongst us who do not injure their constitutions by drinking, and who do not get drunk, spend an amount on liquor out of all proportion to their means. Some of them frequent the public-house as a place of resort where they meet and gossip; others seem to have a perpetual thirst upon them, and their happiness apparently consists in letting beer pass down their throats into their stomachs. Now, to spend on what may be deemed a luxury—whether it be beer or plum cake—more than a man can afford, without trenching on the needful expenditure of his family, is to be strongly deprecated.

The only way in which I think that it would be possible to deal practically with the liquor question would be to give to each locality full power to work out its own salvation. The areas of separate control were too small in the Bill of the last Parliament. Supposing the sale of all spirituous liquors were prohibited in one ward of a town and permitted in the next ward, evidently the drinkers in the first ward would all betake themselves to the second ward. Moreover, the tendency would be for the wards mainly inhabited by rich people to drive all public-houses into the neighbouring ward, if inhabited by poor people. In London there are few public-houses in fashionable quarters, but their number is legion in the poorer quarters.

As to the vexed question of compensation, any one may, if he pleases, regard the liquor traffic as unholy; but as it is, and it has been, not only permitted

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by the State, but is, and has been, the source of a huge revenue to it, the community, *quoad* State, can hardly regard those concerned in the trade in any different light from those engaged in any other recognised business. It is with publicans as it is with others. Some are thoroughly respectable, others are not; as a class they are neither better nor worse than any other class. They are the retailers of liquor which is brought into existence by large manufacturers. These latter have in England, as regards the sale of beer, acquired a monopoly, greatly to their benefit. Although the materials from which it is made have gone down largely in price, there has been no corresponding reduction in the price of beer. It is only necessary to look at the vast amount that is paid for goodwill whenever a private brewery is converted into a public company, together with the market quotations of the shares of such companies, to realise how remunerative brewing is. No one would ever dream of giving brewers compensation for loss of trade owing to legislation. If they have bought public-houses at a fancy price, they have done so with their eyes open to the fact that the licence is legally only a yearly one. But the case of what may be termed the working publican is different. If suddenly deprived of his means of livelihood, he ought not in common fairness to be turned adrift into the world, but he should have reasonable compensation, this compensation coming out of the pockets of the brewers by some additional tax being imposed on beer.

Then there is the question of whether everything connected with the sale of liquor should be placed in the hands of existing local elected authorities, or in the hands of some specially-elected Board. Temperance men are generally in favour of the latter, but I have always doubted whether the temperance cause would not be more benefited by adopting the former course. Temperance men act together, and the vast number of candidates for election to County Councils, Municipal Councils, or Parish Councils, who trim their sails in order to win these elections, could not afford to ignore a strong united and zealous body of voters.

In order to put an end to all monopoly, no licence should be granted or renewed without the actual holder of the licence having secured the right—any private undertaking notwithstanding—to obtain his beer from whomsoever he likes, nor should any clause in regard to the letting of the house be permitted by which the holder of the licence is obliged, when called upon by the lessor, to transfer the licence to the lessor's nominee. This would practically put an end to the tied house system, and, by making the publican independent of the brewer, prove a boon to him. There are parts of England where 90 per cent. of the public-houses are tied houses. Generally the district is shared by two or three brewers, whose aim it is to keep out interlopers. With this object in view, whenever a house is in the market they buy it up at an excessive cost, if an interloper is endeavouring to get it. I wonder what would be said if this system prevailed in respect to bakers, with the result of almost doubling the fair price of bread to consumers? As the law now stands, the licence is personal, but the brewers have rendered it impersonal, and the house, not the man, has the licence. Publicans really have become as much the slaves of the brewers as ever Irish tenants were of their landlords. The brewers' object is to have as many outlets for the sale of their beer as possible; therefore, they seek to increase the number of houses; but if the licence were really, and not nominally, in the hands of the man who works it, the tendency of all publicans would be against the grant of new licences.

To resume, if I had my way, my aim would be, not to prejudice the main issue, which is to place control of the liquor traffic of a locality under its ratepayers. With this object I should accept existing authorities, and I would give them absolute control. They might do what they pleased, have many public-houses, or few, or none. The areas of control I should make far larger than was proposed in the Bill of last Session. The publican should be made absolutely independent of any particular brewery. Whenever a properly-conducted public-house is suppressed, I should give compensation to the working publican, deriving that compensation from an additional tax on the liquor traffic. The best plan to effect this would be to declare that the existing licence shall, except in cases of misconduct, be continued for some given term of years, after which there would be no compensation, but that, if in any locality a public-house is suppressed within that term, compensation should be granted for the period yet to run. If all temperance men were to unite on such a programme as this, I think that it might be carried. Some temperance men are so enamoured of the scheme of reform which they put forward, that the means overshadow the end; also as the particular scheme which they advocate is not likely to secure a majority, year succeeds year without any legislative attempt being made to put an end to a state of things which is itself inherently bad, and which strikes at the root of the principle of local popular control in all matters affecting alone the locality. For my part, I am never particular about means; the end is everything with me, and to attain it I take the line of least resistance. If I find myself confronted in pushing forward along one path with a stone wall, I do not knock my head against it, but take some other path by which the wall is turned.

I am no advocate of beer from any love of it, as I never drink it. But I look to the fact that, since the world has been peopled, the use of alcohol has been the habit everywhere. Beer, or light wine, is probably the least harmful form in which to absorb it. If we are to wait until all are converted to abstention from all alcoholic liquor, we shall have to wait for centuries before dealing with an evil. I do not want to wait, and a bird in the hand is worth more than fifty birds in a bush that is not yet planted.

A LIFEBOAT MUDDLE.

The entrance to the Port of Liverpool is, I suppose, one of the most crowded marine thoroughfares in the world. That being so, peculiar interest attaches to the inquiry that has just been concluded at Liverpool into

the arrangements of the National Lifeboat Institution for the protection of life around the entrance to the port. The immediate subject of the inquiry was the loss of the Irish schooner *Carmel* and her crew of five in Liverpool Bay, on the night of October 10. As remarked by the representative of the Board of Trade, the occurrence certainly called for investigation. The *Carmel* got into trouble, and began showing signals of distress at 7.45 p.m. She continued to do so until 9.30, by which time, apparently, she was getting past help. Three lifeboats were, more or less, within reach of her, those at New Brighton, Hoylake, and Formby. The two first put off, but neither succeeded in getting to the wreck, which was not discovered till the next morning Of the three boats, that from New Brighton—a steam-boat—apparently did all that was possible. But this boat seems to have been the furthest from the wreck, and of deep draught, and after cruising about for five hours it returned without having found the distressed vessel The Hoylake boat also went out, but it encountered a series of difficulties in launching at low tide, finally getting stuck in the sand, so that it had to wait till the tide flowed and floated it. The Formby boat, which seems to have been in the best position for rendering assistance, never went out at all. The coxswain had information of the wreck at 8 o'clock, and actually saw the schooner for a time. He spent twenty-five minutes communicating with the other lifeboats on the telephone, and then summoned his crew. Some of the crew live a mile and a half off, and it takes a good half-hour to get them together. After they had been got together, and the horses had been harnessed to the boat for three-quarters of an hour, the coxswain decided that it was no good to start. He stated at one point in his evidence that he did this because he heard that the other two boats were going out, and at another point that as the flare-up on the wreck had disappeared he should not have known where to look for the vessel. He admitted that he got "muddled" by his communications with the other boats over the telephone, and this seems the only intelligible explanation of his conduct.

The truth is that the five lives of the crew of the *Carmel* were simply muddled away. The lightship which signalled the lifeboats, should have been in electric communication with the shore, but the communication had been interrupted since September 17, and the delay in repairing it, though partly attributed to stress of weather, was also in part attributed to "the absence of the marine superintendent on other duties." From the evidence, it would seem that the Hoylake boat got stuck in the sand through the carriage being of an unsuitable type, and the wheels too narrow. In regard to the Formby boat, an allegation has already been referred to in TRUTH, and contradicted by the local representative of the Association, that the delay was in some measure caused by the doors of the boat-house being blocked with sand; but, notwithstanding the contradiction, it is clear that six or seven men were engaged in shovelling away this sand, and that it took them half-an-hour. If this did not delay the boat, it was only because the coxswain was all this time deliberating whether he should or should not go out. His evidence shows that he knew that his boat, being of lighter draught than the New Brighton boat, was more likely to be of use in the position where he had seen the wreck. Nevertheless, when an hour had been consumed in telephoning to and fro, summoning the crew, and clearing away sand (which ought never to have been allowed to accumulate) this intelligent officer decided that it was no good to start.

The Board of Trade officer makes a number of suggestions on these facts, every one of which implies a censure of the management of the lifeboat service—*e.g.*, that the Formby crew should live closer to their boat, that one superintendent should have control over all three of the boats in the bay, and that steam lifeboats, like that at New Brighton, should be placed at the other stations. The last suggestion, amounts, in my judgment, to a censure of the Institution, because steam lifeboats are no new invention, their utility is well known, and the Lifeboat Institution has ample funds to provide them. Let me remind the reader once again that the Institution has in the last two years alone put away and capitalised surplus income to the amount of about £98,000. If it does this while improvements in the present service are urgently needed, it is obviously sacrificing the interests of the present generation in order to form endowments for generations to come —a palpable misuse of funds which are for the most part contributed to meet the requirements of to-day. In the course of the above inquiry, again, a suggestion was made that in bad weather the steam lifeboat should be kept cruising about in the channel all night, to which the Chairman of the Liverpool branch of the Institution replied that "he did not believe the crew would do it." What is this but a condemnation of the volunteer system? If the proposed arrangement would conduce to the saving of life, and can only be carried out by a paid crew, then a crew must be paid, in the same way that a fire brigade is paid. Had it been within the province of the Board of Trade officer on this occasion to go to the root of the whole matter, the suggestion he would have made is that the Lifeboat Institution itself should be disestablished and disendowed. What happened in Liverpool Bay on October 10 was simply a breakdown all round of the voluntary system, and the result is only one proof among many that the Lifeboat Institution has undertaken a task which is beyond its competence and strength.

ALFONSO XII. AND THE SPANISH PRISONER.

The amazing industry and ingenuity with which the Spanish buried-treasure swindle is worked receives a fresh illustration in a correspondence forwarded to me from Ceylon. It is the old story of the prisoner, who has died in gaol, leaving his only daughter and her fortune in the care of a generous-hearted priest; but the story is told with some novel and interesting variations. The first communication is addressed by the said priest to an officer of H.M. Customs at Colombo—a good example of the world-wide extent of the field over which these swindlers work. The priest's letters, as usual, are authenticated by an official-looking stamp purporting to be that of the

Eglesia Parroquial of S. Juan, Alicante. As his reverence remarks in one of his letters, "he cannot dominate the English language," and his attempts to do so are so unsuccessful that it is rather difficult at times to make out what he is driving at. The gist of his story, however, is that the deceased prisoner, and father of the orphan, was a gentleman named Gurrea, a very intimate personal friend of his late Majesty Alphonso XII. and of his first Queen, Mercedes. "Dead Queen Mercedes, and newly married the King and Queen Christina, Mr. Gurrea very soon perceived the greatest opposition in palace for consequenteatness of the King weakness." The truth seems to be that Señor Gurrea had been in the secret of some of the Royal indiscretions, and it was evidently owing to this that on his death-bed the King entrusted him with a casket, a letter, and a sum of 1,000,000 francs, to be delivered to "Lady ———," in Paris. The King died before his messenger got to Paris, and in consequence of the enmity against him in the palace, the Spanish Ambassador in that city received orders to arrest him as soon as he made his appearance there. A highly probable story all round. Señor Gurrea got wind of this diabolical plot—or says he did, for I have my doubts about his story—and consequently he departed with the 1,000,000 francs and the casket for Ceylon.

From this point the story proceeds according to the usual rule. No sooner does he get to Ceylon, than Señor Gurrea hears that his wife is very ill at home, and he accordingly buries all his treasures in the neighbourhood of Colombo, comes back to Spain, is arrested at the instance of the Queen Regent, on the charge of having stolen a casket belonging to the late King, and "was lately damned by an infamous guilt," which means, I suppose, that he was convicted and sentenced. Then, as usual, he dies in prison, and leaves his daughter and his secret in charge of the good priest. A plan of the "terrene" where the treasure is buried is, as usual, in a little valise, which has been seized with the rest of the prisoner's effects, and which can only be "retired" at the trifling cost of 20,739 francs. The priest does not want the whole of this sum advanced at once, but he must have "a sum of 7,000 francs, 250 sterling pounds," in order that he may make his arrangements, and come to Ceylon, and get possession of the buried treasure.

The remarkable feature in this story is that, among the batch of official documents which the priest forwards as evidence of his bona fides, is a copy of the probate of the will of the late Señor Gurrea, bound up in a printed wrapper, bearing numerous official - looking stamps, including a receipt stamp for the probate duty, and having in all possible respects the appearance of an official document. It is pretty clear from the text of all the documents that they are got up for use in any English-speaking country, there being not a word, except in the address of the first letter, to indicate whether the buried treasure is located in Ceylon or any other part of the world. Given a victim without sufficient brains to see the inherent absurdity of the whole story, it is very easy to understand how this trick may succeed, and the only chance of defeating the schemes of these Spanish brigands is for newspapers in all parts of the world to keep their readers informed as to the way the thing is done. I am glad to see that the provincial papers in different parts of England are now beginning to do this. The *Western Morning News* the other day gave a detailed account of a long correspondence which a tradesman at Truro has been carrying on with the Spanish prisoner and his confidential agent, the benevolent prison chaplain. Here again there was another ingenious version of the prisoner's story. He was an engineer who had been associated with M. de Lesseps, and had succeeded in amassing "swag" to the value of £98,000 in the Panama bubble, with which he had managed to escape to England on the eve of "le crash." This is one of the cases in which the treasure was not buried, but deposited in a bank, the vouchers and cheques to bearer requisite to obtain possession of it being concealed in the secret drawer of the prisoner's trunk. The trunk is, as usual, in the hands of the Spanish police, and to release it a matter of £58 was required. In this case, too, ecclesiastical-looking documents are forwarded by the priest who carries on the correspondence, and ultimately also a copy of the probate of the prisoner's will. This particular correspondence was carried on merely for the purpose of "drawing" the swindlers, but the *Western Morning News* mentions a recent case at Falmouth in which a confiding countryman narrowly escaped being victimised, having got so far as to put his remittance into an envelope, when a friend happened to enlighten him as to the trick. The authorities at Scotland Yard have circulated warnings against this swindle. Is it really out of the question for them, in conjunction with the Spanish authorities, to get at the various gangs who are running it?

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE M. ARAGO.

An eminent Egyptian statesman, who has come to Paris to be braced up by a cold winter, said to me the other day: "Though the tobacco of my country is so famous it is all—save the poor, coarse stuff good only for fellahs — grown in Turkey. Its fragrance and other virtues are due to the blend." The French may be called a Gallo-Latin-European blend. Hence their superiority. They marry readily with foreigners, provided, of course, the latter are well off. Strangers who can pay their way handsomely are made to feel themselves at home in France. The smallness of the French family of every class attracts Gibeonites from more populous countries. The street sweeping of Paris is done by Hessians, and poor people from the valley of the Moselle, between Metz and Treves. The influx of Badeners is also great. At the last Census there was a population here of 120,000 Belgians. There are 70,000 Italians in and around Marseilles, and many thousands of others engaged as navvies all over France. Swiss crowd into banks and wholesale houses. Basques and Aragonese do a great part of the agricultural work between the Garonne and Pyrenees. Victor Hugo was a product of a Germano-Celtic blend. His

great-great-grandfather came from Holland and settled at Nancy, where he and his son and son's son married Lorraine women. The poet's father, General Hugo, married a Breton sea-captain's daughter. George Sand was of a Franco-Saxon and perhaps Hebrew blend. Thiers was of a Greco-French blend, and son of one of the oddest, most enterprising, keenest, and most unsuccessful men that Marseilles ever turned adrift on the world. Zola is Italo-French. So was Gambetta. Bonnat, the painter, is of Hispano-French descent. So was M. Arago, who died last week. His name meant "the Aragonese," as "Langlois" meant "the Englishman."

Arago, like most of his family, seemed stored-up sunshine. The astronomer, his father, and the uncle, Etienne, were young in feeling, spirits, and manner when on the downward side of ninety. I met Etienne at a grand ball the night he had reached his ninetieth year. He said, and it was true, that the only thing antiquated about him was his fondness for *entre-chats* and *ailes de pigeon* in dancing the quadrille. Emmanuel Arago had a redundant style of oratory and a sonorous Spanish voice. But out of the tribune he was genial and clever, and had a talent for telling short anecdotes, all drawn from his own experience. They were snap-shot affairs, gilded and adorned by his southern imagination, and related with spirit and a lively sense of fun. Yet the first impression on which his memory took hold was a tragedy. His father lived near the Observatory. One morning as the *bonne* was giving Emmanuel Arago his breakfast on a bench in the garden there, he and she were startled by a volley of musketry. Seated on their bench against the wall, they could hear bullets striking the wall on the other side, and then the discharge of a single shot. The *bonne* crossed herself and said "It's the coup de grâce." "What's that?" said the child who was not two years old. "They are firing into his ear to kill him out and out." The *him* thus finished off was Marshal Ney. All the grown-up members of the household ran into the garden. They had blanched and contracted faces. Tears flowed from the astronomer's eyes. He was no friend of Ney; but the military execution on the other side of the garden-wall made his blood run cold.

Emmanuel Arago was, as his father's son, brought up in the heart of the scientific world. Through the uncle, Etienne, he was also in the heart of the theatrical, artistic, literary, and conspiring worlds. That evergreen personage was manager of the old Vaudeville, in the Place de la Bourse, and in the thick of every artistic and revolutionary excitement. He had not merely stored up sunshine but saltpetre, which easily ignited. In the Revolution of July he armed a band of supers and students, headed by Emmanuel, with the weapons of his property-room, and ordered them never to face him again if they did not cover themselves with glory. Of course, they surpassed his fondest wishes, and he was drunk with delight. The uncle, Etienne, was, despite his fizz, most gentlemanly at bottom and shrewd. He managed not to let George Sand draw him into her polyandrous seraglio. She then fell back on the nephew, who perhaps might have been cast aside by her, "an old man though still youthful," if Etienne had not saved him by throwing the attractive Jenny Colon in his way.

I need not follow the political career of Emmanuel Arago beyond saying that it was consistent, one of spotless honour, and that he was, from 1848 to the day of his death, the favourite of the Eastern Pyrenees. He was true to his pledges, and that department remained faithful to him. He sat for it throughout the Second Republic, and was prevented, by ten years of exile, sitting for it through the Second Empire. He was, from the time he benefited by a general amnesty to his death, successively its member in the Corps Législatif, Assembly, and Senate.

Arago's earliest diplomatic experience was won in Berlin. He was sent there as full-fledged Ambassador at the age of thirty-three. It was thought that as his father's son he would have the valuable support of Humboldt. But as the King only thought of pleasing the Emperor Nicholas, he was coldly received, and Humboldt was afraid to show civility. But as any other French Republican would have been on a less pleasant footing, he stayed, and busied himself with studying German literature and the Prussian educational and military systems. But he had not time to gain more than a mere surface-knowledge. Louis Napoleon decided to attack the Roman Republic, and the Ambassador to the Court of Berlin threw up his place, in order to return home to attack the Prince-President. Not restricting his bellicose efforts to the Tribune, he had to fly abroad when defeated. This is why he knew so much of other countries. The father's name was a passport to learned circles in England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Zurich, and Geneva.

Arago was an old friend of M. Grévy and a patron of Gambetta at the Bar, when the latter was a young Briefless. One of the early diplomatic appointments made at the joint instance of Grévy and Gambetta was that of M. Arago as Ambassador to the Swiss Republic. He succeeded there Challemel-Lacour, who refused to live in a lodging house, and had had the delightful villa known as Hôtel de l'Ambassade de France built at the expense, of course, of the State, in the new quarter beyond the Aar. Arago led there a hospitable patriarchal life. Handsome furniture had been supplied for his predecessor from the Garde Meuble. The diplomatic post was bestowed as a "temporary mission." This enabled the titular Ambassador to keep the senatorial seat and pay, while drawing an Ambassador's salary. As the only Ambassador at Berne, he was the head member of the Corps Diplomatique. The Swiss became attached to the genial, amusing, and yet dignified old gentleman. He had a fatherly way that pleased plain people. There was no more Darby and Joan couple than he and his accomplished wife, whom every one admired and esteemed. Fourteen years were spent at Berne, where the married children and their families met every summer. The daughters had the gift of beauty and of natural gracious manners. One of them was, before M. Arago went to Berne, the wife of M. Benjamin Constant, the eminent painter. Arago would have probably died there but for two reasons. He

frequently reported home that the St. Gothard line and the united efforts of Italy and Germany were ousting France in Switzerland. The French ought surely not to help their enemies by remaining inflexible on tariff questions raised by the Swiss. M. Méline, and the syndicates he represents, resented this. But the Ambassador might have survived their hostility, had it not been for the Russian *furore* three years ago. It was remembered that Arago defended the Pole, Berezowski, who fired at Alexander II. in the Bois, and brought the jury to allow "extenuating circumstances." Floquet's "Vive la Pologne, Monsieur!" had been condoned at St. Petersburg, but some bursts of eloquence about Poland in Arago's speech had not. Casimir-Périer broke him rudely. Arago might have been elected President, instead of Faure, were it not for the Berezowski case. That case, oddly enough, was brought about by a love affair. Berezowski, a mechanical engineer, worked in Baron Cail's forges. He fell in love with a foreman's daughter there, asked the girl in marriage, and was refused. He determined on suicide, but at the same time resolved to sacrifice his life to some great cause. While he was turning over in his mind how to do this, M. Floquet hailed Alexander II. in the Palais de Justice with "Vive la Pologne!" "Yes," cried the Pole on reading about it, "*et mort au Tsar!*" The resolution was taken to shoot Alexander as he was coming by a thronged road from a review. The ball meant for him hit the neck of an aide-de-camp's horse that plunged forward as the pistol was raised. When the last Presidential election was on, a visit from Alexander III. and Marie Feodorovna was hoped for at the French Foreign Office. The friends of Faure went about saying that they would not come to be received by the man who pleaded extenuating circumstances for Berezowski's attempt. Only eighty members of the Congress voted for Arago.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE English dear Lady Betty, are excellent people: when no one else abuses them, they abuse themselves.

The community is suffering from a severe attack of neurotic journalism. Scarcely a bitter line appears in any Continental journal, however obscure the paper may be, that is not at once despatched to London, reproduced in our newspapers, and comments are made upon it in the "leaders." The special correspondents of the news agencies must be at their wits' end to provide interesting intelligence, otherwise they would not forward, day after day, as they are doing, the unimportant attacks which appear in unimportant papers.

Idleness, however, may be the cause of their conduct, for it is, of course, immeasurably more easy to contribute columns of matter copied from the papers than it is to supply original news.

Be this as it may, the British public is tired of reading the continual insignificant attacks which have appeared in obscure Continental journals. The importance of anything in this world is precisely the importance which we attach to it ourselves. It is a mercy, therefore, that neither the British Government nor the British people care a rush what the second-rate French, Russian, or German papers publish about them.

* * * * *

The following letter has been addressed to me:—

"Sir,—Since Society commenced to take serious interest in City concerns, the conversation in the West-End clubs has been about nothing but stocks, shares, and 'swindles.' Some men gather in groups and discuss the future of African mines; others, with loud voices, dispute about brewery companies, soap companies, railway companies, and a number of other enterprises too numerous to mention here. I know of no West-End club which has not been for several years little better than a Belgravian stock-exchange. This was bad enough, but we appear now to be entering upon even a worse stage of the disorder. The West-End men, having lost prestige, money, their properties, and their sense of honour, are no longer of much use to the financiers of the City; they are therefore becoming agents for the sale of cigars, wine, horses, estates, pictures, works of art, agents for life insurance offices, and, indeed, agents for every conceivable commodity. Hardly have I entered any of my clubs now, but a member pulls a cigar artistically out of his case and, having insisted upon my sniffing at it, commences a long disquisition about the merits of the particular brand, the difficulty of obtaining it, and the special facilities which he possesses for procuring a limited number of the cigars for my consumption. To rid myself of the man I order five hundred, and upon his leaving me, another man swoops down and attempts to unload several dozen of 'exquisite champagne.' I cough. The cough is fatal, for from every part of the room my fellow-members rush at me and urge upon me the importance of insuring my life.

"But this is not the worst of it. It has been reserved for this generation to discover an altogether new way of paying old debts. Two thirds of my acquaintances are in debt to their tradesmen, and as they cannot pay these claims themselves, they work off the amount of their indebtedness by introducing their friends. As I enter the club, one man looks at me critically, then says, "My *dear* fellow! Where did you get that coat?" I tell him. He smiles sadly, then assures me that only Rippem, of Bond-street, can make coats. Somewhat discomfited at the discovery, I stroll into the next room, when another member comes up and confidentially—as if he were doing me a favour—says, "I say, old man, you really should not wear those boots. Go to Heel's, in Piccadilly. I will tell him that you are coming." It appears that everything that I eat, drink, or smoke, everything that I wear, and, indeed, everything that I buy, is bad; and strangely enough almost every member of the club is prepared to introduce me to different tradesmen, who will make an altogether new man of me.

"A month or two ago I had some thoughts of marrying. A younger man than myself was continually in attendance on the lady upon whom I had bestowed my affections. Upon consideration, it appeared to me that the intimacy might increase after my marriage, so I gradually estranged myself from the lady. You will scarcely believe it, but the youth had the impudence to call at my private address to offer to assist me in pressing my attentions—for a commission! They tell me that the women themselves now demand a commission before they consider a proposal! "Carlton."

"P.S.—I have this instant received the following letter, written to me by the mother of the lady who is referred to above:—

"'Dear Lord ——,—Pray consider this as being *strictly* private and *confidential*. I have reason to believe that the beauty of my daughter, together with the admirable

The only Palatable Natural Aperient to take is "Franz Josef" Water, generally admitted to be the best. Ten gold medals at World's Exhibitions. No household should be without it.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

qualities which she possesses, have made a serious impression upon your heart. If you are inclined to proceed further in the matter, I am prepared to assist you; but business is business. My terms are five hundred guineas upon completion of the transaction!'"

* * * * *

An astonishing report is current, to wit, that a celebrated advocate of women's rights has applied to Lord Salisbury for two nominations for women for the Foreign Office. As candidates for Foreign Office appointments must be under twenty-four, it is needless to paint too vividly the consequences which might result from the introduction of beautiful young women into that notoriously susceptible Department. Other notes than "Collective notes" and "Marginal notes" would be sure to occupy the attention of the oppressively-worked Foreign Office men Instead of the rustle of paper would be heard the rustle of petticoats, and curious protocols and unwise treaties might be completed in the corridors. "Reports," too, might reach the Queen which her Majesty would seriously object to.

* * * * *

This is another letter that has been addressed to me:—

"Surely some protest will be made against the latest foolish proposal which is engaging the attention of the authorities at the War Office. It is proposed to replace the bonnet of the Highlanders, the busbies of the Fusilier and Hussar regiments, and the cap of the Lancers by a hideous helmet modelled upon that worn by the New York police. It is to be hoped that such a ridiculous piece of vandalism will be strenuously resisted, and that the proposed 'universal head-dress' will be consigned to that oblivion which it amply merits. There is, however, one head-dress which might be appropriately worn by those who are in command at the War Office. It is inexpensive, simple, and suitable, and is constructed of paper.

"General."

* * * * * *

The Exhibition of Twenty Masterpieces at the gallery belonging to the Messrs. Agnew, in Old Bond-street, is one of the most magnificent collections of the kind that have been gathered together for years. "The Sisters," by Hoppner, which contains the portraits of Marianne and Amelia, daughters of Sir Thomas Frankland, is to be engraved by Mr. Scott Bridgwater, who engraved the admirable "Miranda," after Romney. There is a contemporary engraving of "The Sisters," by William Ward, of which very few copies were printed, and a proof is now worth £300 in the market.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

It may be hoped that there will be a large and representative attendance of members of the Jockey Club at the special meeting which is to be held next Monday at Lord Derby's house in St. James's-square, for the purpose of discussing the new rule respecting the employment of handicappers, which will be proposed by the Stewards. It is eminently desirable that the rule should be passed as it stands, for the adoption of Mr. Lowther's curds-and-whey amendment would simply lead to jobbery and favouritism, and would entirely destroy any beneficial results which might be expected from the reforms which have been officially recommended. Every one knows that "hard-and-fast rules" are the only ones which are of any practical use, as they cannot be evaded, or ignored, or suspended, as caprice or interest may suggest.

If the Prince of Wales wishes to make some money without trouble or material risk, let him buy any sound and tolerably bred foals that come up at Newmarket next week, and then have a yearling sale at Sandringham next summer. If H.R.H. did not obtain a thumping average for his stock, the courses of sun and moon would have changed. I have been induced to make this suggestion by the recent announcement that one of the new "millionaires" (who are now as plentiful at Newmarket as apples in Covent Garden) has paid the Prince of Wales 5,000 guineas for a yearling colt by Donovan out of Pierrette. I suppose the purchaser regards the transaction as a sort of advertisement, or as bread cast upon the waters, to be found in some form or other before many days have passed, but if the animal in question had been bred by a plebeian Mr. Smith, and had been sent up for sale at Newmarket or Doncaster, it would have been considered as well sold if it had fetched one-twentieth of the ridiculous price which is said to have been paid for it.

The Prince of Wales has decided to send Thais to the stud, and she has left Newmarket for Sandringham.

There were large fields at both Warwick and Manchester, but at this period of the year nobody cares a groat about past running, so I shall not waste space in discussing any of the events at those meetings. Two horses which have been beaten during the last fortnight are already tips for the Lincolnshire Handicap.

There is something very provoking in the pertinacity with which the Jockey Club persist in going on with the Newmarket Stakes, a race which has never been a success from any point of view whatever, and it has always involved a large demand upon the fund. It must surely be obvious that under no conceivable circumstances could there be room for another big three-year-old race in the month which elapses between the Two Thousand and the Derby. The mischievous result of the existing plethora of valuable stakes open to three-year-olds was manifested this season by the breakdown of St. Frusquin, who was most foolishly over-raced during both the spring and the summer. The Newmarket Stakes for 1898, which closes this week, is a race for now foals, with £2,000 added, and it may be assumed with confidence that it will cost the fund at least £800, and probably a great deal more. There would have been more common sense and more evidence of a desire to improve the breed of horses if the Newmarket Stakes had been converted into a subscription race of at least £5,000 for now foals and yearlings, to run at four and five-years-old, the A.F. being the course.

The Newmarket Winter Sales will be the only sporting event of any general interest during the present month, although there will be cross-country racing nearly every day if the weather is favourable. The sales begin next Tuesday, and extend over four days. Of course there is a dreadful lot of sheer rubbish in the catalogue, but people who are blessed with discerning eyes may reasonably expect to pick up some bargains. Indian Queen, by Melton, who cantered away with the Cambridgeshire in 1894, is to be sold on Tuesday, and so is Marco, who carried off the same handicap last year. Glisten, by Sheen out of Lightfoot, by Muncaster, ought to make a valuable brood mare, and so also should Mr. Basset's Wise Virgin, by Wisdom out of Elizabeth, who won last year's Stewards Cup. Mr. W. Johnstone sends up five animals, including Falkland, who was expected in the spring to turn out a really first-class two-year-old. Another failure is the filly by Tristan out of Re-echo, for which Lord Ilchester gave 500 gs. last year. There are an immense number of miscellaneous lots each day, including stallions, brood-mares, and yearlings, but nothing worthy of special notice. On Wednesday Mr. Platt sends up seventeen mares from the Bruntwood Stud, of which ten have been served by Kendal, and one by Orme. There are also seven foals, four of which are by Kendal. Ambleside, by Petrarch out of Stray Shot (dam of Shotover), ought to be valuable as a brood-mare, but the Duke of Westminster weeded her out of his stud for some reason or other. I will refer next week to the Thursday and Friday lists.

The Doncaster authorities ought to think themselves remarkably fortunate in obtaining 222 entries for the St. Leger of 1898, considering that not a sixpence of money is added to the race, which is a sweepstakes of £25 each, p.p., and it is simply existing on its old prestige. Doncaster is now a very rich meeting, and the managers can well afford to display a decent liberality in their arrange-

ments, instead of the beggarly meanness which the programme now discloses. Let £2,000 be added, with an entrance of £5, to be the only forfeit, if declared by the last Tuesday in the March after the race has closed, and the managers can stipulate for 300 entries. For every horse left in after that date have a sweepstakes of £30 each. If 200 horses were left in (and the number certainly would not be less), the race would be worth £8,000.

The amateurs' position in Association football is being made as unpleasant as possible. The authorities are very angry because Mr. Jackson did not get permission to play the Cambridge University team. If, as a fact, cases have occurred in which private persons have made money out of amateur teams, then one can quite see that some supervision is required. But the rules should not be of such a character as to make the grant of a permit an impossibility. To interfere with University football is to cast a slur on amateur sport. Some few years ago the Amateur Athletic Association was very energetic in legislating. New rules as to handicappers and handicaps were being passed. A University representative fortunately insisted that the University clubs should be exempt. The A.A.A. might do as it pleased elsewhere, but the Universities were quite able to do their own handicapping in their own way, and to carry on amateur sport in a proper manner. The exemption was at once granted. But in football everything is made to yield to the whims of professionalism by those who can see no good thing in any player who is not a hireling. Scratch teams and unaffiliated clubs are not only threatened with extinction, but the London Football Association is to be made to recognise professionalism. The poor amateur worm will turn at last, and the sooner the better. The amateur has only his supreme indifference to his own interests to thank for his present unsatisfactory position. A meeting of all the leading amateur clubs should be called at an early date to consider the position of amateurs and to take such steps as may be deemed desirable to secure the proper recognition of their position.

I have been favoured this week with copies of the *Granta* and the *Cambridge Review*. The former paper has raised a storm in a tea-cup because it ventured on the opinion that Barber, of Third Trinity, should not be ignored in the list of oarsmen entitled to a trial for a seat in the trial eights. As my rowing correspondent ventured to express the same opinion, he is favoured with the usual abusive letter about his ignorant impertinence in interfering in Cambridge rowing matters. He can only humbly say that his opinion is founded on that held by Mr. Lehmann, who is generally supposed to have some slight knowledge of rowing. The strain of the writer in the *Review* about those in authority knowing everything is all very well in its way, but it must be borne in mind that the long list of Putney disasters has been due in a great measure to bungling mismanagement. What wonder, then, that when there seems to be an opportunity of success a University journal should venture on a little criticism? The C.U.B.C. authorities may boast that they are indifferent to newspaper criticism. I cannot but consider that it is to some extent a grievous blot on undergraduate journalism that these papers have not had in the past either the courage or the ability — I cannot say which has been wanting—to point out the blunders that have been made in Cambridge rowing. Instead, they have without rhyme or reason cringed to the powers that be. It is not many years ago since the *Granta* in a most vituperative manner attacked my rowing correspondent, whose opinions were so far justified that of a certain crew it may be written, "They never rowed again." A little independent criticism is, therefore, to be commended. To suggest that in wishing Barber to be tried club rivalries are being roused is bunkum. For it was said he had a better record than a member of the same club who is rowing. No one wishes to hamper a President. His duties are difficult enough in all conscience, and a sensible President should not resent, but welcome, honest criticism in University papers. It is far better to have to deal with open complaint than with secret growlings and the intrigues of cabals. I have not the slightest doubt that Mr. Bell is quite equal to his duties, and he has a good counsellor in his friend Mr. Fernie. But it is not difficult to see the rock on which the ship may wreck unless a little self-abnegation is used. There is the nucleus of a good eight, and no doubt at least one prominent old blue will be able to give advice as to the best material to be picked from the trial eights, which, at the present time, are not very promising, and do not compare favourably with those at Oxford; but then they are not leavened with any good University oars.

Blackheath had not its full strength against Richmond, and therefore resorted to its usual policy of importation. This time it went to the Southwark and secured the services of a youthful three-quarter called Walmsley, who had played a good game for Kent against Middlesex. But this availed them nothing, for the Heathens never had a look in from start to finish, and Richmond gave them a lesson in first-class football. Schwarz played admirably at half, and the three-quarter line was very strong, while the forwards were irresistible. By this time Blackheath has probably realised that there is a screw loose somewhere. Probably the weak spot is that the second team is not a stepping-stone to higher things. At all events, the recruits, if any, do not seem able to do much against good company, and naturally good men will not join when they know there is no chance of promotion. On their previous form, the absence of Fegan, Maud, and Finlinson was not so great a loss as it appears. Their names and paper form are great, but on the field there is a great falling off this year. The Old Merchant Taylors are playing much better behind the scrum, and the consequence was they easily beat the Old Leysians who drew with the Scottish, who drew with Cambridge, who beat Blackheath, who beat the Old Merchant Taylors. This is a fair sample of the extraordinary form shown by Rugby clubs in the South this year. The Scottish were certainly lucky to draw with the Light Blues, who had not their full strength outside, and Mendelsohn, the long jumper, is not nearly up to the same form as Thomas at back, and, besides, he went lame. The Harlequins, for whom Wells was playing, had to put up with defeat at the hands of Monkstown, a leading Irish club, which had come off very badly against Oxford. Smith, the full-back, has not yet recovered from his smash up when playing against Cardiff His presence against Cambridge will make all the difference to Oxford, as his pace and kicking will be invaluable against the strong Light Blue attack. Mitchell played finely for Coopers Hill, who had a simple romp over Rosslyn Park, while Sandhurst beat Woolwich, neither teams being very strong this term. Bradbury scored twice for the winners. Newport, with the help of A. J. Gould, who, after retiring, is again playing regularly, simply walked over Cardiff.

Both Universities were playing Association football in town last Saturday. Alexander and Burnup forswore the company of the Corinthians, and it was chiefly due to their efforts that Cambridge scored so heavily against the Old Westminsters. The Casuals had a very fair team against the Oxford men, who should have done better than they did. Their shooting was very weak, Vassall being greatly at fault. Although these four leading amateur clubs were engaged, the Corinthians were able to draw with Sheffield United. The amateurs' defence was very good, while Smith put in one or two stinging shots, which Foulkes stopped admirably. In League matches Aston Villa have gone to the top of the tree. They had an easy win over Blackburn Rovers, whose team has been rather severely dealt with by its directors lately. Notts Forest did well to beat their visitors, Liverpool, although the latter were very unlucky to lose Holme through a wrenched knee.

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—While the tendency of gilt-edged investment stocks and of Home Rails was distinctly firmer during the past week, owing chiefly to the decline of rates in the Money Market, there has been very little activity in the other departments. People are commencing to talk already of the probability of business being hung up until after Christmas, and certainly the public are not to any extent on the war-path.

Stock Exchange Prospects.

I do not, however, think that there is much in this hackneyed cry, especially as there is every indication of continued improvement in trade in this country. The greater ease in the Money Market, moreover, will doubtless bring about some revival. Just at present Home securities are receiving the lion's share of the attention of investors, and Home Rails would already have scored a further advance were it not for apprehensions of labour troubles. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants are pressing for better terms to goods guards, brakesmen, and signalmen; but it is hardly likely that this will lead to serious difficulties. Neither the employers nor the railway servants are likely to precipitate a strike in this, the busiest season of the year, and so close to Christmas. Home Industrial stocks continue to enjoy public favour, as illustrated by the success of the issues of new Bovril, Limited, and Paquin, Limited, both of which have been largely over-subscribed. The very marked improvement which had been in progress in the Kaffir Circus has not been fully maintained, a reaction having been brought about chiefly by a resumption of realising sales. It is, however, not probable that the recent low prices will again be touched, and the statement made by President Kruger in Pretoria furnishes proof of a strong disposition to help the mining industry, and to keep political matters straight. In West Australian Mines a steady business has been in progress, although quotations have also eased off in this section. This week the Lake View settlement takes place, and when this is completed it is probable that a revival will set in, the news from the goldfields being in every respect satisfactory. Inter-bourse securities have moved fitfully, and in South Americans the only substantial recovery has occurred in Argentine Government stocks, on rumours that Dr. Romero and ex-President Pellegrini have effected a compromise with reference to their respective proposals for dealing with the Debt. The weakest spot has been the Yankee market, in which a further material decline has been established, chiefly through the absence of all "Bull" support in Wall-street. The fact is there is a general disposition to await the opening of Congress, which takes place on Friday; but if, as may be expected, President Cleveland's message should prove encouraging, and pacific as regards Cuba, a sharp rally may be looked for.

Home Rails.

A further improvement took place in Home Rails in the early part of the week, Brighton "A" leading the rise. The more ample supply of money and lower rates, combined with excellent traffics, are inducing further investment purchases, and the increase in the returns is so steady that it is not surprising that public favour should be directed to this department. The only drawback is the fear that some labour trouble might arise, and the movement now started by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in favour of certain guards and signalmen has sufficed to arrest the upward movement, and to cause a slight relapse in some instances. Some concession will probably have to be made by the Railway Companies, but I do not anticipate any serious trouble. Traffic returns for the past week again show an increase of £80,830, which brings up the total increase for the present half-year to £977,400, a very favourable showing, which, as I foreshadowed some time ago, promises a considerable increase in dividends. With reference to the forthcoming dividends I may state roughly that a dividend of 7½ per cent. is looked for in Brighton "A," and one of 3½ per cent. in Dover "A," and in the case of these Deferred stocks the dividend for the whole year will be paid in January. Should the Great Northern be able to pay at the rate of 5 per cent. for the half-year on the Ordinary, this would make the dividend 4 per cent. for the whole year of 1896, and leave 2 per cent. for the Deferred. The Chatham Arbitration Preference dividend will be paid in full, and there should be nearly 1 per cent. for the Second Prefs. The Great Eastern dividend will hardly be more than 3 per cent. for the year; and amongst the Heavy division estimates for the current half-year are such as to foreshadow for the whole year of 1896 a dividend of from 7 to 7¼ per cent. on North Western, 6 per cent. on Midland and Great Western, and 6½ per cent. on North Eastern. On the basis of these dividends the Heavies are yielding from £3. 11s. per annum to £3. 14s. 6d. per annum; but the best yield is that on Brighton "A," which even at the present price of 182¾, deducting the accrued dividend, would yield nearly 4¼ per cent. Dover "A" would yield 3½ per cent., but, in view of the progressiveness of the line, and largely-increased traffics which are expected next year, the present return alone must not be looked at. I for some time singled out Brighton "A" and Dover "A" as the most promising speculations amongst English Railway stocks, and I still hold this opinion, there being a considerable margin for a further advance even on the present quotations. The rise in Great Eastern is being overdone, and is based entirely upon future progress, as even in the best of cases the dividend for 1896 could not work out to more than 3½ per cent., so that the yield would be under 3 per cent. There has been a temporary reaction in Metropolitan Districts, which are, however, firmer again at 27⅜; and, as the passing through Parliament of the deep-level express scheme seems to be assured, a sharp rally may come about at any time. The Scotch stocks are being kept down by rumours of possible labour troubles, but it is evident that these reports are being worked for a good deal more than they are worth by the ursine party. For the seventeen weeks of the current half-year the Caledonian had an increase of £26,893; the North British one of £36,700, and substantial dividends may therefore be looked for, especially as traffics in the near future are expected to again show considerable increases. I still consider, therefore, Caledonian Deferred Ordinary at 59⅝, and North British Deferred at 47¼, good purchases. With reference to the labour position, I gather from Scotch sources that the majority of the masters in the engineering and shipbuilding trades are disposed to meet the demands of the men by an offer to grant an advance of ¼d. an hour, and although they are not quite willing to diminish the working hours to fifty-three, it is expected that negotiations between both parties will gradually adjust the points of difference and facilitate an arrangement. No fresh feature is apparent with reference to the coal trade, and no serious trouble is anticipated there.

The Yankee Market.

Yankee Rails have been exceedingly dull and lifeless during the past week, and prices have further receded, although rates were easy at the settlement, and the account has been reduced in volume. Traffic returns have on the whole been unsatisfactory, partly owing to the retention of grain by the farmers, who are awaiting a further rise in prices, shipments consequently having fallen off. The effect of the revival in American trade has, moreover, not yet had time to show itself in the railway traffics. In the meantime there is a disposition to await President Cleveland's message to Congress, which will be issued in a day or two, and if the same should prove conciliatory as far as Spain is concerned, it is probable that a fresh revival will follow. Quotations of such stocks as Louisville and Milwaukee, at

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

all events, are now again at a very moderate level; and there is a strong undercurrent in favour of low-priced stocks such as Atchison Prefs., Southern Ordinary, Union Pacifics, Norfolk Prefs., Denvers, &c. For Railroad bonds a steady demand has arisen, and it must be admitted that investors are fully justified in the favourable view which they are taking. I have received a number of inquiries as to selections of gilt-edged and second-class bonds, and herewith again give a list of such, although I would like to draw the attention of my correspondents to the fact that I gave a similar list in "My Letter-Box" in the last few issues:—New York and Putnam Four per Cent. bonds at 107½, yielding £3. 16s. per cent.; Lynn and Boston Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds at 102½ xd., yielding £5 per cent.; Northern Pacific Four per Cent. Prior Lien bonds at 87¼, yielding £4. 15s. 9d. per cent.; Alabama Midland First Five per Cent. Mortgage bonds at 95, yielding £5. 9s. 6d. per cent.; Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds at 91½, yielding £5. 10s. per cent.; and Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo First Mortgage Six per Cent. bonds at 103½, yielding £5. 18s. 6d. per cent.; an average yield of over 5 per cent. Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have shown weakness in sympathy with the American market, the former being quoted 57¾, while amongst the latter the First Prefs. and Guaranteed have lost over a point. As soon as the Yankee market recovers, however, we may look also for better prices in these.

Foreigners and South Americans.

Interbourse securities have been quiet, and no further advances have occurred, with the exception of Italians, which have moved up to 91⅜, the fact that this country has extricated itself from its untenable position in Africa being considered encouraging. Spain is apparently making no headway in Cuba, and Spanish bonds are, therefore, again under a cloud, being quoted 58½. Turks have been fairly steady, but inactive, and operators appear inclined to await the settlement on the Paris Bourse before entering upon any fresh commitments. In the South American market the feature has been a sharp advance in Argentine Government stocks. I have repeatedly referred to the scheme of ex-President Pellegrini to resume the full service of the debt next year, instead of proceeding with Dr. Romero's unification scheme. Dr. Pellegrini's proposal has passed the Senate, and is presumably now before the Chamber of Deputies. Its real object is, undoubtedly, to thoroughly re-establish Argentine credit, and thereby raise the value of her bonds, with the view subsequently to enter into an operation for reducing the rate of interest permanently on the strength of the improved credit of the country. Rumours that a compromise has been effected between Dr. Romero and Dr. Pellegrini were responsible for a sharp upward movement on Saturday, in which the 1886 Loan benefited most, this being, as is well known, under the special protection of Messrs. Morgan. No one will regret the ill-conceived unification scheme, but it remains to be seen whether the scheme to be substituted will be practicable. Argentine Railway Debenture stocks are becoming quite favourites for investment, now that the country is prospering. We have Buenos Ayres Great Southern Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 121, Central Argentine Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 116, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 109. Having investigated the position of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. Debenture stock, which, by the way, is perpetual, I have come to the conclusion that at the present price of 108 this is particularly suitable for permanent investment. It will be remembered that the debenture capital of this Company was reconstructed in 1893, and so satisfactory has been the working of the line during the last few years that there is available for the service of the First Four per Cent. Debenture stock more than double the amount required. The satisfactory position will be seen at a glance from the following statement:—

Net revenue for year ending June 30, 1896...	£171,826
Debenture interest	81,017
Surplus ...	£90,809
Traffic receipts from June 30 to November 31	£150,826
Traffic receipts for same period of last year	115,260
Increase...	£35,566

It will be noted, therefore, that this is an especially well-secured Debenture stock, which, in the present dearth of gilt-edged investments, may be recommended as yielding £3. 14s. per cent. per annum. The next six-monthly dividend is payable on December 12, and there are behind these Debentures £1,315,000 Second Four and a Half per Cent. Debentures, quoted at nearly par, and £1,000,000 of Prefs. quoted at 92. Uruguay bonds have suffered from two causes. In the first instance, some minor revolt seems to be in progress in the north, to which, however, no importance is attributed. The announcement that the Uruguayan Government has given notice to the London and River Plate Bank to withdraw its note circulation made, however, a disagreeable impression, as it was viewed in the light of the thin end of the wedge for introducing a note issue by the New National Bank at Monte Video, and it would be as well if the Uruguayan Government were to make some statement on this subject. Guatemala have improved to 44½, but Colombians are easier at 21, pending the receipt of any reliable news as to the proposed settlement of the debt. With reference to Costa Rica, no further proposals have been received from the Government, but I cannot help thinking that, sooner or later, this defaulting Republic must take steps to come to an arrangement with the bondholders. Mexican Sixes have advanced sharply, the Old Loan being quoted 94½, and the New Loan at 92½, which is not surprising, considering the steady progress which is being made by this Republic.

The Kaffir Circus.

The hope which had been entertained in many quarters that the recent improvement in South Africans had come to stay has so far been disappointed, for although the settlement passed off satisfactorily and without any failures, renewed sales have taken the cream off the recovery which had taken place. Still, the wholesale throwing overboard of shares has ceased, and probably when the Paris settlement has been got over, no further weakness will at all events emanate from that quarter. In confirmation of the statement which I made last week as to the probable amount of the indemnity to be demanded by the Transvaal Government, President Kruger has made a statement at a public banquet in Pretoria to the effect that the claim will not be too big, and will exactly represent the expense incurred through the Jameson raid. It is also satisfactory to learn from the President's own lips that there is absolutely not the slightest disposition to tamper with the London Convention. His contradiction of the rumours of possible political trouble, and his promise to foster the mining industry because the more it flourishes the more the State would flourish, are sensible pronouncements. It is not likely that the Boers will kill the goose that lays the golden eggs; but at the same time it is to be hoped that further burdens will be taken off the mining industry in the Transvaal. The shutting down of the Langlaagte Royal, for instance, shows that it is difficult to work low-grade mines profitably under the present conditions. The repeal of the dynamite monopoly, and the reduction of railway rates, are measures which would greatly facilitate operations on the Rand. On the other hand, it appears that portions of the mine now being developed will yield higher grade ore. I repeat that the only serious drawback in the case of the better-class mines now is some scarcity of water. The ample supply of native labour, the reduction of wages,

Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society.—Special Notice.—Participating Assurances effected before the 31st December, 1896, will rank for Six Full Years' Bonus Additions at the next Periodical Division of Profits. To secure this advantage application should be made to any of the offices or agencies of the Society without delay.—London: 28, Cornhill, E.C., & 5, Waterloo place, S.W.

and the concessions with respect to the batteries working on Sunday, are all favourable developments; and as soon as the water difficulty has been overcome by the advance of the season, we shall see returns go up by leaps and bounds. Under the circumstances, I retain my view that well selected gold and land shares should be held for a distinct recovery, and that it is advisable to average holdings acquired at higher prices. It is probable that in the near future quotations will harden but gradually, but the concensus of opinion is in favour of a sharp upward movement when the year is turned. The Chartered Company has officially stated that the full amount of the new issue of shares has been subscribed, and that applicants who have applied for more than they were entitled to by their present holding will receive only from 40 to 50 per cent. The Chartered shareholders seem to have the courage of their opinions, but I should think all the same that there would have been a better chance of the market being worked up if the syndicate had had their way, unless Mr. Cecil Rhodes, on his return, goes in for a stock-jobbing operation. As I am being repeatedly asked by correspondents which stocks it would be best to average in, I herewith give again a little list from which such selections should be made:—Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, City and Suburban, Robinson, Wolhuter, Randfontein, Johannesburg Consols, Barnato Consols, Buffelsdoorn, Henderson's Estates, New Crœsus, Kimberley Roodepoort, Lydenburg Estates, Oceana Consols, Mozambique, Modderfontein "B," Waterfall Estates, Woodstock (Transvaal), and Knights. It is now stated that the case of Pullinger *v.* Barnato in connection with the Buffelsdoorn deal has been settled, the litigants having come to terms. It is a pity that this result was not reached long ago. The news from the Chimes Mines that a 3-ft. reef, assaying 16 dwt. per ton, was met with in a borehole at a depth of 170 ft., is important, especially if the view taken by Dr. Hatch, that this is the main reef, should be confirmed. The Chimes Mines, Limited, it will be remembered, was formed by the Barnato Consolidated Mines, Limited, in September last year. Some uncertainty seems to be overhanging the date at which the Van Ryn will commence crushing, but this cannot now be far off. I wonder who is behind the new flotation of the Scottish Rand Company, Limited, which is now in progress, and has to deal with buildings and building stands in Johannesburg? The Potchefstroom Exploration is apparently as far off as ever from success. Diamond shares have been fairly steady, De Beers being quoted 29, New Jagersfontein 10½. I wonder what the promoters, who have apparently bought twenty-seven claims in the Leicester Mine, which belonged to the Cosmopolitan Syndicate (now in liquidation), propose to do with them? As they were purchased for a mere song, it is to be hoped that they are not to be off-loaded upon the public at a high price.

Golden West Australia.

Fluctuations have been the order of the day in the West Australian department, and although prices at one time improved sharply under the lead of Lake View Consols, which touched 8, the advance has not been altogether maintained. Yet there is absolutely no fresh news which is in any way unfavourable to the West Australian goldfields. In the case of Lake View Consols, a reaction was not due to advices from the mine, which are of the most favourable kind, but to the imminence of the special settlement, which takes place this week. As the quotation has fluctuated very considerably since the shares were introduced on the market, it had been expected that the settlement would be a somewhat laborious one, instead of which it passed off remarkably well, the bulk of the shares being taken up and paid for. The contango opened at 1s. 6d., and eased off to 6d. per share; while the quotation recovered to 7½. Particulars have been published of an arrangement which has been come to between the London and Globe Finance Corporation and its group on one side, and the London-Paris Financial and Mining Corporation on the other side. The London-Paris has just published a Directors' report and balance-sheet, showing a profit of £45,663, which it is, however, not intended to distribute. The Company proposes to extend the field of its operations, and not to confine itself to South African enterprises, which is distinctly a sensible view; and they have concluded an arrangement with the powerful group represented by the London and Globe Corporation, under which fresh capital will be obtained by the creation of 500,000 new shares of £1 each, of which 250,000 will be issued at par under the guarantee of the London and Globe Finance Corporation. Of these the London and Globe Corporation will receive 125,000, while the shareholders of the London-Paris Company will be offered the right to subscribe for the other 125,000 shares. Should 250,000 shares more be issued within a year of the date of the first issue, the London and Globe Corporation will also be entitled to guarantee that issue at the price of £1. 5s. per share, with a similar right to subscribe. There is more in this deal than appears on the surface. It is, of course, not an amalgamation between the two undertakings, but it means that the great South African financiers will also in future take a hand in West Australian matters, and will more particularly be ready to support the same by lending their money in the West Australian market. The London and Globe Company, moreover, acquires a Paris connection which it has not hitherto had, the London and Paris Corporation having a most influential French Board. With reference to the London and Globe Finance and West Australian Exploring and Finance Corporations' Deferred shares, to which I alluded last week, I may mention that there is only half the number of the Deferred shares to the Ordinary shares, while they will be entitled to half the profits, the payment of which will be announced at the next meeting. Therefore, as London and Globe Ordinary shares stand at 4⅛, the Deferred shares, instead of standing between 5 or 6 ought to be quoted 8 or upwards; and those who take an early hand in the deal in these Deferred shares are likely to fare well by doing so. It has pleased certain operators to put the market for London and Globe shares down on the publication of the statement as to its connection with the London-Paris Corporation; but it may safely be said that the able men in control of the group know well what they are about, and any one indulging in "Bear" sales on this point is likely to be badly caught. Advices from the West Australian goldfields are generally favourable, fresh discoveries being announced in several directions; but what the public want at present are crushings, and these are especially required in order to refute the absurd criticisms which have of late appeared in several of my contemporaries. I may as well state that according to the *West Australian Goldfields Courier*, the actual returns for the first nine months of the years 1895 and 1896 were as follows:—

	1895. oz.	1896. oz.
January to March ...	53,814	45,356
April to June ...	54,464	66,971
July to September ...	62,107	81,074
Total ...	170,485	193,401

It might be argued that the increase is not very large, but it should not be forgotten that the Goldfield is in its infancy, and that there has been serious trouble in getting machinery to the mines, the block at Fremantle at one time being beyond all description. Gradually the railway is taking the new batteries up to the mines, and early in the new year distinct progress will be made with crushing. The following are the crushings which have been advised

Cascarine Leprince.—The housewife's ideal laxative. A pure vegetable product, free from irritating effects, which not only relieves, but permanently cures, obstinate and chronic constipation. Its action is mild, painless, and certain, and its tonic properties insure a regular habit of the body. It is invaluable in chronic congestion of the liver, dyspepsia and indigestion, biliousness and sick headache, owing to its tonic influence on the digestive apparatus. The mildness of its action and its absolute freedom from irritating or disagreeable after-effects render it peculiarly suitable for women during nursing. It has secured on the Continent an ever-increasing popularity. Sample gratis on application to Francis Newbery & Sons, 1 and 3, King Edward-st., Newgate-st., London, E.C.

during the week, and it will be seen that amongst these there are several trial crushings from mines which have not hitherto made returns :—

	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Great Boulder	704 ...	2,126 ...	—
North-West Australian Goldfields	141 ...	211 ...	12 dwt.
Princess Royal	100 ...	206 ...	—
Cue One	290 ...	215 ...	9 dwt.
West Australian Mining			
Cooya	10 ...	13 ...	—
Homeward Bound	11 ...	35 ...	—
Menzies Crusoe	4 ...	37 ...	1 oz.
Ditto	4 ...	5 ...	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift ...	35 ...	105 ...	—
Robinson Gold Mines	290 ...	558 ...	—
Ejudina	130 ...	145 ...	—
Cuddingwarra	53 ...	57 ...	—

The public issue of the Northern Territories Goldfields, Limited, is at hand; and considerable dealings have taken place in the £1 shares of this Company, both partly paid and fully paid, the partly paid (10s. paid) being quoted $2\frac{1}{16}$ premium, the fully paid $3\frac{7}{16}$. The premium appears to be justified considering the comparatively moderate capital of £300,000. It had been the original intention to make the capital one million, in view of the very large holding of the Company, which consists of six extensive groups of mines, with hundreds of working shafts, and a great deal of plant and machinery; while the claims extend over nearly 800 acres, and a large block of tailings is already available, assaying 3 ounces per ton. The auriferous wealth of the large tracts acquired by the Company has been proved by the reports of numerous experts, and it is estimated that over £100,000 has already been expended upon the development of the properties. What has rendered these mines of special value has been the discovery of a vein interlacing the usual quartzite of rotten, slaty schitose, exactly similar to that found in the richest mines in the Hannan's district. It will be remembered that this Company is brought out by a combination of the principal West Australian Finance Companies, to the number of fourteen, at the head of which is the West Australian Joint Stock Trust, Limited. The shares of the latter Trust have already gone ahead to $2\frac{1}{8}$ premium in anticipation of this issue, and the Founders' shares are quoted at 40. The Cue No. 1 is again to the fore with a crushing of 290 tons for 215 oz., the tailings assaying 9 dwt. per ton; and although this is a low-grade mine it is expected to pay well. The shares are quoted $\frac{1}{2}$, at which they are well worth picking up. The crushing of the Princess Royal is distinctly satisfactory, yielding as it does over 2 oz. to the ton. White Feather Reward shares have advanced to $1\frac{3}{4}$, on the cablegram stating that crushing is proceeding with twenty stamps, and everything working smoothly with sufficient water. Should the crushing prove satisfactory, these shares will probably rise sharply. Other shares which are worth attention are Great Boulder Main Reef at $1\frac{3}{8}$, Mawson's Reward at $\frac{15}{16}$, Robinson at $\frac{3}{4}$, East Murchison United at $\frac{13}{16}$, and Mount Margaret at $1\frac{3}{8}$. Lady Shenton have been steady, and should the next crushing prove as good as the previous ones, we may see a considerable advance on the present price of 2. Great Boulder, after rising to $6\frac{1}{2}$, are easier at $6\frac{1}{4}$; but Ivanhoe have been strong at $10\frac{1}{2}$. It is to be regretted that the legal formalities connected with the return of 4s. per share of the capital of the Hampton Plains are causing so much delay in its distribution; but, after all, the money has been deposited with the National Bank of Scotland, and by February next it will no doubt reach the hands of the shareholders. The trial crushing with the five new stamps of the Burbank's Birthday Gift, just announced by cablegram dated November 25, by which 35 tons yielded 3 oz. of gold per ton, exclusive of tailings, is distinctly favourable; and when the water supply becomes better, and more stamps are running, larger returns are expected. This news should prove very favourable to Burbank's Consols and Burbank's North. From the Burbank's Consols, moreover, Professor Frank Nicholas has cabled to the effect that he has discovered another reef on the property, the vein formation being 6 in. wide, and showing specks of visible free gold. Professor Nicholas adds that prospects are encouraging. From the Armadale a cablegram from Mr. Frank Nicolas is to the effect that the winding engine is started, and that the cyanide plant is on the mine. It is expected that this property will also give a good account of itself. With regard to the Great Boulder Main Reef, cable advices announce the discovery of a rich body of telluride ore at the 158-ft. level, the cabled assays varying from 3 oz. to 57 oz. per ton. The crushing of the Robinson Gold Mines is distinctly encouraging, 290 tons having yielded 558 oz. of gold, or 1 oz. 18 dwt. per ton. The report of the Mawson's Reward Claim, which has just been issued, marks a step in advance in these documents, as it is drawn up in tabular form, so as to show, at a glance, all the development work that has been done. A great deal of ore is in sight, which is expected to yield 2 oz. to the ton. As a battery of 15 head of stamps has been erected, crushing will doubtless shortly commence. The North West Australian Goldfields are also now apparently distinguishing themselves by regular crushings, the yield being fairly satisfactory.

The Lady Hampton Rig.

A good deal of excitement has recently been caused by the corner which has been created in Lady Hampton Consolidated Gold Mines, and I stated last week that, although I am not generally on the side of the "Bears," who deserve, as a rule, what they get, the Lady Hampton rig was too outrageous, the shares having been run up nominally to something like 300 premium. This, at least, was the fancy price mentioned by those who engineered the corner, for it stands to reason that no actual dealings took place at anything like that figure. The Lady Hampton Consolidated was registered on September 28 by Messrs. Edwards & Cohen, solicitors, of Coleman-street, with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, for the purpose of acquiring a West Australian property. The vendors were the Antipodes Exploration, but there is little doubt that Mr. R. P. Houston, M.P., held the chief interest in this concern. I do not know how much there may be in the rumour that the mine originally was offered in the market at a very low figure; but, to judge by the history of some West Australian Companies, this would not be at all surprising; and as the Company was considered largely over-capitalised, the jobbers had probably some excuse for banging the shares. There appears to be absolutely no truth in the allegation that the deal had been offered to one of the leading jobbers, and that his terms had been found too high. On the contrary, he maintains that he was never approached in the matter and did not know who was behind the deal, but that he and others sold the shares in order to stop the excessive flotations of new West Australian Gold Mining Companies. The promoters promptly decided to punish the offending jobbers, and there is no doubt that somehow or other "Bear" commitments were created to the tune of 10,000 shares, out of which the leading jobber above-referred to is computed to have sold 2,800. Against these the price has been run up by a combination of the promoters and other insiders. The Stock Exchange Committee had granted a special settlement for November 25. But when the curious dealings in the shares were brought to their notice, they deferred the settlement till the end of the year. In this they were undoubtedly justified, for the circumstances of this promotion and allotment call for special investigation. It should be shown in the first instance whether, as is alleged, the mine was bought for a comparatively small sum, say of £8,000 or £9,000, as against a purchase price of £190,000. Again they will have to consider whether the allotment was a bonâ-fide one, and whether the condition that the requisite proportion had been allotted to the public has been fulfilled. Should this not be the case, the Committee would be

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

bound to withhold a settlement, and the dealings in the shares would thus be cancelled. "Bear" operators have frequently enough exercised a most pernicious influence upon the markets and upon individual concerns, and if they get into a tight place by attempting to wreck the property of others, and fail in this, there is very little pity for them. But it should not be possible for promoters to lay a trap for sellers of shares in concerns which are hugely over-capitalised, and the shares in which are not allotted to the public in a bonâ-fide manner. Whether this is the case in the present instance the Committee of the Stock Exchange will doubtless be able to ascertain. In the meantime there are rumours of writs for actions for libel and conspiracy flying about, but as far as I could ascertain no actual proceedings had up to Tuesday been taken. The whole business is, however, likely to bring more grist to the mill of the legal profession than to those interested in the deal. Latest reports are to the effect that a mistake has been made with reference to the Stock Exchange settlement, and that this was granted on the numbers of fully-paid Vendors' shares instead of on those of partly-paid shares. Should this report prove correct, the whole matter would end in a compromise or in smoke.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

A firm tone has prevailed in Indian Gold mines, and there have been improvements in Mysore and Nundydroog. Champion Reefs and Nine Reefs are also better, but Coromandel have eased off. Amongst Australian mines other than West Australian, Broken Hill Proprietary are firm at $2\frac{9}{16}$, and Mount Lyell are also better; while advances are marked in Wentworth, Gibraltar, and British Broken Hill. Declines are, however, shown in Mount Morgan and Bendigo. Aladdin's Lamp have been dull at $2\frac{3}{8}$. The Croydon Consols dividend has now been announced at 1s., making, with the previous dividends paid, 1s. 6d. per share, or £33,000 paid since May last. Crushings continue on a large scale, and for the fortnight 448 tons have yielded 2,055 oz. of gold. The full 15 head of stamps are now at work, and continuous crushings are anticipated. It is not surprising that, under these circumstances, the shares should have advanced to 11s. 6d., and a reaction to 10s. 6d., which has since occurred is, no doubt, only temporary. It is very gratifying to me that my readers, who have bought these shares from 3s. 6d. upwards, are faring so well with them. North Croydon Consols have been steady at 3s. 6d. In Charters Towers shares very little business has been transacted. New Zealand properties, on the other hand, are coming into demand; and advances are marked in Waihi, Waihi Silverton, New Zealand Joint Stock Trust, Komata Reefs, Komata Queen, Woodstock, &c. Taitapu, the favourable position of which I explained last week, have risen to $3\frac{11}{16}$, and should go considerably higher. From the Kuranui-Caledonian a cablegram has been received stating that the return from 60 tons was £625, which gives a yield of £10. 8s. 4d. per ton. The *Mining Standard* (Auckland, New Zealand) states that "Operations as reported last week are still in progress, although nothing of any very great importance need be expected until the rather heavy work of re-timbering, &c., is completed, when the manager will have more time to give to the work of getting out ore. We shall be the first to congratulate him should he drop on one of the old leaders which has made the Thames (world famous) as a goldfield." In the general foreign section business has been on a small scale. Pestarena have moved up, but Montana and St. John del Rey are lower. There has been also a relapse in Rio Tinto to $24\frac{3}{8}$. Grand Central, the well-known Mexican mine, appears to be doing well, and the price has advanced to $2\frac{5}{8}$. I hear, by the way, that a very important Mexican mine will shortly be issued under influential auspices, under the name of the Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico, Limited, which will acquire fully-equipped and developed mines and large blocks of land in the State of Sonora. A number of experts have reported most favourably upon the mine, which is described to have a true fissure vein of great size. Sixty stamps are at present working, which would suffice to earn a very large net profit, immediate dividends of 30 per cent. being foreshadowed.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

Septimus Parsonage & Co., Limited.—To acquire, amalgamate, and carry on the businesses of Septimus Parsonage & Co., of Mark-lane, E.C., Liverpool, and Dublin, wine and spirit brokers; James Violett, Bird & Co., claret shippers, Bordeaux; James Isles & Co., Scotch whisky blenders, Dundee; S. Parsonage & Fleming, brandy merchants and shippers, Châteauneuf, Cognac, France; and the land and buildings for the Highland Esk Distillery, this Company has been formed with a capital of £220,000, divided into 120,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and 100,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

This is an amalgamation of old-established concerns doing a good trade, thus effecting a large saving both in the management and in the advertising expenses. The Company also acquires the monopoly of selling in the United Kingdom the well-known wines of Messrs. Theophile Roederer & Co. for twenty-one years, and has just concluded a valuable contract with that firm for the sole agency for South West of France, Russia, United States, Canada, and other countries. It is stated that over 2,000 hotels, clubs, &c., besides a large number of wine merchants, are customers of the firm, and the estimate of the united profits, based upon former returns, foreshadows a large surplus after paying 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares in addition to the Preference interest.

Atlantic and Danville Railway.—The Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, invite subscriptions for 678,000 dols. Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds. The principal and interest are payable in gold coin of the United States. The share capital is 3,200,000 dols. Five per Cent. Preferred shares and 2,500,000 dols. Ordinary shares. The price of issue is 92, at 4s. to the dollar.

Showell's Stockport Brewery, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire the Brookfield Brewery, Stockport, and the freehold, copyhold, and leasehold licensed houses attached thereto. The capital is fixed at £200,000, divided into 10,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and 10,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each. There are also 2,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture bonds of £100 each.

S. J. Waring & Sons, Limited.—With a capital of £480,000, divided into 46,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference and 50,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each, this Company proposes to take over the business of furniture manufacturers and dealers, upholsterers, decorators, &c., carried on under the title of S. J. Waring & Sons, Limited, at 181, Oxford-street, London; Bold-street, Liverpool, and Deansgate, Manchester. They also acquire the well-known Renaissance Galleries at 104, New Bond-street, London.

This business has been established for some years, and has been a very progressive one. It has branches in Manchester, Liverpool, and London, and the firm have been very successful during the past few years in competitions, the Hotel Cecil, Hans Crescent Hotel, and the Princes' Restaurant being amongst the many large orders recently carried out by them. From the standing acquired by Waring & Sons there seems to be every prospect of their continuing their successful career.

The British Motor Syndicate, Limited.—With a registered capital of £1,000,000, in shares of £1, this Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring various patents for motor cars, vans, bicycles, and other description of vehicles.

Motor cars are very much in the air still, and to ask so huge a capital for a Company dealing with undeveloped patents, which may at any time be superseded by others, is preposterous. To offer the shares at a high premium is placing a very low estimate upon the intelligence of the public.

Darby, Nott, & Co., Limited.—This Company has been formed to acquire and carry on the Lion Iron Works, Barnstaple; Brecon Foundry, Brecon; Sheet Metal and Stamp Works, Hounslow; and twenty-one wholesale and retail ironmongery businesses situate in London and elsewhere. The capital is fixed at £200,000, in Six per Cent. Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each.

Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
Ernest Irroy & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

The Credo Gold Mines, Limited is formed with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares, to acquire mining properties known as the Credo, the East Credo, and the West Credo, in the Coolgardie Goldfields of Western Australia. £20,000 is reserved as working capital.

The Kapai-Vermont Gold Mining Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to purchase and extend the operations of the Kapai-Vermont Gold Mine, a dividend-paying property, equipped with machinery and cyanide plant, situate in the Kuaotunu Goldfield (Hauraki District), of New Zealand, comprising an area of thirty-seven acres. The capital consists of £150,000 in 150,000 shares of £1 each, of which 110,000 are offered for subscription.

The prospectus states that up to date 5,480 tons of ore have been crushed, producing 8,779 oz. of gold. The mine is taken over as a going concern, being equipped with machinery and cyanide plant, and, according to the reports of the experts, it will develop into a very valuable property, it being expected that the richness of the ore will increase greatly at the deeper levels. As it is proposed to erect additional machinery for the treatment of 150 tons of ore a day, a considerable increase in the profits may be anticipated.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

Government, &c., Bonds.

Taffy.—The fund is accumulating, as usual; but it is not known what the amount of the surplus will be.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

American Subscriber.—This is a Colonial Bank of fair standing; but it is subject, like all other Banks of this kind, to fluctuations of business; and one cannot call it absolutely safe. *G. T. Faith.*—I cannot refer to back letters. You must repeat your questions. *J. W. S.*—Thanks for your letter. I have repeatedly given the advice to my readers to have nothing to do with "Our Own Investment System" of Douglas, Hungerford, & Williams, 5, Copthall-buildings, London, E.C. If, as you say, a commission of 5 per cent. is allowed to any one obtaining subscriptions, this makes my advice all the more urgent. *An Innocent Victim.*—I am sorry to hear you came to grief in Australian Bank shares. I gave ample warning before the crisis. At present you have no option but to hold. *W. S. E.*—Thanks for your letter. I should advise you to have nothing whatever to do with the outside concern in question, or with this publication.

Home Rails.

S. O., Manchester.—Thanks. As you say, both Brighton "A" and Dover "A" are bearing out my predictions; and this will, no doubt, also be the case with Coras and North British Deferred. *Padimo.*—1. I do not for a moment think that the dividend will be so high. 2. I think your calculation is too sanguine. *Ray.*—Your selection of Midland G. W. of Ireland Ordinary stock, Metropolitan District Five per Cent. Prefs., Dover "A," Caledonian Deferred, and North British Deferred is very suitable, and I do not think you can improve upon it.

American and Foreign Rails.

Retired Pay.—Yes, I certainly would advise you to hold Argentine Northern Central Five per Cent. bonds for a rise. *Leominster.*—I have never recommended these Brazilian railway stocks; but it seems to me that you have no option but to hold on the chance of a recovery. *Lexicon.*—You should hold your Ontario for a further rise. *King's Own.*—There is no reason for the decline in Argentine Northern Centrals, which should be held for a recovery. *W. W., Leith.*—There is nothing against this railway stock, but Chilian investments generally have given way. *A. B. C. D. E.*—I do not think much of this Company myself, but as you would forfeit your stock if you did not pay up, you had better do so and sell after. I still advise holding the Argentine stock in question. *Sculptor.*—It is certainly to be regretted that the United States Car Company has again to be reorganised; but I do not see how you can refuse the proposal. *Central.*—Certainly hold Mexican Central Four per Cent. Gold bonds. This line should be benefited by the renewal of the pooling arrangement. *C. M., Kilburn.*—Metropolitan Districts are at present very cheap. *B. E.*—Yes, gilt-edged American Railway bonds are quite safe if you are satisfied with 3¾ to 4 per cent. for your money. As a matter of principle, I cannot recommend individual stockbrokers. Your bank manager will doubtless do so.

Mining Shares.

P., Cheshire.—I already referred last week to Westralia and Randt, Limited, and to the W.A. Minerals and Finance Company, Limited, and am doing so again to-day. I should certainly not advise putting any money into these concerns. *Vigilance.*—The Lake View Consols is undoubtedly a very rich property, but the more important rise will probably only take place when the large crushings come to hand. You must yourself decide whether to hold the shares till then or to take your profit sooner. *Scot.*—At the present price this should be a fair mining risk; but it is no catch. *Constancy.*—It would appear that your letter must have miscarried. If you inquired after Randfontein and Porges Randfontein, both these shares are likely to improve. As requested, I forward the name of a smart firm of City solicitors in your envelope. *Nelson.*—No; I do not advise purchase of La Yesca now, as the management leaves a great deal to be desired. *T. M. R.*—1. No reason; favourable advices have been received. You should write to the Secretary. 2. You will have to await the report of the New Explorers' Syndicate, which is shortly to be issued. *Ulster.*—1 and 2. An outside concern whose system I do not like. I advise you strongly to deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. 3. You should average your holding in Randfontein and Johnnies; they should go much higher. *Mon Moore.*—You should hold all your South African shares, including New Crœsus, for an improvement. *John G.*—I still have a favourable opinion of London and Continental Investment Ordinary and Deferred shares, and you should hold these for a rise. 2. The Directors' report of the New Explorers' Syndicate is expected shortly. 3. No option but to hold for the present. 4. I cannot really tell you, but am promised the information shortly; they should certainly be held. *Taffy, Menai Bridge.*—1. Amongst dividend-paying Australian shares, I should advise purchase of West Australian Exploring and Finance, Croydon Consols, Hampton Plains, West Australian Goldfields, and West Australian Joint Stock Trust Ordinary and Founders' shares. 2. I do not like these so well. *Caledon.*—You have done quite right, and your shares will further improve. Amongst the list mentioned, I should certainly prefer Oceana Consols (1), Woodstock-Transvaal (2), and Great Boulder Main Reefs (4). I do not think so much of the others. *E. O.*—From the circular which has just been issued you will find that the return of capital of the Hampton Plains cannot be made until February next for legal reasons. 2. A fair purchase at present price. 3. Yes; but you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. 4. Yes. *Snipe.*—There is nothing against this Company, but it is not so well suited for investment by English capitalists as the other shares of this group. *High Pressure.*—There is nothing against the New Bultfontein Mine, which is doing very well. *Man.*—Yes, you should hold. *Violet.*—You should certainly hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 8, and average South Australian Gold Trust (1), and Johnnies (3). I do not like Lisbon-Berlyn (8), and have always said so. No. 5 are very cheap now. *Gamma.*—1. I do not think that there is anything of the kind; 2 to 4 have also still plenty of chances. These shares are chiefly depressed through unscrupulous "Bear" selling. *Boltonion.*—1. You should hold your mining shares. 2. Both South Africans and West Australians are worth buying now. 3. You will find full information in my letter under "The Rally in the Kaffir Circus" and "Golden West Australia." *J. F. S., Stockton-on-Tees.*—You should hold both your mining shares Nos. 1 and 2 for an improvement. *P. J. L., Dublin.*—You should hold both South African shares for a rise, which is already in progress. *Nemo, Sutton Coldfield.*—1. I do not like this outside concern; you should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. The supposed saving of the brokers' commission is altogether illusory. It would be put for you on the price. Amongst the shares mentioned, I should prefer Oceana (*c*) and Langlaagte (*d*). *La Plata.*—There is no market for these shares here, and I fancy that the concern has been wound up. You will have to inquire in South Africa. *H. L. S.*—I cannot trace anything about the African Gold Coast Trading Corporation, Limited, and there is no market for the shares. *Enquirer, Banbury.*—The reason why I advised purchase and holding of these shares is that the property is in an excellent position, adjoining the rich portion of the Randfontein Estate. The shares have fallen in sympathy with the general slump. *Patrick.*—1. I should consider this Colorado Mining and Investment Company's shares a very bad investment. 2. There is no market for them. 3. I do not know this personage. *Johnnie.*—There is no risk in the case in question, and you should hold these shares for a considerable rise. *F. F., Ipswich.*—You should hold your shares Nos. 1 to 4 for an improvement, and you had better average by buying some of the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." 5. Certainly hold Southern Ordinary for a recovery. *C. A., Warwickshire.*—I do not think much of this concern. *C. G. H., Stoke.*—You should hold your shares for an improvement, and average by buying some of the shares mentioned in my letter under "Golden West Australia." *Bottler.*—You should hold your African Estate shares for a rise. You say you have bought Lake View at $1\frac{7}{16}$. Do you mean the old Lake View shares, which have since been converted into Lake View Consols? If so, there is a little fortune in them, Lake View Consols being now quoted 7⅜. Amongst your list of mining shares to purchase, I should prefer Nos. 3 to 7, and 9 and 10. *Argus, Glasgow.*—London and Globe Finance shares have since rallied very considerably, and you should hold for a further rise. Hold No. 2 for an advance. *Yorkshire.*—No dividend can be expected yet; but both are promising mines. *B. H.*—Yes, W. A. Joint Stock Trust (1), and the mining shares Nos. 2 and 3, should be held for a rise. *A. N., Sunderland.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, Nos. 1 to 6, I should prefer No. 5; and for the rest you can do better in the shares mentioned in my letter. No. 4 should recover again; I explained the position fully three weeks ago. No. 6 should also be held. *Pirites.*—I should advise you to hold your shares

for a recovery. *But.*—You will do well to hold all your South African shares Nos. 1 to 4 for a recovery; they are well selected. *C. H. P.*—From the information I have received, the rinderpest is not likely to affect the sound Witwatersrand mines. *Working Man, Gateshead.*—I do not think it would be advisable for you to speculate on the Stock Exchange. *Pharaoh.*—You should hold your shares; there is still a prospect of a recovery. *W. M. C.*—The shareholders ought to combine against the atrocious proceedings of the Directors of the Abercorn Reefs, who are now trying through Burgoyne, Watts & Co. to enforce calls, which they ought never to have made. The shareholders should act for themselves. *Roseland.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, I prefer Nos. 1, 3, 6, and 7. The others are undesirable. *W. C. S.*—Yes, you should certainly hold both the mining shares Nos. 1 and 2. *Despondent.*—No option but to hold your mining shares, and you should certainly average Adler's Consolidated. *Ceripa.*—Amongst the mining shares Nos. 1 to 4, I think No. 4 is worth buying; but you can make a better selection from the shares mentioned in my letter. *Lex.*—You are quite right to take your shares Nos. 1 to 12 off the market, and hold for a distinct recovery. I must, however, except Sam's Wealth of Nations, which is not a desirable concern, and has now been pulled up for want of capital. *Falkiner.*—Yes, you should average Langlaagte Star. Goldfields of Lydenburg are likely to recover. *Contango.*—Outside brokers; I should advise you to deal only through a member of the Stock Exchange. Hampton Plains are a good purchase. *D. R.*—The rights are one Porges Randfontein for every five Randfontein shares. You are therefore entitled to twenty Porges Randfontein. *Onyx.*—I hold an unfavourable opinion of the Queensland Menzies Gold Mining Company and of the Queensland Lady Sherry. *Cathedral.*—No option but to hold Nos. 1 to 9 for a recovery. *Clerk, Dundee.*—No; I do not advise purchase of Corsair Consolidated. *Bond 7.*—All your Mining shares Nos. 1-19 should be held for a recovery. No. 20 is a Paris firm which is touting for orders for lottery bonds, but generally charges far above the market value. If you want to buy such bonds, you should do so through a respectable London firm of foreign brokers. *Taxin.*—1. Thanks for the circulars of syndicate touts. I have already criticised their doings. 2. Hold the South African shares for a recovery. I am glad you are doing so well in Croydon Consols on my advice. *H. M., Gainsborough.*—1. I do not recommend purchase of these Development and Finance shares. I have never recommended these West Australian shares, and do not think much of them. You should combine with the other shareholders. *De Trop.*—Hold West Boulder. 2. No, I do not advise purchase of Brownhill Proprietary. *Ignorans.*—Both Bertram's (Luipaards Vlei) and the Knysna Mines, Limited, have been in liquidation for some years. The Liquidator of Bertram's is the Official Receiver, 33, Carey-street, W.C.; and of the Knysna Mines, Messrs. J. S. Prince & W. S. Stronge, 313 and 314, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C. You should apply to these gentlemen for further information.

Industrial Investments.

D. W.—I do not think much of this Steel Company, as the future is somewhat problematical. *One who has Suffered.*—I quite agree with you that Triticine, Limited, is not a concern in which investment is advisable. *Redruth.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you, Nos. 1 and 2 are preferable. *Cero.*—I do not think it would pay you to give more than par for these Three per Cent. debentures. *Wakefield.*—I am glad you are doing so well in Leeds and Wakefield Breweries, which you bought at 11½, and which now stand at 13¼. I do not, however, advise purchase at this increased price. *G. T.*—I have always had an unfavourable opinion of the United Alkali Company; but there is no reason to get out of the debentures in a hurry. *Haddon.*—I do not think much of these Stores, and should take an opportunity to get out. *Lady O.*—I am afraid that this matter has been arranged so long ago that it would be useless to attempt to upset it now. *Regiment.*—I do not think there is any hurry to get out of these Cycle shares. The Publishing shares are very speculative; and against the Beeston Rim Company's shares I have warned my readers many a time. You do not seem to read my remarks regularly. *K. T. G. C.*—I have asked the question concerning the strange proceeding on the part of the Secretary of the Beeston Tyre Rim Company in to-day's letter under "Various Investments." I certainly consider this a very unusual proceeding on the part of the Directors. *Syphon.*—I really cannot help you by "recommending a promoter who would take up two of the best English patents for syphons;" and I am certainly not aware that English brewers contemplate sending out their beer in syphons instead of small casks. *Clementina.*—The best breweries amongst those mentioned by you are Nos. 1 and 6. *West Cheshire.*—No. *J. P., Portman-square.*—I do not recommend the investment. *S. F. Z.*—Yes, *Financial Times* Ordinary shares at £3 each look very promising. According to the last balance-sheet the Company paid a dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, thus at the present price yielding a return of 8 per cent.; while a surplus of 10 per cent. has been placed to reserve. *Dundalk.*—1. No, I do not know this firm. 2. These Meat shares are a fair investment. *C. H., Fulham.*—1. No catch. 2. Outside dealers. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. 3. No. *W.*—No, this class of Dock stocks is not at all progressive.

The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's Cloudy Household Ammonia, which refreshes and exhilarates.

Mixed Investments.

Beno.—It is not advisable to sell your mining shares at present; await a recovery first. I do not like Simpson's Lever Chains at all, and have always said so. *Erebus.*—1. After the heavy fall I hardly think it advisable to sell; but it is not a very good investment. 2. No, I should not advise you to sell Costa Rica "B" bonds now, as a settlement will, no doubt, come about sooner or later. *Tasman.*—1. The amount was transferred from the reserve fund to make provision for possible losses, but the shares, at present price, are a good investment. 2. No option but to hold now. *E. H. G.*—1. No particular reason for selling these debentures. 2. The business of the Lydenburg Exploring and Minerals Company has undoubtedly been hindered by the disturbed state of the country; but if you write to the secretary, Mr. J. D. Kennedy, 25, Abchurch-lane, E.C., he will doubtless give you every information. 3. There is nothing new about these Diamond shares. *F. M. B.*—1. I have not a favourable opinion of these Stores and the shares are not quoted on the Stock Exchange. 2. Yes; hold for a recovery. 3. If copper further improves, yes. 4. No. *Bunkered.*—1. These Brewery debentures are a good investment, and there is no reason for your anxiety. 2. A fair speculative risk, but no catch. 3. The interest on the debentures is safe enough. *Walker.*—These shares have declined in the general South African slump, and should now be held for a recovery; also keep the other shares. *Fair City.*—1. Yes, these Brewery Preference shares are accumulative, and there are some arrears to be made up. Write to the Secretary, at 35, Copthall-avenue, E.C., for full particulars. 2. Hold; but do not average. You can do better in other West Australian shares. 3. Yes; hold. *Auld Reekie.*—I am not an advocate of Chartered shares; but it might be advisable to hold now, so as to recover some of your loss. No option but to hold your shares Nos. 2 to 5 for a recovery. On No. 6 you should take a fair profit; and I do not approve of Premier Cycles (7). *E. C.*—1. Yes; you would participate in the sale of the undertaking. 2. Yes; they are fully paid. *Sports.*—1. Outside brokers, whose character I certainly should not like to guarantee. You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. 2. You should certainly buy Langlaagte Estate and West Australian Exploring and Finance (3). No. 4 (North British Deferred) are an excellent purchase for a speculative investment. *S. W. J.*—Take a good profit in Komata Reefs. Hold Southern Ordinary for a rise. A printer's error, of course. *Franz.*—1. Allsopp Ordinary are just moving up; hold for a further rise. 2. Yes, they will recover, buy more to average. 3. I have a bad opinion of United Alkali. 4. Hold Louisville. *Sagax.*—1. A very good selection for permanent investment. 2. Not quite gilt-edged, but nearly so, and no reason to trouble about the attack. 3. In order to increase your yield you might exchange a portion of the holding into Brighton "A," which will give you nearly 4 per cent, and into Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. Debenture stock. With reference to the latter, see remarks under "Foreigners and South Americans." I do not recommend the last alternative stated by you. *Mexicus, Dublin.*—1. The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company is doing well, and there is no reason to sell. 2. Hold. *Egypt.*—1. Quite high enough. 2. No catch. Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. Debenture stock at 108 would be preferable. *Industrious.*—No reason to make the change. *Starfish.*—1. Good prospects. 2. I do not recommend the investment. 3. Nitrate Rails will probably recover, but I have still a very unfavourable opinion of Qu'Appelle, Long Lake, &c. *Hospital.*—1. There is nothing against the Chilian Railway stock; and, after the fall, you had better hold. 2. A fair mining risk, but I do not think much of it. *Wexford Oyster.*—1. Yes, a fair mining risk. 2. They have already paid a 25 per cent. bonus. 3. Yes.

Various Investments.

Consols have distinguished themselves during the past week by a rise to 112⅜ for the account, and it was generally anticipated that the Bank of England would take its stock back on which it had borrowed in order to make its rate effective. This, however, does not appear to have been done yet, judging from the contango of 3½ per cent. at the Consol settlement. There is, however, but little probability of any stiffening in the Money Market. On the contrary, greater ease is anticipated, as it is practically certain that no more gold will go to the United States; while there is actually a prospect of return shipments from that country next year. No other gold demands are at present in sight, and rates of discount, which have now dropped to 3¼ per cent. for three months' bank bills, may therefore recede further; until towards the end of the year the usual requirements of the season may cause rates to stiffen temporarily. Silver is slightly easier at 29⅞, but Rupee Paper has recovered to 63⅛. An important announcement has been made to the effect that the profits of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company have been on a very large scale. It had been anticipated that the profits for the year would amount to £400,000; but an inspired state-

ment has now been put forward that the realised profit for the year has been £1,450,000. This will not only provide large sums for reserve, but give a big dividend to the Deferred shares; and it is not surprising that Dunlop shares should have advanced thereupon, the Ordinary rising to $1\frac{3}{16}$, the Deferred to $1\frac{9}{16}$. Humber shares have been steady, the Ordinary at $1\frac{1}{4}$, the Preferred at $1\frac{1}{16}$, the Extensions at $1\frac{5}{16}$. Singer Cycles remain at $1\frac{1}{16}$, Beeston's at $3\frac{1}{2}$, and Simpson's Lever Chains at 7s.; but, as my readers are aware, I have no favourable opinion of the two last-named. In Gladiators (Clement, Humber, & Gladiator, France), business has taken place at $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium; and Swift Cycles have been firm at $\frac{1}{16}$ premium. Bagot Tyre shares have taken a jump to 7 premium on rumours of a corner. This does not, however, appear to be one of the illegitimate corners, such as have lately become fashionable; but it is understood that ample allotments were made at the time of the flotation of the Company, and that the "Bear" sales were made subsequently by persons who were determined to depress the market. These sales were met by large purchases on the part of the insiders, and the present squeeze is one which the "Bears" entirely brought about themselves, and for which they will have to suffer severely. I wonder what is in the wind with reference to the Beeston Tyre Rim Company, Limited? The secretary, Mr. Charles Osborn, is sending out postcards to the following effect:—

Sir or Madam,—Kindly inform me the lowest price you will take for your shares in the Beeston Tyre Rim Company, Limited, and oblige—Yours faithfully,

Chas. Osborn, Secretary.

When the shareholders thereupon ask what the secretary will give for the shares, they are met with the reply that he was merely instructed by the Directors to ask what the shareholders would take for their shares; and that if they do not care to make an offer, there is no necessity to trouble further in the matter. It is now officially announced that the new issue of Bovril, Limited, has been very largely over-subscribed, although the issue of the allotments has caused sales by "stags," and temporarily depressed quotations. The Ordinary and Deferred are quoted par to $\frac{1}{16}$ premium, the Preferred at par. Amongst Brewery shares Allsopps have taken a jump to $175\frac{1}{2}$, but there is no change in Guinness, which are quoted 540. A steady business is passing in other home brewery shares, but American brewery shares are temporarily neglected. Dealings have commenced in the Ordinary shares of the *Financial Times*, Limited, at £3 to £3. 2s. 6d. This Company comprises not only the *Financial Times*, but also important trade papers which are yielding large profits; and the trading for the half-year ended July 4 last showed a net profit of £21,071. After deducting a dividend at the rate of 25 per cent., a sum of £10,390 was left to carry forward. From the balance-sheet it appears that the Company's assets in cash and investments amount to £50,000. The Ordinary shares at £3 yield a return of 8 per cent., with a surplus of 10 per cent. to reserve, and are therefore a promising industrial investment. I have received the following complaint from a holder of £4,000 in Ordinary shares of the Hotchkiss Ordnance, Limited:—

Referring to the reconstruction of the Hotchkiss Ordnance, Limited, the recommendation of the Committee, endorsed by the Directors, on the above subject, has been placed before the shareholders; also a circular from the Directors which points out that, while they have been paying dividends on Preference shares, and Income-tax, amounting of £3,920 on the accumulated reserve fund, there has actually been a loss made through depreciation of goodwill, patents, &c., estimated at £360,000. This appears to be £78,000 more than the entire profits divided amongst the shareholders since the Company was formed. The reconstruction scheme seems to be formed on a very unfair basis so far as the Ordinary shares are concerned, for while the Preference and Ordinary shares stand on an equal footing as regards capital, the Preference shareholders are to get a cash bonus of 8s. and the par value of their shares, but the Ordinary shares are depreciated by 80 per cent. The only fair basis for reconstruction is to treat the shareholders as if the Company had gone into liquidation, when, after deducting all mortgages and outstanding debts, the net balance would be divided equally between Preference and Ordinary. In estimating the present value of the business, the former course of trying to keep up the inflated value of patents and goodwill (which must now be becoming rather stale and tending towards expiration) must be carefully avoided. The net average earnings of the Company, taking a bad year with a good one, will not, in my opinion, exceed, per annum, £40,000, out of which must be paid for redemption of debentures, £15,000, interest on same, £7,300, expenses of management and contingencies, say, £5,700, making £28,000; leaving for division among shareholders, £12,000. This would pay a dividend of 6 per cent. upon a capital of £200,000. I would suggest writing £600,000 off present capital, which would reduce the face value of the shares to £2. 10s. each, and I would adopt the recommendation of the Committee that all the shares should be Ordinary. As an equivalent to the share reduction, I would write off the sum of £594,218 appearing in the balance-sheet of 1895 for patents, goodwill, &c. The remaining £5,782 might be safely written off the Howard Torpedo, or otherwise, according to the judgment of the Directors. The error which the Directors and Committee have fallen into is that they think Preference shareholders are entitled to be paid dividends out of capital. Dividends, even to Preference shareholders, can only be paid out of profits, and where there are no profits, nor ever likely to be any (as this Company stands at present), they have no claim whatever. Is there not a possibility of some portion of the £3,920 paid for income-tax on reserve fund being recovered if applied for at once?

On the face of it, my correspondent has a serious grievance, and although it is not possible to proceed in the reconstruction from the point of view of the Ordinary shareholders alone, a modification in the reconstruction scheme would certainly appear to be called for. With reference to Motor Car flotations, I need hardly repeat the warnings which I have so often given. The industry has not yet arrived at a stage at which profits can be relied upon, the patents being altogether undeveloped and likely to be superseded by other inventions. I hear that the prospectus of the Minerva Nailless Horseshoe Company, Limited, will shortly be issued. At the inaugural dinner held at the Hotel Cecil last week some very favourable statements were made by men who are breeders of horses, or otherwise in a position to judge. It is rumoured that Messrs. Hampton & Sons will shortly be converted into a Limited Company. J. Edwards & Co., stock and share dealers, Talbot House, Arundel-street, London, W.C., are again to the front with their alluring prospectuses, in which the boast is made that they have closed twenty-two "operations" at profits ranging from $17\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to $214\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Extracts from numerous letters, speaking favourably of the results of their "operations," are also given; but these would gain a great deal of force if the full names and addresses were attached.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

PRISCILLA'S PROBOSCIS.

THE Misses Priscilla and Paulina Pastern were two very good-looking girls. The former was even beautiful; the latter might be more properly described as vivacious and pretty. Miss Paulina had a nose slightly tip-tilted, a mouth made to laugh with, roguish brown eyes, a dimpled chin, a pink and white complexion, and the most beautiful set of front teeth. Miss Priscilla was of a more sedate, statuesque type. Her eyes were sweet, but serious. Her mouth, beautifully shaped, but rather adapted for the sentimental than the humorous. Her chin was not dimpled, nor was her nose tip-tilted. They were the mouth and chin of a Greek goddess—chiselled on the lines which Phidias loved to embody in marble. Nor was the Parian stone itself clearer than Miss Priscilla's complexion. But it had one drawback.

It was a small drawback. To some it might seem hardly worth mentioning. Yet it made Miss Priscilla's existence a misery and her daily life a burden. That beautiful nose of hers—in spite of its Hellenic shape and Phidiasque proportions, that nose which usually was white and clear as the friezes of the Parthenon—was subject, in certain conjunctions, to spells of discolouration. At odd times, on various occasions—and those times and occasions always the most distressingly inconvenient—the marble hue of her nose would warm into a ruddy tinge; graduating in depth of colour adown the bridge, and

shaded from a palish pink above to a hot and flaming purple at the tip.

Now many people when they happen not to be looking their best, when violent exercise has made their complexions spotty, or an ill-ventilated drawing-room has caused their eyes to appear dull and boiled, often remain in ignorance of the temporary disfigurement, and their happiness and self-appraisement are not thereby impaired. But, unfortunately for Miss Priscilla's peace of mind, she could never remain in ignorance. There were always present internal sensations to warn her of the external change. She first felt a mild sensation of warmth, a sort of tepid wave, begin to circulate through her nasal veins. From tepid, the wave grew warm; from warm, hot; from hot, boiling; until the blood felt to seethe and bubble in her nose, at a temperature well above 212 deg. Fahrenheit. And the more she was conscious of this distressing sensation, the more distressing and violent did the sensation become.

Miss Priscilla had sought medical advice; but had sought it in vain. A physician in Harley-street, at two guineas, had afforded her no more relief than had the family medical man at five shillings. The one had assigned the affection to indigestion; the other to tight lacing; and each had prescribed a treatment in accordance with his view. Miss Priscilla followed either set of regulations most faithfully. She abjured sugar, bon-bons, pastry, made dishes, port wine, tea, and a hundred other favourite foods; she consumed vast quantities of camomile, rhubarb, terebene, peppermint, sarsaparilla, and lactopeptine. But with no advantage. She bought stays three sizes too large for her, and even these she laced so loosely that the silken cords at the back, even at her fullest expansion, were never taut. She wore a waistband into which a moderate-sized coal-heaver might have inserted his fist. She even—for the physician had hinted that this might have something to do with it—she even gave up garters and adopted suspenders. But to no purpose. Her nose burned as heretofore.

Then, finding no alleviation from doctors, she took to doctoring herself with patent medicines. Innumerable well-advertised remedies became a part of her daily diet. Never did she perform a toilet without applying some highly advertised lotion to her nose. But they all failed. Whether compounded of arsenic, sulphur, milk, glycerine, honey, or oatmeal, they all failed. Whether costing half a guinea or a modest sixpence, they all failed. Miss Priscilla was reduced to a condition verging on despair.

To aggravate her misery, her own and only sister—the being who, by all natural laws, should have felt for her the most—evinced a shocking want of sympathy with Miss Priscilla. She would treat Priscilla's nose as a huge joke. It was to her a perennial source of amusement—something handy to laugh about when no other source of laughter presented itself. As surely as they went out together to a function, so surely did Priscilla say to her sister beforehand—"Now, Paulina, if my nose begins to burn, for Heaven's sake don't emphasise the fact by staring at me"; and, so surely as Priscilla's nose did begin to burn, Paulina invariably contrived to catch her eye, and then tapped the tip of her own snub proboscis in expressive pantomime. On these occasions poor Priscilla felt on the verge of insanity. To be conscious of looking horribly unbecoming—and sure the Venus of Milo herself would look unbecoming with a red nose—was bad enough. To have this consciousness aggravated by the antics of an unfeeling sister was almost intolerable. And many and many were the tears of rage that Miss Priscilla shed over it. But neither tears, nor rage—nor, for the matter of that, entreaty or high disdain—could induce the vivacious Paulina to abate her unsisterly conduct. The fact was, this sprightly young lady's sense of humour was extremely keen, and Priscilla's nose tickled it irresistibly.

Now, without in the least meaning to imply that the Misses Pastern were fishers of men, we must assert the simple historical fact that they entertained a natural and laudable desire to secure, each for herself, an eligible husband. It was in this matter, especially, that Priscilla's nose caused her the deepest chagrin. For never did she find herself in the company of a gentleman whose interest and admiration she particularly wished to excite, but her nasal veins invariably started to throb and burn; and doubtless they did so all the more because of her painful anxiousness to obviate this catastrophe. Viewed from a logical standpoint, and regard being had to the proper requisites of a good wife, the little affair of a nose's colour might reasonably be treated as immaterial. But reason and courtship have no inalienable affinity, and the eligible *parti* has yet to be discovered who will propose to a girl while her nose is burning a fiery purple before his eyes.

That this assertion is not made without the book, Miss Priscilla's experiences abundantly prove. Save for the one drawback of her discoloured nose—and that discolouration only temporary, fitful, intermittent—this charming girl had every quality of face, form, and manner that is most attractive to the opposite sex. Expressive eyes, a sweet mouth, a well-shaped head and neck, silky chestnut hair, a divine figure (when she found out that loose stays gave her no relief, she soon discarded them), an irreproachable foot and ankle. Her voice was soft and musical. She had a delightful, cooing laugh. She was modest—but not too modest; sympathetic—but not too sympathetic; innocent—but not too innocent. In fact, a man's girl to the very tips of her filbert nails.

And was all this to go for nothing just because of one trifling disorder? Was this whole galaxy of grace and beauty to be utterly outweighed in the scales by the trifling counterpoise of a few surcharged blood-vessels? Alas! it seemed so. And it seemed as if poor Miss Priscilla must make up her mind to the inevitable. For a week or two she did make up her mind to it. She let it be known among her friends that a tabby cat and a grey parrot would be the most acceptable presents they could make her on her approaching birthday. She left off going out. She embroidered half a chair back in crewels. She talked about taking up parish work. Perhaps she would actually have done so. But now an event happened which scattered her resignation to the winds; which drew her from her retirement, in a whirlwind of excitement and rivalry, determined to conquer or die in the fray matrimonial. The event was this. Paulina had become engaged to a baronet!

To be outstripped by a rival in any competition is irritating to any one; but most of all is it irritating to a girl in the competition for eligibles. And if the successful rival be a girl's own sister, it sensibly aggravates that girl's irritation. Not that Priscilla was jealous. Tut! what a ridiculous idea! Jealous of Paulina? Well, well! But Paulina was growing conceited and needed a lesson. It would do her good to learn that some girls can—if they like—marry as successfully as some other girls. Baronets were well enough. But there were bachelor peers about; and one bachelor peer had, before her retirement, shown signs of being smitten with Priscilla. What if she really exerted herself now and managed to secure him? He was distinctly eligible; a baron, of old creation, with a respectable estate. He was youngish; fairly good-looking; a smart man of the world. To be a baroness would be very nice. To put Paulina's nose out of joint would be nicer still.

The baron in question—anybody's baron at the present minute; but whom she determined to make Priscilla's—was Lord Morden. During the few weeks that he had known Miss Pastern, he had been attracted by her beauty; but only in a butterfly sort of way. For Lord Morden was not a marrying man. He valued himself on being a lady-killer, and prided himself immensely on his own looks and appearance. He was also very critical and exacting in his ideas of female beauty, and only cared to philander with those girls whose charms were exceptional. Before her retirement from Society, he had never happened to see Miss Priscilla with her nose badly a-burn. But, as ill-luck

Xmas Presents.—Some extraordinary Teas now being sold by Cooper Cooper & Co., Ltd., Tooley-street, London. C. C. & Co. in all their experience have rarely met with such marvellous teas.

would have it, at the very first ball that she attended, after her re-entry, and while she was actually flirting with her (prospective) baron, that troublesome nose fell a-throbbing and a-tingling, and blushed its very deepest and most startling purple. In this condition her face was anything but prepossessing. My lord was a great stickler for complexion. He prided himself very particularly upon his own. And his æsthetic taste was instantly offended. Of course, he had sufficient breeding not to drop Miss Priscilla too suddenly; but drop her he ultimately did, to her deepest annoyance and chagrin. The chagrin would have been considerably enhanced, had she happened to hear a criticism on herself which his lordship expressed to his next flame. It was a cruel criticism. It was to the effect that Miss Pastern was one of those in whom "distance lends enchantment to the view."

But, though defeated in the matter of the baron, Priscilla had no intention of sitting down by Paulina's baronet. She was determined to marry, and to marry well. But she now understood clearly that, before she could conquer an eligible, she must conquer herself; and that a complete and crushing victory over her own proboscis was an essential preliminary of matrimonial success. But how was that to be achieved? She thought and thought, and schemed and schemed. At length one fine morning, unknown to any one, even to her own family, she slipped out and paid a visit to Mme. La Rougière, of Bond-street, whose advertisement, appearing weekly in the *Queen*, the *Gentlewoman*, and other ladies' journals, promises, on behalf of Madame, to make all and every complexion entrusted to her "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever."

Madame proved to be a fat and rather common personage who spoke with a Cockney accent, and interlarded her remarks with phrases Gallic in intention, though British in pronunciation. She seated Miss Priscilla in a big chair, examined her nose critically through a pocket microscope, and handled the feature freely with her podgy fingers.

"Ha," she pronounced, "Nothing wrong with the cuticle. No. It is one of these many cases of burning nose—nay broolant—which are brought to me almost daily. It is a most obstinate affection. Has Maddermoselle tried internal remedies?"

"Every possible concoction," said Miss Pastern. "And each as inefficacious as the other."

"Ha! well. There is only one really safe and certain course to pursue. And that is rather a concealment than a cure. Is Maddermoselle engaged—fiancey?" inquired La Rougière, with an odious, familar grin.

"No," said Priscilla, shortly.

"Ah, well—but Maddermoselle must not be offended—annoyay. Most young ladies who come to me come in order that they may succeed in finding husbands. Naturellyment. And to such as have burning noses—nays broolants—I advise one certain and sure course to be adopted—adoptay, until, at any rate, the husbands—marees—are secured."

"And what is that course?"

"To have the nose enamelled," said Madame, with something between a *moue* and a grin.

"And—and—can that be done so—so—as to defy detection?" inquired Miss Priscilla, anxiously.

"Yes; most certaingment. Young ladies—jewns demoselles—for whom I have done it, have told me that even when the fiancy's nose has touched theirs (and such things do happen with fiancys!" interpolated Madame, with a hateful smirk) "the enamel has escaped discovery. But one thing should be understood. The enamel needs frequent renewal. Maddermoselle should come here on each occasion previous to her balls or parties, and have her nose fresh enamellay.

"I am going to a ball to-morrow night," said Miss Pastern, after a minute's thought. "Shall I come to you to-morrow afternoon?"

"Tray bee-en. I have engagements from three to five-thirty. Will you come at five-thirty?"

"Yes," said Priscilla, rising to go.

"My fee for consultation is twelve and a half francs—ten shillings," Madame reminded her.

Priscilla paid the objectionable creature half a sovereign and departed.

Madame was a most repulsive person to be fingered by. But Priscilla could not help herself. It seemed the only way. And if she would conquer, she must be prepared to stoop.

Next afternoon, at the appointed time, Priscilla (on a pretext of buying gloves for the ball) repaired to the premises of Mme. La Rougière. She was rather before her time, and the commissionaire in the lobby requested her to step up into the waiting-room. The buttons at the head of the stairs would show her the way. Many important issues, witness the pages of history *passim*, have been known to hinge on the most trifling accidents. It was so in this case. And the accident was surely of an absurdly trifling kind. It was just the fact that the buttons happened to have run out for his tea. Not finding him at the head of the stairs, but thinking that she knew the way to the waiting-room from her previous visit, Priscilla opened a door on her right and went in. As a matter of fact, the waiting-room lay just opposite, on the left; and the room which she had entered was the operating chamber of Mme. La Rougière.

Madame was, at this minute, in the act of operating. Her patient was a gentleman. She had just completed the first part of her process—the careful cleaning off of some old cosmetique—and the gentleman's real face was now ruthlessly revealed. It was an unprepossessing face—pale, putty-coloured, blotchy. For a minute Priscilla failed to recognise the owner of that highly undesirable complexion. Then the truth dawned on her. She recognised the head, the moustache, the features; above all, the eyes, now fixed upon her own in a horrified stare. The putty-skinned man, with the spotty complexion, was indeed her own faithless admirer—my Lord of Morden!

* * * * *

The next day but one Miss Pastern's engagement was announced in six London dailies; and Paulina's baronet was capped by Priscilla's baron.

Surplice Shirts made to measure, six for 45/-, 51/- (a selection in stock for immediate wear).—Sampson & Co., 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Lists forwarded.

MUSIC.

THE FEES OF OPERA SINGERS.

THE squabbles among the various members of both opera companies now in the United States are chiefly interesting as throwing some light upon the fees which some of these spoilt darlings of the public are, or are supposed to be, paid. There is, it is true, a sceptical impression abroad that an operatic vocalist occasionally has two contracts—one for the benefit of the newspaper paragraphists, who must dabble in sensation, and another, on a more modest scale, with the manager himself, for real business. So much is this the fact that as to one of the Christine Nilsson contracts, which her first husband, M. Rouzeaud, thought himself capable of making without the intervention of her astute but costly agent, the late Henry Jarrett; old Maurice Strakosch, her then manager, stoutly declared, with his hand on his heart, that he believed her salary should be reckoned by dollars instead of pounds; while his brother Max was not so sure that the figures did not refer to francs. But, as a rule, even when temper runs high, there is a sort of unwritten law that the game must be played, and neither party must contradict the statements as to artists' fees, as those often fanciful figures are given by the paragraphists. It is, therefore, quite possible that the sums mentioned as those contracted to be paid to certain vocalists, some of whom are eminent, while of others their very names are unfamiliar either in England or the United States, are derived from the newspaper rather than the genuinely business contract. Even, however, after making due

allowances for exaggeration, it is pretty certain that the business of directing an opera season is by no means, as the saying runs, "a game of marbles." M. Jean de Reszke, as we learn from a letter signed by Madame Nordica, and published in the American papers, receives in New York the bagatelle of £240 a night plus a share of the gross receipts when they exceed a certain sum. M. Jean de Reszke admits the soft impeachment, but declares that this is the salary he has always received in New York, and that the sum has never been raised. He repels Madame Nordica's suggestion that he has been paid as much as £800 a night, and asserts upon his honour that the highest amount he ever received was £600 for one evening at Boston. The protest is amusing. But even a fee of £240 a night (with collaterals) will tend to explain why eminent operatic tenors can afford huge estates in Poland, with castles and racing studs.

Mme. Melba, it appears from Mme. Nordica (and I do not suppose Mme. Melba will care to contradict her), receives £240 a night, and this sum, we know, she has asked for England next year. Mme. Calvé, according to Mme. Nordica, manages to support life on £280 a night, and thus, besides the indispensable castle, can also indulge in a farm, which, as everybody knows, costs rather more than a yacht. Mme. Nordica herself was to receive £200 nightly, although as Mr. Grau has explained she had consented to give a certain number of concert performances gratuitously, which slightly reduced the fee. Mr. Grau, however, honestly adds that, when news arrived of Frau Klafsky's death, Madame's terms went up like a balloon; I suppose for the same reason that if Mr. Lloyd were to carry out his scheme of threatened retirement, Mr. Ben Davies might keep a horse instead of a bike. Passing to Mr. Mapleson's company, it seems, from formal letters written to the American papers as to their reasons for suddenly leaving the Imperial Opera Troupe, that Mme. Harielée Darclée, the soprano, and Signor De Marchi, the tenor, were to receive the one £220 and the other £180 a night. Mr. Mapleson does not contradict the figures. A certain sum was paid the artists before they left Europe, and the matter in dispute is whether this amount was a guarantee, or the payment for a few performances in advance. This is, of course, mere academical argument, although the fact that these singers (unknown by the way, to England) can afford to throw up an income which an archbishop might envy, indicates the strength of the artistic position.

It is, indeed, a mere matter of arithmetic to estimate the nightly receipts opera directors must command who have to pay such high salaries. For example, on the first night of the New York opera season, "Faust" was given with M. Jean de Reszke at £240, Mme. Melba at £240, M. Edouard de Reszke at £120, and M. Lassalle at £100; while the band and chorus were estimated to cost at least £250, so that the expenses were nearly £1,000 before the curtain was raised, to say nothing of the fees of the Siebel, the Brander, and the conductor, the cost of music, dresses, scenery, and so forth. The fees of artists are annually increasing, and, indeed, cynics insist that the voice of a prima donna or of a great tenor is treated by its owner like wine, its value materially enhancing as the article grows older. Before long, indeed, we shall probably again arrive at the position in which opera was found at the break up of 1884, when, owing mainly to the extravagant salaries paid by the late Mr. Abbey in America, opera in London became practically impossible until a new company of younger and less expensive vocalists had been formed.

Last week I was able to publish a letter from the well-known song composer, Mr. Jacques Blumenthal, in reference to the name "Blumenthal" printed by Mr. George Cottle (or Lansdowne Cottell) in the list of teachers at his London Conservatoire of Music. I remarked then "perhaps now I shall hear from M. Riviere, Mr. Plowitz (Cavour), Messrs. Jewson, Maycock, and T. Harper, Dr. J. M. Bentley, and others." I do not know whether these gentlemen really wish it to be understood that they are connected with this delectable Conservatoire. But Mr. Plowitz, at any rate, has very properly disclaimed, and the following letter which I have received from him will throw a curious light upon the crooked methods adopted by the Porchester-road gentleman in drawing up his so-called List of Professors:—

> I am surprised to find that my name has already been mentioned twice in your valuable paper in connection with Mr. Cottell's Conservatoire. When I came to London years ago quite as a stranger, I received (before I started "Concert Direction Ernest Cavour"), one day a letter from Mr. Cottell, in which he asked me to call. Not knowing at the time anything about the different London schools of music I called there, and was offered by Mr. Cottell the conductorship of his orchestra, with a comparatively good salary. On returning home, I spoke to some of my new English friends, and I wrote the same evening that I would not accept any appointment at this school. Since then I have never seen Mr. Cottell or his Conservatoire, nor have I ever given any lessons at the London Conservatoire. I should be much obliged if you would kindly publish this letter.

Under these very candidly-stated circumstances, it seems to me a piece of impudence for Mr. Cottell to insert Mr. Plowitz's name in the latest editions of his prospectus now being distributed. Mr. Plowitz is therein mentioned as a teacher of harmony, composition, and counterpoint, and also as a teacher of the pianoforte, while Mme. Plowitz is down as a teacher of solo singing.

I have also received the following very proper letter from Messrs. W. S. Riley & Son, whose premises in Corporation-street are advertised in Mr. Cottell's prospectuses as the "Birmingham and Midland Districts Branch" of the London Conservatoire:—

> After reading the correspondence relating to Mr. Cottell, we gather therefrom that he is employing methods that are somewhat open to objection. Prior to this we knew absolutely nothing regarding Mr. Cottell, nor were we aware that he was the subject of considerable correspondence in the columns of your paper. Our transactions with him have been simply these:—A short time ago he applied to us for a teaching-room, and we agreed to let him one of our rooms, which were built exclusively for this object. We may here mention that this is a general thing with us, and other teachers are using rooms here for similar purposes. We do not, however, accept any responsibility whatsoever, regarding them or the methods they may employ. Assuming the charges brought against Mr. Cottell to be correct, it has been a matter for our serious consideration, and we have decided to request him to obtain a room elsewhere. We shall be obliged by your publishing this *in extenso* in your next issue, so that our position in the matter may be clearly defined.

I have not, by the way, yet received any communication from several eminent ladies and gentlemen whose names are mentioned in Mr. Cottell's prospectus under the omnibus title of "Committee, Patrons, and Subscribers to the Concerts" of the London Conservatoire of Music. As these noble and other names undoubtedly form an incentive to young people to pay their money to the Conservatoire, either as so-called "free" scholars or as "secretaries," it is highly desirable that the "Committee, Patrons, and Subscribers to the Concerts" should explain their real connection, if any, with an institution of which so much has been said by various correspondents in TRUTH during the past few weeks. Mrs. Ronalds, particularly, is so well known in musical life, that her name might be supposed to be a guarantee of the worth of the institution. I can hardly imagine that either this honoured lady or Lord and Lady Carrington, Lord Battersea, Lord N. de Rothschild, the Duchess of Wellington, the Countess of Strafford, Canon Harford, Sir W. T. Marriott, Lady Altman, Lady Miles, or Lady Jane Kenny-Herbert will particularly appreciate their names being used in connection with this London Conservatoire of Music, after reading the tolerably full account of it published in TRUTH on November 12.

Mr. Lansdowne Cottell will, by the way, have an opportunity of telling his own story of the Conservatoire and the "free" scholars, in the witness-box next Tuesday week at the Marylebone County-court.

Over forty concerts have been given in London during the past week, some of them of considerable importance. The autumn season, however, is approaching its close, although the Christmas recess promises to be a com-

paratively short one, and the portentous news has been published that at Queen's Hall alone there are 700 "bookings" ahead. One of the best attended concerts last week was for the enormously long Beethoven programme given by Mr. Eugene d'Albert. Many pianists could doubtless play five Beethoven's sonatas at a sitting, but few of them, like the young Scottish pianist, can invest them with special interest. At Herr Sauer's recital on the following day the chief works were Brahms' sonata in F minor, very finely played, and a selection of pieces of display. The encore system at this concert attained its *reductio ad absurdum*. There were a couple of encores in the course of the programme, but at the end of the concert the pianist sat down to an apparently fresh recital. There were certainly three further encores before I left the Hall. How many occurred afterwards I am unaware.

There were eleven concerts last Wednesday, besides a performance of Cimorosa's "Matrimonio Segreto," by some students Dvorak's new string quartet in G op. 105, presented by Mr. Gompertz, is rather an unequal composition, the slow movement of which is apparently the best. Dvorak, however, just now seems to be writing too much. At the Guildhall School Mr. Cummings has directed the first student's orchestral concert given for some years. I am not going to criticise this performance, save to say that Miss Maude Clough showed very great promise as a vocalist, and that the young gentleman who tried "Let Me Like a Soldier Fall" had apparently endeavoured to adopt the provincial reading of the song. He has a good voice, but needs a better style. Mr. Laurence Kellie has given a successful vocal recital at which several of his own songs were heard, the audience being largely composed of ladies. Mr. D'Albert made his final appearance this season at the Popular Concert on Saturday, playing Schumann's Fantasia in C, and, of course an encore piece. On Sunday he left for Germany. The symphony in F minor, written by Richard Strauss when that now very advanced composer was a young musician of seventeen, was produced for the first time in England at the Crystal Palace on Saturday. It is redolent of Schumann and even of Mendelssohn rather than of Liszt and Wagner, the two composers whom Strauss now chiefly affects. On Monday Lady Halle and Signor Piatti made their first appearance this season at the Popular Concerts, taking part in Dvorak's quartet in F on American negro themes. But the audience was small, and, indeed, the Monday Popular Concerts seem in public estimation to take second rank to the Saturday Pops.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Youth, I am bound to admit, has its compensations. Not the least of these is a powerful mental digestion. This fact has been made clear to me by the necessity I have been under of executing your commission and making a selection from the Christmas volumes provided by the publishers for your juvenile friends. The consequence is that I am afflicted with a severe mental dyspepsia. I am absolutely surfeited with incident. Nearly all the writers of boys' books have come to the conclusion that the average boy requires incident, and each has set himself seriously to work to supply the demand. One and all have succeeded. Buccaneers and pirates have shed their "dreadful" form, and present themselves in brave array of crimson and gold. Midshipmites and privateersmen fight and conquer in every quarter of the globe. Indians don their war paint unabashed, and English boys hold their own at all times against overwhelming odds. Never was there such a glorification of juvenile jingoism. Yet the one man who, of all others, perhaps, is best able to hold a youthful audience in thrall, has chosen to give his story a comparatively quiet background (1). An ancient tin-mine, unworked within the memory of man, situated near a village on the Cornish coast, and within easy reach of two boys, is quite sufficient for Mr. G. Manville Fenn's purpose in the making of one of the most attractive books for boys that was ever written. For all the quiet setting, there is in it, however, no lack of adventure, while the reality of the two boy heroes is undeniable. But to turn to those who are bound to reap success by less legitimate, if equally amusing means.

I find, first of all, a large number of stories of the sea. Of such I can confidently recommend Mr. Hume Nisbet's contribution to seasonable fiction (2). There is no vulgar realism about it. There are two heroes, both boys until the end of the book, when the stronger of the two, a veritable prince among pirates, satisfies the exigencies of romance by an acknowledgment of maidenhood. It is only in cold blood that one dares question the probabilities of Mr. Nisbet's situations, in which plenty of reckless rollicking rovers, handsome, chivalrous, dauntless, wallowing in wealth and blood, and doating on danger, are always on hand. The story will do for boys to whom the improbable is far more attractive than the actual.

Slightly more chastened in style is a narrative of the adventures of a young gentleman of good family, one Jack Ballister (3). This youth had the good fortune to be kidnapped at the instance of a wicked uncle and carried off to the Virginian plantations in the year 1719. Nor did his good fortune end at that. He fell in with a famous pirate, Captain Edward Treach, otherwise known as Blackbeard, out of whose hands he successfully rescued the inevitable fair maiden. The boy is not yet born who will not envy him; and if, as I fancy, this is Mr. Howard Pyle's first contribution to boy's literature, he is to be congratulated upon a most successful effort. A still quieter, more boyish, story is one chronicling the events which occur to Jack Vernon, naval cadet, upon his first voyage aboard H.M.S. *Candahar* (4). The "heathen Chinee" in this instance supplies the decorative background for the thrilling experiences, while the life on board ship gives opportunity for plenty of more humorous incidents than accompany mere fighting. Yet fighting, when it is as productive as that which falls to the lot of another of the season's heroes, one George Bowen by name, is not to be read without envy. The time of the story (5) is the first decade of the nineteenth century, and the occasion of the fitting out of the privateer in which the heroic George performs innumerable deeds of valour is the Napoleonic wars. Nothing can withstand him. All that the sea can offer in the way of adventure he endures, and his crowning reward, after capturing a belated Spanish galleon laden with 800 ingots of solid gold of the trifling weight of half a hundredweight each, and roughly valued at three millions sterling, is the offer of a commission in the Royal Navy. There must needs be plenty of thrills in a narrative of this sort, and there is not a dry chapter from start to finish. The same may be said of Mr. Ascott R. Hope's story of school and holiday life (6). Salt breezes

(1) "Sappers and Miners." By G. Manville Fenn. (London: F. V. White & Co.)
(2) "Kings of the Sea." By Hume Nisbet. (London: F. V. White & Co.)
(3) "Jack Ballister's Fortunes." By Howard Pyle. (London: Osgood, McIlvaine, & Co.)
(4) "Crown and Anchor." By John C. Hutcheson. (London: F. V. White & Co.)
(5) "The Log of a Privateersman." By Harry Collingwood. (London: Blackie & Son.)
(6) "Black and Blue." By Ascott R. Hope. (London: Adam & Charles Black.)
(7) "The First Cruise of Three Middies." By Fox Russell. (London: Wells, Gardner, Darton. & Co.)
(8) "With Cochrane the Dauntless." By G. A. Henty. (London: Blackie & Son.)
(9) "On the Irrawaddy." By G. A. Henty. (London: Blackie & Son.)
(10) "The Young Colonists." By G. A. Henty. London: (Blackie & Son.)
(11) "At Agincourt." By G. A. Henty. (London: Blackie & Son.)
(12) "The Emperor's Englishman." By Fred Wishaw. (London: Hutchinson & Co.)
(13) "Lost in African Jungles." By Fred. Wishaw. (London: F. Warne & Co.)
(16) "Under the Naga Banner." By Charles J. Mansford. (London: John Hogg.)
(15) "The Riders." By Ashmore Russan and Frederick Boyle. (London: F. Warne & Co.)
(18) "Through Swamp and Glade." By Kirk Munroe. (London: Blackie & Sons.)
(17) "Adventures of Three Englishmen and Three Russians in South Africa," "From the Earth to the Moon," "The Secret of the Island." by Jules Verne. (London: Sampson Low, Marston, & Co.)
(18) "Travels by the Fireside." By Gordon Stables. (London: F. V. White & Co.)
(19) "Fifty-two Stories of Pluck and Peril for Boys." Edited by Alfred H. Miles. (London: Hutchinson & Co.)
(20) Fifty-two Stories of Pluck, Peril, and Romance for Girls." Edited by Alfred H. Miles. (London: Hutchinson & Co.)
(21) "His First Year at School." By Alfred West. (London: Fisher Unwin.)

blow through its pages, and it is an eminently healthy book for the boy of twelve. Another thoroughly delightful story for boys of the same age is "The First Cruise of Three Middies" (7), in which, without undue sensationalism, and also without sickly sentimentality, there is to be found any amount of breezy adventure amongst the slavers and pirates on the African and China stations. Finally, I am glad to notice that this year Mr. Henty has made a contribution to the stock of stories of the sea with a chronicle of the adventures that fall to the lot of a youthful follower of Lord Cochrane (8). His hero has a full share of that ill-balanced Admiral's feats of daring on behalf of the oppressed nationalities of South America, with a considerable addition on his own account. There is no need to question Mr. Henty's facts. His work is always conscientious. Sometimes it seems to have been almost painfully so, but in this book at least there is no halting for technical descriptions of battle-fields. It is full of entertainment from cover to cover, and quite one of the best of the long series which has made Mr. Henty's name familiar in every British household. So much for jackets of blue. When the youthful hero dons a coat of red, Mr. Henty is again well to the fore. I already begin to foresee the day when he will have told all the stories of the manifold British wars, and the list of his books will have an additional value as a complete historical catalogue. This year he has added three to the list. One is a story of the first Burmese war (9). It is not quite Kipling's conception of life "East of Suez," but still there is plenty of country colour and a vivid glance into the life of the Italians of the East. A second (10) deals with the Zulu and Boer wars in 1879 and 1881. Yet a third (11), a capital type of the military historical romance, tells the story of the life of a young English esquire in France during the earlier portion of the long and bloody feud between the houses of Orleans and Burgundy, a feud which had a brief intermission, during which the combined factions met defeat at Agincourt by vastly inferior British forces. Naturally Mr. Henty's hero was there; on occasions like this it is absolutely essential that he should be present, and no boy to whom this book is presented will ever regret the fact. A thoroughly good romance, again, is to be found in "The Emperor's Englishmen" (12). This individual is a veritable glutton as regards fighting, and he will dispose of his four Russians before breakfast with a facility which even D'Artagnan would have envied. It is no wonder, therefore, that he manages to gain distinction in the service of his master, the Czar Paul, successor to the great Catherine. As if to show his versatility, the author of this romance has selected South Africa as the scene of a second book (13). It is of altogether a different type. Lions and Matabele keep the energies of the twins who venture amongst them pretty fully employed, and even Selous would have to look to his laurels when these youthful hunters are abroad on the veldt. In case, however, South African affairs should seem stale to the palate of your young friends, there is yet plenty of choice of adventure amongst more unknown races and less explored countries. Mr. Mansford, for instance, has broken entirely new ground by a story of adventure amongst the Nagas (14). These inhabitants of Assam are savage enough to make life amongst them as precarious as the most hardened adventurer could desire, and the exploits of the Englishmen who went amongst them, fought under their banner, and brought back a great store of rubies as their prize, leave the reader almost breathless. Then tempted by the success of their "Orchid Seekers" in Borneo last season, the authors have been led to supplement the story by a second. Sequels are not invariably successful, but there is no doubt, fortunately, about this one (15). The search for the floral treasures of Costa Rica is interrupted by a multiplicity of hairbreadth escapes. The orchid seekers fight shoulder to shoulder with the prototype of Dr. Jameson's raiders, the *Falange Americana*, under William Walker. They incur unheard-of perils at the hands of the Guatuso wild men of the woods, but they come scatheless through everything, and add numerous specimens to the list of known orchids. No boy will be ungrateful for this most interesting narrative. Nor will any one be inclined to regret the fact that Mr. Kirk Munroe has chosen to rescue the Indian from the decadence into which, fictionally, as well as actually, he has fallen. In a charming story (16) he narrates the events of the Seminole war, which was undertaken by the United States in 1835. A healthier book could not be given to any boy, and not the least attractive feature is the sympathy for the oppressed and cheated red men with which the whole story is instinct. To turn to an altogether different type of romance, let me commend to your notice the translations of Jules Verne's works which Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. have prepared (17). Any of these are sure of a welcome, and the edition has the advantage of being both cheap and handy. Further, a budget of good things is to be found in the volume with which Mr. Gordon Stables appeals to his admirers. The story has a quiet setting, but nevertheless there is no lack of incident. I imagine that out of this list you should have no difficulty in suiting the tastes of each of your adventurous young friends; but if you still doubt, let me recommend to you one of those handsome volumes edited by Mr. Miles (19), without which to a good many boys Christmas would seem incomplete. There is in the 500 pages every variety of adventure. Mr. Miles has also prepared a companion volume for girls, equally crammed with good things (20). Finally, for your own edification, let me commend to your notice a book which, though primarily intended for boys, is not without interest to their parents (21). Of the making of prigs in fiction there is no end; but the author of this little book has chosen to describe the unmaking of one, and to those to whom the only child is a little god, and their name is legion, the book may be said to have an educative value. —Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You have no idea how very Christmassy the West End of London looks. The streets are filled with people, and as to the roadways, there are blocks in the traffic just as though it were the height of the season.

I shall be so rejoiced when the motor cars come really in. Oh, the poor horses! Just before Christmas is their worst time of all in London, and probably in all other cities and large towns, and the roads are often very slippery with early frosts and late. I saw one poor animal down at the Marble Arch the other day, a man in an extensively skirted overcoat sitting on its head. I wonder the horse was not suffocated. As to the overloaded drays and vans, there is plenty for some practical philanthropist to do in making it illegal for any dealers, coal-merchants included, to overload their horses. It is cruel to the drivers as well, adding immensely to the trouble and anxiety involved in their day's work, and often lengthening it far into the night. When a horse falls under a heavy load it is not always a very easy matter to get it up again, and the poor animal must be more or less demoralised by the fright and the shaking.

Richard says that the horrid smell of petroleum is the chief objection to the motor cars he has seen. If some clever person were to invent a means of deodorising it, what a huge fortune he would make!

I saw such a sweet frock in Bond-street on Saturday. The skirt was cloth in a military scarlet, bordered with brown fur. Over this fell a complete overskirt, in silver-grey camel-hair vicugna, caught together at the back, so that a touch lifted the whole of it, displaying the vivid red of the underskirt, which was full walking length, but did not touch the ground. I suppose the upper grey was really a polonaise. A short sacque sealskin fell straight

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to the hips back and front, and had long leg-of-mutton sleeves. The hat was grey felt with black and scarlet trimmings.

They have had such a good idea at 68, New Bond-street, the home of the 4,711 Eau de Cologne, in shaping small scent bottles in a curved form to suit the waistcoat pocket, and filling them with perfume. The girls have discovered that they just fit in to their coat pockets, and as they are stoppered with the little screw caps that let out a drop or two at a time, these tiny bottles are well suited to crowded assemblies, railway carriages, and so on, where the atmosphere is apt to become heavy and disagreeable.

Another good idea is that of making half-sized tablets of the best soaps. In country houses, where guests often stay only a couple of days at the week-end, large tablets must constantly be wasted, as fresh soap must be provided for each comer. Consequently, the dainty little ones are much appreciated by châtelaines who look to the ways of their household. Besides, the small size is much more graspable, to coin a word. The large one is very slippery, and are apt to shoot out of a tiny hand, and, after much noise and rattling of soap-dishes and sponge-basins, to ensconce themselves invisibly in some corner, almost as inaccessible as a modern pocket.

Lettuce soap is among the most delightful for the skin, being very soothing and comforting in extremes of heat and cold. "Au suc de Laitue" is its technical name. Almond-cream soap is another non-irritant preparation, and is liked by men for shaving with. Rose and Lettuce is yet another. Does not the name sound nice? A little change in spelling would suggest two girls in a garden of long ago.

A demand has arisen for the old-fashioned musk soap, and this is put up in boxes containing four tablets. Another Oriental favourite is Turkish rose, but this is very costly, being perfumed with attar of roses, the decoction that, when well made, is said to cost in production a guinea a drop.

The newest perfume is Carnation. Maréchal Neil has become a favourite; but to my idea there is nothing so delightful as the Rhine Violets. Beautiful sachets and cases for perfumes have been prepared for Christmas presents, the former in flower-painted satin, the latter in leather, satin-lined. In these any choice of perfumes may be obtained, or, if preferred, only one kind is put up in them. In the same way the soaps can be assorted—rose, violet, and lily, or otherwise, just as the purchaser orders.

Clare, who loves violets, is busy by the fire making little silk sachets to hold some powder that she bought during our examination of all these dainty things. I prefer heliotrope, and Bee inclines to roses and lilies, but can never decide which she likes best.

We looked in at the lovely show of rare Oriental china now on at Duveen's, in Bond-street. Most of it was the property of Mr. Orrock, the well-known collector. I am not at all learned in this branch of art, but, like most other people, I know what I like. Masses of blue and white china always appear to me to be rather chilly in effect, but this accusation could scarcely be brought against the lovely things shown in cases on a third floor room at this well-known art collector's. Some hawthorn jars with the graceful blossoms straying over the blue background, are among the most valuable in the whole. Something like £1,000 were paid for five pieces.

"Long Eliza" seems an odd name for china. It comes somehow from the Dutch who were the first nation to trade with the Celestial Empire. It is now a well-known technical term for very fine china. That which we saw on Friday consisted of tall vases with a blue and white background, some set with plaques of famille rose, others with famille verte, the background being brightened with a straying design in gold. A vase with lovely pinks warm and sunny, with brown stems and a few pale yellow flowers on a ground of ivory white is a very costly specimen of the famille rose. Close by on a chimney-piece is a quaint old vase, with flat sides, showing pictures in panels on a dull blue ground. An immense blue jar is in the double aster pattern.

This is the finest collection known of blue and white china. The most valuable of the whole is a set in tiger-lily design. A group of five vases in the double aster pattern is also of great value. I wish you could go to see for yourself these beautiful things. I fell deeply in love with a set of famille verte cups and saucers in eggshell china. Two large dishes, one painted with a design representing a Chinese wedding, are the finest known. The figures are beautifully executed, and the composition of the whole might give some of our impressionist artists points, though probably they would disdain to avail themselves of any hints from so far an antiquity.

I have often wanted to tell you about the Red Spider Association, a benevolent little society which styles itself "The Ladies' Work Order Association." The object is to assist women of small income to obtain a fair sale for their work, giving them the full benefit, with the exception of the necessary charges for postage. You may not, at the first glance, understand all this implies; but I could, if I would, enlighten you as to the very different methods pursued by some other Associations which deal with women's work, and under whose management a very small portion of the ultimate price reaches the pockets of those who are supposed to be most benefited. The principle of the "Red Spider" is to obtain orders for work, not to offer articles already made, with the inevitable consequent loss. There is no entrance-fee, and the ladies have not to buy their own materials. When an order is given out, all that is necessary to complete it is handed over to the worker. The only deductions from the payments consist of one penny in the shilling. To give you some idea of the variety and character of the skilled labour employed, I may mention the darning and repairing of linen, mending and cleaning old lace, miniature painting, restoring pictures and marqueterie, mending fans and old china, beginning fancy work for ladies and finishing the same, besides the usual embroidery. A sale is to be held at Mrs. Hugh Bonham Carter's house, 53, Rutland Gate, on Monday next, when the Red Spiders hope to get some people to look for their Christmas gifts among the work done by the ladies. If you know anybody likely to be in London on that day you may tell them that they are certain to find both pretty and cheap articles for presents, and if you want any of your old lace mended you cannot do better than send it to the headquarters of the Association, the address being the same as the above.

I think you will agree with me that this "Mincemeat and Rice Méringue" is delicious, and particularly suited to people who cannot eat pastry:—

Throw 3 oz. of Carolina rice into 1 pint of boiling milk, add a piece of cinnamon, replace the lid, and simmer the rice for two hours. Now take it from the fire, remove the cinnamon, and work in the yolks of 3 eggs, 1 oz. of butter, and 1 oz. of pounded sugar. Line a fancy fire-proof dish 1 in. thick with the rice, put ¾ lb. of mincemeat in the centre, cover with the remainder of the rice, and bake the pudding in a moderate oven for half an hour. Whip the whites of the 3 eggs to a stiff froth, and mix it carefully and lightly with 3 tablespoonfuls of fine sugar, cover the pudding with the méringue, and return it to the oven to bake a delicate brown colour.

Try these "Paupiettes of Venison à la Windsor." It is an entirely new and original dish:—

Trim the fillet of a loin or a neck of venison into pieces 2 in. long and 1 in. thick, sauté them with a couple of minced shalots, a table-spoonful of chopped parsley, a sprig of thyme and a piece of butter, then remove from the fire. Meanwhile, cut a firm savoy cabbage in halves and parboil it for five minutes in salted boiling water, lift it on to a sieve and run cold water on until it is quite cold, drain it on a cloth, separate the leaves, cut out the

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stem and envelope a piece of the venison in each one, secure them with thread and place them, in an upright position, on slices of bacon in a stewpan, add a couple of shalots, a bouquet of herbs, 2 cloves, 6 peppercorns, a blade of mace, and sufficient stock to nearly cover the paupiettes. Bring the stewpan to the boil on the stove, then place it in the oven to simmer for two hours. Now fry a minced shalot and a slice of minced lean bacon with a piece of butter in a stewpan, mix in a dessert-spoonful of potato-flour and the stock from the paupiettes, which must be perfectly free from fat, stir until boiling, then add a dessert-spoonful of red-currant jelly, a glass of port wine, the juice of half a small lemon, a pinch of cayenne pepper, and a little salt. When the sauce is well boiled, squeeze through the tammy and return it to the paupiettes to warm, remove the thread, arrange them on a hot dish and pour the sauce round.

These "Croûts with Oysters" are very dainty, and suitable either for a luncheon dish or as a savoury:—

Blanch a dozen or more good oysters, strain, and remove the beards. Reduce the liquor by boiling to half its original quantity; then mix it with two tablespoonfuls of good white sauce, add a cream, a pinch of salt, a pinch of cayenne pepper, a dessert-spoonful of chopped parsley, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Cut six or seven round pieces of bread from a tin loaf, about ½ in. thick and 2 in. in diameter; make an incision with a round cutter three parts through the bread and ¼ in. from the edge. Fry the crouts a delicate colour in a little butter; drain, and remove the centre piece with the soft interior. Dissolve 1 oz. of butter in a stewpan and break in 4 eggs, season with salt and pepper, and stir briskly over the fire until the egg thickens. Now place one large or two small oysters in the centre of each of the fried crouts, moisten with a little of the sauce, cover with a spoonful of the buttered eggs, and dust them with a pinch of Marshall's coralline pepper. Arrange them in a circle on a hot dish, and pour the sauce round.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin,

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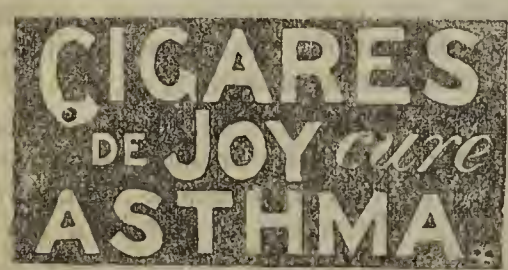

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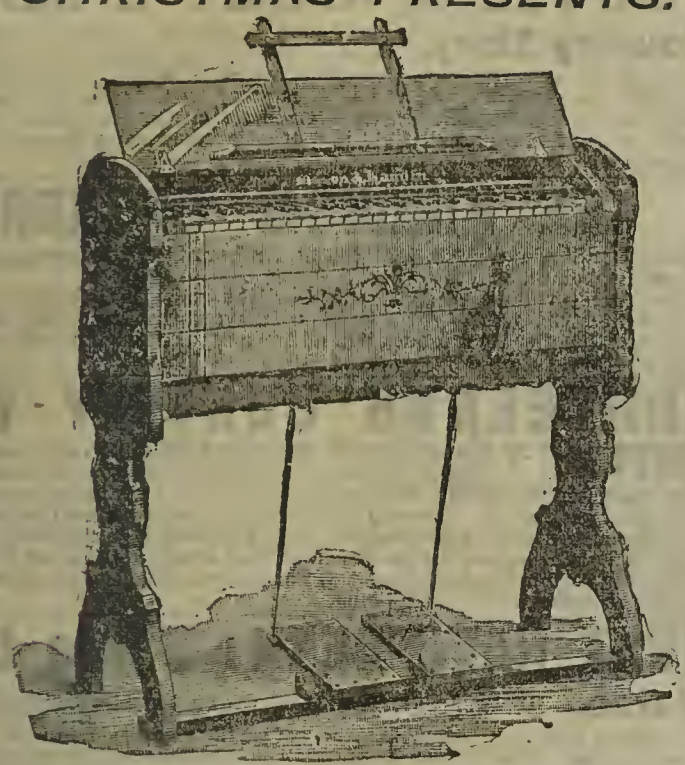

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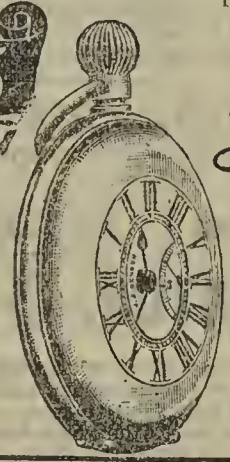

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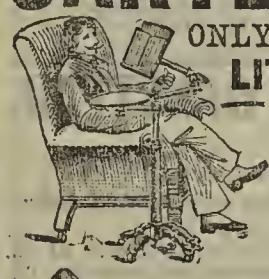

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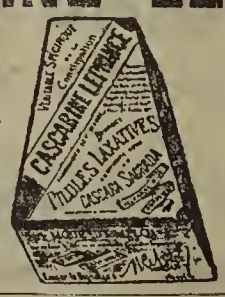

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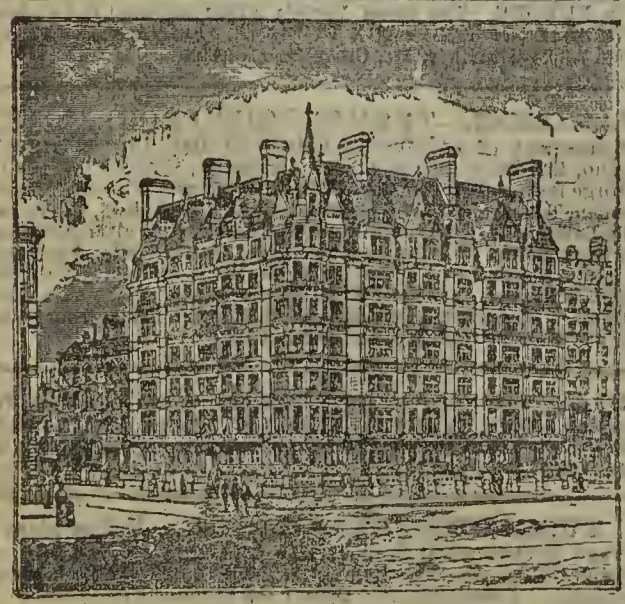

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1.—"It is those damned Lions, Sir," answered Job, in a tone which suggested an odd mixture of a sense of personal injury, habitual respect, and acknowledged fear, "and they are swimming here to *heat* us," he added nervously, picking up an "H" in his agitation.
Title..... Chap.....

2.—Presently they met, and the executioners turned round, looking towards the King as though for orders. "Kill," said the King. "Kill," squeaked Gagool. "Kill," re-echoed Scragga with a hollow chuckle.
Title..... Chap.....

3.—"Therefore I say that the name of Macumazahn and the name of dead Umslopogaas, ay, and the name of Kara, my servant, who aided him to hold the stair shall be blazoned in letters of gold above my throne, and shall be glorious for ever while the land endures. I, the Queen, have said it."
Title..... Chap.....

4.—"No," said Augusta, "there is no date; I could not bear any more tattooing. It was all done at one sitting, and I grew faint."
Title..... Chap.....

5.—How shall we win back the love of noble Antony, who is bewitched of cunning Octavia, and tarries long from us.
Title..... Chap.....

6.—"Thou fool," whispered Swanhild in her ear, "how can these help him? No troll could live in yonder cauldron. Dead is Eric, and thou art the bait that lured him to his death!"
Title..... Chap.....

7.—"So, Frank Muller, so. Ten years ago you said to yourself: There are three things worth having in the world—first, wealth; secondly, women if they take your fancy, or, better still, one woman, if you desire her above all others; thirdly, power."
Title..... Chap.....

8.—"Why do you want to marry Eva, Mr. Plowden?" asked Florence, ignoring this piece of information; "you are not in love with her."
Title..... Chap.....

9.—"Here lies the Lily's stalk, O King!" said Umslopogaas, pointing with the axe, "but if her flower blooms on any air, it is not here."
Title..... Chap.....

10.—"Zibalbay," said the cry. "It is Zibalbay come back, or the ghost of him, and with him the Lady of the Heart!"
Title..... Chap.....

11.—"Oh," said the squire, "I have nothing to say against Quaritch; indeed, I like the man."
Title..... Chap.....

12.—"Angela," he said, "what has made you so different from other women? With all whom I have known, love is an affair of passion or amusement, of the world and the day, but yours gazes towards Heaven, and looks to find its real utterance in the stillness of Eternity!"
Title..... Chap.....

13.—"I tell you, Mr. Rock, that I have no more notion where she has flitted to than a babe unborn. If any one knows, it's old Levinger or Sir Henry!"
Title..... Chap.....

14.—Yes, there, on the very spot where more than twenty centuries before she had slain Kallierates the priest, Ayesha herself fell down and died.
Title..... Chap.....

15.—"Is it a dream, Wambe, great lord and chief? or"—and she lifted her clenched hands and shook them in his face—"hath a woman's vengeance found thee out and a woman's wit o'ermatched thy tyrannous strength?"
Title..... Chap.....

Mr. Rider Haggard's Novels are published, with one or two exceptions, by Messrs. LONGMANS, GREEN, & CO., at prices varying from 3s. 6d. to 6s. each, and may be had of all booksellers.

To the Proprietors of "JEREZCONA."

FORM OF ORDER.

DEAR SIRS,—

Above I hand you my answers, filled in for the "Jerezcona Haggard Competition," and I agree to abide by the Rules herewith, and to accept the decisions arrived at as regards the Prizes as absolutely final.

Please send me, by post (carriage paid), a small bottle of Jerezcona for which I enclose you 1s.

Name .....

Address .....

[Should the Bottle of "Jerezcona" not arrive within three days from the closing of the competition, please notify the non-arrival at once, as several have gone astray.]

RULES OF COMPETITION.

The PRIZES will be AWARDED in ORDER of MERIT to those who place against the foregoing quotations from RIDER HAGGARD'S WORKS the GREATEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS, giving the TITLE of the NOVEL, &c., where the quotation occurs. Precedence (in case of more than one set of correct answers being sent in) will be awarded the one who further identifies the Quotation by giving the chapter.

This competition is limited to purchasers of a small bottle of "Jerezcona" (post free 1s.).

Answers, accompanied with signed Form of Order and Postal Order for 1s. MUST be addressed under cover to the Proprietors of "Jerezcona"—Messrs. Hertz & Collingwood, 38, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C., with "JEREZCONA—HAGGARD" plainly written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Should it happen that more answers than one correct in every particular be sent in, the first of such correct answers opened will take first prize, and the next Twelve most correct ones opened, the Twelve Consolation Prizes of Half a Guinea each. This competition closes at noon of Thursday, Dec. 10th, 1896.

The names of the successful Competitors will be published in *Judy* of Dec. 16th.

OTHER JEREZCONA COMPETITIONS.

BURNS in the "Scotsman" of December 1. **MOORE** in the Christmas Number of "Irish Society" and in "Irish Bits" of December 5. **SCOTT'S POETICAL WORKS** in "Badminton," January Number. A **CHARLES DICKENS**, in "Judy" of December 16, where the result of this **"Rider Haggard Competition"** will be announced.

The successful competitors in the last competitions were as follows:—"Marie Corelli" Series, First Prize (£3 3s.) to Miss M. BOSWELL, 12, Martineau-street, Birmingham; "Bulwer Lytton" Series, First Prize (£3 3s.) to Mrs. HITCHINGS, 9, West House Terrace, Plymouth.

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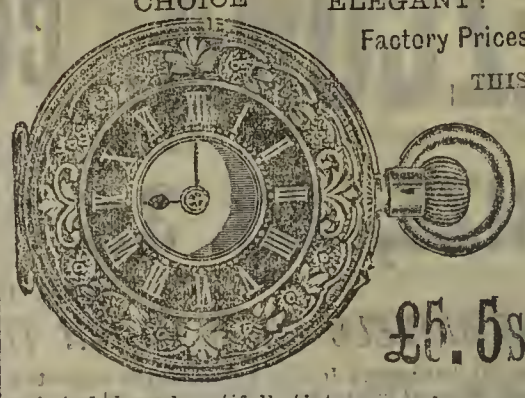

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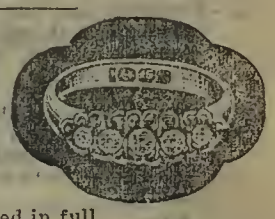

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IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.

The Public are cautioned against accepting from Bakers spurious Imitations of "**HOVIS**," which, having met with such unprecedented success, is being copied in many instances as closely as can be done without risk.

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THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
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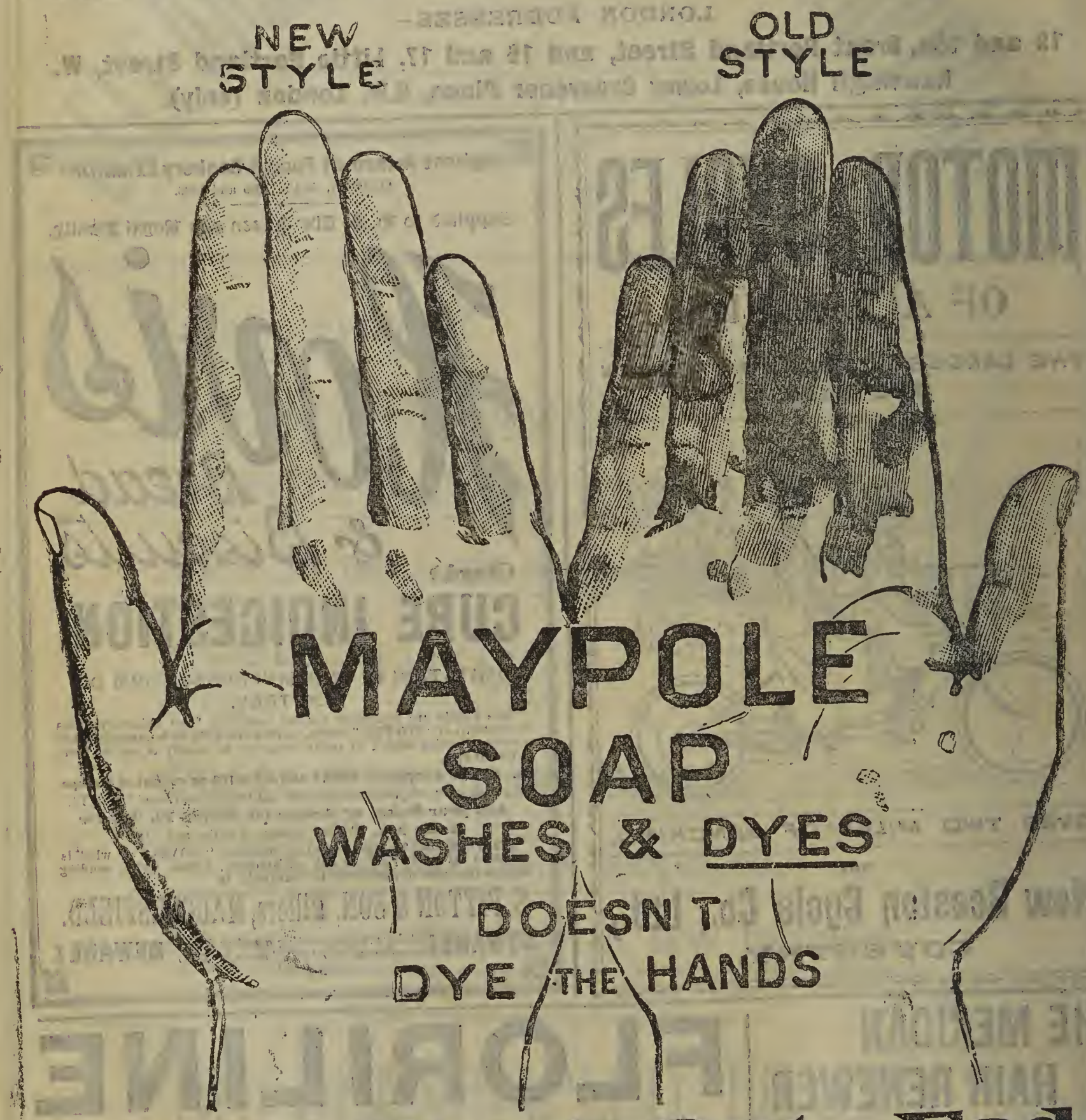

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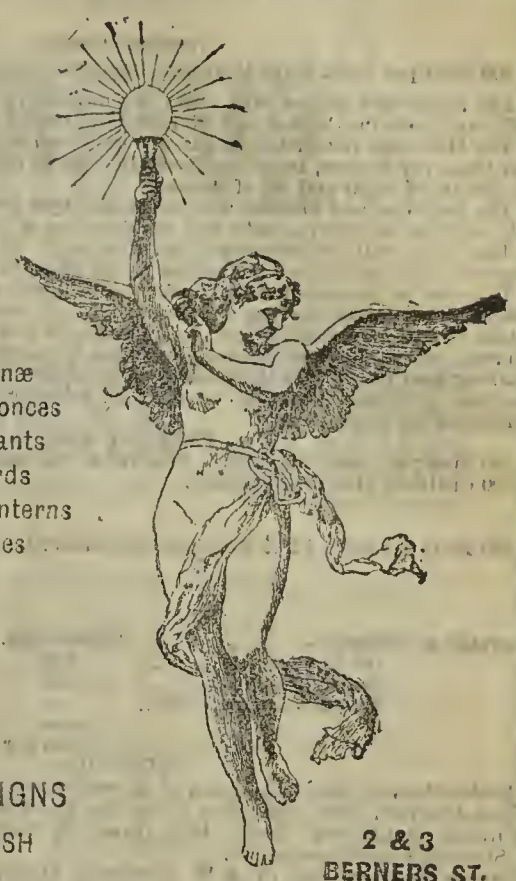

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Mülhens' "Rhine Violets"

No. 4711. TRADE MARK.

DISTILLED FROM FRESHLY GATHERED RHINE VIOLETS.

A SCENT OF RARE FRAGRANCE.

A VERY ECHO OF NATURE.

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Owing to the phenomenal success of this popular Scent, some perfumers are offering essences of their own manufacture under the name of "RHINE VIOLETS." The public must not be deceived, but insist upon "**MULHENS'**" brand, which is distilled from the flower itself. Don't accept any bottle not bearing Ferd. Mülhens' name. This alone ensures genuineness. Ferd. Mülhens, of Cologne, is the originator of this exquisite perfume, and was the first to introduce it into England.

The Fashionable Press of London are unanimous in praise of it.

3/-, 5/6, 9/-, 20/- *per bottle.*

"Rhine Violet" Sachets, 2/6 each.
"Rhine Violet" Soap, 2/6 per tablet, or 7/- per box of 3 tablets.

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FAMOUS NATURAL HOT MINERAL WATERS.

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The List of Applications will be OPENED on MONDAY, the 30th NOVEMBER, and will be CLOSED on THURSDAY, the 3rd DECEMBER, for both Town and Country.

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING CO., LTD., STOCKPORT, and all BRANCHES, are authorised to receive Subscriptions for the undermentioned Debentures and Shares.

SHOWELLS STOCKPORT BREWERY, Limited,

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - £200,000.

divided into

10,000 Five per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each ...	£100,000
10,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£100,000
	£200,000

DEBENTURES.

2,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Bonds of £100 each	£200,000

The Preference Shares will carry a Cumulative Preferential Dividend, and will rank both for Capital and Dividend in priority to the Ordinary Shares.

The Mortgage Debenture Bonds will be issued at par, bearing interest at Four per Cent. per annum, to accrue from the date of payment, payable half-yearly on the 1st of April and 1st of October.

The principal and interest will be secured by a first floating charge upon the whole of the property, assets, and undertaking of the Company.

The Bonds will be redeemable at £105 each, at any time after the 1st of January, 1910, on six months' notice being given by the Company.

In order to provide for the future development of the business power is reserved to create further Preference Shares, ranking *pari passu* with the 10,000 Shares mentioned above, to an amount equal to any additional Ordinary Shares, which may be created, and also to issue further Debenture Bonds, ranking *pari passu* with the present series of £200,000, to an amount not exceeding the aggregate sum paid up on such additional Preference and Ordinary Shares of the Company.

PRESENT ISSUE.

7,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each ...	£70,000
7,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each	£70,000
	£140,000
1,400 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Bonds of £100 each ...	£140,000
	£280,000

Payable as follows:—	Debentures.	Preference and Ordinary Shares.
On Application... ...	£25	£2
On Allotment	£75	£4
On 7th January, 1897...	—	£4
	£100 per Bond.	£10 per Share.

DIRECTORS.

Charles Showell, Esq., Chairman of Showells Brewery Co., Ltd. (Chairman).
Giles Atherton, Esq., Chairman of the Stockport Ring Spinning Co., Ltd.
William Hollinshed Brady, Esq. (Brady & Son, Auctioneers and Valuers) Stockport and Manchester.
Thomas Meadows, Esq. (T. & W. Meadows), Stockport.
Alfred William Pigott, Esq., Brookfield Brewery, Stockport (Managing Director).

BANKERS.—Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Co., Ltd., Stockport.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Lake & New, Stockport.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Robt. C. & Hy. Haworth & Co., Manchester.
SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.—John William McLoughlin, Brookfield Brewery, Stockport.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire as a going concern, and further develop the old-established Brewery known as Brookfield Brewery, Stockport, and the Freehold, Copyhold, and long Leasehold Public Houses attached thereto. These consist of 25 fully-licensed, 51 on Beerhouses, and 3 off licenses. There are also 17 licensed Houses held on short leases. In addition to this licensed property there are a number of Houses and Shops. These properties were purchased by the Brewers' Investment Corporation, Limited, in the year 1889 from the Trustees of the late Charles Marsland. The Brewery and the plant was subsequently sold to Walter Showell & Sons, Limited, the Houses being retained by the Brewers' Investment Corporation, Limited. On the amalgamation of those Companies in September, 1894, under the title of Showells Brewery Company, Limited, the Houses referred to were taken over and have since been conducted by that Company.

The Directors of Showells Brewery Company, Limited, however, experience some difficulty in managing a separate Brewery, and a large number of Houses so far away from their Head Office in Birmingham. They also anticipate they may be compelled to check the legitimate expansion of the trade attached to Stockport and its neighbourhood, owing to the development of their business in the districts immediately surrounding their own centre, where they can find ready and profitable employment for the bulk of their capital. Under these circumstances they have decided to dispose of the Stockport Brewery and Houses to a separate Company, and it will then have the advantage of direct local management, and of being provided with the additional capital necessary for its extension.

The Company will acquire, free from any Mortgages, the valuable and extensive Freehold Brewery in complete working order, the Goodwill of the business, and also the Plant, Rolling Stock, Horses, Stock-in-Trade, Book Debts, and Loans as at the 3rd of October, 1896, together with the Freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Houses, Fittings and Fixtures belonging to the Brewery, and such of the Fixtures and Fittings thereiu as are the property of the Vendors.

The Houses are situated in a thickly populated manufacturing district, and are conveniently placed for delivery from the Brewery.

In addition to the tied trade an increasing free trade is now being done, and a profitable business may be expected from the sales of Bottled Ales and Stouts, a department which has been lately added and has proved very successful.

The Brewery is in the centre of Stockport; it has an excellent supply of water obtained from an artesian well of great depth, the yield from which renders it independent of any outside supply. The whole is in good repair, and admirably adapted for extension.

Mr. A. W. Pigott, who has been closely associated with the management for the past eight years, has undertaken to act as Managing Director. The Company will therefore take over the whole of this undertaking without any interruption of business, and without change in the present staff, and thus secure the same careful and energetic management which has hitherto conduced to its success.

The business will be taken over as from the 3rd of October, 1896, the Company receiving the profits from that date subject to the payment of five per cent. interest to the date of the completion of the purchase.

The Liabilities of the business on the 3rd of October, 1896, will be discharged by the Vendors, who will also guarantee the payment of the Book Debts and Loans to customers shown by the books of that date.

The purchase money has been fixed at £250,000, payable in cash. The present issue of Capital and Debentures will give the Company £30,000 in cash for working Capital in addition to the amounts receivable in Book Debts and Loans, and as the Company does not undertake any liabilities, this sum is considered sufficient to meet all immediate requirements for extensions.

The books of the Brewery have been examined by Messrs. Robert C. and H. Haworth & Co., Accountants, of 19, Cooper-street, Manchester, who report as follows:—

We have examined the profits of the Brookfield Brewery, Stockport, with the houses attached thereto, carried on by Showells Brewery Company, Limited, in conjunction with their Birmingham business, and after making the necessary adjustments, we certify that the profits, including the Rentals from Houses, have been as follows:—

1890	£9,579 11 3½
1891	11,196 16 2
1892	10,129 11 2
1893	11,646 4 5
1894	11,600 9 1
1895	12 944 19 10
1896	14,840 6 9

Depreciation upon the Plant and Machinery, Casks and Rolling Stock, has been deducted before arriving at the above profits. We find that the output from the Brewery for the same period was as follows:—

	Barrels.
1890	16,015
1891	16,984
1892	16,560
1893	17,720
1894	17,979
1895	17,989
1896	19,234

ROBT. C. and HY. HAWORTH & CO.

23rd November, 1896.

The profits and sales of beer appearing upon the above certificate show a steady increase, and those of last year, apart from any further increase which may be expected from the employment of additional capital, would be sufficient to provide on the present issue, the following:—

	£	s.	d.
4% on £140,000 Debentures...	5,600	0	0
5% on £70,000 Cumulative Preference Shares	3,500	0	0
	9,100	0	0
Leaving for Directors' Fees and Dividend on the Ordinary Shares	5,740	6	9
	£14,840	6	9

The Directors confidently anticipate that with local management and additional capital, there will be a considerable expansion of the Company's business, and consequent additional profits available for dividend on the Ordinary Shares.

The Vendors, who are also the Promoters of the Company, will pay all costs and expenses connected with the formation of the Company, and the transfer of the properties.

The only Contract entered into is the Contract of Sale from the vendors to the Company, namely: An Agreement dated the 17th day of November, 1896, and made between Showells Brewery Company, Limited, of the one part, and John William McLoughlin, of Stockport, in the County of Chester, Assistant-Manager, as Agent for and on behalf of a Company about to be formed and registered, and intended to be called Showells Stockport Brewery, Limited, of the other part.

A Copy of such Contract accompanies the Prospectus. The Report of Messrs. Haworth & Co., and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, may be inspected at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Applications will be made in due course to the Committee of the Stock Exchanges in London, Birmingham, and Manchester for a Special Settlement and Official Quotation for the Mortgage Debentures and the Preference and Ordinary Shares.

Applications for Debentures and Shares should be sent with the deposit, payable on application to the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, Stockport, and Branches.

If fewer Debentures or Shares are allotted than are applied for by any applicant, the balance of the deposit paid will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment, and any surplus will be returned.

Brookfield Brewery, Stockport,
November 28th, 1896.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,

STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

NEW SPES BONA GOLD MINING COMPANY, Limited.
NOTICE is Hereby Given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 7th to the 12th DECEMBER, 1896, both dates inclusive, for the purpose of Balancing the Share Ledgers.
By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, Limited.
London Agents,
THOS. HONEY, London Secretary.
7, Lothbury,
London, E.C.
November 30th, 1896.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The LIST will OPEN THIS DAY (Tuesday), the 1st December, 1896, at 10 a.m., and will CLOSE for London on or before WEDNESDAY, the 2nd of December, 1896, at 4 p.m., and for the Country at 10 a.m. on THURSDAY, the 3rd December, 1896

The ADELPHI BANK (Limited), Liverpool and Manchester, and Branches, and their London Agents, the City Bank (Limited), Threadneedle-street, E.C., and Branches, are authorised to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS for the undermentioned ISSUE of 80,000 SIX PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SHARES of £1 each, and 67,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each, both at PAR.

Scotland.—The COMMERCIAL BANK of SCOTLAND (Limited), Dundee, Head Office, Edinburgh, and the Branches, will also RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

SEPTIMUS PARSONAGE & Co. (Limited).—Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

Capital:—120,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, £120,000. 100,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, £100,000=£220,000.

40,000 of the Preference Shares and 33,000 of the Ordinary Shares will be accepted by the Vendor in part payment of the purchase money (the largest number of Shares allowed by Stock Exchange Rules).

There are NOW OFFERED for PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION 80,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each=£80,000, and 67,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each=£ 7,000, payable 2s. 6d. on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, 5s. one month after date of Allotment, and 5s two months after date of Allotment. The Preference Shares will rank in priority to the Ordinary Shares both as to capital and dividend. No debentures can be issued so as in any way to prejudice the interests of Preference Shareholders without the sanction of the holders of two-thirds of such Shares represented at a meeting specially convened.

DIRECTORS.

*SEPTIMUS PARSONAGE, of Septimus Parsonage and Co., Wine and Spirit Brokers, 79, Mark-lane, London E.C., Chairman; James Violett, of James Violett, Bird, & Co., Bordeaux; *James Isles, J.P., of James Isles & Co., Scotch Whisky Merchants, Dundee; B. T. Bolanquet, D.L., J.P., 27, St. Mary-axe, London, E.C.; William F Bell, of James Bell & Sons, Dundee; Joseph Barker, J.P., Hill House, Loose, Maidstone.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

The first three-named Directors have agreed to remain as Managers of their respective businesses for a period of five years from the date of the incorporation of the Company.

BANKERS.—The Adelphi Bank (Limited), Liverpool and Manchester; The City Bank (Limited), Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.; The Commercial Bank of Scotland (Limited), Dundee.

SOLICITORS—Messrs. Hays, Schmettan, & Ancrum, 31, Abchurch-lane, E.C.

BROKER—Thos. J. Ive, Esq., 21, Old Broad-street, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS—Messrs. Harvey Preen and Co., Chartered Accountants, 17 and 18, Basinghall-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY (pro tem.)—Frank Hook.

REGISTERED OFFICES—79, Mark-lane, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company has been formed to acquire, as and from 1st October, 1896, the following businesses:—Septimus Parsonage & Co., 79, Mark-lane, London, E.C.; 67, Lord-street, Liverpool; and 17, Fownes-street, Dublin, Wine and Spirit Brokers and Irish Whisky Blenders; James Violett, Bird, & Co., Claret Shippers, Bordeaux; James Isles & Co., Scotch Whisky Merchants, and Blenders, Dundee; S. Parsonage & Fleming, Brandy Merchants and Shippers, Chateauneuf, Cognac, France; and the Land and Buildings for the Highland Esk Distillery, hereinafter referred to.

Messrs. Septimus Parsonage & Co. have had intimate and profitable business relations with Messrs. James Violett, Bird, & Co., for several years, and, while all the above businesses have been successful, it is believed that, by working them in combination and under the control of the Board (consisting, with two exceptions, of experts), with Central Offices in London, still greater progress may be made in the future.

Large extensions are contemplated at home and abroad, and important economies in working and management are contemplated, especially in agency and distribution expenses, and calculations have been made which warrant the Directors in stating that the advertising of their different brands may be considerably extended without increased outlay, each firm having previously separately conducted its own advertising and trading operations.

The property and assets to be taken over have been valued, and the profits ascertained, on behalf of the Vendors, by Messrs. Coltman & Baker, surveyors and valuers, of 3, John-street, Theobald's-road, London, and on behalf of the Company by Mr. George Westall, accountant, brewery surveyor and valuer, and wine and spirit trade expert, of St. Stephen's Chambers, London, E.C. They have personally visited and inspected the properties, &c., and value the freeholds, plant, machinery, rolling-stock, book debts, goodwill, &c. (including £20,000 to be retained out of present issue), at £194,053 5s. 5d., and the land and buildings (when completed) at Craigo, near Montrose, at £26,000, making a total of £220,053 5s. 5d. They also certify that the net profits of the first three businesses for the past three years show a progressive increase, being as follows: For year 1893-4, £11,199 10s. 8d.; 1894-5, £12,501 16s. 8d.; 1895-6, £13,964 5s. 11d., the business of Messrs. S. Parsonage & Fleming having only been recently established (although a moderate profit has been made) has not been taken into account.

In addition to the certified profit for the year 1895-6, the further profits anticipated to accrue from the extensions and amalgamation is estimated at £13,979, making a total of £27,943 5s. 11d. The dividend of 6 per cent. on the Preference Shares and 10 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares would leave a surplus of £10,743 5s. 11d., which, after payment of Directors' fees, will be available for a further dividend on the Ordinary Shares, and for the purpose of building up a reserve fund. The present actual net income nearly exceeds twice the amount required for dividend on the preference shares.

Under the contract for the purchase of the business, the stocks-in-trade and book debts are guaranteed by the vendor not to be less at October, 1896 (the date at which the businesses are taken over), than £40,408 17s. 1d., the amount at which they have been valued, and which, with the £20,000 above-mentioned, forms an ample working capital of £60,408 17s. 1d.

HIGHLAND ESK DISTILLERY, Montrose.—The Company have secured large and suitable premises, situated near Craigo, on the River North Esk, about two miles from the Port of Montrose, and near to the Craigo, Dubton, and Kinnaber Junction Stations, and to the North Water Station on the Bervie Railway, which will immediately be converted into a Highland Malt Distillery. There is a fine natural water supply from the neighbouring Grampian Mountains, the full rights to which are acquired by the Company.

The buildings and site of the distillery have been favourably reported upon by Mr. Chas. O. Doig, Consulting Distillery Engineer and Architect, Elgin, and a most satisfactory analysis of the water has been made.

This Distillery will be of the greatest value as a profit-earning medium, the enormous and ever-increasing demand for Highland Malt Whisky having rendered within recent years the business of the Distiller very lucrative, and, with the means of distribution already possessed by Messrs. Septimus Parsonage & Co. and Messrs. James Isles & Co., the success of the Distillery is believed to be assured. A contract has been entered into for the construction and equipment of the Distillery (guaranteed to produce an output of 5,000 gallons of Highland Malt Whisky per week), which will be finished by the 1st of July, 1897, and a sufficient sum of money to cover the contract price will be reserved by the directors, and paid to the Vendor on completion of the Distillery.

The purchase price fixed by Mr. Septimus Parsonage, who is the Vendor and Promoter of the Company (and who makes a profit on the re-sale, which it is anticipated will only cover the expenses of forming and floating the Company up to allotment and the transfer of the different properties to the Company), for the whole of the properties above-mentioned is £200,000, payable as to £33,000 in ordinary fully-paid shares, and as to £40,000 in fully-paid preference shares, and as to £127,000 in cash or shares at the option of the Company.

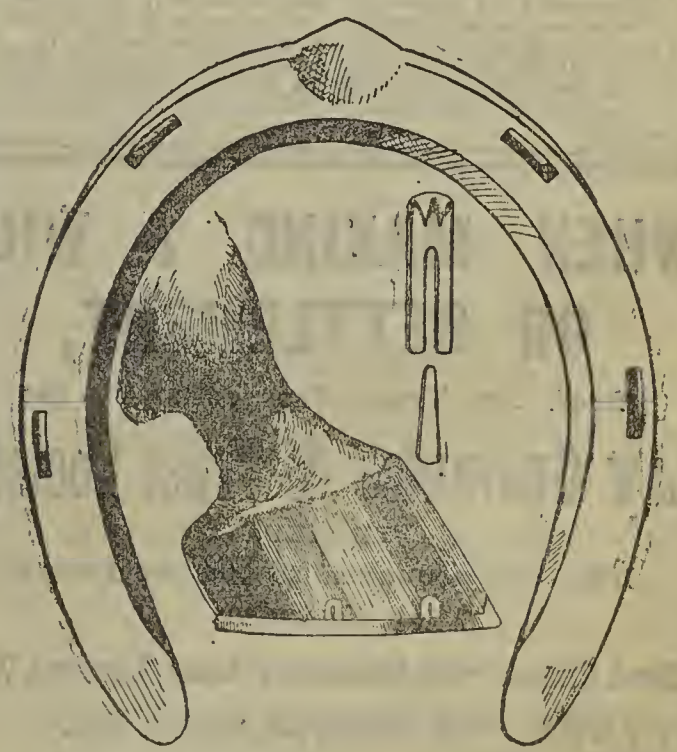
Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the bankers, solicitors, brokers, and auditors of the Company, and the contracts, and the original reports of the valuers and of Mr. Doig, may be seen at the offices of the solicitors.

London, November 9th, 1896.

IT IS NAIL-LESS.

THE "Minerva" PATENT Horse Shoe

Is a Shoe without Nails, capable of being easily fitted upon or taken off the hoof without the use of screws, nails, rivets, or straps, by any smith, groom, stableman, soldier, or handy-man.



It can be fitted cold and being Nail-less all danger of wounding the sensitive part of the hoof is avoided. Contraction of the heels is also obviated. Horses shod with the "MINERVA SHOE" step out more freely and safely, showing a confidence and comfort never enjoyed before. Minerva Shoes last longer than ordinary shoes, and are not more expensive.

Recommended and endorsed by the leading Veterinaries in the World.

For further particulars apply to the

MINERVA NAIL-LESS HORSE SHOE (Parent) SYNDICATE, LIMITED,

11, QUEEN VICTORIA ST., LONDON, E.C.

ATLANTIC AND DANVILLE RAILWAY.

Five Per Cent. First Mortgage Gold Bonds.

TOTAL AUTHORISED - - - $1,500,000
OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED- 1,238,000

In Bonds of $1,000 each.

Principal and Interest payable in Gold Coin of the United States.

Interest payable Half-yearly, January 1st and July 1st, at the Mercantile Trust Company, New York. Principal repayable January 1st, 1950, or at any time prior thereto, at par, upon Six Months' Notice being given by the Company.

The Bonds have full foreclosure rights after December 31st, 1897.

Trustees for Bondholders - - THE MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK.

THE SHARE CAPITAL IS - - - - { $3,200,000 5% Preferred Shares, $2,500,000 Ordinary Shares.

The Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, 75, Cornhill, E.C., are authorised to receive subscriptions for $678,000, forming part of the above issue, at the price of 92 (4s. to the $), which, at the present rate of New York Exchange, will yield a return of £5. 11s. per cent. per annum.

Payments to be made as under:—

5 per cent. or	£10 per Bond	on Application,
25 ,,	£50 ,,	on Allotment.
62 ,,	£124 ,,	on 15th January, 1897.
92	£184 ,,	

Relative Coupons are attached to the Bonds for interest to and including January 1st, 1950. The next Coupon, carrying six months' interest, is payable 1st July, 1897. Payment in full may be made at any time prior to the above dates, subject to discount at Bank rate, and the Bonds will be delivered by the Bank to applicants on payment of the balance due 15th January, 1897.

The Atlantic and Danville Railway Company has been recently reorganised under the auspices of a London Committee. The previous Bonded indebtedness of the Road was $4,952,000 First Mortgage 6 per cent. Bonds, upon which a cash assessment of 25 per cent. was made to provide funds for the retirement of Car Trust and Receiver's Certificates and all other claims. This assessment produced $1,238,000, which discharged all claims, and left about $200,000 for permanent improvements. Against this assessment a similar amount of the above Bonds have been given (of which the above issue forms part), the remainder, $262,000, being held on behalf of the Company by the Trustees under the Mortgage as a reserve for future improvements, the whole amount being a first charge upon the entire undertaking and assets of the Company.

The Company owns and operates 281 miles of Railway, viz., 230 miles main line and branches, standard gauge; 51 miles James River Division, narrow gauge; and about 28 miles of Sidings, running from Norfolk, Va., where it connects with all the Railroad and Steamship Lines entering that Port, to Danville, Va., having connections with the Southern Railway, Atlantic Coast Line, and Seaboard Air Line, with all of which there is a considerable interchange of traffic.

The road owns all its terminals and entire equipment, consisting of 28 Locomotives, 752 Cars, Steam Tugs, Barges, &c. It has no floating debt, and has considerable cash assets over all liabilities, available for such improvements as may be thought desirable.

The net earnings for the year ending June 30th, 1895, were ...	$102,950.89
And ,, ,, ,, 1896	$139,903.13
Annual Interest required on the $1,238,000 Bonds (which constitute a charge of less than $5,000 per mile)	$61,900

The surplus Revenue over fixed charges has been, since the reorganisation, devoted to permanent improvements upon the Road, acquisition of equipment, &c.

Attention is directed to extracts from the Report made by the President and Treasurer of the Road to the Committee of the New York Stock Exchange, and also to the copy of the Bond (see Appendices A and B).

The $1,238,000 Bonds are already quoted on the New York Stock Exchange; and a quotation has just been granted by the Committee of the London Stock Exchange.

Copies of the Mortgage Deed can be obtained on application to Messrs. Tamplin, Tayler, & Joseph, Solicitors, Ingram House, Fenchurch-street, E.C.

The Subscription List will be opened on Wednesday, the 2nd December, and closed on or before Friday, the 4th December.

Applications must be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and lodged, together with the amount of deposit, at the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, 75, Cornhill, E.C.; or at Manchester, Liverpool, and Branches.

The allotment will be made as early as possible after the closing of the Subscription List. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full; and if only a portion of the amount applied for be allotted, the balance will be applied towards the amount due on allotment.

Failure to pay any instalment when due renders any instalment paid liable to forfeiture.

Prospectuses can be obtained from the Bankers and Messrs. Helbert, Wagg, & Co., 18, Old Broad-street, E.C.

November 28th, 1896.

WHEN MAKING A WILL OR SETTLEMENT,

Send for Trust Prospectus of the

Law Guarantee & Trust Society,

LIMITED,

Who are prepared to Act as Trustee or Executor.

Head Office:—49, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

City Office:—56, Moorgate Street, E.C.

THE

JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.

DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.

BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.

LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—

WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS for SHARES will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY NEXT, the 4th day of December, 1896, for Town, and the following day for the Country.

The present Annual Sales of the businesses to be acquired are £170,472, showing a steady increase on previous years, and the net profits now actually being earned, after payment of all expenses, amount to £23,010 per annum, sufficient to pay the Preference Dividend nearly four times over.—(Vide Accountants' Certificate.)

The Businesses have been established an average of 48 years, and the Customers holding regular accounts number many thousands.

The Vendors are so well satisfied as to the success of the Company, that they stipulate for the allotment to them, and agree to accept in part payment for the businesses and properties to be transferred, Ordinary Shares to the amount of £50,000.

DARBY, NOTT, & CO., LIM.,

Ironfounders, Metal Merchants, Wholesale and Retail Ironmongers.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, whereby the liability of the Shareholders is strictly limited to the amount of their Shares.

CAPITAL, £200,000,

Divided into 20,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, preferential as to Capital as well as Dividend, and 20,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each. Under the Articles of Association, no Debentures can be issued without the consent of the Preference Shareholders, given at a general meeting convened for the purpose, and as the Preference Shares are cumulative and preferential both as to capital and dividends, they are practically equivalent to Debentures paying 6 per cent. per annum.

The whole of the PREFERENCE SHARES and 10,000 of the ORDINARY SHARES are now OFFERED for SUBSCRIPTION, the balance of the Ordinary Shares being taken by the Vendors as stated above. The Shares are payable as follows:—10s per Share on Application; £2. 10s. per Share on Allotment; and the balance two months after Allotment. Shareholders, however, have the privilege of paying up in full on Allotment, their Shares ranking for dividend according to the amount paid up and from date of payment.

DIRECTORS.

*George F. Darby (G. F. Darby & Co., Wholesale and Retail Ironmongers), Queen's-parade, Clapham Junction, S.W.
Charles Stedman (late H.B.M. Vice Consul, Liberia), 9A, Sackville-street, Piccadilly, W.
*Charles J. Foster (Foster & Co., Wholesale and Retail Ironmongers), Dorchester.
L. A. Browne, Contractor to H.M. Government, Union-court Chambers, Old Broad-street, E.C.
B. Parkin Haigh, Architect and Surveyor, 23, Coleman-street, London, E.C.
*William J. Nott (Nott & Co.), Brecon Foundry, Brecon and Llandrindod Wells.

* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.—The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., and all Branches.
SOLICITORS.—Thomson & Co., 2 and 3, West-street, Finsbury-circus, E.C.
BROKERS.
George Harris & Sons, Stock Exchange, and 84, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
William Craig Murray, Stock Exchange, and 51, Dame-street, Dublin.
AUDITORS.
Martin, Farlow, Eldridge, & Co., 4, King-street, Cheapside, E.C.
Bromhead & Co., 97, Newgate-street, London, E.C.
SECRETARY.—W. O. Carter.
WORKS AND FOUNDRIES.—Lion Iron Works, Barnstaple; Brecon Foundries, Brecon; and Hounslow Metal Works, Hounslow.
REGISTERED OFFICES.—85, Gracechurch-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire, carry on, and further extend the old-established and profitable wholesale and retail furnishing and general ironmongery depots, iron foundries, and metal works enumerated in full prospectus, comprising two foundries, one sheet metal works, and twenty-eight ironmongery depots, situate in London and various important provincial towns.

The businesses have been carefully examined by Messrs. Bromhead & Co., the well-known metal trades' valuers and accountants, of Newgate-street, London, E.C., who certify that they are all situated in good commercial centres, and are without exception thoroughly sound paying concerns.

There can be no doubt that the amalgamation must largely increase the turnover and the amount of profits earned, as the system to be adopted by this Company has proved highly beneficial in other trades, as is shown by the profitable nature of such concerns as Liptons, the Aerated Bread Company, Limited; the Home and Colonial Stores, Limited; the International Tea Company, Limited; and many other Companies, the Shares of which now stand at high premiums.

The businesses have been most carefully selected with a special view of obtaining only old-established, absolutely genuine, and profitable concerns, and of such a nature, that by reason of amalgamation with the foundries and works, many classes of goods can be supplied direct from the factories to the shops. In this way the Company will secure both the wholesale and the retail profits, and will further, having regard to the magnitude of the concern, be able to purchase goods in large quantities, thereby securing better terms than are obtainable by individual retailers.

In addition to the large retail trade, there are orders in hand at the present time to the amount of £26,190, including contracts for her Majesty's Government, Portland and elsewhere; her Majesty's Government (Brecon Prison); her Majesty's Government (Shrewsbury Prison); the Duchy of Cornwall; the Dorset County Asylum: Corporation of Wrexham; Barnstaple Town Council; Wrexham Gas Company, &c., &c.

The Foundries and Works contain complete plants for the turning out of wrought-iron work, sheet iron, zinc and tin goods, as well as every facility for producing special or heavy castings, ornamental roofings, &c. The Barnstaple depot consists of a capital foundry and general iron works, as well as an extensive wholesale ironmongery warehouse, with offices, &c. The Hounslow works are situated in the High-street, Hounslow, and contain, in addition to a powerful engine and shafting, an almost unique set of high-class shearing and punching machinery, presses and dies, drilling and bending machinery, &c., &c. The Brecon Foundry and Works have been successfully carried on for 50 years, and are large and completely fitted. The wholesale depot at Clapham Junction is spacious, and the business has an extensive connection, while the whole of the remaining premises are in good condition, well-stocked and fitted with well-made fixtures and fittings; the plant including 44 horses and 85 vans, trolleys, floats, and trucks, &c., &c.

The businesses will be transferred to the Company as going concerns, and all liabilities up to completion will be discharged by the Vendors.

The whole of the establishments have been personally inspected, and the books examined by Messrs Bromhead & Co., the well-known and old-established Metal Trades' Valuers and Accountants, who furnish the following report:—

97, Newgate-street, London, E.C., 19th November, 1896.

To the Directors of Darby, Nott, & Co., Limited.

Dear Sirs,—We have examined the premises and books of the Lion Foundry, Barnstaple; the Brecon Foundry, Brecon; and the Hounslow Metal Works, Hounslow; together with 28 wholesale and retail ironmongery depots about to be acquired by you (the list of which is signed by us, and sent herewith), and beg to report as follows:—

We find, without exception, each of the businesses to be a thoroughly good paying concern. They are all well-known, having been established, on an average, 48 years.

The depots are situated in main thoroughfares and excellent business positions in the respective towns. All the premises are in substantial repair; the plant and fixtures modern, and in a thoroughly efficient state. The stocks-in-trade we find to be well kept, and of a good class. We value the same, with the fixtures, machinery, and plant, at the sum of £95,140.

The present annual sales we find to be £170,472, showing a steady increase on previous years, and the total net profits now actually being earned, after payment of all expenses, amount to £23,010 per annum.

There can be no doubt that a further and much larger turnover can be done with the additional capital and advantages that your Company offer.

The plan you are about to adopt of purchasing goods in large quantities will undoubtedly very considerably increase the present profits, besides which, inasmuch as you will hold extensive stocks of every article in your head depots, you will be enabled to supply these goods more quickly to your various branches.

The works and foundries included in the list of businesses to be acquired, form an important addition to the Company, inasmuch as they are able to turn out a large number of articles for sale in the depots, as well as special castings, &c., to the order of architects, builders, and others. The customers holding regular accounts with the various depots number many thousands.

We are convinced that these businesses form a very valuable group, and that, as a Company, they are capable of great extension.

Yours faithfully,
BROMHEAD & CO., Metal Trade Valuers and Accountants.

The present annual profits, as certified by Messrs. Bromhead & Co., amount to...	£23,010
To pay 6 per cent. on £100,000 Preference Shares will require...	£6,000
To pay 10 per cent. on £100,000 Ordinary Shares will require...	10,000
	16,000
Leaving a balance of	£7,010

for management, Directors' fees, &c., without allowing for any increase of profits by the additional trade or saving by amalgamation, or by obtaining in many cases (owing to the acquisition of the metal works and foundries), the wholesale as well as retail profits. From the above certified figures, it will be seen that the present net profits are sufficient to pay the Preference dividends nearly four times over; consequently the Preference Shares, which are cumulative and preferential, both as to capital and dividends, form an exceptionally sound investment; while the Ordinary Shares (half of which are taken by the Vendors in part payment for the businesses and properties) must commend themselves to investors as highly remunerative.

Mr. G. F. Darby, of Clapham Junction, Mr. C. J. Foster, of Dorchester, and Mr. W. J. Nott, of Brecon, three of the Vendors, who are thoroughly practical men, well acquainted with the trade, have consented to join the Board after completion of the purchase, and their extensive and valued experience cannot fail to prove of great advantage to the Company.

It is intended to retain the entire staffs of the various establishments, and in nearly all cases the late proprietors have consented to remain as managers of the respective branches on terms very favourable to the Company. By this means the connections will be retained, and the system of business, which has enabled the concerns to obtain their present success, will be continued, except so far as the supply of goods is concerned from the factories and foundries to be taken over.

The great and growing demand for Shares in sound industrial undertakings is shown by reference to the following concerns, the Shares of which stand at considerable premiums:—

John Barker & Co., Limited, Five per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £7.

Hy. Bucknall & Sons, Limited, Six per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £7¾.

D. H. Evans & Co., Limited, Six per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £1¼.

Harrod's Stores, Limited, Five per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £7.

Home and Colonial Stores, Limited, Six per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £6¾.

Lovell & Christmas, Limited, Six per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £7.

Maple & Co., Limited, Six per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £1⅝.

T. R. Roberts & Co., Limited, Five per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £1⅛.

Thos. Wallis & Co., Limited, Six per Cent. Preference Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £8.

Thos. Wallis & Co., Limited, Ordinary Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £14.

D. H. Evans & Co., Limited, Ordinary Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £2.

Aerated Bread Co., Limited, Ordinary Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £9⅛.

Maple & Co., Limited, Ordinary Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £3⅝.

Harrod's Stores, Limited, Ordinary Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £5¾.

Lovell & Christmas, Limited, Ordinary Shares, issued at £5, are now quoted at £9¾.

Jones & Higgins, Limited, Ordinary Shares, issued at £1, are now quoted at £2¼.

The price to be paid for the whole of the plant, machinery, tools, and stock (which alone are valued at £95,140), together with the leases and goodwill of the wholesale and retail businesses, foundries, and metal works, has been fixed at the sum of £126,580 in cash, together with an allotment of 10,000 fully-paid Ordinary Shares of the Company, leaving the sum of £23,420 available for additional working capital.

For Contracts, see Full Prospectus.

Prospectuses and forms of application for Shares may be obtained of the Bankers, Brokers, or of the Secretary, at the Offices of the Company. Applications for Preference and Ordinary Shares should be made on the forms accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., or any of its Branches.

November 19th, 1896.

The Subscription List will open on Thursday, the 3rd December, and will close for both Town and Country on or before Monday, the 7th December.

A DIVIDEND PAYING PROPERTY.

THE

KAPAI-VERMONT GOLD MINING

COMPANY, LIMITED.

KUAOTUNU (HAURAKI DISTRICT), NEW ZEALAND.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts of 1882 to 1893.

CAPITAL - £150,000,

In 150,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 40,000 are accepted by the Vendor in part payment of the purchase money, and the remaining

110,000 ARE NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION.

Payable, 1s. per Share on Application; 4s. per Share on Allotment; 2s. 6d. per Share on 15th December; 2s. 6d. per Share on the 4th January, 1897; 5s. per Share on the 4th February, 1897, and 5s. per Share on the 4th March, 1897.

DIRECTORS.

Sir THOMAS S. TANCRED, Bart., Director West Australian Development Corporation, Limited, Chairman.
Brigade-Surgeon Lt.-Col. E. C. BENSLEY, Director Tokatea Consols Gold Mines, Limited.
H. CHESTER MASTER, Esq., Director Aladdin's Lamp Gold Mining Company, Limited.
D. K. INGLIS, Esq., Director Turon Gold Mines, Limited.
J. J. HAMILTON, Esq., F.G.S., Mining Engineer, Director Mount Hepburn Gold Mine, Limited, Managing Director in London.

Consulting Engineer.—Captain W. H. ARGALL.

Bankers.—BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, 1, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

Solicitors.—(For the Company): Messrs. WAINWRIGHT & POLLOCK, 42, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.; (For the Vendors): GEORGE M. LIGHT, Esq., 32, Victoria-street, Westminster.

Secretary and Offices.—J. WHITTAKER, 1, St. Helen's-place, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to purchase and extend the operations of the Kapai-Vermont Gold Mine, a dividend paying property equipped with machinery and cyanide plant situate in the Kuaotunu Gold Field (Hauraki District), of New Zealand, comprising an area of 37 acres or thereabouts, and a Battery site and allotment of 4 acres, 3 roods, 20 perches. The reports issued to the Shareholders of the existing local Company in 1895 and 1896 have been independently confirmed by Captain W. H. Argall and by the Manager, Mr. Robson.

Mr. Hornibrooke's Report of April 25th, 1896, which is confirmed by Capt. W. H. Argall in his report of May 9th, 1896 (copies of which reports accompany the prospectus), states that the Otis mill started crushing in January, 1895, and up to April 4th, 1896, had put through 4,000 tons of ore (or at the rate of say 70 tons per week), from which 7,282 oz. of gold was won, equal in value to £15,291. 12s. 6d.

Advices from the property of the 26th September last state up to that date 5,480 tons have been crushed, producing 8,779 ounces of gold.

The Directors cabled to the New Zealand Company, who are now in charge of the mine, on the 9th November last, asking the following questions:—

"Let us know tonnage crushed, ounces yielded, value, cost working since January."

The reply received on the 11th November read as follows:—

"2,985 tons crushed, 3,505 ounces, £2. 10s. per ounce, cost per ton for Mining 11s. 9d. Considerable reduction will be made when I can increase output. In order to facilitate systematic working, part of ore is from old workings old Company."

It will be seen from the above cables that the Mine with the present inadequate and insufficient machinery is crushing at the rate of 82 tons per week, giving a net profit for the nine months of £6,977. 8s. 5d. It seems that poor ore was used from old workings.

The object of the present issue is to purchase the Kapai-Vermont Property as it stands, and to provide the additional crushing machinery and appliances as recommended by Captain Argall to increase the output of gold as well as to carry out the further works of development recommended by Captain Argall and Mr. Hornibrooke.

The reports show that the reserves of ore in sight, apart from further development, are ample to supply the requirements of much larger crushing machinery, and the Directors are advised that by erecting additional machinery for the treatment of 150 tons of ore a day the present net profit can be proportionately increased, and that on a safe estimate dividends of from 60 to 70 per cent. per annum can be earned on the capital.

The Mine is well known and acknowledged to be one of the best in the district. Mr. Henry M. Cadell, B.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.G.S. (Vice-President Mining Institute of Scotland), who inspected the gold fields of New Zealand, states, in a paper read by him before the members of The Mining Institute of Scotland, at Kilmarnock, on December 7th, 1895:—

"Kuaotunu.—The Kuaotunu Gold Field has as yet been comparatively little prospected, but it is at present yielding satisfactory results to the Companies that can treat the ore on a good system. There are several reefs, the best of which—the Try Fluke—runs in a north north-easterly direction past the eastern side of the Kuaotunu township.

"The best reef runs through the property of the Try Fluke and the Kapai-Vermont Companies, and these mines deserve special mention on account of the merits of their system of treatment of the ore, and of the success with which their operations have been attended.

"The Kapai-Vermont Company treat their ore by dry crushing in an Otis mill, and direct cyanidation as at Waihi, and this system appears to be working with most satisfactory results, about 90 per cent. of the assay value of the ore being extracted."

Attention is invited to the accompanying reports of Mr. Henry P. Hornibrooke and Mr. James A. Walker, made to the Directors of the local Company, which has been, and is now, working the Mine. From these reports it appears that the reef now being worked is well opened by adits, galleries, and shafts.

In a telegraphic report received and made on behalf of this Company, Captain Argall states that the lode was struck in the lower level on the 30th April last, which greatly enhances the value of the property. In confirmation of this statement Captain Argall cabled through the manager, under date 9th July, as follows:—

"Kapai.—In my opinion Mine will develop into a fine property, am convinced there is a brilliant future before the Company. I have great reasons for supposing at the lower level and deeper levels the richness of ore will increase greatly."

An extract from a cable received from the Manager, November 17th, states that the stopes above the lowest level are now producing large quantities of ore of good quality, varying in width from 7 feet to 8 feet. The Chairman of the New Zealand Company states that the mill value of the ore in lowest level will average over £4 per ton.

The ores are being successfully treated by the process now in use at the Mine, and the percentage of gold extracted is high, 90 to 98 per cent. (*vide* James A. Walker's Report, 2nd September, 1895). The district is well timbered, there is a sufficiency of water, a good stream flowing past the Mine, coal can be delivered at the Mine at a cost of about 22s. per ton, and as the climate is favourable, work is carried on all the year round. Labour is abundant and cheap, and the general conditions for working the Mine are extremely economical.

The port of Kuaotunu—a regular port of call for steamers from Auckland and the town of Thames—is about three miles distant from the Mines, which are approached by a good metalled road.

At the town of Thames there are well-equipped engineering works which afford excellent facilities for the manufacture and repairs of mining machinery.

A contract, dated 26th October, 1896, has been entered into between the Kapai-Vermont Gold Mining Company (no liability) of New Zealand, as Vendor, of the first part, Sydney Harry Johnson, of the second part, and John Whittaker for this Company, of the third part, for the purchase of the property described for the sum of £125,000, of which £40,000 is payable in cash, £40,000 in fully-paid Shares, and the balance in cash or fully-paid Shares, or cash and fully-paid Shares, at the option of the Directors, leaving £25,000 to provide additional working capital.

The above is the only contract to which the Company is a party.

The Promoter has made arrangements and entered into contracts with various persons for assistance in the promotion of the Company, and in regard to the expenses thereof, which may constitute contracts within the meaning of the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for shares shall be deemed to have notice of all such contracts and arrangements, and shall accept the above statement as a sufficient compliance with the requirements of the aforesaid Section.

The Contract, dated the 26th October, 1896, above referred to, the original Reports, Cables, and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association may be inspected at the Offices of the Company, No. 1, St. Helen's-place, London, E.C.

Applications for Shares may be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus or by letter, to be sent to the Bankers or Secretary with the prescribed deposit. In case no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned without deduction, and when the number of shares allotted is less than the number applied for the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on the shares allotted.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers or of the Secretary of the Company.

London, 28th November, 1896.

The following cable, dated November 25th, 1896, has been received from Mr. T. Hardman, a member of the Local Board:—"The mine has been worked by shafts to a depth of 45ft., 50ft., 60ft., 67ft. Reef 2ft. 6in. wide and assays 17oz. per ton. Expect to reach water level in fortnight."

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will OPEN on TUESDAY, the 1st day of December, and CLOSE at 4 p.m. on THURSDAY, the 3rd day of December, 1896, for TOWN, and at noon on the FOLLOWING DAY for COUNTRY.

Applications having been already received for 20,000 shares, the Directors intend to proceed to Allotment on the Closing of the Lists.

THE CREDO GOLD MINES, LIMITED

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - - - - £100,000.

DIVIDED INTO

100,000 shares of £1 each (of which 20,000 are reserved for working capital),

Payable:—2s. 6d. per share on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment, and the balance in calls not exceeding 5s. each at intervals of not less than one month.

DIRECTORS

Sir THOMAS TANCRED, Bart., C.E. (Director Western Australian Development Corporation, Limited), 46, Inverness-terrace, Bayswater, W., Chairman.
C. H. Swanton, (Director of the Doric Gold Mines, Limited), 3 Plowden-buildings, Temple, E.C.
R. Martin (J. Martin and Sons), Endwell House, Brockley.
R. Whieldon Barnett, M.A., B.C.L., 1, Hare court, Temple, E.C.
*Reginald Chanter, 5, Ilchester-gardens, Bayswater, W.

*Will join the Board after completion of the purchase.

LOCAL BOARD.

Sir James G. Lee-Steere (Speaker of the Legislative Assembly), Perth.
Hon. S. H. Parker, Q.C., M.L.C. (ex-Attorney-General of Western Australia), Perth.
Hon. J. Howard Taylor, M.L.C. (representing the Coolgardie Goldfields and ex-President of the Coolgardie Stock Exchange), Coolgardie.
T. Hardman (Managing Director, Lion Brewery), Coolgardie.

BANKERS.

In London—Brown, Janson, and Co., Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.
In Australia—The Bank of Australasia (Limited).

SOLICITORS.

Rose-Innes, Son, and Crick, Billiter-square-buildings, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

Lumsden and Myers, 18, Finch-lane, London, E.C.; and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.

W. H. Pannell and Co., 13 and 14, Basinghall-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY.

J. A. Detmold.

OFFICES.

Broad-street House, London, E.C.

The following is an extract from "The Western Australian Gold Fields Courier," Coolgardie, of June 27th, 1896, by the well-known mining engineer, F. C. B. Vosper, M.A.I.M.E.:—

"I made a detour to visit 'The Credo,' which is perhaps the most remarkable mine in Western Australia, and therefore specially calls for description. It is situated four miles west of Broad Arrow, in the midst of low ranges, the surface rocks of which present no remarkable features. Within the area of the mine, however, a change is experienced, though even here the surface affords no indication of the remarkable features beneath. The Credo leases cover 36 acres, and are intersected by a reef running a few degrees east of north. This reef is embedded in the hardest of hard diorite, which presents some extraordinary phenomena. In places throughout the hard rock large patches of auriferous pyrites are found, the pyrites occurring in large and regular yellow cubes, which give the rock an unusual appearance. The reef is only from 14in. to 18in. thick, yet it carries not only gold in abundance, but copper in all its forms, zinc, galena, iron (in sulphides, hematites, limonites, spathic, crystals, and carbonates), arsenical pyrites, kaolin, siderites, silicious sinters, thermal taffa and ash, and finally hexagonal crystals of quartz, which, although elsewhere devoid of gold, are here filled with the precious metal. The reef is most regular in its form, and it is difficult to account for the heterogeneous character of its contents. The reef bears evidences of hydrothermal origin, but it is certainly an unusual phenomenon to find the presence of so many minerals in such comparatively undisturbed country. There are five shafts sunk on the lode, of which the No. 1 is down 57ft., No. 2 20ft., No. 3 (the main) 52ft. (with a crosscut of 20ft.), No. 4 48ft., and No. 5 62ft., the whole mine being pretty thoroughly and systematically opened up. The gold is very equally distributed among the various ores, and the quantity visible is so large as to prove the mine most wealthy. Although the matrices present such a variety, the material is not refractory, and the gold being absolutely free. The mine must be regarded as a most valuable and promising property."

PROSPECTUS.

OBJECTS.

This company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and working the mining properties known as the Credo, the East Credo, and the West Credo, in the North-east Coolgardie Goldfield, West Australia, and for the other purposes specified in the memorandum of association.

PROPERTY.

The property comprises three leases, numbered 876 E, 1,352 E, and 1,353 E, having a combined area of about 36 acres, and situated about four miles from the Broad Arrow township, and 38 miles from Coolgardie.

RAILWAY AND TELEGRAPH.

The new railway to Menzies will pass within four miles of the property. There is already a telegraph station at Broad Arrow.

REPORTS.

Four reports have been made upon the property by the following reliable and well-known mining engineers, viz.:—Dr. Chewings and Messrs. Robert Gibson, P. J. Robertson, and G. A. Stockfeld.

The following are extracts from the reports which are printed on page 3 in extenso.

From Dr. CHEWINS' Report:—

"The Main Reef has been best exposed in Nos. 1 and 2 shafts. It is there seen to vary between 9 and 18in. in width. . . . . I see no reason to suppose that this reef will not prove permanent in depth. It looks as permanent at the bottom of the shafts as at any other place in the workings. It is known to exist along its strike (viz., N.E.) for nearly 300ft. Further south than this the reef is likely to increase in size. . . . . Very rich specimens of gold, in quartz and ironstone and siderite, are met with every few feet. I have have seen these in both the shafts, and at intervals right down them. On a former visit I had the pleasure of taking out the finest gold siderite specimen I have ever seen. On my last visit a very rich place had just been struck in the bottom of No. 1 shaft. The reef here is split into two, and the rich gold was in the western portion, which was 9in. wide. Good gold had been obtained in the eastern vein (which is 10in. wide), just prior to my visit. The veins are converging, and will make together again in a few feet. . . . . .

"The first prospectors dollied over thirty ounces of gold from the few tons of ore they took out of the mine. Two or three rich specimens were taken for exhibition, and the balance, some twelve tons (or most of it) was taken to the Mount Burgess Battery, and treated there. Taking the results together, the ore that has been treated to the present runs about six ounces of gold to the ton.

"I am of opinion that if this mine is worked properly it will prove to be a good payable one."

From Mr. ROBERT GIBSON'S Report:—

"No. 1 shaft has been sunk to a depth of 42ft., the first 32ft. being in soft decomposed rock, and the remaining 10ft. in schistose country. The width of the reef varied from 16in. to 10in. in the soft country, and averages 8in. in bottom of shaft, where it shows splendid coarse gold the whole length of the shaft. Bulk sample, from which all the free gold showing was excluded, gave the magnificent return of 80oz. to the ton. . . . . .

"No. 2 shaft is 3 chains N.E. of No. 1, and is 19ft. deep—the reef in bottom of shaft showing 10in. of stone. Bulk sample giving a return of 2oz. to the ton. . . . . Towards the south-west boundary a costeen exposes a gold-bearing ironstone formation, 30ft. in width, which is well worthy of further development. . . . . .

"In concluding, gentlemen, I wish to congratulate you on possessing an extremely rich and valuable property, and one which I have every confidence will prove highly payable as development proceeds. I have much pleasure in recommending it as a sound and remunerative investment."

From Mr. P. J. ROBERTSON'S Report:—

"The lode is very rich, averaging 2ft. 6in. throughout, and improving as it goes down to a depth with every appearance of permanency, showing good gold from top to bottom in both these shafts, with the same result in the stone now in grass. From a fair sample taken by myself I got a return of 37oz. to the ton. . . . . .

"There is an ample supply of timber on adjoining Crown lands for all mining purposes. . . . . .

"In conclusion, I have no hesitation in saying that in 'The Credo' you have one of the most valuable properties on the field, and can honestly recommend it as a thorough mining venture."

From Mr. G. A. STOCKFELD'S Report:—

"These Leases are admirably situated in a well-timbered country, where an abundant supply of timber for mining and fuel purposes can be procured at a comparatively low cost. A splendid dam site is available about one mile east from the property, having a good catchment area, and water to supply a sufficient number of stamps can be impounded at this spot by the construction of a good tank. . . . . A general sample taken from the reef in the bottom of this shaft (No. 1), and not picked or selected in any way, gave the magnificent return of 56oz. of gold to the ton. . . . . .

"I may say I have rarely had the opportunity of inspecting a more interesting reef or one more likely to prove a permanent and rich producer of gold. . . . . In conclusion, I can highly recommend 'The Credo' as being a valuable and genuine mining property, and one which should reflect the highest credit on all concerned in its development."

Copies of the above-mentioned reports, and cable, and of the "Western Australian Goldfields Courier," of 27th June, 1896, can be seen at the offices of the solicitors to the company, and on them all the foregoing statements made in this prospectus are based.

PURCHASE.

The price to be paid by the company for the property has been fixed by the vendor at £80,000, payable at the option of the directors of the company in cash or fully paid shares of the company at par, or partly in cash and partly in such fully paid shares. The vendor will pay all the costs, charges, and expenses of and incidental to the establishment and formation of the company down to the first general allotment of shares (except ad valorem stamp duty on agreements and assurances of the property).

AGREEMENTS.

The agreements entered into are (*a*) agreement dated October 24, 1896, between Reginald Chanter of the one part, and Frank George Smalpage of the other part for the sale of the property by the former to the latter; (*b*) agreement dated November 27, 1896, between Frank George Smalpage of the one part and this company of the other part, for the resale of the property to the company, and payment of the formation and promotion expenses.

There may be other agreements (to none of which this company is a party) which may be contracts within the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for shares shall be deemed to have full notice of such agreements, and to have agreed with the company as trustee for the directors and other persons who may be liable to waive any claims they may have against them for not more fully complying with the requirements of that section.

The above specified agreements (*a*) and (*b*), and a copy of the memorandum and articles of association, may be inspected at the offices of the company's solicitors.

Applications for shares should be made upon the accompanying form, and forwarded to the bankers of the company, together with the amount payable on application. If no allotment be made the deposit will be returned in full, and when the number of shares allotted is less than the number applied for the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment.

Prospectuses and forms of application for shares can be obtained from the bankers, solicitors, and at the offices of the company.

London, November, 1896.

THE CREDO GOLD MINES (Limited).

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Directors of THE CREDO GOLD MINES (Limited).

Gentlemen,—

Having paid to the company's bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share on application for..... shares of £1 each, in the above-named company, I request you to allot me that number of shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same or any less number that may be allotted to me, upon and subject to the terms of the company's prospectus, dated November, 1896, and the memorandum and articles of association of the company, and to pay 2s. 6d. per share on allotment and the balance as provided by the said prospectus, and I authorise you to register me as holder of the shares allotted to me. I agree with the company as trustee for the directors and other persons who may be liable to waive any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying in the said prospectus with the requirements of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

Name (in full).....
Address.....
Occupation.....
Date.....
Usual Signature.....

The Application List will Close on or before Wednesday, December 2, 1896.

S. J. WARING & SONS, LIM.

S. J. WARING & SONS, 181, Oxford-street, London, and at Liverpool and Manchester; and the RENAISSANCE GALLERIES, 104, New Bond-street, London, W.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL, £480,000,

DIVIDED INTO

46,000 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each	£230,000
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each	250,000
	£480,000

There will also be issued £130,000 First Mortgage Debenture Stock, bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

The Debenture Stock will be redeemable at any time after September 30th, 1906, at the Company's option, on six months' notice being given, at 110 per cent.

The Debenture Stock will be secured on the freehold and leasehold properties, plant, &c., of the Company valued in Liverpool and Manchester by Mr. W. Thomson, and in London by Messrs. Vigers & Co., exclusive of goodwill, at £59,854

And by a floating first charge on the undertaking, and on the stock, book debts, cash in hand, and other floating assets; which will, when the Company commences business, amount together to £292,275. The Company, by the Trust Deed, covenants that the value of the stock-in-trade, good book debts, and cash in hand, shall not, during the currency of the security, fall below 250,000

The £130,000 Debenture Stock will thus be secured upon assets of the minimum value of £309,854

The interest on the Debenture Stock will be payable half-yearly, on June 30th and December 31st in each year. The Preference Shares are cumulative as to dividend, and rank for Capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The dividends will be payable half-yearly, to June 30th and December 31st in each year. Preference Shareholders will be entitled to attend and vote at meetings of the Company at which any question affecting their rights or privileges is to be considered. The first payment of interest and dividend on the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares to June 30th, 1897, will be computed from the due dates of the respective instalments.

None of the Ordinary Shares are offered for Subscription, the whole being taken by Messrs. Waring and the other Directors and employés. Messrs. Waring reserve the right to apply for and be allotted £60,000 in Preference Shares.

The Debenture Stock and the Preference Shares are now offered for subscription, the Debenture Stock at £105 per cent. and the Preference Shares at £5. 5s. per Share, the instalments being payable as follows:—

	Debenture Stock.	Preference Shares.
On Application	£10 0 0 per cent.	£0 10 0 per Share.
On Allotment (including premium)	45 0 0 ,,	1 15 0 ,,
On January 18, 1897 ...	50 0 0 ,,	3 0 0 ,,
	£105 0 0 per cent.	£5 5 0 per Share.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS.

The Law Debenture Corporation, Limited, 37, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

Samuel James Waring, Bold-street, Liverpool (Chairman).
John William Waring, Bold-street, Liverpool.
Samuel James Waring, Jun., 181, Oxford-street, London, W.
James Elston Waring, Bold-street, Liverpool.
William Craigie Williams (J. Owen & Sons), Melrose-road, Liverpool.
William Giles Ponter, Deansgate, Manchester.

BANKERS.

Leyland & Bullins, Castle-street, Liverpool; and their Agents:
Robarts, Lubbock, & Co., 15, Lombard-street, London;
Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Mosley-street, Manchester, and Branches.
The Bank of Ireland, Dublin, Belfast, and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

Evans, Lockett, & Co., Lord-street, Liverpool.
Wynne, Holme, & Wynne, 5, New-court, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

BROKERS.

London: Linton, Clarke, & Co., Bartholomew House, E.C.
Liverpool: Hook & Bradshaw, 4, York-buildings, Sweeting-street.
Manchester: Robt. Whitehead, 3, St. Anne-street; Charlton, Illingworth, & Hughes, 6, Bank-street.

AUDITORS.

W. H. Walker & Co., 42, Castle-street, Liverpool.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.

W. H. Muir, 181, Oxford-street, London, W.

TEMPORARY SECRETARY AND TEMPORARY OFFICES.

David H. Allan, 41, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire the business of furniture manufacturers and dealers, upholsterers, decorators, &c., now owned by or carried on under the title of S. J. Waring & Sons, Limited, at 181, Oxford-street, London, Bold-street, Liverpool, and Deansgate, Manchester; and also to acquire the business of the well-known Renaissance Galleries, 104, New Bond-street, London, and the greater part of the stock-in-trade thereof, and to acquire the freehold and leasehold interest in certain premises in Liverpool and London, in which the Company's business is carried on.

The business of Messrs. Waring was originally established in Liverpool in 1845, as that of wholesale cabinet makers. In the last four or five years they have absorbed a number of similar businesses in Liverpool, and have secured most of the important public contracts given out in the North of England, such as the furnishing or decorating of—

Courts of Justice, York.
County Council Buildings, Derby.
School Board Offices, Salford.
Birkenhead Town Hall.
Senior Conservative Club, Liverpool.
Morley Hotel, Manchester.
Queen's Hotel, Southport.
Exchange Hotel (L. & Y. Ry.), Liverpool.
Bootle Town Hall, &c., &c.

In 1891 Messrs. Waring extended their business to Manchester, and in 1893 opened business in London. In the short space of three years the London business has reached large dimensions, and it is still increasing. The greater portion of the decorating and furnishing of the Hotel Cecil on the Thames Embankment, the entire decorating and furnishing of the Hans Crescent Hotel, Sloane-street, S.W., and the entire decorating of the Prince's Restaurant, Piccadilly, are three out of many large orders secured in open competition with the largest metropolitan furnishing firms, and by reason, Messrs. Waring believe, of the superior merit of their work and manufactures.

The firm have recently been entrusted with the furnishing of the Hôtel Regina, Cimiez, Nice (a portion of which has been let to Her Majesty the Queen for the spring of next year), and of the Terminus Hotel, Bordeaux, which is under the control of the Compagnie Wagon Lits.

Amongst important contracts now on hand may be mentioned the fitting up for Messrs. Laird Brothers of the four new mail steamers for the Holyhead and Kingstown service of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, decorating and furnishing at the Queen Anne Mansions, decorating Sheen House (the late residence of the Comte de Paris), and numerous important private contracts which, as will readily be understood, cannot be specified here.

It will be seen, therefore, that the business of Messrs. Waring & Sons has been continuously progressive, and it is still rapidly expanding. The Company is at present one of the largest retail cabinet makers in the United Kingdom.

The Messrs. Waring have all been practically trained in the business; they will, as heretofore, take a most active part in the management; and (with the exception of a small proportion to be taken by other Directors and by employés) they will hold all the Ordinary Shares in the Company.

Messrs. W. H. Walker & Co., Chartered Accountants, Liverpool, certify as follows:—

"42, Castle-street, Liverpool, November 18, 1896.

"To the Directors of S. J. Waring & Sons, Limited.

"DEAR SIRS,—We have acted as Auditors to Messrs. S. J. Waring & Sons, Limited, since February, 1893, and have also examined the books and accounts of the Renaissance Galleries, 104, New Bond-street, London, for the seven and a half years ending June 30, 1896.

"Owing to the development of Messrs. Waring's business, the opening of new branches, and the time and preliminary expenses incurred in connection therewith, the returns prior to January 31, 1895, form no criterion of profits. Their London Branch was only opened in 1893, and the Manchester Branch settled on its present basis in 1895.

"After payment of expenses of every description, including all expenditure of advertising, making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and all needful depreciation of assets, and without anticipating profits on work in hand (but before charging interest on loans and other matters which the capital of the new Company will render unnecessary), we are satisfied that the combined profits for the period from January 31, 1895, to June 30th, 1896, of the businesses amounted to not less than £60,000, or at the rate of £42,353 per annum.—Yours faithfully,

"W. H. WALKER & CO."

The business for the four months from June 30th, 1896, to October 31st, 1896, shows a very large increase (over 40 per cent.) compared with the business for the corresponding period of the previous year. Apart, however, from any increase, and taking the above profits, namely		£42,350
The sum required to pay—		
Interest on the Debenture Stock amounts to	£5,850	
Dividend on the Preference Shares	12,650	
		18,500
Leaving for Directors' remuneration, Dividend on Ordinary Shares, Reserve Fund, &c.		£23,850

The present Company takes over the business and property of Messrs. S. J. Waring & Sons, Limited (the old Company), as a going concern, from June 30th, 1896, subject to all liabilities on that date, and takes over the business and the greater part of the stock of the Renaissance Galleries as from the date of completion of the purchase thereof. The profits of the businesses from the respective dates named accrue to this Company.

Application will be made in due course to the Committees of the Stock Exchanges in London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Dublin, for a special settlement and official quotation for the Debenture Stock and the Preference Shares.

Applications for the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and sent with the deposit payable on application to the Bankers of the Company:—Messrs. Leyland & Bullins, Castle-street, Liverpool, and branches, or to their Agents; Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, & Co., 15, Lombard-street, London; Messrs. Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited, Mosley-street, Manchester, or any of their branches; the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, Belfast, and branches.

Full prospectuses can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditors.

No. 181, Oxford-street, London, November 25, 1896.

List Opens ten o'clock, Monday, November 30th; Closes on Wednesday, December 2nd.

MOTOR CAR DIVIDENDS.—This is the Original Parent Syndicate of the whole Horseless Carriage Trade now Beginning.

This Syndicate is sole owner of all the principal British motor car master patents of known and admitted value. None may manufacture nor use in this country any of the latest and successful types of motor cars, made by Daimler, De Dion, Bollée, Panhard & Levassor, and Peugeot-Daimler, Pennington, and numbers of other patents, without first purchasing licenses or paying a royalty. . . Large sums are already being received in cash by this Syndicate from manufacturers for licenses to make motor cars in this country. . . The royalties and sums of money now offering for this permission are far more numerous than ever before! . . . Increasing dividends and bonuses are therefore being regularly paid to our shareholders. The £1 shares are freely dealt in at £3 upwards. Fabulously high prices are certain to be realised in the near future. The Syndicate is still acquiring latest and most valuable patents.

THE BRITISH MOTOR SYNDICATE, LTD.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.)

Registered Capital, £1,000,000, in £1 Shares, which can now only be obtained at a premium.

PRESENT PRICE, £3, payable 10s. on application, £1 10s. on allotment, and £1 one month after allotment.

The proposals to buy from this Syndicate licenses to form Companies to build motor cars under our master patents, and the purchase moneys to be paid to the Syndicate in connection therewith now exceed £800,000 (eight hundred thousand pounds). These immense sums being profit, are divisible upon completion amongst the shareholders. This Parent Syndicate has already received in cash for licenses during the last 12 months upwards of £200,000 from motor-car manufacturers in this country, now daily increasing.

Since the passing of the Act authorising the use of motors, the orders and inquiries received for motor vans and cars have become so numerous that it will be a long time before the various works, now working early and late, under our licenses, can possibly overtake or keep pace with them.

Success Certain.—Business Houses Decide.—Messrs. Peter Robinson, Messrs. Liberty & Co., Whiteley's, Harrod's Stores, "Vel Vel" Drapers, D. H. Evans & Co., and other leading established commercial houses have already decided upon vans driven by motors instead of horses, and given orders for their immediate construction. This is conclusive proof of the remarkable events about to take place, and the increasing revenue to this, the parent, syndicate. Surprising developments will shortly be announced.

Patentees.

HENRY P. HOLT, of Crossley Bros., Manchester, "Otto" Gas Engine Makers.
GOTTLIEB DAIMLER, Inventor Daimler Motor Carriage (Master Patents).
W. WORBY BEAUMONT, the "Engineer."
M. BOLLÉE, inventor Bollée Voiturette.
E. J. PENNINGTON, inventor Pennington Motor.
COUNT DE DION, inventor De Dion Motor Cycle.
WALTER C. BERSEY, inventor Electric Cab and Carriages.
J. J. HENRY STURMEY, editor, Autocar; and many others.

Directors.

Harry J. Lawson, A.M.I.M.E., President Motor Car Club; Founder Safety Bicycle Industry; and Chairman Beeston Pneumatic Tyre Company, Limited.
Prince Ranjitsinhji, Owner Indian Patents.
Herbert H. Mulliner, Coupé and Dunlop Brougham Company, Limited, (Director of); London Electrical Cab Company, Limited (Director of).
Thos. Humber, Founder Humber Cycle Company.
Thos. Robinson, Great Horseless Carriage Company, Limited (Director of).
Lord Norreys, The Road and Path Cycling Association (President of).

Brokers—Ernest T. Hooley, Nottingham; Chapman & Rowe, Stock Exchange, London.
Bankers—The London and Midland Bank, Cornhill, and Newgate-street, London E.C., and other Branches.
Solicitors—Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C.
Consulting Engineer—Frederick R. Simms, C.E., Amberley House, Norfolk-street, Strand, W.C.
Secretary and Offices—E. F. Peirson, Chartered Accountant, 59, Holborn-viaduct, London, E.C.

The position of this Syndicate is so unusual in relation to the control of almost the entire motor car industry in this country, that the directors fear lest their statements should be misunderstood. It is doubtful if any such prospects have ever been before any Company.

It is just one of those occasions when the superiority of engineering over animal power enables great fortunes to be made.

The directors are of opinion that no such sums of money have ever been received from any patent monopoly, as the payments now beginning to be made to this syndicate for royalties and licenses from manufacturers of motor vans and carriages under the original motor car patents, of which those of any known importance belong solely to this Syndicate.

The leading motor car companies here, including the "Daimler" Company, the "Great Horseless" Company, and others, are already working under licenses from this Syndicate. The payments already received from this source alone exceed £200,000.

The following increasing dividends have been paid:—

May.—10 per cent., or at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum.

July.—30 per cent., or at the rate of 60 per cent. per annum.

September.—100 per cent bonus in shares of licensed companies—which, if taken at market prices, equals a total of over 100 per cent. per annum on the issued capital.

The above is sufficient to indicate the extraordinary value of the assets of this Company.

This British Motor Syndicate was originally formed by a few capitalists, including the Managing Director of the Humber Cycle Company; the President of the Motor Car Club, and the purchaser of the late Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company and its patents. The object was to obtain in this country a complete monopoly to the Syndicate of all motor car patents deemed of any value. £40,000 was first given in cash for the German inventions, including the original Daimler patents, admitted to be the foundation of the system. More than £40,000 was next paid in cash for French inventions, including those of Messrs. Bollée, De Dion and Bouton, Loyal, and others. Over £160,000 has been expended in cash and shares for British and American inventions of immense value, such as those of Henry P. Holt, of Crossley Bros., Manchester, whose vast experience of gas-engines is well known; W. Worby Beaumont, of the "Engineer;" Henry Sturmey, of the "Autocar," and others.

The varied demands in connection with the new traffic are so overwhelming, that quite a number of huge works and factories will still be wanted to deal with the different branches of light and heavy kinds of vehicles for motor traffic everywhere. All these new works will require to pay royalty to this the parent syndicate before they can use our patents.

High prices can be freely obtained for motor vans for quick delivery, and this excitement will rapidly increase, as it is now doing in Paris, as their convenience and economy becomes further known.

That the motor is as certain to supersede animal power as the railway and steam power has done already is no longer a matter of any doubt.

The superiority of machinery over animal power is so certain to be appreciated that no investment could be safer or more certain to rise in value. Our fathers built their fortunes out of the introduction of machinery. Motors are now far beyond the experimental stage, and may be seen working in different parts of the country with that economy and precision for which machinery is well known.

Horses work for a few hours only, motors keep on incessantly. Horses shy and take fright, motors cannot. Horses tire, and go more slowly, motors run full speed day and night. Horses fall down and run lame, motors never slip anywhere. Horses eat as much resting as working, motors require nothing when at rest. Horses sicken and die, with entire loss, motors can be renewed in any part.

The following proposals are now before the Syndicate for new companies, representing large amounts in purchase moneys. If successfully carried through, they again return to the Syndicate more than its own capital: London Electrical Cab Company, London Motor Omnibus Company, Liverpool and Manchester Motor Service, Limited, Metropolitan Motor Railway Company, Belfast Motor Car Company, Dublin Parcels Express Motor Company, Irish Motor Light Railways, Limited, West Australian Motor Service, Limited, South African Town-to-Town Transit, Limited, Manchester and District Motor Light Railway Company (connecting the outlying suburbs upon a system many times cheaper than tramways), Middlesex Railway Extension Scheme, Highland Motor Railways, Edinburgh and Glasgow Motor Van Delivery, Limited.

Surprising developments will shortly be announced.

The following facts have been attested and winessed by hundreds of thousands of spectators of the Lord Mayor's procession and the great London to Brighton ride of our motor carriages:—

Attention Required.—Motor carriages will run from 50 to 100 miles with each charge of fluid.

Speed.—A speed of from 12 to 30 miles an hour is easily attained, and continued day and night.

Fitting to existing Carriages, and Cost of Same.—These motors can be fitted to existing carriages at a cost of from £40 and upwards, according to the carriage and horse-power required.

Horse-power.—Motors, according to these patents, can be made any necessary horse-power.

Weight.—Some of them, like the Pennington Motor, can be made to weigh only a few pounds, and yet develop two-horse-power.

Cost.—Various motor vehicles can be produced under the many patents at a cost of from £60 and upwards.

Silence.—Can be fitted with specially-constructed pneumatic tyres and the latest improved silencing systems.

Regulators.—These vehicles will run either "slow" "half-speed" "full-speed," or "reverse," and a youth, with absolute safety, can use them.

Orders.—These will be executed in strict rotation as received.

Comparison.—Compared with horses and carriages, the motor is much cheaper both in first cost and maintenance.

Light Railways.—Industries which have hitherto been most seriously handicapped by the cost of transit will obtain an entirely new outlet. Each farmer can have his own motor light railway.

Tramways.—The new system should not alone revolutionise traffic on roads, but also on rails in cities, the present horse tramway being superseded by motor tramways.

Directors.—This Company will be guided by practical men, connected with allied trades and companies, the shares of which now stand at substantial premiums.

Paris-Marseilles decisive Contest.—10 days' motor racing.—All kinds of roads and weather.—Winners.—At the finish, conclusive proof was given of the superiority of the British Motor Syndicate patents, which were declared winners—first, second, third, fourth, and fifth. No more decided victory could possibly have been gained.

The Great Brighton Ride.—The public will soon learn the immense difference between our latest types of motor vehicles, which are simply perfect in comparison with last year's makes. All the best cars will bear a plate, certifying careful testing and examination by the committee of the Motor Car Club, who have more experience in motors and motor cars than any other body in this country.

Immense Prospects.—"Few people who witnessed the great motor demonstration on Saturday last can fully realise what it means. That we are now on the eve of one of our greatest epochs is clear! The world's traffic is to revolutionised, but naturally not without cost. Millions of money are to change hands! Huge fortunes will be amassed by the poorest, and that, perhaps, quickly! From the baker's cart to the loveliest of equipages, all are interested. Saturday's great London-Brighton test has for ever proved that we may travel much faster, much easier, and at less cost. A four-in-hand makes five changes, and employs 20 horses to do what one little motor can easily accomplish. Those who have this great industry in hand may make fortune after fortune out of a great patent monopoly for an entirely new traffic. The railway excitement and wild mania of our forefathers will soon be entirely eclipsed by a greater public motor boom than has ever been witnessed.

"Mr. Lawson's great triumph of Saturday, as he led his car to Brighton amid the acclamations and waving banners of hundreds of thousands of people, has a historically significant meaning. The unparalleled enthusiasm rolls back the sneers of those captious critics of this dawning of a great national prosperity.

"The millions of money invested both in our great British railways and vast cycling trade will be dwarfed before the exacting demands of this new motor industry. Tens of thousands of motor parcels vans, motor carriages, motor omnibuses, motor cycles, motor agricultural machines, motor wagons, motor voiturettes, must be immediately manufactured at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds. Nearly every motor vehicle extant will be under tribute to the British Motor Syndicate, the owners of the master patents. Licenses are being applied for from principal towns in the country, and omnibus, tram, carriage and cycle will all be compelled to contribute to the wealth of the British Motor Syndicate. The events of Saturday will be an everlasting memorial to the man who has with such an amount of pluck and daring secured the monopoly of this great trade to the British Isles."—*Sun.*

The British Motor Syndicate.—"The shares of this important parent undertaking are attracting a good deal of attention just now, and it is not improbable that there will be a very active market in them before long.

"Investors are only just beginning to realise the enormous proportions which the motor car industry is bound to assume, and the fuller the grasp they get of the great future which lies before the industry, the more attention they will give to companies which, like the British Motor Syndicate, own the master patents of these new vehicles.

"That there are big fortunes to be made out of the motor car by those who are early in the field cannot be doubted, and it need only be said that the British Motor Syndicate is the pioneer of the industry.

"There are some who go so far as to say that the shares of this Company, which can be bought to-day for £3, will go in time to £40 or £50 each.

"It will be admitted that it is not often that hundreds of thousands of pounds are paid in cash for licenses to manufacture under letters patent; but it is, we believe, a fact that this Syndicate has already received such sums from makers of motor cars who wish to use the patents which the Syndicate has acquired.

"The British Motor Syndicate, in fact, claims to be master of the situation, and it seems pretty certain that a portion of the profit on the manufacture of nearly every motor car that is put upon the road will go into its coffers.

The Imperial Institute Exhibiton and the Wembley Park Exhibition, which did so much to educate public opinion regarding the new carriages, were organised by this syndicate, and the companies which manufacture under its licenses include the Great Horseless Carriage Company and the Daimler Company—undertakings whose names are likely to be as familiar as household words before long.

"There is practically no limit to the profits which the Company like the British Motor Syndicate may make, for it possesses a monopoly of the best patents, the value of which it would be difficult to over-estimate."—*Investors' Guardian.*

The excitement in the share market, the immense premiums now being realised and enormous dividends paid in kindred industries, sufficiently indicate what the immediate future of this Company is likely to become.

Applications for shares should be made on the accompanying form, and forwarded with the amount payable on application to the secretary or bankers.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association and copies of the above specified contracts can be inspected at the offices of the Syndicate, 40, Holborn Viaduct.

23rd November, 1896.

No preference will be shown, but a fair allotment will be made as far as possible to every applicant.

THE BRITISH MOTOR SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

No..... FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the London and Midland Bank, Limited, the sum of , being a deposit of 10s. per £1 share on shares issued at £3 each in the above Syndicate, I request you to allot me such number of shares, and I hereby agree to accept such shares or any smaller number that may be allotted to me upon the terms of the said prospectus.

Name (in full) .....

Residence .....

PLAYER'S

Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

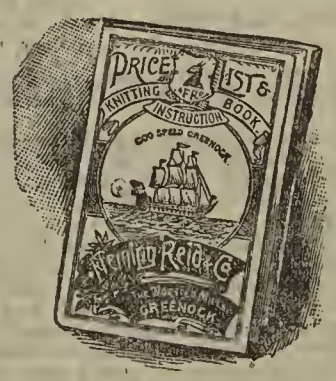
The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

IT PAYS



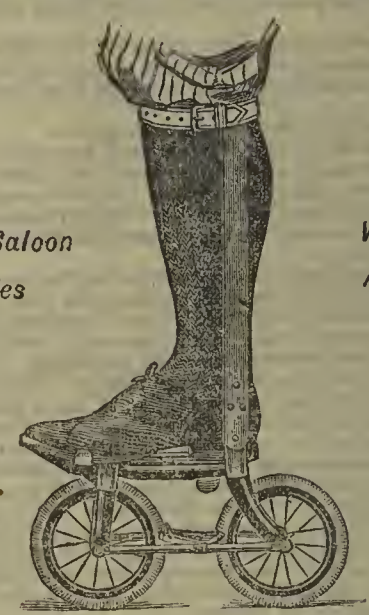
To do your shopping by post with bona-fide Manufacturers, who will supply genuinely good goods at genuinely cheap prices. We will send GRATIS to any applicant, post free, our new descriptive Price List of the well-known Greenock Knitting Wools and Worsteds, Hosiery, and Underwear, etc. The book contains useful instructions in the way of

PROTECTION OF GOODS AGAINST MOTHS,
HOW TO WASH WOOLLEN GOODS,
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORNAMENTAL CROCHET OR KNITTING,

and other information valuable to Ladies.

FLEMING, REID, & CO.,
The Worsted Mills, GREENOCK, N.B.

ROAD SKATING.



Practising Saloon for Ladies

With Lady Attendant.

It only requires a little practice on the NEW RITTER ROAD SKATE to enable anyone who has never had on a pair of skates to attain proficiency, and be able to skate on the roads at any speed up to 16 miles an hour.

CAN BE SEEN AND TRIED AT THE
ROAD SKATE CO.'S Show Rooms
271, OXFORD STREET. W.

CADBURY'S COCOA

Entirely free from added Alkali or any foreign admixture.

Absolutely Pure, therefore Best.

The Leading Doctors and Analysts, and the Medical Press, testify to the purity and superiority of CADBURY'S COCOA. The *LANCET* describes it as the "standard of highest purity at present attainable."

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 927.—ORIGINAL SONGS SUITABLE TO BE SET TO MUSIC.

QUEEN ANNE (real name and address will be given in due course)... ... ... £1 1 0
J. C. CRAWFORD (" " " ")... ... ... £1 1 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.
"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

I would again impress upon the ladies who are dressing dolls for the coming TRUTH Show at the Royal Albert Hall that it will be necessary for all such dolls to be returned to this Office by mid-day on Saturday, the 12th of this month, at the latest. Those ladies and gentlemen also who may be engaged on Home-made Toys will please bear the above date in mind. The Show, as announced last week, will be open during Wednesday and Thursday, December 16 and 17, at the Albert Hall, Kensington Gore. Further particulars will be announced next week. Meanwhile, any contribution in aid of the Toy Fund will be gratefully received.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 928.

The prize in this competition has been awarded to EBORACUM, whose lines containing rhymes to "syringe" and "pickaxe" will be found below. I may add that many of the competitors supplied rhymes to the *second* syllables only of the above words. That was so easy a task that I should never have thought of setting it as the subject of a TRUTH competition. "Syringe" and "pickaxe" had, of course, to be rhymed as dissyllables. They could not, indeed, be rhymed in any other way without accenting incorrectly the final syllables "inge" and "axe."

PRIZE STANZA.

Negations, in some English words, upon the prefix *ir* hinge—
E.g., "an ir-religious man," an ir-receptive syringe.
Scotch reader, dinna look sae blate, 'twould need a moral pickaxe
To plant my quip within your pate—a heavy, sharp, and thick axe!

Eboracum.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 932.

I have been asked several times of late to give another "Rebus" competition. On looking back I find it is many years since such a competition was given in these pages, and seeing how near we are to Christmas I think the wish of my correspondents may fairly be complied with. In the first place, however, it may be well for the sake of new competitors to show what a Rebus is; and I cannot do better than quote, by way of example, one of the simple Rebuses known to most of us in our youth. Here it is:—

"If the **B** mt put: if the **B** . putting:"

The elucidation of this enigmatic sentence is sufficiently obvious. It is, of course—

"If the grate be (Great B) empty put coal on (colon); if the grate be full stop putting coal on."

This, then, is the sort of puzzle sentence which TRUTH's competitors have to construct, though it is hoped that they will be able to turn out specimens much more elaborate and recondite than the one given above. At all events the usual prize of Two Guineas is offered for

THE MOST INGENIOUS ORIGINAL REBUS.

In forming these "Rebuses" competitors may use any letter, figure, punctuation or other mark that is to be found in a printer's ordinary fount of type. But it will be useless for competitors to include any diagram of drawing for which it would be necessary, in printing, to prepare a special block. Each Rebus must be accompanied by a full solution on a separate piece of paper. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday December 14, at the latest.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HOPETOWN.—The cheque had been sent before I received your letter.
CAVALIER.—The separate sheet of paper had become detached. However, I have, in accordance with your letter, given to "Cavalier" the credit of the charming lines, "To Cynthia."
WAVERLEY.—Many thanks for your letter.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 929.—ANSWERS TO ORIGINAL TOPICAL CONUNDRUMS PUBLISHED IN "TRUTH" OF NOVEMBER 12 LAST.

1. On a bicycle without a tyre (attire).—A Seeman.

2. "You are going into a sea of caut, you are!" (See of Cantuar).—Rabelais.

3. One is remote, and the other is "the motor."—Claymore.

4. Because men will always divide its area (aria). Ar-men-la.—Malignant.

5. Because he'd be "no side" (Edison backwards). Malignant.

6. Because there is no duffer in (Dufferin).—V. H. S.

7. Because he is partial to curds (Kurds) and likes his own whey (way).—Wild Thyme.

8. Because as he's a seaman (c) he can't be a demon (d).—La Plata.

9 It puts down lots of baize (bays) at the muddy crossings, lessens the "bits" of "chestnuts," &c., frequently all about the roads, reduces the number of "blacks" flying about, and sensibly diminishes the long driving rain (rein).—La Plata.

10. Because she is afraid to touch the (Port)e.—Clarion.

11. Because a Y Z (wise head) is very close to X.—Excelsior.

12.—One massacres its subjects, the other massacres its objects.—Apostrophe.

13.—Because it has a good Kitchener.—Nedals.

14.—Because we only lent him our Kitchener for the purpose of "cooking his goose."—Baritone.

15. When they found she was looking after "Number One."—Baritone.

16.—Because after taking the "Sun," according to his observation, he was not sure of his position, and mistook England for China.—Baritone.

17. Because he is the real old Boss for us.—Eboracum.

18. Because he can't afford to take a slice of Turkey, and the Porte is anything but sound.—Eboracum.

19. Because he is passing from one great see to another still greater.—Eboracum.

20. Because it's week's reign (rain) was uninterrupted; it was supported by a pair of most able legs (Legges); its cannons (canons) and other "great guns" never "missed fire"; and the whole (Hoie) was a perfect success.—Cæsar's Corner.

21. Because they pray for more and more of the present rain (reign) instead of the sun (son).—Mrs. Buchanan.

22. Because his coronation took place in a mosque oh! (Moscow).—Hibernian.

23. Golf, because there is always a lie (Li) in it.—Hibernian.

24. Because his "education" was neglected at an early stage of his career.—Hibernian.

25. One is a peer on a long column, and the other is a long column on a peer.—Co.

26. Because, although it has a Halliday it cannot make sure of Sun.—Fathead.

27. Because wherever she may choose to go she will always be tied to Naples.—Almaviva.

28. They thought they had seized a Chinaman, but they really caught a Tartar.—Cortex.

29. Because it's a toy, let's hope (a toilet soap).—Cortex.

30. Because, after having had perpetual day (owing to the presence of Sun), it now has perpetual night (as its Sun has gone out).—V. H. S.

31. That he greatly prefers the hardy (sweet) William to the dainty primrose.—L'Amour.

32. Because Canterbury having already a cathedral, she has no need of a Temple in addition.—L'Amour.

33. A Canterbury bell told (tolled).—Echo.

34. When he was blocked in (block tin).—Echo.

35. By temporarily hiding the sun (Sun Yat Yen).—J. McGrigor Allan.

36 Because Turkey's coward (cow herd*) has made Armenians (s)cream badly, and the Kurds (curds) have been too long in the way (whey).—Felixicus.

* Herd of cows.

37. When they are holding an X rayordinary meeting.—Pelican.

38. The exporte trade.—Pelican.

39. Because it was obviously impossible to have a tête-à-tête with Faure (four).—Bowzer.

40. Because he cannot take his usual holiday since he is afraid of Cowes, and must consequently stop at home; and that means being continually on the Spree.—Bowzer.

41. Because it has raised Temple over the whole of the see (sea).—Per Ardua.

42. Because it is the sign of the Cross.—Bootle's Baby.

43. G. U. E. E. C. (Jehu, be easy!).—Bootle's Baby.

44. After being killed at the Battle of Trafalgar he arrived home in good spirits.—Isinglass.

N.B.—His body was sent to England in spirits.

45. Because he has been more than once translated.—Mick.

46. Because he would find a very popular gay Shah (Geisha) there already.—Risk.

47. Because the loss of its Peer-head is a serious mishap thereto.—Shamrock.

48. Because we can't see the Trees there for the wood.—Arch. Gibbs.

49. Port(e) W(h)ine.—Londoner.

50. When they are too "menny" for them.—Apostrophe.

51. Because it gets a surfeit of Turkey.—Immortal Will

52. The former indited "The Last Rose of Summer;" the latter indited "The last summer of Rose(berry)."—Stephanotis.

53. Because the first has lost its rose, the second its berry, but the Liberal party have lost both (Roseberry).—Cumbrian.

54. Because it shows how a "Kitchener" disperses the "blacks."—Nitram.

55. Because Europe cannot otherwise "boar" them.—Hamlet.

56. Because it has been the longest rain (reign) on record.—Chance.

57. Because he has also made a grand tower (tour).—Ubique.

58. One is a turf premium, while the other was a horse-racing Premier.—East Anglia.

59. Because as it became more and more of a riddle he resolved, like you, dear solver, to "Give it up."—Truth.

60. Harum-scarum.—Serpent.

61. Because in both has occurred the longest reign (rain) on record.—Viva.

62. On Tyre.—Felsberg.

63. Devilled Turkey and Tar-tar sauce.—Owlet.

64. Neither has any limit.—Esperanza.

65. The Forth, because one thinks at once of the Fo(u)rth Hussars.—Aquila.

66. Because his stable chose Quarrel to represent him, and as this good horse was unable to accomplish the task set him, Lord Rosebery had to resign first place to a stronger candidate, and cry content with second honours.—In Dubiis.

67. Because it's a Mann-drake grievance.—Sol.

68. Because he may shortly be required to translate "Allah" into "Aller."—Irma Lee.

69. Because he had enjoyed Bull long (Boulogne), and had France sent his extra dish on (extradition) we might have "cooked his goose."—Felixicus.

70. They coincide (go inside).—Echo.

71. One is losing time, the other is doing time.—Snibor.

72. Because the former won two Derbys and the latter lost two.—Glenugie.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 927.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL SONGS SUITABLE TO BE SET TO MUSIC.

A VIGIL.

I enter from the forest gate
  Upon her hallowed ground;
I see her taper flickering through
  The twilight mists around.
Here will I watch the livelong night,
  Her threshold as my throne.
No earthly ills shall come anigh—
  My darling is alone.

Here will I watch the livelong night,
  And if a star should fall,
I'll hail it as an angel sent
  In answer to my call.
Come, spirits of the stars, come down
  From yonder azure steep,
And guard her soul from secret fears—
  My darling is asleep.

The hallowed vigil-night is o'er—
  The earliest morning rays
Shoot up from yon blue hills and set
  The silver clouds ablaze.
The thousand voices of the night
  An Easter carol make:
My night is gone, my sun is risen,
  My darling is awake.

Little Oxenbold.

SPINSTERS YET.

After nights of dissipation,
Seasons spent in mad flirtation,
After travels Continental,
Moonlight walks so sentimental,
Other girls their mates have met.
Why should we be spinsters yet?

After Christmas trees and feasts,
Supervised by smiling priests,
After teaching Sunday scholars,
Stitching "Dorcas" frocks and collars,
Ne'er a curate can we get,
And we still are spinsters yet.

After daring frowning mothers,
Stalking wealthy elder brothers—
Men have married plainer faces,
Men wed wives with fewer graces—
Can you wonder that we fret?
Still unwedded—spinsters yet.

Kindly tell us where the hitch is,
Is it want of rouge—or riches?
Waist too large—or years too many?
We will alter all or any;
For it is our chief regret
That we should be spinsters yet.

Free Lance.

CASTLES.

A child was building a castle
  In the glow of the winter fire,
On his little face was the dreamy thought
  Of his childish heart's desire;
And his eyes grew bright as he whispered,
  "I will do whatever I can,
I will build just such a castle
  When I grow to be a man."

A youth was stretched in the sunlight,
  His book had slipped from his hand;
He, too, was building a castle
  Away on a foreign strand.
"The world is wide," he murmured,
  "There is nothing that may not be,
I will build just such a castle,
  When I cross the bounding sea."

A man had builded a castle
  Of fame and the world's renown;
For its smiles the builder had striven,
  And nought he feared but its frown.
But his castle had crumbled to ruins,
  And its ashes had whitened his hair,
While the golden dream of his boyhood
  Was still but a castle of air.

Grasmere.

THE SONG OF THE BEETLE.

He was such a sober beetle,
Yet one day he drank a leetle,
Just a very, very leetle drop of beer;
Which, ascending to the region
Where the insect's brains were legion,
Made that most abstemious creature slightly queer.

At this moment he would rather
Not have met his gallant father,
But, of course, to run against him was his fate;
And the freedom of his diction,
Caused the parent great affliction,
And the terrible abandon of his gait!

Like a bear, then, with a sore ear,
Daddy fetched the family lawyer,
And he found the shrivelled Shebner not unwilling
To concur in his decision,
That his will required revision,
And they cut the toper off without a shilling.

Now, then, readers young and hoary,
Here's the moral of my story—
Sure it seems a thousand pities, does it not?
That the silly-billy beetle,
If he hadn't drank a leetle,
Might have been the proud possessor of a lot!

Malaprop.

HERE, MY SWEET.

Here, my sweet, and there, my sweet,
  And everywhere, my dearie,
My heart would meet, my heart would greet,
  And ne'er of you grow weary.

Here, my dear, and there, my dear,
  And everywhere, you sweet, you,
All out of gear, till you draw near,
  And I can fly to meet you.

Here, my love, and there, my love,
  And everywhere, my darling,
I roam and rove like some lost dove,
  Or uncompanioned starling.

Here, my wife, and there, my wife,
  And everywhere, mine only,
Be in my life, 'twill end my strife,
  And I no more be lonely.

Christie Deas.

FROM MORNING UNTIL NIGHT.

Laughing by the way, singing by the way,
  Came a little child;
Picking weeds and flowers, dancing through the hours;
  Happy little child!

Musing by the way, dreaming by the way,
  Came a sweet-eyed maid;
With her lips apart, love born in her heart;
  Wondering, sweet-eyed maid!

Whisp'ring by the way, kissing by the way,
  Came a loving twain;
Love, the mighty king, subject-hearts they bring;
  Joyous, loving twain!

Working by the way, hoping by the way,
  Came a childed wife;
Trotting little feet made heart-music sweet;
  Blessed childed wife!

Weary by the way, silent by the way,
  Came a woman old;
With her patient face, turning from the place
  Where her love's lay cold.

Faith upon her way, dark and bitter way,
  Now her only light.
Thus that woman old, with her griefs untold,
  Passed into the night.

E. W. S. B.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY FIRST MORTGAGE GOLD BONDS.

Office of the Central Pacific Railroad Co.
New York, November 17th, 1896.

This Company has made arrangements to EXTEND its $3,997,000 FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS, maturing January 1st, 1897, so that the principle thereof shall become payable in one year from that date, viz., on January 1st, 1898, with interest meanwhile payable semi-annually, January 1st, and July 1st, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, principle and interest payable in United States gold coin. The right is reserved to redeem the Bonds so extended, at any time, on paying to the Bondholders the par or face value of the Bonds, and interest thereon at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from January 1st, 1897, in United States gold coin, less such interest accrued subsequent to that date as may have been paid thereon before such redemption thereof. The right of the Bondholders to avail themselves of such extension has been reserved to such holders as, prior to December 15th, 1896, shall deposit their Bonds for that purpose with Messrs. Speyer & Co., New York, or with Messrs. Speyer Brothers, London, or Mr. Laz Speyer Ellissen, Frankfort-on-the-Main, or Messrs. Teixeira de Mattos Brothers, Amsterdam.

The extended Bonds will be stamped to show the extension, and new coupon sheets will be annexed, representing future interest.

Copies of the extension agreement can be obtained at the Company's Office, and at the Offices of the Bankers above mentioned. The present extension is made to the date of maturity of the latest maturing Central Pacific First Mortgage Bonds, on or before which date the Company expects to arrange a long extension of the entire First Mortgage issue.

C. P. HUNTINGTON,
Vice-President.

Until further notice a bonus of ½ per cent., viz:—£1 on each bond of $1,000, will be paid by us to Bondholders, upon presentation of their Bonds at our Offices for extension under the foregoing Notice.

SPEYER BROTHERS.

No. 7, Lothbury, London, E.C.,
November 25th, 1896.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."
CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

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The most popular and most appreciative since 20 years.
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ENGLISH PEAT
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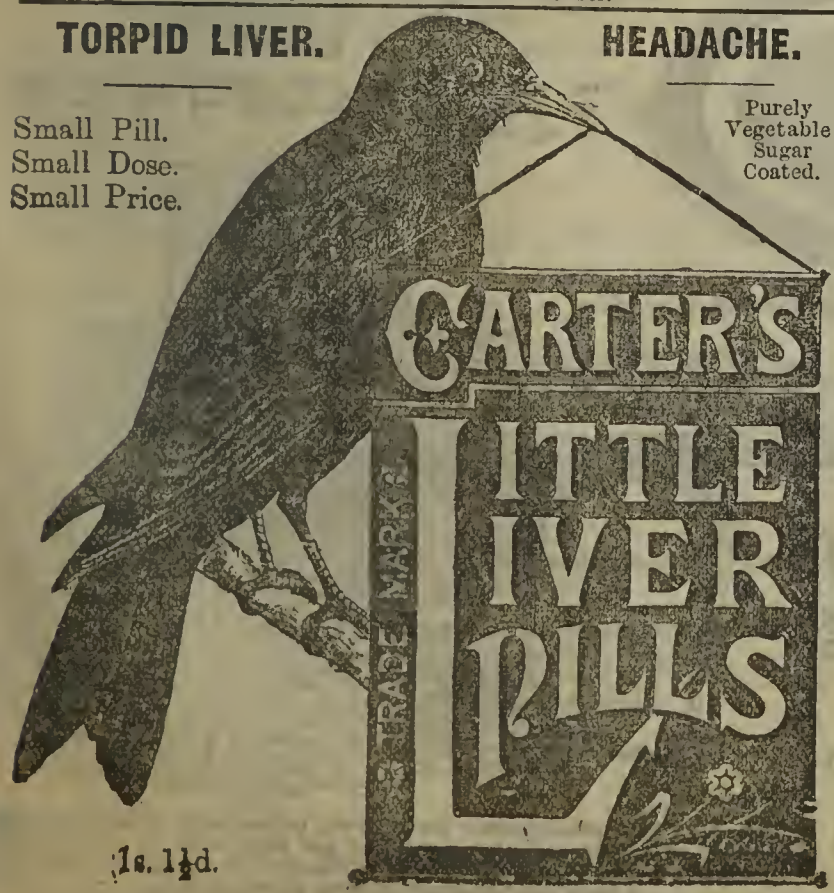

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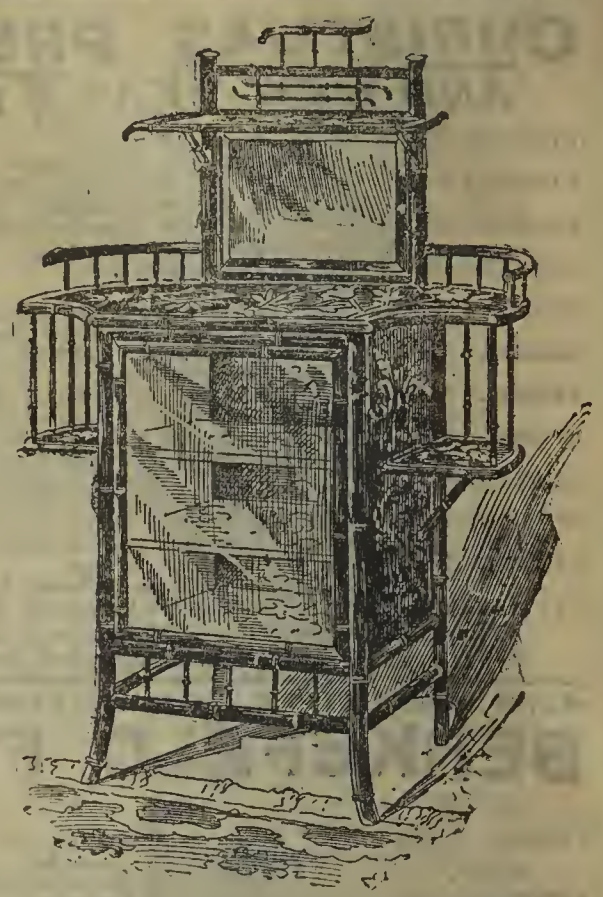

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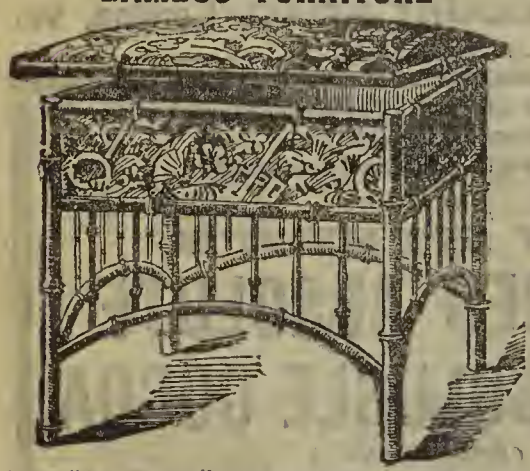

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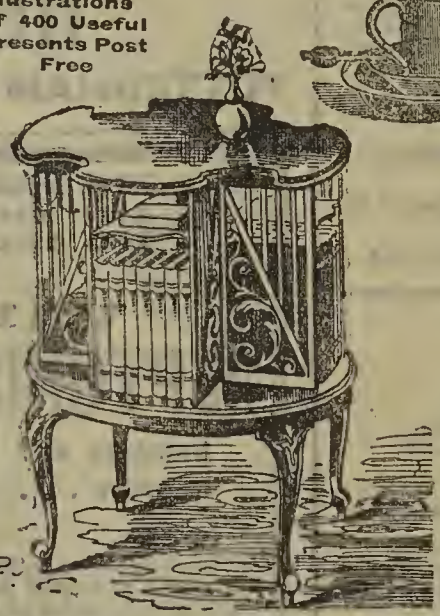

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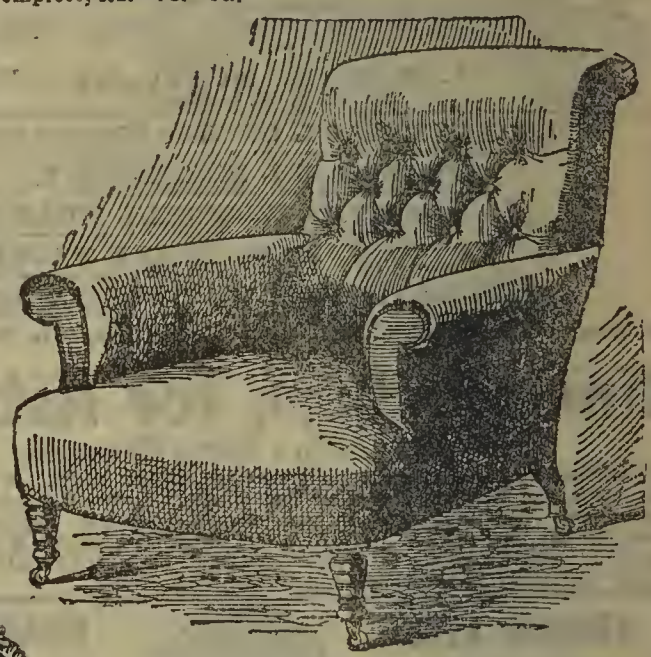

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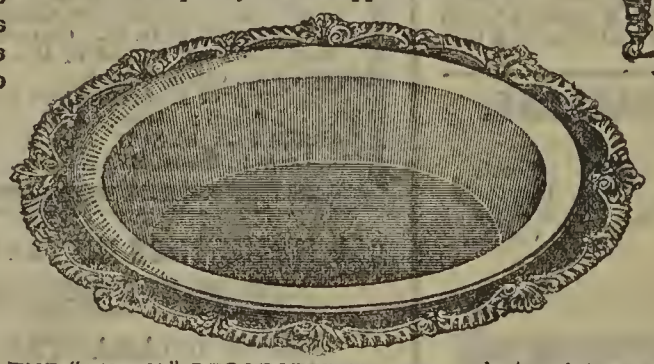

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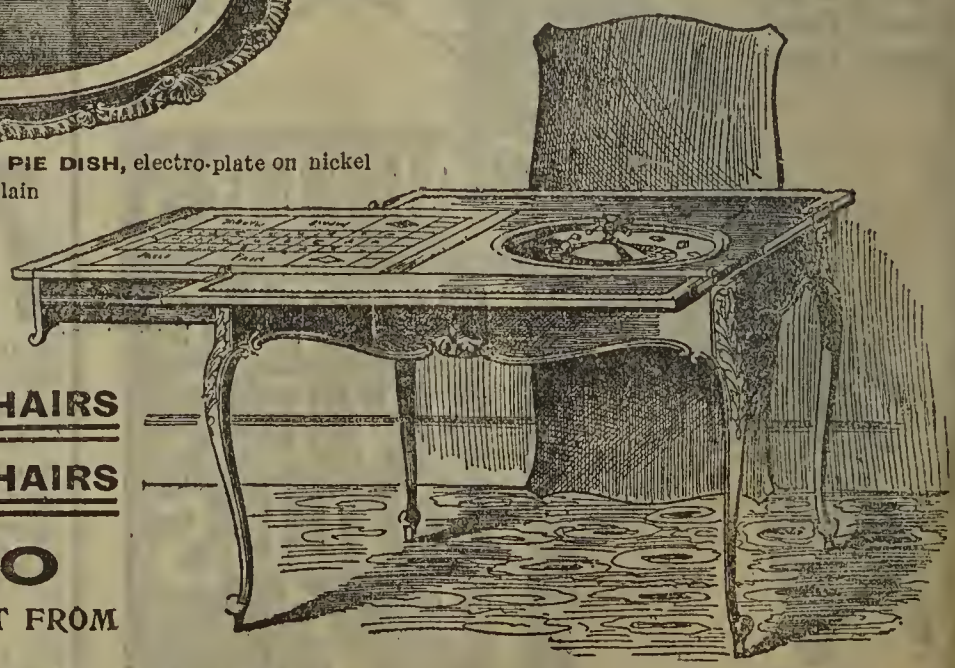

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1041. Vol. XL. Thursday, December 10, 1896. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

The Twentieth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

LIHUNGISMS,

IS NOW READY,

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

It is profusely illustrated by Mr. R. A. Brownlie and Mr. Roland Hill.

The illustrations include FOUR DOUBLE-PAGE CARTOONS and TWO SINGLE-PAGE CARTOONS (printed in colours):—

1. Checkmate.
2. Right *v.* Might.
3. Changing the Leader.
4. Motormania.
5. A Good Joke. *(From Mr. Cecil Rhodes' point of view.)*
6. A Good Joke. *(From Dr. Jameson's point of view.)*

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

WEDNESDAY and Thursday next, the 16th and 17th of this month, will be red-letter days in the Truth calendar. On those dates the Seventeenth Truth Toy and Doll Show will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, W., the use of that building having for the fifth time been most kindly placed, free of charge, at my disposal by the managing body. The Show will be opened each day to the public between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 10 p.m., and, in accordance with the invariable precedent on such occasions, no charge will be made for admission. Visitors will be merely required to leave an address card with the commissionaires at the doors; but I may be allowed to add that there will be collecting boxes at various fixed points in the Hall. The Show is certain to be a good one; the number of dressed dolls included in it being larger than at any previous exhibition. Since last year, too, additional arrangements for the more satisfactory display of the smaller dolls have been completed. I hope the attendance of visitors will be very numerous, and would therefore ask the readers of Truth to make this announcement as widely known as possible.

On Saturday it was once more my privilege to take my usual supernumerary part in that very pleasant mystery which is annually enacted at this office, and which might not inappropriately be designated "The Cab, the Commissionaire, and the newly-minted Coins." It will be gathered from this that the anonymous donor who has for so many years followed his own excellent example, has once more sent me the Sixpences which, at his wish, I distribute amongst the elder children of the Workhouse Schools in the Metropolitan area. The bags of coins were accompanied by this letter:—

London, December 1, 1896.

Dear Sir,—As you have for some years been kind enough to undertake the distribution of the new sixpences amongst the children of the London workhouses, and their schools and hospitals, I am sure it will require no apology from me for again asking you to do the same with the eleven thousand coins that accompany this note, feeling sure that you will regard it as a labour of love.—Believe me, yours sincerely obliged,

A Friend.

The Editor Truth.

I need scarcely add how gladly I shall undertake the task of distributing the £275 thus generously presented, nor how sincerely I thank my persistently anonymous friend for his seasonable liberality.

Another correspondent who wishes me to guard his anonymity makes a contribution to the Toy Fund which will, I hope, result in an appreciable addition to its total. He offers me two Yorkshire Terrier pups, both females, and both four months old on the 15th of this month. I have the authority of my correspondent for saying that their pedigree is above suspicion, their grandfather and parents being in "the book," the former having won several prizes. Of course, the pups are now woolly, black with some tan marks, but in about six months' time, when full grown, they will have long silver-grey coats and silver-tan heads. Their weight will then be from 4 lb. to 4½ lb. I am prepared to sell them if I get a satisfactory bid; so what offers, please, for the Yorkshire Terrier pups?

Mr. "Rowland Grey" has repeated with great success this year his plan of stimulating local interest in the Truth Exhibition by organising a local competition Doll Show of his own at Harrow Weald. The seventy-nine dolls which were thus exhibited will prove a very interesting group at the Albert Hall next week. This idea of exhibiting the dolls locally is a most excellent one, and may be commended to the attention of those who may assist in the Truth Show next year.

A

IN THE NAME OF THE CHILDREN.

"What is the use," the cynic asks, "of giving dolls and toys
To pale-faced little workhouse girls and friendless London boys?
You waste your money," he declares, "when gifts like these you send,
And do not even earn the thanks of those you would befriend.

"Far better let the children be," he tells us with a sneer,
"Playthings are sadly out of place for those in their low sphere.
What can *they* want with dolls and toys? How can they understand
The meaning of those useless gifts you send with lavish hand?"

So says the cynic, but he speaks, as cynics often do,
Without the faintest knowledge of the things he would pooh-pooh.
So says the cynic; in reply a little tale we'll tell—
The story of a tragedy that but last week befell.

* * * * *

A simple annal of the poor: a bare and dark back-room;
A tiny, blue-eyed girl of four, left sitting in the gloom;
Left all alone, poor little mite, as on the darkness creeps,
With none to answer should she call, or soothe her if she weeps.

Alone and yet not quite alone, for see against her breast,
Wrapp'd in a tattered woollen rag, a battered doll is press'd.
A common, ugly doll at best, but oh! to her so dear.
That in her sweet solicitude she shows no sign of fear.

Her thoughts are only for her doll; lest it should feel alarm,
She whispers words of love as she enfolds it in her arm;
Her loneliness, her helplessness, she quite forgets to see,
And when she shivers she but thinks how cold her doll must be.

The fire has almost smouldered out, but now it is her aim
To fan the dying embers there once more to living flame;
Her dolly must be warm before it goes to bed, and so
With childish efforts she attempts to make the ashes glow.

Then tenderly she lays her doll, close to the grate, to sleep,
And sets herself, devoted still, her loving watch to keep;
When, as she bends for one last kiss, the flames—mischance most dire!—
Leap for a moment from the bars and set her dress on fire.

When presently the neighbours come, it is, alack! too late;
And all that love and skill can do cannot avert her fate.
The doll lies still where it was placed, snug in its cosy bed,
But ere the stars have ceased to shine the little girl is dead.

* * * * *

Then, let the cynic have his say. One incident like this
Enables us his sneers and gibes to scornfully dismiss;
And gives us, too, yet stronger cause that earnest plea to make,
Which every Christmas we repeat for Charity's sweet sake.

Thousands of girls—remember that!—whose lives have known few joys,
Are waiting for their Christmas dolls: thousands of friendless boys,
For whom such words as "home" and "love" no meaning can possess,
Depend on you for their one taste of Yuletide happiness

Pardon us, then, if we essay your generous hearts to touch,
For what to you but little means implies for them so much.
The price of but one luxury, that you will scarcely miss,
May fill a score of children's lives with yet untasted bliss.

Come, then, we reckon on your aid, you've often helped of yore,
And never was your help required so urgently before.
The need has never been so sore, make it our happy fate
To find your sympathy till now has never been so great!

Below will be found a list of the subscriptions to the Toy Fund which have reached this office since the last announcement was made. To all those who have thus answered my appeal, I am exceedingly grateful, but it is still necessary to raise a large additional sum, if this Christmas distribution is to be carried out in its entirety. The demand for Dolls and Toys is larger than it has ever been before, and I will not even try to imagine what cruel disappointment would be caused to the expectant children, were it found impossible to comply with the pathetic appeals that have reached this office. The time, it must be remembered, is now very short, for the rest of the Toys required ought to be purchased by Saturday at the latest. One lady, by the way, forwards me the cost of the Christmas Cards she has decided *not* to send this year. Here is an example which might be widely followed, with no real loss to the community.

O. R. D., £10; Durlacker Bros., £1. 1s.; W. N. G, 10s. 6d.; F. M. B., £3. 3s.; Nanny and Baby Merry, 7s. 6d.; A. H. L., 10s.; Mem Sahib, £1; C. C., £2. 2s.; W. Y., £2. 2s.; Theodore Lloyd, £2. 2s.; Gladys and Karin, £2. 2s.; Stanley F. May; £2. 2s.; Gladys, 1s. 6d.; Frances, 1s. 6d.; Harold, 1s. 6d.; G. A. T., £5; M. F., £1. 1s.; Lady Dickeson, £5. 5s.; Mrs S. A. Ralli, £5; P. M., £3 3s.; B. F. A, £1.; E. W. S. C., £2; J. W. P., 10s.; Hard-Up, 6s.; F. H., 2s. 6d.; Irene and Helen Ralli, £4. 4s.; M. R. V., £2. 2s.; Edward Shuckburgh, £5; S.G.T., £10. 10s.; Miss Houghton and Miss E. Houghton, £2. 2s.; Annie Clifford Lloyd, 10s.; R. G., £2; H. Mallins. M. B., £1; Three Children, L. E. R., £3. 3s.; L. Sanderson, £1. 1s.; J. G.R., £1; G. A. Z., £5; J. E. A., 10s.; A. M. G., £2; The Officers of the 10th R. Hussars, £5; B., £5. 5s.; Sympathy, £5; A. F. M. S., £2; F. A. E., 10s., Catherine, £1; H. W. Daws, 10s. 6d.; Fiddle Bow, £2. 2s.; Mrs. Mumm, £2. 2s.; Robert Crawshay, £5; the Hon. Mrs. A. Y. Bingham, £2. 2s.; Jarinook, £1; C. A. E., 5s.; Beverlac, 5s.; Charles Edwin Haig, £1; C. C. S. and A. C. S., 5s.; the price of a pair of gloves from a Unitarian Woman, 3s. 6d.; Noël and Evelyn, £1. 1s.; V. P. S., £1; A. P. R., £1; J. W. P., £2. 2s.; Trix Ron Doug, 6s.; Mrs. W. Mendel, £5; Riensch am Ende & Co., £2. 2s.; Graham & Jean, £1. 1s.; Mrs. E. M. Rodocanachie, £2. 2s.; T. Sidney Snelgrove, £2. 2s.; Mrs. Arthur Humber, £3; H. L., £2; G.W.R. Staff, Windsor Station, 7s. 6d.; G. A. L., 2s. 6d.; W. M., £1; N. B., 5s.; I. P., £2; B. M. D., 10s.; F. W. B., 5s.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark are to arrive at Marlborough House to-morrow. Except for a Saturday-till-Monday visit to the Queen at Windsor, the Princess will stay in town until the 19th, when she is to return to Sandringham with Princess Victoria, and the Prince will join them there on the 23rd. The Duke and Duchess of Fife are to spend Christmas at Sandringham, and there will be a large shooting-party at the Hall from Monday, the 28th, until Saturday, January 2nd. On Monday, January 4, the Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria are going to Trentham Hall, Staffordshire, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland until Saturday, the 9th.

Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark are to leave Marlborough House towards the end of next week for Copenhagen, and a suite of more than twenty-five apartments in the immense palace of their uncle, the King of the Hellenes, has been decorated and furnished as a residence for them. Prince and Princess Charles are to stay in Denmark for several months.

It is announced that the Emperor and Empress of Russia "will pay a public visit to London next year," to which it is added that they are to occupy "the great State apartments at Buckingham Palace." The story is a pure fabrication. The Emperor and Empress have no intention whatever of visiting England next year, either privately or publicly, and it has already been settled that the Grand Duke Serge and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth are to represent the Court of St. Petersburg at the festivities of June. As to "the great State apartments," there are none. If the Emperor and Empress ever visit London, they will be lodged at Buckingham Palace in the Belgian Rooms.

A family arrangement has been privately made by which the fortune of the late Grand Duke of Hesse, and the £100,000 which the Queen settled on Princess Alice when she married, have been divided between the Grand Duke Ernest and his sisters, Princess Louis of Battenberg and Princess Henry of Prussia. The other sisters, the Empress of Russia and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, have given back their shares.

The Duchess of Albany, who is now residing at Claremont, will go to Cannes early in February, for a stay of three months at the Villa Nevada.

The season at Dublin Castle next year is announced to begin on January 26, when Lord Cadogan will hold the first Levée, to be, as usual, followed by the Drawing Room on the next evening. Of late years, Viceroys had taken to postponing the commencement of the "season" until the first or even second week of February, but none has ever been known to prolong it past March 17. It is a step in the right direction to begin earlier, though it would have been better had a date in the middle of January been fixed. However, any step, even though a trifling one, in the right direction is something to be thankful for in connection with Dublin Castle. The institution is a perfect stronghold of tradition; year after year the old Household officials move, after the fashion of their kind, in the same old grooves. Changes of Viceroys make no difference, for, as I have often explained, each Viceroy begins by giving himself away by re-appointing the old officials.

Mr. Balfour intends to spend the Christmas holidays at Whittingham, his place in Haddingtonshire. He has promised to preside at a meeting at which the Master of Polwarth is to be presented by the Unionists of Haddingtonshire with his portrait, as a recognition of his having been their candidate for the county against Mr. Haldane at two elections. The portrait is by Sir George Reid, P.R.S.A.

The late Lord Savile was known throughout Europe as an able and popular diplomatist, and a distinguished authority on all artistic matters. In his own neighbourhood he had earned the reputation of being a most generous and considerate landlord, and a liberal as well as a large employer of labour. He carried out all kinds of costly improvements on his estates, and was always ready to meet the reasonable requests of his tenants. Considerable returns of rents were made for several years, and when it became clear that no early improvement in agricultural affairs could be expected, Lord Savile made an adequate permanent reduction in the rent of his farmers. His contributions to all local and county charities were munificent, and he enlarged or rebuilt many schools on his estates, and restored two churches of which he was the lay rector.

During his long residence at Brussels and at Rome Lord Savile collected a splendid gallery of pictures, and he was himself a most accomplished artist. He presented a large number of valuable pictures to the National Gallery, and the remainder of the collection is at Rufford Abbey, his delightful old seat in Notts, which is buried in beautiful woods. Lord Savile divided his fine collection of Roman antiquities between the Leeds and Nottingham Museums, and he made some valuable gifts to the British Museum. His death, after a long and painful illness, is sincerely lamented by a host of friends in all parts of Europe, and belonging to all classes of Society.

Sir Hugh Gilzean Reid writes that the King of the Belgians does not himself participate in the profits of the gambling in Belgium, and that a Bill is shortly to be brought in prohibiting public gambling in that country. This may be, but we must deal with actualities. Both in Ostend and in Spa there are gambling establishments practically as open to all the world

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1542 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1544.
For Amusements, see page 1541.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1561.

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

as that of Monte Carlo. It is to be presumed that the concessionaries pay for the privilege accorded to them, and that this payment goes into the pockets of some one. Who it may be is a mere matter of detail. As a rule, gambling-houses do not pay openly to the Government which permits them, but many eminent personages receive *douceurs* privately. Thus, when the Palais Royal establishments existed in Paris, the Minister of Police received every evening a rouleau of fifty napoleons.

A hint to teetotallers. A temperance drink, known as "parsnip ale," was recently found by the Government chemist to contain more than thirteen per cent. of proof spirit, which made it a very much stronger tipple than any ordinary beer.

Mr. Andrew Lang recently related "At the Sign of the Ship," the story of the murder of one Fisher at Paramatta, which crime was said to have been detected, and the culprit arrested, tried, and hanged, through the ghost of the murdered man having appeared on the scene. "Now does any Australian archæologist know," asks Mr. Lang, "whether a report of this trial exists in the archives of Sydney?" I am asked by an "Australian archæologist" to assure Mr. Lang that no report is to be found, for these reasons: there was no Fisher, no murder, no ghost, no arrest, no trial, and no execution. "Fisher's ghost" was laid in New South Wales many years ago, and it has been left to Mr. Lang to resurrect the hoary-headed impostor. Perhaps he suspected it was a hoax all the time, though I fancy that constant draughts at the ever-flowing spring of "psychic" nonsense and humbug are making Mr. Lang, like Mr. Stead, rather inclined to swallow any fiction in this line, no matter how preposterous.

I expected better things of the *Telegraph*. A full half of one of its valuable columns was the other day devoted to a solemn review of "Professor" Garner's preposterous volume. It was described as "a really delightful book," and its author was asserted to have "few rivals at the present time." As irony this would be unexceptionable, but it is only too clear from the context that the gifted reviewer is perfectly serious. Long extracts from the book are given, describing Garner's life in his marvellous cage, and his cock-and-bull stories about the habits of chimpanzees and gorillas in their native jungles are all repeated, as though the impudent humbug of the whole business had never yet been exposed. I was rather amused the other day to find the *Daily Chronicle* setting itself to demolish Garner from a scientific point of view, and pronouncing upon the intrinsic evidence of the book itself, that the writer is an arrant impostor. After what is now known about the American "professor," this looks rather like employing a steam-hammer to crack a nut. But, at any rate, the *Daily Chronicle's* slating of Garner is more to its credit than the *Telegraph's* gush over his contributions to science. May I humbly suggest to my contemporaries that a diligent study of the columns of TRUTH may save even the wisest editor from being made a fool of?

As a practical journalist, I have always admired the business-like principles on which the *Daily Telegraph* is conducted, though I am opposed to the politics of the paper. But somebody must have been napping at the *Daily Telegraph* office when the idea of a national testimonial to Mr. Bayard was evolved. Christmas-boxes to other people's servants are a bad old custom at the best, but a Christmas-box to an Ambassador from the nation to which he is accredited could only compromise the recipient with his employers. However, good may come out of evil. The TRUTH Toy Fund is at present in a not too satisfactory position, and it is a form of Christmas-box to which no exception can possibly be taken. If the *Daily Telegraph* would hand over to that fund its own rejected offering to the American Minister, it would more than atone for its little indiscretion.

To-morrow (Thursday) night the Palace Theatre celebrates its fourth birthday with a monster programme, for the accommodation of which the licence has to be extended. It is a new idea for a music-hall to have an anniversary performance of this kind, but in this instance it is a very justifiable innovation. Under its present management the Palace has led the way in the revolution which has made the variety theatre the most fashionable form of entertainment in London, and has put the music-hall on a level with the legitimate drama. If this is not an achievement worthy of special annual commemoration, I don't know what is. It seems to be the ambition of the present management to rival not merely the theatre, but the opera-house, for in Madame Gorgé ("La Nouvelle Patti") they have introduced a vocalist, who, in brilliance of execution at any rate, is quite up to prima donna form.

Professor Sir Douglas Maclagan, M.D., LL.D., who is the eldest brother of the Archbishop of York, has decided to resign the Chair of Forensic Medicine in Edinburgh University at the end of this year. Sir Douglas has held this office since 1862, and it is worth about £800 a year.

Concerning bishops' aprons, I am told that this garment is historically nothing but a fragment of a cassock, being, in fact, the front part of a cassock with the back and sleeves cut off. Why bishops, or their tailors, have taken to mutilating cassocks in this way my informant does not explain. This information is given me as an answer to the lady who in last week's TRUTH charged the Bishop of Hereford with having himself appropriated a feminine garment. But ladies are not easily silenced, and perhaps I shall be told next that a cassock is only a feminine frock, deprived of its waist and buttoned all down the skirt. Whatever may be said about the cassock, however, there is strong reason for denying that the apron is essentially a feminine garment. For instance, blacksmiths and cobblers have worn aprons from time immemorial. The apron is, of course, the most ancient garment known, and, if we may trust the third chapter of Genesis, it was originally designed for the use of both sexes indiscriminately.

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

The Bishop-designate of London preached on Sunday week in the private chapel at Windsor Castle before the Queen, and on Tuesday an evening journal announced that the prelate "created a very favourable impression." My contemporary appears to be under the impression that this was Dr. Creighton's first sermon before the Queen, whereas he has several times occupied the pulpit of the private chapel, and it was in consequence of the "very favourable impression" which he created seven or eight years ago, when Canon of Worcester, that her Majesty in 1891 requested Lord Salisbury to give him a stall at Windsor; but he never took possession of this preferment, as his promotion to the See of Peterborough took place directly afterwards.

Bishop Tufnell's death has placed a canonry in Chichester Cathedral at the disposal of Bishop Wilberforce, this being the first stall that has become vacant since his translation to this see. The Chichester stalls are supposed to be worth £500 a year, with residence, but the Chapter revenue has been reduced by the agricultural depression, and the stipends of the residentiaries have fallen to £350, while the Dean has been cut down from £1,000 to £700. Bishop Tufnell was the senior member of the Chapter, having been collated to his canonry in 1882 by Bishop Durnford, after his resignation of the living of Croydon. It is expected that the vacant stall will be offered to Archdeacon Sutton, who now holds the Bishop's living of Pevensey, which is a very good one.

An evening journal commenced an obituary notice of Bishop Tufnell with the astounding statement that, "For a curate to rise to a bishop's estate is a lot which falls to few." There never was, and never will be, an Anglican bishop who did not commence his clerical career as a curate. A clergyman could not be ordained in priest's orders unless he had worked as a curate for a certain period.

The important living of Neath, which has been resigned by Archdeacon Griffiths, who has been Rector for nearly forty-two years, is in the gift of Lord Bute, but he cannot appoint, being a Roman Catholic, so the presentation will pass to the University of Oxford. Archdeacon Griffiths will retain the Archdeaconry of Llandaff, with stall in the Cathedral annexed, to which he was collated in 1877 by the late Bishop Ollivant.

I have been requested to "kindly withdraw the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, the Clerk of Parliaments, the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, and the Doorkeepers of the House of Lords from the list of 'cormorants' who prey upon new Archbishops." I cheerfully withdraw all these functionaries, and for the credit of the remaining cormorants, I should add that "the total fees payable to the House of Lords by Dr. Temple will amount to £27, which sum will be wholly paid over to her Majesty's Exchequer for the benefit of the public." My original informant is usually a fairly accurate individual, but on this occasion he seems to have omitted to follow the late Dean Burgon's advice respecting the verification of references.

Concerning the dispute as to the parish school at Feniscowles, near Blackburn, which was mentioned in last week's TRUTH, I am informed by Sir W. L. Feilden that the school and school-house were built by his family sixty years ago for the benefit of the children of their tenantry. Some time back the Vicar put forward a claim to the premises as Church property, which claim was persisted in until Sir William took proceedings in defence of his title. There have since been negotiations for the settlement of the matter, and Sir William offered the use of the school at a nominal rent of £20, which was to be remitted each rent day on condition that the Vicar and managers kept the buildings in repair. To meet a difficulty which was raised, he finally offered to accept "the still nominal ground rent in perpetuity of £10 or £11 a year, the school, school-house, and 1,340 yards of land to become, subject to this payment, the absolute property of the Vicar and managers." It is this arrangement which has now been agreed upon.

In a recent sermon at Oxford-place Chapel, Leeds, the Rev. S. Chadwick referred to the death of the editor of the *Leeds Mercury*, and, according to a local contemporary, "he suggested that they might look upon it as a judgment of God that, in the course of a brief six months, death should remove two men from the editorial chair of a newspaper which once denounced betting and now openly published betting news." What a fantastic conception of Divine goodness, wisdom, justice, and mercy this reverend gentleman must have! Consider the meaning of his remark. It plainly implies that God disapproves of the publication of betting news, and that the singular way in which He manifests His disapproval is to wait patiently until one particular newspaper has come into line with its rivals by publishing such news, and then to let His wrath fall, at intervals of six months, on the editors of that journal. Meanwhile, all other sinners on the Press are left to pursue their wicked ways, and no miracle is worked in their case for the assistance of the Anti-Gambling League. Such, it seems, is the Chadbandian idea of the working of the Divine will!

The Hon. Secretary of the last Church Congress asks me to contradict the statement that there has been any disappointment among the guarantors over the result of the Shrewsbury Congress. The Hon. Secretary states that every guarantor gave his guarantee knowing that the call might amount to 10s.; and as the call only amounted to 4s. 6d., the guarantors have more reason for congratulation than for disappointment. It is also pointed out that there are very few towns where a hall can be found capable of seating 2,500 to 3,000 comfortably, and I must admit that there is force in this remark.

Has an Anglican Vicar the right to refuse to celebrate a marriage in his church when one of the parties has not been baptised? Such a right has been assumed, and

WATER SUPPLY TO COUNTRY HOUSES.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—MERRYWEATHERS, 63, Long-acre, London, W.C., & Greenwich, S.E.

exercised in a recent case, by the Vicar of Abingdon. The bridegroom whose prospective happiness was thus thwarted was himself a Churchman, the bride being a Nonconformist of some description. The laws relating to the Church of England are in all respects anomalous, but I am under the impression that all members of the community have a right to be married in the State churches, on fulfilling the required formalities, and that religious tests have no place in these formalities. If that is not the law, it ought to be, so long as the churches are State establishments.

Well, well! How surprised the Apostles would have been had they learnt that some admirer of a monarch—Jewish or Roman—had sent them a dinner service of gold plate to show their appreciation of this monarch's virtues. But we are not in the days of the Apostles, therefore it is not surprising that the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's have received a communion service in pure gold from a millionaire, desirous to testify in this manner his personal gratitude to her Majesty for having reigned sixty years over us. Still, I should hardly have thought this quite in accordance with the Scriptural injunction that commands us to render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and to God the things that are God's. I would suggest that the service be melted down, and the proceeds devoted to relieve some of the want that is always with us.

If public authorities, in the exercise of their official duty, send dogs to be destroyed at the Dogs' Home, the public authorities ought to pay for the job. This is an opinion that I have expressed before, but it seems to call for reiteration in view of the urgent appeal for funds which the Battersea Home for Lost Dogs is now issuing. During the last eleven months, owing to the operation of the Muzzling Order, 40,016 lost dogs have been received at the Home, and the demands upon the lethal-chamber, resulting from this influx of visitors, have been such that a new crematorium has had to be built at a cost of over £300. All the dogs, it must be remembered, have to be kept at the expense of the Home for not less than five days before they are destroyed. The funds of the institution have, consequently, been severely strained, and the benevolent are asked to help it out of its difficulties. The Home has undoubtedly good claims on the benevolent, but in this instance it also seems to have a claim upon the police and the ratepayers. The Act, which authorises the arrest and destruction of dogs, ought also to empower the payment of a reasonable sum for their detention and execution.

Again I am asked to say a word for the Carlisle-street, Westminster, Soup Kitchen, for which Lady Herbert of Lea always pleads. I understand that there is more need of money this year than on any previous one, for there is greater distress in Westminster than usual, owing to slackness of work. The available resources are, therefore, already almost exhausted. Subscriptions in money or food should be sent to Lady Herbert of Lea, Herbert House, Belgrave-square.

A case was described in TRUTH the other day in which a candidate at an Army examination had been passed at the medical examination on every ground except in regard to his chest measurement, and was given three months in which to enlarge his girth if he could; but on going up the second time, and satisfying the Medical Board as to the size of his chest, he was then summarily rejected on the ground that his teeth were defective. I have since had some further particulars of this case, which throw further light on the unfair treatment of this particular candidate, and on the inconsiderate way in which the medical examinations seem to be conducted. It appears that the gentleman in question, on going before the first Board, was informed by the examining surgeon that he was "all right." A fortnight later he received a notice from the War Office that he was three-quarters of an inch below the chest standard, and that it had been decided to allow him three months to attain the standard. His father asked that he should be measured again, believing from what had passed in the examination room that some mistake must have occurred; but this request was refused. The candidate then went to a military gymnasium where he was at once measured by a well-known officer, and by a sergeant-major, who found him to be half an inch above the standard chest-measurement. At the end of his three months he went before a second Medical Board, who rejected him, as before stated, for defective teeth.

It further appears that the second Board absolutely declined to recognise the authority of the first one in any respect. They declined to assent to the candidate's view that he was before them for chest-measurement, and when, on learning that he was rejected on account of his teeth, he produced the War Office letter showing that he had been passed previously on every ground except his chest, the Board refused to look at the letter, and told him the first Board could not have done their duty. This first Board, by the way, had passed some sixty or seventy officers, who are now serving in the Army. From the Board the candidate appealed to the Director-General, A.M.D., representing that he had been unfairly treated. The reply was that no officer had ever been passed into the Army with the same number of artificial teeth as this particular candidate possessed. The candidate then asked for an explanation from the War Office as to why he had not been rejected by the first Board. The War Office formally acknowledged his letter, but offered no explanation. Very naturally. The case is inexplicable and unjustifiable. It is clear from the facts above stated that, for some reason unknown, this candidate, after having been passed, was singled out for a second medical examination, on a trumpery and disingenuous pretext; and if this was not done with a preconceived determination to "spin" him, the authorities have done themselves a great injustice.

Incidentally, this case throws some light on the great teeth question which was discussed in TRUTH the other day. When before the second Board the candidate asked why his teeth should disqualify him. The answer

was that he could not eat the Service biscuit. He requested that a piece of biscuit should be given him that he might try it, but this was refused, although, on the principle that the proof of the biscuit is in the eating, it seems the most reasonable and practical test that could have been suggested. Again, with regard to the Director-General's statement as to the number of artificial teeth that will disqualify an officer for holding a commission, it is certain that the first Board this candidate went before were not dissatisfied with his teeth, while it is also certain that they passed at least twenty-five candidates without looking at their teeth at all. If it is not an invariable rule to examine teeth, the Director-General cannot have any trustworthy data on which to base his assertion. I believe the teeth objection to be utter humbug; and the way in which this particular candidate was "fooled about" (I know no other adequate term for it) by the military authorities is both unbusinesslike in itself and grossly unfair to a man who had spent years in qualifying himself for the Army, only to be baulked of his commission by this captious frivolity. It would be very interesting to know who was let in as the result of this candidate's exclusion.

Referring to a remark in TRUTH the other day upon regimental entertainments at race-meetings, a retired Cavalry officer writes:—

> You have only to attend race-meetings and see the mess-table, covered with the regimental plate, and furnished with every delicacy, both in and out of season, to realise that the Regulation on this subject is a dead letter. The cost of entertaining the general public (thanks largely to the facilities and inducements afforded by the regimental coach) forms one of the largest items in the expenditure of a Cavalry officer, and many can ill afford it. The regimental drag is a constant source of expense, and ought to be abolished. Its chief use is to carry the officers about to all the race-meetings within reach, and, but for its existence, the heavy expenditure incidental to attending such gatherings would not be incurred. The coach is seldom driven, except by the Colonel or one or two of the senior officers, and the juniors have to contribute to provide them with this amusement.

The paragraph devoted to this subject in the Queen's Regulations is not really an order, and amounts to little more than the expression of a pious opinion. It leaves the whole question at the discretion of the Colonel, and few Colonels are likely to run counter to the feelings and wishes of the majority of their officers on points of this kind. That it is desirable to draw hard-and-fast lines by Regulation on matters affecting regimental expenditure may be questioned. Grandmotherly government is never a good thing. But what can be done is to discountenance extravagant expenditure by precept and example from headquarters. Let a Commander-in-Chief exert his personal influence in favour of plain and unostentatious living; let it be understood that Commanding Officers in whose regiments extravagant expenditure is encouraged will not be viewed with favour at headquarters, and then any hint conveyed in Orders or Regulations will have its effect. I should say that everything depends on the example set at headquarters. The late Emperor William slept every night, and died, upon a camp bedstead, in an apartment resembling a barrack-room. His staff, for the most part, cultivated similar habits, and they made the Prussian Army the finest fighting machine in Europe. The Duke of Wellington all his life set an example of the same kind. This sort of spirit at headquarters gives the tone to a whole army, and it is as easy to set the fashion one way as the other. I am aware that the Ouida-Guardsman, who bathes his brows in Burgundy and dwells in a sort of prima donna's boudoir, is also a Paladin in the field, and performs prodigies of strength and valour whenever the occasion arises. But this combination belongs to romance more than to history. In the long run, it is the Spartan regimen, not the Sybarite, that makes the soldier.

In reference to what has been said in TRUTH about the anomaly created by allowing Army schoolmasters second-class passages by sea, a worthy schoolmaster sends me a long account of the history of schoolmasters in the Army since 1857. His object is to show that schoolmasters enjoyed down to 1881 a much better position, including the privilege of second-class passages, than they have had since that date, and that the recent concession is only a partial restoration of what they formerly enjoyed. No doubt this is true enough, but, unfortunately, non-commissioned officers who see schoolmasters enjoying a privilege which is denied to them are not familiar with the history of the question. Unless my friend the schoolmaster will undertake to give them all a lesson in history, I fear that their sense of grievance will remain. Moreover, there are other reasons, in addition to the fact of schoolmasters enjoying the privilege, for allowing N.C.O.s of corresponding rank to travel second class.

There were only two enteric fever boards in Dublin during November, one case being that of a private in the 2nd West Kent, and the other that of a private in the 1st Durham Light Infantry at Wellington Barracks. This is a slight falling off from the rate in the early part of the year, when there were sometimes four or five boards a month, but it shows that enteric fever is still alive in the Dublin garrison. By the way, the Linen Hall Barracks have just been vacated, preparatory to the drainage being overhauled. A Dublin paper states that it is intended to spend three or four thousand pounds upon the job. Let us hope that the money really will be spent, and that some practical improvement in the condition of the barracks will result from the expenditure.

No decoration has been issued by any chartered association since the days of the old East India Company, and I do not understand why the British South Africa Company should have received permission from the Government to distribute a silver medal among the officers and men who took part in the Matabele War of 1893.

W. & F. THORN'S SPECIALITY.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

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During the last week or two many forcible comments on the atrocious job lately perpetrated for the benefit of Sir Ralph Knox's son have reached me from officers in the Army Service Corps and others. If I do not notice them in detail, the writers must understand that it is only because, in the absence of any new facts, I fear that no practical result can be gained by further comment. The proper place now for the ventilation of this unscrupulous iniquity is the House of Commons, and I would advise all those who resent the transaction to unite in taking measures to get the question brought up there. The opportunity cannot fail to come in the event of any demands upon Parliament for increased military expenditure. For a long time past the Accountant-General's department has withstood such tendencies, and should a more complaisant attitude now become apparent, it will be easy enough to discover the *quid pro quo*.

The officer of Marines who was awarded a brevet majority after the battle of Trafalgar was Captain Timmins, of the *Dreadnought*. I believe, as I said last week, that this was the sole honour bestowed upon the Marines after the battle. But in view of what has just happened in regard to the Dongola campaign, it is quite unnecessary to go back to Trafalgar for examples of the cold-shouldering of the Marines by the Admiralty.

My Military Pillory for this week bears a strong resemblance to the Legal Pillory a few columns off, for it exemplifies a number of questionable examples of justice as administered in the Army. The C.O. of the 2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers seems to have convicted a man of drunkenness, in the teeth of the evidence of the sergeant of the guard and two colour-sergeants, purely on the assumption that in the course of being removed a distance of one mile, the man could have recovered from a state of culpable intoxication to one of unquestionable sobriety. Although justice was ultimately done in this man's case, the line taken by the C.O. practically means that he regards the testimony of the regimental police in any case as beyond controversy, and after such an indication of his views—apart from the express order that has been issued—it is not likely that any N.C.O. would in future incur the responsibility of pronouncing a man sober after the military police had pronounced him drunk. The case from the 2nd Scots Guards speaks for itself, as it is evident on the facts that had not the real offender come forward the wrong man would have been punished—and, indeed, he actually was punished to a certain extent—without a particle of evidence; and there is also a conspicuous example of the eccentricities of Army justice in the set of sentences reported from the 1st Gordon Highlanders. From a different point of view, the story about the R.A. Bicycle Club at Colaba is interesting, and the military authorities will probably like to have further information about the principles on which this club is instituted, and the precise part which the C.O. plays in it:—

2nd Battalion Inniskilling Fusiliers, Chakrata.—On May 31 last a private of this battalion was arrested in the bazaar by the regimental police, and brought to the guard-room on a charge of drunkenness. The sergeant of the guard reported the matter to the sergeant-major. Two colour-sergeants were then sent to inspect the man, and pronounced him to be sober. On June 2 the private was brought before the C.O., who fined him 10s. and gave him five days' C.B. At the same time the C.O. issued an order that men brought from the bazaar charged with drunkenness were not to be inspected at the guard-room, apparently on the ground that a man might be drunk at the bazaar and sober by the time he arrived at the guard-room. In point of fact, the bazaar and the guard-room are only one mile apart. The private appealed against the C.O.'s decision, was tried by district court-martial, and acquitted, his punishment being accordingly remitted.

2nd Scots Guards, Dublin.—A man in this battalion named Ross was the other day put in the guard-room for taking beer away from the canteen, the canteen sergeant being at the same time placed under arrest, and the picket sentry being put in the guard-room. Ross protested that he had not taken any beer, and asked to see the sergeant-major, but that functionary merely assured him that he was quite sure he had taken the beer. Immediately after this, another man named Ward came forward and admitted that he had taken the beer, and he was in due course brought up and sentenced to two days' C.B. It would seem that the only evidence the sergeant-major had to go upon was that he saw some beer spilt on the pavement outside the canteen, and his opinion that Ross was the culprit appears to have been a mere guess. In the interests of justice it seems that he should have a little instruction in the laws of evidence.

1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders, Gharial.—A sergeant, charged with being drunk, and of being improperly in the married quarters, was recently tried by district court-martial, committed on the first charge, acquitted on the second, and reduced to the ranks. This was a man with ten years' service, with no entry in his defaulter sheet since 1892. Shortly afterwards another sergeant, of inferior character, was convicted of being drunk and of highly improper conduct, and was let off with a severe reprimand. He had been under arrest for drunkenness six months previously. In another case a colour-sergeant, charged with drunkenness, was allowed to take his choice between trial by court-martial and reverting to sergeant. He chose the latter. In a fourth case a sergeant, with a previous court-martial conviction registered against him, was charged with drunkenness on duty, and got off with a severe reprimand. The same punishment was administered in yet another case of drunkenness on duty. There is a certain amount of consistency about the majority of these sentences; but how the first one is to be reconciled with them, and with justice, is not apparent.

24th Company Eastern Division R.A., Colaba.—A gunner of this company was charged the other day with "stealing goods, the property of an officer," the property in question being a bicycle, described as the property of Major Callwell. The charge was tried by district court-martial, and resulted in a verdict of not guilty. It appears that the major in question, who was in command of the company, has organised a bicycle club for the purpose of supplying his men with machines on the hire-purchase system. The usual terms of purchase are 15 rupees per month, which is paid through the men's accounts. The prisoner in the above case had obtained a bicycle in this way at the price of 213 rupees. After paying his instalments for two months he sold it to another man in the company for 90 rupees. This was the ground of the charge of theft.

6th Company Eastern Division R.A., Shoeburyness.—A gunner in this company has just been promoted to the rank of supernumerary acting-bombardier. The man in question has only nine months' service, and has no education certificate or first-class gunner's certificate, which is usually considered an indispensable qualification for promotion. He passes over the heads of some twenty or thirty other gunners, all qualified for promotion. It might do something to mitigate the dissatisfaction which this appointment has provoked if the reason for it were made known. Or it might not.

1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, Alexandria.—An order recently issued in this battalion provides that no lance-sergeant shall be promoted to full rank unless he extends his service to twelve years with the colours. Has a commanding officer the power to make an order of this nature? The effect of it is that several short-service men now qualified for promotion to sergeant will have to serve the rest of their time—in some cases, three or four years—without any possibility of promotion, unless they elect to extend their service.

A party of men belonging to the 1st Dorset Regiment, who have just been landed in England for discharge, have a very genuine grievance against the War Office. They are men who, at the conclusion of their eight years with the colours, engaged to complete eleven years with the colours in India, and one in the Reserve. As usually happens, however, they were not shipped home at the

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expiration of their eleven years, and on their arrival at the Discharge Depot most of them had completed eleven years and six months. Owing to their arriving at this time of the year, instead of four or five months ago, they have small chance of getting employment now, and will probably find no work until their few months' Reserve service and pay have expired. It is bad enough, in any case, that men should be detained in India for months after the expiration of their contract term of service; but in the case of men who have only one year to serve in the Reserve, special efforts ought undoubtedly to be made to ship them home the moment they are entitled to discharge.

Yet another bad accident in the Dover trenches! This time the victim is an unfortunate woman, who actually lay for two days and nights in the trenches with her legs broken before she was discovered, a severe frost prevailing at the time. In any event, I trust there will be a searching inquiry into this case, and that some steps will now be taken to make this horrible incident the last of its kind.

In reference to my last week's article on the loss of the *Carmel*, Mr. James Samuelson, Chairman of the Liverpool Bay Branch of the National Lifeboat Institution, writes to disclaim having said at the Board of Trade Inquiry that he did not believe the crew of the steam lifeboat would keep out all night; and also to claim as his own all the suggestions endorsed by the Board of Trade officer, except that as to the residences of the boatmen at Formby. From what passed at a meeting of the Liverpool Branch on the 1st inst., it is evident that Mr. Samuelson is fully entitled to this credit. The suggestion, in particular, that all the boats in Liverpool Bay should be under the orders of one superintendent appears to have been for a long time past advised by the Liverpool Branch, and was laid by them before the Central Committee in London so far back as February, 1895. The dilatoriness or obstruction of the latter body (who seem to have been insisting that if such an officer is appointed he shall be responsible to them, and not to the local branch) have alone prevented this salutary measure being adopted; which only shows that the disastrous muddle which took place at the loss of the *Carmel* must be laid directly at the door of the office in John-street.

An auxiliary postman in a provincial post-office is paid 14s. per week. He is laid up one day from illness, and 2s. 3d. is deducted from his next week's pay, reducing his wages to 11s. 9d. This is the joint idea of the Postmaster General and the Treasury of a living wage for a man, his wife, and four children. I do not say that the Department ought invariably to pay men when incapacitated for work by illness; but I do say emphatically that it ought to pay a wage which would leave a man something more than 11s. 9d. a week in the event of his being laid up for a day.

A disgraceful example of the jobbery and favouritism which so often mark competitions for the designing of public buildings has just been given by the Belfast Corporation. Architects were invited to submit plans for a proposed new City Hall, and Mr. Waterhouse was selected as assessor in conjunction with the City Surveyor. The conditions were that the assessors should select three plans for final competition, and that the authors of the selected plans should each receive a fee of £100. After Mr. Waterhouse and his colleague had given their award, however, a majority of the Council took upon themselves to reject one of the three chosen plans, substituting another which, needless to say, turns out to be the work of a local man. The names of the competitors were supposed to be unknown, but the authorship of the substituted plan appears to have been revealed in some way, and it was even asserted at the Council meeting last week that there had been canvassing among the members in his interest. Owing to this public exposure, the further consideration of the matter has been deferred, and it is to be hoped that, on second thoughts, the Council will adopt the assessors' award. To set it aside in the way proposed would be a flagrant injustice, both to the competitors and to Mr. Waterhouse, whose engagement as assessor was doubtless accepted by many as a guarantee that the competition would be honourably conducted.

The Kent County Council seem to have been greatly incensed by some strictures on the condition of Barming Heath Asylum in the recent annual report of the Lunacy Commissioners. The Commissioners complained of the serious overcrowding of the asylum, there being 350 patients in excess of the proper number, and also drew attention to various defects and shortcomings in the state of some of the wards, and the general arrangements of the place. At a recent meeting of the Council the Chairman contemptuously described the report "as being about the value of the paper it was written on," two worthy Aldermen "spoke in contraversion" of it, and Councillor J. G. Talbot, M.P., proffered the brilliant suggestion that a representation should be made to the Home Office, his idea being, I suppose, that the Lunacy Commissioners would be called over the coals by Sir Matthew White Ridley for daring to criticise an institution under the management of these Kentish Bumbles. Comment upon the impertinence of the Council in thus flouting the Commissioners is needless.

It is the artful practice of many local governing bodies to go into committee—which means excluding the public and the reporters—when they have in hand some job which is likely to meet with the disapproval of their constituents. The West Bromwich Guardians resorted to this trick last week, but, unfortunately for its success, an account of the proceedings found its way into the Press. It then transpired that the Guardians considered a letter, marked "private," from the clerk, and that after a forty minutes' oration from that functionary, they agreed to allow him a bonus of £200, and to increase his salary from £225 to £425 per annum. In regard to the number of his local appointments the gentleman in question appears to be a regular Pooh-Bah, for besides the clerkship to the West Bromwich Union, he holds a

dozen or more other public offices, and his total income from such sources is said to be upwards of £1,500. Moreover, as he is not himself a solicitor, the legal work of the Union constitutes an extra charge on the rates, and it so happens that the solicitors employed by the Board are his sons. In view of these circumstances, the procedure at the meeting last week was peculiarly objectionable. Even if this pluralist really has a fair claim to an increased stipend for that portion of his time and ability which he devotes to the West Bromwich Union, the matter ought not to have been dealt with in the hole-and-corner fashion which the Guardians adopted.

In an advertisement for an Assistant Medical Officer of the Portsmouth Lunatic Asylum, the Committee state that a candidate with previous experience in an asylum will be preferred. I hope this means that in the present instance the Committee will appoint the best qualified man they can get for the berth. The fact that they have issued such an advertisement is, at any rate, an effective commentary upon their scandalous action a few months ago, when, without inviting other applications or making the slightest pretence at selection, they jobbed a gentleman with no training whatever in asylum administration or lunacy work into the far more important (and more valuable) post of Medical Superintendent.

Here they are again, the same old Bumbles, wrangling and jangling, and generally making fools of themselves over the same old question of the pauper's Christmas beer! Already I have been invited to criticise about a dozen of these annual performances, and I shall be agreeably surprised if I do not hear of many more during the next fortnight or so. But unless they reveal some quite exceptional quality of bigotry or silliness or stupidity, I really fail to see the use of noticing the vapourings of all the churls and fanatics who object to the pauper having half a pint of beer with his Christmas dinner. In the discussions, so far, the only novel note seems to have been struck by two anti-beer Guardians on the Edmonton Board. They both protested against allowing the workhouse inmates any more beer at Christmas, on the ground that the last lot they had was very inferior stuff. This was surely a reason for getting better liquor, rather than for cutting off the supply altogether, which was what the Edmonton Guardians determined to do.

For straightforward, downright, ruthless vandalism commend me to the Salford Borough Council. Among the pictures in the Municipal Art Gallery are portraits of Sir Robert Peel, Lord Stanley, John Dalton, and six local worthies, which at present "take up a great amount of room." For this reason the Council last week decided to "cut down" these nine pictures by depriving Sir Robert Peel and the rest of their legs, removing chairs and other accessories, and so reducing the portraits to kit-cat size! I have never had a very exalted opinion of the Salford Corporation, but I did not think they were capable of perpetrating such a horrid atrocity as this. Very likely, too, they are destroying what are really the most artistic portions of the pictures.

I have received, on very good authority, an answer to the question propounded in last week's TRUTH as to the legality of selling in England tickets for Irish or foreign lotteries. My authority is Mr. G. H. Stutfield, author of a learned work on betting and gambling, who refers me to various statutes of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Georges, the effect of which is to make it illegal to sell tickets in any lottery not authorised by Act of Parliament, whether carried on abroad or in the United Kingdom. By the statute of George IV., any one convicted of this offence is liable to a penalty of £50, and to be dealt with as a rogue and a vagabond. I trust that after this Irish priests will cease to solicit her Majesty's subjects on this side of St. George's Channel to sell lottery tickets, either on commission or otherwise.

Apropos of the agitation for the appointment of resident county magistrates at Aldershot, "A Radical Captain" mentions that the Bench in that district is composed exclusively of Tories. There is not a single Liberal among the Justices in the neighbourhood, nor in the Odiham Petty Sessional Division, nor in the Basingstoke Division of Hampshire—in fact, since Lord Northbrook became Lord Lieutenant of the county he has not nominated a single magistrate from the Party to which he once belonged. Lord Herschell had it in his power to do something to remedy this grievance; but he weakly allowed his opportunity to pass, and so long as his successor remains in office it is hopeless to expect that the boycott against Liberals in connection with the county magistracy will be removed.

A number of magistrates from different parts of the country write to tell me that they also adopt the system, described in last week's TRUTH, of handing over to their clerks all the shilling fees paid on statutory declarations. I am quite content to admit that this is the usual course, and so save any more gentlemen the trouble of writing. It is highly gratifying, however, to receive so many letters on the subject, for it shows that the Great Unpaid are reading their TRUTH regularly. By the way, I erred the other day, through misreading the letter of a legal correspondent, in saying that all declarations before magistrates are exempt from stamp duty. Compulsory declarations are so exempt, but voluntary declarations are liable to the duty. In how many cases is it paid?

In justice to Dr. Trapani, the Maltese magistrate whose sentence on an English soldier was noticed in TRUTH the other day, it should be stated that the expression that the prisoner "had acted under the influence of uncontrollable passion," which the magistrate used as a reason for mitigating the penalty, appears to be a mistranslation of a phrase well known in Italian jurisprudence, and bearing a totally different significance. The words used by the magistrate were, I understand, equivalent to the English phrase "under very strong provocation." My informant on this point is a gentleman who knows Dr. Trapani, and gives him a high character for learning, acumen, and impartiality.

The Commissioner of Assize at Stafford enunciated a decidedly startling and dangerous doctrine in the first of the cases which head my Legal Pillory this week. By reckless driving a man causes the death of a child and seriously injures three other persons; but, because he was drunk at the time, he is let off—much to his surprise, for he had tried to prove that he was sober—with a more lenient sentence than he would otherwise have received. Is drunkenness, then, to be considered in extenuation of crime? Would the half-witted fellow whom Mr. Darling, Q.C., condemned to seven years' penal servitude have escaped more easily if it had been found that his outbreak of violence was the result of over-indulgence in drink rather than of inherent mental affliction? Above all, is drunkenness to be treated as a mitigating circumstance in offences against property as well as against the person? With regard to the following performances of the amateur magistracy, the contrast between the penalties for assaults and cruelty and those for poaching, petty larceny and vagrancy speaks eloquently enough for itself:—

Staffordshire Assizes. Before Mr. C. J. Darling, Q.C., Commissioner. John Stanworth, convicted of manslaughter. Prisoner drove a horse and trap over a party of four persons, who were sitting on a grass plot at the corner of a road, seriously injuring three of them and killing the fourth, a little boy. Witnesses for the defence said the prisoner was sober. The jury, however, in recommending the prisoner to mercy, expressed the opinion that he was drunk, and the Commissioner said that with that opinion he entirely agreed. Had he believed that the prisoner was sober at the time, the sentence would probably have been more severe. One month.

Keighley Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. R. N. Smith) and other magistrates. Robert Howcroft, convicted of cruelty to a horse. Because the horse was unable to draw a load, defendant took his whip and rammed the stock five times down the animal's throat. Fined 40s. and costs.

Hereford Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Elizabeth Hall, charged with ill-treating her step daughter, aged eleven years. Defendant beat the child about the head and face with her fists, knocked her down, and then stood on her side. The child went to some neighbours with her face and mouth bruised and bleeding, and her apron smothered with blood. She had been repeatedly struck and kicked. Defendant had been previously convicted of a similar offence, and the Bench said they would give her "another warning." Fined £1 and costs.

Rotherham Police-court. Joseph Henry Rodwell convicted of an aggravated assault on his mother. He struck her on the head with a poker, inflicting a wound which had to be dressed by a doctor. Fined 40s. and costs.

Staffordshire Assizes. Before Mr. C. J. Darling, Q.C., Commissioner. Edward White, convicted of maliciously wounding a policeman. He attacked the officer from behind with a poker, inflicting severe injuries to his head. A question was raised as to the prisoner's mental condition, and a doctor said he was a man of a low type of intellect, though not insane. Seven years' penal servitude.

Mary Ann Harlow, convicted of attempting to comm tsuicide. Six months.

Ludlow Police-court. Before Captain Parkinson. Charles Bunt, charged with begging. He said he was "not much use for work," as his right leg was paralysed. The police had no record against him. Seven days.

Dorchester Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. J. Paine) and Mr. G. Davis. Emily Lake, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Bishop Auckland Police-court. Mary Spencer pleaded guilty to stealing a pair of boots. One month.

Ixworth Petty Sessions. Before Sir Thomas Thornhill, Messrs. W. N. King, and G. E. Payne. Frederick Smith, charged with poaching. One month.

Grimsby Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. George Goodwin, fishing apprentice from the Chatham Workhouse, charged with neglecting to go to sea. Fourteen days.

Savoy Hotel, Savoy Restaurant, London. Large reception-rooms for fashionable réunions. Orchestra plays daily during dinner and opera supper.

Teddington Petty Sessions. John Manning, horse master in the employ of an omnibus company, charged with cruelty. Thirty-six horses under defendant's charge were left for several weeks in a field at Bushey Park, where they were so shockingly starved that after eating the bushes and lower branches of the trees, they gnawed at the wooden fencing, some of the staves being, a witness said, "eaten clean away." The horses were described as "simply skin and bone." Fined £5 and costs.

Bristol Police-court. Before Messrs. W. A. Todd and F. J. Fry. James Hazell pleaded guilty to assaulting his wife, who said he hit her two or three times in the face and threw a vase at her, after which he hurled a lighted paraffin lamp at her. The lamp struck her on the head and was broken, and she ran out of the house with blood and oil streaming down her hair. Her injuries were attended to at the infirmary. Fined 10s. and costs for the assault, and ordered to allow his wife 12s. a week under a separation order.

Downham Market Petty Sessions. Before Mr. E. R. M. Pratt and other magistrates. George Blaxter, dealer, convicted of cruelty to a horse. Although the animal was in a shocking state, having a hoof off its near hind foot, it was placed by defendant in a field where a policeman next day traced its walks by the blood on the grass. It was afterwards destroyed. Fined 40s. and costs.

Taunton Police-court. Joseph Band pleaded guilty to assaulting William Pavey. The assault was of a serious character, defendant attacking complainant several times, and knocking him down and kicking him. Fined £1.

Wells City Police-court. Before the Mayor (Mr. J. H. Holloway) and Mr. J. Slater. William Barwell, aged 17, charged with stealing two brushes. Three months.

Epping Petty Sessions. Before Major Tait, Messrs. G. Buxton, W. Patchett, W. Smith, and Dr. Hurford. Henry Butcher, charged with stealing two fowls. One month.

Lyndhurst Police-court. Before Lieut.-Colonel M. Powell and Mr. W. F. Rawnsley. Charles Drake and Walter Early, charged with poaching. Drake, one month; Early three months, and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

St. Austell Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Hext and Mr. J. E. Veale. Frederick Cann, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Bournemouth Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. W. Moore and other magistrates. Three men named Carter, Willouby, and Stanley, charged with begging. They were singing in the streets, and said they were unable to get work, and were trying to get money for food and lodgings. Seven days each.

Dronfield Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. A. Milner, J. H. Harrison, and Dr. Rooth. Arthur Peat, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 and 15s. costs.

A barrister sends me from India a characteristic story of the administration of justice in that country. It appears that a serious riot occurred at Kalugumali, in the Tinnevelly District, a number of Shanars (most of them Christians) being attacked and maltreated, and having their property destroyed by a mob of Hindus of other castes. The latter were present in great force, outnumbering the Shanars in the proportion of 100 to 1, and there was overwhelming proof that they were the aggressors. For some reason or other, however, the police throughout sided with the stronger party, and directed their prosecutions against the ill-used Shanars, more than thirty of whom were finally convicted at the Sessions Court. Fortunately, there was an appeal to the Madras High Court, which ended in the Judges acquitting all the Shanar prisoners, and expressing the opinion that the evidence against them was false and concocted.

So far, therefore, a gross and deliberately contrived miscarriage of justice in the case was frustrated. But while the authorities were taking proceedings against the Shanars, some of the latter themselves instigated counter charges against their Hindu assailants. Through the influence of the police these charges were dismissed by the local magistrate, and in this instance no appeal

could be filed without the sanction of the Government. In view of the decision of the High Court, such an appeal was certainly desirable; for it was possible, at any rate, that it might have shown, that just as there had been a wrongful conviction in the first case, so there had been a wrongful acquittal in the second. But the Government have declined to allow the appeal for which the Shanars petitioned, refused all redress for the loss and injustice they have suffered, and have taken no notice whatever of the misconduct on the part of the police which was revealed in the High Court. With cases like this occurring, as they do, not infrequently, it is no wonder that widespread misgivings are entertained with regard to, not only the trustworthiness and competence of the police and subordinate magistracy, but the desire of higher officialdom to see right done.

Bankruptcy is, I suppose, a serious business for some people, but to the outside spectator the comic side of it is usually more conspicuous than the serious. For instance, I have been looking at the trustee's final statement in the matter of Mr. Adolphe Henri Chamberlyn, which shows that the debtor's assets, estimated to produce £1,170, actually yielded £6. 5s., made up of £5 deposit on petition, and "other property," to wit, a punt, value £1. 5s. Mr. Chamberlyn, therefore, when he went into liquidation, seems to have been worth exactly £5 and a punt—and not a very valuable punt at that. Needless to say, the whole of the £6. 5s. went in fees and other costs, and as the total expenses of the liquidation were £18. 19s. 8d., there remains a balance of £12. 14s. 8d. due to the Official Receiver as trustee. It comes, therefore, to this—that, in order to relieve Mr. Chamberlyn of his liabilities, his £5 and his punt have been handed over to shorthand-writers and bankruptcy officials, and that a further sum of £12. 14s. 8d. has now to be provided, at the expense, I suppose, of the community at large. A very good joke all round—especially for Chamberlyn.

In endorsing what I said as to the absurdity of the provision of the Post Office Act, which makes such an offence as the theft of a letter triable only at Assizes, a Devonshire magistrate mentions an interesting fact. At the Quarter Sessions at Exeter, a week or two after the committal of the prisoner to whom I referred, this magistrate and his colleagues had before them two cases in which the maximum sentence on conviction is ten years' penal servitude; yet they could not deal with a simple charge of stealing a letter, and the accused had, in consequence, to remain in gaol for nearly five months, awaiting his trial for a crime which Mr. Justice Mathew ultimately judged deserving of only four months' imprisonment. During the present year an Act has been passed extending the jurisdiction of Quarter Sessions to charges of burglary, and next year Parliament might usefully be asked to remove this glaring anomaly with regard to prosecutions for thefts from the Post Office.

The *Scots Magazine* says, "Fallen Angels" is a very clever, ably-written, ethico-religious work." 5th thousand now ready. 8vo, pp. 260, cloth, 2s. 6d., post free,—Gay & Bird, 22, Bedford-st., London.

The other day an inquiry was held by the Sheriff at Maxwelltown Prison concerning the death of a prisoner named Taylor, who had been committed from Stranraer for fourteen days' imprisonment. This man was in such a weak state when he was admitted to the prison that he had to be carried to his cell, and a few days afterwards he died. The medical officer stated that the deceased suffered from shaking palsy, a trouble which had probably affected him for years. For what serious crime, it may be asked, was this poor palsied wreck of humanity sent to die in gaol? According to the evidence of the warder, it was simply for *keeping his house in a dirty, unwholesome, and insanitary condition*, and what is more, he had only a few weeks previously, when in the same weak state, suffered a fortnight's imprisonment for a similar offence. Unfortunately the Sheriff held that the circumstances of the man's committal to prison were beyond the scope of his inquiry, and so the names of the officials who prosecuted and the magistrates who passed this sentence did not transpire. This is greatly to be regretted, for though I suppose it would not be possible to secure these hard-hearted and wooden-headed gentry the taste of prison life which would be their most fitting reward, it would be some satisfaction at any rate to hold them up by name to the contempt and indignation of the public.

A petition, signed by the Vicar of St. Mary, Primrose Hill, and a number of residents in the neighbourhood was lately sent to the Home Secretary on behalf of Alfred Nott, a cabdriver, who at the beginning of last month was sentenced by Mr. Curtis Bennett to six weeks' hard labour, and his licence revoked. Nott's vehicle collided with an empty hansom, which was upset, and Nott seems to have been punished on account of this accident. He was not given time to obtain the evidence of the passenger whom he was driving, but this lady has since made a statement, from which it would appear that he was not to blame for what happened, and if she had been called as a witness the case would probably have had a different result. Considering the fact that Nott had held a licence for thirty-six years without a single complaint being previously made against him, the sentence was monstrously heavy, and I am astonished that the Home Secretary has not reduced it. I hope he will, at any rate, modify the penalty to the extent of returning the man's licence.

There seems to be a strong opinion at Hampstead that a serious miscarriage of justice occurred in the recent conviction of a local police-constable named Murray on a charge of perjury. A man named Parrent was summoned before the Hampstead magistrates for wilfully damaging property by pushing off the stone caps of the gate pillars at several houses; and on the evidence of Murray he was convicted and fined. Parrent then prosecuted Murray for

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Winter Season, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

perjury, and at the trial at the Old Bailey the jury found him guilty, and the Common Serjeant sentenced him to nine months' hard labour. The evidence on which the conviction was obtained consisted—first, of Parrent's denial that he committed the damage, or was at the spot mentioned by the constable, and, secondly, of medical evidence to show that Parrent, owing to one of his arms being partly useless, was physically incapable of doing what he was alleged to have done. Perjury, it is well known, must be proved by two witnesses or by one witness with adequate confirmation. In this instance the only confirmation was the medical testimony as to Parrent's inability to do the damage, and against this witnesses for the defence deposed that the pillar-caps in question could be pushed off with comparative ease. That the medical evidence should have been in these circumstances treated as adequate confirmation of the prosecutor's oath is certainly surprising.

Another point in the case is the fact that throughout the trial, in the speeches of counsel and in the summing up of the Common Serjeant, a great deal of attention was paid to the proceedings of the Hampstead magistrates. These gentlemen possibly deserved the severe wigging which they received from Sir Forrest Fulton for their conduct in the case, but, though Murray was not responsible for what they did, it is quite conceivable that the strong language which was used on this irrelevant matter may have prejudiced him in the minds of the jury. A memorial has been presented to the Home Secretary on behalf of Murray; and in view of all the circumstances it is undoubtedly a case in which a pardon should be granted. It seems clear that the man ought never to have been convicted, for if the jury were satisfied that Parrent was not guilty of the damage with which he was charged, they might still have justly given Murray the benefit of the doubt by treating it as a case of mistaken identity on his part.

The Sedgley Stipendiary seems to have come down with rather a heavy hand on one Sheldon, a rag and bone gatherer, for a contravention of the county by-laws by blowing a horn to the annoyance of the inhabitants. The defendant, who had been in the habit of using the instrument to attract customers, pleaded ignorance of the by-law; and the Stipendiary himself mentioned that it was the first case of the kind in the district; but, nevertheless, a penalty of 17s. was imposed. The regulation is, doubtless, an excellent one; but, by way of beginning its enforcement, a nominal penalty would surely have been sufficient, more especially as the defendant was a poor man, with a wife and family dependent upon him.

In regard to the practice of ordering poachers, in addition to the penalty, to find sureties for their future good behaviour, a Suffolk J.P. points out that ever since the passing of the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1879, magistrates have full power to dispense (as his Bench always does) with this requirement. The fact that the order is no longer obligatory has often been mentioned in TRUTH, but it may be useful to repeat it once more; for, as my correspondent goes on to say, "It is quite possible that even now some Justices may be ignorant of this happy change in the law." This remark shows a true, if scarcely flattering, appreciation of the competence of many of our amateur magistracy, and I have no doubt that some at least of the hard cases I pillory are the outcome of downright ignorance of the alteration which was made in the law seventeen years ago. On the other hand, I fear the demanding of sureties from poachers is also frequently prompted by a purely vindictive desire to subject the offenders to the further six months' imprisonment which they have to undergo if they fail to obtain bondsmen. It is a monstrous method of increasing the punishment, and the power of calling for sureties in such cases ought to be altogether swept away.

Last week Mr. Justice Day let himself go with a vengeance on his favourite topic of corporal punishment. He had to deal at Derby Assizes with an old offender who had obtained a mackintosh and other articles by false pretences. First of all, his lordship painted a rosy picture of the prison as a pleasant retreat, which men like the prisoner looked upon as their home—a place where they were "kept in idleness and provided with all sorts of comforts" at the expense of the community. I may remark in passing that this view of the matter only makes it the more amazing that the learned Judge should give the criminals who come before him such very long spells in these pleasant and comfortable quarters. But what I particularly wish to call attention to is the extraordinary remark which followed. "If he had his way," his lordship went on to observe, "he would never send a man to gaol except to receive corporal punishment. Men should be kept in prison only a short time, but they should be well flogged."

Now if Mr. Justice Day were content to exert his influence in favour of the application of the cat to the brutes who outrage women and children, or even generally to men guilty of serious and repeated offences against the person, I am sure that many people (myself amongst the number) would sympathise with his efforts. But to advocate, as he is reported to have done, the indiscriminate flogging of every man committed to prison—whether he has been convicted of pitch and toss or manslaughter, obtaining a mackintosh by fraud or half murdering his wife—is unmitigated nonsense, and it is astonishing that a judge should have ventured to give utterance to it. We might as well be asked to go back to the old code under which men were hanged for sheep-stealing and similar crimes.

I should like to know more of Mr. Robert Forster, of 16, Victoria-road, Darlington. This gentleman is

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apparently acting as a local agent for the notorious James Aspdin, of Pendock, Tewkesbury, the presiding genius of the "Anglo-Canadian Farm Pupil Association." In a printed circular that he issues in connection with his farm pupil operations Mr. Forster states (referring to the allegations against the Anglo-Canadian gang), "I have now investigated the matter thoroughly for myself, with the result that I am fully convinced that Mr. Aspdin is the victim of a most diabolical plot, hatched by dishonest Canadian Government officials, and carried out with fiendish ingenuity by an unscrupulous journalist," &c.

Now, I presume that I am the "unscrupulous journalist" of "fiendish ingenuity." The "dishonest Canadian Government" officials are those in Canada, and here, who have done their best to warn English parents against the swindling character of the traffic in farm pupils carried on by Aspdin and others in the same line of business. If Mr. Robert Forster has now obtained evidence of the diabolical plot hatched by these dishonest Government officials, it would only be a kindness on his part, and an act of prudence on the part of Aspdin himself, were they to publish their evidence and unmask the plotters without delay. At present the matter stands thus: that after the Canadian Government issued its first warnings against the farm-pupil swindlers, Aspdin and Co. printed and distributed circulars, categorically stating that their concern had been officially exempted from the Government condemnation. This assertion has been denied by the Canadian authorities, and there was never any better authority for it than the word of the disreputable old Doctor of Divinity, now deceased, who so long acted as Aspdin's agent and decoy in Ontario, and whose character was notorious throughout the province. Not only, therefore, are Aspdin & Co. included in the official condemnations and warnings issued by the Canadian Government, but they stand convicted of an unscrupulous attempt to relieve themselves of this stigma by publishing impudent falsehoods. That they should possess evidence that they are the victims of a diabolical plot by dishonest officials, and yet refrain from clearing themselves (except by the private circulation of scurrilous leaflets), will strike most people as a little thin.

I do not intend at this moment to go again over the whole catalogue of James Aspdin's misdeeds; but, as he and his confederates appear to be as active as ever, and seem to stick at nothing in the way of mis-statement or abuse, I would remind the public, further, that everything that has appeared in TRUTH respecting the Anglo-Canadian gang has come either from the Canadian Government or from the parents of lads who have been victimised by the farm pupil trick, or from what has transpired in police-courts in Canada. To this it may be added that the only attempts that Aspdin has ever made to defend himself have taken the form of (1) endeavouring to extort retractations from my informants by threatening them with libel actions, which threats he has never carried out; (2) uttering the grossest slanders against the young men whom he has previously wronged—in one case supported by sworn declarations which he had obtained from his own agents and tools in Canada; (3) privately circulating abuse of TRUTH in such leaflets as the one I quote from above. What Aspdin is and what his statements are worth, the public pretty well know by this time. But I should feel much indebted to any one who can enlighten me further concerning Mr. Robert Forster, who is now fighting Aspdin's battle and playing his game at Darlington.

Some information has been sent to me from Preston concerning the "Rev. S. Horn," who lately advertised from an address in that town as an agent of the Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis. It turns out that "Horn" is not a new representative of that notorious concern, but merely our old friend the "Rev. J. Rogers," alias "G. Elliott," under yet another name. The last time I heard of Rogers he was carrying on his bogus degree business in London. About three months ago he appears to have betaken himself to the provinces, and the address at Preston which I mentioned last week is a newsagent's shop, where he arranged for the receipt of letters addressed to the "Rev. S. Horn," such letters having to be re-addressed to the "Rev. J. Rogers, the Poplars, Ulverston." Two or three weeks later, however, the newsagent saw a paragraph in these columns which caused him to refuse to take in any more correspondence for Rogers (a decision which stands out, by the way, in favourable contrast to the conduct of most providers of accommodation addresses in London). The newsagent tells me, in fact, that if he had himself seen Rogers in the first instance he would never have given him permission to use the address, so unfavourable was the impression which the reverend gentleman's appearance created when he again called at the shop. Since then Rogers is believed to have been using a fresh address in some back street at Preston, though he seems to have returned from Ulverston to London. Apart from the other evidence that has been given of the utterly worthless, not to say fraudulent, character of the "degrees" that are sold, the shady methods of the touts employed by this so-called University ought to be sufficient to open the eyes of the public to the true nature of its disreputable traffic.

People receiving a pair of driving reins from "H. Clarke," of 136, Great Charles-street, Birmingham, accompanied by pathetic references to the writer's distressed condition, and entreaties to buy the articles at £1, will do well to understand that Clarke is simply an ordinary tradesman, who adopts this method of disposing of his

A great attraction this Christmas, at 173, New Bond-street, will be Messrs. CHARBONNELL & WALKER'S superb show of PARISIAN NOVELTIES. Their *salons* are filled with treasures of artistic excellence in every variety. They are too beautiful to describe, and as all the world should see them we will only add that everything that is lovely and poetic in the shape of novelties will be found there.

The Winter of 1896. The CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, Shadwell, E., Appeals for Donations and New Annual Subscriptions. At the present season funds are most urgently required.

goods. As I have pointed out before, the best way of stopping this annoyance is to decline to return the goods, and let Clarke fetch them if he wants them back. As he sends his wares all over the country (the last case I heard of came from Suffolk) a few experiences of this kind would doubtless lead him to adopt a more remunerative system of trading.

I fear that I may incur the wrath of the Anti-Gambling League by having invited answers to the question whether there are more acres in Yorkshire than letters in the Bible. One lives and learns, and I have now learned that in the North of England, at any rate, more betting goes on over this question than over any other subject, with the exception of horse-racing and football. Why this should be I do not know; for, judging by the number of letters I have received, it seems to be almost universally known that Yorkshire wins, though it is not quite clear by how much. There is a general agreement that the number of letters in the Bible is exactly 3,566,480; but there is some diversity of opinion as to the precise number of acres in Yorkshire. Whitaker's Almanack puts it at 3,724,703. Several other different totals have been given to me, but I myself always swear by Whitaker. Perhaps if the Anti-Gambling League were to publish these figures, it would put a stop to further betting on this highly interesting question.

How many more times shall I have to explain that I cannot act upon anonymous communications? I mention the fact again for the special benefit of a gentleman who has just addressed me at some length respecting an alleged ecclesiastical job in Worcestershire. He indicates how his information may be verified, but before I can take any trouble in the matter I must ask him to disclose his own name and address to me privately—not, of course, for publication.

Many have written to me to ask me how I could assert that a discovery had been made by two Scotch boys that will enable a ship to cross the Atlantic moved by electricity contained in a jam pot? I never said that a ship will ever do this, but that the boys had made a discovery purporting to be thus potent, and that certain moneyed gentlemen so strongly believed in the discovery that they had patented it, and were building a yacht which is to be propelled by this simple motive power. Of course the jam pot is a way of saying that the primary battery will be very small. But I know no reason why a primary battery should not be discovered which would render dynamos unnecessary. Primary batteries, of course, exist; indeed, any one may make one by putting a shilling on the top of his tongue and a penny at the bottom and bringing the ends of the two coins together. But they are comparatively weak and costly. Why should not some one hit upon one strong and cheap? Anent batteries, an engineer of eminence was telling me, apropos of my having said that the new battery was, I understood, produced by uniting cinders and salt water, that it has long been well known that, if a pile is to be driven into the sea and a cart-load of cinders be thrown around it, a certain action is set up which renders the driving easy.

Many people have been seriously exercised respecting a new anti-fat treatment, of which my Paris correspondent gave some account in Truth of November 19. Warned by past experience, I must decline, politely but firmly, to open my columns to a fresh discussion of this exciting topic. But it seems incumbent on me to mention that both ladies and doctors have addressed to me warnings against any restriction of the normal allowance of drink, except under medical advice. There is, no doubt, wisdom in this warning; and I would go further, by recommending every person, male or female, to make no attempt to reduce obesity unless with the full knowledge and approval of their doctors.

A sensible person, whether man or woman, dresses according to the custom of the country in which he finds himself or herself, in order to evade attracting attention to his apparel. A Bill has been introduced into the Alabama Legislature which proposes to make it unlawful for women to wear skirt-waists, tight-fitting jerseys, bloomers, or divided skirts, or to appear in stockings fastened above the knee; the top of their bodices, moreover, must not be more than 3 in. below the juncture of the chin and throat. Why forbid tight-fitting jerseys? Why this arbitrary measurement of the top of bodices, which evidently would make a distinction in the high-water mark between women with long and short necks? All this is senseless nonsense. There is no more indecency in a woman showing her shoulders, or her arms, or arraying herself in a divided skirt than in showing her hands without gloves. What is called decency in dress is a matter of convention.

An impudent paragraph has appeared in a trade paper called the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, suggesting that when I published, the other day, information derived from the office of the Pharmaceutical Society, I was either inventing or repeating the inventions of the gentleman whom I sent to the Society's office. It is fortunate that this pharmaceutical journalist is employed in a newspaper office rather than in a chemist's shop, or his hastiness and lack of perception might be attended with fatal results. The fact is that I sent to the Pharmaceutical Society for a certain information, and it was accorded without any hesitation. My representative states that he was courteously received, and spent some time in conversation with the official in charge. As this publication states that "inquiry on the spot fails to throw any light on the matter," I conclude that its representative has been less fortunate than mine, which may have made him angry, but does not justify him in calling me a liar.

Sportsmen Declare "Normal Sporting Powder" best of all. Sample Cartridges Gratis.—The Normal Powder Syndicate, 38, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

The strange thing about it is that while this pharmaceutical scribe has gone out of his way to publish these offensive remarks, he carefully avoids the real question at issue—which is, that the Pharmaceutical Society refuses to allow Irish licentiates to trade in England because it is not satisfied with the Irish examination. I made that statement on the authority of a representative of the Pharmaceutical Society. Is the statement denied, or is it not? If it is to be denied, let the Society officially deny it. I do not believe that it will do so, and I do not believe it will contradict me when I say that it has in specific cases found Irish licentiates to be incapable of passing the English examinations. At any rate, it is certain that the Society does refuse to recognise the Irish qualification, and why an English trade journal should fall foul of me for stating that the Society has the best reason for this refusal is more than I can understand.

The Berlin sensational trial has been a rude shock to me. I had always supposed that exalted persons like Ministers were far above all such weakness as to endeavour secretly to trip each other up. I had thought that each loved his colleagues almost more than himself, and that all were engaged in the noble task of unitedly furthering what they conceived to be the welfare of their country. And yet in Prussia it would seem the very reverse is the case, for every Prussian Minister appears to have striven to bring the other into ridicule and contempt. Let us rejoice that this is never so with our Ministers, and that English Cabinets are always the abode of love, from which, as from Heaven, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness are banished.

The "plain story of the Harcourt-Rosebery rift," which appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of Monday last, is, I should fancy, in its main features correct. It will be remembered that Lord Rosebery stated in his last dying speech and confession at Edinburgh, that he had offered to resign the Leadership of the Liberal Party immediately after the General Election. As this offer was apparently made, after he had informed his late colleagues that he would in future hold no political communications with the House of Commons Party Leader, these ex-colleagues should either have accepted it or have declared that they would adopt the same course as their Leader, if they considered themselves the sole Court of Appeal. How could they have imagined that it was possible for the Party under such conditions to present a firm and united front to the enemy! Let us suppose that Lord Salisbury were to send a circular to the members of his Cabinet announcing that he would in future hold no communication with Mr. Arthur Balfour on public business. What would be thought of the Unionist Leaders if they concealed the fact of this rift from their Party, and endeavoured to carry on as though nothing had occurred? Things had, in truth, got to such a pass with Liberal officialdom, when this letter of Lord Rosebery's was written, and after he had declined to withdraw it, that the Party should have been called together for consultation, and invited, with a full knowledge of all that had occurred, to decide between Lord Rosebery and Sir William Harcourt. But everything connected with the selection of the Leader on Mr. Gladstone's resignation, and, with the crisis arising out of this selection, was treated as though the Liberal Party were composed of pawns ready humbly to accept any Leader and any policy, at the bidding of some dozen Brahmins little known outside official circles. The story is not a creditable one to the Liberal Party, and I trust that the Party will in future have sufficient independence to take care that it can never be repeated.

Put briefly, Mr. Curzon's simple creed, to judge by his recent utterances, appears to be this: The conduct of our foreign relations requires an amount of ability that neither the country nor the country's representatives possess. It ought, therefore, to be left entirely to more experienced heads, and that the dispensation of Providence which endows Peers with hereditary legislative ability also vouchsafes to them special hereditary wisdom in all connected with our foreign relations. The less, therefore, that the House of Commons meddles with them the better. The aim of these gifted Peers is to increase the area of the Empire everywhere. If by any chance this policy has received at any time a rebuff from those who object to our conquering them, an early opportunity should be taken to punish them.

Thus, we recognised the independence of the Boers after we were defeated at Majuba Hill, and Gordon lost his life in an endeavour to establish our rule over the Soudan. These two events occurred, it is true, under a Ministry in which a Peer was Foreign Secretary, but this Peer was under the baneful influence of a malignant enemy of the honour of his country—one Gladstone. It therefore becomes the duty of a Ministry in which a Peer is both Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, and a Peer's son is Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, to punish Boers and Soudanese for their hideous wickedness in having dared to fight successfully for their independence. As foreign countries may object to our alteration of the text, "The earth is the Lord's", into "The earth is ours," it is the duty of the House of Commons to vote money for armaments in order to force all to recognise our new reading of the text. The duty of the House of Commons begins and ends with voting money to pay for all that the Foreign Office may have done.

There used to be two foreign policies, but this conflicted with the great and glorious principle of continuity. One of these policies was good, the other bad; the first was that of the Conservatives, the second that of the Radicals. But Lord Rosebery renounced the bad policy and adopted the good. Therefore, though Liberals and Conservatives may alternate in office, the Conservative policy is to be that of the country, whichever of the two Parties may be in office. What would the Conservatives say, if it were proposed to them that they should follow

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in the lines of Mr. Gladstone on all foreign issues, in order to maintain the policy of continuity? For my part, every Peer, and every Peer's flunkey, may proclaim a policy, and tell all who do not assent to it that they are enemies to the honour, dignity, and welfare of the Empire; I shall take the liberty, if I happen to disagree with it, to attack it and to denounce it. It is full time that this ignoble surrender of the Liberal Party should come to an end, and that Liberals should nail their colours to the mast. Are we silently to look on whilst every true interest of the Empire is endangered by a blustering, swaggering, quarrelling policy that for years we have protested against?

You are, Mr. Curzon, a clever young gentleman, but neither to you nor to Lord Salisbury are we inclined to surrender our right to have a voice in our own affairs. We shall still take the liberty to venture to ask questions as to what you are doing, and what you intend to do. You prefer the system that prevails in foreign Chambers. There, you say, a question is asked after lengthy notice of it has been given, and to this question the Minister is allowed to reply in a speech. By all means, if to the Minister's speech answers are allowed. If not, by no manner of means.

With Mr. Curzon's observations on the Press, however, I agree to a very considerable extent. The Press is far too apt, in the anxiety of each newspaper to cut the other out, with some sensational announcement, to insert statements entirely incorrect. Then, for a few days, a lively discussion amongst the "organs of public opinion" arises as to the correctness of the statement, varied by articles commenting upon it as though it were true. Finally, it is admitted to be destitute of truth, and it is forgotten in some new statement equally destitute of truth, when the same game is once more played. On its comments upon all matters that may affect us abroad, even when the facts are not in question, the Press is far too apt to bluster, and, under the guise of patriotism, to appeal to the lowest passions. Speaking broadly, I should say that the London Press in no way represents public opinion in respect to our foreign policy, and this I think foreign Statesmen have fully realised. One of the weak points in most English Statesmen is that they are so anxious to be puffed and flattered in the Press, that they grovel in order to obtain this sort of recognition. Whenever I observe that a Statesman finds special favour with the Press, this is to me presumptive evidence that he is a poor creature.

The passion that possesses everybody to be known by name and repute, including their own circle of acquaintances, is becoming a positive mania. When John Jones thinks that persons say as he passes, "That is John Jones," he is happy. But when he has attained such notoriety as for them to say, "That is Jones," and he has become the Jones of all Joneses, then he has indeed attained a pinnacle of bliss. All are bitten with this craze. It matters little to a person how he becomes notorious, provided he does so. I really believe that many look with envy upon any knave who is talked of because he is figuring in the dock. A woman wants her toilette and her parties described. She is also glad when her personal charms are chronicled. I have noticed that there are a certain number of ladies who have almost the monopoly of this sort of advertisement. The curious thing is that when once they have been hall-marked, they never cease to figure as Venuses. One would really suppose that female beauty improves by age, like port wine. Then men are delighted to have their home surroundings described. The arm chairs in which they sit, the pictures on the walls of their rooms, &c., are set forth in glowing terms, as though it could interest man, woman, or child. There seems to me only one difficulty in all this; where every one is notorious, notoriety ceases to be notoriety.

In the main, the London daily press is in the hands of very rich men, more or less connected with *la haute finance*. Its tendency, therefore, is to subordinate the interests of the many to those of the few, and it is possible that it may fairly represent the opinion of the wealthy minority and those parasites who cling to that minority. A London newspaper, although it may start as a Radical organ, generally sooner or later is bought up by the moneyed classes, and then becomes a Conservative organ. The latest instance of this is the *Sun*. Up to now its politics under Mr. T. P. O'Connor have been Radical. But presumably his Radical views did not find such favour as to render it a monetary success. Therefore, it is anounced that it is sold to a syndicate got together by Mr. Hooley, the fortunate promoter of several large companies, and who has, I believe, come forward as the Conservative candidate in a Liberal constituency for the next General Election. Next year will consequently see the *Sun* a Conservative journal, lauding all that up to then it had denounced, and vowing that the "great heart of the nation" is against all that it has heretofore declared that it favours. Yet what is the only real difference? The paper will belong to a Conservative instead of to a Radical, and evidently this will hardly alter the opinions of the "great heart."

SCRUTATOR.

A CASH ADVANCE ON THE SOUDAN.

THE comments on the decision of the Egyptian International Court of Appeal in our pro-Jingo newspapers have been amusing. The point at issue was a legal one, and there seems no reason to doubt that it has been decided on legal grounds. These Jingoists, therefore, fall back on denouncing the Court for daring to uphold the law on a political matter far beyond their competence. Now, what are the facts? The *Caisse de la Dette* is an arrangement by which an international control is maintained over certain receipts, which go to pay the Egyptian bondholders. Each of the Great Powers is represented on it. Where there is a surplus, this surplus accumulates as a reserve fund. The question was simply whether in

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dealing in a particular way with this surplus, a majority of the members of the Caisse had acted *ultra vires*. This question was referred to the established Court of Appeal, in which power to decide such questions has been vested. This tribunal has decided that, in handing over £500,000 to defray the costs of the Soudan expedition, the majority of the *Caisse de la Dette* controllers had exceeded their powers. "Monstrous!" say the Jingo newspapers. But why? The competence of the tribunal never had been questioned until the decision was given. It does not please us that it should have gone against the Egyptian Government, and therefore we declare the decision to be monstrous. So generally thinks every litigant who does not win his case; for, although technically the Egyptian Government was one of the litigants, in reality, for "Egyptian Government" we must read "British Government."

I am glad that the law is against us, for a more outrageous abuse than to expend this money on a Soudanese war cannot well be conceived. To all intents and purposes, Egypt had ceased to have either a *de jure* or *de facto* right to the Soudan. Ismail had occupied the country. The Egyptians had been driven out of it, and since then the Soudan has had a *de facto* Government, absolutely independent of Egypt. Suddenly—not in Egypt, but in London—a decision to reconquer it was come to. Every species of contradictory plea was put forward for this reconquest. Lord Cromer had officially stated, a few weeks before, that everything was quiet on the frontier, but in Parliament the first plea for the expedition was that the Soudanese were about to invade Egypt. We were next told that Italy had been defeated by the Abyssinians, and that a demonstration against the Soudanese might prove useful to Italy. Then we were told that Gordon's death ought to be avenged. Finally, it was explained that we are very desirous to bring our occupation of Egypt to an end, but that we cannot do this until we have re-established Egyptian rule in the Soudan. This last plea was the very climax of hypocrisy. Our plea for remaining in Egypt up to now has always been that the Egyptians are not able to govern themselves, and that we are only remaining there until we have taught them how to do so. But if the Egyptians cannot govern themselves, how can they govern the Soudanese? Is it likely that our stay in Egypt will be shorter by our insisting on remaining there, not only until the Egyptians have learnt self-government, but also the art of governing their neighbours? The truth of the matter, I take it, is this: we feared that our claim to remain indefinitely in Egypt, because the Egyptians are not fit for self-government, was becoming transparently absurd, in view of the fact that we are doing our best to prevent them from acquiring, by experience, the art of self-government. We therefore thought it well to add to this plea for continued occupation, another, and a more absurd one. The reason why we took action at the particular moment selected was, that we wished to show our friendliness to Italy, and we feared that, if we did not lay hold of the Soudan, nominally for Egypt, really for ourselves, some other Power might.

That the Great Powers, who cannot wish that we should remain eternally in Egypt, should not regret that we have been prevented from laying hands on all the resources of that country, in order to annex vast countries on the Upper Nile for our own benefit, does not surprise me. For my part I regard anything that will tend to lead to our evacuation of Egypt as beneficial; for I believe that, not only is it dishonourable of us to violate our pledges, but that, in this particular instance, our bad faith is a serious and direct danger to us; and in this I find myself in accord with Lord Salisbury, who has again and again stated that he is most anxious that we should withdraw, because occupation is a danger to us, and no gain. The *Times* first tries to show that, by some despicable chicanery, we can evade obeying the tribunal and restoring the money to the Caisse that we have illegally taken from it. But if we fail in doing this, what of it? We shall, it is true, be obliged to find the money for the expedition ourselves; but then "we shall be left in the position of having acquired a good deal of African territory at our own expense and on our own account." Can we wonder at foreign countries being somewhat suspicious of us, when such theories of annexation are put forward? We have been asserting up to now, that it is absolutely necessary that, in the interests of Egypt, the Soudan should belong to her. As we find that, by the international arrangements which we have ourselves entered into, Egypt cannot pay for this conquest, we are to pay, and our pound of flesh is to take the form of keeping the country for ourselves. That we should benefit by acquiring the Soudan no one seems to believe. But what of that? We increase the area of our Empire, and stolen goods are always sweet. Am I quite wrong in asserting, not only that our Jingoes have strange notions of *meum* and *tuum*, but that they are, considered as mere thieves, as unpractical a set of rogues as ever walked on two legs, and were supposed to be endowed with some sort of intelligence? What sensible thief ever schemes to rob empty purses? Let us assume that we do lend £500,000 to Egypt, and that the Continental Powers insist on our withdrawal from that country and the Soudan; is it really imagined that the repayment of this money would not be made? To do so Egypt would only have to borrow from some one else, and to pay off our so-called "mortgage" on the Soudan.

What, then, would I propose? To treat these Soudanese much as the Italians have found it expedient to treat the Abyssinians. There should be a clear line of frontier between Egypt and the Soudan. The *de facto* Government of the latter should be recognised, and made to understand that, if it does not meddle beyond its own frontier, no one will meddle with it inside of that frontier. Soudan should have a port on the Red Sea, and commercial relations should be established. As regards Egypt, we ought to pave the way for withdrawal on the lines of the Drummond Wolff Convention. Such a policy as this is clear and intelligible, with the advantage of being practical and honest.

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RHODES À LA JULIA.

Mr. Stead has issued his pamphlet on the Transvaal raid. Many parts of it are obliterated with black daubs, and this, he explains, is due to some mysterious individual having come to the conclusion, after the type had been set up, that the secrets revealed would be detrimental to interests, personal and Imperial, in London and in South Africa. The context shows pretty clearly that these passages related to Mr. Chamberlain's supposed connivance with the raiders. I sincerely trust, for the honour of the English name, that Mr. Stead has derived his information of the occurrences in connection with this raid rather from his inner consciousness, or from communications with the unseen world, than from actual fact; for such a record of knavery and folly never yet saw the light. Briefly, there were, according to Mr. Stead, conspirators at Johannesburg who were connected with the mining industry there, and who wished for reforms, which would reduce taxation on an industry by which they were netting millions. In Cape Town there were also conspirators, whose interests were also concerned in the Johannesburg mines, and at the head of these latter were Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the Cape Premier, and Sir Graham Bower, the Official Secretary of the High Commissioner for South Africa. In Rhodesia there were Dr. Jameson and his merry men. All three confederated together to lay hold of the Transvaal. Large sums, mainly found by the Cape Town gang, were spent to promote a revolution in Johannesburg, and it was agreed that, on this revolution breaking out, Dr. Jameson, with the Rhodesian forces, was to push forward to Johannesburg, on the plea of defending women and children from being massacred by the Boers.

When all was arranged, the Johannesburg conspirators found that the inhabitants of that town declined to rise at their bidding, although false telegrams were sent, assuring them that Mr. Chamberlain was heart and soul with them. Then followed an exchange of telegrams between Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Mafeking, where the invading army had been collected. Whether Mr. Rhodes really wished Jameson to cross the frontier at once, or whether he was only scheming to be able to escape responsibility if he did cross it, does not appear. But we are assured that the Doctor was under the impression that he was expected to cross it by his Cape Town allies, and under that impression he pushed forward. Be this as it may, there was a concert of lying amongst all. "This," observes Mr. Stead, with delightful frankness, "is one of the disadvantages of war, and even before it breaks out casts a dark trail of subterfuge and deception over the last few weeks and days of peace." A more pitiable and contemptible crew than all these conspirators—if Mr. Stead's account of them be correct—never lived. Each sought to throw responsibility on the other; each thought that some one else ought to risk his skin; each, when the moment arrived for action, called on the other to act. The only man of any pluck and decision amongst them seems to have been Dr. Jameson, but his troops were of the most worthless description. No sooner did they discover that the Boers shot straight, than these heroes, who had performed wondrous deeds of valour with rifles and Maxim guns against savages who did battle with spears, surrendered at discretion.

Mr. Stead would have us believe that these "patriots" only engaged in conspiracy in order to hinder President Kruger from handing the Transvaal over to Germany. Indeed, he compares Mr. Rhodes to Mr. Lincoln. One of the principal purveyors of money for the revolution was Herr Beit, a German gentleman—and, for everything that I know to the contrary, a most estimable German. He is a very large holder in the shares of divers Companies in the Transvaal and in Rhodesia. It is difficult to understand why this Herr should have subscribed money to fight our battles. Although the obvious aim of the pamphlet is to create the impression that President Kruger was intriguing with the German Emperor, and that Mr. Chamberlain was intriguing with Mr. Rhodes, I fail to find one single proof adduced for either of these suggestions. The first is "proved" by means of ink smeared over the pages, which we are asked to believe has behind it evidence that would convince everybody; the other is proved by telling us that a certain "Jeanne," for the original of whom we are informed that we may look in vain as she never existed, discovered, in the cover of a Bible belonging to President Kruger, a treaty entered into between him and the German Emperor.

Almost all the actual facts stated in the pamphlet are to be found in the report of the Select Committee of the Cape Parliament. Naturally, what tells against Mr. Rhodes in the evidence submitted to that Committee is not in the pamphlet. Thus in the pamphlet there is the account given by the Cape Attorney-General of his first interview with Mr. Rhodes after the raid, which also is published in the Report. But in the Report, after recounting Mr. Rhodes's despair, and the impression produced upon himself by this despair, the Attorney-General goes on to say that he was not then aware that Mr. Rhodes had already received a letter threatening the cancellation of the South Africa Company's Charter in consequence of what had occurred, and he sarcastically observes that he had not even then made up his mind whether Mr. Rhodes was in despair because Jameson had crossed the frontier or because of this letter.

I understand that spirits from another world can influence the hand of the person with whom they are brought into communication, with the result that he writes, not what he wishes, but what the spirits wish. I can only account for this pamphlet, which is a strong indictment of the financial gang of South Africa, under guise of defending them, by supposing that Mr. Stead was the scribe, but that a spirit adverse to these worthies is the real author.

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LAWSON, LIQUOR, AND LIBERALISM.

I publish with pleasure the following letter from that veteran of temperance, Sir Wilfrid Lawson. But I still contend that the line of the least resistance is to substitute existing elected authorities for non-elected bodies in the matter of everything connected with the licensing laws. This would ensure the fullest control, for such authorities are elected by the ratepayers. In towns they would be the municipal council, in rural parishes the parish council. Obviously, if a town or a parish did not wish any licence to be granted it would not be granted. Where, too, the ratepayers wished to reduce the number of houses, or the hours during which they are left open, such reductions would be made. Control is not specially ensured by a direct *ad hoc* vote of the people on any matter affecting the people. It is equally exercised through representatives elected by the people. Were this not so, the people would, by our existing Constitution, be without any control, either local or Imperial, over their rulers. As Sir Wilfrid Lawson says: Whether Local Veto, as proposed by him, would be acted on, except in very rare instances, is a matter of opinion. It might be in Wales and Cornwall. But dealing with the question as one affecting the entire United Kingdom, I think that most people are of opinion that it would not be. It is true that the House of Commons in 1883 declared its adhesion to the principle of local veto. But since then the majority of the electors have made it pretty clear that they are neither theoretically nor practically for it. I think, however, that they would be for vesting all control in existing local bodies, for to the principle of local self-government all Radicals—whether friends of temperance or the reverse—assent. As for compensation to the working publican, it should be levied on the liquor trade generally. If such a scheme of compensation as I suggested would render it easier to reduce the present excessive facilities afforded for drinking, why should the friends of temperance object? In fact, I am a stronger advocate for full popular control than Sir Wilfrid, for I would assent to compensation, if I cannot get my way without it.

Dear Truth,—Your article on "Liberalism and Liquor" will be read with interest both by "Aquarius" and by "Bung." There has been some correspondence and writing in some of the newspapers lately which renders it desirable to have the relative positions of the Liberal Party, the Liquor Party, and the Temperance Party made as clear as possible. Will you allow me to contribute a line or two with that object in view? I only use the phrase "Temperance Party" colloquially, as we are all temperance reformers now, but, for my present purpose, it indicates all those who hold the doctrine that the public, and not the publican, should be supreme in liquor legislation. It is now many years since some of those who held this view formulated a measure, under the provisions of which districts would have been permitted to prevent liquor shops being established within their borders. This they did, knowing that where that policy had been pursued, those localities had been greatly benefited, and the curse of intemperance had been vastly diminished, if not entirely removed.

At length Parliament gave a theoretic sanction to this policy by three times passing a resolution in its favour, and on the last occasion declaring that the adoption of such a policy was urgent. That, Sir, was in the year 1883, and the amount of the national drink bill, the state of our prisons, workhouses, and lunatic asylums, and the general condition of our population at the present time show that the "urgency" is pressing now—just as it was thirteen years ago. It must surely always be "urgent" to diminish the pauperism, crime, and lunacy which deface and degrade our country, and what is called the "Temperance movement" is really a crusade against those three evils. Sir William Harcourt, acting for the Liberal Party, introduced a measure which, if passed, would substantially have made the people masters of the liquor trade, instead of the liquor trade being, as it is now, master of the people. If Lord Rosebery be right in declaring that the liquor ring threatens to throttle the commonwealth, then it is evident that hardly any more important measure was ever brought before Parliament.

Sir W. Harcourt disclaimed any attempt at a new licensing measure. He took the law as he found it—the law being that as regards licences (I omit a few classes of licences which are otherwise controlled, or not controlled) the magistrates in granting them should have regard to three things—the character of the man, the suitability of the house, and the wants of the neighbourhood. Sir W. Harcourt made no attempt to interfere with the "discretion" of the magistrates on the first two points, but provided a means—a piece of machinery—by which the magistrates should be informed as to whether districts did, or did not, feel the "want" of drink shops. If the district said "yes," then the magistrates' "discretion" to grant or to withhold licences in that district was not interfered with; but if the district said "no," then the magistrates were not to exercise their discretion in setting up liquor shops there, but the community was to be left in peace. This Bill, if passed, would not of itself have shut up a single public-house; it would only have given local committees the chance or opportunity of doing so. A more simple, or more straightforward, or more democratic measure has never been introduced to the House by any great statesman in our time.

But, Sir, I gather from your article that you want something more—you want some new Licensing Authority. That may be most desirable. But surely you would not wish your new Licensing Authority to have the power of forcing liquor shops into unwilling districts? What becomes of your Democratic principles in that case? I am positive that you would not advocate any such plan. So that you, I conclude, support Local Veto "plus" this new arrangement of Licensing Authorities; and you advocate this because you think Local Veto, with this addition, would be easier carried. Well, my own opinion is that it is easier to carry one sack of potatoes than two, and that it is easier to carry one simple provision which fits into *any* licensing scheme than to complicate it by connecting it with new and very contentious matter. You talk about "full power being given to each locality to work out its own salvation." There I am with you heart and soul.

I would have "full" free trade, "full" religious liberty, "full exercise" of the political franchise. But my experience is that we get these things by degrees and, alas! by very slow degrees. Let us, then, take this one step of Permissive Local Veto, and when we have got that, we can gird up our loins for another step if we find that it is needed.

But you also seem to fear that if the people were set free to take this step that none of them would take it. Forgive me, Sir, if I say that neither you nor I know anything about that. Persons well acquainted with Scotland, with Cornwall, with Wales, and many other districts, have told me their belief that the Veto, if obtained, would be exercised in those places to a very large extent. But there are some far better witnesses to be had than either you or I, or any temperance enthusiasts, and these are the members of the liquor trade itself. These gentlemen prophesy a large adoption of the Veto, and they dread it more than all other temperance legislation put together. The throttlers see in it the weapon by which they will themselves be "throttled." What an instructive sentence is that in which you say: "In London there are few public-houses in fashionable quarters, but their number is legion in the poorer quarters." Yes—and who put them in the poorer quarters? Why, the magistrates, who take care to protect their own quarters. Surely, surely, we might give the poor man as good a chance as the rich man has of protecting himself from these nuisances.

I note also your remarks about compensation. But I don't think that even the British elector—easy as he is to befool—will ever be persuaded that men, who have been paid large sums of public money (for that is what a monopoly means) for selling drink, are also to be paid for not selling it. Well, the sum and substance of my discourse is this: Do not distract our attention by these excellent, very likely, but intricate licensing schemes. Let us stick to Harcourt's simple *policy* (mind, you may amend his clauses, details, and machinery as much as you like if you see your way thereto), which is—No forcing of liquor-shops into districts which wish to be clear of them. This is the honourable, safe, and straightforward path for the Liberal Party, and I, for one, have no fear but that it will, in the end, prove the successful one.—Yours, &c., Wilfrid Lawson.

SCHOOLMASTERISM AT COVENTRY.

I briefly acknowledged last week the receipt of sundry corrections, or contradictions, of the remarks about Coventry Grammar School in Truth of the 26th ult. At the same time I stated my intention of communicating with my original informants before discussing the matter further. This I have now done. Both sides of the case are before me pretty fully, and I feel in

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a position o express a fairly confident opinion on the issue.

I can best deal with the case by taking paragraph by paragraph a communication forwarded to me by Mr. E. W. Dorrington, and signed by himself and five other Assistant Masters in the school. Omitting the exordium the letter begins :—

The paragraphs appear to charge the Headmaster with showing a decided preference to boarders as against day-boys, and with exhibiting conspicuous unfairness towards one boy in particular.

To deal with the latter charge first. The facts which led to the boy's expulsion are briefly these. At the end of last term he wrote to a master of the school a letter of a character that the authorities could not pass over. On this being laid before the Governors, they passed a unanimous resolution in which they recommended the Headmaster to expel the boy unless he wrote an apology before the beginning of the present term. Though more than one opportunity was offered the boy of withdrawing his letter, he took no notice. His fate was, therefore, in his own hands, and he has himself to blame for his "expulsion," if "expulsion" it is to be called.

These may be "facts," but they are not the whole facts, and fail to convey an accurate idea of the merits of the case. The boy in question was compelled, very much against his will, to take part in a dramatic performance to be given on the last day of the term. His objections appear to have been very reasonable, and were shared by his parents. He lived three miles from the school, and attendance at rehearsals involved an extra walk of six miles, besides interfering with his evening studies. The boy was leaving at the end of the term. The part he was to play in the performance had been "understudied" by another boy, and he seems to have had an idea (as did others) that there was an intention of throwing him over at the last moment, and putting his understudy in his place. Under these circumstances, he wrote the night before the performance a note to one of the masters, expressing regret that he should be unable to attend the next day as he had another engagement, and was going out to a "bachelor dinner" given by a local gentleman. I have a copy of the note before me. Its terms are perfectly respectful, but it is obviously written with the tongue in the cheek, and with an intention of annoying the school authorities. It was a silly letter for a boy to write, but that it affords any justification for such a step as expulsion I absolutely decline to admit. Before discussing that point, let us hear the Assistant Masters further :—

An additional sting lies in the words "that the boy had actually left the school at the end of the previous term." Subsequent facts show that this statement is literally true: he did not come back. But if the statement implies that the Headmaster *knew* that the boy had left, it is not true. On the contrary, it is reasonably supposed that the boy was coming back, and, very likely, to remain for another year. A formal notice to leave at the end of the Easter Term had been given, but that notice was verbally withdrawn, and the boy actually did come back for the summer Term. Moreover, it was not until the boy's father had been informed of the Governors' resolution that the Headmaster received any intimation that the boy had left.

Here, unfortunately, we have a direct conflict of evidence. As my information comes at first hand, while that of the Assistant Masters is necessarily second-hand, I am bound to give the preference to my evidence. It is clear, to start with, that formal notice was given for the boy to leave at Easter. What happened subsequently was that on a certain occasion when the Headmaster, the boy's father, and another gentleman, whose name there is no occasion to mention, happened to meet, the Headmaster strongly deprecated the boy's removal at Easter, as the Oxford Local Examination was to come off in the following term, and urged that the boy should be allowed to go in for the examination from the school instead of from a private tutor. The father assented to this, and said that in that case his boy could remain at the school till Midsummer. As this is the evidence, not merely of the boy's father, but of the independent witness who heard the conversation, I do not see how it can be questioned. Speaking, therefore, as a jury, I find that the boy was, at the Headmaster's request and for the sake of the school, allowed to remain on for one term only after Easter, and that the Headmaster was duly apprised of the intention to withdraw him at Midsummer. What the Assistant Masters mean by saying that it was "very likely" that the boy would remain for another year, I do not know, and, as they can only be alluding to something they have heard, it does not much matter.

They continue :—

The paragraph goes on to say "that the result of the boy's expulsion is that he was disqualified for an exhibition." As a matter of fact, the Headmaster's recommendation for the exhibition was announced and so, practically, the exhibition was awarded—*before* the incriminating letter was written.

There were two possible candidates for the exhibition, and the matter had to be decided by the result of the school examination, held by the Oxford Local Examination Board—an examination, that is, absolutely independent of Headmaster or anybody else. In this examination the successful candidate obtained Second-Class Honours, whilst the unsuccessful one, the one on whose behalf the complaint is made, obtained a "Pass." There can, then, be no doubt that the Headmaster recommended the better candidate.

It is right to mention, in connection with this matter, that the Headmaster had some time previously expressed to the Governors his hope that if the Coventry candidate did fairly well, they might see their way to granting him a second exhibition. This hardly looks like unfairness on the part of the Headmaster.

These passages I do not clearly understand. The resolution of expulsion is, I believe, dated September 9, the exhibition was awarded on September 30. It seems rather a singular thing that the recommendation should have been made in July and the exhibition not awarded till the end of September; but, of course, it is possible. With regard to the examination, I may be under a misapprehension, but I learn that no previous intimation that the exhibition would be awarded on the Oxford Local Examination was given to the candidate who complains, and if this is the examination referred to by the masters, the exhibition should have gone to yet a third boy who came out on that occasion higher than the exhibitioner. But the masters talk about a "school examination conducted by the Oxford Local Examination Board," and perhaps they are referring to something else. With regard to the last paragraph, its only effect seems to me to be that the boy in question, whether he was second on the list or not, may have been very seriously injured by the way he was treated, for it would seem that there had been some idea of granting a second exhibition, which this boy might have obtained.

For the sake of brevity, I pass over a paragraph in which the masters contend that the restriction of the

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benefits of the foundation to local boys has been abolished by the Charity Commission scheme under which the school is now conducted. On the other hand, I am informed that this scheme does not affect the Lane Exhibition, but this is a minor point. The Assistant Masters next say:—

With regard to the Musical Scholarship, it so happens that it was awarded to a day-boy to the exclusion of a boarder. There was more than one examiner, and the matter was eventually decided on a very sound principle, and certainly with absolute impartiality.

This is somewhat meagre information. One would like to know more about the "sound principle." Another letter which I have received in defence of the Headmaster (written by the Rev. Eric M. Farrar of St. Thomas's, Coventry) states that the boy who received the scholarship "was proficient in two instruments and so received the most marks." What means of information Mr. Farrar has does not appear from his letter. If the winner got the most marks in the examination, that certainly seems a "sound principle" on which to award the prize. But the extraordinary fact is that the first examiner does not seem to have been aware that there was a second examiner, and believed that he had himself awarded the scholarship to another candidate. It is quite certain, from what he says, that the two examiners did not compare notes. Nothing could be more clear and significant than the evidence of the first examiner. He has stated that he examined the candidates, four in number, for over two hours; and gave his award to one boy, J., whom he considered by far the best. He heard nothing more till the list was published, when he found that another boy, P., was at the top, and that J. had actually been placed at the bottom of the whole list. He (the examiner) then remonstrated with the Headmaster, who said that he (nothing was then said about a second examiner) had altered the order of merit on the ground that P. played two instruments. Why J. had been placed last was not explained. The examiner's reply to this was that while P. attempted two instruments unsuccessfully, J. played one well, and was thoroughly grounded in music. It seems a fact worthy of note that the successful candidate was the son of the school medical attendant. Taking this circumstance in conjunction with the mysterious hugger-mugger procedure above indicated, I think better evidence must be forthcoming than has yet been offered before the assertion that the scholarship was awarded "on a sound principle," or "with strict impartiality," can be maintained.

The masters next deal with the question respecting their own salaries. They deny that there has been any difference on the subject between the Governors and the Headmaster, and assert that full accounts are forthcoming whenever wanted, and that, in point of fact, more is spent in salaries than the Headmaster receives for the purpose from the Governors. I trust that they are right, but the original statement was offered to me on the authority of a Governor. Then comes the question of the young-lady boarders:—

There remains one statement in the paragraphs, on the truth of which we offer you our congratulations. It is quite true that "the Headmaster has even gone so far as to receive girls, as well as boys, as boarders in his official residence." What a monstrous crime! How unjust to day-boys that a man with three daughters should take in two girls to be educated with them and to be their companions! Is it suggested that three day-boys ought to have been introduced to be their companions instead? But even in this matter the law has been literally complied with. It can hardly be contended that the young ladies have interfered with the duties of Headmaster or any other official.

The Assistants, it will be seen, are so pleased with themselves in their triumphant vindication of their chief, that they now wax sarcastic. Their facetious outburst seems to me a little out of place. The Headmaster possesses, I understand, an official and a private residence. His family naturally reside with him in the latter. If the young ladies referred to are merely required as playmates and schoolmates for his daughters, it might be supposed that they would reside there, too. Nothing of the kind. They reside at the Headmaster's official residence. The Assistant Masters are moved to mirth at their own waggish suggestion that boys should have been selected to be educated with the Headmaster's daughters. I can only say that I see nothing more ludicrous in this than in the idea of a man receiving girls as companions for his own daughters, and then lodging these girls, not in his own house, but in a neighbouring boys' school. What is meant by the remark that "the law has been literally complied with," I do not understand. Mr. Farrar, in the letter above-mentioned (which bears a suggestive likeness at all points to the epistle of the Assistant Masters), states that the Headmaster consulted the Governors about the admission of girls to his house. On the other hand, I have been told on the authority of a Governor, that the Governors have no official knowledge of the arrangement. I did not suggest that the presence of the girls had seriously interfered with the duties of the Headmaster and his staff, but I understand that masters from the school have been employed in teaching the young ladies' class; and, if this is so, those masters were clearly taken from their other duties for the purpose.

In conclusion, the Assistant Masters deny that there has been any grumbling in Coventry over the management of the school, which may be true, but is not of much importance, for there seems to me to have been some very good ground for grumbling. Having carefully weighed everything that has been said on both sides, I come to the conclusion that, in regard to the boy who has been expelled, a gross injustice has been done. Expulsion is a step which is only justifiable in the most extreme cases. It differs from all other school punishments in that it marks and damages a boy for years, and possibly for life, and affects his parents almost as much as himself. The strongest reasons that will justify the infliction of this punishment—namely, that the boy is incorrigibly bad, and that the credit of the school and the protection of the other boys require his removal—are totally absent in this case, for the boy had already left. So far from being a boy of indifferent character, his previous reports show that he had borne the highest character throughout the seven years he had been in the school. His only offence

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

as a bit of schoolboy "cheek," indulged in at a moment when he believed that he had virtually left and could safely consider himself emancipated. His act caused no inconvenience to anybody, and has the excuse that he had previously been compelled to do something which he resented, which his parents disapproved of, and which the school authorities ought not to have insisted upon. Imagine a boy, who has borne an excellent character for seven years, developing a grievance against the authorities in his last few weeks, and relieving his feelings by putting his fingers to his nose as he passes for the last time out of the school gates, and you have a very good measure of this boy's little indiscretion. For the school authorities under such circumstances to solemnly sit in judgment on the boy in the next term, and pronounce upon him the disastrous and indelible stigma of expulsion, is an act which cannot be justified by any necessity of school discipline, and can only be attributed to pure vindictive spite. If a schoolmaster alone had done this, I should not have been surprised, for schoolmasters are often little better than schoolboys where their own dignity and importance are concerned. But that the Governors should have authorised such a proceeding can only be explained by their having been misled as to the facts. It is to be hoped that what has now been said will have the effect of enlightening them, and that they will not hesitate to investigate the facts fully—if necessary, calling the boy concerned and his father also before them for the purpose. There are other matters set out above which equally call for their investigation, more particularly the mysterious affair of the musical scholarship. The conclusion of my original remarks on the whole subject was that the Governors ought to look more closely into what has been going on, and that conclusion can only be accentuated by what has now been stated.

"THE NEW ROSALIND."

The play-going public has had a great experience during the last fortnight. Ibsen, who still retains a few clever but irresponsible admirers, has paid us another visit; but I'm afraid all healthy-minded people will treat the latest production of his "Little Eyolf" as a subtle joke rather than a serious play. It is no use trying to thrust the Ibsen sentiments down the throats of good, honest English men and women; they won't have them at any price; and as far as England is concerned Ibsen has been, is, and will ever be, a downright failure. Manager George Alexander has been at it again; he got sick to death of the red hair and tip-tilted nose belonging to the Elphberg family; he sighed for fresh fields and pastures new—at least so far as he was concerned; so he shook Pinero, Carton, and Shakespeare up in a bag together, and Willie tumbled out long before the others had even commenced to be buffeted about. "To be or not to be" said Hamlet—I mean Alexander. No, no; remove the fascinating Dane from my presence for a little longer; he is inclined to be a preacher; so am I. I used to whittle sticks well as a lad; let me try my hand at Orlando. So up went "As You Like It" on the winning-post, whereat the fair Julia Neilson was grateful, if not content, even that she had the part of Rosalind to play. And who's to play fair Celia? "Why, I," said Davis Fay; "in my American way, I'll play fair Celia!" And who'll play sad Jaques? "Why, I," said W. H. Vernon; "with my style and learnin', I'll play sad Jaques!" And who'll play the Duke? "Why, I," said Fernandez; "knowing which way the land is, I'll play the Duke!" So away they started with Kate Phillips, Dorothy Baird, Julie F. Opp, H. B. Irving, H. V. Esmond, H. H. Vincent, and others, all thrown in just to keep the play going and the pot a-boiling. Taken as a whole, Shakespeare's lovely pastoral poem is both beautifully acted and exquisitely mounted.

But why did Orlando, every time he made his appearance on the scene, give you the impression he had been pushed on from the wings and had to stop at a certain point, or had been only wound up to go so many paces? The mechanical movements were both irritating and monotonous. Now Julia, on the other hand, resented the stage being so small; she wanted to jump over the footlights into the auditorium. She leaped over trees and bounded over brooklets and benches like a young fawn; and, to tell the truth, Julia appeared to revel in her boy's costume, whereas *en jupon* she was ill at ease, and in gowns seemed quite as much worried by her long tail as the dog who has been trained to follow her about the stage was by his. By the way, I wonder if any one else noticed that doggie's extraordinary narrative. The appendage in question seemed to disappear between the animal's hind legs and appear again between its two front ones, where it got nibbled from time to time by the either hungry or resentful beast. I wonder what Shakespeare would say if he could see Esmond's Touchstone. Ye gods and little fishes! Of all the pantomime demons and the Old Men of the Sea commend me to this last of Shakespeare's Touchstones. I felt inclined to cry out, like the boys in the celebrated Irish story of Joe Miller, "Be aisy, bhoys! Don't waste him! Spile a fiddler with him!" In addition also to ruining the part of Touchstone, Esmond killed Audrey as well; for poor Kate Phillips could make no headway against such an insurmountable wet blanket. Fancies like these should not be permitted by such an ambitious amateur. Of course, Julia's Rosalind is all that is beautiful—an exquisite performance, taken as a whole, full of charm, instinct with purity, grace and intelligence; a performance to be thought of and remembered for all time. Orlando must really throw aside the mien of the melancholy Dane, it's a little "too previous;" as they say, everything comes to him who waits, and there will be plenty of time for Hamlet, without having his ghost played in "As You Like It." James Fernandez and W. H. Vernon came in a dead heat in the elocution competition. H. H. Vincent was not far behind, and hanging on to his ruffles were H. B. Irving and Vincent Sternroyd, two of the modern school who are wise in following in the footsteps of the old.

Of course, so interesting a play as "As You Like It" must always be successful when only played in a half-hearted fashion; but Manager George Alexander does nothing unless he does it thoroughly; so, in addition to

being a lovely poetic play, it is on the whole charmingly acted and beautifully mounted. The production teems with distinction. It is all convincing and delightful from start to finish. It is a success, indeed, that places it on a pedestal far and away above anything George Alexander has done yet. He has worked for success. He has obtained it.

"THE CIRCUS GIRL."

The old saying that "Too many cooks spoil the broth" is undoubtedly out of date as regards the new variety entertainment at the Gaiety Theatre. No fewer than six chefs have been busy with the latest of "up-to-midnight" productions, and the consequence is a menu of unrivalled excellence, wine of unequalled quality, and dessert fit for the little cherubs who sit up aloft. Eat, drink, and be merry to your heart's content is the order of the day at the Gaiety, but—and here I pause for reflection—for to-morrow I shall surely die of dyspepsia, most enterprising George Edwardes, if I partake of every special dish which you serve up with such a lavish hand! No, no, my digestive dramatic organs must be seriously considered; therefore, away with at least half a dozen dainties, and do not heed the cries of the aggrieved cooks. Close your ears to their heart-rending appeals and think of the audience instead! Of pretty Ellaline Terriss it would be impossible to have too much, and I would willingly go on listening to her till to-morrow morning as she warbles in her own delicate little fashion of the enormous strength contained in "Just a little bit of string," and yet again where she describes with her clever stage companion, one Seymour Hicks by name, the antics of the Circus Girl as seen in the ring at the well-known Drivelli's Hippodrome. The first act of the Gaiety play trots us round to the Parisian Boulevards outside the "Café de la Régence," and here we are shown how deplorably dull our London streets are in comparison with the gay walks and roads of Paris. "Oh to be in Paris, now Mi-Carême 's there," will surely be the cry of every one, Browningite or not, of the Gaiety audience; for a brighter, livelier, more fascinating scene cannot possibly be conceived. By the way, the chorus ladies evidently think that Mi-Carême is something nice to eat, for, as they sing it, it sounds very like "ice-kream." The opera will appeal to young and old alike; it is exhilarating and not depressing, just the sort of thing we want at this misquoted "festive season." And now, how am I to describe that fairy-footed delightful little dancer Katie Seymour? But, hold! I have a complaint to make, and is it to be addressed to George Edwardes, James Tanner, W. Palings, Ivan Caryll, Lionel Monckton, Harry Greenbank, Adrian Ross, or the entire Septette? Listen, ye sad merry men of many whims, this dainty little lady does not dance enough to please my greedy appetite; I want at least one "pas seul" and am not allowed even half a one. What does it mean? Who has dared to come between me and my dance? Mr. Edmund Payne, now happily completely restored to health after months and months of terrible suffering, was accorded a welcome such as only an English public knows how to give, and of the sort that brings a lump to your throat and a tear to your eye. Anyhow, it was on this occasion a well-deserved recognition of a clever little favourite, whose quaint humour and drollness as the American bar-tender are alone well worth a visit to the popular playhouse. I must say when the circus scene came on I felt exactly like one of the ragamuffins in John Leech's celebrated picture, who, dragging up a bit of the canvas of a circus tent, yells out to his companion, "'Ere, I say, Bill, 'ave a peep, I can see the 'eels of the 'osses," but I did not feel in such a contented frame of mind as those little urchins. I wanted to see more than the 'eels, and I fancy I am not alone in this respect. The curtains of Mr. Drivelli's hippodrome may be made of very excellent material, but I want to see what is going on behind them, and not to be tantalised with a glimpse of fair women who are whisked through the green room into the circus ring and immediately hidden from our longing eyes by the dropping of those irritating curtains. Arthur Williams, Harry Monkhouse, and Colin Coop all helped to make the new play the success it certainly is, and Ethel Haydon and Miss Maria Davis worked loyally. For brightness, merriment, fun and frolic, the Gaiety entertainment is unrivalled, and I advise all who are in for a fit of the blues—and at this time of the year they are liable to attack people frequently—to pay a visit to this exhilarating show, where a certain cure will be found for all such unpleasant complaints. George Edwardes knows exactly what game to play—the "Shop Girl" was a good card; the "Circus Girl" has, however, trumped it! What better sign of success than a contented audience; and at the Gaiety it is more than contented—it is, like "Box and Cox," satisfied!

NOTES FROM PARIS.

SARAH-IRVING.

"LORENZO the Degenerate," or "Lorenzaccio de Médicis," is from first to last, as given at the Renaissance, *un article de Paris.* I mean the characters, for the accessories are purely Renaissance and Florentine. Perhaps it is as well that whim and fancy should predominate in the personations—or rather personation, for there is but one player in the drama, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt. She is stage-manager, star, everything; the others are merely well-broken-in foils. Musset's drama has been so adapted for her as to be a monologue, broken by answers or observations to serve as rests, or bring out more clearly the drift of the play. During these pauses for the title-rôle, Lorenzo glides stealthily into corners. Lorenzaccio is neither he, she, nor it, but an oblique, enigmatic third-sex being, who never shows himself plainly until the drop-curtain scene. And then one feels that one only knows about a few of his vices. The rest are still his own secret. In this part Sarah Bernhardt is a curious creature—interesting, fascinating, though slightly sickening. There is a good deal of the leopard or the panther in her gracile ways and remorseless ferocity. She is through and through

corrupt and immoral; but no more conscious of her state than if she were a feline of the desert. There is no need for Lorenzo—such as she conceives him—to ask advice of a Macchiavelli. He is a first cousin of Catherine de Médicis and nephew of Pope Clement VII. Musset's conception of the rôle has not been thought of by adapter or actress. But what of that? Musset did not know Mme. Sarah Bernhardt. Nor did he write at a time when a continuously-glutted book-market kept wiping away acquired impressions with a fresh-and-fresh supply of sensational literature. The human mind is now like a slate, over which a damp sponge is constantly passed. The adapters of Lorenzaccio felt this. They also felt that the consequence of a teeming printing-press is a craving for what is morbid and monstrous. Musset was bad enough, but he had to be made worse to whet the appetite of a public that gorges itself on sensational literature. Florence was an awfully corrupt place at the time of Lorenzaccio, and Musset shows it a good deal as it then was. But they go farther at the Renaissance in third-sex suggestions. Alessandro, the illegitimate and reigning Duke, is devoted to beauty, but in a Florentine way. Lorenzo, the rightful heir, no more objects to recruit beauties for his orgies than his cousin, Queen Catherine, objected to use her prettiest maids-of-honour as political weapons. Lorenzaccio is a distingué pander. He never seems to think the office degrading until asked by the Duke to bring to his palace Catherine Ginori, Lorenzo's young aunt, who was brought up with him as a little sister. Probably he might not have scrupled to decoy her also, had she not been on terms of such intimacy that there was a danger of her having penetrated his plan of vengeance. That scheme was to create step by step and patiently an opportunity to stab the usurper with his own hand. Mme. Sarah Bernhardt gives her face a deep lemon tinge, reminding one of the complexions of the sixteenth-century portraits of Italian noble signors. Oddly enough, Alessandro, the illegitimate son of Catherine de Médicis's father and a Moorish slave, is many shades fairer.

It is marvellous how a single player can fill the four acts, and in a drama with a chief character who is all dissimulation. There are only here and there a few outbursts of genuine feeling. The revelation of the scheme in which the whole plot lies is less than gradual. If there were passionate outbursts and thrilling by-play, the drama would miss its mark. Besides, Lorenzo is not only an Italian, but a Florentine. He would not let his own mother divine his thoughts. When soliloquising, he remembers that walls have ears.

Another of the difficulties surmounted is having to wear a single costume from the beginning of the first act to the close of the drop-curtain scene. I think Sarah Bernhardt plumper than she used to be. The make-up of her face gives her a striking resemblance to Sir Henry Irving, with a something that reminds one of Sardou. Her ambition is to out-Irving Irving in a transposition of his Hamlet to the key of Lorenzaccio, and by keeping close to him—without exactly copying him—in plastic poses, get-up, expression, mannerisms, and the show of an all-absorbing personality. Mme. Bernhardt is a she or third-sex Irving, or a transubstantiation of Sir Henry, whimsical, curious, amusing in a subtle way, and by no means caricatural. The hair of the great actress this time is cut short, in the Florentine sixteenth-century fashion, but clusters round the forehead. The doublet fits like a jersey, and the baggy shorts have a petticoatish air akin to knickers, though they do not descend farther than half-way to the knees. This garment might pass for being black, were it not for the jet embroidery on chest and cuffs. This shows that it is pansy purple of the very deepest dye. Sarah Bernhardt is fond of girdles low down on the hips, instead of encircling the waist. She was thus girded in "Theodora" and "Cleopatra," and is again so in "Lorenzaccio." The girdle in "Lorenzaccio" is richly damascened in a key pattern. The "virgin stiletto," with which she intends to stab the Duke Alessandro, has a magnificent hilt, and its sheath is attached to the abdominal belt. Garters break the uniformity of limbs in black silk tights. The knees come too close together for masculinity or anything approaching it. But this defect is artfully concealed by cross-legged or other postures as she stands and soliloquises. The black, Hamletish mantle and a quarto volume bound in oak, with steel clasps, the stiletto, and the effeminacy come in with the lines of Chigi on the pontificates of Alexander VI. and of Julius II.:—

> Once Mars prevail'd; now Pallas reigns;
> But Venus yet her power retains.

And still this drama is a loveless play. Catherine Ginori is the object of a mere passing fancy of the Duke. She is brought chiefly in to hasten the dénouement at the psychological moment.

Mme. Bernhardt's voice has, one might imagine, undergone a transformation, and is now in a lower key. It is neither the voice of man nor woman, but low and agreeable. I cannot imagine how she could, were the pitch artificial, preserve such uniformity through the long monologues. But she does seem relieved when she can yell or make a screaming noise. It is part of the plan to scream and yell daily in practising fencing, so that the Duke's yells shall not be noticed when Lorenzo finds an opportunity to wreak his vengeance. The chance occurs as the Duke is sleeping off an orgie, divested of his armour. Fearing assassination, he never laid aside his coat of mail until one day that he sits to Raphael for his portrait. The portrait-painting scene is effective, and in many ways charming. Raphael is a womanly being, but more angel than woman. The sitter is proud of his fine neck, and must be painted *décolleté*. That demi-Médicis, the womanish Henri III., brought in Florentine *décolletage* with French art. When painter and Duke are talking, Lorenzo gets at the armour and throws it into a well in the courtyard of the Palace. The search after the missing objects is extremely spirited. Lorenzo makes Alessandro believe they have been stolen by Maurice, a German free-lance ritter, who was present at the sitting, and then throws a beauty in the Duke's way. You know the rest. "Vengeance" should be the name of the drama. Its author, or original author, Alfred de

Musset, was as womanish as Lorenzaccio, and as hard, and cruel. His nickname of "Miss Byron" fitted him exactly. I know a patriarch of ninety-three who, to study him, was his companion in his drunken and other bouts, and speaks of him as the lowest and nastiest fellow he ever met.

The Princess Nazli has written a feeling letter to the Sultan about the Armenian massacres. She also adjured him, while it is yet time, to accomplish reforms that would place him above the reach of hidden or open enemies, and make it impossible for bad men to bring dishonour on his name. The Princess Nazli is "Young Turk." When a short time ago in Paris, she did all she could to lead, by indirect means, the French Government to share her views. I should fancy she must be the most clever member of the Khedivial family. Her husband was Foreign Minister of Turkey, and a supporter of Midhat Pasha's reform schemes. The Princess is said by Turks who know her to have but one defect—extreme love for England. She now points to the Turkish massacres to show that, after all, it may be better to have Lord Cromer at Cairo than a full-fledged Sovereign with Levantine ideas of government. Having no children, she spends the best part of her fortune in works of charity.

An eminent German has complained to me of the Czar's scant courtesy at Breslau. The Kaiser does not know Russian; but, in view of the Imperial Russian visit, he learned enough to welcome him in that tongue, and to propose his and the Empress's health. The Czar, who has a German wife, with whom he speaks German and English daily, answered in French. His mother's mother-tongue is German, though she speaks English in her home circle. She had to learn Danish when, with the rest of her family, she went from Frankfort to live at Copenhagen. My German friend says, "The Czar went out of his way, to slight the Kaiser by speaking French in his answer to him."

I wonder how Prince Bismarck, brooding over his grievances in an ugly and uninteresting country-place, has so long survived his disgrace. He takes most to heart, of all the crows he has to pluck, the Emperor's conduct on his eightieth birthday. The Kaiser brought him a bottle of old, priceless Rhine wine from his own cellar. But he never asked the Prince's opinion on the foreign situation, or in any way referred to politics. The Prince's commentary when the august visitor left was: "Such is Imperial gratitude! He treats me as a dotard."

Prince Bismarck owes a grudge to a Polish lady—the late Princess Battenberg, *née* Haucke. In attacking the other day "intriguing Polish ladies," he had her in his mind. She was in communication with the friends of her eldest son at Sofia, with the Empress Frederick, the Grand Duchess Serge, and the Duchess of Edinburgh, and lost no opportunity to prove by indirect means that Bismarck was playing him false. The story about the Princess Clémentine, the Comtesse de Flandre, and the Princess Waldemar furnishing the proof was told to cover the Princess of Battenberg's tracks.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

We are clearing the way, dear Lady Betty, for the Christmas crisis! The time is rapidly approaching when we are to be attacked by bills, pills, and numerous ills. In the middle of this century Charles Dickens created a fictitious Christmas, a sort of hodge-podge of impossible middle-class squires; of immaculate out-cast children, who died upon sacks, surrounded by angels, of wicked Dukes who died with devils hovering about their Empire bedsteads; of enormous plum puddings; of enormous potations; of back-stair flirtations; and of various other wierd conceits which it is not advisable to recall. With a stroke of his magic pen he even made the ghosts vulgar. This imaginary Christmas caught the fancy of the people, and since then it has been manipulated for profit so excessively that Christmas now begins in October, and has all the romance taken out of it before Christmas Day comes. As a matter of fact, the modern Christmas is a very depressing day—a day of disappointments, of dyspepsia, and of deep drinking. The evil which men do lives after them. Charles Dickens obscured the glorious religious event which Christians celebrate upon that day by producing a mist composed of fat squires, fat page-boys, pretty housemaids, obsequious poor relations, and many other grotesque creations. Now that the genius who represented these is no more, we have a villainously artificial and commercial Christmas, with the central glorious incident almost overlooked, but replaced by dreary "Christmas Numbers," meaningless Christmas cards, ill-concocted plum-puddings and mince-pies, indigestible turkeys, bad champagne, bad spirits, and bad headaches.

A society should be founded at once for the restoration of the original Christmas.

* * * * *

As has already been said, the so-called "Bismarck revelations" have created considerable anxiety at Court, for Prince Bismarck is understood to have in his possession many of the letters written by members of our Royal Family to King William during the Franco-German war. As our Royal House is closely connected with that of Germany, it would not be surprising if these private letters should contain strong expressions of sympathy with Germany in that struggle. It is feared that, when under the influence of an exceptionally severe attack of indiscretion, Prince Bismarck might cause to be published some of these letters or extracts from them. Were the Prince to descend to so despicable a method of venting his ill-humour, it is supposed that the French might feel seriously hurt, and that the much-talked-of dislike said to be entertained against us in France would be intensified. The French people and the French Press differ widely. The Press in France does not generally reflect the sentiments of the people; on the contrary, its object is to form the opinions of the multitude. For some reason or other not yet discovered it is the object of many French journalists to create a spirit of hatred in France against England. The vast mass of the people have not adopted this policy, and should Prince Bismarck publish the whole, or part of the letters mentioned, it is probable that he would injure himself and Germany more than the revelations would do harm to our Court and this country.

* * * * *

Who is to be the Hercules of Hyde Park? This is the moment: where is the man? When he comes his Twelve Labours will be:—

1. To remove the Ranger.
2. To abolish ridiculous restrictions.
3. To get rid of the infamous women and black-mailers

Spa Winter Season.—Balmy climate. Only 12 hrs. from London. *Cercle des Etrangers*, with every Monte Carlo attraction, always open. Hôtel tariff from 10fr. per diem. Address, Jules Crehay, Sec.

who make it impossible for other people to enter the Park after dark.

4. To exclude the vagabond orators and actors who infest it during the day, especially on Sunday.

5. To compel the police to patrol the Park properly.

6. To instal the electric-light.

7. To erect picturesque refreshment kiosks.

8. To repair the roads.

9. To embellish the Park and to develop its natural beauties.

10. To prevent reckless riding.

11. To arrange that frequent concerts shall be given by good bands.

12. To lengthen the Ride to where it reached before the Exhibition of '51, and to continue the drive round Kensington Gardens.

. . . . .

It is painful to have to return to the subject, but the Duke of Cambridge abuses the privilege which Royal personages have of being obstinate. Almost a year ago Parliament voted a sum of £1,400 for the purpose of erecting a refreshment kiosk in Hyde Park. Soon after this, the Duke, in his capacity of Ranger, declared that the kiosk could not be built in time to open it for the London season. Much pressure having been put upon him, both in private and by most of the London newspapers, a further official announcement was made to the effect that early in the autumn building operations would be commenced. The autumn has passed away, and the winter is passing, but no builders have yet appeared upon the scene. What is being done with the £1,400, and why does the Duke delay in carrying out the commands of Parliament and in complying with the strongly expressed wishes of the people? There are some who say that the Duke imagines that a policy of delay will tire those who are agitating for the better control of Hyde Park, and will dishearten the community which supports the agitation. Those who maintain this are, if not mischievous, certainly misinformed, for the Duke of Cambridge has lived too long in the world not to have learnt that such a policy, when directed against a legitimate and generally popular purpose, would only aggravate the situation, and might entail consequences altogether disproportionate to the circumstances.

* * * * *

A fortnight ago it was suggested in these columns that an Animatographe Museum should be founded, for the purpose of storing "animated photographs" of the interesting incidents of these times, and of the times that are to come, so that they might be reproduced indefinitely for the benefit of those who are to succeed us.

It is due to this suggestion that the following letter has been addressed to me:—

Sir,—I have read your paragraph on the use of the Animatographe as a means of producing historical records of interesting moving events.

I may say that I offered, several months ago, to present to the authorities of the British Museum a mechanism and a series of my Animated Photographs, hermetically sealed for preservation and reproduction at a future date.

The subjects offered included such as:—

The wedding of Princess Maud,
The "Prince's Derby,"
Henley Regatta,
Scenes of London Life,

and animated photographs of well-known individuals. There appears to be a difficulty in deciding in which section such records should be deposited.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Robert William Paul, M.I.E.E.
Contractor to H.M. Government.

The sooner the difficulty is overcome the better for posterity, for the Animatographe Museum is an institution which the force of circumstances will compel us to establish.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

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SPORTING NOTES.

Messrs. Tattersall's catalogue of this week's Newmarket sales fills twenty columns of the Racing Calendar, and by far the most important item is the Duke of Westminster's lot of horses in training from Kingsclere, which will come up to-morrow. In March last no owner had so promising a team of three-year-olds as the Duke of Westminster, and it was then confidently expected that Regret would win the Derby, and that Omladina would carry off the One Thousand and the Oaks. The very highest opinion was entertained of Regret's merits, and it was declared that there had been no such horse in the Kingsclere stable since the days of Ormonde. After having been extravagantly praised, the unfortunate animal became the object of the most unmeasured and indiscriminate abuse. The fact is, that Regret was a considerably inferior horse to St. Frusquin and Persimmon, and he is deficient in stamina. The Duke of Westminster, being infatuated about him, would not recognise the fact that the horse had been preposterously over-estimated, and his obstinacy on this point cost him just £9,000, as if Labrador had been substituted for Regret in the race for the Jockey Club Stakes he would most assuredly have beaten Persimmon with 6 lb. the best of the weights. It was thought that Regret would be sold at Newmarket, and an astute owner had intended to buy the horse for hurdle-racing, as he is just the stamp of animal to make a good jumper, but the Duke's partiality for the steed has decided him to keep him for another season. The colt has won about £3,000 during the past season, although he was so stupidly and pertinaciously mismanaged in being run either against horses of superior class, or else out of his proper distance. Regret wants a long rest, but if he does well during the winter he will very likely win the Wokingham Stakes at Ascot or the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood, and whenever he is started for a six-furlong race he will be worth backing. The only other of his three-year-olds that the Duke of Westminster is keeping is Labrador, who is expected to make a good Cup horse, as he can stay well, and it will not surprise me if this animal turns out to be the best of next season's four-year-olds over a long distance. Shaddock, who has won six valuable races, is to be sold, and he ought to realise a high price if he is sound, as he may be reasonably expected to win a good handicap next year. Rampion has been a very unlucky horse, as more than once he has come near to winning a big race, and notably at Kempton Park, where he was most unfortunate in being beaten for the Duke of York Handicap, an event which it was palpable to all beholders that he ought to have won. If Rampion goes on all right he is another likely animal to win an important handicap, his best distance being a mile. Conroy also won some valuable races, but he is an uncertain animal, and cannot be trusted to do his best when it comes to a punishing finish. The appearance of Omladina's name in the sale list has excited much surprise, and she will no doubt realise one of the best (if not the very highest) prices of the week. This mare cost 700 gs. as a foal, and during her turf career she won about £4,000 in stakes She was bought and sold before she made her début last year in the Lavant Stakes at Goodwood, but she ran in a somewhat jady manner in that race. Having fully retrieved her reputation by winning the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, Omladina made St. Frusquin fairly gallop in the Middle Park Plate, running at even weights, and she easily defeated Persimmon in that race. This season Omladina proved utterly deficient in stamina, and, after she had won the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot she was turned out of training, and sent to Eaton. Last winter, when Omladina was being praised to the skies, and her victory in the fillies' stakes was being generally predicted, Truth was alone in expressing the opinion (which proved to be correct) that the best had already been seen of the filly on the Turf, and that she would turn out a failure as a three-year-old. The fact is that the stock of her dam, Geheimniss, never

do train on. It is for this reason that the Duke of Westminster has decided not to breed from Omladina, although she has grown into a splendid filly, and she ought to make a most successful brood mare. The Duke of Westminster also had a very good-looking lot of two-year-olds, but they have done badly on the whole, although Blue Water did win several races, and Rust is certain to pay for following next season. Simoon, the filly by St. Simon out of Shotover, has proved a great disappointment, and I have no belief whatever in the future of Orelio, the much-trumpeted brother to Ormonde. He will never make a flyer.

If the Duke of Westminster is not likely to be dangerous next season with his three-year-olds, he may expect great things from the two-year-olds. The Eaton yearlings are far and away the best lot that have ever been bred there, and one of the most experienced judges of blood stock in Europe has asserted that if they had been sold at Doncaster, the average for the team of thirteen would have been at least 3,000 gs. The best of this excellent lot are, perhaps, St. Maur, colt by Orme out of St. Mary (dam of La Sagesse); and Lowood, filly by St. Serf out of Rydal (dam of Rampion and Blue Water); but some experts might prefer Collar, by Orme out of Ornament (dam of Labrador) or Ameer, by Orme out of Quetta (dam of Grey Leg). Shotover's yearling is a colt by Orme, and after its birth she was given a rest for twelve months, and is now in foal to St. Simon, a choice which was made in consequence of the great promise of Simoon last winter. There are no yearlings at Eaton out of either Lily Agnes (dam of Ormonde) or Angelica (dam of Blue Green and Orme). The former, who was foaled in 1881, has been sent to Grey Leg, and it is a pity that a fresh cross for the mare was not tried long ago, instead of her being sent year after year to Bend Or in the hope of a second Ormonde. Angelica has a colt by Kendal, and is believed to be in foal to Sir Hugo.

The Duke of Portland, who has experienced a very disastrous season, and who has not been seen on a racecourse since Goodwood, is going to sell three of his two-year-olds (all of which have proved utter failures), and His Reverence, who might carry off a nice handicap next year if he is all right. The Duke is also weeding two of his mares, Dodona, by Springfield, covered by St. Serf; and Donna Fortuna, by Donovan, covered by the Australian horse Carbine. These are both daughters of Lord Falmouth's mare Wheel of Fortune, who cost the Duke of Portland 5,000 gs., and she has proved a complete failure at the stud. There are three young maiden mares from the Welbeck stud, and a high price should be paid for Eisteddfod, by Petrarch out of Modwena (sister to Donovan), while Ayrsmoss, by Ayrshire out of Rattlewings (sister to Galliard), and Don't, by Donovan out of Tact (dam of Overall), ought to prove valuable acquisitions to any stud.

There is a very large entry of mares for the Imperial Produce Stakes of £3,000 at Kempton Park, a race which is to be run in October, 1899. The Prince of Wales heads the list with three, including Perdita II. (dam of Persimmon) and Merrie Lassie (dam of Grig), both served by St. Simon. It is understood, by the way, that Thais will be sent to either Ladas or Isinglass. The Duke of Portland has four, including Memoir, served by Carbine, and Tact, by St. Simon. By the way, have the Laputan advocates of the "scientific breeding" foolery allowed for the abject failure of the Duke's mare, Golden Moments, by Sheen out of Memoir, a cross which was regarded by these voluble visionaries as being absolutely perfect. The Duke of Westminster's lot includes Quetta and Throstle, served by Orme, and Ornament by Best Man. One of Mr. Russel's lot of five is Virginia Shore (dam of Whittier) served by St. Simon, and another is Lady Minting served by Ladas. Mr. L. de Rothschild has Isabel (dam of St. Frusquin) served by St. Simon, and Eira (dam of Galeazzo) by Galopin. I hope, by the way, that the last has not been seen on the turf of Galeazzo, for few people know how good a horse he really was. If Galeazzo had stood training, he would certainly have won several valuable races during the summer and autumn. Mr. Rose has four mares, all covered by Bona Vista, and I hear that a foreign offer of £5,000 for this horse has just been refused. Mr. Platt has entered twelve of the best mares in the Bruntwood Stud, the list being headed by St. Marguerite and Lonely, served respectively by Isinglass and St. Simon. Sir J. B. Maple has twelve mares, including Busybody (dam of Meddler), served by Common, and Corrie Roy, Priestess, and Superba, all by Royal Hampton. Mr. Lorillard has twelve American mares, all served by American sires. "Mr. Jersey" has Lady Rosebery, served by Ravensbury. The only French owner who has patronised this valuable stake is M. Ephrussi, who has entered six mares, all served by French horses.

Last week's cross-country sport was very poor, and in dismal contrast to the excellent racing which used to be seen at the extinct Croydon meeting at this period of the year. It would be difficult to imagine anything more farcical and utterly idiotic than the outrageous list of steeplechase fixtures licensed by the ridiculous National Hunt Committee. There are positively two or three meetings in every week until the opening of the flat race season at Lincoln on March 22. Several of the gate-money fixtures are favoured with no fewer than three winter meetings. It really might be expected that the fantastical tribunal which is supposed to govern cross-country sport would take care that there should be some attempt to confine these meetings within reasonable limits. The fact is that the number licensed this winter is so extravagantly large that it is simply impossible that horses can be forthcoming to make up decent fields at half of them. It is a pity, moreover, that the Committee does not at once adopt such practical reforms as have been sanctioned by the Jockey Club, but nothing is altered in this branch of sport until a change is actually forced upon the Committee by vituperative criticisms from all competent and independent observers.

Mr. H. M. Stanley's wide experience of African life naturally enables him to speak with authority on the education of English youth. He is of opinion that young men give too much attention to sports and too little to education. Hence the success of German competition. I suppose he would rejoice to see English youth scurrying off on Saturday afternoons to Polytechnics and Technical Institutes. These places, of course, would produce the very class of men who, after such an admirable education, would be able to go from one side of Africa to the other. Perhaps the best comment on his statesmanlike remarks is that the Germans are doing all they can to engraft our athletics on to their educational system. Our methods of education for business life may be wrong; but in any system of education there must be recreation, and there are no better opportunities for recreation to be found than in our national sports.

Aston Villa are generally credited with playing a good game when they come to town, and it was generous of the premier League club to go to Woolwich on Monday and there play the Arsenal in order that the gate might be given to the widow of Powell, the Arsenal's back. Owing to an injury received when playing for his club, Powell died. He was buried last week amid every expression of sorrow. There were a large number of valuable wreaths. No doubt those who sent the flowers meant well, but how much more sensible it would have been if the money value of the wreaths had been sent, instead, for the benefit of the widow and children.

There was a really excellent game between Aston Villa and the Corinthians at Queen's Club. At the start it looked like the "Pros." winning easily, for Lodge at back seemed inclined to get mixed up with the forwards, and the goalkeeping was not quite up to the mark. However, a goal, scored from a free kick given when Gettins had been fouled, started the Amateurs' score, and afterwards R. C. Gosling was in superb form, and the match ended in a draw. In the Charity Cup ties, a very Old Carthusian team romped over Clapton, and so the winners will

meet the Casuals in the final. The Casuals met Ealing at the Crystal Palace, and the way in which local interest in the game has developed is evidenced by the fact that the G.W.R. ran a special to the Palace. The ground was very sodden, and this upset the short passing game that is played by the Ealing forwards, of whom Chater was the best. Oxford University is playing a much stronger game than was at one time anticipated, and their success over West Bromwich was very creditable. Oriel in the Competition for the College Cup had a marvellous record; not a single goal was scored against them, and after they had beaten the House in the final, and none of their players had been ducked, their record for the Competition was 30 goals to nil. Bardswell, the University cricketer, was goalkeeper.

The race between the Cambridge Trial Eights was not nearly so exciting as that rowed at Oxford. In fact, Goldie's crew went off from the start, and were never in danger. At the same time, Steele stuck pluckily to his work, and he, no doubt, felt the want of shelter from the bank. There was a strong head wind and stream, and so the oarsmen had every difficulty to contend against, and, considering the comparatively short time there has been for practice, the crews did remarkably well, and there is some good workable material, especially among the heavy weights. Indeed, the trials were a great deal better than a good many people had believed them to be, and the President is to be congratulated on the fact that he was able to select men from nine different clubs. This fact alone showed he did not care where a man came from so long as he was a likely oar.

Turning to the probable composition of the eight, the following old Blues will be up next term, namely:—Bieber, Pennington, Bell, and Fernie. The last named has improved as a stroke since last year, and he is as strong as a horse. Pennington was by universal consent one of the best oars in last year's crew, and, as a well-known Cambridge coach, who saw a good deal of the work on the Cam last year says that there was little to choose between him and the reserve man, Taylor, it may safely be assumed that the latter will have a trial. They both rowed in the Caius four that won the Visitors. Then there is Dudley Ward, who will probably go seven, while Bell will shift himself up. There is Guinness for the centre of the boat, and the only place left is bow, which either a Caius or Hall man may get.

At Oxford the University Trial Eights afforded one of the finest races ever seen. The final spurt of Rudges and the way in which Whitworth just held his men together and shook off his opponent's rush, was worth going a long way to see. De Knoop rowed splendidly, and there is no doubt he will keep his seat in the eight. On the other hand, Balfour did not row his weight, and unless he improves again, he may have to retire. Harrington is wanting in stamina. Of the other oars, Edwards and Warre were the best. The race was in one respect not satisfactory. The Whitworth's cox continually bored his opponents, who had rather bad luck in not winning. The prospects of the University are exceedingly interesting. The Light Blues promise to have a much better crew than last year. Will Oxford be able to hold them after Barnes?

In the year 1864, and ever since, a certain number of enthusiasts have, ice permitting, indulged in an open swimming handicap in the Serpentine. In those days there was no Swimming Association to interfere at every turn. A few years ago the Southern Counties' Amateur Swimming Association suddenly demanded a five shilling fee from the Serpentine Club. This imposition was meekly paid. Now this precious Association has coolly refused to permit the race altogether. A correspondent writes asking what is the Serpentine Swimming Club to do? Well, there is the authority of Lord Rosebery for saying that Fox used a big D under certain circumstances. I should feel inclined to make use of that letter to this Association, and hold the race. The way in which all classes of sport are over-legislated for at the present day is simply scandalous. What on earth could these busybodies who compose the S.C.A.S.A. do if the Serpentine S.C. took the bit between its teeth and held the race as usual? The swimmers could not be sent to prison, and suppose they were disbarred from other races? If a man has pluck enough to swim in the Serpentine on Christmas Day surely he has enough courage to teach this Association its proper duties. If a man's civil liberty were circumscribed and molested to a tithe of the extent to which it is in sports, there would be a revolution in twenty-four hours. The chief offending bodies are the Swimming and Football Associations. So far as one can see, there is not a single reason why the Association should have acted in this unwarrantable manner, and there is still less reason why the Serpentine S.C. should pay the slightest heed to such impertinent interference. Some old-established club must sooner or later fight for the freedom of sport. Let the Serpentine S.C. take the opportunity.

It may very well be doubted how far it was wise of the Queen's Club authorities to have a game played on their ground within a few days of the Inter-University Rugby match. No one can pretend that the turf is fast, and when it is cut up by Association nearly every Saturday during the winter, its condition in the middle of December is not first class; nor is its state likely to be improved by the recent heavy weather. At the same time the ground is a great blessing. It is comparatively central, and the present generation of undergraduates knows nothing of those long weary tramps down to Blackheath. But Queen's Club must remember Richmond is not miles away, and, if the ground is not kept decently, the match will be played elsewhere. The ground this year will affect the play most materially. With anything like a dry day the Light Blues should win pretty easily, as they are strong at half, and probably have the best of the argument forward. Even on a wet day their forwards may be expected to pull the game off. They are faster and dribble better than the Oxford men. Blackheath had an easy win over the Old Leysians, and to judge from the cheers of the club's out-and-out partisans one would imagine that Blackheath had scored a signal victory. But they did not, and they are very far from being a strong team. The Old Merchant Taylors' gave a most disappointing show against Guys, but the hospital forwards are very fair, and their outsides above the average. The Scottish had little trouble in beating Cooper's Hill. Brighton are playing anything but a good game this year. They were never dangerous against Middlesex Hospital, whose outsides were naturally strengthened by the presence of Bennett at three-quarter.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Movements have been somewhat irregular during the past week. The favourable features were increased activity and greater strength of Home Rails, another rise in Consols, and a recovery in the American market. The disagreeable events took place chiefly in the Mining Market, in which heavy sales were again pressed for French account, and further declines were forced, chiefly under the influence of a whole crop of unfounded rumours, set about by

THE SYNDICATE OF LIARS.

Now that the lies about coming political trouble in the Transvaal are exploded, the unscrupulous operators, who desire to make their fortune by depreciating the property of others, are resorting to other stratagems. The rumours circulated referred chiefly to the mining industry, and were to the effect that a number of mines on the Witwatersrand goldfields had been shut down, amongst these the Wemmer. A cablegram from the latter mine has since contradicted the reports; and although the scarcity of water has interfered to some extent with the work at the mines, it is evident that the story of the general shutting-down is altogether false. There

are indications that we have pretty well got to the end of the slump, and it may be hoped, too, that the arrival of Messrs. J. B. Robinson, B. I. Barnato and Sol Joel in Johannesburg, will benefit their respective groups. Quotations have undoubtedly pretty well reached bed-rock, and purchases of well selected mining shares at present prices by those who can afford to lock them up should leave considerable profits in a comparatively short time. The attentions of the syndicate of liars have not been confined of late to the Kaffir Circus, but have, as I am explaining elsewhere, also been devoted to the American department, in which just as at present the Cuban question is being worked for a great deal more than it is worth. But with the opening of Congress this bugbear will, no doubt, be laid. Amongst Home Rails there has been brisk speculation in the stocks of the southern passenger lines, partly on rumours with reference to the Kent coalfields. To these, however, I attach less importance than the actual progress made by the Companies. Interbourse securities have been comparatively firm, as the Paris Bourse is pulling itself together again; and amongst South Americans a rise in Argentines has been the feature. Industrial enterprises are being eagerly pushed forward by promoters, though with varying success. The issue of the British Motor Car Syndicate has not caught on, a result upon which the public are to be congratulated. Cycle shares generally are in increasing favour, and it looks as if we were to have quite a revival in this section as the next cycling season approaches. Amongst the Industrial enterprises which are now being dished up to the public there are many doubtful and indifferent concerns, and investors will do well to thoroughly examine into the merits of the various undertakings before subscribing.

Home Rails.

Dover "A" and Chatham Ordinary have come to the front during the past week, the advance being to some extent stimulated by reports with reference to the Kent coalfield. I have, however, repeatedly explained that the position of the South Eastern alone, and the remarkable progress made by that Company, justify a considerable improvement. The South Eastern statement for the four weeks ended November 14 showed an increase in gross receipts of £7,069, and an increase in the net earnings of £4,682, the expenditure having increased by only £2,387. This is a very satisfactory result, and with the continuance of such earnings a dividend of 3½ per cent. would be assured to Dover "A." To the new extensions which the South Eastern proposes to build, and for which powers are asked in Parliament, there is added the progressive policy of the management in introducing vestibule trains, the first complete train of American cars having commenced running on the 1st inst. between London and Hastings, and this new departure promises to make the line increasingly popular. Dover "A" have touched 105, and are still firm at 104⅜; while there are those who expect this stock to reach 110 by the end of the year. Chatham Ordinary improved to 19⅛, and reacted to 18¾. As a speculative counter, this stock is likely to receive attention in the near future. Brighton "A" touched 183¾, and are now quoted 183. This stock is being bought on dividend prospects, and certainly looks tempting with a distribution of about 7½ per cent. to come off in January. The stocks of the Heavy division have been fairly firm, but a fresh advance has been prevented by nervousness with reference to the recent action of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. The London and North-Western is apparently meeting the demand by training a number of understudies for the signalling department, and for goods guards, while the other Companies seem inclined to make some concessions to the men. At all events, it is hardly likely that a strike will break out at the present time; and as soon as this fear is removed the Home Railway market will doubtless wear a very lively appearance. Great Eastern have been firm, and after touching 109, are quoted 108⅛. I do not consider this stock nearly so good a purchase as Dover "A," but it is being pushed by a clique connected with a bucket shop. Great Northern Deferred are easier, but appear to deserve attention at their present price of 53. Hull and Barnsley have been put up to 39¾ on the proposal to connect the former with the Sheffield Railway. Metropolitan Districts are quoted only about 27, at which they are remarkably cheap, considering the importance of the new deep-level scheme and other extensions which are proposed; to which has to be added the project adopted by an independent Company for building a connection with the London and Tilbury line. Districts were quoted 35 a month or two ago when the position was not nearly so promising. The Scotch stocks have again moved very irregularly. Everybody agrees that with their splendid traffic increases the Caledonian and North British Companies are in an excellent position, and that the present prices of Coras (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary) and North British Deferred are absurdly low. But everybody seems also to be scared by the fear that some labour trouble might spoil the favourable outlook. Matters are, however, according to latest advices, shaping themselves more favourably, and it is now believed that early this week the engineers' dispute will be settled. As regards the relations between the coalmasters and the miners, it is at all events certain that no general strike will come about. Trade in Scotland continues remarkably active, and further traffic increases of the railways are, therefore, a foregone conclusion.

The Yankee Market and Congress.

Although several favourable events have been announced during the last week, there has been no return of briskness in the Yankee market, chiefly owing to the disinclination on the part of operators to enter into further commitments until President Cleveland's message has been issued, and it is possible to judge whether Congress is at all likely to make a feature of the Cuban question. Personally, I think that, although there may be a lot of talk, the utterances of even the most bellicose Senators will end in smoke, as the United States are absolutely unable to enforce any demand with their present inadequate naval strength. There may be some screeching of the American Eagle, but the Cuban question is as little likely to raise serious trouble as the Venezuelan was. Of course the "Bears" have made the utmost use of the Cuban bogey. The Congress which is now assembling, and which will sit until next March, is, of course, the same Congress which raised so much mischief last winter; but the position of the administration on the Cuban subject is well known. The perusal of recent American newspapers shows how busy the syndicate of liars has occasionally been in Wall-street. To what lengths the "Bears" will go is proved by the manner in which the false rumour of the death of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt was circulated a few weeks ago. The announcement that he had died suddenly at his home was made by means of a telephone message sent to the Union Club from the Holland House, the sender of the message giving the name of Mr. Webb. Mr. H. Walter Webb is a member of the Union Club, and is the third Vice-President of the New York Central road. His brother, W. Seward Webb, is President of the Wagner Palace Car Company, and is a member of the Vanderbilt family by marriage. Coming from either of these men, such a statement would naturally enough be accepted as authoritative, and the clerk at the Union Club lost no time in posting the announcement on the bulletin board. It was soon seen by a member of the Club and the news spread very quickly. Messages were at once sent to Wall-street and inquiries by telephone were made for details when it was learned that Mr. Vanderbilt was not dead and that he was as well as he has been for some time. Who personated Mr. Webb, and sent the telephone message from the Holland House, is a question which many persons would like answered, but the answer to which is hardly likely to be forthcoming. It was a

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dastardly piece of business, viewed from any standpoint. As a New York contemporary puts it, there are those in Wall-street who live upon sensations, and who gloat over catastrophes, but it seems time that a line should be drawn at such stories as this. A good deal is made of the poor traffics on most of the roads, but these are chiefly due to the delay in grain shipments caused by the desire of the farmers to secure even better prices. Moreover, the Railroad decreases really reflect conditions past and gone. Is it reasonable to suppose that the revival of trade and industry, which is now so general in the United States, will before long give the railroads all the tonnage they require? It is absurd to suppose that a continued boom should set in directly after the elections; yet there is no doubt about the revival, and in the first fortnight after the election 307 industrial establishments were re-opened, and 217 took measures to largely increase their output. In the meantime money is exceedingly easy and cheap in New York, and the Bank statements continue to improve. Milwaukee touched 82 a few weeks ago, and have since dropped to 75½, recovering to 77. The "Bear" argument against this stock has been a series of traffic decreases; but the last return was considerably better than the previous ones, and it is anticipated that they will further improve now. The Company has, moreover, so large a surplus to work on, that it will easily be able to maintain its dividend, and it would not be at all surprising to see a jump of 2 or 3 dols. in this stock. Louisville at 52 are also a fair purchase. Denver Prefs. have advanced to 45, on the declaration of the half-yearly dividend of 1 per cent. A favourable impression has also been produced by the announcement of a dividend of 1 per cent. on Southern Prefs. This has exactly borne out my anticipation of a month ago, and the stock has moved up to 32. Southern Ordinary have improved in sympathy to 10¾. According to latest advices, there is every prospect of the Union Pacific Funding Bill being considered by Congress, although President Cleveland's Message on this point sounds rather peremptory. Norfolk Prefs. are hanging fire somewhat, but considering the heavy assessment on this stock, they are cheap enough at 17⅝. In the Bond market a steady business has been transacted, and prices have hardened in several instances. At the request of a number of correspondents, I herewith give a fresh list of gilt-edged and second-class bonds, with the yield at present prices:—

Description of Bonds.	Interest.	Date of Redemption.	Price.	Yield, allowing for accrued Interest, and redemption at par at maturity.
	Per cent.			£. s. d.
New York and Putman guaranteed by the New York Central...	4	1993	108½	3 16 6
Illinois Central	4	1952	105½	3 18 6
Manhattan Consol. ...	4	1990	98	4 4 9
Lynn and Boston First Mortgage	5	1924	103	5 0 0
Louisville & Nashville General Mortgage ...	6	1930	118	5 1 9
St. Paul's Street Cable Consolidated Mort. .	5	1937	97	5 9 3
Alabama Midland First Mortgage	5	1928	96	5 9 6
Baltimore and Ohio Sterling	5	1927	92	5 11 0
Minneapolis Street First Consol. Mort. .	5	1919	97	5 11 9
Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Consolidated, guaranteed by the Grand Trunk Railway	6	1918	83	8 2 6

Canadian Pacifics have fluctuated somewhat, and at 57½ are lower for the week. Traffics do not yet show any improvement, but President Van Horne is talking very big as regards the future. Grand Trunks are firmer, the First Prefs. and Guaranteed gaining about a point, although the last traffic return was nothing to boast of. It may, however, be taken for granted that the Canadian lines will also benefit by the great improvement which is in store for the United States, now that confidence is reviving, and the financial outlook is brighter than it has been for years.

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Foreigners and South Americans.

The settlement in Paris having passed off much more satisfactorily than had been anticipated, there has been a better tone for interbourse securities. Italians have advanced to about 92¼ on the abandonment of the ambitious African policy by that Government, who are now doing their best to reduce expenses in connection with the Colonies to a minimum. Spanish have fluctuated within narrow limits, but are slightly firmer at 58¾. Advices from Cuba and from the Philippine Islands are most contradictory, but it would appear upon the whole as if the Spaniards had rather gained ground than otherwise. The news from Constantinople has been by no means satisfactory, but Turkish stocks have held their ground. In the South American department Argentines have gone ahead sharply, the 1886 Loan to 83¾, the Funding Loan to 82¾. Dr. Romero is evidently still opposed to the resumption of the full service of the debt, and this scheme is hardly likely to come off as soon as some people expect. A good deal of business has bee transacted in Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cen Railway stock, to which I drew attention last week as gilt-edged investment. This stock is still to be obtai at about 108, at which it is very cheap. Uruguay b dropped at one time to 44½, and have recovered to a 46. The rumours with regard to the insurrection have been, as usual, very contradictory. I do not, as a rule, attach much importance to official statements by Spanish-American Republics, but I am inclined to think that the last statement as to the insurgents having been routed is correct; and if this intelligence is confirmed we may see a sharp rise. Mexican Sixes and Brazilians have been strong, while the rubbish stocks of the South and Central American Republics have been inactive.

The Kaffir Circus.

I have already referred to the exceptional activity of the syndicate of liars in the South African market. Now that the relations between the Transvaal Government and this country are shown to be satisfactory, and there is no more the shadow of a pretext for suggesting political troubles in the Transvaal, unscrupulous "Bears" are inventing all kinds of drawbacks to the mining industry. The shutting-down of the Langlaagte Royal gave them the cue, and they forthwith invented the shutting-down of the Wemmer Mine, while rumours were spread that the whole of the remaining Witwatersrand Mines were on the point of shutting-down, not only on the scarcity of water, but also as a demonstration against the Transvaal Government, in order to force a further reduction in the taxation of the mining industry. So far from the Wemmer Mine being shut down, the crushing makes a very fair showing, the following being the result for November:—3,538 oz. of gold from 5,298 tons of ore; 976 oz. from 3,125 tons treated by the cyanide plant; and from concentrates 135 tons assayed 95 dwt. This crop of rumours seems to have unsettled our excitable French neighbours altogether, and a fresh stream of sales commenced from Paris, prices being knocked down all along the line, and in a most unreasonable manner. As the news of the shutting-down of the Wemmer has been contradicted, and no confirmation has been received as to the shutting-down of any other mines, a firmer tone is now prevailing, and Parisian operators seem to have gathered some comfort from the announcement which has just been made of the Geldenhuis Deep crushing for November, which yielded 6,637 oz. of gold, the profit being about £4,000. As this is considerably better than the October crushing, the Deep Level holders will probably gather a little courage again; and as this has been one of the chief sources of weakness, and has adversely affected the outcrop mines, it may

reasonably be supposed that the shares in the latter may also now again appreciate. I should like to point out, moreover, that the leaders of the speculative market have of late been Consolidated Goldfields, Rand Mines, and East Rands, while the rest of the market followed in sympathy. And so it has happened that the shares of sound Witwatersrand mines have been marked down continually, often without any shares changing hands, while sometimes a heavy decline has been brought about by the sale of a small parcel. English holders have been sensible enough, in most instances, to stick to their shares, and they will reap the benefit of having thus shown patience and courage as soon as ever the turn comes. Then, too, prices will go up by leaps and bounds, and it will be almost impossible to buy at anything like present quotations. Quite a crowd of South African notabilities are on board the *Dunvegan Castle*, which left on Saturday, November 28, for the Cape. Mr. J. B. Robinson, Mr. Abe Bailey, and Mr. Sol Joel had booked passages by this steamer, and they received a somewhat unexpected addition to their company in the person of Mr. B. I. Barnato. Mr. Barnato was seeing his nephew, Mr. Sol Joel off at Southampton, when he took it into his head to go on to Madeira, and when once on the way to the Cape—which he had intended to visit a few weeks later—he could not resist the impulse to go on. He will doubtless be able to render important service to those who are interested in his group of Companies, and thus his improvised journey should prove of considerable advantage to the shareholders. I have already expressed the same opinion with reference to Mr. J. B. Robinson's visit; and I make bold to predict that he will not be long in South Africa ere some good news will come to hand to cheer the holders of Randfontein, Langlaagte Estates, and other mines of his group. He is, moreover, a *persona grata* with Oom Paul and Transvaal statesmen generally, and his efforts will be directed towards obtaining further facilities, and reductions of taxes for the mining industry generally. Not that I look upon Mr. Robinson as merely a philanthropist, but in asking for concessions for the industry generally he will, of course, benefit his own interests and those of his shareholders. For the guidance of those who wish to average their holdings, or to invest money in Transvaal mining shares, I herewith again give a short list from which a suitable selection could be made:—Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, City and Suburban, Robinson, Wolhuter, New Crœsus, Kimberley Roodepoort, Knights, Randfontein, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Consols, Buffelsdoorn, Woodstock (Transvaal), Henderson's Estates, Lydenburg Estates, Oceana Consols, Mozambique, Modderfontein "B," and Waterfall Estates. I would, however, again point out, as I have often done before, that only those who can take them up and pay for them should buy mining shares, so as not to be dependent upon temporary fluctuations, which occur as a consequence of market speculation. A fresh development has to be reported with reference to the East Rand Proprietary Company. The insiders and their friends are now offering a sum of £550,000 against a debenture-issue to put the Company into funds, in the event of the Directors' proposal not being adopted at the meeting to be held on the 14th inst. The shares, which at one time dropped to 3¼, have since recovered sharply to nearly 4; the announcement, in fact, benefiting the whole of the market, as showing that somebody, at least, has still some confidence in matters South African. It is reported that a syndicate has been formed, in which Messrs. Bourke and H. B. Marshall are interested, for acquiring a concession for a construction of a railway in the Free State, from Kroonstad to Groenfontein, and thence to the Vaal River, some coal-mining rights in the district being also obtained. The Vogelstruis mill of eighty stamps commenced working on the 30th ult., and, although this is a low-grade proposition, its December output will also help to increase Rand crushings. The New Kleinfontein battery of 140 stamps will probably start work at the commencement of February. An amalgamation of the United Rhodesia Company and the Bulawayo Syndicate is on the board on lines which, however, appear to be very unfavourable to the United Rhodesia, and it is not surprising, therefore, that the shareholders in this Company are opposing the scheme. The Directors of the Abercorn Reefs and of the Umtoli Gold Reefs are continuing their ruthless treatment of the shareholders. Having declared forfeited the shares of a number of these, they are now suing them through Messrs. Burgoyne, Watts, & Co., solicitors, for the amount of the last two calls. I cannot understand why the shareholders, who are thus being victimised, do not unite to stop these proceedings. At least, the amount of these last two calls might have been saved, instead of being frittered away on properties which are apparently valueless! At the meeting of the London-Paris Financial and Mining Corporation, Limited, held on Monday, the proposals in connection with the alliance with the London and Globe Finance Corporation were authorised by the shareholders. Very satisfactory statements were made, not the least of which was the announcement that Lord Loch, Sir William Robinson, and Mr. Whittaker Wright, Directors of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, will join the Board of the London-Paris Financial and Mining Corporation. Diamond shares have fluctuated with gold mining shares, and De Beers are quoted 29⅛, New Jagersfontein 10⅜. It is understood that the annual meeting of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited, will be held on the 28th inst.

Golden West Australia.

Considering that the Kaffir Circus was in an utter state of prostration during the past week, it was not to be expected that the West Australian department should show any strength. There have not, therefore, been wanting declines of more or less importance. One of these days, no doubt, West Australians will stand, to use a vulgar expression, "on their own bottom." But at present they are still exposed to the varying influences which affect the South African department, and particularly so during the present interregnum of development of numerous mines before actual results can be shown. It is the general complaint of West Australian mining engineers that the public here are too impatient, and that they will not understand that it takes some time to develop a mine, and more time to get the batteries erected to commence crushing, especially in a young country in which the means of communication are only being gradually established. The public, on the other hand, have every right to reply that promoters should not bring out Companies at so early a stage. The promoter on his part may possibly argue that, on the discovery of a new great goldfield, it is impossible to delay the flotation of companies, and that it is desirable to secure the really good properties. Unfortunately, too many undeveloped properties have been placed on the market, which is at present unable to digest all the millions of shares which had been thrown upon it. One salutary effect has, however, been produced by the temporary fit of indigestion, viz., that the leading financial groups have determined not to place any but fully-developed properties ready for crushing upon the market. This is a change of front which I have repeatedly urged, and I am inclined to think that the few undeveloped properties which have lately been formed into Companies have been absolutely left alone by the public, which serves the foolish promoters, who could not read the signs of the times, right. The public in this country want crushings before they put more money into West Australian Companies. Therefore, I herewith give, as I

Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society.—Special Notice.—Participating Assurances effected before the 31st December, 1896, will rank for Six Full Years' Bonus Additions at the next Periodical Division of Profits. To secure this advantage application should be made to any of the offices or agencies of the Society without delay.—London: 28, Cornhill, E.C., & 5, Waterloo-place, S.W.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

have done for some time, a list of crushings which have come to hand during the week:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Lady Shenton	325	1,335	29 dwt.
Ivanhoe	324	1,128	—
Mount Yahagong ...	300	525	—
Consolidated Murchison	518	278	—
Great Boulder Main Reef	205	348	30 dwt.
Menzies Gold Reef Proprietary	250	447	18 ,,
Menzies Crusoe	600	964	11 ,,

The Lady Shenton has continued to do well, and if the mine can keep up similar returns, I foresee a very considerable rise upon the present price of 2. The Ivanhoe also is doing well, but not much can be said for the Consolidated Murchison, which appears to be working on very low-grade ore. The Lake View Consols settlement having been completed, a reaction has occurred in the shares to $7\frac{1}{8}$, but I should advise my readers to follow the course of these shares very closely, as there is every prospect of a sharp rally when least expected, and I am able to speak positively with regard to the favourable position of the property. London and Globe and W.A. Exploring and Finance have also been affected by the general dulness, being quoted about 4; but at the end of the year a splendid report of these two Companies may be expected, together with a large dividend, and those who buy these shares at the present quotations may look for a large profit. This group has resisted the inroads of the "Bears" better than most others. West Australian Goldfields have been sold down to $5\frac{1}{2}$, Hampton Plains to $2\frac{7}{8}$, and a strong attack has been made on Hannan's Brownhill, while it is a fact that all these shares have proved scarce at recent settlements, a backwardation being exacted. That sooner or later retribution will overtake the ursine party I do not doubt for a moment; and as early in the new year many crushings from new mines may be expected, the discomfiture of the "Bears" will take place then, if not before. A fair amount of dealings have taken place in White Feather Reward at $1\frac{3}{4}$, Great Boulder Main Reef at $1\frac{3}{8}$, Mawson's Reward at $\frac{7}{8}$, Robinson at $\frac{3}{4}$, East Murchison United at $\frac{13}{16}$, and Mount Margaret at $1\frac{1}{16}$; and any one wishing to make up a little private trust of cheap West Australian shares can hardly do better than make a selection from these, and from Gladiators at $\frac{5}{8}$, Burbank's North at par, and Burbank's Consols at par. By the way, the special settlement of the Burbank's Consols has been fixed for December 29. The public issue of the Northern Territories Goldfields will, I understand, be made this week, and the shares of the Company have been very strong, the fully-paid £1 shares being dealt in at $3\frac{11}{16}$, the partly-paid (10s. paid) at $2\frac{11}{16}$ premium; and this will apparently be a very successful issue. West Australian Joint-Stock Trust shares have been firm at about 2 premium, the Founders' shares at from £35 to £40. Great Boulder have fluctuated within narrow limits, and always again find support when they have been attacked by "Bears;" they now stand at $6\frac{1}{4}$. Messrs. Stoneham and Messenger have addressed a communication to Mr. R. P. Houston, M.P., with reference to the Lady Hampton rig. This is an extraordinary communication, which deserves the name of apology in its fullest sense. The firm in question, who had undoubtedly sold a considerable number of Lady Hampton shares short, as I explained in last week's issue, now "have no hesitation in withdrawing all charges which they have made against Mr. Houston and his friends," and they also apologise for the annoyance caused to them by the employment of private detectives, and agree to pay the sum of £1,000 to be divided amongst any charities Mr. Houston and his friends may name. They add significantly that this apology is unconditional, and entirely because they consider it due to him, and leaves the financial situation still to be dealt with. I do not know what charges Messrs. Stoneham & Messenger have made against Mr. Houston, but that gentleman has evidently got the best of the dispute, and I suppose that the occurrence will be a lesson to jobbers not to sell "Bears" of new enterprises in a hurry. There are still, however, a good many points in connection with the matter to be explained, and I hope that the Stock Exchange Committee will all the same give it their best attention. Another of the Companies of the Venture Syndicate group, viz., the Anglo-French Exploration Company of Western Australia, has obtained excellent results, as was explained by Mr. W. Orriss, who presided over last Wednesday's meeting of shareholders. An interim dividend of 5s. per share was paid on the Ordinary share capital in October, 1895, and now 3s. per share is paid, making a return of 8s. on the original shares 10s. paid. The Deferred shares have each received a sum amounting altogether to £9. 11s. 2d.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Movements in Indian mines have been irregular, and while Ooregums have been strong, more particularly the Ordinary, there has been a setback in Mysore, Nundydroog, Champion Reefs, and Coromandel. Goldfields of Mysore, on the other hand, are firmer. Amongst Australian mines other than West Australian, Aladdin's Lamps are easier at 2. Mount Lyell have improved, but Mount Morgan, Wentworth, and Gibraltar are lower. Broken Hill Proprietary have given way to $2\frac{1}{2}$, and amongst Charters Towers mines New Queen and New Charters Towers are easier. Croydon mines generally have been in demand. Croydon Consols have advanced to 11s. on the declaration of the dividend, and in anticipation of further large crushings, one of which is due next week. A cablegram just received reports another clean up on December 5, giving 1,995 oz. from 396 tons, or over 5 oz. to the ton. The Manager also cables that there is every indication that the lode will be cut in the new No. 3 deep shaft. As it is, the existing ore reserves are very large, and the No. 3 shaft would simply open up new bodies of rich ore sufficient to keep the mill going for years. The above return is stated to yield £5,000, and thus a fund is already accumulating for the payment of a fourth dividend, although the third dividend of 1s. per share is only payable on the 16th inst. North Croydon Consols are firm at 3s. 6d. to 4s., and some attention has been directed to La Reine d'Or, which are quoted 5s. Developments at this mine have been very favourable of late, and it is expected that this property will follow in the wake of the Croydon Consols. Latest advices with reference to the position of the La Reine d'Or are to the effect that the main shaft is down 530 ft., and that a valuable reef has been opened out 10 ft. wide, while a new reef showing gold has come in on the hanging wall over the other lode. Machinery, consisting of a Krupp ball-mill and cyanide plant, is being erected, and as the ore opened up is of an assay value of from £3 to £4 per ton, profitable crushings will commence almost immediately. As these are £1 shares fully paid, it is obvious that the present quotation leaves a large margin for improvement. New Zealand mines have shown some irregularity, and while Kathleen, Kathleen Crown, and New Zealand Joint-Stock have improved, there have been declines in London and New Zealand Exploration, Komata Reefs, Waihi, and Waitekauri. Taitapu Estates, although not maintaining their full rise, are firm at $3\frac{3}{8}$. It is reported that developments on the New Zealand Talisman Gold Mining Company's property have been particularly favourable since the acquisition of the mine, and the twenty-stamp mill, which is now in course of erection, will probably be in full working order by February next. The shares, at anything near par, appear to be a good purchase. In the general foreign section Columbian Hydraulic and Pestarena are firmer, but Lucky Guss have receded. Grand Central are quoted at $2\frac{1}{2}$, a dividend of 2s. having been announced at last week's meeting of shareholders.

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

The "Moses Moss" Toy Fund.

For the last two years, when the Truth Toy Fund was in need of help, I started a "Moses Moss" Toy Fund, which was supported by my friends on the Stock Exchange, by some of the great banking firms, who are always distinguished by their generous support of charitable and philanthropic objects, and by some of the correspondents to whom I supply willingly and gratuitously information in my Letter Box. To many of these I have been of considerable service, and to some I have saved a good deal of money by my warnings against syndicate touts, rotten land Companies, building societies, and various financial swindles. Others have, on my advice, invested their money carefully and advantageously in gilt-edged securities, which have since risen to much higher prices. Let me therefore appeal to them to support the finances of the Truth Toy Fund, which are at present at a very low ebb. The poor dear children in the hospitals, workhouses, workhouse schools, and infirmaries, who year by year look forward to the Truth toys, must not look in vain. Imagine them weary and disappointed, when your own little ones are enjoying the Christmas gifts which you shower upon them in fond parental love—but there is no time to lose. The Truth Doll Show will, as has been stated, be held at the Albert Hall on Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th and 17th inst., and much remains to be done. So open your hearts and purses, my friends, and send your contributions to the "Moses Moss Truth Toy Fund." All donations will, of course, be publicly acknowledged, and the smallest contributions will be thankfully received. I have already received the following from generous donors :—

"X," £50 ; N. M. Rothschild & Sons, £10. 10s. ; Baring Bros. & Co., £5 ; W. H. Burns, £5 ; Marks, Bulteel, Mills, & Co., £5. 5s. ; M. Van Raalte, £3. 3s. ; G. C. Howard, £2. 2s. ; L. Clow & Co., £2. 2s. ; J. R. Ellerman, £2. 2s. ; A. H. P. Stoneham, £2. 2s. ; T. Carmichael & Co., £2. 2s. ; Otto Stange, £1. 1s. ; D. J. MacRae, £1. 1s. ; F. R. Bullock, £2. 2s. ; J. A. Scrivener, £2. 2s. ; J. T. Segrue, 10s. 6d. ; Welbore S. Ellis, £1. 1s.

R. B. Oakley on the War-path.

I have repeatedly devoted attention to the doings of Richard Banner Oakley. Notwithstanding past incidents, he has blossomed forth at 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., as a full-blown financier ; and the Underwriting Bureau, of which he is the managing director, is apparently used by him for promoting and financing purposes. His more recent departure is his connection with the Road and Path Cycling Association, of which he has appointed himself honorary secretary. If Mr. Oakley confined his connection with the Road and Path Cycling Association merely to the affairs of that concern, one might come to the conclusion that he was in this instance trying to benefit cyclists and the cycling industry. But from various communications which I have received, Mr. Oakley, amongst others, circularises the members of the Cyclists' Tourist Club, not only with reference to the Road and Path Cycling Association, but he is also appealing to them to subscribe to the Underwriting Bureau, Limited, and favours other persons connected with cycling with prospectuses of the Road and Path Cycling Association, and of the Underwriting Bureau, Limited, together with polite invitations to underwrite capital for a new concern, such as the Cripple Creek (Bull Hill) Finance and Development Company, and the Anglo-Continental Motor Carriage Company (Leutzmann's patents). It is clear, therefore, that Richard Banner Oakley is not acting in this matter as a philanthropist ; but that he is using the Road and Path Cycling Association as a means of obtaining from the public subscriptions to concerns which, on the face of them, are of a highly speculative and doubtful character. In view of the past history of Oakley, I should therefore strongly advise recipients of these communications to have nothing whatever to do with him or with his concerns.

Borwick's Baking Powder. Pure & wholesome, assists digestion.
Borwick's Baking Powder. Guaranteed to be free from alum.
Borwick's Baking Powder. It has the largest sale in the world.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week :—

The London Canning Company, Limited.—With a capital of £12,000, in £1 shares, this Company has been formed for the purpose of purchasing the English, French, and American patent rights, together with the sole rights, to take out letters patent in H.M. Colonies or foreign countries in regard to preparing and preserving in tins every description of food, by a new process, under which the articles of food do not come in contact with the tin itself.

Samuel Salter & Co., Limited, is formed to acquire and carry on the business of Samuel Salter & Co., woollen cloth manufacturers, of the Home and Duke-street Mills, Trowbridge, Wilts. The capital is fixed at £100,000 in Preference and Ordinary shares, and £30,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Mortgage Debenture stock.

The Maypole Company, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire, work and extend, both at home and abroad, the business and rights of Maypole Soap, and to provide working capital to meet the requirements of the increasing business. The capital is fixed at £200,000, divided into 50,000 £7 per cent. Cumulative Preference shares, and 150,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

Maypole Soap is, I hear, an article unique in its way. It thoroughly cleanses any fabric that it may be used for, and simultaneously and permanently dyes the article any colour, which will not wash out. Already a large trade has been done, which is stated to be still increasing, and a very large return is expected when the merits of the soap are better known. The estimated profits show a substantial surplus, after paying the Preference, and a 12 per cent. dividend on the Ordinary shares.

The Worcestershire Brewing and Malting Company, Limited.—With a capital of £260,000, divided into 13,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Preference shares, and 13,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each, this Company has been formed to purchase as going concerns and amalgamate the freehold breweries known as Bucknall's Brewery, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, and the Delph Brewery, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire, with the licensed houses held by them, together with the Unicorn Hotel, Worcester, and other maltings and properties. They also acquire two wine, spirit, and bottled beer businesses. There is in addition to the share capital, £230,000 First Mortgage Four and a Quarter per Cent. Debenture stock.

This is an amalgamation of two old-established breweries with their tied houses and several other properties. In addition to the businesses acquired, there is a large number of shops, cottages, &c., and 40 acres of freehold land included in the purchases, showing ample security for the Debenture stock, while the estimated profits based upon the past three years' trading show sufficient, after paying Debenture and Preference interest, to give a substantial dividend to the ordinary shareholders.

The Mountain Copper Company, Limited, has been formed to acquire and work on an extended scale the copper mines belonging to the Mountain Mines, Limited, situated at Iron Mountain, Shasta County, in the State of California, the smelting works connected therewith and other extensive property, as well as the entire interest in the railway to the mines and the refining works near New York, owned by the New Jersey Metal Refining Works, Limited. The capital is fixed at £1,250,000 in shares of £5 each.

The North-Eastern Breweries, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on the brewery and wine and spirit business of Messrs. Bramwell & Co., of Church-street Bond Vaults, and the Wear Brewery and Maltings, Sunderland ; also the business of William Story & Co., of Moor-street, Brewery, Sunderland ; Richard Murray, Wine and Spirit Merchant and Aerated Water Manufacturer, of Consett ; J. H. Graham, Wine Merchant, Middlesbrough ; P. B. Junor, Brewer, Tudhoe Grange, Spennymoor ; and Thomas Elwen & Son, of Frederick-street, Sunderland ; with Maltings and 139 tied houses and other properties. The share capital is fixed at £400,000 and £400,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock.

The Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia, Limited.—The capital of this Company is fixed at £300,000 in £1 shares. They have acquired six groups of developed and working mines of about 700 acres, situate in the Northern Territory of Australia, together with a large quantity of plant, machinery, &c., and upwards of 30,000 tons of tailings. The shares are quoted at a high premium in the market.

It is seldom that such an extensive group of developed and working mines under one management is offered for public subscription. The capital is very moderate in pro-

portion to the properties acquired, consisting, as they do, of 700 acres of mining claims with machinery and plant, ready for work. The syndicate which makes this issue is a very powerful one, and shows its confidence in the properties by taking the whole of the purchase-money in shares besides finding £75,000 as working capital. According to experts' reports the mines are very valuable, and this may fairly be looked upon as a promising undertaking.

The "Non Collapsible" Tyre Company, Limited.—With a capital of £130,000 in £1 shares, this Company has been formed to acquire the business of the Cooke detachable tyre and other inventions for improvements in pneumatic tyres, &c.

This appears to be another flotation depending for success only upon the present boom in the cycle trade. The capital, however, is excessive, and it is to be hoped that the Company will be as non-collapsible as the tyre.

The Oban Palace Hotel and Hydropathic Company, Limited.—This Company has been formed to purchase, complete, enlarge, and open as a first-class hotel and hydropathic establishment the property known as the Oban Hills Hydropathic Sanatorium, situate on the Ardconnel Estate. The capital is fixed at £250,000.

There can be no doubt but that Oban is a very fine place and healthy, but whether there will ever be sufficient visitors to the place to support an establishment such as is intended is extremely doubtful. Moreover, I fear that the winter losses will spoil, if not eat up the summer profits, if any.

The Law Investment and Reinsurance Corporation, Limited.—This Company is formed with a capital of £1,000,000 in 200,000 shares of £5 each, for the purpose of undertaking the ordinary business of an investment Company.

It would have been as well, I think, if the promoters of this concern had explained the necessity for it. Old-established Companies, a list of share quotations of which are given, and who cover the same ground, have the cream of this kind of business, and will most likely keep it.

The Raglan Cycle and Anti-Friction Ball Company, Limited.—This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and amalgamating the businesses of Taylor, Cooper, & Bednell, Limited, cycle manufacturers, of Coventry and London, and the Anti-Friction Ball Company, Limited, of Coventry. The capital asked is £120,000 in £1 shares, and a Debenture issue of £50,000.

When will these cycle issues cease? It seems the desire of all who have any business in connection with this industry to convert themselves into a Limited Company, and ask the public for the capital, which is in most cases very excessive. I cannot see any inducement in this one for the investor.

The Acatène Cycle Company, Limited.—With a capital of £150,000, in shares of £1 each, this Company has been formed to acquire the English patent of Messrs. Malicet & Blin for the manufacture of chainless bicycles, and all improvements applied by them to the chainless bicycle known as the Acatène. The Company also acquire the sole right in a patent for a two-speed gear for the same description of bicycle.

This kind of bicycle has been manufactured in France for the past two years with great success, and has already found great favour in this country with riders. The demand for these machines has so greatly increased that two of the largest manufacturers in Coventry have taken licences to use the patents, at a liberal royalty. The advantages of the Acatène bicycle are many, and as these become better known, a large trade is looked for.

The "Evening News," Limited—Capital £250,000 divided into 25,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each, and 125,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each (the whole of which latter are taken by the Vendors). The Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing and carrying on the evening newspaper known as the *Evening News*.

Combe & Co., Limited.—Issue of £500,000 Three and a Half per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock, bearing interest from January 1, 1897.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

A. T. C.—It is impossible to tell. There seems at present to be an unreasonable scare with regard to an insurrectionary movement; which is, however, greatly exaggerated. Hold. *N. C., Cardiff.*—I have replied by telegram for once, but this is altogether against my rules. *Brighton.*—There seem to have been exaggerated rumours with reference to an alleged insurrection in Uruguay. *Einnaro.*—Hold.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Werai Station, N.S.W.—It is interesting to note that the German touts for lotteries are commencing to devote their attention to even your remote regions. It is quite correct that the Colonial Governments ought to step in, and that the remarks in Truth with regard to the Home Post Office and lotteries, also apply to the present case. *Fortunately not a Shareholder.*—How can I advise with reference to a Company, which you say is a family concern, without your disclosing the name? *X. Y. Z.*—If Mr. William Longman is the outside broker, whose doings I described about two years ago, I should certainly advise you not to have anything to do with him. At that time I entered in Truth fully into his history. *M. R. P.*—No; I do not advise purchase of Cheque Bank Founders' shares, which are being puffed in circulars by F. W. Nish & Co., Crown-court, Old Broad-street, E.C. *E. R.*—I should say there is but little prospect of the Asia Minor Company ever proving successful, even if the reconstruction be carried out.—*W. S., Leicester.*—Yes. *Annandale.*—Amongst the dailies, the *Financial News* and *Financial Times*. Amongst the weeklies, the *Citizen*. *W.*—You can get the yield you require amongst American Railroad Bonds, a table of which is published this week under "The Yankee Market." I do not advise investment in Eastern banks. *P. N., Liverpool.*—A gilt-edged investment, which should recommend itself to you is the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock at 108. According to the figures given in last week's issue under "Foreigners and South Americans," this is a well-secured debenture stock. *June.*—Outside dealers; you should deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. *Blanche.*—Outside brokers; have nothing to do with them. *Corrigenda.*—Both are leading Australian banks, and the investment is satisfactory. *G. H. L.*—I should prefer the Provident Life Office. *Anonymous.*—You had better place the matter against Frank Tarrant into the hands of a solicitor; but I am stating your case to-day under "Various Investments." *Insurance.*—It is a great pity that you should have subscribed to the Insurance Corporation. What is the use of you doing this first, and asking my opinion afterwards? I have myself a very poor opinion of this concern.

Home Rails.

Zero.—I have already answered you. I do not recommend the purchase of East London Third Debentures. *T. W. L.*—After the heavy fall it would be advisable not to sell, as there is every prospect of a recovery. *Fredington.*—It is impossible to make profits in such short terms. Amongst the shares mentioned by you I prefer Coras and Dover "A." Humber Extensions are expected to improve. *Inquirer, Rushden.*—Brighton "A" are a good purchase, and I agree with your view.

American and Foreign Rails.

F. McC.—I do not think there is any dishonest management in the case of this road, but I will inquire into the reason of the traffic decreases. *Dragoon.*—In such cases it is generally advisable to join the reconstruction and sell after, so as not to forfeit the shares. *Curious, Belfast.*—Yes; assessments have been paid on Atchison, Erie, and Northern Pacific Prefs., and these are certainly good purchases. On Union Pacifics there has been no assessment yet, but prospects are distinctly improved. *Crowborough Spinster.*—The firm in question have been negotiating with the provincial Government, but, so far, no result has been achieved. It is, however, quite worth holding the shares. *F. C., Ramsgate.*—You cannot obtain 5 per cent. interest with perfect security in English securities.

Mining Shares.

H. H., Manchester.—It is a fair Colonial mine, and the price is now 10s. I should think there is a prospect of a recovery. *Rustic.*—You are quite right to hold Hampton Plains, London and Globe, and West Australian Joint Stock Trust for an important improvement. Hainaults are also a fair mining risk, and Lake View Consols continue to be a good purchase. *T. C. B.*—There is no option but to hold your Mining shares Nos. 1 to 7 for a rise. *H. T. W.*—This is not the time to sell Mining shares. Nos. 1 to 6 should be held, and there is a probability of a recovery in the near future. *Balne Lane*—No option but to hold. Do not average yet. *Stonegate.*—They will be worth buying presently, but not yet. *Gwilym.*—No option but to hold for a recovery. *Bob Tail.*—You are not entitled to the bonus of Porges Randfontein shares, as you bought your Randfontein too late. *Durham.*—No, you are not entitled to the bonus, which was announced before you bought. *Domino.*—You know as much about Hit or Miss as

I do, a full statement of affairs having been made at the meeting. There seems to be every probability of affairs improving. *V. P. P.*—No option but to hold. *E. E. S.*—You should hold both the shares which you have averaged for a marked improvement. I do not like La Campana. *Dunod.*—Yes, Porges Randfontein, North Randfontein, and Robinson Randfontein are suitable for a lock-up purchase. *Redeal.*—Amongst the shares mentioned, I prefer No. 10. With regard to No. 14, I suppose times are too bad for the continuation of this dividend. *Hartington.*—Under the present circumstances, you had better hold all your mining shares, although they were bought against my advice. *Notts.*—Amongst the shares mentioned, I prefer Nos. 1 and 6. *Taffy, Menai Bridge.*—Nos. 2 and 3 are the best amongst these finance shares. The shares No. 3 are £1 each, 10s. paid, and the dividend is at the rate of 100 per cent. on the 10s. *A. G., Lordship-lane.*—It appears that Burgoyne, Watts, & Co., solicitors, 77, Gresham-street, E.C., are suing all the shareholders in the Abercorn Reefs, Limited, for the payment of the remaining calls. I have repeatedly stated that the conduct of the Directors is outrageous, but the only thing to be done is that the shareholders should take the matter in hand and turn them out. *Patience Exhausted.*—You must be aware that the Jameson raid and the insurrection in Rhodesia has changed the whole aspect of affairs in that country, and necessarily interfered with the working of the concessions. A Directors' report has, however, now been issued. *W. T.*—The report with reference to the good position of the Woodstock (Transvaal) Gold Mine has appeared in the financial papers, which is apparently deemed sufficient for the information of the shareholders. You should hold your shares for an important advance. *R. C.*—No temptation to buy these shares. *Rampart.*—This is a fair mining risk, and you should hold for a recovery. *Adelaide.*—How can I help you in the matter of the British Dominions Exploration Company? I warned my readers not to have anything to do with it, and you must get out the best way you can. Associated Gold Mines of West Australia are a fair mining risk; and there is no option but to hold the low-priced shares mentioned. *A. B. C.*—The price of Hampton Gold Hills on the date mentioned was 3s. 6d. for the partly paid. There was no price made for the fully-paid. *D. N. R.*—1. Yes; you should hold Croydon Consols for a further rise. Take a good profit on No. 2, and there is no option but to hold No. 3. Sell Nos. 4 and 5 when you can get a decent profit. *Regular Reader, Harlesden.*—No option but to hold these shares for an improvement. *Airdrie.*—It is impossible to say whether the West Boulder Gold Mine will strike the Ivanhoe Reef, but the property is in a good position. *Skilligs.*—No option but to hold all your Mining shares for a recovery, although some are not well selected. *Kildare Patsy.*—Yes, the Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia, Limited, is a promising Company. *Cuidado.*—Hit or Miss is a fair mining risk, and it is expected that the mine will come right. I do not think so much of Kathleen. If you want to buy low-priced New Zealand Mining shares, you might select Preece's Point or Komata Queens. *Clio.*—I have not by any means altered my opinion of Hannan's Golden Treasure. This Company is doing well, and when it commences to crush excellent results are expected. You must be aware that in the present temper of the public, they think nothing of any mine which is not crushing. *James, Kensington.*—Yes, there is every prospect of your getting a good dividend on Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares next year. No reason to sell Jagersfontein. *Perplexity.*—You know, of course, how the speculative collapse in W.A. (Gold District) Trading shares has come about. You should certainly hold your shares now, and buy more to average if you can afford to do so. *Roland.*—No; the Austin Friars Syndicate is quite different from the Austin Syndicate. The Austin Friars Syndicate belongs to the London and Globe group. The Princess Royal has now joined the list of producing mines, and the shares are a fair mining risk. *Anxious.*—There is still a prospect of this Company coming right. *Renob.*—No option but to hold all your Mining shares for a recovery. Porges Randfontein are a good purchase, and so are Randfontein. *West Ridge.*—Yes, I still think that the shares will recover. *E. S. B.*—No; I think unfavourably of the Indian and Colonial Goldfields, Limited. *Leodensian.*—There is no late news available, but the Company is supposed to be doing well. *Botton.*—No option but to hold for a recovery. *B. X. L.*—Amongst the shares you mention I prefer Mysore Goldfields. Instead of buying the others, you had better follow the advice given in my letter. *Tom Tit.*—No option but to hold your Mining shares for a rise; they are well selected. *Enquirer, Ilfracombe.*—1. The mine is likely to do well, and you should hold. 2. No option but to hold these. I do not like the Tehuantepec Exploring Company, and can tell you nothing about the special settlement. *Retired.*—A fair mining risk. *R. C. G.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I prefer No. 3. *Tea.*—Yes, you should hold your Mining shares. *F. W. B., Bowes Park.*—Hold your shares Nos. 1 to 6, which are well-selected. You might average No. 7, and instead of buying No. 8 you might purchase Komata Queen or Preece's Point. I do not recommend a purchase of No. 9. *Plen.*—1 and 2. Yes. 3. I hope so. 4. Yes. 5. Fair prospects. 6. Probably. 7. Certainly hold London and Globe. *Novice, Nottingham.*—1. The management has been bad, but it is about to be changed, and you should hold. 2 and 3. Apply to the Secretary for information. 4B. The present price is very moderate. 5 and 6. Not yet. *J. W., Devizes.*—1. If you do not join the reconstruction you will forfeit your shares. 2. Apparently. 3. Impossible to tell. *Beechdale.*—Fair mining risks; hold for an improvement. *Brightonian.*—If you can afford to take the shares up, you might buy more Langlaagte Star. Certainly hold the other shares for an advance. *Ignorance.*—The Malacate mine has been greatly mismanaged. It is hoped that a change will take place. 2. The Croydon Consols is doing very well, and the shares are a good purchase. *Stamps.*—I think there is every prospect of the Langlaagte Star mine coming right in time. *Hurcot.*—Hold all your Mining shares for an improvement. *C. F., Bournemouth.*—I do not advise purchase of Bechuanaland Exploration. You should consult my letter as regards mines to buy. Nothing fresh about Brazilian finances. *C. H. T.*—Yes, you might average Bantjes and West Australian Trading shares. *Sherwood.*—All your shares are well selected, and when the turn comes they will be all right. *Sepphoris.*—Yes, hold your Mining shares Nos. 1 to 13 for a rise. *Stoneygate.*—1. There seems to be no option but to join the reconstruction, or else you will forfeit your shares. 2. Hold for a recovery. *A Purchaser of Truth, Arlesford.*—After the heavy fall, you should certainly hold Minerva. Neither is there any reason for selling Randfontein or Glencairn. *Westralia.*—You must be aware that there has been a great general slump. Hold your shares; they will recover again. *Plunger.*—The next dividend will be paid at the end of the year. *Sitting Bull.*—You need not trouble yourself about Johnnies Investment. These shares will be all right and rise considerably. *Seaforth.*—Hannan's Group and Hannan's Treasure are good mines, and when they commence crushing they will give a good account of themselves. Hold Nos. 1 to 5 for a recovery. *Yorkist.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares for a recovery. *Nailsea.*—The Golden Crown is a promising West Australian mine. I am glad to hear you made money on my advice. *L. S.*—1. No; you should hold for a recovery. 2. The general slump accounts for it. 3. Quite so; you had better stipulate this with the broker. *Edina Carsor.*—1. Not exactly. 2. Perhaps. 3. Better hold for the present. *Tom.*—No option but to hold these shares for a recovery. *Veritas.*—Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares are a good purchase. *Erin-go-Bragh.*—You should hold your mining shares Nos, 1 to 10, which are well selected. They will rise much higher. *Argyle.*—The Diamond shares in question are somewhat speculative. *H. D. C.*—Yes, your North Croydon Consols at 3s. 6d. were a good purchase. You should hold the other shares. *South Arcot.*—No option but to hold the shares, and join the reconstruction rather than forfeit them. *Sammy Hard-Up.*—No reason to make the change, although I prefer Croydon Consols. *Mexico.*—I do not like La Campana, and do not recommend a purchase. If you want to invest in a Mexican mine, you should do so in the Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico, Limited, a new Company which is about to be issued. *G. D. I.*—Hold your shares for an advance. *Atlas.* I advise you to hold all your mining shares for an improvement. You will get much higher prices next year for them. *Disappointed.*—There is a general but unreasonable slump, and the only thing you can do is to hold your shares for a recovery. *Greenhorn.*—You should hold all your shares and sit tight upon them. They will recover. *H. G.*—I do not think a great deal of the gold mine which you mention, but I should think your best policy is to hold for a recovery. *H. R. McC.*—No; I do not recommend this British Columbian mine. *Engineer, Edinboro'.*—1. No. 2. These shares have fallen in the general slump. 3. Yes, but not for a quick turn; it will take some time. 4. Not worth buying, and I have no favourable opinion of No. 5; yet I should not sell now. *Erewash.*—A. I do not like this concern. B. Yes; I have a favourable opinion of the Victorian Gold Estates. C. Crushing has been impeded through water difficulties. As soon as crushings commence, however, these shares will improve. *West Kensington.*—This Company has been in liquidation for a considerable number of years, and the shares are therefore valueless.

Industrial Shares.

Hopeful.—No; I have a very adverse opinion of the London Electrical Cab Company, and have repeatedly expressed this. *Burr.*—I do not like either of the Industrial concerns mentioned by you. *G. J., Shooter's-hill.*—You should not cross your letters, as this renders them illegible. The meeting of the French Dunlop Company was held a few days ago, and duly reported in the *Financial News.* I do not know what further information you require, and you should write to the Secretary. *Mac, Newry.*—This Brewery Company is a promising undertaking, and the fact that at present it the shares are at a discount is no criterion of its merits. *Ian.*—The Company has not yet received an official quotation. *Detroit.*—It is quite true that the business of the Goebel Brewery Company has proved most disappointing, and I cannot help thinking that the management is to blame. The shareholders ought to take the matter in hand. *R. H. S.*—It is not impossible that the Dock stock in question may recover again, but I do not believe in its progressiveness. 2. The *Financial News.* *Telescope.*—I do not advise the investment. *Lem.*—1. No; very speculative. 2. Neither. *Keramos.*—I cannot possibly express an opinion before the prospectus of the Company is issued. *A. D.*—No; a very speculative publishing property. You would do much better in *Financial Times,* Limited, which are £1 shares at 3, and yield over 8 per cent. per annum on the investment. *Hard Up, Belgrave-square.*—The investment mentioned is a fair one. *Dart.*—There is a heavy premium on the shares; why not take your profit? *Lismore.*—No reason to sell Bovril now, and a purchase of Swift Cycles is promising. *Ivan.*—I do not like this concern, and said so on the flotation of the Company.

Sell if you can. *W. T.*—I think it is too soon yet to buy Nitrate shares. *Persometer.*—It might be advisable to sell half of the shares in question, so as not to run too much risk. *A. S., Leeds.*—I note what you write about Long's Hotel. It is a great pity that you did not attend the meeting yourself. Why not place yourself in communication with the other shareholders, so as to obtain different management? *W. H. D.*—1. You ought to insist upon obtaining your share of the cash consideration of the Staffordshire Cycle Manufacturing Company, Limited. 2. La Reine d'Or is a promising mine, and latest reports are very favourable. *S. N. O.*—Yes, the London Canning Company is a promising little undertaking, and I have heard excellent experts' opinions expressed as regards the merits of the invention. The bulk of the capital appears to have been subscribed already. *P. S. L.*—Yes, *Financial Times*, Limited, shares are in the receipt of dividends at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, and yield at 3 upwards of 8 per cent. *C. P. J.*—I have already expressed an adverse opinion of the British Motor Car Syndicate, Limited, in last week's issue. Have nothing to do with it.

Mixed Investments.

Ruby.—Very speculative; I consider Dover "A" far preferable. *F. C. S.*—1. I have a very poor opinion of the Richmond Consolidated. 2. Yes. 3. I do not think much of the surroundings of this concern. *P. H.*—1. Write to the Secretary, 88, Bishopsgate-street, E.C. 2. I should prefer Lake View Consols. 3. A fair mining risk. 4. Yes; the London Distillery and Yeast Company is stated to be doing very well. 5. Yes; very satisfactory. 6. These Nitrate shares will, no doubt, come round again. *Rex.*—1. Chatham Ordinary are a fair purchase, even at the enhanced value, and the circumstance mentioned by you would benefit them. 2. The Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company is doing so well that the shares are likely to improve. See my remarks in Truth of the 3rd inst. *Bristol.*—You should not be scared into selling; hold. 2. I have always had an adverse opinion of the Bayley's Reward; but now you should hold. 3. I have never said anything in favour of this concern; but in such cases it is generally advisable to join the reconstruction, and sell after. 4. A fair mining risk. 5. Hold Milwaukee, and buy more to average. *Scotia.*—1. Singer's Cycles are a fair purchase; but I prefer Gladiators and Swifts. I do not think much of the mine in question. *Bute.*—No; I think you had better hold your Nitrate shares now. *Copiapo.*—1. I do not think much of this mine; you should sell on a fresh improvement. 2. There is every probability of a revival in Texas "B," and you should hold. *A. W., Derby.* The shares in the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation should be held; this is not the Company to which I referred as undesirable. I do not like the two industrial concerns mentioned. *Inflator.*—1. *Lady's Pictorial* Prefs. stand at par; while the Ordinary are not quoted, being vendors' shares. I do not recommend the investment. 2. Such Companies are very speculative. 3. A fair industrial investment, but no catch. 4. No option but to hold. *R. N., Hampstead.*—Some of these stocks are redeemable at par, or £100. Your selection of eighteen securities seems to be a good one, and I see no reason for suggesting any alteration; with the exception perhaps of Salt Union Debenture stock (9), which I do not like. The Bank shares mentioned are amongst the better-class institutions of the kind. *D. T. F.*—Yes, I should consider that mixing Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. Debentures at 108 with Mexican Cotton Estates Six per Cent. Debentures at 100 would make an excellent form of investment. *Rufus.*—You can now buy Paquin Limited shares on the Stock Exchange at a slight premium. Amongst gold mines, you might buy Randfontein and Hampton Plains in preference to those mentioned by you. *Jack Junior.*—All your shares. Nos. 1 to 8, are well selected, and should be held for an advance. *Braes.*—1. Woodstock (Transvaal) would be very suitable for you; it is a most promising mine. 2. The London-Paris Corporation is likely to do well, now that it has formed an alliance with the London and Globe group. 3. No. 4. Certainly hold Erie for a rise. *Reador.*—No option but to hold all your mining shares for an improvement. No reason to sell No. 10. *Dublin B.*—No, you are not entitled to the Porges Randfontein bonus shares, having bought too late. *T. R., Whitehaven.*—1. The Great Boulder Main Reef is a good mining risk. I do not like La Campana (2); but No. 3 is a fair cycle investment. I do not think much of No. 4; but Bovril (5), especially the Deferred, should be bought. *C. E., Hull.*—1. Impossible to tell. 2. The Gladiator mine is not yet producing. As soon as crushing begins good results should be obtained. 3. Yes. 4. Certainly. 5. Yes, buy more Croydon Consols, and hold for a big rise. 6. Yes, Southern Ordinary or Union Pacifics would suit you. *Carc.*—This is a question for a solicitor to answer; but I have always held the worst possible opinion of the Great Horseless Carriage Company. 2. You must take your own decision. 3. No; I should hold. *Hard Hit.*—You should certainly hold your Scotch stocks for an improvement. Mainland Consols would be a good purchase at present price. *F. B., Halifax.*—I do not advise you to sell the American bonds, but I have but a poor opinion of your mining shares. *A. C., Kensington.*—I do not make any charge for replies. There has been a good deal of unfavourable criticism of Chilian finances of lately; which is the reason of the decline. But Chili has always paid her way, and you should hold the bonds. *Flint.*—1. Amongst Cycle shares I should prefer Dunlop Deferred (3), Swifts (4), and Gladiators. 2. No; you can do better in other shares mentioned in my letter. 3. No. 4. No; you should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Nemo Black.*—I cannot exactly answer your question as to whether you will get profits on the shares mentioned by January 15; but it is very likely, and there is certainly no reason to sell out now. *Medicus, Dublin.*—1. Argentine Northern Central Mortgage bonds. 2. Yes. *H. E. N.*—1. There is very little market for Highland Chiefs, but the mine is apparently doing well. 2. No reason to sell. 3. Fair prospects. No reason to sell the other mine. 4. I have no favourable opinion of the Woodstock South; the mine I recommend is the Woodstock (Transvaal). Hold Dunlop Deferred for a rise. *Melanope.*—No. 1 is a fair purchase, and so is No. 3. I do not like the others. *I. D. G.*—The *Citizen*. *Arbutus.*—1. Not yet. 2. No. *Don.*—1. There are two sets of Five per Cent. Debentures, viz., those issued in 1880 are redeemable in 1930; and those issued in 1888 are redeemable in 1918. The Four per Cent. Debentures, issued in 1890, are to be redeemed in 1940. 2. Yes; these are likely to improve, owing to the Mexican Railway pool having again been arranged.

Various Investments.

Increasing ease in the Money Market has benefited gilt-edged securities, and amongst them Consols, which are now quoted x.d., and yet stand at 112, thus showing another rise for the week. As rates of discount for three months' bills have declined to $2\frac{7}{8}$ per cent., while short money stands at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. only, it is evident that the transaction of the Bank of England of borrowing on Consols is not proving profitable. It is, in fact, surprising that the Bank has not yet taken its stock back, but it cannot be long now before this step is adopted. It is evident that money will be plentiful and easy for some time to come, and this circumstance, combined with the continued improvement, is very encouraging as regards the future of the Stock Markets. Silver is practically unchanged at $29\frac{7}{8}$d., but Rupee Paper has reacted slightly to $62\frac{3}{4}$. A very considerable business has been transacted in Cycle shares, and although the highest prices have not in all cases been maintained, several of the leading shares mark advances. Dunlop Deferred stand at $1\frac{1}{2}$, Humber Extensions and Ordinary at $1\frac{5}{16}$; but Simpson's Lever Chains, after rising to 11s., are down again at 9s. A considerable business has been transacted in Gladiators, which have again advanced to $\frac{3}{8}$ premium. Swift Cycles, too, have improved, being quoted $\frac{1}{8}$ premium. With reference to this undertaking the news is exceedingly favourable. When Mr. E. T. Hooley brought out this Company (late the Coventry Machinists Company) the prospectus stated that about 6,000 machines were on order. I am now informed that, as in the case of the Dunlop and Singer Companies, Mr. Hooley's estimate of the profit-earning capacity of this undertaking was exceedingly conservative, as the number of machines on order has been almost trebled, and when the new factory is finished early in the new year there will be scarcely any limit to the output. This, of course, means that Swift Cycles are bound for higher prices. Bagot Tyre shares have reacted to $3\frac{1}{2}$ premium; but as the corner is still very much in evidence, a sharp rebound may happen at any moment. Amongst brewery shares, Allsopps have taken a sudden bound to 182, receding to 179; while Guinness remain at 540. A considerable business is, however, passing in other home brewery Ordinary and Prefs., chiefly in the latter. Dealings in the shares of the *Financial Times*, Limited, are being reported at £3. In reply to several inquiries, I may mention that this Company owns not only the *Financial Times*, but also the *Draper's Record*—a most prosperous journal, besides several other trade papers. The shares at the present price yield upwards of 8 per cent. on the investment, and another dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. is expected to be declared at the end of the year. I am informed that the report which I mentioned last week, that Messrs. Hampton & Sons, the well-known furnishing and decorating firm, would shortly be converted into a Company under the Limited Liability Acts, is untrue. It apparently arose from the fact that another firm doing a similar business proposes to convert. The shares in the new Bovril Company have been offered at a small discount, presumably by "stags" who had applied for a larger number of shares than they required. These shares are now in course of absorption, and there is little doubt but that in due time quotations will brace up again. I am informed that the issue of Septimus Parsonage & Company, Limited, to which I

referred last week, has been well received by the public, and that they have gone to allotment. The prospectus of the Minerva Nailless Horseshoe Company, Limited, which I mentioned in a preliminary manner last week, has since been issued, and appears to have been well received. It deals with a patent covering an improved method of horse-shoeing, the value of which is testified to not only by experts but also by practical experience; and if the claims made for the invention are borne out by results, the undertaking should become a very important one. Frank Tarrant & Company are again on the war-path with their circulars containing polite invitations to join their "joint stock deals." They are now heading their circulars with the statement "we are making sound profits with small risk." The question, however, is chiefly as to whether people get their subscriptions back, or whether the profits if made are paid. I have just received a letter from a lady residing in Birmingham, in which she complains that she has not got either her £10 back or any profit, although she has since received five different circulars announcing profits in various "deals." What have Frank Tarrant & Company to say to this? Is the War Office going into the insurance business? I have before me a post-card sent out by T. Bryce, Secretary, dated from the War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., and headed "Civil Service Insurance Society," in which the favour of a reply to a recent circular, relative to a fire insurance with this Society, is asked for. Surely such communications ought not to be issued from a State Department.—Your affectionate Uncle, MOSES.

P.S.—Tuesday Morning.—The strong further rally in South Africans, which came about yesterday, has taken the "Bear" contingent completely by surprise, and advances ranging from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ are marked. The movement is supported by several favourable developments, the rumour that the dynamite monopoly will be abolished being one of them; and if the recovery makes further progress, we shall see some very lively doings, as there are still a great many "Bears" all round the market. It will not, moreover, take long for the movement to spread to the other Mining Departments, notably to the West Australian section, which is also very heavily oversold. President Cleveland's message leaves the Cuban matter very much where it was, although he foreshadows that some time or other, if Spain is unsuccessful in Cuba, the United States Government will have to interfere. This appears to be a remote contingency, while he again emphasises the fact that he is not disposed to recognise the Cuban insurgents as belligerents at the present juncture. Upon the whole, therefore, the Cuban question ought not to interfere with the American market.

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QUEER STORY.

A ROMANCE OF THE X RAYS.

ARISTOTLE OWEN was Professor of Photology and Radiography in the Great Science College, which occupied the site of the whilom Aquarium, and presented a far more appropriate vis-à-vis to the Houses of Parliament. Its presence there gently reminded old-fashioned members that their constituents were no longer men whose first thought was amusement, but scientists, men of culture, of large mind, who needed enlightened legislature, and could no longer be hood-winked by cleverly strung-together words of dubious meaning, or the resonant outpourings of inflated wind-bags of so-called oratory.

Aristotle Owen, it is needless to say, was a very clever man, in an age when all men were clever; for the time of which we write was in the year of grace 1920. Science had made gigantic strides; education was on such an extended scale that, though people still starved from want of the common necessities of life, they had the satisfaction of being able to analyse, with scientific accuracy, the slow progress of the diminution of tissue and the certain approach of dissolution.

Yet, with all his cleverness, Professor Owen had been unable to resist a pre-historic weakness—he had fallen in love with, and married, a very pretty woman. This, at first sight, appears only an amiable tendency to which many a great mind has heretofore been subject; yet was it of grievous import to the Professor's peace of mind; for though in 1920 science had made prodigious and progressive strides, virtue, alas! had been somewhat retrograde. Hence it was that, amidst his most abstruse calculations and subtle deductions, harassing thoughts of his pretty wife would arise, and disturb the calm, mental abstraction which science demands. In an earlier and ruder age it might have been said that the Professor was jealous; but the leading medical light of 1920 pronounced it as his grave opinion that Professor Owen suffered from aggravated cardiac acerbitude, and the nervous irritability produced by this insidious disease caused him to watch his wife with lynx-eyed vigilance, and to note every slight inflection in her voice, in her manner; nothing was too trivial to escape being, as it were, instantaneously photographed on his mental sensitive plate.

Professor Owen returned home to dinner. The table was daintily arranged, the food exquisite, his wife at the head of the table in perfect harmony with her surroundings.

"You lecture at the 'Institute' to-morrow evening, do you not, Aristotle?" she asked, as the sweets appeared, "Will you dine at home?"

He looked up quickly. His mental sensitive plate was quivering with eager receptivity, as he answered slowly:

"I find I shall not have to lecture."

The expression of his wife's face altered perceptibly. A little pucker of annoyance contracted her pretty brows, and her lips curved downwards with a disappointed, dejected droop. There was even a faint note of distress in her voice as she answered, plaintively, "Oh, I thought it was quite settled."

"Nothing but a scientific fact or a mathematical problem can be considered definitely settled," he answered, dogmatically; then added in a tone he thought was genial and sympathetic:

"I hope my presence will not inconvenience you, or disturb any arrangements you may have made."

"Oh, not at all. Only I——, well, thinking you would not be at dinner, and away all the evening, I asked Letty Golightly to come up from Wimbledon and share my loneliness. Of course now, as I know she is not a *persona grata*, I will telephone and put her off."

"Do not, I entreat! I should much prefer that you should make no alteration in your plans."

And Professor Owen rose, left the room, and retired to his study in a very bad frame of mind; the cardiac acerbity was rising most prejudicially to the proper digestion of an excellent dinner.

His wife was right; he did not like Letty Golightly. She was advanced in many ways even for 1920. Yet, with a strange inconsistency, she clung to many pernicious, old-fashioned customs, too—skirt dancing, bicycling, and a love for music-hall songs, among the number—and was engaged to a muscular Hussar with a fine moustache and body, but no mind. Serious as these propensities were, there was another fact, which rendered her even more objectionable in the Professor's eyes: Miss Golightly possessed an unmarried brother, who might have been mistaken for the Hussar. This brother—alas! for the weakness of great men—was the large cause of the Professor's cardiac trouble.

Aristotle Owen sat thinking deeply, until his meditations were disturbed by the tinkling of the telephone-bell. Not only every house, but every room possessed its telephone in 1920. He rose and, placing his ear to the instrument, listened.

"Can you lecture at the People's Palace on 'Inchoate Hymenogeny' to-morrow evening at seven o'clock?" asked the voice of a much-esteemed brother scientist.

Aristotle thought for a moment. A flash of inspiration came to him. He placed his lips to the tube.

The Sanitary Engineering Co. (Carter Bros.), 65, Victoria-st., Westminster, for making Sanitary Surveys in London or country.

"Yes, I can. Will you join me here at 6.30?"

The answer was evidently satisfactory, and the Professor, with a face from which all uncertainty had vanished, joined his wife in the drawing-room.

"I hope you have not put off your friend," he said.

"I telephoned to her, but she was not at home."

"Well, do not alter your arrangements. Blatant has just asked me to lecture at the People's Palace on 'Hymenogeny' to-morrow at seven. He will call for me at 6.30; we shall have supper in the City, and I shall bring him here to sleep; but we shall not be home till late, certainly not before twelve. I have an experiment I wish to try to-night, so do not wait up for me." He returned to his study and was soon deep in various strange preparations.

Pretty Mrs. Owen yawned several times, hummed, pouted, and at last, throwing the novel she was reading on the sofa in disgust, rose to her feet. At that moment the bell of the telephone sounded. She went eagerly to the instrument.

"I am here," said a merry voice; "what do you want?"

"Be sure to come to-morrow evening at seven. Not a moment earlier. I hope Jack is free."

"Jack is free, so is Bob. I shall bring both without fail. How long is the coast clear?"

"Till twelve; better say 11.30."

"Good. Shall catch the twelve train back. Bye, bye."

With a smile of satisfaction on her lips Mrs. Owen left the room. She leant over the banisters—the study door was partly open.

"Good night, Aristotle!" she called gaily. "Don't asphyxiate yourself or blow up the house."

"Good night," her husband answered in a muffled voice of apparent absorption; but he ceased from his labours, and listened eagerly till the sound of a closing door reached him. Then he rang the bell, and, telling the servants not to wait up, sat listening intently, till they retired to their rooms and silence reigned throughout the house.

Taking up a strange-shaped phial, he cautiously left the study, and, ascending the stairs, entered the drawing-room. He pressed the electric button—a sudden blaze of light illumined the room. Locking the door carefully, he went to the window and, drawing up the blind, stood looking into the street.

A narrow strip of ground faced the house, wherein a few dilapidated and dissipated trees reared their meagre branches, almost bare of leaves, but which, nevertheless, gave the name of "Gardens" to the adjoining street. Having studied the object of his investigation sufficiently, he closed the blind, and, turning, gazed at the room and its furniture. Slowly he took from the table the strange-looking phial he had brought with him, into the neck of which he inserted a large spray. With it he squirted a shower of minute drops over the walls and furniture facing the garden. This he did with assiduous care, until every inch was covered with a fine, but perfectly even, surface of moisture, and the air reeked with the fumes of potassium platino-cyanide.

He then approached the electric button, and kneeling down, studied the carpet near the door-post with deep attention. Rising, he crept softly downstairs to the hall-door, opened it gently, and adjusted something with great care near the left-hand door-post. This done, Professor Owen returned to his study.

The following evening, at 6.30 precisely, Blatant arrived, and after a few vague words to Mrs. Owen, he and the Professor started. The little woman gave a sigh of relief as the door closed behind them, and stepping on to the balcony, with a happy smile on her lips watched them out of sight.

Helios-gardens, where Professor Owen resided, was dull and little frequented, especially after dark. It was an eminently respectable and quiet neighbourhood; noise and frivolity were not encouraged. But on that evening the drawing-room of the Professor's house was brilliantly lighted, and thence issued weird, unusual sounds of merry dance music, or the refrain of a wild, popular ditty was wafted out upon the breeze, and made the dull respectability of the encircling gloom shiver with shocked surprise.

Beneath the shadow of the ghostly skeleton-like trees facing the house a man, enveloped in a large cloak, stood watching the lighted window. A far-reaching prolonged hiss sounded, and the watching figure drew a curious pear-shaped glass globe from beneath his cloak. Holding it carefully in his left hand, he manipulated some hidden machinery with his right, and a strange, green glow shone forth.

At the same time another man, crouching in the shadow of the house, crept nearer and nearer to the entrance, then slunk softly up the steps and stood pressed close against the hall-door. The deep obscurity of the porch hid him from the curious eyes of a possible, but not probable, policeman.

The man beneath the trees saw the window suddenly darken; still he gazed steadily, holding the globe jealously. Five minutes or more passed: the window was again brilliantly lighted, and a peal of gay laughter sounded on the startled air.

The slinking form glided from the porch, and turning the corner of the block, was joined by the cloaked figure, and both disappeared in the darkness.

* * * * *

Mrs. Owen's little dinner had passed off pleasantly. The *parti carré* had returned to the drawing-room. Gay chatter mingled with the clatter of the coffee cups, music and merry songs succeeded the chatter; two of the four amused themselves at the piano, the others conversed confidentially on the sofa.

Suddenly the brilliant light was extinguished and the room plunged in darkness. So startling was this abrupt change that the occupants of the room sat motionless, breathless, dumb. Then Mrs. Owen's voice rose in a little tremulous cry of annoyance.

"This horrid electric light! It did the same thing the other night! and yet Aristotle says these are the best burners. I feel so frightened, or I would ring for lights!"

"It is very jolly as it is," said a man's voice. "I rather like the dark."

"Oh, but see what a ghostly light is playing over the wall. I believe there is something uncanny in the room!" said Letty Golightly, in a quivering voice; and in trembling expectation the four waited.

With equal suddenness the light blazed forth again, and their nervous fear relieved itself in a burst of laughter.

"Is it not stupid?" said Mrs. Owen.

"Rather embarrassing, when the light is turned up quite so quick!" muttered the Hussar. "Ought to ring a bell, don't you know!"

At 11.30 the door of the Professor's house opened, a shrill whistle was heard, which was again repeated; then two light motor-coupés glided up. Into one two figures, a woman's and a man's, entered, a single man mounted the other, and the phantom-like vehicles disappeared into the night.

The lights in the drawing-room went out and reappeared in the room above; and, as a neighbouring clock struck twelve, another motor-car glided swiftly up to the door, and out of it Aristotle Owen and Blatant stepped. They paused a moment in the porch, then, entering, passed into the study. After some minutes the Professor came out alone; he ascended the stairs noiselessly and paused outside his wife's door. All was as silent, as still as death.

He crept down softly, opened the drawing-room door, entered, and closed it again. Then, turning on the light, stood still, his face quivering, his hands shaking with excitement.

He went to the wall and stripped from it a film-like paper, which coiled itself up in snaky folds; peeling the same curious tissue-like substance from a high-backed

Xmas Presents.—Some extraordinary Teas now being sold by Cooper Cooper & Co., Ltd., Tooley-street, London. C. C. & Co. in all their experience have rarely met with such marvellous teas.

sofa, he held the long rolls with greatest care, and, pressing the electric button, left the room and returned to his study.

Through the silent hours of the night he and his brother scientist worked.

The first ray of early daylight peeping through the half-drawn curtains found them bending over two X rays radiographs, and lit up Aristotle's face, full of strange perplexity and horrible disappointment.

His experiment was perfect. There had not been a single hitch in his elaborate arrangements. From his own door-step he had extinguished the electric light at the exact moment his friend had attached the induction coil to the tube for producing the Röntgen rays. The apparatus being directed at the first floor, the figures in the drawing-room had been thus placed between the rays and the carefully prepared walls and furniture.

By this clever arrangement Professor Owen had obtained two radiographs of the unconscious occupants of the room.

Here on the table they lay. Yet, though they in part confirmed his suspicions, they helped him not in the least to ascertain with positive accuracy, the terrible truth.

The film, which he had taken from the wall, showed, in clear ghostly shadows, two skeletons: one seated with arms outstretched, as if the bony hands were resting on the keys of a piano; the other bending over the seated form, the bones of one large hand resting on the smaller ones below.

The smaller film, which had been coiled from off the high-backed sofa, also bore two skeleton shadows. These were seated, and, alas! for the Professor's peace of mind, the bony arm of one was round the equally bony waist of the other!"

As he gazed upon them his cardiac trouble became so grievous that his speech was stayed. Not so his friend's.

"Perfect! perfect!" exclaimed Blatant, ecstatically. "These are the best radiographs I have seen produced on the new sensitive film. But, my dear Owen, which are the real lovers, and which is your wife?"

He looked up at his friend, his bleared eyes blinking behind his glasses.

"Ah!" said Aristotle Owen, getting his breath at last with a deep sigh of perplexity. "Which? That is the question. How can a man recognise his wife's bones?"

Blatant stared at him. Slowly—very slowly—he began to realise the terrible perplexity and doubts which troubled his friend's mind.

Then he turned his dull gaze upon the radiographs, and a movement flickered on his lips which, in a less learned and more frivolous man, might have been mistaken for a smile. As soon as he could control this curious muscular contortion, he said, in a voice whose gravity fitted the serious question under discussion:

"Owen, does your wife bicycle? And, if so, has she ever broken a leg?"

"*My* wife bicycle," repeated Aristotle, in a voice of thunder, which, however, sank into desponding gentleness. "Not to my knowledge; and I am sure she has never broken any bones. But why this question?"

"It is unfortunate she has not," said Blatant, "for even in the radiograph I could detect a fracture of the bone."

"Stay!" cried Owen excitedly. "Jack Golightly broke his right leg near the knee while hunting last year. Look at those legs by the sofa. Has one of them been broken?"

Blatant examined the skeleton shadow closely, then shook his head, discouraged.

"The left knee is crossed over the right and I cannot see the under bones distinctly enough to ascertain a fracture."

"Look at the legs by the piano," cried Owen again, eagerly.

"Useless, my friend; the left leg is in the same line of focus as the right. Again I cannot discriminate between the separate bones."

Aristotle buried his face in his hands, and sat long in painful thought. At last he raised his head and cried, like one demented:

"Her rings! Look at the left hands of the female skeletons!"

Blatant shook his head.

"It is no good. Those male skeletons have completely frustrated your design. See, that one standing up has laid his big bones over the smaller ones; and the two seated skeletons have their hands clasped. There is the appearance of a metal object, but I think it is on the bigger bones!"

He looked up and met his friend's troubled, anxious eyes with undisguised amusement in his own, and trying hard to repress the laughter which shook him, he said:

"It is no use this time, Aristotle. You must try again! The experiment was ingenious and interesting; but *not* convincing. You must insist on your wife wearing a metal anklet, or cestus, or some other distinctive ornament; then repeat this experiment. But I am afraid it is hardly to be expected that the conditions will be as favourable, or the results as scientifically satisfactory."

MUSIC.

THE FREE MUSICAL SUNDAY.

MR. ROBERT NEWMAN has, I am credibly informed, abolished the free seats at his Sunday concerts, and thus has boldly thrown down the glove to the ultra-Sabbatarians, who are of opinion that the ears of corn might just as well have been plucked on the Saturday. Perhaps I should speak more correctly if I said that the corn should have been picked on the Friday, for the Sunday-Sabbath was not invented till the fourth century of the Christian era. Hitherto, thanks to the law of his Moral Majesty Charles II. and the Act of George III., there were only three ways of performing sacred music on Sunday. One plan was to give it in a church. Indeed, the priests in Hatton Garden have always charged for reserved seats to those who wished to listen to their periodical performances of Rossini's "Stabat Mater." They, I think, are really the pioneers of the movement, and that the money they gained was distributed in much-needed charity among the foreign refugees of Ely Rents and Saffron Hill many will bear testimony. All honour, say I, to the good Fathers. The second course was to give the concert free and hold out the hat at the doors. The pioneers here, I fancy, were the committees of South-place, the People's Concert Society, and similar bodies. Then came the Albert Hall, whose Council, under the advice of Lord James of Hereford, threw open the gallery free, but charged for reserved seats. This also, down to a recent date, Mr. Newman has done at Queen's Hall; but he declines further "to dodge the devil round the stump," and now gives Sunday concerts of classical and sacred music at his own profit or risk. On some concerts he has doubtless severely lost, on others he secures a profit, and although not, I fear, yet quite on the right side, he will be so very shortly. He was, of course, wrong in supposing that the delirious joys of an organ recital would attract the suburban resident, who, despite the alleged dulness of London, finds the open air best in summer, and his family fireside the most comfortable place in the winter. But to Mr. Newman's surprise and mine, he has, with his orchestral concerts, tapped an altogether overlooked stream consisting of shop keepers, shop workers, and the middle classes generally, who have not the time, the money, nor the opportunity to attend the higher priced week-day concerts. In oratorio, it is only fair to say, he was forestalled, and has now heartily been joined, by the National Sunday League, who, however, I believe, still retain the devil-dodging clause about free admission and tickets sold in advance, while Mr. Newman has abolished it.

Mr. Newman has very fearlessly based his proceedings upon common sense. He, of course, knows he is breaking the letter of the law, but the same Act of "Georgii III., *vicesimo primo*," which imposes upon him a penalty of £200 a day, likewise imposes upon every daily or other paper a penalty of £50 per advertisement of such Sunday

concerts, payable to any person who will sue for the same. The daily papers average twenty of those advertisements a week, and as his friends certainly would proceed against the paper, if he were attacked, he thinks either that he is perfectly safe, or that the first note of proceedings would result in an alteration of the law very soon after Parliament met. The Anti-Ears of Corn people, at any rate, seem afraid to try the issue, and, indeed, are resorting to meaner and more trivial methods. A loud voiced individual, who said he was a "working man" a few Sundays ago, presented himself at Queen's Hall, objecting to the name of Gounod on the programme on the ground that the Frenchman was an opera composer. He had evidently been primed, because he did not know his subject, and he was politely referred to a neighbouring church where he was told Gounod's music was being performed, and to a neighbouring public-house where it was not. He came back a quieter though, perhaps, not strictly speaking, a soberer man. Some real artisan then questioned him as to which trades union he belonged to, and the spouter wisely proved an alibi. Another amusing story on the other side is told of a lady who wrote from a house which must be rented at £200 a year, and who complained that, although Queen's Hall was supposed to have free seats, she, who objected to go in with the crowd, was made to pay two shillings.

The moral of the whole affair is this: Nobody wants to force people to attend Sunday concerts, as many have been and still are forced to attend church. But if a man's tastes lead him to organ, or to classical, or to orchestral, or to oratorio music on Sunday, no sensible person wishes to interpose legal obstacles. A theatrical or a music-hall Sunday might or might not be another matter; but we can wait till the question arises, and, moreover, I fancy the variety artist and the actor would himself have something to say about a seven-day week. But concert performers are notoriously not employed (some of them devoutly wish they were) every day of the week, so that there can be no suspicion of overworking; while on the main question, on Sunday a Handel oratorio, a Schubert quartet, or a Beethoven symphony may perhaps do us quite as much good as the public-house, little Bethel, or the family mahogany.

A correspondent, himself a foreigner, writes me as follows:—

> A young English violinist, an old pupil of the Royal Academy, where he distinguished himself as a prominent student, has been playing as a "deputy" for a member in the Queen's Hall orchestra. The member was dismissed on account of his irregular attendance, and a young foreign violinist, who has scarcely been two weeks in London, was appointed over the head of the English deputy, who has been for some time in the orchestra, and could not but give satisfaction to any conductor. If that is the kind of interest Mr. Newman takes in the musical profession, a matter upon which he likes to pride himself on every possible opportunity, the English members of that profession will owe him small thanks for it.

I do not know what my correspondent expects me to do in the matter, nor do I for a moment suppose that Mr. Newman has any preference for a foreign musician over an Englishman. Of course, if the foreigner were a better man, he would be preferred both by the manager and the public. I expect, however, that Mr. Newman does pretty much what his conductor advises him, and certainly in the Queen's Hall Orchestra there are a very large proportion of young men from our various academies of music.

Although "Samson and Delilah" drew a wretchedly poor house—for French oratorio, the "Redemption" excepted, never has been particularly appreciated in England — the performance was a remarkably good one. The manager had gone to the expense of holding two extra rehearsals, and both the band and the Queen's Hall chorus have never been heard to greater advantage. Miss Brema, too, was admirable as Delilah, while Mr. Lloyd fairly revelled in the love music so curiously allotted to this essentially Gallic Samson. Dvorák's "Te Deum," produced by Mr. Henschel on the same evening, is a rather unequal affair, a good deal of it being almost barbaric, while other portions are essentially devotional, in character. This variety, together with the drums and cymbals, of which such liberal use is made, is said to be particularly appreciated in Bohemia. Mr. Barclay Jones's C minor symphony, produced at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, is written quite on the old model, avowedly out of compliment to the clever young composer's teacher, the late Thomas Wingham, who was a great stickler for the conventional "form." At the Popular Concerts on Monday Signor Piatti introduced a a new and thoroughly Italian violoncello sonata, and Mr. Clinton has revived the fine clarionet sonata in E flat of Brahms which Herr Mühlfeld first introduced here at a concert given by Miss Fanny Davies at St. James's Hall last year. There have been a crowd of other concerts of minor interest, although the number of performances this week has dropped down to thirty-six.

Besides the disclaimers which I have already published from Mr. Jacques Blumenthal and Mr. Plowitz Cavour, and the letter of Messrs. Riley, in which they last week stated that they had given notice to terminate Mr. Lansdowne Cottell's Birmingham tenancy, I have received the following very candid and fair letter from Mr. Riviere:—

> As my name has been mentioned in your paper several times lately as being connected with Mr. Cottell's Conservatoire of Music, I should like to give you my explanation. I have known Mr. Lansdowne Cottell since 1878, when I was conducting Promenade Concerts at Covent Garden. If my memory serves me correctly, he called and asked permission to include my name in his prospectus as one of his patrons, which I consented to verbally. I am unable to say more about Mr. Cottell's Conservatoire than this, never having been to the place in any capacity. Under the circumstances I have now written to Mr. Cottell to remove my name from the prospectus of the London Conservatoire of Music.

Mr. Riviere's name is down as one of the "Examiners" of this Conservatoire, and yet it seems he has never been near the place. I have not heard from Dr. J. M. Bentley, Mr. Jewson, Mr. Maycock, and Mr. Harper.

On page 4 of the prospectus of Mr. Cottell's London Conservatoire are printed, in large letters, the names of many noblemen and ladies, grouped together under the omnibus title of "Committee, Patrons, and Subscribers to the Concerts." Among them is Lady Jane Kenney-Herbert. This, if I may judge from the following letter, is another example of Mr. Cottle (or Cottell's) impudence:—

> 38, Norfolk-square, W.
>
> Lady Jane Kenney-Herbert presents her compliments to the Editor of TRUTH, and wishes to inform him that she has no knowledge whatever of Mr. "Cottell," or of his "Conservatoire of Music," and that he has never had any authority to use her name in any way.
>
> December 5, 1896.

I have yet to hear from Mrs. Ronalds, Lord and Lady Carrington, Lord Battersea, Sir N. de Rothschild, the Duchess of Wellington, Canon Harford, Sir W. T. Marriott, Lady Albert Altman, Lady Miles, and the Countess of Strafford. Do these ladies and gentlemen really wish to claim (or disclaim) part in the control of such a place?

In the latest London Conservatoire prospectus, by the way, in conspicuously bold type will be seen on the front page, "Concert at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street, W. Patrons: her most gracious Majesty the Queen, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c." That the Queen was ever a patron of Mr. Cottell's concerts is, of course, an absurdity. Indeed, in small type will be found "In aid of the funds of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital." The Queen is patron of the hospital, but it is rather ingenious to identify her Majesty with the Conservatoire, or with a concert which was, I am told, given a long time ago.

The *Musical News*, the only musical paper, by the way, which has had the pluck to take up the question of Mr. Cottell and his Conservatoire, has now in hand the case of the Church Choir Guild, whose tenancy of premises belonging to the English Church Union the Union Council has recently terminated. "It is understood," says the

Musical News, "that this step has been taken on account of a complaint being made that the Guild was affiliated to an association for dealing in this country with diplomas and degrees *in absentiâ*, in connection with some American scheme." This American scheme is, I believe, that delectable affair in Kansas, where, upon easy terms, you can obtain *in absentiâ* pretty much the degree (with its hood and gown) which suits your taste, your fancy, or your pocket.

The profits on the recent Norwich Festival dropped from £626 in 1893 to £453 in 1896. Signor Mancinelli received an honorarium of £105. Professor Stanford got nothing. It is nice to be a foreigner at Norwich.

I am asked to say that on the next two Wednesdays, at 8 o'clock, Spohr's "Last Judgment" will be sung at the Marylebone Church by a choir of ninety voices. Canon Barker will, in connection with these services, give very short addresses upon "The Spiritual Influences of Sacred Music."

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—I have already given you particulars of the ample way in which the publishers have catered for boy readers. For every taste and every type a gift book is ready to hand. But when I endeavour to make a similar selection for girls, I am at once confronted with a difficulty. The writers of books for girls recognise only one type of reader—the girl whose interests are purely domestic. Take, for instance, the story of "A Girl's Loyalty" (1). It is easily and pleasantly written, but there is nothing in it but the time-honoured paraphernalia of the girls' story-teller: the unwanted poor relation as heroine, the lost will, the rich lover, the final clearing up of all mysteries, and, to round off the whole, the inevitable honeymoon. Again, in "God's Winepress," I find a story of a similar stamp (2). It is just the book with which the pious maiden aunt will endow her nieces under the impression that she is doing them a favour. And the nieces will gather therefrom a sentimentally distorted view of an impossibly religious life. Even when the religious element is happily eliminated the sentimentality usually remains. Perhaps the story which Mrs. L. T. Meade has provided (3) is as free from defects of this nature as anything of the sort can possibly be. The element of goodiness is conspicuously absent. There is movement and life in the pictures of the girl heroines, but a really bad unregenerate girl would be a delicious relief, and give a force to the story which it lacks. This is, I fear, but faint praise for what is, after all, a conscientious piece of work, and a thoroughly interesting story from start to finish. For lovers of the weird, I can commend the series of short stories which Mrs. Molesworth tells so well (4). Uncanny is the right word with which to describe the effect which the writer produces upon her readers, and the simplicity of her methods only adds to the general effect. It is just the book to read aloud by the fireside to a quiet audience, in order to send each member of it shivering to bed, with fearful glances over the shoulder into the passages where the shadows cluster.

I find a difficulty of quite another nature, however, when I attempt to make a selection from the store of books of every description provided for children who have not yet outgrown the primal passion for all that appertains to fairyland. For them nothing is too good. The best of illustration, the daintiest of binding, the choicest of papers is lavished upon them by every publishing house, from the Religious Tract Society's habitation to the Bodley Head. Let me first deal with the original contributions to fairy-lore. "Butter-Scotia" (5), for instance, is sure of a warm welcome, in spite of the evil habit of punning with which one would hardly have expected the author, "His Honour Judge Edward Abbott Parry" to give him his full title, to have been so heavily afflicted. In spite of the rather cheap witticisms, however, there is plenty of fun in the story, while Mr. Macgregor's illustrations are full of humour. There is very much the same style of facetiousness about the story of "Prince Boohoo" (6), with which Mr. Harry Jones hopes to beguile infantile favour. I do not think the tiniest of toddlers is likely to believe in a Prince whose mother bears the name of Queen Kizzimforwotteveredid, or a fairy who talks about detectives. The most successful fairies are those who can be taken seriously and such obviously concocted persons as these will fail to impress even the devoutest fairy-worshipper of five. Once again in this book the illustrations are the saving grace. Nothing daintier, brighter, or better than the drawings with which Mr. Gordon Browne has embellished the pages can be conceived, and, fortunately, the volume is packed full of them. There is a great deal more of the genuine feeling for the fantastic which marks the born teller of fairy tales about Miss Braine's story (7). Judge Parry and Mr. Jones are too obviously making up their stories, Miss Braine, on the other hand, has a story to tell, and to my mind, there can be no question as to the obvious advantages of the latter's method. This volume, too, is prettily illustrated with some very truthful studies of children. Another book I can safely commend, is the graceful little collection of fairy moralities, by Mrs. E. H. Strain (8). It is so well done as to almost reconcile me to one of my pet aversions, the story, tale, or novel, with a purpose. Perhaps it is that the purpose is not rampant, there is no moralising, but all the virtues are cleverly inculcated and appropriately rewarded. Another example of a vain endeavour to be funny is to be found in the series of new adventures through which A. M. J. drags all the old nursery favourites by the heels (9). No child worthy the name will approve of "The Maiden all Forlorn" becoming the historian of her own misfortune, nor the redoubtable "Seven Champions of Christendom" being used to enforce a moral lesson. It savours of sacrilege. Quite a different class of book is that provided by Evelyn Sharp, and illustrated by Mrs. Percy Dearmer (10). Of the stories it is impossible to speak too highly, they are true fairy literature, and the most exigent taste will be satisfied with them. But it is a pity that the illustration was not entrusted to some one else. This is probably Mrs. Dearmer's first attempt at illustration, and the result is a weak combination of Beardsley with those highly-coloured picture sheets which are prepared for children so copiously on the other side of the Channel. Yet it is evident that any amount of trouble has been bestowed upon the reproduction, and, from the point of view of the printer, the result is admirable, the plates having much of the quality of Japanese handiwork. I cannot say that I care either for the illustrations

(1) "A Girl's Loyalty." By Frances Armstrong. (London: Blackie & Son.)
(2) "God's Winepress." By Arthur Jenkinson. (London: F. Warne & Co.)
(3) "Merry Girls of England." By L. T. Meade. (London: Cassell & Co.)
(4) "Uncanny Tales." By Mrs. Molesworth. (London: Hutcheson & Co.)
(5) "Butter-Scotia." By his Honour Judge Edward Abbott Parry. (London: David Nutt.)
(6) "Prince Boohoo and Little Smuts." By Harry Jones. (London: Gardner, Darton, & Co.)
(7) "To Tell the King the Sky is Falling." By Sheila E. Braine. (London: Blackie & Son.)
(8) "School in Fairyland." By E. H. Strain. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)
(9) "Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot." Written and illustrated by A. M. J. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)
(10) "Wymps." By Evelyn Sharp. (London: John Lane, the Bodley Head.)
(11) "Tales from Hans Andersen." Illustrated by Helen Stratton. (London: Archibald Constable & Co.)
(12) "The Missing Prince." By G. E. Farrow. (London: Hutchinson & Co.)
(13) "Princes Three and Seekers Seven." By Maria Colquhoun. (London: Elliot Stock.)
(14) "The Dwarf's Tailor and Others." Collected by Zoe Dana Underhill. (London: Osgood, McIlvaine, & Co.)
(15) "Turkish Fairy Tales." Translated by R. Nisbet Bain. (London: Laurence & Bullen.)
(16) "Fairy Tale Plays." By Mrs. Hugh Bell. (London: Longmans & Co.)
(17) "The Children's Hour." Edited by Mary Bateman. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, & Co.)
(18) "The Animal Story Book." By Andrew Lang. (London: Longmans & Co.)
(19) "Minstrel Dick." By Christabel R. Coleridge. (London: Gardner Darton & Co.)
(20) "The Revolt of the Young MacCormacks." By Violet Geraldine Finney. (London: Ward & Downey.)
(21) "The Little Larrikin." By Ethel Turner. (London: Ward, Lock, & Co.)
(22) "The Bad Child's Book of Beasts." Verses by H. B. Pictures by B. T. B. (Oxford: Alden & Co.)
(23) "Nonsense for Somebody, Anybody, or Everybody, particularly the Babybody." By a Nobody. (London: Gardner, Darton, & Co.)
(24) "The Colliwoggs Bicycle Club." By Florence K. Upton. (London: Longmans, Green, & Co.)
(25) "Queer People." By Palmer Cox. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)
(26) "Songs for Little People." By Norman Gale. (London: Constable & Co.)
(27) "Sunday," "Chatterbox:" "The Prize." (London: Gardner, Darton & Co.)

which accompany a selection of Hans Andersen's stories published by Messrs. Constable ([11]). There is nothing grotesque about them, they are occasionally pretty, and that is all. The same criticism by no means applies to the handsome volume with which Mr. G. E. Farrow will surely add to his reputation in the hearts of his young audience ([12]). "The Missing Prince" is a charming tale, and it is adequately illustrated by Mr. Furniss and his little daughter Dorothy. There is also to be found somewhat of the true glamour of fairydom in the adventures of the "Three Princes and Seven Seekers" prettily set forth by Miss Colquhoun ([13]). Here, too, the illustrations are daintily descriptive of the text, and the book as a whole is bound to be warmly welcomed in many a home. Even now I have by no means exhausted the stock of fairy lore. There seems to be no end to it. A really handsome volume for instance is published by Messrs. Osgood, McIlvaine & Co. ([14]). These are real fairy tales, some new, some old, gathered from every land, and wisely garnered for the edification of the young. Yet another covetable collection is that of "Turkish Fairy Tales" translated from the Hungarian version by Mr. R. Nisbet Bain ([15]). These, though admirably adapted for children, will find a wider public, inasmuch as they appeal to all interested in folk-lore. Finally, before turning to another branch of the literature which will fill with delight so many quiet hours in the holiday season, let me bring to your notice a little volume of fairy tale plays which Mrs. Hugh Bell has specially arranged for production by children ([16]). Not only are the plays provided, but the book is fully illustrated, and full directions given for all the essentials for a successful representation.

Of stories for children in which the scene is not laid in fairyland, there is bounteous provision. Specially worthy of purchase is "The Children's Hour" ([17]). It is cheap, and within the reach of every one; it is sold for the benefit of the Invalid Children's Aid Association; but it is chiefly valuable for its store of good things, which talented writers in a veritable galaxy have contributed to its pages. It is quite one of the best books of the season, though it will be run hard in juvenile estimation by the collection of animal stories with which Mr. Andrew Lang has enriched their libraries ([18]). This is an ideal book of its kind, overflowing with anecdotes of precious interest to all lovers of the animal world. Very delightful, too, in a different way, is a pretty romance of the time of the Black Prince, told by Miss Coleridge ([19]). Many a hundred young readers will be the wiser as well as the happier for this narrative of the adventures of the boy minstrel, who is depicted so naturally in his fourteenth-century surroundings. Modern children have their faithful historians in at least two directions. "The Revolt of the Young MacCormacks" ([20]), is as conventionally Irish as might be expected from its title and from the name of the writer. Needless to say, it is amusing from end to end. The Australian youngster, who is the subject of another volume ([21]), has not quite the same originality about him as the Irish prodigies to whom I have just alluded; but, nevertheless, the history of his doings has plenty of incident, and is not without interest for older readers.

It now only remains for me to give you a hint as to the direction in which to search in order to provide the nursery with its due amusement. You cannot do wrong in obtaining "The Bad Child's Book of Beasts" ([22]), both the nonsense rhymes and the pictures are deliciously absurd, and the only fault to be found is that there is not enough of either. A much more satisfying volume, from the point of view of quantity, is to be found in the carefully compiled nonsense of "A Nobody" ([23]). It is nonsense, there can be no doubt, but, at the same time, it is very amusing nonsense, pictorially and otherwise. Any amount of fun can also be obtained from the illustrations, which tell the story of "The Colliwoggs Bicycle Club." These are conceived in the true spirit of the grotesque. Very much the same may be said of Mr. Palmer Cox's "Queer People" ([25]), a volume which in itself is sufficient to supply hours of entertainment. I am not quite so sure about the effort which Mr. Norman Gale has made with the same object in producing a volume of children's verse ([26]). I think, however, that, in classing his productions somewhere between the pure nursery rhyme and Robert Louis Stevenson's children's verse, he has fairly well defined their genuine position. I should have placed them myself just half way. Finally, let me remind you that the annuals of the children's magazines ([27]) which Messrs. Gardner, Darton, & Co. publish are as full of interesting materials, pictorial and letterpress, as ever.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—What treacherous things cheap veils are! I shall never forget seeing Lilla one day with a gap in hers all round the mouth. She had evidently given the thing a tug and caused it to split. The accident imparted an extraordinary look to her face, as though she were waiting to be fed through the aperture. I was reminded of this the other day, at a crowded afternoon party, when a girl came up to me and said: "I've a horrid conviction that my nose has poked itself through my veil. Do be my looking-glass and tell me." It had! It was one of those fine, cobweb-like veils, intensely becoming, but not sufficiently strong to bear tight dragging across the face. That nose-tip looked so funny, like a high rock standing up above the waves. We retreated to a corner and turned the net upside down together in a masterly manner.

The usual cheerful Christmas literature comes pouring in, dealing with murders, suicides, accidents, breaches of the law, both human and Divine, with their disagreeable consequences in the Divorce Court and elsewhere, and, of course, with illustrations to match. One of these festive tales is scarcely inviting enough to read, such uncomfortable ideas are suggested by the pictures, which represent wild-eyed men tearing after each other with unsheathed knives, confronting each other with cocked pistols, &c. Another sweet Christmas story has a frontispiece representing a man being thrown into the sea by two others. A very prominent coloured picture shows us a motherless bairn amidst circumstances of the most depressing description. If Christmas numbers came out after Christmas one would have no difficulty in accounting for all this misery. It would at once be set down to indigestion of the deepest and darkest dye. As it is, it is difficult to formulate a cause for so much ghastly and dispiriting output on the part of both literary men and artists. Some philanthropist ought to rush to the front in good time with champagne suppers, fish dinners, and all the foods of philosophy recommended by Sir Henry Thompson's admirable little book, administering them *ad libitum* to the contributors to Christmas periodicals.

Richard says that most of these stories are written in the summer holidays of literary men. This would account for much. Away from his own familiar writing-desk, and at the mercy of a lodging-house parlour-maid, who invariably wants to "lay the cloth please, sir," when any lodger has just settled down to write, what could be expected but gloom and dejection? For my part, I heartily wish that fiction and pictures might be entirely eliminated from our Christmas fare, until Time, in its cycles, gets us safely past the morbid phase that characterises the present moment. Gloom and pessimism are not amusing.

I dearly love a good ghost story, one that makes me afraid to go upstairs in the dark with an agreeable terror that is not incompatible with fun and laughter. But it is years since I have come across a good specimen. I do not

BUSVINE'S New Styles of Ladies' Hunting Habits are separately designed and specially modelled to suit each particular figure. —Sketches by post, 4, Brook-street, W. "'*Divine* figures from the north,' quoth a critic of the scene. 'Well, yes, *divine* and *Busvine*,' was the ready reply."—*Field*.

like those very conscientious ones in which the ghost is accounted for in the end. I like it to remain lurking in my memory just as a proper ghost should, with a pleasant flavour of mystery clinging about it.

And I am a very baby, Amy dear, in the matter of happy endings, and so are the girls. We feel much disturbed if the interesting heroine does not achieve the usual matrimonial ending in the orthodox "live happy ever after" style. Mrs. Steel's enthralling story of the Indian Mutiny, "On the Face of the Waters," in which she has interwoven so skilfully the romance of a few lives, would have been incomplete for me without appendix B, which, by the way, I very nearly missed.

And nowadays there is quite a fashion of sad endings. One has to go to children's stories for the pleasant ones.

I think there is a distinct danger, to judge by some stories, that have recently appeared, that cats and dogs will soon be more highly educated than men and women. Their apprehension of the right thing to do in certain circumstances seems alarmingly on the increase, and what with Board School children partaking of the highest culture, and cats and dogs being educated to earn their own living, this little England of ours will soon become impossible for any above the working classes. I must collect some of these astounding anecdotes to send you some day.

It would be a fearful thing if our domestic animals should ever learn to talk. We scarcely realise to what an extent we confide in them, but we should then soon find it out. Fancy a book entitled "Memoirs of Mrs. Prendergast's Pug" coming out; or "Diary of Dr. Davy's Dachshund," taken down in shorthand from the barks of the dear pets themselves. What a run there would be on the lethal chamber at the Battersea Dogs' Home after such revelations as these!

Do you see that a West End tailor has been making indiscreet disclosures about his customers? He says "Waistcoats are often thickly padded to increase the size of the chest, but a still more singular practice is that resorted to by a well-known dandy, who pads his legs as if he were a football-player. When I measure him for new trousers, which I frequently do, I invariably find him wearing pads, and pads of considerable thickness too." I suppose the gentleman is exceptional. Otherwise we might retaliate with some show of reason when men accuse us of irrationality in costume.

The newest coiffures have the hair piled on the top of the head, sometimes in the form of a teapot handle, and sometimes in the shape of a small bow. The models for these arrangements might have been found in Phiz's illustrations to Dickens' works, omitting the side-curls. At the Lyceum the other evening I saw a wonderful head, which, from a back view, was perfectly round, so much had the hair been pulled out at the sides. It was very up-to-date, the hair forming a horizontal sphere with a little knob in the middle, which was girded in with a string of diamonds. When the girl turned round, we were aware of a charming face, with large, dark eyes, an impertinent little century-end nose, and a lovely mouth, all set in a creamy complexion under the forehead of a sphinx, broad and low. With this vision of loveliness and smartness combined to look at between the acts, and Ellen Terry as Imogen on the stage, we passed, as you may imagine, some hours of enchantment, making a delightful break in the commonplaces of a November world.

The first fancy ball at Niagara is to be on Friday night. Masks and dominoes, of course. Fifty guineas' worth of furs are to reward the wearer of the most successful costume.

Does it not seem a curious choice for the choir at Canterbury Cathedral to have sung the anthem "Who is this that cometh from Edom?" on the occasion of the first visit of the new Archbishop on Sunday last? Some veiled allusion to the wickedness of London might be suspected by the hyper-sensitive dwellers in that delightful city.

You ask me to advise you about Christmas boxes. I am at my wits' end myself. There are a few friends to whom I give the same stereotyped old presents every year. There is sometimes such a rest in uniformity! There are others to whom I never know what to give; but always when I am puzzled I fall back on two never-failing *pis-aller*—gloves and pocket-handkerchiefs. Being in the mind to pass on this resource of mine for your benefit, I trotted off to Wigmore-street this afternoon and interviewed Mr. Lee on the subject. He showed me such lovely handkerchiefs of finest Irish lawn, embroidered in the neatest of neat designs round the edges, and furnished with initial letters in the most exquisite of stitchery. Any monogram or initial can be worked on a dozen or two in three or four days. Done up in a pretty box, what could be nicer than a goodly supply of these?

You will be surprised to hear that the height of the fashion at the present moment is a quarter-inch hemstitch, such as was in vogue in the time of Louis XVI. Those were the days when the extremes of simplicity and of elaboration not only met, but embraced each other. It appears that Belfast has been over-producing in the matter of handkerchiefs, so that these beautiful ones are now sold by Mr. Lee at less than half the usual price There are so many workers in these Irish factories that they can produce hand-made articles and hand embroidery at the same rate as foreigners charge for machine-work. The handwork is largely supplied to France, where the exquisite fineness and perfect smoothness in the weaving of the Irish lawns is greatly appreciated, rivals though they are to French cambrics.

Next week there is to be a sale at Lee's of some stockings similar to those shown at the Silk Exhibition. The fronts are in silk lace worked in various designs. One pattern has pointed bars across the instep in imitation of a Louis XV. shoe. These are reduced from three guineas a pair to somewhere about a fourth of that sum.

A very useful stocking is half silk, half wool, made at Belper. You will be glad to hear that England is first in the manufacture of stockings, and likely to hold her own for many a long year.

The newest veils have spots, like seed-pearls in size and shape, though black is the chosen colour. These, with a pin spot between, are very becoming. For those who like warmth a very delicate mesh is recommended with an open ring at each cornerof the faint pattern of honeycomb traced by the background. Another veil is peppered very closely over with black spots. This is a great favourite. So are the large chenille spot, which stand out so effectively that the ground is scarcely seen.

White veils are too cold-looking for winter wear, but there are some with black and white spots that look very well. For hunting, a new veil in mohair, and in different thicknesses, has been devised, instead of the ordinary Shetland which has a disagreeable habit of crinkling up just over the lips. The mohair is equally protective and far more becoming.

I am glad I went with Richard to the two great cycle shows, the Stanley and the National. It was all most interesting. Before going I thought I had a fair idea of the vast growth of the industry. But you really want to see the mammoth exhibition at the Agricultural Hall or at the Crystal Palace to adequately realise what an amount of skill and ingenuity and capital and labour must now be employed in ministering to the tastes and the whims and fancies of the biking multitude. The number of the different machines competing for favour, with their infinite variations in the most minute details of construction, and the endless array of rival "acces-

Invalid Corsets.—Ladies in search of that gentle support so essential for ease and comfort should have a Surgical Corset Belt shaped by the experts, Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-st., Oxford-circus, London, W.

The Sunny South.—Messrs. Redfern, 26, Conduit-street, London, supply the correct form of dress worn at the water resorts on the Mediterranean and in the East. Special materials, light in weight, are made for this purpose.

sories" were perfectly bewildering. Yet with all the inventive genius that has been engaged, I suppose nothing like finality has yet been attained. I hope not, I am sure, for there are several little matters in which improvements ought to be devised.

Two things which I had often desired I came across, indeed, at these shows. One is called the "Self-adjusting Bicycle Support," and I have had it attached to my machine. It is an ingenious apparatus which, by the movement of a spring on the handle-bar, throws out a little supporting wheel on either side of the bicycle, and so enables one to ride through a crowd of traffic with a feeling of comparative safety, or to bring the machine to a standstill without having to dismount. The other is a tyre in which a puncture can be repaired without the usual preliminary trouble in getting at it. The advantage of this tyre—the "Lever Tyre" is the name given to it by the Turner Company—is that the outer cover can be so easily removed.

It is just as well to be prepared for such an accident, though the risk of a puncture is not really so great after all. Richard was telling me only the other day of an Irish gentleman who had driven a carriage fitted with the Dunlop pneumatic tyres over 3,000 miles without having a single puncture. This, too, was in a district notorious for the roughness of its roads.

Clare sends me the following letter from Dublin :—

Dearest Madge,—What a very long shadow the coming event of Christmas casts before. Already the signs and tokens of its approach are many in the land, and, of course, multiplying each day. The shops loudly herald it; floods of its special literature inundate us on all sides; every social plan is made with the time fixed either as being before or after Christmas. We are given ample time, without doubt, for preparation, for getting into a suitable vein for the reception of the great festivity. It will not be for want of warning if Christmas Eve finds us—as it usually does—frantically shopping up to the last moment as if the festival had unexpectedly sprung upon us as a great surprise.

How are you disposed towards the coming event, I wonder? Once when candour got the better of discretion, I was guilty of calling Father Christmas a hoary old humbug, with his sham jollity and festivity, his affectation of a Gargantuan appetite, and his pretence of universal generosity and benevolence. I know better now. The rebukes I received, the moral lectures administered to me remain impressed upon my mind as awful warnings against putting myself in the way of them again. Whatever Father Christmas may or may not be, he commands a vast majority, and the wise man or woman, who desires a peaceful life, keeps on the side of the big battalions. Besides life is a system of compromises—we are generally half way through it before we recognise this fact—concessions must be made to everything tangible and intangible, real and ideal, including Christmas in its conventional garb. Let it, then, come as it chooses to present itself, the jolly, rollicking festival of good cheer and good spirits; of blazing hearths and happy homes; of hale old age, happy domestic middle age, and merry childhood. No gout or rheumatism worry the genial old people who dance "up and down the middle" under the mistletoe, married life has no failures or problems, for the husbands and wives, still light of heart and foot, who join heartily in the merriment of the beaming children. Even the Christmas old maid is all sweetness and gentleness, and the crusty old bachelor's crustiness is the thinnest of outside pretences.

Dublin is still socially dull, and likely to be so for some time to come. The season of country visits is in full swing, every one who is any one is passing through the capital rather than making any stay in it, en route from one country house to another. Is there any feature of fashionable life more strange and wonderful than the rounds of visits, sometimes lasting for several months at a time, in which so many pass their lives? One can understand the young and the lonely-lived and single having this nomad taste, but that elderly couples should so frequently desert their own homes for those of their friends is very curious. In fact, the stateliest residences in the kingdom can hardly be called "homes;" it is only when it is "ever so lowly" that a place is like home.

Lord and Lady Cadogan, after the week spent at Adare Manor, co. Limerick, with the Dunravens, returned to the Viceregal Lodge. Last week some visitors were entertained at the Lodge, and a few dinner parties given. Amongst the guests at the latter were Lord and Lady Ashbourne, Lord and Lady Roberts, Lord Plunket, Archbishop of Dublin, Mr. Ion Trant Hamilton, and Lady Victoria Hamilton, who is a sister of the present Duke of Wellington. During the week Lord and Lady Cadogan went through the usual varied routine of Viceregal duties, visiting public institutions, opening bazaars, attending sales of work, and so on. One grievance the capital of Ireland certainly has not: that its public institutions suffer neglect in the matter of visits from Viceroyalty. In fact, whatever may be the amusements which the office of Irish Viceroy affords to the nobleman who holds it, there is no doubt about the object lessons which it gives him the opportunity of having in the working of charitable and philanthropic institutions. Lord Cadogan, though sufficiently enthusiastic in the horse cult, is not a hunting man; Lady Cadogan, however, often appears in the hunting fields of Meath and Kildare, accompanied by her sons.

Mr. Gerald and Lady Betty Balfour, who were also at Adare, have, since their return to the Chief Secretary's Lodge, been receiving visits there from members of their family, Lady Emily Lytton and Lord and Lady Rayleigh. There is no rumour of ball-giving at the Chief Secretary's Lodge, though it used to be traditional there at this season; indeed, so strong was the tradition at the time when Mr. Forster was Irish Secretary, that he followed it, and gave a ball at his residence in the park. One fancies that he must have been even less of a dancing man than Mr. G. Balfour. We have had "Shamus O'Brien" over here; Dr. Villiers Stanford, the composer—who was born and grew up in Dublin—came over specially to conduct the performance on two nights. Lord Cadogan, who with a large party was present on Saturday night, was very well received. One wonders how he received the sentiment, "To h—ll with the Government," which met with such an enthusiastic reception from the galleries.
—Yours ever, Clare.

Kitty, who is staying in Glasgow, sends me the following :—

Dearest Madge,—*The* event of the Glasgow season has come and gone. For months arrangements have been in progress, and on Friday evening last they culminated in the Fancy Costume Ball, given in St. Andrew's Halls, in aid of the Scottish Artists' Benevolent Association. Given a beautiful suite of halls, a brilliant company, good music, and a fine floor, what more can one want for an evening's entertainment? In all these respects our ball has been an unqualified success. To accommodate the large company, the grand concert hall was used for dancing, other rooms being set apart for supper, refreshments, lounge, and so forth.

By ten o'clock the guests had assembled. A proscenium had been erected on the concert platform, and, to the accompaniment of the March from "Tannhäuser, the gay company defiled across the stage. Saint and satan, clown and curate, priest and peasant, characters from every period of the world's history, representatives of all nation, creations of the artist, novelist, and playwright, all the variety that one can imagine, and many strange costumes that no ordinary mortal could ever have dreamt of, were mixed in gorgeous confusion, forming often the most comical and *bizarre* contrasts. Follies, *dames poudrées*, peasantry of various countries, all the old friends one meets on such occasions, again greeted the eye, but every here and there were proofs that originality of conception was as prominent as ever, and recent events of public interest were as usual turned to account. We had a trooper of Dr. Jim's band, a South African millionaire, resplendent in diamonds and nuggets; Rhodesia, with cartridge-belt, bullets, &c., fresh from the slaughter of the Matabele; Li Hung Chang—without the yellow jacket; Trilby and Charley's Aunt, both in duplicate; while here and there the black face and enormous head of hair of the Golliwog, unfortunately unaccompanied by his Dutch dolls, could be seen flitting about. One of Charley's Aunts had a considerable altercation with the attendants, who, not being cognisant of matters theatrical, could only with the greatest difficulty be persuaded to allow her access to the *gentlemen's* dressing-room! Of such confusion of sexes there were several instances, perhaps the most effective being the costume of a lady who was dressed in the very becoming uniform of the *Bersaglieri*, familiar to every one who has been in Italy, and a new woman of the most advanced type, who, under the title of "Borrowed Plumes," masqueraded in a gentleman's evening dress, complete except for the divided skirt.

One of the features of the evening was a series of four *tableaux* of the seasons, designed and carried out with most conspicuous success. Spring was represented by a maypole dance of children, perhaps the most effective of all; summer, a picnic flirtation interrupted by a thunderstorm; autumn and winter being devoted to the national sports, golf and curling.

The dances, &c., were announced by a couple of trumpeters preceding a standard bearer with the programme number.

The dancers must have numbered in all close on 900, while about 500 spectators had places in the balcony of the concert hall, whence could be obtained a capital view of the motley moving crowd below. These figures mean that the ball of Friday evening has been as successful as the one in 1882, when £2,600 were realised for the infirmaries, that being up till now the largest sum obtained at a charity ball in Glasgow.—Ever yours,
Kitty.

Just a few recipes. Try this chocolate pudding :—

Beat 4 oz. of butter and 4 oz. of sugar together until white, add 2 eggs separately, then mix in 4 oz. of flour. Spread the mixture on a greased and papered baking sheet, and bake it in a

"Liberty" Yule-Tide Gifts.—For inexpensive, dainty, and uncommon presents, the "Liberty" Bazaars will well repay a visit of inspection. Catalogue of 282 illustrations post free.-Regent-st. W

moderate oven about twenty minutes. When done turn it on to a sheet of paper, and cut into four rounds with a cutter 4 in. or 5 in. in diameter. Place them on the top of each other, with chocolate sauce between each layer. For the sauce, dissolve 2 oz. of grated chocolate in half a teacup of water, add 1 oz. of sugar, and when it boils add the yolk of an egg mixed with 2 tablespoonfuls of whipped cream. Stir until it thickens, then mix in, very lightly, the whipped white of an egg, and use at once. Serve the pudding hot.

Now that game is plentiful and old birds fall to the sportsman's gun occasionally, I send you a good way to utilise them as they do in France in the celebrated and delicious perdrix aux choux :—

Take two elderly or middle-aged birds and when plucked, singed, and trussed, half roast them. In the meantime prepare one or two cabbages, according to the size and quantity required, by plunging them in boiling water for two or three minutes to soften them, then take them out, strain away the water, and cut out the hard stalks or core. Now put two or three thin slices of bacon at the bottom of a stewpan (unsmoked bacon is best, as the smoked bacon destroys the flavour of the partridge), salt, pepper; a little grated nutmeg should be mixed with the cabbage, and the half of it put in the stewpan over the bacon; place the partridges on this with a good-sized carrot and onion and about ½ lb. of bacon, a bay leaf, and small sprig of thyme; cover all this with the other half of the cabbage and a slice or two of bacon. Moisten sufficiently with good second stock, and cook gently, very gently, till the cabbage and partridges are done, not less than two hours. To serve, the cabbage should be placed neatly on a dish and the birds on the top; the carrot and bacon should be cut in thin slices and arranged tastefully on the mound of cabbage.

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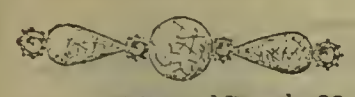
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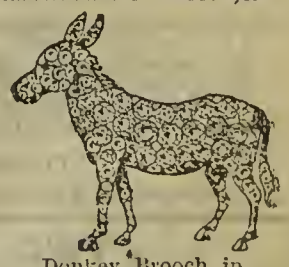
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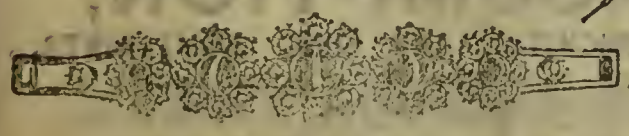
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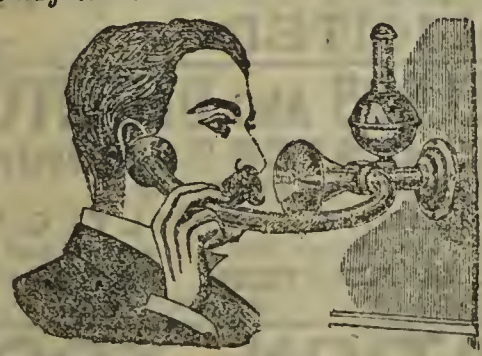

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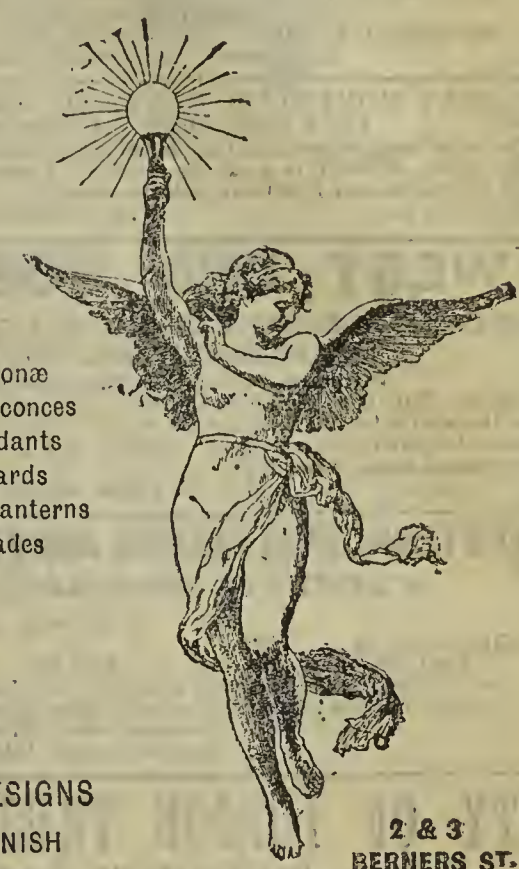

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Maintains Fifty Cots for Little Children, who are admitted from all parts. This Hospital is totally without endowment. FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED to meet the current expenditure. Cheques and postal orders may be crossed "Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., & Co."
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FREE to Necessitous Poor.

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PROGRESS of HOSPITAL.	1891	35	5,600
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For the Relief of the Ruptured Poor throughout the Kingdom.
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N.B.—Patients are relieved in and from all Parts of the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

JOHN WHITTINGTON, *Secretary.*

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W. CHRISTIE (Major), Secretary.

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Because for **36 years** past the **Sickly** and **Destitute**, the **Hungry** and **Helpless**, have, in **large numbers, sought** and **received** our aid.

Because to so many of the **Deserving Poor Winter** and **Want** come hand in hand.

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HOME FOR LOST AND STARVING DOGS,
BATTERSEA PARK ROAD, S.W.

Patron: H.M. The QUEEN. President: His Grace the DUKE of PORTLAND.

The Committee earnestly APPEAL to generous sympathisers for prompt HELP to carry on their humane Work.

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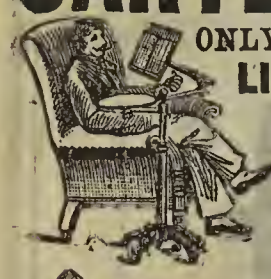

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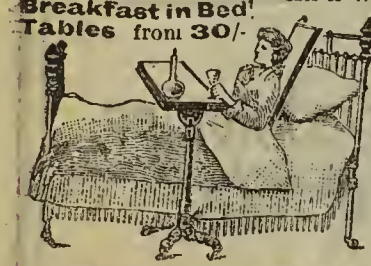

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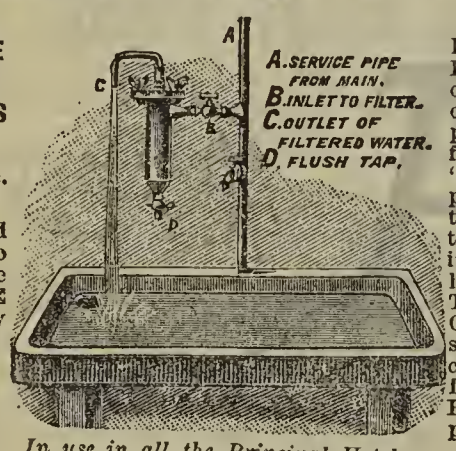

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FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH

Is the BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE in the WORLD.

PREVENTS THE DECAY OF THE TEETH.

Renders the Teeth Pearly White.

IS PERFECTLY HARMLESS AND DELICIOUS TO THE TASTE.

Is Partly Composed of Honey, and Extracts from Sweet Herbs and Plants.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.

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Only put in Glass Jars, Price 1s.

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Prevents the Hair from Falling off.

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Being delicately perfumed, it leaves no Unpleasant Odour.

IS NOT A DYE.

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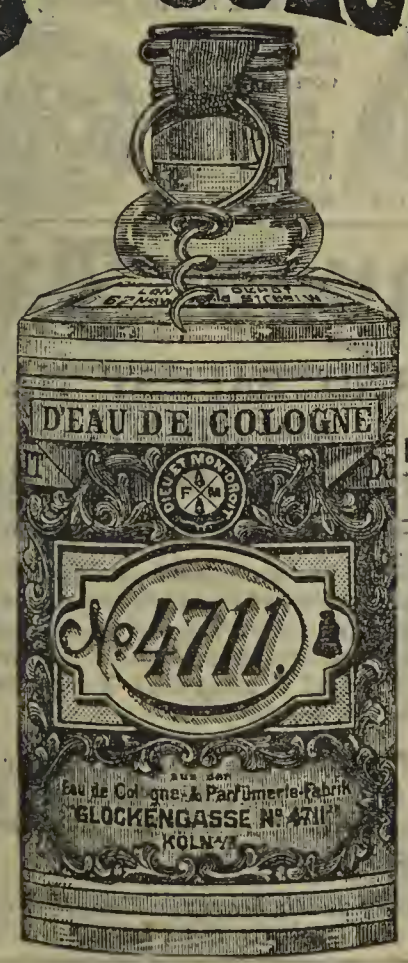

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How to Remedy its Many Unpleasantnesses.

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If you overload the stomach all the organs suffer. The gastric juices that would suffice to digest a moderate quantity of food must necessarily fail to convert a greater supply.

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When the system is overloaded, plethoric, and adipose, indigestion is set up, the functions of the liver are deranged, and constipation ensues.

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The best treatment for remedying this state of things has hitherto been found in the "waters" of certain Continental mineral-water springs. But very few people can afford time and money to visit and spend several weeks at a Continental health resort.

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Kutnow's Powder is prescribed and recommended by medical men.

Kutnow's has been PRESCRIBED to MEMBERS of the ROYAL FAMILY.

All the leading Medical Journals endorse the merits of Kutnow's Powder.

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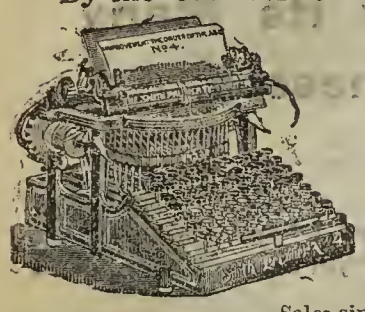

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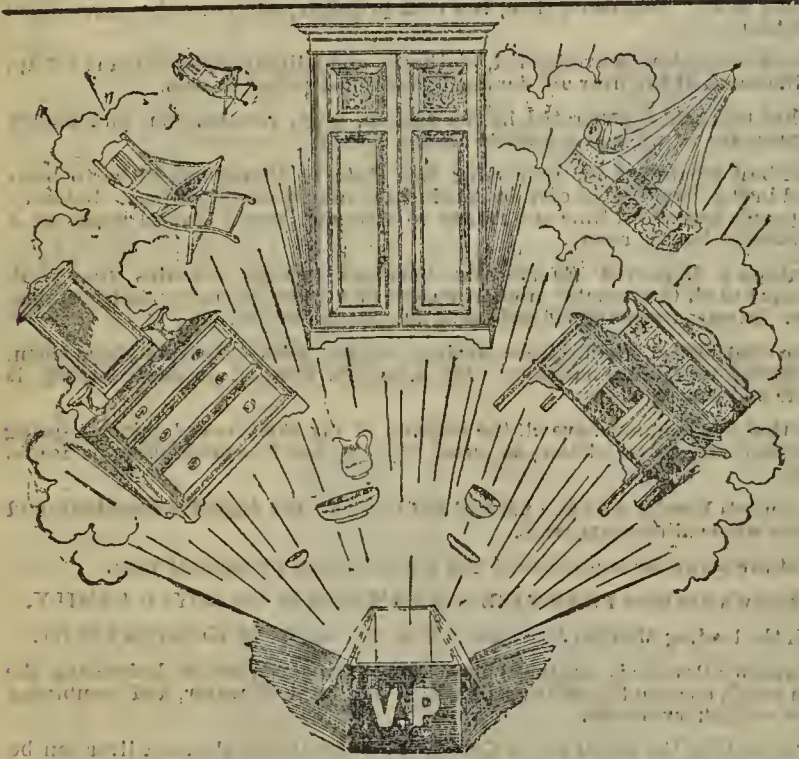

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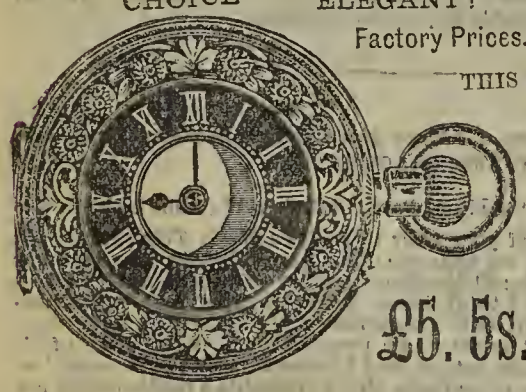

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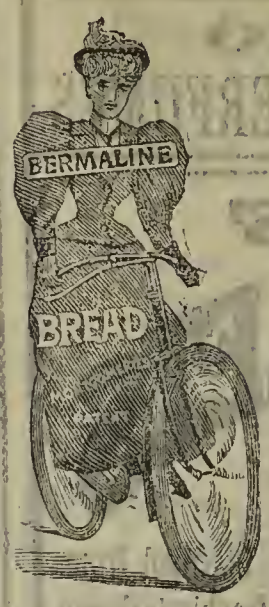

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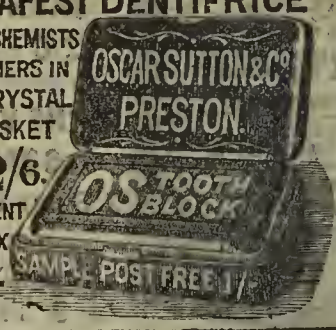

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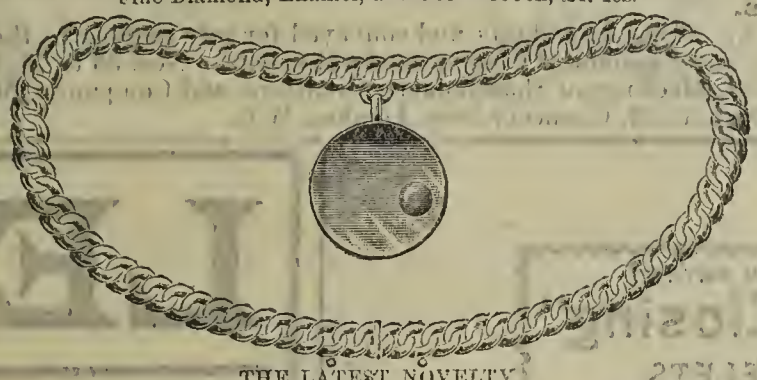
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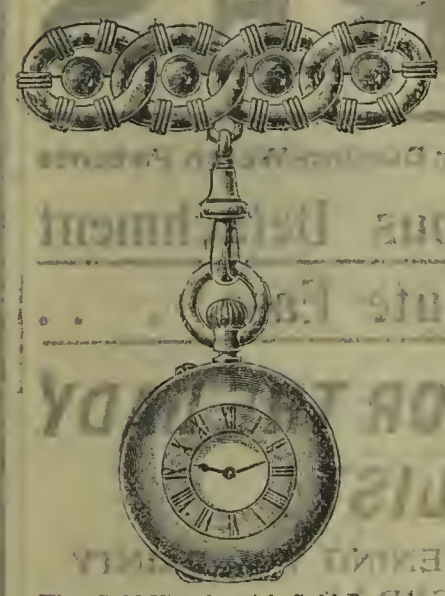
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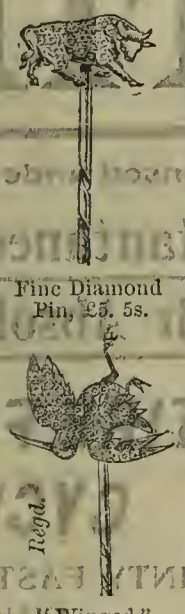
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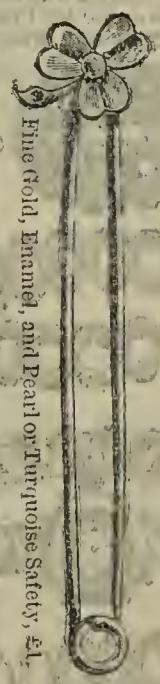
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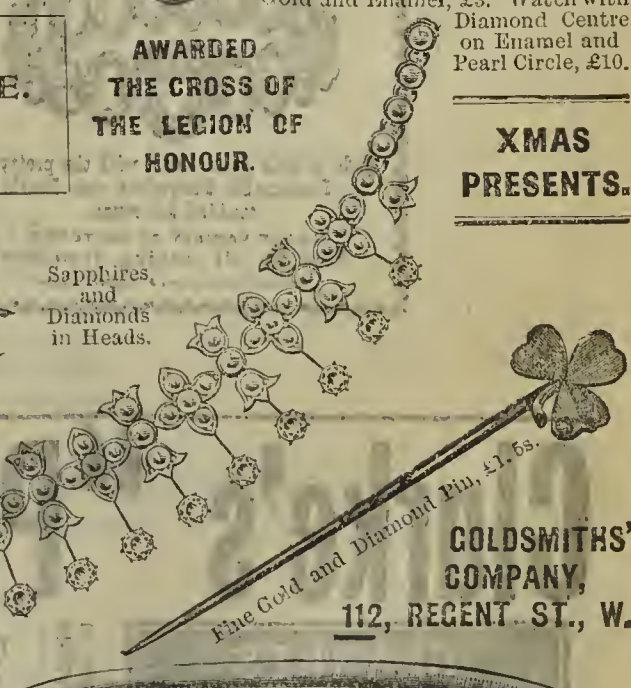
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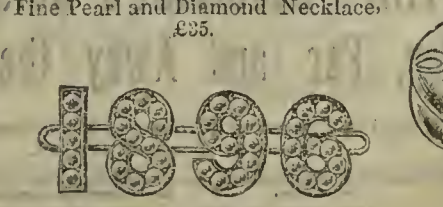
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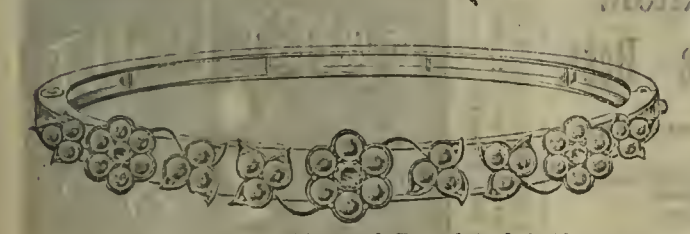
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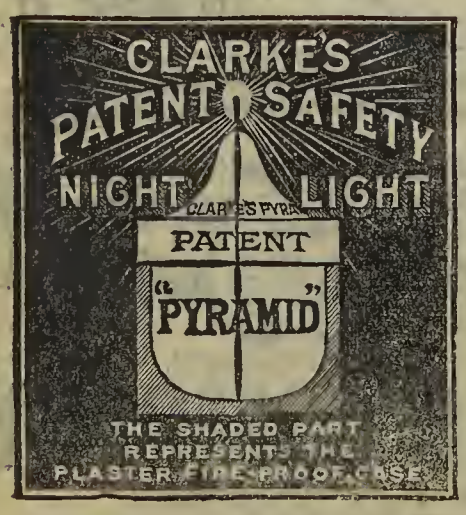

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The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence, All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

Messrs. C. J. HAMBRO & SON will receive applications for the undermentioned Debenture Stock on Friday, the 11th December, 1896.

COMBE & COMPANY, LIMITED.
(Registered with Limited Liability under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886.)
Issue of £500,000 3½ per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, bearing interest from 1st January, 1897; interest payable half-yearly on 1st January and 1st July in each year.

CAPITAL OF COMPANY.

80,000 £5 per cent. Preference Shares of £10 each	£800,000
12,000 Ordinary Shares of £100 each (all of which are held by the partners and managers in the late firm of Combe & Co.)	£1,200,000
£4 per cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock (Redeemable at the Company's option on and after 1st July, 1908, at £108 for every £100 Stock	£1,000,000
£3½ per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock	£500,000

Messrs. C. J. HAMBRO & SON are authorised to receive Applications for the above-named £500,000 3½ per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock (which is in all points similar as regards security to the existing 4 per cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock of £1,000,000, except that it ranks immediately after it or any substituted security for a similar nominal amount), at the price of £104 per cent., payable as follows:—

£10 per £100 Stock on Application.
£10 ,, ,, ,, Allotment.
£84 ,, ,, ,, the 28th December.

DIRECTORS.—Richard Henry Combe, Esq. *(Chairman)*; Charles Combe, Esq.; Henry Cosmo Orme Bonsor, Esq., M.P.; Richard Combe, jun., Esq.; Charles Harvey Combe, Esq., M.P.; John Abdy Combe, Esq.
BANKERS.—Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, & Co., 15, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
AUDITORS.—Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols, & Co., Chartered Accountants, London.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Stileman, Neatc, & Toynbee, 16, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury-square, W.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—J. F. Remnant, The Brewery, Castle-street, Long Acre, London.

Messrs. Combe & Company converted their Brewery business into a Limited Liability Company in the year 1888, the Directors being the partners of the late firm.

According to the statement of Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols, & Co., Auditors to the Company:—

In the year 1888 the Loans on Mortgage held by the Company amounted to £1,460,000; and in December, 1896, they amounted to £1,900,000.

The Freehold and Leasehold Properties held by the Company in 1888 were valued at £590,000. In December, 1896, these Freehold and Leasehold properties had been increased by purchases to £1,014,000.

The Rents from Public-houses and other Property, and Interest on Money lent on Mortgage, amount to more than sufficient to pay the Interest on the 4 per cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock, the Interest on the present issue, and the Interest on the 5 per cent. Preference Shares.

Since 1888 a sum of £210,000 has been reserved out of the Profits of the Company.

Application may be made on the enclosed form, accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 Stock.

In cases where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned; and where the amount allotted is less than that subscribed for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture. The final payment may be made under discount at 3½ per cent. per annum after Allotment.

70, Old Broad-street. London, December 7th, 1896.

The Subscription List will open on Tuesday, the 8th day of December, 1896, and will close on Saturday, the 12th day of December, 1896, both for Town and Country.

SAMUEL SALTER & CO., LIMITED, Trowbridge.
Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL, 100,000 Shares of £1 each, divided as follows:—

20,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each...	£20,000
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each now issued	£50,000
30,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each reserved for future issue ...	£30,000
	£100,000
4½ per Cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock.....	£30,000
	£130,000

Issue at par of 10,000 5½ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, and £30,000 4½ per Cent. Mortgage Debenture Stock.

The 5½ per cent. Preference Shares will rank, both as regards Dividend and Capital, in priority to the Ordinary Shares, and will be entitled to a Cumulative Preferential Dividend of 5½ per cent. per annum, the Dividend being calculated from the dates fixed for payment of the instalments to 1st March, 1897, and thereafter the Dividend will be payable as nearly as may be half-yearly on the 1st November and the 1st May.

The Mortgage Debenture Stock will be a first charge upon the Company's Freehold Property and a floating charge on its undertaking, and will be redeemable at par at the option of the Company at Six Months' notice at any time after the 1st November, 1905. The interest on the Debenture Stock will be paid half-yearly on the 1st February and 1st August in each year, the payment on the 1st February, 1897, being calculated from the dates of payment of the instalments.

The whole of the present issue of the Ordinary Shares, 50,000 (fully paid), except the seven taken by the Subscribers to the Memorandum of Association, and half the Preference Shares, will be taken by the Vendor in part payment of the purchase money.

Subscriptions will be payable as follows:—

Mortgage Debenture Stock	10 per cent. on Application.
	40 ,, ,, ,, Allotment.
	25 ,, ,, ,, 1st January, 1897.
	25 ,, ,, ,, 1st February, 1897.
	100
Preference Shares	2s. per Share on Application.
	8s. ,, ,, ,, Allotment.
	10s. ,, ,, ,, 1st January, 1897.
	£1

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.
W. O. Clough, Esq., M.P., of 89, Gresham-street, London, E.C.
Fredk. Denning, Esq., of Shannon-court, Bristol.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. William Walker, J.P., C.C., Longfield House, Trowbridge, Managing Director.
Mr. Joseph Walker, Longfield House, Trowbridge (with the Firm 11 years).
Mr. John Gore, The Parade, Trowbridge (with the Firm 35 years).
Mr. Frederick Randall, 30, St. George's-terrace, Trowbridge (with the Firm 30 years).
Mr. John Allen Bannister, Oriel Villa, Trowbridge (with the Firm 20 years).

BANKERS.—The Wilts and Dorset Banking Company, Limited, Salisbury, Trowbridge, and other Branches, and their London Agents, The London and Westminster Bank, Limited, Lothbury, E.C.
SOLICITORS—Messrs. Mann & Rodway, Trowbridge.
AUDITORS—Messrs. Denning & Co., Shannon-court, Bristol.
BROKERS.
Messrs. T. Gillford & Sons, 26, Broad-street, and Stock Exchange, Bristol.
SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE—Mr. F. Randall, Home Mills, Trowbridge.

No promotion money has been or will be paid, nor has any part of the Capital been underwritten, and the Vendors will pay all the preliminary expenses of the Company to the first Allotment.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed in order to acquire, carry on, and extend the old-established business of Samuel Salter & Co., Woollen Cloth Manufacturers, of the Home and Duke Street Mill, Trowbridge, in the County of Wilts.

The property, which is freehold, covers about two acres.

The principal members of the staff, viz., Messrs. J. Walker, Gore, Randall, and Bannister, who have long been associated with the business, will become Directors of the Company.

The Chairman of the Company is well known as a practical Manufacturer, and has by his perseverance and industry become the largest individual employer of labour in the County of Wilts, and as he takes the whole of the Ordinary Shares, except those taken by the other Subscribers to the Memorandum of Association, this in itself is the strongest guarantee that the business of the Company will be well looked after by him and also by the other Directors, who are all old and capable servants of the firm of Samuel Salter & Co., and who will retain a considerable stake in the Company.

The price fixed by the Vendor is £100,000 for the purchase of the Freehold Mills, Machinery, Plant, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Designs, Book Debts, and all other assets, together with the Goodwill of the business, free from liabilities.

The Freehold Mills, Plant, Machinery, &c., have been valued by Mr. V. A. Lawson and Mr. T. H. Daniels, of Stroud, and copies of their valuations will be found in the full prospectus.

The assets (exclusive of goodwill) exceed the amount issued of Debenture Stock and Preference Shares by nearly £50,000.

Messrs. Denning & Co. have examined the books of the firm annually for the past eleven years.

Applications should be sent to the Company's Bankers accompanied by a remittance for the amount payable on application.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained of the Secretary at the Offices of the Company; of the Company's Bankers (The Wilts and Dorset Banking Company, Limited, and their London Agents, The London and Westminster Bank, Limited), or of the Solicitors to the Company.

Dated December 5th, 1896.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

BREAKFAST—SUPPER

EPPS'S

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

COCOA

BOILING WATER OR MILK.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will be CLOSED at or before FOUR p.m. on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 1896, for London and Country.

A Home industrial business, with present sales and trade contracts, according to the Report of Messrs. Izard & Izard, below set forth, for the supply of Maypole Soap, at the rate of over eight million tablets per annum, which should yield profits equal to £27,058 per annum, with the prospect in the immediate future of much larger returns. Applications for 50,000 Shares have been received or guaranteed.

THE MAYPOLE COMPANY

LTD. (WHOLE WORLD RIGHTS) as below mentioned.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - £200,000.

Divided into 50,000 £7 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (Preferential as to Capital and Dividends), and 150,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, for both of which Subscriptions are now invited.

The Vendors stipulate for the right to call for an allotment of not less than one-third of the entire issue of each class of Shares, being the largest amount allowed by the rules of the Stock Exchange. The Shares are payable as follows:—2s. 6d. on application; 7s. 6d. on allotment; and the balance, when required, in calls of not more than 5s. at intervals of one month.

It is proposed to pay the interest on the Preference Shares half-yearly.

The Articles of Association provide that no Debentures shall be created without the consent of the majority of the holders of Preference Shares present at a meeting specially convened for the purpose of obtaining such sanction.

DIRECTORS.

V. M. HOLT-BEEVER (Chairman Maypole Soap Syndicate, Limited), 67, Eaton-terrace, London, S.W.
ERNEST C. BLISS (Director of Mellin's Food, Limited), Marlboro' Works, Peckham, London, S.E.
GEORGE GRAY (Director Clarke, Nickolls, & Coombs, Limited), Firwood, Bury, Tunbridge Wells.
L. O. JOHNSON (Fassett & Johnson, British Depôt for Sapolio, Snow Hill, E.C.)
ARTHUR H. DEAKIN (Managing Director Maypole Soap Syndicate, Limited), 98 and 99, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Bankers.—The City Bank, Ltd., Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.; Holborn Circus; and other branches. The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd., Bloomsbury, London, W.C., and other branches.

Solicitors.—De Mortimer-McIntosh, 59 and 60, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.; H. B. Simeon, 80, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

Auditors.—Mellors, Basden, & Co., Chartered Accountants, 33, St. Swithin's-lane, London, E.C.

Secretary (pro tem.).—E. E. Murray.

Registered Offices.—98 and 99, High Holborn, London, W.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire, work, and extend, both at home and abroad, the successful and valuable business and rights of Maypole Soap, and provide adequate working capital to cope with its marvellous growth.

Maypole Soap may be said to be unique, and is a proved success, it being a greater novelty than the majority of soaps upon the market. It not only washes and thoroughly cleanses the fabric, but also simultaneously and permanently dyes the same almost any desired colour or tint.

The word "Maypole" has been registered as part of the trade mark or applied for in nearly every civilised country, both in respect of soap and other kindred articles, and is daily becoming more valuable, and bids fair to be soon world renowned.

Maypole Soap was practically only put upon the market in January last, the advertising, which has been on a moderate scale, commencing towards the end of that month; the result has been a phenomenal and striking success, the demand largely increasing month by month, showing already upon present sales and contracts (as per Messrs. Izard & Izard's Report) profits at the rate of no less than £27,058 per annum, without allowing for any increased sale, and this would be sufficient to pay dividends on

50,000 Cumulative Preference Shares at 7 per cent.	£3,500
150,000 Ordinary Shares at 12 per cent.	£18,000
	£21,500

leaving £5,558 as a margin for administration expenses, reserves, &c., &c.

Messrs. Mellors, Basden, & Co., Chartered Accountants, of St. Swithin's-lane, E.C., in their report state:—

Having examined your Books, for the nine months ending September 30th, 1896, we find that the sales of Maypole Soap in the United Kingdom and the Colonies during that period have been as follows:—

1896.		1896.	
January ...	1,122 doz.	April ...	6,072 doz.
February ...	3,312 ,,	May ...	10,953 ,,
March ...	5,893 ,,	June ...	12,483 ,,
1st Quarter	10,327 doz.	2nd Quarter	29,508 doz.

1896.	
July	16,783 doz.
August	17,632 ,,
September ...	24,627 ,,
3rd Quarter	59,042 doz.

Mr. Athelstan Dangerfield, Chartered Accountant, 17 and 18, Basinghall-street, London, E.C., in his report states as follows on the American and Foreign Trade:—

The Sole Consignees thereby appointed for their respective countries agree to purchase stipulated quantities of Maypole Soap (in some cases on a progressive scale). The minimum quantities specified in the Contracts already entered into will, when the Contracts are fully operative, amount to 6,990 dozen per week.

The Contracts are for periods of five or ten years, and contain varying conditions as to their prior determination or extension.

With reference to the combined Profits of the Home, Colonial, and Foreign Trade, Messrs. Izard & Izard, of 52, Gracechurch-street, E.C. Trade Accountants and Valuers to the Grocery and Drysaltery Trade, in their report state:—

We find after providing ample margin for advertising, depreciation of patents, reserves, and all working and other expenses, except Directors' fees, and the profits upon—

The Home and Colonial Trade, as per Sept. last ...	6,156 doz. per week.
The American and Foreign Trade (as per Contracts) ...	6,990 doz. per week.
Total	13,146 doz. per week.

should be equal, on the basis of the past advertising expenditure and the terms of the above-mentioned Contracts, to a net profit of £27,058 per annum.

We also find that upwards of 50 per cent. of the present orders are repeat orders, and that the trade is on the increase.

Taking, therefore, the net profits as per the foregoing Certificate at £27,058 per annum (sufficient to pay the Preference Dividend nearly eight times over), and without making allowance for any increase, although the Colonial and Foreign Trade is quite in its infancy, the Directors have every reason to believe that the profits will be amply sufficient to pay the above-mentioned dividends of 7 per cent. on the Preference Shares and 12 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares, while a further large increase in the present rapid growth of the business is anticipated forthwith, owing to the fact that since the above results were obtained, Maypole Soap, which has hitherto only been recommended for dyeing Silk, Satin, and Cotton Goods, &c., is now made to dye Wool, or Mixtures of Cotton and Wool.

Ample provision has been made for a sufficiency of working capital—50,000 Shares being available for this purpose. The Directors propose, on the closing of the lists, immediately to proceed to allotment, applications for 50,000 Shares having been received or guaranteed.

The Vendors are the promoters, there being no intermediate profit, and all the preliminary expenses up to and including Allotment will be paid by them.

The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendors at £150,000, payable in Cash or Shares, Preference or Ordinary, at the option of the Directors, subject to the right of the Vendors to call for one-third of the entire issue of each class of Shares; the Vendors are, however, willing to accept the whole of the purchase consideration in Shares if required.

For Contracts see full Prospectus.

Application will be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for a settlement and quotation in the official list.

Applications may be made on the Form below and forwarded to the Bankers or Secretary of the Company, together with a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share.

The Contract for sale above specified, and copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Reports above-mentioned, may be seen at the Offices of the Company.

December 4th, 1896.

THE MAYPOLE COMPANY, LTD.

*Form of Application for *Shares.*

To the Directors of
THE MAYPOLE COMPANY, LIMITED,
98 and 99, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to the Company's Bankers, The City Bank, Limited, the sum of £..... being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on..... Shares of £1 each, in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus, dated the 4th day of December, 1896; and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due, as required by the said Prospectus. In the event of my not receiving an allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

(Please write plainly.)

Name in full .....

Address.....

.....

Description .....

Date.....1896.

(Signature) .....

All Cheques to be made payable to the City Bank, Limited, Holborn Circus, London, E.C.

* *State here whether Preference or Ordinary Shares.*

THE

LONDON CANNING COMPANY,

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

CAPITAL - - £12,000,

Divided into 12,000 Shares of £1 each, of which the Vendor takes 5,000 fully paid up, in part payment of his purchase money.

ISSUE OF 7,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

Payable as follows :—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment, and the balance in Calls as may be required.

THE DIRECTORS AND THEIR FRIENDS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO SUBSCRIBE FOR 2,000 SHARES.

DIRECTORS.

J. RITCHIE MACOUN, Esq., Waterside, Eastbourne, and 2, Brick-court, Temple, E.C.
J. COLLINS, Esq. (late Departmental Manager, Harrod's Stores, Provision Department), 3, Crooked-lane, E.C.
C. A. ALLIN, Esq., 239, Brixton-road, S.W.
(The Vendor will join the Board after Allotment.)

Bankers.—THE CITY BANK, Queen Victoria-street, E.C. **Solicitor.**—J. R. PAKEMAN, Esq. (Rooms 368-370), 20, Bucklersbury, E.C.

Auditors.—Messrs. HARDY, HISLOP, CLEVELAND, & CHANNON, Broad-street House, E.C.

Secretary and Offices.—W. G. F. CHILD, Esq. (Rooms 368-370), 20, Bucklersbury, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring the Patent Rights hereinafter particularly referred to, and carrying on the business of wholesale provision merchants and manufacturers of canned and preserved meats, extracts from meats, and such like commodities.

The enormous demand for all such kinds of commodities as are above mentioned is well known, and has been recently proved by the publicity which has been given to the fact that the business of "Bovril" (a comparatively new article) has acquired a value of upwards of £2,000,000,

Without desiring in any way to detract from the value of "Bovril," the Directors are satisfied that they can produce an article which is equal to, and will probably compare favourably with, that well known and justly praised article.

The preparation which the Directors intend to manufacture and sell has been submitted to and tested by several of the largest buyers in the trade, with the result that large orders have been taken and others promised, and it is confidently anticipated that the article in question will command a very large sale. It will be manufactured from English Beef, pure and simple, without any foreign extract, and will consist in fact of the lean portions of the finest cattle slaughtered in England, reduced to a highly concentrated nutritive, stimulative, and digestible form.

The following figures will illustrate the fact that the manufacture and sale of the above-mentioned article will produce gross profit of considerably over 100 per cent., and after allowing for establishment expenses at least 100 per cent. net will be realised. The figures are the result of actual working, and are not in any respect estimates.

MANUFACTURED MEAT PREPARATION.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
144 2 oz. Jars *to sell* at 7½d. per Jar	4	10	0			
37 4 oz. ,, ,, 1s. 2d. ,, ...	6	1	3			
78 8 oz. ,, ,, 2s. 3d. ,, ...	8	15	6			
17 lb. Dripping at 3d. per lb.	0	4	3			
8 lb. Bones at 4d. per lb.	0	2	8			
				19	13	8
OUTLAY.						
80 stone Ox Meat at 1s. 10d. per stone	7	6	8			
Labour and Firing	1	0	0			
Jars and Tins	0	19	11			
				9	6	7
Gross Profit				£10	7	1

MANUFACTURED ESSENCE OF BEEF.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
43 6 oz. tins *to sell* at 1s. 10½d. per tin	4	0	7½			
60 lbs. of Fat *to sell* at ½d. per lb.	0	2	6			
				4	3	1½
OUTLAY.						
16 stone 1 lb. Shins Beef at 1s. 6d....	1	4	2½			
Labour	0	10	0			
Tins	0	2	8¼			
				1	16	10¾
Gross Profit				£2	6	2¾

The sale prices above quoted are 20 per cent. lower than those obtained by "Bovril" and "Brand's Essence," and the Directors are confident from the opinions already expressed by large buyers that a large outlet will be found for these and also for other similar commodities, such as concentrated beef tea and glaze, which the Company will supply, and which will produce similarly large profits.

One of the above-mentioned inventions (in respect of which the Company has secured the Patent Rights already obtained in Great Britain, France, and America, and all such other rights in other countries and places as may be hereafter applied for) relates to an improved method of preparing and preserving tinned meats and foods, whereby the contents of the tin are prevented from coming into contact with the tin itself. By means of this invention a great advantage will be obtained over all methods hitherto known, inasmuch as it will be possible to open the tin and expose the contents for a considerable time without deteriorating such contents. Samples have been submitted to several of the largest retail dealers, and all agree that the last-mentioned advantage will alone secure the success of the invention, and the additional advantage which lies in the fact that the purity and freshness of the contents are greatly increased by the proposed method, must (coupled with the approval of the trade buyers already expressed) in a very short time bring about a large sale, and, indeed, the Directors already have considerable orders on hand. The large profits derived by manufacturers from the sale of tinned goods is too well known to need special mention or statistics.

The opinion of Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., on the said Invention has been obtained and is favourable to the validity of the Patent.

The other Inventions which the Company have secured are :—

(1) An improved tin box or case for containing meats and provisions.
(2) Key for opening such tin box or case.

The Directors do not feel justified in stating in this Prospectus the exact nature of the two last-mentioned Inventions, as they have only at present been provisionally protected by the British Patent Office. Samples, however, can be seen by intending Investors.

The Directors have no doubt that these Inventions will prove most profitable; and they are all the more assured on that point, inasmuch as a very large London firm, having an enormous retail sale, has already given an order and has moreover expressed its intention of adopting the Inventions, not only on account of their utility but also on account of their cheapness, when compared with those now on the market.

There will, it is believed, be no difficulty whatever in securing considerable competition for the acquisition of the foreign patent rights in all the aforesaid inventions and the proceeds of such sale ought readily to produce at least as much as the nominal capital of the present Company. But it will probably be found advisable to establish the business well in this Country before offering the foreign rights, so that the question of their value may be placed beyond doubt.

The Inventor of the aforesaid Inventions has been in the trade for over 25 years, and is recognised as one of the first authorities on Canned Provisions and the other articles which the Company proposes to deal with. He is giving up a considerable income and important appointment for the purpose of establishing and managing the Company's business, and shows his confidence in the Company's prospects by accepting for a period of two years an almost nominal consideration for his services.

The Directors will take no remuneration until after the shareholders have received £10 per cent. per annum.

The price to be paid by the Company for all rights in the aforesaid Inventions is £6,100, payable as to £1,100 in cash and £5,000 in fully-paid shares, and the Vendor will bear all the expenses of the Company down to the first allotment of shares.

The agreement for purchase by the Company has not yet been entered into, but it has been prepared and identified by three of the subscribers; and the same, and also the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the opinion of Mr. Fletcher Moulton, and specimens of the various inventions can be seen by intending Investors at the Offices of the Company.

Applications should be made on the accompanying form, which should be sent with the deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share direct to the Secretary.

If the number of Shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be applied in reduction of the payment on the allotment. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

December, 1896.

This Form to be sent entire, with Cheque for the amount payable on application, to the Secretary, at the Company's Offices, Rooms (368-9-70), 20, Bucklersbury, E.C.

No.....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

THE LONDON CANNING COMPANY, Limited.

To the Directors of
THE LONDON CANNING COMPANY, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to you the sum of £.....being 2s. 6d. per Share deposit on application for.....Shares of £1 each in the Capital of your Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any less number which may be allotted to me, and to pay for the same in the manner and on the dates mentioned in the Company's Prospectus, dated December, 1896, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Shares.

Ordinary Signature .....
Name (in full) .....
Address .....
.....
Occupation .....
Date .....1896.

This Application may be cut out and used.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia,

LIMITED.

CAPITAL - £300,000,

Consisting of 300,000 Shares of £1 each.

Of which 225,000 Shares have been issued as fully-paid, as the purchase price of the properties acquired, and 75,000 have been subscribed to provide Working Capital.

The Company has acquired six groups of developed and Working Mines, comprising about 700 acres, situated in the Northern Territory of Australia, together with a large quantity of plant, machinery, and upwards of 30,000 tons of tailings. New and improved machinery is now being despatched to the Mines, and two eminent Engineers have been appointed to the management. One of the Managers has recently arrived in the Territory with a large number of additional miners; and a Medical Officer, Chemist, and Assayer are also being sent out

The Properties were acquired from the Northern Territories' Syndicate, which consisted of a combination of the following Companies :—

The West Australian Goldfields, Limited.
The West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited.
The London and Continental Investment Corporation of Western Australia, Limited.
The West Australian Share Corporation, Limited.
The Gold Lands Corporation, Limited.
The Universal Corporation, Limited.
The West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation, Limited.
The Anglo-American Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.
The Anglo-Belgian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.
The Anglo-Netherlands Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.
The Anglo-Scandinavian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.
The Anglo-Austrian Exploration Company of Western Australia, Limited.
The Colonial Goldfields, Limited.

The combination was the result of extensive investigation into the mineral wealth of the Territory, which was reported by eminent authorities to be of an exceptional character. These reports having been confirmed by its own experts, the Syndicate took up the above-mentioned properties, and subsequently made them over to this Company, not only taking the whole of its purchase price in Shares, but also providing £75,000 as Working Capital.

The Northern Territories Goldfields of Australia, Limited, is a parent Company, and £35,000 Working Capital for each of its first two subsidiary issues has already been guaranteed. Since the transfer of the properties, contracts have been entered into under which a public issue of the Shares will be made by the West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited, the New Zealand Joint Stock and General Corporation, Limited, and the West Australian Loan and General Finance Corporation, Limited, who have acquired the practical control of the scheme.

Result of crushings of upwards of 10,000 tons will be given.

OFFICIAL AND EXPERT TESTIMONY TO THE WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND THE COMPANY'S PROPERTIES.

(Collected from Government Reports and other Official Records, and from Special Reports made to the Northern Territories Syndicate, Limited, and others prior to the formation of the Company).

LORD KINTORE (late Governor of South Australia) says that the existence of rich mines in the Northern Territory has "been common knowledge for some time past," and that "it has been a matter of surprise that no systematic attempt has been made to open up this wealth, the claims taken up having been at best only superficially scratched."

Mr. J. V. PARKES, the Government Inspector of Mines for South Australia, says :—"I feel constrained to say, and I have no hesitation in saying it, that the Northern Territory is phenomenally rich in minerals, but more especially gold and tin, and I feel assured that in the course of time it will become one of the chief producers of these two metals. A careful perusal of the returns I have made of the yield from the various mines will, I am convinced, be a surprise even to those who had previously had a good opinion of the gold-producing capabilities of the country, and when better facilities are afforded to the mining investors for visiting the country, and systematic mining is carried on, and efficient appliances are introduced for treating the ores, I am positive that my expectations will be fully realised. The reefs are all indicative of permanency, and give promise of large yields when systematically worked."

Mr. H. Y. L. BROWN, Government Geologist, in the course of an exhaustive report to the South Australian Government, dated September 24, 1895, says that he visited some of the chief mining centres now at work in the territory, commencing with the Howley group, and comprising Brock's Creek, Woolwonga, Yam Creek, Kohinoor, and most of the properties to be acquired by this Company. Speaking of the Howley group, he says :—"There are four parallel vertical reefs of bluish-coloured quartz, striking north 50 deg. to 60 deg. west. . . . The deepest shaft was said to be 150 ft.; others range from 40 ft. to 90 ft. in depth. . . . So far as I could judge from the inspection of a wilderness of shafts, old alluvial holes and workings which had collapsed, there are two lines of reef, one running north-westward, and the other eastward and westward, and which must unite with or intersect one another." Speaking of the Brock's Creek group, the Government Geologist says :—"This important belt of auriferous reefs is certain to continue downwards to a considerable depth. . . . The veins have been worked for a mile or more along the line, and there is ample room for sinking two or more deep shafts from which mining operations could be prosecuted on a large scale." With reference to the Woolwonga Reefs, Mr. Brown says :—"These comprise a belt of four or five more auriferous veins, striking north 30 deg. west to north-west, through clay slate, mica slate, and sandstone, with plumbageous slate in places. They are in the hands of Chinese, and are worked by numerous shafts and excavations, by means of which they follow down the gold." Referring to the Eureka Mine, one of the Eveleen group, he says :—"The reef is chiefly composed of quartz down to the water level, 80 ft., when it gives place to pyrites, of which there is a considerable width in the main shaft. . . . . The lode strikes north 10 deg. west, dipping 70 deg. to 80 deg. west, and varies in width from that of a drive to a few inches. The walls are smooth, and altogether it has an appearance of permanency."

The Hon. CHARLES DASHWOOD, Government Resident of the Northern Territory, in his Official Report to the South Australian Government for the year 1893, says that, according to reports furnished to him, some of the claims "have during the year produced astonishing results. I refer particularly to the Howley battery, and also to Ahloy's battery" (both included in the Northern Territories Goldfields properties); and in a cable dated November 4, 1895, in answer to special inquiries addressed to him as to the properties to be acquired by the Company, the Government Resident says :—"I consider them most valuable properties, with proper management, Howley now producing large quantities of rich ore. Maclean's (one of the mines of Group 1) yielded £10,000 during the last six months. Battery crushing in first-rate style. . . The lode has been proved to a depth of 200 ft.; average 6 oz. The opinion of all who have visited the mines is that the geological formation is permanent. The gold-bearing vein can be traced for a long distance, richer as depth is attained. There are numerous shafts sunk on the vein, varying in depth from 50 ft. to 200 ft. Tailings valuable."

Mr. TENISON WOODS, late Government Geologist of South Australia, says :—"The quartz lodes for variety and extent have few parallels in any country. It would take too long to specify the number of reefs which crop out on every side in this extraordinary mineral country. One can hardly speak too highly of it. Some day these deposits must yield up their treasures!"

Mr. W. J. STRETTON, Chief Warden for the Northern Territory, in his Official Report dated January 29, 1895, says :—"No doubt fairly rich lodes will continue to be discovered, and even above water level there are immense quantities of good stone to be crushed from the reefs"; and, after giving instances of various rich crushings, the Chief Warden proceeds : "While such results as quoted are being obtained it is not surprising that deeper and more expensive mining is not proceeded with."

In a special report upon the first group of properties, Mr. STRETTON says :—"A week ago I found that a new lode had been opened to the rise of the rich lode found in the main shaft, and at 50 ft. depth was yielding returns from 4 oz. to 5 oz. per ton. The lode in main shaft at the depth of 150 ft. recorded a crushing of over 6 oz. to the ton, showing that it is materially improving with depth. There is ample water power available for battery purposes, and the steam power on the property is sufficient to work 30 heads of stamps. . . . The reef has been traced for several miles, and I consider this district, and especially this property, one of the most valuable in the country."

Captain DANIELS, Mining Engineer, who has been resident in the Northern Territory for twenty-five years, and has during the whole of that period been actively engaged in mining, in reporting upon the first group, says :—"I am acquainted with the whole history of these mines, and it has been a matter of notoriety throughout the territory that for years past very rich stone has been raised which has yielded returns of 2 oz. to 7 oz. per ton, and, with modern machinery, would have yielded greatly-increased returns. . . . . All the mines in this district, now that labour is cheap, with the introduction of capital, would yield handsome returns. . . . I went down the main shafts from which stone was being raised, and carefully examined the reefs, which contained bold and well-defined lodes. . . . The permanency of the gold-bearing formation has been proved over an area sufficient to keep a large mill fully employed for many years to come. . . . I know of no mines which at this depth have yielded so much gold with only a 10-stamp mill. . . . Every one here knows the richness of these mines."

Mr. WALTER GRIFFITHS (mining engineer and Member of Parliament for the Northern Territory), reporting upon the first group says :—"This property has long been recognised as a most valuable one, the greatest depth obtained in one shaft being 180 ft., and here the lode at the bottom is proved to be the richest in the field."

Mr. ROBERT PETTIGREW (one of the oldest mining engineers and assayers in Australia) says :—"From the samples taken from your mine, they appear to resemble the formation of Hannan's. I have also examined the returns from the assays of concentrates. . . . . It is apparent that you are losing more than 50 per cent. by your present plan and treatment. . . . . I fail to see why your property should not yield enormous profits."

A full Prospectus will be published on Thursday. In the meantime any further information may be obtained from Mr. Percy J. Hays, Secretary of the West Australian Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited, and the New Zealand Joint Stock and General Corporation, Limited, Finsbury House, Blomfield-street, London, E.C.

THE APPLICATION LISTS WILL CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY, THE 9th DECEMBER, 1896, FOR TOWN AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING FOR THE COUNTRY.

Before issuing the Prospectus the Directors, for their own satisfaction, decided to obtain an absolutely independent report upon the properties proposed to be acquired, and instructed Messrs. John Hart Bridges & Son, of Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., to this effect. Their Certificate accompanies the Prospectus.

THE Worcestershire Brewing & Malting COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

SHARE CAPITAL.

13,000 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each. (These Shares are Preferential both as to Capital and Dividends.) ...	£130,000
13,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each ...	130,000
	£260,000

DEBENTURE STOCK.

£230,000 First Mortgage Four-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Debenture Stock, issued at 103, and redeemable at the Company's option at any time (but not before 1910) at 110, on six months' notice.

The whole of the foregoing Share Capital and Debenture Stock are now offered for public subscription. The Debenture Stock will be registered in the books of the Company, and the interest will be payable half-yearly on the first day of January and the first day of July in each year. The first payment will be made on the first day of July, 1897, from the dates of payment of the instalments. The Debenture Stock and interest thereon will be secured by a First Mortgage to the Trustees for the Debenture Stock-holders of the Freehold and Leasehold Properties now purchased by the Company and a Floating Charge upon the undertaking of the Company. Subscriptions for the Debenture Stock and Preference and Ordinary Shares will be payable as follows:—

	Debenture Stock.		Preference and Ordinary Shares.
On Application	£10 per cent.		£1 per Share.
On Allotment	25 ,,	(including premium.)	2 ,,
On 20th January, 1897	20 ,,		2 ,,
On 20th February, 1897	50 ,,		5 ,,
	£103		£10

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK-HOLDERS.

The Right Hon. Lord Suffield, K.C.B., 4, Manchester-square, London, W.
John Whitaker Cooper, Esq., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

Sir Frederick Seager Hunt, Bart., M.P. (Messrs. Seager, Evans, & Co., Distillers, Millbank, S.W.), 7, Cromwell-road, London, S.W.
Thomas Silvester Bucknall, Esq. (late of "Bucknall's Brewery," Kidderminster), Summer Bank, Kidderminster.
Sir Simeon Henry Lechmere Stuart, Bart., 7, Victoria-square, London, S.W.
John Bazley White, Esq. (Chairman Miller & Aldworth, Limited, Brewers, Dartford, Kent).
Herbert E. Wootten, Esq. (Joint Managing Director, the Camden Brewery Co., Limited), Hawley-crescent, N.W.

BANKERS.

London and County.—Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, E.C., Kidderminster, and other Branches.
London.—Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, E.C.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.

Messrs. Rooper & Whately, 17, Lincoln's Inn-fields, London, W.C.
Messrs. Ivens & Morton, Kidderminster.

BROKERS.—Messrs. Govett, Sons, & Co., 4, Throgmorton-avenue, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. C. F. Kemp, Ford, & Co., 73, Lombard-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY (*pro tem.*).—H. Broadbridge.

Offices.—The Brewery, Kidderminster.

London Transfer Office (*pro tem.*).—73, Lombard-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to purchase as going concerns and amalgamate the Freehold Breweries, known as Bucknall's Brewery, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (established in 1807), and the Delph Brewery, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire (established in 1876). And the Company will acquire the licensed houses now held with the breweries, as well as the Unicorn Hotel, Worcester, and other valuable licensed houses, making a total number of 126 licensed houses, of which 87 are freehold, three copyhold, 24 leasehold, and twelve annual tenancies, or tied by loan. Further, the Company will acquire the Malting attached to Bucknall's Brewery, the Lion Maltings, Kidderminster, all freehold, and Hodges' Maltings, Kidderminster (part freehold and part leasehold), with the benefit of the businesses attaching thereto. In addition, the Company will acquire the premises (part freehold and part leasehold), of Messrs. F. R. and T. C. Dalley, of Bewdley, Worcestershire, and the wine, spirit, and bottled beer businesses of that firm, and of Messrs. J. W. Hickling & Co., of Kidderminster. Besides the properties already mentioned, 18 shops, 100 cottages, 12 villas, and about 40 acres of freehold land will be included in the purchase.

The two Breweries are situate about 9½ miles apart, and very conveniently placed for the purposes of amalgamation, Bucknall's Brewery being situated in the centre of the town of Kidderminster, and the Delph Brewery in the thickly populated district of Brierley Hill. The Breweries will thus be able to supply the licensed houses acquired by the Company on most profitable terms, as well as to do a large trade with the general district surrounding.

Attached to Bucknall's Brewery is a mineral water plant, and both Breweries are fully equipped and provided with drays, waggons, horses, casks, and other necessaries for the business. Besides the trade of beers in Cask, the Company will have the benefit of a large trade in wines, spirits, mineral waters, and bottled beers, and the businesses of Messrs. Hickling and Messrs. Dalley (both of which are well known in the neighbourhood) have been secured with this view.

The several properties to be acquired (including fixtures, plant, and rolling stock) have been valued by experienced firms of valuers, as under:—

Messrs. Bromley, Son, & Kelday, of 21, Finsbury-pavement, London (Vendors' Report), at ...	£440,785
Messrs. Henshaw, Beard, & Watts, of 23, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, London, at ...	£443,654
Messrs. John Hart Bridges & Son, of 20, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, London (Directors' Report), at ...	£427,780

Copies of these valuations (without the full schedules) are enclosed with Prospectus.

The purchase price payable by the Company has been fixed at £440,000, in addition to which the Company will pay for the stocks, stores, and book debts at a valuation in the usual way. After providing the purchase price a cash surplus will remain, which, with the stock, book debts, &c., will provide the Company with a total working capital of upwards of £45,000.

The £230,000 First Mortgage Debenture Stock is consequently more than doubly secured on the lowest of the above valuations, being that of Messrs. John Hart Bridges & Son, at ... £427,780

To which sum must be added:—

The cash surplus above referred to, which, with the stock, book debts, &c., provides the Company with a working capital of upwards of ... 45,000

Making a total value of ... £472,780

As security for the £230,000 First Mortgage Debenture Stock.

The Certificate of Messrs. John Hart Bridges & Son as to value (extracted from their Report) is in the following terms:—

"The whole of the properties are situate within easy distances of the Breweries for delivery by road, and form an excellent combination for further development and increased trade, and we value the same, together with the plants, rolling stock, easks, fixtures, and other effects, as per inventories, at the sum of four hundred and twenty-seven thousand seven hundred and eighty pounds.

JOHN HART BRIDGES & SONS."

Messrs. Bromley, Son, & Kelday report on the profits to result, based on the last three years' trading, and including rentals of property, as ...	£32,400
And their Report is confirmed by Messrs. Henshaw, Beard, & Watts.	
Messrs. John Hart Bridges & Sons furnish the profits from the amalgamated businesses, including rentals, as amounting to ...	£20,930
The interest on £230,000 Four-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Debenture Stock is ...	9,775
The Dividend on £130,000 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Preference Shares requires ...	7,150
Together ...	£16,925

There is, accordingly, on the lowest computation a surplus of £14,000 a year to provide dividend on £130,000 Ordinary Shares, Reserve Fund, Directors' fees, &c.

The Vendors (who promote the Company, and have acquired the properties to re-sell at a profit) pay the whole of the expenses of the formation and registration of the Company (including the issue of the Prospectus and brokerage) up to the first allotment of Shares, except Stamp Duties and the legal charges of securing the Debenture Stock, which will be paid by the Company.

Until final completion of the purchase of the several properties, the proceeds of the issue of the Debenture Stock will remain under the control of the Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders, to be drawn upon by the Company in proportionate parts, as and when properties are conveyed, and the Company reserves to itself the right not to take over any particular property included in the purchase, should the title thereto not be satisfactory, deducting the like proportionate value thereof.

A Contract for purchase has been entered into, being an agreement dated the 1st day of December, 1896, between Edward Stopford Claremont (who represents the Vendors) of the one part, and H. Broadbridge, as a Trustee on behalf of the Company, of the other part.

During the negotiations for the purchase of the properties and the formation of the Company, contracts have been entered into between various parties, with reference to the formation and promotion of the Company and the subscription of its capital, but to none of which the Company is a party. The businesses agreed to be purchased, or some of them, will be taken over subject to all existing contracts, which are of the ordinary trade character. The contracts referred to in this paragraph are or may be contracts within the meaning of the 38th Section of the Companies Act, 1867; and, accordingly, applicants for Shares are to be deemed to have notice of the said contracts and to have agreed with the Company (as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable) to waive all claims, if any, against them for not more fully complying with the requirements of the said Section, and allotments will only be made upon this express condition.

Copy of the above-mentioned Contract and print of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, together with the original Reports of Messrs. Bromley, Son, and Kelday, Messrs. Henshaw, Beard, and Watts, and Messrs. John Hart Bridges and Son, and a draft of the Debenture Stock Trust Deed can be inspected at the London Office of the Company by applicants for Debenture Stock and Shares until allotment.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full. If the amount allotted is less than that applied for the balance of the deposit will be applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment. Failure to pay any instalment will render the previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Application will in due course be made for a settlement in and quotation for the Debenture Stock, Preference and Ordinary Shares on the London Stock Exchange.

Applications must be made on the following forms, or the forms enclosed with the prospectus, and sent with the deposit to the bankers.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the offices of the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and at the offices of the Company.

This Form may be cut out, filled up, and sent with the deposit of £1 per Share (or 10 per cent. per Debenture), being the amount payable on application to Lloyds Bank, Limited, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C., Kidderminster, or any other Branch; or to Messrs. Brown, Janson, & Co., 32, Abchurch-lane, London, E.C.

To the Directors of the

WORCESTERSHIRE BREWING AND MALTING COMPANY, LIM.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £..... as a deposit of £1 per Share (or 10 per cent. per Debenture), on ..... I request you to allot me that number of Shares (or Debentures), and agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus, and to pay the balance of instalments as provided by the Prospectus.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date.....1896.
Signature .....

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will be OPENED on TUESDAY, the 8th December, 1896, and CLOSED on or before the following Thursday for Town, and the then succeeding day for the Country.

THE NORTH-EASTERN BREWERIES, LTD.

REGISTERED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 TO 1893.

SHARE CAPITAL - - - - - - - £400,000,—VIZ.,

30,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each	£150,000
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each	£250,000
£400,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock (of which it is now proposed to issue £300,000)...	£400,000
	£800,000

The Vendor takes the whole of the Ordinary Shares (with the exception of ten), and the whole of the Preference Shares, and £100,000 Debenture Stock in part payment of the Purchase Money, and the same will be issued to the Vendor or his nominees.

The Debenture Stock is redeemable at the Company's option on or after July 1, 1906, at £108 per cent., on giving six months' notice. Interest thereon will be payable on June 1 and December 1 in each year. The first payment will be made on June 1, 1897, and will be calculated from the dates of payment of the instalments. Payment in full may be made on allotment if desired under discount at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum.

THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C., and their Newcastle-on-Tyne and other Branches, will, as Bankers to the Company, receive applications for—

£200,000 Four per cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock in Multiples of £10 at the issue price of £102½ per cent., payable:—

£10	per cent. on application.
42 10	„ (including premium) on allotment.
50	„ one month after allotment.
£102 10	

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS.
Henry Bramwell, Crown East Court, Worcester.
Arthur Edward Lord, Hallow Mount, Worcester.

DIRECTORS.
*Richard Murray, Brewer, Wine and Spirit Merchant, and Mineral Water Manufacturer, Sunderland and Consett (Chairman and Managing Director).
Wm. Aynsley, Consett Park, Consett, Merchant (Director of Shotley Bridge and Consett District Gas Company).
P. B. Junor, Tudhoe Grange, Spennymoor, Durham, Brewer and Spirit Merchant.
Richard Thomas Murray, Brewer, Sunderland.
* Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.
The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sunderland, and other Branches.

SOLICITOR TO THE COMPANY.
John G. Murray, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Consett.

SOLICITORS TO THE TRUSTEES.
Dawes and Sons, 9, Angel-court, London, E.C.

BROKERS.
Panmure Gordon, Hill, and Co., Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
J. Straker Wilson, 23, Grey-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

AUDITORS.
Rawlings & Wilkinson, Chartered Accountants, Sunderland.
Joseph M. Nicholson, Chartered Accountant, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Blackhill.

SECRETARY.
Thos. Humphrey, Wear Brewery, Sunderland.

REGISTERED OFFICE—The Wear Brewery, Chester-road, Sunderland.

BREWERIES—The Wear Brewery, Chester-road, Sunderland; The Moor-street Brewery, Moor-street, Sunderland: The Tower Brewery, Tudhoe-grange, Spennymoor.

PROSPECTUS.

THIS Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on the well-known Brewery and Wine and Spirit businesses of Messrs. Bramwell and Company (established for upwards of 100 years), of the Church-street Bond Vaults, and the Wear Brewery and Maltings, Sunderland, and of the old-established firm of William Story and Company, of the Moor-street Brewery, and Hendon-road Maltings, Sunderland, and the business for many years carried on by Richard Murray, Wine, Spirit, and Ale Merchant and Aërated Water Manufacturer, of Consett, and the businesses of J. H. Graham, Wine, Ale, and Spirit Merchant, Middlesbro'; P. B. Junor, Brewer and Spirit Merchant, Tudhoe Grange, Spennymoor; and Thomas Elwen & Son, Ale and Porter Merchants and Aërated Water Manufacturers, Frederick-street, Sunderland, together with the three Breweries, Maltings, and Licensed houses, of which 139 are freehold, copyhold, and long leasehold, and 43 are short leaseholds, tenancies, and tied houses, together with various business and private premises and places of entertainment of the whole of which Mr. Richard Murray is the present proprietor. It is intended to continue the businesses subject to certain improvements, having for their object economy of management, under the same organisation and staff as at present.

The Company acquires as from December 1, 1896, the whole of the assets (except book debts) of the respective businesses of Bramwell & Company, Wear Brewery, William Story & Company, Richard Murray, J. H. Graham, P. B. Junor, and Thomas Elwen & Son, including the properties mentioned in the report of Mr. J. G. Smith, set out below, free from all encumbrances and trade liabilities.

The properties have been valued by the well-known north country brewery and licensed house auctioneer and valuer, Mr. J. G. Smith, of Gateshead, who reports as follows:—

"3, West-street, Gateshead, December 1, 1896.

To the Directors of the North-Eastern Breweries, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have surveyed:—

I.—The Church-street bond vaults, offices and houses, Sunderland, three breweries and maltings situated at Sunderland and Spennymoor, the aerated water manufactories situated at Sunderland and Consett. Three theatres at Jarrow, Spennymoor, and Consett; masonic hall and cattle mart at Consett; 139 licensed freehold, copyhold, and long leasehold properties, together with numerous houses and shops in connection therewith owned by the above Company, and 43 licensed properties tied or leased to them as tenants, all situated in the counties of Northumberland, Durham, and Yorkshire.

II.—The rolling stock, horses, carts, working plant, stocks, loans to customers, unexpired term of Excise licenses, furniture, &c., and cash less deposits by tenants,

and in my opinion the following are fair and reliable market values:—

I.—Freehold, leasehold, and copyhold properties	£585,386
II.—Rolling stock, &c.	65,000
(Six hundred and fifty thousand three hundred and eighty-six pounds)	£650,386

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. G. SMITH."

The Mortgage Debenture Stock will be secured by a specific First Mortgage on the above-mentioned freehold, copyhold, and leasehold properties, and also by a floating charge on the business, undertaking, and general assets of the Company. The £100,000, balance of the £400,000 Debenture Stock, will be only issued if, and when, required to buy additional licensed property and other concerns engaged in similar trade (to be vested in the Trustees for the Debenture Stock holders by way of additional security), or for the improvement of the Company's property.

The Wear Brewery, Maltings, Cellars, and Stabling cover 2½ acres of valuable ground, a portion being the site of the old Sunderland Waterworks. The water from the old well is used for engine, cooling, and other purposes, and a well which has been sunk 65 feet below the old well and which is considered to have an inexhaustible supply of water, is used for brewing purposes, thus effecting a large saving by not having to obtain the necessary supply from the Water Company's mains.

The Manorial rents, fines and heriots being nominal, the Copyholds may be considered to be practically equivalent to Freeholds.

The books of the respective firms of Bramwell and Co., the Wear Brewery Company, W. Story and Co., R. Murray, and T. Elwen and Son have been examined by Messrs. Rawlings and Wilkinson and Mr. Joseph M. Nicholson who report as follows:—

"To the Directors of the North-Eastern Breweries, Limited.

"We have examined the Books and Accounts of the respective businesses carried on by Mr. Richard Murray, under the several names of Bramwell & Co., The Wear Brewery Co., Sunderland, and Richard Murray, Benfieldside, Co. Durham, for the two years ending 31st August, 1896, and under the name Wm. Story & Co., Sunderland, for the 10 months ending 31st August, 1896; and also of the business of Messrs. T. Elwen & Son, Sunderland, for the two years ending 31st January, 1896, and certify that the combined Profits for the above periods have been £62,275 6s. 6d., averaging £31,543 3s. per annum without charging Interest on borrowed or other Capital and Income Tax, but after providing for Depreciation, Repairs and Bad and Doubtful Debts, and also that they have during such period been of a progressive character. (Signed) RAWLINGS & WILKINSON,
Chartered Accountants, Sunderland.
(Signed) JOS. M. NICHOLSON,
Chartered Accountant,
30th October, 1896. Blackhill and Newcastle-on-Tyne."

The books of Mr. J. H. Graham's Middlesbro' business have been examined by Messrs. Monkhouse, Goddard, and Co., who report as follows:—

"St. Nicholas Chambers, Newcastle-on-Tyne,
29th October, 1896.

Messrs. J. H. GRAHAM and RICHARD MURRAY, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

DEAR SIRS,—

We have examined the books and accounts of Mr. J. G. Graham, so far as they relate to the 'Grand Hotel' and the 'Eagle,' 'Alexandra,' 'Volunteer,' 'Palmerston,' 'Queen's,' and 'Captain Cooke' Public-houses, all situated at Middlesbro', and certify that the combined profits for the last completed year of trading amounted to £10,238 11s. 3d. The periods covered by our examination were, in the case of the 'Grand Hotel,' the twelve months ending 30th June last, and in the case of the public-houses the twelve months ending 17th July last.

No sum has been charged against profits for head-office management or for depreciation of furniture, fittings, &c.—We are yours faithfully,
(Signed) MONKHOUSE, GODDARD, and Co.,
Chartered Accountants."

In addition to the businesses dealt with in the Accountants' certificates as given above, there are various licensed properties (including those of Mr. P. B. Junor), recently acquired by the Vendor, included in the above valuation of £585,386, but the results of which are not included in the Accountants' certificates. The Directors estimate these will realise a further profit of about £7,500.

The total profits of the entire business will thus amount to about £49,300.

Certified Profits as above, £31,543 3s. 0d. and £10,238 11s. 3d. ...			£41,781 14 3
Estimated Profits on New Properties...			7,500 0 0
The Annual interest on the present issue of Debenture Stock will amount to	£12,000 0 0		
5 per cent. dividend on Preference Shares £150,000...	7,500 0 0		
	19,500 0 0		
Say 8 per cent. dividend on Ordinary Shares £250,000	20,000 0 0		
	£39,500 0 0		
leaving for Reserve, Depreciation, and Contingencies about	9,781 14 3		
	£49,281 14 3		£49,281 14 3

The proceeds of the present issue of Debenture Stock are to be applied in part payment of the purchase money to the vendor (who will vest the undertaking and the various properties in the Company free from incumbrances).

As the Company takes over the business as a going concern, as from December 1, 1896, with the stock of Hops, Barley, Malt, Wines, Spirits, Beer, Aërated Waters, Plant, Fixtures, Machinery, Horses, Carts, Casks, Rolling-stock, &c., and as the property and business are purchased free from all liabilities, no further working capital is now required to maintain the business in its present position.

The properties are being acquired from Richard Murray, the vendor to the Company, the amount payable to whom by the Company has been fixed at £700,000, payable as to £200,050 in cash, £100,000 in Debenture Stock, £150,000 in fully-paid Preference Shares, and £249,950 in fully-paid Ordinary Shares. This purchase price includes the three Breweries, three Maltings, two Aërated Water Manufactories, Plant, Casks, Hotels, Public Houses, Beer Houses, Fixtures, Furniture, Rolling-stock, Horses, Stock-in-trade, Loans to customers, and the goodwill of the respective businesses.

Mr. Richard Murray will join the Board as Chairman after allotment, and act as Managing Director.

No promotion money has been or will be paid. The Vendor will receive the premium on this issue of the Debenture Stock, and will pay all expenses of the formation of the Company and the issue of its capital up to allotment and also the expense of transferring the property and assets to the Company.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Draft Trust Deed and Form of Debenture Stock Certificate can be seen by intending applicants at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company and the Trustees and at the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, Bishopsgate-street, E.C., and the original Reports of the Valuer and Accountants can be seen at the office of the Solicitors to the Trustees.

Applications for the Debenture Stock with the deposit of £10 per cent. are to be made to the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, on the Forms accompanying the Prospectus.

In cases where no allotment is made the deposits will be returned in full, and when the amount allotted is less than that subscribed for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the payment due on allotment. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture.

It is intended to apply for a Stock Exchange quotation for the Debenture Stock in due course.

Prospectuses, together with Forms of Application, can be obtained from the Bankers to the Company in London, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sunderland and Branches, also from the Solicitors, Brokers, Auditors, and at the offices of the Company.

SUNDERLAND, *7th December*, 1896.

No part of this Issue has been underwritten or guaranteed in any way, and the Vendors have stipulated for the Allotment to themselves of the largest number of Shares, in payment of the purchase-money, permissible under the rules of the Stock Exchange.

The Lists are now open, and will close for London on or before Wednesday, the 9th day of December, 1896, and for the Country and Abroad on the following day.

THE

Mountain Copper Company, Ltd.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.)

CAPITAL, £1,250,000, in 250,000 Shares of £5 each.

Of which 83,326 fully paid Shares are reserved for the Vendors, in part payment of the Purchase-money. 166,674 Shares are now offered for Subscriptions.

Issue of 166,674 Shares of £5 each,

Payable as follows:—10s. on Application; £1 on Allotment; £1 15s. on 1st February, 1897; £1 15s. on the 1st March, 1897.

Directors.

WILLIAM KESWICK, Esq. *(Chairman)*, of Messrs. Matheson & Co., 3, Lombard-street, London.
Sir ANDREW NOBLE, K.C.B., Jesmond Dene House, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
HUGH M. MATHESON, Esq., 3, Lombard-street, London.
WILLIAM D. CRUDDAS, Esq., M.P., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
WALTER SCOTT, Esq., Grainger-street West, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
ALFRED FELLOWS, Esq., Park-road, Jarrow.
CHARLES W. FIELDING, Esq., 6, Billiter-street, London.
HENRY J. WENHAM, Esq., 3, Lombard-street, London.

Bankers—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Ltd., 62, Lombard-street, London.
(Head Office: Edinburgh, and all their Branches in Scotland.)
Brokers—Messrs. HENRY COHEN & SONS, 62, Threadneedle-street, London.
Solicitors.
Messrs. FRESHFIELDS & WILLIAMS, 5, Bank Buildings, Lothbury, London.
Messrs. PAGE, McCUTCHEN & BELLS, San Francisco, California.
Auditors—Messrs. TURQUAND, YOUNGS, BISHOP, & CLARKE, 41, Coleman Street, London.
Commercial Agents—Messrs. MATHESON & CO., 3, Lombard Street, London.
Resident Engineer and Manager—ALEXANDER HILL, Esq., C.E., Keswick, California.
Secretary and Offices—A. N. FREWER, Esq., 3, Lombard Street, London.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

1. This Company is formed for the purpose of acquiring and working on an extended scale the well-known and remarkably rich Copper Mines belonging to The Mountain Mines, Limited, situated at Iron Mountain, Shasta County, in the State of California, the Smelting Works connected therewith, and other extensive property, as well as the entire interest in the Railway to the Mines; and also the Refining Works in the neighbourhood of New York, owned by the New Jersey Metal Refining Works, Limited.

2. The Mines at Iron Mountain were acquired, as from 1st February, 1895, by The Mountain Mines, Limited, who have since expended very large sums in constructing the railway, and otherwise equipping the property, and in opening up the mines in a systematic manner, thereby proving the existence of an immense mass of ore unusually rich in copper, and containing gold and silver in paying quantities. Meanwhile, in order to justify the large expenditure they were incurring, The Mountain Mines, Limited, obtained the services of Mr. James D. Hague, of New York, to give his opinion upon the mines. Mr. Hague is well known as one of the most experienced, reliable, and cautious of authorities on mines of this description, and his report, which has since been put into writing at the request of The Mountain Mines, Limited, is published with this Prospectus, and shows what a high value he places on the property.

3. The property has also been personally visited twice, the last time during this summer, by Mr. C. W. Fielding and Mr. H. J. Wenham, both of whom are joining the Board of the new Company, and who on each occasion remained on the spot for a considerable time, and subjected every detail to close examination. Mr. Fielding, who for many years held a responsible position in the Rio Tinto Company, Limited, has furnished the Board with a careful report, a copy of which accompanies this Prospectus, as also do extracts from a letter of the well-known copper authority, Professor Douglas, of New York.

4. Mr. Hague, in his report, speaking of the ore body that had been laid open by drifts and cross-cuts at the time of his visit, says: "It has been developed with unusual thoroughness, and its actual dimensions are known beyond doubt by the measurements of drifts and cross-cuts shown on the maps submitted. . . . The quantity of ore contained in this body of sulphide is estimated by Mr. Hill at little less than 1,500,000 (1,338,183) tons, and, in my opinion, this estimate is safe and trustworthy. . . . I think it reasonably certain that the larger portion, probably three-fourths, of the ore now developed contains on an average more than 7½ per cent. of copper, and that the remainder carries from 2 two 4 per cent. copper. . . . The assays indicate an average content of 3 ozs. of silver, and about 65 cents worth of gold, say, together, $2.50 per ton of ore. . . . The Mine is unquestionably one of great value, unusually well developed; already assured as a source of ore supply, well equipped for operation, fully justifying the requisite outlays for an adequate smelting plant, and promising large profits for a long time to come." The plant here referred to has since been erected and is in active operation.

Mr. Fielding, in his report, shows that 84 per cent. of the samples taken from the 1,338,183 tons of ore already in sight, or 1,100,000 tons, average, 8¾ per cent. of copper. Also, that the production of electrolytically pure copper, after allowing for losses in smelting and expenses of every kind, is now costing the Company £2 19s. 9d. per ton of ore, or £34 3s. 4d. per ton of copper, and that it is estimated that this cost can be reduced by about 15s. per ton of ore, or £8 12s. 0d. per ton of copper, when the Company has its own Bessemer and Electrolytic Plant.

The market price of this Electrolytic, or high conductivity, Copper, is now about £53 per ton, being from £4 to £5 above that of the Chili Bar, or G.M.B. Copper, which serves as the usual basis of transactions and public quotations. The net profit, at the present cost of production is therefore £18 16s. 8d. on each ton of Copper that the Company produces. An annual output of only 150,000 tons of 8¾ per cent. ore (500 tons per working day) should yield 13,000 tons of Copper, which at the above rate of profit and adding £75,000 as the value of the precious metals, should give a net profit of about £320,000 per annum, or over 25 per cent. on the whole of the Company's capital, while the total profit on the richer portion alone of the Mines thus far developed would, at the above rate, exceed £2,400,000 sterling, or about double the entire capital of the Company.

The Directors feel confident, therefore, that large Dividends will be earned immediately, and, if reasonable expectations are fulfilled, that they will be steadily maintained for many years to come.

In the above estimate of Profits no account has been taken of—

a. The body of poorer Ore. This is similar, in character and per centage of Copper, to that of the principal Spanish copper mines, whose Ores contain less than 3 per cent., and are yet worked at handsome profits.

b. The ore body, lying under the present lowest level of about 150 ft., which has as yet not been touched.

c. The large undeveloped portion of the property. At present only some 800 ft. in length, under one end of the Outcrop, have been opened up, whereas for nearly a mile and a half the general trend of the Outcrop shows strong indications of containing other similar deposits. In fact, at the other extreme end of the property the same Copper ore has already been found.

d. The "Gossan," covering the copper deposits, to the extent, it is believed, of some millions of tons. It will be seen from the accompanying reports that this "Gossan" is likely to become an important source of future profit.

e. The Company's various other interests and claims, including lands of an aggregate area of about five square miles, and numerous Quartz mine claims. Most of these claims are, for legal reasons, vested in an American corporation, the Iron Mountain Investment Company, all the Shares in which are owned by The Mountain Mines, Limited.

f. The reduced cost of production when the Company has its own Bessemer and Electrolytic Plant.

g. The profit which it is expected to make on treating as fluxes the gold-bearing quartz existing in the district.

5. Owing to the peculiarly favourable position of the Mines, high up in hilly country, no sinking, pumping or expensive timbering of any sort are required; quite unusual facilities therefore exist for the cheap production of Copper and successful competition with other Mines.

6. A most substantial Railway, connecting at Keswick with the Main Line of the Southern Pacific Railway to San Francisco, distant about 250 miles, has been constructed and equipped for bringing down the ores to Keswick, where an extensive series of Roasting Kilns, two large Blast Furnaces, and a number of Buildings and Residences, with steam, water and electric power, have already been erected. All these are now in full and successful operation, and important extensions are in course of being carried out. After the Ores have been converted into Matte at Keswick, they are forwarded to the before-mentioned refining Works at Elizabeth, New Jersey, in the neighbourhood of New York, for the finishing processes and to be treated for extraction of the precious metals. All the Copper thus far produced has been first-rate in quality, and has been readily sold in the New York market, where there is likely to be a ready sale for all the Company may produce. For legal reasons the actual Railway is vested in an American Corporation, the Iron Mountain Railway Company, all the shares in which are owned by The Mountain Mines, Limited.

7. The mines have been most ably opened up by Mr. Alexander Hill, the Engineer and Resident Manager of the Company, who has had great mining and engineering experience in various parts of the world, and has displayed conspicuous energy and ability in the business generally.

8. In view of the present depleted condition of the copper stocks of the world, the remarkable increase of consumption that has taken place in Europe, and is now likely to take place in the United States of America, and elsewhere, in connection with the development of electric power, and of the belief that most of the large copper-producing mines are already working to their full capacity, a scarcity of copper and correspondingly high prices are extremely probable.

9. The respective Vendors are The Mountain Mines, Limited, and the New Jersey Metal Refining Works, Limited, and all the Directors of this Company are either Directors of or interested in one or other of the Vendor Companies. The Mountain Mines, Limited, was privately subscribed in order to acquire the Mines, open up, prove and fully equip them as regards transport and treatment of the products, and to bring them to the point of assured success. This, which in such cases is usually left for the purchasing Company to do, has, it is considered, now been done, and the Company will take over a well-equipped going concern.

12. The purchase price has been fixed by the Vendors at £1,150,000, payable as to £416,630 in fully-paid Shares, and as to £733,370 in cash or in fully-paid Shares, at the option of the Company, leaving a balance of £100,000 out of the proceeds of the issue, for working capital. For the above price the respective Vendors undertake to hand over, as on the 31st December, 1896, their entire interest in the above-mentioned Mines and Smelting Works, including Land, Buildings, fixed and loose Plant and Machinery thereon; also all other Lands and Mining, Water, Timber, or other rights to which the Mountain Mines, Limited, are entitled in California; also all the interest of the Mountain Mines, Limited, in the above-mentioned Iron Mountain Railway Company and Iron Mountain Investment Company; also the Refining Works at Elizabeth, New Jersey, including about thirty-five acres of Freehold Land, with an excellent Water Frontage, Buildings, Furnaces, fixed and loose Plant and Machinery thereon.

14. Applications for Shares should be made on the accompanying Form, and forwarded to the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard-street, London, E.C., or to their Head Office in Edinburgh, or any of their branches in Scotland. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render the previous payments liable to forfeiture.

15. The Memorandum and Articles of Association, and copies of the Contracts, can be seen at the Office of the Company's Solicitors. Prospectuses may be had at the Offices of the Company, and of their Bankers and Brokers.

London, 3rd December, 1896.

THE MOUNTAIN COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION MAY BE USED.

To the Directors of The Mountain Copper Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £..... being 10s. per Share payable on application for.....Shares of £5 each, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus, dated 3rd December, 1896, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I request you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares so allotted to me, and I undertake to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Shares as the same shall become due.

Ordinary Signature.....
Name (in full) .....
Address (in full) .....
Profession, Occupation, or Description.....
Date.....December, 1896.

Cheques should be made payable to Bearer, and crossed "Commercial Bank of Scotland Limited."

The List will OPEN on Thursday, the 10th inst., and CLOSE on or before Friday evening, the 11th inst. for Town and Country.

The "Evening News,"

LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL - - £250,000,

Divided into 25,000 Five per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, and 125,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each (the whole of which latter are taken by the Vendors).

Issue of 25,000 Five per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each.

The Preference Shares will be entitled to a fixed Cumulative Preferential Dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, and will rank as to Capital in priority to the Ordinary Shares. The books will be made up to the 31st August in each year, the first Interim Dividend will be payable on the 1st day of June, 1897, and will be calculated from the dates of payment.

The Shares will be payable as follows:—

10s. per Share on Application; £2 per Share on Allotment; £2 10s. per Share on 1st February, 1897.

The Articles of Association provide that no Debentures can be created without the consent of three-fourths majority of the holders of Preference Shares present in person or by proxy at a meeting specially summoned for the purpose.

Directors.

ALFRED C. HARMSWORTH
HAROLD S. HARMSWORTH
CECIL B. HARMSWORTH
KENNEDY JONES (Managing Director)
} Directors or Shareholders in the Vendor Company.
JOHN HOOD LINGARD, Manager, "Daily Mail."

Bankers.

Messrs. COUTTS & CO., 59, Strand, W.C.

Solicitors.

Messrs. NICHOLSON, GRAHAM, & GRAHAM, 24, Coleman-street, London, E.C.

Auditors.

Messrs. DELOITTE, DEVER, GRIFFITHS, & CO., 4, Lothbury, London, E.C

Brokers.

Messrs. JAMES CAPEL & CO., 31, Throgmorton-street, E.C.

Secretary and Offices.

Mr. J. COWLEY, 82, Carmelite-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing and carrying on the well-known and highly successful Evening Newspaper, the "Evening News."

The "Evening News" was first published in the year 1881, and a large sum of money, exceeding (it is believed) £180,000, was expended by the original and subsequent owners in the establishment of it.

In the year 1894 Mr. Alfred Harmsworth with others purchased the "Evening News" from the then proprietors; at the time of purchase the Paper had acquired a large circulation, and by the energy displayed in the management since, it has become the most largely circulated of any Evening Newspaper, and one of the most successful Newspapers, published in the United Kingdom.

The net sales of the paper, after deducting returns, for the first year of the Vendors' ownership, was 40,532,000, for the second year it was 51,358,000 copies, and the sales for the months of September, October, and November, the first months of the third year, show an increase of 327,125 copies over the corresponding period of last year.

The Company will acquire the leasehold premises in Whitefriars Street, the goodwill of the Newspaper, the complete and extensive printing plant employed in the production of it (a plant which is claimed to be the most modern and complete of its character in the United Kingdom), and the stock and book debts of the Vendor Company as on the 1st September, 1896.

The business will be taken over as a going concern as from the 1st September, 1896, the Company paying interest at 5 per cent. per annum upon the purchase money from that date until the completion of the purchase. The purchase will include the stock of paper, book debts, and other commercial assets at 1st September last. It is considered that a sufficient working capital will thereby be provided, but, in view of the increasing circulation, a sum of £10,000 will be provided out of this issue for meeting the requirements of the further extension of the business.

The Newspaper will be conducted under the present management, which has proved so successful.

It is universally known that an established Daily Newspaper with a large and increasing circulation constitutes one of the safest and most lucrative investments in the commercial world.

The books of the Vendor Company have been audited from the commencement of its operations, namely, the 1st day of September, 1894, by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co., and they have given the following certificate:—

4, Lothbury, London. E.C.,
10th November, 1896.

To the Directors of the "Evening News," Limited.

We have acted as Auditors of the "Evening News" for some time past, and have regularly prepared the Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts, and we beg to certify that, during the two years' ownersbip of the Paper by you the profits have been as under:—

For the year ending 31st August, 1895 ... £14,018 0 0
" " " 1896 ... £25,357 0 0

These profits are arrived at after providing for depreciation of Plant and Machinery, but before charging Interest, Income Tax, or Directors' Fees.

The net sales of the Paper, after deducting returns, were 40,532,000 copies in the first year, and 51,358,000 copies in the second year.

Deliotte, Dever, Griffiths, & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

The above figures show that the profits have amounted during the last financial year to £25,357, thus being more than four times the amount required to pay the Preference Dividend.

The Preference Shares now offered for subscription are Cumulative as to Dividend and Preferential as to Capital, and it is provided by the Articles of Association that no Debentures or Debenture Stock can be created without the consent of a three-fourths majority of the holders present in person or by proxy at a meeting specially summoned. The Preference Shares will therefore practically be a first charge upon one of the most successful and progressive Newspaper businesses in the United Kingdom.

The holders of Preference Shares will not be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Company unless the Preference Dividend shall not have been paid, or unless a matter directly affecting their interest as against any other class of Shareholders or in respect of any proposed Debenture issue be under discussion.

Mr. Kennedy Jones will continue to act as Editor and Managing Director for eight years from the incorporation of the Company without remuneration, he being satisfied with the profit anticipated to be received by him as a large holder of Ordinary Shares. The other Directors have also agreed to act without remuneration.

The purchase price has been fixed by the present Owners of the business who are the only promoters, at £240,000, of which £115,000 will be paid in cash, and the balance by the allotment of the whole of the Ordinary Shares credited as fully paid up.

The following Contracts have been entered into, dated 8th December, 1896:—(1.) Between The "Evening News," Limited (the old Company) and Harold S. Harmsworth, its Liquidator, of the one part, and The "Evening News," Limited, of the other part. (2.) Between Kennedy Jones of the one part and The "Evening News," Limited, of the other part. The Company acquires the benefit of the existing Contracts entered into by the Vendor Company in the ordinary course of its business, which are too numerous to specify. Subscribers will therefore be deemed to waive the insertion of the dates and names of parties to such Contracts and any further compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than herein appearing, and applications for Shares will only be entertained on that footing.

The Vendor Company (which is the only Promoter) will pay all expenses relating to the formation of the Company up to the allotment of Preference Shares; and accordingly has entered into arrangements or contracts with various persons, and the waiver mentioned in the last clause must be deemed to apply to such arrangements and contracts.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the above-mentioned Contract, and the Auditors' Certificate, may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

Application will in due course be made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange to grant a settlement and quotation.

Applications for Shares should be made on the following Form, or the Form accompanying the Prospectus, and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. Cheques should be made payable to Messrs. Coutts & Co. If the number of Shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited towards the amount payable on allotment. When no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full. A separate cheque must accompany each application.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

Dated 8th December, 1896.

This Form may be cut out and sent entire, with remittance, to the Company's Bankers, Coutts & Co., 59, Strand, London, W.C. Separate Cheques must accompany each application.

APPLICATION FORM.

THE "EVENING NEWS," LIMITED.

ISSUE OF 25,000 5 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each - - - - £125,000.

To the Directors of

THE "EVENING NEWS," LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

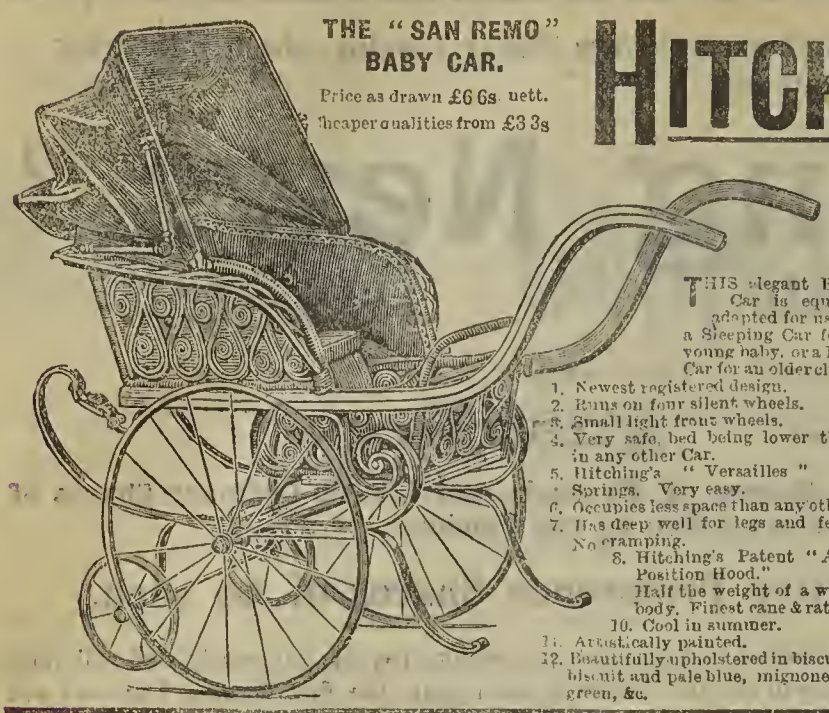
Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £ , being the deposit due on application for Preference Shares, I hereby request you to allot me the same, and I hereby agree to accept the same, or any less amount allotted to me, and I agree to pay the instalments thereon as required in the terms of the Prospectus, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register in respect of such shares, and I agree with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any claims I may have against them for not more fully complying with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than in the statements contained in such Prospectus. In the event of my receiving no Allotment, the amount to be returned in full.

Name (in full) .....
Description .....
Address .....
Date.....1896.

All cheques to be made payable to Coutts & Co.

THE "SAN REMO" BABY CAR.

Price as drawn £6 6s. nett.
Cheaper qualities from £3 3s



HITCHING'S BABY STORES.

The Premier Manufacturers of HIGH-GRADE BABY CARRIAGES in the World, have extensive Showrooms at

23, 21, & 19, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.
(WORKS: LUDGATE SQUARE.)

198, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. (NEAR PETER ROBINSON'S.)

28, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W. (ST. GEORGE'S PLACE, NEAR HYDE PARK CORNER.)

THIS elegant Baby Car is equally adapted for use as a Sleeping Car for a young baby, or a Mail Car for an older child.

1. Newest registered design.
2. Runs on four silent wheels.
3. Small light front wheels.
4. Very safe, bed being lower than in any other Car.
5. Hitching's "Versailles" Cee Springs. Very easy.
6. Occupies less space than any other.
7. Has deep well for legs and feet. No cramping.
8. Hitching's Patent "Any Position Hood."
9. Half the weight of a wood body. Finest cane & rattan
10. Cool in summer.
11. Artistically painted.
12. Beautifully upholstered in biscuit, biscuit and pale blue, mignonette green, &c.

Messrs. HITCHING & WYNN have recently had the honour of building the Baby Carriage for the Baby Prince Edward of York, having previously executed orders for H.M. the Queen, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, H.R.H. the Duchess of Fife, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Prussia, &c. Also the Royal and Imperial families of Russia, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, and Sweden.

Hitching's Baby Carriages from 2 to 25 Guineas, and **Baby Cars** from 15/6 to 10 Guineas, are not only the **Best**, but also 25 per cent. *cheaper* than those sold by dealers and stores. A carriage should always be purchased from the actual manufacturer. Enquiries receive prompt and courteous attention. Illustrations free. Correspondence solicited.

Bankers: CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK AND CITY BANK. *Telegram Address:* "HITCHING, LONDON." *Liverpool Agency:* 74, BOLD STREET. *Boston (U.S.A.) Agency:* 92, WASHINGTON STREET.

HITCHING'S "PRINCESS MAY" BABY CARRIAGE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR A CHRISTENING PRESENT, BEING RECHERCHE & UNPROCURABLE ELSEWHERE.

Before going elsewhere send for Hitching's Pictorial Price Book free on mentioning "TRUTH."

A L.N.W. RAILWAY GUARD AND

DR. TIBBLES' VI-Cocoa

Mr. SAMUEL REEVES, L.N.W. Railway Guard, Stafford Station, writes (November 15th, 1896):—

"For the last few years I have not been able to take any breakfast first thing in the morning, so I commenced taking a basin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa before going out on a journey. I had not done so many mornings before I wanted something to eat with it, and now I want my couple of rashers of good fat bacon every morning when I am out early. I am a L. and N.W. Railway passenger guard, and exposed to cold a great deal. I can honestly recommend it to anyone, especially my fellow railway men, as a grand thing to take." Not only the working man, but the tired student, the exhausted professional man, the teacher, are revived, restored, and strengthened by Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, mainly through the action of that beneficent ingredient, *Kola*, which brightens the eye and stores up reserve power in the nervous system.

Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is made up in 6d. packets, and 9d. and 1s. 6d. tins. It can be obtained of all chemists, grocers, and stores, or from Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, Suffolk House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

As an unparalleled test of merit, a dainty sample tin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa will be sent free on application to any address, if, when writing (a post-card will do), the reader will name *Truth*.

NURSES OF ENGLAND AND

DR. TIBBLES' VI-Cocoa

Nurse PERE, 2, Hawley-street, Chalk Farm-road, N.W.: "Thank you for Vi-Cocoa. I like it very much, and will recommend it to all my patients. Our doctor here and my cousin, who is a public analyst, say it is very good."

Nurse COLLINGWOOD, 14, Airlie-gardens, Kensington, W.: "I have taken Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa each morning, and I am pleased to say I feel much better for it. I think it is all that you represent it to be, and will certainly recommend it to all I can."

Nurse RAYMOND, 33, Dalton-street, Hulme, Manchester: "I have tested Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and may say that I have never tasted anything to equal it. I shall have much pleasure in recommending it to any patients that I nurse."

Nurse STANFORD, Southcroft, Heavitree-road, Exeter: "I like Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa very much. I think it possesses good nourishing and stimulating qualities. I have recommended it to my patients and friends."

Nurse FAIRMAN, 1, Hanley-terrace, Savile Town, Dewsbury, Yorks.: "I have taken nightly a cupful of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa whilst on night duty with a severe typhoid case, and have found it most strengthening and refreshing. As this beverage resembles chocolate, it is more palatable than other preparations. I consider it an ideal drink for nursing mothers."

ALL MEN AND WOMEN

who have to be exposed to the bleak uncertainty of our trying climate should fortify themselves before they face their daily toil with Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and they can then brave the fury of the elements with equanimity. The writer speaks from personal experience, and from observation of beneficial effects on others. Tea opens the pores and temporarily excites, coffee stimulates the action of the heart, whilst Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa gives strength, stamina, and builds up and strengthens the lung tissues. It is indeed a wonderful food beverage. Nothing has ever been discovered that can approach it in giving lightness of heart, joy of life, fleetness of foot, and that general feeling of comfort which only comes from a full capacity to enjoy every pleasure, moral, intellectual and physical.

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Free Trial of Something that Will Do.

DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA, prepared from Kola, Cocoa, Malt, and Hops, has the refreshing properties of fine teas, the nourishment of the best cocoas, and a tonic and recuperative force possessed by neither. Not a medicine, but a wonderful food beverage. Sold everywhere 6d., 9d., and 1s. 6d.; or on mentioning this paper (a post-card will do) a dainty sample tin will be sent post free.

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Aperient Water is the BEST.

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 928.—STANZA CONTAINING RHYMES TO "SYRINGE" AND "PICKAXE."

EBORACUM (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.
"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

As already announced the coming Show will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 16th and 17th of this month. The doors will be open each day to the public between 10.30 a.m. and 10 p.m. No charge will be made for admission, but visitors will be expected to leave an address card with the Commissionaires who will be stationed at the doors. It is hoped that the readers of TRUTH will make known the above announcement as widely as possible amongst their friends, as a large attendance is especially desired.

Will those ladies who have not yet returned the dolls they have been dressing for the TRUTH Show please do so at once, as it will be impossible to guarantee that any dolls received after noon on Saturday, the 12th inst., will be included in the public exhibition at the Albert Hall. All Home-made and other Toys intended for the Show should also reach this office by the above date. The address is TRUTH Office, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W., and the carriage of parcels and boxes should in all cases be prepaid. It will be seen from the appeal made in another part of this paper, that further subscriptions to the Toy Fund are urgently needed.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 927.

I must delay until next week the announcement of the result of this competition.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 929.

The Prize in this competition has been gained by JINGLE, who scored 107 marks out of a possible maximum of 150. The competitor who comes next in order of merit is Toucan; and then follow, in the following order, V. H. S., Apostrophe, Almaviva, Dry Monopole, Verbum Sat, Gros, R. Martin, Culpepper, Pansy Felsberg, Doubtful Jim, and Dandelion. No other competitor succeeded in getting over seventy-five marks.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 933.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

THE BEST EPIGRAMMATIC DEFINITION OF CHRISTMAS.

The definitions, of which a competitor may send more than one, if he or she so pleases, should be as brief as possible and, of course, indued with epigrammatic point. All answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, December 24 at the latest.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name and the address of the winner of a half of Prize No. 927 is the Rev. JOHN C. CRAWFORD, "Glencairn," Purley, Surrey.

CLAYMORE.—You have just cause for complaint. The answer to your conundrum No. 3 should, of course, have read "One is 'remote' and one 're-motor.'"

BAFFLED BARD, MAGGIE ELDER, AND WAYNFLETE.—I will deal with the points you raise next week.

EAST ANGLIA.—After full inquiry I do not think it necessary to alter the award to which you took exception.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 930.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.
NEW ROUND GAMES SUITABLE FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES.

LIVING ACROSTICS.

A round game that we, in our family circle enjoy very much, and find very little known outside, is a form of living acrostic: Two persons retire to guess; the rest of the company choose a character for the whole—say Romeo. In this case all the "lights" must be taken from Shakespeare. Five persons will each take a character beginning with one of the letters, say Rosalind, Othello, Mercutio, Emilia, and Orlando. When the guessers have returned, Rosalind will commence by giving a succinct account of herself, not disclosing too much—usually it is best to use the first person. Then Othello will follow, and so on, till we come to the sixth person, who personates Romeo. No questions are allowed, but in cases of difficulty a second round may be given. This game can be varied by characters from any well known writer, or birds or fishes, or any branch may be taken. This game has always proved a great success, and I hope, if some of your readers do not know it, they will give it a good trial this Christmas.—Avis.

PLEBISCITE.

Materials required:—A few common but useful articles, such as a pair of scissors, a ball of string, a pocket knife, a pair of slippers, a corkscrew, a lead pencil, a watch key, a box of pins, a hammer, a tea spoon, a pair of nut-crackers, &c.; as many slips of paper and pencils as there are players; a prize or prizes for the winners. Method of play:—The articles chosen, say, to the number of ten, are laid on a side table, and the players are allowed five minutes to fix in their memories the name of each article. The table is then covered up or moved out of sight, and the object of each player is not only to write down correctly from memory each of the articles, but also to put them in the exact order of usefulness according to his or her opinion. The slips are then collected by the leader of the game, and the votes for each article counted. The player whose slip bears the names in the nearest order to the popular vote receives the prize. The more diversified the articles chosen the better, and by increasing the number of articles the game can be made very difficult.—Pick.

NOVELETTE GAME.

All being seated in a circle or semi-circle, one begins to tell a tale—*e.g.*, "In a certain town there lived." The next follows with another sentence ending abruptly, and so on till the story has gone twice round. The more startling and ludicrous the incidents, the better. To increase the fun, certain words, or classes of words, should be barred beforehand, and any using such words must pay a forfeit. The second story commences with the one sitting next the beginner of first narration. When the game closes all forfeits are cried.—Esperanza.

DEFINITIONS.

One of the party describes something he or she has thought of by a definition sufficiently accurate, but as obscure as possible, and epigrammatic in form. For instance, "Right" as "The king de jure, but not de facto," or "Rain" as "Returned and transmuted offerings." One and another will then signify his or her guess at the subject, not by naming it, but by suggesting another definition. This, those already initiated will approve or not, as it may deserve, and the initiated, thus recruited, may project more definitions as they occur to them, until the rest of the party is either enlightened or has given it up. The difficulty of the game is increased by adopting examples like the foregoing, whose sound presents different meanings (right, wright, write, rite, and rain, reign, rein), and permitting a jumble of definitions descriptive of them all. Another form of the game is to give a subject for written definitions in a limited time, all competing. Votes being then taken and small prizes awarded on the respective merits of the definitions.—Robt. Martin.

I would suggest a variation of the good old round game of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. Instead of these words use poet, painter, author, actor. In all other respects the game to be the same.—Malignant.

AWRY ANIMALS.

As type-writing is now so prevalent, it would be as well to have the lists of awry animals type written. There may be from fifteen to twenty animals on the list, of which I give a few examples, viz.: greit, rsheo, leap-then, rugaja, grabed, parti=tiger, horse, elephant, jajuar, badger, tapir. Each player receives a list and pencil, and the host, having the "key" in his possession, explains that the object is to untwist or unravel the animals' names and write them in regular order below the "awry" list. In from fifteen to twenty minutes the papers should be signed, finished, and handed to the host, who redistributes them, giving each person another paper. The key is then read out, the correct names in each paper checked off, and a prize is given to the one who has unravelled most animals.—Hibernian.

WHO AM I?

A character party which is most amusing and comparatively new, can be given without costuming and with little or no work in preparing for it. After the arrival of the guests, the hostess pins to the back of each a written slip of paper, telling the name of character he or she is meant to be. The only knowledge the players have as to the persons they represent is gained from the comments of their friends. From these each must guess the name of his or her character. As the opinions expressed differ very widely, the guessing of one's character is often a difficult matter. The names of well-known politicians, authors, musicians, characters in fiction, or local celebrities, may be given, and a prize may be awarded to the player who first guesses his character.—Hibernian.

THE OBJECTIVE LIBRARY.

This game is simply taking the titles of books and representing them by arrangements of various objects. The groups may be arranged on a table, and each numbered with a small card. The numbers being repeated on the left hand side of sheets of paper. Each player is provided with one of these papers and a pencil. The game begins when all the players are admitted to the room where the "Library" is spread on the table, and should last about twenty minutes. In this the players try to solve as many of the problems as possible. The one who guesses the most titles in a given time receives a prize. I give a few examples of titles:—"Ivanhoe" (I've an o), a child cut from an illustration holding a large O, which may be pasted in the hand; "Measure for Measure," a pint measure, round which is twined a tape measure; "The Spy," a telescope. Another variation instead of books, famous men may be represented. "Plato," by a plate on which is laid the letter O; "Gladstone," picture of a laughing girl with a small stone beside it. Another way is to represent cities. Put a slip of paper on an empty can with 2,000 lbs. written on it, "Canton"; a glass in which is a paper with these words, to depart, "Glasgow."—Hibernian.

"HAWKERS."

All the party to be seated except one. The one is supposed to be a hawker, who sells his wares from house to house. He starts, for instance, by saying, "I am a costermonger, and sell apples," at the same time he points at one particular person in the group, who must, before the hawker counts six, name some other article he would be likely to sell, which begins with the same letter—such as "Artichokes." If he fail to hit upon a suitable word he then becomes the hawker, and so on.—Prima Donna.

HOBBIES.

All the party to be seated, except one, who goes out of the room. Each present selects a hobby, such as gardening, carpentering, &c. Then the one outside enters, and asks each of the party in order three questions. In the course of the answers the hobby must be introduced, but the object is to prevent the questioner guessing the one chosen. The first discovered then goes out of the room.—Prima Donna.

THE ZOO.

All the party to be seated except one, who stands in front of the group, and repeats the letters of the alphabet, stopping suddenly at any one letter, and pointing at a particular person, who must, before he counts six, name an animal whose name begins with that particular letter. If he fails to do this in time, he then takes the place of the alphabet reciter.—Prima Donna.

MOCK ADVERTISEMENTS.

Each player must have a piece of paper and a pencil, and any number can play. The idea is to write the funniest mock advertisement, *e.g.*, Wanted—A dog, to teach cycling and darn socks; must know how to milk a cow and smoke herrings; Jew preferred; all found, except board and lodging.—Inga.

Stretch a piece of tape across the room and provide an ordinary balloon ball. The company seat themselves on each side of the tape (as far from it as space will allow), and with the back of the closed hand send the ball to and fro over the tape. Whichever side lets it fall, it scores one to the opposite party. Twenty is the game. Only the back of the hand must be used, and the company keep seated.—Echo.

ALLITERATION.

One of the party starts a story, every word beginning with the same letter, thus:—No. 1: "Every Evening Eva Excited Envy." No. 2: "Because Bertie Brown's Bicycle Brought." No. 3: "Him, Hilariously, Hoping Her." No. 4: "Procrastinating, Prudent Papa Perhaps." No. 5: "Might Mention Marriage," &c., &c. Any one making a mistake must begin another story. There is no limit to the number of words, but they must not be less than three. It ought to be played quickly. —Echo.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Have in the centre of table a box of letters. Each player must be supplied with pencil and paper. One of the players picks out, at random, six letters from the box and calls out their names, the others taking them down meanwhile on their papers. These letters must now be the initials of words (to be used in same order as given out) to form any question. Five minutes only allowed for this, then collect papers, shuffle, and hand round to the players. Six other letters are then chosen, and these are to serve as initials for words to answer the question as well as possible. Five minutes also allowed for answer. If one cares to prolong the game, pass the papers on from right to left, so that each question is answered by all. Any number of persons can play this game.—Beginner.

Let each child alternately choose a letter, which they all write down; then each child must form a word or words from same, the most successful competitor receiving a gift. A further gift may be given for the best sentence constructed with the words given by the prize winner.—Pan.

Each person, having been provided with pencil and paper, writes a common noun on his paper, folds down the paper so as to conceal what he has written. They are all shaken up in a basket, and then each person picks out one and writes on it a question on any subject he likes, but he must not look at the word formerly written. They are then shaken up again, and this time each person has to write a poem of not more than eight lines, which must contain both the noun and the question written above. They are then mixed up again, and a chosen member of the party reads them out one by one, while the others try to guess by whom the poem is written.—Fritz.

The party of players being assembled round the table, a basket containing several blank cards, or pieces of paper, is to be passed around the table, each person taking a card or paper. A chairman is then to be elected. He then calls upon some person to propose a question. After the question has been given the persons playing will each write his, or her, answer on the card given them, taking care that no person reads it, or that no mark is on the card by which its author may be known. The cards are then to be put into th basket, and the chairman then proceeds to rea them out singly. The author of the best card (to be decided by the chairman) next proposes a question, which is answered as before. Example: Question—What is a bachelor? Answers—1. A target for fair hands to shoot at. 2. An old maid's forlorn hope, &c.—Jerichoa.

EXAMINER.

The players sit in a row or semicircle, and one of the number takes the post of Examiner by standing before the others, holding a stick in his hand. He then addresses the person seated at one end of the row (which is supposed to be the top of the class), and, pointing to the latter with his stick, says:—"I'm thinking of a town in England beginning with 'A.' What is it?" The person addressed must mention the name of any town in England commencing with the letter A before the Examiner can count twelve; but, failing to do so, the latter passes on to the next person (repeating the counting twelve), till one of the players answers correctly, who is then entitled to take that individual's place in the class, who first missed the question, whilst the latter seats himself lower down in the successful one's late chair. When the Examiner has finished, or gone through part of the alphabet, asking for names of towns in any continent or country he may choose, the game may be varied by his demanding the name of a river, lake, or mountain, beginning with A, B, C, &c. Example.—Examiner: Name a river in South America beginning with A? Reply: Amazon. The Examiner should fix on some well-known town, river, lake, mountain, &c. in his own mind before asking a question; then, in case the whole class fails to reply (ere he has counted twelve to each player individually), he may supply the name himself. If a player misses a question three times he must take the Examiner's post, and the latter seats himself in the player's vacant chair. He who is made Examiner twice in the course of the game must pay a forfeit, leaving the room while some penalty is devised by the vote of the company in general. This game should be played briskly to ensure amusement.—E. S. Wilde.

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N.B.—Subscribers to this issue, or any persons subsequently becoming the registered owners of these shares, shall be regarded as original shareholders, and be entitled as such to subscribe for any equal number of shares at par value in any future issue; but any surplus shares not so disposed of shall be offered to the public at substantial premiums, and the nett proceeds thereof shall be distributed by way of a cash bonus to holders of original shares, equally in proportion to the holdings of each at such time.

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Objects—This Corporation is formed with the objects named in the memorandum and articles of association, but more particularly for every class of business taken by insurance companies, human life alone excepted, also for the mutual averaging of risks upon the well-known principle of underwriting or re-insurances. With ordinary care very large profits are realisable therefrom, and few investments are so remunerative. The increase in capital value upon original investments in many cases exceeds Six hundred per cent, whilst the regular and large dividends paid average from 12 to 75 per cent. per annum, as per table accompanying prospectus.

Application for shares may be made upon the following form, cut out and sent, with £1 per share deposit, either to the Bankers or R. Cooper, Esq., Secretary to the Company, at above address.

TO BE RETAINED BY THE BANKERS.

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Issue of Balance of £25,000 Original Ordinary Shares at a premium of £2 per Share.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Directors of the Insurances Corporation, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of £1 per Share on an application for.....Shares of £10 each in the above Company, I hereby that you will allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept such Shares, or any less number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Prospectus dated December, 1896, and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and to pay £2 5s. per Share on Allotment, and the balance thereon in accordance with such Prospectus, and I request you to place my name on the Register of Members of the Company in respect of the Shares so allotted.

Name in full .....
Address.....
Profession or Occupation .....
Date .....
Usual Signature .....

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY FIRST MORTGAGE GOLD BONDS.

Office of the Central Pacific Railroad Co.
New York, November 17th, 1896.

This Company has made arrangements to EXTEND its $3,997,000 FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS, maturing January 1st, 1897, so that the principal thereof shall become payable in one year from that date, viz., on January 1st, 1898, with interest meanwhile payable semi-annually, January 1st, and July 1st, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, principal and interest payable in United States gold coin. The right is reserved to redeem the Bonds so extended, at any time, on paying to the Bondholders the par or face value of the Bonds, and interest thereon at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum from January 1st, 1897, in United States gold coin, less such interest accrued subsequent to that date as may have been paid thereon before such redemption thereof. The right of the Bondholders to avail themselves of such extension has been reserved to such holders as, prior to December 15th, 1896, shall deposit their Bonds for that purpose with Messrs. Speyer & Co., New York, or with Messrs. Speyer Brothers, London, or Mr. Laz Speyer, Ellissen, Frankfort-on-the-Main, or Messrs. Teixeira de Mattos Brothers, Amsterdam.

The extended Bonds will be stamped to show the extension, and new coupon sheets will be annexed, representing future interest.

Copies of the extension agreement can be obtained at the Company's Office, and at the Offices of the Bankers above mentioned. The present extension is made to the date of maturity of the latest maturing Central Pacific First Mortgage Bonds, on or before which date the Company expects to arrange a long extension of the entire First Mortgage issue.

C. P. HUNTINGTON,
Vice-President.

Until 10th instant inclusive a bonus of ½ per cent., viz:—£1 on each bond of $1,000, will be paid by us to Bondholders, upon presentation of their Bonds at our Offices for extension under the foregoing Notice.

SPEYER BROTHERS.

No. 7, Lothbury, London, E.C.,
December 3rd, 1896.

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PHENOMENAL SUCCESS.

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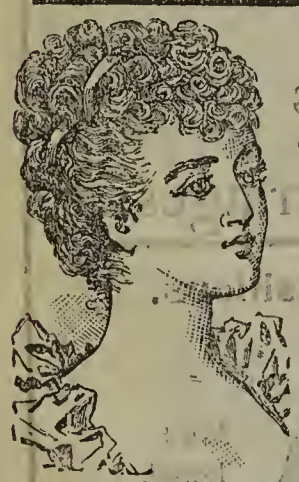

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1042. Vol. XL. Thursday, December 17, 1896. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

The Twentieth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

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2. Right *v.* Might.
3. Changing the Leader.
4. Motormania.
5. A Good Joke. *(From Mr. Cecil Rhodes' point of view.)*
6. A Good Joke. *(From Dr. Jameson's point of view.)*

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

By the time this number of Truth is in the hands of its London readers the Seventeenth "Truth" Toy and Doll Show will have commenced at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington. The doors will remain open to-day (Wednesday) until 10 p.m., and will be open again to-morrow (Thursday) between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 10 p.m. The public will be admitted free of charge on presentation of a visiting-card to the commissionaire on duty at the entrance. I hope I am not too sanguine in expecting an attendance of visitors which will surpass even the unprecedented total of last year.

The Royal Albert Hall Organist, Mr. H. C. Tonking, has again kindly promised to give Organ Recitals at frequent intervals during the hours that the "Truth" Show is open.

Mr. Tom Smith has once more, in the most generous way, written to inform me that he has reserved his firm's usual contribution of 25,000 Christmas Crackers for the Truth Toy Show. His kindness is all the greater, I think, seeing that at this festive season the demand for crackers is exceptionally large. Every endeavour will be made to exhibit this seasonable gift at the Albert Hall, but in any case the crackers will be delivered in good time for distribution to the Hospitals and Workhouses at the end of the week.

I have not yet disposed of the two Yorkshire terrier female pups, which, as I stated last week, are to be sold for the benefit of the Truth Toy Fund. To stimulate my readers' interest in these intelligent and well-bred little animals, let me say that an offer of twenty-five guineas has been refused for their father, who with their mother and their grand-parents is duly inserted in "the book." A pup of a previous litter has been shown four times, and has taken four prizes—three first, and one second. Once more, then, how much, if you please, for the Yorkshire terrier pups?

There is one point which I must earnestly press upon all those who may inspect the show of toys at the Albert Hall, as well as upon other readers of Truth who may not be able to be present. It is that all these toys have to be paid for, and that I am still very far from having received the amount required to pay for them. The toys have largely been bought in reliance upon the generosity of the readers of Truth, and from my belief that it is their wish that every child in the London workhouses and hospitals should have a present on Christmas Day. Hitherto my confidence in the generosity of the public has never been disappointed. But the time is getting short. Christmas is only a week distant. Is there any one who would not wish to enjoy on that day the pleasure of having helped to make one little friendless or suffering child happy?

The following sums have reached me:—

Colonel Forjetts, £1. 1s.; A. S., £1; H. H. S., £1; E. M. S., 5s.; W. H. L., 10s.; Scamp, £1; S. G. A., 10s.; M. E. (China) £1, also £1 for Lady Jeune's Fund; the Ward-Room Officers, H.M.S. *Bellona*, 14s.; G. F. E., 10s.; Warrington, £2; Mansfield, 10s.; Twins, £1. 1s.; Corny, Muriel, and Dorrie, £1; Miss May Streatfeild, £1; J. C. H., 10s. 6d.; G. Burrows, £1. 1s.; A. S., £5; Mrs. Alan Millard, £1. 1s.; Uner, 5s.; Mrs. Symondson, £1; 18, Queen's-road. B., £1. 1s.; Bass, 5s.; Mrs. Stephens, £1; E. Tabernacle, £2. 2s.; Derrick and Harold, £5; C. R. B., £5. 5s.; Steadman and Vanpragh, £2. 2s; In Memoriam, L. F. B., £5; Little Minnie, 10s.; H. O. D., £1. 1s.; C. B., 10s. 6d.; A. B. C. D., 5s.; R. C., £5. 5s.; Little Johnny Pringle, £1; J. E. S. M., £1. 1s.; Robert Kaye Gray, £10; H. G. F., £1; C. A. G., 10s.; A. M. K., 3s.; Master Claude J. H. Nicholson, 10s.; C. A., £3; Teapot, 2s. 6d.; S. X., £20; Marjorie, Norah, and Alan, £3. 3s.; Leo, £3. 3s.; per W. Webb, Hon. Sec. on behalf of the Daventry Liberal Club, 10s. 6d.; Alfred A. Sinton, 10s.; A Cavalry Officer, £5; H. H. S., 5s.; Marie Rose, 2s. 6d.; H. P., £5; C. H., Torquay, £1; G. W.,

10s.; E. S. E., £1; C. H. P., £1. 1s.; Walter, 2s.; Katherine, 2s.; Mrs. Arthur Evans, 6s.; In memory of A. L. B., 10s.; S. Marler, 3s. 6d.; Sibyl, £1; A. B., 5s.; A. D. A., 5s.; R. H., 5s.; L. L. C., £2; T, F. Doubleday, £1; A. H. N., £5: Helena Aucrbach, £1. 1s.; G. Gregory & Co., £1. 1s.; A. D., 7s. 6d.; C. P. K. Roberts, £1. 1s.; Frances, Donald, Harry, Edith, and Arthur, £5; Carlo and Dollie, 10s.; Jack, 5s.; J. V. Ashbury, 5s.; Bombay, £1; J. H. Hirschler, £2. 2s.; H. B., 5s.; Yannon, £2. 2s.; Miss Frances Goldsmid, £3; Fusilier, £2; Mrs. Dryden, 5s ;Miss Horn, £2. 2s.; Better Late than Never, £3. 3s.; Hon. E. Portman, £5; Rev. Chas. J. Martyn, £2. 2s.; S. B. Bancroft, £2. 2s.; Miss Edith Schiff, £2. 2s.; A. L. A., £5s. 5s.; F. B., £1; J. C. G., £1. 1s.; Jeremiah Colman, £5; White Violet, £1; Friends at Ascot, 10s. 6d.; Mellie, 2s.; Madame Vagliano, £2. 2s.; Cambridge, £6. 6s.; T. Walmesley, £10.

I have also received the following articles :—

Scrap-book, Miss Gladys Allen; two scrap-books, S. and C. Drewe-Harris; quantity of balls, anonymously; scrap-book, Miss N. Phillips; one scrap-book, Harold Macdonald; scrap-books, Miss Hamp-Adams; one doll, Miss Pinner; two dolls, Mrs. Mills; four dolls, anonymously; thirty-six scrap-books, J. M. S.; eight scrap-books and bags, Mrs. C. F. Pollard; parcel of dolls, anonymously; badges, "F. A. E.;" parcel of scrap cards, Claude and Sylvia; twenty scrap-books, A Sincere Friend, Formosa; box of doll furniture, Miss Seeman; two scrap-books, Miss E. Thomson; four books, Mrs. L. Henry; one dressed doll, Miss D. Hucklebridge; Japanese doll, "Centurion;" one doll, Miss M. Irvine (aged nine), South Africa; box of assorted sweets, Mrs. H. Marlow; box of bags containing chestnuts, Master A. Anstice; cases of Purina wheat, Messrs. Specht, Grypt Bros.; twenty-four scrap-books, Joan Marchetti; parcel of books and toys, Eustace and Alec Marchetti; box of dolls, Miss L. K. Brown; two dolls, Fanny; two dolls, the Misses Guildford; box of dolls, Otto Kamphivener; box of dolls, Mrs. and Miss Cooper; twenty dressed dolls, twenty sacks sweets, three whips, and two balls, Mrs. E. Drux; scrap-book, Miss J. F. Walker; two scrap-books, Miss Jessop; large doll, Miss Bengough; six crates of mistletoe, Mr. Bree.

The Queen is to leave Windsor Castle on Friday morning for Osborne, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, and her Majesty will reside in the Isle of Wight until about February 16.

The Princess of Wales is to return to Sandringham on Saturday next, and the Prince will follow next Wednesday. The last of the Sandringham shooting-parties for this season is to assemble on Monday, the 28th, and there will be a lawn meet of the West Norfolk Foxhounds during the holidays, with a hunt breakfast.

The Prince of Wales is going to have his racing yacht, the *Britannia*, fitted out at Cowes for the Mediterranean regattas, and H.R.H. will proceed to Cannes early in February for a stay of about two months, while during a part of that period the Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria will go to Copenhagen on a visit to Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark.

The *St. James's Gazette* announces that disappointment is expressed at Copenhagen that Princess Charles of Denmark has so long delayed her home-coming, as "a charming villa has for months been ready for her." This is a pure fiction, the fact being that the reason for the prolonged stay of Prince and Princess Charles in England has been that their flat in the palace of the King of the Hellenes at Copenhagen had to be got ready for them, and the decoration and furnishing of the twenty-eight apartments in their new abode have only just been finished. The "disappointment" is as entirely imaginative as the "charming villa," it having been known for months past that Prince and Princess Charles would not arrive at Copenhagen until about Christmas.

Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg are settled in their residence in Valletta for the winter, with their children. The season is just beginning in Malta, where the weather has been better than on the Riviera. Sir M. Culme Seymour was entertained by the Governor and many others previous to giving up his command of the Mediterranean Fleet. Lady and Miss Seymour had left Malta many months before.

Lord Ranfurly and Lord William Cecil are next Tuesday to replace Lord Bridport and Sir Edmund Commerell as Lord and Groom in Waiting on the Queen, and they will be on duty until January 5.

Lord Cadogan's attendance at the meeting of the Cabinet last week did not allow him to be present at the Winter Show held by the Royal Dublin Society at Ball's Bridge. Lady Cadogan visited it with a Viceregal party on Wednesday. The weather was extremely wintry and cold, wet and dark, which made the occasion more instructive than amusing. Lord Cadogan returned from England in time to visit the Potato Exhibition held at the Rotunda, Dublin, to commemorate the tercentenary of the introduction of the tuber into Ireland by Sir Walter Raleigh. In the speech which he made on the occasion of his visit he announced the intention of the Government to create an Agricultural Board for Ireland. The formation of such a Board will present many difficulties. It may be safely predicted that one of them will not be want of candidates for the places, and, further, that the initial difficulty will be to escape from the jobbing traditions of Dublin Castle in filling these places.

The usual rumour of a Royal visit to Ireland, which it is customary to start in Irish newspapers at this season, has made its appearance. On the face of it there is nothing humorous, or even strange, in the suggestion that the Sovereign would visit the island which is as much a portion of her kingdom as England or Scotland. Nevertheless, it is said in Ireland that the humour lies in the fact that the Royal visit is always for the coming year. The year never absolutely comes; for over thirty years it has been coming. Apropos of Royalty in Ireland, there is little doubt that Princes, and especially Princesses, would have been a success there—if it were only for the fact that they begin with "P," the charmed letter of the country. It may reasonably be supposed that they would have enjoyed popularity and flourished in the island, like potatoes, pigs, punch, politics, and polemics.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1618 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see page 1616.
For Amusements, see page 1617.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1633.

Lady Waterford has just recovered from an attack of bronchitis, and is nearly convalescent. After Christmas she is expected in Dublin, where she intends to stay with her daughters for some weeks during the season. Lord and Lady Iveagh are expected in Dublin for part of the Castle season, and Lord Iveagh will probably attend the installation of Lord Caledon as a Knight of St. Patrick.

Not long since I called attention to the inadequacy of the accounts published by Captain Walford-Gosnall in reference to his Home for Horses at Mount Maskall, Chelmsford. The Captain's financial year ends at Michaelmas, and I was in hope that my criticism would bear fruit on the issue of the accounts for the year ending Michaelmas last. I am disappointed, therefore, to learn that the Captain is now circulating a fresh set of appeals without any financial statement at all. Have not the accounts for last year been made up yet? If not, I would suggest to Captain Walford-Gosnall that he should devote himself to this business before that of soliciting more cash. An appeal is always more effectual when backed by a full and satisfactory financial statement.

Next year's show of the Highland and Agricultural Society is to be held at Glasgow in July, and £2,200 will be given in prizes, as against £1,673, which was the amount distributed at Perth last summer.

I always read with pleasure Lord Rosebery's orations when they deal with any of the vast number of subjects which are outside politics, for his social speeches are as good as his political speeches are bad. There was much in his recent oration on Stevenson that was excellent, although I cannot quite agree with his observation that "no man of ancient or modern times since the beginning of the world has ever left behind him so splendid a collection of his works as Robert Louis Stevenson." But I do thoroughly agree with him in his protest against the modern abuse of testimonials. "The minister," he said, "as he enters and as he quits his manse is hallowed by such presents; the faithful railway porter who has been for five years at his post is honoured in the same way." But why should he have subsequently thought it necessary to explain away his allusion to the ministers, and to inform his auditors that "none are more fitting as the recipients of these testimonials than the class to which I thoughtlessly alluded—I mean the ministers of the churches of Scotland"? Admitting that a minister should receive a testimonial after lengthy and honest service to a congregation, why should he be given one on entering his manse? Speaking generally, I should be far more inclined to give a testimonial to a railway porter who has been for five years at his post than to a minister who is just entering on the duties of his. But then I can freely express my opinion, because I care neither more nor less for the good opinion of all the ministers in Scotland than for that of a like number of railway porters.

Testimonials to living nonentities are not more absurd than "celebrations to keep alive the memory of the eminent dead." What more utterly silly can be conceived than the celebration of the "golden wedding" of Robert and Elizabeth Browning, that took place last week? The Brownings have gone to that bourne where there is neither marriage nor giving in marriage. Robert Browning may have been a great man, but a poet, in the ordinary acceptation of the word he was not, any more than a man can be termed a musician without an ear for music. If, however, he had been the greatest poet that ever lived, this celebration would have been equally ridiculous. But with a considerable number of persons the sense of the ridiculous is non-existent. As a general rule all these functions are designed rather for living men to fuss themselves into notoriety than to do honour to those who are not living.

GADARENE STATUARY.

In his speech at Edinburgh last week, Lord Rosebery expressed a wish that it might be possible for the restless spirits which once possessed the Gadarene swine to enter into the Edinburgh statues and induce them all to rush headlong down into the deepest part of the Firth of Forth.

It was all very well for Lord R. to express
The wish that we quote from his recent address;
But we'd like to extend its beneficent scope,
And re-echo for London a similar hope.
We, too, 'neath the sculptor's curs'd dominance groan;
We, too, have our horrors in bronze and in stone;
And most surely all London with pleasure would flush,
If its statues some day to the river would rush.

The supremest of joy it to us would afford,
To observe the mad race of the nondescript horde;
To watch it increasing whilst onward it went,
As each square and each garden its effigies sent.
'T would be rapture indeed then to pass in review
Pr'aps the worst lot of statues a city e'er knew;
And to give a last glance at our open air "gems,"
As they all lumbered by on their way to the Thames.

Well in front, let us hope, would the Griffin be found,
Which too long at the Law Courts has cumbered the ground;
With begrimed George the Fourth on his stirrup-less steed,
And the poor Duke of York from his pillory freed.
Well in front, let us hope, would Achilles stride down,
And that mildewy Cobden from dull Camden Town;
With ill-used Mr. Fox, who, with such little care,
Is exposed in his bed-quilt in Bloomsbury-square.

With a sigh of relief we the features should scan
Of the frock-coated Peel and the Belt-carved Queen Anne;
We should shout with delight, as well up in the race,
Came the quoit-throwing female of Waterloo-place;
We should hail pig-tailed George as he went prancing by,
And greet John Stuart Mill with a jubilant cry;
We would gladly assist, were it needful, to haul
Mr. Peabody down to the Thames—chair and all!

The Embankment contingent the bustle would swell—
Robert Burns, Mr. Forster, R. Raikes, and Brunel;
King Charles would trot down with Napier at his side;
Lord Clyde on his lion with Franklin would ride;
Dr. Jenner, Lord Byron, King William, and Pitt,
Themselves, arm in arm, to the stream would commit;
And the tide, swiftly ebbing, would sweep to the Nore
The eyesores which London has now to deplore.

Just think how our city would look the next day,
With its stony monstrosities all cleared away!
Think how nice it would be when we walked through a square,
To know that no terror in bronze still lurked there!
So come, restless spirits, if still you incline
To repeat what you did with the Gadarene swine,
Enter into the statues that litter our town,
And into the river, pray hurry them down!

Numerous Liberals have been recently solicited by circular to join the Primrose Club at the modest figure of one guinea per annum. This is not due, I take it, to any desire to infuse Liberal blood into the Club, but is simply because the circulars go out indiscriminately at this time of year, like those of the wine-merchants and charity-mongers. There is nothing in the circulars to prevent Liberals joining the Club, no intimation being given that members must be of any particular political complexion, and I take it that, provided a candidate has a guinea in his pocket, the management does not care whether he is a Radical or a Tory, or a peer or a prize-fighter. For this very reason, however, Liberals who are at all careful about the company they keep should hesitate to avail themselves of the invitation.

Various accounts, all incorrect, have been given of the late Mr. J. L. Baldwin's work on Whist. This valuable little book, which was published in 1866, is entitled "The Laws of Short Whist: Edited by J. L. Baldwin; and a Treatise on the Game, by J. C." Mr. Baldwin's code is compressed into sixteen pages, whereas M. Deschapelles' "Traité du Whist" extends over 284 pages. It was at Mr. Baldwin's request that Mr. James Clay (J. C.) wrote his lucid, compact, and thoroughly practical essay.

It has also been stated in nearly all the papers that Mr. Baldwin was chairman of the famous Whist Laws Committee of the Arlington Club, and that he was chairman of the Portland Club, and a constant player at that establishment. As a matter of fact, Mr. Baldwin never in his life belonged to the Portland Club, nor was he a member of the Arlington Committee (which sat in 1863 and 1864) whose code was considered by a specially-appointed committee of the Portland Club, who made several alterations and additions, all of which were adopted.

It is generally considered that the best whist-players ever known were Lord Granville, who was long Ambassador at Paris, Lord Henry Bentinck, General George Anson, Mr. James Clay, Comte Deschapelles, and Comte Achille Delamarre. Deschapelles declared that with Delamarre for a partner he would be ready to play dummy against *Le Père Eternel*. He preferred Delamarre to Lord Granville, through an idea that English and French players of the very highest calibre usually misunderstood each other's game.

One afternoon, early in the reign of William IV., Lord Granville, being about to return to Paris, went to Graham's (then the great whist club) for a rubber before starting. His carriage and four were ordered to come for him at five o'clock. They waited until ten, when he sent out to desire that the horses might be changed, as he would not be ready for an hour or two. Lord Granville played for eighteen hours, and the horses were changed three times. When the party broke up they were up to their ankles in cards, and Lord Granville had lost £8,000. It was on this memorable occasion that his Excellency lost a rubber, after laying the long odds in thousands (£5,000 to £2,000) by miscounting a trump.

I prefer Mr. Rudyard Kipling's prose to his poetry. But if I am right in this estimate, how very laudatory ought to be my language in respect to the former if I am to keep pace with the critics of his poetry. As the reader has doubtless heard, the bard has published some new poems, entitled "The Seven Seas," and this is what I read about them in the advertised Press notices:—

They are engines, throbbing with energy aglow with fire, every stroke of them in the service of a great purpose.
It is impossible to read them through without being lifted on the breath of prophecy.
They are animated throughout with indubitable genius.
They are packed with inspiration, humour, and pathos.
They mark an epoch in literature, and their author bears upon his brow the seal of a sovereign destiny.
Their verse stings the pulse of the ready.
It provokes in him an unwonted emotion.
The intellectual and spiritual might is keen.
They are full of the Imperial spirit.
The Empire has found a singer.
Statesmen may have to take account of them.
Patriotism is their solid concrete foundation.
All the death-scorning flush, which is the very bone and marrow of the British character, are here.

Well, all this may be very true, for all that I know. But what does a critic mean by telling us that their "author bears upon his brow the seal of a sovereign destiny?" What is the seal of a sovereign destiny? Why is Mr. Kipling's brow stamped with this seal? What, in short, does the phrase mean?

Although some charitable people have generously subscribed the £140 required for the return to Burmah of the troupe of native performers who were recently cast adrift in London owing to the failure of their managers, there is one point in the case which ought not to be lost sight of. Why should the relief of these natives of our Eastern Empire have been left to private benevolence? If they had happened to be stranded in a foreign country, they would have been sent away by the British Consul at the expense of the British Government—in fact, three of them who got to Hamburg were so shipped back to London by the British Consul. But here, at the very centre of the Empire, these hapless and destitute Burmans were denied any assistance whatever, beyond the cold comfort of the workhouse, the explanation of the India Office being that there was no fund available for the purpose. This seems an absurd state of things, and one which might easily be remedied. It would surely be only right and reasonable that the India Office should give such help as is afforded by a British Consul abroad in cases of the same kind.

It would scarcely seem like Christmas if we did not get a new "big dog" picture to herald the season. Messrs. Frost & Reed, the enterprising art publishers of Bristol, supply the inevitable engraving this year in the shape of a reproduction in photogravure of Mr. A. J. Elsey's "Who is it?" a picture intended as a companion for the widely popular "I'se biggest" of the same artist. More

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

to my own taste are two reproductions, issued by the same publishers, of pictures of great merit by Mr. Reginald Smith, called respectively "A Storm-Girt Coast," and "The Pembrokeshire Stacks," those lofty sea-girdled rocks which

Like giants stand,
To sentinel enchanted land.

These are really admirable works which cannot but increase the artist's reputation. Another of Messrs. Frost & Reed's publications is a mezzotint engraving by Mr. Alfred J. Skrimshire, of a picture called "The Ferry," by Mr. E. M. Wimperis, R.I. The number of impressions taken of this delightful summer scene has been limited to a hundred and twenty-three; and I understand that the plate has been already destroyed. Sportsmen who, when they are unable to sally forth and hunt or shoot something, are so fond of contemplating on their walls pictures of the birds and animals they are able, in happier circumstances, to kill, will be certain to find placid enjoyment of the latter kind in a photogravure called "The Home Coverts," just published by Messrs. Leggatt Brothers, of 62, Cheapside. The engraving is after a drawing by Mr. Archibald Thorburn, an artist whose correct and highly finished drawings of bird life are already well known. "The Home Coverts" in the present instance are well stocked with that sacrosanct bird, the pheasant.

The proposal of the Salford Corporation to cut the legs off the portraits in the Municipal collection, in order to economise space, has naturally excited much interest in artistic circles. I am overwhelmed with correspondence on the subject—mostly from indignant artists. One of this class asks whether there are no portraits of mayors and councillors in the collection which could be reduced to half-size by trimming off their robes and other insignia of Bumbledom. Another suggests that, to complete the Salford collection, a portrait group should be added representing the Arts Committee without heads—in which condition he is confident that no one could fail to recognise them. Another correspondent advises the Corporation to get over the difficulty by cutting up all their pictures and exhibiting them from time to time in sections. The public could then go and look at the head of a famous character one day, his body the next, and his legs on a third. Vast possibilities are thus opened up for provincial art-authorities. But the prospect is more novel than attractive.

Apropos, here is a good story, which I have not heard before, about the painter Haydon:—

We are told by Borrow (an author well known to all municipal bodies), in the pages of "Lavengro," that on one occasion he went to see the portrait of a certain Mayor, limned by the "painter of the heroic" (poor Benjamin Robert Haydon). The upper part of the picture was very noble; the features, though somewhat blunt, were serious and intelligent; the robes and chain were perfect, and for background there was a castellated arch, a machicolated tower, a portcullis, and everything correct and conformable, as Mr. Weller senior would say. Still, the general result was undignified and disappointing—there was something wanting; but what it was Lavengro could not make out until he saw a second heroic portrait from the same hand. Then, all at once, it dawned upon him that the painter, while scrupulous with regard to the heads and bodies of his patrons, had only one model for legs—his own, which he inserted indiscriminately in all portraits, to the great detriment of the work.

Fire Protection of Country Houses.—Merryweathers' system. Economy, convenience, efficiency. Illustrated particulars post free.—Write Merryweathers, 63, Long-acre, London.

This outcry about Salford has raised an echo in Liverpool. A resident in that town complains bitterly that the local Permanent Collection has degenerated into "a dumping-ground for rubbish in the shape of spurious pictures presented by prominent citizens, evidently with the double object of getting rid of worthless lumber and earning for themselves a little cheap popularity." The complaint refers specifically to certain pictures, but Heaven forbid that I should involve myself in a controversy upon such a point. It is only too true, of course, that a municipal picture-gallery which is abused in this way is not worth keeping open, but one need not go as far as Liverpool in search of such abuses.

Some people seem to find a strange pleasure in correcting other people's grammar. The other day a reference appeared in Truth to "a brother of Lord Fermoy's." An Irish correspondent wants to know by what grammatical rule I justify "the double possessive" in this expression. Heaven forbid that I should set myself up as an authority on grammar. I have no higher ambition than to speak and write the language which I hear spoken and see written around me. The "double possessive," however, although my Irish friend speaks of it as "unique," is, to my mind, a well-established English idiom. There is plenty of sanction for such expressions as "A play of Shakespeare's," "A speech of Gladstone's." In some cases the double possessive is the only form tolerated. You do not say "A brother of me," "A friend of him," "An uncle of us," but "A brother of mine," "A friend of his," "An uncle of ours." Grammar is founded, I take it, upon speech, not speech upon grammar, and if grammatical rules take no account of well-established idioms, so much the worse for the rules.

If Oxford had not been so excited over the recent rumpus at Christ Church, more would probably have been heard of a piece of gross injustice that has just been perpetrated by the authorities at Jesus. On the 7th inst. a smoking concert was held in the Junior Common Room, by permission of the Vice-Principal. The President of the J.C.R., however, in applying for leave, omitted to state the exact date of the concert, After the concert, but in no way in consequence of or in connection with it, some disturbance took place in the college, and on the following morning the Principal sent for the President of the Junior Common Room, and incontinently "sent him down," on the pretext that he had not stated the date of the concert when applying for leave. The President of the J.C.R. had not attended the concert, and was in no way concerned in the subsequent disturbance; but no opportunity of explanation or defence was given to him. At the best of times the practice of vicarious punish-

ment is a stupid and mischievous one, but this seems to have been an exceptionally irrational abuse of authority. Were a son of mine so dealt with, I should promptly remove him from the college.

I have one or two little matters which I would commend to the attention of the managers of the Mercers' School in Holborn. One is the practice of "keeping in" the whole of a form of little boys if one boy misbehaves himself, even to the extent of such a trifling offence as "fidgeting." I happen to know a gentleman who daily brings his little boy of nine up from the suburbs to attend this school, calling or sending for him in the afternoon; and the result of the above practice is that the father, or his messenger, is frequently kept out (possibly in the rain) for half an hour while his boy is kept in. The practice of punishing a number of individuals, whether a class of boys or a regiment of soldiers, for the shortcomings of one of their number is always a bad one, and it becomes worse when part of the punishment falls on an outsider.

There is another bad practice at the same school which deserves to be held up to the strongest reprobation, wherever it is found. It is that of forbidding a child, no matter under what necessity, to leave his class, except on pain of an imposition. Serious consequences have followed before now from this practice, and at this time of day one would have thought no schoolmaster required enlightenment on such a point. The managers of the Mercers' School expressly notify that no complaints from parents will be noticed, and they have, therefore, only themselves to thank if their domestic affairs come under the notice of the Press. How a schoolmaster can expect to enjoy the confidence of parents, when he openly announces that he will not pay any attention to anything they may have to say, I am at a loss to understand.

The Bishop of Ripon has just perpetrated a job which is exciting intense indignation among Yorkshire ecclesiastics, and which, indeed, has caused many laymen in the diocese to express themselves strongly on the subject of episcopal nepotism. A few months ago Archdeacon Danks, Vicar of Richmond, was appointed by the Bishop to a residentiary stall in Ripon Cathedral, on the understanding that he would in a short time resign his living, which is one of the most desirable benefices in the diocese. It was, of course, expected that the Bishop of Ripon, who is the patron, would appoint to Richmond some experienced clergyman in the diocese, who had worked well in a poorer parish, and thereby earned promotion. To the general disgust of both clergy and laity, Bishop Boyd Carpenter has pitchforked into the good living the Rev. L. Stewart Robinson, who has been only nine years in orders, and who has done no parochial work whatever in the diocese. Mr. Robinson was brought to Ripon from London by the Bishop, who made him his chaplain, and for some time past he has been one of the diocesan inspectors of religious knowledge, and "private chaplain" to Lord Zetland at Aske Hall. Instead of the Bishops interfering with lay patrons, as they propose, it seems to me that it would be well if they reformed their own scandalous abuses of patronage.

Another Church patronage scandal has occurred at Liverpool, where a young cleric of less than three years' standing in holy orders has been instituted to the Vicarage of St. Michael-in-the-Hamlet, Toxteth Park. The gross value of the living is about £500. When it is added that the young cleric is the Rev. H. G. Jones and the patron of the living the Rev. W. Jones, the why and the wherefore of this appointment will be sufficiently apparent. In reply to a protest from the Curates' Union, the Bishop of Liverpool says:—

> Mr. Jones is undoubtedly very young. But in the course of my episcopate I have frequently seen that men who have been only three years in orders are more fit to be incumbents than others who have been ordained ten years, and I have not always found that *age* qualifies a man for promotion.

If this was the only defence Bishop Ryle could think of for this outrageous job he would have done better to say nothing at all. It is really too ridiculous. No doubt there is a certain amount of truth in his generalisation. Some men with only three years' experience are more fit for an incumbency than some others with ten years' experience. But does the Bishop expect us to believe that the particular clerical fledgeling on whom this valuable benefice has been conferred is better qualified for such a charge than not merely some, but every one, of the scores of men in the diocese who have been toiling and moiling in ill-paid curacies for ten, fifteen, or twenty years? Will he, in fact, affirm that Mr. H. G. Jones received this preferment solely on account of his superior merits? I rather think myself that the Bishop would shrink from saying so much straight out, though he does not mind making a disingenuous attempt to suggest it.

I am glad to see that the Lord Chancellor has given the Rectory of Sedgbrook, near Grantham, to the Rev. T. Ewbank, who has been for several years the curate in charge of the parish. It would be well if episcopal patrons would follow Lord Halsbury's good example in this respect, instead of almost invariably promoting their friends or relations whenever they have anything good to dispose of. The living of Sedgbrook, which became vacant by the death of Canon Drake, is worth about £500 a year, with residence.

There is to be a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral next Wednesday, at which the Archbishop-elect of Canterbury will preach a farewell sermon to the diocese of London. All patronage belonging to the See of London which may fall vacant between next Tuesday and the day on which Bishop Creighton does homage to the Queen, will pass to the Crown.

Every requirement for Furnishing tastefully at least expense is amply illustrated in the Galleries and Catalogues of Hampton & Sons, Furnishers & Decorators, Pall Mall East, S.W.

The New Silk Waistcoatings for Gentlemen's Evening Dress and Morning Wear can now be seen at Ulster House, Conduit-street, W.

The Paris *Figaro* published the other day, in all solemnity, and apparently without the slightest doubt about its authenticity, the following extract from a sermon alleged to have been addressed by Mr. Ellis, an English missionary, to his native flock in Madagascar :—

Oui, mes chers frères, Christ aimait les Anglais, et il avait les Français en horreur ; et la preuve en est que, lors de son séjour en Angleterre, jamais on ne put le décider à aller visiter Paris.

None but a French editor would be capable of offering such a thing seriously to his readers ; but, as the French public are apt to take their editors seriously, it might be as well if this ridiculous utterance were formally repudiated. I am told that Mr. Ellis is at present in England, and it seems desirable that his attention should be called to the allegation.

I have received several letters in reference to the dispute at St. George's-street Baptist Church, Macclesfield, which was noticed in TRUTH on December 3. It has been strongly represented to me that the pastor, the Rev. E. A. Hobby, is an ardent and active Radical, and so I had better, perhaps, say at once that I do not allow party considerations to influence my judgment in a matter of this kind, though I am, of course, sorry to have to fall foul of a gentleman of my own political creed. Nor can my opinion be affected, let me add, by the photograph of the pastor, with which I have been favoured. The statement on which I commented a fortnight ago was to the effect that a local reporter was expelled from the Baptist Church, where he had held the office of deacon, because he went to the theatre and the circus. He has since repeated this statement. On the other hand, the deacons and committee have sent me a lengthy communication, in which they give the statement "an unqualified denial." They assert that at a committee meeting the reporter "severely criticised" a sermon in which he considered that the pastor had personally attacked him for going to the theatre and the circus ; and also that he had been "guilty of criticising" previous sermons. The only inference one can draw from this is that his name was erased from the Church roll, not on account of his attendance at certain places of amusement, but on account of his protests against being publicly preached at for going to such places, together with his generally shocking conduct in criticising his pastor's utterances. This really does not seem to me to put the action of Mr. Hobby and his flock in any better light than before.

In reply to many critics who have taken me to task, I must sorrowfully admit that I was to blame the other day in publishing a statement to the effect that every Bishop has to begin his ecclesiastical career as a curate. There are, of course, plenty of men who have taken Orders as schoolmasters or Fellows of Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge ; and not a few of these have gained the episcopal bench without ever having held a curate's berth—the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury among them.

The *Scots Magazine* says, "Fallen Angels" is a very clever, ably-written, ethico-religious work." 5th thousand now ready. 8vo, pp. 260, cloth, 2s. 6d., post free,—Gay & Bird, 22, Bedford-st., London.

The following resolution was, I understand, solemnly forwarded to the War Office a few weeks ago. The Rev. Jacob Primmer has, in this instance, fairly out-Primmered himself :—

Resolution by the Dunfermline Protestant Defence Association.

That this meeting of the Dunfermline Protestant Defence Association is highly indignant, and strongly resents the recent stealthy and surreptitious invasion of the sanctity of the Sabbath by the Military Band of the First Life Guards, who held a so-called "sacred" concert in St. Margaret's Hall on Sabbath evening, October 4 last, at which, we are credibly informed, a "silver collection" was bagged ; that such a proceeding constituted a gross outrage on the feelings of the large majority of the people of Dunfermline, who respect and honour the Sabbath as a day of rest and worship, and was also a violation of the law of this Protestant and Bible-loving land ; and that we call on the Government to take immediate steps to put down this rude and reckless form of Sabbath desecration and profanation, and to insist that such shall not occur again either in Dunfermline or out of it.—Signed in the name and by authority of the meeting,

Jacob Primmer, President.
Wm. Wallace Drysdale, Secretary.

Dunfermline, November 2, 1896.

From the fact of a "silver collection" having been bagged, it would seem that a certain number of the people of Dunfermline had sufficient sense not only to attend the 1st Life Guards' performance, but to pay something for the privilege. In what way by so doing they grossly outraged the feelings of the vast majority who preferred to go somewhere else, is not evident, any more than is the violation of the law of a Protestant and Bible-loving land. I trust that the Government will request Mr. Primmer to explain these obscure points before responding to the call which the D.P.D.A. makes upon them. A performance by a military band on Sunday may or may not be contrary to Protestantism, but I will swear there is nothing in the Bible that forbids it—either expressly or by implication.

I have been looking through Mr. Hare's voluminous autobiography, and should much like to hear his explanation of the following entry in his diary for 1851 :—

November 25.—To-day we have been to the Chapel Royal at St. James's, where Dr. Vaughan had to preach a funeral sermon for the King of Hanover. The old Duke of Cambridge was there, and startled people by the cordiality of his loud assent, "By all means !" to the invitation, "Let us pray."

Now this was the old Duke's well-known habit, but how Mr. Hare could either have seen him or heard him on November 25, 1851, passes comprehension, seeing that H.R.H. died on July 8, 1850.

The Rev. James Rogers has been making a statement to the *Ulverston News* with reference to the recent paragraphs in TRUTH identifying him with the "Rev. S. Horn" and the English Agency of the Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis. At first sight the statements of the reverend gentleman are incomprehensible to me, being completely at variance with all that I have previously heard. I propose, therefore, to make a few inquiries before dealing further with the matter.

How is it that the Roman Catholic community have so little respect for the Lottery Acts, and why do they select these forms of gambling as a religious exercise ? Not only does the system of raising money by lotteries flourish among the Irish clergy, but it is continually

breaking out among Roman Catholics in England. The latest example takes the form of "a grand distribution of presents" in connection with the Sacred Heart Church, St. Helens, Lancashire, the first prize offered being a pony and cart complete, with other prizes in proportion. I suppose that the Rev. Thomas Dobson, who is running this enterprise, is under the impression that a lottery is not a lottery when you call it a distribution of presents. But in this he is mistaken, and I trust that the St. Helens police will give him a hint to that effect; not because I have any hostility to his work, but because I object to the law being enforced against journalists and not against the clergy. Those who received from Mr. Dobson books of tickets, with a request to sell them, would also do well to remember, as recently pointed out in TRUTH, that by so doing they render themselves liable to be convicted as rogues and vagabonds, not to mention other penalties.

A serious question for the management of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society is raised in a circular that has been issued by the Vicar of Lemsford, Hatfield. His statement is to the effect that the Society, having taken charge of an illegitimate child when he was six weeks old, and placed him with foster-parents, decided, more than four years afterwards, "to return him to his own mother *because she had fallen again*, and, further, was unable or unwilling to pay the stipulated shilling a week towards his maintenance." In consequence of the Vicar's protest this particular child was re-adopted; but in a subsequent letter to the Secretary he pointed out that what had been done seemed to show "that this giving up of children to their natural guardians when these latter have fallen beyond hope of recovery is quite normal and in the ordinary course of the Society's administration." To this a merely formal reply was vouchsafed. The statement made by the Vicar of Lemsford is, however, too important to be dismissed in this way. Is what he describes the practice, or anything like the practice, of the Society? It will be interesting to hear what the Managers of the Society have to say on the subject.

Copies have been sent to me of two letters written in answer to the Guy's Hospital "snowball," which has so long been rolling its rounds. The first letter was written by a recipient of the snowball, to Miss Weston, of Thurlow Park-road, West Dulwich, the promoter of the collection; and the other to the Secretary of Guy's Hospital. In both letters the writer inquired how much money Miss Weston had handed over to the Hospital as the proceeds of the snowball—which is now in its fifty-third series, and ought by this time to have yielded many thousands, if not millions of pounds. Up to the present I have not heard what answer, if any, has been returned, but it is to be hoped that either the lady or the Secretary will answer the question, for the Hospital has been so much compromised by the dissemination of the circulars, that everybody will be curious to know what has been gained by it; and, besides, it is due to Miss Weston herself that some statement should be published as to the amount she has received and paid over.

A Lancashire paper reports that after Lord Wolseley had inspected the barracks and troops at Preston, he paid a visit to some famous gold lace works in the neighbourhood. Now we shall see something!

We seem to be infected with veritable insanity in regard to armaments. I see it stated that there is to be an increase in the number of our soldiers. Lord Wolseley demands it, because large sums have been spent on the Navy. I should have thought that, if we are to have an invincible Navy, regardless of cost, this is a reason for not spending additional money on the Army. Still, of course, we must do the latter if we are to keep a British garrison in Egypt—to provide troops to conquer the Soudan—and yet to have a sufficiency of men to indulge in further aggressive follies. Lord Lansdowne is entirely under the thumb of Lord Wolseley. Whatever Lord Wolseley demands Lord Lansdowne supports. I do not blame Lord Wolseley; he is a soldier, and nothing but a soldier. He looks at everything from a soldier's standpoint. Why we have a civilian as Minister of War is, that he should resist increased expenditure suggested by soldiers; and that he may be able to do so is why Lord Beaconsfield laid it down that the Minister of War ought always to be in the House of Commons.

An Indian contemporary has the following:—

> The 4th Hussars have, it is said, leased Mulberry for two years from Captain Firman, and the regiment intend to race on a large scale.

I take the earliest opportunity of warning any who may be tempted to bet on horses run by this historic regiment, to make sure that the horses that go to the post are really the horses that appear on the card. Otherwise, backers may find that an outsider quoted at six to one is really a recent Derby winner, running in the outsider's name by a private family arrangement among the officers of the regiment.

A complaint comes from the Depot of the Royal Marines at Walmer respecting the erratic way in which the N.C.O.s are classified as "Very good" or "Good" in the periodical assessment of their character and abilities. As the facts dealt with took place a year ago, it hardly seems worth while to go into the cases now; but it always seems to me that, whether in the Marines, or the Army, or anywhere else, the system of classifying characters in this particular way is unsatisfactory. The truth is, of course, that the only good character is "Very good." "Good" really means that a man's conduct has not been very good, or that it has been good with a qualification or exceptions. The man thus classified has in fact only a second-class character. Now an officer does not always appreciate this when he marks a man as "good." It sounds a nice complimentary epithet, which no one can quarrel with, and it is apt to be doled out without a clear perception that it really places

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THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond-street, W.C, Patron, the Queen. President, the Duke of Fife, K.T. Chairman, Arthur Lucas, Esq. Please send your subscription or donation to help the sick children of the poor.—ADRIAN HOPE, Secretary.

the recipient under a stigma. It would be better to classify conduct as "first class" or "second class;" and if this were done, I fancy that a great many men would rank as first class who are now let down into the second by this compromising term "Good."

Here is a subaltern's grievance that is well deserving the attention of the military authorities. An infantry subaltern goes on duty as galloper or orderly officer during manœuvres, each General being allowed one officer in such capacities. He brings his own horse. He has to provide himself with riding-breeches and various incidental accoutrements and equipment. All he gets in return is forage allowance and his expenses to and from Aldershot. He receives no extra pay for his special duty, no compensation for the extra kit he has to buy or for the use of his horse. On all these points he clearly has a strong claim to the benevolent consideration of his Government.

By the way, it is high time that some notice was taken of the claims of subalterns to extra pay when placed for long periods in command of companies, in the absence of senior officers. This is a matter which has frequently been noticed in Truth. It is no uncommon thing—especially when a captain is away at the Staff College, in which case he is by regulation not seconded—for a subaltern to be commanding a company for a year or two at a time. He does the captain's work and bears all his responsibility, and he ought to have the pay.

From the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment I have received some further light, interesting in its way, on the question of the sergeants' mess caterership, which came under notice in Truth the other day. To begin with, I am told that the proposal for the appointment of a married sergeant as caterer did not even find a seconder at the meeting. If this is correct, it certainly absolves the sergeant-major of all blame. As to the objection to married N.C.O.'s, it is stated that, in consequence of the conspicuous failure of two married sergeants in this post some years ago, the C.O. decided not to have any more married men as caterers. Judging from what is said to have happened at the recent mess meeting, the C.O.'s opinion is cordially endorsed by the vast majority of the mess.

My present informant states that "it is pretty well known throughout the Service that married sergeants do not make the best caterers." Is it? I am always desirous of acquiring information on military matters, and I should very much like to know whether this is the case, and why it is so. *Primâ facie* a married man ought to have the advantage in such work over a bachelor. But perhaps the married sergeant's mind is apt to be too much absorbed in the business of catering for his own family.

Reference was made in Truth a few weeks back to the block of promotion in the higher ranks of the Transport branch of the Army Service Corps, which is preventing men in that branch obtaining warrant rank and depriving them of all chance of commissions, while others, far junior to them in the Supply branch, are continually passing over their heads. One of the sufferers has since pointed out that, a few years ago, things were the other way about, and in 1887 the disparity was redressed by transferring some of the Supply N.C.O.s to the Transport. Why should not the reverse process be adopted now?

It is an astonishing thing to learn that there exists any grievance of the Army Pay Corps that has not been ventilated in Truth. Such, however, appears to be the case. The Army Estimates, in making provision for gratuities for meritorious service, enumerate the various corps for the benefit of which the money has been allotted, but for some reason the Army Pay Corps is not among them. At the present moment there are at least two men in the corps who have been recommended for such gratuities, and they have received formal notice that their claims will be considered. How the War Office is going to grant them annuities when Parliament has provided no funds for the purpose I do not know, and if either of the men referred to could get a reasonable offer in cash down for his prospective annuity, I should strongly recommend him to take it. Possibly the omission of the Army Pay Corps in the Estimates is merely an accident. If so, it ought to be put right next Session.

By the blundering perversity which now seems to be the rule in this matter, the 1st Worcestershire Regiment, on their return home from the scorching heat of Aden, are quartered in the most bleak and exposed of the outlying forts around Plymouth. As if this were not bad enough, the sufferings of the women and children (not to mention the men) from cold have been intensely aggravated by the scarcity of coal. At Fort Tregantle barely enough fuel is issued to keep the fires going half the week (though there is plenty of coal in store), and at Scraesdon Fort last week the women were seen wrapping their babies in shawls, cloaks, and other garments of their own, which they could ill afford to spare. No blame attaches to the Commanding Officer for this state of things; on the contrary, a report on the subject having been made to him the other day, he gave express orders that more coal should be issued. The order, however, has been disregarded, for reasons which will be guessed by those who remember the recent articles in Truth on the Army coal trade. I would respectfully suggest to the Colonel that he should look a little further into this matter.

There is no more glaring instance of the mutton-headed obstinacy of Government departments than this practice of sending regiments fresh from the tropics into winter quarters in the Plymouth and Portsmouth forts. If the folly and cruelty of it required demonstration, the results have demonstrated them again and again. There is not a man at the War Office, from the Commander-in-Chief

"Madge" advises, buy your Xmas Gloves, Veils, Handkerchiefs, &c., at Lee's, Wigmore-street. The Sale is now on. The best and most fashionable at low prices.

Water Supply for Mansions, &c.—Artesian Bored and Driven Tube Wells, Wind Engines for pumping, &c.—State your requirements to Alfred Williams & Co., 39, Gt. Eastern-st., London, E.C.

downwards, who could defend the practice; but simply because it has been the practice in the past it will continue to be the practice in the future, until pressure from outside the War Office compels a reform. I trust that the requisite pressure may be speedily applied.

Some time ago attention was called in TRUTH to the insufficient provision for the baggage of soldiers with families in the military regulations dealing with this subject. It is now my agreeable duty on behalf of Mrs. Thomas Atkins to thank the authorities for having increased the allowance by one hundredweight in the revised regulations. This emboldens me to put forward another little suggestion. The concession which the railway companies were induced to make a few years ago, in the matter of return tickets for soldiers going on furlough, is at present deprived of half its value when a man is visiting one or two places and returning by a different route. When a soldier has a month or six weeks' leave he does not usually spend it all at one place. Why not give him the same reduction on a single ticket out by one line and a single ticket back by another that he is allowed at present on a return ticket?

An artilleryman at Gibraltar inquires why furloughs should only be granted at that station to men who have completed at least three years' service abroad, while at Malta there is no such restriction. At a guess, I should say that the difference is due to pure caprice, and has nothing in the nature of a reason to justify it. But if any rational answer can be given to the question, I shall be pleased to make a note of it.

From time to time a good many complaints have reached TRUTH office about the arrangements under which shirts are made by soldiers' wives. One of the latest of these comes from Normanton, where the regulation price of 8½d. per shirt is reduced to 7½d., the explanation of the deduction being that it is a payment towards the cost of warming the workroom. As this means a charge of about 4d. per week against each woman, the amount seems excessive. Another matter deserving attention is the allowance of ½d. per shirt made to the sergeant-major's wife for folding the work before it is issued to the women. Not only does this mean that the folder is paid very much higher than any of the workwomen, but the fact is, I believe, that the folding is not really done by the lady in question, but by a fatigue party which attends to the cleaning of the room. These are samples of complaints which are continually coming from one place or another, and there certainly seems to be room for improvement in the present arrangements.

A Board duly assembled at Wellington Barracks, Dublin, last week to inquire how a lance-corporal of the Dublin Light Infantry contracted enteric fever. I wonder what the Board discovered by means of its deliberations. From thirty to forty such Boards must have assembled, investigated, and reported in the last twelve months, and a complete record of their proceedings would make an invaluable chapter in the history of red-tape. Meanwhile, of course, enteric fever continues to flourish with unabated energy, and will doubtless afford employment for Boards and undertakers for an indefinite period to come.

Not only is it in the Army that vigorous steps are being taken (chiefly in the tailoring line) to prepare for any political complications that may arise. Our Naval authorities are equally on the alert. Look at this:—

Moustaches.

"Centurion," at Nagasaki, October 14, 1896.

General Memorandum No. 75.

Having observed that moustaches are in some cases worn very much out of proportion to the length of the beard, I request Commanding Officers will see that the spirit of the Instructions on the subject is adhered to.

ALEX. BULLER, Vice-Admiral.

To the Rear-Admiral, the Commodore, and the respective Captains, Commanders, and Officers Commanding her Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed on the China Station.

There may be difficulty about manning many of the innumerable ships we are now completing, but it is a comfort to know that the men we have will be equipped with beards and moustaches of the right relative length when the hour of danger arrives.

It is reported that the Duke of York will be promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral on January 1, when there is to be a huge batch of New Year honours. If this is correct, the Duke will jump over the heads of considerably more than a hundred captains senior to himself, most of whom entered the Navy many years before H.R.H. was born! As a matter of fact, however, the promotion of the Duke of York has been unprecedentedly rapid from first to last. He was a sub-lieutenant for only sixteen months, although the rule is for at least four years to elapse before there is promotion from this rank. The Duke remained a Lieutenant for six years, and then he became a Commander, the average period for officers to pass in the lower rank being at least twelve years. Finally, H.R.H. was made a Captain in less than eighteen months, in absolute defiance of the regulation which forbids the posting of a Commander until he has served for at least seven years in the lower rank. It is a flagrant fact that whenever Princes enter either the Army or the Navy all Service rules are deliberately ignored in order to facilitate their speedy and repeated promotion. The worst feature is that this scandalous and sycophantic favouritism is practised at the expense of other officers.

A certain Norwegian skipper whose vessel was in Aberdeen Docks the other day must have left these shores with the conviction that, despite our boasts about our freedom, we are a desperately police-ridden people. The captain in question, who is also the owner of his ship, was accompanied on his voyage by his wife. They were peacefully sleeping in their cabin one night when they were aroused by two policemen, who demanded instant admittance, threatening to burst open the door, if it was

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, E., APPEALS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed

THE BATHS OF BATH.—Nauheim or Thermalsöolbad treatment. Owing to the great success of the treatment the Corporation have just doubled the accommodation. Good hotels. Band daily.

not unlocked. The captain let them enter under protest, and after closely inspecting the cabin and flashing a "bull's-eye" lantern on the lady they departed. Through the intervention of the Norwegian Consul, an apology was offered for this impudent and unwarrantable intrusion; but it is explained in a local paper that the constables at the Docks have the right of thus searching vessels for the purpose of putting down improper practices. Is this so? Such a system of police espionage would not be tolerated for a moment on shore, and it is astonishing that mariners submit to it.

Here is a pretty piece of official iniquity—this time from the Colonial Office. In Ceylon there is established a Civil Service Widows' Pension Fund, formed by a 4 per cent. tax on the salaries and pensions of Civil Servants. The salaries and pensions of Civil Servants are, of course, paid in rupees, and the widows' pensions out of the said fund are paid in rupees also. But when the tax is deducted from the pension of a retired Civil Servant, it is calculated, by express order of the Colonial Office, at the rate of 1s. 10½d. per rupee. This, in itself, is a monstrous piece of extortion, but it becomes downright robbery if, as I am informed by the highest authority, the tax is only paid into the Pension Fund in rupees at the current rate of exchange. One retired Ceylon official, for instance, is paying Rs. 1,000 per annum to the fund—having elected, as every man is entitled to do, to continue paying after his retirement at the same rate as before. The Crown Agents, under the orders of the Colonial Office, make from his pension a deduction of £93. 17s. At the present rate of exchange Rs. 1,000 are equal to £62. 10s., so that there is a mysterious disappearance of over £31 per annum on this one gentleman's contribution. What is the amount netted on all the contributions treated in the same way, and where does it go to? I commend the question to the attention of Mr. Chamberlain, who is just the man to ferret out an answer to it.

There has been an agitation among the superintendents of the Indian Post Office for better pay, but the Government declines to do anything, owing, it is said, to "financial depression." More weight might be attached to this stock excuse, were it not seen that financial depression never stands in the way of increases for the higher-placed officials. Hitherto, for instance, the pay of a Postmaster-General has been limited to Rs. 2,000 per month, but now the stipend for one of these berths (all of which are occupied by members of the Indian Civil Service) has been raised to Rs. 2,500 per month. Again, the Comptrollership has been filled by an accountant from the Finance Department at a salary of Rs. 1,200 per month, but it is understood that when this post shortly becomes vacant, an official who is a member of the Indian Civil Service is to be appointed to it and the pay increased to Rs. 2,000 per month. However much cheese-paring may be practised in other directions, it is evident that the exigencies of Indian finance are not allowed to interfere with the working of the familiar official rule, "To him that hath, &c."

By the way, I still hear complaints with regard to promotions to the rank of Superintendent in the Indian Post-office. The rules prescribe that an examination shall be passed for these appointments, but, nevertheless, the claims of candidates who have passed are set aside in favour of others who have not so qualified, but who possess influence at headquarters.

For a member of a body entrusted with "judicial functions" to adjudicate upon his own case is so manifestly unfair and irregular, that one would think no man with any sense of self-respect would venture to do such a thing. This, however, is what Mr. Edward Jones, Chairman of the Oswestry Incorporation Assessment Committee, has been doing; and he declares that he would do so a hundred times over in similar circumstances. The circumstances were whether Mr. Jones should get the benefit of the Agricultural Rating Act for certain land of his. The Surveyor of Taxes objected to his doing so on the ground that it was not agricultural land, and in Mr. Jones's absence the Committee supported the objection. At an adjourned meeting, however, Mr. Jones insisted upon his and other similar cases being reconsidered, and, on a division being taken in regard to his own land, he voted in favour of its being entered, for the purpose of the Act, as agricultural land. The votes were equal—four on each side—and Mr. Jones, as Chairman, thereupon gave a casting-vote against the objection, and declared that it was disallowed, thus securing for himself the relief from the rates which the Act affords.

It is distinctly laid down in the regulations of the Local Government Board that, in these matters, the Assessment Committee has to "exercise judicial functions, and due care must be observed in the discharge of this duty." Mr. Jones's votes were a gross abuse of his "judicial functions;" yet, when the question was brought before the Board, they professed their inability to offer any advice or assistance. What in the name of common sense is the use of issuing such a regulation unless there is some means of enforcing it?

Apropos of the above case, I may mention a complaint from Bristol respecting the practice of members of the Town Council voting upon matters in which they are pecuniarily interested. My correspondent particularly refers to a recent division with regard to a railway extension scheme, in which shareholders in the railway company and other directly interested parties voted; and to a second instance of a similar character last week, when a director and shareholders of the tramways com-

A great attraction this Christmas, at 173, New Bond-street, will be Messrs. CHARBONNELL & WALKER'S superb show of PARISIAN NOVELTIES. Their *salons* are filled with treasures of artistic excellence in every variety. They are too beautiful to describe, and as all the world should see them we will only add that everything that is lovely and poetic in the shape of novelties will be found there.

The Winter of 1896. The CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, Shadwell, E., Appeals for Donations and New Annual Subscriptions. At the present season funds are most urgently required.

pany voted against a proposal affecting that concern. On the latter occasion the Mayor explained that the matter must be left to the "good taste" of the gentlemen concerned, and the Town Clerk added that they incurred no penalty by voting. "Good taste" does not prevent such votes being given, but a penalty would, and the law should be altered to provide one.

The Cheltenham Guardians appear to be among those who impose religious tests on candidates for employment as workhouse nurses. They have just rejected a candidate solely because she is a Roman Catholic, and they appear to think that they are justified in insisting upon a Protestant by the fact that most of the inmates are Protestants. Rubbish! I am no advocate for inconsiderate treatment of paupers, but it is absurd to suggest that any sick person—pauper or millionaire—can be in any way inconvenienced by being tended by a nurse of a different religious denomination from his own. Of the hundreds of nurses engaged every day for work in private houses, is a single one catechised about her religious belief before she is engaged? I doubt it. Have the Cheltenham paupers ever expressed a desire for a Protestant nurse rather than a Roman Catholic one? I doubt it. Still more do I doubt whether, had such an objection been expressed, the Guardians would have deemed it worth consideration. The only motive for the action of these worthies is their own sectarian bigotry.

There is a boy in the Ormskirk Workhouse who has the misfortune to be entered in the books of the union as a member of the Church of England. I consider it is distinctly a misfortune in his case because, but for this fact, he would now have been taken from the workhouse and adopted by a market gardener living in the district. It seems that the market gardener is a Wesleyan, and on being asked by the Guardians whether he would allow the child to go to church he replied that he would give him his choice, but that he would naturally prefer to take the lad with him to chapel. To safeguard the little pauper Churchman from this awful sin of going to chapel was, to the minds of the bigoted majority of the Board, infinitely more important than to provide him with a good home and a fair start in life, and so it was resolved that he should remain in the workhouse.

It takes between three and four months for the simplest little seed to fructify in the minds of the Wem Guardians. I speak with authority. On August 20 I myself sowed a little seed in this somewhat stony soil. It was in the shape of a paragraph commenting upon certain figures in the half-yearly financial statement of the Union, and more particularly upon the fact that five workhouse officers were credited with the consumption of 783 lb. of meat, while seventy-two paupers had to be content with only 1,090 lb., and that, too, of inferior quality. Not until their last meeting, a week or so ago, did this criticism bear fruit in a discussion at the meeting of the Guardians, though according to one of their number many of the ratepayers have been "making remarks" on the subject. The only statement I am concerned to notice is one to the effect that the seventy-two paupers spoken of were really "something like fifty-two." If that be so, the mistake was due to the misleading form of the official statement from which my figures were taken. But even taking the number of pauper inmates of the workhouse at fifty-two, the accounts would still suggest either that they get too little to eat or else that the five officers get too much. About the beginning of next April I shall expect to hear what more the Guardians have to say on the subject.

Jones's Charity at Monmouth appears to be one of the numerous cases in which money bequeathed primarily for the benefit of the poor is now chiefly devoted to the education of children of the well-to-do classes. The revenue of the charity, which is mainly derived from property in London, has vastly increased during recent years, and I gather from the papers on the subject that have been sent to me that an agitation has been going on at Monmouth in favour of applying part at least of the next surplus to the erection of additional almshouses and an orphanage. The poor certainly have a strong claim in the matter, and it is to be hoped this proposal will be carefully and sympathetically considered by those in authority before they decide upon the adoption of a further scheme for handing the money over to the County Council for the purpose of intermediate education.

In one of the Unions in Pembrokeshire it is the custom of the Board of Guardians to give outdoor relief, not in cash, but in the form of an order on a shopkeeper for the amount of the weekly allowance. Whether this is a common practice I do not know for certain, but I rather think the usual arrangement is for the recipients of such relief to have so much bread and so much money per week, the spending of the latter being left to their own discretion. No doubt the object of the system in the Pembrokeshire Union is to ensure that the outdoor paupers' dole shall be used to the best advantage. But, as a correspondent who has written to me on the matter points out, the shopkeeper on whom the orders are issued is under a strong temptation to foist inferior articles on such customers, and, unless the Guardians are in the happy position of dealing only with immaculate tradespeople, it is extremely probable that this is done. The result is that the paupers may be far worse off than if they were permitted to buy their provisions where they pleased.

The Local Government Board will do well to institute a rigorous investigation into the sanitary condition of Kingsbridge Workhouse. The medical officer has reported that the water supply is altogether inadequate,

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while there is not a single trap of modern type, and the existing state of matters is "a great source of danger to all concerned."

The Helmsley Bumbles again! At their last meeting the Medical Officer drew attention to the necessity of replacing the old drains in Bridge-street by new ones. These old drains, he said, were utterly useless—"jump-jointed" pipes, worse than no sewer at all, as all the fluid portion of the sewage passed through the joints and saturated the soil, while the solid matter remained in the pipes, forming a bed for the incubation of typhoid and other germs. As to the fall, the old sewage system was "more like a switchback than anything else." Any ordinary sanitary authority would have been alarmed by such statements, but not so the Helmsley District Council, who simply resolved to let the report "lie on the table." The state of things described by their medical officer has been brought to their notice time after time, and months ago they promised the Local Government Board to remedy it "as soon as practicable." But nothing has been done, and nothing will be done, until they are absolutely forced into action, the one idea of Lord Feversham and his colleagues (most of them also his tenants) being to keep down the rates. How much longer are they to be allowed to have their own pig-headed way in this and the various other matters on which they have so long set the Local Government Board at defiance?

To judge from their bully-ragging of the workhouse chaplain and boycotting of a local newspaper, the Medway Guardians must be a particularly insolent and overbearing set of jacks-in-office. The bother arose out of a report which the chaplain had presented with regard to the unwholesome and demoralising conditions under which the children in the workhouse are being brought up. Without troubling to consider whether his statements were true or not, the Guardians passed a resolution censuring the chaplain for "exceeding his duty," and when the reverend gentleman subsequently showed that the orders of the Local Government Board authorised him to make such a report, some of the members stormed and raved at him as though he had been a pauper. As for the newspaper, it actually had the audacity to publish the chaplain's report, and for this high crime the Guardians decided to deprive it of its share of the official advertisements, and to exclude its reporter from the meetings of the Board for the next three months. The ratepayers of the Medway Union must be humiliated indeed when they see what sort of men they have chosen as their representatives.

Taunton has been greatly agitated over a question as to the precise position which a cabman's shelter shall occupy on the Parade. The subscribers to the shelter and the cabmen themselves naturally wish the structure to be near the cab-stand; but a body called the Market Trustees has insisted upon placing it some distance away, where it is utterly useless to the cabbies. One wet day last week, the latter, exasperated by this absurd arrangement, marched in force to the shelter, hauled it to the cab-stand, and quartered themselves in it for the evening. Next morning, however, the shelter had disappeared, and it was ultimately found that it had been removed in the night to the "pound," where it has since remained. All this seems a huge joke, but it is one which is not very creditable to the authorities.

Apropos of what has been said in Truth on the barrel-organ question, I have been favoured with some interesting particulars of a movement at Bournemouth for the suppression or mitigation of street noises. A resident at Boscombe, having succeeded in getting an order stopping barrel-organs from playing outside the Public Reading-room, was encouraged to get up a memorial to the Town Council, influentially signed, praying for restrictions on the shouting of newsboys, the blowing of coach-horns, &c. A sub-committee of the Council to which the matter was referred proposed a by-law on the subject, in similar terms to one in force at Cambridge, but after a long discussion the proposal was defeated by two votes. This strikes me as another strong proof of the thickness of municipal heads at Bournemouth, for there is hardly a town in the kingdom where a regulation of this kind would be more conducive to the welfare of the place. By the way, I should like to know more of the Cambridge by-law above referred to. Why should not sauce for Cambridge be sauce for London?

Some of the inhabitants of Pirbright, assisted by men imported for the occasion from other parishes, have just shown their servility to the Grand Panjandrum of the district in a fashion which few rural communities would, I hope, care to emulate. Lord Pirbright some time ago enclosed a piece of waste land, putting up a fence which obstructed a public footpath. The enclosure passed without objection, but the Guildford Rural District Council have successfully fought for the preservation of the right of way, and in this struggle the representative of Pirbright, Mr. R. D. Mangles, has taken a leading part. His action was naturally displeasing to Lord Pirbright, and, as a consequence, all the toadies of that magnate were eager to show that they also were displeased. To enable them to do this, a meeting was held, attended by the noble lord and packed with his partisans from the parish and the neighbourhood; and, after jeering and howling at the District Councillor in the most disgraceful way, a resolution was passed strongly condemning his action. It is not pleasant to see a man who has championed a public right treated in this manner, but in such cases virtue is its own reward. The free use of the footpath has been maintained, and that, after all, is the chief thing.

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In the exercise of their judgment the Blandford Borough Justices recently dismissed a summons for alleged furious driving, which had been issued on the information of Major-General L. H. Denne. This decision, which seems from the report of the evidence to have been a very proper one, has had a curious and instructive sequel. The Chairman of the Bench on the occasion was the Mayor of Blandford. He is in business as a tailor in the town, and for ten years or more Major-General Denne has been one of his customers. A few days after the hearing of the case the Major-General called upon the Mayor, referred to the dismissal of the summons as a reflection upon his veracity, and asked that his account should be made out, as he would no longer deal with his worship. No one will question Major-General Denne's right to take his custom where he pleases; but every one is at liberty to form an opinion as to the reasonableness and propriety of his conduct towards this worthy tradesman. Mine is that it was both unreasonable and improper, and the fact that Major-General Denne is a magistrate himself makes his action all the more reprehensible. Of course he did not expect his patronage of the tailor to influence the Mayor; yet that is the unfortunate impression which his method of showing his resentment of the decision is likely to create in many minds.

There is much complaining, I hear, on the subject of judicial unpunctuality in the county courts in which his Honour Judge Lushington presides, more especially at Wandsworth. The list at this court is always heavy, usually containing five or six cases in which counsel are briefed; but his Honour rarely thinks it necessary to put in an appearance until 11.30 a.m., or even later. The result is that the jury summoned for 11.30 a.m. are kept waiting while the applications to the judge, which ought to be taken at 10.30, are being heard, innumerable unnecessary adjournments of cases are caused, and parties, witnesses, and lawyers are put to incalculable expense and inconvenience. The best remedy for this evil, as I have pointed out before, is that judges should be fined for unpunctuality. There should be a scale of progressive penalties for each minute a judge is late, and the fund thus raised should be applied in compensating the sufferers.

Concerning the political complexion of the county magistracy in Hampshire, a correspondent informs me that since Lord Northbrook became Lord Lieutenant he has nominated "three Radicals of the most sturdy type" in the Gosport division. It is also said that there is one magistrate of "Liberal proclivities" in the Aldershot district. I willingly place these appointments (which seem to have been made a considerable time ago) to Lord Northbrook's credit. But what are they among so many? It still remains true that the magistracy of the county is overwhelmingly, if not exclusively, Tory, and that gentlemen in every way qualified for the position are excluded from the Bench because they happen to be Radicals.

Epps's Cocoa is always found grateful and comforting both for breakfast, supper, and luncheon. It is sold in packets & 1-lb. tins, and labelled "James Epps & Co., Ltd.," Homœopathic Chemists.

The result of some recent proceedings at Worship-street Police-court stands out in striking contrast to the case of Murray, the Hampstead constable, whose conviction for perjury I dealt with last week. A newsvendor, one Mahoney, was brought up at Worship-street on two charges of robbery from the person. The first charge was dismissed because, though a policeman swore that Mahoney was the thief, the prosecutor swore that he was not. The second charge resolved itself into one of highway robbery with violence. The robbery took place in Shoreditch on June 3, and it was witnessed by two detective officers, who swore that Mahoney, whom they knew, was one of the two culprits, and that they gave chase, but were unable to catch him. On this evidence Mahoney was remanded. It happened, however, that he was in a position to prove that, on June 3, he was in prison undergoing a sentence which did not expire till July 29. This was too strong an alibi for the police to contest, and on hearing of it they made haste to represent the facts to the magistrate, who thereupon took the unusual course of ordering Mahoney's discharge without having him brought back into court.

In the Hampstead case, Murray was convicted of perjury practically on the evidence of one man, who denied the charge which the constable had made against him. In Mahoney's case it was not a question of oath against oath, but of the absolutely conclusive evidence of the prison records and the prison officials that the detectives were wrong. Yet when an application was made for summonses against these officers for perjury, it was refused on the ground that there had been nothing more than a mistake—a mistake which, if Mahoney had not had the good luck to be in gaol last June, would probably have ended for him in a dose of the cat and a term of penal servitude. Anybody who has read a full report of Murray's trial at the Old Bailey will see that there were far better grounds for giving him the benefit of the doubt, and it is a travesty of justice that he should be serving nine months' hard labour while these two detectives are not even to be prosecuted. Still, the mere exposure of the latter's "mistake" will do some good if it only teaches magistrates (Mr. Newton particularly) the danger of placing too blind a faith in the infallibility of the police.

As to Murray's trial, I am told that a number of "absolutely untrue statements" have been made about the action of the magistrates, upon which the Common Serjeant waxed so wroth. This, however, is a side issue which it is hardly necessary to discuss now; whether it was well or ill founded, the Common Serjeant's outburst on the subject was calculated to influence the jury against the prisoner, though it really had nothing whatever to do with the question of his guilt or innocence. I understand that the memorial for his release is now under the consideration of the Home Secretary, and, judging from all that I have heard of the case, I doubt not that his reply will be favourable.

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-street, London, for Shooting Gowns, Cawdor Capes, Travelling Ulsters, Jackets, Racing Coats, Carriage Rugs, Mauds, Shawls, and Scotch Tweeds. Patterns post free.

It is surely nothing less than a burlesque of justice to mete out the same punishment to the man who steals a hammer as to the man who is convicted of manslaughter on evidence which, in the opinion of the Judge, would have warranted the jury in returning a verdict of wilful murder. My Legal Pillory shows that this is what happened at Leeds Assizes last week, and in the same Court, also, a woman was awarded three years' penal servitude for the theft of a shawl worth ninepence. It is true that the thieves were old offenders, but after making reasonable allowance for that fact, the contrasted sentences still seem to me to exhibit an utter misconception of the relative heinousness of crimes against property and crimes against the person. Such samples of Judge's justice unfortunately have the mischievous effect of encouraging the magistracy in their monstrous system of punishing the offences of petty larceny, poaching, and vagrancy more severely than acts of brutality or cruelty:—

Leeds Assizes. Before Mr. Justice Grantham. John Winter, a rough-looking individual, known as "Black Jack," indicted for the wilful murder of an old man of sixty-seven, and convicted of manslaughter. The Judge said it was a very brutal case, and prisoner undoubtedly attempted to kill the deceased. The evidence in fact amounted to murder, and the jury would have been justified in finding him guilty on the capital charge; but they had very properly taken a lenient view. Five years' penal servitude.

Wakefield Police-court. John Burke charged with having been drunk and disorderly and assaulting George Clarke. Prisoner violently assaulted his wife, and on Clarke remonstrating prisoner kicked him several times. There were 27 previous convictions against the prisoner. Fined 12s. 6d. for the drunkenness and £1. 12s. 6d. for the assault.

Halifax Borough Police-court. John Peter Poulter, charged with cruelty to his child, aged 17 months. The baby toddled to its father, who knocked it down, and then picking it up threw it with much force into a chair, giving it a black eye and cutting its lip. Fined £2. 19s., including costs.

Marylebone Police-court. Before Mr. Rose. Robert John Rose, convicted of assaulting his wife. The woman, who appeared very weak and ill, said defendant frequently came home drunk and ill-treated her. As results of his cruelty and misconduct, she had had a tumour on her breast, and two of her children were born dead. On Sunday week he punched her about the head and body till she was black and blue. A policeman, who was called in, said he found blood-stains all over the front room and passage. Fined 40s., and ordered to pay his wife 15s. a week under a separation order.

Leeds Assizes. Before Mr. Justice Grantham. Patrick Higgins, pleaded guilty to stealing a hammer and a mallet. He seemed to have a special fancy for stealing hammers, his record of previous convictions including seven or eight for this offence. Five years' penal servitude.

Sarah Robinson, aged forty, pleaded guilty to stealing a shawl, value 9d. There were a number of previous convictions. Three years' penal servitude.

Ottery Police-court. Before Colonel Darnell, Mr. J. Y. Morshed, and Rev. F. B. Dickinson. George Cann, coachman, charged with stealing 40 lb. of coal belonging to his employer. Prosecutor did not wish to press the case as prisoner had a wife and six children. Fined £5, or one month.

Huntingdon Police-court. Before Lord Sandwich and Mr. J. S. Smith. Charles Jaggard and John Rowland, charged with stealing a pair of boots which were exposed for sale in the street. One month each.

Romsey Police-court. Before the Mayor, Alderman Osborne, and Mr. C. Medley. Sarah Powell, widow, charged with stealing a quantity of rags belonging to N. Hougnerz. Prosecutor had employed her as a rag-sorter; the work being done at her cottage. It was found she had stored in the cottage a large quantity of rags which she had accumulated during many years by keeping a few from each lot she sorted. The prosecutor said he would be willing to give her employment again at his stores. He urged the Bench to be lenient. Three months.

Winter Season, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

East Norton Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Palmer, Messrs. C. B. Fernie, W. H. Kendall, and T. Burton. Arthur Henry Turnbull, farmer, convicted of assaulting the Rev. W. Chippendall. Defendant violently assaulted complainant, holding him by the beard and punching him in the face. Both complainant's eyes were blackened, part of his beard was torn out, and a tooth was driven, he said, "right down his throat." Fined £2, including costs, the Chairman remarking that "the magistrates thought they ought to have imposed a heavier penalty."

Heywood Police-court. Before Mr. T. Mackison and other justices. Samuel Wolstenholme, summoned for cruelty to a horse by allowing it to be worked while in an unfit state. The horse was an aged animal, exceedingly lame, and in great pain. The tendons were badly contracted, and there was inflammation of the parts. Under the saddle was an old sore. Fined 5s. and costs.

Dorking Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Calvers and other magistrates. Mark Bacon, charged with working a horse in an unfit state, and Jesse Gatehouse, charged with causing it to be so worked. The animal was described as thin and emaciated, very weak, lame in the near hock, spavined, and, in fact, literally worn out. Fined 10s. each and costs.

Bromyard Petty Sessions. Before Captain Enderby, Messrs. Cresswell, Jenks, and McIntosh. Herbert Lewis and his wife, charged with stealing one piece of coal, valued at threepence. The coal was taken from the yard of a beerhouse where prisoners had been drinking. The woman pleaded guilty, but said her husband knew nothing about the theft. Seven days each.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Gillespie. John Muirhead, charged with poaching. Fined £4.

Bearsted Petty Sessions. Frederick Smith, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2, and 12s. 6d. costs.

Salford Hundred Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. W. Goldthorpe. Jane Hile, an elderly woman, pleaded guilty to stealing a shawl. Twelve months.

Kingsclere Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. Holding, E. H. Fox, and A. Southby, and Sir F. W. Carden. Charles Cross, charged with poaching. Two months.

At Larne Police-court the other day a tramp named M'Donald was charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and with having assaulted a constable; and on the evidence of the police the magistrates committed him for seven days' imprisonment for the first offence and two months for the second. So far as the charge of assault is concerned there is reason to believe that M'Donald was very unjustly punished. His arrest for drunkenness was witnessed by a number of people, and it is alleged that two policemen trailed him along the road by the arms almost the entire way, and that the only assault which he could be said to have committed was that he attempted to free himself from this brutal treatment. The crowd which gathered loudly protested against the conduct of the police, but were promptly driven away. If the magistrates who heard the case, Mr. A. Williams and Colonel M'Neill, would take the trouble to make a few independent inquiries, they would probably find that, in the matter of the assault, M'Donald was more sinned against than sinning.

They seem to manage swindlers better in Ireland than we do on this side of St. George's Channel. Mr. Fred. J. Mason, of Oswestry, who was last week convicted at Galway Assizes on various charges of fraud, and sentenced by Mr. Justice Holmes to three years' penal servitude, is a conspicuous example of this. This man, under the name of "Mason & Co.," was fully exposed in Truth a year or more ago, and I have from time to time repeated my warnings in the interval. The English police, however, did not feel called upon to interfere, and newspapers all over the country continued to publish Mason's advertisements. One of these advertisements met the eye of an intelligent officer in the Royal Irish

Constabulary, who was also a reader of TRUTH. He answered the advertisement, and eventually, after much labour and difficulty, brought Mason to justice. Why cannot our police do a little business of this kind? Mason's particular "lay" was the "Home Employment" swindle. There are plenty still left at the game, and a perusal of the columns of TRUTH will quickly show where they are to be found.

Many curiosities of bankruptcy administration have been brought to light at one time and another, but I have come across nothing to compare with the case *Re* Robert Wilson, which was before Mr. Registrar Linklater one day last week. This bankruptcy commenced in the year 1811, and seems to have been jogging along placidly ever since. In the course of eighty-five years dividends of 19s. in the £ have been paid, and it was announced last week that further funds have come to hand, which will probably enable nearly another shilling in the £ to be paid. It will doubtless be a highly gratifying circumstance to the creditors who put Mr. Wilson into bankruptcy in 1811 when they finally receive their 20s. in the £, and one can easily understand the rapture with which the debtor will receive his long-deferred order of discharge. I trust he will find it useful, wherever he is. What I should chiefly like to know, however, is the exact amount that has been spent in the course of eighty-five years in realising and distributing Mr. Wilson's estate. The costs in Jarndyce *v.* Jarndyce would probably be insignificant by the side of this little bill.

It is satisfactory to know that some good results occasionally follow from the exposure in these columns of the area-gate touts who prey upon servant girls. A gentleman at Reigate, who had been reading TRUTH, recently found that an emissary of "Howard & Co." 611, Chiswick High-road, had left a watch and chain with one of his servants entirely against the girl's will, and that an invoice for £2. 8s. had been forwarded. The master had the watch valued, and found it to be worth about 12s. 6d., which I take to be the normal value of this class of goods. He then wrote to Howard & Co. that the watch must be taken away, that he declined to return it at his own or the girl's cost, and that he would not be responsible for it if not fetched within seven days. Howard & Co. at once climbed down, and forwarded 4½d. for the return of the watch. The old story!

Another example of this class of trade comes from the West End. On receiving a visit from a canvasser, who was endeavouring to sell a monthly issue of the plays of Shakespeare, a tradesman agreed to purchase one number, taking care to have a witness by him as he signed the order. In due course attempts were made to foist upon him other numbers. On his refusal to take them he received a printed letter from Mr. A. W. Cowan, of 30 and 31, New Bridge-street, E.C., beginning thus:—

SIR,—My deliverer informs me that you refuse to take in the plays of Shakespeare.

I beg to remind you that I hold your written order for this work until completed, and, having paid the canvasser his commission for obtaining it, your non-compliance will entail upon me a serious loss.

Under these circumstances, I must ask you to fulfil the order given.

The parts will be again forwarded you in the usual course.

Should you then refuse to receive them, I shall have no other alternative but that of suing you for goods tendered, &c.

The recipient of this letter replied that he could prove that he had not ordered the whole work, and that Mr. Cowan could sue him if he pleased. Mr. C. has not done so as yet. The curious point about this case is that the letter threatening proceedings is printed throughout, with the exception of the name of the work referred to. From this it would seem to be a regular incident in Mr. Cowan's business for people to disclaim having ordered his publications, and to be dealt with by this stereotyped threat of legal proceedings. I take it that it is an equally common incident that these threats come to nothing when the party threatened takes no notice of them.

Since writing the above, I have come across a still more remarkable curiosity of the book-canvassing trade. The principals in this instance are Messrs. Blackie & Son, Limited, of Liverpool. A canvasser from this firm called on a corporation official at a Midland town and solicited an order for an encyclopædia, representing that, in consideration of the appearance of the official's name on the list of subscribers, he would be allowed to take the work at 12s. per volume instead of one guinea—the price to undistinguished members of the public. After some consideration, the order was given on one of the usual forms. A day or two afterwards the first volume was delivered by another representative of Blackie & Son, when the purchaser discovered that 12s. per volume was the ordinary price to all sections of the public alike. He at once wrote to Messrs. Blackie & Son, repudiating the order. This was the reply:—

19, Islington, Liverpool, November 18, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—We have received your letter to-day, and in reply beg to point out to you that before we send out any parts or volumes of the Encyclopædia we print a prospectus of the same, and prepare a specimen so that intending purchasers may see for themselves and judge of the work before they order. Such a specimen Mr. Hy. Leese submitted to you, and in order to protect the public as well as ourselves against any mistake or wrong statement the traveller may make, who works on commission only, we print an order form as plain as possible, setting forth the number of volumes, price, &c. If after we have done this such a gentleman as yourself allows himself to be deceived, surely he ought not to throw the onus of the blame on us.

Under the circumstances we are unable to accept cancellation of your order, a copy of which is enclosed for perusal.—Yours truly, BLACKIE & SON, LIMITED.

This is about as cool a communication as I have ever come across. In plain English it comes to this: "We employ a canvasser on commission. We take sundry precautions to prevent his swindling the public in our name. In spite of our precautions, he has swindled you in our name. If you are such a fool as to be swindled, you must take the consequences. We intend to avail ourselves of our agent's superior intelligence, and hold you to the contract which you have been swindled into signing." I am told that Messrs. Blackie & Son are a highly respectable firm. They need be.

About this time last year, comment appeared in TRUTH upon a circular issued by Messrs. Batey & Co., of Munster-road, Fulham, suggesting to their customers that instead of tipping Messrs. Batey & Co.'s employees individually at Christmas they should forward their

BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Pure & wholesome, assists digestion.
BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Guaranteed to be free from alum.
BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. It has the largest sale in the world.

offerings to Batey & Co. themselves, who would see that they were properly distributed. I see now that Messrs. Batey & Co. have been advertising for a clerk, who must be a married man, and who is offered the magnificent stipend of 25s. a week. Presumably the advertisers consider that it would be impossible to get a competent and trustworthy man at such a miserable price, unless he were some improvident clerk who has given hostages to fortune in the shape of a wife and children. However, I trust that I shall soon see Messrs. Batey & Co. whipping up their customers again for further Christmas boxes for the staff; for if this firm cannot pay their clerks more liberally themselves, the least they can do is to try and get something for them out of their customers.

Here is a little matter which an anxious parent asks me to bring to the notice of the Edinburgh *Evening Despatch.* As part of a weekly column or so of college notes and news, with which that paper specially appeals to the local student community, it conspicuously prints an advertisement informing the same class of readers where they can raise money on the security of books, surgical dressing-cases, watches, &c. The young men at Edinburgh University are fortunate if they have no more insidious and baneful temptation than this placed in their way; but still that is no reason why a respectable journal should spread such a net for spendthrifts.

One John Thompson, "phrenologist, hygienist, and publisher," of Broughton House, South Cliff, Scarborough, has fairly beaten all records in the use of religious cant for commercial purposes. In a circular headed "Christmas Presents" Thompson begins:—

Dear Madam,—We are approaching a season of the year which Christian nations celebrate as the anniversary of the birth of Christ. What a travesty on the life and labours of Christ that people who profess to be His followers should spend this season in eating, drinking, balls, and spending time and money in things that gratify the lusts of the flesh, and that blunt or destroy the finer aspirations of the soul. It would be more becoming if people would do something to improve their minds, morals, and bodies. There will be much killing of oxen, geese, turkeys, ducks, &c., to feast the stomach. There will be presents of wine and other "good things" for the body, but not a thought for the mind—not a thing for the soul that Christ lived and died for. Few people will make presents of books to elevate, improve, instruct, warn, or help the immortal part of man. . . ."

Thompson then calls attention to the merits of his own publications from this point of view. And the beauty of it is that several of these works, judging from their titles, would provide precisely the sort of moral elevation for which you would generally look in Holywell-street.

I wonder whether the progress of education will ever result in enlightening the "lower orders" of the public as to the humbug of "clairvoyance." A "prodigious sensation" is reported to have been created in Cambridgeshire by the performances of a "Mrs. Rochelle," who is travelling about with her husband and a miscellaneous musical and conjuring entertainment. Not only have a large number of bumpkins become persuaded that this lady is the possessor of "occult" gifts, but the editor of one of the local papers seems to have been either taken in or to have been conspiring with the showman to mystify his readers. A Mr. R. F. Bertolle, of March, writes a letter to the Press informing the public that he "has investigated clairvoyance with a keen interest for many years, ... and knows the power to be a positive fact." I could truthfully say as much as this myself. No great amount of investigation is needed to discover that the power in question—the power of imposing upon fools—is not only a "positive fact," but one of the greatest factors in the course of human affairs.

George Thomas is a new acquaintance among money-lenders, but he is evidently entitled to a prominent place in my gallery of extortioners. Thomas recently sued a brewery labourer named Kelcey, in the Burton-on-Trent County Court, for £13. 10s., and it appeared that the defendant had borrowed £10 on the understanding that he was to pay back £11 at the end of three months. Thomas, however, induced him to sign a second promissory note, which he substituted for the original one, and Kelcey afterwards found that under this document he was required to pay back £13. 10s. "on demand," so that if the usurer had called for his money next day the interest would have been at the rate of something like 13,000 per cent. per annum. As it was, reckoning from the date of the loan to that of the demand for repayment, the rate was 1,000 per cent. It is satisfactory to record that the blood-sucker did not get even this, the Judge giving judgment for the defendant.

The following seasonable announcement appears in the *Exchange and Mart.* For aught I know the property may be, as stated, "a bargain," but a man who could derive satisfaction from a bargain in this line must be of a somewhat sombre turn of mind—unless, of course, he were contemplating homicide on a large scale:—

BARGAIN.—Lady leaving England permanently must sell family grave, hold five, marble slab. Meredith, &c.

The day on which the law allowed motor carriages to use the public roads was, we were told by the Press, to mark an epoch, and much ink was wasted in describing the thousands of these carriages that would at once fill the public thoroughfares. I saw on that epoch-making day a file of the most ramshackle conveyances, either emitting smoke or stink, pass over Westminster Bridge under the guidance of the Mr. Lawson, who has since asked the public to give him and his friends three millions for some patents in connection with them. I have since then seen one motor omnibus stuck fast in Whitehall, and two engines drawing trucks very slowly. When are we to have motor omnibuses, motor carriages, and motor cabs? I had imagined, in my ignorant credulity, that they were impatiently panting to issue from their coachhouses on the day that the law gave them a right of way.

No man ought to be punished on account of his opinions. For the London and North-Western Railway Company to have asked its employees, who are members of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, whether they would obey the orders of their society, if called upon to strike, and to turn them off because they replied that they would, was one of the most monstrous acts of injustice ever perpetrated by a railway Board. The society had demanded certain alterations in hours of

labour and wage. There was no evidence that a strike was even contemplated. But to act on the principle that no employee of a railroad is under any circumstances to join in a strike ordered by his union, is to attack the principle of unionism, for this principle involves the right to strike under grievances that the employers decline to remedy. Far more simple would it have been for the North-Western Directors to announce that no man in their employ could be allowed to join a union. I am glad that the North-Western Board have seen the error of their ways, and have agreed to reinstate the discharged men, as a preliminary to discussion.

The Midland Railway Company have just given a further example of what can be done to make railway travelling a luxury by constructing new first-class dining carriages, fitted with every convenience that could be expected in a first-class hotel or restaurant. These cars are to run regularly between London and Manchester, and they will be a blessing both to those who object to sacrificed business to dinner, and those who object to sacrifice dinner to business.

A correspondent, who has been reading Sir Harry Johnston's somewhat paradoxical speech at the Colonial Institute last week, sends me the following metrical comments upon it:—

THE BLESSINGS OF CIVILISATION.

Sir Harry Johnston, K.C.B.,
On one point holds a view most curious:
Free-trade in spirits, he asserts,
Is not 'mongst native tribes injurious.
To importation stop, says he,
Confers of benefit no particle,
For black-men, barred from British brands,
Drink an inferior home-made article.

Therefore, he argues, in effect,
Since native brews make Fuzzy sicker,
He'd better far, when he imbibes,
Get drunk on well-made British liquor.
For then, when quickly he succumbs,
He has at least the satisfaction
Of knowing he's helped British trade
By his inebriative action.

Alas! though, Fuzzy little thinks
(So great his mental obfuscation),
How much, in many other ways,
He owes to British occupation.
But for our pure philanthropy,
Which him in closer quarters squeezes,
He'd never have the chance to die
Of first-class civilised diseases.

But for our aid he might be doomed
On patriarchal age to border,
And then—the pity of it!—sink
'Neath some low, native-born disorder.
Whereas—unless he leads a life
Of isolation, like a weasel's—
He's now a chance to die at once,
As we do, of small-pox or measles!

Again, when formerly he fought,
His fate was one our souls to harrow;
For he was roughly assegaied,
Or wounded by some clumsy arrow;
But now should he attempt to fight,
When unremorselessly we tax him,
He's killed in scientific style
By a "Lee-Metford" or a "Maxim"!

So Fuzzy, though he knows it not,
Should raise his voice in acclamation,
And bless the gods for their great gift—
The gift of British occupation:
For thanks to that, on this at least,
He now may reckon most securely;
His death will be quite "up to date,"
Although it happens prematurely!

The Liberal Party is on its very last legs. Mr. Guthrie has announced that one of his reasons for not coming forward as a candidate in Forfarshire is, that Lord Rosebery has resigned the Leadership of the Liberal Party, but, he adds, that if his Lordship would again agree to become Leader, then Forfarshire might possibly be privileged to elect Mr. Guthrie as its member. The loss of Mr. Guthrie, as a Liberal candidate, is so very serious a matter to the Liberal Party, that I really think that we ought to consider the expediency of entrusting him with the duty of selecting the Peer to lead us who finds favour in his eyes, if only on these terms we can hope that he will consent to enter Parliament. Some people, however, will be inclined to ask who Mr. Guthrie is? As a politician he is absolutely unknown. He did get in once for a Northamptonshire constituency, but he lost his seat at the last General Election. He seemed an amiable and harmless young gentleman, but as a candidate he did not strike me as endowed with such exceptional excellences as to render his loss to his Party a matter of vital importance.

All the noble army of cadgers who masquerade as Radicals with a view to being rewarded by their grateful Leader with a peerage or a baronetcy, are fanatically attached to the Peer Premier heresy. They have money, and if they spend it, they look forward to their outlay being blessed to them. As they usually are political incapables it would be almost impossible to bestow upon them the smallest official position, but any moneyed fool is clever enough to be converted into an hereditary legislator or a baronet.

We have often come forward to relieve distress in foreign countries, and no foreigner has ever questioned our philanthropic intent. A meanness of this character has been reserved for our own Jingoes. Corn has been purchased in Russia by public subscription to feed those suffering from the famine in India, and the Russian Government has undertaken to forward it free of cost to its destination. Our Jingo organs, instead of expressing their gratitude, assert that they feel "uneasy" at the effect on India of natives being saved from starvation by Russia! It would seem, therefore, according to them, that rather than allow our Indian fellow-subjects to be fed by Russia we ought to leave them to die.

I shall be very curious to see what form the advance to the Egyptian Government will take when it is submitted for approval to the House of Commons. It is difficult to contest the legality of the decision which orders restitution of the £500,000 abstracted from the reserve funds of the *Caisse de la Dette*. When a composition was made between Egypt and her creditors, the latter

No aperient water can boast of such sure and beneficial purgative efficacy as the "Franz Josef." It was known on the Continent 20 years ago, and is now sold everywhere.—Head office, Budapest.

agreed to a reduction in their interest on the ground, that certain specified revenues should be handed over to an International Commission for the payment of interest and liquidation of the debt by a sinking fund; all surplus funds coming in any year from these hypothecated revenues being set aside to meet possible deficiency for interest and sinking fund in any subsequent year. As the International Commissioners are in the nature of trustees, it is clear that it requires the consent of all of them to agree to any portion of the accrued surplus being devoted to the conquest of the Soudan; and even were they to grant this request, they would be untrue to their trust. By the terms of the composition, Egypt is precluded from making any new loans. The only way in which she could make herself liable for the £500,000 advanced by us would be by a very strained interpretation of the right that she has to float £1,000,000 of Treasury Bills; for certainly this right was not intended to cover the advance of a loan of £500,000 by a foreign Power. But assuming that she can issue this loan, how are the further advances to be met that will be needed if the conquest of the Soudan is to be continued?

SCRUTATOR.

A BRAHMIN ON DUAL LEADERSHIP.

I AM an admirer of Sir Henry Fowler—up to a point. He is not precisely what I should call a Radical, but, as Secretary for India, he showed himself an able administrator, and his speeches are always clear and incisive. Addressing a Wolverhampton audience last week he professed a love and admiration for Lord Rosebery of a very effusive description; but what, it would seem, particularly excites these feelings in his breast is, I gather, that his Lordship chivalrously and patriotically proclaimed, by his resignation of the Leadership of the Liberal Party, his disagreement with Mr. Gladstone's suggested mode of dealing with the Sultan. Sir William Fowler then went on to deduce, from the story of the differences between Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston, that it is somewhat of an advantage to the Liberal Party to have two Leaders. "If in those days," he continued, "there had been a periodical devoted to the weekly circulation of truth, what confidential revelations would have mystified, and amused, and surprised the public!"

I do not agree with the dual Leaderhip theory, for it is even more absurd than Bimetallism; but I would point out that the differences between Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston were personal, not political. Lord John Russell turned Lord Palmerston out of his Cabinet for having sent off a despatch to one of our Ambassadors abroad without first having submitted it to the Queen. Lord Palmerston reciprocated by turning Lord Russell and his Cabinet out of office, as a "tit for tat." The case between Lord Rosebery and Sir William Harcourt is essentially different. What the "periodical devoted to the weekly circulation of truth" has stated is, that immediately after the last General Election Lord Rosebery informed his late colleagues by letter that he would no longer hold any political communication with the Leader of the Party in the Commons. Practically this announcement amounted to a resignation of the Leadership of the Party, unless Sir William were dismissed from the Leadership in the Commons, for Sir William Fowler would, I should imagine, hardly be inclined to carry his doctrine of dual Leadership so far as to assert that the Party could thrive under two Leaders, one of whom declined to hold any communication with the other on political issues. A year later, Lord Rosebery announced his resignation of the Leadership, basing it upon a divergency of opinion with Mr. Gladstone on the Armenian question; although, as a matter of fact, Lord Rosebery had himself in a previous speech urged that very isolated action that he ascribed to Mr. Gladstone, but which—also as a matter of fact—Mr. Gladstone himself never suggested. On the resignation becoming public, Lord Rosebery's friends denounced Sir William Harcourt for having "betrayed" Lord Rosebery. All that I have sought to do has been to give to Liberals an opportunity to form their own judgment, with a full knowledge of all the facts, as to the occurrences which culminated in the resignation of Lord Rosebery. The public resignation of the Leadership was the necessary outcome of the situation created by Lord Rosebery, and the so-called difference of opinion between Lord Rosebery and Mr. Gladstone was only a peg on which to hang this public resignation.

One thing at least is certain: Lord Rosebery's refusal to act with Sir William Harcourt was penned long previous to Mr. Gladstone's public expression of his views on the Armenian question. His continuance as nominal Leader of the Party, after that refusal, paralysed all united action. The Liberal Party ought at once to have been made aware of it, but it was not; for the official gang appears to have considered that the Liberal Party was no more entitled to be informed of the serious state of things that had occurred, than if they had been a litter of blind puppies. Even now attempts are made by innuendo to imply that Lord Rosebery never did refuse to act with Sir William Harcourt, or, that if he did, he was justified in taking this course. By all means let us have the correspondence, together with any reasons that Lord Rosebery can allege in justification of his strange action. What shocks Radicals is the hole-and-corner fashion in which Lord Rosebery was made Liberal Leader and the hole-and-corner way in which he ceased to be Leader. The selection of a Leader and the reasons why the selected Leader declines to act with the House of Commons' Leader, are not matters that concern alone some dozen official Brahmins. A full, clear, and explicit explanation is due to the Party. That men of capacity as administrators, and by no means averse to afford their country an opportunity to benefit by this capacity, should be desirous to convert

"Segamah" Borneo Cigars, suitable for Xmas Presents.
"Segamah" Borneo Cigars, equal to the finest Havannahs.
Borneo Association, 63, Cheapside, E.C. Samples by post, 1s.

their Party into a sort of syndicate, banded together with the one aim of securing to itself the distribution of offices, is not very surprising, for it is strictly in conformity with human nature. Probably they persuade themselves that this aim is in accordance with the true interests of the country, and that all else should be subordinated to it. When, therefore, they fall out amongst themselves, their object is to conceal divergencies of opinion that may conflict with office being entrusted to them. In fact, they would act on the old adage by washing their dirty linen privately. But if Sir William Fowler really holds that Lord Rosebery is the embodiment of the views on which the Liberal Party is to be floated back into office, he would do well to realise that any endeavour to do this will result in Radicals declining any longer to act with Liberal officialdom. They left the policy of the Party, and the means to carry into effect this policy, in the hands of this officialdom, and the result was the most disastrous defeat of modern times. What is the use of these gentlemen celebrating each other's virtues and calling on Radicals to tread once more the road that has led them to perdition? If Sir William Fowler really believes that Radicals are likely to allow themselves once again, in spite of the experience of the past, to be led into the bog in which they hopelessly floundered until the country stepped in to administer the *coup de grâce* to them, he must deem them the daftest of dolts that ever termed themselves a Party.

THE FAR EASTERN QUESTION.

Strange, indeed, is it that there are persons who actually imagined that Russia would build a railroad through Siberia, thus connecting Europe with the Pacific, and then consent to its Eastern terminus remaining a port closed to shipping for the greater part of the year. Such, however, seems to have been the mental obscuration of a good many. They cannot clear their brains of the illusion that Providence made Asia to serve as a dumping ground for goods manufactured in the British Isles, and that any interference with this divine law is a crime against God and England so atrocious that it is hardly conceivable that it can be entertained by any intelligent human being. Whether the Treaty which has been published between Russia and China be correct in its details, I do not know—and, judging by experience, it is probably incorrect—but that a somewhat similar treaty will be the outcome of the Siberian Railroad, I do not entertain a doubt. With the railroad once made, Russia can always mass an army which might, without serious resistance, occupy Pekin; and this fact, which is based upon geography, is independent of all treaties. We are told that we ought to consider any treaty which makes Russia paramount in Manchuria, and gives her an open harbour on the Pacific, so harmful to our interests in the far East, that if we do not declare that we will resist by arms its provisions being carried into effect, we must meet it by ourselves laying hands on a portion of Southern China. Sorry, indeed, should I be to hear that we had taken upon ourselves the responsibilities of ruling the Chinese, for the weak joint in our Empire is the number of subject races already within its confines. Such an annexation would, indeed, hardly be to our commercial benefit, for we should have to allow other nations to trade on equal terms with ourselves in "British China," and Germany would take advantage of this to compete with us there, whilst we should have to accept the costs and risks of keeping up the Civil Government. What we have a right to demand is, that the Chinese market shall remain as open to us as to any other Power, for this has been secured to us by treaties. Beyond this, it would be foolish to go.

That Russia should bring the Province of Manchuria within the sphere of her political influence is a matter which concerns that country and China. I see nothing more monstrous in it than that we should have annexed Burmah to our Indian Empire. Indeed, given the Siberian railway, Russia could hardly do otherwise. Our action in Central Asia, as in Turkey, has long been a negation of all justice and humanity. There were in Central Asia a number of Khanates, and so vile were their Governments, that they were a scandal to civilisation. We could not well deal with these blots on the face of Asia, but we objected to Russia doing so, because their barbarism acted as a barrier against Russian advance towards India. We failed in our detestable policy, and now these Khanates form a portion of the Russian Empire, with which they are connected by roads and railways. Russia, according to our view of the fitness of things, was eternally to be cribbed, cabined, and confined in Asia within the regions of snow and ice; whilst, in Europe, she was to be allowed no access to the sea. As our nearest route to the East lies through the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, we maintained the Turk in Europe in order to keep Russia from approaching our sea way. A railroad through Siberia gives to Russia a direct land route to the far East. It makes Russia the neighbour of China in reality as well as in name. We are not able to prevent this railroad being made, but we—as it would seem—had expected that we might be able to hinder Russia from deriving commercial advantage from it; and there are those amongst us who would actually have us go to war in pursuit of so hopeless an undertaking.

My own conviction is that the day will some time come when the Chinese and the Japanese with their cheap labour will manufacture for themselves most of the articles that Europe now sends to them; indeed, it would not surprise me if they were eventually to compete with us for European markets. But in the meantime, and so long as the far East is supplied with goods from European manufactories, we shall do well to be well equipped with the means to get our fair share of the trade. This should be done, not by seeking to dictate the law to other European Powers, nor by annexations, nor by building each year more and more ships of war, nor by war or threats of war, but by manufacturing the goods that are most in request amongst the inhabitants of the far East; by gaining a good name for these goods, and by having intelligent agents to learn what is wanted, and how

it can best be brought to the notice of those who want it.

Far more reasonable would it be for us to spend public money in schools to educate good and efficient workmen, and good and efficient commercial travellers, than in iron clads. Time was when we had a manufacturing monopoly We alone had capital and skilled labour. This monopoly we have lost. We have competitors, and formidable competitors. We must accept the fact, and make the best of it. The Armenian massacres have had at least one good result. The public conscience will no longer allow us to consign millions of human beings to perpetual misery and misgovernment for the sake of our supposed political interests.

THE PEDAGOGUE AND THE PUPIL.

The Governors of Coventry Grammar School met last week, and passed a resolution rescinding the expulsion of the boy whose case has been dealt with in TRUTH. So far so good. The decision of the Governors is the most unequivocal justification that could have been given of my comments on their previous resolution. I remarked in last week's TRUTH that the expulsion of the boy was so unjustifiable that it could only be explained on the assumption that the Governors did not understand the facts when they passed their resolution. In the paragraph in the *Coventry Herald* announcing the decision arrived at last week, it is now stated, with an air of authority, that the resolution of expulsion "proceeded on the assumption that the boy was still a member of the school, and that he would return to it at the next term. In point of fact the boy had finally left. The resolution as to expulsion, therefore, could not apply. . . ." Stopping for a moment at this point, it will be seen that it is now admitted, as I have asserted from the first, that the boy had left the school before the resolution to expel him was arrived at, and that my inference that the resolution was, under such circumstances, *ultra vires*, is accepted as a matter of course. This completely disposes of the most important point in the case, though it would certainly be interesting to know how the Governors came to be uninformed on a point which entirely determined, one way or the other, the validity of their action.

This is not the end, however, of the Governors' action. They have taken another step on which a good deal requires to be said; but before coming to it, it will be convenient to dispose of two communications addressed to me in reference to what was said in last week's TRUTH. The first is from Mr. H. C. Perrin, Mus. Bac., who, I understand, conducted the examination for the musical scholarship. He writes:—

> I shall feel greatly obliged if you will in your next issue inform your readers that the statements made with regard to myself and the musical scholarship at King Henry VIII. School are unauthorised by me. Also, that I do not know the sources of the information upon which those statements are based, and that the facts as set forth in your article are so distorted and misrepresented as to be decidedly more fiction than fact. However, as I do not consider TRUTH the proper place to discuss the matter, I shall not enter into details. . . .

As TRUTH is the paper to which the matter was communicated by various parties concerned, and as the school authorities have themselves twice communicated their version of the facts to TRUTH, it is a decided impertinence to all parties for Mr. Perrin to accompany a contradiction of statements which have been made, with an expression of his opinion that TRUTH is not the proper place to discuss the matter. I take it that this gentleman, for reasons which may be guessed, is unwilling to figure personally in the controversy, and I have no objection to oblige him by stating that he is not directly responsible for what has appeared respecting his action. But indirectly he is responsible, because what I have stated on the subject is derived from what he has himself told other people. If he wishes now to contradict anything that has been attributed to him, he ought either to do so specifically or to keep silence. The allegations in which he is concerned are that he placed at the top of his list the boy who was placed last in the final award, and that he subsequently took exception to the award, and asserted that the boy he placed first was the best musician. If he declines now to state how far this is correct and how far inaccurate, as it is founded on what he has told other people I must decline to give any weight to his contradiction. Will Mr. Perrin deny this—that after the examination he informed the father of the boy whom he placed first that his son had been successful, and congratulated him on the boy's success? If he did that, how can he seriously suggest now that his share in the transaction has been misrepresented?

The other communication above referred to is from Mr. E. W. Dorrington, one of the Assistant Masters. As it has already been communicated to the local press, it is unnecessary for me to reproduce it *in extenso*, but here is the passage dealing with the case of the boy who was expelled:—

> I. The Latin Play for Speech Day was regarded as a piece of school work, and all rehearsals took place during school hours.
>
> Had the boy expressed any real objection to taking part in the play there would have been no compulsion put upon him.
>
> There was no idea whatever of throwing the boy over at the last moment. There was an idea that the boy might throw us over: hence the "understudy"!
>
> II. Our statement was intended to show that the Headmaster had no knowledge of the boy leaving. We ourselves were entirely ignorant of the fact, and so, we believe, was the Headmaster.
>
> III. The Headmaster's "recommendation" was published in the programme for Speech Day, July 27, the election to the Lane Exhibition taking place at the next meeting of the Church Charity Trustees.

In regard to the first two paragraphs here, it is a somewhat singular fact that, though no compulsion was employed, there was an idea that the boy might throw up his part, and that the "understudy" was brought in for this reason. It is scarcely credible that if the boy spontaneously undertook to play, he would have contemplated deserting at the last moment. This passage in Mr. Dorrington's letter seems to indicate pretty clearly that relations between the school authorities and this boy were somewhat strained long before the letter was written on which he was expelled, and in this fact may possibly be found a motive for the strong animus that has been shown against him. With regard to the correction as to the preparation of the play having been part of the school work, the mistake here was mine, and was due to what I had heard as to the boy having had to walk twelve or fourteen miles a day during the preparation of a play in the winter. But whatever the Masters may now

say, I believe that there is no doubt that both the boy and his parents objected to his being put into the Speech Day play. As to Mr. Dorrington's second paragraph, the evidence is as strong as it can be that the boy was allowed to remain at the school for the summer term at the Headmaster's request, and for the sole reason that he might go in for the Oxford Local Examination from the school. What the Assistant Masters "believe" that the Headmaster knew is not evidence, and I may here remark that it seems to me that it would have been much more satisfactory if the direct statements of the Headmaster on these points had been put forward, instead of the Assistant Masters' account of what they have heard from him. If an official reply on a matter of this kind is to be made by the school authorities, the Headmaster is the proper person to make it.

With regard to the musical exhibition, Mr. Dorrington writes:—

> IV.—The Examiners for the Musical Scholarship were not to elect the scholar; they were asked to assign marks (1) for instrumental playing, (2) for a paper in theory and harmony. The Headmaster adjudicated on the result.

Just so. And the question is, on what principle the Headmaster adjudicated, and how he came to put last a boy whom one examiner put first. The important question, who was the second examiner, Mr. Dorrington strangely omits to notice.

The last paragraph in the letter states that the Headmaster has only one residence—private and official—and that the young ladies educated with his daughters have been boarded in the private portion of the residence, and have never been taught by masters of the school. This disposes of one minor point, but without fuller information than I possess respecting all the circumstances, I cannot say how far it settles finally the question of the position of the young-lady boarders in the Headmaster's house. The great question, to my mind, is whether this arrangement has the formal sanction of the Trustees. If it has, *cadit quæstio*.

Now to return to the case of the boy who was expelled. The Governors, at their meeting last week, after rescinding the resolution of expulsion, substituted for it a further resolution, advising the Headmaster that no certificate of good conduct should be given to the boy until he had made the apology required. This makes the matter little better than it was before. Expulsion being clearly an act *ultra vires* in the case of a boy who has left, the Governors have simply cast about for some means of injuring this boy, or forcing from him an apology for a trivial indiscretion committed before he left. The position of affairs will be more clearly understood when I mention that no demand of any kind for an apology has ever yet been made to the boy himself. The statement of the Masters, in their letter published last week, that the boy was given "more than one opportunity of apologising," appears to be inaccurate. The only communications on the subject of an apology that have passed were two letters addressed by the Headmaster to the father, which the father regarded as impertinent, and, therefore, left unanswered. The boy's father can of course now please himself as to whether he will let his boy eat humble-pie after the arbitrary and unjust manner in which he has been treated, or whether he will stand on his dignity, and trust to the existing records of the boy's exemplary conduct during his seven years at the school, as a sufficient answer to the malicious attempt to injure him after he has left. But whichever course is adopted, the action of the Governors is equally discreditable to them. Although they knew at their meeting last week that they had been once deceived on a most material point in the case, they seem to have taken no steps to make more sure of their ground this time. They have held no inquiry into the circumstances preceding the writing of the letter which got the boy into trouble; and they have made no attempt to do justice between the boy's father and the school authorities. Their only idea of their duty in the matter seems to be to support the Headmaster through thick and thin, and if they cannot damage the boy in one way to damage him in another. It is not surprising that there should be strong local dissatisfaction with the management of a school, the Governing Body of which takes so singular a view of its responsibilities and duties; and if, on further reflection, the Governors do not see their mistake a second time, higher authority should be invoked for the purpose of bringing it home to them.

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAY.

London this Christmas presents a very curious spectacle. In London proper there is to be but one pantomime, viz., that at Drury Lane. But just outside London we are completely fringed round with pantomimes of all descriptions, and the suburbs offer far more attractions than the "West End." The mere word pantomime is an anachronism. It is not a pantomime at all, at least not as I remember one many years ago. The harlequinades and comic scenes belonging so essentially to the Christmas pantomimes of days that are, alas! no more, have dwindled down into shadows, and even the shadows are growing smaller and beautifully less. No, the so-called pantomime of to-day is solely and chiefly a "variety show." It contains ballets, dances, comic songs, topical allusions, breakdowns, nigger melodies—everything, in fact, that is provided at the best ordered music-hall. If you like to call it "Aladdin," "Sindbad," "Mother Goose," "Little Red Riding Hood," or "Cinderella," do so by all means; but they are only names which really embrace a brilliant variety entertainment. And all these "side shows" look as if they were going to be uncommonly well done indeed, as if no expense whatever is to be spared on them; so that here for the first time in London, 1896, we shall have the Grand Christmas Competition of the suburban theatres competing with the West End, with cheaper rates, with playhouses quite as comfortable and attractive-looking, and with artists not a bit inferior. It will be a novel and curious experience, no matter which way it turns out.

THE LADY JOURNALIST.

I paid a damp but cheerful visit to the "Woman's World" the other afternoon, and came away hopelessly mystified, painfully unconvinced, and brilliantly dull. The author's spectacles must be made of smoked glass, for he seems to see all his characters through a thick fog, which atmosphere he carefully conveys to his audience, and it is useless to attempt to penetrate the obscure, meaningless, and indefinite reason for such a veritable "storm in a teacup," which is presumably the plot of this quaint play. Conceive a very up-to-date, matter-of-fact independent lady journalist, who is always entreating the opposite sex to "come to the point at once," to "be concise," business-like, and, above all, not to waste her valuable time—every moment of which is worth a big bit more than six and eightpence—suddenly, and without rhyme or anything else, falling a victim to the "tender passion" through the insinuating advances of one of the most swindling, double-dyed, deceitful, nothing-ever-seen-like-it lady-killers ever created by man. This same extraordinary heroine, after discovering her lover dandling another fair siren on his fickle knee, is awarded, as a recompense for her bruised heart and lacerated feelings, the post of manageress of a newspaper possessing a staff of lady journalists who are nothing more or less than a gang of ruffianly blackmailers. Why didn't such a goodly crew of strong women turn and cut the hero into dramatic mincemeat in their female newspaper instead of trying to sympathise with the limp heroine over the loss of such a shoddy trickster? It was no use trying to mend matters with a bit of sham sentiment in the last act. The whole scheme is cheap and tawdry from start to finish. Esmé Beringer worked hard as the ill-used Constance Glyn; but the more brilliant the acting the more inconsistent appears the "Woman's World."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE APOTHEOSIS OF BERNHARDT.

THE Sarah Bernhardt festival was very Parisian, and *tout à fait* "Vie Parisienne." Before going farther, I shall say that Sarah, in dress, in youthful spirits, in physical grace—and, when she did not pile up agonies on the stage—was delightful. She was full of charm; every one said how well she wore. Dramatic authors who hope to reap new or fresh laurels in her theatre were enchanted to see her in such good form. The apotheosis was so much grist to their mills. Henri Bauer, obviously the most favoured person at the banquet, is now the chief of the theatrical critics. It was he who set on foot the idea of the apotheosis. Sardou astonished us all by following closest on Bauer's heels. Jules Lemaître was a good many degrees farther off, both as an ovationist and at the banquet, where he was fifth from the enchanting actress.

The Triumph of Sarah Bernhardt was to be at once literary, pictorial, gastronomic, and histrionic. To pay for the privilege of contributing to it, and enjoying it, each admirer subscribed 40 fr. The subscribers were in return given an album quite worth the money, were invited to the Grand Hotel déjeuner, and to the theatrical matinée to follow at the Renaissance. They were to have three pictorial menus—respectively by the great decorator Mucha, by Cheret, the *maître par excellence de l'affiche*, and by Mlle. Abbema. The first gives in line or outline engraving, of the freest execution, a beautiful portrait of Sarah sweeping on; while two scantily-clad votaries—*petites amies*—offer her fruits and flowers. She is in a kind of Moorish archway. The flowers fall about capriciously. But there is hidden system under the apparent whimsicality. The Abbema menu is pretty fan-painting. A muse is decorating with flowers a pedestal, on which stands Sarah's bust. Cheret gives her attended by the muses of tragedy and comedy, Parisian-looking graces—all in ecstasies of admiration. The invitations were in small pocket-books the size of those containing Cook's tourist coupons, but bound in delicate bluish grey morocco, and containing two parchment-paper leaves. One of the leaves was a coupon for the banquet—the other for the theatrical apotheosis. Ladies were requested to come in dinner and gentlemen in evening dress.

General Saussier, Governor of Paris and generalissimo—in case of war—was to have figured as chief personage at the Triumph. This was to have been without prejudice to the great critic who took the place that Leonardo gives to the Beloved Disciple in his painting of the Last Supper. But the promoters reckoned without Paul de Cassagnac and Drumont. I dislike slang. But I must resort to it to describe De C.'s mode of warfare. He "slated" the poor General three or four days before the feast. Mars grown fat and gouty at the feet of a strolling actress! What would the army say? What would soldiers think—soldiers who may any moment be sent to face German rifles by this Falstaffian Commander-in-Chief? Drumont is no match for Paul in abuse. He is best in *eau-forte* effects. He devoted a few articles to the Governor of Paris that bit into the plate. All, therefore, that came of the Saussier patronage was the mounting of Horse Guards in full-dress uniform at the entrance of the Grand Hôtel Renaissance. The General, despite his need for an anti-fat treatment, retains his military courage. He has to be lifted by two strong orderlies into the saddle; but once in the saddle, he is ready to face all the hosts of Germany. He did not, however, dare to expose himself to a second slating by De Cassagnac or to Drumont's *eau forte*. The splendid-looking Horse Guards were sent to the Grand long before the time arranged for the déjeuner. They stood like equestrian statues on the Boulevard, just as they stand before the Opera House when the President is expected there. You may imagine what a crowd their presence attracted. A stranger who had just arrived from the Antipodes might have thought some Emperor had come in state to Paris. There was another crowd—a Society one—round the courtyard and on the steps of the Grand. It was just as ironical as the one outside. It was the crowd that attended the obsequies of the Marquis de Morès, and, I fancy from the remarks made, takes its opinions from *La Libre Parole*.

Actresses are not fond of daylight. "Half-past twelve precisely" was the time set down for the banquet in the invitations. I arrived at twelve, to see the company enter, and was shown to the Zodiac Gallery, which was to serve as a drawing-room. It was lighted artificially, daylight being excluded. "La Bohême dorée et la Petite Pologne" were numerously represented. I saw all the theatrical beauties whose charms are, through the medium of the photo, on view in so many shop windows. The sisterhood of the Français, sharing in the mourning of Mlle. Bartet, absented themselves. But Mlle. Brandès was one of the attractive persons who came. She wore a grey, flowered dress and sleeves, and a low pink bodice with a jet garniture at back and front. A pink ruff tippet was thrown over her shoulders. It was made of white lace, silk muslin, and pleated soft gros-grain silk, with edges ravelled into a fringe.

Lady Cardigan's Portuguese husband was there—you may remember him as a *cotillonneur* at the Tuileries. He seems the ghost of his former self, condemned to haunt ball-room buffets, matinée "lunches," weddings in high life, and theatrical celebrations in which the *chefs* play a part. The De Monacos, De Greffulhes, and so on reserved themselves for the Renaissance. Literary women had not the same reasons for such reserve, and came. Gyp, of course, was present. One might fancy a resemblance in her to Baudry's Thalia on the ceiling of the Opera House green-room. That Thalia has a saucy, turned-up nose and dimpled face. To look at her is to laugh.

Of course, all the great theatrical critics, besides Bauer and Lemaître, were present. L'oncle Sarcey was accompanied by his young wife and *très entouré* by risen, rising, and wanting-to-rise actresses. He looked Socratic; as I saw how he took the court paid him, I fancied that poor Xantippe could have written a monograph of her husband widely differing from the Dialogues of Plato. Henri Fouquier, who writes on pitchy cases of feminine conscience as Colomba (a variety of Colombier), and criticises works of art as Nestor, was accompanied by his really beautiful daughter. Mdlle. Fouquier has the nose, the full eyelids, and the forehead of the Queen before her marriage, but a more regular mouth, and I know not what of splendid Oriental expression in the eyes. Her complexion is pale, but has a healthy glow—the texture of the camelia. She wore her hair waved and twisted into a careless knot above the nape of the neck, like a Greek statue.

We were fearfully hungry as the time ran on to one o'clock. It must have been near half-past one before we were allowed to descend to the great dining-room, where a table of honour and eight other tables were spread. Meanwhile, critics and authors flirted; ladies—mostly young or determined to remain lovely for ever—eyed each other's dresses. As all the theatrical *mondes* arrived, curious chit-chat went on in groups. A sly, elderly critic got into a corner with a stage beauty, and ate up her white arm with kisses. I heard a jealous fellow-artist notice that she had a costly dress and no jewels. Said another, "She was *chez ma tante* the other day with the casket, because Ducher would not give her credit for the dress." "You anticipated what I was going to say," replied the green-eyed *petite amie*. "Did I? But I fancy that others whom we see have also been visiting my aunt" (*Anglice*, my uncle). The fine and wealthy *monde* is still in the country for the shooting. We are *en saison morte*. Fine dresses, and no jewels to light them up, seem to be the rule. Yet we were invited to come in dinner dress. "If you don't wear jewels at grand dinners, when are you to bring them out?" "We are to reflect the light of the grand Sarah's countenance." "That horrid *truceuse!* Doesn't it enrage you to see how her *trucs* succeed? She has bewitched that good, open-hearted Bauer, who would now go through fire and water for her sake. But I'm so glad that De Cassagnac frightened away Saussier. My pleasure would be perfect if Sardou were not to be No. 2 at the banquet—next in eminence to Bauer, who is No. 1. Old B., of the Institute, repeated me last night a conversation at the last dinner at the Princesse M.'s about Sardou and Sarah. They were all astounded to hear that he was coming forward as No. 2, and that he was going to beg the red ribbon for her of Faure, on the ground that she was great, glorious, and good—in short, an angel of charity. You know that to merit entrance to the Legion of Honour a woman must devote herself to charity. We shall next hear of a few charitable *trucs!*" "Que voulez-vous, ma chère; sans trucage pas de réussite! There's George Hugo and Léon Daudet. What a handsome fellow! What a humanised and fined-down eagle! And what a clever fellow, too. I read his 'Suzanne' from cover to cover the other night in bed. *Cela mord.*" "Has Hugo his pretty wife *(encore une gentille petite femme celle-là)* with him?" "No danger of his bringing her." "I hear that Madame Alphonse Daudet is coming?" "No." "Yes." "Ask one of the Committee. Depend upon it, she is keeping herself for the Renaissance."

At length the doors at the top of the two corkscrew stairs were opened, and we descended to take our places at the table. Oysters were spread on each plate. For every two persons there was a bottle of Chablis, one of ordinary Bordeaux, and one of champagne, with the promise (afterwards fulfilled) of hock, Pommard, and Margaux. It was not proper to eat or drink until the chief guest arrived. Punctuality is not the politeness of great actresses. The pangs of hunger sharpened tongues and made them wicked. You may guess the subjects of their malice. We were feeling faint, when the orchestra struck up, the hymn to Sarah was sung, and, heralded by a flourish of trumpets, she appeared on the top of the left-hand winding stairs. She was just as serpentine. Her arms seemed tendrils as she clung to the velvet-wrapped central column and to the rail of the bannister. She blew kisses. She opened her arms to hug us all in a transport of affectionate gratitude. Her steps faltered. She seemed to blush from sheer joy, and then made her way, like the Queen of Spain going on foot to the Atocha, to the table of honour. Every one—backbiters included—was transported. She was robed in a dress of

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stamped Persian silk, with a creamy ground and faded designs. A kind of boa warmed it up. The train was never-ending; the style, loose tea-gown; the girdle, jewelled and abdominal; the hair, fair, golden, glossy, and curly as a healthy child's. The pantomime already described was continued at the high table, where lights, concealed by épergnes, threw a converging glow on the heroine of the day. A canopy, as in "Cléopâtre," overshadowed Mme. Bernhardt. She ate oysters with apparent gusto, said little to Sardou, on whose face a sardonic smile played, and paid marked attention to Bauer. Every one near me wanted to know the names of *le Pair et la Pairesse d'Angleterre* who sat between Mme. Terka and Maurice Bernhardt. They were a very great *pair et pairesse*. He was a Lord-in-Waiting to the Queen, and supposed to be sent by the Princess Beatrice to congratulate Sarah. *She* was a Scotch heiress, and both were to stay in Paris. A paper stated next day that the noble admirer of Sarah was the Master of the Queen's Buckhounds. As I never previously saw that nobleman, I could not say whether the news was true or false. His wife was tall and slim. Both were very much in earnest. She wore two tall, upright, white feathers in her hat, and a black and white striped silk dress.

The Renaissance affair was lively. But Sarah showed that she has for years been acting before audiences who do not know French. Sardou was behind her throne (in her own theatre) while the poets were reciting verses in her honour. He looked as sarcastic as Voltaire in his most ironical mood. Perhaps he will let posterity know what he was thinking.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

It is the custom, dear Lady Betty, at most of the long-established London clubs, for the elections of candidates to begin immediately after the reassembling of Parliament. It has been officially announced that this event will take place in the middle of next January. The announcement has prompted many candidates, who expect to undergo the ordeal of election by ballot during the coming session, to write to ask for advice. This I will gladly give; for advice costs nothing to him that gives it, however much it frequently does to him that follows it.

Any man who is over thirty years of age, and either knows many people personally, or is known to many by reputation, has little or no chance of being elected to a prominent London club; for the more people a man knows, or the more people there are who know him, the more enemies he is sure to have. It is practically impossible to go through the world without offending some of our neighbours, and it is evident, therefore, that the larger the number of our acquaintances, and the greater the opportunities for friction, the more enemies we must make. But apart from this, it is a peculiarity of human nature that many hate us more bitterly for offences which we have committed unintentionally than for those which have been committed wilfully, and that many hate us even more for our sins of omission than for our sins of commission. Thus many a man bitterly hates another, because the latter wears his hat tilted on one side; because his coats are longer than the regulation length; because he prefers music to hunting, or hunting to music; because the two travel frequently together, but have never spoken to each other; and for a multitude of singular reasons too numerous to mention. A very common cause of enmity between two people is either that they have never met, or that one has a friend who has a friend who hates the other. Some hate us because we are succeeding; some because we are failing. Some hate us because we are well known, others because we are obscure. In the face, then, of the numerous strange reasons which human beings have for detesting each other, it is unreasonable for any man who either knows many people, or is known of by many, to expect to be elected to a prominent London club. Under the circumstances, unless a candidate is obscure, or has no antecedents whatever, an election resolves itself into a matter of chance, with the odds considerably against the candidate. To those who have written asking for advice I recommend the foregoing remarks. They should consider them carefully. So generally recognised are the difficulties I have mentioned, that, except upon rare and especial occasions, no humiliation now attaches to being rejected for a club. But in this age, and at this particular period of "peace and good-will," the facts provide a curious commentary upon the difference which exists between Christianity as it is preached and Christianity as it is practised.

* * * * *

This generation has done much to develop the scope of certain senses. With one optical apparatus we can see stars that are imbedded in the sky millions of miles away; with another we can magnify into the size of a rock an atom so small as to be invisible to the naked eye. Again, by the aid of the microphone attached to the telephone we can hear a person who is a hundred miles distant speak as distinctly as if he were at our side. But the entire inventive capacity of the race appears to have concentrated itself upon improving the powers of sight and of hearing, of quickening communication and expediting transit. We know that animals, and especially dogs, have the sense of smell immeasurably more developed than we have, and this goes far to assure us that this sense, too, may be considerably improved in man. The immediate advantage of improving it is, perhaps, not so easily perceived as in the case of other senses. It appears that an inventor has recently manufactured an apparatus which he declares makes the sense of smell in man as keen as it is in the dog, and he especially wishes to recommend this instrument to the Detective Department at Scotland-yard. To give one instance in which he maintains it would be extremely useful: A burglary has been committed at the house of Lady Dorrington, in Dover-street, and the thieves have stolen jewels of much value. Inspector Muggins of the A Division proceeds to Dover-street, places the Patent Smell-Magnifier upon his nose; sniffs at the jewel-case; then at the door-handles; and finally at the scullery window, where entrance to the house was effected. He succeeds in identifying the smell as that officially associated with Bill Sikes, a notorious burglar. Bill Sikes is arrested. At the trial, by means of the Patent Smell-Magnifier, Mr. Justice Hookem and the gentlemen of the jury identify beyond possibility of doubt the perfume which is distinctive of Bill Sikes with that which still lingers about the jewel-case of Lady Dorrington. Sikes is found guilty, sentenced, and the law has been speedily and inexpensively avenged by the Patent Smell-Magnifier! The invention opens an altogether new field—for ridicule!

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Though few proprietors of motor-cars have as yet availed themselves of the privileges recently granted to

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them to run their machines through the London streets, an incident which occurred last week must startle those who advocated the removal of recent restrictions. At seven in the evening, when the traffic was tremendous, a traction-engine, dragging six or seven trucks, steamed serenely down the Brompton-road in the direction of Piccadilly. The policemen along the road stood staring, and evidently at a loss what to do. The horses shied, and the people in the street apparently imagined that a wild train had escaped from one of the railway stations. If trains of trucks are to be added to the already congested traffic of the London streets the situation will be hopeless. This Government appears to make laws in a hurry; it will have to repeal some of them at leisure.

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Several Conservative members are indignant at the proposal of the War Office to establish a universal helmet for the Army. These, together with many members of the Opposition, intend to bring the matter before Parliament almost as soon as the House reassembles. There is no doubt that the scheme will be opposed vigorously and to the utmost limit. It has become a master-passion at the War Office to meddle with the uniforms of soldiers. Buttons do not win battles.

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The vacancy caused by the promotion of the British Chargé d'Affaires at Bangkok will, it is believed, be filled by the appointment of an official who is not a member of the Diplomatic Service. In this particular instance the members of that Service will have no serious cause for complaint, for the post was not formerly administered by a Diplomatist. If, however, it was thought a short time ago to be well to appoint Mr. de Bunsen at a salary of £1,600 a year, recent events in Siam do not make it obvious why a Diplomatist should not now succeed him. But in this matter the Foreign Office officials must be the best judges.

Baron Gevers, who was for many years Secretary of the Netherlands Legation in London, and was several months ago promoted to be Netherlands Minister at Berne, has been transferred to Bucharest in the same capacity. Though his many friends in England will be much pleased to observe Baron Gevers rapidly ascending the ladder of promotion, they will regret that this, the latest rung upon which he places his foot, removes him so far from them.

* * * * *

Many Catholics, and many who do not belong to that Church, will hear with regret of the death of Monsignor Talbot, who was for years in charge of the Catholic Parish Church in Warwick-street. The late Monsignor Talbot was a good man and a good priest, who devoted himself during the greater part of his long life to good works.

* * * * *

It is strange that when so many automatic machines have been devised, no apparatus of the kind for the sale of newspapers has yet been established in the streets and at the railway stations. An automatic machine could easily be constructed in an octagonal form for the sale of eight of the most popular papers. The newspaper carts, instead of distributing the various journals to gangs of boys, who shout the latest intelligence to the great annoyance of all who hear them, might stop at each machine, and the drivers would then fill the apparatus with a sufficient number of the latest edition. On each of the surfaces of the octagon could also be affixed the latest "contents bill." For a long time it has been felt by many that there is room for a Sunday afternoon paper, but the difficulty of distribution is so considerable that no one has yet discovered a way of overcoming it Automatic newspaper machines would effect this, for if these were scattered over London plentifully, whoever required an afternoon Sunday paper would only have to go to the nearest apparatus, and drop a penny in the slot to be supplied with the paper.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE official report of the proceedings at last week's meeting of the Jockey Club will repay the reader. The opponents of the drastic proposals of the Stewards had the wind taken out of their sails by the disclosure of Major Egerton's "admissions of failures." That it had become a matter of urgent and imperative necessity to increase the number of handicappers, and to cut down the work of each of them within reasonable limits, was obvious to every one. We shall see how the new arrangement works next season, as, if it proves unsatisfactory in any respect, it will be easy to amend it as may be found expedient. Lord Durham has rendered another valuable service to the Turf in raising this question.

The reporter of one of the sporting papers, in his account of the Newmarket sale on Thursday, states that Omladina won the Fernhill Stakes at Ascot, "the race for which the sporting correspondent of TRUTH said Persimmon ought to be reserved, as he would be found deficient in stamina." I have no recollection of mentioning the Fernhill Stakes in connection with Persimmon, but perfectly well remember remarking that the St. James's Palace Stakes at Ascot should be a good thing for the Prince of Wales's colt, and that such race would have been won by him is sure enough if the Prince had not been so ill-advised as to keep his steed for the Princess of Wales Stakes at Newmarket, the result being that he was defeated for that event by St. Frusquin. After Persimmon had most palpably failed to stay the Middle Park Plate course, when he was easily beaten by St. Frusquin and Omladina, I certainly did expect that as a three-year-old he would prove deficient in stamina, and so did a good many other people. The Prince of Wales must by this time be perfectly nauseated by the fulsome, uniform, excessive, and absolutely undistinguishing eulogies of which Persimmon has been the subject ever since his début at Ascot last year. Nothing more could be said in favour of the greatest horse which has ever existed, and every other animal, good or bad, that is owned by the Prince of Wales is never mentioned but to be magnified in a corresponding strain of extravagant and turbid panegyric. If Persimmon had belonged to some plebeian owner—any "little man"—his merits would have been discussed from a very different point of view. In that case our attention would have been directed to his remarkable good luck during his three-year-old career rather than to his superlative excellence, and there would have been lackadaisical croakings over the defeat of "the popular Rothschild colours" in the Derby, and the collapse of St. Frusquin, and so forth. That Persimmon was a lucky horse when he won the Derby is certain, and but for the mishap to St. Frusquin's equipment at the crisis of the finish, Mr. de Rothschild's colt would assuredly have been the winner at Epsom. A month later St. Frusquin defeated Persimmon very cleverly at Newmarket, and that he would have won both the St. Leger and the Jockey Club Stakes if he had kept on his legs is as sure as that the sun will rise to-morrow. Persimmon, so far as his three-year-old career is concerned, must stand or fall by his race in the Princess of Wales Stakes, which was a fair and square test, as it was run over an unexceptionable course; both the Derby winner and St. Frusquin were fresh and well, there was a good pace, and neither colt was interfered with in any sort of way. Persimmon had 3 lb. the worst of the weights, but he received much more than a 3 lb. beating.

An immense number of lots were sent back at Newmarket last week, the reserves in many cases being altogether preposterous. Omladina realised the highest price of the week, as I had predicted would be the case, Sir B. Maple giving 2,300 gs. for her; and she ought to prove a good bargain, whether he races her again next season or sends her at once to the stud. Shaddock has gone back to Kingsclere, his reserve being 4,000 gs., whereas the highest price bid was only 2,900 gs. He would have been a decided catch at the price which was

asked for him, and before the end of June the Duke of Westminster will have reason to be well pleased that he is still the owner of this smart and improving horse. Rampion was sold considerably below his value to Mr. J. Jay for 1,400 gs., and the money will be got back with substantial interest in the course of next season if the horse is judiciously placed. He ought to be kept for a good mile race, and, after next year he will make a splendid jumper. Conroy will be cheap to C. Archer at 1,050 gs. if he stands another preparation, but he is something of a rogue, and cannot be trusted unless he has it all his own way in a race. The Duke of Portland's mares could not be described as well sold, and Eisteddfod (530 gs., Mr. James) was about the best bargain of the week, considering her good looks and her running blood; being by Petrarch out of Modwena, sister to Donovan. Novitiate, by Hermit, dam of Marco, was sold to Sir B. Maple for 1,250 gs., and he got her cheap, considering that she is in foal to Isinglass. Lord Falmouth made a great mistake in weeding Milanda, a young mare by Thurio, if she is really in foal to Orme, as was stated, for she realised only 330 gs., and her sire's fee is 200 gs. Pride was not sold, but Mr. Brassey let Macbriar go to F. Webb for only 1,100 gs., and he will make a good jumper if it is intended to send him over hurdles. Devoué, sold to Mr. Joel for 1,700 gs., is sure to win an important handicap next season if he goes on all right. His Reverence was one of the best sold horses of the week at 1,400 gs., as he seems to have entirely lost the form which he showed at Ascot. The Bruntwood mares were sensibly sold for what they would fetch, and they realised fair prices, as there was no hugger-mugger of buying in and bogus bidding.

Velasquez and Chelandry were extensively touted at Newmarket last week, and both animals were considered to have made a very fair improvement since they were last seen out some two months ago. Velasquez bids fair to grow into a very good-looking and racing-like colt, while Chelandry will always be a light and wiry filly. If Velasquez continues to go on all right, he will probably win the Two Thousand, and in the Derby Lord Rosebery has a dangerous second string in Chelandry. The fact that the filly is engaged in the Derby has presumably been overlooked by the individuals who have offered 100 to 7 bar three, as on her two-year-old running she ought to be just as good a favourite as either of the colts.

The Newmarket Stakes for 1899 has failed to fill, and it may be hoped that the Stewards of the Jockey Club will now abandon this race, which has never been a success from any point of view, and it has always been a very costly event to the Fund. There is obviously no room for a great three-year-old stake in the short interval between the Newmarket First Spring Meeting and the Epsom week. If the Stewards desire to strengthen the programme of the Second Spring Meeting, let them start a race of adequate value to run as four-year-olds and five-year-olds, the course being A.F. Such a stake might close on the first Tuesday in January, for then yearlings and two-year-olds. There is a deal of talk about the necessity for encouraging owners to keep horses longer in training, but it all ends in vapour.

The speeches after the dinner of the London Athletic Club are generally not without interest. The recent dinner was no exception to the rule. Indeed, Mr. W. M. Chinnery, the chairman, was guilty of remarks that were not only interesting but of considerable importance to the future of athletics. Incidentally he mentioned that the club colours—gold and green—were the colours of the owner of Blair Athol, the winner of the Derby in 1864, when the club first ran at Bow. But when he referred to the recent defections from the amateur ranks, and to the fact that in its early days the L.A.C. held a professional meeting, many who heard him were astonished, and they even more marvelled when he said he was quite ready to support professionalism if he could do so without doing wrong. Certainly the dinner was an important one in the annals of the club. Twelve months before at the same dinner members were protesting that the Americans beat them at New York because their ways were not our ways, and it was impossible for us to compete successfully on such an entirely different basis. In these columns it was pointed out that the Americans did openly what in this country was done in secret. But such a complete justification of the position that was then taken up could not for a moment have been anticipated. Of the men who went to America two have joined the professional ranks; of those who were asked to go but failed, two have also become professionals. One replied last year to the toast of the Challenge Cup holders, and of his own free will he has apparently joined the "pros.," and that is E. C. Bredin. Three champions in a twelvemonth—Bacon, Bradley, and Bredin—have all gone over to professionalism. Two of them were expelled because they received money for running at certain meetings, but the names of those meetings have not been published, nor have the donors of the money been mentioned. This is neither just nor fair, but it is characteristic of the pharisaical humbug from which amateur athletics at times unfortunately suffer. Several of those who rule the athletic roost make money out of sports. A certain number retail their information for the public press, others get fees for handicapping, and others do both, and yet they are all amateurs. I do not expect a man to do the heavy work of handicapping for nothing. But I do protest against those who make money in this way, adopting the pass-by-on-the-other-side principle when they have to do with a professional athlete. I cannot see why a professional runner should, so far as athletics are concerned, be socially ostracised. Very pleasant, therefore, is it to find the good Samaritan in Mr. Chinnery. He does not see why professional running should not be honest and honourable, and he is willing to help it. For properly organised professionalism there is a big field open. The class of men who have lately seceded from the amateur ranks is of a calibre to give it a lift up, and if those who like running for running sake and who are utterly indifferent whether amateur or "pro." competes, will only come forward and help, the future of professional running should be assured. The remarks of Mr. Chinnery seem to show a possibility of a better understanding between the two classes of sport. Mr. S. K. Holman, the hon. sec., was able to announce that for the public schools a University programme, with challenge cups for several events, had been arranged. Mr. Holman deserves great credit for the energy he has shown in bringing such a satisfactory result to pass, and it is to be hoped that the public schools will give the events a proper support; but care must be taken to prevent immature youths from competing.

The rain spoilt both the big Rugby matches last week. Oxford, on the dry ground and with a strong wind, started off with great dash against Cambridge and scored twice in the first fifteen minutes, the Light Blues being quite at sea. Afterwards their forwards woke up and put in some rattling work. The three-quarters did well when they got a chance, but Crump and Unwin quite outplayed Bell and Jacob at half. It was here that the Light Blues were so abominably weak, and although it is not nice to have to blame any one, it is useless to conceal the fact that Bell was extremely selfish, and when he did pass he did not pass well. He played a very different game at Blackheath. No doubt his style of play succeeded well enough in most of the matches the University played earlier in the term, but if those in authority are wise they will arrange a much stronger card than is usually done for next October term. The Dark Blues had played stronger teams, and so their defence had improved, and both at the start and finish they held the Cambridge pack. Baker played superbly at three-quarter, both in attack and defence, and Smith was very safe at full back. Apart from the fine play of the forwards, the Light Blues were

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

disappointing. Jacob at half was not up to form, and so the three-quarters had little to do. Mackie's defence was very strong, and he had bad luck in slipping on the greasy ground on one or two occasions. Wallis's pace was useful, and Pilkington had but little chance. Thomas at back collared sometimes very well, but his kicking was often weak, and he frequently fielded the ball indifferently. Oxford made the most of their opportunities, and deserved to win. Leslie Jones in a most sportsmanlike way gave the Cantabs their first try when the ball was grounded over the dead ball-line, which was marked only eight yards behind the goal-line. The marking was wrong, and it is curious that neither captain observed a mistake which many of the spectators had noticed. Considering the rain and mud, the North and South match was most interesting. Indeed, a draw would more accurately have represented the game, for it looked as though the North were deprived of a certain win through Byrne holding up a player who was just about to touch the ball down. The feature of the match was the play of F. A. Byrne at three-quarter. He revelled in the mud and picked up the greasy ball admirably. He stopped rushes and attacked splendidly, his low kicks along the touch-line being excellent. He had Foukes opposite him, and he played very coolly. At half Schwarz could scarcely be recognised as the Light Blue player of a few seasons ago. He gave Parlane no chances, and played very steadily. Wells played a great game. He picked up the ball in a wonderful manner, and his practice at Eton has apparently done him a lot of good. Mortimer and Giblin collared well, and many thought that the latter ought to have had his International. Both Ebden and Stout, the West Country players, collared very strongly. They never gave the player a chance when they once got near him. The South dribbles and rushes were very good, while the North kicked rather too hard, and relied on the greasy ball being misfielded. This difference in style may spoil the combination of the forwards against Wales.

In Association football there was again a large number of people to see the Corinthians play Bolton Wanderers, but the class of work shown by the pro.'s was not nearly so good as the display of Aston Villa the week before. The visiting backs worked grandly, but their forwards were spasmodic in their efforts. The amateurs were in great form, and the pro's have probably learned that Gosling, Smith and Burnup can play football. At the same time the Casuals were being beaten by Preston North End after a fairly interesting game. Surely the amateur interest in football cannot be so miserably weak when two amateur teams can meet two leading professional teams, and the one is victorious while the other is not disgraced. The importance of the Corinthians' matches at the Queen's Club is that they afford proof positive of the ability of our unpaid players. It may be necessary to refer next week to the action of the Football Association with reference to Mr. Jackson and his scratch teams. He organised the Corinthians. They have been the salvation of amateur play, and the managers of professional teams can neither forgive nor forget that fact.

Recently I referred to the ban put by the Southern Counties' Amateur Swimming Association on swimming races in Peckham, where the prizes were to be clothes for children swimmers who were at the Board Schools. This Association professes to teach swimming, especially to the poor, and yet it refuses to let these children race for something which will be of great use to them. At a recent meeting it solemnly refused to allow these children to swim for clothes, and yet the male amateur of full age may swim for a plated cup to eat an egg out of. If one of these children shows phenomenal powers, he will be hailed as a champion, and star the country as an amateur until he finds professionalism pays him better. Under no circumstances can he swim in a race in the Serpentine on Christmas-day. Truly these swimmers strain at the gnat and swallow the camel. One almost wishes they would swallow an overdose of water from one of their own baths, and cease to trouble the world with their nonsense.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—Some time ago I expressed the opinion that the hackneyed talk, that we should have no more business before Christmas, was absurd, and the events of the past week distinctly proved that I was right. For once the "Bears" had to take a back seat, and a general improvement is marked in Home Rails, Foreigners, and South Africans. We have, in fact, had

An All-Round Rally.

The most important change of front took place in Home Rails, which had been depressed by the dispute between the Heavy lines, and especially the North-Western, on the one side, and the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants on the other. With the assistance of the Board of Trade the difficulty has been adjusted, with the result of a sharp rebound in leading stocks. Inter-bourse securities were also in favour under the lead of Spanish, which benefited by the announcement of the death of the chief insurgent leader in Cuba, Maceo. South Americans, too, were firmer, and a considerable business was transacted in Industrials. The only department which did not join in the general concert was that of Americal Rails. As the chief "Bear" point turned upon the Cuban question, and as the death of the insurgent leader tends to diminish any chance of a collision between Spain and the United States, one would have thought that the Wall-street market would have gathered strength; but the Cuban party in the Senate are so exasperated at this Spanish success that they are raising a great deal of dust over the alleged assassination of Maceo, and no support is at present given by the wirepullers in the New York market. The ursine party, in fact, always contrive to get hold of a fresh handle to put stocks down with. One of these days there will doubtless come about a strong revival, but, according to present appearances, this will not happen until the year has turned. On the other hand, a smart and all-round recovery in South African shares has come about sooner than most of our financial scribes anticipated, and there seems to be a fair chance of this rise proving permanent, in view of the favourable developments which supply a sound basis for the movement. West Australians have been firm in places, but do not show so general an advance as the Kaffir Circus. A marked recovery in this department is, however, only a question of time. As we are approaching the end of the year, it is hardly likely that rates in the Money Market will further ease off. We may, on the contrary, see during the last few days of the year a temporary squeeze, after which, however, a reduction in the Bank rate is quite on the cards; and as politics are shaping themselves more favourably, and trade is still in a healthy condition, prospects have not been so hopeful for a long time. The position is certainly very different to what it was at the end of 1895, with mischief brewing in the Transvaal, and the Jameson raid imminent. It has taken the Kaffir Circus a whole year to recover from the blow struck then, but the worst is evidently over now, and a further general rise in this section would obviously have an encouraging influence upon every class of securities.

Recovery in Home Rails.

It is a matter of congratulation that the management of the North-Western have seen the error of their ways, and it is creditable to them that they did their climbing down from the untenable position which they had taken up, with a good grace. They have reinstated the men who were summarily dismissed, and the comparatively moderate claims of the men can be discussed at a period when business will not be quite so active, as it must necessarily be during the last few weeks of the year. I have taken the view all along that no strike was to be apprehended, and I hope that my readers followed my advice to stick to their holdings, in which case they will have good profits within their reach. The favourites have been Brighton "A"

and Dover "A," and I have so repeatedly explained the excellent position of both lines, that I may hope that the rise in these stocks will benefit a good many readers of Truth. As the period of the dividend payments draws near, I shall look for a further improvement in both. Great Eastern are also firmer; the only exception from the general rise being Chatham Ordinary, which reacted sharply on a variety of unconfirmed rumours. In the Heavy division North Western suffered most during the labour trouble, but they have now rallied sharply to 200¾. Traffics continue on a most satisfactory scale, and the increases for the past week reached £78,800, the total increase now being for the current half-year £1,113,515. There is thus every prospect of the dividend estimates, which I mentioned a fortnight ago, being borne out by results. A sharp advance in Metropolitan Districts has also been a feature. This stock was at one time depressed to 26¾, but has now rallied to 28¼, reacting to 27¾, and the circumstances surrounding the line at present are so favourable that a further important rise can only be a question of a short time. At the fortnightly settlement rates were generally light, and considerable scarcity of Dover "A" was experienced, the rate on which went off to even. On the other hand, a stiff contango was exacted on Coras (Caledonian Deferred Ordinary), which temporarily put down the Scotch stocks generally. The great Dundee "Bear," moreover, did his best to use the labour troubles as a depressing factor; but Coras (North British Deferred) have now recovered, and I should think that, in view of the continued trade boom in Scotland, prices will go ahead again.

Suspended Animation of Yankees.

The condition of the Yankee market cannot be described better than as being in a state of suspended animation. It is the only department of the Stock Exchange in which the "Bears" are still scoring, and in which the syndicate of liars is ever ready to invent fresh rumours of calamities as soon as the last has been exploded. The sooner the "Bears," however, realise that one of these days they are certain to have to face a very sharp upward movement, the better will it be for their skins. This is how one of my Wall-street contemporaries characteristically foreshadows what will happen to the "Bears":—

> "Sam" Small, the revivalist, tells the story about an old darkey down south who was riding along a road on an old mule, and lambasting it with a big stick at every step.
>
> "What's the matter, Uncle?" a man asked on the road. "Is your mule lazy?"
>
> "No, boss," said the old darkey, "he ain't lazy. He's only got a thick hide and a short recollection."
>
> That's what's the matter with the "Bears"—got thick hides and short recollections.

The Cuban question is undoubtedly the chief "Bear" point in Wall-street; but as President Cleveland has taken up the firm position that he will not interfere, or grant the insurgents belligerent rights if Spain can quell the insurrection, it would appear to the unbiassed that the recent successes of the Spanish troops, and more especially the death of Maceo, cut the ground from underneath the Jingoes in Congress, who are, however, so exasperated that they will for a short time make quite a disturbance. The latest "Bear" rumour has been the alleged suspension of negotiations on the Venezuelan question with this country, but this is an absurd report. There may be more to be said about the poor railway traffics, but, as already stated, these are results really of the past, and in the near future better returns may be anticipated. The Stock Exchanges generally discount the future conditions, and prospects in the United States are such as to justify a much higher level of prices of the Railroad stocks. The very substantial advance in the price of wheat must, in my opinion, have a healthy influence upon the American Market. With the farmers receiving the best price for wheat for years—and corn is bound to follow this movement—the purchasing power in the States is increased enormously. As the farmers now have money to spend it is certain the railroads will have all the tonnage they can handle. In a newspaper interview President Abel, of the Rock Island, thus reviews the present position of the Western Railroads and their future prospects:—

> I expect to see business pick up after January 1, if not before. There has been very little improvement yet, but it takes time for business affairs to re-adjust themselves and settle down. By the first of the year that process will have been accomplished, and then marked improvement should be disclosed. I do not think it will be very great at first, nor very rapid. It will be gradual, but it will be steady. In the west general business is already showing improvement—not very much, but enough for a beginning. It is better that the beginning should be cautious and slow and sure. The railroads will, of course, come in for their share of the improvement which every one expects to see within the coming few months. The outlook for the western roads is very good, and I believe that their future reports will show considerable changes for the better.

From Wall-street an improved demand for City and Railroad bonds is reported, large amounts being absorbed by investors. This is generally the first step towards an improvement also in the share market, and I have no doubt that any one picking up Milwaukee, Louisville, Southern Prefs., and Ordinary, Atchison Prefs., Denver Prefs., and Ordinary at present quotations will, with a little patience, see considerable profits. Amongst bonds, New York and Putnam (guaranteed by the New York Central) Four per Cent. bonds are no longer obtainable under 109, while Lynn and Boston Five per Cents. have been in good demand at 103. Alabama Midland First Mortgage Five per Cent. bonds are firm at 96, and Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds are up at 93. The more important improvement has, however, taken place in Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Six per Cent. bonds, guaranteed by the Grand Trunk Railway, which are not now obtainable under 86. All these bonds are still at a very moderate level, and likely to improve. Grand Trunks First Prefs. and Guaranteed have been fairly steady at 32 and 40¾ respectively; but Canadian Pacifics have been dull on a large traffic decrease, and are quoted at 57 only.

Foreigners and South Americans.

The feature in Interbourse securities has been a sharp advance in Spanish to 60¼ on the news of Spanish successes in Cuba. This upward movement has given a better tone to the Paris Bourse generally, where most other speculative favourites have been in demand, including even Turks. The lively gamble in Rio Tinto in Paris has also commenced again. In the South American department a rise of from three to five points in Brazilians has been the feature, on advices that the Brazilian Government is negotiating the sale of the State railways to a German syndicate, headed by Herr Krupp. I do not know that it is exactly a "Bull" point that the Brazilians have to sell their railways in order to restore their financial equilibrium, but I suppose that the operation will at least afford temporary relief. Argentine Government stocks are hardening gradually. In the meantime news has been received by mail of an amusing encounter in the Chambers between Dr. Romero, the Minister of Finance, and Dr. Pellegrini, the ex-President, in which the latter had to hear some home truths from his opponent with regard to the financial excesses that took place during the ex-President's term of office. This was not, perhaps, exactly to the point, but Dr. Romero is evidently determined to oppose the resumption of the full service on the debt through thick and thin. Buenos Ayres Great Southern Four per Cent. Debenture stock has declined to 119, but Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. Debenture stock is firm at 108, and is comparatively very cheap. Uruguay bonds have steadied, and are up at 47. It is evident that the insurrection in Uruguay has collapsed. Mexican Sixes have not altogether maintained their highest points, the Old Loan being down to

Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society.—Special Notice.—Participating Assurances effected before the 31st December, 1896, will rank for Six Full Years' Bonus Additions at the next Periodical Division of Profits. To secure this advantage application should be made to any of the offices or agencies of the Society without delay.—London: 28, Cornhill, E.C., & 5, Waterloo-place, S.W.

94½. Peruvian Corporation stocks are slightly firmer, the debentures being quoted 38¼.

The Kaffir Circus Bracing Up.

At last we have a more sustained upward movement in the Kaffir Circus. It is true that the carry-over at the mid-December settlement was still done at very low prices, although not quite so low as had ruled a few weeks earlier. But there has been a considerable improvement since, and it must be admitted that there is a solid basis for this. The crushings of the Witwatersrand mines for November were much more satisfactory than could have been expected in view of the reported scarcity of water, the yield amounting to 201,113 oz., against 199,889 oz. in October, an increase of 1,224 oz. Then, again, several of the Deep-Level crushings were such as to revive the drooping spirits of the Deep-Level supporters, and, finally, it was reported that the Transvaal Government was about to conclude a loan for the purpose of dealing with the dynamite monopoly and the railways. Whether these much-desired operations will come off in the near future is still somewhat doubtful, but there have been for some time rumours current in the South African press that Mr. J. B. Robinson had promised to raise £7,000,000 sterling for the Transvaal chiefly for this object; and the quidnuncs will have it that Mr. Robinson's departure for South Africa had partly to do with this project. Some individuals who boast of being able to see through a brick wall have even discovered that Mr. B. I. Barnato's sudden departure for the Cape was due to the fact that he came on the scent of this business, and wanted to be in the race with Mr. Robinson. However this may be, there is no doubt that the Transvaal Government wishes to conciliate the mining industry as much as possible, and another speech made by President Kruger in Pretoria on the occasion of the prorogation of the Transvaal Volksraad testifies to this wish. A more peaceful utterance could certainly not be imagined, and with the mining industry now going ahead again in a very satisfactory manner, it is time indeed that the level of prices of the shares in sound Transvaal gold and land Companies should be raised materially. I give herewith a list of representative shares with the highest quotations touched in 1896, the making-up prices of the mid-December settlement, and present quotations:—

Names.	Highest, 1896.	Making Up Prices, Dec. 8.	Prices Dec. 15, 1896.
Cons. Goldfield	13 13/16	8⅜	8¾
Rand Mines	33⅝	22¾	23⅝
Chartered	5 11/16	2¼	2 9/16
East Rand	8⅞	4	4
Ferreira	22	18¼	18¼
Knights	8	4 5/16	4 11/16
Langlaagte Estate	6 9/16	4⅛	4 25/16
Meyer and Charlton	6⅞	5⅛	5¼
Wolhuter	9	4½	4 9/16
Wemmer	11⅝	6⅝	6⅝
Robinson	10⅜	7⅞	8½
New Primrose	6¾	4 5/16	4¼
Randfontein	4⅛	2⅛	2⅜
Modderfontein	11⅞	3½	3½
South African Gold Trust ...	9⅝	6⅜	7
Glencairn	4¼	2½	2 15/16
Henry Nourse	7¾	6	6⅜
Heriot	10⅛	7¾	7⅞
Johannesburg Cons. Invest. ...	4 7/16	2½	2 7/16
Jubilee	10	6¾	6¾
Jumpers	7⅞	4⅛	4
Geldenhuis Estate	4¾	2⅞	3¼
Barnato Consols	3 1/16	1 13/16	1 13/16
Buffelsdoorn	4 5/16	1¾	1¾
Durban Roodepoort	7⅝	6½	6½
City and Suburban	5½	3⅝	3⅞
Goldfields Deep.	12⅛	7⅛	7½
Geldenhuis Deep.	7¼	4¼	4¼

It will be seen that some quotations have already improved materially, but that others, and more especially some of the most substantial Witwatersrand mines, are still at the same low level, and should also go ahead. I again repeat that amongst the shares which appear to me to offer special prospects of an important advance are Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, City and Suburban, Robinson, Wolhuter, New Crœsus, Kimberley Roodepoort, Knights, Randfontein, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Consols, Buffelsdoorn, Woodstock (Transvaal), Henderson's Estates, Lydenburg Estates, Oceana Consols, Mozambique, Modderfontein "B," and Waterfall Estates. Some of the crushings were distinctly encouraging, and with the more abundant water supply, which may be anticipated in the near future, I look for further record figures. The Robinson Gold Mine yielded in November 20,184 oz., against 20,018 oz. in October. The Bonanza was to the front with a total yield of 7,182 oz., and most encouraging was the output of the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, (Knights), which showed a total yield of 3,689 oz., against 1,970 oz. in October. It will thus be seen that the second crushing is very much better, and there is every prospect of future results showing still further improvements. This return gives an average yield of 10·41 dwts. per ton, and is fully up to expectations. I may mention that Mr. C. J. Johnston, who has been appointed Manager of this property, bears a high character as a very experienced mining engineer, who has won his spurs in California. Langlaagte Block "B," with a yield of 2,427 oz., compared with 2,570 oz. in October. The Langlaagte Estate yielded 8,127 oz., against 8,190 oz. in October. The Porges Randfontein return showed a considerable improvement, being 3,015 oz., against 1,992 oz. in October, although only 30 stamps have been working, owing to illness of the natives on account of the drought. The North Randfontein is to the front with a yield of 1,699 oz., but this does not include tailings and concentrates, these not having been treated on account of the drought, the Company's reservoirs having been completed after the last rainy season was over. Rains were expected every moment, and the Company would then be able to work up to its full power. The Langlaagte Royal production for November was 3,364 oz., against 3,201 oz. in October, and the New Primrose produced for November 7,727 oz., against 6,759 oz. in October. It will be seen from all these various returns that active work is proceeding on the mines, and that the mining position is altogether different from the state of the market. That the latter under these circumstances must sooner or later represent the improving state of the mines is undoubted, and I should think that those who buy before Christmas will have good prospects of large profits in the new year. The only uncertain factor is still the market position in Paris, but when once our French neighbours see that the long lane is turned, and that prices are tending upwards again, they will probably come to their senses, and begin to buy back what they have been throwing overboard. As it is a foregone conclusion that Monday's meeting of the East Rand Proprietary Mines will not adopt the old scheme, the particulars which are now available of the new alternative plan are of interest. It appears that £300,000 are to be lent to the East Rand Company for one year at 6 per cent., while the Angelo Company will issue £150,000 of Six per Cent. debentures for two years, convertible into Angelo shares at 3½ at any time during that period. The capital is to be increased by 50,000 shares for the purpose of this option. Another issue of £100,000 of Six per Cent. Two-year debentures will be made by the Driefontein Company on similar terms. The total amount of these issues, viz., £550,000, will be guaranteed. This is an age of curious changes, and the announcement that Mr. F. J. Dormer has proceeded to South Africa as a Director of the Langlaagte Royal, and in the interest of the Barnato group, to place the affairs of the Langlaagte Royal on a more satisfactory footing, is a peculiar contrast to the acrimonious correspondence which Mr. Dormer originated not long ago. The Paarl Central battery of 70 stamps is stated to have commenced working, which will also add to the current month's output on the Rand. The results obtained by Henderson's Transvaal Estates are satisfac-

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

tory in times such as these. For the fifteen months ending June 30 the net profit amounted to £37,356, and a dividend of £26,600, or 10 per cent., is proposed to be paid. The scheme for the amalgamation of the United Rhodesia Goldfields and the Buluwayo Syndicate, which I criticised last week, has not been adopted by the shareholders, and it seems to me altogether absurd to unite the two concerns, the claims of one being in Mashonaland, while the claims of the other are mostly in Matabeleland. Another amalgamation scheme is on the board as regards the Rhodesian Mining and Finance Company, the Rights and Exploring of Rhodesia, and the Gourlay's Rhodesia Development Company, concerning which I shall have more to say. The rumour that the New Rietfontein battery has been shut down is not yet so far confirmed, but it has had practically no effect upon the market. The Directors' report of the Sheba Gold Mining Company for the year ending September 30 is a very satisfactory document. The Company has paid dividends of 15 per cent. during its fiscal year, and has paid off Debentures to the amount of £18,750. The yield of gold during that period was 95,889 oz., and the manager expects that the improvements now being made will enable the property to double its monthly crushings, and handle its lower-grade ores at a profit. The Sheba district is likely to come very prominently to the front in the near future, and one of the events to be looked forward to with great interest is the commencement of the crushing of the neighbouring Company, the Woodstock (Transvaal), which may be expected in January. These shares have now improved to 1¼, and are likely to go considerably higher. The Directors' report of the Waterfall Estate and Gold Mines, Limited, will prove an agreeable surprise to the shareholders. Notwithstanding the bad times, the profit and loss account shows a profit on the working of the sixteen months ended June 30, 1896, of £1,458, and a dividend of 5 per cent. is to be declared—absorbing £1,012. The report states that since the incorporation of the Company the Directors have urged on their agents at Johannesburg the necessity of continuing the action for ejectment against the claimholders, and, further, of securing to the Company the Homestead block, and news has just been received that the action will come on in February next. The proceedings had already been instituted when the Jameson raid interrupted them. The Directors confidently hope that they will soon be in full possession of their property. In the meantime the Company is in regular receipt of their claim licences, and from these its revenue has been derived. It is worth mentioning that the capital of the Company is only £25,000 in 100,000 shares of 5s. each, of which 5,381 are fully paid and 94,499 are 4s. paid. The property of the Company is a very important one, and consists of 1,917 acres on the northern portion of the Farm Waterfall, and adjoining that part of the Randfontein Estate on which very valuable discoveries have recently been made. It is almost a foregone conclusion that the Company will gain its action, in which case some very favourable developments may be expected. Diamond shares have also been firmer, and De Beers have improved to 29¼, New Jagersfontein to 10½.

Golden West Australia.

So far West Australian gold mines have not yet braced up in sympathy with the South African department, but should the latter maintain the more favourable tendency now shown it will not be long ere "Bears" of Westralians will take fright. In the meantime greater strength has been displayed by the London and Globe and West Australian Exploring and Finance Companies, and the Northern Territories Gold Fields issue appears also to have proved a great success, the shares being now quoted 4 to 4⅛. Advices from the goldfields are very satisfactory, and a batch of Directors' reports has also been issued, which upon the whole are distinctly encouraging. The shares in the chief issuing Company, the West Australian Joint-Stock Trust, have advanced to 2¼ premium on this success, and West Australian Loan and General stand at ⅝ premium. The Minister of Mines, the Hon. E. H. Wittenoom, before starting on a tour to the Eastern Colonies, where he proposed to further study matters bearing upon his various departments, made a very satisfactory statement to a representative of the *Perth Mining Journal* before he left, in the course of which he stated that when visiting the mines at Kalgoorlie, Broad Arrow, Kanowna, Bardoc, Goongarrie, Menzies, and other districts he was much pleased with what he saw, and considered that the mines in these districts will prove very good ones, and that the future of these districts is very bright indeed. He also mentioned that he had been at the White Feather Reward Mine, which was splendidly equipped with the best class of machinery, and on which a good deal of work has been done. Mr. Wittenoom stated that everything at Menzies appeared to be in a thriving condition, and he thought that Black Flag had considerable advantages over some of the other districts, for the reason that water appears to be most plentiful there. The Minister also was of opinion that the big water scheme carried through Parliament was absolutely necessary, and he found that the Government plan met with strong support wherever he went. Mr. Wittenoom concluded the interview with the remark that he was determined to grapple with the important question of labour conditions on his return from the other colonies. As my readers are aware, the stringent labour conditions have created much dissatisfaction on the part of those in control of West Australian Finance and Mining Companies, and the Minister's promise is very important. The detractors of the West Australian goldfields should note that the gold exports for November amounted to 30,837 oz., which is a fresh step in advance, and brings up the total for the first eleven months of 1896 to 251,610 oz., against 213,622 oz. for the corresponding period of 1895. In the new year I shall look for these yields to be almost doubled. During the past week the following crushings have again been reported:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Oz. of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Lake View Consols ...	720	2,269	30 dwt.
Great Boulder Proprietary	703	2,122	—
Great Boulder Perseverance	560	1,709	—
Burbank's Birthday Gift	55	176	17 dwt.
Pilbarra United	117	170½	10 ,,
Menzies Alpha	53	380	36 ,,
Ejudina	126	156	—
Salisbury - Murchison - Agamemnon	118	84	1½ dwt.

It will be seen that the Lake View Consols and Great Boulder are keeping up their average, but the next Lake View Consols crushing will be much larger as they are now crushing with twenty additional new stamps. The small crushings of the Burbank's Birthday Gift and Menzies Alpha show very high yields, and the Great Boulder Perseverance promises to become one of the big gold-producing mines. Lake View Consols have maintained a firm front at about 7, and Great Boulder are quoted 6½. The West Australian Goldfields group is still in the dumps, but one of these days the "Bears" will no doubt rue their attempts to depress these stocks. West Australian Goldfields are quoted 5⅝, and Hampton Plains, 2 11/16. Hannan's Brownhill, on the other hand, are emancipating themselves from the "Bear" raids, and have advanced sharply to 5 17/16. In the shares which I have pointed out as very moderate in price a considerable business has been transacted, and quotations are as follows:—White Feather Reward 1¾, Great Boulder Main Reef 1¼, Mawson's Reward ⅞, Robinson ¾, East Murchison United 13/16, Mount Margaret 1 1/16, Gladiators ⅝, Burbank's North at par, and Burbank's Consols also at par. Amongst the batch of reports just issued of West Australian mines are those of the Mainland Consols, Paddington Consols, the Golden

Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Extra sec.
Irroy's Champagne. Vintage 1889. Carte d'or. Brut.
Ernest Irroy & Co., Reims. Established 1820.

Crown, the Gladiators, the Menzies Gold Reefs Proprietary, the Menzies Crusoe, and the North White Feather Consolidated. With reference to the Mainland Consols, it may be briefly stated that the mine has crushed 1,372 tons of ore for 6,110 oz. of gold, and that the tailings assay from 5 dwt. to 18 dwt. per ton. Thirty heads of additional stamps are being erected, and the money necessary for this additional machinery has been advanced by the London and Globe Finance Corporation at 5 per cent. interest. This shows the importance of a mine belonging to a strong group. The Golden Crown has not yet reached the crushing stage, but the Directors state in their report that there are 18,000 tons of ore in sight. A battery of ten stamps has been provided, and ten more have been ordered. The Directors of the Gladiators, Limited, state that Professor Nicholas, having reported that the developments were such as to warrant the erection of a 10-head battery, the board have authorised the purchase of the plant, some of which is now on the way to the mine. The value of the ore in sight is estimated by Professor Nicholas at £40,000, which will undoubtedly be much increased before the mill is ready to start. The Menzies Crusoe has had eight crushings, and 5,524 oz. of gold have been obtained from 2,410 tons of ore, the tailings assaying from 7 to 16 dwt. to the ton, and the prospects of future crushings are hopeful. The report of the North White Feather Consolidated states that the development work carried on during the past twelve months has been of a satisfactory nature, and the general manager adds that considerable amounts of ore are ready for crushing. Four of the leases have been developed, and have turned out exceedingly well while the others have yet to be worked. With regard to a remark I recently made in answer to a correspondent in "My Letter Box," I am asked to state that the Directors of the West Boulder are of opinion that the Ivanhoe Reef has been struck in Lease No. 888 at a distance of 172 ft. from Shaft No. 3. I hear with reference to the Central Boulder that the Australian lode has been cut at the 100-ft. level, 15 ft. wide, giving 1 oz. to the ton. A circular has been issued by Mr. S. G. Shead, proposing a scheme of reconstruction of the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation. The present market capitalisation of the Corporation is, roughly, £65,000, and Mr. Shead proposes, therefore, that a new Company be formed with a capital of £100,000, divisible into £65,000 Ordinary shares and £35,000 Preference shares, to provide further working capital. Half the new Ordinary shares are to be allotted to the present holders of Ordinary and the other half to the holders of Founders' shares, but whereas the former would be foregoing their right to a 10 per cent. dividend, before the founders get half the profits, he (Mr. Shead) suggests that they have the right to apply for the Preference shares in the new Company, such Preference shares to be entitled to five-sixths of the profits, and the Ordinary shareholders to have the option of paying them off within, say, three years, at a price to be fixed forthwith. Without wishing to express any definite opinion upon this scheme, I yet think that the business and assets of the Company are sufficiently valuable for the shareholders to do their best to place the Company on a sound basis again. A rival plan is, however, being put forward. That the Board will have to be reconstructed goes without saying. It is difficult to recognise under the name of the North Coolgardie Company, Limited, the old "Callao Bis, Limited," which survived twenty years without paying a single dividend. It will be remembered that this Company acquired some leases on the advice of Mr. H. Lancaster Hobbs, who subsequently reported that he had been altogether misled in recommending the purchase, and that the mine would not pay. The Directors' report now issued mentions another disappointment, that with reference to the Heidelburg Daspoort, which they had intended to acquire, but this business fell through owing to the trouble in the Transvaal. The Directors are therefore still on the warpath, looking for properties. In the meantime I would suggest to them that they ought to forego their remuneration of £450, which again figures in the balance-sheet, being at the rate of £150 per annum each. The Directors' fees have been regularly drawn for twenty years, while the shareholders have never received a penny.

Duveen Bros., Old Bond Street.—The most unique Collection of Old Nankin Blue and White China and Coloured Porcelains ever exhibited in London.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

Indian gold mines have again moved somewhat irregularly, although improvements preponderated, Mysore Gold Gold, Mysore West, and Wynaard, Nine Reefs, and Champion Reefs, being all better. Kempincote are, however, easier, and Kadur Mysore have declined. Amongst Australian mines other than West Australians, Aladdin's Lamp are lower at 1¾. Bendigo, Mount Lyell, and Mount Morgan are easier, and Charters Towers mines have also been dull. Mill's Day Dawn United, Day Dawn P.C., and Mosman, gave way; but New Queen are firmer. Croydon Consols are steady at 10s. 6d., and will in a few days be quoted ex. the dividend of one shilling per share, which ought to be promptly recovered. North Croydon Consols remain at 3s. 9d., and La Reine d'Or look promising at 5s. A better tone has prevailed for New Zealand mines, Hauraki having improved to 17s. on the announcement of a dividend of 1s., and there have also been advances in New Zealand Joint-stock Trust, Waitekauri, and Waihi; but Waihi Silverton, Woodstock, Komata Reefs, Komata Queen, Royal Oak, and Tokatea are all lower. There has also been a setback in Taitapu Estates, but advices from this property continue very satisfactory. The shares in the Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Limited, have come into demand at 3⅛, on the issue of a batch of reports from the Managing Director in New Zealand, Mr. David Ziman. The Company has already formed several sub-Companies, amongst which are the Humphrey Hydraulic Sluicing Company, with a capital of £150,000. The property acquired by this undertaking covers 200 acres of auriferous alluvial ground, and on either side of this property the parent Company has four claims of 100 acres, together with water-rights. The other properties which the Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand have acquired are twenty-five building allotments in the City of Wellington; the Golden Fleece group of mines, covering 470 acres, which has been an old gold producer, the Wealth of Nations, Energy, Gladstone, and Beaconsfield group, covering 286 acres, which yielded large dividends in the past; and the Rosebery and Caledonian group; in addition to which there is another group of mines, including the Globe and Progress, covering 740 acres. According to Mr. Ziman, a line of reef traverses the last-mentioned properties, which is in parts 20 ft. thick, the ore being of rich quality, while the mines are also coal-bearing. One of the features of the various claims is that the former owners have obtained large returns from them, and that, with improved appliances, there is every prospect of obtaining similar yields from the deeper portions of the mines, in which developments are proving very satisfactory. The Managing Director's report is certainly very encouraging, and shows the various important assets of the Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Limited, as likely to have a great future. In the general Foreign section business has been inactive, and losses are marked in Frontino and Bolivia, Doric, and Burma Ruby, but Richmond have improved. Grand Central are quoted at 2⅜. With reference to the remark of the *Mining World and Engineering Record*, in which it is suggested that my favourable reference to the "Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico" may possibly refer to some extension of or consolidation with the Goldfields of Mexico registered last June, I have to state that this is not so, and that the Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico is a new Company which has acquired some very valuable mining properties in Mexico not hitherto owned in this country, the prospectus of which will be issued shortly. A sharp recovery has taken place in Rio Tinto to 25 on Paris purchases, but the shares in the New

Mountain Copper Mining Company, which has just gone to allotment, have dropped to ¼ discount.

The "Moses Moss" Toy Fund.

I am pleased to find that my appeal to my readers for contributions towards the "Truth Toy Fund" has been further responded to. There is, however, still great need of funds, and I should be glad to be favoured with contributions from the other numerous readers of my remarks. Last week I was able to announce a total of £97. 5s. 6d., and I have since received the following subscriptions:—

E. D. Oppert, £2. 2s.; "West Australia," £2. 2s.; John Waddington, £2. 2s,; W. H. Morrison, £5. 5s.; F. C. Poisson, £1. 1s.; G. H. Kearton, £1. 1s.; Wm. Stephens, £1. 1s.; Atkinson and Dresser, £1. 1s.; C.B.C., 10s. 6d.; J. C. H., 10s. 6d.; A. B. C. D., 5s.; Sir Christopher Furness, £1. 1s.; G. H. Collins, £1. 1s.; Geo. S. Gunnis, £1. 1s.; A. M. Aitkin, £1. 1s.; H. Walter, £2. 2s.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

W. B. Dick & Company, Limited.—With a capital of £250.000, this Company is formed to acquire the business of W. B. Dick, of Glasgow, London, and elsewhere, oil refiners and importers, and manufacturers of anti-fouling paint for coating ship-bottoms.

The capital asked for this concern I consider is altogether excessive. It must not be lost sight of by investors that there are many other firms dealing in the same commodities. The anti-fouling paints on the market for coating the bottoms of ships are numerous, and the competition both in this article and in oils is very keen.

Kibble's Stores, Limited.—This Company is formed to acquire the business of provision dealers, grocers, wine, spirit, and beer merchants, carried on by Messrs. Kibble & Co., Broadway, Deptford, and amalgamating therewith twenty-one other businesses of a similar nature. The capital is fixed at £175,000.

After a careful perusal of this prospectus I certainly cannot recommend any of my readers to touch it. It appears to me to be a promoters' amalgamation of good, bad, and indifferent shops, the trading results of which look very dubious. Some of the businesses, no doubt, are sound and good, while others, from their situation, cannot be worth much. Why were not the individual returns and profits of the various businesses given?

The Haycraft Gold Reduction and Mining Company, Limited.—To acquire the exclusive rights for Western Australia of Haycraft's Gold Extraction Process, together with a leasehold battery site of five acres in extent, and to acquire and develop the Victory and Hearts of Oak Gold Mines, comprising an area of about thirty-six acres, this Company has been formed with a capital of £200,000, in shares of £1 each. The present issue is of £95,000, of which £40,000 is now offered for subscription, the vendor taking £55,000 in shares and £20,000 in cash, leaving £20,000 for immediate working capital.

It is claimed for the Haycraft Gold Extracting Process, which has been acquired by this Company, that it is cheap, that salt water—which is so abundant in Western Australia—can be used with it instead of fresh; also that the quantity of water required is small, that the adjuncts are simple, that a saving in time is effected, and that no slimes or tailings are formed, with a consequent saving of any loss of gold. The prospectus states that at a trial crushing of the experimental plant, which was erected at Adelaide, 6 to 10 per cent. more gold was obtained by the Haycraft process in two hours than by the battery and cyanide treatment combined in forty-eight hours. If these important claims are borne out by actual results, the Haycraft Process would have a great future before it, especially in Western Australia.

Dominion of Canada.—Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co. are authorised to receive subscriptions for the City of Quebec of £664,480 Three and a Half per Cent. Consolidated Registered stock. The issue is made for the purpose of converting and redeeming outstanding issues of the City of Quebec Sterling debentures. The issue price is £96 per cent.

Hall's Oxford Brewery, Limited.—Subscriptions are invited for £100,000 First Mortgage Debenture stock, at £102½ per cent., of this Company. The share capital is £115,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each, the whole of which has been subscribed by the Directors and their friends. Applications are to be made to Messrs. Parsons, Thompson, & Co., Bankers, of Oxford; or to their London agents, Messrs. Coutts & Co., 50, Strand, W.C.

The Mercantile Bank of London, Limited.—This Bank invites subscriptions for 10,000 shares of £10 each, at a premium of 10s. per share. The authorised capital is £250,000, divided into 25,000 shares of £10 each, of which 4,280 have been already subscribed. Ten thousand are now offered at a premium of 10s. per share, and the balance, 10,720, is to be held in reserve.

Swansea United Breweries, Limited.—This is an issue of £50,000 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage debentures of £100 each, at the price of £105, secured on the Company's brewery and the freehold and leasehold property now vested in the Company, and a floating charge on the other property owned by the Company. The bonds are redeemable in 1917 at £110 on six months' notice.

This Company was formed in 1890 with a share capital of £50,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each, to purchase and amalgamate two breweries at Swansea, known as the Orange Tree Brewery and the Glamorgan Brewery. I cannot gather from the prospectus that there has been any large increase in the business, neither can I recommend this as a sound debenture issue.

Richmond & Chandler, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring as a going concern the business of machine manufacturers and engineers carried on by Richmond & Chandler, at the Globe Works, Manchester. The share capital is fixed at £35,000, divided into Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and Ordinary shares of £5 each, and 500 Four and a Half per Cent. First Mortgage debentures of £50 each.

Although the Directors consider the "combined chaff cutter and sifter a specially valuable invention with a great future," it will be as well to wait and see what the future may possibly bring before investing any money in this venture.

The Birmingham Hotel and Restaurant Company, Limited.—This Company is formed, with a capital of £100,000, divided into Five and a Half per Cent. Preference shares, and Ordinary shares of £10 each, to acquire and extend and carry on under one management an hotel, two restaurants, and a wine and spirit merchant's business in Birmingham.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

A. T.—Yes, I should think that a purchase of these bonds would be opportune just now. *Perplexed, Grimsby.*—The rumours with reference to the insurrections are evidently greatly exaggerated. Hold. *S. H., Harrow-road.*—I can only advise you to hold for an improvement, as all the adverse rumours appear to be unreliable.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

Enquirer, Kirkcaldy.—This is evidently a syndicate tout; have nothing whatever to do with him. Neither do I advise you to deal with the other outside broker mentioned. You should do your business through a member of the Stock Exchange. *Trust.*—This is a matter which must be governed by the circumstances of the case, and you should consult a solicitor. *M. Don.*—I can only repeat that this firm continues to send out letters and circulars from the address mentioned in Paris, 11, Place de la Bourse. What is the object of your inquiry? *Verdant Green.*—No; not at all a safe guide, but only a puff, as you think. *Mrs. B., Kensington.*—As a matter of principle, I cannot recommend individual stockbrokers; you will be easily able to get the name of a reliable firm through your bankers. I should advise you to leave the British Motor Syndicate severely alone, but Bovrils are worth buying now. *M. Y. L. A.*—There seems to be no particular reason for buying these. *Miss M. C., Dublin.*—I cannot reply to your letter without having some further particulars. What kind of shares do you want to invest in, mining, industrial, American, or Home Railway stocks? *Jasmine.*—Thanks for the circular; it is pots calling kettles black. Associated Gold Mines of Western Australia (1) are a promising purchase, but African Coal (2) should be left alone. *J. W., Durham.*—You cannot obtain a return of 5 per cent. with absolute safety. You might get from 4 to 4½ per cent. in high-class American Railroad bonds, some of which I mentioned last week. *T. F., Palmer's Green.*—I advise you to have nothing to do with the insurance concern in question, which is not established on sound lines. I cannot reply by letter. *Cold Iron.*—No; outside brokers, with whom you should not deal. You ought to do your business through a member of the Stock Exchange. In the case of outside brokers you will find that while you do not pay any commission, you will be charged higher prices. *Corrigenda.*—Of the two banks mentioned, I should prefer No. 1.

Home Rails.

Tabby.—The trouble between the Railway Companies and their employees has been adjusted, and you should not be frightened out. *Peter.*—While I agree with you that Vestas (Railway Investment Deferred) are worthy of notice, you must keep in view the fact that the assets of this Company consist chiefly of the stocks of the Heavy lines, which may again come under the cloud of labour troubles. The pooling arrangement is expected to benefit the Mexican Railway, together with the other lines. I do not wish to express any view with regard to the Dynamite Company.

American and Foreign Rails.

T. L. T.—Yes, your client should certainly hold Atchison Prefs. and Northern Pacific Prefs. There is every prospect of an improvement in the American market, especially in the new year. *A. E. C.*—Hold Northern Pacifics; they will doubtless recover. *G. R.*—A very speculative investment, and no particular temptation to buy. *Jay.*—1. Yes, a fair investment. 2. Only one-half-yearly dividend of 2 per cent. used to be paid, but now the bonds have become a fixed charge, and the interest is to be paid twice a year. *Martin.*—I can only advise you to make your investment from the list of American Railroad bonds repeatedly mentioned by me. You would, of course, select the best ones, which are as follows:—New York and Putnam Four per Cent. bonds at 108¼, yielding £3. 16s. 6d. per cent.; Illinois Central Four per Cent. Bonds at 105½, yielding £3. 18s. 6d. per cent.; Manhattan Consolidated Four per Cent. bonds at 98, yielding £4. 4s. 9d. per cent.; and Lynn and Boston First Mortgage Five per Cent. bonds at 103, yielding £5 per cent. *Scot, Glasgow.*—1. Hold Missouri Kansas Seconds for a rise. 2. There is nothing against Missouri Kansas Firsts. 3. Southern Ordinary are a good lock-up.

Mining Shares.

Nemo.—It is expected that suitable arrangements will be made under a reconstruction to place the W.A. (Gold District) Trading Company on a sound basis. You should hold and support the efforts about to be made. *Boxer.*—Hold all your mining shares for an improvement, which has, in fact, already commenced. *Hopeful.*—Hold your West Australian Mining shares, Nos. 1-5. Yes, it is a good time to average. *Alpha and Omega.*—The Company ought, of course, to have given you due notice, if your name and address were correctly registered, but you would also have found the notice in the newspapers, and I am afraid you have no redress. *W. N.*—No, you are not entitled to the Randfontein bonus, having bought too late. *Pouce.*—Both the Randfontein and African Estates are promising Companies, and you will do well to average. Hold Langlaagte Star and New Midas. For the investment of your £1,000 you can make your selection from the list of shares given in my letter. *J. O. H.*—Thanks for your contribution to the toy fund. Yes, you should average Great Boulder South. *Senex.*—Ramage Syndicate have fallen in sympathy with the rest of the West Australian market. *Experience.*—I will submit your scheme to the Directors and report again. *West Park.*—1. The first crushings of Hannan's Golden Group cannot come yet for some months, but it is advisable to average soon. 2 Hold. 3. There is no reason why Menzie's Crusoe should be so low, as crushings are good. Hold, and buy more to average, if you can afford to do so. *F. T.*—Yes, hold for a recovery, and see remarks under "Golden West Australia." *R. W. R.*—Yes, both are worth buying. *North Wales.*—The next Randfontein Estate Directors' report is not due for some time yet. 2. These shares are speculative, but you had better hold. *G. L. E., Kens.*—Yes, the scheme of reconstruction of the West Australian Gold District Trading Company is worth considering. See remarks under "Golden West Australia." *Constant Reader, Wallingford.*—Yes, you should be entitled to the Randfontein bonus. Why do you not claim it? *B. H. W.*—A. No, the three West Australian Gold Mines, Nos. 1, 2, and 4, are not over-capitalised, and are worth buying. *B.*—Yes. 2. No, the Randfontein is not interested in the deep levels. It has a large number of outcrop mines on its property. *Harrogate.*—You should hold your shares Nos. 1-11 for an improvement, and you might well buy more of Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7 to average. Buy also more Randfontein. *W. C. M.*—If you were a regular reader of Truth you would have gathered all the information from my letters concerning the position of the New Primrose and Glencairn. I cannot really repeat this. Amongst the shares Nos. 1—9 I prefer Nos. 3, 6, and 7, but if you are a holder you should hold all. *Hopeful, Ebbw Vale.*—1. Yes; it is understood that the New Bultfontein will go on paying dividends. 2. Yes. 3. Yes, they are a good purchase. 4. You will find what you require in my letter under "Rally in the Kaffir Circus" and "Golden West Australia." *M. A. M.*—The name of a smart firm of solicitors is forwarded in your envelope as requested. *Puck.*—Hold for a recovery. *A. B. C. D.*—Thanks for the contribution to the Truth Toy Fund. 1. Quite so. 2. Yes. 3. Yes. 4. Cheap enough, but it may be advisable to wait. 5. I do not care for this concern. *Thirsley.*—1. Yes; the Langlaagte Royal Mine will come along again. 2. Yes; very likely. 3. Impossible to tell, they must first strike the reef. 4. Not yet. *Lex.*—A somewhat mixed list; I should prefer Nos. 1, 2, 5, 7, and 9. *Burnwest.*—No; I do not like Potchefstroom. Certainly hold Modderfontein for a rise now. *Old Head.*—I know nothing of this issue, and do not consider the scheme at all promising. *O.*—Hannan's Golden Treasure should be held for an important advance. *H. P. L.*—1. No; they pay no dividend. 2. Possibly, but it is a very speculative mine. 3. There is hardly any market. 4. Possibly, all depends upon the general course of the Mining market. *Perplexed Trustee.*—You should certainly hold the shares of a late holder, as the tendency of the Mining market is favourable, and an improvement from the recent panic prices may be anticipated. *Wishtower.*—The fall in these shares is entirely due to the general weakness of the Mining market. When it recovers, these shares will also go better. *Parade Avenue.*—You should certainly hold your Johnnies and African Estates. Before June next, when you want the money, they are sure to be much higher. This also applies to Randfontein. *G. B. C.*—All your shares, Johnnies Consolidated, Porges Randfontein, and Menzies Gold Estates, should be held for a rise. A much better crushing has come to hand from the Porges Randfontein, and Menzies are likely to improve. *Volt.*—If you are a holder in the well-known Ivanhoe Company you are doing extremely well, as the price has risen to about £11. *Granite.*—Hold all your shares, Nos. 1 to 8, for an advance, and buy more of Randfontein (1), and Pigg's Peak (5). *Daylight.*—1. As you can make a good profit on these shares, why not take it. I do not attach any value to the publication in question, and the mine is doing well. All your mining shares, Nos. 2 to 8, should be held for a rise. 9. It is quite impossible to obtain with absolute safety from 4 to 5 per cent. in commercial investments. What you had better do is to make up a little trust of American Railroad bonds and Home Brewery debentures. *T. W., Hereford.*—In order to be able to resist payment of calls, you ought to be able to prove misrepresentation, and these gentry generally word their prospectuses so carefully, that this is a very difficult matter. *Alpha, Belfast.*—Yes, Buffelsdoorn Estates are an excellent speculation at the present low price. *Knutsford.*—The price is very low, but too little is known of the present position of this concern. *Adelphi.*—I advise you to leave the Faith Gold Mine alone. I, at least, have no faith in it. *India.*—I still think that this mine will come right, and I strongly advise you to hold them. *J. D. B., Northumberland-avenue.*—I note what you say with reference to the George Goch Mine, and I quite think that you are justified in holding the shares for a better price. But you will excuse me if I prefer making up my list of mines to be recommended to my readers without exactly including them. *W. C. M.*—I still maintain a favourable opinion of Glencairn, and have repeatedly given my reasons. The mine is likely to do well in consequence of the amalgamation with the Glenluce. *J. W. C., Dursley.*—The circulars of the Great Southern Tin and Gold Fields, Limited, is returned in your envelope. I have no special information upon this concern, but I do not like the look of it. I cannot reply by letter. *Revisco.*—This is a promising Company, and your best policy is to hold for an improvement. I cannot reply by letter, and, as a matter of principle, I cannot recommend individual stockbrokers. *Leamington.*—Wealth of Nations should come right in time, when they have a full supply of water. 2. No option but to hold. 3. Hold Randfontein, and Lake View Consols should also be held. *A Shareholder.*—I quite agree with you that the Directors of the W.A. Gold District Trading Corporation ought to do their best to put matters right, but it would be preferable to infuse new blood into the Board. *M. I. S.*—Although Langlaagte Estate have declined to 4¼, they are still an excellent investment, and you should hold. 2. There seems to be no option but to hold. *H. M., Gainsborough.*—There must have been some confusion in the questions and replies. The mine is a promising one, and you should hold your shares in both Lake View South and Hannan's Development. *W. W.*—No option but to hold these shares; they should recover again. *R. M. S.*—There seems to be every prospect of a recovery. *Aaron.*—1. The dividend will doubtless be paid in cash, but I cannot tell you how much. 2. There can be no chance of a dividend yet, but the mine is doing well. *E. H. F., Ken.*—1. Yes; efforts are being made to reconstruct the Board of the West Australian Gold District Trading Association. 2. I have an unfavourable opinion of this concern, which I stated at the time the prospectus was issued. *Weston-super-Mare.*—All your shares should be held for a rise. *Trading.*—Hold for a recovery. *Withington.*—No fresh information is available with regard to the first-named mine, but it is expected to do well. Hold the West Australian Mining shares. *Jean.*—1. No report has yet been issued. 2. It does not matter which of the two you sell; both are bound for higher prices. *Dan.*—Hold all your shares for a rise. *J. H. B.*—Hold your mining shares, but do not buy more to average yet. C. These are worth buying. *W. C. M.*—I fully explained the position of the Glencairn some time ago; you should hold the shares. *W. P.*—Yes, there is every prospect of a recovery. *J. S. L.*—I do not like either of the two companies—Queensland Menzies or Queensland Sherrey. *Eclipse.*—I have always expressed an unfavourable view of these, and do so still. *W. G. H.*—Hold No. 1 for a recovery. No reason to sell Nos. 2 and 3. 4. Yes. *Muskeg.*—Hold. *H. I. N.*—I do not consider the Credo mine a promising one. *Ashway.*—1. Lake View Consols should be held. 2. Hold Wealth of Nations. 3. No reason to sell. 4. Certainly hold.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hôtel Cecil, Hôtel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

5. No option but to hold. *F. W. S.*—You should certainly hold your Johannesburg Cons. Investment shares. They will doubtless have a marked recovery.

INDUSTRIAL SHARES.

Beef Tea.—There is no option but to hold your shares now, although you ought not to have applied for so large a number. There is, however, every prospect of a recovery. *Sydenham.*—The Paquin Company is, in my opinion a promising undertaking. *Seaside.*—I think you had better wait, as you suggest. *C. B. A.*—No option but to hold for a recovery, which is more than probable. *Manningtree.*—1. A fair investment. 2. There has been a reaction recently, upon which they should be a good purchase. *M. M. M.*—1. No, I do not see why this should prove temporary. 2. Yes. *J. H. E., Dowlais.*—I do not make any charge for answering inquiries. The Maypole Soap Company is promising. I return five penny stamps, the other penny being used for franking the same. *Grocer.*—No reason for selling now. *Duke.*—Bovril Deferred shares are promising, I do not like the others so well. *Oroman.*—These cycle shares are no catch. *A. C. M., Birmingham.*—No particular reason to sell. *Priest.*—Amongst the shares mentioned by you I prefer Bovril Preferred and Deferred (4) and Gordon Hotels (6). *E. S. W.*—I do not by any means say that this concern is in a shaky condition. On the contrary, efforts are apparently being made to place it on a very sound footing. *Ivan.*—I have not a favourable opinion of this Company, but you had better await an opportunity to get out. *F. A. H.*—I do not recommend the investment. *Expectans, Dublin.*—Write to the Secretary for information. *Amateur.*—1. As a matter of principle I do not recommend individual stockbrokers. The charge varies with the amount and class of the investment. *T. L. D.*—No particular reason for selling in a hurry, but do so when you have a chance of clearing a good profit.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

A. G. S.—You have done quite right in buying Northern Pacific Four per Cent. Prior Lien and General Lien Three per Cent. bonds, and you should hold for a rise (1). 2. Probably, but this is one of the concerns against which I warned my readers in the past. 3. Not much chance of the Oregon Short Line paying any bonded interest for the present. 4. This was for arrears of interest. 5. I suppose the general slump has prevented it, but you should hold. 6. Hold for a rise. *W. W.*—1. Hold Uruguay bonds and buy more to average. 2. Yes. *A. H. B.*—Certainly hold your Uruguay bonds, but I do not think much of the other debentures mentioned. *Azof.*—You had better hold Uruguay bonds now as the insurrection appears to be over; and certainly hold your mines, Nos. 1 to 4. *Hamlet, Gosforth.*—The Maxim-Nordenfelt Gun Company is apparently doing much better, and you should hold. There is no option but to hold the tin mines. *Z. Y. X.*—1. This brewery is a promising undertaking. 2. Not just yet. 3. No option but to hold; see report of the meeting held on Friday last. 4. Yes, a wealthy American office, but I prefer insuring with English companies. 5. Yes. 6. No catch. 7. Not yet. *Ash.*—No, I do not recommend purchase of the shares Nos. 1 to 5; you can do better in those mentioned in my letter. *Geisha.*—Hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 8, but get out of Nos. 2, 5, and 6 as soon as you get an opportunity. *Nemo, Doncaster.*—1. Yes. 2. The rumour about the uprising of natives in South Africa is absurd. Hold your shares and buy more to average if you can afford to do so. *Worthing.*—You should hold all your mining shares at present for a rise. Sell No. 1 when you have a good profit. *T. B.*—With reference to your shares Nos. 1 to 10, there is no reason to sell any of the high-class stocks unless you wish to obtain a higher yield. Nos. 6 and 7 is a local concern, about which no information is available here; but upon the whole there is no reason to sell any of your investments. *Fredington.*—You ought to have bought Dover "A" and Coras at once, do not delay now. I do not like La Campana. *Jumbo.*—No; I do not consider Nos. 1 to 3 worth buying. You can do better by making your selection from my letter under "The Kaffir Circus Bracing Up." *Nestor.*—Your list is a fair one of Industrial Investments, which should be held. The Mining shares A to F should certainly be held, and you ought to average the lot if you can afford to do so. *A. M. C.*—Hold your shares Nos. 1 to 5, and join the reconstruction of No. 5. *Irish Stew.*—There is nothing to be done but to hold Nos. 1 to 12 for a rise, which is sure to come if you have a little patience. Amongst the cycle shares I like Dunlops (2), but not Beestons (1). *Miner.*—Nos. 1 to 6 should be held for a rise, and, if you can afford it, you should average Nos. 4 and 6. No reason to sell Nos. 7 to 14. *Ne Quid Nimes.*—The best thing you can do is to put the money in American Railroad bonds, as mentioned in my letter last week. *E. U.*—Amongst the cycle companies mentioned by you I like Singer, Swift, and Humber; but not the others. Amongst the gold mines I prefer Lake View Consols, Hampton Plains, Great Boulder Main Reef, and Burbank's Birthday Gift. *Perso-Meter.*—1. Yes. Harrod's Stores should be suitable for you. 2. I should prefer London and Globe Finance as an investment. *Scarbro'.*—You should disregard the circulars of this outside concern. The shares are promising, and should be held. I do not think much of the Howe Cycle and Sewing Machine Company, and you should take an opportunity to get out. *H. D., Batley.*—A fair investment. The Lake View Consols will pay dividends in good time, but none are announced yet. Amongst your mines Nos. 1 to 15 there are a few good ones; but all should be held for an improvement. *Bagot.*—These are a good investment.

VARIOUS INVESTMENTS.

Although the Money Market gathered some temporary strength from the requirements of the Stock Exchange settlement, rates are easing off again. It is not, however, at all likely that we shall see any substantial fall in the value of money this side of the new year. On the contrary, as we are approaching the end of 1896 rates will doubtless stiffen, and a little stringency is quite on the cards until in January the dividends are released, when a reduction in the Bank rate may be looked for. Germany is drawing gold from the open market, and it is still feared that India will require a certain amount; but there is no prospect of a resumption of gold shipments to the United States. Silver is slightly firmer at 30d., and Rupee Paper has improved to 63⅛, while India Three per Cent. stock has also advanced to 109½. Consols, after declining, are up again at 112⅛ for the account. A moderate business has been transacted in Cycle shares, and prices have been pretty well maintained. Dunlop Deferred are quoted 1½, Humber Extensions and Ordinary 1 5/16, New Beestons at 3⅛. Swift Cycles have been a good market at about ⅛ premium, and there has been a considerable demand for Gladiators at ⅜ premium. Bagot Tyre shares are quoted at 3 premium, and the "Bears" are evidently in a tight place, the more so as a special settlement has been applied for. The statements made with regard to the business of the Bovril Company by Lord Playfair at Monday's formal meeting are most favourable. It appears that the profits from June 30 to November 18, which belong to the new Company, showed a greater rate of increase than indicated in the prospectus, and that from November 19 to December 9 the business has increased 68 per cent., in comparison with 1895. Amongst Brewery shares Allsopps have fluctuated, touching 182, and reacting to 180½. In the shares of the *Financial Times*, Limited, further dealings are reported at 2⅞ to 3, and this class of investment is becoming quite popular, *Financial News* Ordinary and Preference shares having also come into demand. Who are William Leonard & Co., Stock, Share, and Mining Brokers and Dealers, Bridge House, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.? They are sending out circulars headed, "Systematic Weekly Operations in Stocks and Shares." It is, of course, the old syndicate-touting business, although Wm. Leonard & Co. assert that "the system is one of extreme caution, the selection of steadily moving Investment stocks with those of more fluctuating tendencies; the Combination being arranged to secure small profits on the favourable daily fluctuations, the chief object in view being always the safety of the capital employed." It would be interesting to know what the results of Wm. Leonard & Co.'s previous "operations" have been to their clients. I have repeatedly expressed my views concerning the touting efforts of the Campsie Glen Whiskey Company, Limited, which is endeavouring to increase its business by promising fully-paid shares to each purchaser of one case of twelve bottles of their whiskey. Circulars are now again being scattered broadcast over the land, and the extraordinary feature is introduced that Press notices are printed on the back of these circulars, one from the *Financial News* and the other from TRUTH, both of which were of an uncomplimentary description. Footnotes are added, in which the attempt is made to refute these criticisms. In this, however, the Campsie Glen Whiskey Company, Limited, has been extremely unsuccessful. I maintain the view that as the Campsie Glen proprietors are presumably not philanthropists, it may be supposed that their profit on the whiskey will be sufficient for them to make the sacrifice of a share per case; and if the shares are worth anything the better plan would be for the proprietors to sell their whiskey so much cheaper.—Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

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QUEER STORY.

THE DOLL THAT SPOKE.

"HOLD me up, uncle, very high up. I can't see, and, oh, they are so beautiful! You were a darling to bring me, but what is the use of my being here if I can't see?"

Uncle Dick, who was forty, and handsome and tall, obediently lifted up Buntie, who was four and an autocrat, and very like a golden-haired doll herself in the latest thing in fur-trimmed pelisses and bewitching baby bonnets.

The Albert Hall was very crowded, and, glittering with thousands of toys, seemed a very fairy-land to Buntie, whose heart was wrung with longing for the dolls, despite the fact that a large family, very pale with much kissing, slept peacefully in her gay nursery in Berkeley-square.

"But, Buntie, these are for little girls who have no dollies."

"Doesn't Santa Claus come to them, then? I think he must be a naughty old man if he only comes to me, and I have lots and lots of things."

"Don't you see, Buntie, there are kind ladies who remember the other little girls, and they dress all these dollies and send them to Santa Claus in case his supply runs short."

"I would like to send them one of mine," said Buntie. "It must be so drefful to have none on Christmas."

Uncle Dick had no very clear notion of the utter desolation this terrible idea implied to Baby Buntie—Buntie, who woke rapturously on the most magical of all mornings, with full trust in the annual miracle that was the securest certainty of her little creed. Then not only the tiny stocking would be brimful of delights, but all the nursery turned into a novel wonder-world of joyful surprises.

But something in the sweet spontaneous pity of the child touched him, and he put his hand into his pocket with a sense of compunction that the hard fate of those forgotten by Santa Claus had never been brought home to him.

"I think I can show you the way. Take this, darling."

Buntie proudly dropped a shining coin into the chariot of a very captivating fairy queen, and gazed about her from her lofty coign of vantage with rose-flushed cheeks and eyes like stars.

They had got among the dolls in fancy dresses, and even Major Dick Marazion found, as usual, that taking Buntie out pleasuring meant amusement. The girls—and they were numerous enough—who had tried to marry Dick Marazion would not have known that impenetrable gentleman in the guise of Buntie's willing slave.

Once upon a time, before the death of Dick's godfather and the comfortable two thousand a year that had come to him after that event, he had been madly in love. For one season Sylvia Berwick, the sweet daughter of the most outrageously vulgar man that ever made and lost a fabulous fortune, had queened it over Society and Dick's heart. But old Berwick wanted a title and more for the daughter, whose beauty he rated at its full commercial value. Sylvia's tears had not availed to keep the young lover she had chosen; and she had no mother to plead for her.

Dick had been ordered to India, and very soon after old Berwick had gone under, as they say. This time in a double sense, for the crash that took his fortune took his life, and left Sylvia absolutely alone in the world. Society was naturally too busy with its own concerns to remember the comet of a day, and Dick had been at first sore and angry, then cynical, over his own passion.

The organ played Christmas hymns, the hymns that, whether we will or no, take us back, and exercise such subtle magic. Even to the most careless listener they had a touch of fresh significance among these gay memorials of good-will and kindliness, not towards men but towards the children, to whom the pitiless heritage of the sins of the fathers comes with such cruel force.

Suddenly Dick's eye was riveted by a pair of immense dolls, and his heart beat as it had not beaten for fifteen years.

"The very best of all, in my opinion," two admiring spectators near him were saying. "'A Colonel in the Days of the Duke of Marlborough' and 'A Lady of the Same Period,' dressed by—oh, give me my glasses—'Miss Sylvia Berwick, 11, Teck-terrace, West Kensington.' There is only one fault, perhaps. Did ladies carry bouquets in those days?"

Not in those days, perhaps, but certainly in the days when in all Covent Garden there seemed no lilies of the valley fresh enough for Captain Marazion to send to Miss Berwick for Lady Hurstmonceux's fancy ball—the ball where she had figured as a lady of the Court of Queen Anne, and he as one of Marlborough's colonels.

How well he remembered it! Some benevolent girl had told him what Sylvia was to wear, and he had chosen his own dress accordingly. They had been much commented upon as the successes of the night, and in the pauses of a Waldteufel waltz he had told her that he loved her, and she—ah, for the kiss hurriedly exchanged in the conservatory among the pink lamps and friendly shady palms!

So she had never married, then, after all. He thought of the bright face, of the crowd of eager partners round the pretty heiress. Not one of them all true to the woman when her hour of tribulation came. Or was it because she had not forgotten him? Impossible. The dolls stared at him as only dolls do stare. The jaunty Colonel, with everything complete; the dainty damsel, in delicate sea-blue brocade, with her lilies in her hand. He so dark, she so fair, just as they had been.

"Oh, the dear little man. Oh, let me kiss him, Uncle Dick."

Forced back to fact, and Buntie growing restless, he took a sudden resolution.

"Have you had enough, Buntie? Would you like to go where cake is?"

"Are there chocolates there, too?" queried that small person.

"Everything," said her uncle, persuasively.

"Then let's go. Good-bye, dear dollies; good-bye all. I hope the poor little girls will love you very much."

It was half-past three and a sunny December afternoon. Buntie got her chocolates—twice as many as were good for her—before she was handed back to tell her nurse of the wonders of the Albert Hall.

"I dare say I'm a fool, but I mean to do it," said Dick to himself as he came out of his sister's house and hailed a hansom.

"Eleven, Teck-terrace; and, look here, stop first at that big Bond-street florist's."

There were not many lilies, and they were dear, but he bought every one. The interminable cab drive was like a dream dominated by the two great dolls. He could not think consecutively. The old ache, the old longing, had come insistently back. The cabman lost his way twice in a desert of mean houses with empty "art" pots on the smutty ledges, and pallid yellow muslin curtains a breadth too narrow. At last he stopped at a quiet, unprepossessing row. No. 11 at least had clean steps, and a clean servant opened the door.

"Does Miss Berwick live here?"

"Yes, sir, but she is not at home."

"That is unfortunate, for I wanted to see her particularly."

"On business, sir?"

"Yes," said Dick, untruthfully.

"Then, if you please, sir, I was to ask you to wait. Miss Berwick will be in directly."

Xmas Presents.—Some extraordinary Teas now being sold by Cooper Cooper & Co., Ltd., Tooley-street, London. C. C. & Co. in all their experience have rarely met with such marvellous teas.

Mortlock's China and Glass Business, Oxford-st., has entered its 150th year, being founded by John Mortlock in 1746. It is carried on by John George Mortlock, the great-great-grandson of the founder, who solicits patronage and recommendation.

"So she is expecting some other fellow on business? What business?" thought Dick, as he followed the girl upstairs into a little room pathetically pretty with the prettiness of tasteful poverty.

His question answered itself, for there was a typewriter by the window piled with blotty manuscript.

On the mantelpiece, what? A photograph—his own. No; after all, it was not a photograph, but a portrait cut from the *Graphic* after that affair in the Sindra Pass that the papers had made such a fuss over.

There were footsteps on the stairs, and the door opened. It was nearly dark, but the firelight showed him that it was indeed Sylvia who came in. Not the Sylvia of other days, so radiant, so girlish, so fresh in her dainty dresses—the years are not so kind—but a sweet, serious woman in plain black, with the old masses of golden hair showing under her little bonnet.

Dick, with a sudden strange sensation of shyness that was very like fear, drew back until he was almost hidden by a screen, so that she did not see him.

But the room was full of a fragrance her heart knew in a moment. He had laid the lilies upon a table, and she took them up with a little soft exclamation of pleasure. He saw how tender was the face that bent over the flowers, a face no longer young, but with a new loveliness all its own.

Then he came forward without a word. She knew him instantly. The flush of rosy colour, the light in her eyes, the joy she could not stifle after all those hungry dragging years of loneliness, conjured back all, and more than all, the glamour of their youth.

"Dick—Captain Marazion, what has brought you here?"

He took her in his arms and answered, passionately: "My darling, I never knew until to-day that you wanted me; it was the doll that spoke."

Then there was a very complete and eloquent silence between them, till Sylvia looked up with her old smile: "Why, Dick, you *can't* mean that you saw the Colonel of the days of the Duke of Marlborough. What were you doing in the Albert Hall?"

"I was dragged there by force by a small tyrant—my sister's Baby Buntie—and I got the best Christmas present of all, though I didn't deserve it. Good old Santa Claus had not forgotten me when he showed me the lady in blue with the lilies in her hand."

"I dare say it was silly and sentimental of me to dress the dolls like ourselves, but sometimes, Dick, when I sat here working at them I could hear the music—that waltz, '*Souviens toi*,' and see the pink lights just as they were on the happiest night of all my life. There was nothing left but my dear past. Nothing could take that from me."

"Take the future instead, now, dearest. And, Sylvia, when Buntie saw that dashing Colonel, she wanted to kiss the dear little man."

MUSIC.

THE SCHOOLS FOR OPERA.

As, unless the Carl Rosa Directors pretty speedily make up their minds, the richest city in the world is not likely to see much opera until the grand sesaon, there was a certain amount of interest in performances given last week by the students of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music. The Guildhall School this Christmas makes no move, and I think wisely. A change is imperative; and for this I am sure we can trust Mr. Cummings, who was present at the Lyceum on Friday, and as a sensible man could see for himself where the present system fails at the Embankment school. As to the other two performances, the Royal College immensely showed its superiority. Indeed it is not quite easy to understand what the authorities of the Royal Academy of Music were about in putting such a work as Gounod's "Mock Doctor" into study at all. This particular opera was tried a few years ago at the Globe, with a result of which Mr. Richard Temple has said much, and doubtless could say a good deal more. As the opera, which is an avowed imitation by Gounod of the 17th century musical style, is not at all likely to be put into the repertory again, the time spent upon its study by the young people, one of whom spoke broad Welsh, and another almost as broad Irish, was more or less wasted. Also, if an institution of the rank of the Royal Academy of Music cannot afford an orchestra, and is obliged to limit its accompaniments of an opera to a mere pianoforte, it was hardly wise to challenge criticism at all. The most promising student was Miss Julia Franks.

The Royal College performance of "Falstaff" at the Lyceum on the following day was immeasurably superior. Opera at South Kensington seems to be a serious study conscientiously undertaken, instead of a mere pastime. Some of the subscribers to Covent Garden were present, and they must have been greatly surprised at the charm with which Verdi's bright orchestration was invested now that the music was properly played. The performers were nearly all students, but they had enjoyed an adequate number of rehearsals, a privilege which, amid the hurry of the grand season at the Royal Italian Opera, is practically impossible. The Falstaff almost of course, was the weakest point of the representation. To blame the young fellow, a good vocalist but a poor actor, would be unfair. No one but M. Maurel has yet played this part properly upon the operatic stage, and there is small wonder that it was beyond the reach of a student. Even the voice has to be altered and "thickened" for this character, which must be neither dull nor too grotesque, and is really one of the most difficult parts in the whole baritone repertory. Somebody gave the young Royal College Falstaff a Friar Tuck wig, which looked extremely comical, and generally the "make-up" of both the ladies and men would have greatly amused a professional "dresser." This is a branch of art which used, at the Royal College, to be attended to by Mrs. Kendal or some other professional actress, but it now seems to be neglected. In Paris the "make-up" is regarded as an important branch of the art; but at Prince Consort's-road Mr. Temple and Dr. Stanford are supposed to do everything; though to expect them to induct the young damsels into the mysteries of hare's-foot and rouge, lampblack and powder-puff, is, of course, vastly absurd. As to individuals, the best-played part was the Ford of Mr. Emlyn Davies; but the Mistress Ford of Miss Eleanor Jones was likewise very good, while equally by her comedy acting and her singing Miss Muriel Foster showed herself a better Dame Quickly than even Miss Giulia Ravogli, its representative at Covent Garden. That Anne Page looked older than her mother was probably the fault of her mother, although a few hints from a competent instructress in "make up," or a wideawake "dresser" from the Gaiety, would have taken ten years off sweet Anne's face.

I cursorily alluded last week to some of the more pushing American Universities who are supposed to confer degrees in absentiâ for whatever those honours may be worth. I may have to soon take up the subject more thoroughly. Meanwhile, some of the details of this business are extremely funny. For example, there is an institution called the University of the South, Swanee, Tennessee, down by the Swanee River. This enterprise, it appears, confers the degree of Doctor of Music, and according to the official statement the hood is "Scarlet cloth, lined with Virgin Mary blue silk, edged with a white silk cord." May I in all due humility ask what in the vocabulary of the United States is "Virgin Mary Blue?"

I have been shown some letters written by Mr. Lansdowne Cottell's alleged patrons to Messrs Houseman & Co., a firm of solicitors. Mrs. Ronalds, it appears, is doubtful whether she ever gave permission for her name to be used but she has now taken steps for it to be removed. Lord Battersea has nothing whatever to do with the London Conservatoire of Music; while Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., gave permission some years ago to use his name, but his solicitors are taking steps to withdraw it. By the way, in

a letter dated as recently as December 5, in reply to an inquiry from an apparently simple patron, Mr. Lansdowne Cottell still announced his Birmingham branch at Messrs. Harrison's. He knows very well that Messrs. Harrison put an end to his tenancy some time ago, and the Messrs. Riley have since followed this excellent example. As to the other people several have disclaimed in TRUTH. Dr. Bentley (whose address was Mr. Cottell's Manchester Branch) is said to be dead. If he is alive I shall be happy to hear from him. If not, I fail to see of what use he can be as an Hon. Examiner."

There are something like six-and-twenty performances announced during this week, which, however, will practically see the last of the season of 1896. Last week the concerts numbered over forty. Among the best was the performance of "St. Paul" under Professor Bridge at the Albert Hall. Mr. Plunket Greene and Mr. Lloyd were both in splendid voice, and the choir (about a sixth of whom are fresh voices specially chosen this season) were in magnificent form. The Stock Exchange Orchestra at their first concert introduced a new Festival Overture in E by Mr. A. R. Walthew, a clever, if not inspired workman. The Stock Exchange band is now one of the best of our amateur orchestras, and the society likewise boasts a capital male voice choir. M. Delafosse drew one of the smallest audiences of the week to a concert devoted exclusively to the works of M. Faure. One-composer programmes are always monotonous, altogether apart from the fact that French music just now is not a very great attraction. Miss Joran, who sings better than she plays the violin, has given a concert at which she introduced her sister, Miss Elise Joran, a clever young pianist. Miss Jeanne Douste, at her concert on Saturday, sang moderately well in no fewer than four languages. Mr. Leo Stern, who came straight from Leipzig, repeated at the Crystal Palace on Saturday his clever performance of Dvorak's violoncello concerto. On Monday, at the Popular Concerts, the song-cycle "In the Persian Garden," by Mrs. Bedford, a lady once so favourably known as Miss Liza Lehmann, was performed for the first time in public. It is a collection of twenty-two songs, either solos, duets, or quartets, and, to a certain extent, Oriental in character, set to the late Edward Fitzgerald's translation of some eleventh century Persian poems, the subject practically being "Drink and be merry, for to-morrow ye die." Some of the songs are very charming, and the cycle, which shows delicate fancy and real musicianship, is one of the most successful things we have had from a lady's pen.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Incomparably the most interesting book recently published is Mr. Albert D. Vandam's "Undercurrents of the Second Empire" (1) with its two ever-opportune morals. Cowper's:—

> But war is a game which, were their subjects wise,
> Kings would not play at;

and that of Otway's famous onslaught:—

> What mighty ills have not been done by woman!
> Who was't betrayed the Capitol? A woman!
> Who lost Mark Antony a world? A woman!
> Who was the cause of a long ten years' war,
> And laid at last old Troy in ashes? Woman!
> Destructive, damnable, deceitful woman!

If you had any doubt of the selfish and personal origin of each of the four wars of the Second Empire, you have but to read what Mr. Vandam calls the "undercurrents,"—a euphemism for sewers—of that passing pageant to have your doubt set at rest for ever.

> The first war of the Second Empire was undertaken, not for political, but for social purposes—namely, to give the new Empress the sponsor she lacked to introduce her to the Sovereigns of Europe. The second (1859) was waged to save the Emperor himself from assassination. The third (Mexico), perhaps in order to cover the frauds of Morny in connection with the Jecker bonds; but certainly to conciliate to a certain degree the Papacy, and also to found a French Empire beyond the seas. The fourth for the sake of securing the tottering Napoleonic dynasty to the Prince Imperial.

Mr. Vandam is even more bent upon pointing his second—*cherchez la femme*—moral, and to that end he cumulates story upon story, and evidence upon evidence, to the discredit of the Empress's head, heart, and character. Many of his stories are startling, some are risky, but all are interesting, and nearly all original. For the hapless Emperor, Mr. Vandam has kindly words only, but the kindness is almost contemptuous. There seems to be no doubt that Napoleon III. was one of the best-natured of men, but his goodness was of that weak and wavering kind expressed by the cynical Italian proverb—*tanto buon che val niente*. In speech, however, he was occasionally, and justifiably, bitter; and Mr. Vandam cites some neat and tart epigrams of his which would not have discredited Voltaire. Talking of Voltaire, when the Archbishop of Paris pressed for the removal of his and Jean-Jacques' cenotaphs from the Pantheon, on the ground that "his flock felt uncomfortable in the presence of the two atheists," the Emperor, having vainly urged that there was not a pinch of the dust of either atheist in the cenotaphs, at last cried, impatiently, "Look you here, Monseigneur, how do you think these two atheists feel in the presence of your believers?"—which settled his Grace. Let me put beside this an Archbishop's witticism. Of the Abbé Bauer, who *would* preach on the Virgin Mary alone, to the exclusion of the Trinity, Monseigneur Dupanloup said, "*Place aux dames*; according to Abbé Bauer, there is no God, and the Virgin Mary is his mother." Mr. Vandam closes his fascinating volume with an admirable moral, which I cannot resist quoting for you:—

> On leaving, after Sedan, the weaver's cottage at Donchéry, the Emperor gave Madame Fournaise five gold pieces. I believe they may be seen there to this day. Each of these five coins bore a different portrait. There was one of Napoleon I., one of Charles X., one of Louis Philippe, and one of himself. A check-taker at an ordinary theatre, seeing so many differently labelled passes, would argue from it that the patrons of the establishment at which he officiated were fickle, too fond of novelty, and, above all, too prone to worry the management. "A bon entendeur, salut."

While on the subject of witticisms, I must quote one I have just come upon in Mr. John Robert Robinson's interesting biography of the wild "Duke of Wharton" (2). The Duke by the following happy illustration distinguishes between King George I. and his Ministers. A zealous cavalier, upon the entry of his Majesty King Charles II. into Salisbury, pressed so close to the King's carriage that one of the black spaniels within it seized him by the finger, whereupon the agonised loyalist cried aloud, "God bless your Majesty, but God d—n your dogs!" I do not see how the distinction between personal and constitutional loyalty could be illustrated more happily. In reading Mr. Robinson's account of the transit of this brief and brilliant meteor across Europe, you are more than once reminded of a career as brief and brilliant, whose high promise was similarly wrecked—that of Lord Randolph Churchill.

Apropos of Charles II., the versatile and inexhaustible Miss Braddon has written an admirable historical novel, "London Pride" (3), where the Great Fire and the Great Plague, and the great moral plague of the Merry Monarch's dissolute Court all play their parts in bringing out into relief the characters of the personages. I could not help regretting that Miss Braddon has followed the fashion of the hour, not only in writing an historical novel, but in making it end inconclusively and sadly. In another respect, however, she follows only in form the current

(1) "Undercurrents of the Second Empire." Notes and Recollections. By Albert D. Vandam. (London: William Heinemann.) Price 10s. 6d.
(2) "Philip, Duke of Wharton." 1698-1731. By John Robert Robinson. Illustrated. (London: Sampson Low & Co.)
(3) "London Pride; or, When the World was Younger." By Miss Braddon. (London: Simpkin Marshall & Co.) Price 6s.
(4) "Rodney Stone." By A. Conan Doyle. With Illustrations. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co.) Price 6s.
(5) "Many Cargoes." By W. W. Jacobs. (London: Lawrence & Bullen.) Price 6s.
(6) "The Petrified Eye, and other Naval Stories." By Captain W. P. Drury. (*Globe and Laurel* Office, Forton Barracks, Gosport.) Price 2s. 6d.
(7) "In the West Country." By Francis A. Knight. (Bristol: W. Crofton Hemmons, St. Stephen-street.)
(8) "The Political Life of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone." Illustrated with Cartoons and Sketches from *Punch*. Vol. I. (London: Bradbury, Agnew, & Co.)

fashion, for though "London Pride" is in one volume, it is of the length at least of an ordinary three-volume story. Probably Miss Braddon's numberless admirers will but rejoice that she has given them a full measure of her old wine in this new and single bottle. Mr. Conan Doyle has taken the time of a Prince even more worthless than Charles II. for his vigorous novel, "Rodney Stone" (4)—that of the First Gentleman of England, whom, however, the first gentlemen of England scornfully repudiated as their representative "by blackballing his friends at their clubs, and by warning him off Newmarket under suspicion of having tampered with a horse." "Rodney Stone" is a singularly successful *tour de force*, since Mr. Conan Doyle interests you even breathlessly in what, naturally, is disgusting and despicable—prize-fighting and foppery. The absurd foppery of Beau Brummell's predecessor, Sir Charles Tregellis, like the fantastic tracery on the sheath of a Damascene blade, enhances, by contrast, your admiration of the sterling metal it encases; while the description of the prize-fights is worthy of the subject Mr. Conan Doyle meditates attacking next—Nelson's sea fights. If you cared for "Three Men in a Boat," you will most certainly enjoy the screaming farce of Mr. W. W. Jacobs' "Many Cargoes" (5). Considering that all the stories have for their subject the adventures of Thames skippers and bargemen, which can hardly be considered inexhaustible, it is really surprising what varied and immense fun Mr. Jacobs contrives to make out of it. "The Petrified Eye" (6) is the queer title of another series of entertaining stories which, though originally told to the marines in the pages of the corps journal, are distinctly worthy of a wider audience. The *Globe and Laurel*, for the benefit of which the book is published, may be congratulated on the possession of a contributor with such a lively imagination and abundant humour as Captain Drury exhibits in the invention and narration of these amusing tales. Let me, in conclusion, commend to your notice a prettily-illustrated volume, "In the West Country" (7), which gathers together a number of Mr. F. A. Knight's pleasant papers on rural and coast scenery and natural history in Devon, Somerset, and Cornwall.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

P.S.—If only for the sake of the many reproductions of cartoons and sketches from *Punch* which enliven and embellish its pages, the latest "Life" (8) of Mr. Gladstone would be sure of a hearty welcome. But while these admirable specimens of the art of political caricature give it a charm and interest all its own among biographies of the G.O.M., the literary record of his career is also very well done; and in the volume form in which the work is now appearing (it has already been issued in serial parts) it will make a handsome addition to your bookshelves.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The masked ball on Friday night at New Niagara was a great success. Seven hundred people were present, and the decorations were very much admired. The boxes were draped with white and pale green, colours that caught the light and gave a very bright and decorative look to the scene. From the centre of the roof was suspended a brilliant light softened by rose-pink silk, and from it to the other electric lights were hung festoons of silver tinsel. Tall plants, such as palms and ferns, were placed at intervals round the gallery, adding their note of deep green to the paler tones. Round the corridor, with its vandykes of coloured lights, cascades of silver tinsel were gracefully disposed. You may imagine that this made an excellent background for the pretty dresses. The competition for the prizes was rather keen. The first, consisting of fifty pounds' worth of furs, was awarded to the wearer of a costume, which appeared to be a mixture of the Spanish style with a dash of the Polichinelle. The second prize went to a lady, whose 1830 costume was generally voted charming. The pale green satin skirt was hemmed with pink roses and round the shoulders a filmy fichu was draped. She carried a muff made entirely of roses, and wore a coal-scuttle bonnet with an immense "scoop." The third prize was secured by a feminine edition of *le Sport*. The hunting pink coat was hung round with foxes' brushes, horseshoes, and other emblems of the chase. The second prize for ladies was a furnished note-paper case; the third, a clock. The first prize for gentlemen was a suit case, fitted as a dressing-bag. This was secured by a capital Harlequin. Mr. Claud Hay, as Father Christmas, with a long, grey beard, snow-white wig, and a wallet full of toys, took the second, a Tantalus spirit case, I think; and an uncommonly good Pierrot was awarded the third—a triple arrangement, one section of which was a clock, another a thermometer, a mirror completing it.

There were several very pretty dresses worn by the general company, one representing a soubrette of the Louis Seize period, the details being better carried out than is usual in historic fancy dress. A grisette costume in pale green and pink, with a green velvet bodice, was sweetly pretty. A group, consisting of twin babies, a boy and a girl, was followed about by a nurse bearing a feeding bottle. The twins were dressed in regular nursery fashion with short muslin frocks and long sashes. The boy baby set up a yell directly he arrived, whereupon the nurse flew to him with the feeding-bottle, and he had a long drink of milk. No less than six Geishas were present, and, for contrast, perhaps, three nuns. There was no ghost this year, the girl baby being the character assumed by the lady whose phantom-like aspect attracted so much attention at a previous ball. There was a procession at one o'clock, and afterwards supper became the business of the hour. Dancing was kept up till past five in the morning. There will be another ball in the middle of January. A lady, garbed as a bride in white satin and orange blossoms, carried a large bouquet of orange blossoms, and was, in all sartorial respects, the conventional bride, though in one rather important particular she scarcely looked the character.

In our search after Christmas-boxes we visited Goode's in South Audley-street. We always delight in the beautiful room in which they keep the models of old Sèvres and other old English china, for the reproduction of which this firm is so renowned. It is now much improved by the introduction of the electric light. Among other treasures in this room we noticed a very fine old Worcester dessert service, consisting of thirty-three pieces in dark blue and gold; the shapes of the plates and dishes are very quaint and varied, and it is a novelty to find an old service so complete and in such an excellent state of preservation. We also noticed a very fine old Sèvres dessert service, complete for dining thirty-six people, the prevailing colour of which is yellow of a shade which looks particularly well at night. It is beautifully painted with small groups of flowers, with larger groups in medallion on dark blue ground, the whole service being richly gilt. An idea of the importance of this service will be gathered from the fact that it consists of no less than seven dozen pieces, and for so complete and interesting a set the price asked—£600—is reasonable enough. In this room are also kept the designs which Messrs. Goode submitted to the Emperor and Empress of Russia during their visit to Balmoral. In walking through the showrooms we were particularly pleased with the beautiful dessert service of green on dark blue, presented to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough on the occasion of their marriage; also with a toilet service of the old Sèvres Rose du Barry ground, richly gilt in the Louis Seize style, with the monogram of the Duchess surmounted by a coronet painted on medallion with ivory ground.

Novelties displayed suitable for Christmas presents were in bewildering variety, and have evidently been designed with regard to the purchasing powers of all classes of the public. Among other things that especially struck us was a most useful adjunct to the teatable in

BUSVINE's New Styles of Ladies' Winter Dresses are separately designed and specially modelled to suit each particular figure.—Sketches by post, 4, Brook-street, W. "A beautifully moulded bodice, cut as only BUSVINE of Brook-street can cut.—*The World*.

the form of cake-stands made in mahogany and other woods, some fitted with brackets. This is especially convenient on account of the difficulty so often experienced in rooms in finding a place for empty teacups. As we were leaving, Messrs. Goode were packing a delightful little tea service ordered as a Christmas present by H.R.H. the Princess Frederica for the Queen of Hanover, the design being festoons of pale blue dots with appropriate gilding.

Yet another courageous woman has ventured forth upon the troubled sea of trade. Machinka is the name under which a well-known lady veils her identity at 8, Conduit-street, where white walls, white hangings, crimson carpets and Louis Quinze furniture, upholstered in willow green, make an effective background for some of the most daintily delicate chiffon that I have seen this autumn. I took some mental notes for your behoof. Here, for instance, is a tea-gown which, if I can only do it some justice in description, ought to make you extremely anxious to invest. It is in pink moiré brocade, lined with soft white satin and bordered down the fronts with a ruche of narrow white satin ribbon and a band of chinchilla, the fur being continued round the neck, where it is filled in with butter-coloured lace. The transparent sleeves are in lace with epaulettes of tucked white chiffon and yellow lace. The under dress, visible only in front, is white satin covered with tucked white chiffon and bordered with yellowy lace. There is no fastening whatever to the tea-gown beyond a white satin ribbon tying it in at the waist, which it closely defines at either side, though falling loose in front and in a flowing Watteau at the back.

Another lovely tea-gown is in poplar-green Liberty satin, much fulness being in the skirt. The Watteau pleat is right away from the waist, which is bound in with a band of white satin at the back. This band passes under, leaving the fronts free. The under dress is white chiffon, bordered with yellow lace, and it has a deep lace bib drooping from the collar. A boléro is edged with a narrow ruching of poplar-green crêpe. The high collar is filled in with a ruff of the yellowish lace. Pleated chiffon sleeves just turn the elbow and are finished at the top with pointed satin epaulettes edged with a green crêpe ruche.

A perfectly novel and extremely effective walking dress is not to be discovered every day, even in our wonderful London. Machinka's is in navy blue serge, the coat-bodice fitting closely to the figure at the back, but falling in front in a fully-pleated sacque to the waist, where it is edged with several rows of narrow black braid, the skirt being finished in the same way. When this little coat is closed in front, a wide tie of Indian silk in crimson and cream colour fastens in a large bow at the neck. A touch, however, unfastens this and allows the wearer to throw back the fronts, discovering their bright red silk lining and also a lovely little vest of pleated red moiré velours, crossed on the upper part with narrow bands of the red, edged with black and fastened with beautiful little buttons. The deep collar of chinchilla adds the crowning touch to one of the most covetable costumes I have ever beheld.

Three smart walking coats complete the little collection, whose descriptions I cherished up for you. One is in grey cloth fitting almost tightly to the figure and finished with a short rounded basque below the waist. A double full collar of grey astrachan is arranged in a new and quite inexplicable fashion. There is a waistcoat composed of rose-coloured chiffon gathered in a kind of honeycomb with creamy lace fulled up the sides and held with little steel buttons. The second coat is black velvet, the high lace collar being edged with chinchilla, completely filled in with narrow lace. The third is a sacque composed of the softest and darkest mink with large brocaded sleeves.

Hunting.—An elegant and graceful up-to-date figure is produced by the easy and perfect fit of the ingenious and appropriate Corsets built by Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

I think I mentioned to you some time ago the Rose Tea Rooms, started by some ladies, and a great boon to the people who attend the concerts at Queen's Hall. Dainty surroundings always appear to add to the charms of tea. Do you not think so? There are now two sets of "Roses," one downstairs at the corner of Mortimer-street, the other, on the first floor, at 302, Regent-street; and the pretty drawing-rooms at the latter can be hired for afternoon at-homes. American cakes are to be had there, and are praised by those who enjoy this class of food.

I believe I have also mentioned to you the Ladies' International Club, which, in co-operation with the Kettledrum, formed so attractive a tea-lounge for women in New Bond-street. The two have now developed into a regular club, to be called the Sandringham, and to be carried on as much like a man's first-class club as possible. A French chef has been engaged—quite a new departure for a ladies' club, I imagine. There is to be an excellent table d'hôte luncheon at eighteenpence, and dinner at three shillings. Here's another novelty in a ladies' club: the wines are to be carefully selected—and by a MAN, too. We really are coming on rapidly as a sex, and there is no reason why we should not some day be gastronomically on an equal footing with our husbands and brothers. The subscription to the Sandringham is to be three guineas, but to any member joining before January 1 a third of the sum will be remitted. The ladies of the Committee include the Lady Sybil Tollemache, Lady Trelawny, Lady Burford-Hancock, Mrs. Metcalfe-Dale, Mrs. Beaty-Pownall, Miss Whyte-Walton, and Lady Palliser. Members are to be allowed to include gentlemen among their visitors, and these may be admitted to the luncheon, dining, and tea rooms—no others. Dogs are not to be allowed to go further than the hall. Sleeping accommodation has been secured near the club for the convenience of country members.

A lady has invented a cycling-dress adjuster by the use of which the rider avoids getting her dress displaced by wind or rapid pedalling. It consists of a thin sheet of aluminium, with an attachment which has free play to slide up and down the slot, thus accommodating, by means of the disc behind the slot, the perpendicular motion of pedalling. Should the rider jump quickly from her machine the disc at once slides down to the lowest point, rendering it impossible for the adjuster to tear the material. The inventor has called it the "Eureka." She is a very hard rider, going out in all sorts of weathers, and she used to tear holes in all her skirts until she bethought her of this device.

We ran down to Brighton on Thursday in order to be present at the opening of the Sale of Irish Industries, which took place at the Clarence Rooms of the Hotel Métropole. The Duchess of Connaught was unfortunately prevented by illness from being present on the occasion, so the opening ceremony was performed by Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar. Lord Arthur Hill received the Princess on behalf of the Industries, being supported by a bevy of Duchesses, Countesses, and other *grandes dames*. This was not a bazaar, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, but a genuine sale of genuinely useful articles. Two of the principal stalls were devoted to the sale of Irish frieze and dress materials generally; whilst others had a grand display of Irish lace, Irish linen, and every description of Irish work. I am glad to hear that, regardless of the fact that some of the more expensive articles somewhat hung fire, on the whole very good business was done; and that the experiment has been sufficiently successful to justify a repetition of it.

One great feature was that although the persistent "cadging" (excuse the word, but there is no other that is equally expressive) was agreeably conspicuous by its absence, still, the stall-holders proved themselves to be good business women, and I am perfectly sure that neither Lady Bective, Lady Arthur Hill, Viscountess Duncannon, Lady Lucan, nor Lady Tweedmouth will ever be "dis-

"Liberty" Yule-Tide Gifts.—For inexpensive, dainty, and uncommon presents. The "Liberty" Bazaars will well repay a visit of inspection. Catalogue of 282 illustrations post free.-Regent-st. W

tressed ladies," for if with the abolition of the House of Lords their incomes were abolished too, they would each and all of them be able to earn a substantial income in the world of commerce.

The whole sale was under the direct management of Mr. J. S. Wood, who is now so well known in connection with charitable undertakings of this description, and he was most ably and effectively assisted by Mrs. and the Misses Wood.

Of course, I have not forgotten to run into Charbonell's and Walker's in Bond-street, and am once again very happy in my purchases there. They have such beautiful things. Those lovely sofa-cushion receptacles for bonbons that I described fully to you last year have this year been reproduced, but on a much larger scale, as the manageress told me they proved quite a phenomenal success. The embroidery and painting are both marvels of workmanship, and the materials used are, if anything, more gorgeous than before. Enormous sachets, work-tables, and quaint-looking boxes are also charmingly painted and embroidered in elaborate cloth of gold. Several of the designs are taken from very old pictures, the subjects of most of them being older still, as they nearly all deal with love's young dream. How much more appropriate the dress of days gone by was to reproductions of these tender passages in life. Even the most elaborately-embroidered or painted representation of a young couple in our modern attire could not be made either pretty or artistic. Fancy a man embroidered in a top hat and frock coat, or a woman in a "tailor-made." This year, instead of the hare we have the poodle on his bicycle, and his beautiful curly coat is warranted not to take the moth. The motor cars are well up to date, but they show a great deal more originality in design than the creaking, cracking, cruel-smelling, crawling realities that made that unfortunate trip to Brighton a few weeks ago.

Christmas cards of the old style still exist, but when I have said that I have said all that there is to say. Fashion has decreed that the more modern greeting card, that is to say, a tastefully got-up card, simply conveying the good wishes of the sender, shall be *the* fashion for the moment. Still, so long as we have children with us, and so long as we have Raphael Tuck & Son with us, the elaborate card, the artistic card, the sporting card, and the comic card will be with us too. I am going to tell you, therefore, shortly, about Messrs. Raphael Tuck's productions for this season, for as far as my experience goes theirs are the only cards that call for special comment.

Four Goupilgravure figures, after T. E. Waller, are most artistically got up, and are enclosed in a "Waller" India-proof portfolio, "Exchanging Greetings" and "His First Christmas" being particularly good. Another similar quartette is from pictures of Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir Thomas Lawrence, and they will appeal to all lovers of children, so perfectly are these little ones portrayed. The Platino panels are new this year and are sold in separate boxes, thus greatly reducing the risk that is always attached to sending handsome cards by post. I am very much in love with the hand-painted series, as for quaintness of costume, delicacy of colouring, and beauty of face and figure, these Early English maidens are as near perfection as possible. The New Woman is mostly got up in scarlet and black, and from her bike wishes you a merry spin through the New Year. There is also a sweet little calendar in the shape of a bicycle, gorgeously decorated with flowers in lovely shades of mauve and pink. It is, by-the-bye, clear that the motor car is not by any means considered to be a reality in Christmas-card land, as there is not a single reproduction of it throughout the whole of Raphael Tuck's large assortment. I am glad of this, as the cars we have seen up to the present are certainly not things of beauty. Some very funny cats, most comically grouped, make a capital calendar, which is sure to find favour with our juveniles.

We looked in for half an hour at the winter sale of the Working Ladies' Guild, held in the beautiful oak-panelled museum of Lord Brassey's house in Park-lane. The most interesting things we saw were those in the art needlework department, which for some years has been managed by Lady Eden. The work is simply lovely, and you may safely recommend your friends to go to the Guild House, 251, Brompton-road, for Christmas presents. The embroidered covers for books, reproductions from the antique, are of great beauty. Cot-blankets, embroidered with designs calculated to please the nursery folk, are novel. But I could not hope to give you anything like a full list of the pretty things so daintily made by the Working Ladies.

It is all very well for Mr. Tom Smith to go on inventing new kinds of crackers each successive Christmas season, but, for my part, I am quite unable to keep pace with his fertile ingenuity and prolific fancy by inventing new adjectives by which, year after year, they may be fitly described. This Christmas his novelties appear to be exceptionally topical and "snappy" and up to date; and I think the time has come when "The Cracker King" may fairly assume a yet higher title, and, by general consent of his millions of loyal and delighted little subjects, be proclaimed "Emperor of Crackerland, and of all Cosaque-ia's boundless realm the ruler paramount."

Christabel writes from Paris:—

I send you a description of the very pretty toilettes worn by the actresses in "L'Evasion" at the Comédie Française. The scene is laid at the present time, and the dresses are in the fashion of to-day and a little of to-morrow.

In the first act Mlle. Reichemberg had a costume of grey glacé silk with rows of lace insertion round it. The waist-belt was very handsome, being closely set with turquoises. As headgear she had a little black tricorne hat with a plume of white feathers and steel ornaments.

Mlle. Lara had a beige cloth skirt, each side embroidered with grey chenille, a boléro of the same cloth embroidered to match, with a puffed front of white chiffon, over which fell a cravat of white lace; the long sleeves had falilng ruffles of the same at the wrist.

Mlle. Nancy Martel appeared in a skirt of hortensia cloth embroidered with velvet anemones the same shade. The bodice was hortensia velvet opening on a front of white satin covered with tulle; the revers were velvet with cream guipure, and at the back bretelles; round the neck a Médicis collar of white satin and fullings of tulle; velvet sleeves slashed with white satin on the upper part, and laced across with hortensia chenille; round the waist a white satin belt. This colour called hortensia here is the pinkish-blue shade of the flower we call hydrangea.

Mlle. Moreno had an elegant princess-shaped costume of serpent green moiré velvet; in front of the bodice was a fulling of Bruges lace with little straps of green moiré and black velvet.

The second act showed us some more pretty dresses, that of Mlle. Reichemberg being very simple. It is made of lavender cloth, the bodice covered with cross-cut folds of white and cerise velvet, with large gold buttons, a red straw hat with white wings, brown leather boots, and a red parasol. Mlle. Lara had a very charming dress of white cloth with cream-coloured guipure on the skirt. The bodice was entirely draped with the same lace, the effect of the rich lace on the dead white being exquisite. In the front was a bouffant of tulle with little frills; epaulettes of guipure with frills of tulle, white cloth sleeves, and overlaid with guipure, and some of the cloth cut away to show the arm through; the neck and waistband were of yellow satin.

In the third act all were in evening costume. Mlle. Reichemberg had a superb dress of white velvet plissé "soleil" (rather like the accordion-pleating, but widening towards the feet), and embroidered with wild roses made of lace and reworked with coral pink spangles. I cannot describe the lovely effect. On the bodice was plenty of lace and pink velvet, and in her hair a bow of three shades of pink velvet.

Mlle. Lara's gown in this act was pink Liberty satin, worked with gold. The low bodice had tulle drapery, and balloon sleeves of cream lace and pink tulle, drawn in with three bars or clasps of brilliants. On the left side of the bodice was a lace bow with a diamond buckle in the centre. The waistband was of pink satin, finished with a chou of the same.

Mlle. Nancy Martel's dress was very rich water-green satin broché, with large bouquets of marguerites, the centres of which were marked with silver spangles. The bodice seemed composed entirely of satin ribbon. Round the low neck was a fall of lace spangled with silver, epaulettes of Louis XV. knots sparkling with silver, and under them small fullings of green silk and lace to form a sleeve. Under this coquillé a knot of

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water-green silk was placed on the right sleeve, and on the left a tuft of Nice roses, which had a very pretty effect.

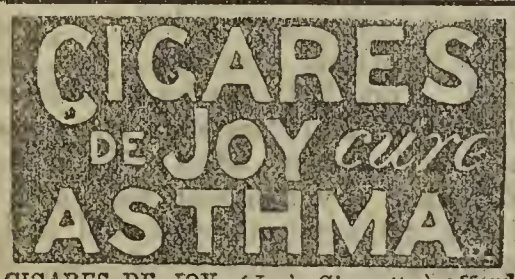
I must tell you that Mlle. Reichemberg's dresses were made at Paquin's; while Doucet has the credit of making those of the other actresses.

Mlle. Lara scored a great success, having undertaken the part of Lucienne at very short notice, owing to Mme. Bartet, for whom the part was designed, being unable to appear on account of the very recent death of her son.

Having had a present of a haunch of venison, we converted the surplus part of the loin, with the addition of a couple of damaged pheasants, into a pasty. It made an excellent luncheon dish. If it is not convenient to use pheasants, the flesh of a nice rabbit will answer:—

To make the pasty, remove the best part of the fillet of venison and the breasts of the pheasants, cut them into neat pieces, about an inch thick and four inches long, sprinkle with chopped shalot, parsley, a sprig of chopped thyme and a little salt and pepper, place them aside on a plate. Cut the remainder of the meat free from bone and sinew, pass it twice through the mincing-machine, with the flesh from the birds. Now weigh the passed meal and put it into the mortar with a third of its weight of scraped fat bacon, add a teaspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of pepper, and a good pinch of cayenne pepper, pound sufficiently to thoroughly mix the ingredients. Meanwhile, for the pastry, put 4 oz. of pure lard into a stewpan with a gill and half of water, stand it on the stove until dissolved, and quite hot. Pour it on to a pound of flour, add a pinch of salt, and mix it into a stiff paste, reserve a portion for the lid, and keep it warm, roll the remainder, and line a well-greased, raised pie mould, pressing the pastry well into the shape; line the pie with slices of bacon, put a layer of the prepared meat in the bottom, on which put a layer of the seasoned fillets, garnish with chopped truffle and the yolks of hard boiled eggs passed through a wire sieve. Repeat the layers of fillets and forcemeat until all the ingredients are used, put on the lid of the pie, trim neatly, and ornament the top with leaves made from the trimmings. Brush over with beaten egg and bake in a moderate oven for two hours. When the pasty is done remove the centre piece of pastry, make a small hole, and fill up with strong gravy. When partly cold remove the mould, then leave it until next day. Serve on a dish paper, garnished with sprigs of parsley.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.



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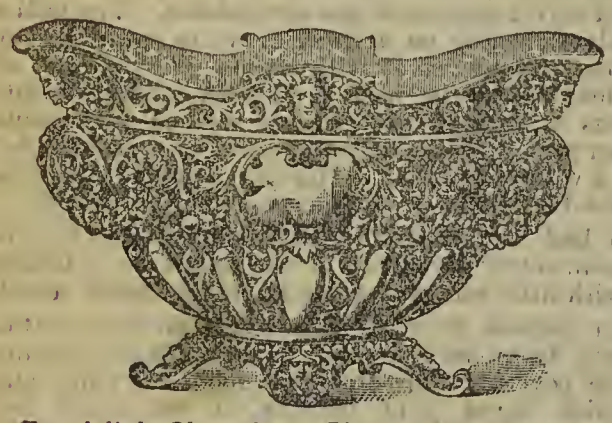

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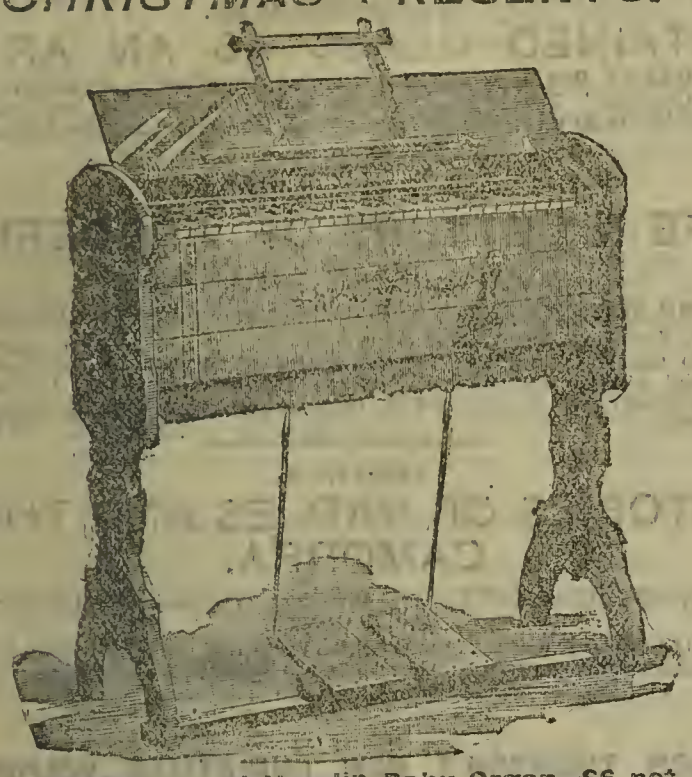

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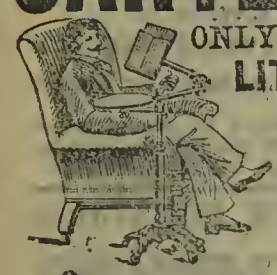

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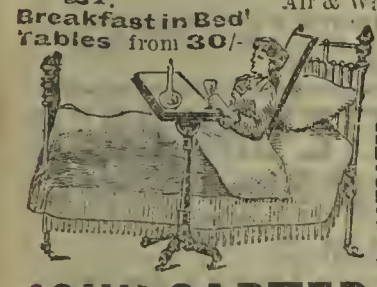

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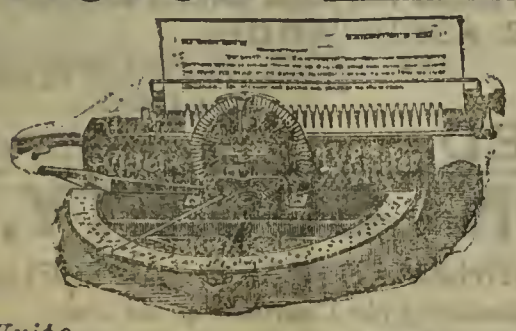

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Because for **36 years** past the **Sickly** and **Destitute**, the **Hungry** and **Helpless**, have, in **large numbers, sought** and **received** our aid.

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JERSEY.—The GRAND HOTEL is charmingly situated, facing the sea, with full south aspect, and sheltered from the north and easterly winds. Every home comfort and liberal management.—For terms apply to D. DE LEIDI, Manager.

MALVERN—One of the most charming places for the Holidays.—The IMPERIAL HOTEL occupies the best position, and receives visitors *en pension*. The golf-links (18 holes) are one of the best in England. Capital stabling for hunters. Droitwich Brine, Turkish and large Swimming Bath in separate buildings. For tariff, apply to the Proprietor and Manager. F. MOERSCHELL.

TORQUAY.—IMPERIAL HOTEL.—Under entirely New Management. New sanitary arrangements throughout. It is the largest and best-situated Hotel in Torquay, and the best winter residence on the South Coast. Visitors received en pension or à la carte. Terms moderate.
F. FISCHER, Manager.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—WELLINGTON HOTEL, Mount Ephraim. Under the distinguished patronage of his Grace the late Duke of Wellington, K.G., the leading nobility and gentry, &c. 422 ft. above sea level, south aspect; elegantly furnished; piano in every sitting-room. Cuisine. English and French. Electric light throughout.—BRABY, Proprietor.

All applications for spaces in this List should be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, "TRUTH" BUILDINGS, CARTERET STREET, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.

HANS CRESCENT HOTEL

HANS CRESCENT, BELGRAVIA, LONDON, S.W.
Within three minutes' walk of the Albert Gate Entrance to Hyde Park and Tattersall's.

THIS FAMILY HOTEL is sumptuously Furnished and Appointed, and complete in every detail. There are many self-contained Suites of Apartments, ensuring the utmost privacy (each having a Bathroom), as well as Single Bedrooms.

A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT
(à la carte and at fixed prices) is attached to the Hotel for **Non-Residents.**

RECHERCHE CUISINE.
The splendid **COVERED WINTER GARDEN** (2,500 square feet in area) forms a charming lounge, an attraction which is not possessed by any other Hotel in London. The entire building is agreeably heated during the winter. Mons. F. Casano's exquisite String Orchestra performs in the Palmery every evening during dinner time. **Manager, MONS. C. DIETTE.**

INNS OF COURT HOTEL, Holborn.—A first-class Family Hotel, with 200 bedrooms, all modern conveniences. Electric lights, lifts, &c. Banquets arranged. The Central Hall is the finest and the Dining-room the pleasantest in London. Masonic lodge, public meeting rooms, &c. Table d'hôte, 6 to 8, 3s. 6d.—FRANK BLACKLEY, Manager. Inclusive terms from 10s. 6d. per day.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—"One of the healthiest and most invigorating watering-places in the world."—The GRAND ATLANTIC is the principal and leading Hotel, facing the sea. 130 sumptuously appointed rooms, delightful public rooms, hydraulic lift, every modern comfort. Nearest to Golf Links and Railway Station. "Own model farm."—Apply, Manager. Telegraphic address, "Atlantic." Telephone No. 11.

A COMPLETE LIST OF

HOTELS OF THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.

London	MIDLAND GRAND (St. Pancras).	Leeds ...	QUEEN'S.
Liverpool...	ADELPHI.	Derby ...	MIDLAND.
Bradford ...	MIDLAND.	Morecambe	MIDLAND.
		Normanton	STATION.

The Favourite Hotels for Tourists, Cyclists, and Pedestrians.

Specialities—Comfort, Good Cuisine, Moderate Charges.

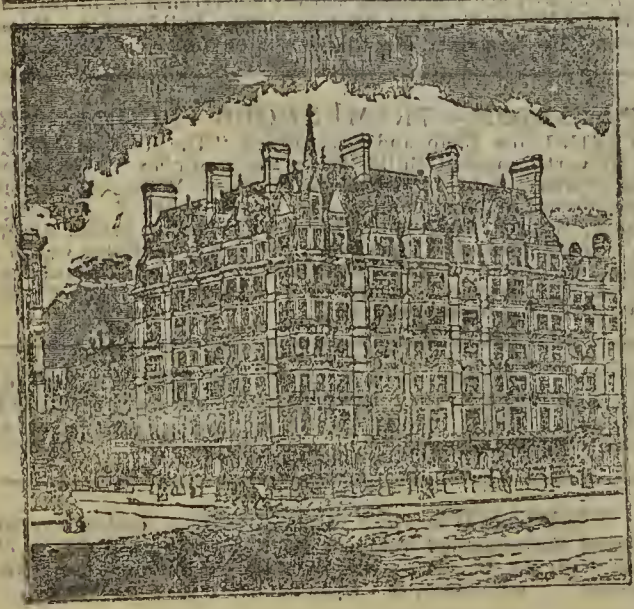
WILLIAM TOWLE, Manager, Chief Office, St. Pancras, N.W.

HASTINGS. Due South, Facing Sea.

QUEEN'S HOTEL,

LARGEST AND BEST APPOINTED.
Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
ELECTRIC LIGHT. PASSENGER ELEVATOR.
Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
WILLIAM GLADE, Manager.

HASTINGS.—ALBANY HOTEL (Robertson-terrace).—Inclusive terms from 2½ gns. upwards. Finest position on the whole sea front. Electric Light everywhere. Lift to all floors. Smoking room and all public rooms face the sea. Billiards. Special Notice! No charge for attendance is made. Visitors can bring their own wines; no corkage is charged.—C. A. SCHWABE, Manager.



THE HOTEL BELGRAVIA,

VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

(QUITE CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION).

The Handsomely-furnished Enclosed Suites of this Hotel provide either Temporary or Permanent

HOMES WITHOUT A HOUSEHOLD CARE.

TO BE LET BY THE DAY, WEEK, MONTH, OR YEAR. ALSO SINGLE BEDROOMS. ELECTRIC LIGHT. NIGHT PORTER. AMERICAN "OTIS" ELEVATORS.

TABLE D'HOTE AT SEPARATE TABLES OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS.

EXCELLENT CUISINE. CHOICE WINES.

Telegraphic Address:—"BELGRAVIAN, LONDON." TELEPHONE No. 3083.

HOTELS, &c.

Folkestone—Royal Pavilion Hotel

This well-known and most comfortable Hotel has been acquired by the proprietors of the Coburg Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London, W.

The business of the Hotel will as heretofore be conducted with due regard to quiet and home-life comforts. Sheltered position, full south. Tariff strictly moderate. Important additions to Hotel during next year.

Folkestone—Royal Pavilion Hotel

CONTINENTAL WINTER RESORT, five hours from London.—The magnificent HOTEL DE PUYS, near Dieppe, offers to English families a luxurious home in a mild and sunny climate; English sanitation, sea air, perfect cycling roads; tariff from £2. 10s. a week. Return fare, Friday to Tuesday, first class, 24s.—J. PELLETIER, Manager.

LAS PALMAS. Grand Canary.—SANTA CATALINA HOTEL.—For all particulars apply at London Office, the Canary Islands Company, Limited, 1, Laurence Pountney-hill, E.C. Golf links.

ALGIERS.—GRAND HOTEL.—Mustapha, Superieur. Under English Management. Electric lighting. Excellent cuisine. Inclusive terms from 10f. per diem. Hotel omnibus meets boats.

SALCOMBE, SOUTH DEVON.
THE MARINE HOTEL.
Winter resort, delightful climate. All the comforts of a private house. Terms and particulars on application to Miss JONES, Manageress.

CAP MARTIN HOTEL

(BETWEEN MENTONE AND MONTE CARLO.)
FINEST SITE ON THE RIVIERA.

NOW OPEN, under the same Management.

Since last season the Hotel has been lighted throughout by electricity, re-decorated, and about 30 new rooms have been added.

Perfect Sanitation of Hotel and District. The Hotel has private Dairy and Laundry. Omnibus meets trains at Mentone.

Address—MANAGER, Cap Martin Hotel, Mentone.

ILFRACOMBE.

The WARMEST WINTER SEASIDE RESORT in England

THE ILFRACOMBE HOTEL.

First-class Return Tickets issued from London (Waterloo), L. and S.W.R., from November to March, including seven days' Bed, Board, and Attendance at the Ilfracombe Hotel, £5. 5s. each, available for one month.

Ask for HOTEL TICKETS, available by all trains. Fast trains leave Waterloo at 11 and 3 o'clock. H. R. GROVER, Manager.

PALACE HOTEL, HASTINGS

Modern Sanitary Arrangements. Lounge. Elevators. Electric light throughout.
SPIERS & POND, (Proprietors)

WINTER IN THE WEST INDIES

SPECIAL TOURS, 65 days for £65.

By magnificent vessels of the
ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

For particulars apply, 18, Moorgate-street, or 29, Cockspur-street (West-end), London.

ORIENT COMPANY'S YACHTING CRUISES,

by the Steamships "LUSITANIA," 3,877 tons register, and "GARONNE," 3,876 tons register, from LONDON, as under:—

For TENERIFFE, the WEST INDIA ISLANDS, BERMUDA, &c.
Leaving January 13, returning March 16.
For MOROCCO, SICILY, PALESTINE, and EGYPT.
Leaving February 17, returning April 15.
For SOUTH of SPAIN, GREECE, CONSTANTINOPLE, &c.
Leaving March 31, returning May 17.
For PORTUGAL, MOROCCO, CORSICA, ITALY, and SICILY.
Leaving April 21, returning May 21.

String band, electric light, electric bells, hot and cold baths, high-class cuisine.

Managers, { F. GREEN & CO. / ANDERSON, ANDERSON, & CO. } Head Offices: Fenchurch-avenue.

For passage apply to the latter firm at 5, Fenchurch-avenue, London, E.C.; or to the West End Branch Office, 16, Cockspur-street, S.W.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS will be issued from LONDON to Stations in the WEST of ENGLAND, NORTH and SOUTH DEVON, and NORTH CORNWALL, also to WEYMOUTH, DORCHESTER, POOLE, BOURNEMOUTH, &c., by all trains on 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th Dec., and to Stations on the SOMERSET and DORSET LINE on 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Dec., available to return up to and including 30th Dec.

BATH on 24th Dec., by the 5.50 p.m. Train from Waterloo. Return Fare, Third Class, 10s., available to return on Saturday, 26th Dec., by any Ordinary Train.

GUERNSEY and JERSEY on 23rd, 24th, and 25th December, at a fare of 25s., Third Class, available by any train or boat for 14 days.

ADDITIONAL TRAINS will leave WATERLOO STATION as follows:—

At 9.45 p.m. for BOURNEMOUTH on 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Dec; and for WEYMOUTH on 23rd, 24th, and 26th December.

On WEDNESDAY, 23rd, and THURSDAY, 24th Dec., at 2.5 p.m., EXPRESS TRAIN for BOURNEMOUTH.

ON THURSDAY, 24th DECEMBER.

At 3.0 p.m., for CAMELFORD, DELABOLE, WADEBRIDGE and BODMIN.

At 5.25 p.m., for the SALISBURY, YEOVIL, EXETER and WEST of ENGLAND LINES.

At 5.50 p.m., for BARNSTAPLE, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD, and other NORTH DEVON STATIONS, also to Stations on the SIDMOUTH BRANCH.

At 10.35 p.m., SPECIAL LATE TRAIN for SALISBURY, YEOVIL and EXETER and INTERMEDIATE STATIONS.

At 12.15 MIDNIGHT for EXETER, BARNSTAPLE, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD, OKEHAMPTON, LAUNCESTON, WADEBRIDGE, BODMIN, DEVONPORT, PLYMOUTH, and other Stations in NORTH and SOUTH DEVON and NORTH CORNWALL.

The Cheap Third Class Tickets will be issued by the above Trains.

On CHRISTMAS DAY ADDITIONAL TRAINS will leave WATERLOO as under, calling at principal intermediate Stations:—

At 5.50 a.m. for BASINGSTOKE, SALISBURY, EXETER, TAVISTOCK, PLYMOUTH, BARNSTAPLE, ILFRACOMBE, BIDEFORD, &c.

At 8.5 a.m. for SOUTHAMPTON, PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR (for Ryde), GOSPORT, ROMSEY, SALISBURY, CHRISTCHURCH, BOURNEMOUTH, LYMINGTON, YARMOUTH, &c.

At 9.30 a.m. FAST TRAIN at Cheap Fares for SOUTHAMPTON WEST, NEW FOREST, and BOURNEMOUTH.

At 11.0 a.m. for ILFRACOMBE.

For further particulars of additional trains, facilities to the Isle of Wight, return special late trains from South and North Devon, Dorchester, &c., see Bills and Programmes, which can be obtained at any of the Company's offices, or from G. T. White, Superintendent of the Line, Waterloo Station, S.E.

CHAS. SCOTTER, General Manager.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1896.

On Wednesday, December 23rd, the Night Irish Mail due to leave Euston at 8.20 p.m. will not leave until 9.5 p.m. The Mail Steamer for Kingstown will wait the arrival of the train at Holyhead.

On Thursday, December 24th, Special Trains will be run from **Willesden Junction** at 2.55 p.m. for Bletchley, Wolverton, Rugby, principal Stations on the Trent Valley Line, and Stafford, in advance of the 2.45 p.m. ordinary train from Euston; and from **Euston** at 4.25 p.m. for Coventry and Birmingham.

The Night Irish Mail, due to leave Euston at 8.20 p.m., will not leave until 9.5 p.m. The Mail Steamer for Kingstown will wait the arrival of the Train at Holyhead.

The 12.0 night Train from London (**Euston**), due at Warrington at 5.26 a.m. on Friday, December 25th, will be extended from Warrington to Kendal and Carlisle as on ordinary week days.

CHRISTMAS DAY.—A Special Train will leave **Euston** at 6.15 a.m. for Northampton, Rugby, Birmingham, Stafford, Stoke, Crewe, Manchester, Liverpool, Chester, and Holyhead Line, Ireland, Lancaster, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. The Day Irish Mail Train (6.45 a.m. from Dublin, W. Row), will leave Holyhead for Chester at 11.30 a.m., and be extended to London, arriving at Euston at 6.5. p.m. **Other Trains will run as on Sundays.** The Dining Saloons which run on Sundays between London and Liverpool and Manchester will not run on Christmas Day.

On Bank Holiday, Saturday, December 26th, the 9.20 a.m. Express from London to Birmingham and Wolverhampton **will not run;** passengers will be conveyed by the 9.30 a.m. train from Euston, arriving at Birmingham at 12.15 noon. The 12.0 noon Express from London to Manchester **will not run;** passengers will be conveyed by the 12.10 noon train. The 4.30 p.m. London (Euston) to Birmingham and Wolverhampton, will also be discontinued, and passengers will be conveyed by the 5.0 p.m. train, except those for Market Harboro', Melton Mowbray, Nottingham, &c., who must travel by the 3.0 p.m. train from Euston. Numerous residential trains in the neighbourhood of important Cities and Towns will not be run.

The Dining Saloons between London, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Liverpool, and Manchester, will not be run on Bank Holiday, but the Corridor Dining Car Trains between London and Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the Breakfast and Luncheon Cars on the Day Irish Mail Trains, will be run as usual.

For further particulars, see Special Notices, issued by the Company.

FRED. HARRISON, General Manager.

London, December, 1896.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE CHEAP RETURN TICKETS between LONDON and SANDLING JUNCTION, HYTHE, SANDGATE, SHORNCLIFFE, FOLKESTONE, DOVER, NEW ROMNEY, (LITTLESTONE-ON-SEA), LYDD and RYE, issued on December 24th, 25th, and 26th, will be available for the Return Journey up to and including Tuesday, December 29th.

CHEAP TICKETS to TUNBRIDGE WELLS, ST. LEONARDS, HASTINGS, CANTERBURY, SANDWICH, DEAL, WALMER, RAMSGATE, MARGATE, HYTHE, SANDGATE, SHORNCLIFFE, FOLKESTONE, and DOVER will be issued from LONDON on December 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th, available for the Return Journey up to and including Tuesday, December 29th.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th.—A FAST LATE TRAIN to CHISLEHURST, SEVENOAKS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, ST. LEONARDS, HASTINGS, ASHFORD, CANTERBURY, RAMSGATE, MARGATE, FOLKESTONE, and DOVER, leaving CHARING CROSS at 12.0 midnight, WATERLOO 12.2 a.m. CANNON STREET 12.5 a.m., LONDON BRIDGE 12.12 a.m., and NEW CROSS at 12.20 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY.—Several Extra Trains will run, but the Ordinary Services will be as on Sundays.

BANK HOLIDAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26th.—Several Trains will be withdrawn or altered. Late Trains will run from London. Continental Services as usual.

EXPRESS COLLECTION and DELIVERY of PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE in ADVANCE.—Passengers travelling between certain Stations can have their Luggage collected and forwarded in advance at a charge of One Shilling per Package. This arrangement will be in operation from 14th inst. to 31st proximo.

For full particulars of Extension of Time for Return Tickets, Collection of Luggage, &c., see Bills and Holiday Programme.

ALFRED WILLIS, Manager (Passenger Department).

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.
LONDON BRIGHTON & SOUTH COAST RAILWAY. ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS for distances under 12 miles, issued December 24th and 25th, are available for the return journey up to the evening of the following Saturday, and those issued at any time for distances from 12 to 50 miles eight days; and for distances over 50 miles for one calendar month.

Special Cheap Tickets will be issued on December 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th, to and from London and the Seaside, available for return on any day up to and including December 29th, as per Special Bills.

PORTSMOUTH AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.
EXTRA TRAINS, December 24th and 26th.
Fast Trains from Victoria 4.55 p.m., London Bridge 5.0 p.m., for Ryde, St. Helen's, Bembridge, Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor, Newport, Cowes, &c., and on December 24th and 28th from Victoria 9.20 p.m., London Bridge 9.25 p.m., for Portsmouth and Ryde.

SPECIAL CHEAP RETURN TICKETS.—TO BRIGHTON
Every Sunday and on Christmas Day, 1st Class Day Tickets from Victoria at 10.45 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Fare 10s.
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 24th to 27th, to Tuesday, December 29th. Fares, 14s., 8s. 6d., 6s. 4d.
TO HASTINGS, ST. LEONARDS, BEXHILL AND EASTBOURNE.—Fast Trains every Week-day.
From Victoria 9.50 a.m., 12.0 noon, 1.30 p.m. and 3.26 p.m., also 4.30 p.m. and 5.40 p.m., to Eastbourne only.
From London Bridge 9 45 a.m., 12.5 p.m., 2.5 p.m., 4.5 p.m., and 5.5 p.m.
Cheap Tickets, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 24th to 27th, to Tuesday, December 29th, by certain trains only. To Hastings or St. Leonards, 18s., 13s., 9s. To Bexhill or Eastbourne, 16s., 11s. 6d., 8s.

EXTRA LATE TRAINS, December 24th. From Victoria 11.55 p.m., London Bridge, Midnight, for Brighton, Eastbourne, St. Leonards, Hastings, Worthing, and Portsmouth, and London Bridge 3.30 a.m., (25th) for Brighton.

FOR full particulars see Programme and Handbills, to be obtained at the Stations, and at the Branch Offices, where Tickets may also be obtained:—
(By Order) ALLEN SARLE, Secretary and General Manager.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.
December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, additional trains will be run to meet requirements of traffic. The 10.30 p.m. express from King's Cross on Thursday, 24th December, will not run beyond Berwick on Christmas Day morning. Thursday, December 24th, the 5.0 p.m. express from King's Cross will be continued to Meltou Constable, calling at all stations East of Peterboro.' A Special express, at ordinary fares will leave London (King's Cross) at 12.0 midnight on Thursday, December 24th, for Welwyn, Stevenage, Hitchin, Biggleswade, Sandy, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Spalding, Boston, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Newark, Retford, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Selby, York, and other places in the North of England.
Christmas Day, the trains will run as on Sundays, except that the 5.15 a.m. express from King's Cross (at ordinary fares) will be run to Peterboro', Bourne, Stamford, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax, stopping at the intermediate stations at which it ordinarily calls, and will be continued to York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen, &c.
HENRY OAKLEY, General Manager.

PRINCE LINE.—EGYPT and the HOLY LAND.
CHEAP ROUND TOURS a SPECIALITY.
RIVER PLATE DIRECT (not calling at Brazilian Ports).
MADEIRA and the CANARY ISLANDS.
GIBRALTAR, TUNIS, MALTA.
Superior Services. Fares extremely moderate. High-class Cuisine.
Luxurious saloons and cabins, promenade decks, all amidships.
Head office:—JAMES KNOTT, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

JAPAN, CHINA, CANADIAN PACIFIC ROUTE, viâ New York, Montreal, Vancouver. Only line running through trains Atlantic to Pacific, under one management. Largest, fastest, only twin-screw steamers on Pacific. Leave England thrice weekly; Vancouver, tri-weekly.
ROUND THE WORLD, £115.
CANADA, UNITED STATES.—Cheap through tickets by fast trains. For berths or descriptive pamphlets apply, CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, 67-8, King William-street, London Bridge, or 30, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross.
N.B.—Allau, American, Anchor, Beaver, Cunard, Dominion, and White Star Agency.

WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE
BERKEFELD FILTER
FOR THE PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.
Can be Easily and Cheaply Fixed to the Service-Pipe of any HOUSE having ordinary pressure.
Supplied to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., and others too numerous to mention; THE HOUSE OF LORDS, and THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In use in all the Principal Hotels. Simple in Construction. Most easily cleaned.
PRICE FOR FILTER AS ABOVE, 42s.
SMALLER SIZE, 25s.
For other prices see price-lists.
Offices and Show-Rooms:
The BERKEFELD FILTER Co. Ltd.
121, Oxford St., London, W.
NOTE.—Joseph Lunt, B.Sc., F.C.S., British Institute of Preventive Medicine, in his report on the Berkefeld Filter, says, "Exhaustive experiments showed that with London tap-water strongly infected artificially WITH THE TYPHOID BACILLUS, not a single typhoid bacillus was detected IN THE FILTERED WATER for a period of 26 days."
No Country House Should Be Without One.

LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.
This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.
Sole Consignee, W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

A LARGE IMPORTATION OF
FERAHAN CARPETS
The Prices at which this consignment is offered cannot fail to be interesting to those requiring a good looking Carpet which will practically NEVER WEAR OUT.
THEY ARE SUITABLE FOR ANY ROOM.
List of Sizes and Prices of Some of those in Stock.

Size.	Price.	Size.	Price.	Size.	Price.
15 ft. 0 in. by 11 ft. 5 in...	£10 0 0	14 ft. 7 in. by 11 ft. 3 in.....	£8 4 0	10 ft. 4 in. by 8 ft. 9 in.....	£5 5 0
14 ft. 1 in. by 10 ft. 7 in.....	8 15 0	15 ft. 5 in. by 10 ft. 11 in.....	8 8 0	14 ft. 5 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.....	8 15 0
14 ft. 10 in. by 10 ft. 2 in.....	7 10 0	14 ft. 4 in. by 9 ft. 11 in.....	8 5 0	14 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft. 7 in.....	7 10 0
14 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.....	7 9 0	15 ft. 5 in. by 11 ft. 4 in.....	10 17 0	13 ft. 7 in. by 9 ft. 6 in.....	6 9 0
14 ft. 2 in. by 10 ft. 8 in.....	7 11 0	10 ft. 9 in. by 8 ft. 4 in.....	4 17 0	15 ft. 7 in. by 11 ft. 6 in.....	11 4 0
13 ft. 9 in. by 9 ft. 11 in.....	6 16 0	15 ft. 1 in. by 12 ft. 2 in.....	11 9 0	10 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 6 in.....	5 12 0
14 ft. 10 in. by 11 ft. 2 in.....	8 5 0	14 ft. 5 in. by 10 ft. 1 in.....	9 1 0	14 ft. 10 in. by 11 ft. 9 in.....	10 18 0
14 ft. 4 in. by 11 ft. 0 in.....	9 17 0	14 ft. 1 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.....	7 8 0	16 ft. 0 in. by 11 ft. 3 in.....	11 5 0
10 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 10 in.....	4 12 0	15 ft. 0 in. by 10 ft. 8 in.....	8 0 0	13 ft. 8 in. by 9 ft. 7 in.....	8 4 0
15 ft. 1 in. by 10 ft. 6 in.....	9 6 0	14 ft. 5 in. by 11 ft. 6 in.....	8 5 0	13 ft. 11 in. by 10 ft. 3 in.....	8 17 0
14 ft. 0 in. by 9 ft. 10 in.....	6 17 0	15 ft. 0 in. by 11 ft. 8 in.....	8 15 0	14 ft. 1 in. by 10 ft. 1 in.....	8 18 0

This List is issued subject to Carpets being unsold. Intending Purchasers are respectfully invited to send promptly.

TRELOAR & SONS,
Oriental Carpet Importers,
LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.
Catalogue of Floor Coverings free.

A Bad Complexion

4d

is often due to a bad soap.

BLOTCHES ARE REPULSIVE, AND WILL MAR THE APPEARANCE OF ANY FACE. YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM WITH BAD SOAP.

VINOLIA

IS A

COMPLEXION

4d

SOAP.

VINOLIA CREAM.—For Itching, Eczema, Face Spots, &c., 1/1½ and 1/9.
VINOLIA POWDER.—For Roughness, Redness, Toilet, &c., 1/1 and 1/9.

MOTOR CYCLES

OF ALL KINDS.

THE LARGEST CYCLE FACTORY IN THE WORLD.

OVER TWO MILES OF BENCHING.

THE

New Beeston Cycle Co., Ltd.,

COVENTRY.

The Survival of the Fittest!

In 1885

THE ORIGINAL ROVER

SAFETY BICYCLE

"Set the Fashion to the World."—*Vide* CYCLIST.

In 1896

THE IMPERIAL ROVER

Is still the Leader of Fashion—

THE BEST BICYCLE.

Illustrated Catalogue Post Free on Application.

ROVER CYCLE CO. LTD. (Late J. K. Starley, Ltd.),

METEOR CYCLE WORKS, COVENTRY.

LONDON { 5, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C.; 157, NEW BOND ST., W.; 55, FARRINGDON STREET (Repairs Department).

PARIS: 47, AVENUE PARMENTIER.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

RIMMEL'S SATCHETS, 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, 5/-.
Richly mounted and sweetly perfumed.

RIMMEL'S FANCY CASES, 7/6, 10/6, 18/-, 21/-, 30/-, &c.
Containing only the best Perfumes.

RIMMEL'S ARTISTIC EMPIRE FANS, from 5/6 to 20 guineas.
Exquisite designs. Splendid variety.

RIMMEL'S PERFUMED ALMANACK, 6d.
Beautifully illuminated.

RIMMEL'S "EXQUISITE" PERFUME, 5/-, 10/-, 15/-, 21/-, & 30/- per bottle.
A very lasting, concentrated, and extremely fine perfume.

RIMMEL'S "NESSARI" PERFUME, 3/6, 5/-, and 8/6 per bottle.
A sweet and lasting perfume.

RIMMEL'S FRESH VIOLET EXTRACTS, 2/6, 3/6, 5/-, and 8/6 per bottle.
A perfect and most delicate perfume of the Violet.

RIMMEL'S TOILET VINEGAR, 1/-, 2/6, and 5/- per bottle.
A tonic and refreshing Lotion for Toilet and Bath.

RIMMEL'S BEST PERFUMES, in cut-glass bottles, 2/6, 3/6, 5/-, 7/6, 10/-, 12/6, 15/-, and 20/-, forming remarkably handsome Presents.

RIMMEL'S EXTRA-SCENTED SOAPS, 4/6 per box of three tablets.
Highly purified and exquisitely scented.

RIMMEL'S POUDRE de BEAUTE, 2/6 per box.
Refined, imperceptible, and adherent Toilet Powder.

To be had at 96, Strand, 180, Regent Street, 64, Cheapside, LONDON; *and at* 76, King's Road, BRIGHTON. *Also at* Rimmel's Continental Branches, Paris, Brussels, The Hague, and Florence.

Highest Award at Food & Cookery Exhibition

LONDON, MAY, 1895 and 1896.

Supplied to H.M. The Queen and Royal Family.

Hovis

Bread & Biscuits

(Regd.)

CURE INDIGESTION.

IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.

The Public are cautioned against accepting from Bakers spurious Imitations of "HOVIS," which, having met with such unprecedented success, is being copied in many instances as closely as can be done without risk.

6d. and 1s. Samples of BREAD and BISCUITS on receipt of Stamps.

Purchasers are requested to see that all Bread is stamped "HOVIS."

Ask your Baker or Grocer for HOVIS FLOUR for Home use. Packed in Bags of 3½ lbs. and 7 lbs.

If any difficulty be experienced in obtaining "HOVIS," or what is supplied as "HOVIS" is not satisfactory, please write, sending sample (the cost of which will be defrayed), to

S. FITTON & SON, Millers, MACCLESFIELD.

BEWARE! *Bakers recommending another Bread in place of "HOVIS" do so for their own profit.* **BEWARE!**

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER

Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

Prepared only by the

ANGLO-AMERICAN DRUG COMPANY, Ltd.,

33, FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

FLORILINE

FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

IS THE BEST LIQUID DENTIFRICE IN THE WORLD.

Prevents the Decay of Teeth.
Renders the Teeth Pearly White.
Is perfectly Harmless and Delicious to the Taste.

Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
2s. 6d. per Bottle.

FLORILINE TOOTH POWDER.

Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

EXHIBITED AT THE STANLEY SHOW WITH IMMENSE SUCCESS.

The SELF-ADJUSTING BICYCLE SUPPORT

PATENTS APPLIED FOR.

Safety Ensured.

Side-Slipping Impossible.

Riding in Traffic no longer a Danger.

Adds 50 per cent. to Comfort of Riding.

Weighs / Costs } LITTLE.

Can be fixed to any Bicycle.

No Mechanical Skill Required.

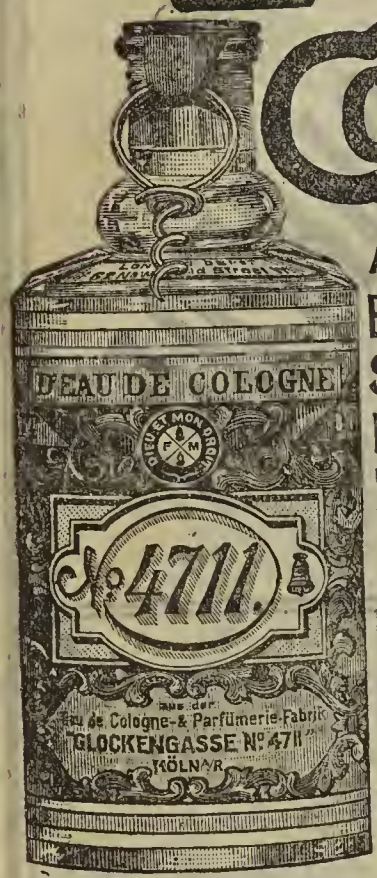
Anyone can fix it in a few minutes.

"AN UNEXAMPLED LUXURY."

Enquiries: **83, PICCADILLY, W.** (*Temporary Offices.*)

H. L. DAVIS, *Manager.*

Buy the 4711 Eau de Cologne



It is the
BEST GENUINE
STRONGEST
MOST LASTING
MOST REFRESHING
& INVIGORATING.

CAUTION.

Be sure and insist upon MULHENS 4711 Brand, as inferior makes are sometimes offered. Refuse all substitutes. Of most dealers in first-class Perfumes.

Case of 6 Bottles, carriage paid, for 13s.; or Sample Bottle 2s. 6d. post free.

THE 4711, DEPOT, 62, NEW BOND ST. W.

Dunlop

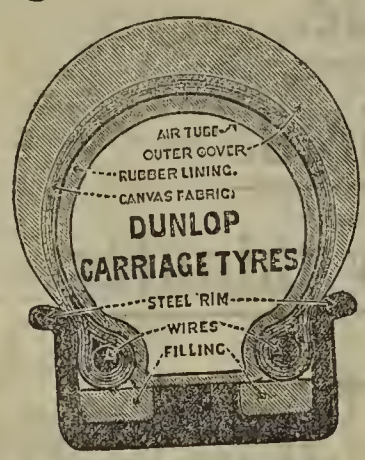
Pneumatic Tyres

Absence of Noise. for Carriages.

Driving on Air Cushions.

Comfort Increased.

Draught Decreased.



In a closed Carriage conversation can be carried on in a whisper.

*** CARRIAGES ON HIRE.—Carriages fitted with Dunlop Pneumatic Tyres can be hired from the Coupe Co., Britannia-road, Fulham (Telephone No. 8,697), without extra charge, by mentioning (when ordering) that Dunlop tyres are required.

The DUNLOP PNEUMATIC TYRE Co., Ltd.

(Patentees and sole makers of the celebrated Dunlop tyres for cycles).

Telegrams: "AIRINESS." Telephone No. 6,754. *166, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.*

SHOW ROOMS: 14, Regent Street, London, S.W.
WORKS: Alma Street, Coventry;
BRANCHES: Dublin, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Glasgow, and Abroad.

BATH,

"The Queen of the West."

FAMOUS NATURAL HOT MINERAL WATERS.

Number of Bathers last Season,
95,935.

BLADUD,
Discoverer of the Healing Springs.

Latest Scientific Appliances, including the
NAUHEIM
or
HERMALSOÖLBAD.

Good Hotels.

BAND DAILY.

Bath is now only Two Hours from London.

Screens Sixteenth year of advertising, and still to the fore. For every-day use, and for Scraps and Pictures Mounting. 3 folds 11/6, 4 folds 15/6, carriage paid. Black and leather backgrounds, strong hinges, and draught proof. JOHN JACKSON, POULTON-LE-FYLDE, Lancashire.

MAPLE & CO

Brass Bedsteads

Brass Bedsteads

THE LARGEST STOCK IN THE WORLD

Thousands of Brass Bedsteads at from

38s 6d to £50

Purchased before recent advances
Buyers effect a great Saving

Brass Bedsteads

Brass Bedsteads

MAPLE & CO

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD LONDON

THE MANUFACTURING

GOLDSMITHS' & SILVERSMITHS' COMPANY,

(The Goldsmiths' Alliance, Ltd. (A. B. SAVORY & SONS), *late of Cornhill, E.C., is transferred to this Company.)*

Show Rooms: 112, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W. (ADJOINING STEREOSCOPIC COMPANY)

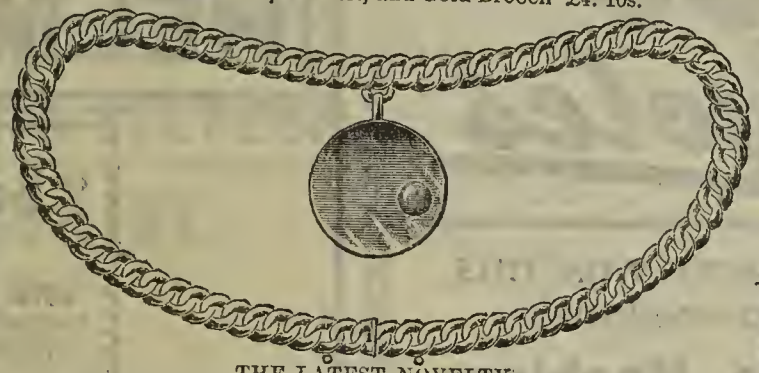
Fine Pearl Bangle, £2. 15s.

Regd.

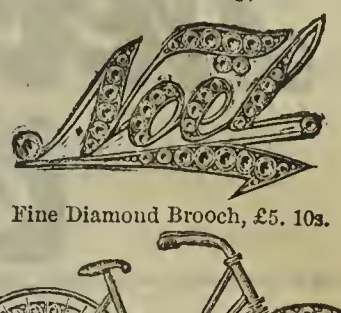
Fine Diamond, Enamel, and Gold Brooch £4. 10s.

Fine Pearl Bangle, to spring, no snap, £1. 18s.

Fine Gold Locket and Necklet, £1. 7s. 6d.



THE LATEST NOVELTY.
The Month Stone Bracelet, Fine Gold Flexible Chain, with Disc set with stone of the Month December, Turquoise, signifying prosperity, £2. 5s.



Fine Diamond Brooch, £5. 10s.

Fine Diamond Brooch, £18. Smaller size, £8. 10s.

Fine Gold Watch, with Gold Brooch Attachment.
Brooch, £1. 14s. Watch, £17. 10s.

Fine Diamond Pin, £5. 5s.

Regd.

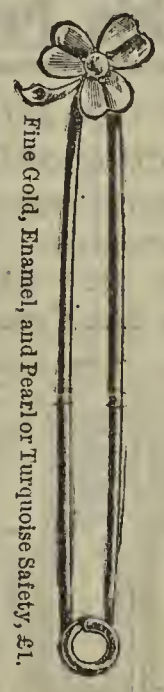
"Winged" Fine Diamond Pin, £5. 5s.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

Inspection invited of the largest, choicest, and most novel Stock of High-Class Jewellery and Diamond Ornaments in the World. All goods, which are freely shown without any importunity to purchase, are marked in Plain Figures, and sold direct to the public at Manufacturers' Cash Prices, thereby saving purchasers from

25 to 50 per Cent.

GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY,
112, Regent-street, W.
(ADJOINING STEREOSCOPIC COMPANY.)



Fine Gold, Enamel, and Pearl or Turquoise Safety, £1.

Elegant Brooch Watch, Brooch of Gold and Enamel, £3. Watch with Diamond Centre on Enamel and Pearl Circle, £10

XMAS PRESENTS.

AWARDED NINE GOLD MEDALS.

NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE POST FREE.

GOODS FORWARDED TO THE COUNTRY ON APPROVAL.

AWARDED THE CROSS OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR.

XMAS PRESENTS.

Chased Gold Swallow Brooch.

£2. 5s.

Sapphires and Diamonds in Heads.

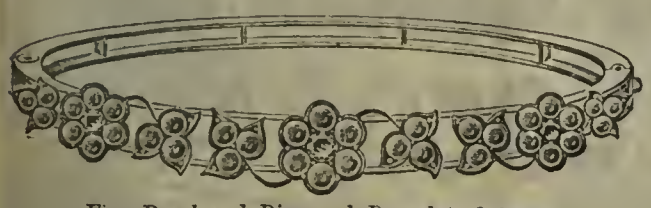
Fine Pearl Pin, £1. 2s. 6d.

GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY, 112, REGENT ST., W.

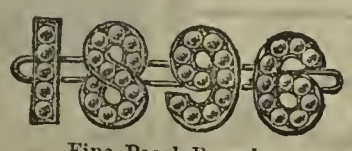
Fine Gold and Diamond Pin, £1. 5s.

GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY, 112, REGENT ST., W.

Fine Pearl and Diamond Necklace, £35.



Fine Pearl and Diamond Bracelet, £12. 10s.



Fine Pearl Brooch, £1. 18s.

Fine Gold Bracelet, £5.

THE MANUFACTURING

GOLDSMITHS' & SILVERSMITHS' COMPANY,

(The Goldsmiths' Alliance, Ltd. (A. B. SAVORY & SONS), *late of Cornhill, E.C., is transferred to this Company.)*

Show Rooms: 112, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W. (ADJOINING STEREOSCOPIC COMPANY)

THE ALBEMARLE CYCLE CO.,

291, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.,

Are the West End Agents for the

"Neee" Cycles

ON WHICH M. DIAKOFF WON THIS YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIPS.

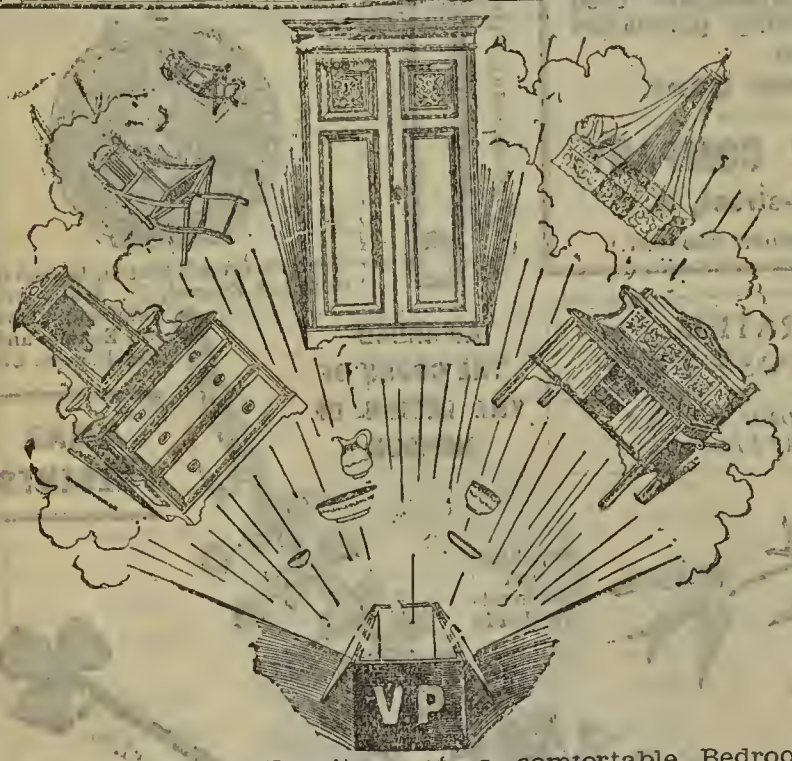
Highest Grade Machines.

Reasonable Prices.

CALL AND SEE OUR STOCK BEFORE DECIDING ON YOUR MOUNT.

ILLUSTRATED LIST SENT POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

ALSO AGENTS for the "EAGLE," one of America's Best Cycles.



The complete Furniture of a comfortable Bedroom: Wardrobe, Dressing Chest, Washstand, 2 Cane-seat Arm Chairs, Chamber Service, Bed, Bedding, &c., folds into one small case measuring 6 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. Rigidity and appearance of glued-up Furniture. Patented all over the World. Invaluable to Colonists, Hotels, Officers' Quarters, Spare Bedrooms, Shooting Boxes, &c., &c. Suites at all prices, separate parts can be had. Obtainable at all Dealers' or direct from

THE
V.P. FOLDING BEDROOM SUITE & FURNITURE CO., LIM.
330, OLD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

VAN STEEN'S PEPTONISED COCOA.

The only beverage that can safely be taken at every age of life, at any time of day, and in any state of health.

40 CUPS for 1s. 2d.

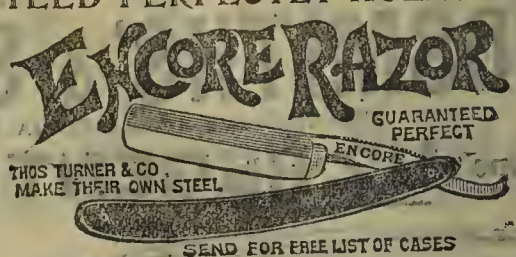
WHOLESALE:—Messrs. BARCLAY, EDWARDS, HOVENDEN, LYNCH, SANGER, SUTTON, London; GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, Leeds; WOOLLEY, SONS, & Co., Manchester; EVANS, GADD, & Co., Exeter.

Sold only by Chemists. Samples Free.

PATENTEE: W. P. VAN WYK, 18, ELDON STREET, E.C.

GUARANTEED PERFECTLY HOLLOW GROUND

IVORY, 6/- **ENCORE RAZOR** BLACK, 4/-



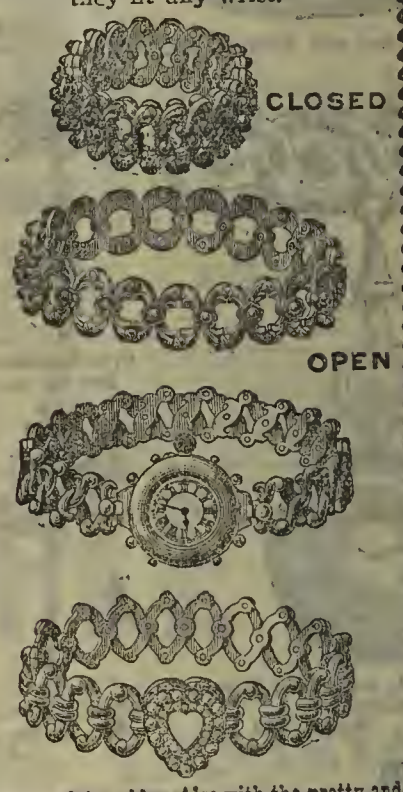
SEND FOR FREE LIST OF CASES

From all Dealers, or write direct to Makers:
T. TURNER & CO., Suffolk Works, SHEFFIELD.
Who will supply through nearest Agent.
ASK FOR "ENCORE" POCKET AND TABLE CUTLERY.

Ask Your Grocer FOR HELM-COCOA.

THE NEW PATENT
"Self-Closing" BRACELETS.

NEVER SLIP in whatever position placed.
Delightfully flexible and comfortable.
Specially suitable for Presents, as they fit any wrist.



Made in plain gold. Also with the pretty and Fashionable Turquoises and Pearls studded all round.

LARGE VARIETY OF PATTERNS.
Sold by all leading Jewellers.
Wholesale only Saunders & Shepherd, London.

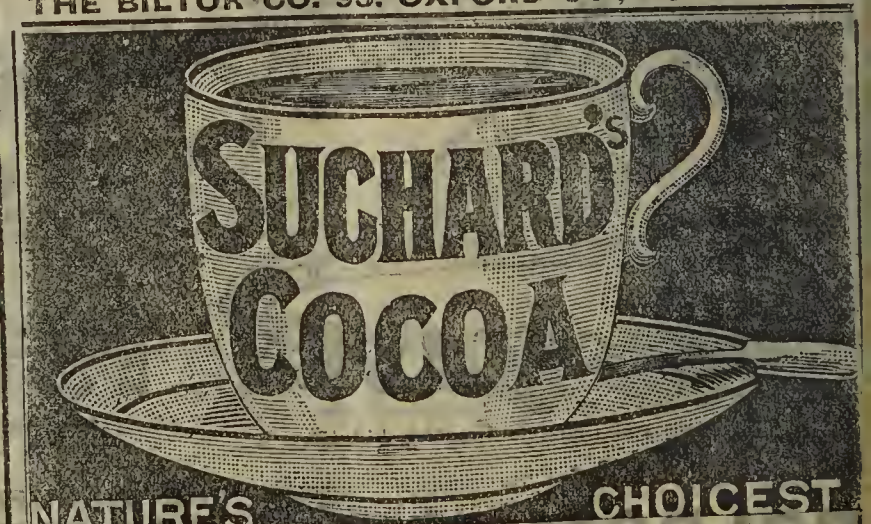
THE REFINED SMOKE,

Awarded wherever Exhibited.
CHICAGO, BORDEAUX, SHEFFIELD, HULL.

Best French Briar Root from 3s. 6d.
Ordinary ..... 1s. 6d.

Insist upon having "BILTOR."

THE BILTOR CO. 93, OXFORD ST., LONDON, W.



NATURE'S CHOICEST

LATEST AWARDS—

Geneva, 1896	(Hors Concours)	HIGHEST HONOURS
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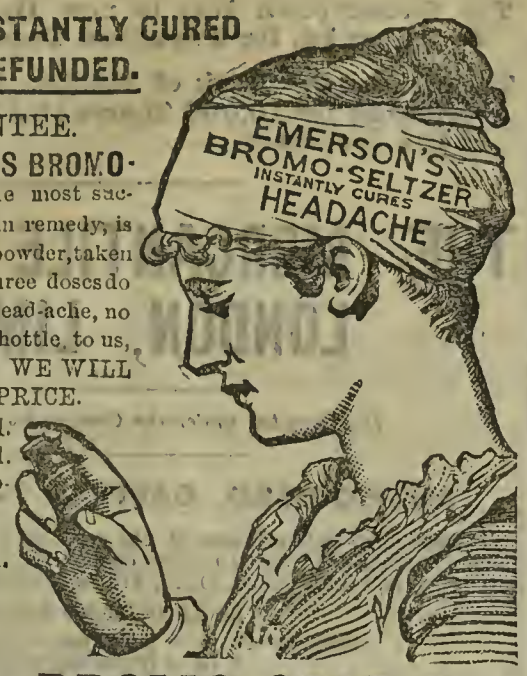
ALL HEADACHES INSTANTLY CURED OR MONEY REFUNDED.

LEGAL GUARANTEE.

7½D. EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER, the most successful American remedy, is an effervescent powder, taken in water. If three doses do not cure any head-ache, no matter how caused, send the bottle to us, saying where obtained, AND WE WILL AT ONCE REFUND THE PRICE.

Trial Bottle, post free, 7½d. Larger Sizes, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Sold by many Chemists or obtained to order by almost all.

EMERSON DRUG CO., Ltd.
46, Holborn Viaduct
LONDON, E.C.
INSIST ON FULL NAME—



EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER

EPPS'S COCOAINE.

COCOA-NIB EXTRACT.

(TEA-LIKE.)

The choicest roasted nibs (broken-up beans) of the natural Cocoa on being subjected to powerful hydraulic pressure, give forth their excess of oil, leaving for use a finely-flavoured powder—"Cocoaine," a product which, when prepared with boiling water, has the consistence of tea, of which it is now, with many, beneficially taking the place. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

DR MACKENZIE'S ARSENICAL SOAP — For ECZEMA and all Skin Diseases wash with this Soap. Produces a lovely complexion, and cures Spots, Pimples, &c. 6d. & 1s.

DR MACKENZIE'S ARSENICAL SOAP — For ECZEMA and all Skin Diseases wash with this Soap. Produces a lovely complexion, and cures Spots, Pimples, &c. 6d. & 1s.

The most emollient and soothing Toilet Soap in the World for irritable skins. Madame ADELINA PATTI writes from Craig-y-nos Castle:—"I find Dr. Mackenzie's Arsenical Toilet Soap most excellent." Beware of the many imitations. Have Dr. Mackenzie's or none.

SPHAGNOL

ENGLISH PEAT

SMOKELESS AND SANITARY FUEL

Price—1,000 LOGS FOR 20s.

TRUTH says:—"I have burnt the blocks on the top of a coal fire, and I find that the peat seems to act as a smoke consumer."

Send order, or write for leaflet.

Sole Agents—CHAMBERLAIN & CO., 10, HART STREET, BLOOMSBURY, W.C.

(One minute from Mudie's Library).

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS & CO., JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

THE ORIENTAL ESTATES COMPANY (LIMITED).

South Sea Chambers, 97 and 98, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C., 4th December, 1896.

Dear Sir or Madam,—Referring to the Circular issued by my Directors on the 9th June last, accompanying notices convening, on 18th June last, Extraordinary General Meetings of the holders of Preferred and Ordinary Shares in the Company, and also an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of both classes, it will be within your recollection that a Committee was subsequently appointed to consider the arrangements indicated in the Circular and Notices.

That Committee has now made its Report, and I am desired to enclose you a print. It will be submitted for adoption at the adjourned General Meeting to be held immediately before the Extraordinary General Meeting, of which notices accompany, for Thursday, the 17th December instant.

My Directors have considered the recommendations of the Committee and advise their adoption.

By order of the Board,
HENRY GREEY, Secretary.

THE ORIENTAL ESTATES COMPANY (Limited).

Notice is hereby Given, that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Oriental Estates Company (Limited) will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 17th day of December, 1896, at 3 p.m., to consider, and, if approved, to pass, the Resolutions set out below. The Resolutions other than No. 1 will, if passed by the required majority, be submitted for confirmation as Special Resolutions at a second meeting to be hereafter convened:—

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That all the issued Shares of the Company, being fully paid, they be and are hereby converted into Stock.

2. That the Capital of the Company be reduced from £566,700 consisting of—

Stock resulting from the conversion of	
40,902 Preferred Shares of £5 each	£204,510
Stock resulting from the conversion of	
228,092 Ordinary Shares of £1 each	228,092
19,098 Preferred Shares of £5 each, unissued	95,490
38,608 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, unissued	38,608
	£566,700
To Stock of the nominal amount of	£250,000

and that such reduction be effected by cancelling all unissued Shares and by writing off and cancelling, as being unrepresented by available assets, £182,602 of the Stock resulting from the conversion of Ordinary Shares, in such manner that the reduction of £182,602 shall be borne as between the several holders of the last-mentioned Stock, rateably in proportion to the amount of such Stock held by them respectively.

3. That the name of the Company be changed to "The Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company, Limited."

4. That the Articles of Association be varied as follows:—

(*a*) By adding next after Article 9 the following provisions—

9A. In case the capital of the Company be reduced to £250,000 by the cancellation of unissued shares and by the cancellation of £182,602 of the Stock resulting from the conversion of Ordinary Shares, then as from such reduction becoming effective, Article 9 shall cease to be in force, and thereafter the original capital of the Company as so reduced shall be all of one class.

(*b*) By adding next after Article 133 the following provisions—

133A. In case the capital of the Company be reduced to £250,000 by the cancellation of unissued Shares, and by the cancellation of £182,602 of the Stock resulting from the conversion of Ordinary Shares, then as from such reduction becoming effective, Article 133 shall cease to be in force, and thereafter the following Regulations shall take effect.

133B. The Directors shall forthwith issue to each holder of Stock resulting from the conversion of Preferred Shares, or other the person entitled to the arrears of dividend on the said Shares respectively, surplus certificates of the Company declaring the Bearer thereof to be entitled to receive out of the profits of the Company available for the purposes under the provisions hereinafter contained, a sum equal to the arrears of dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, accrued up to and including the dividend for the year ending the 31st March, 1895, upon the Preferred Shares represented by the Stock held by such Stockholder at the time of issue, and shall also pay, in cash, to the persons entitled thereto, a dividend at the full rate of 7 per cent. for the year ending the 31st of March, 1896, on the Stock represented by the said Preferred Shares.

133C. The profits of the Company for the year ending 31st March, 1897, and each subsequent year, available for dividend, shall, subject to the rights of holders of Shares, if any, hereafter issued with any preferential right as to dividend, be applied first and preferentially in payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum upon the £250,000 Stock of the Company, and of the balance of such profits one half shall be applied in the purchase, at a price below par, or in the redemption by drawings, to be conducted as the Board may determine, of surplus certificates, and the other half shall be distributed among the members as further dividend in proportion to the Stock held by them, but without prejudice to the authority of the Directors to exercise the powers conferred upon them by Articles 125 and 136. Provided always that until the said certificates shall have been extinguished by payment or redemption, nothing in the said articles contained or otherwise shall be construed to authorise the Directors to create or maintain a Reserve Fund exceeding a sum of £20,000, and any additions hereafter made to such Reserve Fund shall be invested in first-class securities.

133D. The decision of the Directors as to the amount of profits to be applied in purchase or redemption of surplus certificates shall be absolutely binding upon the holders of all such certificates, and shall not be questioned, and no holder of a surplus certificate not being a Shareholder shall be entitled as such holder to any account of the Company's dealings, transactions, or profits, or to any information whatever with regard to the Company, and all surplus certificates shall be issued subject to a condition to the effect of this Article.

Notice is hereby Given, that a MEETING of the HOLDERS of PREFERRED SHARES of the Oriental Estates Company (Limited) will be held under Article 56 of the Articles of Association, at the place and day aforesaid, immediately after the conclusion of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company, to consider and, if approved, to confirm an Agreement dated the 2nd day of December, 1896, expressed to be made between the Company of the one part, and Stuart Cunningham Macaskie, purporting to contract on behalf of the holders of Preferred Shares, of the other part, modifying the rights and privileges of such holders so far as necessary to give effect to the Resolutions to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting set out above.

Notice is hereby Given, that a MEETING of the HOLDERS of ORDINARY SHARES of the Oriental Estates Company (Limited) will be held under Article 56 of the Articles of Association at the place and day aforesaid immediately after the conclusion of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company and the Meeting of Preferred Shareholders, to consider and, if approved, to confirm an agreement dated the 2nd day of December, 1896, expressed to be made between the Company of the one part and Alan Francis Geary Gardner, purporting to contract on behalf of the holders of Ordinary Shares, of the other part, modifying the rights and privileges of such holders, so far as necessary to give effect to the Resolutions to be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting set out above.

Dated this 4th December, 1896.

By order of the Board,
HENRY GREEY, Secretary.

South Sea Chambers, 97 and 98, Bishopsgate-street Within, London, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.
THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chaucery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

WHEN MAKING A WILL OR SETTLEMENT,
Send for Trust Prospectus of the
Law Guarantee & Trust Society,
LIMITED,
Who are prepared to Act as Trustee or Executor.
Head Office:—49, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.
City Office:—56, Moorgate Street, E.C.

THE
JOHANNESBURG BOARD OF EXECUTORS AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE.
JOHANNESBURG, S.A.R.
DIRECTORS.
S. B. HARSANT (Chairman).
JNO. S. PARKES (Vice-Chairman).
S. J. WILKS. G. A. JONES. A. FRIEDLANDER.
BANKERS.
THE BANK OF AFRICA, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, E.C.
CHIEF MANAGER, L. EDWARDS.
LONDON OFFICE.
ST. CLEMENT'S HOUSE, CLEMENT'S-LANE, E.C.
(Telegrams: "ETHIOPIAN," London.)
(Telephone No. 2154, Avenue.)

The above Company beg to advise having opened a London Office at the above address, and invite correspondence. All descriptions of TRUST and AGENCY BUSINESS undertaken either in London or South Africa. Secretaryships of Companies undertaken. Special facilities are obtainable through this Company for the placing of funds in secure and remunerative investments. Advice is given on all classes of South Africa Mining, Real Estate, Mortgage, or other Investments, and proxies are accepted to represent European Shareholders at South African Companies' meetings. This is the oldest and most successful Trust Company in the Transvaal. Reference has been kindly permitted to the Bank of Africa, Ltd., 113, Cannon-street, London, E.C.; and to the Head Office of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, 45, Dale-street, Liverpool.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

The Subscription List is now Open, and will Close on December 16, for Town, and December 17, for Country.

The Mercantile Bank of London, Limited, invites Subscriptions for 10,000 Shares of £10 each at a Premium of 10s. per Share.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF LONDON, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - £250,000,

Divided into 25,000 Shares of £10 each, of which 4,280 Shares have been already subscribed; 10,000 are now offered for subscription at 10s. per Share premium, and the balance, 10,720, will be held in reserve.

ISSUE OF 10,000 SHARES.

Payable—£1 0 0 per Share on Application.
3 10 0 (including premium) on Allotment.
3 0 0 February 15, 1897, and
3 0 0 on May 15, 1897.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. Lord Castletown, Granston Manor, Abbeyleix, Chairman.
J. C. B. Daubuz, Esq., 4, Prince's-mansions, S.W.
Charles Pelham-Clinton, Esq., Moor Court, Stroud.
D. S. Porteous, Esq., 23, Eccleston-square, S.W.; and Lauriston Castle, Montrose, N.B.
W. A. Smithe, Esq., 49, Dover-street, Piccadilly, W., Managing Director.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Templer Down & Miller, 3, Pope's Head-alley, Lombard-street, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. W. Godfrey & Co., 11, Copthall-court, and Stock Exchange, E.C.

AUDITOR.

Arthur B. Russell, Esq., Chartered Accountant, 11, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

REGISTERED OFFICES AND BANK PREMISES.

6, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The low rate of interest obtained on advances by the principal City Banks and the large dimensions which through amalgamation many of them have now assumed render it necessary that their business be conducted on the most rigid and exclusive lines; and the consideration is thus suggested that there would be much business open to a Bank conducted on lines approximating to those of the Country and Private Banks, and where more attention is paid to the needs of smaller customers.

To meet this want the Mercantile Bank of London, Limited, was formed in 1891, in the first instance on a small scale only, to test the working and safety of such business, and, in the event of the expectations of its founders being realised, to form the nucleus of a larger Bank.

Ordinary rates of interest are charged together with a commission on advances involving any trouble.

Although the expenses of working on so small a Capital have been relatively extremely heavy, the original expectations have been fully realised, and dividends have been paid for the last three years at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

The present issue is now made (in accordance with the ideas with which the Bank was started) to provide additional working Capital, in order to enable the Directors to cope with the large increase of business offered, of only a small portion of which they have hitherto been able to avail themselves.

It will be their first aim to build up an adequate Reserve Fund.

Mr. Arthur B. Russell, Chartered Accountant, has audited the books of the Bank, and his certificate is as follows:—

11, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C., November 6th, 1896.

I have audited the books of the Mercantile Bank of London, Limited, for the three years ending December 31st, 1893, 1894, and 1895 respectively.

Dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. have been declared and paid in each of these years.

The capital subscribed has been since May 1st, 1893, and is now, £42,800, of which £26,800 is paid up, and the balance represents uncalled liability.

The liabilities on June 30th last were:—

On Current, Deposit, and other Accounts, and rebate on Bills ...	£22,409 19 5

And the Assets were:—

Bills discounted and Advances to customers	£33,973 14 5
Cash	7,401 14 1
Premises, Goodwill, and other Accounts	9,162 19 7

(Signed) ARTHUR B. RUSSELL,
Chartered Accountant.

Dividends will accrue from the dates on which the several instalments are paid. Application will be immediately made for a quotation on the Stock Exchange. The premium of 10s. per share will be applied to the expenses of this issue.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditor, and from the Bank.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, original Balance Sheets, and Auditor's Certificate, can be seen at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Bank.

Agreements have been made for guaranteeing a portion of this issue, and there are necessarily many Contracts that have been entered into by the Bank in the conduct of its business which may technically constitute Contracts under Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867. Applicants for Shares shall accept the above as notice thereof, and waive any further compliance with such section with reference thereto.

If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full, and where the amount allotted is less than that applied for, the balance will be applied towards the payment due on allotment, and any excess returned to the applicant.

Subscribers should apply on the form accompanying the Prospectus, and cheques be made payable to "The Mercantile Bank of London, Limited."

December, 1896.

This Form of Application for Shares may be used.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF LONDON, LIMITED.

To the Directors of THE MERCANTILE BANK OF LONDON, LTD.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to you the sum of £..... being a deposit of £1 per Share on.....Shares of £10 each, in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares, and I agree to accept and pay for the same or any less number, upon the terms of the Prospectus dated November, 1896, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I agree with the Company as Trustee for the Directors and other persons who may be liable, to waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than is contained in the said Prospectus.

Signature .....
Name in full .....
Address in full .....
.....
Occupation .....
Date.....1896.

The lists for Conversion and Cash Subscriptions will remain open until TWELVE o'clock on THURSDAY, the 31st December, 1896, but the right is reserved to issue Allotment Letters from time to time prior to that date.

DOMINION OF CANADA. CITY OF QUEBEC. Issue of £654,480 3½ per Cent. Consolidated Registered Stock of the City of Quebec, for the purpose of Converting and Redeeming the following outstanding issues of City of Quebec Sterling Debentures, viz.—

£220,000	6 per cent.,	due 1st July,		1905
102,739	6	,,	,, 1st July,	1908
49,750	6	,,	,, 1st January,	1910
45,200	5	,,	,, 1st January,	1913
44,200	4½	,,	,, 1st July,	1914
32,800	4½	,,	,, 1st January,	1918
30,800	4½	,,	,, 1st January,	1925

The Stock will be registered and transferable in sums of One Pound and multiples thereof at the Banking House of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., Lombard-street, London, E.C., at which Bank the Interest and Principal are also payable.

Interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum will be payable on behalf of the City of Quebec by Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co. on 1st January and 1st July in each year by dividend warrants, which will be sent by post to the registered holders, the first dividend warrant for six months' interest being payable on the 1st July, 1897. In the case of joint accounts the warrants will be sent to the first name in the account.

The Stock is redeemable by half-yearly drawings at par within 65 years from the 1st January, 1897, and the first half-yearly payment will be made on the 1st July, 1897. The drawings will take place under the direction of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., and the Stock will be drawn for repayment in units of £100, power being reserved to reduce this unit should the amount of the loan outstanding render such a course advisable.

To the payment of the interest and repayment of the principal of the Stock the City will apply each half year an equal sum sufficient to provide for the payment of the interest and to redeem the whole of the Stock within the period named. Issue Price £96 per cent.

Payable :— £5 per Cent. on Application.
£31 ,, Allotment.
£60 ,, 29th January, 1897.

Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co. are authorised by the City of Quebec to receive subscriptions, payable in cash or in Debentures of the said City, as hereinafter set forth, for the above described £654,480 3½ per Cent. Consolidated Registered Stock.

This Stock is issued in virtue of the Acts of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, 55 and 56 Vic., Cap. 50, Sec. 15, and 59 Vic., Cap. 47, Sec. 29, which Acts authorise the City to convert, with the consent of the holders, its outstanding debt or any portion thereof.

Holders of the following outstanding Debentures are invited to exchange their present holdings either for New Registered Stock or Cash upon the following terms :—

DEBENTURES OUTSTANDING TO BE CONVERTED OR REDEEMED.

Amount Outstanding.	Rate of Interest.	Redeemable.	Amount of New 3½ per cent. Stock which holders converting will receive in exchange for each £100 of Old Debentures. (The amounts of Stock are calculated at the issue price.)	Amount of Cash offered in exchange for each £100 of Old Debentures
£220,000	6%	1st July, 1905	£122 5 0	£116 5 0
102,739	6%	1st July, 1908	126 15 0	120 15 0
*49,750	6%	1st Jan., 1910	124 10 0	118 10 0
*45,200	5%	1st Jan., 1913	113 0 0	107 10 0
44,200	4½%	1st July, 1914	112 0 0	106 10 0
32,800	4½%	1st Jan., 1918	112 0 0	106 10 0
*30,800	4½%	1st Jan., 1925	111 10 0	106 5 0

* Not quoted in the Official List of the London Stock Exchange.

Holders of Debentures wishing to convert their Debentures into New Stock or to receive Cash for the same on the terms above stated must apply on the forms enclosed, and lodge their Debentures on or before 12 o'clock the 31st day of December, 1896, with :—

Messrs. Coates, Son & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C. ;
The Banking House of Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., Lombard-street, London, E.C. ;
The Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow ;
The Clydesdale Bank, Limited, Glasgow and Edinburgh ;
The Bank of Liverpool, Limited, Liverpool ;
The Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, Manchester, or
The Merchants' Bank of Canada, Montreal and Quebec.

In all cases the Coupons due 1st January, 1897, and all subsequent Coupons, must be attached to the Debentures lodged. Should the January, 1897, Coupon not be attached the Nominal Value of the same will be deducted from the amounts to be paid in Cash or Stock as set forth above.

Cheques for the amount of the redemption price of Debentures to be paid off in Cash will be made payable to the order of the applicants, and will be ready for delivery on the 15th January, 1897, in exchange for the Receipts issued on the deposit of the Debentures.

Certificates of the New Stock, together with Cheques for fractions of £1 which may be due in adjustment, will be delivered to holders Converting for New Stock as soon as practicable after lodgment of their old Debentures in exchange for the Allotment Letter and the receipt issued on the deposit of the Debentures.

It may be pointed out that the advantages to present holders of Converting their outstanding Debentures into the New Stock are many, and amongst others :—

1. The consolidation of a number of small issues (some unquoted) into a larger and more easily Marketable Security.
2. The Exchange of Bearer Debentures into a Registered Stock.
3. The convenience of holding a Security divisible and transferable into units of £1 and any multiples thereof.

Present holders of Debentures lodging their Debentures for Exchange into New Registered Stock will receive to that extent Allotment in full. They may also apply for an amount of the New Stock in excess of the amount required to convert their present holdings, and such excess applications will be treated as forming part of the applications received from the public generally.

So much of the New Stock issued as is not required for Exchange for outstanding Debentures will be allotted to the public.

A Statement of the City Treasurer, giving particulars regarding the City's financial position, and which may be seen at the office of Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., shows :—

1. The assessment of the City is based on the rentals of Assessable Properties, the total value of such Rentals amounting to $1,295,500
2. This Rental Value Capitalised at 4 per cent. would amount to $32,387,500
3. That the City possesses property, including the Waterworks system, Realty, Bonds, Shares, &c., amounting to $4,900,000
4. That the total amount of Bonded Debt, including the issues now sought to be redeemed, but exclusive of the present issue to redeem same, is $6,458,066
5. That the Revenue of the City for the year ending 30th April, 1896, was $622,573
6. That the population of the City is about 70,000

The outstanding Debentures as they are Converted or Redeemed will be forthwith cancelled and not re-issued.

Applications, in cash, on the form issued with the prospectus, must be accompanied by a Deposit of £5 per cent. on the amount of Stock applied for and be forwarded to Messrs. Coates, Son & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C., or to any of the Banks above named.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction, and if a partial allotment is made the surplus deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its due date, all amounts previously paid will be liable to forfeiture. The instalment due on the 29th January, 1897, may be paid on or after allotment, under discount at the rate of £2 per cent. per annum.

Application will be made in due course for a quotation for the Stock upon the London, Glasgow and Liverpool Stock Exchanges.

Copies of the authorising Acts above referred to can be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Wilson, Bristows, & Carpmael, 1, Copthall Buildings, E.C.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application, and Forms for Listing the Debentures to be lodged for Conversion or payment off in Cash, may be obtained at the Offices of Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., 99, Gresham Street, London, E.C., at any of the above-named Banks, or of Messrs. Hanson Brothers, St. James's-street, Montreal.

99, Gresham-street, London,
8th December, 1896.

The Subscription List will be opened on TUESDAY, the 15th day of DECEMBER, 1896, and closed at 4 p.m. on THURSDAY, the 17th day of DECEMBER, 1896, for Town, and on FRIDAY, the 18th inst., at 11 a.m., for Country Applications.

Messrs. Parsons, Thomson, & Co., of Oxford, and Messrs. Coutts & Co., 59, Strand, as their London Agents, will receive subscriptions for the undermentioned Debenture Stock.

HALL'S OXFORD BREWERY, LIMITED.
THE SWAN BREWERY, OXFORD.
SHARE CAPITAL, £115,000,
divided as follows :—

12,000 5 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each	£60,000
11,000 Ordinary Shares of £5 each	£55,000
	£115,000

The whole of the Preference and Ordinary Shares are taken by the Directors and their Friends.

Issue of £100,000 First Mortgage Four per Cent. Debenture Stock, at £102. 10s. per Cent.

The Debenture Stock and the Interest thereon will be secured by a First Mortgage to the Trustees for Debenture Holders of Freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Properties, and by a floating charge upon the general assets of the Company, and will be redeemable, at the option of the Company, at any time after 31st December, 1915, at the rate of £110 per centum, subject to six months' notice, and will be payable as follows :—£10 per cent. on application ; £12. 10s. per cent. on allotment (including premium) ; £80 per cent. on 1st March, 1897 ; or payment may be made in full on allotment, subject to discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The Stock will be registered in the books of the Company, and the interest will be payable half-yearly, the first payment, calculated on the instalments, being made on the 1st July, 1897. The Stock will be issued and will be transferable in multiples of £10.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

The Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust, Limited, 12, Moorgate-street, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

A. W. Hall, Swan Brewery, Oxford (Chairman).
A. N. Hall, Swan Brewery, Oxford (Managing Director).
Colonel Henry S. Hall, 25, Longridge-road, South Kensington.
Rhys Williams, Miskin Manor, Pontyclun.

BANKERS.—Parsons, Thomson, & Co., Oxford, and their London Agents.
SOLICITORS.—Wilson, Bristows, & Carpmael, 1, Copthall-buildings, E.C.
AUDITOR.—J. B. Arter, 26, Waterloo-street, Birmingham.
BROKERS.—Snell & Swaffield, 9 & 10, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C.
SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—C. Robinson, Swan Brewery, Oxford.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the offices of the Company, or from the Bankers, Solicitors, or Brokers.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE :—

WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS :—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on MONDAY, DEC. 14th, 1896, and will CLOSE on or before WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16th, for London, and THURSDAY, DEC. 17th, 1896, for Country Applications.

The Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C. and Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Lim., Manchester, and Branches, are authorised to receive Subscriptions for the undermentioned issue of Shares.

THE HAYCRAFT GOLD REDUCTION AND MINING COMPANY, LIM.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL, £200,000, divided into 200,000 Shares of £1 each.

PRESENT ISSUE - - £95,000,

Of which £40,000 is now offered for Subscription, payable as follows:—5s. on Application, 5s. on Allotment, 5s. on January 8th, 1897, 5s. on February 8th, 1897.

DIRECTORS.

J. LOUDON STRAIN, A.M.I.C.E. (Chairman New Coolgardie Gold Exploration and Finance Association, W.A., Limited), Chairman.
A. J. DAVIS, 31, Poultry, London, E.C.
JOSEPH STANDRING DRONSFIELD (Dronsfield Brothers, Limited), Atlas Works, Oldham.
FREDERICK LEES, Middleton, Lancashire.
J. E. MELLOR, Ashton-under-Lyne.
J. H. SMITH, A.M.I.C.E. (late Chairman Railway Commissioners, South Australia).

COLONIAL DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM MOFFLIN, Adelaide, South Australia
CHARLES RASP, Adelaide, South Australia
} Who will be appointed after Allotment.

Bankers.

London: BANK OF ADELAIDE, 11, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.
Manchester: WILLIAMS DEACON AND MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BANK, Limited, Mosley-street, Manchester, and Branches.

Solicitor.—E. T. HARGRAVES, 18, St. Thomas-street, London, E.C.

Brokers.

London: E. B. HASELDEN & CO., 27, Throgmorton-street, London.
Manchester: FERNYHOUGH & ASHE, India-buildings, 14, Cross-street, Manchester.
Oldham: JOHN HOOD, 42, Clegg-street, Oldham.

Auditors.—ROBERTSON LAWSON & CO., Chartered Accountants, 34, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

Secretary and Offices.—R. GORDON, 31, Poultry, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the following purposes:—

(A) To acquire the exclusive rights for Western Australia of Haycraft's Gold Extraction Process on the terms hereafter mentioned.

(B) To acquire and work the Special Plant for treating ore by the Haycraft process, together with a leasehold battery site of 5 acres, adjoining the Bon Accord Mine, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

(C) To acquire, develop, and work the Victory and Hearts of Oak Mines, comprising two leases, aggregating 36 acres or thereabouts, situated in Hannan's District, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

The Haycraft Gold Extraction Process (Patent No. 549, dated August 21, 1894, for Western Australia), consists of a combination of two well-known operations, viz.: Electrolytic chlorination and electro-amalgamation, carried on in one vessel at boiling temperature, after the ore has been subjected to the usual crushing.

The special features of this process are its simplicity and completeness, for the whole ore is treated in one operation as received from the mill, and during that operation practically the whole percentage of gold in the ore is extracted in two hours' time.

The special advantages of this process are as follows:—

1. Cheapness.
2. The use of salt water (which is so abundant in Western Australia) instead of fresh.
3. The smallness of the quantity required, 100 gallons per ton only (50 of which can be used again), as compared with a minimum of 240 gallons for the ordinary battery.
4. Simplicity of adjuncts, *i.e.*, firewood, salt water, and mercury (100 lb. of mercury will absorb 200 oz. of gold, and is ready for use again after passing through the mercury retort).
5. Great saving in time occupied by treatment.
6. The non-formation of slimes and tailings and the consequent saving of any loss of gold in this direction.

A complete plant for experimental purposes was erected at Adelaide early in 1895, where it has since been running on sample parcels of ore sent from all parts of Australia. A special trial was made by Mr. Nicholson, of Adelaide, the well known expert, of the Haycraft process, as compared with battery and cyanide treatment. The results gave 6 to 10 per cent. more gold saved by the Haycraft process in two hours than by the battery and cyanide treatment combined in 48 hours.

The other results have proved most satisfactory, as can be seen from the tabulated statement accompanying the Prospectus, and the percentage of gold extracted has varied from 80 to 97½ per cent. In each case a full charge of one ton has been treated, the difference in weight between the parcel sent and the proper charge being made up by the addition of ordinary sandstone, and in one case 10 tons were treated.

Full Prospectus and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitor, and at the Offices of the Company.

The LIST is now OPEN for SUBSCRIPTIONS and will CLOSE at 4 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, December 16.

THE BIRMINGHAM HOTEL & RESTAURANT COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 TO 1890.

CAPITAL . . . £100,000,

Divided into 5,000 Five-and-a-half per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each... ... £50,000
And 5,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each £50,000
£100,000

The Preference shares are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 5½ per cent. per annum, and rank as regards capital in priority to the Ordinary shares, as provided by the articles of association.

There will also be issued £60,000 of FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK. The Debenture stock will be allotted in amounts of not less than £50, and will be secured by a first charge to the trustees for the debenture stockholders upon the properties now purchased by the company, and by a floating charge (subject to a power reserved, as provided in the trust deed, to secure further issues by a first charge on properties subsequently acquired) on the undertaking and assets, present and future, of the company, other than unpaid capital. This stock will be redeemable by annual drawings, at the rate of £1,000 per annum, commencing in 1901, at the price of £105 per cent.

Interest and dividends on the Debenture Stock and Preference Share capital will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July, the first payment to be made on the 1st July next, and to be calculated from the respective dates of the payment of the capital.

The Debenture Stock, and Preference and Ordinary Shares are now offered for subscription at par, payable as follows:—

Debenture Stock.		Preference and Ordinary Shares.	
£10 per cent.	on application.	£1 on application.	
40 „	on allotment.	4 on allotment.	
50 „	on January 11th, 1897.	5 on January 11th, 1897.	
£100		£10	

Payment in full may be made on allotment.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.
F. W. Lowe, J.P., Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Ralph Heaton, The Mint, Birmingham.

DIRECTORS.
James Stirton, Derby, and Burton-on-Trent.
James Cooper, Moseley, Birmingham (Director, Offiler's Brewery, Limited).
F. J. Turley (Corder and Turley), Corporation-street, Birmingham.
John Booth, Bristol-road, Birmingham (Chairman, Day and Millward, Limited, Birmingham).

CONSULTING RESTAURATEUR.
Emile Chatrian, Birmingham.

BANKERS.
Lloyds Bank Limited, 72, Lombard-street, London, E.C., Birmingham, and branches; The Commercial Bank of Scotland (Limited), 62, Lombard-street, London, E.C.; its Head Office, Edinburgh, and branches in Scotland.

SOLICITORS.
London: Burn and Berridge, 11, Old Broad-street, E.C.; Birmingham: Sanders, Smith, and Parish, 67, Colmore-row.

AUDITORS.
Lees and Graham, 77, King-street, Manchester, Chartered Accountants; Frank Davies, Meredith, and Co., Corporation-street, Birmingham, Chartered Accountants.

BROKERS.
London: Lumsden and Myers, 18, Finch-lane, E.C., and Stock Exchange; Birmingham: W. and F. Cuthbert, 103, Colmore-row, and Stock Exchange: Liverpool: H. B. Hassall and Son, Queen Insurance-buildings, and Stock Exchange; Edinburgh: H. Gilmour and Shaw, 18, St. Andrew-square, and Stock Exchange.

SECRETARY (pro tem.) AND OFFICES.
Samuel Johnson, 90, New-street, Birmingham.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This company has been formed to acquire, extend, and carry on under one management the following well-known businesses in Birmingham:—
The Old Royal Restaurant, the business of Emile Chatrian.
The Colonnade Hotel and Restaurant.
The Waterloo Bar and Restaurant, and
The business of W. C. Grew, Wine and Spirit Merchant.

More complete descriptions of the businesses will be found in the full Prospectus.

The Restaurants are amongst the first in Birmingham, and are all successful and profitable; and, as it is intended to extend the businesses, it is anticipated that the profits will be increased.

The above properties have been valued by the well-known Valuer, Mr. Thomas S. Fallows, Birmingham, whose report is printed in the full Prospectus.

The security for the Debenture Stock will, according to his report, be represented by assets valued by Mr. T. S. Fallows at	£91,100
Add amount provided for the purchase of the stock, book debts, &c., and for working capital	24,000
	£115,100

The accounts of the businesses have been examined by Messrs. Lees and Graham, Chartered Accountants, of Manchester, and the following is a copy of their report:—

"77, King-Street, Manchester, December 9th, 1896.

"GENTLEMEN,—We have examined the books and accounts of the Old Royal Restaurant and the Colonnade Hotel for the three years ending December 31st, 1895, the books and accounts of the Waterloo Bar for three years and three months, ending 31st March, 1896, and the books and accounts of Mr. W. C. Grew for the three years ending 30th June, 1896, and we certify that the profits of the combined businesses have been as follows:—

Taking the first year of our examination in each case, the profits were	£9,121	2	5
The second year	11,521	8	10
The third year	12,299	8	8

"These profits are arrived at after making ample provision for depreciation.
Yours faithfully, LEES and GRAHAM."

The above profits distributed over the company's capital give the following results:—

The profits as certified by Messrs. Lees and Graham for the last completed 12 months amount to		£12,299	8	8
To pay interest on the Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture Stock will require	£2,700			
To pay dividend of 5½ per cent. on the Preference shares will require	2,750			
To pay dividend of 8 per cent. on the Ordinary shares will require	4,000			
		9,450	0	0
Leaving a margin of		£2,849	8	8

for expenses of management and redemption of debentures, without taking into consideration the increased profits which may reasonably be expected from the amalgamation and the extension of the businesses.

The Contracts entered into are specified in the full prospectus.

The following form may be cut out and sent, with the amount payable on application, to the Bankers or Secretary. In applying for Shares the applicant will please efface the word "Ordinary" or "Preference," according to the class of Share applied for:—

No. .....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR PREFERENCE ORDINARY SHARES.

THE BIRMINGHAM HOTEL AND RESTAURANT CO., LIMITED.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF
The BIRMINGHAM HOTEL & RESTAURANT COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being £1 per Share payable on application for..... 5½ per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each Ordinary, I request you to allot me that number of Preference Ordinary Shares, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus dated 9th December, 1896, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Preference Shares so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Preference Shares as required in the terms of the said Prospectus, and I agree with the Company, as Trustees for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than is contained in the said Prospectus.

PLEASE WRITE DISTINCTLY.
Ordinary Signature .....
Name in full (Miss or Mrs.) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date ..... 1896.

No. .....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR DEBENTURE STOCK.

THE BIRMINGHAM HOTEL AND RESTAURANT CO., LIMITED.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF
The BIRMINGHAM HOTEL & RESTAURANT COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being £10 per cent. payable on Application for £..... 4½ per cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock, I request you to allot me that amount of such Stock, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller amount that may be allotted to me, upon the terms and conditions of the Prospectus dated 9th December, 1896, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name on the Register of Debenture Stock Holders in respect of the Stock so allotted to me, and I agree to pay the further instalments upon such allotted Stock as required in the terms of the said Prospectus, and I agree with the Company, as Trustee for the Directors and other persons liable, to waive any fuller compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, than is contained in the said Prospectus.

PLEASE WRITE DISTINCTLY.
Ordinary Signature .....
Name in full (Miss or Mrs.) .....
Address .....
Description .....
Date ..... 1896.

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Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking.

The Original **NAVY CUT**

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT TOBACCO is sold only in 1-oz. Packets, and 2, 4, and 8-oz. and 1-lb. Tins, which keep the Tobacco in Fine Smoking Condition. Ask at all Tobacco Sellers, Stores, &c., and take no other. The genuine bears the Trade Mark, "NOTTINGHAM CASTLE," on every Packet and Tin.

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT CIGARETTES are sold in Packets of 12, and Tins containing 24, 50, and 100.

Also supplied in a new size—"MAGNUMS"—packed in Pocket Tins containing 16; and in 50's and 100's.

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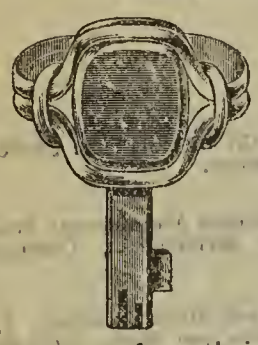

Can be made to open any number of Locks. Many Ladies and Gentlemen have the whole of their locks so arranged that **a MASTER KEY,** so small as to be worn in a finger-ring or locket, will open every lock they possess—from their Dressing Bags, Trunks, Jewel Cases, Despatch Boxes, &c., to the Front Door, Wine Cellar, Park Gates, &c. **Just think of the Convenience!** The locks are made in suites, each suite with its own key, so that the ladies' maid or valet can open the luggage, the butler the wine cellar, and so on, but the suite keys are of no use for any but their own series.

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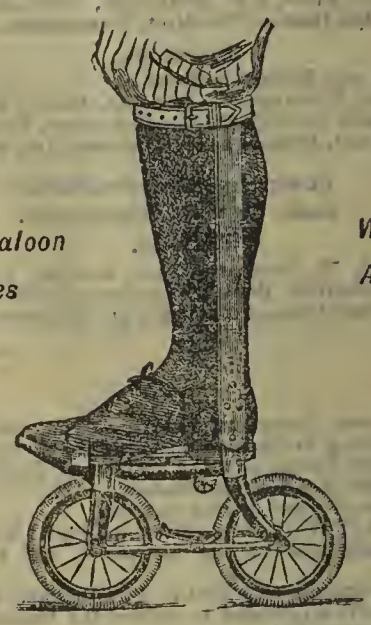

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OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 929.—ANSWERS TO ORIGINAL CONUNDRUMS PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 12.

Toucan (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.
"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

By the time this number of Truth is in the hands of its London readers the Seventeenth Truth Show will be open at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore. It will remain open until 10 p.m. this (Wednesday) evening, and will be also open to-morrow (Thursday) between 10.30 a.m. and 10 p.m. No charge will be made for admission, but visitors will be expected to leave an address card with the Commissionaires who will be stationed at the doors. It is hoped that the readers of Truth will make known the above announcement as widely as possible amongst their friends, as a large attendance is especially desired.

Next week a detailed account of the Dressed Dolls and Home-made Toys will be published.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent in on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the Puzzle Editor, Truth Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 926.

The Prize for the best original Topical Conundrum has been awarded to "A See-man" for the following:—

Q. If Lady Godiva lived in these days how would she ride through Coventry?
A. On a bicycle without a tyre (attire).

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 928.

Several correspondents who have written to me with regard to this competition are labouring under a complete misapprehension as to the rules which govern rhymed versification. It will be remembered that what competitors had to do was to find rhymes for the words "syringe" and "pickaxe," and the prize was awarded to "Eboracum" for the following rhymes:—

Negations, in some English words, upon the prefix *ir* hinge—
E.g., "an ir-religious man," an ir-receptive syringe.
Scotch reader, dinna look sae blate, 'twould need a moral pickaxe
To plant my quip within your pate—a heavy, sharp, and thick axe!

Of these rhymes I may say the first is not a perfect one, whereas the second is. "Ir hinge" (the "ir" being pronounced as "ir" in irreligious) is not a perfect rhyme owing to the presence of the "h" in the word "hinge," it being a well-known rule that "in composite rhyming the greatest care should be taken to see *that each syllable after the first is identical in both of the rhymed endings that pair off together.*" Now, the presence of a "h" in the word "hinge," whereas there is no "h" in the second syllable of "syringe," clearly breaks the above rule, but the fracture is a comparatively slight one, and the prize was given to "Eboracum" notwithstanding, as no other competitor came nearer to perfection. But for any one to contend, as one of my correspondents does, that "her eringe" is a perfect rhyme for "syringe" shows clearly that he knows nothing of the rule I have quoted; moreover, that his ear for rhyme cannot be a very sensitive one. Any one who has read published verses in which composite rhymes occur at the ends of the lines should surely know that it is the initial of the first syllable only which alters. Thus, "dry land" is a good rhyme to "is-land," whereas "dry sand" would be no rhyme to it at all. So, too, "bye-way" is a good rhyme to "highway;" and, of course, "thick axe" to "pickaxe." I will not enlarge further upon the matter, for the rule I have quoted is one which is well known to most amateur verse writers; but I have thought it well to say thus much about it, because there are clearly some amongst Truth competitors who did not know of the existence of the rule in question.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 930.

The Prize in this competition has been presented to Avis for a description of the game known as "Living Acrostics." The following are the details:—A round game that we, in our family circle, enjoy very much, and find very little known outside, is a form of living acrostic: Two persons retire to guess; the rest of the company choose a character for the whole—say Romeo. In this case all the "lights" must be taken from Shakespeare. Five persons will each take a character beginning with one of the letters, say Rosalind, Othello, Mercutio, Emilia, and Orlando. When the guessers have returned, Rosalind will commence by giving a succinct account of herself, not disclosing too much—usually it is best to use the first person. Then Othello will follow, and so on, till we come to the sixth person, who personates Romeo. No questions are allowed, but in cases of difficulty a second round may be given. This game can be varied by characters from any well known writer, or birds or fishes, or any branch may be taken. This game has always proved a great success, and I hope, if some of your readers do not know it, they will give it a good trial this Christmas.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 934.

The usual Prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

The Best Answer to the Riddle "Why is the Coming New Year's Day like Mr. Arthur Balfour on the Golf Links?"

I may say that I have myself no idea what the answer to this conundrum is. I shall, in fact, possess a perfectly open mind on the matter until I receive the replies which may be sent in by those who take part in this competition. Competitors may send more than one reply; but all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, December 28, at the latest.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The name of Scrivener, winner of the Prize No. 925, was published last week as "F. Percy Noble, Esq.;" it should have been printed as T. Percy Noble, Esq.

Lizard.—Many thanks for your letter.

Eva.—I am much obliged to you for your excellent suggestion of a subject for a further competition.

Cortex.—I have read your humorous and good-tempered criticisms with much interest. The prize you refer to was won by "Analyst."

THE PUZZLE EDITOR

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 931.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.
SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE MOST SUITABLE SHAPE FOR HORSELESS CARRIAGES.

1. A gondola (waggonette) steered from the bows, machinery in the raised middle cabin. Seats all round. 2. A swan (landau steered from in or behind the neck. Works in the fore part of the half-raised wings, or in the tail. Seats for four or six, half facing, half opposite, in the body. 3. A boat, of almost any shape, the ends curved upwards. Large figure-heads for the helmsman; machinery in a half-deck cabin, placed at either end or in the middle. Seats all round. 4. A torpedo, closed carriage, skylight, if advisable. 5. A shell, the lower half as carriage, the upper half as canopy, joined by a pillar at the small ends, the hinge of the shell; this being the fore part of the carriage. The canopy fixed 5 ft. or 6 ft. above the carriage, or less. Smaller supports for the canopy at the wide ends of the shell, and at the sides if required. Steerage and machinery near the pillar. Seats on both sides of the wider part of shell; adjustable step-ladder for getting in and out. More wheels for long-shaped shell. Seats for six or eight. For short, round shells, three wheels; seats for two. Shells could also be single. 6. Noah's ark or tram-car, with spiral steps at each end; ends of car elongated and somewhat pointed and turned up. Steerage at both ends if advisable, to avoid turning round. Works under the stairs. Seats, of course, inside and outside. 7. A duck, and any swimming bird could be made, and might be charming. 8. A basket.—Shah.

The shape of motor cars should be taken from examples of carriages of which the motive power is behind; *e.g.*, sledges propelled by a skater, like those specimens in South Kensington Museum,* and those seen in pictures of artists of the Dutch school (chiefly). The usual shapes have fronts like artistic "cow-catchers," which would minimise the effect of collisions with pedestrians; thus combining practical usefulness with beauty. The back seats should be raised above those in front to give persons sitting behind a clear view ahead.—Nordstern.

* In the corridor near the refreshment room.

The car should be constructed with three wheels only, on the lines of a tricycle; it should be built wedge-shaped in order to offer less resistance to the wind. The driver or steerer should be seated immediately above and behind the front wheel. It could be turned in a smaller compass, be more easily guided, and would possess other advantages if built on this model.—Pelican.

1. Irish jaunting-car style. 2. Char-a-banc shape, only with seat-back running down centre, body built light, and sides interlaced with cane or bamboo, good strong wheels, rubber tyre, lamps right and left and another lamp in a line with driver's feet, the whole painted olive colour.—Snibor.

The ideal shape for a motor car, to combine elegance with utility, would seem to be that of a Venetian gondola, fitted with wheels, and having the bows made to overlap the floor of the main part, and made to swing from side to side, so as to guide the main body. The advantages of this shape would be, (1) elegance; (2) greater immunity from collisions, resulting from the shape of the bows; (3) the fact that it could be used alike in fine or wet weather, and in summer and winter, as the gondola has both a covered and an uncovered portion; (4) less liability to upset; (5) greater facility in steering.—Taffy.

The difficulty with regard to motor cars as now constructed is that one misses the horse, and the driver has the appearance of driving nothing. As regards the body of the vehicle, we must come to the conclusion, if we think of it, that the carriage shape is most nearly adapted to the human form in a sitting posture. If, therefore, something could be substituted for the horse—something for the coachman to drive—I think that comfort and appearance would be combined. I should, therefore, propose that a steering-wheel, or pair of steering-wheels, should be put out well in front of the coachman, and that rods for working them should be carried up to the box seat, so as to convey a suggestion of reins. The wheel or wheels would act like the front wheel of a bicycle, and the steering-rods be attached to the ends of the handle bar.—Almaviva.

The ugliness of the motor car seems to arise from the fact that it is, as it is sometimes called, a horseless carriage; that is to say, a carriage built with the idea of its being drawn by a horse. It wants the horse, as the 'bus driver in *Punch* expresses it. My little girl proposes an artificial horse with the motor hidden in side and an outrider to do the steering. Seriously, I should like to suggest an auto car which could be attached to carriages as they now exist, thus rendering them, by a slight alteration, convertible for use with either horse or motor.—Pretoria.

My suggestion is: private carriages to be shaped like a swan, neck curved and head very ornamental, like the prow of a vessel in old times; the body fitted with seats, and a striped canopy for summer, a leather one for rain. For goods and luggage, to be like the Noah's arks of our youth, with a covered seat on the platform for the stoker or conductor; the narrow side to be the front.—Zobeide.

As we English people have for so long a time, in the language of Ruskin, despised art, would it be too daring a departure from our practical propensities to alter the ungainly forms of the motor cars into those resembling Venetian gondolas? Better still, think how charming our streets would look with graceful swans skimming along. Why, London would be more "cygnificant" than ever if we were thus to show that we had not quite forgotten or lost our love of the beautiful.—Beginner.

I think the boat or canoe shape is the only one for the motor carriage, unless appearance is to be entirely sacrificed. A ship is a pleasing object in the water, a bathing-machine is not; and as the bathing-machine to the ship, so is the present motor car to the ordinary horse and carriage. The inside arrangement of the various carriages might be as now, but the outside must be elongated into prow and stern. The driver's seat and compartment for the motive power apparatus must be in front; the latter, triangular in shape, to follow the plan of the carriage, with one of its concave sides running beneath the fore part of the carriage; on the other concave side is the driver's seat. The third side, parallel with the ground, is convex, and

the whole appearance not unsightly. It is difficult to describe one's ideas for others to understand. I inclose a rough sketch of mine, but need hardly add I am no draughtsman! If, as an amateur, my design is unpractical, I can but add that the practical ones of to-day will prove practical failures, for the public will never take kindly to these square chests upon wheels. The pointed ends may be real or apparent only, but this is the side view appearance I advocate.—Imara.

Compensation for what the horseless "equipage" loses in appearance from diminished length must be sought in height. The high double perambulator now in vogue suggests, therefore, the type to be followed. An adaptation of the extending frame (familiar to us in childhood for the advance and retreat of toy soldiers pegged on to it), and worked in this instance by a lever with rotatory or other handle, will advance the car from within to the height desired and lower it for entering and alighting. The handles that regulate the motor and brake to be telescopic, and thereby serviceable at any height desired by the occupants of the car, who will by this plan enjoy a similar view when driving to that enjoyed on a coach. No great deviation from existing types of car will be found necessary if the height be increased proportionately to the length, on the perambulator model.—Robert Martin.

Have it shaped like an enlarged perambulator cot, with a steel feeding-bottle attached to hold the necessary motive power; motion and stoppage may be regulated by means of a spring to cork and uncork the bottle as the driver requires.—Pigtail.

The motor car should be shaped like a vis-à-vis sleigh, if I may so call it, to carry three on back, two in front, and a small seat behind for a "groom"—six in all. It should also have sleigh bells to let people know of its approach. But the car which I think the most compact and serviceable is one called "The Pennington," a sketch of which I enclose, and somewhat like what I have suggested.—Hibernian.

I suggest that the motor car should be oblong in shape and rounded at each end.—Pansy.

The motor car! The motor car!
The new gee-gee! He-he!—aha!
They say you're ugly as the sphinx;
Come, smarten, sharpen, like the lynx.
But, stay; to Windsor I will go,
And take my cue from Verrio.*
Go, then, construct your cars upon
Capacious form of graceful swan.
Stephanotis.

* In passing through the State apartments at Windsor Castle, among other things you hear this much:—"This is the Queen's audience chamber. . . . the ceiling is by Verrio, and represents the Queen as Britannia going to the Temple of Virtue in a car drawn by swans."

I don't understand much about the motor cars, but I should think that they would look very nice as "open carriages."—C. B.

Vehicles which might be driven on the motor car principle—Bath chairs.—Jeff.

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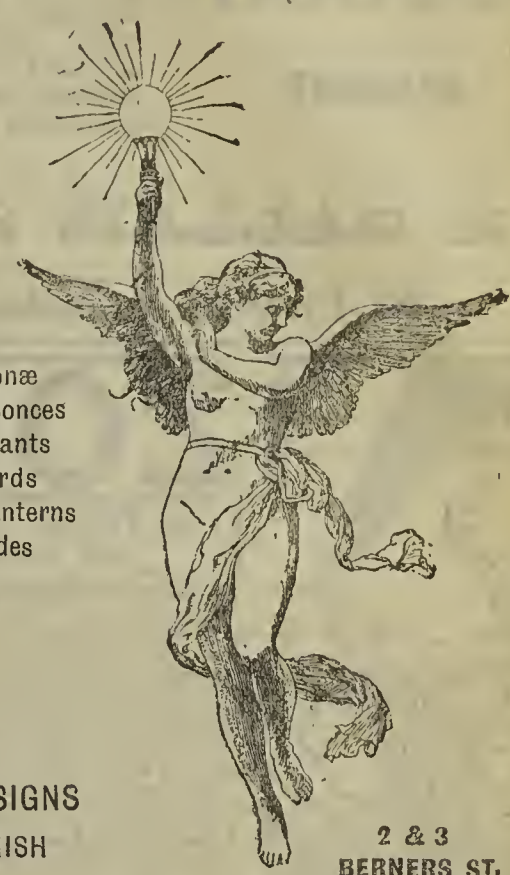

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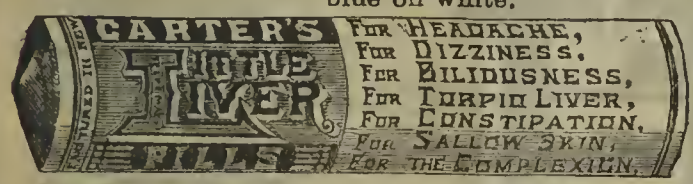

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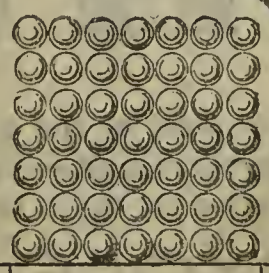

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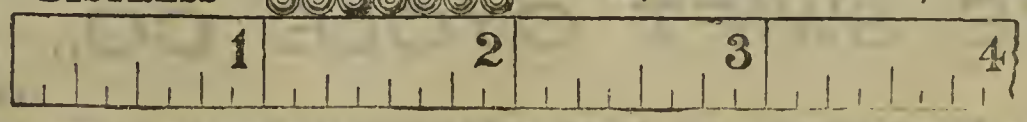

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1043. Vol. XL. Thursday, December 24, 1896. Price Sixpence. (With Supplement.)

NOTICE.

The Twentieth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

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IS NOW READY,

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

It is profusely illustrated by Mr. R. A. Brownlie and Mr. Roland Hill.

The illustrations include FOUR DOUBLE-PAGE CARTOONS and TWO SINGLE-PAGE CARTOONS (printed in colours):—

1. Checkmate.
2. Right *v.* Might.
3. Changing the Leader.
4. Motormania.
5. A Good Joke. *(From Mr. Cecil Rhodes' point of view.)*
6. A Good Joke. *(From Dr. Jameson's point of view.)*

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

With this number of Truth is issued a second special Supplement dealing with the case against the Kilburn Sisters. I call special attention to it here, because after the last Supplement was published, many complaints reached me of that issue of Truth having been circulated without the Supplement, as well as of the disappearance of the Supplement from public libraries and reading-rooms. I cannot prevent the abstraction of that portion of the paper by persons who imagine that the cause of the Kilburn Sisterhood can be served by such means. But for the information of any reader who may find the Supplement missing, I may mention that it will be, as on the last occasion, reprinted separately, and will be obtainable through the usual channels.

A special feature in this week's Supplement is the reproduction of certain letters from the Kilburn Sisters which strikingly illustrate the disregard of truth that seems to characterise these ladies, as well as the unworthy tactics to which they resorted in the course of the inquiry which they invited me to undertake for them. As I have explained in the article, my reason for reproducing these letters is that I have heard it said that the authenticity of one of them has been denied at Kilburn and by friends of Kilburn. That is a convenient method of reply, which is frequently resorted to when parties whose written words convict them of dishonourable conduct are confronted with their own letters in print. In the case of the man Brooks, whose exposure made such a sensation last week, many refused to believe in the genuineness of the letters from him which were published in Truth; and it was not until he came into court to be cross-examined upon what he had written, that I was able to bring his words home to him. The Kilburn Sisters, although they have threatened me through a solicitor, and in the most unequivocal language, with their positive intention to bring an action for libel against Truth, show little desire to imitate Mr. Brooks by submitting themselves for cross-examination. As the only way, therefore, of meeting any further suggestion that these letters are not genuine, I have taken the trouble to reproduce them in facsimile, so that every reader may judge of them for himself. On these letters alone, read with the facts to which they relate, I would confidently leave any impartial reader to say whether the ladies concerned do not deserve the worst that I have said about them—and more.

In another part of this paper (p. 1672) will be found a full description of the most successful Truth Toy and Doll Show which has ever been held. The attendance of the public at the Albert Hall was enormous, completely beating the record of any previous year. So far, then, so good. But I have to add that, notwithstanding the popular success achieved, the Toy Fund still shows a debit balance. There were collecting-boxes at the Albert Hall, but the total amount dropped into them on the two days of the Show was only £37. 16s. 9d. This amount, seeing that at least fifty thousand people were present, cannot be considered wholly satisfactory. If the visitors had contributed only a penny each on an average, the amount realised would have been £208. 6s. 8d. I leave my readers, then, to calculate what the average contribution per head actually was. I should like, when I publish the usual balance-sheet in a week or two's time, to be able to announce that the Toy Fund is out of debt.

Meantime I am glad to say that the Yorkshire Terrier pups have been disposed of. I was informed by the gentleman who so kindly presented them to the Toy Fund that they ought not to be sold for less than two guineas apiece. As a matter of fact, the smaller, and therefore

more valuable of the pups, has been sold for three guineas, and the other for £2. 12s. 6d., and the sum of £5. 15s. 6d. has, consequently, been carried to the TRUTH Toy Fund. Yesterday I received from a correspondent at Suva, who wishes to be known as "Viti," a contribution to the Toy Fund of two complete sets of postage-stamps in use in Fiji. The face value of each set is 7s. 9d., but I am not sufficiently up in philately to know what the value of the stamps is to collectors. I shall be very pleased to receive offers for them. A number of Welcome Club Badges have also been sent to me. They arrived too late for exhibition at the TRUTH Show, but they shall be distributed in due course. From Messrs. John James & Sons, of Redditch, I have received a large assortment of well-filled needlecases of all kinds. Amongst many letters of thanks sent to me from the hospitals and workhouses, I feel I must specially acknowledge a large illuminated address from the boys at St. Mary's Orphanage, North Hyde. The design and execution of this Brobdingnagian Christmas card reflect much credit on those who took part in its preparation.

The following are the amounts which have reached me since my last announcement:—

D. V. omitted from previous list, 10s.; Outis, £1; Edith M. O. L., 10s.; Mrs. W. H. Bilton, £1. 1s.; A. D. F., £1. 1s.; P. Sim, £1. 1s.; Dermot, Molly, Kitty, and Bertie, 10s.; Four Little Argentines, £4; James Carr, £1. 1s.; C. H. L., £3; W. L. Adamthwaite, £1. 5s.; Mrs. Tomlin, £3. 3s.; M. D., £1. 1s.; A. F. L., £2. 2s.; J. E. W., 2s. 6d.; W. B. C., £2. 2s.; John G., 10s. 6d.; J. W. P., 10s.; A. B., £5; W. G. C. Fielden for Pup, £3. 3s.; A. G., 10s.; Mrs. F. M. Fuchs, £1. 1s.; M. C., £1; Sir Roger Palmer, £5; S. F. H., £5; N. O., £1; Violet and Dorothy Munn, £2; Hugo and Isabel, £2; C. A. M., £2.2s.; J. L. L., £1. 1s.; A. M. C., £1.; W. E. C., No. 2 Account, £1. 1s.; George and Sybil, £3; Fifer, 10s.; donations in the money boxes at the Royal Albert Hall during Toy Exhibition, £37. 16s. 9d.; H. V., for Pup, £2. 12s. 6d.; H., 5s.; B. C. Wyld, £1; L. P., £2; Antoinette, 5s.; in loving memory of W. R. J., 5s.; Lt. R.A., 10s.; Uppingham, 10s.; E. P. S., £1; Viti, two sets of Figi stamps; Panmure Gordon, £5. 5s.; Colonel R., £5; C. T. A., £1; Warner Halsey, £1. 1s.; Arthur T. Otway, £3. 3s.; W. Samuelson, £1. 1s.; J. C. M., 10s.; W. H., 10s.; M. F. H., £2. 2s.; some of the Officers of H.M.S. *Blenheim*, 17s. 6d.; Connie, Tom, and Leslie, £3. 3s.; Justin Huntly McCarthy (in threepenny pieces), £2. 12s. 6d.; J. Knowles, £5; W. D. Sneddow, £1. 1s.; R. W. S., 10s.; G. S., 1s.; A Little Portuguese Girl, 2s.; E. J. C., 5s.; C. D. Kemp-Welch, £2. 2s.; Hospital Surgeon, £1. 1s.; Old Etonian, £2. 2s.; C. P. S., 10s.; Aubrey Jackson, 2s. 6d.; Nat, 2s. 6d.

Some of the papers have announced that "the usual Christmas and Boxing Day festivities at Osborne are not to be curtailed." As a matter of fact, there are never any "festivities" at Osborne during Christmas week, but it has pleased some romancing journal to publish ridiculous fictions about the doings there at this season, which would convey the impression that the holidays are kept by the Queen after the Dingley Dell fashion. There have usually been some *tableaux* or amateur theatricals in the Indian Room at Osborne shortly after Christmas, but this year there are to be no entertainments or social functions of any sort or kind whatever.

The Queen has conferred the first class of the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert upon the Empress of Russia, and the Duchess of York has received the second class of the same decoration, while Lady Lansdowne and Lady Lytton have been given the third class; and Lady Cowell, Mrs. Mallet, and Miss Caroline Cavendish have been admitted to the fourth class.

The Queen has conferred the Order of the Bath (Honorary K.C.B., Civil Division,) upon Prince Francis Joseph of Battenberg, youngest brother of the Princes Louis and Henry. The highest class of the same Order (G.C.B., Civil Division,) has been given to Prince Charles of Denmark and to Sir Edmund Monson.

Her Majesty has made certain arrangements in respect of her new Royal Victorian Order which are likely to lead to a great deal of trouble, and I hear that the Prince of Wales has expressed his entire disapproval of the extraordinary innovations which have been directed by the Queen. There are no fewer than five classes of the Royal Victorian Order, the standing of the members ranging from Sovereign Royalties, who are Knights Grand Cross, down to Household servants, who are to be "members" of the second grade of the fifth class. It seems that the Commanders of the Order (*i.e.*, members of the third class) have not only been granted precedence of the Companions of the Bath, the St. Michael and St. George, and the Indian Orders, but they are actually to rank above all Knights Bachelors.

The fact is that the Queen has no right to practically degrade the senior Orders in this way, especially as the new decoration appears to be principally reserved for private and domestic services, and has in many cases been given to individuals who would formerly have been rewarded with a jewel, a piece of plate, or something else of more intrinsic value than a bit of ribbon and a badge. There is an evident resolution at Court to exalt the Royal Victorian Order as much as possible, for directions were issued last season that all recipients of this decoration, who were eligible for presentation at Court, should forthwith attend a levée. At present there are only thirteen ordinary members, while there are actually thirty-eight honorary members (all foreigners) of the various classes.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, and Princess Victoria, are to leave Sandringham on Monday, January 4, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, at Trentham Hall, Staffordshire. They will stay until Saturday, the 9th, and they are then going to visit the Queen at Osborne, until Monday, the 11th, when they are to return to Sandringham, where there will be a memorial service for the Duke of Clarence on Thursday, the 14th. The Prince comes to town for the season on Monday, the 18th, and he will then make Marlborough

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1688 in the present issue.
For HOSPITALS and APPEALS, see pages 1686-7.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1685.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1697.

House his headquarters until his departure for the Riviera; but the Princess will stay at Sandringham until the second week in February.

The Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria will go to Cannes for the month of March, in order to be with the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, who are expected there in a few weeks, and they are to stay on the Riviera until the end of April, for the benefit of the health of their eldest son, Prince George of Hanover.

According to the usual custom of Irish Viceroys, Lord Cadogan will spend Christmas at the Viceregal Lodge. The usual servants' ball will be given, and a small dance after Christmas week may possibly give the "hupper" circles an opportunity of sharing the Viceregal festivities of the season. When the Christmas of snow and ice, so dear to the poets, prevails, there is excellent skating obtainable within the Viceregal grounds, on an extensive stretch of ornamental water.

Mr. G. Balfour left the Chief Secretary's Lodge last week. He and his family will not spend Christmas in Ireland, nor will they return there before the opening of Parliament in January. Lady Betty Balfour gave a musical party previous to the Chief Secretary's departure, at which a large number of guests were entertained.

Lord Justice FitzGibbon will have his usual Christmas party at his Howth villa. Lords Rathmore and Morris will be amongst the guests, but Lord Ashbourne will be absent, as he and Lady Ashbourne are leaving Howth Castle to spend Christmas in Yorkshire.

Lord Darnley was a very good landlord, and he was most popular among his servants, both in Kent and in Ireland, and took an active personal interest in the management of his estates. He will be much missed in Kent, as he has lived during the greater part of each year at Cobham Hall ever since he came of age in 1848, and he was an excellent neighbour, and most hospitable and charitable. Not one of the papers has referred to the close friendship which existed between Lord Darnley and Charles Dickens, who was his neighbour at Gad's Hill during the last thirteen years of his life, and the author of the "Pickwick Papers" was never weary of eulogising the owner of Cobham for having kindly thrown open his beautiful domains to the public, thereby showing an excellent example to other proprietors of "show places;" for in those days great parks and houses were rigorously closed as a rule. The deer park at Cobham has some of the finest woodland scenery in England, and the trees are magnificent. The stately red-brick house, which was designed by Inigo Jones, contains a valuable library and a splendid collection of pictures, but some of the best works have been sold during the last few years.

Everybody will be glad to hear that the Thatched House Club, one of the historical institutions of St. James's-street, has successfully tided over its difficulties. The plan by which this has been done is a most excellent one. All the property of the club is now vested in a company, which undertakes the sole responsibility for the finances. The shares in the company are largely held by members of the club, so that the club is virtually a members' club, although no member need incur any responsibility beyond his subscription, unless he chooses. The work of refurnishing and redecorating the premises is now all but completed, and the club seems in a fair way to renew its youth.

The "earthquake" has been a godsend to the newspapers. Some of them have been a little hurt at not having been consulted in the matter, whilst others have welcomed the disturbance, because it seemed almost unfair that we should not have our earthquakes like other countries. Dr. Johnson declined to believe in the Lisbon earthquake for six months after it occurred, and I have my doubts whether anything that could fairly be called an earthquake took place within the area of London. Fancy plays a great part in the perception of earthquakes. Let one take place in one particular locality, and people will be found to have heard rumblings, and to have distinctly observed that their beds were shaken, over a very wide area.

When the spire of St. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, was injured by "the act of God," a local divine discovered in it a special judgment from Heaven on the proposal to erect a Darwin memorial. Hereford Cathedral has now been damaged by an earthquake, and I hear it suggested that this is a mark of the Divine displeasure with a Bishop who has dared to favour disestablishment. Nonsense! It is clearly a sign that Heaven is promoting a disestablishment movement in the earth.

A friend of mine told me a few days ago of a mode of obtaining money under false pretences, which I believe has been growing in popularity of late, and which ought to be dealt with by the police. He was driving home one evening last week in his carriage with his wife. Suddenly, when passing through a by street, a man rushed to the front of the horse and the shafts and stopped him. He then came to the window and insisted that the carriage had run over a child that had limped away. At once a crowd collected, and it was felt that my friend ought not to be allowed to proceed before some sort of indemnity had been paid for injury done to the child. The man knew that child and was prepared to take charge of the indemnity. My friend was thus left prisoner for about ten minutes, but when he suggested that a policeman should be called, and that he would give his name and address to him, after being reviled as a mean creature,

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South.*" Sea frontage, 1,000 ft.; grounds, 5 acres. Due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.* Moderate fixed tariff.

the man went away to look for the child. As he never returned, the crowd allowed the carriage to move on. Of course, no child had been run over, and all this was merely an attempt to obtain a sovereign, which would speedily have been converted into liquor at the nearest public-house.

I have been asked by a gentleman connected with the Press in Lancashire to inform him in TRUTH "whether or not it is fashionable to wear jewellery at receptions, at-homes, parties, &c." Unfortunately, this searcher after truth has omitted to state whether he seeks the information for his own benefit or for that of some lady friend. This may make all the difference. All I can tell my Lancashire friend is that people who have diamonds always think it fashionable to wear them, while those who have none think otherwise.

A gentleman who has just been for a cruise to the Levant, under the auspices of Messrs. Lunn & Perowne, thinks that, because I published some complaints respecting the management of the *Midnight Sun* in September last, I ought "in fairness to Messrs. Lunn & Perowne" to give him an opportunity of expatiating in TRUTH upon his satisfaction with the Mediterranean cruise. I really cannot follow the argument. The complaints about the *Midnight Sun* were very precisely answered at the time, which seems to me to be all that "fairness" requires. If a man complains in the Press that he has had a bad joint from his butcher, and the butcher answers that he advised the man not to take that particular joint, there is an end of the matter. The Press is under no obligation to publish letters from all the rest of the butcher's customers in praise of the meat delivered to them. I can assure my correspondent that Messrs. Lunn & Perowne are quite capable of blowing their own trumpet without his assistance—or mine.

A correspondent writes :—

If the correspondent who found fault with the expression "a brother of Lord Fermoy's," which appeared in TRUTH, is still disturbed regarding its grammatical justification he can fully satisfy himself by a reference to the pages of Lindley Murray, The notes on Rule X., Syntax, will supply the information that the double genitive is allowable "in cases which suppose the existence of a plurality of subjects of the same kind. In the expressions, 'A subject of the Emperor's,' 'a sentiment of my brother's' more than one subject and one sentiment are supposed to belong to the possessor." Consultation with any Peerage of the United Kingdom will show that Lord Fermoy has more than one brother; the expression alluded to is, therefore, fully justified by a grammatical rule. The correspondent may keep Christmas with a mind untroubled by the consciousness of any lapse from grammar in the pages of TRUTH.

Some of my readers in Paris may, I fear, have been annoyed lately by finding advertisements of a very objectionable character slipped into copies of TRUTH sold at the kiosks on the Boulevards. There is in Paris a purveyor of obscenity for the British market, whose circulars I have repeatedly noticed, and who seems to have adopted this ingenious method of revenging himself upon TRUTH by converting it into an advertising medium for his own purposes. I have done my best to stop the annoyance through the medium of my Paris agents. They now tell me that, although they have no responsibility for what has been done, they have made representations to the proprietors of the kiosks on the subject. Should this not have the desired effect, I would suggest to those who buy TRUTH at the kiosks that they should follow it up by making representations on their own account.

In the annual report of the Medical Students' Association at Queen's College, Cork, attention is drawn to the constitution of the Medical Examining Board of the Royal University of Ireland. It is stated that the Medical School, Cecilia-street, Dublin, sends forward for the examination of the Royal University something like the same number of students as the Queen's College, Cork; yet the former has almost four times as many representatives as the latter on the Examining Board. The representation of the Dublin School is, in fact, equal to that of the three Queen's Colleges (Cork, Belfast, and Galway) combined. This state of things is said to militate against the interests of the Queen's Colleges, it being found that at Cork, at any rate, "no small number of students annually transfer their allegiance to the Medical School, Cecilia-street, thereby shrewdly calculating that their prospects of success are materially enhanced." However this may be, the representation of the Cecilia-street Medical School on the Board appears decidedly excessive, and the question raised in the report deserves the consideration of the Senate of the University.

The last Congregation at Cambridge was unusually interesting and exciting, for there had been a wholesale "non-placeting" of graces which had been formally recommended by the Council. Never before has there been a meeting of the Senate at which so many attempts were made to defeat official proposals; but they all failed, and the Council triumphed all along the line. At last the question, which has been pending for so many years, of the site for the Sedgwick Memorial Geological Museum has been settled, and it may be hoped that this scandalously delayed work will shortly be commenced in earnest on the Downing College ground, the purchase of which was sanctioned by the Senate six months ago. The attempt to pass a vote of censure upon the Divinity Professors (which has occasioned a perfect hailstorm of fly-sheets) failed ignominiously, as the motion respecting the Theological Tripos was defeated by 143 votes to 48.

A sum of £115,507 has already been expended on Truro Cathedral, and it does seem a flagrant and discreditable piece of fatuity to squander upwards of £71,000 more on the completion of the building. The Cathedral in its present state affords more than ample accommoda-

RIVIERA.—Magnificent Building Sites at Beaulieu, facing the sea, to be Sold.—Apply, TERSLING, Mentone; KURZ, Agent, Beaulieu; SHERRY, Raymond-buildings, W.C.

"HÔTEL BURLINGTON," AT SUNNY BOSCOMBE. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

tion for every necessary service or function, and this enormous sum is, therefore, to be wasted in order to please a few enthusiastic hare-brained visionaries. Considering the grinding poverty of most of the working clergy in Cornwall, it seems a scandalous throwing away of money to lavish such a sum on perfectly superfluous buildings. It would be more to the purpose to raise an adequate endowment for the sub-dean and rector of Truro, who at present languishes on a stipend of £100 a year, the result being that Canon Estridge, who recently succeeded Archdeacon Bourke in this "lean and ill-fed piece of preferment," finds himself obliged to resign it, much to the regret of both the clergy and the laity of the diocese. Considering all we hear day after day about the urgent necessity of a sustentation fund for the parochial clergy, it is enough to make the sun and moon fall to find an assembly of peers, clerical dignitaries, and county notables coming to a deliberate resolution to ask the public to subscribe £71,000 for unnecessary buildings.

Archdeacon Wilkinson, the well-known Vicar of Plymouth, has been appointed Honorary Chaplain to the Queen, in the place of the Rev. John Ellison, Vicar of Windsor, who becomes Chaplain in Ordinary, in succession to the Bishop-designate of Peterborough. Archdeacon Wilkinson, who celebrated his clerical jubilee a few weeks ago, is a brother of Canon Wilkinson, who has just resigned the rectory of Birmingham, and they are both prominent members of the Evangelical Party Archdeacon Wilkinson has been Vicar of Plymouth since 1870, and in 1878 he was given a prebendal stall in Exeter Cathedral by the Archbishop-elect of Canterbury, while in 1888 Bishop Bickersteth made him Archdeacon of Totnes, in the place of Bishop Earle.

A correspondent makes a valorous but unsuccessful attempt to defend the recent job in connection with the incumbency of St. Michael-in-the-Hamlet, Liverpool. He is good enough to tell me, in the first place, that the Bishop was not responsible for the appointment. Of course he was not, but he went out of his way to excuse it in the absurd letter which I quoted last week, and so rendered himself open to criticism in the matter. Then my correspondent states that St. Michael's has no endowment, the income being derived from pew-rents and fees, and the amount depending upon the popularity of the incumbent as a preacher, while "it requires £200 a year for church expenses besides £150 for a curate." It is admitted, however, that a former incumbent whose sermons filled the church, "got one of the best incomes in Liverpool from it." This being so, I really cannot credit the suggestion of my correspondent that the patron would have had a difficulty in inducing any one but his own son to accept the incumbency. The young gentleman in question has been only three years in orders, and it is nonsense to pretend that his father gave him this appointment because he was the best qualified man for it, or because among the hundreds of more experienced clergyman in the diocese who are without a benefice none could be found willing to take it.

I have over and over again animadverted upon the fact that during seven months in the year Westminster Abbey is kept closed on Sunday evenings, whereas at St. Paul's there is a special Sunday-evening service throughout the year, which always draws a very large congregation. I am therefore pleased to hear that in future the Abbey will be open for Sunday evening services throughout the year. This salutary reform is understood to have been resented by Dean Bradley and Canon Duckworth, but it has been decided upon through the zealous efforts of the other members of the Chapter, notably Canons Gore and Wilberforce.

The sudden and early death of Bishop Knight-Bruce will be widely deplored. His health was shattered during his seven years' work in South Africa, and he had previously laboured zealously and with much success in the East of London. About eighteen months ago he was presented to the Crown living of Bovey Tracey, and had since acted as Episcopal Assistant to the Bishop of Exeter. Bishop Knight-Bruce had made himself very popular in Devonshire among both the clergy and the laity, the last being attracted by the moderation and the shrewd common sense for which he was eminently distinguished. He was an admirable preacher and platform speaker, and a brilliant organiser and administrator, and he had indeed been conspicuously successful both in the diocese and in his parish.

The vicarage of Bovey Tracey, which is now in the gift of Mr. Balfour, is worth £400 a year, with residence. Bishop Knight-Bruce's predecessor was the admirable and beloved Charles Courtenay, Canon of Windsor, who was for many years domestic Chaplain to the Queen, and who held the living for forty-six years.

I am sorry not to have had any answer to the question asked in TRUTH two or three weeks back, as to the right of an Anglican cleric at Abingdon to refuse to marry a couple one of whom has not been christened. The case out of which this question arose seems to have been a degree worse than I at first represented it, for the cleric in question, the Rev. Wentworth Watson, only notified his refusal four or five days before the date for which the ceremony was fixed. It would seem that he was occupied up to that time in an attempt to persuade the unbaptised and unregenerate bride to go through the ceremony of christening prior to that of marriage, and it was only when he finally failed in this attempt that he told the couple that he could not marry them; the result being that at the last minute they had to alter all their

W. & F. Thorn's Speciality.—Job Carriages.—This is by far the best and cheapest way to keep an establishment, saving all trouble, annoyance, and expense. Carriages kept like new for small annual payments.—19, Gt. Portland-street, W.; Ranelagh House, Lower Grosvenor-place, S.W. London only.

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arrangements, and go to London for the ceremony. Where is any authority to be found for this reverend gentleman's action?

In reply to the paragraph in last week's TRUTH respecting a circular issued by the Vicar of Lemsford, the Secretary of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society has sent me an explanation of the principles upon which the Society accepts the charge of illegitimate children. One express condition in every case is that there shall be a reasonable prospect of amendment on the part of the mother; and the desirability of this and other precautions taken by the Society I fully recognise. As to the course adopted when the conditions under which a child was received are broken, I am glad to say that the Secretary's statement is quite satisfactory. It is not, as the circular seemed to suggest, a hard-and-fast rule to return an adopted illegitimate child to its mother if the latter relapses into immorality; but each case is carefully considered and decided with a due regard to its particular circumstances. The difficulty is, of course, that, besides the welfare of the child, there is another consideration which cannot be lost sight of—the necessity of safeguarding the community against anything which would operate as an encouragement of immorality.

A lady relates that she travelled up from Eastbourne the other day with a woman, who had been sent down from London with an order for admission to the Convalescent Home at Bexhill, had found on her arrival that the Home was closed for drainage work, and had been packed off back to town with an empty purse and in the last stage of exhaustion. The woman was just recovering from an attack of typhoid. She had had no refreshment on the journey but a cup of tea given to her at the Home, and when she reached London she had to be lifted out of the train. Somebody must have blundered very culpably over this business, and one would like to know who it was. It seems strange that at least a meal and a night's rest could not have been provided for the poor creature at Bexhill before she was despatched home again.

There is an excellent little charity for the benefit of children called "The Cripples' Nursery," the present position of which gives it a special claim on the charitable. It is a medical home for little cripples under twelve years of age, and until last summer it had a seaside branch at Margate. Owing to lack of funds, however, the Margate home had to be given up this year, and the "nursery" itself, which is situated at 15, Park-place, Clarence-gate, N.W., is at present in some danger, owing to deficient subscriptions and heavy expenses in connection with the renewal of its lease. As soon as this danger is known, I feel sure that it will be averted.

Mention was made in last week's TRUTH of certain interrogatories which have been administered to the Secretary of Guy's Hospital relative to the "snowball" that has been so long rolling about on behalf of that institution. I give below the answer to the interrogatories. It will be seen that the hospital authorities accept full responsibility for the "snowball," and the discovery will surprise and disgust all those who know anything of the abuses to which this mode of raising money lends itself. Much has been heard of late of the financial difficulties of Guy's, but no degree of financial extremity justifies the managers of a great public institution like this in resorting to a method of raising the wind so mischievous and discredited. The management may congratulate themselves on the amount that they have raised in cash, but they must be very blind if they overlook the loss of credit, which means a loss of cash, too, that has to be set down on the other side of the account:—

Guy's Hospital, London, S.E.,
December 9, 1896.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter, the appeal that was issued by Miss Weston on behalf of the funds of this Hospital at the beginning of this year was perfectly genuine and authorised by us, and we are confident we shall eventually receive all the money that is forwarded to her. Up to the present time we have received over £400 as the result of Miss Weston's Snowball Collection.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

C. H. Wells,
Secretary to the Treasurer.

That the Secretary is justified in his anticipation of "eventually receiving" all the money forwarded to Miss Weston I do not doubt. But what has that to do with it? A correspondent has been at the pains to work out for me the amounts which this collection would have yielded had the chain been unbroken. By the time the thirty-fourth series of letters was complete, about £859,000,000 should have been received. Miss Weston's snowball has actually reached its fifty-third revolution, by which time, on the same conditions, the amount received would be something beyond the power of the imagination to grasp. There is a slight difference between this and the modest £400 that has actually reached the hospital through Miss Weston. Where is the rest? Miss Weston, who has also been interrogated, explains that "many people object to this system of collecting money," and "object to have anything to do with it." But can she, or the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital, offer any assurance that out of the thousands—it may be millions—of people into whose hands the ball has been passed, no one has ever thought of altering the letter and using it for his own purposes? Might not a few of the missing millions be accounted for in that way?

I am asked to call attention to the urgent needs of the Walsham How Home for the Fallen. It was founded to the memory of the late Mrs. Walsham How, the wife of the Bishop of Wakefield, and about £500 per annum is needed from subscriptions and donations. The Bishop of Stepney says, "The quiet work done for so many years, and still being done, thoroughly deserves the support of charitable persons." Subscriptions will be received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. S. Hanbury, 37, Lombard-street.

The London Hospital, E., Appeals for Subscriptions. This Hospital for Men, Women, and Children, is the great General Hospital for the toiling poor of East London, & help is sorely needed

For Throat Irritation and Cough, "Epps's Glycerine Jujubes" always prove effective. They are now sold only in tins, price 7½d. & 1s. 1½d., labelled James Epps & Co., Ltd., Homœopathic Chemists.

One of the rankest of recent Army jobs is the promotion of Viscount Castlerosse, son of the Earl of Kenmare, to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and the command of the 4th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, of which his lordship's father is Honorary Colonel. In their indecent haste to foist this nobleman into the command of the battalion, the military authorities have promoted him at a bound from the rank of Lieutenant to that of Lieutenant-Colonel. The only service he has put in was as a Lieutenant in the 4th (Militia) Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, and he resigned his commission in that Battalion nearly ten years ago. Among the senior officers of his new regiment, over whose heads he jumps, are several with P.S.C. to their names. It is impossible to believe that Lord Wolseley can approve of such shameless sacrifice of the interests of the Service and those of other officers to private family interest; and if he has not sufficient backbone to make a stand against jobbery of this most flagrant type, the sooner he leaves his present position the better it will be for the Army.

A most impudent and undisguised violation of Service regulations and etiquette has lately been creating a sensation in the Militia. Two officers in that force, holding the humble rank of Major, have taken upon themselves to address a circular letter to all Commanding Officers, inviting them to answer a series of questions embodying suggestions for improving the efficiency and utility of the force. These suggestions, the two officers state, are to be laid by them before the Commander-in-Chief. The two officers in question are Lords Raglan and Selborne. They are evidently under the impression that their rank and dignity release them from all the ordinary obligations of discipline, and to all appearance this impression is well founded. It is safe to say that had any ordinary officer in any branch of the Service taken such a step, he would have been by this time in a fair way to lose his commission. But in this instance, a large number of C.O.s, obviously influenced by a spirit of servile toadyism, have obsequiously laid their views before the two Majors for transmission to the War Office; and the War Office itself has not ventured to breathe so much as a hint of disapproval.

The other day a Major of Marines—one of the smartest, most efficient, and most popular men in the Service—presumed to make certain suggestions for improving the efficiency and utility of the force to which he belonged. He did this at the personal invitation of the First Lord of the Admiralty, through the proper official channel, and in strict accordance with regulation and precedent. Subsequently he ventured to repeat the same suggestions in a discussion on professional matters at the United Service Institution. It being discovered that he had consulted with a few of his brother officers before presuming to take the latter step, he was at a moment's notice deprived of the appointment he held at Plymouth, and was banished to a foreign station, without any definite charge having been made against him, or an opportunity offered him of saying a word in his own defence. It was not a formal or officially-recorded punishment, but an underhand, vindictive, and irregular manner of getting rid of an officer who had offended "My Lords." With this case—the case of Major Brittan—compare that of the two Militia Majors above-mentioned, who coolly circularise about a hundred Commanding Officers for the avowed purpose of themselves laying before the Commander-in-Chief suggestions for the improvement of the force. This is done with impunity and without protest, while Major Brittan, who has done nothing irregular or improper, is punished with all the malignity that officialism is capable of. And what is the difference? Simply that the two Militia Majors are peers, and that one of them is the son-in-law of the Prime Minister.

Among the military grievances pilloried below, I invite special attention to the case of Private Mullens, of the Dublin Fusiliers, which throws a lurid light on court-martial justice. This is a case in which the civil authorities decline to proceed, the offence being within the cognisance of a criminal court, on the ground that there is no evidence to justify them in doing so. The military authorities are troubled by no such scruples. They promptly run Mullens in, and give him two years' imprisonment. The reasoning on which the Court proceeded appears to have been this: "The spade was thrown by somebody: nobody knows who threw it: Mullens may have had a reason to throw it: let us give Mullens two years." That the man was innocent, I do not say; but that his guilt has not been proved I assert positively, and in a criminal court the judge would have directed the jury to acquit him. Among the other matters mentioned below, I lay stress upon the 2nd Scots Guards' coal-boxes, because the season has arrived when soldiers are complaining on all sides of scarcity of fuel. My belief is that trickery and peculation are, in most cases, at the bottom of this scarcity; but, at any rate, it ought not to be difficult to make arrangements by which a supply of coal for each day's fire would be secured to every barrack-room. Probably when a week's supply is served out in one issue it is used wastefully at the beginning of the week. Why not fill the coal-box every morning?

1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Portsmouth. Private Mullens, of this battalion, was charged before a district court-martial with wounding Corporal Goodwin, by throwing a Wallace spade at him in the barrack-room and knocking his eye out. There had been some disturbance in the barrack-room, and Goodwin ordered Mullens and another man, named M'Kenna, to bed. Immediately afterwards the spade was thrown at Goodwin. No one saw it thrown, and Goodwin in the first instance accused, not the prisoner, but M'Kenna. The incident was reported to the civil police, apparently in the expectation that they would deal with it, but they declined to proceed, on the ground that there was no evidence on which a conviction could be obtained. Mullens was then sent for trial by court-martial. No evidence whatever directly connecting him with the throwing of the spade was given, but the other private

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(M'Kenna), who had originally been accused of throwing it, swore that while undressing "he saw a hand come over his shoulder, and immediately afterwards heard Goodwin cry out." He also stated that a few days earlier the prisoner had told him that "if ever he got the chance he would strike Goodwin cold." On this evidence Mullens was convicted, and he has now been sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

1st Royal Irish Rifles, Aldershot. In consequence of certain men who went on furlough to Belfast having misconducted themselves on board ship in crossing, furloughs have recently been refused to all but men of the very best character, and several have in consequence been disappointed of a trip to Ireland, one in the case of serious illness of a relative. This is the old story of punishing the innocent for the guilty, and at the same time it involves punishing a man twice over for the same offence. A man may have had some insignificant offence charged against him and have been properly punished for it at the time, and now, possibly a year or two afterwards, he is refused a furlough on account of this same crime.

2nd Scots Guards, Dublin. This is one of the battalions where the coals run short directly cold weather sets in. The measurement of one barrack-room coal-box is given as 4 ft. by 2 ft. by 2 ft., and when filled on Monday is said to be generally empty on Friday, and this is probable, for a box of the size given would hold about enough to keep a barrack-room fire going for four days. It is also stated that the Guard at the Viceregal Lodge were unable on a recent occasion to get any dinner until 4.30 p.m. through the coal not arriving until 1 o'clock.

Medical Staff Corps, Netley. Some curious facts are given as to the unnecessary amount of night duty imposed on orderlies at Netley Hospital. There have recently been six men on duty every night in attendance on a boy suffering from a fractured skull, and this long after the case had ceased to be serious. Special orderlies have also been placed on duty in various trivial cases, when there was nothing for them to do; and many of these men are on day duty till 6 p.m. and have to return to it when relieved at 7 next morning. Naturally they resent being worked to this extent in cases where the need of their services is not obvious.

Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. Complaints are made respecting the practice at this hospital of putting patients whose ailments are due to causes beyond their own control, into the same wards with men suffering from the consequences of their own indiscretion. The result is that the former class cannot be visited by their female relatives, lady visitors being excluded from such wards. When I mention that a gallant warrior suffering from a broken leg has been for this reason unable to see his own mother, I feel confident that different arrangements will be made at once.

1st Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Lucknow. The idea has recently been started in the bungalows occupied by this battalion of having the woodwork rubbed with paraffin instead of painting it. The idea originated with the men of one company, who took to paraffining the woodwork voluntarily, and it may or may not be a desirable process. The grievance of the men, however, in connection with it is that they have themselves to provide the oil, which is charged against them under the head of "barrack damages." This, probably, explains the preference of the authorities for paraffin as against paint.

1st Bedfordshire Regiment, Umballa. A recent regimental order informs men "that compensation in lieu of helmet cover and zinc button at the rate of 15 annas for two, including marking, has been sanctioned for the year 1896. In the regimental tailor's shop of the 1st Bedfordshire, men are charged 12 annas for one of the same articles. What is the explanation of the difference? One way or the other it is pretty clear that "Tommy" is being had.

Apropos of the incessant refusals of publicans to serve soldiers in uniform, an officer remarked to me the other day that if it was possible to get a Bill through Parliament recently to prevent the wearing of the Queen's uniform by unauthorised persons, it ought to be possible to put through a short Bill, making it illegal for licensed victuallers to insult the Queen's uniform by refusing to serve those who wear it. I make a present of the suggestion to the representatives of the Army in Parliament. There are plenty of them, and the majority of them have not too much to do. If they were to unite in bringing forward a Bill for this purpose, there would be few to oppose them.

St. Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth, S.E.—Funds required to Re-open Three Closed Wards, to which many sick poor are seeking admission. 50 Guineas qualifies donors for election as a Governor, and £1,000 endows a bed.—J. G. Wainwright, Treasurer.

Much interest has been caused in military circles by the following announcement:—

REBBECK.—December 16, at Stafford Lodge, Bournemouth, the wife of Lieut.-Col. Rebbeck, V.D., of a son.

"What on earth is a Lieutenant-Colonel V.D.?" asks a puzzled correspondent. At first I was inclined to answer that it was probably a misprint for "D.V." (in allusion to the auspicious event under notice). On reference to military records, however, I gather that it may possibly stand for "Volunteer Decoration"—on the principle of "V.C." and "D.S.O." Another elegant addition to the available stock of handles to names.

Admiral Sir F. G. D. Bedford, K.C.B., has all the courage that we expect of our sailors. It would be difficult, I think, to surpass the boldness of the following utterance, addressed by the gallant Admiral to the *Britannia* cadets at their prize distribution last week:—

If they started fair, and gained the attention of their superiors by their zeal, they would find the work much easier as it advanced. *That was the only interest that would help them in the Navy—the interest they made for themselves.*

What a mistake some of us have been under all this time!

There is much grumbling at Devonport in consequence of an order, which was issued last week by Captain Henderson, of the Fleet Reserve, that all Christmas leave taken by warrant officers is to be reckoned as time and a half. This means that any warrant officer who now takes a fortnight's leave will *ipso facto* forfeit three weeks of the yearly leave which he is allowed by the regulations of the Service. There is no reason whatever why such an order should have been issued, and it may be hoped that it will be at once cancelled by the Admiralty.

Here is the latest example of the "pushfulness" of German commercial enterprise. It is a post-card received by an hotel proprietor at Eastbourne from Mr. J. C. Koch, of Hohenlimburg, Westphalia. The attached reply-card is a printed form containing blank spaces for the insertion of the information desired. What Mr. J. C. Koch may be I do not know, but I take it that he is interested either directly or indirectly in the manufacture of electric lighting and power plant in Germany, and there cannot be much doubt that he desires information for the benefit of the German trade in which he is interested. It is difficult to believe that any Englishman would oblige by assisting him, but if you only have cheek enough you may accomplish in this world many things which at first sight appear impossible:—

Sir,—I shall esteem it a great favour if you will kindly oblige by letting me know whether you use dynamos or motors either for producing electric light or for generating power, and whose make the machines are.

At the same time, I should thank you to give me, on the

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

annexed card, the names of those firms and individuals in your neighbourhood possessing either dynamos or motors.

It will afford me pleasure to reciprocate your kindness when an opportunity occurs.

Thanking you in anticipation of a reply,—I am, yours respectfully, J. C. Koch.

Mr. John Skelton, the Vice-President and Chairman of the Local Government Board in Scotland, is to retire on March 31. Mr. Skelton ought to have gone five months ago, but he was granted an extension in order to facilitate certain arrangements which were desired by the Government. The post, which is worth £1,500 a year, was destined for a well-known Scotch Member, but this senator's seat is not safe, and it is probable that his claims will therefore be put aside. There has been some quiet wrangling as to whether Mr. Skelton's successor should be a Tory or a Liberal Unionist, and it is on the cards that this difficulty may be solved by passing over the Parliamentary candidates for the place, and letting the promotion go in the office. Mr. Skelton had been secretary for nearly a quarter of a century when he was promoted to his present post in 1892, so it would be a strong step to give the vacancy to the present secretary, who has held his place for little more than five years.

According to present arrangements the two actions which turn on the facts that make up the "Constantinople Consulate scandal" will come on for trial at Constantinople early in January. This trial, as already mentioned in Truth, is to be held before a special judge, appointed for the purpose by the Foreign Office under an Order in Council, which was published in the *London Gazette* a few weeks ago. If Lord Salisbury—or, perhaps I should say, the permanent officials at the Foreign Office—are in earnest in desiring to have the whole truth thrashed out, it is to be hoped that they will see the importance of securing the evidence of the Hon. M. H. Herbert, Chief Secretary of the Embassy, who has been away from Constantinople on leave of absence since the beginning of September. Mr. Herbert's evidence is, I believe, of the greatest importance in regard to certain points of the case. Presumably, knowing this, Mr. Herbert will himself be desirous of returning to Constantinople in time for the trial. But, as there are rumours that he may not come back to his post at all, it seems desirable that his official superiors should clearly understand the importance of his being at Constantinople, at any rate, on this occasion.

Those who desire to air grievances against the Post Office would save themselves and me trouble, if, before writing to Truth to complain of the operation of a rule in some particular case, they would seriously consider whether the rule is not a justifiable one. If it is, to denounce its enforcement as "red tape" is absurd. For instance, I get on an average fifty letters per annum from people who have had to pay a surcharge on post-cards in consequence of a piece of paper or card, or some such foreign body, having been attached to the post-card contrary to regulations. In the last case of this kind which I have been asked to show up, the address is on a printed slip, which has been gummed to the card—a legitimate proceeding with certain limits, but in this case the limit had been exceeded.

Now it must be obvious to any practical man that for the public to be allowed to attach any object they please to a post-card is out of the question; and it seems to me equally obvious that the Post Office cannot possibly attempt to discriminate between objects which may be attached to post-cards and objects which may not. What denunciations of red tape we should have were that attempted! There is also an obvious reason for limiting the size of the printed label which it is lawful to attach to the address side. The Department, therefore, seems to be justified in objecting generally to anything being attached to the back, and in limiting the size of what may be attached to the front. Having made such rules, it must enforce them without discrimination. It would be out of the question to give sorters or Post Office clerks a discretion to wink at some kinds of additions to post-cards and surcharge others. Wherever you make rules you create absurdities and hardships. It is absurd that if a letter weighs 1 oz. to the closest nicety, you can send it for a penny, and that if you enclosed the hind leg of a flea in that same letter, the Post Office should insist on your paying an extra halfpenny—50 per cent. more—just for the hind leg of a flea. Granted that this is absurd, it would be more absurd still if there were no line drawn between the penny and the three-halfpenny rate.

Another complaint against the Post Office, which I have been asked to ventilate, is the refusal of that Department to pass as a circular a manuscript notice of a meeting, sent on a card enclosed in an envelope to a number of different persons. The gentleman who raises this question contends by Paragraph *c* in the Regulations respecting Book-Post, that any written matter not being in the nature of a letter should be accepted at the halfpenny rate. He seems to overlook, however, the fact that, further on in the same section, the rules expressly define a circular. He contends that a manuscript notice sent to different people in identical terms is not "in the nature of a letter." But it seems to me that any written communication enclosed in an envelope is primâ facie "in the nature of a letter," and that in order to show that, for Post Office purposes, it is not of such a nature, you must bring it within the Post Office definition of a circular. It is clearly impossible for the Post Office to recognise every communication addressed in identical terms to several individuals as a circular. The Department cannot stop its business to sort out

Scott Adie, 115, Regent-st., London, for Shooting Suits, Golf Suits, Travelling Coats, Inverness Capes, Carriage Rugs, Shawls, Mauds, hand-knit Hose, Scotch Cheviots, and Harris Homespuns.

The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street, W.C. Patron, the Queen. President, the Duke of Fife, K.T. Chairman, Arthur Lucas, Esq. Please send your subscription or donation to help the sick children of the poor.—Adrian Hope, Secretary.

and compare all communications emanating from the same source, in order to ascertain whether they really are identical in terms; and, besides, unless such communications are all posted at the same time, it is absolutely impossible to compare them. The Post Office stands badly in need of criticism, but let the criticism be reasonable.

There seems to be considerable dissatisfaction in the parish of Welney, near Wisbech, with regard to the administration of a local charity, founded in 1661, which has an income of nearly a thousand pounds a year. A number of the parishioners complain that though the scheme provides for twelve resident trustees there are only six; and that though the same scheme directs that a public annual meeting shall be held "to inspect and peruse the accounts," this is never done. At the last vestry meeting a statement of the accounts was asked for but refused, and the copy of the balance-sheet, which has usually been published in the *Parish Magazine*, has not this year made its appearance. If what the aggrieved parishioners say as to the requirements of the scheme is correct, the action of the trustees must be distinctly illegal; but, even if that be not the case, their refusal to render a public account of their stewardship is exceedingly foolish; for it is sure to engender the idea that the information is kept back because the charity is not dispensed as it ought to be. Perhaps the Charity Commissioners will give the trustees a hint on the subject, and at the same time hurry up with their definition of the ecclesiastical and parochial parts of the charity, in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1894, which the Parish Council applied for some time ago, but which has not yet been supplied.

The pig-headed prejudice which the discharged soldier occasionally has to contend against in his search for employment was exemplified at the last meeting of the New Winchester Guardians, when a number of applications for the post of master and matron were considered. A committee had been directed to select ten candidates from among the large number who applied, and the chairman informed the Guardians that "a great many were ruled out because of a very strong feeling against old soldiers"—a remark which the Board greeted with laughter. It is evident, therefore, that, in the opinion of these patriots, the fact that a man has given up some of the best years of his life to the service of his country in the Army is in itself a sufficient reason for excluding him from a civil appointment, without regard to his merits and qualifications for the work. As a rule, I am not surprised at anything that Bumble says or does, but, seeing that this Board includes a General and four Colonels, I certainly am astonished that the chairman's flippant and discreditable statement was allowed to pass without a protest.

The Town Clerk of Coatbridge shares with the Irish orator's bird the power of being in two different places at the same time. So, at least, he endeavoured to prove at the police-court last week. The Town Clerk is also the Assessor, or legal adviser to the magistrates, and unless he or a duly appointed deputy is in attendance, the Court is not properly constituted. A solicitor raised the objection that the Assessor had not been present during the trial of a case, whereupon that official was fetched. His reply to the objection was that "he was always at hand if wanted, and therefore to all intents and purposes he was present, and the Court was properly constituted." That is to say, he sits in his own office transacting his other business, and yet at the same time he is present in the police-court in an adjoining building! It is a remarkable feat.

Although the Medway Guardians have censured their chaplain, and boycotted a local journal for calling attention to the treatment of the children in the workhouse, it is to be hoped that the question will not be allowed to drop in this way. Another reverend gentleman who visits the house has abundantly confirmed what the chaplain said as to the unsatisfactory associations and surroundings amid which the children are placed; and in the case of the adult paupers also, some of the arrangements appear to be in need of alteration. It is stated that an extension of the female receiving ward is shortly to be opened, which will make it unnecessary for little girls to be herded, as they sometimes are at present, with the most degraded of women. This, however, will by no means exhaust the opportunities for reform at the Medway Workhouse, and if the Guardians will not take in hand the other matters which have been mentioned, the Local Government Board should be asked to interfere.

With reference to my paragraph a fortnight ago concerning the West Bromwich Guardians, I have received a lengthy letter in support of the clerk's claim to the increase of salary which it was proposed to grant to him. This, however, is an aspect of the question which I do not feel called upon to discuss, as my comments were mainly directed to the objectionable procedure of the Guardians in dealing with such business in secret conclave, though I did also mention that the clerk holds a good many other offices besides the clerkship to this Union. The view which I took of the matter appears to have been appreciated by many of the ratepayers, and, in consequence of their protests, the Guardians ultimately decided to give the clerk an increase of £100 a year only, instead of the £200 a year and bonus of £200, which they first proposed. That fact is, in itself, the best answer to my correspondent's remarks.

A great attraction this Christmas, at 173, New Bond-street, will be Messrs. Charbonnell & Walker's superb show of Parisian Novelties. Their *salons* are filled with treasures of artistic excellence in every variety. They are too beautiful to describe, and as all the world should see them we will only add that everything that is lovely and poetic in the shape of novelties will be found there.

Winter Season, 1896.—How can last year's Sealskin Jacket be made to do duty as a fashionable garment for the present season? Take it to the International Fur Store, either 163 or 198, Regent-street, where special attention is given to remodelling these most useful garments. Perfect fit, great attention, and moderate charges may be relied upon. The only addresses of the International Fur Store (Jay's, Ltd.) are 163 and 198, Regent-street, London, W.

EXIT BROOKS!

When Mr. Brooks, of Halesworth, put
This question to the jury—whether
He was a good, much-injured man
Or an impostor altogether?
With quite refreshing promptitude
They made their minds up on the matter,
And told him, in the clearest way,
That he was certainly the latter.

So Mr. Brooks now quits the stage
Where notice he'd too long commanded,
And passes from the public view,
"Impostor" on his forehead branded.
Yes, Brooks is done for, squashed and squelched,
His impudent career is finished,
But what of his too willing dupes?
Think you *their* number is diminished?

No, no! unchanged, they still remain
Dupes still—we know it to our sorrow;
They would be quite prepared to help
Another Brooks again to-morrow.
Let a new rogue, as gross as he,
Their spite and prejudices foster,
And they will be at once prepared
To patronise that fresh impostor.

Not out of charity—oh, no!
It is not pity that inspires them;
When they send money to a Brooks
It is their party rage that fires them.
Plain truth, in any shape, they hate—
For that disturbs their moral sleekness;
And so the Brookses take good care
To trade upon their little weakness.

Microbes, we know, don't germinate
Unless the soil should chance to suit them;
So 'tis with rogues, their numbers grow
Because the fools with funds recruit them.
And whilst the fools are thus content
The arrantest of rogues to nourish,
You may be quite assured of this,
That roguery will always flourish.

At least, though, we may fairly ask
Those dupes, by party passion blinded,
Who go to such insensate lengths
(As we but now have been reminded),
That when next time for some new rogue
Their zeal incontinently waxes,
They won't again, their cash to save,
Impose him on the public taxes.

So long as they are fools enough
Assistance of their own to render,
We cannot help it if they turn
Deaf ears to the advice we tender;
They must, if they so choose, supply
The cash they think his canting tale's worth;
But no Exchequer money, please,
To help to "run" another Halesworth!

A remarkable story of the administration of justice in India has been unfolded in some recent issues of the *Madras Standard*. Certain Hindus were charged before Mr. E. L. Vaughan, Joint Magistrate of Vellore, with making a raid on the school of the American Arcot Mission, and destroying a quantity of school furniture and other property, the complainant being the Christian Catechist, who was in charge of the school. Throughout the hearing of the case for the prosecution, Mr. Vaughan was browbeating and obstructing the counsel for the defence in the most extraordinary manner; and his hostility became at last so transparent that application was made for the transfer of the case to another Court on the ground that the accused could not have a fair and impartial trial before the Joint Magistrate. In support of this application, counsel made an affidavit. When called upon for an explanation, Mr. Vaughan described the statements in this affidavit as false, and it became the duty of Mr. S. H. Wynne, District Magistrate, to inquire into the matter. The result of the inquiry was to show, in Mr. Wynne's opinion, that the Joint Magistrate had been guilty of improper and irregular conduct; that in regard to two specific points his account of what occurred was "incorrect," and that the accused had reasonable cause for believing that they were not being tried in an impartial manner. Upon this report the case was transferred to the file of the Headquarters Deputy Magistrate, who found that there was no proof that the alleged offence was ever even committed, let alone that the accused took part in it, and they were accordingly discharged.

It is obvious that this affair must not be allowed to end with the acquittal of the accused. As Mr. Wynne observes, in regard to one particular incident, "the action of the magistrate (Mr. Vaughan) in court, as proved by four statements on oath, and his action in giving this incorrect account of it in reply, are serious matters." The condemnation that has been passed upon Mr. Vaughan by his official superior is, indeed, so serious that unless he can show that his action has been unjustly judged, he ought to be deprived of his magisterial powers and duties. In more than one instance during recent years the Madras Government have shielded, and even promoted, officials who have grossly abused their authority; but on this occasion the scandal is so flagrant that it is difficult to see how they can pass it over.

One of the Stranraer magistrates has addressed me at some length concerning the man Taylor, who died in Maxwelltown Gaol while undergoing fourteen days' imprisonment for keeping his dwelling in a dirty and unwholesome condition. For many years, it is claimed, every possible consideration was shown to this palsied old mendicant, and it was only on the complaint of the people living in the same building that he was at last prosecuted for the abominable nuisance and danger to health which his filthy practices occasioned. I am also informed that on the second and last prosecution the magistrates wished him to enter the poorhouse instead of going to gaol in default of paying the fine; but that, after consenting to do so, he changed his mind, and desired the police to take him to the prison. It is a pity these facts were not elicited at the inquiry at the prison upon which I commented, for they undoubtedly put a much better complexion upon the action of the Stranraer authorities. At the same time, from all my correspondent says about the man's habits, it seems to me that he might well have been dealt with as a lunatic rather than as a criminal.

In their treatment of youthful offenders the Grimsby Magistrates appear to be the most harsh and reactionary in the whole country. As readers of my Legal Pillory are aware, the victims are usually disobedient fishing apprentices who get a dose of hard labour for offences which in the full-grown fisherman are considered sufficiently punished by the exaction of a modest fine. Last week, for a wonder, no fisherboy came before the Bench, and so their severity was vented on a youngster of fourteen who had stolen a watch and other articles belonging to his brother. Anything more idiotic and indefensible than the sentence which I record below could scarcely be conceived. Nobody fit to have the slightest voice in the administration of the law would expect a lad of this age to be benefited or reformed by a month's experience of prison life, and in committing him the magistrates have written themselves down—but no, I will not libel useful and intelligent beasts by the comparison. The Barnsley Shallows are also familiar figures in this column. It will be seen that they have on this occasion visited a brutal outrage on a wife with a sentence which is, at least, a vast improvement on the customary pecuniary penalty, though it still falls a long way short of the punishment meted out in the same town for an offence against the Game Laws:—

Barnsley Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. H. Pigott, W. Jackson, J. H. Gratton, Alderman Woodcock, and Councillor Horne. John Shaw, charged with unlawfully wounding his wife. He seized her by the throat, threw her backwards, and kicked her about the body as she lay on the ground, causing profuse bleeding. A doctor who attended to her injuries said there was one wound half an inch long and half an inch deep, and the woman's clothing from the middle downwards was saturated with blood. On the doctor saying the wound was not dangerous the charge was reduced to one of assault. Twenty-one days.

Barnsley West Riding Police-court. Before Messrs. M. C. Halton and W. Brady. George Henry Haigh, charged with poaching. Two months, and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

Chelmsford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. T. Kemble, J. T. Foster, F. Chancellor, and Dr. Christy. William Clarke, charged with sleeping out. Six days.

Paisley Police-court. Before Bailie Bell. John Wilson, carter, convicted of assaulting his mother by striking her on the face with a boot, beating her with his fists, and seizing her by the throat. Fined 10s. 6d.

Stranraer Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Watson. Alexander M'Crae, charged under the Night Poaching Act with unlawfully taking two rabbits. Fined £3 or one month.

Saffron Walden Borough Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. B. Gibson and J. Bell. John Edward Hardwick, baker, charged with an aggravated assault on his wife. He struck her on the head and face, knocking her down, and subsequently kicked her in the back, and again struck her, rendering her unconscious. The Bench granted a separation order, and for the assault imposed a fine of 1s. and 14s. costs.

Braintree Petty Sessions. Before Mr. H. R. G. Marriott and other magistrates. Alice Collard, aged 19, and Annie Richardson, aged 14, pleaded guilty to stealing threepennyworth of swede turnips. Collard fourteen days; Richardson four years in a reformatory.

Cinque Ports Petty Sessions, Margate. Lewis Shrubsole, of Kensington Lodge, Westgate-on-Sea, who was said to have been six times Mayor of Faversham, convicted of assaulting a girl, twelve years of age, in a railway carriage. Fined 40s. and 12s. costs.

Dover County Petty Sessions. Frederick and James Beer, boys of 14 and 12 years respectively, charged with throwing stones and assaulting Victor Orange, an aged Frenchman, while at work in his garden. Complainant was pelted with stones by a number of lads. Three weeks each.

Lawford's Gate Police court. Before the Duke of Beaufort, Messrs. W. Somnerville, W. H. Butler, H. R. Thomas, and R. Brown. John Windsor, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, and, without provocation, assaulted his wife, using the tongs, throwing the poker at her, and kicking her brutally. Fined 2s. 6d. and costs for the first offence, and bound over to keep the peace for three months towards his wife.

Long Sutton Police-court. George Cave, retired foundryman, charged with wilfully neglecting his four children. All the children were in a shockingly neglected and filthy state, a baby of five months having a mass of sores, caused through want of cleanliness. There was a horrible stench in the house, which was throughout in a foul and dirty condition. Prisoner had over £450 in his possession when arrested. Fined £1.

Worthing Petty Sessions. Before Lieut.-Col. Wisden, Messrs. H. Hargood, G. Wedd, C. L. M. Teesdale, and Dr. H. J. Strong. John Knight, charged with assaulting John Ford. Defendant hit complainant on the side of the head, knocking him down, and then kicked him on the hip and struck him in the ribs. The Bench said it was a serious assault. Fined 10s. and costs.

Central Criminal Court. Pedro Castro Orellana, a Chilian seaman, convicted of the manslaughter at sea of Evan Evans, by stabbing him in the breast and thigh. The jury believed he acted under provocation. Bound over to come up for sentence if called upon.

Grimsby Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Aldermen E. Palmer, W. B. Louth, and W. Jackson. Herbert Rycroft, aged fourteen, son of a dentist, charged with stealing a watch and other articles, the property of his brother. One month's hard labour, the Mayor remarking that if the prisonor came before the Bench again he would be sent to a reformatory.

Loddon Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. T. de Poix and C. G. Kemball. George Yallop, drover, charged with game trespass, and Emmanuel Rudrum, with aiding and abetting him. Yallop fined £2.6s.3d., or one month; Rudrum £1. 7s. 9d., or fourteen days.

Stony Stratford Police-court. Before Mr. A. Grant Thorold and Mr. W. Purslow. Alexander Gresham, charged with sleeping out. Seven days. He was further charged with begging on the previous day. One month.

St. Austell Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. Coode, J. E. Veale, and Lieut.-Col. Hext. Thomas Lobb and William Dungey, convicted of poaching. Lobb two months and Dungey three months.

Wingham Petty Sessions, Dover. William Tucker, charged with stealing a cotton shirt from a clothes line. Fourteen days.

Warrington County Petty Sessions. James Rowson, charged with night poaching. Three months, and a further six months in default of finding sureties.

I understand that there is at present in Oldmill Reformatory, near Aberdeen, a boy who was nineteen years old on November 30. He was originally committed to the reformatory for five years, of which period he has served all but seven months. I gather that some attempt has been made to obtain his release on the ground of his age, but the Committee refuse to release him. Can any one tell me whether his detention is legal? The question has been asked of me, but, unfortunately, Scotch law is one of the few things that I don't know anything about. In England a boy can be kept in a reformatory up to twenty-one, and I see no reason why he should not be in Scotland. But if there is any doubt on the point, let us have the boy out by all means.

All the examples of magisterial ferocity that I recollect are put into the shade by a case which occurred a few weeks ago at Rangoon. It came up in the form of an appeal to the Judicial Commissioner's Court by one Nga Tha Zan. For the theft of a lota, valued at six annas—about threepence in English money—this poor wretch had been sentenced, under Section 75 of the Indian Penal Code, to transportation for life. The Commissioner came to the conclusion that the conviction in the lower court must be upheld, but that the sentence was "unduly severe," and he therefore reduced it to seven years' rigorous imprisonment; commuted into transportation for

seven years. I do not know if the Indian Penal Code gives the accused any further right of appeal, but if it does I trust he will exercise it. The se ond sentence is lenient in comparison with the first, but yet another very substantial reduction might be made without erring on the side of mercy.

The Belfast justices recently issued an order for the destruction of a dog, doing so on the complaint of a person who had been bitten. In a civil action for damages for the bite which was heard last week it came out that the dog had not been destroyed, but had been sent to England the moment it was thought the magistrates might make the order. The complainant does not seem satisfied with the mere departure of the animal from Ireland, and he asks me whether a magistrates' order in such a case can be set at nought with impunity. I suppose that when a dog is legally condemned to death the dog's owner is liable to a penalty for refusing to allow the sentence to be executed. Whether he escapes this penalty by banishing the dog to another part of the kingdom, as in this instance, after the summons is taken out but before the magistrates' order is actually made, is, however, a more difficult question. Perhaps one of my legal readers can enlighten me upon it.

This has been a bad week for the begging-letter trade Following on the downfall of George Brooks, my old friend Henry Crispe has got another twelve months' hard labour, and richly he deserves it. Another of the fraternity, trading as "David Barrie," has also been awarded three months at Marlborough-street. But I regret to say that the list is still very far from exhausted.

The Chief Constable of Hastings has also succeeded in bringing a very persistent begging-letter writer to justice. The man in question, Charles Leicester, has frequently been mentioned in these columns, and, except for two periods when he was in gaol for other offences, he has been carrying on this game for many years past, his appeals to the charitable being mainly based on his claim to relationship with a noble family. Last week he was brought up at Hastings Police-court on a charge of endeavouring to obtain money by means of a begging-letter, and after hearing an account of his career from the Chief Constable, the Bench sentenced him to a month's hard labour. I am strongly of opinion myself that the police-court (not a civil court) is the proper place for dealing with all such impostors.

Apropos of what I have said about Irish lotteries, I have been asked to ventilate the grievance of a Londoner, who says that he remitted 5s. for tickets in one at Dublin recently, but that the tickets were never sent to him, and that his complaints to the secretary have been ignored. I dare say mistakes or oversights of the same kind frequently occur in connection with these affairs, but as the whole business is entirely illegal so far as England is concerned, it is hardly worth while to enter into this fresh branch of the subject. This disappointed customer intended to sell some of the tickets, so their non-arrival really saved him from becoming (in the eye of the law) a rogue and vagabond.

Circumstances have caused me to pay (by deputy) several visits, of late, to "Cathedral House," or "Cathedral Offices," St. Andrew's Hill, E.C. It was hither that my representative went innumerable times in pursuit of "Thomas Kempe," the swindler who defrauds deaf people by advertising an infallible cure for their infirmity. To the same place I had to send in search of a turf tout, named "Prescott," who issues circulars soliciting commissions. I have been much interested by the account which my representative gives of the abode of these worthies. It seems to be a sort of human warren. The house is of ordinary size, but the upper floors are divided off into about a dozen cubicles, or "offices," by slight partitions, each "office" being about the size of a small bathing-machine. Each door, of course, has its letter-box, and, as a rule, I should imagine that the letter-box is practically the *raison d'être* of the "office." This information may possibly be of service to those who find themselves brought, by means of circulars or advertisements, into communication with tenants of "Cathedral Offices."

Mr. G. R. Hatton, of the *Biographer*, is progressing slowly but steadily with his search for biographical subjects. When I last heard of him, he had apparently got as far as the letter B in the Post Office London Directory. He is now at H. There are a good many names in the Directory between B and H, but from what I can see of them it will need a considerable exercise of skill—not to say imagination—on Mr. Hatton's part to make the biographies of interest to any one but themselves.

A friend sends me a curious correspondence which he has had with an individual giving the name of Walker, and writing from an address in Leeds. Walker wrote respecting "a fine old long case clock," which he represented as having formerly belonged to my correspondent's family, and being inscribed with their name. The clock, he further explained, had been in the possession of a deceased old lady, who many years ago was a housekeeper in the service of the family, and as it was about to be sold by auction, he suggested that he should be commissioned to buy the interesting relic. This kind offer not being accepted, he later on intimated that the sale was over, but that he could get the clock for £5. He was then told that that sum would be paid if he would send the clock to London on "appro.," and it proved a genuine old one; but this did not suit Walker, and, finding no other proposal would be entertained, he relieved his feelings in a final impertinent letter, and the matter dropped. The whole business looks suspiciously like an ingenious development of the traffic in bogus and worthless old clocks and other articles which was exposed in these columns a few weeks back, and I shall be interested to learn whether any of my readers have had similar communications or transactions with Walker, Leeds.

The well-known rubber-stamp trick is evidently being worked for all it is worth in Manchester, the daily papers there regularly publishing the advertisements of T. Smith & Co., North Kensington; F. Paynter & Co., Torquay; and M. Truscott & Co., also of Torquay, the three firms

most prominently identified with this kind of business. The *modus operandi* by which these gentry dispose of their goods on the pretence of enabling persons who remit them a shilling or so to earn a weekly salary of from 7s. 6d. to £1 or more in their spare time is familiar to most of my readers, but it is apparently unknown to the editors of my Manchester contemporaries. This is a pity, for I cannot but think that if they were aware of the nature of the dodge they would, as respectable journalists, refuse to publish advertisements which are speciously designed to delude and ensnare necessitous people into the purchase of articles on which they would not otherwise dream of wasting their money.

Here is another example of the method of business of Messrs. Kendal & Dent, of 106, Cheapside, E.C. They first sent a watch to a colour-sergeant of an Irish regiment, informing him at the same time that their representative, an individual of whom the N.C.O. had never heard, had given them his name as "agent," and that "they would be glad if he would form a watch and jewellery club for them." This was also accompanied by a circular showing Kendal & Dent's "private terms for secretaries of clubs only." The colour-sergeant took no notice of the communication, one way or the other, and Kendal & Dent then began to pester him for payment for the watch, which they priced at 30s. On December 5 they wrote demanding an immediate settlement, and this was followed up by a "final application" printed in red ink, informing the N.C.O., that unless the money was paid by a specified date "immediate proceedings would be taken in the County Court." The only notice the colour-sergeant has taken of this is to send the documents to me and to ask me to notify Kendal & Dent that he has no intention of either returning the watch or paying the price, and that if they want the article they can send and fetch it.

It is a pity that all N.C.O.s do not take a similar line with firms like Kendal & Dent; but I am afraid there are a good many of them who accept the bribe offered, and abuse their authority over their comrades by getting them to join these so-called "clubs." It is a matter that Commanding Officers will do well to look into. The precise amount of the bribe offered by Kendal & Dent appears from their printed circular to be four shillings in the pound commission on all money paid in, "and a handsome present of any goods selected from our catalogue to the value of two guineas." Another "confidential" communication sent to a sergeant in a cavalry regiment in India by one "Henry E. Peck," offers 10 per cent. commission on his 35s. watches. It is not to be wondered at that men in the Army should be influenced by inducements on this scale.

Our old friend, Reuben May has been exceptionally active during the last few weeks. A gentleman who has had three circulars from him in the course of a month, suggested to me the other day that this activity was due to the fact that, owing to the mildness of the season, and the comparative absence of distress, charity-mongers like Reuben find the times very bad. Whether there is anything in this I cannot say, but, whatever the state of the weather, I would strongly advise the public to abstain from supporting Reuben, or any other "philanthropist" of the same type.

The mention of Reuben May naturally suggests John James Jones. John James, like Reuben and a good many others, is just now trying his best to gather a portion of the harvest of Christmas subscriptions into his own garner. Readers of TRUTH have had so many opportunities of judging of the merits of John James Jones and of the London Samaritan Society, that it can hardly be necessary to remind them again now of the many reasons why they should not encourage this particular philanthropic effort.

One day last week I perceived amongst my letters an envelope upon which was printed—"On Her Majesty's Service." Wishing to see on what matter H.M. Service was corresponding with me, I opened it at once, when I was confronted with a circular from Mr. H. Luedders, Banker, Hamburg, presenting to me the compliments of the season, and suggesting to me that I should purchase tickets in the Hamburg Lottery, of which institution he enclosed me the prospectus. The envelope was sealed up, and the seal appeared to bear a sort of Turkish superscription. It had a penny stamp attached to it, and the postmark was Godalming. Such appeals are, I believe, illegal, and my experience of them is that they are usually sent from abroad. In any case, the "On Her Majesty's Service" cannot be right and proper, and as Godalming is not a very large place, an investigation there by the authorities might result in the discovery of the sender.

Here is an interesting document recently addressed to a lady in London. What the advertisement referred to in it was I cannot state, but its nature may be easily guessed:—

51, Lothian-road, Edinburgh,
December 15, 1896.

Re "Fides."

Madam,—In reply to your note to "Fides," I beg to inform you that, having suffered for some time from relaxed throat, I have decided to pass two or three months in a warm climate, and for that purpose have decided upon Nice and Monte Carlo, where I shall be able to combine pleasure with profitable occupation. Last summer I spent six weeks at Spa, where, with £40 to start, I cleared all my expenses and made a clear profit of £150 at roulette by playing upon a method of my own. . . . As it is easier for two persons (who relieve each other every hour or two) to play it, I advertised for a gentleman to join me in the trip, and who would now and then take his turn at the tables. A lady with a cool head could do the same, but a calm temperament is essential to carry out the method successfully.

It is not money that I am advertising for, as I have sufficient of my own, and for all that is required, and the whole thing can be worked upon a capital of £50 without the slightest risk.

If you wish to join, that is, spend the winter in the Riviera, I could give you a half share, that is to say, you would receive about £5 daily by contributing £50 to the playing fund, and which £50 would always remain in your hand.

I may mention that I am not a young man, being 60 years of age.—Yours truly, C. W. Bucheren.

P.S. Reference to my bankers can be given.

The significant hint about Mr. Bucheren's age is apparently intended to allay any misgivings that a lady might feel about taking a trip to the Riviera with an absolute stranger; but I am bound to say that I have known men of sixty who are not exactly Galahads. At

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Messrs. Metzler & Co. have just issued a list of the works of Gabriel Fauré, including "Persian Roses" (Les Roses d'Ispahan), and other Songs, which have both English and French words.

any rate, whatever this pledge of Mr. Bucheren's honourable intentions may be worth, I should recommend any lady to obtain from his bankers something more substantial in the way of a proof of his credit and trustworthiness before entering into partnership on the terms proposed. I have read the letter several times over, but why Mr. Bucheren, having ample funds at his disposal, should require the partner to contribute £50 merely to play the game occasionally in his absence, is a mystery beyond my penetration. Moreover, a system so far surpassing all other infallible systems hitherto offered to the public, that it will yield a profit of £10 a day (£5 is the half-share) on a capital of £50, is not quite the sort of precious secret which a man would offer to a stranger for no consideration beyond a contribution of £50 to the joint capital, and even that £50 to remain at the partner's disposal. His handwriting, equally with his name, proclaims Mr. Bucheren to be a foreigner. The address "51, Lothian-road, Edinburgh," is stamped upon his note-paper. Is he known at that address? Has any local doctor been attending to his "relaxed throat"?

Sir H. Gilzean-Reid writes:—

Let me thank TRUTH for promptly contradicting the reports that the King and the Government of Belgium participate in the profits of public gambling in that country, and add a fact or two. Not only are gambling and betting to be made practically illegal, but a Bill has passed the Senate by a majority of fifty-nine to one, which subjects to eight days' or six months' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs any broker who gambles in stocks or fictitious "margins;" these penalties may be increased when the offender is proved to have taken advantage of a client's weakness or ignorance. One flourishing casino has already been closed by the police.

I trust that the three estimable gentlemen who are to go on a trip to the West Indies will have a pleasant outing, and will give us so much information about those parts, that the cost of their excursion will be repaid. But if any person supposes that the inhabitants of these Isles are ready to pay extra for their sugar, in order to enable that article to be produced at a profit in the West Indies, he will find himself greatly mistaken. Within my memory, the West Indies have always been ruined. This is the normal condition of all tropical countries, except when the natives are obliged to work under some system of forced labour, and I suspect that it always will be. The reason is that where people can live in a way that pleases them without working, they prefer it. Wherever a negro can plant a few bananas round his hut, and occasionally do a bad day's work to provide him with what he deems luxury, he will not submit to the hard daily work of a plantation. I see no reason why the West Indies should cultivate sugar, if it does not pay. There are plenty of other products that might be cultivated there remuneratively, if the islands are cut out of the sugar market owing to competition. At present such products are not cultivated, because the owners of land there are persons of little energy and small capital, whilst, as I have said, the negro population prefers a loafing to a laborious existence.

What has always surprised me is, that our agriculturists do not cultivate the beetroot. Apart from bounties, in many parts of Continental Europe, beet sugar can compete with cane sugar in cost of production. Then why not in England?

It is satisfactory to find that the Cape military authorities have put an end to the alarming state of affairs at the King Williams-town Barracks, which was noted in TRUTH on September 24. The complaint was that a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including 38,000 lb. of loose gunpowder, was without a proper guard, having been for some time, indeed, actually left to the care of a couple of old watchmen. The loose gunpowder has since been advertised for sale, while for the protection of the rest of the stores a detachment of Cape Mounted Rifles has now been stationed at the barracks, and the worthy burghers of King Williamstown can therefore dismiss from their minds the horrid fears with which they were so long haunted.

When interviewed on landing in England last week, Lieutenant-Colonel Pigott, late Acting British Resident at Coomassie, alluded to a reported intention either to remove King Prempeh to another colony or to reinstate him on his throne. For every reason, I trust that the latter course will be adopted. It is said that the captive monarch is too near his old subjects, and that one of his former chiefs has been able to communicate with him in his prison. But the ostensible reason for his imprisonment was that he would not, or could not, pay the indemnity demanded of him, and I understand that he is now in gaol, like a judgment debtor committed for "contempt," pending the payment of the debt. How in the name of reason and justice is the unfortunate monarch to raise the money, unless he is allowed to communicate with his friends?

Is it, or is it not, true, as Prempeh himself states in paragraph 14 of his petition to Mr. Chamberlain (published in TRUTH of October 14) that when the British demand was made, he offered £2,670 down and the balance at the end of a week, with two hostages as security for the payment? Is it true that it was only when this offer was refused that he was arrested (apparently on suspicion of "concealing his assets") and lodged, with his court and attendants (male and female), in a cell 12 ft. square at Elmina? If this is true, or bears any approximate relation to the truth, we have no excuse for keeping him in gaol, and still less for transporting him to some other colony. It is pretty certain by this time that he did not conceal any of his assets, and if all we want from him is cash, the only chance of getting it is to release him under adequate security for his good behaviour.

Parliamentary ethics, as regards the management of private Bill legislation, were unpleasantly illustrated last Session in the following case:—The Poor-Law Officers Superannuation Bill, drawn up by a Committee, of which Mr. Rutherglen, the Vestry Clerk of Kensington, was chairman, was brought into Parliament, endorsed by four members, of whom Mr. J. Bailey moved the second reading. There was little opposition to the principle of the Bill, and it was referred to the Standing Committee on Law, and reported to the

House by that body on May 1. On April 21, however, a meeting representing the matrons and nurses of London and Provincial Workhouse Infirmaries had been held, and a resolution passed that the provisions of the Bill were unsuitable to the women employed in infirmaries and in attendance on the sick. The resolution, with the amendments suggested, was sent to several Members of Parliament interested in Poor-Law questions. Mr. Boulnois, M.P. for Marylebone and a recognised authority on such matters, undertook to move the amendments before the third reading was taken. The promoters of the Bill took no steps to push it forward, until August 6, when Mr Boulnois, who had left London, received a telegram (confirming a letter of the previous day) in which Mr. Rutherglen said that, after an interview with a member of the Cabinet, he had received the promise that the Government would "star" the Bill, and it could be passed if the amendments were withdrawn; and he added that it was further arranged that these amendments would be inserted in the House of Lords, with the approval of the Government. On this stipulation, definitely stated, Mr. Boulnois telegraphed to remove his block. No progress, however, was made with the Bill until August 13, when it passed without remark, and was sent up to the House of Lords. Here, all Standing Orders having been suspended, it was passed through its various stages on August 14 in a couple of minutes, without the insertion of a single one of the amendments for which Mr. Boulnois had stipulated when he removed his block in the Commons.

Mr. Spence Watson, President, Mr. E. Evans, jun., Chairman of Committee, and others of the N.L.F., are not wanting either in common sense or political acumen. But each succeeding year the N.L.F. becomes more doddering, and it has now ceased to be more than a happy hunting ground for wirepullers and machine politicians. A factor in Liberalism it is no longer. Conservatives smile merrily, Radicals sadly, over its meetings, and no one cares a brass farthing what resolutions it passes.

At the gathering in Liverpool last week the members of the Federation wrangled over the Armenian question, and whilst cursing Lord Salisbury with bell, book, and candle, protested against all Party action against him, because, as Professor Maine said (these men of science are always mere phrasemongers in politics) he would not "substitute the one-edged weapon of Party for the two-edged weapon of the nation." Until we know what Lord Salisbury has done, and intends to do, it seems to me idle for us to do more than to inform him what Liberals insist that he should do. If he renounces all his past Eastern policy, and accepts that of Mr. Gladstone, we are prepared to welcome the repentant sinner; if he does not, we ought to be prepared to fight him. The N.L.F. appears to be afraid to enunciate the principles that have until the last two or three years been professed by the Liberal Party in respect to our foreign policy, because its members are not certain that those who adhered to them in the last Parliament may not once again be forced to denounce them.

Mr. E. J. C. Morton opined that no one present would take Lord Salisbury for his body servant. It seems to me that Mr. Morton might have waited until the Premier expressed a desire to take service as his valet, for the knowledge that under no circumstances will he be permitted to occupy this post of his body servant may make him needlessly unhappy. For my part, I do not greatly trouble myself about the politics of my servants. My kitchen-maid, my housemaid, and my other maids, may be the most sturdy of Tories for all I care, provided that they properly perform their household work. Were I in search of a valet, I do not think that I should look to politicians for one, because, whether Tory, or Liberal, or Radical, they would probably fail to satisfy me as body servants. Still humour is said to consist in bringing together two ideas in themselves incongruous, and if this definition be correct, there is a good deal of humour in Lord Salisbury being occupied in brushing Mr. Morton's coat and polishing his boots.

SCRUTATOR.

IRELAND'S NEW GRIEVANCE.

I AM by no means clear that the Irish have a case against us in regard to inequality of taxation, and I confess that I look with a certain degree of suspicion on the Unionist tigers and the Home Rule lions uniting in a joint raid on the Saxon taxpayer, instead of seeking to devour each other. The Report of the Commission on Irish Finance starts upon the principle of Ireland and Great Britain each having a separate taxable entity—a proposition which I should hardly be inclined to accept, unless they have a separate Administration. The Irish entity is then proved to be taxed proportionately higher than the British entity by a comparison of the respective amounts paid in death dues. These dues, however, are not a fair standard of taxation, for a country may spend its income or save its income, and I can perfectly conceive that a spending country may be proportionately richer than a saving country, so far as income is concerned. England contributes 52 millions to Imperial expenditure, Scotland 6½ millions, and Ireland 2 millions, because two-thirds of the 6 millions collected in Ireland are spent there on local purposes. This is admitted by the Commission. But it is urged that this excessive local expenditure is due to the Administration in Ireland being far too costly. The remedy, I should have thought, would have been to reform the Administration. For Parliament to accept the finding of the Commission, and in consequence of that finding to pay back to Ireland 2⅝ millions per annum, is to say that, because England chooses to maintain an extravagant Administration in Ireland, England must pay for the luxury.

I am a strong Home Ruler. If Ireland demands Home Rule, although the other component parts of the United Kingdom do not, it ought to be granted to Ireland. But I should like to see it granted to England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. If we had Home Rule in Ireland, then it would be possible for Ireland to contribute no more than what, after thorough investigation,

would be estimated to be her fair quota towards Imperial taxation. But, without Home Rule, there cannot well be separate entities of taxation in the same country, because the taxable entity is dependent on the administrative entity. Take Germany: in that Empire there are taxes for Imperial purposes which are levied equally over the entire area. Assume that Bavaria is relatively a poorer country than Prussia; nevertheless the Imperial taxes are the same in both countries.

The relation of the taxable capacity of one part of a country to another part, has nothing to do with the relation of the taxable capacity of individuals in one part to those living in another part. The taxable capacity of Middlesex is proportionately greater than that of Sussex, but it does not follow that an individual in the former ought to pay a higher percentage on his income in taxes than an individual in the latter, or that the indirect taxes ought to be less in the one than in the other. A has £5,000 income derived from property in Middlesex, and B has £5,000 income derived from property in Sussex. If the income-tax be 5 per cent., the £250 paid by the former is not a heavier burthen to him than the same sum paid by the latter, although the total incomes of the people in Sussex may only be to total incomes of the people in Middlesex as one is to one thousand. So, too, as respects indirect taxation. A man is not treated unjustly in Sussex if he pays the same rate of impost on the tea that he drinks as a man in Middlesex, because, owing to there being fewer people to drink tea in the one county than in the other, less tea is drunk in Sussex than in Middlesex,

The argument that an Irish labourer has a lower wage than an English labourer, and, therefore, that he ought to pay lower indirect taxes on the articles that he consumes, is merely an argument against all indirect taxes, and in no sense more applicable to an Irish than to an English labourer. It has been urged a thousand times that these taxes weigh more heavily on the poor than on the rich; and this has never been denied. But are the wages, say, of men employed in Belfast ship-yards less than those employed in British ship-yards? And, even if this were so, could it be contended that this is the result of Ireland, as a taxable entity, being proportionally overtaxed, in comparison with the British taxable entity? What, then, ought Irish Home Rule Members to do? With Irish Unionist Members they ought to insist on reduction in cost of Administration in Ireland. But they ought, at the same time, to point out to the latter that the only possible way of making Ireland a taxable entity, contributing only its fair quota to Imperial expenditure, is to obtain Home Rule for her. Irish landlords and Ulster manufacturers are not absolute fools. Show them clearly that their taxes will be lessened by Home Rule, and they will soon become Home Rulers. Lessen their taxation without granting Home Rule, and they will harden their hearts against the latter.

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BROOKS

I confess that I was somewhat surprised by the ignominious collapse of the Rev. George Brooks. That this man would ever persuade twelve intelligent Englishmen that the remarks I have made about him were not fully justified by the facts, I never supposed. But I certainly expected that he would have been able to make at least a show of a fight. Since attention was first called in Truth to his career, he has bragged and blustered about what he was going to do, as few men but George Brooks could brag or bluster. In the bulky pamphlet that he put forth in answer to my first article, he declared that he should look for vindication to the verdict, not merely of twelve of his countrymen, but of "twelve hundred, twelve thousand, yea, twelve millions"! He has paraded the names of all sorts of wise and eminent persons who were ready to act as vouchers for his integrity. He has issued leaflets "challenging" me to meet him in a court of law. He has talked with confidence of the punishment which he was prepared to administer to all who have questioned his integrity. Not content with bringing me into court, he issued a whole sheaf of writs against other journals which had spoken unkindly of him. And after all this he comes before a jury, only to be contemptuously kicked out of court before a particle of evidence had been given against him, except that which he kindly provided out of his own mouth in cross-examination. That he was an empty wind-bag I knew, but I was hardly prepared to see him burst like this. Nor does his collapse end here. The verdict of the twelve jurymen has been endorsed by the verdict of "twelve hundred, twelve thousand, yea, twelve millions"—only it has been a verdict in precisely the opposite sense to that which Brooks anticipated. There was hardly a newspaper in London or in England which did not on Friday last administer a parting kick to the reverend gentleman, and, regardless of party and principles, they all seem to have tried who could kick him hardest. Never before can I remember to have seen my friends and contemporaries of the Press so thoroughly unanimous.

It is not my habit to kick a man when he is down, but there are certain aspects of Brooks's case on which I am entitled to say a word or two. The man himself is a human document of far more interest than any of his books. Originally a Lancashire mill-hand, he was of far too pushful and self-assertive a disposition to remain in that obscure position, and, in the fulness of time, he became a Dissenting preacher and minister. He got on so well in this line as to become pastor of a chapel in the West End of London, with an income of £300 a year. He then quarrelled with his congregation—conscientiously, it may have been, but in all human probability from the sheer force of his bumptiousness and vanity. Next he turned his attention to literature and politics. He became a contributor to Truth, distinguishing himself chiefly by gibbeting the failings of clergy and landlords. He wrote a truculent pamphlet under the suggestive pseudonym of "Cassius" (who also, it will be remembered, was suspected of "an itching palm") denouncing Mr. Balfour's Irish administration. I should think

that no man ever was called so many names in the same space as Mr. Balfour was called in this volume. Previously to this "Cassius" had been to Midlothian as an agrarian agitator, and had obtained no less than £330 for his services in that capacity from a farmer named Russell—the old gentleman whom he put into the witness-box last week, and who was certified to be insane a few months after he paid Brooks this money. During his "Cassius" period Brooks also started a Mission Hall, as a speculation of his own, in South London, but it was not a success, and his connection with it landed him in the Bankruptcy Court. His liabilities were about £600, and his assets nil—for his household furniture was protected from his creditors by a bill of sale. This was the low water mark of Brooks's career. Now mark how the tide turned.

It was suddenly "borne in" upon Brooks (to use one of his own conventional phrases), shortly after the time when he emerged from the Bankruptcy Court, that Radicalism was a mistake, and that a wise man would be better employed in defending all existing institutions, more particularly the landlords, the rights of property, the Act of Union, and the Established Church, than in attacking them. He seems, like many others, to have found Liberal-Unionism a convenient stepping-stone, but, like the others, he did not rest upon it long, and, with a hop, skip, and a bound, he was soon over on the other side. The results were most gratifying. Liberal-Unionism had only brought him £18 (the price of a pamphlet), but Toryism proved a gold mine, and I should say he has pretty well worked the mine out. He began by appealing to prominent Unionists (in the capacity of a poor minister desirous of upholding the Constitution) for money to pay off his bill of sale, and he quickly got the amount required, with about £80 to spare—£212 at the first swoop. Doubtless this coup revealed to him at once the vast possibilities within his reach. His furniture freed, his liabilities discharged by bankruptcy, and a balance of ready cash left in hand, he moved straight-away to Halesworth, and started in business as the man who had come to save Society from Socialism. In this he succeeded beyond the wildest anticipations that even he could possibly have formed when he started. He not only succeeded in saving Society, but in the course of a year or two he converted himself from a struggling bankrupt preacher, the prey of bill-of-sale money-lenders, into a well-to-do country gentleman, with his horses and carriages, his establishment of four or five servants, and an income (even after deducting the printers' bill, and the cost of stationery, and postage-stamps) well over £1,300 a year. This he did simply and solely by begging, by the skill with which he played upon the prejudices and foibles of the rich, by his mendacious misrepresentation of his own financial position, and by his magnificent glorification of the magnitude and national importance of his literary work. When it is added that he finally succeeded in obtaining from the First Lord of the Treasury a grant of £200 in recognition of his services to Society and to Literature, it must, I think, be admitted that the character and career of this Lancashire operative are unique.

One of the best comments on Brooks, out of the many that have appeared in the Press, was in the *Daily Chronicle*. It was to the effect that Brooks had opened out an entirely new line in the begging-letter business by substituting political for religious cant as the chief item of his stock-in-trade. True, he was not above trading in religious cant when it suited his purpose, as every one will admit who remembers the sublime letter to Mr. Hucks Gibbs, on which he was cross-examined — the letter in which he related how, while reading the Scriptures on Sunday morning and "meditating upon the exceeding goodness of God," it was "borne in upon him" that he ought to ask Mr. Gibbs for a subscription. The old school of begging-letter-writing never produced a finer literary flower than that. Still, it is true that Brooks stands out chiefly as the founder of a new school. His "leading line," to use the tradesman's expression, was political clap-trap, and he proved it to be a much more paying line than the other. Naturally. Your peer, or great landowner, your financier, or your large employer of labour, is the first to shy at the cant of religion; but he swallows with avidity a good frothy tirade against Socialism, a venomous diatribe against the "Labour Leader," a patriotic denunciation of Home Rule, or a batch of cheap sneers at Mr. Gladstone. On these lines Brooks of Halesworth approached the fat boobies whose names he collected from the pages of Debrett and Kelly. He fooled his victims to the top of their bent, and to the tune of about £1,500 a year for five years. Rarely have I made the acquaintance of an impostor for whose victims I have felt less sympathy. And an extraordinary point is that a great many of them seem to have hugged their delusion, and their Brooks, long after the first article in Truth on this worthy had given every person of average intelligence the means of taking his correct measure. Among his other efforts to counteract the effect of his first exposure, Brooks scattered broadcast letters of condolence that he had received from Lord Grimthorpe, Earl Percy, Lord Egerton of Tatton, Earl Fortescue, Sir Spencer Maryon Wilson, Sir Theodore Martin, Sir W. T. Lewis, the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, Mr. J. H. Tritton, Mr. W. E. Lecky, M.P., Mr. Harry S. Foster, M.P., and other distinguished individuals, assuring him, in terms more or less uncomplimentary to myself, that no one attached any importance to the utterances of a publication like Truth. Astonishment has been expressed on all sides that a sufficient number of wealthy fools should have been found to keep up the comfortable establishment at Halesworth for so many years. But this is a small matter for astonishment beside the fact that, after Brooks's history had been told, and copious extracts from his begging-letters had been published, men of wealth and social position should have refused to see how they had been imposed upon. The comment of Earl Percy on the Truth exposure was that no one who knows this journal believes anything said in it. Mr. J. H. Tritton, of all men, went a step further, and recommended Brooks to form at once a "sustentation fund," to which he promised to give £10 a year for two years, provided nineteen other subscriptions of the same amount could be obtained. Needless to say, Brooks lost

no time in appealing for these subscriptions, though I fear that a modest £200 must have seemed but a poor sort of "sustentation" to a man who had been living for five years at the rate of £1,300 a year or more. I am not of a vindictive disposition, but I confess I should have liked to see Lord Grimthorpe, Earl Percy, Lord Egerton of Tatton, Sir Theodore Martin, Mr. Tritton, Mr. Harry S. Foster, and the rest of them in court last Thursday, when Brooks was in the hands of Sir Frank Lockwood. Somehow, none of Brooks's illustrious patrons were visible on that occasion. Whatever encouragement they may have given him in bringing his action, they all, from Mr. Balfour downwards, happened to have engagements elsewhere just at the moment when their presence and support might have afforded at least consolation to their protégé. I cannot help suspecting that some of Brooks's quondam admirers gave him some financial assistance in bringing his libel action into court; undoubtedly he solicited subscriptions for that purpose. If this is the case, may I now respectfully suggest to such gentlemen that the least they can do, in fairness to both plaintiff and defendant, is to provide Brooks with the means of meeting my little bill against him for costs?

Of all Brooks's patrons, however, the one who has most cause to feel uncomfortable over the result of the trial is Mr. Balfour. The others, at any rate, only gave away their own money. Mr. Balfour, being I suppose in matters of this kind "a mere child," gave Brooks £200 from the public purse—and money which ought to go by rights to a most needy and deserving class. No one who knows Mr. Balfour would wish to add to the remorse which he must now feel; but this is clear: that even apart from his misrepresentation of his personal necessities, Brooks was, from a literary point of view, no more than a hack Party pamphleteer, and the very last man who had a claim upon this particular fund. There is, however, one excuse for Mr. Balfour, namely, that he was misled by others, to whose judgment he had some right to trust. In Court last week, Brooks suggested that he had not personally applied for the grant, but that others had done so on his behalf. No doubt there was some truth in this, for it is certain that he must at least have been influentially recommended before he got the money. A large share, therefore, of responsibility for the grant rests upon those who commended this "poor author" to Mr. Balfour's kind consideration. I put it to these noblemen and gentlemen—most of whom were, I take it, actuated by a desire to shift the insatiable Brooks off their own shoulders on to those of the public—that the least they ought to do is to make good the amount of which the public have been defrauded by their carelessness or stupidity, or worse.

Now let us wish Brooks a Merry Christmas. That he will not be unduly depressed by the unappreciative attitude of the jury and the public, I feel confident. One of the most remarkable traits in this remarkable man is his imperturbable belief in his own gifts and virtues. He plainly indicated in the witness-box that he considered a modest £1,500 a year the very least which he had a right to expect from the wealthy individuals whose cause he had taken in hand; and it seemed to strike him with a painful surprise that anybody should take a different view of the matter—though it is to be noted that he carefully refrained from putting his claims on this basis in the appeals issued from his Halesworth villa. I believe that he looked upon the judge and jury who decided his case as men of limited intellect or vulgar prejudice, and that he left the court strong in the conviction that he is a misunderstood and a wronged man. Well, I do not grudge him that small comfort. His power of imposing upon people on any considerable scale is, I think, at an end. He will probably have to live an honest life now by force of necessity, and, in that case I have done with him. So here's a Happy New Year to you, Brooks! And now, who is the next?

HUNTING AN N.C.O.

I have received sundry communications lately with respect to some singular official proceedings at the expense of an N.C.O. in the 1st Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. The facts seem to be these: up to April last the N.C.O. in question, whose name is Jones, was a quartermaster-sergeant and orderly-room sergeant at Lichfield; he seems to have held, until the circumstances I am about to relate, an excellent character, and has some twelve or fourteen years' service; and when Lieut.-Colonel Thomas left the battalion in February, 1895, he specially thanked this N.C.O., among others, in his farewell order for their work under him. The man's troubles date from March last, when he was arrested and brought before the Commanding Officer on the charge of stealing a stick, on which charge he was remanded for trial by district court-martial. The stick in question had been purchased by the sergeants' mess about a year previously for presentation to a man who had left the regiment. By some accident it had never been presented, and Quartermaster-Sergeant Jones seems to have had a perfectly satisfactory explanation as to the circumstances under which it had come into his possession, only a day or two before the charge was preferred. It is not necessary, however, to go into the merits of this question, for after having had the evidence before him, the General declined to order a court-martial, and the N.C.O. was released. It should be stated that before the case went before the General, the officer commanding the battalion had offered to deal with it himself, if the N.C.O. consented to revert to a lower rank; but to this Jones declined to assent, and himself demanded a trial by court-martial.

At the time when the charge was dismissed the N.C.O. seems to have been suspended from his orderly-room duties. Before any definite decision had been promulgated as to whether or not he would be allowed to resume them, he was called upon to explain another matter. This seems to have been some trumpery question about his having remarked at a public house in the town that, if he went back to the office, a certain other N.C.O. would go out. He denied having made such a remark, and succeeded in getting together ample independent testi-

mony to prove that it had not been made, and then this matter also seems to have dropped. Finally, on April 13, when he had been suspended from his orderly-room duties for nearly two months, this man was arrested and brought before the officer in command on the charge of having altered his duplicate attestation sheet without authority. The facts in this case were that, shortly after joining in 1884, Jones had at his own request reverted from the rank of corporal, in order that he might obtain permission to go out to Egypt on active service. Years afterwards, when he took up his duties in the orderly-room, he found, on looking through the regimental records, that his reversion in 1884 was entered without any note of the fact that it had been at his own request. As this would be an entry to his prejudice, he put the matter before his then Adjutant, and obtained permission to add the words "at his own request" in the entry respecting his reversion. Consequently, this charge also failed, and Jones was once more released.

Now comes the extraordinary part of this case. After these three abortive charges, Jones, on May 3, addressed to the Adjutant a statement of his case, and a request that it might be forwarded to the War Office. He received no reply or acknowledgment, but on June 24 he was ordered to attend the orderly-room, where he was informed by his C.O. that the Commander-in-Chief had decided that he should be removed from his appointment of orderly-room-sergeant, and be reduced from the rank of quartermaster-sergeant to that of sergeant. So the matter stands. It seems to me to be one of the most extraordinary cases in all the records of Army justice. Here is a man who has been three times charged with offences to which he had a perfectly good answer. He has never been tried, although he has himself asked for a trial. There has never been any pretence of investigation of any kind into the charges against him. Nevertheless, by some procedure carried on behind his back, the Commander-in-Chief has been induced to pass upon this man a sentence almost as severe as would have been imposed by a court-martial. He loses his appointment, he is degraded in rank, and he is subjected to a stigma which will stand against him for the rest of his time, and possibly longer than that. All this after about fourteen years' service, and in spite of an irreproachable character. By what right the Commander-in-Chief deals out punishment in this slip-shod and indiscriminate fashion I do not know, but the proceeding looks as much opposed to military law as it is to common justice. I should hope that it is still possible that this case will be reconsidered when the facts are more clearly understood at head-quarters, otherwise the rights of trial secured to soldiers by the Army Act are reduced to a dead letter.

RICHARD THE THIRD.

A popular actor, a diplomatic manager, and, above all, an artist to the very tips of his clever finger-nails—and here we have Henry Irving, whose work, of the finest, most subtle, and most delicate kind, is always fascinating, attractive, and highly finished. Here is a man who claims your attention directly he steps on to the stage, but who does not trust to mere words for effect. His face is a perfect study. Watch him well as Richard Duke of Gloster. In the opening scenes the cunning expression turns the weird countenance of this "thinking man" into a very fiend's face, and, as the play proceeds, crime and cruelty so stain and scar the man's brow that, in the end, he becomes absolutely repulsive with ugliness born of wickedness. I believe it was Victor Hugo who once said that the public was divided into three distinct classes of spectators—women, thinkers, and a crowd. Women demand passion, thinkers require character, the crowd welcomes noise and action. If this be so, then at the Lyceum everybody will be satisfied. "Richard the Third" opens with a rush, a roar, and a bang! Drums to the right of them, trumpets to left of them; then, as the roll call grows fainter and fainter in the distance, on comes Richard Irving to complete the picture; and before he utters a word the whole nature of the man stands revealed in his face, his deportment, and his uncanny terrible expression; in fact, he seems to say, "And now am I, if a man should speak truly, little better than one of the wicked." The very soul of this demon steeped in devilry is laid bare in this one moment. The hideous workings of his contorted mind are made manifest. I must candidly confess I did not expect to be very much impressed with Shakespeare's play. "Richard the Third" can never be called one of the poet's best works, but I own up like a man. I went to scoff, and remained to applaud, thanks to the unrivalled skill and genius of Henry Irving. Of course, "Richard the Third" is what you may call a "star" play: all the other characters are very minor indeed; they come on in little bursts, and fizzle out just when they are beginning to get interesting. Take, for instance, the delightful Prince of Wales, acted with such delicate grace by Miss Lena Ashwell. I wanted to see this pretty, bright boy in every act. What a pity he got smothered so soon, or was not allowed the run of the stage before! Genevieve Ward as the widowed Queen Margaret is very emphatic and severe. Her curses make your blood curdle, and the cruel, relentless look of her glassy eyes is enough to freeze the very marrow in your bones. I can't tell you how dreadfully disappointed I was with Julia Arthur; I know she can do so much better than that. What on earth was the matter with her? Was she a bit conscience-struck at "carrying on" so with Richard before her better half's remains had been tucked up comfortably in the family vault? Whatever the cause, she was certainly overpowered by it. Miss Maud Milton wept gracefully, and was wheedled and coaxed as the vacillating Elizabeth to a nicety. Gordon Craig astonished me with a very clever little sketch of King Edward IV.; it was just in the right vein, and not a bit over done. Mary Rorke's Duchess of York was as tearfully pathetic as one could possibly wish, and the two murderers of Norman Forbes and William Farren were as deep-dyed villains as any in that line. I did not like Clarence's dream at all; but

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Frank Cooper's Earl of Richmond was a very breezy, genial fellow. Less satisfactory, to my thinking, was Macklin's Buckingham; it was a painstaking, earnest performance, but never very convincing; it carried no weight with it. Buckingham should be a crafty, oily man, with an assumed power of will and determination, almost as cringing and subtle a villain as the wicked Duke himself, and, unless this is shown, it is impossible to understand why a man of Richard's temperament should lean and rely so much on him for judgment and support. Gloster calls him in one of his speeches, "My other self, my counsel's consistory, my oracle, my prophet!" All this loses its meaning with a weak and misunderstood Buckingham. It is no use attempting to describe the exquisite scenery of Hawes Craven and J. Harker. Every one knows that our "monarch of the stage" revels in everything that is beautiful as regards colour, design, and costume; so that when I tell you Irving has surpassed all he ever did before in "Richard the Third," you may imagine what a feast of delight and beauty awaits you at the Lyceum. I can remember no more magnificent *mise en scène*. In harmony and tone it is simply perfect.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

STAG-HUNTING IN FRANCE.

LET us hope that the shocking fatality at La Halatte will make stag-hunting unfashionable, for what plea can there be to justify such barbarism? To say it exhilarates is but one argument the more against it. I never saw the honours of the chase accorded to the foremost huntress in at the death without disgust. She receives over here the freshly-amputated stag's hoof from the huntsman who butchers the hunted creature. Bull-fighting seems to me noble sport compared to the stag-hunt. The Comtesse de Paris shocked French taste by beating the heads of wounded birds against the butt of her fowling-piece. She gave these *coups de grâce* to put an end to their sufferings. Still, as she was ready to shoot afresh, people only saw in what she did a proof of insensibility. Yet her sin was venial compared to the levity and wantonness in cruelty that running down a stag calls forth. Of course I speak of French stag-hunting, and its horrid termination of amputated hoof or *curée froide* or *curée chaude*. The *curée chaude* is the devouring of the living stag in cold blood by a pack of hounds; the *curée froide*, of a dead stag. In either case the victim is tied to a stake in the courtyard of some château. Forest rangers stand near the carcass torch in hand. Fine ladies and gentlemen look on from the balcony or from the hall-door steps. The *curée*, as a torchlight scene, follows a sumptuous dinner. The wonder is that it does not precede the repast. The sensation might be a good appetiser.

Stag-hunting in France takes place in forests. To hunt in the open would entail endless litigation on the master of the hounds. The forest is intersected by avenues, the sides of which are clipped up to a certain height as straight as walls. On a map they appear like stars connected with each other. At points of intersection there are round openings. Clearings are few and of narrow area. The hunters keep in the grassy avenues. Stag and dogs get into the underwood. It is dangerous to ride after them by a path. An eye might be torn out in an instant, or a forehead collide with a bough. It is hard to say exactly how Baroness Léonino met her death. The bleeding at the ears and other symptoms show the base of the brain to have been injured. At an early stage of the hunt she crossed her sister, Baroness Lambert, and was crying "Tally Ho!" From that time until M. Albert Menier found her on a path senseless nobody saw her.

I am convinced that great happiness is like the lightning-rod in drawing down bolts from the blue. Whenever I see the cup of happiness brimful, I expect a disaster will soon overtake its holder. Four years ago, in writing to you on this subject, I had in my head Baroness Emmanuel Léonino, then a bride. She was married to a clever and agreeable young Italian, the son of Baron Léonino, the Milanese banker. Ability for financial work was part of his heritage. It was believed that he and Baron Lambert of Brussels were to be hereafter the joint heads of the Rue Lafitte Bank. No son of the actual chiefs takes any interest in counting-house work. Baroness Léonino, *née* De Rothschild, had all that gold, love, and great social standing could give. She was brought up at the present town house of her father, Baron Gustave de Rothschild. It is known as the second edition of the Elysée, revised, enlarged, and improved, and faces the palace, of which it is a copy, on the Avenue Marigny side. The De Rothschild palace is only inferior, to the Presidential in the comparatively cramped-up grounds, which are walled in on south and west sides by the blind or windowless sides of six-story houses. Baroness Léonino was given on her marriage a less palatial, though a grand, residence in the Rue de Presbourg. This street surrounds the south side of the Place de l'Etoile, and has the briskest air and most animated view that Paris affords. It was furnished with extraordinary richness and yet perfect taste. Baron Léonino has Italian feeling for what is noble and magnificent in decorative art. Two infant daughters added to the many interests of Mme. Léonino's life. She had a disposition that made society and domestic life enjoyable There was much that was kindly in her nature, and she had the good sense to be unaffected. She was not, as the Spaniards say, Rothschild-y-Rothschild. Baroness Gustave de Rothschild is Alsatian, and *née* Anspach. You may recollect her patriotic tiff at the table of M. Thiers at Versailles, with Comte d'Arnim, the German Ambassador. Real sympathy is felt for Baron Léonino and for the afflicted father and mother of the late Baroness. The children are too young to feel their bereavement. Baroness Léonino died at M. Albert Menier's château near Senlis, whither she and the Lamberts went to join a grand party. The inducement offered was shooting and hunting. The Senlis district of

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the Oise is sylvan, and dotted over with the châteaux of arch-millionaires. The Duc d'Aumale is king of the company, though there are a good many Bonapartists in the neighbourhood. Baroness Léonino was found senseless early in the afternoon. She died at nine the same evening. Her body was coffined next day to be taken to the Rue de Presbourg. That formality was gone through in the presence of Comte de Valon, the Mayor of Halatte, with whose hounds the Menier house-party hunted. All her own immediate family were present. Her father and mother were summoned to M. Menier's from Paris. The summons came as they were sitting down to dinner. A special train and three princes of science awaited them at the terminus. All were in dinner dress, for all were simultaneously telegraphed to. They found a house filled with fine company, and in a festive though sympathising mood. Those who had met to hunt and shoot could not imagine Death would be so impertinent as to put a sudden end to their enjoyment.

The Paris De Rothschilds bear their enormous wealth with quiet dignity. The Alphonse branch and other members really try to make a good use of it. Baroness James de Rothschild spends her summers at the Rothschild Hospital for sick children at Berck-sur-Mer—the ugliest of French coasts, unless to those having an artist's eye, to which nothing is ugly.

The Empress of Austria and the Orleans family are greatly responsible for all the stag-hunting we hear of. This sport went out after the war, to be revived at Chantilly and at Rambouillet. The Prince de Joinville had a pack of hounds at St. Firmin, which the Comtesse de Paris, the Duchesse de Chartres d'Alençon, and occasionally the ex-Queen of Naples and the Empress of Austria, followed. The Duchesse de Chartres had a lithe figure, and sat well in the saddle. The Duchesse d'Uzès rented the right to hunt in her own forest at Rouelle, and in the State forest of Rambouillet. It sometimes sickened me to hear those illustrious ladies echoing in their thin voices the huntsman's tally ho! At a Chantilly hunt the highest lady was allowed to take the lead. Thus the honours of the hunt were done to the Comtesse de Paris. She took precedence after the Comte de Chambord's death of every other lady, French or foreign. The theory was that she was Queen of France.

The Duc de Lorges is delighted with the new Duchesse d'Orléans. She has life, spirits, a firm will, purpose, and pleasant manners. He thinks she resembles her grandmother, the Princess Clémentine, and will turn out a *maitresse femme*. In short, she is just the wife her husband needs. He is, you know, so like the Montpensier side of the family.

If I wanted to praise any angel of charity I should now be at a loss for fresh adjectives. All the adjectives I can think of have been exhausted in lauding Mme. Furtado Heine as a Lady Bountiful. M. Meyer, of the *Gaulois*, led the chorus of laudation, and M. Strauss took up the strain at a meeting of the Town Council of Paris. Mme. Heine left the five-hundredth part of her fortune to the poor, though free to do what she liked with the half. She was certainly liberal in her alms after she quarrelled seriously with her adopted daughter, with whom she was for some time at law. But she was too fond of letting her left hand know what her right hand did. She over-valued official recognition of her bounteous deeds, which was grudgingly given. The praises of the Press did not always delight. One read between the lines that those who eulogised might pillory if they so pleased. Blackmailers attacked her after the mysterious death of her adopted and good-for-nothing son-in-law, Colonel Ney, Duc d'Elchingen. But she was not a woman to quail before them, and breasted the storm they raised. The personalty comes to £7,000,000. What the real property is valued at I have not heard. The Rocquencourt estate, where Mme. Heine died, more than doubled in value since the Outer Circle railway was made. It is on the road from Marly to Versailles. The château was built by a great courtier of Louis XVI. M. Blanc of Monaco has a stud establishment hard by. Mme. Heine had estates scattered over France and a wine-château in the Gironde. Half her wealth goes by law to her adopted daughter, now Duchesse de Rivoli. The circumstances of the adoption were in some respects whimsical. Foulds, Furtados, and Heines were angry about it, and said it was done to vex relations. The other half goes by will to the youngest of Duchesse Ney's five children, Cécile, now Princesse Joachim Murat. She was called after Mme. Heine, who became, since her sight failed, greatly dependent on her care.

Mme. Heine was liberal in supplying money to Bonapartist Committees so long as she thought they might succeed. Her burning ambition was to wear the red ribbon, and when she got it to be promoted to the rosette of officer of the Legion of Honour. She perseveringly struggled for the Cross of Knights, basing her first claim on having founded an asylum for the blind. A Minister of War, who was applied to for the rosette, remarked that giving money was not enough. A donation from her of £10,000 was not as much as a pound from a fairly well-off person. What was the villa at Nice, with its income of 60,000 fr., compared to the sacrifices made by such martyrs to duty as firemen, rescue parties in collieries, life-boat crews, or Sisters of Charity? In fighting for the rosette she gave to free gifts the character of a sale. He contrasted the "discreet" way of doing good that certain ladies of the Rothschild family follow. But Mme. Heine was not to be baulked. She died an officer of the Legion of Honour.

Ministers whom she was likely to tackle in the character of a Lady Bountiful who paid for glory, dreaded what they knew was going to happen when they read of some big charitable donation. In her innermost circle she was kind, and under all circumstances she was unaffected. There was nothing small or pinched about her. She had a massive head, and was strong in mind and body until her health broke down. Her energy seemed inexhaustible after she had reached the age of seventy. In some respects it was misused. Little consideration was shown for humble neighbours when she wished to bring the

tenements they rented within her domain wall. As she disliked to have poor people near her place, she was always taking means to become their landlady, and get rid of them. Rocquencourt, in former times, was a nice place to stroll through. It had a picturesque old inn, and was a busy place in a small way. The wayfarer was charmed with sylvan views. The dreadful domain wall now screens them, and Rocquencourt is a deserted village.

The great theatrical critics of the evening papers have neglected to speak of last week's apotheosis in their Monday feuilletons. The halfpenny morning papers think the subject not yet worn out, and continue laudative. I hear, and can believe it, that Sarah Bernhardt lent herself to the festival out of good nature to the journalists, who had been complaining of hard times. It would be a wonder if, charging 40 fr. for admission, they did not clear three or four hundred pounds. The spectacle at the Renaissance was provided by the Manageress and Company. The two masters of pictorial art who illustrated the menu worked for love. The déjeuner, which was supposed to have cost 40 fr., was no better than the ordinary 8 fr. dinner at the Grand Hotel. Wine was the one expensive feature, and it was furnished at cost price, because the Press got up the apotheosis. The real cost, experienced caterers think, would have been covered by 20 fr. a head.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

DEAR LADY BETTY,—The authorities at the War Office propose to add one battalion to the Coldstream Guards and one to the Scots Guards. It is not altogether surprising that many officers of these regiments object strongly to the alteration. They object:—1st, Because they believe that the change will necessitate the employment of men recruited from a different class to that from which the rank and file of these regiments have generally been selected; 2nd, because it would probably become necessary to lower the present standard of height; and 3rd, because many of the men, as well as many of the officers, are averse from being stationed three years at Gibraltar. It should be borne in mind that, so far as the officers are concerned, the Guards mainly attract men who are rich and are not obliged to take up a profession. Upon every occasion that the country engages in a war, the military authorities are overwhelmed with applications from Guardsmen to be permitted to join the expedition. It is not, therefore, that they object to active service, but that, being rich and in the enjoyment of much consideration, they are anxious, with reason, when there is peace, not to be exiled from England. It is, indeed, to avoid the latter contingency that many join the Guards in preference to other regiments; and if that privilege were not attached to the brigade, they would probably not enter the army. On the other hand, these officers should take into consideration that promotion in the brigade is at present especially slow. One officer has been waiting fourteen years for promotion. If the proposal of the authorities comes into force, the officers from the existing battalions will be placed in command of the two which are to be formed. There will then be an immediate bound in promotion, as there was when a new battalion was added to the Rifle Brigade. Still, the proposal has excited much indignation amongst the Guards. These regiments are magnificently efficient, and they fight splendidly; therefore it is undesirable to interfere unreasonably with conditions which, until now, have given general satisfaction, and have borne excellent results.

It is suggested as an alternative that two battalions might be added to the Royal Marines, as many more candidates apply to be employed in this branch of the Service than there is room for.

* * * * *

A report is current that when the Queen celebrates the completion of the longest reign on record in the history of Great Britain, her Majesty will create many new Peerages; will advance many old Peerages in titular rank; and will confer minor honours freely. The report further asserts that, as the reign of the Queen will be mainly associated with the discoveries of science, the improvements in mechanical appliances, the development of commerce, and an exceptional increase of activity in trade, her Majesty contemplates raising to the Peerage, upon that occasion, many of those who have attained great prominence in these branches of research and industry. It is said that the Press will be especially honoured. The Victorian Peerage does not deal with descent, chivalrous actions, or the support of the Monarchy. As it is representative especially of success in brewing, banking, brokerage, and other kindred occupations, there can be no legitimate objection to ennobling the chiefs of great commercial houses, whose silks and satins, soaps, or patent specifics are sold in the four quarters of the globe. When the new Peerages have been created, it might be opportune to quote the following lines from "The Hunting of the Snark," by Lewis Carroll:—

"The crew was complete: It included a Boots,
A maker of Bonnets and Hoods,
A Barrister—brought to arrange their disputes—
And a Broker, to value their goods.

* * * * *

Our generation values money above all other considerations. The following paragraph from the *Morning Post* of December 10 shows this somewhat amusingly:—

> An opportunity occurs by which a gentleman, under 30, of good education and means, may be ADOPTED by a childless Duke, the title descending by letters patent to the adopted son.

* * * * *

Jean Fouquet, the eminent French painter who flourished in the fifteenth century, illustrated a "Livre d'Heures" for Chevallier, who was Minister to Charles VII. and to Louis XI. The book contained fifty exquisitely-finished miniatures. Many years ago this "Livre d'Heures" fell into the hands of one who cut out the fifty pictures, sold forty of them to a Frankfort dealer for £200, and burnt the book. The Duc d'Aumale has now bought these forty miniatures for his collection at Chantilly, and has paid £10,000 for them! Of the ten illustrations that remain scattered about, it appears that only one can be traced. This is at the British Museum. Examples of the work of Jean Fouquet are very scarce. There is a portrait of Charles VII., by Fouquet, at the Louvre, but there is no painting of his in the National Gallery in Trafalgar-square. Those who are interested in such matters will be pleased to hear that a folio volume has just been published in Paris, giving reproductions by heliograph of the forty miniatures by Jean Fouquet which the Duc d'Aumale has bought.

* * * * *

We are so familiar with the name of "Olympia" at West Kensington that no critic appears to have noticed that the name is a curious misnomer. "Olympia" was the Countess of Holland in "Orlando Furioso." She had many misadventures, amongst others that of being bound to a rock without the clothes which custom considers it advisable to wear. The spot where Jupiter is supposed to have held his court was "Olympus." It is very curious that the well-known institution at West Kensington has been wrongly named, and that out of the millions who have heard of Olympia no one has yet detected the obvious mistake.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

SOME very remarkable figures have been published concerning the achievements of the high-priced yearlings of last season, all of which when sold were the subject of the florid eulogies of certain sporting writers. It seems that during 1895 twenty-two yearlings were sold for 46,200 gs., and in the course of last season these quondam marvels only succeeded in winning three stakes, worth about £1,000 altogether. Nineteen of these animals have won nothing, and not one of them is spoken of as ever likely to distinguish itself on the Turf. These figures are at once melancholy, ludicrous, and instructive, and if they do not chill the ardour of people who are such infatuated simpletons as to suppose that purchasing fashionably bred yearlings at outrageously extravagant prices is the sure and certain road to success on the Turf, it is impossible to conjecture what would cure this form of insanity. It is not only that the purchased yearlings of 1895 have proved direful failures, but so also have those of the four previous seasons, and, as a matter of fact, Turf records will show that out of every twenty high-priced yearlings about one proves a profitable investment, and, indeed, this is a high estimate. The ridiculous thing is that there is not one of these failures which was not praised in the most glowing terms at the time of its sale. That these figures are calculated to produce a "slump" in the yearling market next season is certain, and it may be hoped that, instead of placing exorbitant reserves on their animals, breeders will at last empty their heads of the false notions and extravagant fancies which have filled them so long, and in which they are encouraged by designing individuals who have a direct interest in keeping up the prices of stock and misleading both vendors and buyers. Season after season yearlings of the highest breeding are regularly sent up to Newmarket and Doncaster, always heralded by the frantic puffs of reporters who combine the business of buying and selling horses on commission and general puddling about in the market with their journalistic avocations. As regularly do nineteen out of twenty of these animals, which are sold to auriferous gulls for 2,000 gs. or 3,000 gs., and even higher prices, either collapse in training, or get miserably beaten in their trials and in their races. Speculators in such stock will do well to study the dismal records of sales and performances, and, having done so, they cannot fail to apprehend the fact that buying yearlings (however promising and well bred) is as pure a lottery as breeding them. Nor, indeed, is it a more profitable business to pay high prices for horses in training, however good may be their private reputation. The regular and lamentable failure of the so-called "cracks" of each season's sales is another proof (if any such were needed) of the humbug and nonsense of all the scientific breeding foolery, concerning which some self-advertising quacks have been so earnest of late. Nearly all these creatures are bred upon the highest lines of the so-called science, and yet they turn out to be utter rubbish. How can the "scientific breeding" theory be reconciled with the ignominious failure of so many privately bred animals in whose pedigrees not a flaw can be found?

Signorina has proved a complete failure at the stud, and it is stated that her owner has decided to put her in training again. This mare, who is by St. Simon out of Star of Portici, was foaled in 1887, and as a two-year-old she was a real flyer, and won all the races for which she started, nine in number, including the Middle Park Plate, and her gains amounted to about £12,000. After she had cantered away with the Middle Park Plate some hare-brained enthusiast offered £20,000 for her, and her owner was so infatuated as to refuse it, a blunder which he must have unceasingly regretted ever since. Signorina has been sent five seasons in succession to very expensive sires with no satisfactory result, and it is evident that she will never be a success as a broodmare. It will be interesting to see whether she retains any of her capacity for racing.

It has been found that Galeazzo cannot be trained again, so his turf career is at an end, and he is going to France, and will stand next season at Baron Rothschild's Meantry stud in Normandy. Galeazzo is another victim to the prevalent craze for over-racing young horses. He ought not to have been trained as a two-year-old, and if he had been allowed time to develop he would very likely have grown into a second Common. He was, however, raced as a two-year-old on hard ground, when backward, and the shakes and jars which his big frame then received were probably the origin of the weakness which terminated his turf career after his victory in the Newmarket Stakes last May. If Galeazzo's début on the turf had been postponed until the last Ascot meeting he could afterwards have taken St. Frusquin's place in the Eclipse Stakes' field, and the whole course of the autumn racing would have been changed—vastly to the advantage of Mr. L. de Rothschild.

The value of the Goodwood Cup has been increased from £300 to £800, and the entries will close on January 5, which is a much more sensible arrangement than keeping the race open until the Tuesday after the Derby, by which time the form of the season has been pretty well disclosed. The Cup is to be a subscription race, and it would have been much better to have made an entrance of £15, the only liability if forfeit is declared by the Tuesday after the Epsom Summer Meeting, with a sweepstakes of £30 each if left in after that date. With the present conditions, an owner who leaves his horse in after the second forfeit of £10 is declared will be simply taking £650 to £25 about his chance, which is scarcely good enough. It is absolutely idiotic to impose a penalty of 21 lb. for winning such a trumpery event as the Jockey Club Cup, while winners of the Derby, Oaks, St. Leger, or of any of the £10,000 stakes escape with 12 lb. of extra weight. Surely Lord March cannot approve of such anilities.

I have received an interesting letter from Mr. R. C. Lehmann, who has been coaching the Harvard University men in rowing. The trial eights were organised and rowed on December 5. The work was by no means bad, and, taking into account the comparatively short time the men had had to acquire the new style, the performance was most satisfactory. The writer says it was a capital race, and on the whole it was a display of good honest rowing in the right style. Of course, there were defects. This was only to be expected, having regard to the fact that Mr. Lehmann only left England on November 4. On his arrival the race had to be arranged and the crews got together. Some of the men are very promising, indeed. They are all strong, vigorous, and healthy, and as keen as possible. Their anxiety and willingness to learn made the task of coaching a positive pleasure. Already one can see the Grand Challenge Cup sailing across the Atlantic. But, sorry as we at home should be to see this come to pass, it is fortunately impossible not to feel that the visit of Yale last year and the services that Mr. Lehmann has been rendering to Harvard must have a happy influence on the better class of young Americans. The University men of both countries must be drawn closer together by such a tie of common interest as the oar.

While on this subject I must recall the extraordinary canard that appeared in the *New York Herald*. The statement, in effect, was that Mr. Lehmann was the best man of a class peculiar to England. He was a so-called amateur, who, after taking his degree, made his living by coaching College and University crews! This tale, which I severely commented on at the time, appeared in the *Herald* of November 4, the day that Mr. Lehmann sailed from England. On his arrival he communicated with the Editor, who, on November 28, in an editorial, expressed his great regret for the misstatement that had appeared, and not only made a complete retractation of every word that had been written, but added as well some extremely kind and appreciative remarks about Mr. Lehmann himself. *Harper's Weekly* and the *New York Sun* have also published full refutations of the *Herald*

fable. Surely one could not wish for any visit to produce better fruits. There, at all events, in black and white, was a gross and irritating misconception of English rowing men and their system. It has been cleared up, once and for all, and the fact that the Editor of the *Herald* apologised in such a frank and handsome manner must produce a most excellent impression over here. Everybody knows what a disagreeable thing it is for one of our leading papers to have to "climb down." The operation is not any more enjoyable when it is performed in New York. The unpleasantness of the original mistake has been more than atoned for by the subsequent honourable withdrawal, and more good has probably been done than if no error had been made. Apart from that little incident, everybody whom Mr. Lehmann has met, and the Press as well, have been hospitable and courteous to a degree. He has been overwhelmed with kindness in every way, and he desires through these columns to express something of what he feels with regard to the way he has been treated in America. To express that "something" adequately would tax even the fluent writers on the New York Press. That "something" is better imagined than described. Let it be sufficient to say that he feels that "something," that all English rowing men are delighted with the happy result of this visit, and that Yale and Harvard will be more welcome than ever to English waters when they come again.

Very successful was the dinner and presentation to Mr. C. E. Green in recognition of his success in making Essex a first-class county. No man more deserved the honour that was rendered him. His speech was excellent. He had a good word for everybody, and spoke highly of the pros. in the team, all of whom were present. He mentioned how often he had been told that his efforts would be but a wild-goose chase; but he had persevered, and generous friends had helped the club out of financial straits. During the evening over £300 was promised to help wipe off the mortgage on the club's property. The M.C.C. has assented to the proposition of the Counties that seven out and home matches shall suffice for a first-class county. Leicester could only arrange that number, and if that county had not been included, there would have only been five counties eligible for the championship. All cricketers will regret the death of H. Stephenson, the famous Uppingham cricket coach. It has been said that he and the late Headmaster, the late Dr. Thring, made the school.

The Council of the Football Association has made its control of amateur interests more impossible, and itself more ridiculous, than ever. At its recent meeting the question of Mr. Jackson's conduct in not getting leave to take scratch teams to play the Universities was debated. There was a long discussion, and then the chairman, Mr. Clegg, produced a written indictment of Mr. Jackson, which concluded with a request that the delinquent would resign his position of vice-president, on the ground that he had been disloyal to the Council in not obeying a resolution of the Council, that permission to play scratch teams must be first obtained from the Council. This document was presented to the Press to be published *in extenso*. It contained statements which were grossly misleading, and arguments which were utterly untenable. It stated that the resolution of the Council had been come to on April 18, because certain persons were said to have made profits out of these teams. It pointed out that Mr. Jackson had objected to the resolution, but had not attempted to set it aside either at the general meeting, or at subsequent summer meetings of the Council, and it further pointed out that in October Mr. Jackson had only argued against the legality, and not the expediency of the rule. This farrago of nonsense concluded in an impotent way by requesting Mr. Jackson to resign his vice-presidency. No doubt Mr. Clegg is extremely proud of his manifesto. But if it is examined for a moment it will be seen that it has not an atom of substance in it. In the first place there is no rule of the Association dealing with scratch teams, a very common and pleasant form of amateur recreation. Neither is there any rule giving a resolution of the Council the force of law. And yet this resolution has been given the force of law by the Council and penalties have been inflicted in respect of it. The resolution is, therefore, clearly illegal. These facts are not stated in the indictment. The resolution was passed on April 18, and as all notices for the general meeting had to be given by March 31, Mr. Jackson could not interfere in the matter. This fact is not stated. In these respects Mr. Clegg's paper is grossly misleading, and it is, to say the least, remarkable that he should have made the mistake, to call it nothing else, of suggesting that notice could have been given at the general meeting. Moreover, Mr. Clegg and his supporters have another little matter to explain. It will take a good deal to make any one, with the slightest knowledge of football matters, believe that the alleged circumstances calling for this resolution were suddenly sprung upon the Council on April 18. It is absurd to suppose that the need for a new rule was not present to the minds of Mr. Clegg and others prior to March 31. Why then was not notice of a new rule to be put before the general meeting given in due course? The Council, at the meeting on April 18, could have resolved to support such a rule. But instead of acting in a straightforward way, Mr. Clegg and his supporters in a grossly unconstitutional manner endeavour to assume the functions of the Association, and invest their resolutions with the force of law. The suggestions that Mr. Jackson could have dealt with this matter at other meetings of the Council, from which he was absent, may be a reflection on his not duly performing his duties as Vice-President, but they cannot affect the legality or illegality of the Council's action. The rottenness of Mr. Clegg's argument is further shown by the statement that Mr. Jackson only argued on the legality and not the expediency of the resolution. Assuming the cases alleged to exist, some legislation was necessary. But the question is how far can this Council take upon itself to make new laws, as and when it pleases? The majority of the Council is composed of men whose interests are bound up in every way with professionalism. They show a contempt for amateur interest and amateur play whenever the opportunity affords. The amateur association footballer is a long-suffering person. But this attempt of the Council to interfere with the legitimate freedom of the game has gone too far. The matter at present is looked upon simply as a contest between Mr. Jackson and the majority of the Council. The sooner amateurs realise that it is nothing of the sort the better it will be for them. It is a gross infringement of the liberties of football, and would only be persisted in by men who send an *ex parte* statement to the Press at once illogical and misleading, and who further omit to state that it was prepared before the meeting was held, and produced and read by the Chairman, Mr. Clegg.

At the same meeting a proposal was rejected that there should be two sections of the Association—one to deal with amateurs and the other with professionals. Something will have to be done unless the Council comes to its senses and draws up and submits to a general meeting a reasonable set of rules dealing with scratch teams. Surely such a reasonable course is not impossible.

It is with regret that one reads of the dispute between the R.I.E.C. Cooper's Hill and the R.M.C. Sandhurst. The Rugby team of the latter college scratched its game with the former because there was no other day on which to decide the Company Challenge Cup, the final earlier in the week having resulted in a draw. This proceeding was certainly high-handed and unsportsmanlike. No one ever heard of a school or college competition interfering with a match on the card. At the same time it is a great pity that the correspondence has been published. It has only made the feud worse. Cooper's Hill have scratched all their matches with Sandhurst. Surely a little tact and forbearance might have been used. It is not pleasant to

Cycling Suits are a speciality at Ulster House, Conduit-street, London, W., where Ulsters, Overcoats, and Capes are kept ready for immediate use.

find squabbles like this one in clubs of the highest standing. I hope the authorities of both colleges will try to smooth matters over instead of being at daggers drawn as they are at present. There should be no difficulty amongst gentlemen in patching up the breach. An honourable apology should be offered and at once accepted.

In London, the hard ground stopped several Rugby matches. The Blackheath forwards woke up and played a grand game against Cardiff, but their outsides were miserably weak. The Old Merchant Taylors are quite off their game, and had to put up with defeat at the hands of Rosslyn Park, for whom Warner was very clever. Croydon, of course, walked over Middlesex Hospital, who were two short. Turner, at back, was in very good form for the losers. He made one fine run, and if he had been backed up the Hospital would have scored. Judging by their play in Wales and against Dublin, Cambridge would have done much better at Queen's Club if they had arranged their heavy fixtures before instead of after the University match. They wanted the experience these matches would have given.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—The feature of the week came at its fag-end, and consisted of a violent outburst of screeching of the American Eagle, which sent a shiver through Wall-street, and caused a sharp break in Americans. In other respects the tone has been very steady, and although the hardening rates in the Money Market caused a sagging movement in gilt-edged stocks and a few other securities, a notable circumstance was the comparative steadiness of the Mining Markets.

The American Eagle Screeching.

A much calmer view was taken in Europe of the now famous Cameron resolution. Senator Cameron may boast that by the resolution bearing his name, which was adopted by the Senatorial Committee on Foreign Relations at Washington, he knocked the Wall-street market to pieces for one day at least, and brought about declines of from four to five dollars in leading securities. The resolution acknowledges the independence of the "Republic of Cuba," although there is no such organisation yet in existence. It may possibly be carried in the Senate, and, perhaps, in the House of Representatives, not, however, until after the holidays, if then, but even in that case President Cleveland will veto it, and there are indications that his successor, Mr. McKinley will do the same thing, while there is every prospect of the resolution being delayed and obstructed in Congress until the excitement over Cuba has cooled down. This was the view very sensibly taken on this side, and quotations of American Rails here remained from 1½ to 2 points over parity on Saturday. When it is considered that the famous Venezuelan fulmination in which President Cleveland indulged at precisely the same time last year has altogether fizzled out since, and that the last Congressional outburst regarding Cuba has similarly come to naught, it is not surprising that the London Stock Exchange should refuse to believe in the reality of the American Eagle's screeches, and operators utilised the situation for laying in some cheap stock. It seems a pity that we should now have, for the second time, an unpleasant surprise from Yankeeland just before Christmas, but in the present case the view is taken that the cry of "Wolf" has been raised too often. Spanish were already somewhat weaker before the news from Washington arrived, and they have only given way a point, while the general foreign market has remained steady. Home Rails have been influenced chiefly by the hardening condition of the Money Market, and by the Cassandra-like prophecies of the *Times* and other dailies of a money squeeze at the end of this year. As early in the new year large sums will, however, be released in dividends, dear money could last but for a very short time now, and any one parting with the stocks of Home Railways, which are earning such splendid revenues, merely on the fear of higher rates, will be acting very foolishly. The South African department continues to show a good deal of strength, and there is no longer any disposition to make too much of every little adverse point. A good many "Bull" points, moreover, are cropping up, and it is generally anticipated that an important upward movement will occur early in the new year. Indian mines have enjoyed quite a lively time, and a general improvement has taken place. There is thus good grounds for hope that the Mining Market altogether will receive increased attention in the near future, and, from certain information which has reached me, I make bold to say that the revival will also spread to the West Australian section, some exceedingly favourable developments being assured in connection with some of the powerful groups. Industrial investments continue in favour, and there is every prospect that in the coming year investors will again devote special attention to this department, while I quite look for a strong revival in Cycle shares. And now, my dear Ben, let me wish you and yours, and all the friends and readers of my letter to you a Merry Christmas and every prosperity. The past year has been one fraught with many unpleasant incidents, and the effects of the luckless Jameson raid more particularly have brought great trouble and loss upon holders of mining shares; yet there have not been wanting important recoveries, more especially in the Home Railway, American, and South American markets, and as no second Jameson raid may be anticipated, I think we are quite justified in looking for brighter times when once this Christmas is turned.

Home Rails.

The chief influence in the Home Railway department has been the strength of rates in the Money Market, and the fear that the purse-strings will be drawn very tight by our banking institutions towards the end of the year. Realisations on a moderate scale have consequently taken place, and prices are a shade easier, but it should not be forgotten that the speculative account must thereby have also been considerably reduced. Rates at the mid-December settlement were by no means heavy, so that the next settlement should also be comfortably got over. As usual, Brighton "A" have proved the most sensitive, yet with a dividend of from 7 to 7½ per cent. to come off next month, they do not look dear at the present price. Dover "A" have eased off slightly, but they have not been a bad market, and it must be remembered that the rate went off to even at the last carry-over. Chathams have received a distinct set back, the Ordinary being knocked down to 17⅛ (recovering, however, to 18¼) on the circulation of rumours, the very number and diversity of which characterised them as efforts of the "Bear" party. There was substance in one only of the reports, which referred to the relations of this Company and the South Eastern with Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son concerning tourist tickets, but it seems to be doubtful whether any but a very small amount will be lost to the Chatham Company by the new arrangement. An attempt has been made to boom East London. First the rumour was spread that this line was to be used for coal traffic instead of the Chatham at Holborn Viaduct and Blackfriars, which was an absurdity. Then it was said that the Great Eastern was going to put coal traffic on the East London, but all the efforts of the "Bulls," who are of the bucket-shop order, have not succeeded in putting the quotation higher than 7¼. In the Heavy division prices have been pretty well maintained, North Western notably being firm at 201. Midlands have reacted to 167, on the publication of the text of the Midland Railway Company's Bill for splitting the Ordinary stock, which provides for the duplication being made

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

compulsory. Objections have also been raised to the proposal to make the dividends on the Preferred Ordinary stock contingent on the profits of each separate half year. This, of course, is against the Preferred stock, but very much in favour of the Deferred. Metropolitan Districts have been a firm market at about 28, and it is fully expected that when in the new year Home Rails generally brace up Districts will be found well to the front, as the line will be benefited by a number of favourable circumstances, which will give it increased traffic, and stimulate the revenue. The stocks of the Scotch section have been fairly steady, yet both Caledonian Deferred and North British Deferred are still at a very low level, compared with the great progress which they have made during the past year. For the first twenty weeks of the fiscal half year the Caledonian has an increase of £37,830, and the North British one of £39,007, and still they continue to pile up increases, which is not surprising, considering the excellence of trade in Scotland. The various Scotch industrial establishments will commence the new year with a large amount of work left over. The Clyde shipbuilders appear to have booked 300,000 tons of new shipping during the quarter, and as the chief employés are bound down to certain wages for six months, no trouble is anticipated in this direction. In fact, the labour troubles, which have been so largely utilised for putting down quotations of the Scotch stocks, are almost forgotten, and the extraordinary thing is that prices, especially of Coras, should not respond to the excellent prospects. A price of 65 for these, and of 55 for North British Deferred, would be more justified than the present low quotations.

The Break in the Yankee Market.

The proverbial fickleness of the Yankee Market has been strikingly illustrated by the break which occurred on Saturday, owing to the adoption of a resolution by the Senatorial Committee on Foreign Relations, acknowledging the independence of Cuba. I have already explained that those best able to judge anticipate that this resolution will never be given effect to, and the latest pronouncement of Mr. Olney, Secretary of State, is clearly to the effect that the United States Government considers that the power to recognise the so-called Republic of Cuba as an independent State rests exclusively with the Executive. The recognition of Cuba by the President would be tantamount to a declaration of war, and it is pretty well certain that nothing of the kind will happen, for one good reason that the United States have no fleet able to cope with such a situation. The disposition shown in Europe to look upon the whole matter as an outbreak of rampant Jingoism, which will fizzle out again in due time, seems, therefore, fully justified. It would, indeed, be a thousand pities if the United States, now on the eve of a general revival, after protracted depression, should embark in a difficult and profitless undertaking, which would retard that revival indefinitely. Already a distinct improvement was shown in recent traffic returns, and there is every prospect, if peace be not disturbed, that commerce and trade will flourish exceedingly in the new year. Money is becoming very abundant in Wall-street, and the financial position of the country is distinctly improving. The balance of trade continues in favour of the United States, and the figures of the country's foreign trade for November show the amount of exports of merchandise to have been 107,840,000 dols., against imports valued at 50,038,000 dols. The heaviest relapse has taken place in those stocks which are generally the most active, viz., Milwaukee and Louisville, and in these, too, the most important recovery may be looked for. At their present level they are certainly an excellent purchase, and so are Atchison Prefs., Erie, Denver Prefs. and Ordinary, Southern Ordinary, Norfolk Prefs., and Northern Pacific Prefs. As was to be expected, Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have moved down with the Yankee market, although not suffering so severely: but even that moderate setback will doubtless be recovered again whenever American Rails brace up.

Foreigners and South Americans.

Interbourse securities showed a favourable tendency, in sympathy with the Paris Bourse, where the mid-monthly settlement had been got over remarkably well, until Spanish executed a downward movement on the Cuban trouble, and thus temporarily spoilt the tone of some of the other stocks. Italians, on the other hand, have remained firm, and a good deal of strength has been shown by Turks, apparently on the hope that Russia will throw her weight in the scale as regards reforms in Turkey. In the South American department a disagreeable impression was created by the report that the Uruguayan Government had not sent the usual remittance of the proportion of the Customs receipts applicable to the service of the foreign debt, but was keeping the money in Monte Video owing to some dispute with the London and River Plate Bank as to the rate of exchange at which the remittances were made. Uruguay bonds, promptly declined, but recovered to 45¾ on the statement that the remittance had been despatched. It was undoubtedly very foolish on the part of the Uruguayan Government to allow a dispute of this kind to interfere with the regularity of the remittances. This, however, was only an error of policy, and Uruguay declares herself determined to fulfil all her engagements. Argentine Government stocks have been steady, and the gold premium in Buenos Ayres has again declined, the present quotation being 178. I have it on good authority that nothing will come of the Pelligrini proposals, or of the much-talked-of unification of the debt, but that a resumption of the full service of the debt will take place in accordance with the Romero-Rothschild agreement, in 1899. That would undoubtedly be the best solution of the problem. Amongst Argentine Railway debentures Buenos Ayres Great Southern Four per Cents. are firm at 119½, and Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. First Debenture stock is receiving a good deal of attention at 108 to 109 as a gilt-edged security, yielding a comparatively high return. The most popular Argentine Railway security at the present moment is, however, Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock, which has advanced to 60. Years ago I predicted that Cordoba Central (C.N.S.) Debenture stock had a great future, and recommended its purchase at about 40. It has since been split into Four per Cent. Debenture stock now standing at 94, and into Income Debenture stock now at 60; and again I say that a rise of five points in the latter would be fully justified. Traffics of the line are excellent, and since January 1 have amounted to 3,713,710 dols., against 3,497,290 dols. in the previous year. The decline in the gold premium, of course, means a considerable increase in the amount available on this side. The Government guarantee of the Central Northern Section amounts to £78,600, whereas only £73,300 is required to pay 4 per cent., so that the net revenue earned would pay nearly 4¾ per cent., less the £5,300 difference in the guarantee, and required for the 4 per cent. A dividend of 4½ per cent. at least on the Income bonds is thus anticipated. The Board have yet to arrange with the Government as regards their commutation, but they will probably declare an interim dividend in January, and the balance in April or May. I need hardly point out that, on a 4½ per cent. basis, at 60 the yield would be about 7½ per cent. per annum, with every prospect of a further increase in the following year. Brazilians have been fairly steady, a more favourable view being taken of the outlook in Rio de Janeiro. Mexican Sixes are also firm, but no progress has been made with reference to the settlement of the Columbian debt. Costa Rica "A" and "B" bonds have risen 1, although, so far, nothing has transpired as regards an early settlement of the claims of the foreign bondholders.

Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society.—Special Notice.—Participating Assurances effected before the 31st December, 1896, will rank for Six Full Years' Bonus Additions at the next Periodical Division of Profits. To secure this advantage application should be made to any of the offices or agencies of the Society without delay.—London: 28, Cornhill, E.C., & 5, Waterloo-place, S.W.

The Kaffir Circus.

A good deal of nervousness still prevails in the South African market, and there has been no further important upward movement. Yet the continuous slump has come to an end, and reactions one day are generally followed by recoveries the next. There is hardly time for any important upward movement before Christmas, but the view has generally gained ground that prices will go ahead early in the new year, and this is all the more likely as crushings during December are expected to show good results. We may also assume that Messrs. J. B. Robinson and B. I. Barnato will not be idle now that they are in South Africa, and that they will exercise a favourable influence upon their respective groups, and naturally also upon the mining industry in general. President Kruger has again given utterance to a very conciliatory speech, and it is safe, at all events, to assume that there will be no more political trouble in the Transvaal for the present. Even Dingaan's Day has passed off peacefully, and the session of the Volksraad was closed by Oom Paul with the characteristic remark that he wishes to settle all matters pending between the Boers and the British Government "in peace and love." A little scare was produced by the report that important changes in the firm of Messrs. L. Hirsch & Co. would have an unfavourable effect upon the market, the senior partner wishing to retire, with the result that large sums of money would be withdrawn from the market. I am informed that the change in question is by no means imminent, and would only be temporary, and that no money would be withdrawn either from the firm or from the market, and this is not, therefore, a "Bear" point. I continue to receive inquiries from correspondents as to which mines they should invest in, but I would like to point out to them that I gave such a list last week. For the benefit, however, of those who might not have noticed it, I herewith repeat the list:—Langlaagte Estate, New Primrose, Glencairn, City and Suburban, Robinson, Wolhuter, New Crœsus, Kimberley Roodepoort, Knights, Randfontein, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Barnato Consols, Buffelsdoorn, Woodstock (Transvaal), Henderson's Estates, Lydenburg Estates, Oceana Consols, Mozambique, Modderfontein "B," and Waterfall Estates. Another question I am asked is whether it would be advisable to buy before Christmas or not. To those who are able to pay for their shares it will not matter whether they pay for them before Christmas or after, and only to these I give my advice. In my opinion they ought to buy at once, as the whole rank-and-file will want to buy directly the new year has commenced, so that they would then only be able to get in at higher prices. The present level of quotations is, moreover, low enough in all conscience. East Rand Proprietary have again fluctuated on the somewhat divergent reports of Monday's meeting of shareholders, being now quoted $3\frac{5}{8}$. Nothing is known yet as to what will come of the new scheme for providing additional capital, and possibly the French shareholders will continue their obstructionist tactics in connection with this latest proposal. Consolidated Goldfields have not altogether maintained the best price recently touched, and are quoted $8\frac{5}{8}$, while Rand Mines have been steady at $23\frac{3}{4}$, but Chartered shares have received some inside support, being quoted $2\frac{9}{16}$. The Spes Bona is on the warpath with a proposed issue of 85,000 shares of £1 each at par to the shareholders. If the latter do not respond sufficiently, a loan will have to be raised for the balance. The hopeful feature about this concern is that the battery of forty stamps is expected to commence crushing in January. M. Jacques Lebaudy seems to have carried his point in effecting a sale of the United Langlaagte Company's property for £70,000 to the United Proprietary Company. It is a kind of "rob Peter to pay Paul" arrangement, as M. Lebaudy is interested in both concerns, and the question is, What next? Dividends are announced of 25 per cent. by the Wemmer, 15 per cent. by the Roodepoort United, and 10 per cent. by the New Heriot, and it will be interesting to see what the other Witwatersrand mines will pay. The sale of the new Golden Kopje Company's property of forty-eight claims for £725 against a purchase price of £80,000, paid by the Company on its formation in July last, shows a disastrous failure which reflects discredit upon promoters and Directors, especially if, as is now rumoured, no work has ever been done on the property. The Tati Concessions Company's report shows that in a period of great disasters a net profit of £56,319 has been obtained from the sale of mining claims and machinery, which is by no means unsatisfactory considering all things. Woodstock Transvaal shares have been in some demand at $1\frac{1}{4}$, and, in anticipation of the commencement of crushing next month, these are an excellent lock-up. In view of the excellent results achieved by Knights during November the price, now $4\frac{7}{8}$, ought to have risen much higher already, but the advance is merely put off, especially as sixty more stamps will be crushing shortly. A very satisfactory position was shown to exist in connection with Henderson's Transvaal Estates at last Tuesday's meeting of shareholders. Mr. Henderson, who presided, went through the list of the properties owned by the Company, and showed how, although a dividend of 10 per cent. is declared and large assets in shares and cash had been accumulated, only a small portion of the properties had been disposed of. Mr. G. H. Kearton went into a calculation of the present value of the assets and gave figures which went to prove that the shares should be worth at least from £4 to £5 at present instead of only £2. Diamond shares have been steady, and De Beers are quoted at about 29, New Jagersfontein at about $10\frac{3}{8}$.

Golden West Australia.

Everybody in the West Australian market is looking forward to a beneficial change, which is expected to come about in the new year, and there is good reason for this hope, as a number of new mines will fall into line with crushings, and thus will supply conclusive proof of the value of West Australian goldfields, and the only proof which nowadays will go down with investors in West Australians. Some important events have, moreover, to come off, which will tend to enliven this market. I refer in the first instance to the group of the West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance Corporations. I have it on excellent authority that on the suggestion of numerous shareholders the Directors have decided to capitalise a large portion of the profits, and that this will result in the recommendation of a dividend exceeding 200 per cent., and on a basis which makes the value of the Ordinary shares £6 per share, against the present price of 4. At an early period of next year, moreover, nearly all the mines brought out by these Companies will be crushing, with the exception, perhaps, of Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure, which, however, are also well on the way to the point at which they will become producers. Lake View Consols have been steady at about 7, but there is every prospect of an improvement in the near future. The other substantial mining shares in this department have also been well maintained, viz., Ivanhoe at $10\frac{1}{4}$, and Great Boulder at $6\frac{3}{8}$. Only a small number of crushings have to be reported this time, which, according to my recent custom, I herewith give:—

—	Tons of Ore Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Assay of Tailings per Ton.
Coolgardie Mint and Iron King	135	350	15 dwt.
Imperial Western Australian Corporation—			
Western Shaw ...	60	242	—
,, ,, ...	40	160	—
Great Boulder	712	2,147	—

A considerable batch of crushings may be expected to be announced next week. A strong "Bear" attack has been made upon Northern Territories Goldfields, which are, however, recovering now, and are quoted about $2\frac{3}{4}$. West Australian Goldfields are quiet at $5\frac{5}{8}$, and Hampton Plains have hardened to $2\frac{5}{8}$. The shares in both these Companies may be expected to go ahead very sharply in

the new year. Hannan's Brownhill have also maintained a firm tone at 5¼. A fair amount of dealings has taken place in some of the cheap shares, to which I have repeatedly referred as attractive for investors who do not mind locking them up for a while—viz., White Feather Reward, 1⅝; Great Boulder Main Reef, 1¼; Mawson's Reward, ⅞; Robinson, ¾; East Murchison United, 13/16; Mount Margaret, 1; Gladiators, ⅝; Burbank's North at par; and Burbank's Consols, also at par. West Australian Joint-Stock Trust shares have eased off to 1⅞ premium, but there is every prospect of a recovery in the shares of this Company as soon as the year is turned, as it is well known that it has continued to make good profits. From the 90-Mile Consolidated a cablegram has been received that crushing is now proceeding; it will be interesting to watch what the return will be. A cablegram from the Yalgoo Proprietary states that a good body of ore at the 60-ft. level has been discovered, showing visible gold. No fresh news has transpired with reference to the West Australian (Gold District) Trading Corporation and the proposed reconstruction, but it is understood that an investigation is now going on. Armadale have improved to 1 on the favourable developments at the mine. Kalgurli have advanced sharply on the announcements by cable of a rich strike. Some demand has been experienced for Hannan's Proprietary and Oroya, but Lady Loch are dull at 1¼. There has also been a reaction in Hit or Miss, fresh news from the mine being awaited. Lady Shenton, however, remained firm at 2. Rumours are current that the Central Wealth of Nations has cut the Wealth of Nations reef, whereupon the shares have come into demand again. It is evident that the mismanagement in the past was chiefly responsible for the non-success of the mine. Unfavourable advices have been received from the St. Denis Mine, and if the report is correct that the property is not gold-bearing, it is to be hoped that the promoters will give the Company a new property free of charge. This step was taken by the vendors of the Londonderry Extended, and should generally be adopted by respectable promoters.

Indian, New Zealand, and Other Mines.

An important advance has taken place in Indian gold mining shares. Not only is it being recognised that these mines are doing remarkably well, but duplication of the shares is now also in sight; that is to say, the issuing of two shares for one, in order to make the heavy shares more marketable. The shares which are to be manipulated in this way are, in the first instance, Mysore and Champion Reefs, which are now quoted 8⅜ and 8½ respectively. Most other shares in this section have improved similarly. Australian mines, other than West Australians, have upon the whole been dull. Aladdin's Lamp have been quiet at 1¾, but there has been an improvement in Mount Morgan and Mount Lyell. On the other hand, Charters Towers mines have been dull, and there has been a decline in Mill's Day Dawn United, Bonnie Dundee, and Mosman. Croydon mines have been firm, especially Croydon Consols, which are quoted at 10s. 6d., with a dividend of 1s. per share still to come off next pay-day. New Zealand Gold Mining shares have moved within narrow limits. There has been a rise in Preece's Point, Woodstock, and Komata Queens, but New Zealand Joint Stock, Taitapu, and Waihi are easier. In Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, to which I referred last week, a good deal of business has been transacted. The price at one time gave way, but has since recovered to 3, at which they look promising. In the general foreign section there have been improvements in Pestarena, Frontino and Bolivia, and Victory, but De Lamar have reacted. In copper shares a rise in Rio Tinto has not been altogether maintained. Grand Central have improved to 2¼. It will be remembered that this mine is situated in the State of Sonora, Mexico, and that it has paid a 10 per cent. dividend within a few months of the introduction of the shares in this market. The Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico, Limited, has now been formed to acquire three fully-equipped and developed mines, viz.—the Santa Elena, Santa Elena East Extension, and Phœnix, together with about 17,000 acres of land, which are situated in the same State of Sonora and on the same range of mountains as the Grand Central. The mines are taken over as going concerns, plant and machinery, including a battery of sixty stamps, having been acquired. The principal reef occurring in these mines is described as being one of the largest gold and silver bearing quartz veins in the world, and according to numerous experts' reports, which have been quite recently confirmed by Mr. Frank Nicholson, a well-known mining engineer, the value of the property has been thoroughly tested, the grade of ore varying from 12 dwts. to 2·68 oz. of gold per ton. Subscribers for the £100,000 of Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock, which are being offered to the public, redeemable at the option of the Company after 1900 at six months' notice, at the price of £110 per cent., have the option of converting into Ordinary shares of the Company at par. This gives the investor an opportunity of having a lien over the whole property, and yet benefiting by any favourable developments in the mines, there being every prospect of the shares rising to a very considerable premium. Who is behind the London General Assets Corporation, Limited? This concern is sending out touting letters concerning the "Victoria and General Mining and Finance Corporation, Limited," in which a commission of 20 per cent. (half in cash and half in shares) is offered as procuration fee in addition to 10 per cent. for underwriting. There must be a big promoter's profit in the proposed capital of £150,000 of the Victoria Corporation now in incubation to admit of commissions of 30 per cent.

New Enterprises and Issues.

The prospectuses of the following new Companies and issues have been placed before the public during the week:—

The Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico, Limited.—This Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring the equipped and developed mines known as the Santa Elena, Santa Elena East Extension, and Phœnix, together with about 17,000 acres of land, 1,000 of which is tillable, and the remainder timber land, situate in the Arizpe District, State of Sonora, Mexico. The capital is £300,000, in shares of £1 each.

The mines acquired by this Company are in an advanced state of development. It is stated that the plant and machinery, amongst which there is a sixty-stamp battery, cost upwards of £100,000. The mines have been reported upon by three leading mining experts, and their reports have been confirmed by Mr. Frank Nicholson, a mining engineer of high standing. The Santa Elena vein, which traverses the properties, has been traced for over a mile, and ore at the 250-ft. level gave a value of 2·68 oz. of gold per ton. Mr. Nicholson reports that he considers the prospective value of these mines immense, and that it is a true fissure vein of great size. With a property containing upwards of twenty-five square miles in one of the most promising parts of the auriferous State of Sonora, this Company proposes to establish sub-Companies, and is likely to prove a most important Mexican mining pioneer Company. Investors have an opportunity of subscribing to the Six per Cent. Debentures (which are convertible into Ordinary shares), and thus obtain a lien upon the whole of the property, while yet being able to benefit by favourable developments on the mines.

The Star Cycle Company, Limited.—For the purpose of taking over and extending the business of the Star Cycle Company (Sharratt & Lisle), Limited, of Wolverhampton, cycle manufacturers, in accordance with a reconstruction scheme adopted by the shareholders, this Company has been formed with a capital of £120,000, divided into 50,000 Preference and 70,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

I cannot say that this issue looks favourable. There are plenty of other Cycle Companies that would prove a better investment.

The Old Wolverhampton Brewery Company, Limited.—A Company has been formed to acquire as going concerns the freehold Breweries known as the Hall Park, Bilston, the Wolverhampton Brewery, and the Wine and Spirit business of Messrs. Howard, Fletcher, & Sons, of Walsall and Birmingham. The

Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée. Vintages 1884, 1887, and 1889, are of unrivalled quality and highly recommended for present consumption. Of all Wine Merchants.

capital is £170,000, divided into Preference and Ordinary shares, and £110,000 Four and a Half per Cent. Mortgage Debenture stock, issued at £102 per cent.

The capital asked for these Breweries is excessive, and a Debenture stock of £110,000 is far too large in proportion to the assets to be considered a safe investment.

The "Moses Moss" Toy Fund.

I am pleased to find that my appeal to my readers for contributions towards the Truth Toy Fund has been further responded to. There is, however, still great need of funds, and I should be glad to be favoured with contributions from the other numerous readers of my remarks. Last week I was able to announce a total of £120. 12s. 6d., and I have since received the following subscriptions:—

Woolf Joel, £25; Whitaker Wright, £20; W. Mendel, £5; J. L. L., £1. 1s.; W. F. Orriss, £2. 2s.; Old Ebor, £1.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents:—

Government, &c., Bonds.

F. O.—Although no settlement has yet been arrived at with regard to the future treatment of the National Debt, prospects are very favourable. *N. T., Bath.*—Yes, I consider Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income bonds as very promising. See remarks under "Foreigners and South Americans."

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

T. T.—I do not exactly see what risk you would run in endeavouring to obtain the return suggested, as long as you do not promise these people any very large profit, and make sure they do not stick to the money. *H. A. M.*—No reason to sell, at present, the Eastern Bank shares in question, but you must of course understand that they are a speculative security. *Paris.*—I gave full particulars of the dealings of Cunliffe, Russell, & Co., 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris, in the issue of Truth dated October 22. You had better find out what they will give you for these bonds now, and if they do not place you on proper terms, I should be pleased to give you the name of a respectable firm of foreign bankers who will do so. *Ipswich.*—I quite agree with you that steps should be taken by the Postmaster-General to prevent the posting of touting circulars for German lotteries in England. *Curious, Belfast.*—I must refer you to my letter, which gives full information on such subjects. Dunlop Deferred certainly look promising, and so do Bovril Deferred. The last dividend paid on Johnnies was 15 per cent., and no further dividend is due yet. *Xmas.*—I advise you to have nothing to do with this outside concern, the system of which I do not like. *C. C. B.*—I should think that the paper, the name of which I send you in your envelope, should suit you. It costs only 1d. weekly, is published on Saturday, and gives full information on financial matters. *P. J. B.*—1. A fair South African banking institution, the shares should recover again. 2. If matters in Brazil should improve, this bank should be all right. 3. I prefer No. 1. *S. O. X.*—You should have nothing to do with the Insurances Corporation, which I have already criticised unfavourably. I am referring again to this concern under "Various Investments.

Home Rails.

F. Cleve.—Your selection of North British Three per Cent. Preferred is a good one, and this dividend is quite safe for the present. *Felix.*—Yes, I think that North-Western Ordinary stock is promising in view of the excellent traffics; but, from the point of view of the yield, Brighton "A" and Caledonian Deferred (Coras) are the best.

American and Foreign Rails.

J. G. C.—A well-secured bond; but it might be advisable to now await the arrangements at present being made for the reconstruction of the road before buying. *Saddlewood.*—I advise you to hold your American Railroad bonds; they are likely to improve considerably. *Jumbo.*—The City Editor of the daily paper in question always looks at matters in the darkest light; you should take no notice of this. The Baltimore and Ohio will, no doubt, be reconstructed on a sound basis. *J. B. L.*—I see no particular reason for selling Cordoba Central Seven per Cent. Preference shares; but if you were to change them for Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income bonds you would probably see a quicker profit, and these are also a safe investment with immediate dividends. See remarks under "Foreigners and South Americans."

Mining Shares.

Yorks.—A fair mining risk, but it would be preferable to await further development. *Amicus.*—Fair mining risks, but at present neglected. *Ebor.*—1. It is quite correct that the Directors of the Hawk's View ought to give the fullest information as regards the mine. 2. I have all along taken an unfavourable view of the Golden Plum. What you say about the reconstruction is correct. 3. I do not think much of this, but I should think it would be advisable to hold all mining shares, as better prices are expected in the new year. The Hannan's Golden Group and Golden Treasure are in the rich Hannan's district, in which the Lake View Consols, Ivanhoe, and Great Boulder are also situated. *Corrigenda.*—Your shares Nos. 1-3 are likely to come into notice again in the new year, and should be held. *Crusoe, Galway.*—Hold for an improvement. *Watchman.*—Yes, Hannan's Proprietary should be held for a recovery. *Dabbles.*—Take a quick profit whenever you can. *Benare.*—1. Yes, Heidelburg Estates are a promising purchase. 2. This is also a fair mining risk. 3. No. 4. I should think so, but I do not like this system of forward delivery. *J. Pye.*—Yes, the West Australian shares *a*, *b*, and *c* are worth locking up. *Gold.*—The dividends are generally paid at the end of July and December. Robinsons are a good purchase. *A. E. F.*—I cannot reply by letter. 1 and 2. Yes, but wait until a suitable plan is worked out. Amongst the shares mentioned by you, Lady Shenton (3), White Feather Reward (8), Burbanks Birthday (9), Cue No. 1 (10), Great Boulder Main Reef (12), and Mainland Consols (13) are the most promising, but all should be held for a recovery. *A. L., Sutton Courtney.*—Hold La Reine d'Or, and buy more to average. The mine has now entered a promising stage. Also hold the other mines. *Accuracy.*—Yes; I still advise purchase of La Reine d'Or. These are preferable to the others. *White Hussar.*—Yes; hold for a recovery. *Smubs.*—Hold all your mining shares Nos. 1-9, and average Nos. 1-3, if you can take them up. *A. M. S.*—I should prefer holding African Estates. *J. B. A.*—When Hit or Miss rose to 1½-¾ I recommended all my readers to clear their profits. At present I say hold. *Mack.*—Yes; I think it is a good opportunity to buy gold mining shares before Christmas, and you can find all the necessary advice in to-day's letter. *Randfonteins.*—No; you are not entitled to the Porges Randfontein bonus which was declared much earlier. *Poker Flat.*—They never reached that price buyers. *Chien de Montargis.*—There is no doubt that this property will eventually prove very valuable and before the slump is over, the shares will recover. *H. S. B.*—I have repeatedly stated that the Directors of the Abercorn Reefs are behaving very badly to the shareholders, who ought to combine to turn them out. *Colonel, Clitheroe.*—I have repeatedly expressed a very unfavourable view of Major Buttle's Great Work Mining and Development Syndicate. Have nothing to do with it. *G. H.*—More money was wanted for development and additional machinery. *Earles.*—No option but to hold for a recovery. *John G.*—1. Yes. 2. Possibly. 3. There ought to be in view of the general improvement in the Indian Mining market. 4. Hold Thames Hauraki. 5. Yes. *Fum Fum.*—Hold your Mining shares Nos. 1 to 3 for a recovery. *Rosebud.*—You must be aware how general has been the slump in the Mining market. There is no option but to hold for a recovery. *Old Jersey.*—1. Hold for a recovery. No option but to hold No. 2. Hold all the rest for a rise. I gave particulars of the position of No. 5 a fortnight ago. *D. McC.*—There is a fair prospect for the mine, and matters should improve in the new year. *Justice.*—If you do not consider the terms fair, why do you not combine with other shareholders to resist them? *Jona.*—1. Yes, probably. 2. Yes, Croydon Consols are still an excellent purchase. 3. No particular reason to sell Paddington Consols. 4. No, Mysore Gold are improving on the duplicating movement. 5. Yes. *Snips.*—Yes, Croydon Consols are an excellent purchase, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment ditto. *J. L. L.*—Thanks for the contribution to the Toy Fund. I am glad you are doing so well in Croydon Consols on my advice. *Bolton.*—I do not advise buying more. Wait. *Snipe.*—1. Hold Hannan's Proprietary. 2. The same applies to the others, and certainly keep Taitapu for a rise. *Investor, Accrington.*—Yes, the Mining shares Nos. 1-3 are promising. *A. F., Huddersfield.*—I do not like St. John del Rey and Deccans. *My All.*—Yes, Johnnies should be held for a rise. *W. C. M.*—You must have read all about the Glencairn and Glenlnce, if you are a regular reader of my letter. *A. X.*—I think you will find this South African Company come into favour again with the new year. *G. W., Manchester.*—1. The mine will resume crushing next year. 2. I do not like this concern at all. 3. I am not aware of this. 4. You should hold London and Globe for an important rise. *H. A. B.*—The Company naturally shares in the general depression of the West Australian market. *Bradford.*—Respectable and straightforward. I should prefer Croydon Consols. Hold the others. *Whink.*—The first two are fair mining risks. I do not like the third. *Delta.*—Hold for a recovery. *Studlands.*—No option but to hold No. 1, they should recover again. The same applies

Mortlock's (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "Mortlock's" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

China and Glass. — Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

to Nos. 2 and 3. *Altenburg.*—A fair lock-up. *J. R. N.*—My information does not agree with yours. But I certainly think that the shareholders should insist upon this mine being put in order.

Industrial Shares.

Imperial.—I have not a favourable view of Showell's Stockport Brewery Ordinary shares. *R. H. W.*—Yes, I consider new Bovril Ordinary and Swift Cycles a fair purchase. I do not think so much of the other cycle shares. *S. D., Dulwich.*—You should hold your Bovril shares for a rise. They are already better, and when the "Stags" have cleared out, a sharp advance is probable. I do not think much of the other industrial Companies mentioned by you. *Q. O. C.*—1. I do not like Beeston Pneumatic Tyre shares. 2. Bovrils are likely to improve. *Fearful.*—Why did you apply for British Motor Syndicate shares after my severe criticisms. As you have not followed my advice how can I help you? *Bed.*—No; I do not advise purchase of City of London Electric Lighting shares. *F. O.*—1. Yes, Bovril shares are likely to recover; hold. 2. There is no special market yet for Paquin, Limited, but the Company is stated to be doing well, and you should hold. 3. I do not like Starley Brothers & Westwood. 4. Swift Cycles should certainly be held for a rise, the Company is doing exceedingly well. Have nothing to do with the Cycling Industries Corporation. *H. D., Battle.*—I cannot possibly tell you what the profits of the London Canning Company will be in the future, but the invention is evidently a most valuable one, and the Company ought to do well. *Oro.*—Both are promising Australian investments, but you must distinctly understand that they are to some extent speculative. *W. W. B.*—I have an unfavourable opinion of Concentric Tubes, and do not advise their purchase. *H. H., Derby.*—Yes, I think favourably of the Acatène Cycle Company, and said so when the prospectus was issued. *Avalon.*—1. Shares are very often quoted ex dividend before the dividend is actually paid; but you need but claim the same from your broker. 2. I do not think much of this brewery. *Didsbury.*—I have a favourable opinion of Paquin, Limited, and expressed this when the Company was issued. With reference to the dividend on Dunlops, you simply have to claim the same. *Ajax.*—Yes, I still have a favourable opinion of Bovril Ordinary and Deferred, and recent statements made by Lord Playfair are very much in favour of the Company. You will realise a profit before the time mentioned by you. *Sydenham.*—These shares are quoted about par, and you should certainly hold them, as prospects are satisfactory. *W. J.*—1. No; I do not advise purchase of Simpson's Lever Chains; this concern is not at all promising. 2. The capital is too large. 3. The Dunlop Company is doing remarkably well, and an improvement is probable. *C. O. W.*—You must be aware that I hold a very unfavourable opinion of the British Motor Syndicate. If you had cancelled your application at once you might have recovered your money. As you did not do so, I cannot help you.

Mixed Investments.

Ironsides.—I advise you to hold all your West Australian shares Nos. 1 to 4 for a rise; also Nos. 5 and 6. No reason to sell Nos. 6 and 7, and No. 8 is one of the best Australian banks. *Doubt.*—There is no reason for selling your Dunlop Deferred (1) or Gladiators (2); both are likely to improve, as the Companies are doing well, and the "Bears" will probably fare badly. Taitapu Estates (3) should also be held for a rise. *Business.*—You should not sell the mining shares at all now, and certainly hold your French Dunlops and Gladiators. *Whist.*—You should hold all your mining shares Nos. 1 to 6 for a rise. Although some of your Cycle shares Nos. 7 to 11 are not at all well selected, I should think that even in their case an improvement in the new year is quite on the cards. *Urquhart.*—Hold your American Railroad bonds, Nos. 1, 4, and 6, which are sure to appreciate; and there is no reason to sell Nos 2 and 3 now. If you want to buy more American Railroad bonds you should make your selection from the list given in Truth on December 10. *Prodigious.*—No reason to sell your Coras or North British Deferred (Nos. 1 and 2); the position of these lines is so favourable that you should hold for a rise. No option but to hold your mining shares until next year, when much better prices may be anticipated. *E. L.*—Hold Langlaagte Block B and the other mining share for an improvement. No reason to sell the Brewery Debenture stock. *F. C., Ramsgate.*—I see no objection to your proposed investments Nos. 1 to 5. The Northern Pacific Prior Lien bonds will eventually be quoted in the official list of the London Stock Exchange, but do not appear there yet as the reconstruction is of recent date. The question as to the money to be left to you is one for a solicitor to answer. North British Deferred and Districts are a capital speculation, also Caledonian Deferred. I regret that as a matter of principle I cannot give you the name of a stockbroker. *J. W., Blackpool.*—You should certainly keep Paquins (2) and Croydon Consols (3). Neither is there any reason for selling West Australian Joint Stock Trust (4) or Northern Territories Goldfields (5). No option but to hold No. 1.

Various Investments.

A great deal of attention has of late been given to the money outlook and to its probable influence upon the Stock markets. Quite a money squeeze is anticipated in some quarters, but *The Times* and other daily contemporaries have been so persistent in their warnings that I should think that those connected with the Stock markets would have taken every precaution to secure the necessary funds for the end of December settlement, after which the release of the dividends will probably bring renewed ease. The demand for gold for Germany has subsided to some extent, and it would also appear as if gold shipments to India have been averted for the present through the passing of the Bill increasing the note circulation. A new Indian loan of one million and a-half to two millions, through the issue of Bills is, however, looked for. While the improvement of trade must necessitate an increasing demand upon the surplus funds, there is at present no indication that there will be any undue pressure after the turn of the year, although we cannot expect a return to the low rates current some time ago. Silver has fallen to 29⅞d., and Rupee Paper has also eased off to 62½. India stock, however, has hardly moved, and Colonial Bonds have displayed a steady tone. Consols, on the other hand, have experienced a sharp decline to 110⅞ for the account, chiefly on the advance in the Money Market. A fair business has been transacted in Cycle shares, although no upward movement is expected before next year. Dunlop Deferred remain at 1½, Humber Ordinary and Extension at 1¼; but New Beeston have dropped to 2¾. Swift Cycles have been dealt in to some extent at ⅛ premium, while Gladiators have eased off slightly to $\frac{5}{16}$ premium. Bagot Tyre shares remain at 2⅝ premium, and a special settlement has been granted for January 6. The shares in Bovril, Limited, have improved on the very favourable statements made by Lord Playfair, the Deferred and Preferred being quoted at par to ⅛ premium, and the Ordinary still stand at ⅛ discount to par. Turner Pneumatic Tyre shares have come into some demand at 1⅝. This Company's capital is only £60,000, while, in addition to the valuable lever patents for Great Britain, France, Germany, and the United States, they have a very broad licence under the Dunlop-Welch patents. The fact that the Directors recently refused an offer for the Company, equal to £3 per share, opens up a hopeful prospect. When the Insurance Corporation, Limited, was placed before the public I expressed an adverse view of it. I see that the Contract Agency, of 63 and 64, New Broad-street (whoever that may be), is offering, by circular dated the 15th inst., "a few thousand of the original Ordinary shares of £10 each at £1 per share premium, instead of the proposed £2 per share premium payable by others." On December 8 an issue of Insurances Corporation shares was advertised at £2 premium, and the list closed on December 11; while on the 16th inst. the Secretary of the Insurances Corporation wrote to the *Financial Times* stating that the Directors wholly condemned the procedure of the promoters. It must be admitted that the whole of these proceedings are calculated to bring the concern into discredit, and my readers will do well to follow my original advice to leave the shares alone. Amongst the coming new industrial undertakings to be placed before the public is an amalgamation of four leading firms of carriage manufacturers, also the conversion of another decorating and furnishing firm. Vimbos and the Wicks Type Founding Machinery Company (a rival of the Linotype) have been put off to the new year. A prospectus of Westphalite, Limited, is being circulated for the purpose of obtaining underwriting, but one would say that there are already enough nitrate of ammonia explosives being worked. — Your affectionate Uncle,

MOSES.

"After having once used 'Cerebos' I cannot endure the common table salt. Cerebos is so dainty, so fine, so dry, and never goes lumpy." All the best Grocers and Stores keep it. In large tins, 6d. and 1s.

Kinahan's LL Whisky.—"The Cream of Old Irish Whiskies." Kinahan's LL Whisky. Gold Medal Paris Exhibition, 1878. Kinahan's Glenisle Whisky. The Finest Scotch Whisky sold.

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QUEER STORY.

UNDER THE MISTLETOE.

"PISH! You insensate image. You're no judge. I don't suppose that you ever kissed a pretty girl under the mistletoe in your life."

"Yes I did——once."

"You did?"

"I did."

"I say, you fellows, here's bachelor Bruff, the misogynist, calmly confessing that he has positively kissed a pretty girl under the mistletoe——once!"

"By Jove! What's that? Bruff kiss a girl! I can't believe it."

"Nor I. When was it?"

"Where was it?"

"Who was she?"

And all the occupants of the smoking-room turned to chaff the insensate image, who, with rich, not to say foul, pipe in mouth, and hands folded comfortably over waistcoat, was lazily digesting the large and excellent dinner which lay inside.

"I don't wonder at your being surprised," said this placid gentleman, noways discomposed by their banter, "I was surprised myself."

"Tell us who she was now? A flame of yours, Bruff?"

"No. A flame of some one's else. And I kissed her under his nose."

"By George! And didn't he knock you down for your impudence?"

"Oh, no. He was quite friendly. Actually wanted to compare notes. The funniest thing in the world, though deuced embarrassing, I vowed never to place myself in such a position again."

"And you never have?"

"Never."

"How long ago did this episode occur, Bruff?"

"Twelve years to-morrow."

"It was on a Christmas day, then?"

"Yes."

"Hang you, Bruff! Don't be so jolly monosyllabic. Be more confidential—more communicative, you miser of words. You know we're bursting to hear all about it. Gratify our curiosity."

"If you wish," said Bruff, complacently. "It is a long yarn, though. I shall have to begin at the beginning, and the kiss comes right at the end. I dare say I shall take twenty minutes getting to it."

"We don't mind if you take an hour—so long as you do get to it? Eh, gentlemen?"

"Not we."

"Rather not."

"It's early yet."

"Fire ahead."

"Very well," said Bruff, settling himself into a still more digestive attitude, and blinking lazily at the fire. "If you are really prepared to listen, I don't mind spinning the yarn. So here goes:

"It happened, as I have told you, twelve years ago to-morrow. I was living in London at the time, but I was accustomed, then, to spend my Christmases with an uncle in Hertfordshire. The old gentleman used to be very fond of me, and his house was a sort of second home to my unworthy self. I am sorry to say that he is fond of me no longer, and that I am now a stranger to that hospitable roof. The fact is, he was bent on my marrying my cousin, his daughter and heiress, and I offended him by crying off. There were one or two little reasons for this both on the lady's part and on mine. I didn't want to marry at all; and I didn't want to marry her. Also, she didn't want to marry me, and she did want to marry some one else. It seemed to me that this was a sufficient barrier to the scheme. My uncle was of the contrary opinion. He damned my cousin—a poor, timid girl—into consenting; then he tried to damn me. I wasn't to be damned. We parted, and have not since spoken. However, this is by the way.

"In those days we had not yet quarrelled, and I had made all my arrangements to spend Christmas at my uncle's as usual. You may imagine my annoyance, therefore, when I received a wire from the old boy on Christmas Eve—only an hour before I was due to start—saying that scarlet fever had broken out among his servants, and that he and all the family were in quarantine.

"Of course, it was then too late to make other arrangements. There was nothing for it but to stop in town. I summoned my landlady and told her what had happened. This worthy woman pulled a face as long as your arm.

"'Goodness gracious me!' she exclaimed, throwing up her hands, 'and there's Sool and me and Tommy fixed to spend Christmas with Sool's mother, and to send Sarah Jane for 'er 'oliday, and leave the key with Mrs. Giles next door.'

"'Well, my dear Mrs. Sewell,' I told her, 'there is no reason why either you or Sarah Jane should be done out of your holiday. I am an old campaigner. I can fend for myself. Just let me have the run of the coal-cellar and the larder, and I'll manage splendidly.'

"'Goodness gracious me, Mr. Bruff, I couldn't never think of such a thing.'

"'I'll be careful of the coals, Mrs. Sewell, and I won't be too rough on the larder.'

"'Lor, sir, now you're larfin' at me. I didn't mean that. I meant I never couldn't let a gentleman like you do for hisself. But I tell you what, sir. If you could do without much waiting upon, there's Mrs. Giles next door, now. I know she'd oblige by just coming in and making your bed and cooking you a bit of dinner, sir. I'll run in and arst her this minute.'

"It ended, therefore, in my being left to the mercies of Mrs. Giles next door. And I am bound to say that Mrs. Giles did me very well. She cooked me a goose and a plum-pudding for my Christmas dinner, which, owing to the exigencies of Mrs. Giles's family arrangements, had to be served at early mid-day. She then withdrew to the company of Giles and the little G.'s, promising to look in again about tea-time; while I sat me down to my solitary feed. I had never dined alone on Christmas-day before. It made me feel awfully dull and mopish. The goose was tender and succulent; Mrs. Giles had cooked it to a turn; the plum-pudding was of orthodox blackness and solidity; the Stilton of exactly a right degree of rottenness. I washed these viands down with '74 Bollinger. But I was bored, melancholy, wretched.

"I rose from the table and went to the window. The prospect did not serve to enliven me. It was the prospect of a damp, deserted, foggy, sloppy street. There was not a soul abroad. It was like a street in a city of the dead; one of those 'mouldy' scenes in Tartarus that Homer, or Virgil, or some johnny mentions somewhere. I lit a cigar and began to ruminate upon gloomy subjects, appropriate to my feelings; graveyards and funerals, and harrowing scenes of pain and parting and death. In the midst of these sombre, though congenial, meditations, I was disturbed by a profane sound of whistling. Some insensible wretch—some tough, impervious, unimpressionable pachyderm—was whistling a jaunty, jovial tune in the damp, deserted, foggy, sloppy street.

"I looked carefully. Through the gloom I dimly descried a man, seated on a doorstep opposite. He was a gaunt, tattered, skin-and-bones sort of creature, palpably a loafer and a vagrant. What on earth such a miserable outcast should find to whistle about I could not conceive. But whistle he did right lustily, with trills and chirps and impromptu variations, as though the simple tune afforded too little scope for his exuberance of spirit. It seemed to me that a man who could bubble over with buoyancy under such conditions could be no ordinary character. I acted on a sudden impulse. I went out into the street and accosted him.

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"'Pray don't think me inquisitive,' I said, 'but what makes you whistle like that?'

"The vagrant eyed me rather askance. He mistook the purport of my question, evidently supposing that I wished to find fault.

"''Cos I choose,' he answered, with some defiance. 'A bloke may toon up, if he likes, I suppose? I ain't a blooming barrel-organ. You can't move me on!'

"'My good man, I don't wish to move you on. I am making no complaint. I merely asked for the sake of information. It was a civil question, surely? What *does* make you whistle?'

"'Ah well, if that's all—'cos I feels chirpy, like the little dickies.'

"'And may I ask—merely for information again—what makes you feel chirpy in all this confounded fog and slop? Do you think it in accordance with the fitness of things to feel chirpy amid such surroundings?'

"'Well, if you must know,' replied the loafer, 'I feels chirpy 'cos it only wants twenty minutes to my dinner; and I'm going to have a good one. That's why!'

"'I wonder,' I inquired, 'what is your idea of a good dinner, my friend?'

"'Aha!' he said, with a rich, long-drawn chuckle. 'Aha!' (rubbing his hands). 'I was round at the cook-shop yesterday. I saw their bill of fare for Christmas Day, and I spotted what I'd have. Sausage-meat fried in onions—large plate—much as you can eat—four d.; smashed pertaters, big help, two d.; chunk of bread, one d.; pot of ale, from public round the corner, four d.; screw of terbacker, one d. What d'ye mike of that, guv'nor? Aha!' (again rubbing his hands). 'A blow out for an alderman. And orl for one robert!'

"'Tell me now, my friend,' I asked him, 'how you would like roast goose, with apple sauce, plum pudding, Stilton cheese full of jumpers, half a bottle of wine, and a glass of spirits and a good cigar to top up with—eh?'

"He regarded me with a puzzled, doubtful stare.

"'You're tiking a bloke on,' he said.

"'No, I'm not. You can have it, if you like, at this very minute. The roast goose, with apple sauce, the plum pudding, the Stilton cheese full of jumpers, the wine, the spirits, the cigar. What do you say to it?'

"He still regarded me dubiously.

"'A robert won't run to orl that,' he muttered.

"'I mean that I will stand treat. Are you on?'

"'Show us a charnce,' said this loafer, smacking his blue lips.

"'I will. Come in there, with me, now. The goose, the plum-pudding, the cheese, the wine, the spirits are still on the table; and there's a box of weeds on the mantelpiece. Come along.'

"He rose from his seat on the doorstep and followed me across the street. When we reached the doorway of my diggings, he laid a grimy, blue-red hand upon my sleeve and stopped me.

"'Guv'nor,' he remarked, eyeing me very keenly. 'This is all fair and square, eh? This ain't no trap to get hold of a bloke and worry him, eh? You ain't no bloomin' guardian of the poor, or lay-reader, or teetotal cove, are yer?'

"'Certainly not, my good man. Do I look that sort?'

"'Well, ter do yer justice, no. But appearances is orful deceptive. The only teetotaller I ever knowed, personally, had the drunkenest looking nose in London.'

"'Make your mind quite easy about me. I have a bottle of good stuff under my belt now.'

"This statement seemed to satisfy him of my bona fides; and we passed together into my outer room.

"I bade him be seated at table—a command which he obeyed with alacrity. Then I helped him to the goose and apple sauce. Some of you young fellows here play a famous knife and fork after a run to hounds, but you are mere dilettante diners compared with that loafer. I have never seen such a no-nonsense-about-him-feeder before or since. His methods were simple, energetic, straightforward; free from all silly affectation of trifling, from anything in the shape of polite dalliance. He went for the goose fair and square; and the goose came very badly out of the encounter. When he attacked it, it had one wing, a breast, and two legs. All that survived was the skeleton and a single drumstick. To be sure, the bird had left its marks upon the victor, who bore upon his person many honourable stains. If I had not been an eye-witness, I should have conceived it impossible for any man to anoint himself so copiously with gravy. His cheeks, his chin, his fingers, were a miracle of greasiness. They glistened and shone as though they had been tallowed.

"Not till the goose was finished down to that one drumstick, did he speak a word. Then he lay back in his chair, rubbed his hands, smacked his unctuous lips, and said, with heavy emphasis on the verb:

"'Well, this *is* O.K.'

"'Now try some of this,' I said, carving a huge wedge from the plum-pudding.

"'Thank'ee, guv'nor.'

"He made short work of that helping, and came twice again. He was also distinctly severe on the Stilton. I dare say his consumption of jumpers ran well into four figures. Then I mixed him a tumbler of brandy and water, and gave him a cigar. I liked the way in which he sucked in the spirits, nursing the flavour about his palate with lips and tongue. It was so delightfully free from artifice; so full of natural enjoyment. But his power of verbal expression was more or less paralysed by the intensity of his feelings, and the only words he could find to describe them were a repetition of his former phrase, with even heavier emphasis on the verb:

"'Well, this IS O.K.!'

"'My friend,' I said to him, as we sat and smoked, 'you spoke, a short while back, of spending the sum of one robert upon your Christmas dinner. Forgive me if such an inquiry may seem unduly personal, but does that humble coin represent the sum total of your financial effects?'

"'Lord love yer, guv'nor! How yer do caterchise a bloke! But if yer must know—yes.'

"'And I take it,' I observed, 'that, very often, to put your assets even at one robert would be to overstate them.'

"'Well, you are one to turn a cove inside out. But I'll not tell yer no lies.'

"I suppose I was rather mad, or had drunk too much Bollinger. Anyway I did a fatuous thing. I happened to have five sovereigns about me. I produced them and placed them in a little pile on the table.

"'There's five pounds, my friend,' I said. 'You may take the lot—on one condition. You must tell me how you're going to spend it.'

"'Eh?' he exclaimed; 'tike the lot! Me pouch them five thick 'uns! Well, guv'nor, there's only one word to describe yer. Yer a dook.'

"'But how shall you spend them?'

"I thought he would be overcome at the prospect of laying out such vast wealth; that it would take him long and laborious thought to decide. It did not, in the least.

"'Oh, I know how I'll spend 'em,' he said, without hesitation, rubbing his hands, delightedly. "I'll buy two new barrels of noo toons for my Jemima's orgin—that's how I'll spend 'em.'

"'Is Jemima your young woman?'

"'That's just wot she is, guv'nor. And she runs an orgin. But the toons is old and the tikings small. This 'll pretty well treble 'em. We shall be able to get tied up on this.'

"He puffed at his cigar and lay back in his chair, jingling the five thick 'uns in his breeches pocket the while. I have never seen a man look quite so radiant with pleasure. It oozed from every pore in his face, and added its shine to that of the grease and gravy. For the third time, he repeated his formula of encomium, now with superlative emphasis on the verb.

"'Well—this IS O.K.!'

"Then he suddenly sprang up from his seat.

"'Look here, guv'nor,' he said, eagerly. 'Yer don't know wot you've done for me this day. But if yer wos to see Jemima, yer might understand better And yer shall see 'er, for I'm agoin' to fetch 'er.'

"'Pray,' I expostulated, rather aghast at that. 'Pray do not think of taking this trouble. I'm quite satisfied, my friend, with——'

"'Trouble!' he interrupted. 'Tain't no trouble, not where Jemima's concerned. Not much, eh! (winking). And I tell yer wot it is guv'nor; yer've behaved ter me like such a bloomin' dook, that dam if I don't mike Jemima bring her orgin along, and play you a toon or two out of downright compliment.'

"'Oh, really! I beg! I could not think——'

"But he was already out of the room, and a second or two later I saw his lank, long-legged figure travelling down the street at a sprawling double.

"I felt confoundedly 'taken to,' as my old nurse used to say in the days of my nipperhood. I didn't at all relish the prospect of a call from Jemima, and if there is one thing that I hate more than another, it is a barrel organ; especially when the tunes are stale. However, the fellow was gone, and I could not stop him. I therefore had to await the return of him, his Jemima, and the organ, with what equanimity I could muster.

"In about half an hour an organ suddenly struck up in the street below. I looked out of the window. There was my loafer and Jemima. Jemima was turning the handle; her lover held his right arm round her waist. On catching sight of me at the window, the latter greeted me with a proud and beaming smile. He then said a word to Jemima, and Jemima smiled up most graciously, and kissed her disengaged hand to me. I was thankful that the street was deserted. I was more than thankful that the respectable Mrs. Giles was not due until tea-time. Jemima was a stumpy little girl, with a big hat, a tumbled outfit that hung about her like a sack, and boots grievously trodden over. She had bright eyes, a dirty, pretty face, and matted black hair that might have been slept in since last Christmas. Altogether, as touzled a little drab of a Venus as you could wish to find.

"They played me several tunes on the organ, for which I bowed my thanks. Then the loafer linked his arm in Jemima's, and led her towards my street door. My heart sank. I guessed what was coming. I was to make Jemima's acquaintance. I heard them stumbling up the stairs, and a minute later I was receiving them in my room.

"'Look'ee, guv'nor,' said my friend, 'Jemima's been so fetched by your doocal behaviour that nothing 'll satisfy her but a personal interduction, and here she is!'

"I bowed, and said that I was charmed indeed.

"Jemima smirked with the utmost affability. I moved forward a chair and begged her to be seated. She shook her head, and her lover explained:—

"'We ain't no time to stop now, guv'nor. Jemima's got an engigement, and she'll have to be slopin' in half a tick. But there's just one little thing we'd like to do. Me and Jemima have settled it up on the way. It's the best we can do to show our gratitood to yer, and mike yer able to appreciate what a good turn yer've done to yours trooly. I'm agreeble, and she's agreeble, in fack we're both agreeble, that yer should give Jemima—a kiss!'

"'A—a—what?' I exclaimed, feeling suddenly faint at this unexpected and appalling offer.

"'A kiss, guv'nor. And that's wot neither she nor I would let another bloke in England tike. But y'er to have it, voluntary—'cos you've showed yourself a reel dook!'

"'Upon my word,' I said, hurriedly, 'This is awfully good of you; but I really couldn't think of trespassing, of —er—taking such a liberty, I—I——'

"'It's no trespass and it's no liberty, 'cos we're both agreeble,' said the loafer, with conscious generosity. 'Yer've give me a treat, guv'nor, and dam if I don't give yer a treat in return. And ter mike orl proper and seasonable, yer shall kiss Jemima under this, which I sneaked yesterday orf a coster's barrow.' (He had produced a sprig of mistletoe from his pocket, and was waving it in the air.) 'Now, then, Jemima, let the dook tike his reward.'

"Jemima stepped forward, and held up her dirty, pretty face towards me with complete unreserve, yet with the air of one who confers a great favour, and knows it. The loafer brandished his sprig of mistletoe above her preposterous hat. Seen at close quarters, Jemima's face looked not less pretty, indeed, but distinctly dirtier. However, my native politeness did not fail me. I sternly repressed a shudder; then nerved myself for the effort.

"I stooped. My moustache brushed Jemima's grimy mouth. The brim of her huge hat rumpled my front hair. Even in that dreadful moment I repressed a shudder. It was a work of Herculean self-command. But I repressed it.

"They then bade me farewell—addressing me on a footing of equality; clearly conscious that if they had accepted a benefit, they had at any rate given good value in exchange.

"My loafer lingered behind a moment. 'Aha-a-a!' he chuckled, winking, and rubbing his hands. 'Aha-a-a-a. Toothsome little kiss, guv'nor—ain't she?'

"And that, gentlemen, is the one occasion in my life on which I have kissed a pretty girl under the mistletoe."

MUSIC.

THE SIX VOICES CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS.

UNTIL last week, when Mr. Granville Bantock and five of his progressive fellow-students gave an orchestral concert at Queen's Hall, few had any idea that English music was in such a parlous condition. Although five at least of the young composers represented at this performance had already been accorded a trial, either at the Crystal Palace, at Queen's Hall, or elsewhere, it was nevertheless gravely asserted:—

> The chances of obtaining a hearing at the now numerous orchestral concerts in London are so remote, owing to the prevailing taste for foreign music, that the present concert is ventured upon as an experiment by several of the younger generation. . . . If there is a public, be it ever so small, to encourage a native effort of this kind, the welcome will not be met in a churlish spirit. If, on the other hand, the result of this concert is to be recorded as footnotes of musical history have already too often been written, those who are represented here to-night will have the satisfaction of failing in most excellent company.

The audience was small enough in all conscience—smaller, in fact, than at the recent performances of French music in London. There was, therefore, something pathetic in the suggestion that, as to the young English musician of the period, "his fellow countrymen should be ready with the bread, instead of waiting to place the traditional stone over his grave." The funds, it seems, did not run to a preliminary advertisement of this and much similar bathos, or the conduct of audiences towards Mr. Bantock and his five friends would have been even more inexplicable. The fact that these youthful gentlemen are not in any way distinguished ought, indeed, in the judgment of the new generation, to be an all-sufficient reason for crowding the house. It is so, as we know, in the opinion of the youthful dramatist, who, finding a difficulty in placing his poetical tragedy in seven acts, declaims against the crass commercialism of the age, and declares that among theatrical managers there is no such thing as a love of Art, with a capital A. Nevertheless, the audience last week was so small that the Six cried in the Wilderness in vain. The shame is to the public, who should forthwith be exterminated, leaving the Six to form a little Tooley-street Mutual Admiration Society, without fear of "foreign" or other rivalry.

In Mr. Bantock's case concert managers are especially open to censure. This gentleman, it appears, has written a musical version of Southey's poem, "The Curse of Kehama." A curse, as we know from the reports of the divorce and the police-courts, is attractive to all classes, from the highest to the lowest. Mr. Bantock describes his particular half-guinea curse as a "Symphonia," and has divided it into twenty-four parts. They are mostly for orchestra, but as we were all informed—for bloated

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prejudice prevented the audience last week from making acquaintance with more than a bare twenty-fourth of the entire work—in some of the movements the "vocal element" is utilised "where the text demands such interpretation." Only the overture to Mr. Bantock's "Symphonia," which, by the way, bears the cheerful title of "The Funeral," and depicts the cremation of a Rajah's son, was performed. Mr. Bantock, therefore, hardly seemed to have the courage of his opinions, and refrained from giving us the whole curse. But a simple thing like this in twenty-four parts—the bibulous among subscribers to the Royal Opera who are accustomed to refresh after every entr'acte might describe it as a Symphonia in twenty-four drinks—ought surely to be jumped at by concert managers, were they really actuated by Art rather than by vulgar financial considerations. The first movement, or part, occupied over a quarter of an hour, so that an easy arithmetical calculation will indicate that the complete work would occupy about six hours without entr'actes. And six hours with Mr. Granville Bantock must be an agreeable experience indeed.

Another composition partly represented in the programme last week is entitled "The Divine Surrender." It is by Mr. William Wallace, and the whole work is avowedly a "Mystery Play." As the "Rhapsody of the Virgin Mary" is supposed to be spoken without music, it is assumed that this affair is primarily intended for the stage, where it is well known the Lord Chamberlain's Licenser invariably welcomes Mystery Plays, and, in fact, everything upon Biblical topics. Mr. William Wallace, therefore, has as real a practical grievance against the managers as has his friend Mr. Bantock. He likewise is as shaky as to the courage of his opinions. The "Rhapsody" in question was the only excerpt from the "Mystery Play" performed at last week's concert, but, instead of being recited by "Mary Magdalene on receiving the news of the Resurrection," it was especially, and for this occasion only, set as a soprano solo of the French pattern. Another work given at this concert was the overture to Mr. Bantock's "Eugene Aram," which, as the programme says, is a four act opera based upon Lord Lytton's novel. There is so great a demand for four-act tragic operas by English composers, that no one will be astonished Mr. Bantock has devoted his valuable time to such a composition. Indeed, unless Lady de Grey and her friends be willing at once to accept this delectable effort, to be played as a trilogy with the curse aforesaid, and "The Rhapsody of the Virgin Mary," Covent Garden is a useless institution, and the Royal opera might shut up shop. Mr. Arthur Hinton, with an effective orchestral Fantasia, entitled "The Triumph of Cæsar," and Mr. Reginald Steggall, with a vocal scena, "Elaine," were less ambitious and more practical, so that they hardly deserved notice at all. Nevertheless, as they achieved the principal successes of the evening, it is obvious that, with an unenlighted Queen's Hall audience, real Art goes for nothing.

Both the Crystal Palace and Popular Concert season closed last Saturday. At Sydenham, a movement from one of Bach's Brandenburg concertos was given, with Mr. Fransella as flautist and Mr. Belinski as violinist and Miss Fanny Davies as pianist. At St. James's Hall, M. Fauré made his first appearance at the last Pop, and with M. Wolff played his early violin sonata in A, originally produced in London at one of M. Wolff's own concerts. Miss Beatrice Frost, a talented young soprano with a fine voice and manifold artistic gifts, has made a successful début at Steinway Hall. The Royal College and Royal Academy students have given their breaking-up concerts, in neither case producing any special novelty, and we have had a Wagner concert at Queen's Hall. Except as to the Christmas and Sunday concerts, music will now be suspended until after the New Year.

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ART NOTES.

PERHAPS the most interesting feature of the Winter Exhibition of what is colloquially known as the "Old Water Colour Society" is Mr. Harry Quilter's preface to the Catalogue. Like all that is written by Mr. Whistler's once favourite enemy this preface has the unfailing Quilterian characteristics; and whilst nominally indited by way of a memorial of those members of the R. W. S. who have died during the year, is full of autobiographical remembrances and *obiter dicta* of the most refreshingly frank and outspoken kind. The Exhibition itself is not of a very stimulating or soul-satisfying description, and I certainly enjoyed Mr. Quilter's pen and ink work much more than the water-colours on the walls. There is enough of the natural man in most of us to make us enjoy the dashing way in which he once more rides a-tilt at the Royal Academy. But they are tolerably pachydermatous at Burlington House, and even if Mr. Quilter has pierced once more between the ill-fitting joints of their official armour, it is too much to hope that the Academic hide beneath has felt the point of his weapon. Assuredly, however, the non-election of the late Mr. A. W. Hunt, even to the minor honour of an Associateship, will be regarded by those who best knew his artistic qualifications as "a slight as ungenerous as it was undeserved." That Hunt himself felt it keenly and enduringly is certain, though, as Mr. Quilter truly says, the deceased artist was never in the habit of speaking bitterly on the subject.

It will come as a surprise to many to learn that the late Mr. George du Maurier was a member of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colours up to the time of his death. Regular visitors to No. 5A, Pall Mall East, however, will remember him as an occasional contributor of water-colour drawings, though so far as their technique and general effect were concerned they were tinted black and white rather than actual colour work. On this point indeed Mr. Quilter makes what seems to me a by no means unluminous critical comparison. Du Maurier's novels, he writes, "stand in relation to literature in a very similar position to that in which his tinted drawings stood to water-colour painting." His tales are, he adds, tinted outlines rather than full-bodied flesh-and-blood stories—plus the introduction of various realistic details, carefully reproduced from early experience. Peter Ibbetson and Trilby are "such stuff as dreams are made of," and "their little life" will soon be "rounded with a sleep." Lord Leighton was also a member of the R.W.S., though he probably rarely, if ever, contributed a finished water-colour to its exhibitions. Of the works of the other deceased members, Messrs. George Fripp and E. K. Johnson, I may have something to say later on.

But by way of "cutting the cackle and getting to the 'osses"—if Mr. Harry Quilter will excuse the comparison—let me say unhesitatingly that it is Mr. Albert Goodwin to whom the chief artistic honours of the present exhibition unquestionably belong. This always interesting artist again shows his power of painting a picture not only so as to express the beauty of form, colour, or technique which he feels to be in it, but also of investing it with that symbolic or dramatic interest which he is able to find in its subject. He is not content, in fact, to interpret the literal facts of nature as though he were a photographer, but claims for the landscape painter the latitude that is allowed to the figure painter. More years ago than I care to remember, I saw a drawing by Mr. Goodwin at the Exhibition of the Old Water Colour Society, called, if I mistake not, "The Siren Sea." In this he made the bold new departure he has since persisted in so determinedly, and which he maintains so successfully in his present exhibits. All the drawings he shows are worthy of attention, but perhaps the most characteristic of them are the "Pompeii" (No. 220), the "Verona" (No. 300), and the "Portsmouth—'War's Alarms'" (No. 58), the last

being a most masterly and suggestive example of the "Goodwinesque" method. The place of honour in the Show is occupied, somewhat unworthily in my opinion, by Professor Herkomer's almost brutally realistic portrait of the present Arch Druid of Wales. The likeness of "Hwfa Môn" may be a good one, but it is scarcely kind either to the Arch Druid or to Welsh Druidism to hang it on the walls of a public picture gallery.

THE SEVENTEENTH "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

IT would have afforded me much pleasure to have personally conducted the attenuated Mr. Tackleton, toy merchant, and his wizened little dingy-faced, but good hearted foreman, Caleb Plummer, round the TRUTH Show last week. Very interesting would it have been to watch the growing amazement of this ill-assorted couple as they marked the strides which have taken place in toy manufacture since they carried on the business of Gruff & Tackleton in Cricket-on-the-Hearthton, Dickenshire. Wondrous, indeed, would they have found the result of the evolutionary process which has transformed the toy horse of the Tackleton period—a sort of spotted barrel, with straight walking sticks for legs, and a narrow strip of woolly door-mat for mane—into the well-bred, faultlessly-shaped, dapple-grey chargers which pawed the air in front of the organ at the Albert Hall a few days ago. They could not but have been struck, too (especially Caleb), by the contrast between the toy barking dogs, which the latter was so laudably anxious to get "as close to Natur' as he could for sixpence," and the wonderfully exact models of sheep and cows, and lions, which baa'd and moo'd and roared at the TRUTH Show in so realistic a way as to be wellnigh terrifying to the more unsophisticated juvenile visitors. Even in Noah's Arks, in which a tendency to cling to the conventional is still apparent, they would have discovered a marked improvement, rendering it much more possible than it used to be to distinguish Ham and Japhet from Mrs. Noah, and making the flies and the grasshoppers a little less disproportionate in scale to the giraffes and elephants than they were in our happy youth. They would have missed, too, the hideous, hairy, red-eyed Jacks-in-the-Box; the melancholy little ramshackle carts, which used to emit thin wiry sounds, supposed to be musical, as their wheels went round; the sets of clumsy, shapeless, wooden tea things; the crudely mechanical cobblers who monotonously hammered lapstones—*à propos des bottes*; the stiff, nondescript wooden soldiers with lucifer match-like muskets glued to their sides that were stuck on pegs all over a ridiculous sort of parade-ground of movable trellis work, which could be elongated and contracted at pleasure like a pair of lazy-tongs; and they would have found in their places an endless assortment of the latest developments and sensations of the toy market; toys on which inventors had expended their ingenuity and mechanicians their skill; toys glowing with bright colours, toys teeming with happy surprises; toys which it would never have entered into the mind of Tackleton even in his most inspired moments to suggest, or of Caleb Plummer to construct. But it would have been when they came to the array of dressed dolls that the pair would have been most surprised of all, and I can imagine the testy and taciturn Tackleton, as the glories of that centre stand at the Albert Hall burst upon his astonished gaze, wrapping himself more tightly within "the great green cape which was buttoned up to his chin and reached down to the calves of his legs," and making for the Kensington-road as fast as the feet in his "bull-headed looking boots with mahogany tops" could carry him. Caleb Plummer, however, I think, would have gladly lingered on to feast his work-worn eyes on the fascinating scene, so as to be able to take home with him to that "little cracked nutshell of a house" of his, where his blind daughter Bertha sat waiting for him, a full account of the fairyland he had visited—a fairyland so lovely and so glowing with light and colour that he would have had no need to import a word of his usual "make believe" into his exciting narrative to his child.

And indeed, by general consent it is admitted that the TRUTH Show, which Mr. Tackleton and Caleb Plummer did *not* see last week, was undoubtedly the very best of the long series that has now been held. Practice serves to make perfect as much at Toy Exhibitions as elsewhere; and experience teaches even the most deft arrangers of dolls and decorations; and there was undoubtedly good cause for the unbroken chorus of praise which has acclaimed the "Seventeenth" TRUTH Show on all sides. At last something closely approximating to perfection in the mode of displaying the thousands of dressed dolls has been attained. Never before have they more fully deserved close inspection, and never before has that close inspection been so possible as this year. At last week's Show none of the dolls were "skied," as they used to be in bygone seasons. All of them for the first time were virtually "upon the line." For the pyramids, which used to rise to such heroic heights in the centre of the arena, had been cut down to a very modest altitude; and the thousands of dolls which were at one time strung up aloft in serried rows as closely packed as sardines in a tin were last week most of them so arranged in tiers following the line of the huge ellipse of the Albert Hall, that each doll had, so to speak, elbow room and breathing space. It will be remembered that, until last year, it had been the rule to fill the space now occupied by the small dressed dolls with thousands of purchased toys massed in numbers which suggested the bodily transference of Lowther Arcade to Kensington Gore. The effect produced by this wholesale display of all the latest productions of Toyland was indubitably polychromatic and resplendent, but experience taught those concerned in the arrangement of the Show that it was purchased at too dear a price. To unpack the whole of the toys for exhibition, and then to repack them for distribution, involved an amount of damage which was positively distressing. Many of them needed to be sent to a hospital, not to amuse the juvenile inmates, but themselves to be treated for the ills which toys are heir to. So it was resolved to take a new departure, and only exhibit so many of the purchased toys as might serve for samples of the bulk. Hence the array of large boxes which this year and last formed a sort of rampart round the area devoted to the Show. Each of these boxes contained a gross of assorted toys packed ready for delivery at hospital or workhouse, and it may be added that this plan has worked so admirably that it will certainly be persevered in, especially as by means of it space is also found for exhibiting the thousands of dressed dolls in a manner more appropriate to their merits and their charms. Of the success of the Show as a public fixture most gratifying proof was found in the enormous number of visitors who crowded the Albert Hall on Wednesday and Thursday last. Attempts to secure anything like an exact return of the attendance were vainly made, but it is certain that the total of any former year was surpassed. The interest taken in the exhibits appeared to be more marked than ever, and to sit in the amphitheatre stalls and watch the delight of the thousands of children as they slowly passed round the crowded stands and tables was in itself a most enjoyable spectacle. But to linger amongst generalities involves a curtailment of those more particular details of the Show which it is my pleasant duty to write, and I will therefore summarily conclude my exordium, and get to the "firstly, secondly, and thirdly" part of what I fear will be my somewhat lengthy discourse.

And first, paying that sort of instinctive respect to magnitude which is so characteristic of human nature, let me talk about the Big Dolls which, to the number of a hundred, occupied most of the available space on the elevated table-land that filled the central part of the Albert Hall arena. Coming down the steps into that arena, the visitors' eyes were at once attracted by a big doll directly opposite the entrance, which appeared curiously familiar in colour and pose. And no wonder, for it had been Mrs. Bower's happy thought to dress her doll in the character of that "Gay Parisienne" who, since her appearance at the Duke of York's Theatre, has been seen on every London hoarding. There she was, reclining in her victoria in her yellow dress, with her yellow-rosetted black poodle at her side and her

yellow sunshade coquettishly raked over her big *matinée* hat—a close copy of the lady on the poster we all of us know so well by sight. Immediately in front of her, as though by a cynical touch of the indefatigable ladies who form at the Albert Hall what is equivalent to the "Hanging Committee" at Burlington House, was a very different kind of scene—a sudden transition from our modern Babylon to an old world Arcadia. It was an odour of patchouli which Mrs. Bower contrived to bring over the footlights with her "Gay Parisienne;" it was the scent of the cowslip which Miss M. R. Collum brought to us with her fascinating milkmaid, whom she represents dropping her three-legged stool as she turns, demurely shy, to answer the "Where are you going to, my pretty maid?" of the young gallant who has followed her through the daisy-starred grass, and is shown in the act of stepping over the rustic stile which crosses her path. Last year, if I recollect aright, Miss Collum gave us another scene in this same idyll of the nursery, but nothing could be more charming than her this year's *tableau*. The milkmaid is in a blue bodice, fastened with pink laces, with "shepherd's clocks" in her rustic hat, and a tucked up quilted skirt of the orthodox Arcadian cut, whilst the young squire is evidently a town beau of the first water, brave in his coat of yellow brocade, and his white periwig, and patched and powdered "up to the very nines." Close at hand is another striking contrast, for at the squire's elbow stood, posed in an attitude which Mr. William Schwenck Gilbert might himself have stage-managed, Miss M. Taylor's "Pitti Sing," unquestionably one of the best dolls in the whole Show. For not only has Miss Taylor closely imitated in dress, in feature, in *chevelure*, the Pitti Sing of "The Mikado," but Lady Boston has painted the silken *kimono* the doll wears with Japanese birds and flowers in the most exquisitely delicate and tasteful manner. "Pitti Sing," I make bold to predict, will occupy a high place in the Prize List, which is to be published next week. On the other side of Miss Collum's Arcadian Group was Miss Dora Labouchere's "Mistress of the Hounds," a novel idea carried out with remarkable skill and success. Surely a more faultlessly attired sportswoman was never seen than this dashing, up-to-date Di Vernon, this modern edition of Lady Gay Spanker. From the tip of her velvet jockey cap to the toes of her patent leather top-boots no realistic detail had been overlooked. Very spirited, too, was this dashing young lady's pose as she stood in her dark Melton habit and orthodox "pink" coat, hunting-crop in hand and horn at her girdle, quite ready, it is evident, to shout "Tally Ho!" or "Gone Away!" or "Yoicks!" or whatever the absurd cry may be which a "Mistress of the Hounds" is expected to utter. Passing round the corner to the right we came almost at once to the Misses Warburg's spirited rendering of "Lohengrin," the hero of Wagner's well-known opera. It was an ambitious notion of these young ladies to choose a character presenting such obvious difficulties to the doll-dresser, but they overcame them with marked skill, and made their doll a really effective "Knight of the Swan," arrayed in a coat of silvery chain mail, with a widely-flowing cloak of silver tissue, a properly blazoned shield, a jewel-hilted sword and a light moustache of almost truculent up-curliness. It should be noted that Miss A. Warburg was the designer and maker of the graceful Swan which was exhibited at Lohengrin's feet, and the "practicable" body of which had been thoughtfully stuffed full of Christmas crackers. Special interest attached to the doll dressed by Miss Marie Corelli, for the authoress of "The Sorrows of Satan" had chosen for her model a character in one of the most successful of her own books—little "Jessamine Dale," the sexton's ill-starred daughter in "The Mighty Atom." In one hand this little Devonshire maid held a rosy-cheeked apple, and a card borne in her other showed us that she was supposed to be saying to her boy-lover, "You can have this apple if so be ye'll let me bite the red bit out." One may well hope that Miss Corelli has set an example which will be widely followed next year. I need scarcely insist on the great attraction which would be caused by a table devoted to dolls dressed entirely by authoresses of fiction to represent characters in their own novels. The doll dressed and exhibited by the Singer Manufacturing Company was remarkable for the fact that the elaborate church embroidery with which her robe was so lavishly adorned was not worked by hand but by a sewing machine; a new departure which can hardly fail to cheapen the price of the copes and other highly decorated vestments which High Church clergymen affect. This "Singer" doll, it may be well to state, coming as it did from what I may call a professional source, was not entered for competition with the dolls dressed by amateur effort which surrounded it. I have already mentioned two successful theatrical dolls. To Miss P. Selbourne belongs the credit for a third—a doll dressed after an evidently close study of the original to represent the perennially popular "Charley's Aunt." No point in Mr. Penley's quaint make-up had been missed; but his old lady was shown us in her black satin, her lace fichu, her mittens, and her cap, as she appeared so many hundreds of times at the Globe Theatre. More than this, Miss Selbourne represented her "Charley's Aunt" so raising the skirt of her dress as to show the tell-tale boots and trousers of "Babs" beneath. One could, in fact, fancy her exclaiming, with the true Penleyan inflection and emphasis, as she reveals these signs of sex, "How can I behave like a respectable old lady in *these?*" The popular "Geisha," at Daly's, furnished Mrs. Maslyn with her inspiration, for she exhibited a capital reproduction in miniature of Miss Marie Tempest as "O Mimosa San." Miss Pearson must be commended for having added a very effective new figure to the already comprehensive TRUTH Doll Gallery. Her "Première Communiante" was a most dainty and delightful representation of a French girl on her way to a "First Communion." The doll was dressed, of course, wholly in pure white, the costume being an exact copy of that which is *de rigueur* on such occasions, and she bore in one hand, sceptre-like, one of those long and elaborately moulded candles which are carried to the church, and in the other her "Petit Paroissien Romain." In close juxtaposition to this fair and spotless damsel was to be seen Miss A. Levitt's "Light of the Harem," a doll dressed with Oriental opulence and reclining gracefully on a divan—such a beauty, indeed, as Mr. Frank Dicksee has more than once painted.

There is every year a run on some particular character at the TRUTH Show. This Christmas there was quite an eruption of nurses of various kinds. Prominent amongst these I would mention "The Princess of Wales's" nurse, sent by Miss J. Lewis, a doll dressed in the well-known costume of the Nurses' Association, which Royalty has taken so specially under its patronage, and intended, no doubt, to represent the "Sister," whose badge was fastened on her not long since by the Princess at Marlborough House. Very interesting, also, was Mrs. R. H. Firth's "Netley Sister," in the serviceable red and blue uniform which is worn by the nurses who tend on Tommy Atkins when he is in the large military hospital on the banks of Southampton Water. A French *bonne* proved a prominent feature in a capital family group dressed by Mrs. Boyd, consisting of a mother and two children, the nurse aforesaid, and the baby she carried in her arms. Then there was Miss J. M. Johnson's "Sister Gertrude"; Mrs. Howard's nurse and baby; Mrs. S. Grant's sick-room nurse with her tablets and pincushion hanging from her girdle; and Miss Crowdy's "Florence Nightingale," bringing back to us memories of Scutari and Gallipoli, and the "ministering angel" who did so much to lighten the horror of those dark days in 1854-55. Miss Louie Pounds of the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, did not send a nurse, but she contributed a character akin to that useful profession in the shape of "Sulette," a French chambermaid, evidently studied from life, and with distinct success. A second large doll dressed by the same young lady was an admirable study of a flower-girl labelled "Sweet Violets," not an idealized flower-girl of the fancy-dress ball type, but the real downright rough London street version of the character, such as Mr. Rudyard Kipling told us about with almost needless frankness in his "Badalia Herodfoot."

"Amy Robsart," dressed by Mr. C. E. Birch, was a doll that naturally attracted exceptional attention, for it is not often that one of the sterner sex shows such facility in doll-dressing as this gentleman displayed. But Mr. Birch, it will be remembered, was an exhibitor last year also; then, as on the present occasion, his success was undoubted. No doll at the Albert Hall last week could boast of a more fashionable figure than Mr. Birch's "Amy," and, with the excellence of the needlework in her handsome and well-fitting costume, even feminine experts could find no fault. Mr. Birch, I understand, is, or has been, an officer in the Army; and, strange to say, another holder of her Majesty's commission was to be found in the ranks of the competitors this Christmas. This was Mr. C. N. Hunter, of the Gloucestershire Regiment, who dressed a very fascinating Witch in red and black. Very effective was the way in which the occult symbols of this lady's profession had been embroidered on her skirts. For the first time, one of the "Tuneful Nine" figured in a TRUTH Show, Miss Constance M. Spilsbury Halford having sent a large doll dressed in a gold-embroidered *chiton* of the orthodox Greek pattern to represent Euterpe, the Muse more especially connected with lyric poetry. In her hands she bore a classic lyre, and her pose, if somewhat defiant, was full of dash and go. But if I remember my "Lemprière" correctly, it is a flute which Euterpe is usually represented as carrying. Now Miss Halford has directed attention to a field not hitherto reaped in these doll-dressing competitions, perhaps we may see all nine of the Muses at some future Show, to say nothing of the three Graces, and a selection of Olympian goddesses. Another very original idea was admirably carried out by Mrs. J. C. Kennedy in her handsomely-dressed doll labelled "I am the Yellow Domino." This stylish and attractive young lady was, as her name implies, arrayed in an all-covering cloak of yellow, and in her hand had a bag filled with *confetti* and "spirals," so that she was quite ready to take part in the mimic carnivalesque conflicts on the Promenade des Anglais at Nice, or some other favourite English resort on the Riviera. She had her fan, too, and her black velvet mask at her girdle to be used in case of need. The recent death of the ex-President of the Royal Academy seems to have caused quite a recrudescence of "Millais" dolls this year. Thus there was a charming little damsel, dressed by Miss E. Grimes as "Cherry Ripe," and Miss Bertha Vyner sent a capital "Bubbles" to serve as a companion to her; whilst of other Millais models I shall have to speak when I come to the small dolls. Universal admiration was aroused by the doll dressed and exhibited by Miss L. Croft, and called "After Kate Greenaway," a dainty darling in white satin. I heard more than one opinion emphatically expressed after close examination of this young lady's beautifully-made garments, that there was no better dressed doll in the exhibition. By a curious coincidence, two ladies hit upon the same dresses for the dolls they exhibited. Both Mrs. F. Pritchard and Mrs. Rathborne sent a Swedish and Norwegian peasant, so that by comparing their handiwork it was easy to

see how faithfully each had carried out the details of costumes which is now becoming as familiar to our touring fellow country men and women as those of the Italian peasant girl or the Hungarian gipsy. There was also a sturdy Black Forest peasant, dressed by Mrs. W. H. Leslie, in her gala attire of red and blue, crowned by a curious tall hat of the former colour. Dolls in which various well-known flowers are symbolised are always in evidence at TRUTH Shows; and this year, amongst the most successful efforts in this direction I specially noted Mrs. Webber's "Buttercups and Daisies," in which the floral idea was expressed with the most charming taste; Miss E. C. Whitlock's "Snowdrop," and Mrs. T. B. Davis's "Buttercups." Of the "Red Riding Hoods," of which specimens are never wanting at our exhibitions, those sent by Mrs. B. Hallé and Miss Marjorie Grimshaw were most to be commended; and it would be impossible to pass without some words of warm approval Nurse Lambert's "Bo-Peep," so delightful a young lady that it is hard to account for even the most unsusceptible sheep straying from so charming a shepherdess.

When was there a fancy dress ball or a TRUTH Show without a Toreador or a Pierrette? To the Albert Hall last week Miss May Streatfeild sent a handsome representative of the former, whilst Miss G. France and Mrs. Argenti contributed very chic and saucy specimens of the latter character. Mrs. Argenti also dressed a number of small dolls as "Pierrots" and "Pierrettes," as will be seen later on. Miss Isabelle Gregson's pair of dolls representing "Dresden China" merited and well repaid the closest attention. This young lady had managed to express very clearly the colours and peculiar crispness of the china figures she imitated so well. Another capital pair of large dolls came from Miss E. M. Gilmour, who gave two striking pictures of differing charms of urban and rural feminine types in her "Town Mouse" and "Country Mouse." Close to the latter was a most elegant "Duc de Montpensier," beautifully dressed in all the elaborate finery of the lace and ruffle period by Mrs. John Mitford; and furnishing a striking contrast, indeed, to the rosy-cheeked Audrey who had apparently caught his wandering eye, already surfeited, it may be supposed, by the more artificial charms of court-bred demoiselles. Unable to linger for more than a moment over the charms of Miss Crosby's "Sylvan Shepherdess," or to devote more than a passing glance to Miss M. E. Wells's "Sweet Royalist Maiden," and Miss M. Morgan's demurely pretty "Stuart Princess," I must hurry on past Mrs. Clare Brown's "Bride" and Miss Osborne's "Doris," in pink and white, to a very interesting doll dressed by Miss V. Wellesley to represent "Miss Bennett," from Miss Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," a novel of which we have lately had a new edition. Miss M. Jameson had not labelled her doll, but from the black velvet costume it wore, and the bone spoon stuck rakishly in its hat, it was intended, I gathered, to represent one of those Spanish students of whose romantic doings we hear from time to time. No one was likely to pass without notice Miss H. G. Morris's doll arrayed in a long white serge coat, apparently tailor-made, and carrying in a bag upon the arm a most elegant *robe de nuit*. Not far from this very stylish doll was "Somebody's Darling," dressed by a lady whose name I was unable to decipher; and a most elegant doll in a beautiful fancy-dress costume of the last century, contributed by Mrs. Bozzelli. The spry sailor-boy, dressed by Mrs. Howard's household, was all the more welcome, seeing that he was the only representative of her Majesty's Royal Navy that was to be found amongst the big dolls this year.

But already I find that the amount of space I am able to devote to this section of the Show is all but exhausted, though I have still pages of notes about many other dolls which attracted my attention. These were, as a rule, dolls not dressed in any particular character, but simply attired as little English girls in all kinds of pretty and effective toilettes, and just as much prized by their recipients, let me add, as the more elaborately arrayed specimens of dollhood around them. Such dolls, for example, as those dressed by Miss G. Stiehl, in pink and blue; by Miss N. Mossop, in white satin; and by Miss E. M. Bartlett and Miss C. M. Cunliffe, in fur-trimmed pelisses, are always in great request. Miss E. J. Johnson's "Ivor," and Mrs. R. C. Thompson's boy doll, in a white knickerbocker suit, are also sure of a warm reception amongst the little children to whose delight they will minister this Christmas. Of the rest, I can only spare space to mention Miss M. Pattison's doll, in a dark-blue and red fish-wife costume; Miss A. Randall's, in light blue, with a very handsome pink opera cloak trimmed with feathers; Miss L. D. Steward's, in red, with an over dress of muslin; Miss A. C. Brown's, in a beautifully worked blue-yoked smock; and Miss King's pretty "Kitty," in blue; and to include in terms of comprehensive approval, none the less sincere because necessarily brief, the darlings arrayed in all the prettiest colours of the day, and all the most delightful fashions of the period by Miss M. Arnott, the Misses Bedford, Mrs. Walsh, Miss M. M. Davis, Miss L. D. Stevenson, Mrs. A. Newell, Mrs. Boyd, Miss H. E. Thompson, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Williams, Miss B. Ritta, Miss E. C. Bedford, Mrs. Benson, Miss L. Evans, Mrs. R. Lawson, Miss H. Morran, and Mrs. E. A. Dash.

So far as the Groups of Dolls are concerned, it may at once be said that the high average of former years was more than sustained at the recent Show. There was an air of freshness and originality about the ideas carried out which at once secured public approbation. A place of honour was very properly accorded to a group of fifty-two dolls dressed, as a printed card informed us, by "a Joint Stock Company, Unlimited: Managing Directors, Miss May Streatfeild and Miss Clare Streatfeild." These dolls, as the mention of their number will have suggested, represented, in a pretty idealised fashion, the four suits of a pack of playing cards. The Court cards were dressed in sumptuous costumes of red, white, and black velvet, and ermine, the ordinary cards being arranged, of course, in apparel less splendid but, at the same time, well fitted for the retainers of their Majesties of Hearts, and Clubs, and Spades, and Diamonds. Each doll also bore tabard-like upon its breast a large hand-painted card, on which the Misses Streatfeild, or some other member of their "unlimited company" had blazoned the denomination of each figure. It was a novel idea, also, to provide all the retainers with neatly-fitting "mortar-boards" by way of headgear, and the general effect of the fifty-two personified, or should I say dollified, cards drawn up in battle array was extremely pretty. Had there only been space enough, a game of "living whist," played with this dainty pack, would assuredly have been a most entertaining spectacle. Another group that I am bound to say interested me immensely was Miss Pearson's spirited representation of a cricket match between the Dingley Dell and All Muggleton Elevens. Miss Pearson is evidently well acquainted with all the mysteries of the game which she so cleverly illustrated, or must, at any rate, have had an efficient "coach," for there is no detail which she has overlooked. The way in which the field had been placed by her was in itself a triumph of accuracy; and in the pitching of the wickets, the position of the creases, the pose of the batsmen and the attitude of the bowlers, the greatest care had obviously been taken. In spite of the published announcement of the match as being one between two local clubs, it was clear from the scoring-book, which was being kept with scrupulous care by a dapper little doll in a well-constructed scorers' box, that the elevens were practically "scratch" ones. The All Muggletonians, who were batting, included such well-known cricketers as M. Read and Brown, and, according to the "telegraph" exhibited in front of the scoring-box, had made 253 for seven wickets, in spite of the fact that two such redoubtable bowlers as Richardson and Jones were sending down "curly ones" and making (*vide* the score-book aforesaid) a most excellent analysis. The umpire, in his orthodox long white coat, had apparently just answered an appeal from the wicket-keeper in favour of the batsman, who, after this let off, seemed to be preparing to send one of Jones's "bumping" balls over the head of the Cambridge "blue" who was fielding "out in the country." A most interesting group, I repeat, and reflecting great credit on Miss Pearson's patience and ingenuity. It is a long cry from the cricket-ground at Dingley Dell to the Field of Cloth of Gold; but at the TRUTH Doll Show a few paces took one from Miss Pearson's cricket-match to Miss M. R. Collum's brilliant historical group representing the famous meeting of Henry VIII. and Francis I. A splendid background for this carefully-studied scene was furnished by a large tent covered with gold tissue and lined with rich silk hangings blazoned with the *fleur-de-lis* of France. Bluff King Hal was seen attended by three typical English Beefeaters, arrayed in costumes evidently studied with scrupulous care. Miss Collum, in fact, seems to have taken great pains to make the costumes worn by her dolls in all respects accurate. Thus Cardinal Wolsey, who was in Henry's train, was dressed, I understand, according to a pictorial authority to be found at Hampton Court Palace, whilst the French Men-at-Arms were as historically correct in their attire as the English Beefeaters. The figures were effectively grouped, too, and Miss Collum is to be congratulated on a most interesting and well-thought-out historical *tableau*. Miss Teresina Hadaway's group may be considered historical also, though it referred to an event not yet six months old. It represented, in fact, the meeting of the Grand Old Men of England and China at Hawarden in August last. For some years now Miss Hadaway has contributed a group to the TRUTH Doll Shows, and it has always added that touch of humour, unconscious it may be, which but for her the Exhibition would lack. In her latest group she has been at considerable trouble in modelling the faces of Mr. Gladstone and Li Hung Chang. The Chinaman is excellent, though I notice he lacks that Peacock Feather which, during his stay with us, was such a notable item of his personal adornment. Possibly, however, Miss Hadaway has been reading the TRUTH Christmas Number. Other dolls in the group, which was arranged round a rustic table in the grounds at Hawarden Castle, were Mr. Gladstone, the Rev. Harry and Mrs. Drew, and the irrepressible little Miss Dorothy, book in hand. Li Hung Chang was seen attended by his interpreter and another follower, not improbably the faithful Wun Lung, his indefatigable private secretary. Altogether, I am inclined to consider this amusing scene the best Miss Hadaway has ever sent to a TRUTH Show, and the interest it aroused amongst the visitors who crowded round it was unmistakable. The Misses Warburg, to whose picturesque and dashing "Lohengrin" I have already alluded, may claim credit for another very ingenious notion carried out with really wonderful skill and success. It occurred to them to form a group of dolls dressed after the children in nine of the late Sir John Millais's well-known pictures. They accordingly selected as their models the figures to be found in the following paintings, viz.:—"The Little Princes in the Tower of London," "Cherry Ripe," "Cinderella," "Little Mrs. Gamp," "Bubbles," "Little Miss Muffet," "The Convalescent," "The Minuet," and "Her First Sermon." The most lifelike of all the dolls, in my opinion, was the one which represented the little girl in the red cloak who figures in the last-named picture. The very expression of the child's face had been caught with

great felicity. All these Millais dolls, however, were admirably dressed for the parts they were supposed to fill, and could have been readily identified even if they had borne no labels. "A Bridal Party" is always looked for amongst the doll groups, and this year Mrs. C. M. Sagar-Musgrave contributed a very prettily-posed and dressed representation of that old, old ceremony which never loses its charm as a public spectacle. A fiercely-moustached bridegroom was seen in Mrs. Musgrave's group escorting a dainty bride, attended by four ducks of bridesmaids with forget-me-not bouquets. Of course, too, we had yet another group representing the Four Seasons, the dolls having been, in this instance, dressed with marked good taste and ingenuity by "Juno." It will have been noticed that I have not yet said anything about the groups contributed by Mrs. H. P. Truefitt and the Misses B. and F. Glave. I propose, however, to devote special paragraphs further on in this article to these ladies' dolls, which are, so to speak, *hors concours* at the TRUTH Shows by reason of their oft-repeated successes in successive past years.

But before dealing with their exceptionally clever handiwork I wish to say something about those very kind friends of TRUTH and the poor children of London who dressed what I may call wholesale quantities of small dolls for this year's Show. Let me first say that I always approach this portion of my descriptive article with diffidence and apprehension, for I feel only too strongly that anything I can write in praise of the ladies who most distinguish themselves in the above respect must necessarily be at best most defective and inadequate. To describe the principal points of a large doll dressed with unexceptional taste and skill is comparatively an easy and simple task, but when it is dolls literally by the hundred that have to be dealt with, it is impossible in the space of a paragraph or two to do any but the very scantest justice to the excellences they display, and to the rare combination of qualities that has been exhibited by the ladies who send them. Take, for example, the two ladies Mrs. C. Alexander and Mrs. Rawson, each of whom dressed 300 dolls for the recent Show and distribution. I doubt if many of my readers even faintly realise what the performance of such a task as this involves. Those, however, who were at the Albert Hall last week, and who saw for themselves the 600 dolls to which I refer, and noted the space they occupied, must have formed some opinion of the wellnigh interminable labour which had brought about such remarkable results. For, as will have been seen, the dressing of these dolls was no mere scamped or perfunctory operation. Many were the exclamations of admiration and surprise which were called forth by Mrs. Alexander's dolls, which were arranged in tiers around that part of the ellipse to the left of visitors as they entered the arena. For not only had her 300 dolls been dressed, and well dressed, they had been dressed also in the most fashionable of colours, in the very latest of *modes*. In gowns of the very newest tints—prawn pink, cowslip yellow, apple green, oyster grey, and a dozen others—in hats and bonnets of a truly bewildering variety of shape and trimming, they formed a feast of colour which did not cloy, and a most interesting object-lesson in the eclecticism of current fashions. To examine them was in itself, indeed, a liberal education in the mysteries of millinery and dressmaking. Miss Jenny Wren, the doll's dressmaker, might have found here enough hints to carry her triumphantly through the season. I have not missed one of the TRUTH Shows since their commencement, and I can emphatically say that Mrs. C. Alexander has this year surpassed all previous efforts, and established a record for all-round taste and diversity and elegance which it will be supremely difficult to beat. To Mrs. Alexander's dolls succeeded an equal number dressed by Mrs. Rawson, a lady who has now for many years contributed not a little to making successive TRUTH Shows a success. Her 300 dolls were not dressed quite so fashionably as Mrs. Alexander's, but they were eminently fitted for the purpose they have to serve. Mrs. Rawson's motto had obviously been "Thorough." Each of her dolls, I happen to know, was clothed in five distinct garments, all of which, as 300 little girls now know to their great delight, "take on and off." There is, perhaps, nothing which so pleases a girl who becomes the happy possessor of a doll, as taking its clothes off, unless, indeed, it be the operation of putting them on again. A simple calculation shows that no less than 1,500 garments had to be cut out and made before Mrs. Rawson's task was completed. No wonder, then, that she had been at work preparing for the Show since last March. Mrs. Arlosh, another lady who has repeatedly dressed a large number of dolls for TRUTH'S Christmas distribution, this year sent 204. This numerous contingent served to cover the sides of the south-west pyramid, on which they made a most effective show. For each dozen dolls had been dressed in some distinctive colour and fashion, and their arrangement in lines had a striking chromatic effect. No less than 200 dolls were dressed by Mrs. B. Lindo, whose name has become quite familiar to me, so often have I met with it whilst making my annual scrutiny. Mrs. Lindo also has this year surpassed all her former achievements. A special feature of her dolls was the seasonable way in which they had been provided with fur tippets. They looked, thus clad, ready to go anywhere, and to brave the most inclement days of the Arctic winter with which we are threatened. Mrs. Picciotto, a new recruit, as it were, in the army of TRUTH volunteers, has at once taken a place in the foremost rank by dressing two hundred dolls in a very admirable manner. The hours she devoted to her task must have been many; but they are, after all, but infinitesimal compared to the number of hours of delight that her dolls will afford to their new little mistresses. Of the Misses Levitt's excellent work I have already taken occasion to speak; but "The Light of the Harem" was by no means their only contribution to the Show. They also dressed two hundred small dolls, which occupied at the Albert Hall Exhibition a very prominent position on the North-West Pyramid. Amongst these dolls was a contingent of pantomime fairies in gauzy skirts. I also noticed amongst them some capital sailor boys, and a row of baby dolls—always very acceptable, I may state. The Misses Levitt adopted a plan which, I am pleased to think, is likely to become much more general. They held an exhibition of their dolls in their own drawing-room before sending them to the Albert Hall. By the issue of "At Home" cards, with "TRUTH dolls" in the corner, instead of the usual "music," hostesses might agreeably vary their social programme, and would at once please and amuse their friends and make the Show more widely known The hundred dolls dressed by Mrs. Trengrouse, another name well known in TRUTH Show annals, looked warm enough in their seasonable winter attire to start at once if necessary upon a Polar expedition. Miss Richardson's hundred were dressed in garments more suggestive of the sunshine of summer. Remarkable, indeed, was the ingenuity which this latter lady displayed in the matter of straw hats. To vary a previous simile, let me say that Mrs. Hamp Adams made a *début* on the Albert Hall stage which at once set upon her efforts the seal of undoubted success. In other words, in dressing her hundred dolls she showed an ingenuity, and taste and skill which at once secured favourable attention. The "Wedding Party" could not, unfortunately, be accommodated with sufficient space to enable a public display to be made of its many excellences, but they were marked, I may add, by those who were, so to speak, behind the scenes. Mrs. Hamp Adams's eleven doll cricketers, too, made a brave display. Her soldiers, nurses, acolytes, and nursery-rhyme heroines were also excellent; and I was especially struck with the ingenuity she had shown in designing a most comical "Humpty Dumpty."

Miss L. Rowland-Brown and her friends and neighbours dressed seventy-nine dolls, to which exceptional interest attached from the fact that before coming to the Albert Hall they had been exhibited with great success at a local doll show at Harrow Weald. Encouraged by the success attending on a similar effort last year, Miss Brown, in order to stimulate local interest in the TRUTH doll-dressing, offered prizes for the best dolls dressed in her own neighbourhood. The result was most satisfactory, and I commend Miss Rowland-Brown's excellent idea to others. Amongst the seventy-nine dolls first exhibited at Oxhey Grove and then sent to the Albert Hall was at least one doll which possessed a unique interest. It was dressed as a widow, by Mrs. Brough, a lady who is now in her ninety-fourth year; and who, therefore, may I think, fairly claim to be the *doyenne* amongst TRUTH'S doll-dressers. Another doll, dressed as a Vaudois peasant, which attracted my special attention was, I found, the contribution of Mme. Blondel, the wife of the well-known Swiss poet. Other notable dolls in the group were an admirable "Gentleman of France," a Javanese Waiting-maid, a bewitching "Daisy Dimple," a capital Squaw (Queen of the Yahoo Indians) and a curious paper doll sent from the Hague. All the servants in the household, I am informed, lent their aid in the doll-dressing, and one very remarkable result of this was to be seen in a smart butcher-boy included amongst the Oxhey Hall dolls, the unaided work of the coachman.

To Miss Pearson's group of cricketers reference has been made on a previous page. She also dressed fifty dolls as very varied characters, including jockeys, "Tommy Atkinses," and beautiful blushing brides. The name of the Misses Beynon has become as "familiar as a household word" at the TRUTH Doll Shows, but they have not yet grown weary in well doing. This year they dressed sixty dolls with their usual completeness and good taste. A similar number, which made a brave show on the North-East Pyramid, were sent by Mrs. M. Sacre. No visitor could fail to be attracted by Miss Coutts Fowlie's fifty sailor boys, for each of them carried in his hand a flag of a gay pattern. The effect of the "fifty flags waving like one" was very striking, and Miss Coutts Fowlie, a valued contributor to former shows, must be congratulated on a distinctly "happy thought." Mrs. Bayes sent, amongst her fifty dolls, a strong contingent of fisher girls, who formed suitable partners for Miss Fowlie's smart sailor lads. A row of dolls, dressed by Mrs. Bayes, in white jackets and red waistcoats, struck a very bright and effective colour note. Mrs. T. B. Davis, Mrs. Sayer, and Miss A. E. Smith, each dressed fifty dolls in a most useful and serviceable way, and if I do not say more about them it is not because there is nothing to be said, but because it is impossible in the course of this already too prolonged article to do more than allude to points of special novelty or exceptional interest. The sumptuous way in which Miss Argenti attired her Pierrots and Pierrettes, secured them a well-deserved place in the front row of the Show. They were, in fact, Liliputian copies of the large Pierrot and Pierrette which were exhibited on the central stand. Following the excellent example set by herself last year Miss K. B. Reid has provided each of her dolls with a name and affixed to each dress a card containing a few lines of explanatory verse, which Miss Reid seems able to compose almost with as much facility as she displays in dressing dolls. Mrs. Benson's dolls (in swansdown-trimmed bonnets), Miss Ashton's, Miss Bingham's, Mrs. S. L. Nathan's, Mrs. Usmar's (in low-cut bodices) were all worthy of special commendation. I was amused to notice that the twenty-four

dolls dressed by the boys of the training ship *Mercury* were every one of them dressed as a girl; and dressed remarkably neatly and nicely, too! Mrs. Sichel's thirty dolls all arrayed in simple white dresses afforded a grateful relief to eyes sated with brilliancy and cloyed with colour. Like the undecorated British diplomat amongst the be-starred, be-crossed, and be-ribboned representatives of the other Great Powers at the Vienna Congress, these dolls in white assumed quite a *distingué* air in the midst of the polychromatic crowd that hemmed them in. Equally striking, from a somewhat similar cause, were the twelve "Hallelujah Lasses," contributed by Mrs. Spencer Grant. A novel idea was prettily carried out by Miss Bosdet in dressing the dolls to represent England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, and Switzerland. To Miss L. Lewis belongs the distinction of having contributed the only little Lord Fauntleroy I noticed in the Show. Three years ago there were at least fifty. Miss Lewis's "Geisha" doll was capital. I have to note the fact that a third military officer is to be added to the two mentioned earlier in this article as doll-dressers. Colonel Goreham, R.A., contributed a dear little "Woman in White." Other dolls that struck me amongst the thousands I looked at were Miss Saunders' cleverly devised "Union Jack" dolls, their costumes so arranged as to suggest unmistakably our national flag; Miss Spencer Evans's "Nursery Rhyme" heroines; Mrs. Jardine's almost alarming "Bogey" doll; Mrs. A. P. Palmer's "Skirt Dancers"; Miss Atkinson's Scotch Laddies; Miss Seeman's gipsy girls and nuns; Miss V. Wellesley's "Two Little Girls in Blue" and Red Riding Hood; Miss Wrigley's "Folly" and Duchess of Devonshire; Miss C. Morgan's "Bubbles"; and Miss Nellie Morgan's "Phyllis," who has by this time doubtless become some one's "only joy." I also find I have entered on my notes for some feature or other of special merit, the names of Miss L. Tosh, Miss A. Roberts, Miss Lomax, Miss Greaves, Miss M. Robinson, Miss E. Bartlett, Miss Greames, Mrs. A. Hope, Miss D. Westmoreland, Miss Mary Hawkes, Miss E. Sanson, Miss Baldwin, Miss M. Tankard, Mrs. Maris, Miss L. M. Young, Mrs. Phillips, and Miss M. Gibbs.

It was, I think, some four or five years ago that I announced, in writing of Mrs. H. P. Truefitt's dolls, that I had exhausted the whole of the available commendatory adjectives. And yet, since that time, that lady has gone on achieving greater triumphs season after season, and it has been my pleasant though arduous duty to chronicle them as best I have been able. Mrs. Truefitt might excusably have sat down years ago and lamented, like Alexander, that there were no more worlds, in a doll-dressing sense, for her to conquer. But she has, luckily for the TRUTH Shows, preferred to persevere, and has gone on beating her own unique record till we find her this year attaining to what surely is her apogee. There is indeed ample reason for devoting a separate paragraph to her dolls, for otherwise, references to them would have permeated this article; for in all classes into which the Exhibition is divided, her dolls excel. With her big dolls, her little dolls, her groups of dolls, she is alike to the front. Of course they were set out in the position which by right of conquest she has made her own. Just as there are certain portions of wall space reserved at the Royal Academy year after year for the most successful and popular of the Academicians, so at each successive TRUTH Show there is a well-defined and never-encroached-on space which has come to be known as "Truefittia." In this realm of fancy and fantasy, this doll Arcadia, where every colour is dainty and delicate, where every Strephon is handsome and every Chloe beautiful, where every conceit is graceful and every prospect sweet, they fleet it gaily as in the "Golden Age." "Truefittia" is a land where it is always afternoon; where Prince Charming is for ever wooing the fair Florizel, and lovely Celias and Delias gather roses and lilies while they may. It is one of the Happy Islands in the Purple Sea, where, from very joy of living, bewitching damsels skip with ropes twined with forget-me-nots, and the "whole duty of man"—and of woman, too—is to look pretty, dance to the music of pipe and tabor, and sing madrigals and *chansonnettes* to the accompaniment of ever-plashing fountains. And how, it may be asked—to come to specific details—was "Truefittia" inhabited this year? But how prosaic it seems, after all, to give a mere catalogue of the dolls. Who would think of dissecting a butterfly or analysing the contents of a *soufflé?* Yet for the sake of those who have never paid a visit to "Truefittia," it may be necessary to mention some of its inhabitants: to tell of the sweet medley of princes and flower-girls; of beaux and milkmaids; of dashing blades and village belles, that it contained. Perhaps the dolls most admired were the two so-called "Little Vagabonds," the Cinderella, the Skipping Girl, the Witch, decked with the silver cobwebs she had swept from the sky; the "Belle of Niagara," in the smartest and yet cosiest of winter costumes, and balanced on the tinest of silver skates; the Vivandière, the King of Charming Land, the irresistible "Masher" in the red dress-coat, and the bevy of bewitching domestics — the daintiest of parlourmaids, the darlingest of nurses, the delightfullest of cooks! Towering above their little neighbours were Mrs. Truefitt's two large dolls, one dressed as "Summer Roses," and the other as "Winter Snow;" the one a dream of loveliness in rose-pink, the other a kind of crystallised symphony in white. In accordance with her graceful annual custom, Mrs. Truefitt also designed a group which served as a collecting box for the TRUTH Toy Fund. This year it took the form of a glorified coster's cart decorated most tastefully with roses and forget-me-nots and drawn by an idealised Arcadian donkey. On a banner carried by one of the attendant nymphs were the words, "TRUTH Toy Fund—Come, show your Charity, Lads and Lasses!" I am glad to be able to add that this irresistible appeal was liberally responded to, and that a considerable sum was thus collected.

Over against "Truefittia," and separated from it by a lofty tableland, there lay another province of the Empire of Lilliput, the well-known Kingdom of Glave-land. Here the Misses B. and F. Glave held uncontested rule last week, and once more charmed the public with the brilliancy of the annual carnival which is carried on under their genial auspices. High revel and fantastic fun were the order of the day in Glave-land. In the centre one saw a group of rustic merrymakers escorting their "Queen of the May" in triumphal procession and footing it blithely on the village green. Close at hand one's eyes fell upon another group of merry dolls masquerading, like the gay cards they were, as "A Good Nap Hand." A step or two farther on and one came on "Skirt Dancers," gyrating to the music of an "Up-to-date" Nigger, whilst lovely ladies in masks and dominoes were watching the antics of a pair of grotesque Clowns. There was Father Christmas, too, laden with toys; and numerous other interesting whimsical typical figures. The general effect was at once striking and phantasmagorical. It was a sort of "Alice in Wonderland" scene, and the Misses Glave, who have already achieved such exceptional success at the TRUTH Doll Shows, managed this year to more than sustain the reputation they have so deservedly earned.

The Home-made Toys were not, perhaps, so numerous as usual this Christmas; but the quality of those exhibited was certainly above the average. I doubt, indeed, if a more strikingly effective model than Mr. Rawson-Buckley's "Church of Saint Verity" has ever been seen at a TRUTH Show. He had constructed, with what must have been infinite pains and very marked skill, an edifice nearly 6 ft. long, and of proportionate width and height. The architectural style seemed a combination of Early English and pointed Gothic, and no detail had been overloooked or forgotten. Stained glass windows, a groined roof, niched statues, hanging lamps, altar vases, a surpliced choir, a tesselated pavement, a carved reredos, an organ, a peal of bells, a "practicable" clock in the west tower, a vestry, a verger—all these had been duly provided. The church was also furnished with a fashionable congregation, for a wedding—the very appropriate wedding of Truth and Charity—was in progress; the point having been reached when the officiating clergy advance to meet the bridal party. To open the great west door and look down the long, lofty nave right away to the noble east window was to obtain a vista of really wonderful impressiveness. I was not surprised, in fact, to find that Mr. Rawson-Buckley is an actor by profession (he is a member of Mr. Ben Greet's "Sign of the Cross" company), for his staging of his church interior, if I may so term it, showed an evident sense of dramatic fitness and effect. How thoroughly, too, the details of his model were carried out, may be gathered from the circumstance that he had provided each of the towers of "St. Verity" with a winding turret staircase. This was conscientiousness indeed—conscientiousness well nigh worthy of that other member of Mr. Rawson-Buckley's profession, who was in the habit of blacking himself all over when he played Othello.

There was but one Doll's House in this year's Show, but this had been very ingeniously constructed by Miss Nora Rogers out of three wine cases. The straw cases of the bottles which these cases had once contained had been cleverly used to thatch the house, which stood in extensive grounds, and seemed to be furnished in a most lavish style—curtains, carpets, lamps, paperhangings, and other fittings being all quite "up to date."

Miss Daisy Peet is a young lady who has several times contributed model toys, but never has she sent so good a one as her this year's effort. It would seem that this young lady spent her last holidays at Lowestoft, and whilst there saw a demonstration in aid of the local lifeboat, which took the form of a public procession. The main features of this procession Miss Peet had reproduced in her model, with really creditable ingenuity and success. Every item of the demonstration found its place in her spirited exhibit, which was a yard or two long, and included several bands of music, carts full of fishermen and smack owners, a car of most realistically attired widows and orphans, the Mayoress's silver cradle, a boat builder's forge, a diver in full diving dress, and a capital model of the Lowestoft lifeboat itself, manned with its crew, and drawn by four horses. Let me congratulate Miss Daisy Peet on an indisputable success! Some years ago, it may be remembered, Mrs. Rawson, also known as "Yoko," contributed no less than a thousand scrap-books to the TRUTH Show. This year she concentrated her energies on one brobdingnagian scrap book, containing no less than 2,600 coloured scraps, and mounted on an easel which was as big as a lectern. This is the same Mrs. Rawson, I may say, who dressed the 300 dolls, and Mr. Rawson-Buckley, architect and builder of the Church of St. Verity, is her brother. She also contributed a group of native Persian dolls, dressed some in indoor and some in outdoor costumes. Miss Marguerite Stokes this year lavished her patience and skill on a model which represented a sort of glorified "Fuller's." It must have taxed her patience and skill to the utmost to stock this "up-to-date" confectioner's with its endless varieties of cakes, and sweets, and fancy rolls, and to dress the numerous tiny dolls who sat at the little round tables drinking tea or eating ices, or playing the parts of waitresses in the "snappiest" of dresses. One fair customer, I noticed, had arrived on her bicycle, whilst another centnry-end *grande dame* appeared to be calling for a second glass of what looked suspiciously like green chartreuse. Another model toy which attracted appreciative attention was Mr. Percy B.

Blamey's castellated fort, garrisoned by a strong force of leaden artillerymen and Highlanders. On top of each corner tower was a quick firing gun, whilst the parapet was held by a selected body of sharp-shooters. This is a model, the sight of which will, I am certain, tend to make scores of poor London boys well nigh wild with delight. I feel sure that Miss Olivia Graham has a keen sense of humour. Her mimic stage, set for a scene from the pantomime of "The Genie and the Skipper's Child," was a most amusing model, brightened with many happy and comical touches. The Genie himself was a most amusing personage; and the funny Parrot roosting on the tree with the flying fish; the shipwrecked "Miss Priscilla Tabitha," and the demon coming up the Vampire trap; with such melodramatic "properties" as the sack labelled "Human Remains," helped to make up a very mirthful scene. A very strong and æsthetic wooden cradle, designed and made by Miss A. Crichton Stuart, with prettily-worked bedclothes and a doll occupant, was much admired; and the tiny suites of dolls' furniture made by Mrs. Deman and Miss E. Manby Gardner were well worthy of close examination. A pathetic interest attached to "Our Nigger Band," an ingeniously designed group of "darkies" playing various instruments, also home-made, for it was the unaided work of Sarah Magrath, a poor girl who has for the last fourteen years been an inmate of the cripples' ward of St. John's Convalescent Home for Children at Kemp Town, Brighton. There is surely something very touching in this crippled girl devoting her time and energies to making a toy to amuse children perhaps even in sadder circumstances than herself. I said just now there was only one dolls' house in the Show, but I I was forgetting Miss E. B. Cheetham's pretty little rustic cottage with its neatly laid-out garden and well-stocked paddock and outbuildings. Visitors to the Show at the Albert Hall can scarcely have failed to notice a Cleopatra-needle-like erection to the right of the organ. This was covered with Christmas stockings, to the number of two hundred, all of them made and filled with sweets, crackers, oranges, nuts, and small toys of all kinds, by Mrs. Neville Campbell, the kind lady who last year contributed such a well-covered Christmas tree. Worsted balls and toys, such as were made and sent by Mrs. E. Drax and Miss Appolina F. Robinson, are always most eagerly welcomed in the wards of the Children's Hospitals. Amongst the home-dressed Dolls, other than those sent out to be dressed from Truth Office, a large baby doll, beautifully dressed by Miss Gladys Best, was the most important. Miss Ina Bengough also contributed a large doll in white satin; and Mrs. W. Howard White's Cupid doll; Mrs. Dewar's group of tiny dolls dressed in the acme of fashion; and the quaint Bogey dolls cut out of black paper by the Sisters K., were also much admired. There were two exceedingly quaint dolls also, sent by Mr. Harold Hamel Smith, residing at Port of Spain, Trinidad. These dolls were made of leather by the natives of Martinique, and were elaborately dressed to represent a Martiniquienne and a Dominican. Every detail in their costumes was made with the utmost care, and repaid the closest examination. I mentioned in a previous column that one doll in the show was dressed by a widow lady of ninety-four. Amongst the presented dolls was one sent from South Africa by Miss Malby Irvine, aged nine! This little lady has done so well this time that I hope she will be encouraged to try, try, try again! I also noticed that Mrs. Pogson had sent her usual welcome annual contribution of twenty-five dolls, each provided with a bag of sweets containing a new silver sixpence.

I have to close my article with a few lines which might well be stereotyped for use on these annual occasions. That errors, some of description and some of nomenclature, have crept into the foregoing columns is inevitable. Probably, too, there must be faults of omission as well as of commission, and what I want especially to say is how glad the editor of Truth will be to correct any mistakes which may be brought to his attention. Will any ladies, therefore, who have to complain of any errors or omissions of mine, please write to the editor forthwith. I am asked to state, also, that, in all probability, the Prize List and the List of Truth Brooches awarded will be published next week. The report has not yet been received from the Committee of Ladies who so kindly fill the onerous positions of judges, but it will doubtless arrive in time to be printed in the next number of Truth. Meantime, let me, on behalf of the proprietor of Truth, and the many thousands of poor children he at this season represents, express sincere and hearty thanks to all who have contributed in any way to make the Seventeenth Truth Toy and Doll Show the most successful of the series. To those who have given their time or their money, or both; to the ladies who worked so hard and with such excellent taste and judgment to arrange the dolls for exhibition; to Mr. Wentworth Cole and his colleagues who so generously granted the gratuitous use of the Albert Hall; to Mr. H. C. Tonking, who gave organ recitals at frequent intervals during the Show, playing, amongst other effective pieces, his own Grand Festival March of "Illogan," we are alike grateful; and I hope I may be allowed in conclusion to wish the brightest and happiest of Christmases to all those who have assisted to make this holiday season bright and happy for very nearly thirty thousand poor girls and boys in this vast metropolis of London.

Below is a complete list of the ladies who dressed Truth dolls and of the number of large and small dolls dressed by them:—

Mrs. C. Alexander, 300 s.; Mrs. Addisson, 12 s.; Mrs. Arlosh, 204 s.; Miss Argenti, 24 s., 2 l.; Miss M. Arnott, 1 l.; Miss Astley, 12 s.; Miss Atkinson, 6 s.; Mrs. Boyes, 48 s., 2 l.; Mrs. Boger, 12 s.; Mrs. E. M. Bartlett, 6 s., 2 l.; Miss M. Browne, 2 s.; Mrs. L. R. Brown, 66 s.; Mrs. E. C. Bower, 1 l.; The Friends of A. B. Browne, 12 s.; Miss Bozzelli, 1 l.; Lady Boston, 1 l.; The Misses Beynon, 60 s.; Mrs. Bullock, 1 s.; Mrs. Brown, 6 s., 1 l.; Mrs. Boyd, 2 s., 2 l.; Miss A. Bangham, 24 s.; The Misses Bedford, 2 s., 2 l.; Mrs. G. A. Benson, 36 s., 1 l.; Miss Bosdet, 6 s.; Miss Brown, 1 l.; Mr. C. E. Birch, 1 l.; Miss Baldwin, 6 s.; Mrs. L. Braun, 2 s.; Miss E. Bond, 1 l.; Miss M. R. Collum, 12 s. 2 l.; Miss C. M. Cunliffe, 1 l.; Miss G. Cunliffe, 4 s.; Miss Coyne, 2 s.; Miss Crowdy, 1 l.; Miss L. Croft, 1 l.; Mrs. B. Vyner, 2 l.; Miss B. Coe, 6 s.; Mrs. B. Chester, 2 s.; Mr. F. W. Cheetham, 2 s.; Miss Crosby, 1 l.; Mrs. J. Dudley, 12 s.; Miss E. A. Dash, 1 l.; Mrs. Davison, 24 s.; Mrs. T. B. Davis, 50 s., 1 l.; Miss A. E. Daish, 6 s.; Miss M. M. Davis, 1 l.; Miss Evans, 1 s, 1 l.; Mrs. E. R. Eve, 6 s.; Miss M. C. Fowlie, 50 s.; Miss M. France, 6 s.; Miss H. Finlay, 2 s.; Mrs. Francis, 24 s.; Mrs. Fryer, 12 s.; Mrs. Firth, 1 s., 1 l.; Miss J. Fennell, 12 s.; Mrs. C. E. Fitch, 1 l.; Miss Grigg, 3 s.; Miss A. Greaves, 12 s.; Miss Garnshaw, 1 l.; Mrs. A. M. Gordon, 2 s.; Miss E. M. Gilmour, 2 l.; The Misses Glave, 36 s.; Mrs. J. Gregson, 6 s. 1 l. Mrs. F. Gibson, 6 s.; Mrs. Grant, 12 s., 1 l.; Miss Gregson, 1 l.; Miss E. Grimes, 1 l.; Mrs. C. M. Garraway, 4 s.; Mrs. C. Garraud, 6 s.; Miss M. S. Gibb, 4 s.; Miss T. Hadaway, 12 s; Miss A. Hamp Adams, 100 s.; Capt. C. A. K. Hoare, 24 s.; Miss C. M. Halford, 1 l.; Miss C. N. Hunter, 1 l.; Mrs. B. Halli, 1 l.; Mrs. Hitchcock, 2 s.; Mrs. W. F. Halliday, 2 s.; Mr. R. J. B. Howard, 2 l.; Mrs. A. E. Hope, 12 s.; Miss M. Jameson, 2 s., 1 l.; Miss J. M. Johnson, 2 l.; Miss Jones, 2 s.; Mrs. Jardine, 24 s.; Miss King, 24 s., 1 l.; Mrs. J. A. Kennedy, 1 l.; Miss Kemp-Welch, 6 s.; The Misses Levitt, 200 s., 1 l.; Miss D. Labouchere, 1 l.; Miss Lawson, 4 s.; Nurse Lambert, 1 l.; Mrs. Laffarn, 6 s.; Miss H. L. Lomax, 10 s.; Mrs. B. Lindo, 200 s.; Mrs. W. H. Leslie, 1 l.; Mrs. L. Lewis, 6 s., 1 l.; Mrs. Robertson Lawson, 1 l.; Mrs. McClintock, 12 s.; Mrs. H. N. Maslyn, 1 l.; Miss S. A. Mitford, 6 s., 1 l.; Miss M. Marshall, 12 s.; Miss Martin-Edmunds, 6 s.; Miss M. Morris, 1 l.; Miss Morgan, 1 l.; Mrs. H. M. Macpherson, 10 s.; Mrs. Maris, 12 s.; Mrs. H. Morrah, 1 l.; Mrs. K. Moloney, 2 s.; Miss L. Masterman, 1 s.; Mrs. MacDonald, 2 s.; Miss M. McCorquodale, 6 s.; Mrs. Moore, 5 s, 1 l.; J. Maloney, 6 s.; Miss Mossip, 1 l.; The Hon. Mrs. Norbury, 6 s.; Miss Norbury, 6 s.; Mrs. H. Neville 1 l.; Mrs. Nathan, 24 s.; Miss Osborne, 24 s., 2 l.; Miss M. Pattison, 1 l.; Miss Pearson, 72 s., 1 l; Mrs. Picciotto, 200 s.; Miss Pinney, 4 s.; Mrs. M. E. Phillips, 12 s.; Mrs. G. G. Prance, 1 l.; Mrs. Maynard Proud, 3 s.; Mrs. F. Pritchard, 2 l.; Mrs. H. P. Palmer, 2 s.; Miss L. Pound, 2 l.; Miss Richardson, 100 s.; Miss A. Randall, 6 s. 1 l.; Mrs. A. Rathborne, 1 l.; Mrs. Rawson, 300 s.; Mrs. A. Robinson, 12 s.; Miss S. Ravenscroft, 6 s.; Miss B. E. Ritter, 1 l.; Miss K. R. Reed, 24 s.; Mrs. M. Sacrè, 50 s.; Miss M. Streatfeild, 54 s., 1 l.; Miss E. Sansom, 6 s.; Miss P. Selbourne, 1 l.; Miss Saunders, 12 s.; Mrs. Schloesser, 12 s.; Mrs. Sayer, 50 s.; Mrs. Sichel, 30 s.; Mrs. Smith 50 s.; Mrs. S. D. Steward, 1 l.; Singer Manufacturing Co., 1 l.; Mrs. Stevens, 12 s.; Miss Osborne Smith, 2 s.; Miss Seemans, 12 s.; Mrs. G. Stiehl, 3 s., 2 l.; Miss Spencer-Evans, 4 s.; Miss Tweedy, 6 s.; Mrs. P. Tahourdin, 2 s.; Mrs. Tonkin, 18 s.; Miss K. E. Thompson, 1 l.; Miss G. Tod, 3 s., 1 l.; Mrs. Turnham, 6 s. 1 l.; The Misses Tottenham, 4 s.; Mrs. Trengrouse, 100 s.; Mrs. W. C. Thompson 1 l.; Mrs. Truefitt, 48 s. 2 l.; Miss M. D. La Touche, 2 s.; Miss F. Taunton, 6 s.; Miss Tankard, 12 s.; The Misses Took and Rodgent, 6 s.; Mrs. Usmar, 24 s.; Miss A. G. Vincent, 12 s.; Miss A. B. Warburg, 18 s., 1 l.; Miss J. F. Walker, 12 s.; Miss M. Webber, 1 s., 1 l.; Miss Walsh, 1 l.; Miss V. Wellesley, 2 s., 1 l.; Miss C. White, 1 l.; Miss Watts, 6 s; Miss V. Wells, 2 s., 1 l.; Miss V. Wrigley, 6 s.; Miss E. C. Whellock, 1 l.; Mrs. Williams, 1 s., 1 l.; J. Westmoreland, Esq., 12 s.; Mrs. Woodruff, 2 s.; Mrs. Young, 12 s.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I can't remember what the population of London is. Can you? But, whatever it may be, I feel certain that the whole of it turns out into the streets on these afternoons in search of presents. You never saw anything like it. The pavements are black with human beings, most of them hung round with children, and the roadways are filled with steaming horses, loaded vans, crowded omnibuses, and every variety of carriage and cab.

And what do you think is the supreme attraction for most of the wayfarers? You would never guess. The butchers' shops, my dear! Therein are displayed the Cattle Show carcases of the bovine sacrifices to our carnivorous habits. I don't mind the sight of joints, custom having hardened me to that aspect of things, nor am I disagreeably affected by a "side" of beef, if that is the right term for half the animal; but I must admit that the spectacle of the head, with horns and skin complete, afflicts me with much compunction, and almost persuades me to be a vegetarian for the rest of my life.

Can you imagine what attraction there can be in looking at the Christmas beef in this tragic state? In one shop there was a live bullock displayed, surrounded by the joints of his brotherhood. Surely instinct must have made the creature aware of this, and consequently uncomfortable.

I was amused to see one butcher's shop quite specially illuminated as for a gala occasion, and with a placard displayed on which the words "Royal Beef" appeared. Surely this was slightly ambiguous.

We have been saving up our money for the last two months for Redfern's sale, which begins on Monday week and continues for ten days. They sell off all their original models of the past season in gowns, coats, mantles, wraps, and millinery, and their remnants of

Busvine's New Styles of Ladies' Riding, Driving, and Walking Coats are separately designed and specially modelled to suit each particular figure.—Sketches by post, 4, Brook-street, W. "To have a perfect figure constructed upon the scaffolding, so to speak, of an imperfect one."—*Daily News.*

cloth and other dress materials are always remarkably cheap. Bee got one last year for half-a-guinea, a dress length measuring nine yards double width, and had it converted into one of the prettiest coat and skirt suits that she has ever had. She and Clare are looking forward to the occasion in order to provide themselves with spring coats, and I am going on the prowl for a sumptuous evening mantle, for which Richard is going to pay. Besides, there are always little things, blouses, waistcoats, vests, collarettes, short, smart capes, and so on, which are to be picked up at this sale for a mere nothing, and yet make considerable effect in the costume. It is not surprising that women come up from the country on purpose to be in good time and get the first choice; nor is it very astonishing that when two of them are equally attracted by any of the bargains, there is a lively collision of opinion as to which sighted it first, and consequently, has the highest claim to become the possessor.

The Hon. Mrs. Henniker was "At Home" last Tuesday at her brother's town house, 23, Hill-street, to the members of the Society of Women Journalists and their friends. The hostess looked very girlish and charming in a simple gown of grey silk, the bodice covered with a white fichu and caught in at the waist with a pink sash. She industriously introduced the celebrities to each other, and to outsiders who were anxious to make their acquaintance. Bret Harte was present, but to Bee's intense disappointment, and indeed to my own, had left just as we got there. Mrs. Maxwell, not yet flown south like the swallows, was among the guests, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Edmund Selous; and I shall never forget the ecstatic delight of a couple of American ladies when they discovered that this popular authoress (Miss Braddon, of course, you know, dear) was there to be looked at, so that they would be able to carry accounts of personal propinquity with her home to the great Continent where her books have been and are so intensely appreciated. These two ladies, by the way, were extremely anxious to know the names of all the celebrated people present, and tackled Bee and me on the subject. Unfortunately, we were almost as ignorant as they, so could not afford them much assistance. However, we managed to indicate Mr. Le Gallienne, Miss Violet Hunt, Miss Clo Graves, Miss Jean Middlemass, Mr. David Murray, A.R.A. (wearing a tie of a soft but glowing sunset pink), Mr. Oswald Crawfurd, Mr. Hamilton Aïdé, Miss Shaw, of the *Times*, Madame Novikoff, Lady Dorothy Nevill and her daughter, Mr. Herbert Schmalz, and a few others. I suppose it would be impossible to arrange that celebrated people should bear a label expressive of their identity. It might be antagonistic to the modesty of genius, which is to be regretted, for the sake of the curious multitude which enjoys nothing better than to gaze upon celebrities and compare their appearance with the mental picture that every one of us unconsciously forms in our own minds.

Some day, perhaps, there may be an invention whereby these silhouettes may be photographed from the inner consciousness of those who originate them. How curious it would be to compare the fanciful sketch, in portraits, of different minds of one and the same subject! Would even any two have points of resemblance?

The large rooms of Lord Crewe's town house were filled with well-known people, and the hum of conversation was undisturbed by music. This is the high ideal of enjoyment when so many people meet who are interesting to each other. The interchange of ideas is in itself so delightful that the goddess of harmony becomes unappreciated and has to take a back seat, to use a bit of slang, while human nature pursues the genial task of divining others and allowing itself to be divined. La Rochefoucauld, it is true, declared that there was no pleasure in this, but then, you know, dear, he was a sad cynic, and my experience of people is very much pleasanter than his could have been. The more I know of fresh acquaintances, as a rule, the more likeable I find them, and even at first, if shyness or cold manner makes them appear slightly repellent, a closer intimacy almost always reveals some charm that lies half-hidden beneath the surface.

We went on Thursday afternoon to see the Truth Toy Show at the Albert Hall and found the huge arena crowded with visitors. The dolls were extremely well displayed this year, none of them being "skied," but all well within the line of sight. The large dolls were, as usual, the great attraction of the show. Truth has really done wonders in raising the standard of dressed dolls all over the world. Year by year greater perfection has been attained in this agreeable art by the ladies who compete with each other in this particular for the Truth Toy Show. Beautiful material, glittering trimmings, and the very best of needlework combine to produce an effect which is enhanced by the taste and completeness of the miniature toilettes. I am strongly tempted to describe to you in detail some of the exquisitely-dressed dolls and beautiful toys that we saw; but I refrain, for I know that you are sure to read the full account of the Show which will appear in Truth.

One of the large rooms in Queen's Hall was rendered festive in appearance on Thursday and Friday in last week by Mrs. A. B. Marshall's fourth annual cookery exhibition, ball, supper, and wedding-breakfast display. The last named was, of course, the principal item. The very long table was laid with plates, knives and forks, and wine-glasses, and was beautifully decorated with yellow flowers. The dishes, thirty-six in number, were all prepared at the Mortimer-street school of cookery on the two preceding days. The menu is too extensive to be reproduced here, but I may endeavour to describe to you one or two dishes that particularly took my fancy. A liberally large "pâté de foie à la française," the pastry covering of which was cut out in the shape of little rounded leaves, was baked in a series of tints exactly like the plumage of the partridge, was rather appropriate to a pie composed of game livers. A "crême de homard à la norvégienne" was one of the prettiest dishes I have ever seen, the chief tint being a soft, bright orange. It was scattered over with pearls, their silvery glimmer making a pretty effect against the more pronounced colour. I have no doubt they were eatable pearls. One of the most ornamental dishes consisted of "petites corbeilles de nougat à la Dürer," but it is almost invidious to select any for special praise. One or two dishes sent by Monsieur Marquis, the well-known French chef, whose pressed beef galantines and raised pies à la Périgord you appreciate so much, supplemented Mrs. A. B. Marshall's thirty-six, so that you may imagine how bounteous was the provision under which this supper-table groaned, to use the time-honoured expression. One of his was a boar's head, compounded of various gastronomical delights; another was a truffled turkey, a huge and tempting bird, whose price was marked two guineas. I notice that his list contains this season eightpenny bottles of truffles, so convenient for small families, as well as fresh truffles and goose livers. He also supplies stuffed and truffled turkey by the pound, another very accommodating arrangement.

At a different table were displayed the dishes sent in for competition by candidates for Mrs. Marshall's prizes, consisting, respectively, of gold medal and three guineas, silver medal and two guineas, bronze medal and one guinea. These made a brave show, but I must not venture on any detail lest I should never bring this letter to an end. Messrs. Liebig offered a set of prizes, on the same scale as Mrs. A. B. Marshall's, for the best dishes containing their extract of meat; a soup, an entrée, and a jelly, or any kind of preparation dressed with a sauce in which the extract was utilised. This elicited a most interesting collection of competitive compositions.

Fifteen hundred people visited the exhibition during the first day, enjoying the strains of the band and evidently deeply absorbed in the details of culinary philosophy.

Fashions up to Date.—An elegant and svelte figure is produced by the easy and perfect-fitting anatomical corset shaped by the experts, Mesdames Sykes, Josephine, & Co., Anatomical Corsetières, 280, Regent-street, Oxford-circus, London, W.

Westminster Town Hall was alive with merry youngsters on Friday afternoon, when the fifth annual sale in connection with the Children's Salon was held there. Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar opened the proceedings at half-past two. "Levana," the fairy godmother of the Salon, made one of her terse and telling speeches, advising parents to habituate their children to the practice of helping those not so happily furnished with this world's goods. Mr. J. S. Wood followed with a lucid explanation of the aims and objects of this good-hearted little society, which has already established in perpetuity two cots in London hospitals—rather a brave record for young folks under seventeen years of age, is it not? The proceeds of last week's sale are to be applied to the emergency fund for providing dinners for hungry Board School children during the winter. The stalls, draped with white, were lavishly supplied with articles ornamented with needlework, and sold at the very moderate prices which distinguish this sale so agreeably, and which induce many of us to purchase our smaller Christmas boxes there. In the afternoon there was an entertainment provided by professional children, who give their services for the charity.

Do you not think the common methods of teaching languages in schools are, as a rule, shockingly bad? I have always thought so because I cannot bring myself to believe that it is through mere natural stupidity that so many who are taught learn so little. The other day I had an interesting chat on the subject with Mlle. Duriaux of the School of Modern Languages, 10, Portman-street. Mlle. Duriaux told me all about the "Gouin" method of instruction in French which is practised there, and which she is willing to explain to teachers who would like to adopt it. Of course, I cannot speak of its practical results, but in theory it seemed to me to possess many advantages—indeed, I feel certain that I should have obtained a sounder knowledge of French with a good deal less labour if I had learned by this system.

First to arrive among my Christmas presents was a handsome case filled with my favourite Vinolia preparations. Have you had one? It makes a very pretty and acceptable gift.

Rumours to the contrary notwithstanding, the National Skating Palace in Argyll-street looked flourishing enough when I was there a few days ago, and there seemed no danger, as some had whispered there was, of this attractive resort being closed. I went particularly to see Miss Mabel Davidson, who claims the proud distinction of being "champion lady skater of the world." Not without good reason do her fellow Americans call her the Queen of the Ice. Her performances exhibit really wonderful grace and skill.

Ursula sends me the following letter:—

Dearest Madge,—Although you have the blest privilege of being a dweller in town, you probably know something of the mental torpor which comes over a country district at the approach of winter, when for days together one is confronted with the alternative of moping over the fire with an elderly novel or wading along slushy country roads in the teeth of driving hail or rain, to come home so plastered with mud from head to foot that your nearest and dearest refuse to recognise you. Drives and afternoon teas are things of the past, the hunt ball is still in the dim future, and in the meantime one seems cut off from human society. Into this state of social somnolence we were rapidly sinking, when our whole neighbourhood was wakened up by the prospect of a visit from the Duke and Duchess of York, and during this week they have been the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Portland at Welbeck Abbey. Their Royal Highnesses arrived on Monday evening, and received a hearty welcome from "Woodland Worksop," which was very prettily illuminated in honour of the occasion. In spite of the weather being damp and cold, the Royal visitors drove through in an open carriage; and afterwards, instead of entering Welbeck by the imposing new entrance gates, they proceeded by way of the famous long tunnels, and passed under the lake to the Abbey, where a house party were already assembled.

On Tuesday the weather was glorious, and there was a very successful shoot for the masculine members of the party, while the ladies drove; but, alas! on Wednesday, a thick fog hung like a pall over the country, and after driving to the famous Clipstone preserves, and waiting there for an hour, the sportsmen were compelled to return home. Yesterday was more favourable, and after a good day among the pheasants a largely-attended ball was given at night in the underground picture-gallery, which is said to be the largest and most magnificent private room in England. Gottlieb's band was stationed on a platform screened in palms and foliage, and the upper part of the hall was arranged as a comfortable sitting-out lounge, plus the welcome addition of a buffet. The Duke and Duchess received their guests, she wearing white satin, the bodice embroidered in silver and enriched with huge outstanding epaulets, a pale blue sash tied at the side, diamond and sapphire tiara, necklace, &c. None of the house party was there when we arrived, but after a time they entered to "God Save the Queen," the Duchess of York, of course, leading the way with the Duke of Portland, while her Royal consort escorted his hostess; then followed the other guests, two and two, and without loss of time they formed a quadrille, which was the centre of attraction for the time being. The scene all through the evening was really a most brilliant one; many men had discarded the regulation black and white in favour of their pink coats, and various well-known hunts were represented, while the display of handsome dresses on the part of the weaker sex was exceptional, and diamond tiaras were as plentiful as roses in June. I need not say that the supper was an artistic triumph, and will now proceed to tell you something of the frocks. To begin, as needs must, with the Duchess of York. She wore light mauve satin, the skirt edged with a full ruche of what looked like mousseline de soie—the pointed bodice edged with crystal jewelled trimming, and the sleeves of the mousseline. With this she wore a magnificent tiara and necklace of diamonds. In attendance was Lady Eva Dugdale in yellow satin, trimmed with white chiffon and jewelled net, with which costume, as well as in most of the other instances, please include mentally diamond tiara, necklace, and brooches galore, adding, occasionally, strings and ropes of pearl. There was much anxiety to see the Duchess of Marlborough, who is a wonderfully tall, thin damsel, with a piquant face and expressive eyes. She wore white satin, with a pattern of thin silver lines running through it, and the bodice was lightly trimmed with lace, which was partly kept in place by the most enormous diamond crescent I ever saw in my life—it stretched right from one side across to the other, while her pearls were also beautiful. The Duchess of Manchester was in black satin embroidered in silver, and the Duchess of Devonshire was also in mourning, and wore her famous "fender" tiara. The Duchess of St. Albans was in grey moire trimmed with white chiffon, touches of dark velvet and clusters of pink roses; and the Duchess of Newcastle looked her best in red glacé silk, with chiffon sleeves to match, and folded red silk belt fastened with a large diamond buckle. The Marchioness of Lansdowne, who came with the party from Clumber, wore striped silk with an Indian embroidered front, and the Countess of Coventry appeared in heliotrope. Lady Sarah Wilson was another guest from Clumber, and her gown was specially noticeable—a shimmery salmon-pink tulle over pink satin, rucked satin body of a deeper shade, and trails of purply-pink convolvulus, while the *sortie du bal* she donned in the cloak-room was a most covetable possession in apricot silk and lovely lace with a high collar of ermine. Lady Dudley looked sweet and more youthful than ever in pale green satin, with jewelled net on the corsage, and a pearl tiara; and Lady Raincliffe (daughter-in-law of Lord Londesborough) had a lovely gown of white tulle, dotted closely with green jewels, over white satin, folds of green satin on the bodice, and splendid diamonds and emeralds. Lady Granby's toilettes are always something out of the common, and she did not disappoint this time, her dress (black net over grey) being adorned with broad straps of dark jewelled trimming which hung from the folded grey belt. The sleeves were of white chiffon, and a broad strap of diamonds ran round the top of the corsage crossing the shoulders. Lady Mary Pierrepont's fair beauty accorded well with her white net over lilac silk. Lady Maude Rolleston was in white satin striped with silver and blue belt; Lady Clanwilliam also in white satin with pearl trimming; Lady Bertha Fitzmaurice in white; Lady Dorothy Coventry in pink. Amongst the noticeable gowns worn of the general company were a pale green satin trimmed with pink roses; a black net, embroidered in silver and trimmed with knots of white roses; a grey brocade, worn with a lace fichu by a white-haired lady; a white silk, with bolero of pale blue and silver fringes; a heliotrope brocade, with chiffon bodice and velvet belt; a creamy satin, trimmed with knots of violets; another white satin, exquisitely hand-painted with wreaths of Virginia creeper and a knot of these leaves in the hair; a green brocade, with chiffon bodice; and an ivory satin, with pearl embroidered and pink velvet. A handsome gown was grey brocade, the bodice embroidered in silver and jewelled trimming with bands of sable fur, and another successful gown was pale green satin with trails of tiny pink roses round the top of the corsage and a knot in the hair-jewelled belt. Touches of red velvet brightened a white silk, and a black was prettily trimmed with guipure; a gown of rich black satin looked well with folds of sequin-spangled net, and a word of commendation must be given to a débutantes gown of white tulle over satin, with lines of lilies of the valley alternating on the skirt with flounces of the tulle. Now I think I have treated you very well, in view of the over-

The Sunny South.—Messrs. Redfern, 26, Conduit-street, London, supply the correct form of dress worn at the water resorts on the Mediterranean and in the East. Special materials, light in weight, are made for this purpose.

whelming amount of Christmas card addressing which hangs over my head and renders life unworthy of being lived *pro tem.*

URSULA.

Here are some nice recipes. You will like this Green Goose :—

Cut the meat from the breast of a cold goose into slices. Divide two or three lambs' sweetbreads (which have been parboiled in gravy) in halves. Place alternately on a buttered dish a slice of goose and one of sweetbread, until the whole is used. Dust over them spiced bread crumbs, and squeeze the juice from two oranges on to the dish. Place dice-shaped pieces of butter on the top. Cover with a second plate and set in a hot oven until *nearly* cooked. Properly poach as many new-laid eggs as required, trim each, and arrange them quickly on the slices of goose and sweetbread. Garnish with fried parsley, which should be quite green when cooked.

Try Turkey and truffles thus :—

Choose a fine young turkey, ready dressed as for roasting. Chop about ½ lb. of mushrooms which have been skinned and stalked; add to these 2 oz. of scraped bacon, a tablespoonful of minced parsley, one chopped shallot, and the leaves from a sprig of sweet basil. Take the liver (removing the gall), blanch and mince. Mix these ingredients all together with a little butter, season with pepper and salt, and with this fill the craw of the bird. Scald the turkey in any boiling fat; so that it may be blanched and plump. Secure the neck safely, and truss the bird. Cover it with slices of bacon, and roast it before a brisk fire. Cut a ¼ lb. of truffles into star-shaped pieces, which have been boiled; then throw them into as much gravy as required, and let them simmer in a stewpan for a quarter of an hour. Thicken with a tablespoonful of ham cullis. See that this sauce is of a good flavour. Send to table in a hot tureen.

Here is the recipe for a delicious and economical dish of mincemeat fritters :—

Have ready a mince, prepared from 2 lb. of stoned raisins, 2 lb. of currants, 1 lb. of sultanas, 10 lb. of apples, ¾ lb. of sugar, 2 lb. of suet, the chopped rind of a lemon, the juice of two, a ¼ lb. of mixed spice, 1 gill of brandy, 2 oz. of citron, and 2 oz. of candied lemon-peel. Mix ½ lb. of mincemeat with 2 oz. of finely grated bread crumbs, 2 well-beaten eggs, and the strained juice of half a lemon. Stir well together, and drop a sufficient quantity of the mixture into a pan of very pure lard or fresh butter. Fry for seven or eight minutes; when the fritters become a delicate brown, dry them upon a napkin, sprinkle them lightly with lemon-juice and castor sugar, roll neatly, and send to table hot.

Ever, dear, your loving cousin, MADGE.

It is not in the torrid zones of the Equator or in the depressing darkness and cold of the North Pole that debility and mental depression make their largest number of victims. It is in our large cities where the worry of business, the overpressure of daily life, and the thousand-and-one sources of excitement combine to undermine the nervous system, reduce the energetic, active man to a fretful invalid, paralysing the imagination of the man of letters and putting a term to the steady application of the man of science. Fortunately, the remedy is to be found close to the evil, for in the Mariani Wine the overwrought victim of nervous exhaustion has a certain agreeable and reliable means of reconstituting and reinvigorating his vitality.

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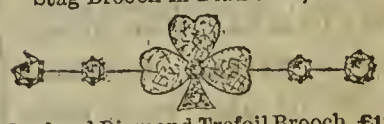

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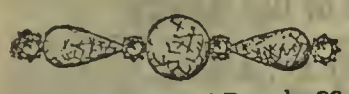

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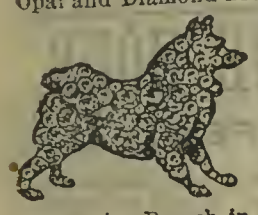

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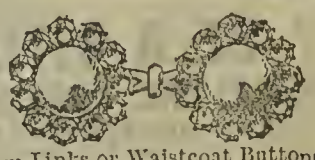

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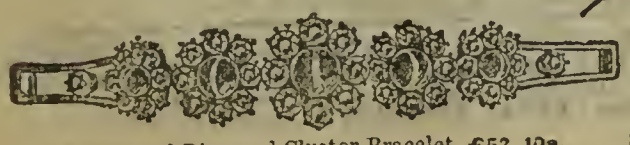

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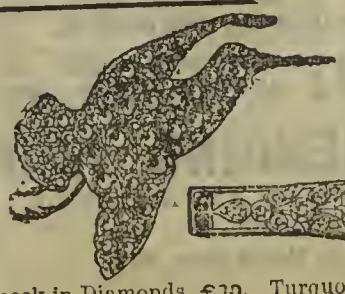

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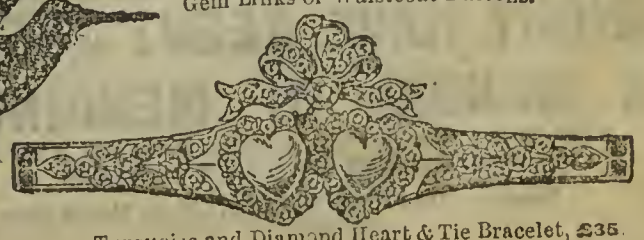

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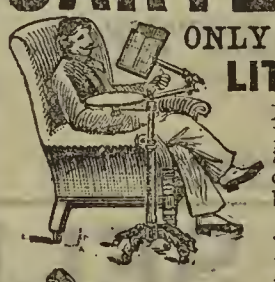

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,, at 7	CHRISTMAS CONCERT.
December 26, at 2.30	POPULAR CONCERT.
,, at 8	PROMENADE CONCERT.
December 27, at 3.30	SUNDAY ORCHESTRA.
,, at 7.30	CHAMBER CONCERT.
January 1, at 3	ELIJAH.

Full particulars at Robert Newman's Box-office, Queen's Hall.

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at Three o'clock.
Queen's Hall Choral Society.
Choir Boys from London Training School for Choristers.
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Mr. BEN DAVIES | Signor FOLI
Queen's Hall Orchestra.
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ORGANIST..... Mr. HENRY J. WOOD.
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Mr. Arthur W. Payne	Solo violin.
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At Three o'clock.
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Choir Boys from London Training School for Choristers.
Conductor, Mr. Randegger.
Miss Ella Russell. | Miss Ada Crossley.
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Queen's Hall Orchestra.
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LYCEUM.—As, owing to a sprain, Henry Irving will be unable to play for a short time, the LYCEUM will be CLOSED till after Christmas. Due notice will be given of the resumption of RICHARD III.
CYMBELINE will be played from December 26, till January 2, inclusive, with Matinees on Saturdays and Wednesday. Imogen, Miss Julia Arthur; Posthumus, Mr. Frank Cooper; Iachimo, Mr. Cooper Cliffe; Queen, Miss Genevieve Ward.
Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats also booked by letter or telegram. LYCEUM.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDES.—EVERY EVENING, at 8 (Doors open 7.40), a New Musical Play, in Two Acts, entitled
THE CIRCUS GIRL,
by J. T. Tanner and W. Palings. Lyrics by Adrian Ross and Harry Greenbank. Music by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton. Seats can be booked at the Box-office from 10 to 6 daily.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2 (doors open 1.40).

ADELPHI.—Sole Proprietors and Managers, A. & S. GATTI, Business Manager, Mr. FRED G. LATHAM.—EVERY EVENING, Douglas Jerrold's famous Nautical Drama, BLACK EY'D SUSAN. William Terriss and Miss Millward; Mr J. D. Beveridge, Mr. Chas. Fulton, Mr. Luigi Lablache, Mr. Oscar Adye, Mr. Harry Nicholls, &c.; Miss Kate Kearney, Miss Margaret Halston, Miss Vane Featherston. To be preceded by Messrs. T. and J. Madison Morton's Comedy Drama, ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD. Mr. Harry Nicholls as Toby Twinkle. Box-office now open.

SAVOY.—Every Evening, at 8.30, and Every Saturday Afternoon, at 2.30, THE MIKADO, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. At 7.50, WEATHER OR NO. Box-office 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.—R. D'OYLY CARTE, Proprietor and Manager.

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Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER.
EVERY EVENING, at 8 punctually (recommencing BOXING NIGHT).
Overture, 7.45.
WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY MATINEES, at 2 (recommencing BOXING DAY).

ST. JAMES'S.—SPECIAL NOTICE.
The Theatre CLOSED To-night, December 24, and To-morrow, December 25, RE-OPENING with the MATINEE on BOXING DAY and EVERY EVENING. and WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY MATINEES, on and after that date.
ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

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VAUDEVILLE.—A. & S. GATTI, Sole Lessees and Managers. EVERY EVENING, at 9, A NIGHT OUT. Preceded, at 8.15, by ROUND A TREE. MATINEE EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 3. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10.

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RICHARD C. TRESIDDER, Secretary.

MARGATE.

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Patron—The QUEEN.
FURTHER HELP IS REQUESTED, 80 Beds being still Closed for want of Funds.
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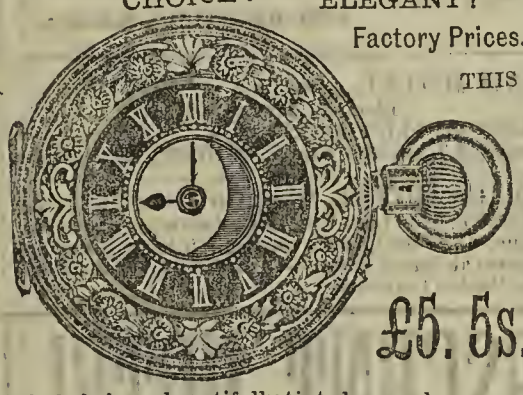

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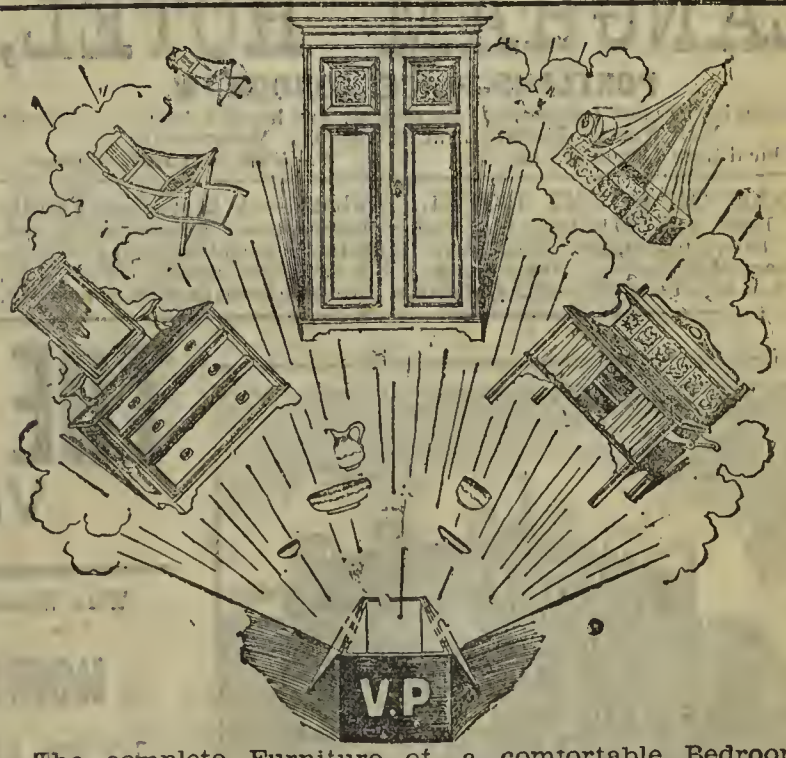

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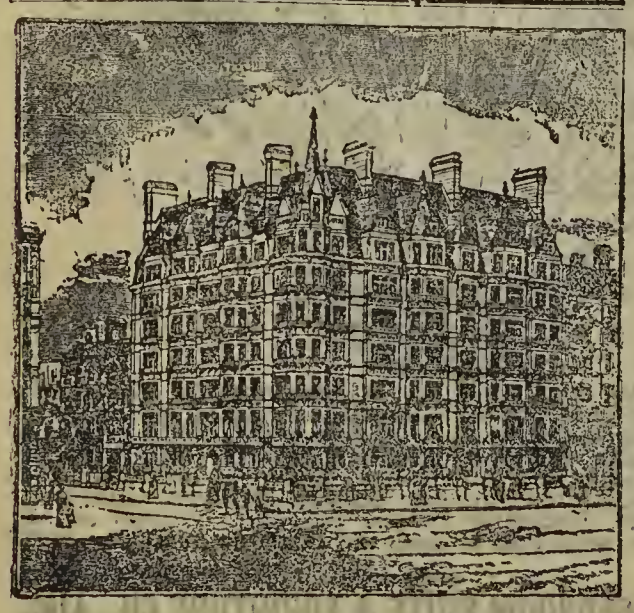

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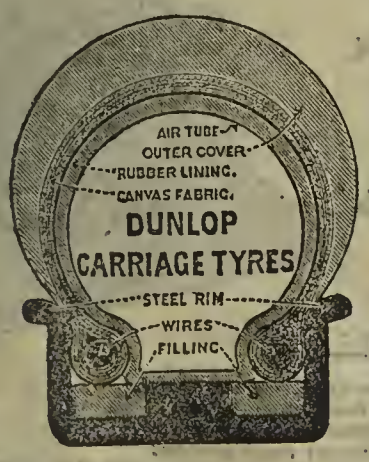

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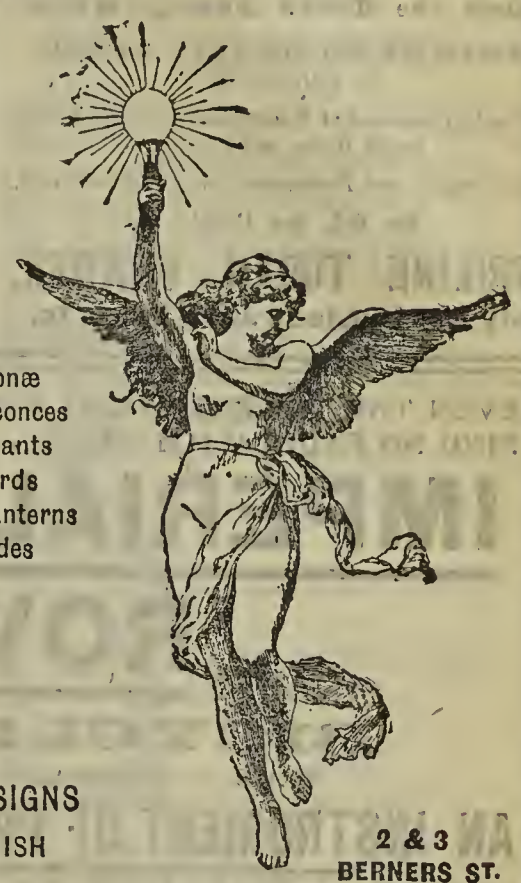

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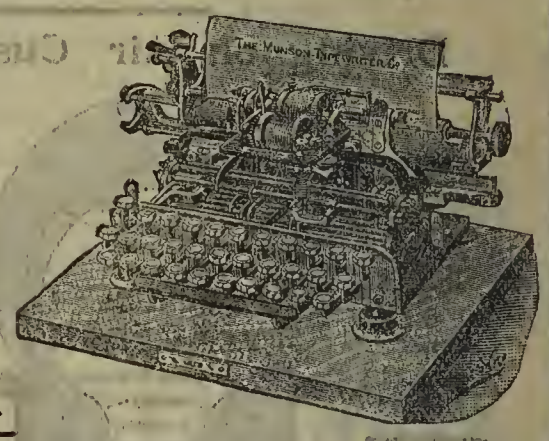

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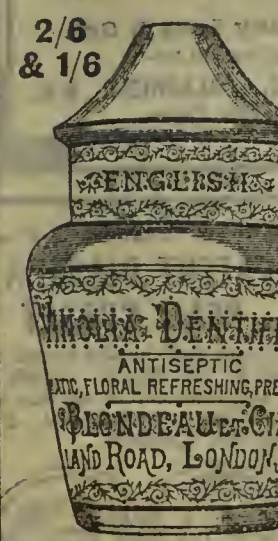

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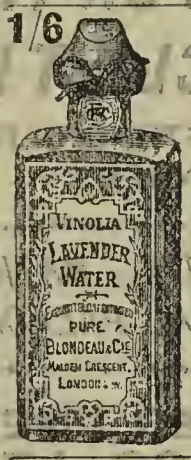

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In Antique Porcelain Vase, 3/6. *In White Opal Vase,* 2/-

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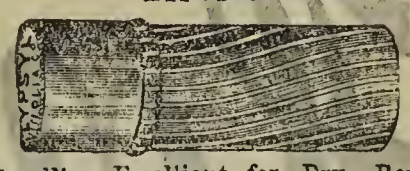

A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked or Pallid Lips.

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If any difficulty be experienced in obtaining "HOVIS," or what is supplied as "HOVIS" is not satisfactory, please write, sending sample (the cost of which will be defrayed), to

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BEWARE! *Bakers recommending another Bread in place of "HOVIS" do so for their own profit.* **BEWARE!**

12/6 CHINA.

THE **"LUDGATE"** TEA SERVICE.

For Twelve Persons.
Forty Pieces.

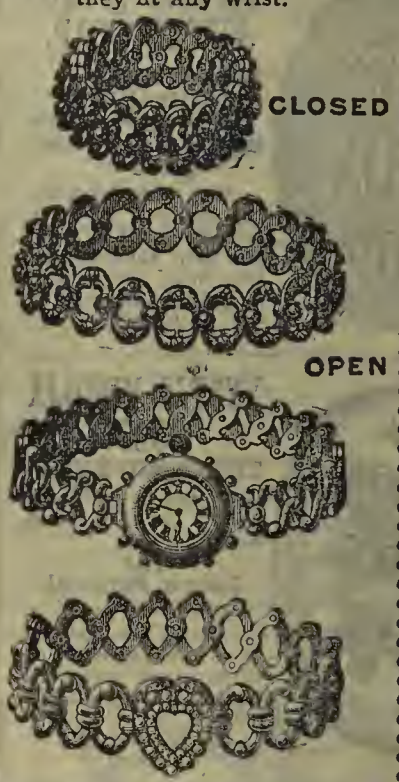
China, with Gold Edge, in Rose Pink, Blue, or Green.
If for the Country, 9d. for package.

Dinner, Dessert, Breakfast, and Tea Services.

ALFRED B. PEARCE,
39, Ludgate Hill, London.
Established 1760.

THE NEW PATENT
"Self-Closing" BRACELETS.

NEVER SLIP in whatever position placed.
Delightfully flexible and comfortable.
Specially suitable for Presents, as they fit any wrist.

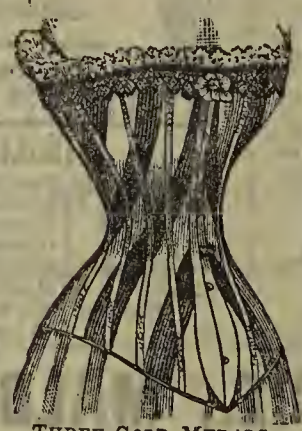


Made in plain gold. Also with the pretty and Fashionable Turquoises and Pearls studded all round.

LARGE VARIETY OF PATTERNS.
Sold by all leading Jewellers.
Wholesale only Saunders & Shepherd, London.

CLARK'S
SCOTCH TWEEDS

Send for Price List at Once. Any Length Cut.
Patterns sent on approval Post Free, on application to—
CLARK BROS., SCOTCH TWEED MANFCTRS., CALASHIELS, N.B.
Agents Wanted. Please mention this Paper.



THREE GOLD MEDALS.

Exquisite Models. Perfect Fit. Guaranteed Wear.

THE **Y & N** PATENT DIAGONAL SEAM CORSET

Will not split in the Seams nor tear in the Fabric. Made in White, Black, and all the fashionable colours and Shades in Italian Cloth, Satin, and Coutil, 4/11, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11 per pair and upwards.

CAUTION.—Every genuine **Y & N** Corset is stamped.

Sold by Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters in the United Kingdom and Colonies.

EXHIBITED AT THE STANLEY SHOW WITH IMMENSE SUCCESS.

The SELF-ADJUSTING BICYCLE SUPPORT

PATENTS APPLIED FOR.

Safety Ensured.

Side-Slipping Impossible.

Riding in Traffic no longer a Danger.

Adds 50 per cent. to Comfort of Riding.

Weighs / Costs } LITTLE.

Can be fixed to any Bicycle.

No Mechanical Skill Required.

Anyone can fix it in a few minutes.

"AN UNEXAMPLED LUXURY."

Enquiries: **83, PICCADILLY, W.** (*Temporary Offices.*)

H. L. DAVIS, *Manager.*

Best is Cheapest & Lasts Longest
Fixed, moderate prices.
Permanent Protection from Chill.

JAEGER

PURE WOOL UNDERWEAR, HOSE, PYJAMAS, RUGS, BLANKETS, CASHMERE SHEETS, DRESSING GOWNS, SHAWLS, CORSETS, CYCLING OUTFITS, BOOTS AND SHOES, etc. etc.

"Health Culture" & Jaeger Coy.'s Price List sent free.

JAEGER DEPOTS:—
3 and 4, PRINCES ST., CAVENDISH-SQ. (near Regent-circus)
126, REGENT-STREET (near the Quadrant).
30, SLOANE-STREET (adjoining McPherson's Gymnasium).
456, STRAND (near Trafalgar-square).
85 and 86, CHEAPSIDE (near King-street).

TAILORING (only):—
42, CONDUIT-STREET, NEW BOND STREET, W.
The "Jaeger" goods are sold in many Towns. Address sent from Jaeger Co.'s Head Office, 95, Milton Street, E.C.

TRADE MARK ON EACH GARMENT.

The "Jaeger" goods are tested for purity and durability.

Dr. JAEGER'S SANITARY WOOLLEN SYSTEM Co.'s SOLE CONCESSIONARIES — PURE WOOL — WARRANTED.

BREAKFAST—SUPPER

EPPS'S

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

COCOA

BOILING WATER OR MILK.

Hunyadi János

BEST AND SAFEST NATURAL APERIENT.

25 Years Success in the United Kingdom.

Recommended and Prescribed by Medical Men Everywhere.

"HUNYADI JÁNOS has established itself in favour with leading physicians and therapeutists of every country, whose testimonies bear witness to its action as a speedy, sure, and gentle Aperient for ordinary use; it is remarkably and exceptionally uniform in its composition, and free from defects incidental to many other Hungarian Bitter Waters." —*British Medical Journal*, Aug 30th, 1884.

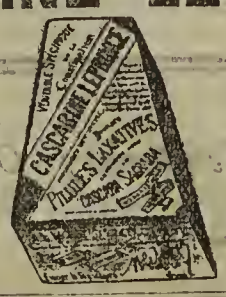
PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, the celebrated Berlin Physician, says that "HUNYADI JÁNOS" has always given him prompt and satisfactory results, and he considers it to be "one of the most valuable of the Curative Agents at our disposal."

CAUTION.—Every Bottle bears the Signature of the Proprietor, ANDREAS SAXLEHNER.

AN ABSOLUTE CURE FOR CONSTIPATION.

CASCARINE LEPRINCE.

CHRONIC CONSTIPATION.
IMPAIRED DIGESTION.
PILES.
SICK HEADACHE.



DISORDERED LIVER.
BILIOUSNESS.
CONSTIPATION DURING NURSING, &c.

GRATIS Sample Box post free on application to
FRANCIS NEWBERY & SONS,
1 & 3, King Edward Street, Newgate Street, London, E.C.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

No Member of the Stock Exchange is allowed to advertise for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of the Stock Exchange, or under the control of the Committee.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew-lane Entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

FRANCIS LEVIEN,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

CITY OF QUEBEC. CONVERSION and REDEMPTION of OUTSTANDING DEBENTURES. The Corporation of the City of Quebec invites the holders of certain outstanding Sterling Debentures of the City to exchange their present holdings either for 3½% Consolidated Registered Stock, or for Cash, upon terms set out in the Full Prospectus of an Issue of £654,480 3½% Consolidated Registered Stock, which is being offered on behalf of the City of Quebec, by Messrs. Coates, Son, & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

Said Full Prospectus may be obtained of:—
Messrs. Coates, Son & Co., 99, Gresham-street, London, E.C.;
and of
Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, & Co., Lombard-street, London, E.C.;
The Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow;
The Clydesdale Bank, Limited, Glasgow and Edinburgh;
The Bank of Liverpool, Limited, Liverpool;
The Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, Manchester, or
The Merchants Bank of Canada, Montreal and Quebec.

C. J. L. LAFRANCE,
City Treasurer.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK & SHARE DEALER.

HEAD OFFICE:—
WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER,
LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.
Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.
Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.
W. B. COCHRANE & CO., 13 and 14, Cornhill, E.C.

The Lists will open on SATURDAY, the 19th day of DECEMBER, and will close for London and Country on or before WEDNESDAY, the 23rd day of DECEMBER, 1896.

The properties to be acquired by this Company consist of Three Gold Mines, with over 4,000 feet of Development Work, Surface Equipments costing upwards of £100,000, and 17,000 acres of Land.

THE Consolidated Gold Fields of Mexico, LIMITED.

CAPITAL £300,000, in 300,000 Shares of One Pound Each, 100,000 of which will be held in reserve to meet the conversion of the Issue of £100,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock, which is now offered for Subscription.

The Debenture Stock will be secured by a first charge to the Trustees for the Debenture Stockholders upon the real property, now to be acquired by the Company, and on all the personal property of the Company (except uncalled or unpaid capital) susceptible of charge according to the Law of Mexico, without recourse to a Chattel Mortgage or other recorded instrument hindering the business of the Company. This Debenture Stock will be redeemable at the option of the Company at any time after 1900, on six months' notice, at the price of £110 per cent. When the instalments have been duly paid, and at any time before notice of redemption has been given the Debenture Stock will be convertible, at the option of the holder, on three months' notice, into Ordinary Shares of the Company at par, in amounts of not less than £5. Interest on the Debenture Stock will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July, the first payment to be made on the 1st July next, and to be calculated from the respective dates of the payments of the instalments.

The COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited, will receive Subscriptions for the above Debenture Stock, payable as follows:—

20 per Cent. on Application.
20 per Cent. on Allotment.
20 per Cent. on the 16th day of January, 1897.
40 per Cent. on the 26th day of February, 1897.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.
Lord Arthur Butler.
Sir Ambrose Shea, K.C.M.G.

DIRECTORS.
George A. Jones, Esq., Director Consolidated Gold Fields of New Zealand, Ltd.
Sir W. W. R. Onslow, Bart., Director North Cornwall Railway Company.
Roger C. Richards, Esq., Chairman Exploring and Gold Mining Association, Ltd.
H. Duncan, Esq., Chairman North Boulder Gold Mining Company, Limited.
G. A. Witt, Esq., 36, Lime-street, E.C.

LOCAL BOARD IN MEXICO.
Sr. D. Ramon Corral, Governor of Sonora.
Sr. D. Celedonio C. Ortiz, Secretary of State of Sonora
Lce Williamson Mix, Esq., Hermosillo, Sonora.

BANKERS.
The Commercial Bank of Scotland, Limited, 62, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
Head Office, Edinburgh, and Branches in Scotland.

BROKERS.
Messrs. Derenburg & Co., 9, Drapers'-gardens, E.C.
Messrs. Cutcliffe, Ley, & McCulloch, 7, Adams-court, E.C.
Messrs. Hook & Bradshaw, 4, York-buildings, Liverpool.
A. Ralph Brown, Esq., 48, West George-street, Glasgow.
Messrs. W. & F. Cuthbert, 79, Colmore-row, Birmingham.
E. J. Evans, Esq., 47, Corn-street, Bristol.
J. D. Bulger, Esq., 16, College-green, Dublin.

SOLICITORS.
Messrs. Burn & Berridge, 11, Old Broad-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.
Messrs. Moukhouse, Stoneham, & Co., 28 and 29, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.
Ernest Bergholt, Bartholomew House, Bartholomew-lane, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed, *inter alia*, for the purpose of acquiring the equipped and developed Mines known as the Santa Elena, Santa Elena East Extension, and Phœnix, together with (approximately) 17,000 acres of land, about 1,000 acres of which is tillable land, the remainder being timber land, situate in the Arizpe District, State of Sonora, Mexico.

Without going into the question of the value of this large tract of country, containing upwards of 25 square miles, it will be found by the reports that the actual mines which are opened up can be brought to a producing stage within a very short space of time, and for this reason, and also because there are large and tangible assets, consisting of—

Buildings.
Machinery and Plant, including 60 stamp quartz mill.
Water System.
Machine Shop.
Foundry.
Stores, Wood, Tools, &c., &c.

the cost of which exceeded £100,000, it has been deemed advisible to issue convertible Debenture Stock, the holders of which, whilst having the option of securing all the privileges of ordinary Shareholders when the mines will be in their producing stage, have the benefit of holding a first charge on the real property and all other assets of the Company (except uncalled Capital) susceptible of charge without recourse to a chattel mortgage, or other recorded instrument hindering the business of the Company.

It is expected that the Mine will be in full working order and earning dividends within six months from transfer of the property.

The further substantial asset of the Company is the amount of ore in sight, of which the exact measurement is given by Mr. Nicholson in his report as 30,278 tons blocked out, of a gross value of £105,000, besides a large quantity of ore which will be available with a small amount of work, but which, not being blocked out on all sides, cannot correctly be termed as in sight.

The properties have been reported on by the following eminent Mining Engineers, viz.:—Mr. A. F. Wuensch (March 1st, 1895), Mr. J. W. Moyle (July 10th, 1896), Mr. G. D. Roberts (July 25th, 1896), and Mr. Frank Nicholson, E.M.M.S., M.A.I.M.E. (September 28th, 1896). Mr. Nicholson was specially instructed to report by the Vendor Syndicate, which guarantees the subscription of £70,000 of the Debenture Stock now offered.

The Santa Elena vein, which traverses the properties, has been traced for a distance of over one mile, its outcrop being in many places from 50 to 100 feet in width. This outcrop was worked by the Mexicans for a distance of upwards of 300 feet in length, and a depth of from 60 to 100 feet, with a width of from 40 to 70 feet, and yielded an amount of gold and silver estimated at from Three to Five millions of dollars. The mine was subsequently developed at three different points by shafts connecting with two levels on the West and five levels on the East; also by two tunnels on the hanging wall, and by a new vertical shaft sunk outside the vein to cut the vein at a depth of 600 feet. This shaft has been sunk to a depth of 430 feet, and at 250 feet a level has been driven into the vein.

Practical tests of the ore have been made, which demonstrate that the Cyanide treatment extracts 96 per cent. of the gold contents. Before commencing active milling operations, it is intended to put in amalgamating plates and a Cyanide Plant, which, with other necessary requirements, will involve an expenditure of about £14,000. It is estimated that about 3,600 tons of ore per month can then be treated at a cost of 6s. per ton, with a saving of 80 per cent. of the value of the ore. The estimated cost of mining, with other expenses, is 8s. per ton.

Ore on the 250 feet level (the lowest level in the Mine) gave a value of 2·68 oz. gold, and 21·72 oz. silver per ton. On the San Juan level east, a value of £2 9s. per ton, and above the San Juan level a value of £4 18s. per ton. Samples taken from a width of from 7 to 55 feet across the vein, from different sections of the mine, gave an average value of £2 gold and 12·79 oz. silver per ton. The mine has not been developed with a view of exposing potentialities, and there is at present "in sight" only a very small proportion of the ore that is evidently available. Summarising the ore now opened up and ready for extraction as stated by Mr. Nicholson in his detailed report (viz., 30,278 tons), the average value per ton is £3 10s. The Engineers refer to the results of 47 bulk samples taken from all parts of the Mine.

Mr. Roberts states that he has made five examinations of the property, and that the vein is the largest gold-bearing quartz vein he has ever seen; that the outcrop indicates it to be from 100 to 200 feet in width, and perhaps in places much wider. The character and continuity of the vein, both on the surface and in the lower workings, give every reason to expect the rich ore to continue to a great depth.

"In regard to future developments," he says, "I would recommend that the present vertical shaft, now 430 feet deep, should be continued to the vein, which it will cut at a depth of 600 feet; also to continue the cross-cut from the shaft which has touched the vein on the 430 feet level. This cross-cut should be continued to the footwall. I would also recommend to continue both main drifts from the 250 feet level; the faces of both drifts are now in very rich ore."

Mr. Wuensch says: "The possibilities of the Santa Elena vein impress me most favourably. The fissure occupied by the vein is deep-seated, as evidenced by its great length and width, and the source of its quartz, viz., the dyke, will continue downward with it in depth, and will disclose values as great as anywhere along its present line."

Mr. Moyle, in his exhaustive report, states: "I believe the St. Elena property can, within one year, be made one of the largest gold and silver producers in the world. The fissure is wide and deep seated, the formation is favourable for large and continuous ore bodies. The length and width of the payable ore, on and near the surface, is almost phenomenal. All things considered one cannot examine the property without being impressed by its immensity, and become a firm believer in its future as a large and permanent producer."

Mr. Nicholson, who is so well-known as a Mining Engineer of the highest repute, has, with the assistance of his own staff, examined the property, and reports that he is extremely well pleased with the mine, and considers its prospective value immense. It is a true fissure vein of great size; the croppings are unusually strong. Its course is east and west, and its dip about 65° to the south. Mr. Nicholson states that he can fully confirm Mr. Moyle's report in all essential particulars.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Nicholson to act as General Manager of the Company in Mexico for a period of two years, and at the expiration of this period, to act as Consulting Engineer for a further period of two years.

The large possessions of land to be acquired by this Company are well-timbered, and the Sonora River insures an abundance of water throughout the year.

With the present 60 stamps working 3,600 tons of ore per month of a value of £3. 10s. per ton (which is the average value of the vein, as shown in the Engineer's Reports), at a cost of 14s. per ton, with a recovery of 80 per cent. of its value, there would result a net profit of £90,720 per annum. But assuming the recovery to be only 75 per cent., the net profit resulting would be £83,160, sufficient to return a dividend of over 27½ per cent. on 300,000 Ordinary Shares, which will be the amount of Share Capital if the Debenture Stockholders exercise their option of conversion.

When the mine is in a more advanced state of development it is intended to increase the stamping power to 120 stamps, which can be done at no great cost, as the present boiler and engine power will be sufficient. The profits should then show a large increase over the above figures.

The Directors desire to call the special attention of subscribers to the form of Debenture Stock issued, which, at the option of the holder, is convertible into Ordinary Shares of the Company.

The purchase price of the entire property, with mines, machinery and plant, has been fixed by the vendors, the S.E. Syndicate, Limited, which promotes this Company, at £250,000, payable as to £32,500 in cash, £47,500 in cash or Debentures, and £170,000 in fully-paid shares. £20,000 Debenture Stock and £30,000 Ordinary Shares are appropriated to provide working capital.

The statements in this Prospectus are based on the before-mentioned Reports, which, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the draft Trust Deed for securing the Debenture Stock, can be seen at the Offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Applications should be made on the form accompanying the prospectus, and forwarded to the Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

If the whole amount applied for be not allotted, the surplus paid on deposit will be appropriated towards payment of the sum due on allotment. Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectus and Form of Application can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, and from the Bankers, Solicitors or Brokers.

London, 19th December, 1896.

Genuine Old Welch Dressers

(Inlaid and Carved Oak), from £6. 10s.

ILLUSTRATED PRICED CATALOGUES POST FREE.
ALL GOODS CARRIAGE PAID TO ANY STATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

HEWETSONS,

TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, London, W.

REVERSIONS and LIFE INTERESTS in LANDED or FUNDED PROPERTY or other Securities and Annuities PURCHASED, or Loans or Annuities thereon granted, by the EQUITABLE REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, LIMITED, 10, Lancaster-place, Waterloo Bridge, Strand, Established 1835. Capital £500,000. Interest on Loans may be capitalised.

Nearly 5,000 Rescued Waifs!

Where? In Dr. Barnardo's Homes, with their 86 distinct houses and 24 Mission branches.

Why were they Admitted?

Because they were Destitute; without any other condition, either as to age, sex, creed, birthplace, nationality, physical condition, or money payment or guarantee. The doors are always open to receive such by day or night.

How are they Trained?

The Boys are carefully taught in fourteen different handicrafts; the Girls are brought up in cottage life to domestic service. About 1,900 also are boarded out in rural districts.

What Becomes of Them?

About 1,500 are placed out every year in various positions in the United Kingdom, or sent to sea, and 700 others are, after training, emigrated to Canada and the Colonies, where already 8,731 have been put to situations with farmers, or on the large industrial farm belonging to the Institutions.

How do they Succeed in After Life?

Splendidly! Over 98 per cent. of the 8,731 emigrants, for instance, have turned out satisfactorily.

How Many Destitute or Orphan Children are Admitted Weekly?

From 40 to 60. Every 24 hours about eight souls are added to Dr. Barnardo's great family.

How are they Maintained?

Solely by the free-will offerings of Christ's servants throughout the world.

What is the Religious Atmosphere of the Homes?

Protestant, Evangelical, and Christian, but not Sectarian. In their support all Evangelical Christians may and do join hands.

FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.

Remittances should be sent to the Treasurer, WILLIAM FOWLER, Esq.; to the Chairman of Committee, HOWARD WILLIAMS, Esq.; to the Bankers, London and South-Western Bank (Bow Branch); PRESCOTT, DIMSDALE, & Co., 50, Cornhill, E.C.; or to the Founder and Director, Dr. THOS. J. BARNARDO, at the address given below.

JOHN ODLING, *Secretary.*

Head Offices of the Homes,
18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, London, E.

10/6 THE "PELICAN" SELF-FEEDING PEN 10/6

(PATENTED)

WRITES INSTANTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY.

Has Extra Large Reservoir of Ink. Secure against Leakage in any position. Flow of Ink regulated with the Greatest Nicety.

POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, FITTED WITH SPECIAL BARREL PEN in 14-ct. GOLD, IRIDIUM-POINTED. Also

THE "NOTA BENE" STYLOGRAPH OR FLUID PENCIL

(PATENTED)

5/- 5/-

IS READY FOR INSTANT USE, WITHOUT ANY ADJUSTMENT. MAY BE CARRIED IN ANY POSITION, WITHOUT FEAR OF LEAKAGE.

POLISHED VULCANITE, HANDSOMELY ENCHASED, WITH NEEDLE, SPRING, & NOZZLE, MADE OF THE PRECIOUS METALS.

Sold by all Stationers. Wholesale only by the Sole Manufacturers, THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. Ltd., Bunhill Row, London, E.C.

Screens Sixteenth year of advertising, and still to the fore. For every-day use, and for Scraps and Pictures Mounting. 3 folds 11/6, 4 folds 15/6, carriage paid. Black and leather backgrounds, strong hinges, and draught proof. JOHN JACKSON, POULTON-LE-FYLDE, Lancashire.

£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d., "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

ST. RAPHAËL TANNIN

ST. RAPHAËL WINE

ST. RAPHAËL TANNIN

ST. RAPHAËL WINE

A BLOOD-MAKING WINE.—Best known and largely prescribed in all cases of debility, scrofula, anæmia, phthisis, convalescence.—Blood-Making Wine. Most valuable for growing girls, children, ladies nursing, old people, and brain exhaustion. A Natural Tonic, not to be confounded with preparations so much advertised for nervous diseases, or soothing in cases of insomnia, hunger, &c. Of an Exquisite Taste, invaluable as a tonic, efficacious, and pleasant.

E. GALLAIS, Sole Agent, 90, Piccadilly, London, W.

LIQUEUR of the GRANDE CHARTREUSE.

This most excellent Liqueur, the great preventive of Indigestion, and almost certain remedy for sea-sickness, can now be had of all Wine Merchants, and at prices much lower than formerly.
Sole Consignee, W. DOYLE, 35, Crutched Friars, London, E.C.

XMAS PRESENTS AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.
PHENOMENAL SUCCESS.

FLOR DE DINDIGUL

Cigars of exquisite flavour and aroma. Three sizes: No. 1, 22s., No. 2, 20s. Bouquets (small and mild), 21s. per 100, carriage paid. Samples 4 and 5 1s. (12 stamps). Also Flor de Dindigul Cigarettes (all tobacco-leaf), price 8s. per 100, carriage paid. Samples 12 stamps. BEWLAY & Co., 74 and 49, Strand, and 143, Cheapside.

The most Popular and most Appreciative since more than 20 years.

FRANZ JOSEF APERIENT WATER

Is the only palatable Natural Aperient. Sold everywhere.

OUR PUZZLES.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 926.—ORIGINAL CONUNDRUM.

A SEEMAN (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

"TRUTH" PUZZLE NO. 930.—ORIGINAL ROUND GAME FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES.

AVIS (real name and address will be published in due course) £2 2 0

SPECIAL NOTICE.—"TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

A detailed description of the Show held at the Albert Hall last Wednesday and Thursday will be found in another part of this number of TRUTH. It is hoped that the Prize List will be published next week.

CONDENSED RULES.

All answers to the current Puzzle must be sent In on or before the morning of the Monday week following the date of that Puzzle's publication, to the PUZZLE EDITOR, TRUTH Buildings, Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, London, S.W. The answers must be signed by a *nom de plume* of not more than twelve letters, and must not be sent on post-cards, nor by telegraph, nor by hand; whilst in the case of new competitors the real name and address must be forwarded with the first reply sent.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 931.

The Prize in this Competition will be awarded next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 935.

It may serve to pass away a long evening or two if a prize is offered for the solution of the Rebuses printed below. The usual weekly Prize of Two Guineas will, therefore, be awarded to the competitor who proves most successful in

INTERPRETING THE REBUSES, NOS. 1 TO 32, TO BE FOUND BELOW.

All solutions must reach me by the morning of Monday, January 4, 1897.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The real name, with the address, of JINGLE, winner of Prize No. 929, is Holcombe Ingleby, Esq., Heacham Hall, Norfolk.

*** I have to express my regret that, by a clerical error of mine, the name of TOUCAN was published last week instead of that of JINGLE, as winner of Prize No. 929. The name of JINGLE was published as that of the Prize winner the week before, and I meant, of course, to have reprinted it the following week.

*** The real name and the address of EBORACUM, winner of Prize No. 928, is G. W. de C. Baldwin, Esq., Diocesan College, York.

WAYNFLETE.—I gave the word "syringe" for the very reason that it was doubtful whether any rhyme could be found for it. To have asked competitors to find rhymes for a word for which rhymes are known to exist would not have served as a test of the ingenuity I wished to incite.

NIN NIN.—Will you please send me the interpretation of your Rebus, which, if it ever reached me, I have mislaid.

PER ARDUA, DIDYMUS, and SINGEON.—Your Rebuses arrived a day too late.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 932.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL EXAMPLES OF THE REBUS.

TRUTH'S LAST WORD TO HUMBUGS.

1. UCUR 4 hand matched ICUR Tho' YIXL U stand UR2MT2 A. A. G.

2. Those G½A St 23 XXIVSHEETS BB LIED with s TT from : ü CCC THE Svonok.

3. "—— it," said he. "this is NB carlo, e that it b ⊃ with care." + in \ " or in short no S. Marplot.

4. Mister whom i ϑ not 2 d seribe as ye * of our O in l o q shun recited 2 day in 2 \ \ 2 b or not 2 be in a style = Brandram's red a si de ¶ with such a —— of u mor as x i ted ye n v of a § of ye Co. & gave an x l ent original par o d of Gray's l e g In his K neer i c ye f e k c of at 10 shun to inflections.—Excelsior.

5. takers who took t t charged y y 2 scers c Wokterthementing. Nosloc.

6. Dear 1/- Stand/T w 0 a motor car. U— I'd L times rather—me x the C C. C C. than trust myself./1 Ys. truly, 4d. Viva.

7. SCOTT uv, + that – ceLy ! gu.—Sterne.

8. I 2u550 B 25* 2N2 the —oneng : e/2 ? ones

9. N.B. 601t 2*t now & B100o1000e I.—Shamroek.

Girls Girls giggling girls Girls we are 2/look (but) in × qqable. Irma Lee.

10. I long CC/that 2 guineas V b A u I t N I 0 an Idea. Sid.

11. Take ( ) without the bees & kum 2 10 is the ⌐ t t Y Y in noon 1 t t ? B caws oui chew sit S V P. Sartor.

12. 1. D the British I Government A
After a cen
dushowstry > Lancashire likes.
2. < A man > a woman
= A new woman
∴ — the O. S. Nin Nin.

13. A a le wea o a + h Co t seized the ro yong bys had ad rehtom eht and 2 its A.D.C ed × a field she could · it.—Feloos.

14. There is a C at 10 b, so stand, a n d ments r I not there4 t 2 go long.—Walfred.
priced ; e i n there d

15. A PLACE is n n y Royal T will o 2c is a conundrum.—Pigtail.

16. "R U + I'd or—1 I ?" "Y ?" O ! o, but 1 must (B4 the 2nd) B careful 2 ÷ between the 2 or else 1 mighty C C W C, so if U R the ($\frac{1}{60}$ × $\frac{1}{60}$ × 1 hour) 'twill U C put . 2 U bing qr'd.—Black Poodle.

17. 2 × U R
2 × U B
1 C U R
2 × for me.
Answer to above, a very old rebus.
O Y B I 2 × 2 B
A 1 2 suit U 2 A T.
U R A J I 8 2 C
Of × ness = quite 2 me. Wild Cat.

18. Sell 2 taking U whelm my ∴ I O U 1 U C. Wild Cat.

19. Beach T BR THE at
1 BR T 2/2 ER DAY /4
C C
E WAY SAT
HER
2 W LE Ye TIME
L
2 C HER H& 3/2/5
WAS HER TEINT
STOOD HE'D COME AT
SHE
L
SO AE SHE WENT
A man CAME A
A CANE HWIASSH&
HE SAT C S E'S D
HIM
LOOKED
& Ye STR&
C
Si.E WAY
2B SO MISPb.
& O SUCH A man
WITH OY MT HEAD Almaviva.

MASTER TO PUPIL.

20. 1 cannot byy 2 lear-xl-ning is a THING by u will wish e how IT is and will here all things u had put O it go

21. My advice b sharp perseveringly and don't kool. —Bonus.

21. ?h + – ÷ im · 2 1 tosumwho, ; : merwn c c sthing-shops.—Mona.

22. Sur - Ages - Ely, Man W : : Ye MT of Man.—Malignant.

23. Cing a · eye , nded the men 2. B4 wc m⌒ed through the : y the *** were out and the scene had no ═ the : y is now ; ised on the new ≡ So much or ' tism.—Snibor.

24. Ne yy nme o YY 2 bcj E sil e.—New Chum.

25. 1. In Moods *moods* MOODS With SKILL *skill* skill with chance of NESS I
Puzzles dire . and sigh And HOpe as still taking the comes to 0 O NESS I Truth look my misery.
2. Us one came She away I did ,, Ging.

26. 2 — a × the C to : is 2 m i R o 4 y s & 4 tune 8 men. Scotus Viator.

27. In stand 2 y l m'c y he all 1 America came pro-4 Americans tecting trade And cre - o o 2 ase more LIE. Chang.

28. I took him & took me U to sit S. Freda.

29. R lime/the fodoublelies of these blind ofmenflce. Day day dismntresdain and difmnstresference to the s/th of the pop you lace r/turned ; whereas these r a less/to the ys, who, with standing/clearer, c that, if what 0 2 be and/board looked is the surface/kept, everything will b uoos.—Lark.

30. 1. e/tenti/is e/tr/sy.
2. ER/BL
3. Dis/ST
4. CT/A
5. 100/T Pelican.

31. 1. Our XIII as aaaa and 1234 b NQSZ, both abcd and , , , , . 2. Ah si l'air y a tem.—Salop.

1. England France and Turkey—in war—& Russia the latter SEM 4 he R N E mies the Crimean War

32. 1 GLORY they her came land & she 10 in the C.

2. Flowing MMCCCC MDCCLX yards the Danube m t t in the C.
Several
3. winding The Thames m t t in the north C.
counties Felixicus.

Rebuses were also received from Blue Lancer, Hibernian, Phyllis, Fel Demonio, Marigold, Georgina, Skinny, Robert Martin, Qu'Appelle, L. Howe, Ellart, Cartoon, Taffy, Nescioqnis, Micky Doodle, Beginner, H. R. Smith, Pansy.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 927.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

ORIGINAL SONGS SUITABLE TO BE SET TO MUSIC.

MY BANJO.

Some months ago, at a Waxworks Show, I sang a comic song;
I scrambled through the music, too, but I played it very wrong.
So, when the Show was ended, my friends all told me flat
That the author never intended such an exhibition as that.
"Why don't you get a banjo, and on it try to play?
"That song would suit a banjo," so all the people say.
"A banjo is so simple, you'd learn it in a day;
Then you'd amuse the people that now you drive away."

This kind advice, it seemed so nice, I thought that I would try,
So off I hopped to a banjo shop, a banjo for to buy;
The man was very civil, and smiled and bowed his head
And talked a deal of drivel, and this is what he said:
"Now, here's a very fine banjo, sir, a banjo you could play—
A beautiful five-stringed banjo, sir—banjos are cheap to-day—
A banjo you'd be proud of, no matter where you stay,
And yet so inexpensive, it's almost given away."

With care and thought at last I bought a banjo in its case,
With lots of strings and frets and things all stretched across its face;
But though, with fingers aching, I've played from morn till night,
The strings are always breaking ere I can get them tight.
And now I've got this banjo my hair is turning grey;
I'm sick and tired of banjos—yes, more than I can say;
And if any one wants a banjo, and thinks that he can play,
Then let him have my banjo, and take it right away.

Relwof.

SLEEPING AND WAKING.

Sleep, baby, sleep!
The purple curtains of the night are spread,
The fair white stars are watching overhead;
Through the closed casement, in the stilly hours,
There comes no wooing fragrance from the flowers;
And all the merry birds are hushed to rest,
Since baby lies within her own warm nest.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

Wake, baby, wake!
The sun is shining through the window bars,
And mother's eyes are brighter than the stars;
Out in the garden nod the roses tall,
And mother's kiss is sweeter than them all;
The birds are trilling in the boughs above,
And mother waits to sing her song of love.
Wake, baby, wake!

W. Wynn.

THE DEVON LYNN.

When dreamy August has called to pleasure,
And restful holiday hours begin,
There's not a scene in the world of leisure
Like the woodland ways by the Devon Lynn.
And far and wide in the world of wooing,
Where eyes are dewy and lips are sweet,
There's not a maid for a man's undoing
Like the maid I met at the Waters' meet.

There are Scottish bracken and ling together,
And Lakeland coverts of fern and whin;
But there's not a moor in the world of heather
Like the purple heights by the Devon Lynn.
There are Yorkshire lasses with winsome faces,
And bright eyes shine at Helvellyn's feet;
But the perfect flower of all maiden graces
Is the face I loved at the Waters' meet.

There are rosy lights in a Whitby gloaming,
Killarney's grey has a gleam within;
But there's no such heaven in a world of roaming
As the summer sky o'er the Devon Lynn.
There are Irish spirits of tender seeming,
And northern hearts have a loyal beat;
But the purest pearl of a lover's dreaming
Is the heart I won at the Waters'-meet.

Sir P. Felis.

THE CAROL SINGERS.

Through snowy lanes, where moonlight wanes,
We come with the morning star:
A merrie band, at your door we stand,
With greeting from afar!
O, wake and sing of the new-born King
In the dawning chill and gray,
Of the Holy Child and His mother mild,
For this is Christmas Day!

O, tidings glad for the poor and sad
Who toil through a life's brief span;
This day full well we love to tell
Of the very God-made man.
Hope sings for all though shadows fall,
Whate'er the world may say,
Since our Lord was born to a life of scorn
On the blessed Christmas Day.

The morn draws on—our song is done—
But its echo shall not cease;
To you and yours this tide assures
For aye "Goodwill and Peace."
The bells amain take up the strain,
As on we wend our way,
The news to spread as the East glows red,
For this is Christmas Day.

Alison.

BEAUTIFUL BEYOND WORDS.

A little restless lad, with tired eyes and sad,
Watched from his bed the shadows round him creep;
But when the kind white stars looked through the window-bars,
They softly kissed the weary one to sleep.
And then he dreamed a happy dream,
More beautiful than words can say—
By flowing mead and silver stream,
A shining angel led the way:
He marked with gladness and surprise
The lovelight in the calm, sweet eyes;
And life would evermore be fair,
For he would be the angel's care.

In weariness and pain the child awoke again,
He sobbed aloud as in the gloom he lay;
But love's light step drew near, to comfort and to cheer,
And lips so gentle kissed the tears away.
More kindly than the stars had shone,
The dear face beamed above his bed;
And all the loneliness was gone,
As soothing words were fondly said;
A tender hand his own caress'd,
His grief and pain were hushed to rest;
A smile across his features played,
The dream had fled—the angel stayed.

Winifred H.

KATHLEEN.

That morn my heart was light, Kathleen,
That night it was heavy as lead;
In the morn I had you and the babe, Kathleen,
At night ye both lay dead.

That morn the sky was bright, Kathleen,
That night it was black with grief;
In the morn the ship sailed fair, Kathleen,
At night it was sunk on a reef.

This day I lave ye both, Kathleen,
Laid 'neath Kilrea's green sod,
But I carry ye both in my heart, Kathleen,
In my prayers each day to God.

I'll lave this day our cabin home,
Sure I can't stay now Kathleen;
To a far-off land I'm bound to roam,
My heart with sorrow filled, Kathleen.

Ye knew me poor, but true, Kathleen,
An' sure if I did ye wrong,
The sore in my heart is great, Kathleen,
I've no music now to my song.

'Tis to you and the babe that was mine, Kathleen,
Now over your grave I bid farewell;
An' sure we'll meet in Heaven, Kathleen,
Once more our love to tell.

Ash.

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BILIOUSNESS AND INDIGESTION.

Any excess of quantity or richness in diet almost invariably deranges the digestion of every one of us, or sets up biliousness with its attendant symptoms of Sick-headache, Constipation, &c. Now that the holiday season is upon us, we shall all be apt to find after the festive period that our stomachs or livers are out of order, and in need of a gentle stimulant and corrective. But a dose or two of Kutnow's Improved Effervescent Carlsbad Powder will speedily remove the unpleasant evils resulting from excess of drink or diet, or from disorders of the liver and digestion because of the unwonted richness of diet, or too great mixing of foods. Kutnow's Improved Effervescent Carlsbad Powder, unlike pills and potions, is pleasant to take, acts in an hour or two easily and naturally, without pain or discomfort, and leaves the former patient as "fit as a fiddle" for further pleasures, exertion, or work.

A Medical Correspondent says of Kutnow's Improved Effervescent Carlsbad Powder:—"Its advantages appear to arise from its possessing the power to eliminate from the body the excess of bile and acids, thereby purifying the blood and strengthening the general tone by improving the assimilative processes of the debilitated system. Consequently it has a salutary effect in cases of hypochondriasis, associated with low spirits and general depression."

The *LANCET* (March, 1891) says:—

"The medicinal virtues of the well-known waters of Carlsbad depend on the presence of mineral salts. . . . The water is accordingly reputed to be useful in rheumatism, gout, and kidney disorders. Kutnow's Carlsbad Powder is stated to contain, amongst other ingredients, the active principle of the Sprudel salt obtained direct from the mineral water. However this may be, our analysis confirmed the presence of the chief constituents referred to. The Powder is beautifully clean and white, and is evidently prepared with care, while the taste of the effervescing solution is by no means disagreeable."

The *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* (Sept. 10, 1892) says:—

"Messrs. Kutnow & Co. showed an improved Effervescent Carlsbad Powder, decidedly more palatable than the ordinary Carlsbad Powder, evaporated at the springs, of which it reproduces the therapeutic effects, while effectually covering the nauseous taste and objectionable bitter flavour of sulphate of soda. It is gentle, effervescent, and is a very efficient and agreeable aperient."

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From Dr. BRACHET, Physician at the Baths of Aix-les-Bains:—

"Aix-les-Bains, Sept. 15, 1891.—I have prescribed your Powder for about a year in my hospital practice here, as well as frequently to my private patients. I have obtained the best results in patients suffering from rheumatism and gout, as well as in those who are constipated and bilious from the effects of the 'cure,' or from the change of food and climate. I consider Kutnow's Improved Effervescent Carlsbad Powder a preparation indispensable to persons travelling."

The *BRISTOL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL JOURNAL.*

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[SUPPLEMENT TO "TRUTH," DECEMBER 24, 1896.]

· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1043. VOL. XL. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896. SUPPLEMENT.

THE KILBURN SISTERHOOD.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE SCANDAL.

SIX months have now elapsed since the publication of the TRUTH report on the various allegations against the work of the Kilburn Sisterhood. That report, it may be said without boasting, created a very deep impression upon the public, and more especially upon those who had previously believed in and supported the work of the Sisters. The report was published in no spirit of hostility to the Community as a body, and still less to the religious and charitable aims which it professes; and it was my hope, in making public the results of a very long and careful inquiry—incomplete only because the Mother Superior withdrew from her engagement when she saw the possibility that my conclusions might not be entirely to her liking,—that the result would be a wholesome reform of the government and methods of the Sisterhood.

That expectation has been disappointed. On the part of the Mother Superior and her advisers no disposition has been manifested to acknowledge the justice of a single criticism which the Community has incurred, or to depart a hair's breadth from their previous attitude of antagonism to everything in the nature of outside suggestions and advice. On the part of the supporters and subscribers of the "Church Extension Association," as it is called, though the defections have been very numerous, and the contributions to the work of the Sisterhood have been, to all appearance, very seriously reduced, no one has appeared able and willing to take the lead in a reforming movement, or to make any serious effort to divert the Mother Superior from the disastrous course to which she has committed herself.

Under these circumstances, the time seems to have arrived for me to enlighten the public fully as to what the Sisters have been doing during the last six months, and also to make public much evidence that has reached me during that time, bearing upon the points raised in the original article. When once I have taken up a question of this nature, it is not my habit to drop it until some visible good has resulted from my efforts, and I still see ground to hope that, when the true facts of the situation are more generally appreciated, a drastic reform of the Kilburn institutions will be accomplished. What I propose to do now is to show that the most objectionable features in the work of the Sisterhood are still preserved without alteration, and that in their efforts to counteract the effects of the TRUTH article the Mother Superior and her colleagues have resorted to every form of trickery and deceit; and I shall ask special attention to a number of facts, which in my judgment stamp the ladies into whose hands the control of the Sisterhood has fallen as totally undeserving of confidence in any shape.

Before coming to details, I will call the attention of the reader to the fact that two letters of great importance, to which I shall have occasion to refer, have been reproduced in facsimile, and will be found interleaved in this article. The reason for taking that step is this: In an article published some three months back, I printed and commented upon a letter written by Sister Kate, which made a deep impression upon all who have taken an interest in the controversy, and came as a shock even to many who had up to that time cherished a belief in the Kilburn Sisterhood. The Sisters have replied, I understand, by declaring that the letter is a forgery. Reference is also made in recent issues of *Our Work* to the use of "forged letters" for the purpose of injuring the Sisterhood. For this reason I reproduce the letter above referred to, and another which also convicts the Sisters of gross prevarication. In regard to both letters I may say that the manner in which they have come into my hands precludes all doubt as to their authenticity; but I have thought it best to make assurance double sure by giving all those familiar with documents from Kilburn an opportunity of forming an opinion for themselves. I cannot seriously believe, however, that either Sister May or Sister Kate, the two ladies by whom

these letters were written, will venture to deny their genuineness.

I will now turn to a matter affecting the practical charitable work of the Orphanages which was discussed at some length in the report on the TRUTH inquiry.

THE KILBURN BABY FARM.

Readers of the first TRUTH Report will remember that a passage was devoted to the "Foundling Home" recently established by the Kilburn Sisters, and condemned by the Charity Organisation Society as calculated to do more harm than good, by reason of the facilities which it held out to young women for ridding themselves permanently of illegitimate babies. In the original prospectus of this institution, "foundlings" were to be received on a payment by the parents ranging from £20 to £120, the parents renouncing all rights over the children under a heavy pecuniary penalty. This prospectus was condemned by the ecclesiastical authorities—represented, I think, by the Bishop of Marlborough—and, in deference to their objections, the Sisters professed to withdraw it. In the pamphlet which formed the subject of the TRUTH investigation, the Charity Organisation Society contended that, whether or not the original prospectus had been withdrawn, the Sisters had continued to advertise for and receive "foundlings" on exactly the terms there stated. In answer to this, the Sisters, in their interviews with me, represented that they had modified their original plan by making inquiries respecting the antecedents of women who desired to be relieved of their babies, and also by endeavouring to keep an eye on their conduct after the children had been transferred to the orphanage. They did not suggest, however, that they had ever rejected a child, when the money was forthcoming, on the ground of the mother's antecedents, nor that they had ever returned a child on the ground of the mother's subsequent conduct. One of the Sisters frankly informed me that the ideal which they had in view, if ever their finances would permit its adoption, was the plan, in vogue in some Continental convents, of placing a basket at the door into which "unwanted babies" might be dropped without any questions being asked. The conclusion which I formed was that such concessions as they might have made to public opinion, the advice of their Bishop, or the criticism of experts in rescue work, were more or less a matter of form, that the Sisters were practically adhering to their original scheme of a receiving house for all foundlings with whom a certain sum of money was forthcoming, and that the consequences of such a system could not fail to be mischievous.

Now, how does this matter stand to-day? In the interval that has elapsed since my inquiry it would seem that the Sisters have abandoned even the pretence of carrying on this work as one of philanthropy, and have reduced it into an undisguised means of money-making. I will give the facts on which I form this opinion. The Sisters have continued to advertise publicly for "foundlings," selecting for the purpose the papers most likely to be read by the class in which such encumbrances are most common. Here is a sample advertisement taken from *Lloyd's News*:—

HOME FOR ORPHAN AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

For terms and particulars apply to Miss Fanny Sheppard, 44, Randolph-gardens, N.W.; or 3, King-street, Plymouth. (Letters to be marked private.) Personal interviews on Saturdays and Sundays only, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

In answer to this advertisement the following letter was recently sent to Miss Sheppard (who is the Sister in charge of this particular department):—

To Miss Fanny Shepherd.

Please could you take my baby in your home please I havent had a misfortune before and its so hard to no what to do I am a servant and I couldnt pay much and I saw in the paper that you was taking in children and Orphans and mine is such a burden and please I dont no what to do in my trouble and please dont call but write becase I am strait now and I dont want people to no about it hoping you can help me NELLY ——.

The following was the answer:—

44, Randolph-gardens, London, N.W.

To Nelly ——.

We are sorry we cannot help you with your child, but our funds are too low now to admit of our taking infants unless £40 is paid with them.—Faithfully yours, F. SHEPPARD.

The minimum charge, it will be seen, which was £20 when the scheme was first started, has now been doubled, and £40 is the lowest price at which a child can be taken. Two things are clear upon this: (1) The present Kilburn Foundling Home is absolutely useless to poor girls genuinely desirous of making provision for their babies. The contention that this Home will remove the temptation to infanticide, and counteract the evils of baby-farming—the contention on which the whole defence of the system was rested in the Sisters' conversations with me—is therefore blown to the winds. (2) Want of funds, it will be seen, is the excuse for the large sum demanded as the price of accepting an illegitimate child. What does this mean? That the system is no longer on a charitable, but on a commercial basis; that babies are only accepted when the Sisterhood is relieved of any expense connected with them. The reader will note that this alteration of the tariff has followed upon the heavy blow which the Sisterhood has sustained through the publication of the TRUTH Report, and I think few will hesitate to infer that this system of advertising for illegitimate children at £40 a head is nothing more nor less than a device for relieving the present financial difficulties of the Sisterhood. In support of that view, let me call attention to a far more significant correspondence than the last. The following letter was recently sent to Miss Sheppard by a gentleman writing from an address in Threadneedle-street:—

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

DEAR MADAM,—Having seen a recent advertisement of yours in *Lloyd's Newspaper*, I should esteem it a great favour if you could send me full particulars, terms, &c., for admission to the Home referred to. I am interested in finding a home for an illegitimate child a few months old. The father would, I am sure, be willing to pay a reasonable sum in order to ensure its admission. I am trusting entirely to your discretion not to mention this matter. Trusting to hear from you, I remain yours, ———.

Here is the answer. I invite special attention to the fact that when it is a gentleman in Threadneedle-street who wishes to dispose of an illegitimate child, the price is raised to £50, though this was actually within a day or two of Miss Sheppard's letter to Fanny —— :—

44, Randolph-gardens, Kilburn.

SIR,—The entrance fee for an infant to our Foundling Home would be £50. For this amount the managers undertake the entire expense of the child's maintenance and education. The mother (if living) must sign a form agreeing to give up the child entirely to the control of the managers.

Particulars of the case must be given before the child can be accepted for admission. These will be treated as strictly confidential.—Yours faithfully, F. SHEPPARD.

The gentleman then wrote back as follows:—

DEAR MADAM,—Thanks for your letter of 17th inst. The terms you mention, viz., £50, seem to me reasonable enough, and there would be no difficulty as to the mother signing any document making over the child entirely to your charge. I should be glad to know, therefore, as soon as possible, precisely what particulars you desire before accepting the child for admission to your Home. At present, all I am at liberty to say is that it is through my own indiscretion I am compelled to make some such arrangement. Accepting, therefore, that this confession on my part will be treated as strictly confidential,—Believe me, faithfully yours, P. P.

In reply to this, Miss Sheppard wrote enclosing a document for execution, and stating that the Sisters require "an assurance that the mother has not before fallen, that she is not a married woman, and that she is

now wishful to regain her character." This was the document enclosed :—

Form to be signed.

I, the undersigned, desire to place my child [Name].....born.....day of.....18..... in the Orphanage and Foundling Home of the Church Extension Association. And I hereby promise that I will not interfere in any way with the bringing up and education of the said child, and will not molest or interfere with the Managers of the said Homes in any way whatever, and that the Managers shall have the entire custody, tutelage, guardianship, and care of the said child.

If I desire at any future time to resume the guardianship of my child, I hereby promise to do so only with the consent of the Managers of the Institution, and to pay the sum of 6s. per week to the Managers for the time that my child has been in their care. This sum to be paid before the child is handed over to me.

(Signed)
Parent's Name.....
Address.....
Witness's Name.....
Address.....
Date.....day of.....18.....

It will be seen at once from these documents that every objection that has been offered to the original scheme of the Kilburn Sisters applies to the practice which they are at present following. In the correspondence last cited there is not a suggestion that any genuine inquiry will be made into the mother's antecedents, or her present mode of life. All that is asked for is "an assurance" (which, to all appearance, might come from the father himself) on a certain point; and the Sisters ask for no guarantee of the truthfulness of such "assurances." Provided the £50 were forthcoming, it is pretty obvious that no question would be raised about the admission of any child on the grounds that the parents' "assurances" were unsatisfactory. Again, it will be seen from the form above quoted that the original terms by which the parents renounce all further rights over their child, under a pecuniary penalty, are still in force. The parents can only resume guardianship on payment of a sum of six shillings per week for the time the child has been in the Home—a sum which would work out at over £150 by the time the child was ten years old. In the face of this agreement, it cannot be questioned that one object of the arrangement is to destroy the parental tie altogether, and to get the child absolutely into the power of the Sisterhood. Finally, it is to be noted that the Sisterhood are quite as ready to do business with the father as with the mother, this being shown not merely by the correspondence cited, but by the very form of the agreement, which is drawn for the use of either parent.

There is not the slightest doubt that this scheme is in active operation. The mere fact of the advertisements appearing regularly shows that people are being found who are ready to part with illegitimate children to the Sisterhood, even at the present high tariff. It will be noted that in the advertisement from *Lloyd's News* which I have quoted, Miss Sheppard gives an alternative address at Plymouth. This is the address of the Plymouth depot of the Church Extension Association, about which I shall have more to say presently. Between April last, when this depot was opened, and the beginning of August, I believe that at least four babies had been received there, and with one of these something like £30 or £40 was paid down in cash to the manager of the depot. These babies are boarded out in the neighbourhood for a few shillings per week. I do not say that, in this instance, the children have not been properly looked after in the houses of their foster-parents by the ladies who interest themselves in the work of the Sisterhood at Plymouth—though from an expression which occurs incidentally in certain correspondence to be noticed presently, it would seem that the payments to the foster-parents have not always been punctually sent from Kilburn. At the same time, it is a system which may readily lend itself to abuse, and certainly not one which can be set up as an antidote to baby-farming. All that it comes to is this: that, instead of the child being put out to nurse by a mother, who may be tempted to forget all about it, it is put out to nurse by the Sisters or their agents, who undertake to look after it, and exact for their services a very handsome sum in cash. The Sisters have in fact undertaken, as it were, the position of "middlemen" in the baby-farming business; and, looking at it from a purely business point of view, I should think there is no doubt that they are making quite the normal middleman's profit on the transaction.

In the first Truth Report, I spoke in qualified terms on this subject, contenting myself with saying that the Charity Organisation Society's criticism, which was the matter I was primarily concerned with, was in no way unwarranted by the facts. Knowing what I do now, I do not hesitate to pronounce the most unqualified condemnation upon the whole system. In its present aspect it is nothing more nor less than a trade in illegitimate babies, carried out on purely commercial principles, and with the obvious purpose of increasing the revenue of the Church Extension Association, and bringing funds to Kilburn in the present financial crisis. The pretence that the social evils of infanticide and baby-farming are being combated by this system becomes utterly untenable in the face of such facts as appear above. When one sees a servant girl told that her baby can only be taken off her hands if she is prepared to pay down £40, while a City man is informed that the Sisters will relieve him of his little difficulty for £50 in cash and a formal assurance that the thing has not happened before and will not happen again, to talk about moral and philanthropic aims which are to be attained by such means becomes little better than offensive cant. The one end and aim of this, as of too many other branches of the Kilburn work, is £. s. d., and the second of the instances given above shows that the Sisters would not hesitate to make money by pandering to those who can afford to pay handsomely in order to be relieved of the consequences of their own immorality. Nothing that has yet come to light respecting the work of these "Sisters of the Church" proves more conclusively the wicked folly with which their work has recently been directed.

The Sisters and the "Truth" Report.

I propose next to give some account of the attitude of the Kilburn Sisters towards the Truth Report published in June last. From time to time during the last six months I have noted certain spasmodic efforts which have been made to reply to the criticisms there formulated; but it has now become desirable to look at these little efforts more in detail. It must be understood at the outset that the general policy of the Sisterhood is to ignore the Truth Report altogether. No specific or definite reply to the allegations as a whole has been put forward. The course adopted has been (1) to circulate, whenever the opportunity occurred, the *Church Bells* pamphlet, which has already been referred to in these columns; (2) to put up local secretaries, or other representatives of the Church Extension Association, to give general denials, either in the Press or elsewhere, of the allegations unfavourable to the Sisterhood; (3) to disseminate similar denials, seasoned with the most unwarrantable innuendoes and imputations against the critics of the Sisterhood, through the medium of literature issued from Kilburn. Speaking generally, I may say that, in all these attempts at self-defence, the managers of the Sisterhood have given unbounded proof of that aptitude for misrepresentation and evasion of the real issues which has characterised them since they first incurred hostile criticism. Let me deal first with

The "Church Bells" Pamphlet.

As was explained in Truth of August 20, the *Church Bells* pamphlet makes no pretension whatever to be considered as an answer to Truth. The best proof of this is that it was actually issued several weeks before the Truth Report appeared. It seems, therefore, at starting, an act of questionable honesty on the part of the Sisters, or any one acting on their behalf, to offer the *Church Bells* report as an answer to Truth. *Church Bells* has never made any attempt whatever to controvert or even to criticise

the first TRUTH supplement of the Kilburn Sisterhood. So far as I am aware, the only reference to the TRUTH inquiry in *Church Bells* was a paragraph published on July 24, in which the Editor, although he recorded his dissent from many of the conclusions at which I had arrived, expressly disclaimed any intention of entering into a controversy on the subject. At the same time he paid me the compliment of expressing himself as favourably struck with the temperate tone of the TRUTH article, and with my desire that the work of the Sisterhood, once reformed, should continue to flourish. It cannot be fairly suggested, therefore, that anything in the nature of a reply to TRUTH has ever been attempted in *Church Bells*.

What, then, was the *Church Bells* report? It professes to be, like the TRUTH report, the result of an inquiry undertaken by the Editor into the allegations made by the Charity Organisation Society. But it differed from the TRUTH report in this, that the inquiry on which it was based was conducted solely between the representative of *Church Bells* and the Kilburn Sisters, without any reference whatever to the Charity Organisation Society, or to any evidence which that Society might have been in a position to produce in support of its case. The pamplet is, I believe, the work of a lady, the wife of either the Editor or one of the proprietors of *Church Bells*, and the publication was undertaken, I suppose, as a matter of journalistic business. The lady—who has been dignified with the title of "Commissioner"—seems to have paid "friendly visits" (to use a phrase in which Miss Ashdown described what was expected of me) to the Sisters at Kilburn. She inspected the various institutions, interviewed the Sisters, discussed the Charity Organisation Society's allegations with them, and formed her own conclusion as to the sufficiency of the Sisters' answers. This is very much the same thing as if a magistrate who undertook to try a charge were to content himself with reading the charge and examining the prisoner and his witnesses upon it, and then proceeded to give judgment without having so much as looked at the evidence for the prosecution. It is an elementary principle of justice that if you want to arrive at the truth between two sets of disputants you must hear both sides of the case. This principle the Editor of *Church Bells* made no pretence whatever of following. His report, therefore, is of no value as a judicial finding upon the facts, and is, for the most part, little more than an *ex parte* statement. Nor, with all respect to the lady "commissioner," can she be regarded as a person properly qualified to elucidate difficult questions of this kind, or any match for the very astute and not over scrupulous parties with whom she had to deal. To anybody who remembers the history and incidents of the TRUTH inquiry—the evasive tactics adopted to prevent my getting at awkward truths, the elaborate attempts to throw dust in my eyes, the downright misrepresentations resorted to in some instances, and the final withdrawal of the Sisters from the inquiry they had themselves invited, when they found that I wanted to know too much—this attempt of a Church newspaper to unravel the mysteries of Kilburn, through the agency of an amiable lady with little knowledge of the world and probably a preconceived prejudice in favour of the Sisters, will appear very little better than an empty farce.

But, as I have said on a former occasion, there is more than this against the *Church Bells* inquiry. The report itself strongly suggests in many places that the author, or authors, deliberately shut their eyes to facts unfavourable to the Sisters, and this suggestion is proved up to the hilt by a correspondence, to which I have already briefly called attention. On July 10 last, some time after the publication of the *Church Bells* report, the following letter was addressed to the Editor. The writer supplied his name and address, but there is no necessity to repeat them here :—

To the Editor of *Church Bells*.

July 10, 1896.

SIR,—As you have taken up the position of champion of the Kilburn Sisterhood, I should be glad to have an explanation of two points that at present exercise the minds of their friends.

One is, Why "The Elms," West Hampstead, which was in fact occupied by pupil teachers, was called a home for children of weakly intellect, subscriptions asked for it on that plea, and in the yearly report for 1893 a description given of its "happy family of twenty-nine?"

Was this a flight of pure imagination, or were the pupil teachers persons of weak intellect?

The second point is, Why the Mother herself chose as adviser one of the Christian Brothers—Brother Noah—and allowed this member of a well-known Romish Society to lecture both to the Sisters and to the children at Broadstairs, in the "Bishop's room," in 1892, when the reason put forth by her for the great secession of Sisters from Kilburn was that *they* were desirous of introducing Romish practices.

I enclose my name and address as a proof of good faith, and beg to inscribe myself, A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

The points raised in this letter are, one would think, well deserving of notice from any one who undertakes to publicly vindicate the Sisterhood. How did the Editor of *Church Bells* deal with them? He did not publish the letter in his paper, but he privately addressed the following communication to the writer:—

From *Church Bells* Office,
12, Southampton-street, Strand,
London, W.C.
July 13, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—The Editor desires me to thank you for your letter and enclosure. He wishes me to point out that you are in error in stating that he has taken up the position of champion of the Kilburn Sisters. He undertook an investigation into certain definite charges which were made against the Community by the Charity Organisation Society, and the results of that investigation have been published in the pamphlet, "The Kilburn Sisters and their Accusers."

It is obvious that he cannot undertake, in addition, to investigate every isolated charge that may be brought forward by private persons, which is what he understands you desire him to do in the present instance.—Yours faithfully,

THE SUB-EDITOR.

This letter is a diplomatic subterfuge, worthy of the Kilburn Sisters themselves. The Editor, although he repudiates the suggestion that he has taken up the position of champion of the Kilburn Sisters, had put forth a document purporting to vindicate their conduct at almost every point, and had, from time to time, expressed himself in the very strongest terms about those who had taken up an attitude of hostility towards Kilburn. If this is not championship, I do not know what is. At any rate, the paper having taken up this attitude—whatever it is to be called—a gentleman, professing friendly sentiments towards the Sisters, lays before the Editor two very serious points. One point is that a statement which is a pure invention has been made in an official report of the C.E.A. for the purpose of obtaining money from the public; the other is that the Mother Superior, who has alleged that the great schism in the community in 1894 was entirely due to the Romanising tendencies of the seceding Sisters, has really been herself in intimate relations with the representative of a well-known Romish Society, and has employed this person as an instructor of the Sisters and the children under their care. If the Editor of *Church Bells* had been seriously desirous of making known the truth, and nothing but the truth about Kilburn, these are questions which one would think he would feel himself bound to deal with in some way. The questions impute to the Sisterhood (1) deliberate mendacity in its published accounts of its own work, and (2) disloyalty to the Church of England; and, assuming the honesty of purpose of the Editor of *Church Bells*, it might be expected that, even if he hesitated about publishing such imputations while uncertain about the facts, he would at least have felt bound, after what he had written in defence of the Sisters, to satisfy himself whether there was anything in the allegations. If the charges were unfounded, a mere journey, or even a letter, to Kilburn would have put him in a position to repudiate them. If he did not care to undertake that trouble, he could have published the letter under reservation, and left the Sisters, or any of their numerous spokesmen, to answer it for themselves. He takes neither course, but airily brushes the awkward question aside with the remark that he cannot investigate "every isolated charge." Such an attitude on points of

vital moment, seems to me to show that *Church Bells* did not, in the proper sense of the word, investigate the case against Kilburn, and did not desire so to investigate it.

Father Noah.

I cannot leave this branch of the subject without pointing out more definitely the significance of the reference above made to the connection of the Mother Superior with the "Christian Brothers." It is a matter which I heard of in the course of my own inquiries into the Kilburn undertakings; but I refrained from any reference to it in the Truth Report, first, because my knowledge of the facts was not complete, and, secondly, because I desired to avoid the introduction of any theological question into the case, or to raise anything which might be regarded as a mere matter of prejudice against the Sisters on sectarian grounds. But in view of the refusal of the Editor of *Church Bells*—a Church of England paper which has shown a marked partiality for the Sisterhood—to give the slightest attention to this allegation, it seems to me that all who have subscribed, or are still subscribing, to the Church Extension Association have a right to know what this allegation means. As to Father Noah's lecture at Broadstairs in 1892, I know nothing beyond the statement of the writer of the above letter to *Church Bells;* but that there is some ground for the allegation as to the friendly relations between Father Noah and the Mother Superior, I have good reason to believe. Now the Christian Brothers, the Roman Catholic community of which Father Noah is a distinguished ornament, are a community of a somewhat singular character. They are, as I understand it, a proselytising body. Their aims are educational, and are expressly directed to the inculcation of Romish principles in the young. That the Mother Superior should be on terms of private intimacy with any member of this community is, of course, a matter of no public concern. She is as much entitled as any of us to form friendships with persons of different religious belief from herself. But if she has carried her friendly sentiments towards Father Noah, or any other Christian Brother, to the length of inviting him to lecture in the institutions under her authority, she has certainly committed a very grave indiscretion; and if, at the time when she promulgated the slander that the secessions from Kilburn in 1894 were due to the Romish proclivities of the seceders, she had herself been guilty of admitting a proselytising Romanist to give instruction, either to the Kilburn Sisters or the Kilburn Orphans, I can only say that this is one of the most lamentable proofs that have yet come to light of this good lady's lack of straightforwardness. I put these propositions in a hypothetical form, because, as I have said, the facts are not altogether clear. But there cannot be any question that this is a matter which ought to be cleared up, and which no friend or apologist of Kilburn can afford to shirk.

The Sisters at Plymouth.

I shall ask the reader next to look at some of the attempts that have been made by the Kilburn Sisters to mitigate the effect of the Truth report. In the first place we will take certain proceedings at Plymouth in August last, which have been already noticed in Truth, but in regard to the inner history of which much interesting information has since been forthcoming. It may be remembered that in August a meeting was summoned by advertisements and letters in the local Press for the purpose of hearing an address from "A Senior Sister," who was coming to Plymouth to give an answer to the allegations of Truth. In a letter addressed to the *Western Morning News*, and signed "Miss L. Humphris," Secretary, C.E.A., these expressions were used respecting the objects of the meeting:—"The accusations made by Truth will be fully discussed, and I should like all persons who are interested in the matter—either for or against—to come and hear for themselves." Another advertisement published in the local Press stated that at the meeting "a Kilburn Sister will gladly answer any question relating to the recent Truth allegations. All are invited." The place for which the meeting was summoned was the local Depot of the Church Extension Association. The public did not respond very freely to the invitation, and only a handful of people attended; but, as might have been expected, after the public manner in which the invitation had been issued, two reporters from the local Press presented themselves. They were stopped at the door by the "Senior Sister," Sister May, who had come to Plymouth for the purpose of rebutting the Truth accusations, and who informed them that the meeting was not a public one. This attitude was, not unnaturally, objected to by some of the other members of the public who had attended. A discussion arose at once as to whether the meeting was to be public or not. Sister May stoutly adhered to the position she had taken up, and declined to speak, if reporters were to be present. In the end, an adjournment of the meeting was proposed and carried, and the proceedings terminated without any attempt to carry out the objects for which it had been summoned. Subsequently to the meeting, a letter was published in the *Western Morning News* over the signature "E. P. Davie," asserting that "the meeting was planned and advertised by myself and another lady without the authority or knowledge of the Kilburn Sisters," and that the writer "only found out too late that nothing could be further from their wishes than that any public meeting of the kind should be held."

I have already commented upon the discreditable character of this performance. There can be no question that the meeting was called as a public meeting, and the refusal of the Sister to speak, if her words were to be reported, can only be attributed to reluctance to run the risk of her remarks being publicly criticised or refuted. The attempt subsequently made to relieve the Sisterhood of the discredit of the proceedings by suggesting that the advertisements were issued without their knowledge or authority is, on the face of it, almost too ridiculous for belief, and only gives the affair an uglier look. But I am now able to throw some further light on the whole incident, which more than justifies the unfavourable conclusions already formed about it.

The lady who took the leading part in organising the Plymouth meeting was Miss Bourchier, who was, I believe, Secretary to another local branch of the C.E.A., but who had been taking an active part in the work of the Association at Plymouth. Some of my readers may remember a reference in Truth to the fact that Miss Bourchier was at one time offering, through the *Western Morning News*, to send the *Church Bells* pamphlet to any one whose confidence in the Sisterhood might have been shaken by the Truth disclosures. The origin of the meeting is to be found in the following letter from Sister May to Miss Bourchier—one of the two letters which I have had reproduced, and a facsimile of which is attached:—

Minster-street, Salisbury.
August 5.

My Dear Miss Bourchier,—I hope to be at Plymouth for a few days next week, so am writing to ask whether you think there would be time to get up a meeting or even gather a few people together, either at the Depot or elsewhere, to disabuse them about Truth?

Perhaps you could go round with me to some of them, friends and others, so as to do as much work as possible in a short time?

I think I shall arrive either Saturday or Monday, but have not written to Miss Davie yet. I *trust* you will be at home.

A letter would find me at 14, Colston-street, Bristol, by *return*.
—In great haste, yours very sincerely, Sister May, S.C.

Note the terms of this letter. Miss Bourchier is expressly asked "to get up a meeting or even gather a few people together, either at the Depot or elsewhere, to disabuse them about Truth." No one could read this as anything but an invitation to get up a public meeting, if practicable; nor is it possible to believe that the writer had anything else in her mind. Otherwise the distinction which she draws between "a meeting" and the gathering together of a few people is absolutely meaningless. The language thus used is totally inconsistent with the pretence subsequently put forward that the proceedings were to be

private, and that it was promoted without the knowledge of the Sisters. Miss Bourchier read the letter as any one else would read it, and took every means that she could think of to get as many people together as possible to be disabused about TRUTH.

It is highly instructive to note how her efforts were rewarded. After the meeting and the repudiation by Sister May of the action of the local representative of the Sisterhood, Miss Bourchier's friends advised her to resign the local secretaryship, and she did so accordingly, in a letter to Sister May. Her mother wrote a few lines at the same time, explaining that she and Miss Bourchier's father could not allow their daughter to be any longer connected with the Association after what had occurred. To this Sister May replied, in a letter to Mrs. Bourchier, that Miss Bourchier had acted entirely on her own responsibility, and imputing to her the blame for everything that had occurred. Mrs. Bourchier, not unnaturally, retorted somewhat warmly, referring Sister May to her own letter of August 5. The Sister took refuge in the soft answer which is supposed to turn away wrath, but in no way accepted any share of the responsibility. She at the same time wrote a little homily to Miss Bourchier, concluding with the expression, "but we must comfort ourselves by remembering that God can overrule even mistakes to His Glory, and we may trust it will be so in this case." I trust it may be so, too; but before the mistakes of Sister May and her colleagues can be overruled in the manner suggested, a great deal will have to happen, of which there is no indication at present.

There is another little point in connection with Sister May's proceedings. As mentioned above, the letter in the *Western Morning News*, which summoned all persons interested, "whether for or against," to hear the Sister's refutation of TRUTH, was signed, "L. Humphris." This is the name of the Sister under whose management the Plymouth Depot had been open—Sister Louisa. After starting the Plymouth Depot, Sister Louisa seems to have left Plymouth altogether for some months, the work being in charge of a paid agent of the Association, Miss Davie, but Sister Louisa remained the nominal head of the establishment, and all business correspondence was authorised to be signed in her name. It was in accordance with this practice that Sister Louisa's name was signed to the official letter from the local branch addressed to the *Western Morning News*, and, indeed, the local representatives of the Association were under the belief that they had no authority to write in any other name. When Sister May had repudiated the action which Miss Bourchier had taken at her request, she also objected very strongly to the use of Miss Humphris's name in this letter, and in her final epistle to Miss Bourchier she refers to it as a "serious error." This is, in fact, one of the mistakes which she hopes will be "overruled for good."

It seems to me that it would be difficult to find a more flagrant instance of double-dealing than these proceedings afford. If there was any mistake in regard to the summoning of the meeting, the mistake clearly arose from the loose and misleading manner in which Sister May expressed herself in her first letter to Miss Bourchier, and her attempt to shift the whole responsibility on to somebody else, is in the highest degree disingenuous, as well as being most unfair and ungrateful towards the lady who had exerted herself so earnestly on behalf of the Sisterhood. Equally disingenuous, and equally unfair, is the repudiation of the authority to use the name of Miss Humphris. The motive here is clear. Miss Humphris is one of the Kilburn Sisters, and her signature to this letter makes the Sisterhood directly responsible for the summoning of the meeting. It is, therefore, obviously as a step towards washing their hands of all responsibility for the discreditable proceedings in connection with the meeting, that Sister May repudiates the general authority which had been given to the local representatives to use Sister Louisa's name in their business correspondence. That this was the motive is clear from what follows.

Having thus repudiated their own instructions to Miss Bourchier, and their own general authority to their agent at the Depot, the Sisters finally clench the matter by the letter from Miss Davie, which I have referred to above. The history of this letter is as significant as any other part of the proceedings. By the courtesy of the Editor of the *Western Morning News*, I have been enabled to see the original manuscript of this letter. It is written, not by Miss Davie herself, but in handwriting which is frequently found in communications from Kilburn. It appears that a messenger was specially sent down from Kilburn to Plymouth with this letter ready drafted, for the purpose of obtaining Miss Davie's signature to it. Miss Davie, as I have said, was a paid servant of the Sisters. To refuse to sign would have been a difficult matter for her, but after some demur she consented to sign it, and the messenger went back with it to London. Miss Davie has stated that, before signing, she struck out the reference to "another lady" as having assisted in arranging the meeting, and took the whole responsibility for what had happened upon herself. If so, it would appear that the Sisters at Kilburn took upon themselves to alter her letter by re-inserting the reference to the "other lady" (Miss Bourchier) before they forwarded it, as they did, from Kilburn to the *Western Morning News*. In view of the severe censure pronounced by Sister May upon the unauthorised use of Miss Humphris's name in another letter by the representative of the local branch, it would be both instructive and amusing to find that the Sisters actually took upon themselves to send to the Press a letter purporting to be written by Miss Davie, and containing a statement which Miss Davie had declined to sign. But however that may be, the fact remains that this letter, drawn up at Kilburn, sent down to Plymouth to be signed by a paid servant of the Sisterhood, taken back to Kilburn, and thence forwarded to the *Western Morning News* is essentially false and misleading in its statements. Every reader can see for himself, by reference to the account given above of the manner in which the Plymouth meeting came to be arranged, that it is absolutely untrue that, as asserted in Miss Davie's letter, the meeting was planned and advertised by "myself" (Miss Davie) "and another lady *without the authority or knowledge of any of the Kilburn Sisters.*" The statement is directly at variance with the facts, and Sister May's first letter to Miss Bourchier remains on record to prove the falsehood. I may add that Miss Davie's letter was reprinted in the September number of *Our Work*, without a hint of the way in which it had been written and signed; indeed, with a reference to Miss Davie as a "lady-worker." In the accompanying editorial comment the statement was repeated that Plymouth meeting was planned and advertised "without any sanction from Kilburn," and "entirely without the knowledge of the Sisters."

I trust that I shall not be accused of devoting an undue amount of space to this matter. My reason for dealing with it at such length is that, when properly understood, the whole transaction affords a most convincing demonstration of the duplicity—it might, I think, fairly be called dishonesty—of these Kilburn ladies. When the managers of a great public institution can treat a loyal and devoted supporter with the gross unfairness shown to Miss Bourchier in this instance, when they can unscrupulously repudiate their own authority to their own agents, and when they can get their own paid servant to put her signature to what is shown by their own handwriting to be an utter falsehood, and all this for the sole purpose of clearing themselves of responsibility for a silly blunder by one of their own number, is it possible that the most fanatical believer in their virtues can still remain under any delusion respecting them? Yet this is only one instance of that unscrupulousness the evidence of which is to be found at almost every turn in the recent history of the Kilburn Sisterhood.

A VOICE FROM BIRMINGHAM.

I pass now to another recent example of the tactics adopted in defence of the Sisterhood. In October last, at a Protestant Alliance meeting at Shrewsbury, the Rev. A. Roger made certain statements respecting the treat-

ment of the orphans at Kilburn. I need not repeat here that with any attack upon the Sisters on purely sectarian grounds I have no sympathy whatever; but at the same time it must, of course, be admitted that the Protestant Alliance, or any other religious body opposed to the theological principles of Kilburn, is perfectly within its right in making known the errors and indiscretions of the Sisters for its own special purposes. It is inevitable that capital should be made out of what has happened by the religious opponents of the Sisterhood. With that I am in no way concerned, the only interest that I have in the matter being to see that what is stated is true, whether it comes from the friends or the enemies of Kilburn. What passed at Shrewsbury I do not exactly know, but it led to the appearance of the following letter in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* :—

The Kilburn Orphanage.

To the Editor of the *Daily Gazette*.

Sir,—I have just read an account of the proceedings of the Protestant Alliance at Shrewsbury, in which remarks were made with regard to the Kilburn Orphanage of a very misleading character. As I have paid frequent visits to the Orphanage (sometimes staying three weeks there), I have considerable knowledge of the subject, and I should be much obliged if you could make it known, by means of your valuable paper, that I should be very glad to give information to anybody who may desire it. I am, yours faithfully,

(The Hon.) Henrietta Windsor Clive.

Oakly Park, Bromfield, Shropshire, October 28.

On the publication of this letter a gentleman named Howse, of King's Heath, wrote to the Hon. Henrietta Windsor Clive, referring to her offer to give information to anybody who might desire it, and putting the following question :—

I venture most respectfully to inquire whether, as reported in yesterday's *Gazette*, the Rev. A. Roger is accurate in stating that "children were locked in iron cages with brass spikes, and even young school mistresses have been caged up for weeks, because they would not admit in the confessional that they had been guilty of conduct of which they were perfectly innocent?

In the statement of Mr. Roger here quoted, the *odium theologicum* comes out. The reference to "the confessional" is accurate in a sense, but misleading in the interpretation which would generally be placed upon it. There was no question at Kilburn of "the confessional" in the technical religious sense of that word; on the other hand, of course, it is true that the girls were pressed by the Sisters to confess certain misconduct, and refused to make confession. This is the only sense in which it can be said that they refused to admit anything in "the confessional." Again, the expression "iron cages" is a somewhat sensational description of the cubicles in which the children are confined in their dormitories, although in one sense these apartments certainly are cages, and although there are very good grounds for objecting to the use of such contrivances. With these exceptions, however, the statements which Mr. Howse put to Miss Clive in the above letter are literally accurate, as readers of the Truth report will know.

Let us now look at the manner in which Miss Clive deals with the question thus put to her. It must be remembered that this lady had come forward in the Press as a champion of the Sisterhood, and had volunteered, on the strength of her "considerable knowledge of the subject," "to give information to anybody who may desire it." Her answer to Mr. Howse begins :—

In reply to your note received this morning, I have no hesitation in saying that the Rev. A. Roger's statements with regard to the Kilburn Orphanage must have been based on very unreliable information, and that he himself can have no personal knowlege of the subject. Some time ago it was discovered that a few girls in the Home were having a very bad influence on the others, and decided measures had to be taken to stop the evil. No girl was ever locked up, but a few had to be isolated, and in a very few cases it was found necessary to remove them from the Home, a course which is, I believe, invariably followed in all schools (industrial or otherwise) in such cases. Considering that most of the children in the Home come straight from the workhouse, it speaks well for the training and influence of the Sisters that, out of the hundreds educated by them, so very small a number have not turned out well. . . . .

The letter goes on to describe in detail the cubicles or "cages"; but this matter has already been so fully discussed in Truth that there is no occasion to go into it again now. In the main, Miss Clive's defence of the cubicles is fair enough, whether one agrees with her conclusions or not, although it must be remembered that the details of these contrivances have been considerably modified since the first outcry against them.

But in regard to the account above given of the trouble at the Orphanage in 1893, Miss Clive's statements bear no relation whatever to the truth. In saying this I impute no blame to this lady, beyond that which attaches to everybody who states as a fact something which he or she only knows at second-hand. It is not necessary to go again into the unpleasant story of the trouble at the Orphanage in 1893, which was so fully described in the first Truth Report. Every one who has read the Truth Report knows the nature of the evil, and also of the measures which were taken to deal with it. If any are not sufficiently informed upon the point, I must refer them to pages 8-12 of the Truth supplement for June 18 last. All that it seems necessary to say here is: (1) that Miss Clive's statement "that a few girls at the home were having a very bad influence on the others," is a ridiculously inadequate description of the wholesale demoralisation which was discovered, or which the Sisters allege that they discovered, in 1893; (2) that the statement that no girl was ever locked up has been already proved to be false; and (3) with regard to the statements that "a few had to be isolated, and in a very few cases it was found necessary to remove them from the home," that a more utterly misleading representation of the facts could hardly have been penned. Girls who were at different times isolated by being shut up alone in various apartments might be counted by the dozen, and those who were isolated in a gang might be counted by the score. The "very few" who were removed amounted to well over a hundred. What the precise number was nobody but the Mother Superior and those in her confidence can say for certain; but there is every reason to believe that it was nearer 150 than 100, and persons who were connected with Kilburn at the time have estimated the number even higher than this. I may say that so wholesale was the expulsion that some ladies who knew the facts, and had by this time lost all confidence in the Mother Superior, attributed her action to a deliberate policy of clearing out the Orphanage in order to make room for the extension of the baby-farm, which had then just been started, and promised to become a lucrative undertaking. I do not say that this theory was correct, but I do say that the fact that ladies who knew what was going on formed this opinion is a sufficient proof of the scale on which the process of expulsion was carried out.

With regard to the general facts respecting the treatment of the girls who were accused, and the number who were punished, the evidence is too clear to leave any possibility of doubt. I would remind the reader that in the course of the inquiry which I undertook last spring, I personally saw a large number of girls who had been punished and expelled. Their evidence, which I tested by every means that was possible, was precise, straightforward, and perfectly consistent. Every one of those that I saw is now in a respectable situation. Many of them were serving as pupil teachers in the public schools of the Church Extension Association at the time when charged and expelled. They all denied vehemently that they they had been guilty of any of the offences imputed to them, and I do not believe that any honest man who saw and heard them would have hesitated to accept their statements. Had I chosen, I could have seen thirty or forty more girls who had in writing given similar testimony, and I only refrain from doing so from a desire to avoid putting them to unnecessary pain and humiliation, and because I considered the evidence which I had already obtained to be amply sufficient for all practical purposes. Further, after I had seen these girls, I had a personal interview with the Mother Superior, at which I frankly told her of the impression which the evidence had left upon my mind, and invited her to let me see witnesses at

Kilburn who might be in a position to contradict the girls' evidence, more particularly the Sister and the Matrons who had taken the leading part in the "inquisition" among the orphans. How did the Mother Superior meet that request? First, by putting forward excuses for the interview with these particular ladies, one of which excuses—I mean the excuse for not seeing Sister Kate—appears to have been a pure invention; secondly, by referring me to a solicitor, who, after inventing various pretexts for declining to go on with the inquiry, wound up by threatening me with an action for libel if I made any further references to his clients in TRUTH. If anything were needed to clench the effect created by the evidence of the girls themselves, it would have been supplied by these evasive and disingenuous tactics, to which the Mother Superior resorted when offered the opportunity of rebutting their evidence if she could. No reasonable being could avoid the conclusion which I formed that the evidence respecting their treatment given by the girls themselves was absolutely true.

Now, mark, everything which I have just stated was told, only with more completeness and detail, in TRUTH of June 18. Yet here on October 31 we have the Hon. Henrietta Windsor Clive coming forward as the apologist of the Sisters, and virtually giving the lie to everything that had been stated in TRUTH. I ask on what evidence did Miss Clive do this? Has she inquired into the facts herself? Has she seen any of the hundred or so of girls who were expelled? Has she compared the evidence given by these girls with any other evidence that can be adduced at Kilburn to rebut their statements? Has she, in a word, the slightest personal knowledge of the facts on which she claims to speak with authority, or is she merely accepting and reproducing statements made to her by the Kilburn Sisters. If the latter, what a fresh revelation we have here of the tactics of the Sisters, who first impose upon this lady with a gross misrepresentation of facts which are established by irresistible evidence, and then induce this lady to put herself forward through the Press as a witness to the innocence of the Sisters of the charges against them! That the Hon. Henrietta Windsor Clive honestly believed all that she says in the above letter I make no question; but it seems to me to be a lamentable thing that people in a position that entitles their words to some respect should, through their own silly credulity, allow themselves to become the mouthpieces of falsehood and the means of deceiving others.

Even this, however, is not the end of Miss Clive's indiscretion. In reply to her letter, which I have quoted above, Mr. Howse wrote again, expressing himself dissatisfied with the answer, and putting the question, "Why are the Sisters so slow to bring the threatened action for libel?" In a further letter dated November 3, Miss Clive (after remarking that she is "perhaps over-cautious in the matter of answering questions," but at the same time quite familiar with the main facts) replies as follows to Mr. Howse's questions:—

> As to your question with regard to a possible action for libel on the part of the Sisters, you cannot have much knowledge of life in a religious community, if you can imagine that they would bring their affairs before the secular law courts. I, for one, should be very sorry to see them resort to such means, neither do I believe it to be necessary.

It is difficult to believe, after this, that this lady has ever even looked at the report of the TRUTH inquiry. If she will now take the trouble to do so, she will find on page 4 a letter written to me by the Mother Superior on February 18 last informing me that possibly it might become the painful duty of the Sisters to "summon" their traducers. On the next page she will find that a week or two later, the Sisters, after having invited me to investigate for myself the allegations against them, placed themselves in the hands of a solicitor, who, after some weeks of desultory correspondence, wrote to me that, in the event of any repetition of my previous remarks, "or any attempt of a similar nature," his clients "would at once institute legal proceedings against me." When Miss Clive has referred to this passage, which I do her the justice to suppose she knows nothing about, I will ask her to explain, if she can, what she means by rejecting the possibility of the Sisters going to law as something apparently irreconcilable with "life in a religious community." It seems to me that she will have two alternatives before her. Either she must admit that in March and April last the Mother Superior was proposing to do something at variance with all the traditions of religious communities; or else the Mother Superior when she talked to me, in her letter of February 18, about the painful duty of summoning the libellers, and when, later on, she, through her solicitors, informed me of her intention to institute legal proceedings against me in certain eventualities, was endeavouring to intimidate me with an empty threat which she had no intention of carrying out. I leave Miss Clive her choice between these two alternatives.

It is worth while to note the last step of this correspondence. In answer to the lady's letter of November 3, Mr. Howse wrote again, mentioning, among other things, that he proposed submitting a copy of the correspondence to the Editor of TRUTH in order to hear what I had to say about it. Miss Clive replied that she must beg him to do nothing of the kind, and that if she had had any idea that he had intended to make this use of it, she would not have entered into a private correspondence with him. I must respectfully decline to admit that after what had previously passed, the lady had any right thus to veto publicity. She had volunteered publicly in the Press to correspond with any one who was in doubt about Kilburn. The question was a public one, and she publicly offered to answer and refute, on her own authority and responsibility, accusations which had been publicly made. Yet, when told that her answers are to be submitted to the person who has made these allegations, and whom she has undertaken to answer, she at once refuses her assent to this course. Her conduct can only be compared to that of Sister May at Plymouth. The Kilburn Sisters and their supporters are apparently prepared to say anything in answer to TRUTH, provided they can say it privately, in strict confidence, and without fear of its coming to the knowledge of TRUTH. Under these conditions we find them ready to make statements utterly at variance with the facts, and capable of disproof as soon as they are uttered. Naturally, therefore, when it is proposed to give publicity to what they have to say, they shrink with horror from the idea. The moral of Birmingham is very similar to that of Plymouth.

THE CASE OF SISTER KATE.

As I have referred above to the refusal of the Mother Superior to allow me to see Sister Kate in the course of my inquiry, this will be a convenient point for recapitulating the circumstances connecting this particular Sister with the Kilburn scandal. I will ask the reader to look in the first place at the letter from Sister Kate, which has already been referred to in TRUTH, and in part quoted. As stated at the outset of my remarks, it is the letter of which the authenticity has been denied, and which I have, therefore, had reproduced. I may remark that the original is written on Kilburn notepaper, stamped as in the facsimile. This letter has a double significance. It discloses, first, the gross dishonesty of the attempt which was made, while I was engaged in the Kilburn inquiry, to influence my judgment by turning on to me a flood of correspondence from friends of the Kilburn Sisters. In the second place, it has a most important bearing upon the allegations, made to me in January and February, that Sister Kate was in such a condition of health that for her to see me personally was a matter of impossibility. In order to follow on what I have been saying just above, I will deal with the second of these points first. This letter of Sister Kate's is dated from "The Elms." It is addressed to the then foreman of the printing works of the C.E.A.—a man who, I believe, was receiving about 35s. per week. Sister Kate herself was at this time in charge of this particular department, and it will be seen that the letter deals with, in the first place, current matters of business relating to

the printing works. For convenience of reference, I give here the first part of the letter:—

"The Elms."

The Sisters of the Church,
Randolph-gardens,
Kilburn, N.W.

Dear Sir,—Do not post anything (you want me to get in a hurry) on *Friday* night as I am at the Home that night and Saturday morning, otherwise I am at "The Elms." I have writen to Spicer for work for a paper. Will you kindly let me have samples of *all* the type you have, with the name of same. I hope we shall not have to buy any, but the Mother wishes to see all the type we now have at the Works.—Yours faithfully,

Sister Kate.

Then follows the P.S. to which I will come presently. This letter, it will be noticed, is not dated, but it is easy to fix the date approximately from the P.S., which shows that it was written at the time when the Sisters were requesting their friends and supporters to communicate their views to the Editor of Truth. The letters which were thus inspired reached me between March 7 and the end of the same month. The printer, to whom the letter was addressed, states that it was somewhere about the beginning of March that he received this letter from Sister Kate. If the letter was written any time in March, it is amply sufficient for my purpose. Now my first interview with the Kilburn Sisters at Truth Office took place on January 10, the second on January 22, and my interview with the Mother Superior at Kilburn on February 12. As has already been stated, I was desirous from the first of seeing Sister Kate. Allegations directly implicating that lady were made in evidence which had been before me long before my negotiations with the Sisters began, and if my inquiry was to be a genuine one, it was absolutely essential that I should see personally a witness who had played so important a part in the matters under investigation. From the Kilburn point of view, it might have been supposed that if Sister Kate was prepared to deny the allegations made against her personally, every possible effort would have been made to let me see her and satisfy myself of the credibility of her denial. It must be remembered that the two Sisters who had been deputed to wait upon me had little or no personal knowledge of that part of the case relating to the treatment of the orphans in 1893. From every point of view, therefore, it was desirable that I should have Sister Kate's evidence at first hand, instead of taking general denials from these two ladies on matters of which they could only know through Sister Kate herself.

Now, how was my suggestion that I should see Sister Kate met? Sisters May and Frances at once pronounced it to be impossible, on the ground that Sister Kate's health had broken down under the painful events of 1893-4, and that she had become a chronic invalid. Sister May, in tones the pathos of which I well remember, solemnly assured me that poor Sister Kate "had been on her back for months." She appealed to Sister Frances for confirmation, and Sister Frances agreed that in Sister Kate's sad condition it was out of the question for me to see her. This was in the middle of January. On February 12, when I saw the Mother Superior, I renewed my request to be allowed to see Sister Kate. The Mother Superior shook her head, and mournfully replied that it was out of the question. Poor Sister Kate, she said, was quite broken down. I said something to the effect that even if the lady was obliged to recline upon a couch, it might be possible for me to see her, and learn what she had to say to the very serious statements made respecting her own conduct. I also suggested that before a definite refusal was given, it might be desirable to ascertain whether Sister Kate's doctor would make any objection to my having an interview with her. I pressed the point, because in the interval between my interview with the Sisters and my interview with the Mother, I had seen personally several girls who made allegations against Sister Kate, and their evidence was such that I could not reject it without, at least, having heard what the lady implicated herself said in reply. The Mother Superior, however, seemed to think either that the matter was of no importance, or that Sister Kate was in such a desperate condition that any discussion of the events of 1893 might be attended with the most disastrous consequences, and I had to drop the subject.

With these facts in mind, let the reader look at Sister Kate's letter attached. Here, within three or four weeks of my interview with the Mother Superior, Sister Kate is giving her instructions, apparently in the ordinary course of business, to the foreman of the works of which she is in charge. She is evidently moving about between "The Elms" at Hampstead and one of the Homes, and she gives the printer instructions where he should write to her. The printer, whom I have seen, tells me that at this time Sister Kate was showing herself at the works, and attending to the business of the department as usual. He told me that he thought that she had been unwell and away for a few weeks some little time before this, but when I suggested to him that Sister Kate had "been on her back for months" down to the middle of January, and that in the middle of February she was still in a hopelessly prostrate condition, and unable to attend to business of any kind, the man simply laughed at the idea. I may add that, from what I have heard from other sources, I have reason to believe that Sister Kate was at the C.E.A. warehouse in Paternoster-row, in the interval between my interview with the Sisters and the writing of the above letter.

No one can shut his eyes to the effect of this evidence except with the deliberate desire to avoid seeing the truth. It is a disagreeable thing at any time to make an imputation of untruthfulness against ladies, and it becomes in the highest degree painful when the ladies concerned occupy such positions as those of the Mother Superior and the senior Sisters of a religious community. But that these ladies deliberately set themselves to deceive me about Sister Kate's condition during January and February, I cannot now doubt for a moment. If their statements were false, why were they put forward? It can only have been for the purpose of screening Sister Kate, and saving her from the painful position of being confronted with the statements of the girls whom she had ill-treated in 1893. As usually happens, the detection of one falsehood, uttered by the Sisters, supplies strong corroborative evidence of the truth of the allegations against them in other particulars.

Let the reader remember the nature of the allegations affecting Sister Kate. They will be found chiefly on pages 11-12 of the Truth Supplement of June 18. Sister Kate was the Sister who took charge of the girls against whom accusations were made. She examined and cross-examined them, and seems to have been generally responsible for their treatment while they were in disgrace. On every allegation that has been made, whether by the C.O.S. or by other parties, respecting the treatment of these girls, she was the one witness competent to speak on behalf of Kilburn from her own knowledge. Moreover, several girls whom I have seen deposed to the harshness, and even violence, with which Sister Kate had treated them. One of the worst cases is that of a girl, sixteen years of age, a pupil-teacher, who was sent away in company with her sister. This girl, after describing how she was kept in confinement for three or four days, and pressed daily to confess by Sister Kate and the matron who assisted her, states that on the day before she left, Sister Kate, after again pressing her for a confession, lost her temper, took the girl by the shoulders, and "thumped her against the wall," and then struck her in the face with her hand, giving her a black eye. This girl went home with her sister to her friends next morning, accompanied by a matron. Her black eye was at once noticed, and the matron explained that it was the result of knocking her head against the washstand. The case was subsequently inquired into by Lord Salisbury's Chaplain, and an offer was made from Kilburn to take both the girls back. There is no room for doubt that this girl did leave with a black eye, and that the matron gave a false explanation as to how it had been caused. This is the worst case in which physical violence is charged, but it is not the only

one. Again, most of the girls whom I saw stated that they had been threatened either with removal to the workhouse, or with expulsion and disgrace in one shape or another, unless they made statements incriminating other girls; and there can be no question that the process of inquiry was conducted in this cruel and unjust manner—that is to say, by putting pressure on the girls separately, in order to force from them evidence incriminating their friends, and then using the evidence thus obtained from one girl as a means of intimidating and forcing similar statements from others.

These are the matters in regard to which I thought it most desirable that I should have the personal evidence both of Sister Kate and of the matrons who assisted her in this inquisition. With regard to the matrons the Mother Superior simply said that they had left, and that she could not cause them to attend; but she made no offer to give me the slightest assistance in finding them, which, I take it, could not be a matter of much difficulty. With regard to Sister Kate, I was put off with the story, above detailed, of the Sister's illness. Now I think that every reader will be in a position to judge for himself the full significance of the misrepresentations which were made respecting Sister Kate's condition.

THE BOGUS CORRESPONDENT OF "TRUTH."

It is necessary to add a word as to the P.S. to Sister Kate's letter to the printer for the information of those who may not have seen my remarks upon it in TRUTH of September 10. This is the text of the P.S. :—

The Mother thinks it would do more good if you wrote to
The Editor,
TRUTH Buildings,
Carteret-street, S.W.,
as an outsider. Do not mention you know or work at any of our Homes, but write from your own address, and say you are surprised to hear of the disgraceful attack made against the Church Extension Association. Then mention its work amongst the unemployed, &c., &c , and say the Charity Organisation Society ought to be had up for libel, and that you and many more will be obliged to come forward and put a stop to the damaging reports, and will take strong measures to do so. Something of the sort might do great good if you take them with a high hand, asking TRUTH to do his best to put an end to false reports. It will be a great help if you will write ; will you also write to
The Secretary,
Charity Organisation Society,
Buckingham-street, (?)
and threaten them well. Say anything you can to show how bad their conduct is. Could we have copies of letters?

As I explained when first publishing this letter, the significance of it is this: On February 12 I had seen the Mother Superior at Kilburn, and had expressed my wish to hear the evidence of certain witnesses on her side, in answer to those to whom I had been referred by the Charity Organisation Society. At the same time I had indicated to the Mother Superior that, in regard to the charges of cruelty, I thought there was a very strong case against the Sisterhood. My desire to see the witnesses who had been directly concerned in the matter under dispute was never complied with, for the reasons above explained. But within two or three weeks of my interview with Miss Ayckbowm, letters began to pour in upon me from all parts of the kingdom, written by people who had not the slightest personal knowledge of the facts in dispute, but who were all most positive in assuring me that I had been misinformed, and in impressing upon me the virtues and the wrongs of the Kilburn Sisters. It was perfectly clear that all these letters were inspired, if not in some cases actually dictated, from Kilburn, and that while the direct evidence for which I had asked was withheld on one pretext or another, a childish attempt was being made to influence my opinion by this mechanical chorus of testimony from people totally ignorant of the facts. The letter from Sister Kate to the printer is, in the first place, of interest as showing how these letters were inspired, and the amount of respect to which they were entitled. But it has a value over and above this, for it shows that, while the inquiry which I had undertaken at their request was still incomplete, and while the negotiations for its completion were still pending, the Sisters were making a deliberate attempt to impose upon me with the testimony of a bogus witness; and, what is worse, they actually condescend to the depth of inciting a man in their own service to write, if not to utter, a falsehood for this dishonourable purpose.

Look again at the terms of Sister Kate's letter, and the elaborate instructions given for perpetrating this piece of imposture. This man is a paid workman in the employ of the Sisters. He is instructed to write to me "as an outsider." He is to conceal the fact that he knows and works at the Homes. He is to express his surprise at a "disgraceful attack," about which he knew little or nothing, and he, a workingman on 35s. per week, is to inform me that he is contemplating taking strong measures "to have up" the Charity Organisation Society for libel. He is at the same time to write and threaten the Charity Organisation Society itself with the same desperate intention. Evidently the Mother Superior had at this juncture great faith in the efficacy of threats of libel actions. It was just about this time that she confided to me the possibility of her having "to summon the libellers," and it was only a few weeks later that her solicitor delivered his historical threat to commence proceedings against me upon the first unfavourable reference to the Sisterhood in TRUTH. Finally, note the concluding suggestion that the printer should let Sister Kate have copies of the letters which he proposed to write to TRUTH and the Charity Organisation Society. If they had tried, how could these ladies possibly have made themselves more direct parties to the fraud?

I offer no further comment on this document. To all who can read it speaks for itself as to the spirit in which the Mother Superior had entered upon the inquiry which she invited me to conduct, and as to the amount of honour and straightforwardness which may be expected from this lady and her colleagues by those who have dealings with them.

KILBURN LITERATURE.

It has been remarked above that one of the means of defence to which the Sisters have resorted has been the dissemination of general denials, seasoned with lavish innuendo, in the miscellaneous literature issued from Kilburn. To go through everything of this kind that has appeared during the last six months would be a work requiring a supplement of TRUTH to itself. It is necessary to give the reader some idea of what the Sisters have been saying, but I shall not attempt to do more than pick out for this purpose a few samples taken almost at random from the journals, leaflets, and other publications issued by the Sisterhood. To begin with, the reader must understand that never from the moment when the TRUTH Report appeared has this journal been referred to in any of the Kilburn publications, nor has any single charge, allegation, or suggestion made in the TRUTH Report been definitely answered. All that will be found in the Kilburn literature is vague references to the enemies and accusers of the Sisterhood, to the slanderous falsehoods that have been uttered against them, coupled with subtle suggestions that the Sisters are being persecuted on religious grounds, either by "Puritans" or "infidels." To which of these classes I myself am supposed to belong, I am not clear; but, so far as I can judge from the different passages in which the term is used, I fancy that I must be the infidel.

Here is one of the earliest samples of the tactics of the Sisterhood. It is a slip which has been inserted in the monthly issue of *Our Work*. I first came across it in the September number :—

NOTICE.

Donations and subscriptions for the work of the Church Extension Association, gifts of old and new clothing, boots, toys, fancy work, &c., should be sent to

Miss F. Ashdown,
27, Kilburn Park-road,
London, N.W.

The Managers of the C.E.A. regret deeply that it is necessary to warn their many friends and well-wishers against an unscrupulous and unjustifiable attempt now being made to deprive the Society of funds by circulating reports which have no foundation in fact. All who desire to know the truth about this attempt to deprive our 700 children of "Daily Bread" are requested to call at the Orphanage of Mercy, when full information will be gladly supplied.

Well-wishers are requested to send to the Secretary, 27, Kilburn Park-road, for "The Kilburn Sisters and their Accusers," by the Commissioners of *Church Bells*. Price Sevenpence. Post free.

Note the language here. The sisters had asked me to investigate their work, in order to test certain allegations which had been made against them. I investigate as far as they will permit me, and find that they appear to have no valid answer to any one of the allegations, and I learn, in the course of my investigation, a great deal more than had originally been alleged against them. I publish the result of my investigation, as the Sisters themselves had at the outset agreed that I should do. And the only answer which the Sisters attempt is to warn their friends and well-wishers "against the unscrupulous and unjustifiable attempts now being made to deprive the Society of funds by circulating reports which have no foundation in fact."

In the same number of *Our Work* (September) appears an interesting appeal to readers of the magazine to enlist themselves as "allies and referees." The "referees" are to offer themselves as vouchers for the integrity of the Church Extension Association :—

The late cowardly and utterly untruthful attacks on the society, the attempt to deprive the many hundreds of children, under its care, of daily bread, renders (*sic*) it more than ever imperative that, not only at Kilburn, but all over the United Kingdom, there should be persons of unimpeachable reputation who, *from personal knowledge*, can refute the calumnious statements so industriously circulated by the slanderers of the C.E.A.

Those, therefore, who are willing to act as referees in this sense are invited to come and see for themselves the different works being carried on, and "examine the system of accounts, &c.," in order that they may be "able to answer questions put to them by those who have been puzzled and distressed by all the contradictory and extraordinary statements they have heard, and the hard things said against Kilburn."

This explains, I take it, the appearance of ladies in different parts of the country who undertake to answer the questions about Kilburn, like the Hon. Henrietta Windsor Clive at Birmingham. Miss Clive's correspondence, dealt with above, is dated, it will be noted, some two months subsequently to this appeal for "allies and referees." The above appeal also explains, I think, the conspicuous failure of Miss Clive to satisfy one of the very first inquirers who responded to her offer. Any one who knows anything of the case can see at a glance that a visit to Kilburn at the end of 1896 cannot possibly put the visitor in a position to answer the allegations of the Charity Organisation Society and of Truth, many of which relate to matters that occurred two or three years ago, while others cannot be in any way disposed of by a visit to Kilburn. It is necessary to insist upon this, because again and again throughout the Kilburn literature one sees this plausible argument "come and see, and judge for yourselves." The motive is obvious. There is a vast philanthropic and religious work being conducted at Kilburn, and, in the main, it is a very good work indeed, as long as you only look upon the surface; and a casual visitor, who only sees what the Sisters choose to show, may easily be impressed with the idea that anything that is said against the work must be false and calumnious. The Sisters tried their hardest to impress me in this way; but when they found that I was not satisfied with this, but insisted on coming to the specific allegations that have been made against them, they very quickly changed their attitude, withdrew from the inquiry which they had invited, and threatened me, through their solicitor, with an action for libel if I made public the result of my investigation. So it will be, I take it, with any one who goes to Kilburn with the idea of thoroughly sifting the case against the Sisters for himself. I would ask whether it is not a transparent absurdity, that, after having come to me in the way they did, and treated my response in the way they did, the Sisters should now pretend to answer me by inviting any believer in their innocence to pay a visit to Kilburn, and then undertake to satisfy the public that my Report on my own inquiries is a "cowardly and utterly untruthful attack on the society?"

Again, there has been organised from Kilburn a body styled the "C.E.A. Defence League," an article upon which appears in the November number of *Our Work*, where it is referred to as "The Slander-Slaying Society." The operations of the Slander-Slaying Society are thus described :—

The weapons of the League are Truth, Love, and Light. Wherever false statements, circulated by false tongues, meet them, these champions of truth make it a point of honour to contradict them, and expose their falseness by testifying to what they really know to be the truth.

It is somewhat curious that the testimony of these slander-slayers "to what they really know to be the truth," has not resulted down to the present moment in the refutation of a single allegation that has been made against the Sisterhood. Again :—

All questions sent to Headquarters by members of the League are answered fully. The Sisters hardly knew, until this infidel attack was made upon the Society, how many thousands of friends they have in all parts of the world.

I should very much like to see some of the answers which have been returned from "Headquarters" to questions sent by members of the League. I doubt not that the members of this League are, according to their lights, honourable ladies and gentlemen. On that assumption I will make them an offer. If they will allow me to draw up a series of questions, to be sent to "Headquarters" for an answer, I will undertake to publish every answer in Truth, even if it should be necessary to issue another special supplement for the purpose. It will be noted, by the way, that in the above paragraph "the infidel" appears upon the scene as the author of the attack upon the Sisters.

I call special attention to the following summary of the results already achieved by the Slander-Slaying Society :—

What a maze of groundless insinuations, imputed motives, foregone conclusions, harsh judgments, impudent lies, and even forged letters have, thanks to the untiring efforts of our League and other friends, been unravelled and exposed.

Indeed! it is the first that I have heard about it, and it seems to me much to be regretted, that if the Sisterhood have achieved these results, they should have insisted on keeping them strictly private. One would have thought that if this sort of thing is to be done, in the interests of truth and justice, to say nothing of the interest of the Sisterhood, it had best be done publicly. But not so think the Sisters. I suppose that when Sister May went down to refute Truth at Plymouth, she was contemplating a little exposure of this kind; yet when the newspaper reporter presents himself he is refused admittance, and when the Sister, who is coming to expose impudent lies and forged letters, cannot have a strictly private meeting for the purpose, she declines to speak at all. It is just as well to announce that the weapons of defence are not only Truth and Love, but also Light. But for this notification, it might have been supposed that the Sisters chiefly believed in the advantages of darkness.

The above is the first public reference that I have seen to "forged letters." What letters are suggested to have been forged, or who has forged them, I do not know. It is characteristic of the tactics of Kilburn to utter insinuations of this kind in such a vague way that there is no possibility of grappling with them. But in view of this insinuation, I have taken the trouble, as the reader

has seen, to reproduce in facsimile two of the more important of the letters of which I am making use in this article. I now challenge Miss Ayckbowm, the Mother Superior, who is, I understand, personally responsible for everything appearing in *Our Work*, to deny, if she can, the genuineness of either of these letters. They are letters which, if genuine, convict her and two of her senior Sisters of the grossest duplicity and falsehood. The letter of Sister May completely disproves the statement made from Kilburn to the *Western Morning News*, and subsequently repeated in *Our Work*, that the Plymouth meeting was organised without any sanction from Kilburn, and even without the knowledge of the Sisters. The letter of Sister Kate to the printer shows the Mother Superior herself, by the pen of one of the senior Sisters, inciting one of her employees to an attempt to impose upon me, in the course of an investigation which I had undertaken at the request of the Mother Superior herself. It also affords strong evidence that statements respecting the condition of Sister Kate, which had been made to me by the Mother Superior and by Sisters May and Frances, were, if not absolutely false, such gross exaggerations as to be morally indistinguishable from falsehoods. I venture to suggest to Miss Ayckbowm that while such documentary evidence exists of the gross disregard of truth of which she and her colleagues have been guilty, she would do better to keep silence than to impute in her magazine lying and forgery to those whom she cannot answer in any other way.

There is a great deal more in the Kilburn literature which I had contemplated dealing with, more especially certain shuffling misrepresentations and evasions of the truth which have been put forth in the form of "dialogues." But, after what I have quoted, is it worth while to go further? Such stuff as this can convince no one who has studied the controversy, or has any glimmering of the real facts at issue. It is addressed only to silly and deluded people, women for the most part, who are incapable of judging evidence, or following a controversy, and who are guided by sentiment rather than by reason. To any one else, a study of the utterances which have issued from Kilburn during the last few months can be nothing less than sickening. The Mother Superior, and her advisers in the disastrous policy which she has adopted, seem to think that definite and specific allegations against their own conduct can be best answered by the most extravagant laudation of their own work, their own self-devotion, and their own righteousness. Column after column of unrestrained eulogy of the Sisterhood, written, be it remembered, by the Sisters themselves, is every month offered to their supporters and admirers. Running through it all there is an incessant harping on religious motives, a lavish interjection of religious phrases and allusions, which, when read with what has happened at Kilburn, and with such revelations of the true character of the writers as I am offering to the reader to-day, can only cause any one who has any regard for the nobility of the religious life, or who even possesses a spark of religious sentiment in his own breast, to shut the page in disgust. If it were true, as the Sisters assert, that any infidel has made an attack upon them, I can only say that they are providing the infidel with a rich feast, and placing a store of deadly weapons at his disposal.

I have now shown—fully enough, I hope, to satisfy all—what the general attitude of the Sisterhood has been towards the exposure which inflicted so heavy a blow upon it six months ago. If only those who are interested in the question, and desire to arrive at the truth, will study the facts and arguments in the foregoing columns, they cannot fail to read the moral which I have drawn from it, namely, that the small "ring" of ladies now ruling this vast institution is totally unworthy of confidence in any shape. I will only add that I adhere to everything that I have said on former occasions both as to the merits and the possibilities of much of the work which the Sisters have undertaken, and as to the complete innocence of the greater number of the Sisters of all responsibility for the scandals that have arisen. Although I am compelled to speak in almost every line of the "Kilburn Sisters" or "the Sisterhood" as having done this, that, or the other, and although the Community as a body has to bear the reproach and disgrace of all that has been done in its name, yet the fact is that the initiative and active direction of the work, so far as the outside public see it, is absolutely in the hands of the Mother Superior and the small clique of Sisters who are admitted to her confidence. Upon these few alone rests the moral blame for every administrative mistake that has been made, and every artifice, subterfuge, and falsehood that has been resorted to for the purpose of concealing these mistakes and averting any reform of the Community. Now that the character of these proceedings is so plainly apparent, it seems incredible that those who appreciate the value of such religious associations should not unite with the ecclesiastical authorities in taking drastic measures to terminate what has become a scandal to the Church of England.

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The Twentieth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

LIHUNGISMS.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

Profusely illustrated by Mr. R. A. Brownlie and Mr. Roland Hill.

The illustrations include FOUR DOUBLE-PAGE CARTOONS and TWO SINGLE-PAGE CARTOONS (printed in colours):—

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6. A Good Joke. *(From Dr. Jameson's point of view.)*

In response to various communications which reach me on the subject, I beg to notify that the terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Building," Carteret-street, S.W.*

A reprint of the Truth *report of June 18 on the* Kilburn Sisterhood *can be obtained at the Publishing Office, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, price 2d.; by post, 2½d.*

ENTRE NOUS.

It will be impossible to publish the Award of Prizes given in connection with the recent Truth Toy and Doll Show until next week. I regret the delay, for I know how eagerly many of my fair readers are expecting that list; but the fact is that the report of the Committee of Ladies who so kindly assist me by making the adjudication has not yet reached me. Last week, it will be remembered, was a very broken one, thanks to the Christmas festivities; and the non-arrival of the expected report is doubtless due more or less directly to that cause. Several letters which have been sent to me containing corrections of certain details in the published account of the Show at the Albert Hall will be also dealt with next week.

Just a word, however, in answer to the correspondents who write to express regret that a small charge for admission to the Toy and Doll Show was not levied at the doors of the Albert Hall. As I have explained before, it is impossible, under the conditions on which that building is placed at my disposal, to make any charge at the doors.

On the Wednesday before Christmas day the representatives of the London Workhouses, Workhouse Schools, and Workhouse Infirmaries attended at Truth Office in order to receive the proportion of the 11,000 new silver sixpences due to their respective institutions. The total number of coins thus distributed was only 10,777, owing to a miscalculation made at the last moment by one of the officials. The amount represented by the balance of 223 sixpences, viz., £5. 11s. 6d., has, therefore, with the approval of the generous donor of the 11,000 sixpences been carried to the credit of the Truth Toy Fund.

Since I last wrote about the state of that Fund, some further donations have been received, but the balance is still on the wrong side. I should like, before I publish the usual annual statement of accounts, to be able to report that this debit balance had been wiped out. The following are the sums received since the last list was published:—

Faith, £1; H. W. B., £5; Elmfield, 10s.; Anonymously from Orleans Club, £1; B. B., £1. 1s.; R. H., £1; R. S. B., £1; Ghena, £1; W. R. B., £1; X. Y. Z., 10s.; Rita, Concie, and Ernest, £1. 10s.; Benton House, £3. 3s.; R. G. M., 2s. 6d.; Miss Lilian Duffield, £2; R. H., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. K., £1; E. C. F. James, £1; Joseph Pulitzer, £20; Friends Abroad, £1; Mrs. Porcher, £2; A Schoolboy, 2s.; D. and E., New York, £3. 3s.; Mrs. Askew, £1. 1s.; M. W. C., 12s.

I have also received a box of dolls from "Birdie," a quantity of badges anonymously, and a box of toys and apples from Mrs. Lang.

A

There are one or two publications which make it their business to manufacture all kinds of romances about Royal personages. The readers of a certain magazine are informed, for example, that the Prince of Wales "is a very expert shoemaker," and that H.R.H. has worn "shoes of his own make which were the envy of every gentleman who saw them;" besides which, "he is an expert judge of other people's work." It is difficult to imagine where the people are to be found (outside of lunatic asylums) who take pleasure in reading such idiotic trash.

During the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland at Trentham next week they will take part in public functions at Fenton and at Longton.

Princess Beatrice is going to Italy at the end of January, and she will visit Rome and Naples, returning about the middle of March to Cimiez, where the Queen will by that time have arrived. Princess Louis of Battenberg (who has gone from Darmstadt to Malta for the winter) will probably meet Princess Beatrice at Naples, and accompany her during her tour.

The question of the origin of the practice of walking backwards before royalty, discussed some time back in these columns, has since been further ventilated on the other side of the world, in the columns of the *Siam Free Press*. Some new and interesting theories have thus been added to the literature of this important subject. One of the best is given by a learned writer calling himself "Historicus." He traces the origin of the custom to a sad accident which befell a somewhat corpulent subject of the Danish King Sweyn while kneeling before his sovereign. He gives as his authority the following passage, purporting to come from an ancient chronicler, and as the incident is one of some delicacy, perhaps the story had better be left in the chronicler's own words. The chronicler's Latin looks to me a little weak in one or two places, but that is nothing unusual, and, besides, this may have been a Siamese chronicler :—

Incola, vestitus pantalone angusto, appropinquavit regi, et coram eo genua flexit. In hac positione infelix pantalonis sedem splitavit. Statim, conditione cognita, ad regem spectans retrogressus est loco calamitatis, hoc modo ab visu regis latente et ab oculis vulgaris manibus ipsius tecto. Hinc dicitur consuetudo coram regibus retrogressus orta est.

The weather in Dublin did not keep up the Christmas tradition, but was bright, breezy, and mild. With the mildness of the temperature the Yule log, like the mistletoe, was rather for ornament than use. Christmas was kept in the old-fashioned way at the Viceregal Lodge, all the members of Lord and Lady Cadogan's family being assembled there on Christmas Day. On St. Stephen's Day the Lord Lieutenant and a large Viceregal party attended the Leopardstown race meeting. These races are a late institution; and whether an open-air social festivity of the kind can be classed as an amusement at this season is much to be doubted. Though the weather was mild and bright at times, at others a strong gale blew, with rain accompanying it.

Lord and Lady Dufferin with their family are spending Christmas at Clandeboye, their residence in the county Down, from which they have been so long absent, during Lord Dufferin's holding of office in so many parts of the world. Clandeboye is quite a museum of interesting objects presented to, and collected by, Lord Dufferin in the different countries in which his official lot has been cast. Lord Londonderry is expected to pay his usual visit to the county Down in January, when he will make a short stay at Mount Stewart. During the time he will entertain a succession of guests, and some evening parties will be given, at which the neighbourhood in general will be entertained.

A WORD OF WARNING.

Next year, all loyal Englishmen will join, with ardour keen,
To celebrate the record reign of their belovéd Queen.
Widespread will be the wish to mark in some appropriate way
The culminating point in her benign and glorious sway.

So far, so good; by all means let us fitly celebrate
What, in the annals of our land, will be so famed a date;
By all means let us to the world in joy and pride make known
That as our liberty 's increased our loyalty has grown.

But let us one and all beware of those whose selfish aim
'Twill surely be to make our zeal redound to their own fame;
Of those whose purpose it will be, persistent and adroit,
The loyal feeling of the land to shamelessly exploit.

Already they have set to work, already we can see
How bold in their self-seeking aims 'tis their intent to be;
By modesty they are unchecked, by scruples unrestrained
They'll stop at nothing if thereby their ends can be attained.

Beware, then, of this fussy crew, who never, never miss
Their chance for pushing to the front at such a time as this!
Beware these wily sycophants! Beware the crawling group
Of those who, socially to rise, care nothing how they stoop!

Beware the plans they organise! Beware the schemes they float!
Beware of the subscriptions they will speciously promote!
And should they dun you for your help, refuse to give your aid
To those who would your loyalty to their base ends degrade.

Already they are hard at work; already there are signs
They mean to "boom" the "record reign" on their own selfish lines;
Take, then, to heart this warning note, and let these toadies see
That you are wiser now than when they worked the "Jubilee!"

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1748 in the present issue.
For Hospitals and Appeals, see pages 1746.
For Amusements, see page 1747.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1757.

Lord Normanton was a genial and hospitable man, fond of pictures and books, a very good talker, an excellent whist player, and a capital rider. His death is sincerely regretted by a very large circle of friends and neighbours, and notably by his numerous tenants, to whom he was always very liberal. Lord Normanton lived a great deal at Somerley, his beautiful place on the Avon, above Ringwood, which is let for the shooting season to Baron Erlanger. He was a distinguished dandy in early life, and he was one of the founders of the once famous Coventry Club, which is now represented by the St. James's.

Lord Normanton had no taste for political affairs, and he never took any active part in public life, but for eleven years he represented Wilton as a Conservative and a supporter of Sir Robert Peel, having been returned for that borough in 1841 by the interest of his friend, Sydney Herbert.

Sir Arthur Sullivan, who went direct to Nice when he left London, has taken a villa at Beaulieu until the end of April.

The French are evidently determined to deserve success at Henley, even if they cannot command it. A rowing man, wintering in Paris, tells me that the French eight for the Grand Challenge Cup is already rowing twice a week, and is to be out every day after February next. Staleness evidently has no terrors for French trainers and coaches.

Have they in Aberdeen a *police des mœurs*, charged with the duty of looking after all the crews of the ships lying in port? Apropos of the recent case of the Norwegian skipper, whose cabin was entered by the police in order to ascertain whether the lady occupying it was his wife, I hear a precisely similar story from a gentleman who was yachting in that part of the world some little time back. The yacht stayed at Aberdeen for a couple of days, and the owner went on shore with his wife one night to dine at an hotel. As the party returned on board, they were followed by the police, who were anxious to know the precise status of the lady. They seem to have behaved quite respectfully, and accepted the owner's assurance without actually insisting on seeing the lady's marriage lines. The fact, however, of the duty being discharged with delicacy does not make it the less offensive.

"You would be doing a kindness," wrote an unknown correspondent to me the other day, "if you would persuade people at this time of year to pay their doctors' bills within a reasonable time of their becoming due." Although it comes anonymously, I venture to break through my usual rule by giving this suggestion publicity. Perhaps, while I am about it, I may as well suggest that people should pay *all* their bills as promptly as possible. There are many, however, who, while perfectly regular in paying other debts, habitually neglect the unfortunate doctor. There seems to be a sort of idea that a doctor's fees are not a legal debt, and that it is quite a favour to pay them any time within a year or two of the date of the attendance for which they are charged. This is an entire delusion, and it puts many a struggling practitioner to great inconvenience and loss, and, what is more, I believe it drives not a few into the toils of the advertising moneylender.

One of these gentry, referred to in a recent issue of Truth, is at the present moment particularly active in his pursuit of the needy medico. He calls himself Richard Pelham. According to his own account, he has "for many years past made considerable advances to the medical profession upon simple note of hand alone, without"—so guileless and generous is he—"inquiries, fees, or routine whatever." Who would let his doctor's bill stand when he reflects that the result may be to drive the medico into the clutches of harpies of this class?

I have intercepted the following letter, and publish it to show once again the degree of guileless simplicity that flourishes among us, and the utter futility of all attempts to enlighten it. Without boasting, I suppose I may say that Truth has done more than most papers to warn people of the folly of putting faith in "systems" of gambling, whether on the turf or elsewhere. Yet this simpleton actually singles out Truth as the paper to assist him in raising a little capital to start himself in business by means of a judicious system of betting. It would serve him right if I published his name:—

To the Sporting Editor of Truth.

Dear Sir,—Would you mind telling me whether there is more than one favourite at each race? (I mean a horse on which the betting odds are lowest. Is there more than one horse, say, "even on," or "2 to 1 on," &c.?)

I must raise some capital to start myself in business, and it is evident from a careful study of the evening papers that by betting for *one profit a day* of, say, £10 on the favourite in each race is a safe venture.

By results, there is nearly always *one* favourite won—quite six out of seven days—so what you lose on one race you put on the next, plus ten, for your profit.

It is *not* my intention to get a living at this, but I must get some capital.

Hope you will be able to oblige.

A country reader of Truth recently sent me a cutting from his local paper as evidence that the remarks in these columns on the practice of publishing advertisements in the guise of news have not been heeded by this particular offender. Evil habits, I fear, are not so easily eradicated, especially when there is a question of pounds, shillings, and pence at the bottom of them. But my friend in the West was wrong in imputing special blame in this respect to one particular journal. It is a vice that has crept into journalism of recent years, and, with the multiplication of newspapers and the increase of competition among them, it has spread of late with alarming rapidity. It is not confined to the provinces; one sees examples of it occasionally in London of an

"Hôtel Burlington," at Sunny Boscombe. (200 rooms.) Every luxury. Delightful grounds. Magnificent golf links. Sea-water baths. Moderate charges.—Bournemouth *East* Station.

evening, and very frequently in the Sunday papers. The trick is sometimes performed so cleverly as to deceive the very elect. Only a few Sundays ago I commenced to read an article, headed like those preceding and following it, and imitating the style of the distinguished editor so closely, that I had got to the end of the first paragraph before I discovered that I was reading, not the outpouring of my distinguished friend's mellifluous pen, but that of the proprietor of a famous quack remedy.

This sort of thing is a discredit to journalism, and tends to lower the character and influence of the whole Press. I would seriously suggest to my brother journalists that they should make a united effort to purge themselves of this sin. Individual editors are, for the most part, powerless to make a stand. The evil began, I suppose, with some impecunious proprietor of a small paper, who found he could only obtain advertisements by allowing them to masquerade as editorial matter. The example once set, one paper after another has been compelled, under stress of competition, to give way, and every time an editor falls, the position of those who hold out becomes weaker, and the demands of advertisers become stronger. Those of us who are still holding the fort may now be counted on your fingers. It behoves us to rally our beaten comrades.

What I would point out to my contemporaries is that their subserviency to advertising agents does them, in the long run, no more good with advertisers than it does with the public. The truth which newspaper proprietors and managers overlook is that by converting a journal into an advertising sheet you destroy its value as an advertising medium, just in proportion as you degrade it as a journal. From my own experience, I should say that by keeping a tight hand on the advertising element, and laying down certain limits which are not to be overstepped at any price, you will in the end be able to do better business than by conveying the impression that you are ready to sell yourself, columns, cover, and contents-bill, to the advertising agent who offers the highest price. This I say, not in a boasting spirit, but in the hope that my experience may encourage my contemporaries to make themselves a little less cheap.

Look at the lady who graces the front page of TRUTH. No one but myself knows the price at which that spotless female might have been sold. I might have put her into a corset which would have been worth many times its weight in gold. Her chaste gown I could let out at a fabulous sum per inch. During the "Trilby" boom a couple of small fortunes might have been obtained for the use of her classical feet. Her mirror, as an advertising agent once told me, looks as if it had been made to proclaim the virtues of Somebody's Pills, and her lamp to illustrate the latest thing in incandescent light; while the spotless background behind her might easily be filled with cigarettes, tea, tooth-powder, soap, and bicycles, until the lady herself had become a mere item in a commercial catalogue, like poor old *Punch* on his front page. But should I have profited in the end by this desecration? I fancy not. At any rate, I have too much respect for the lady to put her up for auction. My readers may rest assured that she is safe. I would sooner walk about with an advertisement on my hat.

I see it is announced that the collection of Carlyle relics at the house in Cheyne-row has received a valuable addition in the shape of the bed in which Mrs. Carlyle was born It would be interesting to learn how the piece of furniture can possibly be identified after the lapse of nearly a century, especially as it appears to be an ordinary bedstead of the huge old-fashioned style. When Sir David Brewster's "Life of Newton" was published he expressed doubts as to the story of the falling apple having given to Sir Isaac his first ideas of gravity. Mr. Folkes, President of the Royal Society, confirmed the legend by stating that "he saw the apple tree in 1814, and brought away a portion of one of its roots." As Newton's apple is supposed to have fallen in 1665, a famous critic observed that the evidence of Mr. Folkes reminded him of the story of Washington Irving's hero, who boasted of having parried a musket bullet with a small sword, in proof of which he exhibited the sword in question, a little bent in the hilt! I dare say that the identity of Mrs. Carlyle's natal bed would be established by evidence of much the same skimble-skamble kind.

The overcrowding of the Bodleian Library is a question which will demand the serious attention of the University authorities at Oxford before many months have elapsed. The Radcliffe, the basement of the Sheldonian Theatre, and the basement of the Ashmolean Museum are all crammed with books belonging to the Bodleian; and what is to become of the shoals of volumes which are daily arriving at the library, and for which there is no sort of accommodation? Things have now come to such a pass that it will be absolutely necessary for the University authorities to make up their minds whether the Bodleian is to continue to be a receptacle for every description of literature, like the British Museum, or if it is to be a library for the use of bonâ fide scholars, which is what its founder unquestionably intended it to be. There is really no object in making the Bodleian a second permanent storehouse for all the ephemeral rubbish which is now being daily printed.

All sects and parties in Wales seem to be united in condemning the appointment of an Englishman totally ignorant of Welsh, as Chief Inspector

ROWLAND'S ODONTO is the only reliable and genuine Dentifrice.
ROWLAND'S ODONTO whitens the teeth, prevents & arrests decay.
Rowland's Odonto has no acid or gritty ingredient. Sold everywhere.

of Schools in the Principality. The late Chief Inspector was a thorough Welshman, and the Education Department has for a long time past recognised the importance, if not the necessity, of having Welsh-speaking Inspectors, if the duties are to be performed satisfactorily. The present appointment is a retrograde step, and cannot fail to have a bad effect on educational administration in Wales; while it is absolutely without excuse, there being several Welsh-speaking Inspectors fully qualified by scholarship and experience for the post. The present Government seems fated to discredit itself in every matter relating to public education.

The papers, in reporting the confirmation of Archbishop Temple's "election" to the See of Canterbury, state that "all patronage that accrues to the Archbishopric now passes from the Crown to the new Primate." This is quite wrong, for the patronage of the See remains with the Crown until after the Archbishop has done homage to the Queen for his temporalities. This ceremony, which occupies about five minutes, will take place at Osborne, under the supervision of the Bishop of Winchester, the Clerk of the Closet.

Archdeacon Furse is to be the Canon in residence at Westminster Abbey during January, and he will preach on Sunday afternoons throughout the month. Canon Gore is to occupy the pulpit next Sunday, at the first of the special evening services in the choir.

Canon Taylor Smith, who has been appointed Honorary Chaplain to the Queen (preliminary to his becoming Chaplain-in-Ordinary), is the clergyman who attended Prince Henry of Battenberg during his last illness, and he came back to England with the Prince's body. Canon Smith has returned to his missionary work in Africa for the present by his own wish, but I hear that the Queen intends soon to offer him some desirable preferment, and a good living would have been placed at his disposal some time ago, if he had desired to remain at home.

Canon Scott-Holland is to be in residence at St. Paul's Cathedral during January, and he will preach on Sunday afternoons throughout the month.

The rectory of Long Marton, near Penrith, which is the most valuable living in Westmoreland, being worth about £800 a year, with residence, has been placed at the disposal of Lord Hothfield by the death of the Rev. H. M. Erskine, who had held the benefice since 1874, and had been more than sixty years in orders.

Much regret has been excited in Scotland by the death, after only three days' illness, of Dr. Anderson, who had been for forty-three years the popular, zealous, and successful "minister" of Kinnoull Church, Perth. Dr. Anderson, who was a man of wide sympathies, was a most admirable preacher and writer. He was for many years a regular contributor to *Fraser's Magazine* in its great days, and he wrote frequently for the *Field*. Dr. Anderson was several times offered some of the most important churches in Edinburgh and Glasgow, but he had no taste for a town life.

For a vicar to dismiss a schoolmistress because she is the friend of another teacher whom the vicar's curate has determined to marry surely marks the culminating point of clerical tyranny. Incredible as it may seem, this was indicated by Mr. Yoxall, M.P., in a speech at Grimsby the other day, as the real reason for the dismissal of Miss Middleton, the mistress of the St. Andrew's Girls' School in that town. According to Mr. Yoxall, the curate of the parish was engaged to be married to the mistress of the infants' school, but the vicar disapproved of the match. In consequence of his disapproval, not only had the curate and his fiancée to leave, but when Miss Middleton showed her sympathy for her fellow-teacher she was also dismissed. It is only right to say that the vicar altogether denies this, and alleges that Miss Middleton was dismissed because she was "not equal to the advancing requirements of the code, particularly in regard to pupil teachers." On the other hand, the crowded public indignation meeting at which Mr. Yoxall spoke appears to have accepted his version of the affair, and a resolution was unanimously carried condemning the vicar for dismissing Miss Middleton "capriciously and without reasonable cause."

From another point of view the meeting at Grimsby was full of interest. It brought out an effective proof of the rottenness of the pretence that the so-called voluntary schools are supported by voluntary contributions. The last balance-sheet of the St. Andrew's School shows that the total income for the year was £1,025 odd. Of this sum no less than £911. 18s. came from Government, £103. 13s. 6d. was received from parents in school pence, and the remaining £10, paid as "rent" by the Sunday school, was actually the only sum received from a private source. What is more, the managers of this Church school cannot even plead that they provide the building and fittings free, for the items on the other side of the account include £124. 14s. 3d. for rent, £39. 7s. 8d. for replacement of furniture and repairs, and £70. 10s. 4d. for fuel, light, and cleaning. I fancy it would puzzle Mr. Balfour to say where the "intolerable strain" on the "supporters" of voluntary schools comes in here.

Here is a little rider to the history of the Shrewsbury church spire and the Darwin memorial. I am told that while it is undoubtedly true that the steeple was damaged by the storm, and also that the Darwin memorial was then in contemplation, it is also true that the parson of the damaged church was the only one in Shrewsbury who had not subscribed to the memorial. I cannot say whether this is true, but it ought to be.

Champions of the Scottish "Sawbath" have indulged in many fearful and wonderful ebullitions of bitterness and fanaticism, but never have I seen anything quite equal to the outpouring of a correspondent at Gartcosh, near Coatbridge, which was published last week in the *Glasgow Herald.* This individual, who signs his letter "*Sixth* Commandment," has been indescribably shocked by the fact that crowds of people were skating on the lochs in his neighbourhood on the previous Sunday. He traces this desecration of the Lord's Day to the evil influence exercised by the recent action of "a Godless Town Council (Glasgow)" in permitting Sunday bathing. The letter proceeds:—

During the great frost of two winters ago I do not remember on a single occasion having seen Sunday skaters on any of these lochs; and yet, after a lapse of barely twenty-four months, we have a sight calculated, I say, if the present frosty weather continues, to warm not a few hearts in Hell. Fortunately or unfortunately, the ice proved to be of more than ordinary Sabbath endurance, and the country has been spared the harrowing details of an awful disaster, which yet, if looked at from another standpoint, might have proved to be a salutary example and warning. *Verb. sap.*

I should like to think that these amiable and truly Christian remarks were not meant seriously, but, unfortunately, the tone of the whole letter, coupled with what I know of the extreme lengths to which Sabbatarian bigotry carries some of the "unco' guid," precludes that charitable idea.

On the question of the legal right of a beneficed clergyman of the Established Church to refuse to marry a couple on the ground that one of them is unbaptised, a legal correspondent writes:—

I have searched "Blunt's Church Law" and "Hook's Church Dictionary" (two works both very unlikely not to mention the High Church view of the question, if there be any), and can find no trace of baptism being considered a condition precedent to marriage; nor is there any trace of such a consideration to be found in the Canons, much less in the Marriage Acts.

The proper legal conclusion appears to be that it is an ecclesiastical-offence for a clergyman to refuse to marry an unbaptised person; and that for this offence he could be proceeded against under the Church Discipline Act, 1840, though not under the Clergy Discipline Act, 1892.

If there is any doubt on this point it ought to be settled one way or another, as in a country like this there may be many unbaptised persons—whether or not professing Christians—who may desire to get married, and who ought not to be thwarted in that desire, if they have been fully advised of the many risks attaching to the step which they propose to take.

In a letter that he has addressed to an Abingdon paper, the Rev. Wentworth Watson, who has raised this question, declares that even if "the law" requires him to celebrate such a marriage, he is sure the law of the Gospel and the Church is on his side, and that he cannot do violence to his conscience and his sense of duty. With all respect to the reverend gentleman's conscientious scruples, in his capacity of minister of a Church which is established and regulated by law, he is in a sense a public official, and if he cannot obey the law in discharging his official functions, his duty is clearly to resign his office and his emoluments. Such a sacrifice to conscience will greatly increase the respect felt for his scruples.

My correspondents will not, I hope, be surprised at finding a great many communications received this week unattended to in this number of TRUTH. The fact is that I have been taking a holiday, and so have my staff—a very well earned holiday, too, I venture to think. The result of this is a large accumulation of correspondence, which I shall do my best to wipe off in the course of the next week or two.

I would specially ask my Army correspondents to note the foregoing remarks, and extend to me their kind indulgence under the unprecedented flood of communications with which they have favoured me during the last two or three weeks. To deal with the whole of the military matters which I now have on hand will, I fear, be out of the question; still, I can assure my military friends that each letter as it arrives is numbered and placed in a box marked "urgent," and that each one will receive my best attention in its turn.

A good deal of interest seems to be felt among military men in the question how far the efficiency of the British officer is affected by his possessing artificial teeth. I gave the other day an alarming picture, sent to me by a correspondent, of the rout and destruction of a British Army through the General having, so to speak, put his teeth out to wash before turning in for the night. In view of this suggestion, it is reassuring to find a retired officer pronouncing that a man may find artificial teeth a distinct advantage on active service. It is perfectly possible, says this officer, to munch the Service biscuit with artificial teeth, and they are better adapted than the natural molars for negotiating tinned beef, especially when it has become dry and stringy in a hot climate. Speaking from personal experience, this officer asserts that he has found tinned beef in Egypt and the Soudan most disastrous in its effects upon natural teeth, whereas artificial grinders were not in any way affected by it.

This is one of those questions upon which, sitting in an armchair at home, I do not feel qualified to speak very positively; but I have known men who had not a sound tooth in their heads at five-and-twenty who have yet managed to acquit themselves successfully in all sorts of walks in life, and in all parts of the world; and I see nothing in military service which would place such men under any special disadvantage as soldiers. Anyhow, it is quite certain that a man may have a fairly good set of teeth at twenty, and have lost the best part of them by five-and-thirty. If, therefore, sound natural teeth are indispensable to an officer in the Army, it is certainly not enough to reject candidates for defective

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MORTLOCK'S (Oxford-st.), Estd. A.D. 1746.—The collection of China and Glass now on view in their Galleries fully maintains the high reputation and pre-eminence enjoyed by "MORTLOCK'S" for the last century and a half, and well repays a visit of inspection.

teeth at their entrance examinations. Every Colonel and General ought to have his mouth inspected annually, and to be placed on the retired list at once, if the dental officer's report is not satisfactory.

Among all sections of the Army there is a growing feeling of disgust at the incessant chopping and changing of uniforms and accoutrements, and the unnecessary expense thereby imposed upon officers. The public little consider what these changes mean to officers, or public opinion would peremptorily stop all this fooling. I was talking the other day to a friend who had to provide himself with a new busby, or some such article of head-gear, and he told me that from beginning to end, including two journeys to London in connection with it, his new hat had cost him £15. This was not the fault of the War Office, but it gives an idea of the extent of the expenditure involved in every change in an officer's uniform. A major recently wrote to me from India, growling over the fact that he had had to discard his brass scabbard and brass spurs as a field officer, and provide himself with steel spurs and the new pattern regulation sword. The complainant pointed out various objections to these fiddle-faddling changes, but of course the pecuniary grievance is the worst one. The evil will never be stopped as long as each new comer at the War Office is left free to alter and re-alter the dress of the Army according to his own caprice. Parliament ought to take the matter in hand, and make some regulations to ensure continuity and permanence in these matters.

The latest thing that the Army Pay Corps has come to TRUTH for is a new uniform. It is rather a large order, but I recognise that I have brought it on myself by a rash expression which I used the other day, and which indicated that I thought I had got to the end of the A.P.C. grievances. The fault found with the uniform is that it is "too conspicuous." "We cannot walk out," writes an N.C.O. of this unhappy corps, "without being stared at, and, what is worse, insulted by the remarks of outsiders." Before expressing any opinion on this matter I should like to know whether all the members of the corps have the same objection to being stared at. A soldier's clothes are usually somewhat "conspicuous," but hitherto there has been an idea that soldiers rather liked this than otherwise. Perhaps, however, the A.P.C. do not wish to be regarded as soldiers. Anyhow, I feel confident that representations on this subject at headquarters will meet with all possible attention. It would be a great day for some of our military administrators if they had the chance of designing a new set of uniforms for a whole corps.

There is some dissatisfaction among the unmarried sergeants on the Permanent Staff of the 3rd Gordon Highlanders at the way the quarters are allotted. As I understand the case, two unmarried men are lodged in each set of married apartments. The one who gets the sitting-room is all right; but the man who gets the kitchen does not get a scrap of furniture, and has to warm himself during the winter at a closed range or kitchener. No doubt any gallant warrior could put up with worse discomfort than this if there were a necessity for it; but the point in this case seems to be that there is no necessity. The married quarters are half vacant and shut up. The single men were distributed among them until a few weeks back, and there seems to have been no reason but red tape for removing them.

Is it necessary to send out a regimental football team like a party of schoolboys in charge of an usher? Such seems to be the view of some exalted authority at Aldershot, and, in accordance with it, a team from the Seaforth Highlanders, who went to play a match at Andover on Christmas-day, were sent off in charge of a subaltern, although there were three sergeants of irreproachable character in the team. Probably the officer disliked the job as much as his men, and possibly he may have vented his disgust at the men's expense. At any rate, he kept them as close under his eye all day as if he had been a chaperon convoying a party of flighty maidens; and when, having to wait three-quarters of an hour at the station on their return journey, the men took refuge in the refreshment-room, he promptly fetched them out and made them stand on the platform till the train came up. In addition to this, he seems to have reported the senior sergeant for entering the refreshment-room, and on the following morning this man was brought before the Commanding Officer and "severely reprimanded." As an ignorant civilian, all this strikes me as very childish, and not exactly the way to manage grown men. If three sergeants cannot be trusted to keep ten or a dozen men in hand on an excursion of this kind, discipline must be rather slack in the Seaforth Highlanders.

A paragraph in a local paper the other day stated that out of 691 tramps relieved at Winchester Workhouse in eight weeks 163 were discharged soldiers. It would be difficult to find a more striking proof of the necessity of doing something to put Tommy in the way of earning his living when he takes his discharge. In connection with this matter, I should like to know whether more encouragement cannot be given to pensioners to take up grants of land from those Colonial Governments which offer them, either free or on very easy terms. For instance, a retired quartermaster-sergeant complains to me very bitterly that he has been refused permission to commute his pension in order to emigrate to Canada, where he could have got a free grant of land sufficient to provide a very good living for himself and his family. I perfectly understand the difficulty in the way of commuting pensions, where a man has not an offer of permanent

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Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., entirely dependent on voluntary support, urgently requires help. Liabilities, £11,000. No investments.

employment which will preclude the probability of his relapse into pauperism, and his possible return to England in that condition. But if a man has a wife and family, and they are all strong and active, there is hardly any direction in which you can more securely settle him for life than by giving him a few acres of land, with sufficient capital to keep him on his legs until he has made a start. There are risks about it, of course, but so there are about every possible employment which a man may take up in the colonies.

On what principle are a master shoemaker, and a cook and baker, when employed as instructors at the Gordon Boys' Home, required to belong to the Church of England? Such is the condition prescribed in an advertisement of these posts in Aldershot District Orders. Is the shoemaker concerned with the souls of the boys as well as the soles of their boots? Or is it feared that a Nonconformist baker might surreptitiously introduce the leaven of Dissent into their bread? It seems a childish and misplaced ebullition of sectarianism, any way.

"A rumour has reached us," writes a correspondent from Cairo, "that no English medals are to be given to the troops engaged in the recent Dongola expedition," and the writer goes on to express incredulity at such "extraordinary meanness." Under ordinary circumstances there would not be any legitimate ground for issuing a British medal in connection with the Dongola operations. It was not, nominally at any rate, a British expedition. The troops taking part in it were not for the time in the service of the British Government. Whatever decoration is given ought, therefore, to come from the Egyptian Government, in whose service the troops were. At the same time, the reckless profusion with which honours and rewards have been distributed by the British Government among the higher ranks of officers who took part in the expedition, will naturally cause a feeling throughout the whole force that every Briton engaged has a claim on his native land for some recognition of his services. With this feeling I entirely sympathise, and, as the Government distributed honours wholesale to the upper ranks, they had better follow it up by giving a medal to everybody who took part in the expedition. Though why on earth any soldier should covet a reward of this kind after the Ashantee star tomfoolery I am at a loss to understand.

If any decoration should be distributed in connection with the Soudan operations, I would put in a word on behalf of the officers and crew of H.M.S. *Melita*, which was stationed at Suakim from March 22 to July 4, and during that time rendered very considerable services. At the time when she arrived the Dervishes were threatening the town, and the presence of the *Melita* kept them at a distance, and enabled the Egyptian garrison of Suakim to be sent to the front; and, in addition to this, the *Melita's* men had a long spell of very hard work, day and night, in disembarking the Indian contingent and its stores. Here is an excellent opportunity for breaking the bad tradition which excludes the Navy and Marines from any recognition for the services they render on occasions like this.

At a State Ball representatives of the Army and Navy appear in uniform, and I daresay that many ladies would consider it an attractive feature in their entertainments if their Service guests would always come in their full war paint. This feeling, however, does not extend to the lower strata of society, for a soldier has just sent me an indignant protest against his exclusion from a dancing academy in the Edgware-road, solely on account of his presenting himself in uniform. As it is hardly practicable to interfere with the discretions of dancing-masters in admitting whom they please to their academies, I can only recommend my military friends to look upon the proceeding as a genuine compliment to the Army. No doubt, if Tommies in uniform were admitted to dancing academies, the civilian element would be very much at a discount; and I expect that, in turning away soldiers, the proprietor was only protecting the interests of his black-coated patrons.

Tommy's walking-stick again! The men of the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment complain forcibly about a regimental order requiring every man to furnish himself with a cane from the armourer's shop at the price of 12 annas, when a perfectly serviceable article can be obtained in the bazaar for 2 annas. The difference between the two articles seems to be that the regimental cane has a crest on the knob. What on earth does it matter whether Tommy has the regimental crest on his walking-stick or not? Clearly it doesn't matter to him. If it matters to somebody else, then that somebody else ought to pay for the decoration—not Tommy.

Apropos of Tommy's wardrobe, here is a growl from the Royal Artillery. A forage cap, which is only worn for "walking out," is served out every year; while a field-service cap, which is worn every day for fatigues and drill, is only renewed once in three years. Here, at any rate, is an anomaly which can be put right without any addition to the Army Estimates.

In a battalion now at Aldershot (the 1st South Staffordshire) there are about 600 N.C.O.s and men contributing 2d. per month to the library—say £5 per month, altogether. For this sum the following journals are provided:—*Standard*, *Telegraph*, *Sportsman*, *Sporting Life*, *Truth*, *Graphic*, *Illustrated London News*, and *Army and Navy Gazette*. These papers cost 4s. per week, or little

The Sale of CHARLES LEE, 100, WIGMORE-ST., Specialist in Veils, Gloves, Hosiery, Handkerchiefs, Skirts, &c. An opportunity to ladies desiring fashionable and best-quality goods at store prices

more than 16s. per month. What becomes of the balance of the library subscriptions? It is natural that the men should ask this question, and a proper account ought certainly to be published, if only to preclude unfavourable suspicions.

In spite of protests from every quarter, the stupid project of building a Naval Cadets' College at Dartmouth is to be persisted in. Not content with this blunder, the Admiralty, instead of inviting some of the leading architects to send in designs for the building, have had plans prepared by their own Works Department, and they are so scandalously bad that they have been unhesitatingly condemned by every one who has seen them. It may be hoped that these wretched productions will be thrown away, in order that more suitable plans may be adopted. If, however, the hideous Admiralty design is carried out, the hill above Dartmouth Harbour will be crowned by a building which appears to be a combination of a workhouse and a stable. And even this building is certain not to serve its purpose for long, for before many years are past there will be an irresistible demand for the removal of the College to some more suitable site.

I am told that non-executive officers in the Navy have a serious grievance in regard to the allotment of cabins, though in some respects the grievance seems to be shared by executive officers. There appears to be a very large number, in fact whole classes, of men habitally occupying cabins to the exclusion of others who have a much better right to them; for instance, Admirals' stewards and cooks, Captains' and ward-room stewards, and signal boatswains. Cabins are also allotted to Lieutenants of Marines and Naval Sub-Lieutenants, in preference to Assistant Engineers and Assistant Paymasters who are senior in rank. It is a further complaint that, owing to the discretion given to Captains in allotting cabins, the practice in different ships varies very much. A grievance is also caused very frequently by additional or supernumerary Lieutenants being given cabins, to the exclusion of officers of the ship. It seems very clear, from a long list of facts that I have before me, that this must be a matter of very general complaint, and I should think that there would be little difficulty in putting it right. There ought to be a regular and properly defined system for the allotment of cabins among all officers, in order of seniority, regardless of what branch they belong to.

A notorious and pestilent quack, whose noxious business is almost daily brought under my notice, has lately directed a raking fire of his filthy literature at the Channel Squadron. Several officers have written to me from Vigo, complaining of his unwelcome attentions, from which not even the chaplains have been spared. To add injury to insult, he only puts a penny stamp on the envelope containing his loathsome pamphlet, with the consequence that the recipients have had to pay eightpence extra postage. "Are there no means," asks one of his victims, "by which such an unprincipled scoundrel can be brought to book?" There are, at any rate, means by which he could be prevented from inflicting this annoyance on people. Nothing could be easier than for the Postmaster-General to refuse to circulate objectionable and mischievous stuff of this kind. But unfortunately the Postmaster-General seems to think that, so long as money can be earned by carrying these packets, it matters not to him what disgust or harm the contents may cause.

One of the wants of our age is a museum of Post-Office curiosities. When such an institution is founded, I shall have pleasure in presenting to it the wrapper of a parcel of newspapers lately forwarded from London to the Wardroom Officers of H.M.S. *Northampton*. At the time in question the ship was on a cruise round the British Isles, calling at various ports. By some error on the part of the forwarding agents, one parcel was sent to a port at which the ship had already touched. Instead of returning it, or obtaining the address of the ship from the G.P.O. (where they are all notified by the Admiralty), the local postal authorities seem to have redirected the parcel to the next port for which the *Northampton* had sailed. She had left that port also before the parcel arrived, and again the parcel was redirected, with the same result. It seems to have followed the ship in this way to five successive ports before it caught her, and by the time it did so a bill of 1s. had been run up for reposting. However, the cover as it stands is well worth that sum, if only as a monument of Post Office intelligence.

It used to be a point of honour with the Post Office that no letter should ever be returned to the sender on the plea of inability to find the addressee, until every effort to discover him had been exhausted. But this is evidently among the extinct traditions at St. Martin's-le-Grand. The other day a letter was addressed to a firm in Old-street, E.C., without giving the number of the premises. The firm in question is one of the largest in the neighbourhood, and its premises extend over about eight consecutive numbers of the street. The letter, however, was returned to the sender marked "insufficiently addressed." Everybody knows from experience that the Post Office does occasionally manage to deliver letters correctly without being furnished with the number of the house, and it would be interesting to know on what principle some are delivered while others are

The Baths of Bath.—Nauheim or Thermalsoolbad treatment. Owing to the great success of the treatment the Corporation have just doubled the accommodation. Good hotels. Band daily.

Madame Hayward begs to announce her Winter Sale. The most extensive and select stock of Paris models in London. Morning, Promenade, Racing, Garden Party, Dinner, and Evening Gowns, Evening Cloaks, Capes, Jackets, Millinery, Tea Gowns, and Lingerie, at prices below half cost.—64, New Bond-street.

returned. There ought, of course, to be no question about returning the letter as insufficiently addressed until at least the postmen of the district have reported themselves unable to discover the addressee.

Here is another example of Post Office indolence—or ignorance. A gentleman in the neighbourhood of Plymouth had occasion to make a remittance to Finland, and applied to the Post Office for an order for the requisite amount in marks—the mark, value 10d., being the standard coin of Finland. The Post Office supplied him with a form which stated the amount payable in "kroners," the standard coin in the Norwegian and Swedish currency. Representations that the coinage of Norway and Sweden is not current in a Russian province failed to have any effect upon the autocrats of the Post Office, and, being unable to get an order which would have been of any use in Finland, the debtor had to leave the amount unpaid until he himself made a journey to Russia some time later. He does not seem to have brought the matter under the notice of St. Martin's-le-Grand, which is a pity, for it would have been interesting to hear what apology officialism is able to offer for this piece of perversity.

A question was asked of me the other day respecting the legality, or desirability, of admitting unnaturalised foreigners to the Civil Service, Home or Indian, to say nothing of the Army and Navy. I gather that there are at present several gentlemen of Italian extraction in different branches of the public service. If they are naturalised British subjects, no legitimate objection can be taken to their position; but except on this assumption, I think that they should be excluded from such positions. I am a free trader, but free trade rests upon regard for the interests of the consumer, who gains if he can procure from a foreign market a better or cheaper article than he can buy home-made. An Italian admitted to our Civil Service, or to the Army or Navy, costs the taxpayer as much as a British subject. Is there any evidence that he is a better article for the money? I doubt it.

This reminds me of a letter I had some months ago from a Signor Radice, of Naples, who has a son in the Indian Civil Service. This son had come in for some unkind criticism in the Indian Press, which was noticed in TRUTH. Signor Radice, who is a member of the Italian Legislature, wrote to tell me that I was wrong, and that he was writing to his son to ascertain the facts. I replied that I thought it would have been better had he ascertained the facts first and told me I was wrong afterwards. Since then I have been waiting to hear the result of his praiseworthy, though tardy, effort to ascertain the facts; but nothing has come. May I now ask the Signor whether he has heard from his son yet?

A postmaster has recently been removed from an important town to another berth with a slightly lower salary, under circumstances which have occasioned a good deal of surprise in the Service. The official in question went away on leave some little time ago, and handed over to his subordinate, among the cash in hand, a cheque of his own for £150, with instructions that it was not to be presented for payment. The subordinate, feeling uneasy on the subject, and not wishing to become an accomplice in any irregularity, reported the circumstance. A Surveyor was sent down to investigate, with the result that the cheque was presented and dishonoured. The postmaster was reprimanded, and his removal is the consequence. He suffers a loss of £55 per year by the change, but is still in a better berth than he occupied a couple of years ago. I am no advocate for Draconic punishment, especially in the case of first offenders; but when an official in a highly responsible position misconducts himself, it is desirable, on every ground, that his punishment should be severe enough to act as an example to others. Besides, it is the rule to punish dishonesty in the lower grades of the Postal Service with the most vindictive severity—witness the long terms of penal servitude continually passed upon postmen for trifling acts of dishonesty. Offences of this character increase in gravity with the rank of the offender, but the Post Office authorities seem to judge them by the inverse rule. The above is not the first example of extravagant leniency towards an offender of high rank.

The pettifogging trickery, described in a recent issue of TRUTH as practised in connection with payments to the Widows' Pension Fund of the Ceylon Civil Service, appears to be repeated, in almost exactly the same form, in connection with the public services of Mauritius, the Straits Settlements, and probably other Eastern colonies where the difference between the official and the current exchange value of silver gives an opening for such fraud. For instance, a retired servant of the Government of Mauritius is entitled under an ordinance of 1871, the date when the currency was changed from gold into silver, to draw his retiring allowance in sterling at the rate of 2s. per rupee. His contribution to the Widows' Pension Fund is fixed by another local ordinance at a certain sum in rupees. The Crown Agents deduct this contribution, not in rupees, but in sterling, whereas only rupees are paid into the Fund. Taking the contributions all round in the different Eastern settlements, there must be an enormous profit made out of this trick. I again ask what becomes of it?

It was remarked in last week's TRUTH that Mr. Malcolm M'Neill, the present Secretary to the Scottish

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ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, LAMBETH, S.E.—Funds required to Re-open Three Closed Wards, to which many sick poor are seeking admission. 50 Guineas qualifies donors for election as a Governor, and £1,000 endows a bed.—J. G. WAINWRIGHT, Treasurer.

Local Government Board, and a possible candidate for the office of Vice-President and Chairman, has only held his place for five years. It is only fair to Mr. M'Neill, however, to mention that he has been in the Department for close on thirty years, which is undoubtedly a point to be considered in estimating any claim he may have.

Judging from an address put forward by one Dr. Alfred Mattei, as a candidate for a vacancy on the Malta Council, British rule, more especially as personified in the present Chief Secretary, has not commended itself to all sections of the Maltese community. The Chief Secretary is referred to in the address as "the tyrant of Malta," and, speaking generally, the attitude of the Doctor towards him is that of a nineteenth-century William Tell towards a British Gessler. The doctor is apprehensive that the "hired assassins" of Gessler may impute to him a desire of obtaining office under the British Government, and he registers a self-denying ordinance which is worth reproducing, for the use of independent candidates at English elections :—

> In any case I solemnly declare to my electors that it is not my intention to accept any Government situation, and I authorise any one—short of spitting in my face, which is not allowed by law—to call me the basest villain on earth, should I ever fail to fulfil the solemn pledge I give, that I shall not accept any Government situation.

The worthy Mattei is welcome to abuse the Chief Secretary as much as he pleases. For anything I know to the contrary, that functionary may have deserved it. It is a different matter, however, when the Doctor goes on to express his contempt for the British garrison, and to speak of the British soldier as being "recruited, as the Duke of Wellington himself stated, from the most despicable scum of the Seven Dials of London." Before this fire-eating doctor is elected, I trust he will learn that the Duke of Wellington has been dead for close on half a century, and that his knowledge of the British Army of to-day is, therefore, a trifle out of date. If the Maltese have any grievances against their present rulers, they will not get them redressed by talking offensive nonsense of this character.

Since the bubonic plague has been raging at Bombay, all the infected districts have been placed out of bounds for the troops of the garrison, which is perfectly right and proper. A certain number of men of the Royal Artillery, however, have two or three times a week to pass through these infected districts on their way to man a couple of forts six or seven miles off. This journey is performed by train, and the soldiers travel third-class, with an indiscriminate company of native passengers. The utility of placing the infected districts out of bounds under these circumstances is not very clear. The troops ought at least to be conveyed in special carriages, and carriages which have been disinfected; but, as the officers do not travel by train at all, it is not very clear why the men need. The correspondent from whom I have these facts, and who wrote on December 5, states that at that time the plague was undoubtedly increasing, although attempts have been made to represent the contrary; and just as I am going to press I see a telegram from Bombay in the papers which fully endorses the statement.

I was asked the other day by a correspondent in the country why detailed statements showing the expenditure of the local rates should not be published in the local papers. The idea strikes me as a very good one, and likely to prove quite as useful in towns as in the country. Although information on this point is accessible to all ratepayers, they must go in search of it before they can get it; and few know where to find it, or would take the trouble to look for it if they did. Companies have to furnish their shareholders with statements of account; I have at all times insisted upon the duty of private individuals, when collecting money for any purpose, to do the same thing; and it seems absurd that the various public authorities, who exact payments from us compulsorily, should not also be compelled to place the fullest possible financial statements within easy reach of every member of the public. If something of this kind were done, it would probably lead, among other things, to a much more intelligent criticism of the expenditure of the rates than we get the benefit of at present.

We have now arrived at the period of the year when Boards of Guardians are enabled to exhibit their dunderheaded bigotry by preventing pauper children from attending pantomimes. The Christchurch Guardians have been the first to distinguish themselves in this line. By the kindness of the managers of the Bournemouth Theatre, the children in charge of these worthies received an invitation to attend the Bournemouth pantomime free, while sundry benevolent people of the district offered to provide carriages to take them. The flinty-hearted pedants, however, who are facetiously styled the "Guardians of the Poor," would not hear of a pauper child enjoying a treat provided for children whose parents are not on the rates, so the invitation was declined. It is lucky for the Christchurch Bumbles that their lot has not been cast in London. What pangs of misery it would cause them to see their workhouse children receiving toys at Christmas from the TRUTH Show!

The Canterbury Guardians do not set themselves up as censors of the Press, like some of their brethren. When they want to keep anything out of the papers, their ingenious practice is to defer the discussion until the reporters leave the room, which they do when the routine

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business of going through the relief lists, and so on, is begun. In this way the Board have managed to prevent the publication of reports of various matters, including the recent summary dismissal of a head nurse. At a meeting, the other day, however, one of the Guardians insisted upon a series of complaints against the porter being considered while the reporters were present. These complaints were the result of a surprise visit to the tramps' quarters; but instead of making a proper inquiry into the alleged irregularities, the Board chiefly devoted its energies to discussing the conduct of the complaining Guardian. Some of these intelligent Bumbles actually seemed to think that a surprise visit was unfair to the workhouse officials, as though the fact that no inspection was expected was an excuse for neglect of duty. If this is a fair specimen of their methods of disposing of such matters, it is no wonder the Canterbury Guardians dislike publicity.

A dispute concerning a right of way over Smithill Moor, near Bolton, has been attracting a good deal of attention in that district. From the particulars sent to me by the Honorary Secretary of the Defence Committee it seems that the attempt of the landowner to close the footpath in question was so keenly resented that on two occasions a crowd about 10,000 strong went to the Moor to vindicate the right of way. Proceedings in Chancery have been commenced by the landowner against a number of working men who took part in the assertion of what they claim to be their right; and a large sum will be required for the defence. For this purpose a fund is being raised, and it is to be hoped the Committee will obtain the amount they require, towards which about £200 has been subscribed almost entirely by the working men of the district. I think myself, however, that the success or failure of a movement of this kind ought not to be left dependent upon voluntary efforts and voluntary subscriptions. If there is *primâ facie* evidence of the existence of a public right of way—and there is said to be an abundance of such evidence in this instance—it should be defended by a public body with public money. Cannot the Bolton Town Council, at least, give some assistance in the matter?

A section of the Skibbereen Town Commissioners indulged in a disgraceful piece of sharp practice the other day, on the occasion of the co-option of a member in the place of one who had resigned. The legally appointed hour for the meetings of the Board is noon, but to suit the convenience of the Chairman (Dr. Jennings) it has been the custom not to commence the business till 12.30. Taking advantage of this arrangement, the Chairman, and a clique acting with him, assembled half an hour earlier than usual, and rushed through the election of their nominee for the vacancy on the Board before those of the Commissioners who would have opposed him, and who received no notice of what was to be done, put in an appearance. The individual thus appointed a Commissioner has been co-opted on two former occasions, and each time on offering himself for re-election at the expiration of his term of office he was ignominiously rejected by the burgesses. Apart from the dishonourable trick by which the business was managed, it is a scandal that such a man should be placed on the Board in opposition to the wishes of the people whom the Board is supposed to represent.

There is a fine display of red-tapism in some documents which have been sent to me from Manchester. A merchant in that city applied to the Trade Marks Branch of the Patent Office for the registration of a trade mark, and, in compliance with a marginal note on the official form of application, requiring the insertion of "the full name, address, and description of the individual, firm, or Company," he added the word "merchants" as the "description" of his firm. He also filled in the space for "essential particulars" with a brief description of the trade mark. On previous occasions similar forms had been returned for various ridiculous alterations or additions, but these two items had always been passed without objection. On the present occasion, by way of change, the authorities at the Patent Office approved of everything else, but returned the form with instructions that the word "merchants" and the "essential particulars" should be struck out. On the next occasion they will, doubtless, once more insist upon the insertion of what they have now ordered to be deleted. Were they not able to waste the time of the public with correspondence upon such childish and meaningless quibbles, some of these official geniuses would probably find themselves without anything whatever to do.

In connection with the late earthquake, a funny story is told of a well-known Conservative M.P. He lives in an ancient and rat-infested mansion near what seems to have been the centre of the disturbance. When the earthquake disturbed his slumbers, he jumped out of bed, exclaiming that he would stand this sort of thing no longer. With the resolution of a desperate man, he then procured and set two large rat traps, and retired to rest, feeling that he was prepared for the worst. Traps have been set before now to catch sunbeams; but this is the first time on record of their being employed against earthquakes.

I have received a £5 note from a member of the Constitutional Club, to be spent in helping the poor to get a good meal, and I have forwarded it to Lady Herbert of Lea, who is, I know, well qualified to apply the money in the direction desired.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Buildings, Carteret-street, S.W.

In response to my request for enlightenment respecting the case of a ferocious dog condemned to execution in Belfast and then exported to England, a learned gentleman in the Temple tells me that the Dogs' Act, 1871 (which applies to Ireland), affixes a maximum penalty of £1 for every day's disobedience to an order for the destruction of a dog. The injured citizen of Belfast may therefore comfort himself by having the owner's money (in a figurative sense), if he cannot get the dog's blood, for which he is thirsting. I must mention, however, that my legal adviser questions the right of the magistrates to order the dog's execution except as an alternative to the owner failing to control it. In this case it might perhaps be contended that the dog had been sufficiently "controlled" for Belfast purposes by sending it to England. On the other hand, it might be plausibly urged that an owner in Belfast cannot possibly control a dog in London. As an Englishman and a Home Ruler, I uphold the latter view. To send an Irish dog, after his first bite in his own country, over to England, in order that he may enjoy another first bite over here, is open to all the objections urged against allowing Irish members a seat in Parliament at Westminster as well as at Dublin.

The Public Analyst for Shropshire, Mr. T. B. Blunt, has, somewhat tardily, written to me in reference to a note concerning a prosecution for alleged adulteration of ground ginger which appeared in TRUTH on September 24. Mr. Blunt gave evidence in support of the summons, another public analyst for the defence certified that the ginger in question was absolutely genuine, and the magistrates dismissed the case. My comments dealt chiefly with the statements in the newspaper reports that Mr. Blunt had previously made only three analyses of ground ginger, and that, according to the expert evidence on the other side, he had omitted the microscopical test which was described as "by far the best." Since then Mr. Blunt has brought the matter forward at a meeting of the Society of Public Analysts, with the result that several well-known analysts expressed the opinion that the method he adopted in the case was correct, and that the microscopical examination was not the most important or the truest test. I am now asked to mention this, and in fairness to Mr. Blunt I am glad to do so. Heaven forbid though that I should express any opinion of my own on the subject. It is one on which there would seem to be some differences among analysts—there was in the Police-court at any rate—and what has occurred only shows once more how cautious judges and magistrates should always be in acting upon the testimony of scientific witnesses.

During the hearing of a summons at Alcester Petty Sessions the other day, a defendant from Stock Green, named Oliver Harris, a youth of fifteen, pleaded that he was unable to read or write. Considering the number of years the Education Act has been in operation, such a confession of ignorance is as astonishing as it is lamentable; and one would like to know how it is explained. Is not attendance at school compulsory in this bumpkin's native village? Or is the school one where reading and writing are not taught?

Some astounding revelations have been made during the prosecution of a man named Taylor at Manchester on a charge of keeping three disorderly houses. To quote the words of the presiding magistrate, in sentencing Taylor to six months' imprisonment, it was shown that this man had not only kept these houses in the very centre of the city without being in any way interfered with, but "he did it in the light of day, conversed freely with the police on the matter, and even dared the officers to touch him." The explanation of this was that Taylor was sheltered by Superintendent Bannister, who was in command of the police in this division of the city. According to the magistrate, this officer was, at one time at least, a joint proprietor of the houses referred to in the summons; he frequently visited there himself, and he "ordered raids to be made on other houses because those he was interested in were being deprived of their customers." Some weeks ago a constable revealed the fact that a warrant for Taylor's arrest was being kept back by Bannister, and the latter thereupon resigned his position in the Force. But it is obvious that the matter cannot be allowed to end here; and, from all that I know of the Chief Constable of Manchester, I feel sure he will be the first to recognise this. There should be a searching inquiry, and such changes should be effected in the management of the police divisions as will prevent the possibility of a recurrence of the scandal.

A case which was heard in Norwich County Court the week before Christmas affords conclusive proof of the true nature of the "Grandfather's Clock" trade, carried on by the man Reeves, of Norwich, and others more or less intimately associated with him. A gentleman living at Putney paid Reeves £3 for a clock, and another 6s. for packing and carriage, the transaction being the result of an advertisement in the *Daily Mail*. On delivery, the clock proved to be utterly worthless; a clockmaker valued it at 3s., and was prepared to support his valuation on oath in the witness-box. The clock was accordingly returned, and proceedings commenced in the County Court to recover the price. Reeves did not defend, and in due course judgment was obtained for the amount of the claim and costs. Before the hearing, Reeves actually wrote to the plaintiff, warning him that he would only incur useless expense by going into court, as he (Reeves) had secured all his goods against execution, and was in no fear of committal, as he had already "done time." By this letter the man virtually writes himself down a swindler, and there will be a general feeling that he ought to be "doing time" again. I trust that this feeling will communicate itself to the police. Meanwhile, there ought to be no delay in excluding the Grandfather's Clock advertisements from all respectable newspapers.

Owing to the holidays my Legal Pillory for the present week is shorter than usual. I am sorry it could not be dispensed with altogether during this season of peace and goodwill. At such a time one might perhaps have been inclined to overlook any excess of lenity in dealing with the wife-beater and the animal-torturer if the magistrates had also softened their hearts for once in a way towards other offenders. Unfortunately, however, it is only in cases of brutality and cruelty that the quality of mercy has been strained, and while ruffians who richly merited a term of hard labour have been let off with more or less inadequate pecuniary penalties, the customary sentences of imprisonment have been meted out to persons guilty of trumpery thefts or the heinous crime of sleeping out. The sentence of the Ross Bench on the youth Sherwood, a first offender, is especially reprehensible:—

Preston Police-court. Robert and Mary Wignall, charged with assaulting their daughter, aged 15. The girl was thrown to the ground and brutally kicked by the father, while the mother seized her by the hair and struck her several times in the face. She became unconscious, after which the man again kicked her, and would have further assaulted her but for the interference of some bystanders. The father fined 40s., the mother 10s., and costs.

Harrogate Police-court. Before Mr. C. Kirby and other magistrates. William Henry Carrell and William Slater, charged with cruelty to a horse, which was being worked whilst in an unfit state. The horse was very old and ruptured, and totally unfit for work. Carrell brutally beat it with a thick-thonged whip. Fined £1 each and costs.

Burton-on-Trent Police-court. Three brothers, named Thomas, Martin, and John Towey, charged with being drunk and riotous and with committing unprovoked assaults. Prisoners created a disturbance outside a public-house and attacked passers-by. One man who had given no provocation whatever was knocked on the head and rendered unconscious, another had to receive attention at the infirmary, and a third was "kicked about like a football." Thomas and Martin Towey fined £5 each, John Towey 15s. 6d.

Blackburn Police-court. Before Messrs. A. H. Cottam and T. P. Ritzema. John Kitchen, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk and dealt her a severe blow on the head. He was of very drunken habits, and for the past two years he had done little or no work and given her no money. Fined 20s. and costs.

Bideford Police-court. Wm. Henry Luxton, labourer, convicted of assaulting David Squance, aged 70, by knocking him down. The Bench commented strongly upon the cowardly conduct of a young man like defendant in seriously assaulting an old man of 70. Fined £1 and costs.

Preston Police-court. Before Mr. J. S. Sidgreaves, Alderman Bibby. Mary M'Nanus, an old offender, charged with being drunk and disorderly. One month.

Sleaford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. Smith, C. Kirk, and J. A. Cole. Charles Haines, charged with begging. Three weeks.

Lewes Petty Sessions. Before Major-General Fitzhugh, Captain J. Shiffner, Messrs. C. R. Kemp, W. S. Beard, R. M. Beard, and A. Hillman. Wm. Joseph Baker, charged with stealing some cabbages, value 1s. 6d. Seven days.

Ross Police-court. Before the Rev. Prebendary E. B. Hawkshaw, Captain E. M. Allen, and other magistrates. Herbert Sherwood, aged 16, and Henry Williams, aged 18, charged with stealing a quantity of Indian corn, value 3s. 6d., from a truck at the goods station where they were working. There was a conviction against Williams for stealing cider in 1893, but this was Sherwood's first offence. Williams six weeks, Sherwood one month.

Mark Cross Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Ashburnham, A. G. Dixon, and A. G. Watson. Jane Brook, charged with sleeping in Warren Wood and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Spittlegate Petty Sessions. Before Sir Hugh A. H. Cholmeley, Lieut.-Colonel Parker, and other magistrates. Alfred Palmer, charged with using snares for the purpose of taking game upon land belonging to the Duke of Rutland. Fined £3. 7s.; in default, one month.

A man named Charles Bannister is awaiting his trial at Nottingham under circumstances which constitute a gross public scandal. The magistrates committed B. ni er on October 10 to take his trial at the then next ensuing Quarter Sessions, on a charge of stealing a horse. As there were only two cases to hear, however, the Recorder did not hold the usual Sessions, thinking, it is supposed, that the Judge would deal with those two cases at the Assizes, which were about to be held. But the Judge refused to do the Recorder's work, and as Bannister has been unable to obtain bail, he is left to lie in prison until the next Sessions, which will be held in February. This is in effect the statement of the facts which was placed before the magistrates the other week when they were asked to release the prisoner on his own recognisances; and if it is correct, a more monstrous state of things could scarcely be imagined. It means that a man has to undergo four months' imprisonment before he is brought to trial simply because the Recorder of Nottingham is too lazy to do the duty for which he is paid.

The Blyth Justices showed very undeserved and misguided lenity last week in dealing with Mr. Charles Brown, farmer, of Cambois. Brown was convicted of a long-continued course of cruelty towards a little girl of twelve whom he had "adopted" three years ago. This poor child, it was proved, was compelled to rise at 4.30 in the morning, and kept at work in the house and in the farmyard till eleven o'clock at night; her meals, mainly consisting of cold potatoes with a few bones to pick, were given to her in the coalhouse; her sleeping-place was a dark passage underneath some stairs; and a thrashing or kicking by the defendant was her almost daily experience. For all this and many more specific acts of brutality, which were detailed in the evidence, the Blyth Bench merely called upon Brown to pay a fine of £10. He ought to have been sent to gaol for six months, and it is astonishing that the magistrates should have been so muddy-minded as to think that a pecuniary penalty would meet the case.

With all desire to protect my fellow-creatures against being swindled, there are some cases at which I must draw the line. This is one of them:—A gentleman walking down a street in London sees the magic words, "Genuine sale" in the window of a portmanteau shop. He walks in and picks up for two guineas a portmanteau for which he was first asked £2. 10s., and which the shopman assured him had been reduced from £4. He was told that the material and labour in the portmanteau alone cost 39s., and he went away quite happy. This happiness was disturbed by the portmanteau getting staved in on its first journey; and, on being submitted to

Riviera.—Magnificent Building Sites at Beaulieu, facing the sea, to be Sold.—Apply, Tersling, Mentone; Kurz, Agent, Beaulieu; Sherry, Raymond-buildings, W.C.

an expert, the article was found to be worth something less than 25s. Now, the rule of English law on all sales of goods is *caveat emptor*, and a very good rule too. If a purchaser is taken in by some novel and elaborate trick, he has my sympathy, and I will do my best to expose the fraud. But the "genuine sale" trick ought to be known by this time to every one whose friends allow him to go about with money in his pocket. It is, as I understand it, simply a dodge by which shoddy goods are unloaded upon the public as unequalled bargains, in what is at other times a respectable shop. If I began showing up all the tricks that are perpetrated under this head, I don't know where or when I should stop.

The notorious Isaac Gordon is evidently a sweater as well as a usurer. In an action at Leeds County Court, the other day, he paid £2 into Court in satisfaction of a claim for services rendered by a man named Noble, who had spent eight weeks in making inquiries with a view to securing suitable premises and starting a branch of Isaac's nefarious business in that town. Noble undertook this work at Gordon's request, and in the expectation that he was to be engaged as manager of the branch; but at the end of the eight weeks he was told that he would not be wanted, and it was apparently not until he was sued that Isaac made his munificent offer of five shillings a week for what he had done. Shylock coolly submitted that this was "ample payment," but the judge did not think so, and Noble was awarded £10s. 10s. Whether Gordon has yet set up his new office in Leeds did not transpire, but if he has, people there will do well to keep away from it. This Polish Jew is about the most unscrupulous rascal on my list of usurers, and that is saying a good deal.

I suppose it is idle to expect a touting usurer to have any regard for the feelings of those whom he pesters with his circulars. But I would suggest to Mr. "H. T. Brook," who practises in this line at Ipswich and Colchester, that he must really do himself more harm than good by addressing strangers through the halfpenny post in a strain like this:—

> Dear Sir,—*I still continue to make advances* on note of hand alone from £10 to £1,000. . . . Should you require an advance at any time, I shall be pleased to negotiate, &c.

What inference would an inquisitive servant draw from this? In all probability that "master" was an old customer of Brook's. If "master" happened to be a little short of cash at the same moment, this impertinence, so far from inclining his heart towards Brook, would, I imagine, only increase his desire to punch Brook's head.

Missing-word swindlers may be shown up in the Press, run in by the police, convicted by juries, and sent to gaol by judges, but the inexhaustible stock of fools ever waiting to be parted from their money, remains as ready as ever to keep the game going. One of the practitioners in this line still at large calls himself "Richard Bots," probably with the view of conveying an impression that he is a foreigner and not a British exile, and carries on his trade at Ghent, undoubtedly with the view of avoiding the kind attentions of the British police. In two of his recent circulars, "Bots" set for competition a word taken from an extract from a book, security for the genuineness of the competition being offered in the usual way by giving the page from which the extract was taken and the position of the word in the page. When the prize was awarded, competitors were referred in one case to a book, called "'The Beggarly Nobleman,' by Henry Conscience, published by Janssens & Sons, Antwerp," and in the other case to "'A Life's Adventure,' published by Hayward Bros., London." In point of fact, the extract in the first case was taken (with the exception of the missing word) from Disraeli's "Henrietta Temple," and in the other case from "Queechy;" but in both instances the word eventually declared to be the missing word was not the word which occurred in these books.

A disappointed competitor, who has taken the trouble to hunt up the original passages, has called Mr. "Bots'" attention to the coincidence, and, needless to say, he has got no satisfaction in either case—beyond a promise from Bots to look into the matter as soon as pressure of business will allow him to do so. Of course, I am sorry for this disappointed competitor. At the same time he is to be congratulated on having had his eyes opened, while so many hundreds of the idiots who support the Bots fraternity still remain in darkness.

In Truth of the 17th an account was given of an impudent trick by which a canvasser, working for Messrs. Blackie & Son, Limited, of Liverpool and Glasgow, obtained an order for an Encyclopædia from a gentleman at Crewe. On discovering the trick, the customer repudiated the order, when a letter was written from 19, Islington, Liverpool, in the name of Messrs. Blackie & Son, stating, in effect, that as the victim had allowed himself to be deceived in spite of certain precautions taken by the firm, the contract could not be cancelled. It seems, however, that the writer of this letter was merely an agent at Liverpool for Messrs. Blackie & Son; and when the heads of the firm in Glasgow became aware of his letter through Truth, they at once put themselves in communication with the customer at

Surplice Shirts for evening wear, with pique fronts, 9/6, 10/6 each, made to measure.—Sampson & Co., Shirt Tailors, 270, Oxford-street, London, W. Lists forwarded.

Duveen Bros., Old Bond Street.—The most unique Collection of Old Nankin Blue and White China and Coloured Porcelains ever exhibited in London.

Crewe, expressing the strongest displeasure at the action of their Liverpool agent, and cancelling the contract. They have also dismissed the canvasser who obtained the order. This is, of course, all that could be expected, and I trust it will have the effect of enlightening the Liverpool representative of the firm as to the precise moral and legal position of a principal who ratifies and accepts the consequences of a fraud committed by an agent. It is due to Messrs. Blackie & Son to mention that their decision in the matter was telegraphed to me on Tuesday last (December 22), but unfortunately too late to be noticed in last week's TRUTH.

In reference to the letter in last week's TRUTH from the gentleman at Edinburgh who is going to Monte Carlo on account of a relaxed throat, and who wants some one with £50 to come and help him work his infallible system of earning £10 a day at roulette, I have been favoured with the following extract from the "Edinburgh Directory":—

Bucherer, Dr. C. W., Teacher of Languages, 51, Lothian-road.

Although the surname was given in TRUTH as "Bucheren," on looking at the signature again, I think it will equally pass as "Bucherer." The initials in the Directory are the same, and the address is the same. But if this is the writer of the letter, the mystery only becomes more mysterious. Why does a man with enough money at command to spend two or three months at Monte Carlo, and who can earn £10 a day by playing roulette, adopt the modest vocation of a teacher of languages?

Mr. John Thompson, of Broughton House, South Cliff, Scarborough, about whose circular I had some remarks in a recent issue, takes exception to my references to his "religious cant," and to the remark that the moral elevation which he offers in his books appears from the titles to be of the kind for which one would generally look in Holywell-street. He justly observes that the question of cant may be a matter of taste. It is; and to my taste the outpouring of religious claptrap for commercial purposes in Mr. Thompson's circular was as offensive a piece of religious cant as I have ever come across. On the question of Holywell-street, Mr. Thompson claims to be inspired by the highest motives, and sends me testimonials received from individuals who profess to have perused his works with profit. They are of precisely the same character as those issued by every quack doctor whose circulars pass through the Post Office, and, judging by such light as they throw on the character of the books, I should say that if there was injustice to anybody in my reference to Holywell street, it was not to Mr. Thompson, but to Holywell-street.

I have been asked by Mr. Ernest Day, of 379, Strand, to repeat an intimation which I gave some three years back, that he is not the notorious Ernest Day, of 439, Old Kent-road, whose portrait trick has been so frequently mentioned in these columns. I cannot, of course, refuse to comply with a request of this kind; but when Mr. Ernest Day, of the Strand (and formerly of Berners-street), goes on to tell me that he has been seriously injured in business through being confused with Ernest Day, of the Old Kent-road, I suspect that he must be attributing to me results which are really due to some other cause. At any rate, it is beyond my power, or that of any journalist, to absolutely prevent mistakes of identity such as this one. These are misfortunes beyond human control. Mr. W. S. Gilbert describes the sad fate of the man who was like Shakespeare. If that is a misfortune to a man, what must it be to have the same name as Ernest Day, and yet not be Ernest Day?

The following amusing document was recently received by the manager of one of the largest London hotels. It is to be hoped that the applicant got the situation he was in search of, for if his knowledge of all other modern languages is on a par with his command of our own, he will be an acquisition to any hotel, and should prove a real blessing to foreigners in distress:—

To the Sir, Manager, of Hôtel ——

DEAR SIR!—I have the honour of you to write some signs.

I am really very sorry to write to you, Dear Sir; and inform my occasion, I have been to you some times, but never a fortune to see you.

My occasion is, Dear Sir, to you, as: "Waiter"—; I speak, possess all modern languages, for instance: french, russian, german, and, that you see it,—reading—english; and, I have, had wrought at all capitals of Europe, and also worked, only in the Hôtels, First Class, and by forsake my businesses, I have received the best certificates.

To rely upon my prayer, Very Dear Sir, I hope yet, that you will reflect it.

Hoping to receive your favourable reply; and kindly acknowledge receipt of this, by the honour to remain, Your Very Obedient Servant, ——

Those who share the disgust, expressed by my correspondent "Madge" in last week's TRUTH, at the detestable practice of exhibiting live sheep or oxen, as part of the "Christmas show," in butchers' shops, would do well to forward a note of the circumstances to the Secretary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in Jermyn-street. I am told that a memo of the name of the shop and the time of the occurrence will be sufficient, and that the Society will, if it is so

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THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond-street, W.C. Patron, the Queen. President, the Duke of Fife, K.T. Chairman, Arthur Lucas, Esq. Please send your subscription or donation to help the sick children of the poor.—ADRIAN HOPE, Secretary.

desired, take the matter up without putting the complainant to any personal inconvenience in the matter. There is no question as to the cruelty inflicted on living animals by keeping them in immediate proximity to the butchered remains of their fellow-creatures, and those who appreciate this will do even better by taking the above step than by writing to TRUTH.

The proprietor of a laundry who has been unable to obtain payment of his little bill, sends me the following account (unsettled) which he found in the pocket of a garment sent to the wash. His argument is that a person who can afford 7s. 6d. for ice-pudding, or 6s. for lobster croquettes at one sitting, ought to be able to pay his washing-bill, but unfortunately this argument fails, if the confectioner also is waiting for his money. The moral which I draw from the case is that you should make a point of turning out your pockets before sending clothes to the wash :—

Gooseberry tart	0	2	6
Gooseberry tart	0	2	0
Croquettes	0	4	0
Iced-pudding	0	7	6
Lobster croquettes	0	6	0
	£1	2	0

A correspondent at Yeovil wishes me to air a little grievance respecting a Sick Benefit Society, which is carried on in connection with a local newspaper office. He says that some time ago he and some friends attended a concert in aid of this society, under the impression that they were thereby supporting a deserving charity. From the balance-sheet which has just been published, however, it now appears that this affair is really carried on for the benefit of the healthy as well as of the sick employees of the establishment referred to, a balance in hand of £31. 17s. 8½d. out of the £50. 3s. 3d. received during the past year having just been divided amongst the members. Of course, those who form the society are at liberty to run it on what lines they please; but it seems very questionable taste for a newspaper establishment to ask the public to support a sick fund which at the end of the year is simply distributed in this way.

To anybody desirous of understanding what the advancement of civilisation in Africa means, I would recommend a perusal of the statement concerning the Congo Free State which has recently been printed by the Aborigines' Protection Society. It is a crushing exposure of the spoliation and oppression of native populations by a Government whose chief object was to have been the protection and promotion of their interests and well-being. The whole system of administration in these regions has been, as the Society shows, "in flagrant opposition to the intentions and requirements of the Berlin General Act, and to the undertaking given by its founders when the Congo State was allowed to assume its present shape." What was to have been a philanthropic and civilising agency has become, in fact, a greedy and unscrupulous trading organisation. A sickening feature of the story is that almost every fresh act of tyranny towards the natives—including even the establishment of what is practically a form of slavery for the benefit of their white masters—has been done under a cloak of humane regard for their interests. In the practice of this hypocritical trick the Belgian administration vies with our own Chartered Companies.

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING, &c.

Science for years has done her best
  Our souls to fill with vague disquiet
By hinting at the deadly germs
  Which in our food and drink run riot;
Week after week she's roused new fears
  By details gruesomely unpleasant,
Until it seemed to us at last
  The microbe everywhere was present.

But, happily, this Christmastide
  Science, this policy repenting,
Shows of compunction some small sign,
  And is, all tardily, relenting;
For now, forsooth, we are assured
  That, though of most things she's bereft us,
We still on one safe dish can count—
  Christmas plum-pudding still is left us!

For though within its uncooked mass
  A million microbes may be coiling,
There's never one that can survive
  The ordeal of its lengthened boiling.
Yes, Science—as a rule not prone
  To make one favourable admission—
Declares that Christmas pudding is
  Undoubtedly above suspicion!

Yet, when we think the matter out,
  This somewhat tardy declaration
Fails to arouse within our breast
  A glow of grateful jubilation;
For surely we might just as well
  Fall victims to the dread bacillus,
As eat plum-pudding every day
  And let confirmed dyspepsia kill us!

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The luxury of a bath is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S CLOUDY HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA, which refreshes and exhilarates.

SCRUTATOR.

BANNERMAN'S GAUNTLET.

IT is all very well for ex-Liberal Ministers to make speeches in which they prove to their own satisfaction that, never was the Liberal Party more strong, more flourishing, and more united. These gentlemen would have it, that the last General Election was a mere Tory cloud in the blue sky of Liberalism—an April shower, welcome because it will produce a plentiful crop of May flowers. This robust faith appears to be based upon the abiding conviction that they themselves are so much more fitted to rule than their Conservative opponents, that it is hardly within the bounds of possibility that this will not very soon be realised by every man within the four seas; coupled with a sure and certain faith in the swing of the pendulum, by which, like the flies on that weight, they are to come back to official pastures without any effort of their own. With regard to the first, the history of the world has shown that the wisest and the best of human kind have not always received the approbation of their fellow creatures; with regard to the second, the pendulum doctrine hardly holds good in politics, because politics are not a mechanical clock, moving the weight attached to it backwards and forwards under certain fixed conditions of time and swing.

What we have as practical men to deal with is that, whereas some fifty years ago, tenure of power by the Liberal Party was the normal condition of things, occasionally broken by tenure of office by the Conservatives for a year or two, the respective positions of the two Parties have gradually been reversed. To a very large extent this has been due to one Benjamin Disraeli putting his hand on the pendulum. If he had merely gazed at it with open mouth, like a child gaping for sugar-plums, this change would not have taken place. Mr. Disraeli found his Party a mere remnant, and as Mr. Stuart Mill termed it, a stupid remnant. It became under his skilful manipulation an intelligent Party. We managed to make head against it so long as we had on our side Mr. Gladstone's commanding personality. Since we have lost this force, the Conservatives, in the most stupid phase of their existence, never equalled the hopeless, helpless, imbecility that has characterised us. Until we realise what utter fools we are, we shall remain in the quagmire into which our folly has precipitated us, and deservedly remain there. People are too apt to imagine that a cause which is good must succeed. They might as well believe that a ship which is filled with a good cargo will safely reach its port with a blind idiot at the wheel.

We must begin by not ignoring the strength of the enemy, any more than their tactical ability in making the best use of that strength. Their object has been to perpetuate the rule of an oligarchy, and to reduce the popular element in the Constitution to a minimum, not by denying votes to the masses, but by rendering these votes of no avail. At the head of this oligarchy are men who deem that it is their birthright to rule, but they have had the sense to perceive that they must have soldiers. We are no longer faced with a mere landed oligarchy of nobles of long descent and broad acres, claiming a monopoly of power. All wealthy men, all who derive profit or benefit from privileges at variance with equality, and the vast herd of sycophants who imagine that they raise themselves in the social scale by siding with the aristocracy, now serve in the Tory Army. The "I am of the Party of the Gentlemen of England" has gained the Conservatives many a vote. We may rail at the influence of rank and money, but in a country like this, where money is a sign of respectability, and where the worship of rank is a positive disease, we cannot afford to forget their influence. Thus a powerful array has been brought into line, well equipped with the sinews of war, and ably commanded. Its commanders keep watch and guard over the portals of the House of Commons, to prevent poor men passing through them. Their first aim is to bring that House into ridicule and contempt by maintaining a mode of transacting business in it which renders it well-nigh impossible that business can be transacted. Their second aim is to involve us in Imperial ventures abroad, in order to draw off attention from reforms at home. At the same time, the Executive has been packed with Peers with a view to weaken the hold of the People's House over it, and to throw rule rather into the hands of the Executive than of the Legislature. What have we done to counteract all this? Have we, when we have had a majority, sought to reduce the costs of elections? Have we so altered the rules of the House of Commons as to render it able to cope with its business? Have we insisted that Ministers shall be selected from the elected members of the Legislature? Have we endeavoured to strike at the contemptible social servitude which is the bane of all Democratic independence? Have we insisted upon home reforms taking the place of schemes to bring subject races under our rule abroad? Far from this, we have in all these matters played the Tory game. And with what result? The Radicals, who are the backbone of the popular cause, see little difference between Conservatives and Liberals. Many have already withdrawn in disgust from our Party, and formed themselves into new Parties; many vote for the Conservatives as a protest against our half-hearted policy. In the meanwhile, the Tory organs never lose an opportunity to scoff and sneer at the People's House, and to compare it disadvantageously with the House of Lords. Unless a reaction takes place, we shall soon be told that popular rule is not fitted for an intelligent nation; and the House of Commons will become little more than the sham that the French Parliaments were under the old French Kings.

Seeing these things, I would have Radicals not waste their energies in proposing this or that measure, however useful these measures may be, but all unite together to

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wage war against the hosts of reaction. We are told that we ought to have no policy, and no Leader. This is the plan of campaign seriously suggested to us by those who call themselves our Leaders. Anything more utterly weak and flabby never was imagined by men who would lead others. I do not believe in defensive war; I would always carry it into the enemy's country. If we are really to achieve victory, we must storm the entrenchments of class and privilege. Let us definitely and clearly state that we intend to sweep away every privilege, political and religious, but that, with this object in view, we are determined to make it our first business to establish such an elected Legislature as will be absolute and uncontrolled master in the State, and to which all, rich or poor, will be equally eligible. To fight successfully we must have before us something that we hope to gain by fighting Our aim must be clear and definite, not vague and shadowy. No one will labour to roll a stone up hill, when he knows that if it does reach the summit, it will at once be kicked back down hill. If a sensible man, his first step would be to eject the mountaineers from their post of vantage, and then alone to push the stone upward.

The other day Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman proposed that half a dozen Radicals should be selected from the front bench below the gangway, and that he, on his part, should produce half-a-dozen men from the late Liberal Cabinet, the Peers being duly represented among them. He would, he said, back his half-dozen against the other half-dozen on every one of the public topics of the day in point of sound, genuine, bold, unflinching, Radical opinion. In order to make this interesting competition possible, it would be necessary first to define what is "Radical opinion," and, secondly, to select an umpire to decide between the rival half-dozens. Even if these preliminary difficulties were got over, I should take exception to the words "Radical opinions," for my complaint against the Leaders of the Liberal Party is not that, so far as opinions go, they are not ready to profess the soundest, but that when opinion is to be followed by action, they invariably find some excellent cause to hang back. Tacitus relates that the ancient Germans discussed sober, and decided drunk. I am an advocate of temperance, but if arguing when sober our Leaders can only theorise, I would advise them to pass the bottle round, and then to decide upon some practical action. "The Liberals," says Sir Henry in the speech in which this challenge was thrown down, "are not called upon to produce their plans or schemes of reform; their part consists in criticising the measures of the Government." It is precisely this negation of all forward policy which paralyzes the Party. Why should any one vote for the Liberals because the Conservatives make mistakes? Naturally, he would hesitate to substitute for them an alternative Administration, that kept its plans and its contemplated reforms a dark secret; all the more if this alternative Administration had, when entrusted with office, merely ploughed the sands of the seashore, and called on Heaven and earth to bear witness to the excellence of the Radical opinions which led only to political inaction. This sort of pawky caution is hardly likely to create such enthusiasm amongst the masses that they will rally to the Liberal banner. Nor will Radicals, outside the charmed circle of officialdom, care to place men in office without distinctly knowing on what they are prepared to stand or fall. Nevertheless, the discussions which would take place between the two half-dozens would be interesting. When, therefore, Sir Henry has settled on his half-dozen official Peers and official Commons, it might be well to submit to him half-a-dozen of the rank and file in the unofficial Radical army, ready to try a fall with these august beings, who, as Sir Henry modestly says, are "not rash and unguarded in the expression of their opinions," but are men who "have some experience of affairs, some knowledge of administration, and some sense of responsibility." Such is their knowledge of administration, in truth, that they have ceased to be statesmen and lapsed into mere administrators; so cautious are they in the expression of their opinions that they express no opinion beyond the vaguest of generalities; so guarded are they in action that they do not act; so strong is their sense of responsibility that they never venture to accept any responsibility. There are few men for whose intelligence I have a greater admiration than for Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, and he is as amiable as he is intelligent; but I am bound to tell him that we never can hope to regain the public confidence that the Liberal Party has lost, or to make head against the Conservatives, if we are not prepared to adopt bolder counsels than those which he recommends. Let him remember the *de l'audace, et toujours de l'audace*, of Danton, which may be translated by the proverb, "nothing venture, nothing have."

THE PROMOTER AND HIS PREY.

It is easier to make money than to keep it. So far as the State, in its financial entity is concerned, it signifies little whether a pound which has been accumulated remains in the pocket of the accumulator, or passes into that of some one else. But a State ought to recognise a broader duty to its citizens than this, and to see that all is fair and above board in the transfer. When I was a boy, notices were affixed along roads, near private woods, warning trespassers that they might, if they strayed, be killed or wounded by spring guns. I believe that this is now illegal. It ought to be equally illegal to lay traps for the unwary, into which, if they fall, they will emerge relieved of their money. When the Limited Liability Acts were passed, the State professed to ensure to all those who took shares in them safety against fraud and deception. In the main these Acts have been useful. They provide the machinery by means of which all, according to their means, can profit by industrial undertakings without risking more than their actual investments in them. But experience has abundantly shown that their objects have not been satisfactorily attained. Almost every day cases are reported in the

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Law Courts in which promoting wolves get the better of investing lambs. The law is either openly defied or cleverly evaded. Matters have now reached such a pass that the Legislature ought to take action in the public interests. It is said that the Press is at fault, because it does not warn its readers against this or that prospectus which is advertised. But the Press cannot always do this, for in the prospectus all seems fair and above board, and it is only later on that the fraudulent character of the scheme is made clear. In a great many cases, therefore, the Press can only point to the empty stable after the steed is stolen. I fully admit that, do what the law may, fools and their money will always part; nor do I think that it is the business of the State to assume the responsibility of telling the public what is a good and what is a bad investment. Still, if the Law's aim is to ensure, so far as it can, fair dealings between man and man, and to punish those who deal unfairly, it must be obvious to all that there is great room for improvement in the Limited Liability Acts. One of the chief difficulties in the way of such a reform is that the promoting and the guinea-pigging interests are so largely represented in both branches of the Legislature. The changes needed will, therefore, never be made unless they are demanded by so strong an expression of public opinion that it will crush out all personal opposition. The simplest plan would be to lay hands on half-a-dozen of the shadiest promoters and guinea-pigs, and to hang them on the nearest lamp-posts. But this practical mode of dealing with an abuse is hardly in accordance with the spirit of the age.

Apart from the loopholes for fraud in the law, the public are in many cases themselves to blame for the loss of their money. Take, for instance, some claim to a portion of a reef where there are traces of gold. The promoter buys the claim for some small and reasonable sum. The next step is to obtain reports from experts, in which it is assumed that every ton of ore will contain a certain amount of gold, and that this gold-bearing rock may be extracted in unlimited amount. On this a glowing estimate of prospective profits is worked out, and on this estimate the amount at which the promoter sells to the Company is based. One would suppose that the proverb that warns people against counting chickens before they are hatched would act as a warning. But, far from this, investors rush in as though these eggs that may prove to be addled were already full grown and fatted fowls. Take another instance. A person starts some business, which returns him a net profit per annum. The promoter generally buys the business himself at an excessive price, and then sells it to the Company that he forms at a still more excessive price. Here the goodwill of the business is the x in the problem. The business may have been founded only a few years ago. Suppose that the capital actually invested in it is £10,000, but that it has made £10,000 in the last year of its short career. Assume further that the original owner had no monopoly of the business by virtue of a holding patent, without which the business could not be carried on. What would be the real value of the goodwill? At the highest reasonable computation, £50,000. This would make the price properly paid by the Company £60,000. But the price figures in the prospectus as £150,000. £50,000 is issued in Debentures bearing 4 per cent. interest; £50,000 as Preference shares entitled to 5 per cent. interest; and £50,000 as Ordinary shares. Thus, these Ordinary shares are shown to produce £5,500 per annum, *i.e.*, a dividend of 11 per cent. In this way the obvious absurdity of giving fifteen years' purchase is concealed. But assuredly investors ought to perceive that all this division of profits between diverse categories of securities does not alter the fact that the goodwill is charged an excessive price. By very able management the £10,000 per annum profit may, perhaps, be maintained. But the probabilities are that it will not be maintained for many years, because—(1) Companies are never so well managed as undertakings in private hands; (2) if £10,000 per annum can be made by an initial outlay of £10,000, *i.e.*, with a return of cent. per cent., competition at once follows, and this brings down the profit to the average return on all capital in industrial undertakings.

One would naturally suppose that the names of the Directors would influence applications for shares, and in a certain sense this is the case, but only in that one sense. Not many weeks ago a dispute that was brought before the Committee of the Stock Exchange showed that £5,000 was paid by a promoter for two noblemen as Directors of the Company that he was promoting. Neither of the noblemen had any knowledge of business. Their names were valuable simply and solely because they were noblemen. Can anything more clearly show the abnormal stupidity of the investing public? It is as though, wanting to learn to dance, they were to take as a dancing master a banker, because he understands the money market. Speaking generally, Company Directors are men who are without any business knowledge, and who desire an accession to their incomes in the shape of Directorial fees. Theoretically they show their belief in the undertaking to which they give their names by paying for the shares they are obliged to hold as a qualification. Practically, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the promoter gives them these shares, and, of course, sells to the Company at a price to cover, not only his profit, but the cost of these shares.

There is yet another mode in which the public is humbugged. The promoter states that, so confident is he in the genuineness of his Company, that he takes a large portion of the purchase price in shares. What he really takes is a portion of his profit, because he doubts whether

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he can at once float its entire share capital. His implication is that the price is reduced because he does this. But if he asks the public to take shares against payment of cash, it ought to be manifest to all that, assuming the price that they are asked to pay for the shares to be a legitimate one, the shares taken by the promoter represent share for share the amount paid by applicants.

I do not know that I am in any special way a purist, nor have I an ideal standard of public life, esteeming those who take to it neither better nor worse than others, except that they are rather more given to affect a virtue somewhat in excess of actual reality. I have no particular objection to an M.P. being the Director of some great Company in which he is largely interested, but I certainly do hold that an M.P. should neither be a promoter of Companies, nor be advertised as the Director of a dozen Companies of a speculative—not to say of a questionable—character. As an elector, whether I were a Radical or a Conservative, I would not have, if I could avoid it, such a man as my candidate. That they are often selected by both Parties as candidates is due to constituencies being too much inclined to accept any one who is ready to part with money. This is one of the reasons why I have always been in favour of the community taking on itself the cost involved in elections, and M.P.'s being paid for their services. This would, I am convinced, lead to constituencies having a wider choice of good candidates, and to their being, if elected, more independent than is now the case. Judging from the applications from promoters to M.P.s to be on the Boards of their Companies, I should say that any M.P. might easily make £1,000 per annum as a Director by the mere fact of his being in Parliament. Therefore do I all the more respect those who, being poor men, do not yield to the temptation.

BROOKS'S MILCH-COWS.

I can only express generally my thanks to innumerable correspondents for their congratulations on the result of the Brooks case. It is no conventional phrase to say that it is impossible to thank each correspondent individually, for they are counted by hundreds; and, indeed, I think that hardly a letter has reached me during the last ten days without some allusion to the subject. For some reason the case of the Rev. George Brooks seems to have made more impression upon the public than almost any libel action that has ever been brought against TRUTH. I am glad to know that my humble efforts to expose humbug, in whatever shape, are appreciated, and I value this appreciation the more, because it is the only compensation that a journalist can look for in such a case. There is an idea, I believe, in some quarters that I rather rejoice in libel actions. Mr. Brooks endeavoured to make capital out of that idea, but, like other ideas out of which he made capital (and income), it is quite a delusion. Even a comparatively simple action like Brooks's means months of worry and anxiety, a big bill (without any disparagement to my friend, Sir George Lewis) to pay, and very little to show on the other side of the account for any journal which has once made its position.

Among the hundreds, however, who have sent their congratulations on the result of the case I do not find Earl Percy, Lord Egerton of Tatton, Mr. H. S. Foster, M.P., Mr. J. H. Tritton, or any of those patrons of Brooks, who only saw in the first exposure of their protégé an occasion for indicting abuse of TRUTH, and a fresh ground for subscribing to the Brooks' "sustentation fund." This is disappointing. Some of these gentlemen were extremely unreserved in their remarks. Earl Percy, not content with observing that it would be waste of time to bring a libel action against TRUTH (which was true enough, though not in the sense his lordship intended), was good enough to add that "Nobody who knows anything about the paper believes anything that is said in it." I can assure the noble lord that he is mistaken. Not only do many people believe what they read in TRUTH, but those who believe occasionally look wiser than those who have refused instruction. The attitude, indeed, of some of Brooks's victims can only be compared to that of swine before whom pearls have been cast. They trampled my offering under their feet, and turned again and rent me. Lord Egerton of Tatton was of opinion that I was desirous of being sued for libel, though what I was to gain by it, if I had really made a mistake about Brooks, it would puzzle his lordship to explain. The same view was expressed by Mr. C. B. Longstaffe, L.C.C., who really ought to know better, and it was also conveyed in much more offensive terms by a Mr. C. A. Swan, who for some reason is the High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, and who has derived (I suppose) from his able instructor, Mr. Brooks, the idea that I am a Socialist. Mr. Evelyn Ashley was in one sense the most confident of all the party. He took upon himself to pronounce the whole TRUTH indictment to be unfounded, and gave Brooks the following testimonial—to be used of course in the next issue of appeals for cash:—

> You have never used any false pretences whatever in the appeals which you have made. You have stated your needs and your objects, and *those who have given have given with a full knowledge of and sympathy with your circumstances.* Why then should outsiders interfere?

This would have been invaluable testimony if it could have been given on Brooks's behalf at his trial. If a gentleman in Mr. Evelyn Ashley's position could have sworn that he had supported Brooks with full knowledge of his circumstances, I think the jury might have taken a different view of the case. If he could have proved, what Mr. Ashley confidently asserts, that all who assisted Brooks from 1890 to 1895 did so with full knowledge of his circumstances, he would have gained for Brooks a handsome sum in damages. Why was he not called?

The gentleman, however, whose utterance interests me most is Mr. Harry S. Foster, M.P. This statesman wrote to Brooks on the TRUTH exposure:—

> I needed no enlightenment as to the methods of either Labouchere or the C.O.S., nor did I need any defence on your part, for as the Member for the division in which you reside, as one who knew you in Dulwich, and as one who has helped you to a very small extent in your work, I have long known the sterling stuff of which you are made. Nevertheless, your defence is highly interesting reading, and its tone is manly,

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straightforward, and worthy of your work. [More pointless fustian was never printed.—Ed. Truth.] . . . . If you decide to sue for libel, I will add my quota to the guarantee fund . . . . Balfour's timely and gracious grant to you has made your enemies gnash their teeth with a vengeance. But I am sure your courage and high purpose are equal to the task.

So this worthy gentleman, strong in his knowledge of "the methods of Labouchere and the C.O.S.," was ready to subscribe to the expenses of Brooks's action. Did he subscribe? Is he going to contribute anything to the costs? I shall be glad to hear it. And who is Mr. Foster that he should boast of his "enlightenment" about other people's "methods"? Mr. Foster, it will be remembered, is no stranger to the libel laws. He, like Brooks, commenced a crusade against the Press, which had given the public a little enlightenment about Mr. Foster's "methods," more especially in regard to company finance, and having come off second best in his first encounter—that with the *Westminster Gazette*—he abandoned the rest of his actions. That after this experience he should have incited Brooks to a similar enterprise, is somewhat surprising, especially if he were going to bear a share of the costs himself. However, as the result in Brooks's case has been so similar to that in his own, he will no doubt have a fellow feeling for the sufferer. Probably by this time he has forwarded Brooks a cheque, with an assurance that "I needed no enlightenment as to the methods of either judges or juries." . . . .

I can imagine that it has been rather a surprise to the writers of these Brooks' testimonials to see them all in print. The documents hardly read to me as if they had been intended for publication. But that is what makes the thing so enjoyable. It was Brooks himself who gave away his own backers, by publishing their testimonials as the basis of a fresh appeal for funds. When a sufficient number of luminous-minded gentlemen had declared their contempt for Truth, and their unabated confidence in Brooks, out came the type-writer, and off went a fresh batch of appeals, with all those opinions of wise and eminent persons appended as proofs of the writer's bona fides. Several copies of this circular in due course made their way to Truth Office, one of the first coming from the late Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Benson I may mention, had at one time been misled into giving Brooks a subscription, but it was not long before he saw through the man—helped, doubtless, to that result by the remorseless pertinacity with which Brooks dunned him—and eventually he forwarded the whole of his Brooks correspondence to me. Among the rest was the appeal backed by the imposing body of opinions above referred to. This method of using the testimonials from his patrons is another proof of Brooks's command of all the tricks of the begging-letter writer. The humbler practitioner in that line, when he has obtained a sovereign and a letter of sympathy from one victim, instantly uses it to bait the trap for the next one, and if the first victim happens to be a peer or a cleric, his example never fails to bring imitators. "One fool makes many," and never has this truth been more splendidly illustrated than by the victims of George Brooks. These milch-cows deserve no sympathy, and had they alone been milked for the "sustentation" of Brooks and his family, it would never have been necessary to deal with Brooks's dairy farm in more than a playful spirit. "Truth never libelled me," said Brooks at the trial, "until Mr. Balfour gave me the £200 grant." Precisely. As long as Brooks only fooled private individuals, his performances were a good joke; when he fooled the guardians of the public purse, it became a serious matter. For aught I care, he may fool his old patrons again; but I am happy to think he has had his last grant from the Treasury.

A MINOR BEGGING-LETTER WRITER.

If the Rev. George Brooks had never lived, a very high place in the begging-letter profession would have been awarded to an individual named George Richardson. For the present, the performances of George Brooks have thrown the efforts of all competitors into the shade. It is a case of Brooks first and the rest nowhere. Still, if you can forget Brooks, Richardson is a very interesting study. I call him "Richardson" because that is the title under which he is known to the criminal courts of his native land; but the man has passed during the last few years under so many aliases, that what his true name may be would puzzle anybody but himself to say for certain. The last of these aliases is "Horace Vivian Enright," and here is one of Richardson's characteristic performances under that name:—

5, New Turnstile, Lincoln's Inn-Fields,
London, W.C., September 29, 1896.

Madam,—I only venture to write to you because you were kind enough to help me when in great difficulties some few years ago, and when I repaid you you were pleased to say that if I ever was in need again to apply to you. I regret to state that I am at present in very great need indeed, having since last April been laid up with rheumatic fever, and only for first time last week have left my room, and to add to my trouble, and overwhelm me with grief, my dear wife, to whose tender and unremitting care I am indebted, under Providence, for my recovery, herself succumbed, after a short illness, to an attack of pneumonia, following influenza, last Tuesday. The expenses of my long illness, and of my wife's funeral, having absorbed all my resources, I am at present absolutely without any means whatever. You, madam, are the only friend I have in England on whom I can rely on in this emergency. Will you kindly aid me with a small loan, which I will repay as soon as I receive remittance from my uncle at Brisbane, and which I expect in five weeks' time?

I trust, madam, that sad and urgent circumstances under which I write, the friendship which existed between my father and late Captain —— for so many years, and which terminated only on my father's death, and your own kind promise, will pardon me again troubling you. I may add I had misfortune two months ago of losing nearly all I possessed in fire which took place in my chambers at Lincoln's Inn.—Yours ever gratefully, Horace Vivian Enright.

In view of what follows it is scarcely necessary to say here that the principal statements in the above letter are all pure inventions, and simply the ordinary tricks of the begging-letter trade. The lady to whom this letter was addressed had never assisted "Enright" or "Richardson," nor heard of him in her life before.

Here are a few particulars of the man's history. He has been twice convicted in the name of George Richardson, on both occasions for obtaining money under false pretences by begging-letters. The first conviction was in August, 1893, and the second in 1895. In both cases he represented himself as a clergyman, and in the second he made free with the name of a Manchester cleric, and gave an address at a London hotel. On the second conviction he was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. He has been busily engaged in the begging-

letter business for years past, telling all sorts of stories in support of his appeals to the benevolent. In one letter, written in the name of Finlan, he was an enthusiastic adherent of the Unionist cause, stranded in London, and desirous, if he could obtain the wherewithal to pay his fare, of returning to his native town, which happened, by a remarkable coincidence, to be Oldham, the latest abode of the Master, George Brooks. In support of this appeal he enclosed a beautifully-forged testimonial, purporting to be written by the Secretary of the Oldham Conservative Club. On another occasion he was "Henry Barnes," a Devonshire tradesman involved in a most pathetic series of misfortunes. While Henry Barnes had been attending the death-bed of his brother, Mrs. Henry Barnes had taken advantage of his absence to sell up his home and elope. The unfortunate husband had followed her to London, where he was knocked down by a cab in Holborn, and taken to the hospital with a broken leg. On coming out, he had obtained an offer of employment at Newcastle, which he was only prevented from accepting by the impossibility of raising the railway fare. In this case the begging-letter was accompanied by a testimonial purporting to be written by the Vicar of his Devonshire parish, corroborating Barnes's history of his misfortunes, and commending him to the sympathy of Christians at large. In another letter this same rascal became Mr. "Gerald Herbert O'Hara," a youth of twenty, whose father had brought him from the Cape of Good Hope to London, and had there inconsiderately died, leaving his son penniless. All that the youthful O'Hara needed was a passage back to the Cape, where he could secure his inheritance, and at once wipe out the obligation. More often Richardson assumes the feminine sex, and in this character he brought off one peculiarly clever coup. By some means he seems to have become acquainted with the history of an American family named Upham. He then assumed the name of Maud E. Upham, and wrote to a lady of the same name in England, representing himself to be her niece. Miss Maud's story was that she had come to England with her father, who had died, leaving her absolutely without means. The plot was so successful that the lady actually sent £10 to her supposed niece, and proceeded to London to look after her, which led to the discovery of the fraud.

The indefatigable Richardson has rung every conceivable change upon the possible deaths of relatives. He has been a "Maud E. Whitbread," who had been left penniless by the death of her father, and a "Maud E. Marshall," who had experienced the same consequences from the death of her mother. Maud is his favourite female name. As Maud Riviere he has lost his son, a boy of fourteen. As M. Edith Deer (Maud Edith, no doubt), he has lost his daughter, and is anxious to return to his home at Kobat in the Punjab. He has also figured as Mabel Charlotte Cressingham, widow of a medical man from Canada. By a hard struggle this lady had succeeded in educating her son until he had obtained an appointment in Jamaica, where, unfortunately, all the fond mother's efforts were rendered futile by the impossibility of paying for the lad's passage and outfit. Among other aliases under which his begging-letters have been written are the following:—Terence O'Callaghan, Arthur O'Callaghan, C. H. Seymour, Terence O'Brien, Charles H. Maunsell, Henry Stanley, and Chas. Worthington.

A special feature in all this rascal's appeals is the introduction of forged testimonials, or other credentials. A favourite trick is to enclose a letter from some employer of labour, promising him a berth, or even fixing some day for him to come to work. The North Metropolitan Tramway Company has been his favourite stalking-horse for this purpose, and in every case in which inquiries have been made these letters have proved to be forgeries. In order to put my readers further on their guard against Mr. Richardson, and in the hope of securing his identification for the purpose of a further vindication of the law, I have had the following facsimile of his handwriting executed. The handwriting of his various letters is not always precisely the same, but there are certain marked peculiarities running through all his letters, and the following sample ought to be sufficient to enable any person receiving his letters to identify the writer —

5 New Turnstile
Lincolns Inn Fields
London W C
24 Sept 1896

Madam
I only venture to write to you because you were kind enough to help me when in great difficulties some few years ago and when I repaid you, you were pleased to say that

There is one point in regard to this incorrigible rogue's operations which enforces a moral that I have more than once drawn. In nearly every case his letters have been dated from "accommodation addresses," that is to say, from shops where answers to letters are taken in for a trifling fee. For instance, the address, 5, New Turnstile, Lincoln's Inn Fields, is a stationer's shop, where this sort of accommodation is afforded, and Richardson is not the first swindler who has operated from the same address. Readers of Truth will scarcely need to be told

of the extent to which all classes of rogues and impostors avail themselves of the facilities thus afforded for carrying on clandestine correspondence. The "accommodation address" secures to every swindler operating through the Post Office complete immunity from detection, unless with the assistance of the shopkeeper who receives his letters for him; and it is sad, but true, that not a few of the tradesmen who receive letters in this way evince reluctance to give away their customers by assisting in their identification when they are "wanted." If the shopkeeper refuses to assist, it stands to reason that to identify the party who calls at the shop and takes away letters in any particular name is practically impossible. The remedy which I have suggested for this evil is that all persons receiving letters indiscriminately, as a matter of business, should be required to take out a licence from the police. On principle there can be no objection to such a regulation, for the great majority of persons who use these "accommodation addresses" do so for illegitimate purposes of one kind or another. Were shopkeepers licensed, the police would always have a hold on them, through the power of withdrawing the licences if the holders showed any disposition to screen customers who have used their addresses for illegal or immoral purposes; and the mere fact that the licences would only be held during good behaviour would make shopkeepers careful to satisfy themselves as to the character of individuals desirous of using their premises in this way. Few of them, I regret to say, seem to exercise such care at present, or to appreciate that in deliberately allowing their addresses to be used for improper purposes they make themselves *participes criminis*. The mere introduction of such a regulation as I propose would probably be sufficient to put a stop to the operations of Mr. George Richardson and all others of his tribe.

"ALADDIN."

The new entertainment so gorgeously presented at Drury Lane is far more than what in the olden days was called a pantomime. Every year the "new introductions" seem to take a more and more elaborate form. Mr. Oscar Barrett has to a very great extent exercised the same kind of judgment that so distinguished the never-to-be-forgotten management of the late Sir Augustus Harris, who understood so well every beat and pulse of his audience, and who received the admiration and gratitude of the public in return. The latest version of "Aladdin," by Arthur Sturgess and Horace Lennard, relies more on the superb mounting than the well-known story for attraction, but this is not a very serious matter, in fact it has proved quite the contrary. Besides, it is fashionable nowadays to substitute brocade and passementerie for talent and indifferent acting, not that I mean this to be the case at Drury Lane—oh, dear no!—but I would rather a little more attention had been bestowed upon the characters in the pantomime, and a little less on the juggling department and the "variety show" introductions. However, be that as it may, "Aladdin" is truly magnificent, and it is highly creditable to Mr. Oscar Barrett that he has succeeded so admirably in his enterprise. It was no very easy task to attempt, but the present management has proved itself in every way both a worthy and experienced successor to the late one. Ada Blanche is clever both as a singer and a dancer; she is unquestionably a boy to the very life, with plenty of fun, go, and just the right amount of mischief. But how I screamed over the eccentricities of Dan Leno as the Widow Twankay, and what a lesson he gives in stage dancing! He is simply inimitable. I never heard anything more comical than the scene when Herbert Campbell, disguised as a newspaper reporter, calls on Leno to "interview" him for one of the dailies. How marvellously well these two artists play together! There is no tendency to under-act here: they start off neck to neck, and keep up the pace right away to the finish. Decima Moore is all that is delightful and fragile as the Princess Badroulbadour; and Clara Jecks, who knows every inch of her business, makes Sau-See a quaintly comic little person. Fitz Rimma, who impersonated a "bit of rare old China," recently seen and made much of both in this country and elsewhere, spoke quite as incomprehensibly as the original must have done; but, then, I own I am somewhat feeble when it comes to a question of the Chinese language. The interior of Aladdin's Palace just before the wedding takes place is most exquisitely beautiful and dazzling, and it certainly does ample justice to the wonderful skill and taste of Auguste & Cie, Miss Fisher, and those two popular artists, M. and Mme. Alias. Ladies will simply revel in the delights of the marvellous costumes, and the wedding procession is one glittering mass of gorgeous stuffs, so thickly embroidered and embossed with gold, silver, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and millions of precious stones that the wealth of colour and wonderful scintillation become absolutely blinding. I must not forget to tell you how gracefully little Miss Somerset dances as the Genius of the Ring, how the beautiful Grigolati troupe float about the stage—they are perfect marvels of grace and loveliness, or how Paul Cinquevalli, as the Slave of the Lamp, fairly brings down the house with his extraordinary feats of jugglery. Altogether the pantomime at Old Drury is full of interest, charm, and freshness; and as a magnificent spectacle there are few stages in Europe that could show a more striking entertainment.

"BLACK-EY'D SUSAN."

We certainly live in wonderful times. A few years ago theatrical managers looked rather askance at Shakespeare, but they would certainly have pooh-poohed Douglas Jerrold and laughed to scorn the idea of Bunyan. But within the last week or so have actually seen two Shakespearean revivals, a play written by Jerrold, and an adaptation from Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." How delighted the author of "Black-Ey'd Susan" would be if he could only come to life again for a few hours and pop in at the Adelphi to see how tenderly his favourite child must have been put away in lavender in order to come out as fresh and bright again! Old-fashioned clap-trap, the pessimists and *blasé* portion of the public will say. Not a bit of it! There is a vast difference between popular sentiment and stage bunkum. The

dialogue, I grant you, is a little quaint and out of date; but what on earth does that matter? Does not our own William appear as the hero? Where will you find another like him? Who can "chew a quid," "shiver his timbers," "spin a yarn," dance a hornpipe and, above all, look as fine a fellow as "Breezy Bill?" I have been introduced to several Williams in my time, and I can safely say not one of them impressed me half or nearly half as much as Terriss did the other evening. Had time allowed and the actor's strength withstood the strain, his hornpipe would have been danced over and over again, so good was it, and the St. Domingo Billy yarn was spun with a dash and a go that sent the people into fits of laughter. Again, in the court-martial scene I cannot conceive anything better timed or more artistically delivered than William's dramatic appeal to his officers before the verdict was given. The dresses, I confess, reminded me somewhat of the "penny plain and twopence coloured" delights of early life, and I quite expected to see a pirate rush on and say, "Once aboard the lugger and the girl is mine;" but I was disappointed. Jessie Millward turns on a pathetic stop in the farewell scene which is absolutely heartrending. I was told the other day that a certain "weeping heroine" invariably smeared her pretty countenance with vaseline just before going on in her big scene, to give the appearance to the audience of being bathed in tears. Whether Jessie is up to this trick I don't know; at any rate her face was a perfect study in "water colours." I always thought Gnatbrain was a funny man, until Nicholls informed me he was nothing of the kind; he might have been a little more cheerful, though, with such a pretty and bright Dolly Mayflower as Vane Featherston. But there, it is worth going to the Adelphi for the sake of seeing "Breezy Bill," though I shouldn't advise any one to hurry over his evening meal to get there in time for "All That Glitters is Not Gold." This play is a mistake altogether, and had better by far have been left to moulder quietly away in the dramatic cupboard of the late Thomas and Maddison Morton's forgotten works.

THE MARTYRED CHRISTIAN.

How history does repeat itself, to be sure! Years ago the Olympic Theatre in Wych-street, Strand, was the home of fun, laughter, and merriment. It was at this very playhouse that Robson delighted an admiring world with "Jim Baggs" in the "Wandering Minstrel," and his exquisitely ludicrous burlesque on Medea. It was at the Olympic that the brilliant comedian Charles Mathews played in "Used Up" and the "Liar." Alas! from that time the theatre—which, by the way, is now wholly reconstructed and rebuilt—has fallen upon evil days. It was therefore little short of a stroke of genius to hit upon the idea of giving this year a musical, melodious, and melodramatic pantomime. Dear me, how I laughed, and how the people laughed, too, from one end of the performance right away to the other! Clown, columbine, harlequin, sprites, the terrible demon of the deepest depths, and a wonderful sort of electric-lighted saint, whose appearance puzzled me somewhat, were there. The dresses were perfect dreams of loveliness. Then there were beautiful celestial visitants, singing, oh so sweetly, out of tune, and being wheeled about the stage on perambulating platforms of paradise. There, too, was the "Sign of the Red Cross Knight," wandering upstairs and downstairs, and, whisper it not, in my lady's chamber — gracefully tumbling over his sword, and peristently tying himself into knots with his draperies. There he met an old man who distinctly did not say his prayers, but babbled through one whole act incoherent curses, which were presumably addressed to some glittering things that looked uncommonly like Christmas Tree decorations, but which were intended, I think, to represent gold and silver coins of the realm. Then there were celestial staircases, and a gorgeous transformation scene that would have done infinite credit to old Drury Lane itself, and it was all so intensely amusing, and the gods were so jolly, that when the prompter blew his assertive whistle for the "gauzes to come down" after an ethereal-looking angel had been indulging in a hymn of praise more emphatically out of tune than ever, the gallery boys shouted out "Four-wheeler! whoa!" By a strange freak, instead of calling the pantomime hero Prince Charming or otherwise, they named him Christian, and he somehow missed his cue in the last act and didn't turn up at the celestial gate "on time," and I distinctly heard some one say "Where is Christian? Why is not Christian here?" and then "The Bells" began to ring, and somebody else in the gallery said "Order, order," and his companion replied "Order what you like." The last I saw of the pantomime was the tardy Christian scuttling up the marble staircase to get at the celestial gate before it was closed, and the funny sort of electric-lighted saint, still wearing a remnant of a discarded halo on his head, was urging him up the steps rather as if he were coaxing chickens into a coop. And then what do you think? When I got home and was telling some friends to go to the Olympic Theatre if they wanted to enjoy a good laugh, they exclaimed, "O shade of Bunyan, you have been to see the 'Pilgrim's Progress'!"

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE CHILD'S KINGDOM.

THE Child's Kingdom has this season the Grand Duchess Olga for a sovereign. Her wax effigy figures in the toy departments of the Universal Providers. She is seated in a tall baby's chair with a front rail to prevent her falling forward, and a gorgeous pillow to prop her up behind. That emblem of insatiable voracity, the double-headed eagle (just as if one beak were not enough for the devourer), is spread out above her. The wax image is copied from the one prepared for Grévin's show, and was taken both from a sketch from life and from photos of her youthful Imperial Highness. Toys are piled up round the infantine throne; the costlier toys are nearest, and the cheapest furthest off. Thus hierarchical distinctions are typified in the Child's Kingdom, as in the Empire of the Russian

autocrat. To the Parisian *fillette* her *consœur*, the infant Grand Duchess, is the outward and visible sign of the Russian Alliance. I heard a little lassie—a youthful Parisienne, of course—say to her governess as both gazed at the effigy, "I want so much to know why the Grand Duchess's top hair is brushed into a tuft or crest? Is she to be married to Prince Victor, since they are at the trouble to make her look like Napoleon and the King of Rome?" The governess opined that perhaps it was to accustom people to the idea that the Imperial Sceptre of Russia may hereafter descend to the baby hand now stretched forth (in effigy) to clutch a toy.

One is otherwise reminded in the Child's Kingdom of the Russian Alliance. "Le Tsar et la Tsarine en France" is a splendid volume, with thick, gilt-edged leaves and glorious chromo-lithographs. It only costs 7 fr. 50 c. One has for that sum portraits of grand Russian personages in outlandish Court dresses; barbarously magnificent coronation scenes at Moscow; and, lastly, Nicholas and Alexandra's triumphs in Paris. One almost has too many ovations and fêtes. After turning over pages filled with grand ceremonies, ovations, and illuminations, one would like a little of the grime of every-day life. The binding is in Russian style. Cunning chemistry has imparted to it a Russian leather smell. To a child's eye the whole thing must be delightful as a Christmas extravaganza. The volume is meant also for provincial adults. What I most complain of, as an adult, is that it has no touch of nature or of humour.

Another magnificent volume is an Album of Hymns set to easy music. The publisher dedicates this work to her Infantine Imperial Highness. Whatever in the Catholic hymnology might jar with Greek Orthodoxy has been excluded. The contents table has "Ave Maria," a hymn dear to the late Czar, who was a devout Mariolator; "Prière du Soir" (nothing to do with Bishop Ken's "Evening Hymn"); "Noël," a simple antique melody, with quaint words; "Agnus Dei;" and "Le Ciel a Visité la Terre." The Grand Duchess shows a precocious love of music. If Lombroso and Galton are sound on heredity, she ought to. Her English, Danish and Hessian great-grand parents were extremely musical. Nicholas I. and Alexander II. were not. The former had no more ear than Louis Philippe, who sang horribly out of tune. The reigning Czar is a delicious tenorino, and the Czarina, had it been her destiny to struggle for a livelihood, might been a great professional pianist. By the way, tiny pianos that have a few tiny octaves on the keyboard, and are made to be played, are among the toys forming the inner circle round H.I.'s waxen image.

Nicholas and Alexandra are brought into the Child's Kingdom. We generally see them bolt upright and passive as Egyptian gods. When they are got up in an expensive pictorial style, they have a Byzantine background. We have them on the lids of toy-boxes, work-boxes, bonbon-boxes, on needle-books, on carton-pâte letter-racks, and on the curtains of puppet shows. The Troika in the Child's Kingdom is another visible sign of the Russian Alliance, or fad, or craze, or whatever it may be. A lady wrapped in furs, and wearing an Astrakan Nicksa cap, drives three horses abreast. The middle horse rests on a stake, like the war steed of Louis XIV. in the Place de la Victoire. On the lower end of the stake is a wheel. The seat on which the lady sits contains a mechanism which can be set going by a push-button at the back. The button pressed, off starts the Troika, the lady leaning forward with elbows high in air. One can buy a Troika at any of the Universal Providers—all of which are States of the Child's Kingdom—for 9 fr. 50 c. Does not this seem cheap? The highly-finished eye-deceiving Troika costs 250 fr. Eye-deceiving toys are heaped round the effigies of the Grand Duchess Olga. Children of the rich French are fastidious, and expect perfect toys. They do not seem to have the imagination that transforms a roughly-hewn piece of deal into a horse, a cow, a sheep, and finds poetry in a "tree" stiff as a chess pawn.

Let us hope that gambling instincts are not fostered by toy "games." *Le Jeu du Nain Jaune* is a favourite of the young. We have the new Dutch top *à crémaillère*, with nickel fittings, *le nursery* (*sic*) *roulette*, and the new nursery game of marbles, or *le Jeu de Billes*, which is livelier than *les Petits Chevaux*. *Le Jeu de Jacquet* is a variety of back-gammon; in *le Nouveau Jeu du Massacre* are six naughty boys, knocked over by an individual resembling the Shadow. *La Loterie Parisienne* is a wheel of fortune with an assortment of lots, and the wheel can be had for 5 fr. 90 c or 8 fr. 75 c. There are lots for every infantine taste; for boys, for girls, for Nou nou (nurse) and Bobonne (nursery maid). *Le Jeu du Clown* claims to be *mouvementé* and exciting. So does the *Pagode Japonnais*, or game of skill. *Le Jeu d'adresse* is in the nature of Aunt Sally, but more complicated. Prince Bismarck has gone clean out of Toyland. Eleven years ago he was a great subject for those puzzles known as "questions." He always ended in being covered with confusion. The artificer of the puzzles had no idea what good prophets they were going to prove. Toy makers take no notice of the Kaiser, unless in a sputtering and eccentric rocket on wheels. His Imperial Majesty wears a crown. He rides on a tin cannon which you set on the ground, and press with a rod a push-button in the top of the crown. An explosion ensues. The Kaiser is seen to ignite, and off he goes on wheels, zigzagging, fizzing, sparkling, blazing, crackling, until quite used up. "Irreverent," you say. So it is; but reverence is not to be expected in the toy world of Paris. I fancy the numerous "massacres" were suggested by the rare echoes that reached the French public of the Armenian atrocities.

The question toys want fun. They were better when Bismarck was a butt for spite. "La Chèvre du Petit Bergé" shows how caterers for the Child's Kingdom look alive. Le Petit Bergé is the one grandchild of President and Madame Faure. The doting grandmother provided him with a goat carriage to draw him up and down the Elysée gardens. This draft animal was housed with some foxhounds—in a specially built chalet. They seemed to get on pleasantly with the goat before they were taken to Rambouillet to be trained. The training may have stimulated carnivorous appetite. However, one

morning little Bergé wanted to go out driving in the palace garden. When the goat was sought in the chalet its horns only were found. The dogs had devoured it in the course of the night. The "question" is *où est la chèvre?* The answer is given on an illustrated card. It gives a tree, a chalet, a statue, some shrubs. In looking closely one sees a Madame fair, beating dogs with her parasol handle, and a mutilated goat.

The cinématographe has been the lion of most Christmas entertainments. It was sent to children's and incurables' hospitals by President Faure. Of course, the personages and scenes were Russian, or culled from the streets of Paris and the gardens of Versailles during the Czar's and Czarina's visit. It must have all seemed wonderful to aged gammers and gaffers. Very old people here are classed by the Department of Public Charity as "incurables." The President last week was received by five hundred men, whose ages ranged from seventy to ninety-eight, and by eight-hundred women of the same ages. The poor things appeared to him so greatly behind the time, that he sent a cinématographic artist to bring them up to date somewhat. An old woman, weak in the head, nearly died of fright. She was thrown into a shiver by the sight of action at once violent and silent in its operation as a fall of snow. The first day the Czar and Czarina were in Paris the silence of the multitude was almost cinématographic. It was the only time in my life when I saw a vast and noiseless multitude.

Have you ever thought that there is more than meets the ear in the hackneyed couplet,

> Souvent femme varie,
> Bien fol qui s'y fie?

When reading it the other day in the Hugo correspondence a new light fell on it. Francis I. surely had no experience of feminine inconstancy in the bright Chambord days. It was at Chambord that he wrote with a diamond the couplet on a window pane. Might he not have wanted to slip from the toils of a designing beauty, who vowed eternal devotion in order to obtain a corresponding answer? If she were to be his eternally, why should he not be hers for evermore? She declared love that could only end with life—if so soon. No lover's oath, but a knight's promise, would be what she wanted. Francis had the long, dipping nose of a cunning person. He was not a man to strike a woman so much as with a rose. So he sought escape in finessing. I thus read the couplet:—"I doubt not, fair lady, your sincerity; but doubt your self-knowledge." "I leave you full liberty to be inconstant; be as good, I pray, to me." The couplet was playful, polite, delicately turned. As it was impersonal, nobody could take offence. It was also an answer in full to a *crampon*.

Fine gentlemen sometimes stoop low to conquer money. An instance has been furnished by the suit of Mlle. Caroline Letessier *v.* Baron Georges Heckeren. The fair suitor is one of *les disparues de l'Empire*. She ranked with Anna Deslions, Cora, Skittles, and Mme. Musard among the beauties of Imperial France, and was supposed to have sucked as much out of Turkish loans as Mlle. Léonide Leblanc. Khalil Pasha was one of her open admirers. Baron Georges Heckeren ranked among the devoted ones. He apparently rolled in wealth, as did also his father, the hero of the fatal Pouschkine duel, and the fire-eating defender of the Emperor in the Senate. There was no family fortune. But the Emperor was a source of wealth to every one who could establish a claim to his gratitude. As Baron Heckeren *père* rallied to him before the Coup d'Etat, he was able to make good such a claim. The Empire down, evil times had to be faced. M. Vandal, the late Baron's son-in-law, was deprived of the situation of Postmaster-General. The sensational salary of £30,000, of course, dropped, and other perquisites with it. But after the Duc Decazes became Foreign Minister, and Bonapartists entered the secret counsels of Marshal MacMahon, there were fine opportunities for the Heckerens to make money on the Bourse. From the documents read by Mlle. Letessier's counsel, it appeared that she and M. Georges Heckeren entered into a speculative partnership. The lady stood more than well at the Bank of France, and was able to pay up heavy differences when things did not go well. But things went very well in the early days of the Moral Order Government. The war scare of 1875, got up by Bismarck's reptiles, his favourite Berlin banker, and a French Minister, brought the Heckeren-Letessier firm a clear gain of £80,000. Luck, however, changed, because there was a new deal for the great political offices. The Heckeren-Letessier partners had heavy losses. Caroline then lent £13,000 to her associate. He gave her a receipt, which showed that he intended to play on the Bourse with the money. Did she know that judges could not trouble themselves with a debt of this kind? The Baron said she did, her counsel said she did not, and, as what was written was written, the Court washed its hands of the matter. He could only tell her of losses when she claimed the heavy sum. They quarrelled and made up, quarrelled again, were reconciled, and at last fell out for good. In one of the intervals between the tiffs, she entrusted him with railway shares and Egyptian bonds, valued by her notary at £16,000. The stock was to be made use of by him as a gage for a loan which Oppenheim and Alberty had agreed on. It is needless to say what steps were taken to prevent the fair creditor being barred by limitations. She was a claimant for the £16,000 during twenty years, and at last had to appear as plaintiff in a hotly defended action to enforce repayment. It was pleaded that the loan was contracted at Oppenheim's to facilitate gambling transactions. This did not appear, however, and the Baron finds himself obliged to restore to Caroline her bonds and shares or their equivalent.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE following letter, Dear Lady Betty, has been delivered to me by mistake:—

"Eaton-square, Monday, December 28, 1896.

"Beloved Belinda,—We have been spending Christmas quietly in London, for since father became interested in financial stock he cares nothing for the farm stock, which formerly monopolised his attention. He has invested his soul, his heart, and his intelligence in the City. We are expecting the dividends with anxiety.

"On Christmas morning we all went to church, where Mr. Latimer preached an admirable sermon, founded upon the text, "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men." As the text pointedly omits to mention goodwill toward women, I felt free to indulge in uncharitable thoughts concerning those of my sex who formed part of the congregation. How unhappy Eve must have been when there was no other woman upon the earth to criticise! To make the matter worse, there was only one man for Eve, and that man was her husband!

"Christmas is, indeed, a glorious and devotional festival! It is most pleasant to see that even the very poorest enter into the spirit of the feast. For several days it has been impossible to leave the house, as the streets have been crowded with staggering, shouting, and swearing men, women, and children. And there are those who pretend that the English take their pleasures sadly! Either dinner disagreed with dear papa, or his devotional emotions had upset him, for he became quarrelsome, and hurried away to the club. This and the sudden illness of my brother Bertie slightly disturbed an otherwise especially happy Christmas. Bertie was taken ill on Sunday. The doctor says that he is suffering from a severe attack of D.T., but how he can have caught it we cannot conceive, for Bertie always reads the *Sportsman*, never the *Telegraph*.

"In a modest manner I have striven to assist the necessitous. My dressmaker, Madame Giraudin, sent her account, and wrote assuring me that she was being terribly pressed by her creditors. Poor woman, it pained me very much to be unable to discharge the debt; but I sent her three new customers, the Garrenden girls, and told Madame Giraudin to charge them double the usual prices, as they are very rich. Thus, my dear, by taking a little trouble, and with a little ingenuity, each one of us can do much good—by proxy! Ah! Belinda, I do wish you would give more of your time to charitable objects and less of it to the pursuit of pleasure! No doubt you require the whole of your allowance to dress in a manner befitting the position in life which you have been called upon to occupy. But money is not everything. Why not organise occasional concerts for the entertainment of the villagers upon the estate? It may be practically impossible for you to feed the hungry or to clothe the naked, but you can sing to them.

"Good-bye, my darling. I wish for you a most happy New Year, and I hope that 1897 will bring you much spiritual profit, much personal pleasure, and much temporal prosperity.—Your ever affectionate friend,

"Genevieve.

"P.S.—By the way, did you not tell me when we met last that your dear father had invested the greater part of his fortune in the Cleopatra Valley Consolidated Mines? They tell me the whole affair is a fraud, and that criminal proceedings are to be taken against the promoters. Good-bye again, dearest, and a Happy New Year to you."

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On Wednesday there were forty-seven deaths announced in the obituary column in the *Times*. In eight instances the age of the dead was omitted. In twelve, those who had died were under seventy. The remaining twenty-seven had died at the age of seventy or beyond it. The united ages of the twenty-seven amounted to 2,117 years, so that if they had lived consecutively instead of contemporaneously, they would have in twenty-seven generations united us to a period two centuries prior to the Christian era.

* * * * *

There is room for a book to be called "True Fairy Tales." One of these stories has excited much interest upon the Continent. Some years ago a young and very rich American woman married a foreign Prince. They did not "live for ever happy afterwards." Recently the youthful Princess fell in love with a Tzigane—otherwise a gipsy. The lady has left her husband, and, with the Tzigane, and wearing £200,000 of jewellery, has gone to live in the mud hovel which is his home! Mr. Olney might find a means of extending the elastic Monroe Doctrine so as to make it a national matter for a gipsy to interfere with an American Princess—and with two hundred thousand pounds' worth of American jewellery! Anything may be done with the miraculous Monroe Doctrine—with the exercise of a little ingenuity.

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The New Patriotism is "Mammon and Gammon."

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The Prince of Wales was anxious to organise a Naval Exhibition at the Imperial Institute to commemorate the completion by her Majesty of the longest reign upon record in the history of this country. Those who have to advise the Prince in the matter, however, have opposed the proposal, and the Prince has reluctantly abandoned the scheme. It is possible that there are many serious objections to now repeating an exhibition which some years ago was especially successful, and was a source of much entertainment to millions of people. But these objections are not obvious to those who are not behind the scenes in the matter. The modified Naval Exhibition which the authorities are organising at the Imperial Institute, and which is to be opened in the spring, must prove a poor substitute for the magnificent entertainment that the Prince desired to promote. It is difficult to perceive how a "Yachting Exhibition" can be made to commemorate seriously a reign which has been marked by such momentous changes as have occurred in the build and fortification of our men-of-war. The appointment of Sir Alfred Jephson to a position of power at the Imperial Institute has given general satisfaction. It would be a pity, therefore, if Sir Alfred were to fail in his first undertaking at the Institute. The British public is resolved to give in 1897 a loose rein to its appetite for amusement, a circumstance which is not to be wondered at, seeing that it will then commemorate an event unparalleled in the history of the nation. The authorities might consider this with the view of meeting the legitimate wishes of the public.—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE National Hunt Committee ought to prohibit any races whatever of less value than £50 (£100 would be greatly preferable), and whenever the entrance fees produce a surplus, the amount should go either to the winner or to the second and third horses. It is a proof of the scandalous apathy and stupid unconcern of this ridiculous tribunal that such surpluses are still allowed to be grabbed by race managers, whose cupidity, as a rule, is notoriously insatiable. This abuse was rectified by the Jockey Club, so far as meetings under Newmarket rules are concerned, several years back, thanks to the repeated protests of Truth against the iniquitous system which had so long prevailed on the turf, and a similar reform ought years ago to have been carried out by the National Hunt Committee. The fact is that when an alteration of this description, which deals with the general laws of the turf, is passed by the Jockey Club, it ought, *ipso facto*, to be adopted by the National Hunt Committee. It would be an enormous benefit to every one who is in any way concerned with either flat racing or cross-country sport if the laws of the turf in both departments of sport could be once for all fixed, defined, arranged, and lucidly codified. At present in many respects there is the most perplexing confusion and uncertainty, the said laws being as much hidden in darkness as those of Nature before the days of Newton.

The first Tuesday in January is the principal nomination day of the year, so far as concerns the number of races which then close. There are all the Spring Handicaps, as usual, and the Chester Cup will be far and away the most valuable of them, for there is £2,550 of added money, and the sweepstakes goes also to the winner, whereas the City and Suburban of £2,000, the Lincolnshire Handicap of £2,000, and the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap of £3,000 are all subscription races. Owners

should be encouraged to enter their horses for the next Chester Cup, as it was a very easy race to win this year. At the time the field was supposed to be a good one, and The Rush, who won, was extolled to the skies, but of the three placed horses not one has since been successful in any race whatever, and it has become clear that the starters were all a very bad lot. The Rush, however, has since been preposterously overweighted by the handicapper, who may, perhaps, entertain a more just estimate of his racing capacity next season. He has been put to hurdle racing, which is a wise policy on the part of his owner, as the horse is evidently not good enough for any of the valuable weight-for-age races, while he is overweighted in handicaps. He will, no doubt, go for the £3,000 hurdle race at Auteuil next June, which event was won this year by Count Schomberg, who is a very fine jumper. The Grand National Steeplechase will next year be worth £2,500, of which sum £500 is to be divided between the second and third horses. If there are thirty entries for the Liverpool Spring Cup, the race will be worth £1,000.

People have gone wild about long-distance races, and every one has been thrown into paroxysms of enthusiasm by the decision of the Ascot managers to add £3,000 to the Gold Cup, besides giving a piece of plate value £1,000. It is one thing to establish rich Cup races, but it is quite another matter to get respectable fields to contest them. The fact is, if there were a number of races of this kind they would be simply farmed by one or two animals, as was the case with the old Queen's Plates, for the number of horses in training which could certainly stay two miles and a half in a fast run race can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Up to the present time, the experiment of increasing the value of the Ascot Cup has not been brilliantly successful, and it is still more foolish and absurd to waste £1,500 on the Alexandra Plate. If it is desired to multiply the number of stayers on the Turf some more practical measures will have to be taken in the direction of very largely reducing the number of two-year-old races. So long as horses are so outrageously and recklessly over-worked as two-year-olds and three-year-olds, it is fatuous to expect to see a lot of stout stayers going about. The notion that stayers will be established in the land because long-distance races are being increased in value reminds me of the story of the German gentleman who jumped over chairs and sofas in order to acquire vivacity, or of Milton's country squire, who raised his park wall in order to keep out the crows. There may be a fairly large entry for the Ascot Cup, but three-fourths of the horses in the race will be no more capable of staying the course, supposing there to be a decent pace, than of flying in the air. Crackbrained enthusiasts are already proclaiming Persimmon as the winner of next year's Gold Cup, but we have yet to learn that the Prince of Wales's horse can stay this course, and many a Derby and Leger winner has utterly failed to do so. Omnium II. is the only animal likely to be entered which has conclusively proved its stamina. I observe, by the way, that one writer announces that although St. Simon will next season have no good three-year-olds to run for him, so far as can at present be seen, yet his place in the 1897 list of winning sires is assured if Persimmon keeps well, as that horse will be certain to follow in the steps of Isinglass, and win all three £10,000 races. This is all vastly fine, but it so happens that Persimmon is entered for only one of these races, the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park.

There are some twenty races closing at Newmarket next week, and most unattractive indeed are their pecuniary conditions. There are several events which have already failed to fill, and how the Stewards can be so infatuated as to suppose that they will now obtain the desired amount of patronage it is impossible to understand, as there is no real improvement in the conditions. At Ascot, besides the events already mentioned, there are the Coventry Stakes (£1,000 added), the All Aged Stakes (£300 added), and the Windsor Castle Stakes (£300 added), all to be run next year; the Triennial (£400 added), for 1898-99-1900, and the Rous Memorial (£1,000 added) for 1898. By the way, how long is the practice to be continued of giving the forfeits in this and other races of the same name to the Rous Memorial Fund, which must have received a huge sum in this way during the last eighteen years? At Goodwood there are the Cup for next year, value £800, the Ham Stakes for 1899, and the Gratwicke Stakes for 1900. Among the events closing at Liverpool are the St. George's Stakes of £2,500 (to run in July, 1899, at three years old), and the Great Lancashire Breeders' Produce Stakes of £2,000, at the same meeting, to run at two years old. The Gimcrack Stakes, at York, closes on Tuesday, but it is nonsense to give the forfeits to the fund, and it would be much better for the race if there were an entrance of £5, to be the only liability if struck out by the Tuesday after Epsom, and a sweepstake of £20 each for animals left in after that date, the entrance-money to go to the fund.

An event well worthy of the attention of English owners is the Grand Prize of Berlin of £4,000, a weight-for-age stake for yearlings and upwards, to run in July, 1899, as three-year-olds and upwards, distance one mile and three furlongs. The chances are that it will not take a flyer to win this race.

The *Sporting Times* wishes to raise £20,000 by increasing the charge of admission (now £1) to the so-called Royal Enclosure at Ascot, and would give this sum to the Cup, which would be a thoroughly idiotic waste of money, for no larger or better field would be attracted than now goes to the post for that event. If £20,000 were raised in this or any other way it may be hoped that it would be devoted to a general strengthening of the programme, and, above all, the Hardwicke Stakes should be made a £10,000 race. The sale of the Royal Enclosure tickets is, however, a perquisite of the Master of the Buckhounds. It would be a salutary change at Ascot and other great meetings to charge £5 for paddock tickets.

Whittier has been relegated to the stud. He was a very speedy horse, but could not stay, an easy mile being the length of his tether. His career on the turf was not brilliantly successful, and it was lucky for the speculative public that he was not engaged in last year's Two Thousand and Derby. His great misfortune was his defeat for the Eclipse Stakes by Le Justicier, who got well away, and fairly "slipped" the field. If the French horse had ever been caught he would have been beaten.

The case of Mr. Jackson and the Football Association still continues to agitate the sporting press. The attitude of several correspondents in the papers is very peculiar. Nearly all of them clearly give vent to personal spleen against Mr. Jackson, while not one ventures to suggest that the Council can give to its resolutions the force of laws. The action of the Council has their full approval, in fact, simply because Mr. Jackson has, they believe, been given a smack in the eye. Besides, did not the team of Old Internationals in which Lord Kinnaird, the President of the Association, was playing, get permission to play against Charterhouse School? This is an argument that one hears. Well, it proves nothing more than this, that, for some reason or another, the President saw fit to get a permit that he was not legally compellable to get. If the Council and its supporters would show by what authority, other than their own inherent greatness they have acted, then one could appreciate the position they have taken up. This has not been done. I am quite ready to admit that some rules to regulate scratch teams may be necessary. But such rules should not be passed unless the circumstances they are intended to meet render them absolutely necessary. At present the Council can inquire into cases of alleged professionalism, and can compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of the documents in the case of affiliated clubs. The circumstances which it is said call for new rules are that scratch teams play such clubs, and the promoter gets a part of the gate. If he does so he ceases to be an amateur, and

the ordinary methods of inquiry are open to the Council. But the fact that Brown or Jones have acted in this way would not necessitate the imposition of a stringent set of rules to regulate scratch teams. If, however, the practice is prevalent, then other considerations arise, and the first point to be determined will be whether or not men who can get others to play for nothing are to be entitled to make money for themselves out of the gate. The highest interests of football are, in the minds of the majority of the Council, centred in professionalism, and those who run professional teams do not work for nothing. They, like the players, get paid for their efforts. Surely, it might be argued, the true commercial spirit demands that when a man is so clever that he can get players together who will draw a gate and yet ask nothing, then this man should reap the reward of his enterprise by pocketing his share of the gate. I can quite understand the misguided individual who still retains some vague notions that nobody connected with amateur sport should make anything out of the game feebly protesting. But if professionalism is the be-all and the end-all of Association football then the closer the amateur is brought into touch with this system the better for the true interests of the game as conceived by the Council. The conclusions, then, to be arrived at on this portion of the case are that no set of circumstances calling for a limitation on scratch matches has been shown to exist, and if the circumstances alleged do exist, then the Council ought to foster them instead of attempting to suppress them, this second conclusion being, of course, the logical outcome of the Council's attitude to amateurism. It would be idle to pretend that such results would be really in the interests of unpaid players. Those who organise these teams should be as much amateurs as the teams themselves. Only it does not rest with the Council, by a crude and ill-considered resolution, to endeavour to legislate in an unconstitutional manner.

Apart from certain Christmas and New Year's handicaps, foot-racing on the path has in past winters been chiefly confined to University runners. This winter, however, a change has come over the scene. The recent change of status of Downer, Watkins, Bacon, and others has resulted in these men racing during the months when, as amateurs, one was always told it was impossible for them to get fit. Mullen, the Irishman, had a brilliant race with Watkins, who made the pace, and was then easily beaten at the end of four miles. There is no doubt there is now a fine prospect in view for professional running. It is vain to hope for a series of matches at Stamford Bridge. A few events between these champions would well recoup the L.A.C. if it offered the stakes; besides, it would be a graceful recognition of the merits of old club-men.

The Southern Counties Amateur Cross Country Association is one of those bodies for whose crass stupidity one has a profound respect. That Association was the hero of the rule that forbade a club training within the four mile radius competing in its championships. Having repealed that rule, it has to do something else foolish. It has now retired from the National Cross Country Championships, because the Northern and Midland men declined to let the race be always held in the South; and southern clubs are not to be allowed to compete. It is quite true that the arrangements in the North and Midlands have not been all that could be desired. Neither have they always been so very good in the South. It certainly seems utterly absurd to forbid a club, which may not object to insufficient dressing accommodation, going for the championship if it desires to do so. However, this is how the case stands at present, and one can only suppose that the actual athletes are quite satisfied with the state of affairs which their representatives have brought to pass. The South alleges that in the North and Midlands the authorities are incompetent to manage a National Championship. The South therefore leaves these inferior bodies to arrange the meeting, and confer the championship title, but declines to compete itself. A pack of idiots would not behave more foolishly.

MAMMON.

From MOSES MOSS *to* BENJAMIN BOSS.

Sunday.

MY DEAR BEN,—In a few days we shall enter upon the New Year, and my first wish to-day, therefore, is a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you and all friends, and readers of my letters. We enter upon 1897 with hopes that it may bring us greater prosperity than has been the case with the expiring year.

The Outlook for 1897.

Few people will, in fact, be sorry to see the end of 1896, which was ushered in by storm clouds, notably the ill-fated Jameson raid, the effects of which have acted as a wet blanket upon the markets all the year through, while President Cleveland's bellicose message concerning Venezuela had a year ago just sent a cold shiver through all the Stock Exchanges and Bourses. It is true that the United States Congress has this time supplied a Cuban sensation, but that is already fast fizzling out, thanks to the good sense of those of our Yankee cousins who are not politicians. It cannot, however, be said that bright spots have been wanting during the past year. Has not the Home Railway market braced up to a remarkable extent? Have not Home Industries come into general favour? and have not trade and commerce in this country taken a fresh start? It is to be hoped that the general improvement in trade will further continue, and there is, in fact, no reason why this should not be so, for the catalogue of misfortunes and lying rumours has been pretty well exhausted of late. International politics, moreover, look exceptionally hopeful just now, and even the ever-recurring Eastern Question does not give rise to the usual fears, as the Concert of Europe is fully maintained as regards the attitude to be assumed against Turkey. I am not going to tell you much on the subject of Home Rails to-day beyond saying that any continuance of the excellent trade conditions would promise further traffic increases and still higher dividends. Money of course has been scarce at the fag-end of the year, but, with the release of the dividends and probably of some Japanese money, rates may be expected to ease off, and thus encourage investment and speculation in Home Rails. I give herewith, in tabular form, the dividends for 1895, the first half of 1896, and the estimated dividends for the whole year of 1896, also the approximate yield on the basis of present prices after deducting the dividend from the quotations:—

—	Actual Dividend in 1895.	Actual Dividend First Half of 1896.	Estimated Dividend Second Half 1896.	Estimated Total Dividend for 1896.	Estimated Yield for 1896.
Brighton Ordinary	6 %	4¾ %	8¾ %	6¾ %	3⅜ %
" "A"	6	—	7½	7½ %	4¼ %
Chatham First Prefs	4 1/10	4½	4½	4½	3½
Great Eastern	2⅜	1½	4¾	3⅛	3½
Great Northern Deferred	1¼	—	2	2	3¾
Great Western	5⅛	4¾	7½	6⅛	3 9/16
Lancashire and Yorkshire	4½	5	5¾	5⅜	3⅝
London and North-Western	6⅜	6¼	8	7⅛	3⅝
London and South-Western	6⅜	5	8¼	6⅛	3 5/16
Midland	5⅛	5	6¾	5⅞	3½
North-Eastern	5⅜	5½	7¼	6⅜	3⅞
Sheffield	⅞	1	1¾	1⅜	2⅝
South-Eastern	4⅛	3	6½	4¾	3¼
Dover "A"	2¼	—	3½	3½	3½

It will be seen that there are still good opportunities for profitable investment to be found in the above list, Brighton "A" being a notable feature, although it is just possible that the dividend might not prove so good as estimated. Dover "A" also deserve attention, owing to the progressiveness of the line. One of the cheapest

stocks is Metropolitan Districts, which, in view of the various schemes that are likely to benefit the line, ought to stand considerably higher than 27½. Not included in the above are the Scotch stocks. These promise exceedingly well, and both Caledonian Deferred Ordinary and North British are good purchases at present prices. Foreigners have kept up remarkably well, even Spanish having further recovered from the effect of the Cuban sensation. An important improvement has come about in South American stocks during the past year, which promises to continue; and the mining market has during the past week shown such marked strength that it is pretty safe to conclude that the protracted slump has come to an end. There is every prospect, in fact, that the Kaffir Circus will enter upon a period of important recoveries, while West Australians, too, look more hopeful. The patience of holders of mining shares has been severely tried during the year 1896 by an almost endless series of misfortunes, but the very extent of the fall in prices which has been established should be a guarantee of an all-round rise now that work at the mines is being prosecuted with renewed energy, and political conditions in the Transvaal have greatly altered for the better.

The South American Market.

The year 1896 may be called one of resurrection in the South American market, and more particularly in Argentines, for advances have occurred all along the line, and business in this department has become much more active. A year ago the Argentine 1886 Loan stood at 71. It is now quoted 84¼. The Funding Loan stood at 74, and has since risen to 82¾, while Buenos Ayres Water and Drainage bonds at 67¾ compare with 62 a year ago. Still more important has been the recovery in Argentine Railway stocks, and more particularly in the Debenture stocks of the guaranteed lines. Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Debenture stock was quoted 84 a year ago, and now stands at 95½, while the Income Debenture stock at 62¾ compares with 48 a year ago, but then, as I explained last week, this Income Debenture stock is expected to receive a minimum dividend of 4½ per cent. for the past year, and may therefore still be considered an excellent purchase at 62¾. Cordoba and Rosario stocks have also experienced an important upward movement, the Six per Cent. Debenture stock standing at 95 against 76 a year ago. Then, again, look at Buenos Ayres and Pacific First Debenture stock at 108½ against 95 a year ago, at Buenos Ayres and Rosario Ordinary at 71 against 58 at the commencement of the year, and at Central Argentine at 84½ against 67 a year ago! Readers of Truth are aware that all these have been favourite stocks of mine, that many of my correspondents have bought them at the bottom prices, and that I consistently advised holders to stick to them when other scribes did their best to frighten them out of their holdings at the very lowest points. Latest advices from Buenos Ayres are to the effect that Dr. Romero, the Minister of Finance, had resigned. This probably means that, after all, the earlier resumption of the full service of the debt will take place. It is very praiseworthy that the Argentines should have a sudden attack of honesty, and they will undoubtedly raise their credit considerably by acting on it. Should the proposed step be taken, we may look for an all-round advance. Personally, I should prefer such stocks as Cordoba Central (C.N.S.) Income Debenture stock at 62¾, and Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock at 108½. But the improvement has not stopped at Argentines. Mexican Sixes, for instance, have risen from 90 to 95½. Brazilians, at 67¼ for the 1889 Loan, are but little better for the year, which they commenced at 66; and Chilians have actually declined three points to 90½ for the 1886 Loan, owing to the difficulties under which the country is labouring in connection with its financial troubles and its currency system. Costa Rica "B" bonds at 25 compare with 23 a year ago, and Colombians at 23 are considerably higher in comparison with the price of 14 a year ago; but in the case of Ecuador, a relapse of 10 has to be recorded, owing to renewed default. Uruguay bonds stand at only 44½ as compared with 46 a year ago, but they had touched 53 at one time, and the fall is due in part to the very mistaken secrecy which the Uruguayan Government has observed with regard to recent events in that country. The attempt to muzzle the Press in Monte Video was most injudicious and reprehensible. There is, however, not the slightest indication that the Government of Uruguay will not fulfil all its obligations, including the service of the Debt.

Yankees Irregular.

The view which I took of the Cuban sensation as likely to fizzle out quickly has been fully confirmed by events. The Senate has adjourned without discussing the famous resolution adopted by the Senatorial Committee on Foreign Relations, and the American people are speaking out very plainly against this ill-timed agitation. What they want is peace and a respite from political unrest, so as to be able to pursue their avocations, and work to retrieve the disasters of the past few years. It is evident, therefore, that the Jingoist senators will not be allowed to again disturb the country with their inflammatory speeches. Although quotations have not altogether recovered from the shock, they are distinctly improving, and with an abundance of money seeking investment in the States and excellent crop prospects, the outlook for American Railroad stocks is satisfactory. One of the leading American crop experts says that the crop in the entire wheat belt goes into winter quarters in much better shape than it did last year, and that the plants are well rooted, strong, healthy, and vigorous. Railroad earnings are beginning to compare favourably with last year, but too much should not be made of this. As a Wall-street contemporary says, the average stock trader operates on surface indications, and seldom if ever cares to delve for facts. It is for this reason that he rushes to sell when he finds that railroad earnings, compared with some corresponding period either more or less recent or remote, show a decrease, or reverses the operation should they reflect increases. It is a matter of indifference to him as to what caused the change; all he cares to know, and know early, is the extent of the difference, and on what side of the accounts it is. One is moved to make these observations through the fact that the Venezuela panic culminated in the third week of December, 1895, so far as low prices for stocks were concerned. The effect of the Venezuelan message on general trade and railroad earnings began almost immediately, and from December 20 may be dated the sharp falling off in railroad earnings in all sections of the States. It therefore follows that comparisons will soon be made with these poorer railroad earnings, and with anything like the revival of trade expected next year, comparisons should, and undoubtedly will, soon begin to be favourable. When it is considered that nearly the whole of the rise caused by the election of McKinley as President has been lost, it must be conceded that Yankee Rails are again at a very promising level, and any one buying Milwaukee at or near 75, Louisville at 59, Atchison Prefs. at 22½, Erie at 15, Denver Prefs. at 43, Denver Ordinary at 12, Southern Ordinary at 9¾, Norfolk Prefs. at 17, and Northern Pacific Prefs. at 23, should have a fair run for his money. The "Bears" have made the most of a few unimportant bank failures in the West and of an accident on the Louisville and Nashville line. The latter has evidently been greatly exaggerated. Canadian Pacifics and Grand Trunks have fluctuated with the American market, and are rather dull, the traffics not showing well. The Bond market has been comparatively firm, and a good deal of investment buying is going on both in New York and on this side. It will be useful at this time, when investors are looking round for suitable gilt-edged and second-class securities, to give a list of American Railroad bonds, which, notwithstanding the Cuban fizzle and other

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incidents, promise to constitute a favourite form of investment in the coming year. Considering their security, they yield a much better return than could be obtained elsewhere. I give herewith tables from two different firms, who do a large business in these bonds, and investors have thus a wide range over which to make their selection :—

First List.

Name and Description of Bond.	Nominal rate of interest.	Price at which obtainable (about).	Interest due.	Due date of principal.	Actual yield per cent., after allowing for accrued interest, rate of exchange, and loss or gain on redemption.
	P.c.				£. s. d.
St. Louis City Twenty Year	3·65	107	Jan. 1, July 1	1915	3 7 6
Pennsylvania Railway Company Consolidated Mortgage	3½	104½	Jan. 1, July 1	1945	3 8 8
Chicago City (Water)	4	110½	Jan. 1, July 1	1915	3 10 1
Alleghany Valley General Mortgage...	4	107½	Mar. 1, Sep. 1	1942	3 17 1
New York Central and Hudson River Gold Debentures	4	104	June 1, Dec. 1	1905	3 18 0
Illinois Central	4	102	May 1, Nov. 1	1953	4 1 4
St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba First Mortgage Sterling Bonds ...	4	97	Jan. 1, July 1	1940	4 2 6
Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis First Mortgage	4½	110	April 1, Oct. 1	1939	4 3 10
Manhattan Consolidated Mortgage ...	4	98	April 1, Oct. 1	1990	4 5 2
Erie Prior Lien	4	96	Jan. 1, July 1	1996	4 6 3
Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis First Collateral Trust Mortgage (St. Louis Division) ...	4	95	May 1, Nov. 1	1990	4 7 3
Lehigh Valley First Mortgage Guaranteed	4½	103	Jan. 1, July 1	1940	4 9 9
Chesapeake and Ohio Consolidated First Mortgage	5	112	May 1, Nov. 1	1939	4 11 1
Northern Pacific Railroad Prior Lien	4	88	Jan. 1, April 1 / July 1, Oct. 1	1996	4 14 5
Willmar and Sioux Falls First Mortgage (guaranteed by endorsement of the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba and Great Northern Railroads)	5	107	June 1, Dec. 1	1938	4 15 5
Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Guarantee Notes	6	106	May 1, Nov. 1	1898	4 15 9
Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis General Mortgage ...	4	84	June 1, Dec. 1	1993	4 19 0
Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis First Consolidated Mortgage	5	105	Feb. 1, Aug. 1	1944	4 19 9
Minneapolis and St. Louis First Consolidated	5	102	May 1, Nov. 1	1934	5 2 2
Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company	5	101½	Feb. 1, Aug. 1	1926	5 4 7
Lehigh Valley Coal Company First Mortgage	5	98	Jan. 1, July 1	1935	5 5 9
Louisville and Nashville Unified ...	4	79	Jan. 1, July 1	1940	5 9 6
South and North Alabama Consolidated (principal and interest guaranteed by Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company)	5	95	Feb. 1, Aug. 1	1936	5 13 2
Southern Railway First Consolidated Mortgage	5	91	Jan. 1, July 1	1994	5 14 3
Chesapeake and Ohio General Mortgage	4½	75½	Mar. 1, Sep. 1	1992	6 7 7

Second List.

Name and Description of Bond.	Nominal Rate of Interest.	Price at which obtainable (about).	Interest Due.	Due Date of Principal.	Actual yield per cent., after allowing for Accrued Interest, Rate of Exchange, and Loss or Gain on Redemption.
					£ s. d.
New York and Putnam First Consolidated, guaranteed by the New York Central	4	109	April 1, Oct. 1	1993	3 16 3
Illinois Central	4	102	Jan. 1, July 1	1904	4 1 3
Baltimore and Ohio Sterling	6	108	May 1, Nov. 1	1902	4 12 6
Baltimore and Ohio Sterling	6	114	Mar. 1, Sep. 1	1910	4 13 6
Lynn and Boston First Mortgage ...	5	103	June 1, Dec. 1	1924	5 0 3
St. Paul's Street Cable Consolidated Mortgage	5	97	Jan. 15, July 15	1937	5 9 6
Alabama Midland First Mortgage ...	5	96	May 1, Nov. 1	1928	5 9 9
Baltimore and Ohio Sterling	5	93	June 1, Dec. 1	1927	5 10 3
Minneapolis Street First Consolidated Mortgage	5	97	Jan. 15, July 15	1919	5 12 0
Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Consolidated	6	86	April 1, Oct. 1	1918	8 0 6

Personally, if I had to make a selection, I would take, for instance, a gilt-edged bond like New York and Putnam First Consolidated Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds at 109, yielding £3. 16s. 3d. per cent., and add to it a certain portion of other higher-yielding securities, such as Northern Pacific Prior Lien Four per Cent. bonds at 88, yielding £41. 4s. 5d. per cent. Lynn and Boston Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds at 103, yielding £5. 0s. 3d. per cent.; Alabama Midland First Five per Cent. Mortgage bonds at 96, yielding £5. 9s. 9d. per cent.; Baltimore and Ohio Five per Cent. Sterling bonds at 93, yielding £5. 10s. 3d. per cent.; and Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Consolidated Six per Cent. bonds at 86, yielding £8. 0s. 6d. per cent. An average return of over 5⅜ per cent. would thus be obtained, and the reasonable safety of this investment could be depended upon.

Kaffirs, Australian, and Other Mines.

There are many indications that a better time is coming in the Kaffir Circus, and through it in the whole Mining market. The continued sagging of prices has been stopped, and for the first time for many a month we have a carry-over list which shows in numerous instances slight gains in South African mining shares, while the improvement extends to a point or two in several of the Heavy stocks. I have so fully discussed the position of late that it will be unnecessary to again point out how the mining industry in the Transvaal is going ahead, how it is benefited by the larger supply of native labour, by the reduction in cost of labour, and by recent Legislative enactments, and how the political position in the Transvaal is also more satisfactory. The rumour that a claim had been advanced by the Transvaal Government on account of the Jameson raid, and that the sum was below £100,000, is false; but the amount will shortly be fixed, and the claim will then be made. This matter is, however, much less likely to interfere with the market than such spouting as Cecil Rhodes has been doing in Port Elizabeth, and which is by no means a fitting introduction for the examination which he has to undergo before the Royal Commission. A cablegram received by the *Standard and Diggers' News* reports that in the course of interviews with Messrs. J. B. Robinson and B. I. Barnato both gentlemen stated that they intended to devote themselves to the task of reorganising the mining industry, and exerting every possible and legitimate influence in the direction of reducing mining costs. They are also stated to have resolved to combat the mischievous misrepresentations circulated by interested parties concerning the attitude and intentions of the Government, and as satisfied that complete confidence in the Rand and in the future of its goldfields would shortly be re-established. This is exactly in accordance with what I predicted ever since these two millionaires departed from these shores, and as 1896 has been the year for the "Bears," so the year 1897 is likely to be the year for the "Bulls" of South African mining and land shares. In the meantime holders should stick tight to their shares, and if they wish to buy any more they can easily make their selection from the list which I gave last week. A favourable circumstance is the breaking-up of the drought, heavy rains having fallen since December 15, so that the mine dams are now all full of water. Thus we may expect that the December crushings will be benefited somewhat by the ample supply of water, while those for January should be above the average. A very favourable feature is the distribution of a final dividend of 30s. per share by the Ferreira Company, making 55s. per share, or 275 per cent. for the year. A circular is now being sent out by the East Rand Proprietary, giving particulars of the new debenture-issue of £300,000 for twelve months, which is to be guaranteed by a group against the right to take an issue of £150,000 of debentures in the Angelo Company for two years (convertible into Angelo shares at 3½ at any time during that period), and £100,000 debentures of the Driefontein Company, convertible into Driefontein shares at 2½. It remains to be seen how this new plan will be received by the public, and especially by the French holders, who have hitherto been the stumbling-block. Diamond shares have been strong, De Beers rising to 29¼ on the announcement of a dividend of 22s.,

New Jagersfontein are firm at 10½. New Bultfontein stand at 1⅛, and it is understood that a dividend of 7½ per cent. will be declared for the half-year just expired. The West Australian section has been greatly affected by the holiday time, and dealings have been reduced to a minimum, but there have not been wanting during the last day or two some favourable developments. West Australian Exploring and Finance and London and Globe Finance shares have advanced to 4⅜, and a further advance is expected. A rise to 4¼ in Great Boulder Perseverance has put up British Westralia, which are nominally quoted 4¾. Another crushing of the Great Boulder of 712 tons of ore for 2,147 oz. of gold was received favourably, and the price has moved up to 7⅝. Great Boulder Main Reef have advanced to 1⅜, in sympathy with Great Boulder. Very satisfactory was also the crushing of the East Murchison United of 618 tons of ore for 1,146 oz. of gold. These shares have improved to 1⅛, and if crushings should continue on this scale we may look for a further important advance in these. A feature of strength has also been Ivanhoe, which are better at 11¼, chiefly on Colonial buying. A further improvement in Hannan's Brownhill to 6⅞ will have been very unwelcome to the "Bears" of these shares. Lake View Consols remain in the neighbourhood of 7, West Australian Goldfields at 5⅝, and Hampton Plains are still very unduly depressed at 2¾. Most of the above Companies promise to give a good account of themselves in 1897. There are other shares in West Australian Mining Companies which are altogether at nominal prices at present, and can be picked up very cheap. Some of these deserve special attention, and I propose in the next issue to discuss the merits of those most likely to benefit purchasers at present quotations. There is yet another class of mines which has to be considered, the duffers. To many of these I drew attention at the very outset, and warned my readers to have nothing to do with them. Amongst these was the Golden Plum. I characterised this venture as over capitalised and unpromising, and never likely to prove a plum to the shareholders. For making these remarks, and for following up these criticisms, I have been much abused in certain circles; but Mr. Samuel de Lissa, in his speech at the meeting of the Ramage Syndicate (the parent Company), himself now confirms my view. He admitted that there was no denying the fact that the majority of their properties, including those they had floated, had gone wrong, mainly, he ventured to think, through bad management. Moreover, he continued, the promises held out by the experts, who had professed to examine the properties, had not by any means been borne out. No wonder Ramage Syndicate shares have fallen to $\frac{15}{16}$, although they touched at one time 6! The Golconda Gold Mines have just announced a crushing of 455 tons of ore for 1,084 oz. of gold, an average sample of the tailings assaying 4½ dwt. per ton. The following additional crushings have also come to hand:—Clyde Gold Mines, 80 tons of ore for 68 oz. of gold, tailings assaying 23 dwt. per ton; Cue "1," 350 tons for 134 oz.; Consolidated Gold Mines of Western Australia (Coongan Mine), 95 tons for 84 oz., making a total of 685 oz. from 727 tons; Menzies Crusoe, 234 tons for 471 oz., tailings assaying 15 dwt. per ton; this makes a total of 3,244 tons crushed for 7,092 oz. of gold; Menzies Gold Reefs Proprietary, 129 tons for 212 oz., tailings assaying 20 dwt. per ton, making a total of 2,272 tons of ore crushed for 3,794 oz. of gold. The low yield of the Cue "1" is explained by the fact that in order to keep the mill going some poor stone from the upper levels has been crushed. At the meeting of the North West Australian Goldfields Company, held last Thursday, very satisfactory statements were made, and it would appear as if this Company is pulling itself round. On the face of the statements of the position made at the meeting, the shares now quoted at ½ appear to be very cheap. A further crushing of 80 tons of ore for 100 oz. of gold has also just been announced, and this, with the previous recent crushing of 141 tons for 211 oz., makes a total yield of 311 oz. of gold of the value of about £1,244. Advices from the General Gordon Mine near White Feather are very favourable. Rich stone has been found in the 60-ft. level, the formation being 40 ft. wide; and the appointment of Professor Krause, who occupies the Chair of Mineralogy at the Melbourne University, as manager of this mine, is very promising. A London Register has just been opened by Messrs. Stoneham & Wethereds, Limited, the agents for the General Gordon Company, at 70, Cornhill, E.C. I welcome back from Western Australia Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., who, I understand, has conceived a favourable opinion of the West Australian goldfields. He has also visited New Zealand and British Columbia on his trip round the world, and whenever he is inclined to speak he will be able to give very valuable information on the various goldfields. Mr. Frank Nicolas, the engineer to the West Australian Development Corporation group, has also returned from Western Australia, and will, no doubt, shortly give his experiences on the mines with which he is connected, such as the Armadale, Dorothy, Orotava, &c. In other Australian mines there has been very little movement. Mount Morgan are firmer, and amongst Charters Towers shares, Mill's Day Dawn, United, and Bonnie Dundee have hardened. Bendigo New Chum and Broken Hill Proprietary are, however, lower. Croydon Consols have been firm at 10s. 6d. to 11s. A further crushing of 270 tons of ore for 1,162 oz. of gold has just been announced. In New Zealand mines a recovery to 2⅞ in Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand was the feature. On the other hand, Taitapu, Woodstock, and Komata Reefs are easier. Indian mines have been firm all round, Mysore and Nundydroog more especially advancing. In the general foreign section dealings have been nominal. St. John del Rey and Montana are slightly better, but De Lamar and Springdale have given way. The shares of the Grand Central, the well-known Mexican mine, have been firm at 2¼. The Debenture issue of the Consolidated Goldfields of Mexico, which are convertible into Ordinary shares at the option of the holder, has met with a favourable reception on the part of the public, and the debentures are quoted at 102½ to 103½, at which they still form an excellent purchase. The Secretary of the Sultana Gold and Silver Mining Syndicate, Limited, is circularising the shareholders with reference to the acquisition of a new mining property, for which an appeal is made for further funds. I see that this syndicate was registered on May 6, 1895, to acquire a mining concession in the Vilayet of Angora, Turkey; but so far the Syndicate has not set the world on fire, and it would be desirable to hear something about its previous achievements. The London General Assets Corporation, Limited, of 3 and 4, Great Winchester-street, London, E.C., is to the front with advance prospectuses and underwriting letters of the Victoria and General Mining and Finance Corporation, Limited. As they offer as much as 10 per cent. for underwriting commission, and 20 per cent. for procuration fee, it is evident that the promoters have put a great deal of loading on this concern, and personally I should perfer to keep the money in my own pocket.

The "Moses Moss" Toy Fund.

Last week I was able to announce a total of £174. 15s. 6d., and I have since received the following subscription:—

Neville A. Abrahams & Co., £1. 1s.

New Enterprises and Issues.

As usual at this season promoters have been resting on their oars, and the only prospectus so far issued has been that of the following Company:—

The Greylingstadt Gold Mining and Exploration Company, Limited (Heidelberg District, South African Republic).—This Company has been formed to acquire and work two blocks of 58 and 38 claims respectively, with mill-site and water-right situate on the farm Roodepoort, in the Greylingstadt District, Heidelberg, South African Republic. The capital is £150,000, divided into 150,000 shares of £1 each, of which 50,000 are set apart for working capital, and subscriptions are now invited for 80,000 shares.

For Mosquito Bites nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's Cloudy Household Ammonia, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings.

My Letter Box.

The following are replies to inquiries from various correspondents :—

Government, &c., Bonds.

F. C. O.—Yes, I should consider Argentine Funding bonds a good purchase now. If you wish to invest in Railway debentures, Buenos Ayres and Pacific Four per Cent. First Perpetual Debenture stock at 109 should suit yon; also as a more progressive, if more speculative, investment, Cordoba Central (Central Northern Section) Income Debenture stock at 61½. The latter are expected to receive a dividend of at least 4½ per cent. for the current year. *Quebec Bondholder.*—I should say there is every prospect of this conversion being made compulsory, if the majority accepts. *Uruguay Bondholder.*—You will have seen from last week's issue that the remittance from Montevideo has come to hand, and the whole trouble was only due to some slight misunderstanding between the Government and the London and River Plate Bank. 2. No.

Banks, Trusts, and Financial.

S. T.—No; I do not advise purchase of these American Land shares; European investors have lost quite enough in these. *Eta*—I have repeatedly explained that the Lottery bonds of Cunliffe, Russell, & Co., 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris, are dependent upon drawings only for their income, and yield but a small return. The quotations of this Paris firm are considerably above the market quotations in most instances. *Careful, Manchester.*—You ought to have nothing to do with these outside dealers, but should transact your business through a member of the Stock Exchange. *A. M. P.*—A second-class life office. *Odin.*—After the heavy fall you should hold for a recovery, which is quite possible in view of the slight general improvement which has taken place in Brazil. *Ostrich.*—I should think that you can obtain a yield satisfactory to you by investing in some of the gilt-edged American Railroad bonds, of which I give some lists in this issue. *G. le M.*—If you want to buy Lottery bonds you should do so through a respectable London firm of foreign bankers. I send you a name in your envelope. The Paris firm in question charge considerably over the market price. *J. M. L.*—I am not a general information bureau, and cannot tell you anything about the firm in question. *Brighouse.*—You cannot be a regular reader of Truth, or else you would know that I advise my readers to have nothing to do with the Provident Association of London. The promises held out in their prospectus are not fulfilled. *Felix.*—You cannot get the return you require in Trustee investments. *Nemo.*—It is impossible to tell whether the charge was justified unless you give me the exact names of the stocks. *S. W. R., Cardiff.*—I do not advise you to speculate through Douglas, Hungerford, & Williams, of 5, Copthall-buildings; you should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange.

Home Rails.

Liverpool.—The best speculative purchase in the Home Railway market is at present Caledonian Deferred Ordinary (Coras). *J. T.*—I am afraid that you are so little acquainted with Stock Exchange matters that you are bound to lose your money. As a matter of principle I cannot give the names of stockbrokers, and cannot reply by letter.

American and Foreign Rails.

Suir Island.—I do not see that you have any claim with reference to Erie Prefs. You ought to have noticed the advertisements and joined the reconstruction. You might, however, again make an appeal to Messrs. J. S. Morgan & Co. Why do you not read the financial papers? *Young Investor.*—1. Hardly any risk. 2. The dividends are paid in English money on this side. 3. I do not like the Great Horseless Carriage Company, and have repeatedly said so. *H. C. P.*—It is not likely that the value of these shares will suffer by a possible conversion, and you should hold. *Anxious, Dublin.*—You should certainly hold all your American Rails Nos. 1 to 5 for a rise. *Borth.*—This American concern has gone through bad times, and you must decide yourself whether to join the reorganisation, or have your shares forfeited. It may be throwing good money after bad, or it may not. *R. H. and W. J.*—I see no reason why as trustees you should not continue to hold shares and bonds of the Illinois and New York Central to the market value of over £40,000. The capital value is likely to improve in the new year. *Earthquake.*—I should think it would be advisable to hold your bonds. *J. A., Great Yarmouth.*—I warned my readers from the outset against these bonds, it is a pity that you did not read your Truth.

Mining Shares.

Bute.—No option but to hold both classes of shares for an improvement. *C. P. W.*—Yes, Porges Randfontein (A) are a good purchase at present price. I do not recommend a purchase of Chartered. *Mashie.*—You should hold your mines Nos. 1 to 5; they should improve. You might average Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5. *Umtoli.*—I quite agree that it is a very hard case for the Umtoli Gold Reef shareholders, but can do no more than advise them to resist the unwarranted proceedings of the Directors. *Anxious Inquirer, Wolverhampton.*—It is quite correct that Messrs. Barnato have guaranteed the new issue of shares of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment at £3. 15s. each, but this does not mean that Messrs. Barnato will buy up the old shares at this price. But with some patience you will no doubt see them reach this figure. *A. F., Glasgow.*—Both these mining shares should be held. *J. M., co. Galway.*—West Australian Exploring and Finance Deferred shares stand at about 6, and are very promising. Croydon Consols are likely to further improve, and I do not think there is any fear of a call; I prefer these to the others. You will find what you want in my letter, but I do not approve of all the low-priced shares; some of these are certainly not cheap. *J. M. H., Cork.*—I have always warned my readers against St. Augustine, and if you had read Truth regularly you would not now be a holder. *G. M. H.*—These shares are rigged at present, and I do not advise the investment. *J. J. H. C.*—Same reply regarding Umtoli shares as to "Umtoli" above. *X. Y. Z.*—These shares have given way in sympathy with other West Australians, and should be held for a recovery. *L. C.*—It is advisable to join the reconstruction, or else your shares would be forfeited. There is plenty of chance for this Company. *G. M., Leith.*—I cannot really trouble myself about the opinion of a correspondent of a Scotch paper. My view is that it is advisable to hold Buffelsdoorn. I cannot reply by letter. *V. D.*—I do not like the Mountain Copper Mining Company, and the public subscription has been very small. *Cymro.*—1. I should think there is every prospect of a recovery, and you might average. 2. No option but to hold A, B, and C for a recovery. *Salpinger.*—There is every prospect of Lake View Consols touching that price again. I do not like St. John del Rey. *Montpelier.*—I have always warned my readers against Sam's Wealth of Nations, and you really cannot expect me to advise you, as you have acted directly against my advice. *Knock.*—1. Barnato Bank shares have been converted into Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares, and the latter should be held for an advance. 2. No reason to sell now. *Price.*—1. Yes, Croydon Consols should be held for a rise. Take a good profit on the others. 2. Instead of buying Nos. 3 to 6 you should make your selection from the shares mentioned in my letter. *Dark.*—1. This is not the time to sell; you should hold. 2. Yes. 3. No recent news. *H. M.*—I advise you to await developments before buying more; the matter is now being sifted. *Bert.*—The position of the West Australian mines mentioned by you is such that you should hold for an advance; the decline is due to the general depression in this market. *Lemington.*—Amongst the shares Nos. 1 to 5 mentioned by you, I should think that Nos. 1, 2, and 5 are the most promising. I do not like the Mountain Copper Company, the shares in which already stand at a discount. Neither do I like the Brewery shares. *Yule Tide.*—1. It is probable that these shares will recover again. 2. Yes. 3. I know nothing of this concern. 4. Yes, Croydon Consols are good for a further rise. 5. Yes. *W. D., Chillington.*—You seem to ignore entirely the severe depression which has occurred in the Mining market. There is nothing in the report in question to indicate that it is a swindle.

Industrial Shares.

Hercules, Yorks.—1. Some negotiations have apparently been going on between Mr. Hooley and the English Incandescent Gas Light Company, but they appear to have come to nothing for the present. 2. No. 3. No. 4. Far too speculative. *Florence.*—In view of the uncertainty as to what will happen about the Concession it might be advisable to sell half. *R. T.*—It is quite correct that the Bagot Tyre Company's shares have received a Stock Exchange settlement for January 6. The premium now stands at 2⅜, but I cannot tell you exactly what will happen. *Littleford.*—All I can tell you is that I do not like Daimler Motor or Great Horseless Carriage shares, and have always warned my readers against them. *Wentworth.*—Yes, *Financial Times* shares are very promising. They stand at 3, and yield, on the basis of the last accounts, a return of upwards of 8 per cent. per annum. *Ayrshire.*—Very speculative. *R. W., Yeovil.*—Publishing Companies of this kind are very speculative, and I do not recommend the investment. *A. B., Edinburgh.*—A very speculative stock, and I do not care much for the investment.

Mixed Investments.

Rupee.—I am sorry to say that I cannot see my way to publishing a table giving current prices of shares. I must leave this to my financial contemporaries. *S. F., Mysore.*—I should advise you to hold your stocks Nos. 1 to 3 for an improvement. The West Australian Finance Company mentioned is likely to improve. 1. *Stuart.*—The Pittsburg, Cleveland, and Toledo, (guaranteed by the Baltimore and Ohio) Forty-year Gold bonds are redeemable in 1922. I do not know what may be done in the reconstruction. 2. A good investment. 3. Hold. *Boz.*—1. A fair industrial investment, but no catch. 2. Hold Buffelsdoorn Consols, which should recover with the rest of the market. *Gozo.*—No option but to hold all your Mining shares Nos. 1 to 10, they are well selected and likely to improve. *A. M. B.*—The bonds are good. Amongst the other shares, there is no reason for selling the three mentioned by you. *K. B. A.*—A fair investment (1). On the other hand, I do not like Nos. 2 or 3. *G. R. J.*—Hold all your shares Nos. 1 to 8 for a rise; most of the Companies are doing well. *Mansfield.*—1. A fair investment. 2. No catch. 3. Nothing against this investment. *C. E. M.*—1. West Australian Goldfields will no doubt

pay a dividend in the course of the new year. 2. Impossible to tell. 3. No. *Belvedere.*—It is a great pity that you should have gone in for British Motor Syndicate and Electrical Cab shares. I have an unfavourable opinion of these. 2. A fair investment. 3. You can easily find what you want in my letter. 4. See remarks under "Golden West Australia." *J. R.*—Yes. *Old Ebor.*—The shares Nos. 1 to 7 are promising. The Company No. 1 is now doing remarkably well. No option but to keep the others. *M. B.*—I have a favourable opinion of Bovril Prefs. (1). I do not think much of Nos. 2 and 3. Yes, No. 4 is still a promising purchase. *Gold.*—1. I advise holding Northern Territories Goldfields. 2. Yes. 3. Swift Cycles are in my opinion preferable to those mentioned by you. *J. W. G., Hull.*—I do not like No. 1 at all, 2 is a very speculative bank share, and Nos. 3 and 5 are also too speculative. *Sportsman.*—No option but to hold your shares Nos. 1 to 10 for an improvement; do not be frightened out of your holdings by such advisers. *Coras.*—I do not think there is a big "Bear" account, but the shares are very promising. Hold your American Rails and also Waterfall Estates. *Enquirer, Bury.*—You should hold your American Railroad bonds for a recovery. 2. Yes, Dunlop Four per Cent. Debentures are a good investment. *A. A. Z.*—There is nothing to be said against your investments Nos. 1 to 8, which you may safely hold.

Various Investments.

Notwithstanding all the talk about dearer money, investors have been wise enough not to throw away their stocks, and with the turn of the year there will be comparative ease and lower rates. With an almost unclouded political horizon the door is thus opened for successful speculation, if entered into in moderation. Gilt-edged securities have weathered the short period of dearer money remarkably well, and we have Consols again at 111 for the account. Neither has there been any backsliding in Colonial Government bonds or British Corporation stocks. Silver has remained in the neighbourhood of 29⅞d., and Rupee Paper is fairly steady at 62¾. The coming Indian loan has not interfered with India stock, the Three and a Half per Cents. standing at 118, and the Three per Cents. at 109. The Industrial department has been fairly active, and prices of Cycle shares have been well supported. Dunlop Pneumatic Deferred are firmer at 1⅝ x.d., the Ordinary at 1 3/16 x.d. Gladiators have had a good market at ⅜ premium, and Humber Ordinary have been steady at 1¼. New Beeston, after dropping to 2½, have recovered to 3. Swifts are firm at ⅛ premium. In Bagots some business has been transacted down to 2⅜ premium. The Motor brigade is generally on the down grade. British Motor Cars, which were offered a few weeks ago by advertisement at 3, have fallen to 1⅛. Daimler Motor have declined to 7¼, and Great Horseless Carriage to 3; but these prices are still far above their real value, and I should advise my readers to give these shares a wide berth. Notwithstanding the expenditure of much energy and money, it has been impossible, so far, to get up a motor car boom, for the very good reason that the ideal motor car has not yet been discovered. New Bovril shares are steady, and both the Deferred and Preferred stand at par to a small premium. *Financial Times* shares have been dealt in at 2⅞ to 3. At the latter price, as I have stated, they yield upwards of 8 per cent. per annum, and the new balance-sheet, which is expected to be issued early in January, will, I hear, show very favourable figures. A new committee of inquiry has been put forward by the Board of the Nitrate Railways, but its appointment is challenged by the Shareholders' Provisional Committee, at whose request the previous Committee of Inquiry—appointed on November 9—has resigned. It is desirable that all the various interests should unite in order to obtain a complete inquiry, and to rescue the Company from its present unpleasant position. A new prophet seems to have arisen, who works under the name of Clarke, Richardson, & Co., Stock and Share Dealers, 3, Copthall Buildings, London, E.C. They are circularising country investors with invitations to join their "Special Investment Syndicate." Contrary to the habit of other syndicate touts, Clarke, Richardson, & Co., admit that out of the ninety-six "Specials" they have conducted they have had five failures, leaving ninety-one successes; while the average profit obtained on the ninety-six (inclusive of the five failures) has been about 75 per cent., or 15s. for each £1 invested. It would be interesting to meet some of the fortunate clients of Clarke, Richardson, & Co., who have obtained this splendid profit of 75 per cent., in the flesh. An ingenious person is Mr. J. Herbert Wilkinson, of La Maisonette, Le Hocq, Jersey; and 61 and 62, Chancery-Lane, London, E.C.; who issues a pamphlet in which he offers to convert merchants, manufacturers, traders, and others into private or public Limited Liability Companies at an inclusive fee; and in order to gather such firms into his net, he sends the pamphlet to Congregational and other ministers with a typewritten letter headed "Village Churches—Increase of Ministerial Stipend," in which he suggests to them that as they are bound to know several tradesmen or manufacturers whom they could direct into this channel, he will give them one half of the profit he makes out of the business as and when he receives the same. I should hope that clergymen, as a rule, are too high-minded to become partners with Mr. Wilkinson in his promoting schemes. It may interest my readers to learn that the firm of City solicitors, whose name I have given at various times to readers of Truth who have been badly treated by outside brokers, have succeeded during the past year in recovering numerous and, in many cases, substantial sums from this fraternity, and amongst others they have recovered from one of the most unscrupulous of these gentry a considerable amount on behalf of a lady and her daughter, whom the outside broker in question had attempted to victimise. And now, my dear Ben, let me again wish you health and prosperity for the New Year, and may the balance at your bankers and the investments in your strong-box multiply during 1897.—Your affectionate uncle, MOSES.

Notice to Connoisseurs of Fine Dry Champagne.—Périnet & Fils' Cuvée Réservée, Extra Sec, is in magnificent condition, at Hotel Cecil, Hotel Savoy, Midland Grand Hotel, Spiers & Pond's Hotels and Buffets, and most leading Hotels & Restaurants.

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QUEER STORY.

A NEW YEAR'S EVE.

"OLD year's weeping himself out with a vengeance. Never saw heavier rain, to last. About a record—eh, Mr. Noad?"

So said the Rector, as he shook the streaming water from his hat and coat in the cottage doorway; then entering, seated himself on one side of the fire, in the Windsor chair which the goodman's granddaughter, a girl with a face like a polished apple, had placed for him.

The goodman himself was very old; so crippled and bent with rheumatism that he was unable, except by long and painful effort, to rise from his chair. He lifted his gnarled old hand to his forehead by way of a respectful welcome. And, indeed, no prince of the land could have surpassed the perfect courtesy of that salute.

"A record for a rainfall—eh, Mr. Noad?" repeated the Rector, cheerily, extending his chilled hands to the cosy fire.

The goodman uttered a sort of low chuckle, full of pitying, though well-mannered, amusement.

"Will, will!" he said. "But then you can't hreckon back ser fur as I can, zurr."

"And you can remember rain to beat this, Mr. Noad?"

"That I can, zurr. I der mind the winter zeazon of vifty-vive and vifty-six, when I wur down to Mrs. Blain's, where Varmer Green do live now; and it hrained worse nor this, nigh ivery day for six wiks; and the water in many parts wur right over the tops of the hidges. Aye, zurr, that wur summat like hrain—that wur."

The Rector smiled and nodded. He had often heard of "vifty-vive and vifty-six" before. Those two dates had apparently crystallised in the goodman's brain. Did you happen to allude in his presence to any exceptional season—exceptional frost, snow, heat, drought, wet, or what not—out "vifty-vive and vifty-six." invariably came. The goodman was very old. His memory now was often dim and hazy. And whether "vifty-vive and vifty-six"

had really been such phenomenal years, or whether he was vaguely identifying all the unusual seasons of his former life with a date which some striking occurrence had indelibly impressed upon him, was fair matter of debate. He would, however, have been a rash man who should have treated it as debateable in the goodman's presence.

The old fellow soon ceased his chuckling. A shadow seemed to settle on his wrinkled brow. He looked across at his visitor sadly, and rather wistfully. The Rector was new to the place; new, at least, as they reckon newness in that slowly-changing country village, where almost every family, from the Squire's downwards, seems to be coeval with the land on which it lives. He had only held the living for a matter of four years. But he had a kind face—a face inviting to sufferers and sorrowful—and the goodman had a burden of many, many weary years, whereof he yearned to unbosom himself. He had often been on the point of doing so before, but had not quite nerved himself to the effort. To-night, however, his yearning was to have its way.

"Polly, child—beän't it time ye wur off to help Jesse wiv the milking?" he said, turning to the young girl with the polished face.

"Yes, grandfeyther; I'll go this minute."

And, taking up an old covering of sacking and a felt milking hat, she stepped outside into the splashing rain.

"You'd never get on at all without Polly. She's your right hand—eh?" said the Rector.

"Aye, that she is. A good little myde—a good little myde. I der wish Jess wur ser good a lad."

"I thought Jess had become quite steady," remarked the Rector, always anxious to say a good word for everybody.

"Will, zurr, I doän't zay az how he be azackly onsteady. He doän't drink or hrin after the wenches. But he's a thriftless, mooning, caddling piece of it, zurr. He woän't niver do much good."

"Oh, come, I hope you are mistaken. When he grows older, he will become wiser. Boys will be boys; we were boys once, eh, Mr. Noad?"

The goodman did not answer. He was looking into the fire. The shadow had settled down more heavily upon his face. Still looking at the fire, he said, at length:

"Der you think there's such a thing as being onder a curse from God, zurr?"

"No, no, Mr. Noad; surely not. The only curses that afflict men come from themselves—from their own sins and evil passions."

"Aye! aye! Vrom their own zins and evil passions," repeated the goodman, in a dreamy voice. Then he added, after a silence broken only by the ticking of the tall clock in the corner, "You niver know'd what it wur to have a darter go wrong, zurr?"

"Thank God I never did, Mr. Noad."

"Ah, will! I have knowed it, zurr—I have knowed it."

"My poor old friend!" said the Rector, sympathetically.

"Aye, zurr. My own darter brought shame on us; and Jess wur the child of her zin."

"He is the more to be pitied, my friend. You should treat him with especial tenderness—with especial tenderness, Mr. Noad."

"I've niver been hard on him, zurr. Mebbe less hard than I oughter to hev bin. But I wur hard on his poor mither—I wur crule hard on my girl."

"Is she still living?" asked the Rector.

"Nay, zurr, nay. She died soon arter Jess wur born. She wur drowned in the floods."

The goodman spoke in a very low voice, sinking at the end almost to a whisper. Then he lifted his smock, pulled a great spotted handkerchief from his breeches pocket, and wiped his wrinkled face; and again restored the handkerchief to his breeches, before proceeding.

"It der all come back to me this evening, zurr; fur 'twas this viry night—the night of New Year Eve—that Jess's mither first returned from service. She returned onexpected; and a'most before she had spoke to me, I knowed the causes on it. It wur a night like this—worse nor this. The hrain were beating down in streams. And my girl come in pale, wiv her wit hair hanging round her face, and her clothes soaked and dripping. I think, as I der look back, that no face wur iver more piteous and wild wiv anguish. It might hev milted anybody's heart; let alone a feyther's. But it niver milted mine. I had always bin a stright man; I had always held my head up. And what I saw when I looked at her, hardened my feelings into stone. She fell upon her knees, jist theer, inside the doorway. She prayed for mercy, for kindness, for pardon. My poor girl! If I'd a' bin A'mighty God, she could niver have prayed to me more earnest. But my heart wur friz. I wur harder nor tempered steel. I took her by the arm. I ordered her to pack, and niver lit me see the face on her agen; and thin and theer I turned her out into the hrain and darkness. It wur a crule, onpitying thing. But I wur a proud man thin, zurr, as proud, I der believe, as Satan hisself. And I turned her out."

The goodman paused, never raising his eyes from the fire, and again wiped his face with the spotted handkerchief. At length, he resumed:—

"Neighbours proved kinder to her than her own flesh and blood. Some on them as found her next morning, lying by the roadside, faint and drenched wiv hrain, and a'most dead, took her in. And wivin a wik Jess wur born. They did bring me word of it. I druv them away wiv curses and hard words. I said I did niver wish to hev news or tidings of the —— agen. Aye, zurr, I did use that virry word. God forgive me, I did use that virry word.

"But not many days wur passed afore I had to heer on my child agen. She wur found drowned in the floods; and I wur fetched to 'dentify her. I shall niver forgit how she look. She wur beautiful, zurr; my little myde wur always beautiful. But in the hrist and peace of death she wur more beautiful ner ever she had bin before. She wur a smiling, zurr, wiv her lips a little parted; aye, she wur smiling virry sweetly. It wur the smile of one in trouble as hev found an onexpected friend.

"I did begin to ask myself then, zurr, what her onexpected friend must think of me. And a grit fear come over me—a fear that hev clung about me iver since. Fur I know as will as if A'mighty God Hisself had told me, that His hand is heavy upon me day and night—day and night. And zo will continue, zurr, until I die. Not that I hev been visited worse, nit so bad as many neighbours. Times hev ruled hard of late. And there's a power of small varmers, like me, as hev vailed and drifted into the House. But I hev struggled through and paid my way—paid my way. I've hed to scrape and pinch, and vight for ivery ha'porth; but I hev done it, zurr. And 'tis summat to hev lived, the dree on us, and hev kept paid up, on thirteen acre and vour cow. In that respect, as you may say, the A'mighty hev niver stricken me as he hev stricken ser many. And there's Polly—she'm a good little myde to her old grandfeyther; and Jess, if he be a mooning, caddling lad, will, he might hev took to drinking, or swearing, or worse. Aye, aye! I ain't been visited by the A'mighty in my fam'ly or business, or nowt of that. There's them as might hold I've even bin vavoured. But, zurr, I knows, all one for that, as the A'mighty's face is stiddy sit aginst me, and that I shall yit feel the heft of my Maker's hand."

"Come! come!" said the Rector, "you must not give way to those morbid feelings, my old friend. I do not doubt that God has forgiven you long ago. For you have repented sorely—have you not?—and made what amends you could by your kindness to her child?"

"Aminds, zurr? Ah! There be no making aminds to the did. Onkindness to the living may be washed and milted away during their life; but arter they are gone, that can niver be. Wur you iver in Chidder caves, zurr?"

"Yes, Mr. Noad, often."

"Aye. Then you hev seen them things they call stally tights. They's pitrified now, zurr, and virm as hrock.

Water Supply to Country Houses.—Read "Water Supply to Mansions." The *Times* says, "a practical pamphlet." Post free.—Merryweathers, 63, Long-acre, London, W.C., & Greenwich, S.E.

They wur all soft and squashy once, and any myde might hev flicked 'em away wiv a duster. But to-day a mason and a cold cheesil would hev summat to do wiv 'em. That's wot onkindness to the did is like—hard and fixed and pitrified."

"It is good for us to be humble and not to forget our past sins," said the Rector. "But it is not wise or right, my friend, always to be brooding over them. Remember, God is merciful. You say yourself that He has prospered you in your business; that——"

"Prospered?" interrupted the old farmer. "Well, yis; I suppose I must call it 'prospered.' Vorty year—vorty long year—hev I spent on this zame little varm, and each of those vorty year hev bin a year of anxious struggle and oncertainty; grinding wik by wik to scrape the hrint: always put to it for vood and clothes and vuel; sildom a month gone by but wot we wur druv up to our last ha'penny; and scarcely daring to look the vuture in the vace. Not that I'm grumbling. To hev struggled on at all is more than I've deserved from the A'mighty. But it hev bin a weary, weary life, zurr, and I hreckon He hev meant it to be zo. And I hreckon, too, that He hev hild His hand up and delayed to smite me becos He knows that a punishment iver, iver hanging over is zurely the hiviest punishment of all to bear."

Before leaving him that evening, the Rector used every effort to console and cheer the old farmer, without, however, producing much effect; for the old fellow was evidently in a morbid, nervous condition, in which reason and encouragement were alike wasted upon him. But the Rector decided to see him again in a few days, when his state of mind might be more amenable to that comfort which it was his delight, as it was his privilege, to convey to the poor and afflicted. The Rector was good and kind and simple. He was also hopelessly behind the times. He not only preached the literal precepts of the Gospel; he actually believed in them.

Early next day, while the Rector was engaged upon his morning toilet, he received a message that the parish doctor had called and wished to speak with him upon an urgent matter. Having finished his dressing with all possible despatch, the Rector hurried downstairs to the front door, where the Doctor was awaiting him in his gig—looking half-drowned in the still drenching downpour.

"Good morning, Rector. I am sorry to bring you bad news of one of your parishioners. Old Farmer Noad is dying. He wishes to see you at once. I have come on straight here from him, and have promised to take you back in my trap. There is no time to lose."

"Farmer Noad? Dying? But I will waste no time—you shall tell me as we go," exclaimed the Rector, rushing back into the hall for a hat and macintosh.

"You've not heard about the fire—eh?" said the medico, as our Rector settled himself beside him in the gig.

"Fire? No? Do you mean to say that old Noad has been—been burnt?"

"Yes, poor fellow! A shocking thing! If he had not been so crippled, he might have escaped with little injury; but as it is, he has been frightfully burned, and is now fast collapsing under the shock."

"How did the fire break out? When was it?" cried the Rector.

"It seems that one of the ricks caught first, and that the flames spread from that to the house. Little Polly was awakened by the heat and smoke about five this morning. But by that time the house was well ablaze. The old man's bedroom was in the thickest of the flames. Both the girl and her cousin Jess have been badly burned in rescuing their grandfather. But they are young and strong, and will both recover. The old fellow cannot last more than a few hours."

"I am indeed grieved to hear it. I should have thought no fire could have lived in this soaking downpour," said the Rector, shaking streams of water from the brim of his wideawake.

"No! A most extraordinary thing. Quite a phenomenal stroke of bad luck. While the fire was raging—so they tell me—the weather happened to hold up. But as soon as the engine had got it under, down came the rain again in torrents. Never did weather, even in this miserable climate, behave with purer cussedness."

"And do they know how the fire originated?"

"Yes, with tolerable certainty. It appears that the boy Jess and some of his pals were smoking out in the cowshed last evening. No doubt some of their sparks lodged in the hay. Careless young mooncalf! He deserves to be—however, I mustn't say too much, for the lad has had a sharp lesson—a lesson of which he will carry the traces to his grave."

The Rector was silent. A strange expression had come over his face—an expression of mingled excitement and awe. He did not speak another word for the rest of the drive.

When they reached the neighbour's cottage to which Noad had been removed, the Rector dismounted from the gig and knocked at the door. He was at once ushered into the room where the old farmer lay.

His face had not been burnt. But his poor arms and legs were swathed in cotton-wool; and he lay on the bed moaning softly, with eyes closed, as often a troubled child moans to himself in his sleep.

At the sound of the Rector's voice, the eyelids were raised, and the old man slightly turned his head.

"Ah! you be come, zurr," he murmured. "And hev you heerd all about 'un?"

"Yes! yes, my old friend. And truly grieved I am to find you in this case."

"Will thur! It wur hanging over me, and it hed to fall. Aye; thur be no misdoubting what this hev bin. It warn't by no accident that yest'rnight wur th' anniversy, zurr, and that Jess—her Jess—did cause the fire. Nay, and it warn't no chance that the hrain did stop jist while the flames wur gaining strength. You der mind what I told you last evening, zurr, and you can clearly zee the heft of the A'mighty's hand in this.

"But," continued the old fellow, after a short pause, speaking very dreamily. "Although I be in mortal pain and at the point to die, it doän't sim ser bad now, as it did while it wur henging over. You der mind what I said to you, zurr, about them stally-tights in Chiddar caves? Will, now, I can plainly see them milting, eh! like icycles in a March sun. I wur always tirrified before to think of dying and of meeting my myde. But I beänt tirrified to-day. I der even yearn ter meet her. Fur I der know that wot wur pitrified beän't pitrified no more, and that I'll find ne'er a stally-tight agin me in the kingdom above!"

ART NOTES.

VERY welcome, indeed, is the re-appearance of Mr. F. Cayley Robinson in Suffolk-street. Such interest of a special kind as the hundred and sixth exhibition of the Royal Society of British Artists possesses is due well nigh entirely to the inclusion in it of one of his pictures. One may not agree always with what Mr. Cayley Robinson does; one may question his method and criticise its results, but it is impossible not to be attracted by his work; and for my own part I confess to having spent more time in front of his picture than before the acre of painted canvas, more or less, by which it is surrounded. "The Foundling," as his picture is called, is none the less a disappointing work. One had hoped that Mr. Robinson after his long absence from the walls of a picture exhibition would have returned all the stronger, in an artistic sense, for his retirement, and with his style crystallised, so to speak, into individuality. But, as a matter of fact, "The Foundling" shows that he is still feeling his way along the artistic

China and Glass.—Messrs. Goode, Artists and Designers, solicit an inspection of their collection in their recently-extended South Audley-street premises, now by far the largest and most important in Europe. Messrs. Goode guarantee the excellence of all their productions, and invite a comparison of their prices with those of any co-operative stores.

path he travels. He does not yet appear able to walk boldly and erectly. His picture is full of reminiscences. As one looks at it one thinks of Millais in his early days; of Dante Gabriel Rossetti; of Fred Walker; even of Ford Madox Brown. The woman making the bed, for instance, is pure Millais. Now, this, of course, is a great pity. One would like, when looking at Mr. Cayley Robinson's pictures, to be reminded only of Mr. Cayley Robinson. Moreover, like many other of the younger and more clever artists of the day, Mr. Robinson is perverse. Especially is this seen in the figure of "The Foundling." To say that this young girl has an impossibly large head would be speaking too strongly, perhaps; but it is certainly an unnaturally large one, which means, need I add, that it is an unlovely and ill-proportioned one also. The feet, too, are unnecessarily large, to put it mildly, and are painted with the soles turned up in such a way as to make them seem almost repulsively ugly. The artist on his side may contend that his model actually had an abnormally large head, and that her feet painted from the point of view he chose for them, looked precisely as they do in the picture. To which the obvious rejoinder is that the artist was under no obligation to select a hydrocephalic model nor to paint the soles of her feet. In the old Bulwer Lytton days it used to be said that "Truth was beauty, beauty truth"; now, there is too determined an effort made to persuade us that art and ugliness are one. I must protest, too, most strongly against Mr. Cayley Robinson's cat as a wholly impossible quadruped. It is almost as far removed from nature as the conventional dragons which form the andirons in his picture. It says much, indeed, for the artist's skill that he is able to deeply interest the spectator in his "Foundling," in spite of the numerous faults that picture contains.

Mr. Rupert Bunny's contributions are also interesting, but they in no way advance his reputation. The mermaids, in his small picture near the door, are of an unpleasant and unnatural colour, a morbid, corpse-like sort of green, in no way suggestive of the inhabitants of Neptune's realm. His "Eos" (No. 103) would be more satisfactory if one could understand why it is that the boatman in the punt at the back of the picture is apparently about to "heave 'arf a brick" or a chunk of ballast, possibly, at the young lady who is tripping along the sands in diaphanous garments. If there is any allegorical or symbolical meaning in the incident, I for one am quite at a loss to understand it. The landscape painters, as is generally the case at the Suffolk street Gallery, attain to a much higher level of excellence than the figure painters and the painters of *genre*. Mr. Arnold Helcké, Mr. Tom Robertson, Mr. Terrick Williams, and Mr. Frank Spenlove-Spenlove, all do well. Mr. R. Machell is as allegorical and unintelligible as usual; and there are some odd attempts at the impressionistic method by Mr. O. Eckhardt, Mr. W. T. Warrener, and others.

The verses which Mr. Wyke Bayliss has composed and printed in memory of Lord Leighton and Sir J. E. Millais, at the beginning of the catalogue, are doubtless well meant; but I am not sure that the precedent set by their author is one to be followed. However, it is not necessary to criticise the lines here. Let it suffice to say that Mr. Wyke Bayliss apparently composes sonnets as well as he paints the interiors of cathedrals. Those well acquainted with his painting of the latter will thus be able to judge to what extent he succeeds as a poet.

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MUSIC.

AMERICAN DEGREES AND MUSICAL MILLINERY.

THREE weeks ago I referred to the fact that the English Church Union had terminated the sub-tenancy of their premises in Wellington-street, till then held by an affair called the "Church Choir Guild"—now re-named the "Guild of Church Missions." I mentioned that this step was taken owing to an advertisement that the Guild in question was "affiliated" to an enterprise in Leavenworth, Kansas, U.S.A., which pretended to grant musical degrees and diplomas *in absentiâ* at, as will be seen below, a sliding-scale of from three to thirty guineas. The whole matter has since been before the Council of the Union of Graduates in Music, a body which has at its head such men as Professor Bridge, Sir John Stainer, Professor Stanford, Dr. Hiles, Professor Prout, Sir A. C. Mackenzie, Dr. Martin, and Sir Arthur Sullivan. The Union have, I am officially informed, also communicated with the authorities of Kansas University, a quite proper institution of thirty years' standing, and vouched for by Yale and Harvard. The Chancellor of the real Kansas University, in writing to the hon. secretary of the Union of Graduates in Music, speaks in very indignant terms in regard to this so-called "College of Church Musicians, Leavenworth, Kansas," which, it is stated, is a brass-plate affair held at the private residence of the travelling agent of the Leavenworth Bridge Company. Mr. T. L. Southgate, hon. secretary of the British Union of Graduates in Music, thereupon writes me as follows:—

In consequence of erroneous statements which have appeared with regard to the action of the English Church Union in not permitting their premises to be used any longer by the Church Choir Guild, I am instructed to supply the following information for publication.

Complaints were made to the Union of Graduates in Music that the Church Choir Guild was advertised to be "Affiliated" to a College of Church Musicians in connection with a University chartered by the State of Kansas, and that the officers of the Guild were engaged in the distribution of American titles. In connection with this scheme, circulars were sent out from 35, Wellington-street, Strand, the offices of the E.C.U. and of the Guild, respecting the diplomas and degrees issued by the American institution. On investigation it was found that these were offered to members of the Guild, and to "Persons of Distinction in the Musical World," for fees varying from three guineas for a diploma, to thirty guineas for the title of Doctor of Music, and charges were set out for hoods, gowns, and caps. In a letter signed J. H. Lewis, "Provost" of the College, it was stated that no examinations for degrees has been held in England, but that some Life Fellows of his Guild had been recommended to the Vice-Chancellor for distinctions.

On inquiry, we were officially informed by the Chancellor of the Kansas University that there was no College of Church Musicians in connection with the University, and also that no such institution had ever been open for the reception of students in any city of the State of Kansas.

In the opinion of the Council of the Union of Graduates in Music, the systematic issue in this country of foreign *in absentiâ* degrees is an illegitimate traffic, calculated to degrade University Degrees and to deceive the public; and further, it exposes those who have earned true University degrees to an unfair competition. Accordingly, a memorial was addressed to Lord Halifax, the Chairman of the E.C.U., and the Council nominated from their members a Special Committee to inquire into the matter. Representatives from the Union of Graduates in Music appeared before this Committee, representatives of the Church Choir Guild also being present. Sets of the circulars issued were shown, and other evidence was presented of the practice complained of, and of the business which had been done.

On their Report, the Council of the E.C.U. terminated the tenancy of the Church Choir Guild, and required them at once to quit the premises of the Union.

This official letter opens up the whole question of *in absentiâ* degrees and diplomas supposed to be granted abroad by non-recognised bodies, and in this country by speculative or other institutions which do not possess a Royal Charter. The assertion that "Members of the Guild of Church Musicians" have been offered Kansas *in absentiâ* diplomas for the ridiculously low figure of three guineas, and the admitted fact that no examinations for such degrees have been held in England at all, tell their

own tale. Thirty guineas for a more or less valuable Kansas College (not University) Degree of Doctor of Music may be another matter; although, as I learn from the Calendar of the "Guild of Church Musicians" now before me, the possession of this valuable decoration includes the right to wear a hood of "Dark blue silk lined with golden silk." For thirty guineas the linings of "golden" silk may of course have a special meaning. Still, even for the three guineas there is a fair quality of musical millinery, those who pay this sum being authorised to wear a hood of "Black silk lined with light blue and trimmed with one inch white fur." As, however, a man can sufficiently make a fool of himself for three guineas; I really do not see, unless he be a South African millionaire and therefore careless of the dross, why he should spring thirty guineas to sport a valueless Mus. Doc. without examination.

In the "Calendar" aforesaid there are some exquisitely comical particulars in regard to musical millinery generally. The "Guild of Church Musicians" itself provides this sort of thing in great variety. There is a "Badge" boasting on the reverse side a "beautiful sketch of three surpliced choristers, with an organ in the background," which can be had at various prices from £6 in 18-carat gold, to 9s. a dozen in white metal. It is true there does not seem to be any extravagant demand for these badges, and, at any rate, by the balance-sheet, it would appear that the soul of nobody last year yearned after even one in 18-carat gold. The total receipts in this branch, indeed (including the sale of Calendars), amounted only to £4. 16s., so that the run, if there were one at all, must have been on the pewter. In the Calendar now before me (which was, by the way, supplied to a shorthand clerk for the modest sum of 1s.) was enclosed a letter signed "J. H. Lewis, Warden," and suggesting that the applicant should contribute a further half-guinea, or, as Mr. Lewis wrote:—"May I have the pleasure of proposing you a member of the Guild." There was a blank form of membership at 10s. 6d. a year, to which J. H. Lewis, Warden, had obligingly signed his name as "Proposer." There was also a blank order form in the Calendar to be signed by the Warden as follows:—

—— is hereby authorised to obtain from the Guild (at his own expense) the distinctive Hood, Cap, and Gown ordered to be worn by the Fellows.—WARDEN.

"At his own expense" is a delicious touch. Still the member should not grudge the trifling outlay for a really beautiful piece of millinery, which is officially described as "Crimson corded silk, edged with white fur, lined throughout with gold shot silk." J. H. Lewis, Warden, apparently did not care to inquire whether the gentleman who wrote for a shilling Calendar was or was not qualified for membership of a Musical Guild. As a matter of fact, the applicant was a shorthand writer wholly innocent of music, and totally unable to discriminate between Great A and a Bull's Foot. In a blood-red slip enclosed, "J. H. Lewis, Mus. Doc., D.C.L.," likewise obligingly offered to give "Lessons by post. Terms, in advance, £1. 11s. 6d. per quarter, from Silvermead, Twickenham, S.W." The shilling Calendar was, perhaps, a sufficient "lesson by post" to the shorthand gentleman in question, even if by a wholly unpardonable slip of his typewriter "Silvermead" did not come out as "Silver-need."

The "Warden and Licensed Lay Chaplain," the "Honorary Organising Secretary," the "Chairman of Conference," the "Chairman of the Board of Examiners," the "Chairman of the Executive Committee," and the "head of the London Diocesan Council" of this "Guild of Church Musicians" seems to be a sort of musical Pooh Bah, for all these offices are identified with "J. H Lewis, Mus.D., D.C.L., F.V.C.M," who, by the "Constitution," is Warden for life. Mr. Lewis, however, certainly holds no such degree as Doctor of Music or D.C.L. in any University in the United Kingdom. His fellow members of the "Diocesan Council," "F. J. Karn, Mus.D., F.V.C.M.," and "Churchill Sibley, Mus.D.," are in a similar predicament. The capital letters, indeed, with which their names are so bountifully ornamented, refer chiefly to American or Colonial enterprises, whose degrees are not recognised by English Universities. As to the mystic letters "F.V.C.M.," these simply refer to a limited liability company, entitled the "Victoria College Corporation, Limited," otherwise the "Victoria College of Music," of which "J. H. Lewis, Mus.D., D.C.L.," in the advertisement in the Calendar, is described as "Musical Director." The Victoria College of Music also has its millinery, and the proud holders of the letters F.V.C.M. are, it appears, entitled (so far, at any rate, as a limited liability company can give such a title) to wear a hood of "Royal blue corded silk lined with brocaded white satin, neck band edged with red silk." Then there is the "University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee," with which Mr. Lewis is, or was, connected, and where the Mus. B. sports a hood of "Black silk lined with white and trimmed with blue," while the Mus. Doc. is resplendent in "Scarlet cloth lined with Virgin Mary blue silk, edged with a small white silk cord." Then there are the "Musical International College," which is another private speculation, of which Mr. Lewis is "Vice-Principal," where the hood is of "Purple silk (or poplin) lined with white silk, and edged (an inch) with the same material;" the College of Church Musicians, London, another Lewis enterprise, whose members sport "Dark slate silk lined with light-blue silk, and edged as Oxford M.A." ("Hood, price £2. 2s., the gown price £2. 2s., the cap 7s. 6d., can only," says the advertisement, "be obtained at the College," which seems a glorified draper's shop); and the limited liability company known as the "London College of Music," where the licentiates wear "Black silk lined with light-blue silk." Trinity College, Toronto, whose *in absentiâ* degrees raised such sturdy protests a few years ago, sports "Scarlet cloth lined with violet silk," an extremely modest apparel compared with the violent colours of some of its more pretentious competitors.

On the other hand, the University of Toronto, which is the real and legitimate university of the province, has no costume for its doctors of music, and, indeed, I believe it grants no such degree. The better class American Universities, also, have no distinctive habit for their doctors of music, even if they grant the degree at all, and in this honourable non-costume list are our own Royal College of Music, Yale University, the University of New York, the University of Chicago, the University of Boston, besides Colonial colleges, such as the University of Sydney, the University of Adelaide, the University of New Zealand, the University of Tasmania, and the University of Ottawa.

Although sensible men will laugh at this ridiculous assumption of millinery by musicians or shorthand clerks; it is nevertheless pretty obvious that there is a demand for such feminine distinctions, for otherwise the organisers of private speculations would not take the trouble of supplying it. In cathedrals, where surplices and gowns are worn, the organist who happens to boast a bonâ-fide University or Canterbury degree is, of course, by law and custom fully entitled to sport a costume which might more justifiably be worn by his wife. On these vanities a good deal is frequently spent, and it is said that the gown and hood worn by Professor Bridge on State occasions at Westminster Abbey, and subscribed for by a number of admirers, cost more than one of Madame Patti's dresses. This, however, is a distinctive hood and gown worn by a musician who has honourably passed his examination at the University of Oxford. For others who obtain the so-called *in absentiâ* degrees, and with little or no other test than the payment of three guineas, or, for the matter of that, thirty guineas, the assumption of gowns and hoods in various colours is vastly absurd. A fool's cap is quite as legally bestowed, and it would perhaps possess an even more pregnant meaning.

After all there was a modest sort of operatic performance by the Guildhall School students before they broke up for the holidays. Mendelssohn's "Son and Stranger," written for a family gathering at his own

house on his parents' silver wedding, was intended to be played by amateurs and, therefore, should not have been above the means of students. Except as to the prima donna, who was much out of tune, most of them sang well, although, from an acting point of view, the show was a wretchedly poor one, and here the reform which every one expects from so sensible a man as Mr. Cummings will probably come in. The chief exception was Mr. Thesiger, who, in Mendelssohn's operetta, played the part of the old man who in the trio has to sing only one note, F—a note which Mendelssohn's unmusical brother-in-law, Hensel the painter, forgot at the original performance in 1829. Afterwards Mr. Thesiger, a member of the legal family of Chelmsford, played the rôle of the Learned Judge in "Trial by Jury" remarkably well. In "Son and Stranger" the best vocalist was Miss Edith Clegg, who sang the contralto part of the mother.

The only concerts of the week have been those given at Christmas, mostly at Queen's Hall. Mr. Robert Newman must have been a little disappointed at the attendance, but then on Christmas Day a concert audience is more or less a doubtful quantity. On Boxing night there was the largest attendance yet known at the Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts, and big houses were likewise drawn on Sunday afternoon (when Beethoven's symphony in D was given, and Vieuxtemps' violin concerto in D minor was well played by Mr. Ferdinand Weist Hill), and on Sunday evening for Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise."

In regard to the recent concert by Mr. Bantock and his brother musicians of Tooley-street, that gentleman has been considerably chaffed for referring contemptuously to the "commercial" spirit, whereas he fixed the price of his stalls at half a guinea. The assertion has thereupon been made that Mr. Bantock was helpless, and that the proprietors of concert rooms, backed by concert agents, regulate the prices of reserved seats, and insist upon high charges. So far as Queen's Hall is concerned, this statement is false, and is, indeed, supremely ridiculous. Mr. Newman himself frequently gives concerts with threepenny or sixpenny seats. It is, however, I believe, a fact that at certain unlicensed concert rooms where the place is offered gratis to the young concert giver, the ridiculous half-guinea stalls are insisted upon. And it does not really matter, for at unlicensed concert rooms nearly all the audience as a rule are deadheads.

The case of Vallon *versus* Lansdowne Cottell, which should have been heard this month, was postponed until Tuesday, January 19. Mr. Cottell, who was present at the December hearing, I believe proposes to submit himself as a witness, and I sincerely hope, for his own sake, that he will. Meanwhile his advertisements of "free scholarships" are still appearing in the daily papers, but those who, after the truth has been so plainly stated, are taken in by such humbug almost deserve to lose their money.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Christmas was much mitigated to me this year by the lovely table decorations that helped to make harmonious the inevitable family dinner. This dreaded repast took place at the Pater's and Amy's and Charlie's joint abode, and even Aunts Tabitha and Jemima relaxed from their unbending attitude to the world in general, softened by the charm of Maud's baby, now becoming fairly accustomed to the trials of teething. He only alludes to them occasionally in a mild and subdued manner, by endeavouring to get his whole fat hand inside his mouth, apparently in the effort to wrestle with the unseen, malignant dolour.

Maud had prepared a charming scene for us. The dining room has pink walls with a deep dado of brownish red. Above this is a line of etchings mounted on cream-coloured paper of a rather warm tone and framed in enamelled wood of the same tint. The electric lights are arranged in a way that brings out the etchings to the best advantage.

So much for our background. Now for the table. Down the centre was a drift of rose-pink and silver-embroidered gauze, in itself a delicious bit of colour and texture. It was bordered with long trails of smilax which passed under miniature arches of holly and mistletoe. In the centre of the table rose a small ivy tree, hung on all the branches with peals of tiny silver bells which tinkled with fairy music at every movement of the guests. Trails of smilax hung from candelabra to candelabra, all down the table, tied with pink ribbon, and the candles were shaded with pink. The small vases at the corners were filled with pink roses and brown ivy, and at the plate of each diner lay a "buttonhole," consisting of a rose and an ivy spray. Pink-shaded lamps and baskets of flowers, chiefly pink tulips, palms, and ferns, tied up with pink ribbons, and wreathed with smilax round the tall handles, stood on the sideboard and on the writing-table and at other points of vantage through the room.

The soft brightness of all this was most refreshing and inspiriting, and Maud was much congratulated on the effect. I was fain to confess that the dear old room had never looked even half so pretty in the days of my vicarious rule. I am sure the beauty of it all had something to do with the surprising amiability of every body. I do not think there was a single conversational back-hander. No! Not one. And at a family party, too.

Listen to this delicious dress, dear. Black satin skirt, pink Liberty satin blouse with folded belt of almond green. Boléro of openwork jet, sleeveless, and cut away over the blouse, besides being short enough to show the puff of it above the high belt.

Here is another. Princess dress of turquoise velvet, buttoned down the left side with cut-steel buttons placed on the inner side of a band of sable. Collar of palest green-blue satin embroidered in silver and steel and edged with sable. Sleeves slashed with the pale blue and the slashes bordered with pearls.

Makes one want to ask for more, like Oliver Twist. Don't you think so?

This year saw a tremendous boom in marriages, and judging from the imminent fashionable weddings, announced to the number of 200 or so in the *Court Journal*, the New Year will lead off to a very similar tune. One of the smartest of those to take place is that of Captain Milner, Scots Guards, and Miss Evelyn Rowley, an Irish girl, granddaughter of the second Lord Langford. The wedding is fixed for January 19 at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge. Mr. Coningsby Disraeli's marriage will be an interesting one. The bride is Miss May Silva. Lord Charles Bentinck's marriage with Miss Grenfell will bring together whole cohorts of smart folks.

I hope Ninety-seven will not be a record year of broken troth, and of consequent announcements that marriages arranged "will not take place." The present year has been rather a naughty one in that respect. I wonder if the fact of its being Leap Year can account for it in any way?

I wonder what Dame Fashion is going to do for us in Ninety-seven? She has been rather kind this year, relieving us of much irrelevant redundancy. Think of the huge afflatus of our sleeves, as worn to the very end of Ninety-five. And skirts, too. Their width is not very much lessened, it is true, but the horrid stiffening wherewith previous years have more or less afflicted us, has almost disappeared. Late in Ninety-five I found that

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For 10 days only. REDFERN'S SALE, commencing Monday, January 4th. All their past Season's Model Gowns, Coats, Mantles, Millinery, &c., including some excellent bargains from their Paris house, will be offered for Sale, which should interest purchasers.—Entrance 27, New Bond-street, W.

8s. 6d. worth of horsehair had been introduced into a gown of mine and duly charged for in the bill. Eight-and-sixpence-worth of weight and inconvenience, Amy, dear. And that burden is cast behind us. Only the Royal Family has its gowns stiffened with horsehair now, which proves that it is quite an obsolete mode. The Princess of Wales and her daughters never adopted this ridiculous fashion, but the other Royal Princesses and Duchesses appear to follow Fashion humbly from afar, as though they feared to come too near.

The huge flower that is now an indispensable feature of smart evening gowns, is quite as large as the fashionable pocket-handkerchief, which is some eight inches square. The funny part of the big blossom is that in Paris the complexion of the evening belles is made up in packets and sold with the flowers, to suit the various tints. It must seem odd to order a floral parure in tones of orange and saffron, with a parcel of the best complexion en suite.

How would you like to be a weaver? I see that it is proposed that ladies who are in need of a remunerative occupation should be trained up to weave rich silks by hand. Oddly enough, it seems that this is quicker than power loom work. I have several times seen hand-weaving carried on at silk exhibitions, and, from that experience of it, I should imagine that the chief objection would be found in the noise. It does not resemble any other sound that I ever heard, but consists of a hard, wooden, intermittent click, which would be difficult to reconcile with any other occupation carried on in the room, even thinking. But one wonders how it comes that hand-work could possibly be swifter than that of machinery. Perhaps it consists in the enormous number of bobbins used in elaborate brocades in which twenty or more colours and shades are introduced. Girls from fifteen upwards could earn from fifteen to twenty shillings a week in this silk weaving, and it appears to be the only kind of employment in which there is still a demand for workers. Do you know anybody who would like to essay it?

The Crystal Palace has Wulff's Monster Circus as an attraction for Christmas this year, the second part consisting of a gorgeous spectacle—a tournament of the olden time, illustrating the magnificence of the fêtes given by Louis XV. A great toy fair has also been arranged in the north nave, and there is a picturesque representation of the quaint old houses of Nuremberg, where the toys come from. These attractions ought to induce crowds of youngsters to perform the rather chilly journey that divides the Palace from London. Don't you wish that we could persuade English manufacturers to turn their attention to the production of toys? It seems such a pity that, with our working classes needing money so very badly, especially throughout our bleak and inconsistent winter, we cannot manage to retain some of it in our own tight little island. Mr. Humphreys, of iron-building fame, made an offer some time ago through the papers of a weekly cart-load of wood to any one who would institute a thoroughly practical technical school of toy-making for boys and girls. I believe he had not one single reply. Now, here's a good work ready to the hand of some philanthropist with leisure and just a little money. The concern would certainly be eventually a paying one, and it would only need funds to give it a good start. Every year toys are more and more unsatisfactory. All the dealers are unanimous in this opinion. If that man who causes two blades of wheat to grow where but one has grown before is the greatest philanthropist, surely he who institutes a new industry in an over-crowded little country like ours would also deserve some meed of praise.

Richard has been reading to me a long account of the condition of the sealskin trade. It appears that it is not particularly satisfactory, but I fancy that view is from the point of sellers. The curious circumstance is that there are hardly any orders this winter from American dealers. Now, American ladies are well known in London to be the purchasers of the most expensive and handsome sealskin coats. Whenever we have seen anything particularly elaborate and costly in this line we have always been told that it was an order for an American lady. Do you think that seal is being superseded in the great continent by sable? Or, what suggestion can you offer to solve the mystery? It is inconceivable that the mock electric seal could possibly be preferred by women whose sartorial instincts are so splendidly developed as those of our American cousins. Richard says that there is some idea that certain firms are "holding back" in sealskins. Does this mean a coming "corner" and, consequently, a rise in price next year? If so, we ought to take old Time by the forelock and invest at once while the fur is comparatively cheap.

Did you see that case in the papers the other day where two ladies claimed the same umbrella, both evidently in perfectly good faith, as the magistrate remarked? One had bought hers near Charing Cross for forty-five shillings in 1888, and the other had invested in an exactly similar one for forty-seven and sixpence in 1891. The silver handle resembled the head and neck of a stork. Both ladies were customers of the same grocer, and one of them left her umbrella in his shop, going on the following morning to inquire about it. Oddly enough, the other lady visited the establishment in the interval, and, seeing the umbrella, remarked that it was very strange, but it was hers. She had lost it eighteen months before. When the real owner asked for it, the lady who supposed herself to be its proprietor refused to give it up. Don't you think the best moral of this story is that one should always have a particular private mark affixed to portable property of this kind? In case of doubt the description of the distinguishing sign would at once settle any vexed question.

In the following recipe the word terrine is employed, as it is these Eastern receptacles with lids, like those for pâté de foie gras, that are used in France, but the mixture is equally good in a raised crust, like a pork pie, should no terrine be at hand. It is called terrine, or pâté de lièvre:—

Bone the hindquarters and part of the back of a hare, about a pound and a half in all when boned, and cut the pieces evenly. Have ready ½ lb. of sausage meat, or what is better, ½ lb. of fresh lean pork and ¼ lb. of bacon, mince the pork and bacon as fine as sausage meat, put in a basin and mix well with a glass of Madeira or sherry and one of Cognac and some salt and pepper. Now line the bottom of the terrine with thin slices of bacon, and over that put a layer of the chopped pork or sausage meat about an inch deep, a slice or two of ham if at hand, then a layer of pieces of hare, then a little sausage meat and hare again, till the terrine is full, taking care the top layer should be sausage meat. Put on the top some very thin bacon and two or three bay leaves. Put on the cover and fasten it well with a paste made of flour and water so that no steam escapes. About three hours in a rather slow oven is sufficient to cook it, then take it out, take off the lid and fill up with the following jelly, which should have been making while the rest was cooking. Take the bones of the hare and put in a stewpan, with shalot, thyme, bayleaf, and half water, half white French wine, boil for about half an hour, strain and clear, and either add to it a little good stock in jelly, or else a more ready way is to add two or three sheets of gelatine, previously soaked in cold water, and a good teaspoonful of Liebeg—for it is not always that good stock is at hand, so this is a good substitute. Pour this into the terrine, and put by to get cold. It is delicious for luncheons. The fore part of the hare can be used for soup, and would even make a small dish of jugged hare; in French cooking nothing is wasted or lost, all turned to account and used.

Rolled duck is an entirely new dish:—

First, having plucked and cleansed the duck, immerse it for two days in a pickle made as follows:—Put 2 lb. of salt, 4 oz. of moist sugar, a sprig of thyme, parsley, and marjoram, a bay leaf, a shallot, a clove of garlic, a teaspoonful of peppercorn, a blade of mace, two cloves, and a gallon of water into a stewpan; bring these ingredients to the boil, simmer five minutes, and allow it to get quite cold before putting in the duck. Wash and drain the bird, cut off the wings and feet, open it down the back, and,

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with a small sharp knife, take out all the bones, draw the wings and legs inside the body and cover the interior with a layer of forcemeat, which is made as follows:—Scrape the breast of an old hen and the flesh of a small white rabbit, in all about 1 lb.; pound it thoroughly, add 6 oz. of scraped fat bacon and 4 oz. of butter, pound again, then season with a good pinch of cayenne pepper, a teaspoonful of salt, a saltspoonful of pepper, and the yolks of four eggs. Work the whole thoroughly together and it is then ready for use. Smooth the forcemeat with a palette knife dipped in hot water, and garnish it with slices of truffle, cooked red tongue, and the yolks of two or three hard-boiled eggs, rubbed through a wire sieve; cover the garnish with the remainder of the forcemeat. Draw the back together and sew it up with a needle and strong thread. Wring a clean napkin, first through hot, then cold water, spread it with pure lard, lay the duck, breast downwards, on the cloth, tie the ends securely and sew up the side with thread. Now put the duck into a braising pan with a bouquet of herbs, spices, carrot, and onion, cover with stock and bring to the boil on the stove; then place the stewpan in the oven to simmer for two hours. When the duck is done take it from the cloth, which wrinse and again wrap it around the duck. Press slightly with a 2 lb. weight until next day. Then draw out the thread, glaze it with some good clear glaze, dish with a nice border of croûtons of aspic jelly and garnish with sprigs of parsley.

"Apple Cake" is a Glasgow dainty. It is an admirable luncheon dish:—

You will require a round tin plate, about ½ lb. of puff pastry and half a dozen good cooking apples. Put 6 oz. of loaf sugar into a stewpan with a gill of water and boil it to a thin syrup, put in the apples, which must be pared and cored, with the grated peel of half a fresh lemon, and boil until the apple is a thick mass, then leave it to cool. Divide the pastry in halves, roll one piece into a round, lay it on the plate and put the prepared apple in the centre, roll the remainder of the pastry and cover the apple, folding the edges well under the bottom piece. Dust with castor sugar and bake about three-quarters of an hour in a moderate oven. Cut the cake into eight, corner-shaped pieces, and serve on a dessert paper. The cake, when baked, should have an appetising gloss on the surface.

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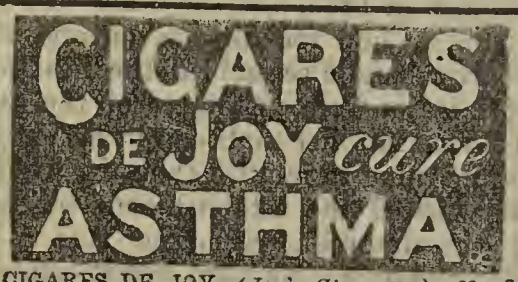

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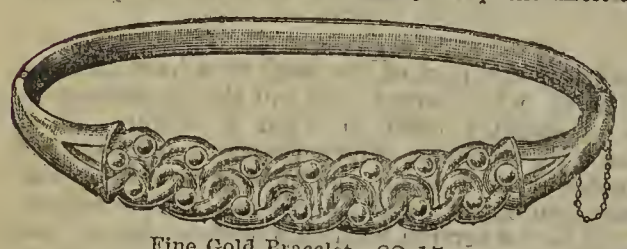
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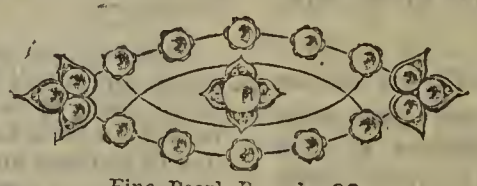
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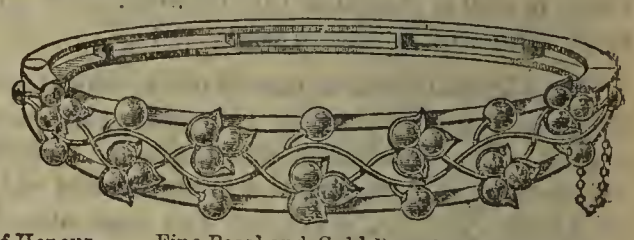
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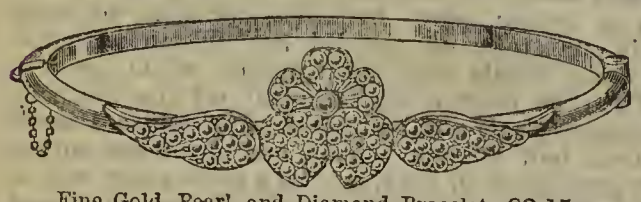
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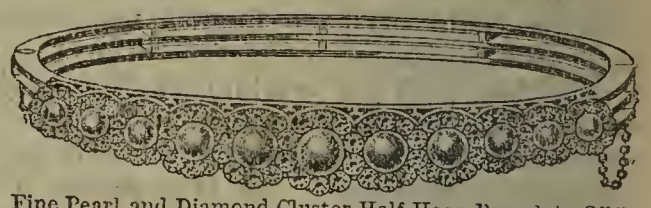
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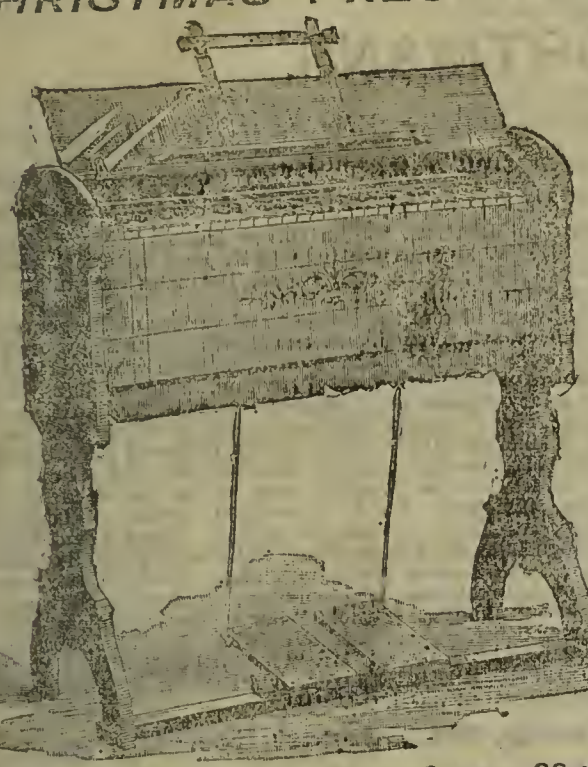

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In order to give an idea of the interest and variety of the general articles on literature, politics, art, science, and travel which have appeared in the first twelve numbers we have not space to do more than draw up the following list of some of their Authors: Mr. Oscar Browning, Professor Sidney Colvin, Mme. Darmesteter (Mary Robinson), Professor Dowden, Mr. T. H. S. Escott, Mr. Edmund Gosse, Mr. Frederick Greenwood, Mr. Frederic Harrison, "Vernon Lee," Mr. D. S. MacColl, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Professor J. P. Mahaffy, Professor Max Müller, Mr. George Moore, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, Mr. George Wyndham; MM. Georges Brandès (who writes in French), J. Chailley-Bert, Arthur Chugnet, J. J. Jusserand, Gustave Larroumet, Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, A. Mézières, Gustave Monod, Count Léon Tolstoi, M. E. Melchior de Vogué, Charles Yriarte, Mme. Judith Gautier, Lady Blennerhassett, Herrn Theodor Barth, Ludwig Brentano, Theodor Fontane, Herman Helferich, Max Lenz, Maurus Jokai, Theodor Mommsen, Friedrich Spielhagen, &c., &c.

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The Handsomely-furnished Enclosed Suites of this Hotel provide either Temporary or Permanent

HOMES WITHOUT A HOUSEHOLD CARE.

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TABLE D'HOTE AT SEPARATE TABLES OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS.

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HASTINGS. Due South, Facing Sea.

QUEEN'S HOTEL,

LARGEST AND BEST APPOINTED.

Sunny, and most sheltered position in Hastings and St. Leonards.
ELECTRIC LIGHT. PASSENGER ELEVATOR.
Moderate Tariff. Hotel Flys attend the trains.
WILLIAM GLADE, Manager.

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(BETWEEN MENTONE AND MONTE CARLO.)

FINEST SITE ON THE RIVIERA.

NOW OPEN, under the same Management.

Since last season the Hotel has been lighted throughout by electricity, re-decorated, and about 30 new rooms have been added.

Perfect Sanitation of Hotel and District. The Hotel has private Dairy and Laundry. Omnibus meets trains at Mentone.

Address—MANAGER, Cap Martin Hotel, Mentone.

CONTINENTAL WINTER RESORT, five hours from London.—The magnificent HOTEL DE PUYS, near Dieppe, offers to English families a luxurious home in a mild and sunny climate; English sanitation, sea air, perfect cycling roads; tariff from £2. 10s. a week. Return fare, Friday to Tuesday, first class, 24s.—J. PELLETIER, Manager.

LAS PALMAS. Grand Canary.—SANTA CATALINA HOTEL.—For all particulars apply at London Office, the Canary Islands Company, Limited, 1, Laurence Pountney-hill, E.C. Golf links.

LOWESTOFT GRAND HOTEL.

Standing in its own grounds. Open all the year round. Special reduced terms until May. Splendid sea fishing.

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Modern Sanitary Arrangements. Lounge. Elevators. Electric light throughout.
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Portable W.C.'s. Electric Bells, Urinals, &c.	Bed Baths 12/6
Air & Water Beds.	Commodes, £1. 5/-

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£20 TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING. Illd. guide (259 pages), 3d. "How to open respectably £20 to £2,000." Tobacconists' Outfitting Co., 186, Euston-rd., London. Mngr. H. MYERS, Est. 1866.

ESTATES, AUCTIONS, &c.

Sales by Auction for the Year 1897.—Messrs. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, & BRIDGEWATER beg to announce that their SALES of ESTATES, Investments, Town, Suburban, and Country Houses, Business Premises, Building Land, Ground Rents, Advowsons, Reversions, Stocks, Shares, and other Properties will be held at the Auction Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, near the Bank of England, in the City of London, as follows:—

Tuesday, January, 19	Tuesday, April 27	Tuesday, July 20
Tuesday, February 2	Tuesday, May 4	Tuesday, July 27
Tuesday, February 16	Tuesday, May 11	Tuesday, August 3
Tuesday, February 23	Tuesday, May 18	Tuesday, August 10
Tuesday, March 2	Tuesday, May 25	Tuesday, August 17
Tuesday, March 9	Tuesday, June 1	Tuesday, October 12
Tuesday, March 16	Tuesday, June 15	Tuesday, October 26
Tuesday, March 23	Tuesday, June 22	Tuesday, November 2
Tuesday, March 30	Tuesday, June 29	Tuesday, November 16
Tuesday, April 6	Tuesday, July 6	Tuesday, November 23
Tuesday, April 13	Tuesday, July 13	Tuesday, December 7

By arrangement auctions can also be held on other days in town or country. Messrs. Debenham, Tewson, Farmer, & Bridgewater undertake Sales and Valuations for Probate and other purposes of Furniture, Pictures, Farming Stock, Timber, &c.

Detailed Lists of Investments, Estates, Sporting Quarters, Residences, Shops, and Business Premises to be Let or Sold by private contract are published on the 1st of each month, and can be obtained of Messrs. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, & BRIDGEWATER, Estate Agents, Surveyors, and Valuers, 80 Cheapside, London, E.C. Telephone No. 1,503, Bank.

ST. JAMES'S-SQUARE.—By ORDER of TRUSTEES.

One of the finest Freehold Building Sites in the West-End of London, occupying the extensive area of 11,300 square feet or thereabouts (upwards of a quarter of an acre) between Pall Mall, St. James's-street, and Piccadilly, in the very heart of clubland, near the Parks, and within easy reach of the Houses of Parliament, the principal theatres, and other places of entertainment and popular resort. The property occupies a splendid corner position, having frontages of about 59 ft. 8 in. to St. James's-square, 195 ft. to King-street, and a return frontage on the west side to Cleveland-yard; it therefore possesses exceptional advantages with regard to light and air. The site is in every way adapted for the erection of a series of handsome shops with high-class residential flats or chambers, banking or insurance premises, a large clubhouse, hotel, restaurant, an important public building, theatre, concert-hall, art gallery, or other purposes of a special character. It is seldom the opportunity occurs of acquiring a Freehold site of this magnitude in such a position, and it will be sold with possession.—MESSRS. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, & BRIDGEWATER will SELL, at the MART, on TUESDAY, FEB. 2nd, 1897, at TWO (unless an acceptable offer be previously made by private treaty), the very valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY (Land tax redeemed), comprising the Site of the historic mansion known as Cleveland House, No. 19, St. James's-square.—Particulars, plans, and conditions of sale may be obtained of Messrs. WYNNE, HOLME, & WYNNE, Solicitors, 10, New-court, Lincoln's-inn; and of the Auctioneers, 80, Cheapside.

TO INVALIDS.—A LIST of MEDICAL MEN, in all parts, willing to RECEIVE RESIDENT PATIENTS, giving full particulars and terms, sent Gratis. The List includes Private Asylums, &c. Schools also recommended—Address, Mr. G. B. STOCKER, 8, Lancaster-place, Strand, W.C.

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OF ALL KINDS.

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OVER TWO MILES OF BENCHING.

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SPECIAL SHIPMENTS OF

ORIENTAL CARPETS

TO BE SOLD AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

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PRICES ARE MUCH REDUCED, as not only is the Raw Material lower, but cheap freights and a low rate of exchange are at present in favour of buyers.

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A FLUID SOAP OF GOLDEN TRANSPARENCY & DELIGHTFULLY PERFUMED: CLEANSES THE SKIN MORE EFFECTUALLY THAN ANY OTHER SOAP, LEAVING IT

WHITE, REFRESHED and SOFT AS VELVET.

UNIQUE FOR THE BATH, THE TOILET, SHAMPOOING, AND MANICURE.

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Prevents the Hair from falling off.
Restores Grey or White Hair to its ORIGINAL COLOUR.
Being delicately perfumed it leaves no unpleasant odour.
IS NOT a dye, and therefore does not stain the skin or even white linen.
Should be in every house where a HAIR RENEWER is needed.
Ask your Chemist or Hairdresser for

THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER.

Price 3s. 6d. per large Bottle.

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FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.

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Of all Chemists and Perfumers throughout the World.
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Put up in Glass Jars, price 1s.

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Fully Licensed under Dunlop-Welch Patents

Instantaneous Detachment with Absolute Ease. . . .

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"A DAINTY FASTENING FOR DAINTY FINGERS."

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CHOICE! ELEGANT! HIGH-CLASS!

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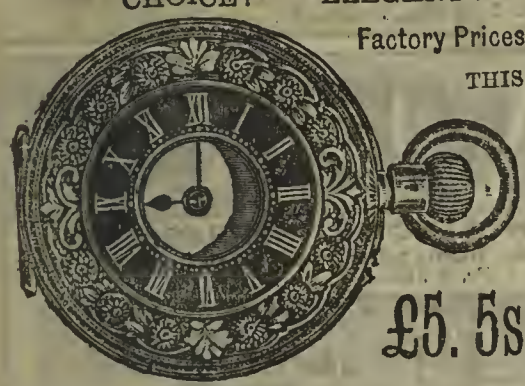

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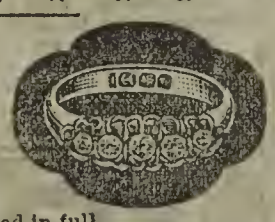

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COCOA-NIB EXTRACT.

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The choicest roasted nibs (broken-up beans) of the natural Cocoa on being subjected to powerful hydraulic pressure, give forth their excess of oil, leaving for use a finely-flavoured powder—"Cocoaine," a product which, when prepared with boiling water, has the consistence of tea, of which it is now, with many, beneficially taking the place. Its active principle being a gentle nerve stimulant, supplies the needed energy without unduly exciting the system.

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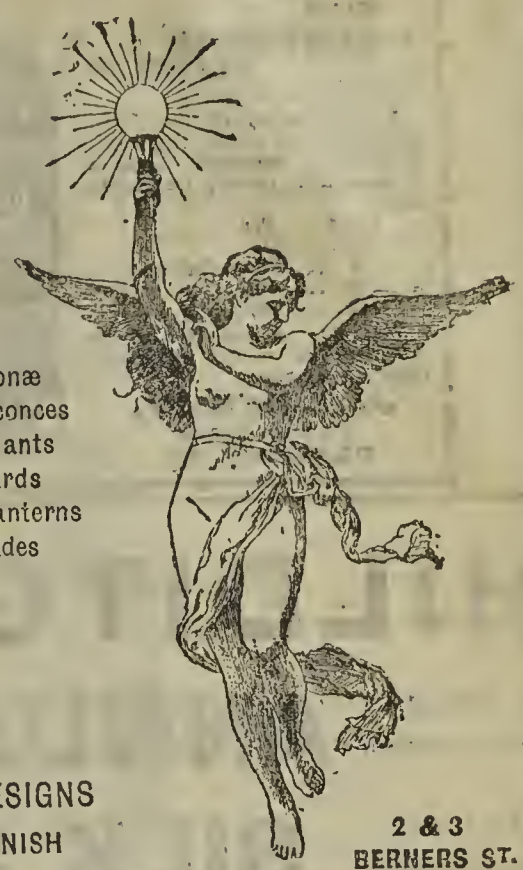

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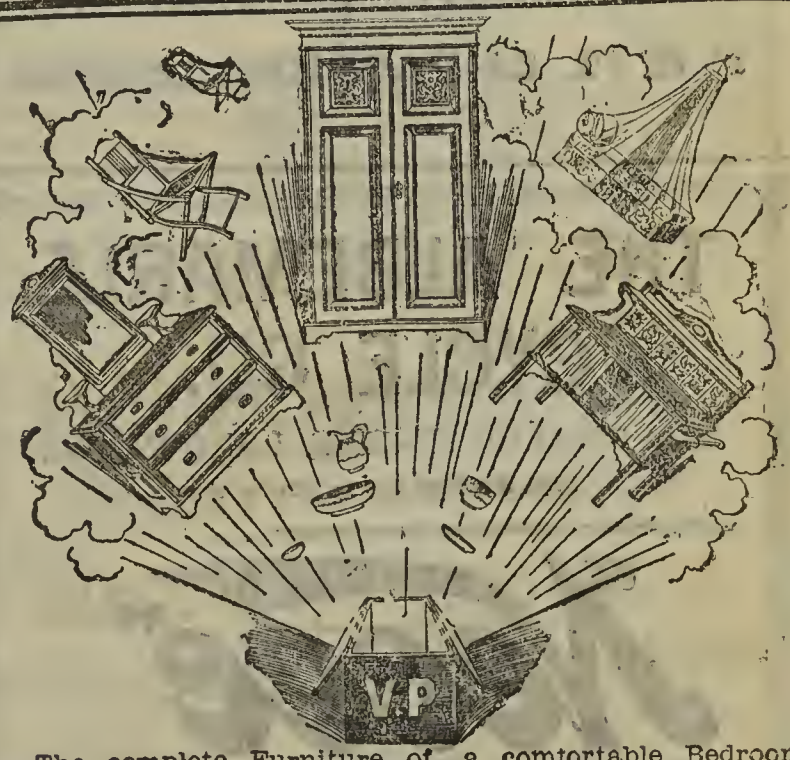

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6 ..	39/-	2 Gallons.
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Great Reductions.

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Price—1,000 LOGS FOR 20s.

Truth says:—"I have burnt the blocks on the top of a coal fire, and I find that the peat seems to act as a smoke consumer."

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WATER ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM DISEASE GERMS, BY USING THE

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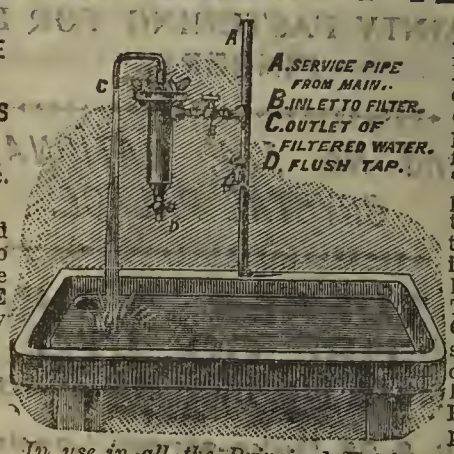
FOR THE PRIVATE HOUSE OFFICE, FACTORY, HOTELS RESTAURANTS, CLUBS, &c. &c.

Can be Easily and Cheaply Fixed to the Service-Pipe of any HOUSE having ordinary pressure.

Supplied to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., and others too numerous to mention; THE HOUSE OF LORDS, and THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.



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No Country House Should Be Without One.

CHIVERS'

DELICIOUS. WHOLESOME. REFRESHING.

Prepared in silver-lined pans. Highly prized by all. Flavoured with Ripe Fruit Juices.

Dr. GORDON STABLES, R.N. says:—'Jellies that really add to our health and luxury.'

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½-PINTS, 2½d.
PINTS, 4½d.
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The Royal Commission on Agriculture, in its report (1895), says: "Messrs. Chivers' Factory at Histon . . . is now well-known throughout the country for the excellence of its manufactures."

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PREMIER VINOLIA SOAP.

(FOR FAMILY USE.)

For Delicate, Sensitive, Irritable Skins.

The Chemist and Druggist reports:—"An ideal soap, delightfully perfumed."

1/- *per Box of* 3 *Tablets.*

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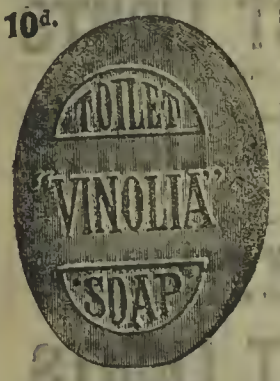

TOILET (OTTO) VINOLIA SOAP.

Scented with choice Otto of Rose Perfume. Beautifies the Complexion.

The Gentlewoman reports:—"Strongly recommended to keep the skin smooth and free from roughness."

2/6 *per Box of* 3 *Tablets.*

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VESTAL VINOLIA SOAP.

THIS is SUPREME.

Exquisitely Perfumed with the Choicest Scents.

The Lady's Pictorial reports:—"Vestal Vinolia Soap is certainly superior to those which have been already placed on the market."

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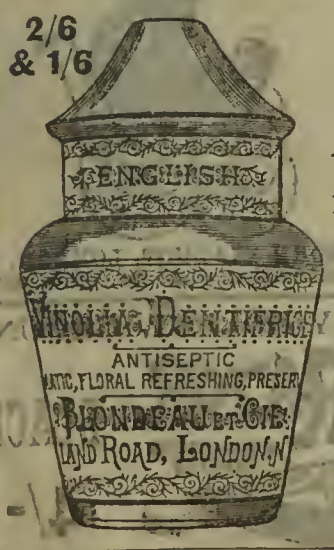
VINOLIA POWDER.

For Redness, Roughness, Toilet, Nursery, &c. The Lady's Pictorial reports:—"Superseding the old-fashioned toilet powders, which are apt to cause acne spots on the face by blocking up the pores of the skin."

IN WHITE, PINK, AND CREAM TINTS.

1/-, 1/9, 3/6, *and* 6/- *per Box*

2/6 & 1/6



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Aromatic, Tonic, Refreshing, Preservative.

Keeps the Teeth Ivory White.

PREMIER in round metal boxes and glass bottles. 6d.

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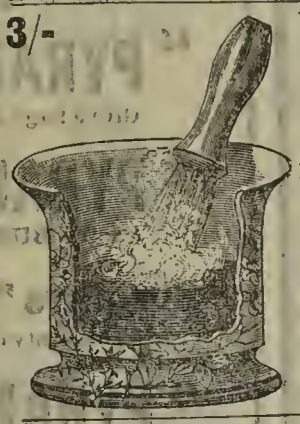
For Itching, Face Spots, Eczema. The Lancet reports:—"An emollient cream for the skin in eczema, rash, eruptions, &c."

1/1½, 1/9, 3/6, *and* 6/- *per Box.*

3/-



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Beautifully Hand-painted, and a Cake of Toilet Vinolia Shaving Soap.

With Lid - 3/6
Without Lid 3/-

The Brush is not supplied.

Makes a Handsome and Beautiful Present.

1/-

VINOLIA SHAVING SOAP.

(Sticks and Flat Cakes)

Yields a splendid Lather, Does not "Eat" into or Irritate the Skin.

STICKS:
Premier, -/6; *Toilet*, 1/- 1/6, 2/6; *Vestal* 2/-.

FLAT CAKES.
Premier, 1/-; *Toilet*, 2/- *Vestal*, 2/6.

6d.

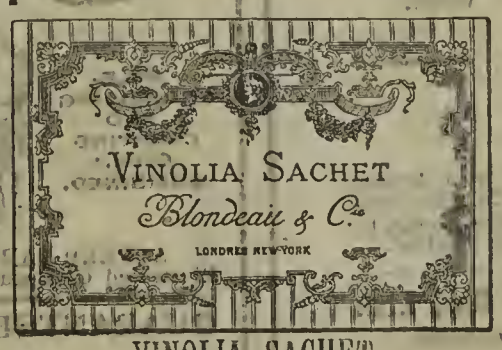
VINOLIA VIOLET POWDER.

SANITARY, ANTISEPTIC, SOOTHING.

Specially prepared for Toilet and Nursery use.

-/6 *per ¼-lb. Packet.*

4d.



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-/4 *and* -/8 *each.*

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VINOLIA EAU DE COLOGNE.

Fragrant. Refreshing.

As fine as can possibly be made.

The *Court Circular* reports:—"Vinolia Eau de Cologne we consider is absolutely unequalled for strength, purity, and delicacy of aroma."

1/6, 2/6, 3/6, *and* 6/6.

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VINOLIA LAVENDER WATER.

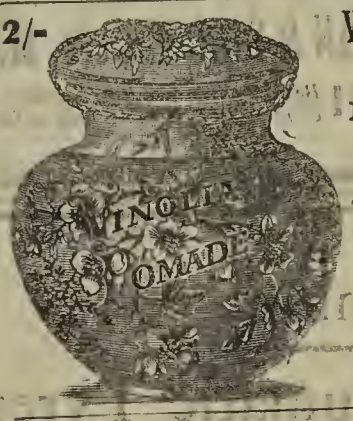
Natural and very Lasting.

Contains the finest essential Oils, Concentrated, therefore the Most Economical.

In 2-oz., 4-oz., and 8-oz. Bottles.

1/6, 2/6, 4/6.

2/-



VINOLIA POMADE.

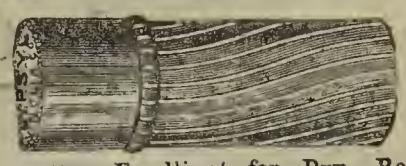
Natural to the Hair and Scalp.

The Gentlewoman reports:—"A first-class tonic and restorative for the Hair."

In Antique Porcelain Vase, 3/6. *In White Opal Vase,* 2/-

6d.

LYPSYL.



A Coralline Emollient for Dry, Rough, Cracked or Pallid Lips.

In Rose-Red and White Tints, -/6, -/9, *and* 1/- *a Tube.*

1/3

BLONDEAU PERFUMES.

Concentrated, Delicate, Pure.

In 34 kinds.

*Vinolia Bouquet	Jockey Club
*Jequilla	White Rose
*Marequil	Musk
*Losaria	Rondeletia
Honeysuckle	Opoponax
Jasmin	Ylang-Ylang
New Mown Hay	Wallflower
Lily of the Valley	Millefleur
Amaryllis	Musk Rose
Maréchal Niel	Hyacinth
	White Lilac
	White Heliotrope
	Wood Violet

Ess. Bouquet, Ambergris, Stephanotis, Frangipanni, Patchouli.

-/6, 1/3, 1/9, 3/-, 5/-, *and* 9/-, and also in beautiful Cut Glass Bottles, at 1/9.

* These four perfumes are not supplied in the 6d. quality.

VINOLIA PERFUME CASKET.

Containing 2 Beautiful Cut Glass Bottles of any of the above Perfumes, 4/6; containing 1 Beautiful Cut Glass Bottle of any of the above Perfumes, 2/6.

BLONDEAU ET CIE., MALDEN CRESCENT LONDON, N.W.

Highest Award at Food & Cookery Exhibition
LONDON, MAY, 1895 and 1896.

Supplied to H.M. The Queen and Royal Family.

Hovis Bread & Biscuits

(Regd.)

CURE INDIGESTION.

IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.

The Public are cautioned against accepting from Bakers spurious Imitations of "**HOVIS**," which, having met with such unprecedented success, is being copied in many instances as closely as can be done without risk.

6d. and 1s. Samples of BREAD and BISCUITS on receipt of Stamps.

Purchasers are requested to see that all Bread is stamped "HOVIS."

Ask your Baker or Grocer for HOVIS FLOUR for Home use. Packed in Bags of 3½ lbs. and 7 lbs.

If any difficulty be experienced in obtaining "HOVIS," or what is supplied as "HOVIS" is not satisfactory, please write, sending sample (the cost of which will be defrayed), to

S. FITTON & SON, Millers, MACCLESFIELD.

BEWARE! *Bakers recommending another Bread in place of "HOVIS" do so for their own profit.* **BEWARE!**

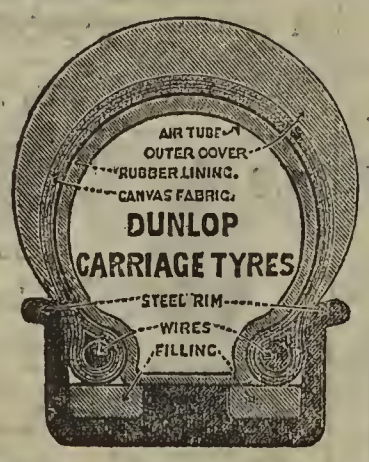
Dunlop Pneumatic Tyres for Carriages.

Absence of Noise.

Driving on Air Cushions.

Comfort Increased.

Draught Decreased.



In a closed Carriage conversation can be carried on in a whisper.

*** CARRIAGES ON HIRE.—Carriages fitted with Dunlop Pneumatic Tyres can be hired from the Coupe Co., Britannia-road, Fulham (Telephone No. 8,697), without extra charge, by mentioning (when ordering) that Dunlop tyres are required.

The DUNLOP PNEUMATIC TYRE Co., Ltd.

(Patentees and sole makers of the celebrated Dunlop tyres for cycles).

Telegrams: "AIRINESS." Telephone No. 6,754.

166, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

SHOW ROOMS: 14, REGENT STREET, LONDON, S.W.
WORKS: ALMA STREET, COVENTRY;
BRANCHES: Dublin, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Glasgow, and Abroad.

THE "BURGLARS" ARE NOW IN FULL WORK.

"PYRAMID" NIGHT LAMPS
From 4d. to 1s. each. Sold everywhere.

"PYRAMID" NIGHT LIGHTS
Burn 9 hours. Are the BURGLAR'S HORROR.

"PYRAMID" NIGHT LIGHTS
The police recommend as the best safeguard against Burglars.

"PYRAMID" NIGHT LIGHTS
Should be lighted on landings and in bedrooms as soon as it is dark.

"PYRAMID" NIGHT LIGHTS
Give a large light, are safe, and burn 9 hours.

"PYRAMID" NIGHT LIGHTS
Are the BURGLAR'S HORROR.

"Burglars" are now very active.
Light plenty of "PYRAMIDS" as soon as it is dark.

"PYRAMID" NIGHT LIGHTS
Are sold by Grocers and all respectable Dealers everywhere.

CLARKE'S PYRAMID AND FAIRY LIGHT CO., LTD., CRICKLEWOOD, LONDON, N.W.

Please write for Illustrated Price Lists of many valuable Inventions for Invalids.

ALFRED CARTER, LIMITED

47, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C. (*ONLY ADDRESS*).

INVALIDS' MECHANICAL FURNITURE, BATH CHAIRS, &c.

Maker and Inventor of VIADUCT AMBULANCE LITTER, *used all over the World.*

BRIGHTON BATH CHAIR.

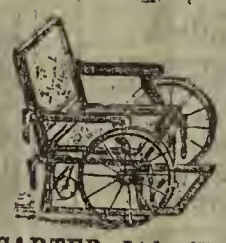
SPINAL AND BATH CHAIR COMBINED.

WICKER BATH CHAIR.

BATH CHAIR.

PERAMBULATORS.
(New Designs for 1896.)

SELF-PROPELLING AND CARRYING CHAIR COMBINED.



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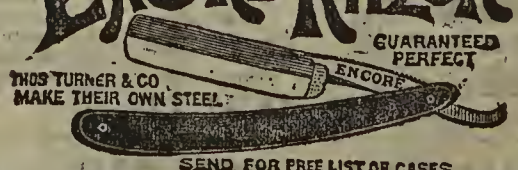
Illustrated Catalogue Post Free. No connection with any other Firm.

GUARANTEED PERFECTLY HOLLOW GROUND

IVORY, 6/-

ENCORE RAZOR



BLACK, 4/-

SEND FOR FREE LIST OF CASES

From all Dealers, or write direct to Makers:
T. TURNER & CO., Suffolk Works, SHEFFIELD.
Who will supply through nearest Agent.

ASK FOR "ENCORE" POCKET AND TABLE CUTLERY.

Ask Your Grocer
FOR
HELM-COCOA.

Toilet "Lanoline" For Delicate and Sensitive Skins. 6d. and 1s.

"LANOLINE" Toilet Preparations "LANOLINE"

from all Chemists.

Darting Brand.

Wholesale Depôt:—67 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON.

"Lanoline" Toilet Soap For Health and Beauty of the Skin. 6d. per tablet. 3 in a box 1s. 6d.

DIASTASED FARINA FOOD

A New and Very Superior Food for Infants, Delicate Children, and Invalids. The great desideratum of a Food for Infants, Delicate Children, and Invalids, is easiness of digestion, simplicity of preparation, and power of restoring strength. For these purposes

DIASTASED FARINA

is superior to any other Food.

Sold by all Chemists, 1s. 6d. per Tin.

Manufacturers:

E. BEANES & CO., Falcon Works, Hackney Wick, LONDON, E.

TRADE MARK.

ALL HEADACHES INSTANTLY CURED OR MONEY REFUNDED.

LEGAL GUARANTEE.

7½D. EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER, the most successful American remedy, is an effervescent powder, taken in water. If three doses do not cure any head-ache, no matter how caused, send the bottle to us, saying where obtained, AND WE WILL AT ONCE REFUND THE PRICE.

Trial Bottle, post free, 7½d. Larger Sizes, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 3d. Sold by many Chemists or obtained to order by almost all.

EMERSON DRUG CO., Ltd.
46, Holborn Viaduct
LONDON, E.C.

INSIST ON FULL NAME—

EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER INSTANTLY CURES HEADACHE

EMERSON'S BROMO-SELTZER

THE LATE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD,
SIR MORELL MACKENZIE,
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,
MISS EMILY FAITHFUL,
THE LATE GEN. W. T. SHERMAN,

and many other persons of distinction, have testified to the remarkable efficacy of

Himrod's Cure for Asthma.

Established nearly a Quarter of a Century.

Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the world. It is used as an Inhalation and without any after bad effects. A free Sample and detailed testimonials free by post. In tins, 4s. 3d. British Depôt—46, Holborn Viaduct, London; also of NEWBERY & SONS, BARCLAY & SONS, LYNCH & CO., J. SANGER & SONS, W. EDWARDS & SON, MAY, ROBERTS & CO., JOHN THOMPSON, Liverpool, and all wholesale Houses.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S

WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

Warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from *whatever* cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. It is the only real specific for Gout and Rheumatic Pains, for it removes the *cause* from the blood and bones. Thousands of Wonderful Cures have been effected by it. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

BEWARE OF WORTHLESS IMITATIONS.

CONSORT CONSOLIDATED MINES, Limited.

NOTICE is Hereby Given that the Annual General Meeting of this Company will be held at Johannesburg on 21st JANUARY, 1897.

TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 8th to 21st JANUARY, 1897, both dates inclusive, for the purpose of balancing the Share Registers.

By order,
JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT CO., LTD., Secretaries.
THOS. HONEY, London Secretary.

7, Lothbury,
London, E.C.
December 28th, 1896.

CENTRAL PACIFIC STOCK.—The Southern Pacific Company will, after JANUARY 1st, 1897, against delivery to it, at its office in New York, of DIVIDEND WARRANT, No. 31, appertaining to certificates of stock of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, PAY to the persons PRESENTING the same one half of one per cent. of the par value of the stock represented by such certificates respectively.

For the convenience of holders in England, the amount payable against delivery of Dividend Warrants referred to above can be cashed in sterling at the current rate of exchange on presentation of Dividend Warrant at the office of the Company, 26, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

N. T. SMITH, Treasurer.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
63, Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.
FOUNDED 1710.
THE OLDEST PURELY FIRE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.
SUM INSURED IN 1895,
£390,775,000.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Holborn Bars, London.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF LIFE ASSURANCE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.

Invested Funds, £25,000,000.

The last Annual Report can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES TO PRIVATE INSURERS.

THE IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. FIRE. Est. 1803, 1, Old Broad-st., E.C., & 22, Pall Mall, S.W. Subd Capital, £1,200,000. Paid-up, £300,000. Total funds, over £1,500,000.—E. COZENS SMITH, Gen. Man.

BIRKBECK BANK (Estab. 1851), Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, London. Two and a-half per cent. interest allowed on deposits, repayable on demand. Two per cent. on current accounts, on the minimum monthly balances when not below £100.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

LONDON AND COUNTY ADVANCE AND DISCOUNT COMPANY, Limited.—Cash advanced from £10 to £500, without preliminary fees or deductions for interest, for short or long periods, repayable by easy instalments, at moderate rates, upon approved security. Bills Discounted. Forms free. Offices, 57 and 58, Chancery-lane, W.C.—JOHN STONE, Secretary.

W. B. COCHRANE & CO.,
STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS.
13 and 14, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
Telegrams: "Reinvest, London."
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

Accounts opened for the Stock Exchange Fortnightly Settlements, and also upon the usual Cover System. Accounts opened for Three-monthly Settlement without Carrying-over Rates being charged.

Prospectus, Monthly Investment Book, Mining List, and Market Reports, with the latest advices, forwarded gratis upon application.

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HEAD OFFICE:—

WARDROBE CHAMBERS, DOCTORS' COMMONS, LONDON, E.C.

BANKERS:—
CAPITAL AND COUNTIES, Ludgate-hill, Long Acre, Piccadilly, and Brighton Branches.
LONDON AND MIDLAND, Newgate-street and Tooley-street Branches.

DIRECT PRIVATE TELEGRAPH WIRE between LONDON and BRIGHTON Offices.

FULL PARTICULARS of SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS for DEALING sent post free on application.

COVER SYSTEM.—The loss is limited, the profits are unlimited, and there is such an independence in acting that the principle must and does recommend itself to business men—indeed, it is the only method on which they deal—for speculative accounts.

£5 COMMANDS £500 STOCK.
£10 COMMANDS £1,000 STOCK.
£50 COMMANDS £5,000 STOCK.
£500 COMMANDS £50,000 STOCK, and so on in proportion.

NO OTHER LIABILITY WHATEVER.

JOHN SHAW, STOCK AND SHARE DEALER, LONDON, BRIGHTON, MANCHESTER, AND DUBLIN.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST opened on TUESDAY, December 29th, 1896, and will close for London and for the Country on Saturday, January 2nd, 1897.
The Cash portion of the Purchase Price, in addition to £30,000 of the £50,000 Working Capital of the Company having been guaranteed, the Directors will proceed to Allotment on the closing of the List. NO FOUNDERS' OR DEFERRED SHARES.

THE GREYLINGSTADT GOLD MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED

(HEIDELBERG DISTRICT, SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.)

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.

CAPITAL, £150,000,

Divided into 150,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 50,000 are set apart for working capital. Subscriptions are now invited for 80,000 Shares, payable 5s. on Application, 5s. on Allotment, and the balance in calls of 5s. each, payable at intervals of not less than three months.

DIRECTORS.

Fred. H. Bowman, D.Sc., F.R.S. Edin., Consulting Engineer, &c. (Chairman, Bowman, Thompson, & Co., Ltd., Lostock Works, Northwich; Chairman, The Chloride Electrical Storage Syndicate, Ltd., Clifton Junction, Manchester), Chairman.

Sir J. R. Somers Vine, C.M.G., &c., 12, York Mansions, Barkston Gardens, London, S.W., Deputy-Chairman.

Thomas Adams, Esq. (Chairman, Ray & Son, Ltd., Upper Ogle-street, Great Portland-street, London, W.).

Richard Lee Philpot, Esq. (Managing Director, The Coventry Machinists' Co., Ltd., Cheylesmore Works, Coventry).

Edward Pope, Esq., Consulting Mining Engineer (Director, Mount Usher Gold Mines, Ltd., Telegraph-street, London, E.C.; and Gympie, Queensland).

James Scott Wood, Esq. (Managing Director, M. B. Foster & Sons, Ltd., Marylebone-road, London, N.W.).

BANKERS.—The National Provincial Bank of England, Ltd., 112, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Lumley & Lumley, 15, Old Jewry-chambers, London, E.C., and 37, Conduit-street, London, W.

BROKERS.—Messrs. C. J. Allen & Son, 2, Cowper's-court, Cornhill, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Frank Davies, Meredith & Co., 95 and 97, Finsbury-pavement, London, E.C.; and Corporation-street, Birmingham.

SECRETARY.—John N. Sursham.

OFFICES.—Bush Lane House, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed to acquire and work two blocks of 58 and 38 claims respectively, with mill site and water right, situate on the proclaimed farm Roodepoort, in the Greylingstadt district, Heidelberg, South African Republic, more particularly described in a map accompanying prospectus.

The property is about 128 acres in extent, exclusive of the water-right of about 8 acres. It is immediately adjacent to the township of Greylingstadt, and only six miles from the Greylingstadt Station on the Johannesburg-Natal Railway. Its proximity to the railway obviously affords great facilities for cheap transport.

The situation and character of the property, and the prospect of making it a dividend-paying investment will be best gathered from the following extracts from a report thereon, dated 1st June, 1896, which the Directors have specially obtained from Mr. C. WILSON MOORE, F.G.S.S.A., Consulting Mining Engineer, lately Curator, Witwatersrandt Chamber of Mines, which was drawn up by him from notes made on a personal examination of the property:—

"LOCALITY.—The farm Roodepoort, No. 165, Heidelberg District, is situated—the town of Greylingstadt being thereon—about 30 miles south-east of Heidelberg. An arc struck from Greylingstadt at a radius of 30 miles passes as nearly as possible through both the town of Heidelberg and the Nigel Company's property, the latter being about 9½ miles along the arc east north-east. The claims upon which this report is written are just immediately west of the New Heidelberg-Roodepoort property, while the larger block has, as its immediate neighbour, the 'Mynpacht,' held by Messrs. Barnato Brothers.

"In addition to the Heidelberg Roodepoort reef, which dips directly into your claims, there are a series of reefs known as the Kildare striking into the farm in the direction of your claims from the one side, while those that run through Malanskraal, Tweefontein, Rietfontein (244), Daspoort, and Rustfontein, strike into the property from the opposite, or west side. I may mention here that it is very generally thought now by Rand experts who have made a study of the correlation of the different reef series that the continuity of one unbroken series with another over a reefless patch is hardly likely to be proved, and that the different series may be as valuable as containing payable auriferous lodes as if they belonged to the Main Reef series.

"The best guide, I take it, for an opinion as to the payability of the reef series on Roodepoort (165) is the practical results obtained by the New Heidelberg-Roodepoort Gold Mining Company, the reefs of which dip into your ground. They have been proved to a depth of some 600 feet on the incline, and have proved continuous and auriferous throughout.

"In addition to the dips of the Heidelberg-Roodepoort, you possess direct continuations of the 'Daspoort-Rietfontein' series, assaying in places from 4 to 5 ounces, and those of the 'Kildare Reefs,' which are reported rich in gold, but from which I have not seen assays. The true and relative value of the numerous auriferous 'banket' beds will not, however, be ascertained until the dolerite (or diabase) overflow sheet has been penetrated and further development undertaken; but the evidence gained by the Heidelberg-Roodepoort Mine on the farm is sufficient to establish the value of the latter.

A claim in the Company's property mentioned is estimated, allowing for faults, &c., and taking a stoping width of two feet of rock, to yield, on an average, rather over 9,000 tons of ore. Assays from over 140 different points gave an average of some 14 dwts. per ton over 2 ft. 2 in. of rock in this mine.

"WATER.—Your ground has attached to it a water right on the spruit running through the claims capable, with conservation, of supplying 100 head of stamps.

"COAL.—Coal costs at present 30s. per ton, but this somewhat high figure will be reduced when mines in the vicinity, now being opened up, are in operation.

"COSTS OF WORKING.—Mr. Starr (Messrs. Barnato Bros.), Consulting Engineer, whose opinion is indisputably sound, estimates the working costs of the Heidelberg-Roodepoort at 23s. per ton, and the

"REVENUE at about 6 dwts. of gold over the plates, and a recovery of 4 dwts. from the tailings. Both these estimates may be said to err on the safe side.

"CLIMATE.—The climate is perfectly healthy for Europeans and natives all the year round.

"COMMUNICATION.—A siding of the Natal main line is about 2½ miles distant from the property.

"OPINION.—The property is undoubtedly in the auriferous conglomerate series of the Witwatersrandt.

"To the West and North, and on the farm itself, payable auriferous beds have been found, and in the latter case proved in depth, and by milling. There are numerous ore bodies awaiting exploitation, and the conditions of working and costs are normal."

Earlier reports upon the property by Messrs. J. Dampier-Green, John L. M. Fraser, and R. H. Cavell, made for previous owners, are also highly favourable as the following extracts will show:—

Mr. R. H. CAVELL says:—"The position is good, being an extension of the Kildare, showing the Kildare Reef, and beyond all question a dip of the Heidelberg-Roodepoort now being developed by the Barnato Consolidated Mines."

Mr. J. DAMPIER-GREEN reports.—"The order of succession of the principal reefs (conglomerated beds) is Heidelberg-Roodepoort, the lowest discovered one of any importance. Next in ascending order is Kildare Reef No. 1, then Kildare Reef No. 2, followed by numerous other reefs and pebble beds in upward succession, which have not been worked upon to any great extent. The dip of strata taken at Heidelberg-Roodepoort Gold Mine shows it is to be in the direction of the West, proving that all the reefs dip into your claims, but they will, I think, be found only at depth. Your instructions were that I should go over and carefully examine your claims with a view to ascertaining whether the known reefs of the district were contained therein. I have no hesitation in saying that they lie in their geological order under the diabase which overlies your claims. The large and valuable water-right which you have secured is estimated as sufficient for the battery requirements of 100 head of stamps.

Mr. JOHN L. FRASER reports (the 1st October, 1895):—"The Kildare Reef outcrops on the adjoining property, and runs in an Easterly and Westerly direction through your claims. It is a strong reef dipping West. Although the ore from the reef assays up to 7 oz. of gold per ton, still I will only calculate upon 15 dwt. of gold per ton of ore throughout the reefs. Taking each claim to produce 20,000 tons of ore, and 15 dwt. of gold per ton, and calculating 70s. per oz., it would realise £52,500, and after deducting £20,000 for working, leave a profit of £32,500 for each claim."

Mr. Fraser further states: "After having developed the Kildare Reef, you should continue sinking the shaft to cut the Nigel or Heidelberg-Roodepoort Reef, and also drive North and South on its course. By this means you would open out large quantities of ore."

Mr. Fraser says in conclusion; "Taking into consideration the known richness of the banket formation, and the fact that at least two reefs run through your claims, I have no hesitation in saying you should open out one of the best mines in South Africa."

In a subsequent letter, dated September 11th, 1896, Mr. Fraser says:—

"Since writing my report upon the above Gold Claims on the 1st October, 1895, a very large amount of prospecting and development has taken place on the adjoining Claims and Farms, further proving the highly auriferous nature of the Reefs running into your claims.

"Besides the Heidelberg-Roodepoort and Kildare Reefs No. 1, there has been proved the Daspoort and Reitfontein series of Reefs running directly into your claims, which in places assayed 4 to 5 oz. gold per ton, and the Kildare Reef No. 2 has been discovered, assaying 16 dwt. gold per ton.

"It is, therefore, sufficiently proved that your claims are situate in the heart of the Gold District of Heidelberg, and almost surrounded with the outcrops of rich Gold Reefs; consequently, if efficiently developed, will be very profitable."

The members of the Board are all connected with important commercial enterprises, which is a guarantee that the business of the Company will be conducted in a sound and prudent manner.

The Directors have also agreed to act for not less than three years.

The purchase price has been fixed at the sum of £100,000, £30,000 of which is to be in cash, and the balance of £70,000 in fully-paid shares. The small amount of cash asked for by the Vendor as compared with the total purchase price is some guarantee of his confidence in the property.

With proper machinery and appliances, for which the working capital of £50,000 is considered ample, the property can be opened and developed, and there is good reason to believe with most profitable results.

The only contract entered into by the Company is one dated the 3rd day of December, 1896, between John Gingold, Esq., of the first part, Albert E. J. Parker, of the second part, and the Company of the third part, adopting an Agreement dated the 16th day of November, 1896, made between the said John Gingold of the one part, and the said Albert E. J. Parker, as trustee for and on behalf of the Company, of the other part.

Full copies of the reports of Mr. C. WILSON-MOORE, Mr. J. DAMPIER-GREEN, Mr. R. H. CAVELL, and Mr. J. L. FRASER, consulting mining engineers, and of the above-mentioned contract, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

The Vendor has also entered into certain contracts relating to the expenses of the formation of the Company, and in connection with guaranteeing and issuing the capital offered for subscription to which the Company is no party, and applicants for Shares will be deemed to have notice of such contracts, and to have waived their right to have such particulars thereof, as is prescribed by Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, or otherwise.

The Vendor bears all expenses attending the formation, incorporation and registration of the Company, and all duty and other expenses incident to the transfer of the property to the Company, and generally of all preliminary expenses whatever incurred in relation to the Company up to and including the first general allotment of shares.

The original reports and the map above referred to can be seen at the Offices of the Company.

Applications for shares should be made on the accompanying form and forwarded to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance for the amount payable on application. The allotment will be made as early as possible after the subscription is closed, and in cases where no allotment is made, the amount deposited on application will be returned at once, without reduction. If the number of shares allotted be less than that applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the payment on allotment; so far as necessary, and any balance will be returned.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company.

December, 1896.

ADDENDUM.

Since the drawing up of this Prospectus, the returns of the New Heidelberg-Roodepoort Mine for the month of November have come to hand. With 40 stamps, running 28 days, 1,552 oz. have been obtained. As this Company's reef is one of those running through the Greylingstadt Company's property, this result of actual working is most satisfactory.

(This Form of Application may be used.)

To the Directors of THE GREYLINGSTADT GOLD MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
(Heidelberg District, South African Republic.)

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers, The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, the sum of....., being 5s. per Share on.....Shares in The Greylingstadt Gold Mining and Exploration Company, Limited (Heidelberg District, South African Republic)—hereinafter called the Company—I hereby request that you will cause to be allotted to me by the Company that number of Shares in the Company upon the terms of the Prospectus and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the said Company, and I hereby agree with the Company to accept such Shares or any less number the Company may allot me, and to pay to the person entitled to receive the same the balance thereon, according to the terms of the Prospectus, and I request the Directors of the Company to place my name on the Register of Members for the Shares so allotted to me.

Name (in full) .....
Address .....
Occupation .....
Date .....
Usual Signature .....

This form should be filled up and forwarded, with a cheque for the amount of the application money, to the Company's Bankers, The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate-street, London, E.C., or Branches.

OUR PUZZLES.

RULES.

1. The sum of £2. 2s. will be given every week for the best Epigram, Conundrum, Lipogram, Bouts-Rimés, or whatever the announced subject of the competition for the week may be.

2. The Puzzle Editor reserves the right, however, of dividing the above sum between two or more competitors, or of withholding the prize, should exceptional circumstances render such a course desirable.

3. The decision and award of the Puzzle Editor must be considered final and irrevocable, and, for obvious reasons, no appeal from his critical judgments can be entertained.

4. In every instance the prize will be given in money, subject to no condition whatever, except the publication of the winner's real name and address in this journal.

5. Competitors will be allowed eleven days for the composition and despatch of their efforts; but all such communications must, at the latest, be received at the Truth Office by the first post on the morning of the second Monday succeeding the publication of the subject for competition.

6. Not more than one Prize will be given a Quarter to the same competitor.

7. All New Contributors are Required to Forward with their First Answers their Real Names and Addresses for Registration; such names and addresses will not be published except in the case of Prize-winners.

8. The *nom-de-plume* chosen by competitors should not exceed 12, and must under no circumstances consist of more than 14, letters.

9. Competitors must on no account change their noms-de-plume they have once assumed.

10. On the announcement of the Prize-winner's *nom-de-plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the Prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within three months of winning the Prize will forfeit all claim to the same.

11. No communications can be received on post-cards, by telegraph, or by hand. They must all be sent by the time named above. All post letters addressed—

PUZZLE EDITOR OF "TRUTH," Carteret-street, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 931.

The answers in this competition have been referred to a gentleman who is, I think, well qualified to adjudicate in this particular instance. I have not up to the time of going to press received his award, but I shall be able, doubtless, to announce it next week.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 932.

The award in this competition will not be made until Puzzle Competition No. 935 is also decided.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 936.

The usual prize of Two Guineas is offered this week for

The Most Amusing Instance of any Original Malapropism Overheard by any Competitor.

It is essential that the instances sent in should be original and not repetitions of malapropisms already seen in print. The following example of a malapropism will serve to make quite clear what is the kind of thing which competitors are required to send in:—

A district visitor one day addressing a cottager said, "What an old woman your mother is, to be sure!"

"Yes, mum," was the answer, "if she only lives a couple of years longer she will be a *centurion*."

No competitor must send in more than three malapropisms, and all answers must reach me by the morning of Monday, January 11.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** The real name, with the address, of Queen Anne, winner of a half of Prize No. 927, is Miss Katharine Stewart, care of Mrs. Spain, 10, Victoria-square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Waynflete.—I have received your letter and will reply to it next week.

Bel Demonio, Charlwood, P. P. C., Meg, Abbot, &c.—Many thanks for your kind wishes, which I heartily reciprocate.

M. A. M.—I have read your seasonable greeting with much pleasure.

Viva.—The correction will be made.

Black Poodle.—"Sir Inge" is not really a rhyme for "Syringe" any more than "soled" is a rhyme for "sold." Words intended to rhyme together *must* begin with letters dissimilar in sound.

East Anglia.—I much regret your dissatisfaction. I may tell you, however, that I carefully examined the available authorities before confirming my decision.

THE PUZZLE EDITOR.

"TRUTH" PUZZLE, No. 933.—ASSORTED SPECIMENS—GOOD AND OTHERWISE.

EPIGRAMMATIC DESCRIPTIONS OF CHRISTMAS.

A boxing match minus gloves.—Ellart.

The chameleon of days—presenting a different aspect, bright, parti-coloured or dark, to the mind's eye of each observer.—Nosloc.

1. A season of seasoning, when dead geese are stuffed, that living ones may be. 2. The crowning carnival of an old year in old England homes.—Blunderbuss.

1. Christmas is a season when some get what they don't wish and others wish for what they don't get. 2. Christmas is a season when misery laughs in its sleeve. 3. Christmas is a season when people spend more than they earn. 4. Christmas is the season for the "correct card of the races."—Balaklava.

A mighty banyan-tree of happiness with suckers everywhere.—Arch. Gibbs.

Present time.—Aldbarn.

The season when relations meet and the givers of Christmas boxes part.—Almaviva.

A thousand and "one thing."—Mistletoe.

1. A peculiar mixture of "holiness, holly and holiday." 2. An annual feast, kept more or less as a holy day, a holly day, or a holiday.—East Anglia.

1. One of the too few redeeming features of winter. 2. A season, sometimes of snow, and all times of sunny sympathy. 3. Charity-cum-gold. 4. Frequent frost, frivolity, friendship, fun. 5. Much merriment, more management, most medicament. 6. Plenty pleasure plus plentiful pain.—Makmax.

1. The apotheosis of plum-pudding. 2. Prayers for the pious, pantomime for the populace, pudding for all.—Eglantine.

The turkey's Ramadan.—Troy.

A time to which the younger look forward, and from which the older look back—both keeping an eye on the "present."—Troy.

1. The brief blossoming time of altruism. 2. The period of "turkey's" ascendancy. 3. The bil(l)ious season.—Verbum Sat.

An opportunity for Christian charity, more often an excuse for self-indulgence.—Malignant.

1. By developing reciprocal kindness and good-will, it is the best ideal of family and social life. 2. Heaven's spring in earth's winter; heaven's dawn on earth's night.—Excelsior.

The bil(l)ious season.—Phyllis.

The season when the soft light of a divine star is obscured by a blinding constellation of material comets.—Georgina.

1. A present help to the Christian life, but a recurrent menace to the Christian liver. 2. A time when the soul's opportunity is apt to be lost in the body's importunity. 3. An observance under the new dispensation, in which the law of the table replaces the tables of the law, the burnt offerings being returned. 4. A paradoxical season when the heart is affected, the liver enlarged, and the organs sound. 5. A feast for which the well-to-do thank Providence, the necessitous their uncle, and the destitute their guardians. 6. A season when "merry thoughts" suggest turkeys, and turkeys suggest stuffing.—Merle.

1. An immovable feast (pending blue pills and black draught). 2. A holly-day.—Wallfred.

1. Though winter, the springtide of generous giving and wide-reaching happiness infecting all with a noble wish to serve. 2. The season when the dove and olive branch seems fittest emblems.—Esperanza.

1. Billtime. 2. Tiptide. 3. Feast and good pill.—Wild Cat.

Christmas is to me a season of seasoning, and a seasoning of the season.—Beginner.

The apotheosis of a pudding.—Tibicen.

Holly, Holocausts (of poultry), and Holloway's Pills.—Coalheaver.

A bill-ous time.—Popocatapetl.

1. A holiday, a holly day, not a holy day. 2. The doctor's carnival.

3. Season of bills,
Aud colds and chills,
Physic and pills,
And horrid ills. Ivy Leaves.

1. The time when one should pause and think.
Alas! we mostly eat and drink.
2. Turkey, plum-pudding, and mince-pies we swallow,
A drop of "Auld Oirish"—Nightmare to follow.
3. A feast for the rich man's stomach and the poor man's eye. 4. The season when our national vice, intemperance, stalks abroad naked and not ashamed. 5. The Englishman's carnival. 6. The season when miserable mortals try to imagine they feel jolly.—Prima Donna.

Church and skate.—Malvernian.

1. A torch to kindle the flame of sympathy. 2. An annual tax upon *livers*. 3. The season for cold hands and warm hearts. 4. Tom Smith's harvest. 5. The re-echo of the angels' song. 6. Charity's opportunity.—La Plata.

Sympathy.—Morganny.

A *raison d'être* for so-called Christians to carve Turkey.—Bell-the-Cat.

1. Illustrates who Christians are; and what beasts are like. 2. The traders' delight, the bachelor's indifference, the family-man's misery.—Pigtail.

1. Nativity, festivity, receptivity. 2. A time for every one to have a finger in the pie. 3. Christendom's Carnival.—A. E. L.

A season of spiritual rejoicing noted for indigestion.—Dromedary.

1. A holy season, a holly season, a holiday season. 2. A holy day, a holly day, a holiday.—Frank.

King Christmas comes but once a year, and in his train there run
Five chief attendants—dancer, diner, doctor, debt, and dun. Oom Paul.

1. The time for tur-key, whis-key, and latch-key. 2. The omnipresent time. 3. The season of mist,

missive, and mistletoe. 4. The time when the world may turn over its new leaves.—Pansy.

1. The season for remembering debts of money and forgetting debts of malice. 2. The time when many try to be happy, and some succeed. 3. The season of numerous good wishes and a few good actions. 4. The father of good feeling and good feeding.—Amos.

Fills, pills, bills.—Vervex.

That day on which this part of the planet attains its perihelion to the sun of happiness, and all around in consequence is "radiant with arrowy vitalities."—Arch. Gibbs.

A solemn birth,
Bright children's mirth,
Fraught with much care
For many to bear,
Memories of gold
To solace the old. Mim.

1. Fills, swills, ills, pills, bills. 2. Taking *Armeni* advantage of Turkey and the Porte.—S. Wills.

1. Bright eyes, mince pies, deep sighs. 2. Frisky boys, endless toys, oh! the noise. 3. Cards and trees, children tease, more pudding, please.

4. The day of days for high and low,
And spent in feasting, fun, and folly;
When youth resorts to misletoe,
And lovely woman stoops to holly.
Pelican.

1. A season in which many are seas on as well as more than half seas over. 2. A period of misletoe and the light fantastic toe. 3. Bills and biliousness.—Hibernian.

1. Fills, ills, pills, bills. 2. A feast that comes to(o) fast. 3. The light of other days.—Irma Lee.

Sacred.

1. Paradise Regained. 2. Heaven's token of conciliation. 3. Heaven "stooping to conquer." 4. The birth of love, hope, and peace. 5. The essence of Divine love. 6. Divine arbitration or conciliation. 7. A carol, composed in Heaven for men. 8. Heaven joining hands with earth. 9. A season of love, hope, and charity.

Secular.

1. Relaxation, gratification, prostration, and summation 2. An annual consumm-ation. 3. Utopia (Limited). 4. A foretaste of Paradise. 5. A merry-go-round. 6. Fowls, feasts, and fasts. 7. A season of fun, feast, and fasting. 8. The world's "at home." 9. A season when every one are real Christians. 10. A season of universal brotherhood. 11. A consummation of fowl, frolic, and feast.—Granite.

1. The season for liberty, equality, and fraternity. 2. Noel (no ill).—Incognita.

The child's delight—
For on Christmas night
A Child Divine was born to earth;
So age and youth
Combine with TRUTH
To gift the joyless child with mirth.
Felix.

An opportune time to renew acquaintance with old friends, to visit the sick, and for the rich to help the poor.—Rex.

1. A god's dream debased to man's nightmare (vide "Marmaduke" on Christmas). 2. The centuries' creed merged into one day's greed. 3. To youth—jolly; to manhood—folly; to old age—melancholy.—Whim-Wham.

An annual concert that commenced well at Bethlehem with the overture to "Peace on Earth," but the later performers have been out of tune ever since:—

"Peace on Earth" was the angels' song;
Since then the music's all gone wrong,
Meredith.

Christmas is a time of great rejoicing; at no other season of the year do people get so much pleasure out of so much pain.—Canute.

1. A season which affects many men's heads, most men's hearts, and all men's pockets.

2. Eating, drinking,
Income shrinking,
Tipping, paying,
No delaying.

3. With apologies to the Christmas Carol.

Nowell, Nowell,
No £. s. d.,
But only bills
Come in to me.
Ye Great Rumsheem.

1. A time when it is considered meet (meat) for England to enjoy the presence (presents) of Turkey. 2. A time when a goose will not be considered turkey, although Turkey has been a goose throughout the year. 3. A time when we know Turkey is not a goose. 4. A time when it is considered meet to greet another with best wishes, whether you mean them or not. 5. A season of wishes—good and otherwise. 6. Wishes—assorted specimens—good and otherwise. 7. A holly-day and holy day (O lie day). 8. A holiday (O lie day) when it is customary to shower on another best wishes, if you wish him from your heart all the misfortune imaginable. 9. When England enjoys meeting (meat in) Turkey. 10. Ha'p'orth of all sorts as regards wishes. 11. Box and Cox.—Felixicus.

1. A sentimental pantomime with a prelude of psalms and gifts, an interlude of feasts, and finishing up with indigestion and debt.

2. Room at the inn for great and small,
And a fair and fragrant festival.

3. A season to commemorate our forefathers' appetites and their hospitality 4. A festival to the gods Bacchus, Christ, our Forefathers. 5. That season of the year when people so crowd the inn that Mary is compelled to retire to the stable. 6. One of the sorrows of Satan. 7. A season when everybody seems to be enjoying themselves but—oneself.—Job.

1. Christmas to us should mean a time
To act more Christlike—more divine,
And read again that verse with care:
Ye should another's burden share.

2. To the children it means all frolic and fun?
To the turkeys and geese, their race they have run;
For the young men and maidens a time of delight;
To the old and the aged another year's flight.
E. J.

Birth-day,
Mirth-day.
Bright holly,
Much folly.
Cares manifold;
For lack of gold.
Empty places,
Wistful faces.
Peace untold,
To Christians old.
Mina.

Feasting, flirtation,
Bills, botheration,
Much osculation,
Ills, irritation,
Church decoration,
Chills, inflammation,
Gifts, gratulation,
Pills and purgation,
Joy, jubilation,
Wills—inhumation!
Maia.

The close of the Anglo-Saxon year, under religious auspices in honour of the birthday of Christ (December 25), the Founder of the religion. It is marked by general relaxation and corresponding festivities. It takes place in the most inclement season of the year, consequently for their comforts, their recreations and their amusements, the Anglo-Saxons are at the time thrown entirely upon their own personal resources. In result, increase of goodwill among men, the cardinal point of the religion, is perhaps perceptible at any rate at the time, and permanently so in the case of many large trading firms. The celebration of the event is naturally most conspicuous among those, ordinarily, the most occupied. It is, of course, most highly appreciated by those in whom the capacity for intense enjoyment has not been blunted, such as the young, &c.—Apostrophe.

The Historical Christ.

"And Thou, Diviner still, &c."—Byron.

Birthday of Him, whose influence divine
E'en theologians could not wholly kill;
Oh! that mankind would, one and all, combine
To see Him as He liv'd and do His will.

The Obscured Christ.

"Is not this the carpenter?"—Mark vi. 3.

How long will Christians patiently endure
To wrangle o'er a portrait dim with time,
By priestcraft, in dark ages, made obscure,
Nor lift the veil which hides His face sublime?

The Popular Creed.

"Some Christians have a comfortable creed!"—Byron.

Christ died to sinners save from endless hell;
Yet most are damn'd: explain this curious puzzle;
All save himself each damns—yet cries, "All's well!
A merry Christmas"—then goes home to guzzle!
J. McGrigor Allan.

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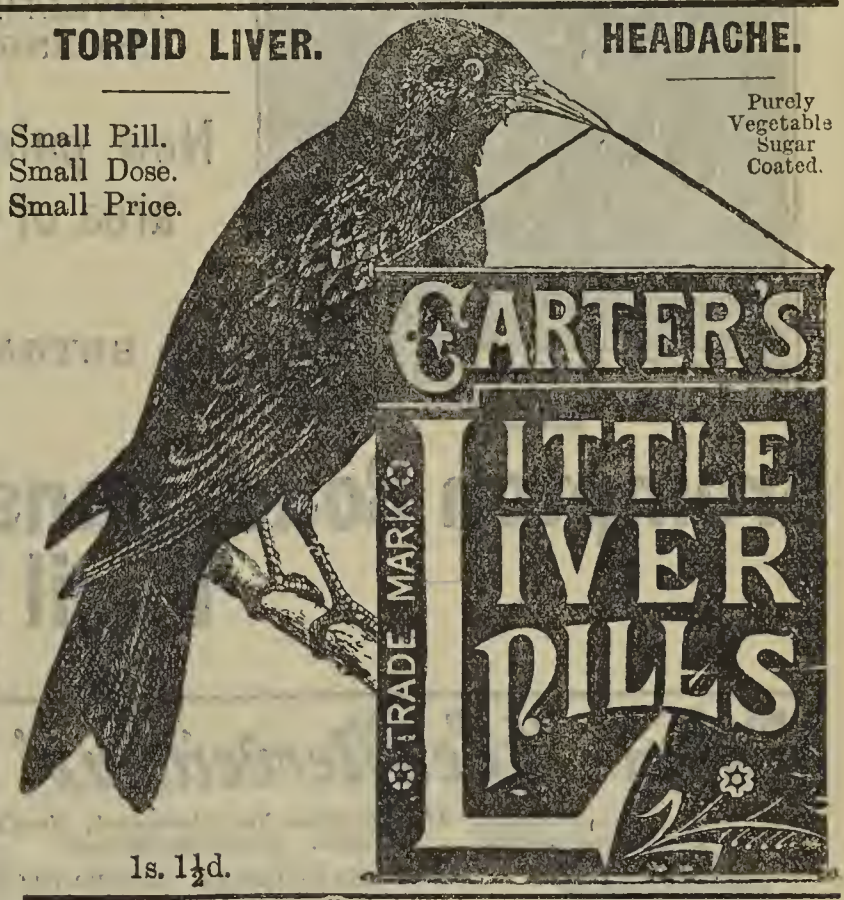

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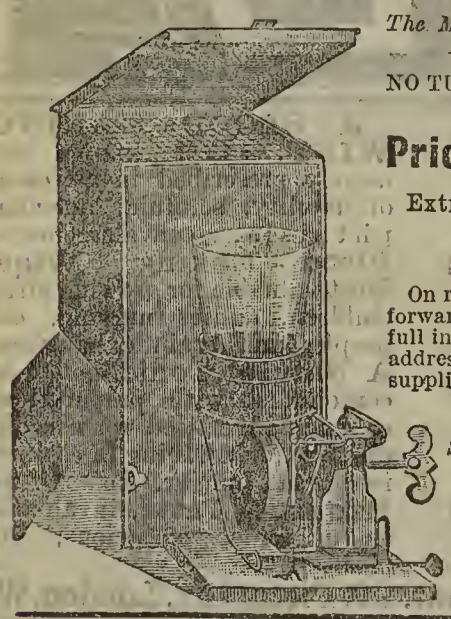

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